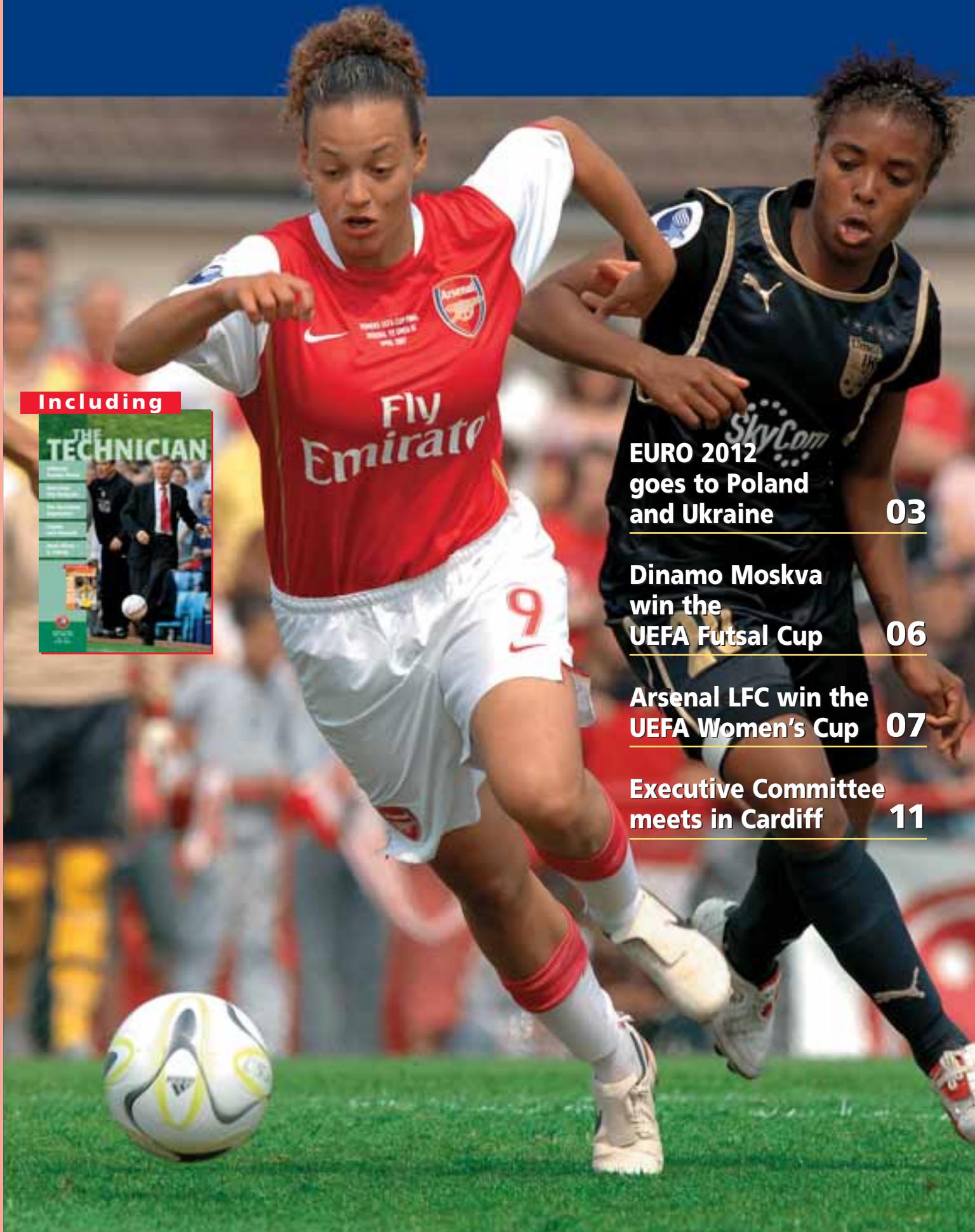


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Photos: UEFA-P. Piwozds, ch

Message of the president

A vote of confidence

The Executive Committee took a historic decision in Cardiff by electing Poland and Ukraine as co-hosts of EURO 2012. The decision caused some surprise and prompted many comments. I do not want to add to those comments here, but would just like to highlight the significance of this decision in UEFA's development.

During the 1990s, UEFA's world was turned upside down following the break-up of the Soviet Union and the splitting up of Yugoslavia. UEFA's membership underwent a rapid expansion, requiring the competition structures to be modified at a time when, moreover, football's market value had reached an unprecedented high.

The challenge faced by UEFA was to integrate the new associations – many of which lacked experience and resources – into an organisation that was already affected by growing inequality of means among its members and, from a legal point of view, by whether their countries were part of the European Union or not. Not only that, but it was also a question of integrating them by endeavouring to raise them as close as possible to the level of the better-off associations, as opposed to levelling everyone down.

Today, the challenge has still not been fully met, but undeniable and considerable progress has been achieved. It is in this light that the decision to invite Poland and Ukraine to co-host UEFA's flagship competition reveals its full significance.

It is, first of all, a sign of confidence not only in the ability of the hosts to take on this awesome task, but, above all, in football's extraordinary rallying and motivational powers. It will also make a major contribution to levelling out European football, by placing a powerful focus on the east of the continent and, at the same time, providing it with means of development beyond compare.

But, more than anything else, it is an opportunity to fulfil UEFA's stated mission to promote football throughout Europe.



Michel Platini
UEFA President

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COVER

Lianne Sanderson breaks free from Marta: the energy of Arsenal Ladies proved stronger than the experience of Umeå in the UEFA Women's Cup final.

Photo: Empics Sport/PA Photos

EURO 2012

Awarded to Poland and Ukraine



AT ITS MEETING IN CARDIFF ON 17 AND 18 APRIL, THE UEFA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE DECIDED WHO WOULD HOST EURO 2012, VOTING IN FAVOUR OF THE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATIONS OF POLAND AND UKRAINE.

The bidding procedure for the tournament began back in February 2005 and, for the first time, was split into two phases. To begin with, five bids were confirmed to the UEFA administration: joint bids from Croatia and Hungary, and from Poland and Ukraine, as well as individual bids from Greece, Italy and Turkey.

In November of the same year, the Executive Committee made an initial selection, based on the evaluation reports it had received, shortlisting the bids of Croatia/Hungary, Italy and Poland/Ukraine.

This first decision was followed by visits to the countries concerned,

discussions, detailed examinations of the bids and the signature of initial agreements and guarantees. The final decision should have been taken last December, but in the light of the experience of the ongoing negotiations for EURO 2008, and in view of the expansion of a tournament of this kind outside the stadiums (in particular, in the form of fan parks), it was postponed until the Executive Committee's meeting in April, in order to study the bids in greater depth.

As a result of the strict procedure adopted by the Executive Committee, the successful bid was not revealed

until it was announced by the UEFA president at Cardiff City Hall in front of the delegations of the bidders and the media. It took just one ballot to secure a result, with Poland and Ukraine obtaining a comfortable majority of eight votes out of 12 (the Italian and Ukrainian members of the Executive Committee were not entitled to vote).

"We must thank the five associations involved, as well as the political authorities and the fans for their incredible backing of their respective bids," the UEFA president said.

The successful bid comprises the following eight host cities: Gdansk, Poznan, Warsaw and Wroclaw in Poland, and Dnipropetrovsk, Donetsk, Kiev and Lvov in Ukraine. Every stadium has to be renovated or built from scratch.



City of Heerenveen

The centre of Heerenveen was awash with the colours of the participating teams.



Tournament director Harry Been.
KNVB/Jan de Koning



European Under- 21 Championship

Dutch ready for kick-off

WHEN THE FINAL ROUND OF THE EUROPEAN UNDER-21 CHAMPIONSHIP

KICKS OFF ON 10 JUNE IN HEERENVEEN, IT WILL BE THE START OF ANOTHER EXCITING

FOOTBALL EVENT FOR DUTCH FOOTBALL FANS.

They will be hoping for a repetition of the successful and most entertaining international tournaments that the Dutch hosted in 2000 and 2005. Seven years ago, the Netherlands co-hosted EURO 2000 with southern neighbours Belgium. Two years ago, six host cities were alight with enthusiasm during the FIFA World Youth Championship in 2005.

In order to organise the under-21 event successfully, the Royal Netherlands Football Association (KNVB) founded the legal entity Euro 2007 as the local organising committee (LOC), which can operate legally, commercially and financially independently of the football association itself. The president of the foundation is KNVB president Mathieu Sprengers, while KNVB's general secretary Harry Been was appointed as tournament director. Both men held the same positions during the two previous major international events and have quite some experience under their belts.

Festive

The allocation of the four host cities was a difficult choice out of many highly suitable candidates. In the end, one decisive factor was the intention of Arnhem, Groningen, Heerenveen and Nijmegen to turn their venues into a festive football area for competitors and fans alike. With their memories of 2005 still fresh in their minds, the fans are likely to turn up in large numbers, just as the volunteers have already done in order to fill the hundreds of vacancies that were available. An agency has selected and

trained over 600 volunteers, who will operate as drivers, attendants and assistants in various fields.

Attendance

With over 120,000 tickets sold by 1 May, expected attendance has already exceeded the number of spectators in Germany for the under-21 final round in 2004. The LOC sincerely hopes that ticket sales will have passed the total for last year's tournament in Portugal even before the tournament kicks off on 10 June.

Over the last few months, dozens of activities in and around the host cities have alerted potential fans to the European Under-21 Championship final round. School competitions, club tournaments and one-off events have had their effect on the general mood of the public and ticket sales in particular. The official European under-21 trophy has been on tour in the four host cities since the launch of ticket sales on 19 January. The highlight of this tour was a one-day trip in an eye-catching vehicle containing championship ambassador Frank de Boer and tournament director Harry Been on 21 May. Frank de Boer has been instrumental in the promotional campaign for the event. He attended at least one major promotional event in each of the host cities. A promotional team, the "UEFA Under-21 Hit Squad", have visited well-attended events all around the country since 20 April, focussing

attention on the football event taking place from 10 to 23 June.

Art4Football

Four hundred primary schools in the four venues received an invitation to take part in the educational and cultural project Art4Football, for which children produce a work of art which is exhibited in their local area first. The best efforts – expressing Dutch hospitality and the international flavour of the tournament – will be offered to the competing teams upon their arrival in the Netherlands. Thus, young and old are making sure that no one is going to regret UEFA moving the final round of its European Under-21 Championship from even to odd-numbered years.

Rob de Leede

KNVB/Jan de Koning



Ismail Aissati,
one of the
key members
of the Dutch
U21 team.

The Euroborg stadium in Groningen, where the final will be played.



The team of former stars which faced FC Hercules in Utrecht.

UEFA

A team to promote the tournament

FOR THE FIRST TIME, THE FINAL ROUND OF THE EUROPEAN UNDER-21 CHAMPIONSHIP IS BEING STAGED IN AN ODD-NUMBERED YEAR. THE PURPOSE OF THIS CHANGE, WHICH WAS ADOPTED BY THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, IS TO RAISE THE PROFILE OF THIS COMPETITION WHICH, UNTIL NOW, HAS ALWAYS BEEN HELD IN THE SHADOW OF THE EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP OR WORLD CUP FINALS.

In order to achieve this objective and give the tournament the publicity that the quality of its participants deserves, UEFA, in addition to the measures taken by the Dutch organisers, has, as part of its event promotion programme, created the "UEFA Under-21 Hit Squad", a team responsible for promoting the event by raising the public's awareness of it. Composed of experts and a number of Dutch football stars such as Frank de Boer, the tournament's ambassador, it has organised a series of football-based activities throughout the country, with a particular focus on young people. The programme features 21 such activities, in accordance with the age category of this European Championship tournament.

These promotional activities, supported by the tournament's official sponsors, kicked off in Amsterdam on 1 April, when the public were able to meet Frank de Boer and see the competition trophy.

The activities, which also give the public the chance to win tickets for the matches, took place throughout April and continue in Heerenveen, Groningen, Arnhem and Nijmegen, the tournament's host cities, as well as Amsterdam and Utrecht, following a timetable that can be viewed on the uefa.com website,

along with other information about the tournament.

For example, the "UEFA Under-21 Hit Squad" joined in the 125th anniversary celebrations of Utrecht club USV Hercules, one of the oldest Dutch clubs, on a day culminating in a match between FC Hercules and a team of former Dutch internationals, including Frank de Boer, Rob and Richard Witschge and Hans van Breukelen.

In Amsterdam, at the traditional "Queen's Day" celebrations which draw huge crowds into the city, the Mayor of Amsterdam,

Job Cohen, and Dutch football stars including Arsenal's Robin van Persie and Dutch internationals Ryan Babel and Romeo Castelen took part in the promotional activities. Guests were invited on board a boat to test the speed of their shots, an initiative which proved extremely successful.

Fan participation is one of the key features of this campaign. Penalty workshops, "Shoot to Win" competitions, mini-pitch matches and two-a-side street football are all included in a programme that will also feature a 21-hour non-stop football marathon organised by the local organising committee and finishing just before the first match played in each of the four host cities, which will also stage their own "Fan Festivals".



An autograph session for international player Romeo Castelen as part of the "Queen's Day" promotional activities.

UEFA



The semi-final between Dinamo Moskva and Action 21 Charleroi (left) and between ElPozo Murcia and Boomerang Interviú.



The trophy on display as the finalists come onto the pitch.

UEFA Futsal Cup

The late, late show in Murcia

TO USE THE 'THIRD TIME LUCKY' CLICHÉ ABOUT MFK DINAMO MOSKVA'S VICTORY IN THE UEFA FUTSAL CUP WOULD BE UNFAIR TO THE CHAMPIONS.

After defeats in the previous two finals, their success was not down to luck but rather to discipline, self-belief and sheer talent. After the final, their coach, Yury Rudnev, admitted: "I have no strength or emotions left". The emotional scenes after the match were summed up when Dinamo's president, former futsal superstar Konstantin Eremenko, emerged from a dressing-room drenching and insisted on "savouring the special moment" by taking a solitary stroll with his wife through the sultry Murcia night.

But let's start at the beginning. For the first time, the dénouement of the UEFA Futsal Cup was a four-team final tournament rather than a home-and-away confrontation between the finalists. In many, many ways, it was a great success. The hosts, ElPozo Murcia

Turística FS, did a magnificent job of staging the event, in conjunction with the local authorities and the Spanish national association, at the impressive Palacio Municipal de Deportes in Murcia. The 'final four' tournament could thus be given a spectacular brand identity, sponsorship could be more easily attracted, and TV coverage (by Eurosport and other Spanish and Russian networks) was more rationally organised. The event undoubtedly served as great promotion for futsal at club level.

Reservations were on the sporting side. All four coaches stressed that it was hardly fair on Boomerang Interviú to reach the final without being able to play a single match in front of their own fans. And defeat for the host team in the semi-finals undoubtedly affected attendance on the



final day when, had ElPozo been up for the gold medal, the pavilion would have been, as the Spanish saying goes, full right up to the flag. These points will doubtless feature on the agenda when the future structure of the competition is debated.

The hosts' presence in the final had seemed a sporting probability when they were leading their domestic arch-rivals Boomerang Interviú 2-1 with just over two minutes left on the clock – only for Boomerang to come back with two late, late goals, the last of which hit the net 1.07 seconds before the hooter. Bouncing back from such a hammer blow was not easy – and Duda's team needed a late goal of their own to draw 1-1 with Action 21 Charleroi and take the bronze medal in a penalty shoot-out.

As their coach, Christian Vavádio, pointed out, the Belgians had survived their financial crisis but had travelled to Murcia to dispute their fourth final with a young team and with remote hopes of success. He undersold his side's potential as, apart from taking the hosts to the wire, they had made Dinamo work very hard for a 3-1 semi-final victory.

Dinamo started the final so strongly that Jesús Candelas, coach of the two-time European champions, was prompted to call a time-out after just over seven minutes. Five minutes later, with Boomerang goalkeeper Luís Amado keeping them in the game with a string of fine saves, Yury Rudnev called a time-out when Dinamo were awarded a free kick. He told his players what to do – and they did it: 1-0. But, again, there was to be late drama. Player-goalkeeper Neto equalised with 1'27 on the clock, only for Pula, exactly 60 seconds later, to give Dinamo a 2-1 win and their first gold medal. It was a fittingly emotional finale to a spectacular three-day show.



Photos: Sportsfile

26.04	MFK Dinamo Moskva – Action 21 Charleroi	3-1 (1-1)
26.04	ElPozo Murcia – Boomerang Interviú	2-3 (1-1)
28.04	ElPozo Murcia – Action 21 Charleroi	1-1 (1-0)*
28.04	MFK Dinamo Moskva – Boomerang Interviú	2-1 (1-0)

* ElPozo winners after penalty kicks

First European success for Dinamo Moskva.



Empics Sport/PA Photos

Emma Byrne had a superb match in goal for Arsenal LFC.



Rejoicing was all the greater as the English team were the underdogs.

Sportsfile



Alex Scott, who scored the only goal of the final, celebrates victory with skipper Jayne Ludlow.

Sportsfile



UEFA Women's Cup final 2006/07

First European title for Arsenal Ladies

THANKS TO A NARROW 1-0 AGGREGATE VICTORY AFTER TWO HARD-FOUGHT MATCHES AGAINST UMEÅ IK, ARSENAL LFC GOT THEIR NAMES ON THE UEFA WOMEN'S CUP FOR THE FIRST TIME.

Despite the meagre goal tally, the sixth Women's Cup final was an exciting, high-class game between two clubs from England and Sweden with completely different playing styles. The Swedes from Umeå boasted several highly talented individuals, especially the technically outstanding Brazilian Marta, the 2006 FIFA Women's World Player of the Year, while Arsenal Ladies were noted for their dynamism, speed and determination.

A decisive extra-time goal

In the end, a superb strike by Arsenal's Alex Scott in the dying seconds of the first leg in Sweden was the difference between the two teams. Throughout both matches, the goal seemed to be boarded up for four-time finalists Umeå. The Swedes dominated for most of the time but were repeatedly denied by outstanding Irish goalkeeper Emma Byrne, by the woodwork or ultimately by their own finishing. In the last 15 minutes of the return leg in London alone, Marta and 16-year-old substitute Ramona Bachmann created half-a-dozen golden chances. Capped 116 times for Sweden, Umeå skipper Karolina Westberg was understandably disappointed: "The goal just didn't want to go in. We had a lot of chances to score but sometimes it's just not

your lucky day. But Arsenal are a very good team. They are very physical, good players and they played a good match as well."

Long-awaited first for the "Lady Gunners"

Naturally Arsenal Ladies were in very different spirits after the second leg. Goalkeeper Emma Byrne, who played a large part in Arsenal's triumph with a string of brilliant saves, was almost lost for words. "I'm still coming to terms with the fact that we are European champions. I'm feeling ecstatic, overwhelmed and a little bit emotional – the whole thing is still sinking in." Despite the apparent superiority

21 April 2007, Umeå
Attendance: 6,265
Referee: Christine Beck (Germany)
Umeå IK – Arsenal LFC 0-1
Goals: 91' Scott 0-1

29 April 2007, Borehamwood
Attendance: 3,467
Referee: Nicole Petignat (Switzerland)
Arsenal LFC – Umeå IK 0-0



A strong tackle by Arsenal player Rachel Yankey at the expense of Lisa Dahlqvist.

of the Swedes, Arsenal Ladies fully deserved their success thanks to an immaculate fighting performance, in which both wingers, Karen Carney and Rachel Yankey, were particularly conspicuous.

New faces

This was the first edition of the UEFA Women's Cup that was not won by a team from Germany or Sweden. Whether the trophy will move to a fourth country next season remains to be seen. The 2007/08 competition promises to be tight since both the losing semi-finalists, Kolbotn IL from Norway and Brøndby IF from Denmark, will be looking to reach the final next time. Last year's winners, 1. FFC Frankfurt, who suffered a surprise defeat at the hands of Kolbotn IL, will be approaching the new European season with renewed hunger for success. The new cup campaign gets under way with the draw for the first and second qualifying rounds on 5 July at UEFA headquarters in Nyon.



Photos: IFA/Spike Hill

Lawrie Sanchez

A successful coach for Northern Ireland

LAWRIE SANCHEZ HAS BEEN THE MOST SUCCESSFUL NORTHERN IRELAND FOOTBALL MANAGER SINCE THE HEADY ERA OF BILLY BINGHAM MORE THAN 20 YEARS AGO.

With an overall record of 11 wins from his 32 games in charge, Sanchez had moved three wins ahead of Bryan Hamilton, who achieved eight wins between 1993 and 1997. Having accumulated 22 competition points to date, Sanchez only needed one more competitive win to overtake Hamilton's

total of 24 competition points, but had played four games less.

Having scored 35 goals since Sanchez' arrival in January 2004, the Northern Ireland team scored more goals under him than under any manager since Billy Bingham, who took the country to two World Cups, in 1982 and 1986.

All this was achieved despite Sanchez taking over a team on a record run of 13 games without scoring a goal and 14 games without winning a match.

The latest win over Sweden, on 28 March, took Northern Ireland top of Group F in the EURO 2008 qualifiers (the first time they have led a group in over 20 years) and saw striker David Healy named leading goal scorer of the tournament with nine goals.

Barren period before Sanchez' arrival

On appointment, Sanchez promised three things: a rise in the rankings, scoring goals and winning games.

The good times started rolling with immediate effect.

In Sanchez' first game in charge, against Norway on 18 February 2004, Healy, who had been in the team throughout the 13-match 1,298-minute goal drought, scored for his country for the first time in more than two years.

Northern Ireland not only started winning matches, but, under Sanchez, beat world class opposition of the calibre of England, Spain and Sweden and

achieved a draw against World Cup semi-finalists Portugal.

The country is currently ranked 33 by FIFA thanks to a further six points gained in the March wins over Liechtenstein and Sweden. This is a rise of 91 places since Sanchez took over, when the country was ranked 124.

Building the team around Healy

In 32 games, Sanchez marshalled his team to 11 wins and ten draws.

He built the Northern Ireland team around Healy – positioning players to support and feed the striker – and it has paid off in spades. Under the manager immediately prior to Sanchez, Healy scored only eight goals in 29 matches.

Under Sanchez, the Leeds United striker hit the net 21 times in 27 appearances (scoring in 15 of the games) including two hat tricks (against Spain and Liechtenstein).

High expectations

This tiny country – with a population of less than two million – has most of its international players plying their trade in the English championship. The squad includes a handful of Premiership players.

Despite having such a small pot to draw from, Sanchez was forceful in his expectations. On first meeting the players, he insisted he wanted only those prepared to play for their country with pride, passion and commitment; otherwise they could stay at home. The result is a squad as committed as he has been.

Discipline is firm, training intense, Team Northern Ireland has an impenetrable spirit on and off the field – where in the past conceding a goal would have seen the team sink, now they show enough confidence to fight back, coming from behind to beat Spain and Sweden in this tournament.

Under Lawrie Sanchez, Northern Ireland has rediscovered spirit and success. The team's achievements resonate throughout, and unite the whole country.

Heather Jan Brunt

Ed.: After taking over at the English club Fulham in mid-April, Lawrie Sanchez announced in mid-May that he would no longer combine both roles.



EMPICS/PA Photos



Per Ravn Omdal addresses the conference on behalf of the Executive Committee.



Timo Huttunen, director of grassroots football at the Finnish FA.

Grassroots conference Promotes motivation and balance

IN EARLY APRIL, THE FINNISH FA HOSTED THE SEVENTH UEFA GRASSROOTS CONFERENCE IN HELSINKI. STAGING SUCH A HIGH-PROFILE EVENT JUST BEFORE THE START OF THE DOMESTIC SEASON WHILE ALSO ORGANISING CENTENARY ACTIVITIES KEPT THE LOCAL ORGANISING COMMITTEE (LOC) BUSY, BUT ALL THE EFFORT PRODUCED PLEASING RESULTS.

Timo Huttunen, the director of the association's grassroots programme, was in charge of the local organising committee (LOC) team through four days of conference activities. As a result of hosting FIFA and UEFA tournaments in recent years, the LOC staff were well aware of what was expected of them.

"The grassroots conference was a big challenge for us and was very interesting. With the help of our competent staff and volunteers, the outcome was extremely positive. Being a part of this kind of conference is really motivating. The next step for us is to work towards the four stars that still remain to be acquired after joining the Grassroots Charter in January," said Huttunen, a couple of days after the drills on the pitch and presentations in the conference room had come to a successful conclusion.

In describing the outcome as positive, the grassroots programme director meant not only efficient logistics and satisfied guests. Education of its own staff has also been a source of motivation for the Finnish FA in hosting international events over recent years.

"There are many things that we can achieve through this kind of conference. We learn from UEFA's way of doing things, meet new people from all over the continent and learn from each other how different cultures deal with similar challenges. Of course many things have to be adapted to suit local settings, but those things are there for grabs,"

Huttunen continued.

The grassroots director was also satisfied with the main theme of the conference. Hansi Müller, Andy Roxburgh and Roy Hodgson discussed the respective roles of grassroots football and professional football, which is a relevant subject for Finland in particular.

"I think that one of the strengths of these conferences is that they highlight the values that we can present not only to the football family but also to society as a whole. Such discussions help us to find a balance between the top-flight game and grassroots activities. Perhaps in the future we could also continue organising regional workshops, in which we could target certain issues even more effectively," added Huttunen.

Sami Terävä

The role of the professionals

"The next phase of development" was the theme for the 7th UEFA Grassroots Conference. With the usual mix of theory and practice, the gathering was an opportunity for the experts from all UEFA member associations to review the development of the Grassroots Charter, to comprehend the social strength of football, to discover what grassroots activities will be on offer during EURO 2008 and to follow the work being carried out at club level. By way of example in this respect, the participants were able to hear about the work being done by two top clubs: FC Internazionale and SV Werder Bremen.

Roberto Samaden explains the work of FC Internazionale in the grassroots sector.



A debate led by UEFA's technical director, Andy Roxburgh, in the company of Roy Hodgson, coach of the Finnish national team, and Hansi Müller, the former international who is nowadays a UEFA ambassador for grassroots football, emphasised the relations between grassroots and professional football, and stressed the importance of the role that top players can play in promoting the game and developing young talent.



Practice to demonstrate the theory is a common characteristic of UEFA courses and conferences.

Photos: Sportsfile



Media relations was one of the subjects dealt with.



Sharing to improve.

KISS – Knowledge and information sharing scenario

CONTINUOUS DEVELOPMENT IS REQUIRED IN ORDER TO IMPROVE SKILLS IN THE TECHNICAL ASPECTS OF FOOTBALL AS WELL AS IN THE AREA OF MANAGEMENT, WHERE FOOTBALL INTERACTS WITH THE FANS, THE SPONSORS, THE MEDIA, ETC. FOR THE MEDIA, THE QUESTION IS:

How should football's governing bodies adapt to ensure that football remains a top sport and in order to develop (a new image through the media, new products such as women's football, new and more attractive models of competition, etc.)?

Of course, there are many ways to address the challenge (devise new strategies, develop new structures, run courses) at various levels (higher football authorities, clubs, national associations).

In this context, UEFA has selected one target: the national associations' middle managers, and launched a unique activity: "knowledge sharing of good practices" stemming both from experts and from the associations themselves.

There are tons of good management practices out there. We can triple their impact and create totally unexpected solutions (new types of revenue, new



ways to address media rights, new ways of managing the fans, new ticketing strategies, and so on). Only two things need to be done: compare and share with others, and learn the lessons in a systematic manner. In one word: good practice is essential. But *shared good practices* are worth their weight in gold.

In order to get something out of a process as open as the sharing of ideas and knowledge, you obviously need to have a structured approach; such a structured approach is what the UEFA HatTrick knowledge and information sharing scenario (KISS) is about.

The project relies upon one major principle: *collective intelligence* both within a football association and between associations. The idea is not so much about developing individuals' skills, but rather of making sure the

association as a whole knows how to organise a major football event or to deal with the media in any possible situation. Similarly, several associations sharing the same concern (e.g. how to deal with volunteers in preparing an event) can benefit from inventing best practices together and collectively. The HatTrick knowledge-sharing project does nothing other than provide associations with the means to achieve these collective undertakings.

Four pillars

The UEFA HatTrick knowledge-sharing model comprises four pillars.

■ The first pillar consists of interactive seminars for sharing standard practices on a given subject (marketing, communication and media, event and project management).

■ The second pillar consists of addressing specific issues and solving problems faced by a sub-group of associations in regional workshops.

■ The third pillar consists of a unique electronic platform (tailor-made e-learning), where managers from associations throughout Europe can log in and review any interactive seminar or workshop online.

■ The fourth pillar consists of following up and assisting associations to implement whatever they have learned. This last pillar eventually leads to communities of practice being established where associations gather (either physically or online) to discuss best practices in any domain.

To date, after nearly two years of existence, the project has achieved the following: nine interactive seminars and six workshops have been run. After the spring sessions (March to May), more sessions will be organised between September and December. The knowledge-sharing platform includes three modules, on project management, marketing, communication and media, and is constantly evolving. About nine associations are currently engaged in a follow-up process, implementing new practices and networking with other associations, with UEFA and with external experts.



Photos: UEFA



The Executive Committee meeting in Cardiff.
UEFA-piwoods.ch



The massive development of futsal everywhere has justified the introduction of an U21 European competition.
Keystone/UEFA

Meetings and other activities

Approval of regulations

DESPITE BEING A MEMBER OF UEFA SINCE THE GOVERNING BODY OF EUROPEAN FOOTBALL WAS FOUNDED IN 1954, THE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION OF WALES HAD NEVER HOSTED A MEETING OF THE UEFA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

This "oversight" was rectified on 17 and 18 April, when the Executive Committee gathered in Cardiff for a special meeting, one of the tasks before it being that of deciding who would host EURO 2012. This item took up a large part of the meeting, but before tackling this question, the committee dealt with its more ordinary business.

With the new season on the horizon, the committee had several sets of regulations to consider for approval. For the 2007/08 club competitions (UEFA Champions League, UEFA Cup and UEFA Intertoto Cup), the number of places reserved for locally trained players on the list of 25 players that a club submits increases from four to six, a maximum of three of whom may be association-trained.

In the UEFA Champions League, participation by the winners in the FIFA Club World Cup becomes mandatory. However, the committee rejected the proposal to modify the draw procedure for the quarter-finals by introducing seeds determined on the basis of the results up to that point in the same season (see uefadirect 61).

The idea has not been dismissed once and for all, but will be put before the European Professional Football Strategy Council.

For the final round of the European Women's Championship in Finland in 2009, the schedule was approved (matches from 23 August to 10 September), with the quarter-finals and semi-finals each taking place over two days to boost the promotional impact of the

event. The order of the semi-finals was changed from the order defined in the regulations that had already been adopted, whereby the winners of the first quarter-final will play the winners of the fourth quarter-final instead of the winners of the third quarter-finals, which, of course will also change the line-up of the other semi-final.

The Executive Committee also approved the regulations of the 2007/08 UEFA Futsal Cup and UEFA Women's Cup, as well as the 2007 edition of the UEFA Anti-Doping Regulations.

U21 futsal tournament

A survey conducted among the member associations revealed that futsal is rising in the popularity stakes. About

20 associations already organise national youth competitions, which prompted UEFA's Futsal Committee to propose the introduction of a European under-21 futsal competition, particularly as several other associations expressed an interest in such an event. Consequently, the Executive Committee agreed to the creation of a European under-21 futsal tournament in 2008. The competition will consist of a qualifying round in the form of mini-tournaments, played in April, and a final round at the end of October or beginning of November.

As requested by the UEFA Congress in Düsseldorf in January, a feasibility study into a European Football Championship final round with 24 teams has started, with the support of a specialised agency. Given the various impacts that an increase in the number of final-round participants could have, as well as the risks that agreeing to such a step the day before announcing the hosts of EURO 2012 would have incurred, the Executive Committee decided that no change should in any case be envisaged before the 2014-16 championship.

The new format of the European Women's Championship, under which the two divisions have been abolished, is posing a problem for the teams eliminated in the qualifying round, who find themselves devoid of competition

Ceremony in Nyon

Visitors to the House of European Football cannot fail to notice the plaques of UEFA's member associations embedded in the marble at the entrance to its Nyon headquarters.

A brief ceremony was held on 8 May in the presence of the UEFA president, Michel Platini, to complete the set by adding the 53rd plaque, featuring the logo of the Montenegrin Football Association, which became a UEFA member at the Congress in Düsseldorf.

At the same time, the emblem of the Serbian FA replaced that of the Federation of Serbia and Montenegro, which was dissolved following the declaration of Montenegro's independence. The presidents of the two associations concerned, Dejan Savicevic and Zvezdan Terzic, also attended the ceremony.



The president of the Football Association of Montenegro, Dejan Savicevic, seals the plaque of the 53rd member of UEFA at the entrance to the House of European Football.



The associations of FYR Macedonia, represented by its president, Haralampie Hadzi-Risteski (right), and of Greece, represented by its general secretary Ioannis Economides, came to sign the Grassroots Football Charter in Nyon at the start of May.



Thomas Büchler-De la Cruz, general secretary of the European Football Pool, conducted the draw for the UEFA Intertoto Cup.

matches for two years. In the case of the current competition, 15 teams are in this situation. The Executive Committee therefore decided to offer them a support programme which will allow them to organise two mini-tournaments a year in groups of four, formed according to geographical criteria. UEFA will appoint an instructor for each mini-tournament, whose job will be to assist the development of the participating teams. The Executive Committee allocated a budget of CHF 2.4 million to this project.

Seven new members of the Grassroots Charter

Following the recommendation of the Grassroots Panel and the Technical Development Committee, the Executive Committee approved the admission of a further seven associations to UEFA's Grassroots Charter. The seven new members, all in the one-star category, are Belgium, Croatia, France, Greece, FYR Macedonia, Spain and Turkey.



The month of May was dominated, as usual, by the UEFA club competition finals: the Champions League saw a repeat of the line-up for the 2005 final between Liverpool FC (Steve Finnigan, in red, up against Didier Drogba of Chelsea in the semi-final) and AC Milan, while the UEFA Cup final was an all-Spanish affair between RCD Espanyol and Sevilla FC.

UEFA Intertoto Cup draw

This year's UEFA Intertoto Cup matches will begin at the end of June and the order of matches for the first three rounds was decided in Nyon on 23 April.

Since the national championships were not yet concluded, the identity of the participating clubs was not yet known, which is why the names of the national associations were used in the draw.

1. Romania 2 – Montenegro
2. Croatia – Albania
3. Cyprus – FYR Macedonia
4. Malta – Slovenia
5. Bosnia-Herzegovina – Andorra
6. Kazakhstan – Georgia
7. Belarus – Armenia
8. Azerbaijan – Moldova
9. Luxembourg – Slovakia
10. Northern Ireland – Latvia
11. Sweden – Faroe Islands
12. Finland – Estonia
13. Iceland – Republic of Ireland
14. Lithuania – Wales

The first round matches will be played on 23 and 24 June (first leg) and 30 June and 1 July.

Elite women in China

The Women's World Cup being held in China in September will involve 16 teams vying to succeed Germany as world champions.

Germany themselves will be in the running to defend the title they won in the United States in 2003, alongside four other European representatives: England, Denmark, Norway and Sweden.

A draw was held in Wuhan on 22 April, when the teams were divided into four groups:

Group A: Germany, Japan, England, Argentina;

Group B: Nigeria, United States, Korea DPR, Sweden;

Group C: Norway, Ghana, Australia, Canada;

Group D: China PR, New Zealand, Brazil, Denmark.

The tournament will take place from 10 to 30 September, with matches being held in Shanghai, Hangzhou, Chengdu, Tianjin and Wuhan.

Sweden head fair play table

Swedish teams finished top of this season's UEFA fair play league. Consequently, the Swedish FA will be able to enter one additional team in the first qualifying round of the UEFA Cup.





UEFApiwoods.ch

On 9 May, representatives of the European team sport federations (football, basketball, handball and volleyball) met at UEFA headquarters in Nyon. They reiterated their support for the EU white paper on sport insofar as it will allow specific measures to be adopted to implement the Nice Declaration.



News from Brussels



The league table, based on fair play points earned by all teams (national teams and clubs) from each national association, was calculated, as a one-off this season, over a period of 11 months, from 1 June 2006 to 30 April 2007. Eleven associations finished above the eight-point threshold:

	Points	Matches
1. Sweden	8,257	66
2. Norway	8,186	54
3. Finland	8,119	55
4. Denmark	8,111	65
5. Germany	8,092	107
6. Estonia	8,088	39
7. Wales	8,083	40
8. Switzerland	8,064	64
9. Slovakia	8,050	55
10. England	8,047	118
11. France	8,001	115

By finishing in first place, Sweden automatically receive an additional UEFA Cup place. Two further places will be allocated to two of the ten associations which finished with more than eight points at a draw to be held in Glasgow on 15 May (result to be published on uefa.com and in the next edition of uefadirect).

High stakes do not have to stand in the way of fair play, as shown by Jan Vennegoor of Hesselink, helping Gennaro Gattuso get back on his feet in the Champions League first knockout round return leg between AC Milan and Celtic.



Sabattini

Special Olympics footballers invited to visit EURO 2008 qualifying games

In March, the Luxembourg football association and Special Olympics Luxembourg invited a team from Special Olympics Belarus to visit Luxembourg to attend the EURO 2008 qualifying match between Luxembourg and Belarus.

The football team of Special Olympics Belarus (from Borisov) joined the supporters and national team on the trip to Luxembourg. The flights of the Special Olympics players were made possible thanks to financial support from the Belarussian football federation and the professional team Bate.

The Special Olympics footballers had the opportunity to train with first division coach Jacques Muller, who is also president of the coaches association in Luxembourg. The players then competed in a match officiated by Abby Toussaint, a FIFA referee from Luxembourg.

Both teams watched the EURO 2008 qualifying match, which Belarus won. In the evening, the Special Olympics Belarus footballers returned home on the same flight as their national team.

■ In Romania, based on an initial agreement between McDonald's Romania and the Romanian football association, Special Olympics Romania recently signed partnerships with each organisation for Special Olympics footballers to attend four home matches in the Romanian national team's EURO 2008 qualifying campaign. The first took place in Piatra Neamt, against Luxembourg. Twenty-two Special Olympics Romania footballers were kitted out in sports gear donated by McDonald's Romania. In total, 92 uniforms will be given out for the four games.

Only a Game?, the exhibition that links the themes of football and Europe on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the Treaty of Rome – the act establishing the modern-day European Union – opened its doors to the public in Brussels on 22 May. The launch of the exhibition will be marked by numerous events in the coming weeks.

The Only a Game? exhibition, being held from 23 May to 26 August, will explore the link between the growth of the European Union and the historic rise of European football (cf. uefadirect No. 60, pp.10-11). UEFA, the Belgian Football Association (URBSFA) and the Brussels Region, which are all closely involved in the project, are delighted by the enthusiasm which this initiative is generating. Examples include the willingness of three football stars to be involved and the organisation of a televised debate on the role played by our favourite sport in contemporary European society.

Champions' contribution

As a supporter of the project, the captain of the French national team, Lilian Thuram, will soon be visiting the exhibition in Brussels. It is something to look forward to for the man who said, "I am not defined by a geographic area, but by a feeling. Europe is an extraordinary idea, a place for sharing."

Two other champions, who are well known in Brussels, have also expressed a wish to be associated with Only a Game?

Morten Olsen, a living legend of Danish football who played for most of his career in Belgium and →

→ is now the Danish national team coach, brought one of the main centrepieces of the exhibition from Cologne.

The Brussels-born rising star of Belgian football, Vincent Kompany, will also make a significant contribution to the festivities being organised around the exhibition. The talented Hamburg SV defender can certainly expect a warm welcome in his home city.



Vincent Kompany of Hamburg SV (right, facing Helder Postiga of Porto) will contribute to the exhibition.

Television debate

The content of the exhibition particularly suggests that football in a way reflects European society, with its strengths (integration, solidarity, etc.) as well as its weaknesses (such as racism and violence). These are all themes that can be found on the football pitch...and which will be discussed in front of the television cameras of Belgian channel TV Brussels.

Participants in the debate will particularly include political journalist François Colin and Simon Kuper, Financial Times correspondent and author of numerous books on football. The debate will be chaired by Ivo Belet, the MEP who initiated the European Parliament resolution on the future of professional football in Europe.

There is no doubt that this debate will achieve the commendable objective of the exhibition organisers to encourage visitors to think about Europe through football.

*'Only a Game?' – Football & Europe 50 years of history
Musées Royaux d'Art et d'Histoire (Musée du Cinquantenaire)
23 May – 26 August 2007
www.onlyagame.be*



Players from Special Olympics Luxembourg and Belarus together on the pitch.



Young footballers from Special Olympics Romania alongside players from their national team.

Special Olympics footballers joined the two national teams on the pitch before the start of the game.

Special Olympics Football Week

The seventh annual Special Olympics European Football Week was held from 29 April to 6 May. An estimated 40,000 players with learning disabilities participated in football events in more than 50 countries throughout Europe/Eurasia.

This year, events included grassroots activities in a multi-country Unified Sports project in which players with and without learning disabilities compete on the same team.

This highly inclusive project, which focuses on youth and builds awareness and tolerance on and off the playing field, aims to have 50,000 Unified players by 2010. Another important event was the seven-a-side women's football tournament held in Kecskemét, Hungary.

Teams from 19 countries competed in the largest Special Olympics regional event for women play-

ers. The event ran from 27 April to 1 May.

"The Special Olympics European Football Week continues to grow from strength to strength with continued outstanding support from the European football family. Over the years, Football Week has proved to be an excellent model for other regions in encouraging greater understanding and acceptance of the abilities of people with learning disabilities," said Michael Smith, managing director of the Brussels-based office of Special Olympics Europe/Eurasia. *"This year, we were pleased to see girls and women being given the chance to show their skills on the pitch in a high-profile event,"* Smith added.

As part of the week, in what has become a tradition, a Unified match between Special Olympics and UEFA players was held at the Colovray stadium in Nyon, Switzerland, on 23 April.

Football Week is one of the highlights of the Special Olympics football development project which is supported by UEFA. A more detailed report will be published in the next issue of uefadirect.



UEFA-pjwoods.ch

The match staged as part of the Special Olympics Football Week opposite UEFA headquarters in Nyon.

ARMENIA



Seven premier league clubs granted licences

It is already the fourth UEFA season that the football association of Armenia (FFA) has implemented a club licensing system and it is achieving better results year by year. During these four years, the club applicants have become more confident about themselves, and an atmosphere of complete trust has been created between the licensor and the licensees within the FFA club licensing system.

That is the background against which the FFA licensing committee (first instance body) met on 27 April to decide the Armenian clubs' "licensing destiny". The licensing manager, deputy licensing manager and criteria experts presented



Meeting of the licensing committee.

AUSTRIA



26th ÖFB Cup for Austria Wien

The ÖFB Stiegl Cup final played between FK Austria Magna (formerly known as Austria Wien) and SV Mattersburg in a practically sold-out Gerhard Hanappi stadium on 1 May provided clear evidence of the popularity of the cup competition in Austria. The rejoicing knew no bounds, not only among the fans of FK Austria Magna but also on the part of the players, coaching staff and club officials of the winning team, who have now won the cup three times in a row. After trailing 1-0 at half-time from a header by Schmidt, the purple shirts of FK Austria took only a few minutes to wipe out the deficit through goals from Lafata and Lasnik.

A pleasing aspect was that the media coverage of the final was very extensive and appropriate to the occasion. TV viewing figures showed that the cup competition generates interest throughout the country. An average 311,000 viewers watched the second half of the final on ORF 1, corresponding to a market share of 26%, which was not matched by any other programme on the channel that day.

the results of the clubs' documentation assessment and site visits.

Based on their presentations and preliminary reports, the committee decided to grant licences to FC Pyunik, FC Banants, FC Mika, FC Ararat, FC Kilikia, FC Gandzasar and FC Ulysses, but to refuse a licence to FC Shirak for submitting incomplete documentation. The first four clubs will represent Armenia in the 2007/08 UEFA club competitions.

FC Shirak decided not to appeal against the licensing committee's decision but to concentrate on the next licensing cycle, which will be something of a challenge for Armenian football, as it will be the first time that the club licensing system will have been implemented at national level, i.e. clubs will have to hold a licence not only to take part in UEFA club competitions also in the Armenian top division.

In this connection, the FFA licensing department plans to run a series of workshops, during which the licensor's experts will discuss the new features and requirements of the new manual with the clubs' representatives and provide them with further guidelines. The licensor and the clubs can be sure that such cooperation will ensure the achievement of the common goals of both sides – the further development of the FFA's club licensing system and the improvement of Armenia's football clubs.

Tigran Israelyan

The final could also be seen live on pay-TV channel Premiere Austria, and it is gratifying that, despite the fine weather and the fact that it was a public holiday, many viewers paid to watch this match between FK Austria Magna and SV Mattersburg.

As is well known, the Bundesliga clubs are not taking part in the ÖFB Stiegl Cup next year because of the early end to the league season (26 April 2008), which is designed to ensure optimum preparation for EURO 2008 on the part of national team players involved in the domestic league. The place reserved for the cup winners in the 2008/09 UEFA Cup will then go to the next eligible club in the league table.

Peter Klingmüller



FK Austria Magna have won the Austrian Cup for the 26th time.

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA



New mini pitch

Bosnia and Herzegovina's under-17 and under-19 teams played two friendly matches at the beginning of April, against their peers from neighbouring Montenegro, as part of their preparations for their next respective European qualifying matches. These were the first matches of the Montenegrin youth teams since the football association of Montenegro officially became a member of UEFA.

In the town of Herceg Novi, host under-19s beat the visitors 1-0, while the under-17s drew 1-1. Two days later, in the town of Trebinje in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the host under-19s took their revenge with a 1-0 win, while the under-17s achieved another 1-1 draw. It was a nice opportunity for the youth players to meet their peers from the neighbouring country.



F.Kravac

The Buca Potok mini-pitch in the Sarajevo suburbs.

Bosnia and Herzegovina will continue to organise this kind of matches. Young Bosnian players have been playing against their peers from several countries for several seasons now. They have already played against Croatia, FYR Macedonia, Serbia and Slovenia.

Thanks to the help of UEFA and its Hat-Trick programme, the installation of mini-pitches has already started throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina. It is planned to have around 40 such pitches. The aim of this project is to increase the popularity of football among children. At the end of April, new mini-pitches were opened in Pale, and in the Sarajevo districts of Novi Grad and Ilić.

In the Buca Potok area of Novi Grad, one of the most densely populated parts of Sarajevo, the opening of a mini-pitch attracted great attention and is already in use by members of the Novi Grad football school.

"Young players couldn't have got a better present from UEFA, the football federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and the Novi Grad authorities. Until now, we →

→ were forced to use training halls far away from where we live, and we didn't have enough time for all the children. I hope that we will attract more children to football and take them off the streets with this new pitch," said Fadil Aganspahic, director of the Novi Grad football school.

Most cup finals in all categories will take part at the end of the spring part of the season. The futsal final has already taken place, with KMN Drugari from Zenica beating KNM Seljak from Livno 11-7 at the Skenderija sports hall.

In the Bosnia and Herzegovina cup final, NK Siroki Brijeg will play FK Slavija from Lukavica. Slavija beat their neighbours from Kosevo, FK Sarajevo, in the semi-finals (2-1, 1-1), while NK Siroki Brijeg managed to overturn the 2-0 advantage that NK Celik from Zenica had acquired in the first leg and beat them by the same score. NK Siroki Brijeg then performed better in the penalty shoot-out required to decide the match.

In the youth cup final, NK Siroki Brijeg will play NK Orasje.

Fuad Krvavac

BULGARIA



New national team coach for two matches

The executive committee of the Bulgarian football association (BFS) made quite an unusual decision when it met at the end of April. Chaired by the BFS president, Borislav Mihaylov, the committee decided to appoint Stanimir Stoilov, 40, as national head coach for just the next two official matches of the national team. The popular young specialist, nicknamed Mury by the fans, is currently head coach of Levski Sofia and is set to take charge of the national side for the two EURO 2008 qualifying matches against Belarus taking place in Minsk and Sofia at the beginning of June.

Regardless of the results of those games, the young coach will then return to his club duties with Levski, thus ensuring his place in history as head coach of the national side, even if only for just two weeks in charge. He will be the 51st head coach in the history of Bulgarian football.

Christo Stoichkov, who was Bulgaria's head coach up until the EURO 2008 game against Albania at the end of March, left the side to take charge of the Spanish Primera side Celta Vigo.

Stanimir Stoilov was born in 1967 in the town of Haskovo. He had two spells as a Levski Sofia player (1994-95 and 1999-2003) and also played for various teams in Turkey and Portugal. As a player, Mury earned 14 caps for the national side and scored eight goals. Since 2004, he has been head coach of Levski Sofia,

whom he led to an appearance in the UEFA Champions League group stages last autumn – a first for a Bulgarian club side.

During the same meeting, the executive committee also decided to appoint Dimitar Penev, 62, considered to be one of the all-time greatest coaches in Bulgarian football, to be the main manager of the Bulgarian national teams in all age groups. Penev was head coach of the Bulgarian "dream team" of 1994 which achieved finished fourth in the World Cup in the USA.

It was also decided that a search for a new national head coach would begin in earnest in the middle of June with both local and international candidates being taken into consideration.

Borislav Konstantinov

ENGLAND



Success story for disability football

England international Phil Neville has paid tribute to the "inspirational enthusiasm" of the country's disability players at a recent event organised by The Football Association.



Action Images/Carl Recine

Phil Neville saw for himself the enthusiasm of disabled footballers when he took part in a training session.

The Everton and England player was at a disability football coaching session organised by The FA and Everton at the club's training ground, where blind and partially-sighted players and adults and children with cerebral palsy and learning difficulties were involved.

Neville said: "This has really opened my eyes to the enthusiasm and dedication of everyone involved in disability football. They love and enjoy their football just as much as I do. It's really inspirational and shows that there is a route for children and adults to play the game to whatever level they can. The door is not closed." "There's been a lot of work done by The FA and clubs like Everton to make sure that there are lots of opportunities for disabled people to get involved and get good

quality coaching. I'm proud that England is leading the way."

Capped 56 times by England, Neville is well aware of the importance of player pathways for the most talented individuals.

"Representing your country is the biggest honour any player can achieve and that goes for disabled players as well. It's fantastic that there are structures in place to identify the best players, make them better and give them the chance of pulling on an England shirt."

The FA runs six England disability teams – Blind, Partial Sighted, Amputee, Cerebral Palsy, Deaf and Women's Deaf Futsal – which compete in European and world competitions.

Steve Johnson is Everton disability coordinator and captain of England's amputee team: "I always played a lot of football and when I lost my leg after an accident during a game when I was 21 I was determined to stay involved. I went to university, did a sport science degree and then got involved in disability sport." Johnson joined Everton's community scheme three and a half years ago and has seen the club develop the biggest disability programme in the country.

With the number of players growing and growing, disability football is a true English success story.

Andrin Cooper

FINLAND



FA wants to get rid of bad language in youth football

The Football Association of Finland wants to "clean the mouths" in youth football. At the beginning of 2007, the FA launched a new, zero tolerance campaign. The purpose of this drive is to stop the use of disgraceful bad language in youth football. The campaign was tested last year in the association's Vaasa district, and the experience was very positive. The main method for putting a stop to bad language on the field is a change in the rules, which enables referees to react earlier. The first time a player swears, the referee will warn them to watch their language. If a player from the same team then swears, they will also be warned and the referee will also talk to their coach. If the same players swear again, they will be booked. The campaign is also an important topic at referee courses and the football association and its districts have made a great effort to promote it.

Part of the zero tolerance campaign is a message from children to adults. In May, every U12 player gave a green card to an adult before one of their team's matches. A referee gave each player a card just before the match started and the players

handed them the adults on the side of the pitch. The message read:

"Dear adults,

We are pleased you have come to see our match and are interested in our hobby.

This is our game

We have come here to enjoy a game of football with our friends. Of course we want to win, but what matters most to us is playing and making progress.

Please let us play

Cheer us on, but also respect our opponents. Don't complain whenever we make a mistake. We will do our best and the referee will also do his/her best. Set us an example of how to be fair, because we will learn from you.

All children say thank you

PS: Let's all adopt zero tolerance for bad language."

Jukka Salasuo

FRANCE



A new medical centre

The French football association (FFF) has a new medical centre at its disposal at the Fernand-Sastre national technical centre in Clairefontaine (CTNFS). The medical centre, which has been open since May 2006, was officially inaugurated by the president of the FFF, Jean-Pierre Escalettes, on Saturday, 31 March.



Jean-Pierre Escalettes, president of the French Football Federation, cuts the ribbon.

"We are very proud to have provided French football with this first-class facility at such a fantastic location as Clairefontaine," the president said in his address to the guests attending the inauguration ceremony. *"The CTNFS is improving and constantly developing in order to pursue the objectives that it has been engaged in for many years, particularly in the training field."*

Since it opened in 1988, the CTNFS has always taken care to remain a point of reference and in the forefront, as proved by its new medical infrastructure, which takes

GERMANY



German FA building 1,000 mini-pitches

The executive committee of the German football association (DFB) has decided to make EUR 12 million available from the association's surplus budget for 2006 to build 1,000 mini-pitches in Germany.

"As it used to be, football must be part of people's lives outside the club environment too. Children and young people playing football should be a familiar sight once again in our towns and villages," said Theo Zwanziger, president of the DFB.

Work on the mini-pitches will start in the autumn, in cooperation with all the

DFB's regional associations and the towns and villages, with priority given to school premises. An important criterion for permission to build is that the enclosed pitches – which will have a rubber infill and goals built into the peripheral – must stay open to the public for as long as possible. *"In deciding on the locations, care will be taken to ensure a regional spread, whereby even schools in problem areas will be able to benefit from a mini-pitch, particularly in areas with a large migrant population,"* Theo Zwanziger added.

Stephan Brause

GEORGIA



A new large-scale edition

The Georgian Football Federation (GFF) and the Street Football Association (SFA) organised a tournament between state school teams from Tbilisi in spring 2006. The tournament was called "Schoolball". It started in March 2006 and continued for two months. 200 schools participated in the tournament with 3,000 pupils. The schools participating in the tournament were divided into ten districts, each producing a winner. The final round of the tournament took place at the Irao sports complex.

Because of the success and popularity of the tournament, the Georgian Football Federation and the Street Football Association decided to expand the tournament this year, and 500 schools are participating with 6,000 pupils. The tournament kicked off on 6 May and continues until the end of June.

In view of the popularity and success of the tournament, the Georgian Football Federation has signed a four-year agreement with the mayor of Tbilisi, in which both sides – the mayor of Tbilisi and the Georgian Football Federation – pledge their support of the "Schoolball" tournament. In the very near future, the agreement will be signed by the Ministry of Education and Science, the Ministry of Sports and Culture and Pepsi, which will be the sponsor of the tournament for four years.

Alexander Tsnobiladze



Gigi Ugulava (left), mayor of Tbilisi, and Nodar Akhalkatsi, president of the Georgian Football Federation, sign an agreement for the "Schoolball" tournament.

HUNGARY



Building of a technical centre

The Hungarian Football Federation (MLSZ) is working hard to boost the youth educational level and improve the quality of football in the country. As one of the most important steps in this process, István Kisteleki, MLSZ president, laid the foundation stone of its future technical centre with Márk Nikházi, U18 international, in mid-April.

The training centre in Telki (20 kilometres from the capital, Budapest) will be a modern centre with four pitches (two artificial turf and two natural grass) plus a sports hall with a futsal pitch and a beach football ground, as well as fitness centres, recreational rooms and a running track. The centre, which will also be an ideal conference and meeting venue, should be ready to open its doors by the middle of next year.

"A new age is beginning for the MLSZ, when we will have the chance to work with our national teams in the best possible conditions. It is a sure way for us to improve," said István Kisteleki. "I would also like to thank UEFA and FIFA for supporting our initiative."

ISRAEL



First trophy for Maccabi Herzliya

The Israel Football Association experienced a busy spring, which began with a change of personnel as Avi Luzon assumed a new position in mid-March, replacing Itzhak Menachem as chairman.

The following week, the Ramat Gan national stadium hosted two EURO 2008 qualifiers in the space of four days. Eng-



Maccabi Holon players Dana Kererm and Iris Antman lift the impressive Israeli Women's Cup trophy, watched by Avi Luzon (right), president of the Israel FA.

Mathieu Sprengers, member of UEFA's Executive Committee and president of the Dutch football association, and Eva Pasquier, FIFA's European football development manager, also attended the ceremony to lay the foundation stone, as did young football players from clubs all around the region and the population of Telki.

Márton Dinnyes



Mathias Imre

István Kisteleki, president of the Hungarian Football Federation, and Márk Nikházi, under-18 international.

land played their first-ever official match against Israel and were held to a goal-less draw, while Estonia suffered a 4-0 defeat.

The successful organisation of the matches was highly praised by both local and visiting international media, a fact which was greeted with great satisfaction, given the complexity of such an operation.

The first two domestic trophies of the year were awarded in April, when Maccabi Herzliya FC won their first-ever trophy, the Toto Cup, beating Hapoel Kfar Sava FC in the final. Maccabi Holon FC won the Women's Cup for the fourth season in succession, beating ASA Tel Aviv FC in the final and leaving them on the brink of a third successive double.

May saw the IFA host an European U19 elite round for the first time as France, Slovakia, Poland and Israel battled it out for a place in the final round in Austria.

On the domestic scene, the State Cup entered its semi-final and final stages, which were both played at Ramat Gan, while Beitar Jerusalem FC appear to have won the league title for the first time since 1998.

June will begin with two EURO 2008 qualifiers away from home, against FYR Macedonia and Andorra, while the U21s are set to appear in a major final round for the first time, kicking off the European Under-21 Championship finals against the hosts, the Netherlands.

Ofer Ronen-Abels

MALTA



Licensing system

The licensing system adopted by UEFA member associations is periodically updated and audited according to standards set from time to time by the European confederation.

These are tailored to a set of criteria according to which clubs should operate. There are sporting, personnel and administrative criteria, as well as those related to legal and financial matters of the club.

Unless member clubs of the different associations function according to these criteria, a licence cannot be issued. Thus they are barred from taking part in domestic or international competitions.

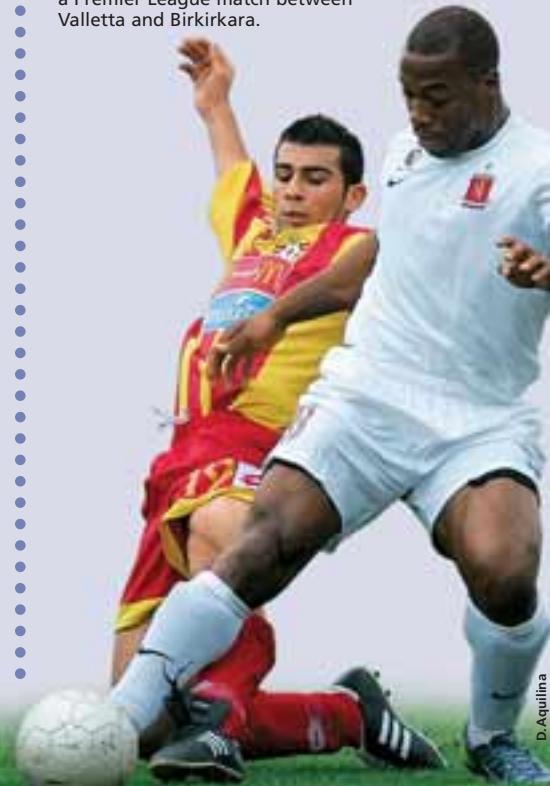
John Farrugia, licensing system senior manager at the Malta FA, works hand in hand with the licensing manager, Joe Gauci, to see that Maltese clubs adhere to the regulations set by UEFA. There is also constant liaison with the member clubs' licensing board.

The aim is to ascertain that clubs are managed in a streamlined and professional way and, in so doing, to guarantee that the interests of all those involved in the game are safeguarded.

The Malta FA is satisfied that the great majority of its member clubs meet the UEFA criteria.

Alex Vella

Licensing to raise the standard: a Premier League match between Valletta and Birkirkara.



D.Aquilina

NETHERLANDS



Fourteen sports associations in tune

Following on from the Dutch FA's refereeing master plan, a sport-wide refereeing master plan was launched last month. Fourteen sports associations and the National Sports Federation (NOC*NSF), supported by the Ministry of Sport, have joined forces in order to tackle the shared challenges. Secretary of State Jet Bussemaker (Sport) announced that the government would contribute another EUR 300,000 to this project. Total support from the ministry now amounts to EUR 6 million up to 2011.

The government recently recognised the current problems that sports associations face with regard to refereeing. The main aim of the project is to stop unsportsmanlike behaviour on and off the

pitch, to improve the image of refereeing, to ensure that at least 90% of matches in official competitions are officiated by qualified referees and, finally, to make sure that sports clubs pay more attention to sportsmanlike conduct by their members.

Fourteen associations are cooperating in this sport-wide refereeing master plan. Apart from the football association, as the largest sports association in the Netherlands, the associations covering basketball, American football, handball, hockey, rugby, tennis and volleyball are among the partners in this initiative.

Ruud Bruijnis, the Dutch FA's director of amateur football, is happy to announce that the declining number of referees has come to a standstill. *"Increasing the number of referees is a very difficult task. By joining forces, sports associations can learn from each other. By sharing experiences, I am sure the Dutch football association will benefit from the approach of other sports associations in the country."*

Rob de Leede



Three Irish footballers were involved in Arsenal LFC's triumph: Ciara Grant, Emma Byrne and Yvonne Tracy (left to right).

POLAND



Courage crowned with success

The decision of the UEFA Executive Committee to appoint Poland and Ukraine as joint hosts of EURO 2012 caused great joy in Poland. Thousands of people celebrated on the streets of the Polish cities, which in five years will have the possibility to welcome the best football teams in Europe. It was a dream come true for millions of Poles. A real volcano of emotions also erupted among the Polish delegation in Cardiff, who attended the announcement ceremony.

"Just after the announcement of the decision of the UEFA Executive Committee by Michel Platini, the UEFA president, enormous joy erupted in our team. We were shouting, we had tears in our eyes, we were hugging. This is the fulfillment of great, great expectations, hopes, ideas and efforts, and let's also hope that the chance given to Poland and Ukraine will be exploited to its full advantage. It is proof of the value of our bid, of our enormous endeavours," said Adam Olkowicz, chairman of the Polish FA's EURO 2012 bidding committee.

Michał Listkiewicz, president of the Polish FA, could not hide his immense happiness either: *"I would like to thank our competitors and invite them to Poland and Ukraine. At last top-level football will come to countries which for many years have been trying to catch up with the rest of Europe. I am very happy and thank all of you."*

After a short period of celebration, it is time to start implementing this mag-

nificent project. Hard work awaits Poland and Ukraine but we know this. We have to invest in the stadium infrastructure, develop the road and railway network, and modernise our airports. We will build new hotels and training centre facilities. The realisation of all these projects is guaranteed by the Polish prime minister, Jarosław Kaczyński, and the Ukrainian president, Victor Yushchenko, who will chair the organising committees in the respective countries. Portugal and Germany, the host countries of the last two major football events, have already proposed their assistance and to share their experience.

"We dared to have bold dreams and will do everything to carry them out. I do believe that the tournament hosted and organised by Poland and Ukraine will be one of the greatest ever," said Adam Olkowicz.

Michał Kocieba / Bartek Marks



Celebrations on the streets of Poland.

REPUBLIC OF IRELAND



Arsenal Ladies create Irish football history

Irish football history was created last month when Emma Byrne and Ciara Grant became the first players from Ireland to receive UEFA Women's Cup winners' medals.

The two Irish internationals were part of the Arsenal team which captured the UEFA Cup after a tense battle against Swedish kingpins Umeå, who had won two of the last four European titles.

Both Irish players played their part in the victory, with goalkeeper Emma Byrne copper-fastening her reputation as one of the Europe's best netminders with a string of vital saves. A third Irish player, Yvonne Tracy, missed the game because of injury.

■ Shamrock Rovers became Ireland's first major futsal champions with an impressive victory over University College Dublin in the eircom FAI Under-21 Futsal League final. Rovers produced a measured display to lift the title and clinch Ireland's first UEFA Futsal Cup qualifying spot.

Piloted this season, the eircom FAI Under-21 Futsal League of Ireland has been a tremendous success. Eight clubs were represented this season, with the tournament expanding to 12 teams in 2008.

The FAI has been busy implementing the game at grassroots level over the last three years, but this was the first season the game was introduced at an eircom League of Ireland level.

■ The Football Association of Ireland recently welcomed the announcement by the government Minister for Arts, Sport and Tourism, John O'Donoghue, of grants totalling EUR 17,091,000 to clubs and centres across the Republic of Ireland un-

→ der the 2007 Sports Capital Programme. This brings the total amount of grants awarded to football projects under the Sports Capital Programme over the past three year to EUR 46 million.

A total of 150 clubs and centres in 23 counties have received grants from the Minister for Arts, Sport and Tourism under the 2007 Sports Capital Programme.

■ The FAI's technical department conducted its very first Buntús coaching course in the Irish language recently.

Twenty five primary-school teachers took part in the course under the supervision of qualified FAI coaches and the Kildare Local Sports Partnership, whose work with the Irish language schools resulted in the Buntús cards being translated into Irish.

The FAI Buntús programme is one of the FAI's key grassroots programmes. Aimed at primary schoolchildren and their teachers, the programme, in partnership with the Irish Sports Council, has been implemented in over 1,200 primary schools in Ireland.

It provides training and resources to teachers, enabling them to deliver football-related sessions during physical education classes and after-school programmes. Over 8,000 teachers have been trained and over 155,000 pupils are involved in the programme. With the assistance of Richard Farrell and Eddie Hennessy from the Kildare Local Sports Partnership, the FAI Buntús programme has been delivered to 79 schools in Kildare, which amounts to 922 teachers and 15,395 children.

Fran Whearty

ROMANIA



Coaches symposium

From 9 to 11 May, the Romanian FA organised a first symposium for coaches from the countries situated in central, southern and eastern Europe. The symposium took place at the association's national training centre in Mogosoaia and was the first such symposium devoted to coaches from this part of Europe.

Led by Mircea Radulescu (director of the Romanian FA's coaching school), this symposium debated the general theme "The modern coach and his duties for the progress of football". Within the scope of this vast theme, Romanian specialists presented topics such as "Specialisations of the modern coach and their implications", "The coach's mentality", "The coach and the media" and "How to analyse future opponents".

Each of the participants was also asked to voice his opinion on these themes and reveal his own coaching philosophy.

Representatives from 20 countries

situated in this region of Europe attended the symposium. They included the following head coaches of senior national teams: Yuri Puntus (Belarus), Algimantas Liubinskas (Lithuania), Zoran Filipovic (Montenegro), Aleksandrs Starkovs (Latvia) and Jan Kocian (Slovakia), as well as Ralf Minge (assistant coach of the Georgian national team) and Vusadin Stanoskovic (assistant coach of the Macedonian national team). Three former national head coaches were also present: the Hungarian Bertalan Bicskei (now director of the Hungarian FA's coaching school), the Serbian Slobodan Santrac and Jerzy Engel (Poland), as well as head coaches of national under-21 teams, including Shakir Garibov (Azerbaijan), Alexandre Stankov (Bulgaria), Stylianos Aposporis (Greece), Emil Sandoi (Romania) and Matjaz Jakopic (Slovenia).

The symposium represents a new step towards strengthening relationships between countries in this region, relationships which also mean sharing experience of marketing, management, refereeing, youth and other sectors.

Paul Zaharia

SERBIA



A sports director for the national teams

For the first time in its history, the football association of Serbia has appointed a sports director for its two most important national teams – the senior and U21 teams. The executive committee of the association was in full agreement that former international Zoran Mirkovic was the right man for the job. Public opinion was the same – everybody in Serbia was excited at the prospect and welcomed Mirkovic's arrival at the top level of the organisation.

Mirkovic, 36, built his career as a right back and defensive midfielder with Belgrade clubs FK Rad and FK Partizan. In 1995, he moved to Atalanta BC and then he played for Juventus. He finished his international career with the Turkish side Fenerbahce SK and retired from playing last summer, when he was with Partizan.

Mirkovic's international career was brilliant. He won 59 caps from 1995 to 2003 and played in the 1998 World Cup in France. He was part of one of a brilliant generation of players, along with his team-mates Dragan Stojkovic, Dejan Savicevic, Siniša Mihajlović, Predrag Mijatović, Vladimir Jugović and Slavisa Jokanović.

About his new challenge, Mirkovic said: "I shall have a lot to do. My job is different from that of a club's sports director. I will not thinking about transfers; I shall concentrate on cooperation between players and head coaches in both



A new job for former international Zoran Mirkovic.

teams, but I shall also create relationships between the U21s and the "A" team. The under-21s are our main source for the future, while the "A" team is in the spotlight. The situation at the moment is very good; things are moving in the right direction and I shall find my place. Our head coach, Javier Clemente, is very experienced football person and we will work well together."

Speaking about his expectations, Mirkovic said: "I expect success. My approach will be one of 'honesty, honesty, honesty'... For me, that is the only way when you work for your country. I shall give my all and improve my knowledge in all areas. I know very well what every player in the national team must have and must do. I learned from the best; now it's time to share all of that with the new generation. In recent months, I had several job offers, but I decided to accept this one because from this position I can make a real contribution to Serbian football."

Zvezdan Terzic, president of the FA of Serbia, said after Mirkovic's appointment: "Mirkovic was a very easy choice for us – he is the best! He has everything needed for this job – passion, love, experience, knowledge and great respect for young players. We have done something really great for domestic football and we will see proof of that very, very soon."

After Javier Clemente's arrival as the first foreigner to coach the national team, new colours for the national team, changes at the level of the national association and a number of innovations (round tables, organisation of ceremonies all over the country, etc.), the appointment of Zoran Mirkovic as sports director is a further step along the road to transformation which the leadership of the association firmly believes will lead to the ultimate goal – results for the "A" national team on the European and world stage.

Aleksandar Boskovic

SWITZERLAND

The Swiss FA on tour...

The ball is rolling at the Swiss Football Association in preparation for EURO 2008 in Austria and Switzerland – and how! Football in all its aspects is being experienced and celebrated by means of the great national football roadshow, "Play Football Switzerland on Tour." Until EURO 2008, the red and white football truck will be visiting each of the country's 26 cantons, stopping off in about 70 cities, towns and villages. Altogether, 140 event days are scheduled. The roadshow got under way at parliament square in Berne



Football in the spotlight in the heart of the Swiss capital, Berne.

on 13 April. At each stop, football will be in the spotlight for at least one day. Fascinating information about Swiss football can be found in the red and white football truck. Divided into 12 subject areas, the wide range of information will be presented in the form of short films. The 900m² outdoor village offers fun and entertainment for the whole family: from the goal wall and target practice, to a "top shop" competition, goal-scoring practice and table football – there is something for everyone. Apart from the roadshow, the Swiss FA has enlisted six exclusive ambassadors for the 13th European Football Championship: Roger Federer, the world's number one men's tennis player, Simone Niggli-Luder, the world's number one in women's orienteering, Michael Schumacher, seven-time Formula One world champion, Peter Sauber, former Formula One team leader of Sauber-Petrona, Bernhard Russi, world downhill skiing champion and Olympic gold-medallist, as well as Stéphane Chapuisat, the former Swiss international footballer (103 caps).

Marco Oswald

UKRAINE

Football Day under the slogan of EURO 2012

At the end of April, many different activities took place all over of Ukraine on Football Day, which was being celebrated for the 15th time. This year's event was held under the slogan of EURO 2012, following the success of the joint bid of Ukraine and Poland to host the UEFA tournament.

The celebration united all regions of the country. Numerous events were on the programme, but the majority of them took place in Kiev, at the training complex named after Victor Bannikov, the former famous footballer. Teams of orphans, disabled people and students took part in this event. All of them had their sights set on the 2008 University Clubs' European Championship, which will be held in the Ukrainian capital. There was also a mini-tournament between students and show-business personalities, which was won by one of the best students' teams, the Mercury team.

Appearances by Grigoriy Surkis, president of the Football Federation of Ukraine, and another special guests, like national team coaches Oleg Blokhin and Oleg Kuznetsov, Dynamo Kiev footballers Vladyslav Vaschuk and Ruslan Rotan, and many well-known Ukrainian politicians, were much appreciated by the participants.

It did not matter who played best on this special day; in this event, there are no winners or losers, but only winners. And above all, it is a great victory for football.

Valery Nykonenko



Celebration of Football Day.



Peter Rees, president of the FA of Wales, with the UEFA president, Michel Platini.



WALES

Cardiff takes the European football spotlight

All eyes were on Cardiff in April as the Football Association of Wales (FAW) welcomed European football to its capital city.

For the first time in its history, the FAW was honoured to host a meeting of the UEFA Executive Committee, as well as meetings of UEFA's HatTrick Board and National Teams Committee, and was then even further privileged to host the announcement of the successful bid to stage EURO 2012, which was won by Poland/Ukraine.

The three meetings all took place at the St David's Hotel, a striking, dynamic and contemporary five-star hotel and spa situated on the waterfront of Cardiff Bay. The 2012 announcement took place in the lavish Cardiff City Hall, which stands in the heart of Cardiff. It is the centrepiece of one of the world's finest civic centres, an area of impressive buildings, landscaped gardens and broad tree-lined avenues – certainly the perfect venue for an occasion of such great magnitude.

The UEFA Executive Committee was also welcomed to an evening banquet in the enchanting fairytale towers of Cardiff Castle as guests of the Rt. Hon. The Lord Mayor of Cardiff. Speaking with pride following the event, the Football Association of Wales' general secretary, David Collins, said, *"The FAW, working in partnership with UEFA and the city and county of Cardiff, made the three days a tremendous success. It was a great privilege for the FAW to work closely with UEFA to portray our capital city in such a wonderful light. The FAW trusts that the UEFA Executive Committee will want to return to Wales in the near future for other major events."*

The UEFA president, Michel Platini, was impressed with this latest visit to Cardiff and wrote: *"The organisation, working conditions and ambience were just perfect and even more unbelievable was the nice weather!"*

Indeed, the three-day event in the city was further enhanced by the glorious spring weather, as the sun shone brightly on Cardiff, Wales and the FAW on the days when all eyes of European football were looking on.

Andrew Howard

MEETING UEFA-FIFA

On 27 April, UEFA played host to a delegation from the FIFA administration for three friendly matches, played at the Colovray stadium opposite the House of European Football.



The first match, which was kicked off by the FIFA and UEFA presidents, Joseph S. Blatter and Michel Platini, was between the two women's teams. FIFA won that match 2-0, as they did the match between the "experienced players", which finished 2-1. However, "Europe" got their revenge in the match between the first teams of the two administrations, trouncing their FIFA opponents 9-0. The event marked the resumption of an initiative dating back to 1986, when the FIFA administration paid a social visit to UEFA at its then headquarters in Berne, a visit which was reciprocated in Zurich the following year, starting a tradition that continued for a number of years.



Photos: UEFA-pjwoods.ch



Communications Birthdays – Calendar

Birthdays

Referee observer Lars-Åke Björck (Sweden) celebrates his 70th birthday on 7 June. Jira Panel member Michel Sablon (Belgium) has his 60th birthday the same day. He is joined at the same milestone by match delegate Roland Coquard (France) on 13 June, Zvi Rosen (Israel), another match delegate, on 23 June, and Appeals Body member Barry W. Bright (England) on 27 June. Meanwhile, two referee observers will be marking their half-centuries: Stefano Braschi (Italy), on 6 June, and Marcel Lica (Romania), on 25 June. Futsal delegate Sergejus Slyva (Lithuania) celebrates his 50th birthday on 12 June, with security officer Stephen Thomas following suit on 17 June. UEFA also wishes many happy returns to:

- Wilfried Gerhardt (Germany, 1.6)
- Tony Higgins (Scotland, 3.6)
- Ivaylo Ivkov (Bulgaria, 3.6)
- Klara Bjartmarz (Iceland, 3.6)
- George Courtney (England, 4.6)
- Rolf Haugen (Norway, 4.6)
- Alastair L. Cox (England, 4.6)
- Jean-Samuel Leuba (Switzerland, 4.6)
- Franz Wöhrer (Austria, 5.6)
- Ludovico Micallef (Malta, 5.6)
- Jaap Uilenberg (Netherlands, 5.6)
- Leon Straessle (Switzerland, 6.6)
- Michael Joseph Hyland (Republic of Ireland, 6.6)
- Francesco Tagliente (Italy, 6.6)
- Kenneth J. Hope (Scotland, 7.6)
- Sondre Kåfjord (Norway, 7.6)
- Sándor Berzi (Hungary, 7.6)
- Yury Dupanau (Belarus, 7.6)
- Johannes Scholtz (Netherlands, 8.6)
- Robert Anthony Boggi (Italy, 8.6)
- Bryan Drew (England, 8.6)
- Hans Bangerter (Switzerland, 10.6)
- Alun Evans (Wales, 11.6)
- Kyros Georgiou (Cyprus, 11.6)
- Nathan Bartfeld (Moldova, 11.6)
- Alain Courtois (Belgium, 12.6)
- Jørn West Larsen (Denmark, 12.6)
- Ante Vučemilović-Simunović Jr (Croatia, 13.6)
- Giulio Campanati (Italy, 15.6)
- Viacheslav Koloskov (Russia, 15.6)

- Pavel Mokry (Czech Republic, 15.6)
- Muhittin Bosat (Turkey, 15.6)
- Michael Joseph Maessen (Netherlands, 17.6)
- Markus Nobs (Switzerland, 17.6)
- Philippe Piat (France, 18.6)
- Hannelore Ratzeburg (Germany, 18.6)
- Michel Platini (France, 21.6)
- Peter Peters (Germany, 21.6)
- Zoran Cvirk (Croatia, 21.6)
- Keith Stuart Hackett (England, 22.6)
- Vladimir Antonov (Moldova 23.6)
- Leslie Irvine (Northern Ireland, 23.6)
- Georg Pangl (Austria, 23.6)
- Emanuel Zammit (Malta, 24.6)
- João Rocha (Portugal, 24.6)
- Jeanette Saarinen (Finland, 24.6)
- Reinhart Walser (Liechtenstein, 25.6)
- Foppe de Haan (Netherlands, 26.6)
- Sigurdur Hannesson (Iceland, 27.6)
- Wim Koevermans (Netherlands, 28.6)
- Ivan Borissov Lekov (Bulgaria, 29.6)
- Joan Laporta i Estruch (Spain, 29.6)
- Orhan Erdemir (Turkey, 29.6)

Upcoming events

Meetings

13.6.2007, Linz

Draw for the final round of the 2006/07 European Under-19 Championship

22-23.6.2007, Groningen

Executive Committee

29.6.2007, Nyon

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

Competitions

10-23.6.2007, Netherlands

Final round of the European Under-21 Championship

23-24.6.2007

UEFA Intertoto Cup: first round (first legs)

30.6-1.7.2007

UEFA Intertoto Cup: first round (return legs)

30.6-22.7.2007, Canada

FIFA U-20 World Cup

Notices

- On 10 April, Evgeny Kalakoutski became general secretary of the Russian Football Union.
- On 10 April, Milos Tomas was appointed general secretary of the Slovak FA.
- On 27 April, Zsolt Füzesi was named general secretary of the Hungarian FA.
- The Kazakhstan Football Union has changed its name officially to The Football Association of Kazakhstan.

Match agents

The Licensed UEFA Match Agents Panel has granted five new licences. The new licensed match agents are:

Hubert Jacobus
Oostmaaslaan 758 – 3063 DK Rotterdam Netherlands
Tel. +31 629045235
Fax: +31 847556851

Christophe Lamothe
AD Sport
Chemin de la Tour de César – Les Pinchinats 13100 Aix-en-Provence – France
Tel. +33 442962342
Mobile: +33 612033963
Fax: +33 42963791
Email: christophelamothe@libertysurf.fr

Sandro Stempérini
Organizzazione Calcistica Internazionale
Via A- Volta 12 – 06034 Foligno – Italy
Tel. +39 0742342970
Mobile: +39 3492250122
Fax: +39 0742342970
Email: s.stempérini@alice.it

Alain Veyssiére
Sportevents – 80 Grand'Rue
40190 Villeneuve de Marsan – France
Tel. +33 5 58032809
Email: alain@sportevents.fr

Abdelouadoud Zeaf
World Sport Agency – Voltaire 5
1006 Lausanne – Switzerland
Mobile: +41 792108618
Tel. +41 216173060 – Fax: +41 216173055
Email: worldsport2000@bluewin.ch

Kevin Beattie (Leeds, England) has, however, surrendered his licence and is therefore no longer recognised by UEFA as a match agent.

New publication

LE FOOTBALL PROFESSIONNEL CONTRE LA VIOLENCE

The French Professional Football League wants to "put violence offside, as it has no place in the game, nor in the stadium". This booklet has been produced to show what the league is already doing to eradicate violence from football and what further measures it plans to take, including its efforts to encourage sportsmanship. A firm and determined stance that does not concern France alone.

WE CARE ABOUT FOOTBALL



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

Union des associations
européennes de football

