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Atlético win UEFA Super Cup

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As the draws for UEFA's club competitions took place in Monaco, UEFA presented its Best Player in Europe Award for the 2011/12 season to Spanish midfielder Andrés Iniesta, who made a telling contribution to his country's victory at EURO 2012 in Poland and Ukraine.



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The winners of the 2011/12 UEFA Europa League will have to make room for a new trophy in their cabinet, having comprehensively beaten UEFA Champions League winners Chelsea FC.



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Cover:

*Radamel Falcao was the
key player in Club Atlético
de Madrid's victory over
Chelsea FC in the UEFA Super
Cup in Monaco in August*

Photo: Getty Images



MOVING WITH THE TIMES

Having perennially been at the mercy of the calendar, the UEFA Super Cup received a new lease of life in 1998 when the Stade Louis II in Monaco became the fixed venue for the showcase match. A number of events were gradually pegged to the fixture to make these few days at the end of August a rendezvous not to be missed in the club competitions calendar. The club competition draws, a gala evening, an awards ceremony and a charity cheque presentation make it an event that everyone looks forward to.

In truth, the events organised alongside the Super Cup have grown to such an extent that the match is no longer needed to justify the gathering in Monaco. It was this realisation that prompted the UEFA Executive Committee to rethink the Super Cup at its meeting in June 2011, in keeping with the changing face of Europe. Indeed, the outstanding success of UEFA EURO 2012 in Poland and Ukraine confirmed that European football has new settings to choose from for international matches – and that it can no longer confine itself to the west of the continent and to its large associations. New stadiums have been built in most UEFA countries, while member associations have strengthened and modernised their internal structures, making them both able and keen to host major events.

The final rounds of our youth competitions have given such associations a first opportunity to show that they have the know-how to organise large international events, with EURO 2012 the stunning confirmation that they have made the grade.

It therefore seems logical and healthy for European football to continue in this direction. By taking the UEFA Super Cup to a different place each year, we are giving these associations an opportunity to put their organisational skills into practice in the area of elite club football and in so doing, to give even more fans a taste of the action.

Michel Platini
UEFA President

AND THE AWARD GOES TO... ANDRÉS INIESTA

The party atmosphere in the Salle des Princes at Monaco's Grimaldi Forum on 30 August was laced with tension and impatience. The 2011/12 UEFA Best Player in Europe Award was about to be presented, and there was also the draw for the group stage of the 2012/13 UEFA Champions League to look forward to.



The presence of several previous winners of the FIFA Ballon d'Or – including the UEFA president, himself a three-time winner – who had come to assist with the draw

whetted the guests' appetites ahead of the award ceremony crowning the best player of last season. First, though, Denis Law, George Weah, Ruud Gullit and Fabio Cannavaro took turns helping Steve McManaman, ambassador for the 2013 final at Wembley, the UEFA general secretary, Gianni Infantino, and UEFA competitions director Giorgio Marchetti to conduct the draw for the group stage of the UEFA Champions League. The draw was subject to certain restrictions, such as the fact that two clubs from the same national association could not be drawn together in the same group.

While it is always dangerous to comment on the chances of the various clubs, the composition of Group D caused a certain amount of commotion, since it brings together the national champions of Germany, England, Spain and the Netherlands. Between them, clubs from these countries have won the UEFA European Cup on

37 occasions. Indeed, Real Madrid CF account for nine of those all on their own, with AFC Ajax having won it four times and Borussia Dortmund having won it once.

Three new clubs

Nine other former winners of Europe's top club competition will contest the group stage, three of which (FC Barcelona, SL Benfica and Celtic FC) are in Group G. There are only three clubs appearing in the competition for the first time: FC Nordsjælland from Denmark, Málaga CF from Spain and Montpellier Hérault SC from France. They bring to 127 the total number of clubs that have competed in the UEFA Champions League since 1992/93.

Of those clubs, Manchester United FC have played in the competition most often, having participated on 18 occasions since the Champions League format was introduced. They are followed by three Iberian clubs – Barcelona, Real Madrid and FC Porto – who have each participated on 17 occasions. FC Bayern München and AC Milan are on 16, Arsenal FC are on 15, Olympiacos FC are on 14, and Juventus (returning after two seasons out) are on 13. Olympique Lyonnais, however, do not feature this year after 12 appearances in a row.

This year, the 32 clubs represent 17 national associations (compared with 18 in the last three seasons), all of which have already had clubs represent them in the UEFA Champions League. Since the group stage moved to 32 clubs in 1999, 31 different national associations have been represented. Eight of those have always had at least one club participating: Spain (53 places in total, spread between 12 clubs), England (52 places; 8 clubs), Italy (48 places; 8 clubs), Germany (42 places; 9 clubs), France (39 places; 10 clubs), the Netherlands (24 places; 7 clubs), Greece (22 places; 3 clubs) and Turkey (18 places; 5 clubs). Portugal (25 places; 5 clubs), Russia (20 places; 5 clubs) and Ukraine (19 places; 2 clubs) have also been regular participants, missing just one season each. It is also worth noting that England is represented by the maximum four clubs for the ninth year in succession.

Andrés Iniesta honoured

The highlight of the draw ceremony was the presentation of the UEFA Best Player in Europe Award for the 2011/12 season. This trophy, which was being presented for the second time, is awarded in cooperation with European Sports

A DONATION SUPPORTING THE FIGHT AGAINST AMYOTROPHIC LATERAL SCLEROSIS

Former Italian international Stefano Borgonovo (ACF Fiorentina and AC Milan) suffers from amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) or motor neurone disease, a neurological disease resulting in the progressive loss of all muscle function. With the aid of his wife and his eldest daughter, the former player established the Stefano Borgonovo Foundation in 2008 with the aim of raising funds to help the 350,000 or so people who suffer from this disease and support medical research in this area, while at the same time raising public awareness of the condition. It is to this foundation that UEFA has decided to make its annual €1m charitable donation, presented at the club competitions meeting in Monaco.

This money will be used as part of a four-year programme to finance clinical research into stem cell transplants for therapeutic purposes, a risk study and a "hospital at home" project to help patients and their families (with ALS sufferers requiring round-the-clock care). ●



At the season's curtain raising gala, the UEFA president presented the cheque to Chantal Borgonovo, accompanied by Fabio Cannavaro



The Salle des Princes at the Grimaldi Forum decked out in the colours of the UEFA Champions League for the draw

Media (ESM). The jury comprises 53 sports journalists, one from each of UEFA's national associations. First, each journalist selected his/her top five players, awarding the first five points, the second four points, and so on. This resulted in a list of 32 players, the first three of whom went through to the final vote, which took place live in Monaco.

Last year's winner Lionel Messi of Barcelona and Cristiano Ronaldo of Real Madrid were again among the three nominees, but the jury opted for another Catalan player – midfielder Andrés Iniesta, who was part of the Spanish national team that won the European Football Championship this summer. He got 19 votes, with the other two players getting 17 each. The trophy was presented to him by Michel Platini, in the presence of Rainer Holzschuh, president of ESM. ●

Andrés Iniesta is the second winner of the award after Lionel Messi



DRAW FOR THE 2012/13 GROUP STAGE

Group A

FC Dynamo Kyiv
GNK Dinamo Zagreb
FC Porto
Paris Saint-Germain FC

Group B

FC Schalke 04
Montpellier Hérault SC
Arsenal FC
Olympiacos FC

Group C

RSC Anderlecht
Málaga CF
FC Zenit St Petersburg
AC Milan

Group D

Manchester City FC
Borussia Dortmund
AFC Ajax
Real Madrid CF

Group E

Juventus
FC Shakhtar Donetsk
FC Nordsjælland
Chelsea FC

Group F

Valencia CF
LOSC Lille
FC BATE Borisov
FC Bayern München

Group G

SL Benfica
FC Barcelona
FC Spartak Moskva
Celtic FC

Group H

CFR 1907 Cluj
Manchester United FC
Galatasaray AS
SC Braga

Dates of matches in these four groups: 18 September, 3 October, 24 October, 6 November, 21 November and 4 December.

The full fixture list can be found at:
www.uefa.com/uefachampionsleague/index.html

Dates of matches in these four groups: 19 September, 2 October, 23 October, 7 November, 20 November and 5 December.

2013 FIXTURE LIST

Round of 16: 12, 13, 19 and 20 February (first leg);

5, 6, 12 and 13 March (second leg)

Quarter-finals: 2 and 3 April (first leg); 9 and 10 April (second leg)

Semi-finals: 23 and 24 April (first leg); 30 April and 1 May (second leg)

Final: 25 May in London

Draw for the round of 16: 14 December 2012

Draw for the quarter-finals and semi-finals: 15 March

A NEW CYCLE AND NEW BONUSES

This season marks the start of a new cycle for UEFA's club competitions, and the bonuses awarded to clubs have been revised in light of a total income now estimated at €1.34bn.

This income will be distributed on more or less the same basis as in the previous cycle, with even more emphasis being placed on the principle of solidarity, as €40m from the UEFA Champions League clubs' share will be allocated to UEFA Europa League clubs as a solidarity payment. Another €3m will be used to subsidise solidarity payments to clubs knocked out in the qualifying rounds of the two competitions.

The €910m or so paid out to participants in the UEFA Champions League will again be distributed both as fixed amounts and as shares based on the value of the respective national markets.

Provided that this level of income is confirmed, the fixed amounts will be as follows:

- Clubs participating in the group stage will receive an €8.6m bonus (up from €7.2m last season).
- Each win during the group stage will be worth €1m (up from €800,000), and each draw will be worth €500,000 (up from €400,000).
- Clubs reaching the round of 16 will receive €3.5m (up from €3m last season), the eight quarter-finalists will be awarded €3.9m (up from €3.3m), and each semi-finalist will receive a further €4.9m (up from €4.2m last season).
- The winners of the competition will be awarded a further €10.5m (up from €9m), with the beaten finalists receiving €6.5m (up from €5.6m). Thus, the maximum amount that a club can receive is now €37.4m, plus the payment based on the relevant country's market share and gate receipts for home games.

The UEFA Club Competitions Committee met on the morning of the UEFA Champions League draw

In addition, the 20 clubs contesting the play-offs for the UEFA Champions League will each receive €2.1m.

UEFA Club Competitions Committee

At its meeting in Monaco under the stewardship of chairman Michael van Praag, member of the Executive Committee, the UEFA Club Competitions Committee took note of the final balance for the 2011/12 season. This showed surplus income totalling some €37.5m, which the participating clubs will share in the form of fixed amounts (€20.6m) and amounts based on market shares (€16.9m).

The total amounts to be awarded for the finals of the 2011/12 club competitions were also presented. These were as follows: for the UEFA Champions League final in Munich, winners Chelsea FC and their opponents FC Bayern München will each receive €3.2m as a percentage of ticket sales, in addition to their bonuses of €9m and €5.6m respectively.

For the UEFA Europa League final, Club Atlético de Madrid and Athletic Club will each receive just over €769,000 from ticket sales, with their bonuses being €3m and €2m respectively.

As regards the UEFA Super Cup, Atlético's victory is worth €3m, with Chelsea receiving €2.2m. All income from ticket sales goes to the local organiser.

The committee also looked back at last season and reflected on the future of these competitions. It also gave thought to the youth club competition set to be trialled in 2013/14, the primary aim of which is to contribute to the development of young players. It will be contested by Under-19 teams representing the 32 clubs participating in the group stage of the UEFA Champions League. ●



TENTH TITLE FOR SPANISH CLUBS

In the battle of the supporters, Chelsea FC were already well and truly beaten: inside the Stade Louis II in Monaco, hosting the UEFA Super Cup for the last time, the dominant colour was red and the continuous noise from the Madrid supporters drowned out the support for the London side.



It was not long before the same balance of power could be seen on the pitch. Even in the first five minutes, during the Spaniards' first serious attack, a follow-up effort by Falcao reminded everyone how dangerous the Colombian striker could be. This warning should have set alarm bells ringing for the English, but instead it signalled the start of a true master-class. In the space of just 45 minutes, the star of the last UEFA Europa League final settled the match by scoring three times, not to mention another shot that rebounded off the post.

Open game

Faced with the verve and technical ability of the Madrid attacker and his team-mates, the UEFA Champions League holders seemed to have lost all the solidity that had characterised some memorable defensive exploits last season. And they were just as disappointing in attack, where they were unable to penetrate the two red and white defensive lines or surprise them on the counter.

Nothing much changed in the second half, although at least Chelsea recovered slightly when Cahill scored in reply to a fourth goal from Miranda. The match may already have been over as a contest, but the second half was no less enjoyable to watch right until the final whistle, with both teams playing an open game which produced numerous goalscoring opportunities, most of them for Madrid.

End of an era

Club Atlético de Madrid's success, their second following victory in 2010 and the fourth in a row by a Spanish team (FC Barcelona won the other two), marks the end of a 15-year period during which the UEFA Super Cup has enhanced its status, being played as a single match in Monaco. While the UEFA Champions League and UEFA Europa League group stage draws will continue to be held there, the Super Cup will begin a new pan-European adventure, with the first three stops in Prague (2013), Cardiff (2014) and Tbilisi (2015).

In the list of UEFA Super Cup winners, the Madrid club's success means that the European champions' opponents (i.e. the winners of the European Cup Winners' Cup, UEFA Cup and Europa League) have lifted the trophy one more time than the European Champion Clubs' Cup/UEFA Champions League winners, with 19 victories to 18.



A second victory in Monaco in three years for Club Atlético de Madrid

For the Spanish clubs, this latest title brings the total number to ten, shared between five clubs: FC Barcelona (4 wins), Club Atlético de Madrid and Valencia CF (2), Real Madrid CF and Sevilla FC (1). They therefore move ahead of the Italian clubs, the last of whose nine UEFA Super Cups was won back in 2007. ●

31 August 2012

Stade Louis II, Monaco – 14,312 spectators

Chelsea FC – Club Atlético de Madrid 1-4 (0-3)

Goals: Falcao (6, 19 and 45), Miranda (60), Cahill (75)

Referee: Damir Skomina (Slovenia)



Miranda, scorer of the fourth goal, challenges Juan Mata of Chelsea FC

ATLÉTICO OUT TO DEFEND THEIR TITLE

Fresh from their victory in the UEFA Super Cup, Club Atlético de Madrid will be going into the UEFA Europa League hoping to hold on to the trophy they won last May in Bucharest at the expense of Athletic Club.



The same décor but different colours for the UEFA Europa League draw



The Spaniards are in good company in this fourth season of the UEFA Europa League, which also marks the start of a new three-year cycle. The participants include four former UEFA Champions League/Champion Clubs' Cup winners – led by five-time winners Liverpool – among a total of 12 former UEFA club competition winners (UEFA Champions League/Champion Clubs' Cup, Cup Winners' Cup, UEFA Cup/Europa League). Not only that, but 21 of the 48 clubs involved have reached at least one UEFA club competition final in their time. This season's UEFA Europa League therefore has again all the makings of a top-quality competition.

Twenty-five national associations on the starting grid

At the other end of the scale are clubs who will be making their debuts at this stage of a UEFA club competition, such as FC Anzhi Makhachkala (Russia), Hapoel Kiryat Shmona FC (Israel), Levante UD (Spain) and Neftçi PFK (Azerbaijan).

The 48 clubs playing in the UEFA Europa League group stage this season come from 25 national associations, one more than last season, and represent almost half of the total number of UEFA member associations. In the case of the Association of Football Federations of Azerbaijan, none of its clubs has ever reached this stage of a UEFA club competition before.

Germany and Italy each have four teams taking part, while England, Spain, France and Portugal have three teams apiece.

Seven teams straight through to the group stage

This season is the first time that six teams aside from the title holders have qualified directly for the group stage, without having to go through the qualifiers. That privilege is from now on reserved for the cup winners from the top six associations in UEFA's rankings (or the top team to qualify for the UEFA Europa League should the cup winner have already qualified for the UEFA Champions League). This season, the six associations in question are England (Tottenham Hotspur FC), Germany (Bayer 04 Leverkusen), Italy (SSC Napoli), France (Olympique Lyonnais), Portugal (A. Académica de Coimbra) and Russia (FC Rubin Kazan). Spain also benefit by virtue of Club Atlético de Madrid qualifying automatically as reigning UEFA Europa League title holders.

At the group stage draw held at the Grimaldi Forum in Monaco on 31 August, the UEFA general secretary, Gianni Infantino, assisted by the ambassador for the 2013 final in Amsterdam, Patrick Kluivert, and Atlético striker Falcao, reminded the clubs of the importance of fair play and respect, and of the need "to adopt a prudent financial approach in their daily business, so as to be able to meet the requirements of the financial fair play rules that are being implemented for the future well-being of club football in Europe". ●

UEFA EUROPA LEAGUE PRIZE MONEY

As in the UEFA Champions League, the start of this new three-year cycle brings with it a noticeable increase in the prize money paid to the UEFA Europa League clubs, thanks to higher revenue.

Subject to receipt of the payments due on the contracts concluded, the following amounts will be paid out:

- €1.3 million for each club involved in the group stage (up from €1 million last season);
- €200,000 for every win in the group stage (€140,000 before) and €100,000 for a draw (up from €70,000);
- €400,000 for each group winner and €200,000 for the group runners-up (new for this season);
- €200,000 for each club that qualifies for the round of 32 (no change);
- €350,000 for each club that qualifies for the round of 16 (€300,000 before);
- €450,000 for each quarter-finalist (up from €400,000);
- €1 million for each semi-finalist (up from €700,000);
- €5 million for the winning club (€3 million before) and €2.5 million for the losing finalists (up from €2 million).

The maximum that the winners of the competition can earn is therefore €9.9 million.

In addition, each club will receive a market share of an estimated total of €83.5 million, which will be divided up according to the commercial value of the domestic markets, the number of clubs per association represented in the competition and the club's finishing position

in the previous season's domestic league championship, as well as how far it goes in this season's UEFA Europa League.

Finally, gate receipts stay with the home clubs. •



A winner last season with Club Atlético de Madrid, Tiago returns to put the trophy back in play for a new season

CALENDAR FOR THE 2012/13 UEFA EUROPA LEAGUE

Group matches: 20 September – 4 and 25 October – 8 and 22 November – 6 December

Draw for the rounds of 32 and 16: 14 December

Round of 32: 14 and 21 February 2013

Round of 16: 7 and 14 March 2013

Draw for the quarter-finals and semi-finals: 15 March 2013

Quarter-finals: 4 and 11 April 2013

Semi-finals: 25 April and 2 May 2013

Final: 15 May 2013 in Amsterdam

Group A

FC Anzhi Makhachkala
BSC Young Boys
Liverpool FC
Udinese Calcio

Group B

A. Académica de Coimbra
Hapoel Tel-Aviv FC
Club Atlético de Madrid
FC Viktoria Plzeň

Group C

Olympique de Marseille
AEL Limassol FC
VfL Borussia Mönchengladbach
Fenerbahçe SK

Group D

Club Brugge KV
CS Marítimo
Newcastle United FC
FC Girondins de Bordeaux

Group E

Molde FK
VfB Stuttgart
FC Steaua București
FC København

Group F

AIK Solna
FC Dnipro Dnipropetrovsk
PSV Eindhoven
SSC Napoli

Group G

FC Basel 1893
KRC Genk
Videoton FC
Sporting Clube de Portugal

Group H

Neftçi PFK
FC Internazionale Milano
FC Rubin Kazan
FK Partizan

Group I

Hapoel Kiryat Shmona FC
Olympique Lyonnais
AC Sparta Praha
Athletic Club

Group J

S.S. Lazio
NK Maribor
Panathinaikos FC
Tottenham Hotspur FC

Group K

FC Metalist Kharkiv
SK Rapid Wien
Rosenborg BK
Bayer 04 Leverkusen

Group L

Hannover 96
Levante UD
Helsingborgs IF
FC Twente

MEETING THE MEDIA

In keeping with tradition, the UEFA president, Michel Platini, met media representatives at the launch of this season's club competitions in Monaco.



Flanked by Gianni Infantino and Pierluigi Collina, Michel Platini welcomes media representatives on the morning of the UEFA Super Cup

Seated between the UEFA general secretary, Gianni Infantino, and chief refereeing officer, Pierluigi Collina, he addressed two main issues in the course of over 100 minutes with the press: financial fair play and the use of additional assistant referees.

The president briefly reflected on the remarkable success of EURO 2012, before asserting that, as regards financial fair play, UEFA would "never go back". The general secretary then pointed to the first positive effects of the introduction of this new principle – supported, as Michel Platini stressed, by all interested parties – which is applicable to all clubs who wish to participate in UEFA competitions: a marked decline (of some 20 %) in transfer fees in 2012 relative to the period 2008-11; the stabilisation of clubs' debt levels (even if those debt levels generally remain too high); and the establishment of the UEFA Club Financial Control Body, which comprises a team of eminent figures acting in full independence. While the principle of financial equilibrium (meaning that a club cannot spend more than it earns) will be fully applied as of the 2014/15 season (on the basis of financial results for the two previous seasons), the monitoring of back payments (salaries, transfers and social security contributions) has been in force since 2011, with 237 clubs subject to such monitoring. Ten of those clubs have been referred to UEFA's disciplinary bodies, and three – AEK Athens FC, Besiktas JK and Györi ETO FC – have been prevented from participating in UEFA competitions this season, despite having qualified on the basis of national competitions.

The 2012 monitoring process also revealed a 47 % reduction in back payments relative to 2011. However, 23 clubs remain subject to provisional measures pending a final decision, expected at the end of the year.

The usefulness of the additional assistant referees was clearly demonstrated to the journalists by Pierluigi Collina with the aid of footage from EURO 2012 and the UEFA Champions League. The two extra officials are experienced referees and allow the main referee to "see" more, while at the same time allowing the assistant referees on the touch lines to focus on offside decisions. After more than 1,000 matches, the value of these two extra officials has been proven. The public do not necessarily fully appreciate their value, as the additional assistant referees are not allowed use any signals, communicating with the main referee solely by radio. Now that the International Football Association Board has officially authorised the use of additional assistant referees, the system will be applied in all of UEFA's flagship competitions. Michel Platini was keen to encourage the national associations to apply it wherever possible. The Italian Football Federation has already decided to implement it as of the start of the new season.

The meeting ended with a question and answer session on the points addressed and other issues relating to European football. ●



A question and answer session with the journalists

LEADING COACHES DISCUSS LEADING ISSUES

The annual UEFA Elite Club Coaches Forum has steadily gained in popularity among a coaching fraternity which relishes the opportunity to meet in a non-competitive environment and to exchange views on the wide range of issues facing the continent's top technicians.

As the two-day event got under way, UEFA's technical director, Andy Roxburgh, passed on a piece of advice from Sir Alex Ferguson who, because of commitments in the United States, made a rare appearance on the list of absent friends. His advice was, quite simply: *"absorb everything you hear from older colleagues"*.

Coaches' opinions

Sir Alex was one of the founder-members of the forum, along with Gérard Houllier and Arsène Wenger – both of whom made important contributions to the 14th event of its kind, staged at UEFA's headquarters on 5/6 September. As the UEFA President, Michel Platini, commented when he opened the forum: *"We're always pleased to talk to the coaches and to listen to opinions which will be of value to UEFA during the continual search for elements that can enhance our club competitions."* He also reminded the top coaches: *"Your clubs are the prime movers in terms of enhancing the image of our game and encouraging youngsters to want to play football."*

Michel Platini, along with UEFA's general secretary, Gianni Infantino, and competitions director, Giorgio Marchetti, were all ears when the coaches discussed the current status of UEFA's club competitions – a subject which the media were keen to pursue at the post-forum press briefing led by Andy Roxburgh and Arsène Wenger. *"We mustn't forget,"* commented the latter, *"that, with the old Cup Winners' Cup, we had three competitions until relatively recently. The current two-competition format seems to be working well and the standard of the football played in last season's UEFA Europa League was underlined by Atlético de Madrid's performance against Chelsea in the UEFA Super Cup."* The general view among the coaches was that, although the UEFA Champions League continues to be the benchmark competition, the UEFA Europa League is rapidly establishing itself as a valuable international competition and has healthy prospects for the future.

An inside look at refereeing

On the second morning, UEFA's chief refereeing officer, Pierluigi Collina, presented some interesting slants on the evolution of refereeing, among them an inside look at the modus operandi of the additional assistant referee – focusing on some aspects which, the coaches admitted, passed unnoticed from the technical area.



Back row, left to right:

Jürgen Klopp (Borussia Dortmund), Leonardo Jardim (Olympiacos FC), Arsène Wenger (Arsenal FC), Vitor Pereira (FC Porto), Unai Emery (FC Spartak Moskva), Thomas Schaaf (Werder Bremen / UEFA technical team), Kasper Hjulmand (FC Nordsjælland), Andy Roxburgh (UEFA technical director).

Middle:

Gianni Infantino (UEFA general secretary), Luciano Spalletti (FC Zenit St Petersburg), Massimiliano Allegri (AC Milan), René Girard (Montpellier HSC), Mircea Lucescu (FC Shakhtar Donetsk), Frank de Boer (AFC Ajax), Tito Vilanova (FC Barcelona), José Mourinho (Real Madrid CF), Pierluigi Collina (UEFA chief refereeing officer), Giorgio Marchetti (UEFA competitions director).

Front:

Ivan Jovanović (APOEL FC), Carlo Ancelotti (Paris Saint-Germain FC), Fatih Terim (Galatasaray AS), Diego Simeone (Club Atlético de Madrid), Michel Platini, Roberto Di Matteo (Chelsea FC), Gérard Houllier (UEFA technical team), Jorge Jesus (SL Benfica).

But most of the forum was dedicated to talking football – in particular, to discussing the technical trends which emerged from last season's UEFA Champions League and EURO 2012, with Michel Platini saluting *"the high levels of technique, the sporting behaviour of the competitors and TV images of exceptional beauty"*. The group also discussed some of the points raised by UEFA's technical report on the 2011/12 UEFA Champions League season, which was officially launched at the forum and is now generally available. But that's another story to be continued in the next issue of UEFA's coaching publication, UEFA•technician. ●

WARMING UP FOR THE NEW SEASON

Amid high-profile gatherings such as the Elite Club Coaches Forum, a number of less glittering events are hidden away on the annual schedule of meetings at UEFA's headquarters.

One of them is the UEFA Media Officer Workshop which, this year, was staged in Nyon on 6/7 August and dealt with a wide range of issues related to media operations which, in terms of public perception, belong very much to "the back office".

The concept of the UEFA media officer – or the MO, as he or she is usually labelled – dates back to the birth of the UEFA Champions League in 1992 when, believe it or not, many of Europe's top clubs did not have a press officer or, at least, not one who worked full time. The media officer's job description was based on the aim of implanting uniformly high standards at all venues and guaranteeing quality service to the media, among them the TV partners who do so much to make the competition tick. The MO's 20th birthday provides a pretext for reflecting on how the role has evolved over the last two decades, along with commercial and sponsorship parameters, the media panorama and the game itself.

New challenges

Although the aims remain essentially unchanged, the demands surrounding the job have steadily increased and, these days, the MO can also be seen, if you look carefully, at knockout ties in the UEFA Europa League, at all of UEFA's futsal or youth development tournaments and, with the introduction of a centralised approach to European Championship qualifiers imminent, at a number of national team matches where association press officers welcome a helping hand in dealing with visiting media at high-profile matches.

At the workshop, all of this translated into a squad of around 50 people in the main auditorium in Nyon, among them seven "new signings"

from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Iceland, Lithuania, Moldova, Poland, Turkey and Ukraine. As the MOs tend to operate on a more – or – less solitary basis at venues, the workshop offered a great opportunity to get together, to share experiences, to unify criteria and to look for ways to improve. A percentage of the participants had been working as media officers at EURO 2012 and arrived in Nyon with memories fresh in their minds. Three of the MO squad had also been in Poland and Ukraine as national team press officers (with Denmark, Portugal and Sweden) rather than UEFA MOs, which opened a door for input from the other side of the fence – or, at least, a different part of it. Some of the good points to emerge from the big national team tournament were highlighted for possible grafting into media operations in other UEFA competitions.

Greater uniformity

Otherwise, the two-day event focused on preparing to meet challenges during the new three-year cycle in UEFA's club competitions as they kicked off at the start of the season. Adjustments to regulations and manuals were reviewed, the practical implications of structural changes were discussed, and the search for greater uniformity from venue to venue focused on greater efficiency in communicating and reporting via new software which is taking the field this season. Links between UEFA's headquarters and even the furthest-flung venues are being upgraded – and the workshop featured a visit to the new building in the UEFA complex, which is home to a brand-new match command centre that will bring the MOs and other on-site personnel closer to the nerve centre of match operations. But that is another story... ●

*The UEFA
media officers*



MAINTAINING THE HIGH STANDARD

Europe's top referees and the UEFA Referees Committee set the course for the 2012/13 season at the traditional summer gathering in Nyon at the start of September.

The meeting served as a review of EURO 2012 in Poland and Ukraine this summer, and also as preparation for coming assignments in the UEFA Champions League, UEFA Europa League and 2014 FIFA World Cup qualifying competition. The 22 elite, 14 elite development and 55 first-category referees also undertook a fitness test under the watchful eye of the UEFA referee fitness expert, Werner Helsen, and his staff.

The referee teams at EURO 2012 were praised by the UEFA Referees Committee chairman, Ángel María Villar Llona, for their work, which has set new standards for match officials. In particular, he said that the deployment of additional assistant referees at the tournament – which will now continue in the UEFA club competitions this season after additional assistant referees were made part of the Laws of the Game by the International Football Association Board (IFAB) in July – had proved its value.

"The additional assistant referees were very useful, because they took care of decisions in the penalty area, and so the assistant referees could focus on offside decisions," said UEFA's chief referee officer, Pierluigi Collina. *"They are a deterrent in the penalty area against pushing and pulling, especially from corners or free-kicks."* The UEFA Referees Committee expressed its satisfaction that various targets fixed a year ago had been met, especially in terms of protecting players and the image of the game with regard to reckless tackles and the improper use of arms and elbows. This season, the officials were also being asked to be vigilant on handball offences and offside decisions.



The referees going through their fitness test

Collina emphasised that EURO 2012 had pointed the way forward in relation to respect towards the officials. There had been a drop in the number of incidents of dissent or mobbing of referees. *"You have achieved results and goals,"* Collina told the referees in Nyon. *"This is important – and please continue to be strong."* •

THIRD CYCLE FOR CORE

Potential European international referees of the future are being given expert guidance by former international match officials, as the UEFA CORE (Centre of Refereeing Excellence) programme enters its third cycle.

The programme is managed at the Colovray Sports Centre in Nyon, Switzerland, and began in 2010. Since then, some 300 referees and assistant referees have attended CORE courses, and more than 60 have been promoted to the FIFA list of international match officials. For the third cycle, which runs until August 2013, two development courses for women referees are being introduced, as well as two further development courses for category 2 and 3 male referees.

CORE courses comprise introductory and consolidation stages. The referees start by learning, among other things, about lifestyle and fitness issues, what UEFA expects of them in terms of match control, and the need to be able to speak English, the common language in UEFA refereeing. The second course then looks at the progress they have made. The referees also take charge of matches in France and Switzerland to further their experience.

"What we're seeing is that it's raising the level of refereeing, fitness and English throughout the whole of UEFA," said David Elleray, former international referee and CORE course leader. *"In simple terms, it's all about succession planning, identifying future potential talent, and supporting the UEFA referee convention, to improve the quality of refereeing, referee coaching and referee development in each country."* •

EXTENSION ACROSS EUROPE TO ENCOURAGE WOMEN TO PLAY

Women playing football and women's football competitions are like the chicken and the egg – historically, we do not really know which came first. But what is certain is that one cannot survive without the other.

The UEFA Women's Champions League final in Munich this year was a great game. There was a modern-day women's club football record attendance of 50,212 fans. The match was played with passion and respect, it was a sizzling hot day and the atmosphere was fantastic. The occasion had everything going for it. It is true that the game was played in Germany, which is Europe's top women's football country. Nevertheless, it is equally fair to say that a spirit and drive for the women's game has truly arrived. The crucial element now – and an absolute prerequisite to maintaining this momentum – is development.

Two roles

Development has two principal roles: firstly, it is about finding the players of tomorrow and raising the standard of the women's professional

game. The other role is much more basic: it is the integration of girls' and women's football as a popular and recognised sport.

With this in mind, two years ago in 2010, the UEFA Executive Committee approved significant funding for the development of women's football via the HatTrick programme. During this project's pilot phase, the national associations of Portugal, Italy, Slovakia and the Republic of Ireland all delivered above and beyond expectations. Ireland actually launched its national women's league in October 2011 – an example of the programme's return on investment.

So why, as a general rule, is football still not as popular with girls as with boys? The answer is fairly simple: many girls do not have access to the game, and think that football is for boys only – or perhaps do not feel at ease being part

IRISH FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION (IFA), NORTHERN IRELAND – SCORE PILOT PROJECT

The SCORE pilot project is a multifaceted project aimed at assisting clubs to establish contacts with their local schools through the provision of a SCORE coach. Firstly, the clubs

nominate suitable candidates for coach education, selecting enthusiastic and motivated individuals who could act as ambassadors within their local area.

Each SCORE coach receives a bursary towards the cost of the coach education course. Following completion, each SCORE coach provides 12 coaching sessions at their local primary and post-primary schools, as well as at junior clubs. In total, 2,379 girls have attended the coaching sessions. The feedback from the teachers has been excellent, praising the coaches for their professionalism and motivation. The most impressive result has been the number of girls emerging from the school coaching programme who have joined local clubs as a direct consequence. For example, no fewer than 17 new members joined Moneyslane Football Club following a six-week coaching block.

The women's clubs involved in the project were also given the opportunity to deliver a number of holiday camps at Easter and during the summer holidays. A total of 213 players attended the Easter camps, of which 121 players (57%) were new to girls' football. ●





Steffi Jones encourages young girls to play football

of a challenging team sport at school. It was clear, therefore, that UEFA needed to go further. Across Europe, it needed to tackle education, accessibility and image. To help achieve better visibility, UEFA called upon Steffi Jones, an icon in Germany for women's football, who also directs girls' and women's football development at the German Football Association (DFB). Steffi is the women's football development programme ambassador at UEFA, and has already done so much to modernise the image of the women's game.

In another new departure this year, the Hat-Trick programme is funding the UEFA women's football development programme from July 2012 to July 2016. On an annual basis, over a period of four years, all of UEFA's 53 member associations can apply for funding to develop the girls' and women's game in their country. Many have already had projects approved. This is a new approach, the aim of which is to raise the profile of and gain a wider acceptance for the women's game. The vision is that all girls and women should have the opportunity to play football, whether through a local club, at school, at a nearby training facility or even in their local park with friends.

On this page are two examples of wonderful projects that UEFA member associations have launched with the support of the women's football development programme. With continued support, cooperation and a determined effort, women's football will deservedly achieve resounding success. ●

LIECHTENSTEINER FUSSBALLVERBAND (LFV), LIECHTENSTEIN – MÄDCHEN AM BALL PROMOTIONAL PROJECT

Raising the profile of girls' and women's football is an important aspect of developing the game. This can be put into practice through a wide range of events, courses and promotional campaigns, all of which underline women's football as a challenging team sport that welcomes new players (including beginners) and growth.



The LFV launched an extensive public relations campaign – *Mädchen am Ball* ("Girls on the ball") – to promote the women's game across the country. An eye-catching and fun range of posters were displayed on a total of 30 billboards for a period of two months. These posters were aimed at teenage girls, introducing them to women's football and encouraging them to get involved either at their club or school. The same images were also displayed on public transport.

To support the campaign, the LFV also hosted a grassroots day specifically aimed at training and coaching girls. To promote the event, the association distributed flyers at local primary schools and ran an entertaining radio advertisement played out by two girls who had attended the previous event and, as a result, were now playing in their local club. The event saw a 50 % increase in participation from the previous year – 85 girls attended, which was a genuine success. In addition, the LFV once again organised several five-a-side tournaments during the season, aimed at getting even younger girls interested in playing football. ●

TWO WOMEN'S TITLES FOR THE USA

The qualifying competition for the FIFA World Cup, through which 13 teams from our continent will book their tickets to Brazil in 2014, kicked off in Europe on 7 September, marking the end of the break enjoyed by senior national teams – apart from a few friendly matches – since the EURO 2012 final in Kyiv.



Despite a determined performance, illustrated here by Anja Hegenauer, Germany lost to the United States in the FIFA U-20 Women's World Cup final.

The Olympic Games were held in London in the meantime, but the European teams hardly set the world on fire in the football tournaments, which nonetheless attracted big crowds.

The best European performance was the French women's team's run to the semi-finals, where they were narrowly beaten (2-1) by Japan, before missing the opportunity to secure the bronze medal by failing to convert their chances in a 1-0 defeat at the hands of Canada. The other two European participants,

Sweden and Great Britain, were eliminated in the quarter-finals by Canada and France respectively. The gold medal was won by the United States, who beat Japan 2-1 in the final.

In the men's tournament, which was won by Mexico, who beat favourites Brazil 2-1 in the final, Great Britain were the only European team to reach the quarter-finals, where they lost on penalties to the eventual bronze medallists, South Korea. The other European representatives failed to get past the group stage.

The European Under-21 champions, Spain, only won a solitary point and failed to score a single goal. Switzerland, the European Under-21 runners-up, also won just one point. With a victory over New Zealand, Belarus fared slightly better, but not well enough to avoid an early return home.

U-20 Women's World Cup in Japan

In addition to their gold medal performance at the Olympic Games, the United States won a women's football world title in September. Their team won the FIFA U-20 Women's World Cup, which was played in Japan from 19 August to 8 September.

The Americans beat Germany 1-0 in the final, even though the runners-up had been the favourites after a remarkable run in the tournament, in which they won all five matches with a combined goal difference of 15-0. The Germans had also comfortably beaten the United States 3-0 in the group stage, but the final was a different story altogether.

Three other European teams were involved: Norway were knocked out by Germany in the quarter-finals, Italy only won a single point in their group and Switzerland lost all three of their matches.

Japan secured third place in the tournament by beating Nigeria. ●

FUTSAL WORLD CUP

The draw for another global competition, the FIFA Futsal World Cup, was held in Bangkok on 24 August and produced the following groups:

Group A: Thailand, Costa Rica, Ukraine, Paraguay

Group B: Spain, Iran, Panama, Morocco

Group C: Brazil, Japan, Libya, Portugal

Group D: Argentina, Mexico, Italy, Australia

Group E: Egypt, Serbia, Czech Republic, Kuwait

Group F: Russia, Solomon Islands, Guatemala, Colombia

The matches will be played in Thailand from 1 to 18 November. ●

EUROPEAN COMPETITIONS



The UEFA Women's Champions League round of 32 begins in September. The draw was held in Nyon on 23 August and the matches will be played on 26/27 September and 3/4 October. The round of 16 draw also took place on 23 August and these matches will be contested on 31 October, 1 November and 7/8 November. ●



The group matches in the qualifying phase of the European Under-21 Championship have been completed. Before the final round of fixtures, Germany, England, Spain, France, Italy, the Netherlands and the Czech Republic had all qualified for the play-offs. They were joined on 10 September by Denmark, Norway, Russia, Serbia, Slovakia, Sweden and Switzerland.

The draw for the play-offs was held on 14 September (→UEFA.com) and the matches will be played on 12 and 16 October.

The final round will be staged in Israel in June 2013. ●



Albania
www.fshf.org

First UEFA Pro course in Albania

On 13 June 2013, around 20 Albanian coaches will be hoping to graduate with the UEFA Pro licence, European football's highest coaching qualification. Bringing this level of coaching to the country has been one of the biggest goals of the technical team at the Football Association of Albania (FSHF), which has spent many years increasing the technical level of Albanian football specialists. This is the first UEFA Pro licence course to be held in Albania, and it has been the FSHF's main goal for 2012.

The UEFA Pro course programme that will be run in Albania is the same as the one used

throughout the rest of the continent. It will last ten months, from September 2012 until June 2013, and will include nearly 300 hours of lessons. Under the direction of Astrit Maci, the technical director of the FSHF, this special initiative has the support of two foreign tutors, both well-known football specialists: the first is Paolo Piani, director of the Technical Center of the Italian Football Federation, and the second is Ginés Meléndez, national youth teams director and technical director at the Royal Spanish Football Federation. Their participation and course management will enhance the overall quality greatly, and will help the Albanian lecturers who will also participate.

The course is conceived in such a way that each specialist subject can be taught within



Spanish Ginés Meléndez will be offering his valuable assistance to the training of Albanian coaches

a week. A maximum of 20 participants will be allowed in the first course intake, each having been invited by the FSHF's technical team.

● Tritan Kokona



Austria
www.oefb.at

A new fan initiative

Just in time for the start of the 2014 FIFA World Cup qualifying competition, the Austrian Football Association (ÖFB) has launched a new fan initiative entitled "Immer wieder Österreich" ("Austria again and again"). Fans can join the Austrian national team's official fan club at www.immerviederosterreich.at. The initiative offers attractive benefits and privileges, such as the first option to purchase tickets, discounts in the ÖFB online shop, reserved seats in a family-friendly sector, a welcome pack, competitions, and access to exclusive videos and photos offering a behind-the-scenes insight into the national team.

"The new fan club is very important for the ÖFB. In particular, we want to invite families



A new initiative to keep up supporters' interest

with children to come to the stadium. Through this project, we are enabling people to support our national team at reasonable prices and in a

safe environment", said the ÖFB's chief executive, Alfred Ludwig.

The concept and benefits of the fan club are based on market research carried out jointly with ÖFB partner Coca-Cola and are closely tailored to fans' needs.

"The detailed conversations we held with the fans showed us clearly that quality and safety count the most when it comes to visiting the stadium. In addition, 75% of those questioned were clearly in favour of the creation of a fan club. That confirms that we are on the right

track," said Philipp Bodzenta, company spokesperson for Coca-Cola Austria.

● Iris Stöckelmayer



Bosnia and Herzegovina
www.nfsbih.ba

Sarajevo women's team enjoys great success

WFC SFK 2000 Sarajevo have achieved their greatest success since the club was founded. Champions of Bosnia and Herzegovina ten times in a row, the team from the capital have gone one better this year by qualifying for the knockout stage of the UEFA Women's Champions League as one of the 32 best teams in Europe. In the Group 5 qualifying mini-tournament, which was played in Sarajevo, Samira Hurem's players won the first two games against Peamount United of the Republic of Ireland (4-0) and UWIC LFC from Wales (1-0), and drew the last match 1-1 against ASA Tel Aviv. Sarajevo will now face AC Sparta Praha from the Czech Republic over two legs as they aim to reach the last 16 of the competition.

Meanwhile, futsal team KMF Leotar Trebinje have also tasted victory as hosts and winners of preliminary round Group A of the UEFA Futsal Cup, with two wins against Balzan Youths FC from Malta (9-1) and Lexmax Moldabije from Moldova (4-1).

Otherwise, this has not been a successful season for teams from Bosnia and Herzegovina

in UEFA club competitions. FK Željezničar lost both matches against NK Maribor from Slovenia (4-1 and 2-1) in the second qualifying round of the UEFA Champions League. FK Borac Banja Luka were knocked out in the first qualifying round of the UEFA Europa League, where they drew 2-2 at home to Čelik Nikšić of Montenegro and 1-1 in the return leg, which meant that Čelik went through on away goals. NK Široki Brijeg played Saint Patrick's Athletic FC from the Republic of Ireland in the second qualifying round. The match in Pecara finished 1-1, and the home team won the return fixture in Dublin 2-1.

FK Sarajevo were the only men's team from Bosnia and Herzegovina to record a European win this season. Indeed, their overall record was played six games, won three, drawn one and lost two. The club from the Bosnian capital beat Hibernians of Malta in the first qualifying round of the Europa League (5-2, 4-4), then eliminated Levski Sofia from Bulgaria (1-0, 3-1), before FK Zeta of Montenegro prevented them from reaching the play-offs, beating them 2-1 and 1-0 in the third qualifying round.

Two Bosnian national teams were also in action this month. In preparation for qualifying for the 2014 World Cup in Brazil, the full

national side beat Wales 2-0 in a friendly in Llanelli. Elsewhere, to celebrate the opening of the new sports hall for futsal in Pale, near Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina took on Serbia in a friendly match, which finished 1-1.

● Fuad Kravac



The players of WFC SFK Sarajevo 2000 (in blue) were a cut above their rivals in the qualifying mini-tournament for the UEFA Women's Champions League



New strategic development plan

The Bulgarian Football Union (BFS) has presented a brand-new strategic plan to develop the game in the country over the next four years. The BFS president, Borislav Mihaylov, says that the association is ready to involve all stakeholders in creating as many opportunities as possible for people of all genders, ages and skill levels to play football.

The strategic plan includes a package of measures to improve both the professional branch of the game and grassroots football in Bulgaria by bringing football back into primary



The new strategic football development plan

and secondary education and by introducing the "Football 7" programme throughout the country. The ultimate goal is to extend the base of the pyramid to a maximum and to create equal opportunities for all to play football, which would ensure more effective social integration and a healthier future society as a whole.

An emphasis has been placed on the good relationship between the BFS and local authorities, together with the importance of successfully hosting the 2015 European Under-17 Championship final round.

● Pavel Kolev



Women's football in the spotlight

Research released by The FA Women's Super League (WSL) in England, exploring public perceptions of women's football before and after the London Olympics, has revealed a huge increase in awareness of and interest in the sport.

As the new WSL season got under way last month, the league and players urged fans to continue their support for women's football and get behind the #Belnspired campaign.

Almost 70% of the 1,000 people surveyed stated that they would consider going to watch a live women's game – an increase of 15% since the performances of TeamGB's women at London 2012 – and 95% believed that female footballers make positive role models for teenage girls.

The Olympic buzz has also led to a 43% rise in people who said they would be more likely to participate in the sport.

Reaching unprecedented levels of interest during the Olympics, attendance records were smashed, with an incredible 70,584-strong crowd watching TeamGB women beat Brazil at Wembley, the largest crowd to watch a women's game in England since 1920.

Kelly Simmons, Head of National Game at The FA, said: "These results show what an amazing legacy the Olympics has created for women's football.

"It is vital we use the platform London 2012 gave us to grow and develop the game here and to keep all our new and existing fans. We want to make sure that we build on the Olympic momentum to secure ongoing passion and interest in women's sport – from the grassroots upwards.

"The research showed that nearly one in two people were so inspired by the Olympics that they were more

likely to play football themselves, which is a great measure of how popular our Olympians were."

● Glenn Lavery



A record crowd watched TeamGB's women beat Brazil 1-0



Grassroots scheme to get more children playing football

As part of its promotional campaign ahead of the Women's European Championship final round in Finland in 2009, the Finnish FA started

a new girls' football development scheme to attract more players in the youngest age groups and to improve the quality of girls' football. The results in participating clubs were extremely good, and the scheme was therefore continued.

In fact, the project was proving such a success that the Finnish FA decided to extend it to boys' football. Since the beginning of 2011, the scheme has been implemented in partnership with Itella for both boys and girls, and the results have continued to impress. In 2011, the clubs in the scheme started 147 new teams. The number of players in these clubs has increased enormously in the U10 age groups (by 85% for girls and 36% for boys).

The 2009 UEFA Women's EURO provided new impetus for the development of football in Finland

Altogether, 2,500 new players have joined these clubs and almost 400 new volunteers have got involved with children's football, the majority of them female. This year, 40 clubs are involved, and receive help from the Finnish FA and its 12 regional associations.

The year began with a kick-off seminar, where each participating club devised its strategic action plan. The clubs were able to discuss successful plans with each other, which was an added bonus.

To help them get started, the FA provided the clubs with equipment. During the year they have also received other useful material.

To get the youngest children interested in football, many teams have come up with special names. For example, one club named the six-year-old girls' group "princess football", and found it much easier to attract interest as a result.

One of the Finnish FA's main objectives is to increase the number of footballers in Finland, and this club development scheme has been a very successful step towards achieving this goal.

● Jukka Salasuo



Back to football

From mid-September to the start of October, the French Football Federation (FFF) is organising *La Rentrée du Foot* ("Back to football"), a nationwide event to coincide with the end of the French summer holidays, and designed to gather as many young footballers as possible – girls and boys alike – aged between 6 and 12, for a day of fun dedicated entirely to the beautiful game.

Open to anyone, regardless of whether they are registered players or not, the event is organised at local level (by *département*), and has been a great success since its introduction in 2004. Children, parents, teachers and clubs alike all look forward to it. Last year, more than 250,000 children took part in this large-scale activity at a total of 2,452 venues.



A poster promoting *La Rentrée du foot*

Apart from giving youngsters a chance to play football, *La Rentrée du Foot* also has an educational dimension, as the matches and skills clinics are accompanied by workshops on the Laws of the Game, health, hygiene and even the environment.

Each participant also receives a copy of the *Guide du jeune footballeur ou de la jeune footbaleuse* ("The Young Footballer's Guide"). This educational activity booklet is full of advice on equipment, nutrition, health and transport, and allows the owner to make notes about his or her team.

You can find a full list of all the activities, and download the guide along with two posters at www.fff.fr/rentreefoot2012 (in French only).

● *Matthieu Brelle-Andrade*

DFB celebrates 50 years of the Bundesliga

The German Football Association (DFB) celebrated 50 years of the Bundesliga on 28 July in the Goldsaal of the Westfalenhallen conference centre in Dortmund. Exactly 50 years earlier, at the very same venue, the 129 delegates at the DFB's general meeting not only elected Hermann Gössmann the association's sixth president, but also voted by 103 to 26 to introduce a unified federal league (the Bundesliga) from the 1963/64 season onwards.

Led by the current DFB president, Wolfgang Niersbach, a group of players from the first Bundesliga, including Otto Rehhagel, Wolfgang Overath and Hans Tilkowski, shared their memories of a "defining decision" at the historical birthplace of the Bundesliga on the 50th anniversary of the event. "On that day, the foundations were laid for a unique success story. The Bundesliga has long been more than just a successful football league in economic

and sporting terms: it is a strong component of German society," said Niersbach in his address to 20 invited guests and around 50 media representatives.

To commemorate the day, the Bundesliga's president, Reinhard Rauball, received an enlarged issue of the football magazine *Kicker* from 1962, announcing the historic decision in its front page headline after the marathon meeting in the Goldsaal. "A giant has emerged: if the Bundesliga didn't exist, we would have needed to invent it here, today," said Rauball, also president of German champions Borussia Dortmund, and therefore on home ground. "Today's league has an average attendance of 44,293 and a combined turnover of over €2 billion. That is sensational."

In the presence of some of the top names from the Bundesliga's early days, such as the league's first top goalscorer Uwe Seeler, Wolfgang Overath, Otto Rehhagel, Hannes Löhner and Hans Tilkowski, the DFB president, joined by Reinhard Rauball and the DFB general secretary, Helmut Sandrock, presented a golden plaque to the city of Dortmund and the Westfalenhallen. The DFB football museum, which is due to open in Dortmund in 2014, will receive a similar plaque.

● *Stephan Brause*



Wolfgang Niersbach (left) and Reinhard Rauball receive the enlarged front page of the sports magazine *Kicker* bearing news of the decision to found the Bundesliga

New pitches for youth football

As a part of its development strategy, the Hungarian Football Federation (MLSZ) has overseen the construction of a number of mini-pitches and standard-size pitches throughout the country. In 2011, the MLSZ board, led by the federation's president, Sándor Csányi, stressed the importance of involving young people in football in its strategic plan.

This led the MLSZ to start a project to involve as many young girls and boys as possible nationwide, as well as their parents, and to convince them of the importance of doing some sort of sporting activity every day. Sports clubs and municipalities have been able to bid to build pitches with floodlights in two different sizes: 12m x 24m for the youngest age groups and 20m x 40m for five-a-side, futsal or grassroots use. Many tournaments in the Boszik nationwide youth programme will also take place on these larger pitches.

The project is mostly funded by the MLSZ, which has contributed 70% of the total costs as a part of the government's corporate income tax project, with the individual sports clubs expected to make up the shortfall themselves.

And the schema has taken off really quickly: by 31 August, no fewer than 12 mini-pitches (12x24), 55 grassroots pitches (24x40) and 18 standard-size pitches had been built across the country, while another 10 will be inaugurated later in the year. But this is just the start, as in the forthcoming months, clubs with older facilities will also be able to apply for funds to renovate their grounds.

● *Márton Dinnyés*



New mini-pitches for young players

Referees issued with green cards

The Israel Football Association (IFA) has launched a new programme to promote the message of fair play. In every match in the youth leagues, all referees will have a green card along with the usual yellow and red. Players will have the chance to get a green card by making a gesture of fair play. At the end of each season, the players and teams with the most green cards will win prizes sponsored by the IFA.

The project is also being promoted by TV rights holders, as well as a minute before kick-off at every match in all leagues. For the purpose, ten short video clips have been produced, featuring leading players, coaches, referees and fans, and the slogan "Be fair, play fair".

● *Michal Grundland*



A green card to encourage fair play

Children's football project looks to the future

When the Liechtenstein Football Association (LFV) launched its children's football project in 2007, it unveiled the Swiss children's football pioneer, Beni Bruggmann, as its ideal manager. Under the far-sighted guidance of this experienced football coach, the project has been steadily growing. Once limited to



LFV

Liechtenstein and its immediate surroundings, the project now covers the whole Rhine valley – from Graubünden to Lake Constance – and supports more than 100 children's football coaches.

At the end of the 2011/12 season, Beni Bruggmann, now 72, retired from his post as leader of the children's football project. His successor is Klaus Käppeli from Eggersriet, Canton St. Gallen, a Swiss Football Association instructor who has been involved in the development of children's football for many years. Klaus Käppeli took up his role with the LFV children's football project at the start of September, when the traditional introductory courses for new coaches were held, and will now be endeavouring to add further chapters to the success story started by his predecessor.

● Anton Banzer

Klaus Käppeli has taken over as manager of the children's football project

A new coach for the national team

Čedomir Janevski is the new coach of the Macedonian national team. He replaces John Toshack. The contract between the Football Federation of Macedonia (FFM) and the former Wales and Liverpool great was ended by mutual consent. His successor will lead the national team through the qualifying competition for the 2014 FIFA World Cup in Brazil.

Čedomir Janevski is a Macedonian football legend. He was an integral part of the golden generation of FK Vardar, together with Darko Pančev, Ilija Najdoski, Dragan Kanatlarovski, Vujadin Stanojković and others, who were crowned Yugoslav champions in 1987. Janevski started his playing days with FK Skopje, before moving to Belgian sides Club Brugge KV (where he has since also worked for a number of years as a coach), R. Charleroi SC and KSC Lokeren OV. For a while he played for Istanbulspor of Turkey. Janevski represented FYR Macedonia



Photoreports

Čedomir Janevski, the new national coach

five times as a player, and played twice for Yugoslavia.

He is the first Macedonian football coach to gain the UEFA Pro licence. As well as his time at Club Brugge KV, he was also an assistant coach for KAA Gent and Olympiacos. He coached former European champions FK Crvena zvezda of Belgrade for the 2008/09 season, then Enosis Neon Paralimni FC and Ethnikos Achnas FC in Cyprus. He is one of only three Macedonian coaches to have won a trophy abroad – the Belgian cup with Club Brugge in 2007.

Addressing the Macedonian public on his appointment, Janevski said that the country had huge football quality and potential, but that a lot of hard work needed to be done.

"As a professional coach, it is a great honour to be leading the team, but a great responsibility as well. We will be working hard to raise the level of Macedonian football from the present. In football you can win or lose. I'm not afraid. I'm always an optimist. My ambition is to create a team that will play in a disciplined manner, but also have a strong belief in their own abilities – a team with a winning attitude. It feels good to be in Macedonia after many years away from the country," said Janevski.

FFM president Ilčo Gjorgjioski greeted Janevski with the words: "Welcome home 'aČede' – this is where you belong." Gjorgjioski said that Janevski was the right man for the job. He wished him all the best for the future and hoped that the team would be able to celebrate many victories with the Macedonian people.

● Zlatko Andonovski

Record run of success in friendly matches

It is not very often that Malta celebrates victory in international matches. More often than not, a positive result, even if it is a draw, is followed by a defeat. Competitive matches account for most of the negative results, although friendly matches follow more or less the same pattern.

A welcome change from these drab statistics was Malta's 3-2 away win on 14 August against San Marino. That match marked a record run of four consecutive wins in friendly matches in the space of a year.

It all started in August 2011, when Malta beat the Central African Republic 2-1 at the Malta national stadium, Ta' Qali. That was followed by another home win against Liechtenstein last February, when the visitors were beaten 2-1. In both matches, the team was under the guidance of Maltese coach John Buttigieg.

Then Italian Pietro Ghedin assumed responsibility for the national team's fortunes as coach, and Malta's winning streak continued with 2-0 and 3-0 wins respectively in their next two friendly matches, away against Luxembourg last June and San Marino last month.

It is also worth noting that the two goals scored by Michael Mifsud against San Marino took Malta's star striker's tally to a total of 36 goals in the 91 matches he has played for his country so far. The rate of almost 0.4 goals per match puts Malta's top scorer in the uppermost bracket of current national team leading goalscorers.

Truly prestigious statistics for Maltese football and its top scorer!

● Alex Vella



D. Aquilina

Michael Mifsud, a prolific goalscorer

Seminar for leaders and coaches

A joint Cross Cultures Project Association (CCPA)/Open Fun Football Schools (OFFS) seminar for leaders and coaches was held at the Moldovan national teams' training centre in Vadul lui Voda from 30 July to 9 August.

The seminar was attended by 154 coaches (50% of whom were women) and comprised theoretical and practical sessions, including presentations about the role and importance of the coach and the organisation of the schools. Instructors from the Moldovan FA demonstrated a number of exercises, and small-sided games were held in which all coaches participated. On August 2 and 9, OFFS demonstrations were also held in the village of Ratus (10km from Chisinau).

The seminar was organised by the central CCPA/OFFS office in Moldova: the CCPA/OFFS project coordinator for Moldova, Ghenadie Scurtul, was supported by his assistants, Iurie



Coaches prepare to pass on their knowledge to the younger generation

Conusevici and Svetlana Ceban, as well as OFFS instructors George Copusciulu, Vladislav Pocatilo, Iana Pogarevici, Igor Popov, Oleg Molceanov, Natalia Ceban, Vitalie Onica, Alexandr Viblov, Olga Rusacova and Cristina

Samson. Open Fun Football Schools were also scheduled to take place in 11 towns and cities across Moldova between 20 August and 10 September.

● Press office

Patrick Kluivert appointed Europa League final ambassador

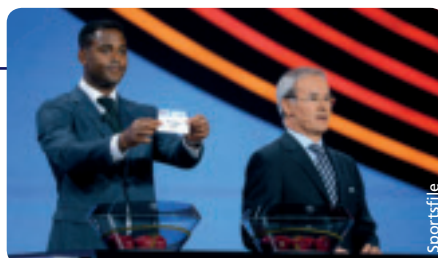
Patrick Kluivert has been appointed UEFA ambassador for the 2013 UEFA Europa League final in Amsterdam. The culmination of this prestigious UEFA club competition will take place at the newly extended Amsterdam Arena on 15 May 2013.

The Royal Netherlands Football Association (KNVB) asked the national team's all-time top scorer (40 goals in 78 matches) to serve as ambassador because of his prominent role in European club football and his widely acclaimed international reputation. In his new role, Kluivert has already been involved in the draw for the group stage of the UEFA Europa League, which took place in Monaco at the end of last month. Earlier in August, Kluivert was also appointed assistant to the Dutch national team manager, Louis van Gaal, in order to help the Dutch qualify for the 2014 World Cup after a disappointing EURO 2012.

Kluivert made his debut for Ajax under Louis van Gaal in 1994. The Amsterdam-born star came on as a substitute shortly before the final whistle in the UEFA Champions League final in Vienna in 1995 and, at the age of 18, scored the goal that gave AFC Ajax 1-0 victory over AC Milan. He proceeded to play exactly 100 European matches for Ajax, FC Barcelona, Newcastle United FC, Valencia CF and PSV Eindhoven, scoring no fewer than 42 goals along the way.

Kluivert moved to AC Milan in 1997, where he only played for a single year before his transfer to FC Barcelona, the club at which he was reunited with Louis van Gaal. In 1994, Kluivert won his first international cap under team manager Dick Advocaat. He was a member of the national squad for four major international events (EURO '96, the 1998 World Cup, EURO 2000 and EURO 2004). He was top scorer at EURO 2000 with five goals.

In 2008, Kluivert enrolled on the UEFA Pro licence coaching course with former team-



Patrick Kluivert at the draw in Monaco, alongside UEFA's competitions director, Giorgio Marchetti

mates Dennis Bergkamp, Phillip Cocu and Michael Reiziger. He began his coaching career as an apprentice at AZ Alkmaar, where Van Gaal was in charge as team manager once again. Kluivert started his coaching career

proper in 2010 at N.E.C. and signed as coach of FC Twente's reserves in 2011, with whom he won the Dutch reserve championship earlier this year.

As UEFA ambassador for the 2013 Europa League final, he will appear at the ticket launch in Amsterdam on 30 November and be involved in the promotional campaign in the city throughout the competition.

● Rob de Leede

Ready for kick-off

Northern Ireland's new Danske Bank Premiership was officially launched at Belfast's Waterfront Hall, with the players, managers and chairmen from each of the 12 clubs being joined by Gerry Mallon, chief executive of Danske Bank subsidiary, Northern Bank.

Aubry Ralph, chairman of the premiership's management committee, said: "Today's event really brings it home how close we are to the start of the new season, and the players and managers are all ready for the kick-off. Having a sponsor of this calibre is fantastic for our premiership clubs and I am sure that we are in for another exciting season in our domestic game."

Gerry Mallon said: "This is a very exciting day for us – not only as the start of a new football season, but also the first time we have given visibility of our new brand, Danske Bank. This partnership with the Irish FA makes sense to us in many more ways than just a business deal. Having been in Northern Ireland for over 200 years, our customers and our staff are the supporters of these local premiership clubs. We see great opportunities for staff and community

involvement, and this involvement at a local level is very important to us.

"As one of my colleagues said when we announced the new Danske Bank Premiership: 'What a fantastic start for our new brand!' – I couldn't agree more."

● Graeme Beggs



Aubry Ralph, chairman of the premiership, and Gerry Mallon, representing the sponsors, with players from the league's 12 clubs



Russia win international U15 tournament

An international tournament for Under-15 players was held in Moscow from 21 to 25 August. This year, eight nations (Belarus, Bulgaria, Israel, Ukraine, Scotland, Turkey and Latvia, plus the hosts) participated in what was only a four-team event last year. The teams were drawn into two groups, with all matches taking place in the Krylia Sovetov and Igor Netto stadiums in Moscow rather than the former venue in Pskov. Many famous Russian players have made their debuts and played for their first international trophy in this tournament in the past.

The final was an all-Slavic affair between Russia and Ukraine. Demonstrating their skills



Joy for the tournament's young Russian winners

and incredible speed, Russia were worthy champions. "I hope that the spectators enjoyed the final game. It was very interesting – breath-taking even. Both teams tried to do all that they could. I'm very proud that we were able to win all our matches and earn our first trophy, particularly at home. We have been continuing

our work in this direction. Russia hasn't won this tournament since 2007. It is a great result, which we should try to carry over into official UEFA and FIFA competitions," said the coach of the Russian team, Vyacheslav Daev.

● Irina Baranova



More club volunteers wanted

The Swiss Football Association is aiming to follow in the footsteps of its Dutch counterpart by inviting clubs to attend a workshop, divided into four courses, and asking them to launch campaigns designed to address the shortage of voluntary helpers in clubs. General secretary Alex Miescher is convinced that the success that has been achieved in the Netherlands can be emulated in Switzerland. "I am confident that we can do it," said Miescher. "Although clubs have people to look after their money,

equipment and pitches, they do not have anyone to look after volunteers, somebody responsible for their voluntary helpers and who acts as their point of contact."

For years, clubs have found it very difficult to recruit volunteers to work for them. In support of its affiliated clubs, Swiss football's governing body is now taking the initiative and making an active contribution in this specific area. "Since family and work



Alex Miescher, general secretary of the Swiss Football Association

pressures are already huge, voluntary work should not be an additional burden – on the contrary," said Miescher.

Andreas Bernhard, president of FC Weissenstein (the club produced by the merger between SC Sparta and FC Victoria Bern), also welcomed the initiative. "We need to send out more positive messages, and we have to make it fun," said the president of the Berne-based club.

● Pierre Benoit



First Slovak triumph at Lobanovskiy tournament

The Football Federation of Ukraine (FFU) successfully held the tenth international tournament dedicated to the greatest ever Ukrainian coach, Valeriy Lobanovskiy. The traditional memorial tournament in Kyiv was won for the first time by the Slovak Under-21 team, who beat Montenegro's U20s in a penalty shoot-out in the final after the match had ended 1-1 at the end of normal time. The hosts had to be content with third place, beating Belarus also on penalties after a 1-1 result in normal time. The day before, in the semi-finals, Slovakia – who were the only Under-21 team participating in the tournament



Svetlana, the daughter of Valeriy Lobanovskiy, presents the trophy to the Slovak captain

– had defeated Ukraine's U20s, again on penalties after a goalless draw, while Montenegro recorded a 2-1 victory over Belarus.

Born on 6 January 1939 in Kyiv, Valeriy Lobanovskiy played 258 games for FC Dynamo Kyiv, scoring 71 goals. He won the Soviet title as a player in 1961 and the Soviet cup in 1964, and made two appearances for the Soviet Union as well as playing in the Under-23 side at two Olympic Games, once as captain. As a coach, he started with FC Dnipro Dnipropetrovsk, before joining Dynamo in 1973. Under Lobanovskiy, Dynamo won eight Soviet titles and six Soviet Cups, as well as the 1975 and 1986 European Cup Winners' Cups and the 1975 UEFA Super Cup.

His success continued in the independent Ukraine as his Dynamo side won five Ukrainian titles and three Ukrainian cups. On the international stage, the team reached the 1998/99 UEFA Champions League semi-finals. He also successfully coached the national teams of the USSR, the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait and Ukraine. Lobanovskiy is considered a pioneer of the scientific approach to football. Three of his protégés were named European players of the year, namely Oleh Blokhin, Ihor Belanov and Andriy Shevchenko. Lobanovskiy died of a brain haemorrhage on 13 May 2002.

● Bogdan Buga



New president

The Football Association of Wales (FAW) is delighted to announce that Trefor Lloyd Hughes has been elected as the new president of the association. He succeeds Phil Pritchard.

A passionate Welshman, Trefor hails from Anglesey and is proud of his roots. He was the North Wales Coast FA area association representative for years and has acted as secretary of the Anglesey League, the Welsh Alliance and North Wales Football Association. In 1989, he was voted onto the council of the FAW. He has held the posts of treasurer and, more recently, senior vice-president.

Trefor has also been chairman of Anglesey council and mayor of Holyhead. He also represents UEFA as a match delegate.



The association's new president, Trefor Lloyd Hughes

● Ceri Stennett

BIRTHDAYS

Sir Trevor Brooking (England, 2 October)
 Levent Bıçakcı (Turkey, 2 October)
 Andrzej Wach (Poland, 2 October)
 Lutz Michael Fröhlich (Germany, 2 October)
 Julius Kvedaras (Lithuania, 3 October)
 Léon Schelings (Belgium, 3 October)
 Victor van Helvoirt (Netherlands, 3 October)
 Wilfried Heitmann (Germany, 4 October)
 Khennet Tallinger (Sweden, 4 October)
 Silvo Borosak (Slovenia, 4 October)
Márton Vági (Hungary, 4 October)
 ★★☆☆ 50th
Frank Coulston (Scotland, 5 October)
 ★★☆☆ 70th
 Terje Hauge (Norway, 5 October)
Jerzy Engel (Poland, 6 October)
 ★★☆☆ 60th
 Jérôme Valcke (France, 6 October)
 Faruk Hadžibegić (Bosnia and Herzegovina, 7 October)
Armand Duka (Albania, 7 October)
 ★★☆☆ 50th
Jari Maisonlahti (Finland, 7 October)
 ★★☆☆ 50th
Markus Kopecky (Austria, 7 October)
 ★★☆☆ 40th
 Pierre Delaunay (France, 9 October)
 Sergey Zuev (Russia, 9 October)
 Gheorghe Popescu (Romania, 9 October)
 Ellert B. Schram (Iceland, 10 October)
 Milovan Nikolic (Slovenia, 10 October)
 Joan Gaspart (Spain, 11 October)
 Bo Karlsson (Sweden, 12 October)
 Adrian D. Casha (Malta, 12 October)
 Siegfried Kirschen (Germany, 13 October)
 Pedro Tomás Marqués (Spain, 13 October)
 Aleksander Čeferin (Slovenia, 13 October)
 George Brian Smith (Scotland, 14 October)
 Dušan Krchnak (Slovakia, 14 October)
 Einar Schultz (Norway, 14 October)
 Tom van der Hulst (Netherlands, 15 October)
 Michel Piroux (Belgium, 15 October)
Wendy Toms (England, 16 October)
 ★★☆☆ 50th
 Konrad Plautz (Austria, 16 October)
 John Delaney (Republic of Ireland, 16 October)
 Jean-Marie Philips (Belgium, 17 October)
 Frans Hoek (Netherlands, 17 October)
 Mark Arthur (England, 17 October)
 Adonis Procopiou (Cyprus, 17 October)
 Petros Mavroidis (Greece, 19 October)
Aivar Pohlak (Estonia, 19 October)
 ★★☆☆ 50th
 Miljenko Sakoman (Croatia, 19 October)
 Paul Philipp (Luxembourg, 21 October)
Philip Pritchard (Wales, 22 October)
 ★★☆☆ 70th
Mircea Sandu (Romania, 22 October)
 ★★☆☆ 60th
 Arie Kenneth Scheiman (Israel, 22 October)
 Jan C. Huijbregts (Netherlands, 23 October)
 Michel Vautrot (France, 23 October)
Dragutin Karlo Poljak (Croatia, 23 October)
 ★★☆☆ 60th
Christian Teinturier (France, 24 October)
 ★★☆☆ 70th
 Antonin Herzog (Czech Republic, 24 October)

Pekka Hämäläinen (Finland, 25 October)
 Roy Cathcart (Northern Ireland, 26 October)
 Markku Lehtola (Finland, 26 October)
 Hugh Dallas (Scotland, 26 October)
 Perry Gautier (Belgium, 26 October)
 Gerard Perry (Republic of Ireland, 27 October)
 Levan Paniashvili (Georgia, 28 October)
 Rui Caçador (Portugal, 29 October)
 George Fantaros (Cyprus, 29 October)
 Maria Persson (Sweden, 29 October)
 Gijsbert van Oostveen (Netherlands, 30 October)
 Alan McRae (Scotland, 31 October)
Kurt Zuppinger (Switzerland, 31 October)
 ★★☆☆ 50th
 José Luis Astiazarán Iriondo (Spain, 31 October)

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Meetings

1 October, in St Petersburg

Executive Committee

3 October, in Sarajevo

Fair Play and Social Responsibility Committee

9 October, in Nyon

Youth and Amateur Football Committee

31 October, in Nyon

National Team Competitions Committee

Competitions

2/3 October

UEFA Champions League: group matches (matchday 2)

3/4 October

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

4 October

UEFA Europa League: group matches (matchday 2)

9–14 October

UEFA Futsal Cup: elite round

12–16 October

2011–13 European U21 Championship: play-offs

20/21 and 24/25 October

UEFA Women's EURO: play-offs

23/24 October

UEFA Champions League: group matches (matchday 3)

25 October

UEFA Europa League: group matches (matchday 3)

31 October

UEFA Women's Champions League: round of 16 (first legs)

NOTICES

- Trefor Lloyd Hughes has been appointed the new president of the Football Association of Wales.
- On 2 August, Waldemar Barylo officially became the general secretary of the Polish Football Federation.
- On 21 August, Dimitar Zisovski took over as general secretary of the Football Federation of FYR Macedonia.
- The Football Federation of FYR Macedonia has a new telephone number: +389 231 29291. Its fax number is +389 231 65448.

NEW MATCH AGENTS

UEFA licences have been awarded to three new match agents:

Ivan Daza Calle

Kaptiva Sports S.L.
 c/Balmes, 92 3 1a A, 08008 Barcelona, Spain
 +34 93 245 60 87
 ivandazacalle@gmail.com

Pierre Jampy

ALS Sport
 21 Avenue Le Corbusier
 59042 Lille Cedex, France
 Office: +33 3 59 56 97 97
 Mobile: +33 6 86 49 92 17
 Fax: +33 3 59 56 97 59
 contact@alscompany.fr

Gary Smith

5 Morale Close
 Newcastle upon Tyne, NE7 7GE, United Kingdom
 Tel.: +44 7515 372 739
 Courriel: gary_7_smith@yahoo.com

Premysl Losenicky (France) no longer holds a UEFA licence.

PUBLICATION

THE EUROPEAN FOOTBALL YEARBOOK 2012/13

A new edition of Mike Hammond's comprehensive handbook is published to mark the start of each new season, and this year's is the 25th edition. Even if they cannot slip it in their pockets, statistics lovers who want to know all about football the world over will keep this book close at hand. The new edition runs to some 1,040 pages, is published by Carlton Books Ltd and can be ordered by sending an email to orders@calmproductions.com.



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