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COVER

Fifty years after the first European Champion Clubs' Cup final, another Spanish team lifts the trophy, FC Barcelona beating Arsenal FC in Paris.

PHOTO: UEFA-BOZZANI

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Editorial

The principle of universality

Thirty-two years ago, the World Cup was staged in Germany. This year, the same country will be hosting the 18th finals of that competition, starting on 9 June.

The 1974 tournament was the last time that the finalists included two German representatives: East Germany

and West Germany

both competed, with the latter going on to lift the trophy.

The Slovenian, Croatian and Bosnian players who took part were wearing the colours of Yugoslavia. At that time, UEFA had only 34 member associations.

Whether as a result of violent conflict or peaceful change, borders disappeared or were redrawn, changing the face of Europe as the 20th century drew to a close. In the midst of all this upheaval, sport played a major role in preserving the European unity which it had helped to construct since the 1950s, based as it is not on purely political, economic and financial considerations but on principles of a more universal nature.

Towards this end, European football has always placed the focus on solidarity. One manifestation of this was the setting up of the East European Assistance Bureau, aimed at ensuring the best possible integration of the new national associations and enabling them to achieve parity of status as soon as possible with the other national federations, for the sake of maintaining a healthy balance in international competitions. It was the same concern that led UEFA to extend its assistance programme to all member associations.

The presence of Ukraine and Croatia in the upcoming World Cup finals, the victory of CSKA Moscow in the UEFA Cup final last year and the qualification of a number of Eastern European clubs for the final stages of this season's competition show that the efforts made all round are beginning to bear fruit. It would therefore be a pity to see those efforts ruined as a result of rifts caused by individualism that is driven purely by economic and financial considerations.

Football must remain a universal sport which is open to all.

The World Cup is a wonderful manifestation of this and I hope it will get your summer off to the nicest possible start.



Lars-Christer Olsson
Lars-Christer Olsson
Chief Executive

Ukraine (Sergiy Shyshenko, right) are taking part in the World Cup finals for the very first time. Among the opponents they eliminated along the way was another new nation, Georgia (David Odikadze).

SHLAMOVI/AP/GETTY IMAGES

WE CARE ABOUT FOOTBALL



World Cup in Germany

A month of football fever



Gerd Müller scores for West Germany against the Netherlands in the 1974 World Cup final. Germany were the first winners of the present trophy.

EIGHT YEARS AFTER IT WAS STAGED IN FRANCE, THE WORLD CUP WILL AGAIN BE PLAYED ON EUROPEAN SOIL, FOR THE TENTH TIME IN ITS HISTORY, WHEN IT RETURNS TO GERMANY THIS SUMMER FROM 9 JUNE TO 9 JULY.

On the evening of 9 June, the tournament will kick off with the match between Germany and Costa Rica at the spectacular stadium in Munich, the final being due a month later in Berlin.

Among the 32 nations competing for the title of world champions, currently held by Brazil since their victory in South Korea/Japan in 2002, there will be 14 representatives from Europe: apart from Germany, who qualified automatically as the host nation, the European competitors will be Croatia, England, France, Italy, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Serbia & Montenegro, Sweden and Ukraine, who all won their

qualifying groups or finished best runners-up, plus the Czech Republic, Spain and Switzerland, the three play-off winners.

The stadiums of 12 cities will stage the 64 matches of this final round. Six of the cities – Dortmund, Frankfurt, Gelsenkirchen, Hanover, Munich and Stuttgart – already acted as hosts for the 1974 World Cup in West Germany, the year when the current trophy made its first appearance, following Brazil's third victory in 1970, which gave them the right to keep the Jules Rimet trophy. The other host cities for 2006 are Berlin, Cologne,

Hamburg, Kaiserslautern, Leipzig and Nuremberg.

The group matches will be played between 9 and 23 June. The top two from each group will go through to the round of 16, which will be played from 24 to 27 June. The quarter-finals are set for 30 June and 1 July, after which the semi-finals will take place on 4 and 5 July. The match for third place will be played in Stuttgart on 8 July and the final will be in Berlin on Sunday, 9 July at 8 pm.

In 17 editions of the World Cup, only seven different nations have lifted the trophy: Brazil (1958, 1962, 1970, 1994 and 2002), Germany (1954, 1974 and 1990), Italy (1934, 1938 and 1982), Uruguay (1930 and 1950), Argentina (1978 and 1986), England (1966) and France (1998).



Markus Merk gets ready to referee the final of EURO 2004.

EMPICS



HEIMANN/BONGARTS/GETTY IMAGES

Physical fitness is a crucial aspect of refereeing.

World Cup referees

Markus Merk: enthusiasm is the key

REFEREES PLAY A VITAL ROLE IN FOOTBALL BUT THEY WILL NEVER WIN AWARDS FOR POPULARITY. WORKING IN A GAME WHICH GETS FASTER AND FASTER WHILE THE STAKES GET HIGHER AND HIGHER, AND SURROUNDED BY CAMERAS WHICH REPLAY EVERY INCIDENT AND DECISION, REFEREES ARE UNDER EVER-GROWING PRESSURE.



EMPICS

UEFA and FIFA provide elite referees with increasingly professional training and supervision. During major tournaments, they stay in the same hotel and are a team in their own right, united by the same passion and the same working language (English), but once they are out on the pitch, they are alone, exposed to public scrutiny and criticism.

Markus Merk will be officiating at his fourth major international tournament since EURO 2000. Taking place on his home turf, this World Cup has extra piquancy for him, especially as he will soon reach the retirement age for referees. A Bundesliga referee for 18 years, he has officiated at many top events, including the EURO 2004 final in Portugal. Apart from his experience and talent, what is striking is his almost boyish enthusiasm, his infectious passion, made even keener by the prospect of participating in the World Cup in his own country. *"Few referees have an opportunity like this: I will be fulfilling the dream of officiating in a major tournament in my own country."*

– How has the build-up to the World Cup been for you?

– It feels as though time has been moving faster in recent weeks and months. As soon as one milestone is reached, you start thinking of the next one. In 1988, when I started out in the Bundesliga, I said that anything else that came would be a bonus, and that's still true. I've been thinking about this World Cup for a long time but without neglecting other events: the final stretch in the Bundesliga, the closing stages of the UEFA Cup and Champions League ... I can't prepare myself just with an eye to the

World Cup. I'm approaching it with a lot of concentration and excitement, while keeping in mind that everything can change in an instant but without dwelling on the worst things that can happen or the problems that might arise when you go out on the pitch.

– What do you hope to achieve at the World Cup?

– The tournament is a team event for the officials too. It will only be a success if people can say at the end that all the referees were excellent, as was the case with EURO 2004 in Portugal. We all have to produce good performances, we also have to be one of the winning teams. In a World Cup, we are an even more cosmopolitan group than in a European Championship final round and there are twice as many of us.

– Since you started out as a referee, what are the main changes that have taken place for officials?

– The game has become faster and more athletic, the one-on-ones have got tougher. Everything is analysed and rehearsed. I won't say that we've become more professional – that would be insulting to our predecessors. In mental terms, we are all professional. Over the last 15 years or so, referees have become more athletic and have had to cope with growing pressure. There again, we receive the best possible training. But we always have to be on our toes to progress and be alert to where we can still make small improvements. Otherwise, we start regressing. Finally, experience counts for nothing if you don't work on yourself, if you don't get excited about things.



With fellow European referees Lubos Michel and Anders Frisk, Markus Merk went to Sierra Leone in 2004 to support the ICRC's "Protect children in war" campaign.



– So there's no point talking about having a rest?

– No! Spending two weeks on the beach would drive me mad!
Pascale Pierard

– How do you react to criticism?

– Here we're facing a problem which affects the whole of society. It's becoming more and more difficult to take decisions without being criticised. And it's usually the people who are unwilling to shoulder responsibility or take decisions who point the finger. We are always making mistakes because we have to make instant decisions. I grew up with football. I love responsibility: that's what made me decide at the age of 12 to become a referee. I'm a sportsman, my heart beats for football, and that's crucial because you have to read the game and stay in charge of it.

– How do you reconcile your career as an international referee with your day job?

– It's a question of mentality and of being organised. Having other professional work gives me greater independence with regard to refereeing. Following legal reforms, dentistry was taking more out of me than it was giving back. If one area of life is problematic, it affects everything else. I sold my dental practice so that I could give lectures and seminars on management and responsibility – themes like "Making decisions under pressure" and "How to make decisions". The referee is not only a top-level sportsman, he's also a manager. He has to handle lots of different aspects: stress, conflict, responsibility for himself and others, communication, spontaneity. Well, a company is subject to the same pressure as a referee: it has to stay ahead of the game, gain an edge over its competitors. One question keeps cropping up in my life: How do I define myself in relation to what I want?

– You have boundless energy because you have many other passions – to say nothing of your foundation for helping India?

– I've always been keen on long-distance running. I ran my first marathon when I was 14. I've done the Jungfrau marathon twice, up at 2,000 metres, I've taken part in triathlons and I'm a mountaineer. I like combining sport, nature and adventure. It helps a lot with refereeing. Unlike a player, I can't pass the ball to someone else if I'm off my game. I've always taken care of my basic fitness and whenever I can, I do four or five longer runs of two hours or more. Training is my form of relaxation.

Alex Ponnet has no regrets

Following a brilliant career as a referee, Alex Ponnet turned his energy to UEFA and FIFA in 1990. For four years, he helped to put refereeing on a semi-professional footing. *"Referees were lagging behind the players in physical, medical and psychological terms. If you gave the players seven or eight out of ten, the referees would only score two. Nowadays, referees undergo meticulous preparation and training. The pace is faster but in fact it's the workload which is the heaviest burden. I used to be in charge of 30 to 40 matches per season; now it's more like 50 or 60 for today's referees. Looking to the future, the final step entails establishing a system of full-time professional referees, which already exists in a number of countries, while not forgetting that at 45 a referee's career is finished."*

As an instructor at FIFA and UEFA, and a UEFA observer and delegate, Alex Ponnet points to a negative aspect: pressure from the media, the endless repetition of controversial passages of play. *"Ideally, the pictures should only be shown once. Another approach would be to have a supervisor watching a screen in the stand who could contact the referees within ten seconds. There again, we mustn't destroy the essential nature of football. If the pictures mean that decisions become foolproof and clinical, what will become of all those endless post-match discussions in bars and offices? This is the whole attraction of football. It has to keep its human face."*

Alex Ponnet laughs when he is asked whether he has regrets about being born too early. *"This is what my father and all the generations before him used to say! No, I lived during a great era in the game, from the 1970s to 1990. We were amateurs and we had a good time."*

P.P.



UEFA



Laurent Blanc surrounded by some of those who took part.



Champions Festival

Returning to the place where the first European Champion Clubs' Cup final took place, UEFA commemorated the 50th anniversary of its flagship club competition by offering Paris a five-day football carnival. The Emile Anthoine stadium and the Trocadero gardens were the venues for the UEFA Young Champions tournament, in which 744 youngsters aged between ten and 16 played in a five-a-side round-robin competition involving 128 teams, amounting to a total of 216 matches. Laurent Blanc, the former captain of France, dropped in to encourage the participants in their efforts.

Supported by the official UEFA Champions League sponsors and the French Football Federation, the festival attracted some 60,000 visitors. Its highlight was a 50-hour non-stop five-a-side match in which 500 players took part, including former tennis champion Boris Becker.

As it has done throughout the season, UEFA also paid tribute, during the official dinner the day before the UEFA Champions League final, to some of the instrumental figures of the competition, including UEFA's former chief executive, Gerhard Aigner.



PHOTOS: UEFA/BOZZANI



Gerhard Aigner was honoured by the UEFA President, Lennart Johansson.



Sol Campbell's towering header gives Arsenal the lead.



Juliano Belletti scores the winner for Barcelona.



Ronaldinho receives his medal from a smiling UEFA president and CEO.

UEFA Champions League

Barcelona victory in jubilee year



IT WAS 50 YEARS AGO IN PARIS THAT THE FIRST EUROPEAN CHAMPION CLUBS' CUP FINAL WAS HELD. THIS YEAR, THE FRENCH CAPITAL AGAIN HOSTED THE CROWNING EVENT OF THE EUROPEAN CLUB COMPETITION SEASON.

As was the case 50 years ago, it was a brand-new trophy which was presented this year to the captain of the winning team, the previous cup having become the property of Liverpool FC last season after they won the competition for the fifth time. And, just like in 1956, it was a Spanish club which was victorious now.

Otherwise, many things have changed, including the new stadium in St-Denis replacing the Parc des Princes. Instructions concerning the Laws of the Game have also changed, and the strict and immediate application of the rules had a significant impact on this final: Arsenal had to play most of the match with ten men, after goalkeeper Jens Lehmann was sent off for a last-ditch foul in the 18th minute.

Initially, the English team not only coped with the setback but even took the lead, thanks to a perfectly directed header by defender Sol Campbell. After that, however, this anniversary match saw the repetition of a familiar scenario from the earlier years of the competition: one-way traffic and total

domination by one team, interrupted only by occasional, though dangerous, counter-attacks. Arsenal created a number of chances for dealing the killer blow to the Catalans but were unable to convert them. So ultimately they paid the price, with the rain in the second half literally putting a damper on things after the pleasant conditions at kick-off time.

Having kept a clean sheet for nearly 1,000 minutes of European football, the English club conceded two goals in less than five minutes, Samuel Eto'o and Juliano Belletti thus securing a second final triumph for the Spanish club to add to their 1992 victory in the competition. Arsenal no longer had the ways and means – or the time – to deny success to a team who have perfected the art of keeping possession.

Unbeaten throughout this season's UEFA Champions League campaign, Barcelona's triumph gave Spain its second victory this season in European club competitions, a week after Sevilla's victory over Middlesbrough in the final of the UEFA Cup. The next UEFA Super Cup will thus be an all-Spanish affair – though of course with many players of other nationalities. In this respect too, times have changed!



17 May 2006
Paris St-Denis – Stade de France – 77,500 spectators
FC Barcelona – Arsenal FC 2-1 (0-1)
Goals: Campbell (37), Eto'o (76), Belletti (81)
Referee: Terje Hauge (Norway)



Goals from Maresca and Kanoute.

GETTY IMAGES



The final was staged under the "unite against racism" banner.

EMPICS



BOZZANI

UEFA Cup goes to Sevilla

Best possible centenary present

THE UEFA CUP LIKES TO RING THE CHANGES. NOT ONLY DID IT ADOPT A NEW FORMAT TWO SEASONS AGO, COMBINING GROUP AND KNOCKOUT MATCHES, BUT IT HAS ALSO BEEN WON ON THE LAST TWO OCCASIONS BY CLUBS WHICH HAD NEVER WON A SINGLE UEFA COMPETITION BEFORE.

This year, it was known even before the final that the list of winners of the competition would be extended, since neither of the two finalists had ever got that far in the competition before.

It was also reasonable to assume – and hope – that the final would not be short on goals, since, in their 14 matches on the way to the final, Sevilla and Middlesbrough had notched up respectable goal tallies of 21 and 20 respectively. The only other

previous Spanish-English UEFA Cup final – the 2001 final between Liverpool and Deportivo Alavès (5-4) – also



augured well for an entertaining and exciting match.

And goals there indeed were, but not very evenly spread, with four for Sevilla and none for Middlesbrough, though Sevilla did not have an easy ride, notably at the start

of the second half, when goalkeeper Palop's quick reflexes

deflected Viduka's volley. At that point Sevilla had only a one goal lead, thanks to a finely angled header by Luis Fabiano.

Even when Maresca scored Sevilla's second goal, the English fans did not give up, despite there being barely ten minutes left on the clock. After their team's exploits in quarter-finals against FC Basel and in the semi-finals against Steaua Bucharest, when Middlesbrough had turned the matches round in unbelievable fashion, anything was still possible.

However, Sevilla were not unprepared and did not let up; on the

10 May 2006
Eindhoven – PSV stadium – 32,100 spectators
Middlesbrough FC v Sevilla FC 0-4 (0-1)
Goals: Luis Fabiano (27'), Maresca (78', 84'), Kanoute (89').
Referee: Herbert Fandel (Germany)



ROCA/FP/GETTY IMAGES

contrary, they continued to shine and even managed to score a fourth goal and well and truly bag their first UEFA trophy, and in their club's centenary year at that.

The final in Eindhoven was the 35th in the history of the UEFA Cup, which Spanish clubs have now won four times in seven finals, previous Spanish winners being Real Madrid (in 1985 and 1986) and Valencia (in 2004). Italy still holds the record, with nine titles to its name.



MARIOS N. LEFKARITIS

Cyprus
28.11.1946

Member of the UEFA Executive Committee since 1996.

Honorary president of the Cyprus Football Association.

Eleven questions for the Executive Committee members

FOR THE EIGHTH PART IN THE SERIES DEDICATED TO UEFA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS, MARIOS N. LEFKARITIS ANSWERS OUR ELEVEN QUESTIONS.

Marios N. Lefkaritis

Your first contact with football?

Watching a football match after climbing over the wall of the stadium because I didn't have the money to pay. It was one Sunday morning, a second-division match in Limassol.

First experience of UEFA?

My first real experience of UEFA was in 1992, when the Cyprus FA organised the European Under-16 final tournament with 16 teams. Immediately after that, I became a member of the European Football Championship Committee. Of course before that I attended Congresses, European Championship draws, etc.

A player?

The best player for me is not one of the big names, like Pelé or Maradona or someone like that. For me, the most exciting player I watched during my studies in England was Peter Osgood, who passed away recently.

A memorable match?

When my club in Cyprus, Apollon FC of Limassol, won the championship in the last minute of the final match in 1994.

A memory linked to a UEFA activity?

The most memorable occasion was the Real Madrid v. Borussia Dortmund match in 1998, when I had an extremely difficult situation to handle as match delegate because the goal was

broken. The match was delayed for an hour and 15 minutes. The pressure was enormous because it was a Champions League semi-final with approximately 100,000 spectators. But we had excellent cooperation from the referees and UEFA headquarters.

Defender or attacker?

A defender on the field and either of them in life as a whole, depending on the situation.

We give you a ball, what do you do with it?

Kick it and then give it to a child.

A town?

Apart from my own, Limassol, a city I really like is Barcelona. It is so open. I like Barcelona, I like its people, I like the Catalans.

Detective story or economic treatise?

Neither. I prefer to keep up to date reading the newspapers every day.

Sea or mountains?

I live in a seaside city in Cyprus. But I prefer the mountains, especially the mountains of Cyprus. In the summer they are beautiful!

A dream?

To see Cyprus in the final of the European Championship or the World Cup!





Steaua (Nicolae Dica, in red) versus Hertha Berlin (Sofian Chahed).



Rapid's Vasile Maftei outpaces Hamburg's Rafael van der Vaart in the last 16 of the UEFA Cup.



Dinamo (Silvio Margaritescu, in red) only just missed out on a place in the next round, pipped by Olympique de Marseille.

The Bucharest clubs in UEFA Cup

A fabulous season

AS ONE OF THE BEST-REPRESENTED EUROPEAN CAPITAL CITIES IN THE UEFA CUP AT THE START OF THE SEASON, WITH THREE CLUBS TAKING PART, BUCHAREST MADE ITS MARK ON THE COMPETITION, EVEN THOUGH NONE OF ITS TEAMS REACHED THE FINAL.

Steaua came very close to doing so, though. After winning the home leg of their semi-final tie against Middlesbrough, they were well on the way to clinching the return leg, only to let qualification slip through their fingers in the dying minutes after an utterly astounding second half.

As for Rapid, despite being knocked out in the quarter-finals by their local rivals, they wrote the finest chapter in their European competition history, contesting 16 matches and claiming the scalps of heavyweights such as Feyenoord, Rennes, Shakhtar Donetsk, PAOK, Hertha Berlin and Hamburg.

Finally, only one goal separated Dinamo from qualification for the last 32 of the competition.

It might also be said that the remarkable run by Cluj in the UEFA

Intertoto Cup provided a foretaste of the future exploits of the Bucharest "big guns"!

The three Bucharest clubs played a total of 42 matches, the results of which have propelled Romania into first place in this season's UEFA rankings, yielding a total over five seasons which will allow Romania to enter two clubs for the 2007/08 Champions League.

Economic boom

Apart from the media impact, the performances of the Bucharest clubs in European competitions have created a real economic boom, with gate receipts supplementing TV revenue. Stadiums were full for most of the European fixtures and the resulting revenue has been substantial.

Because of renovation work at their stadium, Steaua played their last four European matches at the Lia Manoliu stadium (the largest in the country) and the club set a new record for gate receipts from the crunch match against Middlesbrough – some EUR 500,000. Steaua's total revenue from their European campaign (tickets, TV rights and advertising in the stadium) is estimated at EUR 3.5 million.

The Bucharest clubs have always had a strong following and the recent results have further enhanced their image throughout Romania and even abroad. Steaua and Rapid have their own well-organised fan clubs, which follow their teams' progress closely.

The good results and bigger crowds have been accompanied by a boost on the marketing front. In addition to the sales generated by the big matches, the clubs have conducted advertising campaigns and further revenue has been generated. Apart from opening shops in the capital, the Bucharest clubs are also selling their products in other towns and cities via mobile shops (which cover a large part of the country), as well as online. These virtual shops often display "sold out" signs for a number of popular items!

Role models

The ripple effect from the impressive results achieved by the Bucharest clubs has been considerable. Enthusiasm was so great that the TV channels made great efforts to rebroadcast the matches, leading to a price explosion and technical improvements in this area. Apart from that, discussions about the atmosphere surrounding the two derby matches have had a clear educational value.

The performances of Steaua and Rapid in particular will enable other clubs to have more opportunities to take part in future editions of the UEFA club competitions, which are real showcases for emerging talent. Children are also returning to the stadiums and it is to be hoped that facilities will continue to improve to give them the welcome they deserve.

George Gisca

A party atmosphere for the European derby between Steaua and Rapid Bucharest.



PRO SPORT



Spain score against Germany in the match to decide third place.



Jakub Heidenreich (Czech Republic) outmanoeuvres Russia's Vadim Gagloev in the final.



The outcome rested on penalty kicks.

European Under-17 Championship in Luxembourg Triumph for Russia

IN A THRILLING FINAL AGAINST THE CZECH REPUBLIC, RUSSIA WON THEIR FIRST EUROPEAN YOUTH TITLE SINCE THE BREAK-UP OF THE FORMER SOVIET UNION. TOURNAMENT FAVOURITES GERMANY AND SPAIN CAME TO GRIEF IN THE SEMI-FINALS.

After a tentative start, the final in the Josy Barthel stadium was extremely exciting and took a number of unexpected turns. Taking the lead shortly after half-time, Russia looked likely winners, until the Czechs managed to equalise in the dying seconds of stoppage time. In extra time, the Russians went ahead for a second time, again conceded the lead, but finally came out on top in the penalty shoot-out.



winners Russia. Before the semi-final, Germany had gone 14 successive matches without defeat and had won Group B without conceding a goal. But this final round showed once again that the teams that triumph in the end may not get off to the best start but are able to raise their game as the tournament progresses.

Germany and Spain each found their opponent's compact and solid defence a hard nut to crack, the former losing 1-0 against Russia and the latter suffering a 2-0 defeat against the Czech Republic. So the two favourites ended up contesting the match for third place, which the Spaniards won on penalties after a 1-1 draw in normal time.

Satisfied coaches

The coaches of both finalists were full of positives after the nerve-jangling game. *"It was an amazing, fantastic match. This tournament was very hard for our team and I must congratulate the players. I really think that at the beginning of the finals we were not in good shape but we've managed to build ourselves up and we were in the shape we wanted to be,"* said Russian coach Igor Kolyvanov. His Czech opposite number, Jakub Dovalil, was gracious in defeat. *"I said before the match that it is difficult to lose on penalties – and it happened. But my team put on a good performance. Russia defended as expected and played well on the counter, they were stronger and won, so I congratulate them on their performance."*

Surprises in the semi-finals

The group matches had suggested that a Germany v. Spain final was on the cards. The Spaniards won Group A with maximum points, including a 3-0 victory over subsequent tournament

Positive outcome

Apart from the Russian team, the organisers also had every reason to be happy. Luxembourg are the

Results

Group A

Hungary – Russia	0-1
Luxembourg – Spain	1-7
Spain – Russia	3-0
Luxembourg – Hungary	0-4
Russia – Luxembourg	2-0
Spain – Hungary	2-0

Group B

Belgium – Germany	0-4
Serbia and Montenegro – Czech Rep.	1-2
Belgium – Serbia and Montenegro	1-1
Germany – Czech Republic	0-0
Germany – Serbia and Montenegro	4-0
Czech Republic – Belgium	3-1

Semi-finals

Germany – Russia	0-1
Spain – Czech Republic	0-2

Match for third place

Spain – Germany	1-1, 3-2 pens.
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Final

Czech Rep. – Russia	1-1, 2-2 a.e.t., 3-5 pens.
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smallest nation so far to have staged the Under-17 Championship final round and UEFA Youth and Amateur Committee chairman Jim Boyce was full of praise for the Grand Duchy when he spoke to uefa.com. *"The Luxembourg FA and local organising committee have done a super job. The stadiums have been clean and tidy and the pitches have been first class, and they must be very pleased with the number of spectators at the games. The number of people I've seen with football shirts, they know it's a big thing for Luxembourg."*

The fair play award was won by Germany.



PHOTOS: UEFA



APPHOTO SPAIN/LINES

The three goal lead that they took away from the first leg put Boomerang Interviú in a comfortable position before their trip to Moscow.



UEFA

A clash of Brazilians between Moscow's Pelé (in white) and Boomerang Interviú's Schumacher.



UEFA

The Madrid side celebrate victory.

2005/06 UEFA Futsal Cup

Spain takes the honours again

WITH AN AGGREGATE SCORE OF 9-7, BOOMERANG INTERVIÚ TRIUMPHED OVER DINAMO MOSCOW AND RECLAIMED THE UEFA FUTSAL CUP TITLE THEY WON IN 2004, LEAVING DINAMO MOSCOW TO SWALLOW DEFEAT IN THE FINAL FOR THE SECOND YEAR IN A ROW.

In the five years that the UEFA Futsal Cup has been played, Spain has virtually made the competition its own, with four titles to its name. Action 21 Charleroi from Belgium are the only club to have broken the Spanish stranglehold so far, winning the competition in 2004/05. The same Spanish club, Playas de Castellón, won the first two editions.

Thriller of a final

In the first leg of the final, Boomerang Interviú had the home advantage, which they made the most of to head into the second leg with a 6-3 win already under their belts. The match got off to a thrilling start: Dinamo twice came

back from behind to go ahead 3-2, only for the Spanish side to put the ball into the back of the net twice in the space of 12 seconds just before half-time to take the score to 4-3 in their favour. In the second half, both teams lost their cool somewhat. However, Boomerang managed to keep a better grip on the game and extended their lead to 5-3 midway through the second half. Then just before the final whistle, their Brazilian player, Schumacher, clinched his hat-trick and a three-goal cushion for his club.



29 April, Pabellón Caja, Madrid
Boomerang Interviú v Dinamo Moscow, 6-3
Referees: Ivan Novak (CRO), Károly Török (HUN)
Scorers: 5' Gabriel 1-0, 8' Sirilo 1-1, 10' Schumacher 2-1, 12' Pelé 2-2, 15' Malyshev 2-3, 18' Daniel 3-3, 18' Schumacher 4-3, 31' Marquinho 5-3, 40' Schumacher 6-3.



APPHOTO SPAIN/LINES

Boomerang feel the pressure

The return leg in the Russian capital was even more of a thriller than the first leg in Madrid. Dinamo, with several strong Brazilians in their line-up, put on the pressure from the very start. However, a brilliant performance from the Spanish side's goalkeeper, Rafa, kept the score at 1-1 until half-time. The Russian side tried to step up the pressure and staked everything on one card five minutes before the end, when they took off their goalkeeper and replaced him with a fifth outfield player. A real onslaught followed, resulting in five goals in the last five minutes. Two minutes before the final whistle, Dinamo took a 4-2 lead, which, on account of the away-goals rule, left them needing one more goal to win the trophy, but a shot from the other half of the field into the empty Russian goal left the Spanish team with the upper hand in the end.

New format for 2006/07

Next season, the UEFA Futsal Cup takes on a new look, with the

abolition of semi-finals and the final over two legs and the introduction of a "Futsal Cup Finals" over several days, hosted by one of the semi-finalists. The change is intended to make the final phase of the competition more attractive. The 2006/07 competition kicks off in Nyon on 6 July, when the draws are made for the preliminary and main rounds.

7 May, Druzhba sports hall, Moscow
Dinamo Moscow v Boomerang Interviú, 4-3
Referees: Giuseppe Buluggiu (ITA), Massimo Cumbo (ITA)
Scorers: 8' Sirilo 1-0, 12' Julio 1-1, 36' Joan 2-1, 36' Daniel 2-2, 37' Maevski 3-2, 39' Tatu 4-2, 40' Neto 4-3.



BARON/BONGARTS/GETTY IMAGES

The new club competition season gets under way when the World Cup is in full swing.



UEFA

At the beginning of May, UEFA organised its sixth seminar for referee talents and mentors as part of its referee development programme.



Report from Brussels

Two committees of the European Parliament are battling each other for the right to draft a report on the regulation of professional football. The dispute opens a new chapter in the long-standing debate on the European Union's involvement in the running of sport.

On the one hand sits the liberal, free-market approach, which argues that professional football has become so commercialised and its top clubs so wealthy that the sport should be treated like any other normal business. The Dutch liberal MEP Toine Manders most visibly represents this philosophy, and Manders has already produced a working document, which calls on FIFA and UEFA to bring their statutes and regulations into line with the basic principles of EU law.



Toine Manders

On the other hand, the Parliament's Culture Committee argues that sport, and football in particular, plays a social and educational role that demands special treatment from politicians and regulators. Sport belongs to the Culture Committee's various responsibilities, and the Committee's members are determined that they should produce the report. If the Culture Committee is successful, the Belgian MEP Ivo Belet will draft the document.



Ivo Belet

In his working document, Manders argues that a level playing field does not exist in European football: some clubs enjoy significant economic advantages over their rivals because they operate in bigger television markets or because their governments offer various forms of financial support. The only way to create true competition, according to Manders, is to apply the full range of EU laws so that, for example, clubs are free to operate in different leagues, just as companies are free to trade across borders.

UEFA believes that this internal-market philosophy contains several basic weaknesses. First, it insists on separating the professional elite from the rest of the sport; it does not recognise that the grass roots and

Meetings and other activities

Club competitions resume

THE REVAMPED UEFA INTERTOTO CUP GETS UNDER WAY ON 17/18 JUNE, WHEN THE FIRST LEGS IN THE FIRST ROUND TAKE PLACE.

The return matches are scheduled for 25/26 June. The second round matches take place on 1/2 and 8/9 July, and the third and last round on 15/16 and 22 July.

Meanwhile, the draw for the first and second qualifying rounds of the 2006/07 UEFA Champions League will be made at UEFA's headquarters in Nyon at 12.00 on 23 June. On the same occasion, the draw for the first qualifying round of the UEFA Cup will also be made.

Fair play draw in Portugal

UEFA's fair play rankings, which entitle three national associations to each enter an additional club for the UEFA Cup, will be wrapped up on 31 May.

The association that tops the rankings automatically gets an additional UEFA Cup place, whereas all the other associations which have achieved an average of eight points or more (and played enough matches) will go into a draw to decide who gets the other two places.

This draw will be made in Porto on 4 June at half-time in the final of the European Under-21 Championship.

The three clubs from the associations in question will start out in the UEFA Cup 2006/07 in the first qualifying round.

Women's Under-19 final round in Switzerland

The qualifying phase of the European Women's Under-19 Championship concluded at the end of April and the finalists are now awaiting the draw in Basle on 27 May which will place them into two groups.



Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, the Netherlands, title-holders Russia, and Sweden have qualified for the final round, where they will be joined by the host nation for a tournament running from 11 to 22 July and being staged at six venues: Berne, Langenthal, Schaffhausen, Solothurn, Wil and Winterthur.



DOBRIK/BONGARTS/GETTY IMAGES

Germany (Nathalie Bock, No 8, against Spela Vehar of Slovenia) have made it through to the European Women's Under-19 Championship finals again.

→ the professional game need and support each other. It refuses to see that European football is essentially a social movement that has organised itself freely and openly from the very beginning.

Second, it fails to understand that it is impossible to create perfect competition in sport. Success on the pitch is influenced by numerous factors, not least the size and prosperity of the local or national population. No government can legislate against these factors; they are a fact of geography and history.

Third, it ignores UEFA's efforts to promote competitive balance through a range of sporting and administrative measures. UEFA's new rules to promote the local training of players, the recently introduced club licensing system, and the well-established solidarity mechanisms all aim to keep the sport balanced and competitive.

So far, the Parliament has still not agreed which of the two committees should write the report. Once the decision is taken, MEPs will debate the two philosophies, liberal and social, over a period of several months. The final report, requiring the approval of the Parliament as a whole, will not have any legally-binding effect; neither UEFA nor any other governing body will be obliged to take any action. But it will send a clear political signal about how the European Parliament sees the development of our sport, and how it should be governed.



Special Olympics seminar for coach assistants.



Slovakia's Unified Special Olympics team.

Special Olympics seminar in Turkey

Special Olympics Turkey hosted the fourth Special Olympics Europe/Eurasia (SOEE) coach assistant programme seminar from 6 to 9 April at the seaside resort of Kusadasi.

Seventeen Special Olympics footballers and ten coaches representing nine Special Olympics clubs in Turkey, Bulgaria and Romania participated.

The seminar included theoretical and practical sessions and proper tests. The seminar was followed by a Unified Football tournament with partners from the Kusadasi football club. *"My schoolfriends and I usually play football in the street after school but this is the first time that I've had formal training. I found it very interesting. Maybe my first session as a coach assistant will be a bit stressful, but I am looking forward to it!"* said coach

assistant Julian Ciortan, 16, from Special Olympics Romania.

Gabriel Varescu, a coach with the Romanian Football Federation, who has coached in the US, Japan and Romania, said: *"I have been to many seminars in my career and this is one of the best I have attended. The assistant coach seminar gives a lot of practical information and offers new opportunities for coaches and coach assistants. The visuals and slideshows at the seminar were very helpful. I am very impressed with the quality I saw during the event."*

Nolwen Grassin, regional athlete leadership programme manager, and Andre Peeters, regional football and Unified Sports adviser, conducted the seminar.

In the past two years, three coach assistant seminars have been held, in Belgium, Denmark and Poland; 45 coaches and 75 coach assistants have been trained in the process.

PREPARING FOR EURO2008



Like lifting ten Boeing 747s all at once...

●○○● On 6 May, renovation work for UEFA EURO 2008 began at Salzburg's Wals-Siezenheim stadium. The hydraulic lifting of the roof promises to be particularly spectacular. In bridge-building, such lifts are quite normal, but this technique has never previously been used in stadium construction.

The roof, with a total surface area of 17,000 m² and weighing more than 1,900 tonnes, will be raised by a total of 10.5 metres. Rather than conventional cranes, 12 large and 56 small jack lifts will be used, along with steel cables with exceptional load-bearing capacity. The roof



Work has started at Salzburg's stadium.

weighs the equivalent of ten Boeing 747s or 270 fully grown elephants.

It will take between eight and ten hours to raise the roof, probably on 29 June 2006. Good weather (no wind) is a necessity. At first, the 1,900 tonne roof will be lifted by just a few centimetres, then the process will be interrupted for a day or two in order to carry

out the necessary structural checks. A total of around 25 people will be involved in the operation.

"The main advantage of this method," explained architect Albert Wimmer, *"is that the fixtures of first division club Salzburg will not be disrupted."*



Dasha Aliyeva Alapayersk: a star in the making.

SO RUSSIA



Tournament in Turkey.

SO TURKEY



Keith Armstrong, coach of HJK Helsinki, gives some advice to young players.

SO FINLAND

Special Olympics Football Week Record number of participants

THE SIXTH ANNUAL SPECIAL OLYMPICS EUROPEAN FOOTBALL WEEK WAS HELD FROM 24 APRIL TO 3 MAY. A RECORD 50,000 PLAYERS WITH INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES PARTICIPATED IN EVENTS IN OVER 50 COUNTRIES THROUGHOUT EUROPE/EURASIA.

In Finland, over 600 Special Olympics footballers participated in competitions in four cities; in Helsinki they met players from HJK Helsinki. In Belgium, 300 Special Olympics players competed in "Happy Football Day" and met René Vandereycken, Belgium's head coach. In Iceland, former national goalkeeper Birkir Kristinsson presented medals to Special Olympics players at a tournament in Reykjavik organised in cooperation with the FA. In Luxembourg, the new Special Olympics football ambassador Manuel Cardoni, the Jeunesse Esch midfielder, and all first division teams and referees participated in a solidarity weekend for Special Olympics Luxembourg. In Turkey, tournaments were held in seven cities including Istanbul, where 16 teams played in an event supported by the FA. In Azerbaijan, 150 players took part in a national tournament supported by the FA. In Kazakhstan, 1,500 players participated in 14 regional tournaments while 250 players took part in a national event. In Uzbekistan, 5,000 spectators gathered in Tashkent to welcome teams to a national tournament. In Tajikistan, 400 players competed in tournaments in four cities.

Female players continued to impress everyone with their skills. For example, among the 300-player tournament in St Petersburg, Russia, Dasha Aliyeva Alapayersk, 13, was a definite star. "Dasha is one of the best players I have ever seen," said Victor Lebediev, the main tournament referee.

The Johan Cruyff Foundation continued its support of Football Week for the fifth year.



Tournament in Tbilisi.

YOURY MECHTIDV

This year the focus was on youth participation. In Austria, Poland, Romania, Serbia and Montenegro, and Slovakia, a pilot project, started in 2005, continued during Football Week. The project combines SO Get Into It, the Special Olympics school curriculum that encourages understanding and acceptance among young people, and "Unified Football", in which players with and without disabilities play on the same team. Some of the new Unified teams resulting from the project will compete in the Special Olympics European Youth Games to be held from 30 September to 5 October in Rome. Milan Palencar, 16, a Special Olympics footballer in Slovakia whose team was selected to go to the Youth Games and who was competing in a local tournament during Football Week, said, "I like my Unified team because boys from mainstream and special schools get to play football together and become friends."

In Lithuania, 650 young players from special schools competed in local events. In Georgia, a tournament was held in Tbilisi for four teenage teams, including one from Quality Schools International. In Spain, 150 Special Olympics young players competed in a tournament in Madrid.



UEFA

As usual, UEFA took part in Special Olympics Football Week by playing a Swiss Special Olympics team in Nyon on 24 April. Afterwards, the teams went back to UEFA headquarters, where they were able to look at photos of the match.



News from member associations

ARMENIA



Visit by the UEFA CEO

On 3 April, UEFA chief executive Lars-Christer Olsson travelled to Yerevan to meet the president of the Football Federation of Armenia (FFA), Ruben Hayrapetyan, and the head of the FFA sports committee,



The UEFA Chief Executive was able to see for himself how much Armenians of all ages love football.

Ishkhan Zakaryan, before going on to meet other federation staff. Presenting the key areas of UEFA policy, Lars-Christer Olsson underlined the cooperation with national football associations of the former USSR, referring in particular to UEFA's assistance programmes and solidarity between national associations. He also answered questions about the club licensing system, and about the involvement of the national associations in UEFA committees and working groups.

In reply to questions concerning the situation of Armenia and Azerbaijan, the UEFA CEO indicated UEFA's readiness to send a group of officials to Armenia and Azerbaijan to analyse the situation and seek

a solution. UEFA hoped that these games could be played in the host countries, but was aware of the many problems relating to security.

After the meeting, Olsson visited the Matenadaran, one of the world's oldest libraries, where over 17,000 ancient manuscripts are stored. After the visit, our guest met the head of the Armenian Church, Garegin II, before moving on to the Parajanov museum.

The following day, the UEFA CEO opened a second mini-pitch in Yerevan, accompanied by the FFA president and the deputy mayor of Yerevan.

Under the HatTrick mini-pitch project, UEFA had already given the Armenian FA one pitch, which was inaugurated by UEFA vice-president Per Ravn Omdal in November 2004. A total of 20 pitches will be built in the capital and another 20 in the regions.

After the ceremony, Lars-Christer Olsson visited the headquarters of Banants to see an example of work being done at club level. Grass pitches have been relaid and an artificial pitch is almost finished. Reconstruction work has been carried out on an indoor hall, which will house another artificial surface. Our guest was also shown the hotel, training halls and dressing-rooms.

He then went on to visit the Nairi stadium, scheduled to be a venue for the European Under-17 Championship qualifying group matches in Armenia, and the Pyunik club, where extensive renovation work is under way.

The UEFA CEO also had a meeting with the Armenian prime minister, Andranik Margaryan, who expressed his appreciation of UEFA programmes implemented in Armenia and underlined the importance attached to football by the government. The prime minister gave an assurance that the Azerbaijan delegation would be well received and that security would be tight for the Armenia v. Azerbaijan EURO 2008 qualifier.

In a press conference the same day, Lars-Christer Olsson again referred to the matches to be played between Armenia and Azerbaijan. "We have decided to create a working group consisting of representatives from UEFA, Armenia and Azerbaijan

to discuss this matter and find the best way forward. The meeting will be in May and we will discuss all possible solutions. The top priority is, of course, security. UEFA would like the games to be played in the host countries and hopes that they will be," he said.

In reply to a question about whether he was satisfied with his visit to Armenia, he added, "It's my first visit to Armenia and it's very important for me. Apart from dealing with football matters, I have met the head of the Armenian Church and visited many cultural places. I welcome the prime minister's position on football development in the country. And who could forget the happy faces of the children at the inauguration of the mini-pitch? I feel positive about the development of Armenian football. It's important for me to be sure that UEFA funding is being put to good use."

Arayik Manukyan

BELGIUM



The "Open Stadium Fund"

The image of football has been increasingly tarnished in recent years by acts of violence, anti-social behaviour and expressions of racism which poison the atmosphere in the stadiums. Unfortunately this situation is not confined to our most popular national sport but extends to daily life in general. People everywhere are often plagued by feelings of unease and insecurity, which will continue to grow if nothing is done. So it is time to take action to restore the image of football and of society as a whole.

This is the context in which Els Van Weert, Secretary of State for Sustainable Development and Social Economy, presented the "Open Stadium Fund" in the auditorium of the Belgian FA on 25 April. All first and second division clubs across the country are being invited to tender projects





aimed at using the impact of football to achieve social objectives. The scheme is managed by the King Baudouin Foundation and chaired by Michel Preud'homme, member of the Belgian FA's executive and technical committees. Bids must be submitted to the Foundation by 15 August and must demonstrate the added value of the respective programmes in social, environmental, democratic and/or participatory terms. An independent panel will then evaluate the projects and select those they consider the best. The candidates will be informed of the outcome in early September and successful applicants will qualify for financial assistance.

As this initiative gets under way, there are high hopes for change, with the prospect of our clubs becoming socially committed enterprises which stand to gain from their new status. Indeed, their image will be enhanced and this will enable them to attract sponsors and supporters more easily, their security costs will be lower, etc. Now, the ball is in their court.

Pierre Cornez

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA



NK Orasje win the cup

It has been a busy time in football recently, especially on the domestic front. The premier league stepped up a gear, with matches on both Saturday and Wednesday, a change of pace that the players accepted better than expected.

The domestic cup competition was also still in full swing. In the two-leg final, NK Orasje beat NK Siroki Brijeg after a goal-less first leg at the Pecara stadium and a 3-0 win in the second leg at the Goal stadium in Orasje. It was a double celebration for NK Orasje, as the club is also marking its tenth year of existence.

"This is a great success for our team. It wasn't easy. But we beat the new premier league champions and have won a place in the UEFA Cup," said Davor Mladina, head coach.

In the women's cup, ZNK SFK 2000 met ZFK Borac from Banja Luka in the final, played at the Grbavica stadium in Sarajevo. ZNK SFK 2000 won 2-0.

Indoors, the futsal cup was won by MFK Partizan from Sarajevo, who beat MFK Leotar from Trebinje 5-2 at the Skenderija hall.

The futsal league competition has also finished. Three teams took part in the final tournament, which took place in Bihac: MNK Seljak from Livno, MNK Partizan from Sarajevo and MNK Banja Luka.



Cup winners NK Orasje.

MNK Partizan emerged as champions, ahead of MNK Seljak and MFK Banja Luka.

In the youth sector, the Under-21s played a friendly in Modrica against Slovenia, which they won 1-0. The Under-18s, led by Nikola Nikic, did not do so well, losing three of their four recent matches, one against FYR Macedonia (2-0) and two against Croatia (3-0 and 4-1). In their second match against FYR Macedonia, they managed a goal-less draw.

The Under-16s met their counterparts from the same two countries, but with slightly better results, one win and one draw. They lost their first match against FYR Macedonia 2-0 but won the return match 2-1. Against Croatia, they managed a 1-1 draw to begin with, but then lost the second match 2-1.

These results are cause for concern for those responsible for youth football in Bosnia and Herzegovina; however, it was decided that only players from domestic clubs would be fielded for these matches.

Not to be left out, the senior national team play South Korea in Seoul and Iran in Teheran at the end of May in preparation for the EURO 2008 qualifiers.

Fuad Krvavac

CROATIA



Croatian football celebrates its deep roots

Spring has been a busy time in Croatian football in all respects. The greatest focus of attention has been preparations for the third consecutive participation of the Croatian national team in the World Cup. Amid this atmosphere of optimism for a successful performance by our national team, an ordinary general meeting has been held. The gathering was also an opportunity to put on an impressive presentation celebrating the history of Croatian football, 125 years since the first football arrived in the town of Zupanja from England, and 100 years since Zagreb-based club PNIŠK played their first match, which was against Hungarian club FTC in

Budapest. It is also 66 years since the first match of the Croatian national team, which played Switzerland in Zagreb on 2 April 1940, a match they won 4-0. The general meeting was attended by the only surviving participant from that match, Milan Antolkovic, an excellent international player in his day, not to mention a successful coach, long-standing president of the association of Croatian coaches and always a promoter of fair play in sport. Even today, at 91, his vitality still shows through. Milan Antolkovic received a very warm welcome from the participants, and Vlatko Markovic, president of the Croatian FA, presented him with a special national team shirt.

Just one month after that first senior national team match, Croatia's Under-18 team played their first match against their Hungarian counterparts. This shows that great attention has always been paid to youth in Croatian football. Returning to the present, we are grateful to UEFA for entrusting us with the organisation of an elite round mini-tournament in the 2005/06 European Under-19 Championship, when our team will be pitting their skills against Israel, Portugal and FYR Macedonia. The tournament is being played in the Zagreb region. To date, we have received nothing but praise for all the tournaments we have hosted.



Vlatko Markovic, president of the Croatian FA, presents a souvenir shirt to Milan Antolkovic.

At grassroots level, a new Veterans' Football Committee has been appointed. Veterans' football has a long tradition and huge following. The aim is to bring veterans football under the umbrella of the association and its regional organisations and make it an integral part of our grassroots activities and of UEFA's goals in this respect. Further good cooperation has been achieved with the Open Fun Football school, especially in terms of getting girls involved in football. This area is a priority concern for the association, with a view to accelerating the development of women's football.

Ante Pavlovic



CYPRUS



Busy times for the association

A wide range of activities and events were organised recently by the Cyprus Football Association (CFA) as part of ongoing efforts to enhance the status of football on the island.

One of the most successful tournaments ever staged by the CFA was the tenth international tournament for senior national teams, which took place from 27 February to 2 March and featured eight senior squads divided into two groups. The group winners were Romania (ahead of Slovenia, Cyprus and Armenia) and the 2004 European Champions Greece (ahead of Kazakhstan, Finland and Belarus).

An Under-17 elite round mini-tournament was hosted in Larnaca from 23 to 27 March with the participation of Cyprus, Spain, Wales and Moldova. Interest was high until the last match day, when Spain emerged as the team to qualify for the finals in Luxembourg.



AE Kokinochorion, winner of the 2005/06 women's championship.

The coaching front has seen plenty of activity too. A UEFA B licence course with 36 participants was held from 27 February to 17 March. This was followed by a youth development seminar from 17 to 21 April, which was attended by 75 youth coaches, all of whom were keen participants. Next, the first session of a 12-day UEFA A licence course will begin on 5 June.

The 2005/06 women's championship, which featured eight clubs for the first time in this eighth edition, is now over, AE Kokinochorion winning the competition for the second consecutive season. Back in February, the completion of the 7th futsal championship yielded a new champion for 2005/06, Parnassos Strovolou putting an end to the reign of AGBU Ararat, who won the title five times in the last six seasons.

The schedule for next season's first division matches has now been finalised. For the first time ever, the league

will comprise 14 clubs. It starts on the weekend of 12/13 August, with the traditional Super Cup match to be staged a week earlier, on 5 August.

Kyriacos Georgalllis

ENGLAND



Promotional campaign

The FA is launching a campaign at the end of May to encourage English fans watching the World Cup this summer to get actively involved in football. This is The FA's first campaign to promote its football development initiatives to all children and parents.

HRH Prince William, Patron of The FA and a keen football player, has become an ambassador for Get into Football.

The FA is aiming to inspire, inform and engage football fans during the World Cup by using a poster-led campaign, featuring real people from football – from local coaches, volunteers, mums, young players, to three England players – Michael Owen, Eniola Aluko and a member of the England blind team. It aims to appeal to parents by promoting the stories of those people involved in the grassroots game, showing how football can make a positive difference to people's lives. There will be a separate illustrated design aimed at 5-11-year-old children to promote club football and a fair play message.

The promotional materials will direct fans to TheFA.com, which will see a relaunch of its grassroots section to have all the support information needed for putting people in touch with their local playing, coaching or volunteering opportunity.

Promotional material will be used to push the campaign in schools, through the support of commercial partners, media advertising and also through a strong PR strategy.

Find out more at TheFA.com/getintofootball

Beverley Ward



Site visit to assess the Finnish bid on the spot.

grounds in the centres of Helsinki, Tampere and Turku were inspected.

In its favour as prospective tournament hosts, Finland can boast the total support of the whole football family; excellent cooperation with the government, cities and stadiums; and considerable media interest; not to mention the growing popularity of women's football in the wake of the success of the senior national team (semi-finals of Women's EURO 2005) and the Under-19s (semi-finals of the 2004/05 European Women's Under-19 Championship and qualification for the U-20 Women's World Cup). Successful individual players like Anne Mäkinen and Laura Kalmari, who have both represented their country at senior level more than 100 times, have also helped raise the profile of women's football in Finland. During the last five years, the numbers of players and spectators have risen steadily at all levels of the game.

Finland promises that it would organise an all-time European Women's Championship final round in 2009, with modern and well-designed infrastructure, top-class and reliable organisation and good cooperation with all parties, a solid economy based on sold-out stadiums, and, above all, a relaxed and friendly atmosphere. If selected as hosts, Finland would set itself the target of breaking all the records by staging top-level matches in an excellent atmosphere, ensuring the best media coverage ever and attempting to draw 300,000 spectators altogether, which would constitute a new record in European women's football. The tournament would be promoted as an event for all the family and a legacy for European football characterised by the Finnish spirit of equality.

The UEFA Executive Committee will decide on the host association at its meeting in July.

Outi Saarinen

FINLAND



UEFA site visit in April

A UEFA delegation conducted a site visit in April with a view to the Women's European Championship final tournament in 2009, for which Finland is one of the candidate host associations. During the four-day visit, the facts presented in the bidding documents were studied, and the hotels, stadiums and training



GERMANY



"Football under the Swastika" symposium is a great success

On 7 and 8 April, the German Football Association (DFB) held a symposium in Bad Boll entitled "Football under the Swastika – Learning from History". At the conference, organised with the help of the Bad Boll Protestant Academy, leaders from the fields of sport, business, politics and the churches debated how associations and federations should go about remembering the period from 1933 to 1945. The DFB executive president, Theo Zwanziger, was pleased with how it all went. *"During the two days, we wanted to have a closer look at this dark chapter from the past. Thanks to lots of discussions, many of which were controversial and critical, we managed this very successfully. I would like to emphasise, however, that dealing with the DFB's past during the time of National Socialism is an ongoing process and this conference marked neither the start nor the end of that."*

In a panel discussion, Germany's Interior Minister, Wolfgang Schäuble, made it clear he was pleased to see the DFB putting its past under scrutiny. *"It is good that the DFB is facing its past. This kind of thing can even be a liberating experience."* In his speech, the minister went on to point out that football has always had to set an example, and that it still has this role to play today. *"I don't know of any area in society that does as much as football in terms of really integrating people. Even so, I still think that the concept of fair play should be given more prominence in today's game."*

Manfred von Richthofen, the president of the German Sports Confederation (DSB), agreed that the symposium represented a step in the right direction. *"The DFB needs to tackle its past in connection with two totalitarian regimes, National Socialism and the former East Germany. Dealing with such things is not as easy as it may sometimes seem, but we must keep trying because at some point the younger genera-*

tion will ask us about it. We will have to see whether the sports associations can work together to build on the progress already made in coming to terms with the past."

Stephan Brause

KAZAKHSTAN



New youth tournament

On 5 April, the "Coca-Cola Bylgary Dop" was launched in Kazakhstan. Organised by the Football Union of Kazakhstan, the Ministry of Education and Science, and Coca-Cola, teams from 8,000 schools in all parts of the country will take part in this tournament.



A new youth tournament.

It is open to young footballers who were born in 1991/92, 1993/94 and 1995/96. The final rounds will take place in Taraz in June, Karagandy in July and Almaty in August.

At the opening ceremony, the first touch of the ball was made by former FC Kairat Almaty defender and USSR international Seilda Baishakov and FC Kairat Almaty KTZH captain and international defender Samat Smakov.

"It's a great idea. I hope that the "Coca-Cola Bylgary Dop" will help us to find new talents," said Samat Smakov.

Alexander Keplin

LATVIA



The way ahead for the federation

The conclusions of a three-day Com-Unity seminar jointly organised by FIFA and the Latvian Football Federation (LFF) clearly pointed the way ahead for the development of football in Latvia. Apart from setting itself the goals of improving coaching standards at all levels, scouting for new talent more efficiently and obtaining advice in relation to the everyday work of the association, the LFF has hired a professional

football consultant from the United Kingdom, Les Reed. At his first meeting with the LFF's communications department and other association employees, Reed said that he plans to concentrate on three main areas which are all designed to improve player development in Latvia. The first is to boost coaching qualifications, the second is to enhance the development of new players, and the third is to draw up guidelines for youth academies. After meeting LFF general secretary Janis Mezeckis and other officials during two fact-finding visits to Latvia, the British consultant will establish criteria for further development in the context of his contracted 90 days' work per year on LFF matters.

Under UEFA's Top Executive Programme, delegates from the Kazakhstan Football Federation (KFF) and UEFA came to Riga on a two-day visit in early May to exchange experiences with the KFF general secretary and officials from the youth development and marketing departments. The KFF delegates were informed about the LFF's vision and plans, media work, website construction and other activities. Their visit coincided with the Latvia Under-17 team securing the runners-up spot in the "Torneo Europa Unita" and the senior national team's friendly match against the USA.

The opening of the Latvian premier league ("LMT Virsliga") season this year saw Finnish referees officiating, with a Latvian referee reciprocating in Finland



Les Reed and Janis Mezeckis.

on 25 May. On the same day, a Latvian referee was in charge of Pakhtakor's 50th anniversary game against Torpedo Moscow in Tashkent. In addition, for a two-day tournament starting in Kyiv on 12 May, the only foreign referee involved was top Latvian official Romans Lajuks.

Finally, a seminar in coaching psychology was held at the end of April for Latvian coaches to enable them to hone their skills for working with youth players.

Martins Hartmanis



Executive president Theo Zwanziger.



LIECHTENSTEIN



International football VIPs in Liechtenstein

On 27 April, the new premises of the Liechtenstein Football Association (LFV) in Schaan were officially opened. In attendance at the inauguration were FIFA president Joseph S. Blatter, FIFA and UEFA Executive Committee member Michel Platini, UEFA chief executive Lars-Christer Olsson and UEFA Executive Committee member Gerhard Mayer-Vorfelder. Numerous other leading figures were represented at the solemn ceremony conducted by Rev. Markus Kellenberger.



Lars-Christer Olsson, Joseph S. Blatter, Michel Platini and Gerhard Mayer-Vorfelder at the inauguration.

Thanks to generous financial support from FIFA and UEFA, the LFV has acquired one floor of an office block at Landstrasse 149 as its headquarters. LFV president Reinhard Walser was pleased to welcome the VIP guests and was visibly proud to be able to show them the state-of-the-art offices. "We want to be a serious partner, to do everything we can to collaborate in an efficient and reliable way," he said.

The FIFA president was highly impressed with the latest developments at LFV headquarters. Joseph Blatter said that he had been deeply moved by the ceremony, which was an expression of the hope that we can achieve something through football. He added that there are no longer any small associations in FIFA, only members.

Lars-Christer Olsson welcomed the improvements to the infrastructure of the

LFV. "This is a classic example of what can be achieved through teamwork," said UEFA's chief executive.

Judith Frommelt

MALTA



Solid foundations

Indoor five-a-side football, now known universally as futsal, has become increasingly popular in recent years. In many countries the rapid growth of this sport and a more streamlined insight into the coaching, refereeing and administrative sectors have enhanced indoor football.

Conscious of new developments in this sport, the Malta FA, through its futsal department, has held comprehensive courses for coaches and referees. This event, organised under the auspices of FIFA, was opened by the MFA president, Joseph Mifsud, who spoke about the way futsal was growing and the importance of such courses.

The courses, scheduled over four days, were conducted by Mico Martic and Perry Gautier, FIFA officials who specialise in coaching and refereeing respectively.

The intensive programme comprised theoretical and practical sessions in both the coaching and refereeing fields, including a thorough study of technical developments in this sport.

A distinguished speaker was Petr Fousek, chairman of the UEFA Futsal Committee, who gave spoke about administrative and organisational matters. His talk was very useful for the futsal club administrators, who were very keen to know more about running their set-ups in a modern and more efficient way.

The participation in these courses was very encouraging and provided evidence that futsal in Malta is being laid on solid foundations.

Alex Vella



Petr Fousek gives his presentation.

MOLDOVA



Coaching school founded

Coach and club licensing in Moldova has received a great boost since the executive committee of the FA of Moldova founded a coaching school in



B licence course.

February under the leadership of the experienced Ivan Daniliants. The young generation of Moldovan coaches now have vast opportunities to improve their knowledge and subsequently to apply them in practice.

Since February, the school's director, Ivan Daniliants, has already conducted three UEFA B licence courses at the national team technical centre in the city of Vadul-lui-Voda. The fourth such course began on 18 May.

UEFA sent experienced lecturers Sivek Zdenek, a member of its Technical Instructors Panel, and Mircea Radulescu, director of the Romanian Football Federation's coaching school, to help run these courses, both of them making valuable contributions. In tackling different subjects with the course participants, the lecturers emphasised the mentality and positive qualities that coaches need to achieve good results.

Very interesting and useful were the lectures given by the FA of Moldova's own lecturers, who included Boris Bogus, doctor of psychology, Vladimir Antonov, a member of UEFA's Referee Observers Panel, Pavel Poborny, a lecturer at the national institute of physical and sports education, and Valentin Veselov, national team doctor.

Another two similar courses are planned before the end of the year.

At the moment, the FA of Moldova is awaiting permission to stage UEFA A licence courses.

Vasile Vatamanu



NORWAY



Conference against racism

One of Norwegian football's priorities is to kick racism, intolerance and violence out of football. To this end, a conference was organised with the top club Vålerenga to equip the clubs for this challenge.

The Norwegian FA (NFF) has by far the largest number of youth members of any organisation in Norway, with approximately 250,000 active boys and girls in a country of a population of 4.5 million. Like many other countries in Europe, Norwegian society consists of many different ethnic groups. This fact is also reflected on the football pitch, and the NFF is working with the football clubs to ensure that every boy and girl, regardless of colour, religion or sexual orientation, feels welcome in the football family.

The Minister of Culture and Church Affairs, Trond Giske, opened the conference, which was held at the Ullevaal stadium in Oslo in March.

"Sport is an important arena for equality and fellowship, as demonstrated by the NFF in taking the initiative to organise this conference," said Mr Giske in his opening speech.

The general secretary of the NFF, Karen Espelund, left no room for misinterpretation:

"There is no place for racists in our organisation. The NFF will use the necessary sanctions to wipe out racism, intolerance and violence. I'm confident that we will achieve our goal with the help of the 1,822 football clubs in Norway," she said.

The conference brought together more than 100 participants and was also broadcast live on web TV, where it was followed by 9,000 viewers. The Anti-Racism Centre in Oslo pointed out some of the challenges ahead.

"It's on a day-to-day basis that the fight for tolerance must be won. It's therefore important that the NFF makes it clear that the work against racism must be given high priority throughout the organisation," said the centre's director of communications, Henrik Lunde.

Roger Solheim

ROMANIA



Partnership with Special Olympics

The Romanian FA is getting more and more involved in cooperation with various bodies, some of them governmental, others non-governmental or even from other countries.

After the huge success of the meeting organised by the Romanian FA ahead of the UEFA Cup quarter-final matches between two of Bucharest's leading clubs, Rapid and Steaua, which involved several Romanian agencies whose aim is to tackle racism and violence in sport, the Romanian FA has become a partner of the wide-ranging and important international Special Olympics movement. As is well known, this organisation, which is supported by UEFA and USAID (the US Agency for International Development), has among its promoters famous names from the world of football and sport, such as Johan Cruyff and Nadia Comaneci.

Recently, a joint press conference was given at the FA's headquarters in Bucharest by our association, represented by Florin Prunea (director of the foreign relations department), Special Olympics Romania and USAID. Mr Prunea said: *"When we were asked if we would like to join the noble cause of supporting sportsmen and sports-women with disabilities, we jumped at the opportunity, because we are well aware of the importance of such action. We are all sportsmen. The only differences between us are of God's making. But we are all human beings and we have to respect and help less able-bodied athletes"*.

For several days, Bucharest was the centre of activities during European Special Olympics Football Week, one of the highlights of which was an exhibition match on 3 May in which several high officials of the FA participated, all of them famous former international players, including Ionut Lupescu (general director), Florin Prunea, Daniel Prodan (sports director) and Miodrag Belodedici (technical director of the national youth teams).

These activities are just the start of things to come, because in the future, the Romanian FA plans to become far more involved in all kinds of social activities.

Paul Zaharia

SLOVAKIA



Former stars serving the association

Frantisek Laurinec was re-elected as president of the Slovak Football Association (SFZ) for another four-year term by the SFZ congress in February 2006, while three-times Slovak "Player of the Year" and former national team captain Dusan Tittel continues as the SFZ general secretary. In the refereeing department, the new man in charge is Igor Sramka, who is well known for his work with Lubos Michel, who has officiated in UEFA and FIFA competitions. Slovak foot-

balling legend Joe Venglos, the former coach of the Czechoslovakia and Slovakia national teams and, at club level, of Aston Villa, Benfica, Celtic, Fenerbahce and Slovan Bratislava, as well as being the current vice-chairman of UEFA's Technical Development Committee, was voted in as the technical study committee's representative on the SFZ executive committee.

In a few months' time, another great name in Slovak football will be back. One of the most popular Slovak players ever, with spells at Nitra, St-Etienne and Celtic, Lubos Moravcik has been appointed as coach of the national Under-17 team. Apart from having great talent as a coach, he is also a huge icon for many young players.

This is another example of the major effort that the SFZ is putting into the development of youth football. Last year, more than 70 mini-pitches were built as part of the project of that name and by the end of 2006, another 40 will have been built. As a further part of the mini-pitch project, the "Slovakia Mini-Champions League" has been set up. The SFZ is also involved in the organisation of another eight tournaments for primary schools and youth clubs. Meanwhile, for some of the older youth players, the main international event this year is the elite round of the European Under-19 Championship, which took place in Bratislava, Trnava and Senec from 19 to 23 May.

In other news, the national stadium in Bratislava is due to undergo major reconstruction. The modernisation, which will be completed by 2008, will give the 28,000-seat Tehelne Pole stadium UEFA four-star status, with an increased capacity of 30,000, improved safety, and extra comfort and amenities.

Klaudo Slanco

SLOVENIA



Women's football takes centre stage

At the end of April, the Football Association of Slovenia hosted a second qualifying round mini-tournament in the 2005/06 European Women's Under-19 Championship. Apart from the host nation, the other participants were Germany, the Republic of Ireland and Scotland. The matches were played in Murska Sobota and Krizevci, in the northeast of Slovenia, which is known for its good football players – men and women – and especially for enthusiastic football fans. Those fans were able to see some great women's football during the mini-tournament; however,

they weren't quite as visible as the Irish fans, who came to Slovenia fully adorned and truly dominated the tournament off the field of play.

The matches were also refereed by women: besides referees from Slovenia (Ana Fajic and Tanja Subotic), there were two referees from Turkey (Dilan Gokcek and Necla Akdogan), two referees from the Czech Republic (Martina Blahova and Dagmar Zakova) and two referees from Finland (Emilia Parviainen and Saija Raatikainen). The UEFA delegate and UEFA referee observer were Svetlana Shkil from Ukraine and Jozef Marko from Slovakia.

The favourites and winners of the tournament were Germany, ahead of Scotland, the Republic of Ireland and Slovenia, all of whom demonstrated, however, that the quality of women's football is steadily improving. The positive "side effect" of such a tournament is also the popularisation of women's football in Slovenia, which is one of the goals of the Football Association of Slovenia.

Irena Ilesic Cujovic



The women's Under-19 team.

SWEDEN



Overwhelming demand for tickets

Sweden will have a new national stadium by 2010/2011. The current, almost 70-year-old Råsunda stadium in Stockholm will be replaced by a new venue a few blocks away in the Solna station area. What is wasteland at present will be transformed with the building of the new arena, which will be a state-of-the-art construction project.

The new national stadium, equipped with a retractable roof, will accommodate 50,000 spectators on football nights and 57,500 for concerts. Construction costs are estimated at around EUR 200 million



What the new stadium will look like.

and the assignment of construction rights is part of the financing. With this solution, the national team and local club AIK Solna will be able to use the old Råsunda while the new stadium is being built.

"This decision is an important landmark in Swedish football history. The new arena meets our demands and provides facilities for concerts and other major events in the Stockholm area," said Lars-Åke Lagrell, the Swedish FA president. "I take great pride in the fact that Solna will house the most modern events arena in Europe," added Lars-Erik Salminen, chairman of Solna city council.

Otherwise, World Cup fever has gripped Sweden since January, when the public were offered the chance to apply online for tickets to the 2006 World Cup. The response was astounding, with 133,961 people requesting a total of 304,366 tickets. For the Sweden v. Paraguay game alone, 98,039 fans wanted a ticket – meaning that more than one percent of the country's entire population wanted to see the game in person.

In fact, Swedish fans could easily have filled the entire stadium at all of their country's matches this summer. But given the harsh reality of ticket quotas, it was a lottery draw which decided the lucky recipients of the 28,000 tickets allocated to Sweden.

Thomas Saleteg/Andreas Nilsson

UKRAINE



A football festival

On 29 April, the traditional "All-Ukrainian Day of Football" was celebrated throughout the country. It was on this day 14 years ago that the Ukraine senior national team played its first international match.

Cities and districts everywhere hosted more than 1,000 football tournaments and competitions for children's teams, school and street teams, and also sides composed of amateurs, veterans, disabled people, fans and supporters. Coaches, professional players and various other footballing personalities took part in the events.

In Kyiv, the football festival at the children's club was opened by Grygoriy Surkis, president of the Football Federation of Ukraine, Yuriy Pavlenko, Minister for Family, Youth and Sport, and senior officials from the Ministry of Education and Science and the National Olympic Committee.

Donetsk also celebrated the day in style. The festival of street football involved many youth and adult players playing matches on the artificial turf mini-pitches in the central square of the city.

In Sevastopol, in the context of a tournament for street teams played on the city's mini-pitches, the local football association made a contribution to charity. Medical equipment worth USD 10,000 was presented to the Sevastopol sports centre and dispensary.

The Volyn region staged a parade and tournament for boarding school orphans. The event was publicised and the FFU president's message was relayed at the stadiums where professional, amateur and children's/youth team matches were being played.

Valeriy Nykonenko



The All-Ukrainian Football Day was a popular event across the generations.



Communications

Birthdays – Calendar

Birthdays

Michael Joseph Hyland (Republic of Ireland), member of the Appeals Body, will be 75 on 6 June. The day before, Georg-Adolf Schnarr (Germany), member of the External Legal Experts Panel celebrates his 70th birthday. Tom A. Restall (Malta), member of the Match Delegates Panel, joins him at the same milestone on 13 June.

Two members of the Referee Observers Panel reach the half-century mark in June: Ryszard Wojcik (Poland) on 6 June and Emanuel Zammit (Malta) on 24 June. UEFA wishes them many happy returns, as it also does to:

- Wilfried Gerhardt (Germany, 1.6)
- Vitaliy Navrotskyi (Ukraine, 1.6)
- Ivaylo Ivkov (Bulgaria, 3.6)
- Tony Higgins (Scotland, 3.6)
- Klara Bjartmarz (Iceland, 3.6)
- George Courtney (England, 4.6)
- Rolf Haugen (Norway, 4.6)
- Alastair L. Cox (England, 4.6)
- Franz Wöhrer (Austria, 5.6)
- Ludovico Micallef (Malta, 5.6)
- Jaap Uilenberg (Netherlands, 5.6)
- Leon Straessle (Switzerland, 6.6)
- Francesco Tagliente (Italy, 6.6)
- Lars-Åke Björck (Sweden, 7.6)
- Kenneth J. Hope (Scotland, 7.6)
- Michel Sablon (Belgium, 7.6)
- Sondre Kåfjord (Norway, 7.6)
- Sándor Berzi (Hungary, 7.6)
- Hans Scholtz (Netherlands, 8.6)
- Bryan Drew (England, 8.6)
- Hans Bangerter (Switzerland, 10.6)
- Alun Evans (Wales, 11.6)
- Kyros Georgiou (Cyprus, 11.6)
- Nathan Bartfeld (Moldova, 11.6)
- Alain Courtois (Belgium, 12.6)
- Jørn West Larsen (Denmark, 12.6)
- Sergejus Slyva (Lithuania, 12.6)
- Roland Coquard (France, 13.6)
- Giulio Campanati (Italy, 15.6)
- Viacheslav Koloskov (Russia, 15.6)

- Muhittin Bosat (Turkey, 15.6)
- Sabri Celik (Turkey, 16.6)
- Michael Joseph Maessen (Netherlands, 17.6)
- Stephen Thomas (England, 17.6)
- Philippe Piat (France, 18.6)
- Gérard Enault (France, 18.6)
- Hannelore Ratzeburg (Germany, 18.6)
- David Henson (England, 21.6)
- Michel Platini (France, 21.6)
- Keith Stuart Hackett (England, 22.6)
- Vladimir Antonov (Moldova, 23.6)
- Leslie Irvine (Northern Ireland, 23.6)
- Georg Pangel (Austria, 23.6)
- Reinhard Walser (Liechtenstein, 25.6)
- Barry W. Bright (England, 27.6)
- Sigurdur Hannesson (Iceland, 27.6)
- Haldun Kozakoglu (Turkey, 27.6)
- Wim Koevermans (Netherlands, 28.6)
- Ivan Borissov Lekov (Bulgaria, 29.6)

Upcoming events

Meetings

4.6.2006, Porto

UEFA fair play draw

5.6.2006, Poznan (Poland)

Draw for the final round of the 2005/06 European Under-19 Championship

7-8.6.2006, Munich

FIFA Congress

23.6.2006, Nyon

Draws for the first and second qualifying rounds of the UEFA Champions League and first qualifying round of the UEFA Cup

Competitions

9.6-9.7.2006, Germany

World Cup

17-18.6.2006

UEFA Intertoto Cup: first round (first legs)

24-25.6.2006

UEFA Intertoto Cup: first round (return legs)

Notices

■ On 12 April, the executive committee of the Russian Football Union appointed Boris Brezgin as chief executive.

■ Reinhard Walser has been re-elected president of the Liechtenstein Football Federation, while Roland Ospelt becomes general secretary. The federation has also moved. Its new street address is: Landstrasse 149, FL-9494 Schaan. Its postal address remains the same: Postfach 165, FL-9490 Vaduz.

■ Sandor Berzi, general secretary of the Hungarian Football Federation until now, has been appointed director of international affairs. Ildiko Kmety has been appointed general secretary. The federation also has new contact numbers: +36 1 577 9500 (phone) and +36 1 577 9503/04 (fax).

■ FIFA has moved to its new headquarters at: FIFA-Strasse 20, PO Box 774, CH – 8044 Zurich.



Match agents

The Licensed Match Agents Panel has granted four new licences:

Joachim Schön

JS Sportmanagement
Hintere Strasse 122
DE-73265 Dettingen unter Teck
Phone: +49 7021 8609100
Fax: +49 7021 8609110

Jacques-Olivier Auguste

41 rue Yves Kermen
FR-92100 Boulogne Billancourt
Mob.: +33 6 12758215
Fax: +33 1 45206614

Nestor Subiat

Route de Faucon
FR-84340 Entrecaux
Mob.: +33 6 68602326
nestor.subiat@wanadoo.fr

André Tegner

Mühlengraben 16
DE-31134 Hildesheim
Phone: +49 512131747
Fax: +49 512131763
andre.tegner@playmakergroup.com

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UEFA
Route de Genève 46
CH-1260 Nyon
Switzerland
Phone +41 848 00 27 27
Fax +41 848 01 27 27
uefa.com

Union des associations
européennes de football

