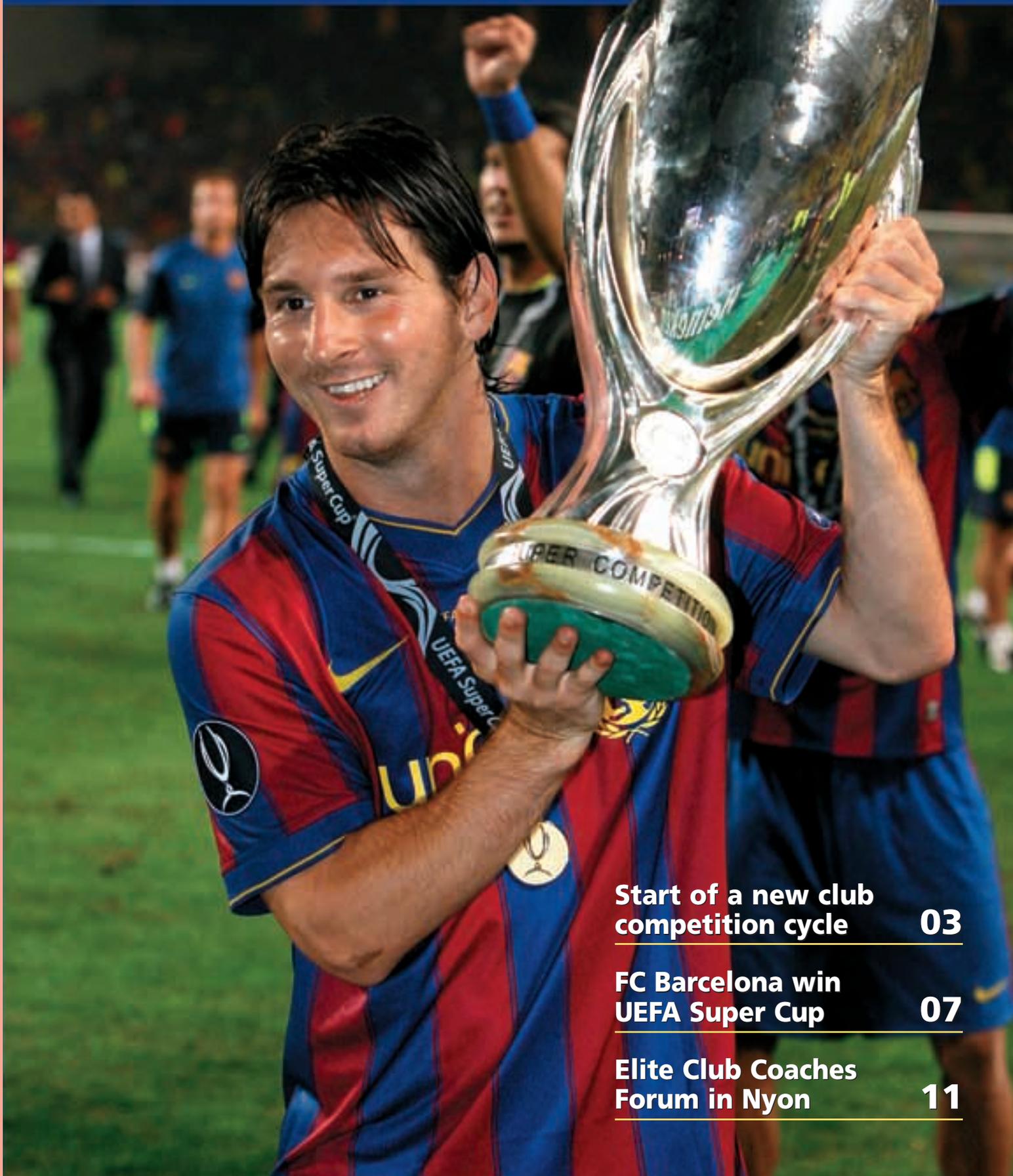


10.09

uefa **direct**



**Start of a new club
competition cycle 03**

**FC Barcelona win
UEFA Super Cup 07**

**Elite Club Coaches
Forum in Nyon 11**



Photos: uefa-ep/woods.ch

Message of the president

Timeless values

The audience at the Grimaldi Forum in Monaco gave Paolo Maldini a standing ovation when he received a special award at UEFA Champions League draw at the end of August.

As part of the ceremony honouring the best players of the 2008/09 club season, which punctuated the draw, we wanted to pay tribute to a footballer who is exceptional in more ways than one:

■ firstly, through his loyalty to his club: Paolo played for the AC Milan first team for 25 years, winning numerous trophies during that time, including five in the European Cup/Champions League;

■ through his conduct on the pitch: throughout his career, Paolo consistently proved that a great defender does not need to resort to illicit methods to succeed;

■ through his behaviour in everyday life: Paolo showed exemplary dedication in training and always respected every aspect of his profession.

By remaining faithful to his personal values throughout his remarkable career, through all the turbulence and changes that top-level European football has experienced, Paolo demonstrates in particular that the true values of our sport are timeless and each of them should guide us to ensure football always retains its human character and its reputation for fair play and fun.


Michel Platini
UEFA President

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COVER

The day after receiving the UEFA club footballer of the year award, Lionel Messi wins the UEFA Super Cup with FC Barcelona.
Photo: Pixathlon

UEFA club competitions

New season launched



Keystone

FOR THE 12TH TIME SINCE 1998, THE UEFA SUPER CUP WAS HELD IN MONACO IN THE LAST WEEK OF AUGUST, MARKING THE TRANSITION BETWEEN TWO SEASONS OF EUROPEAN CLUB FOOTBALL.

While the match itself represented a crossover between the two seasons, featuring last season's winners with their squads for the new campaign, the immediate future was high on the agenda at European club football's traditional summer gathering.

The 2009/10 season, which represents the start of a new commercial cycle for the UEFA Champions League, is full of innovations, including the introduction of a two-path qualification phase in the Champions League (with champions on one path and non-champions from the top-ranked associations on the other) and the launch of the UEFA Europa League, which is designed to give new impetus to the second UEFA club competition.



18 champions

In the Champions League, the impact of the changes adopted at the initiative of the UEFA president, Michel Platini, was clear for all to see at the draw held at the Grimaldi Forum in Monaco on 27 August. This is the first time, since the first group phase of 32 participants was launched in 1999/2000, that so many national associations been represented in UEFA's flagship competition. They number 18 in all, which also means that 56.2% of the participants are national champions. There were only 15 (46.7%) last season. This year, no new associations are represented (the total therefore remains 31), although it is

worth noting the return of a club from Hungary, 26th in the UEFA rankings (with only one previous participant, Ferencvaros in 1995/96) and the continued involvement of Cyprus (28th), whose national champions have qualified for the second consecutive year, this time in the shape of APOEL FC.

The three national associations at the top of the UEFA rankings each have four representatives. In the 11 seasons since the 32-club format was introduced (including 2009/10), Spain has won 42 places, shared between 11 clubs, Italy 40 between 7 clubs and England 40 between 6 clubs. These three associations lead the way, ahead of Germany (33/9), France (30/9), the Netherlands (20/6), Greece (19/3) and Turkey (15/3). These eight associations are the only ones to have been represented by at least one club every year during this 11-year period.



Awards for the best players of 2008/09 (left) were presented at the Grimaldi Forum in Monaco, which was also the venue for the club competition draws and numerous meetings in preparation for the new season.

Bozzani



113 clubs

Furthermore, for the season that has just begun, a quarter of the participants in the Champions League group phase are newcomers to this stage of the competition. The eight debutants are all national champions: AZ Alkmaar (Netherlands), APOEL FC (Cyprus), Debreceni VSC (Hungary), FC Rubin Kazan (Russia), AFC Unirea Urziceni (Romania), R. Standard de Liège (Belgium), VfL Wolfsburg (Germany) and FC Zürich (Switzerland).

This mass influx of new participants brings the number of clubs that have played in the Champions League since the competition was founded in 1992/93 to 113. The most experienced of these clubs are Manchester United FC and FC Porto, who have each participated in 15 of the 18 editions. Spanish clubs FC Barcelona and Real Madrid CF

are each currently involved for the 14th time, while AC Milan and FC Bayern München, who both missed out last year, are back for their 13th Champions League season, the same tally as FC Dynamo Kyiv and PSV Eindhoven, the latter having failed to qualify this season. Another club returning to the competition this year are Greek champions Olympiacos

CFP who, like Arsenal FC and Juventus, have now participated 12 times.

This season's participants include 10 former winners, who have shared 38 of the 54 titles in the competition's history. Group C alone accounts for 17 titles, with Real Madrid (9), AC Milan (7) and Olympique de Marseille (1) drawn alongside newcomers FC Zürich.

2009/10 UEFA Champions League calendar

Group A	Group B	Group C	Group D
15.09 Juventus – Girondins Bordeaux Maccabi Haifa – Bayern München	VfL Wolfsburg – CSKA Moskva Besiktas JK – Manchester Utd	FC Zürich – Real Madrid CF Olympique Marseille – AC Milan	Chelsea FC – FC Porto Atlético Madrid – APOEL FC
30.09 Bayern München – Juventus Girondins Bordeaux – Maccabi Haifa	Manchester Utd – VfL Wolfsburg CSKA Moskva – Besiktas JK	AC Milan – FC Zürich Real Madrid – Olympique Marseille	APOEL FC – Chelsea FC FC Porto – Atlético Madrid
21.10 Girondins Bordeaux – Bayern München Juventus – Maccabi Haifa	CSKA Moskva – Manchester Utd VfL Wolfsburg – Besiktas JK	Real Madrid CF – AC Milan FC Zürich – Olympique Marseille	FC Porto – APOEL FC Chelsea FC – Atlético Madrid
3.11 Bayern München – Girondins Bordeaux Maccabi Haifa – Juventus	Manchester Utd – CSKA Moskva Besiktas – VfL Wolfsburg	AC Milan – Real Madrid CF Olympique Marseille – FC Zürich	APOEL FC – FC Porto Atlético Madrid – Chelsea FC
25.11 Girondins Bordeaux – Juventus Bayern München – Maccabi Haifa	CSKA Moskva – VfL Wolfsburg Manchester Utd – Besiktas JK	Real Madrid CF – FC Zürich AC Milan – Olympique Marseille	FC Porto – Chelsea FC APOEL FC – Atlético Madrid
8.12 Juventus – Bayern München Maccabi Haifa – Girondins Bordeaux	VfL Wolfsburg – Manchester Utd Besiktas JK – CSKA Moskva	FC Zürich – AC Milan Olympique Marseille – Real Madrid	Chelsea FC – APOEL FC Atlético Madrid – FC Porto
Group E	Group F	Group G	Group H
16.09 Liverpool FC – Debreceni Ol. Lyonnais – Fiorentina	Internazionale – FC Barcelona Dynamo Kyiv – Rubin Kazan	VfB Stuttgart – Rangers FC Sevilla FC – Unirea Urziceni	Olympiacos FC – AZ Alkmaar Standard de Liège – Arsenal FC
29.09 Fiorentina – Liverpool FC Debreceni – Ol. Lyonnais	Rubin Kazan – Internazionale FC Barcelona – Dynamo Kyiv	Unirea Urziceni – VfB Stuttgart Rangers FC – Sevilla FC	Arsenal FC – Olympiacos FC AZ Alkmaar – Standard de Liège
20.10 Debreceni – Fiorentina Liverpool – Ol. Lyonnais	FC Barcelona – Rubin Kazan Internazionale – Dynamo Kyiv	Rangers FC – Unirea Urziceni VfB Stuttgart – Sevilla FC	AZ Alkmaar – Arsenal FC Olympiacos – Standard de Liège
4.11 Fiorentina – Debreceni Ol. Lyonnais – Liverpool	Rubin Kazan – FC Barcelona Dynamo Kyiv – Internazionale	Unirea Urziceni – Rangers FC Sevilla FC – VfB Stuttgart	Arsenal FC – AZ Alkmaar Standard de Liège – Olympiacos
24.11 Debreceni – Liverpool FC Fiorentina – Ol. Lyonnais	FC Barcelona – Internazionale Rubin Kazan – Dynamo Kyiv	Rangers FC – VfB Stuttgart Unirea Urziceni – Sevilla FC	AZ Alkmaar – Olympiacos FC Arsenal FC – Standard de Liège
9.12 Liverpool – Fiorentina Ol. Lyonnais – Debreceni	Internazionale – Rubin Kazan Dynamo Kyiv – FC Barcelona	VfB Stuttgart – Unirea Urziceni Sevilla FC – Rangers FC	Olympiacos FC – Arsenal FC Standard de Liège – AZ Alkmaar

The matches of the round of 16 will be played on 16/17 and 23/24 February (first leg) and on 9/10 and 16/17 March (return). The quarter-finals will take place on 30/31 March (first leg) and 6/7 April (return), the semi-finals on 20/21 April (first leg) and 27/28 April (return) and the final in Madrid, on Saturday 22 May.



Lionel Messi received his best forward award from Denis Law.

Sabatini



Sportfile

Best players honoured

In Monaco, the opportunity was also taken to look back on last season, particularly its most distinguished players, who were presented with awards.

The prize winners were selected by a jury comprising the coaches of the 16 clubs that reached the knockout stage of the UEFA Champions League in 2008/09. For each category, each coach was asked to choose three players, awarding them between 1 and 3 points. They were not allowed to vote for their own players. Between them, the coaches allocated points to 8 different goalkeepers, 16 defenders, 12 midfielders and 11 forwards.

With two players from FC Barcelona and two from English clubs, the coaches' choice was an accurate reflection of a Champions League dominated by English clubs but won by the Catalonians.

■ The prize for the best goalkeeper was awarded to Manchester United FC's Dutch keeper, **Edwin van der Sar**; his trophy was presented by Vitor Baia, who kept goal for FC Porto when they became European champions in 2004.

■ After winning the award in 2005 and 2008, Chelsea FC's **John Terry** was chosen as best defender for the third time and received his prize from a role model in the form of recently retired AC Milan defender Paolo Maldini.

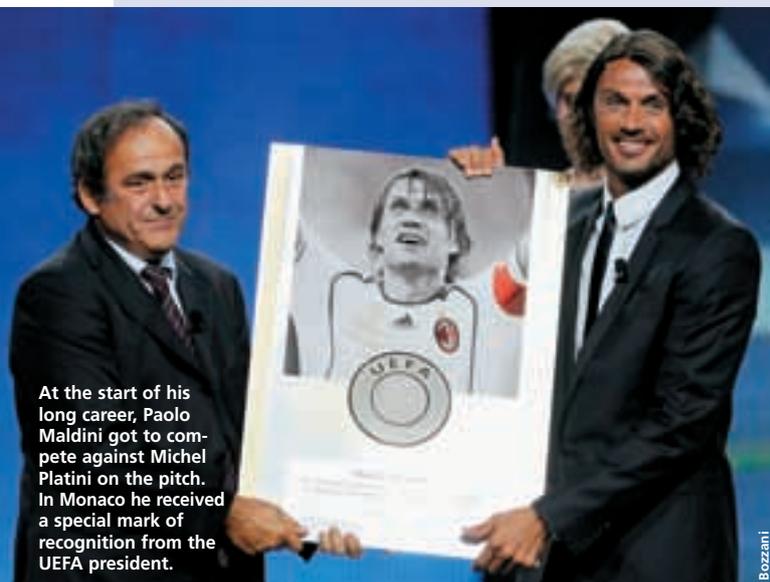
■ Another player who recently hung up his boots, Luis Figo of Inter Milan, presented the best midfielder award to **Xavi Hernandez** of FC Barcelona.

■ As in the previous two seasons, the best forward was also elected UEFA Club Footballer of the Year. This time, **Lionel Messi** of FC Barcelona received the two awards. The first was presented by former Scotland and Manchester United striker Denis Law and the second by the UEFA president, Michel Platini.



The four award winners, from left to right: Edwin van der Sar, Lionel Messi, Xavi Hernandez and John Terry.

Keystone



At the start of his long career, Paolo Maldini got to compete against Michel Platini on the pitch. In Monaco he received a special mark of recognition from the UEFA president.

Bozzani

Special tribute to Paolo Maldini

An additional prize was presented this year to Paolo Maldini, former AC Milan and Italy defender, in recognition of his outstanding 25-year career at the same club. With numerous winners' medals from the Italian league and cup, the European Champion Clubs' Cup and UEFA Champions League, the UEFA Super Cup, the European/South American Cup and the Club World Cup, Paolo Maldini won just about everything there was to win with his club. He was also a runner-up at the 1994 World Cup and 2000 European Championship with the Italian national side.

Two more former stars of international football took to the stage in Monaco in order to lend a hand with the UEFA Champions League and UEFA Europa League draws. Both were strikers and chosen as ambassadors for the 2010 finals: Emilio Butragueno for Madrid and Uwe Seeler for Hamburg.



Bozzani

Increased prize money

The start of a new commercial cycle particularly means the conclusion of new contracts and amendments to the revenue distribution system.

The principles behind the distribution of revenue remain more or less unchanged, although the sums involved should increase because the estimated income for the UEFA Champions League (and UEFA Super Cup, which is now being marketed in the same package) exceeds EUR 1 billion for the 2009/10 season.

However, in view of the current economic climate and the volatility of exchange rates, a degree of caution will be necessary and all the sums announced at the start of this season will need to be confirmed by UEFA at a later date.

The provisional amounts are:

- EUR 3.8 million as the participation premium;
- EUR 550,000 per group match played, regardless of the result, i.e. EUR 3.3 million per club;
- EUR 800,000 per victory in the group matches and EUR 400,000 per draw;
- EUR 3 million for clubs reaching the first knockout round;
- EUR 3.3 million for each quarter-finalist;
- EUR 4 million for each semi-finalist;
- EUR 9 million for the winners and EUR 5.2 million for the runners-up.

The clubs will also receive a share of the "market pool", depending on the value of their national market, the number of matches played and their final position in their national championship the previous season. They will also keep income from ticket sales.

Furthermore, since the play-off matches were included in the centralised marketing system, each of the 20 participating clubs should receive EUR 2.1 million.



Debreceni of Hungary (with Tibor Dombi, right) overcame Bulgaria's Levski Sofia in the Champions League play-offs, which have been integrated into the competition's centralised marketing strategy.

Getty Images



CHF 1 million for CAFE project

Football is not just a reflection of society. It also has an important social role to play and accepts its share of social responsibility.

It is in this context that it has become customary, at the annual gathering in Monaco, for UEFA to present a cheque for CHF 1 million to a charitable organisation.

This year's cheque was presented to the British National Association of Disabled Supporters (NADS) by UEFA president, Michel Platini, at the UEFA Champions League group stage draw ceremony.

Founded in 1998, NADS aims to raise disability awareness through sport, to enrich the lives of disabled people through football and to be a voice for disabled supporters.

The sum donated by UEFA will be used to launch the CAFE programme (Centre for Access to Football in Europe), devised by NADS to offer disabled supporters better access to football matches and improved stadium infrastructures. The programme is not limited to Great Britain, but will be implemented throughout Europe over a four-year period.

A website, cafefootball.eu, will be set up to serve as a multilingual European forum and a hub of information about disabled supporters' groups.

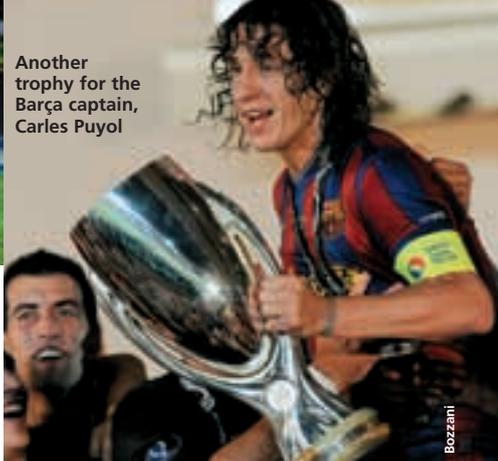


Michel Platini presents the CHF 1 million charity cheque to Joyce Cook, the NADS chair and managing director of CAFE, accompanied by Danny Wallace, a former Southampton player and current NADS and CAFE ambassador.

Bozzani



The winning goal scored by Pedro in extra time.



Another trophy for the Barça captain, Carles Puyol

UEFA Super Cup

Third win for FC Barcelona

HAVING WON THE UEFA SUPER CUP TWICE (IN 1992 AND 1997) WHEN THE COMPETITION WAS PLAYED OVER TWO LEGS, FC BARCELONA LIFTED THE TROPHY FOR THE THIRD TIME BY BEATING SHAKHTAR DONETSK AFTER EXTRA TIME.

The Catalans' victory was well deserved and might even have been achieved in normal time if the game had been decided purely on possession of the ball, which the Spaniards virtually monopolised during several periods of the match. However, dominance does not mean victory, as an old football truth points out, and Josep Guardiola's players created few chances during the whole of the first half and a large chunk of the second. Their well-constructed style of play, in keeping with the club's image, was constantly thwarted by a compact and watchful defence, which was well organised and showed little tendency to panic.



"When they lose the ball, there is space for counters," the Ukrainians' coach Mircea Lucescu had observed. However, probably on account of the over-cautious attitude of his players, these counters did not materialise until the closing minutes of normal time, when Shakhtar finally showed their attacking potential. Maybe the Ukrainians were waiting for their moment, hoping that their opponents would tire so they could catch them by surprise at the end of the match or possibly win on penalties? Or perhaps they were banking on the Spaniards becoming annoyed and frustrated by their repeated failures?

Warm evening

For a long time, the Catalans lacked the acceleration that would have enabled them to disorientate their opponents, although it is true that the muggy warmth of the Monaco evening was more likely to induce torpor than an abundance of energy.

- 28 August 2009
 - Stade Louis II de Monaco
 - 17,738 spectators
- FC Barcelona – FC Shakhtar Donetsk 1-0 a.e.t.**
- Goal: Pedro (115)
 - Referee: Frank De Bleckere (Belgium)



In fact, the Ukrainians' moment never came. On the contrary, it was substitute Pedro, expertly fed by Lionel Messi, who managed to score the decisive goal, maybe leaving the UEFA Cup holders wishing they had been a little more adventurous.

Balanced results

This tenth match between UEFA Champions League and UEFA Cup winners was also the last, since the UEFA Europa League has replaced the UEFA Cup, which itself succeeded the Cup Winners' Cup in sending its winners to Monaco. The results of these duels have been well balanced, with five victories for the European champions and five for the UEFA Cup winners.

Meanwhile, FC Barcelona continue their quest for trophies: after winning the treble of domestic league, domestic cup and UEFA Champions League last season, they have already lifted the Spanish and UEFA Super Cups in August.

The next challenge is the FIFA Club World Cup, which this year will be played in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, as a change from Japan, from 9 to 19 December 2009.

UEFA Europa League

Innovation and experimentation

BEFORE THE UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE WAS LAUNCHED AT THE START OF THE 1992/93 SEASON, THE UEFA CUP HAD BEGUN TO OVERSHADOW UEFA'S OLDEST CLUB COMPETITION.

The UEFA Cup had the advantage of bringing together the best teams from each national association – apart from the champions – to produce some fascinating encounters for supporters... and TV stations. The UEFA Champions League robbed it of this advantage by sucking in the top teams from the most prominent leagues and the attractiveness of the UEFA Cup suffered as a result. The merger with the Cup Winners' Cup in 1999/2000 did little to change the situation because the cup winners had often already qualified for the Champions League.

A new face

It was therefore time to breathe new life into the UEFA Cup, not only by changing its name but also by continuing and enhancing the reforms introduced in recent years, particularly making the group phase

more comprehensible and extending the centralised marketing strategy.

This has been achieved for the current season, with the introduction of 12 groups of 4 teams (a change supported by the use of the term "league" in the competition name), centralised marketing of media rights from the group stage and full centralisation from the round of 32 onwards. With a new logo and a new visual identity, the same musical introduction for all matches, a ball specially designed for the competition and fixed kick-off times (19.00 and 21.05), the new competition has every chance of becoming not a second Champions League but a dynamic competition that gives clubs from all over Europe the chance to embark on an exciting European adventure.

The competition calendar was adjusted so that the group stage

draw could be held alongside the Champions League draw in Monaco at the end of August, rather than in October.

Twenty-four associations represented

The 48 participants represent 24 national associations. With four clubs each, the national associations of Austria, the Netherlands and Romania alone account for a quarter of the participants. The German, Spanish, Italian and Portuguese associations, with three clubs each, make up a further quarter of the line-up.

Heading the list of participants are the winners of the last UEFA Cup, Shakhtar Donetsk. Thirteen other former UEFA competition winners are also involved. Some are in the same group, such as AFC Ajax and RSC Anderlecht (A), Hamburger SV and Celtic FC (B) and SL Benfica and Everton FC (I).





The UEFA general secretary, David Taylor, presents a souvenir plaque to Jadson (Shakhtar Donetsk), who scored the last ever goal in the UEFA Cup.



Bozzani



Bozzani

Yasar Mumcuoglu, who scored the first goal of the UEFA Cup for Fenerbahçe in 1971, also helped to perform the draw.

Additional referees

For this first year, the Europa League has added appeal since, with the backing of the International FA Board (IFAB), the use of two additional assistant referees is being tested in the 144 group matches.



UEFA-plivoods.ch

Although stationed, in principle, behind the goal line, on the opposite side to the assistant referee, these referees – who must be of the same nationality as the other members of the refereeing team – are nevertheless able to enter the penalty area to follow the action if it is taking place at the other end of the pitch. They do not have flags and communicate with the main referee via radio.

Having already been tested and produced promising results in UEFA youth competitions, it is time for this system, which aims to improve refereeing and maintain its human face, to be examined over a long period at the highest level. The 48 referees chosen for the new positions were either selected from the FIFA referees' list or officiate at the highest national level. They attended a preparatory seminar in Nyon at the end of August, along with 48 FIFA-appointed observers.

The groups and match calendar

Group A	Group B
AFC Ajax RSC Anderlecht NK Dinamo Zagreb FC Timisoara	Valencia CF LOSC Lille Métropole SK Slavia Praha Genoa CFC
Group C	Group D
Hamburger SV Celtic FC Hapoel Tel-Aviv FC SK Rapid Wien	Sporting Clube de Portugal SC Heerenveen Hertha BSC Berlin FK Ventspils
Group E	Group F
AS Roma FC Basel 1893 Fulham FC PFC CSKA Sofia	Panathinaikos FC Galatasaray SK FC Dinamo 1948 Bucuresti SK Sturm Graz
Group G	Group H
Villarreal CF S.S. Lazio PFC Levski Sofia FC Salzburg	FC Steaua Bucuresti Fenerbahçe SK FC Twente FC Sheriff
Group I	Group J
SL Benfica Everton FC AEK Athens FC FC BATE Borisov	FC Shakhtar Donetsk Club Brugge KV FK Partizan Toulouse FC
Group K	Group L
PSV Eindhoven FC København AC Sparta Praha CFR 1907 Cluj	Werder Bremen FK Austria Wien Athletic Club Bilbao CD Nacional

Matchday 1: 17.09
Matchday 4: 5.11
Round of 32: 18/25.02
Semi-finals: 22/29.04

Matchday 2: 1.10
Matchday 5: 2 / 3.12
Round of 16: 11/18.03
Final: Wednesday 12 May in Hamburg

Matchday 3: 22.10
Matchday 6: 16 / 17.12
Quarter-finals: 1/8.04

UEFA Europa League prize money

The increased centralised marketing of the UEFA Europa League offers the participating clubs more attractive rewards than those available in the old UEFA Cup.

The fixed premiums have been mapped out but, as in the Champions League, they have yet to be confirmed.

Prize money is expected to be distributed as follows:

- EUR 600,000 as the participation premium;
- EUR 50,000 per match played, i.e. a total of EUR 300,000 per club;
- EUR 120,000 for each victory and EUR 60,000 for each draw;
- EUR 180,000 for each club reaching the round of 32;
- EUR 270,000 for each club reaching the round of 16;
- EUR 360,000 for each quarter-finalist;
- EUR 630,000 for each semi-finalist;
- EUR 3 million for the winners and EUR 2 million for the runners-up.

The clubs will also receive a variable amount determined by the commercial value of their national media rights market, their final position in the previous season's national championship and how far they progress in the Europa League.



The participants listened attentively to the explanations given and were quick to ask questions.



Seminar in Nyon on sports betting and integrity

FOLLOWING THE UEFA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE'S DECISION IN DECEMBER 2008 TO TAKE ACTION AGAINST MATCH-FIXING IN FOOTBALL AND THE BACKING THIS DECISION WAS GIVEN AT THE UEFA CONGRESS IN COPENHAGEN, UEFA LAUNCHED A BETTING FRAUD DETECTION SYSTEM (BFDS) AT THE BEGINNING OF THE NEW SEASON.

The system is designed to monitor not only all UEFA competition matches, but now also all first and second division and cup matches of each UEFA member association. A total of 29,000 football matches will therefore be checked for suspicious betting patterns each year. The aim of the system is to centrally monitor European professional football and coordinate effective measures to protect the integrity of European football competitions. It offers the UEFA member associations meaningful data on suspicious matches played in their domestic leagues and advises them during subsequent investigations. On 25 and 26 August 2009, a seminar on sports betting and its possible effects on the integrity of football matches was

held at UEFA's headquarters in Nyon. The member associations were invited to send their betting affairs representatives to the two-day seminar, which provided participants with a detailed insight into the problems of betting fraud and corruption, as well as UEFA's monitoring system (BFDS).

Information exchange

In their opening addresses, the UEFA president, Michel Platini, and the general secretary, David Taylor, both stressed the importance of the fight against corruption in football and referred to the measures taken and investments made by UEFA to protect the integrity of European football. The throwing of matches for betting purposes would signal the death of

football, said Michel Platini. Both speakers also emphasised the importance of cooperation between UEFA and its member associations: without the swift exchange of essential information on the flow of money into the various betting markets, it would be impossible to combat match-fixing effectively.

UEFA betting expert Karl Dhont issued a particular warning about the danger posed to European football by criminal organisations. Using a practical example from Europe, he described the activities of such organisations, which almost always operated internationally. Players contacted about a possible attractive transfer and asked for a "small" favour in return for money. Some players who refused to cooperate were even blackmailed or forced to comply under threat of reprisals. The betting expert described the Asian betting market, on account of its enormous liquidity, as the source of the problems. It was quite normal for a UEFA Champions League quarter-final between two high-profile teams to attract betting worth EUR 900 million. These extremely high sums were, of course, attractive to criminal organisations, since they offered a suitable opportunity to launder money.

Practical examples

The participants were then shown the typical characteristics of a fixed match, using various examples from European football, and were given some practical tips on how to prepare and conduct an investigation.

The second day of the seminar was devoted entirely to an introduction to the electronic Betting Fraud Detection System (BFDS), which will be used in future to produce detailed reports on suspicious matches for the attention of the member associations. Such reports form the starting point of any investigation relating to sports betting and corruption.

The seminar concluded with an in-depth question and answer session, during which practical advice was offered.



Photos: UEFA-pjwoods.ch



Technicians come together at UEFA HQ.



At UEFA HQ, the elite club coaches were given a referee's perspective: Pierluigi Collina (right) with Abel Resino and Manuel Pellegrini.

Ten years after Elite club coaches meet for annual forum in Nyon

GÉRARD HOULLIER AND SIR ALEX FERGUSON FOUND IT HARD TO BELIEVE THAT A DECADE HAD PASSED SINCE THEY HAD TAKEN THEIR SEATS AS FOUNDER MEMBERS OF UEFA'S ANNUAL ELITE CLUB COACHES FORUM.

At the outset, the event was a half-day get-together at which operational details of UEFA's club competitions could be discussed. But a suggestion by Fabio Capello that the forum should be extended to allow the coaches to 'talk football' was unanimously endorsed and these days the event is an intensive two-day fixture.

The 11th forum, on 3/4 September, still focused on some competition topics, such as warm-up schedules and difficulties encountered in obtaining visas in time to get multinational squads to away fixtures. The meeting also generated a proposal for a new disciplinary system whereby yellow cards could be wiped from the slate after a certain number of caution-free matches. In other words, good behaviour would be rewarded. And the idea of pegging a youth competition to UEFA Champions League fixtures was addressed.

State of the pitch a priority

However, the coaches' most pressing concern was focused on one of the basics of the game – the playing surface. As Arsène Wenger commented, "issues such as pitch watering and the height of the grass are fundamental to an attractive, modern playing style. The state of the pitch should be an absolute priority." The request to UEFA was therefore for stricter regulations and a more demanding approach.

During the 'talking football' sessions, the presence of Pierluigi Collina was a cue for the coaches to focus on refereeing matters – among them the UEFA Europa League experiments with additional assistant referees behind the goals. The UEFA president, Michel Platini, explained the thinking behind the tests, Pierluigi helped to explain the operational mechanisms, and the reaction from the coaches

was positive. Sir Alex Ferguson reflected the general mood by saying "progress is important, so I think we should try it". The coaches felt that it was well worth experimenting with anything that could help to minimise mistakes and that the additional officials could also have a deterrent value.

Measures against simulation

This led the discussion neatly into the thorny issue of simulation and, after listening to an explanation of UEFA's stance by Michel Platini and the general secretary, David Taylor, they agreed that the time had come to act. Sir Alex Ferguson was among those who felt that "something needs to be done about diving", Gérard Houllier

referred to the "duties to the game of football", and AC Milan's new head coach, Leonardo, stressed that the top clubs needed to set an example. Discussions centred on two different aspects of the same question: firstly, how referees, coaches and players can deal with simulation and, secondly, how UEFA's disciplinary bodies should deal with the cases that are brought into their domain.

The forum also welcomed the more user-friendly approach to the technical area where, as from this season, coaches are free to direct operations from a standing position. They also discussed the best ways of reacting to 'tactical fouls' and the treatment of injured players and, among the more global themes, goalscoring trends and the importance of playing philosophies in today's environment. As remarked by Henk ten Cate, the former FC Barcelona coach who currently leads Panathinaikos FC, "a playing style is not necessarily linked to success but if a club has a well-defined playing philosophy, it could be argued that the team has a better chance of surviving the loss of its coach." It was one of many talking points to emerge from another fruitful forum.



Photos: UEFA, plywoods.ch

The team photo at the 11th Elite Club Coaches Forum featured, in the back row from left to right:

UEFA's competitions director, Giorgio Marchetti • Abel Resino (Club Atlético de Madrid) • Henk ten Cate (Panathinaikos FC) • Leonardo (AC Milan) • Pierluigi Collina • Walter Smith (Rangers FC) • Thomas Schaaf (Werder Bremen) • UEFA's technical director, Andy Roxburgh.

The midfielders are Laurent Blanc (FC Girondins de Bordeaux) • Manuel Pellegrini (Real Madrid CF) • Martin Jol (AFC Ajax) • Bernard Challandes (FC Zürich) • Gérard Houllier (France's technical director) • Ciro Ferrara (Juventus) • Dan Petrescu (FC Unirea Urziceni).

The front line consists of the UEFA general secretary, David Taylor • Felix Magath (FC Schalke 04) • Arsène Wenger (Arsenal FC) • the UEFA president, Michel Platini • Sir Alex Ferguson (Manchester United FC) • Claude Puel (Olympique Lyonnais) • Didier Deschamps (Olympique de Marseille) • Jesualdo Ferreira (FC Porto).



The Professional Football Strategy Council comprises representatives of the national associations, leagues, clubs and players.

Bozzani

Bozzani

Meetings and other activities

Supporting financial fair play

THE PROFESSIONAL FOOTBALL STRATEGY COUNCIL (PFSC) MET FOR THE EIGHTH TIME ON FRIDAY 28 AUGUST IN MONACO. KEY ISSUES RELATING TO PROFESSIONAL FOOTBALL WERE ONCE AGAIN DISCUSSED BY REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE ASSOCIATIONS, THE CLUBS, THE LEAGUES AND THE PLAYER UNIONS.

This meeting marked the start of a new cycle and the UEFA president warmly welcomed the new members of the council: Joseph Mifsud, as one of the UEFA vice-presidents, Frank Rutten and Holger Hieronymus as newly elected representatives of the Association of European Professional Football Leagues (EPFL), and Bobby Barnes from FIFPro Division Europe. Michael van Praag, a UEFA Executive Committee member and chairman of the UEFA Club Competitions Commit-

tee, was also present to give a report on the previous day's meeting.

Review and summary

The meeting was opened with a review of the first two years of the strategy council's existence and a summary of all the work achieved. Following this, the main subject of the meeting was financial fair play, which was on the agenda for the sixth successive meeting and had therefore already been discussed extensively.

The council unanimously decided to recommend the financial fair play concept to the UEFA Executive Committee at its forthcoming meeting in Nyon on 14 and 15 September. This followed unanimous support from the UEFA Club Competitions Committee and approval by the board of the European Club Association (ECA).

A set of measures

The main purpose of the financial fair play concept is to increase financial fairness in European competitions and improve the long-term stability of club football across Europe. In order to achieve this purpose, a set of measures are to be put in place, including:

- the obligation for clubs whose turnover is over a certain threshold for a certain period of time to balance their books or "break even" (i.e. clubs cannot



The PFSC reached an agreement that is fundamental to professional football in Europe.



UEFA-pjwoods.ch

French support for financial fair play

On 1 September, the UEFA president, Michel Platini, welcomed Rama Yade, the French secretary of state for sports, to UEFA headquarters.

The meeting provided an opportunity to discuss subjects such as the specificity of sport, the protection of young footballers and training clubs, and financial fair play.

The secretary of state and the UEFA president discovered that they held similar views on these issues. Rama Yade particularly welcomed the agreement on financial fair play reached by the Professional Football Strategy Council.



Michel Platini explains to the Club Competitions Committee the proposals aimed at establishing financial fair play in UEFA competitions.



repeatedly spend more than they generate in revenue);

- guidance on salaries and transfer spending;
- an indicator on the sustainability of debt levels;
- the obligation for clubs to honour their financial commitments at all times.

Long-term investment

These measures, which reach beyond the current UEFA club licensing system, will stimulate long-term investment (youth development and upgrading of sporting facilities) instead of short-term speculative spending and the clubs' adherence to the rules will be assessed by the recently formed, independent Club Financial Control Panel.

The proposed measures on financial fair play should be introduced in UEFA competitions in the 2012/13 season and will also include a proposal to limit the size of squads, which, in turn, will help clubs to limit excessive expenditure on salaries and transfers.

Protection of youth players

Moreover, an in-depth update was given to the PFSC members on the preliminary results of research undertaken by UEFA regarding the protection of young players and the promotion of youth development. The initial trends confirm the general impression and feedback received from stakeholders throughout Europe.

An increasing number of players leave their country as minors to try their luck abroad. The share of minors involved in international transfers is on the up and is leading to a larger concentration of talents in only a few clubs and a lower average age of first international migration. This phenomenon mainly affects minors from countries within the European Union, as the current FIFA transfer regulations exempt these from the worldwide ban on the international transfer of minors.

Among other subjects discussed during the meeting, an update on the

current status of the European Social Dialogue was given, as well as a presentation of the new additional assistant referees experiment, which is being tested during this season's UEFA Europa League.

First meeting of the Club Competitions Committee

Led for the first time by its new chairman, Michael van Praag, the Club Competitions Committee held its first meeting of the season in Monaco, on the eve of the UEFA Champions League group stage draw.

The committee has undergone a significant facelift, since, as well as its new chairman, it has seven other new members in the shape of a second Executive Committee member, Giancarlo Abete, vice-chairman Sofoklis Pilavios, Jacques Lambert, Jean-Claude Blanc, Fernando Gomes, Karl Hopfner and Nils Skutle, the last four of whom were appointed by the European Club Association.

Financial fair play

The UEFA president, Michel Platini, explained to the committee the concept of financial fair play in the UEFA club competitions and the measures that have already been taken, summarising the basic principle behind the concept by saying "clubs must not spend more money than they generate". He received the committee's full backing for the plan to introduce practical measures in the next three years.

The committee also discussed issues such as the procedures for the UEFA Champions League and UEFA Europa League draws taking place in Monaco, a review of the 2008/09 club season and financial questions linked to the club competitions.

Finals revenue

In this context, the committee noted the final breakdown and distribution of income from the finals held in Rome and Istanbul. For the Champions League final, FC Barcelona received prize money of EUR 7 million as well as EUR 1,864,040 from ticket sales. The



For their victory in the UEFA Super Cup, FC Barcelona received a cheque for EUR 2.5 million to add to their Champions League income.



In Madrid as in Rome, supporters will get the opportunity to have their photo taken with the Champion Clubs' Cup.

D. Aquilino



Players join the anti-racism drive.

UEFA-pjwoods.ch

runners-up, Manchester United, received the same amount from ticket sales, plus EUR 4 million as the losing finalists.

In the UEFA Cup, Shakhtar Donetsk and Werder Bremen's share of ticket sales income was EUR 825,211 each. This payment supplements the prize money of EUR 2.5 and 1.5 million they received as winners and runners-up respectively.

Football festival in Madrid

The committee also discussed the programme for the week leading up to next year's UEFA Champions League final in Madrid. In order to make the week a true football festival, the Champions League final will be preceded, on the Thursday, by the UEFA Women's Champions League final, to be played at Getafe CF's stadium. In addition, Wednesday 19 May will be celebrated throughout Europe as Grassroots Day. Youth football will also be on the agenda with tournaments and the Champions Festival. Furthermore, young people will be able to watch the Champions League finalists training and at least 3,000 seats in the Bernabeu stadium will be reserved for children at the Saturday evening final. Supporters will also have the chance to visit the Champions Gallery,

admire the Champions League trophy and attend other special events.

The committee members approved the idea of playing the same piece of music while the players enter the pitch at all Champions League matches, before the Champions League anthem is played when the two teams line up.

With regard to regulatory amendments for the coming season, the committee members welcomed a proposal to change the rule on suspensions following yellow cards. They also expressed concern about the trend of friendly or national team matches being held on the same day as UEFA fixtures, which risked creating competition that could harm European football as a whole.

Finally, the participants considered the possibility of creating an international club competition for youth teams.

Referees prepare in Nyon

Europe's top referees met in Nyon from 1 to 3 September to prepare for the new season with the support of the Referees Committee, chaired by Angel María Villar Llona.

Thirty-six elite and premier-category referees attended the event. Since a good way of improving is to analyse past events, the referees began by looking back at and learning lessons from the second half of the 2008/09 season.

They also paid special attention to the experiment taking place this season in the UEFA Europa League group matches, where referees have two additional assistants to help them, particularly with incidents occurring in the penalty area.

The referees then split into small groups to share their views on subjects such as consistency in decision-making, cooperation between referees, assistant referees and fourth officials, management of players and penalty-area incidents. The conclusions were presented in a plenary meeting.

Of course, the referees also addressed the issue of physical fitness and were tested under the supervision of fitness expert Werner Helsen.

Anti-racism action week

UEFA's partner, the Football Against Racism in Europe (FARE) network, is organising its traditional week of action against racism from 15 to 27 October.

This year's event will be the tenth action week organised by the FARE network which, although it has noted significant progress in the fight against racism and all forms of discrimination, continues to deplore abuses in both professional and grassroots football.

The action weeks aim to draw attention to these abuses by promoting initiatives of various kinds in around 40 European countries: these may take the form of tournaments, discussion forums, advertisements or the distribution of banners and other materials to be used in the fight against racism.



Analysing situations from last season to learn lessons for the next.

UEFA-pjwoods.ch



FSHF

Albania
Armand Duka, the president of the Football Association of Albania, presents medals to the winners of the country's first women's tournament.

Thanks to the initiative of the Albanian Football Association (FSHF), the first national tournament was held in Tirana, with eight teams taking part. The event brought interest and soon enough, other teams started registering with the Albanian Football Association. Considering this as a priority, the FSHF started the registration of clubs and players, thus initiating the basis for the creation of serious and modern football clubs. The FSHF has supported these clubs with equipment and has given them the opportunity to train in the best possible conditions.

Last month, the FSHF technical department organised a seminar for coaches who will lead the Albanian women's football clubs in the future.

The main event now is the organisation of the first national women's football championship in Albania, which will get off the ground soon. At the same time, the Albanian Football Association is insisting that the clubs should start creating grassroots teams. This will create a healthy basis for the organisation of women's football in Albania. Although it is early days yet, what matters is that everyone is enthusiastic about the future. ■

Tritan Kokona

ALBANIA 

Women's football is born

Albania will soon start its first national women's football championship. What seemed like a dream many years ago, is today a touchable reality. The magic of football has grasped Albanian girls, who are now involved in different clubs, training every day with passion. The first teams with promising football players were created some years ago, thanks to the initiative of a group of dedicated football fans. But up to 2009, all they could organise were some modest activities and games between these teams.

AZERBAIJAN 

Beach soccer Republic Cup tournament

The Association of Football Federations of Azerbaijan (AFFA) and the Azerbaijan Beach Soccer Federation organise various projects to strengthen and increase the popularity of beach soccer throughout the country. The beach soccer Republic Cup tournament was held from 12 to 16 August in different regions of the country. It involved 30 teams from the north zone (Sumgayit city), south zone and Baku zone. The sun, sea and sand of the Caspian beach created a holiday atmosphere for the spectators at the Mardakan stadium during the final round held in Baku on 15 and 16 August. Astará earned a 7-6 win against Ganjarbirliyi in the third-place match, while the actual winners of the tournament were Neftchi, who beat Kodak (4-3) in the final. The AFFA general secretary, Elkhan Mammadov, joined the president of one of the regional football associations, Iskandar Javadov, and the president of the beach soccer association of Azerbaijan, Farid Novruzí, to congratulate the teams and present the prizes to the winners of the tournament, which aims to support the most promising beach soccer players, who will



AFFA

Azerbaijan
The beach soccer tournament was a great success.

also be called up to the national beach soccer team.

During the month of August, beach soccer fans in Azerbaijan had another reason to celebrate. The national beach soccer team beat Germany 6-4 and England 4-3 to finish top of their group in the 2009 Euro Beach Soccer League qualifying competition and go through to the promotion final in Portugal in August, where they finished in fourth place. ■

Firuz Abdulla

AUSTRIA 

New travel partner

Since 1 September, the Hogg Robinson Group (HRG), a corporate travel services company, has been an official partner of the Austrian FA (ÖFB). As such, HRG Austria will now make all the ÖFB's travel arrangements, for example, for the national A team, youth teams and women's teams. It will also take care of the travel arrangements for fans and the media for away matches.

HRG has a long record as a corporate travel services provider in the sports sector and has wide experience of working with the German FA (DFB) and German football league (DFL). For many years, it has also had joint venture agreements with renowned German football clubs such as Bayern Munich, Borussia Dortmund and Bayer Leverkusen.

HRG never loses sight of the travel and accommodation-related considerations and needs of athletes, teams and their entourages, or of associated organisations, companies and fans. "Through our global presence, national presence and, not least, our dedication, we're really looking forward to having the opportunity to offer the ÖFB the best possible service," said Wolfgang Schoiswohl, managing director of HRG Austria.

Speaking about the new partnership, Alfred Ludwig, CEO of the ÖFB, said: "HRG has already proved its professionalism and dedication during a trial period, in particular for the national team match against Serbia in Belgrade. This cooperation will certainly be very fruitful, and we're proud to have such a renowned partner, which already provides a highly satisfactory service to, among others, the DFB, Bayern Munich and many other top German clubs, as a member of the ÖFB family."

To mark the start of their partnership, the ÖFB and HRG have sponsored an eagle at Vienna zoo. ■

Peter Klinglmüller

Austria
The heads of the ÖFB and HRG Austria have sponsored an eagle to celebrate their new partnership.



GEPA Pictures für ÖFB

BELARUS



Futsal coaching seminar

From 17 to 21 August, the Belarus Football Federation (BFF) hosted a futsal seminar under the aegis of FIFA. The Belarusian coaches, guided by Benny Meuer of Belgium, took part in theoretical and practical sessions and learnt about the most up-to-date methods for organising training.

Benny Meuer also spoke about the importance of psychological aspects. All his sessions were very interactive and the coaches took part in all the discussions. Meuer's positive mood was contagious and he was rewarded with a storm of applause after the last theory session.

The BFF vice-president, Sergey Kunitsa, said: "We would like to thank FIFA for organising this seminar. It's a very useful experience for our coaches. Next year we will try to repeat this successful experience. On behalf of the Belarus Football Federation and all the coaches, I'd like to thank our instructor, Benny Meuer. We are very lucky to have him with us. He is an ex-futsal player and is part of the coaching staff at the Belgian FA. This means that Benny understands the peculiarities of the sport. We'll be very glad to see him back in Minsk next year." ■

Yulia Zenkovich



Cyprus
Costakis Koutsokoumnis (centre) has been re-elected as president of the Cyprus FA.

CYPRUS



An important and very successful month

Costakis Koutsokoumnis has been re-elected as president of the Cyprus Football Association (CFA) until 2011. On 7 August, the CFA's annual general meeting took place and unanimously gave Mr Koutsokoumnis the green light for another two-year term. Summarising the last season at the meeting, the CFA president highlighted that the successful results in Cyprus had created greater obligations and responsibilities in all aspects. The general meeting also officially approved the new CFA board of directors for 2009-11.

Cyprus is proudly celebrating another huge success. Following in the footsteps of Anorthosis Famagusta last year, the current champions, APOEL, have successfully qualified for the UEFA Champions League group stage. This back-to-back participation of a

local club in the Champions League is considered a huge step forward. APOEL managed to qualify despite starting right back in the second qualifying round.

The new season's domestic competitions are also getting under way. APOEL won the LTV Super Cup, which was the first official match of the season, with a 2-1 victory over APOP/Kinyras Peyias.

The new league season then started on the weekend of 29/30 August. For the third consecutive year, the championship is being played into two stages. To start, 14 teams are participating. At the end of phase one, after 26 matchdays, the bottom two teams in the table will be automatically relegated to the second division. The remaining 12 teams will play six more games in three groups according to their rankings (1-4, 5-8 and 9-12), carrying over the points earned during phase one. The team that finishes bottom of the last group (9-12) will also be relegated to the second division. ■

Kyriakos Giorgallis



Denmark
Youth football is going from strength to strength.

DENMARK



Football numbers: a new record

There are now over 313,000 people of all ages playing football in Denmark, with more than 7,000 new players registered in a year. Most of the newcomers are under 12 years old.

Football is a natural choice. There is almost no other way to interpret the number of Danes now playing the game. In comparison with other sports, football is with no doubt out in front in Denmark and once again has the biggest share of newcomers.

With over 7,000 new additions last year, the Danish FA (DBU) now has 313,674 registered players, which is a record! It is especially among young players – boys and girls – that the numbers are exploding.

"This year we have almost 4,000 more boys under 12 years old and around 1,500 new girls compared with last year's numbers, which were already very positive. I think the numbers are really something to be proud of in Danish football, especially when you can see that we have almost 44% of all Danish boys in the 6-12 age group," says Steen Jørgensen, head of youth football at the DBU. He believes that these very positive numbers have been brought about by a new attitude towards children's and youth football, which was introduced in February 2006.

"We have, over several years, tried to create a better environment for Danish children's football, where the focus is on the individual

child and on positive experiences with the ball instead of just results. I think that our strategy, with fewer players on the pitch, has given us happier children who keep playing football because it is fun. I also believe that the children are much more involved than they used to be, and that also keeps them wanting to play football," Steen says.

Also girls' football is on the rise and, for the second year in a row, football is the biggest sport for Danish girls under the age of 19.

"We are very happy to see that the numbers just keep growing year after year in girls' football. We have worked very hard and are continuously working at different levels to make football just as natural a choice for girls as for boys. And we are clearly well on our way, since the girls' numbers just grow year after year," adds Steen. To conclude, he believes that it is important that the FA keeps up the hard work, since children and youngsters are offered new opportunities and competing activities every day. ■

Pia Schou Nielsen

COMPARISON OF 2008 AND 2009

	2008	2009
Men		
< 12	98 973	102 880
13-18	53 970	53 907
19-24	26 970	27 473
25-60	62 105	62 168
> 60	3 433	3 510
Women		
< 12	27 484	29 033
13-18	20 890	21 304
19-24	5 688	5 844
25-60	6 814	7 114
> 60	304	441
TOTAL	306 631	313 674

ENGLAND



The FA comes home

After almost a decade at its headquarters in Soho Square, the governing body of English football moved to Wembley Stadium in August.

The move followed the integration of The FA with its Wembley Stadium business. As a result, staff from The FA, Wembley Stadium and the 2018 World Cup Bid team are all working alongside each other at the national stadium – the new headquarters of The FA Group.

Ian Watmore, the chief executive of The Football Association, said: "It is a fabulous stadium and a fitting home for our organisation. We have worked hard to deliver a first-class, fresh, modern and efficient working

France
Raymond Domenech readies himself
for a question and answer session.



Emmanuel, Zino, Abdellah and Yassin made their grand debut on the professional ladder, and not on the bottom rung either.

In turn, Karim Benzema, Patrick Vieira and Raymond Domenech stood before them, ready to answer an onslaught of questions carefully prepared in advance. "Ask easy questions," beseeched the French captain with a grin, before satisfying the curiosity of his audience, notepads and pens at the ready, clearly enjoying the situation. "You're trying to stir up an argument," he laughed, responding to a question from Zino. Good humour was the order of the day. "How do you deal with criticism?" one of the novice reporters asked the national coach. After a souvenir photo had been taken, the boss of the French national team returned to his real media activities and the press conference came to an end.

Emmanuel (15), one of those selected by www.fff.fr, had travelled from Saint-Dionisy (Gard) for his first experience as a reporter. It was a major event for this village of just 1,300 inhabitants. "My sister works for a publishing house in New York. She's convinced that I'll make a good journalist. I think so too. And this short time spent with the French team and the press makes me really want to do it." A bag of souvenirs from the FFF (including a polo shirt and a French national team football shirt), the visit to the Gerland stadium, special access to a private French national team training session (an exclusive) and a surprise invitation to the France v Turkey match itself will certainly have done nothing to dampen this enthusiasm! ■

Philippe Mayen

FINLAND



Women had fun in Unelma Cuppi

Unelma Cuppi (the Dream Cup) is a recreational football tournament for women only. This year it was organised for the third time in the Finnish capital, Helsinki. The event was originally intended for women who have never played organised football before. Since the first event in 2007, it has been a huge success and this year's Unelma Cuppi was divided into two series: the A cup for women who have never played before and the B cup for any woman who wanted to take part. All the players had to be over 18. Unelma Cuppi has been a fantastic way to get women interested in football. Many new teams have been set up thanks to the great atmosphere and fun that women have experienced at the event.

This year there were 128 teams in the main event. The four-a-side matches were played in inflatable mini-pitches and took place on the same day the Finnish women's national team played their second group match in the Women's EURO 2009. Most of the participants ran the 2km to the Helsinki Olympic stadium after the Unelma Cuppi to see the Finland team play Ukraine. This year's Unelma Cuppi was also extended to other parts of Finland. Local clubs organised eight local Unelma Cuppi events in their own area. Around 100 teams took part in these events, so almost 250 teams and around 2,000 women took part in Unelma Cuppi events altogether in 2009. ■

Jukka Salasuo

FRANCE



Reporters for a day

They love football and want to be journalists. Eight youngsters selected by the French Football Federation (FFF) and its partners have attended their first Les Bleus press conference in Lyon. But did they get a scoop?

"Are you proper journalists? Is that so? In that case, I'm going to answer just as I would to real journalists!" With a touch of deadpan humour, Raymond Domenech enjoyed creating a real press conference atmosphere for the budding reporters assembled in a semi-circle before him. For the eight boys and girls aged 12 to 15 who had been selected by the FFF's website (www.fff.fr), TF1, Crédit Agricole and Carrefour as Les Bleus reporters, this was the highlight of their visit to Lyon. The traditional pre-match press conference was held in a tent erected at the foot of the Jean-Bouin stand in the Gerland stadium ahead of the friendly between France and Turkey. In the middle of media representatives who were busy doing their jobs, Sarah, Déborah, Laura, Alexandre,

GEORGIA



Georgia's U17s win a tournament in Lithuania

The Under-17 national team of Georgia have won the international tournament held in Palanga, Lithuania. Giorgi Devdariani's team defeated their rivals from Azerbaijan by a clear 3-0 margin in the final to win the tournament for the first time.

Georgia's first match of the tournament, against Latvia, ended goalless, while in their second match they defeated Belarus 1-0.

In the final, the scoring opened with David Khocholava's goal in the 10th minute of the match. In the 20th minute, he doubled the score and in the 10th minute of the second half, he completed his hat-trick with a third, beautiful goal.

The tournament organising committee named goalkeeper David Legashvili as the best goalkeeper of the tournament for having managed to keep a clean sheet. Vako Kazaisvili won the best midfielder award, while David Khocholava came away with two prizes, as the best forward and as the fans' favourite.

"Our victory is the result of very hard and good work. I am very happy to have won first prize with the Georgian Under-17 team and I am sure that they have more victories coming their way," said Giorgi Devdariani, head coach. ■

On 13 May 1981 FC Dinamo Tbilisi celebrated the biggest victory in the history of Georgian



Georgia
Vake won the tournament held
in honour of Vitali Daraselia.

football when they beat Carl Zeiss Jena 2-1 in the final of the European Cup Winners' Cup. Vitali Daraselia scored the winning goal three minutes before the end of the match. Daraselia died just a year later, on 13 December 1982.

In the Georgian village of Shroma, a tournament named after this legend of Georgian football has been held. Six teams participated. There was a lot of interest in the tournament, which attracted a large number of spectators and was won by Vake.

The best scorers of the tournament, with 12 goals apiece, were Giorgi Kechakmadze of Vake and Otar Chkheidze of Vake 2. They received copies of the books published to commemorate UEFA's golden jubilee. Guram Tsikhvaria, best player of the tournament, received a shirt of the Georgian national team captain, Kakha Kaladze. The organising committee awarded all participants books published by the Georgian Football Federation. ■

Lasha Goduadze



England

The FA has moved into the new Wembley Stadium.

environment for our people at the home of English football.

"Moving to Wembley and integrating with our colleagues in the stadium is central to our long-term vision. Working together, we can better deliver our commitments to improving, promoting and developing all levels of football and for Wembley to reach its full potential as a world-class stadium." ■

Kirsty Ball



Israel
Football representatives are received by the head of state.

Latvia
Mihails Zemlinskis, the new U21 coach



ISRAEL



A presidential welcome

The president of the state of Israel, Shimon Peres, received at his residence all of Israel's premier league team captains before start of the new football season.

The president also invited the chairman of the Israel Football Association (IFA), Avi Luzon, the head coach of the Israeli national team, Dror Kashtan, and the chairmen of the clubs to celebrate the start of the premier league.

Mr Luzon presented Mr Peres with a gift from the football association – a national team shirt with the number one and the name Peres on the back. Meir Cohen, captain of Bney Sakhnin, gave the president a

football signed by all the premier league team captains.

Mr Peres congratulated the players and the chairmen on the opening of the new season and emphasised the importance of the expansion of the league to 16 teams: *"I am happy the league was enlarged to 16 teams because it will bring football to the south, to the Galilee region and to the Arabic sector."*

He also emphasised the important influence that football has on young people: *"Football is a positive answer to the many problems of Israeli society."*

Mr Luzon thanked the president for taking the initiative of this reception and added: *"This year in the premier league we have Hapoel Beer Sheva, who are close to your heart, and teams from the Galilee – Nazareth and Sakhnin – an area whose development is so important to you. Football will now be in every home in Israel."* ■

Nimrod Suzin

LATVIA



Mihails Zemlinskis is new U21 head coach

On 1 September, the well-known former national team defender Mihails Zemlinskis was confirmed as the new head coach of the Latvian national U21 team. Zemlinskis was nominated for this post after his predecessor, Genādijs Šitiks, died of a heart attack at the age of 51.

Zemlinskis played 105 matches in defence and scored 12 goals for his national team. As a professional player with Skonto FC, he won 13 Latvian championships in a row until September 2005, when he played his international farewell match against Japan (2-2). At the end of his playing career, Zemlinskis joined the JFK Olimps coaching staff and in 2007 accepted the post as FC Daugava Daugavpils head coach, winning the Latvian Cup and a place in the UEFA Europa League qualifiers in his first season.

In other news, the most successful open amateur football tournament in Latvia finished in late summer, having gathered the highest number of teams and spectators in four regions and, for the final day, at the Skonto stadium. The Mitava Open was organised by the hugely successful Latvian rock band Brainstorm and was supported by the Latvian Football Federation (LFF). A total of 178 teams played in six stages in all Latvian regions.

The 2009 Women's Baltic Cup for U17 and U19 sides was hosted by the LFF in Valmiera at the end of August. The Latvian women's U17 team beat their counterparts from Estonia and Lithuania to lift the cup, while the U19s received silver medals. ■

Martins Hartmanis



Liechtenstein
Portugal help celebrate the LFV's anniversary in Vaduz.

capacity, the match was a great football celebration, with opponents who played attractive football and a successful supporting programme.

A few days later, three of the top European Under-16 national teams arrived in the principality for a jubilee tournament. Austria, Germany, Switzerland and the host team put on a truly professional display. Although the Liechtenstein Under-16s were clearly the underdogs, their bigger neighbours were virtually neck and neck in the race to victory. In the end, however, it was Germany that came out on top, ahead of Austria.

With absolutely no pressure and the emphasis on fun, two children's football tournaments concluded the sporting celebrations. The Under-10 and Under-8 tournaments, with matches, tactics and skills training, as well as a football musical on the side, were enjoyed by girls and boys from Liechtenstein and the local area with their parents, grandparents, brothers and sisters. ■

Judith Frommelt

LIECHTENSTEIN



Sporting celebrations in Vaduz

The 75th anniversary of the Liechtenstein Football Federation (LFV) is not only cause for congratulations and speeches but, above all, an opportunity for some celebratory sports action. In August, the LFV kicked off a barrage of activities, starting with a commemorative international match against Portugal. At the Rheinpark stadium, which was just about full to

LITHUANIA



2009 Beach Soccer Baltic Cup

At the end of the summer, a Beach Soccer Baltic Cup was organised for second time in Baltic football history. Two years ago it was organised in Latvia and this year, after a two-year break, it was held at the Palanga resort in Lithuania.

Two teams from each of the Baltic States participated in the tournament: Midateksas and Igol from Lithuania, Ludza and Dinamo

LAT from Latvia, and Unibet Nomme Kalfu and SC Real Triobet from Estonia.

The winners of the 2009 Baltic Cup were Latvian team Ludza, who were awarded a special prize together with the Baltic Cup. The winners of the 2007 tournament were Lithuanian team Product Security.

FIFA beach soccer referees from Ukraine, Latvia and Lithuania were invited to the 2009 edition. According to the head referee, Romualdas Cviklinskis, the tournament was a real success.

"Everything was organised to a very high standard. The Lithuanian futsal department, which is also responsible for beach soccer development in Lithuania, takes pleasure in drawing new sponsors to the Lithuanian world of beach soccer. There were seats installed for spectators,



Lithuania
The Beach Soccer Baltic Cup is back.

special benches for substitutes and other things done through our new sponsors. So the tournament was really very successful."

The initiative to organise another Beach Soccer Baltic Cup tournament after a two-year break came from all three Baltic States. The hope is that the tournament will become a solid tradition with strong roots. Looking to the future, the idea is to organise a championship-style competition next year, with three rounds – one in each of the Baltic States. ■

Vaiva Zizaitė



FYR Macedonia
The match against Spain was a crowd pleaser.

Veljanovski; a delegation from the Spanish Football Federation headed by its president, Angel Maria Villar Llona; and numerous guests from the sporting, cultural and political worlds and diplomatic corps in FYR Macedonia.

The fans welcomed the national team and bid an official farewell to football legend Artim Shakiri, who made 72 appearances and scored 15 goals for the national team. The fans raised their hands to thank him for the beautiful moments, such as his goal against England in Southampton, numerous assists and his desire for success.

The Spanish side included Torres, Villa, Puyol, Xavi and Casillas, who other teams fear and the fans flock to see.

Our team, under coach Mirsad Jonuz, got off to a good start and left the field at half-time with a 2-0 lead, both goals having been scored by Goran Pandev. However, Spain struck back with three goals in the second half to ultimately win the match 3-2.

We would have wished for a better result against the European champions, but let us hope that we fare better against Scotland and Norway in our last 2010 World Cup qualifiers. ■

Zoran Nikolovski

FYR MACEDONIA



100 years of football in Macedonia

As part of its centenary celebrations, the Football Federation of FYR Macedonia (FFM) invited the reigning European champions, Spain, to the Philip II arena for a friendly to mark this momentous occasion. It was also a good opportunity to promote the recently completed new north stand, which brings the arena into line with the norms prescribed by FIFA and UEFA for staging international matches.

The atmosphere created by the 25,000-strong crowd was further enlivened by a spectacular firework display.

Among those present were the president of The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, George Ivanov; the prime minister, Nikola Gruevski; the parliament speaker, Trajko

MALTA



Towards better refereeing standards

The recent annual seminar for Maltese referees, this year conducted by Vlado Sajin, a member of the UEFA Referees Committee, was a highly successful activity designed to prepare Maltese first and second-class referees and assistant referees for the new football season.



Malta
Vlado Sajin and members of the Malta FA's referee board

As usual, the participants were numerous and very proactive over the three-day event as various presentations were delivered by the main speaker. Mr Sajin dealt mainly with amendments to the Laws of the Game as well as serious foul play, the interpretation of advantage, and management issues. His thorough explanation of these items sparked great interest from those present.

There were several other topics covered by local speakers from the Malta FA's referee board, referee coordinators and other guest speakers. These topics also elicited a lot of interest.

Opening the seminar, the MFA president, Joseph Mifsud, who is also a UEFA vice-president, stressed the importance of keeping referees in every country abreast of the latest developments in their important field.

The lectures were followed by several practical and theoretical sessions, for which the participants were divided into groups.

All in all, the event served as an excellent opportunity for the Maltese match officials not only to update themselves with better standards for controlling matches but also to get to know each other better and at the same time enhance their team spirit. ■

Alex Vella



Moldova
Participants on the instructors' course

MOLDOVA



Open Fun Football Schools in Moldova

The Open Fun Football Schools (OFFS), which UEFA partners, organised 12 schools for some 3,000 Moldovan and Ukrainian children from 24 to 28 August. The summer grassroots activities were held in 11 Moldovan villages – Magdacesti, Bulboaca, Lozova, Singerei, Ocnita, Glodeni, Ribnita, Cahul, Vulcanesti, Bender, Caragas – and one Ukrainian – Socireni.

In addition, 168 voluntary coaches and 10 instructors took part in coach and leader training courses run by the Danish Cross Cultures Project Association (CCPA), the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency and the Football Association of Moldova. The official inauguration ceremony for the courses was attended by Radu Rebeja, vice-president of the FA of Moldova; Henning Kurland, CCPA coordinator; Badri Karkashadze, OFFS coordinator in Georgia; Ghenadie Scurtul, OFFS coordinator in Moldova; Julius Liljestrom, head of mission at the Swedish embassy section office in Moldova; and Ylva Sorman Nath, first secretary at the Swedish embassy section office in Moldova.

The Open Fun Football Schools is a humanitarian project that has been implemented in

Moldova since 2006 and uses games and the pedagogical fun-football concept as a tool to stimulate the process of democracy, peace, stability and social cohesion in southeast Europe and the Transcaucasus by re-establishing friendships and sports cooperation between otherwise opposed population groups. At the same time, they contribute to the promotion of football as a game. ■

Press Office



Northern Ireland
United through football against intolerance

NORTHERN IRELAND



Football unites against hate

With support from Awards For All, the EU, Crusaders Football Club, the police service of Northern Ireland and the Irish Football Association's Football For All team, the Belfast-based intercultural football team, World United, ran a very successful seven-a-side Unite Against Hate Unity Cup at Seaview at the end of August.

This anti-racism football tournament involved a diverse range of teams all supporting Unite Against Hate, a new multi-agency campaign initiated by the office of the first and deputy first minister, the equality commission, the community relations council, the Northern Ireland office community safety unit and the police service of Northern Ireland.

The campaign challenges prejudices which, if left unchecked, can result in the sort of hate

crimes that have recently affected people across Northern Ireland. The Northern Ireland welcome is world famous. This campaign provides opportunities for ordinary people to demonstrate their opposition to the mindless minority who carry out hate crimes.

Eight local teams, including several World United sides (consisting of locally based players from all over the world), two Chinese teams, a north Belfast cross-community team, an Iranian team and a Football For All volunteer team, all got behind the Unite Against Hate message and played some very entertaining football at Seaview, competing in a spirit of fair play to be the 2009 Unite Against Hate Unity Cup champions.

The IFA's head of community relations and world united player, Michael Boyd, praised all those who supported the event: "This year's Unite Against Hate Unity Cup was an outstanding success, inspiring all who volunteered their time to support it. The FA of Northern Ireland is very proud to have supported this year's Unite Against Hate Unity Cup and the association fully supports the Unite Against Hate campaign." ■
Sueann Harrison



Republic of Ireland
Cork City lifted last year's Setanta Cup.

REPUBLIC OF IRELAND



Cross-border Setanta Cup kicks off

The annual Setanta Sports Cup, Ireland's cross-border cup competition, kicked off during the last weekend of August as Cork City began the defence of their title with a 1-0 victory over JJB Sports Premiership side Cliftonville.

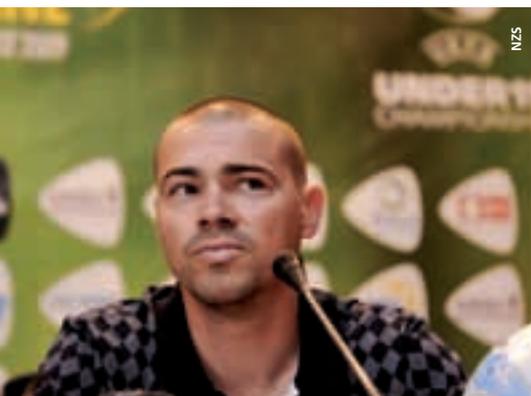
The Setanta Sports Cup was inaugurated in 2005 with the support of the Setanta Sports TV company. The competition initially comprised six teams, with three representing the JJB Sports Premiership in Northern Ireland and three from the League of Ireland.

Nine clubs are taking part in the 2009/10 Setanta Sports Cup, making this season's competition the biggest since the tournament was launched in 2005. Five clubs from the League of Ireland are taking part alongside four from the JJB Sports Premiership.

The competition, which kicked off in August, will run until May next year. The introduction of semi-finals played over two legs will be welcomed by clubs and fans alike, while the scheduling of matches at the weekend for the first time is also a welcome addition.

The teams taking part are reigning champions Cork City, Bohemians, Saint Patrick's Athletic, Derry City, Sligo Rovers, Glentoran, Coleraine, Linfield and Cliftonville. ■

Fran Whearty



Slovenia

Coach Milos Kostic has his work cut out.

round, Kostic will have a massive task on his hands once again. Still without his main strike force – Robert Beric tore his knee ligaments against Belarus in the previous elite round and is not expected back until the end of the year – Kostic assembled a wide-ranging squad, consisting of 25 players, for a four-day training camp in Planica. Now he will select the 18 players for October's qualifiers.

Despite the fact that they're missing a few important players, the Under-19s will continue to play attacking football. "We want to win in every match we play. There's no other philosophy here. We will strive to keep that style of play for the upcoming qualifiers as well and hopefully step over the first hurdle by qualifying for the elite round," the most successful Slovenia youth coach said after the Planica training camp. ■

Matjaz Krajnik

SLOVENIA



Under-19s begin new selection process

After the Slovenian U19 squad made their first appearance at a European Championship in Ukraine in mid-July, leaving a good impression despite the team missing 7 out of 11 starters, the Slovenian head coach, Milos Kostic, had to forget about the most successful era in Slovenian youth football and look to the future. The next Under-19 qualifiers are just around the corner and Slovenia doesn't have an easy task ahead.

Having lost the majority of the team that played in Ukraine (the most notable exceptions being Haris Vuckic and Martin Milec), Slovenia will once again host a qualifying round mini-tournament, with adversaries England, Slovakia and Finland. Despite the fact that two teams from each group progress to the elite

SWEDEN



Protecting fans from black market tickets

The Swedish FA and its official ticket partner, Ticnet, lodged a complaint with the Swedish consumer agency regarding seven companies with websites that offer tickets for national team games at prices that are much higher than their face value. For Sweden's highly anticipated qualifier against Denmark

in June, tickets sold out in 20 minutes and black market operators took full advantage of the demand by offering tickets at profiteering prices. However, any ticket that is bought through a non-official ticket handler may, according to the terms of use, be rendered invalid by the organiser of the event.

The Swedish consumer agency has now fully agreed with the complaint, and made clear that the websites in question must inform any potential customers that their tickets may not be valid for admission to the stadium.

"This is a wise decision by the consumer agency, which will keep an eye on these websites and fine them if they persist with their profiteering activities. Football fans should not have to put up with tickets being bought up by traders on the release date to then be resold to the highest bidder. If necessary, we will start personalising all tickets to put an end to this," said the general secretary of the Swedish FA, Sune Hellströmer. ■

Andreas Nilsson



SFV

Turkey
Participants from the Pro licence course.



TFF

SWITZERLAND



Night of Swiss Football

At the 12th Night of Swiss Football, the best players of the 2008/09 season received their honours.

In the public poll for Axpo Player of the Year, Seydou Doumbia (21) of BSC Young Boys was crowned best player of 2008/09 in Switzerland. With 20 goals to his name last season, the striker from Ivory Coast also holds the title of top scorer of 2008/09.

The Credit Suisse Player of the Year trophy for the best Swiss player at EURO 2008 and in national team matches during the 2008/09 season went to Diego Benaglio (25), who plays his club football with German champions VfL Wolfsburg. The Swiss goalkeeper received more votes from Swiss football fans than fellow nominees Valon Behrami (West Ham United FC), Blaise Nkufo (FC Twente) and Hakan Yakin (FC Luzern).

Switzerland
The Night of Swiss Football award winners

The third public award, Axpo Goal of the Year, went to Fabian Frei (20) of FC St. Gallen.

For the five other categories – coach of the year, referee of the year, youth player of the year, cup team of the year and female player of the year – the winners were selected by a jury.

Bernard Challandes of champions FC Zürich won his first coach of the year award, while the title of best referee of the season was won for the fifth year in a row by FIFA referee Massimo Busacca, who had been entrusted with this year's UEFA Champions League final in Rome. The jury of coaches decided that Valentin Stocker of FC Basel was the best youth player of the year, voted FC Sion best team in the Swiss Cup for their 11th win in as many cup finals, and chose Ramona Bachmann as female player of the year. Since March 2007, the 18-year-old striker has been playing her club football with Umea IK in Sweden. In July, she travelled to Belarus with the Swiss women's Under-19 team for the European Championship final round, where she was instrumental in Switzerland's 3-0 win against Germany. ■

Pierre Benoit

TURKEY



Number of licensed players rises by 20%

The Turkish Football Federation (TFF) is steadily approaching its target of reaching 1 million licensed players within three years. The number of licensed players registered by the TFF stood at 260,000 at the end of August, following the introduction of the Football For All licence. Compared with the figure of 217,000 licensed players in March, this corresponds to a 20% rise following the addition of 32,000 Football For All licensed players plus 10,000 licensed amateur players.

Of the 32,000 Football For All licensed players, 3,000 are women. In addition, the Refereeing For All initiative launched in March resulted in the recruitment of 3,600 referees in 72 cities.

The TFF has also successfully organised its first Pro licence course. This first course involved 20 participants, including Fatih Terim, head coach of the Turkish national team. It consisted of two stages, held in January and July, where all candidates attended theoretical and practical sessions. The successful coaches received their licences at a ceremony at the end of July attended by nearly 150 guests from Turkish football and the media. Senes Erzik, UEFA vice-president, and Mahmut Özgener, president of the TFF, presented the coaches with their diplomas. ■

Türker Tozar



FFU

Ukraine
A souvenir plaque from the Valeriy Lobanovskiy memorial tournament

UKRAINE



Hosts delight at Lobanovskiy memorial

The Ukrainian Under-21 team won the seventh edition of the annual commemorative tournament for the first time in their history after defeating Turkey 1-0 in the final at Valeriy Lobanovskiy stadium in Kyiv.

Staged by the Ukrainian FA (FFU) and the ministry of sport, the memorial featured four Under-21 teams. In the semi-finals, Ukraine narrowly defeated Iran 2-1, with a goal in each half from Roman Zozulya and Volodymyr Lysenko, while Turkey overcame the 2009 European Under-21 Championship winners Germany 3-1. In the final, a shot from the spot by captain Mykola Morozhyuk gave Ukraine their first Lobanovskiy trophy.

The tournament was just one of several memorial events in honour of Lobanovskiy. The FFU organised flower-laying ceremonies and public meetings near the coach's grave and his statue outside the stadium which also bears his name. Hundreds of senior figures from Ukrainian football and politics, relatives and friends of the brilliant specialist,

players and fans gathered to honour his memory.

Born on 6 January 1939 in Kyiv, Lobanovskiy played 258 games for Dynamo, scoring 71 goals. He won the Soviet title as a player in 1961 and the Soviet Cup in 1964 and made two appearances for the Soviet Union as well as captaining the Under-23 side which competed in the Olympic games. As a coach, he started with FC Dnipro Dnipropetrovsk, before joining Dynamo in 1973. Under Lobanovskiy, Dynamo won eight Soviet titles and six Soviet Cups, as well as the 1975 and 1986 European Cup Winners' Cups and the 1975 UEFA Super Cup.

His success continued in the independent Ukraine as his Dynamo side won five Ukrainian titles and three Ukrainian Cups. On the international stage the team reached the semi-finals of the 1998/99 UEFA Champions League. He also coached the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait and Ukraine national teams. Lobanovskiy is considered the pioneer of the scientific approach to football, and the great coach also worked successfully with the national teams of USSR and Ukraine. He died of a brain haemorrhage on 13 May 2002. ■

Bogdan Buga

Wales

Joe Ledley (Cardiff City), Dean Saunders (assistant national coach) and Ashley Williams (Swansea City) sporting campaign T-shirts



FAW

WALES



Helping to raise awareness of men's health issues

The Football Association of Wales (FAW) is helping to raise funds for former international player John Hartson, who has been diagnosed with testicular cancer.

Hartson, who played for Arsenal and Celtic, among many clubs, played for his country more than 50 times before becoming a TV commentator. Still only in his mid-30s, he has begun treatment for the illness.

The FAW are keen to also help raise awareness of the disease among men in the 20-35 age range. For the recent international against Montenegro, the players wore special T-shirts for their warm-up, as well as match shirts with Hartson's name on the sleeve. They will be auctioned off for the charity in the autumn.

Early in 2010 the FAW is looking to hold a 5km run around the Welsh capital, Cardiff, to help raise awareness of men's health issues. All football clubs in the country will be asked to send representatives to take part. ■

Ceri Stennett



Lots of children took part in the Open Fun Football Schools.

F. Kravac



Anders Levinson during a UEFA seminar

Sportsfile



F. Kravac

Bosnia-Herzegovina Legends gather at Open Fun Football Schools



SEVERAL BOSNIAN TOWNS RECENTLY HOSTED A UEFA FILM CREW, HERE TO FILM THE OPEN FUN FOOTBALL SCHOOLS, WHICH FIRST OPENED 12 YEARS AGO AND ATTRACT MORE AND MORE ATTENTION DAY BY DAY.

Starting in Bosnia-Herzegovina, this schools project spread to the whole region a few years later. Last month many cities in Bosnia-Herzegovina were centres of children's football for a week, but the filming crew managed to visit only Travnik, Srebrenica, Praca-Pale and Ilidza.

The school organised in Travnik was especially interesting, it being the only one exclusively for girls. It gathered participants from four neighbouring towns, Donji Vakuf, Gornji Vakuf, Travnik and Novi Travnik, helping tremendously to popularise women's football in Bosnia-Herzegovina and fight the prejudice that football is a man's game.

As a special guest, Anders Levinson, the Danish founder of the Cross Cultures Project Association and its Open Fun Football Schools, took part in monitoring the schools' work.

A big contribution to the schools' activities is also provided year in, year out by the many coaches, assistants and volunteers from throughout Bosnia-Herzegovina. Great additional support was expressed last month by the football legends of Bosnia-Herzegovina Ivica Osim, Mirsad Fazlagic and Vahidin Musemic.

The three of them were reunited after 41 years – not on a standard pitch, but by the Zeljeznica river in Ilidza – to support the football schools project. The legendary trio was greeted by numerous boys and girls, all budding football players.

"We are happy to express our appreciation of children's schools such as the Open Fun Football Schools, because they are the only way that, in the future, we will have good players. We used to start playing like this, for the love of the game, without

referees. These kids need to love the ball, love the game, to be able to become professionals one day," said Ivica Osim, Mirsad Fazlagic and Vahidin Musemic.

The UEFA film crew also managed to interview Miroslav Ciro Blazevic, the national coach, Bogdan Ceko, a member of the executive committee of the Bosnian FA, former players Rastislav Matic, Refik Sabanhadzovic, Husref Musemic and Bulend Biscevic, and many more.

Ivica Osim, Mirsad Fazlagic and Vahidin Musemic didn't just enjoy being among the young players; they also reminisced about the silver medals they won together, 41 years ago with Yugoslavia, at the 1968 European Championship in Italy.

"All three of us played in the semi-final against England in Florence. We won three minutes before the end of the match, with Dragan Dzajic's goal. I couldn't play in the finals due to my injury," recalled Ivica Osim, who is now recovering from a stroke but is often at the Grbavica stadium, watching FC Zeljeznica, the team led by his son, Amar Osim.

"After drawing 0-0 with the USSR, the Italians reached the final thanks to a little coin. We took the lead, again with a Dragan Dzajic goal in the 39th minute, but the hosts were lucky to make it an even 1-1 when Domenghini scored ten minutes before the final whistle, forcing a replay," said Vahidin Musemic, of the match at the Olympic Stadium in Rome.

"We didn't defeat the Italians in the first match, so it was tough to play again in the second match. We received silver medals, although we felt that we had deserved the winning place in the European Championship," said Mirsad Fazlagic.

Fuad Kravac



Mirsad Fazlagic, Ivica Osim and Vahidin Musemic reminisce.

F. Kravac

Communications

Birthdays – Calendar

Birthdays

The former UEFA general secretary Pierre Delaunay (France) celebrates his 90th birthday on 9 October. Angelo Brou (Portugal), a member of the HatTrick Committee, turns 70 on 7 October, followed on 10 October by the disciplinary inspector Ellert B. Schram (Iceland) and on 28 October by Michael Cody (Republic of Ireland), a member of the Social Responsibility and Fair Play Committee. Julius Kvedaras (Lithuania), a member of the Football Committee, celebrates his 60th on 3 October, as does the Referees Committee member Bo Karlsson (Sweden) on 12 October. Birthday greetings also go out this month to:

- Trevor Brooking (England, 2.10)
- Levent Bicakci (Turkey, 2.10)
- Andrzej Wach (Poland, 2.10)
- David Richards (England, 3.10)
- Wilfried Heitmann (Germany, 4.10)
- Frank Coulston (Scotland, 5.10)
- Albert Hendrik Korthals (Netherlands, 5.10)
- Terje Hauge (Norway, 5.10)
- Jerzy Engel (Poland, 6.10)
- Mark J. O'Leary (Republic of Ireland, 6.10)
- Armand Duka (Albania, 7.10)
- Zvonimir Boban (Croatia, 8.10)
- Sergey Zuev (Russia, 9.10)
- Joan Gaspart (Spain, 11.10)
- Tom van der Hulst (Netherlands, 15.10)
- David Blood (Republic of Ireland, 16.10)
- John Delaney (Republic of Ireland, 16.10)
- Jean-Marie Philips (Belgium, 17.10)
- Frans Hoek (Netherlands, 17.10)
- Mark Arthur (England, 17.10)
- Erik Loe (Norway, 18.10)
- Aivar Pohlak (Estonia, 19.10)
- Christian Müller (England, 19.10)
- Paul Philipp (Luxembourg, 21.10)
- Philip Pritchard (Wales, 22.10)
- Mircea Sandu (Romania, 22.10)

- Jan C. Huijbregts (Netherlands, 23.10)
- Michel Vautrot (France, 23.10)
- Christian Teinturier (France, 24.10)
- Pekka Hämäläinen (Finland, 25.10)
- Markku Lehtola (Finland, 26.10)
- Hugh Dallas (Scotland, 26.10)
- George W. Peat (Scotland, 29.10)
- Rui Cacador (Portugal, 29.10)
- David Triesman (England, 30.10)
- Kurt Zuppinger (Switzerland, 31.10)

Forthcoming events

Meetings

6/7.10.2009, Nyon

Anti-Doping Panel

13.10.2009, Nyon

Draw for the elite round of the UEFA Futsal Cup

27/28.10.2009, Nyon

Meeting with the general secretaries of the UEFA member associations

Competitions

1.10.2009

UEFA Europa League: group matches (matchday 2)

7.10.2009

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

20/21.10.2009

UEFA Champions League: group matches (matchday 3)

22.10.2009

UEFA Europa League: group matches (matchday 3)

24.10–15.11.2009, Nigeria

U-17 World Cup

Communications

■ The Football Association of Wales elected Philip Prichard as president on 27 August.

■ Igor Klimper became the new general secretary of the Football Federation of FYR Macedonia on 13 August.

■ Following the departure of Karen Espelund, Erik Loe is acting general secretary of the Norwegian Football Association.

Match agent

A UEFA match agent licence has been granted to:

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New publication

SPARTAK MOSCOW – A History of the People's Team in the Workers' State



Published in November by Cornell University Press, this book by Robert Edelman does not simply retrace the history of one of the most famous clubs in the Russian capital; it also uses sport to provide an interesting perspective on day-to-day life in Soviet society, from the post-revolutionary era to the fall of communism. (www.cornellpress.cornell.edu).

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