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No. 120 | August 2012



IN THIS ISSUE

Official publication of the
Union des associations
européennes de football

Chief editor:
André Viel

Produced by:
Atema Communication SA,
CH-1196 Gland

Printing:
Artgraphic Cavin SA,
CH-1422 Grandson

Editorial deadline:
9 August 2012

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QUALIFIERS FOR THE 2014 WORLD CUP

4

All 53 UEFA national associations will be in the starting lineup in September for one of the 13 places up for grabs for European teams in the 2014 World Cup in Brazil, including the title holders, Spain.



ANOTHER TITLE FOR SPAIN

6

Spain claimed their sixth European title at U18/19 level with victory in Estonia.



SWEDEN WIN THE WOMEN'S UNDER-19 CHAMPIONSHIP

8

By beating Spain in the final in Antalya (Turkey), Sweden won the European Women's U19 title for the first time.



DEMONSTRATING SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

11

EURO 2012 in Poland and Ukraine was not only a huge feast of European football: it was also a chance for football to show solidarity with less fortunate members of society.



SOLIDARITY PAYMENTS FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES

12

The revenue from the UEFA Champions League also goes towards developing young players at top-division clubs, with more than €70 million being allocated to clubs across Europe from the 2011/12 competition.



NEWS FROM MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS

14

Cover:

In Turkey, Sweden won their first European Women's Under-19 title, having previously won the competition in 1999, when it was an Under-18 event

Photo: Sportsfile



NEVER A DULL MOMENT

Though a wonderful UEFA EURO 2012 is barely over and still fresh in our memories, the pulse of football continues to beat strong. A new club competition season, heralding the start of a new three-year cycle, is already upon us, ensuring that us ardent football fans do not have to go too long without our regular fix of passion and emotion!

This new season is a milestone for the UEFA administration, as we have brought our match operation activities in-house. This was the ideal opportunity to take stock and rework many of our procedures with a view to further consolidating our activities and ensuring the best possible allocation of our resources among the 80 different venues that will host the 350 UEFA Champions League and UEFA Europa League matches this season. Everything has been planned with great care, our teams have received intensive training, and it is now time to see in the stadiums whether we are on the right track – a moment that is both slightly daunting and exciting.

This new cycle will also see the continuation of our financial fair play policy which, we firmly believe, is crucial for safeguarding European club football. On top of the support of the football family, our financial fair play rules have received the backing of the European Commission, which confirmed their conformity with EU Law.

Furthermore, to ensure that all cases are dealt with to the highest legal standards, the UEFA Club Financial Control Panel has been upgraded to a statutory Organ for the Administration of Justice, and renamed the UEFA Club Financial Control Body. This new organ is divided into an investigatory chamber, led by former Belgian prime minister Jean-Luc Dehaene as chief investigator, and an adjudicatory chamber, led by the chairman of the Club Financial Control Body, José Narciso da Cunha Rodrigues, former general prosecutor of Portugal and judge at the Court of Justice of the European Union since 2000.

Financial fair play and match operations not only contribute to the smooth running of our club competitions, but they have something else in common: if they are not mentioned, it means all is well. So let us hope this is one of the rare occasions they attract attention this season, and that for the rest of the time the spotlight remains firmly focused on the players on the pitch!

Gianni Infantino
UEFA General Secretary

THIRTEEN PLACES FOR THE TAKING

EURO 2012 may still be relatively fresh in our memories, but thoughts are already turning to the qualifiers for the 2014 FIFA World Cup in Brazil. The four final berths and seven of the eight semi-final positions in the last two World Cups have been occupied by teams from Europe.

Despite this domination, the access route remains the same, with Europe entitled to 13 of the 32 final round places available. For the forthcoming preliminaries, the 53 UEFA member associations have been divided into nine groups, with the winners of each group being able to book their tickets to Brazil. Meanwhile, the lowest-scoring second-placed team will stay at home, and the eight other group runners-up will face each other in the play-offs to determine the four remaining finalists. The route to Brazil will not be easy!

Group A: spotlight on the former Yugoslavia

Three former Yugoslav republics will go head to head in this group, with Croatia the favourites among them. The men in red and white had a good EURO 2012, causing problems for the eventual finalists, Spain and Italy. Following the departure of head coach Slaven Bilić to FC Lokomotiv Moskva, another of the heroes of 1998 (when Croatia finished third in the World Cup in France), Igor Štimac, takes over at the helm. Siniša Mihajlović, another former great, has taken on the task of relaunching Serbia. The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia will find the going tough, much like Wales. Rather than Scotland, who are struggling to find the form they enjoyed a few years

Belgium's Eden Hazard (left) takes on Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain of England: the qualifiers will give some gifted young players the chance to showcase their talent



ago, the joker in the pack could well be Belgium, whose talisman, Eden Hazard, moved from LOSC Lille Métropole to Chelsea FC this summer.

Group B: Italy at the front of the queue

Despite the heavy defeat against Spain in the final, EURO 2012 was a sign of promise for Italy. The mouth-watering talent in Cesare Prandelli's squad dispatched two European greats – England and Germany – before falling at the final hurdle. This will have helped erase the memory of elimination after the group stage at the 2010 World Cup. Yet the Italians are far from guaranteed to qualify for Brazil, as Denmark and the Czech Republic also showed that they could play in Poland and Ukraine: the Scandinavians beat 2010 runners-up, the Netherlands, while the Czechs reached the quarter-finals. Bulgaria will need to raise their game by comparison with the qualifiers for EURO 2012 to have a chance, and Armenia and Malta will be trying to spring a surprise.

Group C: Germany continuing a proud history

With the exception of the first tournament in 1930 in Uruguay, Germany have never missed the World Cup finals. The *Mannschaft* remain the team to beat in Group C, despite a mixed EURO 2012: masterful in the group stage, Joachim Löw's charges were humbled by Italy in the semi-finals. But as World Cup semi-finalists in 2006 and 2010, finalists at EURO 2008 and three-time World Cup winners, Germany will want to return to winning ways. Sweden, led by the brilliant Zlatan Ibrahimović, who has just left Milan for Paris, will be looking to put a spanner in the German works, as will the Republic of Ireland, still coached by the evergreen Giovanni Trapattoni despite three defeats in as many games in Poland and Ukraine this summer. Elsewhere, Austria will be looking to qualify for their first World Cup since 1998, and Kazakhstan and the Faroe Islands will have their work cut out to reach the top of the group.

Group D: a second chance for Van Gaal

Runners-up in 2010, the Netherlands lost all three of their group matches at EURO 2012. This led the disillusioned Bert van Marwijk to resign as head coach. In his place comes Louis van Gaal, the former head coach of AFC Ajax, FC Barcelona and FC Bayern München, who missed out on qualifying for the World Cup in 2002 during his first term in charge of the *Oranje*. This time around, Van Gaal should be especially

way of Turkey, where another Dutchman, Guus Hiddink, has just stepped down to be replaced by Abdullah Avci. Even though the glory years of the 1950s are long in the past, Hungary hope to be in the fight for qualification from the group, as do Romania. Things will be tougher for Estonia and especially Andorra.

Group E: no "EUROpeans"

None of the teams in Group E qualified for EURO 2012. Switzerland are at a slight advantage, having taken part in all major competitions between 2004 and 2010. Head coach Ottmar Hitzfeld has a talented new generation from which to select his squad, led by recent FC Bayern München signing Xherdan Shaqiri. Another experienced coach, Egil "Drillo" Olsen, hopes to repeat his achievements of 1994 and 1998, when he led Norway to qualification for the World Cup. Slovenia made it to the 2010 World Cup and want a repeat performance. Despite the experience of Lars Lagerbäck, the former Swedish manager, Iceland have the look of outsiders, much like Albania and Cyprus, who will take inspiration from the exploits of APOEL FC, quarter-finalists in last season's UEFA Champions League.

Group F: a change of direction for Russia

Portugal, who lost unluckily to Spain on penalties at EURO 2012, begin the group in pole position. But Cristiano Ronaldo and his team-mates will have to watch out for the Russians. After being knocked out at the end of the group stage in Poland and Ukraine, the Russian Football Union has changed its strategy. The Dutch era, in which Guus Hiddink was succeeded as national head coach by Dick Advocaat, has come to an end, and it is Fabio Capello who now takes command of the team. Much decorated as a club coach, the man from northeast Italy comes to Russia following a mixed experience in charge of the English national team. Israel, often strong finishers despite qualifying for the finals only once – in 1970 – will have an outside chance, more so than Northern Ireland, even though they have made it to the finals three times (in 1958, 1982 and 1986). The chances of qualification for Azerbaijan and Luxembourg seem slim.

Group G: Greece want to go the distance

The departure of Otto Rehhagel, the now legendary coach who led the Greeks to the European title in 2004, could have signalled a period in the wilderness, but guided by the Portuguese Fernando Santos, the Greeks managed to reach the quarter-finals of EURO 2012. They begin what promises to be a very tight group as favourites. Slovakia, who made the round of 16 in South Africa in 2010 – their first World Cup – and Bosnia and Herzegovina, who were edged out by just a point by France in the race to EURO 2012, will be no pushovers. The Baltic states



Getty Images

of Lithuania and Latvia are capable of upsetting the apple cart, and Liechtenstein will look to create an even bigger surprise.

Multiple world champions Germany (Marco Reus, left) and Italy (Federico Balzaretti) are once again among the favourites to qualify

Group H: England and their recent hosts

Despite several injuries and the hurried departure of Fabio Capello, replaced by Roy Hodgson just before the start of EURO 2012, England made it to the quarter-finals, finally succumbing to Italy on penalties. Wayne Rooney and his team-mates will have to go shoulder to shoulder with their two hosts of this past summer: Ukraine, at whose expense England progressed from the group stage, will be coming to terms with the retirement of Andriy Shevchenko, while after also falling at the first hurdle at "their" EURO, Franciszek Smuda has been replaced as head coach of Poland by Waldemar Fornalik. Montenegro, second behind England in the qualifiers for EURO 2012, will also have their say, with Moldova and San Marino expected to bring up the rear.

Group I: France and Spain meet again

Two consecutive European titles with a World Cup trophy in South Africa in between: Spain have been writing footballing history, and will expect to continue their story. The main opponents for Vicente del Bosque's men in this group will be France. *Les bleus*, after unsuccessful campaigns at EURO 2008 and the 2010 World Cup, reached the quarter-finals in Poland and Ukraine, only to be beaten by...Spain (2-0). Head coach Laurent Blanc did not have his contract extended, and he has been succeeded by another member of the 1998 World Cup and EURO 2000 winning side, Didier Deschamps. The three remaining teams in this, the only group of five will struggle to make an impression, but Belarus (who met France in the qualifiers for EURO 2012), Finland and Georgia will not give up without a fight. ●

Emanuele Saraceno

SPAIN YET AGAIN!

A Spanish victory may have been a familiar outcome, but there was nothing familiar about the venue for the final tournament of the 11th European Under-19 Championship.



The Estonian Football Association, hosting a major event for the first time, treated it as an adventure to be enjoyed from 3 to 15 July – and their efforts were rewarded by unanimous praise for an outstandingly successful event staged in Haapsalu, Rakvere and the Lilleküla and Kadriorg stadiums in the capital, Tallinn. Their other reward was that it turned out to be a tournament of exceptionally high standards, culminating in a final which would have been a credit to the senior game.

Spain, five-time champions and the only country to have successfully defended the Under-19 title, inevitably started among the favourites at a tournament which kicked off 48 hours after their senior team had won the European crown in Kyiv. They were one of only three teams to have competed in the previous year's Under-19 final tournament, along with Serbia and, significantly, a Greek squad with no fewer than 10 of the 2011 players. As it happened, Spain and Greece met in the opening Group A match, when Spain dominated the first half and Greece the second. A one-goal winning margin for Spain (2-1) was a premonition of things to come. Against Portugal in their second match, Spain again suggested that they struggled to hold on to an advantage, with their opponents coming back three times to earn a 3-3 draw. With a well-organised Estonian team ultimately losing to all three rivals, second place was all down to the last-day showdown between Portugal and Greece, during which Edgar Borges'

side had a player red-carded after 37 minutes with the score at 1-1. The Greeks also went down to ten in the 76th minute when leading 3-1, but hung on for a 3-2 win which earned them second place.

Group B was similarly tight – even though 3-0 and 1-0 wins over Serbia and Croatia put Pierre Mankowski's team in the driving seat and allowed him to rotate his squad for the third game against England, who had come back to draw with Croatia and then beaten Serbia. Noel Blake's team beat France 2-1 to, surprisingly, top the group ahead of France and make Croatia's 3-0 win over Serbia an academic one – which was rough justice on a team that had conceded only two goals and had played some attractive attacking football.

Exceptional semi-finals

For sheer drama, the semi-finals were exceptional – as were the levels of technique and team organisation. The games were played as a double-header at the Lilleküla stadium in Tallinn, where heavy storms raised questions about how the pitch would stand up. The questions were emphatically answered by an impeccable playing surface during both games. The first took a twist in the closing minutes of the first half, when defender Mavros Bougaidis put Greece ahead, only for goalkeeper Stefanos Kapino to be red-carded for bringing down England striker Benik Afobe. The first action by reserve keeper Sokratis Dioudis, however, was to save the ensuing penalty.

When Afobe equalised nine minutes after the restart, an England win seemed predictable. Football, however, is not predictable. The Greeks defended with enormous resolution, forced extra time, and snatched an unlikely 2-1 win when Charalampos Lykogiannis rounded off a fast break by coolly lobbing over English keeper Samuel Johnson.

The other semi-final had even more twists and turns, with the Spanish struggling to cope with France's far greater physical presence at set plays. Sure enough, central defender Samuel Umtiti headed in a corner to give France a 26th-minute lead which they maintained until just after Julen Lopetegui had sent on the Valencia CF striker Paco Alcácer as substitute. He and the FC Barcelona winger, Gerard Deulofeu (silver medallists at the 2010 Under-17 finals and Under-19 gold-medallists in 2011), had struck up a prolific goalscoring partnership – and within six minutes Paco provided the through pass which allowed Deulofeu to equalise. Paco then volleyed Spain into the lead – only for a repeat

A second consecutive European Under-19 title for Spain





The final between Spain and Greece was a match of high quality

corner to allow Umtiti to make it 2-2 in the first minute of added time. In the 22nd minute of extra time, another supply from Paco allowed Deulofeu to put Spain 3-2 up – only for defensive midfielder Paul Pogba to turn in a cross to make it 3-3.

And so to penalties. José Gómez Campaña opened the shoot-out by firing over the bar. But after four successful spot kicks, Spanish goalkeeper Kepa Arrizabalaga made successive saves from Umtiti and Geoffrey Kondogbia to permit, appropriately enough, Deulofeu to deliver the coup de grâce.

A little bit more

As so often happens in final tournaments, the event ended with the confrontation which had opened it. Sunday 15 July was a day of torrential downpours in Tallinn but, once again, the pitch was immaculate and the conditions actually made a positive contribution to 90 minutes of riveting entertainment, with the ball pinging off the rain-irrigated surface like a flat stone bouncing across water. It was, to mix metaphors, music for Greek and Spanish feet. Spain dominated possession, as is their wont, but the Greeks looked for quick counters, tried periods of high upfield pressing in a bid to disrupt the Spaniards' construction of attacking moves from the back, and, taking heart from French successes in the semi-final, looked threatening at set pieces.

Spain dominated 17-6 in terms of goal attempts but had to wait until ten minutes from time for the breakthrough. Deulofeu, intermittent but always a threat, made a run across the Greek box, seemingly heading into a cul-de-sac. But with the defenders momentarily hypnotised, he poked the ball between legs and into the path of the onrushing Jesé Rodríguez, who

dropped his right shoulder and side-footed the ball past the excellent Sokratis Dioudis inside the far post. Spain's victory was even more meritorious because of the quality of the opposition. Kostas Tsanas's side had defended resolutely, had played good football right through a midfield marshalled by captain Giorgos Katidis and, with winger Giannis Gianniotas a live wire, had looked dangerous in attack. But Spain, as so many Spanish teams have demonstrated in recent years, just had that little bit more than their opponents. ●

RESULTS

Group A

3 July	Greece – Spain	1-2
3 July	Estonia – Portugal	0-3
6 July	Estonia – Greece	1-4
6 July	Portugal – Spain	3-3
9 July	Spain – Estonia	2-0
9 July	Portugal – Greece	2-3

Group B

3 July	England – Croatia	1-1
3 July	Serbia – France	0-3
6 July	France – Croatia	1-0
6 July	Serbia – England	1-2
9 July	Croatia – Serbia	3-0
9 July	France – England	1-2

Semi-finals

12 July	Spain – France	3-3*
*Spain win 4-2 on penalties		
12 July	England – Greece	1-2*
*after extra time		

Final

15 July	Spain – Greece	1-0
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SWEDISH GIRLS END A LONG WAIT

“We’ve waited a long time for this,” said Sweden’s Under-19 coach, Calle Barrling, after the final in Antalya, *“but I think we really deserved it. Since February, we had been beating everyone in Europe and we had a very good final tournament.”*



Although a major force at senior level, Sweden had never won the UEFA women's Under-19 title and their only previous success dated back to the 1998/99 Under-18 championship, when the Swedish team won a mini-tournament played on home soil to win the trophy.

The 2012 final tournament, played from 2 to 14 July in Turkey, had an unfamiliar look to it. No Germany (for the first time in the competition's 11-year history), no Norway, no France, no Italy... in fact Spain were the only survivors from the 2011 final tournament. This spelt opportunities for Portugal, Romania and Serbia to make their debuts along with Turkey, who were hosting the final tournament in the southern city of Antalya, where the Mardan sports complex, some kilometres outside the city, provided a splendid setting. Attendance figures, however, were low. The cumulative total was 3,624 spectators, at an average of 241 per match. On the other hand, the final phase was projected to a pan-European audience by Eurosport. The event in Turkey kicked off one day after the EURO 2012 final in Kyiv, having been moved from its previous May–June slot to dates in early July.

Few goals

Three of the four debutants were drawn into Group A alongside Denmark and set about giv-

ing good account of themselves through enthusiasm, commitment and hard work. The result was an immensely tight group whereby nobody scored more than once in a game and the six fixtures produced only six goals at an average which does not require calculators to work out. Denmark topped the group with nine points and three goals – one of them a penalty. All were scored in the second half. Portugal secured second place by beating Romania 1-0 with their only goal of the tournament. The Turkish hosts earned two creditable draws, although their only goal was put into the net by a Romanian defender. All the teams had played some neat football but, evidently, their finishing did not match the quality of their approach play.

In Group B, goals were less of a rarity – but 10 of the 14 goals were scored in the two games played on the second matchday. The final day of the group stage yielded only three goals in the four fixtures played. The Serbian team was the only debutant in a strong group which kicked off with a re-match of the 2009 final between England and Sweden, with the latter turning the tables thanks to a penalty converted by Sweden free-scoring striker Elin Rubensson. Calle Barrling's team then turned on the style by beating Serbia 5-1 and, rotating the squad a bit, fought out an entertaining but goalless draw with Angel Vilda's Spanish side, which had also secured



A lap of honour for the new European champions

Sportsfile

a semi-final spot by taking maximum points from the opening two games. Having defeated Serbia in the opener, they sprang a major surprise by putting four goals, without reply, past the 2009 champions, England. “Mo” Marley’s side played some accomplished possession-based football, yet went home without scoring a goal. Defensive organisation and efficiency had evidently been the key features of the group stage.

Two “derbies” in the semi-finals

This set up two “derbies” in the semi-finals: a Scandinavian classic between Sweden and Denmark, and an Iberian equivalent between Spain and Portugal. Denmark’s coach, Søren Randsbøldt, admitted after his side had gone 2-0 down (both scored by Rubensson) that “Sweden were much better than us in the first half and we were one or two steps behind.” The Danes rallied after the break, reduced arrears, but were sunk by an own goal in the last minute, which put 3-1 on the scoreboard. In the other semi-final, Portugal’s hard work and effective deep defending looked like earning them extra time against Spain, only for Raquel Pinel to round off a magnificent combination move by side-footing into the net in the 87th minute.

Observers agreed that the second meeting in seven days between Sweden and Spain represented a final between the two strongest teams in the tournament. It was also a contrast in playing styles, between the Spaniards’ possession-based combination play and Sweden’s more direct approach. The match certainly respected the script, with the talented Spanish players looking very comfortable on the ball and weaving some intricate patterns in their approach work. The Swedish team, also technically gifted, accepted that they would see less of the ball but, once they had it, look threatening, with Rubensson making dangerous runs and Malin Diaz honouring her South American ancestry by linking midfield to attack with astute passing and a readiness to engage in 1 v 1 combat.

Spain’s overall domination can be measured by 16 goal attempts to Sweden’s 10, and 9 corners to 3. Jessica Högländer, between the Swedish posts, was certainly the harder-working of the two goalkeepers. But, despite losing defender Therese Boström as early as the 34th minute through injury, the Swedish defensive block, based on two well-organised lines of four, prevented the Spanish girls from playing their way through the middle and obliged them to search for success in the wide areas and to deliver crosses which the Swedish defence competently dealt with. When French referee Stéphanie Frappart signalled the end of the 90 minutes, the scoreboard operator had not been disturbed. The match was entertaining and of high technical quality but, as extra time got under way, it had all the hallmarks of irresistible force versus immovable object.



Sportsfile

Decisive counterattack

That all changed in the 108th minute, when the umpteenth Swedish counterattack found Rubensson on the left and, for once, she wriggled past Spanish defender Ivana Andrés and crossed into the Spanish six-metre area. Goalkeeper “Lola” Gallardo went down to field the ball but it somehow squirmed out of her arms into the path of Diaz, who had been following up. She blasted the rebound jubilantly into the roof of the Spanish net and, at the moment, it seemed that the title had been won, as the Spaniards did not have enough fuel in their tank of creativity to find a way through the Swedish defensive block. They tried – but they did not succeed. While the Spanish girls were weeping on the pitch in Antalya, Calle Barrling and his team were celebrating Sweden’s first-ever Under-19 title. ●

Elin Rubensson (10) of Sweden, seen here outmanoeuvring Spain’s Gema Gili, was the tournament’s top scorer with five goals

RESULTS

Group A

2 July	Turkey – Portugal	0-0
2 July	Denmark – Romania	1-0
5 July	Turkey – Denmark	0-1
5 July	Portugal – Romania	1-0
8 July	Romania – Turkey	1-1
8 July	Portugal – Denmark	0-1

Group B

2 July	England – Sweden	0-1
2 July	Spain – Serbia	3-0
5 July	Spain – England	4-0
5 July	Serbia – Sweden	1-5
8 July	Sweden – Spain	0-0
8 July	Serbia – England	0-0

Semi-finals

11 July	Denmark – Sweden	1-3
11 July	Spain – Portugal	1-0

Final

14 July	Sweden – Spain	1-0*
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*after extra time

ADDITIONAL ASSISTANT REFEREES GET THE GREEN LIGHT

At its meeting of 5 July in Zurich, the International Football Association Board (IFAB), the sport's law-making body, decided to authorise with immediate effect the use of two additional assistant referees (AARs).



Additional assistant referees have proved their effectiveness during UEFA matches

This decision was taken on the back of the positive results of the trials carried out since 2008 and, in recent years, notably in the top UEFA competitions – the European Championship, the Champions League and the Europa League. Consequently, an amendment will be made to the Laws of the Game to incorporate a separate section devoted to AARs. The IFAB has also formally authorised the use of communication equipment between match officials.

At its meeting in Kyiv at the end of June, the UEFA Executive Committee gave its unanimous support

to the system of refereeing with two AARs. This system will therefore now become the norm in UEFA club competitions: it will be used from the Champions League play-off matches onwards, from the group stage onwards in the Europa League and in the UEFA Super Cup.

In Zurich, the IFAB also took into account the results of a series of tests carried out on goal-line technology and decided to approve both the GoalRef and Hawk-Eye systems. However, this approval is subject to a final installation test in each stadium before the system is used in matches. ●

ENSURING A DRUG-FREE TOURNAMENT

UEFA has now wound up its anti-doping programme for EURO 2012, which combined a comprehensive pre-tournament out-of-competition testing programme with a full in-competition programme during the tournament.

Both blood and urine samples were collected by UEFA from players at all doping controls prior to and during the tournament. This meant that each of the 16 teams were visited at their pre-tournament training camps, and were also tested after each match. All tests were conducted by UEFA's team of experienced doping control officers, who are medical doctors representing a wide range of European countries.

Samples were analysed at the World Anti-Doping Agency-accredited laboratory in Warsaw, according to an advanced

set of criteria compiled by experts from Europe's top anti-doping laboratories. This included screening for substances such as EPO and HGH (human growth hormone).

Ten players from each team underwent out-of-competition testing and two were tested after each match in the tournament. Tournament samples were analysed within 24 hours of receipt by the laboratory to ensure that all results were known before a team's next match. No prohibited substances were detected in either the in-competition or pre-tour-

nament out-of-competition programme. The success of the programme was aided by the commitment of players, teams and medical staff to register their whereabouts, abide by doping control procedures and support the anti-doping effort in general. All team medical staff signed an anti-doping charter before the tournament to confirm their commitment to ensuring a drug free tournament, and all players selected for doping control proved fully cooperative with the process both before and during the tournament. ●

MEDICAL CONGRESS IN MADRID IN 2014

The UEFA Medical Symposium has been organised at regular intervals – every four years in principle – since 1993.

This meeting allows team doctors and specialists to keep up to date with developments in football medicine, and to discuss new techniques and trends in

injuries, recovery, biomechanics and the fight against doping.

At its meeting in Kyiv in June, the Executive Committee decided to accept

the Royal Spanish Football Federation's invitation to organise the 6th UEFA Medical Symposium in Madrid in 2014. The five previous events were held in Frankfurt (1993), Coverciano (1997), Nyon (2002), Istanbul (2006) and Stockholm (2010). ●

GOALS FOR CHARITY AT EURO 2012

A total of 76 goals were scored at EURO 2012 in Poland and Ukraine, an average of 2.45 goals per match.

Whether these goals brought victory for the teams involved or were merely consolations, they all counted the same for the Centre for Access to Football in Europe (CAFE), chosen by UEFA as the tournament's official charity.

Before the tournament, UEFA promised to donate €3,000 to CAFE for each goal scored in Poland and Ukraine, and the charity has duly been presented with a cheque for €228,000. This money will help CAFE to continue working to ensure access and adapted infrastructure for disabled supporters who want to attend matches.

Several other initiatives

As part of the Respect campaign and its social responsibility policy, UEFA carried out various other initiatives at EURO 2012, with a total budget of some €3m. These activities included action against racism and all forms of discrimination, encouragement of intercultural dialogue



between supporters and the host cities, a more inclusive policy towards disabled footballers, and the promotion of a healthy lifestyle through physical activity and healthy eating habits. In this context, EURO 2012 was an entirely smoke-free tournament.

UEFA also launched a campaign to encourage players and supporters alike to exchange their football shirts. This campaign benefited from TV adverts, images on giant screens in the stadiums and a website in nine languages.

→ <http://www.exchangeyourjersey.com/en/welcome>

Fan embassies

Supporters travelling to EURO 2012 were able to take advantage of fan embassies, which were set up in central locations in each of the host cities and supplied supporters with information on a wide range of topics (leisure activities, restaurants, accommodation, public transport, etc.), as well as providing help in the event of lost documents, for example. Each embassy also offered guide books in six languages and maps of the relevant city.

● At the Executive Committee meeting in Kyiv on 30 June, the chairman of the Fair

Play and Social Responsibility Committee, Peter Gilliéron, presented the plan of allocations for 2012/13, with €5m the total sum to be divided between the beneficiaries. The strategy for the period 2012–17 includes the creation of a "Football First/We Care" portfolio, expanding support for grassroots football, forging closer links with CAFE, continuing partnerships with the Football Against Racism in Europe (FARE network), the Danish Cross Cultures Project Association (CCPA), and the World Heart Foundation, as well as continuing support for associated partners such as the Homeless World Cup and the World Wildlife Fund (WWF). ●



Children affected by the Chernobyl disaster were able to meet the UEFA general secretary, Gianni Infantino

ORPHANS VISIT WARSAW AND CHERNOBYL CHILDREN SPEND A DAY IN KYIV

A group of children from an orphanage just outside Warsaw were invited by UEFA to watch the match between Poland and Russia at EURO 2012 at the new national stadium in the Polish capital. The match was the culmination of an unforgettable day for the children, who also visited the Polish Olympic Committee and the sports museum, and met some of the stars of Polish sport.

Also, on the initiative of the UEFA president, 150 children from Ukraine and Belarus affected by the Chernobyl nuclear disaster were able to watch the match at Kyiv's Olympic Stadium between France and Ukraine. This game was also the highlight of an exciting, action-packed day.

OVER €70 MILLION FOR YOUNG PLAYERS

Solidarity is one of the key tenets of the UEFA Champions League financial system. Although revenue from the competition primarily benefits the participants, some is also redistributed beyond the 32 clubs involved and contributes to the development of young players at top-division clubs.

In principle, all top-division clubs from Europe's 53 member associations benefit from these contributions. However, payment is neither automatic nor uniform. An initial distinction is made between the leagues – or national associations, if there is not a recognised league – with one or more participants in the Champions League group stage (18 in 2011/12 season), and those with none (35). Even then, the total amount available for distribution (nearly €0.4 million) is not divided equally among the leagues or national associations, but according to the value of their domestic television markets. An additional amount is also awarded to the leagues or national associations from which one or more teams played in the Champions League play-offs (19 in 2011/12).

Furthermore, the payment is not automatic, but dependent on certain strict criteria being met, including that:

- clubs which took part in the play-offs and/or group matches are not taken into consideration, as they have already received their own share of the revenue;
- the amount allocated to each league or association is, in principle, shared equally among the beneficiary clubs;

- as the money is earmarked for youth player development, only clubs that have an approved youth development programme according to the national club licensing manual accredited by UEFA are entitled to benefit.

All beneficiary leagues and associations are required to provide UEFA with detailed information on where the money they receive goes. ●



Getty Images

Payments to leagues and associations represented in the 2011/12 UEFA Champions League group matches

		Play-off matches	Total €
England	14 084 729	152 630	14 237 359
Italy	9 187 868	152 630	9 340 498
Spain	8 187 209	152 630	8 339 839
Germany	7 642 305	152 630	7 794 935
France	4 548 449	152 630	4 701 079
Greece	2 415 226		2 415 226
Turkey	2 092 286		2 092 286
Romania	1 819 379		1 819 379
Russia	1 546 472	152 630	1 699 102
Netherlands	1 237 178	152 630	1 389 808
Portugal	886 947	152 630	1 039 577
Belarus	550 000	152 630	702 630
Belgium	550 000	152 630	702 630
Croatia	550 000	152 630	702 630
Cyprus	550 000	152 630	702 630
Czech Republic	550 000	152 630	702 630
Switzerland	550 000	152 630	702 630
Ukraine	550 000		550 000

TOTAL 57 498 048 2 136 820 59 634 868

Payments to leagues and associations not represented in the 2011/12 UEFA Champions League group matches

		Play-off matches	Total €
Poland	455 247	152 630	607 877
Denmark	394 035	152 630	546 665
Sweden	335 372	152 630	488 002
Austria	289 199	152 630	441 829
Israel	280 668	152 630	433 298
Scotland	411 298		411 298
Republic of Ireland	320 975		320 975
Norway	316 692		316 692
Bulgaria	296 587		296 587
Hungary	292 101		292 101
Albania	282 867		282 867
Serbia	281 548		281 548
Malta	274 951		274 951
Slovenia	266 948		266 948
Iceland	266 623		266 623
Finland	266 156		266 156
Bosnia-Herzegovina	265 189		265 189
FYR Macedonia	264 486		264 486
Slovakia	264 353		264 353
Kazakhstan	262 991		262 991
Montenegro	262 990		262 990
Georgia	262 858		262 858
Azerbaijan	262 639		262 639
Armenia	261 671		261 671
Luxembourg	260 528		260 528
Estonia	260 290		260 290
Latvia	260 290		260 290
Lithuania	260 290		260 290
Moldova	260 158		260 158
Andorra	260 000		260 000
Faroe Islands	260 000		260 000
Liechtenstein	260 000		260 000
Northern Ireland	260 000		260 000
San Marino	260 000		260 000
Wales	260 000		260 000

TOTAL 10 000 000 763 150 10 763 150

CLUB FINANCIAL CONTROL BODY

At the UEFA Congress in Istanbul in March, one of the decisions taken by the delegates of UEFA's member associations was to approve the amendments proposed to the UEFA Statutes.

One such amendment concerned Article 32, which now includes the Club Financial Control Body as a UEFA Organ for the Administration of Justice, also specifying that its members "shall be elected by the Executive Committee (...) for a term of four years."

To allow the Club Financial Control Body to start carrying out its tasks as soon as the amended UEFA Statutes came into force on 1 June, the UEFA Emergency Panel had to meet in May, given that the UEFA Executive Committee would not convene again until 30 June.

At that meeting in Munich on 18 May, the UEFA Emergency Panel first approved the 2012 editions of the following sets of rules and regulations:

- *Procedural Rules Governing the UEFA Club Financial Control Body*
- *UEFA Disciplinary Regulations*
- *UEFA Club Licensing and Financial Fair Play Regulations*
- *UEFA Organisational Regulations*.

It then appointed the members of the Club Financial Control Body, which is made up of an investigatory chamber and an adjudicatory chamber. The list of members was subsequently published

after the Executive Committee meeting in Kyiv on 30 June.

Adjudicatory chamber

- José Narciso da Cunha Rodrigues (Portugal), chairman of the Club Financial Control Body and of the adjudicatory chamber
- Christiaan Timmermans (Netherlands), vice-chairman of the Club Financial Control Body
- Louis Peila (Switzerland), vice-chairman of the Club Financial Control Body
- Charles Flint (England)
- Adam Giersz (Poland)

Investigatory chamber

- Jean-Luc Dehaene (Belgium), chief investigator and chairman of the investigatory chamber

- Jacobo Beltrán (Spain)
- Egon Franck (Germany)
- Umberto Lago (Italy)
- Petros Mavroidis (Greece)
- Brian Quinn (Scotland)
- Konstantin Sonin (Russia)
- Yves Wehrli (France)

The tasks of the Club Financial Control Body are to oversee the application of the UEFA Club Licensing and Financial Fair Play Regulations; to take disciplinary measures if need be for non-fulfilment of the requirements of these regulations; and to decide on the eligibility of clubs for UEFA club competitions from a club licensing and financial fair play perspective. The Court of Arbitration for Sport in Lausanne is the competent court in case of appeals against decisions of the Club Financial Control Body. ●

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH CONMEBOL

UEFA signed a memorandum of understanding with the South American football confederation, CONMEBOL, in May.

Through this four-year agreement, the two confederations undertake to "strengthen their cooperation and dialogue to help develop football in South America and to focus on matters of common interest." ●

COMPETITIONS

Even before the final rounds of the youth tournaments had finished and brought the 2011/12 UEFA competition season to a close, the new club competition season was already under way.

After the play-offs that conclude the qualifying rounds, the draws at the end of August in Monaco kick off the group stages in the UEFA Champions League and UEFA Europa League.

Also in Monaco, and for the 14th and last time, the Stade Louis II will play host to the UEFA Super Cup, in which Chelsea FC take on Club Atlético de Madrid.

The national team competitions, meanwhile, will resume on 7 September with the start of the qualifiers for the 2014 FIFA World Cup, while another world competition, the FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup, kicks off on 22 September in Azerbaijan. On 6 July, the 16 tournament participants were drawn into the following groups:

- Group A: Azerbaijan, Colombia, Nigeria, Canada
- Group B: France, USA, Korea DPR, Gambia
- Group C: Mexico, New Zealand, Brazil, Japan
- Group D: Uruguay, China PR, Ghana, Germany

In the next age category up, the FIFA U-20 Women's World Cup began in Japan on 19 August, with the final taking place on 8 September in Tokyo. Europe is represented at the tournament by Germany, Italy, Norway and Switzerland. ●



Celtic got past HJK Helsinki in the third qualifying round for the UEFA Champions League



First UEFA A coaching course completed

The third and final module of the Albanian Football Association's UEFA A coach education course has finished and the participants become the first Albanian coaches to obtain this top qualification.

As part of a detailed annual programme, the course was drawn up by the association's technical department and was held at the national teams' training centre in Kamez, just a few kilometres from the capital, Tirana.

Run in accordance with UEFA and FIFA coach education programmes and in direct cooperation with Albanian and foreign experts, the participating coaches successfully assimilated the latest know-how and principles in coach education. The Italian Football Federa-

tion's specialised centre in Coverciano was of great help, with specialists from there delivering presentations on the course run by the technical department of the Albanian Football Association.

Alongside the UEFA A coach education course, UEFA B and UEFA C courses have also been organised, among others. Huge efforts were made in 2011 to arrange three other courses in Albania for the first time. Following UEFA's guidelines, courses were organised for technical directors, fitness coaches and goalkeeper coaches. This programme of courses is continuing this year. The Albanian Football Association's main goal is now to organise a coach education course in Albania for the highest level, the UEFA Pro licence, which would be a real innovation for Albanian football.

● Tritan Kokona



The first Albanian A licence graduates



Promotional video for women's football centre

The national centre for women's football, run by the Austrian Football Association (ÖFB), is entering its second season. Just in time for the academy's new school year, it has unveiled a brand new promotional video, produced as part of a joint project with students from the media technology department of St Pölten University of Applied Sciences. The video is designed to encourage young women to develop their skills in a professional environment.

Austria's minister for women, Gabriele Heinisch-Hosek, recently paid the academy a visit and was clearly impressed by the first-class training and educational facilities on offer.

"Football is just as much a game for women as for men. No talent should be wasted. I can see plenty of self-confident young women here who are role models for thousands of other girls and women. This centre is also a role model in itself, in every respect," said Heinisch-Hosek.

As part of the ÖFB's talent development programme, the national centre for women's football is designed to provide optimum support for players on the path to professional football. The aim is to set new standards in the women's game, with elite physical training, technical fine-tuning and intensive tactical coaching forming the core of the academy's sporting tuition.

Alongside this sporting focus, the academy also pays particular attention to its young students' personal and academic development.

More information on the ÖFB's national centre for women's football (in German only), as well as the promotional video, can be found at www.oefb.at/nationaleszentrum.



Women's minister Gabriele Heinisch-Hosek with students at the national centre for women's football

● Christoph Walter



Draw for the FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup



The group stage draw for the final round

The third FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup will take place in Azerbaijan this year. The two cities to host the tournament from 22 September to 13 October are Baku and Lankaran. China PR, Japan and Korea DPR (AFC); Gambia, Ghana and Nigeria (CAF); Canada, Mexico and USA (CONCACAF); Brazil, Colombia and Uruguay (CONMEBOL), and New Zealand (OFC) have all qualified, while UEFA's other two representatives are Germany and France. Azerbaijan qualifies by default as host nation.

The draw ceremony took place at the International Mugam Centre in Baku on 6 July. Among those present at the event were Hany Abo Rida, chairman of the FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup Organising Committee; Rovnag Abdullayev, president of the Association of Football Federations of Azerbaijan; Elkhan Mammadov, chairman of the local organising committee for the FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup; representatives of the participating teams and their countries' ambassadors, as well as world-renowned football veterans such as Dietmar Hamann from Germany and Ronald de Boer from the Netherlands.

The event started with a short promotional video about Azerbaijan, followed by welcome speeches by Elkhan Mammadov and Hany Abo Rida. The popular Azerbaijani jazz singer Sevda Alekberzade and a talented 13 year-old, Mirpasha Shukurov, provided the opening musical entertainment for the evening. A FIFA video then showed some of the highlights from previous Women's World Cups.

The official draw was conducted by the head of FIFA's women's competitions, Tatjana Haenni, assisted by Ronald de Boer, Berti Vogts – head coach of the Azerbaijan national football team and winner of the FIFA World Cup as a player for Germany in 1974 and of EURO '96 as Germany's coach – and two members of Azerbaijan's women's U17 national team, Amina Heydarova and Aysun Aliyeva.

Safura Alizada, the singer who represented Azerbaijan at the Eurovision Song Contest, then performed for the audience. The evening concluded with photos of the representatives of the qualified teams.

Jennifer Lopez is due to perform at the official opening ceremony on 22 September at the Tofiq Bahramov Stadium in Baku. Spectators attending the quarter-final at the same venue on 5 October will be able to see Rihanna playing live. Last but not least, Shakira will also perform there ahead of the final on 13 October.

● Ayan Askarli/Ayan Aghayeva

Marc Wilmots appointed new national team coach

On 6 June, the Royal Belgian Football Association (URBSFA) appointed Marc Wilmots the Red Devils' new head coach. Wilmots takes over from Georges Leekens, to whom he had previously been assistant.

URBSFA technical director Benoît Thans and president of the technical committee Philippe Collin managed to reach an agreement with Wilmots, their first-choice candidate, who will lead the national team through to the end of the much-prized 2014 World Cup in Brazil.

After the unexpected departure of Georges Leekens, Marc Wilmots took the reins with the daunting prospect of friendlies against Montenegro at home and England at Wembley. On both occasions, he was able to prove the full value of the work he had carried out since 2009 as Leekens' assistant. Within an incredibly short space of time, Wilmots has managed to make a significant impression, both on the entire squad of players and on the technical staff. The URBSFA is already convinced that Marc Wilmots is the ideal candidate to bring out the best in the national team.

Wilmots had a very successful career as a player, winning the UEFA Super Cup with KV Mechelen in 1988 and the UEFA Cup with Schalke 04 in 1997. He also became an emblematic figure in the Belgian national side,



The position of national team head coach is close to the heart of Marc Wilmots (right)

taking part in four successive FIFA World Cups (from 1990 to 2002). He is therefore a great role model for this new generation of players.

The challenges on the horizon serve as the ultimate motivation: *"I am not important – it is the team that counts. Our aim is to qualify for the World Cup in Brazil in 2014 and if we want to complete our mission, we have to join forces. It is an enormous responsibility, but I am not afraid: my team has confidence in me, we are working with a sense of continuity and we believe!"*

Wilmots has found a right-hand man with the perfect CV to help him in his new role. Vital Borkelmans, a former defender who spent a large part of his career with Club de Bruges, is delighted to be given the opportunity to work as Wilmots' assistant. As well as working with the team on the pitch, he will do lots of scouting and play a pastoral role, supporting players who are not selected.

In short, with the quality of players and staff available to the Red Devils, all the ingredients are there to make our qualifying campaign for the 2014 World Cup a real success.

● Pierre Cornez

YES to women's football

The first women's football festival has been held at the Asim Ferhatović Hase stadium, with more than 300 girls from across the

country taking part in a variety of football skills exercises.

The event was opened by the general secretary of the Bosnia and Herzegovina Football Federation, Jasmin Baković. *"The scene I see now reminds me of a field with a lot of fragrant and beautiful flowers, but it is confirmation too that football in Bosnia is played by girls and not just boys,"* he said. The festival was organised under the

auspices of FIFA and UEFA. All the participants were invited to give a loud shout of YES or NO to women's football. There was no hesitation – women's football in Bosnia and Herzegovina received a thunderous YES.

The game now benefits from regular support and attracts more and more girls. The coach of the women's Under-17 team, Ilija Lučić, said: *"This event is a good indication that we are on the right track. I have to say that a great deal of work has also been achieved through the Open Fun Football Schools, from where many talented players have emerged."*



A skills clinic during the women's football festival

"All the clubs that were invited came," said the federation's coordinator for women's football, Nermína Hadžibajrić, adding: *"We are pleased with how the event went, and would especially like to emphasise the cooperation with the coaches and clubs who helped bring about this festival."*

One of the participants was Katarina Vukolić, who plays for FC Banja Luka and the national Under-17 team. Enthusiastically, she said it had been a unique opportunity to socialise and play football, and that football was *"the best sport in the world"*, not just for boys but for girls as well.

The winners of the Under-19 competition were the players of Mladost from Nević Polja, who beat SFK Sarajevo 2000 on penalties. At the end of the tournament, the coaches of the Under-19s and Under-17s, Momčilo Stanić and Ilija Lučić, brought the festival to a close by thanking all the participants and presenting the prizes.

In other news, the federation held a general meeting in Sarajevo, attended by representatives of FIFA and UEFA and 53 out of a total of 60 delegates. The president of the normalisation committee, Ivica Osim, addressed the delegates, who praised the successful consolidation of the federation's financial situation and adopted the federation's budget for 2012, with more money earmarked for the development of youth football. The proposed amendments to the structure of domestic competitions (such as reducing the premier league from 16 to 12 clubs) were rejected.

Last but not least, the delegates agreed to the creation of a mediation and advisory board, the members of which will be appointed after the federation elections on 23 November.

● Fuad Kravac

Davor Šuker elected president

At the extraordinary general meeting of the Croatian Football Federation (HNS) held on 5 July, a number of important decisions for the further development of Croatian football were taken, including the unanimous election of a new president, the legendary Croatian international and leading scorer at the 1998 FIFA World Cup in France, Davor Šuker.

Amendments to the HNS statutes were also adopted, one of which abolishes the function of general secretary and introduces two new functions – those of executive chairman and secretary.

Former FC Dinamo Zagreb director Damir Vrbanić becomes executive chairman, while Vlado Iveta, former head of legal services at the HNS, takes up the position of HNS secretary.

Meanwhile, the new head coach of the Croatian national team is Igor Stimac, famous Croatian international player and bronze medallist at the 1998 World Cup in France.

Recognition was paid to former president Vlatko Marković for his successful leadership of the federation during his 14 years at the helm and he was named first honorary president of the Croatian Football Federation.

Former general secretary Zorislav Srebrić was appointed director of the Croatian national teams, while the new president of the association of the Croatian first football league is Robert Komen from FC Rijeka, who automatically becomes a vice-president of the HNS. The other vice-president is Ante Kulušić, a former international football referee.

The new leadership has a complex task during the ongoing recession to maintain a high level of quality of Croatian football and to continue the development of grassroots level. The goal is to remain permanently among the top ten in the FIFA rankings.

The successful performance of our national team at EURO 2012 in Poland and Ukraine gives cause for optimism, while our U19 team achieved great success by qualifying for the FIFA U-20 World Cup in Turkey next year.

In other news, a new Croatian first football league season has just started, reduced this season from 16 teams to 12, and to be further reduced to 10 teams next season.

Last but not least, UEFA Grassroots Day activities were successfully organised, with interest in this event growing again this year.

● Ante Pavlović



New HNS president Davor Šuker expresses his gratitude to his predecessor, Vlatko Marković



New season gets under way

In July, the chairman of the Cyprus referees' committee, Hans Reijgwart, together with the new director of referee education in Cyprus, Jaap Uilenberg, presented the UEFA guidelines given to referees for the new season to media representatives.

The same guidelines were given to the referees selected for EURO 2012 in Poland and Ukraine.

The president of the Cyprus Football Association, Costakis Koutsokoumnis, attended the presentation and said that "The Cyprus Football Association has the honour of cooperating with two top referee instructors."

Having previously worked with the referees' committee of the Netherlands, Hans Reijgwart and Jaap Uilenberg are now working for the



The president of the Cyprus Football Association, Costakis Koutsokoumnis (right), with Hans Reijgwart and Jaap Uilenberg (left)

Cyprus Football Association with the aim of improving the level of refereeing in Cyprus.

They have already organised educational seminars for Cypriot elite referees, assistant referees, elite development referees, and premier standard referees and assistant referees.

In other news, the first division championship kicks off for a new season on 1 September with 14 teams in competition for the league title.

Meanwhile, the Cyprus men's national team is in action on 7 September in Tirana, playing against Albania in the 2014 FIFA World Cup qualifying competition. It will be both teams' first match of both teams in the competition.

It will also be the first competition since 1997 without Ioannis Okkas in the lineup of the national team of Cyprus. Last year, the former captain announced his retirement from the national team at the age of 35, having been capped 106 times and scored 27 goals.

Okkas made his national team debut on 15 February 1997 in a friendly against Poland. His last appearance for the Cyprus national team was on 11 October 2011, in Oslo against Norway.

● Constantinos Shiamboullis



Young refs at the ready

The Football Association's referees' department launched its young referees' development programme (YRDP) in July. This is an education and development programme and pathway designed for younger referees, tracking and involving them in their own learning over a 12-month period.

Nominated by their county FAs, 95 referees converged on Staverton Park, Daventry, for the young referees' conference – a key part of the YRDP – where they were supported and challenged by a highly motivated and dedicated 12-strong group of tutors and helpers.

The weekend conference was the starting point of their development programme (foundation) and focused on "managing the game". The chairman of The FA's referees' committee, David Elleray, formally welcomed everyone, reiterating the need to be open to ideas, take opportunities to learn and be professional at all times. There followed a number

of interactive analysis and discussion sessions. However, the majority of the work took place outside, developing essential refereeing skills, qualities and techniques.

The referees were each given a personal portfolio and now need to do a lot of reflection and start setting goals. The FA will keep in touch using podcasts, sending them match incidents to analyse and asking them to keep a learning journal. In 12 months' time, the same group will be invited back to attend their advanced programme.

"Over the whole weekend I was learning, but not only that, I felt comfortable around every single colleague from start to finish," said Liam Thornton from the West Riding Football Association.

"I was left feeling inspired. The presentations were great and I enjoyed sharing ideas, thoughts and experiences with colleagues who became friends."

Tom Danaher from the Bedfordshire FA added: "I took a few gems of advice from



Some of the young referees

every training session we did, and every member of your team was totally welcoming and willing to help.

"From last weekend, I've now got even more tools to enhance my game and I look forward to sharing them with my colleagues in Bedfordshire."

● James Webb



A summer of beach soccer

The French Football Federation (FFF) has once again organised its beach soccer tour throughout this summer all along the French coastline. From Berck-sur-Mer (Pas-de-Calais) to Graudu-Roi (Gard), from Quiberon (Morbihan) to Canet-en-Roussillon (Pyrénées-Orientales), few resorts have escaped the wave of beach soccer. For the first time in the tournament's history, the 2012 edition also included a stage in Paris, much to the delight of the capital's residents.

Introduced in 2001, the tour has once again welcomed several thousand visitors, who have taken part in introductory sessions and tournaments put on by the teams from the FFF and the Joël Cantona Organisation. Alongside standard matches and freestyle demonstrations, the various interactive workshops, such as the radar gun (for which

the record of 107 km/h was set in Gruissan) and precision target practice have regularly attracted full houses. Completely free of charge and open to all, these additional attractions have definitely contributed to the success of the tour.

The FFF chose the Saint-Jean-de-Monts stage of the tour for the national beach soccer final round on Tuesday 24, Wednesday 25 and Thursday 26 July. The eight best teams in France met to contest the national title. Several players from the French national beach soccer team were present, including Jérémy Basquaise, Didier Samoun, Julien Soares, Robin Gasset and Anthony Mendy, under the watchful eyes of Joël Cantona and Stéphane François, respectively their manager and player-coach.

● Matthieu Brelle-Andrade



Football has taken over French beaches this summer

UEFA Super Cup to be held in Tbilisi

Football is a wonderland, which is why fans usually have no trouble accepting the sometimes incredible happenings in European and world football. This is how it was in Georgia until 30 June, when news was announced that Georgian football fans could hardly believe.

On that day, the UEFA president officially announced in Kyiv that the 2015 UEFA Super Cup would take place in the capital of Georgia, Tbilisi. This news came as a real surprise to Georgian football fans who, even several weeks later, were still in a state of euphoria.

In connection with this event, the Georgian Football Federation made a special video clip entitled "Why in Tbilisi?" which shows some of the charm of our city. Above all, it goes without saying that Tbilisi is a city of peace and safety like all other European cities.

The 2015 UEFA Super Cup will take place at the Micheil Meskhi Stadium in Tbilisi. The Georgian Football Federation has already been undertaking huge efforts to ensure that the 2015 UEFA Super Cup will be a success.

We look forward to seeing you in Tbilisi, when you will then be able to answer for yourself the above question."

● *Tata Burduli*



Tbilisi is delighted at the prospect of welcoming the UEFA Super Cup in 2015

Clean-up campaign gets under way

The German Football Association (DFB) has launched a nationwide campaign called *Zum Angriff gegen Abfall* (Waging war on waste) in partnership with McDonald's Germany, as part of the DFB-Umweltcup 2012, the association's environment cup competition.

Zum Angriff gegen Abfall will include at least one waste collection activity in each of the DFB's 21 local associations, with one club, where the clean-up activity will start, working together with the end point, a local branch of McDonald's. The aim is to collect all the rubbish along the way, over as wide an area as possible. This is, however, just one of 90 ideas available to clubs as part of the DFB's environment cup campaign on umwelt.dfb.de.

Zum Angriff gegen Abfall got up and running at SC Riedberg, a young club in Frankfurt with a successful youth sector and a strong commitment to protecting the environment. The club has already collected plenty of points for its



Mascot Paule supervises the clean-up effort

environment cup campaign. Karlheinz Körbel (Eintracht Frankfurt), who holds the record for the most Bundesliga appearances; Dietlind Freiberg, director of corporate responsibility and environment at McDonald's Germany; Willi Hink, the DFB's director of social responsibility, and Paule, the DFB mascot, have all been lending their support to the Frankfurt club.

● *Stephan Brause*

Football academy paves the way for Baltic Cup success

The Latvian Football Federation (LFF), in cooperation with its general sponsor, Mobilais Telefons, has launched the OKartes football academy, a promising project to select talented young players from all over Latvia and to further their football development.

During eight weekends since April, four youth training camps were held at the LFF's Staicele training centre, where Latvia's youth team coaches – Anton Joore, Vladimirs Babicevs and Igors Stepanovs – assessed 200 young Latvian players in four age groups. A direct product of these camps was the success of Latvia's youth football teams in the Baltic Cup tournament held in Staicele and Valmiera. This year's winner of the four-team competition were the Latvian U19s, coached by Vladimirs Babicevs, while the Latvian U17s, led by Igors Stepanovs, finished in bronze medal position.

Meanwhile, eight of the most talented promising young players from the OKartes football academy – Denis Bezušconoks, Ingars Stuglis, Nikita Ivanovs, Pavels Jašņiks, Klavs Balinš, Eriks Melbardis, Valerijs Šabala and Vladimirs Žmīlevskis – gained invaluable experience from being invited to take part in a training session with the Latvian national team on 18 May.

● *Viktors Sopirins*



The young Latvian winners of the Baltic Cup

IFA invite summer camp children

In Israel, children start their summer holidays on 20 June or 1 July. During the long summer break, many Israeli children spend time at summer camp or taking part in other activities.



A visit to the IFA trophy room

Following last year's success, the Israel Football Association (IFA) again decided to invite children from summer camps all over Israel to visit the Ramat Gan national stadium and the IFA's offices.

More than 100 children from all parts of the country arrived in the morning. They visited the national team's dressing rooms and heard a presentation by Orit Raz, the IFA's head of youth football.

The children saw something of the preparations that go into a national team match and had the opportunity for a kick-about on the pitch where the national team play.

The children left the stadium with some small gifts and huge smiles.

As mentioned, this is the second year that the IFA has invited children from summer camps and, thanks to its marketing department and Ronit Glassman, head of marketing, it looks as if it is set to get bigger and better year on year.

● *Michal Grundland*



Amateur club makes international debut

USV Eschen/Mauren are the first club apart from FC Vaduz to have represented Liechtenstein in the qualifying rounds of the UEFA Europa League for several years. Unfortunately, however, the amateurs from the north of the country did not make it past the first qualifying round.

After 14 successive cup wins for FC Vaduz, USV Eschen/Mauren finally managed to break the winning run of the professionals in the 2012 Liechtenstein cup final. In so doing, they earned the right to take part in the Europa League qualifiers, where the team managed by former Bundesliga player Uwe Wegmann met Icelandic representatives FH Hafnarfjörður, who ultimately proved too strong an opposition, ending the Liechtensteiners' Europa League dream at the first hurdle. Following a narrow 2-1 defeat in Iceland, USV still had a chance going into the return leg in front of their home fans. A 1-0 victory would have

seen them qualify, but it was not to be: another narrow defeat, this time 1-0, brought USV Eschen/Mauren's first Europa League campaign to an end.

The European adventure was nonetheless a valuable experience for the amateur side, and left everyone involved wanting more.

● Anton Banzer



USV Eschen/Mauren made an enthusiastic debut in the UEFA Europa League



Ilco Gjorgjioski elected new president

At an extraordinary general meeting held in Ohrid, famous football coach Ilco Gjorgjioski was elected as the new president of the Football Federation of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FFM). Earlier, the assembly had accepted the resignation of outgoing president Hari Hadzi-Risteski and the board of the FFM.

Ilco Gjorgjioski comes from the ranks of league champions FK Vardar, whom he took through to the UEFA Champions League qualifying stage by virtue of winning the league title.

A new FFM executive committee was also elected, with Kenan Idrizi appointed to the office of vice-president.

The new president addressed the assembly with the following words:

"Today we showed through unity, with a massive presence, that Macedonian football has a future – which is a big responsibility for me. As the new president, I promise total commitment, 24 hours a day, as well as order,

work and discipline. I will be the most committed president. We will continue to cooperate with FIFA and UEFA, and to work on the current projects. We will also apply for new projects. We will rise to a higher level and cooperate with the state institutions for higher

quality education and development of football. I am a man of football and every day I live with football. Our main goals will be to restore confidence in our national team and to improve refereeing."

● Zoran Nikolovski



Lucrative two-year gold sponsorship for national teams

The Malta Football Association (MFA) has a gold sponsor for its national teams. This new deal expands the association's strategic programme of commercial partnership. The two-year agreement lasting until the end of the 2013/14 season was signed recently with Simonds Farsons Cisk plc, whose flagship brand of lager, Cisk, is a household name in the Maltese islands.

The MFA president, Norman Darmanin Demajo, and Norman Aquilina, CEO of the Farsons Group, expressed their satisfaction after penning this agreement. They stressed the principle behind such deals and the idea of creating opportunities of fan engagement, a modern concept aimed at providing commercial opportunities for the business partners.

The firm has joined other commercial and preferred partners in this type of sponsorship deals as distinct from the traditional type of sports sponsorships.

This should help to open the way for more progress by Malta's representative teams, which would be reflected in several technical and material forms in the teams' preparation programmes.

"We strongly believe," the MFA president said, "that a firm of the stature and identity of our business partner will also be ideal in

promoting and projecting a new identity for the national teams. This will in the end help in developing a robust international framework and in raising our standards."

Norman Aquilina said that this agreement would contribute towards enhancing the image of both entities through innovative exposure, while playing an important role in promoting the activities of the Maltese national football teams.

"It was an automatic decision to pair Malta's best-loved sport with Malta's best-loved beer," the firm's CEO said.

● Alex Vella



New president Ilco Gjorgjioski



MFA president Norman Darmanin Demajo (right) and the sponsor's representative, Norman Aquilina, unveil the Maltese national team's new kit

Moldova finishes third at a fan festival

From 28 June to 1 July in Lviv, Ukraine, an international tournament for football supporters from different European countries was organised for the sixth consecutive year. In all, 21 teams of supporters took part in "SILPO EUROFAN-2012", representing the following European countries: Belarus, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Georgia, Italy, Latvia, Moldova, Northern Ireland, Poland, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Sweden, Ukraine and Wales, plus the fan team of FC Karpaty, a team of Lviv celebrities and the team of Ukrainian showbiz stars, FC Maestro.

The fan team from Moldova put on a very good performance at this tournament. In the group stage, they drew with Croatia (3-3) and Slovenia (0-0), then went on to beat Wales 3-1 in the first knockout round and Northern Ireland 2-0 in the quarter-finals, before bowing out 3-1 in the semi-finals against the eventual



A bronze medal for the Moldovan supporters team

winners of the tournament, Romania, to finish in third place. The Moldova fan team squad at this tournament was: Adrian Dragan, Vasile Baluta, Dorin Curosu, Radu Iovu, Dumitru Muntean, Grigore Valico, Ion Prunici (captain),

Constantin Culai, Radu Gavajuc, Mihai Vladicescu, Mihai Popovici, Roman Ianciu, Gicu Bazatin, Victor Bivol, Dorin Savca and Dan Moscaliuc.

● Press office

Beach soccer on the move

After the success of the Dutch beach soccer team in Moscow last month, where the Oranje team surprisingly managed to qualify for the FIFA Beach Soccer World Cup in Tahiti next year, the Dutch FA (KNVB) is more than proud to be hosting the 2012 Euro Beach Soccer League "Superfinal" in The Hague over the last weekend of August.

In the permanent beach stadium that has been erected on the lovely beach in The Hague, the European beach soccer elite will gather to compete for the European title.

Beach soccer was introduced in the Netherlands approximately 15 years ago by an independent marketing company. Over the past decade, the KNVB has adopted the game, which has since become one of the fastest-growing sectors of Dutch football. The KNVB aims to

The Dutch beach soccer team have qualified for the 2013 FIFA Beach Soccer World Cup in Tahiti.



reach a wide range of members, who can play beach soccer in local leagues throughout the summer. Thus, beach soccer fits into the association's long-term marketing plans.

If the weather turns out fine for the European finals, thousands of sunseekers

will flock to the stadium to attend the matches over the four days of the tournament. With the help of TV – a daily 30-minute programme will show the highlights of all matches – beach soccer should reach an even wider audience.

● Rob de Leede

Health and well-being conference

Over 70 participants attended the inaugural Irish FA health and well-being conference at the University of Ulster, Jordanstown.

Organised as part of the SCORE pilot project, which is funded through the UEFA HatTrick programme, the conference brought together junior players, senior players, parents and coaches. Hosted by Claire McCollum, the day involved a number of workshops delivered by University of Ulster specialists including Dr Andrea McNeilly, Dr Chris Bleakley, Jim Lowther, William Moore and Alison Moffitt. Topics covered included nutrition, strength and conditioning and player welfare.

Guest speaker Helen McKenna, a former Northern Ireland player, told the conference

delegates how she managed to juggle her training and match commitments for Northern Ireland and her education and work commitments. Helen is a qualified solicitor who continued to play for Northern Ireland



Members of the Northern Ireland national women's team with some of the younger participants at the conference

throughout her studies and during her years working for a local Belfast law firm. She recently retired from international football and is expecting her first child in September.

The unique nature of this conference meant that both players and parents attended the workshops.

Organiser of the conference, Sara Booth, the Irish FA women's domestic football manager, said: "It was important that the parents attended our health and well-being conference as they are the ones that buy and prepare the food. There isn't any point in us telling an 11-year-old what to eat, when he or she isn't responsible for preparing the food. On behalf of the association, I would like to thank UEFA, the University of Ulster and Simply Fruit for making the event possible."

● Sara Booth



Special camps for girls

Among its activities, the development of women's football is one of the major preoccupations of the Romanian Football Federation (FRF). It is not an easy task, given the increasing value of women's football at European and world level. Romania is achieving better and better results in Europe (good performances by the senior team in the Women's EURO 2013 qualifiers and qualification for the recent Women's U19 final tournament in Turkey), and thanks to the HatTrick programme, the FRF was able to take a further step forward this summer.

With the aim of attracting girls aged between 11 and 14 into football, as well as encouraging current or former women players (either graduates or students in the last year at the sports university) to take up coaching at women's level, the Romanian FA has organised three special camps, for which around 100 girls from all over Romania have been selected. At each one-week camp, the 32–35 participants are instructed by members of the Romanian women's national team technical staff – Maria Delicioiu, Mirela Albion, Florin Ungureanu and Iulian Szekely – who work together with specialist teachers from a number of schools.



The participants at one of the summer camps

The first camp took place in northern Romania, in Ocna Sugatag, from 22 to 29 July, while the next two will be held simultaneously in Costinesti (a resort on the Black Sea coast) and Odorheiu Secuiesc (in the centre of the country) from 19 to 26 August. A final camp, to which the best ten girls from each camp will be invited, will take place at the Romanian FA's Buftea training centre in September.

The enthusiasm of all involved is already evident, and current national team regulars such as Maria Ficay, Raluca Sarghe and Ioana Bortan have become involved in the process of instructing the girls.

Camps like these will now be organised every summer, because the ultimate aim is not only to attract girls into football and to build the basis of girls' football, but also to provide more and more talents for the national teams, starting with the U15s and U17s.

● Paul Zaharia



Productive general meeting

At the recent general meeting of the FA of Serbia, held on 12 July in the congress hall of the Stara Pazova sports centre, the delegates unanimously re-elected Tomislav Karadžić as the association's president for a further four-year term. The assembly also expressed its full confidence in the general secretary, Zoran Laković.

After the working part of the meeting, the leadership, delegates and guests from home and abroad attended a ceremony to lay the foundation stone to mark the start of construction work on the stadium around the sports centre's main pitch, where the Serbian national youth teams will play their matches.

The stadium will seat about 5,000 spectators in a comfortable environment that will also provide top-quality facilities, for the media and VIP hospitality, for example. The stadium will have 1,400-lux floodlights, meeting the standards for staging official international matches.

Marios N. Lefkaritis, UEFA vice-president and member of the FIFA Executive Committee, and František Laurinec, member of the UEFA Executive Committee, were also in attendance, making this historic moment for Serbian football all the more splendid.

"I am proud to represent UEFA and FIFA at the general meeting of the FA of Serbia, and also to be here at this magnificent sports centre of your association. We have trust in the management of the FA of Serbia and our cooperation so far has also been a good experience, particularly in the ways the financial resources from our programmes have been spent. Therefore, we have no reason to doubt that this trend will continue. I wish you the best of luck with the construction work," Mr Lefkaritis said at the ceremony.

● Aleksandar Bošković



UEFA award for a community programme

The Scottish FA has received notification from UEFA that its flagship participation programme for primary school children, the Tesco Bank Football Challenge (TBFC), has been awarded silver in the 2012 UEFA Grassroots Day awards "Best Project" category.

The TBFC is a four-year community programme run in partnership with the Scottish FA. The project introduces football to primary two and primary three children (six to eight year-olds) across Scotland to help get them engaged in a healthy and active lifestyle. In total, Tesco Bank has made a £1 million investment in the project.

The programme's aim is to reach 72,000 boys and girls of all levels and abilities in at least 1,600 primary schools across Scotland's 32 local authorities over four years. The TBFC is the foundation level of the Scottish FA's development plan. It is based on the four-a-side "Desire to Play" programme, and is designed to develop social skills, health and fitness, camaraderie, and the development of general physical literacy skills.

More than 36,000 children across Scotland have been involved in the TBFC in the first two years of the programme which sees children receive in-school coaching before attending a regional cluster festival. In May, over 300 children were invited to a national festival of football and fun at Hampden Park, the second such event held. Jim Fleeting, the Scottish FA's director of football development, said: "To receive this recognition from European football's governing body is absolutely fantastic. The partnership between the Scottish FA and



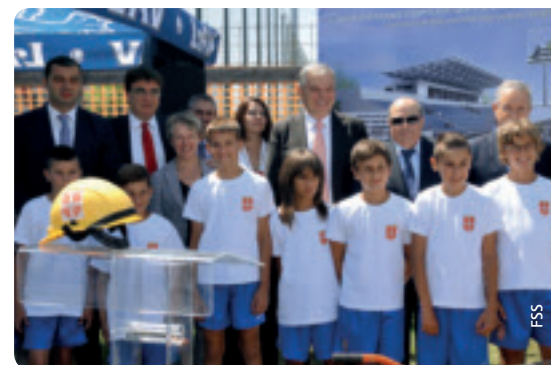
An early introduction to football is also an encouragement to live a healthy life through physical activity

Tesco Bank through the football challenge is an integral part of our grassroots development and a key driver in enabling us to deliver our strong quality growth objective of doubling the number of participants in the recreational game. The TBFC is a great way to involve young people in the national sport in communities across Scotland and a fantastic way to promote healthy living at a key age group."

Scotland's sports minister, Shona Robison MSP, added: "Football plays such an important role in our communities and I am delighted that this award recognises Scottish FA and Tesco Bank efforts to involve children in football. It's well known that exercise is a long-term investment in health, so the more children that can be encouraged from an early age to be physically active – and aim to be our football stars of the future – the more likely they are to maintain that pattern and live a healthy, happy life."

The Scottish FA is currently collating complete participation statistics for year two of the programme, with these expected to be available in August.

● Andrew Harris



The ceremony to lay the foundation stone at the Stara Pazova sports centre

Women's football gains ground

Although it has traditionally been men who have enjoyed the privilege of playing football, the game is becoming more and more popular among the fairer sex. Some facts to support this trend are evident in Slovakia: former Slovakia international Natália Mackovicová has been appointed national women's football coordinator; a women's U17 national team has been established, and at the end of March, a women's qualifying match was broadcast live on television for the first time. Elsewhere, at the

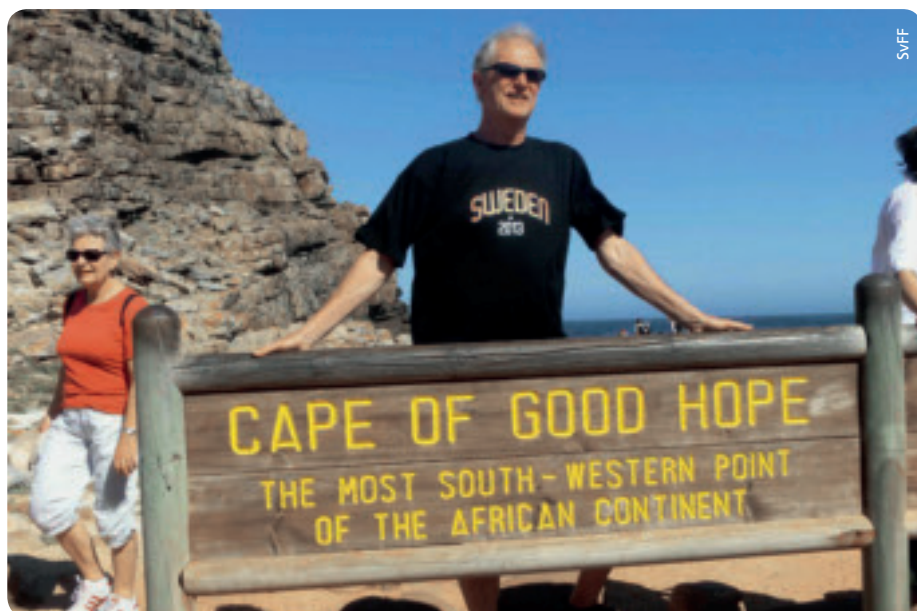
schools cup grassroots tournament, the girls won the same prizes as the boys; a new training centre for the women's national teams is being built in the village of Dunajská Lužná, and this year, Slovakia will host a qualifying mini-tournament for the European Women's Under-17 Championship as well as a UEFA Women's Champions League qualifying group. In its efforts to develop women's football, the country is looking ahead to the 2015/16 European Women's Under-19 Championship final round, which will be held in Slovakia.

● Juraj Curný



The European women's U19 trophy will be awarded in Slovakia in 2016.

Sportsfile



Promoting the Women's EURO 2013 right down to the Cape of Good Hope

Women's football is gaining ground

Next year, the UEFA Women's EURO will be played in Sweden. The goals of the tournament is to gain ground for women's football in Europe and to be an important part in the positive development of women's football. The summer of 2012 has so far been a good year for women's football in Sweden, where a number of events and activities have taken place to develop women's football, both nationally and internationally.

To start with, there was the Volvo Winners Cup, a three-nation tournament involving the gold, silver and bronze medallists from the 2011 World Cup, namely, Sweden, Japan and the USA. It was a successful tournament, with the live broadcast of the match between Japan and the United States watched by no fewer than about 15 million Japanese!

Then in July, Sweden won the European Women's Under-19 Championship in Turkey. It was a great performance by our girls and their victory attracted a lot of attention in

the Swedish media, showing that interest in women's football is steadily increasing, which, hopefully, will be a boost for the UEFA Women's EURO 2013.

The "Sweden 2013" campaign, which aims to raise interest in and knowledge of the UEFA Women's EURO 2013, is also in full swing. One of the goals of the campaign is to take the "Sweden 2013" T-shirt to most countries in the world before the UEFA Women's EURO 2013 opening match. The T-shirt, which is only worn by good ambassadors for women's football, has already visited about 50 countries. Hopefully, it will travel all the way around the world and become an appealing example of how women's football has been gaining ground in Sweden, Europe and all over the world ahead of the start of the Women's EURO 2013.

As these events and activities show, women's football is gaining ground in several ways, and the Women's EURO 2013 will give its development a further boost in the right direction.

● Tobias Frejfors

Reorganisation of Swiss football's third tier

Beneath the Super League and the Challenge League, the *Erste Liga* is the third tier of Swiss football – the "top of the grassroots". Following a review of last season, including numerous discussions with the Swiss Football League and the amateur league, it has been decided



Kurt Zuppinger, president of the *Erste Liga*

to restructure the bridge between the amateur and the professional game.

Following the reduction of the Challenge League from 16 to 10 clubs, a 16-team *Erste Liga Promotion* has been introduced above the *Erste Liga Classic* (consisting of 12 teams from the *Erste Liga* and the four strongest U21 teams from the Swiss Football League). At the end of the season, the winners of the *Erste Liga Promotion* (excluding the U21 teams) are promoted to the Challenge League. The bottom two teams are relegated to the *Erste Liga Classic*, which is made up of three regional groups of 14 clubs each.



In line with this new sporting direction, the *Erste Liga* has also launched a new visual identity, reflecting its 79-year history and development. Around 20,000 licensed players are in action for the league's registered clubs every weekend. From Lake Geneva in the southeast to Lake Constance in the northwest, the *Erste Liga* positions itself as a national league between the professionals of the Swiss Football League and the grassroots football of the amateur league and, as such, it is an important interface in Swiss football.

● Pierre Benoit



Antalya hosts Women's U19 Championship

The final round of the 2011/12 European Women's Under-19 Championship was organised from 2 to 14 July in Antalya, the biggest tourism centre of Turkey, which is located on the southern coast of the country. Besides the hosts, who were taking part in the finals for the first time in their history, seven other teams took part in the tournament.

Tournament matches were played in four different stadiums. In Group A, hosts Turkey faced Denmark, Romania and Portugal, while in Group B, Spain, Sweden, England and Serbia came face to face. After beating Denmark in the semi-finals, Sweden qualified for the final against Spain, who eliminated Portugal in the semi-finals. In the final, a goal from Malin Diaz in extra time put the trophy into the hands of

the Scandinavian side. In addition, Sweden's Elin Rubensson finished as the tournament's leading goalscorer, with five goals to her name.

During the tournament, the Turkish Football Federation (TFF) organised various activities with the cooperation of UEFA for the supporters and the teams. These activities included beach and soap football on the beaches in front of the hotels, and a party for all the players, giving them the opportunity to socialise with each other.

The tournament was the third UEFA event to be hosted by the TFF in 2012, following the UEFA winter course for referees and the 36th Ordinary UEFA Congress. The UEFA winter course for referees took place in Antalya, while Istanbul hosted the 36th Ordinary UEFA Congress in March. The women's Under-19 tournament was also the first youth tournament to have been hosted by the TFF for four



The Swedish delegation celebrate winning the European Women's U19 title

years, following the final round of the 2007/08 European Under-17 Championship, which was also organised in Antalya.

● Aydin Güvenir



FC Shakhtar Donetsk enjoy perfect summer

FC Shakhtar Donetsk have completed a perfect season in Ukraine, winning all three national competitions in 2012: the premier league, the Ukrainian Cup and the Ukrainian Super Cup.

The Super Cup was the final trophy of the year needed by Mircea Lucescu's side to complete this historic hat-trick, and this they achieved by beating their neighbours from FC Metalurh Donetsk 2-0 at the beginning of July in Luhansk. It was also Metalurh who were beaten by Shakhtar 2-1 in the cup final at Kyiv's Olympic Stadium in May, just a few days before "The Miners" were crowned champions of Ukraine for the third consecutive season and completed a back-to-back double.

FC Dynamo Kyiv may still be the most successful Ukrainian club, having won 13 titles since the inception of the Ukrainian premier league in 1992, but the pendulum has swung firmly in FC Shakhtar Donetsk's direction in recent years. "The Miners" have somewhat overshadowed the capital club's dominance by lifting the title in four of the last five seasons, and eliminated their greatest rivals in each of the past five editions of the Ukrainian Cup.

The Super Cup was Lucescu's 15th piece of silverware in his eight years at the Shakhtar



A triumphant season for FC Shakhtar Donetsk

helm, and the 66-year-old believes he has all the right components to add to that tally. "There's just one goal for the team, which is to win trophies, but now I'm more interested in the UEFA Champions League rather than the domestic league," said the coach, who led Shakhtar to UEFA Cup success in 2009.

"Shakhtar are confident of their strength and play attractive football. We have changed

the squad several times, reducing the average age of the team, and it hasn't affected our performances. We have experienced players such as Darijo Srna, Olexandr Kucher and Razvan Rat, but we have a lot of youngsters who probably wouldn't have played at other clubs, but are part of the starting 11 at Shakhtar."

● Bogdan Buga



New national youth team coach

The Football Association of Wales is pleased to announce the appointment of former international midfielder player Geraint Williams to the role of manager of the national intermediate teams. He takes over from Brian Flynn, who held the position for seven years. Geraint played professional football for Bristol

Rovers, Derby County, Ipswich Town and Colchester United, and had spells as manager at Colchester and Leyton Orient. He was capped 13 times by Wales from the late 1980s through to the 1990s.

A native of Cwmparc in the Rhondda Valley in South Wales, Geraint is delighted to take on coaching responsibility for the Welsh Under-17, Under-19 and Under-21 teams.

● Ceri Stennett



Geraint Williams, Wales' new national youth team coach

BIRTHDAYS

Gerhard Aigner (Germany, 1 September)
José Guilherme Aguiar (Portugal, 1 September)

☆☆☆ 60th

Manuel Díaz Vega (Spain, 1 September)
 João Morais (Portugal, 1 September)
 Marco Brunelli (Italy, 2 September)
 Gérard Houllier (France, 3 September)
 David Elleray (England, 3 September)
 Ulrich Grzella (Germany, 3 September)
 Rudolf Bata (Czech Republic, 4 September)
 Victor Mintoff (Malta, 4 September)
 Grigoriy Surkis (Ukraine, 4 September)
 Barry Taylor (England, 5 September)
 Andrey Grishanov (Russia, 5 September)
 Matthias Sammer (Germany, 5 September)
 Eija Vähälä (Finland, 6 September)
Bernd Stöber (Germany, 6 September)

☆☆☆ 60th

Ivan Hasek (Czech Republic, 6 September)
 György Mezey (Hungary, 7 September)
 Antonio Laranjo (Portugal, 7 September)
 Werner Helsen (Belgium, 7 September)
 Adrian Titcombe (England, 8 September)
 Igor Klimper (FYR Macedonia, 8 September)
 Pierre Rochongar (France, 9 September)
 Kostadin Gerginov (Bulgaria, 9 September)
 Geir Thorsteinsson (Iceland, 9 September)
 Ilonka Milanova Djaleva (Bulgaria, 9 September)
 Ioannis Tsachlidis (Greece, 11 September)
 Katarzyna Wierzboska (Poland, 11 September)
 Tomas Karpavicius (Lithuania, 11 September)
 Talal Darawshi (Israel, 12 September)
 Tanya Gravina (Malta, 12 September)
 Stanisław Speczik (Poland, 13 September)
 Jon Skjervold (Norway, 13 September)
 Ingrid Jonsson (Sweden, 13 September)
 Frank Wormuth (Germany, 13 September)
 Javid Garayev (Azerbaijan, 14 September)
 Kim Robin Haugen (Norway, 14 September)
 Dejan Savicević (Montenegro, 15 September)
 Sokol Jareci (Albania, 15 September)
 Revaz Arveladze (Georgia, 15 September)
 Paddy McCaul (Republic of Ireland, 16 September)

Antonis Petrou (Cyprus, 16 September)
 Kelly Simmons (England, 16 September)
 Heike Ullrich (Germany, 16 September)
 Antoine De Pandis (France, 17 September)
 Antero Silva Resende (Portugal, 18 September)
Senes Erzik (Turkey, 18 September)

☆☆☆ 70th

Roberto Rosetti (Italy, 18 September)
Miroslava Migalova (Slovakia, 18 September)

☆☆☆ 40th

Stefano Farina (Italy, 19 September)

☆☆☆ 50th

Gaioz Darsadze (Georgia, 19 September)
 Miloš Marković (Serbia, 20 September)
Ruud Bruijnīs (Netherlands, 21 September)

☆☆☆ 60th

Helena Herrero González (Spain, 21 September)
 Viktor Paradnikov (Ukraine, 21 September)
Nenad Dikić (Serbia, 21 September)

☆☆☆ 50th

Stefan Weber (Germany, 21 September)
 Cornelis de Bruin (Netherlands, 22 September)
 Vasile Avram (Romania, 22 September)
 Goetz Eilers (Germany, 23 September)
 Umberto Lago (Italy, 23 September)
 Giangiorgio Spiess (Switzerland, 24 September)
 Eugen Strigel (Germany, 24 September)
 Ionel Piscanu (Romania, 24 September)

Matteo Frameglia (Italy, 24 September)
 Hans Reitinger (Austria, 25 September)
 Dr Mogens Kreutzfeldt (Denmark, 25 September)
 Paul Krähenbühl (Switzerland, 25 September)
 Karl-Heinz Rummenigge (Germany, 25 September)
 Christine Frai (Germany, 25 September)
 Rotem Kamer (Israel, 25 September)
Stephen Lodge (England, 26 September)
 ☆☆☆ 60th
Camelia Nicolae (Romania, 26 September)
 ☆☆☆ 50th
 Dzmityr Kryshchanovich (Belarus, 26 September)
Aleš Zavrl (Slovenia, 26 September) ☆☆☆ 40th
 Sławomir Stępniewski (Poland, 26 September)
 Jens Kleinefeld (Germany, 27 September)
 Jindrich Rajchl (Czech Republic, 27 September)
 Mariano Delogu (Italy, 28 September)
 Prof. William Stewart Hillis (Scotland, 28 September)
 Michael van Praag (Netherlands, 28 September)
 Karel Bohunek (Czech Republic, 28 September)
 Eric Romain (Belgium, 28 September)
 Lutfi Arboban (Turkey, 30 September)
 Cristina-Daniela Uluc (Romania, 30 September)

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Meetings

3–5 September, in Nyon
 UEFA Top Referees summer gathering

5/6 September, in Nyon
 Elite Club Coaches Forum

10 September, in Nyon
 Women's Football Committee

13 September, in Israel
 European Under-21 Championship:
 play-off draw

21 September, in Sweden
 Women's European Championship:
 play-off draw

24 September, in Warsaw
 Development and Technical Assistance
 Committee

24–26 September, in Warsaw
 Conference for European National Coaches

26 September, in Warsaw
 Football Committee

Competitions

4–9 September
 UEFA Futsal Cup: main round

18/19 September
 UEFA Champions League: group matches
 (matchday 1)

20 September
 UEFA Europa League: group matches
 (matchday 1)

22 September–13 October, in Azerbaijan
 FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup

26/27 September
 UEFA Women's Champions League:
 round of 32 (first legs)

NOTICES

- Following the resignation of Sergey Fursenko on 4 July, first vice-president, Nikita Simonyan, has taken temporary charge at the head of the Russian Football Union.

- On 5 July, Davor Šuker became the new president of the Croatian Football Federation. He takes over from Vlatko Marković, who becomes honorary president.

- On 12 July, Tomislav Karadžić was re-elected to the post of president of the Football Association of Serbia for a further four-year term.

- Damir Vrbanić became the new director of the Croatian Football Federation on 16 July.

DEPARTURE OF UEFA'S COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR

Having joined UEFA in August 2001 to head the newly created UEFA New Media set-up, Alexandre Fourtoy, appointed director of communications in 2010, left UEFA in July to pursue a new professional challenge. Under his leadership, the UEFA.com site, launched in 1998, gathered momentum and rocketed. Under the name of UEFA Media Technologies (UMET), the company expanded into the development of new technologies and then TV production, delivering, in particular, the TV material for UEFA EURO 2008 and UEFA EURO 2012. In between, in 2010, UMET was incorporated into UEFA's communications division, with Alexandre Fourtoy appointed as director.

OBITUARY

A UEFA media officer since 2009, a role he continued to fulfil at EURO 2012, **Mátyás Imre** (Hungary) passed away on 7 July at the age of 55 after a short illness. Since 2010, he had also been working with the UEFA administration as a photo archivist.



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