1.04

uefadirect

Draw in Lisbon 03

The EURO 2004 referees 06

Gerhard Aigner retires 08

Club competition draws 16

Including



No. 21 – January 2004

Message from the UEFA President


UEFA-WOODS

> ***...2003 was a year truly blessed with exciting competitions and a whole host of off-field activities.***

Just a few weeks after the draw was made for the finals in Lisbon and with the tournament itself less than 200 days away, EURO 2004 is clearly at the forefront of our minds as we enter the new year.

The quality of the teams that have qualified following an exciting knock-out round that was full of surprises, the standard of the facilities in Portugal, the warm welcome and passion for football shown by the Portuguese people, and the meticulous preparations being made all augur well for the final tournament becoming a true festival of football. We all hope it will be an event worthy of marking UEFA's 50th anniversary alongside the other commemorative events being held all over Europe throughout the year.

The appeal and importance of the European Championships are such that it would be easy to overlook European football's other key events. And yet looking back 2003 was a year truly blessed with exciting competitions and a whole host of off-field activities.

From the Meridian Cup in January to the European/South American Cup in December, a dozen trophies were awarded. Behind the scenes, the national association delegates met in Rome for an Ordinary Congress that has now become an annual event; the European club licensing scheme has entered its implementation phase; the campaign against racism has intensified, with the holding of the first UEFA conference on this theme; discussions with the European Union have continued and UEFA has opened a permanent office in Brussels in order to be closer to the European institutions. In addition, a new assistance programme has been launched for all member associations and a vast range of courses and conferences have been organised to help enhance the quality and development of football. As far as the competitions are concerned, a new format has been adopted for the UEFA Cup to help revamp this competition.

All of these activities have enabled European football to keep moving forward, which is no mean feat, as we are still too frequently reminded when violence breaks out or economic difficulties strike – phenomena which cannot be controlled by football authorities alone.

As we look over the past year and forward to the next, I would like to thank everyone who, either on the pitch or behind the scenes, has contributed to the success of our game. In particular I would like to express gratitude to our Chief Executive, Gerhard Aigner, who is retiring after more than 34 years at UEFA, 15 of them as head of our administration. I cannot do justice in a few lines to all that he has brought to our organisation and to European football; I would simply like to say a huge thank you and wish him a long and happy retirement.

I wish all our readers and football fans everywhere a Happy Christmas and a successful New Year!

Lennart Johansson

COVER
One month before his retirement, Gerhard Aigner supervised the EURO 2004 draw in Lisbon.

PHOTO: AFP

IN THIS ISSUE

EURO 2004 calendar	05	Casa Hogar	10
The EURO 2004 referees	06	Disciplinary seminar	12
Gerhard Aigner photo pick	08	Report from Brussels	13
		News from member associations	16



Mascot Kinas welcomed guests to the EURO 2004 draw.

AFP

EURO 2004 in Portugal

Final draw in Lisbon

THE DRAW FOR EURO 2004 WAS HELD AT THE IMPRESSIVE PAVILHAO ATLANTICO IN LISBON ON 30 NOVEMBER.



The draw was carried out by UEFA Chief Executive Gerhard Aigner and his successor, Lars-Christer Olsson, with the ceremony led by anchors Pedro Pinto and Fatima Campos Ferreira. Famous Portuguese singer Dulce Pontes got the proceedings off to a dramatic start with some powerful singing to establish a truly Portuguese mood.

As host country, Portugal were placed in position one in Group A. The remaining teams were split between four pots, with title holders France seeded alongside Sweden and the Czech Republic in the first pot. The seedings were determined on the basis of the 2002 World Cup and EURO 2004 qualifying competitions.

Before the draw got underway, Laurent Blanc, member of the EURO 2000 winning French team,



Kinas presents the "Roteiro" ball with Nuno Gomes (left) and Simão Sabrosa.

AFP



KEYSTONE

Lars-Christer Olsson (centre), with Laurent Blanc (left) and Hugo Viana, reveals the positions of the teams drawn.

A country of football

A special fair was held in the Portuguese capital, Lisbon, from 29 November to 7 December. Thousands of visitors attended the "All Football" fair, which was organised by the Portuguese Football Federation.

Numerous activities were carried out during the fair, including conferences, debates, special events and the dissemination of general information. In addition, "All Football" was visited by many famous personalities from different fields, including former players Pele and Eusebio. Some of the leading Portuguese clubs were also present, along with various Portuguese regional football associations.

On the second day of the fair, Lisbon also hosted the draw for the EURO 2004 finals, which will be staged from 12 June to 4 July and are expected to captivate the attention of many millions of people across the globe. Greece were drawn as Portugal's opponents in the opening match.

Meanwhile, eight of the ten stadiums being built from scratch or renovated for the tournament were already open by the beginning of December. All of them have an innovative design and are equipped with state-of-the-art technology.

Thus, Portugal and its people are certainly entitled to be satisfied and proud as the greatest sports event ever to be held in the country – EURO 2004 – approaches.

João Paulo Diniz

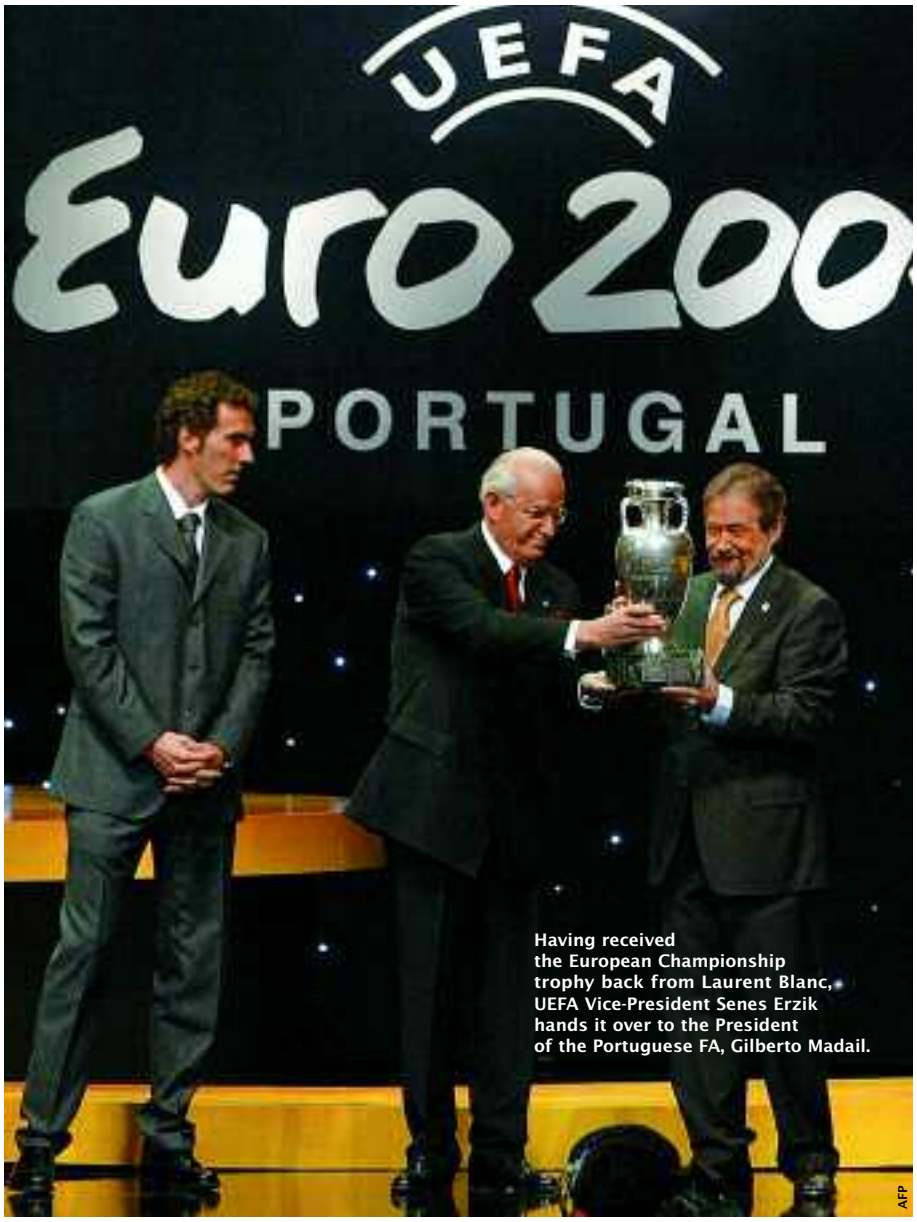
handed over the Henri Delaunay trophy to Gilberto Madaíl, Chairman of the Board of EURO 2004 SA and President of the Portuguese Football Federation.

Group A finds Portugal with neighbours Spain, while France and England come together in Group B. Scandinavian countries Denmark and Sweden have been drawn together in Group C, while Group D puts Germany up against the Netherlands.

Activities around the draw

UEFA and Adidas presented the new official match ball for EURO 2004 on 29 November, on the eve of the draw for the final round.

The new ball, named Roteiro, after the logbook used by Portuguese explorer Vasco da Gama, will be used in all 31 matches next summer. The unique design and aqua metallic base is inspired by the sea and



Having received the European Championship trophy back from Laurent Blanc, UEFA Vice-President Senes Erzik hands it over to the President of the Portuguese FA, Gilberto Madail.

AFP



The EURO 2004 groups.



A packed auditorium for the draw.

features silver lines to signify the coordinate system used by the Portuguese discoverer.

Adidas have used a new production concept in creating the ball, known as thermal bonding, which means a seamless surface and more consistent quality. Portuguese national team players Simão Sabrosa and Nuno Gomes unveiled the ball to a packed auditorium.

Gilberto Madaíl said, *"Adidas has delivered a stunning, modern and state-of-the-art Portuguese football. This is very much how we envisage the EURO 2004 event to be. We want to show the world a warm, passionate, authentic yet modern Portugal. Portugal is ready to be discovered."*

Other activities taking place around the draw included the launch of the Hyundai Goodwill Ball Road Show, an event which sees 16 giant balls representing each of the participating nations being sent to each country for fans to sign.

UEFA New Media also presented its wireless content, in conjunction with T-Mobile and TMN. The new mobile services will enable fans to receive near-live video clips of goals, photo slide shows of matches, keeping up to date with the action wherever they may be.



Final round match schedule

Town	Stadium	Team	Match		
Group A					
Porto	Dragão	Portugal – Greece	1	12/06/04	17:00
Faro/Loulé	Algarve	Spain – Russia	2	12/06/04	19:45
Porto	Bessa Séc. XXI	Greece – Spain	9	16/06/04	17:00
Lisbon	Luz	Russia – Portugal	10	16/06/04	19:45
Lisbon	José Alvalade	Spain – Portugal	17	20/06/04	19:45
Faro/Loulé	Algarve	Russia – Greece	18	20/06/04	19:45
Group B					
Leiria	Dr. M. Pessoa	Switzerland – Croatia	3	13/06/04	17:00
Lisbon	Luz	France – England	4	13/06/04	19:45
Coimbra	Cidade de Coimbra	England – Switzerland	11	17/06/04	17:00
Leiria	Dr. M. Pessoa	Croatia – France	12	17/06/04	19:45
Lisbon	Luz	Croatia – England	20	21/06/04	19:45
Coimbra	Cidade de Coimbra	Switzerland – France	19	21/06/04	19:45
Group C					
Guimarães	D.A. Henriques	Denmark – Italy	5	14/06/04	17:00
Lisbon	José Alvalade	Sweden – Bulgaria	6	14/06/04	19:45
Braga	Municipal	Bulgaria – Denmark	13	18/06/04	17:00
Porto	Dragão	Italy – Sweden	14	18/06/04	19:45
Guimarães	D.A. Henriques	Italy – Bulgaria	21	22/06/04	19:45
Porto	Bessa Séc. XXI	Denmark – Sweden	22	22/06/04	19:45
Group D					
Aveiro	Municipal	Czech Rep. – Latvia	7	15/06/04	17:00
Porto	Dragão	Germany – Netherlands	8	15/06/04	19:45
Porto	Bessa Séc. XXI	Latvia – Germany	15	19/06/04	17:00
Aveiro	Municipal	Netherlands – Czech Rep.	16	19/06/04	19:45
Braga	Municipal	Netherlands – Latvia	23	23/06/04	19:45
Lisbonne	José Alvalade	Germany – Czech Rep.	24	23/06/04	19:45
Quarter-finals					
Lisbon	Luz	Winner Group A – Runners-up Group B	25	24/06/04	19:45
Lisbon	José Alvalade	Winner Group B – Runners-up Group A	26	25/06/04	19:45
Faro/Loulé	Algarve	Winner Group C – Runners-up Group D	27	26/06/04	19:45
Porto	Dragão	Winner Group D – Runners-up Group C	28	27/06/04	19:45
Semi-finals					
Lisbon	José Alvalade	Winner Match 25 – Winner Match 27	29	30/06/04	19:45
Porto	Dragão	Winner Match 26 – Winner Match 28	30	01/07/04	19:45
Final					
Lisbon	Luz	Winner Match 29 – Winner Match 30	31	04/07/04	19:45



Anders Frisk, who refereed the final of EURO 2000, will be officiating at his third European Championship final round in Portugal.

EMPICS



Terje Hauge.

EMPICS



BONGARTS



EURO 2004 referees

The seventeenth team

ON 4 DECEMBER, THE REFEREES COMMITTEE PUBLISHED THE LIST OF REFEREES WHO WILL TAKE CHARGE OF THE EURO 2004 MATCHES.

For the first time, the match officials are being appointed as trios. To ensure the best cooperation possible, the referee will work with assistant referees from his own country with whom he is used to officiating, notably in UEFA competition matches.

The Committee also appointed four other referees to officiate as fourth officials.

The 12 referees plus the four fourth officials will follow the traditional elite referees' course in Madrid in February.

On 26 March, a round table is being organised with two former players, two coaches, two referees (in principle from among the 12 EURO 2004 referees) and three members of the UEFA Referees Committee. The purpose is to listen to the suggestions and opinions of the different parties and to see to what extent they can be applied in the final round.

Then from 26 to 29 April, the 40 referees and assistant referees will attend a workshop in Espinho, not far from Porto. Espinho will be their base for the tournament. The preparatory workshop will include fitness tests and instructions.

On 10 June, the names of the referees of the first eight matches will be announced at a press conference.

Referee	Assistant referees	Country
1. Kim Milton NIELSEN	Jens LARSEN Jørgen JEPSEN	Denmark
2. Michael RILEY	Philip SHARP Glenn TURNER	England
3. Gilles VEISSIERE	Frédéric ARNAULT Serge VALLIN	France
4. Markus MERK	Christian SCHRÄER Jan-Hendrik SALVER	Germany
5. Pierluigi COLLINA	Marco IVALDI Narciso PISACRETA	Italy
6. Terje HAUGE	Steinar HOLVIK Ole Hermann BORGAN	Norway
7. Lucilio CARDOSO CORTEZ BATISTA	Paulo Jorge JANUARIO LEITE RIBEIRO Jose Manuel SILVA CARDINAL	Portugal
8. Valentin IVANOV	Gennady KRASYUK Vladimir ENIUTIN	Russia
9. Lubos MICHEL	Igor SRAMKA Martin BALKO	Slovakia
10. Manuel Enrique MEJUTO GONZALEZ	Oscar MARTINEZ Rafael GUERRERO	Spain
11. Anders FRISK	Kenneth PETERSSON Peter EKSTRÖM	Sweden
12. Urs MEIER	Francesco BURAGINA Rudolf KÄPPELI	Switzerland

Referees appointed as fourth officials

Frank DE BLEECKERE	Belgium
Kyros VASSARAS	Greece
Alain HAMER	Luxembourg
Stuart DOUGAL	Scotland



Lubos Michel.

EMPICS



UEFA



UEFA

In futsal too, the aim is to ensure that the Laws of the Game are interpreted and applied in as uniform a manner as possible.

Referee exchange programme

A FRENCH REFEREE TAKING CHARGE OF A GERMAN BUNDESLIGA MATCH? APPOINTING REFEREES FROM ANOTHER COUNTRY FOR TOP LEAGUE MATCHES IS NOT UNHEARD OF.

But what is new is that UEFA is now establishing a proper referee exchange programme. The purpose is threefold: 1) to give the associations or leagues the possibility to call upon neutral elite referees for certain special matches for which they would not be subject to the same pressure as referees from the country in question; 2) to allow European elite referees to acquire additional experience; and 3) to thus improve the uniformity of refereeing throughout Europe.

UEFA plans to run a fair exchange programme, based on the principle that an association or league can have the same number of matches officiated by foreign referees as its referees take charge of abroad.

When the programme is introduced in 2004/05, it will be restricted to bilateral exchanges of top referees to begin with (for example, a French referee taking charge of a match in Germany and a German referee reciprocating in France) and to two exchanges per half-season.

This first phase will be evaluated before launching the next phase in 2005/06, when exchanges will be extended, more leagues involved, and all UEFA elite referees included. Exchanges would no longer be bilateral, so, for example, a French referee could officiate in Germany, while a German referee took charge of a match in England.

To begin with, all appointments will be made by UEFA.

The programme has already been presented to the Professional Football Committee and the Club Competitions Committee, both of which have welcomed the idea.

Course for futsal referees

Keeping up with the lightning development

THIRTY-EIGHT FUTSAL REFEREES FROM ALL OVER EUROPE WERE INVITED TO THE FIRST UEFA COURSE ORGANISED SPECIFICALLY FOR FUTSAL IN NOVEMBER AT THE HOUSE OF EUROPEAN FOOTBALL IN NYON. THE THEME (AND MAIN OBJECTIVE) OF THE COURSE WAS "UNIFORMITY IN INTERPRETING AND APPLYING THE LAWS THROUGHOUT EUROPE".

In his opening address to the course, Competition Operations Director Jacob Erel highlighted the specific nature of futsal. *"We recognise the specificity of futsal as a game, so UEFA feels it must address the various target groups within the game's development – and that obviously includes the referees and their education."*

The UEFA Referees Committee was represented by Vlado Sajn (Slovenia) and Vitor Pereira (Portugal) and enlisted the help of two leading European futsal refereeing experts. Andrea Lastrucci is a recently retired international futsal referee from Italy and Pedro Galan is an active Futsal referee from Spain who is nearing the end of his international career on age grounds. These four instructors prepared video material and practical examples on various futsal situations that they identified as causing referees some problems with different interpretations throughout Europe. These included refereeing procedure at kick-offs, kick-ins, corner kicks, goal clearances, free-kicks, time-outs, penalty kicks and kicks from the second penalty mark.

The participants contributed to lively plenary discussions and discussed the situations in smaller groups before coming to conclusions and recommendations which have since been issued by the Referees Committee and posted on the uefa.com website.

As is customary at UEFA referee courses, there was also a physical element led by Dr Werner Helsen of Belgium. This involved practical exercises designed to specifically enhance the fitness levels of futsal referees to enable them to be in the best condition and, during a match, in the position to make the correct decisions. The physical training session also provided the opportunity to test the new FIFA futsal referees fitness test.

"As the standard of futsal has progressed so rapidly, in terms of technique, speed and competitiveness, the futsal referees must be ready to keep up with this development, and strive to improve their performance," said Mr Sajn.



The futsal referees in Nyon.

UEFA











Gerhard Aigner retires

Looking back and looking forward

HAVING JOINED THE UEFA STAFF ON 1 OCTOBER 1969, GERHARD AIGNER WAS PROMOTED FROM HEAD OF DEPARTMENT TO THE ORGANISATION'S GENERAL SECRETARY ON 1 JANUARY 1989. FOLLOWING THE RESTRUCTURING OF THE UEFA ADMINISTRATION, HE WAS APPOINTED CHIEF EXECUTIVE IN DECEMBER 1999, A POSITION HE HELD UNTIL THE END OF 2003.

During his long career at UEFA, Gerhard Aigner never sought the attention of the media, although neither did he shirk his responsibilities towards them. His views and opinions on issues related to European football may have been widely reported, including in this publication, but the man himself has always remained in the shadows. As he prepared to clear his desk, we tried to discover something about the man himself, asking him to talk freely about a series of photographs.

***1* Gerhard Aigner in the UEFA offices at the House of Sport in Bern.**

"Ah! that's in my office in Laubeggstrasse in Bern, with my old typewriter. I think it was taken just after I joined UEFA, when I dealt with youth football and referees. It brings back some memories… I don't remember having my own office back then! I was still single at the time: I had long hair, it was still the Beatles era."

***2* Audience with Pope John Paul II on the occasion of the 1980 Congress in Rome.**

"I remember this visit. The Pope showed that he knew a lot about football. He talked about when he had kept goal for a club in Poland. He also followed teams' results and knew what he was talking about. I have never forgotten that audience. The Pope made a huge impression on me. I met him again many years later.

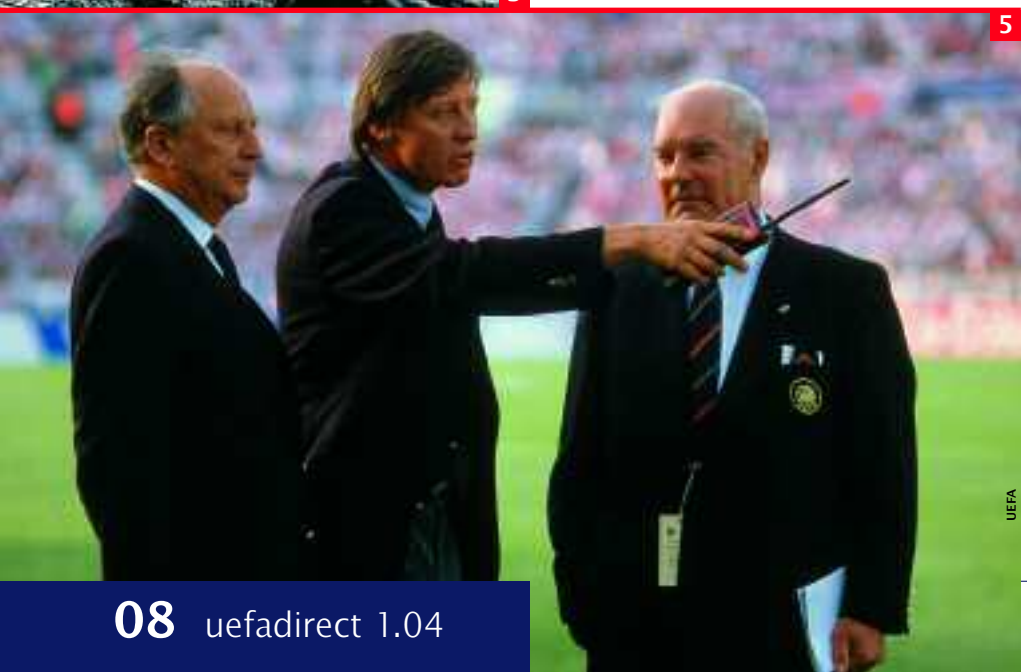
Artemio Franchi was also President of the Italian FA at the time and he had organised the audience. I admired him greatly; he was a true "Florentine diplomat". I learned a lot from him during his presidency, about how to manage UEFA without causing confrontations with anybody."

***3* Edwin E. Aldrin walking on the moon in 1969.**

"Landing on the moon… it can hardly be compared with my arrival at UEFA, even if it did happen in the same year. I think European football was a much more fertile territory than the moon, if we look at how UEFA has developed since 1969. But the moon landing was nevertheless a memorable moment which I watched on television."

***4* Interpreting with Rudolph Rothenbühler, UEFA press officer.**

"Rudi and myself in a meeting together. At the time, we used to work at the same time as interpreters,





6



9



10



4

meeting administrators, minute-takers or as members of the document preparation team. It shows how we had to be all-rounders in those days. We were bound to know everything that was going on at UEFA because we attended every meeting."

5 Gerhard Aigner in the company of Hans Bangerter and Jacques Georges

"This photo was taken at a time when we had already realised that UEFA needed to be involved in the organisation of its finals. With Hans Bangerter, my boss, who had entrusted me with operational responsibilities, and President Jacques Georges, who is asking about what we had planned in terms of the organisation. My expression suggests that I had probably discovered a few supporters in the wrong enclosure. We were already aware of crowd problems back then."

6 Ceremony of laying the first stone of the House of European Football.

"This was an important moment for UEFA. The building project was fascinating and having to chair the construction committee and the project selection jury was a unique experience. Opportunities to construct such a building do not come along very often."

7 Children playing football on a makeshift pitch.

"This reminds me of my early days in football, when we used to organise tournaments in the streets. I was the youngest and I was allowed to join one of the teams after they had already been picked, to make up the numbers. The photo also reminds me of our collaboration with Africa and the Meridian Project, which I value very highly. Talent is developed even on very primitive pitches and many African players now play in the European club competitions.

I have visited Africa several times and what I have seen there has made a big impression on me, particularly everyone's enthusiasm for football. The African teams are going to be formidable opponents for the European nations at the World Cup."

8 A meal

"I like good food and wine, and the way it is presented. In my job, I perhaps eat too many good meals, which means I put on weight, especially since I don't really have enough time to play sport regularly and keep fit. I am always torn between the desire to keep fit and my appetite for a good meal, such as the one shown here."

9 Father Christmas in front of a Christmas tree

"This reminds me of the Executive Committee's Christmas parties and a unique atmosphere in which members would sometimes show off their artistic talent, especially the President, Lennart Johansson, who revealed his singing abilities. It is always a very special time. Since Christmas is a family celebration, each year our Executive Committee meets as a family in Switzerland to celebrate Christmas with our wives and the UEFA directors. Sometimes Father Christmas brings us presents, which I hope we deserve. At least we show our support for solidarity and fair play, because everyone gets the same thing! It's a beautiful Christmas tree and I know a bit about them, since at home it is my job to help the children decorate the tree. Coming from Germany, we decorate the tree very carefully; every piece of tinsel has to be in the right place. It is always a special time, we put on some music and take our time."

10 A reading room

"I love libraries and losing myself in books. It is a pity that I have spent decades reading through minutes and newspaper articles about football rather than the type of reading I like: history books and biographies of contemporary or historical personalities. If I go into a library or book shop, I may not come out again for hours. At home I have lots of books that I have bought because I wanted to read them, but I have never had the time to do so. Now I will!

Write my own autobiography? I have never given it a thought, since I have never wanted to mix my private and professional lives. My experiences at UEFA will always remain part of my professional life. Now I want to devote myself to my private life and I think I would rather not go delving into my past professional activities. I think memories are extremely precious and, for me, they are very personal and not to be shared with other people.

If ever I write something, it will be for my children, to tell them things about me they may not know. I will write a diary of all our travels next year, to tell them what we have seen so that they can read it when they grow up and maybe return to the places we went to. That is what I would like to do at the moment. Then, by summer 2005, I will be 62 years old and, knowing me, I will have some ideas and, after a year and a half's break, I will have many more ambitions than I have now. Of course, I will remain very active and try to make the most of my freedom to do things I have never had the time to do in the past. I might even go back to the classroom."



Gerhard Aigner and his successor, Lars-Christer Olsson.



7

Anne-Marie D'Hooghe is in weekly contact with Casa Hogar.





Casa Hogar in Mexico

When football opens its heart

JULY 1986. TENS OF THOUSANDS OF SUPPORTERS CROWDED INTO THE MAIN SQUARE IN BRUSSELS TO CELEBRATE THE RED DEVILS' APPEARANCE IN THE WORLD CUP SEMI-FINALS. THE PLAYERS REMEMBER THEIR EPIC SUCCESS WITH FONDNESS, BUT THEY LEFT BEHIND A PIECE OF THEIR HEART IN TOLUCA, MEXICO.

Toluca, at an altitude of 2,780 m, was their base during the World Cup. Nestled some 70 km from Mexico City, it is a run-of-the-mill industrial city with a population of 800,000, many of whom live in shanty towns and in desperate poverty. While they were there, the Red Devils were touched by the warmth of the Mexican people and moved by the conditions they lived in. Casa Hogar was born. Seventeen years later, it is still thriving, proof that footballers can be generous people.

Starting on a small scale thanks to the players' decision to donate a proportion of their bonuses, this project completely transformed Toluca. The owners of the Del Rey hotel, Maria Teresa and Ramon Martinez, who accommodated the Belgian delegation, enthusiastically agreed to become the indispensable local contacts with Casa Hogar.
It was Ramon who found the hostel's first resident: Benito, a street kid, abandoned by his parents and covered in grime. Michel D'Hooghe, then president of the Belgian professional league, talked to the players about how much they wished to give and then persuaded the Belgian FA to help fund the project. With his wife Anne-Marie, he learned Spanish and remains the project's driving force. Anne-Marie is in weekly contact with Ramon and Maria Teresa Martinez. She performs the secretarial duties herself.

"Since 1986, we have taken in more than 200 street children living in absolute destitution and stricken by scourges such as alcohol and drugs. We give them an education. To begin with, we had to teach them how to sleep in a bed, how to use knives and forks, etc. Now, there are no more children living on the streets. The government takes care of them. It asks us to take young people in, but we no longer accept them all. We only take young children who have not yet been weighed down by problems and we make them take an IQ test. This means we can offer them a good education which, later on, will enable them to help others. It was the Mexicans themselves who asked us to operate this way. It is a superb Belgian project that shows that the football world can do some good."



Michel D'Hooghe with some of Casa Hogar's young residents.

Left:
Prince Albert
of Belgium
opens a library.
Far right:
Casa Hogar.





"Maria Teresa is like a sister to me. We make sure the children don't set us against each other. Once, a kid found my telephone number and asked for my help just when I was about to set off for Mexico. This boy did not know his parents, nor even his date of birth. He had a serious identity problem. We did everything possible to help him. These children think of us as their mothers. They don't even know when they were born. The day they came into the hostel becomes their birthday."

Casa Hogar has grown since it was first established. It now has its own psychologist, Dr Rocio Fuentes, who is assisted by four qualified staff members, each responsible for a small group of children who call them their "tio" or "tia".

Casa Hogar has also opened five libraries in the Toluca area. King Albert II opened one of them when he was still a prince, and his son, Philippe, the heir to the throne, has been to Toluca twice. Jean-Luc Dehaene also visited when he was the Belgian prime minister. *"Over there, a library does not have the same meaning as over here. It is a socio-cultural centre where someone reads the newspaper aloud every day, where you can learn to read and write, where women attend hygiene or cookery classes, and where anti-drugs initiatives are organised."*

The eyes of Michel and Anne-Marie D'Hooghe light up and they dismiss any compliment more or less in unison: *"We don't want people's gratitude. Working with the children is a pleasure. They are amazing. Mexico has become our second homeland."*

Michel D'Hooghe briefly sums up his own role: *"I have to make sure we collect EUR 150,000 per year, from the Belgian FA and elsewhere."* He made a personal contribution himself by publishing a book in 2001 when he stepped down as association president. *Mais où est donc passé le ballon?* was published in Dutch and French and sold 7,000 copies, a considerable success in modern-day sports literature. All of the proceeds were given to Casa Hogar, along with the fees he receives for speaking at conferences. Michel D'Hooghe also founded ASBL Casa Hogar with the help of 20 different companies. The annual gala at the Middelkerke casino on the Belgian coast is organised to raise funds for the project and the former Red Devils occasionally don their boots again to raise money.

Pascale Pierard

"Shocking poverty"

Due to their success in the tournament, the Red Devils stayed in the same Mexican city for six weeks. As he wandered the streets with Michel D'Hooghe and Eric Gerets, Jan Ceulemans, the Belgian captain, was struck by the poverty he saw around him: *"Of course we did not shut ourselves away in the hotel as if we were on a desert island. We talked to the people of Toluca. Children, some as young as six, were living, or rather surviving, on the streets. It was extremely shocking to see, even though Europe is unfortunately not without poverty of its own. I saw 18-year-olds and tiny children alike, all abandoned. I got the squad together and we decided to give away a proportion of our bonuses. It did not take much to persuade them; everyone agreed wholeheartedly."*

Jan Ceulemans returned to Toluca in the 1990s. *"In just a few years, the project had already expanded. Seventeen years later, it is now huge. We monitor with great interest how our project has developed and become a kind of model for other initiatives. Hearing that some of these street kids had completed university courses really brought a lump to my throat."*

P.P.



Prince Philippe of Belgium plays with Casa Hogar children.



Pierluigi Collina, Jacques Forster (ICRC Vice-President) and Gerhard Aigner.

Protect Children in War



UEFA and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) will highlight the plight of children in war in a joint campaign culminating in next year's EURO 2004 in Portugal.

UEFA CEO Gerhard Aigner presented the ICRC with a cheque for CHF 1 million for the seventh successive year at a ceremony held at the ICRC headquarters in Geneva on 27 November.

The campaign, entitled 'Protect Children in War', is designed to raise public awareness of the needs of children suffering the terrible effects of hostilities and war. Running until the end of EURO 2004, the campaign, under the slogan "Let us play", will focus on four key areas – reuniting children with their families, assisting them in their physical and psychological recovery, meeting children's basic needs and campaigning against the use of child soldiers.

World-renowned Italian referee Pierluigi Collina will serve as the campaign's ambassador and visit an ICRC field operation to see rehabilitation and family reunification work. Collina will also referee a match for children.

It will be the first time that a promotional platform has been offered to a humanitarian cause at one of UEFA's flagship events.



Security was the main focus of the seminar.

Second disciplinary seminar

Safety and security top the agenda

ON 26 AND 27 NOVEMBER, REPRESENTATIVES OF UEFA'S DISCIPLINARY BODIES (APPEALS BODY, CONTROL AND DISCIPLINARY BODY, DISCIPLINARY INSPECTORS) MET AT THE HOUSE OF EUROPEAN FOOTBALL IN NYON FOR A PACKED TWO-DAY SEMINAR.



The seminar was intended on the one hand as a kind of brainstorming session to try and find answers to various questions and on the other hand as an opportunity to brief the participants on the latest developments concerning the disciplinary sector.

The seminar focused essentially on three issues: safety and security, hooliganism and doping. Among the other topics dealt with were the strict liability of associations and clubs as well as probationary custody. Police experts from the Netherlands reported on European trends in violent clashes between rival supporters and on how police forces were working together to contend with this problem. The conclusion of the ensuing group discussions was that current UEFA disciplinary measures were adequate for dealing effectively with these issues.

In connection with these topics, a member of the UEFA Administration explained the EURO 2004 ticketing strategy, stressing the importance of the disciplinary bodies in ensuring that it was applied.

And representatives of the FAs of England and Germany presented their doping procedures and corresponding disciplinary measures, including the possibility of penalising the team of a player charged with a doping offence (DFB) and a special support programme for players who provide positive results for "social" drugs (The FA).

A representative of the French Football Federation presented the probationary custody measure that the federation had been practising successfully for several years. The seminar participants unanimously acknowledged the preventive advantages of this measure but also pointed out the practical problems of implementing it.






from Brussels Report

AT THE END OF 2003, UEFA'S BRUSSELS OFFICE COORDINATED A SERIES OF MAJOR POLITICAL EVENTS. ON 21 NOVEMBER, UEFA HOSTED A RECEPTION FOR MORE THAN 160 GUESTS AT THE EUROPEAN SPORTS FORUM IN VERONA. JUST A FEW DAYS LATER, THE BRUSSELS OFFICE WAS OFFICIALLY LAUNCHED, WITH MORE THAN 30 EU POLITICIANS AND OFFICIALS ATTENDING AN INFORMAL LUNCH ON THE NEW PREMISES. MEANWHILE, THE NEGOTIATIONS ON THE NEW EU TREATY ENTERED THEIR FINAL STAGES. CONCERNED WITH THE FINAL SHAPE OF ARTICLE 182, UEFA PURSUED ITS LOBBYING EFFORTS UNTIL THE VERY END OF THE TALKS.

On 25 November, UEFA formally launched its Brussels office, inviting European Commission officials, Members of the European Parliament, Member State representatives and journalists to an informal lunch.

In his welcome address, Per Omdal, UEFA vice-president, remarked that the new office *"said much about the relationship between sport and politics."* He noted that the *"decision of UEFA's Executive Committee to open a Representative Office shows the importance we attach to this city. In recent years, football's relations with the EU have assumed increasing significance."*

UEFA Chief Executive Gerhard Aigner also addressed the assembled guests. *"UEFA needs to understand how the EU thinks about the big questions facing sport"*, he said. *"We must look for ways of cooperating with the various institutions. We must make sure that we get our message across, so that our political interlocutors understand how we think."*

With more than 40 guests attending the launch, UEFA's Brussels office has put itself on the map. EU politicians and officials now have a permanent point of contact in the city, while UEFA has a set of 'eyes and ears' in the EU capital.

In the afternoon of 25 November, following the launch of the Brussels office, a high-level UEFA delegation made its way to the European Parliament for a meeting with the *Friends of Football*, the informal group of Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) that came into being earlier in the year.

More than a dozen MEPs took part in the meeting, representing several EU Member States. The debate provided an opportunity for both sides, football and politics, to sit around the same table and look at the major challenges facing European football. The EU Treaty Article on Sport, the effects of the Bosman ruling, the growing concentration of wealth, and the importance of solidarity: these were the key issues that MEPs wanted to discuss.

Friends of Football will continue to be an important partner for UEFA as it tries to strengthen its dialogue with the EU. UEFA's Brussels office is already planning the agenda for next year's activities, which will include a visit for MEPs to the House of European Football in Nyon.

EU Treaty Article on Sport

As 2003 drew to a close, UEFA's two-year campaign on the EU Treaty Article on Sport entered its final stages. On 29 November, EU Foreign Ministers agreed a new text for Article 182 of the Treaty, which included the following clause:

"The Union shall contribute to the promotion of European sporting issues, ***respecting the specific characteristics of sport,*** *its voluntary structure and its social and educational function."*

The explicit reference to the specificity of sport marks an important political victory for UEFA and the international sports movement. Far from perfect, the new text of Article 182 is nonetheless a significant improvement on the original proposals. At the time of going to print, the new Treaty was to undergo final negotiations by Heads of Government at the end-of-year summit in Brussels.



PHOTOS: GMS BRUXELLES

Gerhard Aigner and Lars-Christer Olsson welcomed Members of the European Parliament to UEFA's offices in Brussels.

European Sports Forum

In recent years it has become a tradition for UEFA to offer lunch to all participants in the European Sports Forum, the European Commission's annual conference on sporting matters. The Forum brings together well over 100 sports federations and governing bodies as well as national ministers and officials responsible for sport.

The 2003 Forum took place in Verona, Italy. The European Commission took the opportunity to launch the 'European Year of Education through Sport', which will run throughout 2004 across all EU countries. With the Forum looking at the theme of sport and social integration, UEFA devoted its event to the problem of racism.

UEFA held its reception in the magnificent setting of the Giusti Gardens just outside Verona's old town. Vice-president Per Omdal welcomed guests with a speech about UEFA's commitment to the fight against racism and later introduced Piara Power from FARE (Football Against Racism in Europe), who described his organisation's recent activities.

The European Sports Forum has become an important annual event for UEFA. It provides the opportunity to meet with other sports and discuss the most pressing issues of the day. UEFA's reception on the opening day is now a permanent fixture on the calendar.



PHOTO NEWS

Just before he retired, UEFA Chief Executive Gerhard Aigner was made an honorary member of the Belgian FA. Jan Peeters, President of the Belgian FA, presented him with his certificate.



EMPICS

The tendering process to choose a marketing agency for the sale of UEFA Champions League television and sponsorship rights for 2006-2009 will be launched soon.

No more smoking in the technical area

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE HELD ITS LAST MEETING OF THE YEAR ON 10 AND 11 DECEMBER IN NYON, CHAIRED BY FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT SENES ERZIK. THE UEFA PRESIDENT, LENNART JOHANSSON, WAS ABSENT FOR HEALTH REASONS. HE HAD ALSO BEEN FORCED TO MISS THE EURO 2004 AND 2006 WORLD CUP DRAWS.

At the end of a long meeting, the Committee bid farewell to Gerhard Aigner, thanking him for his tireless efforts in favour of European football.

One of the main outcomes of the meeting itself was the Committee's decision to ban smoking in the technical area as from the start of the 2004/05 season, in order to stress the harmful effects of smoking and its incompatibility with sport.

During the meeting, the Committee received a status report on preparations for EURO 2004, notably in the ticketing domain. In this connection, the national associations were reminded of the importance of strictly adhering to the instructions for the sale of their ticket quotas, in order to guarantee order and security. It was also pointed out that every supporter should be able to purchase a ticket without being obliged to purchase an entire package from a travel agency at the same time.

The Committee also received a report on a study conducted regarding the EURO 2008 bid procedure, which was largely positive on the whole. A need for greater transparency did, however, emerge from the study, and a new procedure will therefore be defined by spring 2005, when the EURO 2012 bid procedure opens.

Among other business, it was decided to start preparations for the tendering process to choose a marketing agency for the sale of UEFA Champions League television and sponsorship rights for 2006-2009.

Three new directors

The Executive Committee has approved the following appointments:

Giorgio Marchetti takes over from new Chief Executive Lars-Christer Olsson as Director of the Professional Football and Marketing division. Mr Marchetti, aged 43, has been General Secretary of the Italian league since 1997. He is also a member of UEFA's Professional Football Committee and Coordinator of the European Union Premier Football Leagues. He will take up his new position with UEFA on 1 February.

William Gaillard is replacing Mike Lee as Director of Communications and Public Affairs. Mr Gaillard, aged 53, is a French citizen. He is multilingual and has extensive experience of working in international environments. He has spent the last ten years as Director of Corporate Communications with IATA, the International Air Transport Association. He will be joining UEFA on 1 March.

On 1 January, ***Gianni Infantino*** (Italian/Swiss, 33 years old), moves up to the position of Director of Legal Services. He has been with UEFA since 2000 and is currently Senior Manager, Commercial Legal Services. His predecessor in the director's seat, Markus Studer, has been confirmed as Deputy Chief Executive. Among his new responsibilities, the Deputy Chief Executive will oversee the Services, Finances and Legal Services divisions, as well as the Assistance Programmes, which no longer form part of the Legal Services.

■ At its meeting in December, the Executive Committee designated the Polish FA as hosts of the European Under-19 Championship final round in 2006. The tournament will be staged in the Wielkopolska (Poznan) region.



UEFA's three new directors: (left to right) Gianni Infantino, Giorgio Marchetti and William Gaillard.

UEFA-WOODS



BONGARTS

The World Cup draw in Frankfurt.



KEYSTONE

Despite winning the first leg in Switzerland, titleholders, the Czech Republic, were knocked out of the European Under-21 Championship in the play-offs.

2006 World Cup preliminaries

The group draw for the 2006 World Cup qualifying competition was made in Frankfurt on 5 December.

The 51 European entrants have been split into three groups of seven and five groups of six. The qualifying period runs from September 2004 to October 2005. The eight group winners and best two runners-up will qualify for the final round, while the last six runners-up will contend play-offs in November 2005 for the three remaining European places in the finals. Hosts Germany qualify automatically.

Group 1: *Czech Republic, Netherlands, Romania, Finland, FYR Macedonia, Armenia, Andorra*

Group 2: *Turkey, Denmark, Greece, Ukraine, Georgia, Albania, Kazakhstan*

Group 3: *Portugal, Russia, Slovakia, Latvia, Estonia, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg*

Group 4: *France, Republic of Ireland, Switzerland, Israel, Cyprus, Faroe Islands*

Group 5: *Italy, Slovenia, Scotland, Norway, Belarus, Moldova*

Group 6: *England, Poland, Austria, Wales, Northern Ireland, Azerbaijan*

Group 7: *Spain, Belgium, Serbia and Montenegro, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Lithuania, San Marino*

Group 8: *Sweden, Croatia, Bulgaria, Iceland, Hungary, Malta.*

Under-21 final round in Germany

The play-offs in November determined the eight nations which go through to next year's European Under-21 Championship final round, which will be played from 27 May to 8 June.

The finalists are Belarus, Croatia, Germany, Italy, Portugal, Serbia and Montenegro, Sweden and Switzerland. The final round will be played in two groups of four, from which the group winners and runners-up will go through to the semi-finals. The two finalists as well as the bronze medallists will then represent Europe in the Olympic Games in Athens in August, together with Greece, who qualify automatically for the Olympic Football Tournament as host nation.

At its meeting in December, the Executive Committee decided that Germany would host next year's European Under-21 Championship final round. The draw will be made in Frankfurt on 12 February. The tournament matches will be played in Mainz, Mannheim, Bochum and Leverkusen. Only three of the 2002 finalists are back in contention this time round: Switzerland, who knocked out titleholders the Czech Republic in the play-offs, Italy and Portugal.

UEFA Youth Football Conference

The 7th UEFA Youth Football Conference will take place in Berlin (Potsdam) from 28 to 30 January, focusing on the future of European youth football.

German Interior Minister Otto Schilly will open the conference, which will also be attended by the UEFA President, Lennart Johansson, and the new Chief Executive, Lars-Christer Olsson.

Each UEFA member association will be represented by two delegates: someone responsible for the administration of youth football in the association plus a national youth team coach. The youth coaches of elite clubs (clubs taking part in the UEFA Champions League or UEFA Cup) have also been invited. During the two-day event, the participants will take part in group discussions about the future of youth football in the member associations, the structure of the UEFA youth competitions and the organisation of mini-tournaments. One of the focal points of the conference will be a round table involving national coaches, who will compare their views on youth training and development.

The draws for the first qualifying rounds of the 2004/05 youth competitions will take place in conjunction with the conference.

The next final rounds in the youth competitions are being hosted by France (Under-17s from 4 to 15 May 2004 in the central region at



SPORTIMAGE

Having qualified for the final round after their win against Turkey, Germany will be hosting the European Under-21 Championship final round.





The club representatives give their reactions to the draw.



ANDORRA
The Andorran FA has signed deals with some sponsors for its senior national team.

UEFA Champions League enters its final phase

On 12 December, the draw for the first knock-out round was made in Nyon.

Eight associations are still represented and six former winners are still in the running.

VfB Stuttgart – Chelsea FC
FC Porto – Manchester United FC
Real Sociedad – Olympique Lyonnais
RC Celta de Vigo – Arsenal FC
FC Bayern Munich – Real Madrid CF
AC Sparta Prague – AC Milan
RC Deportivo La Coruña – Juventus
FC Lokomotiv Moscow – AS Monaco FC

The match dates are 24/25 February (first legs) and 9/10 March (return legs).

The draw for the third round of the UEFA Cup was also made in Nyon on 12 December:

Brøndby IF – FC Barcelona
Parma AC – Gençlerbirligi SK
SL Benfica – Rosenborg BK
Olympique de Marseille – FC Dnipro Dnipropetrovsk
Celtic FC – FK Teplice
AC Perugia – PSV Eindhoven
Groclin Grodzisk Wielkopolski – FC Girondins de Bordeaux
Valencia CF – Besiktas JK
Galatasaray SK – Villarreal CF
Club Brugge KV – Debreceni VSC
FC Sochaux-Montbéliard – Internazionale FC
Liverpool FC – PFC Levski Sofia
FC Spartak Moscow – RCD Mallorca
Gaziantepspor – AS Roma
AJ Auxerre – Panathinaikos FC
Vålerenga IF – Newcastle United FC

The match dates are 26 February and 3 March.

the venues of Blois, Tours and Châteauroux), Switzerland (Under-19s from 13 to 24 July 2004 in Lucerne, Lausanne and Nyon), Italy (Under-17s from 3 to 14 May 2005 in the Pisa region) and Northern Ireland (Under-19s from 18 to 29 July 2005).

UEFA'S GOLDEN JUBILEE

UEFA's Golden Jubilee will be celebrated throughout 2004. Major events are the Ordinary Congress in Cyprus in April, EURO 2004 in Portugal and the Conference of the Presidents and General Secretaries of UEFA Member Associations in Lisbon in July.

The *uefa.com* Internet site will be featuring a different UEFA member association every week of the year, kicking off in January with Albania, Andorra, Armenia and Austria.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

■ On 25 November, the Estonian FA elected Indrek Kannik as its new president.

■ UEFA's offices will be closed from 24 December 2003 to 4 January 2004 inclusive.

MATCH AGENTS

The Match Agents Panel has granted licences to:

Alan Fluin
Here We Go Sport in Sweden AB
Kungstorpsvägen 8
SE – 236 32 Höllviken
Tel. +46 40 456 350
Fax: +46 40 456 385
Mobile: +46 70 570 3568
Email: al@herewego.se

Dave Watson
Dave Watson International Ltd
2A Parkyns Street
GB – NG11 6ED, Ruddington, Nottingham
Tel. +44 115 914 3303
Fax: +44 115 914 3306

from

ANDORRA

In search of new sponsors

The Andorran Football Association has devised a programme aimed at finding new sponsors. It is hoping to obtain new funding in order to continue the numerous activities it organises each year.

The new sponsorship agreements will primarily concern support for the senior national team as well as the national youth teams and football academies.

One of the most important agreements covers sponsorship of the national youth teams and football academies. Thanks to support from an Andorran bank, "Crèdit Andorrà", we have been able to cover part of the cost of purchasing sports equipment for the girls and boys selected for the national youth squads. The programme will also help with the transportation of players to the football academies. This forms part of a cooperation agreement with a national transport company, which will also transport the senior national squad to training sessions and various events organised by the association.

As far as sponsorship of the senior national side is concerned, an agreement has been reached with two major Andorran companies: the construction firm "Cevalls" and a large Andorran hotel group, "Plaza Hotels".

In return for their backing, all the association sponsors will be entitled to advertise on the shirts of the various national teams, on boards located in the press rooms and mixed zones, during international matches, in our publications, on our Internet site and on advertising boards at all events organised by the association.

In conclusion, even though it has already managed to secure these contracts, the association is still looking for new sponsors and funding to enable it to carry out the activities planned for the new year.

Miquel Angel Quiñones

BELARUS

Good performances in the youth competitions

After a good showing in the 2002 World Cup qualifiers, where the Belarussian squad almost made it into the world's 32 strongest teams, the 2002/03 season turned out to be a flop. The Belarussian clubs have also had a disappointing time in the UEFA competitions.



ENGLAND
More information on the course can be found at www.TheFA.com /FALearning.



BELARUS
Alexander Gleb scored the fourth goal against Poland.



BELARUS
Coach Puntus is lifted triumphantly by his players.

News
member associations

But just as Belarussian fans had almost given up hope of seeing our teams do themselves justice internationally, our youth teams started to give football fans something to smile about. In late September, in the first qualifying round of the European Under-19 Championship, teams from Greece, Portugal and Wales came to Belarus to play a mini-tournament in Minsk. Under the leadership of coach Pavel Rodnenok and his assistant Viktor Sokol, our team won the first match against Greece and drew against Portugal. For the last, crucial match against Wales, the Belarussians came through with a convincing 3-0 victory. Having finished level on points with Portugal, Belarus emerged as group-winners on goal difference, thereby securing a place in the next stage of the competition.

Then, in a European U-17 Championship mini-tournament in Switzerland in October, Yuri Pyshnik's team took the group runners-up spot to go through to the next round of the competition.

Finally, the biggest and most pleasant surprise came from the European U-21 Championship. As group runners-up, the Belarus squad were drawn for the play-offs against a strong Polish side which had come through the qualifiers unbeaten. The first leg took place in Minsk on 15 November and, in spite of fantastic support from more than 10,000 fans, the Belarussian team was held to a 1-1 draw. Goalkeeper Yuri Zhevnov several times saved his team in apparently hopeless situations. The Polish side looked very confident in their away match and undoubtedly expected to win the second leg on home ground.

On 19 November in Wronki, the 5500-seater stadium was full to capacity and decked out in white and red. In spite of the pre-match atmosphere and the fact that several players on the squad list were out of action for reasons of injuries or suspension, the Belarussians were undaunted and it was clear that they intended to win. And win they did – an unequivocal 4-0 victory. The Polish side had no answer to the indefatigable Alexander Gleb, Yuri Zhevnov was rock solid in goal, and the whole team coached by Yuri Puntus just bore down on their opponents.

When the late plane with the team on board landed at Minsk airport, the arrivals hall was full of friends and supporters welcoming their players with greetings and champagne. Now, all Belarussian football fans expect their heroes to make a good showing in the final round of the championship and, of course, to book their berth for the Olympic games. So far, this is the best result ever in the history of Belarussian football.

Sviatoslav Kiselev

BELGIUM

National coach Aimé Anthuenis extends contract

The Belgian Football Association (URBSFA) has extended the contract of Aimé Anthuenis until 31 July 2006. The URBSFA is pleased with the results and style of play achieved by the Red Devils under Aimé Anthuenis and therefore had no hesitation in employing the former RSC Anderlecht and KRC Genk coach for a longer period. The national coach is now under contract until the end of the 2006 World Cup in Germany.

Aimé Anthuenis has been the Belgian national coach since 1 July 2002, having succeeded Robert Waseige after the 2002 World Cup in Korea and Japan. Inheriting a squad which had lost experienced men such as Marc Wilmots, Geert Verheyen, Johan Walem and Danny Boffin, he had only a few weeks in which to build a much younger nucleus of players. This difficult task could not be accomplished overnight and, despite totalling 16 points in a group including Bulgaria, Croatia, Estonia and Andorra, Belgium failed to qualify for EURO 2004. However, the learning process now appears to be complete and new blood has been successfully injected. Youngsters have broken through, with players such as Sonck, Buffel, Van Damme, Deschacht, Soetaers and even the up-and-coming Kompany now playing alongside more experienced men like Bart Goor, Walter Baseggio, Daniel Van Buyten and the Mpenza brothers. The average age of the team is now around 26!

Such a young and talented Belgian team is bound to generate optimism. Aimé Anthuenis deserves all the credit for building a new team which can certainly look forward to a very bright future.

The next big challenge for Aimé Anthuenis and the Red Devils is to qualify for the 2006 World Cup in Germany. If they succeed, Belgium will play in their seventh consecutive World Cup finals.

François Vantomme

BOSNIA & HERZEGOVINA

NK Siroki Brijeg – autumn champions

After their last match against NK Orasije at the Pecara Stadium, NK Siroki Brijeg emerged as champions of the autumn part of the season with 32 points. Currently in second place and just one point behind the leaders are defending champions FK Leotar of Trebinje. Under head coach Ivo Istuk, Siroki Brijeg played really well at home – seven victories in seven matches – but they also showed great football at their away fixtures, and will be challenging FK Leotar for the title. In third place is FK Sarajevo, followed in the number four spot by NK Orasije, but the biggest disappointment was for the fans of FK Zeljeznicar, as the team from Grbavica is now in an all-time worst eighth place.

It is interesting to note that both teams from the capital, FK Sarajevo and FK Zeljeznicar, changed head coaches at the same time, when both teams were in a better position. The new coaches have not so far succeeded in making any headway.

The struggle to stay in the premier league is also a cliff-hanger, as just two teams will drop out. The FA decided in September that the league will not be trimmed down as was previously planned, as the quality of our football is improving and drawing bigger crowds. There was some unfair behaviour in several matches, but the league is pleased to note that since the advent of the united premier league, incidences of this type of behaviour are decreasing.

We shall be using the winter break to improve work in our refereeing section, as well other sections of the organisation. *"We want to help the clubs while implementing*



BELGIUM
Wesley Sonck is one of the Red Devil's new generation.

PHOTO NEWS



PHOTO NEWS

BELGIUM
A new contract for Aimé Anthuenis.



HNS

CROATIA
The Croatian FA also helps other sports organisations, such as the Croatian national clerics team.



EJL

ESTONIA
Indrek Kannik is the Estonian FA's new president.

the licensing system in accordance with UEFA's requirements", says new FA President Milan Jelic.

Attention has also been focused on the competition for the B&H Cup. The first and second division teams caused a major upset by beating 14 premier league teams by the quarter-finals. The semi-finalists are FK Borac from Banja Luka, FK Modrica Maxima, FK Slavija and NK Drinovci.

The championship will resume on 28 February of next year.

Fuad Krvavac

CROATIA

Some successes for the national teams

The close of this year has brought a number of gratifying successes for the Croatian Football Association. Our orientation towards work with and investment in youth football, which aims to help foster quality football, has proved its worth.

Our senior national team has qualified for the final tournament of EURO 2004, despite the fact that the line-up has been completely renewed since our extraordinary third place in France in 1998.

The U-21 national side has qualified for the final round of the European U-21 Championship, and the goal we have set for them is to become the first Croatian side to qualify for the Olympic Games, to be held in Athens in 2004.

Moreover, the U-19 team has made it into the second qualifying round of the European U-19 Championship, and we are confident that they will also manage to qualify for the final round.

The Croatian FA also support other football-related activities and institutions, among them the Croatian clerical national team, founded in the spring of 1995. In their first match in the town of Sisak, the Croatian priests defeated their Austrian counterparts 1-0.

We are delighted that UEFA and FIFA have entrusted our FA with the hosting of tournaments and other events. We hosted a qualifying mini-tournament for the Futsal World Championship in the town of Gospic, as well as a mini-tournament in the first qualifying round for the European U-19 Championship on the Istria peninsula on the Adriatic coast. We organised a FIFA seminar for futsal referees and futsal coaches, "Futsal today and tomorrow", with the participation of FIFA lecturers, and a UEFA workshop on the club licensing standard. In addition to the Croatian representatives, the workshop was also attended by representatives of the FAs of Bosnia & Herzegovina, Slovenia, FYR Macedonia and Serbia & Montenegro.

The academy founded by the Croatian FA to train coaches according to the UEFA system is successfully developing its activity and producing good results, as confirmed by the UEFA experts. In addition to A and B licences, we are happy to report that we are now also entitled to issue licences in the UEFA Pro category.

We are currently preparing plans and programmes for our teams' participation in next year's competitions and we hope that they will be equally successful. We are glad to have been drawn in the same group as England and Switzerland for the final round of EURO 2004 as, until now, we have never played these teams in official competitions.

Ante Pavlovic

ENGLAND

Psychology for Soccer Level 1

FA Learning will launch its first ever online qualification in January 2004. This pioneering project is the first of its kind to be provided by any football governing body and is available to anyone with access to the Internet.

The course is aimed at coaches, parents and teachers of 7-12 year-olds looking to gain an introduction to psychology and understand the needs of players.

Featuring modules based on 'true to life' player, coach and parent scenarios, combined with audio and video technology, the course is a comprehensive, interactive learning experience.

The course modules are:

- Psychology and Soccer
- Motivation
- Learning and Acquiring Skills
- Psychological Development
- Environment and Social Influences

In addition to the course modules, learners will also have access to a number of further benefits included as part of the course fee.

The benefits include:

- Support from qualified FA tutors
- Classroom-specific online discussion forums
- Global online discussion forums
- All successful students receive an FA qualification in psychology
- A resource area containing over 100 articles and web links relating to coaching 7-12 year-olds.

Psychology for Soccer Level 1 offers a flexible online learning solution, interaction and support from tutors and students and a host of additional benefits and features.

To find out more and enrol on the course, visit www.TheFA.com/FALearning.

Jonathan Wilson

ESTONIA

A new president

At its congress on the island of Saaremaa in November, the governing body of the Estonian Football Association (EJL) elected former vice-president Indrek Kannik as its new president for the next five years. Ex-president Peeter Küttis was elected as the first Honorary President of the EJL after serving two terms as president (the maximum mandate according to the EJL's statutes).

Kannik has been a member of the EJL Board for almost ten years and is well respected in international football circles as an acting UEFA delegate and member of the UEFA Youth and Amateur Football Committee. He still occasionally plays football with FC Toompea, a fourth division team mainly composed of politicians and journalists. Kannik was previously the Estonian Minister of Defence and is currently General Secretary of the Defence Ministry. Curiously, the election date of 25 November was also Kannik's 38th birthday, so he was congratulated even before the congress or election started!

Kannik explained his views and priorities just after the election. *"Youth development, infrastructure and coach education programmes – these three areas have been the EJL's priorities for many years now and we will certainly seek further progress in all of them. Over the last ten years, the number of football players in Estonia has increased four-fold and this is mainly due to a boom in youth football,"* he said.

"We have to keep this pace up, but we also have to develop infrastructure more quickly. Although numerous artificial pitches



F. KRVAVAC

BOSNIA & HERZEGOVINA
Autumn champions NK Siroki Brijeg.



GREECE Greece's players applaud their supporters after making it through to EURO 2004.



GREECE Otto Rehhagel's contract has been extended.



KAZAKHSTAN The German and Kazakh FAs have signed a new cooperation agreement.

have been set up in recent years, there is a danger that the lack of training facilities will prevent more youngsters starting to play football. Of course, this must be achieved in close cooperation with the local authorities, many of which have understood the importance of football, but some politicians are still unaware of the social and cultural importance of the game," commented Kannik.

Margus Luik

FINLAND

Pentti Seppälä named Honorary President

Pentti Seppälä has been named Honorary President of the Finnish Football Association after being nominated for the position by the 84th General Assembly in early November.

Mr Seppälä was president of the Finnish Football Association for ten years between 1987 and 1997, since when he has held various elected positions within the Finnish football family. One of Seppälä's current duties is to act as one of UEFA's internal auditors.

Seppälä, 69, is only the second person to become Honorary President. The first was Erik von Frenckell, who was the association's acting president from 1918 until the Helsinki Olympic Games in 1952.

Sami Terävä

GREECE

Otto Rehhagel leads the way to Portugal

Having accepted an offer from the Greek Football Association to extend his contract until December 2005, Otto Rehhagel will be in charge of the Greek national team for the next two years. "King Otto", as he is known in Germany, played a key role in Greece's qualification for the EURO 2004 finals.

Mr Rehhagel's contract was due to expire next summer, but the Board of the Greek FA had already decided that the German-born coach was the man for the job and wanted him to remain in charge of their coaching staff, regardless of the national team's performance during the EURO 2004 qualifiers.

Otto Rehhagel's impact during his two years in Greece has been immense. He has influenced not only the players, Greek football administrators and clubs, but particularly the Greek supporters, who have stood by the national team and helped the players to put to one side the unfortunate results against Spain (2-0 at home) and Ukraine (2-0 away) in the early stages of the qualifying tournament, in order to achieve the goal of qualification.

Rehhagel himself has described Greece's qualification for Portugal as one of the most important achievements in his career and is desperate to take the Greeks to the 2006 World Cup finals in Germany.

Panos Korkodilos

ISRAEL

Club licensing seminar

Unfortunately, official activity in Israel has been suspended, but Israeli clubs and teams are still participating in UEFA competitions.

On 6 November, our club Maccabi Haifa came home with a 0-0 draw from their match against Valencia CF in the second round of the UEFA Cup.

Indoors, the Israeli national futsal team are involved in the qualifiers for the 2004/05 European Futsal Championship. In the qualifying tournament for the Word Championship, which took place in the Czech Republic, the Israeli team beat Romania 5-1 and lost 5-2 against the Czech Republic.

In October/November, Andreas Kuhn, General Manager of UEFA's Assistance Programmes, visited the IFA.

During his visit, Mr Kuhn was informed about various elements of the educational programme project. The visit was very productive and could contribute a great deal to the development of the project.

The Israeli postal stamp service is currently working on a new stamp to mark UEFA's Golden Jubilee. Sketches have been made and the new stamp will be unveiled in the very near future.

Progress is being made regarding the introduction of the UEFA club licensing scheme. Ori Shilo, Deputy Chief Executive, and Rotem Kamer, Deputy Legal Adviser, organised a seminar on the matter for the clubs, to give the club representatives some guidance and information regarding the execution of the project.

And finally, from 27 to 29 October, Alan Smith, a lecturer and former coach from The Football Association, ran a seminar for coaches, coach instructors and coach students at the Wingate Physical Education Institute. Around 250 coaches participated and the seminar was declared a great success.

Adi Rosenberg

KAZAKHSTAN

Cooperation with the German FA

This is a special year for football in Kazakhstan. It is 90 years since this great game first appeared in Kazakhstan. In 1913, in Semipalatinsk, the country's first football teams were created: Semipalatinsk Sports Club, Olympus, Lastochka, Orliyata and Yarish. In 1921, Kazakhstan's first football stadium was built in Dzhambul (now known as Taraz) while, in 1928, the first official competition between the Kazakh provinces was held in Petropavlovsk.

To mark the anniversary, the Football Union of Kazakhstan has awarded medals to individuals who have made a particular contribution to football in Kazakhstan. Representatives of 14 Kazakh regions, as well as Almaty and Astana, received the awards on behalf of those honoured.

On 9 November, the Almaty opera and ballet theatre hosted the official celebration of the 90th anniversary of football in Kazakhstan, an occasion on which the top players from the 2003 season were also honoured. It was a great pleasure to welcome guests including Gerhard Mayer-Vorfelder, President of the German Football Association and member of the FIFA and UEFA Executive Committees, Horst Schmidt, DFB General Secretary, and Mathieu Sprengers, President of the Dutch Football Association and UEFA Treasurer.

At the ceremony, prizes were awarded to the top 11 players of the season, the leading representatives of the country's number one sport.

The next day, as part of his visit to Kazakhstan, Gerhard Mayer-Vorfelder signed a contract concerning cooperation between the Football Union of Kazakhstan and the German Football Association. The agreement will give new impetus to relations between the two associations. In December of this year, for example, German experts will hold a seminar for Kazakh coaches. Germany has also challenged Kazakhstan's youth team to a series of friendly matches.

Tlekbek Akpayev, First Vice-President of the Football Union of Kazakhstan, said, *"Today is a historic day for football in our country. We have signed a contract concerning cooperation between ourselves and the German FA which, led by its president, Mr Mayer-Vorfelder, offered invaluable support when the Football Union of Kazakhstan became a member of UEFA".*

Alexander Keplin



FINLAND Pentti Seppälä at the SPL General Assembly.



PZPN

POLAND
Katarzyna Nadolska and PZPN President Michal Listkiewicz.



PZPN

POLAND
Kazimierz Górski has been named best Polish coach of all time.



LATVIA

The greatest success in Latvian football history

Latvian football is celebrating the greatest success in its history following the national team's qualification for EURO 2004 in Portugal. After an outstanding end to the qualifying phase and an incredible win over Turkey in the play-offs, the Latvian team has made history.

In the EURO 2004 qualifying competition, Latvia finished second in Group 4. A 3-1 home win against Hungary and an amazing 1-0 victory in Sweden took Latvia into the play-offs. Two goals against Hungary and a decisive goal against the Swedes have made striker Maris Verpakovskis the new hero of Latvian football.

In the play-offs, Latvia were paired with Turkey, one of the world's top teams. Thanks to an incredible fighting spirit and confidence, Latvia recorded a historic 1-0 win in the first match in Riga. A sell-out crowd of 9,000 Latvian fans celebrated in the Skonto stadium, where Maris Verpakovskis, who scored the only goal, was man of the match. The Latvian striker also played a crucial role in the second leg in Istanbul, where his goal helped Latvia achieve a 2-2 draw. The 3-2 aggregate win secured Latvia's place in the EURO 2004 finals in Portugal.



LATVIAN FA

LATVIA
Latvia (Maris Verpakovskis) have qualified for their first European Championship final round.

Head coach Aleksandrs Starkovs hailed his team's success, saying, *"I want to dedicate this great victory to Latvia and its footballing future. I want to thank the whole Latvian team because each player has given his all to achieve this success. I am particularly grateful to the president of the Latvian Football Association, Guntis Indriksons, whose efforts on behalf of Latvian football over the last six years have contributed to this great result. I also wish to thank the whole Latvian Football Association, Latvian journalists and, of course, the Latvian supporters."*

Dainis Pandars

LITHUANIA

Football season draws to a close

On 26 November, the whole of Lithuania celebrated the end of the 2003 Lithuanian football season. The closing ceremony, held in the capital, was attended by the whole football family, including players, the president, chief executive and other employees of the Lithuanian Football Association, the champions of women's football, veterans of Lithuanian football, district football association presidents, representatives of state government, football sponsors and other honorable guests. The champions of the top two divisions and the players of the year, T. Maciulevicius (FBK Kaunas), E. Cesnauskis (FC Ekranas) and A. Kucys (FC Ekranas), received their prizes during the ceremony.

Liutauras Varanavicius, President of the Lithuanian FA, watching the highlights of the season's championship, was delighted to note a real upsurge in the popularity of Lithuanian football, demonstrated by a rise in the number of spectators and sponsors.

We hope that the new season will see the trend continue.

Vaiva Zizaite

POLAND

Special events

Kazimierz Górski, the legendary coach of the Polish team that won gold at the 1972 Munich Olympic Games and finished third in the 1974 World Cup, has been awarded an honorary doctorate by the Academy of Physical Education and Sport in Gdansk.

"It has been a wonderful day, one of the best in my life. This honour is not only a magnificent award for me, but also a distinction for Polish football," said a delighted Gorski.

Unfortunately, the current national team falls a long way short of the 1974 side, although its latest performances offer some hope that Pawel Janas' team might be improving. In November, Poland beat the EURO 2000 runners-up Italy 3-1 and, three days later, defeated Serbia and Montenegro 4-3. These results augur well for the forthcoming World Cup qualification campaign.

Before the game with Italy, representatives of the Polish FA Board (including FA President Michal Listkiewicz, Eugeniusz Kolator, Henryk Apostel, Kazimierz Gorski, Stefan Antkowiak) and national team players (Jerzy Dudek and Jacek Zielinski) were granted an audience by Pope John Paul II.

In November, a historic event occurred at the Polonia Warsaw v Odra Wodzislaw match, when for the first time in the Polish first division, a female assistant referee, Katarzyna Nadolska, officiated. Nadolska is a highly skilled referee, who was an assistant referee at the Women's World Cup final between Germany and Sweden in September.

The third international conference on stadium safety took place in Kielce on 6 November. The chief guest was Alfred Sengle, Vice-President of the German Football Association. During the conference, methods of combating hooliganism, racism and intolerance were discussed. The Polish FA, together with the "Never Again" organisation, published an informative brochure on "Racism Symbols", which is designed to help prevent racist behaviour in football stadiums.

Michal Kocieba

REPUBLIC OF IRELAND

Encouraging signs for the future

The Republic of Ireland's 'rehabilitation' following their failure to qualify for EURO 2004 in Portugal next summer began in a very encouraging way with victory over Canada in a friendly in Dublin in mid-November.

The margin of victory to the Irish was 3-0 and while the Canadians may not be rated among the world's top footballing nations – their FIFA ranking when they came to Dublin was 93 – there were many positives to be taken from the Irish performance.

Manager Brian Kerr's plans were dealt an early blow when five members of his original squad of players were forced to withdraw because of injury. And then within eight minutes of the game starting, midfielder Graham Kavanagh had to be replaced when he damaged an ankle. It was a cruel blow for the Cardiff City captain as was earning only his fourth senior cap and had not played in an Irish team since 1999 when he figured in a friendly in Dublin against Northern Ireland. He had been named in Kerr's squad for the last of the European qualifiers against Switzerland in October but did not get to play and was keen to stake a claim for more consistent appearances in the team when Kerr assured him he would start against the Canadians.

Unhappily for Kavanagh, his involvement lasted less than ten minutes. But there was hope for the Cardiff player in the announcement by Kerr after the game that he would have Graham involved in future matches.

There were many encouraging signs for the future of the Irish team, thanks to a number of impressive performances by some of the players, notably Andy Reid (Nottingham


FRF

ROMANIA
The first Pro course to be held in Romania.


FSGC

SAN MARINO
The senior national team.


FS SCG

SERBIA AND MONTENEGRO
The Under-21s have qualified for the European Under-21 Championship final round next year.

Forest) and Richard Dunne (Manchester City), not to mention, of course, the likes of Damien Duff (Chelsea), Robbie Keane (Tottenham Hotspur) and Rory Delap (Southampton) when he came into the game as a late substitute.

It was a particularly encouraging night for young Reid as he was making only his first appearance at senior level for the Irish after a very impressive Under-21 and youth football career. The Nottingham Forest midfielder gave an outstanding display and his performance was of such a quality that it won him the Man of the Match award.

Manager Kerr had looked forward to involving promising Celtic player Liam Miller in the game. Like Andy Reid, he would have been making his debut had he played, but, sadly, injury forced him out of the squad and he had to return to Glasgow for treatment.

But it is through players like Reid and Miller that Brian Kerr can look to a new era of Irish football talent and to a new dawn for the Irish senior team. As non-qualifiers for the European Championship finals, Kerr now has the ideal chance to build for the future and so, over the early months of the New Year, he will be looking to redevelop his squad through a series of friendly matches the football association hopes to arrange for 2004.

Brendan McKenna

ROMANIA

Vision for the future

This year, the junior leagues in Romania were played under the new summer format for the first time.

National champions were crowned in three age categories: A (under-19s), B (under-17s) and C (under-15s). The championships proved very popular, with 260 teams competing in category A, 260 in category B and more than 400 in category C.

The respective champions were CF Gloria 1922 Bistrita (category A, coached by Adrian Florea), FC Steaua Bucharest (category B, coached by Adrian Bumbescu, fullback in the great Steaua team that won the Champion Clubs' Cup in 1986) and CS Proluceafarul Bucharest (category C, coached by Adrian Pigulea).

Although the first two of the above teams belong to first division clubs, CS Proluceafarul Bucharest is unusual insofar as it only runs junior teams. Over the years, the club has brought through numerous future stars of Romanian football, such as Gheorghe Hagi, Gheorghe Popescu, Mircea Rednic, Ioan Ovidiu Sabau and Gavrila Pele Balint.

Most of these former stars are now professional coaches and took part in the first Pro training course to be held in Romania. The final five theory modules were held between 8 and 12 December. The participants benefited from the input of several top foreign coaches: Michel Sablon, technical director of the Belgian Football Association and UEFA instructor for the Pro course in Romania; Jacques Crevoisier, UEFA special representative and former assistant coach at Liverpool; Frans Masson, director of the Belgian national coaching school; Jacques Devismes, fitness coach of Olympique de Marseille; and Nikolai Vizitei, doctor of psychology. Romanian coach Ladislau Bölöni, currently at Stade Rennais, also attended.

The programme of practical modules, to be held between February and June 2004, has also been set out.

In December 2003 and January 2004, the coaches taking part in the Pro course must complete a placement with a professional club in Europe. Once they have done so, the Romanian candidates for the Pro licence will prepare a report on their placement. The clubs they will visit include AFC Ajax, Juventus, AC Milan, Eintracht Frankfurt, Real Madrid, Chelsea and Besiktas.

Dan Cristea

RUSSIA

Last-minute qualification

The Russian national team has qualified for the European Championship finals again after an eight-year gap. A terrible mistake by goalkeeper Alexander Filimonov at the end of Russia's final EURO 2000 qualifier against Ukraine meant that the Russians failed to make it to Belgium and the Netherlands.

Russia made a successful start to the EURO 2004 qualifying tournament, beating the Republic of Ireland 4-2 and Albania 4-1 at home. But two consecutive away defeats in Albania (3-1) and Georgia (1-0) made things difficult and a draw in Switzerland did little to improve the situation. Russian head coach Valeri Gazzaev resigned from his post in August after a 2-1 home defeat in a friendly with Israel.

He was replaced by former Spartak Moscow, Dynamo Moscow and Rotor Volgograd head coach Georgi Yartsev, who had around two weeks to prepare for the next EURO 2004 qualifying game against the Republic of Ireland in Dublin. Although Yartsev made only a few changes to the squad, his arrival seemed to engender a new spirit of togetherness and team-work. In a 1-1 draw, the Russian attack was boosted by an impressive performance by Dmitri Boulykin. Although he didn't score in Dublin, Boulykin netted a hat-trick four days later in the home game against Switzerland (4-1) and added another goal against Georgia in October (3-1). These wins put the team back on track, although they still only finished second in the group and had to beat Wales in the play-offs in order to qualify for the final tournament. Both teams were keen to win a place in the finals and the first leg in Moscow was very tight, ending in a goalless draw before 30,000 fans in a full Lokomotiv stadium. Defender Vadim Evseev became the hero of the second leg in Cardiff, scoring the only goal to take Russia through to the finals in Portugal.

Dmitri Sevastianov

SAN MARINO

Steady progress

Football in San Marino is booming and the game is now fully aware of the important role it plays at both national and international levels.

Youth football, both at grassroots and national level, is also steadily improving. There are positive signs in all areas (technical, organisation, number of members).

The San Marino championship has reached the winter break after a fascinating opening to the season. In the spring, the teams will play a series of play-off matches in order to decide who become San Marino champions for 2003/04.

Recently, the five national teams (A, B, Under-21, Under-19 and Under-17) concluded their latest two-year cycle of matches with some very encouraging results.

Women's football is currently in its infancy and will soon have a proper structure.

The affiliated federations and clubs are working very hard and the football movement in San Marino as a whole is in good health, determined to continue the progress already achieved.

Press Office


RFS

RUSSIA
Russia will be playing in Portugal next June.



NZS

SLOVENIA
The football class of the Ljubljana secondary school will be able to make use of the new training centre.



FFU

UKRAINE
Lennart Johansson at the inauguration of a mini-pitch in Kiev.

SERBIA AND MONTENEGRO

U-21s qualify for European Championships

After the national team's failure to qualify for EURO 2004 in Portugal, football fans in Serbia and Montenegro were thrilled when the U-21 team joined seven other countries in qualifying for the final tournament of the European Under-21 Championship. In the play-off matches against an excellent Norwegian side, where they won 5-1 in Belgrade on 14 November before losing 3-0 in Drammen four days later, the Serbia and Montenegro team achieved a fantastic result which suggests that, with good preparation and hard work, it can go on to even greater things. The whole country is hoping the team will finish in the top three at the 2004 finals and thereby qualify for the Olympic Games in Athens in 2004.

Over the previous year, all the team members worked extremely hard and with great enthusiasm. In addition to games in Qualifying Group 9 (8 matches, 6 wins, 1 draw and 1 defeat), the team also played friendly matches against strong German and English sides. The team forms a close, consistent unit, with most of the players having played together over a long period of time. Many of them have already played for the senior national side or are at least knocking on the door. The most prominent among them are the captain Marjan Markovic, Nemanja Vidic, Danko Lazovic, Marko Basa, Vladimir Disljenkovic and Andrija Delibasic, who represent the future of Serbian and Montenegrin football.

Head coach of the Serbia and Montenegro U-21 team is Vladimir Petrovic, a former international and player for FK Crvena Zvezda, who won 34 full caps between 1973 and 1982, scoring five goals. In the run-up to the finals, he plans to organise as many friendly matches as possible and hopes that the team will have a 15-day preparation period immediately before the tournament kicks off.

Nebojsa Ivkovic

NOGOMETNA ZVEZA SLOVENIJE
NZS

SLOVENIA

A new training centre in Ljubljana

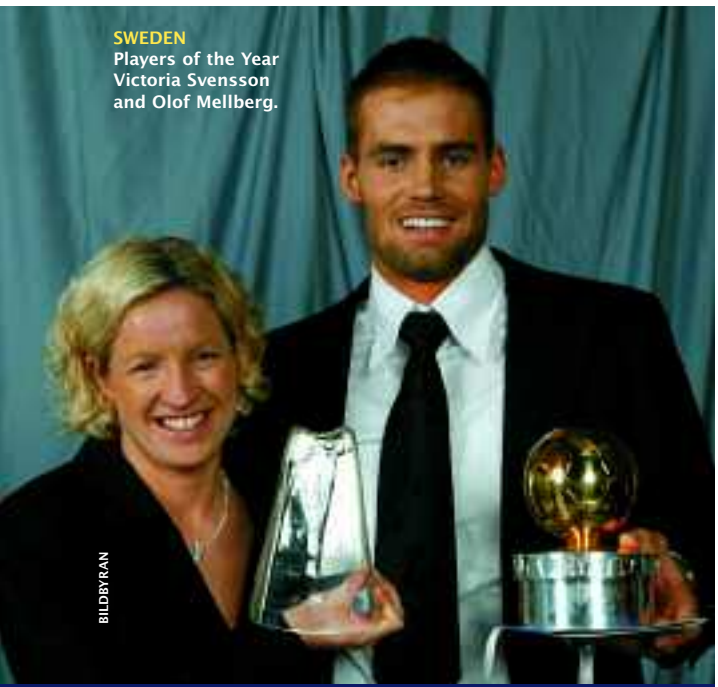
Work has just begun on a new training centre being built by the Football Association of Slovenia close to the ZSD Ljubljana stadium. The project consists of two pitches, one of standard dimensions and one smaller one, both to be covered with top-quality artificial turf.

The fields are currently being prepared for the laying of the artificial turf, which will take place in 2004. The deadline for completion of the project is 2005.

The other partners in the project are the Slovenian Ministry of Sports and Education, the Sports Foundation and the City of Ljubljana. Considerable organisational and financial support is also being provided by FIFA and its Goal Project. Eric Harrison, FIFA expert for artificial turf and training grounds, has already visited Slovenia and given some valuable advice on how to optimise the project.

The main purpose of the training centre is to provide better practice conditions for Slovenian national teams of all categories. However, it is particularly aimed at young players who are really in need of an all-year-round preparation and training centre, something we lacked until now. If we are to make a step forward in terms of quality and improve Slovenian football at all levels, a well thought out educational and training process is certainly the key factor.

Irena Ilesic Cujovic



BILDBYRAN

SWEDEN
Players of the Year Victoria Svensson and Olof Mellberg.

SWEDEN

Mellberg and Svensson Players of the Year

Swedish national captain Olof Mellberg received the Golden Ball Award 2003 at the Swedish football season's grand final gala in Gothenburg in November. The Aston Villa centre-back is a natural-born leader on the pitch and his performance in 2003 hailed him as a defender of the highest international rank.

The Diamond Ball is the equivalent award for the ladies and the announcement of this year's winner – Victoria Svensson – was no surprise. Victoria played a key role in Sweden's success in the Women's World Cup, where she also received the Silver Ball and was selected for the All-star Team of the tournament. Victoria has been awarded the Diamond Ball once before, in 1998.

The FA's representatives' meeting in November endorsed the decision to take the remaining steps to adapt Swedish football fully to the international transfer regulations over the next season. As from 15 November 2004, harmonisation will be complete and players without a contract will be free to move as "Bosman" cases in Sweden as well.

A five-percent rise in the number of licensed players has been recorded in 2003. At the end of the domestic season there were no fewer than 213,471 players (aged 15 and above), which is the highest figure ever. The number of male players totalled 169,388 (approx. +6,000 since 2002) and the women added up to 44,083 (approx. +5,000 since 2002).

Thomas Saleteg

UKRAINE

National coaching school prototype

The FFU Licensing Centre has completed a three-stage educational course aimed at raising coaching standards. Thirteen Ukrainian professional club coaches were awarded the "A" licence after taking a series of practical and written exams. The licence permits Ukrainian coaches to work with amateur teams and players in all youth categories in European countries that have signed the UEFA Convention on the Mutual Recognition of Coaching Qualifications.

The national association and club presidents understand that results depend on coaching standards. The Football Federation of Ukraine (FFU) is involved in football development at all levels, from football lessons in schools to the Under-20 league. Three years ago, the FFU launched a huge campaign to promote grassroots and youth football. In 2004, a prototype for a national coaching school will be set up on the basis of the FFU Licensing Centre.

In November, the FFU began to implement the "Our Future" programme, which aims to make grassroots and youth football more popular. As part of this project, each regional centre will be provided with a mini-pitch measuring 22 x 14 m, with a fifth-generation artificial surface, side walls and built-in goals. Lennart Johansson, UEFA President, opened the first mini-pitch at a school for Kiev orphans during his stay in Ukraine. He pointed out that this mini-pitch would help to keep young people healthy and to develop children's football.

Valeriy Nykonenko



Communications

Birthdays – Calendar

Birthdays

Bernd Heynemann (Germany), member of the Referee Observers Panel, celebrates his 50th birthday on 22 January. UEFA congratulates him on this milestone and also wishes many happy returns of the day to:

- Necdet Cobanli (Turkey, 1.1)
- Vlatko Markovic (Croatia, 1.1)
- Malcolm Moffatt (Northern Ireland, 1.1)
- Torben Mogensen (Denmark, 1.1)
- Robert Coar (England, 2.1)
- Robert Sterckx (Belgium, 3.1)
- Alexei Spirin (Russia, 4.1)
- David G. Collins (Wales, 5.1)
- Valeri Cholaria (Georgia, 5.1)
- George Sintoris (Greece, 5.1)
- Mariano Moreno (Spain, 6.1)
- Svein Rustad (Norway, 6.1)
- Walter Clarke (Northern Ireland, 6.1)
- Sergiy Lysenchuk (Ukraine, 6.1)
- Franco Ferrari (Italy, 9.1)
- Guido Cornella (Suisse, 10.1)
- Tullio Lanese (Italy, 10.1)
- Herbert Hübel (Austria, 10.1)
- Fuad Musayev (Azerbaijan, 11.1)
- Andrzej Libich (Poland, 11.1)
- Sofoklis Pilavios (Greece, 13.1)
- Suren Abrahamyan (Armenia, 14.1)
- Alessandro Lulli (Italy, 15.1)
- Sune Hellströmer (Sweden, 17.1)
- Yiannis Yiangoudakis (Cyprus, 17.1)
- Friedrich Stickler (Austria, 18.1)
- Fabrizio Tonelli (Italy, 18.1)
- Lars-Åke Lagrell (Sweden, 21.1)
- Pedro Galan Nieto (Spain, 20.1)
- Anders Mattsson (Finland, 21.1)
- Angel María Villar Llona (Spain, 21.1)
- Antonio Rocca (Italy, 21.1)
- Maria Teresa Andreu Grau (Spain, 21.1)
- Gordon Savic (Switzerland, 21.1)
- Teuvo Holopainen (Finland, 23.1)
- Harry Been (Netherlands, 23.1)
- Eliane Cremona (Luxembourg, 24.1)
- Erich Linemayr (Austria, 24.1)
- Pat Quigley (Republic of Ireland, 24.1)
- Metin Kazancioglu (Turkey, 26.1)
- Krister Malmsten (Sweden, 27.1)
- Mircea Cojocari (Moldova, 27.1)
- José Carlos Freitas (Portugal, 27.1)
- David Attard (Malta, 28.1)
- Milo Corcoran (Republic of Ireland, 30.1)

Upcoming events

MEETINGS

27.1.2004, Berlin
2nd Elite Youth Coaches' Forum

28-30.1.2004, Berlin
7th Youth Football Conference

29.1.2004, Berlin
Draw for the first qualifying rounds in the 2004/05 youth competitions

UEFA wishes all uefadirect readers a happy new year.

New publication



The Scottish Football Review 2003/04

Published by the Scottish Football League in cooperation with the Scottish Premier League, the 24th edition of this Review provides comprehensive information on the 42 Scottish league clubs. With league tables, addresses, lists and detailed information on each club's players, this volume is the reference book "par excellence" on Scottish football. Priced at GBP 8.95, it is available in bookshops or from PPL Sport & Leisure Ltd., Bradford House, 39a East Street, GB-Epsom, Surrey, KT17 1BL (www.pplsport.com).

The Football Year Book – Malta 2003/04

In a similar vein, but this time dealing with Maltese football, this annual publication, now in its 17th edition, is also indispensable for statistics lovers. It is published by Lewis Portelli, 168 'Archville', St. Francis Street, Balzan BZN 07 Malta (lewport@maltanet.net).



Malta's 45 Years of International Football

Continuing on the theme of Maltese football, the former General Secretary of the Maltese FA, Joseph A. Sacco, has written this book on the international matches played by the Maltese senior national team since 1957. Each match is chronicled with the usual information: competition, venue, attendance, team line-ups, officials, goal-scorers, etc. The book is illustrated with photographs and also lists the matches played by the Maltese B team, as well as team captains, coaches and their assistants. In order to avoid confusion, there is also an interesting list of international players related to each other, with their degree of relationship and details of when they played for the national team. The book is available for EUR 12 (+ EUR 8 postage and packing) with the profits going to Maltese charities. It can be ordered from the author (50/4, St. Monica Str. – G'mangia MSD 07 – Malta).



Football Medicine

Jan Ekstrand, Vice-Chairman of the UEFA Medical Committee, has worked with Jon Karlsson, orthopaedics professor at the University of Gothenburg, and Alan Hodson, director of the National Sports Medicine Institute in England, to produce this impressive volume of over 500 pages, dealing with all aspects of football injuries from susceptibility to prevention, including different types of injury, treatment and rehabilitation. The role of referees, doping, the after-effects of a career in football, nutrition and even children's football are also analysed from a sports medicine point of view, making this book extremely valuable not just for club medical staff but also for players themselves. With a preface by the UEFA President, Lennart Johansson, the book is published by Martin Dunitz (www.dunitz.co.uk).

WE CARE ABOUT FOOTBALL

Official publication of the **Union des associations européennes de football**

Communications and Public Affairs Division

Editor André Vieli

Produced by Atema Communication SA, CH-1196 Gland

Printed by Cavin SA, CH-1422 Grandson

Editorial deadline: 12 December 2003

The views expressed in signed articles are not necessarily the official views of UEFA. The reproduction of articles or extracts of any information published in* uefadirect *is authorised, provided the source is indicated.

UEFA
Route de Genève 46
CH-1260 Nyon
Suisse
Téléphone +41 22 994 44 44
Téléfax +41 22 994 44 88
uefa.com

Union des associations
européennes de football