



UEFA•direct

Historic triumph for Spain

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Cover:

*Goalkeeper Iker Casillas
lifts the Henri Delaunay Cup
after Spain's unprecedented
feat of retaining the
title of European champions*

Photo: Getty Images

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Spain lifted the Henri Delaunay Cup in Kyiv on 1 July, rounding off a spectacular EURO 2012.



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The UEFA president, Michel Platini, chaired a meeting of the UEFA Executive Committee in Kyiv on the eve of the EURO 2012 final.



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The 52nd issue of the UEFA-Technician considers the factors that influence a coach's career path.





FANTASTIC ACHIEVEMENT

First of all, congratulations to Spain and the Spanish Football Federation. Winning a third successive major title in Kyiv was an unprecedented feat, and one which made this final tournament in Poland and Ukraine even more of a historic event.

Congratulations also to Italy, valiant finalists, and a big thank you to everyone else who contributed to the success of this brilliant EURO 2012: the players and their coaches, who played attacking football and demonstrated exemplary sportsmanship; the referees, who fulfilled their role successfully, without ever influencing the result of a match; the spectators in the stands and supporters in the fan zones, whose passion brought the stadiums alive and lit up the streets of the host cities, creating a fun, friendly atmosphere.

Congratulations and thanks also, of course, to the hosts, Poland and Ukraine, who rose to the daunting challenge and provided everything required to make this tournament a success – something some had considered almost impossible. Thanks also to everyone working behind the scenes, in particular the volunteers, for whom I hope EURO 2012 was an unforgettable experience.

European football can be proud of the image it presented throughout this tournament: excellent matches, high technical standards and magnificent stadiums filled with spectators in high spirits. The Republic of Ireland fans, in particular, were exemplary and their support of their team unflinching, even in defeat.

Thanks to indisputably high-quality television broadcasts, the whole world was able to enjoy this great celebration of European football which, once again, highlighted the incredible force of national team football. EURO 2012 was the best possible advertisement for the national team game and its success was in large part thanks to the spirit of openness on which the tournament was built.

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

Michel Platini
UEFA President

SPAIN MAKE HISTORY

EURO 2012 saw Spain make history by becoming the first team ever to win two consecutive European Football Championship titles – an achievement made all the more remarkable by the fact that they also lifted the FIFA World Cup in between. In fact, the team coached by Vicente Del Bosque killed two birds with one stone, since they also equalled Germany's record of three European Championship crowns.



Spain's victory over Italy in the final was nothing short of brilliant. However, their route to the final was not quite such a smooth ride. Held to a draw by Italy in their first match, the Spaniards then did what was required to finish top of their group, although they found Croatia a tough nut to crack. They knocked France out of the competition without too much trouble in the quarter-finals but needed penalties to dispose of Portugal in the last four. However, their performance in the final forced all those who had been predicting the end of an era to eat their words. By scoring twice in the first half, Del Bosque's men silenced their critics and proved that their striking potency remained intact, as was demonstrated by the superb construction of each goal.

Italy hit form

Italy, the revelation of the tournament, were left to wipe away their tears, having been unable to impose themselves in the final. Less fresh

physically than their opponents, the attacking spirit they had displayed in the semi-final against Germany eluded them. Moreover, the Spanish pressing seriously hampered the Italians' build-up play, frequently putting Andrea Pirlo, one of the stars of the competition, on the back foot. Two goals down and reduced to ten men by an injury to Thiago Motta, Italy were unable to turn the tide. Although defeat became inevitable, Cesare Prandelli can be proud of the overall performance of a team which had hit rock bottom when it was eliminated in the group stage of the 2010 World Cup. With Gianluigi Buffon impressive in goal and Andrea Pirlo dictating play superbly, Italy rediscovered a foundation worthy of their ambitions.

Highly competitive Portugal

Along with Italy, Portugal completed a successful tournament for Latin football. With Cristiano Ronaldo, who improved game by game, the focal point, Paulo Bento's team were highly competitive. They responded well to losing their first match against Germany and deservedly booked a semi-final place by beating the Czech Republic. They then took Spain right to the wire, going out on penalties, and can be proud of their overall performance.

Bitter disappointment for Germany

As for Germany, they enjoyed an almost perfect run to their semi-final against Italy, before which many observers had even considered them to be the only team capable of disputing Spain's supremacy. After sweeping aside their group opponents with relative ease, Joachim Löw's men endured bitter disappointment against Italy, whose two first-half Mario Balotelli goals proved an insurmountable handicap for the Germans. Mesut Özil's penalty came too late to deny the Italians victory in this semi-final. Germany, with three goals from Mario Gomez, nevertheless enjoyed a reasonably good tournament. They may have had the wherewithal to reach the final, but they missed the boat at the critical moment.

Netherlands flop

Two years after reaching the World Cup final in South Africa, the Netherlands flopped badly. The World Cup runners-up had to return home after the group stage, in which they lost all three

The mastery of Italy's midfielder Andrea Pirlo – in action here against Germany's Holger Badstuber – lit up EURO 2012



Getty Images



Getty Images

matches, a truly dreadful performance for the "Oranje". It was no surprise when Bert van Marwijk, who had succeeded Marco van Basten four years ago, tendered his resignation. Despite tinkering with his line-up, the Dutch coach failed to breathe new life into a team which had rarely been as lacklustre with the likes of Sneijder, Robben and Van Persie in its midst.

New setbacks for France

France, despite starting the tournament well with a draw against England followed by an expected win against Ukraine, failed to build on those results. The team coached by Laurent Blanc fell apart as the competition progressed. Firstly, they suffered a disappointing defeat at the hands of Sweden which, although it did not prevent them qualifying for the quarter-finals, showed that something was not quite right.

Then, against Spain, the "Bleus" were unable to summon the nerve that was needed to cause a surprise. In an overcautious display, they were inevitably defeated by the "Roja", who barely needed to break sweat to qualify. Admittedly, reaching the quarter-finals is, in itself, not a bad result for the French, but the spirit they showed certainly fell short of what was expected. Following Laurent Blanc's resignation, it will again be necessary to rebuild the team on a firm footing.

Smiles and gnashing of teeth

Despite their elimination at the quarter-final stage, Greece and the Czech Republic can consider themselves to have had a successful tournament. After a poor start, the Greeks did surprisingly well. A more mixed impression was left by Roy Hodgson's England, who were without several key players but still put in a decent showing before losing to Italy on penalties in quarter-final. Meanwhile, Russia completely went off the rails after a fantastic opening and three goals from Alan Dzagoev.

The co-hosts were also hoping to achieve more from the tournament. Both Poland and Ukraine were knocked out in the group stage, their potential clearly not enough to carry them through. Croatia, on the other hand, had an interesting role to play, almost knocking out Italy. Sweden, meanwhile, failed to live up to expectations, despite the presence of front man Zlatan Ibrahimović. Denmark also expected much more after winning their opening match against the Netherlands.

Finally, Giovanni Trapattoni's Republic of Ireland were clearly out of their depth, unlike their supporters, who were deservedly awarded a special prize by UEFA for their exemplary behaviour. ●

André Winckler

Despite his energy and resourcefulness, Portugal's Cristiano Ronaldo was still unable to break down the Spanish defence



Poland – Greece



Russia – Czech Republic



Netherlands – Denmark



Germany – Portugal



Spain – Italy



Republic of Ireland – Croatia



France – England



Ukraine – Sweden



EURO 2012 RESULTS

Group A

8 June	Warsaw Wroclaw	Poland – Greece Russia – Czech Republic	1-1 4-1
12 June	Wroclaw Warsaw	Greece – Czech Republic Poland – Russia	1-2 1-1
16 June	Wroclaw Warsaw	Czech Republic – Poland Greece – Russia	1-0 1-0

Group B

9 June	Kharkiv Lviv	Netherlands – Denmark Germany – Portugal	0-1 1-0
13 June	Lviv Kharkiv	Denmark – Portugal Netherlands – Germany	2-3 1-2
17 June	Kharkiv Lviv	Portugal – Netherlands Denmark – Germany	2-1 1-2

Group C

10 June	Gdansk Poznan	Spain – Italy Republic of Ireland – Croatia	1-1 1-3
14 June	Poznan Gdansk	Italy – Croatia Spain – Republic of Ireland	1-1 4-0
18 June	Gdansk Poznan	Croatia – Spain Italy – Republic of Ireland	0-1 2-0

Group D

11 June	Donetsk Kyiv	France – England Ukraine – Sweden	1-1 2-1
15 June	Donetsk Kyiv	Ukraine – France Sweden – England	0-2 2-3
19 June	Donetsk Kyiv	England – Ukraine Sweden – France	1-0 2-0

Quarter-finals

21 June	Warsaw	Czech Republic – Portugal	0-1
22 June	Gdansk	Germany – Greece	4-2
23 June	Donetsk	Spain – France	2-0
24 June	Kyiv	England – Italy	0-0*
		(Italy win 4-2 on penalties)	

Semi-finals

27 June	Donetsk	Portugal – Spain	0-0*
		(Spain win 4-2 on penalties)	
28 June	Warsaw	Germany – Italy	1-2

Final

1 July	Kyiv	Spain – Italy	4-0
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FROM ONE EURO TO ANOTHER

The day before the EURO 2012 final in Kyiv, the Executive Committee met in the Ukrainian capital for its third meeting of the year, with the UEFA president, Michel Platini, in the chair.

With EURO 2012 almost over and initial preparations for EURO 2016 in France already under way, the Executive Committee has already started thinking about EURO 2020, the host(s) of which will be chosen in May 2014. Before that, the bid regulations will be approved in December, ahead of the deadline to submit bids in September 2013. However, the UEFA president outlined a possible new hosting format, suggesting the idea of a pan-European tournament to be played in a dozen cities all over Europe in order to celebrate the competition's 60th anniversary in an innovative way. This idea will be developed and analysed with the leaders of all European national associations in the coming months.

Conclusive experiment

Back to EURO 2012 and the Executive Committee considered some figures, such as the share of the profits paid to clubs that released players for the national teams (€100 million shared between 580 clubs); the number of anti-doping controls (280 before the final, all negative); record TV audiences in several markets; 1.3 million spectators before the semi-finals; all tickets sold; millions of supporters in the fan zones and a 95.9% success rate for the 414 offside decisions by assistant referees. On the subject of refereeing, UEFA's chief refereeing officer, Pierluigi Collina, reported on the experiment with two additional assistant referees, introduced in October 2008. His analysis, based on the evaluation of over 1,000 UEFA matches, revealed the following positive outcomes: better assessment of incidents in the penalty area, preventive effect leading to fewer fouls (pushing, shirt-pulling, etc.) in the penalty area, assistant referees able to concentrate more fully on offside decisions, and more headed goals (21 in 2012 compared to 15 in 2008). Since the referees themselves support the use of five officials, the Executive Committee unanimously voted to adopt this system on a permanent basis, and expressed the hope that the additional assistants' role could be better explained to the public.

From Prague to Tbilisi via Cardiff

The UEFA Super Cup is leaving Monaco and will be held in Prague on 30 August 2013. This will be the first leg of a journey which will take it to the Cardiff City Stadium (26,650 capacity) in 2014 and the Mikheil Meskhi Stadium in Tbilisi (24,600) in 2015.



A busy agenda for the Executive Committee at its meeting in Kyiv

The Executive Committee also gave the green light to a youth club competition (for Under-19s), the details of which are yet to be defined. It will be evaluated after a two-year trial beginning in 2013.

The Executive Committee also approved the regulations of the men's and women's youth competitions (U17 and U19) for the 2012/13 season, and those of the 2012–14 European Futsal Championship, which will retain its current format. ●

STRATEGY COUNCIL MEETING

Comprising representatives of the national associations, leagues, clubs and professional players, the Professional Football Strategy Council (PFSC) met in Munich on 18 May, the day before the UEFA Champions League final.

Items on the agenda included third-party ownership of players, an increasingly widespread phenomenon which runs counter to the ethics of UEFA competitions. This issue will be discussed again at future UEFA Executive Committee and PFSC meetings. Other matters raised in Munich, such as supranational competitions and the harmonisation of domestic league calendars, will also be discussed in more detail.

VARIOUS ACTIVITIES AND AWARDS

This year, the UEFA Grassroots Day – an initiative launched in 2010 – was celebrated on 16 May, with events organised across Europe to mark the occasion.



Shooting practice in Munich on UEFA Grassroots Day



With this event, UEFA aims to highlight the importance of grassroots football and stress the sport's unity, from the grassroots right up to elite professionals. Consequently, as with the event's two previous editions, the symbolic focal point of this third Grassroots Day was the city playing host to the UEFA Champions League final – this year, Munich. A number of activities were therefore organised as part of the four-day UEFA Champions Festival held in the city's Olympiapark. These were aimed primarily at children, who are vital to the future health and development of the sport. Two former players, the Brazilian Giovane Elber and the Frenchman Willy Sagnol, both of whom won the Champions League with FC Bayern München in 2001, ran a workshop for young players from Bavarian club FC Tirschenreuth. There was also a schools' competition and the opportunity for young players to put their dribbling skills to the test.

Various activities were organised on the other days of the festival, culminating in a match pitting former greats of the world game such as Zico, Gianfranco Zola and Patrick Vieira against former FC Bayern München players such as Paul Breitner, Roy Makaay and Wolfgang Dremmler.

Events across Europe

Across Europe, many of UEFA's member associations marked the day, with a variety of events being organised. For example, children's football festivals were held in Azerbaijan, Belarus and Turkey; professional clubs organised activities for young players in Belgium; demonstration

matches were staged in San Marino; tournaments and competitions were held for girls and boys in Croatia and Switzerland; football workshops were organised in Scotland; there was a schools' football event in Finland; and there were various activities at regional level in Slovenia.

The link between grassroots football and the elite game was also highlighted by the activities organised in Bucharest to coincide with the final of the UEFA Europa League.

UEFA awards

In the early 2000s, UEFA began its tradition of paying homage to seven emblematic figures in grassroots football – the "magnificent seven" – at the annual meeting of clubs in Monaco in August. These were generally volunteers who had demonstrated outstanding service to grassroots football. In recent years, these UEFA awards have been broadened to recognise the achievements of specific projects and clubs. The award winners for 2012 were announced on Grassroots Day.

In the project category, the winner was the Fortum Tutor programme run by the Football Association of Finland. This project trains coaches at grassroots level, and aims to supply 130 clubs with coaches specialising in grassroots football.

In the club category, the award was won by CSCT Buiucani in Chisinau, a Moldovan club that places emphasis on the development of social values in organising grassroots football activities for some 300 children aged six and seven.

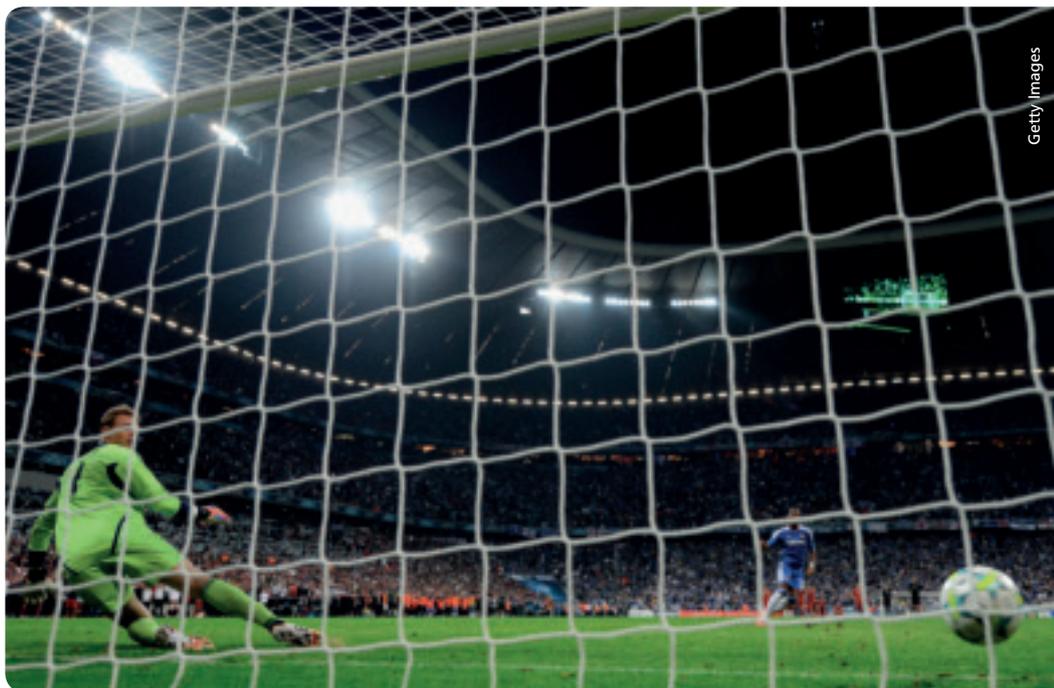
And the award for the best official in grassroots football went to Benny Hansen from Denmark, a volunteer since 1956. As well as being president of Glejbjerg SF, he has helped to develop grassroots football in Jutland both as a member of the Danish Football Association and as part of various other sports associations. ●



The UEFA Champions Festival in the Olympiapark

MUNICH SINGS THE BLUES

The ball has long since stopped rolling on the 2011/12 UEFA Champions League but, even though a match report would definitely be a case of “yesterday’s papers” it’s only fair to record the drama which unfolded on Saturday 19 May at the magnificent Fussball Arena in Munich, which was dressed in its finest livery for Europe’s greatest club-football event.



Getty Images



A sell-out crowd of 62,500 converted FC Bayern München’s home stadium into a sea of Bavarian red and Chelsea blue and, for many critics, the atmosphere was even better than the cautious opening to the grand finale.

Home ground – an advantage?

One of the features was that the 20th final of the competition under its modern denomination was the first to take place at the home of one of the finalists. And one of the questions was to what extent “home advantage” would play a part in the outcome. Tactically, it certainly simplified the issue. Bayern were urged forward by their red-shirted partisans, while Roberto Di Matteo’s Blues evidently felt comfortable about adopting the role of the away team.

The statistics give eloquent testimony to the proceedings. Jupp Heynckes’s team had 35 attempts at goal (about three-quarters of them off-target, it has to be said) while Chelsea FC had nine. The “home team” won 20 corners; the visitors one. Bayern had possession of the ball during 60% of the first half and 56% of the overall total over two hours of football, and totalled 28 deliveries or solo runs into their opponents’ penalty area, compared with Chelsea’s 11. But their numerical advantages did not add up to the Bavarian club’s first UEFA Champions League triumph since winning the 2001 final in a penalty shoot-out.

An arduous path

Instead, the name of Chelsea FC was engraved on the trophy for the first time. The Blues’ post-match celebrations were intensified by undercurrents of incredulity, which the players

freely expressed in the dozens of television interviews which rounded off a spectacle watched by over 300 million viewers. Their route to the ultimate victory in Munich had been arduous and had required extraordinary quantities of resilience, determination and mental strength. The Blues had squeezed past SSC Napoli in the first knockout round; had suffered mightily against SL Benfica in the return leg of the next round; and had suffered even more during two semi-final matches against FC Barcelona. Those qualities stood them in good stead for the final against Bayern in their own stadium – and those who felt that Chelsea were predestined to win the title might point to the fact that, in the semi-final and the final, their opponents struck the woodwork six times.

But, in Munich, the greatest drama was packed into 45 minutes or so. There will be abiding Bavarian memories of the 83rd minute, when Thomas Müller’s downward header had enough power to bounce over Chelsea’s keeper and into the roof of the net. But the Chelsea players refused to adhere to the general belief that the title was decided. Didier Drogba, who led the Chelsea attack single-handed, found an equally powerful header from a corner – and the psychological pendulum had swung the other way. It swung even further when Petr Cech saved a penalty from Arjen Robben five minutes into extra time. And, in the intense drama of the penalty shoot-out, Cech again emerged as the hero, leaving Didier Drogba to convert the winning spot kick. In the Munich night, the Blues were singing and the locals were singing the blues. ●

Drogba sends Neuer the wrong way to score the deciding penalty

19 May 2012

Fussball Arena, Munich – 62,500 spectators

FC Bayern München – Chelsea FC 1-1 (0-0, 1-1)

Chelsea win 4-3 on penalties

Goals: Thomas Müller (83), Didier Drogba (88)

Referee: Pedro Proença (Portugal)

DISTRIBUTIONS TO THE 32 PARTICIPANTS



As last season, the 32 clubs involved in the 2011/12 UEFA Champions League group stage shared a little over €750 million, a sum that does not take into account a possible surplus of income to be distributed at a later date or gate receipts, which are kept by the home clubs.



Clubs	Group matches				Knockout matches				TOTAL €
	Participation bonus	Match bonus	Performance bonus	Market Pool	Round of 16	Quarter-finals	Semi-finals	Final	
Group A									
FC Bayern München	3 900 000	3 300 000	3 600 000	14 830 000	3 000 000	3 300 000	4 200 000	5 600 000	41 730 000
SSC Napoli	3 900 000	3 300 000	3 200 000	14 334 000	3 000 000				27 734 000
Manchester City FC	3 900 000	3 300 000	2 800 000	16 525 000					26 525 000
Villarreal CF	3 900 000	3 300 000	–	6 709 000					13 909 000
Group B									
FC Internazionale Milano	3 900 000	3 300 000	2 800 000	18 569 000	3 000 000				31 569 000
PFC CSKA Moskva	3 900 000	3 300 000	2 400 000	4 515 000	3 000 000				17 115 000
Trabzonspor AS	3 900 000	3 300 000	2 400 000	12 858 000					22 458 000
LOSC Lille Métropole	3 900 000	3 300 000	2 000 000	10 483 000					19 683 000
Group C									
SL Benfica	3 900 000	3 300 000	3 600 000	2 657 000	3 000 000	3 300 000			19 757 000
FC Basel 1893	3 900 000	3 300 000	3 200 000	2 410 000	3 000 000				15 810 000
Manchester United FC	3 900 000	3 300 000	2 800 000	25 182 000					35 182 000
FC Otelul Galati	3 900 000	3 300 000	–	11 182 000					18 382 000
Group D									
Real Madrid CF	3 900 000	3 300 000	4 800 000	15 934 000	3 000 000	3 300 000	4 200 000		38 434 000
Olympique Lyonnais	3 900 000	3 300 000	2 400 000	6 756 000	3 000 000				19 356 000
AFC Ajax	3 900 000	3 300 000	2 400 000	7 604 000					17 204 000
GNK Dinamo Zagreb	3 900 000	3 300 000	–	1 006 000					8 206 000
Group E									
Chelsea FC	3 900 000	3 300 000	3 200 000	30 035 000	3 000 000	3 300 000	4 200 000	9 000 000	59 935 000
Bayer 04 Leverkusen	3 900 000	3 300 000	2 800 000	15 178 000	3 000 000				28 178 000
Valencia CF	3 900 000	3 300 000	2 400 000	9 225 000					18 825 000
KRC Genk	3 900 000	3 300 000	1 200 000	2 832 000					11 232 000
Group F									
Arsenal FC	3 900 000	3 300 000	3 200 000	14 821 000	3 000 000				28 221 000
Olympique de Marseille	3 900 000	3 300 000	2 800 000	10 716 000	3 000 000	3 300 000			27 016 000
Olympiacos FC	3 900 000	3 300 000	2 400 000	14 844 000					24 444 000
Borussia Dortmund	3 900 000	3 300 000	1 200 000	16 961 000					25 361 000
Group G									
APOEL FC	3 900 000	3 300 000	2 800 000	1 762 000	3 000 000	3 300 000			18 062 000
FC Zenit St Petersburg	3 900 000	3 300 000	2 800 000	4 990 000	3 000 000				17 990 000
FC Porto	3 900 000	3 300 000	2 400 000	2 794 000					12 394 000
FC Shakhtar Donetsk	3 900 000	3 300 000	1 600 000	1 678 000					10 478 000
Group H									
FC Barcelona	3 900 000	3 300 000	4 400 000	18 450 000	3 000 000	3 300 000	4 200 000		40 550 000
AC Milan	3 900 000	3 300 000	2 800 000	23 564 000	3 000 000	3 300 000			39 864 000
FC Viktoria Plzen	3 900 000	3 300 000	1 600 000	1 416 000					10 216 000
FC BATE Borisov	3 900 000	3 300 000	800 000	280 000					8 280 000
TOTAL	124 800 000	105 600 000	76 800 000	341 100 000	48 000 000	26 400 000	16 800 000	14 600 000	754 100 000



If the money had been shared equally, each participating club would have received around €23.5 million. In reality, however, the distribution ranged from just over €8.2 million to around €60 million per club. The sums paid out are based on the familiar financial distribution system, which rewards clubs' performances with fixed amounts as well as allocating bonuses based on the commercial value of their various domestic markets.

The fixed payments were as follows:

- €3.9 million for reaching the group stage and €550,000 for each match played, making a total of €7.2 million for each of the 32 participating clubs;
- in the group stage, €800,000 was awarded for a win and €400,000 for a draw; by winning all their matches, Real Madrid CF were the only club to net the maximum €4.8 million;
- round of 16 participants were awarded €3 million each; a further €3.3 million was paid to each of the eight quarter-finalists and €4.2 million to each semi-finalist;
- winners Chelsea FC received an additional €9 million, while runners-up FC Bayern München received €5.6 million.

As regards the variable amount dependent on the value of the clubs' domestic markets, the share allocated to clubs affiliated to a national association represented by more than one club was calculated, firstly, on the basis of their position in the 2010/11 season's domestic championship and, secondly, on the basis of the number of matches they played in the 2011/12 UEFA Champions League (group stage onwards).

Solidarity payments

The clubs that took part in the UEFA Champions League qualifying rounds were also entitled to a share of the revenue by way of solidarity payments:

- each domestic champion that failed to qualify for the group stage received €200,000;
- each club knocked out in one of the three qualifying rounds received €130,000 per round played (i.e. a maximum of €390,000); there were no solidarity payments for the clubs that reached the play-offs, although each received a bonus of €2.1 million, which was paid to the ten winners (APOEL FC, KRC Genk, GNK Dinamo Zagreb, FC Viktoria Plzen, FC BATE Borisov, Villarreal CF, SL Benfica, Arsenal FC, FC Bayern München and Olympique Lyonnais) in addition to the sums listed in the table opposite.

Solidarity payments to national associations for the clubs involved in the qualifying rounds of the 2011/12 UEFA club competitions

ASSOCIATION	AMOUNT (€)
ALBANIA	780 000
ANDORRA	600 000
ARMENIA	600 000
AUSTRIA	870 000
AZERBAIJAN	780 000
BELARUS	360 000
BELGIUM	400 000
BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA	780 000
BULGARIA	910 000
CROATIA	540 000
CYPRUS	540 000
CZECH REPUBLIC	450 000
DENMARK	560 000
ENGLAND	360 000
ESTONIA	600 000
FAROE ISLANDS	600 000
FINLAND	910 000
FRANCE	180 000
GEORGIA	1 270 000
GERMANY	90 000
GREECE	490 000
HUNGARY	870 000
ICELAND	780 000
ISRAEL	780 000
ITALY	180 000
KAZAKHSTAN	870 000
LATVIA	690 000
LIECHTENSTEIN	180 000
LITHUANIA	820 000
LUXEMBOURG	910 000
FYR MACEDONIA	870 000
MALTA	640 000
MOLDOVA	600 000
MONTENEGRO	600 000
NETHERLANDS	270 000
NORTHERN IRELAND	690 000
NORWAY	1 360 000
POLAND	780 000
PORTUGAL	450 000
REPUBLIC OF IRELAND	910 000
ROMANIA	580 000
RUSSIA	270 000
SAN MARINO	510 000
SCOTLAND	690 000
SERBIA	1 000 000
SLOVAKIA	1 000 000
SLOVENIA	910 000
SPAIN	180 000
SWEDEN	1 140 000
SWITZERLAND	450 000
TURKEY	360 000
UKRAINE	580 000
WALES	690 000
TOTAL	34 280 000

SHARES OF UP TO MORE THAN €10 MILLION

Like the UEFA Champions League, the UEFA Europa League has just completed the third year of a three-year cycle. The total sum of more than €150 million distributed to the 56 participating clubs was therefore the same as in the previous season. Two clubs received more than €10 million.



Packed stands for the first club competition final in Bucharest



Each club's share is determined according to well-established criteria that distinguish between fixed sums and a variable amount that depends on the commercial value of each club's domestic market.

The clubs had been informed of the fixed sums at the start of the season:

- a participation bonus of €640,000 for each of the 48 clubs in the group stage;
- a bonus of €60,000 for each group match, i.e. €360,000 per club, which, together with the aforementioned participation bonus, makes a total of €1 million per club, regardless of results;
- €140,000 for a win and €70,000 for a draw in the group stage; RSC Anderlecht (group L) was the only one of the 48 clubs to achieve a 100% record, worth €840,000;
- €200,000 for each participant in the round of 32;
- an additional €300,000 for each club that reached the round of 16;

- €400,000 for each quarter-finalist;
- €700,000 for each semi-finalist;
- €3 million for the competition winners (Club Atlético de Madrid) and €2 million for the runners-up (Athletic Club).

In addition, each of the 56 clubs received an amount linked to the value of its domestic TV market. A total of €60 million was distributed in this way, split into two halves:

- €30 million was shared out among all the national associations represented in the group stage (24), with each association's share depending on the value of its domestic market; associations with more than one club (16 associations with between two and four clubs each), had their shares subdivided, with the national cup winners receiving more (in Belgium, for example, cup winners R. Standard de Liège received half the available amount, while RSC Anderlecht and Club Brugge KV shared the other half).

- The remaining €30 million was divided into six pots, one for each round in the competition. These pots, increasing in size from the final (€1.2 million) to the group stage (€12 million), were then divided, depending on the value of the domestic markets, between the national associations represented in each round. For associations with more than one representative, the share of each pot was divided equally between the clubs concerned.

In addition to the sums shown in the table opposite, the clubs kept all their gate receipts.

Solidarity payments for the qualifying rounds

All the clubs that played in one or more of the 2011/12 UEFA Europa League qualifying rounds received €90,000 per round, i.e. a maximum of €270,000, whether they made it to the group stage or not.

In addition, each club knocked out in the play-offs received €90,000. •

Clubs	Group matches				Knockout matches					TOTAL €
	Participation bonus	Match bonus	Performance bonus	Market Pool	Round of 32	Round of 16	Quarter-finals	Semi-finals	Final	
Group A										
FC Rubin Kazan	640 000	360 000	560 000	1 529 470	200 000					3 289 470
PAOK FC	640 000	360 000	630 000	1 416 307	200 000					3 246 307
Tottenham Hotspur FC	640 000	360 000	490 000	1 460 296						2 950 296
Shamrock Rovers FC	640 000	360 000	–	154 031						1 154 031
Group B										
FC Vorskla Poltava	640 000	360 000	140 000	158 794						1 298 794
Hannover 96	640 000	360 000	560 000	5 971 481	200 000	300 000	400 000			8 431 481
R. Standard de Liège	640 000	360 000	700 000	250 964	200 000	300 000				2 450 964
FC København	640 000	360 000	280 000	264 560						1 544 560
Group C										
Legia Warszawa	640 000	360 000	420 000	658 898	200 000					2 278 898
Hapoel Tel-Aviv FC	640 000	360 000	350 000	32 869						1 382 869
FC Rapid Bucuresti	640 000	360 000	140 000	680 983						1 820 983
PSV Eindhoven	640 000	360 000	770 000	288 522	200 000	300 000				2 558 522
Group D										
FC Vaslui	640 000	360 000	350 000	680 983						2 030 983
FC Zürich	640 000	360 000	280 000	92 515						1 372 515
Sporting Clube de Portugal	640 000	360 000	560 000	1 159 383	200 000	300 000	400 000	700 000		4 319 383
S.S. Lazio	640 000	360 000	490 000	910 758	200 000					2 600 758
Group E										
Maccabi Tel-Aviv FC	640 000	360 000	140 000	19 869						1 159 869
FC Dynamo Kyiv	640 000	360 000	420 000	158 794						1 578 794
Stoke City FC	640 000	360 000	560 000	1 766 139	200 000					3 526 139
Besiktas JK	640 000	360 000	560 000	6 796 531	200 000	300 000				8 856 531
Group F										
FC Salzburg	640 000	360 000	490 000	51 688	200 000					1 741 688
SK Slovan Bratislava	640 000	360 000	70 000	6 923						1 076 923
Athletic Club	640 000	360 000	630 000	4 287 916	200 000	300 000	400 000	700 000	2 000 000	9 517 916
Paris Saint-Germain FC	640 000	360 000	490 000	931 177						2 421 177
Group G										
FC Metalist Kharkiv	640 000	360 000	700 000	417 944	200 000	300 000	400 000			3 017 944
AZ Alkmaar	640 000	360 000	490 000	472 082	200 000	300 000	400 000			2 862 082
Malmö FF	640 000	360 000	70 000	240 691						1 310 691
FK Austria Wien	640 000	360 000	420 000	35 075						1 455 075
Group H										
SC Braga	640 000	360 000	560 000	460 852	200 000					2 220 852
Club Brugge KV	640 000	360 000	560 000	124 418	200 000					1 884 418
NK Maribor	640 000	360 000	70 000	27 969						1 097 969
Birmingham City FC	640 000	360 000	490 000	1 460 296						2 950 296
Group I										
Celtic FC	640 000	360 000	350 000	651 152						2 001 152
Udinese Calcio	640 000	360 000	490 000	1 146 551	200 000	300 000				3 136 551
Stade Rennais FC	640 000	360 000	210 000	931 177						2 141 177
Club Atlético de Madrid	640 000	360 000	630 000	4 287 916	200 000	300 000	400 000	700 000	3 000 000	10 517 916
Group J										
FC Schalke 04	640 000	360 000	700 000	7 903 481	200 000	300 000	400 000			10 503 481
Maccabi Haifa FC	640 000	360 000	280 000	19 869						1 299 869
AEK Larnaca FC	640 000	360 000	280 000	275 994						1 555 994
FC Steaua Bucuresti	640 000	360 000	420 000	1 516 783	200 000					3 136 783
Group K										
FC Twente	640 000	360 000	630 000	429 522	200 000	300 000				2 559 522
Wisła Kraków	640 000	360 000	420 000	452 898	200 000					2 072 898
Odense BK	640 000	360 000	210 000	264 560						1 474 560
Fulham FC	640 000	360 000	420 000	1 460 296						2 880 296
Group L										
AEK Athens FC	640 000	360 000	140 000	1 824 317						2 964 317
SK Sturm Graz	640 000	360 000	140 000	35 075						1 175 075
FC Lokomotiv Moskva	640 000	360 000	560 000	1 529 470	200 000					3 289 470
RSC Anderlecht	640 000	360 000	840 000	124 418	200 000					2 164 418
Clubs entering the competition from the UEFA Champions League										
Manchester United FC				745 579	200 000	300 000				1 245 579
Manchester City FC				745 579	200 000	300 000				1 245 579
AFC Ajax				31 151	200 000					231 151
Valencia CF				1 470 243	200 000	300 000	400 000	700 000		3 070 243
Olympiacos FC				688 393	200 000	300 000				1 888 393
FC Viktoria Plzen				18 502	200 000					218 502
Trabzonspor AS				434 222	200 000					634 222
FC Porto				43 674	200 000					243 674
TOTAL	30 720 000	17 280 000	20 160 000	60 000 000	6 400 000	4 800 000	3 200 000	2 800 000	5 000 000	150 360 000

Any surplus in the amounts available will be distributed at a later date (not reflected in these figures).

GERMANY WIN BACK TITLE

Having dominated the first two editions of the competition, Germany won back the European U17 title that Spain had won and defended in the past two years.



Sportsfile

Germany's women's U17 team rediscovered their winning formula after a gap of two years



With the competition's final round set to be expanded from four to eight teams in 2014, the UEFA administration meanwhile once again organised and hosted the tournament at the Colovray stadium in Nyon.

No semi-final surprises

Switzerland, participating in the tournament for the first time, were full of enthusiasm as they began their semi-final against a formidable French team, who had won all their qualifying matches, scoring an impressive 35 goals and conceding just one. The Swiss managed to open the scoring but, stung into action, the French drew level a minute later and kept up the pressure, finishing with a resounding 5-1 victory.

In the other semi-final, Germany had their work cut out trying to breach a well-organised Danish defence. The Germans did not manage to break through until the final ten minutes, before sealing their place in the final in stoppage time.

A very close game

France, twice runners-up in the competition having lost to Germany in 2008 and Spain last year, had high hopes of adding their name to the list of winners for the first time and did more than simply resist the physically more powerful Germans for long periods. Coached by Francisco

Rubio, the French even created the best early opportunity, striking the German post before finally opening the scoring shortly before the hour mark, just as the heat was beginning to take its toll. The Germans, who were fresher, summoned the resources to equalise almost ten minutes later and, with the score still 1-1 at the end of normal time, a penalty competition was held, since there is no extra time in this category.

France, who had eliminated Germany on penalties in last year's semi-final, were less fortunate this time, as two of their spot kicks were saved by the German goalkeeper to enable their opponents to regain the European crown. Afterwards, German coach Anouschka Bernhard summed the match up well:

"It was a very close game. Both teams are more or less at the same level. I'd say France have the better players but I think we played better as a team and that made the difference. In a game like today's, you would normally expect the team that scores first to win, but we came back as a team – we fought for one another."

World Cup qualification

Both finalists qualify for the FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup, to be played in Azerbaijan in September. The draw for this final round took place in Baku on 6 July (→UEFA.com).

In the match for third place, Denmark and Switzerland opted for a rather cautious approach which inevitably resulted in a 0-0 scoreline at the final whistle. The subsequent penalty competition was won by the Danes. ●

RESULTS

Semi-finals

26.6	Switzerland – France	1-5
26.6	Denmark – Germany	0-2

Match for third place

29.6	Switzerland – Denmark	0-0*
	<i>*Denmark won 5-4 on penalties</i>	

Final

29.6	France – Germany	1-1*
	<i>*Germany win 4-3 on penalties</i>	

THE PRIDE OF LYON

Beat that! The 2011/12 UEFA Women's Champions League final at the Olympiastadion in Munich set a staggering new attendance record, with 50,212 fans watching Olympique Lyonnais beat 1. FFC Frankfurt 2-0 on the second day of the UEFA Champions Festival in the Bavarian capital.



The figure smashed the previous record of 28,112 set when FCR 2001 Duisburg entertained WFC Zvezda-2005 in 2009, when the UEFA Women's Cup final was still being disputed on a home and away basis. As it happened, the Olympiastadion was where Olympique de Marseille had won France's first club-competition title in 1993 – a piece of trivia which gave added impetus to French ambitions to successfully defend the women's title.

Attendance records apart, one of the questions in women's club football is whether anybody can beat Olympique Lyonnais. "No doubt they are a top team," said the disappointed Frankfurt coach, Sven Kahlert, after the game on 17 May. "They gel well and they have well-oiled mechanisms in a team that has been together for several years. Everyone is chasing them, which will make this competition even more interesting in the future."

The value of experience

The Olympiastadion, resplendent in its Champions League livery for its comeback as a football venue after seven years and two days of "hibernation", provided an awe-inspiring setting for the two teams, who offered the fans an edgy start. But Lyon, taking on German opposition in their third successive final and fielding nine of the starters from the previous season's final in London, made experience count – and had nerves soothed when, with a quarter of an hour played, Shirley Cruz regained a ball she appeared to have lost and, while trying to wriggle her way along the byline, was brought down by Frankfurt's Melanie Behringer. Eugénie Le Sommer, although admitting that she could feel the pressure exerted by so many German fans in the stands, kept her cool to beat Désirée Schumann from the penalty spot.

Thirteen minutes later, the German keeper raced out of the box to clear a long ball which was being chased by OL's Swedish striker Lotta Schelin. Unfortunately for her, the header went straight to Camille Abily who, with great aplomb, volleyed the ball first time into the unguarded net. After that, the final was a story of stalwart efforts by the German team to produce a goal

which might have turned the psychological tide. But Olympique Lyonnais refused to be shaken and, when all else failed, Sarah Bouhaddi was impeccable between the posts.

Remarkable campaign

By the time Swedish referee Jenny Palmqvist blew the final whistle, Patrice Lair's team had dominated goal attempts by 21 to 10 and had hit the woodwork twice. When their captain



Olympique Lyonnais celebrate defending their title

and left-back Sonia Bompastor lifted the trophy, it put a gilt seal on a remarkable campaign. Since Swedish club Umeå IK won the UEFA Women's Cup in 2003 and 2004, no team had successfully defended the title – and OL did so in grand style, scoring 39 goals and conceding only one.

"It's special for a French club to win in Germany," Patrice Lair commented afterwards, "because they are the strongest country in European women's football. They have the best clubs and the best national team. My big wish would be for the profile of women's football to be the same in France as it is in Germany – and, of course, to win this competition for a third time." ●

17 May 2012

Olympiastadion, Munich – 50,212 spectators

Olympique Lyonnais – 1. FFC Frankfurt 2-0 (2-0)

Goals: Le Sommer (15, pen.), Abily (28)

Referee: Jenny Palmqvist (Sweden)

A STORY OF OUTSTANDING PROGRESS

The roots of women's football can be traced as far back as 1885. We do not know much about those early times, but the first women's international match on record was played between England and France in 1920 and watched by an incredible 25,000 spectators.



Sportsfile

A record attendance (50,212 spectators) for the UEFA Women's Champions League final at Munich's Olympiastadion

This is history of course, but such facts demonstrate the popularity of women's football going back a century – and indeed long before bodies such as UEFA even existed. This article tracks the progress of women's football from its initial recognition to its wider acceptance and visibility today.

Thursday 17 May 2012 was a great day for women's football. The generous city of Munich hosted the UEFA Women's Champions League final – and a record-breaking 50,212 spectators looked on as Olympique Lyonnais claimed the trophy. To complement their celebrations, the football family as a whole should take a moment

to reflect on the outstanding progress of the women's game because, in just a few decades, it has developed from the Stone Age to become a vibrant, modern part of football.

Immediate popularity

Women's football really caught on during the first and second world wars, when men were in service and women took up sport in their absence, both for exercise and entertainment. The popularity of the women's game was immediate – but it was not officially recognised until 1971 when UEFA founded its first women's football committee. The members' mission was to

study and obtain a precise picture of the standing of women's football across Europe and draw up provisions and guidelines accordingly. In 1980, interest was such that the inaugural UEFA Competition for Representative Women's Teams was born.

This new competition was given a warm welcome. Held three times in the 1980s, the winners were Sweden, Norway and West Germany. In 1989, amid increasing popularity, this competition evolved into the European Women's Championship. To clearly grasp the scale of growth, one only needs to look at the numbers. For example, in 1982, just 16 European national associations took part. But today, an impressive 45 associations are participating in the 2011–2013 European Women's Championship, which will culminate in July 2013 in Sweden.

From the bottom up: youth development

With the national competition in full swing, UEFA women's football branched out to support youth development. This is a crucial element of growth, and in 1997 UEFA staged the inaugural European women's Under-18 competition. Both physical ability and maturity come into their own during these formative years and, with this in mind, UEFA has since divided this competition into women's U17 and U19 competitions, which are better tailored to age brackets, technical skill and strength.

The youth competitions are taken seriously and the standard of play is very high. The organisation of these tournaments is such that they provide a true-to-life international and highly competitive environment. This is an intense experience for the young players and, at the same time, they also learn the importance of team spirit, cooperation and respect, as well as forging friendships and trust. These are the best times for young players to learn and test their dedication to the game.

Introducing women's club competitions

In 2001, the next milestone was achieved with the launch of the first UEFA Women's Cup. This heralded the introduction of women's club competitions, with 33 clubs qualifying initially. Enjoying considerable success, the Women's Cup ran from 2001 to 2009 before the UEFA Women's Champions League was launched to kick off the 2009/10 season. Not only did this new development position the women's game alongside the prestigious UEFA Champions League competition, it also showcased advanced, attacking and technically skilled women's football – defining it as a game on its own merit. ●



Steffi Jones, UEFA ambassador for the women's final in Munich, next to the UEFA Women's Champions League trophy and surrounded by a group of visitors to the UEFA Champions Festival

WOMEN'S FOOTBALL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

To genuinely succeed in terms of long-term sustainability for women's football, UEFA must maintain the current momentum towards further development actually within its member associations. With the support of the UEFA HatTrick Programme, football associations across Europe have been introducing new women's leagues, improving current activities or focusing on future player development.

Supporting this exciting project as UEFA ambassador is Steffi Jones, a leading icon for women's football in Europe. The aim is to facilitate accessibility and promote women's football as an integral part of everyday sporting activities for girls and women who want to play. To date, 50 of UEFA's 53 members have submitted a project to either launch or strengthen women's football in their country. Here is a selection of approved projects, which give an idea of the scope and effort going into this development programme.

Armenia	Development of grassroots football for girls and women
Austria	A new girls' academy at the national football centre
Azerbaijan	Launch of a girls' Under-15 league
Belarus	First women's youth championship
Croatia	Women's football festival, a two-day invitation tournament
Czech Republic	Campaign: spotlight on women's and girls' football
England	Girls' football roadshow
France	Launch of a girls' Under-13 competition
Georgia	"School Ball for Girls", a tournament for 12-14-year-olds
Greece	Campaign to introduce women's football to Greece
Hungary	"Bozsik Programme" for girls in primary schools
Israel	"I'm a Kicker" – organisation of an inter-school league
Italy	Girls' Under-15 promotional programme
Latvia	School campaign: "We play football – come and join US"
Montenegro	Open Girls' Day – activity day in various cities across the country
Norway	Coaching development programme: "It's fun being a goalkeeper"
Republic of Ireland	Girls' emerging talent programme
Romania	Sport camps to introduce women's football
Russia	Celebration of 25 years of women's football in Russia
Turkey	Girls' football training centre and Under-13 girls' championship

MORE THAN 70 NEW GRADUATES

The future of European football governance and management is in good hands.

In a ceremony at the House of European Football in Nyon on 11 May, more than 70 graduates from throughout Europe – including many from national football associations – received the UEFA Certificate in Football Management (UEFA CFM) and UEFA Diploma in Football Management (UEFA DFM), following the completion of nine-month courses.



The graduates gather at UEFA headquarters in Nyon

In recent years, UEFA has established strong links with the academic community, notably through a series of educational initiatives that are providing various concrete benefits to UEFA, its 53 member national associations and European football as a whole. The UEFA education programme has three stages – the UEFA CFM, followed by the UEFA DFM and the Executive Master in European Sport Governance (MESGO). Presidents and general secretaries of national associations can recommend up to two members of staff a year as candidates for both the UEFA CFM and the UEFA DFM.

Second edition of the certificate...

The second edition of the UEFA Certificate in Football Management began last September. Its programme is linked to UEFA's innovative Knowledge & Information Sharing Scenario (KISS), and aims to help UEFA's 53 member national associations strengthen their knowledge and management of football.

The foundation course comprises six online modules (e-learning) and three face to face seminars. The UEFA CFM spans a nine-month period from September to May. Certificates are awarded through the Swiss Graduate School of Public

Administration (IDHEAP) at the University of Lausanne. Every online module focuses on one central aspect: the organisation of European and world football, strategic and performance management, operational management, event management, marketing and sponsorship, internal and external communication.

...and first for the diploma

Meanwhile, the UEFA Diploma in Football Management kicked off its inaugural edition last September. National associations' middle managers will benefit from the UEFA DFM by getting the chance to enhance their knowledge in key areas in the organisation of football events – for example, volunteer management, stadiums and security, marketing operations and media operations.

Participants not only apply what they learn back at home in their respective associations, but also exchange experience with representatives of other associations – so serving the development of football in Europe as a whole. As with the UEFA CFM, the diplomas are issued through IDHEAP at Lausanne University.

The advanced course comprises four online modules plus three face to face seminars. Each module addresses an important facet of national football association management and is prepared and run by internationally renowned academic experts. All modules have been developed in close cooperation with UEFA and practitioners in the field to ensure they meet the needs of national association staff.

Speakers gave fulsome praise to the graduates on their big day. "We at UEFA believe very much in these courses, in knowledge-sharing and exchange, we think that we can always improve and learn," said the UEFA general secretary, Gianni Infantino. "A key element which has been created now is the network between UEFA and yourselves, and we have to make this network live."

"You have all worked very hard over the last nine months," added Jean-Loup Chappelet, IDHEAP professor. "You deserve this degree, which we hope will help you in the management of your national associations, and open new career paths. Most of you will play an important role in European football in the future and beyond." ●

DRAMATIC DUTCH DOUBLE

It was the third and most dramatic meeting between Germany and the Netherlands in the last four European Under-17 Championship final rounds.



As the match at the National Arena in Ljubljana went into added time, the Germans seemed sure to avenge the 5-2 defeat they had suffered against the Dutch in the 2011 final.

Then Dutch midfielder Thom Hays curled in a cross from the right; defenders and attackers rose but failed to make contact; substitute Elton Acolatse controlled the ball beyond the far post and lofted a great finish into the far corner of the German net; and the two teams were left to prepare to battle for the trophy in a penalty shoot-out.

But let us not start with the end. The final tournament had been the first to be organised by the Slovenian national association and, despite seesawing temperatures and occasional downpours, it could only be classed as an outstanding success. The crowd of 11,674 for the final brought the total attendance to 41,420 – a 39% increase on the previous season.

Intense tournament

The starting grid had an unfamiliar look to it, with Georgia and Poland making their first appearance for a decade, Iceland back after a five-year absence, and Slovenia relishing the opportunity to make their debut as hosts. With permission from France – traditionally a major force at this level – the pre-tournament feeling was that Germans and Dutch would again compete in a déjà vu final. And so it turned out. But both teams were made to struggle mightily against “underdogs” who were prepared to offer resolute resistance. The result was an intense, low-scoring final tournament in which, when the ball started rolling on the final matchday of the group stage, all eight teams had the opportunity to clinch semi-final places.

In Group A, played in the capital, Ljubljana, and in nearby Domzale, the surprise fallers were the French who, after being surprised by two set plays when leading Iceland 2-0, had drawn 1-1 after falling behind to a Georgian penalty and needed to beat Germany to advance. Conceding three goals in the second half sent them home and allowed Georgia to make national history by reaching the last four at the expense of the Icelanders, who had been qualified until seven minutes from the end.

In Group B, played in Maribor and Lendava, a skilful, attractive Belgian side caught the eye but, struggling to convert chances into goals, were eliminated along with the Slovenian hosts, who found it difficult to match the high tempo of their opponents. Poland, thanks to a breakaway

goal against the Belgians and two draws, qualified along with the Dutch from a group that produced two goalless draws.

Late goals

The Dutch then produced their Houdini escape act. After a headed goal from a corner had given Germany a 1-0 win against Poland, they struggled to break down a Georgian side that was reduced to 10 after only 16 minutes. The Dutch finally broke through two minutes from the end and added a second during added time. Their repeat performance during the final brought everything down to the penalty shoot-out in which their goalkeeper Nick Olij made the decisive save to give Albert Stuivenberg’s team an unlikely second successive victory against the stunned Germans. ●



The Dutch Under-17s win again – but they did it the hard way

RESULTS

Group A

4 May	Georgia – Germany	0-1
4 May	France – Iceland	2-2
7 May	France – Georgia	1-1
7 May	Iceland – Germany	0-1
10 May	Germany – France	3-0
10 May	Iceland – Georgia	0-1

Group B

4 May	Poland – Belgium	1-0
4 May	Slovenia – Netherlands	1-3
7 May	Netherlands – Belgium	0-0
7 May	Slovenia – Poland	1-1
10 May	Belgium – Slovenia	3-1
10 May	Netherlands – Poland	0-0

Semi-finals

13 May	Germany – Poland	1-0
13 May	Netherlands – Georgia	2-0

Final

16 May	Germany – Netherlands	1-1*
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*Netherlands win 5-4 on penalties

FRENCH U21 TEAM ALREADY THROUGH



Title holders Spain (in the shape of Thiago Alcantara, No8, in red) dominated Group 5, in which they came up against last season's beaten finalists, Switzerland, (and their No8, Nzuzi Toko).

The qualifying phase of the 2011–13 European Under-21 Championship is nearly over, although there is currently no action taking place from mid-June to mid-August.



All 53 UEFA member associations are involved. Israel qualify automatically as hosts of the final tournament in 2013. For the qualifying competition, the other 52 teams were split into ten groups (two of six teams and eight of five), the winners of which will be joined by the four best runners-up in the two-leg play-offs. The seven play-off winners will go through to the final tournament in Israel.

With seven wins out of seven matches in Group 9, France are the only team already guaranteed a first-place finish and a play-off berth. Others, however, are also on the verge of qualifying with unbeaten records, including Germany (Group 1), the Czech Republic (Group 3), Spain (Group 5) and Italy (Group 7).

The play-off draw will take place in September. ●

OLYMPIC TOURNAMENTS IN LONDON

The current holders of the European Under-21 Championship, Spain, the team that they beat in the 2011 final, Switzerland, and Belarus will participate in the men's Olympic football tournament in London, which starts at the end of July.

These three teams, which qualified for the tournament by virtue of their performances in the European Under-21 Championship, will be joined by an unusual European representative, Great Britain, who qualify as hosts and will take part in their first Olympic tournament since 1960.

Belarus, Spain, Great Britain and Switzerland will play their first matches on 26 July against New Zealand, Japan,

Senegal and Gabon respectively. The group matches, to be played in London (Wembley Stadium), Manchester, Coventry, Cardiff, Newcastle and Glasgow, will finish on 1 August. The top two in each group will contest the quarter-finals on 4 August, with the semi-finals to be played on 7 August and the final in London on 11 August.

In the women's tournament, Europe is represented by Great Britain, France and

Sweden, the last two having booked their places through the 2011 FIFA Women's World Cup.

Group matches will be played between 25 and 31 July. The top two in each group and the two best runners-up will dispute the quarter-finals on 3 August, with the semi-finals to follow on 6 August and the final to be staged in London on 9 August. ●

NEW UEFA CLUB COMPETITION SEASON UNDER WAY

Even before UEFA EURO 2012 reached its climax in Kyiv, a new season of UEFA club competitions had already begun.

The first official event took place at the House of European Football in Nyon, where the draw was held on 25 June for the first two qualifying rounds of the UEFA Champions League and UEFA Europa League. Action on the pitch began on 3 July, the start of a long journey which will end with the Champions League final at London's Wembley Stadium on 25 May 2013 and the Europa League final in Amsterdam on 15 May 2013.

Meanwhile, on 31 August, the UEFA Super Cup will serve as a bridge between two seasons, involving the two club competition winners from the last campaign, Champions League holders Chelsea FC and Europa League winners Club Atlético de Madrid. This match will mark the end of an era in Super Cup history since, after 15 years at Monaco's Stade Louis II, the competition will embark on a new adventure in Prague in

2013, after which it will move from city to city throughout the continent. ●

● A new season of women's club football has also begun, with the 2012/13 UEFA Women's Champions League qualifying round draw held in Nyon on 28 June. The first matches will be played on 11 August.



Women's national team intensifies preparations

Women's football is now a tangible reality and a welcome addition to Albanian sporting life. After several years of organising national activities such as the championship or the cup of Albania, the women's national team was founded just over a year ago. Numerous selection activities and player training camps followed by friendly matches have been organised so far.

The team consists of the best players from the Albanian league and a considerable number who live and play abroad, in countries such as Germany, England, France and even the US or Australia. The team is managed by Altin Rraklli and his staff. Rraklli was one of the best-known strikers in the Albanian national team between 1990 and 2000, and had a long career in the German Bundesliga.

Recently, he led the women's national team during a ten-day retreat accompanied by friendly matches. The purpose of this retreat was to put the players in a tournament situation. So they were given the chance to be selected for and play three matches in a



The Albanian women's national team has yet to taste defeat

row, just as in the knockout round of an official competition.

The women's national team played two friendly matches against Montenegro, with the Albanians winning both the first, played in Bar, Montenegro, 4–2 and the second, in Shkodra, Albania, 4–3. The third friendly match took place in Pogradec, Albania, against the women's national team of FYR Macedonia,

and the Albanians won again here 2–0. This means that the Albanian women's national team has now won all five of the matches it has played since its inception. According to the leaders of the Albanian Football Association, the women's national team will soon be competing in international competitions.

● Tritan Kokona



Clubs open up, immigrants join in

In June, the Austrian Football Association (ÖFB) began a joint project with the Austrian ministry of the interior entitled "Zusammen: Österreich. Dein Land braucht dich" ("Together, Austria: your country needs you").



Other institutions have joined the ÖFB as partners in the campaign, for which the slogan is "Vereine machen auf. Migranten machen mit" ("Clubs open up, immigrants join in"). The goal is to encourage young people from immigrant families to become part of organisations and clubs, as a means of breaking down prejudices and promoting a sense of community.

Successful cooperation between players from different cultural backgrounds has long been a feature of the Austrian national team. As such, the ÖFB knows the importance of integrating immigrants and is fully committed to this latest cooperation project. Various related campaigns are planned to coincide with the international matches taking place this autumn.

● Christoph Walter



More than 18,000 footballs for rural schools

On 30 and 31 May, the Football Federation of Belarus (BFF) held a children's football event with the support of the ministry of education and two sponsors. This is the first time that an event of this scale has been organised in Belarus.

BFF representatives and local authorities visited more than 2,000 rural schools in every region of the country. In a festive atmosphere, more than 18,000 footballs were presented to first-year children.

The main objective set by the organisers was to attract tens of thousands of Belarusian children to the most popular sport in the world. The balls were presented on the eve of the summer holidays and just ahead of UEFA EURO 2012 and the Olympic Games. Each ball

was decorated with logos of those associated with the project.

The BFF is confident that these presents will contribute to the organisation of children's leisure activities, as well as to uniting them, building and raising team spirit, developing basic sports skills and improving their health. It is in rural areas where interest in children's football is lowest, a situation caused by the lack of initial organisational structures and the necessary equipment. Despite this, however, international experience shows that children from rural areas regularly become top-class players as a result of their persistence, hard work and ingenuity.

The BFF is planning to organise such events annually to promote grassroots football in Belarus.

● Aliaksandr Tomin



Footballs by the thousand for young schoolchildren in Belarus

Bosnia and Herzegovina
www.nfsbih.ba

Zeljeznicar dominate the season

This year's fight for the title in the Bosnian and Herzegovinian Premier League was nowhere near as open as last season. FK Željeznicar were compelling and had already secured victory four rounds before the end of the season. Their closest challengers – NK Široki Brijeg, current champions FK Borac Banja Luka and city rivals FK Sarajevo – all abandoned the race for first place very early on.

The struggle for Premier League survival was, on the other hand, much more engaging. FK Kozara knew they would be going down in the early stages of the competition, but it was not until the final round that the other team to be relegated, FK Sloboda Tuzla, learned their fate. The two clubs taking their place next season are FK Gradina Srebrenik and FK Radnik Bijeljina.

The cup was also very exciting, with the championship's two best teams, Željeznicar and Široki Brijeg, meeting in the final.

But this season was all about FK Željeznicar and their record. The club has now won the championship five times (1998, 2001, 2002, 2010 and 2012). They also won once in the



A brilliant season for FK Željeznicar

former Yugoslavia (1972), making Željeznicar the most successful club in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Željeznicar lost only three times this season – twice in the first three rounds – before playing 13 consecutive matches without conceding a goal. Their third defeat came in the final round of matches. Also, goalkeeper Adnan Gušo went a record-breaking 1,180 minutes without conceding a goal, helping his team finish with a record goal difference of +51 (68:17) and a new Premier League points record of 71 (compared with FK Borac's winning total of 64 points last season).

FK Željeznicar also won their fifth Bosnian Cup this season (their other victories coming

in 2000, 2001, 2003, and 2011). They have now gone three seasons in a row without losing a game in this competition – a total of 27 games unbeaten. This season, the players coached by Amar Osim conceded just one goal in the whole competition, and beat Široki Brijeg in the final. They won 1-0 in their first game at Grbavica stadium, before a goalless draw in the return leg at

Pecara stadium. In the semi-finals, Željeznicar beat FK Borac Banja Luka 4-0 on aggregate, while NK Široki Brijeg won both legs against FK Velež Mostar 1-0.

The Bosnian national team played two friendly matches, losing the first 1-0 against the Republic of Ireland in Dublin. The second match was played in Chicago (USA) against Mexico, with Bosnia-Herzegovina losing 2-1 this time.

Finally, in the elite round of the European Under-19 Championship in Croatia, Bosnia-Herzegovina lost all three of their matches, against Georgia (4-2), Austria (2-0) and Croatia (2-0).

● Fuad Kravac

England
www.thefa.com

Partnership with the Holocaust Educational Trust

The Football Association (FA) and the Holocaust Educational Trust have entered into a partnership to produce an educational resource on the Holocaust for all secondary schools and colleges in England.

At the beginning of June, as part of this joint legacy project, the senior England squad and staff heard the testimony of Holocaust survivor Zigi Shipper and met his fellow survivor, weight-lifting champion Ben Helfgott MBE, before departing to Poland for EURO 2012.

Zigi, now aged 82, was sent to Auschwitz in 1944 before being sent on a death march to the German town of Neustadt, where he was liberated in 1945, aged 15. He now lives in England. Ben, also 82, was born in Poland and in 1944 was sent with his father to the Buchenwald concentration camp. After being separated from his father, he was transported to Czechoslovakia, before being liberated by Russian troops. Like Zigi, he was 15. In 1947 he came to the UK and was reunited with his sister. He later represented Britain at the 1956 and 1960 Olympic Games as a weightlifter.

While in Poland, a group of England players, staff and FA executives visited Auschwitz I and Birkenau with the Holocaust Educational Trust. At the same time, other members of the England squad made a visit to Oskar Schindler's factory in Krakow.

Following both these visits and the Holocaust survivor talks, a joint educational resource for young people was produced. This DVD, created to assist teachers in educating young people about the Holocaust, features prominent England players discussing why they feel it is important to learn about our shared history – and why combating prejudice today matters to them.



England captain Steven Gerrard with Holocaust survivors Ben Helfgott MBE and Zigi Shipper

England visited the site prior to their opening fixture against France. The group signed the museum's guest book before lighting a candle of remembrance on the train tracks at Birkenau.

The FA chairman, David Bernstein, said: "This educational partnership brings together the important work of teaching future generations about the horrors of the Holocaust, using the ability of football to interest and engage young

people. There are so many lessons to be learned and understood, and we believe football can play its part in encouraging society to speak out against intolerance in all its forms. I am proud that Roy Hodgson and the England team are supporting such an important initiative and I would encourage all English schools to take advantage of the learning materials that will be created."

Through footage of the England team's visit to Auschwitz-Birkenau, and with maps, images and archival footage, the DVD offers a concise introduction to the history of the Holocaust.

The project will help to engage with all secondary schools and colleges in England, as well as all further education colleges, and will reach a wider audience through circulation in social and other media.

● Scott Field

Germany
www.dfb.de

New DFB app released

The German Football Association (DFB) has released its new, official app for Android devices in time for EURO 2012. Users can download and install the app free of charge to receive exclusive news updates on all DFB-related subjects, including the German national team, direct to their Android mobile phone or tablet PC.

Fans of German football can now get updates wherever and whenever they want. With up-to-the-minute news, exciting minute-by-minute commentaries and an exclusive video section, everyone can keep their fingers on the pulse with the very latest text and video information.



The new app allows users to follow all the activities of the German national team

Inside stories on the team, information from DFB headquarters and updates from the stadium mean you can carry the world of football with you everywhere you go and enjoy unique insights and information that are not available anywhere else.

● Stephan Brause

Debreceni double

Debreceni VSC have completed a perfect season, winning the title and the Hungarian Cup in style. The former UEFA Champions League and UEFA Europa League contenders did not lose a single game in the 2011/12 league season, finishing six points clear at the top of the table. Elemér Kondás' side beat Székesfehérvár's Videoton FC and Győr's Gyori ETO FC in the title race to win the league for the sixth time.

Debrecen, who play in red and white, also won the Hungarian Cup. Although Kondás gave some young and inexperienced players opportunities during the cup campaign, they still beat all of their opponents, including second division champions MTK Budapest in a dramatic final. The game at Ferenc Puskás



A league and cup double for VSC Debreceni

Stadium finished 3-3, with Debrecen winning the penalty shoot-out 8-7.

This year's league runners-up Videoton FC won the league cup for the third time in their history. Paolo Sousa's side beat Kecskeméti TE 3-0 in the final with an impressive performance. Gyori ETO finished third in the league but because of their current status, they will not take part the UEFA Europa League next season. Fourth-placed finishers Budapest Honvéd will join MTK Budapest and Videoton FC in the Europa League, while Debrecen will contest the UEFA Champions League qualifiers.

● Márton Dinnyés

IFA and Peres Center for Peace women's tournament

In the past two years, women's football has been developing dramatically. The Israel Football Association (IFA) is currently running domestic leagues for four different age groups, and in the near future expects to increase the number of girls playing football and the number of leagues.

In May, Israel was announced as the host of the European Women's Under-19 Championship final tournament in 2015. The IFA decided to get an early start and prepare a special squad for this event.

The up-and-coming team started to practise a year ago and from next season they will get extra training and all the medical and physical preparation they require in order to maximise their potential.

In addition to the regular women's leagues, the IFA is organising open tournaments for the



Women's youth football at the Ramat Gan stadium

8-12 age group. One such event took place at the Ramat Gan stadium, the national stadium of Israel, in May. A total of 220 girls from all over the country – Palestinians and Israelis alike – joined together to play football at the tournament, which was sponsored by the IFA and the Peres Center for Peace.

After the final, all the girls went together to watch the women's cup final between Asa Tel-Aviv and Maccabi Hedera, which Asa won 2-0 to complete a league and cup double.

● Michal Grundland

Taster sessions for girls

On Wednesday 23 May, the Lichtenstein Football Association (LFV), acting in conjunction with Lichtenstein's seven football clubs, organised taster training sessions for girls of primary school age. The event was a great success, with some 82 girls turning up at the country's football pitches wanting to have a go at playing football in their free time.

By producing posters, flyers and radio advertisements, as well as using a radio programme to get the word out, the LFV had gone to great lengths to publicise these taster sessions, working together with the clubs. It had worked hard to encourage as many girls as possible to come along – with no commitment whatsoever – and have a go at playing football, hoping that this would dispel any reservations they may have and could help them find a new hobby.

To the organisers' delight, the girls came in numbers. No fewer than 82 were curious to



A training session to show how much fun football can be

see what football is like and whether it really is fun. There were beaming faces and looks of concentration everywhere, and at the end of the session the clubs had their hands full answering the girls' questions about the times of training sessions and much more besides.

The LFV gave all participants small gifts to thank them for coming, and hopes that as many as possible decide to take up the sport.

● Anton Banzer

Six events for tolerance, togetherness and respect

Under the patronage of the president of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Gjorge Ivanov, and in partnership with the global geostrategic institute, the Football Federation of Macedonia (FFM) has organised grassroots events in six regions for participants from different ethnic backgrounds as part of a project promoting sport as an agent of tolerance, togetherness and respect.



Sport as a vehicle of tolerance and respect

The general objective and message of the project is that through sport – and football in particular – as a social activity, differences can be reconciled, tolerance preserved and respect shown for everyone. It is another example of the FFM's commitment to making social responsibility a top priority.

Three of the six planned events have already been held. All were very well organised and characterised by a great atmosphere. The first event took place in the city of Prilep on 4 April. In addition to the presence of our country's president, we were also honoured with the active participation of many Macedonian football legends and other high-level representatives of the participating municipalities, as well as FFM representatives.

The second event was held on 7 April in Suto Orizari, where the majority of the population is of Roma origin. Here again we saw the young participants – 300 children in all – have fun playing football. Our president attended this event too and spent time with the children.

The third event was organised on 23 April in Vrapchiste, which has a large Turkish population. Apart from the numerous football matches, all the children taking part performed traditional dances of their particular ethnic group for the media and guests, who included Gjorge Ivanov and the FFM's general secretary, Igor Klimper.

The last three events were to be held at the end of May and the beginning of June in Staro Nagorichane, Tetovo and Centar.

For the FFM, it is a real honour to be involved in a project that validates our belief that encouraging sport in general and football in particular and promoting their development is the best possible way to cultivate a spirit of togetherness and raise future, healthy generations on whose shoulders the future of our country lies.

● Bojan Markovski



Malta

www.mfa.com.mt

UEFA Study Group Scheme seminar on grassroots football

Recently, the Malta Football Association hosted a UEFA Study Group Scheme seminar on grassroots football. Participants from another three UEFA member associations – Italy, Lithuania and Luxembourg – joined the Malta FA's representatives to exchange knowledge of a technical nature on grassroots football and coach education at this level, besides other related subjects. Experiences in these



A fruitful knowledge-sharing exercise involving representatives of four national associations

areas were also shared during the very interesting sessions held over three days.

Grassroots football is at the core of UEFA's initiatives to raise greater awareness of the importance of the game at the base level. The participants in Malta gave a valid contribution, delving into the concepts of the subject and providing feedback which was thoroughly processed by the host and visiting associations before being submitted to UEFA.

The UEFA Study Group Scheme, in which all 53 UEFA member associations are involved, is another UEFA concept regarded as an extremely valuable tool for exchanging technical knowledge and best practice, with the seminar participants then taking the ideas and concepts back to their own associations for eventual deployment with senior technical staff.

In the four years since it was introduced, the scheme has been a resounding success thanks to all member associations playing an important role in sharing ideas and experiences.

Malta's role in this respect has been very useful and in sync with UEFA's initiatives to encourage further development of the game at all levels.

● Alex Vella



Moldova

www.fmf.md

UEFA development tournaments in Moldova

The Football Association of Moldova (FMF) recently hosted a pair of international development tournaments with the support of UEFA's HatTrick assistance programme. These tournaments, which have been taking place in various countries this spring, are genuine learning experiences for the players – not just in fine-tuning skills through practice and guidance, but also in allowing them to appreciate an international and highly competitive environment.

"Creating these youth development tournaments was the specific wish of the presidents and general secretaries of the UEFA member associations at our meeting in Cyprus in September last year. Our faith is in you, the youth players, the future of European football, and I trust you will make it a successful future," said the UEFA president, Michel Platini, in his message to participants in the official programme.

"Entrusting the FMF with the organisation and staging of these tournaments shows great appreciation and encouragement from UEFA. We believe that this is accounted for by the good conditions that are provided at the national teams' technical centre in Vadul lui Voda, built with the support of the UEFA HatTrick assistance programme," said the FMF president, Pavel Cebanu.

Boys' Under-16 teams from Hungary, Ukraine, Moldova and Romania challenged each other in an invigorating display of football's future talent in Vadul lui Voda, where Hungary ultimately emerged victorious against Romania at the end of an exciting final match.

The U17 girls' teams from the same countries also produced a fine display at the same venue, a short distance from the capital city, Chisinau. Women's football is coming into its own and is

gaining an ever-increasing following, which meant that this event was a perfect opportunity to see the young players in action at an influential stage in their careers. The winners were Romania, who triumphed over Moldova in a penalty shoot-out. All the young people participating in these international development tournaments demonstrated technical skill, determination and fair play.

"This is a great tournament to develop women's football. I was pleased by the level of organisation and the atmosphere at the stadium," said the UEFA president, who presented the trophy to the Romanian team after their win over Moldova. He also presented the prime minister of Moldova, Vladimir Filat, with a commemorative pennant at half-time in celebration of his 43rd birthday. From Pavel Cebanu the prime minister received a Moldovan national team shirt with the No10 on the back. "I am glad to visit Moldova once again, and I am happy that UEFA has helped the FMF to build such a wonderful training centre," the UEFA president said. "I hope that it will bring results on the football pitch soon enough."

● Press office



Alongside FMF president Pavel Cebanu, Michel Platini presents the trophy to Romania's captain



Netherlands

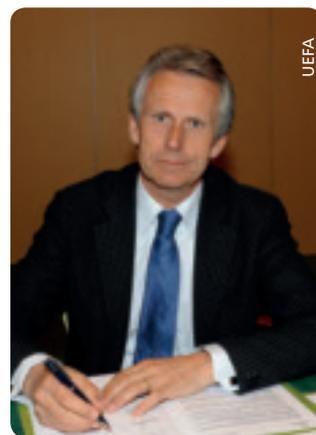
www.knvb.nl

Harry Been to step down as general secretary

Harry Been has decided to step down as general secretary of the Royal Netherlands Football Association (KNVB) as of September. Been, 63, will hand over his international duties to the association's head of professional football, Bert van Oostveen, while Ruud Bruijnis, head of amateur football, will take over most of Been's domestic duties. As of September, Been will start work as a member of the board of the Dutch Olympic committee, to which he was elected last month. He will apply his experience in the world of international sport and politics to help the Netherlands to bid for the 2028 Olympics.

Been was appointed general director of the KNVB in 1989. When Belgium and the Netherlands were selected to co-host a large event for the first time ever, he became the tournament director of EURO 2000.

The overwhelming success of this tournament tempted the KNVB to host more international football, and Been used his experience and influence at international level to the best of his abilities. He was knighted in his own country in 2001 for his



Harry Been signing the UEFA Referee Convention in 2009

invaluable contribution to EURO 2000, and he received a similar knighthood in Belgium a year on.

The KNVB proceeded to host the FIFA World Youth Championship in 2005 with Been as tournament director once again, and in 2007 he was at the helm of the European Under-21 Championship final tournament. Unfortunately, a joint bid from Belgium and the Netherlands in December 2010 to host the 2018 FIFA World Cup was unsuccessful.

Harry Been has been a member of the UEFA National Team Competitions Committee since 1990 and of the Organising Committee for the FIFA U-20 World Cup for many years. He has also been a highly respected member of the match delegate panels of both FIFA and UEFA for the last 20 years. He will still be in charge of organising the UEFA Europa League final in Amsterdam next year, and will remain an adviser to the KNVB in the future.

● Rob de Leede



Northern Ireland

www.irishfa.com

A summer full of football

Northern Ireland manager Michael O'Neill is calling on all budding young footballers to get ready for a summer full of football fun. The international boss has given his backing to the Irish FA's Nutty Krust Summer Soccer Schools programme, which will run during July and August.

Coordinated by the Irish FA's grassroots development officers and staffed by qualified coaches, the soccer schools are the ideal way to get your children active over the summer months. The programme will be run at venues across the country and will be attended by thousands of boys and girls. The Irish FA has created a website dedicated to the soccer schools – www.irishfasoccerschools.com – through which parents and guardians

can book places for their budding young footballers.

"The Irish FA's Nutty Krust Summer Soccer Schools provide a great opportunity for boys and girls to have fun and develop their football throughout the summer," said the Northern Ireland manager. "The soccer schools are a fantastic opportunity for aspiring players to get top-quality coaching and develop their skills, as well as a great way to meet and make new friends."

The Irish FA's head of grassroots football, Lee Carroll, added: *"The Summer Soccer Schools are specifically designed to get the best out of the players during the week, with age-appropriate coaching sessions to develop such skills as dribbling, passing, turns and shooting. At this year's courses, 50 children will be selected to attend the annual Irish FA "Search for a Star"*



National team head coach Michael O'Neill (left) with the IFA's head of grassroots football, Lee Carroll, and three young footballers for the launch of the summer schools season

event, which will see the children compete in a series of skills challenges with the chance of becoming an Irish FA sponsored player and winning a year's worth of training gear."

● Sueann Harrison



Portugal

www.fpf.pt

Celebrating women's football

On 13 May, before another thrilling women's national cup kicked off, the Jamor sports complex hosted a women's football day for the second year in a row. About 500 Under-15s took part in teams from across the country. Putting its faith in a pioneering and innovative project, the Portuguese Football Federation (FPF) has been working together with regional associations and those responsible for school sports to organise another edition of the festival, the main objectives of which are to develop women's football and to generate followers and players of the game.

Stating the promotion of sport as one of the main aims of the activity, Mónica Jorge, a member of the FPF's board of directors, hopes that the women's football day becomes a way to increase interest in football. *"Women's*



The women's football festival contributed to the rise in the sport's popularity

football day is the culmination of a season. We want to create a special day for special girls, a moment that will be remembered. The main objectives of this women's football festival are

to promote physical activity and make football a habit, to show the young players that they are not alone in their ambitions and that there are hundreds of girls who share the same dream."

The true mentor of this project, the FPF's sports director, Carlos Godinho, believes in the success of an activity that is beginning to show some results. *"The success of these two editions has been huge. The truth is that it isn't as easy to carve a path out for oneself in women's football as it is in men's, but I think this is probably one project that will become more successful. We already see some positive results emerging from the work that has been done, and I think we will soon start seeing more of these and more often."*

● Selma Pereira



Republic of Ireland

www.fai.ie

Girls just want to have fun

The Football Association of Ireland (FAI) and Dublin local authorities' "Road to Poland" 4v4 adventure continued with its biggest grassroots event to date. Marking the now annual UEFA Grassroots Day, the FAI, its team of development officers and participants from its Project FUTSAL helped create a festival atmosphere in the shadow of the Aviva Stadium, home to Ireland's senior team.

A total of 450 children were involved from various grassroots clubs and because only those that entered a girls' team could participate, the event focused mainly on girls, with over 400 taking part. Most pleasing were the 25 new girls' teams which had been formed, and in many cases this was the girls' first opportunity to wear their club colours. All parts of Dublin and the surrounding counties were represented, from Shankill to Swords to Stamullen.

The event included a tour of the adjacent Aviva Stadium, including the players' tunnel,

and a lucky few won tickets to the send-off game for Trapattoni's Ireland against Bosnia-Herzegovina, the last game before the senior team travelled to Poland for EURO 2012.

Commenting on the event, FAI Dublin regional manager Gerry Reardon added: *"It was a great evening of respect, fun and sportsmanship. Great to see new community girls' teams playing for the first time. This 'Road to Poland' project positively reflects the ethos of UEFA Grassroots Day"*.

Liam McGroarty, FAI head of grassroots, added: *"This event allowed the association to profile girls' soccer and I would like to commend the clubs and volunteers who are focused on offering equal opportunities to boys and girls. The FAI is committed to growing the girls' game, which has seen impressive growth year on year"*.

Such was the success of this event that a further two similar occasions are being planned for the future.

● Derek Kinnevey



Discovering football in the shadow of the national stadium



New-look website

The Swedish Football Association's official website (svenskfotboll.se) had a much-needed overhaul this spring. One important aspect was to implement responsive web design that allows users to access the site from a broad range of browsers and handheld devices. In 2010, only 2% of our visitors used a mobile device: today that figure is more than 20%. The responsive design not only improves those users' browsing

experience, but also allows for advertising revenue on platforms not previously covered. In addition, the new layout permits more prominent use of photos and videos on the website, and interaction through social media is another important option.

Further web developments will take place to set up a Swedish football intranet that will combine the existing administrative system for all competitions (fogis.se) with the intranet benefits



The new face of the Swedish FA website

of communication and sharing information.

Also, in May, the Swedish FA published its annual economic review of its top leagues. The total turnover in the Allsvenskan 2011 was €120 million, a 21% increase on the previous year. The total turnover in the top women's league (Damallsvenskan) also experienced a healthy increase, reaching €8 million in 2011.

● Andreas Nilsson



Two awards for Xherdan Shaqiri

The 15th "Night of Swiss Football" was held at the Stade de Suisse in Berne, the second year in succession that the popular event had been held at this venue. In the presence of many distinguished guests, including members of the Swiss national team, awards were presented to the best players of last season.

Given the club's fantastic season, the 600 or so guests will not have been surprised to see the majority of the awards go to double winners FC Basel 1893, with the club picking up no fewer than six awards. Coach Heiko Vogel won two, as did Xherdan Shaqiri, with the midfielder – who is still only 20 – being voted the national team player of the year for the second year running.

The open air gala lasted just under 90 minutes and was compered by Rainer Maria Salzgeber, assisted by former national coach Gilbert Gress. They were joined on stage by two other players who successfully defended titles this year: striker Alex Frei, whose 24 goals meant that he was – by some distance – the top goalscorer in the league again this season; and Lara Dickenmann, who again won the UEFA Women's Champions League and the French championship with Olympique Lyonnais.

The goal of the year award went to Xherdan Shaqiri for the bicycle kick that put FC Basel 1-0 up away to FC Luzern. And Heiko Vogel more or



Two awards for Xherdan Shaqiri

less secured the fair player of the year award at the end of that same game. Asked about a possible penalty for FC Basel, the coach replied that he wanted to stick up for referees, as they have to decide on such difficult situations in mere fractions of a second.

Interestingly, the only category in which FC Basel did not emerge victorious concerned a competition that they won. Although FC Basel won the Swiss Cup, beating FC Luzern on penalties in the final, the majority of the 73,000 votes went to FC Winterthur. Swiss football fans were clearly keen to acknowledge the fact that FC Winterthur had defied the odds to knock out both FC St. Gallen and BSC Young Boys, before being very unlucky to lose to FC Basel in the semi-final.

Award winners:

- **Player of the Year (national team):** Xherdan Shaqiri (FC Basel)
- **Player of the Year (Swiss Super League):** Alex Frei (FC Basel)

- **Goal of the Year:** Xherdan Shaqiri (FC Basel)
- **Coach of the Year:** Heiko Vogel (FC Basel)
- **Women's Player of the Year:** Lara Dickenmann (Olympique Lyonnais)
- **Referee of the Year:** Sascha Kever
- **Swiss Cup Team of the Year:** FC Winterthur
- **Fair Player of the Year:** Heiko Vogel (FC Basel)
- **Youth Player of the Year:** Granit Khaka (FC Basel)

● Pierre Benoit



School football festival hits Ukraine

The final of the first Ukrainian national schools cup was played in mid-May at the Olympic Stadium in Kyiv, the venue for the EURO 2012 final.

The competition, which the Ukrainian government and the Football Federation of Ukraine (FFU) organised jointly and plan to make an annual event, kicked off on 20 March. The competition extended to all corners of Ukraine, involving over 170,000 children from more than 10,000 schools. The participants were divided into the eastern and western conferences, the winners of which, Sumy general school No.18 and Ternopil Lyceum No.13 respectively, met in the final.

Over 46,000 spectators, including UEFA's general secretary, Gianni Infantino, and the FFU president, Grigoriy Surkis, attended the final at the Olympic Stadium, which ended with the team from Sumy winning in a penalty shoot-out. The match was accompanied by numerous festive events on nearby Troitska square.

"The fact that this tournament is dedicated to UEFA EURO 2012 gives all participants a great opportunity to emulate the emotions of a great sporting event. We can be proud of this competition as it involved a fantastic number of kids who dream of becoming football players," said the FFU president. He also underlined that the well-being of professional football is impossible without strong foundations, which consists of grassroots and youth football.

An outstanding show ended with a concert featuring both Ukrainian and foreign stars.



The UEFA general secretary, Gianni Infantino, and the FFU president, Grigoriy Surkis, with the winners of the trophy

● Dmytro Sobko



7,500 children play football on UEFA Grassroots Day

The Turkish Football Federation (TFF) celebrated UEFA Grassroots Day UEFA in a superb way, coinciding as it did this year with national youth and sports day in Turkey, which is celebrated on 19 May. To mark this joint occasion, the TFF football development division organised events that gave 7,500 children the opportunity to play football in 47 different parts of the country.

Besides activities that took place at 39 clubs and 6 football training centres in different parts of Turkey, the TFF also organised activities at the Beylerbeyi Stadium in Istanbul. With the support of Ülker, which sponsors children's football, students from the Fenerbahçe, Galatasaray, Besiktas and Trabzonspor football academies played football during the day.

Ülker, who have been the TFF's main sponsor since 2007 and provide opportunities for children to play sport, get an education and socialise, have so far encouraged 220,000 children to take up football.

In addition to participants from eight primary schools, youngsters from clubs in the Spor Toto

Super League and Bank Asya 1. League also took part. Tolunay Kafkas, TFF football development director, underlined the importance placed by UEFA on its grassroots programme and said that the TFF had made great strides forward under the UEFA Grassroots Charter, having now achieved five-star status in the programme to which it had become a signatory in 2007.

He also said: "We look to grassroots as a supplier of elite football and as a way to a healthier lifestyle and better socialisation of those who take part. In this respect, children are our priority. Under the sponsorship of Ülker, children's football has improved so much through the football training centres and football village projects."

● Aydın Güvenir

A fun-filled atmosphere at the national youth and sports day



BIRTHDAYS

Sheila Begbie (Scotland, 1 Aug)
 Alf Hansen (Norway, 1 Aug)
 Kimmo J. Lipponen (Finland, 1 Aug)
 Luciano Luci (Italy, 2 Aug)
 Johan van Kousterik (Netherlands, 2 Aug)
Mehmet Süheyl Onen (Turkey, 2 Aug)
 ☆☆☆ 60th
 Andreas Schluchter (Switzerland, 3 Aug)
 Zdravko Jokić (Serbia, 4 Aug)
 Lamberto Perugia (Italy, 5 Aug)
 David A. Gill (England, 5 Aug)
 Aleh Chykun (Belarus, 5 Aug)
 Piet Hubers (Netherlands, 6 Aug)
 Pierino L. G. Lardi (Switzerland, 7 Aug)
 Marcel Vanelshocht (Belgium, 8 Aug)
 Plarent Kotherja (Albania, 8 Aug)
Oliver Henry (Belgium, 8 Aug)
 ☆☆☆ 50th
 Florian Prunea (Romania, 8 Aug)
 Nico de Pauw (Belgium, 8 Aug)
Odd Flattum (Norway, 9 Aug) ☆☆☆ 70th
 Roy Hodgson (England, 9 Aug)
 Nick Nicolaou (Romania, 9 Aug)
 Urs Vogel (Switzerland, 11 Aug)
Domenico Messina (Italy, 12 Aug) ☆☆☆ 50th
 Eva Ödlund (Sweden, 12 Aug)
 Emil Kostadinov (Bulgaria, 12 Aug)
Roger Vanden Stock (Belgium, 13 Aug)
 ☆☆☆ 70th
 Joseph Mifsud (Malta, 13 Aug)
 Cornel Cristian Bivolaru (Romania, 13 Aug)
 Patrick Willemarck (Belgium, 13 Aug)
 George Pandelea-Dobrovicescu
 (Romania, 14 Aug)
 Bjorn Vassallo (Malta, 14 Aug)
 Jevgenijs Milevskis (Latvia, 15 Aug)
 Jacques Lagnier (France, 16 Aug)
Victor Beceiro (Spain, 16 Aug) ☆☆☆ 50th
 Agnieszka Olejkowska (Poland, 16 Aug)
 Sergey Pryadkin (Russia, 17 Aug)
Bente Ovedie Skogvang (Norway, 17 Aug)
 ☆☆☆ 50th
 Danijel Jost (Slovenia, 18 Aug)
 Vitalijs Liholajs (Latvia, 19 Aug)
 Mordechai Shpigler (Israel, 19 Aug)
 Patricia Gregory (England, 19 Aug)
 Johannes Reijgwart (Netherlands, 19 Aug)
 František Laurinec (Slovakia, 19 Aug)
 Graham Hover (England, 19 Aug)
 Per Ravn Omdal (Norway, 20 Aug)
 Carmel Bartolo (Malta, 21 Aug)
 Hasan Ceylan (Turkey, 22 Aug)
 Kazimierz Oleszek (Poland, 22 Aug)
 Geoffrey Thompson (England, 23 Aug)
 Ioannis Economides (Greece, 23 Aug)
 Demetrio Albertini (Italy, 23 Aug)
 Luis Manuel Rubiales Bejar (Spain, 23 Aug)
 Enrique Gonzalez Ruano (Spain, 24 Aug)
 Sauli Niinisto (Finland, 24 Aug)
 David Delferiere (Belgium, 24 Aug)
 Nicolae Grigorescu (Romania, 24 Aug)
 Bert Andersson (Sweden, 25 Aug)
 Giancarlo Abete (Italy, 26 Aug)
 Regina Konink-Belksma (Pays-Bas, 26 Aug)
 Alexander Manfré (Malta, 27 Aug)
 Karen Nalbandyan (Armenia, 27 Aug)
Karl Hopfner (Germany, 28 Aug) ☆☆☆ 60th

Joseph McGlue (Republic of Ireland, 28 Aug)
 Vincent Egbers (Netherlands, 29 Aug)
 Denni Strich (Germany, 29 Aug)
Charles John Grundie (Northern Ireland, 30 Aug) ☆☆☆ 60th
 Leo Windtner (Austria, 30 Aug)
Christer Fallström (Sweden, 31 Aug)
 ☆☆☆ 60th
 Cristel Brorsson (Sweden, 31 Aug)
 Christoph Kollmeier (Germany, 31 Aug)
 Pedro Dias (Portugal, 31 Aug)

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Meetings

10 August, in Nyon
 Draw for the UEFA Champions League and UEFA Europa League play-offs

23 August, in Nyon
 Draw for the rounds of 32 and 16 of the UEFA Women's Champions League

30 August, in Monaco
 Club Competitions Committee
 Draw for the UEFA Champions League group stage

31 August, in Monaco
 Draw for the UEFA Europa League group stage

Competitions

1 August
 UEFA Champions League third qualifying round (first legs)

2 August
 UEFA Europa League third qualifying round (first legs)

7/8 August
 UEFA Champions League third qualifying round (return legs)

7-12 August
 UEFA Futsal Cup preliminary round

9 August
 UEFA Europa League third qualifying round (return legs)

11-16 August
 UEFA Women's Champions League qualifying round

18 August-8 September, in Japan
 FIFA U-20 Women's World Cup

21/22 August
 UEFA Champions League play-offs (first legs)

23 August
 UEFA Europa League play-offs (first legs)

28/29 August
 UEFA Champions League play-offs (return legs)

30 August
 UEFA Europa League play-offs (return legs)

31 August, in Monaco
 UEFA Super Cup

UEFA-direct SURVEY

Thank you to the many of you who took the time to reply to the questionnaire inserted with the May/June issue of UEFA-direct, and especially to those of you who made suggestions, comments and other encouraging remarks. Pending the final analysis, the initial evaluation shows that more than 95% of you like the design and content of the magazine and think that the number of issues published per year (ten) is right. On the whole, the supplements to UEFA-direct are felt to be very interesting (The Technician and the technical reports) or interesting (Grassroots Newsletter and Medicine Matters). Most of you also consult UEFA.com, but it is the print version of UEFA-direct that you usually read.

MATCH AGENTS

Two new agents have been awarded a UEFA licence:

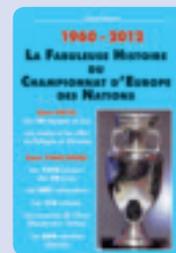
Curtis Dawes
 8 Exmoor Close, IG6 2LU, Ilford, UK
 Tel. +44 208 550 8763
 curtis.dawes@live.co.uk

Pierre Mévy Azaria
 Optimum Sport
 Rue du Léman 3, 1201 Geneva, Switzerland
 Tel. +41 22 732 11 45
 Mobile: +41 76 728 27 31
 pmazaria@optimumsport.ch
 Meanwhile, **William Jennings** (England) is no longer a licensed UEFA match agent.

NEW PUBLICATION

La Fabuleuse Histoire du Championnat d'Europe des Nations 1960-2012

While awaiting the publication of the reports on EURO 2012, Daniel Masnari's book (in French) on the history of the competition would make good reading. As well as the results of all final round matches since 1960, it also lists all the players and scorers, and provides a wealth of other statistics (618 pages / €75 / danielmasnari@bluewin.ch).



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