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## COVER

The Meridian Cup gives young players like Spain's Carmona (in red) and Egypt's Ayman a unique opportunity to experience football from another continent.

PHOTO: UEFA

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# Editorial

It's good to talk

In the space of just a few days at the beginning of February, three important meetings were held at UEFA's offices in Nyon: a session of its Executive Committee, an extraordinary conference of the presidents and general secretaries of the member associations, and the European Club Forum.

A sign of the times, many of the subjects discussed at these meetings were of an economic nature, such as the sale of TV rights and the repositioning of certain competitions to raise their value. These economic questions are often closely linked to legal aspects, especially with regard to European legislation, which gives further weight to the argument that it is vital for the national associations to have the necessary knowledge and expertise in these fields in order to be able to deal with their partners on an equal footing. It is only in this way that the associations, which constitute the traditional basis of football, can fulfil their role of governing football as a whole in their respective territories, while defending the general interests and maintaining a balance between the different parties involved.



The three meetings had one item in common – the promotion of the local training of players – and it was reassuring that the measures proposed and adopted by the Executive Committee largely met with a positive response from the conference delegates and forum participants.

Not only is such consensus encouraging, it also demonstrates the importance of dialogue, since these measures are the result of wide consultation. It also shows a general awareness of the fact that after years of unrestrained developments a certain degree of control is now required.

The same need was felt during the European Club Forum when players' agents were discussed. By putting individual and immediate interests first, a state of chaos has been allowed to develop in this area, to the advantage of third parties in particular.

The European football family is not immune to the general rules. If it wants to be sure that others do not take it upon themselves to sort out its problems, then it had better put its affairs in order itself. And this requires dialogue, mutual respect and understanding above all else.

*Lars-Christer Olsson*  
Chief Executive

WE CARE ABOUT FOOTBALL



# Presidents and General Secretaries

## Strengthening the national associations



UEFA-PREALONG

### **AN EXTRAORDINARY CONFERENCE OF THE PRESIDENTS AND GENERAL SECRETARIES OF UEFA MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS WAS HELD AT UEFA HEADQUARTERS IN NYON ON 3 FEBRUARY.**

The Kazakhstan FA was the only association absent from the conference, the main aim of which was to present the Top Executive Programme (TEP) intended for the presidents and general secretaries or Chief Executives of the member associations. In his opening speech, the UEFA President placed the new programme in the current context of European football, where the massive influx of financial resources had led to a shift in power from the national associations to the leagues and clubs. It was therefore necessary to redress the balance and help restore the importance of the national associations, which were the foundation on which UEFA was built.

Geoffrey Thompson, UEFA vice-president and chairman of the Executive Committee's National Associations Working Group, said that the role of the national associations needed to be clearly defined. They also needed to be well organised, well structured and always seeking to improve. He also stressed the importance of transparency, solidarity and dialogue. The national associations should recognise the needs of the leagues but also ensure continuity.

UEFA Chief Executive Lars-Christer Olsson also advocated dialogue. He said that the proposed programme was not a training programme but one of action; it was a

question of taking initiatives so that the national associations remained in control of football.

Jacob Erel, head of UEFA's new National Associations division, presented the Top Executive Programme, which is based on the following ten points:

- national association management;
- relations with national authorities;
- commercial/marketing management;
- information technology;
- relations and cooperation with other sports entities;
- human resources, qualification of staff;
- setting of targets and long-term strategies;
- financing, budgeting and accounting;
- project management;
- media relations, communication and public relations.

The programme is designed to meet the specific needs of each association. It will begin in March 2005 with visits to three pilot associations (Denmark, FYR Macedonia and Slovakia) by members of the Executive Committee and senior UEFA administrators, who will gather all the information necessary to determine their specific needs.

This initial phase will prepare the way for visits to 25 other associations between May and October this year.

Once the needs have been identified, a tailor-made programme will be devised for each association, including three modules (strategic and financial management; relationship management, PR and marketing; managing human resources, technology and change). Held in Nyon, each module will be attended, in principle, by delegates from five national associations, with the first module planned for the second half of 2005. In total, there will be around 30 modules lasting two to three days, spread over a two- to three-year period.

The working method will promote dialogue and exchanges of views and experiences. Experts and well-known personalities will also be involved.

In parallel with and complementing the Top Executive Programme, UEFA will continue its HatTrick programme with a special emphasis on education. CHF 20 million has been set aside for the 2004-2008 period and

new training (grassroots football administrators, fitness coaches, etc.) and management courses (IT, PR, security, etc.) will be added to the existing refereeing, coaching and medical courses.

### **Under-21s, referees, licences and agents**

Various other topics were also addressed at the conference. The delegates noted the plans to amend the calendar of the European Under-21 Championship, the final round of which would be played in odd-numbered years, starting in 2007, in order to enhance the value of the competition.

They expressed interest in the plan, but were also concerned about the increased costs and logistical complications of separating the Under-21 and senior competitions.

The participants also heard about the UEFA Convention on Referee Education and Organisation approved by the Executive Committee the previous day.

Regarding the introduction of the UEFA club licence at national level, the participants preferred the option of voluntary implementation rather than a compulsory measure enshrined in the UEFA Statutes.

Before a presentation of the current advantages and prospects for the future development of the extranet system, which enables the national associations to exchange information with each other and with UEFA, the delegates were asked by Giangiorgio Spiess, Executive Committee member, to use UEFA-licensed agents (of which there are currently 74) to organise friendly matches and tournaments involving their national teams.

## Encouraging youth training

The presidents and general secretaries had already heard about UEFA's plans to protect the training of young players at their conference in Lisbon in July last year, and while in Nyon, they were informed about the rule adopted by the Executive Committee the previous day (see page 14). The top executives largely welcomed the decision, and many also stressed the need to protect the training clubs, which were often "stripped" of the fruits of their training efforts.





Fitness tests and discussions.



Referees find mass confrontations hard to cope with.

# Referee courses in Antibes

## Acting against actors

WITH VOLKER ROTH CALLED TO NYON FOR A MEETING OF UEFA COMMITTEE 'CHAIRPERSONS', IT WAS LARS-ÅKE BJÖRCK WHO WAS IN THE CHAIR AT THE PRESS CONFERENCE WHICH ROUNDED OFF THE ANNUAL REFEREE COURSES STAGED THIS YEAR FROM 31 JANUARY TO 3 FEBRUARY IN ANTIBES IN THE SOUTH OF FRANCE.

"What struck me forcibly," he commented, "was that, when the new referees arrived for the 14th Introductory Course, they looked like athletes; they were highly motivated, willing to learn and very well prepared."

In terms of physical preparation, the newcomers were outstanding, while the top referees had a chance to evaluate the new fitness tests currently being introduced on an experimental basis by FIFA. But other types of preparation were also on the agenda, practically all of which passes unnoticed by the general public.

A briefing at the hotel confirms who does what - for instance, the areas of the pitch where the referee would welcome help from his assistants and exactly how that help is to be provided and communicated. The fourth official goes through his checklist of duties - not least how he

intends to manage the technical area - and the team decides which points need to be raised at the organisation meeting on the morning of the match. Referees, like coaches and players, also do their homework, and Pierluigi Collina usually watches at least four international matches over a weekend so that, when he leads his team into a UEFA match, he can brief them about the two sides' playing styles, if and how they operate the offside trap, and so on.

All of this will rapidly become routine for the new international referees, many of whom will be making their debuts in the next few weeks. For the top referees whose international curriculum runs to several pages, it was more a question of fine-tuning and, in Antibes, they were joined in their discussion groups by three former star players, Zvonimir Boban of Croatia, Emilio Butragueño

from Spain and German attacker Hansi Müller. Understandably, much of the debating focused on topics that were on the agenda for the imminent meeting of the International Football Association Board and which, by the time you read these lines, may have become reality rather than talking points.

But players and referees pinpointed two areas of special concern: simulation and the amount of holding and shirt-pulling in the penalty area. Both, they felt, require a concerted effort by players, coaches, media and supporters if they are to be eradicated and prevented from tarnishing the image of the game. Simulation is doubly damaging as a player's attempt to deceive the referee frequently leads to one of the other situations which the referees find disturbing - mass confrontations. The term is frequently used to describe mass protests at an unpopular decision but, sadly, scenes of aggression between opposing players are becoming more frequent in response to accusations of 'diving' and feigning injury. "The game as a spectacle demands that simulation be punished," commented Emilio Butragueño. "And I think we should use video evidence to punish players who deceive referees." Hansi Müller agreed. "Our only chance is for severe punishment to act as a deterrent. We won't eradicate it overnight because some of it has become instinctive. But, for the good of the game, we have to reduce it."





# European Club Forum

## Call for solidarity between clubs

**THE EUROPEAN CLUB FORUM HELD ITS FIRST PLENARY MEETING OF THE YEAR IN NYON ON 7 AND 8 FEBRUARY, WITH KARL-HEINZ RUMMENIGGE IN THE CHAIR.**

Although the Chairman was disappointed by the poor turnout (almost a third of member clubs were absent), he will have been delighted by the level of interest shown by the delegates in the issues discussed, with contributions from a large number of speakers.

Six topics were on the agenda on day one, followed by two more on the second day.

No comments were made on the main proposed changes to the club competition regulations for the 2005/06 season. It is true that the most important amendments were suggested by the clubs themselves, i.e. the proposal that clubs should be invited rather than obliged to participate in the FIFA Club World Championship, the cancellation of single yellow cards after the qualification matches and permission, during the January transfer window, for clubs involved in a European competition to sign and field one player who has already participated in another European competition during the same season.

The UEFA Champions League marketing strategy for the 2006-09 period was generally welcomed by the participants. For the most part, it remains the same as the current system, although it makes provision for an increase in the number of official

sponsors from four to six (and the abolition of official suppliers). The star ball, the symbol of the competition, should also be used for all UEFA Champions League matches. The bidding process for TV rights began in February for the first two markets, Belgium and the Netherlands.

### **New UEFA Intertoto Cup format?**

In addition to the question and answer sessions that were held after each presentation, the club delegates were able to express their opinions in discussions held in four groups, with each club assigned to a group in accordance with their UEFA coefficients. Most clubs were in favour of amending the format of the UEFA Intertoto Cup from the 2006 season. One plan presented to them involved reducing the number of participating clubs (49 instead of 61) and matches and limiting access to just one club per association. Two options were proposed, each resulting in the qualification of 11 teams, one for the first qualifying round of the UEFA Cup and the other for the second qualifying round of the same competition. The first option would mean starting the competition in the second rather than the third week of June. Most of the Forum clubs believe that participation should be compulsory, although the "big" clubs disagree.



UEFA Champions League audience figures are presented to the Forum.

### **Super Cup venue**

The contract with Monaco for the UEFA Super Cup expires this year and it seemed an appropriate time to think about the future venue of this competition. As well as maintaining the status quo or moving the match to two other European cities (Barcelona and Geneva), it has been suggested that it be played outside Europe in order to promote European football, with all the potential economic spin-offs. A significant number of delegates were keen on the idea of moving the event to China, but the group of "big" clubs, who were most likely to be involved in the competition, remained unconvinced by plans to hold it in Asia. They would prefer the match to be played in the stadium of one of the two participants, to be drawn out of a hat.



Two days  
of intense  
discussions.



### Fear of artificial turf

The decision taken by the UEFA Executive Committee last November to allow artificial pitches in UEFA competitions from the 2005/06 season provoked some lively responses amongst the delegates. Even though pitches would have to meet certain quality standards and the decision was based on experiences during pilot projects and a broad consultation procedure, several club representatives thought that the decision had been taken prematurely. They therefore asked the Executive Committee (represented at the meeting by two of its members, Eggert Magnusson and Giangiorgio Spiess) to review its decision and postpone its implementation by a year.

### Promotion of training

Another recent Executive Committee decision, however, was generally welcomed by the clubs: the decision to promote the training of players by the clubs and to require clubs involved in UEFA competitions to include a steadily increasing number of locally trained players in their squads (see page 14).

However, the clubs emphasised the need to combine this measure with collateral provisions to protect clubs that train players and to prevent the creation – or the growth – of a transfer market mainly involving very young players.

### Debate on UEFA Cup centralisation

Day two began with a review of the new UEFA Cup. The revised format, which has not yet even completed its first season, is certainly still too new for any definite conclusions to be drawn, but the early signs are good and the Forum participants, on the whole, confirmed the positive effects of the change. They were also unanimous in their appreciation of the effort put in

by UEFA experts to give this competition a strong identity as well as a solid brand image. The centralised branding of the competition comes into effect from the round of the last 32.

The question of the centralised marketing of media rights from the quarter-final stage, however, continues to divide opinion, with the majority in favour and the group of the most powerful clubs strongly opposed.

### The problem of player agents

All the delegates were in agreement concerning the final item on the agenda, the issue of player agents. After presentations by David Dein (Arsenal FC) and Eric Leport (FC Nantes Atlantique) concerning the situation in England and France, a round-table discussion was chaired by Roger Vanden Stock, Vice-Chairman of the UEFA Club Competitions Committee, involving David Dein, Eric Leport, Karl-Heinz Rummenigge (FC Bayern Munich), Roberto Bettega (Juventus), Arie van Eijden (AFC Ajax), Peter Lawwell (Celtic FC), Niels-Christian Holmström (FC Copenhagen) and John Borg (Birkirkara FC).

Their conclusion, which was shared by everyone present, was that something

urgently needs to be done to bring this situation under control. This highly complex issue needs to be addressed in consultation with FIFA, since the regulations should be the same in all countries (taking into account the requirements of national legislation) and the transfer system should be included in the discussion of agent-related questions. Several delegates pointed out that the clubs themselves were not totally blameless for this situation and should probably begin by being self-critical. The meeting therefore concluded with a welcome call

for solidarity between clubs and for transparency.



The UEFA Cup group matches (here, Newcastle v Sporting Portugal) have received a positive reaction.

PHOTOS: UEFA-FRANLONG

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Portugal (Deco) beat Russia resoundingly.

EMPICS/PHARTE



Andriy Shevchenko has helped Ukraine off to a good start.

AFP/OZER



The Republic of Ireland (Roy Keane) remain unbeaten.

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# 2006 World Cup qualifying competition

Eagerly anticipated resumption



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**THE NEXT ROUND OF QUALIFICATION MATCHES FOR THE 2006 WORLD CUP WILL SOON BE UPON US. THE EIGHT GROUPS OF EUROPEAN TEAMS WILL SHORTLY BE REACHING THE HALF-WAY POINT. SOME HAVE ALREADY ONE FOOT IN THE FINALS, WHILE OTHERS HAVE MADE UNEXPECTED ERRORS THAT MEAN THEY CANNOT AFFORD TO PUT ANOTHER FOOT WRONG.**

The Netherlands have found new energy, as demonstrated by Dirk Kuyt, against Finland's Joonas Kolkka.

In Group 1, the Netherlands are the only nation to remain unbeaten, having won all their matches except for a draw in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. The Dutch have found new energy under the leadership of former AC Milan star Marco van Basten and, not surprisingly, lead the group with the same number of points as Romania (managed since the beginning of December by new coach Victor Piturca) with a game in hand. Finland and, in particular, the Czech Republic are waiting to pounce, while the FYR Macedonia, Andorra and Armenia are already a long way behind. Despite their defeat in the Netherlands, the Czechs remain hopeful of qualifying and erasing the disappointment of their defeat to Greece in the semi-finals of EURO 2004.

### Ukraine looking good

Ukraine have performed very well in Group 2, where they have already opened up a six-point gap ahead of Greece, who are two points ahead of Denmark, Turkey and Hans-Peter Briegel's Albania, who have enjoyed the luxury of beating current European champions Greece.

The Ukrainians' best result so far has been a win in Turkey, thanks in particular to two goals by Andriy Shevchenko, and four of their remaining five matches are on home soil. Greece are suffering something of a hangover, but they are not out of the running yet, as they proved when they broke Denmark's unbeaten run this month. Georgia, coached by Frenchman Alain Giresse, are still in with a hope too. In fact, only Kazakhstan, who have lost all four matches so far, are already out of the picture.

Despite one of the worst results in their history – a draw in Liechtenstein – Portugal have clearly got over their disappointing performance in the final



Jermain Jenas (England, left) and Azerbaijan's Gurban Gurbanov.

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Serbia and Montenegro (Savo Milosevic, left) are in a better position than Belgium (Timmy Simons).

AFP/ANSOTTE-BOUCAU/THYS



Sweden's Fredrik Ljungberg gets the ball across, despite the best efforts of Iceland's Petur Marteinsson.

AFP/MIRROT

of EURO 2004. Luiz Felipe Scolari's men have made amends in style by winning their other four matches, including an historic 7-1 defeat of Russia. Portugal stand alone at the top of the group. In second place, Slovakia are currently ahead of Russia, whom they held to a draw in Moscow. Latvia and Estonia are putting up some surprising resistance, while Liechtenstein are also doing better than expected, in contrast to Luxembourg, who have yet to notch a point.

#### Four unbeaten teams

Group 4 is one of the most finely balanced. Three teams – the Republic of Ireland, France and Israel – currently share top spot, while Switzerland, who have played a game less, are three points behind. All of these countries are still unbeaten and in with a chance of qualifying. The same can no longer be said of Cyprus and the Faroe Islands, who each have one point from the match they drew against each other. While the Irish are enjoying success again under Brian Kerr, particularly at home, France, who are in a rebuilding phase and have been held to two home draws, are struggling to return to their best. Raymond Domenech still has a lot of work to do.

It is no surprise that Italy top Group 5. Marcello Lippi's men have begun their World Cup campaign well, apart from a humiliating defeat in Slovenia, which they must have found hard to swallow. Norway and Slovenia are waiting for the "squadra azzurra" to slip up again, ahead of Belarus, a very disappointing Scotland and Moldova, who will all struggle to climb out of the bottom three places. After hosting the Scots in March, Italy will face three consecutive away matches, which might open the door to their rivals.

England are the only undefeated members of Group 6. Sven-Göran Eriksson's team have been held only once (in Austria). Their only rivals for first place are Poland, who are enjoying a good campaign but missed their chance when the English visited Chorzów in September. While Austria have certainly not given up hope, Northern Ireland and Wales, who have managed just two draws, have been disappointing. Wales' poor return so far, which is no better than that of Azerbaijan, means that they have virtually no chance of qualifying.

#### Surprises and disappointments

The big surprise in Group 7 is not so much the fact that top spot is occupied by Serbia and Montenegro, whose technical strength is well known, but the disappointing start made by Spain. The Spaniards may only have played four matches so far, but they have won just two. Luis Aragonés' men have only managed to beat San Marino and Belgium, who are in an even worse position. With just one point in the bag, the Belgians would be bottom of the group if it were not for San Marino. It will be very difficult, if not impossible, for them to catch Serbia and Montenegro, who already have ten points, or even Lithuania who, with two wins and two draws under their belts, are putting up an admirable fight. Meanwhile, Bosnia-Herzegovina, who have only played two matches, may still have some tricks up their sleeves.

Sweden are living up to their role as favourites in Group 8, which they currently lead. However, it could



Italy (Gianluca Zambrotta) are heading their group despite losing against Slovenia.

EMPICS/BUZZI

be argued that Bulgaria and Croatia are better placed, since they are only two points behind with a game in hand. The Croatians pulled off a great result with a win in Sweden in September. Meanwhile, Bulgaria who, like Croatia, are still unbeaten, have started the campaign well, particularly by winning in Iceland and holding Croatia to a draw on their own patch. Sweden, who still have to travel to Croatia and Bulgaria, amongst others, will certainly not have it all their own way. While Hungary may still pose a threat to the teams above them, Iceland and Malta will have to be content with the opportunity to ruffle a few feathers.

André Winckler



Matu and the rest of his Cameroon team-mates had to adapt to the conditions.



Sierra Leone's goalkeeper Sylvanus Mooris makes a great save against France.

# 5th Meridian Cup

Day by day

**TURKEY WAS ENTRUSTED WITH THE ORGANISATION AND STAGING OF THE 5TH CAF/UEFA MERIDIAN CUP**

**IN FEBRUARY 2004, I.E. JUST ONE YEAR BEFORE THE TOURNAMENT.**

Despite this rather late appointment and the change of one or two facilities, the Turkish Football Association (TFA) took up the challenge with great enthusiasm, endless perseverance and a formidable touch of improvisation.

Since February 2004, the TFA, CAF and UEFA have been working hard to prepare for this competition, which offers international football matches to four youth teams from each of the two continents involved, Africa and Europe. The competition format, the tournament's logistical structure and the promotional activities are dominated by the spirit and philosophy agreed by the two confederations - friendship, mutual respect, exchange of interpersonal, cultural and sporting values and, of course, fair play.

The following report aims to provide the reader with an insight into the rather special atmosphere of this competition.

The preparatory activities do not vary much from those carried out for any UEFA youth final round, except that the travel arrangements for all seven visiting teams are all organised by UEFA and its in-house travel agency. Another particularity of this project consists in the cooperation between three organisations, on this occasion, the TFA as tournament hosts, and CAF and UEFA as compe-

tion organisers. As has always been the case since the competition was launched in 1996, the relationship between these three parties was congenial, supportive and enthusiastic.

The majority of the staff representatives from the TFA, CAF and UEFA arrived at the tournament centre in Kusadasi on Sunday, 30 January, using the rather quite period before the arrival of the teams to carry out the final preparations for the event, like setting up the tournament headquarters, revisiting all match stadiums and training grounds, finalising room allocations, menu plans and meeting room facilities with the hotel, preparing the welcome procedure for the delegations and CAF/UEFA official representatives, and so on.

## Tuesday, 1 February

Preparations continued throughout the day. Just in time for the arrival of the first two teams - France and Sierra Leone, at 17.00 and 20.00 respectively - everything was arranged and set up at the hotel and the two delegations could be welcomed and comfortably accommodated.

## Wednesday, 2 February

While yesterday's late-afternoon arrivals created some movement at the hotel, today's activities could be described as a windy morning, a stormy afternoon and an "assault" in the evening. Delegations, most of the committee members, and official representatives from the TFA, CAF and UEFA arrived at the hotel throughout the day and kept everyone busy. Unfortunately, two teams - Cameroon and Nigeria - had still not arrived at the tournament venue by midnight.



Mevlüt Erding (France) breaks away from David Simbo (Sierra Leone).

PHOTOS: UEFA



A good header from Turkey's Ergin Keles against Cameroon.



Left to right: Jim Boyce, Baba Sakho and Metin Tüncer.

### Thursday, 3 February

Today was spent mainly looking into the itineraries of the remaining two teams, finding how to arrange the best possible connections from Istanbul to Izmir, the nearest airport to Kusadasi, and calculating the approximate time when the two delegations would finally arrive at the tournament headquarters. Early in the evening it was confirmed that Nigeria would arrive before midnight. With regard to the Cameroonian team the situation caused some serious concerns since the delegation had to be divided into three groups and three different travel schedules, resulting in 11 players arriving at around 02.00 in the morning and the remaining players having to be transported directly from the airport to the match venue the following day. Despite this far from ideal situation for the team, the organisers breathed a sigh of relief when it was confirmed that all eight teams would be ready with teams tomorrow at around 13.30 at the four stadiums.

To make matters worse, the weather (heavy rain and wind all day) have not made the organisers' life any easier.

Nevertheless, on the day of the heads of delegation meeting, a pre-tournament press conference was organised to promote the event locally, the teams got down to some serious preparation, the referees were put through a fitness test, and various other meetings and visits took place in order to prepare for the matches the following day.

### Friday, 4 February

Despite their early morning arrival, the 11 Cameroon players were the first at breakfast at 08.00. It was nice to see the players looking reasonably well, in good spirits and looking forward to the afternoon match and to the arrival of the rest of their squad. Unfortunately, this atmosphere was very soon dampened when the message came in that the third Cameroon group, including the remaining seven players, were blocked in Dubai and could not get to Izmir in time for the match.

Due to the lack of adequate floodlighting installations in the selected stadiums and the fact that nightfall starts mid-afternoon, as well as to attract as many school children as possible to the matches, the kick-off times for all games was fixed at 13.30 local time (12.30 CET).



Considering the results of the last tournaments and the serious travel problems encountered by two of the four African teams, it was no big surprise to many of the regular observers of the tournament that the ranking after the first four matches stood at 12 points for Europe, with a goal average of 14-2. With their depleted squad of only 11 players, Cameroon tried heroically to resist the reigning European Under-17 champions, France, but without success. Luckily for Cameroon, their goalkeeper was on form and made some outstanding saves, but he could do nothing to stop the seven French strikes.

Miraculously, rain did not stop play and kept its distance until the end of the tournament. The wind dropped too, and the temperature improved.

At the end of each match day, a debriefing took place in the evening to discuss any organisational weaknesses and to take immediate action to remedy any irregularities before the next match day.

### Saturday, 5 February

For once, the day started with better news. The remaining members of the Cameroon team would be arriving in the afternoon.

Today was totally dominated by recovering from the tensions, nervousness, cheering and disappointments of the last two days and preparations for the next match day.

With the first contacts on the field, the ice was also broken off the field and the players started to mix with each other in order to create the expected atmosphere. The reporter from uefa.com also helped enhance the feeling of solidarity by interviewing players and publishing the interviews immediately on UEFA's website.

The evening of this first rest day was also used by the TFA to invite officials from the CAF and UEFA delegations for a lovely dinner outside Kusadasi, confirming – if confirmation were needed – the world-famous hospitality of this country. It was also a perfect opportunity for the delegations to exchange gifts, and for Jim Boyce, Chairman of the Organising Committee, to officially thank the TFA for the excellent preparation and organisation of the tournament so far.



Enthusiastic young Turkish supporters in Kusadasi.



The representatives of the TFA, CAF and UEFA.



Time to say goodbye.

### Sunday, 6 February

The second match day focussed on the revival of the African youth teams, who were keen to reduce the gap in the rankings between the two competing continents. Unfortunately, they managed to add only one point to their tally, with Egypt and Portugal drawing.

This second match day confirmed the first impressions that the African teams were too young, with most of the players being a couple of years younger than their European opponents. Despite the excellent technical skills of the African players, they cannot compete on an equal footing at this level with the top youth players from Europe.

As on the first match day, no major incidents were reported by the match officials and all matches were played with a lot of commitment and energy but with equally high respect for the spirit of fair play.

### Monday, 7 February

The morning was dominated by the question of whether the Meridian gala match between Turkey and Tunisia scheduled for Wednesday could take place. Following heavy snowfall on the city of Istanbul, and since the weather

forecast for the next three days showed no sign of improvement, the match was finally cancelled.

The teams used the second rest day to recover from the first two match days and to prepare for tomorrow's games.

### Tuesday, 8 February

The third match day was a copy of the first, resulting in four wins for the European teams. However, given the difference in the goal averages between these two days (14-2 and 7-1), the African players seem to be gradually getting used to the rather cold weather conditions and the European playing style. It would therefore come as no surprise to anyone here if Africa were to secure a win on the last match day.

Following the arrival of UEFA Technical Director Andy Roxburgh, table discussions are being organised with the eight coaches.

Everyone here is now looking forward to one of the highlights of the event, the social day tomorrow, which includes a mini-tournament played on a mini-pitch between the staff members of the eight delegations, CAF, the Turkish FA and UEFA.

### Wednesday, 9 February

Today was used by most of the teams to visit the various attractions which this region has to offer.

Consequently, the hotel was fairly empty and quiet, allowing those who had enrolled for the four-team friendly mini-tournament played on the hotel's mini-pitch to prepare and get ready. The "orange" team featured two former top players, Paulo Sousa (Benfica, Juventus and Borussia Dortmund) and Abu Sankoh (current coach of the Sierra Leone Under-18 team and former international) and was obviously the favourite. Not surprisingly therefore, this team played the best football and won the tournament.

A good hundred players, officials and some curious onlookers surrounded the pitch and applauded some great movements, appreciated Paulo Sousa's still excellent technique and cheered the speedy centre forward Abu Sankoh, who scored the two winning goals in the final.

The match was followed by a reception to which the entire local organising committee was invited and during which all volunteers received a gift.

Jim Boyce and Baba Sakho, head of the CAF delegation, thanked the Turkish tournament director, Metin Tüncer, and his team for their outstanding work and efforts so far. A joint dinner with all the teams, officials, referees, CAF, TFA and UEFA representatives concluded the CAF/UEFA social day.

### Thursday, 10 February

The teams used the penultimate day of the tournament for final training in preparation for the fourth and last match day on Friday.

CAF and UEFA organised a final day meeting in the morning at which the heads of the eight delegations were also given the opportunity to express their views and suggestions on the Meridian Cup.

One particular element of this competition was discussed in depth, the age difference between the European and African teams, which essentially explains the big gap in the rankings. CAF said that it will discuss this matter internally to find the best possible solution for the next tournament.



The French and Sierra Leonean players get to know each other.

PHOTOS: UEFA



Jim Boyce and Baba Sakho present the Meridian Cup to the four European captains.

## Draw for 2005 European Women's Championship

The European Women's Championship final round will kick off in England on 5 June, with the final to be played on 19 June.



The draw for the group stage of the final round was held on 19 January in Manchester, where an opening match will be played.

The eight finalists were divided into the following two groups:

A: England, Sweden, Finland, Denmark;

B: Germany, France, Norway, Italy.



Minister for sport Richard Caborn, Karen Espelund, chairwoman of the Women's Football Committee, and Sven-Göran Eriksson.

The group matches, to be played in Manchester, Preston, Warrington and Blackburn, will conclude on 12 June. The top two from each group will play the semi-finals in Preston on 15 June and in Warrington on 16 June. The final will take place in Blackburn on 19 June.

The draw, which was carried out with the help of the England men's national team coach, Sven-Göran Eriksson, also provided the opportunity to unveil the new trophy for this competition. The previous trophy was retained by Germany following its three consecutive victories between 1995 and 2001.

The semi-finals of the 4th UEFA Women's Cup will be played in April. Djurgården/Alvsjö will face Arsenal (first leg in Stockholm on 7 April, return leg on 15 April), while 1.FFC Turbine Potsdam 71 will play SK Trondheims-Øm (first leg in Germany on 9 April, return leg on 16 April).



The new trophy, weighing 4 kg and standing 42 cm high, is the work of the Italian firm Bertoni.

It was also proposed that CAF and UEFA would in future make the travel arrangements for their respective teams.

### Friday, 11 February

The last match day was a copy of the second one, with three defeats and one draw (Portugal v Sierra Leone 0-0). The matches were marked by many basic technical errors which showed that the previous three matches, daily training sessions and numerous bus journeys were starting to take their toll on the players. Nevertheless, all matches were played in a spirit of fair play and no further red cards were added to the five already issued.

Local attention today focussed on the home team's match against Cameroon in Kusadasi, in front of an enthusiastic crowd of over 3,000.

This match was attended by the TFA president, Levent Bicakci, UEFA vice-president Senes Erzik and other senior officials from the TFA and local authorities.

When the final whistles blew at the four match venues, the sporting side of the tournament concluded. Since some of the teams were leaving early the next morning, the farewell event began at 18.30 with an awards ceremony.

On behalf of all the players, Erdem Mülayim from Turkey and Samura Salifu from Sierra Leone thanked the TFA, CAF and UEFA for the excellent organisation and staging of the 5th Meridian Cup and for having offered them this unforgettable adventure and the unique opportunity to meet footballers from another continent.

### Saturday, 12 February

The last day was obviously taken up with departures and dismantling and packing the material. A very special word of thanks has to go to the numerous volunteers who worked on this event with tremendous dedication and commitment.

To recap, the behaviour of the teams on the field was excellent in terms of sporting values, discipline and fair play. Their attitude off the field was absolutely in line with the competition's name, "Meridian", which symbolises the close ties between our two continents, not only in a geographical sense, but also in terms of history, culture and footballing values.

The tournament will now be analysed in depth and the conclusions taken into account when it comes to preparing the next edition.

A report on the 5th Meridian Cup will be published with the May issue of *uefadirect*.

## The results

|                         |     |
|-------------------------|-----|
| Cameroon - France       | 0-7 |
| Sierra Leone - Spain    | 0-3 |
| Portugal - Nigeria      | 1-0 |
| Turkey - Egypt          | 3-2 |
| Spain - Cameroon        | 4-0 |
| France - Sierra Leone   | 2-1 |
| Nigeria - Turkey        | 0-4 |
| Egypt - Portugal        | 0-0 |
| Cameroon - Portugal     | 1-3 |
| Sierra Leone - Turkey   | 0-1 |
| France - Nigeria        | 2-0 |
| Spain - Egypt           | 1-0 |
| Turkey - Cameroon       | 3-1 |
| Portugal - Sierra Leone | 0-0 |
| Nigeria - Spain         | 0-1 |
| Egypt - France          | 1-4 |

*Europe won the Meridian Cup, and the fair play prize went to Turkey.*

# SportFive awarded EURO 2008 TV rights

At its February meeting, the Executive Committee decided to award the task of marketing the EURO 2008 European TV rights to the SportFive agency.

Ten agencies or companies had submitted bids and, following examination of their proposals, had been whittled down to two candidates: the EBU and SportFive.



By opting for SportFive, the Executive Committee has broken with tradition, since the EBU has always previously been UEFA's TV partner for European Championship finals. However, it has stuck with its policy of offering coverage of the tournament to as many TV viewers as possible by ensuring that the rights are sold primarily to free-to-air channels. They will be sold on a market-by-market basis, as is already the case with UEFA Champions League matches, rather than globally.



The European Under-21 Championship would benefit from greater exposure. Here, the 2004 final between Italy (Gilardino, in blue) and Serbia and Montenegro (Bisevac).

# Activities and competitions

## Training measures

### THE UEFA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE HELD ITS FIRST MEETING

OF 2005 AT THE HOUSE OF EUROPEAN FOOTBALL IN NYON ON 2 FEBRUARY, WITH LENNART JOHANSSON IN THE CHAIR.

Several important items were included on the agenda for this meeting, which was held the day after a series of strategic discussions about UEFA's role and future. One of the main objectives of the meeting was to define measures to promote local training of players and to support the development of national teams.

Following broad consultation of all interested parties, including supporters (via uefa.com), the Executive Committee opted for the following measures, which will be

gradually introduced in the UEFA club competitions: in the 2006/07 season, each club's squad, which will be limited to 25 players, will need to include four locally trained players (in principle, two players trained by the club itself and two more trained by a club within the same national association).

In 2007/08, the number will increase to six of the 25 squad members (three trained by the club and three within the association).

In 2008/09, each squad of 25 players will need to include eight locally trained players (four from each category).

"Training" refers to a period of three years (not necessarily consecutive) between the ages of 15 and 21. This sporting measure, which does not discriminate on the basis of nationality, will apply to the UEFA club competitions, although UEFA is urging all its member associations to introduce the same rules at domestic level.

### Competition formats

On the competitions front, the Executive Committee decided to give itself more time to analyse the applications from stadiums wishing to host the 2006 and 2007 club competition finals. It will make these decisions at its meeting in April, before the UEFA Ordinary Congress in Tallinn.



The chairmen of the UEFA committees had a meeting with the UEFA President and Chief Executive in Nyon on 4 February to discuss the role of the committees, among other matters. Seated, left to right: Josep Lluís Vilaseca Guasch (Control and Disciplinary Body), Michel Wuilleret (Appeals Body), Jan Peeters (Assistance Programmes), Lars-Åke Lagrell (National Teams), David Richards (Professional Football), Karen Espelund (Women's Football) and Petr Fousek (Futsal). Standing: Lars-Christer Olsson, Vlatko Markovic (Technical Development), Urs Vogel (Medical Committee), Lennart Johansson, Volker Roth (Referees), Michael van Praag (Stadium and Security), Jim Boyce (Youth and Amateur Football). Absent: Friedrich Stickler (Club Competitions).



Futsal continues to expand in popularity.



## Report from Brussels

In the first two months of 2005, UEFA has intensified its political efforts to explain and build support for its proposals on the local training of players. High-level meetings have taken place in Brussels and the capitals of the EU's member states. In many governments and institutions, politicians and officials recognise UEFA's concerns and support the new plans.

In January, UEFA CEO, Lars-Christer Olsson, headed a UEFA delegation at meetings with the European Commission in Brussels. This was UEFA's first formal meeting with the two members of the European Commission that have most influence on European sport over the next five years: Ján Figel (photo), Commissioner for Education, Training and Culture, and Neelie Kroes, Commissioner for Competition. Mr Figel's responsibilities include sport.



The meetings with the Commissioners took place in a positive spirit, and the two politicians were willing to listen to UEFA's arguments. Although the Commission does not have the right formally to approve UEFA's plans for the local training of players, it is important that UEFA inform and consult Europe's political authorities so that they understand our thinking.

Also in January, a UEFA team led by Per Omdal, UEFA Vice-President, held the latest meeting with the 'Friends of Football', the cross-party group of Members of the European Parliament (MEPs). Twelve MEPs from eight countries attended the Brussels meeting, →

Lennart Johansson and his colleagues also postponed until April their decision on the format of the EURO 2008 qualifying competition. They noted a proposal under which, in order to prolong interest in the competition, only the seven group winners would qualify automatically for the final round. Each runner-up would face a third-placed team from another group in a play-off round for the other seven places. Austria and Switzerland have already qualified as the host countries.

The Executive Committee also welcomed a proposal to enhance the value of the European Under-21 Championship by playing the final round in odd-numbered years from 2007 onwards. Under the current system, the tournament is squeezed into the period between the club finals and the final round of the European Championship or World Cup. As well as changing the timing of the tournament, the host country would be designated at an earlier stage and, every four years, could be the country due to organise the senior European Championship, for whom the Under-21 tournament would serve as a dress rehearsal. The consequences of such a change, including the clash with FIFA events, still need to be examined closely before a decision is taken.

### UEFA Futsal Cup semi-finals

However, the Executive Committee did adopt changes to the for-

mat of the UEFA Futsal Cup which, from 2005/06, will include semi-finals played over two legs. Until now, the second qualifying round (with two mini-tournaments of four teams) has been followed immediately by the final. From now on, the second round, which will still consist of two mini-tournaments, will produce four semi-finalists. The addition of an extra round reflects the ever-increasing popularity of futsal.

Other competition-related decisions:

- the organisation of the final round of the European Under-17 Championship in 2007 was awarded to the Belgian FA;

- the Austrian FA will organise the final round of the European Under-19 Championship in 2007;

- the Icelandic FA will organise the final round of the 2006/07 European Women's Under-19 Championship.

### Coaches circle and referee convention

The quality of coach education is an important priority for UEFA, since it directly influences the quality of play. For several years now, UEFA has been organising courses, seminars and forums for technical directors, national coaches and even elite club coaches.

It will continue to do so but, in addition, the Executive Committee →

## Eight candidates for EURO 2012

By the closing date of 31 January, the UEFA administration had received eight bids to host EURO 2012.

These included two joint bids from Croatia/Hungary and Poland/Ukraine.

Individual bids were submitted by Azerbaijan, Greece, Italy, Romania, Russia and Turkey.

Three candidates will be selected at the end of this year, with the final decision to be taken in December 2006.



→ where the discussions again focussed on UEFA's proposals for the local training of players.

The 'Friends of Football' have been very supportive of UEFA's plans since the discussions first began in the autumn of 2004. However, the MEPs have also offered a useful indication of the political and legal obstacles that may face the proposals. January's discussion centred on the risk that UEFA's rule-change might exacerbate the international market for young players. Some MEPs suggested that new rules to protect young players were needed in parallel to the proposals on local training.

UEFA has invited the 'Friends of Football' to visit the House of European Football later this year, so that MEPs can see UEFA's work 'behind the scenes'.

→ has approved the creation of a UEFA Coaches Circle which will include around 700 coaches. The aim is to provide them with additional information in the form of technical reports, videos, specialist publications and even an email information service.

The UEFA Executive Committee is also interested in referees and agreed to the drafting of a UEFA Convention on Referee Education and Organisation, to be modelled on the coaching convention.

■ The Executive Committee also prepared for the XXIX UEFA Ordinary Congress, to be held in Tallinn on 21 April. It approved the Congress programme and agenda, as well as the balance sheet as at 31 July 2004, the income statement for 2003/04 and the budget for 2005/06.

### Fair play: provisional positions

As in previous years, upholding UEFA's principles of fair play will be one way of qualifying for the UEFA Cup.



Fair play and solidarity both count in the UEFA Fair Play competition, since it is the behaviour of all teams (national teams and clubs) involved in UEFA competitions which is taken into consideration in the table drawn up by UEFA at the end of the season. Three clubs will again be offered UEFA Cup places in this way.

A gesture that may help earn a place in the UEFA Cup.

Before the competitions resumed after the winter break and on the basis of 1,129 matches, the countries were ranked as follows:

|                 |              |
|-----------------|--------------|
| 1. Norway       | 8.251 points |
| 2. Denmark      | 8.240        |
| 3. Sweden       | 8.102        |
| 4. Estonia      | 8.100        |
| 5. England      | 8.065        |
| 6. Germany      | 8.056        |
| 7. France       | 8.041        |
| 8. Ukraine      | 8.015        |
| 9. Spain        | 7.993        |
| 10. Switzerland | 7.958        |

### NOTICES

■ The UEFA Treasurer, Mathieu Sprengers, was re-elected president of the Dutch Football Association in December.

■ The English Football Association has appointed Brian Barwick as its new Chief Executive.

■ On 1 February, Lutfi Aribogan became the new general secretary of the Turkish Football Association.

■ The Executive Committee has changed the date of its November 2005 meeting in Malta to 7/8 November.

■ The XXXI UEFA Ordinary Congress will take place in Germany on 25 January 2007.

■ Following FIFA's decision to bring forward the end of the 2005/06 season, the 2006 UEFA Cup final will take place on 10 May and the UEFA Champions League final on 17 May.

### Investigation into the EURO 2004 qualifier between Armenia and Greece

The investigation into alleged corruption in relation to the above-mentioned match has reached a conclusion. It did not find any irregularities relating to the EURO 2004 qualification match concerned and did not implicate the Greek Football Association or its president in any way.



# News

## from member associations

ball, so we had to find a way to select the best, and then to prepare them for UEFA competitions. As a result, we organised this camp, where young players trained with our best coaches. We also invited guest coaches from neighbouring countries. This format has proved successful and we will therefore continue with this practice," said Ahmet Pasalic, director of all Bosnia and Herzegovina national teams.

The youngest age category, the Under-15s, were invited to the camp too, and a similar camp was organised for the girls in Igalo (Monte Negro). All head coaches, Nikola Nikic (Under-19s), Velimir Stojnic (Under-17s), Dusko Petrovic (Under-15s), and Namik Nuhbegovic (girls) were well pleased with the efforts put in by their players during the camp.

This is further proof that the organisation of national youth leagues is a good idea, but with fewer leagues than the four that are staged in Bosnia and Herzegovina at present.

The camp was also successful thanks to the contribution of former famous players of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Drago Smajlovic, Josip Katalinski and Danijel Pirc. Additional camps will be organised in summer, as well as before the start of qualifying tournaments. The FF BHZ is going to be hosting a qualifying tournament in the European Under-19 Championship in the autumn, involving Bulgaria, Croatia and Iceland, alongside the host nation. The Under-17s will be playing their qualifying tournament in Finland, against the hosts, Greece and Slovakia.

On the last day of January, the executive committee of the federation met in Sarajevo and, in accordance with the presidential rotation system, Iljo Dominkovic takes over as FF BHZ president for the next 16 months.

Fuad Krvavac

## BELGIUM



### Tool to improve youth coaching

At the end of January, the Belgian FA (URBSFA) launched the Dexia Foot Pass, which is designed to analyse and, if necessary, improve the quality of youth coaching.

This new tool is different insofar as it is not limited to youth coaching in professional clubs. It also applies to amateur clubs.

The main aim of the project is to improve the quality of coaching. The objective of the Dexia Foot Pass is simple: *"To constantly stimulate the promotion of home-grown players by offering them high-quality coaching and to systematically increase the use of home-grown players in order ultimately to produce successful club sides, a talented national team and a higher standard of play in Belgian football in general."*



In order to improve the quality of youth coaching, it is necessary to work at grassroots level.

– Clubs and their youth team coaches are the first target group. The whole strategy is based on PASS (Professional Academy Support System), which is subdivided into four parts: an assessment system, a quality manual with practical examples, a "youth coordinator" management course and a certification system with quality labels.

– Young players form the second target group. A system has been developed for them, based on a new training concept (Dribble & Double Pass Game), which develops players' technique and intelligence.

– Finally, the parents of young players are the third target group of the Dexia Foot Pass, which offers them permanent assistance, including general and specific advice.

– Following the disaster in South-East Asia, the URBSFA has decided to donate 25,000 euros to the SOS Children's Villages organisation. It has also asked all its affiliated members, clubs, players, referees and supporters to show their support by giving money to this FIFA-sponsored organisation.

– A minute's silence was also held at all matches played in Belgium during the weekends of 8 and 15 January in order to pay a final tribute to the thousands of victims.

François Vantomme

## BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA



### Youth Camp in Medugorje

The Football Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina (FF BHZ) used the winter break to organise a football camp for all the youth categories. Potential candidates for the Under-19 and Under-17 teams participated in the camp, held at the Cycle international sports centre in Medugorje, near Mostar, in January.

The first camp of its kind was organised ten years ago, right after the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina, in Makarska (Croatia).

The camps used to be held only a short while before the qualifying tournaments for the European youth championships, which is why they did not produce good results.

*"We were not satisfied with the results of the youth teams, considering they are the future of Bosnian foot-*



The Under-17 team of Bosnia and Herzegovina.



## ENGLAND



### EURO 2004 analysed in Egypt

Sven-Göran Eriksson was in Cairo last month at the behest of Egyptian sports marketing company PromoSport and the Egyptian Football Association. The England coach was invited to address over 200 representatives of Egyptian football in a special seminar focusing on a technical analysis of EURO 2004. During a two-hour Question & Answer session, the audience expressed considerable interest in the English experience of last year's European Championships and Mr Eriksson's views on the performances of the other teams, notably preparation, tactical strategies, strengths and weaknesses.

The FA delegation also comprised Manchester United's highly respected fitness coach, Professor Valter di Salvo, who spoke specifically on issues concerning player fitness and analysis, and methods



Sven-Göran Eriksson and some of the English delegation in front of the famous pyramids.

vis-à-vis maintaining optimum fitness during long seasons and through tournaments.

*"The one-day seminar was extremely well received and well attended,"* said Jane Bateman, The FA's Head of International Relations, who coordinated the visit. *"We were also received by the Egyptian FA and the Egyptian Minister of Youth, whose remit includes sport. It was a useful opportunity for us to learn about football in Egypt and to respond to the extensive interest the Egyptians have in the structure and management of the English game. We also took the opportunity to visit the CAF headquarters in Cairo to finalise this year's FA-CAF Cooperation Programme."*

The FA is particularly active in Africa, both through its cooperation with CAF and the UEFA-CAF Meridian Project which partners England with Botswana, Lesotho and Malawi. This was The FA's third seminar presentation in Egypt in three years.

For further information, please refer to [www.TheFA.com/international-relations](http://www.TheFA.com/international-relations).

Jane Bateman

## FINLAND



### Pro coaches graduate

Finland has gained nine new top domestic coaches, following the graduation of the students on the Finnish Pro Licence coach course. The course was completed at the end of January, when the students presented their theses after a year of hard work.

*"This year's group had a good attitude. It takes a lot to graduate, so it is easy to be pleased for those who made it. The main topics of the students' papers were talent academies, match tempo and physical training. In our coach education programme, we aim to concentrate more and more on planning, leading and evaluating performance,"* says Janne Lindström, Director of Coach Education at the Finnish FA.

The next domestic Pro Licence course begins in 2006. And just before the new coaches embark on the programme in January, there will be a new crop of UEFA Pro Licence graduates, from the second UEFA Pro Licence course, which began in February. Coaches who have obtained the Finnish Pro Licence since 2002 may apply directly for the UEFA Pro Licence, given that they fulfil the UEFA Pro Licence requirements.

Sami Terävä

## GERMANY



### DFB and DFL rake in 4.6 million euros for tsunami victims

The German FA, in cooperation with the German Football League, has organised a benefit match for the victims of the tsunami disaster in South-East Asia. The match, played at the AufSchalke Arena on 25 January, brought together the German national team and an all-star team of international Bundesliga players. Under the motto *"Playing against each other - winning together,"* the match raised approximately 4.6 million euros.

The sum raised includes a donation of 200,000 euros from the German national players, the gate receipts from the 51,904 crowd and donations from DFB sponsors. EUR 1.5 million was sent as emergency aid to help fund the reconstruction of a hospital in Banda Aceh, which was hit particularly hard by the disaster.

The remaining money will be distributed by the DFB's Egidius Braun Foundation, which organised the benefit match in Schalke with the agreement of the DFB and DFL. It will be given to needy people and other social projects, while sports-

related ventures will also be supported as part of the FIFA and UEFA assistance programmes.

Niels Barnhofer

## HUNGARY



### EURO dreams with Croatia

In early September the Croatian and the Hungarian national teams played to a packed house in Zagreb in the first round of their 2006 World Cup qualifier. Although the derby caused huge rivalry, the two parties announced a joint plan only a few months later, when the political leadership of the two countries supported the initiative of the two football associations, HNS and MLSZ, to launch a joint bid to host EURO 2012.

Both candidates have previous experience of bidding for such a great event. Hungary first made a joint bid with Austria for the 2004 finals, and later made a solo bid for EURO 2008, a project that generated positive feedback from all around the continent.

Croatia is also keen to invite football supporters to this region in the heart of Europe, as it did in a joint bid with Bosnia & Herzegovina for EURO 2008.



Left to right: Vlatko Markovic, Imre Bozoky and Attila Abraham.

The two countries declared their intention on 28 January in Nagykanizsa, a Hungarian city close to the Croatian border. The governments were represented by Romana Caput-Jogunica, Deputy Minister, and Zelimir Janjic, State Secretary for Education and Sport in Croatia, and Attila Abraham, head of the Hungarian Sports Office (NSH), who signed a declaration regarding the two countries' cooperation. *"There have been some political changes in the last decade, but all of the governments have agreed on one particular question: that Hungary should bid for the European Championships and that we have the will and ability to stage it here. It demonstrates consensus within Hungarian society in respect of its love of football,"* confessed Imre Bozoky, MLSZ president. *"It's symbolic that an EU member, Hungary, and a would-be member,*



Croatia, are candidates together," he added. Vlatko Markovic, president of HNS, was even more daring, saying, "I believe that our experience makes us one of the favourites from UEFA's point of view."

Zagreb would hold the opening ceremony and the first match in the tournament, whilst Budapest's renovated Ferenc Puskás national stadium would be the venue for the final.

Márton Dinnyés

## ICELAND



### Top players in 2004

National team captain and Chelsea FC striker Eidur Gudjohnsen was elected Icelandic Sports Personality of the Year 2004 by the Icelandic Sports Writers' Association. Two other footballers were among the ten candidates for the award, Hermann Hreidarsson of English side Charlton Athletic, and Heimir Gudjónsson, captain of current Icelandic champions FH Hafnarfjörður. Gudjohnsen, who is getting closer to Ríkhardur Jónsson's all-time goal-scoring record of 17 for the national team, scored four goals in seven internationals in 2004, and his total now stands at 13 goals in 34 matches. The last time a footballer was awarded this prize was in 1987, and the player was none other than Eidur's father, Arnór Gudjohnsen, who was playing for Belgian club Anderlecht at the time.

The FA has created a special committee to select its own footballers of the year. Among the selectors are former players, coaches, referees, officials and media representatives. Unsurprisingly, Eidur Gudjohnsen was named top man in 2004, and Margrét Lára Vidarsdóttir of cup winners and league runners-up ÍBV Vestmannaeyjar was named woman footballer of the year. Vidarsdóttir has a good goal-scoring record for the national team, 11 goals in 14 matches, but although her 48 goals in 40 top-division matches is an impressive return, she has some distance to go if she wants to beat Olga Færseth's amazing record of 228 goals in 166 top-division matches.

Ómar Smárason

## ITALY



### Bid generates enthusiasm

The Italian FA (FIGC) and, therefore, the whole of Italy as a sporting, social and economic entity, has put in a bid to host EURO 2012. The FIGC had been considering this step for some time and made its plans known at the XXVII UEFA Congress in Rome in March 2003. It is 25 years since the final round was played in Italy and the 1990 World Cup remains the last major football event hosted in our country.

FIGC president Franco Carraro did not officially submit the bid until he had received the unanimous support of the Federal Council as well as the full backing of the government. Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi immediately entrusted Gianni Letta, Under-Secretary to the President of the Council of Ministers, with the task of coordinating all the elements of the bid, which will include government action and decisions to assure UEFA that the tournament can be organised under optimal conditions.

As a major tourist destination, Italy is well equipped to organise such an event, although it has one major problem to address: its stadiums are not currently suitable for the demands of the Italian championship and European club competitions. They need to be completely renovated in order to become more modern and comfortable and to comply with safety standards both internally and in their immediate surroundings.

Under the plans which the FIGC is currently working on, the stadiums (which are owned by local authorities) would be made over to or leased to the clubs for 30-50 years. The clubs would then ensure the stadiums were adapted to modern standards using funds loaned at particularly favourable rates. This arrangement should avoid overspending and guarantee the clubs a degree of ownership.

All 12 cities which staged the 1990 World Cup have already shown great interest (Rome, Milan, Turin, Verona, Udine, Genoa, Bologna, Florence, Naples, Bari, Palermo and Cagliari), while others (particularly Venice) have also expressed an interest or are expected to do so. This shows the level of enthusiasm generated by the possibility of hosting EURO 2012 amongst a general public which is has always been passionate about and keen to participate in our sport.

Sergio Di Cesare

## LIECHTENSTEIN



### Cheque for Special Olympics team

As part of its 70th birthday celebrations, the Liechtenstein FA decided to make do without presents and collect donations for the national Special Olympics team instead. A total of just over CHF 9,000 was collected, a sum topped up to CHF 10,000 by the LFF itself.

The cheque for CHF 10,000 was handed over at the end of December. Athletes' representative Sonja Hemmerle and coach Theresia Frick-Heeb gratefully accepted the cheque, which was presented by the captain of the Liechtenstein football team, Daniel Hasler.

All the money will go directly to the athletes, since all the team officials and coaches are volunteers. The next international event for the Special Olympics

team is already just around the corner, with eight Liechtenstein athletes due to participate in the Special Olympics in Nagano (21 February to 8 March).

The Liechtenstein FA wishes all the athletes good luck and success there.

Roland Ospelt

## LUXEMBOURG



### A new coach for a better future?

Our national football team, which was extremely popular not so long ago, has suffered numerous cruel setbacks and disappointments in recent years.

The 4-0 defeat against Liechtenstein on 13 October was without doubt the lowest point in the history of Luxembourg football.

In December, the new FLF management team, led by the federation's president, Paul Philipp, decided after careful consideration to take some fairly drastic measures to address the situation.

The first step was to terminate the contract of Allan Simonsen by mutual consent and was inevitably followed by the recruitment of a new national coach.

The new man at the helm is former Luxembourg international and long-time captain of Standard Liège, Guy Hellers, whose main occupation for the last few years has been to run the FLF football academy. He is therefore more qualified than anyone to assess the current situation of football in Luxembourg.



Guy Hellers, the new national coach.

Guy Hellers, 40, has signed a contract until 31 December 2007 and will combine his position as national coach with continued responsibility for sporting matters at the FLF football academy.

Since the start of the current season, Guy Hellers has made various changes in connection with the national youth teams. The elite players in the Under-19 and Under-21 age groups have been brought together to form the "A1 squad", which now trains together three times a week at the national football centre in Mondrange.

As well as the A1 squad, the FLF football academy runs the Under-13, Under-15 and Under-17 teams, which train



between three and six times a week under the expert guidance of qualified FA coaches.

Most current members of the A1 and national first team squads have progressed all the way through the academy ranks and are expected to form the backbone of the national team in future.

The FA management team is convinced that these measures will help Luxembourg football to regain the status and recognition it deserves in the medium term.

*Joël Wolff*

## FYR MACEDONIA



### New statutes

The end of 2004 was more than busy, with the Football Federation of Macedonia involved in important activities.

The second week of December brought the first part of the current domestic championship to a close. For the first time, FC Rabotnicki Kometal from Skopje are in the lead at the halfway stage. Local rivals and five-time domestic champions FC Vardar are close in contention.

Finally, after a lengthy process, the statutes of the Football Federation of Macedonia (FSM) have been completed in accordance with FIFA's Standard Statutes and with the assistance of UEFA. The final version was accepted and adopted by the FSM General Assembly. FSM president Haralampie Hadzi-Risteski has stressed that the new statutes will allow further democratisation, transparency and development in football in The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, but, at the same time, will be the basis for popularising the game throughout the country, especially at youth level.

Before the seasonal holidays, the FSM traditionally announces its players of the year. For 2004, the best international player who successfully represents his country abroad was named as Goran Pandev, who plays with S.S. Lazio in Roma. International Aleksandar Vasoski of FC Vardar was named best player in the domestic championship, while the best club award went to the current leaders in the title race, FC Rabotnicki Kometal. Their coach, Gjorgji Jovanovski, was named coach of the year. And last but not least, FC Sileks from Kratovo won the fair play award. In total, awards were made in 18 categories, and on the occasion of the awards ceremony, the FSM paid special tribute to a great friend of football and regular spectator of national team games, the tragically lost president of The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Boris Trajkovski.

*Press Office*

## MALTA



### Looking towards the future

Confirmation that the Malta FA is beginning to reap fruit from its policy of laying more emphasis on the youth sector was provided by



Malta's Under-21 captain Roderick Bajada (in white) against Hungary's Daniel Tozser.

recent results obtained by the Maltese youth teams in UEFA's mini-tournaments and those of the Under-21 team in their European Championship qualifiers. Mark Miller's team's latest 3-1 victory over Italy's Under-20s in a friendly match was another feather in Malta's cap.

Malta's UEFA rankings in the Under-17 and Under-19 categories are creditable and the fact that some other more renowned continental nations feature lower than the Maltese teams in these lists will push the MFA even further in its commitment to nurture youth football more assiduously.

The foundations for this positive trend are laid on a more streamlined structure of the football nurseries in Malta whereby high standards in technical and administrative fields are being set and adhered to. Coaching courses and youth development programmes under the stewardship of Technical Director Horst Heese are also bearing results.

The Youth FA, a body within the Maltese federation, is doing sterling work in this sector. Besides overseeing the nurseries, it runs the national Under-14 and Under-16 leagues, from where the most talented youngsters pass on to the next categories up at club and national team level.

Club nurseries are enthusiastic about the mini-pitches to be built all over Europe as part of UEFA's grassroots programme. They see this project as a well-conceived idea for bringing safe playing facilities within close reach. The interest shown in this project in Malta and its sister island, Gozo, is very encouraging.

Via the Malta FA, the nurseries are also reaping the benefits of UEFA's other assistance programmes, which will present youngsters with endless opportunities for discovering and developing their natural skills.

Thanks to these initiatives, UEFA will certainly open the way for the Malta FA and other member associations to explore new possibilities for ensuring a better future for the game.

*Alex Vella*

## NORWAY



### Football for girls is booming

The Football Association of Norway (NFF) is experiencing a fantastic development in football activity among children. The number of teams participating in football in 2004 was 10.4% higher than the year before, and reached a total number of 23,473 teams. And it is the girls who have really discovered the joy of football. The statistics show that in some regions there were 50% more girls' teams in 2004 compared with 2003. In total, the number of girls' and women's teams grew by 22% in one year.

There are now more than 5,400 girls' and women's teams, and the NFF estimates that more than 100,000 girls are playing football, out of a total of 400,000 football players in Norway and a population of 4.5 million. The exact number of active players will be known in March.

The NFF's president, Sondre Kåfjord, explains that there are three factors contributing to this positive development in grassroots football. He believes that it is important that the NFF is focussing first and foremost on enjoyment, and having fun in children's football; secondly, because the NFF has set very ambitious goals for new facilities, primarily artificial turf; and thirdly, it aims to educate as many volunteers as possible as coaches, leaders and referees. The NFF Plan of Action for 2004-2007 points out that there is a need for 50 new full-size pitches with artificial turf every year to meet the growth in activity. In 2004, 58 new full-size football grounds were built for grassroots football, and 24 pitches for seven-a-side football, all with artificial turf.

To be able to take care of all these children, and give them a satisfactory experience, it is important to educate parents and other volunteers as football coaches and leaders. Last year, the NFF had more than 40,000 persons participating in different courses.

*Roger Solheim*

## POLAND



### Poland and Ukraine offer to host EURO 2012

The football associations of Poland and Ukraine have officially declared their readiness to host EURO 2012. The idea of the joint bid was born about two years ago, and an agreement was signed in Lviv on 28 September 2003 after a joint meeting of the boards of the two associations.



"This is a great challenge. The idea fits in with the current political climate and is very important for both our nations, who would like to improve their living standards," said Michal Listkiewicz, president of the Polish FA.

The initiative of the Polish FA has received strong support from the Polish President, Aleksander Kwasniewski, and guarantees from the government. The final decision was taken by the Polish FA's board at its meeting on 31 January this year.

"We intend to host the 16 best European national teams in 2012. The Polish FA and our Ukrainian partners share the same attitude in this respect. We will do our best to be appointed hosts of EURO 2012 by UEFA on 8 December 2006," said Adam Olkiewicz, chairman of the bid committee.

The challenge is not an easy one. We will be running against countries of great sporting and economical potential. Winning will surely be a very difficult task, but as former famous Polish singer Anna German sang: "Success is the prize for daring." We really hope it will be.

Michal Kocięba / Bartek Marks



Michal Listkiewicz (left) and Zdzislaw Krecina, president and general secretary of the Polish FA respectively.

## REPUBLIC OF IRELAND



### New staff for technical development

The Football Association of Ireland (FAI) is making a very conscientious attempt to bring the message of football to every corner of the Irish nation.

With former Republic of Ireland international goalkeeper Packie Bonner appointed to the position of the association's Technical Director, it is sparing no effort to bring the game to every level of player throughout the country.

As its efforts continue to gain momentum, the association has announced it will be appointing 15 additional staff as part of its technical development plan.

The association states that "eleven new positions have already been approved and a further four existing vacancies will also be filled to boost the association's ability to increase participation and develop the game in 2005 and beyond."

Packie Bonner says "the addition of new staff in key positions and the filling of existing vacancies provide the association with the structure to kick-start the implementation of the 2005 programme."

"The additional resources will enable us to expand existing programmes and, over time, deliver real benefits to the grass roots of the game in Ireland."

"The Technical Development Plan is about creating the best pathways to develop the game among all the communities throughout the country and we're delighted to add to our team of highly-qualified Development Officers and National Coordinators in meeting this challenge."

The Technical Department of the Football Association of Ireland will now have a staff of 39, including Regional Development Officers and National Coordinators, directly developing the game throughout the country.

"We have an excellent team of dedicated staff bringing our programme to thousands of participants, schools and colleges," Packie Bonner goes on.

"The addition of further staff will bring a welcome boost to our ability to attract more people into the game."

The Football Association of Ireland is hopeful that it can also work with local authorities in the creation of new community-based development officers to further boost the game's development.

The key additions to the Technical Development Plan structure are:

- 3 Unit Managers
- 3 National Coordinators
- 3 new Regional Development Officers
- 1 physical fitness/sports science expert
- 1 administrator
- 2 Regional Development Officers (vacancies)
- 1 Head Tutor (Coach Education) (vacancy)
- 1 Coach Education Administrator (vacancy).

Brendan McKenna

## ROMANIA



### Cornel Dragusin, a quiet hero

Cornel Dragusin will turn 79 in March, but he remains very active and deeply in love with his job as a coach.

An honorary coach in Romania since 1990, he received the UEFA Pro diploma in recognition of his work at the first Pro course run in Romania, which he taught. He has attended numerous UEFA coaching courses and is still involved in coach education at all levels. His work is also recognised and appreciated by the UEFA technical staff.



He started coaching in 1950 with the youth team at the Progresul club in Bucharest (now FC National), where he won the national youth championship in 1954 before moving up to the reserves and finally the A team, with whom he won the Romanian Cup in 1958/59.

During the 1960s, he alternated between spells as Progresul coach and posts abroad: in Iraq in 1962 and with the Syrian national and military teams between 1965 and 1967.

In 1969, he spent 45 days visiting some of the top English clubs: Arsenal, Chelsea and Manchester United. On his return, he wrote a book, "In Football's Homeland".

In November 1970, he was recruited by the Romanian Football Association (FRF), for whom he worked until November 2002. During that time, he coached the national A, Under-23, Under-21 and Olympic teams.

Between 1986 and 1990, he was assistant coach to the Romanian national team, which qualified for the World Cup finals in 1990 and reached the last 16.

He was director of the national coaching school from 1990 to 2002, a period during which the best players in Romania's history obtained their coaching licence: they included Gheorghe Hagi, Gheorghe Popescu, Gavrilă Pele Balint, Ovidiu Ioan Sabau, Mircea Rednic, Ilie Dumitrescu and Dan Petrescu.

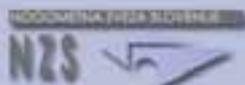
Nowadays, he remains an active member of the FRF Technical Committee and the Managing Committee of the national coaching school, as well as teaching on Pro and other courses.

He is sometimes nicknamed "the Spy" because he spent decades watching opponents on behalf of several national team coaches, providing them with detailed information.

Cornel Dragusin has always enjoyed a special relationship with members of the press, who have always respected and admired him.

Admiration and respect: these words sum up the contribution made by Cornel Dragusin to the FRF over the past 32 years.

Dan Cristea



## RUSSIA



### Two international tournaments

The Football Union of Russia has organised two tournaments simultaneously for the second year in a row – the XIII Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) Champions Cup and the XVII International Youth Tournament. The events, which are held in memory of Valentin Granatkin, former FIFA vice-president and USSR Football Federation president, took place in Moscow from 15 to 23 January on the artificial pitches in the Dinamo and Spartak sports halls. Dinamo was fitted out with new-generation artificial turf just before the tournaments began.

There were 16 participants in the CIS Champions Cup - all the champions of the former Soviet states plus the Russian Under-19 team. Russian champions Lokomotiv Moscow won the tournament, beating Neftchi (Baku, Azerbaijan) 2-1 in the final.

Eight under-18 teams were invited to take part in the youth tournament – Belarus, China, Iran, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Russia and Ukraine. Russia beat Ukraine 4-1 in the final, while Belarus took third place with a 1-0 win over Iran.



Viacheslav Koloskov, president of the Russian Football Association, presents the trophy to the captain of Lokomotiv Moscow, Dmitri Loskov.

FIFA president Joseph S. Blatter and Michel Platini, member of the FIFA and UEFA Executive Committees, attended the opening ceremony of the CIS Champions Cup and opened the tournament by kicking a ball from the centre spot.

All teams were satisfied with the hosts' welcome and the level of organisation of the tournaments in covered halls during the Russian winter. There was general praise for the new artificial pitch of the Dinamo hall, and everybody would like to meet up again next year.

Dmitri Sevastianov

## SCOTLAND



### New women's coach takes over

Swedish coach Anna Signeul has been put in charge of the Scotland women's team, starting at the beginning of March. She takes

over from Vera Pauw, who returned to the Netherlands in the autumn after taking Scotland into UEFA's first division for women's national-team football.

Anna's first game in charge is a friendly against Belgium on 12 March at McDiarmid Park in Perth, and she will be eagerly awaiting the next competition draw, as her long-term goal is to ensure the team qualifies for the European Women's Championship play-offs in 2007.

The 43-year-old Swede has extensive experience in European competition and had been head coach for the Swedish girls' teams since 1996, with the highlight of her career being victory in the European Women's Under-18 Championship, as it was at the time. As a player, she made over 240 appearances in the Swedish Women's Premier League.



Anna Signeul.

Anna said: "I am honoured to be the Scotland women's national coach and relish the challenge. The Scottish FA has invested a lot of resources in women's football and I am delighted with the opportunity to join the association."

Meanwhile, the Scottish FA has announced it will be sharpening its focus on youth and grassroots, and clubs have been given financial support for their youth programmes. A ten-year Youth Action Plan has already started to take effect, and David Taylor, Chief Executive, said: "All of our available energies and resources must, at this time, be directed towards the development of youth football. This is essential if we are to help create a brighter future for the international team and raise participation levels in Scotland."

Andy Mitchell

## SWITZERLAND



### SFV still supporting child and youth protection

When the Swiss FA (SFV) published a brochure on the theme "Child and Youth Protection in Football" six years ago, it recognised that children involved in sport could be harmed in many different ways. The SFV's main objective in producing this publication in cooperation with the Swiss Child Protection Authority was to reduce cases of sexual abuse, which

unfortunately were all too common, to an absolute minimum. With the help of experts, this theme has been covered in depth on a regular basis in further training for coaches and club officials.

The SFV has recently been playing an active part in Swiss Olympic's national campaign on the theme "sexual exploitation in clubs". It has written to its 1,400 or so clubs, urging their coaches to sign a comprehensive 15-point code of conduct in which they promise to respect children's physical and mental integrity.

Pierre Benoit

## UKRAINE



### Joint bid with Poland to host EURO 2012

On 31 January, the Football Federation of Ukraine (FFU) organised a press conference to officially declare its intention to present a joint bid with Poland to co-host the European Championship finals in 2012. Oleksandr Bandurko, FFU vice-president and executive director, and Ivan Fedorenko, vice-president of the National Olympic Committee and chief executive of the bid organising body, were in attendance. The decision to submit a joint bid had been announced by Grygoriy Surkis and Michal Listkiewicz, presidents of the FFU and Polish Football Association (PZPN) respectively after a joint meeting in Lviv back on 28 September 2003.

The initiative of the FFU and PZPN is supported by the presidents and governments of Ukraine and Poland. Oleksandr Bandurko said that the event was important to the country as a whole; the preparation and organisation of the finals would contribute to the European integration, economic and social development of Ukraine.

Valeriy Nikonenko



Oleksandr Bandurko (left) and Ivan Fedorenko.



# Communications

## Birthdays – Calendar

### Birthdays

Josep Lluís Vilaseca Guasch (Spain), Chairman of the Control and Disciplinary Body, celebrates his 75th birthday on 8 March. On 16 March, Günter Linn (Germany), member of the Referee Observers Panel, will be 70. Two members of the Match Delegates Panel turn 60 in March: Benny Jacobsen (Denmark), on the first day of the month, and Lucien Kayser (Luxembourg), on 11 March. Vladimir Aleshin (Russia), member of the Stadium and Security Committee, reaches the same milestone on 9 March. Celebrating their half-centuries this month are Michail Kassabov (Bulgaria), member of the Match Delegates Panel, on 22 March, Pavel Cebanu (Moldova), member of the Technical Development Committee, on 28 March, and Alan Snoddy (Northern Ireland), member of the Referee Observers Panel, on 29 March.

Best wishes for a happy birthday are also extended to:

- Sergey Tatulyan (Ukraine, 1.3)
- Damir Vrbancic (Croatia, 2.3)
- Gerhard Mayer-Vorfelder (Germany, 3.3)
- Dragan Stojkovic (Serbia and Montenegro, 3.3)
- Esa Antero Palsi (Finland, 4.3)
- Boris Durlen (Croatia, 6.3)
- Liana Melania Stoicescu (Romania, 6.3)
- Pedro M. Aurteneche Viñegra (Spain, 7.3)
- Dusan Maravic (Serbia and Montenegro, 7.3)
- Branimir Babarogic (Serbia and Montenegro, 7.3)
- Jean Schiltz (Luxembourg, 7.3)
- Tomás Gea (Andorra, 7.3)
- Juraj Obložinský (Slovakia, 8.3)
- Alexis Ponnet (Belgium, 9.3)
- Hendrik Kesler (Netherlands, 9.3)
- Ruben Hayrapetyan (Armenia, 9.3)
- Joseph S. Blatter (Switzerland, 10.3)
- Amândio de Carvalho (Portugal, 10.3)
- Mateo Beusan (Croatia, 10.3)
- Olga Zhukovska (Ukraine, 11.3)
- Jean-Francois Crucke (Belgium, 12.3)
- Vlastibor Minarovjeh (Slovakia, 13.3)
- Thomas Partl (Austria, 13.3)
- Jan Obst (Czech Republic, 13.3)
- Robin Russell (England, 14.3)
- David Taylor (Scotland, 14.3)
- Alexander Chernov (Russia, 16.3)
- Liutauras Varanavicius (Lithuania, 17.3)

- Christakis Skapoullis (Cyprus, 18.3)
- Marcello Nicchi (Italy, 18.3)
- Andreas Georgiou (Cyprus, 18.3)
- Steve Williams (England, 19.3)
- Rune Bratseth (Norway, 19.3)
- Lambros Adamou (Cyprus, 20.3)
- Aristides Stathopoulos (Greece, 20.3)
- Bülent Yavuz (Turkey, 20.3)
- Jim Boyce (Northern Ireland, 21.3)
- Gines Melendez Sotos (Spain, 22.3)
- Andrea Lastrucci (Italy, 23.3)
- Stefan Reshko (Ukraine, 24.3)
- Maurizio Laudì (Italy, 24.3)
- Kurt Helmer Sørensen (Denmark, 25.3)
- Ray Kiddell (England, 26.3)
- Anatoli Milchenko (Georgia, 26.3)
- Wilfried Straub (Germany, 26.3)
- Kemal Kapuluoglu (Turkey, 26.3)
- Konstantin Vikhrov (Ukraine, 27.3)
- José Antonio Casajús (Spain, 27.3)
- Armen Minasyan (Armenia, 27.3)
- Mario van der Ende (Netherlands, 28.3)
- Edgar Obertüfer (Switzerland, 29.3)
- Stefan Ormandjiev (Bulgaria, 29.3)
- Aleksei Mikhaïlichenko (Ukraine, 30.3)

### Upcoming events

#### MEETINGS

- 9.3.2005, Nyon**  
Stadium and Security Committee
- 10.3.2005, Nyon**  
Futsal Committee
- 17.3.2005, Nyon**  
Club Competitions Committee
- 18.3.2005, Nyon**  
Draws for the quarter-finals and semi-finals of the UEFA Champions League and UEFA Cup

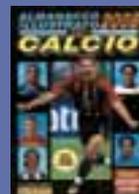
#### COMPETITIONS

- 8/9.3.2005**  
UEFA Champions League: first knock-out round (return legs)
- 10.3.2005**  
UEFA Cup: round of 16 (first legs)
- 16/17.3.2004**  
UEFA Cup: round of 16 (return legs)

### New publications

#### ALMANACCO ILLUSTRATO DEL CALCIO 2005

This sexagenarian is as fit as a fiddle. The 64th volume of the series published by Panini and edited by Fabrizio Melegari is even more colourful than before, but while the photos and illustrations are pleasing to the eye, it is still the sheer quantity and accuracy of the statistical data that make this guide an essential tool for anyone requiring information about Italian football, not forgetting the 100 or so pages devoted to the international game. (Panini S.p.A., Viale Emilio Po, 380 - IT-41100 Modena. Tel. +39 059 382 111).



#### KRONIEK VAN HET BELGISCH VOETBAL-APACHEN EN BROODSPELERS

After a first volume dedicated to the pioneers of 1863-1906, the second volume of this chronicle of Belgian football covers the period 1906-1914 on a season-by-season basis. The authors, Jean Fraiponts and Dirk Willocx, look at national competitions as well as matches played by the national team, with facts and figures supplemented by anecdotes and documents. Non-Flemish-speakers will enjoy the 200 or so photos from the era covered, while



statisticians will enthuse over the lists of results, tables and team line-ups. (Assoc. Be bvba - Frankrijklei 8 - BE-2000 Antwerpen - www.voetbalkroniek.be).

#### SPORT & NATIONALITÉS

##### La mondialisation du sport français

This study by lawyers Serge and Michel Pautot examines the internationalisation of sports competitions, whether in cycling, tennis or football. Using statistical data, they show how the phenomenon is affecting both national competitions, such as the French and English football championships, and national teams, which are increasingly made up of players plying their trade in several different countries (EURO 2004 is used as a reference). Their conclusion: nationalism in sport is obsolete, something over which the lawyers of Polish basketball player Lilia Malaja can only rejoice. (Legispor - 8, rue d'Arcole - FR-13006 Marseille. Fax: +33 491 57 11 60 - email: legispor@wanadoo.fr).

### Match agent

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