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## IN THIS ISSUE

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### Cover:

*Sweden's Tyresö FF, in  
yellow, beat England's  
Birmingham City in the  
UEFA Women's Champions  
League semi-finals to  
secure their place against  
VfL Wolfsburg of Germany  
in the final in Lisbon on  
22 May. Women's football  
is also in the spotlight  
off the pitch, with the  
first seminar in the UEFA  
Women in Football  
Leadership Programme  
held in Nyon at the end  
of April.*

Photo: Getty Images

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The House of European Football has hosted the first seminar in the new UEFA Women in Football Leadership Programme.



Getty Images

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Getty Images

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Getty Images

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## COMMUNICATION AND COOPERATION

The House of European Football recently played host to the first working group on the fight against match-fixing – an important milestone, because the meeting truly opened the way for effective communication and cooperation between football authorities and law enforcement.

UEFA's approach towards match-fixing is well documented. As a governing body, we use the means at our disposal, be it through detection, education or prevention, in order to protect our competitions, our sport and our players and officials. This is our role, and we will remain true to our convictions to eradicate the scourge of match-fixing from football.

The recent Ordinary UEFA Congress provided the football family with the opportunity to reinforce that position across the continent, and to demonstrate that European football is united for the integrity of the game. It was a challenge that our 54 member associations accepted, through their unanimous adoption of an 11-point resolution aimed at tackling match-fixing and corruption.

We expect these words to lead to meaningful action, now that the whole European football family is on the same page. In accordance with the resolution, we all commit to working together and exchanging information and expertise with state authorities in order to win the fight against match-fixing, and we all emphasise the importance of ensuring that 'sporting fraud' be recognised as a specific criminal offence under national law.

The subsequent meeting in Nyon, involving ministers, legislators, regulators, prosecutors, prominent police figures, Europol and gambling authorities, provided UEFA with the opportunity to transmit European football's message. We were able to present many of the match-fixing cases where UEFA has achieved a successful prosecution precisely because of cooperation with police and prosecutors. These contacts have reaffirmed that the nature of the crime of match-fixing means that it is very difficult to establish

sufficient proof – and that sports organisations have considerably fewer investigatory powers and resources than legal authorities.

UEFA and its member associations are fully aware that football authorities are not equipped to solve the problem of match-fixing on their own. It is only by working together with government authorities and law enforcement agencies that we can eliminate this problem once and for all.

We know we need support, and this is why – through the new working group – we are committed to building and maintaining a communications network with law enforcement agencies and related stakeholders across Europe that can provide support for investigations and cooperation with the relevant authorities. It was refreshing to hear that, across the spectrum, there is a strong desire to realise this ambition.

We are determined that this menace must gain no foothold in our sport. We strongly believe that through more efficient communication and reinforced cooperation, UEFA, state authorities and law enforcement agencies can counter the match-fixing threat. The message from the Ordinary UEFA Congress was clear: the future of football is in our hands.

**Gianni Infantino**  
UEFA General Secretary

## PAVING THE WAY FOR WOMEN

Women's football is taking massive strides forward, and UEFA is responding to calls for greater participation by women in European football's decision-making by launching the UEFA Women in Football Leadership Programme (WFLP). The inaugural seminar in this ambitious project took place from 28 April to 2 May – and the European Commissioner responsible for sport, Androulla Vassiliou, came to the House of European Football to learn more about an initiative that she supports unequivocally.

The WFLP follows a consultation process which gained impetus at a UEFA women's football development workshop in Stockholm last year. The programme looks to identify potential women leaders and help them develop their skills. Women already in leadership positions will be offered extra support in their roles.

More women are now in football leadership roles. For example, Karen Espelund from Norway is now a full member of the UEFA Executive Committee. However, very few women occupy national association leadership roles. The WFLP hopes to speed up the development process within Europe's national associations.

The inaugural seminar was a resounding success. The participants – women in various association positions – were given crucial guidance about the "tools" required, both personally and professionally, to succeed in management roles. Men and women leaders from inside and outside football also took part and have agreed to act as mentors, giving advice and exchanging experiences with the participants.

### Greater focus on gender equality in sport

One of the highlights of the week was the visit of Mrs Vassiliou, who has set an outstanding example of how women can succeed at the highest levels. "This initiative comes at the right time," she said in a keynote speech, "when clearly there is a greater focus on gender equality in sport."

Mrs Vassiliou was welcomed to UEFA by the UEFA President, Michel Platini, and the two discussed the UEFA initiative as well as the European Commission's tireless work for gender equality. "This UEFA programme needs to be

*promoted in different ways," Mrs Vassiliou explained, "and this seminar is very important, because you have to prepare women to take leadership positions. It doesn't just come naturally. They need to be instructed and given practical leadership advice."*

### Still some challenges to overcome

Why have fewer women tended to occupy leadership roles in football? "I think it's a combination of factors," Mrs Vassiliou reflected. "The traditional concept was that football was not for girls or women, but I think that this is dying out. There is still work to be done in some countries – women in politics has become an accepted norm in certain countries, but we still have to fight in others. The same applies to women in football. So we face some challenges. I think that there are also stereotypes that have been created over centuries – that women are not for leadership positions, or cannot become coaches, and so on."

Mrs Vassiliou explained that, as a woman, she had faced her own challenges to make her professional way. "On many occasions," she admitted, "I found that something which was normally accepted without question regarding men was not the same with regard to women. I entered the legal profession in Cyprus at a time when it was male-dominated and I had to fight a lot of prejudices and discrimination. So I did pave the way through my career to open up new avenues for women..."

UEFA is grateful that Europe's commissioner for sport is so wholeheartedly supportive of a programme that will doubtless help shape the European football landscape of the future. ●

The UEFA President, Michel Platini, with the programme participants, including Androulla Vassiliou, European Commissioner for sport (on his left), and UEFA Executive Committee member Karen Espelund (on his right)



# NORWAY SETS THE EXAMPLE

With half of its management board female, the Football Association of Norway (NFF) is setting an outstanding example of how women can progress to leadership positions in the game.

The recent election of Mina Gerhardsen and Turid Storhaug to an NFF management board which already included vice-president Mette Christiansen and Eli Arnstad means that half of the members of the eight-strong body are now women. *“That is fantastic news, and it reflects how highly we place women’s football, both at the top level and among the masses,”* says the NFF president, Yngve Hallén.

The NFF had a female general secretary for ten years in the person of Karen Espelund, who subsequently has become the first woman to serve as a full member of the UEFA Executive Committee. The latest appointments to the board have strengthened the NFF by bringing in women with a range of different backgrounds and skill sets.

A high-ranking official in the Norwegian Labour Party, Gerhardsen – her grandfather Einar Gerhardsen was Norway’s prime minister for three terms between 1945 and 1965 – made her name in politics. Storhaug, meanwhile, was a



Audun Braastad / NTB Scanpix

free-scoring forward for Klepp IL and Norway, who pursued a successful career as an engineer in an oil-related business.

Gender equality is a major priority in Norway, where the prime minister (Erna Solberg), the finance minister (Siv Jensen), the trade union confederation leader (Gerd Kristiansen) and the director of the leading employers’ association (Kristin Skogen Lund) are all women. Since 2006, all companies listed on the Oslo stock exchange have been obliged by law to have at least 40% of seats on their board occupied by women. ●

*The NFF board.  
Back row (left to right):  
Turid Storhaug, Hans  
Olav Karde, Mina  
Gerhardsen, Eli Arnstad  
and Kjartan Berland.  
Front row (left to right):  
Mette Christiansen (vice-  
president), NFF president  
Yngve Hallén and Bjarne  
Berntsen (vice-president)*

## “IT IS PART OF OUR CULTURE...”

**Karen Espelund** was general secretary of the Norwegian Football Association from 1999 to 2009 and is the first female member of the UEFA Executive Committee.



Getty Images

*Why has Norway set such an example of women in leading football positions?*

I think there was acceptance that women’s football was moving forward in the country. The association had accepted women’s football back in 1976, and by 1987 we had won our first European title. In Norway, grassroots football is based on parents’ involvement to a high degree, and we have also seen that more and more mothers are joining football in all positions. The association felt that the time was right to have more women in management positions. In 1990, the national sports federation also stipulated that every sports body had to have a quota of a minimum of two women if the board consisted of four or more members.

*What sort of benefits did the introduction of more women to management positions bring to the NFF?*

If you ask the former president, Per Ravn Omdal, he would tell you that when women came into our governing bodies, the organisation changed totally, and for the better. Because the culture changed internally – the way everyone spoke to each other, the way everyone behaved, and the women were also younger and brought fresh attitudes.

*Were there catalysts for this development elsewhere in Norwegian society?*

Norway’s first female prime minister, in 1981, was Gro Harlem Brundtland. When she appointed her first government, it was extremely strong on female representation, and this continued in all governments after that. So she set the standards. Now, everyone accepts women in management roles; it is part of our culture, as well as being anchored in Norway’s legal framework.

*Can you see other associations following Norway’s example?*

There are different approaches across Europe, but I feel that we will see more women joining associations’ executive committees in the next few years. ●

## THE AMERICAN CURSE

How do you explain the unfortunate fact that Europe has never managed to lift the Jules Rimet trophy in America, despite European sides reaching the final of five of the seven World Cups held on the far side of the Atlantic to date – six in South America plus the 1994 edition in the United States? Why has history repeated itself so consistently? Here are perhaps some of the reasons.

### Uruguay 1930: lack of preparation to blame

Most European countries missed the inaugural World Cup in 1930. Two months before the tournament kicked off, not a single European team had even entered. In the end, at Jules Rimet's insistence, France, Yugoslavia, Romania and Belgium – four of the 13 participating teams – boarded the ocean liners Conte Verde and MS Florida for the two-week voyage to Montevideo. They were hardly well-prepared. The French Football Federation had struggled to form a team because many employers had refused to release their employees for two months. *"We thought we were going to Uruguay for a big party, just to play in a tournament,"* recalled Frenchman Lucien Laurent (who died in 2005), scorer of the first ever World Cup goal with a volley into the top corner of the net. The best European side, Yugoslavia, were trounced 6-1 by Uruguay in the semi-finals. The hosts then beat the other favourites, Argentina, in the final (4-2).

### Brazil 1950: disasters to blame

In 1950, the Europeans, whose continent was only just beginning to recover from the second world war, were barely able to compete with hot favourites Brazil and outsiders Uruguay, who had won gold at the Olympic Games in Paris in 1924 and in Amsterdam in 1928, as well as the 1930 World Cup on home soil. This was partly due to the fact that the East European teams, even though they played excellent football, either could not afford to travel to America (Czechoslovakia, Hungary) or preferred to concentrate on the Olympic Games (USSR). Meanwhile, the 1938 winners, Italy, had been decimated by the Superga air disaster a year earlier, which had

deprived them of their stars from Torino AC. Despite their enormous potential, England, participating for the first time, were eliminated in the first round after two humiliating 1-0 defeats against the United States and Spain. In a format without a final, in which the title was awarded to the winners of a four-team group, Sweden and Spain were swept aside by Brazil (losing 7-1 and 6-1 respectively). The European WM system was clearly unable to withstand the class of Zizinho and Ademir. The Seleçao, who only needed a draw in the final match to be crowned champions, lost 2-1 to Uruguay in the Maracana.

### Chile 1962: Brazil to blame

Even though six European countries reached the quarter-finals (USSR, England, West Germany, Yugoslavia, Hungary and Czechoslovakia), Brazil retained the title they had won in 1958, beating the best European side, Czechoslovakia, 3-1 in the final. Josef Masopust, 1962 Ballon d'Or winner, told France Football: *"We could have won that match. We were the only team not to have conceded against Brazil in the first round (0-0). We even led 1-0 in the final, but Amarildo equalised two minutes later."* Images of the era focus in particular on the attacking talent of Zito, Didi, Garrincha and Vava, especially since this World Cup also symbolised the emergence of European defensive systems such as that used by the Czechs, who defended in numbers and hit their opponents on the counterattack. An average of only 2.78 goals were scored per match, compared with 3.6 in 1958. However, the Seleçao were experts at unlocking European defences.



1930: France's Edmond Delfour kept himself fit during the two-week crossing aboard the Conte Verde



1950: Sweden's captain Erik Nilsson swaps pennants with the captain of the eventual winners, Uruguay's Obdulio Varela



1962: Josef Masopust (left), European Footballer of the Year in 1962, could not stop Brazil from winning their second World Cup



1970: Exhausted after West Germany, Giacinto Facchetti to Carlos Alberto's Brazil

### Mexico 1970: tiredness to blame

A number of European powerhouses were missing as Spain, France, Hungary and Yugoslavia all failed to secure a place in Mexico. Czechoslovakia's elimination in the first round symbolised the decline of football in Central Europe. In the semi-finals, in one of the best matches of all time, Italy and their *catenaccio*, which was rather ineffective that day, defeated Gerd Müller's West Germany 4-3 after extra time. However, tiredness set in four days later against Pelé's Seleçao, who had only played 90 minutes against Uruguay (4-1).

### Argentina 1978: pressure to blame

All the European teams still in the running (West Germany, Austria, Italy and the Netherlands) found themselves in the same second-round group. The Netherlands reached the final, where they faced the hosts, who had scraped through at the expense of Brazil thanks to a 6-0 win over the remarkable Peruvians. However, the Dutch, in their second successive final, lost 3-1 to a fervent Argentinian side cheered on by their confetti-throwing supporters. The kick-off was delayed for 15 minutes after the referee was asked whether René van de Kerkhof could play with a plaster cast on his wrist. The Dutch were also kept waiting for two minutes in the infernal atmosphere of the Monumental stadium, with its 70,000 over-excited spectators, before their opponents appeared. Rensenbrink hit the post in stoppage time with the score at 1-1. Another opportunity missed.

### Mexico 1986: a genius to blame

Despite having five representatives (France, West Germany, England, Belgium and Spain) in the quarter-finals and three in the semi-finals, Europe once again left empty-handed. France did Argentina a favour by knocking out holders Italy in the round of 16 (2-0), followed by Brazil in a memorable quarter-final (1-1, 4-3 on penalties). The tired French were beaten by West Germany in the semi-finals (2-0). Meanwhile, two sudden bursts by Maradona enabled Argentina to overcome Belgium (2-0), unexpected outsiders in the Mexico tournament. The same Maradona

had previously been instrumental in his team's 2-1 quarter-final win over England. In the final, Argentina led 2-0 after 56 minutes. The Germans hung on and drew level with goals from Rummenigge and Völler before Burruchaga, latching onto a perfect through ball by Maradona, scored the winner in the 84th minute. Once again, the Europeans came within a whisker of lifting the trophy.

### USA 1994: bad luck to blame

Illustrating how difficult it was for European teams to qualify, England, France and even the European champions, Denmark, missed the boat for the United States, where seven European teams reached the quarter-finals and three (Italy, Sweden and Bulgaria) contested the semi-finals. However, the Squadra Azzurra's hopes disappeared with Roberto Baggio's missed penalty as the Italians were defeated in a disappointing final by Dunga's very defensive Brazil (0-0). The Seleçao only scored 11 goals in seven matches, the lowest ever total for a World Cup-winning team.

### Brazil 2014...

If they are to finally break the American hoodoo, the European teams will have to look to themselves first and foremost, after preparing meticulously and picking squads with the depth of talent necessary to stay on top of their game as the ultimate goal comes into sight. They will also have to contain the South American star who will inevitably leave his mark on the tournament – whether a four-time Ballon d'Or winner or another brilliant striker from the Premier League, la Liga, or even Ligue 1 – not to mention withstanding the incredible public pressure that awaits them in a country where football is king and where anything but a victory for Thiago Silva and his men would be seen as a disaster. In other words, the Europeans will need that extra bit of fighting spirit, as well as a touch of luck on their side, if they want to lift the trophy on 13 July. It is not going to be easy, that is for sure, but it is not impossible either. ●

*Baptiste Blanchet*



*their win against Facchetti's Italy yield*



*1978: A hugely disappointed Oranje after losing a second final in a row*



*1986: Germany's Karl-Heinz Förster and his team-mates were six minutes from extra time when Jorge Burruchaga scored the decider*



*1994: No team has come as close as Roberto Baggio's Italy to winning the World Cup on American soil*

## FRENCH IDEAS AND SPANISH VICTORIES

To celebrate UEFA's diamond jubilee, UEFA•direct continues its look back over six decades of memorable European football events. In this issue, we return to the 1950s, and the birth of two major European competitions...

*Real Madrid CF on a lap of honour with the trophy after their fifth successive European Champion Clubs' Cup triumph – a memorable 7-3 success against Eintracht Frankfurt in Glasgow in 1960*



The French newspaper L'Equipe, and especially editor Gabriel Hanot, a former player and national coach, and journalist Jacques Ferran, campaigned vigorously for a competition for club teams as the 1950s drew on. Their blueprint envisaged 16 clubs from 16 different countries – not necessarily champions at this time – playing ties on a home-and-away basis, with the team scoring the highest goal aggregate qualifying for the next round.

Deliberations with UEFA officials and club representatives led to the blueprint being accepted, an organising committee being set up, and FIFA approving the project in May 1955. Participating clubs needed the approval of their national associations, and another condition was that the competition should be held under UEFA's auspices. On 21 May 1955, the UEFA Executive Committee agreed to FIFA's conditions and called the competition the European Champion Clubs' Cup.

### Lisbon for a first

The first match took place at the National Stadium in Lisbon on 4 September 1955 – an entertaining 3-3 draw between Sporting Clube de Portugal and FK Partizan. The 16 entrants in this first edition included seven national champions: RSC Anderlecht, AGF Århus, Djurgårdens IF FF, AC Milan, Real Madrid CF, Stade de Reims Champagne and SC Rot-Weiss Essen.

Real Madrid had already tasted international success in the Latin Cup, which had pitted the Spanish champions against their French, Italian and Portuguese counterparts. Now, in a magical period, Madrid dominated the Champion Clubs' Cup, winning five straight titles until 1960. Driven on by the supreme talents of stars such as Ferenc Puskás, Alfredo Di Stéfano and Francisco Gento, few teams resisted their brilliance, crowned at the turn of the decade with a 7-3 success over Eintracht Frankfurt in front of 127,000 spectators at Hampden Park in Glasgow. *"There was this will to succeed, to be always in a leading role on and off the pitch,"* said Gento. *"And that made Real Madrid win so many titles back then – that desire and that joy."* *"Real Madrid were a great team,"* added Di Stéfano, dubbed La Saeta Rubia – The Blond Arrow – for his darting runs in attack, and twice European Footballer of the Year, in 1957 and 1959. *"There was no individual sense, it was a real group."*

A much-heralded player of the 1950s was the astute French forward Raymond Kopa. He played for Stade de Reims in the epic see-saw 1956 final, which saw Madrid triumph 4-3 in Paris... and then moved to Real. *"They were three fantastic years; we won three European Cups, two Spanish league titles and only lost one game at home in the whole period. We had the greats – Di Stéfano, Puskás, Gento. I was dazzled by Puskás. He had an incredible shot and at*

35 metres from goal he was an immediate threat. He was 31 when he arrived in Madrid, and overweight, but still top scorer in four Ligas. The atmosphere at games was fantastic – 125,000 spectators waving white handkerchiefs. If I had to rank the best teams in football history, I would not hesitate: first, Brazil 1970; second, our Real Madrid side.”

### Tragedy in Munich

One event brought great sadness to all who loved the game. On 6 February 1958, the aircraft bringing the Manchester United FC party home from the English side’s successful Champion Clubs’ Cup quarter-final tie against FK Crvena zvezda in Belgrade crashed on take-off after a stopover in Munich. Twenty-three people, including eight United players – Geoff Bent, Roger Byrne, Eddie Coleman, Duncan Edwards, Mark Jones, David Pegg, Tommy Taylor and Liam Whelan – lost their lives. The “Busby Babes”, named after United’s Scottish manager Matt Busby, looked set to challenge Madrid’s dominance when the tragedy happened. *“I think if the team had stayed together we would have won [the European title] in the year of the accident,”* said Sir Bobby Charlton, a survivor of the accident who went on to enjoy a magnificent career and lift the trophy ten years later. *“Real Madrid won it for the first five years, but we were never going to go backwards once we set off on this path, to be the best in Europe. Apart from Real Madrid at that particular time, really, we could play against anyone.”*

### The birth of the EURO

Alongside the Champion Clubs’ Cup, a European national team competition was born. A key driving force was the first UEFA general secretary, Frenchman Henri Delaunay, who had championed the idea as early as the late 1920s and who pursued his dream until his death in November 1955. UEFA honoured Henri Delaunay’s dream and kept its commitment to studying the potential for a national team competition.

Finally, in Stockholm in 1958, the decision was made to introduce the European Nations’ Cup, and 17 teams entered the competition’s first draw – the British associations, Italy and the

Federal Republic of Germany were absent. The trophy for the new competition was fittingly named the Henri Delaunay Cup in recognition of the Frenchman’s services to European football.

The Republic of Ireland lost to Czechoslovakia in a qualifying play-off (the two teams met after the drawing of lots). The first championship match proper was held on 28 September 1958 in Moscow’s Centralnyi Stadion – the USSR beating Hungary 3-1 in front of 100,572 fans, with the home side’s Anatoli Ilyin scoring the first goal after four minutes – and the inaugural competition took place between 1958 and 1960, in a home-and-away knockout format until the four-team final tournament, which was held in France.

Politics and sport were to collide. At the quarter-final stage, the Spanish government declined permission for Spain’s team to travel to the USSR, effectively handing the latter a bye into the final round. The final, at the Parc des Princes in Paris on 10 July 1960, saw the USSR defeat Yugoslavia 2-1 – courtesy of a fine display from another of the great stars of the time, goalkeeper Lev Yashin. *“There are matches and goals which are really special, sort of a climax to a player’s sporting life,”* said Viktor Ponedelnik, whose header gave his team the title. *“That was the star moment of my life.”*

In the mid-1950s FIFA asked UEFA to take over its International Youth Tournament, launched in 1948. UEFA made key changes to the tournament, and staged successful events in Spain (1957), Luxembourg (1958) and Bulgaria (1959). As is still the case, the youth tournaments proved from the outset to be a fascinating window through which to view many of the stars of the future.

Away from the pitch, the Delaunay family stayed at the UEFA helm. Following Henri Delaunay’s death, his son Pierre was appointed as general secretary in June 1956. At the end of the decade, UEFA moved home. After spending its early years in offices at the French Football Federation’s Paris headquarters, UEFA moved to the Swiss capital, Berne, at the start of 1960, with Switzerland’s Hans Bangerter appointed as general secretary. ●



The 1960 European Champion Clubs’ Cup final attracted some 127,000 spectators to Hampden Park, Glasgow

# BARCELONA RECLAIM TITLE IN BAKU

The 2013/14 UEFA Futsal Cup ended with FC Barcelona being crowned European club champions for the second time in three years. However, the fact that both of their matches went to extra time – and one to penalties – during the three-day final tournament in Baku indicates that this was no foregone conclusion.

When Araz Naxçıvan eliminated seeded Sporting Clube de Portugal in their November elite round group in Lisbon, the chance materialised to take the finals to Azerbaijan for the country's first such UEFA tournament. Araz would be welcoming the three other seeds, who had finished first, second and third at the preceding season's event in Georgia and who had then proceeded to dominate their elite round groups this time round – namely title holders Kairat Almaty, perennial contenders FC Dynamo and Barcelona, bronze medallists in Tbilisi who also pipped Dynamo to glory in Lleida in 2012.

Thus the Azeri capital continued the tradition of this competition – which was introduced in 2001/02 – exploring new ground, with Kazakhstan three years previously, followed by Georgia, having also been first-time UEFA tournament hosts in recent campaigns. The president of the Association of Football Federations of Azerbaijan (AFFA), Rovnag Abdullayev, embraced the challenge presented to his association, saying: *"I would like to thank UEFA for allowing the Azerbaijani capital to host the UEFA Futsal Cup finals, which represent another significant sporting milestone for our country. I am confident that the staging of this tournament will create a valuable legacy and serve as a great*

*foundation for the further development of futsal in Azerbaijan."*

Not that Araz themselves were total novices, the home club having come third in their one past final round appearance in Lisbon in 2010. Reinforced by spring signings such as Adriano Foglia, Kristjan Čujec and Aleksei Popov, Alesio's spirited side rose to the occasion from the second minute of their semi-final with Barcelona.

Rafael's early strike may have prompted a three-goal riposte from Barça – Igor, before the break, and Aicardo, twice after it, finding the target – yet Araz fought back through Fabiano and, with 16 seconds remaining, Foglia's last-gasp equaliser forced extra time. Another late leveller from the hosts' Amadeu, to cancel out Dyego's effort, then called for a shoot-out which Marc Carmona's team eventually won 4-2, with skipper Torras slotting home the clinching spot kick to break Araz hearts.

## The curse of the defending champion

Meanwhile the opening semi-final at the 2,200-seater Sarhadchi Olympic Sport Complex, also on 24 April, had been a reprise of the 2013 final, only here Dynamo avenged that 4-3 defeat in Tbilisi thanks to Fernandinho's 38th-minute decider against Kairat. Nando had fired the Muscovites in front after the interval before Danilo Baron responded for the Kazakh club. By cutting short Kairat's 12-month continental reign, Tino Pérez's men reached a competition-record sixth final, though they had won just one – against Interviú Madrid in 2007 – and, ominously, they had lost another to Barcelona.

For Kairat, the curse of the defending champion had struck again, with no side having retained the trophy since Playas de Castellón FS monopolised the first two editions in 2002 and 2003. *"Of course we are down, but I really believe we can claim back the title next year,"* ventured coach Cacau.

A total of 49 entrants from 48 nations had participated in the campaign in its entirety, from the preliminary round starting in August, through October's main round to the elite round in November. Now everything hinged on

*The Catalan's second title win makes for seven spanish victories in 13 editions of the competition*



Sportsfile

a meeting of two of the nine teams already confirmed in the UEFA Futsal Cup pantheon – two clubs that were representing its two most successful countries: Spain with six championship wins and Russia with two.

First, though, the raucous Sarhadchi crowd would be treated to the not-inconsiderable appetiser of Araz's third-place play-off victory over Kairat. Cacau's charges let slip the two-goal first-half lead given them by Danilo and Fumasa, following the sending-off of flying keeper Higuaita. After Amadeu and Foglia initially drew the hosts level, they had to conjure two further equalisers – through Foglia and Fabiano, in reply to Fumasa and Café – before their latest recovery act was completed by Augusto and Eduardo. The resulting 6-4 triumph was especially notable for the Foglia double which would make the Italian No 10 the tournament's top marksman with three goals. This was fitting recognition for a player named man of the match in both of Araz's games.

*"I'd like to dedicate this victory to Baku and to the people here in Azerbaijan – thanks for your support," Foglia said afterwards. "I really enjoyed it out there because it was a battle, it was about heart, and we gave everything again. Our sacrifice paid off in the end because we got third place. It doesn't matter that I scored – I didn't realise I was the top scorer – because what I wanted was to help us claim the bronze medal."*

The last-day drama on 26 April proved absolutely unrelenting. While Dynamo registered first in the well-attended final courtesy of defender Romulo, Barcelona hit back early in the second half through Gabriel – already a three-time champion, and soon to send a gripping contest into overtime. After the same player had rattled a Barça post moments into the additional period, the Catalan outfit broke away and Aicardo shot against the upright himself, though this time the ball popped up for Fernandão to head in.

### A tribute to Tito Vilanova

Dynamo's desperate deployment of a flying keeper as the clock ticked down merely enabled Barcelona to embellish the scoreline – extending it to a flattering 5-2 in the last 20 seconds of play as Sergio Lozano and keeper Paco Sedano both scored from inside their own half.

If this fifth final loss was hard for Pérez's team to take, the second win for Carmona and company from three successive final-round attempts allowed the travelling Blaugrana to pay tribute to their club's former football coach Tito Vilanova, who had passed away on the eve of the showpiece match.

*"We saw a great and a really intriguing game tonight, a worthy final," said Carmona, now in his tenth year at the helm. "We dedicate this victory to Tito Vilanova, who died yesterday, and to our fans. I cannot say we were far better than Dynamo. We got the better of them only in a few moments, although we missed a number of clear chances. Sometimes it was their keeper*



*who made the save, sometimes we just weren't lucky enough. I'm tremendously happy that we have won."*

Pérez, meanwhile, was dignified in defeat: *"Everybody saw that there's nothing to reproach us for. We fought really hard and were solid in all areas. There were many dead-ball situations we handled really well, and my team had so many dangerous shots on goal – but it just wasn't meant to be. The level is getting better and better each year, so it's increasingly difficult to win this tournament."*

Certainly, with two of the four games requiring extra time, and one penalties, amid a grand total of 28 goals scored, what was clear on the shores of the Caspian Sea was the sheer intensity of the competition between four well-matched sides. As the UEFA President, Michel Platini, observed in the tournament's official programme: *"The UEFA Futsal Cup is growing every year and, following a successful UEFA Futsal EURO, it is clear that the sport is going from strength to strength."* ●

*FC Barcelona had to wait until extra time to get the better of FC Dynamo*

## RESULTS

### 24 April

#### Semi-finals

Kairat Almaty – FC Dynamo 1-2

Araz Naxçıvan – FC Barcelona 4-4\*

*\*FC Barcelona win 4-2 on penalties*

### 26 April

#### Third-place play-off

Kairat Almaty – Araz Naxçıvan 4-6

#### Final

FC Dynamo – FC Barcelona 2-5 aet

## NEW MILESTONES FOR CORE

The UEFA Centre of Refereeing Excellence (CORE) in Nyon reached two important milestones with its course in March: its 500th participant and its 100th coach.

Launched in 2010, CORE is an invaluable element within the UEFA referee development programme. Young match officials who show promise are taken under UEFA's wing and given in-depth training, experience and advice which stands them in good stead as they advance along their career pathways.

*means that we've reached every country within UEFA, most of them three or four times, as well as some countries outside UEFA. Through CORE, [the referees] are much better prepared, they progress more quickly and their early matches are much more successful because they understand what is necessary for them to succeed, and they have a better knowledge of the requirements for international football."*

Each CORE course involves eight referee trios working with four referee coaches, two assistant referee coaches and two fitness coaches. The match officials gain invaluable international experience, being given the opportunity to officiate in domestic matches in Switzerland and France – thereby learning, for example, how to handle players who do not speak their language.

*"We have detailed discussions with the referees, we see them train and watch their matches, and we help them set targets – then we come back in October and we see what progress they have made,"* explains former FIFA World Cup and UEFA Champions League referee Rune Pedersen. *"CORE courses*

*give us time to work with the referees and share all of the challenges they have, and hopefully we can give to them the things that we have learned ourselves as referees."*

Iñaki Vicandi Garrido, from Bilbao, knew he wanted to be a referee at an early age, taking charge of break-time matches with his schoolmates. He joined the national categories at 18 and now referees in the Spanish second division. *"It's a really big challenge, which also carries responsibility at the same time,"* he says of the CORE course. *"I'll do my best. I realise that I'm lucky to be here, so I want to make the most of the course. I'm learning a lot from the coaches and from David [Elleray]."*

The impressive milestones reached prove that CORE is a resounding success in terms of preparing young referees and assistant referees, and there is no doubt that this particular course has become a benchmark for referee development throughout Europe. ●



Getty Images

*Iñaki Vicandi Garrido (left) and Rune Pedersen – proud to be part of the innovative CORE programme for budding young match officials on their pathway to the international stage*

Spanish referee Iñaki Vicandi Garrido, who is 28, was the 500th match official to take part in a CORE course, while Rune Pedersen, head of refereeing at the Football Association of Norway, was the 100th coach in attendance. Former referees and assistant referees help UEFA by putting their vast experience and expertise at the service of the next generation of match officials.

Every two years, national associations are invited to send to CORE a referee and two assistant referees who show potential to become FIFA officials. Under the leadership of former top-level referee and member of the UEFA Referees Committee David Elleray of England, all CORE courses comprise a ten-day introductory session, followed by an eight-day consolidation course a few months afterwards. Up to now, nearly 200 CORE "graduates" have made it onto FIFA's international list.

*"We're particularly happy that we've achieved these milestones,"* David Elleray says, *"because it*

## COACHING THE COACHES OF THE FUTURE

Two courses staged during April at the UEFA campus in Nyon brought down the curtain on the third season of UEFA's student exchange programme aimed at coaches studying for the UEFA Pro licence, which entitles them to coach at the top end of the game.

The four-day events bring together students from four different national associations with a view to adding an international dimension to their coach education and to encourage them to interact with contemporaries from different countries. The two courses in April involved some 160 students – many of them aiming at the highest levels of coaching after illustrious careers as players.

Ruud Dokter, high performance director at the Football Association of Ireland, who led the Republic of Ireland delegation at the first of the two events, commented: *"This was a fantastic experience in a good environment where the students had opportunities for networking and self-evaluation and could clearly see the need for constant further education in our profession."* And his opinion was roundly supported by the participants from Belarus, Croatia, Denmark, Northern Ireland, Poland, Romania and Scotland who also headed for Nyon in April.

If the two pilot courses staged at the end of the 2010/11 season are included, the events in April brought the total number of participating national associations to 43, of whom no fewer than 11 had twice sent groups of Pro licence students to Nyon. The programme for the student exchange courses has steadily evolved but the mix of presentations, interviews, match analysis and practical work on the training pitches at the UEFA campus has remained essentially unchanged, with the emphasis on challenging the students to reflect on the nature of the job and the way they want to attack it. The 'tutors' at the two courses in April were three coach education specialists from UEFA's Jira Panel (Nico Romeijn of the Netherlands, Denmark's Peter Rudbæk and England's Howard Wilkinson) in conjunction with UEFA's chief technical officer, Ioan Lupescu, and two UEFA technical instructors, Jacques Crevoisier of France and former Republic of Ireland international Packie Bonner, the latter specialised in the field of goalkeeper coaches.

### Good basis for practical sessions

The aim of the final courses of the 2013/14 season was to challenge the student coaches on core concepts such as creating team spirit or the phenomenon known as 'losing the dressing room'. Self-evaluation was one of the other key topics, including aspects such as the qualities required by the top coaches of today and tomorrow, crisis management, and the ability to communicate via the media.

The two courses coincided with quarter-final and semi-final matches in the two major UEFA club competitions – and this provided the basis for the practical sessions on the pitch. The students were given the task of analysing UEFA Champions League and UEFA Europa League teams, pinpointing their strengths and weaknesses, and then designing and executing training sessions based on their perception of how, for example, the FC Bayern München defence could best cope with the Real Madrid CF attack. These sessions were conducted on the afternoons prior to the matches, allowing the students a chance to see if their take on the teams matched up with the proceedings on the field of play.

As Romania's head of coach education, Dan Apolzan, commented: *"The courses are a unique experience, excellently organised in terms of intensity and content – and much appreciated by all the student coaches taking part."* The challenge for UEFA is now to set the bar even higher for the fourth season of student exchange courses, which will start in September. ●

*Practical sessions at the UEFA coach education student exchange courses are a vital component in helping the Pro licence coaches learn their trade*



## INTRODUCING POWERCHAIR FOOTBALL

As part of its Football for All Abilities portfolio, UEFA enjoys partnerships with a number of organisations which foster the use of football as a tool for broadening the inclusion of people of all abilities, as well as marginalised or excluded groups. The European Powerchair Football Association (EPFA) is one of six such organisations.

Powerchair football is a team sport for people who use wheelchairs. The game is played on basketball courts in gymnasiums and features two teams of four players, including goalkeepers. The players use powerchairs equipped with footguards. The maximum speed during a match is 10 kilometres per hour and the ball is an oversized football, measuring 33 centimetres in diameter.

*"Powerchair football started in France," the president of the EPFA, Nicolas Dubes, says. "The game developed because there wasn't another sport accessible to people who used electric wheelchairs. We saw that the game was being played in various forms worldwide, so an international structure came together. We now have an international federation, the FIPFA, as well as continental bodies and competitions." Two powerchair football World Cups have taken place – in Tokyo (2007) and Paris (2011) – and the third is scheduled for Rio de Janeiro in 2015.*

*As the FIPFA's European confederation, the EPFA is making excellent progress. "We currently have 14 member countries and there are national championships in the 'advanced' ones," says Dubes. "We would like to reach 25 members in the next few years."*

*Powerchair football has allowed many people to play sport and make friends*



*"The best club sides take part in a Champions Cup every couple of years, and we are staging the inaugural Nations Cup, featuring six national teams, in Limerick, Republic of Ireland, in July."*

*UEFA's assistance to the EPFA is crucial: "The support is decisive", says Dubes. "It gives us credibility and recognition. We are very grateful, as it is helping us to put long-term development plans in place."*

*Through their partnership, UEFA and the EPFA also promote social inclusion. "We're a family," says Dubes. "Powerchair football has permitted many young disabled people to play sport and meet other people. When they play powerchair football, they completely forget their disabilities." It is immensely rewarding for UEFA to find that its assistance, combined with the EPFA's diligence, is a source of such sporting pleasure. ●*

### **"I put 100 % into it"**

**Sandra Arar**, French international powerchair footballer

#### ***Sandra, when did you take up powerchair football?***

*I discovered football at the time of the 1998 World Cup in France. I became passionate about the game very rapidly and I started powerchair football at the age of 17. It was the only sport that I could play on account of my disability. I adore it; it's a team sport, linking mastery of a wheelchair with the skills of football.*

#### ***Did you ever think you would become an international player?***

*When I saw the [2011 powerchair] World Cup in France, I set myself the objective of being part of the national team. I hope to take part in the Nations Cup in Ireland, and the World Cup in Brazil next year. It's a challenge, as a sportswoman, to reach this level.*

#### ***What has been the most memorable moment in your career so far?***

*When my club, Nanterre, was promoted to Division One. I was also voted best player in Division Two. If I do something, I put 100% into it. It's satisfying when your efforts and commitment are rewarded. ●*

# ENTERING THE BIG STAGE

There was a real sense of occasion in Nyon this spring as the first UEFA Youth League drew to a close over a weekend of sun, entertainment and sprightly enthusiasm – both on and off the pitch.



FC Barcelona's U19s with the Lennart Johansson Trophy – another addition to the club's impressive collection

UEFA's newest competition had already made a positive impact ahead of the finals on 11 and 14 April. Players had thrived, coaches had been full of praise and, with several youngsters having already made the step up to the UEFA Champions League, the venture had held true to its goal of keeping development at its heart. There were high-quality games as well and, by the time of the quarter-finals, significant media interest. The winners among those last eight – FC Barcelona, SL Benfica, Real Madrid FC and FC Schalke 04 – headed to UEFA's headquarters for the climax.

## Pitch perfect

Preparations started early. The Real Madrid groundsman, Englishman Paul Burgess, was brought in to share his expertise in getting the Colovray pitch into perfect condition. On one of his pre-tournament visits to Nyon, he said: "The semi-finals will be the most demanding, with two games on the same day. And if there's some difficult weather, it could damage the pitch." As it turned out, he had no such worries as the whole week was blessed by almost unbroken sunshine.

The weather contributed to the party atmosphere and local schools played a key role in keeping it going, each adopting one of the teams as part of the School Challenge project. These 'designated supporters clubs', complete with organised fan activities, official balls and other sporting goods supplied by UEFA, resulted in friendly rivalry – and some singing competitions – between the different sets of fans.

The two semi-finals and the decider itself were sell-outs: 12,000 people came through the turnstiles in all, with gate receipts going to charity. Benfica fans were especially prevalent, and it was the Portuguese side who immediately gave their sizable following something to shout about.

They flew into a 3-0 lead within 17 minutes of their semi-final against Madrid, with the Spanish side reduced to ten men in the process. Running out eventual 4-0 winners, the Eagles could relax and watch on as Schalke and Barcelona took to the pitch in the second semi-final. A much tighter affair, it was decided by a second-half Munir El Haddadi goal, the competition's top scorer taking Barça into the inaugural final.

Young talent from Spain and Portugal on the pitch, yes, but the final also showcased local talent: the pre-game ceremony featured 55 children of UEFA staff and young performers from nearby dance schools. It was Barcelona who started fast this time, with Rodrigo Tarín sweeping in, and after Benfica missed the chance to draw level from the penalty spot, El Haddadi made it two. The striker wrapped up the title in the most spectacular of fashions, hitting the third from the halfway line with just a few minutes remaining.

It was a fitting way to end a weekend big on entertainment – and a season that had already started to deliver on the competition's aims of player development at club level – as the honorary UEFA president, Lennart Johansson, presented, for the first time, the trophy that bears his name. ●

## RESULTS

### 11 April

#### Semi-finals

Real Madrid CF – SL Benfica	0-4
FC Schalke 04 – FC Barcelona	0-1

### 14 April

#### Final

SL Benfica – FC Barcelona	0-3
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## IN GOOD COMPANY

Unsurprisingly, there was no shortage of youthful exuberance on show in Nyon – not least in the euphoric delight exhibited by the FC Barcelona squad after the final. Watching them closely from the stands were members of the 'Amicale des anciens', the circle of former, long-serving UEFA committee members. Almost 40 of them travelled to Nyon for a full day of activities, including presentations by the UEFA General Secretary, Gianni Infantino, on the European governing body's latest projects, a tour of the UEFA campus and dinner with the Youth League delegations after the final. If not quite a passing of the baton, the presence of such illustrious company surveying the latest generation of talent was a nod to both the game's rich history and its exciting future. ●



All eyes on the match

## DISCIPLINARY WORKSHOP IN ROME



On 20 and 21 March, the Italian capital was the setting for UEFA's sixth disciplinary workshop, which was hosted by the Italian Football Federation. The event was attended by members

of UEFA's two disciplinary bodies – the Control and Disciplinary Body and the Appeals Body. UEFA's disciplinary inspectors, who represent UEFA in proceedings before those two bodies, were also in attendance, as were representatives of the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) and Football Supporters Europe (FSE), which UEFA regards as an official partner for supporter-related issues. One of the primary aims of this biennial workshop is to bring together representatives of football's various branches to allow an exchange of views and ideas. The workshop in Rome covered a range of issues, including UEFA's disciplinary case law, CAS case law relating to UEFA, an overview of UEFA's disciplinary regulations, the disciplinary bodies' approach to match-fixing and racism, refereeing matters, and supporters' views regarding disciplinary matters. ●

## NINETEEN BIDS FOR UEFA EURO 2020

Last September, 32 member associations registered an interest in hosting matches as part of UEFA EURO 2020. When the deadline for bids expired on 25 April, 19 cities (representing 19 different member associations) had confirmed their applications to host matches in the tournament – which, to mark the 60th anniversary of its creation, will be staged in 13 different cities across Europe.

The associations/cities bidding for the standard package comprising three group matches and one knockout match are: Azerbaijan/Baku, Belarus/Minsk, Belgium/Brussels, Bulgaria/Sofia, Denmark/Copenhagen, England/London, Germany/Munich, Hungary/Budapest, Israel/Jerusalem, Italy/Rome, FYR of Macedonia/Skopje, Netherlands/Amsterdam, Republic of Ireland/Dublin, Romania/Bucharest, Russia/St Petersburg, Scotland/Glasgow, Spain/Bilbao, Sweden/Stockholm and Wales/Cardiff.

Germany/Munich and England/London also applied for the package comprising the final and the two semi-finals.

The UEFA Executive Committee will select the host cities at a meeting on 19 September in Geneva. ●

## UEFA EURO 2016 MATCH SCHEDULE UNVEILED



The match schedule for the final round of the 2014-16 European Football Championship was announced on 25 April following a meeting of the UEFA EURO 2016 steering group in Paris. At least four matches (three group matches and one knockout match) will take place in each of the host cities. As of the quarter-finals, matches will be played

in the stadiums with the largest capacities. The match schedule for UEFA EURO 2016 is available on UEFA.com. ●

## WOMEN'S U19 FINAL ROUND TAKES SHAPE



The seven teams joining hosts Norway in the final round of the European Women's Under-19 Championship from 15 to 27 July now know who they will be up against in the group stage. The teams were drawn into

two groups by UEFA Executive Committee member Karen Espelund and the two tournament ambassadors, Stig Inge Bjørnebye and Ingrid Stensland, in Oslo on 29 April. The hosts will play the Netherlands, Belgium and Scotland in Group A, while England, Sweden, the Republic of Ireland and Spain compete in Group B. The title holders, France, failed to qualify, as did six-time winners Germany. ●

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## CONCACAF AND UEFA CONCLUDE A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

In line with its policy of showing solidarity with world football's other continental confederations, UEFA has concluded a further memorandum of understanding this spring, shortly after signing one with the Confédération Africaine de Football (CAF).

The desire for solidarity at world level was unanimously confirmed when representatives of UEFA's 54 member associations assembled in Dubrovnik in Croatia in September for their strategy meeting. That desire is reflected in the role of Fernando Gomes, president of the Portuguese Football Federation, as special advisor to the UEFA Executive Committee with responsibility for relations with other confederations.

UEFA's newest partner is the Confederation of North, Central American and Caribbean Association Football (CONCACAF). On 5 April the UEFA President, Michel Platini, travelled to the Cayman Islands, where he and his CONCACAF counterpart, Jeffrey Webb, signed a memorandum of understanding aimed at strengthening cooperation between the two confederations.

The agreement will reinforce the mutual commitment to the development and expansion of football in the Caribbean region, while at the same time ensuring sustained administrative and operational cooperation between the two organisations. The agreement is the result of lengthy discussions between the leaders of the two confederations.

After signing the agreement, Michel Platini said: "We who are in the daily business of the game have a duty to join forces for the development of world football."

Jeffrey Webb was also delighted by the prospect of stronger cooperation between the two con-



federations and the new opportunities that this would open up: "This is another important step as part of CONCACAF's new vision, which aims to gather the best know-how from each of the world's football communities and customise it for the good of the development of our game."

Thus, UEFA has now concluded memorandums of understanding with all of its fellow confederations. ●

*UEFA and CONCACAF are joining forces to develop football in the Caribbean*

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## EUROPEAN COMMISSIONER REAFFIRMS SUPPORT

On 3 April the UEFA President, Michel Platini, went to Brussels to meet Joaquín Almunia, vice-president of the European Commission.

The purpose of the visit was to update the European Commission on the UEFA Club Licensing and Financial Fair Play Regulations and their implementation. Michel Platini asked the European Commission for support with the crucial implementation stage of the procedure. The UEFA President explained the key elements of UEFA's financial fair play rules, which aim to increase the stability of clubs' finances and ensure the long-term well-being of Europe's clubs.

"My visit to Brussels has proven to be another step forward in the relationship and dialogue between UEFA and the European Commission," Michel Platini said at the end of the meeting.

Joaquín Almunia confirmed that the two European institutions were on the same page on this issue: "All companies – football clubs included – should 'stand on their own two feet' and live within their means. This is what EU state aid rules are about, and this is what financial fair play is about as well. This is nothing more than sound principles of good corporate governance. For this reason, I'm more than happy to reaffirm my support for UEFA initiatives such as financial fair play, which aim to safeguard the health of European football and promote standards of good governance in Europe's most popular sport." ●

# MATCH-FIXING FIGHT GAINS PACE

UEFA has made the fight against match-fixing a major priority, and its unstinting work in tackling this phenomenon has been given crucial impetus with the establishment of a match-fixing working group comprising key stakeholders from across Europe. The working group held its inaugural meeting at the House of European Football on 29 April.

The UEFA President, Michel Platini, and General Secretary, Gianni Infantino, were joined at the meeting by state and national football association prosecutors, police and crime prevention officials, and betting and gambling experts from numerous European countries in the first official exchange between all parties involved in combatting match-fixing.

The UEFA President welcomed the new working group and the participation of key figures. "Since my election in 2007," he said, "I have not stopped calling for help in the fight against this danger," he said. "For a long time, I had the impression that I was crying in the wilderness. But today, I finally have the impression that I am being heard and perhaps even listened to."

## A threat to the soul of the game

"[Match-fixing] is not a fantasy; it is a reality, a sad and serious reality," he added. "Without its unpredictable character, sport loses its charm, spirit and profound sense. The heart of football, the game and its soul are affected. We are doing our utmost, believe me, but our powers and prerogatives are limited, because we are not judges or prosecutors, nor are we police officers. It is only by working hand in hand with government authorities and law enforcement bodies that we can eradicate this scourge once and for all."

The working group's aim is to recommend concrete measures and possible solutions. "The challenges are numerous; match-fixing is a complex phenomenon, because it doesn't have a strict format," said Italian state prosecutor Roberto Di Martino. "There are many situations that need to be looked at, and it is with initiatives of this type that we are seeking to find some common ground, especially with regard to this collaboration between judicial authorities, who investigate the crimes, and UEFA."

## Global stage

The guests invited to Nyon praised the opportunity for dialogue with UEFA, and outlined the challenges that had to be faced. "Match-fixing is happening on a global stage; it is not only limited to Europe," said German state prosecutor Andreas Bachmann. "People involved in match-fixing are also approaching youth players, trying to infiltrate the youth sector as well. So our main task will be to fight match-fixing internationally, and especially to protect our youth players."

"I think [the dialogue] is absolutely critical, because there are shared interests," added Nick Tofiluk, executive director of the UK's Gambling Commission. "We both have a shared interest in making sure that sport has integrity... it's [about] the international reputation of sport, and we all play a part in protecting that."

The determination of UEFA to stand at the forefront of the fight was also warmly greeted at a fruitful meeting in Nyon. "UEFA is showing a very honest and committed attitude," said Miguel Cardenal, secretary of state for sport in Spain, "dedicating a lot of financial resources, collaborating openly with all stakeholders who have an interest in the subject. This is vital for defeating the greatest threat to sport in the 21st century."

Closing this first meeting of the working group, Emilio García, head of UEFA's disciplinary and integrity unit, issued an invitation to the second meeting, scheduled for October 2014. ●

The first official exchange between all of the parties in the fight to eliminate match-fixing



Getty Images

# FIRST EVER 'SAFEGUARDING IN SPORT' APP

The Irish Football Association (IFA) recently launched an innovative child-protection tool in the form of a mobile application for smartphones.

*"This is about them [the Irish FA] bringing their experience in protecting children in football and putting the information that coaches, welfare officers, parents and players need in an app so it's always where they need it, when they need it, in their pocket. They are literally leading the world on this."*

These are the words used by one of the world's leading experts in child protection at the launch of the Irish FA's Safeguarding Children and Young People in Football app, which was launched in Belfast in April.

The app, which was developed in partnership with Jim Gamble, CEO of Ineqe, former head of the Child Exploitation and Online Protection Agency (CEOP) and founding chair of the Virtual Global Taskforce on child protection, is a groundbreaking development in safeguarding, making it a world first not only in football, but in sport as a whole.

The objective of the app is to educate and empower volunteers and players in clubs throughout Northern Ireland about safeguarding best practice so that football can be a positive, fun experience for all young people participating in the game. The app enables the Irish FA to communicate this crucial information in a more innovative way using written, video and audio formats.

Jessica de Largy, the Irish FA's child welfare officer and project manager of the app, said: *"The Irish Football Association recognises its responsibility to educate and inform its stakeholders who engage with children and young people about safeguarding best practice standards."*

*"In order to do this more effectively, we needed to bring safeguarding into the modern world by devising a more up-to-date way of empowering our clubs. As access to apps is on the increase, it made sense to create an educational tool that can be accessed at the touch of a button."*

*"The app is the product of months of hard work, careful planning and creative thinking to ensure the association remains at the cutting edge of protecting children and young people in football by delivering the highest standard of product to our stakeholders."*

## Great support

The app is targeted at coaches, parents, club child welfare officers and young players, and offers guidance on topics such as codes of conduct, online safety and bullying, and guidelines on transporting and photographing children and young people. A report button has also been incorporated into the app, which enables any



*Jim Gamble (CEO of Ineqe), Jessica de Largy (Irish FA Child & Player Welfare Officer) and Jim Grattan (Irish FA Child/Player Welfare Manager) pictured at the launch of the Irish FA's Child Welfare Department's Safeguarding Children and Young People in Football app*

person with an immediate concern about the safety and welfare of a child to directly contact the police service of Northern Ireland or the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC), a UK-based charity that works to protect children and prevent abuse.

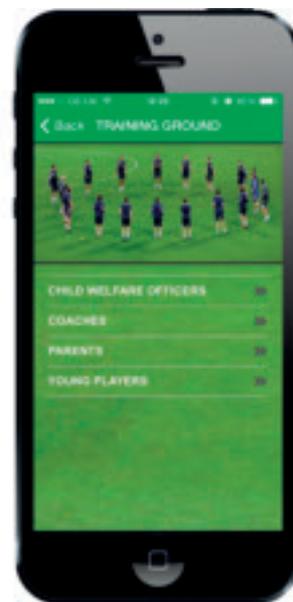
The concept has also received great support from the NSPCC's child protection in sport unit (CPSU). Anne Tiivas, director of that unit, who gave a presentation at the launch, added: *"We [the NSPCC child protection in sport unit] warmly welcome the development of this app by the IFA."*

*"It is vital that those working and volunteering at the grassroots of football have access to child protection advice when they need it so that the children in their care can play sport, stay safe, enjoy themselves and achieve their full potential."*

This is arguably the most innovative concept in safeguarding to date and it is fundamental to the future of football. We need to protect our future. Our future is our players. The app is available to download free from Apple's App Store (search for IFA safeguarding), with an Android version to follow.

*For further information, contact [jdelargy@irishfa.com](mailto:jdelargy@irishfa.com) or visit [www.ineqe.com](http://www.ineqe.com) or [www.thecpsu.org.uk](http://www.thecpsu.org.uk)*

*Jessica de Largy*



# MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS



## Investment in a small community

At the end of April, the stadium in the small community of Luz i Vogel, whose team plays in the Albanian second division, proudly unveiled its new natural grass pitch and irrigation system. Luz i Vogel is about 80km from Tirana.

Six years ago, on the initiative of the Lushaj brothers, who are all big football fans, the football club KF Luz i Vogel 2008 was established. After registering and obtaining all the necessary licences, the club began competing in Albania's second division, later spending several years in the first division. The fact that the club has its own stadium in the centre of Luz i Vogel is very rare for a small community such as this. The stadium was built by the club's president, Albert Lushaj, and his brother, Lavderim Lushaj, on property owned by their family some years earlier.



The president of the Football Association of Albania, Armand Duka, at the inauguration of the stadium in Luz i Vogel

The new irrigation system and the natural grass pitch are the result of investment by the Football Association of Albania (FSHF). In addition to club directors and prominent figures in local government, the inauguration ceremony was attended by Armand Duka, president of the FSHF. In his speech, he underlined the importance of investing in sports infrastructure in rural areas and getting communities involved in sport: "Luz i Vogel is a great example of a

community getting involved in the wonderful world of football. The results achieved on the pitch are important, but what is more important is the involvement of local players and the services that this stadium will provide to teams of all ages and the local community as a whole." The ceremony was also attended by hundreds of local residents, whose participation made the day a real celebration of football.

● Tritan Kokona



## Girls take part in Francesc Vila memorial tournament

At the end of May, the Andorran Football Federation (FAF) will organise its 15th international youth tournament in memory of Francesc Vila, the FAF's very first president.

This annual seven-a-side event will feature Under-9 and Under-11 teams from some of the biggest clubs in Europe. This year, the FAF is also proud to have added a female category, in which eight girls' teams will take part. This goes to show that the development of women's football is a clear objective for the FAF. This year will also be the first time that a French team has taken part, with Toulouse FC joining the line-up.

In recent years, Spanish clubs such as RCD Espanyol, Villarreal CF, Valencia CF and CA Osasuna have dominated events on the pitch, but the real success story has been the enjoyment, fair play and enthusiasm shown by all of the youngsters involved in the tournament. The FAF believes that this is a great opportunity to promote grassroots football and will enter a team in each category.

This tournament showcasing the stars of the future will take place over two days at Camp d'Esports d'Aixovall, Camp d'Ordino and (for the girls' category) Prat del Roure. A total of 64 qualifying matches will be played on the opening day, with a further 20 determining the final standings on the second day. Besides prizes for the winning teams, individual prizes will also be awarded to the best players and goalkeepers in the three categories.

Victor Santos, president of the FAF, has always stressed the importance of developing women's football in Andorra, emphasising that this is one of the FAF's concrete goals.

Meanwhile, as part of the association's new technology development programme, the FAF and its technical coaches committee have encouraged the establishment of a second online course for youth-level football coaches, following the success of the first course, which took place in December and January.

Finally, the FAF is pleased to announce that Andorra's fifth UEFA B licence course was successfully completed at the end of April by a total of 15 Andorran coaches.



The Francesc Vila memorial tournament, voted most valuable grassroots event by UEFA in 2004, now includes a girls' category

Thus, the FAF is continuing to provide professional training, organising various seminars, conferences and training courses at D/C, B and A level. This helps the FAF to meet its objective of constantly supporting the game from the grassroots.

● Silvia Casals



## Launch of Austrian Sportstravel Management GmbH

Austrian Sportstravel Management, a joint venture by the marketing subsidiary of the Austrian Football Association (ÖFB) and the Austrian arm of the Hogg Robinson Group (HRG), has been established to serve the needs of the specialist sports travel market. The company will be run by Martin Pechatschek of HRG Austria and the ÖFB's chief executive, Alfred Ludwig.

HRG is an international corporate service provider specialising in sports travel and incentives, so it knows all about the particular demands of sports travel management. Its

expertise in this field is underlined by the fact that its international partners include the German Football Association and FC Bayern München. This joint venture aims to combine that international know-how with the ÖFB's market position. Alfred Ludwig explains: "Professional sport is becoming increasingly commercialised. As a result, the demands on athletes, clubs and associations are changing. They are now commercial brands and companies, and they have high standards, including in the area of business and team travel."



The company logo

The new company will also aim to provide professional services for foreign tourists and, above all, offer high-quality packages for fans. The new firm's customers will benefit from many years of experience acquired in the course of over 700 trips abroad with the national team and around 600 trips in connection with international club competitions. Austrian Sportstravel Management GmbH is based in Vienna, at the ÖFB's headquarters at Ernst-Happel-Stadion.

● Wolfgang Gramann

## Futsal Cup finals in Baku

The final stages of the UEFA Futsal Cup took place at the Sarhadchi Olympic Sport Complex in Baku from 24 to 26 April. The line-up comprised FC Barcelona, FC Dynamo, Kairat Almaty and Araz Naxçıvan, and fans were left cherishing memories of tense and exciting matches. Ultimately, FC Barcelona emerged victorious for the second time in their history, beating Araz Naxçıvan in the semi-final and FC Dynamo in the final, while Araz Naxçıvan beat Kairat Almaty in the third-place play-off.

The first semi-final was preceded by a lavish opening ceremony involving both local and foreign dignitaries. Many distinguished guests



Barcelona lift the UEFA Futsal Cup

came to Baku to attend the tournament, including Borislav Mihaylov, member of the UEFA Executive Committee and chairman of the Futsal and Beach Soccer Committee,

Sergey Fursenko, member of the UEFA Executive Committee, and Domenti Sichinava and Revaz Arveladze, president and general secretary of the Georgian Football Federation respectively.

At the end of the tournament, a presentation was made to the members of the referee teams by Borislav Mihaylov, Sergey Fursenko and Elkhan Mammadov, general secretary of the Association of Football Federations of Azerbaijan. The UEFA Futsal Cup was presented to the captain of FC Barcelona by Borislav Mihaylov.

● Tora Akhmedova



## Davor Šuker re-elected as president

Davor Šuker has been re-elected as president of the Croatian Football Federation (HNS) for the next four years. The general meeting was unanimous in its decision to keep Šuker at the helm, a position he has held since 2012. Winner of the Golden Shoe at the 1998 FIFA World Cup, Šuker was the sole candidate for election and was supported by all 48 delegates.

*"It is a great honour to be the president of the Croatian Football Federation, and to fight for Croatian football as I once did on the pitch. It was always my wish to give back to football what the game has given to me, and I believe I can do that in the best possible way from this position,"* said Šuker after his re-election.

Members of the HNS executive committee were also elected at the general meeting, and Damir Vrbanić's position as executive president was confirmed until 2018. A lifetime achievement award was then presented to former general secretary Ante Pavlović for his work in Croatian football.

After the elections, UEFA Executive Committee member Mircea Sandu said a few words on behalf of the European governing body: *"The excellent results of the Croatian national team would not be possible without all the work done at the Croatian FA. This success is evidence of continuity and quality, and it must be commended. Good luck in Brazil!"*

Successful national teams and investment in domestic football and infrastructure are Šuker's key objectives, along with the fight against racism and discrimination: *"Just think, the HNS will be celebrating its 102nd birthday the day after we open the World Cup against Brazil, which is an unbelievable privilege. We are the only European nation that has qualified for the last FIFA World Cups at all three age levels (U20, U17 and senior). That is what gives us the strength to continue to invest in our domestic football and to contribute to the worldwide fight against racism and discrimination. Let us be proud of our national teams, our players, our coaches, our referees and our football!"*

● Tomislav Pacak



## Plenty to celebrate at annual assembly

The annual assembly of the Bosnia and Herzegovina Football Federation (NFSBiH) took place in a celebratory atmosphere following the national team's qualification for the World Cup.

Just three years earlier, the NFSBiH had reached a nadir, having been suspended by both FIFA and UEFA for failing to adopt a constitution which was consistent with their statutes. The NFSBiH's general secretary, Jasmin Baković, explained to delegates that with the help of UEFA and FIFA significant progress had been made. From both a competitive and a financial perspective, the NFSBiH had implemented a successful business strategy. Delegates praised the members of the NFSBiH's executive committee, particularly Ivica Osim and head coach Safet Sušić.

In addition to the delegates, the annual assembly was attended by Şenes Erzik, UEFA vice-president and member of the FIFA Executive Committee, several members of the NFSBiH's mediation committee (Ivica Osim, Duško Bajević, Faruk Hadžibegić and Sead Kajtaž), and representatives of the entity associations and the Bosnian-Herzegovinian Olympic Committee. Elvedin Begić, president of the NFSBiH, addressed the delegates and welcomed Şenes Erzik.

*"Your association has made great progress in recent years. You are now in a position where you can take advantage of a variety of projects offered by FIFA and UEFA. One obvious area of improvement is the national team, and Bosnia and Herzegovina's participation at its first FIFA World Cup is a historic achievement,"* Mr Erzik said.

The national Under-17 team did very well to reach the elite round of the European Under-17 Championship, only narrowly failing to qualify for the final tournament. In the mini-tournament in Scotland, head coach Sakib Malkočević's players finish second.

Meanwhile, Stadion Grbavica, Olimpijski Stadion Asim Ferhatović Hase and Stadion Otoka were the setting for the third Josip 'Škija' Katalinski memorial tournament – an Under-17 competition organised in memory of the former FK Željezničar star, who also played for the Yugoslav national team and coordinated youth football at the NFSBiH. Six teams participated, divided into two groups. Group A comprised



The winners of the Josip 'Škija' Katalinski memorial tournament

the United States, Montenegro, and a team representing Sarajevo and East Sarajevo, while Group B comprised Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, and a team representing Belgrade. The winners were the United States, who beat Bosnia and Herzegovina 4-1. In the third-place play-off, Montenegro beat the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia 2-0.

In women's football, Bosnia and Herzegovina recently scored their first goals of the qualifying campaign for the 2015 FIFA Women's World Cup. They drew 1-1 away against the Faroe Islands, before losing 3-1 to Scotland in Zenica.

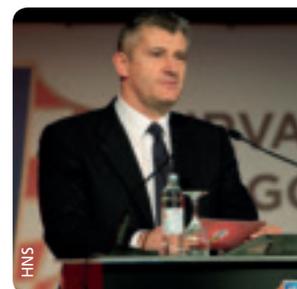
The qualifying campaign for cantonal/regional teams seeking to participate in the 2014/15 UEFA Regions' Cup has now begun. The representatives of Bosnia and Herzegovina will compete in Group 7 of the intermediate round (hosted by Bosnia and Herzegovina) and will play teams from Italy, Portugal and Belarus.

Recently, Savo Milošević, head of youth football at the Football Association of Serbia, and his deputy, Mitar Mrkela, visited the NFSBiH, where they met the general secretary, Jasmin Baković, and the technical director, Denijal Pirić. They proposed organising a joint tournament for youth players, to be held from 16 to 21 June 2014 in Bijeljina.

*"For several years now, we have organised a youth football tournament and this year we want to include teams from the countries that we used to share a league with. Of course, we have discussed this with the relevant people in the other national associations,"* Savo Milošević said.

The NFSBiH is supporting this event, which will be called the Friendship Tournament.

● Fuad Krvavec



Davor Šuker, president of the Croatian FA for another four years



### Development tournament in the Faroe Islands

From 21 to 24 April, the Faroe Islands played host to a UEFA women's Under-18 development tournament, which was contested by Scotland, Iceland and the Faroe Islands themselves.

Tournaments like this are not common in the Faroe Islands, so the Faroe Islands Football Association (FSF) made a great effort to stage a successful event and make a positive impression on the visiting teams. The tournament was

indeed a success, with Scotland triumphing with two wins (1-0 against Iceland and 6-2 against the Faroe Islands). The opening game between the two Nordic neighbours, Iceland and the Faroe Islands, ended with a 2-0 win for Iceland. All three matches were played at the country's national stadium, Tórsvøllur, in Torshavn.

In addition to the three competing nations, the tournament featured referees from Lithuania and Denmark.

In September, the Faroe Islands will host a mini-tournament in the qualifying round of the

Scotland's Abigail Harrison scored three goals against the Faroe Islands



Jens Kr. Vang

European Women's Under-17 Championship, so this development tournament was a good opportunity for the FSF to prepare.

● Terji Nielsen



### Monsieur Magic passes away

Finland's football family is mourning the death of Aulis Rytkönen, who passed away on 16 April at the age of 85. Rytkönen became Finland's first professional football player when he moved from KuPS Kuopio to Toulouse FC in 1952.

"Our football family has lost one of its greats. Aulis Rytkönen was unprecedented on the pitch and also off it. As a person, he was easily approachable, wise, charming and always very warm," said Pertti Alaja, president of the Football Association of Finland.

Born in Karttula, Rytkönen is remembered as a skilful player. He made his debut in KuPS Kuopio's first team at the age of 16, and within just three years he was a regular for the national team. His strong performances for Finland were soon noticed, and the speedy striker signed a contract with Toulouse FC straight after the Helsinki Olympics of 1952.

Rytkönen spent seven successful seasons with the French side, quickly earning the nickname



FAF / Jussi Eskola

Aulis Rytkönen, receiving the Captain's Ball from Jari Litmanen in 2007

'Monsieur Magic'. Not only was he a favourite with the fans, he also played a key role in the club's promotion to the first division in his first season in France, and his four assists helped the club to win the French Cup in 1957.

"Aulis was a trailblazer, clearing the way for his countrymen to play professional football. His skill and speed were always praised. When his playing career came to an end, he started a

new one as a coach, working in both men's and women's football," Alaja said.

Indeed, Aulis Rytkönen remains the only person ever to have won Finnish league titles in both men's and women's football. However, because of the rules on professional players featuring in the national side, Monsieur Magic was 'only' capped 37 times, scoring seven goals. His long years of service to Finnish football were rewarded with a prestigious Captain's Ball in 2007. He is also a member of the country's hall of fame, as well as an honorary member of the Finnish FA, and in 2003 the Finnish government awarded him the Pro Sports Medal, making him the first footballer to have this honour bestowed on him.

"Our thoughts and condolences are with Aulis's family and loved ones. We are enormously thankful for all that he did and will miss him greatly. His memory and work for the Finnish game have been written in capital letters in the history of Finnish football forever," Pertti Alaja said.

● Sami Terävä



### Lincoln Red Imps in the UEFA Champions League

Lincoln Red Imps FC recently secured their 12th consecutive Gibraltarian Premier League title, meaning that they will now become Gibraltar's first ever representatives in the UEFA Champions League, which they will enter in the first qualifying round.

This is Lincoln's 20th league title overall and further emphasises the current squad's status as one of the greatest teams ever to grace the Gibraltarian football scene. The club's manager, Michael McElwee (himself a top player in his youth), was overjoyed with the success of his team: "As a club, we are proud to be the first Gibraltarian team to carry the flag in the UEFA Champions League. After 12 consecutive domestic league titles, it's just reward for the many months and years of dedication and hard work that the club and the players have put into the achievement of such success. It's also testimony to the strength of the squad that we have at the moment. We have strong competition for places and sufficient quality to cover for



Ian Martinez, smaibriangles.com

Lincoln Red Imps, the first Gibraltarian club to qualify for the UEFA Champions League

players when injuries occur. It's an achievement which the entire squad has contributed to. On a personal level, I can only congratulate and thank the players for their efforts and determination throughout the course of a testing season."

Everyone in Gibraltar is very excited at the imminent prospect of European football coming to the Rock. Soon, the Gibraltar Football Association's representatives in the UEFA Europa League will also be known, once the Rock Cup final has been played.

● Steven Gonzalez



### Historic cup final

The recent IFA Youth Cup final was the perfect opportunity for the Israel Football Association (IFA) to launch its new Showing Respect campaign, in collaboration with the New Israel Fund and Kick It Out Israel.

A record 11,500 fans attended the game, the biggest ever crowd at an Israeli youth match. The two teams in the final – Maccabi Haifa Shmuel and Hapoel Haifa Rubi – are both from the city of Haifa, and the crowd were treated to a great derby match.

Tickets for the match were given away free of charge to the people of Haifa, and the IFA used the occasion to convey messages of respect and fair play to the fans.

Before the match began, players from both teams kicked balls bearing UEFA's Respect logo into the stands, sending out a message of "no to racism and yes to respect". This is just the start of the IFA's Showing Respect initiative, a major project for the IFA, the New Israel Fund and Kick It Out Israel.

● Michal Grundland

## A exhibition on the history of national team

The exhibition “*La Nazionale tra emozioni e storia – Un secolo di calcio azzurro*” (The national football team through emotions and history – a century of the Azzurri) at the Rome Auditorium, which was officially opened on 5 May by the president of Italy, Giorgio Napolitano, will be open to the public until 27 July. This initiative by the Italian Football Federation and Puma aims to relive the Italian national team’s 104-year history, with all of its cultural and social changes. Rome’s department of culture, creativity and artistic promotion, the Football Museum Foundation and the Rome Music Foundation have all worked together to make this stroll through history happen. They have been aided by Matteo Marani (editor of the magazine *Guerin Sportivo*) and Alessandra Sette, who have assembled a wide range of documents and mementos, including shirts

worn by title-winning players, balls from historic matches, medals, trophies, photos and videos. In addition, touch screens allow visitors to relive all of the emotions that the national team has triggered in its supporters over the generations.

The story begins on 15 May 1910. The exhibition tells the story of Italian football through two world wars, the creation of the republic, the country’s economic renaissance and the dawn of the modern era.

The exhibition also features the very trophy that was held aloft at the 2006 FIFA World Cup in Germany, when Italy won the last of their four world titles. The Azzurri have also won several Olympic medals (gold in 1936, and bronze in 1928 and 2004), and were crowned champions of Europe in 1968.

The mementos on display at the Rome Auditorium have been contributed by the



The exhibition runs until 27 July

Coverciano football museum, the San Siro museum, the museum of Genoa, the museum of Il Grande Torino and the Juventus museum.

The Italian National Olympic Committee has also donated a model of the Stadio Olimpico from the 1990s. In addition, the exhibition features beautiful photos of the national team’s matches, as well as photos of all 760 players who have worn the famous blue shirt and helped to write history as part of the Italian team.

Live and exclusive coverage of the initial media conference and the official opening of the exhibition was broadcast on the website [www.vivoazzurro.it](http://www.vivoazzurro.it).

● Barbara Moschini

## Successful youth tournament

In late April, the Liechtenstein Football Association (LFV) hosted a four-day UEFA development tournament contested by the national Under-16 teams of Malta, San Marino, Gibraltar and Liechtenstein.

The tournament, which took place in Liechtenstein from 22 to 25 April, was a unique opportunity for the four small nations’ youth teams to test themselves against more or less evenly matched opponents. The fact that such development tournaments are contested by countries with comparable populations and similar structures in place (and thus similar conditions as regards youth development) makes them very interesting events. They allow small nations to see just how good their various youth teams really are.



Fun is the most important factor in development tournaments

Each of the teams played three matches, and all the games were fiercely contested and high in intensity. None of the teams came up short from a sporting perspective, and the participants all set a good example when it came to fair play. The LFV was also delighted to see the public embrace the tournament, making the event more than just a great sporting success.

● Anton Banzer

## Ethics body

The new football season in Lithuania got under way in March, as usual, after the serious business of licensing, to determine which clubs could take part in the top two divisions.

The innovative part of this year’s procedures was the result of a decision by the executive committee of the Lithuanian Football Federation (LFF) to create a special transparency committee, dedicated to preventing and uncovering underhand and fraudulent activities that could influence the results of football matches.

Some years ago the LFF started working with experienced international partners in this domain and initiated an ongoing dialogue with government bodies, the police, football clubs and betting agencies. UEFA partner Sportradar also began to follow the domestic championship, producing a clear analysis and sending reports to the LFF.

At its latest meeting, the LFF executive committee confirmed the establishment of a

transparency committee, including its terms of reference and members. The main purpose of the committee is to investigate violations of the federation’s disciplinary code and submit its findings to the disciplinary committee, in particular in cases of unfair influence on the game and other forms of corruption, doping and other breaches of the principles of integrity, as defined by UEFA in its regulations.

Further strengthening its stance against dishonest practices, the LFF is preparing a national programme dedicated to the fight against sports fraud. The programme will be presented to the Lithuanian Union of Sports Federations and the National Olympic Committee. A proposal has also been made to parliament to include sports fraud as an offence under the criminal code.

Finally, the LFF is incorporating cooperation with neighbouring countries into its fight against fraud.

● Vaiva Zizaitė

## A noble cause

The Malta Football Association (MFA) is a national leader when it comes to campaigning for social welfare and solidarity. Its initiatives in combating racism, promoting fair play and protecting the environment help not only to strengthen the integrity of the game as advocated by FIFA and UEFA, but also to foster a healthier society.

The Maltese are very much aware of the bond between football and society, especially in terms of inclusion, and the final round of the European Under-17 Championship, held on the islands in May, provided an excellent stage from which to help everyone to appreciate a noble cause that goes well beyond the confines of the game.

A campaign launched by the local organising committee sought to promote a higher degree of inclusiveness, where colour, race and religion would never be considered obstacles.

The initiative gave an opportunity to refugees and other beneficiaries of international protection (through their respective agencies in Malta) to enjoy the stadium atmosphere during the UEFA tournament and taste the thrills that international football has to offer.

With free entry, a UEFA T-shirt and transport to the match, it is hoped that the initiative went some way towards enriching the lives of these people. It was certainly an unforgettable experience for them.

● Alex Vella



The Maltese campaign, designed to improve integration, was launched during the final round of the European Under-17 Championship



### Annual general meeting

The Football Association of Moldova (FMF) held its 12th annual general meeting on 13 April in Chisinau. This meeting of the FMF's supreme governing organ is when representatives of the association's members discuss and vote on various issues relating to Moldovan football. They began with a moment of silence in memory of those who had passed away since the last general meeting on 3 February last year.



The Moldovan FA's 12th annual general meeting

Addressing the delegates in his opening speech, the president of the FMF, Pavel Cebanu, said: "These days, football has become more than just a game. The UEFA Champions League and Europa League, European Championships and World Cups bring together millions of people, who watch, in suspense, the incredible matches that decide which are the best teams in Europe and the world. We are very proud to be part of European and world football and our main goal is to develop the game and to increase the number of players involved, from the grassroots up to the elite level, in the Republic of Moldova."

The president spoke of various achievements and developments which gave him confidence for the future, while also emphasising his determination to combat negative elements which persisted.

The 182 delegates then discussed and approved a number of changes to the FMF statutes, the 2013 annual report of the president and executive committee, and financial matters including the annual consolidated accounts for 2013.

The delegates also approved Moldova's football development strategy for 2014-20 and appointed Ruslan Berzoi as vice-president in charge of relations with state authorities.

Finally, the FMF order of Honour was awarded to Petru Comendant, Mihai Anghel, Ivan Zlatovcen, Vladimir Albina, Vladimir Donosian, Dumitru Margarint and Anatol Ribac for their contributions to the development of football in the country.

The meeting was attended by Leonid Bujor, advisor to the prime minister, and Mircea Sandu, UEFA Executive Committee member.

● Press office



### Bigger and better in 2014

The Football Association of Ireland (FAI) has announced that Republic of Ireland internationals David Meyler and Stephanie Roche will be its ambassadors for the 2014 summer soccer schools programme. Hull City AFC midfielder Meyler took time out from his busy schedule with the English Premier League club to join Peamount United's Roche – who scored a goal that was seen by two million people on YouTube last autumn – to promote the FAI's soccer camps, which are aimed at children aged 6 to 14.

In 2014, those camps, which are the FAI's largest grassroots programme and are now in their 18th year, will be bigger and better than ever before. The number of camps has increased to 330, across 26 counties nationwide. The focus of each camp is on fun and development, rather than competition, and they are open to boys and girls of all abilities. Running right through to 24 August, each week-long camp is managed by UEFA-qualified coaches and delivered by Garda-vetted FAI-qualified coaches in a safe and professional environment.

Meyler said: "I went to FAI summer soccer schools when I was younger and they really helped me to develop my skills. I'd recommend the camps to any child looking to improve their game, make new friends and have lots of fun this summer!" Meanwhile, Raheny United FC have won the Irish Women's National League



Stephanie Roche and David Meyler, ambassadors of the 2014 summer soccer schools programme

for the second successive year after a 4-0 victory over Shamrock Rovers in their final fixture of the campaign. Coach Casey McQuillan's side needed a single point to seal the title ahead of perennial rivals Peamount United and duly produced a measured performance to secure the three points and the championship.

"It's very pleasing to get over the final hurdle, and I'm delighted for the girls to have ended the season as champions," McQuillan said. "This has been a real squad effort, and we were delighted to have Mary Waldron back for this game, as she had a big impact. We've worked very hard to get to this stage, and Rovers pushed us hard, so I couldn't really relax until the fourth goal went in. I took over a side that was unbeaten, and to go the whole season without losing a game is a testament to the quality of the girls. The next step is the UEFA Women's Champions League."

● Stephen Finn



### Special extra-curricular programme

All Romanian schoolchildren (from year 1 right through to year 12) traditionally have a one-week spring holiday, followed by a special week of extra-curricular activities: visits to museums, factories and airports, other cultural and social activities, etc.

The Romanian Football Federation (FRF) has become increasingly involved in this project, which is coordinated by the ministry of education. This year, in cooperation with the ministry of youth and sports, the federation again organised several activities between 8 and 12 April.

On 8 April, the national rugby stadium – Stadionul Arcul de Triumf in Bucharest – hosted a festival involving more than 15 sports, including football, handball, rugby and fencing. More than 2,000 children took part in these activities, with around half of them choosing to play football. The FRF organised four-a-side matches on mini-pitches measuring 20m by 10m, as well as ball-juggling contests and shooting competitions. At the end of the day, all children

Around 1,000 children chose to play football at the sports festival



received promotional gifts from the FRF, which were presented by an illustrious group of former players. That group comprised Miodrag Belodedici and Ion Vlădoiu, two stars of the Romanian national team who are now employed by the FRF in an administrative capacity, Constantin Gâlcă, a fellow international who is currently head coach of the national Under-17 team, and Ciprian Paraschiv, Adrian Pigulea and Victoraş Iacob, who also work for the FRF.

That same day, more than 200 children, accompanied by teachers and FRF representatives, visited the Arena Naţională in Bucharest. They were shown around the pitch, the huge dressing rooms, the corporate boxes and all the other facilities, and they too received promotional gifts from the FRF.

From 9 to 12 April, the FRF's national training centre in Buftea played host to a major youth competition: the Junior Cup. This was contested by 24 teams from different Romanian cities across three age categories (12, 13 and 14-year-olds). The competition began with an exhibition match involving former players – including plenty from the Romanian First League and even some from the national team. Last but not least, on 11 April, 30 children aged 12 and 13 visited the FRF's national training centre in Mogosoia, which all of Romania's national teams (including the senior side) use for their training camps. After being shown around the place where Romania's star players prepare for their matches, the children took part in a training session coordinated by Dumitru Uzunea, the head coach of the national Under-15 team, and received promotional gifts.

● Paul Zaharia

## Executive committee elections

On 26 April, the Russian Football Union (RFS) held an ordinary general assembly in Moscow. The election of a new executive was one of the items on the agenda. A total of 31 members were elected to the RFS's executive committee, spread across three groups.

The professional football group now comprises: Alexander Dyukov, Suleiman Kerimov, Olga Smorodskaya, Sergey Galitskiy, Evgeny Giner, Shamil Gazizov, Alexander Gvardis, Rokhus Shokh, Yuri Polyakov, Sergey Novikov and Dmitry Vyazmikin.

The regional football development group now comprises: Sergey Anokhin, Vladimir



*Elections were held at this year's general assembly*

Afanasiev, Mikhail Bochkarev, Vladimir Evtushenko, Lom-Ali Ibragimov, Alexey Komarov, Vladimir Krysin, Anatoliy Turchak, Rudolf Khodeev and Alexey Smertin.

Finally, the football administration group now comprises: Andrey Sokolov, Anatoliy Vorobiev, Nikita Simonyan, Sergey Stepashin, Vladimir Yakunin, Igor Efremov, Semen Andreev, Alexander Mirzoyan, Victor Ozerov and Sergey Pryadkin.

Nikolay Tolstykh, president of the RFS, chairs the executive committee.

The one remaining vacant position on the RFS's executive committee will be filled at the next ordinary general assembly, when further elections will be held.

● Irina Baranova

## Mini-pitch at Debeli Rtič children's resort

The Football Association of Slovenia (NZS) and the Slovenian Red Cross have joined forces to build an artificial mini-pitch at the Red Cross's Debeli Rtič health and wellness centre near Ankaran, where more than 10,000 Slovenian children – the majority from underprivileged families – spend their annual holidays.

The idea of a partnership with the Red Cross came about as part of the NZS's desire to involve more children in the game and help the centre. Every year, Debeli Rtič welcomes thousands of children who need special medical care or have

social problems, who would not have holidays by the seaside were it not for the Red Cross's social inclusion programme.

To help fund the building of the new artificial mini-pitch at Debeli Rtič, the NZS donated €2 for every ticket sold for Slovenia's last two home matches of their 2014 FIFA World Cup qualifying campaign. After several months of construction, the opening ceremony is scheduled for 21 May – the day of the NZS Cup final and UEFA Grassroots Day. This means that the children will get to experience playing football on an ultra-modern artificial pitch before the holiday season reaches its peak.

● Matjaž Krajnc



*The new mini-pitch at the Debeli Rtič children's centre*

## Fan's death shocks Swedish football

Swedish football was struck by shock and grief on the opening day of the 2014 season. A supporter of Djurgårdens IF died in hospital after being attacked just hours before their game against Helsingborgs IF. News of the fan's death caused the game to be abandoned before half-time.

More than 5,000 Djurgården fans had travelled to Helsingborg for the opening game of the season, and several violent incidents had occurred in the city centre over the weekend. According to police, however, the deadly incident was not premeditated or part of a larger altercation – the victim was a normal travelling fan who received a blow to the head on his way to the game.

The Swedish Football Association (SvFF), the country's league association (SEF) and the Swedish supporters union (SFSU) issued a joint statement, saying: "We are saddened and appalled by this senseless violence. Football is about joy, respect, togetherness and life – not death. We will never tolerate violence, racism or hatred in our arenas."

In the aftermath of this tragic event, rival clubs and supporters came together all over Sweden, distancing themselves from violent fan



*A memorial of candles and scarves left for the Djurgårdens supporter in Helsingborg*

groups and displays of hatred towards other teams. Thousands of fans gathered at local vigils to protest against violence.

"We've been working so hard in recent years, together with supporters, clubs and the police. We know we're already on the right track, and that's part of the reason why this tragedy hurts so much. We won't let violence win, but we need to continue with the hard work that is

already in progress, rather than acting out of panic," said Karl-Erik Nilsson, president of the SvFF.

The SvFF's disciplinary committee later decided that 1-1 (the score when the game was abandoned) would be the final score. A local man from Helsingborg has admitted being involved in the fan's death and remains in police custody.

● Andreas Nilsson



### Schools championship is hotting up

Switzerland's school football championship has been around since 1981. Today, around 150,000 children from year 4 to year 9 compete in the competition, with around 3,000 taking part in finals day in Basel, the annual climax to the competition.

Switzerland's 26 cantons (plus Liechtenstein) organise around 150 qualifying tournaments (some in several stages) for boys and girls, in a

total of 11 age categories, to determine their cantonal school football champions. The victors then represent their respective cantons in the finals, where teams battle it out on more than 20 football pitches, competing for the title of Swiss school football champions.

In Basel, as in many other cantons, the qualifying process has already begun. The St. Jakob Sports Complex, the only football pitch complex of its kind in Switzerland, recently hosted qualifying matches involving around 190 teams (2,000 children) – year 4 to

year 9 girls, and year 8 and year 9 boys. Those matches were played on 30 different pitches and overseen by around 40 referees and assistants. One girl in year 4 said: "Until today, I had never enjoyed playing football. But playing with my team at a tournament like this is very exciting and really cool."

Now, all over Switzerland and Liechtenstein, the teams that have qualified are looking ahead to the finals on 11 June.

● Pierre Benoit



### E-ticketing system launched

On 14 April a new law prohibiting disorder and violence in stadiums came into effect. Under the new regulations, every fan is required to buy a picture ID card (Passolig card) and assign an electronic ticket to it in order to attend matches in the top two Turkish leagues.

With this new system, paper tickets and season tickets will no longer be available. Fans will be able to use simple web-based and mobile solutions to buy tickets and assign them to their Passolig cards. In addition, ticket booths

at the stadiums will be able to sell e-tickets to fans.

Once an e-ticket has been purchased, the ticket holder will receive both a text message and an email containing their seating information. If fans lose their ticket information, they will be helped by stadium staff with handheld terminals that can provide a printout of the information on matchday.

There are three different types of Passolig card for fans to choose from: prepaid, debit and



Supporters will have their own cards

credit cards. Three of the country's top clubs – Galatasaray AŞ, Beşiktaş JK and Trabzonspor AŞ – are selling their cards at a premium rate of TRY 25, but all others are selling them for

TRY 15. Foreigners wanting to attend games will also be required to buy a Passolig card, which will involve providing passport information and photos, both online and at the stadium.

● Aydın Güvenir



### New kit for the senior national team

On 8 April, at a special event at the House of Ukrainian Football, the Football Federation of Ukraine (FFU) and adidas, one of the world's largest producers of sporting goods, unveiled a new kit to be worn by Ukraine's senior national team. The designers remained faithful to the styles of previous kits and again used Ukraine's national colours of yellow and blue.

The event was attended by Anatoliy Konkov, president of the FFU, Volodymyr Lashkul, chief



The new kit

executive of the company Ukraine Football International, Mykhailo Fomenko, head coach of Ukraine's senior national team, and many others.

Before the event began, Anatoliy Konkov greeted all the officials, special guests and media representatives who were present: "We have a long-term deal with adidas, and I am delighted to be working with such a renowned and experienced global partner. Ukrainian football has ambitious goals, and we are ready to discuss ways of achieving them with adidas. It is very important for the FFU to work closely with people and companies that share its goal, and everyone knows what that goal is: the improvement of Ukrainian football. I am confident that we will achieve great success together."

● Yuriy Maznychenko



### Two more Golden Caps

At half-time during the recent Wales v Ukraine FIFA Women's World Cup qualifier at Llanelli, the president of the Football Association of Wales (FAW), Trefor Lloyd Hughes, presented Golden Caps to former national team players Katie Sherwood and Jayne Ludlow. These caps are awarded to male and female players who, at the end of their careers, have played more than 50 times for the national side.

Sherwood and Ludlow were the second and third women to receive Golden Caps, Kathryn Morgan having been the first. Sherwood won 50 caps between 2002 and 2012 in a career that also saw her play for Cardiff City Ladies, Middle Tennessee State University and Bristol

Academy. Ludlow, meanwhile, captained the Wales team on many occasions between 1996 and 2012, eventually winning 61 caps while also representing Barry Town, Millwall, Southampton and Arsenal.

The Golden Caps have the players' names on them, together with the number of appearances and the dates between which the matches were played. Many of the current women's squad have passed the 50 mark but they will not receive the award until they have ended their international careers. Having already done so, Cheryl Foster and Emma Jones will be next to receive their Golden Caps. The FAW hopes that this will happen at one of Wales' next matches.

● Ceri Stennett



Trefor Lloyd Hughes with Jayne Ludlow (left) and Katie Sherwood

## BIRTHDAYS

Dušan Savić (Serbia, 1 June)  
 Ekaterina Fedyshina (Russia, 1 June)  
 Ivaylo Ivkov (Bulgaria, 3 June)  
 Radek Lobo (Czech Republic, 3 June)  
 Klara Bjartmarz (Iceland, 3 June)  
 John Ward (Republic of Ireland, 4 June)  
 Yauheni Tratsiuk (Belarus, 4 June)  
 Jean-Samuel Leuba (Switzerland, 4 June)  
 Ludovico Micallef (Malta, 5 June)  
 Jaap Uilenberg (Netherlands, 5 June)  
 Michael Joseph Hyland (Republic of Ireland, 6 June)  
 Theo Zwanziger (Germany, 6 June)  
 Lars-Åke Björck (Sweden, 7 June)  
 Michel Sablon (Belgium, 7 June)  
 Sándor Berzi (Hungary, 7 June)  
 Onofre Costa (Portugal, 7 June)  
 Johannes Scholtz (Netherlands, 8 June)  
 Bryan Drew (England, 8 June)  
 Jesper Møller Christensen (Denmark, 9 June)  
 Antoine Portelli (Malta, 9 June)  
 Petri Antero Jakonen (Finland, 9 June)  
 Jonathan Ford (Wales, 9 June)  
 Monica Jorge (Portugal, 9 June)  
**Hans Bangerter (Switzerland, 10 June) 90th**  
 Andrew Shaw (England, 10 June)  
 Iveta Bankova (Bulgaria, 10 June)  
**Kyros Georgiou (Cyprus, 11 June) 70th**  
 Thórir Hakonarson (Iceland, 11 June)  
**José Luis López Serrano (Spain, 12 June) 70th**  
 Alain Courtois (Belgium, 12 June)  
 Jørn West Larsen (Denmark, 12 June)  
 Roland Coquard (France, 13 June)  
 Targo Kaldoja (Estonia, 13 June)  
 Galina Doneva (Bulgaria, 14 June)  
 Nuno Castro (Portugal, 14 June)  
 Viacheslav Koloskov (Russia, 15 June)  
 Miguel Galan Torres (Spain, 15 June)  
 Meir Liber (Israel, 17 June)  
 Michael Joseph Maessen (Netherlands, 17 June)  
 Matthias Voigt (Liechtenstein, 17 June)  
 Stephen Thomas (England, 17 June)  
 Paolo Rondelli (San Marino, 17 June)  
 Anne Rei (Estonia, 17 June)  
 Philippe Piat (France, 18 June)  
 Hannelore Ratzeburg (Germany, 18 June)  
 Ivan Novak (Croatia, 18 June)  
 Eduard Prodani (Albania, 18 June)  
 Elkhan Mammadov (Azerbaijan, 18 June)  
 Tobias Wolf (Germany, 19 June)  
 Maria Mifsud (Malta, 20 June)  
 Michel Platini (France, 21 June)  
 Peter Peters (Germany, 21 June)  
 Zoran Cvrk (Croatia, 21 June)  
 Tomasz Mikulski (Poland, 21 June)  
 Paulius Malzinskas (Lithuania, 21 June)  
 Ilja Kaenzig (Switzerland, 21 June)  
**Keith Stuart Hackett (England, 22 June) 70th**  
 Ante Kulušić (Croatia, 22 June)  
 Zvi Rosen (Israel, 23 June)  
 Vladimir Antonov (Moldova, 23 June)  
 Georg Pangl (Austria, 23 June)  
 Jean-Jacques Schonckert (Luxembourg, 24 June)  
 Renatus Temmink (Netherlands, 24 June)  
**Jouni Hyytiä (Finland, 24 June) 50th**  
**Arturs Gaidels (Latvia, 24 June) 30th**  
 Christian Schmölzer (Austria, 25 June)  
 Foppe de Haan (Netherlands, 26 June)  
 Barry W. Bright (England, 27 June)  
 Eyjolfur Olafsson (Iceland, 27 June)  
 Ruud Dokter (Republic of Ireland, 27 June)  
**José Venancio Lopez Hierro (Spain, 27 June) 50th**  
 Wim Koevermans (Belgium, 28 June)  
 Ivan Borissov Lekov (Bulgaria, 29 June)  
 Wolfgang Sowa (Austria, 29 June)  
 Ginta Pece (Latvia, 29 June)  
 Peter J. van Zunderd (Netherlands, 30 June)

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

### Meetings

#### 10/11 June, Sao Paulo

Ordinary FIFA Congress

#### 19 June, Felcsut, Hungary

2013/14 European Under-19 Championship: final round draw

#### 23 June, Nyon

2014/15 UEFA Champions League and UEFA Europa League: first and second qualifying round draws

#### 26 June, Nyon

2014/15 UEFA Women's Champions League: qualifying round draw

### Competitions

#### 12 June–13 July, Brazil

FIFA World Cup

## NOTICES

- On 11 April, the Football Federation of Kazakhstan named Allen Chaizhunussov as its new general secretary. He replaces Sayan Khamitzhonov, who remains vice-president of the federation.
- On 14 April, Davor Šuker was re-elected president of the Croatian Football Federation for a further four-year term.

## OBITUARY

**Ilija Atanasovski** (FYR Macedonia), former general secretary of the Football Association of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, passed away on 2 May at the age of 64.

He was the first general secretary of the independent association and participated actively in the process of joining UEFA and FIFA. He also sat on various UEFA bodies, including the Marketing Committee (1996–98) and the Fun Football Committee (1998–2000).



NO TO RACISM



RESPECT