

**UEFA Regions' Cup
returns to Italy 03**

**Umeå IK win the
UEFA Women's Cup 07**

**UEFA Champions League:
the leagues' share 11**

New UEFA Cup 12

COVER

After losing the final last year, Umeå IK (Sweden) were not disappointed this time round and won the second UEFA Women's Cup.

PHOTO: EPA

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Editorial

The success of the club competitions

A wide consultation process took place before the UEFA Executive Committee adopted a new format for the UEFA Cup.

When the UEFA Champions League was launched in the early '90s, it certainly caused an upheaval on the European club football scene, establishing new benchmarks, not only in financial terms but also in terms of organisation and television broadcasting.

There is unanimous agreement that the impact of the UEFA Champions League has been positive overall. However, the launch of this competition did have a few side effects. By concentrating the top clubs in one competition, it diminished somewhat the appeal of the other UEFA competitions. A first measure to combat this devaluation was the merger of the UEFA Cup and the European Cup Winners' Cup, to create a revamped second European club competition.

More recently concern about the amount of football played and the balance in the club competitions, allied to a downturn in the market, led us to re-examine those competitions. For the UEFA Champions League, the upshot was a new format, to be launched this season. The second group phase has been dropped and matches after the one and only group stage will be played on a direct knock-out basis.

The question of the UEFA Cup is more tricky, and to improve the chances of finding the optimum format, UEFA took some additional time for reflection. This time was used for an unprecedented broad consultation process, accompanied by a market survey.

In a context where everyone agrees that there is no question of damaging the UEFA Champions League and where the market is no longer as buoyant as it was a few years ago, it is plain that there is no miracle solution, but that change is needed.

By opting for a new group phase, in keeping with the preference expressed by a very large majority of those consulted, by alternating as far as possible the UEFA Champions League and UEFA Cup match weeks, and by maintaining the feed of clubs from the UEFA Champions League to the UEFA Cup, the Executive Committee has chosen the solution that appears to have the greatest chance of success.

This enhancement of the UEFA Cup, together with the smaller number of matches in the UEFA Champions League, should help to redress the balance between the two UEFA club competitions and give them the stability they need to remain as popular and successful in the future.

Gerhard Aigner
Chief Executive

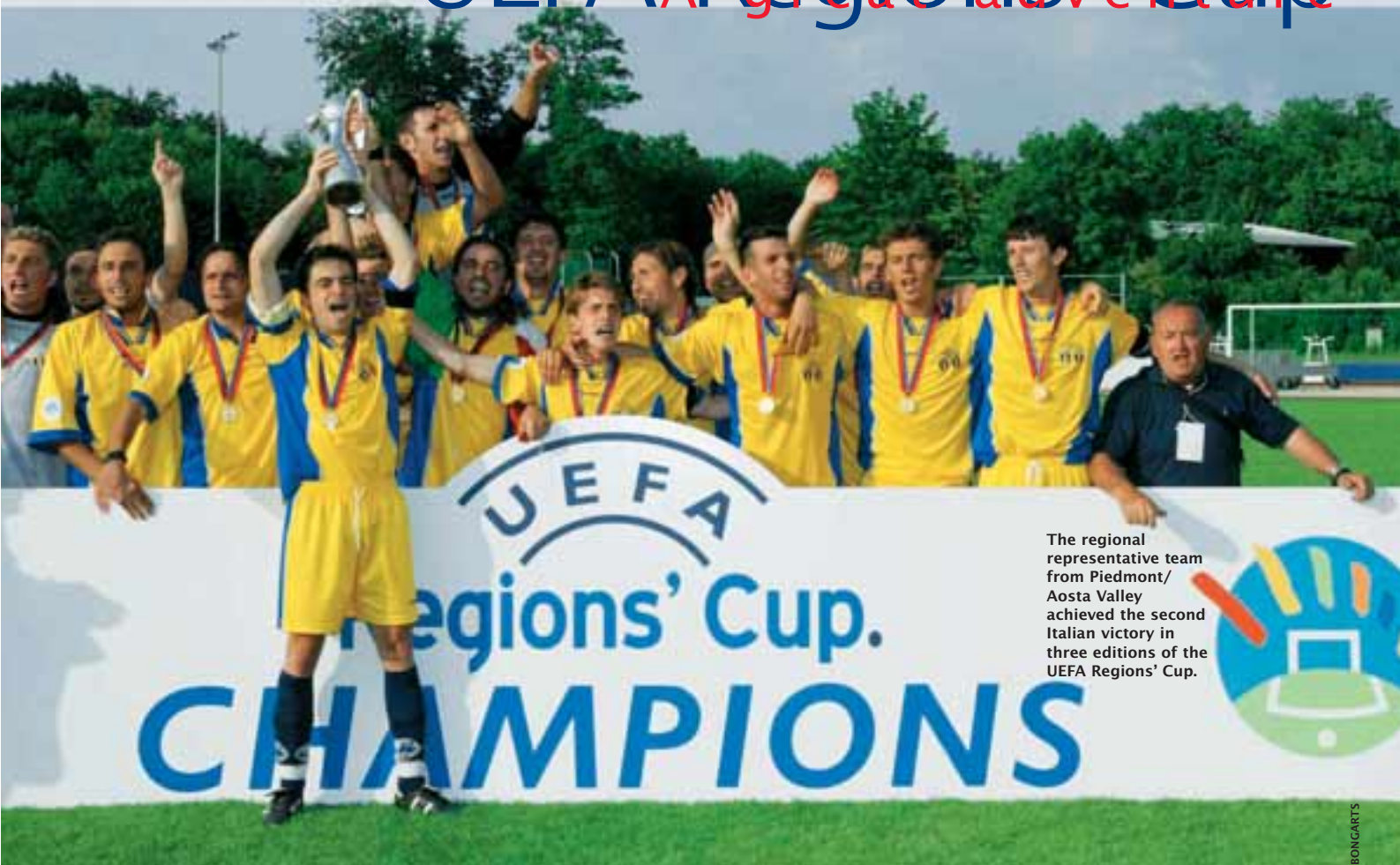


SPORTIMAGE/BILDBYRAN



Final round of the UEFA Regions' Cup

A great adventure



The regional representative team from Piedmont/Aosta Valley achieved the second Italian victory in three editions of the UEFA Regions' Cup.



BONGARTS

FROM 22 TO 28 JUNE, THE FINAL ROUND OF THE THIRD UEFA REGIONS' CUP TOOK PLACE IN THE WÜRTTEMBERG REGION OF SOUTHERN GERMANY. THE EVENT WAS AS SUCCESSFUL AS THE ORGANISERS HAD HOPED IT WOULD BE.

Which region of Europe would succeed Venetia (Italy, 1999) and Moravia (Czech Republic, 2001) as winners of the UEFA Regions' Cup? This question was not, however, the main preoccupation of UEFA, the local organisers or the supporters, nor that of the majority of the team officials and amateur players (ranging in age from 20 to 34) involved. What mattered most for everyone concerned was that it was an opportunity to get together on and around a football field in glorious weather and in a beautiful location. It was even sometimes a bit too hot for the players.



The towns which hosted the matches all have a rich history and many interesting tourist attractions, as the participants were able to discover during the excursions organised as part of the tournament programme.

One of the kingpins of the 2003 UEFA Regions' Cup in Germany was in fact a resident of one of the host towns, Wangen. Hermann Selbherr, 64, a warm and enterprising man, has enjoyed a brilliant career with the German FA (DFB), UEFA and, of course, the Württemberg regional football association. A former member of UEFA's Club Competitions Commit-

tee, he currently serves on the UEFA Match Delegates Panel, and is also chairman of the DFB's Technical Committee and Vice-President of the Württemberg regional football association.

"Our players weren't all that keen to play the finals at home," he said, repeating the view shared by all the finalists, who firmly believe that travel broadens the mind. "But UEFA, having seen our organisational skills in action, wanted us to take on this responsibility. We therefore enlisted Michael Hurler to run the tournament, banking on his recent experience organising the European Women's Championship and the European Women's Under-18 Championship".

"Amateur football is certainly a pet subject of the DFB.



Szabolcs Gabona Csoport (white) vs Ligue du Maine.



Captain Giovanni Battista receives the trophy from Jim Boyce, Chairman of the Youth and Amateur Football Committee (centre), and Executive Committee member Henri Roemer.



Silver medals for a visibly disappointed Ligue du Maine.

Its former president Egidius Braun was one of those who revived amateur football at European level," said Selbherr, "because he compared football to a magnificent tree, the branches and leaves of which represent the professionals and the trunk and roots the amateurs. We have 150,000 amateur clubs in Germany, which adds up to about three million players – that's a lot of people!"

Strong contenders

The eight finalists were divided into two groups, from which the team from Piedmont/Aosta Valley (Italy, winners of Group A, Heidenheim) and Ligue du Maine (France, Group B, Wangen) went through to the final. The Württemberg team fought hard but finally succumbed to the Piedmont team, while the French team dominated Group B, winning all their matches until their stormy (literally) match against District Noord from the Netherlands.

In terms of the strength of the teams, Ligue du Maine in Group B were by far the best balanced, best organised and most talented, thanks to the skills of midfielder Bigarret as well as strikers Guyard and above all the swift and prolific Missaye.

Hungary's Szabolcs Gabona Csoport got off to a disastrous start – because of the heat, so their coach thought – but recovered well thanks to playmaker Dora and intelligent counter-attacker Varga, both highly experienced players. With six goals in two games, Varga was the top scorer of the tournament.

Azerbaijan's Gayazan could have surprised everyone, but ultimately lacked depth and self-control.

However, their devilish No. 10, Ramazanov, a skilled futsal player, certainly made an unforgettable impression on everyone.

The Dutch team, which did not have a single player over 24 years of age, paid the price for its youth against more experienced opponents.

In Group A, the German team stood out for their fitness and their skills in midfield. Libero Rentschler, the ubiquitous Demirkiran and Peschel, supporting the strikers, were the best individual players.

Spain's Principado de Asturias had an incredibly strong and talented team – collectively, no doubt the best of the tournament – with key players like midfielder Pantin and striker Quero Lopez.

The 3-5-2 of Piedmont/Aosta Valley was geared to the attack, with the team displaying a very strong fighting spirit. On the left wing, De Marzo was a constant threat to defenders, and striker Montalto proved to be a constant danger and a real opportunist. However, he had to leave the two winning goals in the final to his team-mate Borgna.

The Swiss side from Ticino proved that having the right attitude is not enough to win. They were rather too short on technical skills and stability in defence. Their two most visible players were centre forward David Guerra and defending midfielder Albertoli.

A dream come true

The final at the charming and well-equipped Albstadion in Heidenheim was a fantastic experience for Italy. Paolo Borgna had had



Piedmont/Aosta Valley open the score against the team from the Ticino region of Switzerland.



District Noord vs Geyazan.



to go home to take care of the office he runs in Turin but returned in time to score the two winning goals. The French could have prevented the goals, but the opportunist streak of Borgna won the day. The French made a last-gasp effort to retrieve the situation and scored a goal, but the Italians deserved their win, with a team that was tactically stronger and mentally better prepared. They might not have been the most elegant but they were certainly the most determined and ready to fight.

Their coach, the highly charismatic Michele Delvecchio, was filled with emotion. *"I couldn't be happier. It's a great day for the team, for me, for Piedmont and for the whole of Italy. Usually, the players work eight or nine hours a day. Here they worked like professional footballers. It was a new experience for them but they were brilliant. UEFA also has to be complimented. The tournament was organised magnificently and it was a great event, as is always the case when you win..."*

A beaming Paolo Borgna: *"I worked Thursday and Friday and didn't get back to Germany until*

11 o'clock last night. It's like a dream. My two goals won us the final".

French coach René Logie was not too disappointed. *"Finishing a tournament in second place as the representatives*

of 1.8 million French amateur footballers is something to be proud of."

Apart from the stakes and fair play on the field being fantastic, so were the evenings organised for all the participants. Sadly, a fatal accident involving one of the Italian team officials cast a shadow over the end of the tournament.

The final round was also marked by another unusual occurrence, the interruption and ultimately the abandonment of the match between Ligue du Maine and District Noord because of a violent storm directly over the stadium in Friedrichshaven. Fortunately, the result did not affect the final position of the French, who would, however, have

liked to finish the match in order to keep their invincibility intact.

Despite these misadventures, the tournament was a great social success, proving that friendship, kinship, solidarity, understanding and good-humour remain the keys to rallying and uniting footballers, at amateur level at least.

And one final remark: neither the players nor the coaches complained about having to play three matches in five days – or five matches in seven days in the case of the finalists, which just goes to show that as far as amateur players are concerned, a unique opportunity is always there to be made the most of.

Mick Michels



Württemberg's Michael Rentschler up against Spaniard Oscar Pantin.

GIUSEPPE GRIPPIOLO, who was accompanying the Italian delegation, was involved in a fatal road accident on the evening of 24 June. He was 66. The untimely death of this football fan, a long-serving member of his regional association and of the Italian Football Federation, deeply affected all the tournament participants.



MATCH CALENDAR

Friday, 25 July
 Norway - France
 Netherlands - Spain
 Germany - Italy
 Sweden - England

Sunday, 27 July
 Germany - Sweden
 Italy - England
 Norway - Netherlands
 France - Spain

Tuesday, 29 July
 England - Germany
 Italy - Sweden
 Spain - Norway
 France - Netherlands

Friday, 1 August
 Winners Group 1 -
 Runners-up Group 2
 Winners Group 2 -
 Runners-up Group 1
Sunday, 3 August
 Final in Leipzig



Child star Rebecca helped Karen Espelund, Chairwoman of the Women's Football Committee, with the draw.

European Women's Under-19 Championship

Exciting entertainment

SLOWLY, THE EXCITEMENT HAS BEEN BUILDING UP. SINCE THE DRAW WAS MADE FOR THE FINAL ROUND OF THE EUROPEAN WOMEN'S UNDER-19 CHAMPIONSHIP, CONCENTRATION HAS BEEN GROWING. WHEN THE CONTINENT'S TOP WOMEN'S UNDER-19 TEAMS COMPETE FOR THEIR EUROPEAN TITLE IN GREATER LEIPZIG FROM 25 JULY TO 3 AUGUST, THEY WILL HAVE TO PULL OUT ALL THE STOPS. INDEED, ALL THE COACHES OF THE TEAMS TAKING PART ARE EXPECTING THE COMPETITION TO BE REALLY CLOSE.



Germany (Katharina Griessemer, in white) in their warm-up match against Switzerland (Isabelle Kaufmann).

Child star Rebecca did a great job. The child of Fortune of the city of Leipzig's Olympic bid also had a lucky hand in the draw for the final round of the European Women's Under-19 Championship, which took place at the beginning of May in the old chamber of the new city hall. She shared out the teams so equally that afterwards everyone agreed that she had cast a lucky spell over the draw pots, out of which two well-balanced groups emerged as a result, with hosts Germany, Italy, Sweden and England in Group A, and Norway, France, Spain and the Netherlands in Group B.

The result was well received by Karen Espelund, who chairs UEFA's Women's Football Committee and who presented and led the draw, which she described as interesting, a view shared by the coaches of the participating teams, for whom interesting means challenging. Speaking on behalf of all of them, Silvia Neid said, "the spectators can look forward to some exciting matches. This tournament is going to be a great advert for women's football".

In order to ensure that the entertainment value is as high as

possible throughout the tournament, all the teams are preparing very seriously for the event. They have some difficult games ahead of them.



"This kind of tournament is no picnic," said Silvia Neid. "It won't be easy to make it into the semi-finals".

The reason is quite simple: many good teams are taking part in the final round.

To quote Germany's coach again, "France, Sweden and Spain are my favourites, but Norway have also chalked up some good results on the way to the finals".

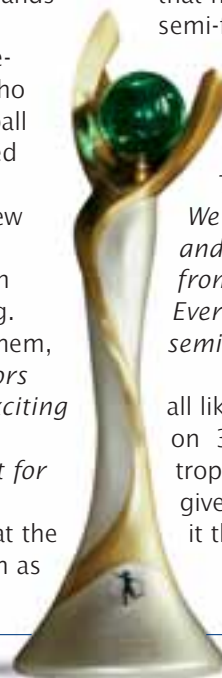
Just because Silvia Neid sees Sweden as serious contenders for the title in Group A, that does not mean that her team will get through to the semi-finals as a matter of course.

Quite the contrary. "The fact that we have won the last three European Championships counts for nothing.

The competition has got harder. We've been drawn with Sweden and Italy, two of the group winners from the qualifying competition. Every team wants to reach the semi-finals," she said.

Of course, what they would all like even better is to lift the trophy on 3 August. And it is a brand-new trophy, the old one having been given to Germany for winning it three times in a row.

Niels Barnhofer





PHOTOS: BILDBYRAN

Umeå IK won both legs of the final.

UEFA Women's Cup

Umeå IK win both legs

THE SECOND UEFA WOMEN'S CUP ENDED WITH A DOUBLE WIN FOR SWEDISH CLUB UMEÅ IK IN THE FINAL AGAINST DENMARK'S FORTUNA HJØRRING.

In the first-leg match at Umeå's Gamliavallen stadium on 9 June, the home side notched up a 4-1 win which left them overwhelming favourites to lift the trophy two weeks' later. Fortuna Hjørring, who had not lost a single match on their way to the final, actually opened the score, but Umeå, losing finalists in the first edition of the UEFA Women's Cup, drew on their experience to turn the tide in their favour, inspired also by a record 7,600 crowd. Two goals from star striker Hanna Ljungberg – one before half-time and the other just after the break – gave the Swedish club the boost they needed, propelling them to cement their win with a further two goals.

In Hjørring on 21 June, the hopes of the Danish side were virtually dashed when they gave away a penalty in the third minute, a blow from which they were never quite able to recover, despite their best efforts. By half-time, Umeå had scored again, putting Fortuna in an impossible position, which

was sealed with a third goal after the break.

Umeå IK therefore take over from 1. FFC Frankfurt as titleholders of a competition which this time round attracted 35 participants, two more than in the first season. With 301 in 68 matches, the goal average was high (4.43), though lower than last season, when the average was 5.36 goals per match. This is due in part to the fact that the gap between the competitors is narrowing. There were still one or two overwhelming victories (up to 12-0), but fewer than in the first edition, when scores of 18-0, 17-0 and two of 13-0 were recorded.

This levelling out is reflected in the higher number of draws (eight compared with five). And in the direct knock-out matches (from the quarter-finals), the results were also quite close, so much so that the semi-final between the then titleholders and the future winners had to be determined by a penalty shoot-out.



Ready for the third edition

Umeå IK are about to embark on a new adventure as they prepare to compete in the third UEFA Women's Cup. Of the 40 teams entered for the competition, 11 will contest qualifying matches until 20 July. They were divided into three groups in a draw made at UEFA's headquarters in Nyon on 4 June.

Group 1: ZNK Krka Novo Mesto (SLO), Maccabi Holon FC (ISR), TSKK Visa Tallinn (EST)

Group 2: ZFK Lombardini Skopje (MKD), SV Neulengbach (AUT), SK ZSNP Zliar nas Hronom (SVK), Ledra (CYP)

Group 3: ZNK Osijek (CRO), Cardiff City LFC (WAL), SFK 2000 Sarajevo (BHZ), FC Kazakhstan Temir Zholy (KZK)



Karen Espelund, Chairwoman of the Women's Football Committee, and UEFA's Technical Director Andy Roxburgh.

The group winners will go through to the next stage, involving eight groups of four.

Group 1: Brøndby IF (DEN), ZFK Masinac-Classic Nis (SMN), FCL Kilmarnock (SCO), KR Reykjavik (ISL)

Group 2: Schwerzenbach (SUI), FC Bobruichanka (BLS), Gömrükçü Bakı (AZE), AE Aegina (GRE)

Group 3: Umeå IK (SWE), Czech club, Newtownabbey Strikers WFC (NIR), CFF Clujana (ROM)

Group 4: FC Foroni Verona (ITA), FC Energy Voronezh (RUS), 1 FC Femina Budapest (HUN), Winners Qualifying Group 3

Group 5: Malmö FF (SWE), FC United Jakobstad Pietarsaari (FIN), Legend-Checkseal (UKR), Winners Qualifying Group 1

Group 6: Kolbotn IL (NOR), Juvisy FCF (FRA), AZS Wroclaw (POL), UCD Women's FC (IRL)

Group 7: 1.FFC Frankfurt (GER), Athletic Club (ESP), S. União 1º Dez 3 (POR), Winners Qualifying Group 2

Group 8: Fulham Ladies FC (ENG), Ter Leede (HOL), KI Klaksvik (FAR), FC Codru Anenii Noi (MOL)

These group matches have to be completed by 25 August.



EPA



Respecting the referee is a fundamental aspect of fair play.



Norwegian FA promotes sportsmanship

How fair do you play?

Peter Schmeichel consoles a Bayern Munich player after the memorable UEFA Champions League final in 1999.



For young players, taking part should be more important than the result.



THE NORWEGIAN FA HAS LAUNCHED A VAST FAIR PLAY CAMPAIGN UNDER THE TITLE OF "FAIR PLAY GJELDER ALLE! HVOE FAIR ER DU?" (FAIR PLAY GOES FOR EVERYONE! HOW FAIR DID YOU PLAY?).

Addressing the whole football community, the leaflet produced by the association sends out the following message:

"Fair play isn't just about avoiding warnings and penalties. Fair play is about how we behave towards others, both on and off the field!"

The association then goes on to explain the objective of its campaign:

"Everyone in the football community should be responsible for following the guidelines, rules and regulations, which create the attitudes and values we are so proud to represent. The Norwegian Football Association seeks to work actively to help all players, coaches, referees, managers, parents, etc. get involved and contribute to creating a football community marked by a sense of security and enjoyment."

A list of key words follows:

- Show respect and acceptance for others
- Everyone is equally valuable
- Reject racism and other forms of harassment

- Respect the decisions of the referee
- Create a community where everyone feels included
- Teamwork demands co-operation

Special messages are directed at each component of the football community (players, coaches, family). For example, the coaches are told that:

"As a coach and manager, it is your responsibility to ensure that the spirit of fair play permeates the game. You must ensure that players are well aware of the rules and regulations, and that these are followed. You may invite players and referees to meet and discuss possible situations to create increased awareness."

Coaches are also encouraged to make their players understand:

- The significance of the referee and his/her role
- That referees have to make quick decisions – and therefore cannot be perfect
- The importance of not overreacting to refereeing decisions



Helping injured players, irrespective of which team they are on.



Football for the whole family guarantees a good atmosphere.

■ That it is the referee's decision which counts, and it is unacceptable to risk being penalised for arguing

■ The importance of following the rules – this benefits all parties, and therefore the game as well

The message addressed at the players is:

“As a football player, it's your responsibility to behave in the spirit of fair play. It may seem simple enough, but what does it mean?”

The answer comes in the form of recommendations:

■ Take care of team-mates and make sure you include new team members

■ Avoid rough play and unsporting behaviour

■ Create a sense of security and team spirit on the field

The association also calls on players to cultivate a spirit of fair play through:

■ A cheerful attitude during training and matches

■ Treating opponents with respect

■ Helping injured players irrespective of their team

■ Saluting opponents after the game

■ Refraining from verbal abuse

For parents and other family members, emphasis is laid on the fact that:

“Parents, grandparents and other relatives are a very important resource for Norwegian football. You can also contribute to a good atmosphere and fair play in the football community!”

To do so, family members need to be aware that:

■ Their involvement means a lot for children and young people

■ Everyone in the football community should feel equal, accepted and included

■ They should show how they appreciate fun, good behaviour and team spirit

■ Respect the decisions of the coach regarding players – do not criticise his/her decisions

■ The referee is also trying to do his/her best – do not criticise his/her decisions

■ The result does not matter too much – the skill of the players is also significant

■ Encourage all players – not just those you know personally

■ Encourage participation – but without pressure

■ Do not hesitate to call parents' meetings to help clarify attitudes and ambitions.

Questions and concerns

The leaflet ends with a number of questions which everyone is asked to explore with a view to spreading the spirit of fair play in football.

■ What does including everyone mean?

■ How important is equality in football?

■ When do you feel most at home in the football community?

■ What can you do to help others feel more at home in the football community?

■ How can the football community help when someone is having a hard time?

■ Are rules made to be broken?

■ Is the referee a necessary evil?

■ Have you seen good football matches with poor referees?

■ Was there ever a referee who did not make mistakes?

■ Do referees make mistakes on purpose?

■ How far are you willing to go to stop an opponent during a match?

■ Do rough behaviour and bad language make you a better football player?

■ Are football players who follow the rules necessarily worse players?

■ How important is it to respect the referee's decisions?

■ Should the rules of the game be part of football training?

Visit the Norwegian Football Association online at: www.fotball.no





The auditorium in the House of European Football was the setting for the draw on 20 June.



PHOTOS: UEFA-BOZZANI

Calendar for the 2003/04 season

UEFA Champions League

- 16 July 2003: 1st qualifying round, first legs
- 23 July: return legs
- 25 July, Nyon: draw for the 3rd qualifying round
- 30 July: 2nd qualifying round, first legs
- 6 August: return legs
- 12/13 August: 3rd qualifying round, first legs
- 26/27 August: return legs
- 28 August, Monaco: draw for the group matches
- 16/17 September: group matches, match day 1
- 30 September/1 October: match day 2
- 21/22 October: match day 3
- 4/5 November: match day 4
- 25/26 November: match day 5
- 9/10 December: match day 6
- 12 December, Nyon: draw for the 1st knock-out round
- 24/25 February 2004: 1st knock-out round, first legs
- 9/10 March: return legs
- 12 March, Nyon: draw for the quarter-finals and semi-finals
- 23/24 March: quarter-finals, first legs
- 6/7 April: return legs
- 20/21 April: semi-finals, first legs
- 4/5 May: return legs
- 26 May, Gelsenkirchen (Germany): final

UEFA Cup

- 14 August 2003: qualifying round, first legs
- 28 August: return legs
- 29 August, Monaco: draw for the 1st round
- 24 September: 1st round, first legs
- 15 October: return legs
- 17 October, Nyon: draw for the 2nd round
- 6 November: 2nd round, first legs
- 27 November: return legs
- 12 December, Nyon: draw for the 3rd round
- 26 February 2004: 3rd round, first legs
- 3 March: return legs
- 4 March, Nyon: draws for the 4th round, quarter-finals and semi-finals
- 11 March: 4th round, first legs
- 25 March: return legs
- 8 April: quarter-finals, first legs
- 14 April: return legs
- 22 April: semi-finals, first legs
- 6 May: return legs
- 19 May, Gothenburg (Sweden): final

UEFA club competitions

Staggered start to the new season

THE NEW UEFA CLUB COMPETITION SEASON HAS KICKED OFF, WITH THE UEFA INTERTOTO CUP IN JUNE, THE UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE QUALIFIERS IN JULY, AND THE UEFA CUP PRELIMINARIES TAKING PLACE IN AUGUST.

The UEFA Intertoto Cup is into its ninth season, the UEFA Cup its thirty-third, and the UEFA Champions League its twelfth (or forty-ninth if you count the Champion Clubs' Cup). The format of the UEFA Champions League is slightly different this time round, however, with just one group stage, followed by direct knock-out matches immediately thereafter, once the field has been reduced to 16. The method for determining the winners of direct knock-out matches has also been modified, with the introduction of the "silver goal" for extra time and the abolition of the rule whereby away goals count double during extra time. These new rules apply to all three club competitions.

In the UEFA Intertoto Cup, the third round will have been completed by the end of July and the draw for the semi-finals and finals made at the House of European Football on 14 July.

On 20 June, the draws for the UEFA Champions League and UEFA Cup qualifiers took place at UEFA's headquarters in Nyon for the first time, bringing together representatives of more than one hundred clubs. Presided over by Friedrich Stickler (Austria), Chairman of the Club Competitions Committee, in the case of the UEFA

Champions League draw, and by Jean Fournet-Fayard (France), co-opted member of the same committee, for the UEFA Cup, the draws whetted the appetite for the new season, which now traditionally kicks off properly in Monaco at the end of August, with the draw on 28 August, at the Grimaldi Forum, for the UEFA Champions League group stage and on 29 August for the first round of the UEFA Cup. On the evening of 29 August, the Louis II stadium in Fontvieille will again be the setting for the UEFA Super Cup, which this year opposes UEFA Champions League winners AC Milan and their UEFA Cup counterparts FC Porto.

All this information and the results of the matches are updated permanently on uefa.com



Sint-Truidense (Belgium) vs FC Tobol (Kazakhstan) in the UEFA Intertoto Cup.

PHOTONNEWS

UEFA
Champions
League (here a
match between
AFC Ajax and
Valencia CF)
revenue benefits
the whole
of European
football...



FLASH PRESS

... including
the youth sector.



WITTESS

UEFA Champions League

Over CHF 61 million for the leagues



THE DISTRIBUTION OF UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE REVENUE FROM THE CENTRALISED MARKETING OF THE RIGHTS COMPLIES WITH CRITERIA LAID DOWN IN THE COMPETITION REGULATIONS.

Understandably, the participating clubs are the main beneficiaries and, for the 2002/03 season, CHF 730 million has already been paid out to them (cf. *uefadirect* No. 15 – June 2003). The regulations stipulate that a share of the revenue allocated to the clubs must go to the leagues represented in the competition. For the 2002/03 season, 14 leagues received the amounts shown in the table below.

The leagues not represented in the competition, i.e. those of UEFA's 38 other member associations in the case of last season, are also entitled to a slice of the cake, taken from the amount reserved for solidarity payments, in other words, from UEFA's share (see table right).

The differences between the leagues in these two tables is due to the value of the domestic TV markets, according to a basic payment of CHF 272,700.

In addition, payments entail certain conditions:

- the leagues must distribute the amount they receive only among clubs which did not compete in the UEFA Champions League (excluding the qualifying rounds);

- only clubs with their own youth training programmes for all age categories from 12 upwards are eligible for a share of the proceeds.

It is up to the league in question to decide whether the money should be distributed among all its member clubs or just among those in the top division. They are also free to decide whether the revenue should be shared equally or according to the quality of youth training. In any case, UEFA has to be informed of the distribution method applied.

For national associations which do not have a league, it is the association itself which distributes the money directly to its top-division clubs, according to the same criteria as apply for the leagues.

Leagues represented in the UEFA Champions League

Germany	9 573 000 CHF
Italy	7 906 000 CHF
France	7 658 000 CHF
Spain	6 872 000 CHF
England	6 539 000 CHF
Netherlands	2 076 000 CHF
Greece	1 356 000 CHF
Turkey	1 315 000 CHF
Belgium	1 119 000 CHF
Switzerland	1 026 000 CHF
Norway	1 021 000 CHF
Russia	996 000 CHF
Israel	909 000 CHF
Ukraine	834 000 CHF
TOTAL	49 200 000 CHF

Leagues not represented

Portugal	743 200 CHF
Scotland	736 900 CHF
Austria	517 300 CHF
Poland	388 700 CHF
Sweden	366 800 CHF
Denmark	366 800 CHF
Republic of Ireland	319 700 CHF
Finland	316 600 CHF
Czech Republic	314 700 CHF
Hungary	310 000 CHF
Romania	300 900 CHF
Bulgaria	294 700 CHF
Serbia and Montenegro	291 500 CHF
Croatia	290 900 CHF
Cyprus	286 500 CHF
Slovakia	280 900 CHF
Slovenia	280 900 CHF
Malta	279 900 CHF
Bosnia & Herzegovina	277 400 CHF
Albania	277 400 CHF
Georgia	277 100 CHF
Iceland	276 500 CHF
FYR Macedonia	275 800 CHF
Lithuania	273 600 CHF
Belarus	272 700 CHF
Latvia	272 700 CHF
Moldova	272 700 CHF
Estonia	272 700 CHF
Armenia	272 700 CHF
Northern Ireland	272 700 CHF
Wales	272 700 CHF
Faroe Islands	272 700 CHF
Luxembourg	272 700 CHF
Azerbaijan	272 700 CHF
Liechtenstein	272 700 CHF
Andorra	272 700 CHF
San Marino	272 700 CHF
Kazakhstan	272 700 CHF
TOTAL	12 162 500 CHF



From 7 to 9 July, the venue directors met at UEFA's headquarters in Nyon to prepare the coming season's UEFA Champions League.



The new UEFA Cup will continue to take in the third-placed teams from the UEFA Champions League group matches. In 2002, this route took Feyenoord and Borussia Dortmund to the UEFA Cup final.

Meetings and competitions

A group phase for the UEFA Cup

Qualifying format for national team competitions

The Executive Committee defined the format for the qualifying phases of the next two major national-team competitions:

- For the 2006 World Cup, the format to be proposed to FIFA is as follows: the 51 European teams (Germany qualifies automatically) will be divided into three groups of seven and five groups of six. The eight group winners will qualify together with the two best runners-up. The six remaining runners-up will contest play-offs for the three remaining berths.

- For EURO 2008, as Austria and Switzerland qualify automatically, there will be 14 qualifying spots for 50 teams. They will be divided into one group of eight and six groups of seven. The two top teams in each group will play the final round.

AT ITS MEETING IN NYON ON 9 AND 10 JULY, THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE DECIDED ON THE NEW UEFA CUP FORMAT TO BE IMPLEMENTED FROM THE 2004/05 SEASON.

After a wide-ranging consultation process, the Executive Committee endorsed the near unanimous desire to introduce a group phase. After a first knock-out round played among 80 teams and preceded by two qualifying rounds, the 40 qualifying teams will be divided into eight groups of five. There will be no home-and-away matches but each team will play two matches at home and two matches away. The three top teams in each group will go through to the final knock-out phase where they will be joined by the eight teams placed third in their groups after the group phase of the UEFA Champions League, making 32 teams in all. The Executive Committee opted to keep the feed from one competition to the other, both for the first round (the 16 teams eliminated in the third qualifying round of the UEFA Champions League) and after the group phase.

The competition will continue with matches played over two legs up to the final, which will be played on neutral ground. It will therefore occupy 16 match dates (and four for the qualifying matches). In the current market climate, there will be no central marketing.

The Executive Committee followed the recommendation

of the Club Competitions Committee, which met on 12 June after the plenary session of the European Club Forum, which had adopted a similar position but with slight differences as regards the "feed" of clubs from the UEFA Champions League into the UEFA Cup.

IN BRIEF, THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

- approved the regulations of the 2003 UEFA Super Cup and the 2003/04 UEFA Futsal Cup;
- chose TEAM Marketing AG as the marketing agency for the final of the 2002/04 European Under-21 Championship;
- approved the formula for distribution of the CHF 84,606,000 surplus of revenue from the 2002/03 UEFA Champions League;
- approved the Charter of the new HatTrick assistance programme (UEFA investment programme) and appointed Marios Lefkaritis, Mathieu Sprengers and Geoffrey Thompson as members of the HatTrick Committee. Three further members of this decision-making body will be appointed from among the UEFA directors;
- took note of the progress report on the club licensing system and stressed the importance of this project, which will be implemented



Group discussions in a good atmosphere in Coverciano.



Philippe Margraff at the EURO 2004 Media and Marketing Workshop.

FRANCISCO PARAISO

from this summer for the next season, as clubs will not be eligible for the UEFA club competitions without a licence from 2004/05 onwards.

Media and marketing workshop in Lisbon

The Dom Pedro hotel in Lisbon was the setting for the second EURO 2004 media and marketing workshop from 25 to 27 June. The first such event was held at UEFA headquarters in November.

Attendees represented the commercial affiliates of the European Championship in Portugal in 2004, including Adidas, BPI, Canon, Carlsberg, CTT-Correios, Dentsu, EBU, Hyundai, GALP Energia, Vista Alegre Group, JVC, Mastercard, McDonald's, NTT Communications, Octagon CSI, PMG, Portugal Telecom, Coca-Cola, Verio and Warner Bros.

The three-day workshop served as an exchange of ideas, and an opportunity for all those involved to share thoughts and opinions in two-way discussions.

The workshop kicked off with 353 days to go until the final tournament. In his welcoming words, Lars-Christer Olsson, UEFA's Director



Time to unwind with a game of human table football after the workshop in Portugal.

of Professional Football and Marketing, said, *"It is important to create the right ambience for co-operation, to create a family feeling amongst everyone. So that after the tournament we can taste the sweet taste of success as one team. When we score it should be the whole team which scores together"*.

And on that note the business began, led by Philippe Margraff, Head of the Marketing Operations Centre, with presentations on all aspects of EURO 2004 having a direct relevance to the commercial affiliates.

The busy agenda covered all marketing and media aspects of the tournament, including updates on the official music, presentation of EBU's role, an update on licensing and premiums, update from euro2004.com and the latest on the plans for sponsor promotion in the lead up to, and during the final tournament.

Away from the workshop room, there was a beach event featuring Carlsberg human table football and McDonald's bouncy football game, followed by a buffet dinner with catering provided by Do&Co, who will be the official hospitality management company in Portugal next summer.

Grassroots programme

The 4th Grassroots Football Course took place in Coverciano, near Florence in Italy, from 30 June to 3 July. Its main purpose was to launch UEFA's new grassroots football programme.

UEFA Technical Director Andy Roxburgh introduced the course by defining grassroots football, which is often mastered as youth football but



Exercises demonstrating the appeal of football.

World first in Finland

The Finnish FA is hosting the tenth FIFA Under-17 World Championship from 13 to 30 August.

Apart from the host nation, who qualify automatically, two other European teams will be competing: Portugal, recent winners of the European Under-17 Championship, and runners-up Spain.

The draw made in Helsinki on 10 June placed the 16 finalists into the following four groups:

Group A (Helsinki): Finland, People's Republic of China, Mexico, Colombia

Group B (Turku): Argentina, Australia, Costa Rica, Nigeria

Group C (Tampere): Yemen, Portugal, Cameroon, Brazil

Group D (Lahti): Republic of Korea, USA, Spain, Sierra Leone

The winners and runners-up in each group will go into the quarter-finals on 23 and 24 August. The semi-finals are scheduled on 27 August, and the final itself will be played at the Töölö stadium in Helsinki on 30 August. It will be the first time that the final of a FIFA competition has been played on artificial turf.



Portugal (Saleiro, left) and Spain (Sergio), this year's European Under-17 Championship finalists, are heading for the World Championship in Finland.



Boca Juniors (Marcelo Delgado, right) were too well-organised for FC Santos (Alex).

which in fact also encompasses all categories of amateur football in the widest sense.

The UEFA programme is based on a Grassroots Charter, the aim of which is to promote, protect and develop all aspects of grassroots football. The programme should, in particular, help national associations wanting to apply the charter to build up their grassroots activities, establish standard structures throughout Europe and support leader training.

Since it takes a solid base to produce a strong elite, promoting grassroots football will ultimately benefit the game as a whole.

In addition to presentations, the course agenda was made up of group discussions, demonstrations and exercises.

France hold on to the Confederations Cup

Eight national teams from the six continents took part in the fourth FIFA Confederations Cup staged in France from 18 to 29 June.

The two European teams, France and Turkey, proved worthy representatives of our continent as France retained the title gained in the Republic of Korea and Japan in 2001, while Turkey took third place as in the most recent World Cup, beating Colombia 2-1 in the bronze-medal play-off.

An intensely emotional moment for Rigobert Song (Cameroon, left) and Marcel Desailly (France) at the end of the Confederations Cup.

The latter part of this tournament was played in a poignant emotional climate following the death of Marc-Vivien Foé of Cameroon, who collapsed on the field during the semi-final between his team and Colombia (1-0). Just 28 years old and with 63 caps to his credit, Marc-Vivien Foé was one of the many African players who have brought their footballing talent to Europe. French champion with Lens and again with Olympique Lyonnais, he played the last season with Manchester City.

At the Stade de France in Paris, in a final dedicated to their countryman, the Cameroonian side were beaten in extra time when the tournament's best striker, France's Thierry Henry, shot home a golden goal, the only goal of the match.

Argentinian opponents for AC Milan

Boca Juniors have just won the Copa Libertadores for the fifth time and will therefore now face AC Milan in the European/South American Cup in Tokyo on 14 December.

In the Copa Libertadores final, Boca Juniors defeated FC Santos (Brazil) twice over, winning the first leg in Buenos Aires 2-0 on 25 June and then going on to win the second leg in São Paulo 3-1 on 2 July, in front of more than 70,000 spectators.

Boca Juniors are heading for their fourth European/South American Cup, which they have won twice so far, in 1978 and 2000, before losing to Bayern Munich in 2001.

AC Milan are also European/South American Cup veterans, having taken part six times so far and achieved a level record of three wins and the same number of defeats.



EMPC5/TURKSPORFOTO



The building which will house the FA of the Central African Republic.



Identifying the main needs.

Meridian Project

First meeting in Bangui

THE FA OF THE CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC IS ONE OF THE TWO NEW BENEFICIARIES OF TWO YEARS OF DIRECT UEFA AID FROM THE MERIDIAN PROJECT, THE OTHER BEING THE FA OF ETHIOPIA.

Having established initial contact with the Ethiopian FA in May, those in charge of the Meridian Project at UEFA travelled to Bangui, capital of the Central African Republic, at the beginning of June. They were accompanied on this first visit by a delegate from the African Football Confederation (CAF).

As its name implies, the Central African Republic is situated in the heart of Africa. It covers some 623,000 km² and has a population of just 3.8 million. The official language of the country is French, but Sangho and other tribal languages, such as Banda, Gbaya, and Manza, are also spoken. Since gaining independence in 1960, the republic has experienced several periods of unrest, the latest of which occurred as recently as 15 May of this year, when General Bozizé, now president, orchestrated a successful coup d'état. A lot of installations were destroyed and plundered, but fortunately, sports installations emerged unscathed.

The FA of the Central African Republic (FCF) was founded in 1961 and was admitted as a member of FIFA in 1963, before joining CAF in 1965. On account of the political situation, the national team has been deprived of competing in the international arena for long periods at a time.

Current president of the association is Thierry Kamach, who was first elected in 1997 and re-elected last year. The executive committee is composed of 12 members elected for a four-year term. Among other duties, the executive body appoints the full-time general secretary, a position presently held by Jean-Marie Gbaté.

The UEFA/CAF delegation met the president and the full executive committee in the association's rented offices in the centre of Bangui to compile a detailed list of the projects that the association would like to implement with UEFA's help. One of the FCF's priorities is to acquire its own headquarters and the association has exceptionally been able to benefit from FIFA's Goal programme not only for this undertaking but also for the renovation of the national stadium in the capital.

The FCF would therefore like UEFA to assist with the furnishing of its new offices, supplying it with telephones, faxes, copiers and computer equipment (four computers and printers). After detailed examination, these projects have been approved, as have other requests made by the associa-

tion, including the provision of one thousand plastic footballs for schools, sports gear for 90 youth teams and 50 referees in the 17 regional leagues, as well as refereeing and first aid equipment for each league.

In the longer term, the association's objectives are to refurbish a hut within the confines of the headquarters which could be used for referee meetings and as a training and recreation room.

Emphasis will also be placed on training, with four courses planned in the fields of administration, sports medicine, refereeing and youth coaching.

Plans to develop a training centre will, however, need to be studied in more detail.

During their stay in Bangui, the UEFA/CAF delegation were received by the local authorities, the Minister for Culture, and the special adviser to the prime minister. They also attended an African Nations Cup qualifying match between the Central African Republic and the Congo. A press conference was also held, to inform the local media about the main aspects of the co-operation.



The national stadium was full for the match against the Congo.



Practical exercises in Moldova.



A festive atmosphere at the Marek Wielgus tournament.

Assistance Preparing for HatTrick

f r o m

THE EAST EUROPEAN ASSISTANCE BUREAU (EEAB) AND THE KIOSK PROGRAMME WILL HAVE BEEN PHASED OUT BY THE END OF JULY TO MAKE ROOM FOR A NEW ASSISTANCE PROGRAMME, HATTRICK, TO WHICH ALL UEFA MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS HAVE ACCESS. THE BROAD LINES WERE PRESENTED AT THE UEFA CONGRESS IN ROME.

The last courses in the Progress V cycle were therefore organised this spring. One such course took place in Chisinau, capital of Moldova, as Press Officer Vasile Vatamanu reports:

"From 16 to 19 June, the Football Association of Moldova hosted the fifth UEFA Progress Course for coaches and referees from Moldova. Altogether, 50 coaches and 25 referees took part in the event. UEFA committee members György Mezey (Hungary) and Josef Marko (Slovakia) presented interesting theoretical and practical sessions. The opinions of the course participants were unanimous – both lecturers had come to Chisinau well prepared, the content of the sessions was full, and, as a result, the Moldovan coaches and referees enriched their knowledge."

Moldova FA Vice-President Valentin Cojuhari, responsible for the course, said, "We are very grateful to UEFA for paying special attention to the FA of Moldova. I also want to thank the lecturers so very much for their very good presentations. For us, these courses have special significance, because only the best professionals have been coming to Moldova to run them."

At the press conference organised right after the courses, the lecturers highlighted the good organisation of the Progress V courses."

In FYR Macedonia, a similar course brought together coaches and referees in the city of Ohrid. Press Officer Zoran Nikolovski reports:

"Some 40 participants from all over the country attended the Progress Course V for coaches, which was run by Wim Koevermans, head coach of the under-21 team of the Netherlands."

Following on from last year's course, the participants were able to follow all the latest coaching developments in the youth sector.

"The course sequence continued immediately with the referees' course, involving 35 first and second division referees as well as the leaders of the Referees' Board of the FA of Macedonia. The main theme of the course was "Unifying refereeing in Europe", focussing on co-operation between the referee and his assistant referees."

"The course was run by Vladimir Sajn from Slovenia, a member of the UEFA Referees Committee. Both courses were very well organised, with the participants mixing nicely and getting the chance to visit many of the monuments in the ancient city of Ohrid."

Within the framework of Kiosk, the Polish FA (PZPN) received financial support from UEFA to organise its eighth Marek Wielgus Tournament, in which 22,340 under-11s, in 2,290 teams, took part. The first qualifying phase was organised in 49 regions of the country. The 98 winning teams (girls and boys) will be meeting up at summer camps organised by the PZPN to play in the second qualifying phase, which will determine which 16 teams will go through to the final at the beginning of September.



BELGIUM

Quality youth training

As part of the "Futurofoot" scheme, and in co-operation with several Belgian universities, the Belgian FA has launched "QIKFoot". The first results of a survey among the clubs will serve the first and second division clubs as a basis for assessing their strengths and weaknesses in the youth training sector, with a view to improving their programme.

The objectives of "QIKFoot" are multiple. The clubs have to be made aware of the need to develop talent.



To do so, they have to be encouraged to train young players at all levels within the club itself and to support youth coaches in the running of quality football education.

The survey revealed some quite surprising and significant figures. For example:

- 45.5% of clubs offer at least four youth training sessions a week;
- 90.9% of clubs have a technical director responsible for youth training who holds at least a UEFA B diploma;
- 69.7% have at least one qualified goalkeeper coach;
- 54.5% have a fitness and/or rehab coach;
- 51.5% have a physiotherapist attending training sessions and 39.4% have a physio at matches;
- 24.2% offer a school liaison officer;
- 18.2% have an artificial playing field;
- 19.7% of the players trained by a club make it into the first team.

A club training ranking table has been compiled according to different specific criteria. Heading the 2003 table are Germinal Beerschot Antwerpen, followed by KRC Genk and KSK Beveren.

François Vantomme



BOSNIA & HERZEGOVINA

Football unites the country

Football has been the first sport to unite the territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina. After many years of tough discussion, football clubs from the entity of the Republic of Srpska joined the Premier League last year, with the help of UEFA and FIFA. The new, united Premier



BOSNIA & HERZEGOVINA Cup winners FK Zeljeznicar.

FUAD KRIVAVAC



CROATIA Damir Vrbanovic, a man of experience.

HNS

member associations

League of Bosnia and Herzegovina with 20 clubs started. A lot of people were skeptical about this league, but everything went just fine, although the league numbered too many teams. Next season, 2003/04, the league will number 16 teams.

FK Leotar became champions of Bosnia and Herzegovina, after a neck-and-neck chase with last season's champions FK Zeljeznicar. The same two teams also met in the cup final, from which it was FK Zeljeznicar's turn to emerge victorious after the two legs, the first in Trebinje and the second in Sarajevo.

The new Premier League season kicks off on 2 August, involving 14 of the participants from last season and the champions of the First League of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina (NK Travnik) and the First League of the Republic of Srpska (FK Modrica Maxima).

By uniting football in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the national teams have been able to boost their quality, thereby leaving the senior and under-21 teams with a better chance of qualifying for EURO 2004 in Portugal and the final round of the European Under-21 Championship. Players from clubs from all over the territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina are representing their country.

Footballers have broken the ice in uniting the country and it seems that all other sports are heading in the same direction!

Fuad Krivavac



CROATIA

Successful activities

The end of the season increased optimism in Croatian football even more. With a series of victories, the Croatian senior national team is in with a chance of qualifying for EURO 2004, while the under-21s are gradually achieving their ultimate goal of qualifying for the Olympic Games.

The first season of a new competition system with 12 clubs and play-off matches was very successful. Attendance figures have increased, as has media attention and the number of potential sponsors. The elective assembly of the association of Croatian first division clubs that has been vested by the Croatian Football Association to manage the championship has taken place in Zagreb. Damir Vrbanovic, General Manager of NK Dinamo Zagreb, was elected president. In this capacity, he at the same time becomes vice-president of the Croatian FA. He is also vice-chairman of the

European Club Forum. With his wide international experience, we are expecting him to contribute to the successful implementation of UEFA's club licensing scheme.

On youth level, besides numerous official competitions, many tournaments have also been organised, notably the fifty-first Kvarner Riviera international youth tournament, staged in the wider territory of Rijeka. This tournament is the second oldest European youth tournament. This year's winners were Brazilian club Atletico Mineiro. Another notable event was the under-9 tournament with 32 teams that took place in Zagreb.

We are especially pleased that the Jira Panel has made a positive assessment of the activities of the Football Academy of the Croatian FA and proposed it for the UEFA Convention at Pro level. The academy was founded in 2000 and since then has brought about significant improvements in the field of coach education for A and B licences.

We are also expecting the Croatian government to urgently pass a law governing the prevention of crowd disturbances at sports events which the Croatian FA has been backing for a number of years.

Ante Pavlovic



FINLAND

Helsinki Cup invades the capital

In Finland, summer would not be summer for young players without the Helsinki Cup. Established in 1976 with 211 teams from five different countries, the Helsinki Cup has become one of the biggest youth tournaments in the world. This year's event took place from 6 to 12 July.

To date, clubs from 52 different countries have participated in the competition. The field this year comprised 810 clubs from 22 countries, including teams from Brazil, the Seychelles, France, Israel, Spain, the Philippines and Mexico, to mention but a few, falling short of last year's all-time record by nine teams. An international atmosphere invades Helsinki every July, as the teams arrive to compete for the cup.

The Helsinki Cup includes ten age groups for boys and six for girls. The Green Line philosophy of the Finnish FA is applied in all categories. After every match, the referee rewards one player from each team with a green card. The

player who receives this symbol of fair play then goes into a lottery with different prizes. In addition, the young players do not compete for points, as each team is automatically guaranteed six matches in the tournament, with no risk of not qualifying for the second round.

In past years, teams such as Real Madrid, Smena, Kispest Honved, Dynamo Kiev, Tahuichi and FC Köln have won the Helsinki Cup, along with many Finnish champions. This year's results can be found at www.helsinki-cup.fi.

Sami Terävä



GERMANY

First amateur football congress

"New challenges for amateur football: information - ideas - impulses". This was the theme of the first national amateur football congress organised by the German Football Association (DFB) in Barsinghausen (Lower Saxony) from 13 to 15 June. "It is the first time a German sports association has organised a congress focusing entirely on amateur and grassroots aspects", said DFB First Vice-President Engelbert Nelle, who is responsible for amateur football, after the gathering. "Over the three days of the congress, we held many intensive discussions and developed ambitious new goals and strategies for amateur football. Now, we shall have to translate them into action as soon as possible."

After a number of presentations by leading experts with backgrounds in social, sports and economic sciences, the 120 or so congress participants split into smaller groups and came up with numerous ideas as to how amateur football could ensure that its current popularity continues into the future. In this respect, the DFB will have to react to a steeply falling population in order to keep its



BONGARTS

GERMANY

Engelbert Nelle addressing the congress.



membership levels up. "We have realised well in advance that we shall have to broaden and adjust the opportunities we offer", said Nelle. Among the main focuses are greater support for girls' and women's football, fitness-oriented football for 40- to 60-year olds and a children's football concept based on a non-competitive approach. Variants such as futsal, beach soccer and street soccer are also to be promoted. Last but not least, the technical and social skills of youth coaches are to be stepped up by means of an intensive educational programme.

Stephan Brause



HUNGARY

Successful national teams

It has been a long time since the Hungarian fans last felt so proud of their national teams' performances at all levels. At the moment, however, the youth teams have been doing well in their European competitions, while the under-21s and senior national team are in a hopeful position (second in each case) in their respective European championship qualifying groups.

Despite these promising performances, the leaders of the Hungarian Football Federation are still counting on long-term development from the nationwide "Bozsik" youth education programme. However, it is quite clear that the young guns need their Hungarian heroes. They give them motivation, hope and a good reason to play football.

Consequently, the teams of the present and the future are both top of the MLSZ's list of priorities. They are being

given the top-level support they need, and benefiting from the professional coaching skills of Antal Róth (former international and Feyenoord player) at under-21 level and of Imre Gellei as far as the senior national team is concerned, both of whom have been successful with their respective teams since 2001.

In reaching their current position in the respective European Championship qualifying groups, the under-21s 5-2 victory against Sweden and the senior team's 3-1 win against Latvia stand out.

These positive signs give the Hungarian supporters hope for future games. There are some tough matches left before Hungary can qualify for EURO 2004 (which would be Hungary's first European Championship final round since 1972) and the Olympic Games in Athens (last appearance in the Atlanta Games in 1996).

Márton Dinnyés/György Szöllösi



ICELAND

Ásgeir Sigurvinsson appointed national coach

A new national team coach was appointed in early May following the resignation of Atli Edvaldsson. Ásgeir Sigurvinsson, one of the most successful professional players ever to come out of Iceland, took over the coach's seat on a temporary basis while the search for a permanent incumbent was under way. Sigurvinsson played professional football for Standard Liège, as well as Bayern München and Stuttgart, and it was at the latter club that he was most successful, winning the German championship in 1984 and being voted Bundesliga player of the year. Sigurvinsson has called on the services of Logi Ólafsson, one of the most respected coaches in Iceland, who has coached both the men's and women's national teams, as assistant national team coach.

The EURO 2004 qualifying campaign did not get off to as good a start as had been hoped, but two good victories under the leadership of Sigurvinsson and Ólafsson, against the Faroe Islands in Reykjavik (2-1) and against Lithuania in Kaunas (3-0) have put the team on the right track again. Following these victories, Sigurvinsson and Ólafsson were offered a contract to remain at the helm until the end of 2005, which they duly accepted. If three points are gained in the Faroe Islands on 20 August, Iceland will go top of Qualifying Group 5, a position which not many would have expected, to say the least. But the Faeroese proved yet again in Reykjavik that they are no pushovers, and the winning goal in Iceland's 2-1 victory came in added time after 90 minutes.

Runar Kristinsson of Lokeren in Belgium has become the first ever Icelandic player to clock up a century for the national team, having won his one hundredth cap against Lithuania. Kristinsson is likely to hold the record for years to come, as the second most-capped player is Gudni Bergsson (80 caps), who announced his retirement from football after the EURO 2004 qualifiers. Bergsson has been a great ambassador for Icelandic football for many years, playing for Tottenham Hotspur and Bolton Wanderers in England.

Ómar Smarason



ISRAEL

75th anniversary

This year is a very memorable one for the Football Association of Israel, as it marks the 75th year of its founding. To mark this special year a commemorative dinner was held in Tel Aviv on 15 June, including a presentation of shields to Israeli FA officials and former national players, as well as a spectacular floor show.

Chief guest was FIFA President Joseph S. Blatter, who was joined by Angel Villar Llona, FIFA and UEFA vice-president, and president of the Spain FA; Henri Roemer, UEFA Executive Committee member and Luxembourg FA President; Joseph Mifsud, UEFA Executive Committee member and Malta FA President; and Marios Lefkaritis, UEFA Executive Committee member representing UEFA President Lennart Johansson.

In addition, the presidents and chief executives of another 20 European football associations attended the celebration. Altogether about 700 people, including Israel FA officials, attended the dinner.

FIFA President Joseph Blatter said in his speech that he would exert all this influence to enable Israel to play its home matches for the 2006 World Cup in Israel. UEFA officials also promised to support this move within the various UEFA competitions.

Gavriel Levi, Chairman of the Israel FA, welcomed the guests, and said: "Football, as the most popular sport in Israel, is shared by over a million people, who meet every week: players, coaches, referees and fans, men and women, young and old, Jews and Arabs, Christians and Druz, new immigrants and Israeli veterans. It is only natural that over a million Israeli football fans want to enjoy their right to see their national team and leading clubs play right here, at home, against the leading teams and clubs of Europe."

Football - as all sports - is dedicated to promoting the spirit of friendship and fair play. Football should bring all people together - not set them apart."

Haim Zimmer



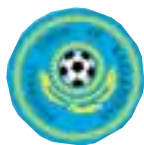
NORTHERN IRELAND
Sectarianism
gets the
red card!



ISRAEL
FA President Gavriel Levi (right) welcoming FIFA President Joseph S. Blatter



KAZAKHSTAN
A fascinating exhibition.



KAZAKHSTAN

Football and art

The Football Union of Kazakhstan was the venue for the exhibition "Football, its Past, Present and Future", held on 29 May, on the occasion of the ninetieth anniversary of football in Kazakhstan. Visitors were able to enjoy works of art, match programmes, pins and other football articles. The exhibition was successfully combined with the presentation of the book "Kazakhstan Football. 1913-2003. Part I 1992-2002".

Tlekbek Akpayev, Vice-President of the Football Union of Kazakhstan, said, "On the occasion of the anniversary of football in Kazakhstan, the Football Union of Kazakhstan decided to co-operate with journalists, historians and statisticians in order to create an official publication which adequately reflects the history of football in Kazakhstan. Very few football works have seen the light of the day in sovereign Kazakhstan. This book should help cover that gap.

"This is a reference work-cum-encyclopaedia where figures and brief comments help recreate football events of recent years. The first instalment is dedicated to independent Kazakhstan and covers recent football events. The next ones will recount the first football steps in Kazakhstan, the glorious history of FC Kairat/Almaty and other domestic clubs. We have both people and results to be proud of."

A delegation from the German FA (DFB), headed by Vice-President Karl-Josef Tanas, visited Kazakhstan with the Mittelrhein youth team from 10 to 20 June. The guests played two friendly matches, losing 1-0 in Astana against the local youth team and winning 3-1 against the Kazakhstan national under-19 team in Almaty. Kazakhstan has been invited to make a return visit to Germany in the autumn.

The end of May saw the completion of the 2002/03 futsal championship. FC Zhigitter from Astana suffered only two defeats during the season and were consequently declared champions. The best scorer of the championship was Sergey Levoshko (Aktubrentgen/Aktobe), with 41 goals.

Alexander Keplin/Anton Vorobyev



LATVIA

Football festival in Latvia and Lithuania

21 June was the date of an important football event in a number of Latvian and Lithuanian towns - a total of 128 teams of different levels competed simultaneously, playing 64 games in the "LATVIA-LITHUANIA 100+" competition. The Latvian players scored

better than their neighbours, finishing with a total final score of 34.5-29.5. A win was worth one point while half a point was awarded for a draw. The Latvian teams scored 166 goals and their opponents 158.

The centre of the event was the Keizarmezs sports centre in Riga, where the main match was played between the parliaments of both countries (Latvian Saeima vs Lithuanian Seima). The visiting parliamentarians won 4-1 but the Latvian team can be pleased with their performance. The match involving the national bank teams ended the other way round, with a 4-1 win for the Latvian Bank. Keizarmezs was the site of the most impressive defeat - the Latvian journalists lost their match against a Lithuanian show-business team, "Preleganta", 15-2.

Several matches were played between youth teams. Disappointingly, the Latvian women's under-19 and under-18 teams lost their matches.

It was widely concluded that this football festival in two countries was a success. The most enthusiastic were the young under-11 players, for whom it was a tremendous honour to represent their country in such a large contest.

Latvian FA General Secretary Janis Mezeckis expressed his satisfaction with the event: "Such a competition between teams of different levels from two countries will definitely promote the development of the game in both countries. The most essential aspect is the promotion of the popularity of football in Latvia and Lithuania. Today we saw that football is not only a game for professionals. Exciting and emotional matches also take place between people for whom football is a leisure pursuit."

Nils Kalns



LUXEMBOURG

Important reforms

The Luxembourg Football Association (FLF) has tried everything in recent years to raise the general standard of football in Luxembourg.

After the opening of the FLF football academy and building of the national football centre in Mondercange, a number of additional important reforms have also been carried out.

In May this year, the FLF organised a referendum that dealt with two important issues. Happily, both proposals received the required majority of the votes:

From the 2005/06 season, teams playing in championship and cup matches in Luxembourg will have to include at least seven players who are either eligible for the FLF's representative teams or who fulfil the necessary conditions to acquire Luxembourg nationality at short notice. This will help to ensure that the clubs invest more in the development of local young talent than they have in recent years.

From next season, the FLF under-19 team will play in the DFB championship (South-West Regional Junior League). Fortunately, the DFB has said it is willing to allow the Luxembourg team to enter the competition without imposing any special conditions or formalities. Luxembourg's top players in this age group train and play under the expert guidance of former national team captain, Jeff Saibene. They enjoy excellent facilities at the recently opened technical centre (CNF) in Mondercange and are already very excited about this new challenge.

The best native players aged between 14 and 19, split into three squads (U15, U17 and U19), will therefore spend six years being trained exclusively at the FLF football academy.

ICELAND

Runar Kristinsson (in blue), the first Icelandic player to chalk up 100 caps.





BONGARTS

LUXEMBOURG
Jeff Saibene
(right, opposite
Kholkhov
of Russia)
coaches
Luxembourg's
U-19 side.



KNVB

NETHERLANDS
Left to right:
Michel D'Hooghe,
Mathieu Sprengers,
Harry Been
and
Theo Zwanziger.

During that time, they will not be allowed to play for their clubs, but will receive the type of sports education from the FLF that in other countries is normally only offered by professional clubs. The FLF hopes that this highly challenging project will, in the medium term, produce national team players with an excellent football education who may then be capable of making the grade as professional footballers.

There are also some new developments in women's football. Romain Jean, the first national coach, will get a Luxembourg national team up and running from August. The team will initially play friendly matches against foreign club teams. This will ensure that women's football, which has enjoyed a somewhat unexpected boom in Luxembourg in recent years, remains in the public eye.

Joël Wolff



FYR MACEDONIA

First women's championship

At this time, the association is paying a great deal of attention to the development and establishment of women's football.

In this direction, several friendly matches have been played against national teams from neighbouring countries and the best women's clubs from the

Macedonian Women's League, which started up in 2002/03. The first women's champions of FYR Macedonia are ZFK Lombardini.

In order to increase the popularity of football among girls, the association has agreed to host its group's qualifying mini-tournament in the UEFA Women's Cup. The matches are being played in Ohrid in July.

In addition, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia will host a qualifying tournament in the European Women's Under-19 Championship. This tournament will be held in October, again on the shores of beautiful Lake Ohrid.

Zoran Nikolovski



MALTA

Noel Turner Footballer of the Year

At the national stadium, Malta succumbed to

another 2-1 defeat, this time at the hands of 'Mediterranean' neighbours Cyprus. Sigfried Held's side could not have got off to a worse start when goalkeeper Saviour Darmanin was harshly dismissed after 20 minutes for a challenge inside the area. Cypriot striker Konstantinou converted the resulting penalty-kick and added a second soon after the interval. The Maltese tried hard to claw themselves into the game but a late Luke Dimech tally was not enough to salvage at least a point. Malta striker Michael Mifsud said afterwards, *"The red card dented our chances of a positive result. Down to ten men, we all knew it was an uphill struggle but we showed character and did very well after the break"*.

Malta's under-21 side were also unlucky to lose by a solitary goal scored in injury time after dominating the Cypriots for long stretches of the game. Mark Miller's side failed to convert a penalty and hit the woodwork twice during the match.

After leading Sliema Wanderers to their first Premier League title in seven years, skipper Noel Turner's sterling contribution through the 2002/03 season earned him the Malta FA's Footballer of the Year award for the second time. He was still a burgeoning midfielder when he was named Footballer of the Year for the 1995/96 season. Unassuming and modest off the pitch, but determined and committed on it, the 28-year old Sliema and Malta midfielder prefers to let his feet do the talking on the field. *"My main target was to help my team win the league and that triumph certainly played a big part in my personal success. My thanks go to my team-mates because it was a collective effort,"* said an elated Turner.

Louis Micallef



D. AQUILINA

MALTA
Noel Turner,
Malta's
best player
of the year.



NETHERLANDS

Awards for Egidius Braun and Michel D'Hooghe

On 16 June, before the start of the KNVB general assembly, Egidius Braun and Michel D'Hooghe received the first ever Jo van Marle Award. KNVB President Mathieu Sprengers and General Secretary Harry Been honoured these dedicated football officials from the two neighbouring countries. The award was initiated two years ago in commemoration of former KNVB president Jo van Marle. Van Marle also served UEFA as treasurer in his modest but most committed manner for a long time. The award is presented to non-members of the KNVB who have made a notable contribution to football in general. Unfortunately, Egidius Braun was absent due to illness. DFB treasurer Theo Zwanziger accepted the award on his behalf.

Egidius Braun from Germany was treasurer and president of the German Football Association (DFB). Thanks to him the DFB has become a European and worldwide example for many others. Under the leadership of Braun the DFB supported poor football countries. As a UEFA official he played an important part in the joint allocation of the organisation of EURO 2000 to the football associations of the Netherlands and Belgium.

In his view it was inconceivable to allocate these major projects to the larger associations only. In order to enable the other 45 member associations of UEFA to host events on this scale it was deemed necessary to create the possibility of co-hosting. Furthermore, Braun has always been aware of the sensitive relationship between the Netherlands and Germany.

Michel D'Hooghe from Belgium also played an important part in the allocation of EURO 2000. The necessary, but eventually seamless co-operation between the Belgians and the Dutch, can be attributed to him to a large extent. Furthermore, D'Hooghe has supported projects of the Royal Belgian Football Association with charitable aims. A well known example is the support of a children's home in Mexico. Under the leadership of D'Hooghe an annual donation is made from Belgium.

Rob de Leede



NORTHERN IRELAND

Campaign against bigotry

Former Northern Ireland striker Iain Dowie helped to promote a "Football For All" initiative on the night of the European qualifier against Spain at Windsor Park. He said:

"The Community Relations Council, Northern Ireland Supporters and the IFA deserve a lot of credit for their Foot-



PORTUGAL
Portugal lift the European Under-17 Trophy.

UEFA



EMPICS

RÉPUBLIQUE OF IRELAND
A win over Albania for Robbie Keane and the Republic of Ireland.

ball For All campaign. It was a pleasure to help support their "Give Bigotry the Red Card" appeal on the night. The fact that so many children, families and supporters are involved in the campaign is fantastic."

Windsor Park was full of families and they were all behind the Football For All campaign. A poster campaign promoting the fans' red card appeal was being funded by UEFA. There were five billboard posters, a bus campaign and leisure centre campaign. A huge "Give Bigotry the Red Card" banner was placed over advertising space on the North Stand. UEFA have also sponsored 1,000 "Give Bigotry the Red Card" badges and car stickers which the IFA gave away free to fans. Some 2,000 community tickets were given to community groups and school children free of charge to encourage an inclusive atmosphere at the game. Free T-shirts, footballs, balloons, balloon hats, flags and foam hands were given out by comedy mascots and cheerleaders on the night to families and community groups to encourage a carnival atmosphere. A samba band on stilts and cross community mini soccer at half time ensured the crowd have an entertaining night.

Michael Boyd



PORTUGAL

Portugal scores points

Portuguese football continues to enjoy great moments. To mention only the very recent past and at club level, FC Porto had an extremely successful 2002/03 season. Besides winning the First League Championship, the "Dragons" also won the Portuguese Cup (1-0 against União de Leiria) and the UEFA Cup (3-2), in a memorable match in Seville. With this triumph, FC Porto have won a place in the UEFA Super Cup in Monaco at the end of August, where they will face AC Milan.

As far as the national teams are concerned, Portugal continues to register international success. The under-17 national team won the European Championship, the final round of which took place in Portugal in May, beating Spain 2-1 in the final. Therefore, there is good reason to expect a great performance from these youngsters in the World Championship in Finland in August.

More recently, the prestigious Toulon Tournament in France was the stage for a new victory for Portugal. The Portuguese under-20 team beat Italy 3-1, showing that they too have a lot to offer.

Finally, in their preparations for EURO 2004, the senior national team recently played two matches in Portugal against Paraguay and Bolivia. The game against the former ended in a goalless draw, while the other game was won by Portugal 4-0. Another warm-up game is set for August, against Kazakhstan.

For all this, and with less than a year to go before EURO 2004 in Portugal, people's interest and enthusiasm continues to grow, as they look forward to an enjoyable European Championship.

João Paulo Diniz



REPUBLIC OF IRELAND

Outstanding success of Special Olympics Games

These have been exciting and history-making times for sport in Ireland. A week of huge sporting involvement came to a close at the end of June with the glittering closing ceremony of the Special Olympics, which brought the curtain down on the activities of over 7,000 athletes and 3,000 coaches from 170 countries.

It was the first time these games, which were the brainchild of Eunice Kennedy Shriver, had been held in Ireland, and the week-long occasion was rated an outstanding success.

Football had a big part to play, with competitions for eleven-a-side and five-a-side teams, and the contributions and input from Irish football officials and the many volunteers were a major reason why these football events went off without a hitch and why it was such a joy to watch the participants taking part.

This, without a doubt, was a big week for Irish sport which has helped enormously to further the standing of the Republic of Ireland, not just in football, but also in a full sporting sense.



Brendan McKenna

PORTUGAL
Capucho gets away from João Manuel d'União Leiria: FC Porto also won the Portuguese Cup.

EMPICS



SLOVENIA
Draw for the 2003/04 season.

NZS



UKRAINE
The winning captain being congratulated by Lyudmila Bannikova, widow of Victor Bannikov.

FFU

NOGOMETNA ZVEZA SLOVENIJE

NZS



SLOVENIA

League draw

At the end of the 2002/03 season and before the start of the next one, the FA of Slovenia and the First League Clubs' Association ran a draw for the 2003/04 season in the first and second national leagues and the first round of the Slovenian Cup. The draw was made at the Slovenian national team's base camp, Brdo, near Kranj. On the same occasion, the president of the First League Clubs' Association, Branko Florjanic, and FAS Vice-President Marko Ilesic presented awards to the best teams of last season. The First League Fair Play Award went to NK Mura and the Second League award to Aluminj. Awards were also given to the teams which have qualified for the UEFA competitions: Maribor, Publikum, Olimpija and Slovenia's representatives in the UEFA Intertoto Cup Koper. Second League winners and runners-up Domzale and Drava-Ptuj, were also honoured. A special award was presented to the best scorers in each league, Marko Kmetec and Matjaz Majcen respectively.

The awards ceremony was followed by the draw. The Slovenian championship has normally comprised 12 First and 16 Second League clubs. Unfortunately, this will not be the case next season, since quite a few clubs have renounced their right to play at a certain competition level, mainly because of the severe conditions imposed by the coming licensing system. The end result is that there will be 12 clubs competing in the First League and 12 clubs in the Second.

The draw was therefore impoverished. The First League will kick off on 20 July. The competition will be staged in three cycles.

The 12 Second League clubs kick off their new season on 10 August, while

the first round of the Slovenian Cup, involving 32 clubs, will be played on 30 July.

"It's not the quantity but the quality that counts" could be consolation for the current situation in Slovenia. In fact, this has been said before by Slovenian football officials, who realise that the situation will have to change in some way, hopefully for the good of football.

Irena Ilesic Cujovic



SWITZERLAND

Stiel and Hakan Yakin named players of the year

On the sixth "Night of Swiss Football", the best players of last season were honoured. Pride of place was given to the men's and women's national teams, all of whose players were present. Monica di Fonzo, Swiss Woman Footballer of the Year in 2002, who had scored for her country only the evening before in Switzerland's European Women's Championship qualifier against Finland, took on a different role for the occasion and charmingly and competently conducted the proceedings with Swiss-German TV presenter Rainer Salzgeber.

Swiss FA President Ralph Zloczower welcomed an illustrious multitude of guests and showed himself to be in the best of moods in his opening address, for a variety of good reasons, particularly on account of the recent performances of all the Swiss national teams, which have helped place Swiss football on the high it is currently enjoying, as well as the extension of the contracts with principal sponsors the Credit Suisse bank and suppliers Puma until summer 2008.

The three main awards for which the public could also vote went to goalkeeper Jörg Stiel (Borussia Mönchengladbach), Hakan Yakin (FC Basel) and Christian Gross (FC Basel). Stiel was named Best Swiss Player Abroad, Hakan Yakin was voted Best Player in Switzerland, and Christian Gross received the Coach of the Year award.

The other winners were:

Referee of the Year:

Claudio Circhetta

Woman Player of the Year: Prisca Steinegger (SV Seebach)

Young Player of the Year:

Roland Schwegler (GC)

Goalkeeper of the Year:

Fabrice Borer (GC)

SWITZERLAND

Swiss FA awards night hostess Monica di Fonzo in action on the pitch.



ASF

Defender of the Year: Murat Yakin (FC Basel)

Midfielder of the Year:

Mihai Tararache (GC)

Striker of the Year:

Christian Gimenez (FC Basel)

Scorer of the Year:

Richard Nuñez (GC)

Pierre Benoit



UKRAINE

Victor Bannikov Tournament

This year, the second international youth football tournament in honour of Victor Bannikov, the first president of the FFU, took place in Kyiv from 16 to 21 June.

Following the success of last year's inaugural tournament, in which four national youth teams took part, the field of participants was increased to eight for this year's event, to match the typical international standard for tournaments of this kind. The under-17 teams from Belarus, Bulgaria, Greece, Romania, Russia, Slovakia, Turkey and Ukraine were divided into two groups, with the two group winners contesting the final.

Besides the tournament, the participants were able to pay homage to Victor Bannikov by visiting his grave at the Baikove cemetery. They also visited the monument in memory of Valeriy Lobanovskiy at the Dynamo stadium. A boat trip gave the teams the opportunity to enjoy the picturesque scenery of Kyiv, while a visit to a Ukrainian championship match involving Dynamo Kyiv was also on the programme.

The Ukrainian team won the tournament, scoring 11 goals in four matches and not conceding a single goal. Second place went to Slovakia, who lost the final 1-0. In the play-off for third place, Turkey beat Russia 2-0.

Bulgaria actually finished in second place in Group B, but a heavy preparation schedule meant that they had to leave Ukraine before the end of the tournament and cede their place in the play-off to Russia.

At the end of the tournament, FFU President Grigoriy Surkis expressed his satisfaction with the atmosphere on the field. *"It is of great importance to us that we have conducted this tournament for the second time and it has already become a traditional event. Last year only four teams took part, but this year we allowed for an optimum number of participants - eight - and from now on we plan to keep to that number. Before, the FFU had not hosted any national team tournaments but now we can say that we have top-level international football competitions,"* he said.

Valeriy Nykonenko



communications

birthdays – calendar

Congratulations

Wilhelm Hennes (Germany), member of the circle of former UEFA committee members, will be 75 on 23 August. On 19 August, Vitalijs Liholajs (Latvia), member of the Referee Observers Panel will be 60. Alex Manfré (Malta), member of the Fair Play and Ethics Panel, follows suit on 26 August. On 30 August, Pedro Manuel Correia Magro (Portugal), member of the Medical Committee, turns 40.

UEFA also wishes many happy returns of the day to:

- Theodore Theodoridis (Greece, 1.8)
- Süheyl Önen (Turkey, 2.8)
- Peter Gans (Netherlands, 3.8)
- Andreas Schluchter (Switzerland, 3.8)
- Zdravko Jokic (Serbia and Montenegro, 4.8)
- Lamberto Perugia (Italy, 5.8)
- Yehuda Wilk (Israel, 5.8)
- Piet Hubers (Netherlands, 6.8)
- Pierino Lardi (Switzerland, 7.8)
- Simo Ruokonen (Finland, 8.8)
- Peter Donald (Scotland, 8.8)
- Nico de Pauw (Belgium, 8.8)
- Pierre Schiepers (Belgium, 9.8)
- Odd Flattum (Norway, 9.8)
- Roy Hodgson (England, 9.8)
- Heinz Fahnler (Austria, 10.8)
- Keith Burge (Wales, 10.8)
- Maurice Burlaz (France, 11.8)
- Dr Urs Vogel (Switzerland, 11.8)
- Alexis Dedes (Greece, 12.8)
- Roger Vanden Stock (Belgium, 13.8)
- Joseph Mifsud (Malta, 13.8)
- Cornel Cristian Bivolaru (Romania, 13.8)
- Gevorg Hovhannisyan (Armenia, 13.8)
- Metin Tuncer (Turkey, 13.8)
- Markus Hörwick (Germany, 14.8)
- Nikolay Ryashentsev (Russia, 15.8)
- Hermann Selbherr (Germany, 16.8)
- Alan Hutchings (England, 16.8)
- Arman Hovhannisyan (Armenia, 16.8)
- Jean Hardt (Luxembourg, 17.8)
- Dane Jost (Slovenia, 18.8)
- Patricia Gregory (England, 19.8)
- Hans Reijgwart (Netherlands, 19.8)
- Frantisek Laurinec (Slovakia, 19.8)
- Per Ravn Omdal (Norway, 20.8)
- Oleg Orekhov (Ukraine, 20.8)
- Carmelo Bartolo (Malta, 21.8)
- Hasan Ceylan (Turkey, 22.8)
- Kazimierz Oleszek (Poland, 22.8)
- Geoffrey Thompson (England, 23.8)
- John Economides (Greece, 23.8)

- Enrique González Ruano (Spain, 24.8)
- Nicolae Grigorescu (Romania, 24.8)
- Thomas Slosarich (Denmark, 24.8)
- Josef Poucek (Czech Republic, 25.8)
- Dulberto Gloria (Portugal, 25.8)
- Leslaw Cmikiewicz (Poland, 25.8)
- Giancarlo Abete (Italy, 26.8)
- Charles Rubli (Switzerland, 27.8)
- Juan Ansuategui Roca (Spain, 27.8)
- Karl Hopfner (Germany, 28.8)
- Markus Wanger (Liechtenstein, 28.8)
- Joseph Mc Glue (Republic of Ireland, 28.8)
- Fredi Fiorentini (Croatia, 29.8)
- Tassos Katsikides (Cyprus, 29.8)
- John Christopher McGinn (Scotland, 30.8)
- Leo Windtner (Austria, 30.8)
- Christer Fällström (Sweden, 31.8)

Upcoming events

MEETINGS

27.8.2003, Monaco
Club Competitions Committee

28.8.2003, Monaco
Bureau of the European Club Forum
Draw for the UEFA Champions League group matches

29.8.2003, Monaco
Draw for the first round of the UEFA Cup
European Club Forum

COMPETITIONS

6.8.2003
UEFA Champions League: second qualifying round (return legs)
UEFA Intertoto Cup: semi-finals (return legs)

12.8.2003
UEFA Intertoto Cup: finals (first legs)

12-13.8.2003
UEFA Champions League: third qualifying round (first legs)

13-30.8.2003, Finland
FIFA Under-17 World Championship

14.8.2003
UEFA Cup: qualifying round (first legs)

26.8.2003
UEFA Intertoto Cup: finals (return legs)

26-27.8.2003
UEFA Champions League: third qualifying round (return legs)

28.8.2003
UEFA Cup: qualifying round (return legs)

29.8.2003, Monaco
UEFA Super Cup

Announcement

On 25 June, the executive committee of the Bulgarian FA appointed Stefan Capralov as chief executive/general secretary of the association. He replaces Ivan Voutzov.

Match agents meet in Nyon

Match agents holding a UEFA licence gathered at UEFA's headquarters in Nyon recently for a meeting intended to familiarise them with the organisation and to exchange ideas and information.



The meeting was attended by 21 agents, who discussed primarily the revision of the Regulations for Licensed UEFA Match Agents. The agents' comments on the main changes envisaged will be taken into consideration for the final version, which will be submitted to the Executive Committee later this year.

The agents also raised questions regarding, for example, the use of the licensed agent's logo, the problem of agents working without a UEFA licence and the need to make sure that the national associations are better informed about the role of licensed agents.

In his welcome message, UEFA Chief Executive Gerhard Aigner said that *"in recent years it has not been easy for agents to organise friendly matches or tournaments because the international calendar has been too congested"*. He also expressed UEFA's desire to preserve and even improve the image of its licensed agents.

The agents re-elected Günter Bachmann (Germany) as their spokesman and George Gregoriou (Cyprus) as his substitute. The spokesman represents the agents at meetings of the Licensed UEFA Match Agents Panel, where, as an observer, he is able to share his knowledge and experience with the panel.

■ Wolfgang Knispel (Germany) has given up his licence and is therefore no longer a licensed UEFA match agent.

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