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in Lisbon 03**

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COVER

In a EURO 2004 that passed without major incident and in a very warm atmosphere, Greece caught everyone unawares by winning the tournament.

PHOTO: ALBERTO LINGRIA

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Editorial

Heading down a new road

Following the dazzling proof of its popularity and good health witnessed during EURO 2004, it may seem absurd to want to defend national-team football.

However, behind the recent success of the latest European Championship final round lurk many concerns thrown up by the famous Bosman ruling, which, at international level, made it easier for players to move clubs and removed the limitations previously imposed by the national and international football authorities.

One of the consequences of this explosion of transfers is that it has become more difficult in some countries for young players to work their way up to their club's first team, a struggle which may make them turn their backs on football and take up another sport instead. Of course, a talented youngster always manages to make room for himself, but even he needs suitable training in order to develop and make the most of his skills.

But training is expensive; it sometimes costs even more than talent scouting, and requires patience. Many clubs prefer scouting for and taking on promising young players from all over Europe and even beyond whom they can, if need be, loan to lower division or less ambitious clubs until they are trained.

In the long or even medium term, this situation could cause our national teams serious problems in terms of rejuvenating their squads. In Portugal, it was clear that some are already suffering from this phenomenon, just as it was noticeable that national playing characteristics are becoming indistinguishable – another obvious effect of this major intermixing of players.

So that is why, among other reasons, it is high time to find solutions conforming with European legislation that can compensate for these drawbacks in terms of training and national identity, not to mention the identification of clubs with their town/city or region as well.

In response to this situation, we want to encourage local recruitment in all the countries of Europe, while assuming social and sporting responsibility for young players. This is the direction we want to take, with the support of the national associations, who gave us their full backing at the recent Conference of Presidents and General Secretaries in Lisbon.

Lars-Christer Olsson
Chief Executive



Wayne Rooney, one of the stars of EURO 2004, and an example of a player trained by his club, Everton FC.

EMPICS

WE CARE ABOUT FOOTBALL



Conference of Presidents and General Secretaries

Promotion of player development



IN LISBON ON 3 JULY, ALTHOUGH MINDS WERE ALREADY TURNING TO THE FINAL OF EURO 2004, THE PRESIDENTS AND GENERAL SECRETARIES OF UEFA'S 52 MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS PLOUGHED THEIR WAY THROUGH A JAM-PACKED AGENDA AT THEIR 13TH CONFERENCE.

A number of important issues were tackled at this meeting of national association delegates, including player development, European social dialogue and access to information.

The question of promoting player development at local level is a tricky one, insofar as the Bosman ruling drastically changed the European football landscape by lifting all restrictions based on players' nationality within the European Union. This has created problems such as a lack of investment in player development, a lack of identification between teams and the local

population, an imbalance in competitions and the hoarding of players, i.e. major clubs' acquisition of players who clearly cannot all be selected for the first team. This situation also causes difficulties for some national teams whose national championships no longer include a sufficient number of locally developed players.

Solving these problems whilst fully respecting the laws of a rapidly growing European Union is a task that cannot be achieved simply by limiting the number of non-EU players, as is the practice in many national champi-

onships. The Executive Committee proposed to the delegates a possible solution involving the notion of home-grown players. Each club would have to include a certain number of players (six or seven, for example, of the 18 on the team sheet) brought up through their own ranks or through those of another club from the same national association. A combination of these two categories would be possible. It might also be possible to limit the number of players in each squad, maybe to 25, for example, as is already the case in the UEFA competitions.

The delegates supported this initiative, which still needs a lot of fine-tuning, particularly with regard to the definition of a home-



EURO 2004, SA/COSME DURÃO



Clubs are encouraged to focus on education. Here, English club Fulham's under-10s in training.

EMPICS

grown player. A broad consultation programme will be opened this autumn, involving all sectors of football as well as political authorities. It is hoped that the new rules will enter into force in the 2005/06 season at national and international levels.

Social dialogue

Consultation and dialogue are not just fashionable terms, but essential features of modern European society. Involving discussions between employees and employers, social dialogue in football can be a three-way process, since it can also include competition organisers. Under EU law, social dialogue is a voluntary process for concluding agreements, laying down frameworks, preparing joint opinions and for European Commission consultation concerning draft legislation.

It is in UEFA's interests to be involved in this procedure, which is already familiar to the professional footballers' union, FIFPro. This body has submitted to the professional football leagues within the EU (EPFL) a list of topics which it would like to discuss at European level. The list includes themes such as the international transfer system, standard player contracts, image rights, fiscal harmonisation, the international calendar and doping.

Last January, the EPFL (European Professional Football Leagues), FIFPro and UEFA signed a declaration recognising each other's importance for European professional football and their desire to enter into a tripartite dialogue. UEFA now plans to set up an expert panel comprising employers' and employees' representatives (leagues, FIFPro), in which UEFA would act as chair/mediator. UEFA therefore hopes to achieve Europe-wide harmoni-

sation rather than limiting these measures to the associations within the EU.

Funding secure

The commercial success of EURO 2004 is good news for the national associations, since it guarantees the funding of the HatTrick assistance programme which they adopted at the Rome Congress in 2003. Discussions in Lisbon focused on one aspect of this programme, i.e. the installation, as part of the UEFA Golden Jubilee, of mini-pitches in order to promote participation in football, particularly in large built-up areas where football can no longer be played in the street. Each national association has received or will receive a prototype mini-pitch. Five projects to install mini-pitches have already been approved in England, Georgia, Iceland, Norway and Sweden. The aim is to create at least 2,500 mini-pitches in Europe.

Access to information

After a visual presentation of the UEFA New Media company, the national association representatives continued along the same lines by discussing the issue of access to sporting images. The situation has become more complex with the growth of the Internet and, more



EURO 2004, SA/COSME DURÃO

Antero Silva Resende was unable to be in Cyprus to receive the UEFA Order of Merit in diamond. President Lennart Johansson therefore presented it to him in Lisbon on the eve of the Conference.



The Executive Committee on the podium during the conference.



Lennart Johansson and Lars-Christer Olsson.



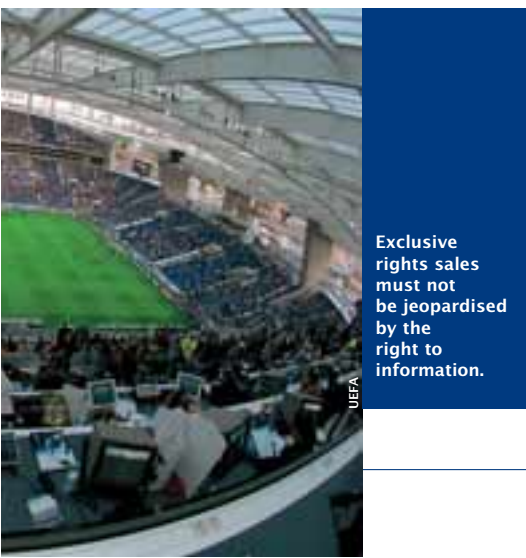
Mini-pitches can be installed in inner-cities to replace street football.

ACORSPACE

recently still, the transmission of images via mobile phone. Under the pretext of the right to information, new media agencies are trying to gain access to images sold exclusively by sports organisations. However, twenty seconds of images transmitted via the Internet or mobile phone are a very different matter from the same quantity of images on television. At a time when the EU and the Council of Europe are both looking into this question, UEFA is inviting its member associations to make their views known to their respective authorities and to defend the position of rightholders. UEFA, which is also making efforts to this end, is willing to coordinate the activities of its member associations.

The participants also considered a report on refereeing in the national associations. This survey of 49 national associations covered issues such as the structure of referees' committees and the appointment of referees, as well as the funding, training and observation of referees.

The report highlighted various shortcomings in a large number of national associations. Having been given the green light by the Executive Committee in May, the Referees Committee will now follow up the important issues raised.



Exclusive rights sales must not be jeopardised by the right to information.

UEFA

EURO 2004, a huge success

A Conference of Presidents and General Secretaries held the day before the final of EURO 2004 would not be complete without an evaluation of the competition.

Portuguese Deputy Prime Minister José Luis Arnaut paid tribute to the excellent collaboration between his government, the Portuguese FA and UEFA, as well as the way in which the tournament was organised.

had shown towards the other continents, a solidarity for which it was now reaping the rewards in the form of numerous players from other continents playing in the European leagues.

UEFA Chief Executive, Lars-Christer Olsson, also emphasised the success of the joint organisational structure, which would be repeated and further improved for the next tournament. He also



UEFA President Lennart Johansson assisted by CEO Lars-Christer Olsson, presents the Henri-Delaunay-Cup.

A. SABATTINI

At a time when certain clubs were demanding compensation for players they released for national teams, UEFA President Lennart Johansson reminded the participants how important tournaments of this kind were for players' public profile and market value. He also thanked and congratulated the Portuguese FA and authorities.

The FIFA President, Joseph S. Blatter, was equally generous with his congratulations, paying tribute to the organisers, players, technical staff, referees and supporters. He also took the opportunity to mention UEFA's Golden Jubilee, highlighting the solidarity UEFA

mentioned the extraordinary audience figures achieved by the tournament, both on television and on the euro2004.com website.

The Chief Executive also observed that change was a constant feature of the current era. UEFA therefore needed continually to adapt its structures and, amongst other things, would be creating a new division to support the national associations.

Lars-Christer Olsson also underlined the virtues of dialogue and collaboration between all members of the football family.



Two key architects of the Greek triumph, coach Otto Rehhagel and goalkeeper Antonios Nikopolidis.



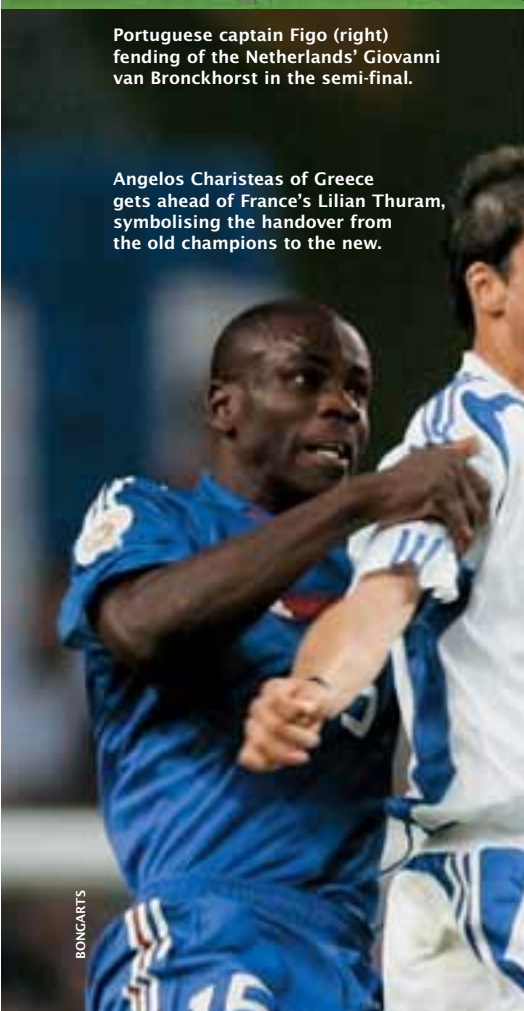
Having lost EURO 96 by a golden goal, the Czechs went out of EURO 2004 after a semi-final decided by a silver goal – the last before this system is abandoned – which left them no time to react.

Final tournament in Portugal

EURO 2004 full of surprises



Portuguese captain Figo (right) fending off the Netherlands' Giovanni van Bronckhorst in the semi-final.



Angelos Charisteas of Greece gets ahead of France's Lilian Thuram, symbolising the handover from the old champions to the new.

Although one match can be won thanks to good fortune, no team becomes European champions through luck. A quick glance at the Greeks' route to glory clearly shows that they fully deserve their title. The brilliance with which they qualified for the finals by finishing above Spain despite two early defeats should have turned the heads of those they subsequently brushed aside. Greece did not qualify for these finals by accident. After causing an initial shock by beating host nation Portugal in the opening match,



Greece then proved it was no fluke by holding Spain to a draw. Their defeat to Russia was not enough to thwart their qualification for the quarter-finals. Those who thought that France would make short work of the Greeks at that stage of the competition could not have been more wrong.

EURO 2004 WILL NEVER BE FORGOTTEN. FOLLOWING DENMARK'S UNEXPECTED VICTORY IN 1992 (AFTER THE DANES WERE INVITED TO REPLACE YUGOSLAVIA AT THE LAST MINUTE), GREECE'S TRIUMPH WAS NOTHING SHORT OF A SENSATION. SWEEPED ASIDE ONE BY ONE, THE MAJOR FOOTBALLING NATIONS FELL LIKE DOMINOES IN THIS COMPETITION. NEVER BEFORE HAVE THE UNDERDOGS ENJOYED SO MUCH SUCCESS. THE ERA OF SO-CALLED WEAK TEAMS IS WELL AND TRULY IN THE PAST.

Faultless organisation

Otto Rehhagel's protégés showed no nerves whatsoever against the title holders. Then, with the momentum behind them, the Greeks caused another shock by eliminating a Czech side that many observers had expected to reach the final on the basis of their attractive performances. To top it all, Greece then defeated Portugal in the final, a match which the hosts were not expecting to lose for a second time. The Greek victory, thanks to a single goal from Charisteas, was achieved thanks to their faultless organisation. Reputed for their defensive solidity, the Greeks gave their opponents a true lesson in defending, with a central partnership (Kapsis-Dellas) as solid as a rock.

Blending together perfectly to form a highly impressive team, their individual qualities, which were more substantial than some had insinuated, enabled them to play at the highest echelon. Of course, this historic victory bears the stamp of a certain Otto Rehhagel, a wily coach with a lesser reputation in his native country than in Greece, where he is treated like a king. The German coach has clearly got the most out of the resources at his disposal. He has succeeded in ably channelling the some-



The crowds' enthusiasm made a big contribution to the success of EURO 2004.



The goal that decided the final.

times unbridled enthusiasm of his fiery-natured players and moulded them into a team of winners.

End of France's reign

Grasping victory from the jaws of defeat in injury time against England, before drawing with Croatia and enduring some difficult moments in an eventual victory over Switzerland, France were on the decline and their hopes were ended at the quarter-final stage. Despite a brilliant qualifying campaign, "les Bleus" went out through the back door, just as they did at the last World Cup in Japan and Korea. This is clearly the end of the road for this French team, which has made football history over the years but which, like its ageing stars, is not what it used to be. Even Zinedine Zidane did not escape the critics. Raymond Domenech will need to rebuild.

However, France is not the only "big nation" to leave this European Championship with its tail between its legs. Italy's elimination in the group phase caused a great deal of wailing and gnashing of teeth in Italian households. Despite a gallant last stand against Bulgaria, the "Azzurri" were knocked out of the tournament because of a 2-2 draw between Sweden and Denmark, the worst scenario they could have imagined. There also, a new chapter will begin following the departure of Giovanni Trapattoni.

Germany's national coach Rudi Völler also took the honourable step by resigning after his country's elimination in one of the most difficult groups, from which the Czech Republic and the Netherlands eventually emerged. Unable to win a single match (even against Latvia), the German team paid a heavy price for a lack of creativity and their fighting spirit was not enough to carry them through.



Iñaki Saez also bowed out after Spain's failure to qualify for the quarter-finals. Once more, as always seems to happen, the Spaniards failed to impress in a major competition. Despite a good start against Russia, the Spanish team failed to live up to that early promise and their draw with Greece and particularly their defeat to Portugal signalled the end of their involvement.

Hopes dashed

Despite qualifying for the quarter-finals, where they lost on penalties to Portugal, England must be disappointed with their EURO campaign. They had high hopes of success, which seemed particularly justified thanks to emerging talents such as Wayne Rooney, who was sadly injured in the first half-hour against Portugal. England were therefore expected to do better than they had in the "kick and rush" era. They put up a creditable performance, which can only have deepened Sven-Göran Eriksson's regrets.

While the Netherlands seemed incapable of progressing any further than the semi-finals, where they lost to Portugal, the Czech Republic's polished

performances had given them hope of avenging their defeat in the 1996 final. However, a certain Greek team put paid to that, before plotting the downfall of the Portuguese, who are still awaiting their first victory in a major competition. Luiz Felipe Scolari, world champion with Brazil, was welcomed like the Messiah. Despite losing in the final, Portugal achieved their best ever European Championship performance. President Jorge Sampaio knew exactly what he was doing when he awarded the Portuguese players the Order of the Infante Dom Henrique!

André Winckler



Theodoros Zagorakis, named player of the tournament by the UEFA Technical Study Group.

A. SABATTINI

Czech fair play

The Czech Republic not only produced high-quality football, but also proved to be the most sporting of the EURO 2004 participants, topping the fair play league for this final round. With 8,500 points, they finished ahead of the Netherlands (8,450), England (8,437), France and Sweden (8,312), Latvia (8,166), Portugal (8,083), Germany and Greece (8,000).





Activities with Steffi Jones in Frankfurt (far), in Poland (centre), Latvia (left) and San Marino (below).

Special Olympics Football Week

New record participation

THE FOURTH ANNUAL SPECIAL OLYMPICS EUROPEAN FOOTBALL WEEK WAS HELD FROM 1 TO 9 MAY, WITH OVER 26,000 PLAYERS WITH LEARNING DIFFICULTIES TAKING PART IN EVENTS IN IN CLOSE TO 50 COUNTRIES.



This year's focus was on increasing opportunities for youth and female players, developing Unified Sports, where players with and without learning difficulties play on teams together, and involving mainstream schoolchildren in Special Olympics football activities. *SO Get Into It*, a Special Olympics school curriculum, was used as an awareness-building tool in conjunction with some football activities.

In **Serbia and Montenegro** 3,000 schoolchildren joined 10,000 Special Olympics participants in activities throughout the country. In **Poland** 1,400 students aged 12-19 from special and mainstream schools participated in a one-day football festival in Warsaw. In **Norway**, 120 pupils aged 12-14 participated in Fun Football Days with children from special schools.

In **Denmark**, 850 players aged 7-18 competed in indoor and outdoor tournaments. In **Spain**, over 465 players under the age of 18 participated in

local football days. In **Lithuania**, 385 players aged 10-15 had a chance to participate in local, regional and national tournaments. In **Latvia**, 600 mainly teenage players competed in regional tournaments and a final. In **Armenia**, 110 footballers under 16 competed in a national tournament, and a memorandum of cooperation was signed with the Armenian FA. In **Georgia**, 110 young footballers participated in a tournament in Tbilisi. In **Slovakia**, over 400 players participated in 19 Unified matches.

In **Austria**, over 250 Special Olympics footballers participated in a full week of events, including a clinic run by coach Regi Van Acker from Bundesliga club Bregenz. In **Belgium**, Special Olympics footballer Maarten Doktor, 18, made his debut as an assistant coach at the "Happy Football Day" involving 500 players.

Across Europe, female players were out in force, with many new teams participating for the first time. In **Germany**, players had the chance to train for the second year at 1. FFC Frankfurt with coach Monika Staab, Europe's most successful women's coach. Assisting Staab was 1. FFC and national-team defender Steffi Jones.

Support from the FAs was strong. In **France**, Claude Simonet, president of the French FA, attended a tournament in La Rochelle, one of 23 held for 1,600 footballers. "Football Week is a very important initiative and I am happy that the FA supports it,"

said Simonet. In **Ukraine**, during a 13-team tournament in Kiev, Boris Voskresensky, vice-president of the Ukrainian FA and member of the UEFA Football for the Disabled Panel, said, "We want to support disabled people, showing them solidarity and helping them on a practical level." In the **Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia**, Lazar Mitrovski, general secretary of the football association, opened the 50-team tournament in Skopje. In **San Marino**, Giorgio Crescentini, president of the football association, presented awards to all eight teams which participated in a tournament. In **Malta**, the FA presented a Special Olympics trophy to mark the week's events. In **Iceland**, a tournament for 60 players was organised in cooperation with the football association. In **Romania**, over 560 Special Olympics players participated in events. Christian Bivolaru, speaking on behalf of the Romanian FA, said that "the federation wants to make a difference in the lives of children in Romania who have an interest in sport." In **Azerbaijan**, 12 mini football teams competed in a tournament in Baku that received support from the football association and the Ministry of Youth, Sport and Tourism. In **Moldova**, ten teams competed in Chisinau, and a coaching seminar supported by the association also was held. In **Kazakhstan**, 1,300 footballers participated in 14 regional events and a final, with all events supported by the association.



SO FRANCE

In France, Claude Simonet showed how it is done.



Opening of the tournament in Kiev (left). Opposite, Brøndby's Thomas Kahlenberg with Danish Special Olympics players.

Football celebrities and clubs showed their support. Newly appointed football ambassador for **Great Britain**, David James, Manchester City and England goalkeeper, said: *"I really enjoy my work with Special Olympics because the athletes are so enthusiastic about football."* Another Special Olympics football ambassador, Lawrie McMenemy, remained at the epicentre of the week's activities in Great Britain. In Italy, former professional player Gianni Rivera continued his work as a Special Olympics ambassador. In **Russia**, Premier League club Zenit St Peterburg continued its support of Special Olympics at the 33-team mini football tournament in St Petersburg. In **Monaco**, players wore Special Olympics T-shirts prior

to the top-division match between AS Monaco FC and Stade Rennais FC. In **Bulgaria**, professional players wore ribbons

of support and Special Olympics footballers participated in the kick-off. In **Turkey**, four Super League teams wore Special Olympics T-shirts as part of pre-match presentations. In **Luxembourg**, Special Olympics footballers were invited to major first division matches. In the **Netherlands**, the Gouden Gids Divisie helped raise funds for disabled players.

In **Republic of Ireland**, funds earmarked by UEFA totalling EUR 25,000 were presented to Special Olympics Ireland to ensure the legacy of the 2003 Special Olympics World Games held in Dublin.

A Unified match with UEFA staff and Special Olympics footballers took place at UEFA headquarters again this year. Special Olympics footballers were welcomed by Markus Studer, Deputy Chief Executive. Special Olympics players joined FIFA staff for a similar match, officiated by Nicole Petignat, a FIFA and Women's World Cup referee.

Special Olympics footballers were welcomed by Urs Linsi, FIFA General Secretary, and FIFA President Joseph S. Blatter.

The Johan Cruyff Foundation continued as Football Week's European partner for a third year. DisneyHand, the worldwide company outreach programme for the Walt Disney Company Europe, supported *SO Get Into It* initiatives in four countries held in conjunction with Football Week.

Seven-a-side tournament

Twenty nations took part in the Special Olympics European seven-a-side tournament held in Ettelbruck, Luxembourg, from 29 to 31 May. Organised by Special Olympics Luxembourg, 27 teams played matches on seven grounds, with 45 referees provided by the national football association officiating. The association has been a strong supporter of Special Olympics Luxembourg for at least ten years. *"The association has not only provided technical support but, equally*



Marc Feltgen, tournament organiser, and some of the players.

important, has helped to ensure that Special Olympics athletes are part of the larger football family," said Marc Feltgen, head of the organising committee, member of the Special Olympics football committee and national director of Special Olympics Luxembourg.

Eleven women's teams competed against each other in the tournament, the first European Special Olympics event for female players. *"This is just the beginning for women's football,"* said Andre Peeters, head of the football committee. *"We will assess their needs and then create opportunities for them, including the possibility of an all-woman tournament,"* Peeters said. *"Right now, we see a very high level of skill among the female footballers and an even higher level of enthusiasm and passion for the game,"* he said.



A young Romanian player.

SO ROMANIA



The participants in Armenia.

SO ARMENIA



After the semi-final between Portugal and the Netherlands, the José Alvalade stadium will host the 2004/05 UEFA Cup final.

AFP/SOLIANO



A turning point in the UEFA Cup's thirty-three year history.

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European club competitions

Changes afoot

A WEEK AFTER THE OPENING MATCHES OF THE UEFA INTERTOTO CUP, THE UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE AND UEFA CUP ALSO ENTERED A NEW SEASON ON 25 JUNE, WHEN THE DRAWS FOR THE FIRST TWO CHAMPIONS LEAGUE QUALIFYING ROUNDS AND THE FIRST UEFA CUP QUALIFYING ROUND WERE HELD AT THE UEFA HEADQUARTERS IN NYON.

The main innovation for the new season is clearly the obligation for the participants to hold a licence granted by their national association

or league, in accordance with the requirements of the new UEFA club licensing system. This obligation has prevented some clubs which had qualified through their results from embarking on a European adventure this season. For example, no clubs from Kazakhstan will be involved in the UEFA competitions in 2004/05. In total, around 80% of the clubs whose names were put forward obtained a licence, although not all the associations and leagues applied the procedure at the same level: while some only considered clubs that qualified for UEFA competitions, others assessed all their first division clubs or even extended the process to second division clubs as well.

New UEFA Cup

The other big change for the new season is the adoption of a new format for the UEFA Cup, combining knock-out rounds and group matches. Fifty teams, divided into three geographical groups for the draw, are involved in the first qualifying round. Another 39 clubs will join the 25 winners of the two-leg matches in the second qualifying round.

The first round proper will then include the 32 winners from the qualifying phase, 32 other teams including the three UEFA Intertoto Cup winners plus the 16 teams eliminated

in the third qualifying round of the UEFA Champions League.

These 80 teams will play two-leg first round matches, with the 40 winners entering the first group phase in the competition's history. These 40 teams will be drawn into eight groups. Each team will face the other group members once, playing two at home and two away. The order in which these games are played is stipulated in the competition regulations.

The UEFA Cup will then revert to the direct knock-out formula. The top three in each group will qualify for the last 32, along with the eight teams finishing third in the UEFA Champions League groups. Three more rounds will determine the two teams who will meet in the final at the José Alvalade stadium in Lisbon on 18 May 2005.

First qualified in UEFA Champions League

In the UEFA Champions League, the following 16 clubs have already qualified for the group phase: FC Porto, the holders, Valencia CF, FC Barcelona, Arsenal FC, Chelsea FC, AC Milan, AS Roma, Werder Bremen, Bayern Munich, Olympique Lyonnais, Paris St-Germain FC, Panathinaikos FC, Olympiacos Piraeus FC, AFC Ajax, Fenerbahce SK and Celtic FC.



Mohamed Sissoko, one of the Valencia FC side that won the last UEFA Cup to be held without group matches.

FLASH PRESS



A jubilant Olympiacos make it into the UEFA Champions League for the eighth time running.



Monaco's Grimaldi Forum will draw many observers for the Champions League group match draw.

As has been the custom since 1998, the Champions League will be officially launched at the Forum Grimaldi in Monaco, where the draw for the group stage will be held. Once again, the event in Monaco will act as a bridge between the old and new seasons, featuring a top-class UEFA Super Cup encounter between FC Porto, winners of the Champions League, and UEFA Cup holders Valencia CF. In addition to the preparatory meetings for the new season and the draw for the UEFA Cup first round, the UEFA gala evening will provide an opportunity to pay tribute to the winners and top players of the 2003/04 season. Theodoros Zagorakis, named the best player of EURO 2004, will also receive his award on that evening.

The plenary assembly of the European Club Forum, however, will not be held in Monaco this year, but at the UEFA headquarters in Nyon on 9 and 10 September.

First All-Iberian Super Cup



On 27 August, the Stade Louis II in Monaco will host the UEFA Super Cup for the eighth time and for the seventh successive year since the event became an established fixture in the European calendar.

Although this will be the first Super Cup duel between clubs from the Iberian peninsula, neither FC Porto nor opponents Valencia CF are newcomers to this competition, which they have both won in the past. The Spaniards lifted the trophy at their one previous attempt in 1980, when the Super Cup was still played on a home and away basis. They beat Nottingham Forest on the away goals rule (1-2 and 1-0) having qualified as holders of the Cup Winners' Cup.

Calendar for the 2004/05 season

UEFA Champions League

- 14 July 2004: first qualifying round, first legs
- 21 July: return legs
- 28 July: second qualifying round, first legs
- 30 July, Nyon: draw for the third qualifying round
- 4 August: return legs
- 10/11 August: third qualifying round, first legs
- 24/25 August: return legs
- 26 August, Monaco: draw for the group matches
- 14/15 September: group matches, match day 1
- 28/29 September: match day 2
- 19/20 October: match day 3
- 2/3 November: match day 4
- 23/24 November: match day 5
- 7/8 December: match day 6
- 17 December, Nyon: draw for the first knock-out round
- 22/23 February 2005: knock-out round, first legs
- 8/9 March: return legs
- 18 March, Nyon: draw for the quarter-finals and semi-finals
- 5/6 April: quarter-finals, first legs
- 12/13 April: return legs
- 26-27 April: semi-finals, first legs
- 3-4 May: return legs
- 25 May, Istanbul: final

UEFA Cup

- 15 July 2004: first qualifying round, first legs
- 29 July: return legs
- 30 July, Nyon: draw for the second qualifying round
- 12 August : second qualifying round, first legs
- 26 August: return legs
- 27 August, Monaco: draw for the first round
- 16 September: first round, first legs
- 30 September: return legs
- 5 October, Nyon: draw for the group matches
- 21 October: group matches, match day 1
- 4 November: match day 2
- 25 November: match day 3
- 1/2 December: match day 4
- 15/16 December: match day 5
- 17 December, Nyon: draw for the rounds of 32 and 16
- 16/17 February 2005: round of 32, first legs
- 24 February: return legs
- 10 March: round of 16, first legs
- 16/17 March: return legs
- 18 March, Nyon: draw for the quarter-finals and semi-finals
- 7 April: quarter-finals, first legs
- 14 April: return legs
- 28 April: semi-finals, first legs
- 5 May: return legs
- 18 May, Lisbon: final



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AC Milan, with Ruud Gullit (holding the Champion Clubs' Cup), twice pulled off the Champion Clubs' Cup, Super Cup and European/South American Cup trophy treble.



Colombia's Once Caldas, surprise winners of the Copa Libertadores.

AFP/ACOSTA

FC Porto also won their first UEFA Super Cup encounter when, as holders of the Champion Clubs' Cup, they beat AFC Ajax both in Amsterdam and in Porto (1-0 each time) in 1987. That season, the

Portuguese side also won the European/South American Cup to achieve a treble which only AC Milan (1989, 1990), AFC Ajax (1995), Juventus (1996) and Real Madrid (2002) have matched. Success in

Monaco this year would give them the chance to become the last club to achieve such a feat, since the intercontinental competition is due to be abolished in 2005. In Tokyo, the UEFA Champions League winners will face the Colombians of Once Caldas, who proved that it is not only in Europe that the underdogs are thriving this year by winning the Copa Libertadores in early July, beating the Argentinian holders Boca Juniors, who also won the last European/South American Cup. After a 0-0 draw in Colombia, the teams were still level after the return in Argentina (1-1) and, since the South Americans do not use the away goals rule or extra time, the winners were decided through a penalty shoot-out (2-0).

FC Porto contested the UEFA Super Cup for the second time last year as UEFA Cup holders. However, this time they lost to AC Milan, winners of the Champions League.

Final round in Finland



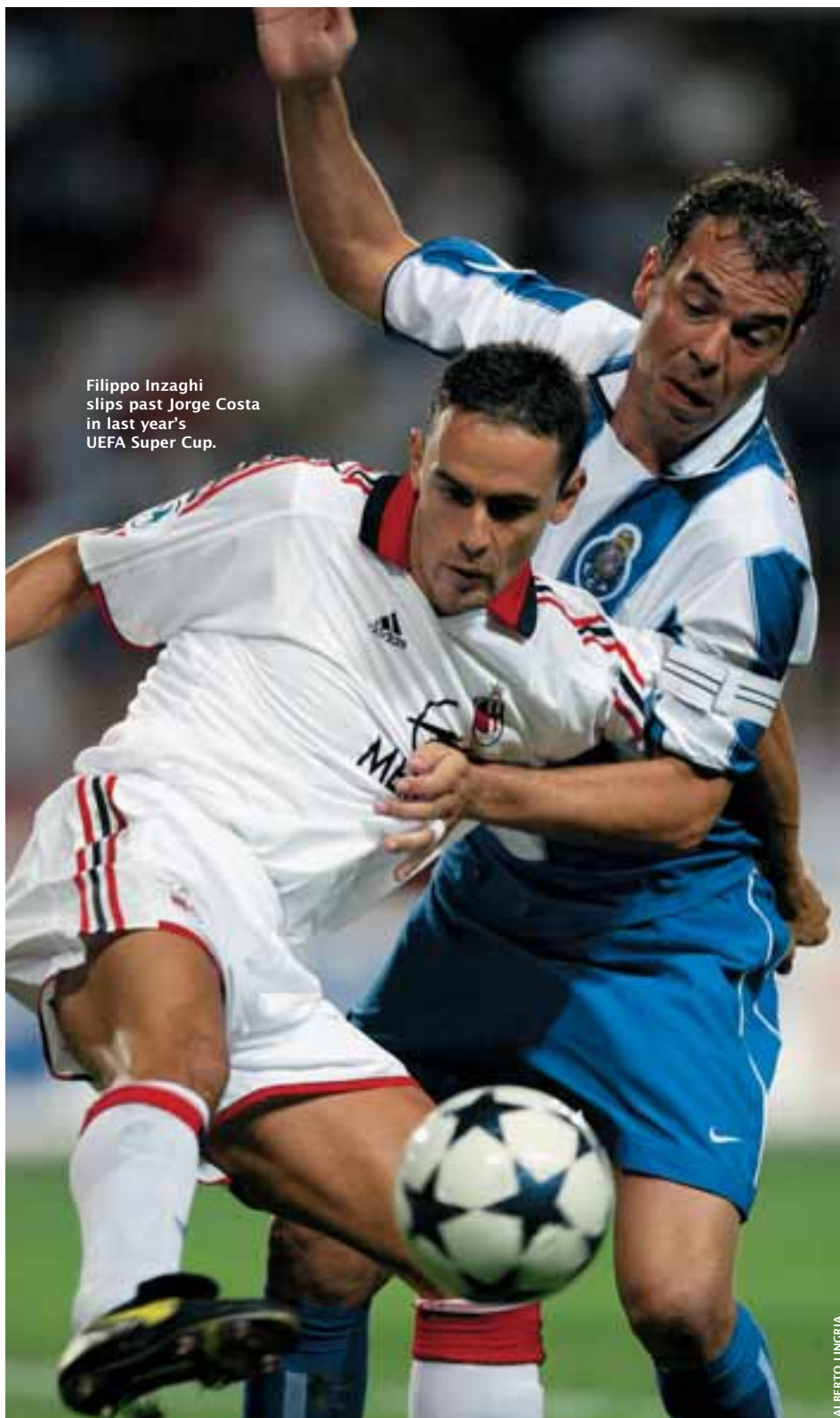
Final round of the third European Women's Under-19 Championship to be held in Finland from 28 July to 8 August.

In Helsinki on 18 May, the eight teams which have qualified were drawn into the following two groups:

A: Finland, Germany, Spain, Switzerland;

B: Norway, France, Italy, Russia.

The group matches will be played in Loviisa, Kauniainen, Hämeenlinna and Hyvinkää. Spain and Switzerland will contest the



Filippo Inzaghi slips past Jorge Costa in last year's UEFA Super Cup.

ALBERTO LINGRIA



Finalists in the last European Championship, Germany and Sweden will take part in the Olympic women's football tournament in Athens.



Karen Espelund of Norway, chair of the Women's Football Committee, conducted the draw for the UEFA Women's Cup.

opening match in Loviisa on 28 July and the group matches will continue until 2 August. The top two in each group will qualify for the semi-finals, to be held in Hämeenlinna on 5 August. The winners of group A will face the group B runners-up and the winners of group B will play the group A runners-up.

The final will take place in Vantaa's Pohjola stadium on Sunday 8 August. The title is currently held by France, the 2003 European champions.

The four semi-finalists will also compete in the Under-19 Women's World Championship to be held in Thailand from 10 to 27 November. The following groups were drawn in Bangkok on 11 June:

- A:** Thailand, Europe 2, Australia, Canada
- B:** Africa, China PR, Europe 4, Brazil ;
- C:** Korea Republic, USA, Europe 3, Europe 1

The USA won the first World Championship in Canada in 2002.

Olympic women's tournament

In Athens on 9 June, FIFA held the draw for the group stage of the Olympic women's tournament.

Europe will be represented at this tournament by the European champions, Germany, and runners-up Sweden, as well as the host country, Greece.

The groups were drawn as follows:

- 1. Sweden, Japan, Nigeria;
- 2. Germany, China PR, Mexico;
- 3. Greece, USA, Brazil, Australia

The tournament will be held from 11 to 26 August.

First round of the UEFA Women's Cup



The mini-tournaments in the first qualifying round of the 5th UEFA Women's Cup take place at the end of July according to the programme determined by means of a draw made at UEFA headquarters in Nyon on 15 June.

The 36 participating clubs have been divided into nine groups of four teams each. Only the group winners qualify for the second qualifying round, where they will be joined by the seven seeds, including titleholders Umeå IK from Sweden. The second qualifying round will also be played in the form of mini-tournaments, scheduled to take place in four groups between 13 and 19 September.

The competition will then continue with direct knock-out

matches involving the group winners and runners-up from the second qualifying round. The quarter-finals will be played in November, the semi-finals in April 2005, and the final – also over two legs – in May.

Notable absentees from the new competition are 1.FFC Frankfurt, one of the leading clubs in the first four editions, winners in 2002 and finalists this year, who have lost their German championship title to 1.FFC Turbine Potsdam.



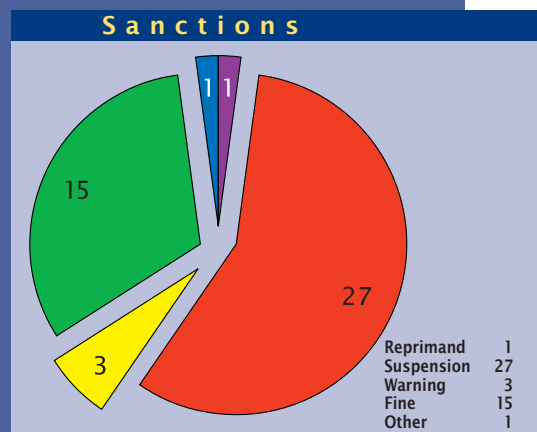
Cup-winners Umeå IK will be back to defend their title.

More yellow but less red

The referees at EURO 2004 showed 148 yellow cards, an average of 4.77 per match. This figure represents an increase of 31 compared to EURO 2000, when the average was 3.77 cards per match.

On the other hand, there were two red cards fewer than in 2000 (six instead of eight, i.e. an average of 0.19 per match instead of 0.26). Five of these resulted from a second yellow card in the same match, while the other was shown because of a foul that denied a goal-scoring opportunity.

The Control and Disciplinary Body dealt with 47 cases, mostly relating to players shown two yellow cards, improper conduct by a team (more than five cautions in the same match) or supporters, or a violation of the regulations.





A party
atmosphere
at UEFA.

UEFA Jubilee

Congratulations from FIFA

ALTHOUGH THE UEFA GOLDEN JUBILEE IS BEING CELEBRATED THROUGHOUT THE YEAR, 15 JUNE WAS A PARTICULARLY SPECIAL DAY, SINCE IT WAS THE ACTUAL ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF UEFA.

In order to mark the occasion, some 2,500 balloons were released at UEFA headquarters in Nyon by the UEFA administrative staff. National football associations from all over Europe were invited to do likewise. Balloons were also released in Portugal at the venues of the two EURO 2004 matches held that day in Porto and Aveiro.

The UEFA President, Lennart Johansson, also received, on UEFA's behalf, a letter of congratulations signed by the President and General Secretary of FIFA, Joseph S. Blatter and Urs Linsi.



"Exactly 50 years ago, the Hotel Euler in Basle played host to what would be a key meeting of leading European football figures, as it was at this meeting that UEFA was founded."

"Since its foundation, UEFA has helped European football to acquire an enviable reputation. UEFA's competitions at club and national team level, such as EURO 2004, which has been successfully launched in Portugal, enthral and thrill football fans all around the world. Your organisation can proudly look back upon fifty very successful years."

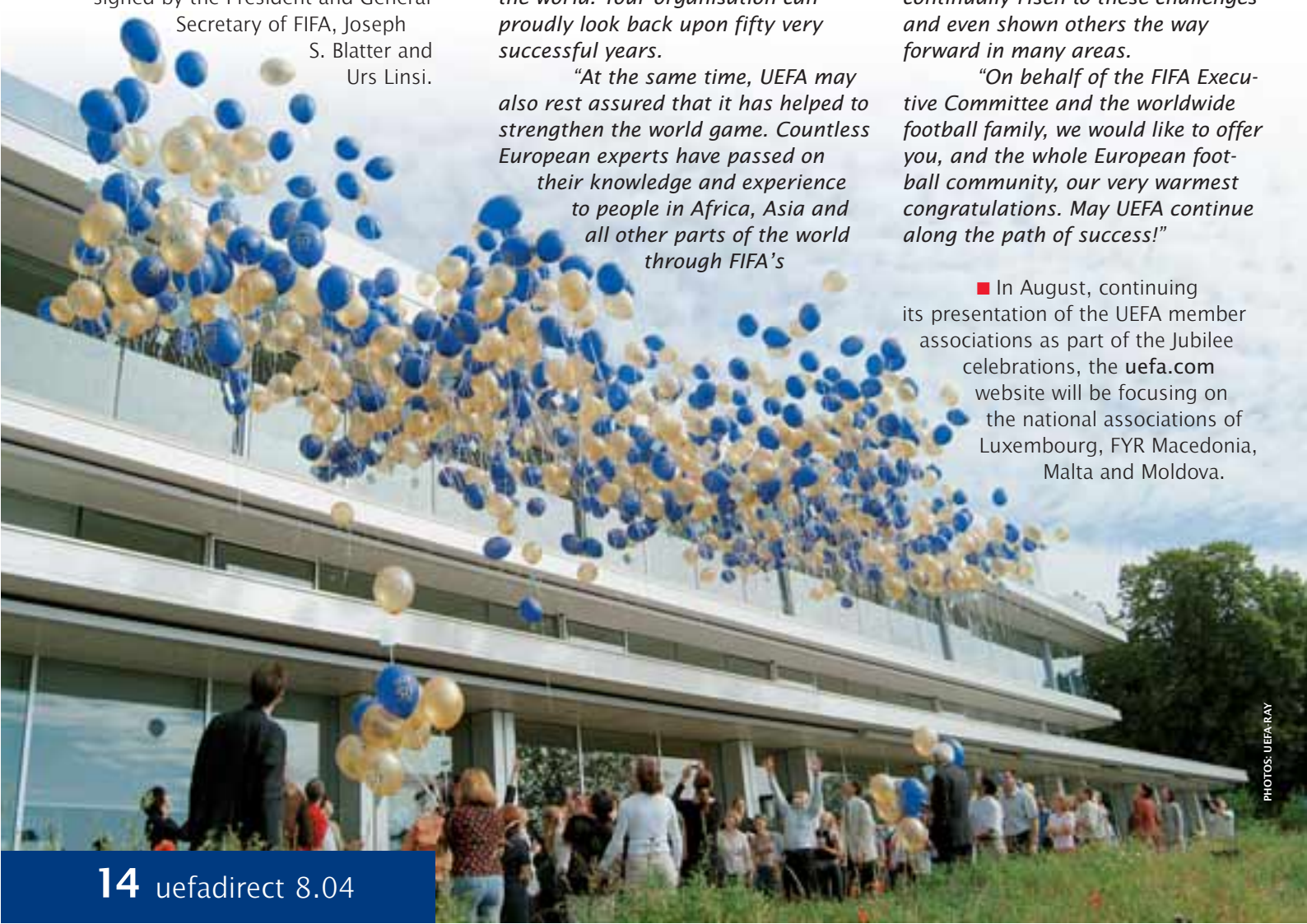
"At the same time, UEFA may also rest assured that it has helped to strengthen the world game. Countless European experts have passed on their knowledge and experience to people in Africa, Asia and all other parts of the world through FIFA's

development courses, thereby making a telling contribution to the globalisation of the game. Conversely, players from all around the world continue to impress with European clubs."

"During the first five decades of its existence, UEFA has certainly had its fair share of hurdles to overcome, but under your leadership and that of your esteemed predecessors, most notably the Honorary President Jacques Georges who sadly passed away recently, UEFA has continually risen to these challenges and even shown others the way forward in many areas."

"On behalf of the FIFA Executive Committee and the worldwide football family, we would like to offer you, and the whole European football community, our very warmest congratulations. May UEFA continue along the path of success!"

■ In August, continuing its presentation of the UEFA member associations as part of the Jubilee celebrations, the uefa.com website will be focusing on the national associations of Luxembourg, FYR Macedonia, Malta and Moldova.



PHOTOS: UEFA RAY



Report from Brussels

On 18 June, the EU's 25 government leaders finally agreed on a new Constitutional Treaty. After 12 months of tough negotiations, the Irish Presidency of the EU was able to find a compromise that satisfied everyone.

Most importantly, the new Treaty:

- creates the post of President of the European Council, serving for a term of up to five years, replacing the rotating six-month presidency;
- creates the post of EU Foreign Minister;
- gives new powers to the European Parliament;
- enables national parliaments to ensure EU law does not injure member states' rights;
- introduces simplified majority voting in the Council of Ministers (a 'yes' vote requires at least 15 member states comprising at least 65 per cent of EU population).

For the first time in the history of the EU, the Treaty includes provisions on sport. The most important parts of Article 182 are as follows:

"The Union shall contribute to the promotion of European sporting issues, while taking account of its specific nature, its structures based on voluntary activity and its social and educational function..."

...Union action shall be aimed at:

- g) developing the European dimension in sport, by promoting fairness and openness in sporting competitions and cooperation between bodies responsible for sports, and by protecting the physical and moral integrity of sportsmen and sportswomen, especially young sportsmen and sportswomen."*

For UEFA, this final text is not perfect, but satisfactory. The fact that the article now mentions the "specific nature" of sport is a significant improvement on the initial proposal of 2003.

Executive Committee meeting Committees and consultative body appointed

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MET IN LISBON ON 29 JUNE, WITH ITS

TWO COOPTED MEMBERS, GILBERTO MADAÍL (PORTUGAL) AND GREGORIY SURKIS

(UKRAINE), IN ATTENDANCE FOR THE FIRST TIME.



Ernie Walker on one of his many stadium inspection tours.

One of the main tasks of the meeting was to approve the composition of the committees and panels, which are so vital to the functioning of UEFA, for the 2004-06 period. There will still be 11 committees and all the national associations will be represented among their members. However, in accordance with the amendment to the UEFA Statutes adopted at the recent Congress in Limassol, the membership of five of these committees has been increased from 11 to 13. Continuity will be helped by the fact that most of the committees will keep the same chairperson. This is the case with the:

– **Club Competitions Committee**, chaired by Friedrich Stickler (Austria);

– **Assistance Programmes Committee**: Jan Peeters (Belgium);
 – **Futsal Committee**: Petr Fousek (Czech Republic);
 – **Medical Committee**: Dr Urs Vogel (Switzerland);
 – **National Teams Committee**: Lars-Åke Lagrell (Sweden);
 – **Referees Committee**: Volker Roth (Germany);
 – **Women's Football Committee**: Karen Espelund (Norway);
 – **Youth and Amateur Football Committee**: Jim Boyce (Northern Ireland).

The other three committees will have a new chairperson: in the Stadium and Security Committee, Michael van Praag (Netherlands) will replace Ernie Walker (Scotland), a universally recognised expert in



Referees Anders Frisk, Markus Merk and Lubos Michel contributed to the ICRC campaign in a number of ways, including a visit to Sierra Leone.



Noisy but peaceful fans at EURO 2004.

Red Cross honours UEFA

UEFA used EURO 2004 as a platform to give widespread promotion to its joint "Protect Children in War" campaign with the ICRC. Four leading international referees – Pierluigi Collina, Anders Frisk, Markus Merk and Lubos Michel – are acting as ambassadors during the campaign, which was the focus of particular attention at the quarter-final between Portugal and England on 24 June.



Lars-Christer Olsson and Lennart Johansson received awards from President of the Portuguese Red Cross, Jose Luis Nogueira de Brito (centre).

As a mark of gratitude to UEFA for its continued support of the International Committee of the Red Cross over the years, and in particular for UEFA's readiness to publicise the campaign during EURO 2004, the Portuguese Red Cross presented medals to the UEFA President, Lennart Johansson, and CEO Lars-Christer Olsson.

The FARE (Football Against Racism in Europe) network also made use of EURO 2004 to continue to draw public attention to the scourge of racism and to carry out various actions to prevent it arising.

OBITUARY

■ **Michele Pierro** (Italy), member of the Youth Football Committee from 1986 to 1990 and from 1992 to 1996, passed away on 30 June aged 70. A lawyer by profession, he also served as vice-president of the Italian Football Federation.

■ The General Secretary of the Portuguese Football Federation, **Manuel Quaresma**, who was a member of the UEFA Security Officers Panel and Match Delegates Panel, died on 11 July aged 49, only a few days after the end of EURO 2004. As Deputy Tournament Director, he made a major contribution to the success of the event.

security issues; Ernie Walker has been a member of this body since it was set up in 1986 as the Stadia Committee and has chaired it since 1990. Josef Venglos (Slovakia), who has chaired the Technical Development Committee since 2000, will pass the baton to Vlatko Markovic (Croatia), although he will remain a vice-chairman of the Committee. Dave Richards (England) will take over as chairman of the Professional Football Committee, which has been chaired by Pedro Tomas (Spain) since 2000.

There are no changes to the Control and Disciplinary Body and the Appeals Body, whose members were appointed for four years in 2002.

Consultative body

The Executive Committee also approved the creation of a tripartite consultative body, in which representatives of the Executive Committee, the professional leagues and clubs will discuss issues common to all three. The Executive Committee will be represented by the four UEFA vice-presidents: Senes Erzik, Per Ravn Omdal, Angel Maria Villar and Geoffrey Thompson.

Keen to promote dialogue between all members of the football community, the Executive Committee also approved a memorandum of

understanding with FIFPro, the trade union for European professional footballers. It also intends to open social dialogue with FIFPro and the professional leagues, as advocated by the European Union.

The meeting also considered the report of a working group responsible for redefining UEFA's global strategy in the fight against doping. The working group's conclusions and proposals will be discussed at a later date. The Executive Committee expressed a firm intention to step up the fight against doping in partnership with FIFA and the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA), not forgetting preventative measures.

Convention for coaches

Following the recommendation by the Jira Panel and the Technical Development Committee, the Executive Committee approved the addition of three new associations as full members to the UEFA Convention on the Mutual Recognition of Coaching Qualifications. The associations of Northern Ireland, Romania and Ukraine will now therefore be able to award the Pro licence; meanwhile, the associations of FYR Macedonia and Serbia and Montenegro were given permission to award the A licence, having previously been accepted for the B licence.

In summary

The Executive Committee also:

- unveiled the new logo for the UEFA Cup, which will be presented in Monaco in August;
- approved the regulations of the 2004 UEFA Super Cup;
- noted with satisfaction the excellent results of EURO 2004 in terms of TV audiences and visits to the official website, euro2004.com; it also welcomed the incredible level of interest shown in the competition in Asia where, in China for example, up to 50 million TV viewers had been watching each day;
- was updated on the progress of the implementation of the club licensing system and welcomed the excellent cooperation of the national associations and leagues;
- approved the regulations of the Meridian Cup to be played in Turkey in early 2005; only two trophies will be awarded: the Meridian Cup itself, awarded to the best confederation, and the fair play trophy. In order to reflect the spirit of the competition, there will therefore no longer be trophies for the best team from each continent and the best team overall. This change has also been approved by the African football confederation.



BELARUS
Up,
up and away.



BELGIUM
URBSFA
President
Jan Peeters
(centre)
at the presentation
of the digital
card.

PHOTO NEWS

News from member associations



ARMENIA

Armenia joins the jubilee festivities

On 15 June, the Armenian FA's football school marked UEFA's 50th anniversary with four simultaneous matches involving some 300 8-14-year-olds.

Before that, the young footballers released special UEFA jubilee balloons in the presence of the FFA leadership and Executive Committee, representatives from top-division clubs, journalists and Bruno Wolfisberg from UEFA, who is responsible for the HatTrick project in Armenia.

In his address to the gathering, FFA Executive Director Armen Minasyan said that the FFA will do its best to ensure that Armenian football comes up to UEFA's expectations, starting with youth football, the development of which is the subject of scrupulous attention in Armenia.

Apart from this celebration, sets of the UEFA Golden Jubilee books were presented by the FFA to Armenian football clubs, sports newspapers and three of the country's biggest libraries (National Library, Republican Library and National Children's Library).

Arayik Manukyan



BELARUS

Celebrating UEFA's Golden Jubilee

To celebrate the 50th anniversary of the foundation of UEFA, the youth players of FC Smena Minsk released 50 special jubilee balloons from the new prototype mini-pitch.

On 27 June, veteran teams from various regions took part in a tournament dedicated to Belarus Independence Day and UEFA's jubilee. A team from Baranovichy won the tournament.

Alexander Tomin



BELGIUM

Digital card for each member

The Belgian Football Association (URBSFA) is Belgium's largest sports federation, with 450,000 registered members. Managing such a huge membership list is quite a challenge. From the 2004/05 season, each member will be issued with a digital URBSFA membership card. The card will be similar

to a bank card, displaying the holder's surname, first name, date of birth and membership number. The card also contains a microchip, which stores certain fixed and variable data (club/transfers, etc.). In the long run, the URBSFA will even be able to use the card as a means of identification. We have already taken the first step in this direction. The card has many advantages for URBSFA members. For example, different commercial partners keen to reach active footballers will be able to offer certain benefits to members. In other words, the commercial partners will provide financial incentives for URBSFA members.

We are pleased to announce that the URBSFA will be working in partnership with *Euro Shoe Unie SA* of Diest. *Euro Shoe Unie SA* owns the big retail names *Primo Stadion SA*, *Shoes in the box*, *Avance* and *Shoe Discount*. All URBSFA members will receive significant discounts when making purchases from any of the aforementioned chains.

The card will be a genuine URBSFA membership card. This means that other commercial partners (as long as they are not competitors of the URBSFA's other partners) are warmly invited to offer benefits to URBSFA members. As more commercial partners join the scheme, our members will make increasing use of their URBSFA membership cards. In this way, they will identify more with their sport. The membership cards will be sent to the clubs by mid-August 2004 at the latest. The clubs will then be responsible for distributing them to their members.

François Vantomme



BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

Preparing for the World Cup qualifiers

At the recent assembly of the Football Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, held at the Olympic Museum in the Zetra sports centre, the main items on the agenda were reports on achievements since the last meeting and the adoption of the budget for 2003/04. In his introduction, FF BHZ President Milan Jelic was pleased to be able to state that the picture was generally positive.

The national team had got within a step of EURO 2004, and other national teams, notably the futsal team, had achieved good results too. In terms of organisation, the club licensing exercise was in its final stages.

The delegates concluded that results could be better, but devoted most



ENGLAND A highly appreciated course in New Zealand.



of their attention to youth football. The Executive Board has adopted a new youth competition structure for Bosnia and Herzegovina. Under the new system, four new leagues will be created by territory. The top teams from each league will go through to a play-off competition to determine the national champions.

The new season kicks off on 7 August, and all of the teams are busy warming up. Many clubs have brought in new head coaches, as has been the case in previous seasons, and only the current champions go into the new season with the same head coach.

In preliminary round of the UEFA Champions League, NK Siroki Brijeg will be led by Ivo Iztuk, the best head coach in Bosnia and Herzegovina at the moment. The Bosnia and Herzegovina national team, led by head coach Blaz Slišković and director Ahmet Pasalic, are making their final preparations for their first matches in the 2006 World Cup qualifying competition, against Spain in September and against Serbia and Montenegro in October. Both are home matches for Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Fuad Krivavac



ENGLAND

Gillett praises Oceania coaches

FA coach Alan Gillett praised the attitude of the 18 coaches who attended the 2004 OFC Indigenous Senior Coaching Licence

courses organised in conjunction with The FA at the OFC Academy in Auckland, New Zealand.

"The coaches have been excellent and have gone way beyond my expectations," said Gillett. "Since the first course last year, we have modified the content, made the delivery more user-friendly and the response has been positive as a result."

According to Gillett, the coaches are thriving under the mentoring structure in place, which sees those that attended and passed last year's Level 1 course working in pairs with the new participants. The "buddying system" puts the emphasis more on communication and interaction, with increased practical sessions, as opposed to a classroom setting, thereby creating a better understanding of coaching concepts. The courses aim to ensure that participants are qualified to tutor junior coach licence courses in their own countries, with those progressing beyond Level 2 able to tutor the first stage of the Senior Coaching Licence that OFC plans to implement after its technical department is in place in the near future.

"We are greatly indebted to The FA and to Alan", said Acting OFC General Secretary, Tai Nicholas. "I have no doubt that the programme we are putting in place will enable the participants to return home and pass on the knowledge they have attained to a new generation of coaches in the islands."

Kim Fisher



FINLAND

Six new quality youth clubs

The Football Association of Finland has nominated six clubs as the new youth football quality clubs in Finland. In June, FC YPA, Oriveden Tuisku, Janakkalan Pallo, FC Jazz Juniors, Puotinkylän Valtti and Gammalkarleby Bollklubben were given the youth quality club status. The quality club system has been developed by the Young Finland organisation with different sports associations. Over 300 clubs in more than 30 sports have already been awarded quality club status. In football, the total number of quality clubs, including the newcomers, amounts to 30. Quality club activities are one of the six main target areas of the All-Stars football programme for children and youth.

Young Finland has defined common regulations for all quality clubs:

- Activities have to be diverse and educational;
- Clubs have to pay attention to each individual child and youngster;
- Instructors and coaches have to be qualified to work with children and young people.

Based on these common guidelines, each sports association defines its own club standards. The Football Association of Finland started its own quality club system in 2001 within its grassroots department.

There are five fields in which quality clubs must meet the standards in order to be eligible for the award:

- Education
- Guidance
- Fair Play
- Communications
- Economics and administration.

In addition to these five quality standards, a club may have one or more standards which it defines itself to symbolise its commitment to its members and environment. They also act as guiding principles, helping each person working with the club to understand the different aspects of youth club principles.

Quality control is carried out by the club individually. Trust is a keyword, but the system also controls itself through the promises made by the organisation. When a club is ready to meet quality club standards, it submits an application the Finnish FA's grassroots department. This year, about 25,000 children and young people in Finland are playing football in the 30 youth football quality clubs, and the number is growing rapidly.

Jukka Salasuo



FINLAND Along with all young Finnish footballers, Finland's Under-15s (in stripes, here against Poland) benefit from training provided by quality clubs.



GEORGIA
The
Club Licensing
Committee.



ICELAND
Mini-pitches
in response
to the love
of the game.



GEORGIA

"The Magnificent Seven"

The first licensing procedure in Georgia was completed in early May. Only seven of the 12 top-division clubs obtained the licence for the forthcoming season. Like the famous characters in the well-known American Western, the licensed clubs differ greatly in their playing style, sporting merits and financial possibilities, but, at the same time, they all have one thing in common – a responsibility to fulfil their licensing obligations. The "magnificent seven" are new Georgia champions FC WIT Georgia, vice-champions and cup winners FC Dinamo Tbilisi, FC Sioni Bolnisi, FC Tbilisi, FC Dila Gori, FC Lokomotivi and FC Spartak, who, despite being relegated, fulfilled their obligations towards the GFF Licensing Committee and met all the national requirements.

Unfortunately, not everything went smoothly in this first licensing exercise in Georgia. On account of the hard economic situation in the country, the majority of the clubs experienced difficulties in solving infrastructural and financial problems. At the moment there are only two stadiums available in Georgia which meet the UEFA licensing requirements, but we hope that this number will increase quite soon, since the Georgian professional football league is enforcing drastic and tough changes for the domestic championship.

However, it is sporting merit which counts in football above all else, and it would be a pity for a club that has done well on the field to be denied a place in the UEFA competitions because it failed to meet the licensing criteria. Our clubs are supposed to take this fact into consideration and take the licensing process in general more seriously.

The first licensing exercise has been very hard and tense both for the licensor and for the licensees, but the main thing was that all the participants understood that the main licensing objectives were aimed at the further development and promotion of the football in our country, in compliance with the UEFA motto – "We care about football!"

Bakar Jordania



ICELAND

Mini-pitch fever

The launch of UEFA's Jubilee mini-pitch programme earlier this year sparked a kind of mini-pitch fever in Iceland. The programme was presented to local authorities all over the country and the response was excellent. In total, applications for over 100 mini-pitches were submitted to the FA, which had planned to build at least 40, and the target has been set at 60 mini-pitches within the next two years. The FA received the support of sponsors and the local government to supplement

UEFA's contribution, which has made this project as big as it has become. First-rate, third-generation artificial turf will be laid on the pitches, the same kind as has been laid in Iceland's indoor football halls. The mini-pitch programme will give youngsters in Iceland the opportunity to play football in top-class conditions at any time of the year, even during the coldest winter months.

Eggert Magnusson, President of the FA of Iceland said: "With UEFA's Jubilee mini-pitch programme, we have an even better chance to provide children with the opportunity to practise sport in a protected environment."

Ómar Smárason



ISRAEL

Record high of 25,000 youth players

The 2003/04 season ended with many new records and achievements from professional and popular perspectives. Over 25,000 youth players from the ages of 10 to 19 were involved last year in 750 teams in 61 active leagues under the umbrella of the Israeli Football Association (IFA). The highest record ever of more than 18,000 formal games were played. With a strong correlation to these figures, an Israeli team of 12-year-olds won the Fox Kids world cup on 24 June, beating Brazil 3-2 in the final and defeating Spain, the U.S., France and the Netherlands along the way. The team is coached by Israeli football legend Asher Almanie.

Under the shadow of EURO 2004, four teams have begun their preparations for next season's UEFA club competitions. For the first time, two of them, Maccabi Haifa and Maccabi Tel-Aviv, have their hopes set on getting through the UEFA Champions League qualifying competition. In an historical achievement, an Israeli-Arab team, cup-holders Bnei Sakhnin, will be playing in the UEFA Cup for the first time, with enormous support from Israeli and Arab-Israeli fans.

Early in June, the IFA launched its new website www.israel-football.org.il. Together with the English version which is currently being prepared, our web pages will serve as a useful resource for all football fans wanting to explore the history of football in Israel and to find online results and standing tables for almost 100 active leagues.

Alon Zager



ISRAEL
Bnei Sakhnin
(Leor Assoulin, centre)
have qualified
for the UEFA Cup
via the Israel Cup.

AFP/COHEN



LITHUANIA
A campaign
to attract
youngsters
into football.



MALTA
Malta, captained
by Noel Turner,
No. 7, beat
Estonia in the
12th international
tournament.



MOLDOVA
The Gugutsa
youth
tournament.



LITHUANIA

Football stadiums instead of school classes

Throughout July, staff from the Lithuanian Football will be travelling around the country visiting various cities as the long-awaited project "Let's get children back onto the football field" gets under way.

Twenty schools in different parts of Lithuania are taking part.

Each participating school has selected two teachers who will attend a special football coaching course. Then the teachers will run training sessions with interested pupils during the summer holidays.

The Lithuanian Football Federation is pleased to have attracted a big supporter for this project - mobile phone card suppliers ECYS.

Vaiva Zizaite



MALTA

An eventful season

The 2003/04 season has been an eventful one for the Malta FA, mostly from an administrative point of view.

Pride of place goes to the re-election of MFA President Joseph Mifsud on the UEFA Executive Committee at the XXVIII UEFA Congress in Cyprus in April. When his term of office ends, Dr Mifsud will have held that seat for 12 consecutive years - no mean achievement for a country the size of Malta.

In January, the association hosted a meeting for top football officials from Bulgaria, Croatia, Hungary, Iceland and Sweden to set the fixtures for the 2006 World Cup qualifiers in Group 8 as well as for the European Under-21 Championship.

The Malta FA followed this event by organising the 12th biennial inter-

national tournament, with the participation of the eventual winners, Belarus, Estonia, Moldova and host country Malta.

Two months later the MFA met officials of affiliated clubs, members of the media and other interested persons at a conference aimed at boosting the popularity of the game in Malta in the wake of a national survey carried out earlier in the season on the state of football on the island. Several positive initiatives were taken to enhance interest among the Maltese public.

Conscious of its role to lead its member clubs to adhere to UEFA's licensing regulations, a campaign was launched to help clubs conform with these standards. Cooperation from clubs was most satisfactory as time frames were adhered to. An independent commission was set up to confirm that clubs had the necessary requisites to obtain licences.

Following Malta's accession to the EU on 1 May, it was also necessary for the MFA to adopt new regulations regarding registration and eligibility of players from EU member countries and those from the EEA, who are now considered as non-foreigners.

While conforming with the laws, the association kept in mind that Maltese football, particularly the youth sector, had to be protected. Measures to this effect have been taken.

Other areas covered were new policies for football nurseries and the new MFA Doping Charter in the light of the WADA regulations.

The process for these changes, together with amendments to the association's statutes, took some time to be finalised. Months of discussions by the various MFA boards were followed by a seminar for member clubs and member associations in June to explain and clarify all points arising out of these changes.

Alex Vella



MOLDOVA

Return of Gugutsa

After a short break, the traditional Gugutsa tournament for children aged 12-13 has resumed. Twelve teams from all regions of Moldova had a wonderful opportunity to play on the fields of the national teams' technical centre in Vadul-lui-Voda. After three days of very interesting encounters, the little footballers from Ialoveni defeated their counterparts from Nisporeni in the final, while in the match for third place, Drochia overcame Edinet by the same score of 1-0.

In the opinion of the participants and their coaches, these competitions are very useful for improving technique, physical training and tactics.

All of the participants received footballs and shirts from the FA of Moldova and the Olimpia sports club.

Vasile Vatamanu



REPUBLIC OF IRELAND

Looking forward to the World Cup qualifiers

After a somewhat troubled end to his first year as the new Irish senior international manager, Brian Kerr was happy to set off on his summer break in a much more contented frame of mind than he might have thought possible.

A couple of morale-boosting performances by his international squad in a series of end-of-season friendly games were the reason why Brian set off for a quick trip to the European Championships in Portugal to have a look at two of the countries he will have to face in the 2006 World Cup qualifiers when he 'returns to work' in the autumn.

France and Switzerland were the main focus of the attention of the Irish



MOLDOVA The Gugutsa tournament was also an opportunity to campaign against racism.



SERBIA AND MONTENEGRO
The press officer traces UEFA history before the balloons are released. In the background, Stjepan Bobek and Rajko Mitic.

FS SCG



SFZ

SLOVAKIA
Football for a good cause.



NZS

SLOVENIA
Drazen Zvezelj was top scorer in the 2003/04 championship.

team manager in Portugal, and it gave him a renewed sense of hope for the upcoming games against both nations in the World Cup when their interest in EURO 2004 ended sooner than both countries would have wished.

The defeat of reigning champions France by Greece was the major shock of the games in Portugal, but the result would have sent a smile filtering across the face of the Irish manager.

The Irish are due in Paris in October to face the French in the World Cup qualifying campaign, and for Kerr and his squad it will be interesting to see how the EURO champs of 2000 will have overcome their defeat by the Greeks.

Kerr's hopes for those World Cup qualifiers were sent soaring in the few games the Irish had to round off their end-of-season routine.

Following a heartening 2-1 home victory over the Czech Republic in March and a scoreless draw away to Poland the following month, Kerr's squad followed up those results with a victory over Romania in a friendly in Dublin, success against Jamaica in a tournament in London and a wonderful solitary-goal win over the Netherlands in Amsterdam.

The only set-back in what was a glittering run of encouraging results was a three-goal defeat by Nigeria in their first game of the Unity Cup tournament in London, though it has to be said that that particular game came just two days after the Romania game and the journey from Dublin to London the following day.

But overall, Brian Kerr was extremely pleased with the performances of his squad and particularly by some young new players he was forced to bring in for the series of matches.

Brendan McKenna



SERBIA AND MONTENEGRO

Celebrating 50 years of UEFA

As in all other European countries whose national football associations are members of UEFA, the Golden Jubilee of UEFA was celebrated in Serbia and Montenegro on 15 June. Fifty helium-filled balloons were released near the offices of the FA of Serbia and Montenegro in Belgrade in the presence of FA officials, as well as media representatives and local citizens.

At the beginning of the ceremony, which started at noon exactly, the history of UEFA was briefly traced, after which two eminent football legends, old aces Stjepan

Bobek and Rajko Mitic, were honoured to release the balloons. Both of them played for their country (Bobek - 63 caps and 38 goals, Mitic - 59 caps and 32 goals), winning silver Olympic medals and achieving their greatest successes 50 years ago, when UEFA was born. They played for two biggest city rivals - FK Partizan and FK Crvena zvezda.

As the balloons headed skywards, the EURO 2004 anthem, "Força" sung by Nelly Furtado, was played. All TV stations and daily papers reported on this event.

Nebojsa Ivkovic



SLOVAKIA

Association supports a good cause

In June, the Slovakian Football Association celebrated UEFA's Golden Jubilee and FIFA's centenary. Primary and secondary school children learned about both of these sports bodies and, of course, football tournaments were held. The children were given balloons with the UEFA Jubilee logo, which they released into the skies at the end of the celebrations.

Also in June, the Slovakian FA responded to a request from FIFA to support World Blood Donor Day on 14 June. The FA appealed on its website and in the media to football academies, clubs, personalities and football fans.

Several Slovakian football personalities responded to the appeal, including Robert Tomaschek, the former national team captain, Marek Krejci, current international and player for FC Artmedia Bratislava, and Vladimir Wänke, the FA's sports director a regular blood donor. The blood was donated at the transfusion department of the Cyril a Metod hospital in Bratislava.

"I didn't think about it for a second. When I heard that this appeal had been made, I immediately said that I was prepared to

take part. Blood is the most valuable liquid there is and it can help or even save the lives of people who urgently need it - maybe even footballers," said FC Artmedia Bratislava player Marek Krejci.

Karolina Ducka

NOGOMETNA ZVEZA SLOVENIJE

NZS



SLOVENIA

Changes to Slovenian Cup system

The traditional post-season meeting is also used to plan for the next season. In one day, the Football Association of Slovenia, in cooperation with the First League Clubs' Association, decided on the awards for the best clubs, players, etc. in 2003/04 and organised the draw for the first- and second-division championships and the Slovenian Cup for 2004/05.

The awards were given to the best scorer (Drazen Zvezelj, Primorje) and to the clubs that won the Slovenian championship (Gorica) and Slovenian Cup (Maribor PL), as well as for fair play (Gorica, Rudar,

Triglav, Dravinja).

A special award was made to Primorje and CMC Publikum for qualifying for the UEFA competitions.

For next season, the FA has decided to change the cup competition system to make it more attractive.

The First League Clubs will

now join the competition at a later stage.

The final will comprise just one match instead of two legs.

The first- and second-division championships remain unchanged, so both leagues continue to



EMPICS

REPUBLIC OF IRELAND
Andy O'Brien (in green) gets in front of Jamaica's Keven Lisbie in the Unity Cup.



SvFF

SWEDEN
A record
number of
participants
in the
football
schools.



FFU

UKRAINE
Dynamo Kiev's
captain,
Valentin
Belkevich,
holds aloft the
championship
trophy.

play with 12 clubs. The first-division championship kicks off on 1 August with the following line-up: CMC Publikum vs Kumho Drava, Koper vs Gorica, Ljubljana vs Zagorje, Domzale vs KD Olimpija, Primorje vs Bela Krajina, and Maribor Pivovarna Lasko vs Mura. The second division embarks on its championship one week later with the following fixtures: Supernova Triglav vs Rudar, Izola Argeta vs Aluminij, Svoboda vs Livar, Krsko vs Factor, Nafta vs Koroska Dravograd, and Smartno vs Dravinja.

Irena Ilesic Cujovic



SWEDEN

Råsunda first choice

The Råsunda national stadium in Solna is to be renovated and rebuilt in order to meet the Swedish FA's need for a modern venue capable of hosting top international football. This solution was preferred to the option of the city of Stockholm's plans for a modern, multi-functional arena. Now the FA is inviting the cities of Solna and Stockholm and other possible partners to discuss how to move on with the project. The aim is to have the decision-making basis ready for the FA representatives' meeting in December. A final resolution on the topic can then be made at the FA annual general meeting next March.

Råsunda (capacity 36,100) is currently owned by the FA. Inaugurated in 1937, it has already been renovated several times. The future arena is intended to meet all the demands of a top-of-the-range modern arena and to accommodate some 50,000 spectators.

Well over 70,000 youngsters in 719 clubs took part in this summer's FA-run football schools throughout the country. Participation is over 6% higher than last year's record figures and the number of clubs involved has increased by almost 10%. The football school package includes training of new grassroots leaders; this year

more than 8,000 new leaders have been recruited to youth football and trained through the football school programme.

Thomas Saletog



TURKEY

Aegean region awaits friends from Europe and Africa

In February 2005, the Meridian Cup will take place in the Aegean region of Turkey, in the town of Kusadasi which is one of the most remarkable sites in Turkey, with its historical places and touristic highlights, such as Ephesus Antic City, the Virgin Mary House and the Artemis Temple. The Turkish Football Association has been organising the International Aegean Cup (U16 tournament) in this region for seven years, with the tournament centre located at the Fantasia Hotel. As a result of the increasing success of the tournament, with high-level organisation and comfortable hotel facilities for the participating teams, we have been receiving more and more requests to take part in this tournament.

On account of the Meridian Cup, the Aegean Cup will not be organised this year, and preparations for the Meridian Cup are already under way. A UEFA delegation has already been on a site visit and held discussions with representatives of the Turkish Football Association. It inspected the Kusadasi, Söke, Ödemiş and Aydın Mukan Perincek stadiums, training grounds and the facilities at the Fantasia Hotel. Since hundreds of players and officials from two continents and different countries will be staying at the same hotel for ten days, good organisation is of paramount importance as regards the hotel and transportation to and from the match venues. We will also try to highlight the cultural richness of the region and organise sightseeing tours to nearby attractions.

In the U17 final tournament in France in May, France, Spain, Portugal and Turkey emerged as Europe's representatives in the Meridian Cup, an event which is con-

ceived as a festival of football based on the friendship of the continents and the countries and which does not produce a cup-winner. The goal is to promote good and friendly relations among the young players.

We are now waiting with impatience to welcome the new visitors from Africa as well as our old friends, who have visited Turkey before. The traditional curtain-raiser gala game is expected to attract huge interest from the people living in this region.

We are certain that the Meridian Cup will provide friendship among the young players from different continents and from different cultures and that they will have the opportunity to share experiences.

We are looking forward to hosting our friends in the Aegean region in Turkey.

Metin Tuncer



UKRAINE

In honour of Victor Bannikov

This year, the third international youth football tournament in honour of Victor Bannikov, the first president of the Football Federation of Ukraine (FFU), took place in Kyiv and the Kyiv region from 14 to 19 June. Victor Bannikov was instrumental in gaining FIFA and UEFA recognition for the independent Football Federation of Ukraine when it came into being.

The international tournament in commemoration of Victor Bannikov, an unparalleled goalkeeper, is designed to establish fruitful, mutually beneficial contacts between football associations – something Victor Bannikov dreamt of as the first president of the national association. For the third such tournament, the Under-17 teams of the Czech Republic, Poland, Moldova, Russia, Turkey, Slovakia, Lithuania and Ukraine were divided into two groups, with the two group winners contesting the final. Off the field, the participants were able to pay their respects to Victor Bannikov and Valeriy Lobanovsky by visiting their graves at the Baikove cemetery.

Turkey won the tournament, beating Ukraine 3-2 on penalties in the final. In the play-off for third place, Slovakia beat the Czech Republic 3-1. The final day of the tournament coincided with the end of the Ukrainian top-division championship, which saw FC Dynamo Kyiv collecting their 11th championship title. Afterwards, the memorial tournament participants, the Ukrainian champions and FC Dynamo Kyiv supporters were treated to a celebratory concert at Dynamo's Valeriy Lobanovsky Stadium, where many Ukrainian and Russian pop stars performed.

Valeriy Nykonenko



TURKEY The Kusadasi stadium hosted the second qualifying round in the 2003/04 European Under-19 Championship.



Communications

Birthdays – Calendar

Birthdays

Hermann Selbherr (Germany), member of the Match Delegates Panel, will be 70 on 16 August, and on 25 August, Dulberto Gloria (Portugal), member of the Ticketing Panel, will be 60. UEFA also wishes many happy returns to:

- Theodore Theodoridis (Greece, 1.8)
- Süheyl Önen (Turkey, 2.8)
- Peter Gans (Netherlands, 3.8)
- Andreas Schluchter (Switzerland, 3.8)
- Zdravko Jokic (Serbia and Montenegro, 4.8)
- Michael Skibbe (Germany, 4.8)
- Lamberto Perugia (Italy, 5.8)
- Yehuda Wilk (Israel, 5.8)
- Piet Hubers (Netherlands, 6.8)
- Pierino Lardi (Switzerland, 7.8)
- Simo Ruokonen (Finland, 8.8)
- Peter Donald (Scotland, 8.8)
- Nico de Pauw (Belgium, 8.8)
- Pierre Schiepers (Belgium, 9.8)
- Odd Flattum (Norway, 9.8)
- Roy Hodgson (England, 9.8)
- Heinz Fahnler (Austria, 10.8)
- Keith Burge (Wales, 10.8)
- Ettore Mazzilli (Italy, 10.8)
- Maurice Burlaz (France, 11.8)
- Dr Urs Vogel (Switzerland, 11.8)
- Alexis Dedes (Greece, 12.8)
- Roger Vanden Stock (Belgium, 13.8)
- Joseph Mifsud (Malta, 13.8)
- Cornel Cristian Bivolaru (Romania, 13.8)
- Gevorg Hovhannisyan (Armenia, 13.8)
- Metin Tuncer (Turkey, 13.8)
- Markus Hörwick (Germany, 14.8)
- Nikolay Ryashentsev (Russia, 15.8)
- Alan Hutchings (England, 16.8)
- Arman Hovhannisyan (Armenia, 16.8)
- Jean Hardt (Luxembourg, 17.8)
- Dane Jost (Slovenia, 18.8)
- Vitalijs Liholajs (Latvia, 19.8)
- Patricia Gregory (England, 19.8)
- Hans Reijgwart (Netherlands, 19.8)
- Frantisek Laurinec (Slovakia, 19.8)
- Per Ravn Omdal (Norway, 20.8)
- Oleg Orekhov (Ukraine, 20.8)
- Carmelo Bartolo (Malta, 21.8)
- Hasan Ceylan (Turkey, 22.8)
- Kazimierz Oleszek (Poland, 22.8)
- Wilhelm Hennes (Germany, 23.8)
- Geoffrey Thompson (England, 23.8)
- John Economides (Greece, 23.8)
- Enrique González Ruano (Spain, 24.8)
- Nicolae Grigorescu (Romania, 24.8)
- Thomas Slosarich (Denmark, 24.8)
- Josef Poucek (Czech Republic, 25.8)
- Leslaw Cmikiewicz (Poland, 25.8)
- Alex Manfré (Malta, 26.8)
- Giancarlo Abete (Italy, 26.8)
- Charles Rubli (Switzerland, 27.8)

- Juan Ansuategui Roca (Spain, 27.8)
- Karl Hopfner (Germany, 28.8)
- Markus Wanger (Liechtenstein, 28.8)
- Joseph Mc Glue (Republic of Ireland, 28.8)
- Fredi Fiorentini (Croatia, 29.8)
- Tassos Katsikides (Cyprus, 29.8)
- John Christopher McGinn (Scotland, 30.8)
- Leo Windtner (Austria, 30.8)
- Pedro Manuel Correia Magro (Portugal, 30.8)
- Christer Fällström (Sweden, 31.8)

Upcoming events

MEETINGS

25.8.2004, Monaco

Club Competitions Committee

26.8.2004, Monaco

Draw for the UEFA Champions League group matches

27.8.2004, Monaco

Draw for the UEFA Cup first round

COMPETITIONS

28.7–8.8.2004, Finland

European Women's Under-19 Championship: final round

4.8.2004

UEFA Champions League: second qualifying round (return legs)
UEFA Intertoto Cup: semi-finals (return legs)

10.8.2004

UEFA Intertoto Cup: finals (first legs)

10-11.8.2004

UEFA Champions League: third qualifying round (first legs)

11-28.8.2004, Athens

Olympic tournaments

12.8.2004

UEFA Cup: second qualifying round (first legs)

24.8.2004

UEFA Intertoto Cup: finals (return legs)

24-25.8.2004

UEFA Champions League: third qualifying round (return legs)

26.8.2004

UEFA Cup: second qualifying round (return legs)

27.8.2004, Monaco

UEFA Super Cup

Communications

■ The FA of Azerbaijan has moved to:
37, Khojali Avenue – Silk Way Business Centre, 5th floor – AZ-1025 BAKU
Tel: +994 12 908 308
or +994 12 908 721 / 23

■ The FA of Georgia's new contact details are:
76a Chavchavadze Avenue – GE-0162 TBILISI
Tel.: +995 32 912 680

■ The Portuguese Football Federation has also moved to:
Rua Alexandre Herculano, 58, Apartado 24013 – PT-1251-977 LISBOA
Tel: +351 21 325 2700
Fax: +351 21 325 2780

Match agents

The Match Agents Panel has granted two new match agent licences to:

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Tel : +44 7956 181111
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Michael Josef Dürk

Arndtstrasse 55 – DE-44135 Dortmund
Tel: +49 231 139 030
Fax: +49 231 139 0333

The panel has also renewed the licences of four agents for eight years each:

Gerbrand Maaskant (Netherlands)

Maarten de Vos (Netherlands)

Lennart Norgren (Sweden)

Lisa Davey (England)

Alamgir Kashmiri (England), whose licence expired on 19 May, decided not to apply for renewal. Consequently, in accordance with the Regulations for Licensed UEFA Match Agents, UEFA member associations, their clubs or other licensed agents who have complaints regarding the activities of Alamgir Kashmiri as a UEFA match agent have to file their complaints with the UEFA Administration in writing by 29 October 2004.

The same procedure and the same deadline also apply in the case of **Bozhin Bozhinov** (Bulgaria), who has decided to return his licence before its expiry (expiry date 28.05.2006).

WE CARE ABOUT FOOTBALL



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

Communications and Public Affairs Division

Editor André Vieli

Produced by Atema Communication SA, CH-1196 Gland

Printed by Cavin SA, CH-1422 Grandson

Editorial deadline: 14 July 2004

The views expressed in signed articles are not necessarily the official views of UEFA. The reproduction of articles or extracts of any information published in uefadirect is authorised, provided the source is indicated.

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