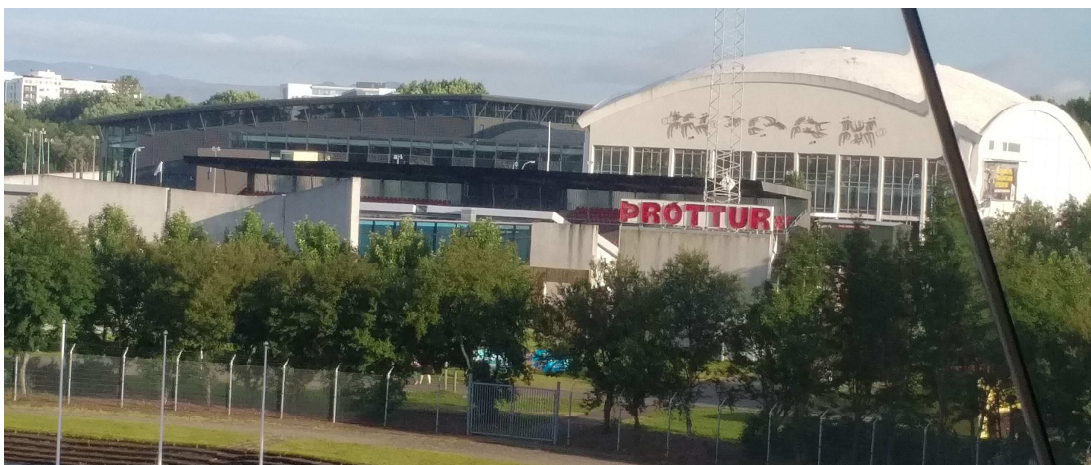


Reycup 2018

Football, Fun and Rock'n'Roll



Here we are again. To make it short: I can only repeat what I've written already before (2016, 2017). So I may refer to those tournament reports and stop this report here.

But I like to repeat, spend the effort of writing some sentences about this year's tournament, because the tournament and the host (Knattspyrnufélagið Próttur) and our fantastic experiences deserve it.

The REFEX-referees

We've been 5 referees from REFEX that participated in Reycup 2018



Mikolaj Poic (Poland), Michael Imhof (Germany), Jörg Irlé (Germany), Thomas Rziha (Germany), Norbert Framke (Germany)

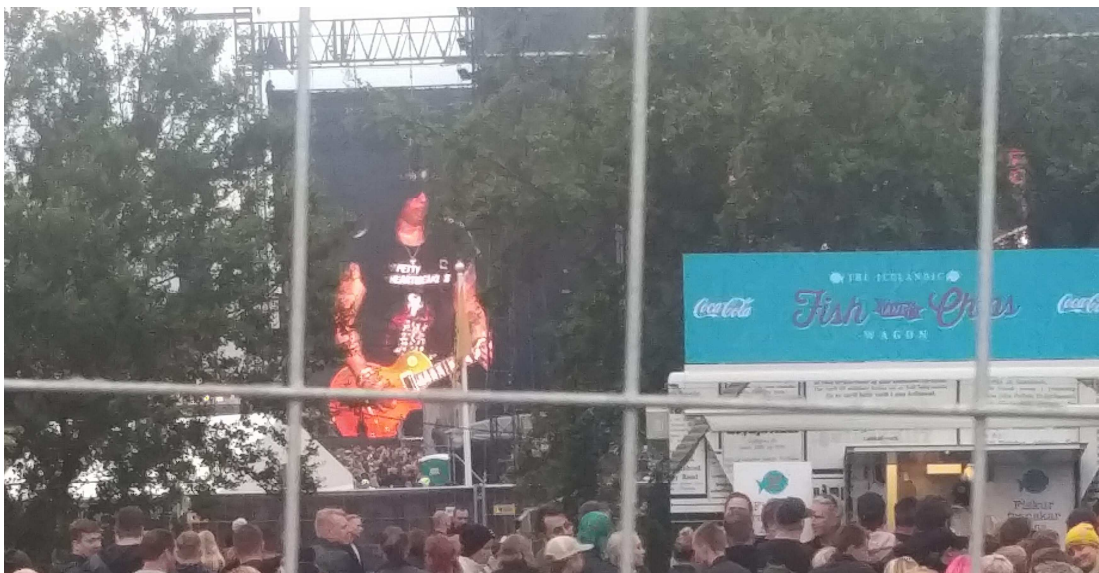
Arrival

I landed at Keflavik airport early in the afternoon. I agreed with Thomas and Norbert to wait for them at the airport and to take the bus to Reykjavik together. The bus ticket for this little journey (about 50km) was provided by Reycup.

Already this journey is exciting, when you drive through a landscape that's dominated by lava masses.

We told the bus driver that we have to leave the bus at the Hilton. He asked us, if we wanted to go to the festival. We said "Yes, Reycup!". He look a bit confused and said "to the Rock-Festival". Then we look a bit questioning. He told us that Guns'n'Roses were giving a concert this evening in the national stadium. Wow, That's a great welcome for us! Those guys at Þróttur know how to welcome their guests 😊.

Leaving the bus at the Hilton we had to go about 500 meters to the area of hosting club Þróttur, that is located directly at the national stadium Laugardalsvöllur. On our way to the club house we had to pass a lot of concert vistors. Even at the parking of Þróttur there were a lot of "Rockers". So we joined the crowd and also watched and listened to G'n'R.



No doubt a great start for our stay in Reykjavik!

Next year I'd like to have Bruce Springsteen 😊

Accomodation

Normally we get our accomodation in a school like the teams. This year we got much mire comfort. Solmundur, former chairman of the tournament board has a house nearby the stadium. There he has prepared an apartment for visitors. That was a nice place. There was room enough for all of us. 3 rooms, one kitchen and a bathroom.



Have a careful look: of course it is non alcoholic beer!

Thank's a lot to Solmondur and his wife for their fantastic hospitality!

Wednesday

Wednesday is the day where all teams arrive. There's no game on this day. So it is a good day to get to know Reykjavik. But we decided to make a trip to Snaesfellnes. It is a drive for about 2 hours from Reykjavik. Iceland has an impressive nature, it's worth taking the time to make a trip! Baldur, the chairman of ReyCup, supported us in renting a car. He called up the car rental and we got better conditions than normally. Wow, great! Thank's a lot, Baldur!

In the evening there's a meeting for all coaches of the teams from abroad. This year I had the honor to tell them a little bit about officiating games with 2 referees on the field.

Thursday to Saturday – The games & officiating with 2 referees

Now it was time for the games, time for the players. Of course, although I've been to Iceland several times before, in the first games I had to get used to the way the players behave and to cooperate with a 2nd referee on the field. But it is not difficult. The only challenge for a referee is to read the game and the players correctly and to accept more physical contact then we are used to in our home leagues. So you have to find the right level of contact that's OK for the game.

Officiating a game with 2 referees is a great job, I like it very much! But don't think, that now you've only got 50% of work compared to being alone. Of course you can save some efforts because you don't have to cover the complete field by running and observing. But you always have to have open eyes and have to interact with your partner. You have to form a homogeneous team with your partner, it's not having 2 different individuals blowing the whistle.

One day I was happy to do the job with Michael Imhof. I know him for many years. And as we've been in higher classes, we both know how to communicate with assistant referees. We had a lot of eye contact with each other and also exchange some little signs to support each other. I really enjoyed the teamwork with him, and I guess that we did a good job that was good for the game and the players.

In one game there was a very special situation that shows how important good communication is and how to solve problems that may occur when you have 2 referees on the field that decide.



In this game on the main field of Þróttur we had some duels in the center of the field. Michael and me were watching them from opposite sides of the field. The ball and the players were moving from Michael's position closer to me, still in duels. As I wrote before, the players often have physical contact but they behave fair and they don't have a problem with it. So you really have to observe a lot and have to decide on advantage or foul. No there was a point where I blew the whistle in favor of the team that was moving forward into "my half" of the pitch. I stood there and pointed with my arm downfield. But on the other side there was Michael showing with his arm into the opposite direction. See the picture. Confusing, isn't it? But, no trouble! It was only a short look from me to him and I recognized that Michael gave an advantage in favor of the other team immediately before. But as the advantage didn't happen the first foul had to be penalized. So it was only an instant where we gave opposite signs, I changed my sign immediately and told the players that there was a foul before. No problem, no discussion – the decision was accepted. That was a great teamwork, thank you Michael!

One thing, I'd also like to mention is, what players have "learned" from FIFA World Cup. In Russia we saw many time consuming "ceremonies" (= waste of time). Some players tried the same (slow motion on substitution, celebrating goals at the corner flag, taking much time on throw in). That's annoying and very unfair in a tournament where you have to keep the schedule. Thank you, you millionaires for this example, but we amateurs are still able to hurry the whole time of the game and we will hold on to it!

Sunday – the final day

On Sunday, the finals of the top classes are played in Laugardalsvöllur, the national stadium of Iceland. That's a great experience for the players! This year, Mikolaj and me had the honor and the pleasure to be nominated for the final games. Wow! I have a long career as referee, had many very interesting games in the upper leagues of at tournaments. But this was really another great highlight for me! When entering the field with the teams I still felt a tingle and excitement. That felt really good! ☺ Mikolaj and me had to do 5 of the 6 final games. That's a challenge. But as we were in good shape, we still were fit to do sprints in the last game. Of course, afterwards we were a bit tired. Tired but happy!

We've been assistant referees. In the first games our head referee was Stefán Hrafn Hagalín. Stefán is nice guy from Þróttur. I met him also in previous Rey Cup

tournaments but never had a game together with him. Thank you Stefán, it was a pleasure and an honor to assist you in the finals!

In the end of the tournament our referee-group mad a balance. Each of us had about 22 to 24 games during the 4 days. In total we did about 20% of the referee jobs (608). So you have to fit to participate in this tournament. Your feet still have to be able to sprint in the last game of the last day, and you have to be able to keep up your concentration and don't get tired. But in a good teamwork (see above) and in such a good and nice atmosphere it is easy to do so. Looks like we succeeded. Thank you guys!



Thorir Hakonarson @THakonarson · 29. Juli

On behalf of @throtturvk and personally I like to thank the great guys from @refex_org for their contribution to @Rey_Cup_Iceland. We could not have done all these matches without you, job well done.
[#fotboltinet](#)

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REFEX supports charity

Before the tournament, we (the REFEX referees) agreed to give a donation of 20 ISK (about 0,15€) for each goal in our games. In the end we had about 450-500 goals and a donation of more than 9000ISK. REFEX rounded the sum up and we gave 10000ISK to Þróttur for a charity purpose. Baldur, the chairman of Rey Cup, was very impressed by our approach.



Spare time after the games

When the games are done, it is a good habit to go down to Laugardalslaug, a swimming pool. There we spent some time in the hot tub or in ice water. That's so good!!!

Each evening there is some event, where we participated.

On **Thursday** we've been invited to watch the game Fran vs. Próttur.



I've been so often to Reykjavik, now it was the first time that I was able to watch the men's team. For a long time, the game looked like that there'll be no goal. Then Fram scored in the second half. Only some minutes later Próttur equalized. In the 90th minute it was still 1:1. The referee gave some extra time and as there were only few chances during the game, we expected it end 1:1. But you cannot predict, a goal can always happen. And so it happened. In the very last minute Fram scored the 2:1. The game seemed to be lost for our host. But the game wasn't over yet. So the sentence that a goal can always happen still applies. Próttur played the kick off, and with this very last offense of the game they succeeded to score the 2:2. A game, that was a bit boring for a long time, had a fantastic end.

On **Friday** evening there's always a meeting with the managers and coaches of the teams from abroad at KSI (Icelandic soccer federation). This year *Partick Thistle* (Scotland) and *Ganamos Todos* (Chile) held a speech about their work for the youth. Very interesting!

Solmundur also told about the history of Reyocup. The tournament was founded by parents that were used to go to tournaments with their kids when they were younger. But sadly there was no tournament for juniors when they became about 14 years old. So they decided to create a tournament for such teams and also try to get some international teams to make it an even greater experience. Thanks to those unknown parents! You had a great idea and it works out fine! As a result of your idea, I've been to Reyocup for the 4th time, and I love to go there again.

Afterward the speeches we still stay there to have something to eat, to have a drink and to have nice talks. I had a longer talk with Ignacio of *Ganamos Todos*. I was very impressed by their social engagement for the kids. We'll stay in touch. We also talked to some guys from Gahan that visited Reyocup. Maybe in 2019 they are going to participate too. That would be really nice. We keep our fingers crossed that they can make it happen.

I had a nice talk with talk with Baldur. I told him what I like so much at Reyocup. I said, that Reyocup has a family atmosphere and for me it feels like being part of it cause everyone is so nice, friendly and helpful. Baldur replied "You are part of our family!" Wow, thanks very much! This is really a great honor for someone from far

away in the role of a referee to be called "part of the family". This means a lot to me!

On **Saturday** there's a party event with a BBQ in the Family Park. Þróttur spends a lot of efforts so that the participants have a nice evening with lot of fun. Many people are busy serving hungry players and referees.



Thanks a lot, it tasted good!

On **Sunday**, when the tournament is over, there's a party for the whole staff of Reyocup in the hall of the Þróttur club house. There are some speeches, a good dinner drinks and lot of talks with each other.



A nice atmosphere and we love being invited to it, being part of the "reycup family".

Mikolaj and me had our flight home on Tuesday, so on **Monday** we had time on our own. Solmundur lent us his bike and the bike of his wife, so we've been doing a bike trip so see some more of Reykjavik. That was a nice opportunity, thank you Solmundur.

Summary

Again we had a great time in Reykjavik. We met a kind host, fair games and this unique experience with 2 referees on the field. Thanks also to all there referees, it was great to officiate together with you.

Thanks Þróttur for inviting us to your wonderful tournament. Looking forward to see "my family" again in 2019.

Lifi Þróttur!