

Podcast Worksheet 4

Interview with Simon Cookson on the England national team

Damian Fitzpatrick interviews England football fan, Simon Cookson (November 9th 2006)

Pre-Listening (Background information)

Players / managers

Steve Gerrard plays for Liverpool and England. Frank Lampard plays for Chelsea and England.

Sven Goran Eriksson was the manager of England and Steve Maclaren is the current England manager. Martin O’Neill is the current manager of Aston Villa.

Competitions

World Cup – the most important competition for national teams

European Championship – a competition for European national teams

Key Phrase

“...hope springs eternal” – To be very optimistic.

A. Main Point – Note taking

Listen to the interview and fill in the chart with the appropriate information.

	Damian’s questions	Simon’s answers
1	<i>What has happened to England since the World Cup?</i>	(a) still waiting to win the World Cup (b) not a good side
2	<i>Would you blame the manager?</i>	
3	<i>What do you think of the new manager?</i>	(a) (b) I don’t think he can knock them into a good team
4	<i>What do you think about Beckham not being in the team?</i>	(a) (b) issue with egos (c)
5		Martin O’Neill
6	<i>Can England win a championship?</i>	(a) (b)

B. Listening - vocabulary

Listen to the interview and fill in the gaps with an appropriate word.

1. 'They were poor.'
'They were very _____ weren't they?'

2. 'Yes, he's got experience of the _____ and he's a good coach...'

3. '...one of the first things that Maclaren did was _____ David Beckham...'

4. '... should just be able to change the team without too much _____.'

5. '...and what happened?'
'He was _____ down.'

6. '...the future of English football, I mean you _____ this before that...'

Answers

A. Main Point – Note taking

	Damian’s questions	Simon’s answers
1	<i>What has happened to England since the World Cup?</i>	(a) still waiting to win the World Cup (b) not a good side
2	<i>Would you blame the manager?</i>	(Yes) I don’t think it’s going to work for the new manager either
3	<i>What do you think of the new manager?</i>	(a) lots of experience as a coach (b) I don’t think he can knock them into a good team
4	<i>What do you think about Beckham not being in the team?</i>	(a) driven by the media (b) issue with egos (c) Maclaren does not have the personality
5	<i>Who would you choose as England manager?</i>	Martin O’Neill
6	<i>Can England win a championship?</i>	(a) optimistic (b) they have the talent

B. Listening - vocabulary

- ‘They were poor.’
‘They were very **disappointing** weren’t they?’
- ‘Yes, he’s got experience of the **set up** and he’s a good coach...’
- ‘...one of the first things that Maclaren did was **to drop** David Beckham...’
- ‘... should just be able to change the team without too much **fuss**.’
- ‘...and what happened?’
‘ He was **turned down** down.’
- ‘...the future of English football, I mean you **mentioned** this before that...’

Podcast 2 Worksheet

Interview with Simon on the England football team -Transcript

Damian Fitzpatrick interviews England fan, Simon Cookson (November 9th 2006)

DF: Yes, thank you, here we are with Simon Cookson, Simon hello.

Simon: Hi Damian, you're looking very happy this week.

DF: Yes, yes, yes. Great win for Tottenham at the weekend. But we're not going to talk about club football today, we're going to talk about international football and the last time you were on this podcast, you were talking about the World Cup with England. You were much more hopeful then. What's happened?

Simon: Yeah, well, I think we've been through this before haven't we? I was born in 1967 and I've been waiting for England to win the World Cup for quite some time and they didn't did they? And I did say I thought they might win it this time but they didn't.

DF: They were poor.

Simon: They were very disappointing, weren't they?

DF: Why do you think that was so?

Simon: Well, you just ...they have the players don't they? They have talent across almost the whole team, perhaps too much.

DF: Would you blame the manager?

Simon: It's not working. It didn't work for the World Cup and I don't think it's going to work with the new manager either.

DF: So the new manager, Steve McClaren, was the previous manager, Eriksson's assistant, what do you think of Steve McClaren as the England manager?

Simon: Yes, he's got experience of the setup and he's a good coach, I am sure, but I don't think he can make them into a good team.

DF: Okay. Now one of the first things that Maclaren did was to drop David Beckham, I mean, his captain, what do you think about that?

Simon: Yeah, it just ...again you can't help but think this is being driven by the media and it just becomes such an issue, it shouldn't be, he should just be able to change the team without too much fuss. But there is an issue here with egos, I think and you know I really believe they need a manager who's got the personality to knock those individuals together into a team and McClaren is not that person.

DF: Really

Simon: I think.

DF: If you had a choice over the England manager, who would you go for?

Who would you choose?

Simon: I think there's only one guy at the moment, isn't there, that's Martin O'Neill.

DF: Yes, and he actually was interviewed wasn't he? By the England ...English FA.

Simon: Right and what happened?

DF: He was turned down.

Simon: Maybe that's the whole issue, isn't it, perhaps he's looking at a club job and maybe he wants to go to Manchester United and he thinks that's a bigger job than England ...part of the problem.

DF: Right, final question. The future then of English football I mean you mentioned before that this is a good group of players, one of the best group of players that probably you've seen, can they win a championship? Can they win the European Championship? Or the World Cup?

Simon: You've got to think so, haven't you? Hope springs eternal and they have got the talent to do it, really they've got the talent. I like...there was one idea I saw, that they played ... they should pick the two best guys in midfield, let's say, maybe not at the moment but at the World Cup, well slightly before the World Cup, Lampard and Gerrard, build the team around them and just pick eight other players outfield who are going to work for them, and really work hard for them I really like that idea.

DF: OK thanks again Simon for coming in.

Simon: Thank you

DF: Hope to talk to you soon.