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COVER

The last time the Netherlands won a European title was in 1988, when they won the European Football Championship. Now the wait for another title is over, thanks to the Dutch Under-21 team's victory in the European Under-21 Championship at the beginning of June.

PHOTO: GETTY IMAGES

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Editorial

Pulling in the same direction

Those who say that top-level professional football is not merely a sporting activity are right – but if they claim that our sport is just the same as any other economic activity, they are wrong. The World Cup is proof of the fact that football, at this level, is first and foremost a social phenomenon: all over the globe, it arouses fervour and passion, affecting a large slice of the population. It is impossible to be unaware of the recent happenings in football stadiums in Germany!

An activity which affects so many people cannot be ignored by the politicians they have chosen to represent them. Nor can it disregard the laws passed by the legislators. However, because its nature is

a mixture of things, because it combines economic and financial elements with sporting values, and because it has an impact on the life of society, this activity deserves and needs to be considered in a special way.

The initiative of the United Kingdom presidency of the European Union to launch an independent review of European sport was the perfect response to this need. The review created an opportunity for all the stakeholders to be heard, and the report presented by José Luis Arnaut not only provides an overview of the opinions held but also indicates ways for ensuring that elite sport, and football in particular, can continue to function and develop within a stable legal framework which takes account of its specificity, giving priority to sporting values.

This is precisely one of the key elements in the "Vision Europe" document adopted by UEFA at its 2005 Congress. Giving preponderance to sporting values is not only the primary mission of the sports authorities but also the best means for saving our sport, as far as possible, from the kinds of wretched situation which have tarnished its image recently. If everyone, in conjunction with the political authorities, works towards this end in football, if general interests take precedence over individual considerations, football will continue to inspire people everywhere long after the World Cup is over.



Lars-Christer Olsson
Chief Executive

WE CARE ABOUT FOOTBALL



European Under-21 Championship

Unstoppable Dutch turn things round



THE PORTUGUESE LIKE INNOVATION: AFTER CROWNING FIRST-TIME EUROPEAN CHAMPIONS GREECE IN 2004 AND THEN HERALDING THE FIRST TRIUMPH BY A RUSSIAN CLUB – CSKA MOSCOW – IN THE UEFA CUP FINAL A YEAR LATER, THEY WITNESSED THE NETHERLANDS’ FIRST EVER VICTORY IN THE EUROPEAN UNDER-21 CHAMPIONSHIP IN JUNE.

After the first round of matches in Group B, the Netherlands could hardly have expected that they would meet their conquerors, Ukraine, again in the final, let alone take their revenge.

The Dutch still had little cause for optimism after their second match, when they still only had a single point on the board thanks to a draw with Denmark.

It was in their third and final group match that things started to

look more promising for the team coached by Foppe de Haan. While Ukraine were beating Denmark and blocking their route to the semi-finals, the Netherlands defeated holders Italy, who were unbeaten in the tournament until that point, thanks to

a goal scored quarter of an hour before the final whistle. It was a victory that enabled the Dutch to draw level with Italy in the table and indeed to overtake and eliminate



them as a result of their success in the match between the two teams.

After this heroic feat, the Dutch no longer had anything to fear, which was a good state of mind to be in when they faced France in the semi-finals. The French had run away with Group A, winning all three matches, scoring six goals and not conceding a single one. However, they were well and truly knocked off their stride in the first half, at the end of which the Netherlands led 2-0. France managed to draw level in the second period, but ended up losing in extra time.

In the other semi-final, Ukraine beat Serbia and Montenegro, finalists in the previous edition, in the penalty competition that followed a goalless 120 minutes of football.



The runners-up spot for Ukraine, applauded by their fervent supporters.



In the semi-finals, the Netherlands had a tough time eliminating France.

Since their first encounter at the start of the tournament, things had therefore changed somewhat for the Netherlands and Ukraine, to such an extent that the latter could barely draw any psychological advantage from their earlier victory. After their exploits against Italy and France, the Dutch youngsters were on too much of a high to let victory slip from their grasp. Two goals in the first half and another after the break meant the title was theirs,

so it will be as champions that they will host next year's final round of the European Under-21 Championship.



PHOTOS: UEFA

Klaas Jan Huntelaar (Netherlands), shown here breaking free from a Ukrainian defender, was the top scorer of the tournament with four goals.

Results

Group A

23.05	Barcelos	Serbia and Montenegro v Germany	0-1
23.05	Braga	Portugal v France	0-1
25.05	Guimarães	France v Germany	3-0
25.05	Barcelos	Portugal v Serbia and Montenegro	0-2
28.05	Guimarães	Germany v Portugal	0-1
28.05	Braga	France v Serbia and Montenegro	2-0

Group B

24.05	Agueda	Ukraine v Netherlands	2-1
24.05	Aveiro	Italy v Denmark	3-3
26.05	Aveiro	Denmark v Netherlands	1-1
26.05	Agueda	Italy v Ukraine	1-0
29.05	Aveiro	Netherlands v Italy	1-0
29.05	Agueda	Denmark v Ukraine	1-2

Semi-finals

01.06	Braga	France v Netherlands	2-3*
01.06	Aveiro	Ukraine v Serbia and Montenegro	0-0**

* after extra time
** Ukraine won 5-4 on penalties

Final

04.06	Porto	Netherlands v Ukraine	3-0
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The fair play award was won by Denmark.

Record crowds

The tournament hosts, Portugal, did not fare as well as they had hoped in this final round, although they only failed to reach the semi-finals on goal difference. Despite this disappointment, the tournament was a great success with the public, no doubt helped by the appearance in the host cities of a caravan to publicise the event and bring it to the attention of the local population. As a result, the attendance record set in Germany in 2004 (110,000 spectators) was shattered as a total of more than 180,000 fans watched the tournament, including 22,000 at the final. TV viewing figures were also encouraging and emphasised the growing importance of this championship.



REUTERS/INGAR SIGRETT/IMAGES

Frankfurt paved their way to success in the first leg. Renate Lingor scores their first goal from a free kick.



HEIMANN/BONGARTS/GETTY IMAGES

Steffie Jones scores Frankfurt's first goal in the return leg.



DZIEMBALA/BONGARTS/GETTY IMAGES

Frankfurt show off the trophy to their fans.

2005/06 UEFA Women's Cup

Second victory for 1. FFC Frankfurt

WITH A SURPRISINGLY CONVINCING 7-2 AGGREGATE WIN AGAINST TITLE-HOLDERS TURBINE POTSDAM, 1. FFC FRANKFURT WON THE FIRST EVER ALL-GERMAN UEFA WOMEN'S CUP FINAL AND LIFTED THE TROPHY FOR THE SECOND TIME, FOLLOWING THEIR VICTORY IN THE INAUGURAL EDITION OF 2001/02.

The margin of victory was particularly astounding because the Potsdam team had recently held the upper hand over their rivals, winning the German league and cup double. However, with their second triumph in the European women's club competition, Frankfurt made an impressive return to winning ways. After five editions, the UEFA Women's Cup remains dominated by German and Swedish clubs, with three wins by German teams and two by Umeå of Sweden.

Clear first-leg victory

The team from Hesse had already established a clear 4-0 lead in the first leg at Potsdam's Karl Liebknecht stadium, where they left their opponents and the majority of the 4,500 or so spectators in a real state of shock. The result was slightly misleading, however, with the last three goals coming

in the final 25 minutes. Perhaps the away side's domination of the closing stages was due to the fact that they coped better with the interruption in play shortly after half-time, following an injury to Swedish referee Susanne Borg.

Fortunately, the return leg at the Bornheimer Hang stadium was still an attractive, hard-fought affair, watched by 13,200 spectators, including German Chancellor Angela Merkel and German FA executive president Theo Zwanziger. Potsdam twice took the lead in the first half, but were weakened midway through the second half when a second yellow card was



DZIEMBALA/BONGARTS/GETTY IMAGES

shown to one of their players and they eventually lost the match. The 3-2 victory for 1. FFC Frankfurt was rounded off by a goal from three-times FIFA world player of the year, Birgit Prinz.

New competition lies in wait

Despite the current domination by German and Swedish teams, there is a good chance that the trophy will end up in another country in the next few years. French team Montpellier HSC were particularly impressive, drawing with Turbine Potsdam in the group stage and winning the semi-final away leg in Frankfurt before going out on the away goals rule. Arsenal LFC also performed well, providing stiff opposition for Frankfurt in the quarter-finals and fighting right to the end of their 4-2 aggregate defeat. Whether the up-and-coming clubs make further progress and are able to break the stranglehold of the Germans and Swedes will soon become clear: the draw for the first and second qualifying rounds of the 2006/07 edition takes place at UEFA headquarters in Nyon on 6 July.

27 May 2006, Bornheimer Hang stadium, Frankfurt

1. FFC Frankfurt v 1. FFC Turbine Potsdam 3-2

Goals: 8' Pohlers 0-1, 23' Jones 1-1, 35' Pohlers 1-2, 72' Lingor (pen.) 2-2, 93' Prinz 3-2.

20 May 2006, Karl Liebknecht stadium, Potsdam

1. FFC Turbine Potsdam v 1. FFC Frankfurt 0-4

Goals: 7' Lingor 0-1, 64' Albertz 0-2, 77' Garefrekes 0-3, 84' Lingor 0-4.



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									
Juventus	3 078 125	3 000 000	2 500 000	15 382 000	2 500 000	3 000 000			29 460 125
SK Rapid Wien	3 078 125	3 000 000	–	1 886 000					7 964 125
FC Bayern München	3 078 125	3 000 000	2 250 000	20 276 000	2 500 000				31 104 125
Club Brugge	3 078 125	3 000 000	1 250 000	2 041 000					9 369 125
Group B									
FC Thun	3 078 125	3 000 000	750 000	2 192 000					9 020 125
AC Sparta Praha	3 078 125	3 000 000	500 000	204 000					6 782 125
AFC Ajax	3 078 125	3 000 000	2 000 000	6 409 000	2 500 000				16 987 125
Arsenal FC	3 078 125	3 000 000	2 750 000	29 999 000	2 500 000	3 000 000	4 000 000	6 000 000	54 327 125
Group C									
FC Barcelona	3 078 125	3 000 000	2 750 000	20 733 000	2 500 000	3 000 000	4 000 000	10 000 000	49 061 125
Udinese Calcio	3 078 125	3 000 000	1 250 000	7 141 000					14 469 125
Panathinaikos FC	3 078 125	3 000 000	750 000	4 257 000					11 085 125
Werder Bremen	3 078 125	3 000 000	1 250 000	14 046 000	2 500 000				23 874 125
Group D									
LOSC Lille Métropole	3 078 125	3 000 000	1 250 000	17 667 000					24 995 125
Villarreal FC	3 078 125	3 000 000	2 000 000	12 940 000	2 500 000	3 000 000	4 000 000		30 518 125
Manchester United FC	3 078 125	3 000 000	1 250 000	14 361 000					21 689 125
SL Benfica	3 078 125	3 000 000	1 500 000	1 753 000	2 500 000	3 000 000			14 831 125
Group E									
FC Schalke 04	3 078 125	3 000 000	1 500 000	15 519 000					23 097 125
AC Milan	3 078 125	3 000 000	2 000 000	14 284 000	2 500 000	3 000 000	4 000 000		31 862 125
Fenerbahçe SK	3 078 125	3 000 000	750 000	6 182 000					13 010 125
PSV Eindhoven	3 078 125	3 000 000	1 750 000	7 083 000	2 500 000				17 411 125
Group F									
Rosenborg BK	3 078 125	3 000 000	750 000	3 620 000					10 448 125
Olympique Lyonnais	3 078 125	3 000 000	2 750 000	25 162 000	2 500 000	3 000 000			39 490 125
Real Madrid CF	3 078 125	3 000 000	1 750 000	14 282 000	2 500 000				24 610 125
Olympiacos CFP	3 078 125	3 000 000	750 000	4 705 000					11 533 125
Group G									
Liverpool FC	3 078 125	3 000 000	2 250 000	16 914 000	2 500 000				27 742 125
Chelsea FC	3 078 125	3 000 000	2 000 000	28 084 000	2 500 000				38 662 125
RSC Anderlecht	3 078 125	3 000 000	500 000	1 847 000					8 425 125
Real Betis Balompíe	3 078 125	3 000 000	1 250 000	8 591 000					15 919 125
Group H									
FC Internazionale Milano	3 078 125	3 000 000	2 250 000	9 583 000	2 500 000	3 000 000			23 411 125
Rangers FC	3 078 125	3 000 000	1 500 000	9 928 000	2 500 000				20 006 125
FC Porto	3 078 125	3 000 000	1 000 000	1 231 000					8 309 125
FC Artmedia Bratislava	3 078 125	3 000 000	1 250 000	198 000					7 526 125
TOTAL	98 500 000	96 000 000	48 000 000	338 500 000	40 000 000	24 000 000	16 000 000	16 000 000	677 000 000

Amounts received by each association for its clubs

ASSOCIATION	CHF
ALBANIA	470 000
ANDORRA	230 000
ARMENIA	470 000
AUSTRIA	400 000
AZERBAIJAN	470 000
BELARUS	550 000
BELGIUM	240 000
BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA	550 000
BULGARIA	310 000
CROATIA	390 000
CYPRUS	870 000
CZECH REPUBLIC	240 000
DENMARK	630 000
ENGLAND	160 000
ESTONIA	390 000
FAROE ISLANDS	470 000
FINLAND	710 00
FRANCE	80 000
GEORGIA	470 000
GERMANY	320 000
GREECE	240 000
HUNGARY	550 000
ICELAND	470 000
ISRAEL	390 000
ITALY	—
KAZAKHSTAN	230 000
LATVIA	470 000
LIECHTENSTEIN	160 000
LITHUANIA	470 000
LUXEMBOURG	470 000
FYR MACEDONIA	630 000
MALTA	390 000
MOLDOVA	550 000
NETHERLANDS	160 000
NORTHERN IRELAND	470 000
NORWAY	400 000
POLAND	630 000
PORTUGAL	320 000
REPUBLIC OF IRELAND	630 000
ROMANIA	150 000
RUSSIA	310 000
SAN MARINO	230 000
SCOTLAND	240 000
SERBIA AND MONTENEGRO	550 000
SLOVAKIA	240 000
SLOVENIA	550 000
SPAIN	80 000
SWEDEN	470 000
SWITZERLAND	310 000
TURKEY	160 000
UKRAINE	390 000
WALES	550 000
TOTAL	20 280 000

Revenue distribution



**FIFTY YEARS AFTER THE FIRST FINAL
OF THE EUROPEAN
CHAMPION CLUBS' CUP, THIS YEAR'S
UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE FINAL IN PARIS SAW
BARCELONA BEAT ARSENAL.**

The London club nevertheless received more income from the competition than their Catalan rivals because of the greater value of the English TV market.

Revenue from this 14th edition of the UEFA Champions League was distributed according to the same criteria as in previous seasons.

■ Each participating club received a fixed sum of CHF 2.5 million as a starting premium, plus CHF 578,125 from the surplus of revenue generated compared to the sum initially budgeted.

■ Each club received CHF 500,000 for each group match played, i.e. CHF 3 million in total.

■ Clubs received CHF 500,000 for a win and CHF 250,000 for a draw in the group stage. None of the participants received the maximum of CHF 3 million.

■ Qualification for the first knock-out round was worth CHF 2.5 million, while each quarter-finalist received an additional CHF 3 million. The semi-finalists each received a further CHF 4 million. Finally, Barcelona were awarded CHF 10 million for winning the final and the runners-up took home CHF 6 million. Both finalists will also receive a share of the gate receipts. For all the other matches, the home club kept all the gate receipts.

The participants also received a share of revenue based on the value of

their national TV market. In the case of associations represented by more than one club, this share varied according to the clubs' domestic league rankings in 2004/05 and the number of matches played in this season's UEFA Champions League.

Solidarity payments

As in previous years, while more than three-quarters of the competition revenue was paid to the participating clubs, solidarity payments were also made to benefit European football as a whole.

These payments included:

■ CHF 80,000 per round for each club eliminated in the UEFA Champions League qualifying rounds;

■ CHF 80,000 per round for each club eliminated in the qualifying competition or first round of the UEFA Cup;

■ An additional CHF 150,000 for each domestic champion which failed to qualify for the UEFA Champions League group stage.

The table opposite shows how much was paid to the national associations for these solidarity payments to their clubs.

Next season, the system will be changed slightly and all payments will be calculated in euros.



Poland/
Ukraine
hand over
their bid
to the UEFA
president.

UEFA



Croatia/
Hungary's
promotional
stand
at the UEFA
Congress
in Budapest.

UEFA



Plenary
presentation
during the
bid seminar
in Italy.

FIGC

EURO 2012

Bidding process at its peak

THE 2006–2008 EUROPEAN FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP HAS NOT EVEN STARTED, YET UEFA EURO 2012 IS ALREADY ON EVERYONE'S MIND AND IS WELL ON ITS WAY. THE FINAL STAGE OF THE BIDDING PROCESS TO DETERMINE THE HOSTS OF THE FINAL ROUND HAS IN FACT ALREADY KICKED OFF AND IS INTO THE HOME STRAIGHT, WITH THE UEFA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE DUE TO TAKE ITS DECISION ON 8 DECEMBER THIS YEAR.

To go back to the beginning, it all started in December 2004, when UEFA invited all interested associations to register for the process. Initially, eight associations expressed an interest, but only five in the end submitted their bid documents by the set deadline in July 2005: Croatia/Hungary, Greece, Italy, Poland/Ukraine and Turkey. After an extensive evaluation process, the Executive Committee

decided in November 2005 that Croatia/Hungary, Italy and Poland/Ukraine would go through to phase II.

Exhibition and seminars

During the second phase, UEFA asked for more detailed information from the three remaining candidates, especially regarding the proposed stadiums, the legislation in place, the hotel facilities and the public transportation

available on site, to mention only a few aspects. Furthermore, to give the candidates the opportunity to promote their bids among the European football family, an exhibition was organised at the UEFA Congress in Budapest in March. In addition, in order to support the bidders, the UEFA administration, in cooperation with the bid committees, organised seminars for which a UEFA delegation travelled to the candidate associations to brief them on all of the requirements which UEFA expects a host association to meet in order to organise the final round in 2012 and to discuss all relevant matters with host city and airport representatives, architects, stadium managers, government representatives and others. These seminars were very fruitful and much appreciated.

Site visits in September

Thanks to outstanding efforts on all sides, a bid handover ceremony took place on 31 May. This important event was hosted by the UEFA president, Lennart Johansson, and chief executive Lars-Christer Olsson at UEFA headquarters in Nyon, and all of the bidders still in contention were equally proud to be handing over their final dossiers. After the event, the UEFA president declared that he was *"delighted to see the high level of commitment of each bidder. Either one will be a great host."* The final step in this bidding process will be the site visits scheduled for September. Not long after that, the UEFA Executive Committee will be the first to have the answer to the question of *"Who will host the final round of the 2010-2012 European Football Championship?"*.



The official bid handover
ceremony in Nyon.

UEFA



Eleven questions for the Executive Committee members

FOR THE NINTH INSTALMENT IN THE SERIES DEVOTED TO UEFA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS, GIANGIORGIO SPIESS ANSWERS OUR ELEVEN QUESTIONS.

Giangiorgio Spiess

Your first contact with football?

I began playing when I was very small. At playschool, at home, everywhere.

First experience of UEFA?

At the 1992 Congress in Gothenburg, during the European Championships in Sweden. I was representing the Swiss Football Association and the Swiss candidate for the Executive Committee had not been re-elected.

A player?

Alfredo Di Stefano. I have never seen such a versatile player, especially one who scored goals. I have met him several times: every time I have been to a match in Madrid, he has been there.

A memorable match?

Switzerland v Romania at the Silverdome in Detroit. It was one of the best ever moments for Swiss football, when the national team qualified for the last 16 of the 1994 World Cup.

A memory linked to a UEFA activity?

I was the delegate at a match between Italy and Slovenia. Even though all the spectators had seats, everyone was standing up! I called the chief of police to say that I couldn't allow the match to start under these conditions. But he replied that he would assume all responsibility. *"It's not a problem, it's always like this"*, he said. He was right,

the crowd was very passionate, but also very friendly and well behaved.

Defender or attacker?

Attacking midfielder, or "mezza punta", as they say in Italy.

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

I begin playing immediately. I still play indoors every Thursday. And when I come to UEFA, in the Executive Committee room, I always have a little kick at one of the balls there.

A town?

Bratislava really impressed me. It's a mixture of old and new and the people there are very friendly.

Detective story or economic treatise?

I have to admit I would choose a Grisham thriller. Reading an economic treatise is work. A thriller is definitely relaxation.

Sea or mountains?

The sea; it's warmer there. It's also a question of atmosphere.

A dream?

My dream is for there to be peace in European and world football, a peace based on the fundamentals of football, this great sport of the masses, for youngsters, for everyone, such a simple game. Cut off from economic wars and power struggles. There is so much space, so many possibilities for everybody.





Russia and France are starting to know each other inside out!



Switzerland are delighted to be hosting the final round.



The final round draw in Basle.

Women's Under-19 Championship

Final round in Switzerland



RUSSIA V FRANCE: THE FINAL ROUND OF THE 2005 EUROPEAN WOMEN'S UNDER-19 CHAMPIONSHIP BEGAN WITH THIS FIXTURE – A CONVINCING 4-0 WIN FOR THE FRENCH – AND ENDED WITH THE SAME TWO TEAMS, BUT A DIFFERENT WINNER, AS RUSSIA WON THE FINAL ON PENALTIES.

A year later, the opening scenario is exactly the same, with the two teams facing each other on 11 July. However, the rest of the story remains a blank piece of paper, to be filled in by the eight finalists and concluding on 22 July.

When the qualifying matches kicked off, 43 teams entered the battle

to win the European Women's Under-19 Championship. Seven of them have reached the final phase, where they will be joined by Switzerland, who have qualified automatically as hosts.

Women's football is attracting bigger crowds.



FIFA U-20 Women's World Cup 2006

The FIFA U-20 Women's World Cup takes place from 17 August to 3 September in Russia.

Five European teams are in the running: Russia, who qualify automatically as well as being reigning title-holders, along with Finland, France, Germany and Switzerland, who all secured their places at last year's European Women's Under-19 final round in Hungary.

The draw for the U-20 World Cup was performed in Moscow on 22 April with the following result:

Group A: *Russia, Brazil, New Zealand, Australia.*

Group B: *China, Finland, Nigeria, Canada.*

Group C: *Switzerland, Mexico, South Korea, Germany.*

Group D: *Congo DR, USA, France, Argentina.*

The draw held in Basle on 27 May before the friendly between Switzerland and Ivory Coast placed the title-holders, Russia, in the same group as last year's losing finalists, France. The Netherlands and Switzerland complete the group.

Group A, meanwhile, comprises Germany, Belgium, Denmark and Sweden.

This final phase of the 5th European Women's Under 19 Championship will be played in the German-speaking part of Switzerland, with Group A matches in Berne, Langenthal and Solothurn and Group B fixtures in Schaffhausen, Wil and Winterthur. The group matches will take place on 11, 13 and 16 July, the semi-finals in Berne and Solothurn on 19 July and the final at the Neufeld stadium in Berne on Saturday 22 July.

Only Germany and France have played in every final round of the Women's Under-19 Championship. This is the first time Belgium have reached this stage of the competition. The eight finalists include three former winners: Germany (2002), France (2003) and title-holders Russia.

Schedule

Group A

11.7	Berne	Germany v Sweden
11.7	Solothurn	Denmark v Belgium
13.7	Langenthal	Germany v Denmark
13.7	Berne	Sweden v Belgium
16.7	Solothurn	Belgium v Germany
16.7	Langenthal	Sweden v Denmark

Group B

11.7	Schaffhausen	Russia v France
11.7	Winterthur	Switzerland v Netherlands
13.7	Wil	Netherlands v France
13.7	Schaffhausen	Switzerland v Russia
16.7	Wil	France v Switzerland
16.7	Winterthur	Netherlands v Russia



Wronki stadium.



An opportunity to discover Poznan and the city's monuments.

European Under-19 Championship

Draw for the final tournament

THE FINAL ROUND OF THE EUROPEAN UNDER-19 CHAMPIONSHIP IS THE BIGGEST FOOTBALL EVENT TO BE PLAYED IN POLAND THIS YEAR.

The tournament will be played from 18 to 29 July in six cities in the Wielkopolska region: Poznan, Grodzisk Wielkopolski, Wronki, Szamotuly, Pobiedziska and Swarzedz. The opening and final matches will take place at the municipal stadium in Poznan.

Poznan is one of Poland's most beautiful and lively cities. It is also not by an accident that such an event will be hosted by the Wielkopolska region. People from this part of Poland have always been renowned for their reliability and commitment. The local organising committee will certainly do everything to ensure that the participants leave Poznan very satisfied and keen to return one day.

The Wielkopolska region also has a splendid football tradition. The best example in this regard is the team of Lech Poznan – five-time champions of Poland. But Wielkopolska stands not only for sport. It is also well known for its great culture and history. Tourists will be fascinated by the beautiful landscapes and monuments.

Nevertheless, the football fans' interest will be concentrated mainly on the stadiums. Let us hope they will be filled with an emotional atmosphere, as the teams that have qualified for the final round guarantee a high standard of play.

Polish supporters are convinced about the success of Michal

Globisz's team. Globisz is an experienced and titled coach who won a gold medal in the European Under-18 Championship in 2001 and a silver medal in the European Under-16 Championship in 1999. Is he on his way to winning the third trophy in his career? It could be a very difficult task because his team will face very strong opponents.

The draw for the final round took place on 5 June in Poznan, at Dzialynscy's palace. The ceremony was attended by Milo Corcoran, member of the UEFA Youth and Amateur Football Committee, and former Polish international Grzegorz Lato, top scorer in the 1974 World Cup in Germany. Group A will be composed of Poland, Czech Republic, Austria



and Belgium, and Group B by Spain, Portugal, Scotland and Turkey.

In the opening match, Poland play Austria. Eurosport will be broadcasting seven to nine matches during the tournament. The final round of the European Under-19 Championship will be a great opportunity for all fans – after the 2006 World Cup, the great festival of football – to also get a glimpse of the stars of the future.

Michal Kocieba

Schedule

Group A

18.7	Pobiedziska	Belgium v Czech Rep.
18.7	Poznan	Poland v Austria
20.7	Swarzedz	Austria v Czech Rep.
20.7	Wronki	Poland v Belgium
23.7	Wronki	Austria v Belgium
23.7	Grodzisk W.	Czech Rep. v Poland

Group B

18.7	Grodzisk W.	Spain v Turkey
18.7	Szamotuly	Scotland v Portugal
20.7	Pobiedziska	Scotland v Spain
20.7	Szamotuly	Portugal v Turkey
23.7	Pobiedziska	Portugal v Spain
23.7	Swarzedz	Turkey v Scotland

The semi-finals take place on 26 July in Wronki and Grodzisk Wielkopolski, and the final on 29 July in Poznan.



A historic setting for the draw conducted by Milo Corcoran and Grzegorz Lato.



Olé Andersen combines his love of football with his artistic talent.
www.oleandersen.com



PHOTOS: OLÉ ANDERSEN

The future "King Lion" of football "The Magic Stone"

HIS SPORTS-RELATED CARICATURES HAVE GRACED THE PAGES OF NEWSPAPERS ALL OVER THE WORLD, AND HIS DIAGRAMS HAVE BEEN USED TO ILLUSTRATE MANY FIFA AND UEFA HANDBOOKS – SOME OF WHICH HE HAS EVEN BEEN INVOLVED IN WRITING HIMSELF.

Olé Andersen is a real character, both in the world of football and in life as a whole. The Dane has always combined a career in sport with a love of art. He started out as a player at B93 Copenhagen, missed out on a transfer to Everton because of immigration rules and instead made a career in Switzerland, first as a player and then as a coach. A holder of the UEFA



A licence, he finally swapped the charm of Lucerne for the breathtaking natural environment of the Faroe Islands, where he is currently coaching first-division club VB/Sumba.

Two hats

At the same time, he continues to illustrate handbooks. *"I've always worn two hats. In Switzerland, I was semi-professional. Specialising in graphic design, I've always drawn caricatures and diagrams, in connection with my sport of course. Being able to combine these two passions is fantastic!"*

Over the years, he has produced fewer caricatures and devoted more time to teaching. He uses drawings to dissect phases of play, movement by movement, from UEFA Champions League or World Cup matches. *"I was invited to the grassroots football conference in Oslo to present my stuff. I broke the movements down into drawings to explain tricks, techniques and tactical ideas to the footballers. It's clearer than a video, even if you replay it 20 times."*

A history of football

At 67, Olé Andersen hasn't lost any of his spark. He is still moving with the times and even has a grand project which he has been fine-tuning for 20 years: "The Magic Stone" or "The Incredible History of Football". *"I started wondering how football was invented and discovered that it can even be traced back as far as China 5,000 years ago. Closer to home, the Vikings used to play – with the heads of English prisoners that they'd decapitated! I went back as far as the Stone Age in Malta, where stone spheres were discovered – hence the title of my cartoon. My story begins 20,000 years ago with a stone which comes to life, and ends with a football match in outer space."*

Football is a passion for hundreds of millions of people all over the globe. "The Magic Stone" catches the attention of both children and adults, combining history and imagination, magic and humour. Olé Andersen's project is generating huge interest in the world of football. Putting it into practice will cost a lot of money and sponsors are needed, but Olé Andersen has already made a few contacts in various places. "The Magic Stone" is a bit reminiscent of "The Lion King". Various guises are possible to bring it to life: a Walt Disney-style cartoon, a serial in 26 episodes to whet our appetites for EURO 2008, a comic strip book or even a video game, aware of children's love of such things. *"I'm talking to a Japanese company about devising a computer game,"* Andersen reveals.

Pascale Pierard





BONGARTS

An Under-17 championship is being added to the range of UEFA women's competitions, the pinnacle of which is the European Women's Championship.



SABATTINI

From the final of the UEFA Champions League to the World Cup, the major football competitions all send out the same message: Unite Against Racism!



Report from Brussels

UEFA and several other European sports federations have intensified their campaign on the EU's new Directive on Audio-visual Media Services, better known as the "Television without Frontiers" Directive.

On 1 and 2 June, the European Parliament held a public hearing on the directive, where

UEFA and the following organisations submitted a joint position paper: European Professional Football Leagues, International Basketball Federation, European Handball Federation, International Tennis Federation, Six Nations Rugby and European Volleyball Confederation.

In their joint paper, the European sports bodies expressed serious concerns over Article 3b of the proposed directive, which would allow news agencies to obtain, free of charge, short extracts of "events of high interest to the public".

On 13 June, UEFA and the same sports bodies held a special briefing for MEPs at the European Parliament in Strasbourg. The event provided European sport with the opportunity to inform a wide group of politicians about the dangers of bad regulation. The MEP leading the discussions in the parliament, Ruth Hieronymi (Germany, European People's Party), attended the meeting and offered her own views on Article 3b.



Ruth Hieronymi

Meetings and other activities

A new competition

A NEW UEFA COMPETITION IS SET TO BE CREATED: AT ITS MEETING IN GLENEAGLES, NORTH OF GLASGOW, ON 22 MAY, THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE APPROVED THE LAUNCH OF A EUROPEAN WOMEN'S UNDER-17 CHAMPIONSHIP.

This step was taken as the direct result of FIFA's decision to create a Women's Under-17 World Cup, which will be held for the first time in 2008. The European competition, to be launched during the second half of 2007, will serve as a qualifying event for the World Cup; FIFA has not yet decided how many UEFA representatives will be invited to participate in the global event.

The European Women's Under-17 Championship will be held every season. It will be modelled on the men's competition for the same age group, with two qualifying rounds and a final round. In the first edition,

the final round is expected to comprise four teams. However, the exact structure of this first edition will depend on the number of entries. National associations have until 30 June to enter.

The Executive Committee's discussions in Scotland focused particularly on current events, including the independent European sports review, which was due to be presented the following day in London in the presence of the UEFA President and Chief Executive, the case taken to the Charleroi court concerning FIFA provisions regarding the national associations, and the broad consultation on the future of the club competitions.



ANDERSEN/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Lars-Christer Olsson and Lennart Johansson had over the report of the independent review in the presence of José Luis Arnaut and the British Minister for Sport, Richard Caborn (left to right).

→ The European Commission published its proposal for the new directive at the end of 2005 and several committees of the European Parliament are now drafting amendments to the text. Mrs Hieronymi and the Culture and Education Committee are leading the discussions and aim to vote on the text in October this year. The parliament as a whole will probably vote on a final text in December. The debate will then move to the 25 member state governments, who will also need to find agreement on the directive's final wording.

For European football, the most important part of the Directive is Article 3b. The commission's proposal reads as follows:

1. *"Member States shall ensure that, for the purposes of short news reports, broadcasters established in other Member States are not deprived of access on a fair, reasonable and non-discriminatory basis to events of high interest to the public which are transmitted by a broadcaster under their jurisdiction."*
2. *Short news reports may be chosen freely by the broadcasters from the transmitting broadcaster's signal with at least the identification of their source."*

UEFA believes Article 3b is a case of bad regulation. At no point has the commission presented clear evidence of the need to regulate this area. It has never explained how the public is in any way deprived of news. A majority of stakeholders, including the sports movement and many broadcasters, has expressed its satisfaction with the current legal framework. At best, Article 3b is unnecessary. At worst, it will create legal uncertainty, undermine existing arrangements and threaten investment in new media services.

It also considered the composition of the UEFA committees and panels for the 2006-09 period (2006-11 for the disciplinary bodies) and approved the regulations of the following competitions:

- UEFA Super Cup 2006
- European Under-21 Championship 2007-09
- European Futsal Championship 2007.

The Executive Committee also expressed its support for the recommendations on the fight against racism drawn up by a working group of the Leagues and FIFPro Panel. These recommendations, which are addressed to both political and football authorities, aim to establish common responses to racist acts carried out in stadiums throughout Europe.

The Committee also approved a new version of the Grassroots Charter, which it had adopted in May 2003. It also noted the report evaluating the communication system tested by referees in 32 UEFA Champions League and UEFA Cup matches. The feedback from the 27 referees involved in the trials had been positive, although the experiment will continue, since the system can only be officially adopted with the approval of the International FA Board.

New members of the Coaching Convention

The UEFA Convention on the Mutual Recognition of Coaching Qualifications is continuing to spread throughout Europe and three new associations have recently joined.

Fifty-one member associations have now signed up to the convention after, at Gleneagles, the Executive Committee gave the green light to the accession of Armenia, Azerbaijan and Belarus at B licence level. In doing so, the Committee followed the proposals of the Jira Panel and the Technical Development Committee, as it did for Andorra, Kazakhstan and Latvia at A licence level and for Bosnia and Herzegovina, FYR Macedonia, Russia, and Serbia and Montenegro, who became full members by reaching the Pro licence level.

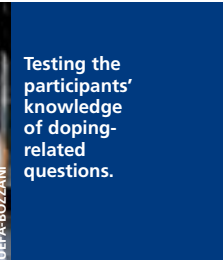
By the end of May, UEFA had approved more than 160,000 licences across Europe.

The Executive Committee also supported the principle that the coaches of national senior and Under-21 teams should hold the highest licence avail-

From now on, the European Under-21 Championship will conclude in odd-numbered years.



The fair play draw conducted at half-time in the European Under-21 Championship final in Porto.



able in the country whose team they coach. The principle also includes a transitional period and corresponds with the demands that the UEFA licensing system makes on clubs.

Fair play Sweden top the table



Sweden have finished top of UEFA's fair play rankings, which are compiled on the basis of all UEFA club and national team matches.

To be taken into consideration in the final analysis, an association had to have played at least 28 matches (quotient of the total number of competition matches and the number of member associations) between 1 June 2005 and 31 May 2006, during which a total of 1,477 matches were assessed from a fair play point of view. The Swedish FA therefore earns an additional place in the UEFA Cup, which goes to Gefle IF as winners of the top national fair play competition.

The ten other associations which achieved an average of eight points or more went into the hat for a draw conducted in Porto on 4 June to determine which other two associations would benefit from an additional UEFA Cup place each. The luck of the draw was on the side of Norway and Belgium, who will be represented in the UEFA Cup by SK Brann and KSV Roeselare respectively. All of the three clubs concerned will take part in the first qualifying round on 13 and 27 July.

THE FINAL RANKINGS:

	Matches	Points
1. Sweden	61	8.159
2. Finland	64	8.156
3. Belgium	88	8.126
4. Estonia	30	8.125
5. Latvia	29	8.114
6. Netherlands	81	8.111
7. Norway	71	8.084
8. Switzerland	79	8.049
9. Slovenia	46	8.038
10. Wales	40	8.037
11. Germany	147	8.002

Homeless World Cup in Denmark

Denmark has been chosen from among four candidates to host the 2007 Homeless World Cup.

This UEFA-backed event will take place in July 2007 in Copenhagen, where a pitch will be set up in front of the town hall. *"The tournament draws our attention to homelessness and will give Copenhageners an opportunity to meet homeless people in a new setting, to see them as real people who have goals and resources, just like everybody else. I hope we can help to break down prejudices, while also giving both the players and the spectators some fun,"* said mayor Mikkel Warming. Previous editions have taken place in Austria in 2003, Sweden in 2004 and Scotland in 2005. This year's event is taking place in Cape Town.

■ The Anti-Racist World Cup is taking place this year from 12 to 16 July in Montecchio (Reggio Emilia, Italy). It is the tenth edition of this event endorsed by FARE (Football Against Racism in Europe). The tournament will involve 192 men's, women's or mixed teams. For more information, see www.mondiali-antirazzisti.org

Doping awareness game

Pursuing its doping awareness campaign, UEFA recently adapted a quiz conceived by WADA (World Anti-Doping Agency) to test the knowledge of footballers and the general public.

Having been used successfully at recent UEFA youth final rounds, the game is now being extended to the general public.

In mid-May, visitors to the Young Champions festival organised

in Paris alongside the UEFA Champions League final between Barcelona and Arsenal were able to test their knowledge of doping matters.

The game raises awareness in a fun way and each question opens the way to discussions on the subject.

Final round of 12 for Futsal Championship

As it had already done for the European Women's Championship in November, the Executive Committee agreed to increase the number of participants in the



final round of the European Futsal Championship to 12, starting with the 2009 finals. It also adopted the principle that the final rounds of UEFA competitions should comprise 16 teams for elite competitions involving national teams (European Championship, European Women's Championship and European Futsal Championship) with at least 45 participating teams, guaranteeing a high-quality final round. If these conditions are not met, the final round should comprise 12 teams. For other competitions, from the Under-21s to the Under-17s, the final round should comprise eight teams.



First regional grassroots football workshop in Oslo

Enhancing the organisational structures and the training of qualified staff within the national associations in the field of grassroots football is a top priority for UEFA, which is why it drew up the Grassroots Charter. If the associations ensure that their grassroots activities comply with the guidelines set out in the Charter, they can become members of the Charter and receive funding from the HatTrick programme. In order to explain the various requirements of the Charter, UEFA's Football Development Division is running six regional workshops, each attended by a group of different associations. The first workshop was held in Oslo at the beginning of May and included presentations by UEFA vice-president Per Ravn Omdal, Technical Director Andy Roxburgh and numerous grassroots football experts from a wide range of different countries, as well as group discussions and question and answer sessions.

League organisations

Annual UEFA survey

**FOR THE SIXTH YEAR, UEFA HAS CONDUCTED A SURVEY
TO GATHER INFORMATION ON THE DIFFERENT LEAGUE ORGANISATIONS
AFFILIATED TO ITS MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS.**

The purpose of the survey was to develop a coherent and accurate picture at European level. In summer 2005, a questionnaire was sent to all 52 UEFA member associations and all league organisations listed from the previous year's survey. Responses were received from 49 of the 52 countries surveyed.

Relationship

The statutory relationship of UEFA with a league* is via the member association to which the league is

question is affiliated. However, UEFA has also two different types of direct relationships with leagues.

Firstly, there is a relationship between UEFA and 15 of the largest West European leagues (the EPFL, Association of European Professional Football Leagues, whose members are Austria, Belgium, Denmark, England, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Republic of Ireland, Italy, the Netherlands, Portugal, Scotland, Spain and Sweden). This group has had a formal relationship with UEFA since 1998, when both parties signed their first Memorandum of Understanding.

This document was reviewed and a much more detailed version signed in 2005. The agreement between UEFA and the EPFL leagues provides for the democratic election of five representatives to the Professional Football Committee. This relationship also provides for administrative support from UEFA to the leagues. It recently led to the creation of an EPFL bureau in Nyon, near UEFA headquarters.

In addition to the 15 EPFL leagues, 15 other European countries have professional league organisations recognised by their national association: Bulgaria, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Georgia, Hungary, Lithuania, Norway, Romania, Russia, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovenia, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine and Wales. UEFA has a less formal relationship with these European premier professional league organisations. In some countries, there is also a second professional league organisation looking after the lower divisions.

Report content

The report provides information on the leagues' structures (legal form, status and number of members clubs, number of divisions), their competences and political organisation.

Generally, the premier professional league organisations in Europe have two main areas of competence: organising the national championship and representing their members. The survey reveals that 80% of the EPFL leagues are in charge of fixture scheduling (63% when considering all 30 leagues); 80% of the EPFL leagues are recognised as the representatives of the employers (60% of all 30 leagues). Furthermore, in 63% of cases, the EPFL leagues have the competence to sell commercial rights on behalf of their members (47% of all 30 leagues). When it comes to refereeing and disciplinary matters, the figures show that the leagues have only limited competences in these domains, which most often remain under the national associations' responsibility. The report is available from the UEFA administration's, professional football division.

* "League: a combination of clubs within the territory of a Member Association and which is subordinate to and under the authority of that member Association." (UEFA Statutes 2005)



News from member associations

AUSTRIA



Friedrich Stickler confirmed as ÖFB president

The 2006 annual general meeting of the Austrian FA (ÖFB) was held in Linz on 21 May. Friedrich Stickler was confirmed as president of the association until 2010. All nominations proposed by the election committee were unanimously confirmed. Bundesliga president Martin Pucher takes over from Frank Stronach as ÖFB vice-president. The other vice-presidents, Leo Windtner, Gerhard Kapl and Kurt Ehrenberger, remain in their posts. The stage is therefore set for UEFA EURO 2008. *"From both sporting and organisational points of view, the next two years will be a huge challenge for the ÖFB. In order to make the 2008 European Championship finals in Austria and Switzerland a festival of football, Austria's football community must all work together,"* said Mr Stickler.

A particular debt of thanks is owed to the Upper Austrian Football Association, led by its president, Leo Windtner, for its support in organisational matters. The ÖFB vice-president will frequently play the role of host in the coming months: the European Under-19 Championship final round will be played in Linz (venue of the final), Pasching, Ried and Steyr from 16 to 27 July 2007. Upper Austria will host the dress rehearsal event in the autumn – from 7 to 11 October – when the top three nations in the Under-19 world rankings, Italy, England and Spain, will join Austria in a mini-tournament. Talent scouts will no doubt be travelling from all over Europe to attend.

Barbara Kontner

Friedrich Stickler, re-elected president of the ÖFB.



BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA



NK Siroki Brijeg champions for the second time

The spring fixture list in the Bosnia and Herzegovina premier league was busier than usual this year as the season had to finish by mid-May in preparation for the World Cup. NK Siroki Brijeg won the league title for the second time, following their first victory in 2003/04. The team fully deserves its success because NK Siroki Brijeg have, for several years now, been the best organised club in Bosnia and Herzegovina, with excellent logistics and infrastructure. This season, they will try to qualify for the Champions League. Last season, they managed to reach the first round of the UEFA Cup, where they were eliminated by FC Basel of Switzerland. They have been the most successful team in Bosnia and Herzegovina for the past few seasons.

FK Sarajevo finished second and will join cup winners NK Orasje in the UEFA Cup. Former champions NK Zrinjski took third place and will therefore take part in the Intertoto Cup.

NK Travnik and FK Buducnost of Banovici have dropped out of the premier league, while FK Velez of Mostar and FK Borac of Banja Luka, as winners of the first entity league, are back in the top division. FK Velez are back after three years' absence, and FK Borac after one season.

The league's top scorer was Petar Jelic of FK Modrica Maxima with 18 goals, ahead of Damir Tosunovic of NK Orasje and Mirza Mesic (NK Zepce/NK Posusje).

Meanwhile, the BiH youth cup final was won by FK Modrica Maxima, who beat NK Jedinstvo of Bihac 3-2 in Zenica.

The women's national team beat Croatia 2-1 in their second World

Cup qualifying match in Zenica. At the end of the competition, Bosnia and Herzegovina finished third in Group 6, behind Slovenia and Croatia. Malta were fourth.

The Bosnia and Herzegovina men's national team lost two matches in Asia against teams taking part in the World Cup in Germany. A 2-0 defeat to the Republic of Korea in Seoul was followed by a 5-2 loss to Iran in Tehran.

Fuad Krvavac



Victory for Siroki Brijeg.

ENGLAND



Visit to our African partners

The Football Association visited all three of its UEFA-CAF Meridian Project partners during May to monitor the improvements in football coaching at all levels of the game.

Botswana and Malawi both received "In-Service Training for Senior Coaches", calling upon the vastly experienced FA coach, Colin Morris.

He delivered two three-day assessment workshops where football coaches were put through their paces in a rigorous fitness examination. They were also expected to demonstrate their coaching techniques. *"The feedback from the coaches on both courses was very positive and I was impressed by the progress made by both the Botswana and Malawi football associations."*

And in Lesotho, The FA demonstrated its continuing commitment to improving standards in the women's game by staging a second girls' football development workshop in the space of seven months at LEFA headquarters in Maseru.

More than 30 delegates returned for the second phase of coaching, which



saw them learn how to become football tutors themselves and how to organise mini-football festivals. FA coaches John Ackerley and Lucy Wellings delivered the training over two days. The workshop culminated in each of the coaches displaying their newly-acquired skills at a local SOS Children's Village, where over 40 girls took part in a number of football drills.

"There have been some exciting improvements since October, including the development of new teams, a volunteers workshop and increased media coverage," said FA Regional Development Manager Lucy Wellings.



In Africa, football also means having a good time.

"The opportunity to improve standards of coaching was welcomed and all of the participants showed a real desire to transfer their knowledge gained in the classroom to the training ground. The FA hopes that LEFA will now match our own commitment to developing women's football and reap the rewards of introducing girls to the game."

Nada Grkinic

FINLAND



Football – the most popular sport in Finland

The Young Finland Association, the Finnish Sport For All Association, the Finnish Olympic Committee, the City of Helsinki and the Finnish Sports Federation, in partnership with the Finnish Ministry of Education, conduct a national sports survey every four years. The results of the latest poll were published in May.

91% of the 3- to 18-year olds questioned said that they practised sport and physical exercise, 15% more than ten years ago. Finnish children and teenagers

are most interested in football, cycling, cross-country skiing and swimming. The most popular team sports after football were floorball and ice-hockey. Children's and teenagers' favourite way of practising sport was with their friends, followed by exercising in sports clubs and – almost as popular – exercising independently.

42% of 3- to 18-year olds, i.e. a total of 417,000 children and teenagers, engage in sports activities in sports clubs. A quarter of these are members of football clubs. The number of football club members has grown by 30,500 (+40%).

The national sports survey also investigated the popularity of sport among children and teenagers who are not club members yet, but would like to be. A total of 250,000 children and teenagers would like to join sport clubs, and football was again the most popular sport.

Sports club membership levels are growing particularly among girls. Besides traditional female sports (gymnastics, dancing, horse riding and figure skating), girls are participating more and more in team sports. The number of women footballers has grown by almost 44% since the turn of the century, with 20,000 registered players at the moment. This is one of the key trends, along with the growing popularity of futsal and the increasing number of full-time workers in sports clubs, which helps to explain the growing popularity of football.

Minttu Paavola

GEORGIA



Sioni Bolnisi champions for the first time

The end of the 2005/06 season was very eventful for Georgian football. Since the national championship was launched in 1990, only three clubs have won the title: FC Dinamo Tbilisi (12 times), FC Torpedo Kutaisi (three times) and FC WIT Georgia Tbilisi (once). This season, a new winner joined the list of champions as FC Sioni Bolnisi clinched the title on 9 May with a magnificent 4-0 away win over FC Torpedo Kutaisi.

At a GFF licensing committee meeting held the previous day, on 8 May, licences were granted to Georgian football clubs for participation in the 2006/07 UEFA club competitions. Unfortunately, the number of licence applicants fell from 16 to 14, since FC Locomotivi Tbilisi and FC Dinamo Batumi refused to take part in the licensing process this season because of the reorganisation of their clubs' structures. The GFF licensing committee awarded licences to only half of the applicants, with the other half being refused. No appeals were lodged within the deadline.

In May, we celebrated a very significant anniversary in the history of Georgian football: 25 years ago, on 13 May 1981, FC Dinamo Tbilisi won the European Cup Winners' Cup. The GFF produced jubilee coins commemorating this event. A number of major GFF events, such as the XI GFF Congress and the national cup final, were also organised around this important date. The cup final itself was a real spectacle, full of drama. FC Zestaphoni and newly promoted FC Ameri Tbilisi were drawing 2-2 at the end of normal time and there were no further goals in extra time. FC Ameri lifted the Georgian cup for the first time after winning on penalties.

Finally, we have relaunched the *Georgian Football* magazine, which is full of interesting articles and pictures.

Bakar Jordania

ICELAND



Laying solid foundations for the future

The Icelandic national stadium, Laugardalsvöllur, is currently being expanded and renovated. The previous seating capacity was not ideal, especially when some of the bigger teams visited Reykjavik to play the national side. Previously, the



The Laugardalsvöllur stadium under reconstruction.



stadium could only accommodate 7,000 seated spectators but after expansion the capacity will be around 10,000. The rebuilding project includes the construction of new offices for the FA at Laugar-dalsvöllur. The rapid growth of football in recent years has demanded more space and better facilities for the FA's operations, along with greatly improved VIP and press areas. The new offices will provide FA staff with better tools and facilities in every area and will minimise the need for out-sourcing, with coach education courses, press conferences and various other activities now able to be held there. The seating areas for spectators will be ready for the friendly match against Spain on 16 August, and the new offices should be ready at the end of the year.

Club stadiums in Iceland have also improved greatly, and will continue to do so for the next couple of years. This is mainly because of the implementation of the club licensing system, which finished its fourth cycle in March this year. Clubs and local authorities have responded positively to the infrastructure criteria in the Icelandic FA's licensing manual. Facilities for spectators and press are now top-class in many stadiums.

All clubs who play in the top division are subject to the licensing system, and a decision has now been made to extend the licensing system to the next division below. This will make the step up to the top division much easier for the promoted clubs.

Another effect of the licensing system can be seen in the number of coaches graduating from the FA's coach education system. Great strides have been made in recent years and the education level is now very high in all senior divisions, as well as in the youth sector.

Omar Smárason

LATVIA



LFF seeks historical items for film

To mark the 100th anniversary of football in Latvia, the Latvian Football Federation (LFF) has decided to produce an hour-long film about the history of football in Latvia. The LFF also plans to create a museum room at its renovated headquarters. The LFF is therefore inviting football lovers to donate historical items, clothing or pictures to be exhibited in the LFF mu-



A fashion parade with a difference for the Latvian team.

seum room and probably to be used in the movie. The LFF will return items to their owners if requested. The documentary will include all the important events and developments of football in Latvia, from the very first game played in Latvia to the EURO 2004 finals. The script is currently being written and some of the financial issues are being addressed.



A friendly match does not mean an easy match!

PETER KLAUNZER

The Latvian national team, in Latvia prior to the friendly match against the USA, was accompanied by top Baltic models from the Natalie modelling agency at a fashion show for new Adidas football clothing and the national team strip. The event attracted great interest among media and fans in the match, which was shown live in Latvia at 2 a.m. on the Monday night. Latvia lost the match 1-0 in Hartford, CT, USA, but team spirit remained good in the highly comfortable surroundings. A post-match rest day in New York City was just what the players needed, especially since, for many of them, it was the first opportunity to visit 5th Avenue.

The first ever Baltic women's football league kicked off in Tallinn on 28 May. The league's president is LFF women's department director Vilnis Klavins.

Martins Hartmanis

LIECHTENSTEIN



Narrow defeat against World Cup finals participants Togo

On 2 June, the Liechtenstein national team played a friendly match against World Cup finals participants Togo. In cool conditions, the 2,700 spectators at the Rheinpark Stadium in Vaduz witnessed a close match, although



PETER KLAUNZER



in terms of goal chances Togo deserved their victory. The game's only goal was scored ten minutes after the interval.

Following the final whistle, both teams' coaches faced questions from the numerous journalists present. A brief summary of their views on the match is given below.

Two of Liechtenstein's key players were either missing or dropped out due to illness. *"This was not easy for us to cope with",* said national coach Martin Andermatt. *"Nevertheless, the team was well organised. However, some of our players were not fresh and our attacking play was not good enough",* said a critical Andermatt. *"But you have to put the two teams in proportion. Our team responded well and proved to be a worthy warm-up opponent",* he added.

Togo's head coach Otto Pfister was not totally happy with his team's result. *"They are not bad in terms of technique and creativity, but the players do not always realise the importance of matches like this",* he said.

Judith Frommelt

LITHUANIA



New mandate for the president

Liutauras Varanavicius has been elected president of the Lithuanian Football Association for the second time.

Elected by a solid majority, Liutauras Varanavicius was congratulated on his re-election.

During his first term in office, a great deal was achieved in Lithuanian football, including valuable investments in youth football. The Lithuanian FA also launched the club licensing system during that period, as well as many other activities.

According to Liutauras Varanavicius, his main target is to make football more popular and more of a mass participation sport in Lithuania.

"Our aim during the next four years is to encourage more children to play football in Lithuania. There should be academies in all of Lithuania's biggest cities, where great football players of the future can be developed. The Lithuanian FA intends to open these academies in Vilnius, Kaunas, Marijampole, Siauliai and Klaipeda. Incidentally, Lithuania's first foot-



Liutauras Varanavicius has another term ahead of him.

ball academy will be officially opened by the end of this summer – this project fills us with hope," said the president.

Vaiva Zizaitė

MALTA



Improving club administration

Football clubs are aware that, since they have to conform with the criteria established by UEFA and national federations, sound administration in all aspects is vital in modern-day football.

The Malta FA has long been promoting this idea and stresses that, unless club administrators possess the necessary expertise, clubs will not be able to function efficiently and far less adhere to licensing criteria.

Meetings and courses for these administrators feature regularly on the MFA's educational agenda, aimed at raising administration standards, particularly in financial and technical areas. The outcome of such activities has been positive and clubs in Malta are now being run along proper lines.

However, more is being done to enhance the quality of club administration.



John Consiglio (right) with Louis Micallef, deputy general secretary of the Malta FA.

In fact, the Malta FA has recently organised a series of instructional meetings and courses for club administrators, aimed at bringing their specific skills into line with modern demands. This subject will also feature in an end-of-season seminar during which expert speakers from FIFA will deliver talks.

The role of 'Clubs as Economic Enterprises' was the subject of a recent meeting for these administrators. A paper on this theme was read by John Consiglio, a sports economics lecturer at Malta University. This was followed by a thorough discussion.

The importance of efficiently run clubs can never be minimised and, through such initiatives, MFA member clubs only stand to gain. Football in Malta will thus be the richer.

Alex Vella

MOLDOVA



Special Olympics European Football Week

Special Olympics Moldova, in cooperation with the Moldovan Football Association (FMF) and the Johan Cruyff Foundation, organised a successful holiday for children with learning disabilities – "Special Olympics European Football Week 2006" – from 6 to 13 May 2006. The event was attended by important persons from Moldova and abroad, including FMF president Pavel Cebanu, Johan Cruyff Foundation representative Miranda van Holstein and Miroslaw Krogulec, senior manager of organisational development and sports at Special Olympics Europe/Eurasia.

During the week, more than 550 children participated in regional and national competitions, while 260 children from villages and the capital city took part in the final in Chisinau.

Linked to this event, a 24-hour football marathon was also staged as part of the new "So Get Into It" programme. Participants included people with learning disabilities and students from Moldovan higher education institutions and high schools.

On 13 May, the "Football Week" concluded with a very important event for the Moldovan Special Olympics movement – a precious gift from the FMF and UEFA – the official opening of an artificial turf mini-pitch in Chisinau. On this occasion, the FMF president said, *"We always try to help children with disabilities because, unlike us, they are unable to solve their problems*



A party atmosphere reigned during Special Olympics Week.

without our help. That is why we decided to donate an artificial grass mini-pitch that will help to improve the health of these children."

Vasile Vatamanu

NORTHERN IRELAND



New George Best shirt makes IFA history

Northern Ireland players, fans, IFA sponsors, executive committee members and local celebrities turned out in force for the Irish FA's first ever fashion show on 1 June.

Held in association with the George Best Foundation, the event was attended by the Best family and representatives from the foundation.

The fashion show was used to showcase all the latest Northern Ireland merchandise, including the new away kit, home kit, training gear, fashion items, exclusive line and the retro range, and to officially launch the new George Best shirt.

A prize draw was also held on the night in aid of the George Best Foundation. Prizes up for grabs included two tickets for NI v Iceland, two tickets for NI v Spain, an IFA/UKCC Level 1 coaching course place and a signed home shirt from the recent US tour.

All proceeds from the sale of the George Best shirt and the launch night will be donated to the foundation.

The IFA's head of marketing and communications, Geoff Wilson, was delighted at the success of the night. "This was the first time that the IFA has

ever conducted a fashion show and it just demonstrates how far we have come in the last year in terms of merchandising,"

said Geoff. "We were delighted to launch the new away kit, the training gear, the exclusive line and in particular the new George Best shirt."



Geoff Wilson (centre), the IFA's head of marketing and communications, unveils Northern Ireland's new home and away strips, as modelled by internationals Emma Higgins and Keith Gillespie.

Geoff added (centre): "Hopefully the fans will see this new range as fashionable and trendy and we certainly have high hopes in terms of sales. Fans can buy directly from the IFA at 20 Windsor Avenue or online at www.irishfa.com".

Caroline Menary / Sueann Harrison

ROMANIA



A dream to fulfil

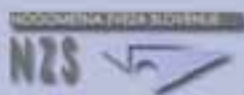
Mircea Sandu, president of the Romanian FA since August 1990, has a dream, which he has been sharing with

Romanian football officials and the Romanian media for the past year at least. "I will do my best to ensure that the 2009 UEFA Cup final is staged in Bucharest. We can do it," he has said several times. Why 2009? Because in that year the Romanian FA will celebrate its centenary. Many people, particularly sections of the media, are sceptical in view of the poor state of Romanian infrastructure, especially stadiums.

But Mircea Sandu has not given up. After several rounds of discussions, he has convinced the local and national authorities to work together to fulfil the dream. Having received a list of requirements from UEFA which have to be met in order to have a chance of hosting such a final, and after further discussions with the authorities concerned, Mr Sandu decided that all conditions are achievable for Romania to bid for the final. "This would not be an event only for the Romanian FA, but also for Romanian football, for Bucharest and for Romania, because all investments in stadiums, hotels, roads and other areas would be a great benefit for everybody," said Mr Sandu who, during his presidency and with the valuable help of FIFA and UEFA, has produced some remarkable achievements for Romania, such as the establishment of the national training centre and football academy in Mogosoaia and the Romanian FA headquarters, buildings admired by Romanians and foreign visitors alike.

A local organising committee has recently been created. Its honorary president is Adriean Videanu (mayor of Bucharest), while the executive president is Ioan Angelo Lupescu, general director of the Romanian FA since December 2005. Mr Lupescu said, "We will show everybody that we have all the skills to organise such an event perfectly. We are well aware that, if we fulfil all the requirements, we will have a big chance, especially because I think that UEFA will be keen to stage the match in a city which has never hosted such an event before. We have taken all the necessary initial measures in this respect and we will prove to everybody that our authorities, local and governmental, are fully involved in this project and that we have their full support".

One of the first measures taken was to demolish the national Lia Manoliu



stadium in Bucharest (the biggest Romanian stadium, built in 1953) and to build another five-star stadium on the same site, with 60,000 seats. The EUR 100 million required will be provided by the government and by the Bucharest municipal authority, which will own the stadium. There are other plans too, such as building another stadium, improving hotels (there is already a wide range of four- and five-star hotels in Bucharest), roads, etc.

All these plans will be presented during the first UEFA inspection, due to take place on 28 and 29 June.

Paul Zaharia

RUSSIA



New training centre

The project to build a new educational and training centre for Russia's national youth and women's teams was presented in Bronnitsy (a small town near Moscow) on 23 May. The project is being implemented by the Russian Football Association (RFS) and the Bronnitsy local authorities.



A symbolic gesture for an important centre.

This will be one of Russia's first training centres for national teams. Thirteen football pitches have already been built, including one artificial pitch installed by the RFS as part of the FIFA Goal programme. There is also a players' hotel, although this is not big enough at present.

One of the top local football academies in the Moscow region also uses the current training centre, where the RFS also plans to build a training academy for coaches and referees.

A UEFA delegation, RFS president Vitali Mutko and the leader of the Bronnitsy municipal authority, Valeri Egorov, participated in the presentation ceremony.

Vitali Mutko said at the ceremony, "On behalf of the Russian Football Associa-

tion, I would like to congratulate everybody on today's launch of the construction project for the national football training centre. The Russian Under-17 and women's youth teams, who have become European champions, completed their preparations here. Various national teams will train at this centre".

Dmitri Sevastianov

SLOVAKIA



Mini-pitches a huge success in Slovakia

The Slovakian Football Association (SFZ) launched the mini-pitch project in Slovakia two years ago and has been amazed at the amount of interest it has attracted from every corner of Slovakia. The project was originally meant to be finished by 2010, but it is almost complete now, after less than two years. By the end of 2006, 110 mini-pitches will be operational in Slovakia, providing leisure-time activities for thousands of children every day.

As long as UEFA, the Slovakian ministry of education or another project partner offers further support, the SFZ is prepared to continue the mini-pitch project in future years.

Along with the great success of mini-pitches in Slovakia, the Slovakian Mini Champions League was launched for U13 boys' teams and U15 girls' teams in all regions of Slovakia.

The final tournaments will take place in Hviezdoslav square in Bratislava, one of the Slovakian capital's most popular tourist attractions. Members of the SFZ organisational team hope it will be a great experience for all the participating boys and girls. Last year's competition was won by the boys from Inter Bratislava.

Klaudio Slanko



Mini champions league.

UKRAINE



International tournament in memory of Valeriy Lobanovskiy

Four national Under-21 teams from Belarus, Moldova, Israel and Ukraine competed for this prize in Kyiv from 12 to 14 May. The Israeli squad emerged



Svitlana, daughter of the late Valeriy Lobanovskiy.

as winners of the fourth edition of the international tournament in memory of Ukrainian hero Valeriy Lobanovskiy, beating Belarus 2-0 in the final. The home side finished in third place, beating Moldova 3-2. The next day, the Ukrainian team, led by Oleksiy Mykhaylychenko, left their homeland for the European Under-21 Championship finals in Portugal.

The final match produced plenty of goal-scoring opportunities for both teams. In the early stages, Belarus had several chances to open the scoring, but the Israeli goalkeeper and defenders coped admirably. Israel turned the tide and captain Maor Melicsohn scored two great goals.

It was fitting that the winners gained revenge for last year's defeat in the final, when Israel were beaten 3-2 by a well-balanced Polish team.

All the participants paid tribute to Valeriy Lobanovskiy by laying flowers at his grave. Guests also met in a restaurant near the Dynamo Kyiv training centre in Koncha-Zaspa, owned by Lobanovskiy's daughter Svitlana. Valeriy Vasylyovych Lobanovskiy liked to visit this place together with his team, friends and colleagues.

Valeriy Nykonenko



Communications

Birthdays – Calendar

Birthdays

Allen Wade (England), member of UEFA's circle of former committee members, celebrates his 80th birthday on 19 July. Des Casey (Republic of Ireland), honorary member of UEFA, will be 75 on the 31st of the month. Two Dutch members of the Match Delegates Panel both turn 70 in July: Hendrik Weerink on the second and Bertus Rijkhoek on the 30th. UEFA also wishes many happy returns this month to:

- Erkki Poroila (Finland, 1.7)
- Frédéric Thiriez (France, 1.7)
- Ton Verhagen (Netherlands, 1.7)
- Domingos Gomes Dias (Portugal, 3.7)
- Antonio Matarrese (Italy, 4.7)
- Munib Usanovic (Bosnia and Herzegovina, 4.7)
- Martin Maleck (Germany, 8.7)
- Hana Válková (Czech Republic, 9.7)
- Dimitrios Koukis (Greece, 9.7)
- Gianluca Vialli (Italy, 9.7)
- Nina Hedlund (Norway, 11.7)
- Ilija Stoilov (FYR Macedonia, 11.7)
- Günter Benkö (Austria, 12.7)
- Zoltan Kereki (Hungary, 13.7)
- Alain Delmer (France, 14.7)
- Sándor Puhl (Hungary, 14.7)
- Vladimir Petr (Slovakia, 15.7)
- 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 Boisdard (France, 16.7)
- Giuseppe Mifsud-Bonnici (Malta, 17.7)
- John Edward Martin (England, 18.7)
- Giacinto Facchetti (Italy, 18.7)
- Ben Takkenberg (Netherlands, 19.7)
- Alfredo Trentalange (Italy, 19.7)
- Ernest Walker (Scotland, 20.7)
- Vladimir Radionov (Russia, 21.7)
- Jaroslav Dudl (Czech Republic, 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)
- David I. Bowen (Northern Ireland, 26.7)
- Jeff Davis (England, 27.7)

- Hansi Müller (Germany, 27.7)
- Stefan Tivold (Slovenia, 28.7)
- João Leal (Portugal, 30.7)
- Tugomir Frajman (Slovenia, 31.7)
- Joël Wolff (Luxembourg, 31.7)
- Phelim Macken (Republic of Ireland, 31.7)

Upcoming events

Meetings

6.7.2006, Nyon

Draws for the 2006/07 UEFA Women's Cup and UEFA Futsal Cup

11/12.7.2006, Reykjavik

Executive Committee

28.7.2006, Nyon

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

Competitions

9.6-9.7.2006, Germany

World Cup

1/2.7.2006

UEFA Intertoto Cup: second round (first legs)

8/9.7.2006

UEFA Intertoto Cup: second round (return legs)

11/12.7.2006

UEFA Champions League: first qualifying round (first legs)

11-22.7.2006, Switzerland

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

13.7.2006

UEFA Cup: first qualifying round (first legs)

15/16.7.2006

UEFA Intertoto Cup: third round (first legs)

18/19.7.2006

UEFA Champions League: first qualifying round (return legs)

18-29.7.2006, Poland

Final round of the European Under-19 Championship

22.7.2006

UEFA Intertoto Cup: third round (return legs)

25/26.7.2006

UEFA Champions League: second qualifying round (first legs)

27.7.2006

UEFA Cup: first qualifying round (return legs)

Notices

■ The FA of Belarus has moved to: Prospekt Pobediteli 20, Korp. 3, BY-220020 Minsk, Belarus.

■ The executive committee of Italy's national Olympic committee has appointed Guido Rossi as extraordinary commissioner of the Italian Football Federation following the resignation of its president, Franco Carraro.

■ "Vision Europe", the strategy adopted by UEFA at its 2005 Congress, is now available from the UEFA administration in the form of a booklet (vision.europe@uefa.ch).

New publications

The World Cup finals in Germany have provided a pretext for all kinds of publications. Among the books received by uefadirect is:

THE LOVE OF FOOTBALL

Time after Time

Written by Kazuyoshi Shimizu and published in Japan, this publication speaks the universal language of photography. More than 200 pages of colour photos bring to life the magical atmosphere of the stadiums, action shots and player portraits. (Fax: +81-3 5723 6023. www.hobidas.com).

On the DVD side, AK Video have launched a sports series. The first,



Ça c'est Pelé, is dedicated to the three-times world champion, the only player to have scored over 1,200 goals in his career, while the second, *Garrincha, l'insaisissable*,

traces the career of the famous Brazilian right winger, with accounts revealing the social side of his character. (servicecommercial.ide@wanadoo.fr).

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