

Including



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Photos: uefa-plwoods.ch

# Message of the president From one year to the next

In football, as in other sports, the end of the calendar year is not necessarily the best time to take stock, since we follow a different calendar, based on the football seasons, which generally start in summer and end the following spring.

This does not, however, stop us from pausing for a moment to reflect on the first half of the season. For the continent's best national teams, the last few months of 2009 – with all their surprises, successes and disappointments – represented the home straight in the qualifying competition for the 2010 World Cup in South Africa.

For the clubs, the season began back in June but really took off in August, with the draws in Monaco for the group stages of the UEFA Champions League and UEFA Europa League. There is, of course, still a long way to go in both these competitions, but it is already apparent that the format changes have been beneficial. And I am really looking forward to the implementation of another new feature – that of the Champions League final being played on a Saturday – enabling us to enjoy a whole week of build-up to this spectacular event.

Behind the scenes, the first half of the season was also marked by intense activity and definite progress towards establishing greater financial fair play in our club competitions. But events also proved that there was still a long way to go in ridding football of all those for whom morals and ethics are merely abstract notions.

We could wish for this to change – it is the season for wishes after all – but it is better to take action. And this is what we will do, with the utmost determination and the help of the authorities where necessary. I do, however, have one wish, which goes out to everyone who holds the ball close to their hearts – that 2010 is not only the year of the World Cup, but one when football is enjoyed from beginning to end, from the mini-pitches to the grandstands, from friendly matches to international finals.



**Michel Platini**  
UEFA President

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## COVER

The play-offs completed the European line-up in South Africa. Simao Sabrosa (11) earned his ticket to South Africa by helping Portugal to beat Sanel Jahic's Bosnia-Herzegovina twice.

Photo: Getty Images

# World Cup in South Africa

## The 13 wonders of Europe



Italy will defend their title, having won their group ahead of a strong Republic of Ireland side.

PA Wire/ Press Association Images

**THIRTEEN EUROPEAN TEAMS WILL BE TAKING PART IN THE WORLD CUP IN SOUTH AFRICA, INCLUDING SEVERAL FAMILIAR FACES, BUT ALSO ONE OR TWO SURPRISES, AS WELL AS A NEWCOMER TO THE TOURNAMENT. FOR SOME THE ROAD TO SOUTH AFRICA HAS BEEN SMOOTHER THAN OTHERS, BUT THEY ARE ALL PURSUING THE SAME GOAL: TO BE THE FIRST EUROPEAN TEAM TO WIN THE WORLD CUP ON NON-EUROPEAN SOIL.**

The last World Cup, in Germany, resembled a European Football Championship towards the end, with all four semi-finalists coming from Europe. The chances of a repeat performance in South Africa next summer seem slim, however, given that never before in the history of the competition has a European team lifted the World Cup on non-European soil. When the 19th World Cup finals kick off in Johannesburg on 11 June, the 13 European teams who made it through the qualifying stage will have their sights set on breaking this curse.

Eight of Europe's representatives – England, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Portugal, Spain and Switzer-

land – competed in the 2006 World Cup, or nine if you count Serbia, who were part of Serbia-Montenegro at the time. Three – Denmark, Greece and Slovenia – are returning to the big stage, while Slovakia are making their debut – since the break-up of Czechoslovakia at least. Meanwhile, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Poland, Sweden and Ukraine have failed to make it to two World Cups in a row.

Here's how Europe's contenders are shaping up.

### **Italy: back to the future**

After a two-year break when Roberto Donadoni was in charge, Marcello Lippi is again at the helm of the Azzurri,

whom he led to World Cup glory in 2006. Despite two difficult matches against Cyprus (both were won in stoppage time), the Italians dominated their group. While there is little doubt that some of world champion team – such as Buffon, Cannavaro and Pirlo – will be on their way to South Africa, the coach has also been re-assessing his squad. For example, in the recent friendly against Sweden, there was no one from the 2006 World Cup in the starting line-up. Not that this stopped Italy from winning 1-0.

### **France: trying to rediscover their spark**

2006 World Cup finalists France are not firing on all cylinders. The retirement of Zidane doubtless has something to do with this. After a disappointing EURO 2008 (France were eliminated in the group stage), Les Bleus did not have a smooth ride to South Africa. With Serbia having finished top of the group,



Franck Ribéry avoids Vasile Maftei during the goalless match between France and Romania at the Stade de France.



Under the leadership of Fabio Capello, England had an excellent qualifying campaign, including a win against Belarus in London.



Raymond Domenech's men owe their place in the finals to the goal scored by Gallas in extra time in the return leg of the play-off against the Republic of Ireland. However, French football's pool of talent, which includes the likes of Benzema and Gourcuff, to name but two, does not seem to have run dry.

### Germany: more to come?

Third in the 2006 World Cup and runners-up at EURO 2008, Germany must be hoping to return to the top of the podium in 2010. They have demonstrated strength and com-



Germany's Heiko Westermann (5) shields the ball under pressure from Finland's Jonatan Johansson. Germany will once again take their place on the World Cup stage.

Baron/Bongarts/Getty Images

posure, winning their group without losing a match and finishing ahead of the formidable Russians. In the process, Miroslav Klose has become the second highest goalscorer in the history of the German national team, second only to the untouchable Gerd Müller. The team has a good mix of youth and experience. The only remaining doubt possibly surrounds the goalkeeper's jersey, after the tragic death of Robert Enke.

### Portugal: an amazing comeback

Fourth at the 2006 World Cup, and with Carlos Queiroz taking over from Luiz Felipe Scolari as head coach, Portugal almost failed to qualify for the tournament in South Africa. Beaten at home by Denmark, then held to draws by Albania and Sweden, Portugal finished with a flourish, just ahead of Sweden and Hungary. In the play-offs, despite the absence of Cristiano Ronaldo (who was injured and had not scored in the qualifying competition),



Spain lived up to their billing as champions of Europe, controlling their match in Bosnia-Herzegovina against the group runners-up.

they were able to rely on their strong defence (only 5 goals conceded in 12 matches) to eliminate a surprising Bosnia-Herzegovina.

### England: Capello waves his magic wand

'Once bitten, twice shy' after failing to qualify for EURO 2008, England entrusted Italian Fabio Capello, one of European football's most successful coaches, with leading the national team. As a result, their route through the qualifying phase resembled a walk in the park, with the most potent attack in Europe (34 goals, including 9 by Wayne Rooney). On the way, England took stinging revenge on Croatia (4-1 and 5-1), who had deprived them of a place in EURO 2008.

### Spain: flawless

Ten matches, ten wins. Spain took up from where they had left off after winning EURO 2008. The change of coach – Vicente del Bosque, former coach of Real Madrid, replacing Luis Aragones – did not alter the team's style of play, where technical prowess and showmanship come together. With Villa and Torres up front, Iniesta and Xavi in the middle, and a solid defence, it is a winning formula.

### Netherlands: will they stay first?

Like Spain, the Netherlands won all their qualifying matches (only eight, as their group was the only one with five teams), and were the first Europeans to qualify, back in June. Renowned for their attacking play, the team of Bert van Marwijk (who took over from Marco van Basten) can also pride themselves



The Greeks twice lost to Switzerland during the qualifying campaign, yet still managed to book their place in South Africa.



Getty Images



Isakovici/AP/Getty Images

Serbs Nemanja Vidic and Branislav Ivanovic successfully challenge Romania's Ciprian Marica.



Banukic/AP/Getty Images

The Netherlands were the first European team to qualify for the finals.

on having the most solid defence in Europe, having conceded only two goals.

### Switzerland: four in a row

Switzerland will be taking part in their fourth major tournament (World Cup/European Football Championship) in a row – something of a feat for a country with a population of barely more than seven million. Now coached by Ottmar Hitzfeld (who won the UEFA Champions League with BV Borussia Dortmund and FC Bayern München), the Swiss managed to pick themselves up after losing at home to Luxembourg. Under the leadership of captain Alexander Frei (record goalscorer for the national team), the Swiss can anticipate some good times ahead, following the victory of their Under-17s in the U17 World Cup.

## The eight groups of the final tournament

On 4 December in Cape Town, the 32 finalists were drawn into the 8 following groups:

**Group A:** South Africa, Mexico, Uruguay, France

**Group B:** Argentina, Nigeria, South Korea, Greece

**Group C:** England, United States, Algeria, Slovenia

**Group D:** Germany, Australia, Serbia, Ghana

**Group E:** Netherlands, Denmark, Japan, Cameroon

**Group F:** Italy, Paraguay, New Zealand, Slovakia

**Group G:** Brazil, North Korea, Ivory Coast, Portugal

**Group H:** Spain, Switzerland, Honduras, Chile

### Serbia: going it alone

In 2006, Serbia and Montenegro formed one team. Now on their own, the Serbs have clearly lost none of their force, as they demonstrated by finishing ahead of France, runners-up at the last World Cup. The experience of coach Radomir Antic – the only man to have coached the three big Spanish clubs (Real Madrid CF, Barcelona FC and Atlético Madrid) – combined with the size of centre forward Zigic and the guile of young Jovanovic, has made all the difference.

### Greece: last chance saloon?

After being crowned champions of Europe in 2004, Greece missed the 2006 World Cup. But the generation of Charisteas, Karagounis, Katsouranis and the likes will experience a World Cup all the same. Under Otto Rehhagel, the Greeks finished behind the Swiss, losing to them twice, but managed to defeat Ukraine in the play-offs. After a goalless draw at home, they won 1-0 in Donetsk, thanks to a goal from Salpingidis. Perhaps not spectacular, but effective nonetheless.

### Denmark: the Northern light

Denmark have saved the honour of the Nordic countries. Morten Olsen's team came through the most evenly matched group commendably, ahead of a formidable Portugal and their Swedish 'cousins'. A solid team with a number of experienced players (Jorgensen, Rommedahl, etc.), the team has also benefitted from the youthfulness and creativity of Arsenal FC striker Niklas Bendtner, Denmark's player of the year.

### Slovenia: the little giant

Despite having only two million inhabitants, Slovenia have repeated their feat of 2002. Finishing ahead of the Czech Republic, Poland and Northern Ireland was already a brilliant achievement for the team of Matjaz Kek (who won the domestic league title twice as coach of NK Maribor). But the best was yet to come, as Slovenia defeated Russia in the play-offs. Having lost the first leg 2-1, a goal from VfL Bochum's Zlatko Dedic was enough to



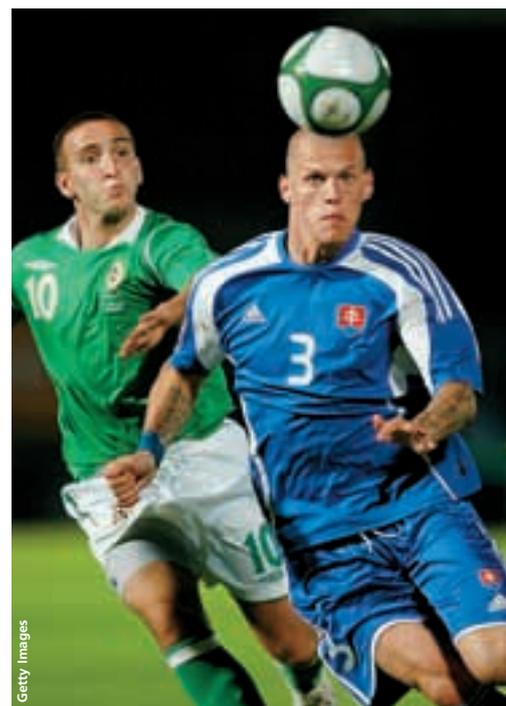
Dane Jakob Poulsen wins an aerial challenge against Hungarian Akos Buzsaky.

put Slovenia through. Their impressive goalkeeper, Handanovic, of Udinese Calcio did the rest.

### Slovakia: the newcomers

Since the break-up of Czechoslovakia, only the Czech Republic has participated in any major international tournaments. Since falling against Spain in the play-offs for the 2006 World Cup, the Slovaks have turned the tables, even beating their Czech 'brothers' along the way. Without a particular spearhead, coach Vladimir Weiss has built a balanced team with a 'rock' in each third: Skrtel in defence, Hamsik in midfield and Sestak in attack.

*Emanuele Saraceno*



Slovak Martin Skrtel (3) in action in Belfast against Northern Ireland: his team will participate in the final round for the first time.



# First women's team coaches conference

## Finland and beyond

**A FEW EYEBROWS WERE RAISED WHEN UEFA'S TECHNICAL DIRECTOR, ANDY ROXBURGH, WELCOMED HIS AUDIENCE AT UEFA'S HEADQUARTERS IN NYON TO THE FIRST UEFA WOMEN'S NATIONAL TEAM COACHES CONFERENCE, HELD FROM 30 NOVEMBER TO 2 DECEMBER. A NUMBER OF THE PARTICIPANTS FROM 51 OF UEFA'S MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS MUST HAVE MUTTERED TO THEMSELVES OR TO THEIR NEIGHBOUR IN THE AUDITORIUM "BUT I'VE BEEN TO ONE OF THESE BEFORE..."**

They had – and they hadn't. Events of this nature date right back to 1973 but the five previous editions had been UEFA conferences on women's football – a more diffuse denomination which opened the door to those involved in the politics and the administration of the women's game. The 2009 event was the first to be specifically designed for coaches and technical directors and, in line with the conferences organised for national team coaches in the men's game in the aftermath of major tournaments, the get-together in Nyon had the specific objective of reviewing and taking lessons from the Women's EURO 2009 tournament, staged in Finland in August and September and handsomely

ended by a 6-2 German victory over England in a spectacular final that achieved record-breaking TV audiences. Well over seven million in Germany watched the final.

The audience in Nyon cast expert eyes over the 12-team final tournament in search of tactical trends and notable features which could help technicians to build teams for the future and to further develop women's football, which is currently at widely varied stages of growth in Europe. This was highlighted in the discussion sessions, during which participants were invited to outline the main challenges they were currently facing and to make proposals aimed at further developing and promoting the women's game

– and the girls' game, for that matter. Various national team coaches felt that encouraging girls to start playing football at an early age and building football into the school curriculum could be key elements in laying broad and solid grass-roots foundations on which the elite teams of the future could be built.

But, in terms of pushing national teams onwards and upwards, eyes also need to be focused on the summit. The programme on the opening afternoon of the conference featured a panel discussion involving the coaches of the final four in Finland – or rather, the semi-final four: Bjarne Berntsen of Norway, Vera Pauw of the Netherlands, silver-medallist Hope Powell of England and the cham-





Steffi Jones updated the participants on the preparations for the 2011 Women's World Cup.

UEFA/Woods



Frank Dick, president of the European Athletic Coaches Association

UEFA/Woods



The participants were also given an opportunity to air their views.

UEFA/Woods

tion, Silvia Neid of Germany. Pauw said that, in the aftermath of the Dutch team's run to the semi-finals (where they took England to extra time), *"the impact of our results has been so immense that clubs are experiencing difficulties in coping with the number of girls and women who want to play football"*.

### Germany as benchmark

A fifth successive European Championship success obviously means that Germany continue to set benchmarks which other European countries aspire to attain. Asked to name one personal wish for the future of women's football, Bjarne Berntsen immediately quipped *"never to play Germany in a final tournament again!"* Hope Powell helped to explain their supremacy by commenting *"one of their biggest strengths is being able to score goals without creating chances! Seriously, one of Germany's key features is their belief in their ability to score goals, whatever the situation. It comes largely through their ability to counter-attack and, if you can't cope with that, you always have problems against them. Their strength, their power and the directness of their play keep you on the back foot. And, let's face it, the German bench usually features players who could be regular starters in almost any other team on this planet."* Bjarne, whose Norwegian side were beaten 3-1 in the semi-final despite leading 1-0 at the interval, agreed: *"They brought on three players – and all three scored. They are well-coached and they have so many players who can change the game."*

But, as Silvia Neid admitted, sustained success entails certain pitfalls. *"It means that you need to stimulate the appetite to keep winning,"* she told the audience in Nyon. *"I talk a great deal to my players and I select the ones who, in my opinion, are the ones who are still hungry for success, like I am. To stay at the top, you need to be constantly motivated, you have to enjoy what you are doing, and you need to give everything in the search for success."*

This was a theme echoed in other areas of the conference programme. The second morning, for example, was

opened by the president of the European Athletic Coaches' Association, Frank Dick OBE, formerly coach to top Olympic athletes such as Sebastian Coe, Steve Ovett and Daley Thompson; tennis star Boris Becker; and Formula One driver Gerhard Berger. Berger quickly demonstrated that coaching techniques applied to individual performers could be equally valid in team sports. *"Winning teams,"* he argued, *"usually connect better. You find individuals who use their own strength to get the best out of others. They take responsibility for their own performance and others' performances. As a coach, you must be their light. But you must also help them to fuel their own lights. The 'winning difference' is often the right motivational atmosphere within the group."*

### Clear concept needed

UEFA's technical director, Andy Roxburgh, took this particular baton on the closing day, expanding on the sort of leadership qualities required by coaches who perform at the top of the women's game, where the vast majority of players are not highly paid professionals but girls and women obliged to reconcile their footballing ambitions with educational or career commitments. This means that the coaches' work on the training ground needs to be underpinned by other management qualities in areas of human relationships, motivation,

self-belief, crisis management and the creation of environments in which the players enjoy feeling part of something. In other words, the coach needs to develop a clear concept and to persuade the players to become involved in it.

One event that the coaches and players would need little or no persuasion to become involved in is the 2011 FIFA Women's World Cup in Germany. Steffi Jones, the former international who's now president of the local organising committee, was in Nyon to review preparations for the final tournament – and for the World Under-20 finals which will provide an opportunity for some dress rehearsals in 2010.

But, apart from looking forward, the conference programme was a chance to look back at EURO 2009 and to analyse the 25 games played during the first ever 12-team final tournament. UEFA's competitions director, Giorgio Marchetti, outlined the pros and cons of a new format which, in Finland, was felt to have affected the teams' approach to certain games and raised questions about the three-group formula in which the top two and the two best third-placed teams progressed to the quarter-finals. Feedback was invited – and obtained. And, of course, there was a review by Andy Roxburgh of some of the trends detected in Finland, such as the percentage of goals scored from set plays or the efficiency of counter-attacks. But that's another story...



One of the eight goals in the spectacular final between Germany and England

Getty Images



The logos of the five academic partners



# MESGO

## A Master in European Sport Governance

**ON 19 NOVEMBER, UEFA HOSTED AN OFFICIAL SIGNING CEREMONY AT ITS HEADQUARTERS IN NYON, MARKING THE ADVENT OF A NEW EXECUTIVE MASTER IN EUROPEAN SPORT GOVERNANCE (MESGO). THE UEFA GENERAL SECRETARY, GIANNI INFANTINO, THE DIRECTOR OF THE CENTRE DE DROIT ET D'ECONOMIE DU SPORT (UNIVERSITY OF LIMOGES), PROF. JEAN-PIERRE KARAQUILLO, AND THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF SCIENCES PO PARIS, PROF. HERVÉ CRÈS, SIGNED THE FORMAL AGREEMENT THAT SEALED THE COMMITMENT OF UEFA AND BOTH ACADEMIC PARTNERS TO DELIVER THIS TOP-QUALITY TRAINING PROGRAMME.**

Five academic institutions have joined forces to launch this exciting new master's course in European sports governance in September 2010, with the full support of UEFA. The MESGO is a unique programme designed for professionals in the sports sector wishing to master the complex dimensions and the diversity of international practice relating to

professional sport in Europe. The programme is addressed at managers from national and international sport federations, clubs, leagues, European institutions, governments and partners of sports organisations. Its unique characteristics include an emphasis on the European dimension, a multi-disciplinary approach and an in-depth analysis of legal, political and economic issues.

### Organisation

Developed specifically to cater for senior officials and managers with full-time work commitments, the course will be delivered through a combination of face-to-face taught modules at various locations in Europe, including Barcelona, Brussels, London, Mainz/Frankfurt, Paris, Geneva/Lausanne and Nyon (with a special session in New York) and a range of online materials to provide sufficient flexibility for the students. It will be organised over a period of 18 months, with blocks of nine seminars, each lasting one week and delivered exclusively in English. The first intake of participants is expected for the 2010/11 academic year, with the first session taking place in Paris in September 2010. The degree is awarded by a panel made up of representatives of each of the partner universities. The Executive Master in European Sport Governance is a degree from the Institut d'Études Politiques de Paris (Sciences Po).

### Academic partners

The MESGO programme is delivered by five universities/research institutes renowned for their expertise in the analysis of sports phenomena and governance issues:

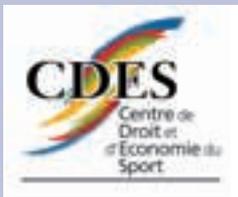
- Birkbeck Sports Business Centre, University of London (England)
- Centre de Droit et d'Économie du Sport, University of Limoges (France)
- Johannes Gutenberg University, Mainz (Germany)
- Institut Nacional d'Educació Física de Catalunya (INEFC) of the University of Lleida, Barcelona (Spain)
- Sciences Po Paris (France)

### Sporting partners

The programme was also drawn up in close cooperation with a range of European team sports leaders to ensure the perfect balance between theoretical analysis and pragmatic considerations. Four European team sport federations have come together to support the initiative:



*"The Executive Master in European Sport Governance (MESGO) is a unique platform for training, social and professional contact, knowledge sharing and personal development for sports organisations' elected representatives and managerial staff," said the UEFA general secretary, Gianni Infantino. "Pioneered by five internationally renowned universities and research centres, it has UEFA's full support."*



The four sporting partners



- UEFA (football)
- FIBA Europe (basketball)
- EHF (handball)
- FIRA-AER (rugby)

## Content

The programme comprises nine sessions addressing the following thematic areas:

### ■ Session 1: Context of International Sport

#### ■ 13–17 September 2010 in Paris

Participants will develop a better understanding of the institutional and economic operating environment of European and international sport and define the concepts of governance in the sporting context, the specificity of sport, and the European sports model.

### ■ Session 2: Sports Organisations

#### ■ 15–19 November 2010 in Lausanne/Geneva

Insight into the core mission and objectives of sports organisations will be provided by expert speakers. Case studies on the various structural forms will be discussed, taking into consideration the management decision-making processes and commercial revenue-generating activities through which sports governing bodies fulfil their mission and objectives.

### ■ Session 3: Governance

#### ■ 10–14 January 2011 in London

This module will illustrate the key strategic governance challenges for, and policy responses available to, sports organisations in the era of the global credit crunch and in the context of sport's 'special' economic framework.

### ■ Session 4: Legal Framework

#### ■ 7–11 March 2011 in Brussels

This part of the programme will concentrate on the wider legal context in which sports governing bodies must operate and outline the range of legal mechanisms available to sports govern-

ing bodies in their governance and regulatory roles.

### ■ Session 5: Commercial Challenges

#### ■ 25–29 April 2011 in Paris

Participants will also get the opportunity to analyse the challenges arising from the growing commercial power of sport, with a particular focus on how to protect, sustain and develop the valuable commercial property rights that sports generate, in order to maintain the effective solidarity mechanisms necessary to protect the integrity of the sporting system.

### ■ Session 6: Sports Events

#### ■ 13–17 June 2011 in Barcelona

The management of sports events is another key aspect of the programme, which describes the complexity of the sports events universe – from the organisation of leagues through to one-off events – and explains the elements necessary to organise successful sports events, with a particular focus on event planning and risk assessment and management.

### ■ Session 7: Ethics

#### ■ 3–7 October 2011 in Mainz/Frankfurt

A range of ethical challenges facing the sports movement will be addressed. Participants will assess the political and commercial consequences

of failing to respond to these challenges and the range of policy measures which can be passed.

### ■ Session 8: The North American Model

#### ■ 28 Nov.–2 Dec. 2011 in New York

A special session including a comprehensive review of sport in North America, how it is organised and where its strengths and weaknesses lie will take place towards the end of the programme, enabling participants working with European sports bodies to benefit from a different perspective.

### ■ Session 9: The Future of Sports Governance

#### ■ 13–17 February 2012 in Nyon

Drawing on material from the previous eight sessions, the programme will conclude by offering an overview of the key challenges facing sports governing bodies in Europe, with an emphasis on developing strategies and tactics that will help the participants to deal effectively with these ongoing demands.

## Contact details

Further information on the programme can be obtained online at [www.mesgo.org](http://www.mesgo.org) or from the MESGO coordinators ([info@mesgo.org](mailto:info@mesgo.org) or +33 1 45 49 63 22).



Photos: UEFA-Woods



The indoor arenas in Budapest (far left) and Debrecen

The Hungarian team want to perform well on home soil.



Mathias Imre

# European Futsal Championship

## First final tournament with 12 teams



**SINCE THE LEAGUE WAS LAUNCHED IN 1991, FUTSAL HAS DEFINITELY PROVED TO BE A DEVELOPING SPORT IN HUNGARY. AFTER THE EARLY YEARS, HUNGARIAN FUTSAL PRODUCED ITS BIGGEST ACHIEVEMENT IN 2005, WHEN THE NATIONAL TEAM QUALIFIED FOR THE FINAL TOURNAMENT OF THE EUROPEAN FUTSAL CHAMPIONSHIP IN OSTRAVA, IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC.**

Surely the next great step in the sport's history will be the 2010 European Championship finals in January. There are many reasons why this competition can be considered the biggest so far, not least because it is the first time 12 teams are competing in 2 state-of-the-art arenas. Budapest's Papp László Sportaréna holds 7,700 and the Főnix arena in Debrecen 6,500, so for the Hungarians this is also a great opportunity to demonstrate their hospitality to the rest of Europe as hosts of a major sports event.

### Technical skills

Hungary has always been famous for producing players with unique technical skills. Since the 1930s, individuals such as Gyula Zsengellér, Ferenc Puskás and Flórián Albert have

become famous not only for their goals but also for their technical skills. All coaches agree that in futsal these kinds of skills are vital, as only players who excel with the special futsal ball can succeed. Mihály Kozma, three-time Hungarian champion and head coach of the national team since 2003, is sure that the Hungarian players will attract many fans and generate further support for the game.

*"Creativity has always been one of the main skills of the Hungarian players. In a way, futsal is nothing new, as the Magical Magyars played with a short-passing style in the 1950s,"* said Kozma, who has also won the Romanian futsal championship as coach.

*"There are still many talents in the clubs and at amateur level, but basically they are only able to prove this when they*

*come to the national team, where they apply the necessary tactical elements as well. I am sure that these finals will be a great opportunity for Hungarian futsal to show it can keep up with the European elite."*

The home team needs to finish in at least second place in Group A, where they face Azerbaijan in the opening game, followed by the Czech Republic.

### New ticketing concept

The organising committee (including some experts who worked on the European Women's Under-19 Championship finals in 2005) has devised new ticket packages to attract new fans to the game. At [www.futsaleurotickets.com](http://www.futsaleurotickets.com), Budapest and Debrecen 'seat holder' tickets (for all the games at either venue) can be bought at a very reasonable price, while football and futsal teams, schools and other groups can buy group tickets allowing 20 people to enter the arena for EUR 20.

This up-and-coming sport has attracted women as well as men (Hungary has a men's and a women's national futsal league), and some great footballers too. Debreceni VSC's Gergely Rudolf was one of the first people to buy a Debrecen 'seat holder' ticket, just after scoring his second goal in the UEFA Champions League (against ACF Fiorentina).

*Márton Dinnyes*



Mathias Imre

## Groups and calendar

**Group A:** Hungary, Czech Republic, Azerbaijan

**Group B:** Italy, Ukraine, Belgium

**Group C:** Russia, Serbia, Slovenia

**Group D:** Spain, Portugal, Belarus

The group matches will be played from 19 to 24 January, after which the top two in each group will contest the quarter-finals on 25 and 26 January. The semi-finals take place on 28 January at the Főnix arena, which will also host the third-place play-off and final on 30 January.



The Professional Football Strategy Council



The Club Financial Control Panel

# Meetings and other activities

## EURO 2012

### host cities and logo

**AT ITS LAST MEETING OF THE YEAR, ON 10 AND 11 DECEMBER IN FUNCHAL, ON THE ISLAND OF MADEIRA, THE UEFA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, LED BY THE PRESIDENT, MICHEL PLATINI, DECIDED ON THE FINAL LIST OF CITIES THAT WILL HOST EURO 2012 MATCHES.**

In Bucharest in May, the Executive Committee had already given the green light to the four Polish cities of Warsaw, Gdansk, Poznan and Wroclaw, as well as the Ukrainian capital, Kyiv, although the latter was, at that stage, still not in a position to host the final. A deadline of 30 November was given to Kyiv to meet the requirements of the closing match, and to the cities of Donetsk, Lviv and Kharkiv to meet

the standard criteria for hosting EURO 2012 matches.

In Funchal, after having heard site visit reports and expert analyses, the Executive Committee decided to include Donetsk, Lviv and Kharkiv in the list of host cities for group matches. It also decided that the final, on 1 July, would be held in Kyiv.

The other items on the agenda in Funchal will be covered in the next issue of *uefadirect*.

## Professional Football Strategy Council takes position on Olympic players

The Professional Football Strategy Council, the body composed of four elected representatives each of the associations (represented by the UEFA Executive Committee), the leagues (EPFL), the clubs (ECA) and the players (FIFPro Division Europe), chaired by the UEFA president, Michel Platini, met on 26 November in Nyon.

After a full discussion, the different stakeholder groups present unanimously agreed that European football's participation in future Olympic Games should be restricted to players who are under 21 years of age (not under 23 as is the case currently), and with no over-age players allowed (currently each team has the right to select three players over the age of 23). This recommendation would be transmitted to the UEFA Executive Committee and FIFA as appropriate.

The council also received an update on the latest situation with regard to the UEFA priority issues of financial fair play and the protection of minors. The next agenda item was the activities of players' agents in professional football in Europe, especially in light of FIFA's ongoing review of the players' and match agents regulations. Finally, the European social dialogue and, in particular, the implementation of the player contract minimum requirements across Europe, was also discussed.

## Presentation of official logo

The official tournament logo was unveiled in Kyiv on 14 December, in the presence of the UEFA president, Michel Platini, and the presidents of the co-hosting national associations: Grigoriy Surkis of Ukraine and Grzegorz Lato of Poland. The logo was designed by Helder Pombinho and the Portuguese agency Brandia Central.

The tournament motto, *Creating History Together*, was also presented to the public.



## Composition of the Club Financial Control Panel

**Two months after the appointment of Jean-Luc Dehaene as chairman of the Club Financial Control Panel, the new panel held its first meeting on 10 November, in Nyon.**

Jacobo Beltrán (Spain), Egon Frank (Germany), Umberto Lago (Italy), Johan Lokhorst (Netherlands), Brian Lomax (England), Petros Mavroidis (Greece), Brian Quinn (Scotland) and Yves

Wehrli (France) were appointed as members of the panel, the purpose of which is to ensure that the UEFA club licensing system is applied correctly by all 53 member associations and that the clubs meet the criteria defined in the UEFA Club Licensing Regulations. In Funchal, the Executive Committee approved a proposal to appoint two more members to the panel, to better reflect the geographical spread of UEFA member associations.



Kim Little's goal for Arsenal against Sparta Prague in the round of 16 of the UEFA Women's Champions League.



The draw for the quarter-finals in Nyon

# International competitions

## U-17 World Cup First world title for Switzerland

The U-17 World Cup, played in Nigeria from 24 October to 15 November, was won by Switzerland.

This success represents the first title for a Swiss team in any FIFA competition.

Switzerland, who were participating in the U-17 World Cup for the first time, achieved a remarkable set of results in Nigeria. They recorded successive victories over Mexico, Japan and Brazil in their group matches before eliminating Germany, the reigning European champions, 4-3 after extra time in the round of 16. They then went on to beat Italy 2-1 in the quarter-finals and Colombia 4-0 in the semi-finals.

In the final, Nigeria – three times U-17 World Cup winners and current holders – were firm favourites, especially since they were playing on home soil in front of around 60,000 spectators. However, the Swiss managed to keep their hosts at bay and scored the game's only goal from a corner.

The last time a European side had won this competition was in 2001, when France also beat Nigeria in the final in Trinidad and Tobago.

This year Europe did very well: in addition to Switzerland's gold medal, the bronze went to Spain, who beat Colombia (1-0) in the match for third place. As well as the aforementioned Germany and Italy, the European delegation included Turkey, who reached the quarter-finals, and the Netherlands.



The U17s earned Switzerland their first world title.

## UEFA Women's Champions League quarter-finals: former winners go head to head

The line-up for the quarter-finals of the 2009/10 UEFA Women's Champions League includes a clash between two former competition winners.



The Germans from FCR 2001 Duisburg, current holders, will face English team Arsenal LFC, who won the competition in 2007.

The draw, conducted in Nyon on 20 November, produced the following ties:

1. FCR 2001 Duisburg-Arsenal LFC
2. Umeå IK-Montpellier Hérault SC
3. Olympique Lyonnais-ASD Torres Calcio
4. 1. FFC Turbine Potsdam-Røa IL

The matches will be played on 10 and 17 March. The semi-final draw also took place on 20 November. The winners of quarter-final 3 will play the winners of quarter-final 2, with the winners of quarter-finals 1 and 4 contesting the other semi-final. The semis will be held on 10/11 and 17/18 April.

The final will be staged on 20 May in the same city as the UEFA Champions League final on 22 May, i.e. Madrid, at the Coliseum Alfonso Pérez Stadium in Getafe.

## UEFA Futsal Cup finalists known

Interviú Madrid, UEFA Futsal Cup holders, are the only one of last year's four finalists to have made it past the elite round.



The 16 teams involved in the elite round were divided into four groups, who contested mini-tournaments from 19 to 22 November. Three of last year's final round participants were still in the running, but only the Spaniards from Interviú Madrid were successful,



Vogel/Bongarts/Getty Images

Germany qualified for the U19 elite round in a mini-tournament in Luxembourg.

# 50 YEARS AGO

## UEFA moves to Switzerland

**THE YEAR IN WHICH UEFA WILL OPEN ITS NEW ADMINISTRATIVE BUILDING IN NYON COINCIDES WITH THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF UEFA'S MOVE TO SWITZERLAND.**

winning each of their three matches. MFK Viz-Sinara Ekaterinburg, last year's runners-up and winners two years ago, just missed out, finishing equal on points with Benfica. They had the same goal difference but the Portuguese scored one goal more.

Kairat Almaty, meanwhile, lost their decisive match against Araz Naxçivan 4-3 and had to make do with second place behind the Azerbaijanis.

The fourth finalists will be Luparense Calcio. The Italians won all three of their matches in a group which included former winners Action 21 Charleroi and 2008 finalists ElPozo Murcia FS.

### Under-19s en route to France

**The qualifying round of the European Under-19 Championship finished in November, with 28 teams qualifying for the elite round.**

The competition will be completed next summer in France, whose team qualify automatically. The draw for the seven elite round groups took place in Nyon on 8 December and the results, along with those of the other youth competition draws, will be published in the next issue of uefadirect and can be found on uefa.com.

### Beach soccer Brazil retain title

**Sixteen teams participated in the 5th Beach Soccer World Cup, played in Dubai from 16 to 22 November.**

Brazil won their fourth world title in a row by overcoming Switzerland 10-5 in the final, having already beaten them 4-2 in the group phase.

As far as the European sides are concerned, in addition to Switzerland's silver medal, Portugal took bronze after outstripping Uruguay 14-7 in the match for third place. The three other European teams – Spain, Italy and Russia – were eliminated in the quarter-finals by Uruguay, Brazil and Switzerland respectively.

It was in January 1960 that UEFA left Paris, where it had been based at the Rue de Londres offices of the French Football Federation, to set up its headquarters in Berne, the Swiss capital. The move also coincided with the appointment of a new general secretary, Switzerland's Hans Bangerter, previously FIFA assistant secretary. He succeeded Pierre Delaunay, who himself had replaced his father and UEFA's first general secretary, Henri Delaunay.

After the idea to move was first raised in March 1959 by the Executive Committee, which was keen for UEFA to have independent headquarters, the decision was taken at an extraordinary congress held in Paris on 11 December that year. The move from Paris to Berne was neither undisputed nor unopposed, but the majority of UEFA's then 31 member associations ultimately gave their approval.



The UEFA general secretariat in its early days in Berne

UEFA-Archives

The UEFA headquarters in Berne were officially inaugurated on 4 January in the presence of Denmark's Ebbe Schwartz, the first UEFA president.

Situated in the embassy district, at Kirchenfeldstrasse 24, UEFA's headquarters comprised three rooms in the basement of the building. Hans Bangerter had two assistants there, Ilse Schmiedlin, the daughter of a former Swiss international, and Monique Werro.

As the volume of work constantly increased, the secretariat had to bolster its staff, recruiting people such as Suzanne Otth, who remained with UEFA from 1960 to 1990, and Michel Daphinoff, assistant secretary from 1961 to 1990. But the enlarged workforce soon found conditions rather cramped.

So, on 1 August 1962 they moved to the House of Sport, a modern building that contained the offices of several sports associations. UEFA occupied seven offices and also enjoyed access to conference rooms where its committees could meet. A few years later, in 1974, UEFA moved to its own premises on the outskirts of Berne, a 14-storey office block in which it occupied first one, then two, three and, finally, four floors. It relocated again in 1995, leaving Berne for the shores of Lake Geneva, initially renting premises from an insurance company and then, in September 1999, setting up home in the House of European Football.



Kaká signs autographs before the 'match of the century'.



The Estonian national team



An encyclopaedia to commemorate a century of Estonian football.

# 100 years of Estonian football

## Brazil and a world record

**ESTONIAN FOOTBALL CELEBRATED ITS CENTENARY THIS YEAR AND THE ESTONIANS MARKED THE IMPORTANT MILESTONE IN STYLE – WITH EVENTS RANGING FROM THE 'MATCH OF THE CENTURY' AGAINST BRAZIL TO A FASCINATING WORLD RECORD SET ON THE ISLAND OF SAAREMAA.**

The first official football match in Estonia took place on 6 June 1909 in Tallinn between local sides Meteor and Merkuur, with Meteor recording a 4-2 victory. The Estonian Football Association (EJL) itself was established on 14 December 1921.

### Positive effect within society

The EJL celebrated its centenary with a series of events. An official friendly match on 12 August in Tallinn against five-time world champions Brazil was the showcase event, regarded by the Estonian public as the 'match of the century'.

*"When you think logically – Brazil playing a friendly against Estonia in Tallinn – then this is impossible,"* said Aivar Pohlak, president of the EJL, reflecting on the historical year.

Pohlak added: *"The match against Brazil and everything around it was a present to the Estonian football*

*community and society as a whole. During a time when negativity is widespread throughout society, football can have a positive effect and be a guiding influence."*

### FIFA and UEFA presidents attend as guests of honour

On 9 and 10 June, the EJL hosted an international seminar on the values of football, at which many UEFA member associations were represented. The UEFA president, Michel Platini, and his FIFA counterpart, Joseph S. Blatter, were the main guest speakers.

On 10 June, the guests from all over Europe, along with the Estonian football family, enjoyed a friendly match between Estonia and Portugal at the A Le Coq Arena, the national stadium.

During this thrilling but goalless encounter, the best player in Estonia's history, Mart Poom – wearing the famous

No. 1 jersey for the 120th, and last, time – bade farewell when he was substituted after 30 minutes to a standing ovation.

Another legend, midfielder Martin Reim – who won 157 caps – also played his final match in June.

### World record set in Kuressaare

One of the most unusual centennial events took place in the city of Kuressaare, on the island of Saaremaa. An unofficial world record was set as people played football for about 20 hours in a row in natural daylight.

The event took place on 23 June, beginning at 3 in the morning and continuing until 11 at night. Altogether, the matches continued for 19 hours and 45 minutes, in the form of full 90-minute matches (45 minutes each way with a 15-minute half-time interval). Over 250 people took part.

### A detailed history in English

In addition, the EJL supported the publication of two books. The first, *A Hundred Years of Estonian Football*, by Margus Luik, is a comprehensive history of Estonian football, including an encyclopaedia and a statistical database. The book is entirely in English.

The second book, *The Diary of Arnold Pihlak*, by Tiit Lääne, details the life of the first Estonian professional football player and his days at FK Austria Wien.

In 2009, the EJL also invested a lot of human and financial resources into developing youth football, the women's game, refereeing, and grassroots football.

### Piiroja named player of the year

On the domestic front, the EJL and football journalists voted Estonian national team captain Raio Piiroja player of the year for the fourth consecutive time.

Anastassia Morkovkina (JK Vaprus Pärnu), 28, was voted the best female player of the year, while Sander Puri (FC Levadia Tallinn) and Katrin Loo (FC Flora) were voted the best youngsters.

FC Levadia Tallinn took another title in the Estonian Meistriliiga, making it seven in total and four in a row. Konstantin Nahk, Levadia's midfielder was voted the best player in the league.

*Mihkel Uiboleht*



The match between Estonia and Brazil was the highlight of the festivities.

Photos: catherine kõrtsmik

**AUSTRIA**



**'Find your football club' scheme enters its second year**

In the year when EURO 2008 was co-hosted by Austria and Switzerland, the Austrian Football Association (ÖFB) and its partner McDonald's launched a new innovative scheme to make it easier for children and young people interested in football – and even their parents – to find their local football club. Since October 2008, key information on more than 2,200 clubs has been available on the website [www.superklub.at](http://www.superklub.at). By entering the name of their town and their age, keen young footballers can discover where their nearest football club is with a click of the

**Austria**  
Austrian international Erwin Hoffer is one of the faces of the campaign.

mouse and find all essential contact details, including the phone number and email address of the youth coordinator and youth coach.

Already in the first year, this scheme was extremely popular. Alfred Ludwig, chief executive of the ÖFB, said: "In October alone there were almost 54,000 hits on the [www.superklub.at](http://www.superklub.at) website, which proves that children and their parents use this platform a lot. The search for young players is a high priority for us. In times when there is a wide range of hobbies to choose from, the ÖFB has to stay on the ball to make football attractive to children and young people interested in sport. That is why our new slogan is *Come and play with us! – Find your club!*"

Happily, Austrian youngsters are still taking up football. Since the enthusiasm generated by the hosting of EURO 2008 and the tournament itself, the number of newly registered youth players has settled at around 25,000 boys and girls. This high rate is maintained this year too, with approximately 20,000 children having already registered with clubs nationwide by September. Alfred Ludwig



added, "This is very impressive and we need to carry on working hard to ensure that children and young people continue to take a keen interest in football".

Three national team players are the current faces of the campaign. Daniel Beichler, Erwin Hoffer and Christoph Leitgeb feature in the advertising campaign, the photographs for which were taken during a team training session in Burgenland. ■

*Peter Klinglmüller*

**AZERBAIJAN**



**Launch of the U13 league**

The Association of Football Federations of Azerbaijan (AFFA) organises various projects to strengthen and increase the popularity of youth football as well as to highlight the role of football in a healthy lifestyle.

In accordance with the AFFA executive committee decision of 14 August, an AFFA U13 league has been established. It has been organised by the AFFA in cooperation with the ministry of youth and sport and involves 80 teams. The first round of matches was played on 7 November. The matches were held in the capital, Baku, as well as in the four other cities of the republic, and proved very popular.

The league calendar and match results so far have been placed on the AFFA website. Several local newspapers also covered the matches. The league finishes in May and the league winners will receive a prize from the AFFA.

This is the first time that such a large-scale U13 competition has been organised in Azerbaijan. ■

*Firuz Abdulla*

**Azerbaijan**

The U13 league is generating lots of interest.



**Belarus**

Fourth title in a row for FC BATE Borisov

**BELARUS**



**A new title for FC BATE Borisov**

The football season in Belarus has come to an end. The last matchday of the Vysshaya Liga was in mid-November but, after many rounds, the title race was actually won before the final match was played. FC BATE Borisov secured the champions crown for the fourth consecutive time; Dinamo Minsk snatched second place and, to the surprise of many, Dnepr Mogilev took third. They lost 5-2 to Dinamo Minsk on the last matchday

but the other contenders for third place lost their matches as well, so Dnepr managed to hold on to their place on the podium.

Next season the number of clubs in the top division is being reduced from 14 to 12. Three clubs were therefore relegated to the first division (FC Smorgon, FC Granit Mikashevichi and FC Gomel), and only one was promoted (Belshina Bobruisk).

At a meeting of the executive committee on 28 November, the majority voted to confirm Bernd Stange as head coach of the national team for another two years, meaning he will be in charge of the Belarus squad during the qualifiers for EURO 2012. ■

*Yulia Zenkovich*

## BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA



**Bosnia-Herzegovina**  
The national team scaled new heights by competing in the play-offs for the 2010 World Cup.

### Assistance for youth football development

The Football Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina (FFBHZ) held a meeting recently with a high-ranking FIFA/UEFA delegation, led by Allan Hansen, a member of the UEFA Executive Committee. Members of the FFBHZ presidency hosted the meeting, during which many important issues relating to the functioning of the FFBHZ were discussed, in particular changes to the statutes and projects involving FIFA and UEFA.

Two of the main items on the agenda were the further development of a project for a training centre in Zenica and the provision of funds for Bosnian premier league clubs to dedicate to youth football development.

Another UEFA delegation visited the FFBHZ to discuss club licensing, the training centre in Zenica and youth football development. The club licensing process will be improved by creating new licensing guidelines and the training centre project will continue as soon as the relevant documentation has been completed. The UEFA HatTrick Committee will decide if and when construction should begin by March at the latest.

On youth football development, a presentation was given on donations to clubs who competed in the Bosnia-Herzegovina premier league between 2003 and 2009. Forms were distributed to the 26 clubs concerned and as soon as they show that they have met the necessary criteria, they will receive the agreed resources.

On the international stage, the Bosnia-Herzegovina national team achieved a great feat by reaching the play-offs for the 2010 World Cup. Unfortunately, Miroslav Blazevic's squad failed to beat Portugal for a place in South Africa, losing both legs 1-0, first at the Estádio da Luz in Lisbon on 14 November, and then four days later at the Bilino Polje stadium in Zenica.

The U21s also had a surprise result, when Branimir Tulic's players beat Group 3 opponents Wales 2-1 in the qualifying round of the 2009-11 European Under-21 Championship, the finals of which will be held in Denmark.

Domestically, the first half of the Bosnian premier league season is over. NK Siroki Brijeg are top of the league with 33 points, ahead of FK Borac Banjaluka. The top scorer after 15 matches is Adin Dzafic (FK Velez) with 10 goals, and the competition is set to continue at the end of February.

The semi-finals of the Bosnia-Herzegovina cup will include NK Zeljeznicar (Sarajevo), NK Zrinjski (Mostar), FK Borac Banjaluka and FK Slavija Sarajevo (Lukavica), the current cup holders. The matches will be played in the spring. ■

Fuad Kravac

## ENGLAND



### Media spotlight on Angola

The Football Association travelled to Angola in November at the request of the African Football Confederation (CAF) to co-host a media management seminar ahead of the Cup of African Nations (CAN), taking place there in January 2010.

The FA's head of media relations, Scott Field, FA consultant Tunde Adedokun and former Northern Ireland manager Lawrie Sanchez delivered a workshop to team media officers, local organising committee managers, tournament volunteers and the local press.

The aim of this intensive one-day session was to help prepare and manage the expectations of all those who will be involved in the CAN next year.

*"It was a pleasure to be able to help to pass on our working knowledge of the media,*

*198th to 120th in the FIFA rankings. This has been achieved with several Under-21 players on the team. I am convinced that the focused work with the Under-17 and Under-19 national teams, and now the Under-21s, is one of the reasons for the good results."*

The Faroese Under-21 team has two matches left in the current qualifying competition, against Andorra at home in August and Moldova away in September.

Bill McLeod Jacobsen expects more points from these games. If that happens, the team will break all Faroese records for points earned in an international tournament. ■

Ingi Samuelsen

#### Faroese Islands

The U21s had a good run in the qualifying phase for the European U21 Championship.

## FAROE ISLANDS



### A worthwhile investment

The Faroe Islands' participation in the European Under-21 Championship qualifying round has been a successful adventure so far.

This is only the second time the Faroese have entered the competition. In their debut, four points from a victory at home and a draw away, both against Azerbaijan, was considered a very good result for a nation whose senior national team was lying second from bottom in the FIFA rankings.

In this campaign, the results have been even better for the islanders, and their participation seems to be a worthwhile investment for Faroese football.

So far, the Under-21s have taken eight points from eight matches in Group 1. The most unexpected result was their 1-0 victory at home against Russia in June. After that, the team earned a point against Moldova at home, and in November returned with four

points in the bag after a 1-0 victory in Latvia and a 1-1 draw in Andorra.

Despite coming home with the biggest points haul of any Faroese team in recent memory, the coaches were not entirely satisfied.

*"Before we left, we said that four points would be satisfying. But after we got all three points in Riga, we were expecting a full house. Unfortunately Andorra managed to equalise in the Pyrenees,"* one of the coaches, Bill McLeod Jacobsen, said on his return.

He is convinced that the Faroese Under-21s' participation has paid off: *"As we have earned good results, so have our senior team, who in just one year have risen from*





England  
Seminar in Angola

and the feedback from CAF, COCAN (CAN organising committee) and the participating nations was positive," said Scott.

"The workshop highlighted many areas where best practice can be employed in the Cup of African Nations in January and we look forward to watching how the tournament unfolds, not least through the media."

The FA's international development manager, Maria de León, accompanied the delegation and was delighted with the feedback from the CAF representatives.

"CAF were impressed with The FA's contributions, knowing that COCAN would benefit immensely from another organisation's insight into media relations," she said.

Whilst in Luanda, the English delegation was also invited to attend the CAN draw

ceremony featuring Angolan dancers and musicians, and a presentation of the country's preparations for the competition.

This event was the first to be organised as part of the recently renewed five-year memorandum of understanding between The FA and the CAF. ■

Maria de León



## FRANCE

### Willy Sagnol mentors U16 team

Following in the footsteps of Lilian Thuram, mentor of the 'generation of '93', Willy Sagnol is to follow the development of the latest Under-16 squad. He met the young internationals for the first time at the Val de Marne tournament, near Paris. The former French international defender visited Patrick Gonfalone's players before their final match, played against Spain.

Having hung up his boots last February, Willy Sagnol recognises the importance of being a role model and point of reference for the youngsters. "I would have loved it if an 'old player' had come to see us when I was

in the Under-20s," said the ex-Bayern player. "I am not there to talk to them about my experience or my career, just to tell them a bit about the values that I believe in and that their coaches are already instilling into them: respect, work and discipline – values that help you succeed every day in football and life in general."

Capped 58 times, Sagnol used this initial encounter to offer a few words of advice, although the relationship is a long-term one. "I will be following them for

four years, which I will find very enjoyable and interesting," he said. "They are the next generation of top players. If one or two of them make it into the French national team one day, the effort will have been worthwhile."

At the end of the competition, the French Under-16 team finished second behind the Netherlands, winners of this 2009 edition. After a goalless draw with the Netherlands, followed by a precious 4-3 victory over Italy, France drew 2-2 with the Spaniards. ■

Matthieu Brelle-Andrade

France  
Willy Sagnol with the U16 national team shirt



## GERMANY



### Theo Zwanziger honoured

Theo Zwanziger, president of the German Football Association (DFB), has been awarded the 2009 Leo Baeck Award in Berlin by the Central Council of Jews in Germany. The president of the DFB received the prize for his "unwavering commitment" to fighting xenophobia, discrimination, and right-wing extremism within football.

Addressing the gathering, Wolfgang Schäuble, minister of finance, described Theo Zwanziger as an "exemplary role model who, unlike few others, realises the importance and responsibilities that sport in general, and football in particular, have in society." Charlotte Knobloch, president of the Central Council of Jews in Germany, also thanked him for his commitment. "Theo Zwanziger is being honoured for his tireless efforts for a more tolerant society, both in sport and beyond. The ability of sport to bring people together cannot be underestimated," she said.

Named after the late Rabbi Leo Baeck, the award honours public figures for their outstanding support of the Jewish community. Previous recipients of the award include former German presidents Richard von Weizsäcker and Roman Herzog, Chancellor Angela Merkel, Hubert Burda and Friede Springer. ■

Stephan Brause

## ISRAEL



### Education programme

Through its training department, the Israel Football Association is holding an education programme on the subject of child protection and child abuse in football teams.

Dana Pugach, a member of the Israel FA executive committee, came up with the proposal to bring in this new education programme to increase awareness of child abuse, so that future youth coaches would be able to recognise such incidents and would have the tools to deal with them.

The aim is to educate future coaches to help them to recognise if a child is in distress, make them aware of the obligation to report such situations, and help to uncover incidents

and prevent the continued abuse of children. The programme is based on international knowledge and experience.

The Israel FA's executive committee decided that the subject would be included in the training department's course programme, in addition to individual seminars which will be held at various clubs. ■

Nimrod Suzin

## KAZAKHSTAN



### UEFA president's visit

The UEFA president, Michel Platini, visited Astana on 14/15 November. The head of European football was accompanied by UEFA vice-president Marios Lefkaritis and the national associations director, Theodore Theodoridis. During his visit, Michel Platini, together with the president of Kazakhstan, Nursultan Nazarbayev, attended the 2009 Kazakhstan cup final between FK Atyrau and FC Shakhtyor Karagandy, which took place in the new Astana Arena. The match ended in a 1-0 victory for FC Atyrau. Mr Platini then presented medals to the finalists and cup winners. As well as that, the UEFA president and the president of the Football Federation of Kazakhstan (FFK), Adilbek Dzhaksybekov, participated in a press conference held in the Astana Arena conference hall.

*"Michel Platini is our friend, a great leader and our football 'chief'. At same time he is a man who seriously supports football in Kazakhstan. During his visit to Kazakhstan last year, he took the opportunity to view the Astana Arena which was under construction at the time. He was impressed by its beauty and noted that he would attend one of the events held in our capital's new stadium. Having learnt that the Kazakhstan cup final was going to be held on 15 November, he wished*



**Kazakhstan**  
Adilbek Dzhaksybekov  
and the UEFA president

*to pay another visit to our country,"* the FFK president said.

The UEFA president added: *"I am very happy to be in Kazakhstan. I am not disappointed with the results as the stadium is very good – especially the turf, which is excellent! We maintain a good relationship with the Football Federation of Kazakhstan. UEFA knows what is happening in your country in terms of football development, especially youth football. During this visit, we have a chance to discuss football development issues, particularly those relating to youth football."*

On 17 November, the regular FFK conference took place. FFK management, regional federations' delegates, and executive committee members summarised the results of the FFK's work since the previous conference, held in August 2007. Decisions were taken and the FFK's August 2007 to November 2009

activity report was presented and approved. Conference delegates recognised many achievements, including the preparation of the 2010-16 football development programme, successful measures on the eradication of corruption and the influencing of referees, a number of projects on youth football development, the strengthening of partnerships with FIFA and UEFA, the construction of a training ground for national teams in Talgar, the establishment of the league council and coaching convention, and the approval of the official FFK publication, Football News. After the conference, an FFK executive committee meeting was held. Among other decisions, the executive committee approved the composition and format of the 2010 Kazakhstan championship. Finally, Viktor Katkov, national teams director, was elected FFK vice-president. ■

Alex Keplin



## LITHUANIA



### First statue dedicated to football

Before the end of the 2009 season, the Lithuanian Football Federation (LFF) unveiled the first statue in the history of Lithuanian football to be dedicated to the game. It is also the first statue that sculptor Dziugas Jurkunas has dedicated to sport.

The idea for the sculpture came from the LFF; there was wide discussion about the best location for the statue and what it should represent, but the final decision and design was left to the sculptor.

*"Before starting to create the sculpture, I analysed the history of Lithuanian football and was surprised to discover that the football roots here date back to the interwar period, when it was very popular among pilots. Together with representatives of the federation, we decided that the statue must be of a teenager dressed in an old-fashioned football kit. Football came from the streets, where it is a very popular sport among teenagers,*

#### Lithuania

A statue which it is hoped will bring luck to Lithuanian footballers.

LFF

## FYR MACEDONIA



### Hadzi-Risteski re-elected president

In a democratic atmosphere, in the presence of 116 out of a possible 117 members, the president of the Football Federation of FYR Macedonia (FFM), Haralampie Hadzi-Risteski, was given a vote of confidence and re-elected to lead Macedonian football for another four years.

Of the 85 delegates with voting rights, 82 voted for Hadzi-Risteski, while 3 voted for his rival, Blagoja Nikolovski. The election was

*and that's why the statue is as it is,"* said Jurkunas.

The LFF would like the statue, placed near the national football academy in Kaunas, to become a real talisman for all footballers, who can touch the iconic boot of the statue before going into a match.

After the unveiling of the statue and inauguration of the new pitch near the academy, the 2009 domestic champions received special prizes. This year, FK Ekranas successfully defended their A Lyga title. ■

Vaiva Zizaite



D. Aquilina

### Malta

Futsal is becoming ever more popular in Malta.

Ludovico Micallef, in charge of youth football and futsal, and Mario Gauci, responsible for futsal competitions, represented the Maltese association.

The day was very informative as Vic Hermans, who hails from the Netherlands, dealt with various interesting topics, including training methods and game plans. An important point of reference was the Maltese national football team. Hermans was helped by his Dutch assistant, Bert Kessen.

There is no doubt that technical activities of this nature will further assist the technical development of futsal in Malta.

The game on the island is becoming increasingly popular, with many teams playing in the national league organised by the Malta Football Association. The national team has been taking part in international competitions for several years, and club teams have represented the country in UEFA competitions on several occasions. ■

Alex Vella

## MALTA



### Futsal workshop

A futsal workshop for clubs conducted by the Malta national futsal coach, Vic Hermans, who took up his duties at the beginning of

the season, helped participants gain a better understanding of the technicalities of five-a-side indoor football, a game played at a fast pace over 40 minutes.

Twenty-four clubs were invited to the workshop, with the majority attending the event held at the Corradino Pavilion, in Paola, the venue for national team and most club futsal matches on the island. Vice-president

followed by a special representative of FIFA and UEFA, Rudolf Zavrl.

*"The financial consolidation of the federation, investments in infrastructure, creating the right conditions for the smooth running of representative activities, organising and providing certificates for licence administration and the education centre, ensuring outstanding cooperation with FIFA and UEFA, and the timely and successful implementation of Grassroots Charter projects are just some of the activities carried out during this period,"* the president said. He went on to announce the cornerstones of the next strategic period, which will be to implement a national club licensing system, sell TV rights for the domestic championship, secure league and cup sponsors, build a new training centre and FFM premises, improve the results of the national teams and much more besides. ■

Zoran Nikolovski

### FYR Macedonia

Rudolf Zavrl (right) congratulates Haralampie Hadzi-Risteski on his re-election as FFM president.



FFM



FFM

### Moldova

The northern team, winners of the Viitorial tournament

## MOLDOVA



### Tournament for young players

The Football Association of Moldova organised the third edition of a tournament entitled Viitorial (meaning 'future'), for the most talented young players born in 1995, selected from all over Moldova.

In the semi-finals, the northern team beat the southern team 3-2, and the team from the east earned a 2-1 victory against the team from the west. In the third-place play-off, the western team imposed their supremacy upon the southern team to win 4-0, with two goals

from Marin Babin and one apiece from Ion Matias and Constantin Molisteanu. The final match proved to be a very close and tense encounter. Cristi Virlan opened the scoring for the northern team after 15 minutes but Alexandru Novac equalised 3 minutes later. The second goal, scored by Alexandru Casianov in the 28th minute, sealed the victory for the northern team. Radu Rebeja, vice-president of the Moldovan FA, presented the winners with their trophy.

The tournament attracted great interest from spectators and youth team coaches. The aim of the tournament is to discover new talented players and it has already become a regular competition in our fixture list. ■

Press office

**Netherlands**  
 Ronald de Boer, Pierre van Hooijdonk, Aaron Winter and Ruud Gullit (from left to right): an all-star cast for the gala match in South Africa.

## NETHERLANDS



### WorldCoaches: KNVB aims to educate 2010 South African coaches

The Royal Dutch Football Association (KNVB) recently launched the WorldCoaches programme in South Africa, which focuses on football and social development. With this programme, the KNVB wants to make a long-lasting contribution to the development of the 2010 FIFA World Cup host country. The internationally renowned expertise of the KNVB academy will give renewed impetus to local coaching courses. After completing one of these courses, the coach should not only be a football expert on the pitch, but also a life skills teacher off it, on issues such as HIV and crime. The KNVB is aiming to educate a total of 2,010 South African coaches over the next four years.

The KNVB feels very strongly about social responsibility and, by launching WorldCoaches, hopes to share this philosophy with the South Africans. WorldCoaches is a unique project involving the KNVB, the players and staff of the Dutch national team, KNVB sponsors and media partners, the Dutch embassy in South Africa, the Dutch ministry of health, welfare and sport and several local NGOs.



Keystone

On 3 December, the all-star team of the 2018/2022 'HollandBelgium Bid', led by coach Ruud Gullit, played against an African legends team at the Cruyff Court in Crossroads, one of Cape Town's largest townships. Before the game kicked off, the first WorldCoaches participants – coaches from Ajax Cape Town FC and the local community – received their certificates from the former Netherlands captain and bid ambassador. ■

*Tonny Dijkhuizen*

## NORTHERN IRELAND



### A special guest at the centre of excellence

The County Down Norfolkline-IFA centre of excellence welcomed a special guest to its training session recently when Glentoran and ex-Manchester United midfielder Keith Gillespie dropped by to cast his eye over the latest group of talented young footballers coming through. The coaching team, led by County Down performance coach Raymond Alexander, hold training sessions three days a week at Queen's University's Belfast sports complex, with 130 boys and girls aged 11 to 16 currently attending from various clubs and schools across County Down.

The role of the centres of excellence is to support young players throughout their important early teenage years with the aim of developing the best young players in the country. Not only do the coaches help and support these young players with their football skills but also with their conditioning, diet and general lifestyle. The Norfolkline-IFA centres of excellence are a vital strand of the Irish Football Association's youth strategy.

Keith Gillespie was very impressed by the standard of young players on show and stressed the importance of quality coaching at a young age. He said: "In my opinion the importance of having good coaching structures in place cannot be underestimated, and the

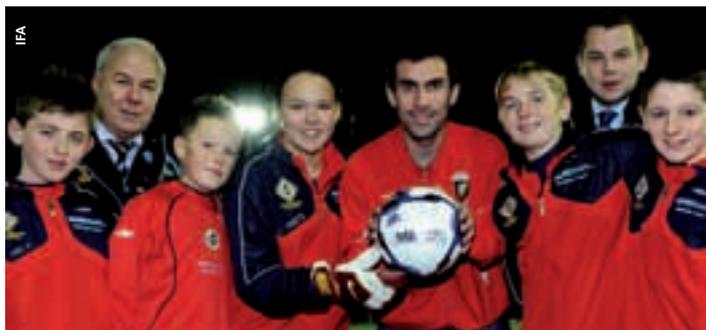
decline permission for the trial. No player aged under 14 is permitted to go on trial. The FAI scouting registration and request for trial forms, the rules relating to scouts and players visiting senior clubs and going on trials, and advice for parents and guardians about trial requests and scouts can all be viewed and downloaded from the football services and education section of the FAI website ([www.fai.ie](http://www.fai.ie)).

Meanwhile, Brazilian legend Pelé visited Ireland to raise funds in aid of Our Lady's Children's Hospital in Ireland and the Little Prince Children's Hospital in Brazil. ■

*Fran Whearty*

#### Northern Ireland

Keith Gillespie, ball in hand, during his visit to the centre of excellence in County Down.



IFA

## REPUBLIC OF IRELAND



### FAI launches new regulations for scouts and trials

The Football Association of Ireland (FAI) recently introduced new regulations relating to the activities of scouts from clubs outside the Republic of Ireland and players going abroad on trials.

The new rules relating to scouts and players visiting senior clubs and going on trials come into force on 1 January 2010.

Speaking at the launch of the new regulations, the FAI chief executive, John Delaney, said: "I would urge every scout in Ireland who represents a club from outside the jurisdiction of the FAI to get registered and to operate within these regulations. They and the clubs they represent will benefit from the structure now in place, as will the players, their families, schools, clubs and leagues."

Among the provisions is the requirement that all scouts attached to clubs not under the jurisdiction of the FAI must be registered with the FAI to operate in the Republic of Ireland.

If they wish to take a player on trial, an official 'request for trial' form must be sent to the secretary of the club the player is (or was last) registered with. Once this form has been completed, the secretary forwards it to their affiliated league, which has the power to grant or

#### Republic of Ireland

FAI technical director, Packie Bonner, FAI president, David Blood, Pelé and FAI chief executive, John Delaney (from left to right)



FAI



SVFF

## SWEDEN



### 2009 season comes to an end

The Swedish season drew to a close in November, with double champions crowned in both men's and women's football. Linköpings FC won the cup as well as their very first women's league title, thus ending Umeå IK's stranglehold on the silverware.

AIK Solna challenged IFK Göteborg for the men's honours and the Stockholm-based club

*fact that the players here all participate in small-sided games will go a long way to developing and improving their skills on and off the ball. To see the best young players from County Down coming together at the centre of excellence to receive such high-quality coaching can only be good news for the future of football in this country."*

Raymond Alexander is delighted with the development of the young players at the centre. He said: *"It is great to see so many talented boys and girls show their enthusiasm for learning the game of football to make themselves not only better players on the field but also to improve their general lifestyles off it. None of this would be possible without the fantastic support of Norfolkline and I would like to thank them on behalf of myself, the other coaches, and all the young players who help make this job so rewarding."*

There are six Norfolkline-IFA centres of excellence in the country and, at present, 780 boys and girls benefit from the programme. ■

Graeme Beggs



FAW

## WALES



### First international match at new stadium

The Wales team played their first international match at the new Cardiff City stadium in November, when neighbours Scotland came to town. The new state-of-the-art stadium holds 27,000 spectators and is home to both Cardiff City FC and the Cardiff Blues rugby union team.

The Football Association of Wales (FAW) is considering using the stadium for many future internationals. The stadium has ample

#### Wales

Simon Church scores against Scotland.

## Switzerland

The U17s celebrate a first world title.

#### Sweden

In his first season as coach at this level, Mikael Stahre led AIK to a league and cup double.

won both the crucial games. AIK claimed their first ever double by winning the league title with a decisive away win at Gamla Ullevi stadium on the last day of the season, followed by victory in the cup final at Råsunda stadium a week later.

The winners were honoured at the annual gala (broadcast live on TV4 to an audience of one million), where Zlatan Ibrahimovic collected his fourth Swedish player of the year award. Ibrahimovic's haul of four trophies (all claimed in the last five seasons) is unprecedented in the 63 years that the 'golden ball' has been awarded. No other player has won the award more than twice.

Caroline Seger (Linköpings FC) won the 'diamond ball' for the best female player of the year, and former UEFA president Lennart Johansson received an honorary award for his lifetime achievements as a football leader and ambassador. ■

Andreas Nilsson

## TURKEY



### Successful doping controls in 1100 cases

The Turkish Football Federation's (TFF) anti-doping committee has achieved a huge success in its doping controls. During the 2008/09 season, 1100 controls were performed among all the clubs in Turkey's professional football leagues and none of the players tested positive.

Prof. Turgay Atasü, the chairman of the TFF's anti-doping committee, said that the results of the tests were an honour to the Turkish Football Federation: *"To achieve this kind of result proves that the measures taken by our committee since 1993, using education and information tools in a strict and well-organised manner, have been a resounding success."* ■

Türker Tozar

## WALES



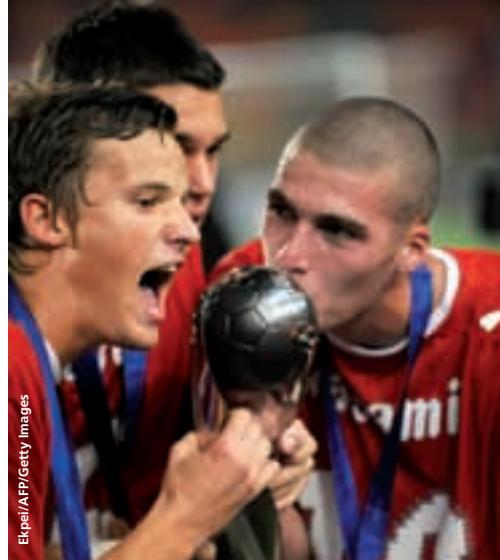
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#### Wales

Simon Church scores against Scotland.



Ekpe/AFP/Getty Images

## SWITZERLAND



### Heroes' welcome for U17 world champions

Weeks after their return from Nigeria, where seven successive victories (against Mexico, Japan, Brazil, Germany, Italy, Colombia and Nigeria) earned Switzerland their first World Cup in the 114-year history of the Swiss Football Association (SFV), the U17 world champions are still in the limelight.

Newspapers, television, radio, websites and magazines are holding the spotlight firmly on our U17s and reporting at length on the "heroes from Nigeria".

The players received a rapturous reception on arrival at Zurich-Kloten airport. Parents, relatives and journalists had gathered to see the plane come in to land, and the subsequent press conference was quite possibly the first of its kind, with more clapping than questions.

After the press conference, vice-captain Janick Kamber presented the successful coaching duo, Dany Ryser and Roger Meichtry, with team shirts featuring the World Cup star above the SFV logo.

This was just the start of the celebrations, however. For many of the players, welcoming parties at their home clubs and towns followed, and the federal councillor and sports minister, Ueli Maurer, even invited them to the federal palace in Berne.

The world champions will now be managed by U18 coach Claude Ryf, while Dany Ryser once again coaches the U15s, with a view to leading another generation of talents to the European Under-17 Championship finals in two years' time and – if he has his way – the next U17 World Cup. ■

Pierre Benoit

car parking, plus corporate hospitality facilities. At present, Cardiff City are in the top six of the Football League Championship in England. The final result of the stadium's first international was a 3-0 win to Wales.

In the same week, Ashley Williams (Swansea City) was voted Welsh player of the year and club player of the year at the annual FAW football awards. ■

Ceri Stennett

# Committee meetings

9-12 November  
in Nyon



Photos: UEFA-Woods

# Communications

## Birthdays – Calendar

### Birthdays

On 1 January, Torben Mogensen (Denmark), internal auditor, celebrates his 70th birthday. He is followed on 6 January by Mariano Moreno (Spain), technical instructor; on 10 January by Guido Cornella (Switzerland), match delegate; and on 20 January by Lars-Åke Lagrell (Sweden), first vice-chairman of the National Associations Committee. UEFA vice-president Ángel María Villar Llona (Spain) celebrates his 60th birthday on 21 January, followed on 27 January by Krister Malmsten (Sweden), member of the Legal Committee. On 14 January Iljo Dominkovic (Bosnia-Herzegovina), member of the Development and Technical Assistance Committee, turns 50, as does Pedro Ángel Galán Nieto (Spain), match delegate, on 20 January and Mirosław Ryszka (Poland), referee observer, on 26 January.

UEFA also wishes many happy returns to:

- Necdet Cobanli (Turkey, 1.1)
- Vlatko Markovic (Croatia, 1.1)
- Monica Ortigueira (Switzerland, 2.1)
- Robert Sterckx (Belgium, 3.1)
- Gerhard Sager (Sweden, 3.1)
- Alexei Spirin (Russia, 4.1)
- Kuanysht Kanapyanov (Kazakhstan, 4.1)
- David George Collins (Wales, 5.1)
- Walter Clarke (Northern Ireland, 6.1)
- Sergiy Lysenchuk (Ukraine, 6.1)
- Nelly Viennot (France, 8.1)
- Franco Ferrari (Italy, 9.1)
- Velid Imamovic (Bosnia-Herzegovina, 9.1)
- Milos Tomas (Slovakia, 9.1)
- Herbert Hübel (Austria, 10.1)
- Michel Dumoulin (Belgium, 11.1)
- Sofoklis Pilavios (Greece, 13.1)
- Luis Horta (Portugal, 14.1)

- Martin Iseli (Switzerland, 14.1)
- Nodar Akhalkatsi (Georgia, 14.1)
- Alessandro Lulli (Italy, 15.1)
- Phivos Vakis (Cyprus, 15.1)
- Atanas Furnadzhiev (Bulgaria, 15.1)
- Mitja Lainscak (Slovenia, 15.1)
- Christophe Perruchoud (Switzerland, 16.1)
- Sune Hellströmer (Sweden, 17.1)
- Friedrich Stickler (Austria, 18.1)
- Vera Pauw (Netherlands, 18.1)
- Bujar Kasmi (Albania, 19.1)
- Anders Mattsson (Finland, 21.1)
- Maria Teresa Andreu Grau (Spain, 21.1)
- Bernd Heynemann (Germany, 22.1)
- Urs Meier (Switzerland, 22.1)
- Lassin Isaksen (Faroe Islands, 22.1)
- Teuvo Holopainen (Finland, 23.1)
- Harry M. Been (Netherlands, 23.1)
- Sviatlana Hrynkevich (Belarus, 23.1)
- Zsolt Füzesi (Hungary, 23.1)
- Pat Quigley (Republic of Ireland, 24.1)
- Patrick Wattedled (France, 24.1)
- Gevorg Hovhannisyann (Armenia, 25.1)
- Leonid Dmitranitsa (Belarus, 25.1)
- Stig-Ove Sandnes (Norway, 25.1)
- Metin Kazancioglu (Turkey, 26.1)
- Cosimo Bolognino (Italy, 30.1)

### Forthcoming events

#### Meetings

**27.1.2010, Valletta**  
Finance Committee

**28/29.1.2010, Valletta**  
Executive Committee

**31.1–5.2.2010, Malta**  
Referees Course

#### Competitions

**19–30.1.2010, Hungary**  
European Futsal Championship  
final round

### Notice

■ Alex Miescher took up office as general secretary of the Swiss Football Association on 1 December.

### Match agents

Three new UEFA match agent licences have been issued to:

**Ludovic Dje**  
21 rue Denis Papin, 95870 Bezons, France  
Tel.: +33 1 73 65 79 01  
Mobile: +33 6 24 29 42 47  
g.management@ymail.com

**Patrice Horjak**  
HPA Sports & Développement  
1 Bd Alexandre de Fraissinette  
42100 St Etienne, France  
Tel.: +33 4 77 25 64 24  
Mobile: +33 6 64 31 46 86  
hpasports@orange.fr

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Bucarest Sector 1, Romania  
Tel.: +40 21 231 86 49  
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antonis\_helios@yahoo.co.uk

### New publications

#### LE GUIDE DU FOOTBALL SUISSE ET EUROPEEN 2009-2010

Despite focussing primarily on Swiss clubs, their players and their results in domestic and international competitions, the 14th edition of this guide by Daniel Masnari is also dedicated in large part to the European competitions of 2008/09 and the current season (*DM Foot Editions, 1036 Sullens, Switzerland, www.lapassiondufoot.com*).

#### ROCZNIK 2009-2010

The 37th volume of the Encyklopedia Piłkarska (encyclopaedia of football) doubles as the official yearbook of Polish football. Coordinated by Andrzej Gowarzewski, it includes detailed statistics and photos of all the clubs in Poland's 2008/09 premier league, as well as a general overview of European domestic championships and international competitions.

### Obituary

**Karol Galba**, former international referee, member of the UEFA Referees Committee from 1968 to 1972 and former match delegate, passed away on 15 November aged 88. Ex-president of the Slovak Football Association, he received the UEFA Order of Merit in ruby in September 2003.

WE CARE ABOUT FOOTBALL



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