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Christian Poulsen and Sevilla FC took FC Barcelona by surprise, achieving a convincing win in the 2006 UEFA Super Cup.

PHOTO: GETTY IMAGES

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Preserving regional identity

To give clubs time to get used to the idea, the new rule on locally trained players was announced well ahead of its planned introduction in the UEFA club competition season that has just got under way.

In the meantime, events on the field, as well as transfers and draws, may have relegated it to the back of people's minds, so, with the UEFA club competitions almost in full swing again, it is perhaps opportune to explain the reasoning behind it again.

It should be said, first of all, that the new rule is not a roundabout way of reviving the old "3+2" rule, which limited the number of foreign players a club could field and hindered the free movement of players. Rather, the new rule aims to preserve a club's identification with its town/city and region of origin.

But why, in these days when sport is a form of entertainment that knows practically no borders, particularly at club level, does anyone want to preserve this regional identity? There are many reasons for wanting to do so, not least a desire to encourage clubs to invest in the training of young local players and to give them a way into first-team football with their clubs, which all too often succumb to the temptation of looking elsewhere for players who are already fully fledged.

It is also a matter of preserving the supporters' attachment to "their" club. The big teams might still attract the crowds despite their line-ups consisting almost exclusively of foreign players, but what works for them does not necessarily work for less successful clubs. A club that is not firmly rooted in its region therefore runs the risk of being of interest to no one and even of disappearing altogether.

Football's success also lies in the different styles of play involved, the passion of derby matches and traditional rivalry, and the disappearance of diverse national playing techniques can only lead to monotonous uniformity.

Furthermore, there is the fact that UEFA's entire club competition system is based on rankings of its member associations that are compiled according to the results achieved by their clubs. It therefore makes sense that an association's rankings should to some extent be the by-product of the efforts of players trained by its clubs.

There is also the fact that local authorities as well as businesses usually support the clubs, not only financially but also by providing them with facilities or other benefits. So it is only fair that, in return, the clubs take on local players and fulfil their social responsibilities.

This season's rule, which requires just four players to be locally trained, is the first step towards the ultimate objective of eight "homegrown" players per squad of 25 by 2008/09. The first step is, however, often the most important, since it is a clear indication of the desire to act.



Lars-Christer Olsson
Chief Executive

WE CARE ABOUT FOOTBALL



Training young players should be a priority aspect of clubs' social responsibility.

EMPICS/RANGERS

Monaco, capital of club football

Meeting point



**FOR A FEW DAYS AT THE END OF AUGUST,
MONACO ONCE AGAIN BECAME THE CAPITAL
OF EUROPEAN CLUB FOOTBALL.**

This widely reported gathering represents the meeting point between the previous season, symbolised by the UEFA Super Cup match between the two winners of the 2005/06 competitions, and the new campaign, although for many clubs the season started in mid-July, or even before the World Cup was over where clubs competing in the UEFA Intertoto Cup are concerned.

A change to the format of the Intertoto Cup, which now gives 11 clubs a place in the second qualifying round of the UEFA Cup, was the first innovation in a season also marked by the centralised marketing of the UEFA Cup from the quarter-finals onwards.

On the regulatory front, the most important change is undoubtedly the introduction of rules on "locally trained players". Four such players must now be included in the list of 25 registered for the season's competitions. No more than two of these four should have been trained within the national association of the club concerned, with

the others trained by the club itself. Next season, the number of locally trained players will increase to six, and then to eight the following season.

Another change in the rules for the new season is the authorisation to play on artificial turf.

Although, from an external perspective, the main events in Monaco are the Super Cup match, two draws and the presentation of trophies to a handful of players, a whole host of other activities take place. These include numerous meetings, not only for clubs participating in the Champions League in particular and the UEFA Cup, but also for sponsors, television partners and members of various UEFA committees and working groups. There is also a gala evening, as well as press conferences and briefings, the presentation of a cheque to a charity and, in particular, numerous opportunities to make contacts and swap ideas and opinions. Monaco truly underlines the UEFA motto: *we care about football*.

Champions Gallery

The 50th anniversary of the first European Champion Clubs' Cup/Champions League final last May provided an opportunity to remember the history of this prestigious competition and to relive some of its outstanding moments.



It would have been a shame if these memories had been filed away again until some future celebration, which is why the idea of a "UEFA Champions Gallery" was conceived. The aim is to raise the awareness of the young and not so young of the heritage of European club football, particularly as part of the festivities held in the run-up to the Champions League final.

An initial version of the gallery was unveiled at the Champions League draw in Monte Carlo. Visitors could view copies of the front pages of the programmes from each of the finals, as well as an audiovisual presentation depicting some of the unforgettable personalities and moments from the competition's history.



The five award winners for the 2005-06 European club competition season (left to right: Carles Puyol, Deco, Ronaldinho, Jens Lehmann and Samuel Eto'o).



Carles Puyol assists UEFA CEO Lars-Christer Olsson with the draw.

UEFA Champions League Awards and draw

THE DRAW FOR THE GROUP PHASE OF THE 15TH EDITION OF THE UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE WAS HELD AT THE FORUM GRIMALDI IN MONTE CARLO ON 24 AUGUST.

From a commercial point of view, this season marks the start of a new three-year cycle, a fact highlighted in Monaco by a "freshening up" of the competition's visual identity. The draw programme was also different this year, with the inclusion of the traditional presentation of awards to the best players from the



previous season's club competitions. Whereas last year's awards were presented before the draw, this year they interspersed the different stages of the draw procedure, i.e. the distribution of the teams placed in each of the four pots (in accordance with the UEFA club coefficients) into eight groups.



UEFA President Lennart Johansson presents Ronaldinho with the UEFA Club Footballer of the Year award.

Awards

Chosen by the UEFA Technical Study Group and the coaches of the 16 teams that progressed beyond the group stage of the last Champions League, almost all of last season's best players came from the club that won the competition: only Arsenal goalkeeper Jens Lehmann was not a member of the FC Barcelona squad.

The award for the best defender was presented to Carles Puyol by former Barcelona player Michael Laudrup.

Already named best midfielder in 2004, when he played for FC Porto, Deco received the same accolade again this year, while his teammate Samuel Eto'o won the award for the best forward. Paulo Sousa and Raymond Kopa presented these two trophies.

Replacing the "Most Valuable Player" award, which was presented in previous years, the prize for the UEFA Club Footballer of the Year went to Ronaldinho, who received his award from the UEFA president.

As is right and proper in a team sport, each of the winners paid tribute to their team-mates for helping them to achieve their own personal success.

Sixteen associations represented

Carried out with the help of a computer, as in recent years, in order to take into account factors such as stadium availability, climatic conditions and the presence of more than one team from the same region, the draw was conducted by UEFA Chief Executive Lars-Christer Olsson, who called on all the participants to respect the rules and the principles of fair play.

The 2006/07 Champions League involves representatives of 16 national associations, one of which (Bulgaria) has never previously had a participating club. The Bulgarian champions, Levski Sofia, and

FC Copenhagen (Brede Hangeland, in blue) caused an upset by knocking out AFC Ajax to qualify for the UEFA Champions League group stage for the first time.



The balls used in the draw look like miniature Champions League match balls.

FC Copenhagen are the only two of the 32 participants who have never previously qualified, bringing the total number of clubs who have played in the Champions League to 99 and the number of national associations represented, which had been unchanged since 2003, to 29. This season sees the return of a strong East European contingent: in addition to Levski Sofia, Russia and Ukraine,

who were both absent last year, each have two clubs represented, while Steaua Bucharest have qualified for Europe's most prestigious club competition after a ten-year absence.

Manchester United and FC Porto are the most regular participants in the Champions League, with each involved for the 12th time this year. Manchester United have qualified for the competi-

tion for a record-breaking 11th consecutive season. The other most frequent participants are Bayern Munich, Barcelona, Real Madrid, PSV Eindhoven and AC Milan, who have each played ten seasons of Champions League football. Two other clubs who have participated ten times – Juventus and Rosenborg – failed to make this season's line-up. It is also worth noting that 13 previous winners of the Champion Clubs' Cup/Champions League are aiming to lift the trophy again this year: Real Madrid (9 victories), AC Milan (6), Liverpool (5), Bayern Munich (4), Barcelona (2), Benfica (2), Internazionale (2), Manchester United (2), Porto (2), Celtic (1), PSV Eindhoven (1), SV Hamburg (1) and Steaua Bucharest (1). Nine other participants have won either the UEFA Cup or the Cup Winners' Cup, or both.

UEFA Champions League Calendar 2006-07

Group A	Group B	Group C	Group D
12.09 Chelsea – Werder Bremen Barcelona – Levski Sofia	SC Portugal – Internazionale Bayern München – Spartak Moskva	Galatasaray – G. Bordeaux PSV Eindhoven – Liverpool	Olympiacos – Valencia CF AS Roma – Shakhtar Donetsk
27.09 Levski Sofia – Chelsea Werder Bremen – Barcelona	Spartak Moskva – SC Portugal Internazionale – Bayern München	Liverpool – Galatasaray G. Bordeaux – PSV Eindhoven	Shakhtar Donetsk – Olympiacos Valencia CF – AS Roma
18.10 Werder Bremen – Levski Sofia Chelsea – Barcelona	Internazionale – Spartak Moskva SC Portugal – Bayern München	G. Bordeaux – Liverpool Galatasaray – PSV Eindhoven	Valencia CF – Shakhtar Donetsk Olympiacos CFP – AS Roma
31.10 Levski Sofia – Werder Bremen FC Barcelona – Chelsea	Spartak Moskva – Internazionale Bayern München – SC Portugal	Liverpool – G. Bordeaux PSV Eindhoven – Galatasaray	Shakhtar Donetsk – Valencia CF AS Roma – Olympiacos CFP
22.11 Werder Bremen – Chelsea Levski Sofia – Barcelona	Internazionale – SC Portugal Spartak Moskva – Bayern München	G. Bordeaux – Galatasaray Liverpool FC – PSV Eindhoven	Valencia CF – Olympiacos CFP Shakhtar Donetsk – AS Roma
05.12 Chelsea – Levski Sofia Barcelona – Werder Bremen	SC Portugal – Spartak Moskva Bayern München – Internazionale	Galatasaray – Liverpool FC PSV Eindhoven – G. Bordeaux	Olympiacos – Shakhtar Donetsk AS Roma – Valencia CF
Group E	Group F	Group G	Group H
13.09 Dynamo Kyiv – Steaua B. Ol. Lyonnais – Real Madrid	Manchester Utd – Celtic FC FC Copenhagen – SL Benfica	FC Porto – CSKA Moskva Hamburger SV – Arsenal FC	Anderlecht – LOSC Lille AC Milan – AEK Athens
26.09 Real Madrid – Dynamo Kyiv Steaua B. – Ol. Lyonnais	SL Benfica – Manchester Utd Celtic FC – FC Copenhagen	Arsenal FC – FC Porto CSKA Moskva – Hamburger SV	AEK Athens – Anderlecht LOSC Lille – AC Milan
17.10 Steaua B. – Real Madrid Dynamo Kyiv – Ol. Lyonnais	Celtic FC – SL Benfica Manchester Utd – Copenhagen	CSKA Moskva – Arsenal FC FC Porto – Hamburger SV	LOSC Lille – AEK Athens RSC Anderlecht – AC Milan
01.11 Real Madrid – Steaua B. Ol. Lyonnais – Dynamo Kyiv	SL Benfica – Celtic FC Copenhagen – Manchester Utd	Arsenal FC – CSKA Moskva Hamburger SV – FC Porto	AEK Athens – LOSC Lille AC Milan – RSC Anderlecht
21.11 Steaua B. – Dynamo Kyiv Real Madrid – Ol. Lyonnais	Celtic FC – Manchester Utd SL Benfica – FC Copenhagen	CSKA Moskva – FC Porto Arsenal FC – Hamburger SV	LOSC Lilles – Anderlecht AEK Athens – AC Milan
06.12 Dynamo Kyiv – Real Madrid Ol. Lyonnais – Steaua B.	Manchester Utd – SL Benfica FC Copenhagen – Celtic FC	FC Porto – Arsenal FC Hamburger SV – CSKA Moskva	Anderlecht – AEK Athens AC Milan – LOSC Lille



BOZZANI

After the draw, the participants make arrangements for their group matches.



GETTY IMAGES

Anything to do with the Champions League attracts keen media interest.

Prize money in euros

The competition format remains the same: the top two in each group will qualify for the last 16, with the third-placed teams dropping into the UEFA Cup round of 32. On the financial side, however, this new three-year cycle will see prize money awarded in euros rather than Swiss francs.

With total gross income estimated at EUR 750 million, the prize money, calculated according to the competition regulations, will again be distributed in fixed amounts as well as payments dependent on the commercial value of the national market of the participating clubs ("market pool").

The fixed amounts are as follows:

- EUR 2 million per club as basic prize money;
- EUR 400,000 per group match played;
- EUR 600,000 for each victory in the group matches;

- EUR 300,000 for each draw;
- EUR 2.2 million for qualifying for the last 16;
- EUR 2.5 million for each quarter-finalist;
- EUR 3 million for each semi-finalist;
- EUR 4 million for the runners-up;
- EUR 7 million for the winners.

Solidarity payments for the Champions League:

- All national champions who fail to qualify for the Champions League group stage will receive EUR 160,000.
- Each club participating in the first and/or second qualifying round of the Champions League will receive EUR 100,000 per round, unless they qualify for the group stage.
- No prize money will be awarded for participation in the third qualifying round: the eliminated clubs, who will enter the UEFA Cup, will receive solidarity payments for that competition (cf. page 7) while keeping the money received for the first two qualifying rounds.

Any additional sum left over when these payments have been made will be distributed in accordance with a decision of the Executive Committee, with the agreement of the Club Competitions Committee.

These fixed payments total EUR 276.6 million. A similar sum (EUR 270.37 million) is set aside for the "market pool". The clubs also keep the gate receipts from their home matches.

If income exceeds expectations, the surplus will primarily be used to fund the increase (more than EUR 10 million) in solidarity payments made to the clubs knocked out in the Champions League and UEFA Cup qualifying rounds:

UEFA Cup Centralised marketing



Sevilla FC will be aiming to retain the trophy they won in Eindhoven.

PHOTONUEWS

FOR THE THIRD TIME, THIS SEASON'S UEFA CUP WILL COMPRISE A MIXTURE OF GROUP AND KNOCK-OUT MATCHES.

However, this year will be the first time that the television and marketing rights have been centrally marketed from the quarter-final stage onwards. This change, which was approved by the European Club Forum, should enhance the commercial value of this competition and, if the initial figures are anything to go by, this objective is well on the way to being achieved.

According to forecasts presented, inter alia, at the Club Competitions Committee meeting held in Monaco, income is expected to reach at least EUR 45 million from TV and marketing rights, which is more than the CHF 62 million of TV revenue obtained for all UEFA Cup matches in 2005/06 (according to the income declarations provided by the clubs).



UEFA

As in the UEFA Champions League, this revenue will be distributed in the form of fixed amounts and market-related payments.

The fixed amounts are as follows:

- the 40 clubs participating in the group matches will each receive a basic payment of EUR 70,000;
- each win in the group matches will be worth EUR 40,000;
- a draw in the group stage will earn each club EUR 20,000;
- the 24 teams that qualify for the last 32 will each receive EUR 70,000; those that reach the last 16 will earn a further EUR 70,000 (the eight clubs dropping into the UEFA Cup after the group stage of the UEFA Champions League will not receive any prize money for these two rounds);
- qualification for the quarter-finals will be worth EUR 300,000;
- EUR 600,000 will be awarded to each semi-finalist;
- the losing finalist will receive EUR 1.5 million;
- the competition winners will earn EUR 2.5 million.

Solidarity payments will also be made for the UEFA Cup: all clubs

participating in the qualifying rounds and first round will receive EUR 70,000 per round, even if they qualify for the group phase.

It is also worth noting that clubs participating in the UEFA Intertoto Cup will earn EUR 50,000 per round (i.e. a maximum of EUR 150,000). Those that qualify for the second qualifying round of the UEFA Cup will receive these payments as well as the above-mentioned sums.



The UEFA Super Cup forms part of the centralised marketing programme of the UEFA Cup. The prize for the winner – Sevilla FC this season – is EUR 1.6 million. The losers pick up EUR 1.2 million.

■ Clubs from 30 national associations qualified for the first round of this 36th edition of the UEFA Cup, which will conclude in Glasgow on 16 May 2007. The title holders, Sevilla FC, are in good company, since the 80 teams disputing first-round ties include 12 other previous winners of UEFA competitions. The most successful of these is AFC Ajax, four-times winners of the European Cup/Champions League and one of the few clubs to have won all the UEFA club competitions.

Prize for Daniel Alves

Before the UEFA Cup draw, Sevilla FC defender Daniel Alves Da Silva was presented with the award for the Most Valuable Player in last season's UEFA Cup. He was selected by a panel composed of the coaches of the eight quarter-finalists in the 2005/06 UEFA Cup.



GETTY IMAGES

Executive Committee member Angel Maria Villar Llona presents Daniel Alves with the Most Valuable Player of the UEFA Cup 2005/06 award.

It was a good day all round for Sevilla's Brazilian maestro, as on the same evening he was named Man of the Match in the UEFA Super Cup. Carlsberg, the competition sponsor, presented him with a cheque for EUR 10,000, which he will pass on to a charity of his choice in Spain.



VOGEL/BONGARTS/GETTY IMAGES

Javi Navarro tries to dispossess Ronaldinho.



VOGEL/BONGARTS/GETTY IMAGES

Enzo Maresca's fiercely struck penalty makes it 3-0 for Sevilla.



HACHE/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

The new trophy is more than twice the weight of the old one but the winners aren't complaining!

UEFA Super Cup

A first for Sevilla



BARCELONA, SEVILLE, MONACO: TWO CITIES AND ONE PRINCIPALITY
ALL CLOSE TO THE MEDITERRANEAN, BROUGHT TOGETHER FOR ONE
EVENING BY A MAJOR SPORTING EVENT, THE UEFA SUPER CUP.

Continuing what is now a nine-year tradition, the Louis II stadium in Monaco was the setting for this early-season contest between the winners of last season's top club competitions. FC Barcelona, winners of the UEFA Champions League final in Paris, were up against Sevilla FC, who had emerged victorious from the UEFA Cup final in Eindhoven in the spring.

This Spanish derby on foreign soil drew large numbers of supporters, who virtually filled the arena in Monaco. The event was colourful, animated and often noisy, with the Sevilla fans sometimes doing a lot of whistling. They had every reason to be happy, though, as Sevilla were more enterprising right from the start and quickly took the lead

through Renato, who found the back of the net after goalkeeper Valdes was unable to hold a shot from Luis Fabiano.

As the match progressed, Barcelona sought to impose their style of play but opted too often for passing combinations in a very tight space, right in the heart of the opponents' defence. This calls for absolute precision or at least good finishing, neither of which the Catalans managed here.

With their no-frills game and the power of their strikers, the Andalusians proved to be much more effective. Kanouté scored a second goal just before half-time, once again following a rebound from the goalkeeper.

Sevilla took care not to loosen their grip in the second half. On the

contrary, Juande Ramos' team continued to create panic at times in the Catalan defence, yielding a penalty which was converted by Maresca. In the dying seconds there was another clear-cut chance which could have produced an even bigger victory. The final outcome was already sobering for Barcelona, who suffered the heaviest defeat ever incurred by the Champions League title-holders since the fixture has been held in Monaco.

Honouring a tradition does not mean, however, that there is no room for innovation. For this year's edition, which marked the start of a three-year commercial cycle, a new logo was designed and, more noticeably, a larger trophy was created, following the precedent set for the European Championship. Skipper Javi Navarro was therefore the first to receive the new-look trophy, at the first time of asking for his club. The competition has now been won 15 times by the European champions and 16 times by the winners of the Cup Winners' Cup or UEFA Cup.

For Barcelona, who were contesting their fifth Super Cup, their tally remains at two victories, but Frank Rijkaard's team will have the possibility of winning another trophy – the Club World Championship, which will be staged in Tokyo in December. The other qualifiers are Internacional Porto Alegre (CONMEBOL), America (CONCACAF), Auckland City (OFC) plus the winners of the CAF Champions League and the AFC Champions League.



VOGEL/BONGARTS/GETTY IMAGES

25 August 2006
Stade Louis II, Monaco – 17,480 spectators
FC Barcelona-Sevilla FC 0-3 (0-2)
Goals: 7' Renato, 45' Kanouté,
90' Maresca (penalty)
Referee: Stefano Farina (Italy)



Eleven questions for the Executive Committee members

THE SERIES FEATURING THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS IN THE ORDER IN WHICH THEY WERE ELECTED CONTINUES WITH MICHEL PLATINI.

Michel Platini

Your first contact with football?

I was born into a family of footballers. My father, who was a coach, had me kicking footballs from a very young age.

First experience of UEFA?

With the France team in 1979, when we played Czechoslovakia in Bratislava in a qualifying match for the 1980 European Championship in Italy, and in a UEFA Cup match for Saint-Etienne in Lodz that same year.

A player?

When I was young, Johan Cruyff was my idol. I wanted to be like him. His footballing talent was huge.

A memorable match?

I played in many great matches, but the semi-final of the 1982 World Cup between France and Germany tops the list: the whole spectrum of emotions that football can produce were felt during that match by both players and spectators alike.

A memory linked to a UEFA activity?

That's easy. It was at the start of this month in Yerevan, where I opened two mini-pitches in a working-class district. The excitement and passion of the crowd and the enthusiasm of the youngsters made a great

impression on me, since they were both spontaneous and authentic. It was a special, touching experience.

Defender or attacker?

Attacker: there's no doubt about it. Creating and scoring goals is what football is all about. It is also my philosophy in life.

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

I give it to a child.

A town?

I have travelled a lot and I always enjoy returning home to Paris. I can relax there while enjoying all the different possibilities the city has to offer.

Detective story or economic treatise?

If I had to choose, I would read a detective story, although I am more interested in reading biographies.

Sea or mountains?

Definitely the sea. I like warmth and white sand. The gentleness of the beach helps me to rest, surrounded by my family and friends.

A dream?

To become UEFA President, as my compatriot Jacques Georges, who came from the same region as me (Lorraine), did many years ago.

I believe the time has come for me to follow in his footsteps.





Fitness tests for the assistant referees ...



... and theory sessions for the elite referees.

Referee preparation

Positive feedback on the communication system

AT THE END OF AUGUST, THE FOURTH SUMMER GATHERING FOR UEFA ELITE AND PREMIER REFEREES AND THE SIXTH SEMINAR FOR ASSISTANT REFEREES WERE HELD IN THE GENEVA AREA. NUMEROUS ASPECTS OF REFEREEING WERE DISCUSSED, INCLUDING THE REFEREE COMMUNICATION SYSTEM WHICH IS CURRENTLY BEING TRIALLED.

The two-day gathering had a varied agenda involving both theoretical and practical elements. Mental preparation was discussed, various fitness exercises were demonstrated and practised, and the World Cup finals in Germany were put under the microscope. After the meeting was over, UEFA published a media release calling on referees to immediately caution players who treat them with disrespect by showing dissent or demanding a yellow card for an opponent.

Another important item on the agenda was the electronic referee communication system, which has been tested in the UEFA Champions League since the spring and is designed to improve and facilitate cooperation between the four match officials. Its use is not compulsory. UEFA is endeavouring to constantly improve the system in cooperation with the manufacturers. This particularly applies to the radio system and attachment devices (e.g. ear piece, microphone).

Jozef Marko, member of the UEFA Referees' Committee, described the system in detail. He explained that, in order to ensure referees' concentration is not disturbed, a detailed pre-match discussion is vital. The match officials should decide in precisely which situations they intend to use the new equipment. It is also important that eye contact is not neglected and that the system supplements rather than replaces the assistants' flags.

Marko mentioned several advantages that match officials can gain from using the system. For example, crucial decisions can be taken more quickly after consultations between the officials, while preventive action can also be taken more rapidly if a dispute breaks out between players. The referee can also be alerted to certain things (e.g. a raised flag) by his assistants if they use the beep signal. One positive "side effect" is that the assistants assume greater responsibility, which is shared by all members of the team. The fourth official should also be able to give the referee greater support than before, although he should not consult TV pictures first.

Finally, some practical examples were mentioned. The assistants should particularly intervene if they are better positioned than the referee to see a certain incident and can spot it more easily. In these circumstances, the assistant should "bleep" the referee if he sees a foul that is missed by the referee, if the wrong player is cautioned or if a player is seriously injured out of the sight of the referee. Meanwhile, the fourth official, as well as performing his traditional duties, should draw attention to any inappropriate behaviour in the technical area.

As the trials continue, it will become clearer in which situations the communication system is most useful. However, it is pleasing that almost all the referees who have tested it so far have given positive feedback and want to continue using it. If the trials continue to go well and the IFAB gives its official approval, the equipment could soon be used in other competitions as well.



The new electronic referee communication system was a central topic of discussion.

PHOTOS: UEFA-pjwoods.ch



Michael van Praag: a proposal for improving infrastructure.



The delegates donned their playing kit for matches refereed by Michal Listkiewicz, who awarded the prize for best player to Rick Parry, Liverpool FC chief executive.

European Club Forum

Election time

THE PLENARY ASSEMBLY OF THE EUROPEAN CLUB FORUM, IN ITS NEW COMPOSITION, WAS HELD AT UEFA HEADQUARTERS IN NYON ON 4 AND 5 SEPTEMBER.

One of the main items on the agenda was the election of the Forum board, whose members will, as a one-off, serve a three-year term from 2006 to 2009.

The 102 Forum members are divided into four groups, based on the coefficients of their national associations; the first group is entitled to five seats on the Forum board, the second has three seats, the third has two and the fourth has one. Each group elects its own representatives and the board then appoints its chairman and vice-chairmen.

The new board

Chairman: Karl-Heinz Rummenigge (Bayern Munich); **First Vice-Chairman:** Joan Laporta (FC Barcelona); **Vice-Chairmen:** John McClelland (Rangers FC) and Niels-Christian Holmstrøm (FC Copenhagen); **Members:** John Borg (Birkirkara FC), Maarten Fontein (AFC Ajax), Umberto Gandini (AC Milan), Fernando Gomes (FC Porto), Peter Kenyon (Chelsea FC), Michel Verschueren (RSC Anderlecht) and Damir Vrbanovic (NK Dinamo Zagreb).

Four members of the board will also form part of the Club Competitions Committee: Karl-Heinz Rummenigge, who will be its second vice-chairman, Umberto Gandini, Niels-Christian Holmstrøm and Peter Kenyon.

The clubs also had to appoint representatives for the European Professional Football Strategy Board a new body comprising the four UEFA

vice-presidents, four representatives of the professional leagues and four representatives of the clubs. The following have been appointed: Joan Laporta, Umberto Gandini, Peter Kenyon and Maarten Fontein. This body aims to provide a direct link between the Executive Committee and the representatives of professional football.

The members also discussed relations between UEFA and professional clubs, stressing a common desire to move forward and find answers to three questions which had already been debated for some time: the compensation of clubs for releasing their international players and insurance against injuries they might suffer while playing for their national teams; the participation of clubs in decision-making; and the length of an agreement

between clubs and UEFA. The Club Forum board will continue negotiations with UEFA.

The participants were also informed of the results of the vast consultation exercise undertaken with all relevant parties concerning the future of club competitions. A working group is responsible for drafting proposals to be submitted to the Executive Committee in June 2007.

Day two was devoted to tax issues, new media, stadiums and security, as well as the commercial prospects of the Champions League and UEFA Cup. The club delegates applauded the proposal of Michael van Praag, chairman of the Stadium and Security Committee, to increase solidarity payments to the leagues (from Champions League revenue) in order to improve stadium infrastructure.

"We have made progress in terms of relations between the clubs and UEFA," concluded UEFA Chief Executive Lars-Christer Olsson, "and we will continue to do so". Joan Laporta, who chaired the meeting on the second day in the absence of Karl-Heinz Rummenigge, agreed, stressing the need to work together and remain united, while also pointing out that the clubs should assume their social responsibility.



The new European Club Forum board.

PHOTOS: UEFA-pjwoods.ch



Frank Rijkaard flanked by Sir Alex Ferguson and UEFA Technical Director Andy Roxburgh.



World champion Marcello Lippi with Frank Rijkaard and Juande Ramos, the winning coaches of the 2005/06 European club competitions.



Arsène Wenger (right) in conversation with Fabio Capello and Marcello Lippi.

Annual Elite Club Coaches Forum

Welcome to an all-star team

'PIONEERS' LIKE FABIO CAPELLO AND MARCELLO LIPPI FOUND IT HARD TO BELIEVE THAT THE ELITE CLUB COACHES FORUM STAGED FROM 31 AUGUST TO 1 SEPTEMBER AT THE INTERCONTINENTAL HOTEL IN GENEVA WAS THE EIGHTH EVENT OF ITS KIND. AND DEBUTANTS SUCH AS FRANK RIJKAARD, CHAMPION OF EUROPE WITH FC BARCELONA, OR JUANDE RAMOS, HEAD COACH OF THE UEFA CUP AND UEFA SUPER CUP CHAMPIONS, SEVILLA FC, QUICKLY REALISED HOW GOOD IT IS TO EXCHANGE VIEWS WITH COLLEAGUES IN WHAT IS ESSENTIALLY A LONELY PROFESSION.

The blend of 'old hands' and newcomers among a total of 17 coaches of 11 different nationalities represented an ideal squad for the annual meeting. The 2006 edition was special in that it followed hard on the heels of the FIFA World Cup – on which world champion Marcello Lippi was ideally placed to offer first-hand comment. A review of the finals in Germany, combined with analysis of last season's UEFA Champions League, provoked some fascinating debate on tactical trends – not least the fact that success in both competitions had been built on the foundations of effective defensive play. Analysis of

goal-scoring patterns, ball possession and the use of set plays also sparked off lively discussion.

In later sessions, the elite coaches were invited to give their input on the future of UEFA's club competitions. The outcome was a general endorsement of the current format for the UEFA Champions League, along with some interesting ideas about possible ways of reshaping the UEFA Cup in order to bring it closer to UEFA Champions League parameters.

The international calendar was, once again, the subject of debate at the end of a summer of intense nation-

nal team activity. The coaches, many of whose pre-season schedules had been complicated by the late return of players after the FIFA World Cup, expressed the need to develop a balanced, rational fixture list based on each year's workload (rather than a 'standard' annual calendar) so as to give coaches enough time to prepare their squads for another hectic season of club football.

Possible changes to the Laws of the Game were also debated – with emphasis on the controversial 'passive offside' rule and its consequences for the future of the game; the need to offer referees as much help as possible in assessing simulation; and the best ways of dealing with situations involving penalties, red cards and suspensions,

The participants:

Paulo Bento (Sporting Clube de Portugal), Fabio Capello (Real Madrid CF), Juande Ramos (Sevilla FC), Sir Alex Ferguson (Manchester United FC), Jesualdo Ferreira (FC Porto), Valeri Gazzaev (CSKA Moscow), Ricardo Gomes (FC Girondins de Bordeaux), Gérard Houllier (Olympique Lyonnais), Paul Le Guen (Rangers FC), Felix Magath (FC Bayern München), Manuel Pellegrini (Villarreal), Frank Rijkaard (FC Barcelona), Fernando Santos (SL Benfica), Thomas Schaaf (Werder Bremen), Trond Sollied (Olympiacos CFP) and Arsène Wenger (Arsenal FC). Marcello Lippi and FIFA head of technical development Holger Osieck were present as special guests.

which sometimes appear to be an excessive punishment for the 'crime' committed.

In other words, the event allowed the top club coaches to put their heads together to reflect on crucial issues. Contact with coaching colleagues is all too often limited to a pre-match handshake on the touchline, so the UEFA Elite Club Coaches Forum offers them a rare opportunity to get together in a non-competitive atmosphere. And one of the 'old hands' remarked, as he left Geneva, that the eighth edition had been the best one yet.



PHOTOS: UEFA-pjw@uefa.ch



Draw for the European Under-21 Championship play-offs in Nyon.

UEFA.plwoods.ch



Report from Brussels

The Independent European Sport Review will dominate a busy EU calendar in the final months of 2006. The EU institutions, member-state governments and UEFA have already started discussions about how best to implement the review's proposals. UEFA and its national associations must now make every effort to support the review, and ensure that it remains at the top of the EU sports agenda.

The independent review presents European sports governing bodies with a unique opportunity to secure a new legal framework that will allow them to run their sports in a more stable environment. Today, UEFA and its counterparts in other sports find their policies and regulations under constant attack in the courts. This produces legal uncertainty, and makes the task of good governance all the more difficult. The independent review proposes a new relationship between the EU, national government and sport. In return for greater transparency and better governance from its authorities, sport is set to receive fairer treatment from national and European regulators.

On 19 September, the UK's Sports Minister, Richard Caborn, convened a meeting in Brussels of his counterparts from Europe's four other largest professional leagues: →



José Luis Arnaut

Competitions and other activities

Fourteen qualify for play-offs

AN INTERMEDIARY EDITION OF THE EUROPEAN UNDER-21 CHAMPIONSHIP IS BEING ORGANISED THIS SEASON SO THAT THE FINAL ROUNDS OF THE COMPETITION CAN IN FUTURE BE HELD IN ODD RATHER THAN EVEN YEARS.



As a result of the reduction in time available, the group stage, which concluded at the beginning of September, involved

teams playing each of their opponents only once. In a draw held in Nyon on 8 September, the order of the knock-out matches between the 14 teams involved was decided:

*Serbia – Sweden
Czech Republic – Bosnia and Herzegovina
Russia – Portugal
France – Israel
England – Germany
Italy – Spain
Belgium – Bulgaria*

The matches will be staged on 6/7 and 10/11 October. The seven winners, along with the host nation, will play in the final round in the Nether-

lands in June 2007. The competition will also be used to decide which four nations will represent Europe at the Beijing Olympic Games in 2008.

Gate receipts from the club finals

The day before the draw for the group stage of the UEFA Champions League, the Club Competitions Committee held its first meeting of the season, led by its chairman, Friedrich Stickler.

The packed agenda included the gate receipt figures from last season's finals. At the Champions League final in Paris, record gate receipts were generated, enabling Barcelona and Arsenal to receive CHF 3,782,696 each, in addition to the prize money they had already been awarded, i.e. CHF 10 million and 6 million respectively.



FLASH PRESS

The France Under-21s (Jérémy Clément) qualified from a group which included Scotland and Slovenia.

→ France, Germany, Italy and Spain. The meeting discussed how best to promote and implement the review, three months after its publication. The review will next appear on the agenda of two forthcoming EU meetings: on 5/6 October in Finland, senior government officials in the field of sport will meet to prepare the next meeting of the EU's sports ministers, which will take place in Brussels on 27/28 November.

Meanwhile, José Luís Arnaut, chairman of the review, has undertaken a tour of European capitals, presenting his work to national sports ministers and parliamentary committees.

The independent review will feature strongly in UEFA's annual seminar on EU affairs, which will take place at the headquarters of the Belgian FA on 30 November/1 December. The European commissioner in charge of sport, Ján Figel, will join Mr Arnaut as a special guest speaker.

From the EU's point of view, the review could not have arrived at a more opportune moment, with both the European Commission and the European Parliament preparing their own reports on the future of sport. The commission aims to publish a white paper on sport in the second quarter of 2007, which will better define the special characteristics, or specificity, that demand that governments and regulators treat sport with particular sensitivity. In parallel, the European Parliament will produce a report on the 'future of professional football', on which all 732 MEPs will vote early in 2007.



Marc Timmer, head of the UEFA Stadium and Security unit, presents the fair-play prize to the captain of the German police team.

RUDI ARNDT

For the UEFA Cup final in Eindhoven, Sevilla and Middlesbrough each received CHF 954,784 from the net gate receipts. Sevilla were awarded CHF 5 million for their victory, while the runners-up received CHF 3.5 million.

The Committee was delighted with the financial success of the UEFA Champions League. In 2005/06, revenue was significantly higher than the target set at the start of the season, exceeding CHF 940 million, a figure that should even be bettered in the coming season. The participants also discussed the applications to host the club competition finals in 2008 and 2009. Seven national associations had applied to stage the Champions League finals, the same number as for the UEFA Cup. The files have been examined, visits have taken place and the decision will be taken in October.

Finally, the Committee granted the Austrian FA's request that, for the 2008/09 UEFA Cup, the place normally allocated to the winner of the Austrian Cup should be given to a club according to their league position. This is because the ÖFB wishes to protect the pitches at the EURO 2008 stadiums by ending the season early and reducing the fixtures calendar by cancelling the Austrian Cup for the 2007/08 season. The Committee stressed that this decision had been taken due to the exceptional circumstances.

UEFA Regions' Cup kicks off

The 5th UEFA Regions' Cup kicked off in August with matches in the first of the two preliminary round groups.



Northern Ireland Eastern Region won the mini-tournament in the Central-West Group, which it hosted from 19 to 23 August. Having finished ahead of teams from Finland, Scotland and Latvia, the Irish region will play in intermediary round group 4, along with the Czech Republic, England and Slovakia.

Matches in the second group (Central-East) will be played in Greece from 19 to 23 September and will

involve teams from Greece, Belarus, Moldova and Russia.

The two tournament winners will be joined in the intermediary round by the best runner-up.

Korea lift women's world title

Korea DPR won the 3rd Under-20 Women's World Championship, which was staged in Russia from 17 August to 3 September.

The two Asian teams participating in the competition managed to finish first and second, with China taking the runners-up spot after a 5-0 defeat in the final. Brazil won the bronze medal, beating the USA on penalties.

Korea DPR showed their quality in their very first group match, a 2-0 win over title-holders Germany. They topped their group with three wins out of three and a goal difference of 10-0.

Their toughest opponents were France, whom they beat 2-1 in the quarter-finals thanks to a last-minute winner. Germany were also eliminated at the quarter-final stage, beaten 4-1 by the USA, who won the tournament in 2002. The hosts, Russia, also reached the quarter-finals, where they lost 4-0 to China. The Russians also won the fair play award, which they shared with Korea.

Finland and Switzerland were the other European representatives.



Nadine Kessler and her German team-mates were unable to keep the FIFA U-20 Women's World Championship out of the clutches of Kim Kyong Hwa and the rest of the Korean team.

KOROTAYEV/BONGARTS/GETTY IMAGES



Everyone pulls together in the Open Fun Football Schools.

CCPA



EURO 2008 press conference in Monaco.

BOZZANI

European Police Football Championship

UEFA's cooperation with the police is not merely confined to security matters off the field – the European body is more than happy to give its support to police officers who enjoy playing football.

For ten years now, UEFA has given its backing to the Union Sportive des Polices d'Europe (USPE), an association which brings together 40 nations to compete in a total of 16 sporting disciplines.

In the most important discipline, football, the European Police Football Championship takes place every four years. Last year, 23 countries contested two qualifying rounds to determine the eight teams who took part in August's final round this year in the Ruhr region of Germany.

The hosts, Germany, came out on top, winning their tenth European title at this level in the 14th final round to be staged since the inaugural European

championship in 1950. In addition, the German team's exemplary conduct in the tournament earned them the UEFA fair play award.

Eight Open Fun Football leader and coach seminars in the Transcaucasus

From the middle to the end of July, a total of 540 coaches from Armenia, Georgia and Azerbaijan took part in eight Open Fun Football School (OFFS) seminars, the first time that such seminars had been organised in Armenia and Azerbaijan.



The instructors took the participants through a comprehensive programme constituting the first module of the "Cross Cultures" grassroots football education scheme. The three modules are:

1. Theory (a three-day educational seminar) – 30 hours

2. Practice (participation in a five-day OFFS) – 30 hours

3. Individual feedback (provided by the local OFFS instructor).

Hence, the "Cross Cultures Grassroots Certificate" entails 60 hours of training plus individual evaluation/feedback. It is a set-up that fulfils the general requirements laid down in the UEFA Grassroots Charter.

In 2006, a total of 45 Open Fun Football Schools (15 schools in each country) were held in the Transcaucasus, with some 9,000 children from different parts of the region and various ethnic and religious backgrounds coming together and creating friendships.

At each football school, parents are invited to a parents' day which includes a three-hour workshop. In this new initiative, the parents take part in an hour-long session of games followed by an interactive workshop. In small groups the parents discuss how



LOOKING AHEAD TO EURO2008



●○○ While the qualifying matches for EURO 2008 in Austria and Switzerland are now well under way, football fans are having to be patient. Ticket sales will not begin until spring 2007, with more than 1 million tickets available for the 31 matches.

Meanwhile, Pedro Correia, in charge of ticketing at Euro 2008 SA, has announced initial details of the ticketing arrangements.

Where and when can applications be made for tickets for the 2008 European Championship finals?

Tickets will be sold exclusively via www.euro2008.com – this is the best and simplest solution for all football fans. At present, we do not want to fix the precise date. We are talking about spring 2007, i.e. March or April.

What are the chances of getting a ticket?

I would say they are very good. The number of tickets available to fans is higher than ever before. UEFA's policy is to give as many tickets as possible to the parti-

cipating nations. In 2008, 20% of the total capacity will be reserved for each of the teams involved in each match. In total, more than 75% of the tickets will be sold to the public.

Are ticket prices fixed yet?

Prices will be reasonable. We will announce more details at a later date.

Press conference in Monaco

●○○ Although the gathering in Monaco is really a club football event, EURO 2008 took advantage of the fact that numerous media representatives were in town by inviting them to a presentation by Martin Kallen, COO of Euro 2008 SA. The large number of questions asked by the journalists demonstrated how much interest the final round is already generating and the organisers' desire to be as open as possible.

●○○ The tournament mascot will be officially unveiled on 27 September.



Lars-Christer Olsson, UEFA Chief Executive, welcomed representatives of the Austrian EURO 2008 organisers in Nyon.

GEPA



Happy days for kids at the Open Fun Football Schools.



UEFA President Lennart Johansson, assisted by AS Monaco player Jan Koller (far right), hands over the cheque to representatives of IBSA.

they can contribute to the development of children's football.

One of the football schools was established in the small Georgian village of Kraveli, 150 km east of the capital Tbilisi, close to the border with Chechnya. About 200 children were engaged in various activities and games. The stadium, with its unusual but impressive old walls, was alive with the sound of children and adults having a great time.

Impressed by what he saw, the local mayor promised that he would personally follow up the project in order to establish a permanent activity taking place three times a week during the season. This would be based on the Open Fun Football Schools concept and be supported by the CCPA. *"I am so happy. This project is exceptional. We haven't seen anything like this in our village for more than 20 years,"* he said.

At present there are many refugees from Abkhazia in the Tskhaltubo refugee camp in Imereti, Georgia. Some are staying temporarily in a former sanatorium and living in very difficult conditions. At the stadium there was a fantastic atmosphere under the burning sun, and some of the parents were sitting in the shade watching their children. In one of the breaks, two of the local youngsters put on a spectacular

traditional dance show in front of all the other children, for which they were warmly applauded.

In Armenia, one of the schools was situated in Noemberyan, a small village near the Georgian border whose name also refers to the 1917 revolution in Russia. Children from Armenia and Georgia met at the school and really enjoyed the games. Representatives from the local TV and press covered the event, and a lot of parents and curious local citizens watched from the sidelines.

In Azerbaijan, 200 children from Georgia and Azerbaijan took part in the Open Fun Football School organised at the city stadium in Agstafa. For each of the five days, from 9 am until 2 pm, the beat of music accompanied the children at the stadium in their fun-filled activities. Because of the fierce heat, the coaches organised frequent breaks in which the children could take refreshments. At all the football schools, the children were equipped with T-shirts, bracelets, UEFA caps and water bottles and each child received a diploma at the end.

CHF 1 million cheque for blind football

The event in Monaco is also an opportunity to show that football does not live in isolation from the rest of the world, but that it also cares about the less advantaged.

A cheque for CHF 1 million is presented each year in Monaco to a charitable organisation, with the money coming from the fines imposed in UEFA competitions. This year's cheque was awarded to the International Blind Sport Federation (IBSA), which promotes sport as a way of integrating blind people into society. IBSA works with 15 different sports.

This money will be used to support the blind futsal development project in Europe, which is to be implemented over three seasons, from 2006 until 2009. As part of the project, futsal for blind people will be developed through the organisation of a series of coaching and refereeing seminars, the purchase of equipment and the production of specific educational materials.

Blind footballers are aided by a sighted goalkeeper and two other guides situated along the touchlines. The ball is filled with small bells so the players know where it is.

President's Prize for Wilfried Straub



Lennart Johansson congratulates Wilfried Straub.

This year's UEFA President's Prize has been awarded to Wilfried Straub of Germany.

A well-known figure at UEFA, particularly in its professional football bodies, Wilfried Straub worked for many years in the Non-Amateur Football Committee and as an expert on transfers and marketing, as well as in the Professional Football Committee, of which he was a vice-chairman until this year.

As director of one of Europe's largest professional leagues, the German Football League, he has gathered a wealth of experience in all areas of professional football. This prize rewards his broad knowledge and expertise, his willingness to work closely with UEFA, his ever-positive attitude and, more generally, his contribution to German and international football.

UEFA President Lennart Johansson presented him with the award during the gala evening held after the Champions League draw.



News from member associations

AUSTRIA



International success for the Under-17 team

Austria's national Under-17 team have enjoyed a major success! The team coached by Peter Persidis, who also assists national senior team coach Josef Hickersberger, won the 18th edition of the Jugend TOTO Cup in Tyrol. It is the first time that the red and whites have ever won this prestigious youth tournament. The Austrians' 1-1 draw with Belgium in their final match was enough to secure the title, as Switzerland and Hungary drew 2-2. In their previous matches, Persidis' team beat the Swiss 2-0 and drew 1-1 with the holders Hungary.

As well as the trophy for winning the tournament, the Austrian team took home further awards. Christoph Kröpfl was named "player of the tournament", while Thomas Helly's two goals meant that he was joint top goalscorer in the Jugend TOTO Cup, along with three other players.



The tournament was again a total success both on and off the pitch. The event has an excellent reputation throughout Europe for providing top quality football. Every participating country is therefore keen to return in 2007 in order to compete for Austria's title!

In September, the team led by former Olympiacos defender Peter Persidis will be in action in Greece, where they will face Sweden, Liechtenstein and Greece in European Championship qualifying matches.

Peter Klinglmüller

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA



Muhamed Konjic retires from active play

Muhamed Konjic (born in 1970), the captain of the Bosnia and Herzegovina national team when they played their first official match against Albania 11 years ago in Tirana, on 30 November 1995, bowed



Thierry Henry congratulate Muhamed Konjic.

out of the national team in their recent friendly match against France, runners-up in the 2006 World Cup. The match was played at the Asim Ferhatovic Hase Olympic stadium in Kosevo in front of 35,000 spectators.

Konjic, who has also been playing for Derby County in England, decided to hang up his boots because of health problems.

He started his career with Sarajevo's FK Zeljeznica and went on to play for Famos, Zagreb, Zurich, Monaco and Coventry. He made 36 appearances for the national team, scored two goals, against Lithuania in Vilnius, and against FYR Macedonia in Zenica.

Vedin Music, who also appeared in the national team's first official match with Konjic, also played in the match against France.

Konjic retired in the fourth minute of the match and was substituted by Emir Spahic. They both wore the number 4 on their shirts. After saying goodbye to his Bosnian team-mates and coaches, Konjic received congratulations and best wishes from the French players he played with at AS Monaco: Thierry Henry, Willy Sagnol, Frank Ribery and David Trezeguet. The spectators also showed their appreciation of Konjic with a standing ovation and applause. He then threw his shirts and footballs to the fans. After the match, Thierry Henry gave his shirt to Konjic and wished him all the best for the future.

"I feel great. I didn't expect this support and appreciation at the end of my career, and I'm delighted. I want to thank

fans for this big ceremony," Muhamed Konjic said.

This match against France, which the visitors won 2-1, was the 96th since the foundation of the Football Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Their EURO 2008 qualifier against Greece on 12 October will be their 100th.

Fuad Kravac

DENMARK



Morten Olsen inspires Danish coaches

"It's all about inspiration, and all about talent development."

Three years ago, Danish head coach Morten Olsen came up with the idea of a national 'inspirational day' for Danish coaches from all over the country – no matter their experience or which teams they coach. This summer, together with the new head coach of the Under-17 national team, Glen Ridder-
sholm, Morten Olsen gave inspiration to the 460 coaches who participated over two days.



Morten Olsen.

The day is arranged to give the coaches inspiration for new training methods, new practices and ideas on how to make their training in their home clubs even more interesting, using practices from the senior national team, among others.

"I hope everyone will take some new ideas home with them, but, most of all, some specific tools to help the coaches to work with their home clubs. This is how we ensure that the new thoughts we have about how we want Danish football to be in the future – more ball possession and better technique – will be implemented in Danish clubs," Olsen said.

Pia Schou Nielsen

ENGLAND



Visit to Botswana

Former England internationals Paul Gascoigne and Ray Clemence visited Botswana in August as part of an FA goodwill mission hosted by the Botswana High Commission.



A sight to gladden Paul Gascoigne's heart.

The primary purpose of the visit was to promote The FA's international outreach programme and to demonstrate the power of football in raising awareness of HIV and AIDS.

Botswana is one of England's three partners in the UEFA-CAF Meridian Project and among the countries hardest hit by AIDS. In 2005 there were an estimated 270,000 people living with HIV – around a quarter of the population. Life expectancy is less than 40 years and an estimated 120,000 children have lost at least one parent to the epidemic.

The programme included an emotional visit to the Tlokweng SOS Children's Village near the capital Gaborone. SOS Children's Villages is The FA's international charity partner and Tlokweng provides homes for around 200 abandoned or orphaned children of all ages.

"It was heart-warming more than it was heart-breaking," said Paul Gascoigne. "The stories we heard about the children being abandoned or orphaned were very sad but the work of The FA, and with the likes of Ray and myself being here, it really seemed to help."

The visit ended with a training session for Botswana's most promising young footballers at the national stadium, integrating a variety of football games designed to raise awareness of the issues surrounding HIV and AIDS.

"Football is the world's most popular sport," explained FA Head of International Relations, Jane Bateman. "As such, I believe it has an immensely positive role to play in leaving a real social legacy in the countries where we work."

"In Botswana, the very future of young people is threatened by HIV; football has the opportunity to engage their interest and to convey messages which improve their knowledge and help to deal with the problem."

Jane Bateman

FINLAND



Women's football seminar and workshop

Fifty women who are involved in football in a professional or voluntary capacity (decision-makers, coaches, team leaders, kit managers, club managers, etc.) gathered for a two-day seminar and workshop in Nokia at the end of August. It was the first "women-only" event to be organised by the Finnish FA. The goal was to offer women the possibility to be in the majority for once at a football seminar.

Over the weekend, the participants got to know each other, swapped experiences and built networks. There were also presentations and discussions on women in sport/football. Special guest was the Swedish girls' and women's football legend Pia Sundhage, who talked about her experience as a woman working in different roles in football.

The participants also discussed the challenges which limit the number of women involved in football. They also made concrete suggestions for overcoming these challenges. For example, they suggested every decision-making group should always consist of at least 20% men and 20% women and that small groups should always have at least two delegates of each sex. There should also be joint male/female chairmanship. It was also proposed that every girls' and women's team should have at least one woman working with it, that women should be involved as instructors

and speakers at educational events and that specific women-only meetings should be organised for networking purposes.

During the next three years, the FA of Finland is going to develop and implement a strategy for increasing the number of women involved in football at both professional and voluntary levels. It is important to get more women involved in football, in order to benefit from the widest possible resources, views and abilities for developing Finnish football. Women are needed for the organisation and development of both girls' and women's football as well as boys' and men's football.

Minttu Paavola

GERMANY



Second Fritz Walter Medal award ceremony

The Fritz Walter Medal awards, which were inaugurated in 2005, have been presented for the second time, in connection with the international match between Germany and Sweden in Gelsenkirchen. The medals, awarded to the most promising youth players of the 2005/06 season, were presented by the director of sport of the German Football Association (DFB) Matthias Sammer and DFB coach Horst Hrubesch, the winners having been chosen by a panel of representatives from the DFB board, youth committee and coaching staff. With prize money also going to the amateur clubs which have trained the young



For once, the women were in the majority at a football seminar!



players, the Fritz Walter Medal is an annual award of gold, silver and bronze medals to the best players in the Under-17, Under-18 and Under-19 age groups for outstanding performances on the pitch and exceptional conduct off the pitch.

The medal winners for the 2005/06 season are listed below.

- **Girls** - Gold: Anna Blässe (FF USV Jena, year of birth: 1987) - Silver: Nadine Kessler (1. FC Saarbrücken, 1988) - Bronze: Stefanie Draws (FFV Neubrandenburg, 1989)
- **Boys Year of birth 1989 (Under-17)** - Gold: Lars Bender (TSV München 1860) - Silver: Marco Marin (Borussia Mönchengladbach) - Bronze: Sven Bender (TSV München 1860)
- **1988 (Under-18)** - Gold: Sergej Evljuskin (VfL Wolfsburg) - Silver: Alexander Eberlein (TSV München 1860) - Bronze: José-Alex Ikeng (VfB Stuttgart)
- **1987 (Under-19)** - Gold: Kevin-Prince Boateng (Hertha BSC Berlin) - Silver: Robert Flessers (Borussia Mönchengladbach) - Bronze: Daniel Adlung (SpVgg. Greuther Fürth)

Niels Barnhofer

HUNGARY



Security committee

The Hungarian Football Federation (MLSZ) has established a security committee to tackle discrimination and trouble in football stadiums. The federation's president, Istvan Kistelegi, invited police chiefs, the leaders of the biggest fan groups (Budapest Honvéd, Diosgyöri VTK, Debreceni VSC, Ferencváros and Újpest FC), the heads of the security steward companies and experts from the MLSZ administration to be part of the new body.

The aim of the new committee is to create a forum in which the different parties can cooperate effectively to prevent all forms of discrimination in football stadiums. It will also propose amendments to the MLSZ stadium and pitch regulations.

In one of its first decisions, the committee adopted a new rule, whereby only banners and flags approved by the competent football association and police authority as clearly having no political or provocative message can be taken into football grounds.

At the same time, the board of the federation, headed by Istvan Kistelegi, warned the Hungarian clubs that, following FIFA's lead, there would be zero tolerance of discriminatory behaviour at football grounds. Offending clubs risk anything from a three-point deduction for a first offence to relegation to a lower division.



Istvan Kistelegi speaks to the safety specialists.

"We must ensure order at football grounds, and for this we need the cooperation of all sides to be successful," Kistelegi said. "Apart from being necessary, it's also particularly relevant at the moment, as we would like to bring EURO 2012 to Hungary and Croatia."

Marton Dinnyes

LATVIA



Film on history of Latvian football released

On the day of Latvia's first EURO 2008 qualifying match, the Latvian national television station LTV1 showed the new film on the history of Latvian football and its rise to its present level. The film has been produced by the Latvian Football Federation (LFF) and will be released on DVD.

In other news, Latvian international striker Maris Verpakovskis, who plays for Dynamo Kiev, has been announced as a FIFA goodwill ambassador for SOS Children's Villages and recently opened the first SOS home in Jelgava, where nine orphans can now live in a new, renovated house with a nice garden.

Finally, during the summer, a football festival took place in the seaside resort of Salacgriva, where young people in four age groups from all of Latvia's football clubs competed. The attendance of so many parents was especially encouraging. The LFF has promised that children's football will be promoted next year through small tournaments organised by private organisations or businesses.

Martins Hartmanis

LIECHTENSTEIN



Cross-border friendship

Liechtenstein is celebrating – and so is its football. The friendly match between the national teams of Switzerland and Liechtenstein was a great success in all respects. Now the Liechtenstein Football Asso-

ciation (LFA) is looking forward to the visit of Austria.

Sport is playing an integral part in the events celebrating Liechtenstein's "200 Years of Sovereignty". Football is an important ambassador for the national identity; in particular, the matches played by Liechtenstein's national team demonstrate its sovereignty at home and abroad. Flags and anthems, for example, help to express it. The Swiss national team therefore came to help us celebrate with a match on 16 August. The friendly with Austria on 6 October will provide another tribute to cross-border friendship.

Tickets for the match between Liechtenstein and Switzerland sold out within half an hour. 4,835 spectators provided a fantastic atmosphere and a worthy setting at the Rheinpark Stadium in Vaduz. They witnessed a match in which – despite the festive mood – the Swiss gave nothing away and played some excellent football. Nothing could be done to prevent Switzerland's fifth victory (3-0 with goals from Frei (2) and Margairaz) in five matches against Liechtenstein.



Switzerland weren't giving anything away.

For five Liechtenstein players in particular, the match marked a double celebration. Mario Frick and Martin Telser were winning their 60th caps for the national team, Ronny Büchel his 40th, and Franz Burgmeier and Fabio D'Elia their 30th. After the game, an official gathering of guests from Liechtenstein and Switzerland was held at the Vaduz Hofkellerei.

Judith Frommelt

FYR MACEDONIA



15 years on

At the ceremony organised by the Football Federation of Macedonia at the Aleksandar Palace hotel in Skopje, Darko Pancev, the best scorer in Europe in 1990/91 and a legend in Macedonian football, finally received the Golden Boot awarded to him 15 years ago. The award, made



by the France Football sports paper, was presented to the former player of Vardar, Red Star Belgrade, Inter Milan, Leipzig, Fortuna Dusseldorf and Sion by the one of the world's greatest players, Michel Platini, a member of the FIFA and UEFA Executive Committees, who visited our country especially for this event at the invitation of the president of the federation, Haralampie Hadzi-Risteski.

The ceremony was honoured by the presence of the president of Red Star Belgrade, Dragan Stojkovic-Piksi, and the editor-in-chief of the French newspaper L'Equipe, Jean-Philippe Leclair, as well as a number of guests from political, religious, sport and cultural/entertainment circles.



Darco Pancev

"I would like another player from our country to get this award," said Macedonia's player of the century. "This is an honour not only for me but also for the whole country. I sincerely hope that it will motivate current and future generations to be the best, just as we have done our best to achieve this."

"One year ago, my friend Dragan (Stojkovic) called me and asked me to try to find the boot," Platini said. "It is very difficult for me as a Frenchman and former Juventus player to present the Golden Boot to the man who defeated Olympique de Marseille (in the final of the European Champion Clubs' Cup in 1991) and played for Inter Milan in the Italian Calcio," he laughed.

"Brazil have Pele, France Platini, Serbia Pixie, and we have Pancev," said Haralampie Hadzi-Risteski, who entrusted Michel Platini a year ago with the task of trying to bring the award to the still popular "Cobra", Pancev's nickname.

Zoran Nikolovski

MALTA



Annual referees' seminar

The technical preparation of referees and assistant referees is an ongoing process which demands continuous meetings, instructional sessions and seminars throughout the year.

An annual activity organised by the Malta FA Referees Board is an inten-



Malta FA president Joseph Mifsud speaks to the referees.

sive pre-season seminar held under the auspices of UEFA in which various topics on the Laws of the Game and updated instructions for match officials are covered by a lecturer of repute.

This year it was the turn of Keith Hackett, a UEFA referee instructor, to conduct the three-day seminar, which dealt with several aspects of refereeing.

Apart from the amendments to the Laws of the Game 2006, the other main topics dealt with the management of the free-kick (under the title of match control), determining offside, pre-match talk, positioning for proper reading of the game and the relationship between referees and coaches.

The activity, held at the national stadium complex, was well attended, by referees and assistant referees, including women officials, with the themes thoroughly delved into and the participants taking an active part in the workshops and plenary sessions.

Such seminars are very important in helping Maltese referees keep abreast of new developments in controlling the game, and this in the all-important context of uniformity.

Judging by the standard of refereeing in Malta, whose referees perform in peculiar circumstances due to the smallness of the island, the officials are clearly doing a good job.

Alex Vella

NETHERLANDS



Two great names pass away

The Dutch FA (KNVB) lost two great names within a period of ten days.

Faas Wilkes died on 15 August in Rotterdam. He was the greatest player of the first generation of professional players. He was a stylish forward who could decide a match single-handed. He was famous

for his long runs and dribbles. Faas (his given name was Servaas) started playing football for Rotterdam club Xerxes. In 1949 he was only the third Dutch player to move abroad. Internazionale was the club that signed him. Soon he received the nickname Il Tuilipano. After three years he moved to Turin and in 1953 he changed Italy for Spain when he joined Valencia, where he played for three years. In those days Wilkes was one of the famous foreign names in Spanish football together with Di Stefano and Kubala.



His professional years abroad prevented a long career in the Dutch national team since professional football was not introduced in the Netherlands until 1954 and as a non-amateur Wilkes was not considered eligible by the KNVB. Thus he missed out on seven years of international football. In his 38 matches Faas Wilkes managed to score an incredible tally of 35 goals. Johan Cruyff has always said that Faas Wilkes was his great role model when he was a youngster.

In 1999, at the age of 76, Wilkes made a final – though very brief – appearance in a team that was called "the Oranje of the century". Wilkes was knighted by the KNVB in 1964. He died of heart failure at the age of 82 in his birthplace, Rotterdam.

Ten days later, the KNVB received the sad news of the demise of John



Blankenstein. He had been suffering from a rare kidney disease. Blankenstein was a well-known international referee. He started his career in non-professional football at the age of 23.

He admitted that he was never a great player himself and that was his main reason for changing careers. In 1979 he became a professional referee and continued to serve in that capacity until his age forced him to retire in 1996. In between, he officiated at 502 matches at top level in the Netherlands. He had his own remarkable style, being able to snap at players who did not agree with his decisions. When a player once remarked that he was no good at all, Blankenstein replied: "They must have sent me to the right match then, since none of you are very good either".

Internationally, John Blankenstein took charge of 88 matches, one of them being the second leg of the 1992/93 UEFA Cup final between Juventus and Borussia Dortmund. He represented the KNVB as a referee at EURO 1992 in Sweden as well.



When he retired from active refereeing, he joined the KNVB as head of the referees' department. For the last few years, he had been working on the refereeing master plan, scouting and training talented young referees.

He died on 25 August and was buried in The Hague on 31 August. He was only 57.

Rob de Leede

NORTHERN IRELAND



Football for All Pan-Disability Fun Week

With support from UEFA, the EU Programme for Peace and Reconciliation, Castlereagh Borough Council, Mulholland and Docherty, Sports Council Northern Ireland and the Northern Ireland Community Relations Council, the Irish Football Association (IFA) launched its third annual free "Football For All Pan-Disability Fun Week"



Football really should be for everyone.

for young people between the ages of eight and 17 at Belvoir Activity Centre in South Belfast on Monday 28 August.

This fun week provides an opportunity for young people with disabilities to enjoy the sport of football in a safe, fun and inclusive atmosphere. Youngsters with cerebral palsy, wheelchair users, young people with Downs syndrome and those with learning disabilities all get the opportunity to play football together throughout the week in a fun environment. The participants who so wish then have the opportunity to get involved in the various IFA Disability Football For All initiatives. For example, six players from the current Northern Ireland Cerebral Palsy team took part in the first free Football For All Pan-Disability Fun Week back in 2004. Providing such opportunities for young footballers is an in-

tegral part of the IFA's Football For All Programme.

Michael Boyd

REPUBLIC OF IRELAND



Women's development plan launched

Recently, John O'Donoghue T.D., Minister for Arts, Sport & Tourism, officially launched the 'Women's Development Plan' on behalf of the Football Association of Ireland (FAI) and the Women's Football Association of Ireland (WFAI).

The plan was devised using the results of an extensive study and stakeholder consultation for the FAI's technical development plan. It is designed to increase the number of female participants, including coaches, referees and administrators, for the development of female players under the leadership of the FAI/WFAI from 2006 to 2010.

As with the FAI's technical development plan, it has been developed with a firm player-centred approach and focuses on the four major stages of a player's development, as follows.

- Stage 1: Introduction to Football
- Stage 2: Club/League Programme
- Stage 3: Emerging Talent
- Stage 4: International

This plan sets out measurable activities and targets which will drive the achievement of specific objectives in each of these programmes. The implementation of the plan will be driven by the women's development unit of the FAI technical department.

■ Last month, the FAI were delighted to host the Cerebral Palsy European Championships, which were held at University College Dublin. An added incentive for this competition was that a top-three finish guaranteed teams a place in the 2007 Beijing Paralympics. Reigning world and European champions Ukraine retained their title as they stylishly overcame Russia in the final by 5-2. In the third-place play-off, the Netherlands overcame the Republic of Ireland to win 2-1 and secure their passage to the Beijing Paralympics next year.

■ The *eircom* league clubs have voted to merge with the FAI and accept fundamental changes to the league's structural, competition and governance areas. Subject to ratification at an FAI EGM in September, the new four-tier *eircom* league will now be run by the FAI from the 2007 season.

The league clubs voted to overhaul all aspects of its operations following a consultative and communications pro-

gramme over recent weeks led by the FAI's Chief Executive, John Delaney, and the chairman of the *eircom* league, Paddy McCaul.

Commenting on the clubs' acceptance, John Delaney said he was delighted. "I strongly believe this vote will bring the league to a whole new level, not overnight, but within three years we should have a fundamentally changed and improved senior domestic league."

Fran Whearty



A plan to increase the number of women in football.

SCOTLAND



Numerous appointments

The Scottish FA has made a number of senior appointments which will have a positive impact on the future development of the game in Scotland.

Archie Knox has been appointed to the full-time position of national coach for Scotland's youth teams. The most high-profile element of this new post is the management of the Scotland Under-21 team, but it also includes overall managerial responsibility for taking forward all of the men's national age group teams, through to Under-21 level.

He reports to Walter Smith, the national coach, with whom he has had a long and successful working relationship, dating back to their playing days.

Jim Fleeting has been promoted to Director of Football Development, following the departure of Jim Sinclair to take up a similar post at Rangers FC. Another to leave the Scottish FA for Rangers was Tommy Wilson, but he will remain in charge of the Scotland Under-20 squad in next summer's FIFA Under-20 World Cup in Canada.

David Kells has become Group Commercial Director, a post he will combine with his previous role as Managing Director of Hampden Park, the national stadium.





Communications

Birthdays – Calendar

Birthdays

Leonard Nokes (Wales), member of the Football Turf Experts Panel, celebrates his 50th birthday on 10 October. Frans Hoek (Netherlands), technical instructor, joins him at the half-century mark on 17 October, followed by Antonin Herzog (Czech Republic), futsal delegate, on the 24th.

UEFA also wishes many happy returns in October to:

- Trevor Brooking (England, 2.10)
- Levent Bicakci (Turkey, 2.10)
- Andrzej Wach (Poland, 2.10)
- David Richards (England, 3.10)
- Léon Schelings (Belgium, 3.10)
- Wilfried Heitmann (Germany, 4.10)
- Silvo Borosak (Slovenia, 4.10)
- Kennet Tallinger (Sweden, 4.10)
- Frank Coulston (Scotland, 5.10)
- Kaare Inge Lindboe (Norway, 6.10)
- Graham Mackrell (England, 6.10)
- Angelo Carlos Brou (Portugal, 7.10)
- Armand Duka (Albania, 7.10)
- Jari Maisonlahti (Finland, 7.10)
- Pierre Delaunay (France, 9.10)
- Sergey Zuev (Russia, 9.10)
- Ellert B. Schram (Iceland, 10.10)
- Milovan Nikolic (Slovenia, 10.10)
- David Petriashvili (Georgia, 10.10)
- Joan Gaspart (Spain, 11.10)
- Frits Kessel (Netherlands, 12.10)
- Bo Karlsson (Sweden, 12.10)
- Willy Goovaerts (Belgium, 13.10)
- Jean-Pierre Morlans (France, 13.10)
- George Brian Smith (Scotland, 14.10)
- Tom van der Hulst (Netherlands, 15.10)
- Michel Piraux (Belgium, 15.10)
- David Blood (Republic of Ireland, 16.10)
- John Delaney (Republic of Ireland, 16.10)
- Jean-Marie Philips (Belgium, 17.10)
- René Hüsey (Switzerland, 19.10)
- Christian Müller (Germany, 19.10)
- Imre Bozóky (Hungary, 20.10)
- Ramiz Mirzayev (Azerbaijan, 20.10)
- Joseph Bertram Worrall (England, 21.10)
- Paul Philipp (Luxembourg, 21.10)
- Philip Pritchard (Wales, 22.10)
- Arie Wolf (Israel, 22.10)
- Mircea Sandu (Romania, 22.10)
- Jan C. Huijbregts (Netherlands, 23.10)
- Michel Vautrot (France, 23.10)

- Dragutin Karlo Poljak (Croatia, 23.10)
- Pekka Hämmäläinen (Finland, 25.10)
- Hugh Dallas (Scotland, 26.10)
- Perry Gautier (Belgium, 26.10)
- Javier Lozano Cid (Spain, 28.10)
- Rui Cacador (Portugal, 29.10)
- Bertus van Gostveen (Netherlands, 30.10)
- José Luis Astiazaran Iriondo (Spain, 31.10)

Upcoming events

Meetings

2.10.2006, Nyon

Club Competitions Committee
Draw for the European Futsal Championship qualifying phase

3.10.2006, Nyon

Draw for the UEFA Cup group matches

4-5.10.2006, Ljubljana

Executive Committee

9.10.2006, Nyon

Draw for the 2007-09 European Women's Championship preliminary round

12.10.2006, Nyon

Futsal Committee

23-27.10.2006, Coverciano

UEFA course for coach educators

25-26.10.2006, Nyon

Meeting of general secretaries of member associations

31.10.2006, Nyon

Draw for UEFA Futsal Cup elite round

Competitions

10-16.10.2006

UEFA Futsal Cup: main round

17-18.10.2006

UEFA Champions League: group matches (match day 3)

19.10.2006

UEFA Cup: group matches (match day 1)

31.10.2006

UEFA Champions League: group matches (match day 4)

Notices

- On 28 July, the Football Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina elected Milan Jelic as its new president.
- On 8 August, Peter Rees was elected president of the FA of Wales.
- The executive committee of the Bulgarian FA has appointed Borislav Popov as the association's new general secretary.

Obituaries

- **Lucien Schmidlin**, honorary member of UEFA since the 1984 UEFA Congress in Paris, passed away on 27 August, a few days before his 88th birthday. A former



chairman of FC Basel, Lucien Schmidlin played an active role in Swiss football and joined UEFA as a member of the committee for non-amateur and professional football in 1968. He then sat on various committees before being elected to the Executive Committee in 1973. In 1978, he became UEFA's treasurer, a position he held until 1984.

- **Claus Rode**, head of the Danish football league for 17 years, died on 28 August aged 56. From 2000 to 2006, he served on UEFA's Professional Football Committee and was also involved in working groups relating to professional football.

- **Giacinto Facchetti**, two-times winner of the European Champion Clubs' Cup with FC Internazionale and, at international level, European champion and World Cup runner-up with Italy, died on 4 September at the age of 64. After hanging up his boots, he remained with Inter in a management capacity and had been the club's chairman since 2004. He was a former member of UEFA's Fair Play Committee and at the time of his death was still a member of the Technical Development Committee.

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