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All-Spanish UEFA Europa League final

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**Cover:**

*Winners in 2010,  
Club Atlético de Madrid  
lifted the UEFA Europa  
League title again  
in Bucharest, having beating  
Athletic Club 3-0*

Photo: Getty Images

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## COUNTING THE DAYS

UEFA EURO 2012 has been a long time coming and long talked about too, ever since the UEFA Executive Committee decided back at its meeting in Cardiff in May 2007 to appoint the national football associations of Poland and Ukraine to co-host the tournament.

Now, with the opening match just days away, it is already safe to say that the challenge has been proudly met, despite the various difficulties that have cropped up along the way.

Stadiums have been built or renovated, airports, transport systems and hotels developed and modernised and all the necessary improvements made. In short, both countries are now ready to host our continent's biggest football tournament in conditions worthy of an event of this magnitude.

This, in itself, is extremely encouraging and all the work, effort, discussions, patience and goodwill it has taken to get us this far should be acknowledged. But this is neither the time nor the place for analysis.

Right now, it is all about looking forward to watching Europe's best national teams in action, being bowled over by the feats of the players and

sharing the excitement of the supporters – in other words, getting swept up in a great month-long international celebration of football.

This first European Football Championship final round to be played in eastern Europe marks a milestone in the history of UEFA's competitions. The work of the organisers must now be matched by the commitment of the players, the attitude of the coaches, the excellence of the referees and, above all, the passion of the fans, whose contribution to the beautiful game is so vital.

I wish you all an exciting UEFA EURO 2012 and look forward to sharing some unforgettable moments with you in Poland and Ukraine.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which reads 'Michel Platini'. The signature is stylized and fluid, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

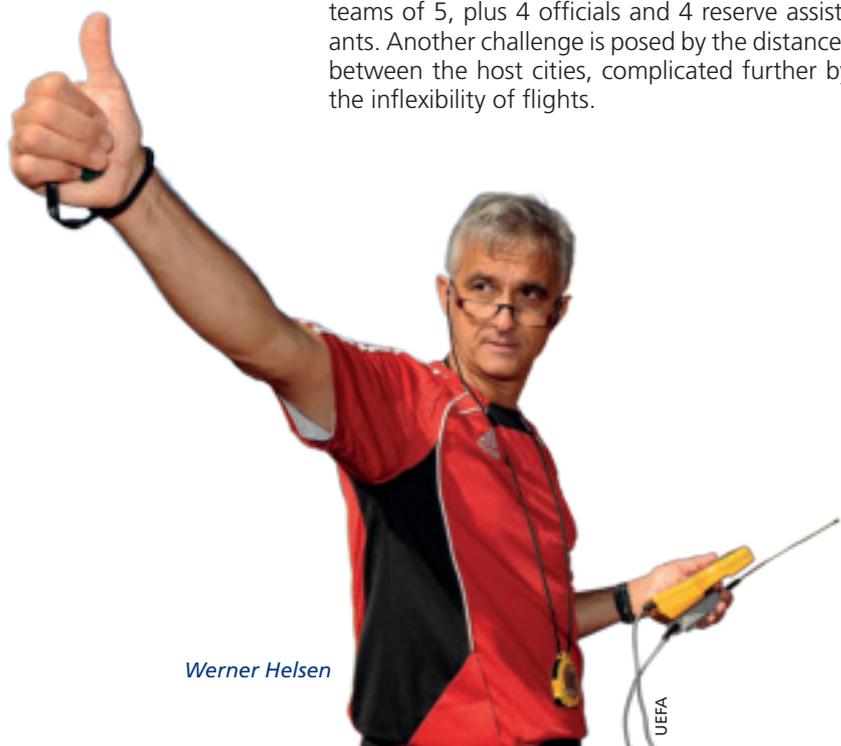
**Michel Platini**  
UEFA President

## TEN EYES ON EVERY MATCH

Five-man refereeing teams, which have already been introduced in the UEFA club competitions, will be used in the European Football Championship for the first time at UEFA EURO 2012. For the 68 referees and those working with them, this presents no shortage of challenges.



Werner Helsen has already worked at three FIFA World Cups and will shortly participate in his fourth European Championship final round. Along with five coaches, three physiotherapists and a doctor, he is responsible for monitoring the referees' physical preparation. The introduction of five-man teams has increased the number of referees at their base in Warsaw to 68: 12 teams of 5, plus 4 officials and 4 reserve assistants. Another challenge is posed by the distances between the host cities, complicated further by the inflexibility of flights.



Werner Helsen

### TOPSPORTSLAB

Werner Helsen, professor at the Catholic University of Leuven (KUL), head of its perception and performance laboratory and a referee coach for FIFA and UEFA, joined forces with professional coach Jan Van Winckel to create TopSportsLab, an online laboratory based at the KUL. Athletes or their clubs enter their medical history, the results of tests suggested by TopSportsLab, and their training and competition data, including intensity, heart rate and athlete's weight. Journey times, time differences, nights spent in hotels: everything is taken into account. Algorithms based on tests carried out since 2003 are used to calculate the athlete's precise risk of injury, with high-risk zones shown in colour on front and back images of the body. Based on these results, TopSportsLab suggests injury prevention exercises and an appropriate workload, not only to prevent injury, but also to optimise performance. It is a matter of providing personalised assistance to further everyone's progress and of "athleticising" in order to iron out weaknesses and maintain strengths.

This online laboratory is particularly useful for those involved in team sports, where most training takes place in groups even though each individual has their own strengths and weaknesses, as well as their own peaks and troughs where performance is concerned. ● P.P.

### Quintets

There are actually six men involved in the referee teams, since each also includes a fourth official. "The fourth officials may not have much physical work to do during the tournament, but afterwards they will be performing in their domestic championships, so they too need to keep fit, and they must be ready to step in if required," said Werner Helsen. "In Warsaw, everyone will warm up together, but afterwards the referees and assistants will train differently in sessions designed according to the matches and tasks, which are different for each role." However, since the referees form a team, the staff have also designed group exercises to help them improve their concentration and reflexes.

Pierluigi Collina, chief refereeing officer, asked Werner Helsen to design a structured, joint warm-up routine to be followed on a section of the pitch. It was developed during the qualifying matches and will be used at EURO 2012. Together, the officials complete a session split into five sections: five minutes of walking or running, five minutes of dynamic stretching, five minutes of joint mobility exercises, five minutes of acceleration in all directions and five minutes of sprints followed by a fun visual concentration exercise in which the referees take it in turns to adapt their position to the movements of two colleagues in order to remain at a 90° angle.

### Preparation

Since their course in Antalya at the start of February, the referees' training has been managed by TopSportsLab. Once again, Werner Helsen and his colleagues are faced with the difficulties of a busy calendar, since the best referees, who will be travelling to EURO 2012, are also in demand for the top matches in their domestic championships and UEFA club competitions. More than ever, the programme must be tailor-made for each individual. "A UEFA Champions League match represents more than 20,000 heartbeats, such is its intensity. Heart rate is a crucial factor in measuring the intensity of effort and recovery, which must be quick." The referees, who wear a heart monitor linked to a computer, receive a heart rate chart after each match and training session. A new iPad application is used by the clubs and referees. Data must be entered even on rest days, but once the system has been mastered it is quick to use. Referees must also submit data about their matches, such as cards shown: "The end of a match is often decisive. The players



**The EURO 2012 referees**

From left to right: (back row) Stéphane Lannoy, Howard Webb, Wolfgang Stark, Jonas Eriksson, Cüneyt Çakır; (front row) Viktor Kassai, Nicola Rizzoli, Björn Kuipers, Pedro Proença Oliveira Alves, Damir Skomina, Carlos Velasco Carballo  
Missing: Craig Thomson

UEFA

become tired, but the referee must remain alert.”

Injury prevention and improved performances are not the only important issues. Communication in real time is crucial. *“I am talking about communication with UEFA, with the national team coaches and with the referees themselves. The referee coaches have been introduced to TopSportsLab and can access the data submitted by the referees. But feedback is essential: we tell the referees that they are working well and what, if anything, needs improving. Referees remain very isolated in football. They appreciate this communication, this concern we have for them. They respond very enthusiastically”.*

Werner Helsen, who himself coached Pierluigi Collina, has developed a close partnership with the former referee. They came up with the idea of joint warm-ups, for example, as well as the anecdote that soon all referees will have perfectly toned abs. *“Pierluigi is concerned about image. Even if referees are in perfect physical condition, some of them look a little less toned as they get older. We measure their body fat percentage because weight in itself is less important. Larger muscles increase a person’s weight without any negative consequences. However, if the body fat percentage is high, something must be done.”* ● Pascale Pierard

**STRICT GUIDELINES**

**At the UEFA EURO 2012 referees’ preparatory workshop in Warsaw at the beginning of May, the UEFA Referees Committee issued guidelines for the match officials to follow at the final tournament in Poland and Ukraine.**

Among the instructions delivered were that strict action should be taken in cases of so-called *“mobbing”*, and in situations where players become involved in mass confrontations.

*“We don’t want to have referees surrounded by protesting players. This does not give a good image of the game,”* said Pierluigi Collina, UEFA’s chief referee officer. *“Nor do we want to see 20 players in a mass confrontation – yellow cards will be given to the initiators.”* UEFA is also determined that players should be protected. *“We have reminded the referees to deal with challenges that could potentially endanger the safety of a player.”*

*“The instructions given to the match officials will be exactly the same as those delivered to the players and coaches,”* said Collina. *“We would like referees, coaches and players to be speaking the same language in terms of football, interpretation and the Laws of the Game.”* ●



UEFA

## LINKING THE TALENT OF THE FUTURE WITH THE LEGACY OF UEFA EURO 2012

Monday 26 March heralded kick-off time for the first group of students involved in UEFA's host broadcast talent programme – a pioneering project which, as UEFA's communications director, Alexandre Fourtoy, puts it, *"aims to involve talented students in UEFA EURO 2012 in order to give them valuable work experience and personal insights as part of the legacy of the tournament in Poland and Ukraine."*



Students at work in Kyiv

A total of 230 students successfully negotiated a lengthy selection process which started 431 days before the tournament's kick-off date and was conducted in conjunction with universities in the eight host cities. *"It's a great opportunity for our students to understand what it means to participate in an international event of such magnitude. Direct involvement is worth more than hundreds of hours in the lecture room,"* said Jacek Witkos, a vice-chancellor at Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznan.

### Specialised training

During the months leading up to the tournament, the emphasis is on specialised training blended with activities designed to offer unique experiences and establish communication links between the students, enhancing their commitment to the groundbreaking project. Since early March, students have had access to an e-learning platform featuring in-depth project management training. Behind-the-scenes visits to each stadium have been organised to familiarise the students with their working environment, and team spirit has been boosted by online communication, including a football predictor game with monthly prizes.

Seven of the students have already gained first-hand work experience at the final draw in Kyiv, with a further 101 attending technical training workshops involving practical sessions with the broadcast equipment they will be using

during the tournament – an introduction which will be backed up by further training when they arrive at their venues. But the project is not pegged exclusively to on-site broadcast operations. The vast majority of the students are also receiving training in business areas such as recruitment, job applications, CV writing, interview skills (face-to-face and video-conferencing techniques) and social media awareness as part of the UEFA programme.

### Rewarding quality

The emphasis is on quality and on developing top-class professionals for the future. During the tournament, the project managers will select students who have made outstanding contributions to the host broadcast operation, and the reward for one Polish and one Ukrainian student will be a week's work experience linked to their area of academic study at UEFA's headquarters in Nyon.

*"I didn't know what to expect,"* admits Zofia Wasik, one of the students recruited for the commentary support team in Warsaw. *"But I enjoyed the technical workshop and I'm looking forward to putting everything I've learned into practice. Throughout the programme, UEFA has done everything in a very professional manner, and being treated this way by such an organisation is greatly appreciated by all of us."*

UEFA will foster exchange and support the students in every possible way, with the aim of making them great professionals in the future. ●



# TV PRODUCTION AT UEFA EURO 2012

Following the success of the TV coverage of EURO 2008 (96% of broadcasters judged the production and services provided to be of high or very high quality), UEFA has created an ambitious production structure for EURO 2012, with the aim of broadcasting the tournament in the best possible conditions throughout the world.

Forming part of UEFA's communications division, the TV production unit has devised the broadcast project in accordance with simple but fundamental principles: *"UEFA is not a broadcaster, but it delivers images to the broadcasters, who know their audience and must be allowed to create the best possible coverage themselves, and the live match always remains the absolute priority,"* says Alexandre Fourtoy, UEFA communications director.

The TV production team is responsible for producing and distributing the signal and organising services for broadcasters from around the world who will be covering the tournament in Poland and Ukraine. A production centre, known as the International Broadcast Centre (IBC), has been built in Warsaw, with floor space of more than 15,000m<sup>2</sup>, where 800 people of all nationalities will be working for both UEFA and the 40+ TV stations from around the world which will set up camp in the Polish capital.

## Highest standards

The matches will be covered in accordance with the highest production standards: 32 high-definition cameras will help to relay the full intensity of the matches. Innovative cameras, such as mini-cameras on the ground behind the goals, "flying" Spidercams and super-slow-motion cameras that capture blades of grass as they fly through the air, are available to the team of five international directors who will be in charge of production at the tournament.

The directors, two Frenchmen, a German and two Englishmen, formed a team very early on and have worked together to decide how the tournament will be covered. Coverage will therefore be consistent and truly international.

François Lanaud, Jean-Jacques Amsellem, Knut Fleishmann, Jamie Oakford and John Watts (who will direct coverage of the opening ceremony) make up the UEFA EURO 2012 "dream team".

While the images will thrill and inspire TV audiences during the tournament, producing the signal is, above all, a monumental technical and logistical exercise. A team of 1,500 people

will be spread between the eight stadiums and the IBC in Warsaw. The production trucks will come from all over Europe and many of them will remain at one stadium, with only the technical teams travelling from one match to another. The participating national teams will be followed by 16 camera crews so that images can be provided throughout the tournament.

## Innovations

Committed to giving the world the best possible coverage of the tournament, UEFA has also deployed the very latest technologies. The Livex server can be used to record ten feeds simultaneously and make them available in real time to subscribing TV broadcasters, which can then find and select the best angles at any time. A simplified version of this server can even be accessed via the internet by broadcasters which are not physically present in Poland but which nevertheless want to enhance their programmes.

Among this year's innovations, UEFA will provide broadcasters with a brand-new application for tablets, as part of the wide range of tools that will help them to exploit their digital rights. iPad users will be able to switch cameras and angles themselves or choose their own slow-motion replays while they are watching the match, providing "à la carte" coverage in which every viewer can play the role of director in order to follow their favourite team as closely as possible!

By providing the highest match production standards, UEFA will offer unrivalled promotion of the host countries and the tournament as it opens the so-called "ninth stadium", which will accommodate 200 million fans for each match. ●

*The IBC in Warsaw*

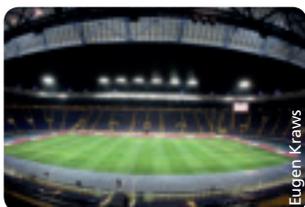




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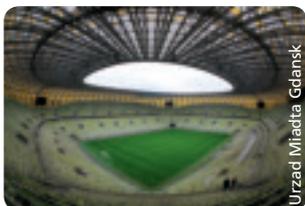
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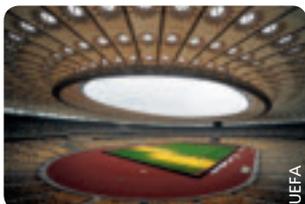
GDANSK



POZNAN



DONETSK



KYIV



# EURO 2012 MATCH SCHEDULE

## Group A

8 June	18:00*	Warsaw	Poland – Greece
	20:45	Wroclaw	Russia – Czech Republic
12 June	18:00	Wroclaw	Greece – Czech Republic
	20:45	Warsaw	Poland – Russia
16 June	20:45	Warsaw	Greece – Russia
	20:45	Wroclaw	Czech Republic – Poland

## Group B

9 June	18:00	Kharkiv	Netherlands – Denmark
	20:45	Lviv	Germany – Portugal
13 June	18:00	Lviv	Denmark – Portugal
	20:45	Kharkiv	Netherlands – Germany
17 June	20:45	Kharkiv	Portugal – Netherlands
	20:45	Lviv	Denmark – Germany

## Group C

10 June	18:00	Gdansk	Spain – Italy
	20:45	Poznan	Republic of Ireland – Croatia
14 June	18:00	Poznan	Italy – Croatia
	20:45	Gdansk	Spain – Republic of Ireland
18 June	20:45	Gdansk	Croatia – Spain
	20:45	Poznan	Italy – Republic of Ireland

## Group D

11 June	18:00	Donetsk	France – England
	20:45	Kyiv	Ukraine – Sweden
15 June	18:00	Donetsk	Ukraine – France
	20:45	Kyiv	Sweden – England
19 June	20:45	Kyiv	Sweden – France
	20:45	Donetsk	England – Ukraine

## Quarter-finals

21 June	20:45	Warsaw	Group A winners – Group B runners-up
22 June	20:45	Gdansk	Group B winners – Group A runners-up
23 June	20:45	Donetsk	Group C winners – Group D runners-up
24 June	20:45	Kyiv	Group D winners – Group C runners-up

## Semi-finals

27 June	20:45	Donetsk
28 June	20:45	Warsaw

## Final

1 July	20:45	Kyiv
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\* Kick-off times CET

# BETTER WORKING CONDITIONS FOR PROFESSIONAL PLAYERS

The first Europe-wide social agreement in professional football was signed on 19 April in Brussels. UEFA concluded this historic agreement with the social partners of the professional football sector to ensure minimum standards for player contracts in the European Union and the rest of UEFA's territory.

The agreement sets out minimum requirements for players' contracts in order to protect both players and clubs, safeguarding player welfare and ultimately contributing to good governance in European football.

The agreement was signed by Michel Platini and Gianni Infantino for UEFA, as president and general secretary respectively, Frédéric Thiriez for the Association of European Professional Football Leagues (EPFL), Karl-Heinz Rummenigge for the European Club Association (ECA) and Philippe Piat for the European division of the International Federation of Professional Footballers' Associations (FIFPro Division Europe).

The signing ceremony was hosted by the European Commission in Brussels and conducted in the presence of László Andor, commissioner for employment, social affairs and inclusion, and Androulla Vassiliou, commissioner responsible for sport. The European Commission supports the European social dialogue in the professional football sector and is committed to assisting the partners in the monitoring and implementation of the agreement.

## Protection of players a key priority

Michel Platini underlined the protection of players as having been a key priority for him since he became president of UEFA. He also said that the new agreement, and the EU social dialogue in general, had brought the "European football family around the same table, speaking with a united voice".

László Andor welcomed the agreement and called it a "significant achievement for EU-level social dialogue in the professional football sector". He saw the agreement as a first step in offering minimum social standards for young players especially, and added that the European Commission expected it to come into force not only across the EU, but also beyond, "in all 53 UEFA countries".

## Rights and duties

The EU Social Dialogue Committee for professional football was created in July 2008 and



From left to right: Philippe Piat (FIFPro Division Europe), Karl-Heinz Rummenigge (ECA), Androulla Vassiliou (European Commission), László Andor (European Commission), Michel Platini (UEFA) and Frédéric Thiriez (EPFL)

brings together the organisations representing employers and employees so that they can work together to agree on the employment and social conditions needed in the professional football sector. UEFA, as the governing body of European football, is also represented on the committee, which is chaired by the UEFA president.

The agreement reached in April requires that contracts, for example:

- be in writing;
- define the basic rights and duties of club and player;
- address matters such as salary, health insurance, social security, paid leave, etc.;
- contain provisions on dispute resolution and applicable law.

The minimum requirements also include an obligation for players under contract to participate in training, maintain a healthy lifestyle and comply with applicable disciplinary procedures.

The UEFA Congress formally approved the agreement on 22 March in Istanbul. It has since also been approved by the relevant decision-making bodies of the EPFL, ECA and FIFPro Division Europe. ●

# ARTIFICIAL PITCH PROJECTS IN LATVIA AND LITHUANIA

The UEFA HatTrick programme funds a wide range of development projects across UEFA's 53 member associations, in areas such as governance and social responsibility, as well as operational and infrastructure development.



Lithuanian FF

An artificial pitch in Vilnius

Here, the national associations of Latvia and Lithuania openly discuss the progress of their artificial pitch projects, which aim to support and drive the game at all levels in their respective countries.

## Can you give a synopsis of where you stand in your projects?

**Latvia:** Over time, we have built nine full-size pitches. Approximately half are located in the capital city, Riga, and the remaining half are spread across the country. They are intentionally situated next to schools for day-time education and evening training. In partnership with the local authorities, these pitches primarily cater for youth football and all are open to the general public.

**Lithuania:** So far, six artificial pitches have been completed and a further three are under

construction. The pitches are dispersed across the country, in both busy towns and more rural areas, mostly operating as town stadiums and training centres. Constructed in cooperation with the local authorities, these pitches are regularly used by local football clubs to stage matches and training sessions in all divisions, from the professional top-level game to youth training, amateur matches and grassroots tournaments.

## Can you pinpoint the key benefits since the introduction of these artificial pitches?

**Latvia:** The national association joined forces with the local authorities and, together, we have built new football pitches across the country. As a result, we have introduced new regional youth training camps where youth national team coaches can spot new talent and nurture it

accordingly. We should also point out the social benefits for many communities, with widespread access to modern and safe facilities, as well the cost savings involved.

**Lithuania:** The introduction of artificial pitches has considerably extended the season at all levels, while also maintaining the quality of the football, because the pitches are not affected by the harsh winter conditions. As a result, the Lithuanian top division was able to kick off on 10 March this year. We should also underline the cost benefits for the clubs, as artificial pitches allow for a reduction in maintenance costs and at the same time provide for a substantial increase in usage per hour (in comparison with natural pitches).

### How do you manage pitch maintenance?

**Latvia:** Last year, our national association introduced a centralised pitch maintenance programme, which is most effective for a small country such as Latvia. We purchased the necessary equipment and have two maintenance teams working in regular rotation. Additionally, routine maintenance checks are performed on-site by local authority staff in the various locations. It is very important to make this relationship management a success.

**Lithuania:** Maintenance equals sustainability, so it is a crucial factor. Given that high-quality artificial pitches were a new introduction in our country and little was known about them, it was a prerequisite for the LFF to hold maintenance training workshops. Following this intensive training, the pitch owners – normally the local authorities or clubs – directly manage the pitch maintenance. Alongside this, the LFF project department carries out regular visits to monitor and review the maintenance.

### Have you got any advice for other UEFA member associations that may be considering artificial pitches?

**Latvia:** For a number of reasons, we fully support the location of pitches in close proximity to schools. The pitches are used every day and are therefore well maintained, which is essential. Schools are also ideal places to attract younger players and encourage grassroots development. From a construction point of view, it is extremely important to carefully select the turf supplier and involve them in the planning and construction of the pitch from the very beginning. Also, if you are returfing an older pitch, the sub-base must be examined to ensure it is compatible with the new product.

**Lithuania:** We would also emphasise carefully choosing the turf supplier as being essential – perhaps selecting several suppliers in coordination with the venues. If you are working with partners on such a project, we strongly recommend that you allocate additional time and

resources to ensure team-work and a clear understanding of the operational aspects. Once the installation is complete, always carry out regular inspections.

### Have you encountered any negative responses and, if so, how have you addressed these?

**Latvia:** We had some negative feedback mainly in relation to the quality of the sub-base and water permeability. The pitches in question were finished last year and we are continuing to monitor the situation to ensure that we implement the most appropriate solution. Of course, we also hear the old-fashioned remark that natural is better than artificial – but overall the players recognise the benefits and make intensive use of these pitches. Actions speak louder than words in this context!

**Lithuania:** There is a general myth that players are more prone to injury on artificial pitches but this is easily disproven by medical and other scientific research. We have also had some comments about adapting play from natural to artificial pitches, but the majority understand this is the best way forward for our national football, considering the harsh climate we live in. As a whole, the feedback has been very positive and we are delighted with the results. ●

*Young Latvian footballers are the first to benefit from the new pitches*



Latvian FF

UEFA fully supports these and similar projects, and thanks both the Latvian and Lithuanian football federations for this open account of their experiences to date. It is particularly important to emphasise the maintenance aspect, because this does, in fact, determine the lifespan of each artificial pitch. Under the auspices of the HatTrick programme, UEFA can coordinate dedicated maintenance seminars and ensure that members receive the necessary expert training and product knowledge. Ultimately, this will lead to longer-lasting pitches and safe and secure environments in which to play football – as well as a solid return on investment over time.

# FC BARCELONA ADD INDOOR TITLE TO LIST OF HONOURS

It may be a moot point, but as FC Barcelona were officially the UEFA Champions League title holders until the 2012 final in Munich on 19 May, the Catalan club became the first to hold the outdoor and indoor titles simultaneously when they lifted the UEFA Futsal Cup in Lleida on 29 April.



A great atmosphere at the UEFA Futsal Cup finals at the Pavelló Barris Nord



The hosts also made history by taking the tournament out of their home town, opting to stage it 180km inland at the Pavelló Barris Nord in Lleida – and the move proved to be an outstanding success. The event was a sell-out and, even though it is not UEFA's usual style to single out groups of supporters, *Els Dracs* (The Dragons) deserve special mention, their vocal stamina and infectious singing having converted games into passionate futsal fiestas.

## Stunning games

They and the other spectators in the 5,500-capacity sports hall were treated to four stunning games. Although the four teams were from Italy, Russia, Portugal and Spain, the latter two countries provided all four coaches, with Spain's Carmona and Faustino Pérez "Tino" disputing the final after Portugal's Tiago Polido and Orlando Duarte had competed for bronze medals.

Tino's MFK Dinamo Moskva emerged as 3-0 winners from the opening semi-final against Italian debutants Marca Futsal. Goal attempts were equally distributed, but the Russians' attacking punch proved the decisive factor. Later that

## RESULTS

### 27 April – Semi-finals

FC Barcelona – Sporting Clube de Portugal 5-1  
 Marca Futsal – MFK Dinamo Moskva 0-3

### 29 April

#### Third-place play-off

Marca Futsal – Sporting Clube de Portugal 3-3, 4-3\*  
 \* penalty shoot-out

#### Final

MFK Dinamo Moskva – FC Barcelona 1-3

evening, FC Barcelona raced into a 4-0 lead within 16 minutes of their opener against Sporting Clube de Portugal, prompting Orlando Duarte to gamble on the flying goalkeeper as early as the closing minutes of the first half. The ploy continued throughout the second half but, with the Barça goalkeeper Paco Sedano saving a penalty, Sporting could not prevent a 5-1 defeat.

The Lions then raced into a two-goal lead in the bronze-medal match against Marca, with Leitão striking twice in the fourth minute. But the Italians bounced back to take a 3-2 lead, with Pedro Cary's equaliser three minutes from time sending the match into a penalty shoot-out, which Marca won 4-3.

## Dramatic final

The final between Barça and Dinamo was even more dramatic. The match was played with extraordinary pace, intensity, control and tactical awareness, with both Spanish coaches encouraging their players to take risks and carry the game to the opposition. Barça coach Marc Carmona said afterwards, "I think the only difference between the teams was our greater success in front of goal."

Barça took 78 seconds to convert a set play into a goal by Wilde – which was the cue for 39 minutes of stunning end-to-end play. The game tilted in Barça's favour when Angel Velasco "Lin" put them 2-0 up just after the break, only for Alexander Rakhimov (when Tatù was on as flying goalkeeper) to set up a grandstand finish by making it 2-1 with just over three minutes on the clock. But then, almost immediately, Ari Santos made a supreme effort to keep the ball in play, sliding it from the touchline into the path of Jordi Torras, who paused, as if in disbelief, before tapping the ball into the unguarded Dinamo net. FC Barcelona, in the UEFA Futsal Cup for the first time, were victorious. ●

## SEVEN EUROPEAN TEAMS AT THE FUTSAL WORLD CUP

Seven European teams have secured places at the FIFA Futsal World Cup, which is being held in Thailand from 1 to 18 November this year. They qualified through home-and-away play-offs held in the spring. Six of the teams that made it through (Spain, Italy, Russia, Portugal, Ukraine and the Czech Republic) were present at the last Futsal World Cup finals, while the seventh, Serbia, are making their debut on futsal's world stage.

## CLUB ATLÉTICO DE MADRID SWEEP TO VICTORY

With five teams among the eight semi-finalists in UEFA's two main club competitions, Spain could well have made history by monopolising both finals.



Those hopes were dashed in the UEFA Champions League when FC Barcelona and Real Madrid CF succumbed to Chelsea FC and FC Bayern München respectively. In the UEFA Europa League, however, Athletic Club got the better of Sporting Clube de Portugal, the only non-Spanish team in the running, to set up an all-Spanish final with Club Atlético de Madrid, who beat Valencia CF in the semis.

The two finalists shared many similarities – not least their names and first-choice red-and-white kits. This is hardly surprising, though, given that Atlético started life as an offshoot of Athletic Club, created by some Basque students living in Madrid. The two clubs have also both chosen Argentinians to coach their first teams, with Diego Simeone at the helm in Madrid and Marcelo Bielsa in charge at Athletic Club.

That said, there are also plenty of differences, if only because Bilbao-based Athletic Club is resolutely Basque and strongly attached to its regional identity and recruitment of local players – a policy rarely seen in modern-day football, where a lot of transfers are made and many of them international.

It was, in fact, Falcao, a Colombian player whose goalscoring prowess is already well known in Europe, who put paid to the Basque team's dreams of lifting the trophy. Having scored FC Porto's winning goal against SC Braga in last year's Europa League final, he beautifully converted both of Atlético's first two chances on goal in this year's showdown.

After that, Atlético were in control of the game, continuing to make excellent use of the pitch. Their opponents, although well armed in terms of technique, lacked penetrating power and, at times, precision. As the final whistle approached, a counter by Diego of Brazil sealed victory for Atlético, whose experience in the European spotlight ultimately set them apart from Athletic Club more than any difference in quality. Atlético lifted the UEFA Europa League trophy for the second time, having first done so in 2010, and earned themselves a fourth UEFA title to add to their Cup Winners' Cup win of 1962 and their 2010 Super Cup. ●

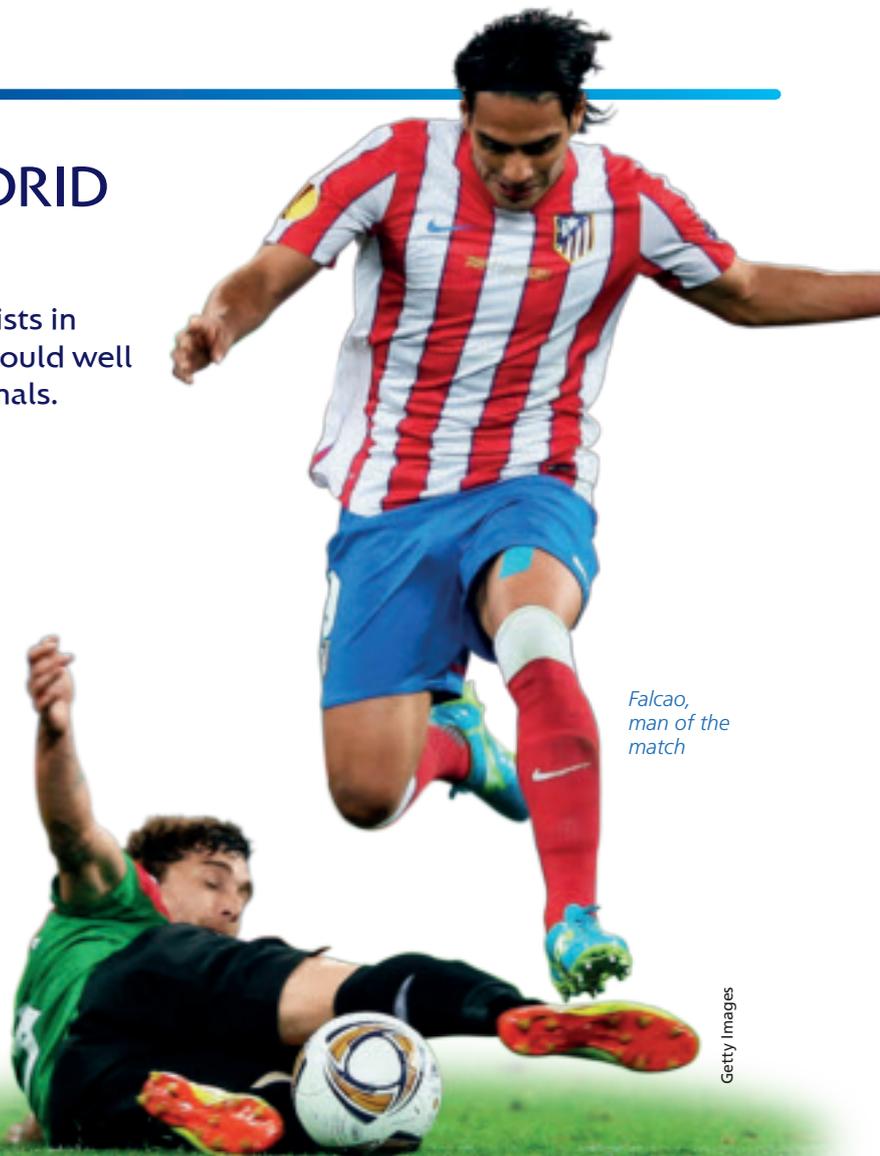
### 9 May 2012

National Arena, Bucharest – 52,347 spectators

**Club Atlético de Madrid – Athletic Club 3-0 (2-0)**

Goals: Falcao (7, 34), Diego (85)

Referee: Wolfgang Stark (Germany)



Falcao, man of the match

Getty Images

## A FIRST FOR ROMANIA

The 2012 UEFA Europa League final is the biggest and most important sports event ever hosted by Bucharest, or Romania as a whole for that matter. In terms of precedents, 31 years ago, in 1981, Bucharest organised the Universiade, or World University Games, in 1998 it hosted the final tournament of the UEFA European Under-21 Championship, and last year the final round of the UEFA European Under-19 Championship was held on the outskirts of the city.

However, in a country with as rich and famous a sporting tradition as Romania, nothing compares with the importance of the UEFA Europa League final, hosted at the new National Arena on 9 May. In construction since January 2008 and inaugurated less than a year ago, the new venue was built on the site of Romania's old national stadium, which since 1953 had hosted many of the country's most important events in football and other sports.

The climax to four years of hard work in Romania came when the ball started rolling on 9 May. Just under a month earlier, as a prelude to this showpiece event, the trophy arrived in Bucharest and was ceremonially handed over by the UEFA president, Michel Platini, to the mayor of Bucharest, Sorin Oprescu.

At the trophy handover, the UEFA president noted *"the passion and enthusiasm of the Bucharest people and the Romanians generally."* He went on to say: *"I am sure it was an excellent idea to have this final in Bucharest and we are happy to be here."*

*"Romanians know how to welcome their guests – teams, officials, fans, tourists – and this final between two Latin teams in a Latin country will represent an immense joy for all the people of Bucharest,"* the mayor replied.

Mircea Sandu, president of the Romanian Football Federation (FRF), added: *"Having this stadium and this final is an encouraging sign for Romanian football. It will generate more than 30,000 visitors and all those who offer services in the city should understand what a final like this means."*

Paul Zaharia

## EUROPEAN TITLE TO BE DECIDED IN NYON

Although the eyes of all football fans are turning to events in Poland and Ukraine, another European title – the European Women’s Under-17 Championship – will be contested at the end of June in Nyon.



Colovray stadium is hosting the final round of the European Women’s Under-17 Championship on 26 and 29 June. The four teams battling it out will be Germany (twice winners of the tournament), Denmark (who finished third in 2008), France (twice finalists) and Switzerland (who have never reached this stage of the competition before).

Defending champions Spain, who have won the tournament for the last two years, were knocked out at home in the second qualifying round, losing 3-0 to Germany in the decisive match and finishing second in their group.

*Paula Guerrero shows her despair as Germany celebrate beating title holders Spain to qualify for the final round of the European Women’s Under-17 Championship*



Doyle/Bongarts/Getty Images

The semi-finals will take place on 26 June, with Switzerland playing France and Denmark playing Germany. The winners of those two games will contest the final on 29 June and will both qualify for the FIFA Under-17 Women’s World Cup, which is being held from 22 September to 13 October in Azerbaijan. ●

## UNDER-19S TAKE CENTRE STAGE IN JULY

The final rounds of both the men’s and women’s European Under-19 Championships are being played in the first half of July.



Turkey will play host to the seven other teams (England, Denmark, Spain, Portugal, Romania, Serbia and Sweden) still in the running in the European Women’s Under-19 Championship. The matches will be played between 2 and 14 July at three venues in Antalya (Titanic Stadium, the World of Wonders Football Centre and the Mardan Sport Complex).

On 24 April the teams were drawn in the following groups:

*Group A:* Turkey, Portugal, Denmark, Romania

*Group B:* Spain, Serbia, England, Sweden

Group matches will be played on 2, 5 and 8 July, the semi-finals will take place on 11 July, and the final will be played on 14 July. ●



The men’s tournament, meanwhile, is taking place in Estonia between 3 and 15 July. This final round of matches will also determine the teams that qualify for the FIFA Under-20 World Cup, which is being held in Turkey in 2013. With the final matches in the elite round not being played until 31 May, the teams that will be joining Estonia for the tournament were not known at the time of going to press. The eight teams that qualify will be drawn into two groups in Tallinn on 6 June. The results of both the elite round matches and the final draw will be published on UEFA.com. ●

## OLYMPIC FOOTBALL TOURNAMENTS LONDON 2012

On 24 April at Wembley Stadium in London, the draw was made for the group stages of the Olympic men’s and women’s football tournaments.

The women’s tournament kicks off on 25 July and ends on 9 August. It will be contested by 12 teams, which have been drawn in the following groups:

*Group E:* Great Britain, New Zealand, Cameroon, Brazil

*Group F:* Japan, Canada, Sweden, South Africa

*Group G:* United States, France, Colombia, North Korea

The men’s tournament starts on 26 July, with the final on Saturday 11 August. Sixteen teams are taking part and have been drawn in the following groups:

*Group A:* Great Britain, Senegal, United Arab Emirates, Uruguay

*Group B:* Mexico, South Korea, Gabon, Switzerland

*Group C:* Brazil, Egypt, Belarus, New Zealand

*Group D:* Spain, Japan, Honduras, Morocco ●



The Olympic draw in London

## NORWAY WIN FAIR PLAY COMPETITION

The UEFA Respect Fair Play competition ended on 30 April. The three national associations with the most points are each entitled to enter one additional club – the winners of their respective national fair play competitions – in the first qualifying round of the 2012/13 UEFA Europa League.

The final rankings at the top of the table are as follows:

1. Norway	8.394 points
2. Finland	8.300
3. Netherlands	8.194
4. Iceland	8.191
5. Denmark	8.134

The top five are followed by France, Sweden, Scotland, Spain, Germany, Switzerland, Wales, England, the Republic of Ireland and Serbia, all of which scored more than eight points. ●

## REALITY SHOW IN BELGIUM

The Belgian national association's EURO 2000 technical centre in Tubize provides top-class facilities for the country's national teams, is home to the national association's coaching school and technical department, and provided the scenario for the practical sessions attached to the 19th UEFA Course for Coach Educators staged from 2 to 5 April.

An equally magnificent setting at nearby La Hulpe was the venue for the indoor sessions of an event where the connecting thread was "preparing for reality".

### Sharing experience

The aim was to help the coach educators and, in many cases, the technical directors of all 53 member associations to prepare their students for the realities of life in the coaching profession where, all too often "reality" is tantamount to "harsh reality". In this respect, the participants were fortunate to be able to listen to Gérard Houllier, the Danish national team coach, Morten Olsen, and his Belgian counterpart, Georges Leekens, who all stepped on stage prepared to share the experience gathered over many years of handling top professionals in the frontline and, in particular, the thorniest situations and decisions they have had to cope with.

Georges Leekens was back on stage during the final morning to underline the importance of being able to lead the "team behind the team". The theme was taken up by Michel D'Hooghe, chairman of the UEFA and FIFA medical committees, who emphasised the need to integrate medical staff into management processes and to exploit their input. He was followed up by Packie Bonner from the Republic of Ireland and Frans Hoek from the Netherlands, who examined the role of the goalkeeper coach and specific coach education requirements in this specialised area. The methodology of match analysis was reviewed by the Belgian national team's specialist, Herman De Landtsheere, while Besnik Hasi and Chris Janssens – two current Pro licence students – presented their analyses of the UEFA Champions League quarter-finals, which the course participants were able to watch on giant screens at the headquarters hotel.

### Face the reality

In the practical sessions, the emphasis was on match-related training. On the second morning, Kris Van Der Haegen and Eric Abrams, two more Pro licence students, took a team apiece under the supervision of their tutor, Marc Van Geersom, in a full-scale game between Belgium's Under-18 and Under-19 squads. A review of the match then revealed the facets of play which needed to be worked on during the training session on the following day.



To underline the importance of equipping students to face reality, UEFA's technical director, Andy Roxburgh, presented an in-depth analysis of the demands facing the modern-day coach, the leadership qualities they need to possess, and the evolution in the basic principles of coach education. Ginés Meléndez and Michel Sablon outlined how the Spanish and Belgian coach education courses have developed in order to cope with the evolution of the game, with Michel Sablon, along with Gérard Houllier, staying on stage to receive commemorative plaques from Andy Roxburgh in recognition of their pioneering work on UEFA's Jira Panel which laid the foundations for the current Coaching Convention.

*"You need to train the next generation of coaches for the reality of the business," Andy Roxburgh said. "The focus has to be on what exactly they have to do and what competences are they going to need to do the job, and then to try to educate them in as real an environment as possible."* ●

# MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS



## Cooperation agreement between Albania and Italy

On 16 April, the Football Association of Albania (FShF) signed a cooperation agreement with the Italian Football Federation (FIGC) which will produce exchanges between the two associations in a variety of football areas.

The agreement was signed in the Albanian capital, Tirana, by the FShF president, Armand Duka, and his FIGC counterpart, Giancarlo Abete. The aim of the agreement is to produce close cooperation in technical areas, as well as the possibility of friendly matches at all national team levels.

A wide footballing spectrum is covered, including technical and educational courses, seminars and conferences, as well as an



Armand Duka (left) and Giancarlo Abete, happy at the prospect of closer cooperation between their national associations

exchange of experience and expertise in the construction and management of sports installations, materials, sports equipment and scientific equipment, training linked to technical staff and organisational procedures, and knowledge sharing in sports science and sports medicine.

During his visit to Tirana, the FIGC president met the president of Albania, Bamir Topi, as well as the FShF executive committee. He also visited the FShF museum together with Armand Duka and took part in the inauguration of a football pitch donated by the FShF to an SOS Children's Village for orphans. These events were also attended by Italy's ambassador in Tirana, Massimo Gaiani.

● Gazmend Malo



## Grassroots and zero tolerance of racism

The Andorran Football Federation (FAF) has once again contributed to the fight against racism and all forms of discrimination. Together with the Andorran capital, Andorra la Vella, and to coincide with celebrations of the World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development, the FAF is holding the eighth edition its anti-racism tournament on 19 and 20 May. This tournament will bring together different ethnic groups under the themes of breaking barriers, promoting integrity and putting a stop to racism.

Also at the end of May, the FAF is organising the 13th edition of the international Francesc Vila memorial tournament. Under-9 and Under-11 teams from some of the biggest clubs in Europe will be involved in this seven-a-side event.

In previous years, Spanish clubs have dominated the action on the pitch at this tourna-

A match in one of the previous Francesc Vila memorial tournaments



ment, but the real success story has been the fun, fair play and enthusiasm shown by all the youngsters involved. The FAF believes that this is a great opportunity to promote Andorran grassroots football by entering a team in each category this year.

The tournament is taking place over two days at the Camp d'Esports d'Aixovall and the Camp d'Ordino. Overall, 52 games will be played in the qualifying stages on the opening day, with a further 16 on the second day to decide the final

rankings. As well as the winning teams, the best players and goalkeepers in both age categories will be presented with individual prizes.

UEFA voted the international Francesc Vila memorial tournament the most valuable grassroots football event in 2004.

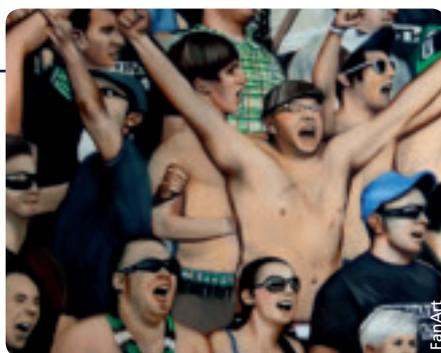
● Silvia Casals



## Fans inspire art

Fans are more than just spectators: their creativity helps to make football the exciting game it is. The Austrian Football Association (ÖFB) is tapping into this creativity by helping to organise a unique art project devoted to Austrian fans. Reflecting on images of their choreographed activities and demonstrations, artist Thomas Strobl has been using fans as inspiration for his paintings. The upshot is a unique art project comprising 20 giant oil paintings depicting the terraces of Austrian cult football clubs. While concentrating on the domestic club scene, Strobl has also produced a painting inspired by fans of the Austrian national team.

As befits the subject, the 1.7 x 2.4m oil paintings are being displayed for the first time not in a gallery but in a football stadium, in the Kult\_Kurve\_Masse\_Messe exhibition on fan cultures



One of the oil paintings on display

in the main stand of the Wiener Sportklub stadium in Vienna.

The aim of this project is to focus on the concentrated creative force of fan groups. For the ÖFB and its partner, FANART, the activities of fans in stadiums are not only an effective way of supporting their teams but also works of art in their own right. The fans who plan and

implement these choreographed productions can therefore be considered artists, too.

"The public image of fan cultures is often very negative, frequently involving violence and vandalism. This completely ignores our fans' creative and artistic efforts, which is precisely what this project is designed to promote," says Alfred Ludwig, ÖFB chief executive.



Christoph Walter

■ In April, 24-year-old Christoph Walter took up his post as the ÖFB's new media officer. Walter, who was previously press officer for the Youth Olympic Games in Innsbruck, can be contacted at christoph.walter@oefb.at, tel. +43 1 72718 21, mob. +43 699 1 7271821.

● Wolfgang Gramann

## Information system to improve competitions

A seminar has been held in Vogosca and training was provided for all player registration centres in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The main topic was how to implement the new COMET information system. COMET is an advanced application system recommended by UEFA and FIFA for all data records and for automating all processes related to the preparation, monitoring and management of competitions.

In his opening address, Jasmin Baković, general secretary of the Bosnia and Herzegovina Football Federation (NFSBiH), said that the introduction of COMET marked the beginning of a new era. *"We thank UEFA, which has accepted this project and fully funded it. I am sure that implementing this project will improve the entire system of registering players and all other information relevant to the good functioning of our association and those of the entities and regions,"* Jasmin Baković said.

Another seminar was held in Ilidza, this time for talented young referees (aged up to 27). The seminar is part of the association's implementation of the UEFA Referee Convention and was followed in full by UEFA representative Alan Snoddy. The goal of the seminar, as the chairman of the referees committee, Ibrahim Hasanbegović, pointed out, was to *"harmonise and improve refereeing criteria, in order to ensure the rules are implemented properly, fairly and consistently at all levels of competitions."*

On the anniversary of the formation of the NFSBiH normalisation committee, a media

conference was held with the NFSBiH president, Ivica Osim, vice-presidents Darko Ljubojević and Elvedin Begić, and the general secretary, Jasmin Baković. After an introduction by Ivica Osim, the general secretary briefly outlined the committee's most important activities to date. After convening the NFSBiH general meeting and adopting new statutes, the association's suspension was lifted. Since then, the normalisation committee has met 42 times and taken all its decisions unanimously. The committee has secured a sponsor for the premier league and done away with fees for the clubs, as well as introducing centralised balls for the senior and youth teams. An initiative has been launched to set up a premier league clubs' association and reorganise the top-flight competition, and a lot of financial consolidation and debt reduction work has been completed. A reform of the NFSBiH administration has also been launched.

On the pitch, the NFSBiH's U17 women's national team recently played a development tournament in Nyon, Switzerland, with Scotland, Wales and Russia. In the semi-finals Bosnia and Herzegovina drew 1-1 with Wales, only to lose 7-6 on penalties. They were then beaten 4-0 by Russia in the match for third place. The winners of the tournament were Scotland.

Back in Sarajevo, the Under-19 national teams of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia have played two friendly matches. The first ended without a winner (1-1), but in the other, Toni Karacić's players beat their visitors 3-1.

● Fuad Kravac



The Under-19s of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia in action

## Events for schools

The Football Association (FA) staged a community event on 23 April at St George's Park – England's new training ground – to mark the national St George's Day celebrations as building continues apace.

Pupils from three schools and the nearby Burton College received coaching from FA coaches, watched by Sir Trevor Brooking, the FA's director of football development, Gareth Southgate, the FA's head of elite development, and St George's Park chairman, David Sheepshanks.

The event was organised to thank those who have continued to support the East Midlands-based construction project, with work scheduled to finish in the summer, ahead of an official opening in the autumn. From next season, St George's Park will be the training ground for the 24 England teams and house a national coach education centre.

The FA, alongside hotel partner Hilton Worldwide, St George's Park education partner Burton College and builders Bowmer & Kirkland, will also launch a time capsule competition. All local schools will be invited to submit ideas for what should go into the capsule, which will be buried at a later date.

FA Learning – the association's development arm – and Sir Trevor's coaching and player development unit will relocate to the state-of-the-art facility later this summer. It features a replica Wembley pitch, a full-size indoor pitch, two hotels and a state-of-the-art medical centre.

● Greg Demetriou



Gareth Southgate and Sir Trevor Brooking with school children at the St George's Park community event

## Danish FA increases investments in women's football

Women's football has again proved to be the fastest growing sport in Denmark.

According to the latest statistics, the number of women football players has set a new record, with a rise of no less than 9.2% between 2010 and 2011. In 2004 Denmark had 55,000 registered players overall; since then the number has risen by more than 20,000. The latest statistics show that nearly 80,000 players in Denmark are girls and women, which makes football (among under-18s) the biggest sport for both sexes for the third year in a row.

This big increase in players, combined with a positive general development in women's football and good international results for both clubs and national teams, has led to concrete investments by the Danish FA. The association has decided to increase its focus on girls' and women's football over the years to come through a new Vision 2020 project. This is a comprehensive programme that targets players, coaches, volunteers and parents, i.e. people of all ages, from the grassroots to the elite. The ultimate objective is qualification for the 2020 Olympics, but there are lots of milestones to reach between now and then.

An important part of the Vision 2020 project is the implementation of a club licensing system



Women's football continues to gain ground in Denmark

in the top women's league, the *Elitedivisionen*, as of July this year. Club licensing is supported by a club development project running from 2012 to 2016, which will give financial support to the clubs to help them hire staff and organise relevant activities in both sporting and commercial domains. Efforts are being directed, in particular, towards establishing more professional club structures that include commercial leaders. This initiative is a natural extension of the youth licensing system the Danish FA has successfully implemented among its top U18 club sides since 2008.

Following the launch of Vision 2020, the Danish FA and its women's football sponsor, 3F, reached an agreement with a new Danish TV channel to show one live *Elitedivisionen* match a week. The matches are shown on both the YouSee pay-TV channel and online at www.kanalsport.dk, meaning the whole world will be able to follow the action live.

● Steen Klíngenberg



### Under-17s shine on the internet

The French Football Federation (FFF) is increasing its coverage of national youth team competitions. As a result, three European Under-17 Championship elite round matches held at the end of March in the Landes region of south-west France were broadcast live on the internet. Supporters were therefore able to watch the French team's faultless progress free of charge and in full via the fff.fr website, the French national team's Facebook fan page and FFF TV on Dailymotion.

With victories over Italy (1-0), Switzerland (2-1) and Sweden (3-1), Jean-Claude Giuntini's players made an impressive debut in front of the cameras, qualifying for the final round in Slovenia in May.



France's youth teams can now be followed on the internet



The positive results were matched by the online viewing figures, which rose from 10,000 for the first match to more than 15,000 for the last. These figures are particularly encouraging for a brand-new venture such as this.

It is still possible to watch the three French victories on the Dailymotion FFF TV page:

<http://www.dailymotion.com/ffftv#video=xprsih>. This initiative raises the profile of the FFF's national teams and will no doubt be repeated in the near future so that supporters can follow the performances of all the French teams, especially the men's and women's youth selections.

● *Matthieu Brelle-Andrade*



### Federal president becomes patron of Blind Bundesliga

The newly elected president of Germany, Joachim Gauck, has agreed to become the patron of the Blind Bundesliga. This is a real honour for the competition, the only one of its kind in Europe for blind and partially sighted people. Under the motto *Mit Fußball in die Mitte der Gesellschaft* (Into the heart of society with football), the league is breaking new ground, with the majority of games taking place in public areas in town centres. The tournament, which has been running since 2008 as a joint project organised by the German Football Association's Sepp Herberger Foundation, the German Disabled Sport Association and the German Association for Blind and Partially Sighted People, is also one of the 365 prize winners in this year's Germany – Land of Ideas competition.

"Blind football is a fascinating form of grassroots and elite football," Gauck says. "The battle for the rattling ball creates a spirit of unity, contributing significantly to our sense of community. Blind football shows us the extraordinary achievements that disabled people are capable of, helping to bring about greater mutual understanding. I was therefore delighted to take on the patronage of this project."

● *Stephan Brause*



Football for blind and partially sighted people makes a big difference to the players' lives



### Children invited to play at the national stadium

Every year, for Passover, the Israel Football Association (IFA) opens its doors to the public and fans, inviting them to take part in a great football family gathering.

managed to find the winning hole in the goal. His prize was a flight to Germany with his whole family for the Israeli national team's friendly match against Germany in Leipzig on 31 May.

Everyone had the chance to see the next generation of Israeli players in action, with three



Some of the youngsters who took part in the open day

This year, on 11 April, the traditional open day was held at the national stadium in Ramat Gan. For the fourth year running, children, families and other fans had the great opportunity to participate in all sorts of activities including face-painting and tours of the stadium dressing rooms. There were games for children of all ages, PlayStations, autograph sessions with members of the U21 national team, photo sessions with the national cup and much more besides. A big goal-kick competition was won by a ten-year-old who

youth cup finals played at the national stadium during the day.

One of the biggest attractions, however, was a showcase match between an Israeli artists' team featuring many celebrities and a team of former Israel internationals, including Haim Revivo.

The open day was completely free of charge and attracted more than 11,000 people, making it one of the IFA's biggest grassroots events ever.

● *Michal Grundland*

## UEFA KISS workshop

Liechtenstein had the honour of hosting a UEFA KISS workshop for the first time on 19 and 20 April. The Liechtenstein Football Association (LFV) was delighted to be invited to organise this event, especially as it was the 100th workshop to be held since the UEFA KISS programme was launched in 2005.

Around 40 national association representatives from various European countries shared their ideas over the two days in more than a dozen presentations and a range of group activities on the themes of marketing, sponsorship and fan engagement. Representing the LFV, Andrea Schneider talked about the past

and future marketing of football in the principality. On account of the small size of the country, whose population is just 35,000, opportunities to promote football are extremely limited. Having no national television station and a shortage of potential sponsors are just two of the aggravating factors. Nevertheless – or perhaps as a result – the LFV is using innovative ideas to entice the Liechtenstein public into the national stadium and generate enthusiasm. A crowd of just 3,500 home fans at an international match would constitute no less than 10% of the country's population. Where else could such a thing be envisaged?



Andrea Schneider giving a presentation on marketing football in Liechtenstein

● Anton Banzer

## Mini-football in nursery schools

For the fifth successive season, nursery schools all over Lithuania have been busy with the *Futboliukas* mini-football project.

Played three-a-side in closed spaces, *Futboliukas* is a fun game and a good substitute for conventional football in winter and early spring, when it is not possible to play outside because of the weather.

*"It has evolved from a project into a phenomenon,"* said Vaidotas Rastenis, grassroots football manager at the Lithuanian Football Federation (LFF). *"This version of football has spread enormously and the nursery-school instructors happily share with others their experiences of organising this simple and attractive game".*

Part of a long-term LFF programme entitled *Sugražinkime vaikus į stadionus* (Let's bring children back to the stadiums), this year the project attracted over 100 nursery schools, about half of which had already participated in



Experiencing the fun of football from a young age

previous years. Over 10,000 children took part. In other news, the LFF has relaunched its web-TV project *Futbolo.TV*, which has become the official website of the Lithuanian championship. The site has a modern match centre and

streams all championship matches live, as well as providing video reports on the league and all other major football activities in the country.

● Vaidotas Januska

## UEFA president in Malta

In an island country of just over 400,000 inhabitants, regarded by many as being football mad, the Malta Football Association is recognised for its unstinting commitment to implementing improvement plans in all areas of the game.

Grassroots football and the principle of putting the clubs at the forefront of the improvement plans are central to the association's programme, designed to give further impetus to football in Malta.

The programme includes a project to improve football infrastructure around the country and help the clubs run their own facilities in a more professional way. This project has been financed mainly by UEFA, the Maltese FA, the government and commercial banks.

Providing a different kind of support, the UEFA president, Michel Platini, visited the island on 31 March and in doing so helped endorse

the MFA's mission statement, which has at its core the provision of pitches, training grounds, modern premises and other facilities for all its member clubs.

During his one-day visit, the UEFA president inaugurated one of the several artificial pitches laid in the south of the island. At the event, which was also attended by Lawrence Gonzi, the prime minister of Malta, the UEFA president praised the Maltese association for its work and expressed his satisfaction with the association's policies aimed at youth players and clubs, saying they were totally in line with those of UEFA.



The UEFA president gives a pennant to the MFA president, Norman Darmanin Demajo

The UEFA president also stressed his resolve to eradicate corruption in football, an objective to which the MFA is equally committed.

● Alex Vella



### UEFA Study Group Scheme

The Moldovan national teams' technical centre in Vadul lui Voda recently hosted the country's first four-day UEFA Study Group Scheme session. Participants came from Bulgaria, Georgia and Italy, with special guests Anders Levinsen (managing director of the Cross Cultures Project Association) and Valeri Cholaria (Open Fun Football Schools regional coordinator for the Commonwealth of Independent States and Georgia). All came to hear about grassroots football at the Football Association of Moldova (FAM).

The visitors were welcomed by the FAM general secretary, Nicolai Cebotari, who spoke about the association's vision and direction, as well as its commitment to grassroots football. The group then heard presentations from the FAM technical director, Ghenadie Scurtul, the head of the FAM youth department, Oleg Molceanov, and the assistant to the technical director, Svetlana Ceban. During the course of the four-day meeting there were theoretical and



UEFA Study Group Scheme participants

practical sessions at the FC Sheriff academy in Tiraspol and CSCT Buiucani in Chisinau, and an Open Fun Football Schools special demonstration event with more than 200 children.

At UEFA Study Group Scheme sessions the visiting associations also present a brief overview of their work, something which is warmly received by all parties, especially as it seems to reinforce every country's shared goal

of increasing participation in football and improving the quality of coaches, volunteers and grassroots clubs. To finish the Moldovan session, a meeting was held with the FAM president, Pavel Cebanu, to discuss the Cross Cultures Project Association/Open Fun Football Schools' plans for 2012 (number of schools, seminars, etc.).

● Press Office



### Under-13s set the right example

A single match between Zwart-Wit'63 and DOS Kampen became an item on all the national news channels and ended up on the

front pages of the newspapers after one of the players was brutally kicked and incurred serious injuries to his face. The game was suspended and both teams' players and staff were stunned, as were hundreds of fans attending the game, including dozens of children.

Photographs of the incident were shown on TV and the match became the talk of the town.

As chance would have it, the two clubs' Under-13 teams were due to play each other a week later in a regional youth league match. In order to defuse possible tensions, their respective chairmen decided to sit down together and find ways to ensure the match would be played in a friendly way, underlining the good relationship the two clubs have enjoyed for decades.

Before the Under-13 match, the teams therefore gathered in the clubhouse with their parents and sat down for a drink and a chat. They posed together for team pictures and performed the handshake procedure normally reserved for professional players. In short, they served as excellent role models for fair play and respect, setting an example to all senior players. There were no complaints, no dissent and no cards shown. All in all, the perfect match.

● Rob de Leede



Zwart-Wit'63 and DOS Kampen's Under-13s got together for a joint photo before their exemplary match



### Unique initiative for women's football clubs

Moyola Park Football Club was the venue for the launch of the Irish FA's SCORE pilot project. Funded through the UEFA HatTrick programme, this is a unique initiative aimed at helping women's football clubs in Northern Ireland establish links with their local primary and post-primary schools.

In total 36 clubs are involved in the project, which involves three core elements: first, each club nominates a coach to undertake a coach education course; second, the nominated coach delivers 12 coaching sessions at primary and

post-primary schools; and third, the club endeavours to set up a girls' youth team. The ultimate aim of the project is to establish links with schools to encourage more girls to join local clubs.

The Irish FA's women's domestic football manager, Sara Booth, said: "We have a groundswell of participation within school football in Northern Ireland and it is now essential that we can work with the clubs to put structures in place to encourage these girls to play outside the school environment.



The launch of the SCORE pilot project

"By providing coach education opportunities, bursaries to deliver coaching sessions and equipment, we hope that we can arm the women's clubs with the resources they desperately need to develop the game."

The next stage of the SCORE pilot project will involve the 36 SCORE coaches going into their local primary and post-primary schools to deliver free coaching sessions.

● Sara Booth

## Portuguese women's football has reason to celebrate

Portuguese women's football is making history: for the first time, a Portuguese women's national team is taking part in the final round of a European championship. The country's Under-19s finished at the top of Group 1 in qualifying in April, thereby earning their tickets to the finals in Turkey.

Portugal had to wait until the 90th minute of their last match, against Belgium, to celebrate this feat, when Mónica Mendes scored the goal that put them through. It was a tough, painful qualifying campaign, but that just made the achievement feel even better.

*"It was an indescribable joy. This team is a fantastic group of players that searched for success and achieved it brilliantly, against all expectations. We have continued the work done over the last few years and we have given it our own personal touch. It is a triumph and a great prize that all those involved in Portuguese women's football and the national teams deserve,"* said José Paisana, who has led the women's U19 team since January.

In the European championship final round, scheduled to take place in Antalya in July, the Portuguese coach wants, above all, to do Portugal proud. *"When we look at the teams participating in the final stage of this European championship, we have no doubt that we will meet some powerful opponents and that we will probably be considered outsiders. But we will go into the final round with the same deter-*



*Exciting times for women's football in Portugal*

*mination, courage and will as in the qualifying stage. You can count on that,"* he said.

For Mónica Jorge, a member of the Portuguese Football Federation's board of directors and one of the people responsible for the growth of women's football in Portugal, this is *"a unique and truly historic moment"*.

*"We have been looking for such a significant result for some years now. We felt we were getting closer and closer and this qualification has proven, once again, the quality and determination of the Portuguese players. We believe that the presence of the U19 national team in the final round of the European championship will provide a decisive impulse for Portuguese football to take the leap we are longing for, both in terms of quality and in visibility and recognition. The board of directors that took office in December last year made women's football one of its priorities and will endeavour to make it grow sustainably, investing in improving player numbers and training,"* Jorge said.

● Filipe Félix

## Peamount win inaugural women's championship

Peamount United became the inaugural women's national league champions after clinching the title at the end of April at their home ground in Greenogue. Peamount went into the last round of matches knowing they just needed to avoid defeat to be confirmed as champions, so their 1-0 win over Shamrock Rovers was more than enough to see them through. They were on the scoreboard after just 16 minutes, after a typical goal poacher's finish from the league's top scorer, Stephanie Roche. Rovers were determined to give a good account of themselves and worked hard throughout to stifle the potent Peamount attack. Peamount were not to be denied though and dominated possession right through the match. The final whistle sparked great celebrations among the Peamount players as they were presented with the women's national league trophy.

Raheny finished the season on a high with a 5-2 victory over Castlebar Celtic. Raheny would have needed a helping hand from Shamrock Rovers if they were to force the league to a play-off decider, but they also had to overcome Castlebar. The Raheny players started in determined fashion and took the lead through Ciara Grant after 12 minutes. Emma Mullin drew Castlebar level from the penalty spot four minutes into the second half, and just three minutes later did the same again to put

*Six teams had their sights set on the championship trophy*



Castlebar a goal ahead. Raheny needed a quick response and they got it from Rebecca Creagh, also from the penalty spot, after Carol Hegarty had received a red card. Raheny kicked on from there and two more goals from Sandra Mulhall, along with another for Siobhan Killeen, earned them a full three points and second place in the league.

Cork and Wexford Youths met at CIT stadium in a straight battle for third place. It was the visitors, Wexford, that opened best, taking the lead through Maria Delahunty, who struck an excellent goal from outside the box. Wexford could have gone further ahead and Cherelle Khassel was unlucky not to score from a few good chances. Cork brought on Denise O'Sullivan for the second half in a bid to get back into the match but it was Lauren Murphy who scored the equaliser from a penalty after 73 minutes. Both teams had chances to win the match but neither capitalised on them. The draw means that Cork finish in third place, ahead of Wexford Youths on goal difference.

● Derek Kinnevey

## Breaking ground in women's football

Romania's Under-19s have become the country's first women's national team to qualify for a final tournament at European or world level, having made it into the final stages of the European Women's Under-19 Championship this summer.

Some might say that this is a bit of a miracle, bearing in mind that, overall, there are only 20 women's teams and around 500 registered women players (youth and senior) in Romania.

On the other hand, the team's achievement was no fluke. In the two qualifying rounds, Romania achieved four victories (including a 1-0 win against the 2010 champions, France), one draw and only one defeat (against Belgium in the first qualifying round). This shows that Romania's performances were



*The women's Under-19 national team*

consistent throughout qualifying. It also shows continuity in the work carried out at the highest levels of the U19 squad since it was founded in 2003. Since then the team have made it into the second qualifying round of their European championships five times, which is an achievement in itself for Romania. It is obviously even more gratifying that this fifth attempt at reaching the final tournament has been successful.

*"It was time for us to reach the final tournament and we owe a big part of this achievement to the fact that most of the players have played together for many years at national team level and at their clubs. That's why we hope to be one of the big surprises of the tournament,"* the head coach, Mirel Albon, says. The draw for the final tournament put Romania in a group with Turkey, Portugal and Denmark, and there is no reason for the Romanian girls not to aim high.

Seven of the team play their club football at Olimpia Cluj and five at FCM Târgu Mures. For some of them this has provided significant international experience: Stefania Vatafu, Andreea Corduneanu, Alexandra Lunca, Mara Bătea and Adina Giurgiu have all played in the UEFA Women's Champions League with Olimpia Cluj, qualifying for this year's round of 32, while Andreea Herczeg, Andreea Paraluta, Anamaria Gorea and Tunde Miklos played in the same competition two years ago with FCM Târgu Mures. It should also be said that, ever since they were 16, Andreea Herczeg, Stefania Vatafu and Alexandra Lunca in particular, but also Andreea Paraluta, Andreea Corduneanu and Elena Vasile, have been regularly selected for the senior national team and have played several competitive and friendly matches at this level.

In a context in which the senior Romanian women's team is struggling against Switzerland for an honourable third place in their Women's EURO 2013 qualifying group, it can be said that the women's and mixed football projects launched by the Romanian FA are bearing fruit, even if there is still a long way to go and a lot of hard work to do.

● Paul Zaharia



### Women's U17s chase medals

The final round of the European Women's Under-17 Championship will be held at the Colovray Stadium in Nyon for the fifth time from 26 to 29 June this summer. At their fifth attempt, the Swiss team, led by coaching trio Brigitte Steiner, Rahel Grand and Guido Stadelmann, have managed to qualify for the final round for the first time. Although title holders Spain, winners for the past two years, are absent this summer, Germany will be seeking their third title following victories in 2008 and 2009.

In the first qualifying round in Poland, the Swiss scored no fewer than 34 goals, which must be a record. Latvia (15-0) and Georgia (17-1) were no match for our girls and only hosts Poland (2-1) posed a real challenge. Brigitte Steiner's team then narrowly but deservedly secured their place in Nyon in the

second qualifying round. In a thrilling opening match against Belgium, the Swiss were trailing 3-1 a minute before the end, but claimed a point thanks to two quick goals by Aline Stöckli and Alessa Castignetti. They then recorded tight 1-0 victories over both Iceland and England.

In Nyon, the Swiss will face France in one of the semi-finals, while the other will be contested by Denmark and Germany. Both finalists will qualify for the FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup later this year.

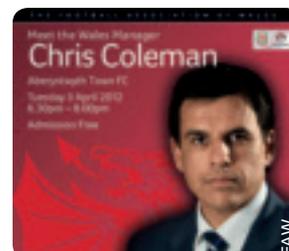
The Swiss are hoping to become the fourth Swiss youth team to win European Championship or World Cup medals, following in the footsteps of the men's U17 teams that won the European Championship in Denmark in 2002 and the World Cup in Nigeria in 2009, and the men's U21 side that finished runners-up at last year's European Championship in Denmark.

● Pierre Benoit



### Meeting the fans

Over the last few months, the two managers of the Wales men's and women's teams have been busy meeting the fans. The men's manager, Chris Coleman, has been all over the country on a series of roadshows to meet fans and answer their questions. These roadshows



Chris Coleman, the men's national team coach, out meeting fans

have proved to be very popular, attracting audiences of 100 and more at the football clubs he and his staff have visited, including Ton Pentre, Aberystwyth Town, Airbus UK and Bangor City. "I want to give everyone a chance to meet me and ask whatever questions they like. I am always happy to answer anything and, believe me, some of the questions from the kids are the hardest to answer," Chris says. Also on the road is the women's team manager, Jarmo Matikainen, as he visits the clubs that will be involved in hosting the final round of the European Women's Under-19 Championship in August 2013. Interest is strong in Llanelli, Carmarthen, Haverfordwest and Swansea, all of which will host games when Wales organises its first ever UEFA final tournament.

● Ceri Stennett



The Swiss women's Under-17 national selection

## BIRTHDAYS IN JUNE

- Dušan Savić (Serbia, 1 June)
- Ekaterina Fedyshina (Russia, 1 June)
- Ferenc Székely (Hungary, 2 June)
- Ivaylo Ivkov (Bulgaria, 3 June)
- Radek Lobo (Czech Republic, 3 June)
- Klara Bjartmarz (Iceland, 3 June)
- John Ward (Republic of Ireland, 4 June)
- Yauheni Tratsiuk (Belarus, 4 June)
- Jean-Samuel Leuba (Switzerland, 4 June)
- Ludovico Micallef (Malta, 5 June)
- Jaap Uilenberg (Netherlands, 5 June)
- Leon Straessle (Switzerland, 6 June)
- Michael Joseph Hyland (Republic of Ireland, 6 June)
- Theo Zwanziger (Germany, 6 June)
- Ryszard Wójcik (Poland, 6 June)
- Stefano Braschi (Italy, 6 June)
- Lars-Åke Björck (Sweden, 7 June)
- Michel Sablon (Belgium, 7 June)
- Sándor Berzi (Hungary, 7 June)
- Yury Dupanau (Belarus, 7 June) ☆☆☆ 50th**
- Onofre Costa (Portugal, 7 June)
- Johannes Scholtz (Netherlands, 8 June)
- Bryan Drew (England, 8 June)
- Jesper Møller Christensen (Denmark, 9 June)
- Antoine Portelli (Malta, 9 June)

- Petri Antero Jakonen (Finland, 9 June)
- Jonathan Ford (Wales, 9 June)
- Hans Bangerter (Switzerland, 10 June)
- Eleni Kiriou (Greece, 10 June)
- Mikalai Varabyov (Belarus, 10 June)
- Leonardo Grosso (Italy, 11 June)
- Kyros Georgiou (Cyprus, 11 June)
- Nathan Bartfeld (Moldova, 11 June)
- Thórir Hakonarson (Iceland, 11 June)
- Zoran Dimic (Serbia, 11 June)
- José Luis López Serrano (Spain, 12 June)
- Alain Courtois (Belgium, 12 June)
- Jørn West Larsen (Denmark, 12 June)
- Iwona Malek-Wybraniec (Poland, 12 June)
- Roland Coquard (France, 13 June)
- Targo Kaldoja (Estonia, 13 June)
- Galina Doneva (Bulgaria, 14 June)
- Nuno Castro (Portugal, 14 June) ☆☆☆ 40th**
- Viacheslav Koloskov (Russia, 15 June)
- Miguel Galán Torres (Spain, 15 June)
- Meir Liber (Israel, 17 June)
- Michael Joseph Maessen (Netherlands, 17 June)
- Stephen Thomas (England, 17 June)
- Markus Nobs (Switzerland, 17 June)
- Philippe Piat (France, 18 June) ☆☆☆ 70th**
- Hannelore Ratzeburg (Germany, 18 June)
- Amit Klein (Israel, 18 June) ☆☆☆ 50th**
- Ivan Novak (Croatia, 18 June) ☆☆☆ 50th**

- Eduard Prodani (Albania, 18 June)
- Elkhan Mammadov (Azerbaijan, 18 June)
- Dag Riisnaes (Norway, 20 June)
- Michel Platini (France, 21 June)
- Peter Peters (Germany, 21 June) ☆☆☆ 50th**
- Zoran Cvrk (Croatia, 21 June)
- Keith Stuart Hackett (England, 22 June)
- Ante Kulusic (Croatia, 22 June)
- Zvi Rosen (Israel, 23 June)
- Vladimir Antonov (Moldova, 23 June)
- Leslie Irvine (Northern Ireland, 23 June)
- Georg Pangl (Austria, 23 June)
- Jean-Jacques Schonckert (Luxembourg, 24 June)
- Rene H.J. Temmink (Netherlands, 24 June)
- João Rocha (Portugal, 24 June)
- Reinhard Walsler (Liechtenstein, 25 June)
- Christian Schmölzer (Austria, 25 June)
- Mario Gjucinovski (FYROM, 25 June)
- Foppe de Haan (Netherlands, 26 June)
- Barry W. Bright (England, 27 June)
- Sigurður Hannesson (Iceland, 27 June)
- Eyjolfur Olafsson (Iceland, 27 June)
- José Venancio Lopez Hierro (Spain, 27 June)
- Mehmet Levent Kizil (Turkey, 27 June)
- Wim Koevermans (Belgium, 28 June)
- Ivan Borissov Lekov (Bulgaria, 29 June)
- Wolfgang Sowa (Austria, 29 June)
- Peter J. van Zunderd (Netherlands, 30 June)

## BIRTHDAYS IN JULY

**Frédéric Thiriez** (France, 1 July) ☆☆☆ 60th  
**Antonie Marinus Verhagen** (Netherlands, 1 July)

**Marinus Koopman** (Netherlands, 2 July)

**Pjetur Sigurdsson** (Iceland, 2 July)

**Bertrand Layec** (France, 3 July)

**Antonio Matarrese** (Italy, 4 July)

**Neale Barry** (England, 4 July)

**Valentin Ivanov** (Russia, 4 July)

**Roland Ospelt** (Liechtenstein, 4 July)

**Massimo Cumbo** (Italy, 4 July)

**Patrick Nelson** (Northern Ireland, 5 July)

**Martin Malek** (Switzerland, 8 July)

**Anna Bordiugova** (Ukraine, 8 July)

☆☆☆ 30th

**Paul Allaerts** (Belgium, 9 July)

**Yordan Letchkov** (Bulgaria, 9 July)

**Murad Mammadov** (Azerbaijan, 10 July)

**Thomas Christensen** (Norway, 10 July)

**Nina Hedlund** (Norway, 11 July)

**Ilija Stoilov** (FYROM, 11 July)

**Edo Trivkovic** (Croatia, 11 July)

**Günter Benkö** (Austria, 12 July)

**Filip Popovski** (FYROM, 12 July)

**Carlo Tavecchio** (Italy, 13 July)

**Maria Teresa Costa** (Portugal, 13 July)

**Alex Horne** (England, 13 July) ☆☆☆ 40th

**Elke Günthner** (Germany, 14 July)

**Vladimir Petr** (Slovakia, 15 July)

**Ben Veenbrink** (Netherlands, 15 July)

**Johannes Malka** (Germany, 16 July)

☆☆☆ 90th

**Ernst Nigg** (Liechtenstein, 16 July) ☆☆☆ 70th

**Lars Lagerbäck** (Sweden, 16 July)

**Jiri Ulrich** (Czech Republic, 16 July) ☆☆☆ 60th

**Giuseppe Mifsud-Bonnici** (Malta, 17 July)

**Antonia Kokotou** (Greece, 17 July)

**Vicente Muñoz Castello** (Spain, 19 July)

**Kari Luell** (Norway, 19 July)

**Alfredo Trentalange** (Italy, 19 July)

**Vladimir Radionov** (Russia, 21 July)

**Michel Wuilleret** (Switzerland, 22 July)

☆☆☆ 60th

**Nico Romeijn** (Netherlands, 22 July)

**Balazs Makray** (Hungary, 22 July)

**Bontcho Todorov** (Bulgaria, 23 July)

**Pavel Malovic** (Slovakia, 23 July) ☆☆☆ 60th

**Marcelino Santiago Maté Martínez**

(Spain, 23 July)

**Haralampie Hadji-Risteski** (FYROM, 24 July)

**Gijs de Jong** (Netherlands, 24 July)

☆☆☆ 40th

**Mario Gallavotti** (Italy, 25 July)

**Ferenc Ragadics** (Hungary, 25 July)

**Arno P. Sargsyan** (Armenia, 25 July)

**Nenad Radivojevic** (Serbia, 25 July)

**Jacob Erel** (Israel, 26 July)

**Alfred Ludwig** (Austria, 26 July)

**David I. Bowen** (Northern Ireland, 26 July)

**Despoina Koxenoglou** (Greece, 26 July)

**Jeff Davis** (England, 27 July) ☆☆☆ 50th

**Björn Ahlberg** (Sweden, 28 July)

**Stefan Tivold** (Slovenia, 28 July)

**Peter Stadelmann** (Switzerland, 29 July)

☆☆☆ 60th

**João Leal** (Portugal, 30 July)

**Des Casey** (Republic of Ireland, 31 July)

**Tugomir Frajman** (Slovenia, 31 July)

☆☆☆ 60th

**Joël Wolff** (Luxembourg, 31 July)

**Josef De Ryck** (Belgium, 31 July)

**Cenk Cem** (Turkey, 31 July)

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

### Meetings

#### 6 June, in Tallinn

Draw for the 2011/12 European Under-19 Championship final round

#### 25 June, in Nyon

Draw for the first and second qualifying rounds of the 2012/13 UEFA Champions League and UEFA Europa League

#### 28 June, in Nyon

Draw for the qualifying round of the 2012/13 UEFA Women's Champions League

#### 29/30 June, in Kyiv

Executive Committee

#### 4 July, in Nyon

Draw for the preliminary and main rounds of the 2012/13 UEFA Futsal Cup

#### 20 July, in Nyon

Draw for the third qualifying round of the 2012/13 UEFA Champions League and UEFA Europa League

### Competitions

#### 8 June – 1 July, in Poland and Ukraine

UEFA EURO 2012

#### 26–29 June, in Nyon

European Women's Under-17 Championship final round

#### 2–14 July, in Turkey

European Women's Under-19 Championship final round

#### 3/4 July

UEFA Champions League first qualifying round (first legs)

#### 3–15 July, in Estonia

European Under-19 Championship final round

#### 5 July

UEFA Europa League first qualifying round (first legs)

#### 10/11 July

UEFA Champions League first qualifying round (return legs)

#### 12 July

UEFA Europa League first qualifying round (return legs)

#### 17/18 July

UEFA Champions League second qualifying round (first legs)

#### 19 July

UEFA Europa League second qualifying round (first legs)

#### 24/25 July

UEFA Champions League second qualifying round (return legs)

#### 25 July – 11 August, in London

Olympic football tournament (women's and men's)

#### 26 July

UEFA Europa League second qualifying round (return legs)

#### 31 July – 1 August

UEFA Champions League third qualifying round (first legs)

## NOTICES

● Following the resignation of Ebru Köksal, Emre Alkin took over as general secretary of the Turkish Football Federation on 9 April.

● The next issue of UEFA-direct will be published at the beginning of July.

## MATCH AGENTS

UEFA licences have been awarded to the following four match agents:

#### Tiny van Gemert

TvGsports

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Tel.: +49 221 460 25 75 – Fax: +49 221 460 27 34

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#### Jean-Philippe Soubeyre

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ST1 5KY, Stoke on Trent, UK

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tim.bailey@beswicks.com

In addition, **Jonathan Hassall** (Cannock, UK) has had his licence renewed.

## ON THE BOOKSHELF

### EURO dla orłów

With EURO 2012 fast approaching, Andrzej Górzewski, editor of the *Encyklopedia piłkarska*, has produced a special edition of the Polish football encyclopaedia dedicated to the history of the European Football Championship, from its origins to the present day. The book contains many archive images and detailed statistics.

(wydawnictwo GiA, PO Box 2772, 40-357 Katowice 14, Poland)

## OBITUARY

Former chief executive of the French Football Federation **Gérard Enault** passed away in the night of 8 April, at the age of 68. Gérard was one of UEFA's experts on transfer disputes from 1994 to 1997 and a member of the committee on UEFA pool transfers from 1997 to 2000. He then served as a member of the National Team Competitions Committee from 2000 to 2006.



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WE CARE ABOUT FOOTBALL

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