

Our World Cup panel limbers up for big kick off...

International group of Gazette readers have their say on football tournament starting on Friday

By David Tooley
david.tooley@jpress.co.uk

WE asked a panel of seven of our readers for their thoughts on their favourite teams' chances in the World Cup.

These are their musings for the matches taking place from Friday to next Tuesday.

If you want to join the panel, email The Gazette at editorial@hemelgazette.co.uk



HEMEL Hempstead Hospital orthopaedic surgeon Paul Ofori-Atta, 54, is one of the driving forces of a charity that helps take health services to his home country of Ghana, who he will be following in the South Africa football jamboree.

Mr Ofori-Atta is married to Gladys, 54, and lives in Hunting Gate, in Grovehill, Hemel Hempstead. They have three children, Catherine, Sylvia and

Paul Ofori-Atta

Aaron, who are all involved with the charity MOTEC-Life, which aims to improve life in sub-Saharan Africa.

Mr Ofori-Atta said: "Ghana does not often get a good first game in football tournaments. I expect Serbia to do most of the attacking but the sparkling parts of the game will be

Ghana's. Without Essien, Ghana may lack the drive to turn the tables but there is a chance for Muntari to shine.

"A score draw will be a pretty good result for Ghana against Serbia.

"Serbia will be there to try to win the tournament but victory for them will only be a

remote possibility.

"I will be more comfortable for footballing reasons for Ghana to sneak victory - winning goal coming in the first half."

Ghanain journalist Philip Forson added: "There is low morale among local fans after Holland's comprehensive win over the Stars in Rotterdam. A lot of Ghanaians are worried about the team's preparation before the world cup."