



UEFA•direct



IN THIS ISSUE

Official publication of the
Union des associations
européennes de football

Chief editor:
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Produced by:
Atema Communication SA,
CH-1196 Gland

Printing:
Artgraphic Cavin SA,
CH-1422 Grandson

Editorial deadline:
31 October 2013

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Cover:

*While qualifying for the
2014 FIFA World Cup ends
in November, UEFA's club
competitions are still in full
swing. Real Madrid CF
(with Ángel di María, in
white) made an excellent
start to the UEFA
Champions League group
stage with three wins
out of three in group B,
including a notable
victory over Juventus
(Claudio Marchisio).*

Photo: Getty Images

FIRST EIGHT-TEAM WOMEN'S U17 FINAL ROUND 6

As part of The FA's 150th anniversary celebrations, the European Women's Under-17 Championship final round – the first to involve eight teams – will be staged in England at the end of the year.



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A slice of UEFA Champions League revenue is distributed to the clubs that competed in the preliminaries for the UEFA competitions. This season, 180 clubs reap the benefits of this solidarity scheme.



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SUPPLEMENT

The 55th issue of the *UEFA-technician* focuses on the coach education workshop held in Budapest in October and includes an interview with Sir Alex Ferguson.





IT ALL COMES DOWN TO RESPECT

There is still plenty of time to look back over the year that has been. In the meantime, there are still things to look forward to, not least the World Cup draw on 6 December, when the eyes of the world of football will turn to Costa do Saúpe, eagerly and anxiously waiting to see which teams end up in which groups.

The draw serves as a transition between the qualifying competition and next year's World Cup. For the 13 European teams which have qualified, it will also provide a foretaste of the emotions they can expect in Brazil next summer.

The high standard of play of our top national teams means they are among the favourites for the world title, even though no European team has yet managed to win the World Cup on South American soil.

The enormity of the task makes it all the more appealing – to win in a country where football rules would be any footballer's dream!

Dreaming may not disguise reality, the evils of today's world and economic woes, but it can help to make them more bearable and put them out of mind for a while, as in the

case of the millions of people the world over who will be transfixed from the moment the World Cup gets under way.

Although football cannot hope to put the whole world to rights, we do have a duty to ensure that major football tournaments such as World Cups and UEFA EUROs are true football festivals. And the sure way to make this happen is to work tirelessly and persistently to develop and defend essential values that can be summed up in one word: respect – for the game, for opponents, for supporters, and for others in general.

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

Michel Platini
UEFA President

BELGIUM AND SWITZERLAND, A STORY OF YOUTH

Both nations have qualified for the FIFA World Cup in Brazil thanks to a generation of outstanding youngsters, but they have nurtured them in very different ways.

These two small nations are both in the top ten in the FIFA rankings. Both are attracting praise for their dynamic style of play and their fresh approach to the game. Both have called on extremely gifted young players. Belgium and Switzerland, unbeaten in their qualifying groups, did not even have to wait for the last round of matches to book their tickets to Brazil. Neither of them will be travelling just to make up the numbers either: while Belgium are keeping their objectives close to their chests, insisting that there is still a lot of work ahead, Switzerland are dreaming of a place in the quarter-finals.

There the similarities end. Whereas Belgium had failed to qualify for a major tournament since the 2002 World Cup, Switzerland have been much more frequent finalists. They have particularly benefited from a youth training system launched in 1995, when the Swiss Football Association began to work more closely with the clubs and recruited professional coaches at every level. In 2000, they opened two youth academies to enable talented young footballers, lodging with local families, to continue their studies as well as attend two training sessions a day. They go home at weekends and play matches for their club. Soon afterwards, keen to provide the same conditions for female players, the Swiss opened a separate academy for girls, as well as a third centre for boys. Since these football academies were opened, the national youth teams have been enjoying success after success: the Under-17s were European champions in 2002 and world champions in 2009, while the Under-21s reached the 2011 final of their European championship. Seven members of that team form an integral part of Ottmar Hitzfeld's current senior squad. Like Marc Wilmots in Belgium, the German coach played an important part in his team's qualification, as the Swiss FA's president, Peter Gilliéron, points out: "He is the kingpin of our success. His coaching and his ability to prepare a team for a match are fantastic

Granit Xhaka takes on the Albanian defence, showing that Switzerland can count on the winning mentality of many young players with roots abroad



Keystone

and he has also managed to strike a good balance between youth and experience. He spoke many times to the players who were selected, as well as those who were left out, thereby creating a tremendous team spirit which turned into a fierce determination to win, a quality that has really made the Swiss team stand out in recent times. Since we are a small country, we have to put an enormous effort into training our young players in a targeted way. We began this work 20 years ago under the guidance of Hansruedi Hasler, who handed the baton to Peter Knäbel, his replacement as technical director, in 2009. Our footballers are involved in programmes covering topics such as career planning and elite youth football. We help the youngsters to bridge the gap between themselves and the top national players and to take the right decision: would they benefit from a move abroad and, if so, to which country and when?"

Training abroad

After years of wondering when its golden generation would finally produce results, Belgium have also just qualified for the FIFA World Cup, also with many young players in their ranks. As national team coach at the time, René Vandereycken was the first to start watching Belgians playing in other countries, such as France and the Netherlands, in his search for the talents of the future. In contrast to the Swiss, these footballers completed their training abroad. Stefan Van Loock, spokesperson for the Belgian FA, highlights the importance of this strategy: *"The reason they made such rapid progress was that they were playing in high-level championships, in England, Germany and Spain. They joined a French or Dutch club very early on, where they received an excellent education: Dries Mertens at AGOVV Apeldoorn, Toby Alderweireld, Jan Vertonghen and Thomas Vermaelen at AFC Ajax, Moussa Dembélé at Willem II, Eden Hazard at LOSC Lille, etc. At national team level, we focus on discipline and team spirit because they already know how to play."*

The high standard of training now provided by the main Belgian clubs, such as RSC Anderlecht, R. Standard de Liège, KRC Genk and Club Brugge KV, is beginning to bear fruit among the younger generations, including the U17s, U19s and U21s. *"We now have two former international stars, Johan Walem in charge of the national Under-21 team and Gert Verheyen with the Under-19s, sharing their experiences with the youngsters and raising them to a higher level. Walem and Verheyen in particular have close contacts with coaches at the clubs where the young internationals are based. They are monitored closely from all angles: character, conduct, talent, etc. During national team training, the coaches try to improve the players' reflexes, and give them advice and tips. Their clubs play at a good level but the national team standard is higher still. We have drawn up a code of conduct for all the national youth teams because we have to teach these young people to live together as a group. Those who fail to comply with the docu-*



PA Wire/PA Images

ment that they have signed will suffer the consequences." One player was recently suspended from the Under-21s for six months after being found in his bedroom with his girlfriend.

Belgium stands united, on and off the pitch

Many sons of immigrants

Belgium field a large number of black players of African origin. Some grew up in run-down, grey suburban areas plagued by poverty, drugs and violence, but that has not prevented them from succeeding in football. *"The involvement of an increasing number of players of foreign origin is a natural development. It is the same in neighbouring countries, such as France, England, the Netherlands and Germany. They were all born here, they speak one of our languages and they are Belgians like all the rest of us."*

Switzerland also have many players of foreign descent, including a large number of youngsters whose families fled the Balkans following the breakup of Yugoslavia. Granit Xhaka, Xherdan Shaqiri, Admir Mehmedi, Valon Behrami, Blerim Dzemaili, Pajtim Kasami. Fully integrated, they are a real asset for Switzerland. *"They are probably the people who best personify the young generation. They never lose their composure and are totally relaxed,"* explains Marco von Ah, Swiss FA spokesperson. *"I'll give you an example: in June 2011, Ottmar Hitzfeld announced that Granit Xhaka, who was not even 20 at the time and still not a regular for FC Basel, was going straight into the team to play England at Wembley. When the coach asked him if he felt ready to play in front of 90,000 people, a laid-back and confident Xhaka replied, 'Yes, of course, no problem'."* ●

Pascale Pierard

RAISING THE PROFILE OF WOMEN'S FOOTBALL

This year, The Football Association of England (The FA) is celebrating 150 years of running the national game and 20 years of running women's football.



Faye White and Sue Smith, two famous former England internationals, during a school question and answer session organised to promote the tournament

The FA via Getty Images



As part of this gala year, The FA is hosting the European Women's Under-17 Championship final tournament from 26 November to 8 December. Eight of the best young women's teams in Europe will light up English grounds and really showcase the women's game. The European Women's Under-17 Championship provides a vital stepping stone in the development of international players. The FA plans to stage finals that allow these eight teams to experience elite level player development and prepare them for future senior team success.

A variety of anniversary events

The FA has spent the year commemorating its 150th anniversary through a variety of events, from stellar senior England internationals at Wembley all the way to recognising the achievements of grassroots volunteers at a football match at Buckingham Palace.

While The FA is rightly proud to be the oldest national football association in the world and to celebrate football's wonderful history, there has also been a focus on the future. This UEFA final tournament is a fitting finale to the year's events, as it is all about developing the top players of tomorrow.

Five members of the current women's senior team participated in the European Women's Under-17 Championship final tournament in 2008, showing how crucial these events are in helping to develop elite talent.

A further important reason for The FA's bid to host the finals was to help raise the profile of women's football in The FA's 20th year of running this arm of the game.

In 1993, when The FA took over the running of women's football, there were only 80 girls' teams and little funding. Today, incredible progress has been achieved, but there is still much to be done. England now has over 1.38 million girls and women playing regularly throughout the country and a talent pathway from grassroots via centres of excellence through to the England senior side. A semi-professional women's league, the Women's Super League, is now in its third season and continues to raise standards and encourage sustainable growth of the game.

TOURNAMENT GROUPS

The final round draw was held in Burton-upon-Trent on 24 October and produced the following two groups:

- Group A:** England, Italy, Austria, Portugal
- Group B:** Germany, Scotland, France, Spain

Matches will be played from 26 November to 2 December. The top two in each group will contest the semi-finals on 5 December, followed by the match for third place and the final on 8 December. This sixth European Women's Under-17 Championship will be the first to result in an eight-team final round. Each of the first five, which were all played in Nyon, comprised just four teams. The date of the tournament was brought forward from summer to winter because of the FIFA Women's U-17 World Cup, to be held in Costa Rica from 15 March to 5 April 2014. The best three teams from the tournament in England will represent Europe at the World Cup. ●

With 29,000 women coaches and over 1,000 women match officials The FA is working hard to increase participation levels in all areas of the game.

Four venues

On 24 October 2012, The FA announced Game Changer, its five-year plan to develop women's football. A key aim is for women's football to become the second biggest team sport in England, after men's football, by 2018, and this tournament will help to pursue that aim.

To support the delivery of Game Changer, The FA specifically chose four venues in four regions of England – AFC Telford, Burton Albion FC, Chesterfield FC and Hinckley Stadium – to drive the work of regional partners to increase participation and awareness.

Games have also been scheduled in both the daytime and evening, to provide schools, fans and families with the chance to come along and enjoy the spectacle.

The FA has been working closely with local partners, including county FAs, councils, schools and colleges to produce comprehensive plans to promote the tournament and women's football. Activities include school education programmes, tournaments, competitions and even two events

where England women footballers will turn on the Christmas lights in two of the local towns. There will be over 18 England player appearances at schools, clubs and outdoor events to promote the UEFA finals and actively encourage girls to get involved.

In 2012, The FA developed a girls' football festival supported by UEFA, Continental Tyres and Sport England to take around the country. Six versions of this festival will help to promote the tournament and enhance the matchday experience at key games. The events are free and combine football, lifestyle and music.

The eight participating national teams will be based at The FA's new world-class training facility, St George's Park, which has recently celebrated its first anniversary. The central location is ideal for the teams, offering them access to outstanding technical, medical and coaching facilities.

The teams will have exclusive use of the park from 24 November, including training pitches, two hotels, state-of-the-art medical and post-match recovery equipment and treatment areas.

This tournament demonstrates The FA's commitment to international football at all levels and will showcase England's ability to host tournaments of the highest standard. ●

Katherine Knight

Youth Olympic Games

SLOVAKIA AND ICELAND HEAD FOR CHINA

The Youth Olympic Games are taking place in Nanjing, China, in August next year. Among the events on the programme are two football tournaments, one for girls and one for boys, both in the Under-15 age category.

Each FIFA confederation will have one representative in each of the two categories, and UEFA held its qualifying tournaments for the Games at Colovray Stadium in Nyon from 14 to 21 October.

In the girls' tournament, which kicked things off, first place went to Slovakia, who beat Azerbaijan with a single first-half goal in the final on 16 October.

In the semi-finals, Slovakia beat Romania 7-2, while Azerbaijan won 2-0 against Israel. Romania were victorious in the match for third place, with a 4-0 win against Israel.

The boys' tournament was won by Iceland, who beat Finland 2-0 in the semi-final before defeating Moldova 3-1 in the final on 21 October. In their semi-final, Moldova recorded a 3-0 win over Armenia. Finland took third place in the tournament thanks to a 2-1 win against Armenia.

The Olympic girls' tournament, which kicks off on 14 August and finishes 12 days later, will take place at the Wutaishan Centre Stadium.

The boys' tournament, starting on 15 August and concluding on 27 August, will be held at the Jiangning Sports Stadium. ●

Iceland (in blue) on the attack in the final against Moldova



Getty Images

UEFA EURO 2016 PREPARATIONS UNDER WAY

UEFA EURO 2016, the first European Football Championship final tournament to involve 24 teams, is gradually taking shape.



Le Rendez-Vous

Following the unveiling of the official logo and visual identity in Paris in June, the tournament's slogan was announced on 17 October at Marseille's city hall, at a media conference

held after a meeting of the UEFA EURO 2016 steering group. Chaired by Jacques Lambert, president of EURO 2016 SAS, the steering group is composed of representatives of the four main partners involved in organising UEFA EURO 2016, i.e. UEFA, the French Football Federation, the French government and the host cities.

Le Rendez-Vous has been chosen as the slogan for the tournament which, between 10 June and 10 July 2016, will comprise 51 matches at stadiums in Bordeaux, Lens, Lille, Lyon, Marseille, Nice, Paris, Saint-Denis, Saint-Etienne and Toulouse.

Football fans all over Europe will discover the composition of the qualifying groups when the draw is held in Nice on 23 February 2014.

The qualifying matches will begin in September next year. For the first time, the marketing of TV rights for the qualifying matches will be centralised and managed on UEFA's behalf by the company CAA Eleven. The national associations in each group will no longer determine the order of matches themselves, instead this will be determined by UEFA according to its Week of Football concept, with matches to be held from Thursday to the following Tuesday.

The final round draw will take place at the Palais des Congrès in Paris on 12 December 2015. ●

FC BAYERN MÜNCHEN IN MOROCCO

FC Bayern München, as winners of the 2012/13 UEFA Champions League, will participate in the FIFA Club World Cup.

After the first edition held in Brazil in 2000, six more in Japan from 2005 to 2008 then 2011 to 2012, and a two-year stopover in the United Arab Emirates in 2009 and 2010, this FIFA competition will grace a new continent this year when it heads to North Africa, and more specifically the Moroccan cities of Agadir and Marrakech.

Seven clubs will participate in the tournament, i.e. one from each confederation plus one from the host country. When the draw was held in Marrakech on 9 October, only five of the teams were known: Raja Casablanca (Morocco), Auckland City FC (New Zealand, OFC), CF Monterrey (Mexico, CONCACAF), Atletico Mineiro (Brazil, CONMEBOL) and FC Bayern München (Germany, UEFA). The African (CAF) and Asian (AFC) representatives would not be known until November.

In line with the usual format of the competition, FC Bayern München will enter at the semi-final stage on 17 December, when they will play the winners of the match between the African and Asian champions. The final will be held in Marrakech on 21 December.

Although FC Bayern München have never previously participated in the FIFA Club World Cup, they twice played in the former European/South American Cup. The Bavarians lifted the trophy on both occasions, beating the Brazilians of Cruzeiro in 1976 and Boca Juniors from Argentina in 2001.



Getty Images

Arjen Robben and FC Bayern München will be going for the Champions League, Super Cup and Club World Cup treble in Morocco

Last year, Brazilian side Corinthians beat Chelsea FC in the final, ending a run of five consecutive European victories in this competition. ●

RAISING THE BAR IN COACH EDUCATION

“The coach educators we had gave you an inspiration and an understanding of the job you were going into. They made it clear that it was difficult. The practical exams at that time were very severe and made sure that if you got your coaching badge, you had to earn it. I’m totally against fast-tracking because you’re not doing a coach any favours at all. It’s a results industry: if you aren’t winning games, you’re out. So the preparation that your coaching badges can give you is very important.”

These words were extracted from an on-stage interview given by Sir Alex Ferguson at the climax of the 10th UEFA Coach Education Workshop staged in conjunction with the Hungarian Football Federation (MLSZ) in Budapest from 7 to 11 October, involving coach educators and technical directors from UEFA’s 54 member associations and their counterparts in other confederations. The tenth was, in point of fact, a first in that the practical and theoretical aspects previously addressed at separate courses and workshops were, for the first time, merged into a single event.

Several aspects

The core theme was “raising the bar” in coach education and, with this target in mind, the programme focused not only on best-practice discussions based on presentations by representatives from Belgium, Denmark, England, France, Hungary, Malta and Switzerland, but also on the arts of teaching, communicating and learning. The neuroscientific aspects of delivering and receiving information were addressed by Dr Babet Lobinger from the sports university of Cologne and her colleague Werner Mickler (both instructors on the German FA’s Pro licence course), who reflected on methods of making sure that messages are not only received but efficiently transferred from the recipient’s short-term to long-term memory.

The theme of effective communication was transferred to the training ground during a practical session involving the youth team from the Felcsút-Puskás academy and led by a member of UEFA’s Jira Panel – Dany Ryser from Switzerland. This provided follow-up to a session involving the Under-21 team from the Honvéd academy the previous day, when the emphasis had been on learning techniques at the level of the UEFA elite youth A licence, with the MLSZ coach education director, László Szalai, captaining a team of student coaches.

UEFA licences

Merging the themes of UEFA-endorsed licences and “raising the bar”, the programme highlighted specialised themes which add branches to the main trunk of the UEFA coach licensing tree. Ginés Meléndez and Javier Lozano of Spain reviewed the parameters of the UEFA futsal licence, while Packie Bonner (Republic of Ireland) and Marc Van Geersom (Belgium) did likewise with the specialised goalkeeper coach qualification which is now ready to be rolled out. Andreas Morisbak and Sigmund Apold-Aasen (Norway) also addressed the issue of qualifications for fitness coaches and the possibility of injecting this speciality into future UEFA Study Group Scheme events.

“Coach educators can develop people and footballers to become better,” commented Sir Alex, “but we also need to encourage coaches to use their imagination.” As the MLSZ vice-president, Sandor Berzi, had remarked on welcoming the participants to Budapest: *“Our investment in football is worth nothing if we don’t have the technical capacity to go with it.”* ●

The workshop in Budapest attracted coach educators from all over Europe



UEFA

ALMOST €47.5M SHARED BY 180 CLUBS

Thanks to UEFA's solidarity payments, the number of clubs benefiting from the money generated by the UEFA Champions League far exceeds the 32 that made it through to the group stage.



UEFA Europa League play-off opponents R. Standard de Liège and FC Minsk have both received solidarity payments

Indeed, no fewer than 180 other clubs have received a share ranging from €120,000 to €725,000. Most are clubs that were knocked out in the qualifying rounds of the two UEFA competitions, others are clubs that were knocked out in the play-offs, and the last group are clubs that have progressed to the group stage of the UEFA Europa League via the qualifying rounds and play-offs of either competition.

The rules governing these solidarity payments made to clubs involved in the 2013/14 UEFA club competitions are set out below.

Clubs involved in the UEFA Champions League

- The 34 domestic champions that failed to qualify for the group stage have each received €200,000.
- Every club that participated in the first qualifying round but did not reach the group stage has received €150,000, regardless of whether it made it through that first round.
- Every club that contested the second qualifying round but did not ultimately qualify for the group stage has received €175,000, regardless of its success in that round.
- Every club that was knocked out in the third qualifying round has received €200,000.
- No solidarity payments have been made in connection with the play-offs, but each of the clubs involved will receive a €2.1m bonus. In addition, those that were knocked out at this stage qualified for the group stage of the UEFA Europa League and are therefore now covered by the distribution system of that competition. They also retain any money received from the first two qualifying rounds of the UEFA Champions League.

Clubs involved in the UEFA Europa League

Regardless of whether they qualified for the group stage or not, each club that entered the UEFA Europa League has received:

- €120,000 if they played in the first qualifying round;
- €130,000 if they played in the second qualifying round;
- €140,000 if they played in the third qualifying round.

In addition, each club that was knocked out in the play-offs has received €150,000. There were no extra solidarity payments for the winners but these clubs retain the payments they received from the qualifying rounds.

Significant increase in the size of payments

Exceptionally, the solidarity payments outlined above are significantly larger than last season, when 183 clubs shared a total of about €38.5m. That is because FIFA has now launched its Club Protection Programme, which has, in turn, freed up money set aside by UEFA to insure players called up by their national teams. Some of this money has been put towards the solidarity payments. ●

Association	Clubs	Champions League	Europa League	Total
All figures in euros				
ALBANIA				
	KS Skënderbeu	575 000	150 000	725 000
	FK Kukësi		540 000	540 000
	KS Teuta		120 000	120 000
	KF Laçi		120 000	120 000
Total				1 505 000
ANDORRA				
	FC Lusitans	350 000		350 000
	FC Santa Coloma		120 000	120 000
	UE Santa Coloma		120 000	120 000
Total				590 000
ARMENIA				
	FC Shirak	525 000		525 000
	FC Pyunik		250 000	250 000
	FC Mika		120 000	120 000
	FC Gandzasar		120 000	120 000
Total				1 015 000
AUSTRIA				
	FC Salzburg	200 000		200 000
	SK Rapid Wien		140 000	140 000
	SK Sturm Graz		130 000	130 000
	FC Pasching		150 000	150 000
Total				620 000
AZERBAIJAN				
	Neftçi PFK	375 000		375 000
	İnter Bakı PFK		250 000	250 000
	Qarabağ FK		540 000	540 000
	Xəzər Lənkəran FK		250 000	250 000
Total				1 415 000
BELARUS				
	FC BATE Borisov	375 000		375 000
	FC Dinamo Minsk		390 000	390 000
	FC Minsk		420 000	420 000
	FC Shakhtyor Soligorsk		130 000	130 000
Total				1 315 000

BELGIUM

SV Zulte Waregem	200 000		200 000
R. Standard de Liège		270 000	270 000
Club Brugge KV		140 000	140 000

Total **610 000**

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

FK Željezničar	375 000		375 000
FK Sarajevo		250 000	250 000
HŠK Zrinjski		250 000	250 000
NK Široki Brijeg		270 000	270 000

Total **1 145 000**

BULGARIA

PFC Ludogorets Razgrad	375 000		375 000
PFC Botev Plovdiv		390 000	390 000
PFC Levski Sofia		120 000	120 000
PFC Beroe Stara Zagora		130 000	130 000

Total **1 015 000**

CROATIA

GNK Dinamo Zagreb	375 000		375 000
HNK Rijeka		270 000	270 000
NK Lokomotiva Zagreb		130 000	130 000
HNK Hajduk Split		270 000	270 000

Total **1 045 000**

CYPRUS

APOEL FC	400 000		400 000
AC Omonia		130 000	130 000
Anorthosis Famagusta FC		130 000	130 000

Total **660 000**

CZECH REPUBLIC

FC Slovan Liberec		270 000	270 000
FK Jablonec		290 000	290 000
AC Sparta Praha		130 000	130 000

Total **690 000**

DENMARK

FC Nordsjælland	200 000	150 000	350 000
Aalborg BK		130 000	130 000
Randers FC		140 000	140 000

Total **620 000**

ENGLAND

Swansea City AFC		140 000	140 000
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Total **140 000**

ESTONIA

JK Nõmme Kalju	575 000	150 000	725 000
FC Levadia Tallinn		250 000	250 000
FC Flora Tallinn		120 000	120 000
JK Trans Narva		120 000	120 000

Total **1 215 000**

FAROE ISLANDS

EB/Streymur	525 000		525 000
Vikingur		250 000	250 000
HB Tórshavn		120 000	120 000
ÍF Fuglafjørður		120 000	120 000

Total **1 015 000**

FINLAND

HJK Helsinki	375 000		375 000
IFK Mariehamn		120 000	120 000
FC Inter Turku		120 000	120 000
TPS Turku		120 000	120 000
FC Honka Espoo		130 000	130 000

Total **865 000**

FRANCE

AS Saint-Etienne		290 000	290 000
OGC Nice		150 000	150 000

Total **440 000**

GEORGIA

FC Dinamo Tbilisi	575 000	150 000	725 000
FC Chikhura Sachkhere		250 000	250 000
FC Dila Gori		420 000	420 000
FC Torpedo Kutaisi		120 000	120 000

Total **1 515 000**

GERMANY

VfB Stuttgart		290 000	290 000
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Total **290 000**

GREECE

Xanthi FC		270 000	270 000
Asteras Tripolis FC		140 000	140 000
Atromitos FC		150 000	150 000

Total **560 000**

HUNGARY

Győri ETO FC	375 000		375 000
Budapest Honvéd FC		250 000	250 000
Videoton FC		120 000	120 000
Debreceni VSC		130 000	130 000

Total **875 000**

ICELAND

FH Hafnarfjörður	575 000	150 000	725 000
KR Reykjavík		250 000	250 000
ÍBV Vestmannaeyjar		250 000	250 000
Breidablik		390 000	390 000

Total **1 615 000**

ISRAEL

Maccabi Tel-Aviv FC	575 000		575 000
Maccabi Haifa FC		270 000	270 000
Hapoel Tel-Aviv FC		270 000	270 000
Hapoel Ramat Gan FC		140 000	140 000

Total **1 255 000**

ITALY

Udinese Calcio		290 000	290 000
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Total **290 000**

KAZAKHSTAN

FC Shakhter Karagandy	375 000		375 000
FC Irtysh Pavlodar		250 000	250 000
FC Aktobe		540 000	540 000
FC Astana		120 000	120 000

Total **1 285 000**

LATVIA

FC Daugava Daugavpils	375 000		375 000
Skonto FC		250 000	250 000
FK Ventspils		390 000	390 000
SK Liepājas Metalurģs		120 000	120 000

Total **1 135 000**

LIECHTENSTEIN

FC Vaduz		120 000	120 000
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Total **120 000**

LITHUANIA

FK Ekranas	375 000		375 000
VMFD Žalgiris		540 000	540 000
FK Sūduva		120 000	120 000
FK Kruoja		120 000	120 000

Total **1 155 000**

LUXEMBOURG

CS Fola Esch	375 000		375 000
AS Jeunesse Esch		250 000	250 000
FC Differdange 03		390 000	390 000
F91 Dudelange		120 000	120 000

Total **1 135 000**

Solidarity payments

FYR MACEDONIA

FK Vardar	375 000		375 000
FK Turnovo		250 000	250 000
FK Teteks		120 000	120 000
FK Metalurg Skopje		120 000	120 000

Total **865 000**

MALTA

Birkirkara FC	375 000		375 000
Valletta FC		250 000	250 000
Hibernians FC		120 000	120 000
Sliema Wanderers FC		120 000	120 000

Total **865 000**

MOLDOVA

FC Sheriff	575 000		575 000
FC Milsami Orhei		390 000	390 000
FC Dacia Chisinau		250 000	250 000
FC Tiraspol		120 000	120 000

Total **1 335 000**

MONTENEGRO

FK Sutjeska	375 000		375 000
FK Rudar Pljevlja		250 000	250 000
FK Mladost Podgorica		390 000	390 000
FK Čelik Nikšić		120 000	120 000

Total **1 135 000**

NETHERLANDS

FC Utrecht		130 000	130 000
Vitesse		140 000	140 000
Feyenoord		150 000	150 000

Total **420 000**

NORTHERN IRELAND

Cliftonville FC	375 000		375 000
Linfield FC		250 000	250 000
Glentoran FC		120 000	120 000
Crusaders FC		120 000	120 000

Total **865 000**

NORWAY

Molde FK	575 000	150 000	725 000
Tromsø IL		390 000	390 000
Rosenborg BK		250 000	250 000
Strømsgodset IF		270 000	270 000
Hødd		130 000	130 000

Total **1 765 000**

POLAND

Legia Warszawa	375 000		375 000
WKS Śląsk Wrocław		420 000	420 000
KKS Lech Poznań		270 000	270 000
GKS Piast Gliwice		130 000	130 000

Total **1 195 000**

PORTUGAL

Estoril Praia		140 000	140 000
SC Braga		150 000	150 000

Total **290 000**

REPUBLIC OF IRELAND

Sligo Rovers FC	375 000		375 000
Saint Patrick's Athletic FC		120 000	120 000
Drogheda United FC		120 000	120 000
Derry City FC		130 000	130 000

Total **745 000**

ROMANIA

FC Astra Ploiești		540 000	540 000
FC Petrolul Ploiești		420 000	420 000
CS Pandurii Târgu Jiu		270 000	270 000

Total **1 230 000**

RUSSIA

FC Rubin Kazan		270 000	270 000
FC Kuban Krasnodar		140 000	140 000
FC Spartak Moskva		150 000	150 000

Total **560 000**

SAN MARINO

SP Tre Penne	350 000		350 000
AC Libertas		120 000	120 000
SP La Fiorita		120 000	120 000

Total **590 000**

SCOTLAND

Saint Johnstone FC		270 000	270 000
Hibernian FC		130 000	130 000
Motherwell FC		140 000	140 000

Total **540 000**

SERBIA

FK Partizan	575 000	150 000	725 000
FK Vojvodina		540 000	540 000
FK Crvena zvezda		270 000	270 000
FK Jagodina		130 000	130 000

Total **1 665 000**

SLOVAKIA

ŠK Slovan Bratislava	375 000		375 000
MŠK Žilina		390 000	390 000
FK AS Trenčín		270 000	270 000
FK Senica		130 000	130 000

Total **1 165 000**

SLOVENIA

NK Maribor	375 000		375 000
NK Celje		120 000	120 000
NK Domžale		120 000	120 000
NK Olimpija Ljubljana		130 000	130 000

Total **745 000**

SPAIN

Sevilla FC		140 000	140 000
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Total **140 000**

SWEDEN

IF Elfsborg	575 000		575 000
Malmö FF		390 000	390 000
Gefle IF		390 000	390 000
BK Häcken		270 000	270 000
IFK Göteborg		130 000	130 000

Total **1 755 000**

SWITZERLAND

Grasshopper Club	200 000	150 000	350 000
FC Thun		270 000	270 000
FC Zürich		140 000	140 000

Total **760 000**

TURKEY

Trabzonspor AŞ		270 000	270 000
Bursaspor		140 000	140 000

Total **410 000**

UKRAINE

FC Chornomorets Odessa		270 000	270 000
FC Metalurh Donetsk		140 000	140 000

Total **410 000**

WALES

The New Saints FC	375 000		375 000
Prestatyn Town FC		250 000	250 000
Airbus UK Broughton FC		120 000	120 000
Bala Town FC		120 000	120 000

Total **865 000**

TOTAL **15 625 000** **31 840 000** **47 465 000**

NEW RESOLUTION ON ONLINE GAMBLING

On 10 September, the European Parliament adopted a resolution on online gambling in the internal market.

The European Parliament is the only directly elected body of the European Union and consists of 766 members across 28 EU member states. Altogether, the institution represents over 500 million European citizens. Well over half of UEFA's member associations come within the territory of the EU and, as experience has shown, decisions made at EU level can have a profound impact on the game of football in Europe.

The vast majority of observations and recommendations to be found in the European Parliament resolution represent a further step in the right direction towards tackling the growing problem of the manipulation of sports results, also known as match-fixing.

The document calls on the EU and member states to establish specific criminal provisions dealing with match-fixing. It also urges the European Commission and the EU member states to

facilitate close cooperation between sports bodies and public authorities in order to prevent, detect and investigate match-fixing. At the same time, efforts towards the adoption of an international convention currently being discussed under the auspices of the Council of Europe are supported. Finally, the document states that sports bodies should be compensated by betting operators who use their competitions to run their own commercial operations, through the recognition of their property rights.

The resolution is not legally binding but supports the efforts of UEFA and its member associations to protect the integrity of sport and ensure a "fair return" to sport in the context of betting.

The full text of the resolution is available at: <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?type=TA&reference=P7-TA-2013-0348&language=EN> ●

UEFA TAKES PART IN INFORMAL MEETING OF EU SPORTS MINISTERS

On 1 October, an informal meeting of EU sports ministers was held in Vilnius in Lithuania, which currently holds the presidency of the EU. UEFA was invited to participate and was represented by Executive Committee member Michael Van Praag, who gave a speech on the sustainability and legacy of sporting events. He began his speech by highlighting the good example set by UEFA EURO 2012 in Poland and Ukraine in terms of what football can do to create lasting legacies. *"The tournament delivered an array of lasting benefits which have endured in both countries long since the end of the tournament,"* he said. He also told the meeting that: *"UEFA is placing increasing emphasis on the legacies that the EURO can leave in the host countries and cities"* and that: *"The organisation of EURO 2020 – for the first time spread over 13 European cities in different countries – will further demonstrate UEFA's commitment to bringing positive changes across the European continent."*

Linked to the notion of sustainability is the duty of UEFA to protect European football from serious threats, such as financial mismanagement and match-fixing.

In this respect, Mr Van Praag reminded the sports ministers that: *"Financial fair play is precisely about providing a regulatory framework to encourage more economic rationality and better standards of financial and business management in football. The new UEFA regulations are starting to have a positive impact on the financial landscape of European club football,"* he said.



UEFA Executive Committee member Michael Van Praag (left) and the Lithuanian minister for home affairs, Dailis Alfonsas Barakauskas

Mr Van Praag also emphasised that the ultimate objective of financial fair play was to safeguard a healthy and sustainable environment for football in Europe. Finally, he described how sports bodies and state authorities needed to join forces to strengthen the fight against match-fixing, which, he said, *"is generally linked to wider forms of criminality and cannot, therefore, be detected and addressed by sports bodies alone"*. ●

RACE/ETHNICITY, GENDER AND AUDIENCE RECEPTIONS OF FOOTBALL ON TV

Since August, each issue of *UEFA•direct* has featured a summary of a research project funded by UEFA. In this issue, Jacco van Sterkenburg closes the series.

Football on television attracts huge viewing figures and represents players of a great variety of racial and ethnic backgrounds. Due to its popularity in the media and vast international audiences, it is no longer feasible to discuss the societal and cultural significance of football without considering the role played by the media. This research project focused on the significance of televised football in terms of shaping ideas about race, ethnicity and gender among its viewers. The question of relevance was how Dutch and English viewers from various racial/ethnic and gender-based groupings receive and interpret representations of race/ethnicity and gender based on televised men's football. This question was explored from an internationally comparative perspective by focusing on the experiences of young Dutch and English viewers.

Racialised mindsets

In total, 20 focus group interviews (11 in England, 9 in the Netherlands) were conducted with male and female viewers aged 15 to 31, spread across white and non-white audience groups in England and the Netherlands. Each focus group consisted of three to five people and most were mixed in terms of race/ethnicity and gender. The semi-structured interviews were transcribed and analysed.

The findings show that racialised mindsets are still dominant even in an era which generally discredits racial differences and instead talks

about cultural difference, multiculturalism and Islam. A natural physicality discourse which associates black athletes with natural physical strength and power was dominant among both British and Dutch, white and non-white, interviewees. Respondents sometimes combined this natural physicality discourse with a mentality discourse, which has as an underlying assumption the notion that black athletes are mentally more unstable and less intelligent than white players. Such one-sided representations of race and ethnicity in a sporting context can have meaning far beyond the boundaries of sport itself, for instance in framing meanings given to racial/ethnic groups in non-athletic situations. Especially in contemporary Western societies, where mental skills are generally seen as more important to career success than athletic and physical qualities, this racialised "brain-brawn" distinction mainly works to reinforce the status quo in which black people may be the stars on the pitch but the real power in terms of decision-making positions both inside and outside the confines of sport remains that of white people.

Gender stereotypes

In relation to gender, too, a physicality discourse and a mentality discourse could be identified, with the vast majority of respondents viewing football primarily as a masculine activity. Both English and Dutch respondents perceived women's football as generally less entertaining and of a lesser quality than the men's game. On the one hand, the perceived poor quality of women's football was explained with reference to women's physical weakness compared with men's physical strength, while at the same time women footballers were seen as less courageous and less aggressive on the pitch than their male counterparts. The role the media play in these gender-based views of football can probably not be overestimated. The male-dominated football media have historically used gender stereotypes that trivialise women's footballing performances. Interviewees in the study generally acknowledged this and were quite critical of the football media's role in this regard. Dutch respondents, however, also expressed an understanding of the media's marginalisation of women's football since they, at the same time, also thought of women's football as less attractive, less entertaining and of a lesser quality than the men's game. ●



JACCO VAN STERKENBURG

Jacco van Sterkenburg works as an assistant professor at the Erasmus Research Centre for Media Communication and Culture, Erasmus University Rotterdam. In addition, he is affiliated to the Mulier Institute, Utrecht, as a visiting research fellow, and to the Institute for Fan Culture at the University of Würzburg as a non-residential research fellow. His current studies focus on race/ethnicity and gender in televised football from an internationally comparative perspective, the Paralympics on television, and cultural racism

and whiteness in football management. He primarily writes from a cultural studies perspective and has published on these topics in books and peer-refereed journals such as the *International Review for the Sociology of Sport*, *Journal of Sport and Social Issues*, *Media Culture & Society*, and *Soccer & Society*. ●

UEFA'S ANTI-DOPING EDUCATION PROGRAMME

Educating players and team officials about anti-doping is one of the key parts of any successful anti-doping programme, and UEFA's work in this field continued during the 2012/13 season as presentations were made to all teams participating in the men's and women's final tournaments at Under-19 and Under-17 levels.

Each session reiterated UEFA's stance against doping, underlining the importance of protecting both the image of football and the players' health. The young footballers competing at the final tournaments were then briefed on the practicalities of anti-doping, particularly the testing process, and advised about their own personal responsibilities as elite athletes. A video was also shown to talk the players through the doping control procedure. Filmed at UEFA EURO 2012, it showed blood and urine samples being collected after the quarter-final between Italy and England.

As well as giving presentations at youth tournaments, UEFA's anti-doping and medical unit distributes about 25,000 anti-doping leaflets each season to players in UEFA competitions, while a variety of other information documents are available online in seven different languages.

Education is one of the main pillars of UEFA's anti-doping strategy to ensure that doping does not become a problem in top-level European football. Another pillar is the comprehensive testing programme across all UEFA competitions.

2012/13 anti-doping testing programme

The 2012/13 season saw 1,374 doping controls carried out in Europe's two major club competitions, the UEFA Champions League and UEFA Europa League. There were no positive cases in either of these competitions. In other competitions – women's, futsal and youth tournaments – UEFA carried out 504 doping controls, again with no players testing positive.

2012/13 UEFA Champions League

UEFA conducts both in and out-of-competition doping controls in the UEFA Champions League. A total of 814 samples were collected from players during the 2012/13 season, with over 67% of the samples analysed for EPO – the substance deployed to increase endurance and physical strength. Some players were tested as often as six times during the course of the season.



Lots of doping controls are conducted at UEFA Champions League matches

In-competition tests

UEFA's doping control programme is based on a thorough risk assessment and a detailed test distribution plan. Controls were conducted at all UEFA Champions League play-off matches, and every team in the group stage was tested at least once. Thirty players from each of the two finalists, FC Bayern München and Borussia Dortmund, were tested at least three times during the season.

Out-of-competition

About 60% of the doping controls in the UEFA Champions League were conducted out-of-competition at clubs' training grounds. Over 80% of the samples collected out-of-competition were analysed for EPO. The two finalists were both tested five times out-of-competition over the course of the season.

2012/13 UEFA Europa League

In the UEFA Europa League, 560 samples were collected from players in the 2012/13 season. As in the UEFA Champions League, doping controls in the UEFA Europa League are planned according to a careful risk assessment. Every team in the play-offs was tested, and from then on there were doping controls at over 50% of all matches and at every match from the round of 16 onwards. ●

DOCTOR EDUCATION PROGRAMME INJURY TREATMENT AND DIAGNOSIS

The UEFA football doctor education programme (FDEP) is a three-part programme teaching doctors from UEFA's member associations the key skills of the modern football doctor.

The programme adopts a "blended learning" approach, marrying face-to-face workshops where doctors learn and practise techniques with an online educational support platform containing instructional videos, tests of participants' knowledge and process guidelines for doctors to refer to at any time. An online forum is also available, allowing course participants to discuss and resolve key issues between themselves outside of the workshops.

Providing the best instruction possible

The second of the three course workshops, covering injury diagnosis and treatment, was held in Amsterdam from 23 to 26 September and was hosted by the chairman of the UEFA Medical Committee, Dr Michel D'Hooghe, who had initially devised the concept of the course. Doctors came from 49 different countries to learn about the theory and practice of injury management in football, with all content underpinned by the latest scientific evidence from UEFA's elite club injury study. The course was led by Prof. Jan Ekstrand, vice-chairman of the UEFA Medical Committee and head of the UEFA elite club injury study group. Prof. Ekstrand was supported by top experts from the world of European sports medicine, including Peter Uebli (a specialist in orthopaedics and sports medicine and a team

Prof. Jan Ekstrand gives a theory session at the workshop

doctor at FC Bayern München), Markus Waldén (an orthopaedic surgeon and a member of Sweden's football research group), Per Hölmich (an associate professor of orthopaedics from Denmark) and Jón Karlsson (a professor of orthopaedics and sports traumatology and a team doctor at IFK Göteborg). Also in attendance as expert presenters were several members of the UEFA Medical Committee (including Dr Michel D'Hooghe and vice chairmen Dr Mogens Kreutzfeldt and Prof. Stewart Hillis), Dr Andrea Ferretti, Dr Ian Beasley and Dr Henrique Jones, team doctors for the English and Portuguese national teams. Also present as part of the assessment team were Dr Karel Watteyne, team doctor at Club Brugge KV, and Dr Jose Huylebroeck, team doctor at RSC Anderlecht. The staging of the workshop was supported by the Royal Netherlands Football Association.

Topics covered

The main topics covered at the workshop were:

1. Introduction to the UEFA elite club injury study
2. Managing injuries in competitive situations – the Laws of the Game
3. Muscle injuries
4. Knee injuries
5. Ankle injuries
6. Hip and groin injuries
7. Overuse injuries

All topics were covered by means of a carefully planned combination of theoretical presentations, practical demonstrations of treatment techniques and discussions of case studies, all supported by a detailed course manual provided to candidates in advance of the workshop. The expert presenters used the latest scientific evidence and knowledge in their respective fields to provide an unparalleled level of educational expertise, including expert demonstrations of all recommended diagnosis and treatment methods. At the end of the course, all participants were assessed on their practical skills and theoretical knowledge in order to ensure that they were sufficiently well briefed in the topic areas to be able to go and cascade the knowledge acquired within their national associations.

E-learning and cascading

As with Workshop 1 and the rest of the FDEP course, the doctors are supported by an exten-





Prof. Markus Waldén demonstrates ways of diagnosing knee injuries

sive e-learning programme, which contains footage of all presentations from the workshops, as well as practical demonstrations by experts, case study discussions and exercises to test the doctors' knowledge. This helps them to retain and refresh their knowledge even after the workshop has been completed.

Following on from the successful cascading of Workshop 1, doctors will be expected to cascade the knowledge acquired at Workshop 2 in their own countries. This will further expand the network of skilled medical tutors disseminating skills learned on the FDEP course across Europe's wider football community. The e-learning tool can also be used by the participants to educate their own national doctors on cascaded courses, thereby ensuring that the quality of the educational information provided is maintained outside the UEFA workshops.

Making new friends and creating a Europe-wide medical community

The FDEP workshops not only give doctors the opportunity to learn from leading experts on each type of football injury, but also allow them to share their own experiences with other doctors from across the full spectrum of European football. The FDEP course as a whole also provides UEFA with an excellent opportunity to further its strong relationship with the doctors from its national associations.

Progress made by the FDEP to date has been significant, and with the continued strong support of European football's medical community and national associations, UEFA will continue to develop and promote the programme to ensure

that all national associations in Europe have more and more doctors with the skills to provide the best possible medical support to players. The final workshop in the first edition of the FDEP, which will focus on "protecting the player", is provisionally scheduled for February 2015 and will cover topics such as injury prevention, anti-doping, health and nutrition, UEFA's minimum medical requirements, medical preparations for hosting tournaments and matches, and player screening/pre-transfer screening. ●

Dr David Aladgem (ISR) practises knee assessment techniques on Dr Sedat Aydog (TUR), watched by (from left) Dr Richard Eggenhofer (AUT), Dr Götz Dimanski (GER) and Dr Dags Cuda (LVA)



IMPROVING WELL-BEING IN CHILDREN'S FOOTBALL

As part of its charity and social responsibility strategy, the Danish FA formed a partnership with Save the Children Denmark back in 2012. One of the key elements of the partnership is to use each other's competencies and strengths.

The main focus of Save the Children Denmark is, of course, the well-being of children. A cornerstone in its national programme revolves around anti-bullying activities in the Danish educational system. One such activity is the Free of Bullying programme, which was established in coopera-

"Most parents and coaches take it for granted that children thrive during their leisure time, and questions are rarely asked about their well-being. Bullying issues are often dismissed because of the inherently competitive nature of the sport. But unlike school, which children must attend, football practice is not obligatory, so children simply stop going if they do not thrive," says Lars Stilling Netteberg, programme coordinator at Save the Children Denmark.



The royal couple helped to launch the project by taking part in one of the exercises devised to improve the well-being of children in football clubs across Denmark

tion with The Mary Foundation and has proven to be a huge success at pre-school and primary school levels.

With football being the number one sport among children in Denmark, the idea of looking at children's well-being in sport quickly formed. But first and foremost, the Danish FA, Save the Children Denmark and The Mary Foundation decided to find out whether a problem existed in children's football in this respect and, if so, how it could be tackled.

Array of studies

During 2012, the three partners conducted an array of different studies, from which some surprising results emerged:

- 1) very little research had been conducted either nationally or internationally into the well-being of children in leisure activities;
- 2) one out of eight children between the ages of 8 and 12 had given up a leisure activity because of bullying or lack of well-being;
- 3) coaches and parents were virtually never to blame for children dropping out.

Helping the clubs

The next aim was to find a way to help the clubs solve this problem – to stop children from dropping out and to improve the environment in which they played football. Further surveys showed that coaches were very rarely a part of the problem but held the key to resolving it. Furthermore, it became clear that the board of the club had to put the matter on its agenda and that parents had to be consulted in order to achieve the best result. During this process, the TrygFoundation joined the project, providing full funding for it.

Topics that are hard to tackle are often addressed with codes of conduct and value statements. But the question still remains of how to introduce change on a day to day level in a way that is easy to implement in the busy life of the clubs, with football remaining the main focus.

In response to this dilemma, a toolkit has been developed which can easily be integrated into clubs' daily activities. The toolkit is currently being tested in different types of clubs in different parts of the country. The main idea is to provide education and hands-on tools that can be used on and around the pitch, before, during and after matches and practice, and which address all target groups – coaches, children, parents, leaders and board members.

"The Danish FA wants to be at the forefront both nationally and internationally in ensuring the well-being of children during leisure activities. Children need a safe and secure environment that encourages them to take chances in order to develop their skills. But most importantly, we want to keep more children happy and keep them in the game," says Steen Jørgensen, head of grassroots football at the Danish FA. ●

Mikkel Minor Petersen

MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS



Volunteer movement rising

Volunteers are starting to become part of the scene in Albanian football. At the recent European Under-17 Championship qualifying round mini-tournament held in Korça and Pogradec, four 17 and 18-year-olds became the first volunteers to help out at a football event. Building on the success of this trial, the Albanian Football Association definitely plans to involve volunteers regularly in the organisation of future matches and tournaments.

The first four volunteers were Rei Llakmani, Piro Bardhi, Estel Eminaj and Devi Kuqi, students at Muharrem Collaku high school. The first three are in their second year at the high school, while Devi is in his third year. Their role as volunteers was to accompany the participating teams – Belarus, Finland, Romania and the host team.

"Our love of football was the first reason we decided to be part of this event. The reasons that came next were to experience something new, and to improve our language skills, international communication and relationships," the four of them said.

To begin with, they were a little bit timid, but step by step their confidence and efficiency grew as they dealt with everything that their role at such an event entailed.

"It is a really interesting initiative and luckily it had good results and can be considered efficient. The voluntary concept, so popular in football and sports activities, will finally take place also in Albania."

This is a first experience and it was successful. We will try again and consider increasing the number of volunteers in the next activities we organise," said Redi Jupi, director of national teams at the Albanian Football Association.



The Albanian FA's first four volunteers

For the future, the Albanian Football Association is seriously considering initiating proper projects to recruit new volunteers for all national and international activities.

● Tritan Kokona



New president sets his sights high

Victor Santos has been elected president of the Andorra Football Federation (FAF) for the next four years.

At the FAF general meeting on 9 October, almost 30 Andorran football and futsal clubs representatives voted in the new president and his nine-member executive board, which includes two women. In accordance with the statutes of the FAF, which are in line with those of FIFA and UEFA, the chairman of elections committee, Gonzalo Doison, directly confirmed the composition of new executive board.

Following his election, Victor Santos immediately set his sights on improving his nation's footballing infrastructure.

The 60-year-old brings a wealth of experience to his new role in the principality, having served as the federation's vice-president for the past eight years. He has also worked closely with his country's national football and futsal teams during his time with the FAF.



The new president, Victor Santos, with some of the girls taking part in one of the FAF activities at the Andorra la Vella festival

Speaking about his mandate as president, the former FC Encamp coach highlighted in particular the need to strengthen the nation's youth set-up. He said: *"This is essential as, without it, there is no future."*

He also mentioned the importance of developing women's football in Andorra,

building up the national league (girls born between 2000 and 2003), and, in particular, creating a senior national women's team. *"This will be one of our concrete goals,"* he said. *"As time passes, we are seeing more and more players and we are keen to start competing on an international level."*

The new president also wants to improve the nation's footballing infrastructure during his time in charge by, for example, increasing the number of football training pitches for every club in the country.

In other news, the fifth UEFA B coach education course started on 16 September, with 20 aspiring Andorran second division coaches or first division assistant coaches taking part. The course runs until 7 April next year. Prepared by the FAF coaching school, it is taught by professionals and held at the refurbished Estadi Comunal. Through its coach education programme, the FAF takes care of the education of all its coaches by organising seminars, conferences and training courses at D, C, B and A levels.

● Silvia Casals



Women's U17s make history

Austria's women's Under-17 team have become the first women's national team in our country to qualify for the final round of an international competition. With three convincing wins in the elite round of the current European Women's Under-17 Championship (5-1 against Russia, 2-1 against Greece and 6-0 against Belarus), Dominik Thalhammer's girls secured their tickets for the finals, which take place in England from 26 November to 8 December.

Their success has a lot to do with the opening of the national centre for women's football in St Pölten in 2011, as coach Thalhammer, who is also a sports leader at the centre, recognises: *"Qualifying for this final*

round is an unbelievable feeling, as it's the biggest success for women's football in Austria to date. A big thank-you is owed to all the staff of the national centre for women's football, as well as to my team behind the team. We did it together and that makes me very proud!"

All the members of the successful women's Under-17 squad study sport and the regular school curriculum at the national centre as part of the Austrian FA's talent promotion programme, designed to give talented girls the best possible chances of becoming top players. Their sports education focuses on elite athleticism, technical perfection and intensive tactical training. *"The Austrian FA is right behind this project because in contemporary women's football it just isn't possible to hold your own without first-rate training schools."*



Lots of happy faces

And it's all the more pleasing that our venture is already starting to bear fruit," said a proud Leo Windtner, president of the Austrian FA.

● Christoph Walter

Member associations



A sponsor for the U12 league

A sponsorship contract for the national Under-12 league was signed by the Association of Football Federations of Azerbaijan (AFFA) and the Atena company at the AFFA headquarters on 4 October. The event was attended by representatives of the football public and journalists, who heard about the AFFA's projects to develop youth football in the country, in accordance with the state programme for the development of football in the republic of Azerbaijan from 2005 to 2015,



The AFFA general secretary and the Atena chairman take to the pitch

as well as about the main aims behind the creation of an U12 league.

The AFFA's general secretary, Elkhon Mammadov, and the chairman of Atena, Elshad Rasulov, signed the sponsorship agreement. Afterwards, the AFFA general secretary presented a shirt

signed by Azerbaijan national team players to the Atena chairman, before the two answered journalists' questions in a press conference.

Later, a symbolic U12 match was played on the pitch at the AFFA's football academy. It was kicked off jointly by the AFFA general secretary and the Atena chairman, who also lined up for photos with the players.

Atena Under-12 league matches will be organised in 12 regions and involve 1,114 players and 109 coaches in 81 teams.

● Mikayil Narimanoglu



Belgium back in world class

It was a long wait, but the explosion of joy that erupted when Belgium qualified for the 2014 World Cup finally allowed the Belgian people to forget the 12 long years in the World Cup and European Football Championship wilderness. Our team's 2-1 win against Croatia in Zagreb on 11 October – with Romelu Lukaku the hero of the night, scoring both our goals – secured our ticket to Brazil.

This suburb performance rewarded the work of a group of players whose unwavering attitude and desire to win earned them 26 points out of a possible 30. But that is not all. Our technical staff, with our national coach, Marc Wilmots, at the helm, also did a superb job getting the individual players to gel as a team. Then there were our fantastic supporters, who truly carried the team!

Not so long ago, the Red Devils did little to excite the crowds, but that period is now behind us. To rekindle the zeal of the fans, the Belgium FA, with the help of the renowned

Boondoggle communications agency, set up the "devils' challenges" campaign, through which our national team players asked the supporters to meet certain challenges, in exchange for imaginative rewards.

The first challenge was set before the Red Devils' last warm-up match before the World Cup qualifying competition got under way. Since we were playing our neighbours the Netherlands, the fans were asked to do as the Dutch do and colour Belgium red all over. It was a huge success, with the colour red dominating numerous places across the country, in particular the Roi Baudouin stadium, which, to boot, was sold out – something that had not happened for some time. Belgium won 4-2, – a sign of things to come, with the team then winning their first World Cup qualifier against Wales in Cardiff and going on to remain unbeaten for the rest of the qualifying campaign.

After that friendly against the Netherlands, the Red Devils' matches sold out within minutes of tickets going on sale. To keep everyone happy,



The Grand Place in Brussels was bursting at the seams for every one of the Red Devils' matches

giant screens were also set up all over the place to turn each match into a real street party. Before the team set off for their final qualifier in Croatia, fans packed the tarmac at Zaventem airport to send them off with the wind in their tails.

Belgium's motto is Strength in Unity, and there is no doubt that the unity between players, staff and the Belgian people gave us strength during the World Cup qualifying campaign. Now our devils are hoping to prove that no grain of Brazilian sand can get into their works and spoil their World Cup performance.

● Pierre Cornez



Unprecedented success for the Dragons

For the first time, the Bosnia and Herzegovina national team has managed qualify for a major tournament. In their last two qualifying campaigns – for the 2010 World Cup and EURO 2012 – they reached the play-offs but lost to Portugal on both occasions. The national team also lost out on a place at EURO 2004 in Portugal, needing to win their qualifying match against Denmark in Sarajevo in October 2003, but only managing a 1-1 draw.

Before the start of the 2014 World Cup qualifying competition, coach Safet Sušić, in his second term, said his goal was to qualify directly for Brazil. From the first game, when the

Dragons trounced Liechtenstein 8-1 in Vaduz, Bosnia and Herzegovina went to the top of Group G and stayed there until the end, finishing level with Greece on 25 points, but with a better goal difference, so making the dream of their fans at home and abroad come true.

Safet Sušić, who was nominated as Bosnia and Herzegovina's Golden Player for UEFA's golden jubilee in 2004 and who played in the 1990 World Cup for the former Yugoslavia, said afterwards:

"When I took over these players four years ago, I believed in their quality, attributes and huge desire to succeed. For the last two qualifying campaigns, we have not had a single problem, and I thank them. Two and a half years ago, we were suspended, but with the help of Ivica Osim and the normalisation committee, we came back, and here's where we are." He also highlighted the great support of the fans at the Bilino Polje stadium in Zenica and everywhere else.

The scorer of the winning goal in the 68th minute of the match against Lithuania in Kaunas, was Vedad Ibišević, who said after the match: "We had faith that we were going to succeed, and as time went on, it was clear to everyone on the field that a goal had to come. I shot for victory for Brazil, for our fans around the world, for our country."

"There is no greater joy than hearing the fans celebrating across the country and around the world," said Edin Džeko, scorer of ten goals in the qualifying competition. Returning home from Kaunas, the Bosnia and Herzegovina national team were welcomed by around 60,000 of their fans in the main street in Sarajevo.

The day before the penultimate qualifying match, against Liechtenstein on 11 October in Zenica, the FIFA president, Joseph S. Blatter was in Sarajevo to present the Juan Antonio Samaranch golden charter of sport and culture of peace award of the International League of Humanists (ILH) to the Bosnia and Herzegovina team and their coach. Elvedin Begić, president of the Football Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, received the award on their behalf.

Presenting the award, the FIFA president said: "The Bosnia and Herzegovina football team unites people and is the best possible ambassador for your country. Football is based on respect, fair play and discipline, as well as humanity. I think it is the right decision for your national team to become an ambassador of ILH, just as footballers unite people and are the best ambassadors while wearing the national colours, singing the national anthem and playing for their country."

● Fuad Kravac



Victory in Lithuania rounded off an outstanding qualifying campaign

Niko Kovač new head coach of the national team

Niko Kovač was named as the new head coach of the national team after the board of the Croatian Football Federation (HNS) decided to make a change ahead of Croatia's FIFA World Cup qualifying play-off against Iceland. Igor Štimac offered his resignation after Croatia finished Group A with back-to-back defeats and the HNS board felt that a new voice was needed in the dressing room because of a series of unimpressive displays.

The solution was found inside the organisation, with Under-21 coach Niko Kovač being named as the new head coach.

Kovač was born on 15 October 1971 in West Berlin, where he started his playing career with local club Hertha Zehlendorf. He moved on to have a respectable career in the Bundesliga, with successful periods at Hertha BSC Berlin, Bayer 04 Leverkusen, Hamburger SV and FC Bayern München, before finishing his playing career in Austria with FC Salzburg.

Kovač made his international debut in a friendly match against Morocco in 1996 and went on to play 83 games for the Croatian national team, scoring 14 goals for his country. After UEFA EURO 2004, Kovač became the team captain and successfully led Croatia to the 2006 World Cup and UEFA EURO 2008.

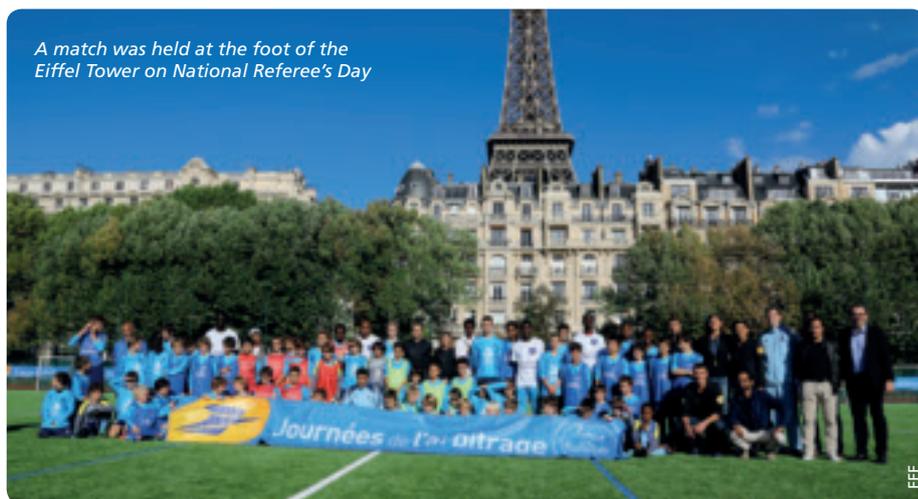
After gaining his UEFA Pro licence at the HNS football academy, Kovač coached FC Salzburg's second team before being named head coach of the Croatian Under-21 team in 2013. He led Croatia's youngsters to four wins in four matches without conceding a goal, while winning against group favorites Ukraine and Switzerland.

"We have put our future in Niko's hands and hope he will lead us into the big competitions. We turned to him because he is a former player, a captain who knew how to lead a team, and because he has shown his quality as head coach of our Under-21 team," said the HNS president, Davor Šuker, after making a deal to keep Kovač at the helm throughout the UEFA EURO 2016 cycle.

"We all have to work together to revive our success as a team. We hope that our unity will restore our fans' trust in us, which we need in order to have a good atmosphere around the team. I thank Igor Štimac, who did half of the work by securing second place. Now it is up to us to finish the job," said Kovač during his first press conference.

● Tomislav Pacak

The new national team coach, Niko Kovač



A match was held at the foot of the Eiffel Tower on National Referee's Day

Refereeing in the spotlight

For more than ten years, the French Football Federation (FFF), together with its rugby, handball and basketball counterparts, has organised referee days with its partner, La Poste. This year's 12th edition allowed the general public and members to put on a referee's kit for the duration of a match and to experience at first hand what this still hugely under-recognised job entails. For ten days, the values of honesty, courage and self-examination took centre stage at an event supported by former Saint-Etienne, Lyon, Atlético Madrid and

Paris Saint-Germain goalkeeper Gregory Coupet. On National Referee's Day, celebrated in Paris on 23 October, Valérie Fourneyron, minister for sport, youth, adult education and community life, kicked off the series of referee days by refereeing a match, whistle in hand, at the foot of the Eiffel Tower.

Activities in all the leagues and districts raised awareness of the referee's role among those involved in sport and the public at large. The aim is to attract new referees as well as to retain existing ones and cast them in a better light.

● Jean-Baptiste Schmidt

European U17 and U19 qualifiers come to Georgia

From 17 to 22 October, Georgia hosted a European Under-17 Championship mini-tournament in the qualifying round. Last year, the Georgian Football Federation also hosted matches in the European Under-17 Championship, when elite round matches in the 2012/13 competition were held in Tbilisi.

For the latest round of qualifiers, Georgia's Under-17s were in the same group as the Faroe Islands, the Netherlands and San Marino. The mini-tournament matches were played at the Mikheil Meskhi stadium, the Boris Paichadze national stadium and at the Tengiz Burjanadze stadium in Gori, which was hosting matches at this level for the first time in its history.

The young Georgians, like their Dutch opponents, won their first two matches and were therefore sure of a place in the elite round. However, in the last round of matches, the Netherlands beat Georgia to take the top spot in the group.

Georgia's U17 and U19 teams have

now established a good tradition of qualifying for the elite rounds of their respective UEFA competitions, and have each recently even reached the final tournament (U17s in 2012 and U19s in 2013).

The feedback received from the visiting delegations for the recent Under-17 mini-tournament is very important for the Georgian organisers, who received quite a number of compliments.

Now the Georgian Football Federation is getting ready to host matches in the qualifying round of the current European Under-19 Championship. The mini-tournament will be held in Tbilisi from 13 to 18 November and, in addition to the hosts, will involve the U19 teams of Moldova, the Netherlands and Wales.

● Eka Eloshvili



The Under-17s have secured their place in the elite round



Nationwide amateur football campaign launched

At its recent general meeting in Nuremberg, the German FA (DFB) and its area and regional associations officially unveiled their new nationwide amateur football campaign which, in the next three years, will present German amateur football as it really is: multidimensional, emotional and unadulterated, as reflected in the campaign slogan, "Our amateurs. Real pros".

"The campaign focuses on the people who, every day, through their work with clubs, allow

football to be played everywhere in Germany, whether as coaches, players, support staff, ground staff or board members. Every single one of them deserves to be recognised for their dedication. They are the 1.7 million unpaid volunteers in German football," said Wolfgang Niersbach, who was re-elected as DFB president for a further three-year term at the same general meeting.

Thousands of amateur footballers from all over Germany responded recently to the casting call "Put your face to amateur football", Out of them, 19 were chosen for the first part of the campaign, during which, in the coming months,



One of the campaign posters

they will feature in ten posters and appear in various films on TV and the internet.

On www.kampagne.dfb.de, the faces of the campaign explain what it is that motivates them to get and stay involved in football.

● Stephan Brause



National team supports Trofos campaign

KEFI – a society of cancer patients, volunteers, friends and physicians supported by the Greek national team – recently held a press conference to promote the Trofos campaign, an attempt to teach the general public the importance of diet for preventing, treating and recovering from cancer. The event was attended on behalf of the Greek national team by Takis Fyssas, the technical director for the country's national teams at the Hellenic Football Federation (EPO): "I am not attending this event as an expert, since I am not one. I am here today to congratulate you on the work that you are doing and to tell you that the EPO, and particularly the Greek national team, is honoured to be supporting the work done by KEFI. We deeply admire everything



The Trofos healthy eating campaign

you do for patients and their families; we admire your endurance, your inexhaustible strength. You and our athletes have one thing in common: you never stop fighting. And the fight that you are putting up – a selfless and unseen fight – is the most admirable I have ever seen. I am also here today as a former athlete, and as a father who is aware of the importance of a healthy diet and who is willing to learn from you what it really means to eat properly and thereby be able to prevent and treat serious diseases, like cancer."

● Giota Kaisari



New stadium attendance record set

On matchday six of the 2013/14 season, a new stadium attendance record was set, with a grand total of 64,700 people in the stadiums. It broke the previous record of 63,800, which had lasted since 1975/76.

For some European countries, the figure may seem low, but for Israel it is a major success.

Over the last four years, there has been a huge move to rebuild and renovate stadiums all over the country. Due to this and the great local football on offer, the number of fans is increasing from one matchday to another.

The president of the Israel FA, Avi Luzon, said: "The trust of the Israeli fans in local football is huge. Israelis love football and I am happy to see that the fans are voting with their legs by coming to the new stadiums all over the country."

The biggest match of this round was the home match between Beitar Jerusalem and Hapoel Tel-Aviv (Beitar won 1-0), that attracted 29,200 fans to the beautiful Teddy Stadium in Jerusalem (the same stadium that hosted the final of the European Under-21 Championship this summer).

Elsewhere, 16,250 fans went to see the match of Maccabi Tel-Aviv, 7,000 went to watch the southern club Hapoel Beer Sheva in action, and another 6,000 to the match between Maccabi Petach Tikva and Maccabi Haifa.

● Michal Grundland



National association and clubs support World Heart Day

As September drew to a close, the Football Association of Iceland (KSI) and its top clubs came together to promote heart health in support of World Heart Day 2013.

World Heart Day is held on 29 September each year under the auspices of UEFA's social responsibility partner the World Heart Federation (WHF). World Heart Day attempts to raise

awareness of cardiovascular disease risk factors such as physical inactivity, unhealthy eating, obesity and smoking as the first step towards preventing the risk of heart disease and stroke.

To help raise awareness of heart health to football fans and their families, the KSI promoted World Heart Day through its communication channels, and encouraged clubs to use a healthy heart activities toolkit developed by partners of the World Heart Federation, the European Healthy Stadia Network.

Pitch-side activities promoting healthy lifestyles were part of pre-match ceremonies at all six matches played in the men's premier league over the weekend of 28 and 29 September, and included public address announcements to fans on the benefits of being physically active, for example by playing football on a regular basis. In addition, the televised derby between Reykjavik's KR and Fram also included a team of World Heart Day flag carriers on the pitch before the game.

For more information about World Heart Day, visit www.worldheartday.org

● Thor Ingimundarson

Regular exercise, such as playing football, reduces the risk of heart disease



More and more spectators are filling Israel's stadiums

Looking back at social activities in 2013

On 24 October, the Italian Football Federation (FIGC) presented its second sustainability report at the offices of the prime minister in Rome.

The report consists of a snapshot of the state of football in Italy, of projects that the FIGC set in motion in the past year, and other recent events, including an audience with Pope Francis, the activities organised in Naples in conjunction with the World Cup qualifier there (training session on a pitch in Quarto that has been confiscated from criminal organisations), and cooperation with Save the Children, FARE (Football Against Racism in Europe), and Noi no (against violence against women).

Prepared with the help of PricewaterhouseCoopers, but above all thanks to resources provided by UEFA's HatTrick programme, the FIGC's chief executive, Antonello Valentini, explained that the review looks at the whole



Don Luigi Ciotti addresses the audience, alongside Paolo Bersari of PricewaterhouseCoopers, the FIGC president, Giancarlo Abete, and the CONI president, Giovanni Malagò

of the Italian football family and how it engages with society.

It describes the special attention paid by the national team to social responsibility, fighting racism, violence against women, infant mortality and many other issues.

"Hats off to the federation," said the president of the Italian Olympic Committee (CONI), Giovanni Malagò. "This is something to be proud of. The CONI should produce its own sustainability report." For the president of the

FIGC, Giancarlo Abete, it was a step forward but not the end of the road.

Don Luigi Ciotti from the Libera anti-mafia association thanked the national team for having accepted the invitation to train at Rizziconi, a small ground confiscated from a criminal organisation and from which 250 children now benefit – confirmation of the importance of football and of how much it can do for society.

The 2013 sustainability report is available in Italian on www.figc.it, where an English version will be published soon.

● Barbara Moschini

RTU Futbola centrs qualify for UEFA Regions' Cup

On 27 October, this season's Latvian second division final was held at the Olaine stadium and won by RTU Futbola centrs, who beat JFK Saldus 2-0. Mihails Jankovskis opened the scoring in the 37th minute, but it was not until added time that Vladislavs Selivanovs slotted in his team's second goal. The Latvian second division champions will now represent their country in the 2014/15 UEFA Regions' Cup.

The aim of the Latvian second division championship is to promote football and determine the strongest amateur team in the Latvian regions. In accordance with the competition regulations, both finalists acquire the right to compete in the 2014 Latvian first division championship – the last stage before reaching the premier league. This year, the second stage of the second league championship – regional championships – was organised by the regional centres between April and September, based on a cooperation agreement with the Latvian Football Federation.

Meanwhile, Daugavpils BFC Daugava have become Latvia's first division champions for the first time in the club's history. FB Gulbene from Vidzeme took second place and in November

will contest the relegation/promotion play-offs against SMS Credit.lv, who finished the premier league second from bottom in the table. In women's football, Rigas Futbola skola won the women's premier league, finishing six points ahead of their nearest rivals.

Late autumn signals the start of the Latvian futsal championship season. The new season got under way at the end of October, with eight clubs competing in the regular two-round

tournament, after which the overall standings will be determined by play-off matches next spring. Alongside last season's two finalists and main rivals FK Nikars and FK Raba, RTU, Monarhs, LSPA/Sportima, New Project, Ventspils FK Honda and FK Ogre/Cerber 02 are involved in the race for the prestigious Latvian futsal championship trophy and a place in next season's UEFA Futsal Cup.

● Viktors Sopirins



The champions of Latvia's second division, who will represent their country in the UEFA Regions' Cup

Football shows the way

Over the next four years, the Liechtenstein Football Association (LFV), in cooperation with the principality's educational authorities, will be implementing a project in schools aimed at teaching children the importance of exercise and active, healthy lifestyles.

The fundamental purpose of school sport is to encourage children and young people to do exercise in their free time as well. To support the

educational authorities in this endeavour and to encourage youngsters to take up football, the LFV launched its four-year project this autumn. The project is supported by the educational authorities as well as by UEFA's HatTrick programme.

When the project started in September, 23 classes signed up, involving some 345 primary school children in Eschen, Balzers, Schaanwald, Mauren and Ruggell and at the day school in Schaan. During the school year, the LFV will run four sports lessons, led by qualified instructors.

One will focus entirely on health and nutrition, with specialists from the LFV medical team teaching children in a fun way about the essentials of a healthy lifestyle.

A tournament for the participating classes will be organised at the end of the school year.

The LFV hopes to bring as many primary school classes as possible on board in the coming four years, to make football a school of life in the very best sense of the term.

● Anton Banzer



Courses for futsal referees

The Lithuanian Football Federation, together with its referees department, has been running courses for local futsal referees. It is the first time that such courses – combining theory and practice – have been organised in Lithuania.

Lectures and practical exercises were conducted by FIFA lecturer Massimo Cumbo from Italy, who has 22 years of futsal refereeing experience. He retired as a futsal referee two years ago, having had the honour during his career to referee at two Futsal World Cups and four UEFA European Futsal Championship final tournaments. He also officiated at eight UEFA Futsal Cup finals.

The participating local futsal referees had many different practical and theoretical sessions. They were put through various



The futsal refereeing course

physical exercises, and simulated and solved match situations from a refereeing perspective, followed by an instructor who evaluated the work of each referee.

During the course, the futsal referees received a lot of useful information and understanding of how to behave in a given situation (futsal has a lot of nuances). Now the referees will be able to share this information with teams, which will hopefully facilitate the work of futsal referees.

"In my opinion, this course was very successful and productive. I am delighted that the Lithuanian FA wanted to carry out these

courses, as they will be of huge benefit not only to the referees, but to futsal as a whole in Lithuania. The local referees were really keen to learn and it was great to work with them. They had a lot of questions and I hope that after this week they will be much more confident on the pitch and will be able to display even better refereeing," Massimo Cumbo said at the end of the course.

According to the referees department, courses for futsal referees need to be organised each year in continual stages.

The new futsal season is about to start, giving the referees the opportunity to put their new knowledge and skills into practice.

● Vaiva Zizaitė



Milestone for Malta's top goalscorer

Malta's return match against the Czech Republic in Group B of the qualifying round for the FIFA World Cup at the Ta' Qali National Stadium on 11 October was a milestone in Michael Mifsud's career, as it was his 100th game for his country. That meant that he joined David Carabott, Gilbert Agius, Carmel Busuttill and Joe Brincat in Malta's elite 100-cap club.

The prolific forward, who currently plays for Melbourne Heart FC in Australia, is Malta's leading international goalscorer with 38 goals – the 38th having been scored in that match against the Czech Republic, which the Czechs won 4-1.

Every time Mifsud sets foot on the pitch people expect him to add to his record tally, which already puts him up alongside some

other well-known top goalscorers. England's Wayne Rooney springs to mind. Incidentally, the goal that the Manchester United FC forward netted against Poland on 15 October was his 38th strike for England.

These figures are remarkable if we bear in mind the tight defences that modern-day forwards face. Moreover, it should be noted that Mifsud plays for a small country which invariably finds it difficult to score against the opposing back lines of stronger countries.

Mifsud's average of 0.38 goals a match – more than one goal every three games – compares very well with the international averages of great goalscorers currently playing for other countries.

His career, which started with Sliema Wanderers FC, his home town club, has also taken him to 1. FC Kaiserslautern in Germany, Coventry City FC in England, Lillestrøm SK in



The president of the Maltese FA, Norman Darmanin Demajo, congratulates Michael Mifsud on his 100th national team cap

Norway and Valletta FC in Malta, as well as his current club Melbourne Heart.

All Maltese people – and especially followers of football – will certainly hope for more goals from this player. That would move him closer to the 40 goals mark and a place among the top current international goalscorers.

● Alex Vella



Chisinau veterans win FA of Moldova Cup

The Real-Succes stadium in Chisinau and the national team technical centre in Vadul-lui-Voda recently hosted the seventh edition of the FA of Moldova Cup, an international tournament for veterans. Four veteran teams from Constanta (Romania), Pinsk (Belarus), Reni (Ukraine) and Chisinau (Moldova) took part in the tournament, which was held in an atmosphere of fair play and friendliness, as the organisers, the Football Association of Moldova had intended. In the first semi-final, Chisinau beat Pinsk 4-1 with goals from Ion Testemitanu, Vasile Rosioru, Dan Oprea and Pavel Cebanu for the Moldovan team and from Viachaslau Mikhalkhanka scoring for the opponents. In the other semi-final, Constanta beat Reni 6-1. Florin Anghel (2), Rafael Dodu, Florin Sararu, Dumitru Darlaiani and Adrian Scutaru scored for the Romanian team and Grigori Puftienko for the Ukrainians. In the match for third place, Pinsk beat Reni 3-0, with Viachaslau Mikhalkhanka scoring a hat-trick which made him the top

scorer of the tournament. The eventual winners of the cup were the team from Chisinau, who beat Constanta 2-1 in the final. Chisinau opened the scoring in the 33rd minute, with a goal from Viorel Bodiu. In the second half, Dumitru Darlaiani made it 1-1, but the president of the Football Association of Moldova, Pavel Cebanu, scored the winner in the 58th minute.

At the awards ceremony, the well-earned trophies and gifts were presented by Dragos Hincu, deputy minister for youth and sport,

Vladimir Tincler, one of the oldest Moldovan veterans, and Iurie Conusevici, head of the national football veterans' association. *"This is a great tournament for developing veterans' football. I was pleased by the level of organisation and the atmosphere at the stadium,"* said the deputy minister for youth and sport, Dragos Hincu.

Previous winners of the tournament are Chisinau (2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2008) and Pinsk from Belarus (2010).

● Press office



The four participating teams together for a souvenir photo

Football and mental health

The power of football can have a positive impact on your mental health – that is former Northern Ireland and Manchester United FC player Pat McGibbon's message to the local football fraternity.

McGibbon, who was capped seven times, was speaking at the IFA's Tackling Mental Health through Football conference at the Farset International Centre in Belfast on Wednesday 9 October 2013.

The former Northern Ireland international, who tragically lost his brother to suicide in 1993, talked openly about his own experience of mental illness from his time playing and coaching football. He said: *"I hope that by talking about my experiences of mental illness and coping with the loss of my older brother to suicide, I can help break down barriers for footballers burdened with mental health issues."*

"Anything that helps bring the subject of mental health out into the open is a positive step forward, and this conference has demonstrated how football can make a lasting impact in helping raise awareness of the seriousness of mental health issues."

The Tackling Mental Health through Football conference used football as a tool to educate players, coaches and managers about mental health issues associated with stress, anxiety and depression. It aimed to raise awareness of the threat of suicide and self-harm, the symptoms and early warning signs of mental illness, and methods of intervention and prevention.



From left to right: Geoff Wilson (IFA), ministers Caral Ni Chuilin and Edwin Poots, and Dr Eddie Rooney from the public health agency

It was attended by over 100 players, coaches and managers, and the speakers included Caral Ni Chuilin, sports minister, Edwin Poots, health minister, and Dr Eddie Rooney, from Northern Ireland's public health agency.

Mental illness is a part of everyday life, with one in four people in Northern Ireland experiencing mental health problems, but it is often treated as a taboo subject.

This conference aimed to break down that barrier and use the power of football to educate players, coaches and managers at all levels of the local game about the importance of tackling this issue.

The conference was funded by the department of culture, arts and leisure through its programme Promoting Equality, Tackling Poverty and Social Exclusion through Sport, and by Northern Ireland's public health agency.

Follow the IFA on Twitter (@Officialirishfa) to keep up to date with other health events and conferences.

● Geoff Wilson

Irish domestic season ends on a high note

St Patrick's Athletic were crowned the Republic of Ireland's league champions for the first time in 14 years after an exciting campaign came to a close.

The Dublin side, who have impressed on the UEFA Europa League stage in recent years, were the standout performers over the course of the season and produced some excellent football under manager Liam Buckley.

St Pat's, as they are known to their supporters, finished ahead of surprise packets Dundalk and last year's champions Sligo Rovers. They were the most consistent side and produced many spectacular goals, with the scoring responsibilities spread right across the team – midfielder Killian Brennan, Conan Byrne and Chris Forrester all chipped in with a number of goals to complement strikers Anto Flood and Christy Fagan.

In the FAI Cup, Sligo Rovers progressed to meet Drogheda United at the Dublin Arena on 3 November. In a unique venture this year, the association opted to hold the FAI women's senior cup final between holders Raheny United and Castlebar Celtic also at the national stadium on the same day as the men's final.

Raheny have emerged as a major power in women's football in Ireland and won the domestic league and cup double last season. Interest in women's football in Ireland received



St Patrick's Athletic celebrate winning the league

a major boost in October when Peamount United striker Stephanie Roche had a stunning women's national league goal against Wexford Youths seen by more than one million people on YouTube.

Meanwhile, a stakeholders' conference of the Football Association of Ireland (FAI) was held before Ireland's final FIFA World Cup qualifying round fixture, against Kazakhstan, at the national stadium on 15 October, with representatives of UEFA, the police, government agencies, local authorities and other interest groups all represented. The purpose of the conference was to outline how FAI projects impact on society in Ireland through many diverse programmes, including social inclusion, intercultural activities and many other projects.

● Stephen Finn

First ever national powerchair league

Powerchair football had no formal league structure in Scotland until this competition began at the Ravenscraig Regional Sports Facility on Sunday 22 September. Until then, teams from Clyde FC had battled it out for the Scottish Cup, which was first contested last November at Kelvin Hall in Glasgow.

Now six teams, including representatives of the Central Belt and Tayside, will meet for five rounds of matches. More teams are expected to join the league next year.

Powerchair football consists of two teams of four using powerchairs equipped with footguards to attack, defend and spin-kick a 13-inch football in an attempt to score goals. The sport began in France in the 1970s and has since spread around Europe and the rest of the world. It is recognised by the International Paralympic Committee, but has yet to be represented at the Paralympics.

Each chair is set at a speed of 6km per hour, meaning that no player has an advantage, so players must rely on skilful manoeuvring and quick reaction times to gain an edge.

Clyde FC are powerchair football pioneers in Scotland. Two years ago they linked up with Active Schools Glasgow in an attempt to expand their disability football section. Now there are 27 registered players at the club, with five teams competing in the new league.

Stuart Atchison, an Active Schools coordinator and a coach with Clyde Alba, who are taking part in the new league, said: *"It's fantastic we now have this new competitive league in operation. A lot of work has been done by David McCardle at the Scottish FA to get us to this stage today. There's a high level of skill to this. The amazing thing is that it does look like football when you see it being played."*

16-year-old Keiron Burns, who plays for Clyde Caledonian, scored a hat-trick in last year's Scottish Cup final. He said he was relishing the prospect of a series of competitive league matches. *"I've been playing since the sport started in Scotland,"* he said. *"It's very exciting that we finally have a league up and running now. We're in it to win it, and I'm looking forward to some tough matches."*

The Scottish Football Association's disability development officer, David McCardle, has been instrumental in founding the new league. He said: *"I'm delighted we are now at the stage of having a national league in Scotland for powerchair football. There has been a real demand for it in the last couple of years."*

"It's great to see this new football opportunity being created with the fantastic support from the coaches of the teams. I'm looking forward to seeing who makes history and wins the league for the first time."

● Andrew Harris



A national league for powerchair football



Special occasion for special children

In an exciting game, Sweden lost their final World Cup qualifier 5-3 at home against Germany. However, for some of those present, the highlight of the evening occurred before kick-off – 11 of the player escorts for the match were children with Williams Syndrome, a rare neuro-developmental disorder.

In the tunnel before the game, the players of both teams, as well as the referees, showed that there is a place for everyone in football and took particular care of their mascots to ensure it was a memorable occasion for them.

“Children with Williams Syndrome often feel like outsiders, so to be the centre of attention like this is an incredible experience for them. I hope more special children can escort the players at future international games,” said Lina Kippel, mother of one of the player escorts.

Afterwards, Sweden’s Kim Källström was singled out for praise by the father of eight-year-old Max. Max became distressed by the loudness of the event, but Källström helped to comfort and calm Max so he could fulfil his role as player escort.

“Because of your actions, Kim, my son, could experience precisely the same emotions as everyone else who has been a mascot: pride,



Lo Kippel proudly accompanies Mikael Antonsson (No3) onto the pitch

a sense of being special, 'I did it', and an immense joy,” wrote the proud father in a letter to Källström.

● *Andreas Nilsson*



Training centre moves to Biel/Bienne

After nine years in Huttwil, the girls at the Swiss Football Association’s training centre have packed their bags and hit the road, leaving the familiar surroundings of Huttwil behind and heading out into the unknown to make a fresh start in the town of Biel/Bienne.

Until the new football stadium in Biel/Bienne has been built, these talented young girls will be housed elsewhere in the town. The federal ministry for sport has arranged for the Swiss Football Association to use the facilities at the old armoury in the district of Champagne.

The search for guest families where the girls could live began back in February. Following the publication of an article in the local newspaper, the Bieler Tagblatt, a total of 29 families living within 30 minutes of the training centre by bicycle or public transport offered to help. Sixteen were selected, and the girls now live with those families during the week.

In terms of schooling, the French-speaking girls are attending the Collège secondaire des Platanes, while the German-speaking girls and those from French-speaking Switzerland who went to school in Huttwil are attending the Rittermatte school. The girls have settled in very well in Biel/Bienne, training a total of six times a week and playing for their home clubs at the weekend.

The team of the training centre is composed as follows: Martina Voss-Tecklenburg (director of the CSFA Biel/Bienne and coach), Brigitte Steiner (co-director of the CSFA Biel/Bienne, school coordinator and coach), Bénédicte Plüss (support for players and guest families), Simon Steiner (coach), Michele Fraschina (goalkeeping coach), Valérie Wüthrich (physiotherapist), Gaby und Christian Aebbersold (doctors), Esther Müller (mental coaching and personal development), Marlies Zuber (vocational and training advice), Bruno Truffer (deputy coach).

● *Pierre Benoit*



Martina Voss-Tecklenburg, director of the women’s football academy

Getty Images



Football without hate and discrimination

On 23 October, a conference on “football without hate and discrimination” was held at the headquarters of the Football Federation of Ukraine (FFU) within the context of the Football against Racism in Europe declaration adopted unanimously by the UEFA Congress in May in London. The event was organised by the FFU and the East European Development



Anti-racism conference in Kyiv

Institute with partners from FIFA, UEFA, the Ukrainian Premier League, Ukraine’s professional football league and FARE (Football Against Racism in Europe).

The conference was opened by the FFU’s first vice-president, Serhiy Storozhenko, who noted the importance of this exceptional meeting against hate and discrimination in football:

“The FFU has taken important decisions that opened the way to work against racism and discrimination in football. The FFU fully supports the universal values that exist in the world – tolerance and mutual respect. We do not accept any violence in football, and sport in general. We are ready for cooperation with all, and, in particular, with FARE.”

Participants discussed the importance of tolerance and shared experiences of challenging intolerance in football stadiums. At the end of the conference, they adopted a resolution entitled Football without Hate and Discrimination and decided on the main objectives of preventing discrimination in football.

● *Yuriy Maznychenko*



Remembering those who served

The Football Association of Wales will be making a donation to the appeal for a Welsh memorial in Flanders to honour those who fought and died during the first world war.

During the 1914–18 conflict, thousands of Welsh troops fought in France and the Flanders region of Belgium, and an appeal has been set up to build a permanent memorial to them in Flanders.

Welsh footballers, both club players and internationals, played their part in the war, and some paid the ultimate sacrifice in France and Flanders. Among those on the roll of honour are Leigh Roose MM, Fred Griffiths, George Griffiths, George Williams, James Williams and Arnold Dargie. Others lost their lives at sea and in other theatres of the war.

Some players were decorated for their gallantry: George Latham (Military Cross), Stan Davies (Military Medal and Croix de Guerre), Morgan Morgan Owen (Distinguished Service



George Latham, an international decorated for his gallantry during the first world war

Order), Harold Beadles (Serbian Gold Medal) and Bob Mills-Roberts (Companion of St. Michael and St George). Another, who was wounded in action, was Cardiff City and Wales captain Fred Keenor.

As we approach the centenary of the outbreak of the first world war, the Football Association of Wales is honoured to pay tribute to all Welshmen who served.

● *Ceri Stennett*

BIRTHDAYS

John Ferry (Northern Ireland, 1 December)
 Željko Širić (Croatia, 1 December)
 Sergei Roumas (Belarus, 1 December)
 David Griffiths (Wales, 2 December)
 Charles Agius (Malta, 2 December)
 Ligita Ziedone (Latvia, 2 December)
 Sean Dipple (England, 3 December)
 Juan Antonio Fernandez Marin (Spain, 3 December)
 Gylfi Thor Orrason (Iceland, 3 December)
 Sayan Khamitshanov (Kazakhstan, 3 December)
 Josipa Flam (Croatia, 3 December)
 Miroslav Liba (Czech Republic, 4 December)
 Ioannis Farfarellis (Greece, 4,12)
 Ján Kováčik (Slovakia, 4 December)
 Georg Lüchinger (Liechtenstein, 4 December)
Maurizio Montironi (San Marino, 5 December) ☆☆☆ 60th
 Leszek Ryłski (Poland, 6 December)
 Antonio Manuel Almeida Costa (Portugal, 6 December)
Petar Miloshevski (FYR Macedonia, 6 December) ☆☆☆ 40th
 Andreas Akkelides (Cyprus, 7 December)
 Raymond Ellingham (Wales, 7 December)
 Raili Ellermaa (Estonia, 7 December)
Andrea Manzella (Italy, 8 December) ☆☆☆ 80th
 Michel D'Hooghe (Belgium, 8 December)
 Vitaly Mutko (Russia, 8 December)
 Tim Meyer (Germany, 8 December)
 Konstantin Sonin (Russia, 8 December)
 Les Reed (England, 9 December)
 Dušan Bajević (Bosnia and Herzegovina, 10 December)
 Leif Lindberg (Sweden, 10 December)
 Christian Andreassen (Faroe Islands, 10 December)
 Alain Hamer (Luxembourg, 10 December)
 Trefor Hughes (Wales, 11 December)
Avi Levi (Israel, 11 December) ☆☆☆ 50th
 Ilcho Gjorgjioski (FYR Macedonia, 11 December)
 Alvaro Albino (Portugal, 12 December)
 Kaj Natri (Finland, 13 December)
 Stefan Messner (Austria, 13 December)
 Gilberto Madaíl (Portugal, 14 December)
 Antonio Mortagua (Portugal, 14 December)
 Ged Poynton (England, 15 December)
 Steve Stride (England, 16 December)
 Karel Vertongen (Belgium, 17 December)
 Bobby Barnes (England, 17 December)
 Michael Riley (England, 17 December)
 Artan Hajdari (Albania, 17 December)
 Gennady Lisenchuk (Ukraine, 18 December)
 Guntis Indriksons (Latvia, 18 December)
 Niklas à Lidarenda (Faroe Islands, 18 December)
 Rainer Koch (Germany, 18 December)
 Ludvík Georgsson (Iceland, 19 December)
 Harri Talonen (Finland, 19 December)
 David Casserly (Republic of Ireland, 19 December)
 José Nebot (Spain, 20 December)
 Edgars Pukinskis (Latvia, 20 December)
 William Young (Scotland, 21 December)
 Bjarne Berntsen (Norway, 21 December)

Henrique Jones (Portugal, 22 December)
 Olzhas Abracev (Kazakhstan, 22 December)
 Josef Geisler (Austria, 23 December)
 Pia Hess (Germany, 23 December)
 Laszlo Vagner (Hungary, 24 December)
 Irina Mirt (Romania, 24 December)
 Noël Le Graët (France, 25 December)
 Patriu Abrudan (Romania, 25 December)
 Guy Goethals (Belgium, 26 December)
 Servet Yardimci (Turkey, 26 December)
 Rudolf Repka (Czech Republic, 26 December)
 Bernhard Heusler (Switzerland, 27 December)
 Nils Fisketjonn (Norway, 27 December)
 Dušan Tittel (Slovakia, 27 December)
 Krisztina Varga (Hungary, 27 December)
 Bernard Carrel (Switzerland, 28 December)
 Martial Saugy (Switzerland, 28 December)
 Otakar Mestek (Czech Republic, 28 December)
Einar Halle (Norway, 29 December) ☆☆☆ 70th
 Evangelos Mazarakis (Greece, 29 December)
 Dagmar Damková (Czech Republic, 29 December)
 Berti Vogts (Germany, 30 December)
 Wolfgang Thierriechter (Austria, 30 December)
 Jean Fournet-Fayard (France, 31 December)
 Horst Brummeier (Austria, 31 December)
 Christian Moroge (Switzerland, 31 December)
 David Findlay (Scotland, 31 December)
 Jens Larsen (Denmark, 31 December)
 Liene Kozlovskā (Latvia, 31 December)

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Meetings

3 December, Nyon
 Futsal and Beach Soccer Committee

6 December, Brazil
 FIFA World Cup: final draw

12 December, Bilbao
 Executive Committee

16 December, Nyon
 UEFA Champions League:
 draw for the round of 16
 UEFA Europa League:
 draws for the rounds of 32 and 16

Competitions

26 November-8 December, England
 European Women's Under-17
 Championship final tournament

10/11 December
 UEFA Champions League:
 group matches (matchday 6)

11-21 December, Morocco
 FIFA Club World Cup

12 December
 UEFA Europa League:
 group matches (matchday 6)

NOTICES

- Victor Manuel Domingos Dos Santos was elected president of the Andorran Football Federation on 9 October.
- On 25 October, Wolfgang Niersbach was re-elected president of the German Football Federation for three years.

MATCH AGENTS

New UEFA match agent licences have been awarded to:

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In addition, **João Manuel Peres Martins** (Portugal), **Wolfgang Zapfe** (Germany) and **Edward van Holk** (Netherlands) have had their licences renewed.



NO TO RACISM



RESPECT