

ENGLAND FRIENDLY LIVE

A WORK IN PROGRESS



ENGLAND got the send-off they wanted but their performance against lowly Peru showed Roy Hodgson's men have work to do before the World Cup kicks off.

With just two weeks until their Group D opener against Italy, the match against a side without a win in six matches looked ideal for a farewell party at Wembley.

But Roy Hodgson's men often struggled against a team ranked 42nd in the world and had just one first-half shot on target, a curling effort by Daniel Sturridge that found the top corner.

Peru continued to frustrate the home side after the break, although Gary Cahill and Phil Jagielka scored from set-pieces to add gloss to the scoreline ahead of England's departure to their Miami training base.

Hodgson said: "We had to be very patient but it's a perfect end to a perfect two weeks.

"When you play against teams who get 10 men behind the ball you have to be patient and keep going but I was never in any doubt we would win the game.

"I knew they would tire and I think 3-0 is the minimum we can accept from the game.

"It's a wonderful send-off to the World Cup. When the game was over at 2-0 we gave some of the younger ones a run."

England took time to settle into a rarely-used 4-2-3-1 formation. Jean Deza was proving a real



TWO GOOD Sturridge takes the plaudits for the opener, top left, and Cahill heads goal No.2

Roy's boys must be better at World Cup

» ENGLAND..3 PERU..0

ED CASEY AT WEMBLEY

nuisance for the hosts. Despite being 25 yards from goal, the Montpellier striker took a shot that looked destined for the net after a large deflection off Phil Jagielka until keeper Joe Hart clawed it away.

England hit back and Adam Lallana burst through. The ball fell to Sturridge who fired wide.

That was all the home fans had to shout about in a frustrating first half-hour. Thankfully, the

match sprang to life in the 32nd minute.

Collecting a throw-in from Glen Johnson, he turned his marker and unleashed a wonderful curling effort from 18 yards into the top left corner.

England almost conceded on the stroke of half-time when Luis Ramirez got behind the defence and forced Hart into a save.

Twenty minutes into the second half, it was 2-0. The goal

was straightforward, with Baines swinging in a corner and Cahill wriggling free to power home a header.

The Chelsea defender was involved in another England goal five minutes later.

Rising highest to meet another Baines corner, his presence forced Peru goalkeeper Raul Fernandez to flap and Jagielka reacted quickly to slot home the loose ball for 3-0. Job done.

England - Hart, Johnson, Cahill, Jagielka (Smalling), Baines (Stones), Gerrard (Wilshere), Henderson, Welbeck, Rooney (Sterling), Lallana (Milner), Sturridge (Barkley).

» SOUTHAMPTON striker Rickie Lambert is set to undergo a medical at Liverpool today after the clubs agreed a fee for the England international.

The Reds will pay an initial £4million for the player with the possibility of add-ons, although reports of the deal costing £9m are wide of the mark.

Liverpool chiefs also plan weekend signing talks with Bayer Leverkusen midfielder Emre Can.

New deal for Wenger

ARSENE WENGER is targeting more silverware with Arsenal after agreeing a new three-year contract until 2017.

The 64-year-old, who is the longest-serving manager in English football having taken charge in 1996, ended a nine-year wait for a trophy by winning the FA Cup earlier this month.

And the Frenchman said: "I want to continue to develop the team. We are entering a very

exciting period. We have a strong squad, financial stability and huge support. We are all determined to bring more success to this club.

"We have had fantastic periods and also periods where we have had to stick together. The club has always shown faith in me and I have shown loyalty towards this club and hopefully we can make some more history."



STAYING POWER Wenger

» REAL MADRID have been hit with a partial stadium ban by UEFA for racist incidents in the Champions League semi-final against Bayern Munich at the Bernabeu.

A UEFA spokesman said: "Parts of the stadium will be closed for the club's next UEFA competition home game and Real Madrid are obliged to display a banner with the wording 'No to Racism' in those sectors."

Book Club



» ALAN ROWAN JOURNALIST

From headlines to headlights as Alan shares obsession

ANYONE who worked with Alan Rowan on the Daily Record Sports Desk didn't need to read a book to know he was obsessed with mountain climbing.

But the rest of you can catch up by picking up a copy of one of the most unusual and entertaining stories published this year.

Moonwalker - Adventures of a Midnight Mountaineer tells the story of the Carnoustie-based former sports editor who spent his days creating headlines and his nights with a headlight strapped to a hard hat as he climbed Scotland's 284 Munros.

That's hills over 3000 feet for the uninitiated and Alan shines a light on how he did most of them in the dark. And why.

He said: "The why is the easy bit. I didn't have time to do them in the daylight because of my work.

"I had done about 70 or 80 before I started doing the night walks and that's when it began to become an obsession.

"Three of us had been doing them together - my pals Malcolm, Fergus and me - and I came up with the idea of the moonwalks because we couldn't reach certain hills in the allotted time we had during the day.

"I pitched it to them and they thought it was crazy so I started doing it myself.

"After my first night climb, I realised this was the way to do it. That's when it started becoming an obsession and near the end it did become crazy.

"I decided I wanted to finish them by the end of the 1990s. At the start of 1999 I had 30 to go and thought that was manageable because I'd done at least 30 a year for the previous four years.

"I find it fascinating how in any sport you can go from trying something to enjoying it to an out and out obsession where nothing else matters.

"I became obsessed with NOT being able to do every Munro. I kept thinking I'd have an accident and lose my legs, so it ate away at me and kept driving me on to get them finished.

"But they were so far away. One of the journeys was a 21-hour trip. I'd



WRITE STUFF Alan Rowan

finish my work and drive for four and a half hours, spend 12 hours walking and four and a half back. I did it three weeks in a row.

"On one of them I was hallucinating. I was talking to trees and thought they were talking back. It was bizarre. My body clock was all over the place.

"I couldn't get them all done by the end of the year. My body packed up when I was 10 short. I was so shattered it was physically impossible to complete them.

"I decided in November that I should enjoy the last 10 the following year, rather than kill myself trying to reach that goal.

"When I finished there was a sense of achievement but as soon as I got to the final cairn on the summit of Am Faochagach I thought, 'Is that it? What am I going to do now?'"

"The following week I was out doing them again. There were 284 but it's 282 now because they have been satellite mapped and two were found to be under 3000 by a couple of feet, so there's two fewer to do."

Alan insists he will never stop walking up hills and he is planning to help former Record journalist Fergus's daughter pay tribute to her dad, who died tragically from cancer a few months ago.

He added: "Fergus had about 40 Munros still to do and his daughter Gemma has told me she would like to do those. I've told her that I'd do them with her."

● *Moonwalker*, published by BackPage Press, is available at all good bookshops and on Amazon.

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ALAN ROWAN