

ReyCup 2011

A nice tournament and fascinating island

At the end of July 2011 I've been with REFEX at the ReyCup in Reykjavik. It was a nice experience, worth making it.

The tournament lasted 4 days. The very special thing about it, that we were handling the games with 2 referees on the field (dual-system). After the tournament, the management board invited us to stay 4 more days to visit Iceland and get some fantastic impressions.

The tournament



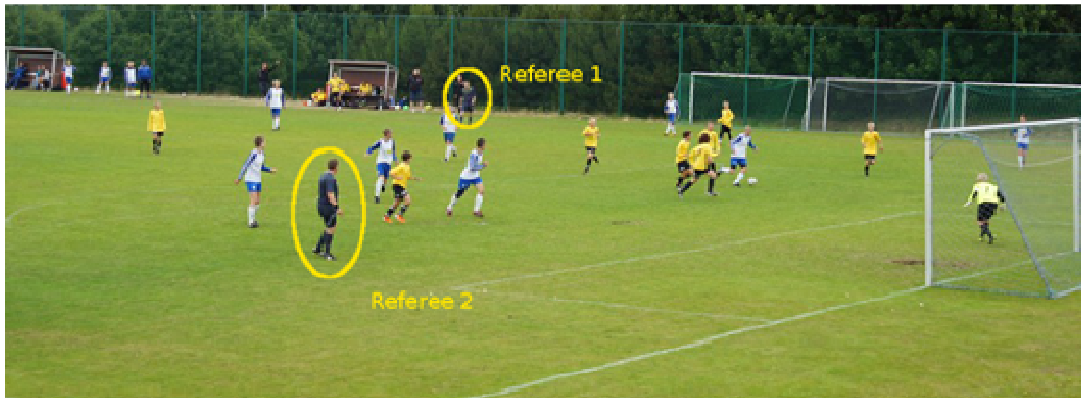
The tournament had a really nice atmosphere. There was no trouble with the teams and the management of ReyCup was also very busy to serve us as good as possible. Thank you very much!

The tournament was a bit unusual for us, but unusual doesn't mean that it wasn't good. The two things that we weren't used to:

- Some of the referees had no license, they were players in the teams of the club.
- We used the dual-system.

The first point – no licensed referees – may look strange and you may ask yourself how this can work. But because of being players, they also got knowledge of the rules and there was no problem with those "player referees". The teams accepted them, which shows their fair behaviour and the good atmosphere. Respect for those "player referees", you did a good job!

The dual-system was a complete new experience for our referees. Michael and me already tried it some years ago in Spain. The dual-system may look strange for us, but in some countries it is normal in several classes. So it's not an Icelandic experiment, it is based on practical usage. Our experience was very good. We enjoyed it and I guess we did a good job. But before you have to agree, how to manage a game when you are together on the field. To prepare, we had some "powerpoints" showing how to act. Most important thing is communication (looking at each other, small signs, ...) It's not having to separate refs with separate tasks ("my/your half of the field"), it's teamwork of two equal refs. I loved it!



We had about 4 games each day. In the morning we got our schedule. During the day it happened that one referee didn't show up on a field, so we've always been prepared to do an extra game. No problem- that's what we are there for: being referee. Not all games took place in and around the stadium. Some took place some kilometers away. But there was always someone who drove you there. Thank you for the service.

The games were good to handle. The teams showed fair and friendly behavior. On my first match I was a bit too "german", I had to adapt that they were playing physically but it was not problem for them. After that the coach of one game had a little complaint in a talk with me. But it was a positive criticism and I learned from it. Thank you!

When we had spare time between the games, we met in a room in the stadium. There we got lots of beverages and also much to eat. There were always some sweets and at lunch time there were many pizzas. So nobody had to be hungry at the end of the day.



Only one thing was not so nice. On the last day we had bad weather in the morning. It became cold – compared to our summer temperatures – with rain and strong wind. But was I was prepared well, I had a rain jacket with me ☺.

In the afternoon I was happy to be the referee in the final. It was a good game ending in a penalty shooting.

Thanks to the tournament staff and all the teams – it was nice being referee at ReyCup!

Visiting the island

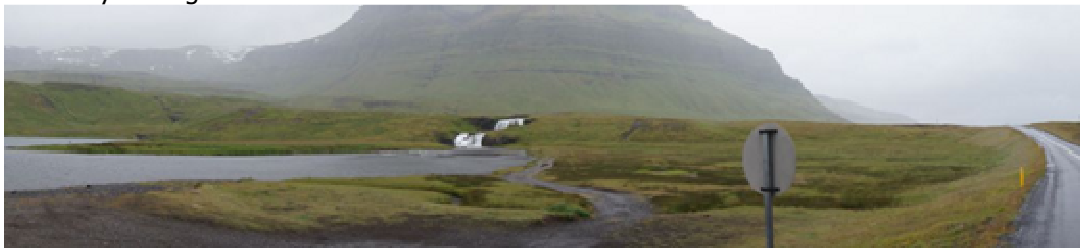
Iceland is a very special experience because it is based on volcanos. This defines the whole landscape.

I've made my first impression when the plane was going down land on the airport. I was looking out of the window and said to myself "Am I on a black moon?" I saw caters like they appear to as when looking at the moon. But those caters were dark because of the lava. Strange, but impressive.

One day, Jan (a referee from Switzerland) and me went to visit Reykjavik. It is the capital of Iceland not as glamorous as other European capitals. It's smaller and more quiet, it's Icelandic and that's nice. We went several hours to see different parts of the city. The shopping street, the old part with famous historic buildings, some quarters with nice houses, the university and of course Hallgrímskirkja, the big church.

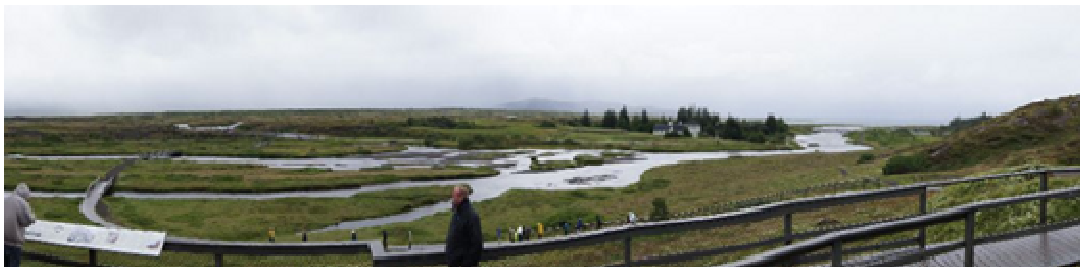


After the tournament we made some excursions to see more of this interesting island. Because of the rainy weather, on one day we were driving around. Although the weather was bad it was interesting to see the nature there, that is totally different from our nature in central Europe. We were lucky that we had Thorben with us, who is a teacher. He knows much about geography and so he told us many interesting things. Thank's Thorben, I'd like to have you as guide more often ☺



One day of course we made the classical tour: the golden circle. Not completely, but we saw the most interesting points:

- Þingvellir: a historic place of ancient Iceland



- Gulfoss: a fascinating waterfall



- Geysirs near Laugarvatn



We also went south to volcano Eyafjallajökull. You remember 2010 when this naughty volcano disturbed all flight schedules? This year we were lucky that there was no eruption ☺. We didn't climb the mountain, but at the bottom of it we visited a fantastic and bizarre (because of the ashes from the volcano) ice-landscape, the end of a glacier.



If we had known it earlier, we might have prepared better for it. You can also book a guided tour to visit it. Maybe next time ☺

The last trip went to Glymur, the highest waterfall on Iceland. We parked our car at the bottom and climbed up to the top of the waterfall on a hiking trail. On the top, about 100 meters behind the edge of the waterfall, we crossed the river. Not by a bridge, we took off our shoes and socks, rolled up our trousers and went through it. Then we went down on the other side. A hiking trip for about 3 hours. nice!

My résumé

It was a great experience. A nice tournament, very kind people and a fascinating nature! If you can get familiar of doing games in a dual system and love to do hiking tours in a breathtaking environment, join ReyCup.

Thanks to Michael and the staff of ReyCup and also to my referee colleagues Jan, Thorben, Christian and Dennis for the nice time and this great experience!

Jörg Irle

