



UEFA•direct



IN THIS ISSUE

**Official publication of the
Union des associations
européennes de football**

Chief editor:

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Produced by:

Atema Communication SA,
CH-1196 Gland

Printing:

Artgraphic Cavin SA,
CH-1422 Grandson

Editorial deadline:

11 October 2012

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The head coaches of the continent's senior national teams met in Warsaw, one of the host cities of EURO 2012, to analyse the competition and identify trends in European football.



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Safety and security in the stadiums used for UEFA's club competitions was the central topic for discussion at the conference in the Austrian capital, organised in partnership with the EU.



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Cover:

*The group stages of UEFA's club
competitions are in full swing.
In the Champions League,
FC BATE Borisov (Vitali Rodionov,
in blue) created an upset
by beating last season's
finalists, FC Bayern München
(Luiz Gustavo).*

Photo: Getty Images



WELL ON OUR WAY

It was around this time last year that the opportunity came for me to address the Leaders in Football Conference in London – and it was an important opportunity, as it provided the platform that enabled UEFA to put national team football back onto the public agenda.

The “week of football” concept – whereby major tournament qualifying matches will be spread from Thursday to Tuesday from 2014 – was born out of a series of discussions and consultations with the UEFA member associations, where the instruction was given to raise the profile of national team football. That was to be the key objective for the four-year term until 2015, and one year into that cycle, significant progress has been made.

I mentioned in London words to the effect that national team football was the “heartbeat of our sport”, and these words remain valid, because one of the steps aimed at raising national team football to the elite level – similar to the level enjoyed by club football for some time – has been achieved. By centralising the media and marketing rights for national team football – including the UEFA European Under-21 Championship and the UEFA European Women’s Championship – we are in a position to create a more level playing field for the football family.

This objective has manifested itself from a commercial standpoint, as we will work with recently appointed partners to manage the exploitation of the marketing opportunities that surround all of our national team competitions. But what will it mean for football fans who will watch UEFA EURO 2016 and 2018 FIFA World Cup qualifying matches? Working within the framework of the international match calendar

which has been agreed with all stakeholders – namely FIFA, the confederations, associations, leagues, clubs and players – we want to get the best deal possible for European football. We want to be in a position to replace friendly internationals with double-date fixtures and to harmonise kick-off times in line with the approach that currently exists in the UEFA Champions League and UEFA Europa League. This means more choice and more opportunities for fans to watch live football. We also wish to restore national team football’s profile at weekends, a time at which we do not want to concede ground to other sports, because we strongly believe we have an excellent competition to offer.

Not only that, but the time is right. National team football is in excellent shape in Europe – and this was clearly demonstrated by the very high standard of the matches during UEFA EURO 2012. UEFA sets great store by the national team game as a source of national identity and national pride, and as a fascinating window onto a country’s football and its footballers. National team football unites countries behind their national football team.

Our member associations were united in providing UEFA with the mandate – and we are well on our way to delivering on their behalf.

Gianni Infantino
UEFA General Secretary

AUTUMN MEETING IN ST PETERSBURG

The Executive Committee once again worked its way through a packed agenda at its autumn meeting in St Petersburg on 1 October, with the UEFA president, Michel Platini, in the chair.



Mikhail Shapaev

An impressive set-up for the UEFA Executive Committee meeting in St Petersburg

The committee's discussions focused not so much on purely sporting matters as on some of football's side aspects. The meeting began, as usual, with a review of recent UEFA committee meetings, during which a number of decisions were taken, such as the approval of a new version of the UEFA Convention on Referee Education and Organisation for the 2012–16 period. Introduced in 2006, the convention has proved to be an extremely valuable tool for the development and improvement of refereeing within the UEFA member associations. It is based on three pillars: refereeing structure and organisation, education and development, and financial support. As far as financial support is concerned, the convention now provides for an annual incentive payment of €100,000 for each member association, instead of the same amount in Swiss francs available in the previous cycle.

To date, 49 national associations are full members of the convention, while Liechtenstein is a partial member.

Five-referee system

Still on the subject of refereeing, the Executive Committee discussed the five-referee system. Since the International FA Board approved the use of additional assistant referees in July, this system has been in use in this season's club competition matches and it is hoped that it will also be adopted by the national associations. The Italian Football Federation is the first to have already taken this step this season. Since additional assistant referees are referees (and not assistant referees), and as the UEFA Emergency Panel decided that, if a referee had to pull out during a match, for example due to injury, he could be replaced by one of the additional assistant referees, UEFA now appoints assistant referees as fourth officials. This makes it easier to manage the number of officials required, since there is no need to appoint four referees and two assistants for each match, but three referees and three assistants, which also has a financial impact, since assistant referees do not receive the same entitlements as referees.

Also with refereeing in mind, the Executive Committee decided to extend the appointments of Pierluigi Collina, Marc Batta and Hugh Dallas as UEFA refereeing officers until UEFA EURO 2016.

Convention, charter and regulations

Turning to the UEFA Coaching Convention, the Executive Committee approved the admission of the national associations of Azerbaijan and Belarus at Pro level and of Austria and France at A Youth level. Meanwhile, Bulgaria was admitted as a one-star member of the UEFA Grassroots Charter, Spain as a three-star member and Belgium as a four-star member.

The committee also approved the regulations of two competitions:

- the European Under-21 Championship 2013-15
- the European Qualifying Competition for the 2015 FIFA Women's World Cup.

There were no major amendments to the regulations of the Under-21 competition, which will be the last to be held before the format reverts to one run in parallel with the European Football Championship. Meanwhile, the 7th FIFA

Women's World Cup will be held in Canada in 2015 and will involve 24 teams. Europe's eight representatives will be the winners of the seven qualifying groups and the winner of play-off matches to be contested by the four best group runners-up.

Provisional member

The Executive Committee also admitted the Gibraltar Football Association as a provisional member of UEFA with effect from 1 October 2012, in compliance with a decision notified by the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) on 18 August 2011. The next UEFA Congress, to be held in London in May 2013, will have to decide whether to admit this association as a full member.

The committee also discussed financial matters, relations with FIFA, national association issues and preparations for UEFA EURO 2016 in France. Four EURO 2016 SAS employees are now working in Paris on finalising the structure of the company, monitoring stadium construction, developing the brand and dealing with matters linked to the host cities and governmental guarantees, among other things.

The next Executive Committee meeting will be held in Lausanne on 6 December. ●

NEW MARKETING AGENCY FOR NATIONAL TEAM COMPETITIONS

In the second part of its meeting in St Petersburg, the Executive Committee dealt with the marketing of UEFA competitions. In line with the conclusions of an internal working group, it decided to outsource the management of the centralised commercial rights for the UEFA national team competitions and chose the agency CAA Eleven, founded in June 2012 by CAA Sports, a division of the world's leading entertainment and sports agency, the Creative Artists Agency.

CAA Eleven, which will be based in Nyon, will be exclusively dedicated to marketing the broadcasting, sponsorship and licensing rights on behalf of UEFA and its activities will focus in particular on the UEFA EURO 2016 qualifying competition, UEFA EURO 2016 and the European qualifying competition for the 2018 FIFA World Cup. The agency's mandate, which came into effect on 1 October, also covers the UEFA European Under-21, Under-19 and Under-17 Championships (men's and women's for the latter two), the UEFA European



The UEFA president, Michel Platini, and general secretary, Gianni Infantino, with representatives of CAA Eleven after the signing of the contract

Women's Championship and the UEFA European Futsal Championship. The contract with CAA Eleven is the counterpart of UEFA's current agreement with the agency TEAM Marketing for its club competitions. ●

BACK TO WARSAW FOR THE NATIONAL TEAM COACHES

“When you participate in a conference like this, you meet different coaches who express their ideas and also talk to you about things in a private, relaxed atmosphere. It’s very important because we come from different nations and different situations and we can transmit to each other what we have experienced. You talk about tactics, about behaviour, what happened, when it happened, why it happened, different matches, the players...you get to know more about the world. You can really increase your knowledge. You never know enough. There is always something new to learn.”

These are the words of Fabio Capello, who travelled to the 10th UEFA Conference for National Team Coaches in a dual capacity – as the current national team coach of Russia and as a member of the UEFA technical team which generated the material for the technical report on EURO 2012. His views neatly summarise the value of a massive event staged, in conjunction with the Polish Football Federation, in Warsaw from 24 to 26 September. The use of an adjective such as “massive” is justified by the presence of representatives of all 53 UEFA member associations; UEFA’s Development and Technical Assistance and Football Committees (who pegged meetings to the conference), and a group of Polish coaches who used the event to further their re-education via thematic workshops and discussions on future pathways for Polish football. The sum total was a group of well over 200.

A review

The objective of the conference was to review EURO 2012 from a technical point of view and to highlight the features which could be of value to national team coaches who were not at the final tournament, and to the technical directors who are responsible for player development. After the conference had been opened by UEFA’s general secretary, Gianni Infantino, the president of the Polish FA, Grzegorz Lato, and the chairman of UEFA’s Development and Technical Assistance

Committee, Giancarlo Abete, it was the turn of UEFA’s technical director, Andy Roxburgh, to address a wide range of technical topics. He then handed the baton – or rather, the microphone – to Vicente del Bosque who, by leading Spain to victory in Kyiv, achieved a unique hat-trick of winning the FIFA World Cup, the European Championship and the UEFA Champions League (twice with Real Madrid CF).

With his trademark humility and composure, Del Bosque insisted: *“The important people are the players. They need to be great footballers – players with real talent. Then they have to be great team players, prepared to work for their colleagues. Then they need to have hunger for success and to prove on the pitch that they are champions. I had the good fortune to work with a group which possessed all those qualities. There was a greater sense of responsibility. The challenges included maintaining a highly competitive spirit against opponents who were determined to make things difficult for us and, of course, living up to the standards we had set for ourselves.”*

Highly successful tournament

In fact, the tributes to Spain came from other coaches rather than the champion coach himself. The second morning



kicked off with a session during which the "final four" coaches took the stage. Italy's Cesare Prandelli, Germany's Joachim Löw and Portugal's Paulo Bento joined Del Bosque in giving their slants on a tournament which they unanimously rated as highly successful, not only in organisational terms, but also with regard to the fair-play atmosphere and the quality of the football played by teams who had been encouraged by their coaches to take the initiative whenever possible.

One of the other positives to be highlighted by the coaches was the overall standard of refereeing. Pierluigi Collina, UEFA's chief refereeing officer, underlined the value of the pre-tournament briefings given to players and coaches and made a presentation which shed light on the contributions of the additional assistant referees (AAR) during EURO 2012. The coaches admitted that the session provided them with new information and insights, and even suggested that this should be passed on to the supporters, who also seem to be unaware of the exact dimensions of an AAR's role.

Any other business

On the final morning, Erik Hamrén (Sweden), Roy Hodgson (England) and Fernando Santos (Greece) assessed the performances of their own teams and their fellow finalists, while three members of UEFA's technical team at the event – Fabio Capello, Jerzy Engel and Lars Lagerbäck – passed on some of the observations they had made and some of the debating points which had been injected into the technical report. In the meantime, the coaches had spent time in discussion groups in which they were invited to address some of the main issues facing today's national team coach, ranging from the Laws of the Game to the international calendar, preparation time prior to major tournaments, and disciplinary matters.

Summing up the proceedings at a post-event press briefing, Vicente del Bosque said: *"This has been a fantastic conference staged with a great sense of hospitality and a feeling of fellowship among the national team coaches, who were ready to exchange their experiences in the sport we all love so much."* ●



The UEFA general secretary, Gianni Infantino, presents Andy Roxburgh with a token of appreciation for his contribution to the technical sector of European football

FAREWELL TO ANDY ROXBURGH

The UEFA Conference for National Team Coaches was Andy Roxburgh's last major event as UEFA technical director, a position he had held since 1 March 1994, when the position was created. Andy therefore had a – virtually – clean slate in terms of technical matters at UEFA, and he brought to the role all the dynamism, skill and experience he had gained from a managerial career that had culminated as head coach of the Scottish national team at the 1990 World Cup and EURO '92.

It would be impossible to mention here all the activities that Andy Roxburgh has done for the development of football at all levels, throughout Europe and even beyond. However, among his key achievements are the UEFA Coaching Convention, the UEFA Grassroots Charter and the UEFA coach education programme, not forgetting events that have become real institutions, such as the UEFA Elite Club Coaches Forum and the UEFA Conference for National Team Coaches.

A warm tribute was paid to him in Warsaw. ●



IMPROVING STADIUM AND SECURITY OPERATIONS

Safety is the number one priority at any match. It overrides all other aspects of match organisation, and without it, we would simply be unable to enjoy football. This was the strong message conveyed by František Laurinec, UEFA Executive Committee member and chairman of the UEFA Stadium and Security Committee, as he officially opened the UEFA and EU Think Tank Conference on Safety and Security for the UEFA Champions League and UEFA Europa League in Vienna on 12/13 September.

The number of participants was unprecedented – each UEFA Champions League club, the vast majority of UEFA Europa League clubs and over 100 police officers working in cooperation with a club were joined by representatives of UEFA member associations from across Europe. In total, over 300 professionals were on site to discuss the main conference theme: “Raising the Bar – Improving Stadium and Security Operations.”

This event stands alone for two reasons. Not only did it connect many like-minded individuals, drawing momentum from their practical experience in the field, but it was also unique in providing a platform for those involved at this fundamental level to debate operational issues and responsibilities directly. To grasp the importance of this aspect, it must first be remembered that many of the safety regulations in force today exist as a direct result of learning from disaster. Hence the crucial nature of honest and open knowledge exchange, which is the most effective way to advance in the quest for the highest standard in football safety.

*František Laurinec
delivers his message
to the participants*



Common strategy

The European Union presidency message was delivered by Loucas Louca, minister of justice and public order in Cyprus, who emphasised that 98% of supporters enjoyed football from a peaceful perspective. Football, he said, should be an environment of family tradition and fun. Indeed, the key objective was the exclusion of the 2% who deliberately looked for trouble, or a concerted effort to convert them to join the peaceful majority. To do so, Louca believes there is no need for thousands of police officers in riot gear, tear gas or private paramilitary security guards. The solution, he said, was a common strategy created through partnerships and the application of common sense. Measures and interventions needed to be proportionate to the situation at hand, and based on good practices which have proven successful in the past.

This year, the conference increased in scope to cover a full two-day programme and, for the first time, stadium owners were invited to participate in a special session co-hosted by the Event and Venue Management Institute (EVMI) and the European Stadium and Safety Management Association (ESSMA), which focused on stadium management and operations. The thinking behind this new focus is that stadium owners have a significant role to play in terms of safety – it is crucial that they recognise the importance of their position in ensuring the development of good stadium infrastructure linked to the highest quality of stadium safety management.

Need for communication

UEFA embraced this theory throughout the conference, referring to the “P and S factors” – the two main components in the overall safety equation. The P factor relates to the state of the stadium infrastructure, and the S factor to the actual quality of the stadium management team. Michael van Praag, UEFA Executive Committee member and chairman of the UEFA Club Competitions Committee, underlined that it is the subtle combination of the physical and personal that can most effectively safeguard football. Even for brand-new stadiums, he said, the fact remained that venues could only be as safe as the people who operated them.

The UEFA general secretary, Gianni Infantino, reiterated the essential need for communication and transparency, stressing that these were vital



Experts travelled in from all over Europe for the conference

components for overall success. There could be no hidden agendas, he said, and he described teamwork as "indispensable". He reinforced UEFA's absolute commitment to raising the bar

on safety issues, and to working hand in hand with its partners. He said that unity of approach was essential in addressing the problems facing football. ●

INTERACTIVE PANELS AND WORKSHOPS ENCOURAGE TEAMWORK AND DEBATE

UEFA staged interactive workshops and panels which were specifically designed to provoke emotion and trigger discussion. The sessions were moderated by members of the UEFA Executive Committee, the UEFA Stadium Construction and Management Expert Panel and the Pan-European EU Think Tank of Football Safety and Security Experts. Here are some examples of case studies that took place.

Panel on stadium management and operations – This included panel members Ben Veenbrink (director of The Stadium Consultancy), Luis Silva (FC Porto facilities manager and ESSMA board member), Gerald Toms (stadium manager, Millennium Stadium, Cardiff), Alexander Atamanenko (CEO of Donbass Arena, Donetsk) and Joyce Cook, (chair, National Association of Disabled Supporters). The members investigated issues such as whether creating a safe environment is simply a matter of finance, and the key factors in developing an effective stadium management model. The P and S factors featured strongly in this panel, and a side benefit for the smaller clubs, as well as those new to the UEFA's club competitions, was to hear first-hand experiences from the major clubs and stadiums on these issues. Another discussion focused on how to ensure that high standards were maintained in the long term, and how to improve facilities and comfort for disabled supporters.

Panel on policing and stewarding in football – The members of this panel were Jo Vanhecke (chairman of

the Council of Europe Committee on Spectator Violence), Stuart Dykes (Supporters Direct and UEFA supporter liaison officer), Tony Conniford (assistant director of the UK Football Policing Unit), Kevin Miles (director of international affairs for the Football Supporters Federation) and Ola Osterling (superintendent with the Stockholm county police authority).

This panel examined how police behaviour can affect supporter behaviour, and whether or not dialogue policing can reduce the tension between police and supporters. The discussions also turned to supporter liaison officers (SLOs) and whether they are true representatives of their fan groups with the ability to influence their conduct. The concept of "self-policing" was also touched upon, and with it, the need for supporters to take responsibility for their own safety environment, and take care of each other.

Workshop case studies – On both days of the event, interactive workshops took place, critically examining causes and effects from major incidents in football across the globe. UEFA EURO 2012 provided many of the cases, but footage from the catastrophic incident in Port Said earlier this year was also used to highlight the impact when P and S factors fail. Key discussion themes across all the workshops were the need for dynamic risk assessment, contingency planning and an integrated approach to overall stadium management involving all partners. ●



On-site training for the new managers

GREATER UEFA INVOLVEMENT

In Minsk in October 2010, at the recommendation of UEFA Events SA, the UEFA Executive Committee decided to insource the operational management of club competition matches for the 2012–15 cycle.

Since the UEFA Champions League was created in 1992, TEAM Marketing, based in Lucerne (Switzerland), had been responsible for the local organisation of matches in this competition, as well as for marketing the media and sponsorship rights. Later, this was also the case for those UEFA Europa League matches for which the rights have also been centralised. Before that, the home clubs had themselves been in charge of organisational matters inside the stadium, while UEFA was represented at each match by an official delegate. Only the one-off finals were managed by UEFA in collaboration with the national associations.

The Champions League, with its new commercial strategy linking TV broadcasters and sponsors, changed the picture completely and led to the standardised organisation of matches in all stadiums.

Improved identification

The main arguments that convinced the Executive Committee to change this set-up and to insource match operations were the improved identification of UEFA with its competitions, the

strengthening of the knowledge that had already been accumulated within UEFA Events SA through its organisation of European Football Championship final rounds, and the possibility of better financial management.

In order to successfully carry out the complex task of organising 351 matches per season (125 in the UEFA Champions League and 205 in the UEFA Europa League, plus the Champions League play-off matches and the UEFA Super Cup), UEFA clearly had to bolster its event management team. Some 37 people were recruited to this end, including 13 former employees of TEAM, which remains responsible for sales and customer management.

In-house staffing

In addition, in recent seasons, members of UEFA's administrative staff have been given the chance to receive specialist training in carrying out certain tasks at matches. For many of them, this is an ideal opportunity to witness first-hand events that are at the heart of UEFA's activities, but to which their specific everyday work does not necessarily give them direct access. Quite

clearly, their main jobs remain the priority and must not suffer as a result of their additional matchday responsibilities.

In time for this season, as part of the insourcing of match operations, 50 additional staff members received such training between October 2011 and July 2012. UEFA therefore has a pool of 110 employees who are assuming these on-site responsibilities this season (40 venue directors and 70 venue operations and broadcast managers) in addition to their primary roles, alongside around 80 external assistants who strengthen the UEFA teams on a matchday basis. Most of these external assistants previously carried out the same roles for TEAM. The external assistants ensure that the competition is properly organised and that sporting and commercial obligations are met at the 80 or so Champions League and Europa League venues.

The roles

Of course, the official match delegate remains UEFA's senior representative at the stadium and has ultimate authority where all organisational issues are concerned.

The match delegate is assisted by a team of five people:

- a venue director (VD), who is responsible for the overall implementation of the competition concept and for the sporting aspects of the competition;
- a venue operations and broadcast manager (VOBM), who is in charge of commercial operations and broadcasting at the venue (media facilities, broadcasting services, TV procedures, signage and relations with clubs);
- a venue services and sponsorship manager (VSSM), who is responsible for on-site services, sponsorship and commercial hospitality (ticketing, transport and logistics, welcome services, management of local staff, event budget and sponsor identification);
- a media officer (MO), who is in charge of media services and facilities;
- a venue data coordinator (VDC), who is responsible for collecting data for approval by the match officials.

Some matches may also be attended by a referee observer and/or a security officer.

All UEFA representatives work closely with club officials and staff, commercial partners and approved suppliers. Furthermore, the match operations centre in Nyon is in permanent contact with UEFA's on-site representatives and supports them in all their areas of responsibility, in order to ensure that the decisions taken at all venues are consistent.

The new organisational structure was implemented for the first time at the UEFA Super Cup in Monaco in August, and then in the group matches of both UEFA club competitions. ●

EUROPEAN WOMEN'S CHAMPIONSHIP

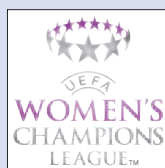


The European Women's Championship qualifying round was completed on 19 September, as a result of which eight teams booked their places in the final round to be held from 10 to 28 July 2013, alongside the hosts, Sweden, who qualify automatically. The teams that qualified are the seven group winners – Germany (the current title holders), England, Denmark, Finland, France, Italy and Norway – and the best runner-up, the Netherlands. The play-offs take place on 20/21 October (first legs) and 24/25 October (return legs) to determine which of the other six group runners-up will fill the remaining final round places. The list of play-off matches is as follows: Scotland v Spain; Ukraine v Iceland; Austria v Russia (Results available on UEFA.com).

The final round draw will be held in Gothenburg on 9 November.



UEFA WOMEN'S CHAMPIONS LEAGUE



The UEFA Women's Champions League round of 32 was played between the end of September and mid-October, with the 16 winners qualifying for the round of 16, to be played on 31 October/1 November (first legs) and 7/8 November (return legs). The current holders, Olympique Lyonnais, qualified with ease by defeating Finnish side PK-35 Vantaa 7-0 and 5-0.

The draw on 23 August produced the following round of 16 pairings:

ASD Torres CF v CFF Olimpia Cluj
ASD CF Verona v FC Malmö
Fortuna Hjørring v Göteborg FC
VfL Wolfsburg v Røa IL
AC Sparta Praha v FC Rosiyanka
FK Zorkiy Krasnogorsk v Olympique Lyonnais
Arsenal Ladies FC v 1. FFC Turbine Potsdam
Stabæk FK v FCF Juvisy Essonne

The quarter-final and semi-final draws will be held in Nyon on 27 November. ●

USING SPORT TO FOSTER SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE PACIFIC

In October 2009, the Oceania Football Confederation (OFC) launched a programme entitled “Just Play” in cooperation with UEFA, the Australian government and Football Federation Australia.



Joseph Z. Boso, Solomon Islands FF

Prince William did not hesitate to get involved

This social development programme is aimed at children aged 6 to 12 in the primary schools and communities of the OFC's 11 member countries in the Pacific region.

A total of 1,652 teachers and 608 volunteers have now become Just Play coaches, following two days of training tailored specifically to this programme. Each participating school or community is given four sets of football equipment, with the programme being implemented over at least a six-week period in schools and once a year in communities. Developed and run by the OFC's social responsibility department, the implementation of the Just Play programme in schools and communities is monitored and assessed by a programme team in each country.

The content of this sports programme was put together with very considerable care by the OFC, in cooperation with UEFA's Football Education Services unit and the Australian Sports Commission.

Social impact

The principal aim of this programme is to use football as a social development tool with a view to improving the lives of communities in the Pacific. Just Play is based on four separate objectives.

■ Prevention of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) such as obesity, diabetes and cardiovascular diseases

Sedentary lifestyles and poor diets are very serious problems in the Pacific region, where 75% of deaths are due to NCDs. Just Play not only allows children to have fun and be physically active, but also allows their coaches to convey messages regarding the importance of a healthy and balanced diet.

By June 2012 a total of 106,345 children had registered for Just Play activities.

■ Gender equality and the empowerment of women

In the Pacific region, women do not always enjoy the same rights as men. By allowing girls to play sport on the same footing as boys, Just Play ensures that the two mix. In order to alter boys' perceptions of girls, the rules are changed to encourage boys to interact with girls during the game. A study of the three years since the programme was first introduced has already shown a positive shift in attitudes. Moreover, female coaches are being trained in order to encourage girls in communities to participate in football-related activities. They then become role models for girls, women and the community as a whole, which also has an impact on attitudes in such communities. To that end, gender equality is ensured in the training of teachers and volunteers. A total of 45,302 girls are currently taking part in the programme, accounting for 43% of all participants.

■ Access to primary education for all

As school is not compulsory in all countries in the region, activities need to be appealing so that children decide to attend. Just Play was designed to allow children to have fun, while at the same time receiving encouragement and feeling valued. An external assessment has shown that this programme has led to increases in children's attendance rates in countries where school is not compulsory. In those where it is, schools participating in the Just Play pro-

gramme have seen declines in absenteeism. Teachers have also reported increases in pupils' concentration levels in class, as well as improvements in their behaviour.

■ Social integration of people with disabilities

Children with disabilities have little or no access to sports activities in the Pacific region. A Just Play programme aimed specifically at these children has been developed in partnership with the Special Olympics associations of New Zealand and Samoa. Hundreds of children with disabilities have participated in football-related activities, thereby finding a means of socialising. This programme is to be extended to all 11 of the OFC's member associations.

Football for life

A 1994 study by Oded Bar Or showed that children whose first experience of a sport was positive were highly likely to continue playing that sport throughout their lives. Just Play seeks to have just such an impact by giving children a great football experience. In partnership with UEFA, the OFC's technical department has developed a "Just Play Grassroots" programme with a view to establishing links between the social programme and football development.

On 17 September, during an official visit to the Solomon Islands, Prince William met children participating in the Just Play programme and had the opportunity to appreciate the social values underpinning the scheme.

For further information see:
www.justplayofc.org.

There is no doubting the appeal of the ball for these children from Tonga



UEFA Football Doctor Education Programme

WORKSHOP IN SERBIA

In February, at the launch of the UEFA Football Doctor Education Programme, which is specifically designed for elite football, doctors from 50 UEFA member associations gathered in Vienna, under the auspices of UEFA's KISS exchange programme, to discuss the role and responsibilities of team doctors, and emergency treatment.

The programme is designed to encourage course participants to share what they learn at workshops organised at national association level by cascading that knowledge down to medical staff and club doctors at all levels. One such workshop took place in September at the sports centre of the Football Association of Serbia in Stara Pazova, where 16 doctors and eight physiotherapists concentrated on the emergency treatment of players. The event was led by six highly qualified instructors: two cardiologists, a cardiothoracic surgeon and three emergency physicians. It concluded with an written examination and a practical part – comprising the use of cardiopulmonary resuscitation, automated external defibrillators and on-field stabilisation techniques. All the candidates passed the examination.

In order to promote the transfer of knowledge, the UEFA Football Doctor Education Programme provides educational tools and an online platform containing various e-learning modules.



The right action can save a life

SEASON KICKS OFF IN NYON

The month of October signalled the start of a new season of UEFA coach education student exchange events, with two quartets of member associations heading for Nyon with squads of coaches currently studying for their UEFA-endorsed Pro licences.

The project got under way during the 2010/11 season with two pilot courses and made its “official” debut with four more courses staged during the 2011/12 campaign. Since the launch of the programme, 26 associations and roughly 500 student coaches have benefited from the scheme. It is rewarding to see that these courses are appreciated as an important added value to national Pro licence programmes, and have become another important jigsaw piece of UEFA’s overall coach education programme.

Link with the UEFA Champions League

The first event of this season was staged from 1 to 4 October and involved groups of student coaches from Croatia, the Netherlands, Serbia and Slovenia – with former internationals Giovanni van Bronckhorst (Netherlands) and Niko Kovac (Croatia) among the most familiar faces.

The event was linked with the UEFA Champions League matches played that week, with the students invited to display their match analysis abilities after watching four of the matchday 2 fixtures. Denmark’s Peter Rudbæk and England’s Howard Wilkinson acted as leaders of the course, the latter posing questions which challenged the student coaches’ commitment to the coaching profession and Peter Rudbæk reviewing the technical trends which had emerged from UEFA EURO 2012 and last season’s UEFA Champions League.

On-pitch exercises for the Pro licence candidates

Profile of the top coach

French coach Jacques Crevoisier led sessions dealing with the profile of today’s top coach, the media demands endemic to the job and the important topic of crisis management. The counter-balance to the indoor sessions was provided by practical work on the Stade de Colovray pitches which form part of the UEFA complex in Nyon. Each team of students was invited to design and conduct training sessions aimed at improving mechanisms in specific fields such as progressive possession and defending and transitions to attack. Each session was followed by a debrief during which areas for improvement were pinpointed.

Realities of the job

On the third day of the course, former English international Gareth Southgate gave a frank exposé of the realities of the job by recalling the difficulties encountered when he was asked to make an overnight move from playing to coaching at Middlesbrough FC at a time when he had still not concluded his coach education.

The participants rated the course a resounding success. As Niko Kovac said: *“This is a change from what we are used to having. We have done our A and B licence courses and I, personally, already have three years’ experience as a coach, but I am thrilled by what we have experienced and seen during this course.”*

The following course, involving students from Latvia, Lithuania, Slovakia and Turkey, kicked off three weeks later and followed a similar format. ●



ISRAEL PREPARES TO HOST THE FINAL ROUND

The 2011–13 European Under-21 Championship has now reached the play-off stage, and soon we will know the schedule for next year's final round, when seven teams will be joining the hosts, Israel.



Preparations for the tournament are gaining momentum. The U21 competition is considered the second most important national competition in the European men's game.

The qualifying round of the competition ended in September, with the ten group winners and four runners-up progressing to the play-off stage. These matches will be held over two legs from 12 to 16 October.

The teams were divided into seeded and non-seeded groups for the draw. The seeded teams were Spain, England, Italy, Germany, France, the Netherlands and the Czech Republic, and the non-seeded teams were Russia, Serbia, Denmark, Sweden, Norway, Slovakia and Switzerland. The draw produced the following play-off:

Spain v Denmark
Italy v Sweden
Czech Republic v Russia
Slovakia v Netherlands
Germany v Switzerland
England v Serbia
France v Norway

Some of the best teams in Europe have qualified for the play-offs, and expectations for the final round are high, with the tournament set to be a first-rate, exciting event that will showcase many of the top players of the future.

Israel's U21s have been continuing their high level of preparation for next year's final round, and will play another four friendly matches between now and June 2013. During September, the Israeli team took part in an eight-day training camp in Austria, which included two friendly matches against Kapfenberg, which Israel lost 2-0, and Czech side Brno, where they won 3-0. The U21 sides of Belgium and Belarus will be their next opponents, together with two more matches by the end of May.

UEFA visits

A UEFA delegation has made several site visits to inspect the preparations in Israel, working together with the Israeli local organising committee led by Ronen Hershco. Visits are focused on the stadiums that will host the tournament, facilities for the teams, fan activities, marketing, media operations, transport, volunteers and all other issues associated with a project as vast as a European U21 championship final round.

At the end of the delegation's visit, UEFA expressed great satisfaction with the good pace of preparations for the tournament.



Stadium preparations ahead of the final round

Towards the end of October, representatives of all seven teams qualified for the final tournament will visit to tour the stadiums, training grounds and hotels. Every team can select a combination of a hotel and training ground from the 14 recommended options.

Ronen Hershco is sure that teams, players and fans will be pleasantly surprised by what Israel has to offer: *"This is the biggest male UEFA tournament in 2013 and we intend to take this opportunity to market the tournament as a big fun family event for all."*

"We hope that the tournament will help fans, families and other people to realise what football can give beyond the game itself."

Final round draw in November

The draw for the final round will take place at the Hilton hotel in Tel Aviv on 28 November. The match schedule will be published shortly afterwards.

The tournament will run from 5 to 18 June, and matches will be played at four stadiums:

Teddy Stadium, Jerusalem
Bloomfield Stadium, Tel Aviv
HaMoshava Stadium, Petach Tikva
Netanya Stadium, Netanya •

Michal Grundland

MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS



Albania
www.fshf.org

Promoting football in schools

One of the most important objectives pursued by the Football Association of Albania (FShF) is the encouragement of football in schools. For some time now, the FShF has been working with the ministry of education and science and regional education directorates across the country to organise football activities for a range of different age groups. Their main goal has been to encourage communities and the children themselves to make use of football as a subject in the Albanian education system.

In addition to this regular contact and cooperation with government figures, the FShF is working with its regional offices to organise various activities of its own in a range of different cities. Two years ago,

for example, a regular schools championship was launched in Albania. "Street football" days have also been held in several parts of the country, alongside a host of other activities, such as cup competitions and various mini-championships.

At the beginning of the new school year, the FShF's regional office in the district of Durres organised a series of football activities aimed at children aged 7 to 14 within the framework of a year-long programme. The activities organised at the Mother Teresa school were particularly impressive. There, a group of children who were sitting at school desks for the first time in their lives and had only just been introduced to their teachers went straight off to begin the day with a game of football, which was watched with great interest by their parents and teaching staff.



The school system can contribute to football development in Albania

In recent years, in order to provide greater support for football, the FShF has invested in Albanian schools by building artificial pitches, as part of its football development strategy. The schools in question are spread across the country, in places such as Tirana, Durres, Elbasan, Vlore, Korce, Shkoder and Fier.

The national association's continued support should ensure that more football activities are developed throughout the Albanian education system in the future.

● Gazmend Malo



Austria
www.oefb.at

The national association thanks Andy Roxburgh

On 11 September, shortly before retiring from his position as UEFA technical director, Andy Roxburgh made one final visit to the annual seminar held in Vienna for coaches in the Austrian Bundesliga. The Austrian Football Association (ÖFB) took this opportunity to thank him for his tireless commitment and the many years of close cooperation.

Andy Roxburgh played a significant role in helping the ÖFB to become one of the first member associations to have its coach education programme admitted to the UEFA Convention in 1999. The signing in Birmingham of that agreement between UEFA and



Andy Roxburgh with Austria's Bundesliga coaches

the ÖFB on the mutual recognition of coaching qualifications means that Austria is one of the countries in which coach education courses at all levels result in the award of UEFA diplomas. Consequently, coaches who have successfully completed coach education courses in Austria

are able to coach at all levels in all of UEFA's member associations.

In addition, Andy Roxburgh was always willing to listen when the ÖFB had issues to discuss and was consistently helpful in providing high-level speakers for the ÖFB's various basic and advanced coaching courses.

"We wish Andy health and happiness for the future. We hope, of course, that he will remain active in the world of football in some shape or form," said the ÖFB president Leo Windtner.

● Iris Stöckelmayr



Azerbaijan
www.affa.az

First U-17 Women's World Cup in Europe

From 22 September to 13 October, Azerbaijan hosted the third edition of the FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup. Almost 30,000 spectators watched a phenomenal opening ceremony and the opening match between Azerbaijan and Colombia at the Tofiq Bahramov Stadium. The great support and opening ceremony provided encouragement to the stars of the future.

The ceremony was composed of two parts, each different from the other. First up was the Cirque du Soleil, featuring incredible acrobats, amazing outfits and impressive performances. Following that was a mini-concert by international superstar Jennifer Lopez. "J-Lo" and her dancers entertained the full stadium with her songs, none more so than the famous "On The Floor".

After the ceremony, the Azerbaijani and Colombian national teams entered the pitch.

Azerbaijan's president, Ilham Aliyev, and the FIFA president, Joseph S. Blatter, congratulated the players and referees and wished them luck.

It was then the turn of hosts Azerbaijan to tackle Colombia in the first match, and the South American side sealed a 4-0 triumph to end a day high on quality and rich in emotion.

During his visit, the FIFA president officially opened the AIPS (International Sports Press Association) young reporters' programme – which brought 16 young journalists from all over the world to cover the competition – in the presence of the AIPS president, Gianni Merlo, and Azerbaijan's youth and sports minister, Azad Rahimov.

The FIFA president concluded his visit by praising the organisation of the tournament so far. This had been led by the president of the Association of Football Federations of Azerbaijan, Rovnag Abdullayev, and chairman of the local organising committee, Elkan Mammadov. "Organisational activities in

Azerbaijan are at the highest level. Organising a Women's World Cup in this country is a symbol for the region and for the world that football is open to all cultures and all civilisations. Football is for all," said Mr Blatter at the press conference in Baku.

● Kamran Talibov



The opening ceremony of the U-17 Women's World Cup

Almost but not quite

Women's football has been making steady progress in Belgium for several months. While the championship has started in an entirely new format this season, with the introduction of the Women's BeNe League, which brings together the best clubs from the Netherlands and Belgium, our women's national team has put in a string of first-rate performances.

In 2011, Ives Serneels took over from Anne Noë as coach, and has installed a new back-room team, including his assistant, Tamara Cassimon, and goalkeeping coach, Sven Cnudde. The task that awaited them was far from easy, as Belgium's qualifying group for the Women's EURO 2013 could hardly have been tougher. As well as Northern Ireland, Bulgaria and Hungary, the group included two powerhouses of the women's game, in the shape of Norway (ranked 13th in the world)

and Iceland (ranked 16th). The pessimists may have been expecting a difficult campaign, but the enthusiasm and solidarity in evidence among all the staff associated with a much more youthful team helped to dispel negative predictions.

The Red Devils managed to score 20 points in their group, four of which, most notably, came against a very strong Iceland side. The team also put in two excellent performances in their meetings with Norway, but Lady Luck was not smiling down on the team from the Low Countries on these occasions, as they failed to take a single point from their Scandinavian opponents.

Despite excellent performances in qualifying, Belgium could therefore only manage third place in their group – not enough, unfortunately, for them to take part in the final round of the competition next year. But they have certainly managed to attract



The Belgian coaching staff

a following: crowds of around 1,000 watched the home games with Iceland and Norway, and Belgium are now ranked 28th in the world.

So Belgian women's football is currently very much on the up, but the staff in the women's set-up will certainly not be resting on their laurels. Their new goal is to prepare the team for the qualifying competition of the 2015 Women's World Cup in Canada. In order to achieve this, they will have to continue to collaborate and communicate with the clubs in the best way possible. After all, it is only by working together that we can achieve the most ambitious objectives.

● Pierre Cornez

Good start for Bosnia and Herzegovina

Bosnia and Herzegovina have made a successful start to their qualifying matches for the 2014 World Cup. The national team, led by head coach Safet Sušić, emerged victorious from both their first two matches in Group G. In the first match, in Vaduz, they achieved the highest score in their history, beating Liechtenstein 8-1. Both Vedad Ibišević and Edin Džeko scored hat tricks, with Zvezdan Misimović scoring the other two goals. The "Dragons", as the fans call them, then beat Latvia 4-1 in Zenica.

With their goals in those two games, Džeko and Misimović became the country's top two goalscorers of all time, with 25 and 24 goals surpassing the 22 scored by Elvir Bolić, who had topped the list for many years.

Bosnia and Herzegovina's Under-21 team, who were seeking to qualify for the 2013 European Under-21 Championship final round in Israel, have also been playing well. Although they failed to secure a place in the play-offs, despite coming second in Group 1 behind Germany, head coach Vlado Jagodić and his team have achieved great success. The fight they showed in their last two games was particularly impressive: they beat Greece 4-0, and then needed a win against Germany to finish as one of the four best runners up and qualify for the play-offs. Unfortunately, they ended up drawing 4-4, having led 1-0, 3-1 and 4-3. Of the ten qualifying matches played, they won six, drew two and lost only two. They finished on 20 points, scoring 25 goals and conceding 12.

The Bosnia and Herzegovina Football Federation normalisation committee has extended Jagodić's contract to cover the qualifying matches for the next European Under-21 Championship in 2015. The committee also praised the coaching staff for their work with several players who are now in contention for places in the senior team.



The Bosnian national team have made a good start to their 2014 World Cup qualifying campaign, with victories over Liechtenstein and Latvia

Adnan Zahirović (PFC Spartak Nalchik), Miroslav Stevanović (FK Vojvodina) and Muhamed Bešlić (Ferencvárosi TC) have already played for the senior team, while players such as Edin Višća (Istanbul BB SK), Nemanja Bilbija (FK Vojvodina), Milan Djurić (US Cremonese) and Josip Kvesić (FK Željezničar) have also proven themselves.

Meanwhile, Bosnia and Herzegovina's women's team have finished their qualifying matches for the 2013 European Women's Championship in Sweden. They were in Group 1, where they came fourth – below Italy, Poland and Russia, but ahead of Greece and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. In the final two games in Sarajevo, Samira Hurem's players drew 1-1 with Greece and beat the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia 1-0. They ended up with ten points from their ten matches.

In their qualifying matches for the 2013 European Under-17 Championship finals, Bosnia and Herzegovina's youngest national team failed to secure one of the top two places in Group 5. The games were played in Sarajevo at the grounds of FK Sarajevo and FK Slavija Sarajevo, where Sakib Malkočević's team finished third.

In futsal, FK Leotar participated in the main round of the UEFA Futsal Cup in Chrudim in the Czech Republic, but lost all three matches, to FCM Târgu Mureș, FK EP Chrudim and Energy Lviv.

● Fuad Kravac

Youth football in the limelight

Youth football has been the focus of attention in Bulgaria this October. Four cities hosted qualifying matches in the European Women's Under-19 Championship and the European Under-17 Championship. Stadiums in Sliven and Stara Zagora welcomed the future stars of Spain, Poland, Bulgaria and Azerbaijan at Under-17 level, while, on the Black Sea coast, the resorts of Albena and Kavarna played host to the women's Under-19 teams of Spain, Finland, Bulgaria and Estonia. Different nations and different cultures, but the same passion and friendliness were clear to see at both the tournaments. October was an important month for the Bulgarian Football Union in another respect too, as on 1 October the UEFA Executive Committee, meeting in St Petersburg, endorsed its admission into the UEFA Grassroots Charter.

Just before that, at the end of September, the country's first women's coaching course concluded in Sofia, organised by the coaching academy of the Bulgarian Football Union. All 26 participants successfully completed the course, under the guidance of FIFA tutor Anya Palushevich.

● Pavel Kolev



The Bulgarian Under-17 team

In October, the Estonian Football Association (EJL) added power to its top management by creating a new executive director position alongside that of general secretary. Tõnu Sirel, who has worked as general secretary since 1997, has taken up the new position, while Anne Rei takes over as general secretary.

Anne Rei, the association's new general secretary, was tournament director for the 2012 European U19 Championship final round

2006, she has been on the board of the EJL, as well as an active member of the EJL's youth committee and the EJL women's and amateur football committee.

The mother of three was tournament director at the European Under-19 Championship final round held in Estonia in July 2012, successfully leading the organisation of the finals. A remarkable total of 46,412 spectators gathered to watch the 15 final round matches. Anne Rei is also a UEFA match delegate.

"I took the position with a feeling of great responsibility. The status of the organisation is healthy, but we have many new plans and concepts to help us to move on. We are still a young football country and only just establishing many traditions. My task is to manage all this, taking into account the wider task of not only developing football as a sport but as a cultural phenomenon," said Anne Rei.

● *Mihkel Uiboleht*



The third edition of the Overseas Cup, organised by the French Football Federation, the French amateur football league and the Paris Ile-de-France League, was held from Saturday 22 to Saturday 29 September 2012 in the Paris region. Held every two years since 2008, with Christian Karembeu as its patron, the event brings together teams from eight of France's overseas territories: Guadeloupe, Guyana, Martinique, Mayotte, New Caledonia, Polynesia, Réunion and Saint Pierre and Miquelon.

The eight teams, split into two groups of four, played each other at eight different

venues during the week-long tournament. Group winners Martinique and Réunion, who won the first two editions, were finalists once again. In Saint-Gratien, in front of more than 7,000 spectators, Réunion lifted the title by winning a classic penalty competition 10-9 after the match had finished 2-2. The final was broadcast live on France Ô and watched by 98 journalists, who were accredited for the whole tournament. Once again, the Overseas Cup put the wealth of footballing talent in these areas in the spotlight.

● *Yann Perrin*

[illegible]

Ferencváros say NO to racism

The Hungarian Football Federation (MLSZ) has given its full support to Ferencvárosi TC's anti-discrimination campaign. *"These campaigns are vital to change the atmosphere in football stadiums and create a friendly environment. It is great that one of the country's biggest and most traditional clubs, Ferencváros, has launched such an initiative,"* said Zoltán Borbély, spokesman and legal director of the MLSZ.

The club has many foreign players, from various countries, and as its president, Gábor Kubatov, explained, Ferencváros want to offer these players a home in Hungary. Borbély adds: *"This idea is fully in line with our objectives. When we say, using the UEFA slogan, 'Respect Diversity', we mean exactly what Ferencváros is saving here."*

A striking video shown in the stadium on matchdays also forms part of the campaign. The MLSZ, which opposes all forms of discrimination, hopes that all Hungarian clubs will now take responsibility for such matters and find their own way to fight racism.

● *Márton Dinnyés*

Latvia's first UEFA Pro licence course begins

From 6 to 12 September, the Latvian Football Federation (LFF) held the first session of the country's first ever UEFA Pro licence course. This was attended by Latvia's finest football coaches, who had been selected for the course after successfully passing the entrance exams. The session was timed to coincide with international matches played by Latvia's senior, Under-21 and youth teams. This allowed participants to analyse these games both on site and on the basis of specially prepared videos. After identifying problems and discussing them in groups, the coaches constructed training exercises designed to correct those problems and used them in real training sessions.

Jurijs Andrejevs, head of the LFF's coach education department, stressed that this seven-day period involved a large amount of work, which would have been impossible to cover without participants working constructively and productively in groups alongside



The Pro licence candidates

other coaches. This important quality was reflected in the fruitful discussions that took place when coaches shared their individual conclusions and experiences. The second session of the UEFA Pro licence course has been organised to coincide with Latvia's international match against Liechtenstein on 16 October, and participants will then travel to UEFA headquarters in Nyon for a third session from 22 to 25 October.

The participants in Latvia's first UEFA Pro licence course are: Jurijs Popkovs, Viktors Nesterenko, Mihails Kornevs, Jānis Intenbergs, Dainis Kazakevičs, Vladimirs Pačko, Marians Pahars, Jurgis Pučinskis, Vladimirs Babičevs, Vitālijs Astafjevs, Oļegs Blagonadeždins, Sergejs Pogodins, Alexey Yagudin, Andrejs Štolcers and Andris Riherts.

● Viktors Sopirins

A hundred caps for Martin Stocklase

On 7 September, Martin Stocklase became the second ever player from Liechtenstein to play for his country 100 times. The first to reach this milestone was Mario Frick, who played his 100th game in autumn 2011.

Stocklase first played for Liechtenstein in 1996 at the age of just 17, at the beginning of a long career that has included spells in Switzerland, Liechtenstein, Germany and Austria.

Now 33 years of age, the defensive linchpin and model professional probably looks back particularly fondly on his country's 2002 friendly against Luxembourg. The game



finished 3-3, with Stocklase scoring all of Liechtenstein's goals in a flawless hat-trick. In addition to that match, his two other goals for his country make him Liechtenstein's third-highest international goalscorer of all time.

Martin Stocklase is honoured on the occasion of his 100th cap

The central defender has been the recipient of numerous awards. Since the Liechtenstein Football Association began selecting the country's footballer of the year in 2009, Martin Stocklase has won the award every year. After the third of those, he confidently declared that he would strive to be Liechtenstein's best player in 2012, too.

● Anton Banzer

UEFA appointment for Maltese refereeing coach

Ronald Zammit, a refereeing coach at the Malta Football Association (MFA), has recently been added to the exclusive list of physical trainers in charge of referee development at UEFA's Centre of Refereeing Excellence (CORE) in Nyon, Switzerland.

The third season of the CORE programme, which will run until next August, will continue to develop the skills and fitness of potential international referees of the future. This prestigious appointment is a sign of Ronald Zammit's standing in the eyes of UEFA.

In a brief statement, the MFA's director of refereeing, Adrian Casha, congratulated

Zammit on his appointment, saying that the association was delighted to be investing in top-quality people who UEFA considered suitable for its CORE programme.

Almost 300 referees and assistant referees have attended courses run as part of the CORE programme since the initiative was launched in 2010. And of those match officials, no fewer than 100 have since been promoted to FIFA's international lists.

The 40-year-old Maltese coach, a physical education teacher and university graduate, has worked with match officials in several major European countries before assisting UEFA's fitness specialist, Werner Helsen, in the physical preparation of Europe's top referees.

● Alex Vella



Referee instructor Ronald Zammit



Peace project in Moldova

From 4 to 6 September, on the eve of the FIFA World Cup qualifying match in Chisinau between Moldova and England, the British embassy in Chisinau, the Football Association of Moldova (FMF) and the Spirit of Soccer NGO organised the 2012 "Football: Ambassadors of Peace" project.

The project involved a two-day workshop for coaches, held at the FMF's national training centre in Vadul-lui-Voda. The workshop culminated, on the morning of Thursday 6 September, in a football festival for 140 girls from 14 Under-14 teams from all over Moldova, including Transnistria and the autonomous territorial unit of Gagauziya.

The festival was attended by Keith Shannon, British Ambassador to the Republic



The football festival at Vadul-lui-Voda

of Moldova, Pavel Cebanu, president of the FMF, and Scott Lee, founder and director of Spirit of Soccer, as well as Marianne Spacey, an English FA coach and former international footballer, who was a guest speaker at the workshop.

The project will help to develop child protection policies and practices, as well as fostering the improvement of coaching

methods for women's football in Moldova. The British embassy in Chisinau, the FMF and Spirit of Soccer (a partner in FIFA's Football for Hope programme) have already designed and implemented three previous projects addressing issues relating to conflict resolution, children's rights and child protection in Moldova.

Through these projects, in which more than 1,000 boys and girls have participated, 52 male and female coaches have already obtained the C level for youth coaching licence. In October, 30 Moldovan coaches specialising in women's football will be taking a course to obtain UEFA's B licence in Chisinau.

● Press office



Ruud Bruijnjs leaves amateur football

Ruud Bruijnjs, director of the amateur football department of the Royal Netherlands Football Association (KNVB) and member of the UEFA Futsal and Beach Soccer Committee, was forced to step down from his position suddenly, if not completely unexpectedly. His physical condition was the main reason for his early departure from Zeist.

Bruijnjs, who turned 60 last month, was struck by a serious illness two years ago. After a long and intensive course of treatment, followed by a spell of rehabilitation, he partially resumed work earlier this year. But after six months on the amateur football committee, Bruijnjs himself came to the sad conclusion that he would not be able to make a complete return to his former position.

Bruijnjs has said he has to face the truth: "I can no longer fully commit myself to the KNVB. That's neither good for the KNVB, nor for myself. I have come to experience that my physical condition cannot stand the workload. The amateur football department needs a director who can function as required. That was an easy conclusion for myself and the board."

Bernard Fransen, chairman of the amateur football committee, views Bruijnjs' departure as a blow to the organisation. "Ruud is a man with a clear vision. Since he became director in 1993 he has become an icon. Everybody knows him and respects him. He is dependable, a natural born leader and a wonderful character. He is the type of man who unifies and he has worked on a good relationship with other sports associations in the country as well. It will be very hard to find a successor of his calibre."

Bruijnjs started his career with the Dutch FA back in 1978 in the competitions department of amateur football. In 1993, he succeeded Han van der Zeeuw, who still serves on the UEFA Media Officer Panel, as director of amateur football. During this time,



the KNVB turned 20 small local offices into six larger district offices of equal size. The association's membership has gradually increased, and new branches of football have

Ruud Bruijnjs has made an enormous contribution to amateur football

benefited from a tailored marketing strategy. Beach soccer, street football and women's football have blossomed in recent years. Ruud laid the foundation for several initiatives that emphasised the ever-growing role of football in society.

The KNVB has appointed Anton Binnenmars as acting director of amateur football on a temporary basis.

● Rob de Leede



Jonny Evans launches new child protection campaign

Life, in many respects, resembles a football match, as it comprises a mixed bag of emotions, including joy, sadness, anxiety, a sense of achievement and frustration. However, when negative emotions and frustrations spill over, an adult may "see red" and vent their frustrations at a child or young person.

Jonny Evans, the Northern Ireland international and child and player welfare ambassador, recently took time out from his busy schedule to help the Irish Football Association (IFA) and the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC) to launch a joint poster campaign called "Seeing Red". The campaign is targeted at adults involved in football and encourages them to report any concerns that they may have about the welfare of a child or young person to the NSPCC via a free phone, text and email service.

Jonny Evans said: "I am delighted, as child and player welfare ambassador, to help the IFA and the NSPCC to launch a football-themed campaign that delivers such an important message to coaches and volunteers involved



The IFA's child and player welfare officer, Jessica de Lary, with Northern Ireland international Jonny Evans and Paul Stephenson from the NSPCC

in the game. It's fantastic that the NSPCC offers a confidential helpline and I would appeal to anyone who has concerns about a child to avail themselves of the service."

The IFA's child and player welfare officer, Jessica de Lary, added: "I am delighted that the NSPCC and the IFA have produced a joint safeguarding resource. Football is a unique sport, as it has the power to deliver important social messages to everyone involved in the game, and I cannot think of a better football and safeguarding ambassador than Jonny Evans to kick-start the campaign."

● Jessica de Lary

Irish internationals support Football For All national club festival

On Sunday 23 September, Republic of Ireland internationals Seamus Coleman and Sean St Ledger took time out to support an event organised by the Football Association of Ireland (FAI) at Dublin's Tallaght Stadium to mark ten years of its Football For All (FFA) programme. Everton star Coleman – an ambassador for the FFA club programme – and Leicester City defender St Ledger had a kick around with Alex Byrne (Malahide United AFC), Andrew Heffernan (Dunboyne AFC) and James Casserly ahead of the fun day.

More than 300 children with disabilities are involved in the programme, which spans 20 community football clubs in Ireland. The event, which was proudly supported by the National Dairy Council (NDC), was attended by 170 children with various disabilities representing 14 community football clubs from the Republic of Ireland (as well as one club from Wales). The children, who were aged 6 to 14, enjoyed a very sunny afternoon of football, where the message was very clearly that anyone can and everyone has the right to play the beautiful game.

The day gave the players' families a chance to come along and enjoy the football, as well as finding out about the programme. There was also a wealth of family entertainment on offer: inflatables, street skills events, face painting, music and a barbecue.

Coleman expressed his pride at being involved in the programme and his delight at the FAI's work on making Irish football inclusive, giving every child the opportunity to play the beautiful game. He said: "This event will give those involved that very opportunity and will give families of children



Football helps to integrate children with disabilities

with disabilities the chance to see what it is all about and how they can get involved, while enjoying an afternoon of fun and entertainment at the home of Shamrock Rovers."

Meanwhile, the FAI is now seeking a new high-performance director, following Wim Koevoets' move to the All India Football Federation this summer. Koevoets held the position from 2008 to July of this year. The high-performance director will be responsible for the development of appropriate strategies and policies targeting elite levels of performance, working closely with the FAI's grassroots, competition and international departments and other appropriate stakeholders. The director also be responsible for the management of the high-performance department, with emphasis on budgetary control and human resources, as well as contributing to the overall business objectives of the FAI. He/she will be expected to review and implement innovative and results-oriented high-performance systems and programmes in the areas of player development and coach education.

The role will also involve leading the managers and backroom staff of all international youth and women's teams. That person will need to possess UEFA's Pro licence coaching qualification and a coach education qualification.

● Stephen Finn

Nikolai Tolstykh elected new RFS president

On 3 September, Nikolai Tolstykh was elected the new president of the Russian Football Union (RFS) at its conference in Moscow. After two rounds of elections, Mr Tolstykh emerged as the clear winner with 148 votes.

Mr Tolstykh, currently chief executive of the Russian Olympic Committee, spoke of his desire to further develop the game in his country, with a particular focus on the grassroots and the regions.

"I am happy that the Russian football community has accepted my programme," he said. "We should now discuss with all the regional RFS departments a programme for the further development of football in Russia. I am confident that Russia's football development can be advanced by nurturing children's and youth football in the regions."

After serving FC Dinamo Moskva as a midfielder between 1974 and 1983, Tolstykh



The new president of the Russian Football Union, Nikolai Tolstykh

forged a new administrative career at the Moscow club, including spells as general director and president.

From 1992 to 2000, he was president of the Russian Professional League, combining that position with responsibilities within the RFS (serving, among other things, as vice-president and a member of the executive committee). Nikolai Tolstykh will now leave the Russian Olympic Committee to take up his new post.

● Irina Baranova

More and more matches on artificial turf

Seven of the 16 teams in the top division, Allsvenskan, already play their home games on artificial turf, and yet more clubs are set to make the switch from grass in the near future. The advantages are well known: in Sweden's harsh climate, artificial turf is economically sound and ensures a playable pitch all year round.



A new challenge for Pia Sundhage

But questions are now being asked regarding the long-term impact on Swedish football. Consider IF Elfsborg, who moved to artificial turf in 2005. This season, Elfsborg are (at the time of writing) top of the table, with 46 points from 24 games. The anomaly here is that they have won only two of those points on natural grass. Most other teams display a similar pattern, performing much better on pitches similar to their home turf. The quicker movement of the ball on artificial turf changes the way the game is played and requires players to use a slightly different set of skills.

Soon, the majority of games in Swedish top-flight football will be played on artificial turf, which begs the question of how Sweden will fare at international level, where natural pitches remain the norm.

"Adapting to an unfamiliar surface is a problem that can be hard to handle. This needs to be looked at, but we should remember that ten years ago, many young players were being taught to play on gravel pitches. Now they play on artificial turf, which vastly improves their development and technical skills," says Claes Eriksson, youth technical director at the Swedish Football Association.

In other news, Pia Sundhage will be the new coach of the Swedish women's national team, with Thomas Dennerby stepping down after eight years in charge. Sundhage scored 71 goals for Sweden in 146 internationals between 1975 and 1996. She coached the United States women's team from 2008 to 2012, winning two Olympic gold medals and reaching a FIFA Women's World Cup final in the process.

"I'm going from one dream to another. Sweden will host the Women's EURO next year, and we will be ready," said Sundhage.

● Andreas Nilsson



Former internationals meet for carriage ride

At the invitation of the Swiss Football Association's president, Peter Gilliéron, and general secretary, Alex Miescher, Switzerland's former internationals met up for their traditional annual get together. After coffee and croissants at Berne railway station, they travelled by coach in glorious weather along the Emmental to Trachselwald, their first port of call.

After a trip through the stunning countryside in a wagon pulled by beautiful Haflinger horses, the former internationals fortified themselves with ham, local bread and a delicious salad buffet. It was then time for some sport: horseshoe pitching. Great emphasis was placed on tactics, and at first the players did not even attempt to wrap their horseshoes around the stake, instead simply trying to get them as close to the stake as possible. It was not until they were told that their horseshoes had to be wrapped around the stake to score that one solitary player achieved this feat. The former internationals then travelled onwards and were given a tour of Arena Thun, before watching the Super



The former Swiss internationals at Arena Thun

League match between FC Thun and local rivals, BSC Young Boys.

The whole day was spent in a relaxed atmosphere, with the former players exchanging stories and memories from the past. The group included two former players – Daniel Jeandupeux and Jakob Kuhn – who had also gone on to enjoy success as coaches of the national team.

Former Young Boys players Hansruedi Fuhrer, Heinz Schneiter and Jakob Brechbühl topped the standings with the horseshoes, and so did better than Young Boys' current squad in the evening, as Thun came away from the match convincing winners.

● Pierre Benoit



TFF launches mobile application

The Turkish Football Federation (TFF) has launched a mobile application to enable its followers to keep up with all the latest events involving the TFF and in Turkish football in general. Together with TFF.org (the federation's official website), users of the application now have two ways to get all the latest news about Turkish football, from the senior national team to youth national teams, the Turkish Super League, and more.

Users of the TFF iPhone app can also view results, tables and fixtures from all Turkish professional leagues and the Turkish Cup, as well as getting all the information they need about players, coaches, referees and previous results.



A wealth of information on Turkish football

The iPhone version of the app is available now from the Apple App Store under the name "TFF". Android and iPad versions will be launched in the coming months.

Contents of the TFF's mobile application:

- Latest news about the TFF
- Latest news and pictures from the Turkish senior national team
- All the results, tables and fixtures of the Turkish professional leagues, including Spor Toto Super League
- All the news, fixtures and results from the Turkish Cup
- All the information and latest results from the Turkish youth national teams
- The TFF's statutes and regulations Player profiles
- Coach and referee profiles
- Previous results and tables from all leagues and national teams, with an extensive data bank.

● Aydın Güvenir



FAW mourns the loss of football liaison officer

There is sad news from Wales at the untimely passing of one of the country's foremost football-related policing officers.

Simon Insole had become a very well known face all over Europe for his work with the Wales national team and its supporters.

He had been a member of South Wales Police for many years and specialised in football liaison work – especially on a

day-to-day basis with Cardiff City AFC. Most recently he had been working at Wembley Stadium for the Olympic football tournament in London.

He was just starting a new career working full-time at Cardiff City AFC when he tragically passed away at the age of 48.

The Welsh football family has lost a very loyal and trusted friend. Our thoughts are with his family and friends at this very sad time.

● Ceri Stennett



Simon Insole

BIRTHDAYS

James McCluskey (Scotland, 1 November)
 Marc Batta (France, 1 November)
 Josef Krula (Czech Republic, 1 November)
 György Szilágyi (Hungary, 2 November)
 Francesco Bianchi (Switzerland, 2 November)
 Gero Bisanz (Germany, 3 November)
 Micky Zager (Israel, 4 November)
 Andrea Ferretti (Italy, 4 November)
Luis Figo (Portugal, 4 November)
 ☆☆☆ 40th

Lennart Johansson (Sweden, 5 November)
 Fernand Meese (Belgium, 5 November)
 Georgi Popov (Bulgaria, 5 November)
 Mircea-Mihaiu Pascu (Romania, 6 November)
 Dragan Djordjević (Serbia, 6 November)
 Nadezhda Ulyanovskaya (Russia, 6 November)
 Peter Gardiner (Scotland, 7 November)
 Vladimir Badura (Slovakia, 7 November)
 Sergio Di Cesare (Italy, 8 November)
 Haris Loizides (Cyprus, 8 November)
 Michele Uva (Italy, 8 November)
 Rudolf Zavrl (Slovenia, 9 November)
 Jorge Perez Arias (Spain, 9 November)
 Willi Hink (Germany, 9 November)
Theodore Giannikos (Greece, 9 November)

☆☆☆ 50th

Thomas Hollerer (Austria, 9 November)
 Marc Van Geersom (Belgium, 10 November)
 Frank Paauw (Netherlands, 10 November)
 Muharrem Zihni Aksoy (Turkey, 11 November)
 Mehmet Murat Ilgaz (Turkey, 11 November)
 Uno Tutk (Estonia, 11 November)
 Antonio Silva Pereira (Portugal, 12 November)
 Milan Spirkoski (FYR Macedonia, 12 November)
 Howard Wilkinson (England, 13 November)
 Stefan Hans (Germany, 14 November)
 Maciej Stanczuk (Poland, 14 November)
 Peter Fröjdfeldt (Sweden, 14 November)
 Jean Lemmer (Luxembourg, 15 November)
 Otto Demuth (Austria, 16 November)
 Wolf-Günter Wiesel (Germany, 16 November)
 Susan Ann Hough (England, 16 November)
Jan Fasung (Slovakia, 17 November)

☆☆☆ 60th

Brian Quinn (Scotland, 18 November)
 Dumitru Mihalache (Romania, 18 November)
 Claudio Circhetta (Switzerland, 18 November)
 Stanislaw Michal Pilkowski (Poland, 18 November)
 Knarik Abelyan (Armenia, 18 November)
 Jacques Liénard (France, 19 November)
 Horst R. Schmidt (Germany, 19 November)
Petr Fousek (Czech Republic, 19 November)

☆☆☆ 50th

Jean-Louis Plette (France, 20 November)
 Paul-Heinz Lenhart (Germany, 22 November)
 Jyrki Filppu (Finland, 22 November)
 Mamuka Kvaratskhelia (Georgia, 22 November)
 Nikolay Pisarev (Russia, 23 November)
George Koumas (Cyprus, 24 November)

☆☆☆ 50th

Jonas Vytautas Braga (Lithuania, 25 November)
 Zbigniew Przesmycki (Poland, 26 November)

Borislav Popov (Bulgaria, 26 November)
 Styrbjörn Oskarsson (Finland, 26 November)
Marcos Del Cuadro (Switzerland, 26 November) ☆☆☆ 40th

Marios N. Lefkaritis (Cyprus, 28 November)
 Ante Vučemilović-Šimunović (Croatia, 28 November)

Andrey Medintsev (Bulgaria, 28 November)
 Tomaz Ranc (Slovenia, 28 November)
 Marko Ilesič (Slovenia, 29 November)
 James Finnegan (Republic of Ireland, 29 November)

Alojzije Supraha (Croatia, 29 November)
 Wolfgang Niersbach (Germany, 30 November)

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Meetings

9 November, in Gothenburg

European Women's Championship:
 final round draw

19 November, in Nyon

National Associations Committee

20 November, in Nyon

European Women's U19 and U17
 Championships: draws for the 2012/13
 second qualifying rounds and the
 2013/14 first qualifying rounds
 HatTrick Committee
 Club Licensing Committee

21 November, in Nyon

Stadium and Security Committee
 Legal Committee

22 November, in Nyon

Players' Status, Transfer and Agents
 and Match Agents Committee

23 November, in Nyon

Futsal and Beach Soccer Committee

27 November, in Nyon

Women's Champions League:
 quarter-final and semi-final draws
 Medical Committee

28 November, in Tel Aviv

European Under-21 Championship:
 final round draw

Competitions

31 October–1 November

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

2–18 November, in Thailand

FIFA Futsal World Cup

6/7 November

UEFA Champions League:
 group matches (matchday 4)

7/8 November

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

8 November

UEFA Europa League:
 group matches (matchday 4)

20/21 November

UEFA Champions League:
 group matches (matchday 5)

22 November

UEFA Europa League:
 group matches (matchday 5)

NOTICES

- On 2 September, Anatoliy Konkov was elected president of the Ukrainian Football Federation. He succeeds Grigoriy Surkis, member of the UEFA Executive Committee, who was named honorary president.

- Nikolai Tolstykh took over as president of the Russian Football Union on 4 September.

- On 21 August, Tiago Craveiro was named chief executive of the Portuguese Football Federation.

- Bert van Oostveen took over as general secretary of the Royal Netherlands Football Association as of 1 September.

- Anne Rei began work as the new general secretary of the Estonian Football Association on 1 October; her predecessor, Toñu Sirel, is now the association's executive director.

- The Lithuanian Football Federation has a new address (since 3 October):

Stadiono g. 2
 02106 Vilnius
 Lithuania

At its meeting in St Petersburg, the Executive Committee approved two changes on UEFA committees:

- on the Football Committee, Robin Dutt (Germany) replaces his fellow German Matthias Sammer;

- on the Youth and Amateur Football Committee, Matthias Voigt (Liechtenstein) replaces his compatriot Reinhard Walser.



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