



UEFA•direct



## IN THIS ISSUE

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### Cover:

*A winning streak for Franck  
Ribéry, who was voted UEFA  
Best Player in Europe one  
day and lifted the UEFA  
Super Cup with FC Bayern  
München the next.*

Photo: Getty Images

### FRANCK RIBÉRY IS CROWNED BEST PLAYER IN EUROPE

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A panel of leading football journalists voted Franck Ribéry the 2012/13 UEFA Best Player in Europe at the UEFA Champions League group stage draw in Monaco.



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## LOOKING FOR AN ANSWER

The number of disciplinary cases involving the disqualification or exclusion of clubs from the UEFA club competitions has multiplied in recent years and, with the gradual introduction of financial fair play and the stepping up of efforts to fight match-fixing, this is a trend that is not about to change.

To deal with such matters, UEFA has its judicial system, which, it should be stressed, is totally independent from the presidency and executive bodies. In addition, some years ago UEFA introduced the possibility for aggrieved parties to take their cases to a recognised independent court, the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS).

The inconvenience of this option is, however, that it makes the whole process longer, and sometimes too long for competitions with matches on set dates, which have to be respected so as not to disrupt the smooth running of the competitions. Moreover, for as long as the specificity of sport is not fully recognised by the political authorities, UEFA will continue to be exposed to the risk of appeals before civil courts, as has already been the case.

This situation is not going to change overnight, and if we do not find an answer, our competitions are going to become harder and harder to organise, and at times even erratic. The fact that a special draw had to be made this season before the UEFA Europa League group draw could take place is a case in point.

This is an interesting challenge we have on our plate, and one on which the smooth running of our competitions depends.

A stylized, handwritten signature of Michel Platini in black ink.

**Michel Platini**  
UEFA President

# FRANCK RIBÉRY IS EUROPE'S NUMBER ONE

Despite the UEFA Super Cup being contested elsewhere, the traditional summer meeting in Monaco still offered a packed schedule to the representatives of European club football in attendance.



Over the course of two days, on 29 and 30 August, there were competition draws, preparatory workshops, a committee meeting and a gala evening; the winner of the UEFA Best Player in Europe Award was announced, the UEFA Monaco Charity Award was presented, the UEFA President held a media briefing and the European Club Association (ECA) convened a meeting.

## Best player in Europe

Those present in the Salle des Princes at Monte Carlo's Grimaldi Forum on 29 August to witness the draw for the group stage of the

UEFA Champions League also saw a panel of journalists crown Franck Ribéry UEFA Best Player of the Year for the 2012/13 season.

The panel, which was made up of 53 expert journalists (one representing each of UEFA's member associations), reached its decision in three stages, the last of which was a live vote in Monaco to see which of the three shortlisted players – Lionel Messi, Franck Ribéry and Cristiano Ronaldo – would come away with the trophy. The award went to FC Bayern München's Ribéry, topping off a remarkable season in which he and his club took home the treble, winning the UEFA Champions League, the Bundesliga and the German Cup.

The Frenchman follows in the footsteps of Lionel Messi and Andrés Iniesta, the first two winners of this award, which is presented by UEFA in cooperation with European Sports Media (ESM).

## Competition draw

Ribéry and Messi (Ronaldo was not in Monaco) were preceded on stage by other greats of European football, who came to assist with the draw ceremony for the UEFA Champions League: Luis Figo, the ambassador for the 2014 final in Lisbon; Billy McNeill, who captained Celtic FC when they won the European Champion Clubs' Cup in Lisbon in 1967; Johan Cruyff, a three-time winner of the Champion Clubs' Cup; Michael Owen, who won the UEFA Super Cup with Liverpool FC in 2001; and Paulo Sousa, a two-time winner of the UEFA Champions League, having won it with both Juventus and Borussia Dortmund.

The draw was conducted on the same basis as usual, allocating places in the eight groups to the



The UEFA President, Michel Platini, presents Franck Ribéry with the UEFA Best Player in Europe Award

## PRIZE MONEY FOR THE 2013/14 SEASON

As the 2013/14 season is the second in a three year commercial cycle, the fixed bonuses paid to clubs participating in the UEFA Champions League should be the same as last season. This means:

- an **€8.6m** bonus for clubs participating in the group stage;
- **€1m** for each win during the group stage and **€500,000** for each draw;
- **€3.5m** for reaching the round of 16;
- **€3.9m** for each club that makes it to the quarter-finals;
- **€4.9m** for each of the four semi-finalists;
- **€6.5m** for the beaten finalists;
- **€10.5m** for the winners of the competition.

Revenue will also be distributed by means of supplementary payments based on the financial value of each club's national market.

- At its meeting in Monaco, the UEFA Club Competitions Committee took note of the total amounts to be awarded following the UEFA Champions League final at Wembley. The two finalists, FC Bayern München and Borussia Dortmund, will each receive €4.366m as a percentage of ticket sales, on top of their bonuses of €10.5m and €6.5m respectively. ●



The Salle des Princes at the Grimaldi Forum, the traditional venue for the group stage draw

22 clubs that had entered the group stage directly and the 10 that had made it through qualifying (via either the champions or the league route). The first group matches are on 17 and 18 September.

#### Just one newcomer

Of the clubs in the draw, one – FK Austria Wien – is making its first appearance in the competition, bringing the total number of clubs that have participated in the UEFA Champions League since its inception in 1992/93 to 128.

A total of 14 previous winners of the European Cup are in the running this year – with Group H drawing the most attention, since the four clubs contesting that group are all former champions, sharing a grand total of 16 titles between them (seven for AC Milan, four each for AFC Ajax and FC Barcelona, and one for Celtic FC).

Manchester United FC remain the competition's most regular participants, appearing in the draw for the 19th time – one ahead of FC Barcelona, FC Porto and Real Madrid CF. FC Bayern München and AC Milan have each participated 17 times, Arsenal FC 16, Olympiacos FC 15, Juventus 14, and AFC Ajax, Chelsea FC and Galatasaray AŞ 12. Since 1999/2000, when the 32-team group stage was introduced, Arsenal FC, Manchester United FC and Real Madrid CF have been present every single year.

#### Ten times four for England

None of the 18 national associations represented in the group stage this year are supplying a club for the first time, so the

number of associations that have had at least one club participating in this stage since 1999/2000 remains 31. This season, England, Spain and Germany have all succeeded in getting four of their clubs – the maximum number – to the group stage. In fact, this is the tenth year in a row that England has achieved that feat! There are eight national associations that have always been represented in the group stage: Spain (57 places in total, spread between 12 clubs), England (56 places; 8 clubs), Italy (51 places; 8 clubs), Germany (46 places; 9 clubs), France (41 places; 10 clubs), the Netherlands (25 places; 7 clubs), Greece (23 places; 3 clubs) and Turkey (19 places; 5 clubs). ●

## 2014 FIXTURE LIST

**Round of 16:** 18, 19, 25 and 26 February (first legs); 11, 12, 18 and 19 March (second legs)

**Quarter-finals:** 1 and 2 April (first legs); 8 and 9 April (second legs)

**Semi-finals:** 22 and 23 April (first legs); 29 and 30 April (second legs)

**Final:** 24 May in Lisbon

**Draw for the round of 16:** 13 December 2013

**Draw for the quarter-finals:** 21 March

**Draw for the semi-finals:** 11 April

The full fixture list can be found on UEFA.com.

## 2013/14 UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

### Group A

FC Shakhtar Donetsk  
Manchester United FC  
Bayer 04 Leverkusen  
Real Sociedad de Fútbol

### Group B

Juventus  
Galatasaray AŞ  
Real Madrid CF  
FC København

### Group C

Paris Saint-Germain FC  
SL Benfica  
RSC Anderlecht  
Olympiacos FC

### Group D

Manchester City FC  
FC Bayern München  
PFC CSKA Moskva  
FC Viktoria Plzeň

Dates of matches in these four groups: 17 September, 2 October, 23 October, 5 November, 27 November and 10 December.

### Group E

FC Basel 1893  
FC Schalke 04  
FC Steaua Bucureşti  
Chelsea FC

### Group F

Borussia Dortmund  
Olympique de Marseille  
Arsenal FC  
SSC Napoli

### Group G

FC Zenit  
FK Austria Wien  
FC Porto  
Club Atlético de Madrid

### Group H

AFC Ajax  
AC Milan  
Celtic FC  
FC Barcelona

Dates of matches in these four groups: 18 September, 1 October, 22 October, 6 November, 26 November and 11 December.

## CHEQUE PRESENTED TO THE JOHAN CRUYFF FOUNDATION

Elite football does not exist in isolation, and UEFA proves this at the annual meeting in Monaco by giving a cheque for €1m to a different charity every year.

This year, the chosen charity was the foundation established in 1997 by former Dutch international Johan Cruyff. Its aim is to give children the opportunity to take part in sport and play together in order to improve their health and quality of life, foster integration and teach them fundamental human values. The foundation also organises programmes aimed specifically at disabled children. In particular, the foundation builds special sports facilities – Cruyff Courts – where children can learn and develop skills in complete safety. There are 176 of these in total, primarily in the Netherlands, and every week more than 15,000 young people play there as part of the foundation’s community programme. UEFA’s donation, which was presented during the gala evening at the Monte Carlo Sporting Club, will be



A cheque for €1 million for the Johan Cruyff Foundation, presented by the UEFA President, Michel Platini

used to establish six new Cruyff Courts in six European countries. These sports facilities, which will be located in town and city centres, will offer at least six hours of structured activities every week. ●

## NEW CLUB COMPETITION AT YOUTH LEVEL

The UEFA Youth League, the first UEFA club competition for youth teams, made its debut in September alongside the group stage of the UEFA Champions League. It is an Under-19 competition and primarily serves a developmental purpose.



When it met in Monaco on 29 August, the UEFA Club Competitions Committee reviewed the main features of this new competition, which is being trialled this season and next. Two workshops were then held for representatives of the clubs concerned.

The 32 clubs participating in the group stage of the UEFA Champions League have all entered

a team in this development tournament. The groups are all identical to those of the senior competition, as is the fixture list, and the winners will be awarded the Lennart Johansson Trophy.

When the competition reaches the knockout stage, a separate draw will take place. The round of 16 will be made up of single-leg ties, with the group winners playing at home. Round of 16 matches will not be possible between the winners and runners-up of the same group, or between teams from the same association. If scores are level at the end of normal time, extra time will not be played and the teams will proceed directly to a penalty shoot-out.

The quarter-final pairings will be determined by means of an open draw. As these, too, will be single-leg ties, the draw will dictate which clubs play at home. A draw will also be held to determine the composition of the semi-finals, which will be played at the same neutral venue as the final. These last three matches will be played at Colovray Stadium in Nyon, opposite UEFA headquarters, between 11 and 14 April 2014 (with no third-place play-off).

The working group tasked with organising the competition will monitor developments carefully in order to learn lessons for the future. ●

The UEFA Club Competitions Committee in Monaco



# A GERMAN FIRST

With all the transformations brought about by the summer transfer window, it is not uncommon for the newly crowned champions of the UEFA Champions League and the UEFA Europa League to field teams with several fresh faces in their UEFA Super Cup dual.



At this year's Super Cup in Prague, even the two coaches were new, although neither lacks experience at the summit of the European game. FC Bayern München's Josep Guardiola and Chelsea FC's José Mourinho have both amassed quite a collection of silverware over the years, including the UEFA Champions League trophy, which they have each lifted twice so far.

## A roller coaster of a game

Guardiola also won two editions of the Super Cup with FC Barcelona. His new team, clearly adjusting to his possession-oriented, short-passing game, made it a hat-trick for him in a highly competitive roller coaster of a game in Prague.

Fernando Torres opened the scoring for Chelsea with a clinical shot early in the first half. Bayern were the dominant side on the whole, but the Londoners made it clear more than once that their counterattacks could upset the German defence at any moment.

A few minutes after half-time, however, Franck Ribéry fired in an equaliser, clearly eager to live up to his new title of UEFA Best Player in Europe. Neither side could break the deadlock for the rest of the second half, but Chelsea – with only ten players – went into extra time with another early goal, this time courtesy of Eden Hazard. From then on The Blues did all they could to defend their lead and they all but managed it, too.

## Déjà-vu?

When Javier Martinez equalised seconds before the final whistle, memories of the 2011/12 UEFA Champions League final came flooding back – albeit with

the two teams' situations reversed. The penalty shoot-out also went Bayern's way this time, with Manuel Neuer making the crucial save to end it 5-4.

Bayern's success marked a first among German clubs, none of which had previously managed to lift the UEFA Super Cup, and it made the Bavarians the fourth team ever to have won all four UEFA club competitions (UEFA Champions League/European Champion Clubs' Cup, UEFA Cup Winners' Cup, UEFA Europa League/UEFA Cup and UEFA Super Cup). The only clubs to have beaten Bayern to the full set are AFC Ajax, Juventus and, coincidentally, Chelsea. Competing in Prague as representatives of the Champions League, Bayern also restored a perfect balance to the ratio of Super Cup wins between the titleholders of each feeder competition (19 apiece).

After 15 years in Monaco, the UEFA Super Cup entered a new era in Prague as it started its journey around the continent. Cardiff is hosting the match next year and Tbilisi the year after. ●

### 30 August 2013

Eden Arena, Prague – 17,686 spectators

**FC Bayern München v Chelsea FC 2-2\* (0-1, 1-1)**

\*won 5-4 on penalties

Goals: Torres 8 (0-1), Ribéry 47 (1-1), Hazard 93 (1-2), Javier Martinez 120+1 (2-2)

Referee: Jonas Eriksson (Sweden)

*FC Bayern München have now won all of UEFA's club competitions*



PA Wire / PA Images

## A MIXTURE OF OLD AND NEW

Unless they enter through the UEFA Champions League, neither of last season's UEFA Europa League finalists, Chelsea FC or SL Benfica, will be lighting up this season's competition.



The Europa League group stage draw



However, their absence does not mean that there are no big names among the participants. Indeed, this season's lineup includes no fewer than seven former UEFA competition winners – FC Dynamo Kyiv, ACF Fiorentina, SS Lazio, PSV Eindhoven, Sevilla FC, Tottenham Hotspur FC and Valencia CF – and six previous finalists – AZ Alkmaar, Eintracht Frankfurt, FC Girondins de Bordeaux, SK Rapid Wien, FC Salzburg and R. Standard de Liège – as well as a number of other clubs who are no strangers to UEFA competitions, such as Olympique Lyonnais and GNK Dinamo Zagreb. They will be joined by several newcomers appearing in the group stage of a UEFA competition for the first time, including the Bulgarians of PFC Ludogorets Razgrad, the Russians of FC Kuban Krasnodar and the Portuguese side FC Paços de Ferreira.

### A first for Kazakhstan

A total of 28 national associations are represented in this season's competition, three more than last year and four more than in the first

## PRIZE MONEY FOR THE 2013/14 SEASON

The fixed bonus payments for the 48 participants in the UEFA Europa League group stage are identical to those that were distributed last season.

These amounts, which clubs will receive in addition to their home gate receipts and a variable sum that depends on the value of their domestic markets, are as follows:

- **€1.3 million** for participating in the group stage;
  - **€200,000** for each win and **€100,000** for each draw in the group stage, i.e. a maximum of €1.2 million;
  - **€400,000** for each group winner and **€200,000** for each group runner-up;
  - **€200,000** for qualifying for the round of 32;
  - **€350,000** for making it into the round of 16;
  - **€450,000** for each quarter-finalist;
  - **€1 million** for each of the semi-finalists;
  - **€2.5 million** for the runners-up;
- **€5 million** for the competition winners, who will also participate in the UEFA Super Cup in Cardiff, for which they should receive €3 million if they win and €2.2 million if they lose.

As in the UEFA Champions League, the above-mentioned sums are subject to confirmation of payments linked to contracts concluded for the competition.

■ The UEFA Club Competitions Committee also noted the financial breakdown for the UEFA Europa League final played in Amsterdam in May. Each of the two finalists, Chelsea FC and SL Benfica, received a share of the income from ticket sales amounting to a little over €1.06 million. They also received fixed bonuses from the final: €5 million for Chelsea FC and €2.5 million for SL Benfica. ●

## THE EUROPA LEAGUE GROUPS

### Group A

FC Kuban Krasnodar  
Valencia CF  
Swansea City AFC  
FC St Gallen

### Group B

PFC Ludogorets Razgrad  
GNK Dinamo Zagreb  
FC Chornomorets Odesa  
PSV Eindhoven

### Group C

Esbjerg fB  
FC Salzburg  
IF Elfsborg  
R. Standard de Liège

### Group D

FC Rubin Kazan  
SV Zulte Waregem  
Wigan Athletic FC  
NK Maribor

### Group E

FC Dnipro Dnipropetrovsk  
ACF Fiorentina  
FC Paços de Ferreira  
CS Pandurii Târgu Jiu

### Group F

APOEL FC  
Eintracht Frankfurt  
FC Girondins de Bordeaux  
Maccabi Tel-Aviv FC

### Group G

SK Rapid Wien  
FC Dynamo Kyiv  
KRC Genk  
FC Thun

### Group H

Sevilla FC  
SC Freiburg  
FC Slovan Liberec  
Estoril Praia

### Group I

HNK Rijeka  
Real Betis Balompié  
Olympique Lyonnais  
Vitória SC

### Group J

Legia Warszawa  
Apollon Limassol FC  
Trabzonspor AŞ  
SS Lazio

### Group K

Tromsø IL  
FC Sheriff  
FC Anji Makhachkala  
Tottenham Hotspur FC

### Group L

AZ Alkmaar  
PAOK FC  
FC Shakhter Karagandy  
Maccabi Haifa FC

three editions. Kazakhstan is represented for the first time, in the shape of FC Shakhter Karagandy. One other association – that of Wales – also deserves a mention, but Swansea City FC qualified through the English League Cup and are therefore representing England.

The member associations with the most representatives this year are those of England, Belgium, Spain, Portugal, Russia and Ukraine, each with three clubs participating.

### Preliminary draw

The group stage draw, which was conducted on 30 August by the UEFA General Secretary, Gianni Infantino, with the assistance of the ambassador for the 2014 final in Turin, Ciro Ferrara, along with Ricardo Carvalho and the UEFA competitions director, Giorgio Marchetti, was preceded by an additional draw held at the request of the UEFA Emergency Panel. This followed two rulings by the Court of Arbitration for Sport, issued shortly before the draw and confirming the exclusion of the Turkish clubs Beşiktaş JK and Fenerbahçe SK. Both clubs had been allowed to participate in the play-off round on account of the staying effect of their appeals to the CAS. When their appeals were rejected, the Emergency Panel decided to replace Beşiktaş JK with the Norwegian club Tromsø IL, the Turks' opponents in the play-off round. In order to find a replacement for Fenerbahçe SK, who would have played in the Europa League group stage following their elimination by Arsenal FC in the Champions League play-offs, the panel decided to organise a preliminary draw involving all the losing clubs in the Europa League play-off matches. The Cypriot club APOEL FC were the fortunate beneficiaries. ●

## 2013/14 FIXTURE LIST

**Group matches:** 19 September, 3 and 24 October, 7 and 28 November, 12 December

**Draw for the rounds of 32 and 16:** 13 December

**Round of 32:** 20 and 27 February

**Round of 16:** 13 and 20 March

**Quarter-final draw:** 21 March

**Quarter-finals:** 3 and 10 April

**Semi-final draw:** 11 April

**Semi-finals:** 24 April and 1 May

**Final:** 14 May, in Turin



*The UEFA General Secretary, Gianni Infantino, and Ricardo Carvalho conducting the draw*

# FRANCE TAKE THE TITLE

France laid promising foundations for the future of the senior teams by reaching both of UEFA's Under-19 finals in 2013. But whereas the boys went home from Lithuania with silver medals, the girls went one better by striking gold in Wales.



A European women's Under-19 title for France to go with last year's U-17 Women's World Cup



The Welsh FA was hosting a final tournament for the first time – and made a great success of it. In other countries, a cumulative attendance of 7,798 might seem small. But the 15 matches staged in Camarthen, Haverfordwest and Llanelli set records for women's football in Wales. What is more, the host nation acquitted itself

honourably on the pitch in a group which contained both finalists.

## Surprising Finland

After the opening day, pundits were pencilling Germany onto the roll of honour. Maren Meinert's side ripped Norway apart in a rematch of the senior European final, scoring five – despite missing a penalty – in the first half, with their 17-year-old striker, Pauline Bremer, hitting a 22-minute hat-trick that set her up to become the tournament's top scorer with six in four games. They then despatched the defending champions, Sweden, to earn a semi-final place with a game to spare. The surprise, however, was Finland. Playing a flowing, athletic combination game, they held the Germans to a draw after sharing the spoils with Sweden and defeating Norway and, by reaching the semi-finals, earned themselves a berth at next year's FIFA Women's U-20 World Cup. Sweden had started their final match with a chance to claim second place but, in one of the tournament's big surprises, were beaten 5-0 by a Norwegian team that had failed to score in its two previous games.

## Decision by goal difference

In the other group, France and England opened with a goalless draw against each other and then each put three goals past Denmark and Wales to ensure progress. Gilles Eyquem's girls declared their desire to win the group in order to avoid Germany – but were dismayed when two late, late goals against the Danes gave England first place on goal difference and sent the French into battle against the rampant Germans.

The French team was up to the challenge. After surviving a first half dominated by Germany, Eyquem's two substitutions changed the complexion of the match and two strikes by Kadidiatou Diani eliminated Maren Meinert's team, whose only reply was an added-time penalty. In the other semi-final, England overpowered Finland and ran out 4-0 winners to ensure that the closing game would be a repeat of the opening-day encounter. And the final at the Parc y Scarlets stadium in Llanelli really was a repeat, with the 90 minutes ending goalless. But during the half-hour of extra time, the English players, as coach Mo Marley admitted, were "running on empty". Midfielders Sandie Toletti and Aminata Diallo – two of seven members of the French squad who had also won gold medals at the 2012 FIFA Women's U-17 World Cup – headed the goals that clinched a hard-fought 2-0 victory and a third UEFA Under-19 title. ●

## RESULTS

### Group A

19 August	Wales – Denmark	0-1
19 August	England – France	0-0
22 August	Wales – England	0-3
22 August	Denmark – France	1-3
25 August	France – Wales	3-0
25 August	Denmark – England	0-3

### Group B

19 August	Sweden – Finland	1-1
19 August	Germany – Norway	5-0
22 August	Sweden – Germany	0-2
22 August	Finland – Norway	1-0
25 August	Norway – Sweden	5-0
25 August	Finland – Germany	1-1

### Semi-finals

28 August	Germany – <b>France</b>	1-2
28 August	<b>England</b> – Finland	4-0

### Final

31 August	England – <b>France</b>	0-2*
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\* France win in extra time

## PLENTY OF FOOD FOR THOUGHT

For the coaches of European football's leading clubs, it seems the opportunity to sit down with their peers, to simply stop and reflect away from the pressures of their jobs, really is something to be savoured.

It is an opportunity given to them annually at UEFA's elite club coaches forum, which was first held in 1999, and the 2013 event at UEFA's headquarters in Nyon on 4 and 5 September once again provided a platform for a fascinating and worthwhile debate.

In the words of SSC Napoli coach Rafael Benítez: *"We discussed a lot of things about technical trends in football. We were talking about the Champions League and Europa League, financial fair play, transfers and the international calendar – a lot of the issues that, for us coaches, are really important as they affect our daily jobs."*

Benítez was among the 16 coaches present at the forum, which was also attended by the UEFA President, Michel Platini, and was chaired this year by Sir Alex Ferguson, speaking via a live video link from Manchester. *"We feel the issues raised today are important for the structure and the progress of the Champions League and the Europa League,"* Sir Alex said.

### More goals

On-field trends came under the spotlight on the first day when the coaches discussed data showing the increase in goals scored in the UEFA Champions League – the 2012/13 competition saw an average of 2.94 per game – and in some of the major domestic leagues in Europe. One increasingly popular source of goals is the cutback from the goal line and there were reflections on the current trend for wingers to move inside, with full-backs responsible for delivering these crosses.

There was discussion, too, about the away-goals rule and its place in the modern game, with some suggesting the open, attacking nature of the sport today meant there was less need for this rule than in the past. The coaches responded enthusiastically, meanwhile, to plans for the newly launched UEFA Youth League.

### Football business

The second day's programme focused on the business of football. On the agenda were such matters as financial fair play, the third-party ownership of players and the international calendar. Another particularly topical subject, given the timing of the forum, was the transfer win-

dow. The view of the coaches was that the summer window should be shut before the start of their domestic seasons although it was also recognised that finding a solution might not be simple, given that different countries' campaigns begin on different dates and given the fact, too, that some clubs wait until UEFA Champions League qualifying is over before committing to spending plans.

The coaches also had an explanation of the changes to the offside law by Pierluigi Collina, UEFA's chief refereeing officer, whose presentation included video examples to illustrate how referees will be interpreting situations in 2013/14. Collina also spelled out the importance of the additional assistant referees deployed in UEFA's club competitions to watch, in particular, for penalty-area incidents.

All in all, there was plenty of food for thought. For Manuel Pellegrini, the manager of Manchester City FC, the journey to Switzerland had proved well worth it. *"I think it is important to meet at least once a year,"* he said, *"not only to learn new things but also to share ideas. It is important to get to know different ways of thinking."* As they say, it is good to talk. ●



Front row, from left to right: Kurban Berdyev (FC Rubin Kazan), Paulo Fonseca (FC Porto), Vladimir Petković (SS Lazio), Arsène Wenger (Arsenal FC), Michel Platini (UEFA President), Mircea Lucescu (FC Shakhtar Donetsk), Carlo Ancelotti (Real Madrid CF), Neil Lennon (Celtic FC). Standing, from left to right: Gianni Infantino (UEFA General Secretary), Pierluigi Collina (UEFA chief refereeing officer), Rafael Benítez (SSC Napoli), Jorge Jesus (SL Benfica), Antonio Conte (Juventus), André Villas-Boas (Tottenham Hotspur FC), Manuel Pellegrini (Manchester City FC), Miroslav Djukić (Valencia CF), Jens Keller (FC Schalke 04), Murat Yakin (FC Basel 1893), Laurent Blanc (Paris Saint-Germain FC), Giorgio Marchetti (UEFA competitions director), Ioan Lupescu (UEFA chief technical officer).

# THE UEFA CERTIFICATE IN FOOTBALL MANAGEMENT GETS A MAKEOVER

In September 2010, UEFA welcomed the first 35 participants to the opening edition of the Certificate in Football Management (UEFA CFM) – a certificate of advanced studies specifically designed to help UEFA’s member associations enhance their knowledge of sports management and organisation and, in turn, benefit the European football family as a whole.

The UEFA CFM covers the main areas of management relevant to a national football association, notably the organisation of world football, strategic and performance management, operations, event management, marketing and communications.

Today, there are over 100 UEFA CFM graduates. These successful candidates come from UEFA’s member associations spread far and wide across Europe – creating a regional impact and tangible results that have raised football at administrative and governance levels. There is no doubt the current UEFA CFM is recognised as hugely effective by the member associations and this is clearly demonstrated by the high demand and excellent success rate. But to achieve its full potential the UEFA CFM must evolve. This means national editions with fine-

tuned content for a dynamic and expectant audience.

## Refining the concept

The UEFA CFM now exists in a greatly embellished format. The content has been carefully reviewed and assembled by a renowned list of academic experts working in close collaboration with UEFA. The result is a refreshing combination of the UEFA CFM and DFM (Diploma in Football Management) e-learning material used to date.

Next year, this means the individual UEFA DFM course, which has always been considered a natural stepping stone between the UEFA CFM and the MESGO (Executive Master in European Sport Governance), will take a back seat as we apply the new format. To understand the change in simple terms, the new format of the UEFA CFM is designed for middle management seeking upward progression in the workplace. The elite MESGO programme is for a very limited number of individuals already performing at the top level.

In some ways, these changes could be considered the end of a journey but in fact it is the beginning of something much bigger. A community made up of the 54 UEFA member associations comprising qualified professionals who share a common understanding of the key functions and management principles applicable to



*At Wembley, The FA's general secretary, Alex Horne, welcomes participants to the UEFA Certificate in Football Management pilot course*



football. These individuals are willing to share their knowledge and experience and have the capacity to imagine how things could be in the future.

### Going national

Rather than a Europe-wide selection process managed by UEFA, the new CFM national editions will be conducted by UEFA member associations at local level. Two pilot programmes were tested earlier this year by The Football Association in England and the Croatian Football Federation, and both are operating extremely well under the new format. The benefits of the

a varied pool of applicants from non-host member associations. Obviously, this particular group is selected with extreme care to ensure suitability with regard to the host association, any specialised course content and individually chosen professors.

### Year on year

On an annual basis, UEFA can now provide five CFM national edition courses for up to 175 potential graduates. The host associations for next year are nearly finalised and UEFA will work closely



*Davor Šuker, president of the Croatian Football Federation, welcomes participants to the pilot course in Zagreb*

national approach are extensive: it is a new e-learning programme designed from an international perspective but also incorporating regional, national and local angles. Also, host associations may involve their own instructors in the course, which can be of great assistance – not only in terms of communications but as an eye-opener when dealing with football issues that are only applicable in certain countries.

Each UEFA CFM course can now accommodate up to 35 students, with 25 positions filled by the host association either from within their own internal structure or from clubs, leagues or regional football authorities, for example. For the host association, this selection process has the capacity to produce a like-minded learning curve across the entire football platform in their country, which is of paramount importance to long-term growth and development. The remaining 10 positions would be chosen by UEFA from

with them throughout the entire process, assisting with the specification of the course material, the selection of the candidates and the general implementation of the course itself. Each course has a duration of eight to nine months and comprises six mandatory e-learning modules and a further two optional modules. In addition, there are three face-to-face seminars, where students can engage in open debate with the professors and professional experts provided through the UEFA network of academics or selected specifically by the host association.

*“Going national is an excellent step forward for the UEFA Certificate in Football Management,”* said Theodore Theodoridis, UEFA’s director of national associations. *“The UEFA member associations can now select the best possible candidates to strengthen their domestic networks and streamline the future management of European football.”* ●

## FOOTBALL AND THE WAR IN SYRIA



*The UEFA President, Michel Platini, and Prince Ali Bin Al Hussein at the refugee camp*

Since March 2011, a brutal civil war has been raging in Syria. Over 93,000 Syrians are already dead, 6,500 of whom are estimated to be children. Every day, thousands are fleeing to neighbouring countries to escape the violence and deteriorating socio-economic conditions.

Providing urgent humanitarian assistance, including food and shelter, is of primary importance. However, the international football community is also helping Syrian refugees to cope with the trauma and devastation of war – and UEFA is no exception.

The focus of support provided by the football family has been in Za'atari, a refugee camp situated in northern Jordan, close to the Syrian border. The UEFA President, Michel Platini, visited Za'atari in June and was astounded by the severity of the situation: "According to our briefing, with over 116,000 people, Za'atari is now Jordan's fourth largest city and the world's second biggest refugee camp. Registrations can reach 1,500 or more on days with heavy fighting. It's a catastrophe that I don't think the world at large has yet really understood."

The FIFA vice-president for Asia, His Royal Highness Prince Ali Bin Al Hussein, who accompanied Mr Platini to a briefing by the UNHCR, the UN's refugee agency, describes the seriousness of the impact of the Syrian conflict on his country: "Jordan is currently hosting half a mil-

lion Syrian refugees, and by the end of the year this number could be up to two million. For a small country, this has a significant impact. But without question, we feel that it is our duty to host our Syrian brothers and sisters who have been forced out of their homes."

Both Mr Platini and Prince Ali strongly believe that football can play an important role in alleviating the pain of those who have been displaced by the conflict in Syria, especially children. UNHCR senior field coordinator Kilian Kleinschmidt, who conducted the briefing for Mr Platini and Prince Ali, says: "Of the 116,000 we have in the camp, 60,000 are under the age of 17. This is a particularly brutal war. Children arrive here extremely traumatised and lack hope for the future. Our main problem is that street gangs then form and cause havoc here. It is therefore critical that we provide them with motivational activities that also keep them busy."

It is for this reason that the Asian Football Development Project (AFDP) – under the guidance of Prince Ali and with the support of UEFA – has been running football programmes in

Za'atari since February 2012. AFDP chief executive Urs Zanitti says: *"In 2012, we heard about the sad plight of the Syrian refugees, particularly the children, who in the end will be those most affected by this terrible situation. We wanted to organise simple but useful activities designed to bring them back a bit to their normal lives, to help them make friends in their new environment, and most importantly to build their resilience through football."*

With UEFA's assistance, the AFDP's programmes in Za'atari and northern Jordan have so far touched over 10,000 Syrian children, also helping to promote mine risk education through football coaching activities. Such awareness-raising is aimed at reducing the number of child fatalities and injuries that may be caused by landmines and other explosive remnants of war when the children return to Syria. A peace-building component has also been added to the project to foster better relationships and understanding between local Jordanian and Syrian refugee populations. This is facilitated through mixed coaching clinics and tournaments with a combination of Jordanian and Syrian coaches.

The current AFDP coaching team working in Za'atari includes current Jordan women's team players Reema Ramouniah and Abeer Rantisi. Reema explains how the experience has affected them personally: *"The experience of coaching these kids has changed my life. I always think now about how I can help. We have everything. They have nothing. If I feel sad, I go there and it makes me get better instantly."*

Abeer agrees, and adds: *"The best thing about what we are doing is that we have a chance to help. We all need to think more about people and far less about money."*

Both Abeer and Reema lent their valuable coaching skills to support the AFDP and its official partner PepsiCo in implementing their Kick for Hope event in Irbid on World Refugee Day – 20 June 2013. Over 400 Syrian and Jordanian children affected by the crisis in Syria took part in a festival comprising fun football and educational activities supported by Spirit of Soccer, the AFC, UEFA, the Norwegian and Jordan football associations, Save the Children, Cyberdodo and the UNHCR.

For the children, the day was a huge success and one that was more than well-earned. But the stories they told were tragic. One 12-year-old boy, whose message was sadly similar to all the kids I talked to, said: *"We came from Da'ara to Za'atari nearly a year ago. My older brother was tortured and assassinated. My family didn't feel safe so we came here, and we do feel a lot safer now. We would love to go back home, but we won't go until Bashar [Syrian president Bashar Al Assad] is gone and it is safe. Luckily, there is football in the camp and it makes me really feel like I am in my second home when I play."*

While football is helping those suffering as a result of the war in Syria, members of our own

football family have also been subjected to its harsh impact. Waleed En-Nayef, executive officer at the Kuwait Football Association, explains his situation: *"I have had so many innocent friends pass away. One was walking in the street and was hit by a sniper, others by bombs or missiles that never separate innocent people from those who are armed. I suffered for nearly a year before I could finally get my family out to come and live with me here in Kuwait. I still have a sister who wasn't able to come because she has two kids and they don't have passports. They are now homeless, moving from city to city trying to find a secure place to stay."*

Waleed summarises the role of football in the Syrian conflict: *"Football is a beautiful language through which everyone – all nationalities – can communicate, regardless of the circumstances. When I was a boy, I used to feel like I was flying through the air when I played football. It gave me wings to forget the world and its bitterness. I hope the kids in the camps can feel the same and forget their misery when they play. The football family is a very big family and we can do a lot to help the misery of the Syrian people. We need to show that we care."* ●

Michele Cox

*Football can be a way to escape from everyday life*



# THE BEGINNINGS OF A “EUROPEAN FOOTBALL FIELD”

Each issue of UEFA•direct features a summary of a research project funded by the UEFA research grant programme. In this issue, Grégory Quin presents his research on European football’s first elite (1904–56).

During the first half of the 20th century, throughout the whole of Europe, football was influenced by several processes (political, economic, social, etc.). More than any other sport, football was becoming truly international, politicised and influenced by economics, and was reaching all social classes, according to variable processes across the different countries. Moreover, beyond democratisation dynamics, national football spheres were being consolidated in European countries, notably illustrated by the professionalisation process of elite football and by the establishment of solid institutions (associations, leagues, etc.) involved both in national league and cup competitions and international matches.

## Growing number of games

This period was marked by a growing number of international games – deeply linked with the affirmation of sporting nationalism, which allowed increased opportunities to identify with the players, but more broadly with “values” and “representations” composing “imagined communities” and with sporting values (amateurism, fair play, etc.). At that time, regional areas where football started to become homogeneous (the British Isles, central Europe, Scandinavia, etc.) were built around international competitions, as a kind of consequence of the consolidation of the football spheres of each of the countries in those areas. For instance, in central Europe, the Mitropa Cup for clubs and the International Cup

for national teams were structuring international seasons and facilitating footballing relations. Actually, the first half of the 20th century saw the beginnings of the field of European football, the direct consequence of which in the 1950s was the creation of modern European cup competitions (concerning the whole continent) and the establishment of a continental institution: UEFA.

## Competition projects

Two of the main personalities of European football at this time were Frenchman Jules Rimet (FIFA’s president) and Austrian Hugo Meisl. Even though there was no real rivalry between them – they certainly shared more passion than rivalry – their competition projects went head to head in 1926/27, and it was ultimately Rimet’s project – still in existence today as the FIFA World Cup – that received the greatest institutional impulse (and not the Mitropa Cup or the International Cup). But during the inter-war period, Hugo Meisl’s influence on football was larger, especially in central Europe, and extended to tactics, professionalism and training methods for both clubs and national teams.

Neither Rimet nor Meisl (who died in 1937) were integrally involved in the creation of UEFA in the mid-1950s, but we can say with no doubt that they contributed to the emergence of a common European identity surrounding football matches and competitions. ●

*Grégory Quin*

Dr Grégory Quin is a junior research fellow at the International Centre for Sports History and Culture (ICSHC) at De Montfort University, Leicester, UK. A specialist in the history of physical and sporting activity in 19th and 20th century Europe, he is currently working on the history of physiotherapy in England. He has recently published “L’exercice corporel du XVIII<sup>e</sup> à nos jours” (Physical exercise from the 18th century to today; Glyphe 2013), as well as an article in the journal *Stadion* on the history of European football competitions in the inter-war period.



## A PACKED PROGRAMM

UEFA's careful nurturing of its referees and assistant referees includes the traditional summer gathering in Nyon, which is designed to kick off the new season and send the match officials into their important assignments with confidence and invaluable advice lodged in their memories.

This year, the House of European Football welcomed not only men referees, but also women match officials for this crucial meeting on 2–4 September. In addition, men assistant referees were present for specialist training of their own. A review of the latter stage of last season and preparation for forthcoming duties in the UEFA Champions League, UEFA Europa League, UEFA Women's Champions League and FIFA World Cup qualifying competition were the key items in a packed programme.

### The importance of fitness

Group discussions, video sessions and presentations were all on the agenda, together with a fitness check and fitness test at Colovray Stadium opposite UEFA's headquarters in Nyon. As usual, UEFA's Referees Committee, which comprises experienced former international referees who themselves have taken charge of matches at the highest world and European levels, was on hand to pass on essential advice and instructions.

Pierluigi Collina, now UEFA's chief refereeing officer after a distinguished refereeing career, reminded the referees that it was imperative that they looked after their fitness to be able to cope with the demands of the modern elite game. "A referee or assistant referee is definitely an athlete," he said. "If you are not an athlete, you cannot deal with a match, given the speed and intensity of matches that are played today."

"You also have to look like an athlete. The results you are achieving in terms of shape and image are brilliant," Collina added in praise of the referees' devotion to fitness. "It is more and more difficult to see the difference between a player and a referee on the field. This is what we want to achieve."

### The need for vigilance

Collina reminded the referees of the importance of image and personal presentation when representing UEFA. "You are on duty, not visiting a city as a tourist," he stressed, going on to emphasise the necessity for match officials to be aware of the risks of people sending photos and comments around the world at the push of a

button. He repeated the need to be vigilant in the face of mobbing of referees following a contested decision. "We don't want to have referees put under pressure by players or coaches," he said. "You are responsible, because no one can prevent this behaviour better than you if you're strong enough."



Getty Images

An offside exercise at Colovray Stadium

The women referees – invited to Nyon as proof of UEFA's commitment to their progress as the women's game flourishes – looked back at performances and decisions at this summer's UEFA Women's EURO 2013 in Sweden, while the men referees and assistant referees focused considerable attention on new offside laws which come into force this season – the assistants being put through their paces in a testing training session.

Collina told the officials that UEFA would continue to appoint referees from categories below the highest elite level in its club competitions if performances so merited. "This shows that we are giving [you] a chance alongside the elite referees – we think [you] have the quality," he said, wishing the referees good luck and sound health for the 2013/14 campaign. "There are matches at the top level for each of you – it is important that you perform well." ●

## AWARD FOR BEST WOMEN'S PLAYER IN EUROPE

A week after Franck Ribéry had been voted European football's player of the year, German national team goalkeeper Nadine Angerer became the first ever UEFA Best Women's Player in Europe.

The UEFA President, Michel Platini, presented Angerer with her award in Nyon on 5 September, following the draws for the 2013/14 UEFA Women's Champions League rounds of 16 and 32.

Angerer, who recently left 1. FFC Frankfurt for Australia's Brisbane Roar, topped the poll after having helped Germany to victory in the UEFA Women's EURO 2013 this summer. The two other players shortlisted for the inaugural award on the basis of their domestic and international performances last season were VfL Wolfsburg and Germany midfielder Lena Goessling and Sweden's Olympique Lyonnais striker Lotta Schelin.

An initial top-ten selection was provided by the coaches of the national teams that took part in the UEFA Women's EURO 2013 and the coaches of the clubs in the quarter-finals of last season's UEFA Women's Champions League. A panel of 18 expert journalists chosen by

the European Sports Media Group (ESM) then shortlisted three in a first round of voting and, from those three, elected Angerer as overall winner. ●



Nadine Angerer, UEFA Best Women's Player in Europe 2012/13

Getty Images

## WOMEN'S UNDER-17 ELITE ROUND

The final round of the 2013/14 European Women's Under-17 Championship is being held in England at the end of this year already, in order to determine which three countries represent Europe in the FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup in Costa Rica in March/April 2014.



The winners and best runners-up of the following elite round groups will compete for the European title and World Cup places alongside England, who qualify for the final round automatically as hosts:

### Group 1 (30 September–5 October):

Spain, Iceland, Republic of Ireland, Romania\*

**Group 2 (8–13 October):** Austria\*, Russia, Greece, Belarus

**Group 3 (15–20 October):** Italy, Denmark, Czech Republic, Portugal\*

**Group 4 (12–17 October):** France, Sweden, Poland (title holders), Northern Ireland\*

**Group 5 (2–7 October):** Norway, Hungary\*, Finland, Scotland

**Group 6 (11–16 October):** Germany\*, Belgium, Switzerland, Netherlands

\*Mini-tournament hosts ●

## U-17 WORLD CUP IN UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

Starting on 17 October, 24 teams will be competing for the FIFA U-17 World Cup.

The six European representatives were determined by the final round of the European Under-17 Championship held in Slovakia last May. They will compete in the following groups, as decided by the draw held in Abu Dhabi on 26 August:

**Group A:** United Arab Emirates, Honduras, Brazil, Slovakia

**Group B:** Uruguay, New Zealand, Ivory Coast, Italy

**Group C:** Croatia, Morocco, Panama, Uzbekistan

**Group D:** Tunisia, Venezuela, Russia, Japan

**Group E:** Canada, Austria, Iran, Argentina

**Group F:** Mexico, Nigeria, Iraq, Sweden

The group matches, scheduled for 17 to 25 October, will be followed by the round of 16 on 28/29 October, quarter-finals on 1/2 November, semi-finals on 5 November and the final on 8 November. ●

■ Spain, the Netherlands, Russia and Ukraine are representing Europe in the FIFA Beach Soccer World Cup, taking place in Tahiti from 18 to 28 September.

## WOMEN'S CHAMPIONS LEAGUE DRAWS



Two draws were held in the Lennart Johansson auditorium at UEFA headquarters on 5 September, shaping the next two rounds of the 2013/14 UEFA Women's Champions League.

The round of 32 will be played on 9/10 October (first legs) and on 16/17 October (return legs) as follows:

Konak Belediyesi v RTP Unia Racibórz  
MTK Hungária FC v 1. FFC Turbine Potsdam  
R. Standard de Liège v Glasgow City LFC  
Tjresø FF v Paris Saint-Germain FC  
Pärnu JK v VfL Wolfsburg  
FSK St.Pölten-Spratzern v ASD Torres Calcio  
Apollon Limassol LFC v SV Neulengbach  
ŽFK Spartak Subotica v FC Rossiyanka

PK-35 Vantaa v Birmingham City LFC  
FC Zürich Frauen v AC Sparta Praha  
LSK Kvinner FK v FCR Malmö  
FC Twente v Olympique Lyonnais  
WFC SSHVSM Kairat v Arsenal LFC  
FC Barcelona v Brøndby IF  
Thór/KA v FK Zorkiy Krasnogorsk  
UPC Tavagnacco v Fortuna Hjørring

The winners of the above ties will proceed to the round of 16, to be contested on 9/10 November (first legs) and 13/14 November (return legs). The pairings for this round were also decided in a draw on 5 September, the results of which can be found on UEFA.com. ●

# MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS



## Women referees perform outstandingly well

Until recently, very few people in Albania would have believed that there would come a day when women could referee football matches in Albania. Now, this is a tangible reality. A group of young female referees with a love of football and a passion for the game are – with the encouragement of the Football Federation of Albania (FShF) – establishing themselves in Albanian football.

They are all young women. Albania has no previous experience of women refereeing football matches. Some of them have played for professional women's teams, but the rest have no such experience. Most of them are students, with a lot of passion and a desire to learn and



*Krista Gjyli and Fatjona Borova, the first women to work as assistant referees in the Albanian Super League*

improve a little every day in order to reach a high professional standard. The FShF's refereeing department has given these women constant encouragement in the form of training sessions, seminars and regular advice regarding problems they encounter while refereeing matches. Three of them are already elite

referees officiating in the Women's Football Championship and the Women's Albanian Cup, which are organised by the FShF.

A historic event took place last season, when KS Skënderbeu and KS Luftëtari Gjirokastër met in the Albanian Super League. The two assistant referees were women: Krista Gjyli and Fatjona Borova. Their first appearance was very impressive and was warmly welcomed by the crowd. Prior to that, their experience had been limited to domestic matches at Under-17 and Under-19 level, as well as other domestic women's football. According to the FShF's refereeing department, the country's female referees show considerable potential, and they expect significant growth in this area in the coming years.

● Tritan Kokona



## Partnership with the Homeless World Cup

The 11th annual Homeless World Cup took place recently in Poznan, Poland. This project allows people who live on the fringes of society to feel involved again. The players stock up on confidence to see them through the tough times ahead and those seeking to improve their lives can rely on assistance from the social organisations that support the project – of which there are 31 in Austria alone.

This project, which was given the UEFA Monaco Charity Award in 2005, has its roots in Austria. The first Homeless World Cup was held in 2003 in Graz, where 20,000 spectators flocked to Graz's main square to cheer on men's and women's teams from around the world. Austria were crowned world champions, and 28 TV stations turned up to report on the event.

The Austrian Football Association (ÖFB) is a proud supporter of this initiative, as the tournament – which is now contested by a total of 48 different countries – is a perfect match for

the ÖFB's grassroots programme. Austria's homeless team were given a pre-tournament send-off by the 48,000 crowd at the Ernst-Happel-Stadion in Vienna for the FIFA World Cup qualifying match between Austria and Sweden in June. The team are managed by former Austrian international Gilbert Prilasnig, who is convinced of the value of the initiative: "Football gives these people, some of whom are homeless, a great deal of strength and courage for the tough times ahead. It allows them to regain their pride."

In early June, the president of the ÖFB, Leo Windtner, the president of Caritas Austria, Franz Küberl, and skiing star Matthias Lanzinger joined team manager Gilbert Prilasnig, the players and sponsors to present the project to the media. Mr Windtner explained: "The Homeless World Cup is particularly close to the ÖFB's heart, as it has become a real flagship project. It shows the areas of life where football can open doors and bring about positive changes. This underlines the collective social responsibility that we all have to bear."



*Austria play Belgium in Poznan*

At this year's tournament in Poland, Austria finished tenth, while Brazil's men and Mexico's women were crowned world champions. In 2014, the tournament will be held in Santiago in Chile.

Even though the team would like to be world champions every year, social integration through football is the main focus.

For more details, visit [www.homelessworldcup.at](http://www.homelessworldcup.at)

● Wolfgang Gramann



## Soccer school experience proves a great success

The first visit to a Manchester United FC soccer school by Azerbaijani children was a great success. The result of an official partnership with Manchester United FC, the Football with Bakcell programme broke new ground in Azerbaijani grassroots football. Six talented young footballers, having made it through a demanding selection process in July of this year, travelled to Manchester in August, where they participated in intensive training sessions, went on excursions and attended a match at the legendary Old Trafford stadium. Nigar Mirzaliyeva, the only girl to pass the tough selection process administered by Manchester United coaches over five long days of training at Baku's Eighth Kilometer District Stadium, participated in a one-week Manchester United summer camp at Denstone College, while the



*The five Azerbaijani young boys at Old Trafford*

five talented boys attended similar training sessions in the last three weeks of August. These football camps, and the experience as a whole, will of course have an undeniable impact on the future careers of these passionate young footballers.

The initial five-day training camp in Baku was attended by 32 talented young players from five regions of Azerbaijan, including the cities of

Ganja, Mingachevir, Lenkaran, Sumgait and Baku. They were chosen from among more than 1,000 boys and girls who participated in scouting sessions led by professional coaches from the Association of Football Federations of Azerbaijan (AFFA). The 32 talented 8 to 12-year-olds went on to attend training sessions run by Manchester United soccer school coaches Carl Wild and Paul Gray at the Eighth Kilometer District Stadium from 24 to 28 June.

This joint project between the AFFA and local mobile communications company Bakcell has now reached its successful conclusion, giving six of the country's most talented young footballers the chance to travel to Manchester for training camps. The project's partners have expressed their willingness to repeat this initiative in the future, as it represents a unique opportunity to unearth talented young Azerbaijani players and turn children into stars of the future.

● Ayan Aghayeva

### Joint women's league launched

In mid-August, the first ever nationwide women's league was launched in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Eight teams are participating: five from the Football Association of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina (FF F BiH) – SFK 2000 Sarajevo, ŽNK Zenica Čelik, ŽNK Gradina Srebrenik, ŽNK Salt City Tuzla and ŽNK Mladost Nević Polje – and three from the Football Association of Republika Srpska Bosnia and Herzegovina (FF RS BiH) – Banja Luka, Radnik Bumurang (from Bijeljina) and Mladost Novi Grad (from Bosanski Novi).



SFK 2000 Sarajevo (in pink) are favourites to win the national championship

All teams will play each other twice in a total of 14 rounds, with the season running from autumn to spring. Until now, the two regional entities have had their own championships, with the national champion being determined by a final tournament contested by two clubs from the FF F BiH and one from the FF RS BiH. By launching this nationwide women's league, the national Bosnia and Herzegovina Football Federation (NFSBiH) has complied with

requirements imposed by UEFA and FIFA and carried out the instructions of its general assembly.

The new competitive structure for women's football in Bosnia and Herzegovina will help to make it even more popular and improve quality, as well as increasing competition at all levels. Thus far, SFK 2000 Sarajevo have had the most success, being crowned champions 14 times in a row. They will again be one of the main favourites to win the title this year, but it will certainly be more difficult than in previous seasons.

Last month, reigning champions SFK 2000 Sarajevo hosted a qualifying round mini-tournament for the UEFA Women's Champions League. They finished in second place in their group, behind Turkish side Konak Belediyespor. They beat Welsh team Cardiff City FC 3-0 and Bulgarian side FC NSA Sofia 3-2, before losing 2-1 to the team from Turkey.

Elsewhere, the NFSBiH has launched its Open Door project, which monitors talented footballers of Bosnian and Herzegovinian origin who live abroad but would be eligible to play for the country's national teams. The project's first camp was held on 16 August in Solvesborg, in Sweden. *"This project was conceived in order to allow a large number of people based abroad throughout Europe – guys who feel they are citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina and love their country – to have the opportunity to demonstrate their football skills. It also allows our selectors to choose the best players at this moment in time from across the diaspora,"* said Denijal Pirić, technical director at the NFSBiH.

The Open Door project is derived from the NFSBiH's development strategy. The project is divided into two parts. The first part covers the Scandinavian countries: Finland, Norway,

Sweden and Denmark. Coordinator Murat Jahja attended the first camp alongside youth team selectors Toni Karačić, Sakib Malkočević and Zoran Erbez, selecting about 75 promising boys of different ages. The second part of the project will involve a selection camp in Munich including players from countries in central Europe.

For the first time in two years, the Olimpijski Stadion Asim Ferhatović Hase was the venue for a recent friendly match between the national teams of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the United States, with the guests winning 4-3. Meanwhile, the national Under-21 side drew 1-1 with Montenegro in a friendly at Stadion Vrapčići in Mostar.

● *Fuad Krivavac*

### New youth development programme

The Football Association of the Czech Republic has launched a revolutionary programme – the Flying Coaches project – which seeks to develop youth football and coach education at grassroots level.



A programme to better adapt training to youngsters' needs

The "flying coaches" are professional coaches who show local coaches how to work with children and young people using the latest methods, typically visiting small clubs. Coaches at these small clubs often do not have licences but they are responsible for training many young children, so it is necessary to show them how to work with young footballers, how to prepare training sessions, and so on.

The project builds on recent developments in youth football (new coaching trends, small-sided games, cooperation with parents, etc.).

Flying coaches are on the pitch with children during training sessions, showing them new techniques, exercises and approaches to modern football. Local coaches, parents and children have the opportunity to talk to these professional coaches about anything they want to know. Training sessions may also be attended by coaches from other local clubs.

Practical sessions run by flying coaches focus on individual exercises with a ball (where everyone has a ball), small-sided games (from one-a-side up to five-a-side), and exercises to develop muscle strength, speed and skills.

● *Michal Blažej*

### Great success for Dinamo Zagreb youth team

In addition to being the only European country with national teams competing at both the FIFA U-17 World Cup and the FIFA U-20 World Cup this year, Croatian football recently celebrated another impressive result at youth level: in August, GNK Dinamo Zagreb's Under-15 team became the 2013 Manchester United Premier Cup winners after beating AC Milan in the final at Old Trafford in Manchester.

This competition is regarded as the unofficial youth club world championship, with more than a million players participating since 1993, and more than 8,000 teams from more than 40 countries competing this year.

After winning their group, Dinamo Zagreb's youngsters beat Ulsan Hyundai and Arsenal FC in the knockout stage, and then came that tense final against AC Milan. Borovec opened the scoring in the first half, but Agnero managed to equalise just three minutes later. The hard-fought match was decided in extratime, when Davor Lovren scored the winner for the Croatian team.

Coach Krešimir Gojun was delighted with his team's achievements: *"I have been through every emotion in the last few hours. I am so*

*happy for this incredible team. They are really skilful, and a few are exceptionally talented, but most of all they have the right attitude. They have such strong characters. They work hard and enjoy their football."*

Meanwhile, Croatia recently hosted the second DiaEuro, a futsal championship for European diabetic associations. Croatia won DiaEuro 2012 in Ukraine and was privileged to welcome 11 European teams to Zadar for a competition that aimed to show that diabetes should not be an obstacle to a full professional, private, family and social life.

● *Tomislav Pacak*



The young Croatians were victorious at Old Trafford

## First Sir Bobby Robson National Football Day

The first Sir Bobby Robson National Football Day took place last month, with 150 events nationwide helping the public to celebrate England's favourite game. Showcasing the work of The Football Association (FA) at the grassroots level of the game, the initiative gave the whole of the country the chance to get involved on Saturday 10 August.

The events were held by county FAs and FA charter standard clubs up and down the country and were open to people of all ages and abilities. With the public able to join in with everything from tournaments to skills sessions and coaching workshops, it was a real feast of football, with some famous faces getting involved too.

From Sunderland to Somerset, Cheshire to Chelmsford, there were memorable events, all held in memory of the former England, Ipswich Town FC, PSV Eindhoven, FC Barcelona and Newcastle United FC manager. In London,

FA chairman Greg Dyke, England manager Roy Hodgson and former England women's captain Faye White visited a new sports ground in Lewisham, where over 300 local youngsters were taking part in skills sessions and mini-tournaments. Meanwhile, in Manchester, England coach Gary Neville joined in with youngsters and disabled players, along with Olympic boxing hero Amir Khan.

Club England managing director Adrian Bevington and English Premier League referee Howard Webb were at Ushaw Moor in Sir Bobby's native Durham to present a cheque for £25,000 from The FA to the Sir Bobby Robson Foundation. The charity was set up during the last 18 months of Sir Bobby's life, when he was fighting cancer, and has since proved a remarkable success, reaching £5m of fundraising this year.

To find out more about the Sir Bobby Robson National Football Day and the local events, and



Faye White and Roy Hodgson in Lewisham to mark the first Sir Bobby Robson National Football Day

The FA's work developing football for everyone, visit [www.TheFA.com/nationalfootballday](http://www.TheFA.com/nationalfootballday). To find out more about the foundation and its work, visit [www.sirbobbyrobsonfoundation.org.uk](http://www.sirbobbyrobsonfoundation.org.uk).

● James Callow

## Beach soccer tour is a big summer hit

Between 6 July and 22 August, the Beach Soccer Tour went on its annual journey around the country. It travelled from the North Sea to



Beach soccer is proving a great success in France

the Mediterranean, via the Atlantic coast, stopping at the following 12 places along the way: Bray-Dunes, Saint-Jean-de-Monts, Quiberon, La Baule, Châtelailion, Arcachon, Capbreton, Canet-en-Roussillon, Gruissan, Cap d'Agde, Le Grau-du-Roi and Bormes-les-Mimosas.

The tour, which is organised by the Amateur Football League and first took place in 2001, is attracting more visitors every year. Adults and children – boys and girls alike – abandon their beach towels and come to enjoy a match between friends, to see how hard and how accurately they can shoot, to pick up a few gifts and to learn some

emergency first aid. With beach soccer, sport and fun go hand in hand, just a few metres from the shore.

Beach soccer is also played inland. We can see that from the fact that the *National*, a tournament contested by the top eight teams in the country, does not just feature seaside resorts. This year, UJS 31 from Toulouse, teams from Amnéville in Lorraine and Fontenay-le-Comte in the Vendée, and the Girondins de Saint-Médard-en-Jalles near Bordeaux put up a real fight against representatives of Plomelin, Montpellier, Toulon and Marseille over three days of competition from 12 to 14 July in

Saint-Jean-de-Monts. Ultimately, the team from Marseille proved unstoppable, and were crowned champions for the third time in four tournaments. We'll see whether they can do it again next year!

● Stéphane Lanoue

## Fair play award for Heynckes

A few hours before the FIFA World Cup qualifier against Austria in Munich, the German Football Association (DFB) awarded its 2013 fair play award to former FC Bayern München coach Jupp Heynckes, who won the treble last season. Heynckes was honoured for the fair and exemplary way in which he has conducted himself both on and off the pitch throughout his career as a player and coach. The medal was presented by DFB president and UEFA Executive Committee member Wolfgang Niersbach, at a ceremony held in the Bavarian capital.

"Jupp Heynckes is not only an outstanding coach, but also an extraordinary person who

stands for respect and fair play. Last season in particular, he impressively demonstrated his belief that success and fair play are closely entwined. Bayern not only won the treble, they were also the fairest team of the season. Football needs role models like Jupp Heynckes," Niersbach said.

Heynckes, who became the first German coach to win the domestic championship, DFB Cup and UEFA Champions League in the same season, was delighted with the award. "Fair play is as much a part of football as the Laws of the Game", the 68-year-old said. "The



Getty Images

Jupp Heynckes has had an exemplary career from every perspective

different characters in a team must gel, and you need a framework for that. That framework consists of discipline and fair play."

● Stephan Brause



### Football For All in Israeli stadiums

As the 2013/14 season begins, the Israel Football Association (IFA) is continuing to reach out for tolerance in its stadiums, seeking to make them an environment free of racism.

For many years, the IFA has been working with the New Israel Fund, promoting its Kick It Out programme under the slogan Football For All.

To promote this worthy cause, both teams at the opening day match between Hapoel Tel-Aviv FC and Bnei Sakhnin FC wore T-shirts bearing the slogan Football For All in Hebrew, Arabic and English during the warm-up and before kick-off. Players also kicked adidas balls bearing the Respect logo to fans in the stands.



A call for respect and tolerance

Before the match, fans from both teams met to sign an agreement calling for tolerance and respect. Such unique events will be a feature of this season, taking place at many more stadiums and involving many more teams and fans.

This is a very important project for the IFA, which will continue to campaign for tolerance and respect in all stadiums and at all matches.

● Michal Grundland



### 100 caps for national team goalkeeper Peter Jehle

Goalkeeper Peter Jehle has become the third Liechtenstein international to play 100 games for his country. He reached that milestone on 14 August, when he played in Liechtenstein's friendly against Croatia in Vaduz.

Jehle – who is now 31 – made his international debut in 1998 at the age of 16, before turning professional and becoming his country's first-choice goalkeeper. In his very first international – a European Football Championship qualifying match against Azerbaijan – he and his team-mates made footballing history, as Liechtenstein won their first ever competitive match.

Jehle turned professional in 2000, moving from his local club FC Schaan in Liechtenstein to Grasshopper Club in Zurich, where he would win the Swiss championship twice in six years. He has also played for two other foreign clubs: renowned Portuguese side Boavista FC from



The president of the Croatian Football Federation, Davor Šuker, the president of the Liechtenstein Football Association, Matthias Voigt, and the prime minister of Liechtenstein, Adrian Hasler, with Peter Jehle

2006 to 2008, and French club FC Tours from 2008 to 2009. In 2009, he returned to Liechtenstein to play for FC Vaduz and has been there ever since.

In his centenary game against Croatia, Jehle played only a little more than half the match, but – as is so often the case – was constantly in

the thick of the action. He was typically assured and in control, helping his team to go in at half-time drawing 1-1 – a remarkable achievement against such world-class

opponents from eastern Europe. The game, which was a fitting occasion for Jehle's 100th international, ended with Liechtenstein losing 3-2, but they could consider themselves unlucky and the game should certainly live long in the memory in Liechtenstein.

● Anton Banzer



### Maltese coaches in UEFA Study Group Scheme

A group of 11 coach educators from the Malta Football Association's technical centre and others from several Maltese clubs travelled to Sweden recently to participate in another UEFA Study Group Scheme session, on the topic of coach education.

The Swedish FA devised an intensive programme, which included a cross-section of theoretical and practical coaching education sessions for the participants, who also came from Georgia, Armenia and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

The items covered helped the attendees to enhance their work as coach educators. This in turn would enable their associations to upgrade their courses, in line with the latest approval by the UEFA Jira Panel of the UEFA A course.

All the delegations gave interesting Power-Point presentations on coach education in their respective countries and this helped contribute to an exchange of experiences and increased cooperation in this specific area of coaching.

The practical sessions also turned out to be useful reference points from which the participants benefited from introductions to several new concepts.

This was another opportunity in a series of UEFA study groups for participants to share their expertise with other associations while gaining knowledge of what is being done in different countries.

At the beginning of the current year, staff coaches from the Malta FA technical centre and club coaches also attended two useful study groups, the first in Portugal on elite football and the second in Cyprus on grassroots football.

● Alex Vella

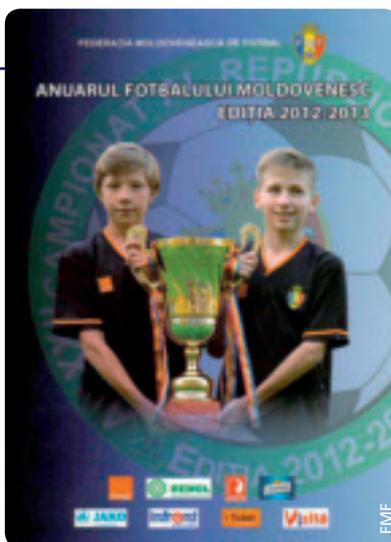


The 11 coach educators from the Malta FA who travelled to Sweden to participate in a UEFA study group

## Moldovan football yearbook 2012/13

The Moldovan football yearbook 2012/13 has recently been published in Chisinau with the help of the Football Association of Moldova (FMF). The FMF's involvement lends this invaluable publication added authenticity and credibility as a reference. As has been the case for the last three years (the first issue was published in 2010), the editor, Victor Daghi, has recorded for posterity the most important events of the domestic football season under review. The 152-page yearbook kicks off with a long message from Pavel Cebanu, president of the FMF, regarding the association's organisational achievements.

The book contains copious statistical information on the 2012/13 season in Moldovan football, including all appearances and goalscorers for the Moldovan National Division, Division A and Division B, as well as lots of photos and selected historical records for each club. The yearbook is a must for statisticians, providing full individual analysis for each National Division club. Facts, photos and figures are complemented by a narrative review of the season for each club in the top division. The yearbook also contains, among other things, a



*A fount of useful information*

list of all Moldovan champions since 1992, an all-time table, details of the best goalscorers of all time for the top two divisions, information about each Moldovan Cup final and Super Cup, and player listings for clubs in the top division.

● Press office

## Growing positive partnerships

Besides its core football development activities, the Football Association of Ireland (FAI) has developed a wide array of partnerships with local and national government bodies in recent years, using football as a means to tackle important social issues.

As one of the pioneers of this development model, the FAI is now responsible for a very large number of important relationships with national and regional stakeholders. By aligning our objectives, the association has been able to increase its presence throughout the country and encourage higher participation levels, while also helping our stakeholders to address important social issues through the medium of football.

To stay to the fore of this growth model, the FAI is holding a stakeholder conference and workshop called Positive Partnerships, which will take place on the day of the FIFA World Cup qualifying match against Kazakhstan on 15 October.

Along with UEFA, the workshop will involve county managers, regional directors of services, the Irish Sports Council, the Young Persons Fund, and government departments including sport, health, justice and social protection. The conference will be used as a forum to demonstrate value for money, sustain existing relationships and develop new areas of cooperation.

Another area where the FAI is striving to develop its relationship with its grassroots sector is the introduction of the first annual FAI Irish Football National Draw.

This initiative will prove a great way for clubs and grassroots football to raise money. The FAI has put together an extensive prize package

with its sponsorship partners to the value of €200,000, with a greater than 1 in 50 chance of winning a prize!

Draws will take place for four different regions – Dublin, the rest of Leinster, Munster, and Connacht and Ulster – with regional prizes up for grabs. There will also be an overall draw for national prizes.

Clubs will be the sole recipients of all proceeds from their ticket sales for the draw, and proceeds will go towards the growth and development of local clubs.

Entries must be returned by 25 October, and the draw for all prizes will take place at the FAI Ford Cup final on 3 November. Clubs make a small down payment, which covers all administration costs and also contributes to the overall prize fund, and they can then sell the tickets for €10 and keep the proceeds.

● Stephen Finn



*John Delaney, CEO of the FAI, flanked by James O'Shaughnessy, Cathaoirleach Councillor of Wicklow (left) and Alan Reynolds, the FAI's development officer for Wicklow*

## Social responsibility at the Romanian FA

Grassroots and social responsibility activities organised by the Romanian Football Federation (FRF) are on the increase. One of the latest examples of these activities is a training camp hosted by the FRF's national training centre in Mogoşoaia, which took place from 15 to 18 August.

The camp was organised as a result of the partnership between the Romanian FA and Coca-Cola Romania. The winners of the 2013 edition of the Coca-Cola cup for high schools (the boys' team of the Auto Technical High School in Craiova and the girls' team of the Grigore Moisil High School in Urziceni), both aged 16 to 18, were awarded a four-day training camp at the centre, which hosts all Romania's national teams including the seniors. Those teams were accompanied by 12 children aged 10 to 14 from an orphanage in Bucharest's District 5, which has a special partnership with the Romanian FA and is included in its social responsibility programme.



*The national training centre in Mogoşoaia was the venue for the four-day youth training camp*

The four days included practical and theoretical training sessions for all participants, held by coaches of the Romanian youth national teams and by specialists appointed by the FRF's coaching school.

But the training camp also offered the young people involved the chance to watch the Romanian First League match between FC Steaua Bucharest and FC CFR 1907 Cluj, thanks to the support offered by Steaua, and to visit the palace in Mogoşoaia, one of the most important buildings in Romania's cultural heritage.

The second day of the course was particularly special, as all the young people involved were given the opportunity to speak to the president of the FRF, Mircea Sandu, and to Romanian grassroots ambassador Miodrag Belodedici, one of the greats of Romanian football. Both signed autographs and had their pictures taken with the participants, while Miodrag Belodedici also played football with the children.

At the end of the training camp, the participants received balls and kit.

● Paul Zaharia



### Women's football on the up in Russia

From 6 to 11 August, the Russian team played host to guests from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Ireland and Turkey in a European Women's Under-17 Championship first qualifying round mini-tournament in Ulyanovsk. It was the first time that this city had organised an international football tournament.

The four teams were competing for the chance to participate in the second – elite – round. The Russian team were aiming to qualify for the next step by finishing in first position in the first qualifying round group. And Natalia Korniyushina's squad had no difficulty achieving this, as they won all three matches. They scored



A closely fought match between Bosnia and Herzegovina (left) and Russia

just one goal against Turkey in the first game, and in the second match the final score was the same: Russia 1-0 Bosnia and Herzegovina. First place in the group was decided on the last matchday, when Russia tried to save their strength and do their best against Ireland. Russia eventually won, again with the minimum score, taking first position in Group 4.

In October, our team will take part in the elite round group in Austria, which also includes the hosts, Belarus and Greece.

● Irina Baranova



### Two awards for Diego Benaglio

The Swiss national team goalkeeper, Diego Benaglio, was the star of the show at the Credit Suisse Awards, held for the first time in the Mühleplatz in Lucerne, where he won two of the ten honours that were presented.

The VfL Wolfsburg captain was named Player of the Year, as well as winning Save of the Year for a double stop in the World Cup qualifier against Norway.

"I am proud and delighted to receive these awards," Benaglio said after the official presentation. The shortlist for the best national team player also included Xherdan Shaqiri and Stephan Lichtsteiner.

Lara Dickenmann, who won the women's award for the fourth time, has been a key member of the Swiss national team for years. She has played for Olympique Lyonnais since 2009 and has won three French championships with the club. "It is always fantastic to win this award. It is particularly special this time because my family is here," said an overjoyed Dickenmann.

Uli Forte was crowned Coach of the Year after leading Grasshopper Club to victory in last season's Swiss Cup. Forte has made a successful start to the new season in Berne with BSC Young Boys.

The prize for Rookie of the Year was presented to FC Basel 1893 central defender Fabian Schär.

"I can't believe what has happened to me in the last year. I could not have dreamed it any better," said the 21-year-old.

Awards were presented in ten categories in all. The ceremony, held in front of a large audience of fans, was broadcast live by SRF for the first time. After an expert jury had chosen a shortlist, the fans also had a say in who received the awards.

The winners:

**Men's Player of the Year and Save of the Year:** Diego Benaglio (VfL Wolfsburg)

**Women's Player of the Year:** Lara Dickenmann (Olympique Lyonnais).

**Rookie of the Year:** Fabian Schär (FC Basel 1893)

**Coach of the Year:** Uli Forte (Grasshopper Club)

**Swiss Cup Team of the Year:** Grasshopper Club

**Most Important Goal of the Year:** Haris Seferovic (US Lecce, 1-0 for Switzerland against Cyprus)

**Fair Play Team of the Year:** FC Luzern Frauen

**Referee Performance of the Year:** Esther Staubli

**Cooldest Goal of the Year:** Dario Koller (SC Brühl)

● Pierre Benoit



Diego Benaglio in action with his club, VfL Wolfsburg



### Ukraine's Under-17s compete in European qualifying round

From 2 to 7 August, Lviv played host to Group 3 in the 2013/14 European Women's Under-17 Championship qualifying round.

Ukraine's Under-17s were in a group with the Netherlands, Finland and Slovakia. Roman Zayev's team lost to both the Netherlands (4-1) and Finland (3-0) and drew with Slovakia (3-3).

Finland ended up top of the group with seven points after two wins and a draw. The

Netherlands finished second with six points after two wins. And Slovakia and Ukraine finished the mini-tournament with two and one points respectively.

"I was delighted with the organisation of the tournament in Lviv. We had strong opponents, but our team was a little bit unlucky with the results," said Roman Zayev, head coach of the Ukrainian women's Under-17s, at the end of the mini-tournament.

● Yuri Maznychenko



The Ukrainian women's Under-17 team

## HEALTH IN THE FRONT LINE

The Irish FA has developed a health programme aimed at clubs (managers, coaches and players) and schools throughout Northern Ireland to educate them on healthy eating, sports nutrition and mental health.

The overall aim is to increase the knowledge that can be shared and adopted every week.

### Realisations

To date, a number of elements of the programme have been rolled out, including:

- a major conference in March 2013 focusing on healthy eating, nutrition and dietary aspects within the sport, which was attended by over 80 representatives from clubs across the country;
- a health microsite, which is now live at [www.irishfa.com/health](http://www.irishfa.com/health);
- a facebook health app, which is now live at [www.facebook.com/OfficialIrishfa](http://www.facebook.com/OfficialIrishfa);
- a health booklet that will be distributed at the club seminars;
- nutrition seminars, which are now integrated into our UEFA C, B, A and Pro licence coaching courses;
- seminars on sports nutrition, healthy eating and mental health, which are being included in over 40 visits to clubs in key areas across Northern Ireland;
- a free first aid training and first aid kit programme for clubs.

### Future developments

Future programme components will include:

- a mental health conference, "Tackling mental health through football", which will take place on 9 October 2013, focusing on areas such as stress, depression, suicide and self-harm;
- a health programme for primary and post-primary schools, also to be launched in October this year;
- the development and implementation of an e-learning platform for nutrition and mental health education for coaches.

The Irish FA's head of marketing and communications, Geoff Wilson, said: "The health programme targets schools, coaches and our clubs at all levels; from junior levels of our game right the way through to intermediate and senior football. The programme includes 'one of a kind' educational resources that will help increase knowledge of healthy eating, nutrition and mental health in our clubs. The three-year



Geoff Wilson, the IFA's head of marketing and communications, and Amy Pepper of the Public Health Agency unveil the health programme

programme shows the innovative approach the association is taking on the importance of health.

"The Irish FA have been working hard with the Public Health Agency and the University of Ulster in creating important factual content for our seminar programme, microsite, booklet and facebook app, with the aim to exchange our knowledge with our clubs, managers, coaches, players and parents."

The Northern Ireland sports minister, Carál Ní Chuilín, said: "Our health is our wealth and if we take care of ourselves through exercising regularly and healthy eating we are better equipped to help others. Combining health with sport is a superb way of getting across these important public health messages."

The project has been made possible thanks to the generous support of the Northern Ireland Executive and the Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure through the Promoting Equality, Tackling Poverty and Social Exclusion through Sport programme.

Further information on the programme can be found at [www.irishfa.com/health](http://www.irishfa.com/health). ●

Geoff Wilson

## BIRTHDAYS

Sir Trevor Brooking (England, 2 October)

**Levent Biçakci (Turkey, 2 October)**

☆☆☆ 60th

Andrzej Wach (Poland, 2 October)

Lutz Michael Fröhlich (Germany, 2 October)

Julius Kvedaras (Lithuania, 3 October)

Léon Schelings (Belgium, 3 October)

Victor van Helvoirt (Netherlands, 3 October)

**Wilfried Heitmann (Germany, 4 October)**

☆☆☆ 70th

Khennet Tallinger (Sweden, 4 October)

Silvo Borosak (Slovenia, 4 October)

Márton Vági (Hungary, 4 October)

Frank Coulston (Scotland, 5 October)

Terje Hauge (Norway, 5 October)

Jerzy Engel (Poland, 6 October)

Jérôme Valcke (France, 6 October)

Faruk Hadzibegic (Bosnia-Herzegovina, 7 October)

Armand Duka (Albania, 7 October)

Jari Maisonlahti (Finland, 7 October)

Markus Kopecky (Austria, 7 October)

Pierre Delaunay (France, 9 October)

Sergey Zuev (Russia, 9 October)

Ellert B. Schram (Iceland, 10 October)

**Milovan Nikolic (Slovenia, 10 October)**

☆☆☆ 70th

Joan Gaspart Solves (Spain, 11 October)

Dimitar Zivovski (FYR Macedonia, 9 October)

Bo Karlsson (Sweden, 12 October)

Adrian D. Casha (Malta, 12 October)

**Siegfried Kirschen (Germany, 13 October)**

☆☆☆ 70th

Pedro Tomás (Spain, 13 October)

Aleksander Ceferin (Slovenia, 13 October)

**George Brian Smith (Scotland, 14 October)**

☆☆☆ 70th

Dušan Krchnak (Slovakia, 14 October)

Tony Paeffgen (Lithuania, 14 October)

Tom van der Hulst (Netherlands, 15 October)

Michel Piroux (Belgium, 15 October)

Wendy Toms (England, 16 October)

Konrad Plautz (Austria, 16 October)

John Delaney (Republic of Ireland, 16 October)

Jean-Marie Phillips (Belgium, 17 October)

Frans Hoek (Netherlands, 17 October)

Mark Arthur (England, 17 October)

Adonis Procopiou (Cyprus, 17 October)

Petros Mavroidis (Greece, 19 October)

Aivar Pohlak (Estonia, 19 October)

Miljenko Sakoman (Croatia, 19 October)

Paul Philipp (Luxembourg, 21 October)

Philip Pritchard (Wales, 22 October)

Mircea Sandu (Romania, 22 October)

John Taylor (Scotland, 22 October)

Arie Kenneth Scheiman (Israel, 22 October)

Jan C. Huijbregts (Netherlands, 23 October)

Michel Vautrot (France, 23 October)

Dragutin Karlo Poljak (Croatia, 23 October)

Christian Teinturier (France, 24 October)

Antonin Herzog (Czech Republic, 24 October)

Elvedin Begic (Bosnia-Herzegovina, 24 October)

Roy Cathcart (Northern Ireland, 26 October)

Markku Lehtola (Finland, 26 October)

Hugh Dallas (Scotland, 26 October)

Perry Gautier (Belgium, 26 October)

Gerard Perry (Republic of Ireland, 27 October)

Levan Paniashvili (Georgia, 28 October)

**Rui Cacador (Portugal, 29 October)**

☆☆☆ 60th

George Fantaros (Cyprus, 29 October)

Maria Persson (Sweden, 29 October)

Bert van Oostveen (Netherlands, 30 October)

José Cunha Rodrigues (Portugal, 30 October)

Alan McRae (Scotland, 31 October)

Kurt Zuppinger (Switzerland, 31 October)

**José Luis Astiazaran Iriondo**

(Spain, 31 October) ☆☆☆ 50th

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

### Meetings

#### 7 October, Budapest

Development and Technical Assistance Committee

#### 7–11 October, Budapest

Football education workshop

#### 8 October, Nyon

Women's Football Committee

#### 18 October, Nyon

UEFA Futsal Cup: draw for the elite round

#### 28 October, Nyon

National Associations Committee

#### 29 October, Nyon

HatTrick Committee

Fair Play and Social Responsibility Committee

#### 30 October, Nyon

Club Licensing Committee

Players' Status, Transfer and Agents

and Match Agents Committee

#### 31 October, Nyon

Legal Committee

Medical Committee

### Competitions

#### 1/2 October

UEFA Champions League: group matches (matchday 2)

#### 1–6 October

UEFA Futsal Cup: main round

#### 3 October

UEFA Europa League: group matches (matchday 2)

#### 9/10 October

UEFA Women's Champions League: round of 32 (first legs)

#### 16/17 October

UEFA Women's Champions League: round of 32 (return legs)

#### 17 October–8 November,

#### United Arab Emirates

FIFA U-17 World Cup

#### 22/23 October

UEFA Champions League: group matches (matchday 3)

#### 24 October

UEFA Europa League: group matches (matchday 3)

## NOTICES

- Desmond Reoch was elected president of the Gibraltar Football Association on 1 September.

## MATCH AGENTS

New UEFA match agent licences have been awarded to:

#### Robert Piotr Stachura

R.S. International Football Management Ltd.  
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#### Fabio Vannoni

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#### Jérôme Salbert

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In addition, **Gianni Lacchè** (Italy) has had his licence renewed for eight years.





WE CARE ABOUT FOOTBALL

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