First women’s title for Italy 03
End of a long wait for Germany’s U19 men 05
HatTrick II gets under way 08
Anti-doping measures at EURO 2008 10
After 14 seasons, the UEFA Intertoto Cup has reached the end of the road. The discontinuation of this traditional season opener heralds changes that will be introduced next year, in particular the new UEFA Champions League format, which makes the competition accessible to clubs from a greater number of national associations.

Combined with automatic UEFA Champions League qualification for three clubs from each of the top three associations in UEFA’s rankings, this change will also affect the domestic championships that are getting under way for another season.

As you know, widening the door to the UEFA Champions League was one of the main objectives of my election manifesto, so, naturally, I am very pleased that it has been achieved so soon. This could not have been done so smoothly and quickly without the cooperation of the clubs, who were willing to discuss and seek solutions with us.

I thank them for this positive attitude, which football needs to maintain its extraordinary popularity and vigour. Other important subjects remain on the agenda and I am counting on this willingness continuing so that, by coming together around the same table, mutually suitable and acceptable solutions can be found for all these important issues, such as sorting out the financial situation of the clubs.

As we embark on a new UEFA club competition season, let us remember how EURO 2008 captivated football fans in June. It is this spirit that I would like to carry into the new season, with a focus on attacking and entertaining play, but at the same time respecting the rules, the referees, opponents and the fans, who deserve exciting, top-quality matches in return for their loyal support.

Michel Platini
UEFA President
After finishing twice as runners-up in the Senior European Women’s Championship, Italy finally won their first women’s title as their Under-19 side emerged victorious in Tours (France) on 19 July.

It was the first time the Italians had reached the final of the European Women’s Under-19 Championship and they made the most of the opportunity by beating Norway thanks to a second-half penalty converted by Alice Parisi. The victory was deserved, even in the opinion of Norwegian coach Jarl Torkse: “I don’t think we created one chance. How can you win like that? All credit to the Italian team as they deserved to win, definitely.”

“We’ve worked hard for three years and we’ve been improving all the time,” said Italian coach Corrado Corradini. “We hope this victory will help women’s football in Italy. I hope soon we can have professional women’s teams in Italy.”

Easy qualification

Italy actually finished the tournament just as they had started it, as they had beaten Norway by the same scoreline, 1-0, in their opening match. A win over tournament hosts France then guaranteed them a place in the semi-finals after just two games and even their defeat to Spain in the final group match could not prevent them finishing top of Group A. The runners-up spot went to Norway thanks to their result against France, who needed to win the match in order to qualify. The Norwegians managed to open the score, but could not stop their opponents from equalising in the second half. However, they valiantly held out under French pressure to secure the draw they needed to go through.

Germans true to form

In Group B, Germany, winners of the previous two editions of the European Women’s Under-19 Championship, lived up to their role as favourites by beating England in their first match, but were then held to a draw by Sweden. They took their revenge on Scotland, beating them...
Spain’s Melanie Serrano tries to get the ball off France’s Gwenaëlle Butel. Sweden (Emmelie Konradsson) got as far as the semi-finals. Germany’s Josephine Henning tries to get past Norway’s Ingvild Landvik Isaksen but it was Norway that had the final say in the semi-finals. Spain’s Melanie Serrano tries to get the ball off France’s Gwenaëlle Butel.

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The tournament, which was played in the Loire region of France from 7 to 19 July, was undoubtedly the semi-final between the reigning champions and Norway, a match that was broadcast live by Eurosport, along with the final. The Germans maybe found it all too easy at the start of the match against a nervous Norwegian side, taking the lead in the opening minutes. However, a defensive mistake exploited by Norway’s Elise Enget seemed to knock the Germans out of their stride and gave new confidence to the Scandinavians, who had adopted a more attack-minded attitude. As they had already done against France, they managed to hold their nerve as the Germans dominated the latter stages, reaching the end of extra time without conceding again before winning the subsequent penalty competition. “During the penalties, I thought ‘this is going to be our day’ – and it was,” said a delighted Jarl Torske, while his German counterpart Maren Meinert lamented: “We were on top for 120 minutes but anything can happen in a knockout game… Maybe we were not fresh enough in extra time.”

The first semi-final, meanwhile, was a stroll in the park for Italy, who made short work of Sweden, opening the score at the end of the first half before adding three more goals in the second period.

The end of Germany’s domination of this competition will no doubt help to strengthen the ambitions of their rivals in the next edition, which will start in September for 44 of the 46 teams involved. Twenty-three countries will go through to the second round, where they will be joined by Germany, who have qualified automatically. The seven best teams will travel to Belarus next summer to contest the European crown alongside the host nation.

Contrasting semi-finals
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### Results

#### Group A

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Team 1</th>
<th>Team 2</th>
<th>Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>Spain</td>
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</tr>
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<tr>
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<td>Norway</td>
<td>France</td>
<td>1-1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>Italy</td>
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#### Group B

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</tr>
<tr>
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<td>Germany</td>
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</tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
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<td>Scotland</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
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<td>Sweden</td>
<td>1-1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>Germany</td>
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#### Semi-finals

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</thead>
<tbody>
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<td>4-0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16.07</td>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>Norway</td>
<td>1-1**</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

** 4-2 after penalties

#### Final

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Team 1</th>
<th>Team 2</th>
<th>Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>19.07</td>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>Norway</td>
<td>1-0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The fair play trophy was won by Scotland, who topped the rankings ahead of France.

Photos: Sportsfile

04 uefadirect 9.08
Germany's Savio Nsereko goes to tackle the Czech Republic's Lukas Marecek.

Hungary's Vladimir Koman beats Italy's Fernando Forestieri to the ball in the semi-finals.

Germany's Richard Sukuta-Pasu scores the second goal of the final.

**European Under-19 Championship**

**Germany’s youngsters end long barren spell**

**WITH A 3-1 WIN OVER ITALY IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC, THE GERMAN UNDER-19 TEAM WON THEIR COUNTRY’S FIRST UEFA YOUTH TITLE SINCE THE 1992 EUROPEAN UNDER-16 TOURNAMENT.**

“This victory means a lot for German football. The German Football Association has done many things to improve youth development in Germany. All the Bundesliga clubs have special youth development centres and all those clubs have helped in the preparation for the tournament. It’s important to have a title to show that your efforts are worth it,” said German U19 coach Horst Hrubesch following this important triumph for the DFB’s youth development programme.

**Eventful final**

Germany had to work hard for their victory in the Strelnice stadium in Jablonec, particularly since they were a man down for a long period following the second yellow card issued to captain Florian Jungwirth in the 37th minute. But the Germans, who had taken the lead ten minutes earlier with a goal by Lars Bender, withstood the Italian pressure and even continued to threaten themselves, with Richard Sukuta-Pasu scoring a second after an hour. Around 20 minutes from time, Italian Matteo Gentili also had to take an early shower after receiving a second yellow, although this did not prevent his team from pulling a goal back in the 78th minute through Silvano Raggio. Almost immediately, Timo Gebhart’s header wrapped up a 3-1 victory.

**Emotional reactions**

Horst Hrubesch, who enjoyed a successful career as a player, winning the European Championship in 1980 before finishing second in the World Cup two years later and lifting the European Champion Clubs’ Cup in 1983 with Hamburger SV, said after the match that the best team in the tournament had won: “We’ve won all five matches and deserved to win them all, so we can say that we were the best in the tournament. This was a worthy final, with the drama of the yellow and red cards and the late goal for the Italians, but my players really fought for the title. They really showed how much they wanted to win today, and that gives me a lot of pride,” said a delighted Hrubesch, who was famous for his aerial prowess as a player.

Italian coach Francesco Rocca was not so pleased: “I’m not happy of course, because we didn’t play the way I wanted to – we just weren’t really on our game tonight at any point. Germany were better than us, and that’s a big regret – we played against ten players for a long time but we never really got into the match. Congratulations to Germany because they were better tonight but we could have played a lot better. Maybe there was too much pressure on the players tonight and they weren’t able to express themselves as they would have liked.”

**Route to the final**

Italy almost lost their first match against Greece, scoring in the 89th minute to scrape a 1-1 draw. They then drew 0-0 with England and needed to win their third match in order to reach the semi-finals. The 4-3 victory against the Czech Republic, which secured the Italians’ place as group winners, was the most exciting as well as the deciding match of Group B. The English were unfortunate to
finish only third, level on points with the Czech hosts, but can nonetheless console themselves with a place at the FIFA Under-20 World Cup in Egypt in 2009. Last year’s finalists Greece, whose team included only two of the players who had reached the 2007 final, still managed two draws and finished fourth.

Group A was dominated by Germany, who defeated newcomers Bulgaria (3-0) and Hungary (2-1), as well as Spain (2-1), winners of the previous two editions and four of the last six European U19 Championships. The Spaniards missed out on a semi-final place for once, although their convincing 4-0 win over Bulgaria ensured they went out in style and guaranteed them the sixth and final place at the Under-20 World Cup. Hungary finished second in the group, largely thanks to their 1-0 win over Spain. In the semi-finals, Italy were therefore paired with Hungary and Germany with the Czech Republic.

Close semi-finals

Italy managed a narrow 1-0 win against Hungary. The only goal was scored by substitute Fernando Forestieri after a wonderful combination in the 65th minute. The Hungarians, who were cheered on by a large group of fans, certainly had their chances, but were unable to penetrate the sometimes shaky looking Italian defence, unluckily hitting the post in stoppage time. The second semi-final between Germany and the Czech Republic was even closer. After goals by Marcel Risse and Tomas Necid, the score was 1-1 after 90 minutes, so extra time followed. Both teams missed golden opportunities before substitute Richard Sukuta-Pasu, the son of Congolese parents, shattered the host nation’s dreams in the 119th minute.

Growing interest

In the wake of EURO 2008, the European Under-19 Championship also attracted a great deal of media interest. The matches were not only broadcast by UEFA’s European broadcasting partner, Eurosport, but were also televised in the Near East, America and even Oceania. Despite two goalless draws, 37 goals were scored in the 15 matches, an average of 2.47 per match. The tournament’s top scorer with four goals was Slavia Prague’s Czech striker Tomas Necid. The 2009 final round will take place in Ukraine and the draw for the elite round will be held at the UEFA headquarters in Nyon on 4 December.

Results

| Group A | 14.07 Bulgaria – Hungary | 0-1 |
| 14.07 Germany – Spain | 2-1 |
| 17.07 Spain – Hungary | 0-1 |
| 17.07 Germany – Bulgaria | 3-0 |
| 20.07 Hungary – Germany | 1-2 |
| 20.07 Spain – Bulgaria | 4-0 |
| Group B | 14.07 Czech Republic – England | 2-0 |
| 14.07 Greece – Italy | 1-1 |
| 17.07 Czech Republic – Greece | 0-0 |
| 17.07 England – Italy | 0-0 |
| 20.07 Italy – Czech Republic | 4-3 |
| 20.07 England – Greece | 3-0 |
| Semi-finals | 23.07 Italy – Hungary | 1-0 |
| 23.07 Germany – Czech Republic | 2-1* |
| * after extra time |
| Final | 26.07 Germany – Italy | 3-1 |

The fair play trophy was awarded to England.
Club licensing system
An important step forward

FOOTBALL’S LARGEST GOVERNANCE PROJECT, THE UEFA CLUB LICENSING SYSTEM, HAS TAKEN AN IMPORTANT STEP FORWARD RECENTLY.

No fewer than 634 clubs all over Europe have for the first time been assessed under Version 2.0 of UEFA’s club licensing manual, which includes requirements for every club to submit financial budgets and stricter controls on transfer and employee payables among the 34 UEFA-defined criteria. When the dust settled on the latest licensing cycle in June, 511 top division clubs had successfully completed the licensing process and been granted a licence by the national decision-making bodies.

Sharing experiences
From June 2007 to June 2008, a number of seminars were organised and more than a quarter of the licensors were visited by the UEFA administration. During these visits, issues were discussed and action plans elaborated. Looking forward, in addition to further bilateral meetings, preparations are under way for autumn workshops with groups of licensors in Amsterdam, Paris, Tallinn, Dublin and Minsk, as well as for a meeting in Geneva with representatives from the decision-making bodies of all 53 UEFA member associations. The wealth of practical experience gained by the national licensing departments and the sharing of that experience remains one of the licensing network’s strongest assets.

Compliance
To ensure consistency of application across Europe, the 53 national licensing bodies will again undergo independent SGS certification audits and compliance audits. As part of the continual improvement ethic, new electronic tools have been developed and will be employed by the UEFA administration and its external partners to improve the efficiency of the compliance process.

Benchmarking
The benchmarking of club licensing information has become a specific objective following the introduction of the new criteria. Thanks to the great efforts undertaken by licensing managers and financial experts, the transparency of European club football and of the club licensing system is being significantly enhanced. A new benchmarking report underlining trends across Europe, as well as the launch of a club licensing database, will capture the knowledge held within the licensing system and make it available to the national associations later in the year.

Central to the football family
In the last year, the importance of club licensing has been acknowledged through the creation of a specific club licensing unit in the National Associations Division of the UEFA administration. Previously club licensing was taken care of by a sub-division of the Sports Legal Services Unit and was not a unit in its own right.

The club licensing system continues to have a high profile in political circles, and in June a working group of the Club Licensing Committee met for the first time for an open discussion on potential future developments.

No licence, no place in the UEFA competitions.
The HatTrick programme has enabled the national associations to construct many facilities.

For this new cycle, the HatTrick Bureau has adopted a set of regulations governing the investment programme, which is designed to meet the needs of the member associations by financing projects aimed at developing and improving football in general.

The following areas are covered:
- administration
- training
- youth football
- infrastructure
- other tailor-made development projects.

Each association is entitled to a maximum of EUR 2.5 million to fund projects in the aforementioned fields; these projects must be approved by the HatTrick Committee or Bureau. Each national association may submit more than one project, but no more than five in all. Furthermore, the funding from UEFA is meant to be a catalyst for attracting financial support from other sources, either the member association itself or third parties.

### Social projects

Social projects may be related to:
- a healthy lifestyle, i.e. projects aimed at educating and raising awareness of health risks, such as those linked to drug use, alcohol and tobacco abuse, diseases such as AIDS, obesity, etc.
- violence prevention and disaster management, i.e. projects aimed at establishing a state of harmony in the absence of hostility and danger;
- social cohesion, facilitating the integration of minorities and their participation in society;
- integrity, ensuring that organisations are run properly and preventing any risk of corruption or abuse;
- environment, through projects linked to sanitation and appropriate education on subjects such as global warming and species preservation.

### Promotion of grassroots football

As far as grassroots football is concerned, the projects may involve promoting the training of women and youth team coaches, setting up national and regional youth training centres, developing football schools, launching talent promotion programmes or developing community-based football programmes.

This category also includes the installation of mini-pitches, which was one of the three pillars of the first HatTrick cycle, along with financial assistance and education programmes.

Financial assistance in HatTrick II still comprises annual solidarity payments, which are divided into three categories:
- contribution to running costs (EUR 500,000 per association);
- a payment to promote good governance and licensing procedures;
- assistance with participation in non-elite UEFA competitions.
Knowledge sharing is a key aspect of the KISS programme. The KISS online platform is a much appreciated tool. Knowledge sharing is a key aspect of the KISS programme. The KISS online platform is a much appreciated tool.

The KISS programme (Knowledge & Information Sharing Scenario) is one of the tools of this education programme. Between mid-2005 and mid-2008, its objective was to help the national associations to improve their management skills. This covered various fields related to football management, such as communication and media, event management, sponsorship, etc.

In practical terms, around 40 interactive seminars were organised, an internet platform was developed and working groups were set up.

Knowledge sharing
Clear priority was given to knowledge sharing, which produced unexpected results as the associations showed tremendous desire to share their experiences. A national associations network is now in place. It is now a question of applying the lessons that have been learned to activities linked more directly with football events. This means that, rather than holding increasing numbers of theoretical courses, events such as Under-19 and Under-21 competitions, or media operations, will be used to provide training in real-life situations. Administrative training, for example, will be associated with technical football training.

Three strands
The next stage of the project comprises three main strands.

Support for the national associations network
The first strand, based on the solidarity mechanism, involves continuing support for associations that are trying to develop practical solutions. This will take the form of small working groups (5-15 people) comprising representatives of different national associations working together to meet various challenges linked to football management (stewarding, crisis management, media operations, competition organisation, etc.). Around 30 groups are currently operating. This will result in new practices which will then be shared.

Development of exchange and development tools
The second strand involves continuing to develop the KISS online platform, which already includes a large number of videos (presentations, real-life stories, interaction between association members, etc.) and practical courses linked to good football management. This collection of knowledge, which is accessible to all the associations, is unique. It is very easy to use and should be considered as a catalogue of evolving ideas which the associations can adapt to their own needs. It represents the pillar in which the know-how of the associations themselves is combined with that of UEFA experts and the football family.

All of this information will be provided in as many European languages as possible in order to ensure that it is disseminated among and accessible to member association staff.

Support for other football family members
The third strand involves adapting the expertise gathered at meetings between national associations in order to make it available to other members of the football family. To this end, the KISS online platform will be developed so that its content can be organised into “packages” aimed at certain groups in accordance with their respective needs.

Football management topics are dealt with in small working groups.
Every delegation signed an anti-doping charter.

The doping control officers arrive at the stadium and draw the names of the players to be tested.

EURO 2008

Rigorous anti-doping programme

UEFA ORGANISED A RIGOROUS ANTI-DOPING PROGRAMME FOR EURO 2008, INCLUDING OUT-OF-COMPETITION TESTING WHICH, APART FROM AN INITIAL TRIAL AT EURO 2004, HAD PREVIOUSLY ONLY BEEN USED IN THE UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE.

As had been announced at the workshop held in Vienna in March, each of the 16 teams was visited at its pre-tournament training camp by two doctors acting as UEFA doping control officers (DCOs).

Previously, DCOs had only carried out urine tests. Since May, however, they have been divided into two different categories: B (blood) DCOs and U (urine) DCOs. The two categories worked together to conduct tests at the team training camps. During each visit, almost half of the squad, i.e. 10 of the 23 pre-selected players – or a slightly larger number prior to the deadline for naming final squad lists – were chosen at random to provide blood and urine samples. The two doctors on duty, each in their specific role, carried out their tasks with no major problems and with total cooperation from the players and medical personnel.

The testing programme did not run entirely without incident: the French team were tested at the national technical centre in Clairefontaine on the day on which President Sarkozy decided to meet the players, for example, while there were problems with transporting blood samples in aircraft cabins due to civil aviation regulations.

The Austrian laboratory in Seibersdorf dealt with the 160 blood and urine samples. None tested positive; moreover, the educational impact and the general desire to improve screening were two essential elements of this pre-tournament testing programme.

Six teams of DCOs

For EURO 2008 itself, six teams of two doctors were appointed to carry out in-competition testing. Each pair comprised a blood DCO and a urine DCO.

From 5 June onwards, the 12 doctors were based in Lausanne, near the Swiss anti-doping laboratory in Epalinges, where the samples were analysed under the supervision of Dr Martial Saugy, in collaboration with Günter Gmeiner, director of the Vienna laboratory.

A coordination meeting held in order to define the parameters of the whole testing programme was attended by Dr Garnier, medical consultant of the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA), with which UEFA worked very closely. The meeting was followed by a visit to the anti-doping laboratory.

A demanding schedule

On 6 June, the DCOs began their visits to the four Swiss host cities (Geneva, Basel, Berne, Zurich) and the four Austrian venues (Vienna, Innsbruck, Salzburg, Klagenfurt). Their aim was to return the samples as quickly as possible so that the results were available before the next match.

For the trips to Austria, the DCOs left at 06.00 in order to call in at the anti-doping laboratory on the way to Geneva airport, before changing planes in Vienna to fly to the other three Austrian cities. Depending on the kick-off time, they reached their hotel at around 01.00 or 02.00, before taking a taxi at 05.00 to Vienna or Frankfurt and flying back to Geneva, reaching the laboratory in Lausanne at about 10.00 and the hotel at around 11.00. The rest days between missions were very welcome.

A chaperone waits for the players at the end of the tests.
Journeys in Switzerland were made by car, with the samples returned to the laboratory straight after the match. While the matches in Geneva were fairly close to the laboratory, the samples taken in Zurich, Berne and Basel did not reach the laboratory until around 03.00 or 04.00 the next morning.

Each medical team undertook two doping control assignments in Switzerland and two in Austria, then at the end of the group phase, the number of teams was reduced to three and then two. The DCOs who conducted the tests at the final in Vienna were needed for 26 days in all.

At each stadium, chaperones accompanied the players as soon as they left the pitch, taking them straight to the testing room without going into the dressing rooms.

**Negative tests**

At the end of each match, two players from each team and a number of targeted players were asked to provide blood and urine samples. All 126 tests carried out were negative.

A total of 286 samples were taken, although the most remarkable aspect was the high technological level achieved. For the first time, analysis of all the samples included testing for blood transfusions and human growth hormone – thanks to WADA’s support, which made this form of screening possible – and the use of IRMS analysis to improve the detection of testosterone derivatives. And all these samples were analysed within 24 hours.

**Under the banner of respect**

It is important to highlight the exceptional cooperation of all the team doctors and the willingness with which the players participated in the taking of blood and urine samples, some of them even showing obvious interest in the process.

Some players were tested several times without the slightest complaint.

Respect, one of the key slogans of EURO 2008, was a permanent feature in this area too.

The UEFA Anti-Doping Unit received 30 requests for therapeutic use exemptions concerning 28 players during EURO 2008; four requests were refused.

The anti-doping policy developed by UEFA reaped its reward with all the tests carried out proving negative. It also reflected the desire expressed over several months to develop broader controls using technological advances initiated by the laboratories in Lausanne and Seibersdorf. Thanks to the constant commitment of the UEFA Anti-Doping Unit, the project was implemented to maximum effect.

The Executive Committee has shown unequivocal support for efforts to step up the fight against doping in football, such as by creating the Anti-Doping Panel and increasing testing in all competitions, including youth tournaments.

There will always be disgruntled people who think that football is not doing enough. However, the recognition shown by WADA and FIFA of the work carried out, as well as that of journalists who monitor doping issues across all sporting disciplines, is a source of encouragement to continue the work that has been started, in the knowledge that there must be no reduction of effort at any stage. Keeping our sport clean and tracking down the cheats must remain a constant objective of UEFA policy.

Dr Jacques Liénard
Chairman, UEFA Anti-Doping Panel
The Baltic club competition was launched in 2007 with four top clubs each from Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania battling it out for the crown. The aim of the competition was to liven up football in the Baltics by offering higher level international games in order to develop the players and clubs and offer fans an enjoyable experience. In the first year, Latvian side SK Liepajas Metalurgs lifted the trophy, with FK Ventspils in second place, while the competition itself faced various problems linked to its structure, match calendar and low media awareness. During the second season, the three Baltic countries took major steps to get the competition back on track. One of these steps was to hire an executive manager for the league from Germany.

New autumn – spring play-off structure
The calendar will be restructured: the current format, which consists of a group stage and a knockout round, will be changed to a new system in which the whole competition is played on a knockout basis. This will help to avoid meaningless games and encourage clubs to field their strongest line-ups in every match. Moreover, the TrioBet Baltic League will be played from autumn 2009 to spring 2010. Matches will start in September and will be played in the autumn until the quarter-final stage; the semi-finals and finals will be played just before June/July next year. No matches will be played in March because of the poor weather conditions or in late July and August, when teams are preparing for European competition matches.

More teams, more tension
The number of teams participating in the TrioBet Baltic League will be extended from 12 to 16. The top five teams in each Baltic national championship will qualify, along with an additional club from the country of the previous season’s winners.

Latvian clubs on top
Latvian clubs are dominating this season’s TrioBet Baltic League. Three of the four semi-finalists in 2008 are from Latvia, with FK Riga, Skonto FC Riga and FK Ventspils having qualified for the decisive stage. Lithuanian side FBK Kaunas are the only ones who can still spoil the all-Latvian party.

Value already increased
Already this year, the organisers have increased the value of the league, launching the league’s own e-magazine, re-launching its website, starting live web streaming of the semi-finals and broadcasting at least one semi-final match and the final on television.

The league’s new executive, Christian Happel, stresses: “It is important to get partners on board for next season who want to develop with us. Football is a continuously growing market in all the Baltic countries, particularly among young people. We strongly believe that these changes will lay the foundation for the success of the competition in the future.”

The new format of the TrioBet Baltic League
- 16 clubs instead of 12
- Played in knockout system
- Season from autumn to spring (September - June/July)
- Matches transmitted live on TV and/or internet
- Increased importance and attractiveness with website (www.balticleague.com) and e-magazine
- Seeking potential partners/sponsors
IT WAS LAUNCHED IN 1995 TO REPLACE THE INTERNATIONAL FOOTBALL CUP, A SUMMER TOURNAMENT ORGANISED ON THE INITIATIVE OF EUROPE’S FOOTBALL POOLS COMPANIES. THIS SUMMER THE CURTAIN FELL ON THE UEFA INTERTOTO CUP.

With changes to the club competitions coming into force next year, the UEFA Intertoto Cup is being absorbed into the UEFA Cup. In the 14 years for which it has been running, the UEFA Intertoto Cup has adapted to experiences and needs. Many clubs will remember it as their first taste of European competition.

Since 2006 the UEFA Intertoto Cup has sent 11 clubs a year into the second qualifying round of the UEFA Cup. The last beneficiaries, ie this season’s winners, are RC Deportivo La Coruña, SSC Napoli, SC Braga, Grasshopper-Club, VfB Stuttgart, SC Vaslui, Stade Rennais FC, SK Sturm Graz, Rosenborg BK, Aston Villa FC and IF Elfsborg.

For these clubs, the example to follow – or indeed to beat – is that of FC Girondins de Bordeaux, who made it all the way to the UEFA Cup final from the first edition of the UEFA Intertoto Cup.

Until 2005 each of the winners (two in season one, three in subsequent editions) received a trophy. French clubs took away the most and claimed over a third (12 of 32) of the UEFA Cup berths up for grabs in the UEFA Intertoto Cup between 1995 and 2005.

UEFA Women’s Cup resumes in September

The eighth edition of the UEFA Women’s Cup kicks off at the beginning of September with the first qualifying round fixtures.

This season will see 43 clubs take part in the competition, seven of whom – Arsenal LFC, AS Monaco, FCR 2001 Duisburg, FCM Frankfurt, Olympique Lyonnais and Umeå IK – have bye for the first qualifying round. The winners of the nine first-round groups will join them for four mini-tournaments, from 9 to 14 October.

The quarter-finals will take place within the first two weeks of November, with the semi-finals at the end of March and beginning of April, and the two-part final on 16 and 23 May.

First qualifying round

Group 1: Zvezda-2005, 1. FC Femina Budapest, Gintra Universitetas, Klaksvikar Ilrottarfelag;
Group 2: ZFK Masinac Nis, AZ Alkmaar, FC Narta Chisinau, Glasgow City LFC;
Group 3: AC Sparta Praha, Levante UD, KVK Tienen, ZFK Skiponjat;
Group 4: Røa IL, FC NSA Sofia, FC Honka Espoo, FC Iveria;
Group 5: Valur Reykjavik, Maccabi Holon FC, Cardiff City LFC, FK Slovak Dusio Sala;
Group 6: Alma KTZH, CFF Clujana, NK Osijek, Glentoran Belfast United;
Group 7: SV Neulengbach, SU 1º Dezembro, ZNK KRKA Novo Mesto, Vamos Idaliou;
Group 8: AZS Wroclaw, FC PAOK, Naftokhimik, FC Levadia Tallinn;
Group 9: WFC Universitet Vitebsk, ZNK SKF 2000 Sarajevo, FC Zürich Frauen, Galway LFC.

Mini-tournament hosts in bold.
FIFA Under-17 Women’s World Cup

Europe will be represented at the first FIFA Under-17 Women’s World Cup at the end of October and beginning of November by the four teams that contested the final round of the European Women’s Under-17 Championship in Nyon, Switzerland, in May.

There will be 16 teams in New Zealand for the inaugural tournament and the Europeans (European champions Germany, plus France, Denmark and England) were divided among the four groups by a draw conducted in Wellington on 1 June. The groups were completed by means of a second draw held in Zurich on 28 July for the CAF and CONCACAF representatives.

The groups are as follows:

Group A: New Zealand, Canada, Denmark, Colombia;
Group B: Costa Rica, Germany, Korea DPR, Ghana;
Group C: Japan, USA, France, Paraguay;
Group D: Brazil, England, Korea Republic, Nigeria.

Brazil retains its beach soccer crown

The final round of the FIFA Beach Soccer World Cup came to Europe for the first time, taking place in Marseille from 17 to 27 July, but it was once again Brazil who took the crown.

The South Americans have won the last three editions of this four-year-old competition but they will have noticed real progress among their opponents in that time, especially the European teams, three of whom made it into the final four, with Italy coming second and Portugal taking third over Spain.

All Brazil’s opponents – Spain in the group stages (2-3), Russia in the quarter-finals (4-6), Portugal in the semis (4-5) and Italy in the final (3-5) – pushed the future world champions hard, showing that they too had unmistakable skills.

France, this year’s hosts and the world’s first ever beach soccer champions in 2005, failed to make it past the quarter-finals, where they were held back by Italy.

The tournament was hugely popular, with the final round’s 32 matches followed by almost 180,000 spectators.

The next edition, in 2009, will take place in Dubai, in the United Arab Emirates.

National coaches conference

The national coaches of UEFA’s 53 member associations will convene in Vienna from 22 to 24 September for the eighth UEFA Conference for European National Coaches.

The aim of the exercise is to review EURO 2008 and to analyse and discuss the technical aspects. The meeting will also enable the national coaches to strengthen their ties, exchange ideas and share information.

Camps in Austria and Switzerland

EUROSCHOOLS 2008, the official EURO 2008 schools project, did not end at the same time as the national teams’ competition.

From 14 to 21 September, the schoolchildren involved in the project in Austria, Switzerland and Liechtenstein will take part in two EUROSCHOOLS 2008 camps which will bring together young people from the countries of all 53 UEFA member associations.

The two camps, one in Switzerland and one in Austria, will
encourage the different children to meet and get to know each other, highlighting Europe’s cultural diversity. The participants of both camps will then gather in Liechtenstein for a fair play tournament.

Promoting unity in the Balkans

In August, the Balkans Alps Adriatic Project (BAAP) organised two youth tournaments and a youth camp in association with FARE (Football Against Racism in Europe) and with UEFA’s backing.

Activities got under way in the Serbian town of Kragujevac with a competition between youth teams from Serbia and Bosnia-Herzegovina and a Roma team from Slovakia. A match between a multi-ethnic eleven and a local women’s team, together with workshops and discussion groups, then provided an opportunity to exchange views on racism and nationalism.

Homeless World Cup in Melbourne then Milan

This year’s Homeless World Cup will be contested in Melbourne, Australia, in November.

The competition often has a significant effect on the lives of the participants, as highlighted by the impact report published after the 2007 edition, involving 381 players in Copenhagen.

Carried out in the six months following the competition, the study found that:

- 93% of players had a new motivation for life;
- 83% had improved social relations;
- 71% had significantly changed their lives;
- 29% had got a job;
- 38% had improved their housing situation;
- 32% had gone into education;
- 71% now played football on a regular basis; and
- 118 players had overcome drug or alcohol addiction.

In general terms, participation in the Homeless World Cup gave the majority of players a new lease of life.

As for the 2009 edition, it will be hosted by Italy, with the matches being held at the Parco Sempione in the very heart of Milan. Some 700 players from 64 countries are expected.

Tribute to Artemio Franchi in Florence

Twenty-five years after the death of Artemio Franchi, who had been UEFA’s president for ten years, a tribute was paid to him on 30 July in his home town of Florence.

Organised by ACF Fiorentina and backed by UEFA, the event got under way with a ceremony at the Palazzo Vecchio, the town hall, where the current UEFA president, Michel Platini, and other prominent figures in politics and football paid tribute to Artemio Franchi and unveiled a commemorative plaque, to be hung at the Artemio Franchi stadium.

“Artemio Franchi was undoubtedly European football’s first modern-day leader,” said Michel Platini. “He had a sixth sense for major developments that would fundamentally change our sport.”

It was to this very stadium that great numbers of Tuscan fans (over 40,000) flocked that evening to watch the gala match between ACF Fiorentina and willing opponents FC Barcelona in honour of Artemio Franchi. Barcelona came away with a 3-1 win.

Action week against racism in October

The FARE network, UEFA’s partner in the fight against racism, is organising an action week against racism in Europe for the ninth year in a row.

From 16 to 28 October, activities will be organised in over 35 countries to draw attention to the need to root out racism and all other forms of discrimination from society.

This year the spotlight will be on the fight against homophobia and sexism.

The gala match was very popular.
The Score for the Red Cross campaign was conceived by UEFA and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). The ICRC will use half of the proceeds to provide artificial limbs to landmine victims in Afghanistan. The other half will finance projects within national Red Cross societies. “The Austrian Red Cross uses its money to provide food vouchers, donations in kind and short-term financial assistance to people in need,” explained Wolfgang Kopetzky.

The Score for the Red Cross campaign was a success across Europe. UEFA pledged EUR 4,000 for every goal scored. The ICRC and landmine victims in Afghanistan can therefore count on EUR 308,000.

Gianni Infantino, general secretary general, Elkhan Mammadov, then visitors watched a video clip about the AFFA’s headquarters. During the meeting, the European football union on his visit.

Marios N. Lefkaritis, and general secretary, with the Association of Football Federations Azerbaijan’s capital, Baku, for discussions by the UEFA president, Michel Platini, visited to make a small contribution Score for the Red Cross balls to assuming social responsibility.

emphasised the importance of secretary of the Austrian FA, Cross. Alfred Ludwig, general secretary general of the Austrian Red which is helping us help others,” said Wolfgang Kopetzky, secretary general of the Austrian Red Cross. Alfred Ludwig, general secretary of the Austrian FA, emphasised the importance of assuming social responsibility. “It is a great honour not only for our association, but also for our players, who signed numerous Score for the Red Cross balls to boost the campaign, to be able to make a small contribution towards its success,” he said.

Goals and money for the International Committee of the Red Cross.
Success and new obligations

The Croatian national team’s participation in the recent European Championship final round was its third so far and altogether the most successful.

The executive committee of the Croatian Football Federation (CFF) rewarded the players and coaches headed by Slaven Bilic.

All our national team matches were well-organised fan zones. A record number of supporters attended the matches and thousands more watched the matches on TV screens in the superbly well-organised well-organised fan zones.

Now, we are optimistically awaiting the start of the 2010 World Cup qualifying competition and hoping that our national team will qualify for the fourth time in a row.

We are also hoping for great things of our Under-21 team, which has a good chance of qualifying for the European Under-21 Championship final round.

We are grateful to UEFA for entrusting us with the organisation of qualifying mini-tournaments. In the U17 qualifying competition, we will host Moldova, Serbia and Sweden. The mini-tournament will take place on the Istra peninsula, a very nice setting.

In the 6th UEFA Regions’ Cup, meanwhile, we will be welcoming Slovenia, Netherlands and Switzerland for a mini-tournament that will take place in the Zagreb region. We will do our best to justify UEFA’s confidence in us.

Preparations for next season are also under way at all competition levels. From the grassroots and professional games.

The Croatian national team’s participation will be monitored by the CFF and with financial backing from the regional football federation of Adjara.

The best 16 were among 1,600 Georgian schoolchildren who are to be included in this year’s working programme with their coaches.

Respect will comprise four practical steps:

1. Codes of conduct for all football participants:
   - young players
   - adult players
   - spectators and parents/carers
   - coaches, team managers and club officials
   - referees

2. Designated spectators’ area: a demarcated area along the touchline within which spectators must stay.

3. Captains taking responsibility: a drive to enhance captancy skills.

4. Referees managing the game: a similar drive to enhance referees’ match management skills.

All the above steps apply to the grassroots game and the professional game is also engaged in Respect with additional initiatives, such as a pre-match briefing meeting between the referee and managers/captains, a team handshake before kick-off and the upholding of behaviour standards in the technical area.

The referees are also part of the Respect campaign.

The FA aims for Respect in high-profile campaign

The Football Association in England is set to launch a wide-ranging programme of activities under the banner of Respect to support its drive to improve behaviour across the grassroots and professional games.

“Respect is our response to the findings of extensive research which pinpointed the challenges faced by the national sports,” says the FA's chief executive, Brian Barwick. “The top issues were player behaviour towards referees and, in youth football, parental behaviour towards children.”

The FA

The referee is also part of the Respect campaign.

The referees are also part of the Respect campaign.

The FA

Ambrolauri wins 2008 School Ball

The Georgian Football Federation (GFF), in cooperation with the ministry of education and science, the ministry of culture, monument protection and sports and the city of Tbilisi, has organised the annual School Ball since 2006. This state schools football competition consists of two rounds: the first is played locally to find the best schools in the regions; the best 16 then contest the final round, with 5 schools from Tbilisi and 11 from the regions.

The best 16 were among 1,600 Georgian schools that entered the 2008 School Ball in the hope of winning the Pepsi Cup. The final round of this year’s competition was played at the Adeli stadium in Batumi from 26 to 29 June. The final teams were school No25 from Tbilisi and school No1 from Ambrolauri.

The final was very interesting and full of exciting moments. Ambrolauri won the 2008 Pepsi Cup after having opened the score in the 15th minute with what turned out to be the only goal of the match.

Mention should be made of the great assistance provided by government bodies in the organisation of the 2008 School Ball, namely the ministry of education and science, the ministry of culture, monument protection and sports and the city of Tbilisi. Special thanks also go out to the Grassroots football competition and the city of Tbilisi.

The Ambrolauri schoolchildren won the trophy.

The Ambrolauri schoolchildren won the trophy.
Joy and sorrow shared in Plzen

The Hungarian Under-19 team achieved real success in July at the European Under-19 Championship in the Czech Republic. Tibor Sisa’s side qualified from a hard group, beating Bulgaria and Spain to reach the semi-finals and equal the hosts’ achievement.

The further the team progressed, the more Hungarian fans travelled to the Under-19 competition, creating a great atmosphere. Reflecting on this, the Hungarian FA decided on site to buy 2,000 tickets from the Czech FA to give out for free to those who took the six-hour trip from Hungary to Plzen, the semi-final venue. “The spectators created a warm atmosphere and they supported the team as a 12th player so they deserved a treat in Plzen. Also, we are a responsible FA that wants to look after its supporters,” said István Kisteleki, Hungarian FA president and one of the inventors of the Hungarian welcome tent. It is rare, at youth events, to see a city invaded by fans of one particular nation but in Plzen everyone was sporting red, white and green flags.

After some security checks, the Hungarian FA distributed the free tickets at the pavilion next to the stadium to everyone who wanted to support the Hungarian team (even those from outside the country). They also received T-shirts that had been made especially for the event to guarantee a standardised appearance. It was a real united success as embassy employees from Prague and players’ relatives helped the football association staff at the tent.

The team really enjoyed the support of the Hungarian fans and sang the national anthem together with the crowd after the final whistle, although everyone in Plzen finished with tears in their eyes as they lost 1-0 to Italy.

The national A team coach, Dror Kashtan, said farewell to the national coaches who had recently completed their tenures: Zeev Zeltzer, Hanan Azulay, Alon Schreier, Guy Levi, Avraham Bachar and Vicky Peretz.

Avi Luzon (right), president of the IFA, with Dror Kashtan, national coach.
Michel Platini and, on his left, Marios Lefkaritis, watched a school's tournament.

In the course of the discussions, the UEFA representatives congratulated Kazakhstan on the tenth anniversary of Astana, the country's capital, and wished Kazakhstan further development and prosperity. On the football side, Nursultan Nazarbayev, Michel Platini, Adilbek Dzaksybekov and Marios Lefkaritis discussed strategic lines of cooperation between Kazakhstan and UEFA.

A plan to implement a national domestic football development programme was also discussed, both at UEFA's meeting with the head of state and during its talks with the president of the football federation, Adilbek Dzaksybekov, on 5 July. The priority of the programme is the creation of a favourable environment for youth training. Firstly, it envisages four professional academies equipped to international standards, and better qualifications for coaches, managers, and administrative staff. Secondly, the programme foresees the building and reconstruction of sports facilities. Measures to promote football and increase its popularity are another key aspect.

At the end of its stay, the UEFA delegation visited FC Astana's academy, where the presidents of UEFA and the Football Federation of Kazakhstan presented the prizes to the winners of an Astana schools tournament.
Both championships are now played according to the international beach soccer rules. So for most players this means getting used to a lot of new practices.

The LFF is delighted that beach soccer is attracting more attention and gaining in popularity. Many famous Lithuanian football players have already signed up to take part in this new sport.

The first Lithuanian national beach soccer team has also been established. Although they did not fare so well in the qualifying competition for the FIFA Beach Soccer World Cup, the LFF believes that they will improve as time goes on and that they have great potential.

Two Lithuanian beach soccer referees who have been on the FIFA list for several years running have been invited to officiate at various international tournaments, both in Europe and at world level.

MALTA

A successful venture

The Malta FA’s initiative four years ago to launch a TV programme has turned out to be a popular one, as football followers in Malta have realised the importance of such an unusual venture by a national association, aimed primarily at educating the Maltese public of useful information for the Maltese public and to complement the valuable input similar sports programmes on TV stations in Malta.

As was clear from the outset, the programme, which is regularly put together by a sub-committee of the MFA’s public relations and publications committee, was not intended to monopolise or compete against similar sports programmes on TV stations in Malta, but to complement the valuable input these other programmes are giving to the overall promotion of football in the country.

The following that MFA Magazine has attracted over the years attests to the responsible manner in which the planners have managed to present it to the Maltese public and to the improvement of content from one season to another.

The MFA has indicated its intention to continue producing this programme for years to come and is proud that such a venture is achieving its objectives.

MOLDOVA

All Together programme promotes development of football

The Football Association of Moldova (FMF), in cooperation with the Glodeni district of Moldova and with the support of UEFA, has recently opened a mini-pitch in the northern part of the country. It is the 41st mini-pitch to be installed in Moldova since 2006 as part of UEFA’s HatTrick programme and the FMF’s All Together programme.

The opening ceremony was attended by Pavel Cebanu, FMF president; Ion Movila, head of the Glodeni district; Iurie Efteev, mayor of the Glodeni district; Vitalie Mahu, president of the Glodeni regional football association; and other officials. Pavel Cebanu said he was sure that the mini-pitch would allow many local children to practise football all year round.

Netherlands

Two worlds join at last

The segregated worlds of professional football and amateur football seem to have finally come together with the proposal to have the bottom team of the first division relegated to the ranks of amateur football at the end of the 2008/09 season.

For the first time since the introduction of professional football in 1954 the team at the bottom of the table will be relegated automatically. In the Netherlands there has always been a strict separation between the two professional divisions and the non-professional competitions.

The question remains as to whether this gap can be filled by an amateur club. Even though the general meeting of amateur football accepted the proposal to create an opportunity for the overall amateur champion to be promoted to the first professional football division, this promotion is not compulsory.

The winner of the play-offs has the option to go up, but if they do not want to be promoted, the loser automatically gets the chance to go up. Six clubs – the champions of each of the six regional amateur leagues – are eligible for promotion. However, if none of them is willing to move up, no club will be promoted that particular season.

The assembled amateur clubs earlier rejected a proposal to install three top divisions on top of the current six regional first divisions.

The clubs proposed, however, that the restructuring of the top level of amateur football in the Netherlands should be investigated further.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Unsung heroes honoured

Unsung heroes from the world of football in Northern Ireland were honoured by the Irish Football Association (IFA) at the association’s Football for All awards night.

The aim of the event, which was supported by Invest NI, Renewing Communities, YENI (Young Enterprise Northern Ireland), the Northern Ireland Community Relations Council and Podium 4 Sport, was to reward unsung heroes and volunteers who made a special contribution to football and to praise the innovative and hugely successful BASE (Business and Sporting Enterprise) programme which combined business with football to encourage young people to recognise the strong relationship between the two.

The awards ceremony was hosted by Northern Ireland’s very own Radio One DJ and Channel Five football presenter Colin Murray and local actor and director Dan Gordon, with former rugby international Trevor Ringland as the guest speaker. Over 400 people attended the event, including Northern Ireland international manager, Nigel Worthington; the chief executive of YENI, Valerie Ingram; the IFA president, Raymond Kennedy; the IFA chief executive, Howard Wells; MP Kate Hoey; and the minister for culture, arts and leisure, Gregory Campbell.

Host Colin Murray said: “Once again, it was an honour to volunteer my services as Football for All ambassador and it was a down-to-earth, humbling experience as usual. For me, it is brilliant to see people from the supporters groups, development squads and Irish league clubs being given the recognition they so richly deserve. These are the guys who continue to make the Northern Irish footballing landscape a place we can become more and more proud of.”
Fair play greetings before every game

The Norwegian Football Association (Norges Vesterreisesending) organises football tournaments which are attended by thousands of boys and girls all over the country. “That’s how football grows. A love of football must be cultivated in children from the youngest possible age. We therefore have to support their tremendous enthusiasm and sense of fun,” said Malcolm Moffatt, head of youth development at the Norwegian FA.

The Norway Cup involves around 30,000 players from all over the world. This year every player exchanged a fair play greeting with the players of the other team before each match.

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At the Norway Cup, every player exchanged a fair play greeting before every match. The first tournament ended at the beginning of August. Around 30,000 boys and girls from 50 different countries took to the Ekebergsletta pitches in Oslo, the capital of Norway. In total, 1,430 teams played 4,400 matches before the tournament ended at the beginning of August.

As part of the Norwegian Football Association’s efforts to promote fair play in both professional and grassroots football, this year, for the first time, there were fair play greetings before every game.

“The Norway Cup is a fantastic tournament where children and youngsters from all over the world share their love of the game and make new friends. For us, it’s important to set the focus on good values such as respect for each other, the opposite team and the referee, and I’m convinced the fair play greetings will have a positive effect on the players and the eager adults on the sidelines,” said the Norwegian FA’s president, Sondre Løvland.
Slovakia  
**VAN CEREDERK**

**Over a thousand children on the ball**

An impressive 1,500 or so young footballers paraded through the western Slovak town of Senec on 20 June to compete in the traditional Senec district and its friends summer football festival — a three-day international youth tournament and probably the biggest event of its kind anywhere in central Europe. The tournament, organised by local football club SFM Senec and overseen by the Slovak Football Association, welcomed an incredible 73 teams in nine categories, including 25 teams from abroad, from countries such as Hungary, Croatia, Serbia, Czech Republic, France and Poland, thereby turning the three days into a real celebration of the wonderful game.

In the course of its ten-year history, the tournament has spread across the whole region. This year, well-prepared pitches in nine different locations provided top-class conditions and opportunities for children to show off their indisputable talent and skills. A local primary school in the small town of Velky Biel provided participants with accommodation and local agricultural companies supplied the food and drinks. Volunteers had to work hard to satisfy the appetites of hundreds of voracious young players but the end result was some happy winners and a lot of satisfied participants, all of whom took away excellent memories and promised to come back next year.

Wales  
**CLIFF STINNITT**

**Wales mark 50 years**

The Football Association of Wales will be marking their only appearance in the World Cup finals – in Sweden in 1958 – by inviting all surviving players to the Wales v Georgia international friendly at the Liberty Stadium, Swansea. The game will be played on 20 August.

There are only eight members of the 1958 squad still alive, including Cliff Jones, Mel Hopkins and Terry Medwin (all from the famous Tottenham Hotspur FC “double” side), Mel Charles (Arsenal FC, brother of the legendary John Charles) and Stuart Williams (West Bromwich Albion FC). There will be a formal dinner before the match, followed a presentation on the pitch at half-time. In 1958, Wales reached the quarter-finals of the tournament, only to be beaten by Brazil. The winning goal was scored by a 17-year-old Pele, who has often described it as his most important goal for his country.

Turkey  
**TURKER TOZAR**

**Hot-weather football tests continue**

Research into hot-weather football by the Turkish Football Federation (TFF) in collaboration with FIFA is ongoing. The first two test matches in the three-part scientific research project were played on 10 and 24 July in the Turkish city of Adana. Three scientists appointed by FIFA are working on the project with the TFF’s medical committee and academics from the universities of Cukurova and Ankara.

The chairman of the TFF medical committee, Mehmet Binnet, said the project was steered by the FIFA Medical Assessment and Research Centre (F-MARC) and it aimed to evaluate the effects of measures taken in connection with football in hot weather. The project ended with a test match in Adana on 7 August.

On completion of the research, the data collected will be analysed at the School of Sport and Exercise Sciences at Loughborough University, in England, in the final weeks of August. The reports produced will be forwarded to the FIFA Executive Committee.

Ukraine  
**ANDRIY ZANTSEV / IVAN DVIK**

Michel Vautrot Lecture

In June, the Ukrainian FA headquarters was visited by a famous retired referee, Michel Vautrot, former member of the UEFA Referees Committee and technical director of the French FA’s referees committee. The well-known guest gave a special lecture to Ukrainian referees.

He paid special attention to aspects such as technical training principles, physical training of referees, concentration and methods of achieving it. Referring to the particular role of the referee in contemporary football, the Frenchman admitted that, these days, referees had become the target of criticism from all angles.

“The main task for referees during any match is to protect the game and the action on the pitch,” he emphasised. “However, a referee is a public figure and should only accept justified criticism. There are more important aspects of the job than just awarding a penalty kick or a corner. The main thing is that a referee demonstrates certitude in his actions and is able to explain his decisions after the match. To do this, he must apply the laws and feel the spirit of the game.”

The rules and regulations of the game should remain a reference point for all of us.

Stressing the importance of cooperation between match officials during the game, Vautrot gave an example from his own experience: “Once I refereed an Intercontinental Cup match in Japan with local assistant. In the first half, one of the players broke the rules and had to be awarded a yellow card. But when I reached into my pocket, I discovered it was empty. It turned out that I’d left the cards in the dressing room. Perhaps the time difference confused me, but my Japanese colleagues should have reminded me to take my cards and a coin to toss. So this illustrates how vital cooperation between referees and their assistants is.

The second half of the seminar was devoted to the subject of technical preparation. Vautrot used a set of video clips to analyse contentious situations. Each of the referees present expressed his thoughts and the French expert commented on each situation.

The Welsh team at the 1958 World Cup.
Birthdays

Giangiorgio Spiess (Switzerland), former member of the UEFA Executive Committee, will be 75 on 24 September. Mariano Delogu (Italy), a member of the circle of former UEFA committee members, celebrates the same birthday on 28 September. On 2 September, Antonino Larano (Portugal), member of the Stadium Construction and Management Panel turns 50, as does Helena Herrero González (Spain), member of the Medical Committee, on 21 September.

In addition, birthday greetings are extended to:

- Gerhard Aigner (Germany, 1.9)
- José Guilherme Aguiar (Portugal, 1.9)
- Manuel Díaz Vega (Spain, 1.9)
- Helle Handler Petersen (Denmark, 1.9)
- Marco Brunelli (Italy, 2.9)
- Gréard Houillier (France, 3.9)
- David R. Elleray (England, 3.9)
- Ulrich Gerszela (Germany, 3.9)
- Rudolf Bata (Czech Republic, 4.9)
- Wilfried Kindermann (Germany, 4.9)
- Victor Mintoff (Malta, 4.9)
- Grigory Surkis (Ukraine, 4.9)
- Barry Taylor (England, 5.9)
- Vassilios Chatziapostolou (Greece, 5.9)
- Matthias Sammer (Germany, 5.9)
- Elia Vähälä (Finland, 6.9)
- Bernd Stöber (Germany, 6.9)
- György Mezey (Hungary, 7.9)
- Emmanuel Mavroukoukoulakis (Greece, 7.9)
- Ali Huseynov (Azerbaijan, 7.9)
- Werner Helsen (Belgium, 7.9)
- Adrian Titcombe (England, 8.9)
- Geir Thorssteinsson (Iceland, 9.9)
- Franz Beckenbauer (Germany, 11.9)
- Stanislav Specziak (Poland, 13.9)
- Jon Sigvald (Norway, 13.9)
- Ingrid Jonsson (Sweden, 13.9)
- Patrick Willemsack (Belgium, 13.9)
- Per Andersen (Denmark, 14.9)
- Dejan Savicevic (Montenegro, 15.9)
- Karl-Heinz Trichtler (Germany, 16.9)
- Antonis Petrou (Cyprus, 16.9)
- Kelly Simmons (England, 16.9)
- Milos Markovic (Serbia, 20.9)
- Cornelis De Bruin (Netherlands, 22.9)
- Goetz Eilers (Germany, 23.9)
- Eugen Strigel (Germany, 24.9)
- Ionel Piscaru (Romania, 24.9)
- Matteo Framiglia (Italy, 24.9)
- Hans Rettinger (Austria, 25.9)
- Dr Mogens Kreutzfeldt (Denmark, 25.9)
- Thuló Káld (Iceland (Switzerland, 25.9)
- Karl-Heinz Rummenigge (Germany, 25.9)
- Stephen Lodge (England, 26.9)
- Álex Zavil (Slovenia, 26.9)
- Adrian Porumboiu (Romania, 27.9)
- Gerardo Gonzalez Movilla (Spain, 27.9)
- Jens Kleinefeld (Germany, 27.9)

Upcoming events

Meetings

1.9.2008, Nyom Fair Play and Social Responsibility Committee Futsal and Beach Soccer Committee
2.9.2008, Nyom Youth and Amateur Football Committee Players’ Status, Transfer and Agents and Match Agents Committee Referees Committee
2-4.9.2008, Nyom Referees Summer Course
3-9.9.2008, Nyom Club Licensing Committee Media Committee
4.9.2008, Nyom Marketing Advisory Committee
4/5.9.2008, Nyom Elite Club Coaches Forum
10.9.2008, Nyom Draft for the qualifying stage of the European Futsal Championship
17.9.2008, St-Petersburg Draw for the final round of the European Under-21 Futsal Tournament
19.9.2008, Nyom Draw for the elite round of the UEFA Futsal Cup
24.9.2008, Vienna Football Committee
25-26.9.2008, Bordeaux Executive Committee

Competitions

16/17.9.2008 UEFA Champions League: group matches (matchday 1)
18.9.2008 UEFA Cup: first round (first legs)
30.9.2008, Nyom UEFA Champions League: group matches (matchday 2)
30-19.10.2008, Brazil Futsal World Cup

Birthdays

Prof. W. Stewart Hillis (Scotland, 28.9)
Michel Girard (France, 28.9)
Michael van Praag (Netherlands, 28.9)
Karel Bohunek (Czech Republic, 28.9)
Vassilios Nikakis (Greece, 28.9)
Roland Beck (Liechtenstein, 28.9)
Luft Aribogan (Turkey, 30.9)

Upcoming events

Meetings

1.9.2008, Nyom Fair Play and Social Responsibility Committee Futsal and Beach Soccer Committee
2.9.2008, Nyom Youth and Amateur Football Committee Players’ Status, Transfer and Agents and Match Agents Committee Referees Committee
2-4.9.2008, Nyom Referees Summer Course
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Competitions

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30.9.2008, Nyom UEFA Champions League: group matches (matchday 2)
30-19.10.2008, Brazil Futsal World Cup

Birthdays

Gerhard Aigner (Germany, 1.9)
Matthias Sammer (Germany, 5.9)
José Guilherme Aguiar (Portugal, 1.9)
Werner Helsen (Belgium, 7.9)
Atema Communication SA, CH-1196 Gland
Jens Kleinefeld (Germany, 27.9)
Manuel Diaz Vega (Spain, 1.9)
David R. Elleray (England, 3.9)
Ulrich Gerszela (Germany, 3.9)
Rudolf Bata (Czech Republic, 4.9)
Wilfried Kindermann (Germany, 4.9)
Victor Mintoff (Malta, 4.9)
Grigory Surkis (Ukraine, 4.9)
Barry Taylor (England, 5.9)
Vassilios Chatziapostolou (Greece, 5.9)
Mathias Sammer (Germany, 5.9)
Eija Vähälä (Finland, 6.9)
Bernd Stöber (Germany, 6.9)
György Mezey (Hungary, 7.9)
Emmanuel Mavroukoukoulakis (Greece, 7.9)
Ali Huseynov (Azerbaijan, 7.9)
Werner Helsen (Belgium, 7.9)
Adrian Titcombe (England, 8.9)
Geir Thorssteinsson (Iceland, 9.9)
Franz Beckenbauer (Germany, 11.9)
Stanislav Specziak (Poland, 13.9)
Jon Sigvald (Norway, 13.9)
Ingrid Jonsson (Sweden, 13.9)
Patrick Willemsack (Belgium, 13.9)
Per Andersen (Denmark, 14.9)
Dejan Savicevic (Montenegro, 15.9)
Karl-Heinz Trichtler (Germany, 16.9)
Antonis Petrou (Cyprus, 16.9)
Kelly Simmons (England, 16.9)
Antero Silva Resende (Portugal, 18.9)
Ingrid Jonsson (Sweden, 13.9)
João Manuel Peres Martins
Joa Manoel Pere
Joa Peres – Sport Lda
João Peres – Sport Lda
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Edward van Hool
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Plataanstraat 31 – 2328 SB Haarlem – Netherlands
Tel: +31 23 528 3843 – Fax: +31 23 529 5609 sports@grandstand.nl
Joachim Zwerver (Germany) has had his licence renewed for eight years, while Jean-Claude Lagaisse (Belgium) and Antonis Antoniou (Romania) have had their licences withdrawn.

Obituary

Kurt Furgler (Switzerland) died on 23 July, aged 94. From 1994 to 1998, he was a special adviser to UEFA’s East European Assistance Bureau, then from 1998 to 2002, in his capacity as member of the East European Assistance Bureau, he was a member of the Development and Assistance Board.