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## Cover

UEFA's club competitions got back under way in February, when FC Basel 1893 (Markus Steinhöfer, right) beat Manchester United FC (Wayne Rooney) to earn themselves a debut in the UEFA Champions League round of 16  
Photo: Getty Images

## WE CARE ABOUT FOOTBALL



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# The big freeze

These past few weeks, a spell of freezing cold weather has been sweeping much of Europe. This coincides with an area of low pressure hanging over the financial health of European football clubs, whose global debt – in contrast to the ambient temperature – continues to rise.

We know, though, that the cold snap will not last and that milder weather will follow. Likewise, in return for a few structural adjustments, the current financial situation from which football is shivering can also be short-lived and give way to sunnier climes.

If this is to be the case, financial fair play is crucial, concerning as it does the 650 top clubs of UEFA's 53 member associations. As explained at the financial fair play media day organised by UEFA in January, it is a participatory process in which the clubs are heavily involved. We should not forget, after all, that the financial fair play rules have been introduced to help the clubs and not to freeze them out, an aim which, given the support they have shown for the project, the clubs seem to have well understood.

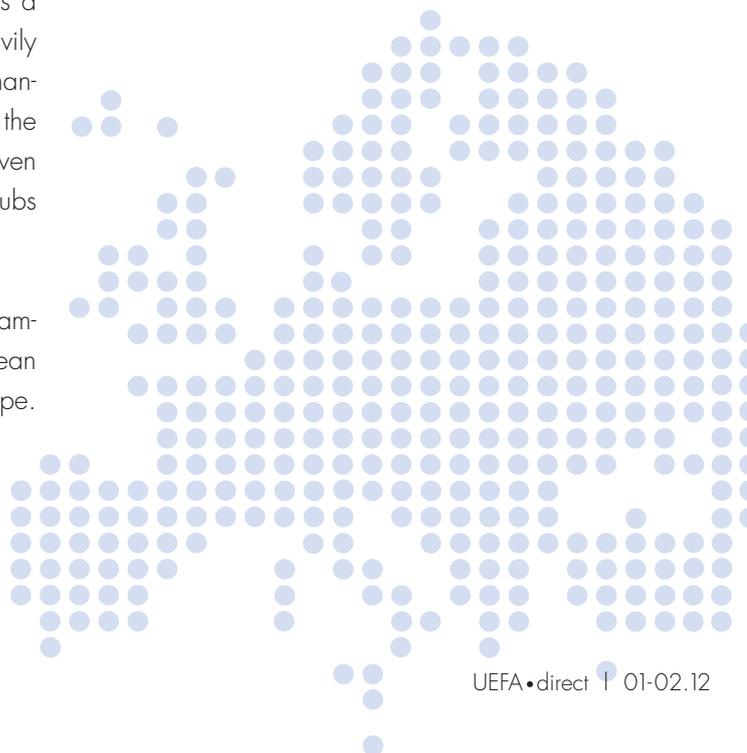
There are already some glimmers of hope. For example, the clubs' revenues are growing, which is no mean feat in view of the general financial situation in Europe.

And in terms of popularity, football has lost none of its heat and continues to attract the fans.

Just as the cold weather is not all bad for living organisms, so it does our football clubs no real harm to feel the chill a bit as well, to make sure that these sparks of promise do not burn out or fade away. I therefore encourage the clubs to embrace the current cold spell by introducing a spending freeze. That would be heartwarming to see.



*Gianni Infantino*  
UEFA General Secretary



# Looking to Istanbul

Turkey's largest city is hosting the 36th Ordinary UEFA Congress on 22 March, the second to be held in Istanbul, which previously hosted UEFA's general meeting back in 1978. At its first meeting of the year, chaired by the UEFA president, Michel Platini, in Nyon on 24 January, the Executive Committee discussed the preparations for this year's meeting of UEFA's highest organ.



The Executive Committee at its meeting in Nyon

There will be no elections at the forthcoming UEFA Congress, but that does not mean the agenda will be any the lighter, as the Executive Committee is proposing various amendments to the UEFA Statutes. The changes concern the club licensing system (transforming the Club Financial Control Panel into a disciplinary body so that it can impose disciplinary measures itself, and increasing the range of disciplinary measures available), the formal inclusion of a woman on the Executive Committee, the length of committee members' terms of office (extended to four years), the possibility of convening a second Ordinary UEFA Congress in the same year as the first, and the adoption of the euro as UEFA's accounting currency.

In addition to the annual activity reports on the 2010/11 season and the usual financial matters, the agenda in Istanbul will also include an agreement on minimum requirements for professional players' contracts and an update on the measures taken after the strategy meeting held in Cyprus in September with the presidents and

general secretaries of all 53 member associations. Other items will be the centralised sale of commercial rights to European qualifying matches for UEFA EURO 2016 and the 2018 World Cup and the relationship between UEFA, the clubs, the leagues and the players.

## Futsal Cup final round in Lleida

In Nyon, the Executive Committee also heard reports on the work undertaken by UEFA's various committees and decided on the proposals they had submitted. One such decision was to appoint FC Barcelona to host the final round of the 2011/12 UEFA Futsal Cup. The matches will be played at the 6,100-capacity Pavelló Barris Nord in Lleida. Qualified are FC Barcelona, Dinamo Moskow, Sporting Clube de Portugal and Marca Futsal.

The Executive Committee also approved the Regulations of the 2012/13 UEFA Regions' Cup, which enter into force on 1 May. These regulations differ only slightly

from the previous season's, one of the main changes being the introduction of compulsory medical examinations for the players.

#### Under-21 EURO in even years

On the topic of UEFA age-limit competitions, the Executive Committee decided to modify the calendar of the European Under-21 Championship, the final round of which will be played in even years as of 2016, as was already the case until 2006. The qualifying round groups will be formed on the basis of those drawn for the European Championship or World Cup qualifying competition, to allow the senior and Under-21 teams to travel together and to enable the senior team coaches to follow more closely the progress of the next generation. Further consideration will be given to the final round format before any decisions are made in this regard. The European Under-17 Championship will also have a

new look as of 2015, when the final round will feature not 8 but 16 teams, as it did until 2002. The aim of enlarging the field again is to give more youth players the opportunity to experience a UEFA final round and thereby enhance their development.

These changes are the result of the discussions with UEFA's member associations at the strategy meeting in Cyprus in September and studies undertaken into the possibilities discussed.

The Executive Committee also approved the budget for 2012/13, adopted an official UEFA anthem, or walk-on music, and set up a working group, led by the chairman of the UEFA Club Competitions Committee, Michael van Praag, to discuss cross-border competitions.

Finally, the committee was informed of the positive discussions had with the European Club Association (ECA), which should result in the signing of a new memorandum of understanding between the two parties. ●

## European club football analysis

Another particularly interesting item on the agenda of the Executive Committee's latest meeting was the publication of UEFA's fourth club licensing benchmarking report, providing an insight into the financial data on European club football drawn from the 2010 financial period. The report was officially unveiled the next day before a selection of media representatives invited to a presentation on financial fair play. Two representatives of the ECA Executive Council, Jean-Michel Aulas (president of Olympique Lyonnais) and Ernesto Paolillo (general manager of FC Internazionale Milano), also attended this meeting with the media to underline the clubs' support of financial fair play measures in UEFA competitions and to explain their contribution to the system's implementation.

As stressed by the UEFA general secretary, Gianni Infantino, the report, also known as the European Club Footballing Landscape, illustrates that, essen-

tially, professional club football in Europe is in an enviable financial situation, its revenues having continued to rise despite the troubled economic times. The problem is that, although revenues rose from €12 billion in 2009 to a little under €12.8 billion in 2010 (a 6.6% increase), spending rose by 9.3% during that same time, to a whopping €14.4 billion, resulting in overall net losses of €1.6 billion, losses to which 56% of top division clubs contributed.

This alone makes plain the need for UEFA's financial fair play measures, which are designed not to punish but to help the clubs, the aim being to ensure the sustainability of professional football. The first step in this direction was taken in 2004/05 with the introduction of a club licensing system for UEFA competitions. Then, in September 2009, the financial fair play concept was approved. This was followed by the adoption of the UEFA Club Licensing and Fair Play Regulations, which entered into force in June 2010, and the creation of the Club Financial Control Panel, an independent body composed of legal and financial experts.

The application of the financial fair play criteria has been monitored since the 2011/12 season, the focus since then having been on overdue payables. The next step is for the clubs to balance their books. This will be assessed across two seasons initially (2011/12 and 2012/13), then three.

The European Club Footballing Landscape is not just a valuable financial tool; it contains a vast amount of other information including the structure of Europe's domestic championships, spectator figures, the impact of locally trained player rules, and even the average length of coaches' contracts.

The full report is published on [UEFA.com](http://UEFA.com) ●



The UEFA general secretary, Gianni Infantino, and the two ECA representatives, Jean-Michel Aulas and Ernesto Paolillo

# Fostering talent and leaving a legacy

For the first time, UEFA has launched a host broadcasting talent programme, giving 230 locally based university students across the eight host cities in Poland and Ukraine the opportunity to work at UEFA EURO 2012.



The paid positions cover the areas of television and video production, host broadcasting logistics and broadcaster servicing. The talent programme has its own identity and is aimed at media, journalism and sports-related faculties within each selected university, providing the students with a unique opportunity to supplement their studies with real event experience and invaluable knowledge in an area linked to their academic pursuits.

UEFA interviewed a total of 600 students within the two countries, resulting in 173 students being recruited for active positions and 58 for a reserve pool. Two or three universities were visited in each host city and one per city selected in April 2011. Second-round interviews were completed by October 2011 and the programme began in November 2011, with training workshops scheduled to get under way in February 2012.

The programme has already given students the opportunity to work and train at the final draw in Kyiv in preparation for their involvement in the biggest sports event their countries have ever staged. In addition, many initiatives have been planned as part of the programme, such as e-learning portals to help communicate regularly with the students.

As a conclusion to the programme, students that make outstanding contributions in their work during the tourna-



Behind the scenes at the draw in Kyiv

ment will be selected for a draw which will see one student from Poland and one from Ukraine win one week's work experience at UEFA headquarters in Nyon, Switzerland. This includes their flights and accommodation, an opportunity to shadow professionals that work in the area of their academic expertise, and many unique UEFA experiences.

For UEFA, the programme has the benefit of promoting European football's governing body, while building a long-term relationship with key universities in the two EURO 2012 host countries. ●

## Professional Football Strategy Council

# First meeting of the year in Nyon

**The UEFA Professional Football Strategy Council, in which the main professional football stakeholders are represented (UEFA, clubs, leagues and players), held its first meeting of the year on 17 January.**

In a constructive and positive atmosphere, four subjects were discussed. The members were first given a summary of the ongoing work of the general secretaries' working group, which was created following the strategy council's August meeting in Monaco to address the severe problems currently facing professional football in Europe. The second item on the agenda was the interna-

tional match calendar, with an update given to the members following a meeting on the matter with FIFA and the other confederations. The third item was financial fair play, for which an overview of the overdue payables situation was presented, as well as the next steps in the project. And finally, social dialogue was discussed. The ratification process linked to the autonomous agreement on minimum player contract requirements is currently ongoing in each stakeholder family.

The next meeting of the Professional Football Strategy Council will take place in Munich in the days leading up to the UEFA Champions League final. ●

# News from Brussels

Denmark took over the rotating EU presidency on 1 January 2012.

In practice this means that Denmark will organise and lead the work of the Council of the European Union, or Council of Ministers, where EU sports ministers regularly meet as part of the Council for Education, Youth, Culture and Sport (EYC). The EYC Council meets formally three to four times a year and may hold additional informal meetings. Denmark will also host the meetings related to the EU's structured dialogue on sport, which bring together representatives of sports organisations and the relevant EU public authorities.

As is now commonplace, the Danish presidency will work closely with the outgoing Polish and forthcoming Cyprus presidencies. This cooperation between so-called presidency trios is aimed at ensuring more coordination and consistency in the work of the European Union.

● In December, the UEFA president, Michel Platini, met European Commission representatives Viviane Reding, vice-president and commissioner for justice, fundamental rights and citizenship, and Joaquín Almunia, vice-president and commissioner for competition. The UEFA president had been invited by these two high-profile commissioners to a working lunch at the European Commission's HQ in Brussels.



Joaquín Almunia, European Commissioner responsible for competition

The main issues discussed at this very constructive meeting were the UEFA Club Licensing and Financial Fair Play Regulations and the legal certainty of sport. As all three had already met on previous occasions, their discussions kicked off at an advanced stage. The UEFA president and commissioners Viviane Reding and Joaquín Almunia agreed to work together in order to ensure that the financial fair play initiative was a success. The UEFA president requested the political support of the European Commission for the next crucial stage in

the process, i.e. the implementation of the regulations, and offered to personally keep the commission informed of developments.

Another key area covered was the settling of disputes in sport. The UEFA president explained the importance of sports arbitration being recognised as the most appropriate and efficient way of resolving sports disputes. It also ensures a uniform and efficient means of dispute resolution, which is essential to safeguarding the proper functioning of sports competitions.



Viviane Reding, European Commissioner responsible for justice, fundamental rights and citizenship

● All EU institutions have now shown support for UEFA's fight against match fixing. The European Parliament approved a resolution on online gambling in November and the European Commission adopted a Green Paper on Online Gambling in the Internal Market earlier in 2011. Combating match fixing was also included in the Council of Ministers' conclusions in November last year, where it was acknowledged that national legislation and criminal procedures may be required.

A good governance working group established by the Council of Ministers will examine the issue further during the first half of this year. UEFA is included as an observer in this working group. In addition, the European Commission will soon complete its own study on match fixing, looking at whether EU action might be required.

● The European Parliament published its report on sport at the beginning of February. This document, which will be discussed in more detail in the next issue of UEFA•direct, is an important milestone in support of UEFA's core values. ●

# Consistency and uniformity

With the second half of the 2011/12 club competition season around the corner, Europe's leading referees spent an invaluable week in Turkey at the start of February to prepare for the assignments ahead.

The 20th UEFA Advanced Course for Top Referees and 21st UEFA Introductory Course for International Referees took place in Antalya – the first time that the course week had been staged in the Mediterranean resort since 2001. In particular, the winter introductory course welcomes newcomers to the FIFA international list and prepares them for their duties. This year's edition involved 43 new names representing 28 European national associations.

For the advanced course, 56 referees were present – 22 elite category referees, 17 elite development category referees, a small group of first category referees and five Turkish FIFA referees. In addition to fitness training, the officiators listened to instructions from Referees Committee members concerning their tasks in the club competition knockout stages, notably with a view to achieving consistency and uniformity in decision-making.

For the first time, the delegates had their visual abilities tested by specialised sports optometrists. With referees required to maintain focus and concentration amid the high pace of the modern elite game, it is essential that they are able to fix their vision on incidents, focus on close or moving objects and react to movement around them. "We test our referees on their expertise in making decisions, and on the physical and psychological aspects," said UEFA refereeing officer Hugh Dallas, "but we never ever realised just how sharp their eyesight has to be during matches."

The course ended with a series of key messages for the referees to take into the spring. These included protecting players from serious foul play or reckless challenges, and taking action against player mobbing, players who exaggerate physical contact and acts of simulation. They were reminded of the dangers of social

networks, where comments can be taken out of context, and urged to contact UEFA if they witnessed or were the targets of attempted match fixing. ●



Theory time for the referees in Antalya

## Hard work required

The FIFA newcomers undertook an extensive medical check-up and took the FIFA fitness test. They received advice on how to conduct themselves as UEFA representatives at matches, and their knowledge of English – the common UEFA refereeing language – was also evaluated. Video sessions analysing specially prepared footage from UEFA games also enabled them to get appropriate instructions on how to act in given situations.

UEFA's chief refereeing officer Pierluigi Collina – who took charge of football's biggest occasions during his own career – delivered a fascinating pep talk to the young referees, emphasising the need to work hard, prepare diligently and learn constantly. "The ultimate goal for a referee is to be accepted," he said, "when players and coaches trust you. Even if you make a wrong decision, learn from your mistakes and be self-critical. There is always room for improvement. When you make a mistake, look forward, recover and come back stronger."

## Referees for EURO 2012

The group included the 12 referees who were chosen by UEFA's Referees Committee in December to officiate at matches at UEFA EURO 2012 in Poland and Ukraine this summer: Cüneyt Çakır (Turkey), Jonas Eriksson (Sweden), Viktor Kassai (Hungary), Björn Kuipers (Netherlands), Stéphane Lannoy (France), Pedro Proença Oliveira Alves (Portugal), Nicola Rizzoli (Italy), Damir Skomina (Slovenia), Wolfgang Stark (Germany), Craig Thomson (Scotland), Carlos Velasco Carballo (Spain) and Howard Webb (England). ●

# FC Barcelona masterclass

After spending two years in the United Arab Emirates, the Club World Cup returned to Japan for its eighth edition, played from 8 to 18 December.

Seven clubs took part in the competition, representing the hosts and all the FIFA confederations. The lineup was as follows: Kashiwa Reysol (Japan), Auckland City FC (New Zealand, OFC), PSO Monterrey (Mexico, CONCACAF), Espérance Sportive de Tunis (Tunisia, CAF), Al-Sadd Club (Qatar, AFC), FC Santos (Brazil, CONMEBOL) and FC Barcelona (Spain, UEFA).

## No surprises

The European champions entered the competition in the semi-finals, where they beat the Asian champions, Al-Sadd, 4-0. Unlike 2010, when TP Mazembe shook things up by taking Africa to the final, there were no surprises this time around. Not only was it a traditional Europe v South America showdown, but a slightly nostalgic one at that. Barcelona's opponents in the final, FC Santos, were uncannily reminiscent of the early years of the former European/South American Cup, when Pelé and his team-mates put everyone else in the shade and won the competition twice in succession (1962 and 1963), beating SL Benfica then AC Milan in the finals.

The nostalgia felt in Japan was combined with a sense of curiosity, with everyone keen to see the new wave of promising young Brazilians in action.

FC Santos's comeback also marked Brazil's return to the final of a Club World Cup, their first since 2006, when SC Internacional de Porto Alegre lifted the trophy for the Brazilians. In 2010, SC Internacional were beaten in the semi-finals, by none other than TP Mazembe. But it is Europe's clubs which have dominated the competition since 2007, with successive victories for AC Milan, Manchester United FC, FC Barcelona and FC Internazionale Milano.

## An open-and-shut match

More mature, more experienced and more sure of themselves than the Brazilians, who came across as rather timid and overwhelmed by the collective strength of their opponents, FC Barcelona left no one in any doubt about who would win the final, played on 18 December at Yokohama International Stadium.

The unstoppable Lionel Messi opened the scoring after little more than 15 minutes of play. Xavi made it 2-0 soon after, and just before the break Cesc Fàbregas extended the Spaniards' lead further still. It was then Lionel Messi again who scored in the second half to seal the deal at 4-0.

The masterclass delivered by Pep Guardiola's team in Japan in December could be considered the crowning glory for this exemplary team, whose current supremacy is absolute. With victory in the Spanish championship accompanied by gold medals in the UEFA Champions League, the UEFA Super Cup and the FIFA World Club Cup, FC Barcelona have managed another perfect full house, just like in 2009.

The match for third place at the Club World Cup was won by Al-Sadd, who beat Kashiwa Reysol 5-3 on penalties after a scoreless draw. ●

- The ninth Match Against Poverty, supported by UEFA, was held in Hamburg on 13 December. Some 24,000 spectators turned out to watch a team of former internationals led by Ronaldo and Zinedine Zidane, both United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Goodwill Ambassadors, beat an all-star SV Hamburg lineup 5-4. ●



Getty Images

Brazil's Neymar tries to take the ball from Lionel Messi

# HatTrick II: The Football Association reaps benefits through social interaction



The FA

England: Referees, girls' and women's football, safeguarding children and equality issues in England have all been given a boost over the past four years thanks to UEFA's HatTrick Programme.

The €2.5m contribution has been invested wisely by The FA, and the benefits have been felt across the grassroots and professional game.

The FA launched its Respect campaign in 2008 in response to growing concerns about some of the behaviour – both on and off the field – being witnessed at all levels of football. The campaign focused on a number of issues primarily concerned with the recruitment and retention of referees, both of which were being undermined

by the number of assaults on and dissent towards match officials. The FA was also keen to deal with the behaviour of parents and spectators at grassroots level, and launched a number of initiatives to tackle these issues head-on.

Players, managers and supporters up and down the country have been encouraged to show greater respect to match officials through a series of high-profile advertising campaigns in the national media. The introduction of



What not to do: actor Ray Winstone takes part in a video aimed at improving parents' behaviour at youth matches as part of the The FA's Respect programme



The FA

The FA

spectator areas, codes of conduct, pitch stewards, welfare officers and coach education has generally improved the environment in which youth football is played, and has led to a growth of peer pressure on poorly behaved spectators and coaches. Over 35,000 coaches have undertaken the Respect online module – this approach has attracted interest from other football associations across the world and won The FA a UEFA award.

Overall, there has been a reduction of 16% in dissent towards referees since the 2008/09 season – and there are 6,000 more referees in England in 2012 than there were in 2008. This has been achieved by the appointment of regional referee development officers, an increase in referee mentoring, the establishment of referee academies and improved IT support for registration and reporting. The Football Association Match Officials Association has also led an incentive-based scheme where referees are awarded points for officiating in more games, and for recruiting new candidates. The points gained can then be traded for referee kit and equipment supplied by the kit sponsor and the Referees Association. More than €1m from UEFA HatTrick II has been invested in Respect and referee development, and the results have provided an impressive return for The FA.

The growth of girls' and women's football has been supported by UEFA's contribution, with €829,000 being spent on 50 girls' centre of excellence programmes across the country over a four-year period. This investment, which forms part of The FA's wider budget for women's football, has supported 2,837 players and over 500 coaches and specialist staff, which in turn has contributed to the recent success at Under-17, Under-19, Under-20 and senior level.

The FA has sought to spend the HatTrick II contribution on the long-term goals of the organisation, and it is currently reaping the rewards of supporting initiatives which not only bring about pure football development gains, but which also have a wider social dimension.

An excellent example of this is the increase in size and scope of The FA's safeguarding children programme. There are approximately four million children playing in all forms of football in England and around 650,000 adults involved in youth football. HatTrick has enabled The FA to employ an additional three members of staff – a case officer, working as part of The FA's case management team investigating concerns and allegations of a safeguarding nature; and two safeguarding coordinators, enabling more effective support for the welfare officers employed through the 50 county FA's across England and developing a framework of support and guidance for the 11,500 volunteer welfare officers in grassroots youth football.

The FA also invested funds in producing a hard-hitting film to get across the message that homophobia and homophobic abuse in football will not be accepted. The film created wide debate in relation to homophobia in football, which has traditionally been a sensitive and challenging topic.

*"Overall, HatTrick II funding has been critical in enabling The FA to deliver more and better social and grassroots projects, whether this is through our work on the Respect programme, through our women and girls' programmes, our equality and safeguarding work, or our referee development work," said The FA's head of equality and child protection, Sue Law. "This has meant we have been able to engage with more players and officials and support their involvement to be an inclusive, fun and safe one." ●*

## Social responsibility: it's a must for football



EURO 2012 will generate immense passion among football fans and prompt the wider public to come out in support of their nation, thus providing a perfect communication platform. Grasping this opportunity, UEFA, within the framework of its Respect campaign, has committed to four social projects in tune with the tournament. It is hoped that the effects will be felt long after the winners lift the trophy.

**Respect Fan Culture:** very simply, the aim is for local fan embassies to foster better communication between fans and authorities and embrace a positive, festive and peaceful atmosphere.

**Respect Diversity:** the goal is to minimise the risk of racist incidents and widely promote anti-discrimination and tolerance. Football is about unity – and celebrating individuality through acceptance is part of the game.

**Respect Your Health:** a community education programme set up in Poland and the Ukraine which underlines the importance of healthy lifestyle. It focuses mainly on prevention of smoking, balanced diet, alcohol in moderation and increased physical activity. For the first time, UEFA is promoting EURO 2012 as a no-smoking event!

**Respect Inclusion:** stadiums need to be accessible to disabled fans so that they can attend matches in comfort and safety, while at the same time helping local businesses provide improved facilities long after the tournament. In addition, each EURO quarter-final will be devoted to a disabled sport supporting blind, learning-disabled, deaf and cerebral palsy teams.

UEFA is privileged to have dedicated partners in all four project areas: Football Supporters Europe (FSE), Football Against Racism in Europe (FARE), EUROSCHOOLS 2012, Streetfootballworld and the Centre for Access to Football in Europe (CAFE) respectively.

The fact is that football is an intrinsic part of our society. It can bond a community in team spirit. It can create values to live by, such as respect, solidarity, unity and care. This is precisely why social responsibility in football should not be a matter of choice, but a matter of course. ●

# Workshop in Madrid

Every other year, UEFA organises a workshop for the members of its Organs for the Administration of Justice, providing them with an opportunity to review the disciplinary practices of the last two years.

The fifth such workshop, bringing together the disciplinary bodies (Appeals Body and Control and Disciplinary Body) and the disciplinary inspectors, was held on 19 and 20 January in Madrid. It was organised by UEFA's disciplinary services, with the valuable assistance of the Royal Spanish Football Federation (RFEF).

On arrival, the participants were given a warm welcome by Vicente Temprado, vice-president of the RFEF, who made the opening speech.

Afterwards, the following topics were addressed by means of short presentations followed by discussion, giving the participants an opportunity to refresh their knowledge and exchange opinions on all sorts of matters affecting their work.

## Changes made to the UEFA Disciplinary Regulations in 2011

The main changes discussed were those concerning punishable offences with regard to match fixing.

## Dealing with cases involving supporters attending matches between teams they do not normally support

Groups of supporters regularly travel to neighbouring countries to "support" teams for which, for one reason or another, they have a certain affinity. This is not always an innocuous gesture. In fact, these unaffiliated supporters sometimes engage in deplorable misconduct. Does a

club's objective responsibility under Article 6(1) of the UEFA Disciplinary Regulations also apply to such supporters? The short answer is yes: a club can be held responsible for the behaviour of any individuals who, in the eyes of an objective, reasonable observer and based on their location, behaviour, clothing and other standard means of identification, could be considered supporters of that club during the match in question.

## UEFA against match fixing

Combatting match fixing is one of UEFA's top priorities and its disciplinary regulations were updated and reinforced accordingly in 2011 (see above). UEFA assists the public authorities in their legislative efforts at national and international level, primarily with the aim of sports fraud being universally defined as a criminal offence and sports betting being better regulated. UEFA has a betting fraud detection system monitoring all UEFA matches, as well as matches in the top two domestic divisions and cup competitions of its member associations. It has also set up a network of integrity officers (one per member association) with the aim of stepping up the fight against match fixing at national level. Finally, UEFA is working to improve and encourage cooperation with criminal authorities and other sports organisations. It is convinced that, with all these measures in place, match fixing can be overcome, but only if it is recognised as

UEFA's  
disciplinary  
bodies and  
inspectors in  
Madrid



everyone's business – meaning the whole of the football family, but also the public authorities and other stakeholders, must join forces to stamp it out.

### UEFA against racism

As with match fixing, UEFA has a zero tolerance approach to racism. It works with various partners, in particular the Football Against Racism in Europe network (FARE), which reports cases to UEFA so that the disciplinary bodies can open procedures against incidents that the referee and other match officers may have missed. The workshop participants agreed that the disciplinary action taken to date was in line with this zero tolerance principle.

### Disciplinary measures and sentencing

Topics of discussion in this area included the consideration of provocation as a mitigating circumstance and repeat offences as aggravating, the legal qualification of play that causes or could cause physical harm (assault, foul play), and other elements to consider when deciding on the type and extent of disciplinary measures to impose.

### UEFA competitions: admission/exclusion of clubs and eligibility of players

This issue was addressed from different perspectives in light of certain recent cases.

Overall, the workshop enabled the disciplinary bodies and inspectors to clarify certain aspects of case law and define principles to ensure a consistent application of UEFA's disciplinary rules and regulations, as well as providing an opportunity for more informal discussions between the members of the different organs. ●



## Collaboration between UEFA and Interpol

On 11 January, the secretary general of Interpol, Ronald K. Noble, came to UEFA headquarters in Nyon for a meeting with the UEFA president, Michel Platini.

The aim of the meeting was to strengthen the relationship between the two organisations and to identify areas for cooperation between the two organisations in tackling football-related crimes, including match fixing and violence in stadiums. This reinforced cooperation is expected to be confirmed in a memorandum of understanding to be signed in the near future.

## Safety and security workshop in Nyon

In January, the members of the UEFA Stadium and Security Committee met UEFA security officers and other safety and security specialists at UEFA headquarters in Nyon.



The two-day workshop was an opportunity to discuss various issues, including an analysis of incidents in UEFA competitions, UEFA's stadium safety and security management policies, and the role of UEFA security officers. Supporter groups were also represented, giving them an opportunity to air their views and talk about the preparations being made by fan groups for EURO 2012.

## An award for Fan Coaching

The Belgian organisation Fan Coaching has won the UEFA-backed European Football Supporters Award 2011 in recognition of its initiatives against violence in sport.

Fan Coaching accompanies R. Standard de Liège supporters to all their matches in Belgium and elsewhere in Europe. The association also organises various sporting and cultural activities and offers a permanent social club to fans. The action on and around the pitch is supported by scientific research at the University of Liège. Fan Coaching also contributes to international knowledge sharing at seminars and conferences.

## Norway finish 2011 in first place for fair play

On 31 December, Norway held the top spot in the fair play rankings drawn up by UEFA as part of its Respect campaign.

Taking into account the behaviour of all national association and club teams involved in UEFA competitions, the three countries that finish the season at the top of the table are each awarded an additional place in the first qualifying round of the UEFA Europa League. At the end of last year, Norway (8.367 points) were in first place ahead of Finland on 8.282 points, the Netherlands on 8.173, Iceland on 8.171 and Spain on 8.135.

# 100th anniversary celebrations



The All-Russian Football Union (VRS) was created on 19 January 1912 and in the same year was admitted to FIFA.

The union initially consisted of 52 organisations across the Russian Empire. It was not until 1934 that the Football Federation of the USSR was formed, initially under the name the Football Section of the Soviet Union. The section was admitted to FIFA as the Soviet organisation in 1946 and admitted to UEFA in 1954. Later, the section was reorganised as the Football Federation of the USSR. Until 1972, the Football Directorate of the Soviet Sport Committee, directly under the Soviet Ministry of Sport, operated concurrently with the section, and later with the federation. The directorate was never recognised at international level.

Under-17 Championship. Numerous appearances in World Cup and European Championship final rounds could be added to this list. Teams have also played in the major women's competitions, and Russia won the Beach Soccer World Cup in 2011.

## Anniversary celebrations in Saint Petersburg

The FIFA president, Joseph S. Blatter, and his UEFA counterpart, Michel Platini, joined a host of dignitaries from football and politics in celebrating the RFS's centenary in Saint Petersburg. They were accompanied by the likes of Vladimir Putin, prime minister of the Russian Federation, and the RFS president, Sergey Fursenko.

Sergey Fursenko had much to say on the nature of football as a universal principle: *"Football is a game which unites everybody, irrelevant of who they are. Football is not only the game. It is also the people. It is based on the principles of fair play."*

Michel Platini was stirred by memories of Russia's great football past: *"In studying the history of your football, I discovered that one of the main protagonists, if not the main one, in the founding of the Russian Football Union was a Frenchman who was born in Russia – Georges Dupéront... My contemporaries and I, we were brought up with the myth of the great Lev Yashin, and youngsters today still watch slightly blurred images in black and white of this legendary goalkeeper with his cap, black outfit, his flying through the air and saves, the gentleness of his character as told by those who knew him."*

And, as well as a glorious past, Russia can also look forward to an exciting future. *"Let's look forward to the 2018 FIFA World Cup which will be staged in Russia. This decision by FIFA was based on merit, because never before has eastern Europe had the World Cup on its soil,"* said the FIFA president, who, along with the UEFA president and former Russian great Nikita Simonyan, was awarded a new RFS award for humanism in football. The FIFA and UEFA presidents presented the RFS president with a plaque commemorating the centenary.

The World Cup may already be uppermost in Russian minds, but there was a smaller-scale showpiece to enjoy first in Saint Petersburg as the city played host to the 20th edition of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) Cup. Iran joined 11 former Soviet nations, all of whom were represented by Under-21 sides, in competing for the trophy. ●

Irina Baranova



The presidents of FIFA, UEFA and the RFS with representatives of the 12 teams playing in the CIS Cup

With the fall of the Soviet Union, the modern Russian Football Union (RFS) was formed (the founding conference took place on 8 February 1992), inheriting everything from the previous associations such as the VRS and the Football Federation of the USSR, and was reinstated into FIFA on 3 July 1992. In July 1992, the national team was formed.

Nowadays, the RFS manages all the national teams, domestic professional and amateur leagues, cup competitions, coach education, referee development, women's football, grassroots, beach soccer and futsal.

The history of Russian football contains many great victories and triumphs. In 1956 and 1988, the national teams of the day won the Olympic Football Tournament; in 1960, the USSR team won the inaugural European Championship; and in 2006, Russia won the European

## Honours for the best players

The Association of Football Federations of Azerbaijan (AFFA) named the best Azerbaijan national team players of last season at an afternoon ceremony on 19 December in Baku. At the awards ceremony in the ART garden hall in Icherishahar in the historic part of the Azeri capital, the host of the ceremony explained that the best players had been selected by the Azerbaijan national team head coach, Bertti Vogts, the AFFA technical director, Bernhard Lippert, former top players, as well as the head coaches and captains of Azerbaijan's premier league clubs.

First to receive their awards were the most capped players in 2011, Rashad Sadygov, captain of the senior national team, and Kamran Aghayev, goalkeeper of the senior



Berti Vogts with the award winners

AFFA

national team. The awards were presented by the president of the Public Union of Regional Football Federations, Iskandar Javadov.

Amina Heydarova, who plays for the national women's Under-17 team, was named best woman player of the year. She received her award from UNICEF's representative in Azerbaijan, Mark Hereward.

In the poll, Vitali Borisov was voted best futsal player of the year. His award was presented by Zaur Akhundov, president of the Azerbaijan Futsal Federation.

Winner of the best beach soccer player of the year award was Elvin Guliyev, who accepted his trophy from the president of the Azerbaijan Professional Football League, Ramin Musayev.

Last but not least, Rauf Aliyev was named best Azerbaijan national team player. He received his award from the Azerbaijan national team head coach, Bertti Vogts.

All the winning players also received special prizes from the AFFA's partners. At the end of the ceremony, the guests watched a video showing the Azerbaijan national team and all the winners in action.

Then AFFA general secretary, Elkhan Mammadov, said: "It is the third time the AFFA has organised this awards ceremony. We are pleased it has become a traditional event. All today's winners play for the biggest clubs and have won numerous awards with their teams and individually. I'm glad that these players make a valuable contribution to Azeri football. I congratulate them and hope they will be the best not only in our country but also abroad."

● Ulviyya Najafova

## Women internationals have the wind in their sails

In Belgium, as in many other European countries, football is a heavily male-dominated sport. But times are changing, as perhaps best illustrated by our women's senior national team.



Photo: News

Everyone is now getting behind the women's team and helping them to achieve good results

Last spring, just before the team embarked on their UEFA Women's EURO 2013 qualifying campaign, a new coaching staff was appointed. Ives Serneels, former head coach of the Lierse SK women's team, was put in charge, with Tamara Cassimon, former Sinaai Girls coach, as his assistant. A rapport was quickly established between the staff and players, and the experience of the two coaches, both having stepped straight out of Belgium's top women's division, immediately bore fruit.

After a few friendly matches, the team entered the Women's EURO 2013 qualifying competition knowing they had a tough task ahead, having been drawn into a group with Norway and Iceland, both heavyweights in the women's game. That said, Belgium made a faultless start with a 2-1 win at home against Hungary, followed by a goalless draw away to Iceland. They conceded just two goals in their next five matches, leaving the team in second place at the start of the year, firmly in the running for the final tournament.

Previously our women's team was accustomed to achieving mixed results; now they are regularly winning games and putting in consistently good performances. This has not gone unnoticed. Spectators, who used to be few and far between, are now filling the stands, with around 1,000 attending the matches in Dessel, at the stadium chosen by the Royal Belgian Football Association as the home of the women's national team.

Even the media, who also had a tendency to overlook the women's game, are now all too keen to interview our players and attend events. Clearly a wind of change is blowing through women's football, but it is important not to get complacent. The women's game is still an amateur sport in Belgium, but that does not make the staff working with our national team any less demanding. Their top priority is to maintain the positive atmosphere while improving youth player development, both to realise our long-term vision and to strengthen Belgium's position in the European rankings, as a mark of immediate progress. The new recipe for women's football in Belgium is good humour and increased professionalism – a combination we are confident will give us many more reasons to smile.

● Pierre Cornez

## End-of-season ceremony

On 8 December, the Belarus Football Federation (BFF) brought the 2011 football season to a close with the traditional end-of-season ceremony. For the first time, the event was held in one of the most architecturally remarkable places in Minsk, the National Library.

Greeting the assembled guests, the BFF president, Sergey Roumas, recalled some of the highlights of the season that had marked the centenary of Belarusian football and thanked everyone involved in football.

BATE Borisov players almost swept the board with the individual awards. The best goalkeeper award went to Aleksandr Gutor, Marco Simic was named best defender, and Renan Bressan was voted best midfielder. Renan was also named top scorer of the season and the best player of the championship. Vitaly Rodionov went home with the best forward award.

Georgy Kondratiev, who led the Belarus Under-21 team to bronze medal position in the European Under-21 Championship final round in Denmark and to a place in the 2012 Olympic football tournament, was voted coach of the year. Kondratiev, who is now also coach of the senior national team, broke the spell of Victor Goncharenko, BATE Borisov's head coach, who had won this title for several years in a row.

The footballer of the year award went to Aleksandr Gutor, whose contribution to putting the Under-21 team into the Olympic football tournament is undisputable. He was one of the key players for both BATE and the



Aleksandr Gutor, youth player of the year

BFF

Under-21 team last season. The coach of the year, footballer of the championship and footballer of the year winners were selected in a poll conducted among coaches, team captains, journalists and football experts.

Several other awards were presented at the ceremony:

- Best female player of the year: Olga Aniskovtseva
- Best female player of the national championship: Oksana Shpak
- Best futsal player: Aleksey Popov
- Best beach soccer player: Igor Brishtel
- Best referees: Igor Kruk, Andrei Getikov and Igor Grigoriev.

Two special sponsor awards were presented to Pavel Savitsky and Pavel Nekhaichik (football talent and allegiance to the national team).

● Yulia Zenkovich



## Bosnia and Herzegovina

www.nfsbih.ba

### Safet Sušić remains head coach

For the next series of qualifiers, for the 2014 World Cup in Brazil, Safet Sušić will remain in the national team coach's seat. His initial two-year contract finished at the end of last year but as soon as the new year got under way, the normalisation committee of the Football Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina (NFSBiH) quickly agreed with Sušić to extend their working relationship for a further two years.

In other news, at the end of last year, the Juan Antonio Samaranch Olympic hall in Sarajevo was the venue for the Group 1 main qualifying round matches for this year's FIFA Futsal World Cup in Thailand. Boro Matan's team finished in third place, having beaten Belgium (2-1) but lost against Norway (2-1) and Spain (6-0). Spain won the group, ahead of Norway, both of whom qualify for the play-offs.

At youth level, a winter camp was held recently in Medjugorje for the country's national youth teams (U19s, U17s and U15s). Altogether, 115 talented young players took part.

Returning to futsal, the "Champions-Junior" football school has organised the fifth edition of its international futsal tournament.

Divided into four age groups, 96 teams and 1,150 budding young futsal players from Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Lebanon, Montenegro, Serbia and Slovenia took part in the three-day event, during which a total of 196 matches were played.

*"We promised to increase the number of participants. And we did. We had 1,150 youth players from eight countries. Quality play was displayed and, most importantly, the young*

*players had a good time and made some new friends,"* said Almir Prguda, manager and coach at the school.

Finally, a meeting took place in Zurich between an NFSBiH delegation, headed by Ivica Osim, and representatives of FIFA and UEFA, who were satisfied with the work carried out by the normalisation committee during the past year. Numerous activities were praised, as were the



Action from the "Champions-Junior" futsal tournament

committee's efforts to consolidate the federation's affairs. The main goals and challenges for the next period were outlined. These are to harmonise the statutes at all levels, to report regularly on general meetings and election procedures, and to bring about financial and organisational stability. FIFA and UEFA confirmed that they will continue to support the committee in all aspects of its work.

During the meeting at its headquarters in Zurich, FIFA announced that the general secre-

tary of the NFSBiH, Jasmin Bakovic, had been appointed as a member of FIFA's Development Projects Committee, which is another sign of appreciation of our football federation.

● Fuad Kravac



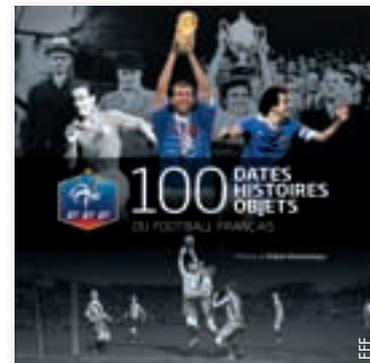
## France

www.fff.fr

### A literary treasure trove

The French Football Federation (FFF) ended 2011 on a high note, with the official book launch for a collection of previously unpublished stories and documents (*100 dates, histoires et objets du football français*).

The history of the FFF is an integral part of the history of French football. Since it was introduced to the country at the end of the 19th century, football has created a vast human, sporting, cultural and material heritage – a genuine treasure trove of which many fans are largely unaware. Hence this book, which uses 100 symbolic dates to tell the story of a century of French football.



A wealth of information on French football

Starting in 1919 with the founding of the FFF, an amalgamation of many pre-existing associations, the book follows the rise of the federation from its 204 original member clubs to the 17,000 plus it represents today. In retracing this evolution, two names stand out: Jules Rimet and Henri Delaunay, visionaries who are widely considered the architects of the World Cup, the European Championship and the French Cup.

There is many a story to tell about the latter, with its rich history and tradition, illustrious champions and feisty underdogs. The new book also has plenty for fans of *Les Bleus*, from tales of their first match in 1904, against Belgium, to the exploits of the golden generations. From Chayriguès to Gamblin, from the team's first win against England to their glorious adventures at the start of the 21st century, from Colombes to the Stade de France, via Seville, readers are invited to walk in the footsteps of their heroes – the likes of Raymond Kopa, Michel Platini and Zinedine Zidane, who have written the history of French football; true champions who keep the magic of the beautiful game alive through all its ups and downs.

Throughout this unique book, readers will discover objects and documents never before released into the public domain: unusual and historically significant correspondence, legendary trophies, original regulations, mythical jerseys, even Aimé Jacquet's notebook! There is something for everyone in this treasure trove of archives and memories, laid bare for the first time by the FFF.

● Xavier Thébaud



## England

www.thefa.com

### Fabio Capello hails St George's Park

The England coach, Fabio Capello, has hailed St George's Park, the new training home for the 24 England teams and national coach education, development and sports medicine centre for football, as the best facility of its kind in Europe. Capello visited the facility in Burton-Upon-Trent recently with the FA Chairman, David Bernstein.

*"I think it will be the best training centre in Europe. The facilities are incredible,"* said Capello. *"It has surprised me – the buildings, the pitches, the hotels, they are incredible. It is a really fantastic place."*

The 330-acre site in the heart of England's National Forest is set to open in late summer 2012 and will be the new home for football education and coaching. It will boast 12 pitches including a replica Wembley surface and a full-size indoor pitch, two hotels with 226 bedrooms and a state-of-the-art education centre. The FA has worked with specialists to develop the plans, visiting the best national football centres across the world.

*"In Italy, we study at Coverciano. After that, it's like becoming a professor. In England, we*



Fabio Capello at St George's Park

*need more professors of the game... that is what St George's Park can deliver,"* added Capello. *"This is a home where you can study, you can discuss with other coaches and managers, and here you can improve. It is very important for the health of English football – it will be important for the youth, the players and the coaches."*

Find out more at [TheFA.com/spp](http://TheFA.com/spp).

● Beverley Ward



**Georgia**

www.gff.ge

## Successful start in the new year

Our Under-17 national team made an impressive start to the new year in the Minsk Cup international tournament in Belarus.

Under head coach Vasil Maisurade, the tournament was the perfect opportunity for the Under-17s to prepare for the elite round of the 2011/12 European Under-17 Championship in March.

Their preparations could not have gone better, with not a single defeat incurred en route to the final. The young Georgians beat the host team 4-3 and Belgium 4-2, then drew 2-2 with Latvia.

Also taking part in the tournament were the Under-17 national teams of Finland, Lithuania, Russia and Ukraine. Unfortunately, however, Georgia lost the final 2-0 against Ukraine and finished the tournament in the runners-up spot.



The Georgian U17 national team

GFF

The team now has its sights set on the elite round of the European championship, where they will come up against England, Spain and Ukraine. Therefore, the final against Ukraine in Belarus was very important and took on special

significance for the Georgian team and its followers.

Let us hope that the Under-17s' season continues the way it started!

● **Tata Burduli**



**Italy**

www.figc.it

## Football hall of fame opens its doors

The Coverciano football museum in Florence recently spent a day honouring champions and recalling some great moments of Italian football's past, with awards presented and items donated to the museum's new hall of fame.

Pierluigi Collina gave the museum foundation the shirt he wore during his last season as a referee, while Roberto Baggio donated a No 18 shirt from the 1998 World Cup. Adriano Galliani gave the museum a plaque presented to AC Milan by UEFA in honour of their particularly successful 1988/89 season, Arrigo Sacchi gave the tracksuit he wore at the 1994 World Cup in the USA, and Marcello Lippi donated the ball from the European/South American Cup he won with Juventus in 1996. In addition, the UEFA president, Michel Platini, travelled to Florence for this special day and Gigi Riva, despite being unable to attend, sent a message of support for the hall of fame.

After the presentation of gifts to the museum, an awards ceremony was held in the grand Cinquecento hall at the Palazzo Vecchio. Singling out Italian football's all-time greats, the jury selected Michel Platini in the foreign player category and Roberto Baggio in the Italian player category. Marcello Lippi and Arrigo Sacchi shared the award in the Italian coach category, while Adriano Galliani was named Italy's best football administrator and Pierluigi Collina Italy's

best referee. Gigi Riva received the final all-time great award, in the Italian veterans' category. The jury was made up of the directors of Italy's main sports channels and newspapers. Also at the ceremony were Giancarlo Abete, president of the Italian Football Federation (FIGC), Demetrio Albertini, FIGC vice-president, Antonello Valentini, FIGC chief executive, Michele Uva, head of the FIGC centre of studies, development and special initiatives, Giovanni Petrucci, president of the Italian Olympic Committee, Fino Fini, president of the museum, and Francesco Franchi, vice-president of the foundation, as well as all the local authorities, including the mayor, Matteo Renzi.

The hall of fame is an exciting new initiative, designed to celebrate those who have shaped the history of Italian football. "This is just the start," said the FIGC president, Giancarlo Abete. "From time to time we have to look beyond how we are doing day to day and think about where we have been, where we are now, and where we are going."

The hall of fame forms part of the Italian football museum, a project particularly dear to the foundation.

Thanking the jury for his award, Michel Platini said: "I also want to thank the club that enabled me earn this award, Juventus – an amazing club led by an amazing man, Gianni Agnelli, who taught me a lot about life. I learned a great deal from this fantastic group of people."

● **Barbara Moschini**



**Latvia**

www.lff.lv

## Dutch experience for Latvian youth teams

The Latvian Football Federation (LFF) has signed an agreement with Dutch coach Anton Joore, who is taking over at the helm of the Latvian national Under-21 team from Mihails Zemlinskis, who was dismissed after the team's weak performance in the European Under-21 Championship qualifying competition. Joore will, in fact, supervise all the Latvian youth teams and is looking forward to improving the whole football education system and approach of young players and coaches.



Anton Joore and the LFF general secretary, Janis Mezeckis

Meanwhile, the LFF has also reached an agreement with the current national team head coach, Aleksandrs Starkovs, for him to stay on until the end of the 2014 FIFA World Cup qualifying competition, with the option to extend his contract to the next qualifying cycle. The first official match for Starkovs this year will be against Kazakhstan on 29 February in the Turkish resort of Antalya.

All ten Latvian first division clubs have unanimously accepted the invitation to join the LFF-founded Latvian Football Virsliga which, together with the LFF, will organise the Latvian top division as a full legal entity. The new Latvian football season is scheduled to start on 17 March with the Latvian Cup quarter-finals. The national championship kicks off a week later.

● **Viktors Sopirins**



Italy's all-time greats (left to right): Arrigo Sacchi, Adriano Galliani, Pierluigi Collina, Marcello Lippi, Roberto Baggio and Michel Platini

Scabe



**Liechtenstein**

www.lfv.li

**Association awards**

The Liechtenstein Football Association (LFV) held its third annual LFV awards ceremony on 8 January, when the footballer, youth footballer and coach of the year were announced and presented with their awards, as was the volunteer of the year.

Martin Stocklasa, who has been playing for long-established Swiss club FC St Gallen since June, was voted footballer of the year for the third year in a row. The youth footballer of the year award then went to Nicolas Hasler, who plays for his home club, FC Vaduz. Former Bundesliga player Michael Nushöhr was voted coach of the year, after having led his club, FC Balzers, into the highest amateur division in Switzerland. FC Balzers also produced the volunteer of the year, Werner Frick, who was celebrating his 62nd birthday the day he received his award for his years of voluntary work at the club.



Left to right: Michael Nushöhr, Werner Frick, Martin Stocklasa and Nicolas Hasler

The awards were presented by Julia Hassler, national swimming champion and sportsperson of the year, former World Cup skier Marco "Büxi" Büchel, long-time football coach Otto Pfister, and – for the volunteer of the year award – Liechtenstein's sports minister, Hugo Quaderer. During the ceremony, the LFV also presented its

first women's youth national team. Under the leadership of Monika Zuppiger, the Swiss women's Under-15 national team was established last year to give ambitious girls an opportunity to compete at a higher level and further their development in football.

● Anton Banzer



**Malta**

www.mfa.com.mt

**New sponsors for Malta's national teams**

The Malta FA has concluded a deal with FXDD, an online forex trading provider, whereby the company becomes the new sponsor of the Maltese national teams.

The agreement is bound to open new avenues for Maltese representative teams as the funds provided will be used by the association in a series of initiatives aimed at improving the technical preparation of the teams as well as in other ventures which provide better support from Maltese football followers for their national teams when they travel abroad.

FXDD will be a platinum sponsor of these teams. This will be the most lucrative category in a structured programme of sponsorship which includes at least one gold sponsor and a number of preferred commercial partners.



Norman Darmanin Demajo, president of the Malta FA (right), at the media conference to announce the new sponsorship contract

This novel approach used by the Maltese association when negotiating sponsorship deals is more of a partnership in brand communication than the traditional type of sponsorship.

Among other projects, this partnership agreement envisages the setting up of fan engagement opportunities which would ultimately result in commercial initiatives and better return on investment for sponsors, besides being beneficial for the association's programme to elevate its national teams.

In this way, as expressed by the MFA president, Norman Darmanin Demajo, all of the country's national teams will have a better chance of making progress with their more professional and polished preparation, as well as in other technical and material areas.

● Alex Vella



**Moldova**

www.fmf.md

**Annual awards ceremony**

Alexandru Suvorov, midfielder with Polish side MKS Cracovia Krakow, received the player of the year award for 2011 in front of 1,500 people at the annual awards ceremony, a traditional celebration when FA of Moldova (FMF) recognises the outstanding football personalities of the year.

At the gala, other awards were presented to the best coach (Igor Dobrovolskiy, FC Dacia Chisinau), best referee (Ghenadie Sidenco), best futsal player (Alexei Muntean, Parnassos Cyprus), best woman player (Ana Zatusavscaia, Gloria Edinet), best beach soccer player (Andrei Negara, Lexmax Chisinau) and best football-tennis player (Cristian Rotaru, CS Ialoveni).

The ceremony continued with awards for the best goalkeeper of the national championship (Artiom Gaiduchevis, FC Dacia), best defender (Vazha Tarkhnishvili, FC Sheriff), best midfielder (Benjamin Balima, FC Sheriff), best forward (Ghenadie Orbu, FC Dacia) and best goalscorer (Gheorghe Boghiu, FC Milsami).

The national futsal team of Moldova received the team of the year award, while FC Tiraspol won the fair play award.

Other FMF awards were presented to the Hungarian, USA and UK embassies in Moldova and to the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency in Moldova (all for the

development of football), and to Andrei Galben from the Free International University of Moldova, the ULIM (for the development of university football).

● Press office



Pavel Cebanu, president of the FMF, addresses some 1,500 guests at the gala evening



## Northern Ireland

www.irishfa.com

### New coach for the national team

Former Northern Ireland international Michael O'Neill has been appointed as the new coach of the national team. The 42-year-old took up the role on 1 February for an initial two-year period.

Speaking following his appointment, Michael said: "I am honoured to be chosen to manage my country. I am a proud Northern Irishman who was fortunate enough to win 31 senior caps and it was always an ambition to manage my country. To be entrusted with the role early in my managerial career is quite humbling but I am confident that we can make progress."

"Northern Ireland has a strong football tradition but one that needs to be refreshed with

some more contemporary success. That is my primary objective – to restore a sense of belief and pride in what it means to represent Northern Ireland."

He added: "There is a huge amount of work to be done but with the right direction and the necessary passion, good progress can be made. The board of the Irish Football Association and the CEO have a clear plan for the future and have given me responsibility to set about the task of renewal within the context of a long-term plan. At the same time, in the interests of everyone involved, most particularly our supporters, my job is to work with the players to sustain a competitive performance throughout the qualifying phase for the 2014 FIFA World Cup finals."

● Sueann Harrison



Michael O'Neill, the new national team coach



## Portugal

www.fpf.pt

### Successful mini-pitch project

Within the framework of the UEFA HatTrick programme, the Portuguese Football Federation, in partnership with the secretary of state for youth and sports and the sports institute of Portugal, has promoted the creation of over 200 multipurpose mini-pitches throughout the country.

Angelo Brou, general secretary of the Portuguese Football Federation, explains: "This project first came about in 2006 with the principal aim of creating, around the country, mini-pitches to encourage children and young people to play sports and provide them with a safe environment to do so. We also wanted to assist unity



203 mini-pitches have been built in Portugal

and social inclusion in deprived areas from a social and sporting point of view. The success of the first stage of the project – 102 pitches

created and over 500 applications received – led to the submission of a new project to the UEFA HatTrick programme, in September 2008, which enabled the construction of 101 more mini-pitches."

The federation's general secretary also underlined that the "Portuguese federation benefited from the support of private companies, which allowed the creation of 21 more mini-pitches."

In the first stage, in 2007 and 2008, 102 mini-pitches were created in 19 districts, then in the second stage, which took place between 2009 and 2011, 101 more mini-pitches were created in 20 regions.

● Bruno Henrique



## Republic of Ireland

www.fai.ie

### Emerging talent points the way

It has been ten years since the Republic of Ireland senior international team last qualified for a major international tournament. However, thanks to Giovanni Trapattoni and his squad, we are looking forward to competing at EURO 2012 this summer in Poland and Ukraine.

The success of our senior men's side has been emulated by all of our competing squads and leaves the Republic of Ireland in the unprecedented position of possibly being able to qualify for every major tournament throughout all age groups for the first time.

In the 2011–13 Women's European Championship, our senior international women's team, under Sue Ronan, currently sit second in their qualifying group, behind France, but with a game in hand. Noel King, meanwhile, has led his Under-21 team to third place in their European Under-21 Championship qualifying group, but having played fewer matches and with encouraging performances from his squad, there is plenty of reason for optimism.

Perhaps most encouraging is the progress of our underage teams, with our Under-17 and Under-19 men's and women's teams all qualifying for the elite rounds in their respective UEFA championships.

The Football Association of Ireland's emerging talent programme is responsible for identifying talented youngsters for these squads and providing them with the coaching and encouragement they need to progress to the national youth teams and, eventually, to the senior men's and women's teams.



The Irish women's team are doing well in their Women's EURO 2013 qualifying campaign

The progress of our squads points to the effectiveness of the emerging talent programme. The association's international performance director, Wim Koevermans, says: "While underage success does not guarantee that senior success will follow, it is a hugely positive indication that our emerging talent programme is working and

will continue to provide the raw talent that our top-class international coaching team can mould into international footballers, which, in turn, means that we have successful teams like our current Under-17 and Under-19 men's and women's teams."

● Derek Kinnevey



Romania

www.ffr.ro

### New development strategy

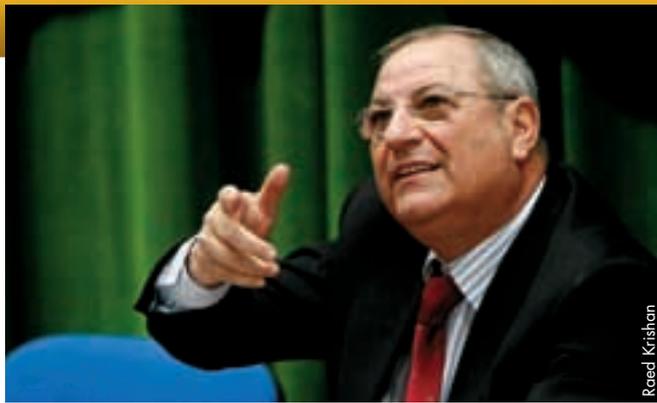
The date of 16 January might be regarded as one of major importance for Romanian football.

Appointed in August 2011 as national technical director, former top-flight defender Marian Mihail (53), who spent almost ten years working as a coach and youth academy director in the Arab world, unveiled the strategy for the development of Romanian football for the period from 2012 to 2014.

The strategy is the result of research and analysis work which lasted more than five months and which was considered vital because of the downward spiral in which Romanian football is caught at all levels.

"We have lost our identity as football nation," says Mihail. He describes the strategy as a distinct approach: "We don't need to copy anyone; we just need to develop our concept on the basis of our qualities. We have never been a football nation which used physical strength like the north European countries, because this wasn't our strength. We based our concept on ball possession in the seventies and eighties, as well as on counter-attacks in the nineties."

It is also a far-reaching strategy as the national head coach, Victor Piturca, wants national team players who are already accustomed to the proposed style of play. This means that all youth



Raed Krishan

Ginés Meléndez addresses the UEFA A and B licence holders

national teams will have to play by the same system and style as the senior national team.

By extension, the strategy also targets the basis of Romanian football, i.e. the clubs, which will have to adapt their work accordingly.

"There are some countries which can serve us as a model in renovating football. Spain is one of them," Mihail says. For this reason, Ginés Meléndez Sotos, technical director of the Spanish Football Federation (with which the Romanian Football Federation enjoys a very good relationship), a man whose most recent success was winning the European Under-19 Championship in Romania in 2011, was invited to the UEFA A and B licence holders meeting held at

the headquarters of the Romanian Football Federation (FRF) on 16 January. Meléndez Sotos spoke to them about the "secrets of the development of the Spanish football". He also spent time with representatives of the FRF's coaching school going over its proposed development strategy. He will now make his own observations in this regard and help his Romanian colleagues to improve the blueprint. Meanwhile, he has already indicated that: "It is possible that in one, two or no matter how many years, this strategy will no longer keep pace with the overall development of world football. So we will have to be ready to innovate at any time."

● Paul Zaharia



San Marino

www.fsgc.sm

### Continuing education opportunities for coaches

A presentation given on 28 November at the headquarters of the San Marino Football Federation (FSGC) by Renzo Ulivieri, chairman of the Italian Football Coaches Association (AIAC) and director of the Italian Football Federation's coaching academy, rounded off the FSGC's autumn 2011 further education cycle.

After a comprehensive, well-structured presentation entitled "Where is football headed, in theory and practice: changes, outlooks, visions, suggestions", Ulivieri's audience of around 90 coaches were given an opportunity to ask questions and discuss the points raised. In so doing they clarified various aspects of the topic, in particular with regard to trends and principles taught to youth, amateur and professional players. They also discussed timeframes, methods and planning in more detail.

Another further education evening was held prior to this, at the Serravalle B sports complex on 7 November. Led by Prof. Franco Varrella, UEFA Pro licence holder and lecturer for the coaching courses held at Coverciano, the event was split into two halves: one practical, the other theoretical. The theme for the evening was: "Technique: the rediscovery of individual and collective technical skills with reference to role allocation and the current systems of play".

Prof. Varrella's knowledge, expertise and extensive experience was a great motivator for the 100 or so coaches in attendance, who listened attentively and with great interest to the ideas and methods presented. The requests for more such seminars, to give the coaches an opportunity for in-depth discussions on all issues related to coach education, were testament to the success of the event. For the education and research team at the FSGC, promoting, sharing and further developing different perspectives on relevant topics is an important part of continuing education, which should be high on every coach's list of priorities.

● Emilio Cecchini



Serbia

www.fss.org.rs

### Miljan Miljanic has passed away

Miljan Miljanic, honorary president of the FA of Serbia, former successful coach of Crvena zvezda, Real Madrid and Valencia, head coach of the Yugoslav national team for two spells, and a long-term president of the FA of Yugoslavia, passed away on 13 January, in Belgrade, at the age of 82.

He was a true symbol of football in the former Yugoslavia, the whole Balkan region and today's Serbia, as well as a true visionary, pioneer of modern football, someone who did not accept boundaries and was the best representative of the highly respected and successful Yugoslav school of football.

Besides his many decades of work with clubs and the national association, Miljanic is also credited with assisting the development of football in Africa, Asia and Australia as a football instructor. In recognition of his immense services to football, he was awarded the UEFA Order of Merit in Emerald and the FIFA Order of Merit, as well as a high distinction of the Republic of Serbia, the Order of Nemanja of the second level.

During his eight years with Crvena zvezda, he won four league titles and three trophies in the cup competition, and in three seasons with Real Madrid he won the Spanish championship twice, and the Spanish Cup once. As head coach of the Yugoslav national team, he took part in two World Cups – in 1974 in Germany and in 1982 in Spain.

On 17 January, in Belgrade, the FA of Serbia organised a memorial service attended by more than 100 people, including many eminent football personalities, such as Mircea Sandu, UEFA Executive Committee member and president of the Romanian Football Federation; Vlatko Markovic, president of the Croatian Football Federation and special delegate of the FIFA president; former Real Madrid players Emilio Butragueno and Amancio; directors of Crvena zvezda; representatives of many national associations; the



Miljan Miljanic

captain of the Serbian national team, Dejan Stankovic; and many former football aces.

Tomislav Karadzic, president of the FA of Serbia, bid farewell to the association's honorary president: "Miljan Miljanic was the best representative of football of our country and someone through whom we were recognised all over the world. It was a privilege to know him and work with him. His works and deeds will be remembered for ever, and many of his ideas that have not become a reality yet are moving in that direction."

On behalf of UEFA, Mircea Sandu said: "Miljan Miljanic contributed to football development and its current status in a great manner. Without any doubt, he was one of the best and most successful coaches of the second half of the last century."

Miljan Miljanic was buried on the same day in the Alley of Distinguished Citizens in Belgrade.

● Aleksandar Boskovic



Sweden

www.svenskfotboll.se

### Why not Stockholm?

Of the 23 players who played for Sweden in the EURO 2012 qualifying competition, not a single one received their football education in Stockholm. Yet, 25% of Sweden's population live in the greater Stockholm area, the city has brought home four of the last ten national championships, and youth teams from the city do very well and provide plenty of players for the Under-17, Under-19 and Under-21 national teams.

The Swedish FA's own magazine therefore decided to try to find out why so few players

from the capital make it into the senior national team. One of the prime culprits seems to be the lack of pitches in the fast growing and densely populated area. Youth teams struggle to find somewhere to play, and players can expect to travel far and to practise at times that are not really suitable for youngsters. As a result, many teens in Stockholm drop out of football, a fact probably aggravated by fierce local competition, which drives clubs to focus on early results rather than to train players for the future. In theory, early-developed and motivated players stay in the game and do well for a while, but many others quit too early.

Remedies are being sought, of course. Building more pitches with artificial turf is crucial, and the district FA of Stockholm also want clubs to refrain from seeking out and recruiting players aged under 15 from rival clubs. It is believed that, in the long term, youngsters would be better off developing in a local club with friends rather than playing across town in a team full of current stars. This model seems to work well for the smaller districts elsewhere, which have raised the current crop of national team players.

● **Andreas Nilsson**



Switzerland

www.football.ch

### Martina Voss-Tecklenburg named new coach of women's national team

The new coach of the Swiss women's national team is Martina Voss-Tecklenburg, who played 125 matches for the German national women's team, starting when she was only 17 and scoring 27 goals along the way. Most recently, she was coach of German Bundesliga team FF USV Jena. During her international playing career, the 44-year-old won four European Women's Championships (1989, 1991, 1995 and 1997) and a World Cup silver medal (1995), while at domestic level she picked up six German championships and four German Cups. In addition, she was twice voted German woman football of the year. As a coach, she won the German Cup twice with FCR 2001 Duisburg, as well as the UEFA Women's Cup in 2009.

There is no doubt that Béatrice von Siebenthal's successor as national women's coach and head of the women's football academy is one of the greats of women's football in Europe. The fact that she is also editor-in-chief and a journalist for the German women's football magazine FF is also bound to be an advantage for her in her new role.



Martina Voss during her time as coach of FCR 2001 Duisburg

Sportsfile

Interviewed after her appointment, Voss was clearly delighted about her new role: *"It's a real honour to have been offered this position. It's a great challenge and another step in my career. I consider it a huge opportunity because you don't get invited to be a national coach very often. I'm looking forward to getting things moving a bit in Swiss women's football. I think there's a big pool of good players available. The fact alone that many Swiss women players are under contract abroad is proof of that."*

So far, the Swiss women's team have played four matches in the current UEFA European Women's Championship, winning 4-1 and 8-1 at home against Romania and Kazakhstan respectively, and losing 4-1 and 3-2 away against Germany and Spain. Currently, the team are in fourth place in their group with six points from four matches, behind Spain (13 points, 5 matches), Germany (10 points, 4 matches) and Romania (9 points, 6 matches).

● **Pierre Benoit**



Ukraine

www.ffu.org.ua



The 20th anniversary gala evening

FFU

### Celebrating 20 years of the FFU

In December, the Football Federation of Ukraine (FFU) celebrated its 20th anniversary. The UEFA president, Michel Platini, the UEFA general secretary, Gianni Infantino, world football stars of the past Gianni Rivera, Luis Suarez, Zbigniew Boniek, Igor Belanov, Andrzej Szarmach, Oleksandr Zavarov, Oleksiy Mykhailchenko and others were present at the celebrations as guests of honour.

Near 1,500 guests were invited to the festivities in Kyiv – players, coaches, former players, sports journalists and other football personalities. Politicians addressed the audience, and artists were on hand to provide entertainment.

As part of the celebrations, awards were presented to individuals deemed to have had the greatest influence on the development of Ukrainian football during the past 20 years. Among them, Andriy Shevchenko was named best player and Valeriy Lobanovskiy best coach, while the current head coach of the Ukrainian national team, Oleg Blokhin, was given the accolade of football legend.

● **Dmytro Sobko**

# Winter youth tournament



In December, Israel hosted the latest edition of the prestigious winter football tournament for Under-16 and Under-18 national teams that the Israel FA has been organising for almost three decades.

Over the years, the tournament has been a coming-of-age party for quite a few young European players, including Luís Figo, Georgi Hagí and Brian Laudrup, to name but three. On the local scene, all Israeli football stars started their international careers in the tournament, among them Eli Ohana (winner of the European Cup Winners' Cup with Bruges and present-day coach of the national Under-18 team), Tal Banin, Eyal Berkovich, Haim Revivo and Yossi Benayun (captain of the Israel national team today).

## U16s: Israel winners at home

The Under-16 tournament was held in the southernmost city of Israel, Eilat, which not only provided excellent facilities and a hospitable welcome, but also nice warm weather in the middle of winter.

The national teams of Italy, Hungary and Serbia joined Israel in Eilat and had a good time on and off the pitch. The teams spent time together enjoying many activities, such as visiting the marine park of Eilat and its

coral reef. They watched the game between Real Madrid and Barcelona together, and had a fun-filled party at the end of it all.

Israel won against both Italy (1-0) and Serbia (1-0), and drew with Hungary (0-0). Italy came in second with 6 points, Hungary third with 2 points, and Serbia finished last with 1 point.

## U18s: victory for Germany

The Under-18 tournament inaugurated the newest stadium in Israel, Hamoshava, in the city of Petach Tikva. Most of the games were held in the stadium that next year will host the final round of the current European Under-21 Championship.

The national associations of Israel and Germany decided to invite and pay for the Under-18 national team of Japan to participate in the tournament as an act of goodwill towards the people of Japan, who suffered the terrible tsunami last year.

Together with the national team of Portugal, all four teams enjoyed the great facilities and equally great atmosphere in the stands, which, thanks to the efforts of the different departments of the Israel FA and the municipality of Petach Tikva, were occupied by many more spectators this time around. The Israel FA invested a lot of time and money into making this a great football event for the fans, who, in turn, were happy to see famous national teams playing in Israel. The streets of the city of Petach Tikva and the area around the stadium were branded with the tournament's logo and colours, which added to the great atmosphere and buzz.

The winners of the Under-18 tournament were Germany, who ended the tournament with six points from wins against Japan (2-0) and Portugal (2-1), after losing the opening match to Israel (2-1). Portugal finished second, Japan third and Israel fourth.

All four teams paid an emotional visit to Yad Vashem museum, the Holocaust research and education centre, in Jerusalem.

The tournament presented the Israel FA with opportunities for other educational seminars. The German women's Under-17 national team were also involved in the tournament (played twice against the Israel women's Under-19 national team, winning both times), and their staff taught their Israeli counterparts different coaching methods and drills. The two sides agreed to continue their cooperation.

Right after the tournament, the youth department of the Israel FA organised two seminars for players in the national Under-19 youth league, during which situations the players might face (such as a disagreement with the coach over their position on the field, or an overbearing father) were discussed and suggestions on how to handle them proposed by a panel of experts. The seminars were a huge success. ●

*Michal Grundland*

Germany, winners of the U18 tournament



Oded Karni, IFA website

## Birthdays

Match delegate **Luca Zorzi** (Switzerland) is celebrating his 50th birthday on 22 March.

UEFA wishes many happy returns to Luca and to:

Benny Jacobsen (Denmark, 1.3)  
Luis Medina Cantalejo (Spain, 1.3)  
Damir Vrbancic (Croatia, 2.3)  
Jenni Kennedy (England, 2.3)  
Gerhard Mayer-Vorfelder (Germany, 3.3)  
Hans Lorenz (Germany, 3.3)  
Carolin Rudolph (Germany, 3.3)  
Patrick McGrath (Republic of Ireland, 4.3)  
Franco Combi (Italy, 4.3)  
Zoran Bahtijarevic (Croatia, 5.3)  
Jim Shaw (Northern Ireland, 6.3)  
Boris Durlen (Croatia, 6.3)  
Liana Melania Stoicescu (Romania, 6.3)  
Ichko Lozev (Bulgaria, 6.3)  
Sandro Rosell (Spain, 6.3)  
Pedro Maria Aurteneche Vinegra (Spain, 7.3)  
Dušan Maravic (Serbia, 7.3)  
Tomás Gea (Andorra, 7.3)  
Josep Lluís Vilaseca Guasch (Spain, 8.3)  
Florentino Perez Rodriguez (Spain, 8.3)  
Giorgio Crescentini (San Marino, 8.3)  
Diogo Paiva Brandão (Portugal, 8.3)  
Alexis Ponnet (Belgium, 9.3)  
Vladimir Aleshin (Russia, 9.3)  
Henk Kesler (Netherlands, 9.3)  
Ruben Hayrapetyan (Armenia, 9.3)  
Herbert Fandel (Germany, 9.3)  
Joseph S. Blatter (Switzerland, 10.3)  
Mateo Beusan (Croatia, 10.3)  
Ilkka Koho (Finland, 10.3)  
Jasmin Bakovic (Bosnia and Herzegovina, 10.3)  
Lucien Kayser (Luxembourg, 11.3)  
Sergey Fursenko (Russia, 11.3)  
Olga Zhukovska (Ukraine, 11.3)  
Jean-François Crucke (Belgium, 12.3)  
Miroslav Vitkovic (Croatia, 12.3)  
Thomas Partl (Austria, 13.3)  
Neil Jardine (Northern Ireland, 14.3)  
Lucia Kurapkova (Slovakia, 14.3)  
Ivan Curkovic (Serbia, 15.3)  
Götz Dimanski (Germany, 15.3)  
Cornelius Bakker (Netherlands, 17.3)  
Liutauras Varanavicius (Lithuania, 17.3)  
Christakis Skapoullis (Cyprus, 18.3)  
Marcello Nicchi (Italy, 18.3)  
Andreas Georgiou (Cyprus, 18.3)  
Paul Elliott (England, 18.3)  
Marina Tashchyan (Armenia, 18.3)  
Hogni í Storstovu (Faroe Islands, 19.3)  
Helmut Spahn (Germany, 19.3)  
Ronald Zimmermann (Germany, 19.3)  
Aristides Stathopoulos (Greece, 20.3)  
Edward Foley (Republic of Ireland, 20.3)  
Jim Boyce (Northern Ireland, 21.3)  
Kai-Erik Arstad (Norway, 21.3)  
Ginés Meléndez (Spain, 22.3)  
Chris Georgiades (Cyprus, 22.3)  
Michail Kassabov (Bulgaria, 22.3)  
Pafsanias Papanikolaou (Greece, 22.3)  
Bernard Barbet (France, 23.3)

Franz Krösslhuber (Austria, 23.3)  
Andrea Lqstrucci (Italy, 23.3)  
Mahmut Özgener (Turkey, 23.3)  
Hilda McDermott (Republic of Ireland, 23.3)  
Outi Saarinen (Finland, 23.3)  
Fernando Ruiz Hierro (Spain, 23.3)  
Daniel Prodan (Romania, 23.3)  
Michael Kirchner (Germany, 25.3)  
Wilfried Straub (Germany, 26.3)  
Steen Jørgensen (Denmark, 26.3)  
Anton Ondrus (Slovakia, 27.3)  
José Antonio Casajus (Spain, 27.3)  
Armen Minasyan (Armenia, 27.3)  
Pavel Cebanu (Moldova, 28.3)  
Edgar Obertüfer (Switzerland, 29.3)  
Ian Beasley (England, 29.3)  
Stefan Ormandjiev (Bulgaria, 29.3)  
Alan Snoddy (Northern Ireland, 29.3)  
Bernadette Constantin (France, 29.3)  
Bernadino Gonzalez Vazquez (Spain, 29.3)  
Sanna Pirhonen (Finland, 29.3)  
William Hugh Wilson (Scotland, 30.3)

## Forthcoming events

### Meetings

#### 2 March, Nyon

National Team Competitions Committee

#### 5 March, Nyon

2012/13 UEFA Regions' Cup: draws for the preliminary and intermediate rounds  
Youth and Amateur Football Committee

#### 16 March, Nyon

UEFA Champions League and UEFA Europa League: draws for the quarter- and semifinals

#### 20/21 March, Istanbul

Executive Committee

#### 22 March, Istanbul

Ordinary UEFA Congress

### Competitions

#### 6/7 and 13/14 March

UEFA Champions League:  
round of 16 (return legs)

#### 8 March

UEFA Europa League: round of 16 (first legs)

#### 14/15 March

UEFA Women's Champions League:  
quarter-finals (first legs)

#### 15 March

UEFA Europa League: round of 16 (return legs)

#### 21/22 March

UEFA Women's Champions League:  
quarter-finals (return legs)

#### 27/28 March

UEFA Champions League: quarter-finals (first legs)

#### 29 March

UEFA Europa League: quarter-finals (first legs)

## Notices

- Fernando Gomes was elected president of the Portuguese Football Federation on 10 December.
- Waldemar Barylo took over as general secretary of the Polish Football Association on 16 December.
- Serge Safaryan is the new general secretary of the Football Federation of Belarus.
- Kjetil P. Siem became general secretary of the Football Association of Norway on 2 January.
- Pafsanias Papanikolaou is the new general secretary of the Hellenic Football Federation. He replaces Ioannis Economides, who has been promoted to deputy president.
- Andrey Balashov stepped down as general secretary of the Russian Football Union on 13 January and was replaced by Yuri Zhmurko (also from the RFS) as third vice-chairman of the Stadium and Security Committee.

## Match agents

Licences have been issued to the following eight UEFA match agents:

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In addition, **Alexandre Ribeiro** (France), **Gaël Mahé** (France), **Michael D'Arcy** (England) and **Keith D'Arcy** (England) have had their licences renewed for another eight years.

## Obituary

Former president of the Scottish Football Association **William Dickie** passed away on 9 January, at the age of 82. Dickie was a member of the UEFA Committee for Non-Amateur Football from 1992 to 1998, serving as vice-chairman for the last two years, and was also one of UEFA's transfer experts from 1990 to 2000.



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