



UEFA.direct

No. 104 – 12/2010

Meet Slavek and Slavko

In this issue

Fresh impetus for women's football

4

The creation of the UEFA Women's Champions League last season has done wonders for women's football. The competition is now well into its second season, with the quarter-finals just around the corner.



Sportsfile

UEFA EURO 2012 mascots

7

Slavek and Slavko, the UEFA EURO 2012 mascots, were introduced to the public in November.



UEFA

MESGO seminar in Nyon

8

A Master in European Sport Governance (MESGO) seminar was held at UEFA HQ in Nyon in November.



UEFA

UEFA Executive Committee meets in Prague

12

The last Executive Committee meeting of the year was held in the Czech capital in early December.



UEFA

Celebrating football unity

15

Celebrations were held in Leipzig to mark 20 years since German football's reunification on 21 November 1990.



Hartmann/Bogdansky/Getty Images

News from member associations

16

WE CARE ABOUT FOOTBALL



Official publication of the
**Union des associations
européennes de football**

Chief editor:

André Vieli

Produced by:

Atema Communication SA, CH-1196 Gland

Printing:

Artgraphic Cavin SA, CH-1422 Grandson

Editorial deadline: 10 December 2010

The views expressed in signed articles are not necessarily the official views of UEFA.

The reproduction of articles published in UEFA-direct is authorised, provided the source is indicated.

UEFA

Route de Genève 46

CH-1260 Nyon

Switzerland

Tel. +41 848 00 27 27

Fax +41 848 01 27 27

www.UEFA.com

E-mail: uefadirect@uefa.ch



Mixed Sources

Product group from well-managed
forests, and other controlled sources
www.fsc.org Cert no. SQS-COC-100155
© 1996 Forest Stewardship Council

Cover

Slavek and Slavko, the UEFA EURO 2012 mascots, have been busy promoting the tournament in Poland and Ukraine since November.

Photo: UEFA

Keeping the flame alive

One of the most popular symbols of Christmas is the tree, with its fairy lights and tinsel. Its traditional shape – with thicker, denser lower boughs tapering into a point with fewer branches – is reminiscent of the football pyramid, with its wide grassroots base and slender elite peak.

However, unlike the short-lived Christmas tree, football seeks durability and stability – of the Laws of the Game, of its competitions and structures – although at times, ensuring this perennial state can be something of a struggle, with threats on various fronts never far away.

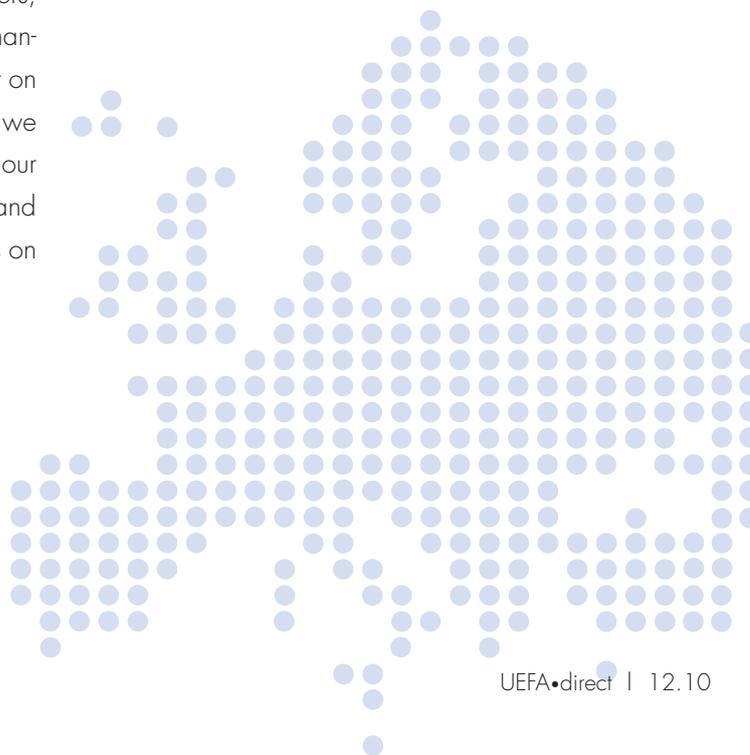
Football has achieved its popularity and established itself thanks, in no small part, to the faith of its pioneers, who never stopped believing in their ideal. They managed to keep alight the flame they had lit and pass it on to us. Times have changed, as have the challenges we face, but our enthusiasm must be as strong as that of our predecessors' in order to fuel the flame of football and ensure that it burns brighter and longer than the lights on the Christmas tree.



On that note, I would like to take this opportunity to wish the entire football family and all its friends a very happy Christmas and New Year. Let us all resolve to keep the flame of football alive and burning bright in 2011. Even without any major international tournaments on the calendar, the year ahead is sure to provide us with no shortage of exciting football at all levels of the game.


 A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read 'M. Platini'.

Michel Platini
UEFA President



Fresh impetus for women's football

The introduction of a European women's competition was approved by the UEFA Executive Committee at a meeting in Paris on 23 May 2000. As a result, the first UEFA Women's Cup was staged in 2001/02, bringing together 33 clubs from as many different national associations.



The number of associations represented increased considerably within just a few years. This, combined with the success of the competition and the emergence of top-level women's teams, prompted UEFA to modernise the format in 2009/10 and the UEFA Women's Champions League came into being.

The new format is inspired by that of the men's UEFA Champions League. It raises the profile of women's football and puts more resources at its disposal, while guaranteeing a maximum number of participating member associations. For outsiders, the most striking feature

of the revamped competition is the final, which is now played as a single match on the Thursday before the men's final, in the same city.

Competition format

Before moving onto the financial aspects of the competition, let us take a look first at its sporting side. In principle, each association is represented by one team, although the top eight in the rankings are entitled to two places (one in the round of 32 and the other in the qualifying round for the seasons 2009/10 and 2010/11; as from the 2011/12 edition, both clubs from the top eight will start in the round of 32). The qualifiers take place in



1. FFC Turbine Potsdam won the first Women's Champions League final, which was held in Madrid in the same week as the men's final.

UEFA
WOMEN'S
CHAMPIONS
LEAGUE
**FINAL
MADRID 2010**



Empics Sport

Gwenn Haries of Everton passes the ball despite pressure from MTK's Zsuzsanna Szabo in the second leg of their round of 32 tie this season.

August, in the form of mini-tournaments played as round-robin fixtures by groups of four teams. The group winners and, depending on the number of entries, potentially one or more runners-up qualify for the knockout stage, which kicks off in September with the round of 32. From here until the final, all matches are played on a home and away basis and the away goals rule applies. As in the men's game, if two teams score the same number of goals at home and away, two 15-minute periods of extra time are played and, if necessary, the match goes to penalties.

The clubs, heavyweights and newcomers alike, are delighted with the new format and, just like their male counterparts, lots of players have waxed lyrical about their impressions: the Champions League really is the ultimate club competition. Such sound bites are quick to confirm. Flemming Nielsen, manager and coach of Danish club Fortuna Hjørring, for example, says: "As champions of a small football country two seasons in a row, we need the Champions League to help us improve, because our domestic competition doesn't produce enough tough matches. We played very well against Bardolino Verona this season and last, but Duisburg are obviously formidable opponents." Alexander Bondarenko, manager of FC Rossiyanka, shares Nielsen's enthusiasm: "It was an excellent idea of UEFA's and has breathed new life into women's football." Rainer Zimmermann, FCR 2001 Duisburg press officer, attaches great importance to the competition, especially as his side lifted the UEFA Women's Cup two years ago, in their debut season: "The Bundesliga is obviously our top priority, because a domestic title illustrates the continuity of a team throughout the season and shows that we are the best team in the country of the world champions. But this season we're probably out of the running for the title, as we're already quite far from the top, so the Champions League is even more important." After wins in qualifying in Northern Ireland, and against CSHVSM of Almaty

Looking ahead to the quarter-finals

The access list for the 2010/11 UEFA Women's Champions League contained 51 teams. For 28 of them, the competition kicked off in August with the qualifying round, played in the form of mini-tournaments for which the teams were drawn into seven groups of four.

The clubs seeded for these mini-tournaments, i.e. the domestic league runners-up of the eight associations with the highest coefficient rankings, all made it through, with the notable exception of Umeå IK, five-time UEFA Women's Cup finalists and winners in 2002/03 and 2003/04. This time, the Swedes left Cyprus empty-handed after being comprehensively beaten (4-1) by the mini-tournament hosts and ultimate group winners, Apollon Limassol LFC.

All the other seeds qualified for the round of 32, either by winning their mini-tournaments – as in the case of Denmark's Brøndby IF, Everton of England, French team FCF Juvisy Essonne, Italy's ASD Bardolino Verona, Russia's Rossiyanka and Germany's 2001 Duisburg – or, in the case of Iceland's Breidablik, as best group runners-up. ZNK Krka of Slovenia also qualified as runners-up.

They were joined in the round of 32 by another 23 teams

– including the titleholders, 1. FFC Turbine Potsdam – who had byes to the knockout stage. It was in the round of 32, played in September and October, that Apollon's incredible campaign came to an end, although the Cypriots made Russia's Zvezda-2005 work hard for their place in the next round. Three others who had made it through the qualifying round – Bardolino, Breidablik and Krka – were knocked out in the round of 32, with another two – Brøndby and Rossiyanka – bowing out in November's round of 16. This meant there were only three domestic runners-up remaining when the quarter-final draw was held on 19 November in Nyon. It produced the following ties:

- 1. Zvezda-2005 v Olympique Lyonnais
- 2. Arsenal Ladies FC v Linköpings FC
- 3. Everton v FCR 2001 Duisburg
- 4. FCF Juvisy Essonne v 1. FFC Turbine Potsdam

The quarter-finals will be played on 16/17 March (first legs) and 23/24 March (return legs).

The semi-final ties were also decided on 19 November:

- Winners of quarter-final 1 v Winners of quarter-final 2
- Winners of quarter-final 3 v Winners of quarter-final 4

The first legs will be played on 9 and 10 April, with the return legs a week later on 16th and 17th. The final is being staged in London on 26 May. ●



Quarter-final draw in Nyon

UEFA

(Kazakhstan) and Hjørring ("worthy opponents"), Duisburg have their eyes on the prize.

Financial contributions

Some women's clubs that are not as well-established or experienced as the men's have more mixed feelings about the new horizons open to them. While FC Ros-siyanka consider the financial conditions good, Fortuna would welcome more of a helping hand from UEFA: "Last season we had a shortfall of €3,000, and we didn't even have to travel that far. So participating in the competition could threaten the sustainability of our club." FCR 2001, with their more solid foundations, draw the following conclusion: "We're happy that, after having done away with the home and away final, UEFA decided to allocate prize money to the finalists. But if we don't get that far, it's almost impossible to earn any money from the Champions League. We've had our fingers burnt to a certain extent: in two years, we've already had four long, expensive trips – to Ukraine, Belarus, Kazan [Russia] and Kazakhstan, as well as two qualifying mini-tournaments."

On the topic of financial contributions, the UEFA Executive Committee decided, at its meeting in Minsk in October, to make changes to the prize pot and its distribution. Whereas in the first UEFA Women's Champions League, only the two finalists received prize money (€325,000 for the winners and €225,000 for the runners-up), all eight teams that reach this season's quarter-finals will get a slice of the cake. The four that are knocked out will each receive €25,000, the two losing semi-finalists €50,000, the runners-up €200,000 and the winners €250,000.

Hot topic

Dieter Oster, chairman of FCR 2001 Duisburg, accurately sums up what seems to be the general feeling: "The Champions League sometimes causes us to travel long distances, which generates considerable costs, but in sporting terms, this competition is exciting for every player and every team, because it gives us an oppor-

THE FINAL DEBATE

Russia's Alexander Bondarenko and Denmark's Flemming Nielsen are enthusiastic: "Staging the women's final in the same city as the men's can only help to raise the profile of women's football. It's excellent for the competition." For Rainer Zimmermann, however, the debate remains open. FCR 2001 are clearly a case apart: women's football is hugely popular in Germany and FCR won the last ever UEFA Women's Cup in May 2009. For the return leg of the final, 28,112 spectators turned out to set an as yet unbroken world record. "We're a bit torn: this new single-match final, in the same place as the men's, is excellent promotion for the competition, but I wonder whether our supporters wouldn't prefer to go to see 'half a final' in their home town than undergo an expensive trip to Madrid or London." P.P.



A record turnout for FCR 2001 Duisburg.

tunity to measure ourselves against the best players in Europe. FCR 2001 will therefore once again be doing everything they can this season to qualify for the next." Alexander Bondarenko, however, would like to see UEFA go a step further: "The new format is certainly heading in the right direction, but it should be made possible for more teams to benefit by means of a second tournament, like the Europa League, for the next teams down and those who aren't lucky enough to qualify for the Champions League."

● Pascale Pierard



Craven Cottage, the venue for the 2011 final

Slavek and Slavko already at work

There may be 18 months to go until the start of EURO 2012 but the mascots, Slavek and Slavko, have already got the ball rolling.



Following in the footsteps of the EURO 2008 mascots, Trix and Flix, this new pair are flying the flag for Poland and Ukraine and have quickly made their presence felt since being unveiled at a star-studded ceremony at Warsaw's Polish Theatre on 16 November.

Like Trix and Flix, who represented Austria and Switzerland in 2008, Slavek and Slavko sport the home strip of each host nation and have their hair dyed in their national team colours – red and white for Poland, and yellow and blue for Ukraine.

Slavek wears No 20 and Slavko No 12, and if a mascot's role is to bring a team good fortune, then legendary Polish striker and EURO 2012 ambassador Zbigniew Boniek, who wore the No 20 for Poland, thinks his nation could be on to a winner.

"This number was good for the national team, it brought me a lot of luck," he said. "Grzegorz Lato had this number too. As No 20 I scored three famous goals against Belgium at the 1982 World Cup."

The pair also impressed Ukraine striker and fellow ambassador Andriy Shevchenko, who noted that, as well as promoting EURO 2012, "the mascots can play good football and that is a good sign for the tournament".

Since 1980

Mascots have been an integral part of the European Football Championship since 1980, when Pinocchio took to the field in Italy. They have been created by Warner Bros since 2004, when Kinas helped to cheer hosts Portugal to the final, and following the success of Trix and Flix in 2008, two mascots are again deemed better than one.

Since being unveiled, the twins' feet have hardly touched the ground. On 17 November they attended Poland's friendly international against Ivory Coast at the Miejski Stadium in Poznan, as well as Ukraine's game against Switzerland in Geneva. The president of the Polish Football Federation, Grzegorz Lato, was on hand to witness their international debut and said: "I like the mascots. They do their job well, promoting the two host nations and the finals."



UEFA Executive Committee member František Laurinec reveals the names of the two EURO 2012 mascots.

The Football Federation of Ukraine president, Grigoriy Surkis, emphasised the importance of the role the pair will play. "The two mascots represent the joint effort and commitment of both countries and their football associations to organise a successful EURO 2012," he said. "We share the same ideas and are looking forward to the fun of the tournament."

Young and dynamic

Poznan was their first stop on a whirlwind tour of the eight host cities, with the mascots also visiting Lviv, Donetsk, Wrocław, Kharkiv, Kyiv and Gdansk before returning to Warsaw. Their road show took in stadiums and tourist attractions across the two nations, as well as numerous photo sessions with enthusiastic children, including thousands who braved the cold during the final leg of the tour on 4 December to see Slavek and Slavko turn on the Christmas lights in the Polish capital.

Each step of the way, people voted to help name the pair, with Slavek and Slavko proving most popular with the 56% of votes, followed by Siemko and Strimko (29%) and Klemek and Ładko (15%). In all, 39,233 fans had their say, including 8,424 who voted in the online poll on UEFA.com. The winning names were revealed by UEFA Executive Committee member František Laurinec in Kyiv on 4 December. "The mascots promote the host countries very positively," he said. "They are young and dynamic, just like Ukraine and Poland." ●



Slavek and Slavko meet the public.

MESGO module in Nyon

Football and its environment have evolved to such an extent over recent years that those involved in the administration and governance of the game must have specialist skills and expert knowledge to fulfil their duties. Consequently, UEFA has created a series of education programmes specially designed with the national associations and the professionalism of European football governance in mind.

One key education programme which has been launched is the Executive Master in European Sport Governance (MESGO) – a course designed to help UEFA's 53 national associations, and UEFA staff members, to enhance their knowledge of sports governance and regulation, and to benefit European football as a whole. The inaugural MESGO course began in September, and UEFA recently hosted a module at the House of European Football in Nyon.

Knowledge sharing

Since 2005, the ambitious KISS project (Knowledge & Information Sharing Scenario) has been providing UEFA's member association staff with opportunities to develop and exchange best practice. Interactive workshops and the online KISS platform have seen association representatives swap know-how in a variety of areas.

In the wake of the initial success of the knowledge-sharing programme, UEFA has put together new courses

that maintain the KISS spirit and objectives. The courses in question are the UEFA certificate and diploma in football management (UEFA CFM and DFM) and the European team sports associations' joint Executive Master in European Sport Governance (MESGO). In addition, UEFA has launched a research grant programme to support the work of researchers in the field of European football.

The MESGO course which came to Nyon in November is open to elected officers and association managers, as well as senior managers from European, international and national sports federations, leagues and clubs, European institutions and governments, and partners of sports organisations. The MESGO came into being when a convention creating the master's programme was signed at UEFA's headquarters last year.

Better understanding

The MESGO programme is designed to help participants have a better understanding of the specific



nature of the European sports model, and provides them with the opportunity to study the many and varied challenges facing international sports organisations at a European and global level.

The course has been developed and is delivered by a number of academic bodies: Birkbeck Sports Business Centre, Birkbeck College, University of London; Centre de Droit et d'Economie du Sport, University of Limoges; Johannes Gutenberg University of Mainz; Institut Nacional d'Educació Física de Catalunya, University of Lleida; and Sciences Po, Paris.

In addition, UEFA's team sport partners – the European associations of basketball (FIBA Europe), handball (EHF), rugby (FIRA-AER) and volleyball (CEV) – have given the programme their backing. MESGO modules will take place in Paris, London, Mainz/Frankfurt, Barcelona, Brussels, Geneva/Nyon/Lausanne and New York.

Under the executive master's programme, key stakeholders of European sport come together to analyse the characteristics of its specific model, its main challenges and measures that could be put in place to guarantee its future prosperity.

Work and study in parallel

Participants from national football associations are welcoming the chance to further their own know-how on behalf of their associations. These new courses have all been designed to enable participants to work and study in parallel, to complement their day-to-day professional activities and to meet their unique needs. They incorporate state-of-the-art teaching methods, including distance learning, and should help UEFA member associations' staff to find fulfilment in their careers as well as giving them academic recognition of their achievements, be it in the form of a certificate, a diploma or even an internationally recognised master's degree.

"The course gives me the chance to go deeper into details and to be educated," said Kenneth Reeh, head of administration at the Danish Football Association (DBU). *"It's very interesting to have the chance to learn not only from other sports, but also to be able to bring people from other sports into my network."* Nils Fisketjonn, competition director at the Norwegian Football Association, added: *"The course gives me knowledge which I can take into my job back home. The issues we have discussed are very interesting, and the quality of the speakers has been very high."*

At UEFA, the 20 participants in the inaugural MESGO programme listened to a presentation by the general secretary, Gianni Infantino, on the political and administrative organisation of European football's governing body, and William Gaillard, adviser to the UEFA president, spoke about the principle of solidarity in sports governance. Both presentations were followed by lively question and answer sessions.



Nils Fisketjonn and Kenneth Reeh, two national association representatives enrolled on the MESGO course

During the week, the participants also attended sessions at FIBA, the Fédération Internationale de l'Automobile (FIA), the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the Stade de Genève, all in Geneva, and the International Olympic Committee (IOC) in Lausanne.

Total support

UEFA's support is total, as the European body is confident that the MESGO will strengthen football management and sports governance in Europe at a time when professional sport has evolved considerably in the face of sporting and commercial changes, and will also benefit the long-term good functioning of its member associations.

"We are all serving football, we can all learn from each other," Gianni Infantino told the audience. *"This is the reason why we support the MESGO programme. This master's is very important for the future of European sport, and European football in particular. Governance is key in whatever we do – we have the eyes of everyone on us, and this is right. We are demanding, but we also have to structure ourselves in a way which justifies these demands."*

The organisations involved in the MESGO all have something in common, be it from an academic or sporting point of view. The pursuit of excellence and the necessity for sound governance is paramount for sports at European level. As a result, it is a priority for top executives to have a high level of training and excellence. Furthermore, the knowledge acquired and experience shared within the networks established by these programmes can only be of benefit to UEFA's member associations. ●

A MESGO brochure is available, as is information online at → mesgo.org/.

Draws aplenty

In November, the House of European Football in Nyon received representatives of the UEFA member associations for various men's and women's youth competition draws in the ongoing 2010/11 championships and the forthcoming 2011/12 competitions.

The women's competition draws were held on 16 November. For the 2010/11 season, the draws concerned the second qualifying round of the U17 and U19 competitions.



For the U17s, who will once again play their final round in Nyon (from 28 to 31 July 2011), the 16 teams were split into four groups, the winners of which will gather in Switzerland next year.

- Group 1: Iceland, Sweden, England, **Poland**
 - Group 2: Spain, **Czech Republic**, Belgium, Italy
 - Group 3: Germany, **Denmark**, Finland, Russia
 - Group 4: **Switzerland**, Scotland, Wales, France
- Mini-tournament hosts in bold



In the U19 category, the 24 teams that had qualified were divided into six groups of four. The group winners and the best runners-up will join Italy in the 2011 final round, to be held from 30 May to 11 June.

- Group 1: France, Netherlands, **Denmark**, Lithuania
 - Group 2: **Russia**, Belgium, Finland, Serbia
 - Group 3: Germany, Iceland, **Wales**, Turkey
 - Group 4: England, Norway, **Croatia**, Portugal
 - Group 5: Switzerland, Czech Republic, Sweden, **Ukraine**
 - Group 6: **Austria**, Spain, Scotland, Poland
- Mini-tournament hosts in bold



Karen Espelund, first vice-chairman of the Women's Football Committee, is given a helping hand by Germany's Kristin Demann, captain of the U17 fair play champions of 2010.



Kelly Gadea, captain of the French team that lifted the U19 fair play trophy in 2010, helps out at the draws for the latest women's U19 competitions.

2011/12 season

The first qualifying round draws for the 2011/12 European women's youth competitions were held the same day.

In the U17s, the groups are as follows:

- Group 1: Switzerland, **Poland**, Georgia, Latvia
 - Group 2: Republic of Ireland, Italy, Romania, **FYR Macedonia**
 - Group 3: Sweden, **Hungary**, Croatia, Bulgaria
 - Group 4: Norway, Russia, Slovenia, **Lithuania**
 - Group 5: France, Wales, Faroe Islands, **Moldova**
 - Group 6: England, Finland, Israel, **Northern Ireland**
 - Group 7: Denmark, Turkey, Greece, **Serbia**
 - Group 8: **Czech Republic**, Belgium, Belarus, Estonia
 - Group 9: Spain, Ukraine, Bosnia and Herzegovina, **Azerbaijan**
 - Group 10: Scotland, Iceland, Kazakhstan, **Austria**
- Mini-tournament hosts in bold

Two teams (Germany and the Netherlands) have qualified directly for the second qualifying round, where they will be joined by the group winners and the four best runners-up.

U19 groups:

- Group 1: Norway, Netherlands, **Bulgaria**, Croatia
 - Group 2: Hungary, Republic of Ireland, Israel, **Portugal**
 - Group 3: Czech Republic, Poland, Cyprus, **Estonia**
 - Group 4: **Iceland**, Wales, Slovenia, Kazakhstan
 - Group 5: Sweden, Ukraine, Serbia, **Slovakia**
 - Group 6: Austria, Italy, **FYR Macedonia**, Armenia
 - Group 7: **Finland**, Scotland, Belarus, Faroe Islands
 - Group 8: Denmark, Russia, Greece, **Latvia**
 - Group 9: **Belgium**, Romania, Northern Ireland, Lithuania
 - Group 10: Spain, Switzerland, **Bosnia and Herzegovina**, Moldova
- Mini-tournament hosts in bold

Three teams – Germany, France and England – have been given a bye for the first qualifying round. They will be joined by the top two in each group and the best third-placed team. Turkey automatically qualify for the final round, which they will host in July 2012.



Matthew James, captain of the England team that topped the U19 fair play table in 2010

Men's competitions

2011/12 season

The 2011/12 European Under-17 Championship will culminate in the final round in Slovenia in May 2012. The draw on 30 November split the 52 teams involved in the qualifying round into the following 13 groups:

- Group 1: Norway, **Hungary**, Andorra, Belarus
 - Group 2: **Portugal**, Romania, Russia, Finland
 - Group 3: Scotland, Turkey, San Marino, **FYR Macedonia**
 - Group 4: Czech Republic, Republic of Ireland, **Kazakhstan**, Liechtenstein
 - Group 5: Italy, Austria, **Denmark**, Cyprus
 - Group 6: England, Netherlands, Latvia, **Bosnia and Herzegovina**
 - Group 7: Belgium, **Croatia**, Ukraine, Azerbaijan
 - Group 8: Georgia, Sweden, Bulgaria, **Moldova**
 - Group 9: Wales, **Serbia**, Armenia, Lithuania
 - Group 10: Northern Ireland, France, **Luxembourg**, Faroe Islands
 - Group 11: Spain, Poland, **Montenegro**, Malta
 - Group 12: Slovakia, Germany, Albania, **Estonia**
 - Group 13: Greece, Switzerland, **Israel**, Iceland
- Mini-tournament hosts in bold

These matches will be played in autumn 2011, with the top two in each group and the two best third-placed teams qualifying for the elite round in spring 2012.

In the 2011/12 European Under-19 Championship, England, Spain and France have been given a bye for the qualifying round, which will involve 48 teams. The following groups were drawn:

- Group 1: **Hungary**, Portugal, San Marino, Faroe Islands
 - Group 2: Russia, Republic of Ireland, Bosnia and Herzegovina, **Bulgaria**
 - Group 3: Italy, Azerbaijan, Romania, **Sweden**
 - Group 4: Iceland, Norway, Latvia, **Cyprus**
 - Group 5: Serbia, Czech Republic, Lithuania, **Israel**
 - Group 6: Ukraine, Switzerland, Kazakhstan, **FYR Macedonia**
 - Group 7: Belarus, Germany, Montenegro, **Northern Ireland**
 - Group 8: Belgium, Scotland, Wales, **Slovenia**
 - Group 9: Poland, **Turkey**, Georgia, Luxembourg
 - Group 10: Slovakia, Greece, **Armenia**, Andorra
 - Group 11: **Netherlands**, Croatia, Moldova, Finland
 - Group 12: **Austria**, Denmark, Malta, Albania
- Mini-tournament hosts in bold

The top two in each qualifying round group and the best third-placed team will compete in the elite round in spring 2012 in order to determine which seven teams will join the hosts, Estonia, in the final round.



Photos: UEFA

Second part of the 2010/11 season



The 2010/11 elite round draws in the men's U17 and U19 competitions were also held on 30 November. The group winners will qualify for the final rounds, which will be held in Serbia and Romania in May and July 2011 respectively.

Results of the U17 elite round draw:

- Group 1: **Italy**, Slovakia, Scotland, Czech Republic
 - Group 2: Portugal, **Netherlands**, Croatia, Austria
 - Group 3: Denmark, **Greece**, Republic of Ireland, Latvia
 - Group 4: **Germany**, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine
 - Group 5: Spain, England, **Belgium**, Northern Ireland
 - Group 6: Norway, Georgia, Belarus, **France**
 - Group 7: Romania, **Hungary**, Iceland, Russia
- Mini-tournament hosts in bold

Results of the U19 elite round draw:

- Group 1: Belgium, Estonia, Portugal, **Croatia**
 - Group 2: Spain, England, **Switzerland**, Montenegro
 - Group 3: France, **Slovakia**, Belarus, Greece
 - Group 4: Italy, Republic of Ireland, Ukraine, **Poland**
 - Group 5: Netherlands, Russia, Israel, **Czech Republic**
 - Group 6: Serbia, **Norway**, Wales, Moldova
 - Group 7: Germany, **Turkey**, Hungary, FYR Macedonia
- Mini-tournament hosts in bold



Grigoriy Surkis, chairman of the Youth and Amateur Football Committee, conducts the draw with the help of Spain's Jonas Ramalho, captain of the fairest team in the 2010 U17 competition.

Promoting the growth of women's football

The Executive Committee's final meeting of the year was held in Prague on 9 December.

As usual, a large part of the meeting chaired by the UEFA President, was devoted to a review of the various UEFA committees' activities. For example, an update was given on the HatTrick programme, which will complete its second cycle in 2012. The third cycle will begin immediately afterwards and run until 2016. The investment arm of the new programme will provide each national association with an extra €500,000, bringing the total sum available to each association to €3 million over the four-year period. In addition, the annual solidarity payments will be boosted from €1.3 million to €1.5 million per association. This increase is to cover higher operating costs (€100,000) and an additional payment of €100,000 for the development of women's football.

Huge growth in women's football

In recent years, women's football has grown at an extraordinary rate, with the number of registered players in Europe increasing by 54% between 2000 and 2006 and rising to almost 945,000 players by 2009. In order to promote the game's future development, the Women's Football Committee has created a working group responsible for drafting a development strategy that will include a tailor-made programme for each national association. The money provided through the additional HatTrick payments

should be one of the driving forces behind the development of women's football, which will also be the focus of a higher number of study group visits and seminars organised as part of the KISS knowledge sharing programme.

The Executive Committee decided to extend the Study Group Scheme, which was launched in 2008 for a four-year period, by converting it into a long-term programme that will run for an indeterminate length of time. Already in the programme's third season (2010/11), some 1,850 technicians from all over Europe will benefit from 56 visits to 28 national associations.

The Executive Committee also gave the green light to the idea of a medical passport for UEFA officials travelling to Poland and Ukraine for UEFA EURO 2012. This measure, similar to the one FIFA introduced at the World Cup in South Africa, is designed to facilitate the provision of emergency medical care and guarantee effective treatment, while strictly respecting patient confidentiality.

Social responsibility

In the field of social responsibility, the Executive Committee noted the decisions of the Fair Play and Social Responsibility Committee, including to extend the programme aimed at offsetting carbon emissions linked to the air travel of UEFA officials and to earmark €200,000



for this initiative. Furthermore, a total of €500,000 was awarded to the national associations of Poland, Portugal, Romania and Slovakia to help them to repair football facilities damaged by natural disasters.

The Executive Committee also received an update on the state of preparations for EURO 2012 and was told that the EURO 2016 organisers were making good progress too. A steering committee is being formed, to be chaired by Jacques Lambert as of January, after his stepping down as director general of the French Football Federation.

Franz Beckenbauer retires

The Executive Committee adopted the UEFA budget for 2011/12, which will be submitted to the Congress in Paris on 22 March for approval, and the five-year strategic financial outlook, which will be presented to the national association delegates. It noted that Franz Beckenbauer, European member of the FIFA Executive Committee, would not be standing for re-election to the FIFA Executive Committee in March.

The Executive Committee also decided:

- to ask the International FA Board, which will be meeting in March, to authorise the use of two additional assistant referees at EURO 2012 matches;
- to amend the UEFA Europa League calendar from the 2012/13 season so that matchdays 5 and 6 fall in the same weeks as the corresponding UEFA Champions League matches, rather than a week later;
- to maintain the status quo in the UEFA Europa League with regard to the replacement of the domestic cup winners by the runners-up if the winners qualify for the UEFA Champions League;
- that, for the last round of qualifying matches for EURO 2012, each group should agree the same kick-off time for all matches in the group (if the teams in the group cannot agree, the UEFA administration will decide the kick-off time);
- to present an award, the details of which have yet to be decided, to players who achieve 100 caps for their national team, with retroactive effect.

EURO 2012 sponsors in Nyon

At the end of November, UEFA welcomed UEFA EURO 2012 sponsors to its headquarters in Nyon.

This workshop, the first in a series of four, enabled UEFA Events SA, the UEFA subsidiary that specialises in marketing and event organisation, to form initial links with the companies that have already signed up to sponsor EURO 2012 and provide them with information designed to help them achieve their objectives. *"It is important, as partners, that we develop an understanding of each other's business and how we work,"* said David Taylor, CEO of UEFA Events SA.



Getty Images

Visual identities for 2011 club competition finals unveiled

UEFA officially presented the visual identities for the 2010/11 club competition finals in London on 25 November and in Dublin on 30 November.

For the UEFA Champions League final, to be played at Wembley Stadium on 28 May, the main logo is a heraldic crest that represents London's history and culture. The trophy is flanked by two lions which symbolise the two finalists who will battle it out for the European crown. Former England international and final ambassador, Gary Lineker, unveiled the visual identity.

The UEFA Europa League final, to be held at the Dublin Arena on 18 May, has been given a Celtic flavour in a design unveiled by the final ambassador, Ronnie Whelan.



Sportsfile

The ambassadors, Gary Lineker for London and Ronnie Whelan for Dublin, with the visual identities of their respective finals

2018 World Cup in Russia

Meeting in Zurich on 2 December, the FIFA Executive Committee selected the Football Union of Russia as hosts of the 2018 World Cup finals. Belgium-Netherlands, Spain-Portugal and England had also submitted bids.

For 2022, the FIFA Executive Committee chose Qatar.

Draw in Frankfurt

The European delegation at the Women's World Cup, which is taking place in Germany from 26 June to 17 July, will comprise five teams: the hosts, Germany, who also happen to be the titleholders, plus England, France, Norway and Sweden.

There was the possibility of one more European team securing a ticket to Germany through a UEFA-CONCACAF play-off, but Italy, who had earned their place in the November play-off by defeating Switzerland in October, had the misfortune of facing a formidable opponent in the United States (1999 and 2003 world champions), who had finished behind Canada and Mexico in their qualifying competition. The Italians narrowly lost both legs of the play-off 1-0, first at home in Italy and then in the United States, thereby passing up the chance to join Europe's World Cup delegation.



The coaches of Group A, which includes two European teams. From left to right: Bruno Bini (France), Silvia Neid (Germany), Carolina Morace (Canada) and Ngozi Eucharia Uche (Nigeria).

At a draw held at Frankfurt's congress centre on 29 November, the finalists were split into the following groups:

Group A: Germany, Canada, Nigeria, France

Group B: Japan, New Zealand, Mexico, England

Group C: United States, Korea DPR, Colombia, Sweden

Group D: Brazil, Australia, Norway, Equatorial Guinea.

The matches will be played in Augsburg, Berlin, Bochum, Dresden, Frankfurt, Leverkusen, Mönchengladbach, Sinsheim and Wolfsburg. ●

European Women's Championship

Eight teams at the starting gate



There are a total of 45 teams taking part in the 2011–13 European Women's Championship, which culminates in Sweden in July 2013.

Sweden, who qualify automatically, will be joined by 11 other teams in the final round. Although this still seems a long way off, for eight teams the competition will already be getting under way at the beginning of March, when the pre-

liminary round kicks off. These eight teams were divided into two groups of four at a draw held in Nyon on 3 December:

Group A: Luxembourg, Lithuania, Latvia, FYR Macedonia

Group B: Faroe Islands, Georgia, Armenia, Malta

Each group will contest a mini-tournament between 3 and 8 March, hosted by the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Malta respectively. The mini-tournament winners will join the other 36 participating teams in the qualifying group stage, the draw for which will take place on 14 March.

The teams, in seven different groups of either five or six, will contest the group stage between September 2011 and September 2012. ●

UEFA Futsal Cup

Four set for finals

The UEFA Futsal Cup elite round matches were played between 20 and 28 November to determine who would qualify for the four-team finals.



The two Lisbon-based clubs involved in the competition – SL Benfica and Sporting Clube de Portugal – both qualified for the final round. In a mini-tournament held in Kragujevac, the current holders, SL Benfica, won all three of their matches, in which they faced local side KMF Ekonomac, FC Time Lviv and MNK Nacional Zagreb.

Meanwhile in Lisbon, Sporting Clube de Portugal beat their most difficult opponent, ElPozo Murcia FS, as well as City'us Târgu Mures, which meant their draw against FK EP Chrudim would have no repercussions.

For the first time since 2006, there will be no Spanish side in the final round. The other two finalists are the Italian side ASD Città Di Montesilvano C/5, who managed to beat MFK Viz-Sinara Ekaterinburg in a tournament held in Russia that also involved Araz Naxçivan and AGBU Ararat Nicosia FC, and the Kazakhs of Kairat Almaty, who, playing at home, finished equal on points with Iberia Star Tbilisi but topped the group on goal difference following victories over Akademia FC Pniemy and Slov-Matic Bratislava.

The final round will be played at the end of April in the city of one of the participating clubs. ●

Celebrating 20 years of football unity



"My former German teacher would be very proud of me," Michel Platini said, giving the public another playful smile and leaving the stage to a big round of applause.

The UEFA president had just given a ten-minute speech before some 300 guests invited to celebrate the 20th anniversary of German football's reunification at the Leipzig congress centre. Just the fact that he spoke entirely in German made the UEFA president's intervention something special – his ability to converse in the native language of his audience came as something of a surprise – but it was also symbolic: *"It is a testament to the great significance of the occasion,"* the president said.

The occasion for which the UEFA president and numerous other big names in sport and politics had gathered in Leipzig was indeed a significant one: it was in this very city, 20 years ago to the day, that the football associations of East and West Germany officially became one, just a few weeks after the reunification of the two states. Hans-Georg Moldenhauer, the last ever president of the East German Football Association (DFV) and honorary vice-president of the modern-day, unified German Football Association (DFB) since October – in recognition of his contribution to German football unity among other things – gave a very moving speech about his memories of the historic day when German football was united: *"You take 40 years of East German history and discard it. With great melancholy, you close a chapter, knowing what the people are thinking and feeling."*

Progress in course

That was 20 years ago. A lot has happened in eastern Germany since, and German football has grown together, even though the DFB president, Theo Zwanziger, admits there is still progress to be made. *"I'm well aware that there's still scope for development in eastern German football. I can see this region becoming a football region comparable with the Ruhr, but their club football is not there yet,"* Zwanziger said. There are no clubs from the

former East Germany in this season's Bundesliga and just four playing in the second division.

Hans-Georg Moldenhauer is not satisfied with this status quo either, but after 20 years of football unity his overall impressions are positive: *"Unfortunately the first thing anyone looks at is the number of clubs in the Bundesliga. Of course we cannot be happy with the current level, but we have good reason to be proud of everything else the association has achieved since 1990. We have 90 regional training centres in the eastern states, 15 specialist sports schools and 300 paid coaches working through the DFB. In total, we received around €35 million from the west, which was mostly invested in infrastructure. This was very important. That's how we know the path we took was the right one – and that it still is."*

Gala match

The celebrations of 20 years of football unity began the night before the gala with a commemorative match between a selection of West Germany's 1990 World Cup winners and a team of East German 'legends' from the same era. A crowd of 15,400 watched as the East German selection, which included Ulf Kirsten and Andreas Thom, beat Jürgen Klinsmann, Lothar Matthäus, Guido Buchwald and co. 2-1. Also in the stands, of course, was the UEFA president, who himself had played against many of footballers out on the field. *"I still clearly remember our international matches against Germany when the country was divided. Sometimes our opponents were in white, sometimes in blue, and generally we lost,"* he reminisced. This was not the main reason, however, that he too was so happy about the political and football reunification of the two states. *"With the reunification the people in Germany and Europe gained more freedom. And this freedom is important in society and football,"* he said, in German, of course.



Four German presidents, from left to right: Hans-Georg Moldenhauer (DFV), Gerhard Mayer-Vorfelder (DFB), Theo Zwanziger (DFB) and Reinhard Rauball (German Football League)



Michel Platini offers his best wishes and shares his memories of German football's reunification.



The gala match between former World Champions and ex-East German internationals

● Stephan Brause



Armenia

www.ffa.am

Ruben Hayrapetyan re-elected president

At the headquarters of the Football Federation of Armenia (FFA), the eighth general meeting of FFA members was held on 27 November.

The meeting opened with an introductory speech by the FFA president, Ruben Hayrapetyan. This was followed by a speech by Grigoriy Surkis, president of the Football Federation of Ukraine and member of the UEFA Executive Committee, who welcomed the participants, noted the progress seen in the development of Armenian football, and said he hoped that the Armenian national team would be present at EURO 2012 in Ukraine and Poland.

After the formalities of approving the authority of the general meeting, the agenda and the composition of the counting board and its secretariat, the FFA president presented his report.

The FFA chief executive, Armen Minasyan, then presented the association's financial report and balance statements for the period from 1 November 2008 to 1 November 2010.

Then came the most important item on the agenda, namely the presidential elections, in which Ruben Hayrapetyan was re-elected to head the association for the next four and a half years.



Ruben Hayrapetyan, re-elected FFA president

Hayrapetyan was first elected president of the FFA in 2002. Since then, the permanent head of the organisation has devoted himself to the development of youth football and infrastructure in the country. In July 2010, the FFA was awarded five stars under the UEFA Grassroots Charter and, thanks to the hard work of the FFA, football has become one of the subjects taught in secondary schools across the country through an award-winning programme. In total, the FFA has received four top awards for various programmes, all of which target the development of football in Armenia.

In 2010, the FFA opened a football academy in Yerevan, which aroused great interest among local residents. The opening ceremony was attended by the president of Armenia, Serzh Sargsyan, and the UEFA president, Michel Platini.

The work of the FFA is also illustrated by the good results of the national team, which after a series of victories in EURO 2012 qualifiers has made a great leap in the FIFA rankings and is now, for the first time in its history, in 59th position.

As a guest at the congress of the FFA, Grigoriy Surkis noted the huge amount of work done by Ruben Hayrapetyan and all his FFA staff and wished good luck to the Armenian football family for the future. In turn, Hayrapetyan said: "Thank you for your vote of confidence. Over the past eight years, I have done everything possible in our country to develop children's and youth football. This is the strategic direction of the FFA and we will relentlessly move closer towards this goal. I will be faithful to the policy that led to my re-election and will do everything possible to ensure that Armenian football reaches new heights."

● Tigran Israelyan



Austria

www.oefb.at

Against racism and violence – for a good cause

On 17 November, Austria played their last international match of 2010 against Greece at Vienna's Ernst-Happel-Stadion,

the venue of the EURO 2008 final. The 2004 European champions came out on top, but the Austrians put in a solid perform-

ance and ended the year with a balanced international record (three wins, one draw and three defeats).

Alongside the sporting exploits of the evening, there were some interesting, important initiatives in the spotlight. The match kicked off the second *Welle gegen Gewalt* (Wave of Anti-violence) action week, a prevention programme set up in July 2009 by the federal ministry of the interior, the Austrian Football Association (ÖFB) and the Austrian Football League and its clubs to combat violence in football. In addition, the ÖFB used the match to launch a fair play campaign for diversity and against racism as part of an initiative entitled *Fair Play. Viele Farben. Ein Spiel* (Fair Play; Many Colours; One Game).

Before kick-off, the two teams took a stand against discrimination and exclusion by lining up with red cards bearing the motto Show Racism the Red Card. In front of the teams, children also held up a Football against Racism banner.

Last but not least, the ÖFB donated €1 from every match ticket sold to a good cause. Over 16,000 spectators turned out despite the wintery conditions and the association rounded up its contribution to €20,000, making for a considerable pre-Christmas offering.

● Peter Klinglmüller



GEPA Pictures für ÖFB

Austrian internationals say no to racism.

UEFA Study Group Scheme in Baku

On 2 and 3 November, the Association of Football Federations of Azerbaijan (AFFA) hosted a UEFA Study Group Scheme workshop entitled Grassroots Football in Azerbaijan, with representatives from the football associations of Azerbaijan, Hungary, Serbia and Latvia in attendance. Around 40 grassroots specialists participated in the workshop in the capital of Azerbaijan, Baku, which included both theoretical and practical work.

Opening the workshop, the AFFA general secretary, Elkan Mammadov, welcomed the participants and thanked UEFA for giving the AFFA the opportunity to host such an event. "We are delighted to be able to host this important workshop. The AFFA has been involved in grassroots for the past couple of years and a lot of hard work has been done. I think this workshop will give us an opportunity to share our experience." Elkan Mammadov then talked about the AFFA's grassroots philosophy and its youth development concept.

On the first morning of the workshop, a UEFA representative gave a detailed introduction to the UEFA Study Group Scheme and an overview of the UEFA technical education programme, including the Grassroots Charter, without forgetting to mention his Azeri colleagues, without whose efforts such a workshop would not have been possible, he said.

After the break Aivars Vaivods, a grassroots specialist from the Latvian Football Federation, gave a presentation on grassroots football in Latvia. Igor Jankovic, head of the Serbian FA's grassroots department, then gave some insights in his area of expertise, after which Szilveszter



Theory session for grassroots specialists

Kovacs, head of the Hungarian Football Federation's children's programme, and Atilla Varkonyi, ambassador of Special Olympics Hungary, focused on grassroots football in their country.

After visiting the FK Bakı training centre, the participants also had an opportunity to watch some U15 and U17 national league matches.

Back at the workshop, reports were given by various Azeri specialists: Elnur Mammadov, the AFFA academy manager, talked about football in schools, Elchin Mammadov about U13 and U15 tournaments and the U17 national league, and Elkan Asadov about problems in the development of grassroots events. In addition, the AFFA technical director, Bernhard Lippert, and deputy technical director, Kamran Guliyev, discussed the AFFA's elite training project, and a presentation was given by Javid Garayev, head of the AFFA's marketing and advertising department.

All the presentations were accompanied by video clips and followed by animated discussions. Before the workshop was wound up, the participants also visited the AFFA's football academy. In his closing remarks, Tibor Oze, head of the Hungarian delegation, said: "The feedback we received suggests it was a very successful workshop. Local and foreign speakers gave presentations on topics that are currently very important, at home and at international level. I'm sure that the exchange of experience and good practice will help the growth of our grassroots football."

● Ulviyya Najafova

Conference for head coaches and club directors



The BFF president, Gennady Nevyglas, addresses the participants.

On 22 November, the Belarus Football Federation (BFF) held a big conference for the head coaches and directors of its premier league and first division clubs. Specialists responsible for youth and women's football at the clubs were also invited, and the total number of participants was over 150.

The BFF president, Gennady Nevyglas, opened the conference by stressing the importance of the coach's role in modern-day football: "The coach is an extremely important link in the team. He must understand football and

have a feeling for the team and every single player within it. A good football coach learns something new every day." The BFF president thanked the coaches working at all levels in all divisions, including those working with women and children, and added that the progress achieved in Belarusian football had been possible only thanks to "strong support from all the coaches, referees, players and football specialists working in our country."

The morning was dedicated to a presentation by Bernd Stange, head coach of the Belarus national team, on tendencies in international football (with specific reference to the 2010 FIFA World Cup) and developing your team's own style of play, using the national team as an example (positive and negative points).

The afternoon was set aside for group work. The first group, made up of club directors, discussed the project for a new calendar for the 2011 season and cooperation between the BFF and its clubs, among other things. The second group, representing the coaches, also discussed the calendar project, and how to raise performance levels in the domestic championship. The third group was composed of youth and women's football specialists, who discussed ways of improving the skills and technique of their players.

Some of the suggestions from the conference will be presented at the federation's annual general meeting.

● Yulia Zenkovich

Germain Landsheere steps down

Germain Landsheere (71) announced at a meeting of the Royal Belgian Football Association (URBSFA) executive committee that he would be stepping down as treasurer and vice-president on 31 December 2010.

Football has always been his passion and he considers himself very lucky to have been able to make it his career too.

From 1971 to 1991 he was general manager of KSV Waregem, a club close to his heart and, at the time, at the top of its game. Landsheere, meanwhile, also served as treasurer for the professional league from 1975 to 1990 and became a member of the URBSFA finance committee on 27 October 1978.

He steadily climbed the ranks within the URBSFA and on 25 June 1983 became a member of the executive committee, the highest organ of the association.

1986 was a big year for Belgian football, with the Red Devils' excellent World Cup campaign in Mexico culminating in the semi-finals. It was an exciting time for Landsheere too, as he was appointed treasurer of ASBL Casa Hogar, a social project set up by the URBSFA to help disadvantaged children in the Mexican town of Toluca.

In 1990, he rose higher still to become URBSFA treasurer, a role in which he excelled and has hence remained all this time. Like the excellent manager he is, caution has always been his watchword and the association's financial sustainability his first concern.

As if all this was not enough, when club licensing was introduced in Belgium in 2000, Landsheere was also appointed chairman of the URBSFA club licensing committee, a position he held until the end of 2007.

The URBSFA is currently looking for a successor who will continue the good work of Germain Landsheere. With the mark he has made on the association, however, he will be a hard act to follow. The URBSFA thanks him for his continuous hard work and admirable contribution to Belgian football, and wishes him all the very best for the next chapter in his life.

● Pierre Cornez



Germain Landsheere



Bosnia and Herzegovina

www.nfsbih.ba



Muhamed Besic (2), Bosnia and Herzegovina's youngest A international

Four debutants in Bratislava

At the end of the first stage of the championship, FK Borac Banja Luka are at the top of the table with 33 points, 5 clear of the top two clubs from the capital, FK Zeljeznicar and FK Sarajevo. These three teams, together with NK Siroki Brijeg, will be the main runners in the race for the title in the second half of the season, which starts on 26 February.

The four matches in the quarter-finals of the Bosnia and Herzegovina Cup have also now been played. The semi-finalists are Zeljeznicar, Siroki Brijeg, FK Olimpik Sarajevo and NK Celik (Zenica). A draw will be held in March, when the pairings and kick-off times will be decided.

The national team of Bosnia and Herzegovina played a friendly match against Slovakia in Bratislava recently, which Safet Susic's squad won

3-2. Interestingly, this match was the debut for four of the team, three of whom were previously members of the U21 side: goalkeeper Ibrahim Sehic from current domestic champions Zeljeznicar, Ognjen Vranjes, who plays for Moldova's FC Sheriff Tiraspol, and Muhamed Subasic of Olimpik Sarajevo. The fourth debutant was defender Muhamed Besic from Hamburger SV. Besic is the youngest player ever to have played on the Bosnia and Herzegovina national team. He was born in Berlin on 10 September 1992; when he ran onto the Bratislava pitch he was 18 years, 2 months and 7 days old.

The youngest player on the first Bosnia and Herzegovina national team was Hasan Salihamidzic (1.1.1977), who played against Croatia in Bologna, Italy, on 8 October 1996. At the time he was 19 years, 10 months and 8 days old and, just like Muhamed Besic, played for Hamburger SV. After him, the youngest player was Senijad Ibrić (26.9.1985) from NK Zagreb (Croatia), who made his first appearance when he was 19 years, 4 months and 7 days old, on 2 February 2005 against Iran in Teheran. This record was later broken by Miralem Pjanic (2.4.1990) of Olympique Lyonnais, who played against Hungary on 20 August 2008 when he was 18 years, 4 months and 16 days old.

For the first time, the country's youngest women's side is taking part in European qualifiers, in the 2011/12 European Women's U17 Championship. They will play against their peers from Spain, Ukraine and Azerbaijan in Group 9 this autumn. The hosts of the mini-tournament are Azerbaijan.

Finally, the national futsal team of Bosnia and Herzegovina took part in the 1st Mediterranean Futsal Cup, Tripoli 2010, which was held in the Libyan capital. The Bosnian team came second

in their group, thanks to wins against Malta (8-1) and Cyprus (4-2). In their other group match, they were beaten 6-5 by Tunisia. They then lost 6-1 against Slovenia in the quarter-finals, and in the play-offs for places five to eight were beaten 5-3 by Morocco and won 5-2 against Tunisia to finish seventh overall. ● Fuad Kravac



France

www.fff.fr



Martinique won the Coupe de l'Outre-mer.

At the heart of the islands

By the end of September, the trees have started to change colour and greens give way to a landscape of yellows and oranges. Then comes the rain, bouncing off umbrellas and raincoats dug out of the cupboards. In this pre-autumnal atmosphere, one event in particular warms people's hearts and lifts their spirits.

Every two years, the Coupe de l'Outre-mer (overseas territories' cup) lights up the pitches of the Paris-Ile-de-France league. A spectacular, tropical ray of sunshine that reminds anyone who needs reminding that football on the islands is a true purveyor of talent.

The second edition, held from 22 September to 2 October, once again captured the hearts of football lovers, attracting a total of 20,000 spectators. "This event is very important. It represents a time of communion and fraternity between the overseas communities," said a delighted Marie-Luce Penchard, minister for overseas territories.

To the stirring beat of the djembes, teams from Guadeloupe, French Guiana, Martinique, Mayotte, New Caledonia, French Polynesia and Réunion, accompanied for the first time this year by St Pierre and Miquelon, went head to head in a spirit of fair play. The action on the pitch was as entertaining as the activities in the stands. The media were also out in force, with more than 120 accredited journalists giving unprecedented coverage to the competition.

After 14 matches, Martinique were victorious in a rerun of the 2008 final against the titleholders, La Réunion. In front of 6,000 spectators at the Dominique-Duvauchelle stadium in Créteil, the Antilleans, led by Guy-Michel Nisas and Mario Bocaly, won their first title after a thrilling finish (0-0, 5-3 on penalties). Guadeloupe beat Mayotte 4-0 to finish third.

"I have only one thing to say: well done!" said Fernand Duchaussoy, president of the French Football Federation. "It is not easy to organise a competition involving teams from all over the world. We don't get enough opportunities to pay tribute to these départements and territories that help make our sport so rich. See you again in 2012." ● Xavier Thébaud

England

www.thefa.com

FA young leaders share coaching experience in Trinidad and Tobago

Four teenagers had the trip of a lifetime after travelling to Trinidad and Tobago in October as part of The Football Association's international leadership and volunteering programme, Changing Lives.

Laurisa Robson, Jay Amin and Victoria Summerfield were picked from The FA's national leadership and volunteering camp in July 2010, while Stuart Brown was selected for his commitment to the programme, having been involved as a mentor since 2008.

The Caribbean trip saw the four coaches working with a variety of local youngsters in coaching sessions at the St. Michael's Home for Boys and the Toco secondary school in Trinidad, and Shaw Park Grounds in Tobago.

Victoria said: "My goal at the start of this trip was to not rely on others and be confident in myself when coaching. I knew by the end of this trip that I had accomplished this and that I could leave my Trinidad leaders by themselves to coach and they would give a great session."

"I loved this trip, it really showed me what skills I'm good at and which I need to work on," the 17-year-old added.

For Stuart, it was a dream come true to be coaching on the other side of the world: "It's safe to say that I was completely surprised when I found out I had been selected for The FA



A young leader from Trinidad puts into practice what she has learned from The FA.

Changing Lives trip to Trinidad. The trip gave me the opportunity not only to develop my leadership, coaching and interpersonal skills, but also to help mentor a group of amazing, young and enthusiastic coaches from both islands.

"My highlight of the week was taking a back seat on the last few sessions and watching the young coaches I had been working with organise and manage the sessions I had shown them previously. More importantly, they had the confidence to step in and coach the young children playing football in their sessions."

This is the first time the Changing Lives programme has gone outside Africa, where young leaders have worked alongside their contemporaries in each of The FA's partner countries (Botswana, Lesotho and Malawi) through the UEFA-CAF Meridian project.

● Matt Phillips



Georgia

www.gff.ge

German midfielder on Georgian youth team

Lucas Hufnagel (17) was born in Germany. His father, Kristian Hufnagel, is a German journalist working for the *Süddeutsche Zeitung* and his mother, Fiqria Aptsiauri, is Georgian. Since childhood Lucas has played on the youth teams of FC Bayern München. His coach, Stefan Beckenbauer, is the son of a living legend in world football.

Nevertheless, Lucas decided he wanted to play on the Georgian U17 team. This year he took part in youth tournaments in Ibiza and Palanga and earned himself the title of best midfielder. Based on his performances, Georgia's U17 coach, Koba Jorjikashvili, decided that Lucas could make the Georgian midfield much stronger and asked the Georgian Football Federation to put his name on the official list for the U17 qualifiers held in Tbilisi.

Lucas received a Georgian passport and lined up alongside his new Georgian teammates, wearing No7, his new country's new lucky number. During each game, 5,000 young Georgian fans were crying out "Midi Luka!" (Go Luka in Georgian). He was irrepresible and helped the young Georgians to second place in the group after a draw against England (1-1) and wins against Sweden (1-0) and Poland (2-1).



Lucas Hufnagel

"I am very proud," said the shy young German-Georgian in his first interview after his first official game.

● Mamuka Kvaratskhelia / Tatia Burduli



Greece

www.epo.gr

New stadium in Larissa

The new state-of-the-art football arena of Super League club AEL FC (located in the city of Larissa) will host the Greek national team's first international friendly match of 2011, against Canada on 9 February.

The president of the Hellenic Football Federation, Sofoklis Pilavios, was among the 16,000 spectators present at the opening ceremony and testing of the newly built AEL FC arena, which took place on 23 November and drew the attention of the majority of the Greek media, as well as football fans from all over the country.

The chairman and CEO of the arena and club, Kostas Piladakis, personally guaranteed the construction of the €45 million arena. According to UEFA stadium criteria, the AEL

FC arena is a category 3 venue. It is considered to be the most modern football arena in Greece. With a total capacity of 16,118 seats and 38 luxurious suites for 12 spectators each, the AEL FC arena comprises four separate stands and offers high-quality facilities.

The arena also contains four well-equipped dressing rooms, indoor warm-up areas for the athletes, a multifunctional media centre for 100 written press journalists, three TV studios, two video walls, a 350-seat VVIP stand, a VVIP bar-restaurant, a VIP lounge, a football museum and 32 places for disabled spectators.

The AEL FC arena will be the main feature of the Crimson Park, a sports and leisure facility currently under construction, which will also include 12 tennis courts, a fun park and 2 shopping centres.

● Panos Korkodeilos



The new stadium in Larissa



Hungary

www.mlsz.hu

International conference on hooliganism

The Hungarian Football Federation (MLSZ) plans to combat hooliganism together with the ministry of home affairs and the high commissioner of the Hungarian national police force. The three organisations held an international conference in November in Budapest, where the MLSZ president, Sándor Csányi, announced that serious action would be taken in the near future: "The MLSZ is determined to act firmly against hooligans and put an end to their anonymity. This includes implementing a fan card scheme and CCTV systems inside grounds, and using any other tools that might help to keep unwanted people away from football stadiums."

Sándor Csányi is sure this process will have immediate effects as the MLSZ has been in close contact with the ministry and the police for the last four months, working on the issue together. "The examples of England and Germany show that, with steadfast determination and a clear vision, we can deal with hooliganism in stadiums."

Hungary wants to learn from best practices. Specialists including David Bohannon from the UK home office, Germany's anti-hooliganism expert Hendrik Grosse Lefert and UEFA security expert Kenny Scott were recently invited to make a presentation to Hungarian clubs and colleagues working in the field of security. Kenny Scott said that UEFA wanted to ensure a safe and friendly atmosphere at stadiums, an aim which the MLSZ shares.

● Márton Dinnyés



Determined to stamp out hooliganism



Iceland

www.ksi.is

European Futsal Championship debut

For the first time, Iceland is participating in the European Futsal Championship. In January, the Icelandic national team go up against their peers from Armenia, Greece and Latvia. This is a huge step for futsal in general in Iceland, it being only three years since this growing sport became established there. Iceland's futsal players have nevertheless always had their sights set on European competition and the winners of all three of our domestic competitions have played in the UEFA Futsal Cup.

In August, Keflavik hosted their preliminary round group in the 2010/11 UEFA Futsal Cup, where they played against teams from Sweden, France and the Netherlands. Even though the hosts achieved only one win this time, their hosting was a great success. Among other things, it prompted the FA of Iceland to apply to host their preliminary round group in the 2011/12 European Futsal Championship. The mini-tournament will be played at the Asvellir arena in Hafnarfjörður from 21 to 24 January.

● Thor Ingimundarson



Italy
www.figc.it

Training young talents

As part of efforts to create a healthy future for Italian football, almost a month after an initial meeting was held at the technical centre of the Italian Football Federation in Coverciano (Florence), the national youth teams coordinator, Arrigo Sacchi, met the youth football technical directors of the Serie A and B clubs and the professional league, along with all the coaching staff of the national youth teams (Ferrara, Rocca, Zoratto, Evani and Salerno) and the national amateur U18 side (Giancarlo Magrini). He explained the work programme and organisational structure of Club Italia (the body that coordinates the national teams' activities) in order to encourage the clubs to adopt the same techniques. Following a very successful period for the national youth teams, the last decade has seen a reduction in investment in the youth sector. The optimism expressed by Arrigo Sacchi during his talk suggests that financial fair play will revitalise the healthy ideals of the game, as well as the commitment to the development of our players.

The national youth teams coordinator addressed the coaches of the *Primavera* (U20) and *Berretti* (U19) teams, who welcomed the opportunity to discuss and compare working methods and proposals for mutual cooperation. In order to improve the current situation, Arrigo Sacchi launched the idea of 'global football', with smaller-sided teams encouraged to work as a unit and keep possession of the ball, all the while enhancing individual skills. He also encouraged the coaches to have complete confidence in their work.

His presentation was illustrated with video clips, including one focusing on players born in 1990 who might be contenders for the Under-21 team under new coach *Ciro Ferrara*. He was disappointed to note that, on the last match day, only five of these players had been fielded in Serie B matches, whereas abroad, such players were playing first-team football. In the spirit of cooperation on which these meetings are based, Sacchi reminded the coaches that their task should be to train the players rather than win matches and to work for the youngsters rather than for themselves.



Arrigo Sacchi, an advocate of 'global football'

Meanwhile, *Ciro Ferrara* called on the technicians present to help promote the development of young players by creating stronger links between the clubs and the FIGC.

Arrigo Sacchi's deputy, *Maurizio Viscidi*, pointed out that Club Italia is endeavouring, through a programme involving visits to club youth teams, to organise more training courses and international matches for the Italian national youth teams. *Maurizio Viscidi* also launched the Top 11 project, through which club coaches are encouraged to identify promising young players to the national youth team coaches.

The meeting was rounded off with a debate on issues linked to coaching techniques, goalkeepers' participation in the game, player age categories and the idea of setting up reserve teams at the professional clubs.

● *Barbara Moschini*



Kazakhstan
www.kff.kz

Round-up of the season

The 2010 football season finished on 14 November and, in keeping with tradition, was rounded off with the final of the Kazakhstan Cup. This year's final was contested by FC Lokomotiv Astana and – for the second year in a row – FC Shakhter Karagandy. It was held once again at the Astana arena. The final was won with a narrow 1-0 margin by Lokomotiv Astana, securing the first trophy in the club's history. They were led to victory by their German coach, *Holger Fach*.

The Kazakhstan championship ended on 6 November and was won, for the first time, by FC Tobol of Kostanay and their Russian head coach, *Ravil Sabitov*. Previous achievements of the Kostanay club include lifting the Kazakhstan Cup in 2007, as well as four silver and three bronze medals in the championship. This year's silver medals were won by FC Aktobe, who finished one point behind Tobol. Bronze medals went to FC Irtysh Pavlodar.

This season's championship was played under a new format. The first stage was contested by all 12 premier league clubs in a double round-robin system. Based on the results of this first stage, the teams were then divided into two groups. The first six played for places 1 to 6, the rest for 7 to 12.

FC Akzhayik Uralsk and FC Okzhetpes Kokshetau were relegated after finishing 11th and 12th respectively. They will be replaced next season by FC Vostok (Ust-Kamenogorsk) and FC Kaysar Kyzylorda, who took the top two places in the first division.

With 16 goals this season, the top scorer of the premier league was Tobol forward *Ulugbek Bakaev*. His team-mate *Nurbol Zhumaskaliev* and *Georgi Daskalov* of Irtysh each notched up 15.

The 2011 season kicks off in Kazakhstan on 2 March with the super cup between the league champions (FC Tobol) and the cup holders (FC Lokomotiv). The 2011 Kazakhstan championship then starts on 6 March.

● *Alexandr Keplin*



First-time domestic champions FC Kostanay Tobol



Latvia
www.lff.lv

Winter football kicks off

Most of northern Europe was covered in snow in December, but that did not stop outdoor football in Latvia. In fact, the Latvian Football Federation (LFF), in cooperation with the marketing agency *Inspired*, set up a winter football pitch in Riga so people could enjoy winter football at its best.

The pitch, which is free to use, is covered by a net to keep the ball in play. Twenty-minute matches are played by teams of four (including the goalkeeper) and equipment can be rented from a temporary rental shop nearby. The most important feature is that the pitch is covered in snow. And yet fireworks, DJs and dancers create an atmosphere not unlike that of beach soccer. The winter football league runs from

11 December to 25 February and other pitches are being set up in various cities and alongside ski slopes all over Latvia. For more information, visit www.futbols.lv.

In other news, the LFF's five-year partnership with the largest Latvian mobile operator, Latvijas Mobilais Telefons (LMT), in the association's top tier, the LMT Virsliga, has come to an end. However, the LMT will continue its involvement at the roots of the game, in youth football.

Also, a FIFA and UEFA delegation visited Riga at the end of November to discuss suggested changes to the LFF statutes, creating regional federations and introducing good governance principles in the LFF board. A new LFF strategic plan will be drawn up on the basis of these discussions.

● *Martins Hartmanis*



Festive winter football with a beach soccer atmosphere

Referee Day

On 6 November, the Liechtenstein Football Association (LFV) celebrated its first ever Referee Day. To mark the occasion, all the referees affiliated to the principality's seven clubs were invited to a one-day seminar to work on their theoretical and practical skills with their col-



The Liechtenstein referees' seminar

leagues. No fewer than 16 referees took up the invitation, which produced an excellent turnout.

In 2009, the association created its own referee committee with the aim of paving the way for the LFV to sign the UEFA Referee Convention and, afterwards, managing the training and organisation of Liechtenstein's referees in line with the principles laid down by the convention.

Referee Day is one of many measures that the LFV has taken in pursuit of its goal of producing another FIFA referee to follow in the footsteps of Roland Beck.

As well as receiving theoretical and practical tuition, the 16 referees at the seminar heard from guest speaker and former Swiss Super League referee Andreas Schluchter and were given a presentation on the Referee Convention by UEFA representative Charles Schaack.

● Anton Banzer

More football facilities opened

The construction of new football facilities and the renovation of existing ones has been a priority of the Malta Football Association (MFA) for some time now. This work is being carried out in conjunction with UEFA's HatTrick programme, which is aimed at consolidating the football infrastructure of all member associations, including Malta.



FC Siggiewi's new pitch

As part of this ambitious project, four new artificial pitches, including two at new football grounds in different parts of Malta, were inaugurated recently by the MFA president, Norman Darmanin Demajo.

Footballers, including the very young working their way up in the game, will be able to use these facilities to hone their skills, while also being assisted in their social and educational development.

These points were highlighted by Darmanin Demajo during the inauguration ceremonies at the different venues. The MFA president stressed that the primary aim of the project was to invest in human resources and said that this objective should have priority over the results of the senior teams representing the different towns and regions, although they also helped to generate interest and enthusiasm in the game in different parts of the country.

The MFA is committed to pursuing the construction and renovation of club facilities for the benefit of the football family of Malta and Gozo. This is also in line with the new administration's policy of making the country's clubs its focal point.

● Alex Vella

Youth tournament

The Football Association of Moldova (FMF) recently organised the fourth edition of its Viitorul ('the future') tournament for talented young players born in 1996, selected from all regions of Moldova.

In the semi-finals, the northern team beat the western team 1-0, while the team from the east won 3-0 against their counterparts from the south. In the third-place play-off, the westerners imposed themselves on the southerners to win 2-0, with goals scored by Gheorghe Modvala and Mihai Motriuc. The final proved to be very close and tense. Vlad Calandaev opened the

scoring for the eastern team after 25 minutes and his team-mate Veaceslav Cazantev made it 2-0 three minutes later. Nicolae Tivirencu of the northern team responded in the 36th minute, but another goal by Veaceslav Cazantev in the 46th minute secured a 3-1 victory for the eastern team. The winners were presented with their trophy by Radu Rebeja, vice-president of the FMF.

This tournament attracted great interest from the public and youth team coaches. The aim of the Viitorul tournament is to discover talented young players and it has already become a regular competition on our fixture list.

● Press office



A much-appreciated award

An award for our website

The Irish Football Association (IFA) website, www.irishfa.com, was named best sports website at the 2010 eircom Spider Awards in Dublin.

The 2010 eircom Spider Awards are Ireland's premier technology and digital media awards, honouring Irish individuals, businesses and community organisations for their outstanding achievements online throughout the year.

The Irish FA launched its new and improved website in July. The site, www.irishfa.com, which was designed by Belfast-based company Tibus, underwent a major facelift following feedback from fans and a number of consultancy reports that analysed the IFA's internet presence.

The new site delivers much more in terms of video content and integration with various online social networking sites, yet it still provides content on the main elements of our game, namely international, domestic and grassroots football. In addition, the online shop has gone through major changes, employing the latest in e-commerce functionality to enhance the users' experience.

Geoff Wilson, head of marketing and communications at the IFA, said: "To win this award is a fantastic achievement for the association and I would like to pay tribute to all those who worked on this project – from the marketing team at the Irish FA to our partners, Tibus. This award demonstrates the level of professionalism at the Irish FA."

Rick McKee, managing director of Tibus, added: "We were delighted to pick up the award on the night on behalf of the Irish FA. It's testament to all the hard work from both teams over many months and the true spirit of partnership that we've enjoyed with each other. The judges' comments on the site are very encouraging and show that all the hard work has borne fruit in meeting the needs of Northern Ireland football fans."

● Sueann Harrison



The eastern team, winners of the Viitorul tournament



Republic of Ireland

www.fai.ie

Irish coaches visit Israel's Football Village of Hope

In December, the Football Association of Ireland (FAI) sent a delegation of coaches to visit the Football Village of Hope, an Israeli-Palestinian peace-building initiative which hosts 100 Israeli and Palestinian boys and girls from the Twinned Peace and Sport Schools programme, run by the Peres Center for Peace for the last eight years. This year's Football Village of Hope event took place in the northern Israeli youth village of Shfeya for the third year in a row, during the first week of December.

The Football Village of Hope's objective is to bring together children from both sides of the Palestinian-Israeli border, give them a chance to meet the 'other side' and break the cycle of segregation and distrust.

During this year's event, 100 children (boys and girls) from Kiryat Gat, Merchavim, Jericho, Hebron, Yata and Yerucham played football together and received guidance from professional FAI coaches. The children also engaged in peace-building activities such as classes, mixed group drawing sessions and coexistence workshops.

The plan is that the Football Village of Hope will grow year on year, with more and more children taking part each time. The Football

Village of Hope's vision is to establish itself as a long-term grassroots peace-building activity that will become a showcase for Palestinian-Israeli peace building and coexistence. Bringing together children from both sides will hopefully contribute to a future of peace between the two nations. The project is organised by Milo Corcoran, former president of the FAI and current chairman of the FAI's international committee and the Setanta Sports Cup organising committee, together with Ophir Zardok, former general manager of Drogheda United, 2007 League of Ireland champions. The Village of Hope is funded by the Irish government department of foreign affairs, through the Irish Aid programme. The local partners are the Peres Center for Peace, which operates and greatly helps with the implementation of the project, and the AI Quads Association.

"We have received tremendous support from the minister of foreign affairs, Micheal Martin, and Irish Aid, as well as the FAI and Umbro. I have no doubt that football, as the world's game, can make a positive impact with children from Israel and Palestine," said Milo Corcoran. The football training sessions were run by FAI coaches



FAI representatives at the Village of Hope

Ger Dunne, Sue Ronan and Des Tomlinson and a mixed team of Israeli and Palestinian counsellors, providing positive role models for the youngsters. "This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for the kids to meet the 'other side' and to work together on the common goal of a better future," said Anwar Zeidan, the head Palestinian coach.

Tamar Hay-Sagiv, director of the Peres Center's sports department, agrees that sport is a uniquely effective vehicle for breaking down barriers of enmity and distrust: "The Peres Center for Peace has brought thousands of Israeli and Palestinian children together through a wide range of programmes, with sport as their central platform. On the football pitch, Palestinian and Israeli kids learn they can compete without confrontation, win without vanquishing, and lose without humiliation."

● Fran Whearty



Scotland

www.scottishfa.co.uk

Schoolchildren lift Scottish Cup

Delighted pupils from Calderglen high school, East Kilbride, got their hands on the oldest association football trophy in the world thanks to an exciting competition running on the new Scottish Cup Facebook page.

When Michael Kane, a maths teacher at the school, triumphed in the Win the Scottish Cup for the Day competition, he asked for the trophy

to be brought to his school to let his pupils share the prize. The trophy was taken to Calderglen by Stirling Albion player Gordon Smith and William Kinniburgh of Partick Thistle ahead of the Scottish Cup third round tie between the two clubs.

The competition is being run on facebook.com/scottishcup ahead of each round of the tournament, which culminates with the final at Hampden Park on Saturday 21 May.

● Clare Bodel



Gordon Smith of Stirling Albion and students from Calderglen high school with the Scottish Cup



Sweden

www.svenskfotboll.se



Bob Houghton and Johan Cruyff

Zlatan Ibrahimovic once again voted player of the year

Until 1973, no Swedish player had won the Guldbollen (Swedish player of the year award) more than once. Since then, Bo Larsson, Ralf Edström, Ronnie Hellström, Glenn Hysén, Tomas Brolin, Patrik Andersson, Henrik Larsson and Fredrik Ljungberg have all twice claimed the finest award in Swedish football.

At this year's football gala (annual round-up of the Swedish season), a million TV viewers watched Zlatan Ibrahimovic rewrite the history books once again as he accepted the award for the fourth time in succession and the fifth time overall.

Therese Sjögran was, for the second time in her career, named the female player of the year.

Top manager Bob Houghton was presented with an honorary award at the gala in recognition of his work in Swedish football. Houghton's special brand of football and his success at Malmö FF (crowned by their runners-up spot in the 1979 European Cup) have led to his often being quoted as a significant inspiration for later Swedish coaches such as Lars Lagerbäck, Tommy Söderberg and Sven-Göran Eriksson, to name but a few. The honorary award was presented to him by special guest Johan Cruyff.

● Andreas Nilsson



Switzerland

www.football.ch

Women's football boom

Before the start of qualifying for the 2011 FIFA Women's World Cup in Germany, no one would have bet even a penny on Switzerland topping their group, and yet Béatrice von Siebenthal's team did just that. Their 3-0 opening win against firm favourites Russia cleared their way into the play-offs, in which another surprise victory, this time against Denmark, sparked hopes of qualifying for the finals even. Italy put an end to any such ambitions and Switzerland will not be present in Germany, but the team far exceeded expectations nonetheless. The fact that many of the players are based abroad has undeniably helped to raise the level of the national team. The captain, Lara Dickenmann, has already scored three times for Champions League finalists and French domestic leaders Olympique Lyonnais, and by and large those playing in the Bundesliga have also shown themselves to be assets to their teams. Martina Moser (five goals) plays in attack for VfL Wolfs-

burg, currently in fourth place in the Bundesliga, while defender Danique Stein lines up for Bad Neuenahr. Ana Maria Crnogorcevic (three goals) is under contract with Hamburger SV and Noémie Beney with Saarbrücken. In addition, goalkeeper Marisa Brunner and Isabelle Meyer both play for SC Freiburg in the German first division, while Marina Keller is at Levante in Spain.

The experience the players are gaining in lots of tough matches to build on their solid initial training in Switzerland is having a positive influence and will doubtless result in plenty more success for what is still a very young national team (the average age is under 23). There are also more talented female players coming up through the Credit Suisse Football Academy set up in 2004 and the U19 and U17 national teams. The U19s made it through the first qualifying round of their European Championship with three wins against Poland, Kazakhstan and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and are now preparing to meet the Czech Republic, Sweden and Ukraine in the second qualifying round in



National team captain Lara Dickenmann, one of the protagonists in the Swiss women's football boom

the spring. The U17s also notched up three wins in their first qualifying round, against Poland, Iceland and Latvia; they face Sweden, Wales and France in the second qualifying round. All eyes are on both teams, eager to see how far they will go. ● Pierre Benoit



Turkey

www.tff.org

Third grassroots star: football for all

Turkey has successfully achieved its third star in its third year as a signatory to the UEFA Grassroots Charter. Since becoming a charter member in 2007, the Turkish Football Federation (TFF) has organised many grassroots tournaments and activities in various categories and in different regions under the Football for All programme. In 2009, the number of Football for All participants in Turkey increased to 240,000 and with the support of Ülker, the programme's main sponsor, many projects were developed for children. As a result of all these activities, the TFF was awarded its second UEFA Grassroots Charter star.

Thanks to its other social responsibility projects aimed at increasing the number of disabled people and girls on the football pitch, Turkey has now achieved its third star, in the category of football for all.

Ersun Yanal, the TFF's director of football, said: "With grassroots football for all activities, we aim to diversify football and increase the number of people who play the game. We



Football for all, throughout the country

encourage people to play sport anywhere and everywhere with grassroots projects. At the same time, we are helping to create a more effective 'sports culture' than we currently have in the country. Children's development is also very important. For this reason, we are looking into developing the current leagues and creating new ones. In particular we want more Turkish girls to become part of the game; we want a fourth star for the healthy development of women's football in Turkey."

● TFF Communications Office



Wales

www.faw.org.uk

Roadshows around the country

The Football Association of Wales (FAW) will be busy during the next few months travelling around the country meeting supporters at FAW roadshows.

The events are an opportunity for fans to find out about the association and put their questions to the chief executive, Jonathan Ford.

The first was held in November at the home of Cefn Druids AFC. The Druids were among the founding members of the FAW and have a proud tradition and history. It was therefore very appropriate that the first roadshow was held there.

At the roadshow, former Welsh international goalkeeper Dai Davies spoke about his career, there was a contribution from FAW councillor Steve Williams about his role in the association, and a question and answer session was held with Jonathan Ford.

It was a busy time in North Wales as the roadshow coincided with a Wales v Bulgaria women's international at Cefn Druids' new ground – a first for the stadium and a first for the new Welsh coach, Jarmo Matikainen. Members of the team visited local primary schools on the Monday, before putting on an impressive performance on the Wednesday as they beat Bulgaria 8-1 in front of a large, enthusiastic crowd. ● Ceri Stennett



Ukraine

www.ffu.org.ua

Ukraine undo Russia in deaf futsal final

The 3rd European Deaf Futsal Championship, jointly staged by the UEFA-backed European Deaf Sports Organisation (EDSO) and its Swiss counterpart, the Schweizerischer Gehörlosen Sportverband (SGSV), took place in the Swiss city of Winterthur from 6 to 14 November.

The men's deaf futsal tournament involved 26 teams, who kicked off the competition in six groups of four or five, with Ukraine placed in Group A along with Sweden, Scotland and Belgium. Ukraine, Spain, the Netherlands, Israel, Portugal and Russia were considered the pre-tournament favourites. The Ukrainians lived up

to expectations with a 15-4 win against Belgium in the Group A opener, followed by a 6-4 win in a tense encounter with Sweden. Oleksandr Kunytsia's team then sealed their place at the top of the group with a crashing 17-0 win against Scotland.

Ukraine stormed to the final in style with another three wins in the knockout round. They clinched a narrow 4-3 victory over Belarus in the round of 16 before beating Turkey 6-3 in the quarter-finals. The Netherlands stood in their path in the semi-finals but the Ukrainians were triumphant, with a 5-0 win putting them in the perfect frame of mind for the final showpiece against Russia, whom they beat 5-1 to lift the trophy. ● Igor Linyk



From left to right: Dai Davies, Steve Williams, Jonathan Ford and Ian Gwyn Hughes

Ninety years since the creation of Slovenia's first football body



The first Friday in December marked a very special occasion in Slovenian football: 90 years since the first governing body was set up on Slovenian soil. The predecessor of the Football Association of Slovenia was established in April 1920 and, in one form or another, has been managing football throughout the country ever since.



A very distinguished audience

Although its 90th year was creeping to a close, 2010 had been such an amazing year, with the national team contesting another World Cup, that the FA of Slovenia decided to push back its anniversary celebrations to December. This was clearly the right decision, not only because 2010 was an action-packed year for this reasonably small association, but also because December, being a month of festivities, suited the occasion perfectly.

More than 500 guests

Planning for the 90th anniversary event started months ago and in the end everything came together for a wonderful evening of celebration. More than 500 guests from football, politics and the community were greeted at one of Ljubljana's finest hotels by the FA of Slovenia's current management and honorary president. On the guest list were the country's top officials, including the president of Slovenia, Danilo Türk, the president of the national assembly, Pavel Gantar, and the president of the national council, Blaž Kavčič.

One more important guest was expected. The UEFA president, Michel Platini, had confirmed his attendance months in advance, only to have no other choice but to cancel minutes before his scheduled departure. Geneva airport would not give clearance for the presidential aircraft to take off, as the weather conditions were not safe to fly in. The president was forced to stay in Geneva but, as he said in his video message, had "Slovenia in his heart".

With one of the main speakers detained because of snow, all eyes were on the remaining two. Danilo Türk, the president of Slovenia, took to the podium first and, in an inspirational and well-delivered speech, highlighted the

impact of recent football success on Slovenia's reputation abroad: *"The achievements of Slovenian football fill me with pride and joy, and I'm sure that this is the case for every Slovenian citizen. Football has a long tradition in Slovenia and has a lot of fans. It is inherently a people's sport. Our achievements have spread the good name of Slovenia around the world. The excellent game of football has shown us how to achieve worldwide recognition for our country, which is why I thank the people in charge at the FA of Slovenia, those working in football administration and the players. You are the elite."*



Danilo Türk, president of Slovenia

Exciting times

The second speaker of the evening was the first vice-president of the FA of Slovenia, Stane Oražem, currently acting president following the resignation of Ivan Simič. *"This was one of the most exciting years of the Football Association of Slovenia. Our national team made us proud at the World Cup and we've never been this high in the FIFA rankings. Our players are becoming more and more established in foreign leagues, our women are developing within the game and our futsal players are getting noteworthy results in their competitions. In Slovenia, we're seeing exciting new players, new training pitches and new stadiums. Despite the problems we've had, Slovenian football has proven to be creative and resilient. It offers hope, is accessible to all, and embodies values that have become universal,"* Oražem said.

After the speeches, the hosts and guests honoured five former presidents of the FA of Slovenia with a 90th anniversary plaque. A selection of Slovenian football legends presented the plaque to Tone Florjančič, Miro Samardžija, Branko Elsner (absent due to illness), Marko Ilešič and Rudi Zavrl.

● Matjaž Krajnc



Four former presidents of the Football Association of Slovenia united for the 90th anniversary celebrations: (from left to right) Miro Samardžija, Marko Ilešič, Rudi Zavrl and Tone Florjančič

Committee meetings in Nyon



Congratulations

BIRTHDAYS IN JANUARY

Phivos Vakis (Cyprus), member of the Fair Play and Social Responsibility Committee, and Alessandro Lulli (Italy), match delegate, both turn 50 on 15 January. They are followed on 22 January by Lassin Isaksen (Faroe Islands), referee observer. UEFA also wishes many happy returns in January to:

Necdet Cobanlı (Turkey, 1.1)
 Vlatko Markovic (Croatia, 1.1)
 Monica Ortigueira (Switzerland, 2.1)
 Robert Sterckx (Belgium, 3.1)
 Gerhard Sager (Sweden, 3.1)
 Andreas Demetriou (Cyprus, 3.1)
 Aleksei Spirin (Russia, 4.1)
 Kuanysh Kanapyanov (Kazakhstan, 4.1)
 David George Collins (Wales, 5.1)
 Mariano Moreno (Spain, 6.1)
 Walter Clarke (Northern Ireland, 6.1)
 Sergiy Lysenchuk (Ukraine, 6.1)
 Nelly Viennot (France, 8.1)
 Franco Ferrari (Italy, 9.1)
 Velid Imamovic (Bosnia and Herzegovina, 9.1)
 Milos Tomas (Slovakia, 9.1)
 Guido Cornella (Switzerland, 10.1)
 Herbert Hübel (Austria, 10.1)
 Michel Dumoulin (Belgium, 11.1)
 Olivier Brochart (France, 11.1)
 Juan N. Garcia-Nieto Portabella (Spain, 12.1)
 Sofoklis Pilavios (Greece, 13.1)
 Luis Horta (Portugal, 14.1)
 Iljo Dominkovic (Bosnia and Herzegovina, 14.1)
 Martin Iseli (Switzerland, 14.1)
 Nodar Akhalkatsi (Georgia, 14.1)
 Atanas Furnadzhiev (Bulgaria, 15.1)

Mitja Lainscak (Slovenia, 15.1)
 Cleomenis Bontiotis (Greece, 16.1)
 Christophe Perruchoud (Switzerland, 16.1)
 Sune Hellströmer (Sweden, 17.1)
 Vera Pauw (Netherlands, 18.1)
 Bujar Kasmi (Albania, 19.1)
 Lars-Åke Lagrell (Sweden, 20.1)
 Pedro Ángel Galán Nieto (Spain, 20.1)
 Anders Mattsson (Finland, 21.1)
 Ángel María Villar Llona (Spain, 21.1)
 Maria Teresa Andreu Grau (Spain, 21.1)
 Are Habicht (Estonia, 22.1)
 Urs Meier (Switzerland, 22.1)
 Teuvo Holopainen (Finland, 23.1)
 Harry M. Been (Netherlands, 23.1)
 Sviatlana Hrynkevich (Belarus, 23.1)
 Pat Quigley (Republic of Ireland, 24.1)
 Patrick Wattebled (France, 24.1)
 Gevorg Hovhannisyán (Armenia, 25.1)
 Leonid Dmitranitsa (Belarus, 25.1)
 Stig-Ove Sandnes (Norway, 25.1)
 Metin Kazancioglu (Turkey, 26.1)
 Mirosław Ryszka (Poland, 26.1)
 Krister Malmsten (Sweden, 27.1)
 Cosimo Bolognino (Italy, 30.1)
 Brian Lawlor (Wales, 31.1)

BIRTHDAYS IN FEBRUARY

William McDougall (Scotland), match delegate, is celebrating his 70th birthday on 11 February. Adalbert Kassai (Romania), member of the National Associations Committee, is turning 60 on 16 February, as are referee observer Constantin Gheorghe (Romania) on 18th and match delegate Edward Potok (Poland) on 20th. On 1 February, Karen Espelund (Norway), vice-chairman of the

Women's Football Committee, is celebrating her 50th, as is Katriina Elovirta (Finland), referee observer, on 15th.

UEFA also extends birthday greetings for February to:

Volker Roth (Germany, 1.2)
 Kyros Vassaras (Greece, 1.2)
 Leonardus van der Kroft (Netherlands, 2.2)
 Trygve Bornø (Norway, 2.2)
 Mark Blackbourne (England, 3.2)
 Renata Tomasova (Slovakia, 3.2)
 Jelena Oblakovic-Babic (Serbia, 3.2)
 Vaclav Kroncl (Czech Republic, 5.2)
 Gabriel Weiss (Slovakia, 6.2)
 Erich Rutmöller (Germany, 8.2)
 Yusuf Namoglu (Turkey, 8.2)
 Michael Appleby (England, 8.2)
 Alexander Slutski (Belarus, 8.2)
 Fino Fini (Italy, 9.2)
 Donald McVicar (Scotland, 9.2)
 Danilo Filacchione (Italy, 9.2)
 Zoran Lakovic (Serbia, 9.2)
 Luc Rabat (France, 10.2)
 Tomislav Karadzic (Serbia, 10.2)
 Dani Koren (Israel, 10.2)
 Henadz Niavyhlas (Belarus, 11.2)
 Annelie Larsson (Sweden, 11.2)
 Fritz Stuchlik (Austria, 11.2)
 Borislav Mihailov (Bulgaria, 12.2)
 Pierluigi Collina (Italy, 13.2)
 Oleksandr Bandurko (Ukraine, 13.2)
 Christian Mutschler (Switzerland, 13.2)
 Marinus den Engelsman (Netherlands, 14.2)
 Manuel Lopez Fernandez (Spain, 14.2)
 Thomas Weyhing (Germany, 14.2)
 Livio Bazzoli (Italy, 14.2)
 Peter Bonde (Denmark, 14.2)
 Juan Carlos Miralles (Andorra, 14.2)
 John McBeth (Scotland, 15.2)
 Susanne Erlandsson (Sweden, 15.2)



The UEFA president, directors and staff readers a happy and prosperous 2011.

Leif Sundell (Sweden, 15.2)
 Svitlana Shkil (Ukraine, 15.2)
 Orkhan Huseynzade (Azerbaijan, 15.2)
 Karoly Török (Hungary, 16.2)
 Helena Fernandes (Portugal, 17.2)
 Gudrun Inga Sivertsen (Iceland, 17.2)
 Jozef Venglos (Slovakia, 18.2)
 Borislav Alexandrov (Bulgaria, 18.2)
 Flemming Serritslev (Denmark, 18.2)
 Patrick Kelly (Republic of Ireland, 18.2)
 Pertti Alaja (Finland, 18.2)
 Antonello Valentini (Italy, 18.2)
 Pascual Jordi (Andorra, 18.2)
 Janis Mezeckis (Latvia, 19.2)
 Lars Arnesson (Sweden, 20.2)
 Eggert Magnusson (Iceland, 20.2)
 João F. De Magalhães Marques (Portugal, 20.2)
 Ralph Zloczower (Switzerland, 21.2)
 Fernando Gomes (Portugal, 21.2)
 Asim Khudiyev (Azerbaijan, 22.2)
 Holger Hieronymus (Germany, 22.2)
 Vladimir Sajin (Slovenia, 22.2)
 Ana Caetano (Portugal, 22.2)
 Maarten Fontein (Netherlands, 23.2)
 Peter Jones (England, 24.2)
 Janos Ring (Hungary, 24.2)
 Oleg Harlamov (Estonia, 24.2)
 Juan Padron Morales (Spain, 25.2)
 Miroslav Radoman (Serbia, 25.2)
 Vladimir Hrinak (Slovakia, 25.2)
 Alberto Lopez Moreno (Spain, 25.2)
 Jens Erik Magnussen (Faroe Islands, 26.2)
 Ghenadie Scurtul (Moldova, 26.2)
 Egidius Braun (Germany, 27.2)
 Allan Hansen (Denmark, 27.2)
 Xavier Lebray (France, 27.2)
 Zorislav Srebric (Croatia, 28.2)
 Aron Schmidhuber (Germany, 28.2)
 John Beattie (England, 28.2)
 Markus Stenger (Germany, 28.2)

Forthcoming events

Meetings

13.1.2011, Nyon
 Futsal and Beach Soccer Committee
19/20.1.2011, Nyon
 Jira Panel
25/26.1.2011, Nyon
 Anti-doping Panel
27/28.1.2011, Nyon
 Executive Committee
30.1–4.2.2011, Cyprus
 Referee course
31.1.2011, Nyon
 HatTrick Committee
10.2.2011, Nyon
 Club Competitions Committee
15.2.2011, Nyon
 Youth and Amateur Football Committee
 Women's Football Committee
16.2.2011, Nyon
 Club Licensing Committee

Competitions

20–24.1.2011
 European Futsal Championship: preliminary round
15/16 + 22/23.2.2011
 UEFA Champions League: round of 16 (first legs)
17.2.2011
 UEFA Europa League: round of 32 (first legs)
24.2.2011
 UEFA Europa League: round of 32 (return legs)
24–28.2.2011
 European Futsal Championship: qualifying round

Notices

- On 27 November, Ruben Hayrapetyan was re-elected president of the Football Federation of Armenia.
- At the end of November, the council of the Irish Football Association elected Jim Shaw as president.
- As of 1 January, Josef Kliment will be the new general secretary of the Slovak Football Association.
- The offices of the UEFA administration will be closed from 24 December to 2 January inclusive.
- The next issue of UEFA-direct will be published in February.

Match agents

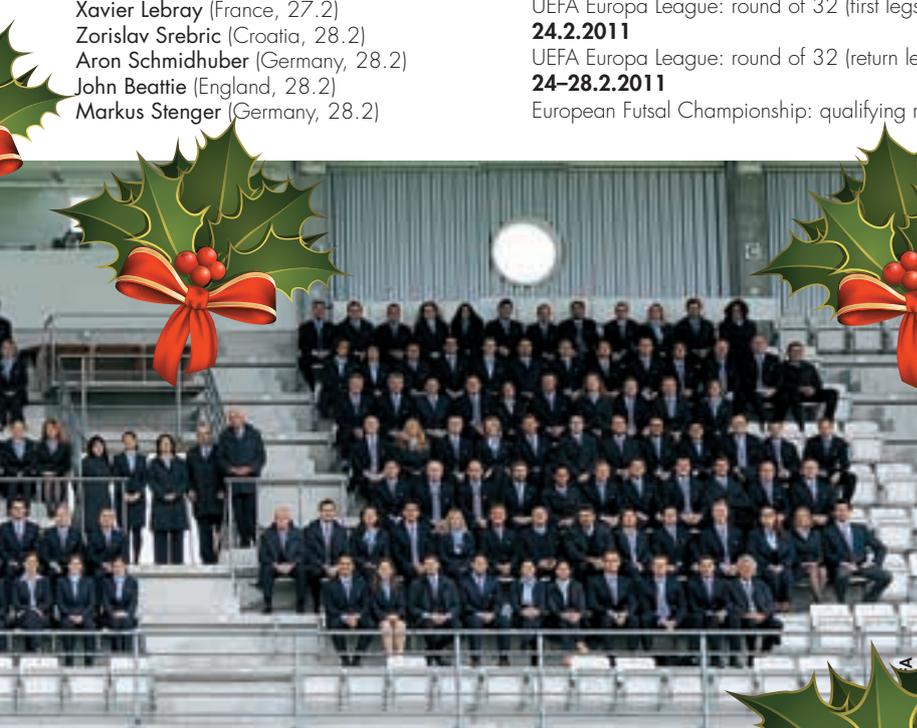
Two new UEFA match agent licences have been issued:

Giorgio Ranieri
 Viale America 24
 00060 Formello, Rome
 Italy
 +39 340 887 63 65
 rangiorgio@gmail.com

Andrew Spott
 Progression Sports Management
 4 Hobbs Close
 Bishop's Sutton
 SO24 0AS
 Winchester, Hampshire
 UK
 +44 78 1111 2425
 andy@progression-sports.com

Obituary

Jim Farry, former chief executive of the Scottish Football Association, died of a heart attack on 10 November at the age of 56. He had been a member of the Non-Amateur Football Committee from 1990 to 1992 and of the Club Competitions Committee from 1992 to 1998.



wish all UEFA-direct



RESPECT

The Opponent



RESPECT

Diversity



RESPECT

The Game