



UEFA·direct



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Inauguration in Nyon



In this issue

Inauguration of La Clairière in Nyon **4**

The presidents and general secretaries of UEFA's 53 member association were in Nyon in October for the inauguration of UEFA's new office building.



UEFA EURO 2012 – behind the scenes **7**

The final round of the European Football Championship has become a massive sports event which requires meticulous organisation on the basis of a structure that we take a look at in this issue.



The qualifiers so far **10**

After a busy schedule in September and October, the EURO 2012 qualifying competition is now into its winter break, which provides a good opportunity to take stock of the situation.



Football against racism throughout Europe **14**

The UEFA club competitions served as platforms for the traditional FARE action week.



New office and sports building in Luxembourg **15**

The Luxembourg Football Federation has inaugurated its new administrative and sports centre in Mondernange.



News from member associations **16**

Cover

As the group stages of the two UEFA club competitions near completion, some clubs are already through to the knockout stages, including CKSA Moskva, whose left winger Zoran Tomic is pictured here in action against Palermo's No. 29, Santiago Garcia.

Photo: Getty Images

WE CARE ABOUT FOOTBALL



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Safeguarding the integrity of the game

Unity of time, place and action. These three unities are the keys to the success of classical theatre, and of football too, but with the advantage, in the case of football, that – as lovers of the game would point out – there is no knowing how it is going to end.

In this three-dimensional setting, our sport has become an outlet for passions and emotions and gained universal appeal – so universal, however, that it attracts not only fans but, unfortunately, also the attention of criminal networks. These networks have three pillars of their own, but they are diametrically opposed, since they operate all the time, everywhere and using all possible means, causing dark clouds to hang over the integrity of football competitions.

The specificity of sport should not be used as a weapon to deal with evils that are certainly not unique to sport, such as these illicit circles which, unfortunately, have acquired a taste for the beautiful game. Preserving the integrity of our competitions is becoming more complex every day, and we are not betraying our

values if, in order to do so, we forge alliances both within the sports community and outside, with judicial authorities, for example.

Above all, we must keep our heads held high. And above the three classical unities, it is unity pure and simple that is the most important.

UEFA takes its job as a protector of football seriously. It will continue to promote the values of integrity and fair play relentlessly, in order to preserve the glorious uncertainty of our game.



Gianni Infantino
UEFA General Secretary

Inauguration of La Clairière



The UEFA president and vice-presidents cut the ribbon. Left to right: Angel María Villar Llona, Marios Lefkaritis, Geoffrey Thompson, Michel Platini, Senes Erzik and Joseph Mifsud.

Some 11 years after the inauguration of the House of European Football, representatives of UEFA's 53 member associations were present in Nyon on 18 October for the inauguration of a new office building. La Clairière is located opposite UEFA's main building, to which it is linked by a tunnel underneath the main road.

The delegates of the 53 national associations gathered first in the auditorium in the main UEFA building for a meeting during which they were able to participate in discussions on a number of topical issues relating to European football.

The programme of celebrations then took them to the new office building itself. Construction work had begun in January 2009, after the land had been acquired



in 2007 and the Executive Committee had decided, in September 2008, to use it for an office building with a budget of CHF 69.5 million. The work was completed in October 2009, the keys were handed over on 15 April 2010 and the first UEFA staff members moved in the following month. The project was completed around CHF 1.5 million below budget.

Five levels

The circular building contains 6,000m² of office space for around 240 members of staff, spread over four floors, with a fifth level reserved mainly for logistics. The adjacent underground car park has room for 200 cars. Designed by the Geneva-based firm of architects Bassi and Carella, La Clairière meets high environmental standards thanks to various energy-efficient features. For example, it is covered in 110m² of solar panels that produce hot water and help power the air-conditioning system. Photovoltaic solar panels (220m²) also generate some of the building's electricity supply, while geothermal probes help to air-condition the building. It is also interesting to note that the concrete eaves are designed to offer protection from the sun in the summer without the



A festive atmosphere in the corridors of the House of European Football

need for blinds. The width of these eaves varies from 1.8 to 3m, depending on their location. Rainwater is also collected for watering the gardens and flushing the toilets.



Photos: UEFA

UEFA headquarters in Nyon

Continuous expansion

This new building does not mark the end of the expansion of UEFA's headquarters, which have grown at a phenomenal rate since the first UEFA office opened at the headquarters of the French Football Federation when UEFA was founded in 1954, and moved to the basement of a building in Berne, Switzerland, in 1960.

Just before the European association delegates inaugurated La Clairière, a new construction site had opened very close to the new building. This was the result of a decision taken by the Executive Committee at its meeting in Malta in January 2010, when it had resolved to invest in bricks and mortar by erecting a third building, Bois Bougy, on the land purchased in 2007. This work is expected to be completed in November 2011. With floor space of 4,000m², the slender building, also designed by Bassi and Carella, will accommodate around 180 staff and should make it possible to "repatriate" those who are still working in rented offices in the centre of Nyon.

Work has also commenced in the La Falaise villa, adjacent to the House of European Football. Previously occupied by UEFA staff, this building will be put to a new use and, after its renovation, will become a reception venue for UEFA's VIP guests, in accordance with the decision taken by the Executive Committee in January 2010.

Sports centre

The visitors were also able to visit the Colovray sports centre, which houses the sports facilities that complete the UEFA "campus". Managed by UEFA since 1 April 2010 following the conclusion of a 49-year lease agreement with the local authorities of Nyon, approved at the Executive Committee meeting in Malta, the sports



The new building viewed from the inner courtyard

centre, which was opened in 1991, comprises the stadium itself (which hosts the matches of Stade Nyonnais, a team in the Swiss second division), five grass football pitches and one artificial pitch. A second artificial pitch is currently being installed.

UEFA aims to use these facilities to create a football centre of excellence. An initial step has already been taken in the field of refereeing with the organisation of the first training course for young European referees in September (see *UEFA-direct* No. 102). Training opportunities are also planned for coaches and doctors, leaving the door wide open for other activities and projects that correspond with the first of the 11 principles approved by the 2009 Congress in Copenhagen: Football First. ●



In recognition of Spain's World Cup victory, Michel Platini presents a plaque to the president of the Spanish federation and UEFA vice-president, Angel María Villar Llona.

Tribute to European medallists

For the UEFA president, Michel Platini, the visit of the national association representatives to Nyon provided a chance to congratulate the European teams that performed well at the 2010 World Cup in South Africa. Not only did Spain become the first European team to win the World Cup outside its own continent, but the first three places were all filled by European teams, with the Netherlands and Germany finishing second and third respectively.

A view behind the scenes

Every four summers, the focus of the sports world turns to the European Football Championship final round – together with the FIFA World Cup and Olympic Games, one of the major sports occasions on the calendar in terms of sporting, commercial and public appeal.

However, a EURO final round is obviously not just about the excitement on the field. Behind the scenes, each final tournament involves several years of meticulous preparation. With the countdown ticking towards UEFA EURO 2012 in Poland and Ukraine, *UEFA-direct* looks at the organisational aspects that are all coming together to contribute to what will surely be a successful event in two summers' time.

The objective is to achieve the highest possible organisational standards for every EURO final round. European football's blue-riband event for national teams is considered as a benchmark in a wide variety of areas, and UEFA is determined to continually improve and adapt to the ever-changing demands brought about by each EURO. Pride in the tournament – a shining symbol of European football's national identities and different foot-



Martin Kallen at the draw for the qualifying round in Warsaw

ball philosophies – is reflected in the unstinting work that takes place for a five-year period following the announcement of the host country(ies). It is after this choice is made that the real work gets under way.

Management structure

The high-level organisational management structure for EURO final rounds has evolved since the 2004 event in Portugal in particular, as UEFA's operations director, Martin Kallen, explains:

"In 2004, we had a legal structure which involved a joint venture, between UEFA, the Portuguese Football Federation and the Portuguese government. These entities formed the Euro 2004 SA company, and UEFA had the majority holding. Euro 2004 SA was a service company to organise the event in Portugal.

"In 2008 for Austria and Switzerland, the same model was in principle applied, but the Euro 2008 SA company was a 'daughter company' of UEFA; it was not a joint venture, but the scope of services and the involvement of the host associations was more or less the same.

"For EURO 2012, the business model has been adapted in order to strengthen the local element and the role of the host associations. This resulted in the creation of two local organising committees (LOCs) which organise the final tournament together with, and under the supervision of, UEFA and its newly created subsidiary UEFA Events SA."

Variety of tasks

UEFA is the owner of the 2012 event. It is responsible for the organisation of the final tournament on behalf of its 53 member associations.

The two host national associations, the Polish Football Association (PZPN) and the Football Federation of Ukraine (FFU), are the event organisers, and they have set up the LOCs, which are separate from the respective associations. Both of these entities are responsible for fulfilling a variety of tasks in areas such as airport management, event transport, logistics, host city management, safety and security, sustainability programmes, technical services, and volunteer recruitment – while also following guidelines and instructions from UEFA. This is the 14th European Championship final tournament, which means that UEFA has collected a wealth of knowledge that can be given to the LOCs and the workforce responsible for the tournament organisation.

Two tournament directors

Tournament directors have been appointed for each of the two host countries. Their duties include overall management and administration of each LOC, local media and public relations and approval of the yearly LOC accounts. The host associations have decision-making



The success of the fan zones also adds to the organisational tasks.

power on matters such as the integral safety and security concept, procuring support from governmental authorities, country promotion, and overseeing and monitoring of the respective LOC structures.

The key figures for Poland are the PZPN president, Grzegorz Lato, and Poland's tournament director, Adam Olkowicz. Ukraine's key figures are the FFU president, Grigoriy Surkis, and Ukraine's tournament director, Markiyany Lubkivskiy.

Both host countries are working in close cooperation with the 2012 host cities – Gdansk, Poznan, Warsaw and Wroclaw (Poland) and Donetsk, Kharkiv, Kyiv and Lviv (Ukraine). In addition, PL.2012 in Poland and the National Agency on Preparation and Holding of UEFA EURO 2012 Finals in Ukraine are entities created by the governments of the host countries to coordinate and oversee preparations for the competition. PL.2012 was created by the Polish ministry of sport and tourism. The national agency in Ukraine was created by the Ukrainian cabinet of ministers.

The tasks of the operations division

Within UEFA Events SA, an operations division has been created, headed by Martin Kallen, and its role is central within the organisational structure. It is seen as a "warden" that UEFA uses to guarantee the delivery of a successful tournament. The division is managing the whole programme and supporting the LOCs in Poland and Ukraine by transferring knowledge, sharing information, providing guidelines and monitoring the entire process. In addition, it streamlines coordination with all other UEFA divisions involved in the EURO preparation process.



The tournament directors, Markiyany Lubkivskiy (left) and Adam Olkowicz

UEFA has also decided that some areas should be implemented through the operations division because of sporting and financial importance, technical complexity, knowledge, importance for key stakeholders and synergy impact. These include key planning and knowledge areas such as programme management, budget management, event training and information management, and operational areas such as accreditation, hospitality, match organisation, media services, media operations, fan zones, signage, team services, ticketing, VIP services and venue management.

The operations division, through its commercial unit, is also responsible for the global sponsorship programme and for the national supporters programme. Once negotiations are concluded, sponsor and national supporter accounts are then managed by the marketing division of UEFA Events SA. The commercial unit is also responsible for delivering the hospitality project (sales and operations).

Decision-making bodies

One major element in ensuring efficient delivery of a EURO tournament is clear identification of the decision-making bodies, which also enables a clear and transparent decision-making process. The highest decision-making body for UEFA EURO 2012 is the UEFA Executive Committee, chaired by the UEFA president, which decides, among other things, on the match schedule, which host cities hold which matches, competition matters, the overall budget and key strategic matters.

The UEFA EURO 2012 Steering Group, chaired by David Taylor, CEO of UEFA Events SA, comprises representatives of all the entities mentioned above, and supervises the



Volunteers assisting with media activities during EURO 2008

preparations in Poland and Ukraine while providing strategic guidance on the implementation of the various aspects of the project and making recommendations to the UEFA Executive Committee for approval. It meets at least four times a year.

UEFA's standing committees also have specific responsibilities: the Finance Committee, for example, issues overall budget recommendations, the National Team Competitions Committee gives advice on competition or product-related matters, and the Medical Committee issues a medical plan.

UEFA's divisions within its administration have certain competences too. For example, the competitions division develops the EURO regulations and is responsible for sporting aspects, the national associations division oversees the progress of stadium construction and monitors the progress of safety and security, and the legal affairs division defines the legal framework for EURO 2012 and supervises and coordinates all legal matters related to the event.

Host broadcasting – covering areas such as multilateral signal production, international broadcast centre (IBC) services and broadcaster servicing – is managed by the UEFA communications division, while host broadcasting logistics issues are the responsibility of the operations division. The communications division is also in charge of the setting up and delivery of the tournament's official website, which is already running in ten different languages, including Polish and Ukrainian. IT operations are the domain of the UEFA services division's information and communication technology (ICT) team.

As far as recruitment to work for EURO 2012 is concerned, both LOCs have their own recruitment policies while the UEFA operations division is responsible for recruiting its employees in conjunction with UEFA's human resources department. Depending on the tasks to be fulfilled, key personnel of UEFA and UEFA Events SA are relocated to Poland and Ukraine.

Impressive recruitment

The number of people contributing to EURO 2012 is impressive. "From our side at the moment, UEFA Events SA, UEFA and the LOCs, we have around 130 people," says Martin Kallen. "In 2012, this figure should reach around 640 directly involved in the event delivery. In addition, 5,000 volunteers will be recruited to support the successful implementation of the tournament. Last but not least, we estimate that during the tournament, there will be 2,000 workforce members directly involved, representing UEFA, UEFA Events SA and the LOCs (this figure excludes suppliers and service providers)." Among the entire workforce at UEFA Events SA, and at the LOCs in Poland and Ukraine, are specialists and experts in a broad palette of areas – from transport, air travel and protocol experts to IT, hotel and safety and security specialists. Numerous workshops will be held

in the run-up to 2012 to transfer and share knowledge, fine-tune tasks and make sure everyone is fully aware of what their contribution to the event entails.

"There are 31 matches and the number of teams is the same, but the value and impact of the tournament has grown a lot," Martin Kallen reflects about UEFA EURO 2012 in relation to 2004 and 2008. "In all areas, people are much more experienced and professional. Governments want to leave a good business card for the tournament. Expectations are higher each time." Great things are expected of EURO 2012 – and those involved in making the event happen are working at full speed to bring to life the UEFA EURO 2012 slogan Creating History Together. ●



Iker Casillas celebrates victory at the end of EURO 2008, before which a vast amount of work had to take place behind the scenes.

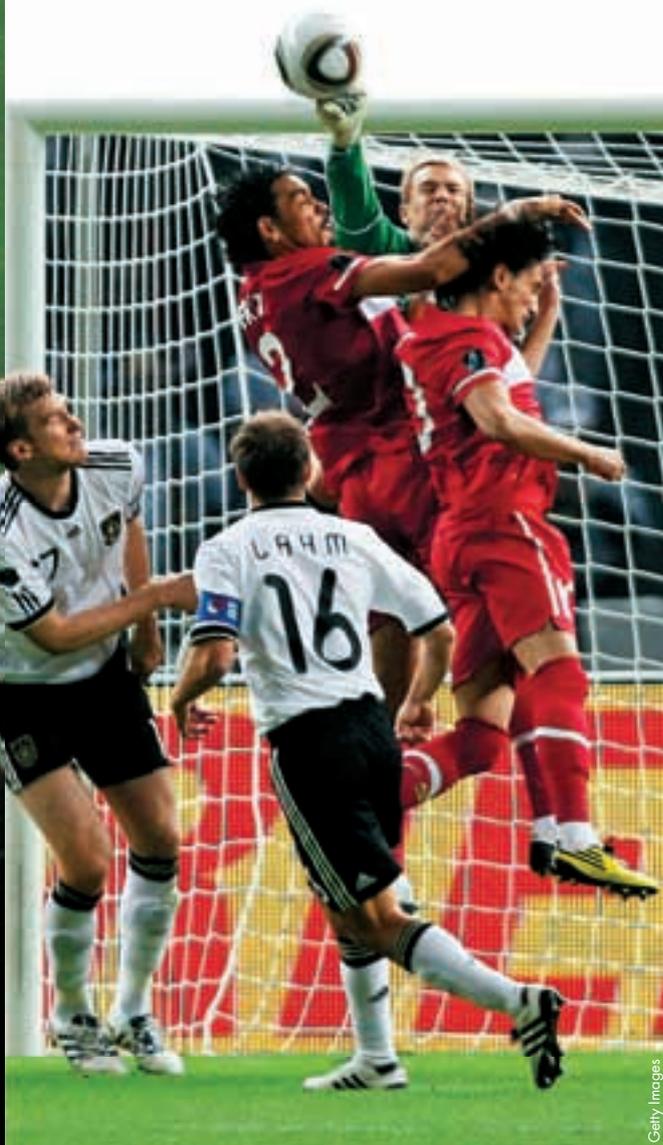
Perfect start for four teams

Fifty-one teams set off on the road to Poland and Ukraine in the late summer and it is no surprise to see holders Spain among the early outsiders.



Vicente Del Bosque's world champions took maximum points from their three opening UEFA EURO 2012 qualifiers in September and October but they are not alone. Germany, runners-up in 2008, and the Netherlands made perfect starts too, as did a Norway side revived

by the second coming of Egil Olsen. The biggest surprise was the blistering start made by a Montenegro side competing as an independent nation for the first time in the European Football Championship.



Germany's goalkeeper, Manuel Neuer, resists a Turkish attack during the match won by Germany 3-0 in Berlin.

Impressive form

In Group A, Germany maintained their impressive form from South Africa by claiming four straight wins. Besides putting six past an Azerbaijan side coached by Berti Vogts, Joachim Löw's men also achieved a 3-0 win over Turkey which featured two of Miroslav Klose's six goals so far. Berlin's large Turkish expat community had turned out in force at the Olympiastadion for that 8 October fixture, but worse was to follow for Turkey four days later with a 1-0 defeat in Azerbaijan that coach Guus Hiddink described as "one of the worst days of my career". Ironically, the Azeri scorer, Rashad Sadygov, plays with Turkey's Eskisehirspor. Austria sit second after maintaining their unbeaten start with a 4-4 draw in Belgium on 12 October, Martin Harnik equalising in the 93rd minute.

Dick Advocaat's Russia lead Group B thanks to three away victories, the most recent an impressive 3-2 success against the Republic of Ireland, with Aleksandr Kerzhakov, Alan Dzagoev and Roman Shirokov securing a three-goal lead before Ireland's belated response. The Russians lost their only home game, 1-0 against Slovakia in September, yet Vladimir Weiss's team subsequently slipped up in Armenia where they lost 3-1 and lie fourth after a 1-1 home draw with the second-placed Irish.

A 40-year-old hero

Italy's Group C campaign began with a scare as they trailed Estonia 45 minutes into coach Cesare Prandelli's first competitive fixture, but the Azzurri responded with strikes by Antonio Cassano and Leonardo Bonucci. After their 12 October fixture against Serbia was abandoned because of crowd trouble in Genoa, UEFA awarded Italy a 3-0 forfeit win that gives them 10 points from a possible 12. Italy's only dropped points came in a goalless draw in Northern Ireland. Nigel Worthington's side had already upset Slovenia 1-0 in Maribor but suffered a taste of their own medicine when held 1-1 by the Faroe Islands last month. The Faroes' hero was 40-year-old goalkeeper Jákup Mikkelsen, who had come out of international retirement after an injury to Gunnar Nielsen.

In Group D, France's new coach, Laurent Blanc, made the worst possible start with a 1-0 home reverse against Belarus, Sergei Kislyak scoring with four minutes remaining. But *Les Bleus* responded with successive 2-0 victories over Bosnia and Herzegovina, Romania and Luxembourg. Belarus remain unbeaten in second after finishing their autumn programme with a 2-0 home win over Albania, hitherto the group's surprise package. The Albanians' promising start included a 1-1 draw in Roma-



Dutch defender Gregory van der Wiel playing against Finland

nia, but their coach, Josip Kuze, was absent from their October outings after suffering a stroke.

The Netherlands recorded 14 straight wins in the World Cup, in qualifying and in South Africa, to reach the final, and Bert van Marwijk's charges have begun Group E in similar fashion, collecting the maximum 12 points to date. They have the competition's leading scorer in Klaas Jan Huntelaar, who has eight goals already – the last two in a 4-1 victory over Sweden on 12 October.

That defeat marked a setback for new Sweden coach Erik Hamrén, whose side saw Hungary leapfrog them into second spot. Hungary responded well to an opening loss to the Swedes with three straight wins, including an 8-0 rout of San Marino and a 2-1 success in Finland achieved by Balász Dzsudzsák's 94th-minute winner.

Otto Rehhagel's successor as Greece's coach, Fernando Santos, has guided the 2004 champions to the Group F summit with two wins and two draws – one of them an October stalemate at second-placed Croatia. Santos did have a scare in his opening qualifier when the Greeks trailed Georgia for 69 minutes before Nikos Spiropoulos's leveller. Temuri Ketsbaia's third-placed Georgians have kept the positive results coming: they held Israel, beat Malta and would have won in Latvia but for a stoppage-time goal.

Surprising Montenegro

Zlatko Kranjcar's Montenegro have made a dream start in Group G, which they head after collecting three wins – all 1-0 – and a goalless draw against England. Their star striker, Mirko Vucinic, captured the headlines for his goals against Wales and Switzerland, but the Balkan team drew at Wembley without him and remain one of only two teams still to concede, together with Belarus. "This is a very big result," said defender Stefan Savic after stalling the progress of an England side who had beaten Bulgaria and Switzerland. The Swiss got their first win at the third attempt, 4-1 against a Wales side seeking a new coach after John Toshack resigned after the September loss in Montenegro.

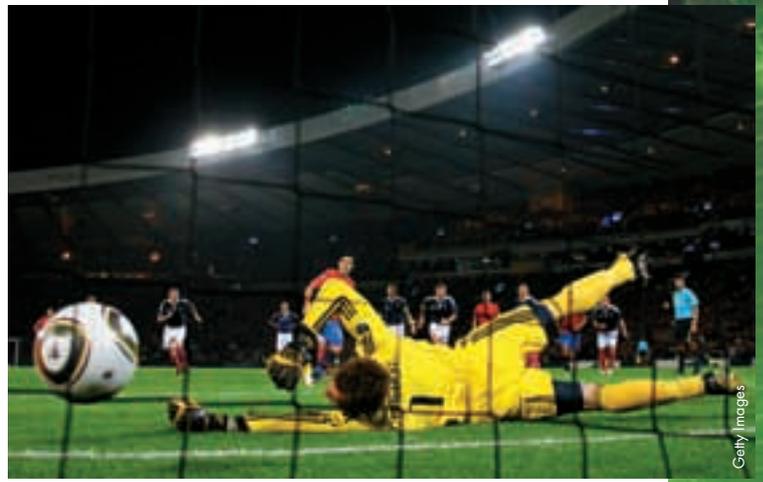
Norway have top billing in Group H as they continue their revival under Egil 'Drillo' Olsen. It was Olsen who took the Norwegians to their first World Cups in the 1990s and he has got them dreaming again after overseeing wins over Iceland, Portugal and Cyprus in Group H. "I am the first to admit our attacking play leaves

a lot to be desired, but defensively we are world class when the players perform like this," said the 68-year-old after September's 1-0 home success against Portugal.

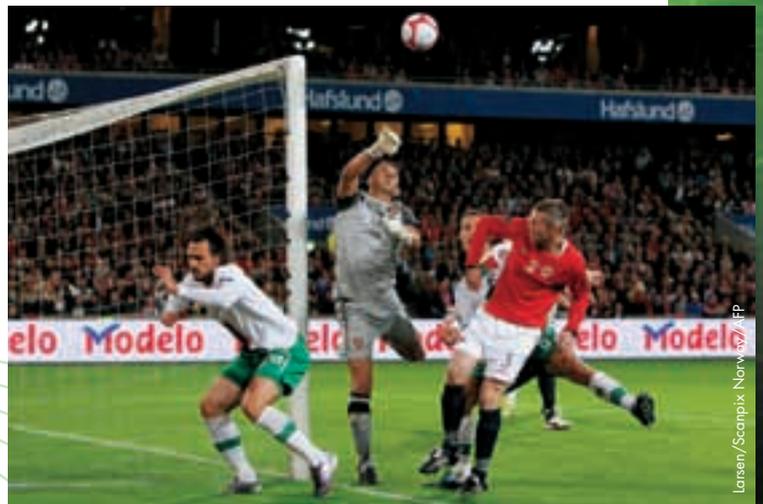
For the Portuguese, that defeat followed a 4-4 home draw with Cyprus under Agostinho Oliveira's temporary stewardship, but after Paulo Bento's subsequent appointment as full-time successor to Carlos Queiroz, wins over Denmark and Iceland rekindled their hopes.

Usual business for Spain

Finally to Group I, where it is business as usual for all-conquering Spain. La Roja picked up where they left off in South Africa by starting their European title defence with wins over Liechtenstein (4-0) and Lithuania (3-1). They faced sterner resistance against Scotland at Hampden Park on 12 October, substitute Fernando Llorente



Getty Images



Larsen/Scampix/Norway/AF/FP

striking a 79th-minute winner after their hosts had fought back from two down.

Below Spain, the Czech Republic sit second after recovering from a home loss to Lithuania – Darvydas Sernas headed the only goal and Zydrunas Karčemarskas saved Milan Baros's penalty – with wins over the Scots and Liechtenstein.

The matches in the qualifying round will resume at the end of March. ● → uefa.com/uefaeuro2012

David Villa converts a penalty during Scotland's match against Spain.

A nervous moment in front of the Portuguese goal in the match won 1-0 by Norway in Oslo

European Under-21 Championship

Final tournament takes shape

The two groups for the European Under-21 Championship final round were determined at a draw held in Aalborg, Denmark, on 9 November.



The seven teams that had qualified through the group phase and knockout matches were joined by Denmark, who qualified automatically, in the following groups:

- Group A:** Denmark, Switzerland, Belarus, Iceland
- Group B:** Czech Republic, Ukraine, Spain, England

The group matches will be played in Aalborg, Aarhus, Viborg and Herning between 11 and 19 June. The top two in each group will contest the semi-finals in Viborg and Herning on 22 June. The final will be held in Aarhus at 20.45 on Saturday 25 June. A match for third place,



Horst Hrubesch and Flemming Poulsen with UEFA's director of competitions, Giorgio Marchetti, at the draw in Aalborg

to be staged in Aalborg on the same day, could determine the third European representative at the Olympic tournament in London. However, this match will not be necessary if England, who do not have an Olympic team, reach the semi-finals. If that is the case, the other three semi-finalists will represent Europe in London.

→ <http://en.uefa.com/under21>

European youth competitions

Elite round line-ups complete

The 28 participants in the elite round of the 2010/11 European Under-17 Championship are now known.



The top two in each qualifying round group are joined by the two best third-placed teams. A draw on 30 November will split them into seven groups of four teams, the winners of which will qualify for the final round, to be held in Serbia in May 2011. This final phase will determine not only the European

champions, but also the continent's participants in the FIFA U-17 World Cup in Mexico next summer.

The elite round participants are as follows:

- Group 1:** Greece, Croatia
- Group 2:** Germany, Austria
- Group 3:** England, Georgia
- Group 4:** Norway, Republic of Ireland
- Group 5:** Portugal, Northern Ireland
- Group 6:** Romania, Belarus
- Group 7:** Iceland, Turkey, Czech Republic
- Group 8:** Denmark, Belgium
- Group 9:** Italy, France
- Group 10:** Slovakia, Hungary
- Group 11:** Netherlands, Ukraine, Latvia
- Group 12:** Switzerland, Scotland
- Group 13:** Spain, Russia

→ <http://en.uefa.com/under17>



Sodovski/Bongarts/Getty Images

Germany and Austria have both qualified for the elite round of the European U17 Championship.



The same situation applies to the European Under-19 Championship, for which the draw will also be held at the House of European Football in Nyon on 30 November. The final round will be staged in Romania in July 2011.

→ <http://en.uefa.com/under19>

The qualifying draws for the 2011/12 European Under-17 and Under-19 Championships will also be held in Nyon on the same day. In each competition, the 52 qualifying round participants will be divided into 13 groups of four teams. The U17 final round will be held in Slovenia in May 2012, while the U19 title will be decided in Estonia in summer 2012.

Women's competitions



The first qualifying round of the 2010/11 European Women's Under-17 Championship saw the 2010 runners-up, the Republic of Ireland, eliminated.

The ten group winners (Finland, Czech Republic, Denmark, Spain, Iceland, Belgium, Scotland, Sweden, Switzerland and Wales) and the five best runners-up (Italy, England, France, Poland and Russia) in this first phase will join the 2008 and 2009 winners, Germany, who were given a first round bye, in the second round. A draw was held on 16 November to divide these 16 teams into four groups of four, the winners of which will contest the final round in Nyon from 28 to 31 July 2011.

→ <http://en.uefa.com/womensunder17>



On the same day, the draw for the second qualifying round of the 2010/11 European Women's Under-19 Championship was held. The top two in each of the 11 first qualifying round groups will join Serbia (the best third-placed team) and Germany (who qualified automatically) in this second qualifying round (six groups of four), where they will attempt to reach the 2011 final round in Italy.

The qualifiers are: Germany, France, England, Finland, Denmark, Spain, Poland, Switzerland, Wales, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Iceland, Ukraine, Austria, Portugal, Belgium, Lithuania, Scotland, Czech Republic, Turkey, Russia, Croatia, Serbia.

→ <http://en.uefa.com/womensunder19>

The draws for the first qualifying round of the 2011/12 European Women's Under-17 and Under-19 Championships were also held on 16 November.



Sweden and Germany (picture here during a friendly match) have both qualified for the second qualifying round of the European Women's U19 Championship.

FIFA Club World Cup Meeting in Abu Dhabi

From 8 to 18 December, the United Arab Emirates will welcome the seven participants in the 2010 FIFA Club World Cup.

The teams involved are the champions of the six confederations and of the host country. Europe will be represented by FC Internazionale Milano, who are hoping to follow in the footsteps of AC Milan in 2007, Manchester United FC in 2008 and FC Barcelona in 2009 by lifting the world crown. The Italians will enter at the semi-final stage on 15 December. Depending on their result, they will play in either the final or the match for third place on 18 December.

The other participants are Seongnam Ilhwa Chunma (South Korea) from Asia, TP Mazembe (DR Congo) from Africa, Pachuca (Mexico) from North, Central America and the Caribbean, SC Internacional (Brazil) from South America, Hekari United FC (Papua New Guinea) from Oceania and Al Wahda (United Arab Emirates).

Charter and convention Ratifications in Nyon

The presence of the presidents and general secretaries of UEFA's member associations in Nyon on 18 October also offered the opportunity for the Albanian Football Federation to ratify its admission to the UEFA Grassroots Charter.

The Albanian FA had been accepted into the charter by the UEFA Executive Committee at its meeting in Minsk at the beginning of October, together with the Portuguese Football Federation, bringing the number of members up to 49.

On the same day in Nyon, the leaders of the Cyprus Football Association signed the UEFA Coaching Convention at Pro level (see page 17). All 53 UEFA member associations now belong to the convention and Cyprus is the 43rd to have been accepted at the highest level.



The representatives of the Albanian FA sign the UEFA Grassroots Charter

Course for referee observers

The 25th UEFA workshop for referee observers took place in Nyon on 4 and 5 November.

The observers are experienced former European referees and attend UEFA matches at all levels to watch the match referees, mark their performance and act as crucial advisers to them after the game in discussing incidents and decisions taken. In turn, UEFA has been giving training to its observers through its workshops.

The objectives of the latest workshop were to enhance uniform interpretation and analysis in the observation of referees at European matches, to train and practise observation, to build a network to share ideas, and for UEFA to become better acquainted with the observers.

UEFA Referees Committee members and technical advisers were on hand at the Nyon gathering to assist and guide the observers. Jaap Uilenberg, a member of the Referees Committee, said the referee observer's role was not to be a fault finder, but more to be a coach and adviser for referees. UEFA technical adviser Ken Ridden also gave participants information on the instructions given by UEFA to referees this season, and their implication for referee observers.

The observers are asked to analyse proactive or preventive decisions which influence the progress of the match, assess decisions that respond to the match demands, and evaluate how the referees react to the consequences of difficult situations or decisions.

In assessing a referee's performance, particular attention should be paid to important decisions such as fouls or simulation in and close to the penalty area, denial of goalscoring opportunities, acts of violence, mass confrontation between players, protests against the referee, second yellow cards, and decisive offside rulings (with the assistant referee taking a key role here).

The observers attended a UEFA Europa League match, and then began their practical work, by compiling their own assessment of the game. Separate groups discussed the referee's performance to reach agreement, and each group then played roles in post-match analysis, with committee members playing the referee team.

A whole host of activities

The fight to eliminate racism and discrimination in football takes a variety of forms. This campaign, which has been gaining in impetus in recent years, was given a high-profile platform through the latest action week organised in October by UEFA's partner, the Football Against Racism in Europe (FARE) network.

The action week has become an annual occurrence, and this year's activities ran from 14 to 26 October. The campaign covered the whole of Europe and encompassed all sectors of the game at elite and grassroots levels. NGOs, fan and youth groups, ethnic minorities and schools took part in around 1,500 events across more than 40 countries.

UEFA competitions as a platform

UEFA has been working with FARE for nine years now and has given its partner strong backing in fighting the negative phenomenon of racism. In addition, UEFA's Respect campaign urges similar values – respect not only for opponents and match officials, but also for rival supporters, national anthems, flags, tournaments – and football. The two bodies have organised a number of events together – and the 2010 FARE action week once



Wesley Sneijder of FC Internazionale accompanied by a young player wearing a Unite Against Racism T-shirt at Inter's UEFA Champions League match against Tottenham Hotspur on 20 October in Milan



again gave UEFA the chance to use its popular European club competitions to press home the message that racism has no place in football, either on the field or in the stands.

The UEFA Champions League and UEFA Europa League matches played during the action week provided a perfect setting. Teams entered the field accompanied by children wearing Unite Against Racism T-shirts. Team captains were also asked to wear Unite Against Racism armbands. A 30-second No to Racism giant-screen spot was shown, and tannoy announcements were made before each game. Fans coming into stadiums also received printed promotional material.

The UEFA president, Michel Platini, reinforced the anti-racism message during the action week. *"Respect for diversity is one of UEFA's key principles,"* he said. *"There is no place for any form of racism or discrimination at UEFA or in European football. UEFA is firmly determined to combat this scourge in any form."*

Zero tolerance policy

The action week campaign saw league matches throughout the continent feature organised events designed to transmit a clear statement against racism. FARE stressed its determination that all forms of discrimination in football should be confronted. *"The vast majority of the [action week] activities have been organised by grassroots groups, often made up of fans determined to offer a welcome to minorities, and to say that discrimination on grounds of race, gender, sexuality, religion or disability is not acceptable in football as in wider society,"* said Howard Holmes, chairman of the FARE interim board. Comprehensive details of the action week events, as well as information and news on the overall FARE campaign, can be found on FARE's website (www.farenet.org/).

UEFA itself will continue to operate a zero tolerance policy towards racism and intolerance – it is committed to driving the racists out of the game. It pledges to crack down on such behaviour by, among other things, handing out tough disciplinary penalties. As one of the messages put across by UEFA during the FARE action week goes: the colour of one's skin is invisible under a football shirt. ●

Inauguration of new administrative and sports building



9 October 2010 is an important date that is sure to remain etched in the history of Luxembourg football. The inauguration of the new administrative and sports building of the Luxembourg Football Federation (FLF) by the UEFA president, Michel Platini, marks the start of a new era for football in Luxembourg.

Financed by the UEFA HatTrick programme, FIFA's Goal programme, ministry of sport subsidies and the FLF's own funds, the Mondercange complex, situated 15km from the capital, has four training pitches, including one with an artificial surface, as well as a newly enlarged and renovated multi-purpose building.

Numerous facilities

The indoor sports facilities include a gym, a new physiotherapy centre, spacious dressing rooms for the various men's and women's national teams and coaches, and a laundry.

The administrative part of the building comprises seven meeting rooms for the FLF organs and committees, classrooms for the young players who attend the FLF football academy, conference rooms with audiovisual equipment to be used for educational purposes, reception rooms for national and international guests, as well as offices for the federation's administrative staff and coaches.

Training centre

The football academy for young footballers is already a decade old. From now on, the Mondercange centre will also be able to host training courses for qualified coaches, referees and administrators.



The new centre in Mondercange

Special guests at the opening ceremony of the new building included Luxembourg's sports minister, Romain Schneider, the mayor of Mondercange, Dan Kersch, the president of the chamber of deputies, Laurent Mosar, and, of course, the FLF president, Paul Philipp.

In his welcome speech, Paul Philipp paid tribute to European football's governing body. "A house of football has just been created," he then said. "The basic infrastructures of Luxembourg football are now all together in the same place."

Spectacular project

In his address, the UEFA president reminisced about his youth in the neighbouring region of Lorraine and said he was delighted to make the short journey to Luxembourg.

"At UEFA, each member association is encouraged to create its own strategy for promoting development," Michel Platini said. "Luxembourg has launched a spectacular project for its work with young people."

After the guests had been welcomed and the building officially opened, the numerous representatives of the worlds of politics and sport who attended the inauguration were able to visit the new facilities and enjoy a reception hosted by the FLF. ● Joël Wolff



The UEFA president cuts the ribbon alongside Paul Philipp, president of the Luxembourg FA, and Romain Schneider, minister for sport.

Austria
www.oefb.at

Futsal embraced by the federation

Futsal has been played in Austria for the past eight years. It was initially played mainly by youngsters, since futsal has, for a long time, been an essential component of the technical education programme run by the regional associations' youth academies in Austria.

An unofficial Austrian championship, launched in November 2006, has since been staged a total of four times, generating huge interest. It was therefore not before time that futsal, which originated in South America and was adopted by FIFA as a new sport in 1989, was recently accepted

under the umbrella of the Austrian Football Association (ÖFB).

In November, the first and second divisions of the ÖFB futsal league, with 9 and 12 clubs respectively, will be launched.



A total of 140 matches will be played in the two divisions, with around 500 players already registered. The ÖFB's futsal coordinator, Markus Kopecky, and grassroots foot-

ball director, Stefan Gogg, are in charge of the administration of the ÖFB futsal league, and for futsal coordination activities with UEFA and FIFA. At the ÖFB, all futsal-related matters fall under the jurisdiction of the sports department (led by sports director Willi Ruttensteiner) where, among others, Gerhard Gerstenmayer is responsible for futsal refereeing and Thomas Janeschitz for basic and further coach education. Incidentally, the two divisions of the new ÖFB futsal league contain teams from eight of the nine Austrian provinces, including eight clubs from the capital, Vienna. The ÖFB is looking forward to an interesting, exciting futsal season!

● Peter Klinglmüller

Azerbaijan
www.affa.az

Women's football is a top priority

The Association of Football Federations of Azerbaijan (AFFA) is running different projects to develop women's football in Azerbaijan as one of its top priorities.

The women's football festival organised in Mingachevir in the north of Azerbaijan was a great success, with about 100 girls aged between 9 and 13 taking part. Local players as well as teams from the neighbouring cities of Ganja, Imishli and Shaki demonstrated their competitive spirit and surprisingly high level of football skills.

Numerous goals were celebrated during the games and there were many happy faces at the end of the festival. Sissy Raith, coach of the women's national Under-15 team, who was among the spectators, said: "I'm delighted that so many promising young girls are taking part in this festival. It's great to see all these girls gathered on the football field and that football is not only a sport but also a good communication tool."

I wish the girls all the best and hope that these talented young players will not forget the main thing in football – fair play."

The other new initiative of the AFFA is a women's U15 league consisting of 16 teams from all over the country. It has already attracted keen attention from football fans. Teams compete in two geographical groups – west and east. It is the first time in the history of Azerbaijan football that a league has been created to promote women's football and to increase the popularity of physical exercise. The girls have more opportunities to develop their football skills and achieve better results, while Sissy Raith has a better overview of promising players for the women's national Under-15 team. The league is in full swing and runs until mid-April.

We can say for sure that girls' football has become more and more popular in the country in recent years and we hope that our girls will do themselves proud in the FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup in Azerbaijan in 2012.

● Ulviyya Najafova

Belarus
www.bff.by



Instructors Oliver Peltzer and Aleksandr Chernukho introduce youngsters to the pleasures of playing football

Grassroots seminar in Minsk

A FIFA grassroots football seminar was held in Minsk at the end of October.

First of all, FIFA instructors Aleksandr Chernukho and Oliver Peltzer, alongside the staff of the Belarus Football Federation (BFF), visited a rehabilitation centre for children in Vileika, where they held a master class for children receiving treatment at the centre.

Then, for three days, Aleksandr Chernukho and Oliver Peltzer held an interactive seminar consisting of various presentations given to youth football specialists from Belarus.

The seminar was crowned by a football festival for children. Around 70 boys and girls came to Minsk from all over Belarus to participate in this event. For most of them, it was the first time they had touched a ball and performed tricks with it.

FIFA instructor Oliver Peltzer said: "The goal of this programme is to bring closer to football kids who never played before. Boys and girls should enjoy the game. You can't force them into doing something or, what is worse, put pressure on them. Let them enjoy what they do and let their fantasy and imagination flow."

For Gennady Nevyglas, BFF president, "the BFF is doing an active job in promoting grassroots football. With UEFA and FIFA's help, this process is becoming more dedicated and persistent, and the results are more valuable. This seminar is a very good example."

● Yulia Zenkovich



A training session during the women's football festival



Bosnia and Herzegovina

www.nfsbih.ba

Young hopefuls not so successful this time

The Bosnia and Herzegovina youth teams did not do as well as last season in their UEFA qualifying matches. Having reached the elite rounds last season, the U19 and U17 teams this time fell in the first qualifying rounds in October.

First, as hosts of the Group 5 qualifying round, played at the Asim Ferhatovic Hase an Grbavica stadiums in Sarajevo, our Under-19s, coached by Zoran Bubalo, lost 2-1 against Belarus before drawing 0-0 against the Czech Republic and 1-1 against the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. They finished the group in fourth place, two points behind the Czech Republic, who obtained four points. Belarus (six points) and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (four points) qualified for the elite round.

Our Under-17s, coached by Velimir Stojnic, played their qualifying round group matches in Estonia, where they lost 3-0 against Austria and

6-1 against Germany before beating the hosts 4-1, with Armin Hodzic scoring a hat trick in the process. Germany (nine points) and Austria (four points) qualified for the elite round, while Bosnia and Herzegovina finished in third place with three points, ahead of Estonia, who managed only a single point.

In the UEFA Futsal Cup, our domestic champions, MNK Orlic Sarajevo, failed to reach the elite round. In the main round, our representatives beat Athina '90 Athens 4-3, but then lost 2-1 against the hosts, Time Lviv, and 4-2 against AGBU Ararat Nicosia FC from Cyprus, which left Orlic in third place. Time Lviv and AGBU qualified for the elite round.

Turning to the UEFA EURO 2012 qualifiers, our senior national team, coached by Safet Susic, drew 1-1 against Albania at the Qemal Stafa stadium in Tirana, leaving Bosnia and



Vedad Ibisevic (14) in action against Albania

Herzegovina with four points from three matches and in fourth place, behind France (nine points), Belarus (eight) and Albania (five) and in front of Romania (two) and Luxembourg (one). The team's next EURO 2012 qualifier is a match at home against Romania on 26 March.

● Fuad Kravac



Croatia

www.hns-cff.hr

Elective assembly in December

The third consecutive term in office of the current president of the Croatian Football Federation (CFF), Vlatko Markovic, expires in December. Twelve years is the longest period of time so far that a CFF president has spent in office. The Zagreb football association has, however, nominated him for a fourth term. He is not the only candidate though, as Igor Stimac, the Croatian international who won a bronze medal in the 1998 World Cup in France, will be running against him, having been put forward by Split-Dalmatia county. The assembly has 50 members – 48 from the 21 county football associations and 2 from the association of first division clubs. There are also 15 members of the executive board to be elected. The CFF president and the president of the association of first division clubs complete the board.

We were honoured by a visit from the UEFA president, Michel Platini, and UEFA's deputy general secretary, Theodore Theodoridis, who stopped briefly in Zagreb on their way from Tirana. With a CFF delegation led by Vlatko Markovic and Zorislav Srebric, general secretary, they had a one-hour discussion with the minister of science, education and sport, Radovan Fuchs, during which they talked about the development of Croatian and European football. The UEFA president emphasised in particular the need to tackle crowd violence and betting-related corruption. For us, this conversation was very important.

We are pleased with the performances of the Croatian national football team in the EURO 2012 qualifiers so far. They are expected to continue their qualifying competition next year as top of their group and to maintain their position among the top ten in the FIFA rankings.

The domestic championship continues with the traditional rivalry between the two best Croatian football clubs, Dinamo Zagreb and Hajduk Split. Both clubs celebrate their centenary next year and, therefore, winning the championship would have a special significance.

It has been 20 years since the first match in the new era of Croatian national football, Croatia v USA, in 1990, and a first victory (2-1) for the new Croatian national team. A ceremony attended by everyone who was involved in the organisation of that match is about to be taken place.

Preparations have started for the winter futsal season, which has traditionally involved mass grassroots activities. We are celebrating the 40th anniversary of the most popular tournament in Zagreb and Croatia, the 'box of matches'.

We have organised qualifying mini-tournaments for the European Under-17 Championship in Crikvenica and for the European Women's Under-19 Championship in Osijek. We are delighted that our youth teams in both categories have qualified for the next round and that our Under-19 team also succeeded in Latvia.

This year, the region of Dalmatia represented Croatia in the preliminary round of the UEFA Regions' Cup. However, it was the team from Ankara in Turkey that qualified from the preliminary round held in Split.



The UEFA president with the Croatian sports minister, Radovan Fuchs

● Ante Pavlovic



Cyprus

www.cfa.com.cy

Ratification at Pro level

The Cyprus FA (CFA) has officially joined the Pro level of the UEFA Coaching Convention.



The ratification ceremony in Nyon with representatives of UEFA and the Cyprus FA

In conjunction with the inauguration of UEFA's new building, the ratification ceremony took place in Nyon on 18 October in the presence of Michel Platini, Marios Lefkaritis and Gianni Infantino, on behalf of UEFA, and the CFA president and general secretary, Costakis Koutsoukounis and Phivos Vakis respectively.

In other news, the CFA has announced that it will be organising grassroots championships again, after the resounding success of last year's event, in which more than 4,000 children took part over the course of the season.

Finally, as part of its social responsibility activities, the CFA decided to dedicate two matchdays to such causes. Matchday 7 was dedicated to the Radiomarathon in support of children with special needs, while Matchday 8 was dedicated to the Medic Alert Foundation, which benefits people with medical problems.

● Kyriakos Giorgallis

England
www.thefa.com

More places on football skills courses

The Football Association Tesco Skills Programme is aiming to provide a further 4.7 million places on its football skills course for five to eleven-year-olds by 2014.

The drive to get more youngsters playing football in England has already seen 2 million children take part in the programme since it was launched in 2007.

England star Frank Lampard was on hand to encourage a group of youngsters who are part of the new intake of participants from eight counties in England into which the scheme has expanded.

"The importance of good grassroots coaching for children cannot be underestimated," said the Chelsea midfielder.

"I remember practising my skills over and over as a youngster and that has helped me reach the top. Whatever your ability, The FA Tesco Skills Programme will help make you a better player."

The coaching sessions run by Frank Lampard were also attended by the FA's director of football development, Sir Trevor Brooking, the minister for sport and the Olympics, Hugh Robertson MP, and Nick Bitel of Sport England, which funds the development of grassroots sport in the country.

A total of 106 FA Tesco Skills coaches will be helping five to eleven-year-olds to improve their football skills throughout 26 counties in England. The skills coaches will be working in schools across the country, as well as running after-school skills centres and free school holiday taster sessions, to give as many local children as possible the chance to get active and improve their football skills, whatever their ability.

Hugh Robertson said: *"This type of private/public partnership, from Tesco and The FA, is something I want to encourage in grassroots sport. Millions more young people across the country will get the chance to receive proper coaching,*



Young participants in the FA Tesco Skills Programme listen attentively to Frank Lampard

hone their skills and, most importantly, get out there and enjoy playing our national game."

Sir Trevor Brooking added: *"The FA Tesco Skills Programme continues to be a huge success across the country and we are delighted to announce our target of offering 4.7 million places on coaching courses by 2014. The programme excels in building boys' and girls' self-esteem and confidence just as much as their football skills."*

The programme is open to boys and girls aged 5 to 11 of all abilities and from any background, with girls only and disability sessions available. For more information about this programme visit www.TheFA.com/Skills.

● Nada Hook

France
www.fff.fr



Quevilly celebrate qualifying for the semi-finals of the French Cup last March

The Coupe de France and its 'Tom Thumbs'

The 94th edition of the Coupe de France has begun with a record number of participants. For the third year running, the symbolic bar of 7,000 participating clubs has been exceeded. A total of 7,449 clubs will play in the biggest competition in French football, the only one to include so many teams, both professional and amateur, from all over the French mainland and overseas territories.

Paris Saint-Germain's successor will be crowned on 14 May next year. Only two of the numerous suitors will have the privilege of setting foot on the pitch at the Stade de France, the home of the Coupe de France final since 1998. But the road to the Saint-Denis arena is long.

Before the final, the competition will bring its share of surprises, giving unknown players the opportunity to cause upsets on magical evenings by defeating professional opposition. The "Tom Thumbs", as they are known, will once again be at the heart of the competition. Perhaps they will follow in the footsteps of Calais, Carquefou, Schirrhein or Quevilly, amateur clubs which have shone in recent editions. These "Tom Thumbs", who strike fear into the hearts of the biggest clubs in the country, have been chosen by the French Football Federation as the theme of the 2010/11 cup competition.

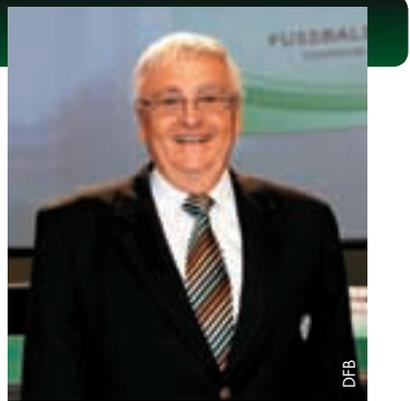
● Matthieu Brelle-Andrade

Germany
www.dfb.de

Theo Zwanziger re-elected as president

At the 40th ordinary general meeting of the German Football Association (DFB) at the end of October, Theo Zwanziger was unanimously re-elected as president of the association until 2013. The UEFA Executive Committee member received all 255 available votes at the Essen philharmonic hall. *"It's a great job; it's fascinating, but it's not easy,"* said Zwanziger after his election, thanking the delegates for their confidence in him. *"I feel that people have a great deal of respect for me and will do my best for the next three years,"* he added.

The re-elected DFB president summarised his goals for his next term of office in a five-point plan and called for football to be value-oriented. Apart from sporting success, Zwanziger's top priority is integration and the fight against discrimination. *"Football is the future, football is emotional, football is social,"* said the 65-year-old, *"and it should have a lasting impact."*



Theo Zwanziger after his re-election as president of the German FA

Also high on the DFB president's agenda, therefore, are the fight against violence and corruption and greater emphasis on football's ecological responsibility. *"Football can do more. It is inclusive and should not be exclusive,"* said Zwanziger.

● Stephan Brause

Hungary
www.mlsz.hu

Quick help from the football family

Only a few weeks after the Hungary v San Marino EURO 2012 qualifier, the Hungarian Football Federation (MLSZ) transferred more than €30,000 – the total gate receipts – to the local authorities of the villages of Kolontár and Devecser. These two villages had suffered a leak of toxic sludge in early October which left many people homeless.

Before the qualifying match, the leaders of the MLSZ had decided to dedicate the game to the tragic event, so the supporters knew that by purchasing tickets they would be helping the affected people to rebuild their lives. It was therefore an action of the whole football family in Hungary.

The game was also a huge success for the Hungarian team, with Sándor Egervári's side

winning 8-0. Not only was it the highest score of the night, but it could even turn out to be the highest score of the whole campaign.

● Márton Dinnyés



An exciting moment in the match between Hungary and San Marino



Kazakhstan

www.kff.kz

UEFA Futsal Cup in Kazakhstan

The futsal champions of Kazakhstan, AFC Kairat Almaty, have been given the honour of hosting a mini-tournament in the elite round of the 2010/11 UEFA Futsal Cup. The Almaty club is among the leading futsal clubs in Europe. It has reached the semi-finals of the UEFA Futsal Cup three times (2005/06, 2007/08, 2008/09) and finished the competition in third place in 2008/09. For the past seven years, the club has dominated the domestic futsal scene and no club has yet unseated it from the top spot in the Kazakhstan championship.

The club is developing in all directions. Several years ago, the Kairat sports complex was built, offering all the necessary conditions for preparing for and staging matches. In addition, a youth academy operates at the club, and its work has already begun to bear fruit, with young players from the academy gradually joining the team.

The draw for the elite round of the 2010/11 UEFA Futsal Cup placed Kairat in the same group as the futsal champions of Georgia, Poland and Slovakia.

In the past, Kazakh futsal fans could only watch the progress of their team on TV, as only one UEFA Futsal Cup match has previously been held in Kazakhstan, in 2006, when Kairat met MFK Dinamo Moskva in the semi-finals. Now Kazakh futsal fans have the opportunity to go and see their champions in action. The Group C matches will be held at the Baluan Sholak sports complex in Almaty.



MFC Kairat

"The idea of holding an elite round mini-tournament in the UEFA Futsal Cup in Almaty was hatched six or seven years ago. During that time, Kairat has achieved a high rating, which takes into account the stability of the club, its infrastructure and the team's performance on the international scene. The very idea of hosting an elite round mini-tournament was a real dream, because the prestige of Kazakh futsal is at stake. We want our football fans to see Kairat in action in an international club competition at first hand. It is very important for promoting futsal in Kazakhstan. We want to show the potential and popularity of futsal in our country. When would-be sponsors see the full stands during the elite round mini-tournament, it is likely that they will want to invest in this sport. We hope that the elite round of the UEFA Futsal Cup will give additional impetus to the development of futsal in Kazakhstan," said Kairat Orazbekov, president of MFC Kairat.

● Alexandr Keplin



Liechtenstein

www.lfv.li

Association meets clubs

The Liechtenstein Football Association (LFV) recently held a meeting with all seven of its affiliated clubs in order to increase their understanding and support of its activities. The LFV invited all the club presidents, youth directors and youth coaches to the meeting.

After the LFV president, Reinhard Walser, had opened the meeting by emphasising the need for close cooperation between the clubs and the association, the national coach, Bidu Zaugg, and the LFV's coaching director for the U12 to U15 age groups, Daniel Hasler, described the association's work and all its implications for the clubs.

Following their presentation, there was ample opportunity for discussion and questions. The LFV hopes that this meeting will represent a further building block in the successful work of Liechtenstein football.

● Anton Banzer



FYR Macedonia

www.ffm.com.mk

Conference on overcoming racism and ethnic discrimination in the Balkans

Organised by the Macedonian Centre for Culture and Development (MCKR) and the Football Federation of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FFM), a conference was held in Skopje on 14 and 15 October on the topic of overcoming racism and ethnic discrimination in the Balkans. It was attended by representatives of UEFA, the Enlarged Partial Agreement on Sport (EPAS), the Vienna Institute for International Dialogue and Cooperation (VIDC) and other organisations.

The conference was opened by the director of youth and sport of the Former Republic of Macedonia, Spasov Dime. On behalf of the FFM, the general secretary, Igor Klimper, welcomed the participants: "For the past ten years, the FFM has supported the actions of the MCKR and the FARE [Football Against Racism in Europe] action week, with all championship matches held under the banner of anti-nationalism and anti-racism and showing a red card to all radical elements. The FFM takes part in all UEFA activities and has already begun the process of fully implementing of all standards related to the total elimination of discrimination in sport."

Last year, the FFM was the organiser of the first national conference on eliminating violence from the sports field. It was attended by representatives of the most important sports federations in the country and took a firm stand against violence. A book was also published on this subject for the first time in our country.

● Zoran Nikolovski



Latvia

www.lff.lv



A 15th league title for FC Skonto

Skonto FC beat the record

One round ahead of the final whistle in the 2010 LMT Virsliga, Skonto FC won the championship title for a record 15th time. Victory did not come so easily, however, Skonto FC having struggled to lift the trophy since their last championship win in 2004. In 2007, the club finished only fourth in the league. Recently, another European record was beaten when Skonto FC midfielder and long-time national team captain Vitalijs Astafjevs played his 166th international.

Unfortunately, Latvia's next friendly international, against China in November, could be his last, as there are rumours that he plans to retire. If he wins his 167th cap, he will beat the European record for national team appearances by ten. FB Gulbene-2005 will join the ten-club,

three-round LMT Virsliga in 2011 in place of the relegated FK Jaunība.

In other news, the Latvian Football Federation (LFF) received the wonderful news that football has been voted the most popular sport in Latvia for the second year in a row. However, basketball and volleyball follow closely behind. The popularity of football is a result of the massive grassroots, mini-football, futsal and beach football activities, research says. The new Latvian futsal championship kicked off on 23 October with eight teams taking part. Three rounds will be played up until 23 April.

The LFF ends the 2010 season with more than 55 mini-pitches built this year, finally completing the UEFA mini-pitch project. There are plans to build 20 full-size pitches in 2011 with UEFA HatTrick support.

● Martins Hartmanis



Conference on overcoming racism and discrimination



Malta

www.mfa.com.mt



Visit to the UEFA and FIFA presidents

A few weeks after his election as president of the Malta FA (MFA), Norman Darmanin Demajo visited the UEFA president, Michel Platini, at the confederation's headquarters in Nyon, Switzerland. During the meeting, the MFA's top man, accompanied by the chief executive, Björn Vassallo, discussed football development and UEFA's HatTrick programme.

The agenda included the development of football in Malta and the relationship between the MFA and UEFA as reflected by the European body's programmes which provide infrastruc-

ture and sporting support for UEFA's 53 member associations.

Commenting on his visit to UEFA, Norman Darmanin Demajo said that it was an important personal moment for him. "I see UEFA now in the role of the father, and the associations as the children. I feel UEFA's support, and the confederation has understood the balance between the associations and the clubs and also between football politics and passion."

The visit to UEFA, which included meetings with senior UEFA officials, was followed some days later by a visit to the FIFA president, Joseph S. Blatter, in Zurich. Norman Darmanin Demajo and Björn Vassallo had talks on the FIFA Goal projects and the social programmes the world body creates as part of the development of the game in all countries.

● Alex Vella

The UEFA president presents a UEFA pennant to Norman Darmanin Demajo.



Moldova

www.fmf.md

Government Cup

The No.1 theoretical lyceum (secondary school) from Congaz have won the 5th Moldovan Government Cup for Under-14 teams. In the final, played at the Anenii Noi stadium, Congaz beat the Mihai Eminescu theoretical lyceum from Balti 3-2. In the match for third place, the Telesti Mihai Eminescu gymnasium won 4-3 after penalties against the Lipoveni theoretical lyceum. Altogether, 1,627 teams and 26,575 young players took part in the competition!

The national Government Cup competition is organised by the ministry of youth and sport, the ministry of education and the Football Association of Moldova.

The awards ceremony was attended by the country's prime minister, Vlad Filat; deputy prime minister, Ion Negrei; the minister of youth and sport, Ion Cebanu; the minister of the interior, Victor Catan; the president of the national Olympic committee, Nicolae Juravschi; and the president of the FA of Moldova, Pavel Cebanu. They presented the participants with well deserved medals, trophies and gifts.

The organisers also nominated the best players of the tournament, who were goalkeeper Vitalie Buftea (Balti), defender Mihail Sabie (Con-



The winners of the Moldovan government cup

gaz), midfielder Gheorghe Borta (Cimislia) and forward Ion Josan (Telenesti). All received gifts.

Previous winners of the Moldovan Government Cup are the Lopatnic lyceum (2006 and

2008), the Minerva lyceum from Chisinau (2007) and the Mihai Eminescu theoretical lyceum from Edinet (2009).

● Press Office



Netherlands

www.knvb.nl

Unique FIFA medical centre of excellence

The Dutch Football Association (KNVB) is the first football association in the world to have its own FIFA Medical Centre of Excellence. This was announced by FIFA Executive Committee member Dr Michel D'Hooghe, who also chairs the medical committees of FIFA and UEFA, on 14 October, when the KNVB's sports medical centre (SMC) in Zeist was officially awarded this title.

"During my visit to the SMC in April, I was highly impressed by the facilities, the available knowledge and the professional attitude of the SMC," Dr D'Hooghe said. "Even then I knew that I would have no difficulty in drafting a positive recommendation for FIFA. There are other

centres of excellence in the world, but I must compliment the KNVB on the way in which they have positioned the SMC within the structure of the football association."

During his introductory remarks, the association's president, Michael van Praag, noted that ten years ago, the SMC had taken a valuable step in seeking to collaborate with the medical centre of the University of Utrecht, a move which resulted in the creation of the University Centre for Sports Medicine. This created impetus in terms of the quality of care, research and the treatment of sports injuries.

There are currently ten FIFA-accredited centres worldwide. The aim is to eventually accredit 50 to 60 such centres, for which the Dutch one can serve as an example.

● Rob de Leede



Michel D'Hooghe (right), member of the FIFA Executive Committee; Gert-Jan Goudswaard, head of the SMC; and Michael van Praag, president of the Dutch FA and also a member of the UEFA Executive Committee



Neil Lennon, right, is right behind the centres of excellence

talented footballers. This is why the centres of excellence are so important, not only for young players in Northern Ireland, but also for the international teams of the future.

"The importance of the early teenage years in a player's development cannot be understated. This is when quality coaching really becomes vital as what young players learn at this age can have a major influence on how they develop both physically and emotionally. With the continued support of DFDS Seaways, the centres of excellence are providing great opportunities for the development and improvement of Northern Ireland's potential stars of the future."

Nigel Best, national performance manager, added: "The IFA's centres of excellence are vital in providing the required additional structured coaching sessions for the top youth players across the six counties. This additional coaching time goes some way towards making up the shortfall in the football practice time of Northern Ireland players compared with their counterparts in England."

Diane Poole, passenger services director of DFDS Seaways, added: "We are delighted to support the centres of excellence. It is vital that the best young players in Northern Ireland can come together under the guidance of highly qualified coaches to develop their skills both on and off the ball and take their game to the next level. The enthusiasm of the 780 boys and girls from U11 through to U16 age groups for the game is unbelievable."

● Graeme Beggs

Third year of the centres of excellence

Celtic's manager, Neil Lennon, recently helped launch the third year of the DFDS Seaways Irish FA Centres of Excellence. The centres of excellence help to nurture and develop the best of the province's young players. In the 2009/10 season, over 780 boys and girls aged between 11 and 15 from across Northern Ireland attended the centres. Under the expert guidance of the county performance coaches, their goal was to improve and develop their football skills, conditioning, diet and general lifestyle.

At the launch, Neil highlighted the importance of good coaching and guidance for the careers of budding young footballers and praised the DFDS Seaways Centres of Excellence for the work they do. He said: "The standard that young players have to reach now to become professionals is getting much higher as clubs cast their net far and wide to attract the most



Susanne Erlandsson presents the trophy bearing her name to the captain of Örebro.

New Women's Cup trophy

The Swedish Women's Cup has a new trophy. Designed in gold, silver and limestone, it is called the Susanne Erlandsson trophy, in honour of Susanne Erlandsson's long contribution to Swedish football – from playing in Sweden's inaugural women's national team in 1973, to her long service on the board of the Swedish FA and on numerous UEFA and FIFA committees.

"I couldn't quite believe it at first, but of course I am honoured. For me, this is a sign of appreciation and a spur to work even harder for Swedish football in the future," said Erlandsson, who is currently vice-president of the Swedish FA.

The first team ever to lift the Susanne Erlandsson trophy were KIF Örebro, who ran out as 4-1 winners in the cup final against Djurgården. It was also KIF Örebro's first ever title, and the new trophy will now call Örebro its home until next year's cup final.

● Andreas Nilsson



Carling Nations Cup fixtures announced

The Carling Nations Cup moved one step closer to its February 2011 kick-off in Dublin with the announcement of the fixtures and dates for the matches between the Republic of Ireland, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales which will be held at the new Aviva Stadium in Dublin.

The new tournament will be played in a league format with six matches between the four neighbouring teams, the first two taking place at the Aviva Stadium on 8 and 9 February and the remaining four taking place the week commencing Monday 23 May. The managers of the Republic of Ireland, Northern Ireland and Scotland were present at the event where it was announced that the Carling Nations Cup would kick off on Tuesday 8 February with a match between Giovanni Trapattoni's Republic of Ireland and Wales, with Northern Ireland facing Scotland a day later at the Dublin venue.

The Carling Nations Cup will be the first senior international tournament hosted in the Republic of Ireland, while the new state of the art Aviva Stadium will also play host to the UEFA Europa League final on 18 May 2011.

● Fran Wherthy



Three of the coaches at the announcement of the fixtures and dates for the Carling Nations Cup. Left to right: Nigel Worthington (Northern Ireland), Craig Levin (Scotland) and Giovanni Trapattoni (Republic of Ireland).



Switzerland

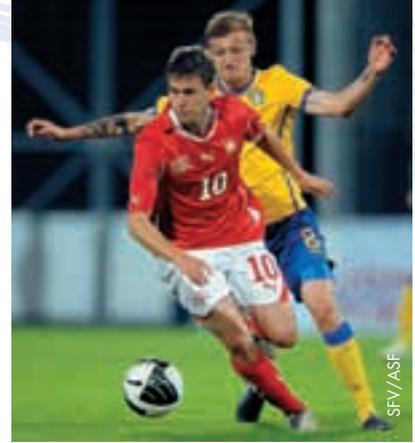
www.football.ch

Strong Swiss youngsters

Swiss football is proud of its successful youth teams. After performing impressively in the play-off matches against Sweden, the Under-21s have qualified for the European Under-21 Championship final round for the third time since 2002. Anyone hoping to find major football countries such as Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Croatia, Portugal and France among the eight finalists will be disappointed since, unlike Switzerland, they all failed to qualify. The performances of the young Swiss footballers cannot be underestimated, since they managed to qualify under extremely difficult conditions. Coach Pierluigi Tami had to field no fewer than 37 players in the 12 matches, because players were so often unavailable. In the crucial play-off matches, absent players included Derdiyok, Affolter, Costanzo, Stocker and Shaqiri, who had all been called up to the senior team. Even so, Sweden stood no chance against

the young Swiss team. The other four Swiss teams involved in European qualifying campaigns are still in the early stages of their respective competitions. The men's and women's Under-19 and Under-17 teams have all successfully negotiated the first qualifying round. None of them were defeated in a combined total of 12 matches, so all four teams are preparing for the second qualifying phase in the spring, when they will hope to reach the final round.

Swiss youth teams have qualified for a World Cup or European Championship final round 22 times in all in the last 15 years, a figure that not many countries in Europe can match, and one that speaks volumes for the quality of youth development at top Swiss clubs and of the coaches employed by the Swiss Football Association. The highlights since the turn of the millennium have undoubtedly been the Under-17's victory in the European Under-17 Championship in 2002 and last year's completely unexpected



The Swiss U21s (Fabian Frei pictured here against Sweden) have qualified for the UEFA U21 final round in Denmark.

World Cup win in the same age category. Anyone with the courage to bet CHF 1,000 on the Swiss team winning the tournament before the start of the World Cup in Nigeria would be a millionaire by now, which demonstrates that absolutely nobody dared to dream that the likes of Ben Khalifa, Kasami and Seferovic would go on to become world champions. ● Pierre Benoit



Turkey

www.tff.org

Turkey hosts UEFA Study Group Scheme

UEFA's member associations are wasting no time in continuing to share technical knowledge as part of the successful UEFA Study Group Scheme. Malta, Georgia and Liechtenstein travelled to Turkey to exchange ideas and expertise on elite youth football.

The Turkish Football Federation's director of football, Ersun Yanal, welcomed the work of the Study Group Scheme: "We're really happy to have hosted such an event in Turkey for the first time. Thirty-three coaches from three national football associations gathered for the event, to discuss elite youth football," he said.

Participants had the opportunity to share information about events and applications in



A fruitful exchange of experiences and opinions

their respective countries. "I think these kinds of studies will be really useful to Turkish football and for the countries with which we shared our experiences. With the coaches from various countries, we're sharing our ideas and learning lots of things from each other. We also hope to host a UEFA elite youth football education group next year," Yanal concluded.

● Bengü Arslan



Wales

www.faw.org.uk

Wales support Show Racism the Red Card campaign

Show Racism the Red Card's (SRTRC) annual fortnight of action took place from 15 to 31 October in Wales. The Principality Welsh Premier League clubs supported the event, as did the women's national side. This period of concerted action encouraged participation from all sections of the community to celebrate diversity and tackle racism. A major aim of the fortnight of action was to encourage anti-racism actions, events and initiatives to take place throughout the year. Many organisations began their actions during October and now plan to run follow-up events during the year. One proven way of making a difference was found to be to act at local level to break down barriers that lead to racist attitudes and behaviour. These barriers include:

- racial stereotyping;
- ignorance of other cultures;
- excluding practices;
- the idea that any one culture or racial group is superior to another.

This year's SRTRC fortnight of action once again saw players in Wales showing their support for the anti-racism cause. Actions taken at games included: players wearing red SRTRC T-shirts, players' 'RED card' action at WPL games, anti-racism tannoy announcements, articles in match programmes and on club websites, unveiling anti-racism stadium hoardings and involvement with local clubs and communities.

● Ceri Stennett



Ukraine

www.ffu.org.ua

Two centenaries in the national team

Andriy Shevchenko recently became the first Ukrainian player to win his 100th cap, when the EURO 2012 co-hosts met Canada in a friendly on 8 October. The match finished in a 2-2 draw.

It is a decade and a half since the 18-year-old Shevchenko pulled on the national jersey for the first time. A heavy EURO '96 qualifying defeat by Croatia in Zagreb did not necessarily augur well, however. "There's nothing pleasant about losing 4-0," the FC Dynamo Kyiv striker said. "I tend to remember only the best moments and, thankfully, there have been a lot over the 16 years."

Grigoriy Surkis, president of the Ukrainian FA, presents a commemorative jersey to Andriy Shevchenko.

Shevchenko scored 2 of his 45 international goals in Ukraine's 3-0 victory in Istanbul in November 2004 and received the Ballon d'Or the same year, before qualifying in 2005 for the 2006

World Cup final round. At the World Cup finals in Germany, a lack of fitness unfortunately limited his effectiveness, although Ukraine did reach the quarter-finals before going out 3-0 against Italy. "I will remember the atmosphere at that great football tournament for the rest of my life," former AC Milan favourite Shevchenko added.

There was even more incentive during Canada's friendly when 'Sheva' made his landmark appearance in his adopted home town of Kyiv. "It is quite a milestone, even for those, like me, who are not obsessed with statistics," the 34-year-old said.

Three days after Shevchenko opened Ukraine's 100 club, Anatoliy Tymoshchuk became the second to achieve the feat, captaining the EURO 2012 co-hosts in their 2-0 defeat by Brazil in a friendly played in England.

"I am delighted to have reached this landmark with the national team. The number 100 is something special when you're talking about appearances for your country. I had to wait ten long years to reach my century. I think it's very important for any footballer because there are very few players in the world who get so many caps," said the 31-year-old from FC Bayern München. ● Ivan Dyvak



The Wales women's team takes a stance against racism.

Birthdays

Match delegate **Steve Stride** (England) celebrates his 60th birthday on 16 December, while on 4 December, **Ioannis Farfarelis** (Greece), member of the Marketing Advisory Committee, turns 50. Three referee observers are also reaching the half-century mark in December: **Zeljko Siric** (Croatia) on 1 December, **Antonio Manuel Almeida Costa** (Portugal) on 6 December and **Raymond Ellingham** (Wales) on 7 December. UEFA also extends birthday greetings for December to:

John Ferry (Northern Ireland, 1.12)
 Charles Agius (Malta, 2.12)
 Ligita Ziedone (Latvia, 2.12)
 Juan Antonio Fernandez Marin (Spain, 3.12)
 Gylfi Thor Orrason (Iceland, 3.12)
 Sayan Khamitzhonov (Kazakhstan, 3.12)
 Miroslav Liba (Czech Republic, 4.12)
 Georg Luchinger (Liechtenstein, 4.12)
 Maurizio Montironi (San Marino, 5.12)
 Leszek Ryłski (Poland, 6.12)
 Andreas Akkelides (Cyprus, 7.12)
 Andrea Manzella (Italy, 8.12)
 Vitali Mutko (Russia, 8.12)
 Michel D'Hooghe (Belgium, 8.12)
 Les Reed (England, 9.12)
 Ioan Angelo Lupescu (Romania, 9.12)
 Alain Hamer (Luxembourg, 10.12)
 Miroslav Uljan (Croatia, 11.12)
 Alvaro Albino (Portugal, 12.12)
 Kaj Natri (Finland, 13.12)
 Gilberto Madail (Portugal, 14.12)
 Antonio Mortagua (Portugal, 14.12)
 Ged Poynton (England, 15.12)
 Ilan Yablkovsky (Israel, 16.12)
 Karel Vertongen (Belgium, 17.12)
 Bobby Barnes (England, 17.12)
 Michael Riley (England, 17.12)
 Artan Hajdari (Albania, 17.12)
 Hansruedi Hasler (Switzerland, 18.12)
 Guntis Indriksons (Latvia, 18.12)
 Niklas à Lidarenda (Faroe Islands, 18.12)
 Rainer Koch (Germany, 18.12)
 Ori Shilo (Israel, 18.12)
 Ludvik S. Georgsson (Iceland, 19.12)
 Yves Bourgnon (Luxembourg, 21.12)
 William Young (Scotland, 21.12)
 José Henrique Jones (Portugal, 22.12)
 Pia Hess (Germany, 23.12)
 Laszlo Vagner (Hungary, 24.12)
 Guy Goethals (Belgium, 26.12)
 Oleksandr Bakhmachuk (Ukraine, 26.12)

Rudolf Repka (Czech Republic, 26.12)
 Dusan Tittel (Slovakia, 27.12)
 Bernard Carrel (Switzerland, 28.12)
 Martial Saugy (Switzerland, 28.12)
 Otakar Mestek (Czech Republic, 28.12)
 Einar Halle (Norway, 29.12)
 Fernand Duchaussoy (France, 30.12)
 Berti Vogts (Germany, 30.12)
 Wolfgang Thierriichter (Austria, 30.12)
 Jean Fournet-Fayard (France, 31.12)
 Horst Brummeier (Austria, 31.12)
 Eugeniusz Kolator (Poland, 31.12)
 Christian Morage (Switzerland, 31.12)
 David Findlay (Scotland, 31.12)
 Jens Larsen (Denmark, 31.12)
 Liene Kozlovskā (Latvia, 31.12)

Forthcoming events

Meetings

3.12.2010, Nyon

2011–13 European Women's Championship: draw for the preliminary round

9/10.12.2010, Prague

Executive Committee

17.12.2010, Nyon

UEFA Champions League:
 draw for the round of 16
 UEFA Europa League:
 draw for the rounds of 32 and 16

Competitions

1/2.12.2010

UEFA Europa League:
 group matches (matchday 5)

7/8.12.2010

UEFA Champions League:
 group matches (matchday 6)

8–18.12.2010, United Arab Emirates

FIFA Club World Cup

15/16.12.2010

UEFA Europa League:
 group matches (matchday 6)

Notices

■ On 22 October, Theo Zwanziger, member of the UEFA Executive Committee, was re-elected for a further three-year term as president of the German Football Association (DFB).

■ The new address of the Hungarian Football Federation is: Magyar Labdarúgó Szövetség, Kánai út 2.D, 1112 Budapest, Hungary

Match agents

Six new UEFA match agent licences have been granted to the following individuals:

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 Fax: +41 44 878 99 00
 magnus.eger@sportsmanagement.ch

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 Mob: +33 6 62 58 97 70
 jean-michel.pitre@orange.fr

New publications

The Fight against Doping

Social Responsibility of Sports and Politics on National and International Level

Published by the Konrad Adenauer Foundation, this bilingual (English/German) work, edited by Werner Blumenthal, is a collection of presentations given at sports forums held in Leipzig and Brussels. They reflect the breadth and different aspects of doping as expressed by representatives from the worlds of sport and politics as well as from scientific and religious circles. (www.kas.de)

ROCZNIK 2010-2011

The 38th volume of the *Encyklopedia piłkarska* edited by Andrzej Gowarzewski is also the official yearbook of Polish football and contains, in particular, detailed statistics and photos of all top division clubs for the 2009/10 season. It also includes data on other European domestic championships and international competitions. (*wydawnictwo GiA, PO Box 2772, 40 357 Katowice 14*)



RESPECT

The Opponent



RESPECT

Diversity



RESPECT

The Game