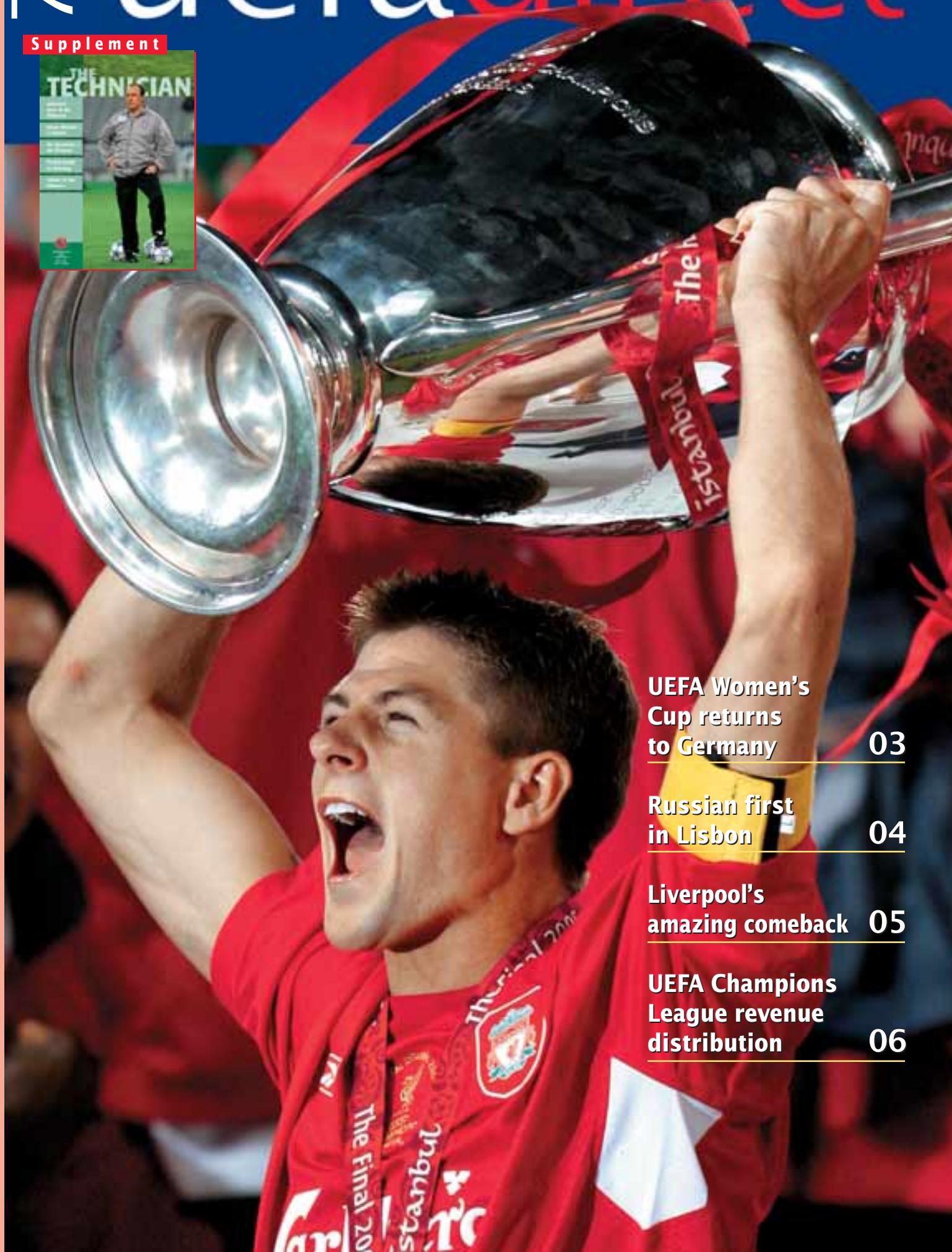


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Supplement



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COVER

Steven Gerrard holds aloft the European Cup. Following in the illustrious footsteps of Real Madrid, Ajax Amsterdam, Bayern Munich and AC Milan, the trophy is now Liverpool's for keeps, after their fifth victory in the competition.

PHOTO: EMPICS

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Yuri Zhirkov scored one of the goals that helped CSKA Moscow to become the first Russian club to win a UEFA competition.

GETTY IMAGES

Editorial

Recent landmarks and future challenges

In football, the month of July is often a good time to reflect on the past season and look forward to the next. Looking back, we have just seen two immensely exciting and goal-filled club competition finals which, apart from being perfectly executed, also produced two firsts: the first ever Russian victory in the fifty-year history of the UEFA club competitions when CSKA Moscow won the UEFA Cup in Lisbon, and on the other side of Europe, the first ever UEFA Champions League final to be held on Turkish soil, with the honour of host city bestowed on Istanbul.

In April, the UEFA Executive Committee, meeting in Tallinn, declared its intention to award finals to more "new" countries in the future. In contrast, the WOMEN'S EURO 2005 has been taking place in the birthplace of football and setting new benchmarks in terms of organisation, public interest and media coverage of women's football in Europe. The 9,000 spectators who attended the return leg of the UEFA Women's Cup final in Potsdam between Turbine Potsdam and Sweden's Djurgården/Älvsjö were also a measure of the growing popularity of women's football in Europe.

We must not, however, rest on our laurels. Other contests on the field of play are imminent, including the final rounds of the men's and women's European Under-19 championships and the UEFA Regions' Cup. There are also challenges of an administrative kind to face: we are nearly into the third season of the UEFA club licensing system, while the Top Executive Programme being devised for the member associations is slowly taking shape.

The coming 2005/06 season is therefore going to be another demanding period for UEFA, with many questions to resolve and decisions to take. But UEFA has no wish to stand still; it is keen to keep moving forward so that it can defend its interests in the forever changing world of football.

*Lars-Christer Olsson
Chief Executive*



WE CARE ABOUT FOOTBALL



UEFA Women's Cup

Back on German soil



PHOTOS: WITTERS

FOR THE TIME BEING, THE UEFA WOMEN'S CUP REMAINS A GERMAN/SWEDISH AFFAIR. AFTER A TWO-YEAR STAY IN SWEDEN FOLLOWING CONSECUTIVE VICTORIES BY UMEÅ IK IN 2003 AND 2004, THE TROPHY HAS NOW RETURNED TO GERMANY, WHERE FFC FRANKFURT WON THE FIRST EDITION BACK IN 2002.

The new German winners are FFC Turbine Potsdam 71, who overcame Djurgården/Älvsjö in both legs of the final, the first in Sweden and the second in Germany.

In Stockholm, against a home side deprived of several of its best attacking players, the Germans made the most of their physical strength by taking a decisive step towards lifting the trophy with a 2-0 win.

In the return leg, in front of a capacity crowd of around 9,000, Turbine Potsdam quickly dashed any hope their visitors had of turning the tie round. The home side led 2-0 after just nine minutes. Although

the Swedes soon reduced the deficit, they were pegged back again by another German goal. There was still enough time for a comeback, but Turbine Potsdam continued to hold the upper hand, and after the exciting opening stages (four goals in 16 minutes!), there were no further additions to the scoreline.

In this fourth edition of the UEFA Women's Cup, Turbine Potsdam were undefeated in their nine matches (drawing only one, against Energy



Captain Ariane Hingst shows off the trophy to the German fans.

Voronezh in the quarter-finals) and fully deserved to win the trophy.

■ The draw for the fifth UEFA Women's Cup will be held in Nyon on 7 July.

Stockholm, 15 May 2005
Djurgården/Älvsjö – 1.FFC Turbine Potsdam 71 0-2
Potsdam, 21 May 2005
1.FFC Turbine Potsdam 71 – Djurgården/Älvsjö 3-1



GETTY IMAGES

One of CSKA Moscow's two Brazilian players, Vagner Love, scorer of the third goal.



SORIANO/AFP/GETTY IMAGES



A.SABATTINI

UEFA Cup

First Russian victory

ONLY ONCE BEFORE IN THE HISTORY OF THE UEFA CLUB COMPETITIONS HAD A RUSSIAN CLUB, DYNAMO MOSCOW, REACHED A FINAL, WHICH THEY LOST BACK IN 1972. MORE THAN 30 YEARS LATER, CSKA MOSCOW WENT ONE STEP FURTHER BY LIFTING THE UEFA CUP IN LISBON, WHERE THEY DEFEATED SPORTING CLUBE DE PORTUGAL.

Spurred on by the prospect of playing the final in their own stadium, Sporting Clube de Portugal had overcome every obstacle placed before them: Rapid Vienna in the first round, and going on to qualify from a group in which they played Newcastle, FC Sochaux, Dinamo Tbilisi and FC Panionios, then Feyenoord in the round of 32, Middlesbrough in the last 16, Newcastle in the quarter-finals and, finally, Alkmaar AZ in an epic, rain-sodden semi-final that went to extra time.

With the backing of a large and enthusiastic home crowd, the Sporting players were fully expecting to lift the club's second European trophy (they won the Cup Winners' Cup in 1964)

and, in doing so, rid themselves of the bitter taste of a recent decisive defeat to local rivals Benfica in the domestic championship.

Everything appeared to be going to plan in the early stages of the match: pressed back in their own half, the Muscovites were unable to quell the spirited Portuguese, whose dominance was justly rewarded when a powerful shot from Rogerio hit the back of the net. However, even though Sporting continued to dictate, they could not find any further cracks in



Disappointed Sporting players receive their consolation medals from Lennart Johansson and Lars-Christer Olsson.

the Russian defence, which coped magnificently. On the contrary, shortly before the break, CSKA created a golden opportunity to equalise. The chance was wasted, but it was a sign of things to come. Sporting certainly did not have the match sewn up and their defence was vulnerable.

The Russians were able to take stock at half time and learn from the chance they had just spurned. They began the second half in a much more positive manner and turned the match on its head within the space of less than ten minutes around the hour mark.

Sporting had missed their chance, a fact confirmed a little later, when just seconds after striking the Russian post, the ball once again nestled in the back of the Portuguese goal.

The Portuguese public were struck by a sad feeling of *déjà vu*, although they still sportingly applauded the eventual winners. After dropping

18 May 2005
Lisbon – José Alvalade stadium – 47,085 spectators
Sporting Clube de Portugal – CSKA Moscow 1-3 (1-0)
Goals: Rogerio (28), A. Berezutsky (57), Zhirkov (65), Vagner Love (75)
Referee: Graham Poll (England)



GETTY IMAGES
Clamouring to touch the first European trophy to be won by a Russian club.

out of the UEFA Champions League following the group stage, the team coached by Valery Gazzaev knocked out Benfica, FK Partizan, AJ Auxerre and FC Parma.

This was the ninth single-leg UEFA club competition final (European Cup/Champions League, Cup Winners' Cup, UEFA Cup and Super Cup) to be played in the home city of one of the finalists. Before CSKA Moscow, only Liverpool, in Rome in 1984, managed to emerge victorious as the "away" side.



The first goal of the match, scored by Maldini, and the last goal of the second half, which Xabi Alonso netted on the rebound from a penalty.



Goalkeeper Jerzy Dudek played a crucial role.

UEFA Champions League

An unbelievable climax!

**WHATEVER THE OUTCOME, THIS YEAR'S UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE FINAL
WOULD IN ANY CASE HAVE GONE DOWN IN THE HISTORY BOOKS AS THE 50TH FINAL
SINCE THE CREATION OF EUROPE'S MOST PRESTIGIOUS CLUB COMPETITION.**

IT WAS ALSO THE FIRST SUCH FINAL TO BE PLAYED IN TURKEY.

Yet, rather than these statistical milestones, it is the extraordinary and unprecedented way in which the game unfolded that will always be remembered. The first half was dominated by a wonderful AC Milan side, who produced an outstanding display of technique and individual talent. In the very first minute, captain Paolo Maldini gave the Italians the perfect start with an impeccable volley. Liverpool were forced to come forward and, in doing so, not only did they fail to equalise, but they left themselves open to Milan's counter-attacks, conceding two further goals in the process, the second of which capped a move of textbook precision and finesse.

The quality of the Milan defence suggested that the game was all but over at half-time. However, after a tactical reshuffle and with morale boosted by an early goal and the unwavering support of their fans, Liverpool achieved the incredible feat of hauling themselves level within the space of seven short minutes!



AC Milan have nevertheless shown on many occasions that they are a team of character. After suffering what for many sides would have been a knock-out blow, they gradually pulled themselves out of the black hole into which they had fallen and, particularly in extra time, regained the upper hand over their exhausted, but determined opponents. A double reflex save by goalkeeper Jerzy Dudek in the dying minutes of extra time gave

further confidence to the man who would prove to be the hero of the ensuing penalty competition. The Pole's gesticulations on his goal line appeared to make more of an impression on the Milanese marksmen than Dida's calmness did on Liverpool's penalty takers. Two saved and one off target for one side; one saved for the other; three kicks converted by Liverpool and two by Milan. Liverpool had come back from too great a deficit to fall at the final hurdle: they lifted their fifth Champions' Cup and will therefore retain the trophy, a precious souvenir of a jubilee evening that football fans will never forget – an evening that had all the ingredients that make football such a great spectacle and a game played in a perfect spirit of fair play and an indescribable atmosphere.



25 May 2005
Istanbul – Atatürk stadium – 69,600 spectators
AC Milan – Liverpool FC 3-3 (3-0) (2-3 on pens)
Goals: Maldini (1), Crespo (39 and 44) Gerrard (54), Smicer (56), Xabi Alonso (60)
Referee: Enrique Manuel Mejuto Gonzalez (Spain)



EMPICS/UEFA

UEFA Champions League

GROUP MATCHES					FINAL PHASE				
CLUBS	Starting premium	Participation	Performance bonus	Market pool	First KO round	Quarter-finals	Semi-finals	Final	TOTAL CHF
Group A									
Olympiacos CFP	2 500 000	3 000 000	1 750 000	4 114 000					11 364 000
Liverpool FC	2 500 000	3 000 000	1 750 000	20 417 000	2 500 000	3 000 000	4 000 000	10 000 000	47 167 000
AS Monaco FC	2 500 000	3 000 000	2 000 000	11 174 000	2 500 000				21 174 000
RC Deportivo La Coruña	2 500 000	3 000 000	500 000	9 258 000					15 258 000
Group B									
FC Dynamo Kyiv	2 500 000	3 000 000	1 750 000	288 000					7 538 000
Bayer 04 Leverkusen	2 500 000	3 000 000	2 000 000	10 758 000	2 500 000				20 758 000
Real Madrid CF	2 500 000	3 000 000	2 000 000	11 073 000	2 500 000				21 073 000
AS Roma	2 500 000	3 000 000	250 000	10 535 000					16 285 000
Group C									
FC Bayern Munich	2 500 000	3 000 000	1 750 000	15 566 000	2 500 000	3 000 000			28 316 000
AFC Ajax	2 500 000	3 000 000	750 000	5 829 000	2 500 000	3 000 000			12 079 000
Juventus	2 500 000	3 000 000	2 750 000	9 434 000	2 500 000	3 000 000			23 184 000
Maccabi Tel-Aviv FC	2 500 000	3 000 000	750 000	1 132 000					7 382 000
Group D									
Manchester United FC	2 500 000	3 000 000	2 000 000	15 086 000	2 500 000				25 086 000
Fenerbahce SK	2 500 000	3 000 000	1 500 000	5 760 000					12 760 000
AC Sparta Praha	2 500 000	3 000 000	250 000	175 000					5 925 000
Olympique lyonnais	2 500 000	3 000 000	2 250 000	18 158 000	2 500 000	3 000 000			31 408 000
Group E									
PSV Eindhoven	2 500 000	3 000 000	1 750 000	7 368 000	2 500 000	3 000 000	4 000 000		24 118 000
Panathinaikos FC	2 500 000	3 000 000	1 750 000	4 547 000	2 500 000	3 000 000			11 797 000
Rosenborg BK	2 500 000	3 000 000	500 000	3 492 000	2 500 000				9 492 000
Arsenal FC	2 500 000	3 000 000	2 000 000	26 014 000	2 500 000				36 014 000
Group F									
FC Barcelona	2 500 000	3 000 000	1 750 000	14 886 000	2 500 000				24 636 000
FC Shakhtar Donetsk	2 500 000	3 000 000	1 000 000	260 000					6 760 000
AC Milan	2 500 000	3 000 000	2 250 000	17 022 000	2 500 000	3 000 000	4 000 000	6 000 000	40 272 000
Celtic FC	2 500 000	3 000 000	1 000 000	9 714 000					16 214 000
Group G									
SV Werder Bremen	2 500 000	3 000 000	2 250 000	16 055 000	2 500 000				26 305 000
Valencia CF	2 500 000	3 000 000	1 250 000	15 612 000					22 362 000
RSC Anderlecht	2 500 000	3 000 000	---	3 446 000					8 946 000
FC Internazionale	2 500 000	3 000 000	2 500 000	9 434 000	2 500 000	3 000 000			22 934 000
Group H									
PFC CSKA Moscow	2 500 000	3 000 000	1 250 000	1 996 000					8 746 000
Paris Saint-Germain FC	2 500 000	3 000 000	1 000 000	12 571 000					19 071 000
Chelsea FC	2 500 000	3 000 000	2 250 000	25 908 000	2 500 000	3 000 000	4 000 000		43 158 000
FC Porto	2 500 000	3 000 000	1 500 000	2 918 000	2 500 000				12 418 000
TOTAL	80 000 000	96 000 000	48 000 000	320 000 000	40 000 000	24 000 000	16 000 000	16 000 000	640 000 000



Champions League Allocation of revenue

ON THE PITCH, THE 2004/05 UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE CONCLUDED MAGNIFICENTLY WITH A TRULY DRAMATIC FINAL. ON THE COMMERCIAL FRONT, IT WAS ALSO VERY SUCCESSFUL, BENEFITING THE WHOLE OF EUROPEAN FOOTBALL.

The revenue from the competition was distributed in more or less exactly the same way as in previous years. Naturally, the participating clubs are the main beneficiaries, although the national associations, leagues and other clubs also received a slice of the cake in the form of solidarity payments.

■ A sum of around CHF 16 million was paid into a special fund (EURO pool) in order to co-finance the HatTrick project.

■ The leagues will also receive an amount dependent on whether or not they were represented in the Champions League; details of these payments, which are meant to fund clubs' youth programmes, will be published in a future edition.

■ The clubs involved in the Champions League qualifying competition but which did not reach the group stage received CHF 80,000 per round in which they played.

■ The national champions which failed to qualify for the group matches received an additional CHF 150,000.

■ The clubs that were eliminated in the first round or an earlier round of the UEFA Cup received CHF 80,000 per round in which they played.

(The table on the right shows the sums paid to the national associations for their clubs in accordance with the aforementioned criteria.)

Three pillars

Revenue is distributed amongst the 32 clubs involved in the UEFA Champions League on a three-pillar

basis: a participation premium, a variable performance-related bonus and a sum dependent on the commercial market value of the country of the club concerned.

■ The participation premium is split into two parts: CHF 2,500,000 for participation in the group matches and ■ CHF 500,000 per match played, i.e. in principle, CHF 3 million per club.

■ Results on the pitch were rewarded as follows: CHF 500,000 for a win and CHF 250,000 for a draw. With five wins and one draw, Juventus came closest to earning the maximum available payment of CHF 3 million.

■ Teams that qualified for the first knock-out round were awarded CHF 2,500,000; each quarter-finalist received CHF 3 million and each semi-finalist a further CHF 4 million. For winning the final, Liverpool FC were rewarded with CHF 10 million, plus a share of the gate receipts. Their opponents, AC Milan, earned CHF 6 million for reaching the final, as well as a share of the gate receipts.

■ The other half of the total amount paid to the participants is dependent on the value of their national TV market. However, clubs from the same national association did not receive the same amount: these payments are calculated firstly according to the club's position in their national championship and secondly in accordance with the number of matches played in this season's Champions League.

N.B. The clubs were also allowed to keep the gate receipts from all their matches, except the final.

Amounts received by each association for its clubs

ASSOCIATION	CHF
ALBANIA	550 000
ANDORRA	230 000
ARMENIA	550 000
AUSTRIA	390 000
AZERBAIJAN	470 000
BELARUS	390 000
BELGIUM	-
BOSNIA & HERZEGOVINA	550 000
BULGARIA	710 000
CROATIA	310 000
CYPRUS	470 000
CZECH REPUBLIC	550 000
DENMARK	470 000
ENGLAND	80 000
ESTONIA	470 000
FAROE ISLANDS	390 000
FINLAND	550 000
FRANCE	80 000
GEORGIA	470 000
GERMANY	80 000
GREECE	160 000
HUNGARY	470 000
ICELAND	630 000
ISRAEL	630 000
ITALY	80 000
KAZAKHSTAN	-
LATVIA	790 000
LIECHTENSTEIN	160 000
LITHUANIA	630 000
LUXEMBOURG	390 000
FYR MACEDONIA	390 000
MALTA	390 000
MOLDOVA	630 000
NETHERLANDS	-
NORTHERN IRELAND	470 000
NORWAY	480 000
POLAND	630 000
PORTUGAL	240 000
REPUBLIC OF IRELAND	630 000
ROMANIA	550 000
RUSSIA	240 000
SAN MARINO	230 000
SCOTLAND	80 000
SERBIA & MONTENEGRO	550 000
SLOVAKIA	550 000
SLOVENIA	870 000
SPAIN	-
SWEDEN	870 000
SWITZERLAND	390 000
TURKEY	400 000
UKRAINE	320 000
WALES	390 000
TOTAL	21 000 000



The representatives of the finalists at the draw.



PHOTOS: JEFATHALY

European Women's Under-19 Championship

The host cities are ready

PREPARATIONS FOR THE FINAL ROUND OF THE EUROPEAN WOMEN'S UNDER-19 CHAMPIONSHIP IN HUNGARY ARE ALMOST COMPLETE.

Two stadiums, Andrásida and Bükk, have been rebuilt specially for the event and were unveiled in May, while the other two were rebuilt a few years ago. From 20 to 31 July, the West Hungary region (Dunántúl) will receive the continent's best women's Under-19 teams, namely England, Germany, Finland, France, Russia, Scotland and Switzerland.



The draw for the final round was made in Hévíz on 24 May in the presence of representatives of the teams, the Hungarian FA (MLSZ) and UEFA. Hévíz is famous for its thermal (spa) water and will be the headquarters of UEFA and most of the teams during the event (others will stay at another spa resort, Bükk). Addressing those present at the draw, MLSZ president Imre

Place in the World Championship at stake

The draw produced the following two groups:
A: Hungary, Germany, Finland, Switzerland;
B: France, Russia, Scotland, England.

The group matches will be played from 20 to 25 July, the semi-finals are scheduled for 28 July, and the final will take place in Zalaegerszeg on Sunday, 31 July.

The championship will determine which four European teams will compete in the Under-20 Women's World Championship in Russia in 2006. If Russia – who qualify automatically for the FIFA event – are among the semi-finalists in the European championship, a play-off on 27 July between the third-placed team in each group will determine Europe's last participant in the Under-20 Women's World Championship.

The world title is held by Germany. Reigning European champions Spain were knocked out of the 4th European Women's Under 19 Championship in the qualifying round.



Karen Espelund, Barbara Konta and Lothar Matthäus conduct the draw.

Bozóky said: "We want to give youth education and youth events our full support and help, and this is a good opportunity to do so, but our biggest aim with the tournament is to make women's football more popular in Hungary. I can't think of a better advert for women's football than this."

Karen Espelund, chairwoman of UEFA's Women's Football Committee, said: "The tournament has been so well organised here in Hungary. It will be a great event in women's football." She also congratulated Hungary and Scotland, who will be making their first appearance in the finals. "We hope that more and more nations will start to take women's football seriously and that it will soon become established all over the continent."

Andrásida is a suburb of the city of Zalaegerszeg and has a small but modern stadium. Once refurbished, it will boast 200 new covered seats as well as modern dressing rooms. The grass is also perfect and Andrásida seems to offer the best pitch of the tournament.

The other two stadiums are Zalaegerszeg and Pápa, home of first division sides Zalaegerszegi TE and Lombard Pápa FC respectively.

The face of the event will be Hungarian television celebrity Barbara Konta, who is a favourite of many young Hungarians. She also comes from a family full of former football players and, moreover, she plays football herself and was even a second division player before she became a TV personality.

Marton Dinnyés



UEFA Regions' Cup Finals in Poland

**THE FINAL ROUND OF THE 2004/05
UEFA REGIONS' CUP WILL BE HELD IN
POLAND FROM 3 TO 9 JULY.**

The fourth edition of this competition for amateur footballers attracted 37 regional teams, each representing their national association.

Eight teams competed in the preliminary round in September 2004 and two of the three teams that qualified went on to top their group in the intermediary round, in which 32 teams were divided into eight groups: Central Slovakia and Dacia (Romania) thus secured their place in the final round,



Jim Boyce,
chairman of the
Youth and
Amateur Football
Committee,
conducts the draw
with the help of
RKS Garbanski player
Jakub Podgorski.

along with Vasca (Spain), the Republic of Ireland, Brno (Czech Republic), Kahovka-Kzeso (Ukraine), Malopolska (Poland) and South-West Sofia (Bulgaria).

In December, at the recommendation of the Youth and Amateur Football Committee, the Executive Committee invited the Polish Football Association to organise the finals. They will be played in the region of Krakow, where the headquarters will be based. The matches will be held in the stadiums of Brzesko, Libiaz, Proszowice, Wolbrom and Zabierzow.

The draw took place on 25 May at the stadium of Wisla Krakow, at half-time in the league match between the home team and Gornik Zabrze.

Group A will contain the teams from Poland, Slovakia, Bulgaria and the Czech Republic, while the Romanian, Irish, Spanish and Ukrainian representatives will form Group B. The two group winners will contest the final in Proszowice on 9 July. There will be no third/fourth place match.

The first three editions were won by Veneto (Italy, 1999, held in Italy), Central Moravia (Czech Republic, 2001, in the Czech Republic) and Piemonte/Vallee d'Aosta (Italy, 2003, in Germany).

Spain is the only country to have been represented at every final round of this competition. This will be the first time teams from Romania and Slovakia have taken part in the finals.

Under-19s in Northern Ireland

**THE FINAL ROUND OF THE EUROPEAN UNDER-19 CHAMPIONSHIP
CAN BE DESCRIBED AS A RENAISSANCE, SINCE ONLY ONE OF LAST YEAR'S FINALISTS
IS TAKING PART THIS TIME ROUND.**

Germany are, in fact, the only team of the eight who contested the 2004 final round in Switzerland to have made it through the preliminaries this season, which proved fatal to title-holders Spain, 2004 runners-up Turkey and other associations which are used to taking centre stage in youth football, such as Portugal and Italy. Since the competition was changed from an under-18 to an under-19 championship, a total of 21 associations have qualified for the final round.

In contrast, Armenia will be taking part in their first UEFA youth final

round, while Serbia and Montenegro, Greece and Northern Ireland will be making their first appearance since the competition was reclassified. Northern Ireland qualified automatically as host nation of the tournament, which runs from 18 to 29 July.

The draw for the final round was made at Belfast City Hall on 3 June under the supervision of Executive Committee member Michel Platini and Jim Boyce, chairman of the Youth and Amateur Football Committee.

Group A: Northern Ireland, Greece, Serbia and Montenegro, Germany.



Jim Boyce and Michel Platini.

Group B: Norway, Armenia, France, England.

The group matches take place from 18 to 23 July, the semi-finals on 26 July, and the final itself on 29 July at Windsor Park in Belfast.





Young participants in Georgia.

SO GEORGIA



A Unified team in Romania.

SO ROMANIA



Serbia and Montenegro: players with and without disabilities share the same passion for football.

SABINE BRECKLINGHAUS

Special Olympics Football Week

Record participation

THE FIFTH ANNUAL SPECIAL OLYMPICS EUROPEAN FOOTBALL WEEK WAS HELD FROM 23 APRIL TO 1 MAY, WITH A RECORD 40,000 PLAYERS WITH INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES PARTICIPATING IN EVENTS IN OVER 50 COUNTRIES.

This year's events included the kick-off of a project that combines SO Get Into It, the Special Olympics school curriculum that encourages understanding, tolerance and acceptance among young people, and Unified Football, in which players with and without disabilities (partners) play on the same team. In total, approximately 400 Special Olympics footballers and 400 schoolchildren in Poland, Romania, Serbia and Montenegro and Slovakia participated in football activities as part of this project. *"The project brings young people together and teaches them that the only difference between them is the colour of their jerseys,"*



said Zorica Simic, who heads a Serbian regional educational authority.

"I found out that young people with special needs are not so different from me," said Paul Tiplea, 12, a Romanian Unified partner.

The one-year project will be expanded to other countries.

Many Special Olympics National Programmes organised large-scale tournaments. In Russia, a five-a-side indoor tournament involving 26 teams was held in St Petersburg. A Siberian team from Irkutsk spent seven days travelling by train; another came from Norylsk, 1,000 km above the Arctic Circle. *"This tournament is very important because we can only*

play indoors since we always have snow except for two weeks in June," said Genedij Jurevich, a coach from Norylsk. A smaller indoor tournament was organised for 11 Special Olympics teams in Stavropol, in the North Caucasus.

In Azerbaijan, the Special Olympics National Programme celebrated its 15th anniversary with a 14-team tournament in Baku. In Lithuania, 22 teams participated in four regional tournaments. In FYR Macedonia, 22 Special Olympics teams and eight Unified teams competed in a tournament in Bitola, with 30 percent of the players new to Special Olympics. Young players under 16 were the focus of a tournament in Armenia in which ten teams took part, including new regional teams. In Georgia, 120 Special Olympics players, also under 16 and from newly engaged regions, participated in a tournament. In Turkey, 40 teams competed in tournaments in eight cities.

One of the largest grassroots initiatives was in Ukraine, with over 1,500 Special Olympics players taking part in regional competitions, including those held for the first time in eastern Ukraine. *"We desperately need Special Olympics events because there are many athletes with special needs who love sport*



MIROSLAV KROULEC



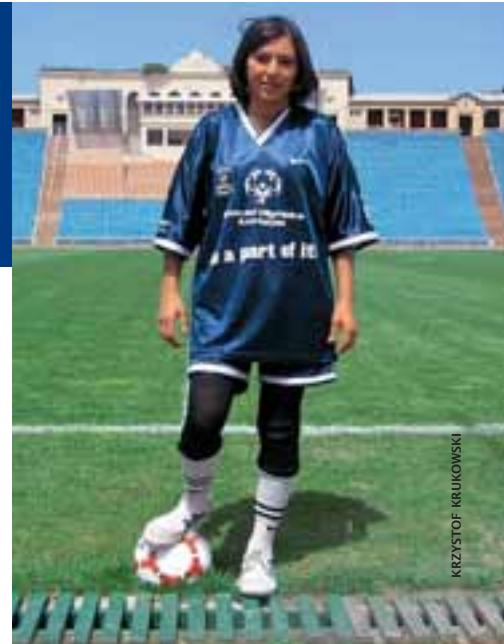
MARIAN MURPHY

Portugal:
Paulo Sousa
runs
a practice
session
in Lisbon.



Poland:
another way
to play
football.

ADAM NURKIEWICZ



KRZYSZTOF KRUKOWSKI

and especially football and we now know there is a movement for them," said Vaceslav Hrichenko, a special school director in Dnipropetrovsk, where 22 teams competed.

Lively, one-day tournaments were held in Croatia with 16 teams, Bosnia and Herzegovina with 20 teams, and Iceland with six teams.

Support from professional football

Many of the tournaments received strong support from FAs and from national Olympic committees, government ministries and university sports departments, which are proving to be an excellent source for recruiting volunteer coaches.

Professional players and clubs continued to support Special Olympics. In England, Special Olympics players participated in a Football United event that involved Football in the Community coaches from six of London's top clubs. In Portugal, 170 Special Olympics players took part in a day of skills building and competition at the national football training camp in Lisbon with former international Paulo Sousa leading sessions. In Luxembourg, first division clubs warmed up before matches wearing Special Olympics T-shirts, while former World Cup players, led by Wolfgang Overath and coached by Paul Phillip, president of the football association, participated in a fundraising match. In the Netherlands, during Gouden Gids Divisie matches, 40 Special Olympics teams had the opportunity to play exhibition matches and take penalty shots with seasoned players as part of public awareness and fundraising efforts for players with disabilities. In Turkey, Special Olympics players walked hand in hand onto the pitch with Superleague teams Galatasaray SC and Malatyaspor. In Italy, long-time supporter Francesco Totti and other big-name players from AS Roma met with Special Olympics players. In the

Republic of Ireland, Special Olympics demonstrations were held during League of Ireland matches.

Women's participation

Across Europe, female players continued to make their mark even if they were the only girl on the pitch, like Rena Dzaforova, 15, from Azerbaijan, who showed everyone in the all-male tournament in Baku that she was a force to be reckoned with. Dzaforova hopes to become a member of the national team - the men's team - since there is no national women's team. Elsewhere, Special Olympics tournaments and training sessions with female players included those in Armenia, Croatia, Iceland, Republic of Ireland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia and Ukraine.

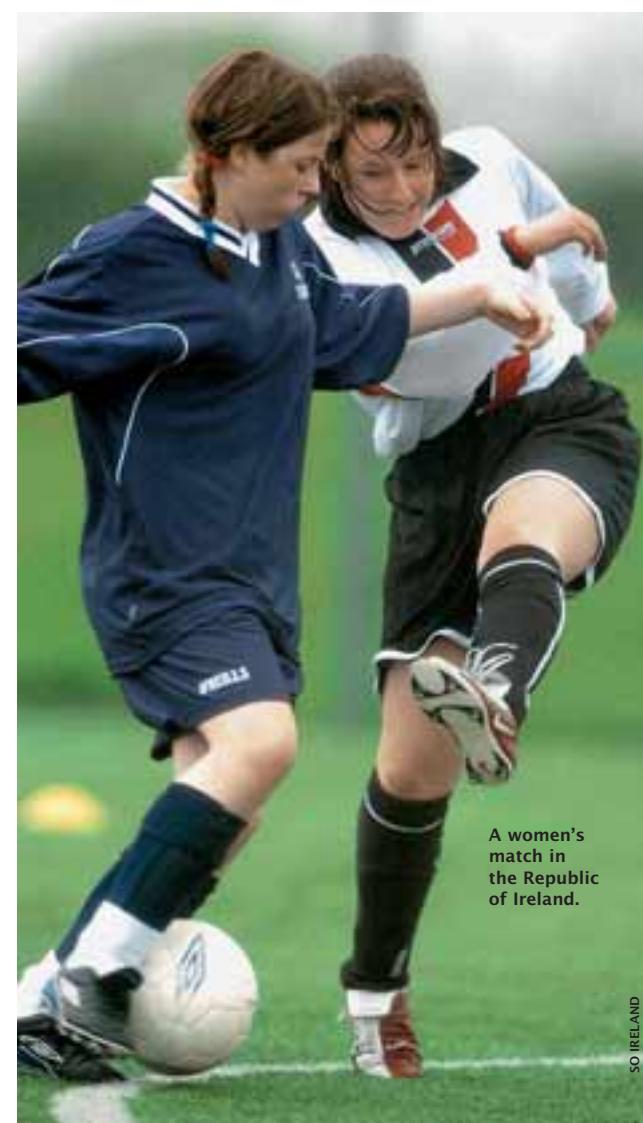
A Unified match with UEFA staff and Special Olympics footballers took place at UEFA headquarters, with Markus Studer, Deputy CEO, taking part in the game. Special Olympics players represented the Eben-Heizer Foundation located in the Swiss canton of Vaud.

Special Olympics players from Schulheim Lerchenbühl in Burgdorf/Berne joined FIFA staff for a similar match, officiated by Nicole Petignat, a FIFA international referee. Special Olympics Chairman and CEO Timothy S. Shriver watched from the sidelines before meeting FIFA president Joseph S. Blatter.

The Johan Cruyff Foundation focused its support on initiatives in Eastern Europe involving school-age players.

Rena Dzaforova, the only girl among the boys in Azerbaijan.

Next year, young people between 12 and 21 will be the focus of the 2006 Special Olympics European Youth Games to be held at the end of September in Rome. Unified Football will be one of seven sports offered in this highly inclusive sports event that aims to foster acceptance and friendship.



A women's
match in
the Republic
of Ireland.

SO IRELAND



A very useful and much appreciated seminar.

Dr Jacques Liénard, chairman of the Anti-Doping Panel.

Constructive group discussions.

Doping control officers

Inaugural seminar in Nyon

ON 23 MAY UEFA HELD THE FIRST-EVER SEMINAR FOR ITS DOPING CONTROL OFFICERS (DCOS),
MARKING A CLEAR COMMITMENT TO ITS FIGHT AGAINST DOPING.

UEFA Deputy Chief Executive Markus Studer opened the meeting, explaining the origins of UEFA's new anti-doping programme. After the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) code came into force in January 2004 and following the agreement concluded between FIFA and WADA in the summer of that year, UEFA set up a task force whose recommendations resulted, among other things, in the creation of an anti-doping unit, answerable to the Deputy CEO, and an anti-doping panel, reporting to the Medical Committee. Markus Studer had a clear message for those attending the seminar: *"This is not a revolution but a reconsideration.*

We want the most professional control officers in the field. We need their know-how; we need their presence."

Aims of the Panel

The chairman of the Anti-Doping Panel, Dr Jacques Liénard, presented the aims of the new panel, which is composed of members of the Medical Committee and external experts. Its primary role is one of harmonisation, namely the exchange of information and knowledge among all parties involved in doping controls, with a view to achieving greater professionalism through further training, which is ultimately in the players' interests. The aim is also to put a stop

to cheating and prevent court cases. The number of actual controls is being increased and from the 2005/06 season there will also be out-of-competition controls in the UEFA Champions League.

What is actually required of DCOs? They have to ensure the confidentiality of the whole control procedure, keep a clear overview of the situation and at the same time act with discretion. They have to be independent in all the preparatory work, from going to the stadium and preparing the control-related forms to delivering the samples to a laboratory the following day. It is a very demanding job which calls for organisational skills and quick-wittedness.





PHOTOS: UEFA



Practical problems

The seminar focused essentially on the discussion of practical problems which can arise in the line of duty. Participants were presented with problems which they discussed in groups. They came up with solutions to questions such as: "What happens if a player refuses to produce a urine sample under observation?" or "What should be done if there are doubts concerning a player's identity?"

The participants - all doctors, including both experienced and prospective DCOs - were extremely active. Marc Vouillamoz, the organiser of the seminar and head of UEFA's new Anti-Doping Unit, was pleased with the large number of questions, comments and suggestions. Most of the practical cases discussed generated the same conclusions: not only must DCOs know their tasks and duties inside out but they also have to be able to improvise and assert themselves, show common sense and report any incidents or problems to UEFA, so that it can take appropriate action.

Visibly pleased with how successful this first seminar had been, Dr Liénard rounded off the proceedings with the following words to the participants: "Thank you for your active participation in the seminar. We've taken a major step forward and we'll carry on seeking ways of making your work easier. The increase in the number of controls and the doubling of the budget show the extent of UEFA's commitment in this field. Today's seminar was extremely useful - we'll make it an annual event!"

Report from Brussels

ON 29 MAY AND 1 JUNE, THE PEOPLE OF FRANCE AND THE NETHERLANDS VOTED HEAVILY AGAINST THE CONSTITUTIONAL TREATY OF THE EUROPEAN UNION (EU). THIS HAS THROWN THE EU INTO THE MOST SERIOUS CRISIS OF ITS 50-YEAR HISTORY, SINCE THE NEW TREATY CANNOT COME INTO FORCE UNLESS ALL 25 MEMBER STATES HAVE RATIFIED IT.

No one in Brussels or the national capitals knew what should happen next; there was no 'plan B'. EU leaders then met on 16 and 17 June in Brussels to agree on some form of response.

Many commentators argued that the Treaty was now dead. There was certainly no appetite to renegotiate the text, and no one seriously believed that the French or Dutch would vote differently if asked the same question one year from now. Given the strength of the rejection in both countries, it was more probable that the EU would simply try to maintain some degree of political stability over the coming weeks and months.

Some governments suggested that the ratification process should continue: at the start of June, more than half of the member states had yet to vote on the Treaty. The President of the European Commission, José Manuel Barroso (photo), wanted all remaining governments to pursue their ratification procedures to see where the final balance of opinion would lie. Some of these countries, however, had already indicated that they planned to cancel their referendum.

Amid this confusion, the EU continues to function under the Nice Treaty, which was signed in 2000. All existing policies and institutions remain in place.

The death of the new Treaty means that Article 282, on education, youth, sport and vocational training, will not take effect. The EU continues to have no legal basis for sports policy, and will not be able to propose new legislation in this area.

In the absence of a Treaty article on sport, the case law of the European Court of Justice remains the central pillar of the legal framework for sport. At the same time, the EU's previous political declarations retain their validity, and

perhaps take on new importance. Above all, the Nice Declaration of 2000 continues to offer UEFA a very helpful text.

Although not legally binding, the Nice Declaration sets out some basic principles that firmly support UEFA's goals and activities:

- the "independence of sports organisations and their right to organise themselves through appropriate associative structures";

- the recognition that "sports federations... are justified in taking the action needed to preserve the training capacity of clubs";

- the recognition that "moves to encourage the mutualisation of part of the revenue from [TV] sales...are beneficial to the principle of solidarity..."

The EU will continue to play a role in sport, even without the new Treaty. All the basic rules of the single market in areas such as competition, non-discrimination and the free movement of labour will continue to apply to sport, and the European Commission and Court of Justice will continue to police these rules. Sports ministers will continue to meet informally, and Commissioner Ján Figel will keep sport among his responsibilities. In short, the EU will be able to intervene in sport as much as it has done in the past.

The EU's Sports Ministers will meet, as planned, on 19 and 20 September in Liverpool. They will discuss the future of sport in the EU, and explore what activities they can undertake in the absence of the article.





Jacques Crevoisier, who is a psychologist as well as a coach, and UEFA's Technical Director Andy Roxburgh.



Ronald Spelbos issues his instructions, watched by a knowledgeable audience.

Course for coach educators

Winning – the will and the way

WHAT'S THE BEST WAY FOR COACH EDUCATORS TO TEACH COACHES HOW TO PRODUCE WINNING TEAMS?

'WINNING' WAS THE DECEPTIVELY SIMPLE THEME OF THE 15TH UEFA COURSE FOR COACH EDUCATORS, STAGED AT NOORDWIJK, JUST DOWN THE DUTCH COAST FROM AMSTERDAM, A LITTLE OVER A WEEK AFTER AC MILAN AND LIVERPOOL FC HAD DEMONSTRATED IN ISTANBUL THAT WINNING IS NOT EXACTLY A PRECISE ART AND THAT IT CAN DEPEND ON COMPLEX EQUATIONS INVOLVING TACTICAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL FLUCTUATIONS.

The sheer diversity of the course underlined just how many factors can lead to the frequently slim margins between victory and defeat. But four intensive days of theory and practice hopefully gave the coach educators from all 52 of UEFA's member associations the chance to return home with fresh ideas about how to further develop or upgrade methods of 'teaching the teachers'.

The course was dedicated to the memory of Rinus Michels, a shining beacon for his colleagues in terms of injecting new concepts into team-building, tactics and man management. Coaches such as Bert van Lingen and Henk van de Wetering, who had worked with the 'guru of coaching' over the years, spearheaded a top-class performance by the Dutch hosts, with current national-

team coach Marco van Basten even inviting the participants to attend an impressive training session at De Kuip in Rotterdam a couple of days before the World Cup qualifier against Romania.

The Dutch – perhaps more than most – have reflected deeply on ways of combining results with flowing football that is attractive to the fans and, not least, the players themselves. But decades of thinking have, fortunately, failed to produce a cast-iron formula for winning. Discussions in Noordwijk therefore focused on ways of laying foundations on which winning teams can be built.

Wim Koevermans and Ronald Spelbos, two former Dutch internationals who are now members of the coaching team at the KNVB (the Dutch FA), used the conference room and the training pitch to address tactical issues, stressing that dialogue with players has become a vital ingredient for success, along with the ability to field questions on systems employed by opposing

Jozef Venglos, vice-chairman of the Technical Development Committee, lends a group of young players some expert advice.



PHOTOS: UEFA



Dancing in the street: mass rejoicing in Liverpool after Liverpool FC's victory in the UEFA Champions League final.

PETER ROBINSON

teams and to come up with formulae for overcoming them.

Gérard Houllier, who joined his colleagues in Noordwijk hours after signing for Olympique Lyonnais, then sketched a verbal profile of 'the winning coach' – and his picture graphically illustrated how many management skills are needed by today's top-level technicians. He stressed that success can depend on the quality (and team spirit) of his back-up staff, and this was further emphasised when Frans Hoek, a specialist in goalkeeper coaching, offered his views on how training-ground responsibilities should be distributed – which he then backed up during an intensive session with a group of players from AFC Ajax's youth teams.

Bert van Lingen, whose delivery is sometimes reminiscent of his friend and mentor Rinus Michels, broached another crucial issue: in which age bracket should coaches try to instil a 'winning mentality'? "At youth level, the aim is to win," he commented. "But the global aim has to be the development of the individual. But winning is what fuels the players' behaviour, so we have to try to keep the tank full."

But the subject is so complex that when UEFA's Technical Director Andy Roxburgh, who had contributed with sessions on winning trends in the UEFA Champions League and winning mentalities, asked the participants to list their ideas on winning trends, they came up with twenty. In other words, the formula for winning is still not something we can write on a postcard...

Presentation of the EURO 2008 logo

THE OFFICIAL LOGO OF EURO 2008 WAS UNVEILED IN VIENNA ON 7 JUNE.



The logo was designed by the company English & Pockett.

The logo bears the white and red of the national flags of the two host nations, Austria and Switzerland, along with green, which symbolises the importance of nature in both countries. Love of nature and football is reflected in the ball that appears within the overall design, which represents the mountains. The ball itself symbolises the numerous valleys and forests in the two countries.

Norway top fair play league



Norway topped the final table in UEFA's fair play competition.

The rankings were based on 1,461 matches played in all categories of UEFA competitions. By finishing first, Norway were awarded one of the three UEFA Cup places available via this competition. This place will be filled by FK Viking, the highest-ranked club in the Norwegian national fair play league that had not already qualified for a UEFA competition through their results on the pitch.

The other two places were awarded by means of a draw held in Manchester on 5 June, at half-time in the opening match of the final round of the European Women's Championship. They were allocated to Germany and Denmark, two of



ACTION IMAGES/HARDING

UEFA delegate Pat Quigley displays the name of one of the clubs awarded a place in the UEFA Cup.



The Moldovan FA has been particularly active in combating racism.



Mini-pitches can be used for other sports too.

the six other national associations which achieved a score of eight points or more in the fair play table.

Germany will be represented by 1.FSV Mainz 05; the Danish representative will not be known until the national championship concludes on 19 June. All three clubs will enter the UEFA Cup at the first round stage.

The final rankings:

1. Norway	8.243 points	52 matches
2. Denmark	8.224	54
3. Sweden	8.158	67
4. Estonia	8.095	33
5. Germany	8.058	114
6. England	8.056	109
7. Switzerland	8.028	63
8. Latvia	7.986	46
9. Armenia	7.985	31
10. Netherlands	7.983	107

Only associations whose teams played 28 matches or more were taken into consideration.

Fight against racism

The fight against racism in football and society is a long-term project and events organised all over Europe to promote it are always welcome.

In England, for example, more than 3,000 people held a demonstration in Sheffield in May under the banner "Football Unites Racism Divides" (FURD), with the support of the Sheffield United club.

The UEFA Cup final in Lisbon also offered a chance to highlight the anti-racism campaign, with slogans posted on advertising boards and in the official programme, as was also the case at the UEFA Champions League final in Istanbul. The national associations are also involved: in May, for example, the Moldovan Football Association organised the Moldovan Cup, an international tournament for national Under-17 teams which took place under the motto "Football

Against Racism". At the end of May, the Moldovan FA also organised two other tournaments, one for 5- to 9-year olds and the other for 13- and 14-year olds. Both events were held under the banner of the fight against racism and t-shirts and other souvenirs were handed out to the participants in order to raise their awareness of the need to banish racism from football stadiums.

Mini-pitches throughout Europe

After prototypes were installed to mark UEFA's Golden Jubilee, mini-pitches are springing up all over Europe thanks to support from the UEFA HatTrick programme.

The articles from the member associations published elsewhere in this issue provide ample evidence of the new wave of mini-pitches being built in urban areas, where they are meant to replace street football.

Angelo Brou, vice-president of the Portuguese Football Association (FPF), sums up the philosophy of this programme: *"The PFP hopes to increase sports activities throughout the country by offering young people an alternative solution and a healthy leisure pursuit. We therefore intend to install mini-pitches near schools or in densely populated areas so that they can make maximum use of these facilities."*

Portugal qualify for Under-21 play-offs

In November, 16 teams will contest play-offs in the European Under-21 Championship.

The winners and runners-up of the eight qualifying groups will qualify for the play-offs, which will decide who goes through to the finals.

Having won their first seven matches, Portugal are the first team to qualify for the play-offs.

Kazakh distinction for UEFA President

UEFA President Lennart Johansson was awarded the Dostyk Order of the Second Degree at the UEFA headquarters in Nyon on 2 June.



CEO Lars-Christer Olsson congratulates UEFA President Lennart Johansson.

This high Kazakh distinction was presented by Kazakhstan's ambassador to Switzerland, Kairat Abusaitov, who was accompanied by the president of the Kazakhstan Football Union (KFU), Rakhat Aliyev.

Dostyk means "friendship" and the award is made to people who have contributed to peace, friendship and cooperation between nations. It was awarded to Lennart Johansson by Kazakhstan's president, Nursultan Nazarbayev, in recognition of his democratic and positive approach to the KFU's request for UEFA membership, which was granted in 2002.



News from member associations

ANDORRA



Francesc Vila Memorial Youth Tournament

At the very end of May, we hosted the sixth edition of the Francesc Vila Memorial, our much treasured international youth tournament. This year, our guest teams were FC Barcelona, NHK Hajduk Split, RCD Espanyol, Villarreal CF, SL Benfica, Olympique Marseille, Valencia CF, Atlético de Madrid, Haute-Garonne, Real Madrid CF, Glasgow Rangers FC, BV Borussia Dortmund, Amistad Zaragoza and Andorra.



FC Barcelona's Under-11s.

The first day of the competition gave a clear hint of the strongest side in both the Under-11 and Under-9 categories: FC Barcelona breezed through their matches, making it into the finals. Their contenders for the Under-9 title were familiar faces to them. Atlético de Madrid met reigning champions Barcelona in a very appetising final. But Barca won in style by 5-1, reconfirming their status. In the Under-11 category, they played a much improved Haute-Garonne, who had beaten Hajduk Split in the semi-finals. It was a much more even clash this time, but it did not prevent Barcelona from clinching the trophy in a 4-2 victory.

All participants enjoyed not only the footballing skills displayed during the tournament, but also the excellent weather conditions in Andorra, which helped the whole event run smoothly, as well as leaving several sunburnt faces in the

crowd. As many a coach put it, it is more about what the children learn about the rest of the teams than winning the silverware, and that is what makes a youth tournament.

Lucy Turner

ARMENIA



Annual congress

The Armenian Football Association has just held its annual congress. UEFA vice-president Per Ravn Omdal was there as a special guest. Ruben Hayrapetyan, president of the association, reported on the extensive programme of activities undertaken by the association in 2004. He stressed the importance of youth football and declared youth football development as one of the association's priorities. In this connection, the association, with the support of UEFA's HatTrick programme, was going to construct a number of mini-pitches like the one constructed in one of the most built-up areas of Yerevan at the end of last year. The overall aim of the project was to develop and popularise street football among Armenian children, and generally encourage more children to play football. It was hoped that one of the long-term spin-off effects would be a stronger national team. The president was also pleased to report on the introduction of the Jira project in Armenia this year, through which Armenian coaches would benefit from courses run by UEFA representatives.



The Armenian FA's congress.

One such course started towards the end of April. UEFA instructor Zdenek Sivek from the Czech Republic ran a course for some 20 premier league and first division coaches until 15 May. At the end of the course, the coaches sat a coaching licence exam. Now they will be able to work as coaches abroad.

The Armenian Cup final took place on 9 May. Three-time winners FC Mika faced Kilikia in the Republican Stadium. FC Mika had experience on their side and scored twice in the second half to win the cup for the fourth time.

Arayik Manukyan

BELGIUM



The verdict on the 2004/05 season

The 2004/05 season held many surprises in store, both in terms of the pursuit for places in the different UEFA competitions as well as in the first division relegation battle.

In the title race, Club Brugge finally held on to a three-point lead over RSC Anderlecht to win the championship for the thirteenth time. These two clubs will now take part in the UEFA Champions League third and second qualifying rounds respectively. It took two play-offs to separate KRC Genk and Standard Liège, who finished the championship with 70 points apiece and the same number of wins.

Standard won the first leg 3-1 but by winning the return leg 3-0, it was KRC Genk who qualified for a place in the UEFA Cup second qualifying round. Antwerp's Germinal, who won the cup, will join them in the same UEFA competition.

In the relegation battle, it was KV Oostende and RAEC Mons who ultimately took the tumble down into the second division. The teams promoted in their place are SV Zulte-Waregem and KSV Roeselare. It will be KSV Roeselare's first season ever in the Jupiler League.

François Vantomme

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA



Champions for the centenary

This year, Bosnia and Herzegovina celebrates the centenary of the first football being brought to the city of Mostar. A few years later, the first clubs were set up, one of which was NK Zrinjski, who have



fittingly just won the first premier league competition.

"We played consistently well throughout the season: we were ahead at the halfway stage, we had the upper hand in the derby against FK Zeljeznicar played in the spring, and we held onto the lead until the very end of the season. Now our aim is to put as much as we can into preparing for the preliminary rounds of the UEFA Champions League," said Franjo Dzidic, head coach of NK Zrinjski.

FK Zeljeznicar, who were on the heels of NK Zrinjski all the way, had to be satisfied with second place, like last year, and will play in the preliminary round of the UEFA Cup. Sarajevo's other club, FK Sarajevo, winners of the Bosnia and Herzegovina cup, are taking part in the same competition. They won the cup in a two-leg final against NK Siroki Brijeg. In the first leg, played at the Pecara stadium in Siroki Brijeg, the visitors won 1-0, while the return match at the Asim Ferhatovic Hase Olympic stadium finished in a 1-1 draw.

FK Rudar from Ugljevik and FK Borac from Banja Luka have been relegated from the premier league, and first league winners FK Radnik (Bijeljina) and NK Jedinstvo (Bihac)/FK Velez (Mostar) have won promotion.

The women's and youth cup competitions have also concluded. The women's competition was won by NZK Travnik, who beat FNK Borac from Banja Luka 7-1 in the final. In the youth sector, FK Modrica Maxima beat their peers from Bosanska Gradiška club FK Kozara by a resounding 9-0, with no fewer than six of the goals scored by FK Modrica Maxima captain Petar Jelic.

■ The first UEFA-sponsored mini-pitch has been installed in the highest part of Sarajevo (856 metres). It is located in the old town, where the football federation has its offices. It is the first of 30 to 40 mini-pitches that the Football Federation of Bosnia and



The first title for NK Zrinjski.

Herzegovina (FFBHZ) plans to establish throughout the country. Apart from the boys and girls the mini-pitch is primarily intended for, the opening ceremony was attended by representatives of the municipality, including councillor Mustafa Resic, as well as Iljo Dominkovic, president of the FFBHZ, and the members of the association's executive committee.

The mini-pitch was inaugurated by Mustafa Resic, who thanked UEFA and the FFBHZ for their support, and wished the local children many hours of fun on the mini-pitch.

"This is a successful pilot project, and with the cooperation of the cantons and municipalities, and UEFA's support, we will continue to build mini-pitches like this all over Bosnia and Herzegovina," said Iljo Dominkovic.

Fuad Krvavac

CROATIA



Focus on youth football

The domestic championship and cup have thrown up some surprises this year.

By winning the cup, FC Rijeka have won their first major domestic trophy. In the league, FC Hajduk successfully defended their champions' title, but in a turn-up for the books, many-time champions and cup winners FC Dinamo did not manage to qualify for the championship play-off.

On the national-team front, preparations are under way for the last A and Under-21 qualifying matches of this season, in Bulgaria. We have high hopes of reaching next year's World Cup finals, and we also expect the winning streak of our national Under-21 team to continue.

We are also preparing for our assembly, which will be dedicated exclusively to youth work. Building on past progress, which will be analysed, new measures will be proposed to give vigorous impetus to the grassroots, concentrating on the development of football in schools for boys and girls by associating the grassroots programme with the Open Fun Football School and Youth Sports Games, in which football is one of the leading disciplines.

The first UEFA-sponsored mini-pitch has been inaugurated in Zagreb and has immediately attracted great interest and created a need for football centres to install many more of these pitches as soon as possible.

All of UEFA's views and recommendations for encouraging the development of grassroots football as well as improving quality are successfully being implemented in our programmes, thereby supplementing our traditional values and previous accomplishments in the youth sector.

We are especially satisfied with the performance of our national Under-17 team in the final round of the European Under-17 Championship. We reckon that this is a talented new generation which will produce many top-quality players.



Martin Novoselac issues his instructions.

In the field of youth work, Martin Novoselac has been doing a great job in the federation for 16 years. He is a former international and until recently was head coach of all the national youth teams. Although he has now been appointed head coach of the national A team, he stills manages and supervises the most important activities in the youth programme, such as the organisation of camps, educational programmes and youth team preparation and matches. Each youth team will be taken over by one of Martin Novoselac's associates, who have gained tremendous experience from working with him.

We are also pleased with the first appearance of our women's Under-19 team in the second qualifying round of the 4th European Women's Under-19 Championship. Greater efforts by the federation in the development of women's football will produce even better results.

Finally, we are looking forward to 17 August, a great day for Croatian football, when the Croatian national team will play a friendly match against many-time World Champions, Brazil. The match will be played in Split, a town which is a big and historic bastion of Croatian football, which is celebrat-



ing its 1,700th anniversary. It will certainly be an event to remember.

Ante Pavlovic

ENGLAND



Visit to promote HIV/AIDS awareness

England stars Rio Ferdinand, Gary Neville and David James led an FA delegation to Malawi to promote HIV/AIDS awareness and prevention. The visit was backed by the British Government's Department for International Development and other partners, including the Elton John AIDS Foundation, McDonald's, Carlsberg, Nationwide and the Professional Footballers' Association.

During the two-day goodwill mission, the players linked up with local organisations at the stadiums in the capital Lilongwe and in Blantyre to show how football can be used to disseminate messages on HIV/AIDS, which is prolific in Malawi. Life expectancy in the country has dropped to just 39 as some 86,000 people die annually from AIDS-related illnesses; 14.4% of 15-49 year-olds are now infected with HIV. The players also talked to young Malawians at a local school and to HIV sufferers at the Light-house Clinic in Lilongwe. They also visited a hospital where over 50 percent of patients suffer from HIV-related illnesses.

"I learnt more about HIV and AIDS in the two days we spent in Malawi than during the rest of my life," said Gary Neville. "We spoke to people who are infected and living with the disease and were fascinated by their courage. The need to deliver better messages to combat the stigma of HIV - particularly to the youth - is paramount."

There is no doubt that the visit of the players to a country which is passionate about English football will have a long-term impact, with their images used on poster and radio campaigns.



Gary Neville has an attentive audience.

"If as a result of the players being here they save a single life, and if on top of that they give pleasure to people who are leading their lives in very difficult circumstances, then this visit will have been worthwhile," said FA Executive Director David Davies.

England and Manchester United defender Rio Ferdinand supported the view that football has a vital role to play, calling for more players to give their time to the cause: *"if more football stars were involved in delivering HIV/AIDS awareness messages, I believe it could make a difference,"* he said.

The FA's Head of International Relations, Jane Bateman, is keen to put football and development at the heart of The FA's international strategy. *"Whilst our purpose is to develop the game of football, we must show a social conscience, especially in a country as poor as Malawi."*

"This visit to Malawi - one of our partners in the UEFA-CAF Meridian Project - was an important exercise in propagating positive messages concerning health and education, showing how football can be used as a power for good."

Jane Bateman

FINLAND



Käld honoured through HatTrick mini-pitch

Michael Käld, head coach of the women's national team, was taken by surprise after the inauguration of a HatTrick-funded mini-pitch in his home town of Kruunupyy. The pitch has been installed at the Centralskolan, where Käld works as a teacher. At the end of the opening ceremony, Käld had the pleasure of seeing the head teacher and a bunch of pupils attaching a sign bearing Käld's nickname onto the pitch. Käld has turned into a local hero after taking his side to its first European Women's Championship final round.

Kruunupyy's mini-pitch, called Mikkos Plan (Mikko's pitch), was one of the first HatTrick-funded mini-pitches to be completed. This year, a total of 24 mini-pitches will be built around the country. In addition, 17 full-size artificial football fields will improve training conditions for thousands of players. In 2005, roughly one million euros was injected into different infrastructure projects, including modernisation work on four stadiums. And there is still almost the

same amount of HatTrick funding to be invested in new projects.

"I think that it is great that UEFA is giving the national associations a hand. The solidarity principle, which directs some of the money from top football back to the grassroots, helps us a lot to strengthen the conditions for the game in Finland," says Kari Uotila, Chairman of the Finnish FA's HatTrick Committee.

Sami Terävä



Schoolchildren in action on the mini-pitch.

GEORGIA



Licensing procedure

Another licensing season finished in Georgia in May. All top-division and four first-division clubs were involved in the licensing process. The licensing committee met at the end of the season and granted licences to Lokomotivi Tbilisi, Wit-Georgia Tbilisi, Zestafoni, Spartaki Tbilisi, Ameri Tbilisi, Dinamo Tbilisi and Borjomi.

The following clubs did not meet the national licensing requirements and were refused licences for the 2005/06 UEFA season: Dinamo Batumi, Kolkheti 1913 Poti, Dila Gori, Merani Tbilisi, Torpedo Kutaisi, FC Tbilisi and Sioni Bolnisi.

FC Tbilisi and Torpedo Kutaisi appealed against this decision and, after a thorough study of the clubs' documents, the appeals' body decided to uphold FC Tbilisi's appeal. Torpedo Kutaisi, meanwhile, have been given a conditional licence pending a final decision by the Kutaisi civil court on the financial claim of the club in question. If the club does not win its court case, the licence will be revoked.

With a view to making the licensing procedure more user-friendly, the Georgian FA has launched a website



and extranet which it hopes the clubs and individuals involved in the licensing process will find very useful.

Bakar Jordania

FYR MACEDONIA

First trophy for Rabotnicki Kometal

May was marked by the end of the football season in The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. The last weekend of this lovely spring month has ended with the last round of the domestic championship, and the president of the Football Association of FYR of Macedonia, Haralampie Hadzi-Risteski, has handed the trophy over to FC Rabotnicki Kometal, the team that has shown the most in the past season. It was the club's first ever trophy.

The very good organisation of the club, the quality of the team that was put together by head coach Gjore Jovanovski, and their very serious approach to matches secured them the championship several rounds before the end. Second place went to FC Vardar and third place to last year's champions, FC Pobeda.

The Macedonian cup final featured FC Baskimi and FC Madzari Solidarnost, both appearing in their first cup final. FC Baskimi came out on top, by just one goal. It was the club's greatest success since it was founded.

FC Rabotnicki Kometal will participate in the UEFA Champions League qualifying matches, FC Vardar and FC Baskimi in the UEFA Cup, and FC Pobeda in the UEFA Intertoto Cup.

For the first time, we are staging play-offs for relegation and promotion. FC Sloga Jugomagnat and FC Napredok are relegated directly to the second division, while FC Madzari Solidarnost and FC Cementarnica 55 will have to play second-division teams



A well-deserved trophy for Rabotnicki Kometal.

FC Makedonija GP and FK Turnovo for a place in the first division. FC Vlazrimi and FC Renova have already been promoted.

Zoran Nikolovski

MALTA



2004/05 season archived

The 2004/05 season is over, and with it, the activities that marked yet another eventful period for the Malta FA. It was a hectic 12 months, not only on the field of play but also for the administration.



Birkirkara won the Maltese cup.

Two of the hot issues last season were, first, the altercation between the Malta FA and the man at the helm of one of the island's top teams over new regulations on the registration and fielding of players from EU countries by local clubs, following Malta's accession to the EU last year, and, secondly, the failed attempt at Malta FA Council level to reform the domestic league competitions to make top-grade Maltese football more competitive and attractive.

The continued boost given to the island's nurseries, primarily through UEFA's grassroots and assistance programmes, and the several other initiatives of the Malta FA in the coaching, refereeing and youth development sectors, kept the forward-looking Malta FA fully occupied. The administrative season came to an end with a seminar and the Annual General Meeting.

On the playing stage, Malta gained its first point in its Group 8 World Cup qualifying matches by drawing 0-0 on home soil against Iceland, while the Under-21s and youth teams obtained creditable results in their respective competitions, thus vindicating the Malta FA's policy of attaching increasing importance to the country's upcoming talent.

The domestic championship was won by Sliema Wanderers, who thrived on unmatched experience and efficiency to wrap up the third title on the trot for a record 26 times. The cup went the way of the resilient Birkirkara, whose fading aspirations for the league title were put behind them with a strong run-in for the last major honour of the season.

On the strength of their third place in the championship race behind Birkirkara, Hibernians secured the second berth in the UEFA Cup, while Valletta, the most successful Maltese team on the domestic front in recent years, qualified for the UEFA Intertoto Cup.

Alex Vella

MOLDOVA



Moldova wins international youth tournament

For the sixth time, Chisinau has hosted the Moldova Cup international football tournament, in which Under-17 teams from Azerbaijan, Belarus and Romania competed alongside the host nation. Among other countries which have participated in previous editions are Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Ukraine.



Moldova's Under-17s dropped only one point in the Moldovan Cup international youth competition.

In a very interesting series of matches, the Moldovan team gained seven points and won the tournament, defeating Belarus 1-0, Romania 1-0 and drawing 0-0 with Azerbaijan in the process.

Player of the tournament was Moldovan striker Ion Demernji, best goalkeeper was Elgin Sadykov from Azerbaijan, best defender Andrei Verbetchi from Moldova, best midfielder Valentin Radevici from Belarus and best scorer Gabriel Torje



from Romania. At the end of the tournament all participating teams received souvenirs from the football association of Moldova.

The president of the association, Pavel Cebanu, said that the tournament was an opportunity for young footballers to put their skills to the test and, more importantly, to know each other and make lifelong friends.

The tournament was organised under the slogan "Football against Racism".

Vasile Vatamanu

NORTHERN IRELAND



New partnership with IFA referees
Northern Ireland football referees will be sporting a new addition to their jerseys next season, as Toyota (GB) plc has announced a three-year sponsorship deal with the Irish Football Association's affiliated referees.

This deal, the first of its kind for Northern Ireland football, will see local referees joining their illustrious English and Scottish Premier League counterparts in a kit sponsorship agreement.

The deal kicks off at the start of the 2005/06 season and will see all 400 of the IFA's affiliated referees, at senior, amateur and junior level, carry the Toyota-branded logo on the sleeves of their jerseys.

The money from the sponsorship agreement will be used by the IFA in its continued efforts in the recruitment, development and training of referees in Northern Ireland.

William Campbell, Head of Referees, Irish Football Association, said; *"This is an exciting agreement that will help us to provide ongoing coaching, mentoring and support for all our new and existing referees, and will undoubtedly help with the continued development of refereeing in Northern Ireland."*

The IFA held its annual national referee conference on 28 and 29 May. The aim of the event was to provide all IFA-affiliated referees with the chance to improve and develop their refereeing career with advice and guidance from some of the most important people in refereeing from across Europe, the United Kingdom and Ireland.

Guest speakers at this year's conference, entitled 'Celebrating the past, looking to the future', included Alexis

Ponnet from the UEFA Referee Instructors Panel, Pat Kelly, Head of Referees at the Football Association of Ireland, John Baker, Head of Referees at The Football Association of England, and Roger Gifford, Head of Referees at the Welsh Football Association.

Press Office

REPUBLIC OF IRELAND



Supporting the community

The Football Association of Ireland (FAI) recognises its role within the community and has introduced a number of programmes in support of this role. In 2002, the FAI launched the Buntus soccer programme, which was developed in partnership with the Irish Sports Council and the Youth Sport Trust. It has very quickly become one of the FAI's most important community programmes and is aimed at supporting teachers in the delivery of both curricular PE and extra-curricular sports programmes.

To date 785 schools have already received equipment and over 4,500 teachers have been provided with the training required to implement the programme which has benefited some 93,000 schoolchildren.

Buntus is designed to give children a fun but high-quality introduction to the fundamental skills of the sport so that they can develop their interest and their skills in an essentially fun and non-competitive environment.

The programme offers appropriate child-friendly sports equipment and resource cards are provided which can be integrated into the PE curriculum and after-school settings.

As well as receiving quality, child-centred equipment, resources and training, schools also benefit as the programme raises the profile of physical education and sport and improves physical education training opportunities for teachers.

The children develop new broad-based sporting skills, learn and develop life skills and use sport for the development of physical, mental and social health and well-being. They also develop the lifelong habit of physical activity for healthy living and above all have fun and enjoyment.

FAI Chief Executive Officer John Delaney recently brought his management team on a Buntus programme and will extend it to all his staff shortly.

He has also invited members of the Soccer Writers' Association of Ireland to participate in the programme during the summer.

Pat Costello/Niamh Spratt

ROMANIA



Referee exchanges

This spring, the UEFA Referees Committee proposed referee exchanges for domestic championship matches.

Our refereeing committee welcomed this initiative.

"This is so important in football, because referees are only human and can also make mistakes during a match. But afterwards, the coaches and club officials demand to know why such errors were allowed to happen," said Ion Craciunescu, chairman of the Romanian refereeing committee.

The Romanian FA called on teams of outside referees for the crucial derbies in the second half of the 2004/05 championship: Steaua Bucharest v Rapid Bucharest, 0-0 (refereed by Switzerland's Massimo Busacca and his team), Steaua Bucharest v Dinamo Bucharest, 1-0 (Tom Henning Ovebrø, Norway) and Dinamo Bucharest v Rapid Bucharest, 2-2 (Pieter Vink, Netherlands). The Romanian cup final between Dinamo Bucharest and Farul Constanța (1-0) was officiated by French referee Laurent Duhamel and his team.

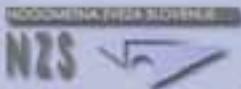
Although the stakes were high in all these matches, the players displayed remarkable fair play.

"I think," Ion Craciunescu admitted, *"that if Romanian referees had taken charge of these matches instead of foreign referees, some teams would have turned minor refereeing errors into major newspaper headlines."*

In return, Romanian referees took charge of league matches in Norway (Lynn Oslo v Start Kristiansand 1-1,



Alexandru Tudor got some new experience by taking charge of a Swiss championship match.



Marian Salomir), Switzerland (Grasshopper v FC Basel 4-1, Alexandru Tudor) and the Netherlands (AZ 67 Alkmaar v Roosendaal 1-3, Sorin Corpodean).

These referee exchanges cost the clubs very little more, since the associations involved agreed that the clubs only had to pay the referees' hotel bills.

Ion Craciunescu concluded that *"This UEFA initiative is an excellent way to protect an association's own referees as well as for referees to show what they are worth on the international scene."*

Dan Cristea

SERBIA AND MONTENEGRO



First major trophy for FK Zeleznik

24 May 2005 will remain written in golden letters in the history of FK Zeleznik. In the Serbia and Montenegro cup final they beat the great FK Crvena Zvezda (Red Star) by 1-0. The only goal was scored in the 90th minute by Radjenovic, who headed the ball in from a distance of five metres after a cross from the right.

It was the beginning of a big celebration for the players, technical staff and supporters of this club from the Belgrade suburbs, whose first major trophy will take pride of place in its offices for the next year. Winning the cup means that FK Zeleznik are eligible to compete in the UEFA Cup, in the preliminary competition of which they also took part last season.

Coach Cedomir Djoicevic was very pleased after the final and said that he thought his club's victory against favourites FK Crvena Zvezda was absolutely well deserved. Nevertheless, the happiest man was the president of the club, Dragan Bulic, whose years of efforts and financing of the club have finally been rewarded.

FK Zeleznik was founded in 1930. During the period after the Second



FK Zeleznik celebrate victory.

World War the club competed in various city and regional leagues and started its rise to higher competition in 1992. In the 1997/98 season they secured promotion to the first division, where they have remained ever since, finishing the 2003/04 championship in third place. The club's imminent goals are to renovate its stadium in Zeleznik so that it meets the national licensing requirements for UEFA competitions, and to achieve the best possible results next season.

Nebojsa Ivkovic

SWEDEN



New legislation against troublemakers

Current assistant coach Thomas Dennerby will be taking over the women's national team after the European Women's Championship in England. The 45-year-old, who played for Sweden at Under-21 level in his time, joined Marika Domanski Lyfors half a year ago, having earned success with Djurgården/Älvsjö (two consecutive league titles) in 2003 and 2004. As a player, Dennerby spent nine seasons with Hammarby.



Domanski Lyfors, who took the national team to two World Cups (runners-up in 2003), two Olympic tournaments and three European championships (runners-up in 2001), is taking over the women's Under-21 team and will also assume overall responsibility for player development in Sweden.

New legislation passed in May gives sports organisers the possibility to apply for suspected hooligans to be banned from sporting events for up to one year. If the ban is violated, the offender could face a six-month prison sentence.

The FA welcomes the new opportunities to deal with troublemakers but is calling into question why the police authorities have not been granted the same right to apply for banning orders to be imposed. The FA would also have preferred an option for swift reaction when needed, e. g. by giving the public prosecutor the means to impose provisional bans. The new law takes effect on 1 July.

Finally, an honorary doctorate was conferred on the UEFA President, Lennart Johansson, by Linköping University on 23 May.

Thomas Saleteg

UKRAINE



In honour of Victor Bannikov

On 11 May, the final of the international youth football tournament in honour of Victor Bannikov, the first president of the Football Federation of Ukraine (FFU), was the return match. Last year, the Ukrainian Under-17 team were beaten by their Turkish counterparts on penalties in the final. This year, however, the tables were turned, and the Ukrainians won the trophy for the second time.

The fourth tournament took place in Kiev and the surrounding region from 5 to 11 May. The Under-16 teams of Belgium, Bulgaria, Lithuania, Poland, Russia, Slovakia, Turkey and the host nation were divided into two groups, with the two group winners contesting the final.

The tournament served as good preparation for Ukraine's team, coached by Vadym Dyord, ahead of their European Under-17 Championship qualifying matches. The FFU in fact set up the Victor Bannikov tournament in order to make up for the lack of competitions for the Ukrainian national youth teams. It provides the teams with the opportunity to gain experience in matches against strong European teams.

The Ukrainians demonstrated really modern football and gripping play, practising positional defending and making things very difficult for their opponents.

It is symbolic that the final was held at the new FFU training complex named after Victor Bannikov which was opened in September 2004.

Valeriy Nykonenko



Victor Bannikov's widow greets the participants in the tournament in her husband's memory.

FFU



Communications Birthdays – Calendar

Birthdays

Vladimir Petr (Slovakia), member of the circle of former UEFA committee members, celebrates his 80th birthday on 15 July, while fellow former UEFA committee member Giuseppe Mifsud-Bonnici (Malta), turns 75 on 17 July. Two members of the Referee Observers Panel, Günter Benkő (Austria) and Sándor Puhl (Hungary) both reach the half-century mark on 12 and 14 July respectively. David I. Bowen (Northern Ireland), member of the Control & Disciplinary Body, follows suit on 26 July, and Stefan Tivold (Slovenia), member of the Futsal Delegates Panel, joins them at the same milestone on 28 July. Also celebrating birthdays in July are:

- Erkki Poroila (Finland, 1.7)
- Frédéric Thiriez (France, 1.7)
- Ton Verhagen (Netherlands, 1.7)
- Hendrik Weerink (Netherlands, 2.7)
- Domingos Gomes Dias (Portugal, 3.7)
- Antonio Matarrese (Italy, 4.7)
- Munib Usanovic (Bosnia-Herzegovina, 4.7)
- Hubert Claessen (Germany, 9.7)
- Hana Válková (Czech Republic, 9.7)
- Dimitrios Koukis (Greece, 9.7)
- Gianluca Viali (Italy, 9.7)
- Nina Hedlund (Norway, 11.7)
- Zoltan Kereki (Hungary, 13.7)
- Alain Delmer (France, 14.7)
- Pierluigi Pairetto (Italy, 15.7)
- Johannes Malka (Germany, 16.7)
- Ernst Nigg (Liechtenstein, 16.7)
- Patricia Day-Smith (England, 16.7)
- Lars Lagerbäck (Sweden, 16.7)
- Jiri Ulrich (Czech Republic, 16.7)
- Dominique Boisnard (France, 16.7)
- John Edward Martin (England, 18.7)

- Giacinto Facchetti (Italy, 18.7)
- Allen Wade (England, 19.7)
- Ben Takkenberg (Netherlands, 19.7)
- Alfredo Trentalange (Italy, 19.7)
- Ernest Walker (Scotland, 20.7)
- Vladimir Radionov (Russia, 21.7)
- Boris Voskresensky (Ukraine, 22.7)
- Michel Wuilleret (Switzerland, 22.7)
- Emilio Butragueño Santos (Spain, 22.7)
- Balázs Makray (Hungary, 22.7)
- Bontcho Todorov (Bulgaria, 23.7)
- Pavel Malovic (Slovakia, 23.7)
- Haralampie Hadzi-Risteski (FYR Macedonia, 24.7)
- Izhak Iche Menachem (Israel, 26.7)
- Alfred Ludwig (Austria, 26.7)
- Jeff Davis (England, 27.7)
- Hansi Müller (Germany, 27.7)
- Bertus Rijkhoek (Netherlands, 30.7)
- João Leal (Portugal, 30.7)
- Des Casey (Republic of Ireland, 31.7)
- Tugomir Frajman (Slovenia, 31.7)
- Joël Wolff (Luxembourg, 31.7)
- Phelim Macken (Republic of Ireland, 31.7)

Match agents

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It has also renewed the licence of **Soteris Syzinos** (Cyprus) for eight years.

Upcoming events

MEETINGS

7.7.2005, Nyon

Draws for the 2005/06 UEFA Women's Cup and UEFA Futsal Cup
Draws for the semi-finals and finals of the UEFA Intertoto Cup

29.7.2005, Nyon

Draws for the UEFA Champions League third qualifying round and the UEFA Cup second qualifying round

COMPETITIONS

2-3.7.2005

UEFA Intertoto Cup: 2nd round (first legs)

3-9.7.2005, Poland

Final round of the UEFA Regions' Cup

9-10.7.2005

UEFA Intertoto Cup: 2nd round (return legs)

12-13.7.2005

UEFA Champions League: 1st qualifying round (first legs)

14.7.2005

UEFA Cup: 1st qualifying round (first legs)

16-17.7.2005

UEFA Intertoto Cup: 3rd round (first legs)

18-29.7.2005, Northern Ireland

Final round of the European Under-19 Championship

19-20.7.2005

UEFA Champions League: 1st qualifying round (return legs)

20-31.7.2005, Hungary

Final round of the European Women's Under-19 Championship

23.7.2005

UEFA Intertoto Cup: 3rd round (return legs)

26-27.7.2005

UEFA Champions League: 2nd qualifying round (return legs)

27.7.2005

UEFA Intertoto Cup: semi-finals (first legs)

28.7.2005

UEFA Cup: 1st qualifying round (return legs)

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