

12.08

# uefa direct

Including



**Football  
united against  
racism** **03**

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**Study Group  
Scheme** **04**

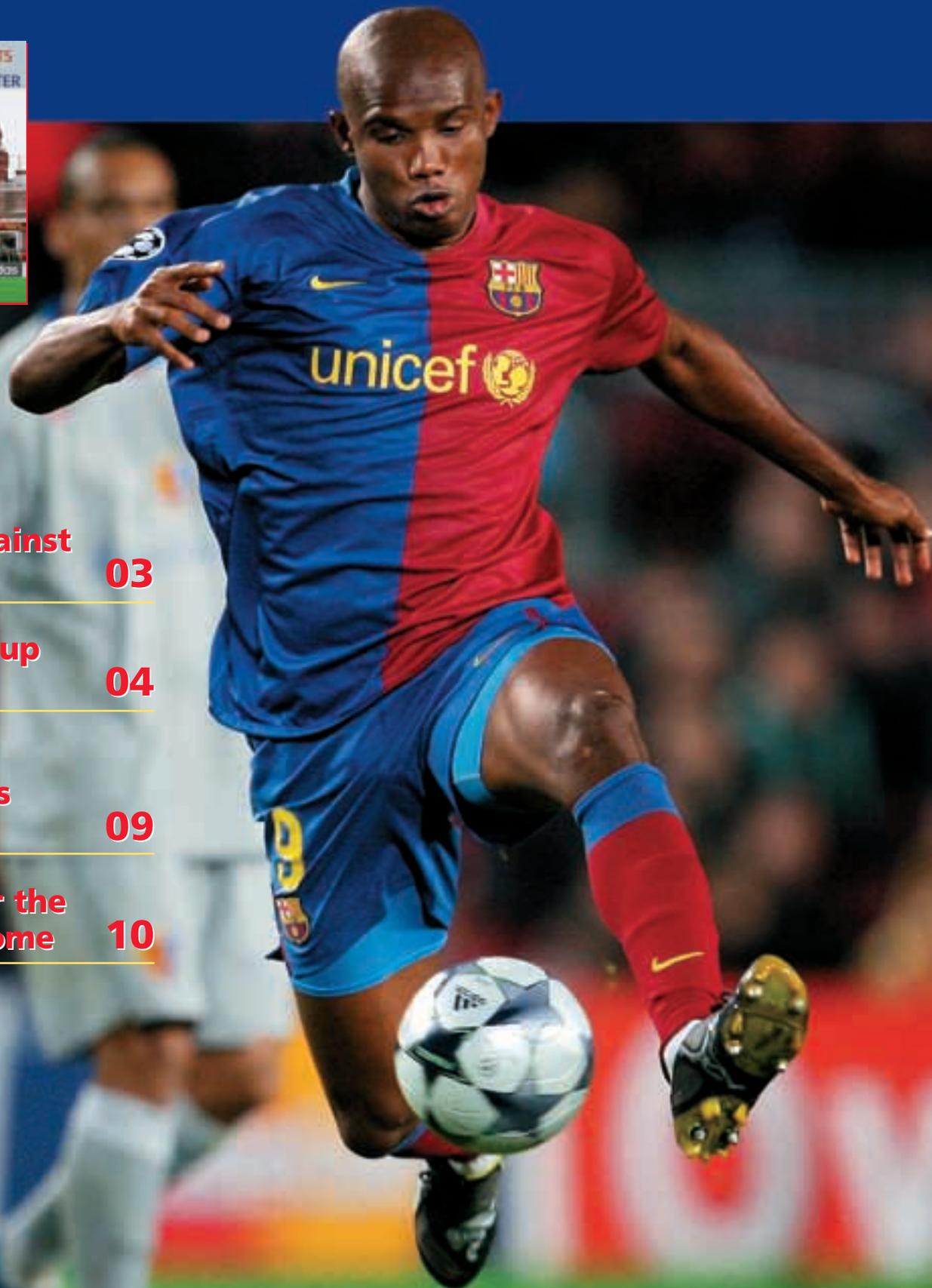
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**General  
secretaries  
in Nyon** **09**

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**A logo for the  
final in Rome** **10**

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Photos: UEFA/plwoods.ch

# Message of the president

## Equal treatment for all

In football as in everyday life, absolute equality is wishful thinking: there always have been and always will be some clubs with more money than others.

This is not an injustice but a reality. The real injustice is that conditions are not the same for everyone and, in particular, that some clubs deliberately go into the red to reinforce their teams by means of costly transfers.

Legislation is stricter in some places than others and it is clearly beyond the means of an organisation such as UEFA to interfere in national procedures. This cannot, however, be used as an excuse to do nothing. We cannot advocate respect in every possible form and champion fair play without encouraging them in the financial domain too.

The first step in this direction has already been taken: by introducing a compulsory licence for clubs participating in European competitions, UEFA has already laid down criteria to guarantee the financial health of clubs and, by extension, the orderly running of its competitions.

Our task now – and we have to make this a priority – is to refine the club licensing system and ensure equal treatment throughout Europe. It won't be easy; we will have to overcome various obstacles caused by customs and legal provisions that differ from one country to the next.

The importance of financial stability was brought to the fore this autumn by the events that have wreaked havoc on the financial markets. Needless to say, none of us wants to see the same things happen in football. And it is down to us to protect the game, by guaranteeing proper financial fair play.



**Michel Platini**  
UEFA President

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### COVER

Samuel Eto'o in action against FC Basel: FC Barcelona were one of the first teams to qualify for the UEFA Champions League first knockout round.  
Photo: Getty Images



# FARE Action Week

a g a i n s t r a c i s m



Fabio Bozzani

**FROM 16 TO 28 OCTOBER, FOOTBALL IN SOME 40 COUNTRIES ACROSS EUROPE SHOWED RACISM AND DISCRIMINATION THE RED CARD BY TAKING PART EN MASSE IN THE NINTH FARE ACTION WEEK ORGANISED BY THE FOOTBALL AGAINST RACISM IN EUROPE NETWORK, UEFA'S PARTNER IN THE FIGHT AGAINST RACISM.**

From grassroots football to the highest levels of the professional game, numerous clubs, players and supporters all over Europe once again took a stand against all forms of discrimination. Schools, NGOs and youth and ethnic minority groups joined the campaign, which has been growing and extending its reach year on year.

The UEFA Champions League and the millions of spectators and TV viewers it attracts provided an ideal media platform from which to transmit the anti-racism message.

For matchday 3, on 21/22 October, the 32 participating teams were escorted onto the pitch by children wearing Unite Against Racism T-shirts. There were announcements over the stadium PA systems, messages published in the match programmes and adverts on the giant screens. The captains also wore Unite Against Racism armbands.

Similar activities in the UEFA Cup also helped raise public awareness of the issue. National football associations joined in with the Action

Week and lots of top-division matches were dedicated to the campaign to eliminate racism from football, while at grassroots level all sorts of activities were organised right across the continent, inside and outside stadiums, including concerts, the distribution of various resources, tournaments, educational initiatives and more.

This year, lots of events targeted homophobia or placed particular emphasis on respect for ethnic minorities.

*"UEFA policy is clear,"* said the UEFA president, Michel Platini, at the start of the club competition season. *"Zero tolerance of violence, racism and discrimination."*

The perfect message for the FARE Action Week.



The participants were also taken to see sports facilities.



The delegations from Iceland and San Marino in Switzerland.

# Technical Study Group Scheme

Study to progress

**AS PART OF THE STUDY GROUP SCHEME LAUNCHED BY UEFA THIS SUMMER ON THE INITIATIVE OF ITS PRESIDENT, MICHEL PLATINI, THE SWISS FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION ORGANISED A FOUR-DAY SEMINAR ON ELITE YOUTH FOOTBALL.**

Under the Study Group Scheme, launched at the start of the current season and organised by UEFA's Football Education Services, the national associations are encouraged to visit each other in order to share their respective technical expertise and experiences.

## Football in Switzerland...

It was in this context that the Swiss Football Association recently hosted a seminar for 20 delegates from Iceland and San Marino from 3 to 6 November.

The programme included a visit to the training centre of FC Lausanne-Sport, which offers top Swiss youngsters a mixture of sports, academic and vocational training.

The delegation also visited the Payerne national training centre, whose sporting and academic programmes have already enabled a number of young players to break through at national and international levels. The trip to Payerne included a detailed presentation of the structure and functioning of the centre, as well as participation in practical sessions aimed at improving the technique and tactical awareness of talented Swiss youngsters.

Finally, the delegates visited the national sports centre at Macolin, which promotes elite sport in general and football in particular through its sporting and scientific infrastructures and the expertise of its staff devoted to elite football.



The broad outline of the scheme is presented to the delegates in Switzerland.

## Aspects considered most beneficial by participants:

- *"The organisation of work in the youth categories at the Russian Football Union as well as the clubs that we visited."*  
Comment from a Serbian delegation visiting Russia.
- *"Practical aspects were very useful for understanding the full career path from the age of 11 to 19, as well as the playing philosophy of the national team."*  
Delegation from the Scottish FA about its visit to Croatia.
- *"The organisation and philosophy of grassroots football, work on the pitch, the football passport, the relationship with schools and the government's involvement."*  
Comment from an Italian FA delegation following its visit to Finland to study grassroots football.

The participants were also able to observe and analyse strength, speed and endurance tests for the Swiss national Under-17 team. These young players meet four times a year to undergo physical tests carried out by a specialist doctor under the supervision of the team coach.

Having completed their observations, the visitors are expected to pass on their experiences in their home country in order to achieve the objective of improving standards throughout Europe.



The Study Group Scheme was launched in Austria, where the participants got to visit the stadium in Salzburg.



The delegation from FYR Macedonia in Austria.

### ... and elsewhere

In the same week, three other seminars were held under the banner of the UEFA Study Group Scheme. Greece hosted delegates from Serbia, Austria and Bosnia-Herzegovina in order to discuss coach education. Meanwhile, Germany demonstrated its grassroots football activities to the Swiss, Azerbaijani and Estonian associations, and England shared its experiences of women's football with Turkey and the Faroe Islands at an event attended by Sir Trevor Brooking, a member of UEFA's Development and Technical Assistance Committee.

In all, UEFA aims to organise 52 seminars a year, which would mean 156 potential visits as each seminar can accommodate delegations from three member associations. Each association can organise and host three visits a year, as well as visit three other associations, each time focusing on a different theme. In order to ensure the quality and, in particular, the continuity of the project, members of the Development and Technical Assistance Committee

take part in some seminars and the host and visiting associations report back to UEFA.

### Principles of the programme

The Study Group Scheme is run according to the following principles: a study group comprises between 5 and 11 members. Each visit lasts four days, including travel time, and the purpose of the trip must conform to the UEFA guidelines. The visit includes briefings, observation of practical activities linked to the chosen football theme, discussions and drafting of follow-up activities. There are four different subjects to choose from: coach education, grassroots football, women's football and elite youth football. Once the visit has been completed, the study group returns to its own association in order to disseminate the information it has gathered. UEFA covers the cost of accommodation, travel, meals and local transport. It acts as the coordinator between host and visiting associations.

## Development and Technical Assistance Committee

- Chairman:** Per Ravn Omdal (Norway)  
**Deputy Chairman:** Franz Beckenbauer (Germany)  
**1st Vice-Chairman:** Zvezdan Terzic (Serbia)  
**2nd Vice-Chairman:** Istvan Kistelegi (Hungary)  
**3rd Vice-Chairman:** Paul Philipp (Luxembourg)  
**Members:** Sir Trevor Brooking (England)  
 Iljo Dominkovic (Bosnia-Herzegovina)  
 Jerzy Engel (Poland)  
 Janis Mezeckis (Latvia)  
 Ísak Mikladal (Faroe Islands)  
 Campbell Ogilvie (Scotland)  
 Anton Ondrus (Slovakia)  
 Mordechai Shpigler (Israel)  
 Raimondas Statkevicius (Lithuania)

### Positive feedback

*"Our group found the visit very interesting. What I found most interesting is the way the Swiss FA works with the coaches in every region and the academies they have, where they combine school education and football. Even though the Icelandic system is smaller, I think that we can learn a lot from the system in Switzerland in terms of their coach education and how they support their coaches."*

Dagur Sveinn Dagbjartsson (Iceland)  
 Coordinator of the group of elite youth coaches

## The first visits

Theme	Dates	Host	Visitor 1	Visitor 2	Visitor 3
Youth	25-28.8	Austria	Azerbaijan	Hungary	FYR Macedonia
Women's football	16-19.9	Denmark	Poland	Moldova	Republic of Ireland
Grassroots	24-27.9	Netherlands	Sweden	Northern Ireland	Faroe Islands
Youth	29.9-2.10	Ukraine	Armenia	Belarus	Moldova
Grassroots	29.9-2.10	Norway	Lithuania	Latvia	Belarus
Grassroots	30.9-3.10	Finland	Italy	Cyprus	Austria
Youth	5-8.10	Russia	Serbia	Poland	Israel
Coach education	13-16.10	Belgium	Montenegro	Hungary	Israel
Youth	14-17.10	Croatia	Scotland	England	Cyprus
Youth	27-30.10	Slovakia	Lithuania	Latvia	Luxembourg
Youth	28-31.10	Czech Republic	Ukraine	Montenegro	Liechtenstein
Youth	3-6.11	Switzerland	San-Marino	Iceland	
Coach education	4-7.11	Greece	Serbia	Bosnia-Herzegovina	Austria
Grassroots	3-6.11	Germany	Switzerland	Azerbaijan	Estonia
Women's football	4-7.11	England	Turkey	Faroe Islands	
Coach education	11-14.11	Wales	Cyprus	Malta	
Youth	15-18.11	Scotland	Greece	Northern Ireland	Russia
Youth	17-20.11	Belgium	Malta	Austria	Georgia



From football to wine growing for Christophe Bonvin.

O. Maire/Getty Images



Another original example of how to turn the page – player-turned-actor Eric Cantona has also put a lot of energy into promoting beach soccer.

Scorza/AP/Getty Images

# Footballer retraining

## What next for retired players?

**WHEN PLAYERS HANG UP THEIR BOOTS, THEY USUALLY LEAVE THE SPOTLIGHT BEHIND THEM. SOME FIND RETURNING TO NORMAL LIFE AND TRAINING FOR A NEW OCCUPATION EASIER THAN OTHERS.**

More and more ex-footballers are staying in the game as coaches, managers or club spokespersons. Television channels all over Europe have followed the example of the BBC, one of the first to employ a former player, Gary Lineker, as a presenter. However, there are not enough of these jobs for everyone.

Many players change career completely, some more willingly than others.

Former Swiss international Christophe Bonvin is flourishing in the wine growing industry. After retiring from the game in 1997, he took a month's holiday, including a week in Angola as part of a UEFA-backed campaign against antipersonnel mines. He then joined the

Charles Bonvin Fils wine company, where he is assistant manager (no relation: Bonvins are as common in the Swiss canton of Valais as Duponts are in France).

He does not regret his previous life: "I never wanted to become a coach or manager. My parents taught me to be realistic and my wife often reminded me that I needed to spend time with the children. During my career, I played on Saturdays, but I used to go climbing with friends on Sundays. They easily managed level 8 climbs, while I struggled with level 6: it put my fame into perspective."

There are around 18,000 vineyard owners in Valais. Christophe was predestined to take up this profession,

but even though he now owns 600m<sup>2</sup> of vineyards, he did not discover wine until the age of 23, at a wine-tasting event. "It made an impression on me. A wine-tasting session lasts an hour and a half, maybe two hours. It is one of the rare occasions when you take your time. You talk about everything. At 27, I began thinking about what I would do when I retired from playing. I began wine-tasting lessons and quizzed wine connoisseurs, but I did not attend the official courses. I taste with my body and soul more than with my expertise. I signed my last contract when I was 30. When I went home, I told my wife that I would be stopping two years later, but I did not breathe a word to anyone else in case people thought my mind was already elsewhere. On the contrary, my last four years were the best, winning three cups and the double in 1997 for FC Sion."

Although his own career change was straightforward, he can understand why some of his former colleagues have found it tough: "A footballer experiences a lot of highs and is always in the spotlight. He has to give all that up and get used to stricter working hours. Not everyone has a home situation that encourages him to think about the future. Another example: I have a business studies diploma, but what use is it to me having had it since I was 18?"

Other unusual professions for retired footballers include that of Dane Per Frimann who, after a successful career at Anderlecht, spent four years working as an interpreter for the European Community before becoming a TV commentator. AC Milan's Italian star Gianni Rivera went into politics and is currently a member of the European Parliament. He is a member of the Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection, the Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality and the Delegation for Relations with the Palestinian Legislative Council. Many a positive example.

### What support?

Former players' associations do not always have sufficient resources to help footballers in difficulty. In order to



Gary Lineker, with the England side against Scotland, before he retired to the commentary box.

Bruty/Getty Images



Patrick Kluivert invested in a restaurant.

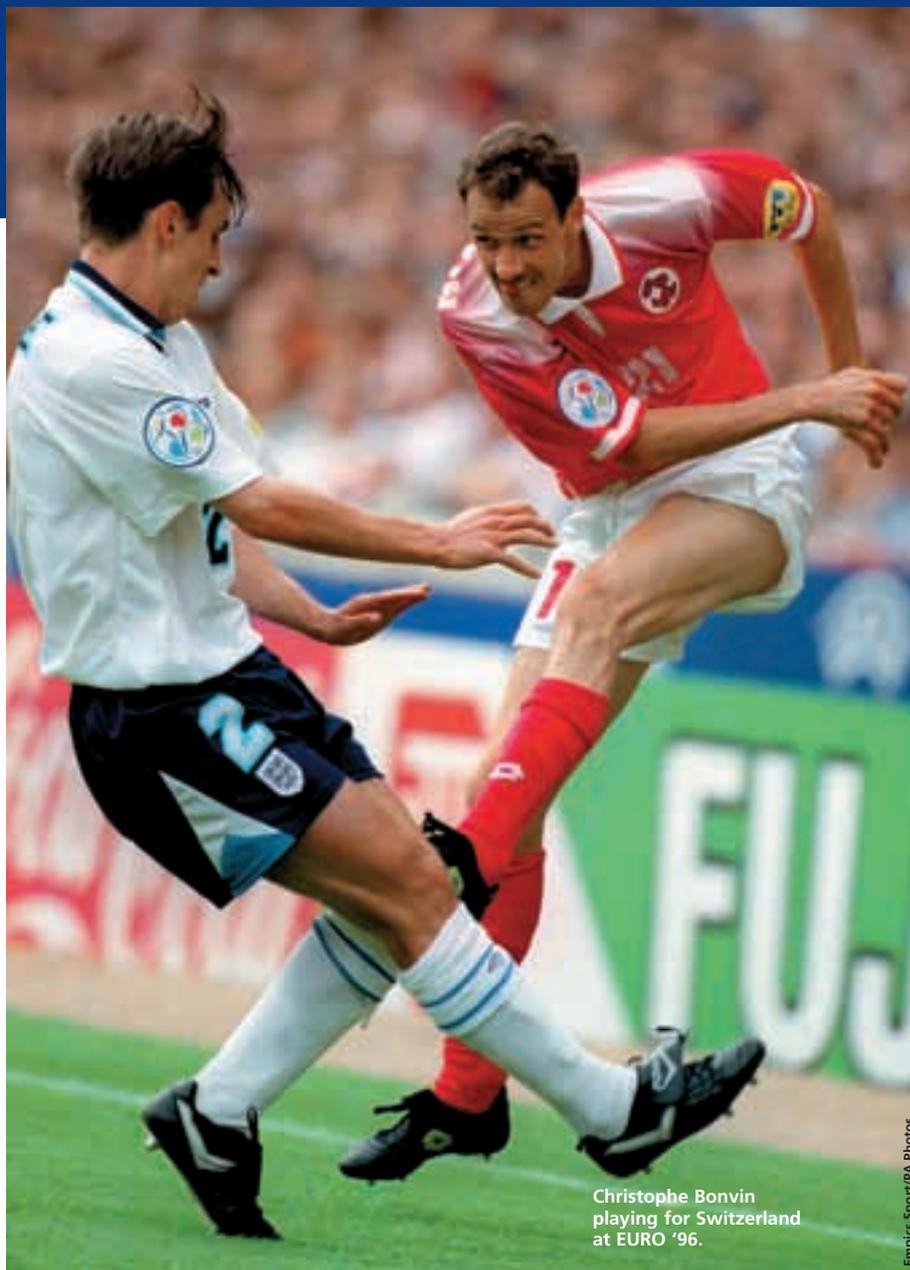
Biljdenstein/AP/Geety Images

ensure they became more than just social clubs, the Sports Group of European Former Football Players Associations (EFPA) was founded in 2004. Its spokesperson, Noemi Mas, explains: "We try to help these associations to offer financial, social and institutional support to former players. This is easier to accomplish at local level." Oriol Garangou, head of communications for the Barça Veterans Association, explains that the foundation provides practical help in order to ensure that former players enjoy a certain quality of life. "It was created in 1959 by a group of veterans. Each month, our social committee considers requests as well as cases it has heard about from members, the press, etc. When it knows what the former player concerned really needs, it arranges a meeting with him. We never pay regular salaries, only an advance on what the person is entitled to from

## Hapless cases

Unfortunately, some find it harder to turn the page than others, for example a former Belgian international goalkeeper who began his post-playing career as a coach. His name was then mentioned in the betting scandal that rocked Belgian football in 2005. Since then he has only coached at low-level clubs. Ruined by his gambling addiction and discredited in the world of football, he found a public relations job at a tourist attraction. A few weeks later, burglars ran off with the takings. The discredited ex-keeper was suspected of complicity and put behind bars.

Another former player opened a café in his home village and went bankrupt. He also bought some apartments while they were still at the planning stage – an excellent idea, especially considering the tax rebates they would earn him. Unfortunately, he forgot to check whether the work had been finished and paid all the bills that were sent to him by unscrupulous contractors. He lost everything. P.P.



Christophe Bonvin playing for Switzerland at EURO '96.

Empics Sport/PA Photos

*the government or another body. The support is temporary. Most of our cases involve people looking for jobs. We call on our network of experts. We also help elderly members or their widows to find a place in a home and assist with expensive operations or other medical treatment."*

### Interesting projects

FIFPro delegates these tasks to its members. The Dutch professional players' association (VVCS) is particularly dynamic, believing that "turning the page is sometimes hard" but stressing that there are no real social difficulties in the Netherlands, even though players turn professional at a very early age and never have to look for work because they are courted by their clubs. They have no idea how to write a CV or what to say at an interview. Similarly, you cannot open a café without training because the café needs

to be managed. Patrick Kluivert owns a restaurant, but not all players are as famous as him and many have to work very hard to make their investment pay off.

Two projects are particularly interesting. The first is interactive and involves retiring players undergoing knowledge and personality tests. On the basis of the results, an expert discusses possible careers with the player concerned, sometimes involving training, depending on the individual. The VVCS Academy provides communication training, while a well known Dutch college offers players an online course that they can follow in their own spare time – they are past the age of sitting behind a school desk. They receive a diploma after four years. Eighteen players are already following this relatively new programme.

*Pascale Pierard*



The four most prestigious UEFA trophies on display together.

# World Museum Liverpool

## Only a Game? exhibition open

**ONLY A GAME?, AN INTERACTIVE UEFA EXHIBITION EXPLORING EUROPE'S LOVE AFFAIR WITH THE BEAUTIFUL GAME FROM A CULTURAL, INTERACTIVE AND EDUCATIONAL PERSPECTIVE, HAS BEEN OPEN SINCE 11 OCTOBER AT WORLD MUSEUM LIVERPOOL, WHERE IT WILL RUN UNTIL 1 MARCH NEXT YEAR.**

An interactive exhibition for the whole family, *Only a Game?* invites visitors to plunge into the emotions of football inspired by a selection of prestigious artefacts, trophies and memorabilia from over 50 years of European football.

In collaboration with the North-west Regional Development Agency (NWDA), the National Football Museum and National Museums Liverpool, the UEFA exhibition is making its only UK appearance in Liverpool, European Capital of Culture 2008 and arguably one of Europe's great capitals of football. Michel Platini, the UEFA president, says he is "delighted that UEFA is bringing this exciting exhibition to Liverpool (...), a city that loves its football and plays such a big role in Europe's fascination with

the game." This was echoed by the captain of Liverpool FC, Steven Gerrard, who believes there is "no city in Europe where football means more than it does to the people of Liverpool. So I think it is great that we are having a European football exhibition as part of Liverpool 08."

### Impact of sport

While providing a traditional museum-visit experience, *Only a Game?* also aims to get visitors to consider the social and cultural impact of the planet's most popular sport. Giant figures of Johan Cruyff and Kevin Keegan, among others, recount their own life stories as part of the exhibition's focus on the human face of football from the 1950s to the present day, and on how the sport can act as a uniting

force for people of different nationalities, languages and cultures.

"The exhibition is a fantastic event for conveying the message that football is a family, altogether, without discrimination. In today's society, football wants to prove once again that, through the game, you have the right platform to make a united front of human beings. It is a top platform for conveying the social message," UEFA vice-president Senes Erzik said at the opening of the exhibition.

Memorabilia from the National Football Museum will be featured in the exhibition, including shirts, medals and trophies from great European players such as George Best, Franz Beckenbauer, Bobby Moore and Petr Cech. Visitors can also discover the city's own dramatic role in European football with special items on display from the Everton FC Collection and the Liverpool FC Museum.

### Universal language

Younger supporters can dip into the world of the media, mixing football footage with their favourite music to create their own video clip, or they can show off their knowledge of the game by challenging friends to a quiz.

All four of UEFA's most prestigious trophies are on display, representing a very rare occasion when the European Championship and UEFA Champions League trophies can be seen alongside the UEFA Cup and European Cup Winners' Cup in the same place at the same time.

Visiting World Museum Liverpool on 24 November, Lilian Thuram, the official patron of the exhibition and winner of both the FIFA World Cup and UEFA Champions League, said: "Football brings people together across Europe. It speaks a simple language that everyone understands. *Only a Game?* shines a light on all the actors that play a role: fans, schoolchildren, amateurs, as well as the professional players."

### Visitor information

**Address:** World Museum Liverpool, William Brown Street, Liverpool  
**Free admission**  
**Opening times:** 10.00-17.00 (GMT) daily until 1 March  
**Information:** +44 (0)151 478 4393



Photos: UEFA



The UEFA general secretary, David Taylor, led the discussions.



Modern technology gave the participants an opportunity to voice their opinions on the topics presented.



# Meetings and other activities

## General secretaries meet in Nyon

**ON 28/29 OCTOBER, THE GENERAL SECRETARIES/CHIEF EXECUTIVES OF 50 OF UEFA'S MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS ATTENDED A MEETING AT THE HOUSE OF EUROPEAN FOOTBALL IN NYON INTENDED TO STRENGTHEN THE INVOLVEMENT OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATIONS IN UEFA'S WORK.**

Only Albania, Poland and Spain were missing from the roll call. To make the meeting as interactive as possible and not just a series of presentations, the participants were equipped with electronic voting systems for the first time, allowing them to give their views anonymously on different questions.

The presentation of current matters concerning professional football started with the topic of home-grown players and the application of UEFA's locally trained players rule. The vast majority of the participants agreed that it helped to improve youth development but also felt that further measures were necessary.

A ban (in principle) on the international transfer of minors (under-18s) was generally thought to be a good idea, as was the creation of a special

monitoring body to evaluate exceptions to such a rule.

### Positive feedback about the UEFA Europa League

The meeting also looked at other issues related to professional football, such as the matter of the recognition of the specificity of sport and the question of financial fair play in UEFA competitions, which the vast majority of participants felt should be achieved through more control on how the financial criteria of the UEFA club licensing system were applied across Europe.

The presentation concluded with the topics of players' agents and relationships with leagues and clubs.

Attention then turned to the club competitions and, in particular, the UEFA Europa League, which replaces

the UEFA Cup from next season. The new name of the competition was generally popular, while the Executive Committee's recent decision to allow losing domestic cup finalists to be entered for the UEFA Europa League if the cup winners qualified for the UEFA Champions League (which was the case in the UEFA Cup) got an even higher number of votes in favour.

On the subject of illegal betting and corruption, the general secretaries/chief executives were keen for more action to be taken. The first day of the meeting ended with a presentation on the UEFA Study Group Scheme and on the experiment being conducted with two additional referees, positioned behind the goal lines.

### Variety of topics

On the subject of national team football, presentations were made on EURO 2012, double-header dates and EURO qualifiers. Regarding the European Under-21 Championship, the participants were invited to express their preferences on various aspects of the competition.

UEFA's assistance programmes (HatTrick II, Top Executive Programme and KISS) and FAME (Football Administration and Management Environment) formed the subject of the last but one main session, which was followed by information on commercial matters and an open discussion to round off the meeting.



Photos: UEFA/epjw/afes.ch



John Delaney, chief executive of the FAI, signs the UEFA convention.



In October, Michel Platini, the UEFA president, countersigned the UEFA Grassroots Charter in Nyon to complete the accession of Armenia, Azerbaijan and Cyprus.

## Meeting of the Professional Football Strategy Council

The Professional Football Strategy Council met in Nyon on 27 October to discuss various issues of importance to professional football in Europe.

Top of the agenda was the package of proposals relating to the protection of minors and training clubs which had been developed by a special working group. The working group, comprising representatives of UEFA, the European Club Association (ECA) the European Professional Football Leagues and FIFPro, had agreed proposals in key areas such as implementing a ban on the movement of minors (under-18s), both within and into Europe; increasing stability for players (and clubs) up to the age of 21; "dual training" (ie non-football academic and vocational education) for professional players to help their reintegration into society at the end of their playing careers; and restricting

payment to agents for transactions involving minors and under-21 year old players. However, the Strategy Council could not reach a final agreement on a recommendation to the Executive Committee as a result of the FIFPro delegation not being able to accept all of the proposals. Discussions will continue.

Following these discussions a report was heard on the meeting of experts on financial fair play that had taken place in Nyon on 13 October. Finally, the agenda for the European Social Dialogue Committee meeting in Brussels on 19 November was agreed, and the ECA was formally accepted as an employer representative organisation.

## UEFA convention and charter – Signatures in Nyon

At the end of October, the Football Association of Ireland (FAI) signed the UEFA Convention on the Mutual Recognition of Coaching Qualifications at UEFA HQ, the House of European Football.

The FAI signed up at pro level, giving it full party status. It first signed the convention at B-level in May 2002. The FAI is the 38th member association to have acceded to the convention at all three levels (B, A and pro).

Apart from the Football Association of Montenegro, whose application is currently being assessed, all UEFA member associations are party to the convention, meaning almost 160,000 coaches from all over Europe have a UEFA-recognised diploma.

Also in Nyon at the end of October, the national associations of Armenia, Azerbaijan and Cyprus signed the UEFA Grassroots Charter. Their accession was approved by the Executive Committee at its meeting in Moscow in May.

Just four years after its creation, the Grassroots Charter already has 33 signatory associations.

## Logo for Rome final unveiled

The next UEFA Champions League final will be held at the Olympic Stadium in Rome on 27 May 2009.



As in recent seasons, the event will be given its own visual identity and the logo for the Rome final was unveiled at a press conference in the Italian capital on 24 October.

The chosen logo combines that of the competition itself with a laurel wreath, an ancient Roman symbol of victory.

The laurel wreath design is reminiscent of the famous coliseum and reflects the city's history, architecture and passion for football.

Tickets for the final will go on sale on 16 February.



The logo for the UEFA Champions League final projected onto the coliseum.

FIGC



Antti Niemi, ambassador for the 2009 Women's EURO...

Getty Images



... and Satu Kunnas, shown playing in the 2005 Women's EURO, will be promoting the final round in Finland.

Barker/AP/Getty Images

## Women's EURO 2009 – Twelve teams chasing one title



**In 2009, the European Women's Championship will conclude in Finland with a tournament which, for the first time, will involve 12 teams rather than eight, an increase that reflects the growing popularity of women's football throughout Europe.**

The qualifying phase for this tournament was completed at the end of October. The winners of the six qualifying groups were the first to book their tickets: titleholders Germany, along with Denmark, England, France, Norway and Sweden, joined hosts Finland, who qualified automatically.

The six runners-up and the four best third-placed teams then faced each other over two legs in order to determine the other five finalists. Iceland (who beat the Republic of Ireland), Italy (who eliminated the Czech Republic), Russia (who defeated Scotland), Ukraine (who knocked out Slovenia) and the Netherlands (winners against Spain) all qualified.

For Iceland, the Netherlands and Ukraine, this is the first time they have reached the final round of the competition, while Germany will be competing in the final round for the eighth consecutive time and will once again be defending the title that they have held since 1995.

The draw to determine the three final round groups took place in Helsinki on 18 November and the outcome can be found on uefa.com. The top two in each group will join the two best third-placed teams in the quarter-finals. The final round will be held from 23 August to 10 September 2009 in the cities of Helsinki, Lahti, Tampere and Turku.

■ In order to help publicise the final round, two ambassadors have been appointed: Antti Niemi, who won 67 caps with the Finnish na-

tional side and kept goal for several British teams, and Satu Kunnas, who played in goal for the Finnish national women's team and participated in the 2005 European Women's Championship.

■ In the European Women's Under-19 Championship, 24 teams qualified for the second qualifying round, the draw for which will be held in Nyon on 19 November. The winners and the best runner-up from the six groups will contest the final round with Belarus, who qualify automatically as hosts.

In the European Women's Under-17 Championship, the 16 teams that made it through the first qualifying round will be split into four groups in a draw to be staged in Nyon on 19 November. The four group winners will play the final round in Nyon (see uefa.com for the results of these draws).

## European Under-21 Championship – The picture is complete

**The eight finalists in the 2007-09 European Under-21 Championship are now known. They will contest the final round in Sweden next summer.**



Having qualified automatically as final round organisers, Sweden will host Germany, England, Belarus, Spain, Finland, Italy and Serbia from 15 to 29 May 2009.

These seven qualifiers won the play-off matches between the ten winners and four best runners-up in the qualifying groups.

Some of these matches were extremely closely fought, particularly the tie between Austria and Finland



Germany (Sandra Smisek, right), winners of the last four Women's EUROs, and England (Faya White) will both be playing in the final round in Finland.

Langer/Bongarts/Getty Images



England (Jamie O'Hara) knocked out Wales (Simon Church, right) in the Under-21 play-offs.



Germany and Italy's Under-17s in a friendly match. Both have qualified for the elite round of the European Under-17 Championship.

which was decided on penalties, and the match between Spain and Switzerland, which Spain won after extra time.

Only three of the eight teams which participated in the 2007 final round in the Netherlands have qualified this time: Serbia, who reached the final in 2007; Italy, who have won the competition more times than any other country (five) and will be participating for the sixth time in a row; and England.

Finland is the only one of the finalists to have never previously qualified for a final round. Titleholders the Netherlands were eliminated in the qualifying round.

The draw to determine the two final round groups will be held at the Svenska Mässan exhibition centre in Gothenburg on 3 December.

## Under-17 elite round



**The winners, runners-up and two best third-placed teams in the European Under-17 Championship qualifying groups have secured their places in the elite round.**

In group order, the following teams qualified:

Group 1: *Austria, Belgium*

Group 2: *Denmark, Romania*

Group 3: *Czech Republic, Hungary, Georgia*

Group 4: *Portugal, Wales, Kazakhstan*

Group 5: *Greece, Luxembourg*

Group 6: *Croatia, Serbia*

Group 7: *Norway, Switzerland*

Group 8: *Poland, Azerbaijan*

Group 9: *Netherlands, Italy*

Group 10: *Finland, Belarus*

Group 11: *France, Scotland*

Group 12: *Turkey, Slovenia*

Group 13: *Spain, England*

These 28 teams will be drawn into seven groups of four in Nyon on 4 December. They will then play in mini-tournaments, the winners of which will contest the final round in Germany from 6 to 18 May. The German team will be the eighth finalist team.

The current titleholders are Spain.

## World challenge for Manchester United

**By winning the UEFA Champions League in Moscow in May, Manchester United FC earned the chance to win a world title in Japan, at the FIFA Club World Cup.**

The competition will be played from 11 to 21 December in the cities of Tokyo, Toyota and Yokohama. Manchester United will enter at the semi-final stage at the

Dimitar Berbatov and his team, Manchester United FC, hope to return from Japan as world champions.

Getty Images



Yokohama International Stadium on 18 December, when they will face the winners of the quarter-final between the Asian champions and the winner of the play-off match that will open the tournament. The South American representatives, Liga Deportiva Univer-sitaria de Quito, will play their first match in the other semi-final. The Ecuadorian club were the surprise winners of the Copa Libertadores in July. They beat the Brazilian team Fluminense FC in the final, winning the home match 4-2 before losing 3-1 in Rio de Janeiro. Since the away goals rule that applies in European club competitions is not used in the Copa Libertadores,

the match was settled by a penalty competition, in which goalkeeper José Francisco Cevallos was the hero of the day, saving three Brazilian shots. It was the first time an Ecuadorian club had won South American football's main club competition.



The Yubileiny Sports Palace will be the venue for the European Under-21 Futsal Tournament finals.

Italy's Grana (2) in attack in the third-place play-off against Russia.



Almeida/AFP/Getty Images

In Japan, the final and the match for third place will be staged at the Yokohama International Stadium on Sunday, 21 December.

Apart from Manchester United and LDU Quito, the participants in this fifth edition of the Club World Cup will be Adelaide United FC (Australia), CF Pachuca (Mexico), Waitakere United (New Zealand), Al-Ahly (Egypt) and Gamba Osaka (Japan).

Although this will be Manchester United's first visit to Japan for the Club World Cup, they previously participated in the first edition of the competition, held in Brazil in 2000. As winners of the Champions League/Champion Clubs' Cup, the British club also twice contested the European/South American Cup, in which they beat the Brazilians of Palmeiras in 1999.

Last year's Club World Cup was won by AC Milan, who achieved Europe's first victory in this competition.

## Futsal silver medal for Spain

The Futsal World Cup, held in Brazil from 30 September to 19 October, was won by the host nation for the fourth time, after victories in 1989, 1992 and 1996.

Six European teams participated in the competition and they generally performed well, winning three of the semi-final spots.

Despite finishing second, however, Spain cannot have been totally satisfied, since in doing so they relinquished the title that they had won in 2000 and successfully defended in 2004. The Spaniards showed plenty of character in the final against Brazil, equalising twice (2-2) before losing on penalties.

For Italy also, the bronze medal was a bitter-sweet reward, since they only lost their semi-final after

extra time (3-2) against a Spanish side that had beaten them in the final four years earlier. Italy nevertheless found the resources they needed to beat Russia 2-1 in the match for third place.

Of the other three European teams, Ukraine were the only ones to reach the second round. Portugal came very close to qualifying, finishing equal on points with the top two in their group, Paraguay and Italy. Finally, the Czech Republic also performed admirably, recording two wins and two defeats.



Javi Rodriguez, captain of the Spanish side that came second in the Futsal World Cup.

## Under-21 final round in Russia

The European Under-21 Futsal Tournament will take place in December at the Yubileiny Sports Palace in St Petersburg.



Along with Russia, seven teams qualified for the final tournament and were split into the following two groups:

Group A: *Russia, Italy, Croatia, Slovenia*

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

The match schedule is as follows:

### 8 December:

Spain v Kazakhstan, Italy v Slovenia, Ukraine v Netherlands, Russia v Croatia

### 9 December:

Netherlands v Spain, Croatia v Italy, Ukraine v Kazakhstan, Russia v Slovenia

### 11 December:

Spain v Ukraine, Kazakhstan v Netherlands, Italy v Russia, Slovenia v Croatia

### 12 December: semi-finals

### 14 December: final

## Two more qualifiers for the UEFA Regions' Cup

After Zagreb AMA (Croatia), Privilzhie AMA (Russia), Oltenia AMA (Romania) and Bratislava AMA (Slovakia), two more teams have qualified for the final round.



Poland will be unable to defend the title won by Dolnoslaski AMA in 2007. Wielkopolski AMA, the Polish representatives in this year's competition, were eliminated in the Group 7 mini-tournament, which was held in Nis and won by Savez Gradiska AMA, representing Bosnia-Herzegovina.

In Group 2, the battle between three of the four participants was very close, with only goal difference separating Region I AMA of the Republic of Ireland from the Italian and English representatives.

The final two groups will play their matches in the spring.



FBK Kaunas revel in their success.



Christian Happel, CEO of the Baltic League.

# Final of the Baltic League

## Thrilling match takes Baltic football into 2009

**THE SECOND SEASON OF THE TRIOBET BALTIC LEAGUE (TBL) ENDED WITH A THRILLING FINAL IN LATVIA AT RIGA'S SKONTO STADIUM WHERE LITHUANIAN SIDE FBK KAUNAS BEAT THE LOCALS, SKONTO FC, 2-1.**

Seven thousand fans from all three Baltic countries attended the final – a record for the competition, which was introduced in 2007. The TrioBet Baltic League final also raised great media attention and was attended by all the top football officials from Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania. The notable attendance was achieved through a big effort by the TBL office, personally inviting children from schools and orphanages to come with their friends, as well as businessmen, ambassadors and politicians – the office pulled off a wide-ranging marketing and PR campaign in the run-up to the final. The final match was also promoted at schools, companies, pan-Baltic supermarkets, the biggest shopping centre in Riga and sports bars and pubs.

### Kaunas crowned champions

The great atmosphere inside the stadium was transported onto the pitch, where the spectators saw an entertaining

and thrilling final. Lithuanian side FBK Kaunas took the lead after 24 minutes when Luka Anicic struck the ball past Germans Malins in the Skonto goal. Just three minutes later Tomas Miklinevicius made it 2-0 to the Lithuanians. But Skonto showed that they were no pushovers and had already created various great chances to come back by the end of the first half. Skonto's efforts were finally rewarded in the 84th minute, when substitute Vladimir Dvalisvili converted a penalty. The entire crowd were on their feet for the last minutes of the match as Skonto came close, several times, to sending the match into extra time. But in the end Kaunas took the title of 2008 TBL champions.

### Next season just around the corner

After the success of the final, the organisers are already looking ahead to the next season. "For us the new season started straight after the final," confirms

the CEO of the TBL, Christian Happel. "We are in the middle of negotiations regarding next year's TV contract and are looking for potential sponsors for next season."

As announced previously, the TBL will kick off in a brand new format next season. The games will start in September 2009 and will be played according to a play-off system with 16 teams – five from Estonia, five from Latvia and, thanks to Kaunas' winning performance, six from Lithuania. Next season's final will be played in summer 2010.

"This was an amazing final and promotion for football in the Baltics," said Happel. "7,000 spectators is a fantastic crowd and they witnessed a match which was fascinating and thrilling until the end. I am sure that it will be remembered for quite some time. We wanted to finish this season on a high and now we will build upon this to strengthen the TBL and establish it in the Baltic football calendar."

### Good example to follow

Until the next season starts with the new format and restructured match-day calendar in September 2009, the TBL plans to carry out various pan-Baltic activities. "The greatest asset in football is the people," says Aivar Pohlak, chairman of the TBL board and president of the Estonian FA, stressing that, during the last two seasons, the three football associations have moved considerably closer – even the calendars are being aligned to accommodate their league and national teams. The TBL board member and general secretary of the Latvian Football Federation, Janis Mezeckis, agrees that the TBL had faced problems at the start, but Rome was not built in a day either and the TBL has learned from the problems of the past. "We have talented people in the TBL team who are eager to work and achieve results – this is what's needed for the TBL's future," he emphasises.

The idea of international tournaments for specific regions is not a new one, but one which could become more and more interesting in the future. "The TrioBet Baltic League can be a good example for other small federations to follow. We're under close examination and trying out the best possible model for such a competition. Europe is watching us," the president of the Lithuanian FA and TBL board member, Liutauras Varanavičius, told the media at a press conference before the final.

Martins Hartmanis



The final was full of goal-scoring opportunities.

Photos: LFF



## AUSTRIA

• PETER KLINGLMÜLLER •

### Success for Austria's Under-19s

The men's and women's Austrian Under-19 teams had reason to celebrate in September, having both made it into the next round of their respective European Championship qualifiers.

The men, coached by Peter Persidis, opened with a 2-2 draw against hosts FYR Macedonia, before overwhelming their Icelandic peers with their attacking force and winning 3-0 on matchday two. In their last qualifying group match, a single goal by Rapid Wien's shooting star Christopher Dragan and a 1-1 draw against Sweden were enough to secure a place in the elite round as unbeaten runners-up, just behind the Scandinavians. Incidentally, of the 18 players in the Under-19 squad, four are already making a name for themselves abroad: Dominik Hofbauer (Aston Villa FC), Dieter Elsner (Frosinone Calcio), Georg Krenn (Everton FC) and Andreas Weimann (Aston Villa FC).

Ernst Weber's women's Under-19s also had an excellent run into the next round of their European Championship qualifying campaign,

making short work of Turkey (5-0), Armenia (3-0) and hosts Poland (5-1) to put Austria firmly at the top of Group 2. The side's top scorer was Lisa Makas of SKV Altenmarkt, who notched up six goals in the first qualifying round. ■



Peter Persidis and his assistant, Franz Polanz (left), are leading the Austrian Under-19s in their ascent.



## AZERBAIJAN

• ULVIYYA NAJAFOVA •

### Under-17 tournament

During the Association of Football Federations of Azerbaijan (AFFA) executive committee meeting on 5 July, it was decided to hold a tournament for Under-17 teams from premier league clubs. Two other teams, Azeri and MKT Araz, who are not from premier league clubs, are also participating in the competition. The teams were therefore divided into two groups of eight. FK Qarabag, a regional club, are playing their matches in the capital, Baku. Together with representatives of the capital city, they make up the Baku zone. The other clubs are competing in the regions' zone. Azeri, despite being from Baku, are also playing in the regions' zone. The first-round matches started on 9 October and ran until 18 November. The second-round matches will be played next year. It is a round-robin tournament, the main aim of which is to identify talented young footballers for the national teams. ■



## BELARUS

• YULIA ZENKOVICH / ALEXANDR TOMIN •

### Active development of youth football in Belarus

The football events of this autumn have been very significant for the history of Belarusian football.

The Under-21 team has reached the final stage of the European Under-21 Championship for the second time in its history and will travel to Sweden for the final tournament next summer. In the play-offs, Belarus emerged as the winners of a two-leg play-off against their Turkish peers, despite being considered the underdogs. It is interesting to note that Belarus will be the only representatives of the former Soviet states in Sweden.

It is also the first time in the history of Belarusian football that BATE Borisov have made it through to the group stage of the UEFA

Champions League. The average age of the club's players is 24 years and 3 months, and the head coach, Viktor Goncharenko, is not only the youngest coach in the Belarus national league but also the youngest head coach in the Champions League. The fact that such a young coach is achieving so much success highlights not only the positive development of the team from Borisov (they are already very close to winning their third national title), but also the growth of Belarusian football as a whole. ■



The Under-21s of Belarus beat Turkey in the play-offs.



## BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA

• FUAD KRVAVAC •

### Juniors reach elite round

In their last two 2010 World Cup qualifiers, Bosnia-Herzegovina had mixed success. Away in Istanbul they were beaten 2-1 by Turkey, but then at the Bilino Polje stadium in Zenica, Miroslav Blazević's squad beat Armenia 4-1. Now the Bosnians are in the running for second place in Group 5 next year, which would take them to South Africa.

The new competition system for the Under-19 and Under-17 categories in Bosnia-Herzegovina has also proved successful. The young hopefuls of Bosnia-Herzegovina's Under-19 and Under-17 teams are competing in two separate groups, divided along geographical lines. The quality has risen subsequently, as demonstrated during the Under-19 European Championship qualifying tournament hosted by the Bosnia-Herzegovina Football

Federation and the city of Sarajevo. After a series of unsuccessful seasons, the Under-19s have finally reached the elite round of the competition where they will compete for a place in the 2009 tournament in Ukraine.

At Sarajevo's Grbavica stadium and the Asim Ferhatovic Hase stadium, the Under-19s of Bosnia-Herzegovina played Greece, Poland and Montenegro in Group 10. Zoran Bubalo's squad produced a pleasant surprise, beating the favourites, Greece, 2-1 and drawing with Poland (2-2) and Montenegro (0-0). Greece took first place in the group with 6 points, ahead of Bosnia-Herzegovina on 5, Poland on 4 and Montenegro at the bottom on 1 point.

In other news, FK Slavija Sarajevo recently celebrated their centenary with a good game and are performing well in the premier league and cup competitions. A celebratory match was organised against Serbian champions FK Partizan of Belgrade. The hosts won 2-1. Before this, Slavija had already played friendly matches against Serbia's FK Crvena Zvezda and FK Vojvodina, and announced visits from Croatia's HNK Hajduk Split and NK Dinamo Zagreb. ■



FK Slavija celebrated their centenary with a series of friendly matches.



## CZECH REPUBLIC

• VACLAV TICHY •

### Sixty mini-pitches in four years

The Football Association of the Czech Republic's approach to upgrading the conditions of the most popular sport in the country involves building mini-pitches all over its territory. For four years, the CMFS, in cooperation with UEFA and the ministry of education, has been building these artificial, all-weather pitches.

*"Since 2005 we have installed 60 mini-pitches with artificial turf. The financiers are football clubs, cities or regions. The CMFS is arranging the installation of the turf, which remains on*

*loan for five years before it becomes the property of the investor,"* says Otakar Mestek, director of the CMFS grassroots project.

Each of the 14 regional districts of the CMFS proposes two or three possible, appropriate investors during the planning stage. This guarantees equal and even development within the whole of the Czech Republic.

The 20x40 m pitches must have floodlights to make it possible to use them in autumn and winter. The artificial pitches can also be used for training sessions in bad weather.

The mini-pitches are not reserved for organised club use. *"Mini-pitches enjoy great popularity with recreational players and are used free of charge by local schools. Free access for both recreational players and schoolchildren is one of the main conditions for construction of a mini-pitch,"* adds Otakar Mestek. ■



## DENMARK

• PIA SCHOU NIELSEN •

### Parents told to shut up!

The Danish FA want parents to behave at children's and youth games. A radio campaign is taking the next step in getting spectators to behave.

*"Ah, referee, come on – you stupid amateur! Well done, just kick him in the knees, Christoffer!"*

This is taken from one of the provoking radio spots which the Danish Football Association (DBU) has provided to all radio stations nationwide as part of a national campaign aimed at getting especially loud and yelling parents to behave better when attending children's football games.

The radio spots are the result of a pilot project with Team Denmark and the sports federation of Denmark (DIF) which focuses on ethics and values in sport. The radio campaign is also a natural step for the FA to take.

In the past couple of years, the DBU has been working on guidelines and actions to revolutionise the way adults think about children's and youth football. More ball possession, smaller pitches and teams are among the guiding principles of the project.

*"Fortunately there are lots of children's and youth games where the atmosphere is very positive. But unfortunately, we also come across some coaches and especially parents who totally misunderstand their role when they are part of children's games, yelling loudly near the touchline. We hope that this not very traditional, provocative campaign will cause much-needed debate, not just in the clubs, but among parents, coaches and players,"* says Enrique Cordova Jensen from DBU Fair Play. ■



## ENGLAND

• NADA GRKINIC •

### FA boosts football in Botswana

The Football Association sent a two-man team to Botswana in September to deliver an FA Level 1 coaching award to school teachers and local coaches as part of The FA's cooperation agreement with the Botswana Football Association.

Eddie McCluskey and Steve Stone jetted off to Africa with the task of helping a group of 29 aspiring coaches get their first coaching badge.

The week-long course forms part of The FA's ongoing commitment to developing football in its partner countries in Africa, with Lesotho already having received the same training workshop in April this year and Malawi set to benefit from the scheme in November.

Botswana first division coaches attended the workshop, and teachers were specifically invited to receive the training so that when they return to their schools they can deliver good quality coaching and hopefully encourage more children to attend classes.

The FA has made a commitment to assist the British and French governments' drive to get 16 million African youngsters into education by 2010.

Eddie McCluskey was impressed by the efforts of the candidates, who all successfully completed the course and received their FA Level 1 coaching certificates.

He said: *"The group were really enthusiastic and applied themselves throughout the week. There was a real mix of ability but all the candidates passed the course and some showed real potential for becoming tutors with some more training."*

*"The Botswana Football Association and the staff were extremely helpful and welcoming. The association is in good hands and hopefully the relationship with The FA will continue to flourish, with more courses planned for next year."* ■

Eddie McCluskey assesses a participant in the week-long workshop.



## FAROE ISLANDS

• INGI SAMUELSEN •

### Another first-time champion

Even if the match on Saturday, 25 October could not be played due to a major storm, EB/Streymur were still able to celebrate as Faroese champions.

The championship was secured the week before, when EB/Streymur defeated Skála IF.

This is the first time that the united side has won the Faroese championship. EB/Streymur was established in 1993 as a fusion of Eidi at the north end of Eysturoy and Ítróttarfelagid Streymur from the villages of Hvalvík and Streymnes on either side of the Sundini, the narrow sound between the main islands of Streymoy and Eysturoy.

EB/Streymur joined the top division in 2001, where they have established themselves as one of the strongest Faroese sides. In 2006 EB/Streymur lost the championship to HB Tórshavn under dramatic circumstances – a huge disappointment for the team and people of the area. In 2007 EB/Streymur again finished as runners-up, but they won the cup final for the first time ever. This year EB/Streymur managed the double.

The team is trained by the duo of Sigfríður Clementsen and Magni Mohr, who together won the championship with B36 Tórshavn in 2005. EB/Streymur's strength lies in a group of young skilful players – Arnbjørn Hansen, Bárður Olsen, Hans Pauli Samuelson, Marni Djurhuus, Leif Niclasen and Rene Tórgard – who have all played for the senior national team, together with experienced players such as Egil á Bø, Mikkjál Thomassen and the Romanian Sorin Anghel, who has been playing for EB/Streymur since their promotion to the top division and is staying with the team.

Behind EB/Streymur were HB and B36 from Tórshavn, who came second and third this year, while last year's first-time champions, NSÍ Runavík, ended in fourth place. B71 Sandur and Skála IF will play in the second division next year and will be replaced by the new united side from the island of Vágur, 07 Vestur, and AB from Argir, a suburb of the capital, Tórshavn.

In the women's championship, KÍ Klaksvík won the title for the ninth year in a row. ■



## GEORGIA

• LASHA GODUADZE •

### FIFA distinction awarded posthumously to Nodar Akhalkatsi

The FIFA president, Joseph S. Blatter, made an official visit to Georgia and visited Tbilisi, the capital.

The FIFA president started his visit at the Georgian Football Federation's technical centre in Saguramo, built within the FIFA

"Goal" project. Top officials of the Georgian Football Federation (GFF), Nodar Akhalkatsi, president; Ucha Ugulava, general secretary; George Kavtaradze, Revaz Arveladze and Dimitri Ramishvili, vice-presidents, hosted the guests of honour.

Mr Blatter was shown around the technical centre and also saw the artificial pitch built as part of the "Goal II" project.

He said: *"It is not an exaggeration to say that I am really impressed. Having a technical centre like this will greatly assist the development of Georgian football. I am proud that FIFA is contributing to the development of football infrastructure in Georgia."*

After visiting the technical centre, the FIFA president gave a press conference at the Tbilisi Marriot hotel, from where he headed to the Boris Paichadze national stadium to watch the 2010 FIFA World Cup qualifying match between Georgia and Cyprus. Before kick-off, he presented the FIFA Order of Merit awarded posthumously to Nodar Akhalkatsi to the president of the GFF, Nodar Akhalkatsi Jr, who was on hand to accept the award on behalf of his late father.

*"In recognition of Nodar Akhalkatsi's efforts to promote Georgian football, FIFA decided to award the FIFA Order of Merit to Nodar Akhalkatsi, who would have been 70 years old now,"* the FIFA president said.



Nodar Akhalkatsi accepted the posthumous award from Joseph S. Blatter for his late father.

Nodar Akhalkatsi's greatest success on the pitch came when he was coach of FC Dinamo Tbilisi, which was the best time in the club's history. Dinamo Tbilisi won the championship of the Soviet Union in 1978, and the USSR Cup in 1976 and 1979. The club's most important achievement under Nodar Akhalkatsi's leadership was winning the European Cup Winners' Cup in 1981, which was a victory for Georgian football as a whole. In 2001, Nodar Akhalkatsi was named best Georgian football and sports coach of the twentieth century. ■



## GERMANY

• MICHAEL HERZ •

### DFB honours Bert Trautmann

Goalkeeping legend Bernd "Bert" Trautmann will be receiving a rather special birthday present from the German Football Association (DFB). Trautmann, who celebrated his 85th birthday on 22 October, will be the DFB's guest of honour at the international against England in Berlin on 19 November, when he will be awarded the DFB diamond award.

*"The game at the Olympic Stadium is the perfect occasion to honour Bert Trautmann for the tremendous work he did to enhance the reputation of German football in England,"* said the DFB's president, Theo Zwanziger. The Bremen-born ex-goalkeeper will receive the highest award available under the DFB statutes for

someone who has never been part of a DFB committee. *"Bernd Trautmann was a legend of English football in the 1950s,"* continued the DFB president, *"and he is a great ambassador for Germany as both a sportsman and a human being. The way he conducted himself contributed much to German-English reconciliation after the Second World War."* Bernd Trautmann's goalkeeping ability was discovered by English first division club Manchester City at a British prisoner-of-war camp near Liverpool, where he had been taken in 1945. The club recruited the "Kraut" despite strong initial protests from fans and the press. In the 1950s, Trautmann became a true goalkeeping legend of English football. In a memorable Cup final on 5 May 1956 he helped Manchester City to victory at London's Wembley Stadium, despite playing the last 15 minutes with a serious neck injury, which was diagnosed a few days later as a diagonal crack in the second vertebra. He was subsequently considered a hero in England and became an idol for many generations. ■



## ISRAEL

• SUZIN NIMROD •

### The Israel FA and Juvenile Diabetes Association joint bike ride

The Israel Juvenile Diabetes Association has held its annual bike ride in aid of finding a cure for children with diabetes, under the banner "Riding for a Sweet Future", in collaboration with the Israel Football Association. This year the ride was led by Israel's Under-16 football team.

As part of its contribution to the community, this year the Israel Football Association is supporting the Juvenile Diabetes Association and earlier in the year held a joint fundraising evening which raised ILS 170,000 (almost EUR 36,000).

The ride set off from Yarkon Park in Tel Aviv, after the bikers had launched a cloud of blue balloons. There was a challenging 35 km route, as well as a family route of 10 km, ending with a huge event with entertainment and activities for all the family.

After the ride, a friendly mini-football match was held between television stars and children with juvenile diabetes, and the children were given footballs signed by the players of the Israel national team.

Ori Shilo, CEO of the Israel Football Association, said: *"This is a natural combination for us, and the Israel Football Associ-*

The IFA helps children with diabetes as part of its social contribution.



*ation is proud to join this project as part of its contribution to the community."*

All income from the event will go to the diabetes association's research fund, to finance the continuing search for a cure for juvenile diabetes. ■



## LATVIA

• MARTINS HARTMANIS •

### Latvian champions revealed

The champions of the LMT Virsliga, for the third consecutive year, are FK Ventspils, who drew 2-2 away to Skonto FC, but the point earned was enough for the club to take the title. The runners-up contest was not decided until mid-November when Baltic League ex-champions SK Liepajas Metalurgs and Skonto FC, champions 13 years in a row, finished the season. Vits Rimkus (FK Ventspils), Kristaps Grebis (Liepajas Metalurgs) and Olegs Malasenoks (FK Jurmala) were the best scorers of the championship. JFK Olimps were relegated.

The 2008 women's football championship also ended in mid-November, with Skonto FC/Ceriba-46.vsk at the top of the table. With two matches still to go, the team had already matched up 58 goals and conceded just one, which is a remarkable all-time record in Latvia. The runners-up were SK Imanta/FK Riga, and Saldus FK Lutrini took third. The best player of the championship was announced as being Oksana Fetlistova-Zandere of the winning team.

The first league, the second highest Latvian division, has been tough. Until the last matches on 8 November, the top three clubs – FK Jaunība, FK Tranzīts and



A trophy and a record for the women's team Skonto FC/Ceriba-46.vsk.

→ FK Daugava 90 – all had 60 points, and the fourth-placed FK Jelgava were just three points behind.

This year's second league champions are FK Kauguri-PBLC, who won the last decisive match against Preiļu BJSS 1-0. Third place was taken by FK Viesulis. The top two teams will be promoted to the first league in 2009.

The TrioBet Baltic League final was contested in Riga by Latvia's Skonto FC and Lithuania's FBK Kaunas. The visitors won the title 2-1. ■



## LITHUANIA

• VAIVA ZIZAITĖ •

### Football fiesta generates good feelings

The autumn of 2008 was far from dark and dismal for Lithuania's young footballers. The Lithuanian Football Federation (LFF) organised a football fiesta, the main purpose of which was to give children from 7 to 10 years of age a good, fun time.

The football fiesta was a great chance for young players to show off their skills



A festival introducing young people to the joys of football.

outside the sporting sphere too. During the event everyone had the chance not only to play football, but also to participate in various football-related events. The main thing was that there were no winners or losers – everyone was on a par and the motto was "different, but equal". Of course the principle of sport was respected and the teams competed for the titles of most sociable, youngest, jolliest and most active.

Football fiesta matches were played on artificial pitches and organised by the LFF with the help of volunteers. All the participants got special presents of footballs and other football gifts.

*"Now 70 artificial pitches have been installed all over Lithuania, the federation wants to make maximum use of them. Most youngsters like to lead an active life. They want to spend their time doing sport so we must allow them to play football. If we want to prepare our children for a full and rewarding future, we must to create the right environment. Young players must understand that they can indulge in football but that the main thing is not to be in the best team or to win. These things are important, but not the top priorities,"* the LFF's president, Liutauras Varanavicius, said. ■



## MALTA

• ALEX VELLA •

### A revamped website

The Malta FA has recently launched its new-look website, featuring information under various streamlined sections.



The new site will be a mine of information on the association and its activities, its day-to-day work through the council and its various boards and committees, plus international news, round-ups of domestic competitions and national team matches, the Malta FA's facilities, information on the association's member clubs, press releases and other useful data.

The latest news from the association will feature prominently, while other interesting items will be feeds from UEFA and FIFA, new sections on coaches and referees, as well as news on Maltese players under contract with foreign teams.

Documents and forms can be downloaded for a more efficient service to clubs and their officials, and to the media. The website's user-friendly database includes records and statistics which, like all other sections, are kept up to date.

Regular meetings for the Malta FA's staff to familiarise themselves with the website are intended to improve efficiency.

The website design, done by a local firm, is attractive and very modern.

Mark Muscat, head of communications in the Malta FA's media department, has been instrumental, together with his team, in upgrading the website. ■



## MOLDOVA

• VICTOR DAGHI •

### A step forward

The Football Association of Moldova (FAM) pays special attention to the national coach licensing system that is implemented in Moldova in accordance with UEFA requirements.

During the last four years, the FAM has, in conjunction with UEFA, organised many coaching courses for UEFA A and B-licences. Recently, important steps were taken in the first series of UEFA Pro-licence courses in Moldova.

The first UEFA Pro-licence course involves 13 participants, all holders of the UEFA A-licence. Among them are Igor Dobrovolskiy, head coach of the Moldova A-team, Serghei Chirilov, head coach of the Under-21 national team, and Vlad Goian, head coach of the Under-19 national team. They have successfully followed all the theoretical and practical sessions so far and all actively engage in group discussions in order to acquire the UEFA Pro licence.

Another Pro-licence candidate is Mikhaïls Zemlinskis of the Latvian Football Federation. He got approval from UEFA to follow the Pro-licence course in Moldova.

The venues for the theoretical and practical parts of the course are the FAM's technical centre in Vadul lui Voda, the Sheriff sports complex in Tiraspol and the premises of CSCT Buiucani and FC Zimbru Chisinau.

The UEFA Pro-licence course consists in six stages and will run until June 2009; the applicants will then have to sit the final exam. Based on their results, the Jira Panel will announce the names of the Pro-licence holders.

The lecturers on this course are eminent figures in European football: Jozef Venglos, president of the Alliance of European Football Coaches' Associations and founder of the Venglos Football Academy; Piotr Maranda, head of coach education at the Polish Football Association; Erich Rutenmüller, chief instructor at the German Football Association (DFB) and member of the DFB competence team; and Mircea Radulescu, head of the Romanian Football Federation's coaching school. The activities of this course are being coordinated by Ivan Daniliants, the FAM's coach education director, and Ghenadie Scurtul, his deputy. ■



## NETHERLANDS

• ROB DE LEEDE •

### Women's team joins European elite

For the first time in the history of Dutch women's football, the national team have managed to qualify for the final round of the European Championship. By beating Spain in the play-offs, the Oranje women achieved what they had failed to do before. Vera Pauw, who has been the national team coach since 2004, finally saw her dream come true. During her playing days she appeared for the national team 89 times but never managed to make the final step into the top European ranks.



The Dutch women's team are now part of Europe's elite.

The Dutch had to face Spain in Madrid first. The Netherlands were without top scorer Manon Melis. She is playing for Ldb FC Malmö in Sweden, where she finished as joint top scorer in the league with Brazilian Marta. Melis broke her jaw during a league match and was not available for either leg of the play-off. Her injury was one of the first items on national primetime news on Swedish TV. Having scored 7 of the 12 Dutch goals in the qualifying competition, she certainly was sorely missed. However, Karin Stevens, last year's top scorer in the newly founded Dutch premier-ship for women, took over up front.

The surprising 2-0 win in Spain (goals by Karin Stevens and Kirsten van de Ven) did not put the women in a comfortable position since Spain had always beaten the Dutch in the Netherlands on previous occasions. In Volendam, 4,200 spectators gathered on 31 October to witness a historic feat. Again it was Karin Stevens who took the honours. She scored either side of half-time to make sure that the Netherlands would go to Finland next year.

The president of the Dutch Football Association, Michael van Praag, was among the football personalities attending the match in Volendam. "At last we have a women's final round to look forward to next year," he said. He was full of praise for the coach and players. "They have worked so hard for this result. I really admire them for their determination." ■



## NORTHERN IRELAND

• SUEANN HARRISON •

### New Development Centres programme

Northern Ireland international goalkeeper Alan Mannus was on hand recently to help launch the new-look Co-operative Insurance Football Development Centres programme.

The Co-operative Insurance Football Development Centres programme, formerly CIS Insurance Mini Soccer Centres, is a key component of the Irish Football Association's grassroots development strategy and will provide boys and girls aged between 6 and 12 with an opportunity to play football and develop their skills regardless of ability.

Ian Stewart, national coordinator for The Co-operative Insurance Football Development Centres, commented: "The new look Co-operative Insurance Football Development Centres will see the continued development and expansion of the hugely successful CIS Insurance Mini Soccer Centres which focused on skills development and the establishment of new Co-operative Insurance Games Development Centres.

"Each Co-operative Insurance Skills and Games Development Centre will provide a safe, pressure-free environment aimed at enhancing the learning and playing experiences available to young footballers. The



Goalkeeper Alan Mannus is helping launch new development centres.

*Skills Development Centres will provide children with fun and informal coaching to learn new football skills and the benefits of a healthy lifestyle. The Games Development Centres will then give children the opportunity to put into practice the skills they have acquired in a team-based playing environment."*

Aileen Walters, sponsorship manager for The Co-operative Insurance, said "The Co-operative Insurance Football Development Centres are a very exciting new sponsorship for The Co-operative Insurance and underline our commitment to the game at all levels in Northern Ireland. Over the past two years the programme has provided fun and informal coaching to over 4,000 boys and girls across Northern Ireland and this has provided us with an ideal platform to extend our strong tradition of supporting football at grassroots level across the United Kingdom.

"The Co-operative Insurance Football Development Centres, through their focus on skills and games development, will continue to represent many children's first serious introduction to football in a fun, enjoyable, safe, and rewarding environment." ■



## PORTUGAL

• FILIPE FÉLIX •

### Renewing knowledge

Portugal has hosted its first UEFA Pro training seminar for professional coaches. The 15-hour event took place in Oeiras on 9 and 10 October.

The specific objectives of the seminar were to certify the coaches in the first and second professional leagues for 2009/10 UEFA competitions, to renew the professional licences of coaches who completed the 2005 UEFA Pro course (national level IV) and to give the UEFA Pro seal of approval to the other coaches who had reached national level IV or its equivalent, in accordance with the regulations.

Jozef Venglos, member of UEFA's Jira Panel, empha-

sised the positive atmosphere that was created and said how pleased he was with the seminar programme. "It was a top event with top coaches. The programme was very well prepared, it was excellent quality and the coaches responded very well."

Andy Roxburgh, UEFA's technical director, who taught the first modules of the seminar, underlined the importance of the exchange of experience promoted by this event.

"The course allowed very close interaction among the participants. These were first-class coaches, with very different personal experiences and who had something to add to the knowledge of those with whom they shared this training seminar." ■



Jozef Venglos surrounded by seminar participants.



## REPUBLIC OF IRELAND

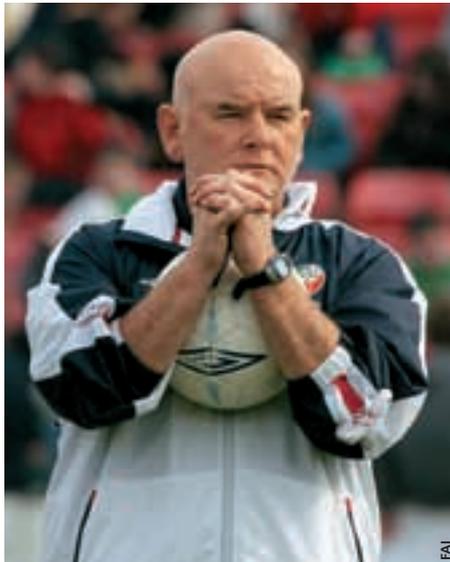
• FRAN WHEARTY •

### Noel O'Reilly

Since Noel O'Reilly's sudden and tragic passing on 26 September much has been said of his incredible qualities as a football coach and the success he achieved with the Republic of Ireland Under-16s, Under-18s and senior team, as well as with Belvedere Boys and St. Patrick's Athletic.

However, while Noel's record as a coach was remarkable, there was more to this great man than his knowledge of football.

Born and raised in North Charles Street, just off Mountjoy Square, Noel had the ability to make a lasting impact on everybody he met. His humour and personable nature endeared him to all who were lucky enough to know him.



Noel O'Reilly.

If football is the arena in which he made his name, it was perhaps to the detriment of the music world. Noel was rarely seen without his guitar and, although close friends would admit that his abilities were limited at first, he soon became a master of the instrument.

When Noel was around, songs from the likes of Jimmy McCarthy and Christy Hennessy were never far away. For years, as he travelled the world with his various teams, his guitar was as essential a part of the team kit as the jerseys or the footballs.

Noel's love of football was pure and selfless. From his playing days in the junior leagues of Dublin, right through his entire life, Noel's passion for the game stemmed from his desire to improve young players.

Whether he was organising an underage tournament in inner city Dublin or helping the senior international team prepare for a World Cup qualifier, Noel's one desire was to impart his knowledge of the game to others.

He worked for many years as a recreation officer for St. Joseph's School for the Blind, making a huge impact on the lives of so many visually impaired children. He was much loved at St. Joseph's for the humanity and kindness that allowed him to make a genuine difference in the lives of young people.

His passing at just 60 years of age has left a huge void in so many lives.

He will never be forgotten. ■



## SERBIA

• ALEKSANDAR BOSKOVIC •

### Presidential visit to Belgrade

For the first time ever, the president of FIFA, Joseph S. Blatter, has made an official visit to the Football Association of Serbia. He was a guest in Belgrade on 9 and 10 October and during this time he visited the association's headquarters and had a meeting with domestic football leaders, but was also invited to meet the Serbian government, where he spoke to the prime minister, Mirko Cvetkovic. During an official dinner, Mr Blatter also met Serbia's deputy prime minister and minister of police, Ivica Dacic, and other important Serbian sports and political leaders.

The main points of Mr Blatter's different discussions were cooperation on the building of a Serbian "house of football" and current world football issues and challenges. Mr Blatter took the opportunity to present his "6+5" proposals and projects relating to the forthcoming 2010 FIFA World Cup, and to discuss other questions regarding the football family with the Football Association of Serbia's president, Tomislav Karadzic.

During a press conference after the meetings, Mr Blatter said: *"I am delighted with everything which I have seen and heard in Belgrade. Serbia is a real football country and I have had a chance to see that for myself. At the moment, Serbia is on track for South Africa in 2010 and I believe that your national team will participate in the tournament. I know that Serbia supports all FIFA projects and I am really proud when I see that this country is always putting more and more top players on the world scene. Also, in Serbia you use only players who were born in Serbia for your national team and this maintains a specifically local spirit and pleases the supporters."*

Karadzic added: *"We had a brilliant and very constructive conversation. The FA of Serbia knows that, in FIFA, we have a friend and partner for every project. At domestic level, we will continue with the final preparations for the construction of our house of football and the reconstruction of domestic stadiums, and at international level we will do everything we can to win a place in the World Cup in South Africa."*

At the end, Karadzic gave the greatest domestic award – a diamond ball – to the FIFA president for his work in building up the football family. ■



Tomislav Karadzic presents Joseph S. Blatter with the diamond ball.



## SLOVAKIA

• JANA PERACKOVA •

### Seminar on grassroots football

In October, the Slovak Football Association (SFA), as a signatory to the UEFA Grassroots Charter, organised a seminar for teachers, school coaches and representatives of school sports associations on grassroots football and Slovakia's UEFA-endorsed grassroots programme in Bratislava. The main aim of the seminar was to present the basics – the philosophy, goals and intentions of the programme and how it is adapted to Slovak conditions. Besides the theoretical part, practical demonstrations and exercises by the national youth team coaches earned a great response from the audience. The event was brought to a close with an extensive discussion about the future of youth and school football in Slovakia, where 45 participants shared their visions and views.

The workshop was followed, a week later, by an Under-12 mini-tournament with an international twist courtesy of two Polish



teams (MOSP Jagiellonia Bialystok boys' team and MUKS Praga Warszawa girls). The two teams had won a big Polish youth tournament known as the mini-champions league (with 20,000 teams involved) and the first prize was a trip to Bratislava with their senior national A-team. In the afternoon before the evening's 2010 World Cup qualifying match (Slovakia v Poland), six teams took part in the Under-12 mini-tournament. Four boys' teams, FC Ruzinov, Inter Bratislava, FC Artmedia and MOSP Jagiellonia Bialystok, and two girls' teams, SK Slovan Bratislava and MUKS Praga Warszawa, played in two groups (one girls' team in each) in a 5+1 system using half the pitch. The final, between Poland's MOSP Jagiellonia Bialystok and Slovakia's FC Artmedia, saw FC Artmedia lose 6-0. Individual awards for best player and best goalkeeper in both categories (boys and girls) were presented against a backdrop of smiling young faces. ■



## SWEDEN

• ANDREAS NILSSON •

### Sweden opts for professional referees

The Swedish FA and the professional league clubs have decided to offer a number of referees full-time employment for the seasons from 2009 to 2011.

*"This will be a great opportunity for referees to come better prepared, to focus fully on the game at hand, just like players and coaches can,"* says former FIFA referee Bosse Karlsson, who is now head of refereeing at the Swedish FA.

*"We don't know yet how many of our referees are willing to leave their current full-time careers only for three years. We will discuss that with those involved, but this decision is in any case a milestone that shows our willingness to help referees cope with the increasing pressure and demands."*

The cost of the project will be shared by the association and the clubs. ■



A tournament for Under-12s.



## SWITZERLAND

• PIERRE BENOIT •

### Looking back and, more importantly, ahead

The Swiss Football Association's 1. Liga celebrated its 75th anniversary at the end of October at the Stade de Suisse. It was an opportunity to cast minds back but also, most of all, to look ahead.

When the 1. Liga clubs decided, on 15 July 1933 in Vevey, to form their own division in between the national and amateur leagues, they had no idea how important the decision would be for Swiss football and its development over the next 75 years. As the third tier of the Swiss Football League and a bridge between the professional and amateur game, the 1. Liga has greatly benefited the balance of powers at the Swiss FA.

When a study group proposed a two-tier system at the turn of the century, the 1. Liga



Kurt Zuppinger (left) and ex-international Stéphane Chapuisat alongside representatives of 1. Liga clubs with the most youth players.

successfully resisted the plan and made sure that it would remain off the table for good. Many now support the president of the 1. Liga, Kurt Zuppinger, and agree that the third tier helps raise the level of football throughout the country, not least because it allows room for the best Under-21 teams from Swiss Football League clubs. The decision to allow no more than five players not trained in Switzerland in 1. Liga teams in future is, without doubt, a step in the right direction and another example of the 1. Liga promoting Swiss talent. ■



## UKRAINE

• BOGDAN BUGA •

### Security and safety priority

The Ukrainian FA's stadium and security committee, in cooperation with the premier league, has brought together various parties in Kiev to discuss safety and security issues related to matches in the current football championship and the forthcoming EURO 2012.

The packed seminar was held at the Ukrainian FA's headquarters and attended by representatives of the ministry of home affairs, the emergency ministry, the security service, the health ministry, and the ministry for youth, family and sports, as well as the security officials of all league clubs and fan club managers.

*"Safety and security aspects are the number one priority for us because they are essential for football's wellbeing,"* said the vice-president of the Ukrainian FA, Boris Voskresenskiy. *"Today we face an increase in cases of disorder and violence in stadiums in the whole world. That's why we have to start providing the most efficient security measures in and around stadiums as we consider the forthcoming EURO 2012."*

The event provided an opportunity to exchange best practices and to review the concept of security planning. Topics such as stewarding and successful policing of football matches dominated the agenda. Law enforcement remains a key ally in working towards safer football stadiums, but there is a tendency towards reducing the number of policemen inside the grounds. This emphasises the need for stewards to receive comprehensive training as well as for the clubs to boost their cooperation with fan clubs. ■



## WALES

• CERI STENNETT •

### Golden cap for a woman

Prior to the 2010 FIFA World Cup qualifying match between Wales and Liechtenstein in October, the Football Association of Wales presented a golden cap to the first women's international to earn 50 caps for her country.

Former Wales defender Kathryn Morgan ended her international career with 51 caps, to her name, won between 1995 and 2008. At club level, she played for

Inter Cardiff, Barry Town, Bristol Academy and Keynsham Town, among others.

She received her golden cap from the Football Association of Wales president, Peter Rees, before kick-off. ■



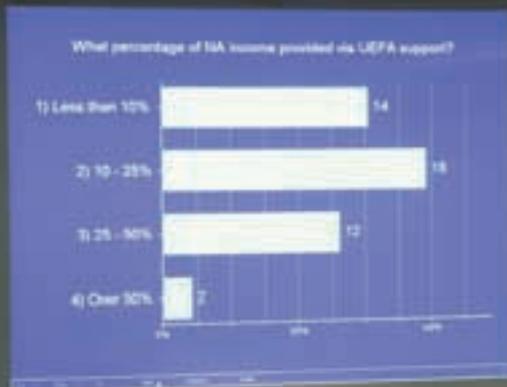
A golden cap for Kathryn Morgan.



# Meeting

# of general secretaries in Nyon

28/29.10.2008



Photos: UEFA-pjwoods.ch

# Communications

## Birthdays – Calendar

### Birthdays

Andrea Manzella (Italy), member of the circle of former UEFA committee members, celebrates his 75th birthday on 8 December, while on 17 December, Karel Vertongen (Belgium), member of the Stadium and Security Committee, will be 70. On 30 December, Wolfgang Thierriichter (Austria), one of UEFA's match delegates, turns 60. Reaching their half centuries are Miroslav Liba (Czech Republic), referee observer, on 4 December, Vitaly Mutko (Russia), vice-chairman of the National Associations Committee, on 8 December, and Rainer Koch (Germany), member of the Control and Disciplinary Body on 18 December.

In addition, UEFA extends birthday greetings for this month to:

- Wolfgang Wassmund (Germany, 1.12)
- Charles Agius (Malta, 2.12)
- Ligita Ziedone (Latvia, 2.12)
- Juan Antonio Fernandez Marin (Spain, 3.12)
- Alan Hodson (England, 5.12)
- Maurizio Montironi (San Marino, 5.12)
- Leszek Ryłski (Poland, 6.12)
- Franco Carraro (Italy, 6.12)
- Andreas Akkelides (Cyprus, 7.12)
- Michel D'Hooghe (Belgium, 8.12)
- Les Reed (England, 9.12)
- Ioan Angelo Lupescu (Romania, 9.12)
- Alain Hamer (Luxembourg, 10.12)
- Alvaro Albino (Portugal, 12.12)
- Kaj Natri (Finland, 13.12)
- Gilberto Madaíl (Portugal, 14.12)
- Antonio Mortagua (Portugal, 14.12)
- Ged Poynton (England, 15.12)
- Michael Riley (England, 17.12)
- Hansruedi Hasler (Switzerland, 18.12)
- Guntis Indriksons (Latvia, 18.12)
- Niklas à Lidarenda (Faroe Islands, 18.12)
- Ori Shilo (Israel, 18.12)
- Ludvik Georgsson (Iceland, 19.12)
- Yves Bourgnon (Luxembourg, 21.12)
- Laszlo Vagner (Hungary, 24.12)
- Guy Goethals (Belgium, 26.12)
- Rudolf Repka (Czech Republic, 26.12)
- Dusan Tittel (Slovakia, 27.12)

- Bernard Carrel (Switzerland, 28.12)
- Martial Saugy (Switzerland, 28.12)
- Otakar Mestek (Czech Republic, 28.12)
- Einar Halle (Norway, 29.12)
- Gordon Smith (Scotland, 29.12)
- Fernand Duchaussoy (France, 30.12)
- Berti Vogts (Germany, 30.12)
- Jean Fournet-Fayard (France, 31.12)
- Fuad Asadov (Azerbaijan, 31.12)
- Horst Brummeier (Austria, 31.12)
- Christian Moroge (Switzerland, 31.12)
- Liene Kozlovskā (Latvia, 31.12)

### Forthcoming events

#### Meetings

##### 3.12.2008, Nyon

Draws for the 2009/10 youth competition qualifying rounds (U19/U17)

##### 3.12.2008, Gothenburg

Draw for the final round of the European Under-21 Championship

##### 4.12.2008, Nyon

Draws for the 2008/09 youth competition elite rounds (U19/U17)

##### 11.12.2008, Nyon

Executive Committee

##### 19.12.2008, Nyon

Draw for the first knockout round of the UEFA Champions League and for the UEFA Cup rounds of 32 and 16

#### Competitions

##### 19.11–7.12.2008, Chile

FIFA U-20 Women's World Cup

##### 3/4.12.2008

UEFA Cup: group matches (matchday 4)

##### 8–14.12.2008, St Petersburg

Final round of the European Under-21 Futsal Tournament

##### 9/10.12.2008

UEFA Champions League: group matches (matchday 6)

##### 11–21.12.2008, Japan

FIFA Club World Cup

##### 17/18.12.2008

UEFA Cup: group matches (matchday 5)

### Notices

■ On 30 October, Grzegorz Boleslaw Lato was elected president of the Polish Football Association.

■ The San Marino Football Federation's new address is: Strada di Montecchio 17, 47890 San Marino.

### Match agents

Four new UEFA match agent licences have been issued to:

#### Sergio Vieta

MEDIA SPORTS MARKETING SL  
 Imagina Centre Audiovisual  
 Avinguda Diagonal 177-183, 14th Floor  
 08018 Barcelona, Spain  
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 david@davidcurrie.co.uk

The licences of João Almeida (Portugal) and Hervé Cros (France) have been withdrawn.

### New publication

#### INTERNATIONAL CASES IN THE BUSINESS OF SPORT

The professionalisation of sport and its resultant commercialisation require ever more specialist knowledge on the part of administrators. This book, published by Simon Chadwick and Dave Arthur, presents about 30 case studies from which anyone working or wanting to work in this field can learn a lot. The case studies relate to various sports, including European football, with topics such as the commercial development of FC Barcelona and Manchester United FC and the internationalisation of Club Atlético de Madrid (www.books.elsevier.com).

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