



**England win the European
Women's U19 Championship** **04**

**First European U19 title
for Ukraine** **06**

**Solidarity payments for youth
player development** **12**



Photos: uefa-plwoods.ch

Message of the president

More than just the start of another season

A new European club competition season has begun – and already ended for the many clubs which did not make it through the qualifying stages and have had to put their dreams of success on hold for another year.

For the rest – for Europe’s top clubs, as well as for all the fans – it is not just another new season that has got under way, but one that has the added value of being a bit different as a result of changes made to the UEFA club competitions.

In the UEFA Champions League, the format may not have changed, but access to the competition has been extended and a dual qualifying route introduced for getting to the group stage. These two changes made the qualifying matches more interesting by increasing the chances of many champion clubs, which did not have to fear encountering a club from one of the “big associations” along the way, while for some of the clubs from the big associations, the play-offs may have been a tough test but also presented them with an exciting challenge.

With its new format of groups of four teams, the UEFA Europa League is well set to meet the expectations created by its new identity and, more than ever, it should serve as the ideal platform for clubs that are new to the top European football scene.

We still have a long way to go until the week-long festival of football in Madrid which will conclude this promising 2009/10 season. Between now and then, we can look forward to some exciting matches and, no doubt, some of the surprises, tense moments and brilliance that give football its magic. Let us also hope that the season is characterised by fair play, by respect for the Laws of the Game, the opposition and the supporters, and by financial fair play, with clubs managing within their means.



Michel Platini
UEFA President

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COVER

A double achievement for Ukraine, who hosted the final round of the European Under-19 Championship for the first time and went on to win it, thereby achieving their first victory in a UEFA national team competition.

Photo: Sportsfile

A full calendar for Europe's top teams



Norway's Morten Pedersen scores against Scotland from a free kick. By winning the match, Norway have kept alive their chances of qualifying for the World Cup finals in a group where competition for second place – behind the Netherlands, who have already qualified – is very close.

PA Wire/PA Images

WHILE EUROPE'S TOP CLUBS ARE EMBARKING ON A NEW UEFA CLUB COMPETITION SEASON, THE CONTINENT'S SENIOR NATIONAL TEAMS ARE PREPARING TO ENTER THE HOME STRAIGHT IN THE QUALIFYING COMPETITION FOR THE 2010 WORLD CUP.

As has been the tradition since 1998, the world of European club football is gathering in Monaco at the end of August, where the winners of this year's UEFA Champions League final, FC Barcelona, and their counterparts in the last ever UEFA Cup, Shakhtar Donetsk, will face each other at the principality's Stade Louis II for the UEFA Super Cup match, which bridges the old and the new UEFA club competition seasons.

The new season kicks off officially at the Grimaldi Forum in

Monaco with the draws to determine the composition of the groups for the UEFA Champions League and, this year for the first time, the UEFA Europa League, which takes over from the UEFA Cup.

Before the talk about the draws and the teams' chances in the UEFA club competitions has broken off, all eyes will be turning to the national teams and the qualifying matches for next year's World Cup finals in South Africa. The qualifiers actually resumed in August, with five matches providing

a foretaste of the decisive matches in September and October.

So far, only the Netherlands have already qualified for the 2010 World Cup, but other teams, such as England and Spain, are in a very strong position. And while others can no longer hope to qualify directly by winning their groups, the competition for second place is still wide open.

Last but not least in this run-down of events for supporters in Europe and further afield to look forward to, the final round of the European Women's Championship is currently in full swing in Finland and making a further contribution to the remarkable growth in popularity of women's football.



Norway came up against a very well-organised Icelandic side.

Sportsfile



The semi-final between England and Switzerland turned to England's advantage.

Sportsfile



Sofia Jakobsson of Sweden was the tournament's leading scorer with five goals to her name.

Sportsfile

Women's Under-19 Championship

Belarus break the ice



HISTORY WAS MADE IN JULY (FROM 13 TO 25) WHEN BELARUS MADE THEIR DEBUT ON THE INTERNATIONAL SCENE BY HOSTING THE FINAL ROUND OF THE EUROPEAN WOMEN'S UNDER-19 CHAMPIONSHIP – AND ENGLAND ALSO MADE HISTORY BY WINNING IT.

As the hosts discovered, organising a final round and playing in it are two different things. On the pitch, the Belarusian girls suffered from opening-night nerves, conceded four goals in the first half against Switzerland, and, six days later, had the misfortune to end the group phase with a fixture against a German side bent on healing wounded pride. Maren Meinert's team did so with a 9-0 victory that set a new record for

the Under-19 finals and might have been expected to send the hosts home with long faces.

Enriching experience

Far from it. Dmitry Shevchuk and his players focused on the positives. And there were plenty. The team's debut had helped them to learn invaluable lessons about the qualities required to compete at top level. More importantly, the matches played in Minsk, Molodechno and Borisov attracted an audience of over 40,000 (almost 250% more than the previous year) and, allied with media coverage, added up to a major promotion of women's football. Off the pitch, the host association found that organising a final round was such an enriching experience that promises were made to apply for other UEFA finals in the not too distant future.

The visitors certainly had no complaints about levels of hospitality. Nor about the playing and training facilities – the latter at the national association's magnificent complex on the outskirts of Minsk, where the pitches remained in top condition during the sweltering temperatures of the opening week and the stormy conclusion to the tournament which led to periods of flooding in the streets of the capital.

Sunshine or clouds

Events on the pitch matched the weather. For some, it was sunshine all

the way. For others it was a cloudy spell. The major talking point was the exit of Germany, beaten in a semi-final penalty shootout by Norway in 2008 and, this time, eliminated in the group phase for the first time since the birth of the competition. Once again, the margin of their elimination was desperately slim and a magnifying glass had to be applied to the regulations to confirm that, in the three-way tie on six points, their head-to-head record left them in third place behind France and Switzerland.

The crux of the matter had been a 3-0 win for Switzerland against the Germans which sent ripples through the tournament. Yannick Schwery had adopted a novel approach to preparing his squad for the trip to Belarus. Aware that most of his players had recently emerged from exams and/or a full league season, he had told them to take a two-week break from football. And, in Minsk, the emphasis was on rest and recovery rather than heavy training schedules. The policy paid off with a fresh-looking team beating the hosts 4-1 before posting the historic win against Germany, with the attacking partnership of Ana Maria Crnogorcevic and Ramona Bachmann catching the eye. After the latter had rounded off a 35-metre slalom by putting the Swiss 2-0 up, German coach Maren Meinert remarked *"at times it seemed like Bachmann against the whole of our defence and they couldn't stop her – which was disappointing."*

The other disappointment was knowing that if France won their final fixture, Germany would be rearranging homeward flights – unless the Swiss were beaten by a hatful of goals. In the event, the hat was filled with goals by the frustrated German team in their match against the hosts, while the French took top spot in the group with a hard-fought 2-0 victory over the Swiss.

Places for the FIFA Under-20 World Cup

In the other group, the surprise was the elimination of Norway, the 2008 silver medallists. After a goalless draw with a well-organised Icelandic team,



Brúshko/Bongarts/Getty Images

Germany's Svenja Hut (9) looks physically stronger than Switzerland's Sarah Steinmann but the Swiss pulled off a resounding win.



An unforgettable experience for Yulia Borisenko (7) and Belarus, here in their match against France (Marina Makanza, No 12).



Charlène Sasso (13) of France tries to outmanoeuvre Sweden's Emelie Lövgren in the semi-finals.



England's Isobel Christiansen up against two opponents in the final.

Group A

13.07	France – Germany	1-2
	Belarus – Switzerland	1-4
16.07	Belarus – France	0-3
	Switzerland – Germany	3-0
19.07	Germany – Belarus	9-0
	Switzerland – France	0-2

Group B

13.07	Sweden – England	0-3
	Iceland – Norway	0-0
16.07	Sweden – Iceland	2-1
	England – Norway	0-0
19.07	Norway – Sweden	1-2
	England – Iceland	4-0

Semi-finals

22.07	France – Sweden	2-5 (after extra time)
	England – Switzerland	3-0

Final

25.07	Sweden – England	0-2
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they became the only side to prevent England from scoring – only to lose the decisive 'derby' against Sweden 2-1. Jarl Torske's side had the misfortune to lose midfield pivot Julia Tärnes due to a broken leg during the second game and then to have two more key players injured during the match

against Sweden. As the Norwegian coach, Jarl Torske, commented afterwards, *"at these events margins are usually very slim and this wasn't our tournament. But if you score one goal in three games, you don't go through..."*

Germany's demise added to Norwegian disappointment. Had Maren Meinert's side qualified for the semi-finals, the two third-placed teams would have played off for a place in the FIFA Under-20 World Cup, to be hosted by the Germans. Results in Belarus meant that the four berths went directly to the four semi-finalists.

The Swiss therefore went home delighted, even though their semi-final against England proved to be a bridge too far. A 3-0 win for Mo Marley's team propelled them into the final for the second time in three years. The other semi-final produced an identical winning margin but in a much more dramatic manner. With 86 minutes on the clock, it looked as though two long-range shots had given a technically gifted French side a place in the final, even though they had fallen behind following an early Swedish corner. Then a through ball

over the top caught the French defence by surprise and Sofia Jakobsson – the tournament's top scorer – tapped in an equaliser. A similar pass allowed her to make it 3-2 after 25 seconds of extra time and, amid the psychological shock waves, the French conceded two more goals from corners.

A young team

Even the Swedes were surprised by their 5-2 win. *"I honestly didn't expect to reach the final,"* their coach Calle Barrling admitted. *"We have an inexperienced, young team, we had injuries, we had to bring in new players just before the tournament started...but we have improved much more than I would have believed possible."*

The final offered the spectators in Borisov a fascinating contrast in playing styles. England's game was about crisp short and medium passing, whereas Sweden preferred a defend-and-counter philosophy with a more direct attacking approach. The Swedish defence was unlocked by an attractive combination move into the box from the English left and,

when midfielder Jordan Nobbs struck a spectacular long-range shot to put England 2-0 ahead after 37 minutes, the Swedes could find no way back. After playing their five games without conceding a goal, the English had not only won their first European title, but had done so in style.

The first taste of success for England in a European women's national team competition.





Serbia's Adem Ljajic up against two French opponents.



Switzerland's Sebastien Wutrich (11) and Slovenia's Matic Fink.



European Under-19 Championship

Donetsk delight

THEY SAY THAT FOOTBALL GOES IN CYCLES. THE YEAR 2008 HAD A RUSSIAN FEEL TO IT, WITH FC ZENIT ST. PETERSBURG TAKING THE UEFA CUP A WEEK BEFORE THE UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE FINAL WAS PLAYED IN MOSCOW AND GOING ON TO TAKE THE UEFA SUPER CUP IN MONACO.

In 2009, just over two months after FC Shakhtar Donetsk had lifted the UEFA Cup in Istanbul, their stadium was the scenario for another Ukrainian triumph, with the national Under-19 team taking the gold medals in the third-last match to be played at the Olimpiyskiy stadium before the move

across the road to FC Shakhtar's state-of-the-art arena.

Ukraine's opponent in the Donetsk final were England, who were completing a hat-trick of UEFA finals in just over a month. But, while the Under-19 women's team was striking gold, the men had to be content with silver medals at the Under-21 and Under-19 finals.

"It's déjà vu," said Brian Eastick, the leader of the Under-19s who had also been among the coaching staff at the Under-21 finals. "It's the same dressing room as the one we had in Sweden a few weeks ago – one that is bitterly disappointed and physically exhausted. But over the 90 minutes, we have no complaints. Ukraine were the better side."

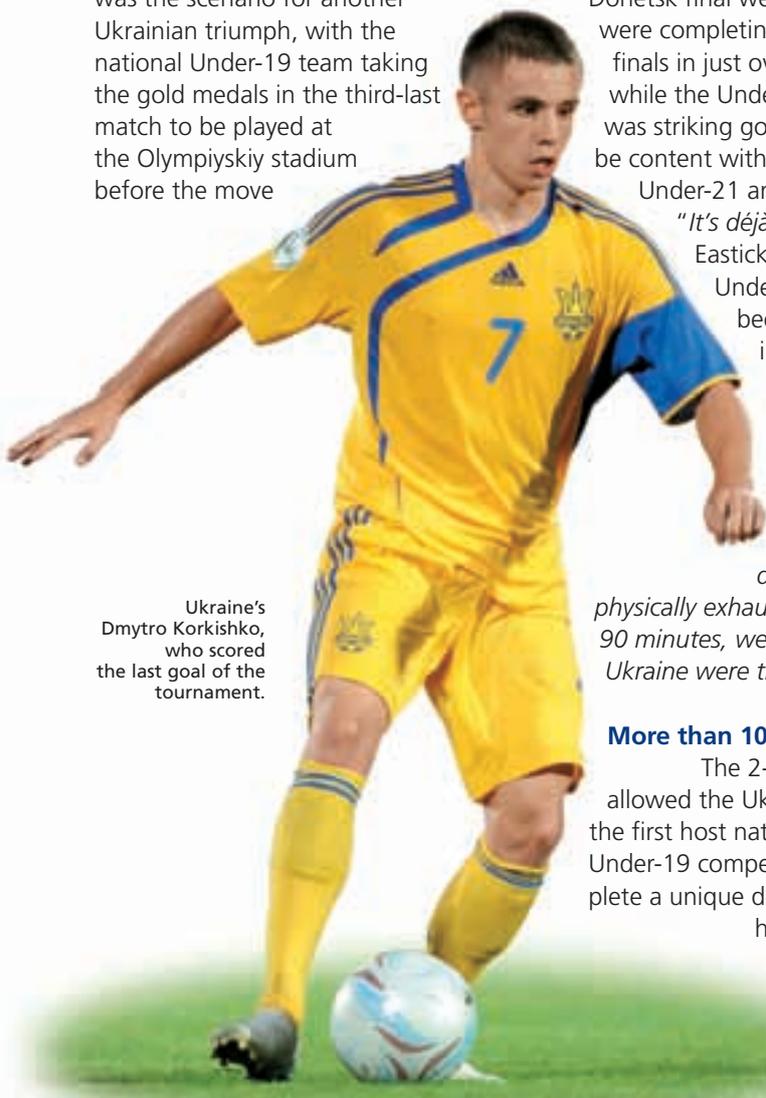
More than 100,000 spectators

The 2-0 win in Donetsk allowed the Ukrainians to become the first host nation to win the Under-19 competition and to complete a unique double, as Germany had, in May, taking the Under-17 title in Magdeburg. The hosts were also

unanimously applauded for the hospitality shown during the nation's debut as the organisers of a youth development tournament and a crowd of 25,100 for the Donetsk final allowed the tournament total to pass the 100,000 mark and set a new record for the Under-19 finals. There was no questioning the passion for football which added colour and ambience to the 15 matches played at 4 venues in Donetsk and Mariupol.

As it happened, two teams from the group based in Donetsk went on to dispute the final. But Group B was also highly competitive. Luis Milla's Spanish side, featuring many of the players who had lifted the Under-17 title in 2007 and 2008, played some delightful creative football but, after a thrilling win against Turkey in a fixture which had been an advertisement for youth football, failed to convert their attractive approach work into enough goals to earn a semi-final place. They were beaten by two set-play goals in their match against Serbia and, after falling behind early on, couldn't find a route through the French defence.

Losing the opening game left Turkey with some hills to climb and, although they then managed to draw with France, a single goal by the Serbs in their final group game condemned them to an early exit. In a group where six games produced only a dozen goals, the French converted three goals (two of them by left-winger Yacine Brahimi) and five points into a date with England in the Donetsk semi-final. Serbia, after an opening 1-1 draw with the French, had looked impressive in defeating the talented Spaniards and Turks. Many neutrals billed them as



Ukraine's Dmytro Korkishko, who scored the last goal of the tournament.

Turkey's Necip Uysal shields the ball from Spain's Thiago Alcantara.



Yacine Brahimi of France fends off two English players in the semi-finals.



A superbly taken free kick secures victory for Ukraine.

favourites in the Mariupol semi-final against the hosts.

Hard route

The Ukrainian coach, Yuriy Kalintvintsev, was the first to admit that his side had taken the hard route to second place in a strange group. The opening day had produced two draws and a third stalemate in the second round of fixtures had left Switzerland in top spot. The draw on the second day turned out to be a preface to the final with the Ukrainians taking the lead in the second minute, falling behind to a pair of goals by England midfielders and clinching a 2-2 draw when midfielder Kyrylo Petrov scored his second of the game. It set up a fascinating closing day and, while England were running up the highest score of the tournament in a 7-1 defeat of Slovenia, the hosts came within a whisker of elimination. In their must-win fixture against the Swiss, frustration got the better of striker Vitaliy Kaverin and two yellow cards just before the interval left the Ukrainians with ten for the whole of the second half. Hopes were dwindling when midfielder Serhiy Rybalka somehow managed to turn a cross into the Swiss net with five minutes remaining. It was the pivotal moment of the hosts' campaign and, with England beset by injury and player-release problems, helped to explain why the Group B teams went into the semi-finals as favourites.

In the event, the Ukrainians got off to another dream start against Serbia in Mariupol, taking the lead in the first minute. Danijel Aleksic's third goal of the tournament brought the Serbs level, but two strikes by FC Dynamo Kyiv midfielder Denys Garmash secured a place in the final. In Donetsk, the drama was longer-lasting with France deservedly taking an early lead and England reacting strongly after surviving a shaky first half-hour. When the game went into extra time, the French were down to ten and, by the time two goals by the tournament's

top scorer Nathan Delfouneso had sealed a 3-1 win, two more French players had earned dismissals. The gruelling half-hour of extra time, coupled with the heat and the fact that the English players were barely into their pre-season training, was to take its toll in the final.

Early goal

It proved to be a case of déjà vu. For the third time in the tournament, the Ukrainians took the lead while the spectators were still settling into their seats – and it was the third time that Brian Eastick's team had conceded an early goal. The corner hammered into the net at the near post by Denys Garmash allowed the Ukrainians to play a contain-and-counter game and the déjà vu thread was lengthened when they exploited another set play to make it 2-0 in exactly the same minute of the second half – the fifth. This time it was a superbly struck free kick by Dmytro Korkishko.

Despite a flurry of changes, there was no way back for the English team and, to the delight of the home crowd, it was the Ukrainian team who climbed the steps to receive gold medals and a trophy which their country had never lifted before. They had come frustratingly close in July



Group A		
21.07	England – Switzerland	1-1
	Ukraine – Slovenia	0-0
24.07	Slovenia – Switzerland	1-2
	Ukraine – England	2-2
27.07	Switzerland – Ukraine	0-1
	Slovenia – England	1-7
Group B		
21.07	France – Serbia	1-1
	Turkey – Spain	1-2
24.07	France – Turkey	1-1
	Serbia – Spain	2-1
27.07	Spain – France	0-1
	Serbia – Turkey	1-0
Semi-finals		
30.07	England – France	3-1 (after extra time)
	Serbia – Ukraine	1-3
Final		
02.08	England – Ukraine	0-2

2000, losing the Under-18 final to France, but this time there was no questioning the merits of their victory. Successfully organising a youth development tournament had been the prime objective but rounding off the country's debut with a gold-medal performance on the pitch meant that, on a sultry August evening, there were no restraints on the delight in Donetsk.



Photos: Sportfile



UEFA-plwoods.ch

The two authors of the study: Marcel Benz (left) and Steffen Gehring.



Sportsfile

In times of crisis, bowing to public pressure is not necessarily the best course of action.

A study of the causes of crisis in professional football

AS PART OF AN EXECUTIVE MBA COURSE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ST GALLEN, MARCEL BENZ, LAWYER AND HEAD OF UEFA'S SPORTS LEGAL SERVICES, AND BARRISTER STEFFEN GEHRING WROTE A JOINT THESIS ON THE CAUSES OF CRISIS IN PROFESSIONAL FOOTBALL. A REVISED VERSION WAS PUBLISHED IN BOOK FORM IN APRIL 2009.

The aim of the book is to investigate the causes of crisis in professional football, to compare these with the causes of crisis in "normal" business and to examine the suitability of the UEFA club licensing system and insolvency law as tools for countering crises in the professional game.

Structure and content

The book is divided into five chapters. The first sets out the structure and organisation of professional football, while the second focuses on scientific studies into the causes of crisis in normal businesses. These studies identify lack of controlling, financing mistakes,

mismanagement of business and staff, underqualified management, white-collar crime and the paying habits of clients as being among the main causes of financial crisis. This second chapter goes on to examine the particularities of sporting competition and how it differs from "normal" business competition



Keppeler/Bongarts/Getty Images

An empirical study was conducted with professional clubs in Germany, Austria and Switzerland.



Fischer/Bongarts/Getty Images

Constructing or renovating infrastructure can cause clubs financial problems.



UEFA-pjwoods.ch

The Club Licensing Committee during one of its meetings in Nyon

(e.g. promotion/relegation, geographical and time restrictions on championships, short-term dependence on success, and transfer regulations). On this basis, a list is drawn up of possible causes of crisis in professional football specifically, such as lack of sporting success, players' salaries and transfer fees, investment in infrastructure (stadiums), rigging of matches and competition, and withdrawal of sponsorship.

In chapter three, the authors examine their own empirical research among professional clubs in German-speaking countries (Germany, Austria and Switzerland), the licensors in these three countries and insolvency administrators to see whether the list of possible crisis causes is true to life. In the remaining chapters, the authors consider the UEFA club licensing system (chapter four) and insolvency law (chapter five) to determine whether these tools can be used to effectively counter the identified and confirmed causes of crisis. The results of these comprehensive analyses lead to concrete recommendations for clubs, licensors and UEFA.

Main results of empirical research

The authors' empirical study shows that financial crises are assessed differently by the different parties. While clubs are not particularly self-critical and tend to attribute crises to outside causes (e.g. the economy), licensors and insolvency administrators put them down to causes within the clubs (mismanagement, errors in staff management, financing mistakes and lack of controlling). Asked to name the main cause of crisis, most respondents cited squads (transfer fees and salaries), financial conduct and lack of controlling. The results from Germany were slightly different, with stadium infrastructure often given as a cause. This is probably linked to the facilities built for the 2006 FIFA World Cup. Some clubs slipped into financial crisis as a result of such investments. The authors also looked into secondary effects,

finding, for example, that 75% of clubs in crisis subsequently changed management.

UEFA club licensing system

The club licensing system is an important tool for enforcing financial fair play in UEFA competitions, however it cannot be a single "cure-all" for financial crises in football. This is one of the main conclusions drawn by the authors. The first reason given is that financial crises last longer than the one-year licensing period. The second is that the causes of crisis differ from country to country. The authors, therefore, call for the causes of crisis to be factored into future considerations of financial fair play and taken into account when deciding how to approach these important issues. This means systematically examining the real causes of clubs' financial difficulties. Do they, for example, lack qualified staff or control mechanisms, or do they perhaps take too many risks when investing in transfers, without first securing the necessary funds? The authors also called for clubs' experiences to be collected centrally and made accessible to them all. UEFA already has an effective means of achieving this with its regular benchmarking reports. UEFA and the licensors

could help to shorten the learning curve and provide platforms for exchanging opinions and experiences, as well as for training. The authors also consider it important that the right tools be identified and used to counter the different causes of crisis.

Recommendations to clubs

In finance, the recommendation is simply to not spend above your means. Emphasis is also placed on appointing well-qualified managers and executives. The authors call for institutionalised risk management within clubs, where all possible scenarios and their consequences are run through and suitable measures devised. Only those who do this vital preparation regularly and take it seriously can act calmly and sensibly if a crisis hits – be it sporting or financial – and thus avoid kneejerk reactions driven by fans and the media. In the short-termist, heavily success-oriented world of club football, more weight must be given to long-term planning, as this is the only way to ensure long-term survival.

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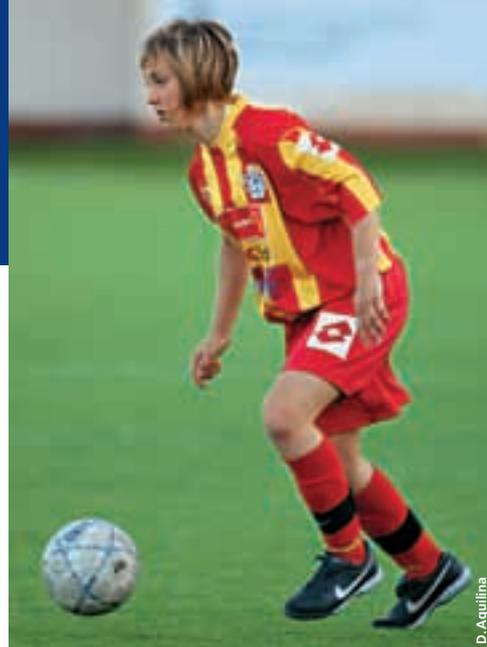


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Last season, FC Birkirkara dominated women's football in Malta, winning the league, the cup and the super cup.

Despite her young age, Rachael Cuschieri is a key player for Birkirkara and the Maltese national team.



D. Aquilina

Women's football development

Clear progress in Malta

WHILE THE TOP NATIONAL TEAMS ARE STEALING THE LIMELIGHT AT THE MOMENT, AS THE CURRENT EUROPEAN WOMEN'S CHAMPIONSHIP REACHES ITS CONCLUSION AT THE WOMEN'S EURO 2009 IN FINLAND, WOMEN'S FOOTBALL CONTINUES TO MAKE STRIDES THROUGHOUT EUROPE, AS WITNESSED BY ITS PROGRESS IN MALTA.

Thanks to the continuous efforts of the Malta Football Association (MFA), women's football in Malta is fast gaining popularity and becoming one of the favourite sports of women and girls of all ages.

The domestic competitions organised last season by the MFA consisted of the league, the cup and the super cup. A total of 13 teams took part in these three competitions – three more than the previous season, the newcomers being Gozo FC, Tarxien FC, and Hamrun Spartans FC.

For the first time the teams were divided into two divisions, with five teams competing in the first division and major league, and the remaining eight teams in the second division – the main venue for all matches being the approved artificial turf at the Luxol St. Andrew's SC complex.

Birkirkara FC were declared champions in the top division and went on to win the treble: league title, national cup and super cup.

The national team

Last season the Malta women's national team participated in two friendly mini-tournaments organised with the help of UEFA for the teams eliminated in the qualifiers for the European Women's Championship. The Maltese team obtained credible results in these mini-tournaments, after having already celebrated a first away victory in June last year in a

game in Estonia. The national team played in a UEFA mini-tournament in FYR Macedonia in November, where they drew with Estonia and lost narrowly to FYR Macedonia and Armenia. In the UEFA mini-tournament played in Malta last June, Malta clocked up two very good wins, against Latvia (4-0) and Luxembourg (1-0), before eventually losing to Bulgaria (0-1).

What was most encouraging from these mini-tournaments was not only the results, but also the quality of football played and the overall improvement shown by the

team. This is a result of all the hard work being put in by all those involved with the national team, especially the coach, Pierre Brincat, and his staff.

Development

The chairman of the women's football committee, Ludovico Micallef, says about women's football on the island:

"The Malta Football Association, through its women's football committee, is doing its utmost to develop and improve women's and girls' football. More and more girls – around 250 participated in the U15 festival – are playing football. More nurseries are getting involved in this aspect of the game. Nurturing our young girls in the nurseries augurs well for the future of women's football in Malta."



In the tournament it hosted, Malta relished victory twice.

D. Aquilina



Maltese player Mandy Debono (13) up against Skaidrite Vulane, captain of Latvia.

D. Aquilina



Pierre Brincat, coach of the Maltese women's national team.

D. Aquilina

Women's football in Malta is also being introduced at schools all over the island, in an effort to see women's football flourish on the island even further.

The introduction of women's football competitions has attracted a number of women to take refereeing and coaching courses run by the local association, which is now recognised at A level by the UEFA Coaching Convention.

A good example of this is Esther Azzopardi, an official FIFA international referee, who was recently selected for the 2nd European Women's Under-17 Championship final round in Nyon, Switzerland, from 22 to 25 June.

Evident progress

In the recent UEFA mini-tournament which was held in Malta in early June, the Maltese ladies clearly showed tremendous improvement.

Evergreen Malta captain Rebecca D'Agostino has seen Maltese women's football progress over the years. *"Women's football in Malta has gradually progressed the hard way. I really consider this last tournament as a very beautiful experience and a positive one. Our first victory on home soil finally arrived against Latvia, followed by a second consecutive win against Luxembourg. In the process we did not concede a single goal in the first two matches, and when you consider that the nucleus of the squad was made up of very young players, this gives you more reason to look to the future with great optimism,"* she said.

Female talent

A player who left a very good impression during the last UEFA mini-tournament in Malta was Rachael Cuschieri. Still only 17, Rachael started playing football when she was still a toddler or almost!

"I was kicking a ball by the age of three, and I owe all this to my two brothers, David and Chris, who always encouraged me to take up football seriously."

"My ambition is to play professional women's football abroad. This is why I am always striving hard to improve

my game and remain at the peak of my form. I believe that maybe I gave my best performances so far in this last UEFA mini-tournament here in Malta. I think we have improved over the years. The more we play against big teams the more we can improve."

In full preparation

Malta's women's national team is in full preparation for the FIFA Women's World Cup qualifying campaign, for which the islanders are in Group 5 with England, Spain, Austria and Turkey.

Expressing her views about the development of women's football on the island, the general secretary of the Malta women's national team, Tanya Gravina, said:

"The last tournament in Malta proved to be a very positive one for the national team. Two successive wins with clean sheets in the opening two encounters of the tournament, against Latvia and Luxembourg, plus a very positive performance against the eventual winners of the tournament, Bulgaria, has bolstered the team's morale ahead of the tough group in the FIFA World Cup qualifying competition."

The man behind the team

The person on whom Maltese women's football is relying is its women's national team coach, Pierre Brincat.

A staunch believer in the progress of women's football on the island, 48-year-old Brincat is himself a former professional player with Floriana FC, Zurrieq FC and the Malta national team. Despite stumbling blocks, Brincat has seen Maltese women's football progress and has never doubted his belief in women's football in Malta.

"I started my women's football coaching career with girls at Hibernians FC. At the same time I also became part of the Malta Football Association coaching staff as head coach of the Malta Under-17 and Under-19 men's teams."

It was during this time that Joseph Mifsud, president of the Malta Football Association, asked me about taking on the Malta women's national team."

"I immediately accepted the offer, as this was a great challenge for me to try something new from scratch."

"Another important issue we are always working on is to get more girls to take up the game of football at a very young age – say six years old. We do not really have age gaps between our players and maybe in the future we will even have a women's national Under-17 team."



Sportsfile

Esther Azzopardi officiates during the European Women's Under-17 Championship final round in Nyon.

"Our main concern at the moment is the forthcoming FIFA World Cup qualifiers against England, Spain, Austria and Turkey – all very strong teams. This is definitely a big challenge for all of us, but rest assured that we will be working hard on this."

"I personally think that these UEFA mini-tournaments were a great success and helped all small women's football nations like us to improve by playing, competing and gauging our own improvement."

Definitely a case of ladies in the football making!

Domenic Aquilina

UEFA Champions League contributes to youth player development

A SHARE OF UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE REVENUE IS EARMARKED FOR THE UPPER-DIVISION CLUBS OF UEFA MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS.

These payments fall within the UEFA Champions League solidarity scheme, which aims to support youth development activities and ties in with other UEFA initiatives such as the club licensing scheme and the rules on locally trained players.

They are not, however, automatic, but subject to a number of conditions. Firstly, these contributions are reserved for clubs that did not play in the UEFA Champions League in question (from the group stage), given that the participating clubs receive their own slice of the financial cake (see *uefadirect* No 87).



– UEFA must also know exactly how the solidarity payments are distributed (beneficiary clubs and respective amounts);

– payment requests must reach UEFA by 31 December 2009.

It is up to the national distribution body to decide if payments are made to all eligible clubs or only to those in the top-most division, and if each club receives the same amount or if quality criteria come into play. The national body also decides whether it needs to draw up special rules to ensure that the money is used according to UEFA's objective of youth player training. In agreement with the clubs, the league or association may also keep all or part of the money to coordinate the youth training programme at regional or national level.

For distribution purposes, the leagues are divided into two categories. In the first category are the 17 leagues which had at least one club in the 2008/09 UEFA Champions League. They benefit from a share in more than EUR 36 million, depending on the contribution of their domestic markets to overall UEFA Champions League revenue.

Italy	6 453 000
England	6 324 000
Germany	4 161 000
Spain	3 850 000
France	3 657 000
Netherlands	2 627 000
Greece	1 402 000
Turkey	1 338 000
Scotland	1 103 000
Denmark	1 005 000
Portugal	810 000
Switzerland	715 000
Romania	683 000
Russia	575 000
Ukraine	517 000
Cyprus	475 000
Belarus	405 000
Total	EUR 36 100 000



The UEFA Champions League is also an opportunity for young players and elite players to come together.

The 36 other associations will share in just over EUR 7.2 million, also divided up according to the value of the domestic markets, as follows:

Belgium	393 700
Norway	339 500
Austria	329 500
Poland	303 400
Sweden	275 300
Republic of Ireland	229 900
Hungary	214 900
Israel	213 500
Iceland	210 400
Czech Republic	208 300
Croatia	191 200
Serbia	188 100
Albania	185 700
Bulgaria	181 200
Finland	180 600
Slovenia	179 800
Georgia	174 300
Malta	173 800
Bosnia-Herzegovina	172 900
Slovakia	171 500
Armenia	171 200
Kazakhstan	170 300
FYR Macedonia	170 000
Montenegro	169 100
Azerbaijan	168 000
Moldova	167 200
Lithuania	167 100
Latvia	167 100
Estonia	167 100
Northern Ireland	166 700
Wales	166 700
Faroe Islands	166 700
Luxembourg	166 700
Liechtenstein	166 700
Andorra	166 700
San Marino	166 700
TOTAL	EUR 7 201 500

As was the case the previous season, each league is guaranteed a minimum of EUR 166,700



Secondly, since the purpose of these payments is to contribute to youth player development, the clubs must at least have a youth training programme that meets the criteria of the UEFA-approved national club licensing manual.

Payments are made only via the national associations, which transfer the full amount to their top leagues (associations which do not have a recognised league distribute the money themselves).

Three conditions have to be met for UEFA to pay out:

– UEFA has to know on what basis the money will be distributed (equal shares to all eligible clubs or according to quality criteria);



The draw for the UEFA Women's Champions League was conducted by Mircea Sandu (left), chairman of the Women's Football Committee.

UEFA-pjwoods.ch



News from Brussels

Only a Game?, the touring interactive UEFA exhibition which explores Europe's love of football in a cultural, entertaining and educational way, will soon be setting up in its third location, Istanbul, with the valuable support of the Turkish Football Federation (TFF).



Following its success in Brussels (May-August 2007) and Liverpool (October 2008-April 2009), the *Only a Game?* exhibition is crossing the continent from west to east for a spell on the banks of the Bosphorus from January to August 2010.

It is not by chance that the exhibition is moving to Istanbul. The city has always had a natural passion for football and boasts three legendary football clubs, Besiktas JK, Fenerbahçe SK and Galatasaray SK. It also hosted the last ever UEFA Cup final on 20 May this year.

The economic capital of Turkey has also been designated a European Capital of Culture in →

Competitions and other activities

THE QUALIFYING ROUND FOR THE NEW UEFA WOMEN'S CHAMPIONS LEAGUE INVOLVED 28 CLUBS PLAYING MINI-TOURNAMENTS IN SEVEN GROUPS BETWEEN 30 JULY AND 4 AUGUST.

The seven group winners now go through to the round of 32, all having won their three qualifying round games and scored an average of more than three goals a match in the process. FC Bayern München performed best of all, clocking up 32 goals for and only 2 against. In the order of the qualifying round groups, the seven group winners are FC Bayern München, Montpellier Hérault SC, Brøndby IF, ASD Torres Calcio, Linköpings FC, WFC Rossiyanka and Everton LFC.

In the round of 32, they are joined by the titleholders, FCR 2001 Duisburg, and the champion clubs of

the top 24 associations in the UEFA rankings.



The draw for this round was made at the House of European Football in Nyon on 14 August (see uefa.com for the results).

The ties are scheduled for 30 September and 7 October, with the winners qualifying for the round of 16 on 4 and 11 November, the draw for which was also made on 14 August. The next draw will be on 20 November, for the quarter and semi-finals.

European Futsal Championship – Draw in Debrecen

From 19 to 30 January, Hungary will be playing host to the final round of the European Futsal Championship.

The host nation, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Czech Republic, Italy, Portugal, Russia, Serbia, Slovenia, Spain and Ukraine are already preparing to conquer the title currently in the hands of Spain. The 12 finalists will soon know who their group opponents will be, as the draw for the final round takes place at the Kölcsey convention centre in Debrecen on 24 September.

Fair play prizes for Iceland and Serbia

As usual, the fair play of the teams in the recent European Under-19 championship final rounds was rated and prizes awarded to the winners.



Linköpings player Kosovare Asllani attempts to win the ball from Clujana's Ionela Ilinca.

Bildbyrån

→ 2010. It is in this context, and thanks to the support of the TFF, that *Only a Game?* will be on show at the Taksim art gallery in the heart of the city centre.

"We're really lucky to be taking Only a Game? to Istanbul because it's a symbolic European city with a passionate love of football. In view of its location, the Taksim art gallery should allow the exhibition to be experienced by visitors from the whole region and even beyond," said Olivier Guilbaud, who designed the exhibition.

While allowing the public to visit the exhibition as they would a museum, *Only a Game?* also invites people of all ages to reflect on the sociocultural impact of the world's number one sport. Key figures from Turkish and European football will tell their stories, emphasising the human side of the game, from the 1950s to the present day, and the solidarity that it produces between people of different nationalities, cultures and languages.

Senes Erzik, UEFA first vice-president and honorary president of the TFF, attended the exhibition's inauguration in Liverpool and was already delighted by the enthusiasm drummed up by the initiative. *"It's a fantastic event for conveying the message that football is a family, all together, where there is no discrimination. In today's society, football wants to prove once again that it brings people together. It's a great way to deliver a social message."*

Football fans can already make a note in their diaries that *Only a Game?* will be appearing at the Taksim art gallery in Istanbul next year.



Iceland (Silvia Ran Sigurdardottir) won the fair play prize in the European Women's Under-19 Championship.



France have won the European championship for blind players.

→ In the European Women's Under-19 Championship, Iceland finished top of the rankings with 9.047 points from three matches, ahead of Belarus (9.023 from three matches) and France (8.714 from four matches). All the teams achieved an average of more than eight points.

In the men's competition, Serbia got the highest number of points (9.071 from four matches), followed by Spain (8,380 from three matches) and the losing finalists, England (8.114 from five matches).

FIFA U-20 World Cup – Final round in Egypt

From 24 September to 16 October, the FIFA U-20 World Cup takes place in Egypt.

Europe has six teams involved, who qualified via last year's European Under-19 Championship final round in the Czech Republic.

They are the winners of that championship, Germany, the runners-up, Italy, the Czech Republic, Bulgaria, England and Spain.

The draw for the FIFA U-20 World Cup took place in Luxor on 5 April and placed the 24 participating teams into the following six groups:

- Group A (Cairo):** Egypt, Trinidad and Tobago, Paraguay, Italy
- Group B (Cairo):** Nigeria, Venezuela, Spain, Tahiti
- Group C (Suez):** USA, Germany, Cameroon, Korea Republic
- Group D (Ismailia):** Ghana, Uzbekistan, England, Uruguay



Germany, champions in 2007/08, are heading Europe's delegation for the FIFA U-20 World Cup.

Group E (Port Said): Brazil, Costa Rica, Czech Republic, Australia

Group F (Alexandria): United Arab Emirates, South Africa, Honduras, Hungary.

The group matches run from 24 September to 3 October. The group winners, runners-up and best four third-placed teams then compete in the first knockout round from 5 to 7 October. The quarter-finals follow on 9 and 10 October, the semi-finals on 13 October and the final and third-place play-off on 16 October.

Elite Club Coaches Forum in Nyon

For some years now, it has been customary for the coaches of some of Europe's top clubs to come together for the UEFA Elite Club Coaches Forum.

This year's gathering takes place at UEFA's headquarters in Nyon on 3 and 4 September. Held away from the tension of the competitions, it gives the coaches the opportunity to share their views freely, as well as to give UEFA their opinions and suggestions on topics of particular concern to them.

European Blind Football Championship

The European Blind Football Championship took place in Nantes in France from 28 June to 4 July.

In the category for blind players, France beat England in the final, having won all their group matches along the way. In the competition for visually impaired players, Belarus took the title, defeating Ukraine in the final.

Organised under the auspices of the ISBA (International Blind Sport Federation), the championship received financial support from UEFA.

AUSTRIA



Campaigning against violence

The start of the new Austrian football season also heralded the launch of a joint initiative between the ministry of the interior, the Austrian FA and the Bundesliga, which have agreed to intensify their cooperation in the field of safety and security at football matches, in particular as far as prevention is concerned.

Under the slogan *Die Welle gegen Gewalt* (the wave against violence), a nationwide poster campaign kicked off at the same time as the 2009/10 Bundesliga season.

At their first home matches, all ten Bundesliga clubs took a stand against violence, as did all Erste Liga clubs in their first two matches, taking the agreement of cooperation signed by the ministry, the football association and the league one step further by getting everyone responsible for football in Austria in on the action.

Players in these top two divisions made a statement against violence in football by displaying banners on the field before kick-off, and a short, emotional advertisement was shown on the giant screen to highlight the shared passion that football produces.

The aim of the campaign against violence is to take this shared passion further and to place the love of football, which transcends all colours, above everything else.

That fans' enthusiasm and love of football rises above all the different groups of supporters and makes them feel united.

Having started with prominent players from the ten top division clubs, the campaign will extend nationwide.

The poster campaign and the kick-off activities at the start of the new football season, as well as the publicity given to the campaign by the clubs, will raise awareness and encourage respectful behaviour in football, as well as drawing attention to the extensive package of preventive measures that the ministry of the interior, the Austrian FA, the Bundesliga and the clubs in the top two divisions plan to implement. ■

Peter Klinglmüller



Austria
The campaign poster.

AZERBAIJAN



AFFA and Azercell sign contract

The FA of Azerbaijan (AFFA) and Azercell Telecom have signed a cooperation contract. At the signing ceremony at the Hyatt Park hotel, the AFFA president, Rovnag Abdullayev, said: *"The AFFA organises various projects under the state programme for football development, endorsed by Ilham Aliyev, the president of Azerbaijan. Today's ceremony is in aid of one such project. We do our best to strengthen and increase the popularity of youth football throughout the country and we hope that*

the contract being signed today will enhance the development of our football. I would like to add that the cooperation between the AFFA and Azercell started some time ago. As a result of this cooperation, the friendly match between Turkey and Azerbaijan in Kayseri will be broadcast in Azerbaijan with the support of Azercell. Another unifying factor for the AFFA and Azercell is our mottoes. They are almost identical. The AFFA's is 'We are stronger together!', while Azercell's is 'A value connecting us'. We hope that with the values connecting us, we will become even stronger."

The floor was then given the president of Azercell Telecom, Ali Aghan. He pointed out that his company actively participated in all areas of public life in Azerbaijan and football was no exception. After the speeches, Rovnag Abdullayev and Ali Aghan officially signed the cooperation contract. The AFFA president then gave the Azercell president a No 14 Azerbaijan football shirt signed by all the members of the national team and the presidents were photographed with the players. ■

Mikayil Narimanoglu



Azerbaijan
The assistance contract is expected to give football in Azerbaijan a boost.

BELARUS



European Women's Under-19 final round in Belarus

In July three Belarus cities – Minsk, Molochno and Borisov – hosted the final round of the European Women's Under-19 Championship. It was the first time that Belarus had organised such an important event.

The group matches were played in Molochno and Borisov and at three other stadiums in Minsk: Torpedo, Darida and Traktor.

Surprisingly, Germany did not make it past the group stage. France and Switzerland qualified as the winners and runners-up respectively in Group A. England, with seven goals for and none against, finished top of Group B. Sweden were second. The semi-final between France and Sweden was more than dramatic. At the end of the second half, the score was 2-2, with Sweden equalising just a couple of minutes before the whistle. In extra time the Nordic girls scored three more goals and made it into the final.

In the final, Sweden came face to face again with England, who did not seem to have any

problems in winning their semi-final against Switzerland 3-0.

The final match between Sweden and England in Borisov was attended by the UEFA president, Michel Platini. England put on an excellent performance, scoring two goals. And their goalkeeper kept a clean sheet.

The attendance of the matches in the tournament broke all previous records. By the end of the group stage, the total number of spectators

had already broken the previous record, which took account of the whole tournament. It goes without saying that there were no vacant seats in the stadium for the final.

The girls had many interesting social events and got on really well together. At the players' party, there were no rivals or opposing teams. Everyone was dancing and having fun as if there were no language barriers or games to play against each other. ■

Yulia Zenkovich



Belgium
Joseph S. Blatter with the prime minister, Herman Van Rompuy (left), and King Albert II.

BELGIUM



FIFA president in Brussels

The FIFA president, Joseph S. Blatter, was in Brussels on 20 July for a courtesy visit organised by the president of the Belgian Football Association, François De Keersmaecker.

Mr Blatter had the opportunity to meet key Belgian and Brussels politicians. His first port of call was a meeting with the prime minister, Herman Van Rompuy, before being received by King Albert II at the royal palace and then meeting the mayor of Brussels, Freddy Thielemans, at the town hall.

The FIFA president was accompanied by a delegation which included, in particular, Michel D'Hooghe, member of the FIFA Executive Committee; Christian Karembeu, ambassador for the Belgian-Dutch bid to host the 2018 or 2022 World Cup; and representatives of the Belgian and Dutch football associations.

The joint Belgian-Dutch bid was, naturally, one of the topics of discussion and the FIFA president used the opportunity to confirm that a joint bid was acceptable as long as it consisted of one single organisational unit.

Among the other subjects on the agenda were ways to make the so-called 6+5 rule a reality, i.e. the FIFA Congress proposal to protect the national teams and training clubs, as well as to allow the clubs to retain their national identity by limiting the number of foreign players on the team sheet to five.

In addition, the FIFA president was assured that within the framework of the Belgian presidency of the Council of the European Union during the second half of 2010, the specificity of sport would be addressed, with a view to sport no longer being considered as only an economic activity but also as a social and educational one. Belgium will also cooperate closely on this matter with Spain, which will hold the EU presidency in the first half of 2010, and with Hungary, which will take over from Belgium for the first half of 2011. ■

Pierre Cornez



Bosnia-Herzegovina
Borac and Zeljeznicar met in the Under-15 final.



F. Kravac

BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA



Successful new youth competition system

It is one year since the competition system was changed in the youth leagues, which are now organised geographically instead of along political lines, and the results are positive. The division of the Under-17 (cadets) and Under-19 (juniors) premier leagues into two groups (north and south) has worked well and the second category youth competitions are organised along the same lines.

The new system has improved quality and given the players more matches. At the end, the top two teams from each regional group enter centralised semi-finals.

In the cadets' competition, Siroki Brijeg played Borac (Banja Luka) and Zeljeznicar (Sarajevo) met Sloboda (Tuzla) in the two-leg semi-finals. Siroki Brijeg and Zeljeznicar went on to the final, also played in two legs. After no goals in either match, Siroki Brijeg were crowned champions thanks to their superior performance in the penalty shootout.

At junior level, the semi-finals were Sloboda (Tuzla) v Sarajevo and Zeljeznicar (Sarajevo) v Celik (Zenica), with Sarajevo and Celik making it into the two-leg final. Both matches ended in draws (3-3 in Sarajevo and 1-1 in Zenica), but Celik were crowned champions, having scored more away goals.

The final stage of the Under-15 (pioneers) championship involved eight teams, with five representatives of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and three Republika Srpska teams. Borac were ultimately crowned pioneer champions of Bosnia-Herzegovina after a 2-1 victory over Zeljeznicar.

The Bosnia-Herzegovina junior cup final was contested in two legs by Zrinjski (Mostar) and Radnik (Hadzici). Zrinjski won 1-0 in Hadzici and Radnik achieved the same result in Mostar, so it went to a penalty shootout, which Zrinjski won 6-5.

Young female footballers in Bosnia-Herzegovina have no organised league system. In an attempt to increase the popularity of the women's game, grassroots "camps of the future" have been organised under the auspices of UEFA and the Football Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The goal of the camps is to bring together the most talented girls born between 1991 and 1996. A selection of Under-19, women's club and Open Fun Football School coaches help the girls enhance their skills with a view to forming Under-19 and senior national teams. During the camps, the promising young footballers focus purely on the game (girls love football), with sessions on technique and tactics, football rules, fair play rules, nutrition for young athletes, code of conduct, racial, gender and national equality and the philosophy of female athletes. "Camps of the future" have been held in Vogosca, Kakanj, Breza, Visoko and Zupca. ■

Fuad Kravac

CROATIA



Futsal tradition

Around this time, we are celebrating several anniversaries of significance to Croatian football. One is the 40th anniversary of the Josip Krajacic school in Nova Gradiska winning the first primary school futsal championship of the former joint Yugoslav association. This was the first futsal competition organised by the Yugoslav FA.

Futsal has a great tradition in Croatia. We were among the first in Europe to include futsal as an organised game within our federation; it was way back in 1958 that we issued the first Laws of the Game for Futsal and as long ago as 1962 that we organised the first Croatian Under-15 futsal championship.

We are also pleased with the level of quality achieved by our club and national futsal teams. On several occasions we have successfully organised qualifying mini-tournaments in European futsal championships.

Croatia
The first futsal champions, going back 40 years.

Given all our achievements to date, we cannot but bid to host the final round of the European Futsal Championship in 2012. We have excellent conditions now: big comfortable halls (arenas constructed for the World Handball Championship), hotels of the highest quality and good transport infrastructure. We hope our bid to host the tournament will be successful.

We have used the summer period to establish beach soccer on our coast. Football in such conditions is a mixture of sport and fun, and the aim is for people to enjoy the game. At the same time, we are preparing to construct playing fields in accordance with the FIFA regulations, as well as coach education courses.

The new football season has already started. The 16-club Croatian top division will show who was right: those who advocated a decrease in the number of clubs from 12 (which was how many there were in the 2008/09 season) to 10, or the majority, who were in favour of 16 clubs. One good thing is the increase in stadiums with much better infrastructure, in accordance with the club licensing regulations for the respective level of competition. ■

Ante Pavlovic



Cyprus
The seminar for referees and assistant referees.



CYPRUS

Football development in all its forms

The Cyprus Football Association (CFA) held its annual referees and assistant referees seminar from 10 to 12 July. It was a great success, as witnessed by the presence of UEFA referee instructor Valentin Ivanov.

In his opening speech, the president of the CFA, Costakis Koutsokoumnis, reaffirmed that our association would greatly support efforts for further development and progress in refereeing and that it would do everything in its power to meet the UEFA criteria and eventually join the UEFA Referee Convention.

To this end, Robert B. Valentine visited Cyprus earlier this month on behalf of UEFA, for discussions with the director of our refereeing department.

Grassroots football development is another important area in our country and something to which the CFA's board of directors always pays great attention. As a result, it has decided to financially encourage teams to participate in as many youth championships as possible, with a total of EUR 250,000 earmarked for this purpose.

Moreover, our coach education department is preparing to hold phase two of its UEFA Pro diploma course from 31 August to 8 September this year.

Finally, UEFA has announced the appointment of three members of the CFA to UEFA committees.

The president, Costakis Koutsokoumnis, is continuing as the first vice-president of the HatTrick Committee; the first vice-president, George Koumas, has been given his first appointment on the UEFA Stadium and Security Committee; and the general secretary, Phivos Vakis, has also been appointed for the first time, in his case to the UEFA Fair Play and Social Responsibility Committee. ■

Kyriakos Giorgallis

GEORGIA



Tsalenjikha win 2009 School Ball

Batumi hosted the final round of the 2009 School Ball from 15 to 19 June, for which 16 teams qualified. The final was a very tense match that ended 2-2 and had to go to penalties. Eventually, Lia school from the Tsalenjikha region defeated Apkhazia 6-5. The Apkhazia team was made up of referees from Apkhazia living in Chkhorosku.

ENGLAND



Princess Takamado of Japan visits The FA

The honorary patron of the Japan Football Association, Her Imperial Highness Princess Takamado, was greeted at The FA headquarters in mid-July by the FIFA and UEFA vice-president Geoffrey Thompson and the chief executive of The FA, Ian Watmore. Princess Takamado was part of a Japanese delegation including the director of the Japan information and cultural centre of the Japanese embassy in London, as well as the education attaché and her two private secretaries.

Following meetings with Geoffrey Thompson and Ian Watmore, Princess Takamado was taken on a tour of The FA offices before heading off to the Royal Over-Seas League for a brunch reception. Later that afternoon she visited Clarence House, the official residence of the Prince of Wales. ■

Lucia Sanchez



England
Princess Takamado with Geoffrey Thompson (left) and Ian Watmore.

FRANCE



France unveils its EURO 2016 bid logo

France moved another step ahead in the race to host UEFA EURO 2016 when, on 1 July, the French Football Federation (FFF) unveiled the logo for the French bid. Under the slogan "Le foot comme on l'aime" (football as we love it), the logo is designed to illustrate the main focus of the country's bid: a united, socially aware, ecological, modern and festive EURO.

"We wanted a logo that was simple, cheerful and meaningful, and a slogan that we liked," said Jean-Pierre Escalettes, president of the FFF. "Football as we love it means a game that makes us dream, brings people together and gives us shared moments of enjoyment among friends united in a common passion, a love of football."

France
The French bid logo.



The headquarters of the FFF on the Boulevard de Grenelle in the 15th district of Paris, was then adorned with the logo to highlight the commitment and energy being put in to this great challenge by the federation.

As an experienced organiser of international competitions, FIFA and UEFA have placed their trust in the FFF many times in recent years and each time it has proved its expertise and efficiency by summoning up its skills, showing its professionalism and rallying the public and the supporters around the project.

According to a nationwide poll conducted in May, 63% of the French population have already expressed support for the bid to host EURO 2016. Now it is time for an all-out effort for a project that goes far beyond the realms of football, a mission that concerns the whole of the French population. ■

Yann Perrin

The annual School Ball tournament for state schools has been running since 2006. This year's qualifying round involved 1,700 schools and lasted four months. The following teams made it through to the final round: Varketili, Kutaisi, Oni, Batumi, Tbilisi school No 52, Bolnisi, Tbilisi school No 147, Akhaltsikhe, Tbilisi school No 174, Khashuri, Mtskheta, Gurjaani, Krtsanisi, Apkhazia, Tsalenjikha and Ozurgeti.

The 16 teams were split into 4 groups, with the winners and runners up entering the quarter-finals. In the semi-finals, Apkhazia beat Bolnisi 1-0 and Tsalenjikha won 2-0 against Mtskheta. Bolnisi won the third-place play-off 3-1 after penalties (0-0 after normal time).

Afterwards, the organisers named the best players of the tournament: Giorgi Papava (Apkhazia) was selected as best goalkeeper, Girogi Djakeli (Bolnisi) best defender and Giorgi Bunturi (Varketili) best striker. Denis Gergedava (Tsalenjikha) was named player of the tournament and the fans' choice was Levan Bokuchava (Apkhazia).

Tsalenjikha, the winners of the 2009 School Ball, earned a place in the international Alanya Cup, held in Turkey at the beginning of July.

The 2006 School Ball was won by Tbilisi school No 166, the 2007 edition went to Zugdidi school No 1 and last year school No 1 of Ambrolauri were crowned champions. ■

Lasha Goduadze

GERMANY



Top photographer puts Germany's women's team under the spotlight

Ball skills are something that the German national women's team regularly display on the football pitch. Now, however, they have also demonstrated them in front of the camera. The result is a set of tasteful black and white photos under the title of "Ballgefühl" (which roughly translates as "a feel for the ball").

Horst Hamann, who is well known for his book New York Vertical, photographed the players in the studio.

"The photos show self-confident and attractive footballers, each with her own character. We've got some lovely photos with wonderful details. They evoke so much – from power to poetry," Hamann said.

The photos come from a photo shoot in connection with the team's preparations for the Women's EURO 2009, during which the girls spent a day in front of the camera lens. Hamann explained that "photographing the players in the studio rather than in their usual environment was a really exciting challenge for me, the appeal of which was to tease out each player's individuality and personality, without losing their identities as top sportswomen".



Germany

Portraying the women's national team from a different angle.

Although he was only able to photograph each player for a few minutes, he is very pleased with the results: "All the credit goes to the players. They were fantastic. Although they aren't models, they cooperated brilliantly. Not only were they willing, but they were extremely professional in front of the camera and were a real inspiration for me," Hamann said. ■

Niels Barnhofer

KAZAKHSTAN



New stadium in the capital

A new football stadium in Astana, the capital of Kazakhstan, was inaugurated on 3 July. The stadium, which was given the working name Kazhymukan in honour of the famous wrestler Kazhymukan Munaitpasov, seats 30,000 spectators and has a retractable roof. The pitch is covered by state-of-the-art artificial turf. During the inauguration, spectators were intrigued by a huge square in the middle of the pitch, but they had to wait until the end to find out what was hidden inside. In the meantime, they watched a colourful show that involved more than 2,000 people and culminated in the appearance of two large Kazakhstan and Astana flags, while the national anthem of the Republic of Kazakhstan was playing.

The president of Kazakhstan, Nursultan Nazarbayev, delivered a welcome speech. "On the eve of the capital's anniversary celebrations

we always gladden Kazakhstan people with new things. Today is a particularly special case. We are putting into service one of the best stadiums in the world. There are no other buildings of its kind in our region. This roofed stadium will enable our athletes to train both in winter and summer. It meets all UEFA requirements," said the head of state. A representative of the Turkish building company that worked on the new arena and Talgat Adyrbekov, the captain of the U21 national team, also addressed the crowd.

Then, to music by the group Ringo, the square in the middle of the pitch finally opened and a giant ball rose into the air above the beautiful new arena. There were also more than 100 real footballs thrown into all four stands by young footballers as presents for the spectators.

After the opening ceremony, the stadium's first match kicked off, in which the capital's side, FC Lokomotiv Astana, played the Kazakhstan U21 team. The appearance of world-renowned celebrities in the team line-ups was a great surprise. Guest stars on the U21 side included the Georgian international and AC Milan defender Kakha Kaladze and the Ukrainian international and Chelsea FC forward Andriy Shevchenko. The Lokomotiv line-up included the famous Turkish football players Hasan Shash and Hakan Sukur. After the acclaimed Italian referee Pierluigi Collina had started the match, Nursultan Nazarbayev took the first symbolic kick. The guest stars did not play for long – they were soon replaced by other players from the participating teams. In the end, Lokomotiv won 5-2. ■

Alexandr Keplin

Kazakhstan

The opening ceremony at the new stadium.



ISRAEL



A first: three female goalkeepers in national project

The second season of the national team goalkeepers' project has kicked off, with three female goalkeepers among the participants for the first time: Iris Antman (Maccabi Holon), Sapir Kaduri (Maccabi Hedera) and Anuar Hidri (Bnot Tivon).

The three female goalkeepers have been called up for the project so that they can acquire new skills and abilities, as well as learn from the new training methods, all with a view to improving their performance for the forthcoming UEFA and FIFA competitions.



Israel

Goalkeeper training camp.

A team of former Israeli national team goalkeepers, such as Itzhak Visoker and Bonnie Ginzburg, will instruct the goalkeepers in a series of training camps, focusing on each of the skills required of a goalkeeper. A unique training camp will be held in December, when an international goalkeeping coach will come to Israel.

The main goal of the project – the first of its kind in Israel – is to bring together national team goalkeepers aged between 16 and 21 and to provide a proper professional framework which will allow them to develop in the best possible way.

The project coordinator is Israel's Under-21 national coach, and former national team player, Moti Iwanir. The project includes goalkeepers from the Under-16 to Under-21 levels and now also the women's national team goalkeepers. ■

Nimrod Suzin

Moldova

The Pro licence candidates with the instructors and representatives of the Moldovan FA.





Malta
Valetta (Geert van Ouden, in white) fared well against St Patrick's Athletic in the UEFA Europa League second qualifying round.



D. Aquilina

LIECHTENSTEIN



Homecomers and youth players give cause for hope and enthusiasm

Because of the size of the country, only a very limited number of footballers in Liechtenstein have the opportunity to make a career out of football. As a result, it has never been possible to field 11 professionals for a national team match. However, in the foreseeable future that could change, with 13 Liechtenstein footballers having professional contracts with national and foreign clubs from the 2009/10 season.

What is especially encouraging for Liechtenstein football fans is that many of these professionals are returning home or nearby to play, some after many years abroad. No fewer than five Liechtenstein players are under contract with the national professional club,

Liechtenstein

Mario Frick (10) has moved back closer to the principality after several years in Italy.

FC Vaduz, for the new season, including two homecomers, Peter Jehle and Franz Burgmeier. The national team goalkeeper Peter Jehle has been transferred from French second division club Tours FC, while Franz Burgmeier is returning to his home country after spells in Switzerland and England. Mario Frick, Liechtenstein's most well-known professional footballer, can also be watched more often from now on, following his move to Swiss Super League club FC St. Gallen after a successful number of years playing in Italy.

Apart from these seasoned professionals, who have been a firm part of the national team for years, various young players have also joined the ranks of the professionals, swelling Liechtenstein's tally to more than a dozen for the first time. This favourable development opens up prospects for the Liechtenstein Football Federation which are cause for optimism. It is also hoped that the homecomers and new professionals will draw the fans to the stadiums with renewed enthusiasm and encourage them to identify more closely with their players and with football in their country. ■

Anton Banzer

MALTA



Intensive activity

The end of one administrative and competitive season and the start of another are always busy times for the Malta FA. The association's annual general meeting, with pre and post-council meetings, seminars, courses and other activities, and its annual awards ceremony are important reference points.

As is also customary at this time, the fixtures were decided for the Bank of Valletta national league and U*BET and Quick-Keno knockout competitions, involving all 52 Maltese clubs, and four teams took part in UEFA competitions, with Valletta earning a place in the second qualifying round of the UEFA Europa League before being eliminated in a close tie against the Irish team St Patrick's Athletic. The other Maltese teams also fared well, despite not progressing in the competitions.

The upgrading of facilities at the national stadium has also been under way for some time, with funds from UEFA through the Win in Europe programme initiated by FIFA. Thanks to this financial assistance, refurbishing and reconstruction work is being carried out.

Meanwhile, new facilities consisting of artificial turf, a new lighting system and other amenities were inaugurated at the Sannat Lions football ground in the first phase of a project on Malta's sister island, Gozo, also carried out under a UEFA aid scheme.

At the same time as all of this, the association continues to oversee the completion of UEFA-endorsed mini-pitches around the country. ■

Alex Vella

MOLDOVA



UEFA pro licence coaching courses

During the last year, the Football Association of Moldova (FAM), in conjunction with UEFA, has organised its first six-stage UEFA Pro licence coaching course. This first course has involved 13 participants, all holders of the UEFA A coaching licence. They include Igor Dobrovolskiy, head coach of the Moldova national team; Serghei Chirilov, head coach of the Under-21 national team, Vlad Goian, head coach of the Under-19 national team; Ivan Tabanov, head coach of FC Zimbru Chisinau; Emil Caras, head coach of FC Olimpia Balti; and Sergiu Caraman, head coach of FC Sfintul Gheorghe Suruceni. Another Pro licence candidate is Mihails Zemlinskis from the Latvian Football Federation.

The venues for the theoretical and practical parts of the course have been the FAM technical centre in Vadul-lui-Voda, the Sheriff sports complex in Tiraspol and CSCT Buiucani and FC Zimbru, both in Chisinau.

The lecturers on this course have all been known specialists 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 Rutemöller, chief instructor at the German Football Association; and Mircea Radulescu, head of the Romanian Football Federation's coaching school. The course activities have been coordinated by Ivan Daniliants, the FAM's

NETHERLANDS



New amateur football chairman

Bernard Fransen has been elected chairman of the Royal Netherlands Football Association's amateur football board. The general meeting unanimously supported his candidacy in June. Fransen (58) is a new face in the world of football administration, although he earned his spurs as an amateur player in his younger days.

Having started work as a schoolteacher and then headmaster, he went on to become an administrator in the world of education. In recent years, Fransen has sat on the board of the Royal Netherlands Skating Union. He is a keen all-round sportsman who enjoys football, running, speed skating and tennis.

He succeeds Hans Lesterhuis, who stepped down as chairman of the amateur football board in December last year and unexpectedly

coach education director, and Ghenadie Scurtul, its technical director.

All candidates followed the theoretical and practical sessions, have been engaged in group discussions and, at the end of June, sat their final exams. Based on their results, UEFA's Jira Panel and Technical Development and Assistance Committee will analyse their knowledge and, in the autumn, the UEFA Executive Committee could be invited to admit the FAM as a full member of the UEFA Coaching Convention. ■

Press Office

died earlier this year, shortly before his 65th birthday.

The Royal Netherlands Football Association has also appointed Marcel Loosveld as head coach of the national futsal team. Loosveld (46) is a former Dutch international (39 caps) and has served as assistant coach of the national team and head coach of the U21s. Loosveld, who has signed a three-year contract, succeeds stalwart Vic Hermans as national futsal coach. ■

Rob de Leede

Netherlands
Bernard Fransen.



KNVB



Norway
A fun football school for girls in Linderud, Oslo.



Le Hang Duong

NORTHERN IRELAND



IFA unveils new premiership sponsor

The Irish Football Association (IFA) recently unveiled Carling as the new sponsor of the top tier of domestic football in Northern Ireland. The Carling Premiership, which kicked off on Saturday, 8 August, marks a significant investment for the beer brand in local football with a three-year deal worth close to a quarter of a million pounds, the highest level of investment in the local league's history.

As well as a guaranteed GBP 80,000 a year, Carling has also committed significant additional marketing support aimed at broadening interest in local football and boosting attendances at league games. Such support includes the introduction of a new website, www.carlingpremiership.com, where fans can check out news updates, results, match reports, fixtures and statistics.

Niall Phelan of Carling said he was looking forward to working with the IFA in the seasons ahead. "This marks an important milestone in the history of Carling's long-standing association with football at all levels. We're thrilled

Northern Ireland

Hugh Wade, vice-chairman of the IFA premiership management committee, and Aisling Duffy, representing Carling, the new premier league sponsor.

to have this opportunity to sponsor Northern Ireland's elite football division and work closely with the IFA, the clubs and, importantly, the fans to increase interest in the league and in local football as a whole. The Premiership is a fantastic league which mixes skill and excitement with guts and passion, but like all leagues, it would be nothing without the fans who cheer on their teams every week and support them through thick and thin."

The IFA president, Raymond Kennedy, welcomed the league's new sponsor. "The announcement of a new title sponsor for the Premiership in Northern Ireland is an important event for the IFA. This season we're particularly excited to welcome Carling on board, a brand with a fantastic football pedigree and one that has done so much for the sport at the highest level. We are confident that the brand will be more than just a title sponsor and we welcome their input and assistance in helping us to develop not only the Premiership but football in Northern Ireland. We'd like to wish all 12 teams the best of luck for the 2009/10 season and look forward to celebrating with the winners of the first Carling Premiership next May."

At the sponsorship announcement, the new Carling Premiership logo was unveiled – during the season this will feature on all relevant promotional material and marketing campaigns, including 48 sheet billboards throughout Northern Ireland, bus shelter advertising, press and radio advertising, viral marketing, websites and monthly ezines. ■

Caroline Menary

NORWAY



Going for EURO 2009 and EURO 2016

These days, the Norwegian women's national team is in Finland where EURO 2009 is being held. This is Bjarne Berntsen's last tournament as main coach for the national team, as he has decided to leave the position afterwards. The hunt for a new coach has been one of the most important jobs for the association – for both the women's and men's national teams.

The project organisation for the Norwegian/Swedish bid to host EURO 2016 delivered a report to the Norwegian government in the middle of August. Four cities (Oslo, Lillestrøm, Trondheim and Stavanger) have been chosen as potential host cities and are now part of the extended project team. The report to the government represents a main milestone.

Norway received six-star status in UEFA's Grassroots Charter in April. But the work does not stop there. The association has recently signed a contract with national integration authorities to keep up the good work on football and inclusion. Several clubs will extend their activity and offer open football schools to youngsters, especially girls, from an immigrant background who do not belong to a club.

Karen Espelund has decided to step down as general secretary in June after ten years as general secretary of the Norwegian Football Association. The association has experienced huge development during that time with a high level of activity. Erik Loe, former member of the board, has been appointed acting general secretary until a permanent solution is found. Finding the next general secretary will be an important task for the board this autumn. ■

Le Hang Duong

REPUBLIC OF IRELAND



FAI holds training camps in Tanzania

Last month, a group of female coaches from the Football Association of Ireland (FAI) and the Training and Employment Authority (FÁS) in Dublin, along with an FAI coach, delivered a coach/volunteer workshop and youth sports camps in Tanzania as part of a project in the Mwanza/Kilimanjaro region. The project was organised in conjunction with Development Perspectives, an Irish NGO and its Tanzanian partners, Uvikiuta. Development Perspectives works to raise awareness and understanding of important development challenges such as poverty, inequality, conflict and injustice which are faced by people around the world.

More than 80 young people took part in the sports camp every day, with 14 local volunteers also taking part in a coach education workshop designed to introduce basic coaching skills. As part of its support for this project, the FAI donated T-shirts and footballs from the Intercultural Football Programme to Development Perspectives and Limerick side Ashling Annacotty FC generously donated a set of kit, while Sony donated two camcorders to enable the coaches to capture their experiences as part of a video diary. ■

A legend in the world of football, Sir Bobby Robson, acted as International Football Consultant for the FAI from January 2006 until November 2007, after which he continued as an ambassador for the FAI.

The FAI president, David Blood said that Sir Bobby had left a lasting legacy in the football world: "Sir Bobby was a legend in the world of football and it was with great sadness that I learned of his passing. We were honoured when Sir Bobby joined the association and throughout the time he was involved with the FAI his knowledge and passion for the game were invaluable. Aside from his many successes on the pitch, Sir Bobby will be best remembered for his humour, his decency and his well-deserved reputation as one of the true gentlemen of the game. Sir Bobby gave so much to the world of football and he will be greatly missed." ■

Fran Whearty

SCOTLAND



Six-star status

The Scottish FA has been awarded UEFA's coveted six-star Grassroots Charter status for its work in growing the game.

Scotland is one of only seven countries in Europe to pick up the sixth star, along with England, Finland, Germany, the Netherlands, Norway and Ukraine.

This recognition is given to national associations that go the extra mile to increase standards at all levels and develop innovative programmes to encourage more people to get involved in football, either as players or volunteers.



Republic of Ireland Certificates for the participants in the coach/volunteer workshop.

SWEDEN



Elite women's football project

In 2007 the Swedish Football Association, in cooperation with Elite Project and the EFD (Swedish women's elite football association) started a project to develop Swedish women's elite football. It was a necessary process in order to remain at the top international level. The ambitions of the projects were:

- to qualify for the UEFA Women's Champions League final every year;
- to improve the quality of player education;
- to raise the average age of our elite teams;
- to develop our Under-19 national team so that it qualified for the corresponding UEFA championship every year and for the FIFA Under-20 Women's World Cup every other year.

In order to achieve these goals, the elite clubs have to be structured and organised in a professional way. However, two other very important success factors are coach development and proper player education.

One of the comprehensive ambitions was to introduce a national club licence as a quality assurance of the top division clubs in Sweden. Benchmark standards would be set up in five areas: organisation, sporting, personnel and administration, financial, and infrastructure.

Halfway through, Anna-Lena Kjellman, the project manager, is pleased to have already seen some positive results.

"The top division clubs have become more professional in their organisation and their work in marketing, economic and sporting development. A revised model player education programme has been developed. The focuses on preparing elite players (active and former) for training missions and ultimately getting more female coaches and leaders have been very positive."

And the efforts have also produced results on the football field. In July the Swedish women's Under-19 team finished second in the European Women's Under-19 Championship. They lost the final against England 2-0 but by ending up among the final four teams they have, as the first Swedish youth team ever, qualified for the FIFA Under-20 Women's World Cup next year in Germany. ■

Maria Sjöström

Switzerland
Pierluigi Tami.



SWITZERLAND



New Under-21 coach

Switzerland's Under-21 national team has a new coach. He is Pierluigi Tami, 48, who replaces Pierre-André Schürmann, now coach of FC Neuchâtel Xamax. Until now, Tami, who hails from the Italian-speaking part of Switzerland, was assisting the national head coach, Köbi Kuhn, to analyse opponents, a job he has also been doing for Kuhn's successor, Ottmar Hitzfeld, in addition to taking care of the Under-18 national team. In his playing days, he turned out for Chiasso, Bellinzona, Lugano and Locarno, while as a coach he has worked for Lugano and Locarno.

His first match at the helm of the Under-21s was on 12 August in Schaffhausen, when Switzerland met Estonia in the European Under-21 Championship qualifying competition. With a 2-1 win against Armenia already under their belts, the Under-21 national team have their sights set on reaching the next European Under-21 Championship final round. ■

Pierre Benoit

UKRAINE



Student goals earn gold

Ukraine's national students' team celebrated their second consecutive triumph at the World University Games (Universiade) when they won the football tournament at the 25th edition of the summer games in Belgrade, Serbia. They first won the competition two years ago in Bangkok. This recent victory proves that Ukraine truly is a trendsetter in university football.

On their way to the final, Ukraine, led by a triumvirate of Volodymyr Lozynskiy (head coach), Oleg Pervushkin and Ivan Shepelenko, saw off Morocco, the Czech Republic, Canada, South Korea and Great Britain. And, just like last time, they had to vie with Italy at the end. The final turned out to be a real show with five goals. As it happened, the decider was slipped into the Italian net by one of their own players.

"Our previous success was considered fortuitous by many, even in our country. That's why this victory is even sweeter. After all, it is much harder to defend the title than to win it for the first time," said Volodymyr Lozynskiy. *"I have to say many words of praise to all our players, who demonstrated great tactical and individual skills and, what is more important, real spirit and patriotism. I would also like to thank all who supported us in Serbia and in Ukraine: people from the Football Federation of Ukraine, journalists and fans. Our team is so happy that we managed to justify the hopes of our compatriots and prove once again that Ukraine is a big football nation."* ■

Bogdan Buga

TURKEY



Weekly preparation for referees

The Turkish Football Federation (TFF) started to organise weekly camps for its Super League referees in the second half of the 2008/09 season. Organised by the TFF, the referees committee and the football development department (responsible for education), these camps quickly proved very fruitful in terms of momentum and motivation. The scheme is being continued in the 2009/10 season.

All the referees, assistant referees and fourth officials come together before their weekend duties at a facility in the countryside, close to the airport but far from the city crowds. Referees appointed for Saturday matches attend the camp from Thursday lunchtime to Friday lunchtime, followed by those with Sunday matches from Friday lunchtime to Saturday

lunchtime. After the camp they make their way to their match venues.

The meals at the camp are organised by TFF dieticians and the programme is prepared by the federation's referee educator. During the 24-hour get-together they have a technical education group workshop with the referees committee chairman and vice chairman and private meetings with the federation's sports doctor, physiotherapist and two sports psychology mentors.

The TFF has also decided to continue the individual training project for Super League referees that it launched during the second half of last season.

Based on physical tests that are conducted at the beginning of the season, the individual training programme of each Turkish Super League referee is prepared by the football development department's top elite referee and player monitoring unit. The referees train three days a week according to their individual programmes and they keep the unit informed of their progress with data from their Polar watches.

On the basis of this data input, their training is checked each week and their programmes revised accordingly. With this system, fitness tests can be carried out just once at the beginning of the season and the stress of regular testing can be avoided, while the TFF can ensure its Super League referees' physical performance is up to standard. ■

Türker Tozar

The commendation comes as a result of the work being delivered by the Scottish FA thanks to investment from the Scottish government's CashBack for Communities scheme.

The Scottish FA's schools of football, street football, mini-kickers and volunteer development programmes drew particular praise from UEFA, along with our commitment to the development of girls' and women's football and the growth of our disability programme.

Programmes such as the schools of football and street football are using the game to make a difference to the lives of young people, giving opportunities to those who come from deprived areas or wouldn't usually get the chance to play and making football part of daily life. ■

Rob Shorthouse

Scotland

Scottish legend Kenny Dalglish assists a young player in the Scottish FA's disability programme.



Work progresses on the new annexe to UEFA's headquarters



Nyon, 10 August 2009



Photos: UEFA-pjwoods.ch

Communications

Birthdays – Calendar

Birthdays

Cornelis de Bruin (Netherlands), member of the circle of former UEFA committee members, celebrates his 80th birthday on 22 September, while on 4 September Grigoriy Surkis (Ukraine), member of the UEFA Executive Committee, turns 60. On 5 September, he is joined at that milestone by Vasileios Chatziapostolou (Greece), member of the Fair Play and Social Responsibility Committee, and on 24 September by Eugen Strigel (Germany), referee instructor. On 7 September, Werner Helsen (Belgium), also a referee instructor, will be 50.

The September birthday roll also includes:

- Gerhard Aigner (Germany, 1.9)
- Marco Brunelli (Italy, 2.9)
- Gérard Houllier (France, 3.9)
- David R. Elleray (England, 3.9)
- Rudolf Bata (Czech Republic, 4.9)
- Wilfried Kindermann (Germany, 4.9)
- Bogdan Ceko (Bosnia-Herzegovina, 5.9)
- Sulejman Colakovic (Bosnia-Herzegovina, 5.9)
- Matthias Sammer (Germany, 5.9)
- Bernd Stöber (Germany, 6.9)
- Ivan Hasek (Czech Republic, 6.9)
- György Mezey (Hungary, 7.9)
- Antonio Laranjo (Portugal, 7.9)
- Geir Thorsteinsson (Iceland, 9.9)
- Franz Beckenbauer (Germany, 11.9)
- Stanislaw Speczik (Poland, 13.9)
- Iavid Gayarev (Azerbaijan, 14.9)
- Dejan Savicevic (Montenegro, 15.9)
- Revaz Arveladze (Georgia, 15.9)
- Kelly Simmons (England, 16.9)
- Antero Silva Resende (Portugal, 18.9)
- Senes Erzik (Turkey, 18.9)
- Gaioz Darsadze (Georgia, 19.9)
- Helena Herrero González (Spain, 21.9)
- Goetz Eilers (Germany, 23.9)
- Giangiorgio Spies (Switzerland, 24.9)
- Hans Reitingger (Austria, 25.9)
- Dr Mogens Kreutzfeldt (Denmark, 25.9)
- Karl-Heinz Rummenigge (Germany, 25.9)
- Rotem Kamer (Israel, 25.9)
- Ales Zavrl (Slovenia, 26.9)
- Gerardo Gonzalez Movilla (Spain, 27.9)
- Jindrich Rajchi (Czech Republic, 27.9)
- Mariano Delogu (Italy, 28.9)
- Prof. W. Stewart Hillis (Scotland, 28.9)
- Michael van Praag (Netherlands, 28.9)
- Lufti Aribogan (Turkey, 30.9)

Forthcoming events

Meetings

1.9.2009, Nyon

Women's Football Committee
National Associations Committee

1-3.9.2009, Nyon

Summer course for referees and assistant referees

2.9.2008, Nyon

Club Licensing Committee
Futsal and Beach Soccer Committee

3.9.2008, Nyon

National Team Competitions Committee

3-4.9.2009, Nyon

Elite Club Coaches Forum

7.9.2009, Nyon

Stadium and Security Committee

14.9.2009, Nyon

Finance Committee

14/15.9.2009, Nyon

Executive Committee

15.9.2009, Nyon

Youth and Amateur Football Committee

21.9.2009, Athens

Jira Panel

21-23.9.2009, Athens

Coach education directors workshop

23.9.2009, Athens

Development and Technical Assistance Committee

24.9.2009, Debrecen, Hungary

Draw for the final round of the European Futsal Championship

Competitions

23.8-10.9.2009, Finland

European Women's Championship: final round

15/16.9.2009

UEFA Champions League: group matches (matchday 1)

17.9.2009

UEFA Europa League: group matches (matchday 1)

24.9-16.10.2009, Egypt

FIFA U-20 World Cup

26.9-4.10.2009

UEFA Futsal Cup: main round

29/30.9.2009

UEFA Champions League: group matches (matchday 2)

30.9.2009

UEFA Women's Champions League: round of 32 (first legs)

Notices

■ Patrick Nelson became chief executive of the Irish Football Association at the beginning of August.

■ György Bordas took over as general secretary of the Hungarian Football Federation on 6 August.

■ The Football Association of England moved to Wembley Stadium at the beginning of August. Its new address is: The Football Association, Wembley Stadium, PO Box 1966, London, SW1P 9EQ.

Match agent

UEFA has granted a match agent's licence to:

David Richardson

TBG Marketing, 1 Main Street, Ridlington, Rutland, LE15 9AU, UK
Tel.: +44 1572 821 998
richo@ridders.biz

The Referees

Directed by Belgian Yves Hinant, a documentary on referees has been shown at the Locarno international film festival in Switzerland. The footage for the film was shot during EURO 2008, with UEFA's permission, and the referees appointed for the tournament are therefore the leading characters of the film. The 77-minute film aims to show referees in a different light by focussing on their human side.

The documentary will be shown this autumn in cinemas in France and Germany, with other countries expected to follow suit.

Obituary

Sir Bobby Robson (England), former international and successful club and England coach, passed away on 31 July, aged 76, after a long illness.

From 1982 to 1990 Bobby Robson was a member of the UEFA Technical Development Committee. In 2002 he received the UEFA President's Award, and at this year's UEFA Congress in Copenhagen he was awarded the UEFA Order of Merit in emerald.

WE CARE ABOUT FOOTBALL



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