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**Finale time**



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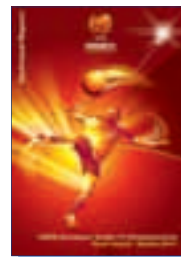
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## Cover

Back on the pitch after recent surgery, Eric Abidal celebrates winning the most coveted club competition trophy.

Photo: Getty Images

# A wonderful advertisement

It is extremely rare for everyone to be unanimous about an event, especially about its success. For that reason alone, the UEFA Champions League final at Wembley on 28 May between FC Barcelona and Manchester United FC is worthy of further mention.

That evening, everything came together to produce a perfect occasion that was enjoyed by all – the teams, their fans, the tens of thousands of spectators in the stadium and the millions of TV viewers elsewhere. The stadium itself was the first factor: a pitch in perfect condition, allowing highly skilful, precise play in a setting made both mythical by the great matches it has hosted and bold by its new architectural form.

Then there were the finalists, who lived up to their reputations and glorious pasts by going out to attack and adopting an exemplary attitude, despite the enormity of what was at stake. While Barcelona demonstrated the art of combining teamwork and individual brilliance, Manchester United responded with the quality required to make this final such an outstanding match. The supporters of both clubs were as one, adding a festive and colourful character to a general atmosphere of fair play and respect. There were no incidents and no security problems – in short, it was a dream for all football fans and a fabulous advertisement for our game.

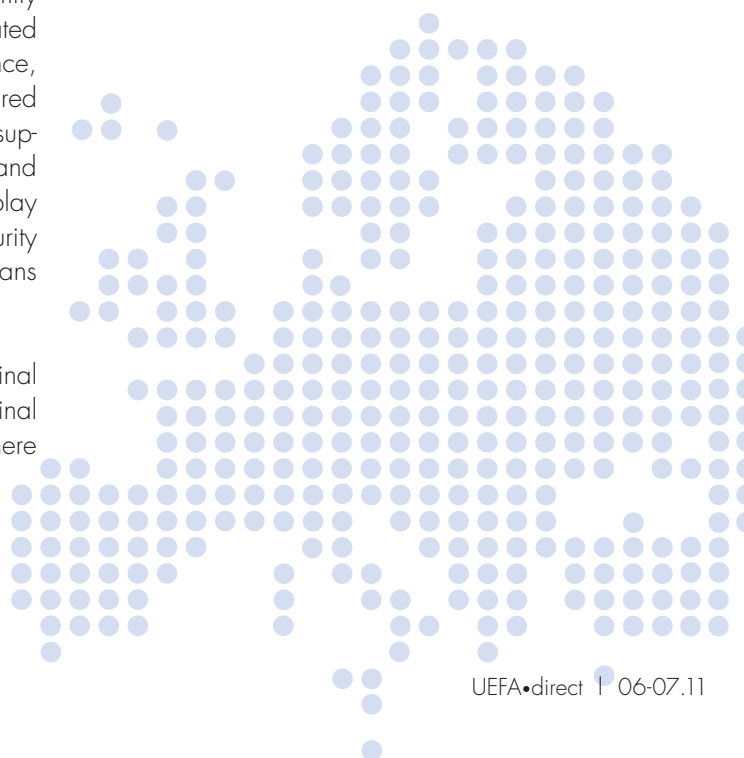
I cannot mention the UEFA Champions League final without also mentioning the UEFA Europa League final in Dublin, where fair play and a good atmosphere

were also the order of the day, nor the final of the UEFA Women's Champions League, where the players of Olympique Lyonnais and 1. FFC Turbine Potsdam proved that women's football can also win over the masses with its freshness and technical qualities.

Events like these are what makes football magic.




*Michel Platini*  
UEFA President





# An eight-day celebration of football

The UEFA Champions League final at Wembley between FC Barcelona and Manchester United FC was the culmination of eight days of activities in London showcasing UEFA's involvement at all levels of the game. The Catalan side rounded off the week with a scintillating display to claim their fourth European champion clubs cup, but three days earlier it was the grassroots game that took centre stage.

Though Wednesday 25 May was UEFA Grassroots Day, there were celebrations throughout the week to mark the occasion. All of UEFA's member associations came together to celebrate a day which aims to highlight the importance of tending to the grassroots if the elite game is to flourish.

The Scottish Football Association (SFA) was one of the first to commemorate Grassroots Day with their come-and-try day in the build-up to the Scottish Cup final between Celtic FC and Motherwell FC on 21 May. Other events included Open Fun Football School (OFFS) activities in Ukraine, fun football and street football for marginal groups in Slovenia and a girls' football day in Liechtenstein.

## Champions Festival

The UEFA Champions Festival, an eight-day celebration of football staged in the same city that is hosting the UEFA Champions League final, was this year held in Hyde Park and provided the perfect centrepiece for UEFA Grassroots Day. *"The focus is on participation,"* said The FA's director of football development, Sir Trevor Brooking. *"It's all about the fun element. It's about trying to develop that skills base but in an environment where*

*people are encouraged to try things. It's about trying to maximise improvement and getting the best out of your ability whatever that level is."*

The UEFA Champions Festival kicked off the Saturday before the big match at Wembley with the UEFA Champions League final ambassador, Gary Lineker, and Graeme Le Saux, his UEFA Champions Festival counterpart, cutting the ribbon to begin the week-long celebration of football.

*"The festival is about community and interacting with the city where UEFA is hosting the Champions League final,"* reflected Le Saux. *"Grassroots is a huge part of that because it's about getting young people involved in football and feeling like doors are open for them to get involved. As a player you always have to remember how you felt when you were a young boy growing up and wanting to be a football player."*

Though it was Barcelona who hoisted the trophy triumphantly at Wembley, the silverware had already provided interest aplenty at the festival. As one of the main attractions, along with its UEFA Women's Champions League equivalent, the European Champion Clubs' Cup stood on a plinth for the duration of the week. Indeed, on day three of the festival, it was lifted a world record-breaking 417 times in the space of an hour by fans.

## First Women's Day

Proceeding UEFA Grassroots Day was the first ever football Women's Day, which consisted of a series of mini-pitches for young girls of all ages. *"It's good that the girls' and women's game has its own section because it shows the rise of the game,"* England women's captain, Faye White, said. *"It allows girls to enjoy the national game, to play it and to be a part of it. It's improved a lot since I've been involved. It's healthy – there are a lot more opportunities for girls and so many more girls playing than when I started."*

White's international manager, Hope Powell, added: *"It's fantastic. Putting on events that are specifically for the women's game embraces it and gives us a platform. It will hopefully give the girls something to aspire to. We all know they love football and want to be part of it."*



The festival was all about young people and football





Gary Lineker and Graeme Le Saux parade the UEFA Champions League trophy

*You need that base of players and the opportunity for all those players to play. Firstly, it just gives us more players to choose from and secondly, with things like the government agenda on obesity, it encourages activity."*

A number of high-profile ambassadors such as Gianfranco Zola, Cafu and Giovanni van Bronckhorst also took part in a series of skills clinics during the course of the festival. *"It was great, I really enjoyed it,"* said former Italy forward Zola. *"It is good giving something back to the younger generation. It's so important. The reason I played football is because I saw professionals playing football. For the kids to interact with us is so important and really pleasant."*

### Plethora of stars

Free entrance throughout ensured a strong turnout at the park. Attendees were able to test their penalty skills, watch a dramatic 30-minute film showing classic moments from European Champion Clubs' Cup's history in the Theatre of Champions, and check out the Museum of Champions, which featured rare items from European football, including shirts, trophies and boots.

Just a matter of hours before Xavi Hernández, Lionel Messi and Andrés Iniesta dazzled under the Wembley arch, a plethora of former stars strutted their stuff under a replica on the festival's main mini-pitch. An England All Stars team including John Barnes and Paul Merson, coached by Gary Lineker, took on a world selection comprising the likes of Ronald and Frank de Boer.

Though the visitors established a healthy advantage, the game concluded as 'next goal wins', with former England left-back Chris Powell claiming glory in front of a packed crowd. *"You can see that we made it into a great show,"* said Christian Karembou, two-time UEFA Champions League winner. *"We wanted to play and do something for the children."*



Sir Trevor Brooking, The FA's director of football development, chats to a group of young players

While former Manchester United striker Andy Cole admitted his *"chest was burning after seven minutes,"* ex-Netherlands full-back Giovanni van Bronckhorst had the final word on a fitting climax. *"It's great,"* he said. *"It's with players I saw on TV when I was young, like John Barnes. It's incredible for me and the whole atmosphere at this festival has been amazing. For the fans, for the children, it's perfect to see the players really close."*

### Special Olympics activities

Also on the final day's agenda was a five-a-side match between a unified Special Olympics Great Britain team and a side representing Kick It Out, football's equality and inclusion campaign in England. The fixture, part of the 11th Special Olympics European Football Week held from 14 to 22 May, provided a high-profile billing for UEFA's partnership with the Special Olympics Europe/Eurasia (SOEE) movement promoting opportunities for footballers with learning disabilities. ●



# The revenge of Olympique Lyonnais

The second UEFA Women's Champions League final in London reunited the same teams involved in the maiden final 12 months earlier – but this time Olympique Lyonnais emerged as winners, beating holders 1. FFC Turbine Potsdam 2-0 to take France's first title.



The season began with Olympique Lyonnais, Potsdam and 2009 UEFA Women's Cup winners FCR 2001 Duisburg wearing the robes of favourites and, just like last year, the two German sides went on to meet in the semi-finals. Potsdam cruised through

to that stage in ominous form, posting three huge aggregate victories by beating Finnish debutants Åland United 15-0, Austria's SV Neulengbach 16-0 and Lyon's French rivals FCF Juvisy Essonne 9-2. Having needed a penalty shoot-out to see off Duisburg in 2009/10, they then booked their final ticket when Yuki Nagasato notched the only goal of the home leg following a 2-2 away draw. Foiled again, Duisburg's sole consolation was that Inka Grings would end the competition as top scorer with 13 successful strikes.

Lyon made excellent progress by seeing off strong contenders AZ Alkmaar and WFC Rossiyanka thanks to 10-1 and 11-1 aggregate wins respectively, after which they dispatched Zvezda-2005 in the quarter-finals, Lara Dickmann making the difference at the Stade de Gerland following a goalless draw in Russia. The competition's first pre-final crowd of over 20,000 then witnessed the French club seal the first instalment of their semi-final with

Arsenal LFC 2-0, two early Lotta Schelin goals doing the damage ahead of a 3-2 success in London.

## Lyon controls

Patrice Lair's side thus headed back to the English capital to face Potsdam on 26 May, with 14,303 spectators braving torrential rain before kick-off to be present at Fulham FC's Craven Cottage. Despite missing Nagasato, Potsdam began brightly and their three-strong forward line of Anja Mittag, Fatmire Bajramaj and Isabel Kerschowski caused problems, but it was not long before Lyon asserted control.

Schelin proved a menace up front while Élodie Thomis was dangerous on the right, and it was from that flank that the opening goal came 27 minutes in. Sonia Bompastor's corner found Amandine Henry and she



Olympique Lyonnais get their hands on the trophy

headed back to Schelin, whose shot was blocked by 2010 final hero Anna Felicitas Sarholz, only for towering right-back Wendie Renard to poke in the rebound. Potsdam attempted to rally, but Henry and player of the match Camille Abily held firm in midfield, and goalkeeper Sarah Bouhaddi claimed any balls launched into the box.

Potsdam's best chances came early in the second half, with Kerschowski and Mittag threatening from close range, while Bajramaj – in her last game before joining 1. FFC Frankfurt – worried Lyon with her rangy runs. Lyon were equal to the physical challenge, however, and with five minutes remaining they hit the clinching goal as Eugénie Le Sommer's ball from the right was gleefully buried by fellow substitute Dickmann.

## Stronger team than last year

Winning coach Lair was appointed by Lyon after last season's final, and stated bluntly that his aim was to secure this title. The signings of Bompastor, Abily and Le Sommer helped make the side even stronger than in 2010, and Lair said: "Emotionally, it's a great moment, I think my best as a coach. I've enjoyed the whole season with this wonderful squad."

Potsdam's Bernd Schröder added: "We played against very strong opponents and you have to give them credit for what they've done. We didn't win the final but we can celebrate what we've achieved." ●

**26 May 2011**

Craven Cottage, London – 14,303 spectators

**Olympique Lyonnais –**

**1. FFC Turbine Potsdam 2-0 (1-0)**

**Goals:** Wendie Renard (27'), Lara Dickmann (85')

**Referee:** Dagmar Damkova (Czech Republic)



Wendie Renard (3) opens the scoring

# Barcelona at the top of their game

FC Barcelona were crowned kings of Europe for the fourth time, securing a third UEFA Champions League title in six seasons with a dominant display against Manchester United FC at Wembley.



Both teams were back at the scene of their first European Champion Clubs' Cup triumphs, United having claimed the crown in 1968, 24 years before Barcelona's 'dream team' – with current coach Josep Guardiola a pivotal figure in their midfield – lifted the trophy for the first time.

This time round the 40-year-old guided the *Azulgrana* to the final as the winners of Group E, having won four of their six games, before overcoming Arsenal FC 4-3 on aggregate in the round of 16 – although the Gunners did win the first leg in north London 2-1, inflicting what would prove to be Barcelona's only defeat in the competition. FC Shakhtar Donetsk were beaten 6-1 over two quarter-final matches before Lionel Messi's double at the Santiago Bernabéu set up a 3-1 aggregate win against old rivals Real Madrid CF in the last four.

Guardiola became only the sixth man to be crowned European champion as a player and coach with Barcelona's 2009 win in Rome, and his chances of adding another UEFA Champions League title to three successive Liga titles improved markedly in the 27th minute of the London final. Xavi Hernández played a diagonal pass for Pedro Rodríguez to open the scoring with a low shot.

## Rapid response

United's response was rapid and within seven minutes they were level. Rio Ferdinand won the ball from a Barça throw-in and Wayne Rooney played a one-two with Michael Carrick before swapping passes with Ryan Giggs and sweeping a shot high into the far corner of Victor Valdés' net.

That goal had come largely against the run of play, however, and Barcelona continued to dominate in terms of possession and territory. Early in the second half Messi duly drove a low shot past Edwin van der Sar – in his final game before retirement – from outside the area for his 12th UEFA Champions League goal of the season, equalling the mark set by the then United striker Ruud van Nistelrooy in 2002/03.

This time Barcelona had no intention of letting their lead slip, and victory was assured when a marauding Messi run was only partially halted and Sergio Busquets kept his head to lay a pass back for David Villa to curl in.

## Human qualities

Guardiola was typically modest in victory, saying: *"I feel privileged to have these players. When I looked back at*

*the 2009 final win against United I wasn't that impressed, but tonight we played much better. What I'm most proud of is the way we won. This is how I want to play football."*

With regular captain Carles Puyol a late substitute, Xavi wore the armband but the pair stood aside to let Éric Abidal – who had a liver tumour removed in March – lift the trophy. *"Players are human beings and you need to remember that,"* Guardiola explained. *"Whether you win or lose, there's a human quality. Carles made a great gesture to Éric which is to his honour and it's strengthened all of us."*

Sir Alex Ferguson could only admire the performance of United's conquerors, saying: *"Great teams go in cycles and at the moment they're the best in Europe, there's no question about that. In my time as a manager this is the best team we've faced. It's not easy when you've been beaten but no one's given us a hiding like that. It's a great moment for them and they deserve it because they play the right way."* ●



Getty Images

**28 May 2011**

Wembley Stadium, London – 87,695 spectators

**FC Barcelona v**

**Manchester United FC 3-1 (1-1)**

**Goals:** 1-0 Pedro Rodríguez (27'), 1-1 Wayne Rooney (34'), 2-1 Lionel Messi (54'), 3-1 David Villa (69')

**Referee:** Viktor Kassai (Hungary)



# FC Porto back on top

*"We grew in confidence as the European campaign went on and that helped us today."*



This post-match quote from FC Porto coach André Villas-Boas may not fully explain his team's success, but it certainly provides an accurate reflection of the two clubs' respective situations at kick-off: at one end, a team which had just been crowned national champions after a season of 34 matches undefeated and with a rich international heritage including two European Champion Clubs Cup/UEFA Champions League titles, one UEFA Cup, one UEFA Super Cup and two European/South American Cups; at the other, a club which was contesting its first European final and had just, on the last day of the domestic season, lost third place in the league, a competition in which it had been beaten in both matches against its UEFA Europa League final opponents.

## Falcao's efficiency

FC Porto were therefore strong favourites, although SC Braga could pride themselves on having played in the UEFA Champions League earlier in the season and recorded morale-boosting victories over renowned opponents such as Arsenal FC, Liverpool FC, Sevilla FC, FC Dynamo Kyiv and SL Benfica along the way. And, as if to remind everyone that nothing should be taken for granted, it was SC Braga who created the first opportunity of the match when Custodio took advantage of some hesitant FC Porto defending and shot menacingly.

However, the Portuguese champions were undaunted and this derby match – the first UEFA club competition final to be contested by two clubs from Portugal – remained fairly even, with SC Braga's concise style of play preventing FC Porto from taking advantage of the attacking strength that had enabled them to score 43 goals in the 16 matches played since the play-off round.



Pollex/Bongarts/Getty Images

Hulk of FC Porto (left) and Silvio of Braga compete for the ball

Colombian striker Falcao had netted more than a third (17) of these goals on his own and should therefore have been watched particularly closely. However, just before half-time, he managed to escape his markers and head in a cross by team-mate and compatriot Fredy Guarín, scoring what turned out to be the only goal of the final.

It was a difficult pill to swallow for the SC Braga players, but it could all have been so different if FC Porto goalkeeper Helton had failed to deflect Mossoro's shot away with his foot after facing him one on one in the opening minutes of the second half.

## Exceptional season

Having demonstrated their ability to attack, FC Porto then set out to prove that they also knew how to defend a lead, and they achieved this superbly, since SC Braga failed to pose any real threat in the remainder of the match.

Having won the domestic league title and lifted the Portuguese Cup with a victory over Vitoria Guimarães just four days after winning in Dublin, FC Porto can look back on an exceptional season worthy of their past successes. They will have a chance to put the icing on the cake in Monaco in August, when they face the UEFA Champions League winners in the UEFA Super Cup. ●

**18 May 2011**

Dublin Arena – 45,391 spectators

**FC Porto v SC Braga 1-0 (1-0)**

**Goal:** Falcao (44')

**Referee:** Carlos Velasco Carballo (Spain)



# Dutch crowned champions for the first time

One of the paradoxes in European football was refuted when the Netherlands beat Germany 5-2 in the Serbian city of Novi Sad to win the 2010/11 European Under-17 Championship.



Although the Dutch enjoy role-model status in terms of producing top-quality players, they had never reached the final of a UEFA youth development competition until 2005, when their Under-17s were beaten 2-0 by Turkey. Four years later they were in the final again – but had the misfortune of meeting the German hosts and were beaten 2-1, cruelly conceding the decisive goal late in extra time.

In Novi Sad, it was third time lucky, with Albert Stuivenberg's side coming from 1-0 and 2-1 down to register a record-breaking victory. The Dutch became the first team to score five times in a final of this 29-year-old competition launched under the Under-16 banner.

## FIFA qualification

The result provided a spectacular finale to a tournament that also went into the history books as the first to be (impeccably) organised in Serbia, but which had, prior to the final, been a low-scoring affair. Maybe the fact that the top three in each group were to be rewarded with FIFA World Cup places encouraged teams to try to avoid fourth rather than throw caution to the wind. One of the notable exceptions was an exhilarating Danish team which thoroughly enjoyed their return to the Under-17 finals after an eight-year absence and proceeded to beat the hosts, defending champions England and, in the final group fixture, a talented French team. By contrast, the six Group B games produced only eight goals – and the Dutch topped the group without conceding any.

Both groups went to the wire. The English title holders edged a semi-final place by winning their final group game 3-0 against a Serbian side which, having automatically

qualified as hosts, maybe lacked big-match experience. In the other group, Germany showed typical resilience. At 1-0 down to the Czechs (who went home unbeaten and with a World Cup ticket in their pocket), they were down and out – only for a last-minute equaliser to keep them alive. A solitary goal against Romania then consigned the debutants to fourth place and gave the Germans a semi-final date with Denmark, who, based on their sparkling form during the group stage, started as favourites against a team who had four players suspended. Although they produced some delightful approach play, the Danes lacked the cutting edge and were cruelly punished when two German free-kicks were deflected into their net.

## Stunning second half

In the other semi-final, the Dutch similarly struggled to find a knockout punch but still managed to defeat injury-hit England thanks to a goal scored, ironically, by Arsenal-based Kyle Ebecilio. It meant that the Dutch, who had defeated Germany 2-0 in their opening game, would face the Germans again in the final. When their opponents twice took the lead, it looked as though it would be third time unlucky for the Dutch. But they came back to 2-2 just before half-time and produced a stunning second-half display which allowed them to climb jubilantly into the stands to collect gold medals from Michel Platini – and to reap a much-delayed reward for the Netherlands' youth development philosophy. ●

## RESULTS

### Group A

3.5	Serbia – Denmark	2-3
3.5	France – England	2-2
6.5	Serbia – France	1-1
6.5	Denmark – England	2-0
9.5	England – Serbia	3-0
9.5	Denmark – France	1-0

### Group B

3.5	Germany – Netherlands	0-2
3.5	Czech Republic – Romania	1-1
6.5	Germany – Czech Republic	1-1
6.5	Netherlands – Romania	1-0
9.5	Romania – Germany	0-1
9.5	Netherlands – Czech Republic	0-0

### Semi-finals

12.5	Denmark – Germany	0-2
12.5	Netherlands – England	1-0

### Final

15.5	Germany – Netherlands	2-5
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# Four sites for the final round

When UEFA decided to award Romania the right to host the European Under-19 Championship final round, the Romanian FA decided to use four stadiums located in villages around Bucharest and not in the country's capital city.



Why? In order to promote football in the smaller communities and especially among children, to share the experience with the local communities and, last but not least, to stimulate investment into football facilities and infrastructure in general.

And, of course, to ensure maximum crowds at the matches.

So, after having visited several towns and villages in the Ilfov district which surrounds Bucharest, the Romanian FA selected Chiajna, Berceni, Buftea and Mogosoia to host matches and decided to house all eight teams at the Intercontinental hotel in Bucharest, which offers the great advantage of being no more than 30 to 35 minutes away from any of the venues.

## Four venues

Concordia stadium in Chiajna is the home of second-division team Concordia, who are on the verge of their first ever promotion to the first division. Chiajna has only 8,200 inhabitants, but a 5,000-capacity stadium (catering for over half of the population) and four training grounds. This stadium is intended to host, among others, the opening match and the final.

The second venue, Communal stadium in Berceni, has been renovated and enlarged specially for this event, with new stands and modern facilities giving this 4,000-strong village a 2,600-capacity stadium. Communal stadium hosts the home matches of third-league team ACS Berceni.

Buftea is the biggest of the four U19 venues. With almost 21,000 inhabitants it is in fact classed as a city. Thanks to a contract between the Romanian FA and the city council, a second football stadium and training centre has been built in Buftea. One of the pitches has natural grass and a 450-seater stand. The U19 final tournament will be the centre's first official event, but the senior

national team held training sessions here ahead of their UEFA EURO 2012 qualifier against Bosnia and Herzegovina and everybody was impressed by the quality of the pitch.

Last, but by no means least, the Romanian FA's first national football centre, located in Mogosoia, has plenty of experience in hosting international friendly and competition matches in the U21, youth and women's categories. Situated in a village of 5,500, the centre has two natural grass pitches, one of which has 800 seats and floodlights. Moreover, shortly before the start of the final tournament, it will have a brand new pitch of the highest possible quality.

## Local community involvement

The Romanian FA and its partners have decided to transform the final tournament into a real celebration, with the full involvement of the local communities and, of course, the local councils. Feedback in this respect is encouraging.

In addition, training grounds will be made available to all teams thanks, in part, to cooperation with local clubs FC Steaua Bucuresti and FC Rapid Bucuresti. Steaua are providing two training grounds, as are Rapid at their own Pro Rapid training centre. Two of the four training grounds built at Chiajna will also be used by participating teams. Just like for the stadiums, travel times from the hotel to the training grounds are all within 30 minutes. ●

*Paul-Daniel Zaharia*

## Final round line-up

On 8 June in Bucharest, a draw divided the eight finalists into the following two groups:

**Group A:** Romania, Czech Republic, Greece, Republic of Ireland

**Group B:** Serbia, Turkey, Spain, Belgium

The stadium at the Romanian FA's Mogosoia sports centre





# Germans end four-year wait

In European women's football, German teams wear the mantle of perennial favourites. But, at Under-19 level, the continental crown had eluded them since 2007 – until this year's final tournament played in the Emilia-Romagna region of Italy.



After an effective, rather than brilliant, campaign, Germany suddenly burst into exuberant life in the final to set a new tournament record scoreline. Maren Meinert's team beat Norway 8-1.

## Competitive nature

The 2011 finals featured only three of the teams which had contested the Under-19 title a year earlier in Skopje, with France and England – gold and silver medallists in 2010 – eliminated during the qualifiers. The final tournament underlined the competitive nature of women's Under-19 football, with a series of matches more tightly fought than the final scorelines might suggest. In Group A, the Italian hosts took maximum points from their three games, yet were made to fight every centimetre of the way. They clinched a semi-final place with narrow wins against Russia and Switzerland, both of whom punished a talented attacking Belgian team for a series of costly individual errors. Russians and Swiss faced each other with second place at stake on the final matchday, where fine goalkeeping by Pascale Küffer earned Yannick Schwery's Swiss side the 0-0 draw which secured a place for them in the semi-finals – and in the FIFA U-20 World Cup.



In the other group, the same honours went to Norway. Jarl Torske's team opened with a 3-1 defeat against the Germans, who sealed their victory during added time. But they bounced back to beat the Dutch 3-0 and, as the Netherlands v Spain match on the opening day had ended 1-1, they needed only a draw against Spain to secure a semi-final berth. In the event, they went one better – or, rather, several better. With striker Melissa Bjånesøy, who went on to take the top-scorer trophy with seven goals in five games, hitting the net twice, they posted a 5-1 win which earned second place behind the Germans. Maren Meinert's side's 100% record was maintained by single goal victories against Spain and the Dutch – the latter beaten by another added-time goal.

## RESULTS

### Group A

30.5	Italy – Russia	2-1
30.5	Switzerland – Belgium	4-1
02.6	Italy – Switzerland	1-0
02.6	Russia – Belgium	3-1
05.6	Belgium – Italy	1-3
05.6	Russia – Switzerland	0-0

### Group B

30.5	Germany – Norway	3-1
30.5	Spain – Netherlands	1-1
02.6	Germany – Spain	1-0
02.6	Norway – Netherlands	3-0
05.6	Netherlands – Germany	1-2
05.6	Norway – Spain	5-1

### Semi-finals

08.6	Italy – Norway	2-3
08.6	Germany – Switzerland	3-1

### Final

11.6	Norway – Germany	1-8
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## Thrilling game

Whereas the 2010 semifinals had produced two goals, the 2011 equivalents yielded nine. Despite Küffer's excellence between the posts, the Germans beat the Swiss 3-1 and in, arguably, the most thrilling game of the tournament, Italy twice came from behind against Norway, only to be beaten 3-2 when substitute Caroline Hansen bent a corner from the left directly into the Italian net.

The fast-improving Norwegians seemed set to offer strong opposition to Germany in the final played at Imola. But after trailing Maren Meinert's team only 1-0 at half-time, they were devastated by the rampant Germans who, with superb combination play, struck four in ten minutes soon after the break and went on to register the record-breaking win, with striker Lena Lotzen and midfielder Isabella Schmid both scoring twice. *"The four-year wait taught us how hard you have to work to be champions,"* said Maren Meinert, *"so this victory tastes even sweeter."* ●

# WU17 final round in Switzerland

Like the first three, the fourth edition of the final round of the European Women's Under-17 Championship will take place at the Colovray stadium in Nyon, Switzerland.



The UEFA administration has once again been tasked with organising this final round, which will involve four teams. The holders, Spain, will get the tournament under way in the first semi-final against Iceland on 28 July before, a few hours later, Germany – the winners of the first two editions of the tournament – will enter the fray against France.

The winners of these two matches will meet on 31 July, after the losers have fought it out for the bronze medal.

Various off-field activities are also planned for the tournament, including a visit to UEFA headquarters and a technical skill session. Freebies promoting the competition will be handed out to spectators. ●

## FIFA Women's World Cup Germany 2011

**This summer's main football event will be in Germany, where the world's best women's teams will be vying for the title of world champions.**

In a country long committed to the cause of women's football, the participating teams will find the ideal environment in which to give added impetus to the development of women's football, which has been making constant progress in recent years both in terms of quality and player numbers.

The 16 teams have been divided into four groups and the group matches will be played between 26 June and 6 July. In Group A, European contenders Germany

and France will be up against Canada and Nigeria, while Group B pits England against Mexico, New Zealand and Japan. In Group C, Sweden will take on Colombia, North Korea and the United States, and in Group D, Norway find themselves alongside Equatorial Guinea, Brazil and Australia.

The matches will be played in Augsburg, Berlin, Bochum, Dresden, Frankfurt, Leverkusen, Mönchengladbach, Sinsheim and Wolfsburg. The quarter-finals on 9 and 10 July will be followed by the semi-finals on 13 July, with the third-place match three days later on 16 July, and the final on 17 July in Frankfurt. ●

## FIFA U-20 World Cup Colombia 2011

**Men's football also has a World Cup to look forward to this summer. National Under-20 teams will take part in the competition in Colombia.**

Six European teams earned the right to compete among the 24 finalists, having qualified last year from the final round of the European Under-19 Championship. The draw has placed the European champions, France, in Group A, with Colombia, South Korea and Mali. In Group B, Portugal will go head to head with Uruguay, Cameroon and New Zealand. Spain, in Group C, will play Costa Rica, Ecuador and Australia. Group D will see Croatia take on Saudi Arabia, Nigeria and Guatemala. Austria will take on Panama, Brazil and Egypt in Group E. Finally, in Group F, England will compete with North Korea, Argentina and Mexico.

The group matches will take place between 29 July and 6 August. The round of 16 games will be played on 9 and 10 August, the quarter-finals on 13 and 14, the semi-finals on 17, and the final as well as the third-place match on 20 August in Bogota. ●

### Fair play

## The honours go to northern Europe

**Norway, England and Sweden have taken the top three places in the UEFA Respect Fair Play rankings.**

This means that these three associations benefit from an additional place in the first qualifying round for the 2011/12 UEFA Europa League. This place is to be awarded to the club which won the respective national association's top division fair play competition.

### Rankings:

1. Norway	8.293 points in	66 matches
2. England	8.196 points in	148 matches
3. Sweden	8.180 points in	73 matches
4. Denmark	8.149 points in	85 matches
Iceland	8.149 points in	56 matches
6. Germany	8.145 points in	118 matches

Karla Kick, the Women's World Cup mascot, paid a visit to Sweden, where she met UEFA's honorary president, Lennart Johansson.





# Back to London in 2013

No one can predict whether the UEFA Champions League final in 2013 will reach the same heights as the recent show-stopper between FC Barcelona and Manchester United FC, but one thing is already for sure: the 2013 final will again be played at the prestigious Wembley Stadium.

The UEFA Executive Committee took this decision at its meeting at UEFA's headquarters in Nyon on 16/17 June, chaired by the UEFA president, Michel Platini. This decision to ask The Football Association to host the event again so soon is due to the fact that The FA – the oldest national football association in the world – will be marking its 150th anniversary in 2013, when it will also be 150 years since the Laws of the Game were first drafted and approved. To celebrate this double anniversary in a fitting manner, the 2013 UEFA Congress will also take place in London, during the week leading up to the UEFA Champions League final.

Meanwhile, for the 2013 UEFA Europa League final, the Executive Committee decided to ask the Dutch FA to host it at the Amsterdam Arena.

## UEFA Super Cup in Prague

Still looking ahead to 2013, the committee also agreed on an important change concerning the UEFA Super Cup, which is leaving Monaco, where it has been played since 1998, to adopt the form of a travelling match. Its first stop will be Prague, in 2013. The other elements of the traditional pre-season Monaco event will remain loyal to the principality where, in addition to the group draws for the two UEFA club competitions, a ceremony will take place to honour Europe's top player of the season, in place of the current awards ceremony.

Turning to national team competitions, the Executive Committee approved the draw procedure for the play-offs to determine the last EURO 2012 participants. The venue for the draw is Krakow and the date 13 October. It also approved the procedure for the final draw in Kiev on 2 December.

## EURO 2012 bonuses

Still on the subject of EURO 2012, the committee agreed on the amounts to be distributed to the participating national teams. Each will receive a minimum of €8 million (compared with €7.5m in 2008). Apart from the sum of €1 million which will go to each of the teams that finish third in the groups, all the other amounts are the same as for EURO 2008, i.e. €500,000 for a draw, €1 million for a win, €2 million for reaching the quarter-finals, €3 million for getting through to the semi-finals, €4.5 million for the losing finalist and €7.5 million for the European champions.

Moving from one EURO to the next, the committee increased the number of EURO 2016 host cities from 9 to 11. Matches will thus be played in Bordeaux, Lens, Lille, Lyon, Marseille, Nancy, Nice, Paris, Paris-Saint Denis, Saint Etienne and Toulouse. This expansion is due, in particular, to the increase in the number of final round participants to 24 and the resulting increase in the number of matches, from 31 at EURO 2012 to 51 at EURO 2016.

This Executive Committee meeting was the first to take place since the elections at the UEFA Congress in Paris and the committee therefore welcomed three new members – Sergey Fursenko, Peter Gilliéron and Borislav Mihaylov – as well as the four British associations' new representative on the FIFA Executive Committee, Jim Boyce. Furthermore, following the decision it took at its meeting in Paris, the committee also welcomed Karen Espelund from Norway, the new chairman of the Women's Football Committee, who will now also attend meetings of the Executive Committee. ●



UEFA

The new UEFA Executive Committee



Karen Espelund and Michel Platini

# New sports centre



On 14 May, after 115 years of association history, Serbian football finally got an official home when the sports centre of the Football Association of Serbia (FSS) was inaugurated in the presence of the FSS president, Tomislav Karadžić, the UEFA president, Michel Platini, the FIFA president, Joseph S. Blatter, representatives of the national authorities and guests from over 20 European national football associations, as well as numerous people working in football in Serbia.



A meeting of presidents: Michel Platini (UEFA), Tomislav Karadžić (Serbian FA) and Joseph S. Blatter (FIFA)

The FSS sports centre is located in Stara Pazova, a town 30km away from the capital, Belgrade. It was built thanks to investments from the various different project partners: Stara Pazova provided the land free of charge, UEFA and FIFA significantly contrib-

uted to the construction with their programme funds and the ministry of youth and sport also contributed, while the FSS provided the greatest investment from its own budget.

## Multi-functional premises

The modern, multi-functional centre covers an area of 12 hectares and has six pitches, of which two are artificial. It also contains an 11,000m<sup>2</sup> hotel complex with 64 rooms and 4 suites, as well as a restaurant and conference facilities.

In the sports area, there are eight dressing rooms, a modern gym and an exquisite wellness centre. There is also a multi-functional sports hall, which will be used by futsal teams for training, but is also equipped to be used for other sports activities.

The sports centre will be a place for all Serbian national teams to train and prepare, but it will also be used for the education of coaches, referees, medical staff, members of the FSS administration and all other members of the Serbian football family. Simply put, it will be the home of Serbian football.

## Inauguration day

The inauguration day was carefully prepared and organised. The officials and guests had a tour through the centre before the highest officials planted plane trees as symbols of long life and good luck for the house of Serbian football.

During the ceremony, officials also addressed the guests present. The president of the FSS, Tomislav Karadžić, said: *"The dream of all generations of our football family has been fulfilled with the opening of this centre. It is the base of our optimism for the future. I would like to thank our strategic partners from UEFA and FIFA, and also the ministry of youth and sport. I expect Serbian football to live a better life here and for our children to be led down the right path."*

The UEFA president, Michel Platini, added: *"I remember well a meeting two years ago when we jointly launched the project in Stara Pazova. And what more beautiful example has there been of cooperation with football organisations than that of this fantastic city? I am very proud of the job done."*

The FIFA president, Joseph S. Blatter, said: *"Today, the worldwide football family is proud to have one more wonderful football centre. We are proud to see the contribution we are leaving for future generations."*

At the official dinner, Tomislav Karadžić presented special awards to his esteemed guests in the form of official keys to the sports centre.

Serbia has now managed to fulfil a long-time wish – to provide a home for the most popular sport in the country. The first users of the centre were members of the senior national team, while the day after the inauguration many of the guests, led by the UEFA president, Michel Platini, attended the European Under-17 Championship final in Novi Sad. ●

Aleksandar Boskovic







**Armenia**

www.ffa.am

## Children's tournament

The backing and promotion of grassroots football has a positive impact on football as a whole. Also, by drawing attention to the organisation of mass football tournaments and activities, with the aim of attracting as many children as possible and encouraging them to resume their interest in sport, we are supporting the professional game as well.

The Football Federation of Armenia (FFA) supports all events organised to further the development of football in the country, increase interest in the game and raise its profile.

From 4 April to 22 May, the FFA and Coca-Cola Hellenic co-organised a football tournament for 10 to 12-year-olds from schools around the country. The tournament was held under the supervision of the FFA grassroots department (headed by Marina Tashchyan). Children from the ten provinces of Armenia,

the capital, Yerevan, and Nagorno-Karabakh participated in the tournament. Each team consisted of five boys and three girls, all of whom proved eager to win.

This huge event involved 424 schools, 3,400 children and 424 PE teachers. With the help of FFA representatives Babken Ghaloyan, S. Hakobyan and Lernik Hunanyan, the tournament was organised to a high standard and with great success.

The final and match for third place took place at the stadium of FC Pyunik, with Charentsavan and Ijevan battling it out for third place and Areni playing Vanadzor for the title. After a very tough match, Areni came out on top to become tournament champions.

Brightly coloured sports equipment and kits, happy, smiling children, cheering fans and a concert afterwards helped to create a festive atmosphere. After the final the winning teams were given presents of netbooks,



Areni are crowned tournament champions

iPods, balls and awards by the first vice-president and executive director of the FFA, Armen Minasyan, and the general manager of Coca-Cola Hellenic, Gagik Danielyan. In their message to the players and fans, they emphasised the positive impact of the tournament on Armenian children.

The final was attended by FFA and Coca-Cola Hellenic officials and school directors, and it was even shown on Armenian TV.

● Lala Yeritsyan



**Austria**

www.oefb.at

## Austria eagerly await U-20 World Cup

By finishing third in their group at the 2010 European Under-19 Championship in France, Austria qualified for the FIFA U-20 World Cup for the fourth time, following previous appearances in 1977, 1983 and 2007. There is already a huge sense of anticipation ahead of the tournament in Colombia, where the red and whites will face Panama in their first match during the night of 29 to 30 July, followed by games against Brazil and Egypt. The coaches and players are, of course, already looking forward to these matches, and the same can be said of the fans, who watched Austrian TV coverage in record numbers four years ago when their team reached the semi-finals in Canada.

In the meantime, preparations for the tournament are in full swing, both on and off the pitch. At the beginning of June, a 24-man squad attended a training camp in Marbella, Spain, where head coach Andreas Heraf's



The head coach of the U20s, Andreas Heraf (right), and the team administrator, Walter Konir, alongside former Colombian international Carlos Valderrama at the draw

team was strengthened, among others, by Roger Spry, the internationally renowned conditioning coach from England who helped prepare the Austrian senior team three years ago for UEFA EURO 2008, held on home turf.

Unfortunately, the make-up of the 21-man squad for the matches in Cartagena and Barranquilla does not depend on sporting criteria alone. Since FIFA does not require clubs to release their players for the tournament, much depends on the clubs' goodwill. The Austrian Bundesliga clubs have promised

to release at least one player each. The Austrians could have an excellent squad to pick from, including a number of players with international experience. Players such as David Alaba (the youngest ever full Austrian international, who has already played in the UEFA Champions League for FC Bayern München), Aleksandar Dragovic (with several senior international appearances under his belt and recently crowned Swiss champion with FC Basel), Andreas Weimann (who has played in the UEFA Europa League for Aston Villa), Michael Schimpelsberger (who has UEFA Champions League experience with FC Twente and is now a professional squad member at SK Rapid Wien) and Christoph Knasmüllner (who moved from FC Bayern München to FC Internazionale Milano in the winter) are all eligible.

The Austrian Football Association is publishing the latest news on the preparations on its website at [www.oefb.at/U20WM](http://www.oefb.at/U20WM).

● Peter Klinglmüller



**Azerbaijan**

www.affa.az

## Memorandum signed by AFFA and UNICEF

The Association of Football Federations of Azerbaijan (AFFA) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) are using the power of football to communicate with girls and boys nationwide.

Following negotiations on UNICEF's support of AFFA projects aimed at developing women's football in Azerbaijan, a memorandum of understanding was agreed on by the two organisations. It was signed by the AFFA general secretary, Elkhan Mammadov, and UNICEF's representative in Azerbaijan, Mark Hereward, at AFFA headquarters.

According to the memorandum of understanding, the AFFA and UNICEF will organise a number of projects to increase participation in sport among children and young adults, especially girls, and to promote their awareness of healthy lifestyles. The two organisa-

tions will organise joint training courses for sports school football coaches, with special emphasis on increasing the number of female coaches. These courses will include sessions on healthy lifestyles, life skills, children's rights, etc. Masterclasses for children in all regions of the country are also being given by the Azerbaijan women's U17 team, while another area of cooperation is in supporting girls' teams in the U16 UNICEF girls' league, with games in different regions of Azerbaijan encouraging girls to get into sport. Other events and activities will include summer sports camps and sports festivals aimed at increasing girls' participation in sport. These activities will also increase participation on the part of parents and teachers.

"We believe in the power of football. We believe that sport helps children not only to grow physically strong; it also helps to build confidence and self-esteem that will serve them throughout their lives," said Mark Here-

ward, UNICEF representative in Azerbaijan. "Sport is one of the most powerful ways to teach young people to play fair. It also teaches respect for opponents, team work, tolerance and integrity. It helps young people to reject corruption, drugs, violence and other dangerous behaviour," he added.

"AFFA is pleased to cooperate with UNICEF through a number of different activities and events that will both raise the visibility and popularity of football and contribute to awareness of healthy lifestyles among young people. Definitely, they will also help to attract girls to football," said Elkhan Mammadov, AFFA general secretary. "This partnership is important to AFFA, as it is about not only football, but sport and development in general."

● Ulviyya Najafova



The AFFA general secretary, Elkhan Mammadov (left), and UNICEF representative Mark Hereward seal the deal



Belarus

www.bff.by

## Football for all on Grassroots Day

On 25 May, the whole country celebrated Grassroots Day. In each corner of Belarus people of all ages and all social backgrounds took to the pitch.

One of the events that took place in Minsk was a visit by grassroots football ambassadors to a special school for orphans with health problems. The delegation consisted of coaches of the national youth teams (men's and women's) and was headed by the senior national team head coach, Bernd Stange. For several hours children honed their football skills in groups before a football match between two schools took place.

The first vice-president of the Football Federation of Belarus (BFF), Sergey Safaryan, gave some presents to the school, thanked everyone for taking part and stressed the importance

of such events for the development of grassroots football.

The school director, Elena Rogovtseva, said: "It is very important for such children to feel attention and to know that they are not forgotten. Today I saw some little girls that had never touched a ball before. They hadn't wanted to try before. But the spirit of this day was so great that they started to run and play with the greatest enthusiasm I've ever seen. Their eyes were shining with joy thanks to football. And that's the most important thing."

On 29 May, Neman Grodno and FC Gomel contested the Belarusian Cup final at Tractor stadium in Minsk. With great support from their fans, who came to Minsk in large numbers, FC Gomel scored twice in the second half to win 2-0. As the cup winners, FC Gomel will represent Belarus in the UEFA Europa League next season.

● Yulia Zenkovich



National team coach Bernd Stange takes part in Grassroots Day



Cyprus

www.cfa.com.cy

## Season review in Cyprus

The annual awards ceremony on 19 May concluded another football season in Cyprus.

During the ceremony, all clubs, players and other members of the football family who put on distinguished performances throughout the season were honoured by and in the presence of the president of Cyprus, Dimitris Christofias.

As of 18 May, the Cyprus FA's prestigious cup is decorating AC Omonia Nicosia's showcase. More than 120 minutes of play at the GSZ stadium in Larnaca were needed to secure the trophy, with AC Omonia Nicosia and Apollon Limassol FC locked in a 1-1 draw even after extra

The 2010/11 futsal champions are AC Omonia Nicosia, while the women's champions are Apollon Limassol FC.

The new season will kick off with the super cup match in early August, when APOEL Nicosia FC will play AC Omonia Nicosia on Saturday 6th. Later in August, more precisely during the weekend of 27/28 August, the first matches in the 2011/12 season will be played, with 14 clubs

in the field. For the fifth consecutive year, the league will be played in two phases, with the main competition followed by play-offs.

In the meantime, the Cyprus Football Association is organising a FIFA women's coaching course in June, followed by a FIFA futsal coaching course in July.

● Kyriakos Giorgalllis



Czech Republic

www.fotbal.cz

## Success on all fronts

Czech youth and amateur football has enjoyed a very successful 2010/11, culminating in a particularly busy spring as three national teams prepare to compete for titles in June.

The U21s will try to ensure their participation in the 2012 Olympics by competing in the European Under-21 Championship finals in Denmark, where three of the eight participating teams will earn tickets to London in 2012.

In the European Under-17 Championship, the Czech Republic knocked out Italy, Slovakia and Scotland in the elite round and not only gained third place in their final round group thanks to three draws against Romania, Germany and the Netherlands, but also qualified for the FIFA U-17 World Cup in Mexico in June/July. This is a historic event, it being the first time that the Czech Republic will take part in an U-17 World Cup.

Finally, the Czech Republic will also be represented in the final round of the UEFA Regions' Cup in Portugal in June. This is the reward for players from the Moravian region of Zlín.

The country's unique run of success in European football this year was completed by the Under-19 team in May when they beat Russia, the Netherlands and Israel in the elite round at home to reach the final round of the European Under-19 Championship, to be held in Romania in July.

It is important not to forget futsal when counting the successes, too. The futsal national team has qualified for the UEFA Futsal EURO in Croatia, where they will defend their bronze medals from 2010.

● Jaroslav Kolár



The CFA president, Costakis Koutsokounis (left), presents a certificate to Kikis Constantinou, chairman of FC Anorthosis Famagusta, whose team will be competing in the UEFA Europa League qualifiers

time. Finally the cup went to Omonia after a penalty shoot-out that they won 4-3. This was the 13th domestic cup won by Omonia.

The 2010/11 championship ended with APOEL Nicosia FC winning their 21st title and the right to represent our country in the UEFA Champions League next season.

APOP/Kinyras Peyias FC, Doxa Katokopia FC and AEP Paphos FC have been relegated to our second division, while Aris Limassol FC, Nea Salamis Famagusta FC and Anagennisi Deryneias FC have all been promoted.

AC Omonia Nicosia, Anorthosis Famagusta FC and AEK Larnaca FC will enter the 2011/12 UEFA Europa League.



The U19 national team





**Denmark**

www.dbu.dk

## Young coaches become young leaders

A new project in Danish football is helping young football coaches to develop into leaders. Normally young boys and girls like to spend their weekends relaxing with their friends. But in Denmark 13 football coaches aged 14 to 19 spent two weekends in March at the headquarters of the Danish Football Association (DBU), learning about how to be good leaders.

Benny Würtz and Peter Wagner, who both work in leadership, started the pilot project entitled *Teenager, Sport... and Leader?* The project includes 13 participants and 6 mentors. The DBU is not organising the course itself, but is following it very closely.

*"We teach them communication, coaching and conflict management, and at the same time they get some specific tools useable in everyday situa-*



*Learning to be a leader*

*tions. It is a good thing for them to put on their CV," says Benny Würtz. "The focus is on football coaches because there is a natural leadership*

*role in their job. And because it is a huge challenge to be a leader in sport."*

Poul Gilling, head of education at the DBU, explains that they are curious about the project. *"It has some very interesting perspectives in terms of maintaining audiences in football and in this case the participants can hopefully turn into role models for other young people,"* Gilling says, adding that the DBU is excited to learn more about the project because it runs several leadership courses itself but none for this age group.

And it is not only the DBU that is interested in the initiative; Denmark's national broadcaster, Danmarks Radio, is also following the pilot project closely.

● Maria Bach Jensen / Pia Schou Nielsen



**England**

www.thefa.com

## England U17s visit school in Serbia

England's U17 squad donated a set of footballs to the staff and players of FK Proleter in Novi Sad, Serbia, during the European U17 Championship finals in May.

John Peacock's team reached the semi-finals of the competition and had been using FK Proleter's



*England's U17s and their young Serbian supporters*

home stadium facilities for training and preparations throughout their time in Serbia.

The Young Lions also met children from local school OS Svetozar Markovic Toza as part of the Stronger Together campaign initiated by the Serbian FA and supported by UEFA.

Aiming to raise awareness against racism, chauvinism and intolerance in order to create a positive atmosphere at the games, the campaign also looked to promote Serbian culture and traditions and to familiarise the local public with the culture and traditions of the various countries competing there.

The school created a banner in support of England, which was displayed at their games, and there was even an exchange of gifts. The England squad presented a signed pennant, two shirts, pens and pins to the youngsters. In turn, the school presented captain Nathaniel Chalobah and head coach John Peacock with a commemorative plaque and the rest of the squad with a goodie bag each.

● Nick Veevers



**Hungary**

www.mlsz.hu

## Historic victories for Videoton FC and Kecskeméti TE

In 110 years of Hungarian football, Videoton FC had never before won the domestic title. Although the Szekesfehevar-based team are famous for their UEFA Cup campaign of 1984/85, when they finished runner-ups, this is the first time the red and blue side have celebrated a national championship title. The coach that helped them there, György Mezey, left at the end of the season and now it is his successor's job to lead the team to the UEFA Champions League group phase within the next three years, ideally this summer. The new man in charge is Paulo Sousa, the former Portuguese international who won the top European title with Juventus and Borussia Dortmund in 1996 and 1997 and has experience as a coach working in England.

Kecskeméti TE also achieved something special this season, when the second-division club won their first ever Hungarian Cup after beating Videoton 3-2 in the Budapest final. As a result,

Serbian Tomislav Sivic's side will enter the UEFA Europa League together with league runners-up Paks SE (also a great result for the Paks-based side) and Ferencvárosi TC.

● Márton Dinnyes



*The people Szekesfehevar pay tribute to the players of Videoton*

## DVD for Grassroots Day



*Aron Einar Gunnarsson, who plays for the Icelandic national team and English club Coventry City, distributes DVDs to the children of Dalvík*

On 25 May, UEFA Grassroots Day was celebrated throughout Europe for the second time. The Football Association of Iceland (KSI) took part in the event and released a DVD called *Tækniskóli KSI* (Technical School of the FA of Iceland).

About 100 great technical exercises are included on the DVD so that children can practise on their own with the ball and work on their technical skills. The DVD features young footballers performing the exercises with players from our men's and women's national teams, as well as interviews with some of Iceland's finest footballers, giving viewers lots of good advice.

This DVD is being offered as a gift to all footballers in Iceland aged 16 and under. Players and coaches from the men's and women's senior national teams and the men's U21 team are visiting the youngsters during their club training sessions to present them with copies.

The aim of the DVD is to have a positive impact on the lives of children playing in football in Iceland, to encourage them to lead healthy lives, to give them more exercises to do with and without the ball and to provide visibly healthy role models.

This project has been received with open arms by promising young players all over the country and well-established players and coaches have been more than happy to visit the youngsters and talk to them about the benefits of extra training.

● Thorvaldur Ingimundarson



**Italy**  
www.figc.it

## FIGC celebrates 50 years of Panini

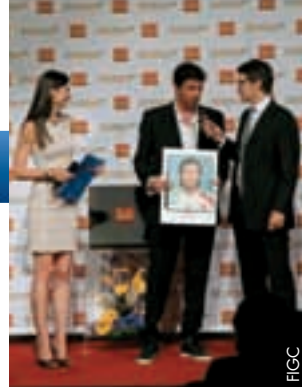
The Panini company recently organised a big party in Milan to celebrate 50 years of production of its iconic pictures. In the historic, evocative Clerici Palace, the company CEO, Aldo Sallustro, paid tribute to the founders of the Panini family firm. From their kiosk in the centre of Modena, brothers Benito and Giuseppe began to give out individual unsold pictures. The kiosk was open all day long, recalled Umberto, the last of the eight brothers, who attended the evening's celebration. The little envelopes, which they made themselves, were so successful that they were able to begin producing them as a family business. In 1961, the first album and the sale of 15 million packets signalled the start of a huge phenomenon that quickly became known throughout the world and has never stopped since. The first printed image was dedicated to Inter captain Bruno Bolchi, remembers Umberto, who joined the company in 1963 at the same time as the fourth brother, Franco. In those days, dealing with the international market meant embarking on very long and expensive journeys, but it was

worth it according to Umberto, whose face still lights up with the enthusiasm of a man who has devoted his whole life to the family firm.

As far as singling out pictures from the past is concerned, he particularly mentions that of former Atalanta, Rome, Hellas Verona and Milan goalkeeper Pier Luigi Pizzaballa. The picture was so hard to track down it drove collectors mad, including several of the party guests. The Panini management maintained that they had printed equal numbers of every picture, but the cat was finally let out of the bag when the special guest of the evening confessed that he had bought them all himself and swapped them at a ratio of at least ten to one!

The evening provided an opportunity to present awards to footballing greats past and present, selected through the Top Team Panini 50 poll launched last year, in which 400,000 people from all over Italy and a panel of journalists and experts chose their favourite footballers from a list of 300 compiled from 15,000 pictures of Serie A players from 1961/62 to the present day. A squad of 18 players was chosen, comprising a starting 11 and 7 substitutes. The player who obtained the most votes was Juventus and

Gianluigi Buffon topped the Top Team Panini 50 poll



Italy goalkeeper Gianluigi Buffon, who received more than 20,000.

The guests were also provided with entertainment and heard former greats such as Luis Suarez, Franco Baresi and Riccardo Ferri reminisce about their playing days. The president of the Italian FA (FIGC), Giancarlo Abete, was an enthusiastic participant in the evening's festivities, alongside famous guests including FC Internazionale Milano president Massimo Moratti, AC Milan CEO Adriano Galliani, Serie A president Maurizio Beretta and managing director Marco Brunelli, Serie B managing director Paolo Bedin, new footballers' association president Damiano Tommasi and honorary president Sergio Campana. The coaches' association was represented by Renzo Ulivieri.

● Barbara Moschini



**Kazakhstan**  
www.kff.kz

## President's Cup in Astana

The annual international youth football tournament known as the Kazakhstan President's Cup was held in Astana on 25 to 30 April. This year



Azerbaijan, winners of the international youth tournament

the Football Federation of Kazakhstan (KFF) decided to change the tournament format. Previously, the participants were mainly club teams; this year national U17 teams were invited to the Kazakhstan capital. The eight teams, which were divided into two groups, represented Kazakhstan, Turkey, Ukraine, Azerbaijan, Uzbekistan, Georgia, Armenia and Iran. Group winners Azerbaijan and Ukraine competed in the final, which took place at Kazakhstan's national stadium, the Astana Arena, where all tournament matches were in fact held. 10,000 fans witnessed a breathtaking game that ended in a 0-0 draw. The penalty shoot-out was a success for Azerbaijan, winners of the 2011 Kazakhstan President's Cup. In previous years the cup was lifted by Besiktas (Turkey), Ole Brazil (Brazil) and the Serbian U17 team.

Later, on 12 May, Kazakhstan football stars played a match to mark the 70th birthday of legendary Kazakhstan player Timur Segizbayev.

"Dear friends, fans. I am so thankful to all of you. All that I did on the football pitch was my

best. In playing I tried to bring you joy. If a player contributes fully to the game, the stadium will always be full. I wish for players to achieve their full potential and for you, the fans, to come to the stadium and support your teams," Timur Segizbayev said, before taking the symbolic first kick.

The well-known former player, coach and official who has held the position of KFF president and general secretary in the past accepted heartfelt congratulations from his colleagues, friends and apprentices. The current KFF president, Adilbek Jaxybekov, former USSR national team defender Seilda Baishakov, 1988 Olympic champion Yevgeniy Yarovenko, FC Kairat's top goalscorer in the USSR championship, Yevstafiy Pekhlevanidi, and many other well-known players all made an appearance, to the delight of football fans. As usual for matches at this level, the game ended in a draw.

● Alexandr Keplin



**Latvia**  
www.lff.lv

## First matches abroad for journalists' team

Latvia's national journalists' football team visited Lithuania in May for their first ever away games. Journalists from various media travelled to the furthest part of Latvia's southern neighbour for a tournament in Druskininkai, Lithuania.

Latvia managed to secure five points in the nine-team round-robin competition, but nevertheless finished in eighth position overall. This was the sixth tournament of its kind, but a first for the Latvian team. Teams from Poland, Ukraine, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Russia and Lithuania all participated in the competition, which the Poles won. The Latvian journalists' team travelled to Lithuania with the kind support of Latvian Football Federation (LFF) sponsors Latvijas Mobilais Telefons and Nordea Bank.

In other news, the Aleksandrs Starkovs youth talent agency, created by the Nordea Bank and now housed at the newly built, LFF-owned football base in Staicele, continued to gather pace for the second year in a row. Also, earlier in May the chairman of Latvijas Mobilais Telefons, Juris Binde, presented the O!Karte timekeeper at the base and a declaration of intent was signed with Aloja district council to build social housing for sports veterans in Staicele.

A 'football day' festival took place on 15 May, when the entire Latvian football family was invited to play on the same day in celebration of the LFF's 90th anniversary.

The Baltic League final, featuring two Latvian clubs – FK Ventspils and Skonto FC – on 19 June is the icing on the cake for the LFF in its 90th anniversary year.

● Martins Hartmanis



The Latvian journalists' team compete abroad for the first time



## Girls on the ball

*Mädchen am Ball* ('Girls on the ball') is the name of the campaign launched a few weeks ago by the Liechtenstein Football Association (LFV) to promote girls' football in the country. The aim of the campaign is to set up girls' national teams in the medium term and, as a logical consequence, to create a full women's national team that will take part in qualifying for European Championships and Women's World Cups.

Women's football in Liechtenstein, at least in terms of international competition, is still in its infancy. Some club teams have been in existence for many years, but there have never yet been national teams in any age group. That could all

be about to change though, as the LFV wants to use the *Mädchen am Ball* campaign initially to strengthen the grassroots of the women's game in Liechtenstein, so as to then create sufficient potential at the highest levels. As part of the campaign, girls of primary school age were invited to take part in six taster training sessions to get a feel for the sport without any kind of commitment in the hope that they would then think about joining one of the country's clubs.

The taster sessions took place between 11 May and 1 June in six different municipalities, under the supervision of Monika Zuppiger, the LFV's technical director for women's football. The campaign is also being supported in the media, both through billboard posters and radio and TV



Encouraging more girls to play football

advertising. The LFV is confident of attracting many new female players and, in so doing, of taking a step forward for girls' and women's football in Liechtenstein.

● Anton Banzer



The Filip II Macedonian Stadium

## New national arena in Skopje

On 24 April, Easter Sunday, the new temple of football in FYR Macedonia, the Filip II Macedonian Stadium, was officially opened.

In the presence of representatives of the government, headed by the prime minister, Nikola Gruevski, and representatives of the national football association, led by its president, Hari Hadzi-Risteski, a special programme of events was organised for the official opening of the most beautiful stadium in the Balkans, which has a capacity of 32,580.

The construction of the arena started way back in 1978 but it did not get far. The arena then

waited 33 years for completion, with work resuming in 2009. Investments in the project amounted to €50 million, €1 million of which was invested by the Football Federation of FYR Macedonia through UEFA and the Win in Europe programme.

To complete the arena, the south stand had to be reconstructed and north, east and west stands built. The next phase will involve relaying the football pitch and athletics track.

The national arena hosted its first international match following the official opening when the Republic of Ireland visited Skopje for a EURO 2012 qualifier on 4 June.

● Zoran Nikolovski

## More competitions for youngsters

The grassroots programme initiated by UEFA has had, and continues to have, the full backing of the Malta Football Association (MFA). The aim is simple: widespread participation in football by youngsters.

The Maltese youth football association (YFA), a member association of the MFA, is fully immersed in organising festivals and competitions for footballers from an early age, its mission statement being "I love football".

Competitions in the Under-14 category upwards are held regularly under the auspices of the YFA, with the MFA taking over for the Under-18 and Under-19 levels.

Younger age groups, backed by 'football nurseries' organised and licensed according to UEFA requirements, are catered for in a separate way,

where non-competitive, fun football festivals are the order of the day.

However, as of next season the MFA is expanding its competitions to include the Under-13 category, by means of a new championship organised at national level by the MFA and the YFA together.

The main aim of this competition, which will also convey the principle of fun and enjoyment, is

to provide youngsters with an opportunity to develop their talent in a team setting and a healthy environment.

The MFA is certain that this new venture will be beneficial for the future of the game on the Mediterranean island. Tomorrow's top footballers and upright citizens are created by such initiatives.

● Alex Vella

## FC Iskra-Stal win Moldovan Cup

The 20th Orange Moldovan Cup final on 26 May in Chisinau pitted FC Iskra-Stal against FC Olimpia Balti. Interestingly, neither team had ever reached the final before. After a dramatic match, FC Iskra-Stal came out on top with a final score of 2-1. The Iskra-Stal goals were scored by Oleksandr Suchu from Ukraine in the 11th minute and Moldova's Eugeniu Gorodetchi in the 25th minute. Olimpia's consolation goal was scored by Gheorghe Ovseannicov in the 22nd minute.

The match was attended by the Moldovan prime minister, Vlad Filat, and at the official ceremony after the match, the Iskra-Stal captain, Nicolae Rudac, was presented with the trophy by the president of the Football Association of Moldova, Pavel Cebanu.

"We are very happy to have won the final and earned a place in the Europa League. This is a

big day in the club's history and I hope we will have more good games and trophies in the future," said Iskra-Stal's coach, Valerii Chalyi.

● Press office



The MFA is dedicated to nurturing young players



FC Iskra-Stal lift the Moldovan Cup



## Netherlands

www.knvb.nl

### 86 years of loyal membership

Aged 96, Jo Witteveen is the longest standing member of the Football Association of the Netherlands (KNVB) on record. He joined his local football club, Be Quick Zutphen, 86 years ago and never even thought of quitting. His lifetime spent at the club is exemplary of how many football players grow up with a club and dedicate themselves as volunteers. Witteveen is now 96 but still loves the game as much as when he started playing. "I have grown old. Walking is not as easy as it used to be," Witteveen says ruefully.

He started playing football when he was 11. "All the boys from my neighborhood joined the club so there was little else for me to do." The youngster was apparently a talented player as he

joined the club's first team only a couple of years on. Unfortunately, a knee injury prevented him from playing football at top amateur level. For two years Jo watched from the sidelines and he decided to continue his career in the lower ranks, to play sociably at least.

He played until he was well over 40 and then started doing all sorts of regular club chores. He was appointed to several committees and joined the board. "I have never been a coach of a team, but all the other jobs in the club hold no secrets for me," he admits with a smile.

This most loyal of club members never felt the need to even look at what other clubs in the area had to offer him. "You know," he says, "Be Quick is a wonderful club. I have always enjoyed myself here." He still visits the club occasionally



Jo Witteveen, a role model for club loyalty

to watch senior players on Sunday mornings. And then on Sunday evenings he sits down in front of the TV to watch the highlights from the Dutch premiership. "I still follow the Dutch League and the UEFA Champions League. That's the best football on offer."

● Rob de Leede



## Northern Ireland

www.irishfa.com

### Branded bibs for excellence centres

Stena Line Irish Sea Ferries, who operate the Belfast-Liverpool route, recently presented the Irish FA with branded bibs to be used in the six Stena Line Irish Sea Ferries Excellence Centres that are located throughout the province.

The bibs are being used not only at the excellence centres in Northern Ireland, but also further afield. Already they have been used by representative squads that travelled to Luxembourg to play two games against the Luxembourg U14 team, England to play two games against Burnley Youth squads and France to take part in an international youth tournament.

The Irish FA's county performance manager, Nigel Best, said: "The Irish FA is grateful to Stena Line Irish Sea Ferries for providing the bibs for our development squads. The excellence centres are a key element in our performance strategy, focus-

ing on identifying and coaching talented boys and girls throughout Northern Ireland, and companies like Stena Line Irish Sea Ferries help us to ensure our centres go from strength to strength."

● Sueann Harrison



Nigel Best, IFA manager, and Diane Poole, head of passenger services at Stena Line Irish Sea Ferries



## Republic of Ireland

www.fai.ie

### A new mini-pitch in Dublin

The Football Association of Ireland (FAI) welcomes UEFA's recent donation of a new mini-pitch in Dublin.

The mini-pitch was donated by UEFA to the FAI and Dublin city council to mark their hosting of the 2011 UEFA Europa League final. The pitch is in addition to the 64 mini-pitches which have been built in communities throughout Ireland in conjunction with UEFA, the FAI, the department of transport, tourism and sport and 26 local authorities.

The multi-sport facility will be used by the FAI and Dublin city council's co-funded development officers to promote the development of grassroots football in the community. The facility is freely accessible to the public and will also be used by local schools and clubs.

The FAI's chief executive, John Delaney, said: "The mini-pitch programme which has been rolled out nationwide over the past four years with assistance from the UEFA HatTrick programme, the department of transport, tourism and sport and local authorities has been very successful in placing facilities in the heart of communities the length and breadth of the country."

"The mini-pitch opening in Dublin city, which is being entirely funded by UEFA to mark the hosting of the Europa League final, is another welcome development and underlines the commitment of UEFA, and the FAI and Dublin city council as joint bid partners, to leave a legacy for the people of Dublin."

Meanwhile, ahead of the UEFA Europa League final at the Dublin Arena, the Republic of Ireland manager, Giovanni Trapattoni, paid a visit to Crumlin Children's Hospital with the UEFA Europa League trophy, where he met hundreds of children and their families.

● Fran Whearty



Giovanni Trapattoni shows the UEFA Europa League trophy to a young patient at Crumlin Children's Hospital



## Poland

www.pzpn.pl

### Support for Special Olympics

For many years, the Polish Football Association (PZPN) has supported Special Olympics, an organisation whose mission is to support the development of people with learning difficulties, among others, through participation in sports competitions.

A cooperation agreement between the Polish branch of Special Olympics and the PZPN was signed in April 2008 at a press conference dedicated to the Special Olympics European Football Week. Last year, the chairman of the PZPN, Grzegorz Lato, signed a similar agreement with the organisers of the Special Olympics European Summer Games.

One of the ways used to promote the Olympics European Summer Games and the PZPN's commitment is to get children involved in the national team's friendly matches by having them accompany the players onto the pitch dressed in Special Olympics T-shirts and holding Special Olympics flags.

In 2010, a Special Olympics representative spoke at an international coaches' conference organised by the PZPN on coaching children and young people in Europe. The PZPN's regional coordinators in charge of UEFA grassroots programme activities regularly collaborate with Special Olympics coordinators, in particular on the

organisation of tournaments for disabled people. Their collaboration has become ever closer and was highlighted this year on 25 May, when UEFA Grassroots Day was celebrated in Poland for the second time.

This year, those working with disabled people were involved in the PZPN's training of coaches. "Within the framework of the courses organised through this programme, we intend to create exercises which will also take into account disabled people," said Tomasz Zabielski, coordinator of the association's grassroots programme. The PZPN want disabled people to enjoy and benefit from football too.

The UEFA grassroots programme, which the PZPN has been involved in for more than two years, promotes amateur football as a sport that is accessible to all, independent of age, sex, skin colour, social standing, skill and intellect. The PZPN participates in this grassroots programme because it shares the belief that the prosperity of football is tied to its popularity and the ability for everyone to benefit from it. The PZPN's cooperation with Special Olympics is just one of the measures taken by the association to share football with as many people as possible, including disabled people, by remaining faithful to the slogan Together for Football.

● Press Department





**Sweden**

www.svenskfotboll.se



This fan's violent behaviour in Malmo could earn him a fine and a year-long stadium ban

## Stronger measures against hooliganism required

The Swedish FA is pleading with the government for sterner legal measures against hooliganism. Early in the season, two games in the Allsvenskan have already had to be abandoned due to crowd trouble and fireworks. Disciplinary measures against the clubs involved have failed to prevent further incidents.

*"We need the government's help now. Football invests ever increasing amounts of money and effort into security measures, but we also need the legal means to deal with the kind of criminals who don't care about the harm they cause. Criminals need to be dealt with*

*by the police and the courts. It's time to adopt some of the measures used by other countries who have successfully dealt with hooliganism,"* says the president of the Swedish FA, Lars-Ake Lagrell.

Effective banning orders are a top priority. Currently Swedish clubs can apply in court to have troublemakers banned for a maximum of one year, but in a catch-22 situation they are not allowed to keep special files on those banned, which in effect makes the hard-fought ban almost impossible to enforce. The Swedish government has appointed a special coordinator to investigate the matter and he is expected to present his report in 2013.

● Andreas Nilsson



**Switzerland**

www.football.ch

## Leagues to be restructured from 2012/13

At its annual general meeting, the Swiss Football Association agreed, by a large majority, on a new Swiss league structure from the 2012/13 season. The key change is undoubtedly the reduction of the Challenge League (second division) from 16 to 10 teams and the introduction of a new 16-team upper first division between this and the next league down (the classic first division). The classic first division will, in turn, be split into three groups of 14 teams, instead of the current 16.

After next season, which will be a transitional one, six teams will be relegated from the Challenge League to the new upper first division, where they will be joined by six teams promoted from the classic first division and the four strongest Under-21 teams. After this transitional period one team a season will be relegated from the Challenge League, to be replaced by one promoted side. With the current play-offs between the team finishing second from bottom in the Super League and second from top in the Challenge League also being abolished, only one team a season will be relegated from the Super League too, while one team is promoted.

These measures are designed to enhance the Challenge League. The president of the Swiss FA, Peter Gilliérion, hopes that they will both improve the financial situation of the Challenge League



Peter Gilliérion,  
president of the  
Swiss FA

clubs and encourage the inclusion of promising young players in their teams.

The annual general meeting also re-elected Peter Gilliérion by acclamation for a further two-year term as president, a post to which he was promoted from that of general secretary two years ago when he succeeded Ralph Zloczower. After his election, Gilliérion expressed hope *"that the senior national team will manage to qualify for EURO 2012"*. At the same time, he was hopeful that the U21 national team would perform well at the forthcoming European Under-21 Championship finals in Denmark and thereby qualify for the Olympic Games, and that the women's U19 team would enjoy success in their European Championship final round. *"We must also continue to support the clubs in their day-to-day activities and fight against violence with the help of the public authorities,"* said Peter Gilliérion, who intends to continue to put maximum effort into both top-level and grassroots football.

● Pierre Benoit



**Ukraine**

www.ffu.org.ua

## Media masterclass with Pierluigi Collina

The Football Federation of Ukraine hosted a somewhat unique seminar for local TV commentators and journalists at its headquarters at the end of May, when Pierluigi Collina, the man charged with supervising refereeing in Ukraine, explained to them the foundations and subtleties of modern refereeing.

Having analysed Ukrainian TV and radio commentaries and articles in the press and on the Internet, the former top referee was a little concerned that representatives of the mass media gave mistaken, or at least very subjective, interpretations of the action of referees. In his opinion, this disorientated the Ukrainian fans, who trust journalists. As a result, Pierluigi Collina proposed an open dialogue – the most efficient form of communication – which would, above all, enhance the professional standing of the journalists themselves.

Nearly 40 journalists from leading TV stations, media companies, newspapers and websites took part in the seminar. During the event, which lasted nearly three hours, the Ukrainian referees' supervisor presented the FIFA and UEFA recommendations on interpreting the Laws of the Game and illustrated everything he said with videos from Ukrainian premier league matches, taking the time afterwards to answer all the participants' questions.

● Dmytro Sobko



Pierluigi Collina  
addresses the  
media in Ukraine



**Wales**

www.faw.org.uk

## On the road again

During the summer, the Football Association of Wales (FAW) will be taking to the road and visiting various shows and events throughout the principality.

A brand new exhibition trailer has been kitted out to look like part of the team dressing room and the latest audiovisual aids will be used to help enhance the football experience provided, while coaches and players also put on coaching demonstrations. Wales manager, Gary Speed, will be in attendance at many of the events.

Wales has a tradition of outdoor festivals during the summer and the FAW will be represented at many of this year's, including the Eisteddfod for youngsters in Swansea, one of the venues for the final tournament of the European Women's Under-19 Championship in 2013.

● Ceri Stennett



A travelling dressing room to promote the game

# Birthdays

## BIRTHDAYS IN JULY

Honorary UEFA member **Des Casey** (Republic of Ireland) is turning 80 on 31 July. **Raymond Kennedy** (Northern Ireland), vice-chairman of the Fair Play and Social Responsibility Committee, is celebrating his 70th on 8 July. **Haralampie Hadji-Risteski** (FYR Macedonia), vice-chairman of the Futsal and Beach Soccer Committee, is celebrating his 60th on 24 July. And finally, referee observer **Valentin Ivanov** (Russia) and Control and Disciplinary Body member **Joël Wolff** (Luxembourg) turn 50 on 4 and 31 July respectively.

UEFA also wishes many happy returns in July to:

**Frédéric Thiriez** (France, 1.7)  
**Antonie Marinus Verhagen** (Netherlands, 1.7)  
**Frank De Bleeckere** (Belgium, 1.7)  
**Marinus Koopman** (Netherlands, 2.7)  
**Domingos Gomes Dias** (Portugal, 3.7)  
**Bertrand Layec** (France, 3.7)  
**Antonio Matarrese** (Italy, 4.7)  
**Neale Barry** (England, 4.7)  
**Roland Ospelt** (Liechtenstein, 4.7)  
**Martin Maleck** (Switzerland, 8.7)  
**Paul Allaerts** (Belgium, 9.7)  
**Yordan Letchkov** (Bulgaria, 9.7)  
**Murad Mammadov** (Azerbaijan, 10.7)  
**Nina Hedlund** (Norway, 11.7)  
**Ilija Stoilov** (FYR Macedonia, 11.7)  
**Edo Trivkovic** (Croatia, 11.7)  
**Günter Benkö** (Austria, 12.7)  
**Carlo Tavecchio** (Italy, 13.7)  
**Maria Teresa Costa** (Portugal, 13.7)  
**Alex Horne** (England, 13.7)  
**Elke Günthner** (Germany, 14.7)  
**Vladimir Petr** (Slovakia, 15.7)  
**Ben Veenbrink** (Netherlands, 15.7)  
**Johannes Malka** (Germany, 16.7)  
**Ernst Nigg** (Liechtenstein, 16.7)  
**Lars Lagerbäck** (Sweden, 16.7)  
**Jiri Ulrich** (Czech Republic, 16.7)  
**Giuseppe Mifsud-Bonnici** (Malta, 17.7)  
**Antonia Kokotou** (Greece, 17.7)  
**Alistair MacLean** (England, 18.7)  
**Vicente Muñoz Castillo** (Spain, 19.7)

**Paolo Pecorari** (Italy, 19.7)  
**Kari Iuell** (Norway, 19.7)  
**Alfredo Trentalange** (Italy, 19.7)  
**Vladimir Radionov** (Russia, 21.7)  
**Boris Voskresensky** (Ukraine, 22.7)  
**Michel Wuilleret** (Switzerland, 22.7)  
**Nico Romeijn** (Netherlands, 22.7)  
**Balazs Makray** (Hungary, 22.7)  
**Bontcho Todorov** (Bulgaria, 23.7)  
**Pavel Malovic** (Slovakia, 23.7)  
**Mario Gallavotti** (Italy, 25.7)  
**Ferenc Ragadics** (Hungary, 25.7)  
**Arno P. Sargsyan** (Armenia, 25.7)  
**Jacob Erel** (Israel, 26.7)  
**Alfred Ludwig** (Austria, 26.7)  
**Adilbek Jaxybekov** (Kazakhstan, 26.7)  
**David I. Bowen** (Northern Ireland, 26.7)  
**Jeff Davis** (England, 27.7)  
**Björn Ahlberg** (Sweden, 28.7)  
**Stefan Tivold** (Slovenia, 28.7)  
**João Leal** (Portugal, 30.7)  
**Cenk Cem** (Turkey, 31.7)

## BIRTHDAYS IN AUGUST

**Plarent Kotherja** (Albania), referee observer, turns 60 on 8 August. He is joined on 19 August by **František Laurinec** (Slovakia), member of the UEFA Executive Committee, and on 22 August by **Kazimierz Oleszek** (Poland), match delegate. Meanwhile, **Piet Hubers** (Netherlands), member of the Grassroots Panel, is celebrating his 50th on 6 August.

UEFA also wishes many happy returns in August to:

**Sheila Begbie** (Scotland, 1.8)  
**Kimmo Lipponen** (Finland, 1.8)  
**Luciano Luci** (Italy, 2.8)  
**Mehmet Süheyl Önen** (Turkey, 2.8)  
**Andreas Schluchter** (Switzerland, 3.8)  
**Zdravko Jokic** (Serbia, 4.8)  
**Lamberto Perugia** (Italy, 5.8)  
**David A. Gill** (England, 5.8)  
**Aleh Chykun** (Belarus, 5.8)  
**Pierino L. G. Lardi** (Switzerland, 7.8)  
**Marcel Vanelshocht** (Belgium, 8.8)  
**Peter Donald** (Scotland, 8.8)  
**Olivier Henry** (Belgium, 8.8)  
**Florian Prunea** (Romania, 8.8)  
**Nico de Pauw** (Belgium, 8.8)

**Odd Flattum** (Norway, 9.8)  
**Roy Hodgson** (England, 9.8)  
**Urs Vogel** (Switzerland, 11.8)  
**Emil Kostadinov** (Bulgaria, 12.8)  
**Jean-Marc Puisseuseau** (France, 13.8)  
**Roger Vanden Stock** (Belgium, 13.8)  
**Joseph Mifsud** (Malta, 13.8)  
**Cornel Cristian Bivolaru** (Romania, 13.8)  
**Anthony Hickey** (Switzerland, 13.8)  
**Patrick Willemarck** (Belgium, 13.8)  
**George Pandelea-Dobrovicescu** (Romania, 14.8)  
**Jacques Lagnier** (France, 16.8)  
**Nils Skutle** (Norway, 16.8)  
**Victor Beceiro** (Spain, 16.8)  
**Bente Skogvang** (Norway, 17.8)  
**Danijel Jost** (Slovenia, 18.8)  
**Vitalijs Liholajs** (Latvia, 19.8)  
**Mordechai Shpigler** (Israel, 19.8)  
**Patricia Grégory** (England, 19.8)  
**Johannes Reijwart** (Netherlands, 19.8)  
**Graham Hover** (England, 19.8)  
**Per Ravn Omdal** (Norway, 20.8)  
**Carmelo Bartolo** (Malta, 21.8)  
**Hasan Ceylan** (Turkey, 22.8)  
**Geoffrey Thompson** (England, 23.8)  
**Ioannis Economides** (Greece, 23.8)  
**Demetrio Albertini** (Italy, 23.8)  
**Enrique Gonzalez Ruano** (Spain, 24.8)  
**David Delferiere** (Belgium, 24.8)  
**Nicolae Grigorescu** (Romania, 24.8)  
**Thomas Slosarich** (Denmark, 24.8)  
**Bert Andertsson** (Sweden, 25.8)  
**Giancarlo Abete** (Italy, 26.8)  
**Regina Konink-Belksma** (Netherlands, 26.8)  
**Alexander Manfré** (Malta, 27.8)  
**Karl Hopfner** (Germany, 28.8)  
**Joseph McGlue** (Republic of Ireland, 28.8)  
**Vincent Egbers** (Netherlands, 29.8)  
**Leo Windtner** (Austria, 30.8)  
**Charles John Grundie** (Northern Ireland, 30.8)  
**Christer Fällström** (Sweden, 31.8)  
**Cristel Brorsson** (Sweden, 31.8)  
**Christoph Kollmeier** (Germany, 31.8)  
**Pedro Dias** (Portugal, 31.8)



# Forthcoming events

## Meetings

### 6.7.2011, Nyon

UEFA Futsal Cup: draws for the preliminary and main rounds of the competition

### 15.7.2011, Nyon

UEFA Champions League/UEFA Europa League: draws for the third qualifying rounds

### 5.8.2011, Nyon

UEFA Champions League/UEFA Europa League: draws for the play-offs

### 23.8.2011, Nyon

UEFA Women's Champions League: draws for the rounds of 32 and 16

### 25.8.2011, Monaco

UEFA Champions League: group stage draw

### 26.8.2011, Monaco

UEFA Europa League: group stage draw

### 29-31.8.2011, Nyon

Summer course for referees and assistant referees

### 31.8/1.9.2011, Nyon

Elite club coaches' forum

## Competitions

### 5/6.7.2011

UEFA Champions League: first qualifying round (return legs)

### 7.7.2011

UEFA Europa League: first-qualifying round (return legs)

### 12/13.7.2011

UEFA Champions League: second qualifying round (first legs)

### 14.7.2011

UEFA Europa League: second qualifying round (first legs)

### 19/20.7.2011

UEFA Champions League: second qualifying round (return legs)

### 20.7-1.8.2011, Romania

European Under-19 Championship: final round

### 21.7.2011

UEFA Europa League: second qualifying round (return legs)

### 26/27.7.2011

UEFA Champions League: third qualifying round (first legs)

### 28.7.2011

UEFA Europa League: third qualifying round (first legs)

### 28-31.7.2011, Nyon

European Women's Under-17 Championship: final round

### 29.7-20.8.2011, Colombia

FIFA U-20 World Cup

### 2/3.8.2011

UEFA Champions League: third qualifying round (return legs)

### 4.8.2011

UEFA Europa League: third qualifying round (return legs)

### 11-16.8.2011

UEFA Women's Champions League: qualifying round

### 13-21.8.2011

UEFA Futsal Cup: preliminary round

### 16/17.8.2011

UEFA Champions League: play-offs (first legs)

### 18.8.2011

UEFA Europa League: play-offs (first legs)

### 23/24.8.2011

UEFA Champions League: play-offs (return legs)

### 25.8.2011

UEFA Europa League: play-offs (return legs)

### 26.8.2011, Monaco

UEFA Super Cup

## Notice

■ On 21 May, Peter Gilliéron, UEFA Executive Committee member, was re-elected president of the Swiss FA for a further two years.

■ The suspension imposed on the Bosnia and Herzegovina Football Federation (NFSBiH) on 1 April was lifted by FIFA and UEFA at the end of May after the NFSBiH adopted new, FIFA and UEFA-compliant statutes.

## Match agents

UEFA has issued licences to the following match agents:

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In addition, **Joachim Schön** (Germany) and **Iñigo Ocariz Gaubeca** (Spain) have had their licences extended for eight years.

## OBITUARY

Former Scottish FA secretary **Ernest Walker** passed away on 14 May at the age of 82 after a long illness. He enjoyed a long and distinguished career as a UEFA official and was acknowledged, in particular, as an expert on stadium matters. He was a member of the UEFA Stadia Committee (subsequently the Stadium and Security Committee) from its creation in 1985, serving as its chairman from 1990 to 2004. 'Ernie' Walker was also a member of the Board of Appeal (1978-82), the Committee for the UEFA Club Competitions (1982-92), the transfer experts' group (1988-98), the transfer pool (1996-2000), the ad hoc board for technical and administrative assistance to East European associations (1990-96), the board of the East European Assistance Bureau (1994-98) and the Development and Assistance Committee (1998-2000). In 2002 he received the UEFA Order of Merit in Diamond, and in 2004, he was honoured with the UEFA President's Award in recognition of his special contribution to football.



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