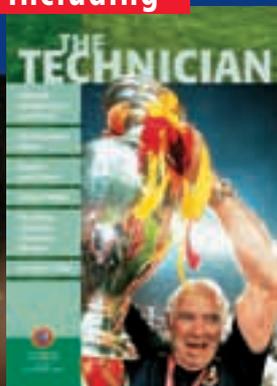


11.08

# uefa direct

Including



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Photos: UEFA/plwoods.ch

# Message of the president

## The EURO assumes new dimensions

When, at the 2007 UEFA Congress in Düsseldorf, a few national associations raised the idea of expanding the European Football Championship final round from 16 to 24 participants, I was rather sceptical, I have to say.

However, EURO 2008 convinced me that it was a good idea. Once again, the tournament illustrated the extraordinary passion generated by national team football and gave rise to such a fantastic party atmosphere that I felt it was only right for the tournament to be extended to more countries, to let even more supporters take part and to spread the excitement and party atmosphere far and wide across the continent. I also felt that the emotion of the tournament should be heightened by adding a direct knockout round for the last 16 in the competition and by ensuring that all the group matches, or the vast majority of them at least, would be crucial, by allowing the best third-placed teams through to the next round.

The quality of the matches we saw during EURO 2008 also confirmed the high technical level of European football, and teams like England, Scotland and Denmark, or even Serbia and Ukraine – to name but a few – would certainly not have reduced the quality of the tournament. In addition, by increasing the chances of qualifying for the direct knockout stages, the teams could play under less pressure than the current system allows, where losing the first match often virtually amounts to elimination from the tournament.

Nor is there any reason to fear that the qualifying matches will become less interesting and valuable. Quite the opposite. The prospect of play-offs for the third-placed teams makes the qualifiers even more competitive, maintains interest in them, and, for many, keeps the dream of reaching the final round alive for longer.

In Austria and Switzerland, I also appreciated the amount of work put in by the host cities, and I shared the disappointment of those for whom all that hard work bore fruit for only one week and the duration of three matches, whereas the return on their investments would have been greater if they had hosted more matches.

Of course, these additional matches also mean more work and a longer tournament, but for such an amazing festival that takes in the whole of Europe, it is well worth the effort.

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### COVER

Robinho, Manchester City's Brazilian international, feels the force of Anton Zlogar, but City still got the better of Omonia in the first round of the UEFA Cup to qualify for the group stage.

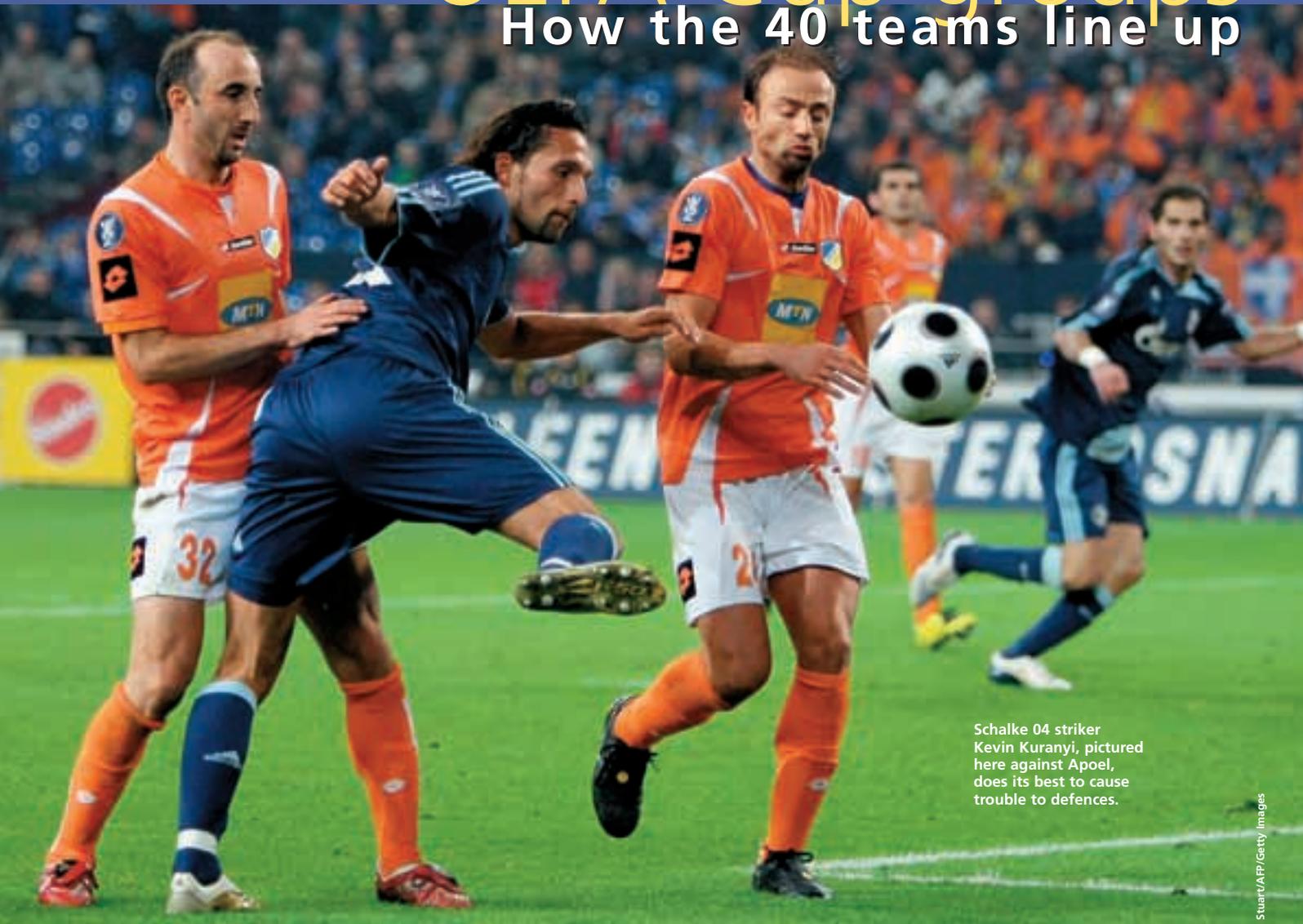
Photo: Manchester City FC/PA Photos



**Michel Platini**  
UEFA President

# Presenting the UEFA Cup groups

## How the 40 teams line up



Schalke 04 striker Kevin Kuranyi, pictured here against Apoel, does its best to cause trouble to defences.

Stuart/AFR/Getty Images



**AS THE UEFA CUP PREPARES TO ENTER ITS GROUP STAGE, WHICH RUNS FROM 23 OCTOBER TO 18 DECEMBER, 40 TEAMS ARE IN CONTENTION FOR A PLACE IN THE LAST 32. THREE TEAMS FROM EACH GROUP WILL GO THROUGH FROM THE GROUP STAGE TO THE NEXT ROUND, WHICH WILL BE PLAYED IN FEBRUARY. IN THE MEANTIME, SOME EXCITING ENCOUNTERS ARE IN THE OFFING IN THE COMPETITION THIS SEASON, THE LAST TO BE PLAYED UNDER THE UEFA CUP BANNER.**

Each team involved in the group stage plays two matches at home and two away. The top three in each group go through to the last 32, where they are joined by the eight clubs that finish their UEFA Champions League groups in third spot. From then on, the competition changes to a two-leg direct knockout format until the final, which takes place on 20 May at the Sükrü Saracoglu stadium in Istanbul, home to Fenerbahçe.

### **Group A: Manchester City and Schalke favourites**

In this group, Manchester City FC are still favourites, even though Mark Hughes's team did not shine in their elimination of AC Omonia from Cyprus in the previous round and have got off to a disappointing start in the English Premier League, despite the arrival of Brazilian Robinho from Real Madrid CF. Their toughest opponents will certainly be FC Schalke 04,

who are doing reasonably well in the Bundesliga and who were knocked out of European competition last season by no less than FC Barcelona, in the UEFA Champions League. However, the English and German favourites will have to be seriously wary of FC Twente, who eliminated Rennes quite convincingly, as well as of Paris Saint-Germain FC, even though Paul Le Guen's team struggled to put Kayserispor from Turkey out of the competition and their performance in their domestic championship is still not out of this world. As for Real Racing Club, their intrinsic qualities are undeniable, but they will have to perform better than they have in the Spanish championship so far if they want to go through to the last 32.



Galatasaray's Fernando Meira (in orange) challenges for the ball in the air against Ikechukwu Kalu, who plays for Swiss club Bellinzona, who were making their European competition debut.

Coffrin/AFP/Getty Images



Simone Pepe hopes that Udinese will also fly high and make it through to the last 32.

Meyer/AFP/Getty Images



### Group B: Benfica and Galatasaray at the front of the field

It is difficult to single anyone out in Group B, although SL Benfica and Galatasaray AS, the latter under the helm of German Michael Skibbe, will have the odds in their favour. With Aimar and Nuno Gomes, Benfica, who put four goals past SSC Napoli in the previous round, have some serious assets to put to good use. However, Galatasaray, winners of the UEFA Cup in 1999/2000, are always a force to be reckoned with in European competition, and no one looks forward to playing in the impassioned atmosphere of the Ali Sami Yen stadium. Olympiacos CFP will no doubt be keen to challenge the ambitions of their rivals, and the trip to Athens will be no holiday. Hertha BSC Berlin, coached by Swiss

Lucien Favre, will also make their presence felt, with a striker like Voronin able to score a decisive goal at any moment. Last but not least, FC Metalist Karkhiv from Ukraine have already caused something of a sensation by eliminating Besiktas and forcing their coach, Ertugrul Saglam, to resign.

### Group C: Sevilla in pole position

Winners of the UEFA Cup two years in a row, in 2006 and 2007, it makes sense that Sevilla FC are in pole position in the competition, all the more so since Manuel Jimenez's team have got off to a very good start in the Liga and, to boot, made short work of Salzburg in the first round of the UEFA Cup.

However, VfB Stuttgart have also got some good cards up their sleeves, with Jens Lehmann in goal and Mario Gomez up front. The German team are familiar with their toughest opponents, but they should not underestimate UC Sampdoria, even though the Genoese club is struggling in Serie A.

FK Partizan from Belgrade are nostalgic for their glorious past and will not have an easy ride, even though they are totally dominating the Serbian championship at the moment. Meanwhile, R. Standard de Liège, who lost by a hair's breadth against Liverpool in the UEFA Champions League qualifiers before seeing Everton out of

the UEFA Cup, have done their credibility no harm at all in their European campaign so far this season.

### Group D: wide open

A prize for anyone who can name a real favourite in this group. Tottenham Hotspur FC could have the honour, but they are having a disastrous start to the English Premier League. Udinese Calcio, who are sitting high in Serie A, would therefore be a safer bet. They have a strong card to play, while FC Spartak Moskwa certainly have the means to play an interesting role, despite their current position in the Russian championship being nothing to write home about. The same can be said of NK Dinamo Zagreb, who have no close opponents on home soil, but who have yet to make their mark on the European stage, having eliminated Sparta Prague thanks to the away goals rule. For their part, NEC Nijmegen will probably have to make do with the role of potential mischief-makers.

### Group E: AC Milan and the rest

Notably missing from the UEFA Champions League, AC Milan will be trying to console themselves by seizing their last opportunity to win the UEFA Cup. The assets that Silvio Berlusconi's club can put into play are well known, but things do not always go to plan on the field. That said, Kaká, Pato, Ronaldinho, Shevchenko, Pirlo and the likes should not have too much trouble getting through to the next round. For the two other places at stake, Harry Redknapp's Portsmouth FC, with players like Crouch, Defoe and Utaka, would seem to be well equipped to make it into the last 32, as should VfL Wolfsburg who, under the leadership of Felix Magath, are not losing many matches. Braga have not been particularly conspicuous in their domestic championship so far this season, but their presence at this stage of the UEFA Cup is nonetheless proof of their potential. For all that, they remain outsiders, as do SC Heerenveen from the Netherlands, who, it is worth remembering, trounced Vitoria Setubal in the previous round.



Arthur Boka, VfB Stuttgart's attacking left back.

Stollarz/Bongartz/Getty Images



Peter Crouch (9), a formidable asset up front for Portsmouth.

Getty Images



Manuel Fernandes breaks through the Maritimo defence for Valencia in their UEFA Cup first round tie.

Tuson/AP/Getty Images



Despite losing his balance, Mark-Antoine Fortune still manages to put the ball into the net for Nancy-Lorraine against Motherwell.

Stuart/AP/Getty Images

Group A	Group B
FC Schalke 04	SL Benfica
Paris St-Germain FC	Olympiacos CFP
Manchester City FC	Galatasaray AS
Real Racing Club	Hertha BSC Berlin
FC Twente	FC Metalist Kharkiv
Group C	Group D
Sevilla FC	Tottenham Hotspur FC
VfB Stuttgart	FC Spartak Moskva
UC Sampdoria	Udinese Calcio
FK Partizan	NK Dinamo Zagreb
R. Standard de Liège	NEC Nijmegen
Group E	Group F
AC Milan	Hamburger SV
SC Heerenveen	AFC Ajax
SC Braga	SK Slavia Praha
Portsmouth FC	Aston Villa FC
VfL Wolfsburg	MSK Zilina
Group G	Group H
Valencia CF	PFC CSKA Moskva
Club Brugge KV	RC Deportivo La Coruña
Rosenborg BK	Feyenoord
FC København	AS Nancy-Lorraine
AS Saint-Etienne	KKS Lech Poznan

### Group F: a Jarolim family affair

You need to be psychic to know who from among Hamburger SV, AFC Ajax and Aston Villa FC will top this group. However, one thing is for sure and that is that these three teams are clearly above the rest in this group. Hamburg have been riding high since the start of the season. From their position at the top of the Bundesliga, they are setting their sights even higher. Ajax, now coached by Marco van Basten, are not hiding their ambitions, but their results in the Eredivisie do not yet match those aspirations. For their part, Aston Villa and their charismatic coach, Martin O'Neill, have achieved some very good results in the English Premier League. That will probably leave SK Slavia Praha to sweep up the crumbs. Their coach, Karel Jarolim, has his nephew Marek playing for him, while his son David wears the captain's armband for SV Hamburg. Finally, Slovakia's

representative, MSK Zilina, must be wishing that they had been luckier in the draw.

### Group G: Valencia tower above the rest

Bolstered by their European honours, as well as by their huge potential, which has put them at the top of the Spanish championship, Valencia CF do not seem to have any serious challengers. Unai Emery's team did not lose a single match in Spain in September and are perceived as the bogeymen. The contest for second place should, however, be a very open affair. Although they do not have the same resources, AS Saint-Etienne will be dreaming of reviving their glorious past, while Norway's representatives, Rosenborg BK, can boast of a wealth of experience in European competition, even though they are not dominating the Norwegian football scene at the moment. Club Brugge KV remain up among the best in Belgium, and the same could be said of FC København, coached by Stale Solbakken, who managed to knock out FC Moskva.

### Group H: CSKA Moskva and Deportivo La Coruña well placed

PFC CSKA Moskva, winners of the UEFA Cup in 2005, who are sitting right behind Rubin Kazan at the top of the Russian championship, will be the favourites in this group. Valeryi Gazzaev's team has some superb cards to put on the table, in particular, in the form of the Russian championship's leading scorer, the Brazilian Vagner Love. Despite average results in the Spanish championship, RC Deportivo La Coruña should make it through this group, in which Feyenoord will certainly also be wanting a slice of the cake. However, they will have to play better than they have at the start of the Dutch championship. The same applies to AS Nancy-Lorraine, who are not really outstanding in the French championship and will have to raise their game if they are to make it through to the next round of the UEFA Cup. Last but not least, KKS Lech Poznan should take their chances daringly in the contest for third place, which would appear to be a very open race.

André Winckler



Miralem Sulejmani makes his presence felt in Ajax's match against Borac in Belgrade.

Isakovic/AP/Getty Images



Qualifying matches (here, Hertha Berlin v Nistru Otaci in the first qualifying round of the UEFA Cup) will count towards a club's coefficient.

Kemal Demirel/Getty Images

# A brand-new look

## Introducing the UEFA Europa League

**ORGANISED BY UEFA SINCE THE 1971/72 SEASON AS A SUCCESSOR**

**TO THE INTER-CITIES FAIRS CUP, THE UEFA CUP WILL BE KNOWN AS THE UEFA**

**EUROPA LEAGUE FROM THE 2009/10 SEASON.**

There are various reasons for this name change, approved by the Executive Committee at its meeting in September in Bordeaux.

The main aim is to reinforce the fresh impetus given to the competition by its recent transformation, which began with the introduction of a group stage four years ago. From 2009/10, the group stage will be fine-tuned, with groups of four instead of five so that matches can be played on a traditional home and away basis. There will be 48 teams competing in 12 groups at this stage of the competition. The broadcast rights will be marketed centrally and there will be a presenting sponsor and an official match ball. The commercial rights will be sold centrally from the subsequent knockout stage.

The choice of the Greek word "Europa" for the new name is intended to emphasise the fact that the competition is open to clubs from all UEFA's member associations, while calling it a league rather than a cup accentuates the group stage and draws a parallel with the UEFA Champions League.

The new name is accompanied by a new logo inspired by the competition trophy and in colours that distinguish it clearly from the Champions League.

### Coefficient calculations

In addition, the Executive Committee approved the draw system and match calendar for the 2009/10 club competition season. It also looked



at the coefficients which determine the seeds and decided on a few changes to the way these are calculated.

First of all, it acted on a request from the clubs, backed by the European Club Forum, to rectify the fact that those knocked out in the qualifying rounds are left with a coefficient of zero. Any points earned in the qualifying rounds count only for the calculation of the national association's coefficient. The Executive Committee therefore adopted the proposal submitted by a working group and supported by the Club Competitions Committee, opting for a system of non-cumulative points per qualifying round (from 0.25 points for a win in the first UEFA Europa League qualifying round to 2 points for a place in the group stage). These points will count towards the coefficients of the clubs as well as the national associations.

The Executive Committee has also adjusted the number of points awarded in each of the club competitions. Until now, the maximum number of points possible in both the UEFA Champions League and UEFA Cup has been 33. The new system raises the ceiling in the Champions League to 38 by increasing the number of points awarded for a place in the group stage from three to four and by awarding four points to the clubs that qualify for the first knockout round.

Finally on the subject of coefficients, the Executive Committee reduced the weighting of the national association's coefficient in the club coefficient calculation from 33 to 20%. This system will benefit clubs that regularly achieve good results in the UEFA competitions but come from lower-ranked national associations.



Tottenham Hotspur won the first UEFA Cup in 1972.

PA Archive/PA Photos



Solidarity forms a solid link between youth football and the UEFA Champions League.



# UEFA Champions League

## Proceeds go towards youth player development

The 38 other leagues shared in just over EUR 7.5 million, again distributed according to their market values, but with each league guaranteed a minimum of EUR 166,700.

**SOLIDARITY IS ONE OF THE FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES FOR THE DISTRIBUTION OF UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE REVENUE.**



Logically, the clubs taking part in the UEFA Champions League are the main beneficiaries of the income derived from the competition, but they

are not the only ones to receive a share of the takings. The other beneficiaries include the top leagues of UEFA's member associations, which enjoyed a EUR 43.6 million slice of the pie between them for the 2007/08 season.

The money they receive is intended only for clubs which did not take part in the UEFA Champions League (from the group stage), since the participating clubs already receive shares related to their performance in the competition and to the value of their TV markets (see *uefadirect* No 75).

### Two categories

For the distribution to the top leagues, a distinction is made between those that were represented in the UEFA Champions League and the rest. The

biggest share, EUR 36.1 million, is reserved for those that were represented and is divided up according to the market values of the countries concerned.

For the 2007/08 season, 15 leagues fell into this category and received the following amounts:

Italy	6 609 000
England	6 562 000
Germany	4 205 000
Spain	3 946 000
France	3 545 000
Netherlands	2 763 000
Greece	1 507 000
Turkey	1 411 000
Scotland	1 209 000
Norway	917 000
Portugal	901 000
Romania	722 000
Russia	639 000
Ukraine	594 000
Czech Republic	570 000
<b>Total</b>	<b>EUR 36 100 000</b>

Denmark	402 300
Austria	323 100
Poland	298 000
Switzerland	283 100
Sweden	271 000
Israel	235 200
Belgium	228 500
Republic of Ireland	223 200
Iceland	219 200
Hungary	213 000
Cyprus	194 300
Croatia	190 000
Serbia	185 000
Albania	182 700
Finland	180 000
Slovenia	179 300
Bulgaria	177 400
Georgia	174 000
Malta	173 500
Bosnia-Herzegovina	172 000
Slovakia	171 300
Kazakhstan	170 100
Armenia	169 900
Lithuania	169 800
Latvia	169 800
Estonia	169 800
FYR Macedonia	169 700
Montenegro	169 000
Belarus	168 500
Azerbaijan	168 000
Moldova	167 200
Northern Ireland	166 700
Wales	166 700
Faroe Islands	166 700
Luxembourg	166 700
Liechtenstein	166 700
Andorra	166 700
San Marino	166 700
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>EUR 7 534 800</b>

## Training programme

The payments are made through the national associations, which transfer the whole amount to their top leagues which, in turn, distribute the money according to UEFA's requirements, the main objective being that the money be spent on youth football. Consequently, only clubs which run a youth training programme in accordance with their UEFA-approved national club licensing manual can expect to receive a share.



It is up to the leagues whether all their clubs receive a share or only those in the top division, and whether they all receive the same amount or whether quality-related criteria come into play. It is also up to the leagues to decide whether to draw up special rules to ensure that this money is used for the purpose stipulated by UEFA.

National associations which do not have a league that is recognised by UEFA are responsible for distributing the money themselves, according to the same requirements as imposed on the leagues.



Per Ravn Omdal presents Luis Aragonés with a replica European Championship trophy.



Group discussions allow topics to be discussed in more detail.

# Conference for European National Coaches

## A review of EURO 2008

**FOR ONCE, LUÍS ARAGONÉS DIDN'T READ THE GAME 100% CORRECTLY. AS CHAMPION OF EUROPE, HE WAS INVITED TO RETURN TO VIENNA AS GUEST OF HONOUR AT THE 8TH UEFA CONFERENCE FOR EUROPEAN NATIONAL COACHES, HELD FROM 22 TO 24 SEPTEMBER.**

He needed some persuading. With his usual humility and pragmatism, he pointed out that he was no longer at the helm of the Spanish champions and that, in any case, the credit should go to the players. He needed yet more persuasion to take the stage.

Yet, although he admits that he is not very good at showing emotions, he was visibly touched when Executive Committee member Per Ravn Omdal – who opened and closed the event with rousing speeches – presented him with a replica of the Henri Delaunay trophy. And he was equally emotional when it came to saying goodbye to his colleagues and heading back to his club duties at Fenerbahçe SK. It had been that sort of event – highly enriching from professional and human perspectives.

### Perfect scene

It has to be said that the Austrian national association set the perfect scene for an event involving coaches and technical directors from all 53 UEFA members. The fact that Slaven Bilic, Fabio Capello, Vicente Del Bosque, Jerzy Engel, Josef Hickersberger, Guus Hiddink, Gérard Houllier, Köbi Kuhn, Morten Olsen, Fatih Terim and Jozef Venglos were among those who appeared on stage speaks volumes for the quality of the gathering.

The objective was to review EURO 2008 from a technical perspective and to discuss any trends which might

have a bearing on player and team development. Debating points were triggered by UEFA's technical report, which was launched at a conference where the starting point was a review conducted by UEFA's technical director, Andy Roxburgh. As a 31-match final tournament is prone to statistical 'accidents', data were corre-

lated to the 125 matches played during the 2007/08 UEFA Champions League. One of the tendencies to emerge was a fall in the number of goals stemming from set plays (the success rate from corners, for example, was 1 in 64), which could be attributable to better zonal defending and/or today's high levels of



Photos: Sportsfile



Carlos Alberto Parreira.



The delegations of the finalist associations and representatives of the local organising committee at the draw in St Petersburg on 17 September.

'espionage' which all but eliminate the surprise factor.

In the tactical sphere, the need to master the art of counter-attacking and to make structural variations during the course of a game was among the salient features to emerge from the EURO 2008 review. However, the coaches underlined the importance of mental strength in such a high-intensity competition – and this is where Andy Roxburgh's session on the last morning on "The Leadership Role of the Top Coach" had great relevance. "Training, management and leadership are three different things," Andy Roxburgh commented, "and at the top level, the coach's leadership qualities often make the difference. Leaders inspire and influence others and they are ready to take big decisions."

### Importance of the past

Another thought-provoking presentation was made by Carlos Alberto Parreira, who led Brazil to World Cup victory in 1994 – their first title for 24 years. His theme was preparing a team capable of winning it. "It is easy to forget how things have changed," he remarked. "When Brazil won it in 1970, there were no players abroad and the national league stopped in February to give the national team five months to prepare." These days, that is unthinkable – and teams need to be prepared in a very limited time. He also stressed the importance of a country's footballing culture and traditions (something which Guus Hiddink said he treated as a priority when he moved to Russia). "If you don't know the nation's past," commented Carlos Alberto, "it's very difficult to have a vision of the future."

Austria's Czech national team coach, Karel Brückner, summarised the conference nicely. "There was a great input of ideas, an atmosphere of dynamism and motivation. You share experiences with your colleagues and, afterwards, you benefit from them. But the important thing is to put the ideas into practice. You can be given a recipe, but you have to cook the meal yourself."

In Vienna, a rich menu was presented.

# News of current competitions

**WHILE THE NATIONAL A TEAMS ARE INVOLVED IN THEIR 2010 WORLD CUP QUALIFYING CAMPAIGNS, AND AS THE UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE AND UEFA CUP GET INTO THEIR GROUP STAGES, COMPETITIONS ARE ALSO IN FULL SWING IN OTHER CATEGORIES.**



In futsal, the first European Under-21 Futsal Tournament is nearing its final round.

After several months of patient waiting, the seven teams which qualified in April, along with the host country, Russia, now know who their final round opponents will be. The draw made in St Petersburg on 17 September placed the teams into the two following groups:

*Group A:* Russia (hosts), Italy, Croatia and Slovenia

*Group B:* Ukraine, Spain, Netherlands and Kazakhstan

The group matches take place from 8 to 12 December, the semi-finals on 13 December, and the final the next day. The venue for all the matches is the Yubileiny Palace of Sport in St Petersburg.



■ In the UEFA Futsal Cup, the main round concluded in mid-September, with 12 clubs (the six group winners and runners-up) going

through to the elite round, where they are joined by the four clubs that qualified automatically for this stage of the competition (Russia's two representatives, MFK Viz-Sinara Ekaterinburg and MFK Dinamo Moskva, Spanish club Interviú Madrid and Kairat Almaty from Kazakhstan).

The draw for the elite round, which was conducted at UEFA's headquarters in Nyon on 19 September, divided the 16 teams into the four following groups:

*Group A:* **MFK Viz-Sinara Ekaterinburg** (titleholders), FC Shakhtar Donetsk (Ukraine), Luparense Calcio A5 (Italy), Slov-Matic Fofu Bratislava (Slovakia)

*Group B:* Kairat Almaty, FK Era-Pack Chrudim (Czech Republic), **Action 21 Charleroi** (Belgium), KMN Gorica (Slovenia)

*Group C:* MFK Dinamo Moskva, Araz Naxçivan (Azerbaijan), **MNK Nacional Zagreb** (Croatia), ACS Odorheiu Secuiesc (Romania)

*Group D:* Interviú Madrid, **SL Benfica** (Portugal), Hapoel Ironi Rishon Lezion (Israel), KMF Ekonomac Kragujevac (Serbia)

**Mini-tournament hosts shown in bold.**

The elite round matches take place between 8 and 16 November, with the four group winners going through to the final round in April next year.

■ The FIFA U-20 Women's World Cup takes place from 19 November to 7 December at four venues in Chile (Santiago, Coquimbo, Chillán and Temuco). The draw made in Chile on 13 September placed the finalists into the following groups:

*Group A:* Chile, England, New Zealand, Nigeria

*Group B:* China PR, Argentina, France, USA

*Group C:* Canada, Japan, Congo DR, Germany

*Group D:* Mexico, Norway, Brazil, Korea DPR

The top two from each group qualify for the quarter-finals.



Norway are thrilled to have qualified for the U20 World Cup.



Germany v Brazil in the 2007 World Cup final.

Brand/DPA/AFP



UEFA Women's Cup

Ry/Bongarts/Getty Images

A German team on the podium is also a familiar sight in the UEFA Women's Cup, which FFC Frankfurt won this year.



Niedermüller/Bongarts/Getty Images

# Women's football

## The Bundesliga model

**SIX EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS, TWO WORLD CUPS, ONE WORLD CUP RUNNERS-UP SLOT, AND THREE OLYMPIC BRONZE MEDALS: PLEXIGLAS PLAQUES LINE THE LOBBY OF THE GERMAN FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION (DFB) IN FRANKFURT. ALL THE NATIONAL TEAMS' SUCCESSES ARE RECORDED AND, DESPITE THEIR SHORT HISTORY, THE WOMEN'S LIST OF HONOURS IS IMPRESSIVE.**

It has become customary for the DFB to invite a female player to perform the men's cup competition draws, which are shown live on TV. It is a tradition that the viewers seem to like. The women's cup final, which is played out just before the men's kicks off, also attracts a good TV audience. ARD and ZDF regularly broadcast women's matches. The 2003 and 2007

Women's World Cups, won by Germany, attracted audiences of up to 12 million in a country of around 82 million. Cameras follow the women behind the scenes, at the hotel, getting off the bus, etc.

Germans stopped scoffing at women's football a long time ago.

It is well established and popular; the women have earned their spurs; they are athletes who play attractive football. In front of the microphone, they are refreshing and intelligent. As amateurs, they work or study alongside their football activities.

*"They deserve all the more credit for that. Some women players can make a living from football but they don't earn the kind of money that would let them retire when their playing days are over,"*

DFB spokesman Niels Barnhofer explains. The women's national team is particularly successful.

*"Heaven helps those who help themselves."* The DFB spares no effort in its promotion of women's football but the women's game commands admiration on its own strength. It has become an integral part of Germany's sports scene.

### A proper Bundesliga

The federation gave women's football the green light in 1970 and by 1990 had introduced a women's Bundesliga. The teams were divided into two groups, from which the winners and the runners-up would go through to the semi-finals, ahead of the final. Seven years later, in 1997, the women's Bundesliga was transformed into a single 12-team league, comprising 22 matches and mirroring the men's league. The women's second division is still played in two 12-club leagues, north and south.

Despite their day jobs or academic commitments, the women in the Bundesliga train once a day, or twice when they have time. 1. FFC Frankfurt – no relation to Eintracht – have won the UEFA Women's Cup three times.

According to the latest figures, the DFB has 1,002,605 women on the books. *"For the last five years we have registered a 20% increase in membership each season. Girls enjoy playing. They tell their friends about it, who then join up themselves,"* Niels Barnhofer says. *"The national team is a real driving force. We want to take full advantage of hosting the 2011 Women's World Cup to attract even*



Birgit Prinz, a leading figure in women's football in Germany, beats Jessika Fishlock of Wales to the ball.

Vogel/Bongarts/Getty Images

A women's Bundesliga match between Bayern Munich and FC R 2001 Duisburg.



Baron/Bongartz/Getty Images

Tina Theune-Meyer and Silvia Neid are congratulated by the DFB president, Theo Zwanziger, after Germany's victory in the European Women's Championship in 2005.



Heiniger/Bongartz/Getty Images

Renate Lingor is now on the organising committee for the 2011 Women's World Cup.



Rentz/Bongartz/Getty Images

The final of the German women's cup between FC Sarrbrücken and FFC Frankfurt played in Berlin in April this year.

more girls," adds Hannelore Ratzeburg, vice-chairman of the UEFA and DFB women's football committees. "The year before we will be hosting the world Under-20 tournament. We want to ride the wave of the 2006 World Cup. Germany is centrally located. We hope to welcome spectators from all over Europe, whether their national teams qualify or not."

If there is no women's club in the area, girls can train and play with the boys until they reach 16. Clubs do not mind taking on girls, even though they know they will lose them to a women's team at some stage. "A club that struggles to offer good coaching in different age groups is under no obligation to accept girls but I've never heard of girls being turned away," adds Barnhofer

The DFB is not slackening its efforts. "We are trying to make the Bundesliga as a whole more attractive. The standard is high but the title contest is always between three or four clubs that are way out in front. Closer competition would have a positive effect on the development of the players and on the suspense," says Niels Barnhofer.

### The key players

Like the other DFB vice-presidents, Hannelore Ratzeburg has a specific area of activity – in her case, women's football – as well as having a hand in all decisions regarding German football. The national women's team has been coached by a woman since 1996. On 1 August 2005, Tina Theune-Meyer handed the reins to her assis-

tant, Silvia Neid, who was called up to play for Germany 111 times. Other female ex-players coach the youth teams.

The DFB employs two other female players. Doris Fitschen is on the 2011 Women's World Cup organising committee, where she is responsible for marketing. She has just been joined by Renate Lingor, who ended her playing career in Beijing. The famous Sportschau on ARD is also presented by a woman, Monica Lierhaus. She may never have played but her expertise is undisputed.

Pascale Pierard

## Hannelore Ratzeburg: 37 years in football

Having started in 1971, Hannelore Ratzeburg played through the difficult early years of women's football, but her faith and vision saw her through. "When I became a referee I was jeered by children and their parents, who wondered what a woman could possibly know about football. I trained as a coach and then moved into management roles.

I started by organising local football, in Hamburg. I've been on the DFB's board of directors since 1995. Since 2006 we have had a president who takes a close interest in women's football."

– What can be done to further improve the Bundesliga?

– Tina Theune-Meyer invites the coaches to refresher courses twice a year. We also get together with the clubs every six months to discuss

how to improve communications, upgrade infrastructure, attract sponsors, and so on. From the 2009/10 season, Bundesliga clubs will have to employ a full-time coach responsible for all sporting aspects and an administrative director to look after the rest. You can't contact sponsors at 8pm, after they have finished work.

– Do you look to any models abroad?

– Outside Europe there aren't any clubs. Football is part of the school system in America. China prepares by playing friendlies all over the world. Lots of women in Brazil play football, but indoors. Scandinavia has always been a model.

– How are the various German national teams organised?

– The coaches work together. The players maintain the same style of play in all the age categories, which makes their integration easier.

P.P.



Stollarz/Bongartz/Getty Images



The Executive Committee meeting in Bordeaux.

UEFA-plivoods.ch



While he was still chief executive of the Scottish FA, David Taylor, now UEFA's general secretary, presented the proposal to increase the number of EURO participants to the UEFA Congress in Düsseldorf.

UEFA-plivoods.ch

# Meetings and other activities

## EURO to be expanded to 24 teams

**THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING ON 25/26 SEPTEMBER WAS THE FIRST IN FRANCE SINCE 2000 AND THE FIRST EVER IN BORDEAUX.**

The agenda for the meeting chaired by the president, Michel Platini, was particularly full and several important decisions were taken over the two days. Among them was the decision to extend the number of European Championship final round participants from 16 to 24 from EURO 2016 onwards. This decision marks the end of a process initiated at the UEFA Congress in Düsseldorf in January 2007, when the Scottish Football Association, backed by the Republic of Ireland, Latvia and Sweden, asked for a feasibility study into a 24-team final round. Since then, the possibility of an increased intake has been looked at by an Executive Committee working group and the National Team Competitions Committee and discussed again at this year's congress before being fully endorsed at the meeting of presidents and general secretaries in Vienna in June.

The step was finally taken in Bordeaux, with a unanimous decision by

the Executive Committee to enlarge the field to 24 participants. The chosen format consists in a group stage with six groups, followed by a round of 16, quarter-finals, semi-finals and a final, generating a total of 51 games (compared with 31 in 2008). This format has already been applied by FIFA for the 1986 to 1994 World Cups. Matches will be played over 29 to 31 days, in eight to ten stadiums.

### Play-offs

There was no desire to separate the qualifying round from the final tournament, bearing in mind the financial significance of the qualifiers for the teams that fail to make it to the finals. The value of these preliminary matches will be maintained, or even enhanced, as the traditional system of groups of five or six teams (at least eight matches per team) will stand and the play-offs between third-placed teams will create and sustain interest.

## From 4 to 24

Launched in 1958 as the European Nations' Cup, the first two editions of what is now known as the European Football Championship ended in a four-team final round of semi-finals, third place play-off and final.

In 1966, the cup became a championship with the introduction of qualifying group matches. The group stage was followed by quarter-finals, played home and away. The final round remained unchanged, with semi-finals, a third place play-off and a final. All four matches (five in 1968, when the final was replayed following a draw) were held in the same country.



The 1968 final had to be played twice before Italy's captain, Giacinto Facchetti, was able to lift the trophy.

The format was not changed again until 1978-80, but finals were not to be replayed, giving rise to the famous penalty shootout between Czechoslovakia and West Germany in Yugoslavia in 1976. In 1978-80, teams entered the final round straight from the qualifying groups. The eight teams were divided into two groups; the winners met in the final and the runners-up in the play-off for third place. In 1984, the final round was refined by reintroducing semi-finals after the group matches and getting rid of the third place play-off, which was of relatively little interest.

The next transformation came in 1996, with a final round of 16 and group matches followed by quarter-finals, semi-finals and the final. This was the format still in use for EURO 2008.



The widespread success of EURO 2008 was not irrelevant in the decision to increase the number of final round participants from 16 to 24.

Action Images/Alex Morton

Topham Picturepoint/PA Photos



In Bordeaux, Michel Platini and the UEFA delegation were received by the city's mayor, Alain Juppé.

UEFA-plivwoods.ch



UEFA is keeping a close eye on the development of beach soccer.

AFSA



## News from Brussels

UEFA, the European Commission and the World Heart Federation got together at the British school in Brussels on Monday, 29 September to launch their jointly produced Eat for Goals! cookery book.



The event received wide media coverage.

At the launch, Androulla Vassiliou, European Commissioner for Health, Professor Pekka Puska, president-elect of the World Heart Federation, and William Gaillard, UEFA's communications director, helped a dozen pupils from the school make some of the recipes featured in the book.

Eat for Goals! is full of healthy, balanced recipes presented by 13 professional footballers, including Thierry Henry, Steven Gerrard, Fabio Cannavaro and Birgit Prinz. The book's message is that a healthy lifestyle is also based on healthy food. It contains detailed lists of the ingredients for each dish, as well as step-by-step cooking instructions, so that even the most inexperienced children can prepare balanced meals. The book also gives the nutritional values of each recipe to help

# Protecting the integrity of football

## Disciplinary sector to be reinforced

### THE PHENOMENON OF BETS LINKED TO BRIBERY AND MATCH FIXING POSES AN ALL TOO REAL THREAT TO FOOTBALL.

In response to this risk, UEFA has already set up an early warning system for the matches in its competitions, but the increase in live betting and in the Asian betting market (including illegal betting) requires additional measures to be taken.

Consequently, the UEFA Executive Committee decided at its meeting in Bordeaux to reinforce UEFA's disciplinary services by creating a special investigation unit and recruiting two specialists and four additional disciplinary inspectors with specific experience in criminal investigation and good police contacts. "We have not had an explosion of cases," the UEFA general secretary, David Taylor, told uefa.com, "but there have been instances recently with new forms of betting which have led us to a position where we don't really have the resources to undertake these investigations in an in-depth manner." The new unit will be capable of doing just that, benefitting also from an improved early warning system, particularly through establishing contacts with the Asian market.

Other measures are still under consideration, as is the possibility of extending the early warning system to all of UEFA's member associations so as to be able to monitor betting on the domestic championships as well.

### Beach soccer soars in popularity

At its meeting in September, the Futsal and Beach Soccer Committee reviewed the development of beach soccer in Europe in order to present its conclusions and recommendations to the Executive Committee. A survey conducted among

UEFA's member associations for 2007 revealed that 35 European countries had beach soccer activities at the time, though not necessarily organised officially. In addition, 17 national associations had incorporated beach soccer into their programmes, although only 7 actually organised beach soccer events.

On this basis, the Executive Committee decided that UEFA would not organise any official beach soccer competition for the time being but would continue to monitor its development and also examine the possibility of recognising – under certain conditions – the competitions currently organised by Pro Beach Soccer, who already manage various competitions in Europe.



Respect is a key word in all UEFA's activities.



→ reinforce the link between healthy food and good performance on the pitch.

One of the book's contributors, Real Madrid striker Ruud van Nistelrooy, believes that it is *"vital that children have a healthy lifestyle based on healthy food and exercise."*

At the Eat for Goals! launch, Professor Pekka Puska drew attention to the fact that 20% of all European children were currently overweight and stressed the importance of initiatives such as Eat for Goals! which *"encourage healthy nutrition and active lifestyles among children and their parents in a fun and inspirational way."*

The European Commissioner for Health, Androulla Vassiliou, understandably shared this sense of satisfaction. Surrounded by children and clearly enjoying herself, Ms Vassiliou said she had *"no doubt"* that this book would *"score goals with young Europeans."*

*"The world of football has long inspired people of all ages and both sexes to exercise. It has now set out to inspire them to eat well too,"* said William Gaillard.

Eat for Goals! is designed to encourage Europeans to keep fit and healthy by alerting children and their families to the importance of exercise and healthy eating.

The book is available in French, German and English and costs EUR 12.90. It can be ordered online from the publisher's website, [www.falkemedia-shop.de](http://www.falkemedia-shop.de). For each book sold, EUR 1 will be donated to World Heart Federation programmes encouraging children to be physically active.



The Women's U17 final round will be staged in Nyon in 2010, as well as in 2009.

→ ■ The UEFA club licensing manual has been converted into a set of regulations which came into force on 1 October. The content is more or less the same, although one important difference is that the criterion "Racial Equality Practice" is no longer a recommendation but an obligation and subject to disciplinary measures if not complied with.

■ Since the FIFA Strategic Committee is now chaired by the FIFA president and no longer by the UEFA president, the Executive Committee amended UEFA's Organisational Regulations to the effect that the Professional Football Strategy Council is now chaired by the UEFA president.

■ The Executive Committee decided that the final round of the European Women's Under-17 Championship in 2010, involving four teams, will be organised by the UEFA administration in Nyon, Switzerland, as it was at the end of its inaugural season this year and will be next year too.

■ Losing domestic cup finalists will still be able to play in the UEFA Cup (UEFA Europa League) if the winners qualify for the UEFA Champions League. In taking this decision, the Executive Committee was anxious to stress the importance of the domestic cup competitions and to preserve their appeal.

## EUR 600,000 contribution to Moldova

At its meeting in Bordeaux, the Executive Committee approved a request for aid from the Football Association of Moldova and agreed to make a contribution of EUR 600,000 towards the repair of the Vadul-lui-Voda training centre, which was severely damaged by floods in the summer. The centre was built only recently, with the help of money from UEFA's HatTrick programme.



Following the recommendation of the Fair Play and Social Responsibility Committee, the Executive Committee also decided to make a contribution towards offsetting carbon emissions produced by flights used by UEFA (committee members, staff, referees, delegates, etc.) during the 2009/10 season. This contribution will support renewable energy projects. For 2007, this would have amounted to a contribution of EUR 280,000.

In another eco-friendly decision, the Executive Committee granted additional funds for the construction of UEFA's new office building in Nyon, so that it can meet strict standards in terms of energy consumption and environmental impact.

Finally, the Executive Committee noted that the Score for the Red Cross campaign conducted during EURO 2008 collected more than EUR 500,000 for the victims of landmines in Afghanistan. German supporters were the most generous in the contest launched on the internet to designate Europe's humanitarian champions.



For each goal scored during EURO 2008, UEFA contributed EUR 4,000 to the Score for the Red Cross campaign.

## Poland and Ukraine confirmed as EURO 2012 hosts

At its meeting in Bordeaux, the Executive Committee re-confirmed UEFA's commitment to organising EURO 2012 in Poland and Ukraine, as decided at its meeting in Cardiff in 2007.

It did so after having carefully examined a report on the state of preparations in the two countries, to which the UEFA president had led a delegation at the beginning of July.



Michal Listkiewicz and Grigoriy Surkis, presidents of the FAs of Poland and Ukraine respectively, on the day their associations were designated as hosts of EURO 2012.

The Executive Committee took note of the progress achieved, as well as of what remained to be done, and issued a news release at the end of the meeting which stated that:

■ "Both host countries must continue to make the necessary efforts as any slackening could put in doubt the organisation of this tournament in these countries.

■ "UEFA will decide how many and which stadiums (and therefore cities) will be used as venues for the competition, with a minimum of six and maximum of eight, taking into account that contracts have been signed with eight stadiums, cities and airports.

■ "There will not necessarily be the same number of venues (cities) per country.

■ "The completion of the Kiev and Warsaw stadiums remains an essential element of the whole project.

■ "The governments of both countries must support their national associations and fulfil the commitments they gave to UEFA in the scope of the project, notably concerning accommodation and transport infrastructures."



Poland's representatives, Dolnoslaski, won the UEFA Regions' Cup in 2007.

## UEFA Regions' Cup – Preliminary round concludes

**The first phase of the 2008/09 UEFA Regions' Cup concluded at the end of September with three teams qualifying for the intermediate round.**

Of the three teams which hosted mini-tournaments in the preliminary round, only



San Marino's representatives managed to play the home advantage and, by the same stroke, achieved the first triumph of a team from San Marino in a UEFA mini-tournament. The other two mini-tournament winners were Malta AMA and Marmara Region AMA (Turkey), who therefore also go through to the intermediate round.

The competition schedule is designed to be flexible in order to make it as easy as possible for the amateur teams involved to programme their matches. This explains why the intermediate round began even before the preliminary round was over, with four of eight intermediate round groups already over and done with at the end of September/beginning of October. Consequently, Zagreb AMA (Croatia), Privilzhie AMA (Russia), Oltenia AMA (Romania) and Bratislava AMA (Slovakia) are already through to the final round, which will be hosted by one of the finalists.



A flexible schedule to allow amateur footballers to organise their matches as conveniently as possible.

## Blind-futsal seminar held in Moscow

**At the beginning of October, 75 blind-futsal coaches and referees gathered in Moscow for a seminar organised as part of the International Blind Sports Federation's Futsal Development Project Europe, which UEFA is sponsoring.**

Other seminars of this kind will take place in Turkey and Croatia.

The participants, who came from Belarus, Latvia, Lithuania, Russia and Ukraine, received training in the

coaching and refereeing skills required for blind futsal.

## Obituary

On 17 September, while on duty in Madrid as match delegate for the UEFA Champions League tie between Real Madrid CF and FC BATE Borisov, **Heinz Fahnler** (Austria) died suddenly. He was 66. A former international referee, he was a member of UEFA's Security Officers Panel from 2000 to 2004. As a match delegate, he represented UEFA at more than 200 European competition matches.



## AUSTRIA

• PETER KLINGLMÜLLER •

### Final EURO fling in Vienna

On 22 September, the Austrian Football Association (ÖFB) opened the doors to its football embassy in Vienna's Kursalon concert hall in the city park for one last time. Over 150 guests took up the invitation to the European Championship final gala, which offered culinary treats from Switzerland and Austria, plus an excellent programme of entertainment.

The event was an opportunity for the ÖFB to thank once again the many people who had made a decisive contribution to the success of Austria's EURO 2008 bid, preparation and realisation. In the presence of the general secretary, Alfred Ludwig, and many high-ranking ÖFB officials, as well as the coaching staff of the national A team (Karel Brückner, Andreas Herzog, Jan Kocian, Klaus Lindenberger), Under-21s (Manfred Zsak) and Under-20s (Andreas Heraf), the association president, Friedrich Stickler, singled out a selection for special honours.

These went to the state secretary for sports, Reinhold Lopatka, on behalf of the federal government; the Austrian tournament director, Christian Schmölder, for Euro 2008 SA; the deputy mayor of Vienna, Grete Laska, for the host cities; and the general secretary of the Swiss Football Association, Peter Gilliéron, for Austria's co-hosts for the European Championship finals in June.

Just some of the other people who were honoured, or who honoured the ÖFB with their presence, at the European Championship final gala were Beppo Mauhart (ÖFB honorary president and co-founder of 2008 – Österreich am Ball), Heinz Palme (CEO of 2008 – Österreich am Ball), Elmar Oberhauser (ORF information director), Hans Peter Trost (managing director of sports productions at ORF), Günter Marek, Major General Karl Mahrer and Colonel Josef Binder (all as representatives of the executive), Georg Springer (CEO of Bundestheater-Holding and dedicated EURO ambassador), Wolfgang Gramann (former general secretary of the ÖFB and former EURO tournament director), Hans Rinner (chairman of SK Sturm Graz), Peter Michael Reichel (chairman of LASK Linz), Werner Kuhn (general manager of SK Rapid Wien), Oliver Kreuzer (future sporting director of SK Sturm Graz), Paul Gludovatz (long-serving, successful ÖFB youth coach and current head

coach of SV Ried), Walter Weiss (manager of the Ernst Happel stadium) and Manfred Pock (CEO of Sportpark Klagenfurt GmbH).

In addition, the ÖFB entertained numerous sponsors and partners, as well as media representatives from TV, radio and print, at the successful final gala at the Kursalon.

The eighth UEFA Conference for European National Coaches also took place in Vienna. It coincided with the gala and was supported organisationally by the ÖFB. Hence, for one last time, EURO 2008 took centre stage in the Austrian capital, which was again transformed into a hub for the world of football. ■



One last outing for the EURO 2008 mascots, Trix and Flix, here with some of the gala participants.



## AZERBAIJAN

• FIRUZ ABDULLA •

### Euro Beach Soccer Cup in Baku

The Association of Football Federations of Azerbaijan (AFFA), together with the Azerbaijan Beach Soccer Federation, selected Baku to host the 2008 Euro Beach Soccer Cup.

The general secretary of the AFFA, Elkhan Mammadov, entered into negotiations with Pro Beach Soccer in Barcelona, Spain, and after talks they made the decision to hold the Euro Beach Soccer Cup in Baku from 18 to 21 September.



The trophy is presented.

Azerbaijan, Italy, Spain, Switzerland, England and Norway met at this year's Euro Beach Soccer Cup, which was held at the Dalgha stadium built by the AFFA in Mardakan, just outside Baku. The Spaniards scored two goals and conceded none in the final against Switzerland, meaning they could lift the Euro Beach Soccer Cup for the second time. Azerbaijan clinched third place.

The awards ceremony took place after the final between Spain and Switzerland. The competitions department of Pro Beach Soccer selected the best goalkeeper, player and scorer of the tournament. The AFFA vice-president, Elshad Nasirov, the AFFA general secretary, Elkhan Mammadov, the president of the Azerbaijan Beach Soccer Federation, Farid Novruzi,

and the Pro Beach Soccer general manager, Gabino Renales, all participated in the awards ceremony. Spanish goalkeeper Roberto Valeiro Mato snatched the individual goalkeeper trophy, Dejan Stankovic from Switzerland was named top scorer for his eight goals, and Nikolas Alvarado was rewarded for his efforts with the award for most valuable player at the Euro Beach Soccer Cup. The AFFA vice-president, Elshad Nasirov, presented the champions' cup to Spain. ■



## BELGIUM

• PIERRE CORNEZ •

### "We Believe"

28 August marked the start of a new campaign by the Belgian Football Association, entitled "We Believe". The launch came a few days before the Red Devils kicked off their qualifying campaign for the 2010 World Cup and was destined to reunite all the Belgian supporters behind the national team by appealing to the Legends Foundation, a group of renowned Belgian ex-internationals who vigorously support the *We Believe* initiative. Better than anyone, these luminaries know how important it is to be able to rely on the unconditional support of the 12th man, especially at a time when the national team, and Belgian football in general, are having trouble reproducing the success they once enjoyed.

Twelve famous former Red Devils have agreed to be the faces of the campaign: Jan Ceulemans, Eric Deflandre, Eric Gerets, Georges Grün, Luc Nilis, Enzo Scifo, Lorenzo Staelens, Erwin Vandenberg, Franky Van der Elst, Leo Van der Elst, Paul Van Himst and Wilfried Van Moer. Other former players may soon follow suit. In addition, top Belgian referees such as Frank De Bleckere and Jérôme Efont Nzolo, and even Belgium's legendary harmonica player, Toots Thielemans, are backing the initiative. They too may be joined by other famous faces in the coming months.

By getting involved in this project, these big names want to show that they believe in the future of Belgian football and want to rekindle

the passion of Red Devils' supporters. Their role is crucial, as we are reminded by Leo Van der Elst, former Red Devil and co-founder of the "We Believe" campaign: *"I know how important it is to have the support of the 12th man. Without a doubt the highlight for me at the 1986 World Cup was my penalty shootout goal in the quarter-final against Spain, but I will never forget the reception we got from the tens of thousands of fans on the Grand-Place in Brussels when we got back to Belgium either."*

Roland Louf, director of marketing and communication at the Belgian FA, is conducting the initiative together with Christian Reniers, who for several years has been at the helm of the Belgian Business Club at PSV Eindhoven, among other things. *"The launch of the campaign for the 2010 World Cup is an opportunity for everybody to confirm their support in the Red Devils. Powerful media tools (TV spots, adverts in newspapers and magazines, poster campaign, etc) have been implemented with our media partners to make sure this project is a success, while the www.webelieve.be website and other activities are also in the pipeline,"* said Louf.

A few weeks after the campaign launch, the Red Devils' good results in their first two qualifying matches added to the new, positive impetus behind football in Belgium. Seeing the national A team with four out of a possible six points, and having also witnessed the achievements of the country's young players at the Olympic Games in Beijing, Belgian supporters have more confidence than ever in their footballers. Looking to the future, it is safe to say, "We Believe!". ■



The campaign poster featuring the 12 former Red Devils who are supporting "We Believe".



## BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA

• FUAD KRVAVAC •

### National team achieve remarkable win

Despite losing against Spain by a narrow margin of 1-0 away in Murcia, the Bosnia-Herzegovina national team have nonetheless made a successful start to the 2010 World Cup qualifiers in Group 5. Just four days after the match in Spain, Miroslav Blazevic's team beat Estonia with a record 7-0 win, the highest score ever since the Bosnia-Herzegovina national team came into being. Zvezdan Misimovic scored a hat-trick, his second for the national team, having performed the same feat in the national team's 5-3 defeat in a friendly against Croatia in Sarajevo last year. The only other player to score a hat-trick so far has been Elvir Bolic, who also did so against Estonia, in Bosnia-Herzegovina's 4-1 win in Tallinn during the EURO 2000 qualifying campaign. Apart from this record-breaking latest win against Estonia, it is equally pleasing that the fans are really behind the national team again.



Another hat-trick for Zvezdan Misimovic!



## BULGARIA

• BORISLAV KONSTANTINOV •

### Bulgarian referees elect new chairman

The recent protests and investigations regarding Bulgarian football referees resulted in an important move by the executive committee of the Bulgarian Football Union (BFU), which responded to these events by deciding to disband the current referees committee and empowering the referees to elect a new referees committee chairman themselves. Over 180 referees who officiate in the professional A and B divisions participated in the meeting to elect a new chairman and after a nearly two-hour discussion they nominated Dimo Momirov, a former referee with a lot of domestic and international experience. Varna-born Momirov refereed 217 games in the Bulgarian first and second divisions and 34 international matches during his career as a professional referee. Following his appointment, Momirov presented his candidates for membership of the referees committee, which the BFU's executive committee quickly approved, thereby appeasing the football community and resolving the scandal.

During the same executive committee meeting, Borislav Mihailov, president of the BFU, vice-chairman of UEFA's Referees Committee and a member of FIFA's Referees Committee, requested that the executive committee set

The Under-21 national team, under Branimir Tulic's leadership, have completed their qualifiers in Group 10 with matches against Romania and France. They drew 1-1 with Romania in Zenica, but lost 1-0 against France in the Bosnian capital. Tulic has led the team through their last three matches – against Wales, Romania and France – and brought in players in readiness for the next qualifying round who stood up well in those three matches. The Under-21s finished fourth in the group, with four points.

The Football Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina has hosted two qualifying tournaments in Sarajevo, at the Grbavica and SC Slavija stadiums. For the first, for the UEFA Women's Cup, SFK 2000 Sarajevo, Bosnian champions, welcomed Universitet Vitebsk (Belarus), FC Zurich Frauen (Switzerland) and Galway LFC (Republic of Ireland). FC Zurich Frauen won the tournament with seven points, ahead of Galway LFC and Universitet Vitebsk, each on four points, while the hosts managed only one point, to finish bottom of the group.

The women's national Under-19 team then played host to Russia, Hungary and Moldova. They lost their first match 9-3 against Hungary, and then lost 4-0 against Russia. However, in the match against Moldova for third place, they won 10-0. Lidija Kulis scored seven times against Moldova, as well as notching up a hat-trick against Hungary. Hungary won the group with nine points, ahead of Russia (six points), Bosnia-Herzegovina (three points) and Moldova.

The Bosnian Under-17 team have been competing too, taking part in a European qualifying tournament in Hungary with the hosts, the Czech Republic and Georgia. Velimir Stojnic's squad, who have managed to reach the elite round in each of the past two seasons, lost all three of their matches this time, against the Czech Republic (2-1), Hungary (1-0), and Georgia (1-0). The Czech Republic (seven points) and Hungary (five) go through to the elite round, while Georgia finished on four points and Bosnia-Herzegovina did not earn a single point at all. ■

a date for a BFU general meeting. Given the scandals that have rocked Bulgarian football recently, he felt that he needed a vote of confidence from BFU member clubs in order to continue his work as a leader of Bulgarian football.

The date and agenda for the BFU general meeting will be decided at the next BFU executive committee meeting, scheduled to take place at the beginning of November. ■



## CROATIA

• ANTE PAVLOVIC •

### "I love football" project launched

The new first division season began with the launch of a project called "I love football".

League matches are being played on Sundays, with the most interesting match kicking off in the evening and receiving live TV coverage. All the other matches are played in the afternoon and kick off simultaneously. Croatian Radiotelevizion follows all of these matches and shows the goals live, as well as all the other crucial pieces of action. The fans have accepted this kind of match broadcasting and are showing a great interest in this kind of production. The main commentators are assisted in the commentary box by famous former players, which adds to the overall positive impression. We expect this wide



Blanka Ziger, the last survivor of the 1938 match.

coverage of football to bring multiple benefits. This year we celebrate the 70th anniversary of the first international women's football match played in 1938 in Zagreb between teams from Zagreb and Brno. The only surviving player of the home team, 86-year-old Blanka Ziger, joined in the celebrations.

Women's football in Croatia has a long tradition but has never reached the standard we would wish for. This anniversary is an opportunity to define a programme for increasing the development of women's football.

We recently hosted an intermediate round mini-tournament in the 6th UEFA Regions' Cup. This season our representatives are the region of Zagreb, who won all three of their matches and have therefore – as winners of Group 3 – qualified for the final round in 2009.

Our Under-21 national futsal team have qualified for the final round of their European competition, scheduled to be played in St Petersburg, Russia, for which they have been drawn into the same group as Russia, Italy and Slovenia. Futsal club MNK Nacional from Zagreb have celebrated their first successes and will host an elite round mini-tournament in the UEFA Futsal Cup.

Improved youth work in clubs is clearly reaping benefits, as the quality of the youth leagues can be seen to be improving.

During the 2008 UEFA Summer of Grass-roots event in Croatia, improvements were seen in all areas of activity. The number of participants is increasing, as is the diversity of the events organised.

The Romany population in Croatia is successfully developing football activities. They have organised a second European futsal championship, which was won by Bosnia-Herzegovina, who defeated Slovenia in the finals. The Croatian Football Federation supports these activities. ■



## ENGLAND

• ED COAN •

### The house The FA built is now a home

The FA recently attended the official opening of an SOS Children's Village in Rustenburg, South Africa – one of the 'Six Villages for 2006' legacy programme from the 2006 FIFA World Cup.

SOS Children's Villages operate in 135 countries around the world, and give abandoned, orphaned or vulnerable children a new family, a permanent home and a sound basis for an independent adult life.

Within the Rustenburg Village, The FA has funded the building of a complete house, now home to the mother of the household, Kedibone Molehabangwe, her assistant, Bitsang Nkwe, and the six children in their care.

The village – and The FA house – were officially opened at a ceremony on Wednesday, 24 September, fittingly South Africa's Heritage Day, when the country celebrates its multifaceted cultural heritage.

The opening of the SOS Children's Village in Rustenburg was attended by the FA's ambassador, Gary Mabbutt, who also spoke at the



Gary Mabbutt with the family who live in the house provided by The FA.

opening ceremony: "The village here in Rustenburg is testament to the efforts of many diverse groups working together to create a stable and loving family environment for the children who live here.

"The FA is proud to have played its part in the construction of one of the family homes which is now up and running. This project really does highlight the power of football to give hope to people around the world and to bring people together to achieve a common goal."

Gary's former club, Tottenham Hotspur FC, has also funded a house in the Rustenburg SOS Children's Village. ■



## FAROE ISLANDS

• INGI SAMUELSEN •

### Faroe Islands looking for a new coach

The Faroe Islands' national coach, Jógván Martin Olsen, 47, has resigned. He made this announcement at a press conference on 29 September, when the squad for the World Cup qualifiers against Austria and Lithuania in October was announced. Olsen left the job after the matches in October had been played.

"I see the task of introducing a new generation of footballers into the team as almost complete, and I think that the team needs another



Mission accomplished for Jogvan Martin Olsen.

coach now. Personally, I want to find new challenges. Therefore, I have accepted an offer to join the pro licence training of the Danish FA, which starts in December," Olsen announced at the press conference.

Jógván Martin Olsen has been part of the Faroese national teams since 1994, when he became coach of the Under-17 team. Before taking on the role of head coach, he was assistant coach to the national team, together with both Allan Simonsen and Henrik Larsen.

The Faroese Football Association wishes to thank Jógván Martin Olsen for his cooperation and wishes him all the best for the future. ■



## FINLAND

• MIKAEL ERÄVUORI •

### Möller Nielsen honoured by Finnish FA

The former head coach of the national teams of Denmark, Finland and Israel, Richard Möller Nielsen, is still warmly remembered in Finland. Möller Nielsen, who was in charge of the Finnish national team from 1996 to 1999, has now received a rare honour from the Finnish FA by being given the title of "Gladiator" in August. This is an honorary title granted to notable Finnish players or other people who have done exceptional work for the benefit of Finnish football.

The Gladiator tradition dates back to 2000, when Mixu Paatelainen was named Honorary Gladiator after retiring from international football. A few years later, the



Richard Möller Nielsen with Juhani Peltonen (left) and Ari Hjelm.

Finnish FA started the practise of naming Gladiators in connection with every national team home match. Möller Nielsen was given the title alongside two legendary Finnish players, Juhani Peltonen and Ari Hjelm, before the Finland v Israel game in August.

So far, 22 Gladiators have been named and Möller Nielsen is the only foreigner to have received the title. ■



## GEORGIA

• LASHA GODUADZE •

### Charity fair in Gori

The president of the Georgian Football Federation (GFF), Nodar Akhalkatsi, member of the GFF Executive Committee Koba Subeliani, and the head coach of the Georgian national A team, Héctor Raúl Cúper, visited the refugee camp in Gori on 22 September.

Nodar Akhalkatsi, Koba Subeliani and Héctor Raúl Cúper gave the refugees GFF scarves, T-shirts, balls and playing kits.

"The Georgian Football Federation has carried out several projects for the refugees and will continue to help in this way. We will try our best to provide assistance to the refugees and give them an opportunity to attend Georgia national team home matches in October 2008," said Nodar Akhalkatsi.

"It is very important for children to feel safe. In spite of the fact that I am not a citizen of Georgia, I worry about the tense situation

created here. I am the head coach of the Georgia national A team, I live in Georgia and I want there to be peace here. I hope that the situation will be improved with the involvement of the international community," said Héctor Raúl Cúper. ■



Nodar Akhalkatsi and Hector Raul Cuper during their visit to the Gori camp.



## GERMANY

• THOMAS HACKBARTH •

### Even more women's football

When it came to announcing the nine cities selected as 2011 Women's World Cup venues, the German chancellor, Dr Angela Merkel, was quick to step forward as host. At the Federal Chancellery in Berlin, on 30 September, Augsburg, Bochum, Dresden, Frankfurt, Leverkusen, Mönchengladbach, Sinsheim, Wolfsburg and the capital, Berlin, were presented as the host cities. Millions watched the afternoon's announcement live

on German TV and via the live stream on [www.dfb.de](http://www.dfb.de), the German Football Association's official website.

The association has already significantly increased its coverage of the national women's team, women's Bundesliga and World Cup preparations. Every day, previews and match reports for the latest news on women's football. The women's national team will be competing on home turf for their third consecutive World Cup win – an incredible feat. Highlights of international games are available worldwide on the website's DFB TV, as are video reports from the women's Bundesliga, which are also provided in English. ■



## HUNGARY

• MARTON DINNYÉS •

### 80,000 children to join football family

The future of Hungarian youth football was in the spotlight as the Hungarian FA (HFF) founded the Hungarian Children's Football Federation (HCFF), which is constitutionally linked to the HFF but has independent legal status.

At the HCFF's first congress, in September, István Kisteleki, president of the HFF and one of the founders of the new federation, said that it would take a lot of responsibility for primary and secondary school football.



The general meeting of the new children's football association.

During the general meeting it was announced that OMV, the leading integrated oil and gas company in central Europe, would finance children's football through the OLLÉ OMV programme and in future would be the naming sponsor of the tournament. About 30,000 children from 500 schools are expected to take part in the children's football tournament this year; the goal is to get 80,000 children involved in football by 2010.

The delegates elected the Hungarian Children's Football Federation members, supervisory committee and honorary chairman. Dr János Lendvai will be the president of the HCFF. ■



## LATVIA

• VIKTORS SOPIRINS •

### Grassroots study group in Oslo

Delegations from the Latvian, Lithuanian and Belarussian football associations participated in a UEFA grassroots study group in Oslo organised by the Norwegian Football Association. During the four-day programme, the associations discussed important ideas for promoting grassroots football in these countries and the whole of Europe.

Norway has had a lot of success in building football infrastructure all over the country, so their experience could be useful in implementing grassroots programmes in Latvia, for example building mini-pitches, organising voluntary work in clubs, and much more.



A delegation learns more about the Norwegian model.

During their stay the participating delegations also attended training sessions for boys and girls at Valerenga IF and Skeid Fotball, as well as visiting the Norwegian FA's headquarters at the Ullevaall stadium in Oslo. ■



## LIECHTENSTEIN

• JUDITH FROMMELT •

### LFV hosts Under-17 qualifying round

From 18 to 23 September, the Liechtenstein Football Association (LFV) played host to Group 1 in the European Under-17 Championship qualifying round. As well as neighbours Austria, the group included Belgium and Northern Ireland.

Austria emerged from their three matches as the outright group winners, earning them a place in the elite qualifying round, together with runners-up Belgium. The matches were played in Eschen and Vaduz. Facing strong European opponents was, as ever, a great challenge and an amazing opportunity for the Liechtenstein team. Competing against their peers is a valuable and unforgettable experience for every young player.

The tournament was expertly supervised and assisted by delegates Gaetano Degabriele (Malta) and Jozef Marko (Slovakia). The referees from Andorra, Moldova, the Czech Republic and Switzerland also gained valuable experience that will benefit them in their careers.

For the association it was also interesting to realise everything that still has to be organised, planned and taken into account for the Under-17 Championship final round in two years' time. We are already looking forward to the tournament and to welcoming all the teams, delegates, referees and spectators to Liechtenstein. ■



Liechtenstein v Austria.



## LITHUANIA

• VAIVA ZIZAITE •

### A big football spirit

For all of last month, Lithuanian streets were alive with a big football fiesta known as the Streets Football Tournament Nike 3x3. The main prize for the winners was the chance to travel with the Lithuanian national team to their World Cup qualifying match against Serbia.

The tournament was played each weekend in various cities around Lithuania. The final stage was held in Vilnius, the capital of Lithuania, and the winners were a team from Klaipeda. Four players from Klaipeda's squad therefore had the great opportunity to see how the Serbia v Lithuania match was organised and to watch the game in the Red Star stadium, flying the Lithuanian flag.



The tournament winners.

In total there were over 1,000 participants from over 200 teams in the tournament.

*"We can be sure, and we can say out loud, that football is arriving on all the streets of Lithuanian cities. Amateur football is not only making a comeback; it is reaching the highest levels. It's really nice to know that lots of young people are connected by one big football spirit,"* the manager of the project, Vaidotas Rastenis, said.

Mykolas Sevcenka, chief of Nike's marketing department, said, *"the Streets Football Tournament Nike 3x3 proved once again that there are lots of young people from small cities who really like football. Football is starting to grow not only in the biggest cities of the country. We hope that this tournament will become a nice tradition in the future. The passion for football must stimulate young people to aim for the highest levels in sport, not only in football,"* Mykolas Sevcenka said. ■



## LUXEMBOURG

• JOËL WOLFF •

### Football academy and HQ undergo expansion

Luxembourg's 2-1 win against Switzerland in their 2010 World Cup qualifying match in Zurich on 10 September caused quite a sensation in international football.

The result marks a new high point in the continuous youth development that the Luxembourg Football Federation (FLF) has engaged in for a number of years. It is interesting to note that five of the starting 11 for the Zurich match are still eligible for the Under-21 team.



The Luxembourg U17 team.

With the founding of its football academy almost ten years ago, the association took on a role that, for obvious reasons, the country's amateur clubs are unable to perform – namely the systematic training, by qualified experts, of Luxembourg's most talented young players.

Since the start of the current season, the football school's activities have been expanded. The best players between the ages of 14 and 21 now train and play from Monday to Thursday every week, in four teams (Under-15, Under-17, Under-19 and Under-21) overseen by the association. At weekends they can then join their clubs.

In addition, a significant number of them are enrolled in a new state school specialising in sport, where they also have the possibility of two training sessions a day.

The recent qualification of the Under-17s for the elite round of the 2008/09 European U17 Championship (win against Andorra and draws with Greece and the Republic of Ireland) is another indication that the FLF is on the right track.

In a parallel move, the association is planning to expand its premises, which also house the football academy. A steady increase in technical and organisational activities has made expansion unavoidable.

Within the framework of the UEFA assistance programme, the FLF has already prepared a financial and technical expansion plan. It expects the multifunctional, modern building to be completed by the end of 2010.

The association is confident that these measures will help Luxembourg football continue to raise its game and achieve the recognition it deserves, at home and abroad. ■



## MALTA

• ALEX VELLA •

### Updating referees

The Malta FA Referees Board, in collaboration with UEFA, recently held a seminar at Centenary Hall, the association's main centre for meetings. This is a regular activity on the board's annual calendar intended to update referees and assistant referees on the latest interpretation of certain Laws of the Game and how to deal with certain episodes when controlling a match.

Jaap Uilenberg from the Netherlands, a former FIFA referee and currently a member of the



Joe Attard, an international referee from the Malta FA.

UEFA Referees Committee, was the main speaker. His excellent presentation on different aspects of the Laws of the Game focused particularly on situations during the EURO 2008 tournament in Austria and Switzerland.

During the three days of lectures, backed by filmed clips, interesting discussions ensued, with the numerous participants making a useful contribution.

Workshops followed, with groups dealing with aspects of the offside law, the advantage rule and the essential cooperation between referees and their assistants in the light of the modern communication systems now being used.

The seminar, under the direction of Tom A. Restall, chief instructor and secretary of the Malta FA's Referees Board, also included a lecture by Adele Muscat on sports psychology for referees, a theme which sparked a lot of interest.

The president of the Malta FA, Joseph Mifsud, stressed the importance of such UEFA-assisted seminars, saying that these activities are bound to help towards having more competent people in charge of matches. ■



## NETHERLANDS

• ROB DE LEEDE •

### Regional training for Under-11s

The Dutch Football Association (KNVB) started a range of regional training sessions for talented Under-11 players throughout the country on 1 October. The official kick-off in the small village of Vollenhove was supervised by the successful Dutch Under-21 coach Foppe de Haan, who led his team to the European title in 2006 and 2007.



Expert advice for aspiring young footballers from Foppe de Haan.

The regional training setup consists of 12 additional sessions of 75 minutes each for boys and girls who have been judged as gifted by their respective club coaches. The new setup provides additional training and coaching with the best players of the same age from the same area. At the same time, these children remain full members of their local clubs where they train regularly with their local team-mates and play league matches as well.

All non-professional clubs have been asked to pass the names of one or two of their most promising young players to the KNVB's regional coaches. After an initial session a dozen are dropped to end up with a more manageable number of players. At 50 locations the regional coaches cooperate with the youth development officers of the professional clubs in the area. In turn, the professional clubs share their knowledge and experience with the youth coaches



## FYR MACEDONIA

• ZORAN NIKOLOVSKI •

### A busy month

September was a very busy time for the Football Association of FYR Macedonia (FFM).

The national team had a very tough start to its 2010 World Cup qualifying campaign, with matches against Scotland and the Netherlands. Although the results were satisfactory (one win and one defeat), the FFM experienced some organisational difficulties, especially for the match against the Netherlands. Because the stadium is still undergoing reconstruction, the match was played with rented floodlights brought in from Germany in coordination with FIFA and Sportfive.

The FFM has also hosted three women's tournaments, in the UEFA Women's Cup and in the Women's European U17 and U19 Championships.

At Under-17 level, our women's team did remarkably well, notching up two victories, beating Poland 3-2 and Latvia 3-0. Their only defeat was against the Czech Republic (2-1).

These good performances secured them second place in the group and allow them to go into the second round with great hopes.

All of these tournaments took place in Strumica and Turnovo.

October is the month when the national team of FYR Macedonia played their first international match, which took place 15 years ago, on 13 October, when they defeated Slovenia 4-1 in a match played in Kranj. The first scorer for the new national team was Zoran Boshkovski-Coko. This is a nice anniversary to mark as the national team prepare for their World Cup qualifier against Iceland in Reykjavik, which will be the national team's 133rd match. ■



The women's U17 team of FYR Macedonia.

of non-professional clubs during exhibition training sessions and workshops.

Thus, the football association, the professional clubs and the non-professional clubs have combined forces to secure a better education of young players under the supervision of all parties involved. The main aim of the regional training set-up is to make the scouting and development system more transparent for the boys and girls involved, as well as for their parents, their club coaches and the professional clubs. Boys and girls become better players simply by doing what they like best: playing football.

The KNVB is looking to eventually have a maximum of 14 regional football education centres. ■



## NORTHERN IRELAND

• SUEANN HARRISON •

### A new partnership

Northern Ireland's manager, Nigel Worthington, met Poul Woodall, route director of Norfolkline Irish Sea, at the IFA's historic Windsor Avenue premises recently, to seal the deal on the new partnership between the ferry operator and the Irish FA.



Left to right: Nigel Best, Poul Woodall and Nigel Worthington.

Norfolkline is partnering the IFA in its delivery of the Norfolkline excellence programme at each of the six county excellence centres. The passenger ferry company, which operates routes between Belfast and Dublin to Liverpool, is supporting the grassroots programme designed by the IFA to develop the best young football talent in Northern Ireland.

Poul Woodall said: "Norfolkline is delighted to be working with the IFA in this venture to develop young local talent. Norfolkline, as part of the A.P. Moller Maersk Group, strives to nurture young talent within the company. It therefore seems pertinent that we support it at grassroots level too. The IFA is an emerging dynamic brand and we are excited about the opportunities that this partnership can bring to Norfolkline."

The IFA's performance manager, Nigel Best, added: "I am delighted that Norfolkline has agreed to sponsor the excellence programme. This is the third year of the IFA's excellence programme for the best of the province's young players. It is vital that we continue to invest in the development of our young talent, but in order to sustain such a commitment the IFA is reliant on partnerships such as this with a prestigious company like Norfolkline."

The Norfolkline excellence centres will operate from September to December and February to May. More than 780 boys and girls from the Under-11 to the Under-15 age groups will benefit. ■



## REPUBLIC OF IRELAND

• FRAN WHEARTY •

### Four-associations tournament announced for Dublin in 2011

The football associations of Northern Ireland, the Republic of Ireland, Scotland and Wales have unveiled details of a celebration four-associations tournament to take place in Dublin in spring 2011.

Thousands of supporters from all over Northern Ireland, Scotland, Wales and the Republic of Ireland are expected to descend on Dublin for a truly special football tournament in which the neighbouring teams will compete for the Four Associations Cup.

The opening two matches are scheduled for February 2011, with four further matches to be played in May. The tournament will be operated on a league basis and will be the ideal opportunity for all four teams to test themselves against their nearest neighbours. With so many connections between the four countries, and



The new stadium in Dublin is taking shape.

bragging rights at stake, this tournament will be sure to grab the attention of fans all across the UK and Ireland.

The building of the new stadium in Dublin is progressing fast and is on schedule to be completed in 2010. Parts of the stadium have already reached the final tier. Irish fans can look forward to an iconic, world-class stadium when the Republic of Ireland line up for the first international football match there in just under two years from now. ■



## SERBIA

• ALEKSANDAR BOSKOVIC •

### Hard-fought tournament

From 14 to 18 September, the northern Serbian cities of Subotica, Palic and Backa Palanka hosted the national Under-19 teams of Hungary, Israel, Montenegro and Serbia for the 15th international Under-19 Stevan Cele Vilotic memorial tournament. Vilotic, who passed away 15 years ago, was the most famous and the most important Serbian coach to have worked with youth teams. He discovered all the country's stars, including Dragan Stojkovic, Dejan Stankovic, Nemanja Vidic and other top-quality national team players. In his honour, the FA of Serbia organises this tournament each autumn, always in the Under-19 category.



The young Serbs erupt with joy after their win.

Israel and Montenegro are former winners, as are Serbia. The tournament is very strong and the head coaches rightly use it as final preparation for their qualifying matches for the European Championship. Hungary won last year and Israel twice before that, but this time Serbia was the best team and won the trophy for the eighth time. Serbia beat Montenegro 4-1, Hungary 2-0 and, in its third match, Israel 1-0. Israel finished in second position, with the Hungarians third and Montenegrins fourth.

The majority of individual trophies also finished in Serbian hands. Adem Ljajic was named best player, Nemanja Milic best scorer and Aleksandar Stanojevic most promising head coach. Israel's Boris Kleyman was named best goalkeeper.

The competition was the priority, but the hosts also prepared other activities. Friendship was and will remain one of the focal points and new connections will be useful for the future.

"I know that everybody enjoyed the last few days. Young generations deserve a tournament like this one, the Stevan Cele Vilotic, with which we remember his long, hard work to discover and build up players with the talent to be true stars," said the FA of Serbia's president, Tomislav Karadzic. ■



## SLOVENIA

• MATJAZ KRAJNIK •

### Volunteers for national A-team matches

The Football Association of Slovenia (FAS) has introduced a concept previously unheard of in Slovenian sport. Having gathered positive experiences from UEFA's big competitions, mostly through the active participation of an FAS employee among the EURO 2008 volunteers, and with the increasing human resources involved in organising A-team matches, the next logical step was for the FAS to incorporate the concept



The association's first volunteers.

of volunteers into its own events. It was decided that a friendly match against Croatia in Maribor at the end of August would be the start of the FAS volunteer's project and a group of 20 young enthusiasts (referees from Maribor and a few young women from all over Slovenia) would pave the way for other volunteers to come. They helped in various areas of match organisation, looking after VIP guests, accreditations and media, merchandise sales, etc.

After seeing how valuable the volunteers were at this one match, the FAS posted an application form on the internet. They received around 100 applications in one week. The match against Slovakia in September saw 35 volunteers help out, all of whom had been previously familiarised with the duties of an FAS volunteer and had signed a volunteer contract. With the growing number of volunteers, their help extended to some new areas (namely stewarding and parking organisation). The positive atmosphere at the stadium and a home win made this a special moment in the lives of the young men and women, and the opportunity to have their picture taken with Slovenian players and be a part of one of the biggest sports events in Slovenia was, to them, worth more than a few euros. Their contribution to the event was great and volunteering will continue for the match against Northern Ireland. ■



## SWEDEN

• ANDREAS NILSSON •



Lillie Persson

### More women take up coaching

The Swedish FA wants to increase the number of women in coaching and management positions. To this end, a project called "24 carat" was launched in December, and 18 selected women

players and former players have just finished a year-long course.

"We want to reach out to players who are thinking about quitting the game and make them interested in coaching. We really must put their experience to use; it is needed in football," says Lillie Persson, who is in charge of "24 carat" alongside her work as assistant coach of the Swedish women's national team.

The participants in the inaugural course included Sweden's most-capped player, Kristin Bengtsson (157 caps between 1991 and 2005), as well as Hanna Marklund (118 caps) and Linda Fagerström (97 caps). Several of Sweden's current internationals also took part, such as Hanna Ljungberg, Frida Östberg and Caroline Jönsson.

Leadership, personal development and mentorship are a few of the topics covered by the course. The first course is to be followed by another next year, with 18 new recruits.

Sweden's top division, Allsvenskan, was increased from 14 to 16 teams this season. With less than a quarter of the season remaining, average attendances have fallen from 10,258 to 8,298.

"It was expected that two more teams in the league would have an adverse effect on average attendances, but the increase from 182 to 240 games means that total Allsvenskan attendance will probably come close to two million spectators for this season – the highest figure ever," says Sune Hellströmer, general secretary of the Swedish FA.

Despite this season's drop, average attendances in Allsvenskan have doubled in the last decade, and the football association will discuss further action with the clubs to keep attracting new spectators to the stadiums. ■



## SWITZERLAND

• PIERRE BENOIT •

### FC Elgg crowned Swiss fair play champions

FC Elgg of the Zurich regional football association have been named the most sporting club in Switzerland and have, therefore, been awarded the Swiss Football Association and SuvaLiv club fair play trophy.

At a special ceremony in Berne on 3 October, the president of the Swiss FA, Ralph Zloczower, presented FC Elgg with a winner's cheque for CHF 10,000. The runners-up and third-placed club were FC La Sionge and FC Bühler respectively.

FC Elgg date back to 1922 and currently field 13 teams in league competitions: besides one first, one reserve, one veterans' and one women's team, FC Elgg boasts a total of nine youth teams, including one for girls.

In an article published in the local paper, the club chairman, Peter Schwarz, said how delighted he was that his club had won Switzerland's fair play title. "We are very proud of having won this competition, but we also know that this



FC Elgg receive the fair play certificate.

title makes us more duty-bound than ever to play fair in the future," said Schwarz in the Elgg village newspaper.

Situated east of Winterthur, on the border with the canton of Thurgau, the village has a population of just 3,700 and, with 350 registered members, FC Elgg is its largest club. The high point of the season is the Elgg "everyman" competition, which has developed into the biggest event of its kind in the region, as demonstrated by the record 175 teams that entered this year. ■



## UKRAINE

• IVAN DYVAK •

### New home for Dnipropetrovsk football

The beginning of autumn brought great news for football fans in Dnipropetrovsk, one of the potential EURO 2012 host cities. A new covered, 30,000-seater stadium has been opened and will become the new home of local club FC Dnipro Dnipropetrovsk.



The brand-new stadium in Dnipropetrovsk.

The event drew the attention of the president of Ukraine, Victor Yushchenko, who spoke at the opening ceremony: "I'm sure that this lovely stadium is a gift to all Dnipropetrovsk citizens. At the same time it is a gift from Dnipropetrovsk to all of Ukraine."

"It is a great step towards EURO 2012 both for Ukraine and Poland and for UEFA," added the Football Federation of Ukraine's president, Grigoriy Surkis. "I want to thank everyone who worked on this project. Today you can see what a great joy they have given us."

The arena has two colour video screens, each measuring 5.5m<sup>2</sup>. The lighting is produced by projectors installed on the roof and can function in different modes. The turf comprises several layers thus enabling damaged sections to be replaced quickly. Of course, the pitch (105 x 68m) is also equipped with a heating system and automatic watering. The stands are right by the pitch and the folding seats – brought from Germany – are covered with a transparent awning. Good conditions were also secured for disabled fans.

The arena contains dressing rooms, halls for training sessions, a gym, rooms for coaching staff, a press box, referee rooms, a VIP stand for 296 guests, and a 550-capacity restaurant. Overall, the new Dnipro stadium cost EUR 50 million. ■

# Communications

## Birthdays – Calendar

### Birthdays

Jean-Claude Jourquin (Belgium), one of UEFA's referee observers, celebrates his 70th birthday on 6 November, while Joeke de Jong (Netherlands), member of the Artificial Turf Panel, will be 60 on 21 November. Frank Paauw (Netherlands), one of UEFA's security officers, turns 50 on 10 November.

UEFA also extends birthday greetings for November to:

- Marc Batta (France, 1.11)
- Josef Krula (Czech Republic, 1.11)
- György Szilágyi (Hungary, 2.11)
- Francesco Bianchi (Switzerland, 2.11)
- Igor Sramka (Slovakia, 2.11)
- Gero Bisanz (Germany, 3.11)
- Istvan Kistelegi (Hungary, 3.11)
- Micky Zager (Israel, 4.11)
- Lennart Johansson (Sweden, 5.11)
- Fernand Meese (Belgium, 5.11)
- Mircea Pascu (Romania, 6.11)
- Evgeniy Kalakoutski (Russia, 6.11)
- Peter Gardiner (Scotland, 7.11)
- Vladimir Badura (Slovakia, 7.11)
- Sergio Di Cesare (Italy, 8.11)
- Rudolf Zavrl (Slovenia, 9.11)
- Jorge Perez Arias (Spain, 9.11)
- Theodore Giannikos (Greece, 9.11)
- Willi Hink (Germany, 9.11)
- Sandor Barcs (Hungary, 10.11)
- Rolf Hediger (Switzerland, 10.11)
- Marc Van Geersom (Belgium, 10.11)
- Emilio Garcia Silvero (Spain, 10.11)
- Gerhard Kapl (Austria, 11.11)
- Uno Tutk (Estonia, 11.11)
- Antonio Silva Pereira (Portugal, 12.11)
- Howard Wilkinson (England, 13.11)
- Peter Rees (Wales, 15.11)
- Jean Lemmer (Luxembourg, 15.11)
- Otto Demuth (Austria, 16.11)
- Wolf-Günter Wiesel (Germany, 16.11)
- Susan Ann Hough (England, 16.11)
- Pablo Porta Bussoms (Spain, 17.11)
- Jan Fasung (Slovakia, 17.11)
- Dumitru Mihalache (Romania, 18.11)
- Knarik Abelyan (Armenia, 18.11)
- Jacques Liénard (France, 19.11)
- Horst R. Schmidt (Germany, 19.11)
- Paolo Zeppilli (Italy, 19.11)
- Petr Fousek (Czech Republic, 19.11)
- Katrin Riechert (Switzerland, 19.11)
- David H. Will (Scotland, 20.11)
- Jean-Louis Piette (France, 20.11)
- Jonathan Hill (England, 20.11)
- Serghiy Storozhenko (Ukraine, 21.11)
- Jyrki Filppu (Finland, 22.11)
- Jonas Braga (Lithuania, 25.11)
- Zbigniew Przesmycki (Poland, 26.11)

- Styrbjörn Oskarsson (Finland, 26.11)
- Marcos Del Cuadro (Switzerland, 26.11)
- Marios N. Lefkaritis (Cyprus, 28.11)
- Ante Vucemilovic-Simunovic (Croatia, 28.11)
- Marko Ilesic (Slovenia, 29.11)
- Wolfgang Niersbach (Germany, 30.11)

### Forthcoming events

#### Meetings

##### 17.11.2008, Nyon

Elite Club Doctors Forum

##### 18.11.2008, Helsinki

Draw for the final round of the European Women's Championship

##### 18.11.2008, Nyon

Draws for the first qualifying rounds of the 2009/10 women's youth competitions (Under-19/Under-17)

##### 19.11.2008, Nyon

Draws for the second qualifying rounds of the 2009/10 women's youth competitions (Under-19/Under-17)

##### 24.11.2008, Nyon

Medical Committee

##### 25.11.2008, Nyon

Stadium and Security Committee

##### 26.11.2008, Nyon

Legal Committee

##### 27.11.2008, Nyon

National Team Competitions Committee  
HatTrick Committee

##### 28.11.2008, Nyon

National Associations Committee  
Development and Technical Assistance Committee

#### Competitions

##### 28.10-16.11.2008, New Zealand

FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup

##### 4/5.11.2008

UEFA Champions League: group matches (matchday 4)

##### 6.11.2008

UEFA Cup: group matches (matchday 2)

##### 19.11-7.12.2008, Chile

FIFA U-20 Women's World Cup

##### 25/26.11.2008

UEFA Champions League: group matches (matchday 5)

##### 27.11.2008

UEFA Cup: group matches (matchday 3)

### Notices

■ Phivos Vakis became the new general secretary of the Cyprus Football Association on 1 September.

■ There have been three changes to the membership of UEFA committees: Bogdan Ceko (Bosnia-Herzegovina) is now third vice-chairman of the Legal Committee, Elkhann Mammadov (Azerbaijan) is second vice-chairman of the Fair Play and Social Responsibility Committee, and Hogni I Storustovu (Faroe Islands) is second vice-chairman of the Club Licensing Committee.

### Match agents

UEFA has licensed three match agents to organise matches:

#### Wolfgang Zapfe

Wemelstrasse 6c, 30890 Barsinghausen, Germany  
Tel.: +49 5105 585 855 – Fax: +49 5105 585 856  
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Viacheslav Protsenko (Russia) has had his licence renewed for another eight years, while Jacques-Olivier Auguste (France) has had his licence withdrawn.

### New publications

#### De l'entraînement à la performance en football

There have been lots of debates about the relative importance of technique and physical condition in football but one thing is sure: without a certain level of fitness, even the most highly skilled player will struggle to cope with a really intense match. Edited by Alexandre Dellal and published by De Boeck on the basis of scientific research, this book is intended to help plan training loads more accurately and formulate or flesh out training methodology. Precise and thorough, it is aimed at anyone, professional or amateur, who is interested in physical condition in football (*EUR 49*, [www.universite.deboeck.com](http://www.universite.deboeck.com)).

#### The European Football Yearbook 2008/09

Mike Hammond has published a European football yearbook every year since 1988. This is the second consecutive edition to have been produced in conjunction with UEFA and, at more than 1,000 pages, it once again provides football fans with an impressive reference work on the 53 national associations' clubs, national teams and competition matches (*GBP 25*, [www.carltonbooks.co.uk](http://www.carltonbooks.co.uk)).

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