

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

How RANDOM was the 1998 WORLD CUP?

Dear Sir

The average number of goals per game scored by the 32 teams in the group matches was 1.3125 (i.e. 48 matches yielded 126 goals: $126/96 = 1.3125$).

The actual distribution was as follows:

Goals	Frequency
0	26
1	34
2	24
3	8
4	1
5	2
6	1

A Poisson distribution with $m = 1.3125$ gives expected frequencies:

Goals	Frequency
0	25.8
1	33.9
2	22.3
3	9.7
>3	4.3

NOT A BAD FIT!!!

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