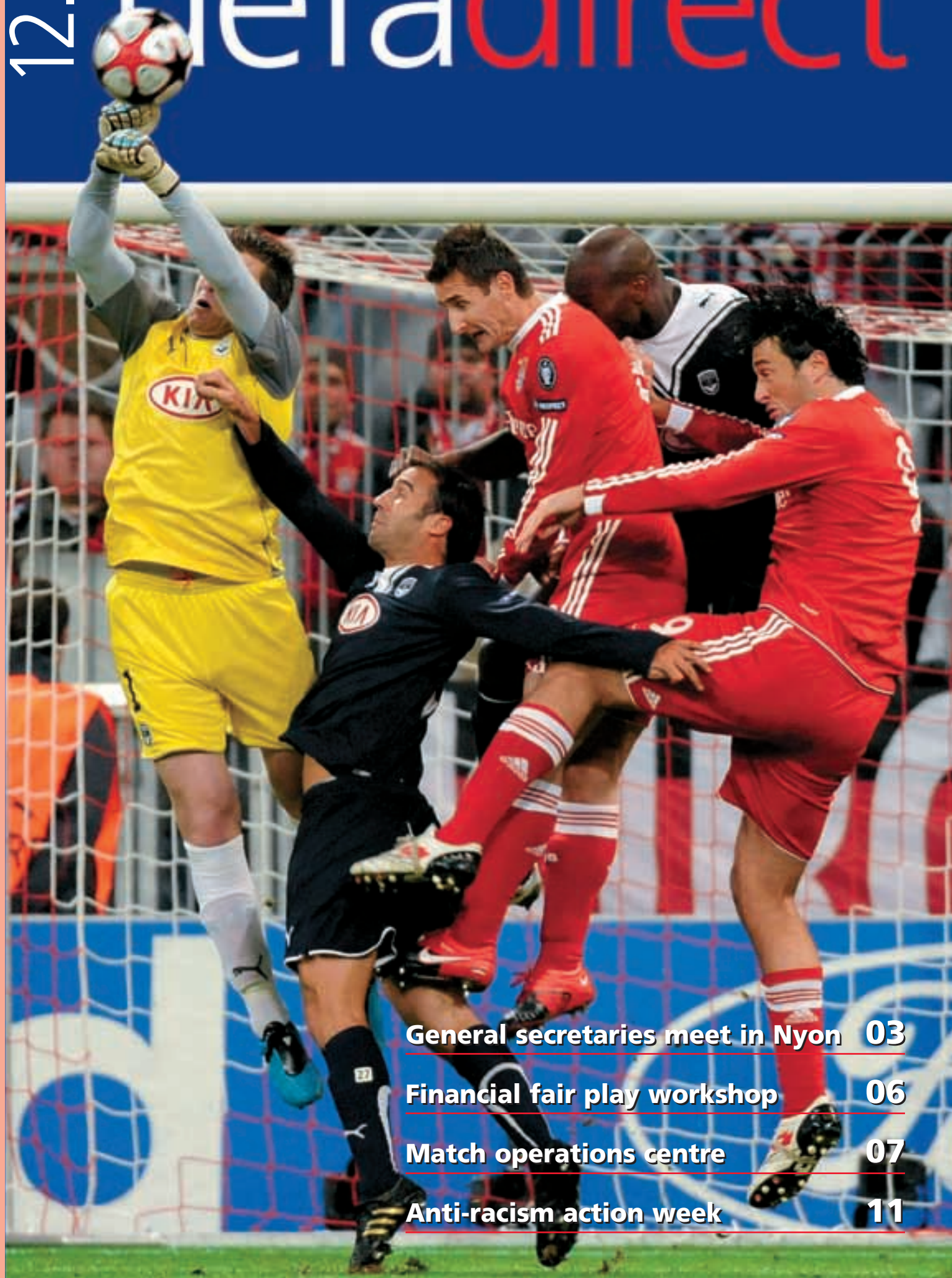


12.09

uefa direct



General secretaries meet in Nyon 03

Financial fair play workshop 06

Match operations centre 07

Anti-racism action week 11



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COVER

Cédric Carrasso, the Girondins de Bordeaux goalkeeper, repels a Bayern Munich attack, helping his team to qualify for the UEFA Champions League round of 16.

Photo: Lang/AFP/Getty Images

Message of the General Secretary

Photos: UEFA Woods

On the same team

As part of our recent reorganisation and on the recommendation of our president, the Executive Committee has appointed me UEFA general secretary. I thank them for entrusting me with this office and will do all I can to repay their faith in me.

My predecessor, David Taylor, is to become CEO of a new UEFA subsidiary, which will regroup our commercial activities and event management, so the administration can concentrate on its core mission: football and its development. With this realignment we are not creating two UEFAs; we will always be one and the same team, united by the same spirit and guided by the same philosophy.

Our objective has not changed in over 50 years – it remains that of serving and promoting European football, while listening to the needs of our members. We want to help them not only to rise to everyday challenges, but also to anticipate difficulties, in order to keep football on its successful path.

We work in permanent cooperation with all members of the football family, which – alongside the national associations – includes the leagues, clubs, players (professional and amateur) and supporters. And we do not confine our efforts to the playing field, because football has an impact far beyond the pitch. Our game is an incredible, universal vehicle for emotion and passion, but with this enviable power comes a responsibility to encourage fundamental values such as solidarity, tolerance and respect.

To achieve our objective, UEFA and its members can rely on a competent, committed administration, whose role is to implement the strategy of our president, Executive Committee and member associations. As general secretary I will continue, as I always have done, to lead by example, by being fully committed and by listening to a team whose solidarity, motivation and dedication to football I am committed to preserving and fostering.

If the fruit of failure often leaves a bitter taste of loneliness, success can only be savoured as a team. Your contribution counts!

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, likely belonging to Gianni Infantino.

Gianni Infantino
UEFA General Secretary

General secretaries meet in Nyon

Fruitful dialogue



THE GENERAL SECRETARIES OF UEFA'S 53 MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS MET AT THE HOUSE OF EUROPEAN FOOTBALL IN NYON ON 27 AND 28 OCTOBER.

The purpose of this gathering, which is becoming a traditional fixture in the UEFA calendar, was not only to inform the general secretaries about UEFA's current activities in various fields, but also to hear their ideas, comments and opinions, as well as give them a chance to share their thoughts and concerns with each other. In short, a meeting devoted to dialogue aimed at further strengthening the unity and cohesion of European football.

Since UEFA's activities are hugely wide-ranging, the agenda of this two-day meeting was extremely full.

After Gianni Infantino, UEFA's new general secretary, had welcomed the participants, his predecessor,

David Taylor, commented on UEFA's recent restructuring, explaining the context and the factors that had led to the creation of a new company, wholly owned by UEFA and of which he was chief executive. This new company would deal with commercial matters, marketing, new technologies and event management.

Good governance and integrity

Under the banner of good governance and the integrity of football, particular attention was paid to financial fair play and UEFA's current efforts to promote equal opportunities in its club competitions, while at the same time protecting the clubs' stability and long-term financial well-being.

The need to protect young footballers faced with the threat of being uprooted as a result of international transfers inevitably led to discussion of youth training and measures to promote it, such as the regulations on locally trained players. In this context, the restrictions imposed by European Union legislation were also considered.

This first part of the meeting also included discussion of relations between football's stakeholders, a subject that covered the Professional Football Strategy Council as well as relations with supporters and recognised supporters' associations, and social dialogue.

Turning to matters of integrity, the participants discussed UEFA's new betting fraud detection system, which was being made available to all its member associations in order to discourage any vague attempt at corruption.



Group discussions allowed everyone to express their opinion.



Gianni Infantino, the UEFA general secretary, welcomes the guests.

Competition-related issues

Another part of the meeting was devoted to the organisation of competitions, which is a major task for UEFA and its member associations. The participants discussed themes such as date clashes between domestic and UEFA competitions, the new entry lists for the UEFA Champions League and UEFA Europa League, national cup competitions and the participation of their winners in the UEFA competitions, as well as youth, women's competitions and cross-border competitions.

The age limit for players involved in the Olympic football tournament was also mentioned, along with initial feedback from the experiment with two additional assistant referees in the Europa League group matches, which was considered to be generally positive.

As well as the sporting aspect of competitions, the meeting dealt with administrative and commercial issues, ranging from an update on the preparations for EURO 2012 and the state of progress in Poland and Ukraine to commercial case law and current trends in the fields of media

and sponsorship. The use of agencies, deciding when to sell rights and creative ways of seeking new financial resources were among the topics of debate.

Wide-ranging review

Day two kicked off with a look at relations between UEFA and the national associations, including discussion of the assistance and development programmes offered by UEFA to its member associations, such as the KISS programme for the sharing of knowledge and expertise, the Top Executive Programme (TEP) and the HatTrick programme, which is now in its second period.

An awareness of the social responsibility of football is now deeply rooted in the minds of its leaders and, in this context, UEFA was able to present its broad spectrum of activities, ranging from the fight against racism and all forms of discrimination to the promotion of a healthy lifestyle, support for disabled athletes and protection of the environment.

To conclude, the participants marked in their diaries the date of 19 May 2010, when UEFA Grassroots

Day will be celebrated all over Europe, grassroots football being indispensable for the sport's growing popularity and durability.

Forum for dialogue

This wide-ranging review of the topical issues of European football was particularly appreciated by the participants because of the fact that it did not take the form of a one-way information session, but provided a forum for dialogue that benefited the general secretaries as well as UEFA.

Group discussions, a fundamental tool used in many UEFA seminars and conferences, once again proved their usefulness and value by giving every participant an opportunity to contribute. *"The dialogue is always open. We always understand what UEFA expects from our side and I think that UEFA understands the associations. Such cooperation is like teamwork – football is a team sport, we must work together. It's not just one-way traffic,"* concluded Janis Mezeckis, general secretary of the Latvian Football Association.



Photos: UEFA-Woods



The meeting in pictures



Photos: UEFA-Woods



National association representatives hear about the measures proposed to ensure greater financial fair play.

Workshop in Geneva

Protecting the long-term stability of football

HAVING BEEN LABELLED A UEFA PRIORITY ALONGSIDE

THE PROTECTION OF YOUNG FOOTBALLERS, PREPARATIONS FOR EURO 2012

AND THE CRACKDOWN ON BETTING-RELATED MATCH-FIXING,

THE QUEST FOR GREATER FINANCIAL FAIR PLAY IN UEFA CLUB COMPETITIONS

HAS GOT OFF TO A PROMISING START.

At the end of the summer, the Club Licensing Committee, Club Competitions Committee and Professional Football Strategy Council one after the other gave their unanimous support to the financial fair play project. In mid-September it was put to the Executive Committee, who also voiced its unanimous support. In fact, it went a step further, appointing former Belgian prime minister Jean-Luc Dehaene as chairman of the Club Financial Control Panel, a body created by the Executive Committee in March 2009. Over in

Brussels, the European Commissioner, Jan Figel, was delighted by the proposals and the European Club Association (ECA) also voiced its support of UEFA's new policy at its general meeting.

Next step

In this decidedly positive context, the next step is to define the exact measures that will enable European football's governing body to ensure financial fair play in its club competitions.

To this end, UEFA organised a meeting with club licensing experts from all of its 53 member associations in Geneva on 12 and 13 October, to take stock of the current situation and tell them about the measures in the pipeline.

After looking back at the last club licensing cycle – completed by 608 of the 730 top division clubs in Europe – the participants discussed financial fair play and the measures that will be incorporated into the UEFA Club Licensing Regulations to ensure the long-term financial health, and therefore lasting viability, of European club football.

Balancing the books

For example, the participants discussed how the principle of “no overdue payables” – a criterion in the existing club licensing system – should be reinforced to prevent any late payment of wages or transfer fees, by means of a detailed calendar. This goes hand in hand with the need for clubs to have sufficient liquidity to be able to meet contractual obligations on time. The importance of balancing the books was also underlined by the break-even principle, according to which a club should not repeatedly spend more than it generates (over a period of three years, for example). The aim of this provision is to ease the inflationary pressure on salaries and transfers, as well as to stimulate long-term investment, in youth training and upgrading sports facilities for example, all the while protecting the long-term stability of European football.

Transitional period

The measures that UEFA is currently finalising will be introduced gradually over a transitional period of three years, ready for full application from 2012/13. It will be up to the Club Financial Control Panel of independent experts to check that licences have been issued to clubs participating in UEFA competitions in full accordance with the criteria defined by UEFA.



Photos: UEFA-Woods



Bad weather, floodlight failures and disallowed goals are just some of the problems that can occur during a UEFA match.

UEFA match operations centre

A valuable management tool

AS REPRESENTATIVES OF UEFA, THE REFEREE AND THE OFFICIAL UEFA DELEGATE MUST ENSURE – ONE FROM THE PITCH AND THE OTHER BEHIND THE SCENES – THAT EUROPEAN CLUB COMPETITION MATCHES ARE PLAYED ACCORDING TO THE LAWS OF THE GAME AND UEFA'S VARIOUS REGULATIONS.

The referee has his assistants, a fourth official and, depending on the importance of the match, a referee observer on hand to help. Likewise, for certain matches, the official delegate is surrounded by a small team of experts, including a venue director and media officer. As of this season, delegates at club competition matches can also call on the match operations centre at the House of European Football at any time.

Below ground, in a room equipped with computers and 6 big screens transmitting 15 different live feeds, a team from the Match Operations unit of the Competitions division is on hand to give the delegates all the matchday support they need. The team is also there to provide assistance to officials, national associations and clubs in preparing for their UEFA club competition matches.

Detailed information

The eight members of the team are not only there to follow the matches live on screen; they also gather and organise all the pre-match information and dig up any data that could have a bearing on the game, tuning into local TV channels if necessary. They maintain a constant dialogue with the delegate and draft a post-match report, which is sent to the UEFA units responsible for any follow-up that may be required.

The history of UEFA competitions is rich in sporting exploits, but it is not without anecdotes and incidents – of variable significance – such as floodlight failures, broken cross-bars, crowd trouble, delays caused by public transport and even difficulties caused by bad weather.

Previously, when confronted with such problems, the delegate

could call a special 'helpline' for advice from an experienced member of the UEFA administration. The match operations centre is the logical development of this service and clearly reflects the evolution and increasing importance of UEFA competitions.

Standard procedures

By systematically logging and classifying all manner of incidents, the match operations centre will be able to gradually establish standard procedures and provide uniform solutions to similar problems. The unit in charge of the match operations centre is not afraid of broadening its horizons in order to provide as efficient a service as possible. It has, for example, taken a leaf out of the police's book, according to which a certain number of standard procedures are followed in case of an emergency.

The match operations centre, which is currently dedicated to UEFA club competitions, is expected to provide the same service to delegates at the EURO 2012 qualifiers.



The match operations team at work in the operations centre.



Nicole Petignat, a pioneer in women's refereeing.

Romania's Cristina Dorcioman, pictured here during the Iceland v Norway match, was one of the female referees chosen to officiate at the Women's EURO 2009.



UEFA-Tamminen

Women's refereeing

Continuous development

WOMEN'S FOOTBALL IS GOING FROM STRENGTH TO STRENGTH, AS MOST RECENTLY DEMONSTRATED BY THE WOMEN'S EURO 2009 IN FINLAND, AND WOMEN'S REFEREEING IS ALSO ENJOYING A BOOM, WITH FEMALE INTERNATIONAL REFEREES MAKING THEIR MARK EVEN IN THE MEN'S CLUB COMPETITIONS.

As the first woman to take charge of men's matches in the UEFA Cup, Switzerland's Nicole Petignat, who retired a year ago, was a true pioneer. If, to start with, the presence of a female referee was a surprise and even provoked a few gibes, Petignat quickly earned unanimous support and the jokes were soon replaced by accolades and compliments: *"It's Nicole, there'll be no problems."* She had to assert and prove herself somewhat more than her male colleagues, but once she had a foot in the door, she benefitted from her position as a woman in a man's world: even

in the heat of the moment, the players and managers show greater respect for a woman. Do the characteristics of a female referee have an impact on the game? Perhaps. Bo Karlsson, the UEFA Referees Committee member responsible for the women's section, appreciates their industriousness: *"They go further into discussions about game situations*

and don't hesitate to ask questions. They want to be absolutely sure that they do their job well."

Women only at EURO 2009 in Finland

One thing is for sure: female referees are no longer a novelty. Other women have followed in the footsteps of Nicole Petignat, although there could still be more. And the spectacular growth of women's football can only favour the emergence of more female referees. For the recent Women's EURO in Finland, a tournament which received widespread media coverage and was followed live by millions of TV viewers, UEFA chose only female referees. Why? Simply because the women in black have fewer competitions than their male counterparts, especially when they have not reached the level required to officiate in their highest domestic division or in men's internationals. The fitness tests for women's matches remain slightly less demanding than for the men's, giving referees from lower divisions a chance to officiate at the highest level in the women's game, as in Finland.

Popular new format

Bo Karlsson is very pleased with the format of the new Women's Champions League, with just one



German referee Bibiana Steinhaus shows a red card to an England player during the Women's EURO 2009 encounter between England and Italy.

Sportsfile



Dagmar Damkova was the first female referee to officiate in the top men's division in the Czech Republic.

Cerny/AFP/Getty Images



Finnish referee Kirsi Heikkinen and her assistants walk out onto the pitch to start the Women's EURO 2009 match between Germany and Iceland.

Action Images/Sibley

qualifying round followed by home and away matches: *"The increase in knockout matches demands a higher standard of refereeing and means we can pick and choose referees from the different categories. What matters most is that they exert their authority and apply the advantage rule sensibly. On the other hand, women are pulling each others' shirts more and more, and in these cases the referee must intervene."*

A global trend

The national associations propose referees for the FIFA lists, which the confederations then select from based on level and nationality (ten referees from the same country are never chosen for one tournament, for example). If you look at a map of Europe's female referees, there is no north-south or east-west divide. From Turkey to Finland and Russia to France, UEFA member associations have a substantial number of female international referees. The biggest leagues are the best represented, but at the end of the day it is individual talent not the level of the domestic game that counts, as Switzerland's Massimo Busacca and Belgium's Frank De Bleckere have shown for the men. *"The quality of the female assistant referees from certain associations leaves something to be desired, and some big associations don't put forward female assistants, but the standard in Finland was higher than ever before,"* Bo Karlsson said.

UEFA promotes women's refereeing just as it does women's football, working with the associations to give them ideas and the means to run recruitment and promotional campaigns. And the UEFA Referee Convention, for its part, never stops growing.

Pascale Pierard

Corinne Lagrange, a life in football

An assistant referee from France, Corinne Lagrange is due to retire at the end of the season. She sits on various committees and has no intention of withdrawing from the refereeing scene completely, but with a 14-year-old son and a full-time job with a construction materials manufacturer, she is looking forward to taking it a bit easier: *"When I referee in France, I leave on Friday night and don't get home until Sunday afternoon."*



Flash Press

She made her international debut at the 1995 Women's World Cup in Sweden, and then proceeded to run the line in the UEFA Intertoto Cup and UEFA Cup. Football has always been an integral part of her life. As a child, she played in the street with the boys before joining St Apollinaire at the age of 12. *"The district asked me if I'd be interested in refereeing. I said yes, continuing to play and taking a refereeing course at the same time. When I was 23, I refereed in my first league game and had to make a choice."*

Lagrange considers herself to be a referee just like any other, and has never expected any kind of special treatment: *"It's important that the tests are identical for men and women. I've never had a problem with male colleagues, players or coaches. I think I might even get more respect."*

The public is not a problem either. *"Hey, the ref's a woman,"* is a common remark, but it is an observation not a criticism.

As for the physical tests, only the 40m sprint presents a stumbling block, as women have less speed and acceleration than men. In order to officiate at a major men's tournament, they must cover the distance in six seconds. *"We used to run 60m. The time has been lowered and it's obviously difficult, but some men also have problems, especially as speed diminishes with age."*

P.P



The third-place play-off between Liechtenstein (in blue) and San Marino



The Montenegrin team celebrate having qualified for the tournament in Singapore.



Kazakhstan (in blue) v Moldova

First Youth Olympic Games: Singapore 2010

Qualifying tournament in Nyon

THE EUROPEAN QUALIFYING ROUND FOR THE INAUGURAL YOUTH OLYMPIC GAMES TOOK PLACE IN NYON IN MID-OCTOBER, AS A RESULT OF WHICH THE U15 TEAMS FROM TURKEY (GIRLS) AND MONTENEGRO (BOYS) WILL REPRESENT EUROPE IN SINGAPORE IN AUGUST 2010.

At its meeting in March and on the recommendation of the UEFA president, Michel Platini, the UEFA Executive Committee decided to invite the four lowest-ranked associations to a European qualifying tournament, in keeping with the spirit of the Youth Olympic Games. The associations were selected on the basis of the UEFA coefficient rankings for U17 competitions in an attempt to give the least experienced associations in youth football the opportunity to gain experience on the international stage.

A special moment for the young players

U15 teams from Georgia, Kazakhstan, Moldova and Turkey were

invited to compete in the girls' category. That the qualifying tournament was a special moment for the young players was clear for all to see, not least in the attitude of the young players from Georgia, who did not let two heavy defeats spoil their experience and constantly remained upbeat. Many of the young footballers had never left their own country, let alone been on a plane or contested an international tournament. Turkey proved to be by far the best, as they were tactically, technically and physically stronger than their opponents and secured a place in Singapore with two emphatic victories, including a 5-0 win against Moldova in the final.

The boys' tournament was much more competitive. Albania and Montenegro earned the right to vie for a place in the Youth Olympic Games after victories against Liechtenstein and San Marino respectively. After an extremely exciting, intense encounter, the Montenegro U15s eventually won 2-1, despite having to play almost the whole game with ten men after an early sending-off when their goalkeeper handled the ball outside the area. Needless to say, the players from UEFA's newest member association were overjoyed at the final whistle.

UEFA administration as organiser

The UEFA administration was responsible for the organisation and running of the tournament, as it had been for the final rounds of the European Women's Under-17 Championship, which also took place at the Colovray stadium opposite UEFA headquarters. Once again, the Football Development staff were able to rely on support from colleagues in many other divisions.

Qualifying Tournament for Youth Olympic Games

GIRLS

Semi-finals (12 October)

Kazakhstan – Moldova	1-2
Turkey – Georgia	16-0

Third-place play-off (14 October)

Kazakhstan – Georgia	13-0
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Final (14 October)

Moldova – Turkey	0-5
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BOYS

Semi-finals (17 October)

Albania – Liechtenstein	2-0
San Marino – Montenegro	0-4

Third-place play-off (19 October)

Liechtenstein – San Marino	1-2
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Final (19 October)

Albania – Montenegro	1-2
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Photos: UEFA-Woods

The Turkish team dominated the women's tournament.



A united front against racism both on the pitch and in the stands.



Anti-racism action week

Activities organised throughout Europe

THIS AUTUMN, THE FOOTBALL AGAINST RACISM IN EUROPE (FARE) NETWORK – A LONG-STANDING UEFA PARTNER – CELEBRATED THE TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF ITS ACTION WEEKS.

The tenth action week, which took place from 15 to 27 October, was another opportunity for the football family to show its unwavering opposition to all forms of racism and discrimination. The organisers were delighted to see that, even though racism is still far from extinct, their movement has taken off and they have attracted many new followers to the cause: in the first action week, activities took place in only 9 countries in Europe; 10 years on, 1,000 anti-racism activities of all shapes and sizes were organised in some 40 countries.

UEFA club competition platform

In addition to the financial support it gives to FARE, UEFA wanted to reiterate its determination to eradicate discrimination by once again offering UEFA Champions League matches as prime-time platforms from which to broadcast the anti-racism message.

For the 16 games on match-day 3, played on 20/21 October, posters were sent out to the clubs, announcements were made in the stadiums, and the giant screens displayed the Unite against Racism logo, as well as an advert at half-time. A page in the match programmes was

also dedicated to promoting the Respect campaign. The players and referees were all accompanied onto the pitch by children wearing Unite against Racism T-shirts and the team captains were invited to wear matching Unite against Racism armbands. This year, for the first time, the initiative involved not only Champions League matches but also the Europa League. As a result, the anti-racism message was broadcast to more than a million spectators in the stadiums, as well as millions of TV viewers at home.

Elite football's involvement in the FARE action week was not confined to UEFA competitions: the Republic of Ireland and Montenegrin national teams, for example, made a special contribution during their 2010 World Cup qualifying match in Dublin and the Austrian and Spanish women's teams extended the campaign by taking a stand during their 2011 Women's World Cup qualifier on 29 October in Vienna.

Professional leagues in many countries, from England to Greece and from Sweden to Slovenia, also got behind the FARE movement, proving that combating racism is a universal concern.

Mass grassroots participation

While the elite campaigns are shining examples, we must not forget the innumerable supporters throughout Europe who also got involved in this anniversary action week in all sorts of different ways, be it by organising tournaments, symbolic matches, concerts or topical discussions, or by handing out and putting up posters, banners and other illustrations of their rejection of racism and all forms of discrimination.





Getty Images

Lionel Messi scores FC Barcelona's second goal against Manchester United FC in the Champions League final in May. This victory allows the Spanish side to compete in the FIFA Club World Cup.



Emphas

The Zayed Sports City stadium will host the FIFA Club World Cup final.



Competitions and other activities

New European Parliament president meets UEFA president

**THE JULY ELECTIONS SAW POLAND'S JERZY BUZEK
BECOME PRESIDENT OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, SUCCEEDING
GERMANY'S HANS-GERT PÖTTERING.**

On 6 November, the UEFA president, Michel Platini, joined the new European president in Brussels to discuss several issues linked to the European world of sport, and football in particular.

The main topics on the agenda were the protection of the European sports model and its special features, the financial fair play project launched by UEFA, the protection of minors and their training clubs, and betting and the threat of corruption in football, as well as EURO 2012 and its

role as a link between eastern and western Europe.

The two presidents confirmed that they shared the same vision on these fundamental topics. Jerzy Buzek said:

"I congratulate you on UEFA's club licensing system and on your recent proposals for financial fair play. These are excellent policies for European football and I fully support all UEFA initiatives and those of the president, Michel Platini, which are crucial for football in Europe."

Futsal referees ready for Hungary

Forty futsal referees took part in the fourth UEFA Course for International Futsal Referees at the Italian Football Federation's technical centre in Coverciano from 2 to 4 November.

Of the 40 referees who were present, 16 will be chosen to officiate at the final tournament of the European Futsal Championship in Debrecen, Hungary, from 19 to 30 January.

The referees were required to take physical tests based on speed and agility before moving on to theory sessions on reading the game, positioning, movement and even the issuing of red and yellow cards. DVD analyses, group discussions and the infinite quest for perfection were all key elements.

The referees also broadened their horizons with a presentation by Zak Matzuzaki, a FIFA futsal instructor, on the evolution of refereeing within the Asian Football Confederation.

FC Barcelona on their way to United Arab Emirates

This year, the FIFA Club World Cup enters a new era, as it leaves Japan, hosts for the last four years, for Abu Dhabi in the United Arab Emirates.

Winners of the UEFA Champions League in May, FC Barcelona are flying the flag for Europe in the Club World Cup and attempting to follow in the footsteps of AC Milan and Manchester United FC, who won the last two editions respectively.

The six other pretenders to the Club World Cup are Al Ahli FC (representing the host nation and winners of the UAE national championship), South Korea's Pohang Steelers FC (winners of the Asian Football



Jerzy Buzek and Michel Platini see eye to eye.

Thys/AFIP/Getty Images



Referees must be in peak physical condition.



Germany will attempt to defend their U17 title won in the spring.

Confederation Champions League), Argentina's Club Estudiantes de La Plata (winners of the Copa Libertadores), Atlante FC of Mexico (CONCACAF Champions League winners), Congolese side TP Mazembe (African champions), and finally Auckland City FC from New Zealand, who won the Oceania Football Confederation Champions League.

The eight matches will be played at the Zayed Sports City stadium and the Mohammed Bin Zayed stadium in Abu Dhabi. FC Barcelona go straight in at semi-final stage, with their first match on 16 December.

Ghana crowned U20 world champions

For the first time, an African team has taken home the FIFA U-20 World Cup, having competed in Egypt from 24 September to 16 October.

The final, contested by Ghana and Brazil in Cairo, remained goalless throughout extra time and had to be decided on a penalty shoot-out. Ghana eventually won 4-3 to succeed Argentina on the honours list.

Of the six European teams who had qualified for the tournament through the 2007-08 European Under-19 Championship, Hungary came out on top, as they secured the bronze medal by beating Costa Rica 2-0 on penalties after the match had ended in a 1-1 draw.

En route to the final four, the Hungarians had beaten the Czech Republic in the round of 16, followed by Italy in the quarter-finals.

Germany were knocked out in the quarter-finals by Brazil after extra time, Spain bowed out against Italy in the round of 16, and England failed to get past the group stage.

U17 elite round line-up complete

The qualifying round for the 2009/10 European Under-17 Championship finished at the end of October, leaving 28 of the original 52 entrants to compete for seven places in the final round alongside Liechtenstein, who will be acting as hosts next spring.



The teams who made it through the qualifying round (the top two in each group and the two best third-placed teams) will be divided

into seven groups of four when the draw takes place on 8 December at the House of European Football in Nyon. Only the group winners from the elite round will join the hosts in Liechtenstein from 18 to 30 May for the chance to take home the European title, currently held by Germany.

The teams progressing from the qualifying round are:

Group 1: England, Serbia

Group 2: Spain, Romania

Group 3: Croatia, Belgium

Group 4: Austria, Poland

Group 5: Turkey, Germany, Finland

Group 6: Republic of Ireland, Sweden

Group 7: France, Ukraine

Group 8: Netherlands, Northern Ireland, Malta

Group 9: Greece, Norway

Group 10: Portugal, Georgia

Group 11: Hungary, Slovakia

Group 12: Wales, Bosnia-Herzegovina

Group 13: Czech Republic, Switzerland



Hungarian striker Krisztian Nemeth challenges Costa Rican defender Roy Smith in the third-place play-off of the FIFA U-20 World Cup.



Third in 2009, France failed to get through the first qualifying round for the European Women's U17 Championship this season.



The England U19 women are on course to defend their European title.

First stage of women's U17 brought to a close

After the first qualifying round, 16 teams are still in with a chance of adding their name to the European Women's Under-17 Championship roll of honour.



The ten group winners (England, Switzerland, Norway, Republic of Ireland, Belgium, Netherlands, Germany, Sweden, Austria and Spain) and the six best runners-up (Italy, Denmark, Poland, Ukraine, Finland and Serbia) will enter the draw on 16 December in Nyon to determine the four groups of four teams for the second qualifying round.

The second round will be played in the form of mini-tournaments next spring and the four winners will line up in Nyon from 22 to 26 June, when the UEFA administration will host the final round at the Colovray stadium for a third time. Only Germany can

still hope to make the trip to Nyon for the third year in succession, as France – who also qualified for the first two editions – failed to get past the first qualifying round this time.

Second round of women's U19 qualifiers

The draw for the second qualifying round of the 2009/10 European Women's Under-19 Championship will also take place at UEFA headquarters in Nyon on 16 December.



The draw will include the first qualifying round group winners (Republic of Ireland, Sweden, Denmark, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, France, Belgium, Russia, Spain, Switzerland), the runners-up (Finland, Czech Republic, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Scotland, Poland, England, Turkey, Hungary, Austria, Azerbaijan, Iceland), the best third-placed team (Serbia) and Germany, who received

a bye in the first round. The second qualifying round will comprise six groups of four teams, with matches from 27 March to 1 April. The group winners and best-placed runners-up will then join the tournament hosts, FYR Macedonia, for the eight-team final round from 24 May to 5 June.

Youth teams already have new season in their sights

The draw for the 2010/11 European Under-17 and Under-19 Championship qualifying rounds – men and women – will take place at UEFA headquarters in Nyon on 7 and 15 December.

In the men's U17 competition, 52 teams will be split into 13 groups of four. The top two in each group and the two best third-placed teams will qualify for the elite round; the seven elite round group winners will then compete in the final round in Serbia in May 2011.

The format is the same for the U19s, with 52 teams in 13 groups of four. Their final round will take place in the summer of 2011 in Romania.

In the women's U19 competition, 46 teams have entered the 2010/11 edition. Germany, as reigning champions, receive a bye in the first qualifying round, and Italy qualify automatically as final round hosts. A draw will be held for the remaining teams on 15 December at the House of European Football in Nyon, to generate 11 groups of 4 teams. The first round will be played in the form of mini-tournaments from 11 to 16 September next year. The top two in each group and the best third-placed team will then join Germany in the second qualifying round, which will take place from 31 March to 5 April 2011. The final round will be held from 30 May to 11 June 2011.

The draw for the first qualifying round of the 2010/11 European Women's Under-17 Championship, which 41 teams have entered, will also take place on 15 December.

Topping out ceremony in Nyon

The structural work on UEFA's new administrative building has finished. On 23 October, the topping out ceremony was held in the presence of the UEFA president, Michel Platini, and all those who contributed to the work, totalling approximately 180 people.

The next step is to insert the windows, which will allow work to continue throughout the winter on the building's interior. At present, the building is on schedule, with the keys due to be handed over at the end of March.



UEFA-Woods



Armenia
It was a marvellous day for the orphans in Gyumri.

ARMENIA



Entertaining event at orphanage in Gyumri

On 7 October, the Football Federation of Armenia (FFA) organised some entertaining activities for children at an orphanage in Gyumri. The orphanage is home to 75 children between the ages of 3 and 18.

With the help of experienced instructors, the FFA grassroots department, run by Marina Tashchyan, came up with various outdoor activities to encourage integration between the young participants. It was all laughter and smiles as the children played football on a brand new pitch, built with the help of the FFA.

The association had also prepared some wonderful presents for the children; before leaving, the FFA instructors handed out T-shirts and balls. ■

Tigran Israelyan

AZERBAIJAN



New leagues established

Following a decision by the executive committee of the Association of Football Federations of Azerbaijan (AFFA) on 14 August 2009, U17, U15 and U13 leagues have been set up. The main aims of the leagues are to develop football for children, increase the popularity of youth football, spot talented young footballers and highlight the role of football in a healthy lifestyle. Azercell is the main sponsor of the U17 league, the U15s are sponsored by CapitalBank, and the AFFA is organising the U13 league in cooperation with the ministry of youth and sport.

From 19 to 22 October, a seminar for the coaches of U13 league teams was held at the

Azerbaijan
Youth coaches' seminar



AUSTRIA



ÖFB offers special service for the blind

Since autumn 2008, the Austrian Football Association (ÖFB) has offered a special service at international matches, whereby blind and visually impaired fans have been able to receive individual match commentaries at the stadium via headsets. SK Sturm Graz also offers this service and, like the ÖFB, uses professional commentators such as Martin Zwischenberger, Florian Prates and Markus Terrant, who have made names for themselves on Styrian radio. Recently, even blind and visually impaired fans at home have benefited from this service. Audio commentaries for the blind and visually impaired are now available (two channel sound) for all senior international home games on ORF, the national public service broadcaster, as a result of successful cooperation between the Relief Organisation for Austria's Blind and Visually Impaired, the Austrian Blind and Visually Impaired Union, the ORF and the ÖFB.

Furthermore, these audio commentaries are also broadcast in the stadium on their own radio

AFFA football academy. During the seminar, headed by the AFFA technical director, Bernhard Lippert, the coaches discussed practical and theoretical topics. At the end, the AFFA general secretary, Elkhan Mammadov, met the coaches and wished them all the best in their work.

With the seminar completed, the AFFA presented each coach with footballs and the necessary training equipment. ■

Firuz Abdulla

BELARUS



European coaches in Minsk

From 24 to 28 October, Minsk hosted the 30th symposium of the Alliance of European Football Coaches' Associations (AEFCA). Around 150 coaches from all over the world came to the capital of Belarus to share knowledge and exchange new ideas. Around 50 Belarusian coaches attended the symposium as well. Over three days the participants heard interesting lectures given by VIP guests: Holger Osieck spoke about the Confederations Cup in South Africa and Jerzy Engel about the European Under-21 Championship in Sweden; Andy Roxburgh explained to the coaches how they could find and manage talented



frequency. As a result, blind and visually impaired fans can listen to the national team's home games in the stadium using a radio receiver (a mobile phone, for example) and thus follow the games more easily live from the stands. Tickets to these home internationals are available to blind and visually impaired spectators at www.football4all.eu, free of charge. Tickets are also available for accompanying persons at a discounted price of EUR 10. "Football inspires and connects all groups within society, and this is why the ÖFB has been offering blind and visually impaired fans the opportunity to follow international matches at the stadium with their own audio commentaries since September 2008. Over the last 12 months the offer has been well received, which makes me even more excited that, as of now, in cooperation with the ORF, we can give many more blind and visually impaired football fans the opportunity to experience international matches more directly," the ÖFB president, Leo Windtner, said. ■

Peter Klinglmüller



Belarus
UEFA technical director,
Andy Roxburgh

players; Guus Hiddink expressed his thoughts on being a coach in various cultures; Raymond Verheijen spoke about 'periodisation' and Gérard Houllier revealed the ingredients for success; Bernd Stange,

the Belarus national team head coach, spoke about the importance of each team having their own identity and Sergey Gurenko, a young coach at Dinamo Minsk, told the participants what he had learned from famous managers.

At the closing press conference, the Belarus Football Federation president, Gennadi Nevyglas, said: "I have spoken to our Belarusian coaches. They all say this is a good opportunity to see new trends. They are willing to learn more and more. The fact that Belarus, a small football country, is hosting such a big event means that we are an equal member of a huge football family. Although I should say, this is not the first big event we have organised this year. We also hosted the European Women's Under-19 Championship this summer."

Josef Venglos, the AEFCA president, thanked Belarus for its good organisation, dedication and commitment, and said that 'going east' was the right decision. ■

Yulia Zenkovich



BELGIUM

Youth training initiative

Young players are crucial for the future of football. The Belgian Football Association (URBSFA) has always been aware of this and works tirelessly to improve the quality of their training. For its efforts to pay off, its clubs must have everything at their disposal so they can tackle this fundamental aspect of the game.

For this reason, all clubs in Belgium (more than 2,000 in total) have received an educational



Belgium

The contents of the clubs' training packs

training pack. Given out at information evenings organised by the URBSFA, the packs include a DVD, a CD-Rom, the rules of the game, detailed tactical explanations and booklets to help with youth training.

Some time ago, the URBSFA held refresher courses for youth coaches and, thanks to the support of the national lottery, a partner of the association which has invested heavily in youth football for many years, the URBSFA has been able to continue its work by providing each club with a training pack.

Given the significant increase in the number of qualified coaches in Belgium, it was time to move up a gear and to provide the clubs with more information about supporting and training young players. They are now better placed to give their young members a solid grounding in the game. ■

Pierre Cornez

CROATIA

Bid to host 2012 European Futsal Championship finals

For the first time, the Croatian national team has failed to qualify for a FIFA World Cup, missing out on a place in South Africa next year. After examining head coach Slaven Bilic's report, the executive committee concluded that the main reason for the failure was injuries to our best players, in particular Arsenal striker Eduardo da Silva, our top scorer.



Having reviewed the previous achievements of Bilic and his backroom staff, the executive committee has decided to entrust them with leading the national team into the EURO 2012 qualifiers.

The spotlight is now on the U21s and their remaining European qualifying matches. We consider this generation of young players to be very talented and we expect many of them to step up to the senior team before long.

Domestically, the Croatian first division, which as of this season comprises 16 clubs, has been full of unexpected results, with clubs new to the league and from smaller towns outplaying the traditionally 'bigger' teams.

Looking ahead, the Croatian Football Federation (HNS) has submitted a bid to host the



Croatia

The 1959 Croatian youth team

CYPRUS

UEFA president makes surprise visit

On 10 October, the Cyprus Football Association (CFA) received a pleasant surprise when the UEFA president, Michel Platini, who was visiting Cyprus as a guest of the CFA's honorary president, Marios N. Lefkaritis, attended an official lunch hosted by the association in honour of a Bulgarian Football Union delegation that was in Cyprus for the 2010 FIFA World Cup qualifying match. The UEFA president met friends and, before leaving, extended his best wishes to both teams.

Cyprus

The UEFA president, Michel Platini, at the official lunch



CFA



Bosnia-Herzegovina

The premier league takes a stand against racism.

BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA



Great achievements at all ages

Last month's highlights were provided by the Bosnia-Herzegovina national team, who finished second in Group 5 in the qualifiers for the 2010 World Cup in South Africa. The group was won by the current European champions, Spain. In their last matches, Miroslav Blazevic's squad beat Armenia and Estonia (both 2-0), drew against Turkey (1-1) and lost at home against Spain (5-2). Bosnia-Herzegovina therefore earned a place in the play-offs and the opportunity to play Portugal for a ticket to South Africa. This in itself is a great achievement.

2012 European Futsal Championship finals. Quite apart from the great futsal tradition and excellent facilities in Croatia, we are keen to host this tournament because we will be celebrating our centenary in 2012.

The HNS celebrates each significant milestone in its rich history. This year will mark the 50th anniversary of Croatia winning its first trophy, in an official competition involving six youth teams from our former joint association. We are also celebrating 30 years of the Croatian Football Federation's highest award – the youth trophy. This trophy shows that we recognise the development of youth football as being crucial to improving the quality of Croatian football. ■

Ante Pavlovic

ENGLAND



Fitness workshop in Trinidad

Fitness was on the agenda as The Football Association sent physiotherapist Tracy Lewis and exercise scientist Dawn Scott to Trinidad in September to deliver a four-day workshop on dealing with the demands of modern football.

CONCACAF, the confederation for North America, Central America and the Caribbean, hosted The FA fitness workshop, which focused on the dangers of player burnout and how to take preventive measures to prolong the careers of both male and female footballers.

Tracy Lewis and Dawn Scott have extensive experience in their respective fields and both are responsible for providing support to all of The FA's national women's teams from senior level to the U15s.

Dawn Scott said: "It was a great experience and a pleasure for both of us to be invited back following previous courses in 2007 and 2008.

"There was a range of physiotherapists, coaches and fitness trainers. Their enthusiasm

The national U21 team recently won their first point in the 2009–11 European championship qualifiers. After losing against Wales (2-0), Branimir Tulic's squad managed to hold their young Italian opponents to a draw in Mantova (0-0).

The youth selections have also achieved great results. The U17s and U19s have both reached the elite rounds in their 2009/10 European championships after qualifying mini-tournaments in Wales and Bosnia-Herzegovina respectively. The elite rounds will be played in the spring to decide who enters the final tournaments.

In Group 12 in Wales, Bosnia's U17s played three matches, all of which ended in draws: 0-0 v Russia, 2-2 v Wales and 1-1 v Iceland. Three points were enough for second place, behind the hosts, who finished on seven points, and ahead of Iceland and Russia, on two points apiece. The Bosnians' head coach was Velimir Stojnic.

The Asim Ferhatovic Hase and Grbavica stadiums in Sarajevo, the Bosnia-Herzegovina capital, were the venues for the U19s' Group 7 qualifiers. The Bosnians won the mini-tournament with wins against Iceland (1-0) and Bulgaria (2-1), and a defeat against Northern Ireland (4-0). They finished on six points, ahead of Northern Ireland on five, Iceland on four and Bulgaria on one. Their head coach was Zoran Bubalo.

These achievements by the young players of Bosnia-Herzegovina are the fruits of the country's unique domestic competition system.

In the women's game, Bosnia-Herzegovina continued their qualifying campaign for the 2011 World Cup with losses away to Ukraine (7-0) and at home, in Sarajevo, against Poland (4-0). The qualifiers continue in the spring.

Finally, an anti-racism action week was organised at all stadiums in the Bosnia-Herzegovina premier league, with all teams sporting the Unite against Racism slogan on matchday 11. ■

Fuad Krvavac



The FA

England

The FA workshop centred on physical conditioning.

and thirst for knowledge were incredible and led to a comfortable yet challenging learning environment.

"The course aims and beyond were met and it was a very memorable experience."

CONCACAF's director of technical administration, Jinelle James, added: "At this time, with players having longer seasons with more international competitions and younger players having to train at high intensity for large tournaments, we need to have the personnel that can keep players healthy and fit and ensure that they can perform at high levels for long periods."

"Hopefully, at the end of this workshop, these candidates will have understood and gained more insight into how this can be accomplished."

This is the third seminar The FA has delivered in the Caribbean this year in partnership with CONCACAF. ■

Nada Hook

FRANCE



Sandrine Soubeyrand breaks Lilian Thuram's record

Sandrine Soubeyrand, captain of the French women's national team, is the most capped player in French football history. On 28 October, the FCF Juvisy player represented her country for the 143rd time as she led her team to a 12-0 victory over Estonia in the race to qualify for the 2011 FIFA Women's World Cup.

Lilian Thuram, a defender capped 142 times by France, was at the Jules Deschaseaux stadium in the company of Jean-Pierre Escalettes, president of the French Football Federation, to pay tribute to her achievement. "My record was broken a little too soon for my liking," said the 1998 World Cup winner, laughing. "I'm delighted and proud; this is excellent for women's football. I hope this changes people's view of the sport and removes any prejudices. Coming here was a way of spreading the message. We need to encourage people to discover women's football. For me it was important to come out and support the team." Bruno Bini, the women's national team coach, also paid tribute to Soubeyrand's accomplishments: "Tonight, a great has replaced another great. Lilian was a star on the pitch and Sandrine is too. I would



France

A record 143 caps for Sandrine Soubeyrand, pictured with Lilian Thuram and Jean-Pierre Escalettes

like every coach to have the opportunity to work with players of this quality. We only rely on players who are resilient, and I know I can count on Sandrine in that respect."

Sandrine Soubeyrand received a standing ovation from the 10,000 supporters present when she was replaced in the 79th minute. "It was a nice moment, but records are made to be broken," she said. "Tonight I broke Lilian's. Mine will be the next. I would like to thank Lilian and the president, Escalettes, for their present to me." The 36-year-old midfielder hopes to lead her country to another set of finals and the second World Cup of her career, provided she stays in good shape. "I take one match at a time and don't think about the future. What matters is performing well and keeping the coach's confidence." ■

Matthieu Brelle-Andrade

ICELAND



FH and Valur have won it again

In mid-September, FH Hafnarfjörður celebrated their second national title in a row and their fifth in six years. They secured the title before the last round and were handed the trophy at their home ground, Klapkrikavöllur. FH have had an excellent run: they won their first national title in their 75th year of existence and have not looked back since, now celebrating their 80th birthday with yet more silverware.

Their coach, Heimir Gudjonsson, has two titles in two years on his CV, which is quite something under any circumstances, and especially when you consider that this is his first job as a head coach.

The focus for FH next season will, without a doubt, be a better performance in the UEFA Champions League. They fell at the first hurdle this time round and are definitely hungry for success next year.

KR and Fylkir, both from Reykjavík, came in second and third place respectively in the top division, the Pepsi-deild, this year. KR is the most successful club in Iceland in terms of number of titles, but they have not finished on top since 2003. Six years without the title is quite a long time for KR and they will be looking for better results next season. Fylkir were the surprise package of the season and will compete in the UEFA Europa League, alongside KR, next year.

Iceland

Breidablik took home the VISA Cup after defeating Fram in the final.

The teams from fourth and fifth place in the league, Fram and Breidablik, met in the last game of the season, the VISA Cup final. After 90 minutes the score was 1-1 and in extra time both teams scored from the penalty spot. A penalty shoot-out was therefore required, and in the end it was Breidablik who were celebrating their first major title. This means, of course, that Breidablik will also compete in Europe next season.

The real focus in Iceland this season, however, was on our women's teams. For the first time, the senior team competed in a major final tournament – EURO 2009 in Finland – and on the domestic front Valur celebrated winning the league title for the fourth year in a row. The race for second place continued right to the last round and three teams ended on the same number of points. A superior goal difference, however, secured second for Breidablik and, with it, a place in the Women's Champions League next season.

The women of Valur were also celebrating after their VISA Cup final, having beaten Breidablik. When normal time ran out the score was 1-1, with Valur having equalised with eight minutes left on the clock. In extra time it was all about Valur and the final score was 5-1. ■

Thorvaldur Ingimundarson



ISRAEL



Visit by UEFA president

The UEFA president, Michel Platini, concluded his visit to Israel with a joint press conference at the Hilton hotel in Tel Aviv, together with the chairman of the Israel FA, Avraham Luzon, and former international player Mordechai Shpigler, who interpreted for the UEFA president.

Mr Luzon opened the press conference by welcoming Mr Platini: *"I am happy and glad to welcome the president of UEFA. He is a personal friend and a true friend of the Israel Football Association. Mr Platini has always been on our side and supported the return of matches to Israel."*

The UEFA president, who will be coming back to Israel in March with the presidents and general secretaries of all the European associations for the UEFA Congress, said: *"I am proud to be in Israel for the first time as UEFA president."*

With regard to the election of Avraham Luzon to the UEFA Executive Committee, Mr Platini said: *"His election is an excellent opportunity for the Israel FA chairman, who is at the heart of the action at UEFA and among those making decisions about the present and future of football. His first success is that the forthcoming UEFA Congress is being held here."*

Mr Platini also mentioned the Israel national team: *"Israeli football has improved, and we see successful Israeli players participating in major teams in Europe. To build a great national team, you need many talented players, and that is difficult. Nonetheless, one can see that the gaps in Europe have narrowed."*

About the possibility of future international tournaments being held in Israel, the UEFA president said: *"When a proposal of that kind is put forward, we will discuss it. Once you have improved stadiums, it will be possible to host international tournaments here as well."*

Nimrod Suzin



Israel

Michel Platini presents a pennant to Avraham Luzon.

ITALY



Sports journalists at Coverciano

A hundred sports journalists from all over Italy came to Coverciano, near Florence, in October to take part in the third continuing professional development seminar organised by the Italian Football Federation (FIGC) and the Italian Sports Press Union (USSI). Fabio Capello, the England manager, opened the meeting by comparing his experiences of working in Italy, Spain and England, without missing the opportunity for a controversial comment on the role of 'ultras' and their relationship with clubs. Capello answered many questions from the journalists on topical issues and the relationship between clubs and the media.

Many other interesting topics were discussed during the two-day seminar, entitled 'Football and those who talk about it'. These included the use of artificial pitches, explained at length by Carlo Tavecchio, vice-president of the FIGC and president of the national amateur league. Another central topic was the spectator's card scheme, which was defended strongly by Mario Macalli, FIGC vice-president and president of the professional football league, with the support of representatives of the interior ministry. Marco Bogarelli, president of Infront Sports & Media Italy, reviewed the television rights market and its development, and Andrea Cardinaletti, president of Italy's sports credit

institute (ICS), assured everyone that future sports infrastructure projects could count on ICS support. He explained how the ICS credit system worked and shared with the journalists the results so far. The technical task of dissecting Italy's last match against Giovanni Trapattoni's Republic of Ireland on screen was given to experienced coaches Renzo Ulivieri and Maurizio Viscidi (both graduates of Coverciano).

A regular speaker at these seminars, Pierluigi Collina (chairman of the Serie A and B referees committee), took to the stage to defend young Italian referees and explain the new regulations. The spotlight then turned to Paolo Garimberti, who made a name for himself as a sports journalist, columnist and editor in chief on major Italian papers, before taking up the role of president of Italy's public service broadcaster, RAI. He reminisced on the last 50 years of sporting language in the media.

Looking to the future, Italian football will continue to become more and more competitive and strong, even on the European stage, according to a report on the national professional league by Maurizio Beretta.

The seminar, hosted by the president of the Coverciano technical sector, Azeglio Vicini, in the presence of the FIGC general director, Antonio Valentini, and the USSI president, Luigi Ferrajolo, was drawn to a close by the FIGC president, Giancarlo Abete. It had been a great opportunity for open discussions on the recent evolution of football and the value of television rights and new technologies. ■

Barbara Moschini

Italy

Pierluigi Collina talks to journalists.



LATVIA



Donation to help nurture young talent

The Latvian Football Federation (LFF) and Latvian national team sponsor, the Latvian branch of Nordea Bank Finland Plc, unveiled an



intriguing project before the start of the qualifiers for the 2010 FIFA World Cup – for each goal scored by the national team in its qualifying campaign, they would donate EUR 1,000 to the Young Football Talent Agency, run by the national team head coach, Aleksandrs Starkovs. During the campaign, Latvia scored 18 goals, earning the young talents EUR 19,000 (including an initial EUR 1,000 grant from the bank).

Starkovs is responsible for using the money wisely to make the necessary improvements for the most promising young footballers in Latvia. *"The target group is 14 to 16-year-olds from all over Latvia. We will select two or three in predefined periods of time and send them to the best training camps for young footballers in Europe. Seventeen-year-olds are already too old, but 14 to 15 is the*

most suitable age for this additional skills training and motivation," said Starkovs. The rest of the money will be placed in a Nordea savings account to accumulate more funds to invest in future talent.

At the same time, another LFF and national team sponsor, Latvijas Mobilais Telefons (LMT), has been continuing to improve educational opportunities for homeless children and children from low-income families by donating more than 20,000 children's books to orphanages and schools, as well as by supporting UNICEF's SOS project. Latvian national team players helped to distribute the books, showing that the Christmas spirit is alive and well. ■

Martins Hartmanis

Latvia

The national team with children from UNICEF's SOS project

MALTA



New medical clinic

As of this season, all players aged 16 or over who are registered with the Malta FA and still on the books of the association's member clubs will benefit from a scheme whereby they undergo regular medical tests at the association's clinic.

The aim of having such a medical clinic is to prevent fatalities which may occur if players are suffering from conditions which have not been detected.

The scheme will ensure that players aged 16 to 25 undergo a test at least once every two years, while those over 25 will be tested every year.



D. Aquilina

Malta

New facilities for monitoring players' health

MOLDOVA



Moldova Government Cup

Mihai Eminescu school from Edinet won the fourth U14 Moldova Government Cup. In the final, played at the Dinamo Stadium in Chisinau, Mihai Eminescu beat Speia Gymnasium 4-3 in a thrilling encounter. In the third-place play-off, Onitcani beat School No.1 from Vulcanesti 4-2 on penalties. Over 1,000 school teams and 18,000 young players took part in the competition.

The Moldova Government Cup was organised by the ministry of youth and sport, the ministry of education, the Football Association of Moldova and Teleradio-Moldova.

Ion Negrei, deputy prime minister of the Republic of Moldova, Ion Cebanu, minister of youth and sport, Leonid Bujor, minister of education, Victor Catan, minister of the interior, Ion Plesca, member of parliament, Nicolae Cebotari, general secretary of the Moldovan

Moldova

Ion Negrei, the deputy prime minister, presents the trophy to Vlad Cotogoi, captain of the Mihai Eminescu school team.



F.M.F.

MONTENEGRO



First candidates for UEFA A coaching diploma eyeing final exams

The FA of Montenegro football coaches' school has successfully held its first UEFA A-diploma course. A group of 26 coaches have attended theoretical and practical modules over two semesters.

The second and final semester took place over eight days in Tivat, the home of the Montenegrin school for football coaches. Modules were taught by the school's director, Niko Raickovic, coaches Miodrag Radulovic, Zoran Lemajic, Branislav Milacic and Dragan Sakovic, and Dr Ceranic, with special contributions by guest speakers Vatroslav Mihacic, the director of the Croatian academy for football coaches, and his assistant, Mario Tot.

All candidates are obliged to sit a semester exam, which they follow up with a practical demonstration on the pitch. Only coaches who pass are allowed to take the final exams, after which UEFA A diplomas and licences are issued to the successful candidates. ■

Ivan Radovic

NETHERLANDS



100th Cruyff Court named after Mathieu Sprengers

Tuesday, 6 October was a memorable day for the Johan Cruyff Foundation, the city of Venlo and the Dutch FA (KNVB): a year and a half after the death of KNVB president Mathieu Sprengers, his successor, Michael van Praag, officially opened the 100th Cruyff Court, named after the late president, in the city of Venlo. Sprengers was born and bred in Venlo and presided over the local professional football club, VVV, before he was elected president of the KNVB.

The Johan Cruyff Foundation and the KNVB decided to join forces to install artificial mini-pitches in the country's crowded city centres to enable children to play football in much the same way as their fathers and grandfathers did when traffic was less of a problem.

Mathieu Sprengers heartily supported the initiative to install facilities for children with the help of the local authorities, schools, sports clubs and local industry. The Cruyff Courts KNVB Pitches foundation has been the driving force behind dozens of these pitches, which have proved to be of great value to communities.

At the opening of the 100th Cruyff Court, the Cruyff Courts KNVB Pitches foundation was awarded the UEFA Grassroots Award. UEFA Executive Committee member Michael van Praag presented the award to Carole Thate, director of the Cruyff Courts KNVB Pitches foundation. ■

Rob de Leede

Netherlands

Michael van Praag presents Carole Thate with the UEFA award.



KNVB

FA, and Mihai Anghel, vice-president of the Moldovan FA, all attended the awards ceremony, where they presented the participants with well-deserved medals, trophies and gifts.

Goalkeeper Vasile Boiangiu (Speia), defender Sandu Darie (Onitcani), midfielder Eugen Maleavin (Vulcanesti), and forward Alexandru Guriev (Edinet) were voted the organisers' players of the tournament. All were given prizes.

The Moldova Government Cup has previously been won by Lopatnic school (2006 and 2008) and Minerva school from Chisinau (2007). ■

Press Office



Northern Ireland
The development centres enter their second season.

NORTHERN IRELAND



Development centres enter second season

The launch of another season of The Co-operative Insurance Football Development Centres kicked off with a showcase event at Shaw's Bridge in Belfast, attended by former England manager Graham Taylor. The development centres programme is one of the central elements in the Irish FA's grassroots development plan and it is now entering its second year. There are currently 59 centres that focus on skills development and 14 that concentrate on games development, catering for approximately 8,000 children aged 6 to 12.

A new three-year strategy has been implemented to develop a comprehensive programme that combines both football and personal development for children and their parents. As well as providing the children with fun and informal training sessions, the coaches addressed issues such as community safety

and participation, confidence building, healthy eating and healthy lifestyles. The strategy recognises the potential impact that football can have on society as a whole. If managed correctly, football can communicate positive messages about young people, their families and their community.

Ian Stewart, the national development centres coordinator, is excited by the progress so far and the potential he sees in the future: *"I would like to thank The Co-operative Insurance for their continued support, which has resulted in an extra 2,000 children having the opportunity to participate in the programme. The personal development of all players is at the forefront of this initiative and over the next year we will be implementing the new strategy, involving workshops for players and coaches to educate them in the benefits of living a healthier lifestyle. The development centres' slogan is 'Developing the person – Developing the player', which embodies what this programme is aiming to achieve."*

Aileen Walters, sponsorship manager for The Co-operative Insurance, added: *"As an integral part of our nationwide grassroots programme, the centres provide children with fun and informal coaching to learn new football skills and the benefits of a healthy lifestyle. They are inclusive and provide affordable and accessible coaching for boys and girls, regardless of ability. We fully support the Irish FA's grassroots coaching emphasis on small-sided football and skills development. We believe small-sided games provide a much more enjoyable experience for children. More time on the ball means more fun, and the increasing numbers of boys and girls taking part supports this. The programme has provided coaching to around 8,000 boys and girls across Northern Ireland."* ■

Sueann Harrison

REPUBLIC OF IRELAND



First match at Aviva Stadium in August 2010

There are now less than six months to go before the Football Association of Ireland (FAI) takes ownership of its new stadium – the Aviva Stadium – which will be jointly owned by the FAI and the Irish Rugby Football Union (IRFU) and will seat 50,000 spectators.

Due for completion in April, the first football match in the new stadium will be in August, when Argentina visit Dublin. This visit by one of the world's top football nations will be a fitting opening to the new stadium, which is also scheduled to host the Europa League final in 2011.

Recently, some members of the Republic of Ireland Under-21 side paid a visit to the Aviva Stadium, which is located on the site of the old Lansdowne Road stadium. Owen Garvan, Cillian Sheridan and Keith Treacy, three up-and-coming Irish players, visited the stadium along with their coach, Don Givens.

The three players were all very impressed with the new facility and all three will be hoping to play their part there by forcing their way into the plans of the senior national team coach, Giovanni Trapattoni. ■

Eoghan Rice

Republic of Ireland

Owen Garvan, Cillian Sheridan, Don Givens and Keith Treacy (from left to right) at the site of the new stadium



Sportsfile



Norway
Eli Landsem



NORWAY

A female head coach for the women's national team

The Norwegian women's national team has made history: for the first time ever, the team has a female head coach.

Eli Landsem (47), a former top Norwegian player who has gained coaching experience with Norwegian and Danish teams, started on 1 October and has already lead the national team through two important qualifying matches for the 2011 Women's World Cup. She's had quite a good start: both games ended in victory and three points for Norway. In Landsem's first game, they played the Netherlands at the Nadderud stadium in Norway. The home side won 3-0, after a penalty converted by Trine Roenning and goals by Solveig Gulbrandsen and Isabell Herlovsen.

"I was really excited before this game. And we are extremely happy with the result. It's important for us to get a good start in the World Cup qualifiers," Landsem said after the match.

In the next game, Norway played Slovakia. That match wasn't nearly as good as the first, but still the Norwegians ended up with three points, after Slovakia's Alexandra Biróová scored an own goal in the 51st minute, with valuable help from Norway's Lise Klaveness.

The next World Cup qualifiers will be played in March, when Norway's opponents will be FYR Macedonia and Belarus. ■

Mari Waagaard Thomassen

ROMANIA



Mircea Angelescu has passed away

During the night of 5/6 October, Romanian football lost one of its greatest leaders, Mircea Angelescu, who, when originally elected at the age of 30, was the youngest president of the Romanian Football Federation (FRF) of the modern era.

Born on 18 June 1938 in Bucharest, Angelescu excelled in athletics at CCA Bucharest (now Steaua Bucharest) in his youth. After achieving outstanding results at the Civil Engineering Institute in Bucharest, he stayed on as an assistant and then lecturer.

He entered the world of football in 1967, when he was elected vice-president of the FRF. After the resignation of Anton Adrian Dimitriu in October 1968, Angelescu took on the role of acting president until March 1969, when he was elected president.

SERBIA



World Cup debut

This year has been another very successful one for Serbian football. After three years competing independently at the highest level, the FA of Serbia has done some important things, which can be seen as a sort of trademark and a sign of great things to come.

The Serbian national team is taking part in its first ever FIFA World Cup, having earned a place in South Africa next year. Serbia were seeded in pot three for the draw, but finished the qualifying race in winning style, atop Group 7. Theirs was the only qualifying group with three EURO 2008 participants – France, Romania and Austria. But, with new head coach Radomir Antic at the helm, the Serbians came out on top to guarantee themselves a place on the World Cup scene.

Radomir Antic's appointment last year was one of the best decisions made by the new president of the Serbian FA, Tomislav Karadzic. *"We knew what profile we needed. Now we*



Serbia

The Serbian national team celebrate having secured their place in South Africa.

can say that our decision was brilliant. With Antic, we are maturing and I expect that we will be even better in the future," Karadzic said.

The Serbian youth categories have also performed well this year. The U21s contested their fourth successive European championship finals in Sweden and the U19s won the fair play trophy in theirs.

All in all, however, the most important day for Serbian football this year was when work started on the association's new headquarters and sports centre. The FA of Serbia was one of a small number of associations worldwide which had no 'house of football', but all that will change with this 11.5-hectare construction project, including seven pitches, a five-star hotel, a sports hall and a museum. It will be home to the Serbian youth teams, the most important thing being to develop future stars and, above all, healthy future generations. ■

Aleksandar Boskovic



Romania

Mircea Angelescu

As president, he was his own man, open to innovation and often compared to former American president John F. Kennedy by his close relatives, hence the nickname 'Kennedy'. He had an exceptional career with the Romanian national team, helping them to qualify for the 1970 FIFA World Cup (first time in 32 years) and then the quarter-finals of the 1972 European Championship.

After resigning from his post as president in the autumn of 1974, he held the position of vice-president from 1975 to 1978 and 1981 to 1986.

He was re-elected president of the Romanian Football Federation on 15 July 1986, until December 1989. During this period, the national team qualified for the 1990 FIFA World Cup in Italy. He was also a member of the FIFA Amateur Football Committee from 1974 to 1986.

He then became Romania's sports minister from December 1989 to June 1990, after the revolution in 1989 led to the fall of the communist regime in Romania.

Angelescu later returned to the FRF and was elected honorary president in August 1990. His biggest contributions were the introduction of professionalism in Romania and the subsequent creation of the Romanian Professional Football League (LPF) in October 2002,

of which he became the first president. Angelescu had resumed the project to introduce professionalism, which had originally been drafted in 1967 with former FRF president Alexandru Barladeanu. It had stalled because the then Romanian head of state, Nicolae Ceausescu, was overtly opposed to professionalism in football, judging it to be against the principles of socialism.

As president of the LPF, Angelescu contributed directly to the success of the Romanian national team at the 1994 FIFA World Cup and to their qualification for EURO '96. He suffered serious brain damage at the start of 1996, yet still attended matches on a regular basis. With the help of Mircea Sandu, his successor as president of the FRF, he followed the national team to several tournaments, including EURO 2008. He also wrote two books about his activities in Romanian football and contributed to a history of Romanian football, released in two volumes in 2009 to commemorate the centenary of the FRF. ■

Dan Cristea

SLOVENIA



Fair play day in Slovenia

The FA of Slovenia and the institute of fair play and tolerance in sport have hosted the third annual all-day event The Heart of Sports – Day of Fair Play, which was created to complement Fair Play Day, World Heart Day and the International Day of Peace. The activities began with a 'peace run', which took two forms – a long version and a short one – representing the systemic and pulmonary circulation of blood in the human body. After the run, various other activities took place at the Kodeljevo sports complex in Ljubljana, all of which were directly or indirectly connected to the theme of the day. Participants could thus learn about nutrition and the human heart, have electrocardiograms and their blood pressure taken, find out more about safe driving and road traffic regulations, and much more besides. Other activities included a presentation on the ONS Ljubljana (a children's football school), trampolining, an art class, a presentation by a judo club and a mini-football tournament on a concrete pitch. In one game, members of the official Slovenia supporters club played against the 'Slovenian golden generation', which included a few players from the golden era of Slovenian football at the start of the decade. The main event of the day was a football match on the main pitch, where a team of Slovenian celebrities took on the football family, with the Slovenian national A team coach, Matjaz Kek, directing the Slovenian celebrities from the bench and his U21s colleague, Tomaz Kavcic, taking charge of the football family. The match ended in a 3-1 victory for Kek and his team, but at the end of the day it was sport, sportsmanship and fair play that triumphed. ■

Matjaz Krajnik

Slovenia
Fair play gala match



Switzerland

The winners of the fair play award with representatives of the Swiss Football Association

SWITZERLAND



FC Lohn win Swiss fair play award

FC Lohn, from the regional football association of Zurich, have been named the fairest club in Switzerland and winners of the Swiss Football Federation (SFV) and SuvaLiv fair play trophy.

A CHF 10,000 winners' cheque was presented to the club by Paul Krähenbühl, president of the SFV amateur league, at a party in Berne. FC Aarau and FC Scherzenbach took second and third place respectively.

Founded in 1969, FC Lohn currently have nine teams competing in championships, with seven youth teams (including a girls' team) in addition to the men's and women's first teams. Last year the club also featured in the top ten for fair play in Switzerland.



PHOTOPRESS/P. Schneider

FC Lohn are one of seven sports clubs in a town with a population of 650 and stunning views over Germany and the Appenzell to the Bernese Alps.

In June this year, FC Lohn celebrated their 40th anniversary with three days of celebration and hosted a gala match against the FC Zurich youth team. The FC Lohn men's team have started the season well in the fourth division and are currently in the top four.

The final standings in the SFV fair play table were: 1st FC Lohn, 2nd FC Aarau, 3rd FC Scherzenbach, 4th Leventina Calcio, 5th FC Schaffhausen, 6th CS Interstar GE, 7th FC Yvorne, 8th FC Wängi, 9th SV Muttentz, 10th FC Etoile Bonvillars. ■

Pierre Benoit

UKRAINE



Ukraine to nurture sports managers

In October, courses aimed at improving qualifications in sport were launched in Kiev, following a trilateral agreement between the Football Federation of Ukraine (FFU), the International Centre for Sports Studies (CIES, Switzerland) and the National University of Physical Education and Sports of Ukraine. The courses focus on sports management, marketing, finance, law, and the management and organisation of sporting events.

CIES has been training specialists in these fields for almost 15 years. Working alongside FIFA, CIES uses a multi-disciplinary approach to provide research, top-level education and consulting services to the sports world, with the aim of raising awareness of the complexities of sport in today's society and improving governance and management across all sports.

Ukraine

Newly qualified managers in the service of sport



FFU

Ukraine is hosting such courses for the first time. They are aimed at specialists from the FFU, other sports associations, sports clubs, the National Olympic Committee, government representatives and others involved in sport.

Upon successful completion of a course, participants receive a CIES certificate as well as one from the state, confirming their achievement. In view of Ukraine's co-hosting of EURO 2012, it is essential that the skills of sports representatives, and in particular those working in football, are up to scratch. ■

Ivan Dyvak

WALES



A special guest

A special visitor, former Wales international and captain Terry Hennessey, came to the Millennium Stadium in Cardiff for the recent World Cup match with Russia.

Hennessey won almost 40 caps for Wales from the early 1960s and captained the side on many occasions. He was an attacking wing half who played for Birmingham City, Nottingham Forest and Derby County. He has since lived in Australia for the last 30 years and this was his first trip home in that time. He was a special guest of the Football Association of Wales (FAW) and a presentation was made to him at half-time by the head of the FAW international committee, Terry Harris, and the FAW president, Phillip Pritchard. ■

Ceri Stennett

TURKEY



EURO 2016 bid logo

In last month's update, the Turkish Football Federation (TFF) discussed some of the exceptional benefits of its bid to host EURO 2016 and the unique aspects of Turkish society. Now, the TFF is proud to unveil our new logo. "We have worked hard to express the essence of our bid and have created a logo which is distinctly Turkish," said Orhan Gorbun, deputy general secretary of the TFF and project manager of the Turkish UEFA EURO 2016 bid committee.

The new logo is significant because it communicates our tradition of football, emotion and hospitality, all of which are key aspects of modern-day Turkish culture. The shapes of the ribbons on the football are directly derived from the tulip, a flower that thrives in Turkey and is a dominant feature of Turkish art.

The traditional Turkish art form Ebru is central to our design. This technique consists of applying paint to a canvas and dragging a stick through it to achieve the desired effect. The tulip-shaped ribbons in the logo have thus been created using Ebru-style brush strokes. Furthermore, the different colors in the logo symbolise the different sides of Turkey that visitors can discover.

From a cultural perspective, Turkish people have learnt to adapt to many different ethnicities and religions travelling and living within our borders over thousands of years. This has helped shape the culture of modern-day Turkey into one where people from all cultures can find something to relate to.

The new logo captures the feeling of excitement and growth within the country, as well as the beauty inherent in our landscape. ■

Ilker Ugur



Turkey
The EURO 2016 bid logo



Wales
Terry Hennessey with Phillip Pritchard (right) and Terry Harris

Communications

Birthdays – Calendar

Birthdays

Leszek Ryłski (Poland), a member of the circle of former committee member, celebrates his 90th birthday on 6 December, while Ludvík S. Georgsson (Iceland), member of the UEFA Club Licensing Committee, will be 60 on 19 December.

UEFA sends them its best wishes and also wishes many happy returns to:

- Charles Agius (Malta, 2.12)
- Ligita Ziedone (Latvia, 2.12)
- Nikola Kostov (FYR Macedonia, 3.12)
- Sayan Khamitzhonov (Kazakhstan, 3.12)
- Miroslav Liba (Czech Republic, 4.12)
- Ioannis Farfarelis (Greece, 4.12)
- Maurizio Montironi (San Marino, 5.12)
- Andrea Manzella (Italy, 8.12)
- Vitaly Mutko (Russia, 8.12)
- Michel D'Hooghe (Belgium, 8.12)
- Les Reed (England, 9.12)
- Ioan Angelo Lupescu (Romania, 9.12)
- Alain Hamer (Luxembourg, 10.12)
- Alvaro Albino (Portugal, 12.12)
- Gilberto Madail (Portugal, 14.12)
- Antonio Mortagua (Portugal, 14.12)
- Karel Vertongen (Belgium, 17.12)
- Bobby Barnes (England, 15.12)
- Michael Riley (England, 17.12)
- Hansruedi Hasler (Switzerland, 18.12)
- Guntis Indriksons (Latvia, 18.12)
- Niklas à Lidarenda (Faroe Islands, 18.12)
- Rainer Koch (Germany, 18.12)
- Ori Shilo (Israel, 18.12)
- Rudolf Repka (Czech Republic, 26.12)
- Dusan Tittel (Slovakia, 27.12)
- Bernard Carrel (Switzerland, 28.12)
- Martial Saugy (Switzerland, 28.12)
- Otakar Mestek (Czech Republic, 28.12)
- Gordon Smith (Scotland, 29.12)
- Fernand Duchaussoy (France, 30.12)
- Berti Vogts (Germany, 30.12)
- Jean Fournet-Fayard (France, 31.12)
- Christian Moroge (Switzerland, 31.12)

Forthcoming events

Meetings

30.11–2.12.2009, Nyon

UEFA Women's National Team Coaches Conference

7.12.2009, Nyon

2010/11 European Under-19 and Under-17 Championships: qualifying round draws

8.12.2009, Nyon

2009/10 European Under-19 and Under-17 Championships: elite round draws

10/11.12.2009, Madeira

Executive Committee

15.12.2009, Nyon

2010/11 European Women's Under-19 and Under-17 Championships: draws for the first qualifying rounds

16.12.2009, Nyon

2009/10 European Women's Under-19 and Under-17 Championships: draws for the second qualifying rounds

18.12.2009, Nyon

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

Competitions

2/3.12.2009

UEFA Europa League: group matches (matchday 5)

8/9.12.2009

UEFA Champions League: group matches (matchday 6)

9–19.12.2009,

United Arab Emirates

FIFA Club World Cup

16/17.12.2009

UEFA Europa League: group matches (matchday 6)

Notices

■ Antoni Giribet Fiter was elected president of the Andorran Football Federation at its extraordinary general meeting on 15 October.

■ The Football Association of Finland elected Sauli Niinistö as its new president on 8 November.

■ Virgar Hvidbro was appointed general secretary of the Faroe Islands Football Association on 3 November.

Match agents

UEFA has issued a new match agent licence to:

Filippos Avramidis

Eleven Group
Helmou 17, 15124 Maroussi,
Athens, Greece
Tel.: +30 210 610 12 11
Fax: +30 210 619 85 77
Mob.: +30 6985 553 303
favramidis@elevengroup.gr

Frederik de Jong (England) has had his licence renewed for eight years.

New publication

L'EQUIPE SUISSE DE FOOTBALL 1905-2009: plus de 100 ans d'histoire



Having just qualified for their second World Cup in a row, the Swiss national team have the wind in their sails. This timely book, published by statistician Daniel Masnari (DM Foot Editions, 1036 Sullens, Switzerland / danielmasnari@bluewin.ch), traces the team's history, from their first match in Paris in 1905 right up to their 2-2 draw against Latvia this September. It contains an abundance of match sheets, player data, rankings and other statistics, not to mention the many pictures.

WE CARE ABOUT FOOTBALL



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