

**European  
football  
united against  
racism** 03

---

**Visiting  
the Football  
Association  
of Montenegro** 04

---

**Simulation:  
a punishable  
offence** 06

---

**Women referees  
in Nyon** 10

---





Photos: UEFA-plwoods.ch

# Message of the General Secretary On the banks of Lake Geneva

The first week of November was a very busy week for those of us in Nyon. It was the first full committee week, with nine different committee meetings scheduled from Monday to Friday, mornings and afternoons. Every national association is represented in at least two committees – and every association therefore has the opportunity to contribute actively to the work of UEFA in different areas of activity. The second full committee week will take place in February of next year, when the other nine committees all begin their tasks for the next two years. There is plenty of work to be undertaken across the wide range of UEFA activities.

We never forget that the House of European Football is the house of our football associations – but it is open to everyone with the interests of the game at heart. We recently had a visit from Danny Jordaan, CEO of the 2010 FIFA World Cup Organising Committee South Africa, who gave a very positive update on the preparations for this major event. We are all looking forward to the preliminary round draw in Durban on 25 November.

Our visitors, friends and partners are not all, of course, from national associations. Representatives from clubs and leagues, players organisations, coaches, referees and commercial partners are often to be seen in our offices, working together for the good of the game. UEFA wishes to strengthen and deepen our partnerships with all of those groups as we aim to build more consensus around our response to the challenges faced by football in the 21st century.

It is this spirit which underlies the creation of the Professional Football Strategy Council, another part of the new organisational structure, which met for a second time in Nyon in November. If all interest groups can find a way to work within the democratic framework of self-regulation of football, we have a real chance to develop the game and its organisation to a new level.

So there is a lot happening just now within the walls of the House of European Football on the banks of Lake Geneva. It is a beautiful location but the pace of life in football means we have very little time to enjoy the scenery!

  
**David Taylor**  
UEFA General Secretary

## IN THIS ISSUE

European football united against racism	03
Visiting the Football Association of Montenegro	04
Simulation: against the spirit of fair play	06
CFR 1907 Cluj: one hundred years young	08
Women referees in Nyon	10
News from Brussels: UEFA-FIFPro agreement	11
News from member associations	15
Committee week in pictures	22

## COVER

Simon Rolfes (Germany) wins an aerial challenge in the match against the Republic of Ireland. Germany are the first team to secure a place in the final round of EURO 2008 with hosts Austria and Switzerland.

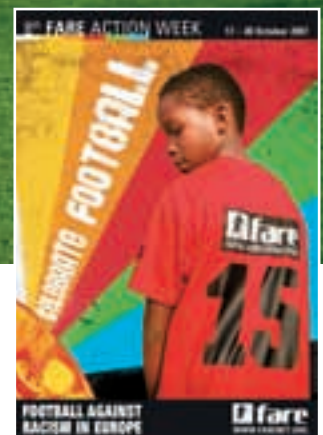
Photo: Witters

# FARE Action Week

## European football united against racism



Sporting T-shirts that call for unity in the face of racism, the national team of Malta shows racism the red card prior to its match against Moldova in the qualifying round for EURO 2008.



D. Aquilina

**RACISM AND DISCRIMINATION ARE SCOURGES AGAINST WHICH UEFA, SUPPORTED BY THE FARE NETWORK (FOOTBALL AGAINST RACISM IN EUROPE), MAKES A CONSTANT STAND. EACH YEAR, HOWEVER, ONE WEEK IS DEDICATED SPECIALLY TO THE CAUSE – THE FARE ACTION WEEK. NOW IN ITS EIGHTH YEAR, IT WAS HELD THIS TIME FROM 17 TO 30 OCTOBER.**

This year the emphasis was placed on three points in particular: greater participation by ethnic minorities and immigrants, the inclusion of women and young girls in the campaign, and the eradication of homophobia from the game.

Throughout Europe, NGOs, supporters' clubs, schools, youth clubs and immigrant groups responded to FARE's call to "show racism the red card". Initiatives were registered in almost 40 countries across the continent: discussion forums, posters, adverts and publications, football tournaments, online messages and even press conferences all sent the

same message to eradicate racism and all forms of discrimination.

As reported on the relevant pages of this issue of uefadirect, many national associations have contributed to the campaign, making the most of EURO 2008 qualifying matches to spread the word. The clubs have also done their bit, especially the 32 participating in the UEFA Champions League: for the matches on 23 and 24 October, the captains wore armbands calling for a united stance against racism, public announcements were made, logos were displayed and the players were accompanied onto the pitch by children wearing T-shirts

that likewise called for unity in the face of racism. In the UEFA Cup, the increased number of clubs that took part in the Action Week was highly encouraging.

The UEFA administration got involved by participating in a football match in Nyon against players from the Organisation Sportive Africa-Suisse.

Without a doubt, the great echo around Europe caused by all these events is both a sign of success and a means of encouragement for all those who are determined to banish racism and discrimination from the stadiums and from the sport.



The Montenegrin Under-17s.

FA Montenegro



President Dejan Savicevic.

UEFA-plivoods.ch



The Montenegrin national team is eager for the chance to prove itself in the World Cup qualifiers.

FA Montenegro



# Football Association of Montenegro

## A young, dynamic association

**A UEFA MEMBER SINCE BEING ADMITTED AT THE DÜSSELDORF CONGRESS ON 26 JANUARY 2007, THE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION OF MONTENEGRO IS HARD AT WORK, WITH THE FOCUS ON YOUTH, BOTH IN TERMS OF ITS FOOTBALLERS AND ITS STAFF.**

*"We will be in South Africa at the draw for the qualifying round of the next FIFA World Cup," smiles Momir Djurdjevac, General Secretary of the Football Association of Montenegro.*

UEFA's youngest member has not exactly been hanging around doing nothing since the region it represents was granted independence. In 2006,

Serbia and Montenegro participated in the World Cup in Germany under a common flag. On 26 January 2007, Montenegro became UEFA's 53rd member. *"UEFA thus sent out a clear signal and FIFA quickly admitted us on 31 May."*

This summer, four Montenegrin clubs took part in the qualifying

rounds for the European competitions. FK Zeta beat Kaunas in the UEFA Champions League first qualifying round before losing to Glasgow Rangers, and the Under-17s, Under-19s and Under-21s are participating in the qualifying competitions of their respective European championships. *"Soon our top footballers will also have the chance to compete against the best during the World Cup qualifying round. We will be giving our best in every match, but there's a first time for everything. With every European campaign, we will gain more experience. We have talented players, but they need to acquire experience and step up to the top level. Our Under-17s recently played Northern Ireland. We were fundamentally better but our opponents were more experienced and won. We therefore need to play more matches".*

Yugoslavia reached the World Cup round of 16 in 1998. *"Seven Montenegrins were in the last starting eleven,"* says the general secretary.

### Like Ukraine

Montenegro is an excellent breeding ground for young players, but its situation is similar to that of Ukraine when it broke away from the Soviet Union: *"The Serbia and Montenegro team included maybe three Montenegrins. Similarly, the association was based in Belgrade. It was very hard for a Montenegrin club to survive in the top division. We have a different vision of football, which we can now begin to implement. International recognition was our first objective. Then it was a case of playing in the various competitions. Over the next four years, we will be concentrating on improving our infrastructures and stadiums. This is essential if our children are going to join clubs in large numbers. We need training camps that are accessible to all teams. Our stadiums were built during the Communist era. They are dilapidated and do not meet modern standards of comfort. We need separate training pitches so that we do not damage*



The Montenegrin Under-21s have well and truly entered the European playing field, meeting England, among others, in the European Under-21 Championship.

FA Montenegro



General Secretary Momir Djurdjevac talking to UEFA President Michel Platini.

UEFA/pjwoods.ch



UEFA/pjwoods.ch

At the UEFA Congress in Düsseldorf, the Football Association of Montenegro was admitted as a member of the European football family.

those used for competitive matches. We are receiving support from UEFA, which is giving us EUR 2.5 million. If the state gives us EUR 5 million, we will be able to carry out our plans."

When independence was declared, the Montenegrin staff comprised just two people. Momir Djurdjevac smiles again: "We started from scratch. The association was new, it had to meet new obligations and apply its vision of football. We had to plan everything at the same time. We now employ 10 full-time staff, who are backed up by 15 temporary employees. Our staff are fantastic! We have tried to recruit young people who can work for us for a long time to come and who share our vision. It is easier to build a new association with young staff. They are more open, more inventive and more dynamic. Dejan Savicevic became president at the age of 35. The two of us are the oldest members of the association staff!"

### UEFA, a family

Not all of Montenegro's top clubs and players are professional. "The clubs can choose whether to be professional or not. What does it matter in the end? The players train every day and live as professionals for their

sport, but many of them earn their living from another job. Since we joined UEFA, the situation has been changing. More investors are showing an interest in the clubs. I am sure that our top division will soon be professional. Here too it is a matter of time. The clubs have also had to adapt to independence. Players, coaches and staff: everything has been reorganised. Ukraine is a great example. It faced the same situation as us a few years ago. Now it has two clubs in the Champions League."

Montenegro has plenty of enthusiasm. It needs time and experience. "UEFA is an experienced

organisation, which is important for us. As well as its development programme and funding for training camps, we are benefiting from its experience. Its help is invaluable for a new association. We like its philosophy very much. UEFA shares its funds between all its members and all are equal in its eyes, whether it's England, France or Montenegro. We are even represented within the UEFA committees. Our president is a member of the Football Committee and I am part of the Fair Play and Social Responsibility Committee."

Pascale Pierard



Under-21s Marko Vidovic (Montenegro, No 14) and James Milner (England) in the air.

Getty Images

## Between sea and mountains

Montenegro separated from Serbia following a public referendum. The split went smoothly. Located in the south-eastern Balkans, between mountains and the Adriatic, Montenegro is an idyllic region, popular with tourists but with only around 650,000 inhabitants.

Football is the main national sport, attracting 50% of the country's active sportsmen and women. It has some 70 clubs and 4,000 registered footballers, an impressive figure in relation to the country's population. The football association has acted quickly: "The politicians have done their share of the work and we have done ours," says Momir Djurdjevac.

Zoran Filipovic, the national team coach, is Serbian. "He was born in Montenegro but emigrated to Serbia with his parents at the age of 17." A lot of players are in the same boat: they had to make a choice when the split took place.

P. P.

# Against the spirit and laws of the game

## Simulation: a punishable offence

**ACCORDING TO ITS STATUTES, ONE OF UEFA'S OBJECTIVES IS TO PROMOTE FOOTBALL IN EUROPE IN A SPIRIT OF FAIR PLAY. THE DISCIPLINARY REGULATIONS (DR) STIPULATE (ART. 5 PARA. 1) THAT "MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS, CLUBS, AS WELL AS THEIR PLAYERS, OFFICIALS AND MEMBERS SHALL CONDUCT THEMSELVES ACCORDING TO THE PRINCIPLES OF LOYALTY, INTEGRITY AND SPORTSMANSHIP."**

Meanwhile, under Law 12 of the Laws of the Game, a player is cautioned if he is guilty of unsporting behaviour. In this regard, the International F.A. Board specifies that *"any simulating action anywhere on the field, which is intended to deceive the referee, must be sanctioned as unsporting behaviour."*

UEFA also introduced the possibility of imposing a disciplinary sanction even if the referee did not see the unsporting behaviour of a player and was therefore unable to take any decision (cf. Art. 10 para. 3 DR). It is not uncommon for footage of a match to show a player commit a serious breach of a rule of conduct, which the match officials have not seen. In such cases, UEFA can open an investigation which, if appropriate, can lead to a disciplinary decision (Art. 46 DR).

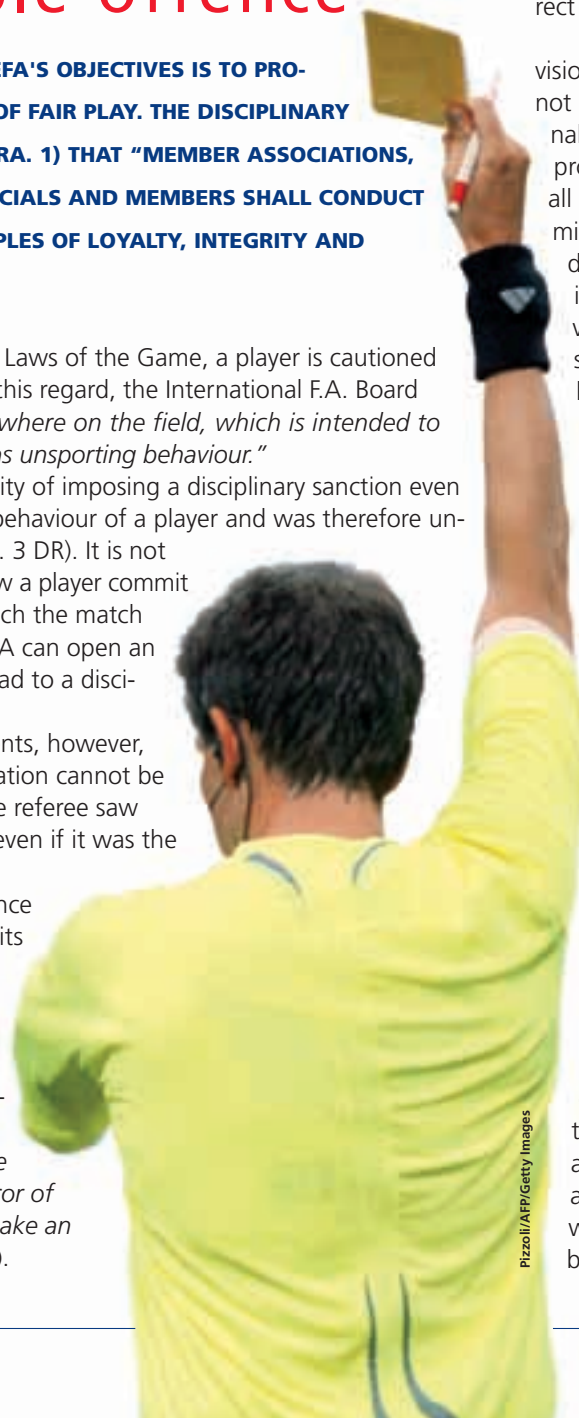
According to established precedents, however, an unsporting act such as an act of simulation cannot be sanctioned under Art. 10 para. 3 DR if the referee saw the incident and took a factual decision, even if it was the wrong decision.

In order to make up for the absence of a legal basis and establish grounds for its policy, the Executive Committee decided in 2006 to include in the Disciplinary Regulations a provision under which a player guilty of misconduct is suspended for two competition matches or for a specified period *"for acting with the obvious intent to cause any match official to make an incorrect decision or supporting his error of judgement and thereby causing him to make an incorrect decision"* (Art. 10 para. 1 (c) DR).

Therefore, a player can be punished if he deliberately deceived a match official in order to cause him to make an incorrect decision and/or supported his error of judgement. In addition, his conduct must have caused the official to take an incorrect decision. In other words, in order for an offence to be committed, it is sufficient that the referee does not realise that simulation has taken place (otherwise he would show a yellow card), that the act is deliberate and that it achieves its objective, i.e. it leads the referee to make an incorrect decision.

By introducing this new provision, the Executive Committee did not intend to set up a "video tribunal" with responsibility for bringing proceedings against and sanctioning all cases of simulation that are missed by the match officials. In order for a player's conduct to result in the opening of a disciplinary investigation and, if appropriate, a sanction, his act of deception must have produced an undue advantage for his team and himself, the progress or result of the match must have been falsified or it must have had an impact on the qualification or otherwise of one of the teams. It should also be pointed out that this provision does not affect in any way the rule under which the disciplinary decisions taken by the referee on the field of play are final and cannot be reviewed by the UEFA disciplinary bodies (cf. Art. 20 para. 1 DR).

The act of deception must therefore not only be clear, but it must also have achieved its objective of obtaining an illicit advantage. The result thus obtained must also represent an outrageous violation of the sense of sporting justice and fairness to the extent that failure to issue a sanction would appear unjustifiable and in obvious contradiction with the actual situation as revealed by the investigation (images). This



Pizzoli/AFP/Getty Images



The referee's decision is clear: the player dived and is shown the yellow card.

Rangers FC/PA Photos



Full of symbolism, the pre-match handshake also represents a commitment to respect the rules of fair play throughout the match.

UEFA

would be the case, for example, if, by an act of gross simulation, a player caused an opponent to be sent off or won a penalty that was duly converted. However, causing the referee to award a free kick incorrectly on the edge of the penalty area, from which no goal resulted, would not constitute misconduct in the sense of Art. 10 para. 1(c) DR.

#### A concrete case

The UEFA Appeals Body was recently asked to examine the validity of the aforementioned legal provisions and precedents. In the case in question, the UEFA disciplinary bodies applied Art. 10 para. 1(c) of the Disciplinary Regulations, which entered into force on 1 August 2006, for the first time.

The Control and Disciplinary Body suspended a player for two national team competition matches in accordance with the aforementioned provision. On the basis of images of a EURO 2008 qualifying match, it held that the player M. had clearly dived inside the opponents' penalty area in order to win an unmerited penalty that was duly converted. The national association of the player concerned appealed this decision and UEFA's supreme disciplinary body rejected the appeal on the grounds summarised below:

The video footage of the disputed incident clearly shows that, as he was running into the penalty area from the right wing, M. dived just as his opponent moved his foot forward in an attempt to intercept the ball. The camera angle proves beyond doubt that the fall was not caused by any form of contact between the two players, but was the result of a deliberate dive. However, from the respective positions of the referee and his assistant, it was difficult, if not impossible, to detect the dive. The referee's decision to award a penalty is

therefore understandable. Besides, when he saw the footage, he had no doubt that he had been duped by the player M.

By simulating a foul, the player clearly caused the referee and his assistant to make an error. Through his conduct, he led the referee to wrongly award a penalty which was subsequently converted. Not only did the player fail to try to correct the referee's misinterpretation, but he also supported his error of judgement by celebrating with some of his team-mates, who had come over to congratulate him.

The Appeals Body considered that it was therefore established that the player had deliberately and grossly simulated a foul and thus caused the referee to make an incorrect decision which had resulted in a goal. By acting in this way, the player had violated the principles of fair play and sporting justice and set a very bad example. It was therefore correct to punish him in accordance with Art. 10 para. 1(c) DR.

The Appeals Body agreed with the verdict of the first instance body. It noted that the images were damning for the player M., who did not just simulate a foul and dive, but also thought it necessary to share his joy at having

deceived the referee with his smiling team mates. He demonstrated a total lack of fair play and tarnished the image of football in general and of his national team in particular. By expressing his joy, he made fun of his opponents with a totally uncalled-for show of arrogance and demonstrated a complete lack of respect for the match officials. At no stage did he think he should apologise. Worse still, by failing to attend the Appeals Body hearing, to which he had been called, he showed how little importance he attached to the UEFA disciplinary authorities.

In conclusion, the Appeals Body stated that the decision of the Control and Disciplinary Body was beyond reproach because it conformed with the principle of legality and was proportionate to the gravity of the offence committed. Through his conduct, the player not only cheated in order to cause the referee to take a decision which had serious consequences, but also contravened the sense of justice felt by any supporter worthy of the name. M. only has himself to blame if he must now pay the price for his action.

*Michel Wuilleret*

*Chairman of the Appeals Body*



It's not always easy for the referee to tell whether a player has been fouled or is faking.

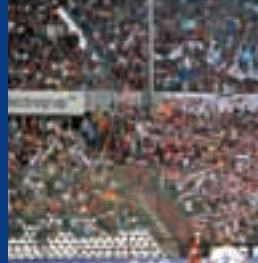
Empics Sport/PA Photos



The new stand was packed, as was the rest of the stadium, for the Benfica match.



All the splendour of the centenary gala celebrations.



# CFR 1907 Cluj

## One hundred years young

**THE STORY OF CFR CLUJ TOOK A SPECTACULAR TURN WHEN ARPAD PASZKANY TOOK UP THE REINS OF THE CLUB IN 2002. AT THE TIME, IT WAS STILL STRUGGLING IN ROMANIA'S THIRD DIVISION.**

A major financial boost and well-defined priorities assisted in a rapid rise that saw CFR Cluj join the top flight at the end of the 2003/04 season. This marked the end of a long but lacklustre history and the start of a new era.

The club's first season alongside the Romanian elite was not outstanding (eleventh in 2004/05), but its involvement at international level was more gratifying: under the direction of Dorinel Munteanu, a young, ambitious coach of Gheorghe Hagi's generation, the Transylvanian club enjoyed an incredible UEFA Intertoto Cup in 2005. Having knocked

out Athletic Bilbao and St-Etienne, CFR got all the way to the final round before losing to RC Lens, one of two French teams in the last six.

After this transitional season, the club management decided to take action: since the country's best footballers were already playing for the three powerful clubs in the capital, CFR looked quickly towards the Portuguese market and bought some talented players who were able to help produce instant results. It also kept one eye on the youth sector and called upon former club players to help in this domain.

### UEFA Champions League is the goal

At the end of the 2005/06 season, CFR was fifth and already one of the favourites for the top two positions in the 2006/07 table, and thus for the qualifying phase of the UEFA Champions League. It missed its goal by the smallest of margins and finished third, but the club management did not lose heart and continued to bolster the side with some excellent players. They cast their net wider, towards South America, and in 2007 landed the Brazilian Galliasi and Argentinians Culio and Fabbiani. (At EUR 2.2 million, Fabbiani was the most expensive transfer in the history of the Romanian first division.) They have also recruited Niklas Sandberg from Sweden and Ogbonna from Africa (Nigeria).

With these reinforcements, the club hopes to achieve its goal of playing in the Champions League qualifying phase, especially now that the team is led by Ioan Andone, a coach who is used to coming top (he won the championship with Dinamo in 2004). At the end of October, CFR was at the top of the table, so clearly on the right track. As Ioan Andone, the club coach, pointed out though, *"What counts is staying there until the end of the championship."*

Following a change of name and logo at the beginning of the season, CFR 1907 staged lavish celebrations to mark its centenary, inviting prominent Portuguese club Benfica to compete in a gala match.

In terms of investment and ambition, CFR is the standard-bearer of the renaissance of Romania's provincial clubs, which also include Unirea Valahorum Urziceni, Vaslui and Politehnica Timisoara.

### New facilities

Investments in the team itself have been accompanied by a constant desire to improve its facilities. St-Etienne and RC Lens, who came over in 2005 to play in a fairly rustic stadium with no floodlights or other facilities, would not recognise the Constantin Radulescu sta-



D. Mihalescu/AFP/Getty Images

The CFR supporters dream of backing their team in the UEFA Champions League too.

All the might of Nigerian Ogbonna (in red) for CFR 1907 Cluj.

The new-look Constantin Radulescu stadium.

dium with its new main stand (to a large extent under cover and with VIP boxes) and, as of this season, two-tier section covered entirely by a modern roof fitted by a Dutch company. The stadium also has a new video screen and a lighting system that was switched on for the first time for the CFR-Benfica match.

The cost of the renovation work has run to EUR 4.5 million and there is more to come: new covered stands (which currently form an "L" shape) will ultimately ring the entire pitch, which was replaced during the 2005/06 season while the team played its "home" matches at the stadium in Dej. In a statement to the media company, Mediafax, club president Iuliu Muresan emphasised that "CFR 1907 Cluj will have the best stadium in the country. We have held talks with representatives of the Dutch company which is to build the stand and the plans will be finalised in a few days time. The new stand will be made from concrete, with metal reinforcements, and we will incorporate an underground car park. Once the details have been finalised, the Dutch company will start building the 9,700-seat stand, which is to be completed by July 2008."

At a total cost of EUR 9 million, the building work will bring the stadium capacity to 25,000, with most seats under cover. By the summer the stadium should meet the standards set by UEFA for all but the final of the Champions League. The club's management is delighted because average spectator levels are already up – 8,500 in the current season and 3,000 more than last year.

### General trend

Although not all Romanian clubs have the finances of CFR, most are modernising their stadiums nonetheless, particularly with floodlighting systems. We are not just talking about those in the first division either: third-division Electrosid Titu installed such a system last October.

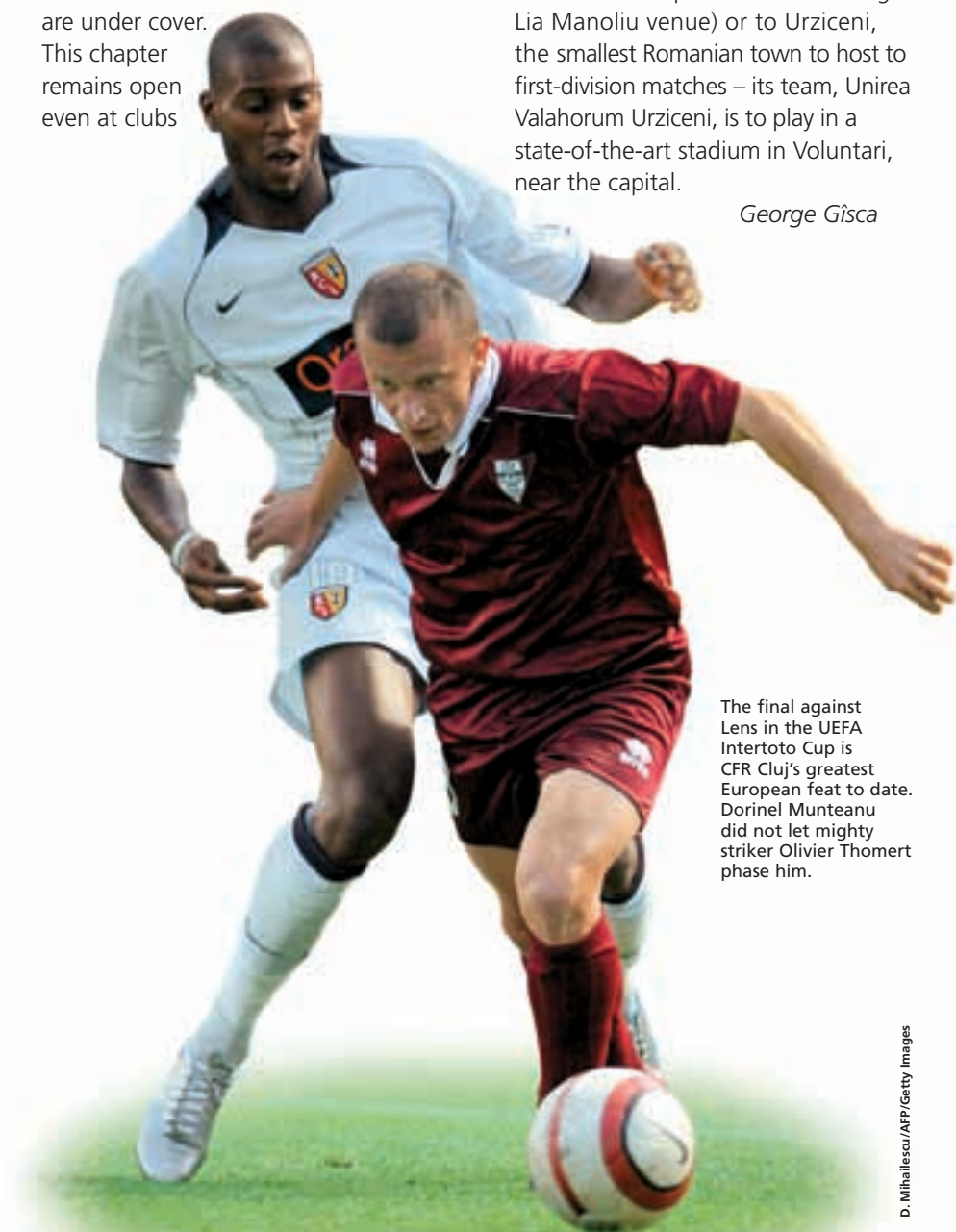
Another key feature – giant video screens – is becoming ever more popular: the Nicolae Dobrin stadium (previously known as Trivale) in Pitesti, the Dan Paltinisian stadium in Timisoara, Ghencea (home of Steaua), Dinamo and CFR's stadium, of course, are all already equipped.

As regards spectator comfort, Steaua has fitted its main stand with a roof and numerous boxes. In a second stage of renovation, it also replaced its pitch. FC National (now FC Progresul) has done the same at its Cotroceni stadium, but in the other team's stadiums only a limited number of seats are under cover. This chapter remains open even at clubs

who have invested lots in their infrastructure over the last few years, including Ceahlaul (its stadium hosted the Romania-Luxembourg match in March 2007), Politehnica Timisoara, Universitatea Craiova (one VIP stand and very modern changing rooms) and Politehnica Iasi. The clubs must now find the money to roof their stands as quickly as they possibly can!

There is no denying, however, that Romania is home to some momentous projects: we need only look to the new national stadium (which will be built in place of the existing Lia Manoliu venue) or to Urziceni, the smallest Romanian town to host to first-division matches – its team, Unirea Valahorum Urziceni, is to play in a state-of-the-art stadium in Voluntari, near the capital.

George Gisca



The final against Lens in the UEFA Intertoto Cup is CFR Cluj's greatest European feat to date. Dorinel Munteanu did not let mighty striker Olivier Thomert phase him.



Theory for the women referees.

UEFA-pjwoods.ch



Hugh Dallas, member of the UEFA Referees Committee, spoke on specific topics.

UEFA-pjwoods.ch

# Meetings and other activities

## Women referees meet in Nyon

**AS PART OF ITS REFEREE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME, UEFA WELCOMED EUROPE'S LEADING WOMEN REFEREES FOR THE FOURTH EDITION OF A COURSE FOR INTERNATIONAL WOMEN REFEREES, WHICH TOOK PLACE FROM 23 TO 25 OCTOBER AT THE HOUSE OF EUROPEAN FOOTBALL IN NYON.**

Guided and assisted by members of UEFA's Referees Committee and referee experts, around 40 women referees representing 31 national associations had the chance to participate in this gathering, which included both theoretical and practical work.

Opening the course, Angel María Villa Llona, chairman of the UEFA Referees Committee, congratulated the team of European referees and assistants on their excellent job at the recent FIFA Women's World Cup in China and encouraged all participants "to maintain the professional standards and high levels that they have set in future competitions, with particular commitment to their physical condition."

### Fitness test

The first morning of the course was devoted to FIFA's fitness test, which was undertaken by the women referees under the guidance of UEFA referee fitness expert Werner Helsen. Addressing the referees during the course, Helsen explained that "referees' devotion to fitness nowadays is a key factor in helping improve their performance on the pitch." As football has become faster and players much fitter and stronger, "modern training is helping referees to reach the levels of fitness which are necessary to keep up with the play and enable them to take the key decisions," he added.

Under the guidance of UEFA women referee instructors Ingrid Johnson and Katriina Elovirta, the course

also included video analysis in working groups and a plenary session about key refereeing decisions taken during the recent World Cup in China, which produced very interesting discussions and open dialogue among all the participants. Presenting an overview of the elite male referee and assistant referee course held at the beginning of September at the UEFA headquarters, Hugh Dallas, member of the UEFA Referees Committee, gave instructions to the women referees on specific refereeing topics related to simulation, confrontation management issues and quick free-kick situations.

In his concluding remarks, Bo Karlsson, also a member of the UEFA Referees Committee, expressed his full satisfaction with the fitness levels shown by the referees who attended the course and emphasised that their aim should always remain the same, namely to "protect the image of the game."

## Germany to host 2011 Women's World Cup

**At its meeting in Zurich at the end of October, the FIFA Executive Committee designated the German Football Association as hosts of the 2011 Women's World Cup.**

By pipping Canada at the post, Germany can now look forward to welcoming the world's top women players for the 6th FIFA Women's World Cup five years after having played host to the world's male football elite. Germany will thus have the opportunity to defend on home turf the title that it won in the USA in 2003, and succeeded in retaining in China this year. The Women's World Cup has only once been staged in Europe so far, when Sweden organised the event in 1995.

■ Next year, the 4th FIFA Under-20 Women's World Cup will take place in Chile from 20 November to 8 December. Sixteen teams will take part in the tournament, including the four semi-finalists from this summer's European Women's Under-19 Championship in Iceland. The European champions, Germany, will thus be accompanied by England, France and Norway.



The referees demonstrated excellent levels of physical fitness.

UEFA-pjwoods.ch



Getty Images

A new challenge for the Germans: defending their title on home turf.



# News from Brussels

The UEFA president, Michel Platini, and Philippe Piat, the president of FIFPro Division Europe, signed a Memorandum of Understanding at RSC Anderlecht's Constant Vandenstock stadium in Brussels on 11 October. The document marks the beginning of a new era in relations between UEFA and the European professional footballers' union.



Philippe Piat and Michel Platini.

Drawn up in close cooperation by UEFA and FIFPro Division Europe, the memorandum expresses the common ground shared by the two organisations on key themes such as the protection and development of professional football, the specific characteristics of sport, the autonomy of sports federations, the importance of national teams, financial solidarity, safeguarding sporting values and the fight against doping and racism. *"For the first time, we – the players and governing body of European football – are recognising together the autonomy of the federations and the fact that football's*

## Women's Under-19 final round in France

The first qualifying round in the European Women's Under-19 Championship drew to a close at the beginning of October.



The top two in each group proceed to the second qualifying round, the order of which will be determined by a draw in Nyon on 11 December.

The teams going into the draw are: Iceland and Portugal (Group 1), Austria and Poland (Group 2), Hungary and Sweden (Group 3), Italy and Russia (Group 4), Finland and Serbia (Group 5), Denmark and Belgium (Group 6), Scotland and Ukraine (Group 7), the Republic of Ireland and Switzerland (Group 8), Germany and the Czech Republic (Group 9), Norway and the Netherlands (Group 10), and Spain and England (Group 11). These 22 teams will be joined by the best two third-placed teams, Romania (Group 1) and Belarus (Group 5).

The draw in Nyon will establish six groups of four teams; the winners of each group will meet in the final round in July 2008. The best second-placed team and the hosts, France, will also qualify for the final round.

■ The first qualifying round of the European Women's Under-17 Championship finished in mid-November. On 11 December, the following 16 teams will be distributed into four groups for the second qualifying round: Switzerland, the Netherlands, Finland, Iceland, France, Sweden, the Czech Republic, Scotland, Germany and England (all group winners), plus Poland, Belgium, Denmark, the Republic of Ireland, Norway and Russia (best group runners-up).

■ The quarter-finals of the UEFA Women's Cup are being played in November. Arsenal LFC, the titleholders, face Olympique Lyonnais of France,

while the other matches pit Rossiyanika (Russia) against FFC Frankfurt (Germany), Bardolino (Italy) against Brøndby (Denmark), and KFC Rapide Wezemaal (Belgium) against Umeå (Sweden). Half of the teams still in contention reached the same stage of the competition last year (Arsenal LFC, FFC Frankfurt, Umeå and Brøndby).

## Fair play counts

Fair play is one of the criteria for deciding between sides that otherwise rank equally in UEFA national-team competitions.



Since this criterion is subordinate to the actual match scores, its application is a matter of pure chance. It was, however, necessary in the European Under-17

Championship to decide which of the third-placed teams in the qualifying-round groups would enter the elite round with the top two clubs from each of the 13 groups. According to the other criteria, Slovenia, Sweden and Azerbaijan ranked equally, so it was fair play that got the first two through.

The other elite-round teams are Switzerland and Greece (Group 1), Austria and Norway (Group 2), Slovakia and Scotland (Group 3), Spain and Wales (Group 4), the Republic of Ireland and Denmark (Group 5), Germany and Romania (Group 6), Israel and Serbia (Group 7), Croatia and Hungary (Group 8), Bosnia-Herzegovina and Russia (Group 9), the Netherlands and France (Group 10), England and Portugal (Group 11), Northern Ireland and Belgium (Group 12), and Italy and the Czech Republic (Group 13).

The draw for the elite round will be held in Cannes on 28 November. Turkey will host the final round and thus qualify automatically.

→ *interests are best served by existing football structures,"* said a delighted Michel Platini.

However, the primary objective of the agreement is to improve the governance of football through social dialogue. For example, the text emphasises the importance of a balance between respect for national and community legislation on the one hand and the specificity of sport on the other, where questions relating to players' contracts and status are concerned. The ultimate aim is to adopt a joint agreement *"so that football can take responsibility for itself and is not governed by politicians,"* explained the UEFA president. In this connection, the memorandum supports the use of arbitration procedures to settle football-related disputes. *"Instead of solving our problems through the courts, we are going to work hand in hand,"* said Philippe Piat.

Regarding the more specific issue of the release of players for national team matches and competitions, FIFPro Division Europe and UEFA recognise that selection for the national team should be the peak of a player's career and that this prospect should not be placed in jeopardy.

*"This agreement, drawn up in a spirit of collaboration, unity and defence of the values of our sport, is historic because it will truly change the way in which football in Europe is governed. It is the first decisive step towards the integration of all the families within football into UEFA's decision-making processes,"* concluded the UEFA president.

The final text of the memorandum of understanding is available at the following address: [http://uefa.com/multimediafiles/download/uefa/others/601340\\_download.pdf](http://uefa.com/multimediafiles/download/uefa/others/601340_download.pdf)



Nyon, 2 November: The Israel Football Association ratified the UEFA Convention on the Mutual Recognition of Coaching Qualifications at Pro level. From left to right: Ori Shilo, Director of the Israel Football Association; Abraham Luzon, President of the Association; and Michel Platini, President of UEFA.

## UEFA Futsal Cup – Down to the last four

**Since August, 44 teams have been competing in qualifying matches for the 7th UEFA Futsal Cup.**



After a qualifying round that enabled six of the 22 teams in contention to proceed, the main round – contested in six groups of four – sent a further twelve into the elite round, together with the four who qualified automatically as a result of their performance in previous editions of the competition.

The elite-round matches were held in October, in the form of four mini-tournaments played in Chorzow (Poland), Padua (Italy), Chrudim (Czech Republic) and Yekaterinburg (Russia). The end of the elite round saw ElPozo Murcia, Kairat Almaty, Dinamo Moskva and MFK Viz-Sinara Ekaterinburg qualify for the semi-finals. Three of the qualifiers won all three of their matches, while Dinamo Moskva – the cup-holders – won all but one.

The final round, which includes the semi-finals, the third-place play-off and the final, will be hosted by one of the semi-finalists from

24 to 26 April. So far, the UEFA Futsal Cup has been won by Spanish clubs four times (Playas de Castellón in 2002 and 2003, and Boomerang Interviú in 2004 and 2006), by a Belgian team once (Action 21 Charleroi in 2005), and by a Russian team once (Dinamo Moskva in 2007).

## AC Milan set their sights on the world title

**Since the European/South American Cup was expanded two years ago to include the other continents and integrate the FIFA Club World Cup, the Europeans have been unable to take the title.**

Japan is hosting the competition for the third consecutive year. The matches will be played in Tokyo's national stadium, in the Toyota Stadium in Toyota City and in the Yokohama International Stadium, where the final of the 2002 World Cup was held and the final of the FIFA Club World Cup will also take place.

The competition kicks off on 7 December with a game between the Japanese repre-



Following victory in the Champions League final in Athens last May, AC Milan, with the help of their star player, Kaka, hope to be the first European club to win the Club World Cup.



PA Wire / PA Photos

At the beginning of November, Arsenal and Manchester United were the first to qualify for the first knockout round of the UEFA Champions League. Here, Cristiano Ronaldo for Manchester Utd beats Dynamo Kiev's Artem Milevskiy to the ball.

Women's football was also very popular at the World Games in Shanghai.



Adam Nurdzewicz

representatives and New Zealand's Waitakere United. The winners will go through to the quarter-final, where they will meet the winner of the AFC Champions League. One of the other quarter-finals will pit Etoile Sportive du Sahel from Tunisia, winners of the CAF Champions League, against Pachuca, the Mexican club that won the CONCACAF Champions' Cup.

The semi-finals will then see the European and South-American teams enter into contention. On 12 December, Boca Juniors face the winners of the Africa-Mexico game and, the following day, AC Milan will meet the winners of the Japan-New Zealand quarter-final.

The final is scheduled for 16 December and will follow the third-place play-off.

Neither AC Milan nor Boca Juniors have ever played in a Club World Cup but they do both have vast experience when it comes to intercontinental club games. AC Milan played in the European/South American Cup on seven occasions and won it on three of them. Not to be outdone, the Argentinians Boca Juniors also won three times, in four appearances. Their last victory was in Tokyo in 2003, when they beat AC Milan, of all teams, on penalties.

## Special Olympics World Games

**From 1 to 11 October, over 7,300 Special Olympics athletes and 3,000 coaches from 165 countries took part in the Special Olympics World Summer Games in Shanghai, China.**

All athletes displayed skill, determination and good sportsmanship in the largest sporting event of the year for athletes with intellectual disabilities. The World Games were not only a world-class sports event, but also a humanitarian experience where athletes and fans came together for 11 days in an atmosphere of inclusion and respect for all.

The spectacular opening ceremony was watched by some 80,000 spectators at the stadium in Shanghai and 500 million television viewers throughout the country. China's president Hu Jintao opened the Games.

Football was one of the most popular of the 26 sports on offer. The Games attracted over 1,300 Special Olympics athletes from 94 countries, including 650 players from Europe. Players competed in 5-a-side, 7-a-side and 11-a-side matches for male, female and unified teams, where players with and without disabilities compete side by side. In addition to the matches, clinics were held.

Prior to the final round of the Women's World Cup in China, a press conference was held in Shanghai. Special Olympics announced the launch of its new Special Olympics Global Football initiative, which aims to use the visibility and reach of the world's most popular sport to generate greater public awareness and respect for people with intellectual disabilities, and to raise the necessary funds to significantly expand Special Olympics football participation on every continent.

Well-known football stars have already pledged their commit-

ment to supporting Special Olympics Global Football, including Kaka, Carlos Parreira, Doris Fitschen and Teofilo Cubillas. Inter Milan has become the first Special Olympics Global Football Team Ambassador. The official launch of Special Olympics Global Football was held on 4 October in Shanghai. At the launch, an announcement was made concerning the UEFA Executive Committee's decision to extend its support for the Special Olympics Europe/Eurasia football development projects for a period of four football seasons.



Adam Nurdzewicz

Integration and mutual respect were central themes in the Special Olympics World Games.

## UEFA against obesity



In collaboration with the European Commission, UEFA has produced a 30-second film that is shown on TV at half-time during this season's UEFA Champions League matches.

The aim of this campaign is to encourage people of all ages to do more sport and avoid overly sedentary lifestyles, an important factor in the rise in obesity levels in Europe and the associated risk of cardiovascular disease.



Michel Platini and Joseph S. Blatter with Ilham Aliyev, President of Azerbaijan.



Sober symbolism for the new AFFA headquarters.



AFFA General Secretary Elkhan Mammadov; Joseph S. Blatter; Michel Platini; and Azad Rahimov, Minister of Youth and Sport of Azerbaijan.



# Football Association of Azerbaijan

## Inauguration of the new headquarters

**THE PRESIDENTS OF FIFA AND UEFA, JOSEPH S. BLATTER AND MICHEL PLATINI, PAID A VISIT TO AZERBAIJAN ON 16 OCTOBER.**

The two presidents visited the graves of the former president of Azerbaijan, Heydar Aliyev, and his spouse, Zarifa, an outstanding ophthalmologist in her time, before attending the opening ceremony of the new headquarters of the Association of Football Federations of Azerbaijan (AFFA).

The building was constructed with the financial support of UEFA and FIFA, as well as from the AFFA's own resources. In 2004, during their last visit, Mr Blatter and Mr Platini, who was a member of the FIFA Executive Committee at the time, took part in the ceremony to lay the foundation stone of the building.

Elkhan Mammadov, General Secretary of the AFFA, began the inau-

guration ceremony with an opening address and provided the guests with information about the construction of the headquarters.

Then the floor was given to the UEFA president, who declared: *"We are pleased that FIFA and UEFA representatives are here for the opening ceremony of the office building of the Association of Football Federations of Azerbaijan. It is of a symbolic nature. The joint participation of FIFA, UEFA and the AFFA in such a significant event can be considered as a symbol of friendly relations. The new AFFA building belongs to the Azerbaijan football family and I am sure that the doors of this building will always be open to all football fans."*

In his address, the FIFA president said: *"The solid foundations on which this building has been constructed will make it a lasting legacy and I believe that a spirit of democracy will always reign here. It is a great pity that the AFFA president, my dear friend Ramiz Mirzayev, was not able to attend this event because of poor health. As the*

*Minister of Youth and Sport of Azerbaijan, Azad Rahimov, mentioned, the construction of these new headquarters will be of enormous benefit to the continued development of Azeri football as a whole."*

After the speeches, the FIFA and UEFA presidents cut a symbolical red ribbon in front of the AFFA building. The guests then entered the building, watched video clips prepared by the AFFA about the two presidents' last visit in 2004 and showing highlights of national football on a giant screen in the foyer. The two presidents were given a guided tour of the building to see the working conditions provided for the staff of the association. Afterwards, they held a press conference in the conference hall.

The two football leaders departed for Nakhchivan at noon on 17 October, where they were met by the president of Azerbaijan, Ilham Aliyev. The visitors expressed their satisfaction with the conditions provided for athletes at the Nakhchivan Olympic sports complex. Mr Aliyev thanked the FIFA and UEFA presidents for their organisations' valuable contribution of their organisations to the development of football in Azerbaijan. He also presented the FIFA president with an "Honorary Diploma" and the UEFA president with the "Order of Glory".

The visit of the FIFA and UEFA presidents to Azerbaijan came to an end in the evening of 17 October.

*Mikayil Narimanoglu*



Cutting the red ribbon.

Photos: AFFA

Just two weeks after the inauguration of its new headquarters, the AFFA is mourning the death of its president, **Ramiz Mirzayev**, who passed away on 30 October after a short illness at the age of 53. Ramiz Mirzayev was elected AFFA President in 2003. At UEFA he was a member of the National Teams Committee from 2004 to 2007 before moving to the Fair Play and Social Responsibility Committee this year.



## AUSTRIA



### Impressive opening of EURO 2008 stadiums in Klagenfurt and Innsbruck

Autumn was the time of the grand unveilings: in September the Austrian FA organised an "intercontinental tournament", to which it invited EURO 2008 co-host, Switzerland, and the national teams of Japan and Chile. During the tournament, on 7 September, the EURO 2008 stadium in Klagenfurt was ceremonially opened. A crowd of almost 30,000 gathered for a top-notch opening ceremony and a no-score draw between Hickersberger's Austrian side and the Japanese. The Austrians even enjoyed a penalty shoot-out – one of the highlights



A taster for EURO 2008 in Innsbruck.

of the evening. The home team clinched it 4-3 on penalties against a Japanese line-up fielded by Bosnian star coach Ivica Osim. Klagenfurt's Wörthersee stadium, located in the Austrian state of Carinthia, hosted its second match just four days later. This time it was a friendly between Switzerland and Japan. Some 19,500 football fans came to watch the surprising 4-3 victory and the Asians' consequent tournament victory.

One month later it was Tirol's turn. The newly renovated Tivoli stadium in Innsbruck was packed to the rafters with 30,000 spectators on 17 October. On this occasion the Austrian fans had plenty of reason to celebrate. The Austrian side secured its first normal-time victory of 2007 against the Ivory Coast's superstar line-up, despite two goals by Chelsea-based striking legend, Didier Drogba. Two penalties from Sanel Kuljic and Andreas Ivanschitz and a superb goal by Joachim Standfest saw Austria finish 3-2. The match was won in a true EURO atmosphere, with Mexican waves filling the Tivoli stadium from start to finish!

The enlarged Salzburg stadium – another EURO 2008 venue – was inaugurated back in the summer, by a Salzburg-Arsenal FC friendly. Here, too, the organisers welcomed a full house. Then in November, almost 50,000 spectators piled into the long-standing Ernst Happel stadium in Vienna's Prater park to watch England play Austria at the venue for the EURO 2008 final.

*Peter Klinglmüller*



The Under-17s celebrate having qualified for the elite round of their European championship.

In the Bosnia-Herzegovina premier league, the Grbavica stadium played host to the 90th derby between NK Zeljeznicar and FK Sarajevo, which ended in a tie. The overall statistics shows that both NK Zeljeznicar and FK Sarajevo have the same number of wins (28), 34 of the derbies have been drawn, and FK Sarajevo have the better goal difference (115:112).

The legendary Serbian champions, FK Crvena Zvezda (Red Star Belgrade), attracted great attention when they came to play a friendly match against FK Slavija to commemorate the Sarajevo club's centenary. The match ended in a 2-2 draw.

Finally, the board of FK Modrica has decided to name its stadium after Milan Jelic, the late president of the Football Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, who passed away recently at this very stadium.

*Fuad Kravac*

## ENGLAND



### Youngsters lead the way in Malawi

Four young leaders were given the opportunity of a lifetime when they travelled to Malawi in October to take part in The Football Association's "Changing Lives Saving Lives" programme.

Emily Simpkins, Prathiv Khiola, Rebecca Todd and Ted Grizzell all flew to the African country at the end of October having been selected for the trip at The FA's annual Young Leaders Camp in July.

The project forms part of The FA's International Development Programme which provides coaching workshops and other football-related seminars around the world. Malawi is one of The FA's partner countries through the UEFA-CAF Meridian Project.

The "Changing Lives Saving Lives" scheme specifically aims to educate youngsters, giving them leadership skills, raising awareness of HIV and AIDS and empowering young girls in Africa through football.

## BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA



### Under-17s doing well

During the month of October, football fans in Bosnia and Herzegovina did not have much reason to celebrate. The national team lost twice in its Group C EURO 2008 qualifying matches, first in Athens against reigning champions Greece (3-2) and then at the Asim Ferhatovic Hase stadium in Sarajevo against Norway (2-0). After a very good start under the new head coach, Fuad Muzurovic, when the national A team clocked up three wins at the beginning of the year, against Norway (2-1), Turkey (3-2) and Malta (1-2), the run of defeats began, starting in September against Hungary (1-0) and Moldova (1-0).

The Under-21s have not been doing so well either. They were well and truly beaten away in France (4-0), having

lost 3-0 to Romania in their previous match. Their only win at the start of the qualifying competition for the European Under-21 Championship final round in 2009 was against Malta, who they beat 4-0 in Zenica.

Velimir Stojnic's Under-17 team have been providing some more acceptable results, winning the Group 9 qualifying tournament with two victories, against Finland (1-0) and Azerbaijan (1-0), and just one defeat, against Russia (2-0), putting them top of the table on six points, ahead of Russia, who finished the mini-tournament with five points. Finland finished third and Azerbaijan fourth, both on two points. Bosnia-Herzegovina and Russia now go through to the second (elite) round. It is the second time that the Bosnians have reached this stage of the competition. The matches in the qualifying round were played at the Grbavica stadium, the Asim Ferhatovic Hase stadium in Kosevo and at the Stamal arena in Kresevo.



Women's football gets a boost in Malawi.

→ The four youngsters were put through their paces by The FA staff supervising the overall programme – Donna McIvor, Nick Levett, Abigail Jacobs and John Heathcote – and the quartet did not disappoint, guiding a group of 27 female teenagers through an FA Junior Football Organisers (JFO) course.

Their hard work culminated in two highly successful football festivals in some of the poorest townships in Malawi, where 120 school girls were given their first experience of playing the game.

With The FA committed to getting more girls involved in playing the game, a women's football development workshop was also held at the Football Association of Malawi during the same week.

The president of the Football Association of Malawi, Walter Nyamilandu-Manda, welcomed The FA's assistance and said: "The workshops were excellent, especially since they were the first of their kind in the country."

"The women and girls who took part are extremely delighted. It was a good opportunity for the young girls to be exposed to such a workshop. It gave them a lot of confidence to face the world with determination and self-belief."

Nada Grkinic

## ESTONIA



### A year of new challenges

For the Estonian Football Association (EJL), 2007 has been memorable in a number of ways: its congress elected a new president, the national coach changed, and the country participated in a number of new competitions.

In March, the EJL's ordinary congress elected former vice-president and long-term board member Aivar Pohlak as the new president of the association. Not long before that, a new competition – the men's Baltic League – kicked off with top clubs from Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania taking part.

During the summer months, Dutchman Jelle Goes left the position of head coach and was replaced by Dane Viggo Jensen.

In 2007, Estonia joined Europe's futsal family when it competed in the UEFA Futsal Cup for the first time. FC Anzhi Tallinn became Estonia's first futsal champions. Next year, the national futsal team will

participate in the World Cup qualifying tournament.

Estonian beach soccer also made its international debut when the national team played World Cup qualifying games.

Women's football in Estonia experienced its first cup competition ever, with FC Flora Tallinn taking the glory. Estonia also took part in the newly launched European Women's Under-17 Championship.

The EIJ also organised the Nation's Cup of Estonia, a new football tournament with a social mission – to strengthen the ethnic identity of different nations, to develop friendship between ethnic groups and to help different nations to integrate better into Estonian society. Thirteen different nations participated altogether, with the team consisting of people from Dagestan (part of the Russian Federation) coming out on top. The Ukrainians came second, leaving the Georgians in third place.

Mihkel Uibolet

## FINLAND



### Combating racism

"It's the beautiful game", so why the ugly things in it? There is an expression in Finland, according to which "life is football" (and not the other way around). This perhaps answers our question. Football, in Finland as elsewhere, is such a large part of society and life in general that all aspects of the game are influenced by the world around it. If racism exists in Finnish society, and regrettably it does, then racism is inevitably going to infiltrate the beautiful game as well.

So where do we go from here? Do nothing? Leave it to the politicians? No. Football is one of the largest movements in society and we sportsmen and sports-women should be the first to realise that this is not an obstacle, but an opportunity for another great victory. The dynamics between football and life work both ways and we are the ones with the best chance to make a difference. Life is football and not the other way around – let's not forget that.

The Finnish FA has joined forces with the Ministry of Education, the Veikkausliiga (the Finnish premier league), Liikkukaa! (a Finnish sports and culture NGO that promotes social integration and intercultural respect) and the players' union to introduce a three-year programme aimed at combating racism and boosting the integration of minority groups into club football. The goal is to educate every football profes-

sional in Finland on the issue of racism, to create tools for integration and to get a database of relevant information available on the web. Last but not least, we are launching a high-profile campaign, through which the FA of Finland can show that we are serious about removing the scum from the beautiful game.

We are now nearing the end of the programme's first year and progress has been made. The issue of racism in Finnish football has been thoroughly investigated for the first time ever and, as expected, we found that it does exist even in the beautiful game. There is apparently more racism in the lower divisions and less at the top, where players are expected to be more discerning.

"Rasisti on reppana" is our campaign slogan, because racist people are indeed sorry cases and this is the message that we must drive home.

Lari Kangas

## GEORGIA



### National sponsor announced

The general sponsor of the Georgian Football Federation (GFF) and of the Georgian national team was named in the GFF's conference hall on 17 October. Joint-stock company Madneuli has signed a sponsorship deal running from 2008 to 2010.

Nodar Akhalkatsi, GFF President; George Kavtaradze, GFF Vice-President; Koba Nakopia, Director General of Madneuli; and Manuchar Akhalaia, Administrative Director of Madneuli, gave a press conference to the assembled journalists.

Nodar Akhalkatsi, GFF President, said: "Madneuli has become the general sponsor of the Georgian Football Federation and of the Georgian national A team and will remain the sponsor from 2008 to 2010. During these three years, the GFF will receive an approximate equivalent of USD 1.4 million..."

"I wish to express my profound gratitude to Madneuli and to its director gen-



An unprecedented contract for the Georgian Football Federation and its president, Nodar Akhalkatsi (centre).

eral, Koba Nakopia, for supporting the Georgian national A team and the Georgian Football Federation. Apart from the sponsorship deal, Madneuli has already paid to charter a plane to bring the national team back from its match in Italy."

Koba Nakopia, Director General Madneuli, commented: "We decided to support the Georgian national A team on our own initiative. We see the changes for the better that have occurred in the national A team. Therefore, we decided that we should provide financial support to encourage these changes..."

"Signing the contract is only the first step in the cooperation between the Georgian Football Federation and Madneuli. I hope that this partnership will develop in the future..."

George Kavtaradze, GFF Vice-President, added:

"Despite the fact that the Georgian national A team is not among the strongest, there have undoubtedly been positive changes. We highly appreciate the initiative of Madneuli and express our gratitude to them..."

"...the national A team has never had such a long-term sponsor before. We are proud to declare out loud that the Georgian Football Federation and Madneuli are one team!"

Press Office

## HUNGARY



### Quick improvement for the national team

After the disappointing fiasco against Malta last autumn, the Hungarian FA (MLSZ) decided to embark on a new strategy for the national team. The new head coach, Péter Várhidi, took on the job after being a successful youth coach for the association and, naturally, he based his squad on young players.



Mathias Imme/Zoltan Gera

The Hungarian national team has improved by leaps and bounds.

Although the MLSZ president, István Kisteleki, who is behind the reforms, has said many times that this process will take time and called on the public to be patient with the young players, his request was not really necessary, as the team have performed well and quickly earned the favour of the supporters.

After their defeat in Malta, Hungary were 76th in the FIFA world rankings, but the red, white and greens have now risen to 48th place, thanks, in particular, to their home wins against Bosnia-Herzegovina (1-0) and Malta (2-0) in the European Championship qualifiers. They also beat reigning world champions Italy, and Poland in friendly games.

The original aim for this young team, which contains many players between the ages of 19 and 25, was to be successful in the forthcoming campaigns. Now the players are already the fans' favourites in Hungary, where everyone is looking forward to the match against European champions Greece.

Márton Dinnyés

## LATVIA



### FK Ventspils – LMT Virslīga champions 2007

Until the last matchday of the 2007 LMT Virslīga, any of the clubs in the top four could have taken the champion's title. In the end, though, FK Ventspils beat Skonto FC 1-0 and secured the title for the second season in succession, leaving SK Liepājas Metalurgs one point behind.

During the first half of the April-November season, FK Riga topped the LMT Virslīga table; SK Liepājas Metalurgs then took over midway through. This season was the first in Latvian football history in which the top division had remained open to any of the top four until two matchdays before the end.



FK Ventspils, winners of both the cup and the championship.

## GERMANY



### DFB awards Julius Hirsch Prize



Julius Hirsch, murdered at Auschwitz.

Before the international match between Germany and the Czech Republic, the German Football Association (DFB) awarded the 2007 Julius Hirsch Prize to Eichenkreuz Nürnberg, a Nuremberg-based Protestant youth sports association, and Sauerland football club TuS Plettenberg. Dresdner SC's fan initiative also won a special award.

The prizes were presented at the Jewish community centre in Munich by Oliver Bierhoff, the DFB national team manager.

In the presence of Matthias and Andreas Hirsch, grandsons of the man after whom the prize was named, Theo Zwanziger, president of the DFB, described the challenge that the DFB faces in the modern era and in the new Europe: "Football must be in a position, beyond the sporting arena, to give a human face to

our constantly changing society. In partnership with our regional associations, we are making a stand against all forms of discrimination through numerous activities and wish to continue making our position clear."

"The Julius Hirsch Prize is an important DFB initiative. In principle, football is a great everyday platform for promoting values such as fair play and team spirit and for combating right-wing radicalism and violence. Such commitment helps to ensure that people do not continue living in the past," said Charlotte Knobloch, president of the Central Council of Jews in Germany.

The EUR 20,000 prize, which has been awarded since 2005, is named after the Jewish German international footballer Julius Hirsch (1892-1943), who was murdered at Auschwitz. Hirsch won two German championships as a player and scored four goals in seven international appearances. "Juller", as he was known by his team-mates, read in a newspaper in 1933 that his home club, Karlsruher FV, had decided to expel all Jewish members. He was deported to the Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp in 1943. The last time he communicated with the outside world was through a postcard he sent to his daughter on 3 March 1943.

Maximilian Geis

→ Together with 14-time Latvian champions Skonto FC, FK Ventspils is one of only two clubs to have won the Latvian Cup and the Virsliga in the same season. FK Ventspils also has a place in the final of the Baltic League, where it will go head to head with SK Liepajas Metalurgs – also from the Latvian region of Kurzeme.

The Latvian Football Federation has decided to broaden the LMT Virsliga next year to include ten clubs. The decision has been made to uplift youth clubs and young football players who might otherwise quit the game. How the championship will be structured remains to be seen but the fundamentals are in place: FK Olimps Riga, FK Blazma Rezekne and FK Vindava Ventspils will play in the Virsliga in the 2008 season.

*Martins Hartmanis*

## LIECHTENSTEIN

### Football tournament for schoolgirls

The fourth girls' football tournament at the Eschen-Mauren sports park was once again a great success, with 211 participants aged between 8 and 13 (40 more than at last year's event). While enjoyment was the main priority of the afternoon, all the teams displayed a high level of commitment and ambition. Numerous goals were celebrated wildly by the teams involved and there were many happy faces at the end of a sunny, but cold October afternoon.

Despite the large number of girls who take part in the tournament (around 20% of all Liechtenstein's schoolgirls in this age group), relatively few girls actually play for clubs. The number of enthusiastic participants shows that girls in Liechtenstein are getting in the mood for the European Championship and enjoy playing football.

The CS Cup qualifying tournament will be contested again next spring and the



The joy of winning the trophy is the same whatever your age.

fifth LFV girls' football tournament will take place in the autumn.

A vision for the future is the introduction of a Liechtenstein girls' championship in the F, E and D age categories, with each of the seven clubs entering one girls' team.

*Heinz Biedermann*

## LUXEMBOURG



### FLF centenary approaches

A historic 1-0 win over Belarus in a European Championship qualifier in Gomel on 13 October marked the end of a long barren spell for the Luxembourg national team.

It had been more than 12 years since the team's last victory in a European Championship qualifier, against Malta on 6 September 1995.

After some excellent performances in other European Championship qualifiers and a number of positive results in friendly internationals, this win confirmed the general improvement shown by the national team in recent months.

Football remains by far the most popular sport in Luxembourg, thanks in particular to the contribution of women's football in the last few years. After only one team entered the national championship in the 1996/97 season, no fewer



The Luxembourg women's national team.

than 30 teams are involved in this season's two-division competition. The excellent results achieved by the women's national team and the launch of a new national competition for girls' under-14 teams are also positive signs that demonstrate the upturn of women's football in Luxembourg.

The Luxembourg FA (FLF) is also constantly endeavouring to improve cooperation with its affiliated clubs. Alongside plans to extend its internet site and create an extranet with the clubs, the association has decided to provide every club with a free laptop or PC with the relevant hard and software. This project forms the basis for the FLF's new information and data processing policy.

For the first time in the history of Luxembourg football, the top division has its own sponsor. Since the start of the current season and initially for three more years, the national championship will be known as the FORTIS LIGUE.

In the run-up to its centenary in 2008, the FLF is well prepared for the future at all levels. The association's senior officials are planning to celebrate this special anniversary in conjunction with sporting and social organisations.

*Joël Wolff*

## FYR MACEDONIA



### A busy month on and off the field

October was an action-packed month for Macedonian football. At its last meeting, the Executive Committee of the Football Federation of FYR of Macedonia appointed Nikola Kostov as its general secretary for a four-year term of office. He was one of five applicants for the position.

Congratulating Nikola Kostov on his appointment, Haralampie Hadzi-Risteski, president of the federation, wished him every success in his new position, particularly in developing the administration as well as communication with the football authorities in Macedonia, the sponsors, journalists, etc., in order to take Macedonian football further forward.

As is traditional at this time of year, the federation has hosted qualifying mini-tournaments, this time for the European Women's Under-19 Championship and the first edition of the European Women's Under-17 Championship. The participants, including the U19 world champions, Germany, expressed their great satisfaction

with the way in which the tournaments had been organised and said that their stay in the ancient city of Strumica, in such beautiful surroundings, had been unforgettable.

In the EURO 2008 qualifiers, the national team defeated Andorra 3-0 at the City Stadium in Skopje. This match was dedicated to the memory of the Macedonian mega music star, Tose Proeski, who tragically lost his life in a car accident. Tose Proeski was a great lover of sport and was often a guest of the Macedonian national football team, both when it was playing in Skopje and abroad.

*Zoran Nikolovski*



Paying tribute to music star Tose Proeski at the match against Andorra.

## MALTA



### Malta FA joins in FARE Action Week

Although racism in Malta hardly rears its ugly head, particularly in sport and more especially in football, the Malta FA joined other football associations in UEFA's recent campaign, the 8th FARE Action Week Against Racism.

The seven-day event was run on the basis of a number of activities in which all representatives of the game in Malta participated to show their solidarity with UEFA in the fight against racism.

Players from all levels of Maltese football, match officials and ball boys wore T-shirts highlighting the theme as they entered the pitch and lined up prior to kick-off at different match venues. Streamers were also prominently displayed in the stadiums to mark the occasion.

A Malta FA delegation, headed by its president, Joseph Mifsud, and accompanied by the Minister of Education, Louis Galea, visited three educational institutions representing state, church and private schools. National team players joined the delegation and their presence helped to instil in the schoolchildren a greater



Maltese international Jamie Pace visits school children as part of the FARE Action Week against racism.

awareness of unity in the fight against racism. Also present was the association's vice-president, Peter Fenech, who coordinated the campaign.

A nationwide message by the Ministry of Education on the role football plays as a unifying force in the fight against racism was issued in conjunction with the Malta FA, while wider publicity on the theme was given through billboards set up in several localities on the island.

The Malta FA, like other European football associations, is wholeheartedly behind UEFA in promulgating the principles behind these and similar initiatives.

Alex Vella



An artificial pitch at Sarata-Galbena.

Boris Hargheanov/FMF

## MOLDOVA



### The "All Together" project bears fruit

In 2006, the Executive Committee of the FA of Moldova (FAM) approved an assistance project entitled "All Together". This project, which aims to promote football in Moldova, has already started to bear fruit: a new stadium with an artificial grass pitch was inaugurated recently in the commune of Sarata-Galbena, in the district of Hîncești. Within a framework of festivities, the mayor, Stefan Vlas, awarded a diploma to Pavel Cebanu, the president of the FAM, and read out a town-hall decision making Mr Cebanu an honorary citizen of Sarata-Galbena.

"The inauguration of this stadium was made possible by the direct assistance

of the FAM and, in particular, its president, Pavel Cebanu. We have a football school where 120 children practise football and they will be able to play football in this new stadium all year round," said Stefan Vlas.

When he took the floor, Pavel Cebanu thanked the mayor of Sarata-Galbena for the award and went on to say: "The FAM has initiated an assistance project known as All Together, which supports the installation of football grounds with artificial pitches in a number of Moldovan towns. The rural stadium in Sarata-Galbena is the first of its kind. We will press on with our work. Our aim is to inaugurate stadiums not only in cities, but also in the communes and villages of our country."

Victor Daghi

## NETHERLANDS



### 100,000 female members

The Royal Netherlands Football Association (KNVB) is happy to announce that total female membership reached the magic number of 100,000 for the first time in October. Women's – and girls' football in particular – has become more and more popular in recent years. Total female membership increased by 8,000

last season and the number of girls under 12 saw a growth of nearly 15%. In all, women and girls make up 10% of the overall membership of the KNVB.

Nina Forakis was the lucky member to receive the honours as the 100,000th new addition. The 11-year-old daughter of a Greek father and a Dutch mother joined local club Fortuna Wormerveer in mid-October and was more than pleasantly surprised when she was invited to be the referee's escort for the European Women's Championship qualifying match between the Netherlands and Germany in Volendam on 1 November. In all honesty, she admitted in front of TV cameras that she had not played a single match yet, nor attended a training session at the club. She showed Dutch TV viewers a few skills, however that proved that she had been practising a lot before joining Fortuna.



Nina Forakis with referees at her side prior to the women's Netherlands-Germany match.

The celebration did not go by unnoticed. Nina was followed by TV cameras all day and appeared in several news programmes on national TV. Donning an appropriate orange jersey with the number 100,000 printed on the front, it was clear for all to see that she was the focus of attention that day. Nina received a signed jersey from the Dutch national women's team and several other presents that might be of use during her blossoming football career.

Rob de Leede

## NORWAY



### Record numbers of Tippeligaen spectators

The Tippeligaen – the top football division for men in Norway – has for the first time achieved an average of more than 10,000 spectators per match.

Since 1995, the first season to see 14 teams in the Tippeligaen, average attendance has more than doubled.

Prior to the 2007 season, the goal was to achieve an average of more than 10,000 spectators per match and recent figures indicate that this target has been comfortably met.



Spectators pack the stands, at Tippeligaen matches especially.

→ There are many explanations for the positive development but new, modern football stadiums at many of the top clubs are by far the most important contribution to the success.

In recent years, Fredrikstad, Start, Ålesund, Viking, Odd, Lillestrøm, Brann, Sandefjord and Tromsø have all either built new stadiums or improved their existing facilities and figures show that this move has had an immediate effect on attendance.

Without doubt, the club licence is a key tool that has accelerated the stadium construction and renovation process.

*Yngve Haavik*

Yngve Haavik/NIF

## REPUBLIC OF IRELAND



### Drogheda United reign supreme

Drogheda United have claimed the Premier Division title in the eircom League of Ireland for the first time in their 88-year history. The club clinched the title after defeating rivals Cork City 2-0 with three games remaining.

Paul Doolin's side is the first to get its hands on the new eircom League of Ireland's Premier Division trophy, which was unveiled on 31 October. The club will also receive a record EUR 225,000 in prize money.

The race for the First Division title is still open and looks set to remain so until the last minute. Finn Harps are leading the pack but Cobh Ramblers are not far behind, making this one of the closest title races in years.

There are now just two clubs remaining in the FAI Ford Cup. Cork City defeated Bohemians 2-0 in the semi-finals to

claim their place in the final, while Longford Town secured a 1-0 victory over UCD in the other semi-final match. Cork City and Longford Town will contest the final at Dublin's RDS venue on 2 December.

Derry City claimed the eircom League of Ireland Cup with a 1-0 win against Bohemians in the final. With an extra-time winner against the Dublin side, the Candystripes thus took home the trophy for the third successive season.

This season was the league's first under the full control of the Football Association of Ireland and it has been deemed a huge success. Attendance is up by over 30% and record levels of investment are being put into the eircom League of Ireland.

*Eoghan Rice*



A brand-new trophy for Drogheda United.

## POLAND



### Football is colourful

"Football is colourful!" was the slogan of the antiracism campaign launched prior to the October friendly between Poland and Hungary. Players from both sides teamed up with the fans in the fight against intolerance, violence and discrimination in football. The campaign, organised jointly by the Polish Football Association and the Polish Federation of Footballers, was organised as part of FARE Action Week.

In a special message, the organisers of the campaign wrote: "Football is beautiful, joyful and colourful, or rather it should be. Only by joining forces can we make sure that this wonderful game is not spoiled by the 'demons' that occasionally attack the sport. Hate, violence, racism and discrimination are phenomena we do

not want in the world of football. There is no place for them in sport.

*"The world is neither white nor black. The same goes for football – it is a sport for everybody! It is not restricted by race, background, religion or political views. It is multicultural and multinational.*

*"The strength and the popularity of football lie in the positive emotions and enormous energy it generates. Football is a colourful celebration of happiness.*

*"Rivalry and a spirit of competition should be accompanied by rules of fair play and a respect for the opponent. Let us try to nurture our beloved game and not let it be poisoned by evil 'demons'. Football should always be beautiful and colourful!"*

Before the match, the players from Poland and Hungary presented a banner promoting the campaign and the fans used symbolic red cards to show their protest against all negative occurrences in football.

*Michal Kocięba*

## SERBIA



### Two new stadiums

In another stage of the "de-Belgradisation" process, which aims to bolster football structures throughout Serbia and firmly shift the focus from Belgrade, officials from the Serbian FA gave financial backing to the reconstruction of stadiums in the central Serbian cities of Kragujevac and Jagodina. The biggest infrastructure investment of 2007, this reconstruction has equipped Serbia with two very good football centres.

Kragujevac and Jagodina were put to the test early on when they played host to the European Under-17 Championship Group 7 qualifying-round matches from 27 September to 2 October. Israel and Serbia took the first two places and proceeded to the second qualifying round, but Iceland and Lithuania also put in some impressive performances.

Kragujevac has a special place in Serbian football history. The home team, FK Radnicki, was very active before and during the Second World War, when it used football to unite the young generations of Serbs and resist occupation. FK Radnicki later featured in the domestic elite but in recent years has played in the third division.



Football is indeed colourful!

Kragujevac, the country's fourth biggest town after Belgrade, Novi Sad and Niš, is located at the very heart of Serbia. Jagodina is just 45km away and is another of the region's magnets.

The Cika Daca stadium in Kragujevac has been given a face lift and transformed into a real masterpiece of modernity with the financial backing of the Serbian FA and that of the mayor of Kragujevac, Veroljub Stevanovic, and his government. The seats cover all four stands, the stadium's capacity is 18,000 and the press box, dressing rooms and fitness room are all brand new and very practical. A key addition is the pair of additional natural grass pitches upon which all the younger teams can train. Jagodina's municipal stadium accommodates 12,000 seats. It too was financed in part by the Serbian FA and the local government, which enabled a full reconstruction. After all, results are refreshing and provide fresh momentum for the future.

At the moment, FK Jagodina is at the top of the second division and FK Radnicki is third in the third division. Both clubs have put the money they received to excellent use and given the Serbian FA the best present it could wish for – two strong centres at the heart of the country.

*Aleksandar Boskovic*



A new stand for the Jagodina stadium.

## SLOVENIA



### Good old derby after three years

Once the most important Slovenian football club, Olimpija, from the capital, Ljubljana, folded after the 2003/04 season after failing to secure the FA of Slovenia's club licence. This meant, among other things, that Slovenian club football has not seen one of its only real derbies, between Olimpija and Maribor, for more than three years. NK Olimpija Beograd, the club that was formed after Olimpija's demise, managed, in the meantime, to get promoted twice and is currently playing in the third division. This year, the former Olimpija and Slovenian national team players got through the first three rounds of the domestic cup competition and were drawn to play Maribor in the quarter-finals, to the delight of all true football fans. The good old derby was played in front of 4,000 people at the Ljudski Vrt stadium in Maribor which is currently under reconstruction and will be open at full capacity next year. Because of the



The derby was the perfect opportunity to promote the fight against racism.

rivalry between the two groups of fans, the game was considered by the FA of Slovenia and by SPINS – the Union of Professional Players – as a good opportunity to implement the FARE campaign "Show Racism the Red Card". In Slovenia, it is called "Goals Count, Not the Name" and 20,000 posters were distributed in the sports daily Ekipa picturing the players of Maribor and Olimpija showing discrimination the red card. And for the record, Maribor won the game 3-1 and qualified for the semi-finals.

*Uros Stanic*

## SWITZERLAND



### FC Lohn win club fair play trophy

The Swiss Football Association's fair play trophy for clubs remains as popular as ever.

The winners for the 2006/07 season, selected from 65 candidates (five from each of the 13 regional associations) who had finished in the top five places in their regional fair play leagues in the first part of the season, were chosen and honoured at the Stade de Suisse Wankdorf.

Ralph Zloczower, President of the Swiss Football Association (SFV), presented the prizes to the best five clubs. In his address, Zloczower stressed that the SFV continues to place great value on fairness both on and off the pitch and makes every effort to uphold the philosophy of fair play. It does so, for example, through the "More respect on football pitches" project, which aims to stop the negative trend concerning respect for opponents and referees in grassroots football, and the "Pact for fair play and against violence", which more than 1,250 SFV-affiliated clubs have now signed.

The fair play trophy for 2006/07 was won by FC Lohn from the Zurich regional football association. Formed in 1969, the club currently runs eight league teams, including six in the youth sector as well as one men's and one women's team.



SFV President Ralph Zloczower (left) presents awards to the winners of the fair play prize.

A crucial factor in determining the winner of the competition, which is sponsored by SuvaLiv, is the number of red and yellow cards received and the number of resulting suspensions. Clubs can also win bonus points, either as the result of a report by an expert who attends a match, the number of men's, women's and youth teams or the final fair play rankings in each half of the season.

FC Lohn were followed in the rankings by SC Nebikon and FC Concordia Basel.

*Pierre Benoit*

## UKRAINE



### Football federation bets on regions

As the new season got under way in Ukraine, five intraregional child-youth football development centres (ICCYFD) got back to work on one of the best-cherished projects of the Football Federation of Ukraine (FFU), aiming to quickly improve the quality of coaching work with young footballers and the selection of gifted youngsters in the regions. The strategic goal of the centres is to favour the purposeful development of football in Ukraine.



Youth centres: a top priority for the Football Federation of Ukraine.

ICCYFDs have been scanning the country, including small towns, since 2005. A decision to establish such centres – which are vitally important for the grassroots football network – in Kiev, Donetsk, Crimea, Lviv and Kharkiv, thereby covering all regions of Ukraine, was adopted by the FFU executive committee in December 2004. Over a period of two years, 1,364 talented youngsters (born in 1990 or 1991) were taken on by the child-youth centres, with 99 of them going on to become national youth team players.

The centres have concluded agreements to assist the development of child-youth football with regional associations, various football establishments and professional clubs. For its part, the FFU has set up a system of financial incentives for specialists and coaches working in the regions, many of whom already receive bonuses from the national federation.

*Bogdan Buga*



# Committee week in Nyon



Photos: UEFA-pjwoods.ch



# Communications Birthdays – Calendar

## Birthdays

Bernard Carrel (Switzerland), a former UEFA committee member, celebrates his 70th birthday on 28 December. On 13 December, referee observer Kaj Natri (Finland) turns 60, a milestone at which he is joined on 18 December by Hansruedi Hasler (Switzerland), a member of the Grassroots Football Panel, and on 31 December by Christian Moroge (Switzerland), a member of the Stadium Construction and Management Panel. Meanwhile, referee observer Juan Antonio Fernandez Marin (Spain) turns 50 on 3 December. For the month of December, UEFA also extends birthday wishes to:

- Wolfgang Wassmund (Germany, 1.12)
- Charles Agius (Malta, 2.12)
- Ligita Ziedone (Latvia, 2.12)
- Miroslav Liba (Czech Republic, 4.12)
- Alan Hodson (England, 5.12)
- Maurizio Montironi (San Marino, 5.12)
- Leszek Rylski (Poland, 6.12)
- Franco Carraro (Italy, 6.12)
- Andreas Akkelides (Cyprus, 7.12)
- Andrea Manzella (Italy, 8.12)
- Michel D'Hooghe (Belgium, 8.12)
- Vitaly Mutko (Russia, 8.12)
- Les Reed (England, 9.12)
- Ioan Angelo Lupescu (Romania, 9.12)
- Rakhat Aliyev (Kazakhstan, 10.12)
- Alain Hamer (Luxembourg, 10.12)
- Alvaro Albino (Portugal, 12.12)
- Gilberto Madaíl (Portugal, 14.12)
- Antonio Mortagua (Portugal, 14.12)
- Ged Poyton (England, 15.12)
- Karel Vertongen (Belgium, 17.12)
- Michael Riley (England, 17.12)
- Guntis Indriksons (Latvia, 18.12)
- Niklas à Lidarenda (Faroe Islands, 18.12)
- Rainer Koch (Germany, 18.12)
- Ludvík Georgsson (Iceland, 19.12)
- Torleif Sigurdsson (Faroe Islands, 23.12)
- Laszlo Vagner (Hungary, 24.12)
- Guy Goethals (Belgium, 26.12)
- Dusan Tittel (Slovakia, 27.12)
- Martial Saugy (Switzerland, 28.12)
- Otakar Mestek (Czech Republic, 28.12)
- Einar Halle (Norway, 29.12)

- Wolfgang Thierriichter (Austria, 30.12)
- Berti Vogts (Germany, 30.12)
- Jean Fournet-Fayard (France, 31.12)
- Fuad Asadov (Azerbaijan, 31.12)
- Horst Brummeier (Austria, 31.12)
- Liene Kozlovskā (Latvia, 31.12)

## Upcoming events

### Meetings

**30.11-1.12.2007, Lucerne**  
Executive Committee

**2.12.2007, Lucerne**  
Draw for the final round of the European Championship

**11.12.2007, Nyon**  
European Women's Under-17 and Under-19 Championships: draws for the first qualifying round in 2008/09 and the second qualifying round in 2007/08  
Elite Women's Coaches Forum

**13.12.2007, Nyon**  
Draws for the qualifying round of the European Under-21 Futsal Tournament

**21.12.2007, Nyon**  
Draws for the first knockout round of the UEFA Champions League and for the round of 32 and the round of 16 of the UEFA Cup

### Competitions

**4.12.2007**  
UEFA Champions League: Group D matches (matchday 6)

**5-6.12.2007**  
UEFA Cup: group matches (matchday 4)

**9-16.12.2007, Japan**  
FIFA Club World Cup

**11-12.12.2007**  
UEFA Champions League: group matches (matchday 6)

**19-20.12.2007**  
UEFA Cup: group matches (matchday 5)

## Notices

■ George Economides is the new general secretary of the Cyprus Football Association.

■ Nikola Kostov is the new general secretary of the Football Federation of FYR of Macedonia.

■ Arben Bici is the new general secretary of the Albanian Football Federation.

■ UEFA's Brussels office has moved. Its new address is: 21 rue Marie-Thérèse, 1000 Brussels, Belgium

## Match agents

New UEFA match agent licences have been granted to:

**Jérôme MELIN**  
7 rue Sergent Bolillot  
06400 Cannes  
France  
Tel: +33 6 15 69 68 60/+33 6 22 97 14 55  
Fax: +33 4 56 80 91 27  
melin.jerome@yahoo.fr

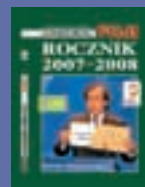
**Frances D'SOUZA**  
Champion Sport Ltd  
28 Longcroft Rise  
Loughton IG10 3NB  
England  
Tel: +44 208 925 1734  
frances.d@championsport.co.uk

Meanwhile, **Franco Rossi** (Italy) has had his licence renewed.

## New publication

### ROCZNIK 2007-2008

The *encyklopedia piłkarska FUJI* has published the latest edition of its traditional yearbook of Polish football, edited by Andrzej Gowarzewski. It also contains a large section on international football and results ([wydawnictwo@gia.pl](mailto:wydawnictwo@gia.pl)).



WE CARE ABOUT FOOTBALL



Official publication of the  
**Union des associations  
européennes de football**

Communications Division

**Editor** André Vieli

**Produced by** Atema Communication SA, CH-1196 Gland

**Printed by** Cavin SA, CH-1422 Grandson

**Editorial deadline:** 12 November 2007

*The views expressed in signed articles are not necessarily the official views of UEFA.*

*The reproduction of articles or extracts of any information published in uefadirect is authorised, provided the source is indicated.*

UEFA  
Route de Genève 46  
CH-1260 Nyon  
Switzerland  
Phone +41 848 00 27 27  
Fax +41 848 01 27 27  
[uefa.com](http://uefa.com)

Union des associations  
européennes de football

