



WE CARE ABOUT FOOTBALL

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Cover:
In Berlin, Lionel Messi outmanoeuvres Andrea Pirlo en route to his fourth UEFA Champions League title

Photo: VI Images via Getty Images

IN THIS ISSUE

BARCELONA MAKE IT FIVE IN BERLIN

On 6 June in Berlin, FC Barcelona won their fifth European Cup.

4



Getty Images

1. FFC FRANKFURT TRIUMPH IN THE UEFA WOMEN'S CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Following the success of VfL Wolfsburg in 2013 and 2014, this year it was the turn of fellow German club 1. FFC Frankfurt to take the UEFA Women's Champions League title, beating Paris St-Germain in added time.

7



UEFA via Getty Images

SEVILLA FC HOLD ON TO THEIR UEFA EUROPA LEAGUE TITLE

After two consecutive UEFA Cup victories in 2006 and 2007, Sevilla FC succeeded in defending the UEFA Europa League title they won last year.

8



Getty Images

TBILISI ALL READY TO HOST THE UEFA SUPER CUP

On 11 August, FC Barcelona and Sevilla FC will be in the Georgian capital in search of more silverware.

12



GFF

NEWS FROM MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS

15

SUPPLEMENT

Issue 58 of *UEFA•technician* features a series of articles on 'educating the educators'.





FOOTBALL SHARES AND CARES

The curtains have now closed on another club competition season, one which provided fans all over the world with countless unforgettable moments of excitement and joy. Teams from far and wide battled for the titles throughout an arduous campaign, hoping to emerge victorious. When the dust settled, it was FC Barcelona, Sevilla FC and 1. FFC Frankfurt claiming the trophies in the UEFA Champions League, UEFA Europa League and UEFA Women's Champions League respectively. I congratulate not only the winners of these competitions, but also those who triumphed in our national youth team tournaments, and I take the opportunity to thank everyone who made these events a success.

The three club finals were truly magical and yielded a total of 12 goals, proving that attacking football in Europe is alive and kicking. The atmosphere in the stadiums in Berlin and Warsaw was electric and I am so happy that we were able to share that experience at the UEFA Champions League and UEFA Europa League finals with the hundreds of disadvantaged and vulnerable children who were able to be there thanks to an initiative of the UEFA Foundation for Children. The foundation has only been operating for a few weeks but it is already making a difference, and we truly hope that it can have a real impact on the lives of young people around the globe.

One of the foundation's future initiatives was announced in Paris earlier this month and will allow 20,000 disadvantaged children to attend games throughout UEFA EURO 2016 in France. The tournament is less than a year away and I can guarantee that, through a variety of projects, we will showcase UEFA's commitment to social responsibility. We believe it proves how football can be a force for good at a time when the behaviour of some of the game's administrators has tarnished its image. I trust that better days will surely come.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Platini".

*Michel Platini
UEFA President*

BERLIN TRANSFORMED AS BARÇA MAKE HISTORY

Often referred to as the city “*condemned to forever becoming and never being*”, Berlin once again transformed for the 2015 UEFA Champions League final between Juventus and FC Barcelona.



When Xavi Hernández held the UEFA Champions League trophy aloft at Berlin’s famous Olympiastadion on 6 June, not only did the 35-year-old FC Barcelona captain bring the curtain down on an unparalleled 17-year career with the club, he also capped an unprecedented era for the Spanish giants, who have now won Europe’s premier club competition four times in the last ten years.

Xavi, who joins Qatari club Al-Sadd in the summer, wrote his own personal piece of competition history too. The universally revered midfielder became the first player to make 151 UEFA Champions League appearances, replacing man of the match Andrés Iniesta in the 78th minute of a thrilling finale which his side deservedly won 3-1 against Italian title holders Juventus.

Massimiliano Allegri’s side then enjoyed their best spell of the match but were floored midway through the second period as Barcelona broke with Lionel Messi. Gianluigi Buffon could only parry the Argentinian’s thumping shot into the path of the arriving Luis Suárez, who made no mistake. Juve valiantly fought in search of a late leveller, but the Spaniards made sure of their fifth European crown seven minutes into added time, Suárez teeing up Neymar to slot a third past Buffon.

It was heartbreak for the Juve goalkeeper as the continent’s top club prize once again eluded him, while another veteran, Andrea Pirlo, shed rueful tears after the final whistle in front of the magnanimous Bianconeri support. But the night belonged to Barcelona, whose players and fans celebrated with typical exuberance, a third UEFA

Champions League title in six years completing a treble of league, domestic cup and European Cup for the second time in their history – a first for any club.

A historic venue

The Olympiastadion provided a fitting backdrop for such a historic night. Built originally for the 1936 Olympic Games, the arena retains its antique feel but boasts a fully modern interior, having been refurbished for the 2006 World Cup. This blend of old and new reflects a city which is famously “*condemned to forever becoming and never to being*”, a reference to its constant evolution through the ages.

True to form, the German capital was once again transformed for UEFA Champions League final week, not only at the stadium but also at the Brandenburg Gate, one of Berlin’s most iconic landmarks and the venue for this year’s Champions Festival, UEFA’s annual football extravaganza.

The spectacular setting was made even more appealing by the fabulous weather and fans flocked in their thousands to the four-day event. The fun kicked off on Thursday with the delivery of the trophy by two-time UEFA Champions



Getty Images

It was always going to be a special encounter, with Barça and Juve each having secured domestic doubles in the preceding weeks. Both were on the cusp of a historic treble, yet in spite of so much being at stake there was no sign of nerves early on. Ivan Rakitić opened the scoring just four minutes in, finishing off a magnificent Barcelona team move. Juventus had already threatened more than once, though, and hit back ten minutes after the restart when Álvaro Morata tucked in the rebound from a Carlos Tévez strike.

League winner Christian Karembeu, who officially opened the festival on stage along with the mayor of Berlin, Michael Müller.

As ever football was at the heart of it all, with the Brandenburg Gate providing a breathtaking backdrop for the festival's annual highlight, the Ultimate Champions Match. The stands were packed as Blue Man Group gave a spectacular introduction to the World All-Stars, coached by Peter Schmeichel and Ruud Gullit, and Zico's Juve&Barça Legends. Some of the greatest players in UEFA Champions League history were involved, with past winners such as Clarence Seedorf, Edwin van der Sar and Fabrizio Ravanelli rolling back the years to the delight of the cheering crowd.

The game produced some other great stories. Adidas Young Champion Paxton Pomykal looked far from out of place amongst the Legends after winning his place in the side, while Tom Kinstler, winner of UEFA.com's #UltimateChampion competition, flew in all the way from Johannesburg, South Africa, and could barely contain his emotions after appearing alongside several of his Juventus heroes.

Stars light up the festival

Matches took place regularly across the four days and UEFA again underlined its commitment to social responsibility, inviting some of Europe's best blind and amputee footballers to showcase their unquestionable talents at the festival. The tradition of donating a brand-new maxi-pitch to every final host city was also maintained, former Brazil captain Cafu handing over the facility to the Grundschule am Koppenplatz school.

Various big-name ambassadors came to meet fans and lead the activities, with highlights including Karembeu taking on international freestyler David Grubl in a penalty shoot-out, former Germany captain Michael Ballack offering young players his advice as part of a 'skills clinic' and France legend Zinédine Zidane showing off his undiminished talent at the adidas hub.

There was the inaugural UEFA 11mm Champions Film Festival on the opening night, while DJ Robin Schulz provided the entertainment on Friday evening. In total, an estimated 300,000 people attended the four-day event, once again confirming the Champions Festival as the perfect complement to Saturday's showpiece at the Olympiastadion.

In addition to the 70,442 who were lucky enough to witness the spectacle live at the stadium, an estimated 180 million watched the action live on television, with an estimated 400 million viewers reached across more than 200 territories.

Some 1,800 media representatives worked at the final. 130 TV rights-holder cameras captured footage from inside the stadium and host broadcaster ZDF used 40 cameras, while UEFA itself had 12 4K cameras in use during the match.



Sportsfile

The Champions Festival against the backdrop of the Brandenburg Gate

There were 130 TV and radio commentary positions. In total, 550 written press representatives attended the match, as well as 200 photographers, photo editors and technicians. A further 34 non-rights holders covered the game for TV and radio.

There were 480 UEFA staff working at the final, including the local organising committee and the German Football Association and 420 volunteers, while 170 drivers ferried workers between the stadium, the festival and hotels.

Sport's most popular annual event

The final once again proved a major hit online as UEFA continued to produce the most digitally connected fan experience possible. Over 2 million users visited the official UEFA Champions League website on the day of the game, up an impressive 33% on 2014, and the discussion raged on social media. The official UEFA Champions League Facebook page reached over 60.5 million people, with over 9.5 million of them engaging with the content. Over 17 million of those watched the pre-match Facebook show, broadcast live from the Champions Festival stage on the morning of the final. On Twitter, the #UCLfinal hashtag was mentioned almost 2m times and another 500,000 users followed the event on Instagram.

These impressive figures again served to consolidate the UEFA Champions League final's status as the world's most popular annual sporting event, an enthralling 90 minutes of football fuelling the global debate long after Xavi hoisted the trophy. ●

6 June 2015

Olympiastadion, Berlin – 70,442 spectators

Juventus v FC Barcelona 1-3 (0-1)

Goals: Rakitić (0-1, 4), Morata (1-1, 55), Suárez (1-2, 68), Neymar (1-3, 90+7)

Referee: Cüneyt Çakır (Turkey)

AN EXCITING ADVENTURE OFF AND RUNNING ...

Sixty years ago, in June 1955, the nascent UEFA assumed the organisation of the first European club competition, which would become the European Champion Clubs' Cup and then, nearly 40 years later, the UEFA Champions League. However, it was not European football's governing body, but the eminent French daily sports newspaper L'Équipe, that set the wheels in motion for the most prestigious of club competitions.

In December 1954, the editor of L'Équipe, Gabriel Hanot, floated the idea of a European competition for club teams. "The idea of a world, or at least European, championship for clubs ... is worth putting out and we are going to venture it," he said. Hanot's idea received the consent of L'Équipe's owner and director, Jacques Goddet, who decided to give the project full promotion in the newspaper's pages.

Positive feedback on the idea was to follow from across Europe, and another member of L'Équipe's staff, Jacques Ferran, was given the task of drafting a set of regulations. The competition would feature 16 clubs, chosen by the organisers rather than being domestic champions in their country, and the format would involve home-and-away ties.

L'Équipe resolved to take its idea to the world body, FIFA, who welcomed the project, but explained that it was not its responsibility to organise such a competition. The newspaper's next port of call was the new European confederation, UEFA, which had been founded in June 1954. At UEFA's inaugural Congress in Vienna in March 1955, Hanot and Ferran presented the project to the European national associations, who responded that it was a matter for the "associations to give their clubs permission to participate in such an event".

With the positive feedback of the clubs fresh in their memories, L'Équipe decided to bring together the clubs in question for a meeting in

Paris on 2 and 3 April 1955. The draft regulations were approved and an executive organising committee was established.

UEFA's response to these developments came at the meeting of its Emergency Committee in London on 6 and 7 May 1955. A letter was drafted to the FIFA Executive Committee, due to meet in the same city the following day, with a request to "examine the conditions for the organisation of such a competition, in order to ensure that it complied with the international rules governing the responsibilities of the national associations."

The request was received positively by FIFA, who invited UEFA to organise the competition, provided that the national associations concerned gave their consent. The minutes of the UEFA Executive Committee meeting on 21 June 1955 – coincidentally, the day that current UEFA President Michel Platini was born – state that "firstly, it is recognised that this Cup [competition] will indeed be organised by the European Union [i.e. UEFA] itself".

The original regulations drawn up by Jacques Ferran were approved with few amendments. UEFA contacted all of its associations, inviting entries from their champion clubs, as well as giving priority to the clubs chosen by L'Équipe. The original organising committee would be dissolved, and a UEFA organising committee put in place. An exciting and much-anticipated new adventure, which would begin on the field in September 1955, was off and running ... ●

22 CLUBS HONOURED IN BERLIN

The 22 clubs that have won the European Champion Clubs' Cup and/or UEFA Champions League were honoured by UEFA at an event in Berlin on the eve of this season's UEFA Champions League final. The UEFA President, Michel Platini, presented representatives of the 22 clubs with a framed plaque containing the original handwritten draft regulations for the competition, drawn up by Jacques

Ferran, a journalist at the French newspaper L'Équipe. The 22 clubs in question are: AC Milan, AFC Ajax, Aston Villa FC, FC Barcelona, FC Bayern München, SL Benfica, Borussia Dortmund, Celtic FC, Chelsea FC, FK Crvena zvezda,



Feyenoord, Hamburger SV, FC Internazionale Milano, Juventus, Liverpool FC, Manchester United FC, Nottingham Forest FC, Olympique de Marseille, FC Porto, PSV Eindhoven, Real Madrid CF and FC Steaua Bucureşti. ●

FRANKFURT GO FOURTH IN BERLIN

A last-minute winner gave 1. FFC Frankfurt a record fourth European title as a full house in Berlin enjoyed a thrilling final between the German club and Paris Saint-Germain.



A full crowd, noisy support for both teams and a thrilling conclusion in Berlin. No, not Juventus v FC Barcelona at the Olympiastadion but the UEFA Women's Champions League final three weeks earlier.

Moved forward from UEFA Champions League week due to the men's final clashing with the opening day of the FIFA Women's World Cup, there was no problem going it alone in the east of the German capital at a Friedrich-Ludwig-Jahn-Sportpark given a revamp for the European showpiece. The home fans were given a German team to cheer in 1. FFC Frankfurt, but plenty travelled from France to support Paris Saint-Germain in a crowd of 18,300.

Šašić record

The day began with a well-attended German Football Association girls' football festival and the theme of youth was kept up inside the stadium with a cast of well over 100, many of them children, leading a spectacular opening ceremony of dance and flag waving. The teams put on just as good a spectacle for a crowd including German federal chancellor Angela Merkel.

Frankfurt dominated the early stages and in the 32nd minute took the lead with a far-post header by Célia Šašić, who thereby, in her debut European campaign, equalled the competition single-season goal record of 14. Against the run of play, Paris levelled eight minutes later, Kenza Dali creating a goal for Marie-Laure Delie. In the second half Paris brought on Laura Georges and another German in Josephine Henning, a pair who have five European club titles between them but had both been hampered by injury. Their physical presence helped neutralise Frankfurt's attacking thrust that had been led by Šašić, Veronica Boquete and Dzsenifer Marozsán.

Extra time loomed, especially after influential Frankfurt midfielder Simone Laudehr was injured. But two minutes into added time substitute Mandy Islacker, one of the few non-internationals on the pitch, became the unlikely Frankfurt hero, brilliantly swivelling to loop in a half-volley.

'Ran our hearts out'

Germany can now boast victories in nine of the 14 editions of this competition, with Frankfurt claiming four of them, two more than any other club – though this was their first win of the UEFA Women's Champions League era, having previously triumphed in the UEFA Women's Cup in 2002, 2006 and 2008.

In Colin Bell, whose sweeper system was key to stifling Paris, they have the first Englishman to

coach a winning team in any UEFA Champions League for men or women. Bell told UEFA.com: "We did everything tactically very well, the attitude was just fantastic – we ran our hearts out."



B. Streutker/UEFA

Mandy Islacker scores the winning goal for 1. FFC Frankfurt in added time

Boquete, for whom it was the last game at Frankfurt before a switch to FC Bayern München, added: "It's always more special [to score a late winner], because there is so much tension. Everyone is waiting a bit for extra time, and I think that the team believed we would finish it in the 90 minutes. So it's also special for me, because always in the big games that I am in, something happens in the last minute – that made me believe until the end."

Excitement was not just confined to Berlin. The official hashtag #UWCLfinal was the top Twitter trend in Germany throughout the evening, while worldwide #FRAPSG was high in the charts. Viewing figures were also high, with nearly 2 million tuning in on ZDF in Germany amid strong competition in a week which also saw the second legs of the men's UEFA club competitions. ●

14 May 2015

Friedrich-Ludwig-Jahn-Sportpark, Berlin – 18,300 spectators

1. FFC Frankfurt v Paris Saint-Germain 2-1 (1-1)

Goals: Šašić (1-0, 32), Delie (1-1, 40), Islacker (2-1, 90+2)

Referee: Esther Staubli (Switzerland)

A MEMORABLE WEEK IN WARSAW

Warsaw was the perfect host for UEFA Europa League final week, which ended on 27 May with Sevilla FC making history at the expense of an FC Dnipro Dnipropetrovsk team who had won the hearts of many.



Fans of FC Dnipro Dnipropetrovsk and Sevilla FC ensured that Warsaw was full of colour and noise throughout UEFA Europa League final week. As holders, Sevilla's run all the way to the Polish capital may not have raised too many eyebrows; Dnipro, though, had been on an 18-game odyssey to get to their first ever European decider.



Getty Images

The teams enter the field

Both sets of supporters were clearly determined to make the most of the occasion. With well over 24 hours to go until kick-off, the fan zone in Castle Square – situated in the magnificently charming old town – was already abuzz with music and all manner of entertainment. Most noticeable was the mini-pitch – provided by the grassroots foundation – on which children competed in five-a-side matches, while there was also the opportunity to be photographed alongside the UEFA Europa League trophy.

Dudek gives a hand

Former Poland goalkeeper Jerzy Dudek made an appearance at the fan zone on the afternoon

27 May 2015

National Stadium, Warsaw – 45,000 spectators

FC Dnipro Dnipropetrovsk v Sevilla FC 2-3 (2-2)

Goals: Kalinić (1-0, 7), Krychowiak (1-1, 28), Bacca (1-2, 31), Rotan (2-2, 44), Bacca (2-3, 73)

Referee: Martin Atkinson (England)

of the final, trying his luck at the passing challenge before signing autographs and posing for photographs. Many of those following their clubs subsequently made their way to the National Stadium Warsaw, ensuring the team buses were given rapturous greetings upon arrival.

Also in attendance were 200 youngsters given the chance to be inspired by football thanks to the first endeavours of the UEFA Foundation for Children. The tickets were allocated to vulnerable children living in Poland, selected under the supervision of the Polish Football Federation and the municipality of the capital of Warsaw: 14 associations with a recognised role in assisting vulnerable children were chosen to be represented by the youngsters at the final. Making a child's dream come true sends a message of hope, strength and joy to everyone – particularly those facing hardship.

A historic night

They witnessed Sevilla making history on the night as Unai Emery's men beat Dnipro 3-2 to become the first side to win the UEFA Cup/UEFA Europa League four times. Elevating themselves above FC Internazionale Milano, Juventus and Liverpool FC – all on three titles – looked a long way off when Nikola Kalinić gave Dnipro the lead after just seven minutes, flicking on a long ball forward before meeting Matheus's precise first-time cross with an emphatic header.

Sevilla were level soon enough, however, Poland midfielder Grzegorz Krychowiak giving the Warsaw locals particular reason to cheer by finishing adroitly following a corner. Carlos Bacca had laid on the equaliser for Krychowiak with a deft touch inside a crowded penalty area and then put Sevilla ahead, latching onto José Antonio Reyes's defence-splitting pass and rounding goalkeeper Denys Boyko to stroke into an unguarded net.

Though Dnipro showed admirable defiance to restore parity through Ruslan Rotan's delicate free-kick on the cusp of half-time, this was to be Sevilla's – and Bacca's – evening. The Colombian international struck a calm yet instinctive finish 17 minutes from time after Vitolo had brushed off a series of ricochets in midfield to play him in with a cute outside-of-the-boot pass. The reception Bacca was afforded when subsequently taken off made clear who had been the difference in a topsy-turvy encounter. Sevilla then raised the trophy for the fourth time in just ten seasons before celebrating on the pitch in front of the travelling supporters. ●

FRANCE END 11-YEAR WAIT FOR UNDER-17 TITLE

The latest crop of young French talent followed famous footsteps when lifting the trophy in Bulgaria after ousting Germany in the final of an enlarged tournament.



The record books sometimes throw up surprises. For example, the fact that, until May 2015, France had never won the European Under-17 Championship outside France. They had lifted the trophy before, however – in Châteauroux in 2004, when goals by Kévin Constant and Samir Nasri had secured a 2-1 victory over Spain. Gerard Piqué, among the starters alongside Cesc Fàbregas and current Club Atlético de Madrid midfielder Mario Suárez, was the scorer of Spain's goal.

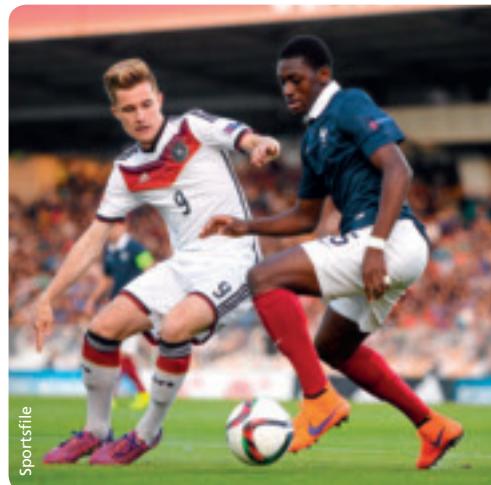
The coastal town of Burgas, in Bulgaria, was the scenario for the current crop of promising French teenagers to write history. And the player who helped them to do so was striker Odsonne Edouard, who became the first ever to score a hat-trick in the final and, with eight goals, totalled more than many of the teams who travelled to Bulgaria for the first 16-team final tournament since 2002. France accounted for a quarter of the 59 goals scored at an event where, prior to the final, most of the contestants had struggled to find the net.

Strong organisation

There had been a couple of goal feasts, with France beating Scotland 5-0 and Germany defeating the Czechs 4-0. Otherwise, goals had been a rare commodity, the Republic of Ireland, Scotland and Slovenia going home after the group stage without having ruffled their opponents' nets. Spain, for all the beauty of their approach play, scored from one penalty and two free-kicks in their five games, while the Dutch, prolific during their run to the 2014 final, only got on the scoresheet via a penalty and an own

goal. Italy failed to score in three of their five games.

But there are two sides to every coin. UEFA's technical observers in Bulgaria highlighted the high standards of goalkeeping, defensive organisation and tactical maturity which made for absorbing contests, even if the scoreboard operators were not required to work up a sweat. Everybody else did. The 16-team format created a 33-match schedule (from 6 to 22 May) which the Bulgarian hosts handled with commendable aplomb and efficiency. What is more, they located a hotel complex in the resort of Pomorie capable of accommodating all 16 delegations – which ticked all the right boxes in terms of maximising footballing and cultural interchanges among the participants.



France's Mamadou Doucouré gets the upper hand over Johannes Eggstein, just as his team did against Germany in the final

Exciting groups

On the field, most of the group placings remained in the air until the final whistle on the final matchday – none more so than Group C, where Greece, with a place in the last eight seemingly in their pockets, were cruelly sent home when France scored with the clock showing 80+4. Two of the quarter-finals were resolved by penalty shoot-outs, with Croatia and Spain losing out. France's scoring punch earned them a 3-0 win over Italy, while England's lack of it cost them a 1-0 defeat by Russia. The four losers then contested play-offs to decide two qualifiers to join the four semi-finalists at the forthcoming U-17 World Cup in Chile, with Croatia edging out Italy and Spain cruelly losing another shoot-out after another 0-0 draw, this time against England.

France required yet another shoot-out to resolve a remarkable semi-final against Belgium in which only three of 10 spot kicks hit the net. Germany nudged out the resolute Russians but, in a thoroughly entertaining final, found that all the national qualities of teamwork, commitment and never-say-die attitude were insufficient to stifle the rampant French. Edouard struck either side of the interval and completed his hat-trick ten minutes from time when Germany had brought the game back to life at 2-1, and the 4-1 win which allowed France to receive medals from their compatriot, Michel Platini, was clinched by an own goal. The final put a spectacular end to a tournament for youth teams who had shown maturity beyond their years. ●

RESULTS

Quarter-finals

15 May	Croatia v Belgium	1-1 (3-5p)
15 May	Germany v Spain	0-0 (4-2p)
16 May	France v Italy	3-0
16 May	England v Russia	0-1

World Cup play-offs

19 May	Croatia v Italy	1-0
19 May	Spain v England	0-0 (3-5p)

Semi-finals

19 May	Belgium v France	1-1 (1-2p)
19 May	Germany v Russia	1-0

Final

22 May	France v Germany	4-1
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GREECE WELCOMES UNDER-19 HOPEFULS

The European Under-19 Championship is always one of the highlights of the summer's football and the 14th edition, in Greece from 6 to 19 July, promises to be no exception. Four of the tournament's previous winners, including holders Germany and six-time champions Spain, will be involved.



Fifty-two countries started this season's qualifying round, with Spain given a bye to the elite round and Greece qualifying automatically for the finals. Eight sides – England, Austria, Slovakia,

Russia, Portugal, Italy, the Netherlands and Montenegro – won all three of their fixtures, with the 13 group winners and 13 runners-up and the best third-placed side overall, Scotland, progressing to the elite round.

With just one place in the finals on offer from each of the seven elite round groups, there was little margin for error and Russia made no mistakes, continuing their winning run with three more victories to reach the final round for the first time since 2007. France qualified at the expense of England, while Germany came out on top in Group 2 and Austria, the Netherlands and Ukraine all qualified. Spain claimed the last berth with a 4-0 defeat of Portugal, taking them to 13 goals in this season's elite round – more than any other side.

The final tournament will be held at three venues: Katerini's Municipal Stadium, the Municipal Stadium in Veria and the AEL FC Arena in Larissa. The Group A games will take place on 6, 9 and 12 July, with Group B matches on 7, 10 and 13. The top two in each group qualify for the semi-finals on 16 July, with the final in Katerini three days later.

Since the Under-18 competition became an Under-19 event in the 2001/02 season, Spain – European Under-18 champions just once in 17 attempts – have emerged as the dominant force. Winners of the inaugural Under-19 championship in Norway 13 years

ago, with Fernando Torres scoring the only goal of the final against Germany, Spain have triumphed a further five times in the years that have followed.

Big names

The likes of Andrés Iniesta (2002), Sergio Ramos and David Silva (both 2004), Gerard Piqué and Juan Mata (2006), Javi Martínez (2007), Álvaro Morata (2011), Juan Bernat (2012) and Paco Alcácer (2011, 2012) have all featured in victorious Spanish Under-19 sides, while a host of other big names have also lifted the trophy.

Giorgio Chiellini was in the Italy side that triumphed in 2003, and Hugo Lloris and Yoann Gourcuff played for France in 2005, while Sven and Lars Bender were the midfield as Germany claimed the crown in the Czech Republic three years later. Antoine Griezmann and Alexandre Lacazette were key members of the France side that won on home soil back in 2010, while Aleksandar Mitrović spearheaded Serbia's 2013 triumph in Lithuania.

The tournament has been graced by a wide range of other future internationals, including Hugo Almeida, Thomas Vermaelen, Mario Gomez, Jakub Błaszczykowski, Burak Yılmaz, Manuel Neuer, Marouane Fellaini, Kostas Mitroglou, David de Gea, Jordi Alba, Daniel Sturridge, Thiago Alcântara, Koke, David Alaba and Bruno Martins Indi. The Germany squad that was eliminated in the 2007 semi-finals featured future World Cup winners Benedikt Höwedes, Jérôme Boateng and Mesut Özil.

A total of 33 countries have participated in the Under-19 final tournament – Spain once again leading the way, with 2015 marking their 11th appearance. Ominously for this year's host association, Greece – runners-up in 2007 and 2012, both to Spain – only Ukraine (2009) and France (2010) have won the competition on home soil.

The record attendance for the competition remains the 25,100 who saw Ukraine beat England in the 2009 final in Donetsk, while the Czech Republic's 13-0 win against Andorra in the 2001/02 qualifying round is still the largest margin of victory.

Serbia and Montenegro striker Borko Veselinović scored 11 times in the 2004/05 competition, an achievement matched by Germany's Davie Selke and André Silva of Portugal in 2013/14. Six of Selke's goals came in the final tournament, drawing him level with the competition record set by Spain's Morata in 2011. ●

Germany (Nadiem Amiri pictured here in an elite round match) are in Group B with Spain, the Netherlands and Russia, while Group A pits Greece, Ukraine, Austria and France against each other



Getty Images

WOMEN FIRST!

The Israel Football Association (IFA) and the state of Israel are hosting the final round of the European Women's Under-19 Championship in July. Apart from the hosts, the other teams playing in the tournament are Denmark, England, Germany, France, Norway, Spain and Sweden. The chairman of the IFA, Ofer Eini, has said that "*hosting the tournament is a national mission*".



The IFA is proud to be hosting this final tournament. After the European Under-21 Championship final round held here in summer 2013, Israel has once again been given the honour of hosting a prestigious tournament, testimony to the great trust of the leadership of UEFA.

The finals, which will be played in Lod, Ramle, Rishon Lezion and Netanya, will begin on 15 July and end on 27 July. As part of the preparation and promotion of the tournament, the cities chosen to host the games will put on a variety of entertaining activities, involving the local people in the international football celebrations scheduled to take place in their cities.

At half-time during the Israeli Cup final on 20 May, the draw was made to place the finalists into their groups for the final round. Bonni Ginzburg, former Israeli goalkeeper, moderated the event, while former Israeli international Silvi Jan drew the balls. The deputy chairman of the IFA, Tamir Gilat, addressed the crowd briefly, saying: *"It is a great honour for Israel to be hosting such a prestigious tournament. We are certain that the coming tournament will give a huge push to women's football and will boost it to the heights it deserves. I call on all fans to come to the games and am sure that the guests who come to us will be positively impressed by the state of Israel and our football."*

The draw produced the following group line-ups:
Group A: Israel, France, Sweden and Denmark
Group B: Germany, Spain, England and Norway

Our own women's Under-19 team was created about two and a half years ago as a designated team for this tournament. As part of the Segel Zahav academic programme of the IFA, in collaboration with Athena and the Wingate Institute, a professional staff, headed by the coach Guy Azuri, has built a special team that will lead Israeli football in this summer's tournament. During the last two years the team has notched up exceptional professional progress and only recently the players returned with a trophy and respectable third place from the prestigious Kuban spring tournament in Sochi, Russia, after having defeated the teams of Romania, Poland, Estonia and Bulgaria, among others.

The chairman of the IFA, Ofer Eini, says: *"We have invested great efforts to ensure that the prestigious tournament that UEFA entrusted to us*



The draw for the final round took place at half-time during the men's cup final

will indeed remain here, and I thank all those who helped. This is an exceptional opportunity for Israeli society to make a monumental leap in its attitude towards women's football. The Israel Football Association will continue leading the sector to equality with men's football. Hosting the European Women's Under-19 Championship final tournament is a national mission. The inspiring way in which Israel turned its hosting of the Under-21 finals in 2013 into a huge celebration fills me with optimism that also the coming tournament will be considered a great success."

The team's coach, Guy Azuri, agrees: *"Two years ago we began a unique and highly challenging project, the main aim of which was – and still is – to develop and promote women's football in Israel, not only on a professional level, but also in terms of raising awareness of the sector, and, of course, providing a suitably good team for the hosts of such an important tournament. Our team will rise to the difficult and challenging mission, and for the football fans it will be an opportunity to be part of a sports event of the highest calibre."*

The tournament director and head of the women's football division at the IFA, Sharon Zeevi, says: *"The preparations for the European Women's Under-19 Championship final tournament are at a peak and we anticipate an outstanding event in women's sport, as well as the success of the Israeli team on the field. I ask all the fans of the team and of women's sport to fill the stands, and I promise that it will be a rare, exhilarating experience. I hope that the tournament will help leverage women's football and allow every girl, young woman and woman in Israel to play."* ●

*Eitan Dotan
Israel Football Association*

A MATCH AT THE CROSSROADS OF EUROPE AND ASIA

After Prague in 2013 and Cardiff in 2014, it is the turn of Tbilisi to host the UEFA Super Cup. On Tuesday 11 August the Georgian capital will welcome the respective winners of the 2014/15 UEFA Champions League and Europa League, FC Barcelona and Sevilla FC.



The Georgian Football Federation (GFF) has been part of the European football family for only 25 years. Until then, it was part of the Soviet Union, and any titles it won came under that vast empire. Since becoming independent, Georgian football has been learning to stand on its own two feet and, like the country as a whole, focusing on development and working tirelessly to help Georgia to prosper and gain international renown.

The organisation of an event such as the UEFA Super Cup would have been unthinkable a few years ago, but now, with the date almost upon us, we are ready and looking forward to hosting the curtain-raiser to the new UEFA season.

The UEFA Super Cup will attract quite a number of visitors to Georgia. Some will have visited our country before and be familiar with our culture, history and traditions, but for others it will be their first time.

Free transport

The UEFA Super Cup organising committee has been doing its best to make sure the event runs smoothly. Its main emphasis is on GFF branding along the whole route from Tbilisi airport to the stadium, via the city centre. We will provide free transport

for guests and fans from the airport to their accommodation and the venue.

There are quite a number of historical monuments in the city centre, as well as bars and restaurants where you can try both traditional Georgian and European cuisine. There will also be a chance to taste traditional, organic Georgian wine.

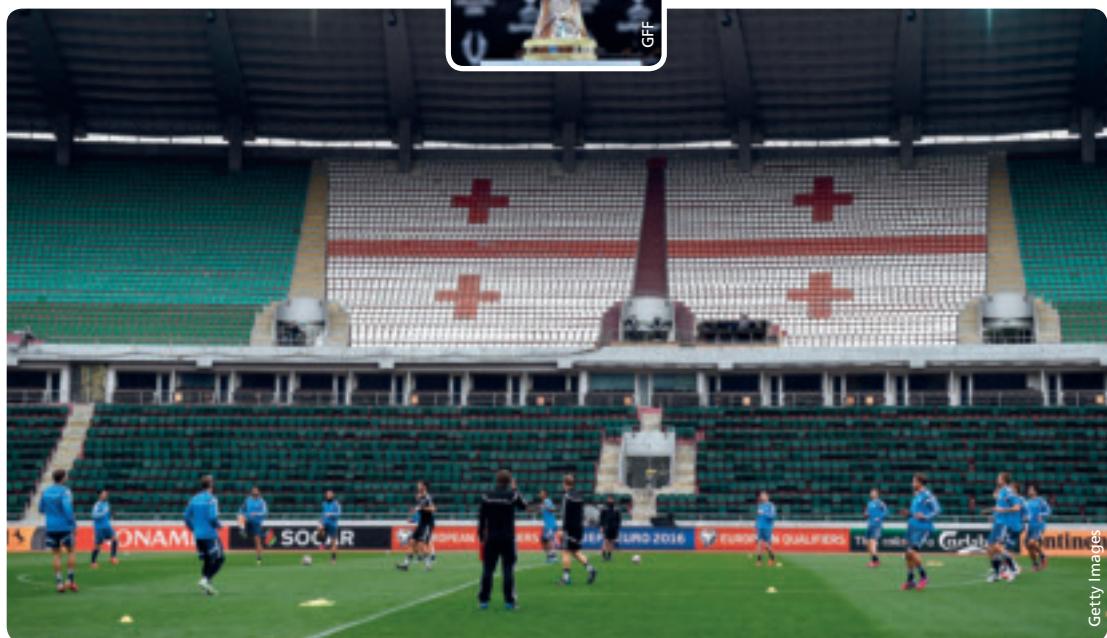
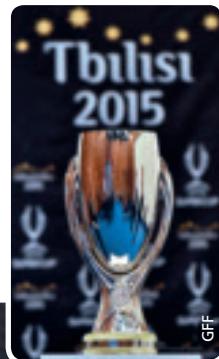
Trophy tour

The organising committee will take the UEFA Super Cup, UEFA Champions League and UEFA Europa League trophies on tour across 13 districts of Georgia. The tour will start in Poti – the cradle of Georgian football, where the first Georgian football club was founded – and end in Tbilisi.

The Boris Paichadze Dinamo Arena – the UEFA Super Cup venue – is currently being renovated and will be able to seat 54,000 spectators, a UEFA Super Cup record.

Tbilisi is looking forward to welcoming visitors from all over the world to mark a very important day in the history of Georgian football which will symbolise success and victory, and show that we are worthy of our place in the European football family. ●

*Tata Burduli,
Georgian Football Federation*



*The Boris Paichadze
Dinamo Arena in Tbilisi,
where the 2015 UEFA
Super Cup will take place*

MAXI-PITCHES TAKE CENTRE SPOT IN GRASSROOTS FOOTBALL

Munich illustrates how maxi-pitches benefit both local football and the community. UEFA donates maxi-pitches to each host city of a UEFA Champions League or UEFA Europa League final. The tradition started in 2010, to kick off UEFA's Grassroots Week.

The goal of the maxi-pitches is to develop football at grassroots level and to enable more boys and girls to experience the passion and fun of football. It also highlights UEFA's continued commitment to the foundations of the game, while also conveying the message that elite football can only thrive with a healthy base beneath it and that the game should be open to all players of all ages and abilities.

In the recent years UEFA has donated nine maxi-pitches, to cities including Dublin, London, Amsterdam, Lisbon, Turin, Bucharest, Madrid and Munich.

'Football is not 1-0. Football is happiness'

In conjunction with this year's UEFA Women's Champions League and UEFA Champions League final in Berlin, UEFA visited the maxi-pitch in Munich that it had donated for the 2012 showpiece, the fourth hosted by the Bavarian city. UEFA witnessed the legacy it has left for the development of football and the community of that region.

Cold and heavy spring rain could not keep the girls and boys from playing football on the maxi-pitch. Happy and breathless, Demia Böhme, a 14-year-old footballer from FFC Wacker München 99, explained why she loves playing on the pitch donated by UEFA: "*I really like playing on this football field because the game is more relaxed and you get to kick more balls and the rules are less strict. It's more fun to play here and I believe it is important because here you are much more likely to learn how to dribble.*"

The head of the Munich sports department, Thomas Urban, has high hopes for the women's club that made the maxi-pitch its home: "*In Munich, we have two famous men's football clubs but the women's football club, FFC Wacker München 99, is about to rise to the second Bundesliga and it would be a really great connection if specifically this club, which trains here every day, will make it to the next level.*"

Bernhard Slawinski, chairman of the Munich football district of the Bavarian Football Association, confirms that the Munich maxi-pitch accomplishes much more than just serving as a training ground for youngsters: "*It is important to remember the essence of the game. Football*



Getty Images

The maxi-pitch donated to the city of Munich

is not 1-0. Football is happiness. Football is suspense, fun, and about the community. And this is what we convey on this maxi-pitch."

"Kids from 52 different countries come here and learn to play football," he added. "They not only train, but also have the possibility to meet new friends and make contacts. Furthermore, they have the chance to find a new home in a foreign country."

The future of grassroots football

In leaving a legacy that benefits both local communities and grassroots football, UEFA hopes to witness the same kind of success after this year's finals in Warsaw and Berlin. UEFA handed over a maxi-pitch to Warsaw ahead of the UEFA Europa League final on 27 May, while Berlin inaugurated its new maxi-pitch on 5 June, the day before the UEFA Champions League final.

This year UEFA Grassroots Week moves to September to coincide with the European Commission's Week of Sport, which aims to promote physical activity and to raise awareness of the many health benefits linked to participating in sport. The week will be celebrated with the opening of a maxi-pitch in Brussels. •

KISS WORKSHOP IN BUCHAREST

The Romanian Football Federation hosted a UEFA Knowledge and Information Sharing Scenario (KISS) workshop on marketing and ticketing on 19 and 20 May.

The workshop in Bucharest brought together 29 national associations, and discussions centred in particular on how to improve and further develop marketing and ticketing at international matches.

Participants examined various issues. These included effective communication with target audiences; exploring ways of enhancing the matchday experience for fans; how ticketing and marketing cooperation can be strengthened to motivate fans to come back to the stadium – thereby helping to fill stadiums; and the latest and future developments in ticketing and marketing, including current trends in how to

make use of digital platforms and technologies to sell tickets. The Bucharest event also highlighted the importance of obtaining good data from ticket buyers to gain insights into the behaviour of the national association's football family. In addition, the group deliberations unearthed a series of excellent ideas for promoting ticket sales – underlining the value of national associations interacting and sharing knowledge.

Specific presentations focused on association and club ticketing processes and promotion, while UEFA highlighted the challenges that it faced in supporting national associations in the ticketing sector for the EURO 2016 final round in France. ●

DOPING CONTROL OFFICERS SEMINAR IN NYON

UEFA's new athlete biological passport (ABP) programme, UEFA EURO 2016 anti-doping activities and a new testing development programme featured at the latest seminar for UEFA doping control officers (DCOs), held in Nyon on 21 and 22 May.

The seminar looked at UEFA's unique new DCO testing development programme, which ensures that DCOs are officially accredited. UEFA will be improving its instructions and rules, and offering better support to DCOs when on assignment, including observation visits. The advantages include improvements in the quality

of anti-doping tests, and better understanding and information exchanges between UEFA and the DCOs.

The 55 DCOs present also heard about the new steroid profiling ABP programme to begin in UEFA competitions at the start of the 2015/16 season. UEFA's new programme will monitor biological passport profiles for players over time, and will be used as an indirect identifier of possible doping.

The programme is seen as a deterrent to any player considering taking banned steroids, and will complement UEFA's existing direct anti-doping testing programme.

The DCOs were informed that UEFA planned to begin out-of-competition testing for EURO 2016 from 1 January next year. Tests will also take place at each of the 51 matches in France. Testing will include both blood and urine samples. ●



Dr Mogens Kreutzfeldt, third vice-chairman of the UEFA Medical Committee, addresses the doping control officers in Nyon

MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS



Scouting for Manchester United summer soccer school

For the third year, the Association of Football Federations of Azerbaijan (AFFA) and one of its main partners, Bakcell, recently took part in the selection of players for the Manchester United summer soccer school, with the purpose of developing children's football in Azerbaijan. An initial selection took place in the Gakh and Khachmaz regions of Azerbaijan, as well as in the cities of Baku, Sumgayit and Ganja. A total of 965 children from 8 to 12 years old took part, compared with 677 in 2003 and 724 in 2014.

The field was whittled down to 34 children (32 outfield players and 2 goalkeepers), who attended training sessions at Bayil stadium in Baku from 1 to 6 June in the hope of being selected for the summer school itself. The coaches for the AFFA elite training project and



AFFA

The best players will be lucky enough to go to Manchester

the head coach of the Manchester United soccer school, Mick Bennett, led the selection process and tested the children's technical abilities.

AFFA general secretary Elkhan Mammadov shared his opinions about the Manchester United summer soccer school: "We are very pleased to state that this is already the third time that selections for the Manchester United summer soccer school have taken place in Baku. The activities carried out within the framework

of this project for the past two years, the well-organised registration, selection processes and training sessions, and the children's great interest in the project are all positive results of the work done to ensure the popularity and inclusiveness of football in Azerbaijan. In the first and second years of the project, six talented kids (including one girl) and then another five got the opportunity to travel to Manchester and train at Denstone College, after demonstrating great skill during the initial training sessions. They also went to the Manchester United football academy and the legendary Old Trafford stadium.

"I believe that this year's training sessions will also draw lots of attention thanks to a high level of organisation, and children with special talents and skills will be able to visit Manchester to gain experience."

● Mikayil Narimanoglu



Under-17s follow in the footsteps of Hazard and Benteke

The Belgian Under-17 team's adventure at the European Under-17 Championship final round in Bulgaria can be summed up as a truly fantastic experience. Reaching the semi-finals and securing a place at the U-17 World Cup in Chile was more than they could have hoped to achieve.

Despite outplaying their opponents, Germany, one of the world's leading football nations, the young Belgians were defeated 2-0 in their opening match. However, their performance received widespread acclaim and, with their confidence duly boosted, they went on to record convincing victories against the Czech Republic (3-0) and Slovenia (1-0).

The suspense was unbearable in the quarter-final against a solid Croatian outfit. After a 1-1 draw, a penalty competition saw a euphoric Belgian side book their place in the last four and, with it, a ticket for the U-17 World Cup.

The semi-final against France was no less intense. Once again, the outcome was decided on penalties, but on this occasion the Belgians fell short. France went on to beat Germany in the final.

The last time Belgium's Under-17s reached the semi-finals was on home soil in 2007, when coach Bob Browaeys' team was spearheaded by Eden Hazard and Christian Benteke.

Belgium were eliminated in the group stage at the 2007 U-17 World Cup in South Korea. Our current generation of Under-17s has the potential to progress further in the tournament

in Chile at the end of the year. They are hungry for success and the future looks bright. Chile, here we come!

● Brecht Schelstraete



FK Sarajevo are premier league champions

With victory in the final against FK Sloboda Tuzla (3-1), FK Sarajevo won the Bosnian and Herzegovinian premier league title. At the other end of the table, FK Mladost Velika Obarska and NK Zvijezda were relegated from the top flight. In women's football SFK 2000 Sarajevo retained the league title, while MNK Centar Sarajevo won the futsal championship.

FK Olimpic Sarajevo beat NK Široki Brijeg 5-4 in a penalty shoot-out to win the Bosnian and Herzegovinian Cup for the first time, after both matches between the two teams, at Pečara stadium and Asim Ferhatović Hase Stadion, had finished level on 1-1. In women's football SFK 2000 Sarajevo also won the cup after beating ZNK Mostar over two legs (14-0 and 12-0).

FK Sarajevo won the youth cup with two wins against NK Široki Brijeg (2-0 and 4-1), while MNK Zrinjski won the Bosnian and Herzegovinian futsal cup over Seljak Livno in two matches (2-0 and 3-2). The Bosnian and Herzegovinian Under-19s played matches in the

cities of Mostar and Široki Brijeg as part of Group 5 of the elite round of the 2014/15 European Under-19 Championship. Toni Karačić's players finished third in the group with 4 points, while Ukraine topped the group with 7 points, Montenegro were in second place with 6 points, and Poland were last with 0 points. The Bosnian and Herzegovinian youngsters drew with Ukraine (1-1), lost to Montenegro (1-0) and beat Poland (2-0).



F. Kravac

Meanwhile, the Under-16s finished second in a UEFA development tournament in Finland, with two victories, over Latvia (4-0) and Russia (3-2), and one loss, to the hosts (3-2). At the same tournament the women's Under-16 players also finished second, with victories over Latvia (2-1) and Russia (1-0) and a defeat against Finland (3-0).

In Bijeljina the second international friendship tournament was attended by 16 Under-16 teams from the former Yugoslavia: GNK Dinamo Zagreb, FK Sloboda Tuzla, OFK Beograd, FK Sutjeska, FK Crvena zvezda, FK Velež, NK Osijek, FK Budućnost Podgorica, FK Partizan, FK Vardar, FK Željezničar, NK Zagreb, HNK Rijeka, FK Vojvodina, FK Sarajevo and FK Napredak. The teams were divided into four groups for the tournament, which was won by FK Crvena zvezda, who played FK Vojvodina in the final and won with a goal by Stefan Mihajlović in the 49th minute.

The tournament was organised by Savo Milošević, supported by the Serbian and Bosnian and Herzegovinian football associations.

● Fuad Kravac



Chernomorets win grassroots football tournament in Burgas

PSFC Chernomorets Burgas have won a seven-a-side grassroots football tournament for children born on or after 1 January 2005. The tournament was held in Burgas as a sequel to the European Under-17 Championship, for which Burgas hosted several final round matches, including the final on the eve of this grassroots competition.

The seven-a-side grassroots tournament took place on 23 and 24 May, at Chernomorets's three training grounds in Burgas, which had just been completely renovated for the U17 finals. The pitches were divided into six playing areas, each 40m x 35m. The aim of the tournament was to promote grassroots football and to show the local clubs the new and improved facilities.



Some of the young grassroots tournament participants

Twelve teams took part in the tournament, in three groups of four, featuring a total of 180 children. Chernomorets beat OFC Sliven 2000 6-2 in the semis, and beat DIT 3-2 on penalties in the final, the two sides having scored four apiece by the end of normal playing time. The team from Primorsko were disqualified after the first round because they violated tournament regulations by including children born before 1 January 2005.

All players received adidas kits consisting of

a shirt, shorts and socks, and the participating teams each received ten size 4 balls, which will help in training.

• Nikolay Dyulgerov



Another success for Croatian youth teams

The Croatian Under-17 team has continued the excellent run that the Croatian Football Federation (HNS) has been enjoying in its youth categories. At the European Under-17 Championship in Bulgaria, Croatia performed excellently and earned a place at the 2015 World Cup in Chile. This will be Croatia's fourth youth World Cup since 2011 – along with England and France, that is the most of any European country over the last four years. Croatia conceded only one goal in eight matches during the elite round and final tournament combined, but after a 1-1 draw against Belgium in the quarter-finals, Dario Bašić's men were knocked out in the penalty shoot-out. However, captain Nikola Moro went on to score against Italy in the World Cup play-offs to secure a 1-0 win and Croatia's latest World Cup berth.

"I can only congratulate the players, their club coaches and their parents. We have all sacrificed a lot to achieve the result of a generation," Bašić said. HNS president and UEFA Executive Committee member Davor Šuker added: "These young men are an excellent, winning team – one to count on."

Meanwhile, 22 people, including participants from Greece, Bulgaria, Slovenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and FYR Macedonia, graduated

from the second Croatian edition of the UEFA Certificate in Football Management (CFM) programme in Zagreb. Croatia was one of the pioneers of the UEFA CFM, which helps national association staff to enhance their management skills. Davor Šuker was on hand to congratulate all the graduates: "A match is usually only 90 minutes, but football is 24/7. That is why the HNS decided to invest in you, giving you an opportunity to attend this programme. You should now give back to your respective organisations and to Croatian football, sharing with your colleagues the good practices you have been studying over the last nine months."

GNK Dinamo Zagreb have celebrated a double crown: after securing their tenth consecutive league title, the Blues won a dramatic Croatian Cup final against RNK Split on penalties. Croatian president Kolinda Grabar-Kitarović was at Stadion Maksimir to present the cup to the Dinamo Zagreb players.

Off the pitch, the HNS's football academy has hosted the first international goalkeeper coach conference, which brought together almost all Croatian and many international goalkeeper coaches. Meanwhile, veterans of the Croatian national team, including current national team head coach Niko Kovač, played a charity match in Sisak against Croatian priests, with all the gate receipts going towards funding student scholarships in the county of Sisak-Moslavina.

• Tomislav Pacak



The graduates of the second Croatian edition of the UEFA Certificate in Football Management
Drago Sopota/HNS



New technical director

The Faroe Islands Football Association has appointed Pætur S Clementsen as its new technical director of football. Petur Simonsen has held this position since it was established many years ago, but when he announced he would retire later this year the Faroese FA set about looking for his successor – and received quite a few applications.



Pætur Clementsen

FSF

Pætur Clementsen is currently living in Copenhagen, where he is about to finish a degree in sport, with sport psychology as his major, at the University of Copenhagen. He once worked as an office apprentice at the Faroese FA and holds the highest coaching badge possible in the Faroe Islands. His coaching experience includes Faroese national youth teams and the Lyngby BK Under-16 boys' team in Denmark, which he led to the Danish championship.

"I am absolutely thrilled to get this job. When I heard about the vacancy, I didn't hesitate to apply," he said.

He will start in his new job later this year, and for the first few months will be working alongside Petur Simonsen, who will formally retire at the end of the year.

• Terji Nielsen

International futsal friendlies

Mid-May saw two international futsal friendlies between Gibraltar and Switzerland at Victoria Stadium's Centenary Sports Hall, with the proceeds from the two matches to be donated to two charities – Cancer Research UK and the Gibraltar Alzheimer's and Dementia Support Group.

Both games proved to be extremely competitive. The first, on a Friday evening, saw Switzerland control the first half. Goals from Mateo Sego and Yannick Raboud gave them a 2-0 lead at half-time. Gibraltar were rejuvenated after the break, the team talk from head coach Peter Moreno and assistant Jose Carlos Prieto clearly having worked a treat. They were on fire in the second half, in front of their home crowd, and a neat finish from Duane Robba reduced the deficit. Moreno then deployed Christian Sanchez as Gibraltar's flying

goalkeeper – an integral part of any futsal team's armoury and something that Gibraltar have been working on for a while now. Despite a siege on the Swiss goal in the last five minutes there was to be no way through and Switzerland were victorious by two goals to one.

Saturday's game proved to be a totally different affair. Gibraltar continued their momentum from Friday evening's second half and took the game to their Swiss opponents. Christian Wink in the Gibraltar goal had to be on his toes to pull off a string of saves as Switzerland hit Gibraltar on the break, but right on the half-time whistle Ivan Robba broke free to set up Lee Buhagiar for a tap-in and take the home team into the interval 1-0 up.

The second half was much the same, with both Gibraltar and Switzerland getting stuck into each other. Wink once again was proving to be unbeatable in Gibraltar's goal, and midway through the second half Ian Rodriguez



The Swiss and Gibraltarian teams before kick-off

produced a sublime piece of skill to break free from the Swiss defence and calmly finish to put Gibraltar 2-0 up.

Switzerland then deployed their own flying keeper in a bid to get back into the game, but it was to no avail: Gibraltar's defence held firm to ensure a thoroughly deserved 2-0 victory.

Overall this proved to be an excellent workout for Gibraltar's national futsal team, against much higher-ranked European opposition. The hard work and efforts of the coaching staff and the futsal division of the Gibraltar FA, headed by futsal president Michael Bonavia, are there for all to see, and it can only be onwards and upwards for this extremely popular and ever growing sport on the Rock.

● Steven Gonzalez

Greek football says 'No to Bullying'

This year's Greek Cup final, between Olympiacos FC and Xanthi FC, was an opportunity for the Hellenic Football Federation (HFF) to send an anti-bullying message to the whole of Greek society. Both finalists stood with the HFF to help Greek football 'build a wall' against bullying.

The HFF believes in the power of football. The main goal is that children learn to respect others and not fear anyone. This was the message written on the player escorts' T-shirts as they led the players onto the pitch: 'Respect everyone, fear no one'. The players wore T-shirts with the messages 'Defend against bullying', 'Tackle bullying' and 'Build a wall against bullying', while the referees' T-shirts read 'Send off bullying'.

This sent a resounding message. Almost everyone at Athens Olympic Stadium on 23 May – officials, fans, media representatives,



The players walk onto the pitch wearing anti-bullying T-shirts

technicians and stadium staff – wore 'No to bullying' wristbands. In addition, a special video dedicated to the fight against bullying, starring Olympiacos's Alejandro 'Chori' Dominguez and Xanthi's Dimitris Goutas, was displayed on the giant screen.

A football match lasts 90 minutes, but the fight against social problems never ends. We all must strive to score against bullying!

● Giota Kaisari

FK Jelgava hang on to Latvian Cup

20 May was a significant day in the Latvian football calendar, when cup holders FK Jelgava went up against league champions FK Ventspils in the Latvian Cup final. The match was held in the city of Ventspils for the first time, but for the second year in a row Jelgava ran out victorious, beating the hosts 2-0.

This was the first time that Ventspils and Jelgava had gone head to head in the final. For the majority of the game Jelgava had to play with only ten men, because in only the fourth minute Abdoulaye Diallo was shown a straight red card by referee Andris Treimanis. Still, Jelgava managed to produce a few goalscoring chances and two of them were taken, by Kennedy Eriba and captain Gints Freimanis.



The FK Jelgava players celebrate after receiving the trophy

After successes in 2010 and 2014, this was Jelgava's third Latvian Cup triumph, while Ventspils have lifted the trophy on six occasions. The Latvian Cup has existed since 1936, and the most successful team in the history of the competition is Skonto FC, with eight victories.

The Jelgava head coach, Vitālijs Astafjevs – previously one of the most significant players in Latvian football history – has now won the first trophy of his career as a head coach.

● Toms Ārmanis

2015 Calcio Report released

The annual Calcio Report, produced by the Italian Football Federation (FIGC) research centre, was presented by the president of the FIGC, Carlo Tavecchio, its CEO, Michele Uva, Enrico Letta from the Italian research and legislation agency, also a former prime minister of Italy, and Emanuele Grasso from PwC on 18 May at the national technical centre at Coverciano. The report consists of nine sections, including a census of Italian football, a profile of the national sides and an in-depth analysis of the economic, governance, infrastructure and competition aspects of the game in Italy.

Football remains among the top ten Italian industries despite the serious economic crisis affecting the country and is one of the biggest sports in Italy – 25% of all licensed athletes are registered with the FIGC, even in spite of a slight decrease over the last five years (8%

fewer clubs, 2.8% fewer teams, and 0.8% fewer licensed players). Italian football is a big player in Europe as well, with the fourth highest number of players and the second highest number of licensed coaches. *"Our priority now is to develop areas such as sport infrastructure and the brand awareness of Italian clubs from an international perspective,"* said Michele Uva. *"As recently announced, the federation has established a new regulatory framework that aims to make it compulsory for all clubs to have balanced budgets. At the same time we are focusing on reforming domestic competitions and the associated licence systems. While this process will take three or four years to show results, sustainability for sport companies today is key."*

The FIGC's 2015 Calcio Report is currently available on the FIGC website (www.figc.it) in Italian only, but an English version will be released soon.

● Diego Antenozio

Member associations



FC Vaduz break European cup record

Liechtenstein's domestic cup competition has been held every year since 1946. Its 70th edition saw two European records broken and plenty to talk about in the small principality. By winning the cup for the 43rd time, the country's leading club, FC Vaduz, confirmed its dominance of Liechtenstein football and set a new record. The only professional club in the country has now won more cups than any other club in Europe, having broken clear of Northern Irish serial winners Linfield FC, who failed to reach the final of their own domestic cup competition this year and therefore still have 42 cup wins under their belt.

Appearing in the final for the 56th time, FC Vaduz took the opportunity to pull ahead by winning their 43rd title with a 5-0 victory against amateur club FC Triesenberg in Eschen on 13 May. This 70th edition was also a rather special occasion for their lower-division opponents. Not only was reaching the final a tremendous achievement in itself for the sixth-tier club, it was also the first time that Liechtenstein's youngest football club had made it past the semi-final stage, which meant another record was broken. All seven of the tiny nation's clubs have now played in at least one cup final. No other European country can make such a claim.



FC Vaduz after winning their domestic cup for the 43rd time

With so many records at stake, there was a danger that the final itself would become nothing more than a sideshow. From a sporting perspective, it was clear from the outset that the minnows of FC Triesenberg had very little chance of upsetting the hot favourites from Vaduz. The final in Eschen was therefore dominated by a sense of excitement at the unusual combination of finalists and the fact that Liechtenstein now holds two European cup records.

• Anton Banzer



Maltese coach addresses UEFA study group on coach education

Internationally, coach education has long been seen as one of the pillars of football development, and Malta is investing in its coaches accordingly. The benefits are evident both in the increased number of qualified coaches on the island and in their quality.

The Malta Football Association's technical centre, under director Robert Gatt, has been keeping abreast of modern coaching developments, and the knowledge of the top officials at the centre has been instrumental in this.



Captains of Change – creating equal opportunities for everyone

The Football Association of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FFM) is strengthening its contribution to a better society through the Captains of Change project.

Captains of Change is a UEFA initiative to create equal opportunities for everybody in the world of football, regardless of sex, religion, ethnicity or disability. The FFM welcomes this project and plans to implement it in a number of ways, starting with improving stadium infrastructure and the education and activities organised by the federation and clubs. The FFM aims to support and encourage diversity in order to develop the game and extend the joy that it brings to more people.

Filip Popovski, the FFM general secretary, said: "The Captains of Change project encourages the creation of disabled access to stadiums and sports facilities in [FYR] Macedonia and the involvement of disabled people in social activities. By modernising our stadiums we are making them accessible to disabled people and this will allow them to watch live matches and be active participants. Many studies show that differences lead to progress and we are committed to integrating marginalised groups into football and sport in general."

In line with this project, in March the FFM invited disabled people to support its national team at the match between FYR Macedonia and Belarus. The youngest acted as player escorts and accompanied the national team players onto the pitch for the opening ceremony and the national anthems.

Branimir Jovanovski, president of Mobility Macedonia and a Paralympic Games gold medallist in archery, said: "We appreciate the FFM's initiative to make it easier for disabled people to get involved in football. By improving infrastructure, creating disabled parking spaces, creating enough space in the stands for people who use a wheelchair to watch sports events, and adapting the toilets at the top division clubs' grounds, disabled people will be able to watch football close up, and also be able to attend concerts, shows and events taking place at those stadiums. People with physical disabilities are neither sick nor incompetent and we are really happy to have this opportunity

to enjoy football in a more dignified way, since football is a global phenomenon. The FFM is breaking down barriers in terms of both architecture and public awareness, and that deserves respect and appreciation."

As part of the project, on 15 May FFM employees and Mobility Macedonia members played in a friendly football match at the FFM's Petar Milosevski training centre in Skopje, and later attended a cocktail party hosted by the FFM.



The players who took part in the friendly between the FFM and Mobility Macedonia

Mobility Macedonia also gave a lecture, which introduced the FFM staff to the perceptions, stereotypes and prejudices that disabled people face every day, as well as the opportunities and prospects for extending cooperation between the two organisations.

This is not a revolution – these are the first small steps towards developing and improving our awareness of differences. The primary aim of the project is for the FFM to enable physical access to stadiums for disabled people, so that everybody will be able to attend matches.

Since we are discussing Captains of Change, we must emphasise UEFA's involvement in and commitment to the overall project. UEFA has given the FFM a large part of the guidance and tools needed to strengthen its capacity for making changes. The cooperation with Mobility Macedonia has opened new doors for institutional and personal cooperation between the FFM and FYR Macedonia's disabled community, and the FFM is becoming aware of disabled people's needs, but also its ability to respond to them.

"This is a story that is just starting to develop, but we are excited to see our project becoming a reality," said Irena Bakrevska Miloshevskva, who is in charge of the Captains of Change project at the FFM.

• Zlatko Andonovski



Stephen Grima

Stephen Grima, a Maltese coach, was recently invited to address a UEFA study group on coach education in Copenhagen. The session focused specifically on fitness for football and was also attended by experts from Turkey, Israel, the Czech Republic and Estonia.

Stephen Grima's presentation was about the methods the Maltese adopt in organising fitness programmes and related strategies. The subject was well presented and equally well received by the participants. In return, the Maltese delegation, which also included Luca Pagani, Mark Buttigieg and Ludovic Bartolo, had the opportunity to attend and discuss presentations given by top

professionals from the other countries involved. This was another chance for Malta to contribute to UEFA's vision for coaching, especially that of breaking new ground in fitness for football.

• Alex Vella

International futsal tournament

Moldova recently organised – and won – the first FA of Moldova Cup international futsal tournament, which was dedicated to the 25th anniversary of the foundation of the Football Association of Moldova (FMF).

The final was well attended, with local spectators hoping that the home team could beat their more experienced Azerbaijani guests. Moldova's Andrian Lașcu gave the home team the advantage in the 31st minute, but Zeynal Zeynalov levelled the score in the last seconds of the match. The winners were decided in a penalty shoot-out in which only Lașcu managed



All the tournament participants

to score, to secure the trophy for the hosts. At the awards ceremony after the final, the head of the Moldovan futsal association, Alexandru Burlac, and FMF vice-president Ion Testemițanu presented medals and trophies to all four teams.

All the matches were played at the FMF futsal arena, a new sports complex built to FIFA and UEFA standards in the Ciorescu suburb of Chisinau and officially inaugurated at the end of last year. The facilities allowed fans at the arena to enjoy a wonderful

atmosphere, while those who could not attend were able to watch all the action live on the TV channel Moldova Sport. The tournament offered spectators a plethora of goals and a lot of emotions.

● Press office

A world first sports app

Launched in 2014, the Irish Football Association's Safeguarding Children and Young People in Football app was a world first – never before had such a sports app been developed.

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 and is still the only app of its kind in the world.

The app is aimed at creating greater awareness and understanding about safeguarding best practice and addresses contemporary challenges such as social media, bullying and transport. Critically, it is designed to build confidence and competence so that adults involved in children's

football are better prepared to identify, respond to and report child protection concerns.

Furthermore, it now features a new and innovative safeguarding tool called Travel Tracker, which allows a parent, coach or official who is driving someone else's child home – for example, after a training session – to permit the child's parent, carer or guardian to view their location for the duration of the child's journey home.

Initially available to download on iTunes, the app can now be accessed by a wider audience, with a new Android version available on Google Play.

Following the introduction of the iTunes app, the Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure (DCAL) worked with the Irish FA to configure the app so it could be accessible on Android platforms. The DCAL contributed £10,000 of the £15,000 that was required to achieve this.



From left to right: Patrick Nelson, chief executive of the Irish FA; Jim Shaw, president of the Irish FA; Carál Ni Chuilín, minister for culture, arts and leisure; and Jim Gamble, CEO of Ineqe

The app is presented in two formats so that users can choose to read or listen to the information.

● Sueann Harrison

Grassroots football takes centre stage

The home of Irish football – Dublin Arena – became a haven for grassroots football in May as schoolchildren and amateur footballers alike got the chance to grace the hallowed turf of the national stadium. A major highlight was the FAI Primary School 5s National Finals. This was the third consecutive time that the finals were held at Dublin Arena and it certainly ensured an epic occasion for all 160 competitors. Ireland's stars of the future entertained crowds in the stadium as the biggest and best competition in the 2015 primary schools' football calendar came to its climax.

The road to the finals began back in March, with more than 18,000 children in more than 1,000 primary schools nationwide competing in county and regional qualifiers and then provincial finals before 20 schools made it to the national finals. Thirteen counties from all four corners of Ireland were represented, with County Cavan – not a traditional football county – unexpectedly having three schools participating. The competition had five categories, with small, medium and large schools all catered for and boys and



Dublin Arena was made available for grassroots football

girls competing for national honours in their respective categories.

Meanwhile, it was a summery Sunday at Dublin Arena for Ireland's top amateur men's teams. Two national finals took place at the ground as amateur football in Ireland is split into two categories: intermediate, which is just below professional, and junior, the next grade down. Liffey Wanderers captured the FAI Junior Cup for the first time after a thrilling encounter with two-time champions Sheriff YC.

Wanderers originate from Ringsend – which is literally a five-minute walk from the stadium – and they got off to a great start, taking the lead after five minutes when Anthony O'Connor found the head of Lee Roche and the striker turned the ball home. In a game that ebbed and flowed from end to end, Liffey keeper Philip O'Connor made a string of saves before Sheriff substitute Kevin Lynch played an excellent cross to find John Lester, who forced an equaliser and sent the game into extra time. Wanderers again showed their mettle, and eight minutes into extra time Aidan Roche found Stephen O'Callaghan unmarked, and he found the net from 25 yards out to provide a first FAI Junior Cup victory for the southsiders.

Earlier the same day Crumlin United FC lifted the FAI Intermediate Cup for the third time when they beat Tolka Rovers FC 4-0. Alan McGreal opened the scoring on the half-hour, Ger Rowe made it 2-0 two minutes later, then despite a sustained spell of Tolka pressure it was 3-0 in the 73rd minute when Greg Moorehouse found the net. The fourth goal came in the 89th minute through Patrick Cannon.

● Stephen Finn

Member associations



KISS workshop in Bucharest

The Romanian Football Federation (FRF) has hosted its first ever UEFA KISS workshop, in Bucharest on 19 and 20 May. Representatives of 29 European national associations – more than half of all UEFA-affiliated countries – attended the workshop, each with their own culture and approach, but all with the same mission: to develop football in Europe. At the end of the day, football is a universal language that everyone can understand.

Plenty of presentations were scheduled in Romania's capital, highlighting the trends and future of ticketing techniques, fan engagement and mobile ticketing. It was a fantastic opportunity for the 29 associations to listen to a mix of presentations and take part in interactive group discussions and debates. For the FRF, represented by commercial director Bogdan

Popescu, the workshop was also an opportunity to present to its European counterparts the progress made since 2014 in several areas of marketing and ticketing. The FRF also outlined its focus for 2015, as well as its medium-term action plan for up until 2017.

This year the FRF launched its strategic plan for the next five years, which sets specific objectives for each department. The main objective for the commercial and marketing department is to make sure it uses every potential revenue stream to finance football development and exposure in a professional manner. This newly created department manages sponsorship, merchandising, ticketing, marketing, brand management and the sale of media and commercial rights. Setting up a new department was not an easy task, but the benefits are obvious: direct business-to-business relationships and planting seeds



The workshop participants in Bucharest

instead of just hunting sales, helping sponsors to understand and support the long-term strategy rather than simply focusing on the results of the national team.

The importance attached to this part of the FRF's daily activity was underlined by the presence of its president, Razvan Burleanu, at the workshop. In his opening speech, he emphasised, among other things, one of the FRF's main principles: *"The mission to transform the 90 minutes of a football game into an event that a child will never forget is probably the hardest and most wonderful challenge!"* This conveys the importance of marketing and all its related activities. The FRF president also said: *"The Romanian Football Federation took the opportunity of this workshop to improve our marketing, keeping in mind the fact that we are hosting several EURO 2020 matches. A special honour such as this one requires special attention: fans from all over the world will be our guests, so we must do our best!"*

Obviously this was more than just a workshop – and not only for the hosts.

• Paul Zaharia



Trutz referees for the last time

Richard Trutz played in the final of the Slovak Cup 20 years ago, and on 1 May 2015 he refereed this season's showdown. That is undoubtedly a rarity.

The 2015 Slovak Cup final was one of the last matches before 45-year-old Trutz hung up his boots at the end of the 2014/15 season.

Having lined up with clubs such as ŠK Slovan Bratislava, MFK Petržalka, FC DAC 1904 Dunajská Streda, FC Tatran Prešov and FC Senec, he ended his playing career in 2000 because of a knee condition – yet another case of a career cut short by injury.

Besides playing football professionally, Trutz studied sport at university, having originally planned to study medicine. His love of football remained a focal point for him after graduation, when he obtained a basic coaching certificate and worked as a sports commentator, and he embarked on a career as a referee in 2001. Four years later he refereed his first match in the Slovak premier league and in January 2009 he became a FIFA referee.

Apart from the Slovak top flight, Trutz also refereed World Cup qualifiers at senior and Under-21 levels, and crucial league matches in Saudi Arabia, Qatar and Romania.

With this wealth of experience, he should have no problem finding a new place in football.

• Peter Surin



Richard Trutz



7th UEFA B diploma course

The seventh UEFA B diploma course to be run by the San Marino Football Federation (FSGC) concluded with the practical and theory exam sessions held on 5 and 8 May respectively.

Fourteen coaches were accepted onto the course run by Luciano Casadei. Lasting a total of 130 hours, the course took place between 19 January and 21 April on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday evenings from 18.30 to 23.00.

Professor Emilio Cecchini, the course coordinator and an instructor in coaching

theory and methodology, assembled a group of the leading instructors from San Marino and the surrounding regions of Italy.

Making use of the Fiorentino sports complex, the multimedia seminar rooms at the FSGC's headquarters, and the adjacent synthetic pitch, the course organisers were able to offer highly effective sessions, even in adverse weather conditions.

The FSGC's training department is currently planning San Marino's first UEFA Futsal B diploma course, which is due to start in September.

• Emilio Cecchini



The UEFA B diploma candidates

Additional training for future Slovenian UEFA Pro coaches

Slovenian football is getting ready to welcome a new batch of coaches with the highest coaching diploma – the UEFA Pro diploma. As part of their studies, a delegation of Slovenian UEFA Pro candidates attended additional training in Nyon through the UEFA student exchange programme. Mentored by Matjaž Jaklič, Marko Pocrnjič, Dušan Razboršek and Branko Elsner, the candidates worked with colleagues from Slovakia, Spain and Norway.



The Slovenian delegation in Nyon

in their future careers. They listened to a lecture on future trends in football by UEFA's chief technical officer, Ioan Lupescu, a lecture about cooperation between head coaches and goalkeeper coaches and lectures about other aspects of football, from media relations to group management.

After the workshop, the candidates were required to prepare and defend their diploma papers, which most of them did with success, achieving the next stepping stone in their budding careers as football coaches.

● Matjaž Krajnik

Two former internationals appointed youth coaches

The Swiss Football Association has appointed two former international players – Massimo Lombardo and Reto Gertschen – as Swiss youth team coaches for the coming season. They will take up their respective roles as coaches of the U15 and U20 teams in the summer.

Lombardo played for AC Bellinzona, Grasshopper Club Zürich, FC Lugano, FC Lausanne-Sport and Servette FC, and he won a total of 15 Swiss caps under national coaches Rolf Fringer, Enzo Trossero and Köbi Kuhn between 1996 and 2002. His one goal for the national side came in a 3-2 win against Finland in a World Cup qualifier in Helsinki.

Gertschen won Swiss cup and league titles with FC Sion and BSC Young Boys. He also played for FC St Gallen, Servette and Lausanne, and represented his country for 23 minutes in a friendly against the USA in 1990.

Laurent Prince, the Swiss FA's sports director, is delighted with the new coaching appoint-



Reto
Gertschen
(left) and
Massimo
Lombardo

ments. "Both Massimo Lombardo and Reto Gertschen meet our standards not only in terms of the quality of their actual coaching, but also their ability to devise concepts, analyse and evaluate change, and relate to SFV partners," he said.

The selection of the two former national team players completes the Swiss FA's line-up of youth team coaches for next season: Massimo Lombardo (U15), Yves Débonnaire (U16), Stefan Marini (U17), Gérard Castella (U18), Claude Ryf (U19) and Reto Gertschen (U20). They are joined by Heinz Moser, who, as head of the SFV's national teams department, also coaches the U21s.

● Pierre Benoit

A historic treble

On the domestic scene in Wales, The New Saints have completed a historic treble, having won everything that was on offer to them in the 2014/15 season. The Saints' trophy haul began in January, when they lifted the Word Cup following a 3-0 win in the final against Bala Town. They then followed this up by comfortably retaining the Corbett Sports Welsh Premier League title for the fifth consecutive season and their ninth in total.



A fantastic year for The New Saints

The New Saints are creating history with every championship win, as they have surpassed the previous record of seven league titles that Barry Town achieved between 1995 and 2003.

The champions then proceeded to lift the Welsh Cup with a 2-0 win over Newtown to achieve the treble. The New Saints manager, Craig Harrison, said: "It's a group effort and the lads have performed well throughout the season. The treble is a testament to the group of players and the staff that we've got."

The New Saints can now look forward to the UEFA Champions League, with Bala Town, AUK Broughton and Newtown qualifying for the UEFA Europa League. Cefn Druids and Prestatyn Town were relegated from the Welsh Premier League and will be replaced by Huws Gray Alliance League champions Llandudno and Welsh Football League Division One outfit Haverfordwest County, who return to the top flight following a five-year absence.

● Rob Dowling

The TFF opens a museum and a library

The Turkish Football Federation (TFF) has set up a TFF museum in order to preserve Turkish footballing history, which plays an important role in the education of young football players. The museum is at the Hasan Doğan national team training and education facilities and fills a huge area inside the main building. The museum's entrance features photos of everyone who has played for the national team since

1923 – a total of 670 players. In addition, biographies of Turkish footballing legends such as all TFF presidents and national team coaches are shown on LED screens. There are also special displays about Dogan Babacan, Cüneyt Çakır, Tekin Gündüz Onay and Coskun Özari. Examples of all national team shirts, and trophies, medals, plaques and other memorabilia from all national teams are on show inside the museum, and there is a high-tech virtual assistant to guide visitors.

The TFF likes to consider every little detail for the future of Turkish football. In keeping with this, it has paid close attention to every single aspect of the Hasan Doğan centre, which was built in the record time of 450 days. There is a giant football library (7m high and 25m in width) inside the main restaurant – emphasising, as the TFF always does, that the most important thing in football is education. The library contains more than 2,000 books, including books on football development, sports law and health in sport, club histories, autobiographies, research articles and classics of world and Turkish literature.

● Aydin Güvenir



Photos of the international players

BIRTHDAYS IN JULY

Frédéric Thiriez (France, 1 July)
Antonie Marinus Verhagen (Netherlands, 1 July)
Frank De Bleekere (Belgium, 1 July)
Razvan Burleanu (Romania, 1 July)
Marinus Koopman (Netherlands, 2 July)
Pjetur Sigurdsson (Iceland, 2 July)
Rusmir Mrković (Bosnia and Herzegovina, 2 July)
Emre Alkin (Turkey, 2 July)
Peadar Ryan (Republic of Ireland, 3 July)
Bertrand Layec (France, 3 July) 50th
Carolina De Boeck (Belgium, 3 July)
Antonio Matarrese (Italy, 4 July)
Neale Barry (England, 4 July)
Valentin Ivanov (Russia, 4 July)
Roland Ospelt (Liechtenstein, 4 July)
Massimo Cumbo (Italy, 4 July)
Patrick Nelson (Northern Ireland, 5 July)
Natalia Avdonchenko (Russia, 5 July)
Tiago Craveiro (Portugal, 5 July) 40th
Hans Schelling (Netherlands, 7 July)
Jacobo Betrán Pedréira (Spain, 8 July)
Martin Maleck (Switzerland, 8 July)
Holger Blask (Germany, 8 July)
Anna Bordiugova (Ukraine, 8 July)
Ekaterina Todorova (Bulgaria, 8 July)
Paul Allaerts (Belgium, 9 July)
Sergiu Lisnic (Moldova, 9 July)
Murad Mammadov (Azerbaijan, 10 July)
Thomas Christensen (Norway, 10 July)
Markus Kopecky (Austria, 10 July)
Nina Hedlund (Norway, 11 July)
Ilija Stoilov (FYR Macedonia, 11 July)
Edo Trivković (Croatia, 11 July)
Günter Benkő (Austria, 12 July) 60th
Carlo Tavecchio (Italy, 13 July)
Maria Teresa Costa (Portugal, 13 July)
Alex Horne (England, 13 July)
Elke Günthner (Germany, 14 July)
Adrian Bevington (England, 14 July)
Robert Sedlacek (Austria, 15 July) 60th
Ben Veenbrink (Netherlands, 15 July)
Johannes Malka (Germany, 16 July)
Ernst Nigg (Liechtenstein, 16 July)
Lars Lagerbäck (Sweden, 16 July)
Jiri Ulrich (Czech Republic, 16 July)
Michail Anagnostou (Greece, 16 July)

Giuseppe Mifsud-Bonnici (Malta, 17 July)
Antonia Kokotou (Greece, 17 July)
Vicente Muñoz Castello (Spain, 19 July)
Kari Iuell (Norway, 19 July)
Alfredo Trentalange (Italy, 19 July)
Tormod Larsen (Norway, 20 July)
Vladimir Radionov (Russia, 21 July)
Michel Wuilleret (Switzerland, 22 July)
Nico Romeijn (Netherlands, 22 July)
Balazs Makray (Hungary, 22 July)
Bontcho Todorov (Bulgaria, 23 July)
Pavel Malovič (Slovakia, 23 July)
Marcelino Santiago Maté Martinez (Spain, 23 July)
Gijs de Jong (Netherlands, 24 July)
Mario Gallavotti (Italy, 25 July)
Claus Christensen (Denmark, 25 July)
Ferenc Ragadics (Hungary, 25 July) 50th
Nenad Radivojević (Serbia, 25 July)
Jacob Erel (Israel, 26 July)
Alfred Ludwig (Austria, 26 July)
David Bowen (Northern Ireland, 26 July) 60th
Jeff Davis (England, 27 July)
Björn Ahlberg (Sweden, 28 July) 70th
Stefan Tivold (Slovenia, 28 July) 60th
Natasa Joksimovic (Serbia, 28 July)
Karl Espen Eriksen (Norway, 28 July) 50th
Robert Kispal (Hungary, 28 July)
Peter Stadelmann (Switzerland, 29 July)
João Leal (Portugal, 30 July)
Des Casey (Republic of Ireland, 31 July)
Tugomir Frajman (Slovenia, 31 July)
Jozef De Ryck (Belgium, 31 July)
Joël Wolff (Luxembourg, 31 July)
Javier Tebas (Spain, 31 July)
Duncan Fraser (Scotland, 31 July)
Cenk Cem (Turkey, 31 July) 40th

NOTICES

- On 30 May, Peter Gilliéron was re-elected as president of the Swiss Football Association for a fourth two-year term.
- The next issue of UEFA•direct will come out at the end of August.

BIRTHDAYS IN AUGUST

Sheila Begbie (Scotland, 1 August)
Kimmo J. Lipponen (Finland, 1 August)
Vibeke Karlsen (Norway, 1 August)
Erich Rutemöller (Germany, 2 August) 70th
Luciano Luci (Italy, 2 August)
Johan van Kouterik (Netherlands, 2 August)
Mehmet Süheyl Onen (Turkey, 2 August)
Andreas Schluchter (Switzerland, 3 August)
Marie Barsacq (France, 3 August)
Zdravko Jokić (Serbia, 4 August)
Sergey Sidorovskiy (Russia, 4 August)
David Gill (England, 5 August)
Yves Wehrli (France, 5 August)
Aleh Chykun (Belarus, 5 August)
Piet Hubers (Netherlands, 6 August)
Pierino Lardi (Switzerland, 7 August)
Marcel Vanelschocht (Belgium, 8 August)
Plarent Kotherja (Albania, 8 August)
Olivier Henry (Belgium, 8 August)
Nico de Pauw (Belgium, 8 August) 40th
Odd Flattum (Norway, 9 August)
Roy Hodgson (England, 9 August)
Nick Nicolaou (Cyprus, 9 August)
Peter Fossen (Netherlands, 10 August)
Urs Vogel (Switzerland, 11 August)
Domenico Messina (Italy, 12 August)
Eva Ödlund (Sweden, 12 August)
Emil Kostadinov (Bulgaria, 12 August)
Ronit Glasman (Israel, 12 August)
Roger Vanden Stock (Belgium, 13 August)
Joseph Mifsud (Malta, 13 August)
Cornel Cristian Bivolaru (Romania, 13 August)
Patrick Willemarck (Belgium, 13 August)
George Pandelea-Dobrovicescu (Romania, 14 August)
Jevgenijs Milevskis (Latvia, 15 August)
Kjell Alseth (Norway, 15 August)
Thibault De Gendt (Belgium, 15 August)
Jacques Lagnier (France, 16 August)
Victor Beceiro (Spain, 16 August)
Sergey Pryadkin (Russia, 17 August)
Bente Ovedie Skogvang (Norway, 17 August)
Dennis Beiso (Gibraltar, 17 August)
Danijel Jošt (Slovenia, 18 August)

EVENTS IN JULY

Romano Clavadetscher (Switzerland, 18 August)
Borja Santana (Spain, 18 August)
Vitalijs Liholajs (Latvia, 19 August)
Mordechai Shpigler (Israel, 19 August)
Patricia Gregory (England, 19 August)
Hans Reijgwart (Netherlands, 19 August)
František Laurinec (Slovakia, 19 August)
Graham Hover (England, 19 August)
Per Ravn Omdal (Norway, 20 August)
Carmel Bartolo (Malta, 21 August)
Hasan Ceylan (Turkey, 22 August)
Kazimierz Oleszek (Poland, 22 August)
Antonios Karpetopoulos (Greece, 22 August)
Geoffrey Thompson (England, 23 August) 70th
Ioannis Economides (Greece, 23 August)
Demetrio Albertini (Italy, 23 August)
Luis Manuel Rubiales Bejar (Spain, 23 August)
Enrique Gonzalez Ruano (Spain, 24 August)
David Delferiere (Belgium, 24 August)
Nicolae Grigorescu (Romania, 24 August) 60th
Pavel Kolev (Bulgaria, 24 August) 40th
Bert Andersson (Sweden, 25 August)
Giancarlo Abete (Italy, 26 August)
Regina Konink-Belksma (Netherlands, 26 August)
Karen Nalbandyan (Armenia, 27 August)
Tammo Beishuizen (Netherlands, 27 August)
Clémence Ross (Netherlands, 27 August)
Karl Hopfner (Germany, 28 August)
Denni Strich (Germany, 29 August)
Scilla Gennaro (Italy, 29 August)
Leo Windtner (Austria, 30 August)
Charles John Grundie (Northern Ireland, 30 August)
Marian Ruzbarsky (Slovakia, 30 August)
Christer Fällström (Sweden, 31 August)
Cristel Brorsson (Sweden, 31 August)
Stefano Podeschi (San Marino, 31 August)
Pedro Dias (Portugal, 31 August)
Christoph Kollmeier (Germany, 31 August)

Meetings

2 July, Nyon

2015/16 UEFA Futsal Cup:
draw for the preliminary
and main rounds
2016 Futsal World Cup:
draw for the European Qualifiers

17 July, Nyon

UEFA Champions League and UEFA
Europa League: draws for the third
qualifying round

25 July, St Petersburg

2018 World Cup: preliminary draw

Competitions

1 July

UEFA Champions League:
first qualifying round (first legs)

2 July

UEFA Europa League:
first qualifying round (first legs)

6–19 July, Greece

European Under-19 Championship:
final round

7/8 July

UEFA Champions League:
first qualifying round (return legs)

9 July

UEFA Europa League:
first qualifying round (return legs)

9–19 July, Portugal

Beach Soccer World Cup

14/15 July

UEFA Champions League:
second qualifying round (first legs)

15–27 July, Israel

European Women's Under-19
Championship: final round

16 July

UEFA Europa League:
second qualifying round (first legs)

21/22 July

UEFA Champions League:
second qualifying round (return legs)

23 July

UEFA Europa League:
second qualifying round (return legs)

28/29 July

UEFA Champions League:
third qualifying round (first legs)

30 July

UEFA Europa League:
third qualifying round (first legs)

EVENTS IN AUGUST

Meetings

7 August, Nyon

UEFA Champions League and UEFA
Europa League: play-off draws

20 August, Nyon

UEFA Women's Champions League:
round of 32 and round of 16 draws

27 August, Monaco

UEFA Champions League:
group stage draw

28 August, Monaco

UEFA Europa League: group stage draw

Competitions

4/5 August

UEFA Champions League:
third qualifying round (return legs)

6 August

UEFA Europa League:
third qualifying round (return legs)

11 August, Tbilisi

UEFA Super Cup

11–16 August

2015/16 UEFA Women's Champions
League: qualifying round

18/19 August

UEFA Champions League:
play-offs (first legs)

20 August

UEFA Europa League:
play-offs (first legs)

25/26 August

UEFA Champions League:
play-offs (return legs)

25/30 August

UEFA Futsal Cup: preliminary round

27 August

UEFA Europa League:
play-offs (return legs)



NO TO RACISM

