



**Benfica win the  
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## COVER

In 2006, Fabio Cannavaro had the honour of lifting the World Cup trophy, something that the captains of all the teams involved in the World Cup in South Africa will be dreaming of emulating on 11 July.

Photo: Hache/AFP/Getty Images

# Message of the General Secretary

Photos: UEFA/Woods

## Journey to Africa

There will be 299 of them.

299 players defending the colours of the 13 UEFA member associations which have qualified for the forthcoming World Cup, the first to be held in Africa.

The traditional sporting dimension of the event will be accompanied by another, historic aspect, as Africa has been looking forward to this moment for a long time, and has had to wait until the 19th World Cup to see its efforts and passion finally rewarded.

For UEFA, the location of this World Cup is somewhat symbolic, in that it will produce a reversal of the usual situation. For a change, it is European players who will be travelling to Africa, and European fans who will be watching on TV a competition being held on African soil.

It is a fair exchange for a continent that, year after year, sends its best footballers to Europe, with around 500 joining European clubs every season.

These players make an important contribution to the quality of play that our club sides are able to offer their fans. Now, we are pleased to be able to return the favour by sending our best players in the other direction, and to give back something, small though it may be, of what the African continent so generously gives us.

Looking beyond the summer, I really hope that the World Cup will give a new, sustainable boost to African football, in particular by helping it to raise the appeal of its national championships. It is, I believe, important to offer African players an alternative to leaving, by giving them the opportunity to play football in their home continent, under attractive conditions.

Football can only benefit from a better balance of forces, which will ensure its vitality in the long term. I am sure that our teams will do their bit to give African football that boost, and, with this in mind, I wish the best of luck to the teams of Denmark, England, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, the Netherlands, Portugal, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain and Switzerland (listed in alphabetical order, not order of preference...)!

**Gianni Infantino**  
UEFA General Secretary

# UEFA Futsal Cup final round

## Benfica over the moon



**THANKS TO A 3-2 EXTRA-TIME VICTORY OVER THE TITLEHOLDERS, INTERVIÚ MADRID, SL BENFICA WON THE UEFA FUTSAL CUP FOR THE FIRST TIME IN THEIR OWN PAVILHÃO ATLÂNTICO.**

In an exciting, high-quality final, Brazilian Dani scored the decisive goal, which sent the 9,400 spectators wild with delight. Benfica therefore gained revenge for their 2004 final defeat at the hands of the Madrid side.

### Dead balls the key to success

After Marquinho had put the three-time UEFA Futsal Cup winners into an eighth minute lead with a superb individual effort, the "Eagles" turned the match around thanks to two dead-ball strikes midway through the first half and

soon after half time. Joel Queirós equalised with a powerful shot after a free kick was played across the edge of the penalty area, before Arnaldo gave Benfica the lead following a cleverly worked corner routine. Only three minutes later, Betão brought Interviú level again at 2-2 with a spectacular back-heel. The Spaniards were largely indebted to a dazzling display by their national team goalkeeper, Luis Amado, for the fact that they did not concede any more goals before the end of normal time.

Less than three minutes into the ten-minute period of extra time,

Dani finally netted the winning goal for Benfica with a strong, well-placed shot from distance. After the match, the Brazilian, who won the UEFA Futsal Cup in 2005 with Belgian club Action 21 Charleroi, enthused about the support of the fans. *"The key to the game didn't arrive on the pitch; it came as soon as we got to the arena and received such an inspiring welcome from the fans,"* explained the scorer of the winning goal. *"I thought from the first moment we arrived the trophy would be staying here in Lisbon; we felt there was no way we could lose."*

### Impressive crowd

Benfica's coach, André Lima, also raved about the support from his team's fans – the crowd of 9,400



The Pavilhão Atlântico, a dream setting for the UEFA Futsal Cup finals



Interviú Madrid on the attack in the final against SL Benfica



Poncio Danieli of Luparense tries to get past Thiago of Araz Naxçivan in the match for third place.

was the largest ever to watch a UEFA Futsal Cup match. *"It was the perfect final with an unbelievable crowd at the arena,"* said Lima, who played for Benfica until 2004. *"I feel enormous pride at the moment. There have been many times in my career when I have had to look up to Interviu Madrid but right now I can say that for once it's their turn to look up at us; I have enormous respect for them, but we were the best team throughout the encounter and so our victory is deserved."*

Lima's opponent on the sidelines, Jesús Candelas, who is used to success and coached Madrid to their first title in 2004, when the final was still played over two legs, was gracious in defeat: *"My first words tonight are to congratulate the victors. Benfica are the champions and the champions are always the just winners. They controlled the rhythm of the game while we entered into the type of match that really didn't suit us. We were missing that extra bit of nerve, that extra step in our game, and at times we were just a second off the pace."*

## Results

### Semi-finals (23.4.2010)

Araz Naxçivan – Interviu Madrid 2-5  
Benfica – Luparense 8-4

### Third-place match (25.4.2010)

Araz Naxçivan – Luparense 2-2, 5-4\*  
\* on penalties

### Final (25.4.2010)

Interviú Madrid – Benfica 2-3 (aet)

### Two newcomers in semi-finals

In the semi-finals of the final round, which has involved four clubs since 2007, Benfica secured an 8-4 victory over Luparense C/5. Despite falling behind early on, the Italians stayed within touching distance throughout the first half, which ended with them 3-2 in arrears. However, the Serie A1 team's hopes were brought to an abrupt end by two goals after the interval. The other semi-final was a tighter affair: Interviu struggled for long periods against Araz Naxçivan from Azerbaijan and did not book their place in the final until the closing minutes. The east Europeans, whose team was very similar to the one that caused a

sensation at the European Futsal Championship final round in Hungary in January, twice came from behind to draw level. They were finally finished off by Spanish goalkeeper Amado, who produced a great save to prevent the equaliser two and a half minutes before the end and immediately shot into an empty net to give his side an unassailable 4-2 lead.

### Futsal increasingly popular

In the third-place match, Araz, who had become the first Azerbaijani club to reach the semi-finals of a UEFA club competition, beat Luparense 5-4 on penalties and celebrated their third-place finish as if they had won the whole tournament. The competition's top goalscorer was Benfica's Joel Queirós, who netted for the 12th time in the final. He shared the position of the final round's leading marksman with his team-mate Arnaldo (three goals each), who also scored in the final.

The launch of this year's UEFA Futsal Cup final round was no less spectacular than its conclusion. The draw for the four matches was conducted in front of 65,000 spectators by Portuguese football legend Eusébio at a championship match in the Estádio do Sport Lisboa e Benfica. All four matches were broadcast by Eurosport and the venue – the magnificent Pavilhão Atlântico, built for the 1998 world exhibition – provided a worthy setting for the final round of a competition whose popularity is steadily growing.

Next season marks the tenth anniversary of the UEFA Futsal Cup. The preliminary-round mini-tournaments will be held in mid-August 2010, with the main round in late September/early October. In the elite round, the four teams with the best coefficients will join the competition. The four mini-tournament winners will qualify for the final round, which will be held at the home of one of the four finalists at the end of April 2011.



The trophy in one hand and the club's eagle mascot in the other, SL Benfica's coach, André Lima, relishes in his club's victory.

Photos: Sportsfile



Germany (Philipp Lahm, left) played a friendly against Argentina (Lionel Messi) at home as part of their World Cup preparations.



A goal for Serbia in a World Cup warm-up match against Algeria

# World Cup in South Africa

## Europeans take on the world

**THIRTEEN NATIONAL TEAMS WILL REPRESENT EUROPE AT THE WORLD CUP IN SOUTH AFRICA, WHICH STARTS ON 11 JUNE. THEY ARE ALL DREAMING OF BECOMING THE FIRST EUROPEAN TEAM TO WIN THE TOURNAMENT OUTSIDE THEIR OWN CONTINENT ON 11 JULY. BUT, BEFORE THAT, THEY NEED TO NAVIGATE THEIR WAY THROUGH THE EIGHT GROUPS. HERE'S WHAT LIES AHEAD.**

### GROUP A: Can France put controversies behind them?

On paper, France's group opponents should not pose them too many problems. Raymond Domenech, who will be replaced at the end of the tournament, has many talented players at his disposal. However, the controversy surrounding their qualification – the famous hand of Henry – had barely died down when a new scandal involving Franck Ribéry broke out. Will it help to draw the squad together even more? The last World Cup runners-up are technically superior to the host country, South Africa. Coached by Carlos Alberto Parreira, world champion with Brazil in 1994, the "Bafana Bafana" do not score enough goals. Javier Aguirre's Mexican squad appear to be ageing somewhat, while Oscar Washington Tabarez's Uruguay seem to be on an upward curve.

### GROUP B: Familiar opponents for Greece

Participating in the finals for the second time, after 1994, Otto Rehhagel's solid Greek team will face two of the countries they played in the USA. Argentina are favourites, even though star man Lionel Messi has failed to reproduce his Barcelona form for the national team. Nigeria – now with former Sweden coach Lars Lagerbäck at the helm following a disappointing African Nations Cup (ANC) – appear less of a threat than in 1994, when they nearly

eliminated eventual finalists, Italy. South Korea, the only new addition to this group of old foes, seem likely to be the most impressive Asian outfit.



Steven Gerrard, the new captain of England, who had an impressive qualifying campaign.

### GROUP C: England favourites, Slovenia outsiders

With Fabio Capello in charge, England are among the tournament favourites, although they will have to do without David Beckham, who has injured his Achilles tendon. But with Terry (even though he is no longer captain), Lampard, Gerrard and chief goalscorer Rooney (as long as he can put his recent injury problems behind him) in their ranks, the chances of the English losing to the United States, as they did in their first World Cup appearance in 1950, seem very slim.

The Americans, compact but with no real stars, look set to be Slovenia's main rivals for second place in the group. The Slovenians, representing the smallest participating country, will be relying on their team spirit and defensive organisation in order to better their performance in their only previous World Cup in 2002. They will also need to be wary of Algeria's technically gifted but inconsistent team.



The Dutch celebrate after scoring against the USA – a scene that they will be hoping to re-enact in South Africa.

Getty Images



Getty Images

### GROUP D: Germany and Serbia in a well-balanced group

Semi-finalists in "their" World Cup in 2006 and UEFA EURO 2008 runners-up, Germany head for South Africa with legitimate hopes of success. Their team has matured. The likes of Schweinsteiger, Lahm and Podolski are no longer young hopefuls, but established champions. Radomir Antic has brought sound defensive organisation to Serbia which, allied with the technical skills typical of Slavic players, has the potential to work wonders. But in this apparently well-balanced group, watch out for the Ghana team coached by Serb (!) Milovan Rajevac, finalists at the most recent ANC. Players like Essien (Chelsea) and Muntari (Inter) are used to performing at the highest level. And the future looks bright, as Ghana are the current Under-20 world champions. With opponents like these, Australia will struggle to repeat their achievements of 2006, when they almost reached the quarter-finals.

### GROUP E: Netherlands and Denmark, honour of the north

Having won all their qualifying matches and conceded only two goals in



Keystone

the process, Bert van Marwijk's Dutch team have every right to feel confident as they set off for Africa. Especially since, with Sneijder, Robben and Van Persie, their technical and attacking potential is clear for all to see. As the only Scandinavian representatives, Morten Olsen's Denmark can also count on an exceptional striker, young "Gunner" Nicklas

Bendtner. The strength of the Danish squad suggests that a successful tournament lies ahead, although it will be hard to repeat the exploits of the generation which included the Laudrup brothers and Schmeichel. Especially since Cameroon, the African team with the most World Cup appearances under their belts and formidable goalscorer Samuel Eto'o in their ranks, are likely to put up a good fight. More so, it would seem, than Japan, who are yet to make their mark on the international stage.

### GROUP F: Italy and Slovakia, a clash of two extremes

Italy is the only European country to have won four World Cups. Slovakia, meanwhile, will be taking part in their first final tournament. Marcello Lippi, back at the helm of the team he led to the title four years ago, finds himself in a rather paradoxical situation as far as Italian traditions are concerned. He has a vast number of attacking options, whereas the defence is looking less solid. Slovakia will be relying on their enthusiasm and some promising individuals, such as Sestak and Hamsik, to prolong their World Cup journey. They will need to watch out for Paraguay, who are always difficult opponents and have qualified



Spain's David Villa scores in a match won by Spain against France in Paris.

Bonaventure/AP/Getty Images

# A first for Slovakia

for their fourth World Cup in a row. New Zealand, returning to the global stage for the first time since their only previous appearance in 1982, are expected to play the role of outsiders.

## Group G: Portugal face "big brother"

Coached by Carlos Queiroz, the Portuguese will be keen to erase memories of an unconvincing qualifying phase during which Cristiano Ronaldo failed to show his best form. The 2008 Ballon d'Or winner provides the main, but not the only, threat in a team full of technical brilliance. Their clash with the Brazilian "magicians", in whom Dunga has instilled his own fighting spirit, promises to be spectacular. The conveyor belt of new talent seems never-ending in the country with five World Cups to its name. Ivory Coast also have some big name players. Vahid Halilhodzic paid the price for a disappointing ANC and Sven-Göran Eriksson will be charged with bringing some tactical nous to a team packed with outstanding individuals, led by Didier Drogba. With such opponents in their path, North Korea will find it hard to repeat their exploits of 1966, when they beat Italy.

## GROUP H: Spain, Switzerland's bogey team

As reigning European champions, it is no surprise that Spain are among the favourites to win the World Cup. They combine a spectacular style of play with the ability to win matches. The injury to Fernando Torres, who is a doubt for the tournament, is nevertheless a worry for Vicente del Bosque. In 18 matches, Switzerland have never beaten Spain (15 defeats and 3 draws). Overcoming their jinx will be no easy task, particularly as Ottmar Hitzfeld has problems in attack: Alexander Frei, the national side's best ever goalscorer, broke his arm in February and will not have played much football. The other main challengers for second place will probably be Chile, led by former Argentina coach Marcelo Bielsa, who tends to prefer an attacking style of play. Honduras, at their first World Cup since 1982, are the group outsiders.

Emanuele Saraceno

## With an excellent tradition of youth development, Slovakia boasts a proud footballing heritage

Seventeen years since gaining independence, Slovakia is celebrating its national football team's first ever qualification for the World Cup. Established on 1 January 1993 following the division of Czechoslovakia and nestled among the Carpathian Mountains at the heart of Central Europe, Slovakia has been a member of the European Union since 2004. Its relative youth as a nation is mirrored by one of Europe's youngest populations; the average age among its 5.5 million inhabitants is just 35.5. Bordered by mountains, this largely agricultural country has also proven to be a fertile breeding ground for footballers. The game first made its appearance in the country 112 years ago, and the Slovak FA (SFZ), which was founded in 1938 at the time of the first Slovak Republic, is the nation's largest sports federation, with 427,102 members. "Qualifying for the World Cup is the greatest success in the history of Slovak football," says Frantisek Laurinec, the SFZ president. "Under the national team coach, Vladimir Weiss, our young squad is walking in the footsteps of previous generations of footballers who played an integral part in the success of the former Czechoslovakia. Playing in the World Cup represents a terrific opportunity for Slovak football and for the country as a whole."

Divided into four regional associations and 38 local associations, the SFZ places a major emphasis on youth development. "Slovakia has an excellent sports coaching system as well as a network of Talented Youth Organisations, which are football academies affiliated to each of the country's professional clubs. These academies receive financial support from the SFZ, which also employs more than 50 youth coaches at central and regional level. What's more, we have a large pool to draw from, since 200,000 of our registered players are under 21."

Slovakia's qualification for the World Cup in South Africa has had an impact throughout the domestic game. "Aside from the direct financial benefits, our participation in the World Cup has created a positive atmosphere, leading to more support from the local authorities and from our commercial partners, not only at national team level, but also at club level, so the impact runs deep," explains Frantisek Laurinec. "For me, the major economic benefits of reaching the World Cup finals are clear, but the social value of being involved in this festival of football is even more important."

The World Cup will doubtless have masses of young Slovaks – boys and girls alike – glued to their TV screens and, perhaps, keen to take up football as a result. Frantisek Laurinec and the SFZ will certainly be ready to welcome them, but, for now, they too are just looking forward to savouring a South African summer. "Everyone – from players and coaches to football fans and ordinary Slovaks – is extremely happy and determined to make the most of this World Cup," he says. "Hopefully, Slovakia can make their mark as one of the teams of the tournament."



Frantisek Laurinec, president of the Slovak FA and member of the UEFA Executive Committee

Pascale Pierard



In the theory room with Hugh Dallas, member of the Referees Committee



All the women referees passed the fitness test.

# Talent shows in Nyon

## Referees encouraged to develop their potential

**TWO EVENTS STAGED IN NYON DURING THE FIRST WEEK OF MAY WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE ONGOING REFEREE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME UNDERLINED UEFA'S COMMITMENT TO THE EDUCATION OF MATCH OFFICIALS.**

The sixth UEFA Course for International Women Referees ran from Wednesday 5 to Friday 7 May, and featured physical work, discussion, case-history reviews of match situations and even administrative issues. The participants were a squad of 38 referees and assistant referees, 13 of whom were newcomers to the international scene. As the event also served as a prelude to the selection of match officials for the final rounds of the European Women's Under-17 and Under-19 Championships, it also featured fitness tests, in which performances were impressive. Bo Karlsson, the former top referee who is now a member of the UEFA Referees Committee, told them afterwards: *"You don't need to have a very long memory to recall the days when one in three women failed the fitness tests. To achieve a 100% success rate is quite an achievement and all I can say is that I feel proud of you."*

*"I can't overstate the importance of this,"* he added afterwards, *"because if you are not fully fit, you don't have the necessary self-confidence and your decision-making capacities can be affected."* This message was

reinforced by physiotherapist Xavier Dallemagne, who gave advice on injury prevention and training techniques. *"People have different schedules,"* Bo Karlsson commented, *"so it's crucial to focus on the quality of training rather than just the quantity."*

### Operational issues

Clips from the Women's EURO 2009 finals in Finland were a fertile source for a review of operational issues on the second afternoon of the course and, on the following morning, Hugh Dallas, another member of the UEFA

Referees Committee, broadened the horizons during a session dedicated to situations which had arisen in the men's as well as the women's game. *"What we did,"* he explains, *"was to base our discussions on the material we presented to the elite and premier men at their course in Malta earlier this year. This is in line with our policy of making sure that match officials at all levels, from the top to the grassroots, receive the same information and the same guidelines. At this course, we paid special attention to player management and, with a view to the upcoming tournaments, best practice aspects of operating with assistants from different countries. There was very good dialogue with the women. They weren't afraid to speak up and ask to clarify specific situations and they were very open to guidance."*

As Bo Karlsson said when reviewing the course, *"We talked about crucial themes like teamwork, leadership, management and reading the game. What I've seen and heard makes me optimistic about the future of women's refereeing, which has increasing relevance in the Europe of today and tomorrow."*

### Talents and mentors

It may have been 'ladies first' in these pages but it was the other way round in the UEFA diary. The first day of the women's course was the last of the tenth Seminar for Talents and Mentors,



The international women referees



The referees pay close attention to what sports psychologist Mattia Piffaretti is saying.



Video analysis

which had started two days earlier and involved a squad of 25 (14 referees and 11 assistants), of whom 17 were newcomers to the project.

The success of this programme can be measured by the fact that, of the ten European referees selected for the FIFA World Cup, seven have come through the talents and mentors scheme. *"It shows that the mentors are doing a good job,"* Angel María Villar Llona, chairman of the UEFA Referees Committee, told the participants. *"And if you have been privileged enough to be selected as a 'talent' your obligation is to make the most of it. To get to the top, the key words are hard work, perseverance, dedication and respect for your profession and the game of football."*

The varied menu featured an unusual session on the pitch, where the referees and assistants were filmed as they reacted to a series of 'incidents' choreographed by the English duo of referee Stephen Bennett and assistant Phil Sharp and enacted – to Oscar-winning standards – by local players. Interesting images emerged for analysis the following morning. The moment, for example, when a referee ran towards his assistant to check whether a foul had been inside the area or not. At the moment when he received a signal from his assistant, a member of the attacking team spoke to him. The referee immediately turned and pointed to the penalty spot. From the stand or from the main camera position, it was pointed out, it would be all too easy to misinterpret the situation and assume that the referee had awarded the spot-kick on the 'advice' of the attacker. It underlined the importance of not only making the correct decision but also of transmitting it clearly to players and public.

### Preliminary contact

However, the main objective of the seminar was to promote preliminary contact between talents and mentors – and the building of these special relation-

ships between referees of different generations was the subject of a session conducted by sports psychologist Mattia Piffaretti. As David Elleray of the UEFA Referees Committee emphasised, *"there must be an open, honest environment in which trust is the key word and the talent must be prepared to ask, to learn and to work on his weaker areas"*.

The value of the scheme was underlined by English referee Stuart

like Stuart, started his career young and earned his FIFA badge at 25. He and Sweden's Karl-Erik Nilsson will also be acting as mentors to Italy's Paolo Tagliavento and Spain's Carlos Velasco. *"I've been mentoring for seven years,"* Rune explains, *"and it's stimulating to meet young talents who are keen to learn and to discuss the job."*

Apart from meeting as a group at the annual seminar, the 'talents'



Stephen Bennett explains the exercises on the pitch.

Atwell who, at 27, was the youngest of the promising talents. *"It's a fantastic opportunity to come to events such as this,"* he commented, *"to work with other referees who've got international experience and with the mentors and committee members who've been there and done it at the highest level. It'll give me add-ons in terms of skills, advice and career direction, so I'm looking forward to working with two established mentors who've been in this programme for years and who, I'm sure, will help me to develop my refereeing philosophy so that I can get the best out of myself in terms of performance."*

### Regular input

One of them is the former Norwegian top referee Rune Pedersen who,

receive feedback from their mentors throughout the year. *"We arrange to meet at, for example, a mini-tournament in a UEFA competition, a Europa League match or a refereeing event in the mentor's country,"* Rune Pedersen explains. *"It's also important that the mentor gets chances to observe his 'talent' when he is refereeing in his national league. The first job for me at home is to watch some of my talent's matches on DVD and pass on comments. Then we keep in touch via email or telephone so that there's regular input from me in terms of remarks and advice that, we hope, will help him to develop his movement, positioning, management, decision-making and other aspects which will make him better equipped to handle higher-profile matches in the future."*

Photos: UEFA/Woods



More than 100 coach educators got together in Coverciano.



Chris van der Weerden in action on the field... and answering questions from Ruud Dokter and Graeme Le Saux



# Course for Coach Educators in Coverciano

## Confronting reality

**REALITY-BASED TUITION WAS THE CORE THEME OF THE 18TH UEFA COURSE FOR COACH EDUCATORS STAGED AT THE ITALIAN FEDERATION'S NATIONAL TRAINING CENTRE AT COVERCIANO BETWEEN MONDAY 12 AND THURSDAY 15 APRIL.**

The theme had emerged from discussions about how to conduct coach education in a more realistic environment than in the past. The starting point was therefore to examine the realities of the modern coach's workload and to pinpoint the trends likely to influence the education of the coaches of tomorrow. The result was an intensive course which combined simulations, interviews, discussions and, every afternoon, practical demonstrations. UEFA's technical director, Andy Roxburgh, led sessions dedicated to tactical trends and the future of coaching, while debating sessions featured a forum involving Frank Wormuth, Ghenadie Scurtul, Packie Bonner and Ginés Meléndez, the coach education directors of Germany, Moldova, Republic of Ireland and Spain.

### Coaching style

The emphasis was on how to coach – rather than what to coach – and the reality-based course featured

a real-life student. Former PSV Eindhoven player Chris van der Weerden bravely volunteered to play the role of guinea pig, along with his tutor on the Dutch association's Pro-licence course, Ruud Dokter, before an audience of over 100 coaching specialists from all 53 of UEFA's member associations. On the pitch, he was monitored as he conducted training and when he led an all-star team into a match against ACF Fiorentina's 'primavera' side.

His squad contained former Chelsea FC and England left-back Graeme Le Saux and ACF Fiorentina and Rangers FC central defender Lorenzo Amoroso. Before pulling their boots on, both stepped onto the stage in the auditorium to give their views on what the modern player expects from his coach – with a view to briefing the coach educators on what their pupils will need to be equipped to deliver. "I had 15 managers in 18 years of top football," Graeme Le Saux recalled, "and the

*lack of continuity was difficult for the players as well as the coaches themselves. I could have become a better player if I had been given more time with the really good coaches. On the pitch, I think the best were the ones who made it clear to each player what was expected of him. Off the pitch, the best were the ones who could motivate and communicate with you individually."*

### Personal relationships

Italy's world champion coach Marcello Lippi endorsed the importance of personal relationships based on identification with a style and a philosophy. "The modern coach," he said, "has to learn to dominate so many aspects, so knowledge needs to be combined with other qualities, such as leadership and charisma."

At the end of the course, England's former manager and technical director, Howard Wilkinson, commented "education and knowledge acquire real value when they are shared. We talk about Coverciano with reverence and it is the perfect setting for something like this. I think that one of the jewels in the UEFA crown is the part it plays in coach education. This is not invisible committee work; this is about assisting people on the ground. Teaching is the most important profession in the world and raising the standards of play is a core function of any federation. Focusing on specialised competences and reality-based learning for the coaches of tomorrow made this event a huge success."



Photos: UEFA



The organising committee in a working meeting at UEFA's headquarters



UEFA/Woods

# Women's Under-17 final round in Nyon

## Germany to defend their title

**THE UEFA ADMINISTRATION IS PREPARING TO STAGE THE FINAL ROUND OF THE EUROPEAN WOMEN'S UNDER-17 CHAMPIONSHIP IN NYON FOR THE THIRD TIME. THE 2009 EVENT WAS A GREAT SUCCESS, ESPECIALLY FROM A SPECTATOR POINT OF VIEW.**

This year, the aim is to further strengthen efforts in all areas, in order to increase its appeal for all participants, with the ultimate goal of attracting higher attendances than last year. For this reason, the match schedule has been slightly modified to meet the needs of the two identified target groups, i.e. schools and the football family. The semi-finals will be played on Tuesday afternoon, 22 June, allowing school-children from the local cantons of Geneva and Vaud to attend, while the final and the third-place play-off will be played on Saturday afternoon, 26 June, encouraging regional and interregional clubs to come along. UEFA's TV partner for youth football, Eurosport, will broadcast the final live.



### Free admission policy

In addition, tailor-made sporting and educational activities will be offered in cooperation with adidas, the Swiss Football Association, and two regional football associations – the ACVF (the Vaud regional football association) and the ACGF (Geneva's regional football association). The programme includes football skills stations, quizzes and a children's festival.

In addition, participants will have the opportunity to visit UEFA's headquarters and to have their pictures taken in front of the various competition trophies.

A free admission policy will again apply, and all spectators will also be offered free soft drinks and a souvenir baseball cap.

The 2010 European Women's Under-17 Championship final round has attracted nine sponsors and ten partners this year, and the UEFA administration is very grateful for their most valuable contribution and cooperation. The audio and media partners will once again ensure a full promotional programme in the build-up to the tournament.

Also, the town of Nyon and its tourist office will again cooperate with UEFA on various promotional activities.

Numerous invitations have been sent to all the football clubs of six regional football associations (Vaud, Geneva, Valais,

Fribourg, Neuchâtel and Jura), as well as to the consulates of the four qualified teams, private schools, local villages, etc.

### FIFA U-17 qualifiers

On the purely sporting side, we congratulate Germany (reigning champions), Spain (last year's losing finalists) and newcomers the Republic of Ireland and the Netherlands on qualifying for the final round, which counts as the qualifying competition for the FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup in Trinidad and Tobago this coming autumn. The two finalists and the winners of the third-place play-off will represent Europe in this competition.

From a logistical point of view, the four delegations will be accommodated in Chavannes-de-Bogis and will train in the neighbourhood. This new structure embraces the spirit of a youth competition, as it brings everybody under one roof and enhances the tournament atmosphere.

Excitement on and off the field is guaranteed, and both semi-finals are sure to provide the spectators with many thrilling moments.



After gliding through the qualifying competition, Germany (Lena Petermann, in white, up against Austria's Virginia Kirchberger) will be defending their title in Nyon.

Hofer/Bongarts/Getty Images



PA Wire/PA Images

The UEFA Europa League has an identity all of its own.



Getty Images

Hapoel Tel-Aviv clearly appreciated the new competition.



# UEFA Europa League

## A popular format



**THE UEFA EUROPA LEAGUE IS WELL ON THE WAY TO WINNING OVER BOTH CLUBS AND SUPPORTERS. MORE AKIN TO THE UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE, IT HAS ACHIEVED A HIGHER LEVEL THAN THE OLD UEFA CUP AND ITS PARTICIPANTS CANNOT STOP SINGING ITS PRAISES. A BRIEF REVIEW.**

The UEFA Europa League involves the clubs that previously would have qualified for the UEFA Cup, domestic cup winners and teams knocked out in the UEFA Champions League qualifying rounds. The clubs enter the fray at different stages of the qualifying phase, depending on their national association's coefficient and, in some cases, their position in their domestic championship. There are three two-legged qualifying rounds, followed by play-off matches, also played on a home-and-away basis. The 38 teams that make it through the play-offs are joined by 10 teams eliminated in the UEFA Champions League play-off matches. These 48 teams contest the

group phase, which comprises 12 groups of 4 teams.

**Geva Telem**, spokesperson for Hapoel Tel-Aviv FC: *"Despite our good coefficient, the qualifying stage was tough, but playing more qualifying matches prepared us better for our national championship and the Europa League group phase."*

**Herman Van Holsbeek**, manager of RSC Anderlecht: *"Two years ago, when we were knocked out in the Champions League first qualifying round by BATE Borisov, we were out of Europe for the rest of the season. This year, despite being eliminated by Olympique Lyonnais, we were able to play in the Europa League. This second*

*chance is vital. It is also worth remembering that teams qualifying for the group phase receive substantial prize money."*

**Pedro Salazar-Hewitt**, communications manager for PSV Eindhoven: *"Our supporters showed little interest in the qualifying matches, but the same is true in the Dutch Cup. After that, they turned up in their droves."*

The group phase consists of home and away matches, unlike the UEFA Cup, where participants were split into groups of five and only met each other once. The top two in each group and the eight third-placed teams in the UEFA Champions League groups dispute the round of 32. Matches are held on Wednesdays and Thursdays in weeks when there are no UEFA Champions League fixtures, and otherwise just on Thursdays. They kick off at 19.00 or 21.05. The UEFA Europa League has its own anthem, composed by Frenchman Johann Zveig.

**Yako Iguar**, spokesperson for Galatasaray AS: *"The supporters can now watch all the teams live in their own stadium, since all the clubs play each other home and away. They can really lose themselves in the atmosphere of the tournament, which is longer and more intense. Everyone likes the format, which is very similar to that of the Champions League. The anthem and stadium decoration add a touch of distinction and elegance to the event. The music is bound to become etched in the mind over time"*.

**Herman Van Holsbeek**: *"This new format has given new impetus to the competition. It is close to the level of the Champions League and is more attractive than the UEFA Cup, where teams played only two home matches. We have encountered only one problem: supporters who work find it hard to get here for 19.00, which is particularly noticeable when we play less glamorous opponents."*

**Thomas Blazek**, spokesperson for FC Salzburg: *"Six matches, six victories, we are delighted. This cup is more international, better proportioned than the Champions League and it will enable*



An atmosphere and stadium dressing that are somewhat reminiscent of the UEFA Champions League.

Empics Sport



Eindhoven score against SV Hamburg in the first leg of their tie in the round of 32.

Rose/Bongarts/Getty Images

us to reach the very top level, step by step."

**Geva Telem:** "The level is much higher than in the UEFA Cup, closer to the Champions League. We really felt as if we were part of the European elite. Drawn against teams from Germany, Austria and Scotland, we finished top of our group, which gave us enormous satisfaction and tremendous motivation for the next edition."

From the round of 32 onwards, matches are played over two legs in a direct knockout format. Centralised marketing, which is partial in the group phase with an official sponsor and ball, as well as broadcasting rights, becomes complete at this stage, as in the UEFA Champions League.

**Yako Igual:** "Thanks to the UEFA and TEAM representatives, the entertainment before and after the matches is much better than in the UEFA Cup. The centralised marketing brings in more income, which has an impact on the standard of play. Current commercial revenue remains low in comparison with the Champions League, but the tournament is sure to attract new sponsors, which will increase the profits for the participants."

**Geva Telem:** "The marketing is more successful throughout the competition, from the preliminary rounds to the round of 32 and so on, because this new challenge is an attractive one. I would like to emphasise the excellent collaboration of UEFA and TEAM, who do everything possible to ensure the team prepares well and create a really special atmosphere. All those big advertising boards, especially from the round of 32 onwards, are reminiscent of the Champions League."

**Pedro Salazar-Hewitt:**

"Progress has been made, although the financial gulf between the two continental competitions remains huge."

**Herman Van Holsbeek:**

"Although it doesn't compare with the Champions League, the new competition is a financial success. It is only in its infancy, in the middle of an economic crisis. I am sure that, within a few years, sponsors will be queuing up, bearing in mind the quality of the product."



## News from Brussels

On 14 April, the UEFA president, Michel Platini, delivered a keynote speech to the Committee of the Regions of the European Union. In his address, he made particular mention of the preservation of the European sports model, the specific nature of sport, financial fair play, the protection of young players and their academies, the fight against violence and the social role of football. Here are some highlights.

At its plenary session in Brussels, the EU Committee of the Regions registered a full house for Michel Platini's visit. The warmth of the welcome reserved for the UEFA president reflects the importance of the role played by football at local level within community and voluntary groups.

With 344 members from the 27 EU member states, the Committee of the Regions comprises representatives of the EU's local and regional authorities, enabling those authorities and the people they represent to participate in the EU's decision-making process.

The UEFA president began his speech by emphasising his determination to see the specificity of sport better protected and paying tribute to the sports model, which needs to be preserved on account of the commercial pressures facing sport today. "It is (...) important (...) that its social and educational value is duly recognised and the specificity of the sporting model is protected within the general economy. (...) Sport is a creature whose characteristics and specific nature are such that it cannot be classified in the bestiary of the European Union." Michel Platini paid tribute to the primary components of the European sports model, which make up its backbone: the national associations. "As president of UEFA, I represent 53 national associations, which are structured themselves into regional committees and local bodies."

It is precisely with this valuable model in mind that the UEFA president set out the reasoning behind financial fair play: "Everywhere that

football has been managed with unbridled liberalism, its financial health is threatened." Michel Platini therefore intends "to pass from a system based on the generosity of major patrons to a system based on



Michel Platini and Ramon Luis Valcarcel Siso, first vice-president of the Committee of the Regions.

principles (...) of financial orthodoxy, balanced budgets and self-sufficiency". He also welcomed the support expressed by the European Commission last September for UEFA's club licensing system (see *uefadirect* No. 91).

The UEFA president also highlighted another important aspect of the European sports model, the protection of young players and academies. "It is in everyone's interest to encourage and protect training clubs; the very future of the sport depends on it. A good academy is very expensive because it has to provide not only sports training for the youngsters, but also schooling and appropriate educational supervision, which are very important. Few of the children who pass through an academy will go on to become professional players; the majority will, at one point or another, embark on a different career. This is an objective, statistical fact."



→ Michel Platini then issued a warning: *"If the academies of small and medium-sized clubs are systematically raided without appropriate financial compensation and lose their best players to richer clubs at the age of 16, or even earlier, training will stop."* Advocating regulations that effectively combat *"the shameless exploitation of the hopes and dreams of very young players"* and take into account the need to respect the principle of free movement of workers, the UEFA president hopes *"to restrict, manage and monitor these movements, which are motivated solely by the lure of money"*.



The UEFA president addresses the Committee of the Regions.

Michel Platini welcomed the judgment of the Court of Justice of the European Union of 16 March in the Olivier Bernard case. Establishing the principle that football clubs are entitled to compensation for training players who subsequently sign their first professional contract with another club, this judgment represents an unprecedented leap forward in case law recognising the effort put in by clubs to train players.

The liberalisation of the sports betting industry has resulted in the emergence of new threats to the integrity of competitions. The UEFA president expressed his indignation in unequivocal terms: *"Professional sport and the money it generates (...) attracts the greed and rapacity of organised crime."* Although he welcomed the effective cooperation between UEFA, its member associations and public, police and judicial authorities, Michel Platini called for *"European legislation which effectively governs all aspects of sports betting. Unrestrained liberalisation that fails to take into account the dangers that threaten sport would be disastrous."*

Rejecting the notion that *"football equals hooliganism"*, the UEFA president condemned public

disorder at or linked to football matches. *"Football mirrors society, which is anxious, unequal, discriminatory and riddled with endemic pockets of poverty and exclusion. Except that, in many cases, it is football that integrates people rather than schools and social services and it is football that brings young individuals together and gives them their basic identity. In this disorientated society, it is clear that our sport, precisely because of its popularity, attracts extremist groups who seek to infiltrate supporters' clubs, invade stadiums, cross borders and spread their nihilist ideology wherever they can."*

Michel Platini warmly welcomed the progress achieved in recent years in the fight against violence. *"In 2007, I suggested (...) that a 'European sports police' should be established, in other words, that the different national and municipal police authorities should be given the means to coordinate their activities, hold dialogue, exchange relevant information in real time and draw mutual benefit from training programmes (see uefadirect No. 69). Three years on, it must be acknowledged that a great deal of progress has been made thanks to effective cooperation between UEFA, national governments, the European Commission and the Council of Europe. We are on the right track. Not only is violence in decline in the major European competitions – we have just lived through two EURO [tournaments] in Portugal and Austria/Switzerland where there were practically no incidents – but we have even arrived at the point where we must begin to think in a positive manner to transform these major football occasions into tourist and cultural shop windows for the host cities."*

The UEFA president concluded by quoting Nelson Mandela: *"Sport has the power to change the world. It has the power to inspire. It has the power to unite people in a way that little else does. Sport speaks to young people in a language they understand. It can awaken hope where there was previously only despair. It is stronger than politics and governments in breaking down racial barriers and overcoming discrimination and prejudice."* Let us hope that these words of wisdom will come across loud and clear in the months to come...

## FIFA U-20 Women's World Cup – Draw in Dresden

**The group stage draw for the FIFA U-20 Women's World Cup was held in Dresden on 22 April.**

The German Football Association will host the final round of this FIFA competition from 13 July to 4 August.

The draw placed the 16 participating teams into the following groups:

**Group A:** Germany, Costa Rica, Colombia, France

**Group B:** Brazil, North Korea, Sweden, New Zealand

**Group C:** England, Nigeria, Mexico, Japan

**Group D:** USA, Ghana, Switzerland, South Korea

The matches will be played in Augsburg, Bielefeld, Bochum and Dresden. The top two in each group will contest the quarter-finals. The four European teams qualified for this tournament at the European Women's Under-19 Championship final round in Belarus last July.

## All set for the 2010/11 club competitions

**The new European club football season will be launched less than a month after the UEFA Champions League final in Madrid and some three weeks before the World Cup final kicks off in South Africa.**

The draws for the first two qualifying rounds of the UEFA Champions League and UEFA Europa League will be held in Nyon on 21 June.

The Champions League first qualifying round matches will be played on 29 and 30 June (first leg) and 6 and 7 July. The corresponding matches in the Europa League will be staged on 1 and 8 July.

# and other activities

## Scandinavians rewarded for fair play

**SWEDEN, DENMARK AND FINLAND, IN THAT ORDER, HAVE FINISHED IN THE TOP THREE POSITIONS IN THE UEFA RESPECT FAIR PLAY TABLE.**

These three national associations will therefore each be able to enter one additional team in the first qualifying round of the 2010/11 UEFA Europa League. These clubs must be selected on the basis of their country's top-division fair play table as opposed to the domestic league table.

The UEFA fair play rankings are based on matches played in the UEFA competitions by all the teams of a national association, both national teams and clubs. For each match, fair play points are awarded in accordance with the players' conduct, as well as that of supporters if attendance is above a certain number.

For the latest rankings, only associations whose teams played 32 or more matches were considered. This figure corresponds to the quotient of the total number of UEFA matches played between 1 May 2009 and 30 April 2010 and the number of associations.

| Rank               | Matches | Points |
|--------------------|---------|--------|
| 1. Sweden          | 79      | 8.275  |
| 2. Denmark         | 74      | 8.189  |
| 3. Finland         | 63      | 8.147  |
| 4. Norway          | 78      | 8.146  |
| 5. Scotland        | 60      | 8.129  |
| 6. Rep. of Ireland | 59      | 8.126  |
| 7. England         | 150     | 8.120  |
| 8. Germany         | 152     | 8.101  |
| 9. Iceland         | 50      | 8.082  |
| 10. Spain          | 151     | 8.067  |

In all, 17 associations achieved an average of eight points or more.



## Special Olympics Football Week

The tenth football week organised by Special Olympics, a UEFA social partner, was held from 30 April to 7 May.

This year's event focused on the development of women's football within Special Olympics Europe/Eurasia, with the aim of breaking down the barriers between people with learning disabilities and the rest of the population. More than 5000 female players from around 20 countries played "unified" football (involving players with and without disabilities) during the week and, as well as UEFA, numerous national associations and clubs lent their support to the programme of 400 or so events.

## Keys of new UEFA office building handed over



On 15 April, UEFA's new office building was officially handed over to the UEFA president, Michel Platini.

Across the road from the House of European Football and next to the Colovray sports centre, the new administrative building, which meets the highest environmental standards, will be able to accommodate around 250 UEFA employees on five floors, with the first of them moving in during May.



**ARMENIA**



**Second part of coach licence course**

The A licence course launched in February by the licensing department of the Football Federation of Armenia (FFA) entered its second stage in March.

During this session, which entailed a trip to Donetsk, Ukraine, from 6 to 13 March, the participants had the opportunity to follow and analyse training sessions of FS Shakhtar and FC Metallurg.

The FFA coach instructors also took part in the seminar as assessors. Having already gained their A licences, they monitor the association's coaches throughout the year.

On 10 March, the FFA's licensing committee (first instance body) met at FFA headquarters

**Armenia**  
Meeting of the licensing committee



to decide whether to award licences to the association's top division clubs. Based on the reports and remarks of the licensing department, the committee decided to grant national licences to all applicants, for whom another challenge still remains: that of meeting the financial criteria, which will be crucial to their obtaining a UEFA licence.

The licensing department has also organised two seminars – one on 19 March in co-operation with the refereeing department on

the Laws of the Game and fair play for head coaches and captains of the top division clubs, and the other from 22 to 24 March on the maintenance of artificial turf for club and stadium representatives, which was organised with FIFA artificial turf consultant Erik Harrison during his visit to Yerevan with the FIFA Goal project coordinator. ■

*Tigran Israelyan*



GEPFA Pictures für ÖFB

**Austria**  
Willi Ruttensteiner, his wife and the president of the Austrian FA, Leo Windtner, at the book launch

**AUSTRIA**



**Sports director turns author**

At the end of April, Willi Ruttensteiner, sports director of the Austrian Football Association (ÖFB), together with the ÖFB's president, Leo Windtner, and CEO, Alfred Ludwig, launched his 200-page reference book *Von den Besten Lernen! – Spiel- und Trainingsphilosophie für Fußballtrainer/innen* (Learn from the best! Match and training philosophy for football coaches). Ruttensteiner explained why he wrote such a voluminous book: "I simply wanted to pass on to other coaches the knowledge that I have been able to acquire during my ten years in the job."

*Von den Besten lernen!* contains valuable information about sports psychology, match and training philosophy, and game formats, all illustrated with quotes from the world's top coaches and excellent diagrams.

ÖFB coaches, led by Andi Herzog, Franz Wohlfahrt and Ernst Weber, as well as fitness coach Roger Spry, were familiar with the book even before it was launched. They were responsible for parts of the text themselves or

acted as proofreaders before the book went to print.

Shortly before the book was launched, Ruttensteiner received an important phone call from Abu Dhabi. Josef Hickersberger, currently on course to win the league title with Al-Wahda, had been among the first to be sent a copy of the book two weeks earlier. After studying it carefully, "Hicke" sent his congratulations by telephone. "What Willi has produced is absolutely fantastic!" said the former national team coach. "This book deserves a special place in my collection." The current Austria coach, Didi Constantini, also sent his personal congratulations.

The ÖFB publication was produced with the firm backing of the ministry for sport, which made it possible to provide every Austrian football club with two free copies. In this way, *Von den Besten lernen!* reached every coach in the country in one go – what more could an author wish for? ■

*Peter Klinglmüller*

– including at least one girl per team. The inaugural event kicked off in February, with 16 secondary schools in Sabayil taking part. In addition to 254 players, parents, schoolmates and teachers also got involved. Later, the competition will be extended to include all Baku schools and, ultimately, all regions of Azerbaijan. Once it goes nationwide, about 100,000 schoolchildren will be involved.

In the final of the inaugural competition, secondary school number 163 beat school number 236 5-3 at Baku sports palace. Secondary school number 49 beat school number 189 6-0 in the third-place play-off. After the final, Berti Vogts, head coach of the Azerbaijani national team, who was among the spectators, said: "I applaud everyone involved in the organisation of this competition, including the AFFA. This project will help to popularise and strengthen football among children, which is so important, because a healthy lifestyle has to become a priority for the young generation in Azerbaijan. I believe that the AFFA is helping to achieve this through football." ■

*Mikayil Narimanoghlu*

**AZERBAIJAN**



**Schools cup in Baku**

A new project has been initiated by the Association of Football Federations of Azerbaijan (AFFA) in co-operation with the ministry of education, Azercell Telecom and the Sabayil district of Baku, the capital of Azerbaijan. The Baku schools cup is a six-a-side competition for secondary school players



**Azerbaijan**  
Handing out the medals



**Belarus**  
Will Dinamo Minsk manage to beat the champions, BATE Borisov?

ABFF

## BELARUS



### Start of the new season

April marked the start of the 20th football national championship in Belarus. This year, the Visshaya Liga has been reduced from 14 to 12 teams and the stakes are very high. BATE Borisov would certainly like to defend their title but there are other teams which would prefer not to see that happen and will be doing everything they can to overcome BATE on the football pitch.

Some friendly matches have been arranged for our senior national team, for two of which they will be travelling to Austria, where they will play Honduras on 27 May and South Korea on 29 May. On 2 June, they will be back on home soil and will host Sweden in Minsk, while on 11 August they will go to Kaunas to play Lithuania in what will be their last friendly match before the EURO 2012 qualifying matches get under way. ■

*Yulia Zenkovich*

## CROATIA



### Hosts of the European Futsal Championship in 2012

The newly elected president of Croatia, Ivo Josipovic, has received a delegation from the Croatian Football Federation (HNS). We are proud of this event as it signifies the importance of football in Croatia. We have also received support to implement programme activities for the quality development of football and its grassroots.

Various current activities of the federation were discussed, in particular with respect to the law governing the prevention of racism and violence in football. It was also concluded that the current trend towards changes in the status of professional football clubs necessitates amendments to the law on sport.

The HNS is delighted and honoured that the UEFA Executive Committee had entrusted it with the organisation of the final round of the 7th European Futsal Championship in 2012. We are convinced that we will fulfil our commitments to the highest level and fully justify this trust.

The first European Roma congress was held in Zagreb under the motto Football Against Discrimination, Racism and Poverty, organised by the World Roma Organization.

The topics on the agenda were related to general problems of racism and the fight against it and, especially, the problems of Roma and other national minorities.

The congress was attended by representatives of Roma from the region, government

## BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA



### A busy time on the international front

Bosnia-Herzegovina's women's Under-19 team have taken part in the elite qualifying round for the 2009/10 European Women's Under-19 championship final round in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. Dragan Joksimovic's squad played in Group 6, the mini-tournament for which took place in Belgium. Not much was expected of the young Bosnian girls, considering the quality of women's football in Bosnia-Herzegovina. In fact, reaching this stage of the competition was a feat in itself. In their first match, they lost 2-0 against the hosts, Belgium, while their second match ended in a 3-1 win for Italy, and Ukraine beat them convincingly in their last match, with a 6-0 win.

A new generation of Under-17s is preparing for the qualifying stage of the 2010/11 European Under-17 Championship, the final round of which will take place in Serbia. The Bosnian Under-17 boys have been to the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia for two friendly matches in Probistip, near Skopje, losing the first 2-0 and drawing the other 1-1. The Bosnian Under-17s are in Group 2 for the first round of the European Under-17 qualifiers



F. Kravac

and will be playing in Estonia from 15 to 20 October, together with Austria and Germany.

In the FIFA Women's World Cup qualifiers, Bosnia-Herzegovina have played two matches in Group 4, losing 5-0 against Romania in Sarajevo and 2-0 away against Hungary. So far, Ismet Bajric's team have lost six out of six matches played in the qualifying competition, with no goals to their credit and 24 goals conceded. They still have two more matches to go, which will take place in June, first against Ukraine at home, then away against Poland.

The Under-21 national team has also been in action, winning a friendly match against Turkey in Tuzla 4-1. This was the first international match to be played at Tusanj stadium. Branimir Tulic's squad will play another friendly match on 5 June, against San Marino.

At domestic level, the first football finale of this season has taken place – the Bosnia-Herzegovina futsal cup final. The winners were MFK Dobojo, who beat Mostar Stari Grad HP 5-0.

UEFA refereeing experts Alan Snoddy and Vlado Sajin recently paid a two-day visit to the Football Federation of Bosnia-Herzegovina, to discuss further steps towards implementation of UEFA's Referee Convention and other refereeing matters. ■

*Fuad Kravac*

#### Bosnia-Herzegovina

The futsal cup finalists after the trophy presentation ceremony

offices and non-governmental organisations for the protection of human rights from Croatia and the EU, as well as a representative of FARE (Football Against Racism in Europe), which funded the meeting.

HNS representatives made a valuable contribution to the success of the congress.

The federation has decided that the whole of the current competition system needs to be re-examined. At the proposal of the regional federations, the HNS executive committee has agreed that the following changes should be discussed:

- The first Croatian league would

involve 16 clubs again next season. For the following two seasons, it would consist of 12 clubs. Finally, starting in 2013/14, it would consist of 10 clubs and the championship would comprise 4 rounds.

- The second Croatian league would continue to consist of 16 clubs.

- The third league would consist of 5 groups, instead of the current 3.

- The HNS would no longer take decisions about the fourth level of competition. This would be delegated to regional level.

Changes to the futsal, women's and youth competitions are also being proposed.

It has already been decided that the finals of the Croatian Under-17 and Under-19 cups are to be played as preludes to the Croatian cup final.

The HNS has also made plans for UEFA Grassroots Day on 19 May, when a programme of various football activities will take place across the country. ■

*Ante Pavlovic*



#### Croatia

Zoran Cvrk, project leader for the final round 2012



CFA



## CYPRUS

### First UEFA Pro licence course

The CFA's first ever UEFA Pro licence course came to a successful conclusion on 30 April, after a year of hard work by the candidates.

The course started in May 2009, with 15 of our local coaches participating in this elite coaching course. The coaches had to complete five stages in all in order to meet all the requirements of the course.

The fourth stage consisted in a study visit to Premiership and Championship clubs in England, which came to fruition thanks to the personal efforts of the two English instructors involved in the course, John Bilton and Martin Hunter.

The fifth and final stage took place from 26 to 30 April, run by Jerzy Engel, a member of the UEFA Development and Technical Assistance Committee, with Martin Hunter.

#### Cyprus

After the Pro licence course (left to right): Harris Kyriellou, coach educator of the Cyprus FA, Martin Hunter, instructor from The FA, Jerzy Engel, UEFA representative, and Stavros Stylianou, technical director of the Cyprus FA

Talking to the Cyprus FA website, Jerzy Engel expressed his full satisfaction at the top standard maintained for the Cypriot UEFA Pro course:

*"There is a great support from the Cyprus Football Association and I have to credit its coach education department for their hard work because, thanks to their huge efforts, the coaches taking part in such a top coaching course as the UEFA Pro received the guidance they needed."*

As far as women's football is concerned, both the league and the cup competitions have finished, with Apollon FC Limassol winning both competitions. Apollon Ladies will now play in next UEFA Women's Champions League.

Finally, our international referee, Costas Kapitanis, has retired from the game, ending a great career as one of our best referees, reaching UEFA's premier category. At his farewell ceremony, he unveiled his book, entitled *The Last Whistle*. ■

Kyriakos Giorgallis

## CZECH REPUBLIC



### Football prizes for Karel Brückner and Ivo Viktor

One of the most successful Czech coaches, Karel Brückner, former star goalkeeper and 1976 European champion in Italy, Ivo Viktor, and defender Rostislav Václavíček, gold medalist at the 1980 Olympic Games in Moscow, have been awarded this year's Václav Jirá prize.

The highest distinction delivered by the Czech Football Association is awarded to individuals who have made a significant contribution to the development of Czech football. In this, the 17th year of the prize, medals were also awarded to 42 other members, three from each regional association.

*is not an end in itself," explained Jean-Pierre Escalettes, FFF president. "It is an incentive to keep going. It must be a trigger."*

With the support of Adriana Karembeu, new ambassador for women's football, the FFF aims to promote and give greater media coverage to a sport that remains too much in the shadows, convinced that one of the keys to development is greater openness to women's involvement in leadership. *"Women must be given access to positions of responsibility in our clubs, districts, leagues and the federation,"* said Fernand Duchaussoy, president of the amateur football league (LFA). *"We are the first federation to have created a committee for the promotion of women."*

Although the green light has been given, many prejudices continue to hold back the development of women's football. Through the LFA and the national technical department, a long-term development plan with numerous objectives has been launched: *"We are aiming for 200,000 registered female players in ten years,"* said Gérard Houllier, national technical director. *"We want to develop the grassroots, strengthen the elite and adapt the game for all age categories."* The ambitions are clear for all to see. ■

Stéphane Lanoue



France  
Adriana Karembeu,  
France's women's  
football  
ambassador

## ENGLAND



### Coaching boost for Palestine

The Football Association (FA) lent a helping hand to the Palestinian Football Association (PFA) when it delivered an advanced coaching workshop in Ramallah on the West Bank in March.

The FA's regional coach development manager, Dennis Mortimer, and coach John Ryan ran the course, which was aimed at preparing Palestinian coaches with no formal awards to successfully obtain coaching licence qualifications in the future.

All 25 participants, including five female coaches, completed the six-day workshop and received certificates at the closing ceremony, which was attended by the Palestinian prime minister, Salam Fayyad, and the PFA president, Jibril Rajboub.

The FA's vice-chairman, Barry Bright, was also in attendance and was impressed by the commitment of the local coaches and The FA staff.

He said: *"Both Dennis and John were well received and built up excellent rapport and respect while delivering the course."*

*"There was real enthusiasm from the local Palestinian coaches and you could see that they were very proud to receive their certificates of attendance at the end of the course."*

The request for assistance came from the president of the PFA, Jibril Rajboub, who is looking to create the right football structure

## FRANCE



### 40 years of women's football

Officially recognised in March 1970, women's football in France is celebrating its 40th birthday, an opportunity for the French Football Federation (FFF) to glance at the rear-view mirror in order to gain a better understanding of the way ahead.

A new landmark was reached on 8 March, when Rama Yade, secretary of state for sport, presented Marilou Düringer-Eckert, FFF council representative for women's football, with the Women and Sport 2009 trophy, awarded by the ministry of health and sport and the national Olympic committee. This prize is awarded to the best strategy or project carried out by a sports federation in relation to the promotion of women in leadership roles and the development of women's sport. The ceremony, which was held in connection with Women's Day, kicked off a series of festivities organised by the FFF to mark the 40th anniversary of women's football. *"This trophy*

*in Palestine as interest in the game, both men's and women's football, continues to rise.*

The PFA has received support from FIFA and the Asian Football Confederation, whose president, Mohammed bin Hammam, welcomed The FA's support in helping develop football in Palestine. ■

Joanna Peill



#### Czech Republic

The new Václav Jirá prize winners (left to right): Rostislav Václavicek, Karel Brückner and Ivo Viktor

At the ceremony in Prague, the awards were presented by the president of the Czech FA, Ivan Hasek, and the general secretary, Rudolf Repka.

"I am delighted that we can pay tribute to their tremendous work in this way. You also have to love the game, and I hope that they will continue to carry football in their hearts for a long time to come," said Ivan Hasek.

"It is a great honour for me. This prize is named after a great football man, an ambassador not just for Czech but also for European football. It gives me great pleasure and joy to have met fellow coaches and footballers, such as Josef Masopust, on this occasion. I love being in such company," said a happy Karel Brückner.

"Not only did I have the opportunity to play football at the highest level, but later I also got to know the game at grassroots level and I know how the volunteers feel," said Rostislav Václavicek.

Ivo Viktor, former Dukla Prague and national team goalkeeper, said: "I have experienced a great deal through football and am still in the game today. I help train the goalkeepers at Dukla Prague."

The ceremony was also attended by several former winners of the Jirá prize, including Josef Masopust, Antonín Panenka and the honorary general secretary of the Czech FA, Rudolf Bata. A total of 53 prizes have been awarded in 17 years, along with more than 700 medals, presented to officials. ■

Jaroslav Kolar



## GERMANY

### DFB mini-pitch action day

The German Football Association (DFB) is standing up for confident children. Kristina Schröder, federal minister for families, and Theo Zwanziger, DFB president, kicked off the second DFB mini-pitch action day at the launch event in Berlin. Action days, designed to promote the social skills of children and young people, were held under the slogan Mitspielen kickt! Starke Kinder. Wahre Champions (Joining in is fun! Strong children. True champions) on more than 670 mini-pitches throughout Germany.

"Together with our partners, UEFA and the federal centre for health education, we are supporting the fun of playing, team spirit and creative action. On the first action day in 2009, children and young people helped to put the event together with great enthusiasm and some fantastic ideas. Personality development through sport can be an effective means of combating the threat of drugs," said Theo Zwanziger. "I am grateful to Mr Zwanziger and the DFB for their firm commitment to our 'Make children strong' initiative over many years," said Prof. Elisabeth Pott, director of the federal centre for health education.

The DFB funded the construction of 1,000 mini-pitches to the tune of EUR 25 million as part of a programme that was completed in 2009. The second action day, organised locally by schools and clubs, is meant to promote values such as fair play, respect and social cooperation among children and young people. ■

Stephan Brause

#### Germany

Kristina Schröder, minister for family affairs, and Theo Zwanziger, president of the German FA, kick off the day of action.



Streube/Bongarts/Getty Images

## HUNGARY



### Debreceni VSC win Liga Kupa and MTK the women's cup

This year's UEFA Champions League contenders Debreceni VSC have the chance to clinch a historical triple in Hungary. Never before has one team won the Liga Kupa (league cup), Magyar Kupa (Hungarian cup) and NB I in the same year. One reason for this is that the Liga Kupa was only launched by the Hungarian Football Federation (MLSZ) three years ago, to give more space to young players at the top clubs.

András Herczeg's DVSC made an important step in the right direction by winning the league cup on 28 April against Paksi SE, for whom reaching a major final was their biggest success ever. The final result was 2-1 and

DVSC remain consistent as mostly young players were involved in the game in Kecskemét, while the 'stars' were kept for the competition games.

DVSC are vying with Videoton FC for the NB I title and will meet Zalaegerszegi TE on 26 May in the Magyar Kupa final.

Also, on the evening of 28 April, in Kecskemét, MTK Budapest FC's women's team beat FTC 2-0 to win the 2010 MLSZ women's cup. ■

Marton Dinnyes

#### Hungary

FC MTK Budapest, Hungarian cup winners



MLSZ



IFA

### Israel

Avraham Luzon, president of the Israel FA, presents the UEFA president with a souvenir.

Before the closing ceremony, over 150 officials from UEFA member associations, together with many other members of the European football family, paid a visit to the Old City of Jerusalem. When the guests arrived at the Western Wall, many of them stood in awed silence and then placed a note between the stones of the wall, telling IFA members who organised the congress: "We are speechless. We are trembling with emotion. This place has an enormous sense of power about it."

Afterwards, all the guests visited the Via Dolorosa (The Way of the Cross) and the Church of the Holy Sepulcher and watched the audiovisual presentation at David's Tower.

The congress concluded with a festive event at the Har Zion hotel in Jerusalem, where the minister of culture and sport, Limor Livnat, thanked the UEFA president and UEFA for coming to Israel, and the IFA chairman, Avraham Luzon, for managing to bring all the policy makers from the UEFA member associations to their state. ■

Nimrod Suzin



FFM

### FYR of Macedonia

The draw to determine the groups for the European Women's U19 Championship

## FYR MACEDONIA



### Draw in Skopje

The Boris Trajkovski sports hall was the scene for the draw to determine the group formations for the final round of the European Women's Under-19 Championship that will take place in Skopje and Kumanovo from 24 May to 5 June.

In the presence of a number of football officials, guests, members of women's teams and journalists, the captain of our women's Under-19 team, Natasha Andonova, and Macedonian football legend Ilija Najdoski carried out the draw, which put Spain, France and the Netherlands in the same group as the host nation, with the other group comprising Scotland, England, Italy and Germany.

Unfortunately, due to bad weather conditions and the volcanic dust that disrupted flights all over Europe, some delegations were unable to make it to the draw, but they were able to follow it live on the official website of the Football Federation of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FFM).

On the eve of the draw, the FFM and the national women's Under-19 team held a press conference which attracted great media interest.

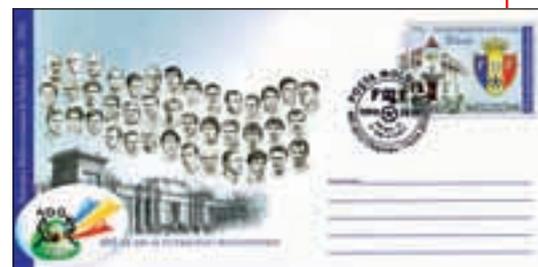
The FFM's general secretary, Igor Klimper, said that for the FFM and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia it was a great honour to be organising this major football event in their region, which would also constitute the very first time that one of our national teams had taken part in a UEFA final tournament.

"Although we have suffered some convincing defeats in the past, I hope that we will rise to the occasion and, with some good preparation, make a better impression. We do not expect miracles, but football is full of surprises. But what is more important for us at the moment is to achieve media coverage for women's football and also to raise our game to a standard that will give us the desired results in the future." ■

Zoran Nikolovski

### Moldova

The anniversary first-day cover



## ISRAEL



### Ordinary UEFA Congress hosted in Tel Aviv

The UEFA president, Michel Platini, praised the very warm reception of the Israel Football Association (IFA) and the high level of organisation of the event.

The IFA chairman, Avraham Luzon, thanked the UEFA president for the fact that the congress was being held in Israel for the first time ever: "I am sure that you will all leave here as good ambassadors for the state of Israel," he said.

## MALTA



### National league 100th anniversary cup final concludes celebrations

The Malta Football Association's celebrations to mark 100 years of national football competitions in Malta came to an end in a most fitting way when the final of the national league 100th anniversary cup was played at the Ta' Qali national stadium between two lifelong rivals, Valletta and the suburban team, Floriana, winners of the first league title in 1910.

The occasion was unique as it was the climax to a one-off competition which had attracted all the 52 league clubs in the country. The two teams regaled their very vocal supporters and the neutral spectators present with a highly entertaining duel played in the best of sporting camaraderie and controlled efficiently by the referee and his assistants.

Michael Mifsud, top scorer for the national team with 24 goals, who had signed a short-term contract with Valletta a few weeks earlier, netted all three goals for his team in their 3-1 victory.

Another player for whom this

### Malta

Joseph Mifsud, president of the Malta FA, presents the trophy to Valletta's captain.

D. Aquilina

match will have epic significance is the prominent national team player Gilbert Agius, who has the unique satisfaction of being the only surviving member of the 2000 team which beat the same opponents by an identical score in another once-in-a-100-years final, that time for the centenary cup, which commemorated the founding of the Malta Football Association (MFA).

This year's historic final was also commemorated by two significant events: the issue by Maltapost of a set of first-day covers and the unveiling of a commemorative plaque at the national stadium by the MFA president, Joseph Mifsud. ■

Alex Vella

## MOLDOVA



### FA of Moldova commemorative postal envelope issued

On 14 April, the Football Association of Moldova (FMF) celebrated its 20th anniversary. To mark the occasion, the FMF, in cooperation with the Moldovan post office, has issued an envelope printed with portraits of 40 veterans of Moldovan football, with the background formed by the republican stadium in Chisinau, where football matches have been played since 1950.

The FMF 1990-2010 postmark's nominal value is MDL 1.20 and it depicts the FMF headquarters and logo. In the near future, a series of 12 commemorative postal stamps will also be issued. ■

Press office

## NETHERLANDS



### Bert van Oostveen chairman of the board for professional football

Bert van Oostveen has been appointed chairman of the board for professional football as of 1 September. He succeeds Henk Kesler, who is retiring then.



Netherlands  
Bert van Oostveen

Currently, the board for professional football is composed of Henk Kesler (chairman), Bert van Oostveen (operational affairs) and Jean Paul Decossaux (commercial affairs). The question of whether a third member of the board will be appointed as of 1 September is still open.

Van Oostveen (39) has worked for the Dutch FA (KNVB) since 1996. He started his career in the competitions department, then in 2001 and 2002 managed the refereeing department. After that, he moved back to the competitions department as manager and, since last year, has held the position of chief operational officer. In that position he is responsible for competitions, referees, safety and security, disciplinary matters, events, public affairs and media relations for professional football. The forthcoming FIFA World Cup in South Africa will be his third major event as project manager. ■

Rob de Leede

## REPUBLIC OF IRELAND



### Launch of summer soccer schools

Republic of Ireland internationals Kevin Doyle and Aine O'Gorman recently launched the 2010 An Post FAI Summer Soccer Schools.

The five-day camps will see up to 20,000 children from all over Ireland participating at over 270 venues nationwide.

#### Republic of Ireland

Internationals Kevin Doyle and Aine O'Gorman at the launch of the summer soccer schools



Northern Ireland  
Girls at the academy  
enjoying the recreational  
side of football



## NORTHERN IRELAND



### A taste of football for life

The Irish FA's Dale Farm First Kicks Soccer Academy has been described by the national women's coach, Alfie Wylie, as a "fantastic opportunity for young girls to be introduced to football."

The academy, now in its third year, targets girls aged 6 to 11. Delivered by a team of fully qualified female coaches, it aims to promote basic football skills among girls who are keen to get involved in the game. Facilitated by the Irish Football Association (IFA), the non-competitive playing environment means that the emphasis is very much on fun.

Jackie Blyth, the IFA's women's football assistant, explains: "The academy has been

very successful and continues to grow every year. I coordinate and coach at the local academies in Belfast. Each centre has two female coaches, but we also have a host of volunteers that we mentor. This allows them to do their coaching hours towards their level one award coaching badge."

Taking place during the school term, the academy gives girls the opportunity to work on and develop their skills. Alfie Wylie praised the programme: "The Dale Farm First Kicks Soccer Academy gives girls a taste of football for life. Introducing them to the game early on means they establish all the good habits from a healthy sporting lifestyle, as well as learning new skills. Although the emphasis is on fun and new friendships, it provides the pathway for these girls to progress on to domestic and international football."

The academy is another example of the growth of the women's game in Northern Ireland, and the Irish FA is encouraging more girls to get involved. ■

Natalie McCullough

The An Post FAI Summer Soccer Schools offer children from the ages of 6 to 14 a fun and healthy summer activity. The camps provide value for money and are focused on participation rather than competition. Running from 5 July to 28 August, each week-long school is run under the direction of the technical director of the FA of Republic of Ireland (FAI), Packie Bonner, and delivered by FAI-qualified coaches, all Garda-vetted in a safe and professional environment.

2010 will see the rollout of 28 goalkeeper camps across the country. Dedicated goalkeeper camps are a great introduction to the game for new goalkeepers and a fantastic tool for improving the skills of existing goalkeepers.

For the fourth year in a row, a number of camps will be run exclusively in Irish. 'As Gaeilge' camps will take place in Counties Donegal, Galway and Kerry. There will also be six Football For All camps run in cooperation with Down Syndrome Ireland and St Joseph's School for Deaf Children. ■

Fran Whearty



#### Sweden

Rose-Marie Frebran, newly elected to the board of the Swedish FA

Starting in autumn 2010, courses will be on offer at the University of Halmstad, GIH Stockholm and, as before, at the University of Gothenburg. Örebro University is also likely to be included from the spring term in 2011. The courses are run by the universities and the Swedish FA in cooperation, which guarantees the quality of football from both a business and an academic perspective.

At the 106th annual meeting of the Swedish FA, its chairman, Lars-Åke Lagrell, was unanimously re-elected and now enters his 20th year in that office.

Rose-Marie Frebran replaced outgoing Bo Lundquist as a representative of the SEF (Föreningen Svensk Elitfotboll) on the board. She becomes the third woman on the FA board, since Susanne Erlandsson and Annelie Larsson were both re-elected. ■

Hanna Leback

## SWEDEN



### Coaching at university level

Sweden is now extending a pilot project to become a coach at academic level. It has already been conducted, with great success, at the University of Gothenburg, under the title of Management with a Focus on Football.

## SWITZERLAND



### 50 years of the Friends of the Swiss National Team

In order to qualify for the 1962 World Cup in Chile, Switzerland first had to play Belgium and Sweden. In 1960, the national coach at the time, Karl Rappan, compiled a special programme for the squad entitled *The Road to Chile*. At the same time, he founded the Friends of the Swiss National Team. As co-founders he was able to enlist future UEFA president Gustav Wiederkehr and future Swiss FA general secretary and club secretary Edgar Obertüfer. Later, during Paul Wolfisberg's era

as coach, membership briefly peaked at 8,000.

Through the years, the club has always lent the national team moral support, as well as providing financial support to the Swiss national youth teams. The "friends", as they are known in Swiss football circles, stand for loyalty and fidelity, and they support our footballers out of conviction.

Today, the club has just over 3,000 members in its gold, silver, bronze and ordinary categories. The club's chairman is Gilbert Facchinetti (Mr Xamax), who is assisted by vice-chairmen Kurt Grünig and Philippe Hertig, both former top footballers. The club's current

**Switzerland**  
Membership of the Friends of the Swiss National Team reached its peak when Paul Wolfisberg was national team coach.



Getty Images

secretary is the former Swiss FA coach and head of grassroots football, Charly Rubli.

The aim of the club is to continue to be true to the national team and to support the youth teams, the international players of tomorrow. ■

Pierre Benoit

## TURKEY



### New strategic plan

At a press conference, the Turkish Football Federation (TFF) unveiled a four-year strategic plan, with the new national coach, Guus Hiddink, outlining the national team's targets and the TFF president, Mahmut Özgener, saying: *"This is our federation's first strategic plan since it was founded in 1923 and we are confident we can improve Turkish football from sporting and financial perspectives by 2013. We have designed a firm infrastructure for Turkish football and a plan which will function as a corporate guide for our federation."*

The strategic plan outlines targets in 11 areas, starting with national teams qualifying for the final rounds of all competitions.

In elite player development, 15 clubs are to upgrade youth programmes, with technical education centres expanded four-fold and education offered to 12,000 promising 10-12-year-olds.

#### Turkey

The strategic plan is unveiled.

In women's football, the aims are to increase grassroots participation from 5,000 to 75,000 and to expand from 45 to 100 clubs and from 1,300 to 6,000 registered players.

Targets in grassroots and amateur football are to increase registered players from 320,000 to 1 million.

In refereeing, the plan is to raise numbers from 6,500 to 15,000 and to have at least three in UEFA's elite and premier categories.

In coaching, licences are to conform to UEFA standards by 2013/14 and, financially, the aim is a 40% budget increase by 2013 and to have sponsors for all national and regional competitions.

Communication targets are a 10% increase on 14 million visitors to the TFF website and to reach 1 million registered users.

Other aims are to build five stadiums, to have six in UEFA's elite category, to increase Super League attendances by 30%, and for clubs in the top two divisions to have a UEFA licence by the 2011/12 season and to implement three-year strategic plans from that date.

Organisational ambitions hinge on a seven-year plan for hosting international tournaments, meetings and other football-related events, including at least three UEFA or FIFA finals and one congress. ■

Türker Tozar



TFF

## UKRAINE



### Agreement signed with the CCPA

On 12 March, the Football Federation of Ukraine (FFU) signed an agreement at its headquarters with the Cross Cultures Project Association (CCPA), a public humanitarian organisation and social partner of UEFA. The founder members of the CCPA are the foreign ministers of Denmark, Norway, Sweden and Finland.

The deal was signed by FFU vice-president Anatolii Bidenko; the CCPA's managing director, Anders Levinsen (Denmark); and the project manager for the CIS, Valeriy Cholariya (Georgia).

Under the agreement, Ukraine joins the international Open Fun Football Schools programme supported by UEFA. As a result, starting this year, 18 to 20 football camps a year will be organised throughout Ukraine for boys and girls who want to play football. The programme aims to provide schools with sports facilities and to kit out the children. The coaches, teachers and tutors will receive a special qualification.

The FFU has started selecting regional associations and city councils able to provide venues for the camps and people to help prepare and run them. This year, 10 or 12 camps will be organised in Sevastopol and elsewhere in Crimea, two in Vinnytsa and Chernivtsi, and one in Kyiv, Odesa, Lugansk and Volyn.

Since 1998, more than 1,000 Open Fun Football Schools have taken place, involving a total of 200,000 boys and girls in 14 countries in the Balkans, Transcaucasus, Moldova and the Middle East. ■

Ivan Dyvak

# Communications

## Birthdays – Calendar

### Birthdays

Wilfried Gerhardt (Germany), member of the circle of former UEFA committee members, celebrates his 80th birthday on 1 June. Reinhard Walsler (Liechtenstein), vice-chairman of the Youth and Amateur Football Committee, celebrates his 70th birthday on 25 June. On 5 June, Ludovico Micallef (Malta), member of the Youth and Amateur Football Committee, and Jaap Uilenberg (Netherlands), member of the Referees Committee, turn 60, as does doping control officer Johannes Scholtz (Netherlands) on 8 June. Referee observer Rene H.J. Temmink (Netherlands), has his 50th birthday on 24 June, followed by technical instructor Wim Koevermans (Belgium) on 28 June and referee observer Wolfgang Sowa (Austria) on 29 June. UEFA also wishes many happy returns for the month of June to:

- Dusan Savic (Serbia, 1.6)
- Ekaterina Fedyshina (Russia, 1.6)
- Iyaylo Ivkov (Bulgaria, 3.6)
- Radek Lobo (Czech Republic, 3.6)
- Klara Bjartmarz (Iceland, 3.6)
- George Courtney (England, 4.6)
- Rolf Haugen (Norway, 4.6)
- John Ward (Republic of Ireland, 4.6)
- Jean-Samuel Leuba (Switzerland, 4.6)
- Leon Straessle (Switzerland, 6.6)
- Michael Joseph Hyland (Republic of Ireland, 6.6)
- Theo Zwanziger (Germany, 6.6)
- Piotr Werner (Poland, 6.6)
- Ryszard Wojcik (Poland, 6.6)
- Stefano Braschi (Italy, 6.6)
- Lars-Åke Bjørck (Sweden, 7.6)
- Sandor Berzi (Hungary, 7.6)
- Kenneth J. Hope (Scotland, 7.6)
- Michel Sablon (Belgium, 7.6)
- Sondre Kåfjord (Norway, 7.6)
- Charles Ronlez (Belgium, 7.6)
- Yury Dupanau (Belarus, 7.6)
- Onofre Costa (Portugal, 7.6)
- Bryan Drew (England, 8.6)
- Jesper Møller Christensen (Denmark, 9.6)
- Petri Antero Jakonen (Finland, 9.6)
- Hans Bangerter (Switzerland, 10.6)
- Mikalai Varabyov (Belarus, 10.6)
- Alun Evans (Wales, 11.6)
- Nathan Bartfeld (Moldova, 11.6)
- Leonardo Grosso (Italy, 11.6)
- Kyros Georgiou (Cyprus, 11.6)
- Thórir Hakonarson (Iceland, 11.6)
- Zoran Dimic (Serbia, 11.6)
- Alain Courtois (Belgium, 12.6)
- Jørn West Larsen (Denmark, 12.6)
- Roland Coquard (France, 13.6)
- Targo Kaldoja (Estonia, 13.6)
- Nuno Castro (Portugal, 14.6)
- Galina Doneva (Bulgaria, 14.6)
- Giulio Campanati (Italy, 15.6)
- Viacheslav Koloskov (Russia, 15.6)
- Miguel Galan Torres (Spain, 15.6)

- Michael Joseph Maessen (Netherlands, 17.6)
- Stephen Thomas (England, 17.6)
- Markus Nobs (Switzerland, 17.6)
- Philippe Piat (France, 18.6)
- Hannelore Ratzeburg (Germany, 18.6)
- Amit Klein (Israel, 18.6)
- Ivan Novak (Croatia, 18.6)
- Eduard Prodani (Albania, 18.6)
- Elkhan Mammadov (Azerbaijan, 18.6)
- Gaioz Darsadze (Georgia, 19.6)
- Michel Platini (France, 21.6)
- Peter Peters (Germany, 21.6)
- Zoran Cvrk (Croatia, 21.6)
- Keith Stuart Hackett (England, 22.6)
- Zvi Rosen (Israel, 23.6)
- Vladimir Antonov (Moldova, 23.6)
- Leslie Irvine (Northern Ireland, 23.6)
- Georg Pangl (Austria, 23.6)
- Jean-Jacques Schonckert (Luxembourg, 24.6)
- Emanuel Zammit (Malta, 24.6)
- João Rocha (Portugal, 24.6)
- Christian Schmöler (Austria, 25.6)
- Foppe de Haan (Netherlands, 26.6)
- Barry W. Bright (England, 27.6)
- Sigurdur Hannesson (Iceland, 27.6)
- Eyjolfur Olafsson (Iceland, 27.6)
- José Venancio Lopez Hierro (Spain, 27.6)
- Levent Kizil (Turkey, 27.6)
- Ivan Borissov Lekov (Bulgaria, 29.6)
- Joan Laporta i Estruch (Spain, 29.6)
- Peter J. van Zunderd (Netherlands, 30.6)

### Forthcoming events

#### Meetings

- 1.6.2010, Nyon**  
Grassroots Football Panel
- 5.6.2010, Caen**  
Draw for the final round of the 2009/10 European Under-19 Championship
- 9/10.6.2010, Johannesburg**  
Ordinary FIFA Congress
- 21.6.2010, Nyon**  
Draws for the first and second qualifying rounds of the UEFA Champions League and UEFA Europa League

#### Competitions

- 24.5-5.6.2010, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia**  
Final round of the European Women's Under-19 Championship
- 11.6-11.7.2010, South Africa**  
FIFA World Cup
- 22-26.6.2010, Nyon**  
Final round of the European Women's Under-17 Championship
- 29/30.6.2010**  
UEFA Champions League first qualifying round (first legs)

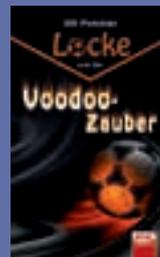
### Notices

- On 20 March, the general meeting of the Swedish FA re-elected Lars-Åke Lagrell as its president.
- Since 1 April, Ferenc Nemes has been acting president of the Hungarian FA, following the resignation of Istvan Kistelegi.
- Géza Roka took over as general secretary of the Hungarian FA on 1 April.

### On the bookshelf

#### Locke und der Voodoo-Zauber

This book by TV presenter, football reporter and children's author Ulli



Potofski is the fourth in a series and aims to get young readers in the mood for the forthcoming World Cup in South Africa.

It tells the story of Schalke 04's school team, who are invited to Cape Town to play three friendly matches in Cape Town in the run-up to the World Cup. Their opponents are a local school team, the South African national school team and a youth team from Swaziland. For Locke and his team-mates from Gelsenkirchen, the trip turns out to be a sporting and cultural adventure. At all three matches – one of which takes place at Cape Town's magnificent Green Point Stadium – they have to deal with voodoo, a cinder pitch and a black mamba, among other things. To find out what happens when German footballing virtues and South African street footballers from humble backgrounds meet, you will have to buy the book!  
(BVK Buch Verlag Kempen GmbH – Fax: +49-2152-52873)

### Obituary

Rainer Ospelt (Liechtenstein), member of the Youth Committee from 1986 to 1988, passed away on 15 April, aged 61.

WE CARE ABOUT FOOTBALL



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