

**Netherlands
retain U21 crown 03**

**Poles win
Regions' Cup 05**

**100 UEFA
licensed agents 08**

**Referee
Convention 10**



Message of the president

Let's all play our part!

The first half of the year has passed at a frenetic pace for UEFA. As every spring, many of its competitions reached their climax, from the recent European Under-21 Championship in Groningen to the Under-17s in Belgium and the Regions' Cup in Bulgaria, not forgetting the club competitions, with the Champions League final in Athens, the UEFA Cup final in Glasgow and the finals of the Futsal Cup in Murcia and the Women's Cup, played over two legs.

Meanwhile, since the Düsseldorf Congress, we have held an Extraordinary Congress in Zurich, ordinary and additional Executive Committee meetings, as well as meetings with the presidents and general secretaries of the member associations; the organisers of EURO 2012 have been elected, a new general secretary appointed, the format of the 2010 World Cup qualifying competition adopted and other important decisions taken.

But most significantly, the UEFA Statutes have been amended and the committees have been expanded in order to give senior officials from all the associations the chance to participate in UEFA's development.

These changes were implemented at the Executive Committee meeting in Heerenveen, with the appointment of all the committee members. Each committee will again be chaired by an Executive Committee member. UEFA is now equipped to carry out its numerous tasks, although these tools will be worthless unless there is a shared desire to use them for the common good. The committee chairmen will therefore be required to provide the impetus that will make them effective.

The president of an organisation like ours is a guide, or to use a football term, a coach: he lays down the objective and the means of achieving it, but can do nothing without the support and backing of all members of his team.

I am counting on all of you to ensure that, together, we successfully defend the interests of European football, as well as its unity and popularity.

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COVER

On home territory, the Netherlands retained the European Under-21 trophy that they won last year. A smiling Maceo Rigters holds the cup.

Photo: Sabattini



Michel Platini
UEFA President

Under-21 Championship

Netherlands retain their crown



Foppe de Haan shows off the trophy, surrounded by his players.

Getty Images

AS REIGNING EUROPEAN UNDER-21 CHAMPIONS, THE NETHERLANDS FULLY ACHIEVED BOTH OF THEIR AMBITIONS: TO RETAIN THE TITLE THEY WON IN PORTUGAL LAST YEAR AND TO ORGANISE A SUCCESSFUL FINAL ROUND THIS YEAR, FROM 10 TO 23 JUNE.

In the final, played at Groningen's Euroborg stadium in driving rain at times, the Dutch faced the Serbs, whose youngsters had already shown their quality by reaching the 2004 final and last year's semi-finals. The hosts took full advantage of mistakes made by their opponents' defence to win a match which had looked likely to be evenly contested. Totally unmarked in the Serbian penalty area, Bakkal hit the target after little more than quarter of an hour. Further slip-ups in the Serbian back line enabled Babel to double the lead on the hour mark and led to a penalty that goalkeeper Kahrman managed to

save. But by that stage (71 minutes), the game had been up for a long time:



Rigters had added a third goal for the team coached by Foppe de Haan and Serbia had been reduced to ten men when Kolarov was shown a second yellow card.

Even a goal by Mrdja shortly after he entered the fray could not turn the tide: the Serbs no longer had the means to trouble the calmness of their hosts and a succession of off-target long-range shots summed up their inability to damage the team in orange. Comfortable in their formation, the Dutch successfully tired out their opponents by using the full width

of the pitch and retaining possession of the ball. They occasionally stepped up the pace, such as when Bruins made the score 4-1 to round off a long period of Dutch possession.

Overall success

In a stadium that was almost completely behind the home team, this European Championship therefore finished in an atmosphere of jubilation, mixed with the satisfaction of a successful tournament as a whole and a record number of spectators for an under-21 tournament (more than 212,000). The fans had seen a number of individuals with a promising future ahead of them, as well as some moments of real excitement, such as the epic penalty competition between the Netherlands and England in the semi-finals (when 32 spot-kicks were required!).



A close encounter between Portugal (João Moutinho, 10) and Italy (Antonio Nocerino) in the match to decide the fourth Olympic place.



An interminable penalty competition to separate the Netherlands and England in the semi-finals.

Serbia (Nikola Drincic, 13) beat Belgium (Faris Haroun) in the second semi-final.



New dimension

Moved from even to odd years in order to emerge from the shadows of the European Championship and World Cup finals, the final round of the European Under-21 Championship took on a new dimension this year, as demonstrated not only by the record crowds, but in particular by the broadcasting of matches in around 150 countries by some 30 television channels. Most of the matches were closely fought and featured players with definite talent but a certain

amount of room for improvement. To top everything off, there were a number of surprises, particularly the performances of a Belgian team which only lacked a bit of cutting edge up front.

The Netherlands not only defended their title, but also won the fair play trophy and were unbeaten in their five matches. They also became the first host nation to win an under-21 final round.

The next edition of the European Under-21 Championship has already begun: after the draw in Stockholm on 13 February, 20 qualifying

matches have already been held. The final round will take place in Sweden in spring 2009.

Olympic qualifiers

This final round also served as a qualifying tournament for the 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing, where Europe will have four representatives. Since England, which is not an Olympic nation, reached the semi-finals, a play-off match was arranged, with Italy beating Portugal on penalties. The Netherlands, Serbia, Belgium and Italy will therefore form the European delegation in China.

Results

GROUP A

10.06 Heerenveen	Netherlands – Israel	1-0
10.06 Groningen	Portugal – Belgium	0-0
13.06 Heerenveen	Israel – Belgium	0-1
13.06 Groningen	Netherlands – Portugal	2-1
16.06 Heerenveen	Belgium – Netherlands	2-2
16.06 Groningen	Israel – Portugal	0-4

GROUP B

11.06 Arnhem	Czech Republic – England	0-0
11.06 Nijmegen	Serbia – Italy	1-0
14.06 Nijmegen	Czech Republic – Serbia	0-1
14.06 Arnhem	England – Italy	2-2
17.06 Arnhem	Italy – Czech Republic	3-1
17.06 Nijmegen	England – Serbia	2-0

SEMI-FINALS

20.06 Heerenveen	Netherlands – England	1-1*
20.06 Arnhem	Serbia – Belgium	2-0

* Netherlands won 13-12 after penalty kicks

MATCH FOR FOURTH OLYMPIC PLACE

21.06 Nijmegen	Portugal – Italy	0-0*
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* Italy won 4-3 after penalty kicks

FINAL

23.06 Groningen	Netherlands – Serbia	4-1
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The fair play prize was won by the Netherlands.



Royston Drenthe of the Netherlands, one of the stars of the tournament, faces Serbian Dusan Basta in the final.



Portuguese player Jonathan Ribeiro attacks the Swiss defence during the match between Aveiro and the Canton of Ticino.



Kostadin Stoyanov (5) and Pole Lukasz Ochmanski in the final between Bulgaria's South-East Region and Dolnoslaski.



James Tomelty tries to catch Marijan Gajcevic in the match between Tuzla and the Eastern Region of Northern Ireland.

UEFA Regions' Cup

Poles lift title



**PLAYED IN EASTERN BULGARIA FROM 20 TO 26 JUNE,
THE FINAL ROUND OF THE 5TH UEFA REGIONS' CUP CONCLUDED
IN SLIVEN WITH A VICTORY FOR THE POLES OF DOLNOSLASKI
OVER THE SOUTH-EAST REGION OF BULGARIA.**

You don't need to be a professional footballer to dream of one day representing your country in a pan-European competition. Since 1999, the UEFA Regions' Cup has enabled amateurs to make this dream into reality. National competitions are held to determine which regions should participate in the European qualifying tournament, with the top eight teams progressing to the final round.

The South-East Region of Bulgaria may have thought they were on the verge of going one step further than their compatriots from South-West Sofia who reached the final of the previous edition in 2005, where they lost to the Basque Country.

The South-East Region had just opened the scoring in the final against the Poles of Dolnoslaski and, with less than half an hour to go and backed by most of the 3,500 spectators, could be forgiven for thinking their name was about to be inscribed on the Regions' Cup. In the preceding group matches, they had narrowly finished as group winners. Before the final round of group matches, they had been equal on points with Bosnia-Herzegovina's Tuzla Canton, but behind them on goal difference. While, in their last match, the Bulgarians only managed a draw against the Northern Irish representatives, their nearest rivals suffered a backlash from Basse-Normandie, who had lost their first two matches. Their 2-0 defeat meant the Bulgarians topped the group.

The South-East Region were ahead in the final and missed a great

opportunity to double their advantage. They were only 12 minutes away from realising their dream when the Poles equalised before going on to score the winner in the second half of extra time.

The victory was a fitting reward for a team that remained unbeaten throughout the competition (four wins and two draws) and which also finished as top goalscorers in a tournament in which an average of only 1.75 goals were scored per match.



Photos: Sportsfile

Final round results

GROUP A

20.6	Sliven	South-East Region Bulgaria – Tuzla Canton	1-1
20.6	Radnevo	Basse-Normandie – Eastern Region Northern Ireland	0-1
22.6	Sliven	South-East Region Bulgaria – Basse-Normandie	1-0
22.6	Radnevo	Tuzla Canton – Eastern Region Northern Ireland	2-0
24.6	Sliven	Eastern Region Northern Ireland – South-East Region Bulgaria	0-0
24.6	Radnevo	Tuzla Canton – Basse-Normandie	0-2

1.	South-East Region Bulgaria	3	1	2	0	5
2.	Tuzla Canton	3	1	1	1	4
3.	Eastern Region Northern Ireland	3	1	1	1	4
4.	Basse-Normandie	3	1	0	2	3

GROUP B

20.6	Stara Zagora	Aveiro – Ticino	0-2
20.6	Rakovski	Ivan Odessa – Dolnoslaski ZPN	1-2
22.6	Stara Zagora	Aveiro – Ivan Odessa	2-0
22.6	Rakovski	Ticino – Dolnoslaski ZPN	1-2
24.6	Stara Zagora	Dolnoslaski ZPN – Aveiro	1-1
24.6	Rakovski	Ticino – Ivan Odessa	0-1

1.	Dolnoslaski ZPN	3	2	1	0	7
2.	Aveiro	3	1	1	1	4
3.	Ivan Odessa	3	1	0	2	3
4.	Ticino	3	1	0	2	3

FINAL

26.06	Sliven	South-East Region Bulgaria – Dolnoslaski ZPN	1-2*
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*after extra time



Stanimir Stoilov, coach of Levski Sofia.

Petrova/AP/Getty Images



Lucio Wagner (left) battles it out with Spaniard Xavi Hernandez in the Champions League match between Levski and FC Barcelona.

Dilkoff/AP/Getty Images

PFC Levski Sofia

The sun is rising in the East...

2006/07 WAS A VINTAGE SEASON FOR PFC LEVSKI SOFIA. FOUNDED 93 YEARS AGO, THE DOMESTIC LEAGUE AND CUP DOUBLE WINNERS HAVE AN IMPRESSIVE LIST OF TITLES TO THEIR NAME, HAVING JUST WON THEIR 26TH BULGARIAN CUP AND 25TH LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP.

A year ago, Levski took part in the UEFA Champions League for the first time. Drawn into one of the most difficult groups, they failed to win a single point against Barcelona, Chelsea and Werder Bremen, but brought a breath of fresh air to the competition. Coached by Stanimir Stoilov, also the national team coach, they never gave in to the temptation to drop deep and play a defensive, destructive style of football. *"The quality of our opponents was impressive. As newcomers to the tournament, we were not competitive enough for various reasons. I will mention just two,"* explains Elena Vatahka, Levski's general secretary and head of international relations. *"There is an enormous gulf between footballers who are part of the world's elite and the modest Bulgarians who form the core of our team. Neither can you compare the level of our national championship with that of countries such as Germany, Spain and England."*

Elin Topuzakov, one of Levski Sofia's internationals.



Getty Images

In transition

Bulgaria may have a very small population, but it has a solid sporting tradition. Nevertheless, success has been hard to come by over the past decade. At first glance, Elena Vatahka compares Levski's financial situation with that of the big clubs in Romania, Serbia, Slovenia, Croatia and the Czech Republic. *"The current level of Bulgarian football is totally incomparable with that of the West. Only five or six of the 16 first division clubs have reasonable financial and sporting potential. Gate receipts remain the principal source of income, but the appalling state of the stadiums, most of which are owned by the state or municipal authorities, puts off the spectators. None of the governments in power since 1989 have had the political will to solve this problem."*

Levski will be hopeful of progressing through the qualifying rounds, but Elena Vatahka expresses a desire shared by all East European clubs. *"We believe that football would really benefit from a sporting perspective if more national champions were allowed to participate in the group phase and, who knows, maybe the latter stages of the Champions League. UEFA prize money would be spread across more countries, which would raise the general level of European football. The current strategy seems to be geared towards the socio-cultural characteristics of the five big nations, France, England, Germany, Italy and Spain, but it no longer totally reflects Europe's diversity. In this sense, the award of EURO 2012 to Poland and Ukraine is an important step and a welcome mark of respect."*

P.P.



Midfielder Daniel Borimirov wins the ball from Diego in the match between Levski and Werder Bremen.

Dilokoff/AP/Getty Images

Levski Sofia's qualification was no great surprise. They had only missed qualifying by a hair's breadth in 2001, when they dropped into the UEFA Cup. They had little chance against Chelsea. In 2005/06, they reached the quarter-finals of the UEFA Cup. Beaten 3-1 at home by Schalke 04, they drew 1-1 in the return leg. *"When we qualified a year ago, it was no miracle. It was the result of the work we have put in since 2001. We have worked relentlessly to comply with UEFA rules and requirements, as well as to train our young players and ensure the continuity of our style of football and fair play, which we are keen to protect."*

Confidence in youngsters

PFC's Champions League performances were nothing to be ashamed of. They competed well in front of full stadiums. *"As usual, a lot of supporters travelled to our away matches."* Their opponents, as well as UEFA and its partner, TEAM, praised the quality of their organisation. These compliments are music to the club's ears, since it is hoping to compete in the Champions League for the second year in a row. *"We are aiming for the third qualifying round at least, and then who knows? We have already invested in the team, but we are remaining sensible. In particular, we are giving priority to promising local youngsters, who have been brought through our academy. Stanimir Stoilov is fully behind this policy."* Levski are similar in some ways to the Dynamo Kiev of the 1990s, providing a stage for numerous talents to shine after progressing through a high-quality youth academy.

Levski dominate the Bulgarian championship like Dynamo did in Ukraine. They have completed 78 seasons in the top division and have never finished below sixth position. As well as winning

25 titles, they have finished second 26 times! When Elena Vatazhka talks about fair play and the social and human values of the club, these are not just empty words: the club is named after Vasil Levski, nicknamed the Apostle of Freedom. This 19th century hero had a motto: *"If I win, I win for the people. If I lose, I lose only myself."* Under the Communist regime, Levski had to change its name several times and was even forced to merge with Spartak, the army club. However, it reverted to its original title when it obtained its independence in 1990.

Efficient management

For the past nine years, Levski Sofia has been operating as a company. It has developed a modern marketing and sponsorship strategy. The club's charisma and professionalism have attracted the support of M-Tel, the main mobile telephone operator in Bulgaria, which has been its main sponsor since 1998. *"The UEFA Champions League has enabled us to go a step further. Thanks to the revenue and commercial rights, 2006 was the most financially prosperous year in our history. We received a bonus of around EUR 1.5 million. We have been in the black for the past nine years and we are also the first Bulgarian club to have become a significant tax-payer. Our finances are transparent and we have no debts. This is all down to the club's management, to Nasko Sirakov, sporting director, Konstantin Bazhdevkov, financial director, and our president, Todor Batkov."*

The club invests its profits in its infrastructures: installing an artificial pitch, new stands, a scoreboard and changing rooms, as well as a hostel for the youth academy and a luxury coach to transport the team.

Pascale Pierard

Club competition calendar 2007/08

UEFA Champions League



17/18 July 2007: first qualifying round, first legs
24/25 July: return legs
31 July/1st August: second qualifying round, first legs
3 August, Nyon: draw for the third qualifying round
7/8 August: return legs
14/15 August: third qualifying round, first legs
28/29 August: return legs
30 August, Monaco: draw for the group stage
18/19 September: group matches, matchday 1
2/3 October: matchday 2
23/24 October: matchday 3
6/7 November: matchday 4
27/28 November: matchday 5
11/12 December: matchday 6
21 December, Nyon: draw for the first knockout round
19/20 February 2008: first knockout round, first legs
4/5 March: return legs
7 March, Nyon: draw for the quarter-finals and semi-finals
1/2 April: quarter-finals, first legs
8/9 April: return legs
22/23 April: semi-finals, first legs
29/30 April: return legs
21 May, Moscow: final

UEFA Cup



19 July 2007: 1st qualifying round, first legs
2 August: return legs
3 August, Nyon: draw for the second qualifying round
16 August: 2nd qualifying round, first legs
30 August: return legs
31 August, Monaco: draw for the first round
20 September: first round, first legs
4 October: return legs
9 October, Nyon: draw for the group stage
25 October: group matches, matchday 1
8 November: matchday 2
29 November: matchday 3
5/6 December: matchday 4
19/20 December: matchday 5
21 December, Nyon: draw for the rounds of 32 and 16
13/14 February 2008: round of 32, first legs
21 February: return legs
6 March: round of 16, first legs
12/13 March: return legs
14 March, Nyon: draw for the quarter-finals and semi-finals
3 April: quarter-finals, first legs
10 April: return legs
24 April: semi-finals, first legs
1 May: return legs
14 May, Manchester: final



A meeting of the Agents Panel at the end of 2004.



Agents' spokesperson Georgios Gregoriou.

UEFA match agents

100th licence issued

THE UEFA MATCH AGENTS PANEL RECENTLY RECEIVED AN APPLICATION FROM JOHANN HOFINGER IN AUSTRIA. AFTER A THOROUGH EXAMINATION OF HIS FILE, UEFA GRANTED HIM A MATCH AGENT'S LICENCE, THEREBY MAKING HIM THE 100TH LICENCE-HOLDER.

This milestone is an opportunity to take a closer look at the activity of a UEFA match agent. It was back in 1967 that UEFA set up a study commission within its Committee for Non-Amateur and Professional Football to examine the problems related to the activities of professional agents. Regula-

tions were drafted and the Committee for the Delivery of Licences to Agents negotiating Matches and Tours was set up to monitor their application. In 1996, the committee was renamed the Committee for Licensed Match Agents and one year later, a more detailed set of regulations were issued. At that time, only

30 or so agents in Europe held the UEFA licence, which is mandatory for arranging friendly matches or tournaments in European territory between European clubs and/or national teams. Following the decision of the UEFA Congress in 2000 to reduce the number of UEFA committees, the responsibility of issuing the licence was entrusted to a five-member panel chaired by Giangiorgio Spiess (Switzerland).

Agents were revised in 2003, the number of licensed match agents has risen steadily to the current 100 mark, encompassing 21 member associations altogether. The licence is granted only to individuals and not to companies. Licence-holders are entitled to arrange matches, to ask UEFA for support in disputes, and to have their contact details published on the UEFA website. In addition, agents are allowed to use a special UEFA logo and receive a credit-card sized ID card. Licences are initially valid for five years, but can be renewed for eight further years at a time, provided that all the holder's documents and required professional liability insurance are up to date. Every five to seven years, the UEFA administration invites all the licensed UEFA match agents to a meeting where they can share their experience and elect a spokesperson and substitute spokesperson. At panel meetings, the spokesperson represents the interests of licence-holders. The current spokesperson is Georgios Gregoriou from Cyprus.

As a result of the recent amendments to the UEFA Statutes adopted by the Extraordinary UEFA Congress at the end of May, a new committee has been created, the Players' Status, Transfer and Agents and Match Agents Committee, which will replace the current Match Agents Panel. The intention is to transfer the tasks of the previous panel to a sub-committee of the new committee. The UEFA member associations as well as the match agents will be informed of the changes in due course.



The 100th UEFA agent, Johann Hofinger (left), is congratulated by the president of the Lower Austrian FA, Johann Gartner.

100 agents from 21 associations

Since 1997, the licence has grown in popularity and since the UEFA Regulations for Licensed UEFA Match



Riopa/AFIP/Getty Images

The summer period, with warm-up matches in preparation for the new season, is a period of intense activity for licensed agents.



Manchester City FC/PA Photos

Johann Hofinger, 100th licenced UEFA match agent

How did you get into football?

When I was six years old, I watched an international between Austria and the USSR in which the legendary goalkeeper Lev Yachin was playing for the visiting team. I was infected with the football virus right there and then, and it never went away. I went on to an almost classic career: youth coach, amateur coach, and then taking on other roles, most notably as member of the board of Kremser SC, then playing in the Austrian first division.

What made you apply for a UEFA match agent's licence?

As a consequence of my collaboration with several famous Austrian clubs, some of them approached me to arrange their friendly matches. So it was a matter of course for me to apply for the UEFA match agent's licence.

Broadly speaking, what do you expect from the UEFA licence?

There are many international clubs who now choose Austria for their training camps. This represents a remarkable chance to arrange international

friendly matches under the protection and rules of UEFA, and I would like to take advantage of it.

What kind of matches/tournaments will you arrange (youth tournaments or friendly matches between clubs and/or national teams)?

I will arrange friendly matches between Austrian and European club teams.

Are you also thinking of applying for the FIFA licence at a later stage?

At the moment this is not a priority. ■

Advantages all round

Giangiorgio Spiess, co-opted member of the UEFA Executive Committee, has been chairing the Licensed UEFA Match Agents Panel, having previously chaired the Licensed Match Agents Committee from 1996 to 2000. He is now deputy chairman of the new Players' Status, Transfer and Agents and Match Agents Committee.

What do you think of the growing number of UEFA match agents? Was such a rapid development to be expected?

The rapidly growing number of UEFA match agents is astonishing. We can conclude that agents feel good under the protection of UEFA and appreciate the advantages, but also that the associations and clubs see an even greater advantage in working with official match agents.

What do UEFA and the panel expect from a UEFA licensed match agent?

They expect licensed match agents to be loyal and transparent as well as effective in their collaboration with the clubs/associations and other

parties involved, in accordance with the provisions of the UEFA regulations.

From your point of view, are those expectations being met nowadays?

In my opinion, the expectations are at least partly met at the moment. The steadily growing number of match agents and the few out-of-court disputes that arise show that we are getting there.

How do you see the future of the UEFA licensed match agents?

The UEFA match agent's licence certainly has a future because its effectiveness has been established. Combining the match agent's licence with the players' agent's licence could also help improve the football authorities' control over such arrangements, as is already the case at FIFA level.

Of course, this would only be possible if player transfers at confederation level came under the competence of the confederations or at least of UEFA. Such a development would be very welcome. ■



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The convention is signed by Rudolf Zavrl, president of the Slovenian Football Association.



Michel Platini congratulates Victor Coppoz, vice-chairman of the referees committee of the Swiss Football Association.



A member of the UEFA Referees Committee, Volker Roth signs the convention on behalf of the German Football Association.

UEFA Referee Convention

First ten members

ON 28 JUNE, TEN NATIONAL ASSOCIATIONS BECAME THE FIRST MEMBERS OF THE UEFA REFEREE CONVENTION. SIGNED IN NYON BY THEIR RESPECTIVE PRESIDENTS AND GENERAL SECRETARIES, THE PROTOCOL CERTIFIES THAT THE ASSOCIATIONS HAVE ATTAINED THE QUALITY STANDARDS REQUIRED BY UEFA.

By signing the convention, the associations also agree to promote the role of referees and to improve the quality of refereeing at all levels – grassroots, amateur and elite football.

In 2003, an audit report prepared at UEFA's initiative within the member associations had highlighted huge differences in the way refereeing was structured in Europe. As part of the convention approved by the Executive Committee in Budapest in 2006, UEFA established clear guidelines on how refereeing should be managed within the associations. These include the notion that the standardised organisation of refereeing, functioning effectively and with UEFA as

its guarantor, should make it possible to develop training further, to gradually improve the standard of referee instructors, to define referees' legal and professional status and to ensure that refereeing organisations within the associations are not influenced by other organs.

A safe environment

Ten national associations – Germany, Belgium, Scotland, Finland, France, Hungary, Luxembourg, Norway, Slovenia and Switzerland – have signed the convention after being chosen to form a pilot group to help put the finishing touches to the document. Their refereeing structures were then assessed by the

UEFA Refereeing Certification Panel, which deemed them to be in conformity with the convention. Another group of associations has already begun the accession process and others will gradually follow suit.

"Your presence shows the importance that you attach to the development of refereeing in your country. I would like to congratulate you for your investments in the field of training and education of referees. Referees are the guarantors of the game at all levels – youth, amateur and professional. We, the authorities, owe it to ourselves to guarantee this impartiality and sporting equity on all of Europe's playing fields," said UEFA president Michel Platini in his introductory speech.

He added, *"I want referees to be able to operate in a safe environment in which their decisions are accepted and understood."*

Financial support

"In adhering to the referees' convention, and thanks to UEFA's financial support, you will be able to realise new projects within the framework of referee development". By becoming a member of the convention, associations are entitled to a contribution of CHF 200,000 upon signature as well as CHF 100,000 annually for the following five years, provided that they continue to meet the required standards.

Two modules were defined within the convention. The first is training-based and includes four key aspects: the recruitment and retention of referees, the referee observer system, the talent and mentor programme and referee education at grassroots and elite levels. The second module describes the organisation and structure of refereeing as well as the aims and main tasks of such a structure.



The Norwegian delegation receive their certificate.

Photos: UEFA-pjwoods.ch



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



Prof. Jiri Dvorak discussed experiences at the 2002 World Cup.



Dr Neil Robinson describes the challenge of blood testing.

3rd Seminar for Doping Control Officers

Staying ahead of the game

(ED.) ON 3 AND 4 JUNE, UEFA'S 40 OR SO DOPING CONTROL OFFICERS

GATHERED IN NYON FOR A SEMINAR ON WHICH FRENCHMAN

DR JACQUES LIÉNARD, MEMBER OF UEFA'S MEDICAL COMMITTEE AND

ANTI-DOPING PANEL, REPORTS BELOW.

The third seminar for doping control officers clearly highlighted the need to use blood samples as part of anti-doping controls. Blood testing is already carried out in individual sports such as cycling and athletics.

FIFA's experiences at the World Cup in South Korea and Japan were related by Professor Dvorak – the practical problems faced during the collection of the 255 samples (out of 256 planned) should serve as points for discussion and guidance for the project proposed by UEFA's Anti-Doping Panel and Medical Committee. The testing procedure, the equipment required, the choice of tester and means of transport will need to be clarified before the end of 2007, as well as any other questions that may arise.

EURO 2008: out-of-competition blood and urine testing

The general aim is to conduct out-of-competition blood and urine controls on ten players from each of the teams that qualify for the European Championship final round. These tests will be carried out before the start of the final tournament. During the competition, two players from each team will undergo a urine test after each match. Blood samples may also be taken after some matches (see the

decision of the UEFA Executive Committee on page 16).

Dr Neil Robinson, scientific director of the Lausanne anti-doping laboratory, discussed the difficulties and challenges of blood collection: anti-doping laboratories are now particularly looking out for EPO, blood transfusions and growth hormones. An accurate biological profile of an athlete is no longer pie in the sky.

After undergoing their annual assessment, which is an indispensable part of every training session, the doping control officers looked back

at the controls carried out during the 2006/07 season (1,048 players tested, three positive results) and ahead to the 2007/08 season, when the testing programme will particularly focus on EURO 2008.

New modes of transport

The conditions being imposed by airlines as part of tighter security policies mean that new methods need to be considered for transporting samples, which are now being put in the hold with passengers' luggage. Discussions are under way, although there is no great hurry and experiments are likely over the coming months.

Finally, workshops were held for the DCOs to discuss some of the problems they face while on duty: smoking in some changing rooms, strengthening of the UEFA delegate's role, security for the return journey to their hotel, the role of escorts and chaperones, how to respond to an incident and dealing with awkward players. The role and efficiency of the UEFA administration's anti-doping unit serve as an encouragement to everyone to continue devoting themselves to a policy which puts UEFA in the leading pack of institutions that are developing training, information, prevention and controls.

The fourth DCO seminar will be held in spring 2008.



An open discussion to share opinions and experiences.

Photos: UEFA-pjwoods.ch



Ukrainian Special Olympics players and their supporters.

SO Ukraine



Hungarian president Laszlo Solyom met the Hungarian Special Olympics players.

Gregory e.M. Soos



SO Germany

Special Olympics Football Week

More than 50 countries take part

THE SEVENTH ANNUAL SPECIAL OLYMPICS EUROPEAN FOOTBALL WEEK WAS HELD FROM

29 APRIL TO 6 MAY. AN ESTIMATED 40,000 PLAYERS WITH INTELLECTUAL 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 ("athletes") and without intellectual disabilities ("partners") 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.

The Special Olympics programme in **Serbia** took the lead in

involving girls in this project when a Unified match was held as part of the first Special Olympics Serbia national seven-a-side women's football tournament in Nis that involved 80 players. The event was hosted by local professional women's club Masinac. For both Jelena Moletic, 13, a partner, and athlete Samanta Aliti, 14, the Unified team is the first chance they've had to play on a formal team. Their coach, Marga

Karamadzija, said: "Technically, the athletes and partners continuously improve during training. They are eager to learn. The teamwork is great; there is lots of social interaction. Everyone benefits from this experience."

Women players took charge at the Special Olympics European seven-a-side tournament in Kecskemet, **Hungary**, with 18 teams from 15 countries participating. Over 50 matches in classification rounds and finals were played. "This tournament has done much to drive forward our regional development efforts, which have seen Special Olympics women's football grow from 2,000 to almost 20,000 players," said Michael Smith, managing director, Special Olympics Europe/Eurasia (SOEE). Doris Fitschen, World Cup winner and FIFA representative, and Janos Hrutka, professional player and football ambassador for Special Olympics Hungary, which hosted the tournament, were on hand to support the players. "It's great to see such interest in women's football in Special Olympics," said Fitschen. One of the highlights of the tournament was the visit of the Hungarian president, Laszlo Solyom, who met players.



Samanta Aliti, a young Serbian Special Olympics athlete (left) and her partner from Unified Sports, Jelena Moletic.

Sabine Brecklinghaus



Lively one-day tournaments were popular this year with men's, women's and Unified teams participating. In **Montenegro**, the newest Special Olympics programme held its first tournament with 50 players in Podgorica. In **Bosnia and Herzegovina**, 200 players participated in a tournament in Sarajevo. In **Croatia**, 190 players competed in Zagreb and received a visit from national player and NK Dinamo Zagreb defender Vedran Corluka. In **Georgia**, 50 young players under 16 competed in Tbilisi. In **Belgium**, 31 teams participated in the traditional "Happy Football Day" in Hasselt. Another Football Week tradition was the annual match between local Special Olympics teams and UEFA staff in Nyon, **Switzerland**. The Special Olympics players had the chance to meet the UEFA president, Michel Platini.

In **Azerbaijan**, a three-day tournament with 110 players took place in Baku, while in **Kazakhstan**, 210 players participated in a sports camp in Almaty. In **Greece**, 20 Special Olympics teams took part in a tournament as part of the national games of Special Olympics Greece at the Selesao football camp in Nea Makri, near Athens.

Professional teams were on hand to show solidarity with Special Olympics players. In **Germany**, more than 600 Special Olympics players had the chance to compete in events with the involvement of 16 Bundesliga first and second division teams. In **Cyprus**, women's team AEK Kokkinoxorion gave tips to more than 70 players in Nicosia. In **Austria**, Bundesliga coach Lars Sondergard from GAK and former player Eric Reptop were among the profes-

sionals who worked on skills development with Special Olympics players. In **Luxembourg**, first division teams and referees wore Special Olympics T-shirts during warm-up at major games, while football ambassador Manuel Cardoni, national team goalkeeper Stephane Gillet, the Under-21 national team and first division club Racing Luxembourg got on the pitch with players. In **Poland**, 16 professional teams walked onto the pitch wearing Special Olympics T-shirts, some escorted by Special Olympics footballers. At the same time, 2,900 footballers took part in tournaments throughout Poland. In **Italy**, Special Olympics events received the support of the football league and Italian Football Federation and included three days of competitions and skills development at the Francesco Totti football school in Rome.

Grassroots tournaments dominated some activities. In **Turkey**, 3,000 players competed in 27 cities, including a demonstration beach tournament in Antalya. In **Ukraine** 2,500 players participated in tournaments organised in 22 regions, with finals held at the new pitch of the Ukrainian football house in Kiev. In **Romania**, over 1,000 athletes competed in events throughout the country. In **Lithuania**, 390 players participated in events organised under the "Enjoy Football" theme in seven regions. In the **Republic of Ireland**, 420 players participated in events and competitions in five regions, including the first Women's Cup.

Special Olympics players across the region are gearing up to compete in the Special Olympics World Summer Games that will be held in Shanghai, China, in October.

Homeless World Cup in Copenhagen

Forty-eight nations will be represented at the 5th Homeless World Cup to be staged in Copenhagen from 29 July to 4 August.

The event will represent a unique experience for around 500 players, providing them with a chance to change their lives for the better by being the main players in a competition for a few days, at the centre of everyone's attention instead of living on the edges of society or being excluded altogether. Around 25,000 players around the world have participated in qualifying matches for the Copenhagen tournament.



Although the tournament is only a few days long, its effect on the players can last much longer, as demonstrated by the impact report published after last year's 4th Homeless World Cup in Cape Town, South Africa. The figures are impressive: the event gave 92 % of the players a new motivation for life, while 73 % changed their lives for the better, whether by overcoming a drug or alcohol addiction (93 players), finding a new job (35 %), improving their housing situation (44 %), pursuing education (39 %) or continuing to play football on a regular basis (72 %).

"The Homeless World Cup is an event that can change the life of anyone, not simply by helping them become a professional footballer, but enabling them to become a man in everyday life, developing human values, which I think are very important," said Chelsea star Didier Drogba, a supporter of the Homeless World Cup, of which UEFA is a partner.



UEFA-pjwoods.ch



UEFA-pjwoods.ch

After the Executive Committee meeting, UEFA's new general secretary, David Taylor, conducted the draw for the qualifying rounds of the UEFA club competitions.

Meetings and other activities

Nineteen committees all set for work

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE HELD ITS SEVENTH MEETING OF THE YEAR AT THE ABE LENSTRA STADIUM IN HEERENVEEN ON 22 AND 23 JUNE, WITH UEFA PRESIDENT MICHEL PLATINI IN THE CHAIR. DAVID TAYLOR OFFICIATED AS GENERAL SECRETARY FOR THE FIRST TIME.

The meeting, the first to be attended by Franz Beckenbauer, the new European member of the FIFA Executive Committee, was split into two parts. The first, strategic, element was devoted to European and world competitions; the second tackled topical

issues affecting UEFA's different fields of activity.

Following the adoption of the new UEFA Statutes, which entered into force on 1 June, it was necessary to appoint the 19 committees (except the disciplinary bodies) on which UEFA will now

be relying to back up the work of the Executive Committee. Each committee is chaired by a member of the UEFA Executive Committee or a European member of the FIFA Executive Committee; a second member of one or other of these executive bodies will assist the chairman as deputy chairman. Each committee also has three vice-chairmen, most of whom are national association presidents. All the national associations are represented within these committees by at least two members. Apart from the Finance Committee, all the committees have between 11 and 15 members. They are as follows:

National Associations Committee (new). Chairman: Geoffrey Thompson; deputy chairman: Marios Lefkaritis.

Finance Committee (new). Chairman: Marios Lefkaritis.

Referees Committee. Chairman: Angel Maria Villar Llona; deputy chairman: Senes Erzik.

EURO2008 ON THE HORIZON



Kick-off 3,454 metres up

●●● It was an unusual sort of match. A year before the start of the 2008 European Championship final round in Austria and Switzerland, UEFA staged a two-day launch event. The highlight in the truest sense of the word was a football match on the Jungfrauoch, 3,454 metres above sea level. At precisely 11.30 on 8 June, the match kicked off, with two halves of five minutes each. It was refereed by Urs Meier and the players included Switzerland's Stéphane Chapuisat, Johan Djourou and David Degen, Austrians Andreas Herzog, Otto Konrad, Christian Fuchs and Zlatko Junuzovic, Belgian goalkeeper Johan de Wilde, 104-cap Danish ex-international Michael Laudrup, his compatriot John Faxen Jensen, 1992 European Championship winner and final goalscorer, Portugal's Paulo Sousa, Russia's 1988 European Championship

runner-up Sergei Aleinikov and Pole Dariusz Dziekanowski. The teams were coached by the national coaches of the two host nations: Köbi Kuhn and Josef Hickersberger.

In front of around 400 guests, including the injured Swiss internationals Alex Frei and Philipp Degen, UEFA vice-president Gerhard Mayer-Vorfelder, UEFA general secretary David Taylor, Swiss FA president Ralph M. Zloczower and Austrian FA president Friedrich Stickler, the fun factor was second to none, not least because the weather was good. The match ended in a 5-5 draw.

The next milestones in the run-up to EURO 2008 are the launch of the volunteer recruitment programme in August, the final round of qualifiers on 21 November and the draw in Lucerne (Switzerland) on 2 December.



Keystone

A surreal experience on the Jungfrauoch to launch EURO 2008.



On 29 June, in Nyon, the football associations of Belgium, France and Spain signed the UEFA Grassroots Charter, having been admitted by the Executive Committee in April.

UEFA/jplwoods.ch



La Vallette v Buducnost Podgorica in the first round of the 2007 UEFA Intertoto Cup, which kicked off in June.

D.Aquilina



News from Brussels

During the summer, the European Commission will publish a White Paper on Sport. The aim of this initiative is to determine more precisely how sport should be dealt with at European level. Over recent weeks, UEFA has met senior Commission officials in order to draw their attention to the interests of its member associations in relation to a number of key issues.

Following in the footsteps of the European Parliament a few months ago (cf. uefadirect No 59), it is the European Commission's turn to reveal its approach to sport, particularly the application of Community law to sporting activities.

However, this does not mean that the Commission is planning to harmonise sports policies, since these must be developed by the member states, with the administration and management of sport remaining the responsibility of sports federations. Neither does the Commission intend to legislate on sport – something it cannot do as it has no specific competence in this area – but simply to make known its position on sport.

The white paper will summarise the rules that currently apply, in the light of the latest case-law of the European Court of Justice – including the worrying Meca-Medina judgement of July 2006 (cf. uefadirect No. 56) – in various fields (training of young players, fight against violence and doping, competition, freedom of movement, media, etc.) and will lay down priorities in terms of what can and/or should be done to meet the challenges currently faced by European sport.

UEFA submitted its written contribution, drafted in close cooperation with the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and FIFA, to the Commission at the beginning of April. Since then, the UEFA president and his administration have met representatives and members of

National Team Competitions Committee (new). Chairman: Gilberto Madail; deputy chairman: Franco Carraro.

Club Competitions Committee. Chairman: Friedrich Stickler; deputy chairman: Mathieu Sprengers.

Youth and Amateur Football Committee. Chairman: Viacheslav Koloskov; deputy chairman: Gilberto Madail.

Women's Football Committee. Chairman: Mircea Sandu; deputy chairman: Friedrich Stickler.

Futsal and Beach Soccer Committee (new). Chairman: Grigoryi Surkis; deputy chairman: Josef Mifsud.

HatTrick Committee (new). Chairman: Gerhard Mayer-Vorfelder; deputy chairman: Geoffrey Thompson.

Development and Technical Assistance Committee. Chairman: Per Ravn Omdal; deputy chairman: Franz Beckenbauer.

Club Licensing Committee (new). Chairman: Mathieu Sprengers; deputy chairman: Giangiorgio Spiess.

Stadium and Security Committee. Chairman: Senes Erzik; deputy chairman: Grigoryi Surkis.

Medical Committee. Chairman: Michel D'Hooghe; deputy chairman: Viacheslav Koloskov.

Players' Status, Transfer, Players' Agents and Match Agents Committee (new). Chairman: Joseph Mifsud; deputy chairman: Giangiorgio Spiess.

Legal Committee (new). Chairman: Giangiorgio Spiess; deputy chairman: Angel María Villar Llona.

Marketing Advisory Committee (new). Chairman: Franco Carraro; deputy chairman: Gerhard Mayer-Vorfelder.

Media Committee (new). Chairman: Mircea Sandu; deputy chairman: Michel D'Hooghe.

Fair Play and Social Responsibility Committee (new). Chairman: Senes Erzik; deputy chairman: Per Ravn Omdal.

Football Committee (new). Chairman: Franz Beckenbauer; deputy chairman: Mircea Sandu.

The full composition of the committees is published on uefa.com.

The Executive Committee also approved the UEFA Organisational Regulations which, as well as that of the committees and the Professional Football Strategy Council, define the role of match officers (match delegates, referee observers, stadium and security officers, doping control officers, venue directors, tournament administrators and media officers), instructors and internal auditors. →

Nine World Cup qualifying groups

The draw for the qualifying phase for the 2010 World Cup will be held in Durban on 23 November. It was therefore necessary to propose a format for the European qualifying competition and the Executive Committee opted for a nine-group structure which fits perfectly into the international calendar. There will therefore be eight groups of six and one group of five teams. Thirteen places are available to the European associations. Nine of these will be taken by the group winners. The eight best runners-up will contest home and away play-off matches for the remaining four places. In determining the best runners-up, only the results between the top five countries in each group will be taken into account.

Before embarking on the 2010 World Cup qualifiers, Europe's national teams first have to complete their EURO 2008 qualifying campaign, in which Liechtenstein took on Spain at the beginning of June.



Coffrini/AP/Getty Images

→ the European Commission who are involved in the process of drafting the white paper. They have raised some of the traditional political and legal issues, such as the definition of a legal framework adapted to the context of sport and respecting the specificity of sporting activities and the independence of sports federations. They have also emphasised some of the fundamental values defended by UEFA and its national associations, particularly the principle of financial solidarity that only the centralised marketing of television rights can achieve.

UEFA has also been trying to gather significant political support for the rule requiring clubs to make players available for national teams and the provisions on local training of young players.

In principle, the White Paper on Sport is to be welcomed, since even though the Commission has no legislative competence, it has a considerable influence on the way in which sport is developing at European level. It now needs to adopt a clear position on the subjects that are of most concern to national and European sports federations, something it has apparently failed to achieve thus far. However, there is little doubt that the forthcoming cabinet and Commission meetings will put this right. For the ball is now in their court...



Spain and England, who met in this year's European Under-17 Championship final, are taking part in the FIFA U-17 World Cup in Korea.

→ At its meeting, the Executive Committee, after discussing the security situation in Israel, decided to allow matches to be held not only in Tel-Aviv but also in all recognised stadiums in Israel, i.e. in Haifa, Jerusalem and Ashdod.

The Executive Committee also took the exceptional decision, bearing in mind the failure to find a satisfactory solution in terms of security, to cancel the two matches between Armenia and Azerbaijan in Group A of the EURO 2008 qualifying competition. No points will be awarded for these two matches.

Blood tests

The Executive Committee also approved the programme proposed by the Anti-Doping Panel and the Medical Committee concerning doping controls at EURO 2008. The tests will involve both blood and urine samples. Ten players from each of the 16 finalists will be tested out of competition before the tournament; in addition, two players from each team will be tested after each of the 31 final round matches.

■ The UEFA Convention on the Mutual Recognition of Coaching Qualifications continues to expand throughout Europe and now covers almost 175,000 coaches. In Heerenveen, the Executive Committee granted the Pro licence to the national associations of Estonia and Israel; the national associations of the Faroe Islands, Lithuania and Turkey were awarded the A licence.

Modelled on the coaching convention, the development of the UEFA Convention on Referee Education and Organisation took a major step forward with the admission of its first ten member associations (cf. page 10).

In brief

The Executive Committee:

- ratified the appointment of Gianni Infantino to the post of UEFA deputy general secretary;

- gave the green light for negotiations over a draft agreement with the UEFT (Union of European Football Trainers);
- approved the regulations of the qualifying competition for the 2008 Futsal World Cup and of the 2007 UEFA Super Cup;
- allocated additional funding for the construction of a new building in Nyon for the UEFA administration; the building should be ready by August 2009;
- adjusted the solidarity payments to be made in 2007/08 to national associations under the HatTrick programme by granting an additional CHF 40,000 to each association participating in the new European Women's Under-17 Championship.

Under-17s in South Korea

The Under-17 World Cup will kick off in South Korea on 18 August. Split into six groups, 24 teams will be aspiring to succeed Mexico, the 2005 winners, who were eliminated in the qualifying phase this time around.

Five European teams will participate in the tournament, having qualified at the recent European Under-17 Championship in Belgium: Spain, England, Belgium, France and Germany.

The draw in May resulted in the following groups:

Group A: Korea Republic, Peru, Costa Rica, Togo;

Group B: Korea DPR, England, Brazil, New Zealand;

Group C: Honduras, Spain, Argentina, Syria;

Group D: Nigeria, France, Japan, Haiti;

Group E: Belgium, Tunisia, Tajikistan, United States;

Group F: Colombia, Germany, Trinidad and Tobago, Ghana.

The group matches will take place from 18 to 26 August, the round of 16 on 29 and 30 August, the quarter-finals on 1 and 2 September and the semi-finals on 5 and 6 September. Seoul will stage the final and 3rd/4th place match on 9 September.

UEFA SUPER CUP IN MONACO

Following their victory in Athens in May, AC Milan (Filippo Inzaghi) now meet Sevilla FC in the UEFA Super Cup in August.

Ellis/APPI/Getty Images

AUSTRIA



Wanted: "Super Club"

In the run-up to EURO 2008, the Austrian Football Association (ÖFB) is looking for a "Super Club". The main prize is the chance to play against the Austrian national team. All 2,111 ÖFB-affiliated clubs are eligible. Points are available for clubs showing particular commitment to EURO 2008, with the title to be awarded to the team finishing with the most points. Points will also be awarded for every league title victory, whether at youth or first-team level, for the registration of new young players, group visits to matches played by the national team or for events raising the profile of the European Championship.

The competition will run until 17 February 2008 and is divided into four "halves".

The "first half" began in February 2007. ÖFB general secretary Alfred Ludwig says, "This initiative, in which more than 400 Austrian clubs are now taking part, shows that these people are the true ambassadors of EURO 2008 and are spreading the excitement of the tournament all over Europe." Club members have already sent photographs, posters or emails to the ÖFB from more than 25 different countries, from cities including Venice, Paris, Stockholm, Dublin, Moscow, Rome, Zurich, London and Barcelona.

The primary objective of this project is to generate interest in EURO 2008 among as many Austrians as possible. ÖFB president Friedrich Stickler commented, "Our initiative is right in line with the official slogan of the tournament: Expect Emotions! – emotions that we want to start generating even now."

Stefan Illek

BELGIUM



Under-21s in Olympic form

Well before the European Under-21 Championship kicked off, Belgian under-21 coach Jean-François de Sart had stated that his ambition was to see his players perform well and reach the semi-finals of the competition, which would also secure them a ticket for the 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing. Now the tournament is over, he must be extremely satisfied, since both objectives were admirably achieved.



Belgium's under-21s performed brilliantly, despite not reaching the final.

Group A, into which Belgium were drawn, was particularly tough, since it also included Portugal, Israel and the Netherlands. However, the Belgian team never ceased to impress. From the very first group stage match against Portugal, our youngsters showed their individual and collective qualities. Unfortunately, they failed to beat the Portuguese goalkeeper and the 0-0 result meant they more or less had to beat Israel.

The pressure was therefore huge in the run-up to this game. Moreover, the red card shown to Marouane Fellaini in the 18th minute certainly did not make things easier, but once again the players showed their spirit by winning this difficult encounter 1-0 with a superb goal by Kevin Mirallas.

In their third and final group match, a draw would see the Belgian youngsters through to the semi-finals and qualification for the next Olympic Games. However, this was no easy task since the Netherlands were playing at home and had won their first two games. The Dutch were therefore already sure of a semi-final place, but they were certainly not going to give anything away. The match was therefore fiercely contested, but finished well for our team. Two goals from Kevin Mirallas and Sébastien Pocognoli secured a 2-2 draw and the point we needed.

The semi-finals therefore awaited us and brought our team up against the Group B winners, Serbia. Belgium put up a brave fight and even dominated the play. Unfor- →

Who will promote EURO 2008 the best?



BELARUS



UEFA Summer of Grassroots Football

This is the fourth year that football matches are being held with the participation of schoolchildren, orphans, residents of children's homes, disabled



Prizes all round during the Summer of Grassroots Football.

people and veterans from all over the country under the aegis of the Belarus Football Federation (BFF) within the framework of UEFA's grassroots programme.

Last time, the BFF's grassroots football committee achieved considerable progress in popularising football among the various strata of society.

This year, during the first month of summer, more than 5,000 people took place in such activities, and we dare to hope that by the end of the summer that number will have increased to 20,000.

The importance of such programmes for the development of football cannot be overestimated. The matches are not just sports activities, but a real social activity for both the participants and the sponsors, with many different creative competitions on football also organised, and from which no one goes away empty-handed, with prizes and souvenirs for everyone.

Sergey Novysh

→ tunately, however, Jean-François de Sart's team were ineffective in front of goal, unlike the Serbians, who managed to score twice to win 2-0.

The disappointment was obvious at the final whistle, but it was quickly replaced by a sense of pride. There is no doubt that our under-21s achieved a tremendous feat by reaching the semi-finals of the European Championship for the first time in their history. They also showed the whole of Europe that Belgium has a good crop of excellent young players and secured a place in the Olympic Games, something which no Belgian football team has managed since 1928.

Pierre Cornez

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA



Good results for the national team

At the beginning of June, the Bosnia and Herzegovina national team notched up another two wins in the EURO 2008 qualifiers, making a total of three wins in a row during the first half of this year. Under Fuad Muzurovic's leadership, the team has done well enough to now be able to play for one of the first two places in Group C this autumn.

After a debacle at the start of the qualifying competition, the totally reshaped team already surprised Norway in March in Oslo by defeating them 2-1. That success was followed by wins at home in Sarajevo against Turkey (3-2) and Malta (1-0). In their remaining qualifying matches, the national team will play host to Moldova and Norway, and travel to Hungary, Greece and Turkey.



Renewed ambitions for the national team after three wins in a row in the EURO 2008 qualifiers.

The new 2007/08 premier league season in Bosnia and Herzegovina starts on 4 August, with the winners of the first entity leagues in the line-up: NK Travnik, promoted from the first league of the FF Bosnia and Herzegovina, and FK Laktasi, who won the first league of the FF entity of the Republic of Srpska.

SFK 2000 Sarajevo won the women's championship again this year. In the final round in Zepce, SFK 2000 first beat ZFK Borac from Banja Luka (6-1) and then ZNK Iris from Zenica (7-1). The team from Banja Luka finished in second place, beating ZNK Iris (2-0).

The juniors of NK Zrinjski from Mostar became champions of Bosnia and Herzegovina at their level by beating their peers from FK Sarajevo (2-1) in the final round in Tuzla. FK Sloboda finished in third place, ahead of FK Modrica (3-0).

The city of Siroki Brijeg was the venue for the final round of the cadets' championship, in which the youngsters of NK Siroki Brijeg proved stronger than FK Zeljeznica from Sarajevo in the final (4-0). In the match for third place, NK Jedinstvo from Bihac beat NK Celik from Zenica (4-3).

The Football Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina is one of the candidates to host the European Futsal Championship final round in 2009. In the middle of June, a UEFA delegation visited Sarajevo and its sports halls: the Zetra Olympic Hall, Skenderija, Mojmiljo, Dobrinja, Vogosca and Ilidza. The venue will be decided during this year's final round in Portugal in November.

Fuad Krvavac

ENGLAND



A workshop for women's football

England women's star Rachel Yankey shared her football experience with 23 aspiring female coaches during a two-day workshop in Botswana in May.

Yankey, who will be playing for England in the FIFA Women's World Cup in China in September, took time away from her own soccer school to assist with the delivery of coaching sessions led by FA instructors Anthony McCallum and Jo Meloni.

The women's football coaching seminar followed a female soccer development seminar which took place in October 2006 in Gaborone, maintaining The FA's focus on developing the girls' and women's game.

Yankey admitted she was taken aback by her first experience of southern Africa and the desire of the women to join in, with one coach travelling two days just to attend the seminar.

"My father is Ghanaian yet I'd never been to Africa, except Egypt," she said. "The enthusiasm of the girls for football is

massive. Most women players in England make sacrifices and faced prejudice but these girls have far bigger barriers.

Travelling two days to get here: that is amazing. Another girl told me that when the course finishes she would leave for home at 8am and not arrive until 6pm.

Given the passion for the game and the talent of Africans in other sports, the potential is huge. I don't see why the game here can't be what it is in Europe."

Women's football has increased in popularity over the past ten years and remains the fastest-growing sport among young girls in England.

FIFA has also invested heavily in developing women's football, with The FA taking a lead role in sharing its knowledge by delivering seminars on the subject in its UEFA-CAF Meridian Project partner countries Botswana and Lesotho, with Malawi set to benefit in October 2007.

Nada Grkinic



Rachel Yankey finds out about women's football in Africa.

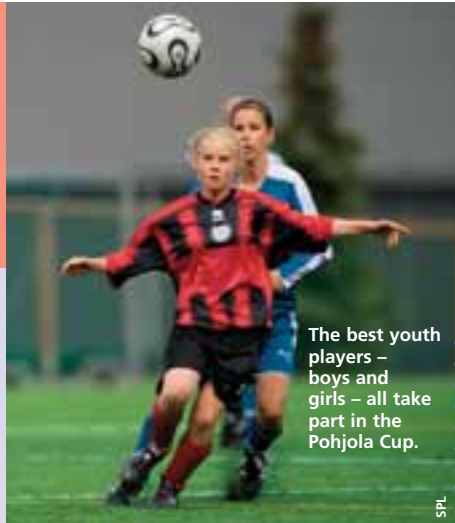
FINLAND



Future stars

Finnish star footballers of the future took part in the annual Pohjola Cup in June. The country's best under-14 and under-15 boys played at Oulu in the North Finland region, while the U14 and U15 girls played at Salo in the Turku region. The Pohjola Cup is the annual tournament of the FA of Finland (SPL) for regional youth teams. Twelve SPL regions selected their clubs' best youth players for the four-day tournament. The Pohjola Cup is the most important tournament of the year for player scouting and education. All the best youth players, promising coaches and referees meet there. This year's edition formed part of the SPL's centenary celebrations.

The main educational purpose of this year's Pohjola Cup's was mental coaching. Former women's national team player and mental coaching specialist Christina



The best youth players – boys and girls – all take part in the Pohjola Cup.

SPL

Forssell talked about preparation for and concentration in matches. The SPL coaches explained what was needed to get to national team level and how to connect school and football. The players, coaches and referees all had their own lessons.

The quality of the games was high and the young talents showed off their skills on the pitch. Every player received feedback about their play and how to develop. The SPL coaches were responsible for scouting and they also chose the boys' and girls' all-star teams, as well as the best players of the tournaments. Every team voted for its own region's fair play player.

The Tampere region won the boys' U14 tournament and the Uusimaa region the U15 tournament. The Helsinki region won both the girls' U14 and U15 tournaments. Next year, the boys' tournament will take place in the Satakunta region and the girls' tournament in Keski-Pohjanmaa.

Olli Orvasto

GERMANY



Bibiana Steinhaus becomes first German female referee in men's professional football

28-year old Bibiana Steinhaus from Hanover has become the first German female referee in men's professional football. At the start of the 2007/08 season, the 1.81 m tall police officer will be able to referee matches in the German second division after her appointment by the referees committee of the German Football Association (DFB).

"I am absolutely delighted that the referees committee has put its trust in me and I will work hard to ensure that I meet their expectations. My aim is to referee and have a positive influence on all matches to my own satisfaction and that of everyone else," Steinhaus said as she looked forward to the new season.

Born in Bad Lauterberg in the Harz mountains, she used to play football herself, as a left full-back. "I was not quite so promising as a player," said the athletic blonde, rather self-critically. Under the influence of her father, a referee himself, she then changed roles and took the whistle for the first time in 1995. The rest is his-

tory: promotion to the women's Bundesliga in 1999, then to the men's regional league in 2001, before refereeing the DFB Women's Cup final in 2003, operating as an assistant referee in the men's second division in 2004 and joining the ranks of FIFA female referees in 2005.

One man who has followed her career closely and helped her along the way is Volker Roth, chairman of the DFB referees committee. "We have been observing Bibiana Steinhaus closely in recent years. Her marks in the regional league were excellent. Her performances were the decisive factor and she achieved her qualifications under the same rules as the men," says the former FIFA referee.

Michael Morsch



Bibiana Steinhaus with the chairman of the DFB's referees committee, Volker Roth, who is also a member of the UEFA Referees Committee.

GEORGIA



Awards ceremony

The Georgian professional football league organised the annual awards ceremony at the Z. Paliashvili opera house in Tbilisi on 21 June, on the occasion of which the ten annual winners were announced.

Shota Arveladze, who currently holds the goal-scoring record with the Georgian national team, received the Footballer of the Year award for the second year in a row. He was also voted Footballer of the Year for the third time by readers of the Sarbieli newspaper.

"You'll remember that I promised you last year to do my best to return here to collect this award again this year, so I kept my promise. In the course of this last year, several wonderful new players have emerged. I want to wish good luck to Levan Kenia, Sandro Iashvili and everybody else. Remember that the future is yours!" Arveladze announced at the ceremony. His rivals for the Footballer of the Year award were Kakha Kaladze and Levan Kobiasvili.

Title of Best League Player went to Sandro Iashvili who, like Arveladze, won the same award in the



Shota Arveladze, Georgia's player of the year.

GFF

poll conducted by the Sarbieli newspaper. The other nominees for this title were Olimpi Rustavi defenders George Seturidze and George Oniani.

Sandro Iashvili also received the Best Striker award, beating Zestaponi's Gogi Pipia and Tbilisi Ameri's Dimitri Tatanashvili in the ballot.

Other awards:

Best Midfielder: Grigol Dolidze (Tbilisi Ameri).

Other nominees: Tornike Aptsiauri (Rustavi Olimpi) and David Digmelashvili (Tbilisi Dinamo).

Best Defender: George Oniani (Rustavi Olimpi).

Other nominees: George Seturidze (Rustavi Olimpi), Ned Zelitch (Tbilisi Dinamo).

Best Goalkeeper: Zurab Qvachakhia (Tbilisi Ameri).

Other nominees: Grigol Chanturia (Zestaponi), Soso Grishikashvili (Tbilisi Dinamo).

Best Youth Player: Levan Kenia (Tbilisi Locomotiv).

Other nominees: Mikheil Alavidze (Rustavi Olimpi), Besik Chimakadze (Tbilisi Ameri).

Best Coach: George Chikhradze (Tbilisi Ameri).

Other nominees: Dushan Uhrin (Tbilisi Dinamo), Revaz Dzodzushvili (Rustavi Olimpi).

Alexander Tsnobiladze

LATVIA



Regional coach education established

The leading Latvian coaches – new national team head coach Aleksandrs Starkovs, his assistant Igors Klosovs, Latvian Football Federation coach Vladimirs Serbins, and a few Latvian youth team coaches – have started a new tradition in Latvia by going to regional football training centres to give professional football training to regional coaches. Psychology, youth footballer evaluation and training tips for physical, technical and tactical work are the main topics on the agenda. The seminars consist of lectures, videos, live training sessions with the best of the region's youth players, and discussions.

The seminars were the idea of the head coach of the national team, Aleksandrs Starkovs, who accepted the Latvian Football Federation's invitation to take up this position after former head coach Juris Andrejevs stepped down. Starkovs also served as head coach in 2004, when he led the national team to EURO 2004 in Portugal, before accepting an offer from Russian premier league club Spartak Moscow. His first two EURO 2008 qualifying matches at the



Extending training throughout the country with regional courses and material.

→ beginning of June were against Spain and Denmark. Next up is home friendly in mid-August against Moldova.

The board of the Latvian Football Federation is considering a historical move. The agenda for its next meeting includes discussions about expanding the first division from eight to ten teams. Cooperation with the press, commercial issues and women's football will also be discussed.

The Baltic League club competition is nearing the finals, with Latvia's representatives having performed well. Three of the four Latvian clubs involved reached the quarter-finals, but one was disqualified for violating the rules of fair play.

Martins Hartmanis



Record number of participants in schools' cup

The months of May and June were devoted to grassroots activities. In May, the qualifying tournaments for the Swiss Schools CS Cup final round took place in Basle. Altogether, 47 school teams took part in the two tournaments, a new record.

In June, the Liechtenstein Football Association organised the traditional LKW youth championships, in which some 700 boys and girls from the youth sectors of the seven national clubs played for the coveted trophies and medals in six different age categories.

Judith Frommelt



Concentrating on winning a medal.

LITHUANIA



Beach soccer time

This year's beach soccer championship has got under way in the resort of Lithuania – Palanga. The tournament is being organised by the Lithuanian futsal associations and the Palanga sports school.

The opening contest was attended by a team from Riga in neighbouring Latvia, who joined the Lithuanian participants for the occasion.

The number of teams taking part indicates that beach soccer is growing in popularity in Lithuania. Lithuanian beach soccer also has certified two FIFA beach soccer referees now – Sergejus Slyva (Kaunas) and Romualdas Cviklinskis (Vilnius).

According to the president of the Lithuanian Football Federation, Liutauras Varanavicius, the number of participants in the beach soccer championship shows that the organisers are succeeding in making beach soccer popular in Lithuania.

The first round of the championship involved 22 teams from all over the country.



Beach soccer is growing steadily in popularity.

It is very satisfying to see that there are a lot of teams taking part for the first time.

The opening contest and the first round were won by the same team, Mazeikiu Rekolas, who got through to the next stage without losing a single match.

This year, the competition is being played according to the FIFA beach soccer rules for the first time. For the teams, it is also preparation for the forthcoming international beach soccer tournaments, including the first Baltic beach soccer cup, which is being hosted by Latvia on 25 August. Lithuania will be represented by the winner and runner-up of the Lithuanian beach soccer championship.

A second tournament will be organised in Jurmala (Latvia) in July, at which Lithuania will be represented by the winners after the first and second rounds of the Lithuanian beach soccer championship.

Vaiva Zizaitė

MALTA



New Malta FA premises

New, state-of-the-art Malta FA (MFA) headquarters were officially inaugurated on 27 June, when the president of the Republic of Malta, Edward Fenech Adami, declared open the premises in the Millennium Stand of the Ta' Qali national stadium.



Joseph Mifsud, president of the MFA, cuts the ribbon being held by the president of Malta, Edward Fenech Adami, as David Taylor, UEFA general secretary, looks on.

Apart from the MFA president, Joseph Mifsud, and the association's officials, there were other distinguished guests attending the ceremony, including UEFA general secretary David Taylor and FIFA representatives Liutauras Varanavicius and Eva Pasquier.

This is the first time in the history of the association that its administrative business will be conducted from outside the capital city, Valletta.

The previous premises had become too small for its expanding operations and so it was decided to move to a new place, befitting modern times.

After applications for tenders were issued and contracts awarded, work started at the end of last year under the direction of architect Ludovico Micallef, who is also the MFA vice-president.

Financial aid was mainly provided by FIFA under its Goal Project II, with Infront AG of Switzerland also making a substantial contribution to this project. Funding also came from the association's financial reserves.

The headquarters are situated on two floors of the stadium's Millennium Stand and cover an area of 1,100 square metres, more than five times the space of the previous Valletta premises.

There are offices for each department, including those of the president and top officials, a spacious executive committee room and a welcoming reception area which houses the association's cups, trophies and treasured memorabilia.

The new MFA centre, equipped with the latest security and IT systems, will undoubtedly be another legacy of the association for future administrators.

Alex Vella

NORTHERN IRELAND



In conversation with Nigel Worthington

New Northern Ireland boss Nigel Worthington can hardly wait for his first game in charge against Liechtenstein in August. The Ballymena man took over the Northern Ireland hot seat on 1 June, and along with Glynn Snodin as his assistant and Fred Barber as his goalkeeping coach, the new management team is looking forward to the challenge that lies ahead.

With four of the last six games in Northern Ireland's EURO 2008 qualifying campaign away from home – against Latvia, Iceland, Sweden and Spain – it is going to be a difficult run-in for the boys in green, but Worthington believes that if everyone pulls together as a nation, then the team has every chance of qualifying for next summer's finals in Austria and Switzerland.

"International games are never easy – they're always tough, but they're a good platform to work off. Yes, there are four away games out of the last six, which doesn't make it any easier, but together as a nation – and in that nation I include the supporters, the board at the IFA, the local press and certainly the players and the staff – if we pull in the one direction over the next six games then we can certainly qualify," he said.

However the new manager realises that there is still a lot of hard work to be done if Northern Ireland is to qualify for its first finals in over 20 years: *"What we – staff and players – have to do is keep our feet on the ground and keep working and working hard, because there is still a long way to go,"* he added.

The Northern Ireland manager, who was capped 66 times for his country, also recognises the importance of the fans – and with a difficult close to the qualifying campaign ahead, every member of the Green and White Army needs to get behind Worthington and his team.

"The role that the fans play is massive – and that's not just the case nowadays, but it was the same when I was a player – the supporters have always been magnificent, home and away."

Caroline Menary



Nigel Worthington, the new national coach, is eagerly awaiting Northern Ireland's next matches.

NORWAY



Tine football school

Some 440 football clubs in Norway are organising a Tine football school for 74,000 children this summer so that they can have fun and develop their football skills.

The Tine football school is a partnership between the Tine company and the Football Association of Norway which started in 1998 and has developed very positively since then. In the first year, 18,000 children took part in the football schools, compared with the 74,000 expected to take part throughout the country this summer.

"This is a week that is a social and fun event for the children, but we also emphasise the importance of using coaches and instructors with relevant and good football skills," says Audun Fevik,



The football schools are attracting more and more participants.

director of grassroots football at the Football Association of Norway.

"The Tine football school is open to everyone, regardless of skills and ambitions. We hope it will encourage children to play a lot of football in the future," says Fevik, who also expressed his thanks to Tine for its contribution to the important work of developing grassroots football in Norway.

Roger Solheim

REPUBLIC OF IRELAND



FAI launch Intercultural Football Plan

The Football Association of Ireland recently launched an intercultural football plan which is designed to examine how best, in the context of a more diverse society, the FAI can encourage increased participation in football among people from minority ethnic and cultural backgrounds. The plan also challenges and prevents the spread of 'racism' within the game and thus contributes towards a fully integrated and intercultural society.

The FAI is at the forefront of Irish sport in terms of commitment to interculturalism and 12 months ago became the first national governing body to appoint a full-time national coordinator to oversee this important sector.

According to the 2006 census, around one in ten of those living in the Republic of Ireland have a nationality other than Irish, a proportion which has nearly doubled since 2002. Regrettably, discrimination and 'racism' exist in Irish society, and those within the football community have a responsibility to challenge discrimination. Thus, the plan, launched by former Ireland senior international, Paul McGrath at City Hall Dublin focuses on four overarching objectives:

- To combat 'racism' in football
- To promote participation among minority ethnic and multicultural communities

- To develop a culture of football that is dynamic and globally competitive
- To contribute to the wider process of integration.

■ As the FAI Senior Challenge Cup kicked off recently, the FAI welcomed Ford on board as new sponsors of the competition. This is the first year that Ford is sponsoring the FAI Cup, although the



The intercultural programme is launched at Dublin City Hall.

company has a link right back to the very first FAI senior cup tournament. Fordsons, the works' team from the Henry Ford factory in Cork, won the competition when they beat Shamrock rovers in the 1926 final. The winners of the FAI Ford Senior Cup will be presented with a new trophy this season. The new trophy replaces the original FAI trophy which has been in existence since the competition was first played the back in 1922. The original trophy has been retired and will be placed on display in the FAI's proposed museum when the association moves to its new headquarters at Abbotstown later this year.

Fran Whearty

ROMANIA



Top Executive meeting

On 29 June, the Romanian FA (FRF) hosted its second meeting within the framework of UEFA's Top Executive Programme. The FRF's top officials (Mircea Sandu, FRF president and member of the UEFA Executive Committee; Ioan-Angelo Lupescu, CEO; Adalbert Kassai, general secretary; and Florin Prunea, director of the foreign relations department) had the great pleasure of welcoming a UEFA delegation led by vice-president Angel María Villar Llona.

This meeting took place at the headquarters of the Romanian FA (the House of Football) exactly two years since the first such meeting, which is why the first item on the agenda was "Where does the Romanian FA stand now, since the last TEP visit in July 2005?". Other items discussed during the very constructive and useful meeting were the "Reorganisation and

modernisation of the Romanian FA", as well as "Visions and objectives of the Romanian FA".

The UEFA delegation was able to see that the Romanian FA has achieved several important steps since 2005, not only in terms of modernising its structure and its activity, but also at international level. In the last two years, following UEFA's recommendations, the Romanian FA has intensified its efforts and hosted not only mini-tournaments (youth, Regions' Cup and women's, including at women's youth level), but also several seminars and meetings at European and even FIFA level, either concerning administration or in the technical area (for coaches and directors of national coaching schools).

There are also very exact plans for intensifying such meetings in the future and one of the major aims is to host the UEFA Cup final in 2011 or 2012, once the Bucharest local authorities and the Romanian government have built a new national stadium in Bucharest.

Paul-Daniel Zaharia



Adrian Knup playing against Sweden in 1995 in Gothenburg.

Knup, Ernst Lämmli, Jakob Kuhn, Hansruedi Hasler and Philipp Ebner. Their roles are as follows: Lämmli is the link person with the SFV board, Hasler is the coordinator and chief of staff, Knup will bring his experiences as an international player and support the head coach with internal and external communication and Ebner is the administrator. The core group will meet regularly in the run-up to EURO 2008 in order to review the strategy, which aims to develop and improve the work that has already been done, and to adopt any new measures that may prove necessary.

One of the main features of the new strategy is the creation of a 40-man squad. These players will be closely supervised and observed until the final tournament, although of course any player who is not currently part of this group still has a chance of winning a place in the final squad by performing well during the coming season.

Pierre Benoit

SAN MARINO



Campaign against racism

The Football Association of San Marino, in collaboration with UEFA, has conducted a campaign against racism.

The project was carried out during May and June. It included a series of actions such as advertising in the mass media, advertising banners at stadiums and the main training grounds, T-shirts and gadgets.



A shower of droplets to say no to racism.

The advert bears the slogan "No to racism" and depicts a multi-coloured shower of droplets falling onto a football field, topped by the three peaks that are the universal symbol of San Marino, conveying the message that there is no room for racism in the world of football or in the oldest republic in the world.

Press Office

SWITZERLAND



New core group and team adviser for national team

In order to help the players and the national team to prepare for EURO 2008 in their own country in the best possible conditions, the SFV has formed a core group of national team staff and recruited a team adviser under a fixed-term contract. This strategy, developed at the request of national coach Jakob Kuhn and designed to take some of the workload off his shoulders, is divided into three stages in the run-up to the preparation phase just before the tournament. The basic principles were drawn up before June 2007, they will be consolidated by December 2007 and a dress rehearsal for the final tournament will be held by May 2008. One of the aims of the project is to observe the squad closely and support the players in their preparations for EURO 2008. The core group will also analyse the results of the observations and tests before discussing and coordinating further measures.

The new team adviser is the 38-year old former international Adrian Knup. Knup won 48 caps for Switzerland and, with 26 goals, lies sixth in the all-time goalscoring chart for the Swiss national team. The core group comprises Adrian

TURKEY



Zero tolerance against violence

Turkish FA officials have met with the head officials of the Turkish police force in Abant-Bolu. Violence and disorder were the main points of concern on the agenda of the two-day meeting. Turkish FA vice-president Affan Kecici and general secretary Lutfi Aribogan were the hosts of the debate and several important decisions were taken during the meeting.

A zero tolerance policy is implemented against violence and disorder in football stadiums. By law, private security will take over stadium security in 2009, a measure that the meeting strongly recommended should not be delayed again. Clubs were also advised to make use of season tickets and to restrict group ticket sales.

The Turkish FA and the Turkish police will work together on a book dealing with crisis situations in stadiums.

Ilker Ugur



Communications

Birthdays – Calendars

Birthdays

Lamberto Perugia (Italy), member of the circle of former UEFA committee members, celebrates his 80th birthday on 5 August. Pierre Schiepers (Belgium), member of the same "club", will be 70 on 9 August. Dr Urs Vogel (Switzerland), vice-chairman of the Medical Committee joins him at that milestone on 11 August. Executive Committee member Per Ravn Omdal (Norway) celebrates his 60th birthday on 20 August. Match delegate Pierino Lardi (Switzerland), technical instructor Roy Hodgson (England), Club Licensing Committee member Jacques Lagnier (France), former UEFA committee member Patricia Gregory (England) and Appeals Body member Carmelo Bartolo (Malta) follow suit on 7, 9, 16, 19 and 21 August respectively. Last but not least, Sheila Begbie (Scotland), member of the Women's Football Committee, turns 50 on 1 August, as do referee observers Andreas Schluchter (Switzerland) and Regina Konink-Belksma (Netherlands), on 3 and 26 August respectively. UEFA also wishes many happy returns to:

- Theodore Theodoridis (Greece, 1.8)
- Süheyl Önen (Turkey, 2.8)
- Philippe Diallo (France, 2.8)
- Zdravko Jokic (Serbia, 4.8)
- Yehuda Wilk (Israel, 5.8)
- Konstantin Eremenko (Russia, 5.8)
- Piet Hubers (Netherlands, 6.8)
- Peter Donald (Scotland, 8.8)
- Plarent Kotherja (Albania, 8.8)
- Nico de Pauw (Belgium, 8.8)
- Odd Flattum (Norway, 9.8)
- Heinz Fahnler (Austria, 10.8)
- Keith Burge (Wales, 10.8)
- Ettore Mazzilli (Italy, 10.8)
- Jean-Marc Puisseuseau (France, 13.8)
- Roger Vanden Stock (Belgium, 13.8)
- Joseph Mifsud (Malta, 13.8)
- Cornel Cristian Bivolaru (Romania, 13.8)
- Alan Hutchings (England, 16.8)
- Dane Jost (Slovenia, 18.8)
- Vitalijs Liholajs (Latvia, 19.8)
- Hans Reijgwart (Netherlands, 19.8)
- Frantisek Laurinec (Slovakia, 19.8)
- Kazimierz Oleszek (Poland, 22.8)
- Geoffrey Thompson (England, 23.8)
- Ioannis Economides (Greece, 23.8)
- Enrique Gonzalez Ruano (Spain, 24.8)
- Nicolae Grigorescu (Romania, 24.8)
- Thomas Slosarich (Denmark, 24.8)
- Josef Poucek (Czech Republic, 25.8)
- Giancarlo Abete (Italy, 26.8)

- Karl Hopfner (Germany, 28.8)
- Joseph McGlue (Republic of Ireland, 28.8)
- Askar Akhmetov (Kazakhstan, 28.8)
- Vincent Egbers (Netherlands, 29.8)
- Pedro Manuel Correia Magro (Portugal, 30.8)
- Paulo Sousa (Portugal, 30.8)
- Christer Fällström (Sweden, 31.8)
- Aivaz Kaziakhmedov (Russia, 31.8)
- Pedro Dias (Portugal, 31.8)
- Christoph Kollmeier (Germany, 31.8)

Upcoming events

Meetings

3.8.2007, Nyon

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

30.8.2007, Monaco

Draw for the UEFA Champions League group matches
Professional Football Strategy Council (tbc)

31.8.2007, Monaco

Draw for the first round of the UEFA Cup
Club Competitions Committee (tbc)

Competitions

1.8.2007

UEFA Champions League: second qualifying round (first legs)

2.8.2007

UEFA Cup: first qualifying round (return legs)

7/8.8.2007

UEFA Champions League: second qualifying round (return legs)

14/15.8.2007

UEFA Champions League: third qualifying round (first legs)

16.8.2007

UEFA Cup: second qualifying round (first legs)

28/29.8.2007

UEFA Champions League: third qualifying round (return legs)

30.8.2007

UEFA Cup: second qualifying round (return legs)

31.8.2007, Monaco

UEFA Super Cup

Announcements

■ Following the departure of Fuad Asadov, for health reasons, Aladdin Aghai took over as general secretary of the FA of Azerbaijan on 13 June.

■ Rudolf Repka has been named as the new general secretary of the Czech FA.

■ On 29 June, Raymond Kennedy was elected president of the Irish Football Association. He succeeds Jim Boyce, who becomes honorary president of the association.

Match agents

Two match agents have surrendered their UEFA licence: Johan Gaasbeck (Netherlands) and Paolo Lanzetta (Italy).

Publication

FOOTBALL – Comprendre et pratiquer

Joseph Mercier, who has written numerous reference books since retiring as a renowned coach, has been



involved in elite football in France for some 60 years. This publication summarises some of his vast knowledge, as well as serving as a reference work for teaching

football techniques and tactics. (Editions Amphora, 75006 Paris, France. Fax: +331 4329 49 491. www.ed-amphora.fr)

Obituary

Josef "Jupp" Derwall (Germany), member of the UEFA Technical Committee from 1978 to 1984, passed away on 26 June at the age of 80. As coach of the West German national team from 1978 to 1984, he won the European Championship in 1980 and a runners-up medal in the 1982 World Cup.

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