



WE CARE ABOUT FOOTBALL

UEFA•direct

European football united against racism

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Cover:
*European football stands
together in its efforts to combat
racism, clearly demonstrated
during matchday 3 of the
UEFA club competitions*

Photo: UEFA

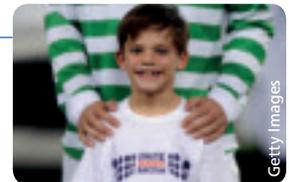
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NEVER GIVING UP THE FIGHT

As has been the case every autumn for the past 11 years, events were held all over Europe in October to raise public awareness of the problems of racism, intolerance and discrimination in all its forms. These action weeks are the initiative of our partner, the FARE (Football Against Racism in Europe) network. Over the years, these events have grown in size, spread throughout Europe and gained many new followers, which is very encouraging.

However, appalling incidents continue to blight European stadiums from time to time, showing that the battle is far from won against a scourge that it is virtually impossible to wipe out completely.

It would be pretentious of football to think itself capable of eradicating racism and succeeding where religions and governments have so far failed, despite their best intentions, such is the seemingly innate nature of this evil among certain individuals.

Nor is it a question of preaching: the world of football is not always virtuous enough for its leaders to feel in a position to lecture on morality.

On the other hand, football is enormously popular everywhere, in all corners of society, which gives it not only the opportunity but also the responsibility to try and help make the world a better place.

As has been said so many times before, football is, above all, a sport, and in particular, transmits values such as team spirit, the virtues of hard work, a sense of responsibility, and respect – for the Laws of the Game, the referee, opponents, team-mates and oneself.

In this context, there is no place for discrimination of any kind in football stadiums. We will therefore continue to fight it relentlessly with all our strength, together with our partners and all those who share our belief that diversity makes us richer, not poorer.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Michel Platini'.

Michel Platini
UEFA President

WHAT IS CSR AND WHERE IS ITS PLACE IN FOOTBALL?

The KISS (knowledge and information sharing scenario) programme held its inaugural workshop on corporate social responsibility (CSR) in Sarajevo on 4 and 5 October. Generously hosted by the Bosnia and Herzegovina Football Federation, the workshop united over 40 UEFA member associations to determine the meaning of CSR and define its appropriate place in European football today.

The workshop was moderated by businessman and academic, Michael Hopkins, who is a published author on the subject as well as a corporate consultant and university lecturer. Also joining forces to support this first KISS CSR event were UEFA Executive Committee members Allan Hansen and Peter Gilliéron, who described the Sarajevo meeting as a necessary learning curve towards understanding social responsibility and how it can be most effective at national association level.

Respect and recognition

In simple terms, according to Michael Hopkins, CSR is most effective as an integral part of a governance or management strategy, because it defines how a corporation relates to all its stakeholders from both an internal and external perspective. It is important to remember that CSR does not divert attention from the bottom line or

from achieving set goals. In fact, on the contrary – it is the work “ethic” that is applied while advancing towards those very targets.

Internally, CSR is about managing employees with respect and due recognition, fully acknowledging their vital role in the workplace. In turn, this creates motivation, trust and teamwork – and valued people produce valuable results. External CSR stretches much further afield – it includes supply chain ethics, high-quality customer relations and environmental responsibility, as well as being socially active either within the local community, nationally and sometimes internationally. In relation to football, external CSR can be as straightforward as offering free public transport with a match ticket, providing better facilities for disabled fans or ensuring that products are supplied through safe and reputable sources. These are just a few examples.

*Sharing ideas
to find the best
solutions*



UEFA



IFA

DFB



KNVB

In Northern Ireland, Germany and the Netherlands, specific programmes help football give something back to society

Steady growth

Discussions held during the workshop clearly demonstrated that CSR is alive and kicking in football today – and is growing steadily. Currently, the level of CSR action depends entirely on the size and resources of the national association, but elements of CSR are visible across the UEFA membership. In some cases, we saw that associations had been applying CSR in the workplace for some time, but were unaware it could be defined as such.

The Irish Football Association (IFA), the German Football Association (DFB) and the Royal Netherlands Football Association (KNVB) all presented their own CSR projects as case studies, provoking much food for thought and open discussion among the participants.

Football for All is the community relations project led by the IFA – its aim is to promote a fun, safe and inclusive culture in football and a commitment to banishing prejudice and contempt from the game in Northern Ireland.

In 2009, the KNVB launched the international initiative Worldcoaches. Since its introduction, the programme has trained over 3,000 football coaches who now work in developing countries

with under-privileged children, teaching them not only football skills, but also how to channel those skills to wiser choices and a better life.

With a different approach, the DFB is currently running a programme promoted by the German national team about safeguarding the environment – including, for example, encouraging recycling and energy conservation at home.

Significant benefits for society

Certainly, the projects in Northern Ireland, the Netherlands and Germany vary enormously in content and direction, but the common denominator is that society also reaps significant benefits from their day-to-day work.

UEFA believes that football has a responsibility to take the lead in CSR. Like the entertainment industry, our sport is a trigger in society that stands for leisure time, family tradition and community values. From this prominent social position, football can only embrace CSR and, over time, integrate this concept into its governance at the highest level. Because if football does not contribute to promoting a better society, then others may not follow its example – and that is a risk that nobody can afford to take. ●

FOOTBALL UNITED AGAINST RACISM

Every October, the European club competitions serve as a high-profile platform on which UEFA and the European football family join forces to convey the unequivocal message that racism, discrimination and intolerance have no place in football. This season, as is customary, matchday 3 in the UEFA Champions League and UEFA Europa League emphasised this message as part of the Action Weeks staged by UEFA's long-standing partner, the Football Against Racism in Europe (FARE) network.

The message was clear for the thousands of fans in the stadiums at 40 matches across Europe, as well as for millions of television viewers watching the action unfold at home. A 30-second Respect advert was played on the stadiums' giant screens and broadcast on TV. Special loud-speaker announcements urged fans to join UEFA in its call to unite against racism. Every team was accompanied onto the pitch by children wearing Unite Against Racism T-shirts, and captains were asked to wear a Unite Against Racism armband.

Across Europe, the FARE Action Weeks involved over 300 grassroots groups. Activities included workshops, round-table discussions and mini-football tournaments involving fans, clubs, national associations, ethnic minority groups and youth organisations. *"The FARE Action Weeks have become one of the largest social message activities in sport, with involvement from the smallest community groups to some of the biggest clubs in Europe through the UEFA Champions League and UEFA Europa League,"* said FARE's executive director, Piara Powar. *"The theme of Football People reflects the message of unity and inclusiveness that sums up our objectives during this period. UEFA's support has been vital in getting our message across to a global football audience."*

Shaking hands as a sign of respect



Eradicating racism

UEFA has continually strengthened its stand against racism and, together with FARE and the players' body, FIFPro, has been proactive in backing initiatives that try to eradicate racism from football and society. The FARE network comprises groups and bodies working against intolerance and discrimination across the continent. Over the last 11 years, since the signing of a formal agreement in 2001, UEFA has given considerable support to the FARE network, and both bodies have cooperated in staging events, issuing publications and using the massive public and commercial platform of Europe's biggest football matches to press home a message of zero tolerance towards any form of racism and discrimination, and for more respect for diversity.

"UEFA is committed to tackling discrimination in football," said the UEFA president, Michel Platini, to mark the UEFA matchweek, *"and we encourage football fans to join us in our efforts to value respect for players, officials, opponents and fellow supporters of all nationalities, religious backgrounds, sexual orientations and ethnic origins. For over ten years, we have worked alongside the FARE network and will continue to strive towards unity in football."*

"What we care about in football is the colour of the shirt and not the colour of the skin," added UEFA's general secretary, Gianni Infantino. *"Our commitment, and our ambition, is to have no more – not even one single case – and to stamp racism and xenophobia out of football."*

Support from the players

The action in the UEFA Champions League and UEFA Europa League was, as usual, entertaining and thrilling. And many of the players creating the headlines with their exploits on the pitch took the opportunity to take their own personal stand against racism, expressing firm views in support of the campaign.

"I think that respect is a global thing," said Manchester United FC's Javier Hernández. *"In terms of discrimination and racism, you have to focus on one specific thing, and I think that respect is the most important value of human kind, in every part of the world, regardless of country, colour, or if you are male or female. The most beautiful thing is to have respect for everyone."*



Getty Images

"We have the opportunity to convey an image through football, and through what sportsmen represent," said LOSC Lille's defender Franck Béria. "It is very important that we get involved, that UEFA promotes such an action, because we can reach many people."

"There is no room for racism in sport, or anywhere in the world," was the view of GNK Dinamo Zagreb's Josip Šimunić. "I am proud to be part of this campaign," explained Mikkel Beckmann, the FC Nordsjælland striker. "Racism should not be part of football, it should not be part of life."

"It's for us to be role models," said Celtic FC's goalkeeper, Fraser Forster. "There are thousands of people, millions of people watching football worldwide, and it's important that we get that point across as a team, and as footballers all across the globe."

"No matter your religion, nationality or skin colour, you all pull on the same shirt with one com-

mon goal. I think we are the best example of this fight against racism," said Paris Saint-Germain FC defender Christophe Jallet. "It is 2012 and there are certain things you don't want to see," added Vito Mannone, the Arsenal FC goalkeeper. "We have a mix of players from all over the world, with different cultures, and we all have to work together."

UEFA Europa League players added their positive support – in particular VfL Borussia Mönchengladbach team-mates, Håvard Nordtveit and Luuk de Jong. "Of course we need to show respect," said Nordtveit. "All the players on the pitch need to show that they're against racism. We need to do it as a team and show the rest of the world what we can do to combat racism." De Jong added: "It means a lot to me. I think it's very important that we players and UEFA give this our attention and get as many people as possible to support the fight against racism."

UEFA Champions League matches formed a united platform against racism



Getty Images

Young people also joined in the campaign to unite against racism

Galatasaray AŞ defender Dany Nounkeu made a telling statement about football's power to help stamp out racism. *"I certainly believe football can unite people against racism and discrimination. Football is universal, something everybody knows. Maybe we can't change everybody's mind, but as footballers we can take the responsibility to fight against all sorts of discrimination. Because in the end, black or white, all these people that come out for a game in the*

UEFA Champions League, all come out to see a game. That is the power of football."

Over the three days, European football showed its unity and commitment to the campaign. UEFA, FARE, national associations and other football stakeholders will not rest on their laurels as their tireless work in this area continues, with the ultimate goal to banish racism and its related negative phenomena from the game once and for all. ●

NATIONAL ASSOCIATIONS JOIN UEFA IN FARE ACTION WEEKS



D. Aquilina

Maltese Premier League referees wore special shirts for the occasion

When events were held recently throughout UEFA member associations as part of the FARE Action Weeks, the Malta Football Association did not hesitate to join in and show its support.

The call to unite against racism was the highlight of events held on matchdays in various Maltese stadiums. The ceremonial activities were attended by the association's top officials, referees and players, as well as officials representing clubs from all divisions and various groups of young people, and were watched by fans at the different venues as well as on TV.

The common stand against racism and any form of discrimination in the world's most popular game has gained considerable ground since the FARE network was started in 1999.

This high-profile platform transmits an unequivocal message – that racial discrimination has no place in football. The message is loud and clear and the MFA takes pride in standing beside the other European associations in this respect.

The week-long activities in the Mediterranean islands of Malta and Gozo were testimony to this and portrayed a significant notion – that the country's whole football-loving fraternity is totally behind UEFA's honourable initiative to stamp out the scourge of racism that is gnawing at the heart of the game we all love. ●

Alex Vella

FRENCH UNDER-17S CROWNED WORLD CHAMPIONS

For the first time ever, a European team – France – have won the FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup. Until now, Asian teams had dominated this competition, with North Korea winning the first tournament in 2008 and South Korea winning in 2010.

The 16-team competition took place from 22 September to 13 October in Azerbaijan. The Azeri team were joined by representatives of two other UEFA member associations: reigning European champions Germany, and the team they beat in that final – France.

In the first round, Germany won their group, with wins against Ghana and Uruguay and a draw with China. France had a more difficult start, drawing with both the United States and North Korea, and only qualified for the knockout rounds on goal difference thanks to an impressive 10-2 win against Gambia. Azerbaijan did not score any points, but the tournament was an ideal opportunity for them to gain experience.

In the quarter-finals, France beat Nigeria in a penalty shoot-out, while Germany knocked out Brazil.

Germany's run ended at the semi-final stage, where they lost 2-1 to North Korea, while the French overcame Ghana 2-0. The final between France and North Korea, played on 13 October at Tofiq Bahramov Republican stadium in Baku, was therefore a repeat of their drawn match at the group stage. And again, the two teams could not be separated in normal time. France opened the scoring in the first half, which they

dominated, but they were unable to withstand some late North Korean pressure and conceded an equaliser. As a result, the game went to a penalty shoot-out, which France won 7-6.

The third-place play-off was won by Ghana, who beat Germany 1-0. ●

The French women's Under-17 team celebrate France's third world title after the 1998 FIFA World Cup and the 2001 FIFA U-17 World Cup



DRAW FOR THE UEFA WOMEN'S EURO 2013

On 9 November, the three groups for the UEFA Women's EURO 2013 were drawn at Gothenburg's conference centre.



The draw followed play-offs in late October, in which Spain, Iceland and Russia joined the other finalists after wins against Scotland, Ukraine and Austria respectively.

The teams at the head of the three groups were decided prior to the draw on the basis of UEFA rankings. Hosts Sweden were automatically placed in Group A, in which games will be played in Gothenburg and Halmstad. Holders Germany were placed in Group B (in which matches will be played in Vaxjo and Kalmar), and France were placed in Group C (in which matches will be played in Norrköping and Linköping).

The rest of the teams were drawn as follows:

Group A: Sweden, Italy, Denmark, Finland

Group B: Germany, Norway, Netherlands, Iceland

Group C: France, England, Russia, Spain

The group games will be played between 10 and 18 July. The top two teams in each group and the two best third-placed teams will qualify for the quarter-finals, which will be played on 21 and 22 July. The semi-finals will be played on 24 and 25 July, and the final will take place three days later in Solna.

→ The full fixture list is available on UEFA.com



In the 2012/13 European Women's Under-19 Championship, 21 teams are through to the second qualifying round. These are, in group order: the Republic of Ireland, Serbia, Italy, Austria, Greece, Ukraine, Belgium, Northern Ireland, Hungary, Scotland, Norway, Denmark, Iceland, Finland, Spain, the Czech Republic, Portugal, Sweden, Russia, Switzerland and the Netherlands. They will be joined in the next round by Germany, France and England. The draw will take place on 20 November in Nyon, with the final round being played in Wales. ●

THE BIRTH OF THE UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Although 6 November 1992 is unlikely to be a date etched in the memory of many football fans, it marks a key watershed in the commercialisation of the UEFA club competitions.

The draw held in Geneva that day is, in reality, just one link among countless others in the chain of European club football history. However, this was no ordinary draw, since it was the starting point of the UEFA Champions League and, as such, it was broadcast live and exclusively by the new project's partner television stations.

the second round, and not the final) lay in the partnership created between the rights holders (the clubs), sponsors and television companies, and the centralised sale of the rights under UEFA's control, assisted by the agency TEAM Marketing AG, which was chosen by the Executive Committee at an extraordinary meeting in February 1992. As of then, UEFA became responsible for distributing the revenue not only to the participating clubs, but also to the other clubs, via the national leagues and associations, in accordance with the solidarity principle that forms an integral part of the system.

Extraordinary Congress

In order to adopt this system, an Extraordinary UEFA Congress had been held in Montreux in September 1991, when the provisions of the UEFA Statutes governing television broadcasts and financial aspects had been amended to create a legal basis for the centralised marketing of rights by UEFA.

The draw on 6 November was therefore the first act of this new era. It also marked the launch of a logo designed to boost the competition's commercial identity (the three UEFA club competitions had previously only been identified by

a graphic image of their respective trophies).

A few weeks earlier, in September, TV station representatives had attended a seminar to resolve technical issues linked to the broadcasts, such as the opening and closing credits, post-match interviews, camera positions and use of advertising boards, as well as signal production and broadcast quality.

It was the start of a format that has enjoyed unflinching success throughout the 20 years since, serving as a reference and a model, even for other sports.

TV audiences

Evidence of this, if any is needed, can be seen in the TV viewing figures for matches in the competition. The third round of matches in this season's group stage, played on 23 and 24 October, for example, produced the following audience data:



UEFA/PA Images

The UEFA Champions League's visual debut in autumn 1992

Revolutionary project

The creation of the UEFA Champions League was a revolutionary project in the commercial and media landscape of European football. Previously, the clubs involved in UEFA competitions had negotiated the sale of TV rights for their matches themselves, paying a percentage of the revenue to UEFA. In cooperation with the national associations concerned, UEFA had only been responsible for organising the finals, each played as a single match, and had signed contracts for these showpiece events with the European Broadcasting Union (EBU) for the match broadcasting rights and with the agency International Sport and Leisure (ISL) for the other commercial rights.

The originality of the commercial strategy for the UEFA Champions League (a name that only covered the 24 matches in the two groups of the European Champion Clubs' Cup played after

- in France, the match between LOSC Lille and FC Bayern München was watched by more than 1.2 million viewers (a market share of 4.4%), more than 10% more than the average prime-time programme on the channel concerned;
- in Germany, ZDF recorded its biggest audience of the season, with 9.1 million viewers (30.2%) watching the match between Borussia Dortmund and Real Madrid CF;
- in Italy, 3.6 million TV viewers (12.3%) watched the match between Málaga CF and AC Milan on Italia 1, the channel's biggest audience of the season;
- in Spain, La1 and TV3 broadcast the Tuesday match between FC Barcelona and Celtic FC, attracting a combined audience of 7.1 million (36.9%); on the Wednesday, 1 million viewers watched the match between Borussia Dortmund and Real Madrid CF on Canal+ Liga de Campeones, representing a 5.1% market share and the channel's biggest ever audience;
- in Great Britain, 4.9 million ITV1 viewers (20.4%) watched the match between Manchester United FC and SC Braga;
- in the Netherlands, the match between FC Barcelona and Celtic FC on Ned 3 attracted 1.5 million viewers (23%) and, the following day, the match between AFC Ajax and Manchester



Getty Images

City FC was watched by 2.2 million viewers (33.1%), 380% more than the average prime-time programme on Ned 3.

The match between Borussia Dortmund and Real Madrid CF attracted a record audience for German channel ZDF

- Audiences greater than 1 million were also recorded for matches such as Montpellier Hérault SC v Olympiacos FC on NET in Greece, Borussia Dortmund v Real Madrid CF on TVP1 in Poland, Galatasaray AŞ v CFR 1907 Cluj on TVR1 in Romania and FC Porto v FC Dynamo Kyiv on 1+1 in Ukraine. •

In brief

■ More than 75 communication specialists from UEFA member associations took part in a KISS workshop in Vienna at the start of November. The meeting covered the topics of social media, relations with supporters and corporate communications.

■ The tenth edition of the Homeless World Cup took place in Mexico from 6 to 14 October. The tournament was won by Chile, who beat the hosts 8-5 in the final. Mexico did win the women's final, however, beating Brazil 6-2. This competition, supported by UEFA, offers homeless people the chance to shine and often represents an opportunity for the players involved to make a new start and improve their living conditions.

■ The 8th UEFA Regions' Cup kicked off in September, with 37 national associations taking part. The preliminary round matches saw the Romanians of Prahova Muntenia and the selection from the south-east of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia go through to the intermediary round. The best second-placed team, Northern Ireland's Eastern Region, also qualified. Because of the nature of the competition, the groups that were not waiting on the results of the preliminary round

already began playing their intermediary round matches in August. Five teams have therefore already qualified for the final round, in which one of the eight teams in total to qualify will act as hosts. FC Isloch from Belarus, East Region from Hungary, FC Olimp from the Moscow region of Russia, Selección Catalana de fútbol from Spain and the Italians Veneto will be joined by the remaining three group winners. •

Russians FC Olimp from the Moscow region qualified for the final round by winning the mini-tournament in Gozo (Malta)



D. Aquilina

SUPPORT FOR ALL OCCASIONS

On the first floor of the Bois-Bougy building on the UEFA campus in Nyon is the newest addition to UEFA's venue operations team: the match command centre. Walk through here on a non-matchday and the dimmed wall of screens belies a technological set-up that rivals that of nearby CERN. However, step into this room on a matchday, and the room is transformed into a hive of activity, staffed by operations experts covering a range of different areas.



A hive of well ordered activity

Staff in the competitions division have been providing continuous on-call monitoring and support for all matches in UEFA competitions since August 2009. However, the match command centre, which is now operational for all club competition matches as of the UEFA Champions League play-offs and the group stage of the UEFA Europa League, provides a wider range of support, with assistance supplied by operations staff from all relevant UEFA units.

UEFA maintains a significant on-site presence at all matches in UEFA club competitions in order to assist with the preparation and delivery of these matches. For all club matches, that team comprises a match delegate, a venue director, a venue operations and broadcast manager, and a venue data coordinator. For UEFA Champions League matches, there is a venue services and sponsorship manager and a media officer, and for any matches deemed to be high-risk, there will also be a security officer. Thus, reporting coming from the venue team during club competition matches is both extensive and comprehensive, requiring dedicated staff to monitor these reports and provide immediate support in the event of any issues or questions.

Bringing club competition operations under one roof

Before the UEFA Executive Committee decided in 2010 to insource the operational management of UEFA club competitions, support for the venue team was split between UEFA headquarters and TEAM Marketing AG in Lucerne. Venue management services relating to sporting and security matters (i.e., support for venue directors and match delegates) were provided by competitions division staff from the match centre in the basement of UEFA headquarters, while support for commercial and TV operations was provided by TEAM staff from their own operations centre. Now, with the new centralised set-up, all venue operations are consolidated in one place – the UEFA match command centre – bringing together the management teams of all on-site representatives, with staff from club competitions, match operations, commercial operations, logistics operations, TV operations and UEFA.com all present on the night of club competition matches.

The match command centre, which has been fully operational since August, enables command centre staff to assist the venue teams not

only by means of telephone support, but also via live feeds from all venues. These are displayed on an impressive wall of screens able to show images from up to 24 venues simultaneously. Close contact between the venue teams and their respective operations staff in the command centre, as well as the monitoring of these venue feeds, helps to ensure consistency of delivery across the various domains – including areas such as services for host and visiting broadcast partners, TV signal and production quality, commercial delivery and exclusivity in the stadium, installation quality and positioning of competition branding and signage, sporting preparations and the condition of the pitch, and the verification of live text data on UEFA.com.

Cross-domain communication

While the various members of the venue team are each responsible for a different area, some of these naturally overlap, so some issues that arise may have an impact on more than one area. The excellent cooperation between the relevant internal UEFA units, with all the various operations staff now in one room, means that any cross-domain issues that cannot be addressed by

the on-site team are now quickly escalated to the command centre. This allows swift resolution by the relevant UEFA units, ensuring efficient support, a quick response and consistency in the application of guidelines across all venues.

Crisis management

However, the command centre is not just there to monitor the routine delivery of matches. With pan-European competitions, there are bound to be a few bumps along the way. Staff in the command centre are proactive in attempting to avert incidents, always remaining in close communication with the venue teams, but are also there to provide crisis support in the event of an incident or serious situation arising on site. While each unit provides support to its respective venue staff in the event of a crisis, communication between command centre staff ensures that a consistent message is provided to all members of the venue team. This helps to resolve any problems as quickly as possible. In the event of any crisis or incident, operations staff will also provide regular updates internally to ensure that UEFA senior management are always informed of developments. ●

STUDENT COACHES IN NYON

Student coaches from Latvia, Lithuania, Slovakia and Turkey came to the House of European Football in Nyon at the end of October as part of the innovative UEFA coach education student exchange programme.

Pro licence students from throughout Europe, many of them former professional players eyeing careers in coaching, are being provided with the opportunity for international exchange with counterparts from other countries, as well as access to UEFA, its instructors and educational materials.

Participants on each course represent three or four countries and are guided by the coach education directors from their respective national associations. UEFA appoints experienced instructors and coach educators to work with UEFA's football education services at each event, with members of the UEFA

Jira Panel also actively involved alongside guest presenters. In addition to discussion groups and plenary sessions, the student coaches take part in practical training sessions. They learn about the sacrifices and devotion needed to make a success of a coaching career, as well as the need for management and decision-making skills, and the considerable mental strength required to cope with the pressures of the job.

The student coaches are given advice on how to handle the media, and take part in a simulated post-match flash interview session. ●



Aspiring coaches from Latvia, Lithuania, Slovakia and Turkey

UEFA

EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP SCHEDULE ANNOUNCED

At its meeting in Venice in December 2011, the UEFA Executive Committee chose the Royal Belgian Football Association as the hosts of the UEFA Futsal EURO 2014.



This tournament will be held from 28 January to 8 February 2014 at Antwerp's Lotto Arena (5,000 capacity) and Sportpaleis (15,000 capacity).

The first act of the qualifying phase will take place in Nyon on 4 December, when the draw for the preliminary round mini-tournaments will be held. These matches will take place from 23 to 26 January 2013 and will be followed by the main round, to be played between 27 and 30 March, when the seven group winners will qualify for the final round in Belgium. The group runners-up and the best third-placed team will dispute two-legged play-offs on 17 and 24 September.

The draw for the play-offs will be held in Nyon on 3 July.

Spain have won the last four editions of the tournament, in 2005, 2007, 2010 and 2012.

■ Before embarking on their Futsal EURO 2014 qualifying campaigns, Spain, Italy, Portugal, the Czech Republic, Russia, Serbia and Ukraine competed in the FIFA Futsal World Cup final tournament in Thailand from 1 to 18 November (results on UEFA.com). ●



The FIFA Futsal World Cup is taking place in Thailand, with Italy making a good start by beating Argentina 3-2

UEFA FUTSAL CUP: FINALISTS DECIDED

The 2012/13 UEFA Futsal Cup began in August, after the 27 preliminary round participants had been split into seven groups of four or three at the draw in Nyon on 4 July.



The seven group winners qualified for the main round, where they joined 17 teams exempted from the preliminary round. The teams were divided into six groups in another draw held on 4 July.

The matches were played in a mini-tournament format between 4 and 9 September. The top two in each group qualified for the elite round, where they were joined by four seeded teams who entered the competition at that stage: the holders, FC Barcelona, Murcia FS, SL Benfica and Kairat Almaty.

These 16 teams were divided into four groups in a draw held on 13 September.

The matches were played, again as mini-tournaments, from 10 to 14 October. FC Barcelona performed very impressively in

the mini-tournament in Litaja, Slovenia, scoring 28 goals and conceding only one as they won all three of their matches. In Kragujevac, Serbia, Kairat Almaty also won three out of three, although they were pushed all the way by FK EP Chrudim, against whom they scraped a narrow 6-5 victory. In Murcia, Spain, MFK Dinamo managed to knock out the home team, who were also one of the competition's four seeded teams. The Russians beat their Spanish opponents 4-2 in the decisive match. Finally, in Tbilisi, Georgia, another seed fell in the shape of SL Benfica, winners of the 2010 edition. The home team, Iberia Star Tbilisi, who qualified with two wins plus a draw against Győri ETO FC, will compete in the final round for the first time at the end of April, in the city of one of the four finalists. ●

A FIRST FOR CHELSEA

The FIFA Club World Cup will kick off in Japan on 6 December. Europe's representatives, Chelsea FC, who won the UEFA Champions League in May in Munich, will be participating in the tournament for the first time.



Chelsea FC will take part in the FIFA Club World Cup for the first time thanks to their victory against FC Bayern München in last season's UEFA Champions League final

The English team will enter the fray at the semi-final stage on 13 December, and the draw held in Zurich on 24 September paired them with the winners of the quarter-final between the AFC champions and the CONCACAF champions (CF Monterrey). The other semi-final will bring together the Brazilians of Corinthians Sao Paulo, holders of the Copa Libertadores and winners of the first FIFA Club World Cup in 2000, and the winners of the quarter-final between the CAF Champions League holders and the winners of the play-off match between the Japanese champions and the OFC champions from New Zealand, Auckland City FC.

The final, preceded by the match for third place, will be held at the Yokohama International Stadium on 16 December.

The last five editions of the Club World Cup have been won by the UEFA Champions League winners: AC Milan (2007), Manchester United FC (2008), FC Barcelona (2009 and 2011) and FC Internazionale Milano (2010). ●

European Under-21 Championship

DRAW AT THE END OF NOVEMBER

In mid-October, the ten group winners and four best runners-up in the qualifying competition for the European Under-21 Championship faced each other in two-legged play-off matches.



The current holders, Spain, made no secret of their ambition to defend their crown by taking a giant leap towards qualification with a convincing 5-0 first-leg win over Denmark. They followed this up with a

3-1 victory on Danish soil. Switzerland, finalists last time round, might have thought they had one foot in the finals after securing a 1-1 draw in Germany, but they failed to capitalise on that first-leg result by losing 3-1 at home, with the Germans scoring all their goals in the first half.

Italy, winners of the competition in 1992, 1994, 1996, 2000 and 2004, also booked their place in the final round in Israel with two victories over Sweden. They will be joined by two other former champions: England, winners in 1982 and 1984, beat Serbia 1-0 both home and away, while the Netherlands, champions in 2006 and 2007, recorded 2-0 wins in both legs against Slovakia. As well as Israel, who qualify automatically, the final-round line-up will be completed by Russia, champions in the USSR era in 1980 and 1990, who eliminated the Czech Republic, and Norway, who caused a sur-

prise by knocking out France. After losing 1-0 in France, the Scandinavians gave the French defence a torrid time in the second leg, which they won 5-3.

The draw for the two final-round groups will take place in Tel Aviv on 28 November. The tournament itself will be held from 5 to 18 June. ●

Oleg Shatov of Russia attempts to break away from two opponents during the return leg of the play-off against the Czech Republic



CELEBRATING 150 YEARS OF THE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

England's Football Association (The FA) has unveiled a new crest and a special calendar of events ahead of its 150th anniversary celebrations in 2013, with a UEFA Congress and the UEFA Champions League final as focal points of the activities.

UEFA events will be at the heart of the festivities in May. The UEFA Women's Champions League final will be held on Thursday 23 May 2013 at Stamford Bridge. On 24 May, the XXXVII Ordinary UEFA Congress, the annual gathering of UEFA's national associations to hear and vote on European football issues and proposals, is scheduled to take place in London, and the UEFA Champions League final takes place at Wembley Stadium on 25 May.

"The year ahead will not just be about The FA's anniversary, but will be a chance for all of football in this country to come together and celebrate our national game," said FA vice-chairman David Gill. *"From the clubs and leagues to the players and the fans, and all who give their time to making football the global phenomenon it is, FA150 is a tremendous opportunity for us all to be united."*

"It is an honour that UEFA has chosen to mark our special year by bringing the UEFA Congress and UEFA Champions League final back to London," he added. *"It will be a wonderful chance to share the year with our fellow member associations and the wider football family."*

Establishing legacies

The FA will use next year to bring its unique history to life, telling the story of the founding fathers who paved the way in the organisation's formative years. The spotlight will also turn on those who have helped across the decades to make football England's favourite game. Looking forward, the aim will be to establish positive

A royal visit for the England team during the inauguration of the St George's Park football centre



lasting legacies as well as educating, engaging and exciting the nation with a fantastic list of matches and events.

The calendar includes major England national team matches against Brazil, Scotland and the Republic of Ireland, as well as a tour of Brazil by England in the summer, The FA England awards at St George's Park on Sunday 3 February, celebrations heralding 20 years of women's football, which will also figure at the UEFA Women's EURO 2013 final round in Sweden in July, and a national football day on Saturday 10 August.

Incredible development

The Football Association was founded on 26 October 1863 at the Freemasons' Tavern, near Holborn in London. On Saturday 26 October 2013, The FA and wider football family will assemble at the same location – now The Grand Connaught Rooms – to signal 150 years to the day since that first meeting was held.

"It is incredible to think how the game has developed from that very first meeting at the Freemasons' Tavern," said the FA's chairman, David Bernstein. *"Those founding fathers had real foresight to bring order and organisation to the game. Still, despite their sporting values and vision, no one could have foreseen what football would come to mean for the nation."*

"It truly is the national game and one in which we should all take tremendous pride. There can scarcely be a family in England that is not touched by football in some way and we at the FA take our responsibility to support the game very seriously."

"The Football Association holds a very important place in history as the oldest governing body in football," added England manager Roy Hodgson. *"It is only right that we celebrate it reaching a significant landmark."*

The FA's anniversary crest retains the traditional three lions, but has been switched to gold to underline the significance of the celebrations, with a new 150-specific mark added underneath. ●

Greg Demetriou

MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS



New grassroots facilities and first goalkeeper coaching course

Future generations of players will benefit from the new Sant Ermengol pitch, which was opened by the Andorran Football Federation (FAF) on 22 September. The new seven-a-side pitch, located in Andorra la Vella (Andorra's capital city), was officially opened in the presence of the city council's main representatives and members as well as the president of the FAF, Antoni Giribet. The new Sant Ermengol pitch was made possible thanks to UEFA HatTrick programme III funds.

This new facility was devised with a clear aim: to provide a place for grassroots and FAF youth teams to train and play football matches. The seven-a-side pitch has an artificial surface,

and the new facility also includes dressing rooms for players and referees.

In other news, the FAF's training school recently ran its first basic-level goalkeeper coaching course. Altogether, 15 keepers participated in the programme, which took place between 17 September and 2 October. It was divided into six stages over a total of 18 hours (theory and practice). The course addressed subjects including goalkeeper coaching warm-ups, goalkeeper coaching in sports training courses, mental preparation in goalkeeper coaching, and the competencies required of a goalkeeper coach with a semi-professional team.

The aim is to improve goalkeeper coach education, a subject that is gaining more and more relevance in football today.

● Silvia Casals



The new seven-a-side football pitch



Coach education reforms

The Austrian Football Association (ÖFB) has completely restructured and reformed its coach education system after carrying out fact-finding visits to various European national associations and talking to numerous experts.

As such, it has expanded its UEFA Pro licence course from 250 to 400 teaching units. Training courses for the highest coaching qualification, which is a requirement for all coaching positions in the top two divisions and for academy directors, are held every two years for 14 people. The ÖFB's coach education director, Thomas Janeschitz, welcomed the decision to limit the number of participants: "It will enable us to give the candidates more individual attention and to look after them better." The ÖFB and the Bundesliga each nominate two candidates, while the other ten places are filled in accordance with set criteria.

Candidates must perform well in an appraisal conducted by a well-known sports psychologist,



and submit an impressive UEFA A licence reference. They should also have coaching experience, preferably at a high level, and, if possible, a successful playing career on their CV.

UEFA B licence training has also been restructured. The course, which in future will

As UEFA technical director, Andy Roxburgh helped to restructure coach education in Austria

contain more practical and fewer theoretical units, will also be organised at regional association level in close cooperation with all four Austrian federal sports academies. However, holders of the B licence will only be able to coach teams on the fifth rung of the football ladder (previously the fourth rung) or below.

A new youth licence has also been introduced, bringing the previous elite youth licence into line with the UEFA youth licence. Meanwhile, all goalkeeper coaches in the top two divisions and academies will, in future, be required to hold the newly created professional goalkeeper coach licence.

● Christoph Walter



France win U-17 Women's World Cup

Before the final of the FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup in Azerbaijan on 13 October, the president of Azerbaijan, Ilham Aliyev, received the UEFA president, Michel Platini. The two leaders expressed their satisfaction at the high standard of organisation of the FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup in Azerbaijan and at the high level of interest it had attracted at home and abroad. They also agreed on the importance of implementing measures to develop sport in general, and football in particular, in Azerbaijan.

France won the final 7-6 on penalties against North Korea after a 1-1 draw at the Tofiq Bahramov Stadium in Baku. Watched by the presidents of Azerbaijan and UEFA, France became the first European side to win the competition.

Lea Declercq put France ahead in the first half, before a late equaliser from Ri Un Sim

forced the match to be decided on penalties. After a long shoot-out, which also saw Kim Un Hwa and Marion Romanelli fail from the penalty spot, Ri Un Yong's miss allowed the French to celebrate victory.

In the awards ceremony that followed, France were presented with their gold medals and the trophy, leaving North Korea and Ghana to collect the silver and bronze medals respectively. Awards were also presented to the tournament's best striker, best goalkeeper and best player, while Japan received the fair play award.

The awards were presented by the presidents of Azerbaijan and UEFA, together with FIFA Executive Committee member Lydia Nsekera. The ceremony was followed by a performance



Gold for the French women's Under-17 team

by pop star Shakira, who warmed the hearts of the 27,128 people inside the Tofiq Bahramov Stadium.

● Nargiz Mammadova



UEFA comes to Sarajevo

Last month, the UEFA president, Michel Platini, accompanied by UEFA Executive Committee members Allan Hansen and Peter Gilliéron, visited the Bosnia and Herzegovina Football Federation (NFSBiH) in Sarajevo. NFSBiH representatives, led by the chairman of the normalisation committee, Ivica Osim, welcomed the UEFA delegation at Sarajevo airport.

The group met for discussions about the lack of football infrastructure in the Balkan state, and then attended a reception organised by Vjekoslav Bevanda, chairman of the council of ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

After visiting the Asim Ferhatović Hase stadium, Michel Platini gave a lengthy press conference to a large number of journalists. The UEFA president declared himself satisfied with the normalisation committee's work: *"I am very pleased with the work of the committee. They did everything that was expected of them, and even more than that. The statutes now comply with the standards of UEFA and FIFA."*

Commenting on UEFA's help in improving the country's football infrastructure, he said: *"It is true that UEFA has programmes to help rebuild stadiums, but it is still a matter for the state. It is the state that has to invest in its infrastructure and UEFA alone cannot restore or build stadiums. The state must support the development of projects for sports venues."* The UEFA delegation completed its visit with a trip to the Grbavica stadium.

Also in Sarajevo was the UEFA KISS seminar on corporate social responsibility in football, which was attended by representatives of more



The national association and UEFA delegations pose for the camera

than 40 UEFA member associations. It was the first UEFA seminar to be held in Bosnia and Herzegovina, a move that certainly confirms that UEFA has recognised the positive trends in the way the federation is run.

In other news, the Bosnian national team finished this year's qualifiers for the 2014 World Cup in joint first place in Group G. In the last two games, Safet Sušić's team played out a goalless draw in Athens and beat Lithuania 3-0 in Zenica. After four games, both Bosnia and Herzegovina and Greece have ten points, but our national team have a better goal difference.

The Under-19 team also achieved success, topping Group 8 of the 2012/13 European Under-19 Championship. The team finished

level on points with Norway and Slovakia, but qualify with Norway for the elite round on goal difference.

There was no such success for the women's Under-19 team, however. In qualifying Group 8 of their European Championship, Bosnia and Herzegovina's young hopefuls could only manage third place, with a victory over the FYR Macedonia but defeats against Portugal and the Czech Republic.

The Under-17 team took part in a tournament in Lithuania. They also finished third, with victory over Lithuania, a draw with Hungary and defeat against France. In the match against Lithuania, Jelena Koprena scored four goals in a row.

● Fuad Kravac



A new president

Former Finnish international goalkeeper Pertti Alaja was elected as the new president of the Football Association of Finland (SPL) at the association's annual general meeting on 13/14 October. Markku Lehtola and Harri Talonen were elected vice-presidents.

The president's position had been vacant since Sauli Niinistö's resignation earlier this year after he was elected president of the Finnish republic.

Alaja, 60, was capped 29 times as a goalkeeper for Finland, and played for HJK Helsinki, FC Haka, Ikast FS, Edmonton Drillers FC and Malmö FF, among others.

After hanging up his gloves, Alaja moved into football administration

and served as general secretary of the SPL between 1990 and 2000, and as vice-president from 2004 to 2006. He is also well known internationally, not least for having served as the tournament director at the 2010 FIFA World Cup in South Africa.

● Sami Terävä



The new president of the Finnish FA, Pertti Alaja, a well-known figure in the world of football



Women's Under-17s honoured

A few days after winning the 2012 FIFA Under-17 Women's World Cup in Azerbaijan, the victorious French team was invited to the headquarters of the French Football Federation (FFF).

A ceremony was held to honour the achievement of Guy Ferrier's team. Each player and staff member was introduced to the 250 people in attendance, who included club representatives, FFF employees and journalists.

Accompanied by the FFF general secretary, Brigitte Henriques, and the national technical director, François Blaquent, the FFF president, Noël Le Graët, congratulated the young French team on their performance during the final tournament. Each team member was presented with a medal by the federation.

The president also highlighted the tremendous spirit among the squad and the high quality of their

play throughout the competition, which ensured they became the third French national football team ever to win a world title.

Didier Deschamps, coach of the French men's senior national team, and Willy Sagnol, national teams director, also took part in the event.

The FFF's official equipment supplier, Nike, marked the French team's success by presenting a pair of unique personalised boots to each of the new world champions.

● Matthieu Brelle-Andrade



Reception for the young world champions at the French Football Federation headquarters

Iberia Star Tbilisi reach UEFA Futsal Cup finals

Georgia's futsal champions, Iberia Star Tbilisi, have qualified for the UEFA Futsal Cup finals for the very first time. It is the greatest achievement to date of the club, and of Georgian futsal as well.

Iberia Star Tbilisi, the only club to have taken part in every UEFA Futsal Cup, reached the last four after beating Italian team Luparense C/5, 2010 UEFA Futsal Cup winners SL Benfica and drawing against Hungarian side Györi ETO FC in the elite round. It is the fourth season in a row that Iberia Star Tbilisi have made it through to the elite round, but the first time they have made it beyond that, having only just lost out

on a place in the finals last season and the season before.

The club has now applied to host the finals. For the Georgian Football Federation, this would be a rehearsal for the UEFA Super Cup in 2015, which will take place in Tbilisi.

However, most importantly, thanks to Iberia Star Tbilisi's success, futsal has become more popular in Georgia. Some 6,000 supporters were at the Sportis Sasakhle in Tbilisi, where the Group D elite round matches were held, to watch the host team secure their place in the finals. The record for a UEFA Futsal Cup match remains the final in Lisbon in 2010, which was attended by 9,400 spectators. Hundreds of thousands more fans more watched the elite round matches live on TV. ● *Tata Burduli*



The Georgians of Iberia Star Tbilisi have reached the UEFA Futsal Cup finals for the first time

A photo exhibition like no other

They are often photographed, but national team players have never been seen like this before: Miroslav Klose hovers above the grass while Thomas Müller stumbles to the ground, hand on heel, alone in the beam of a floodlight. The German national team manager, Oliver Bierhoff, and the German minister of culture, Bernd Neumann, opened an extraordinary exhibition in Berlin on 16 October entitled *Unter Spielern – Die Nationalmannschaft* ("Players together – the national team"). Forty-five large black-and-white photographs taken by artist Regina Schmeken over the past two years are on display in the Martin Gropius building.

Oliver Bierhoff met the internationally renowned photographer – who has been taking black-and-white photographs since 1976 and has exhibited at the MOMA in New York – at a Munich gallery at the beginning of 2011, and soon, their joint project was born. The exhibition at the Martin Gropius building was made possible by the DFB's Theo Zwanziger cultural foundation. "The photographs show the national team in a different light," said Bierhoff, who emphasised the complexity and diversity of Regina Schmeken's works. In

contrast to traditional sports photography, her work focuses completely on the players, on bold graphic motifs and on decisive, isolated moments produced by the complex movements of the game. Football fans and art lovers have until 6 January 2013 to visit the exhibition in the large gallery on the first floor of the museum. Those who are unable to see the works for themselves can buy a comprehensive catalogue containing 88 images, a preface by Oliver Bierhoff, texts by Axel Hacke and Willibald Sauerländer, and poems by Albert Ostermaier, in all good bookshops.

● *Thomas Hackbarth*



One of the photos in the Regina Schmeken exhibition

Presentation of social appraisal

The Italian Football Federation (FIGC) recently unveiled its social appraisal, a report on activities related to football within the country with a particular focus on social aspects, which has as its goal to communicate positively action taken within the system of Italian football.



Presentation of the Italian Football Federation's social appraisal in Rome

The event, held in the multi-functional room of the council of ministers' presidential building, was attended by leading sports administrators, including the president of CONI (the Italian Olympic committee), Giovanni Petrucci, who opening the meeting by saying: "The FIGC was the first federation in Italy and one of the first in the world to produce such a document, which shows that its structure is working, that it is based on transparency and that, when things are done properly, results will follow". The FIGC president, Giancarlo Abete, closed the meeting by explaining the federation's work ethic: "We feel it is necessary to send a positive message to society, to build something positive for the future. We want people to notice initiatives such as the visits to Rizziconi, l'Aquila, Modena and Emilia (the latter following the earthquake) or the forthcoming trip to Quarto. This document is a means of keeping tabs on our work and providing an account of our activities, because a public appraisal puts our organisation in the shop window. We rely on the proposals of all members of the football family, since the professional leagues, amateurs, referees, coaches and players have a responsibility to society, so we all need to be transparent and share information."

The FIGC's social appraisal was conducted by its studies and special initiatives centre, whose director, Michele Uva, mentioned in his speech that the report was designed to emphasise, even to the world outside football, the value of the federation's activities and the relationship between the economy, society and sport. The report was prepared with UEFA's support in cooperation with PricewaterhouseCoopers. It analyses the FIGC's activities relating to marketing, communication, youth football, promotion, international relations, security and the fight against all forms of racism, providing a true snapshot of the positive aspects of Italian sport in general and football in particular. All FIGC departments took part in the project, which is available online at www.figc.it.

● *Barbara Moschini*



There is no place like home

When Liechtenstein's national team line up for an international match, it is usually as rank outsiders against yet another of the best teams in Europe. This means that sporting successes are few and far between, and teams who are short on success face an uphill struggle to generate enthusiasm among spectators.

This year, the Liechtenstein Football Association (LFV) launched a campaign entitled *Heimspiel Liechtenstein* ("Liechtenstein at home"), which focuses on players from Liechtenstein and their roots in the country. In the campaign, the national side's goalkeeper, Peter Jehle, catches the balls in front of the famous Vaduz castle, striker David Hasler dribbles through the plenary chamber of the Liechtenstein parliament, and midfielder Franz Burgmeier shoots a ball through the picturesque Alpine hamlet of Tuass.



Goalkeeper Peter Jehle in action, with Vaduz castle in the background

The entertaining campaign, which includes video clips, radio mentions and various printed materials, has got people in the principality talking about Liechtenstein football. A recognisable brand has been created, and further chapters are planned for the coming years. *Heimspiel Liechtenstein* is designed to get more of the population behind their national team, and to come to the stadium the next time their David takes on another Goliath.

● Anton Banzer



Moldova Government Cup

The Vasile Alecsandri high school from Balti has won the 7th Moldova Government Cup for Under-14 teams. In the final, played at the Criuleni stadium, Vasile Alecsandri beat the Hyperion high school from Gura Galbenei 6-2. In the third-place play-off, the Racovat high school beat their counterparts from the Constantin Negruzzi high school in Chisinau 2-1. In all, 1,304 teams and 19,423 young players took part in the competition organised by the ministry of youth and sports, the ministry of education and the Football Association of Moldova.

The awards ceremony after the final was attended among others by Ion Cebanu, minister of youth and sports; Leonid Bujor, adviser to the

Moldovan prime minister; and Nicolae Cebotari, general secretary of the FA of Moldova. They presented the medals, trophies and gifts.

The organisers chose their best players of the tournament, who were: Vadim Dabija (Vasile Alecsandri) – best goalkeeper; Isai Sandu (Racovat) – best defender; Victor Stina (Gura Galbenei) – best midfielder; and Vadim Virtosu (Vasile Alecsandri) – best striker. All received prizes.

Former winners of the competition are the Lopatnic high school in 2006 and 2008, the Minerva high school from Chisinau in 2007, the Mihai Eminescu high school from Edinet in 2009, the Congaz high school in 2010 and the Hyperion high school from Gura Galbenei in 2011.

● Press office



The players of Vasile Alecsandri school, winners of the Moldovan Government Cup

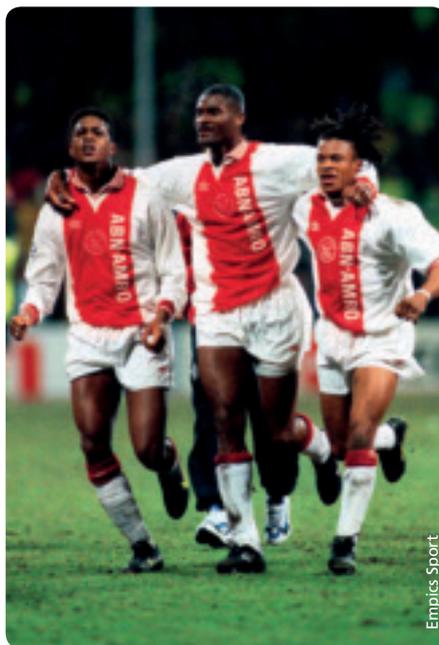


Farewell to four great players

The Royal Netherlands Football Association (KNVB) invited Patrick Kluivert, Edgar Davids, Ruud van Nistelrooy and Michael Reiziger to be its guests of honour at the Dutch team's friendly match against Germany at the Amsterdam Arena on Wednesday 14 November. Before kick-off, the KNVB officially celebrated the careers of these four former internationals. The ceremony on the pitch was an excellent occasion to praise them for their contribution to the development of Dutch football and an opportunity for the fans to bid them farewell in an appropriate way.

Edgar Davids won 74 caps in an international career spanning ten years in which he scored six goals. Davids played his last international match in 2005. He appeared at four major tournaments (EURO '96, the 1998 FIFA World Cup, EURO 2000 and EURO 2004). Amsterdam-born Davids currently plays for English League Two club Barnet FC.

Patrick Kluivert made his debut for the national team in 1994 at the age of 18. In 78 international matches he managed 40 goals, a total that makes him the Dutch national team's all-time top goalscorer. Kluivert, who like Davids was a member of the Dutch squad



Patrick Kluivert, Michael Reiziger and Edgar Davids in their Ajax playing days

for EURO '96, the 1998 FIFA World Cup, EURO 2000 and EURO 2004, played his last international match in 2004. In 2008 he finished his career at French club LOSC Lille-Métropole. He is currently on the coaching staff of FC Twente as well as being assistant to the Dutch national team's head coach, Louis van Gaal.

Ruud van Nistelrooy (70 caps and 35 goals) made his debut for the national team under coach Frank Rijkaard at the age of 22, his first appearance coming against Germany in 1998. Van Nistelrooy played with the Dutch team at EURO 2004, the 2006 FIFA World Cup and EURO 2008. In 2011, he finished his career in fine style, scoring in his last international match against Hungary in Rotterdam.

Michael Reiziger's career spanned ten years. Amstelveen-born Reiziger made his debut in 1994 against Norway. Like Davids and Kluivert, Reiziger played at four major tournaments: EURO '96, the 1998 FIFA World Cup, EURO 2000 and EURO 2004. He made his last appearance in 2004. The defender won 72 caps and scored one goal in a friendly match against Germany in 1998. Reiziger's last club was PSV Eindhoven, for whom he stopped playing over five years ago.

● Rob de Leede

A very skilful champion

Corey Leckie was crowned the Irish Football Association's Coleraine keepy-up champion after winning the grand final at the Showgrounds during Coleraine's Northern Irish Premiership game against Linfield.

The St. Malachy's Primary School pupil had no problem handling the pressure of performing in front of the cameras to hold off the challenge of the six other finalists from primary schools in the Coleraine town area.

Northern Ireland legend Gerry Armstrong, who commented on the game, was impressed with the ability shown by Corey. *"To keep the ball up over 50 times is an achievement in itself, but to also do it in front of several thousand fans in the stadium and also potentially millions of people in the UK and beyond on television, shows just how composed Corey was at keeping the ball up. Every boy here today has earned his place in the final*

by winning their own school competition, and it is fantastic to see the Irish FA organising this competition in the primary schools in the Coleraine area," said Armstrong.

Corey Leckie's school principal, Tony Fisher, said: *"It's a fantastic achievement for Corey. He's always been very skilful and practised really hard for the competition. Needless to say, he was as proud as punch when he brought both trophies into the school and showed them at a special assembly. Who knows what lies ahead for Corey after this success. Maybe Sir Alex Ferguson will be in touch!"*

Congratulations also go to Josh McConnell (Ballysally PS), Saul Tomb (DH Christie Memorial PS), Luis Freedman (Damhead PS), Jamie Connor (Harpur's Hill PS), Scott McDonald (Millburn PS), and Caiolan Brennan (St. John's PS) who represented their schools in the grand final.

● Graeme Beggs



Corey Leckie demonstrated skill and great concentration

A social initiative

The Football Association of Ireland (FAI) and the Welsh Football Trust (WFT) have come together in a unique initiative which uses football to impact on social development. It is highly unusual for two football associations to work so closely on an initiative such as this but Project FUTSAL (Football Used Towards Social Advancement & Learning) was established last year with the core aim of using football as a social inclusion tool in order to facilitate innovative community regeneration.

The project has been designed through the cooperation of the FAI and the WFT and secured funding from the Ireland Wales Inter Reg IV Programme 2007–2013 under the theme of "Sustainable Regeneration of Communities". The overall aim of the project is to provide education and work opportunities for young people in disadvantaged areas and to influence and assist community regeneration via employment and volunteerism in the field of sport.

The project is for three years and entails resources being invested in 12 communities in the Republic of Ireland and Wales. Ireland's

minister for social protection, Joan Burton TD, attended the launch of the Ballymun hub, north of Dublin city.

The project involves the sharing of best practice and has three main aspects:

- Firstly, the rollout of 12 hubs (seven in Ireland and five in Wales), a hub being an education centre coordinated by FAI/WFT staff. A comprehensive academic year of adult education/personal development, football coach education and work/volunteer placements will be offered to 30 participants at each of the hubs. There is an emphasis on gender equality regarding the allocation of programme places, with a 50:50 target ratio of male to female participants. The main objectives of the programme are to enhance participants' employability and/or enhance their prospects of going onto further education.
- The second element of the project involves setting up pan-disability football teams attached to each hub. The project will encourage and assist local communities around the hubs to support the delivery of football to a wider range of players with disabilities in their communities.
- The third aspect of the project involves the first longitudinal research on the effectiveness of football as a tool towards social inclusion and learning within disadvantaged communities. The research is being conducted by the national university of Ireland, Maynooth. It is envisaged that the research will assess the impact of football on education, community involvement, and the creation of work opportunities in local communities. Research will also be conducted around the impact of pan-disability football on participants and their families.

The project will empower specific target groups to be involved in the sustainable regeneration of their local communities through the development of local hub committees composed of key members of the community and local statutory agencies.

Further information is available at: www.projectfutsal.ie and www.irelandwales.ie

● Stephen Finn



The Irish minister for social protection, Joan Burton, helped to launch the programme

International football spreads nationwide

In recent years, the coaching staff of Russia's national teams have been working hard to achieve success. Recently, this intense effort has come to fruition. Firstly, the Russian Under-21 team beat their play-off rivals the Czech Republic 4-2 on aggregate to book their place at the European Under-21 Championship final round. Secondly, the women's national team sealed their place at next summer's UEFA Women's EURO with a 3-1 aggregate play-off win against Austria. It should be noted that Sergey Lavrentiev was only appointed the women's team's new head coach just before the two-leg tie.

Both home play-off matches were held in different regions of Russia. The Under-21s played in Ekaterinburg, and the women's team welcomed their Austrian guests to Rostov. It is very important to the Russian Football Union (RFS) to start organising international games outside of the capital. These cities will both host matches in the 2018 FIFA World Cup, and this marks the start of their preparations to welcome the world football family.

Elsewhere, Russia also hosted a first qualifying round group for the European Women's Under-19 Championship. In Group 9, the hosts took on Sweden, Azerbaijan and Slovenia in a bid to progress to the second qualifying round. The mini-tournament was held in Krymsk, the site of the country's worst flooding this summer. The RFS was following directions to set up international tournaments and matches to increase the popularity of football in the region.

In November, the senior Russian national team will play host to the USA in a friendly match in another different region, at the Kuban stadium in Krasnodar.

● Irina Baranova



Russia will participate in the UEFA Women's EURO 2013 in Sweden



The fairest of them all

FC Klus-Balsthal have been named the fairest Swiss football club for the 2011/12 season. The club from the Solothurn region was presented with a cheque for CHF 10,000 at the Stade de Suisse in Berne, in recognition of the fair play attitude of its teams, players and officials.

"Each year we have around 40,000 accidents on football pitches. This number can only be reduced through fair play, which is why it is very important for us that fair play is practised in our clubs", said Raphaël Ammann, representative of SUVA (the Swiss accident insurance fund), at the prize-giving ceremony. Peter Hofstetter, Amateur League representative on the board of the Swiss Football Association (SFV-ASF), also stressed the importance of fair play. "Fair play has been a vital theme for the SFV-ASF for years and we are pleased that we can honour the fairest teams each year thanks to SUVA's support."

Luigi Furcillo, president of the victorious FC Klus-Balsthal, said that right from the youngest members, everyone at the club was taught about the importance of fair play.



The president of the SFV-ASF, Peter Gilliéron, and the national team coach, Ottmar Hitzfeld, accompanied by representatives of FC Klus-Balsthal, André Hafner and Luigi Furcillo, and Raphael Ammann, representing SUVA

"We talk to even our youngest players about fair play, and we involve their parents in the education process. Fair play is a key topic for our youth teams and our senior players are also strongly encouraged to respect their opponents," he said.

As well as by its president, FC Klus-Balsthal was represented at the ceremony by André Hafner (vice-president) and Rolf Zysset (public relations manager). The president of the Solothurn football association, Roland Stampfli, also paid tribute to the winners. The cheque was presented by SUVA's campaign manager, Raphaël Ammann, and head of leisure safety, Edith Müller. The SFV-ASF was represented by its president, Peter Gilliéron, its sporting director, Peter Knäbel, the national team's head coach,

Ottmar Hitzfeld, the head of club support and fair play, Peter Hofstetter, Meinrad Flury of the amateur league committee and Thomas Spörri, the organising committee chairman and secretary of the SFV-ASF technical department.

The fair play rankings:

1. FC Klus-Balsthal (CHF 10,000);
2. FC Therwil (CHF 9,000);
3. FC Seefeld ZH (CHF 8,000);
4. FC Stammheim (CHF 7,000);
5. FC Kerns (CHF 6,000);
6. Engelberger SC (CHF 5,000);
7. Femina Kickers Worb (CHF 4,000);
8. FC Wittenbach (CHF 3,000);
9. FC Freienbach (CHF 2,000);
10. FC Courtételle (CHF 1,000)

● Pierre Benoit



Match tickets and replica shirts through official website

The Turkish Football Federation (TFF) has started selling senior national team match tickets through a custom-built ticketing system. The first two games for which tickets were available in this way were the European qualifiers for the 2014 FIFA World Cup against Romania and Estonia. The TFF sold out its allocation for both games, played on 11 September and 12 October respectively in Fenerbahçe's Şükrü Saraçoğlu stadium, which hosted the last ever UEFA Cup final between Werder Bremen and FC Shakhtar Donetsk in 2009.

Altogether, more than 75,000 tickets were sold, more than a half of them through the

TFF's official website, www.tff.org. The federation set up a dedicated page for each game, enabling fans to log on and purchase tickets. A call centre was also organised to help give clear and detailed answers to customers wanting to buy tickets, and ticket booths were also still available at the stadium for people who could not buy tickets over the internet.

Before the Romania game, the TFF also began selling national team replica shirts online for the first time – a real milestone. The federation ended up selling all the shirts allocated for this special campaign.

Senior national team match tickets will continue to be sold through this new system in the same way as for the Estonia and Romania matches. These include tickets for the friendly



Tickets for the Turkey v Denmark match were on sale at tff.org

against Denmark, the senior team's 500th fixture in its 89-year history, which will be played at the TT Arena.

● Ilker Uğur/Aydın Güvenir



Learning disability squad training camp

The first ever national learning disability training camp was held on 23 and 24 September at the Sport Wales national centre in

Cardiff. The 22 selected players came from all corners of the country and ranged in age from 16 to 26. For many, it was the first time they had been away from home.

The camp consisted of technical and tactical practice, conditioned games, lectures about the

Welsh way to play, and sports science support. Sessions were delivered in 20-minute segments to help ensure that players took on board information in the most effective way. A range of coaching strategies were employed throughout the camp, such as "footsteps" for extremely kinaesthetic learners, pitch reference points and very simple terminology. In addition, there was a video technician on site who was able to document sessions that could then be viewed by more visual learners with a member of the coaching staff.

The squad held their second training camp in late October, in preparation for their very first international fixture on 8 November, against Northern Ireland at Bangor City FC's Nantporth Stadium.

● Ceri Stennett



The Welsh national team for players with learning difficulties

BIRTHDAYS

David R. Griffiths (Wales, 1 December)
 John Ferry (Northern Ireland, 1 December)
 Zeljko Sirić (Croatia, 1 December)
 Sergei Roumas (Belarus, 1 December)
 Charles Agius (Malta, 2 December)
Ligita Ziedone (Latvia, 2 December)
 ☆☆☆ 40th
 Sean Dipple (England, 3 December)
 Juan Antonio Fernandez Marin (Spain, 3 December)
 Gylfi Thor Orrason (Iceland, 3 December)
 Sayan Khamitzhonov (Kazakhstan, 3 December)
 Josipa Flam (Croatia, 3 December)
 Miroslav Liba (Czech Republic, 4 December)
 Ioannis Farfarelis (Greece, 4 December)
Ján Kováčik (Slovakia, 4 December)
 ☆☆☆ 50th
 Georg Lüchinger (Liechtenstein, 4 December)
 Maurizio Montironi (San Marino, 5 December)
 Leszek Rylski (Poland, 6 December)
 Antonio Manuel Almeida Costa (Portugal, 6 December)
 Andreas Akkelides (Cyprus, 7 December)
 Raymond Ellingham (Wales, 7 December)
 Andrea Manzella (Italy, 8 December)
 Michel D'Hooghe (Belgium, 8 December)
 Vitaly Mutko (Russia, 8 December)
 Tim Meyer (Germany, 8 December)
 Konstantin Sonin (Russia, 8 December)
Les Reed (England, 9 December)
 ☆☆☆ 60th
 Dušan Bajević (Bosnia and Herzegovina, 10 December)
 Christian Andreasen (Faroe Islands, 10 December)
 Alain Hamer (Luxembourg, 10 December)
 Trefor Hughes (Wales, 11 December)
 Avi Levi (Israel, 11 December)
 Alvaro Albino (Portugal, 12 December)
 Kaj Natri (Finland, 13 December)
 Stefan Messner (Austria, 13 December)
 Gilberto Madaíl (Portugal, 14 December)
 Antonio Mortagua (Portugal, 14 December)
 Ged Poynton (England, 15 December)
 Steve Stride (England, 16 December)
Ilan Yablkovsky (Israel, 16 December)
 ☆☆☆ 50th
 Karel Vertongen (Belgium, 17 December)
Bobby Barnes (England, 17 December)
 ☆☆☆ 50th
 Michael Riley (England, 17 December)
 Artan Hajdari (Albania, 17 December)
 Gennady Lisenchuk (Ukraine, 18 December)
 Guntis Indriksons (Latvia, 18 December)
 Niklas à Lidarenda (Faroe Islands, 18 December)
 Rainer Koch (Germany, 18 December)
 Ori Shilo (Israel, 18 December)
 Ludvik S. Georgsson (Iceland, 19 December)
 Harri Talonen (Finland, 19 December)
 David Casserly (Republic of Ireland, 19 December)
 Edgars Pukinskis (Latvia, 20 December)
 William Young (Scotland, 21 December)
 Henrique Jones (Portugal, 22 December)
 Olzhas Abrayev (Kazakhstan, 22 December)
 Josef Geisler (Austria, 23 December)
 Pia Hess (Germany, 23 December)

László Vagner (Hungary, 24 December)
 Noël Le Graët (France, 25 December)
 Patriu Abrudan (Romania, 25 December)
Guy Goethals (Belgium, 26 December)
 ☆☆☆ 60th
 Oleksandr Bakhmachuk (Ukraine, 26 December)
 Rudolf Repka (Czech Republic, 26 December)
 Dušan Tittel (Slovakia, 27 December)
 Bernard Carrel (Switzerland, 28 December)
 Martial Saugy (Switzerland, 28 December)
 Otakar Mestek (Czech Republic, 28 December)
 Einar Halle (Norway, 29 December)
 Evangelos Mazarakis (Greece, 29 December)
 Dagmar Damkova (Czech Republic, 29 December)
 Berti Vogts (Germany, 30 December)
 Wolfgang Thierriechter (Austria, 30 December)
 Jean Fournet-Fayard (France, 31 December)
 Horst Brummeier (Austria, 31 December)
 Jens Larsen (Denmark, 31 December)
 Christian Moroge (Switzerland, 31 December)
 David Findlay (Scotland, 31 December)
 Liene Kozlovskā (Latvia, 31 December)

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Meetings

4 December, in Nyon

European Futsal Championship: qualifying round draw

5 December, in Nyon

European Under-17 and Under-19 Championships: draws for the 2012/13 elite rounds and the 2013/14 qualifying rounds
 National Team Competitions Committee Finance Committee

6 December, in Lausanne

Executive Committee

11/12 December, in Nyon

Anti-Doping Panel

18 December, in Nyon

FIFA Women's World Cup: European qualifiers preliminary round draw

20 December, in Nyon

UEFA Champions League: draw for the round of 16
 UEFA Europa League: draw for the rounds of 32 and 16

Competitions

4/5 December

UEFA Champions League: group matches (matchday 6)

6 December

UEFA Europa League: group matches (matchday 6)

6–16 December, in Japan

FIFA Club World Cup

NOTICES

- On 6 October, Georgios Sarris was elected president of the Hellenic Football Federation.

- On 14 October, Pertti Alaja was elected president of the Football Association of Finland.

- On 27 October, Zbigniew Boniek was elected president of the Polish Football Federation.

- The House of European Football in Nyon will host a meeting of the UEFA member association presidents and general secretaries on 24 January. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the proposed amendments to the FIFA Statutes, which will be submitted to the 2013 FIFA Congress.

- The Football Association of Ireland (FAI) is seeking a new high-performance director. Candidates must possess a UEFA Pro licence and an equivalent coach education qualification. The full job description can be found at: www.fai.ie/fai/careers

NEW MATCH AGENTS

UEFA licences have been awarded to four new match agents:

Phil Hardman

Eighty Sports
 10 Eardisley Road
 Liverpool, L18 0HS, England
 Tel.: +44 779 21 866 977
phil.hardman@eightysports.co.uk

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