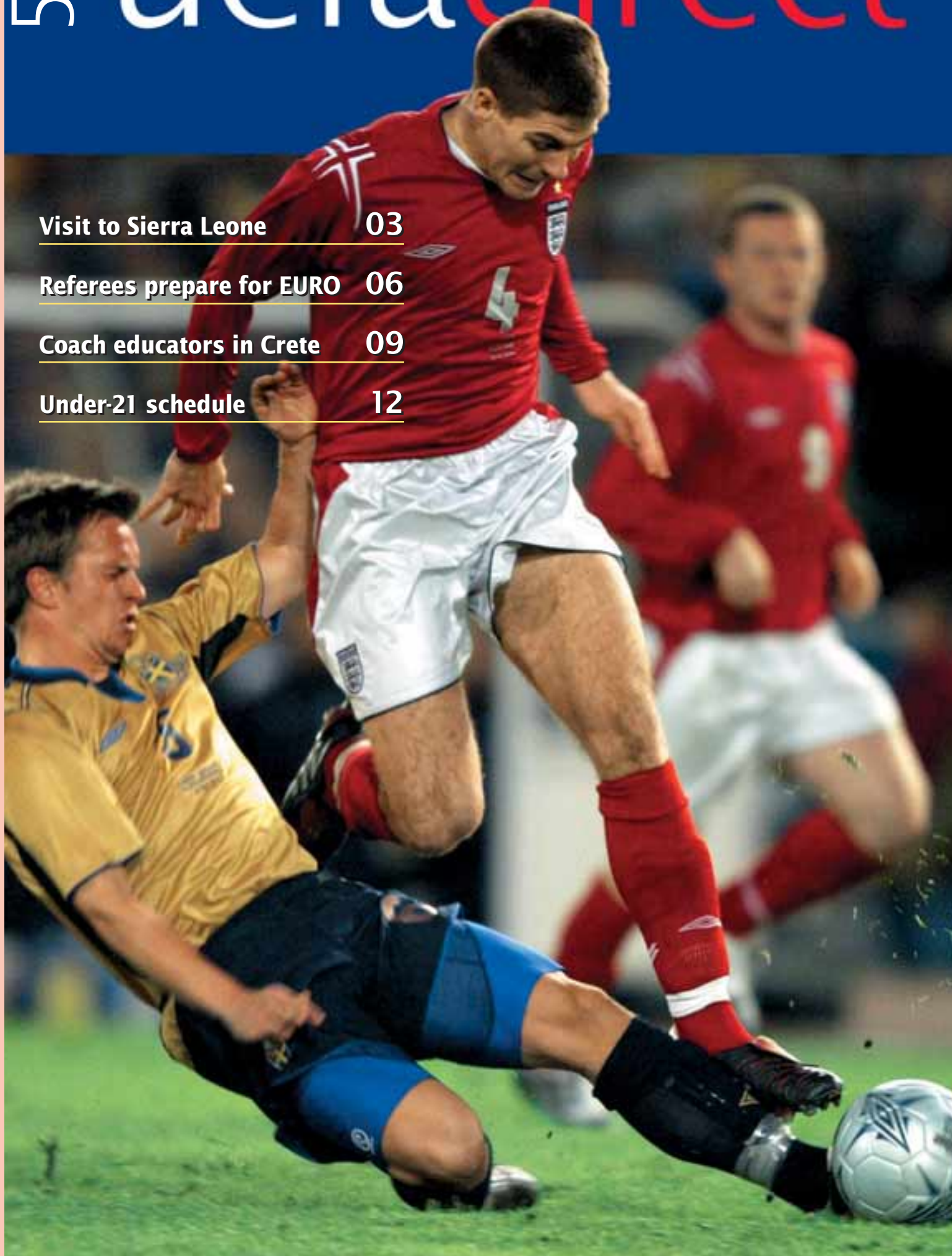


Visit to Sierra Leone 03

Referees prepare for EURO 06

Coach educators in Crete 09

Under-21 schedule 12



COVER

A year of anniversaries and EURO 2004. Sweden (Anders Andersson in yellow) celebrates its football association's centenary this year. The event was marked with a friendly match against England (Steven Gerrard), which also helped both teams prepare for EURO 2004. PHOTO: EMPICS

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Editorial

The impact of great events

The final round of the European Championship is now just around the corner, and before that, the fans have the finals of the UEFA Champions League and UEFA Cup to look forward to.

There is no doubt that football needs these regular major events to thrust it more into the public eye for a while, beyond the confines of its staunch fans, to win some new followers, both on and off the field.

But it takes more than the exciting showcase of a major event to win new followers. Enough of the right kind of facilities also have to be provided.

At European level, UEFA is going about this in a variety of ways, for instance by promoting mini-pitches as part of its Golden Jubilee celebrations with the aim of bringing street football back to life, and by improving infrastructure through the club licensing system. The national associations are also doing their bit to attract more followers, including in the sectors of women's football and refereeing.

It is gratifying to see that disabled people and those living in difficult conditions are not being left out. In this respect, the Special Olympics organisation has made a huge effort to make football and other sports accessible to people with learning difficulties. UEFA is proud to provide regular financial aid to this organisation, and is particularly pleased to see that professional footballers, clubs and national associations throughout Europe are equally keen to support Special Olympics footballers.

UEFA is also pleased to be able to contribute to the work of the international Red Cross movement and to make special use of EURO 2004 as a platform for drawing attention to child victims of war.

Solidarity has become a hackneyed word, but it takes on its full and true meaning with activities like this, while at the same time extending the impact of football and reinforcing its values.

Lars-Christer Olsson
Chief Executive



Markus Merk, one of the ambassadors for the UEFA-ICRC campaign, referees a match between children from refugee camps.

UEFA-BOZZANI

WE CARE ABOUT FOOTBALL



UEFA/ICRC campaign

Mission in Sierra Leone



Anders Frisk, Markus Merk and Lubos Michel with the captains of the two teams of children from refugee camps.

UEFA-BOZZANI

FOR MOST OF US, FOR MOST OF THE TIME, THE LINK BETWEEN SPORT AND WAR DOES NOT EXIST.

But by sponsoring the international efforts to clear up land mines left in Sarajevo after the Balkans War, UEFA some years ago demonstrated that football does accept a responsibility beyond the stadiums. And now, by supporting the International Committee of the Red Cross in a partnership helping to “Protect Children in War” the boundaries – and the cash – of UEFA are spreading into Africa.

The EURO 2004 championship in Portugal will dedicate its platform, expected to reach a cumulative audience of seven billion viewers, to this campaign. Moreover, UEFA has given one million Swiss francs a year for the past seven years to the

ICRC cause of assisting war victims in general, children in particular.

In March, three top-line referees, Anders Frisk (Sweden), Markus Merk (Germany) and Lubos Michel (Slovakia), were taken on a field mission to Sierra Leone – a country emerging from 11 years of civil war. The referees saw at first hand how the conflict has crippled the nation of basic amenities, and robbed the children of their rights, their innocence, their stability, and in thousands of cases their parents.

In Freetown, Frisk, Michel and Merk, the three referees, observed a reunion in the home of a father, Patrick Greene, with his son Patrick junior (12) and daughter Hannah (5).

The father and son, who effectively acted as his sister’s guardian almost from her birth, had each refused to believe that the other was dead.

The Red Cross traced the children, over a search spanning 13 months, to a refugee camp north of the Sierra Leone border in Guinea. And on 16 March, when they were reunited in Freetown, the three referees accompanied the children on the last leg of their journey.

All three of the referees have children, all have officiated games played between the richest icons of football, and in the most dramatic of arenas. Merk, who 13 years ago founded and still runs orphanages and schools and social programmes in southern India, spoke for the referees when he said:



The three referees with Sarah Sesay.



Emotional reunion for the Greene family.

“What we have seen here we will never forget. We can see the results of the past, but also in the eyes of the children, we see hope for the future.”

The mission is about more than money. Yet for those who have wondered what UEFA does with all the fines imposed on players or associa-

of Italy are now “ambassadors” to the UEFA/ICRC campaign – is that their role in a game is to maintain law and order, and the fundamental need in Sierra Leone is to establish law, order and stability.

In the home of the reunited Greene family, in Waterloo, where the referees met Sarah Sesay, and on

a foster family, and help her back to schooling and reintegration into society.

And in the south of Sierra Leone, close to the border where the fighting started in Liberia, the referees were finally presented with a situation they were prepared for. One by one, the Swede, the German

and the Slovak (and in the last quarter, a local referee, Denis Sorie) took charge of a match between 14-year-olds from two refugee camps.

The pitch barely had grass on it. The surrounds were mud huts. The boys played with joy and pride, and when the first goal came, the child who scored it ran towards the corner flag. He gestured his team-mates to him, and when they came, he pretended to shoot with a sub-machine gun, whereupon the rest of the boys dropped “dead”

to the ground.

It was child’s play, but an illustration of the childhood they had led.

Their inner game reflected the need not only for funds to help rebuild lives and infrastructure in Sierra Leone, but also to offer an alternative to the killing cycle that in some cases was all they had known before. “Protect Children in War” is a campaign with much work to do.

Rob Hughes



tions who step outside the laws, here is a practical answer.

The International Red Cross is not the only charity attempting to overcome the trauma of the children brutalised or made homeless and apparently parentless by war. But it is a major player. To carry through its aims it needs money, and there is a compelling wryness that the small “sins” of rich players are aiding the post-war effort.

Not lost on the three referees – who together with Pierluigi Collina

a playing field surrounded by mud huts on the refugee camp at Jembe, the referees came face to face with reality. The Greenes, in their prayers, gave thanks to the strangers who brought them back together.

Sarah Sesay, outwardly a model of beauty and composure at the age of 19, was abducted by armed guerrillas in 1999, abused and used by the rebels. When she eventually escaped, her village and her parents rejected her. She registered for the Red Cross to find her



Giovanni Trapattoni, Sven-Göran Eriksson and Luiz Scolari exchange a few words between the work sessions.



Media workshop.

EURO 2004

Workshop for the finalists in Lisbon

NOBODY IS NAIVE ENOUGH TO BELIEVE THAT FORMULA ONE RACING IS SIMPLY ABOUT GETTING INTO A CAR AND DRIVING IT. THE DRIVERS' PERFORMANCES ARE LINKED TO THEIR TECHNOLOGICAL AND LOGISTICAL BACK-UP, EFFICIENCY AT PIT-STOPPS AND OTHER SMALL BUT IMPORTANT DETAILS.

The same applies to EURO 2004, the third-largest event in world sport. So it was with a view to 'tightening the nuts and bolts' that delegations from all 16 finalists converged on Lisbon for a workshop in mid-March.

The head coaches, especially keen to ensure that the stage is perfectly set for the players to produce their best, were there. So were the team administrators, the security officers, the team doctors and the press officers - all with the common objective of helping UEFA and the Portuguese hosts to prepare for the big party in the best possible way.

With news of the Madrid bombings filtering through while the delegates were on their way to Lisbon, security was a major issue, with UEFA's Chief Executive, Lars-Christer Olsson, stressing during his opening speech and Portuguese FA president



Gilberto Madail and tournament director António Laranjo underlining at the press conference which closed the workshop that the firm objective is to stage the final tournament in a happy and secure environment. The visitors certainly witnessed one when they joined 65,000 spectators in the Estádio da Luz to watch the UEFA Cup match between SL Benfica and FC Internazionale.

While the security officers were engaged in a seminar specifically designed for them, their 'team-mates' were splitting into working groups to discuss the finer points of behind-the-scenes topics such as finance, taxation and insurance. The administrators focused on crucial matters such as hotel reservations, accreditation procedures and transportation. The head coaches were more interested in the pre-match cutting and watering of pitches;

the supply of Roteiro balls for training sessions; and the application of the no-smoking rule in the technical area.

At the same time, the team doctors were putting their stethoscopes to health issues, not least the medical facilities at venues or the distances and time-lapses involved in transfers to hospitals. They also received confirmation that there will be no blood-testing but that all 16 finalists will be subject to out-of-competition testing in addition to urine tests at each of the 31 matches.

One of the head coaches' main concerns was how to cope with the pressure generated during a tournament covered by over 5,000 TV, radio and written press representatives. Team press officers were informed about the help they will receive from UEFA's media officers and the media information system that is being incorporated as a password area within the official euro2004.com website.

As UEFA's Technical Director, Andy Roxburgh, remarked during the workshop "everybody will go to Portugal with a personal agenda. But our communal agenda is to build a tournament that will promote the game and produce exciting, spectacular football".



PHOTOS: EURO 2004, S.A./FRANCISCO PARALSO



The 17th EURO 2004 team – the referees.

FABIO BOZZANI



UEFA

Fitness training under the control of Professor Helsen.



UEFA

EURO 2004

The referees are in great shape!

THE BALD HEAD OF PIERLUIGI COLLINA IS AS FAMOUS AS THE EVER-CHANGING HAIRSTYLE OF DAVID BECKHAM. IT EVEN PLAYS A PROMINENT ROLE IN ADVERTISING CAMPAIGNS. THE REFEREES ARE DITCHING THEIR BLACK SHIRTS AND EMERGING FROM THE SHADOWS.

The reform of the UEFA competitions has lowered the goal-posts, in a manner of speaking. The referees have enormous responsibility. Their decisions are dissected unscrupulously. A mistake can have serious consequences. But for

all that, they are only human and have to act faster and faster and under more and more pressure. Whether it be in the European Championship or the World Cup, Europe's referees come close to perfection. And behind those performances lies a daily training routine based on scientific criteria and measured by a heart-rate monitor.

At the request of UEFA's Referees Committee, Professor Werner Helsen puts together tailor-

made programmes for all elite referees. Outside seminars, they stay in touch by email.

In early February, Professor Helsen met up with Europe's elite referees in Madrid. "Those who are picked for EURO 2004 have the same problems as the players. The domestic championships and UEFA competitions don't finish until the end of May and EURO 2004 kicks off on 12 June. So to be in shape for EURO 2004, a well-balanced training programme is really important. The referees are getting a detailed programme for the nine weeks leading up to the tournament. We reduce the intensity before increasing it again six weeks ahead of the event. In addition, they receive a weekly training programme throughout the year which is based on heart-rate monitoring rather than distances. If they have to referee a match in the middle of the week, they just have to let me know and I adapt their programme. On the basis of the heart-rate feedback and the other information they send me, I can assess the intensity of the different routines and adapt them."



The 12 EURO 2004 referees

(left to right):

- Lubos Michel (Slovakia),
- Valentin Ivanov (Russia),
- Michael Riley (England),
- Manuel Enrique Mejuto Gonzalez (Spain),
- Terje Hauge (Norway),
- Markus Merk (Germany),
- Gilles Veissière (France),
- Pierluigi Collina (Italy),
- Lucilio Cardoso Cortez Batista (Portugal),
- Anders Frisk (Sweden),
- Urs Meier (Switzerland)
- and Kim Milton Nielsen (Denmark).



Studying the exercises before putting them into practice.



EMPICS

EURO 2000 was gone through with a fine-tooth comb.

The professor is satisfied with the current level of fitness: "EURO 2000 was a challenge. Now, all the referees are really well prepared. Three years ago, I started working with about 30 UEFA referees. Based on their performances in the fitness tests, I reckon that they have improved by 47%, thanks to these new training methods. UEFA had made a tremendous effort to raise the standard of refereeing even higher. It realises what it takes and that the referees are 15 to 20 years older than the players."

Excluding their physical shape, the referees also analyse match situations with experts from the Referees Committee; they practise taking difficult decisions and applying uniform tactics in critical situations such as offside, tackles, feigning, etc. "With EURO 2000, I analysed all the visible decisions in every match, that is to say those for which he displays physical action. He takes three or four visible decisions a minute. Of course, the real number is higher because not intervening is also a decision, but it's difficult to quantify "silent" decisions. The number of decisions is higher at the end of each half. Fitness is not the most important aspect, but the fitter the referee is, the better able he is to get into the right position and think clearly until the final whistle. This preparation also protects them from injuries. In this respect, I also give

them proprioceptive exercises to do at home, to get their muscle structure used to reacting well to a shock or stumble, for example. Football has evolved enormously in the course of the last 20 years, especially the speed at which it is played. In the UEFA Champions League, a referee switches activity every four seconds on average. He stops and starts, runs, sprints, etc. I make myself do the same exercises so that I know what it entails."

The programmes have to be designed to be practicable in Portugal or in Sweden... "Anders Frisk was worried to begin with. In winter, he has to put up with extreme weather. That's why almost all Tuesday sessions can be done anywhere, on a football pitch, on a running track, in the woods or on an ergometer."

The referee has to cope with constant changes of rhythm as well as specific technical and tactical movements. These place different

A good marriage

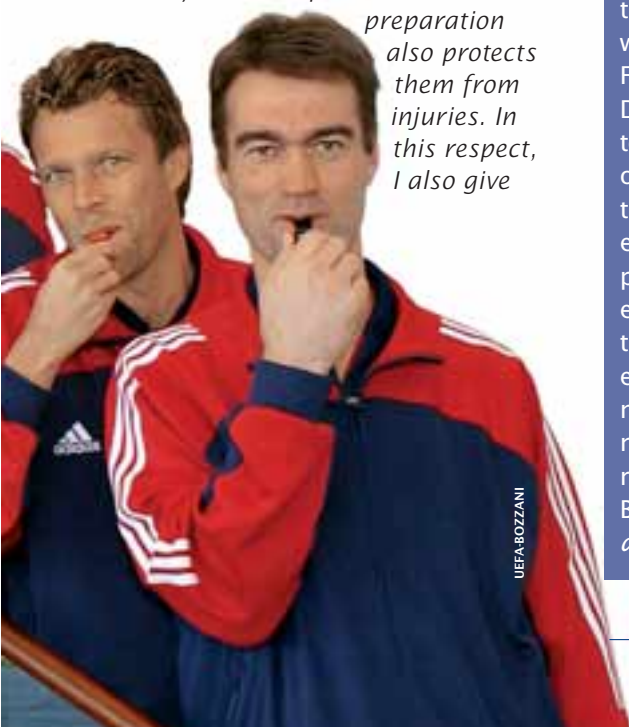
Professor Werner Helsen is in charge of the motor learning laboratory in the faculty of physical education and physiotherapy at the Catholic university of Louvain (KUL) in Belgium. His research unit studies the treatment of visual information and decision-making under pressure of time



UEFA

in complex situations in team sport in general and football in particular. The unit also examines how long-term training can produce an exceptional level of skill. A former national youth player, Werner Helsen has been lecturing for 22 years. Aside from his academic works, he teaches the theory of movement (including lectures on the Laws of the Game) and training.

Alex Ponnet contacted him in 1999. Referee fitness tests had been taking place at the KUL for 30 years, so the former international referee thought of Professor Helsen immediately when UEFA decided that it wanted to make refereeing more professional. Since the first course in Faro, Portugal, Professor Helsen's partnership with UEFA has intensified. During EURO 2000, the referees stayed at the same hotel and lived together as a team, benefiting from all-encompassing support. A programme of treatment, match analyses, training and team-building was put together to ensure that the referees enjoyed the best possible conditions. The experience will be repeated for EURO 2004 in Portugal. In 2002, after the positive experience of the FIFA Confederations Cup, FIFA followed UEFA's example, also enlisting the services of Professor Helsen. Apart from the major tournaments, Professor Helsen supports UEFA as a training expert for its annual elite referee courses – in addition to their weekly monitoring – and also works on the same basis with the women referees, new international referees, assistant referees, futsal referees and referee talents. After EURO 2000, he embarked on the same work with Belgian referees. "My work with the world of refereeing has always been a very successful marriage."



UEFA-BOZZANI



Fair play tops the list of values that the referee has to safeguard.



Netherlands

Master plan for referees

THE FIRST RESULTS OF THE MASTER PLAN FOR REFEREES WERE RELEASED

RECENTLY. THE FIGURES WERE ENCOURAGING. HUNDREDS OF PLAYERS AND FORMER

PLAYERS HAVE RECENTLY DECIDED TO TAKE A LOOK AT FOOTBALL

FROM THE OTHER SIDE. THEY HAVE JOINED REFEREEING COURSES AND ARE

ON THE VERGE OF STARTING A NEW CAREER IN FOOTBALL.

demands on the muscle structure, with a lot of backward movements. In addition, the referee has to be able to communicate with his assistants at any moment. *"The ball has to zigzag between the referee and the assistant referees. The referees practise diagonal runs, just as the assistant referees practise running holding their flags down and with their heads turned. Motorists are told to keep their eyes on where they want to go when they skid. But assistant referees have to run while looking in another direction."*

The referees have reacted well to this new training programme. *"Many referees do not always have group training sessions, so the heart-rate monitor has become their best companion. I know from the questions they ask me that they are working hard. They are very receptive. They appreciate the support they get from UEFA. I can assure you that they will have intensive daily training sessions during EURO 2004, without, however, neglecting relaxation, particularly through team-building activities, which is an important aspect for ensuring good performances."*

Pascale Pierard

The decreasing number of referees caused the Dutch FA to launch a long-term policy to increase the number of referees and to improve the general quality of refereeing as well. The most important aspect of the new campaign is to stress the role of the referee both to potential referees as well as players. The idea is that referees are sportsmen who perform at the same level as the players. They have to be fit, they must love the game and they must be strong decision-makers. They are as much a part of the game as the ball and the goal-posts.

In order to get this message across, the KNVB launched a corporate campaign involving both professional and amateur football. At district level, six coordinators were appointed to deal with the recruitment, education and development of referees. These six coordinators are either professional football referees or former referees. They know what they are talking about. They visit football clubs and tournaments with the aim of making refereeing appeal to youngsters between the ages of 14 and 24.

The KNVB now offers short courses for teenagers who are keen to officiate U8 or U10 matches. Once they have discovered how "cool" it is to be a referee and how important their role is, they see the opportunities that exist for referees in the world of football.

The KNVB Academy, which organises all courses for coaches and referees, has developed new tailor-made courses and adapted its current programme in order to meet the requests of the future referees. Refereeing can be an appealing pastime at any level in football. It is fun to officiate at any sort of match and the most talented referees have a chance of reaching international level as well. In recent years, a number of former professional players have set an example by making it to the top in a few giant steps. Giving easy access to referee courses and opening up the road to the top for talented referees is expected to lead to a 25-percent increase in the number of referees this year and in the years to come.

Rob de Leede





Practical exercises.



Jozef Venglos and Andy Roxburgh discuss the final details.

Coach educators gather in Crete

The value of diversity

ACCORDING TO THE EIGHTEENTH-CENTURY WRITER ANTOINE HOUDAR DE LA MOTTE, "BOREDOM IS BORN OF UNCHANGING DAYS". THIS IS A TRUTH THAT APPLIES EQUALLY TO MODERN TIMES.

This quote also reflects the opinion of the national football association coaches who met in Crete from 29 March to 2 April for the 14th UEFA Coach Educators' Course.

"I think it is very important to maintain the different faces of Europe's geographical football areas – the Latin way, the Nordic way, the British way. Central European and Eastern European styles," affirmed Jozef Venglos, Chairman of the Technical Development Committee, adding: *"This is very important not only for Europe, but also for world football. Different football philosophies have things in common, but it is also equally important that regions maintain their own style and traditions."*

The talk of philosophy was not unintentional here in Greece, and indeed was the theme and objective of the course: how to develop the philosophies of football in Europe. But to develop you first need to know the starting point. In this vein delegates devoted the first part of the seminar to the different styles of play which have graced European football over the last 50 years. The host nation Greece started the analysis by noting that a blend of hard work and freedom of expression could give impressive results, as seen by the qualification of Greece for EURO 2004 under the guidance of Otto Rehhagel. The coach of the Greek national squad shared his concept of "controlled attack" with the audience

as part of a very lively contribution. The delegates also heard the views of Jakob Kuhn, the coach of Switzerland, another team which has qualified for Portugal, and itself a country which is a melting pot of different football philosophies. Franco Ferrari, coach educator for the Italian Federation, and Holger Osieck, a world champion with Germany as Franz Beckenbauer's assistant and an experienced coach in several countries at the highest level, completed the panorama of footballing styles. The latter considered that coaches plying their trade in foreign countries should respect the traditional values of their new environment while applying a personal approach.

The clubs' point of view was given by Rene Meulenstein, in charge of technical development at Manchester United.

The importance for coaches to have their own ideas and to remain faithful to their philosophy was emphasised by the UEFA Technical Director, Andy Roxburgh, who summed up this concept by referring to "the coach's compass".

The delegates reinforced that a coach needs a quality education to be able to produce quality players by offering a balanced training programme. The need to make this education available to greater numbers was expressed as well as the desirability of encouraging well-known players to pursue careers as coaches. Proper structures for coach education must be established and integrated into the football environments of each country.

Always a smooth blend of theory, practice and discussion, the course in Crete will doubtless influence the approach of national educators in their work for their respective associations.



PHOTOS: UEFA



Manchester City goalkeeper David James training with some Special Olympics footballers.



Learning to kick the ball. Matt Pickford, CITC Disability Development Worker, takes part.



CITC coach Robert Marlor addressing some Special Olympics players.

Special Olympics Preparation of European Football Week

SPECIAL OLYMPICS GREAT BRITAIN AND MANCHESTER CITY FC ANNOUNCED A NEW PARTNERSHIP

IN FEBRUARY TO PROVIDE SUPPORT TO YOUNG PLAYERS WITH LEARNING DIFFICULTIES IN THE LEAD-UP TO THE

SPECIAL OLYMPICS EUROPEAN FOOTBALL WEEK FROM 1 TO 9 MAY.

Members of Manchester City's flagship community scheme "City in the Community" (CITC) were on hand to coach Special Olympics players on two "come and try" days on 10 and 18 February. *"Lawrie McMenemy, the Special Olympics football ambassador for Great Britain, contacted us and we jumped at the chance to work with new partners,"* said Alex Williams, MBE, CITC Director of Community Affairs and former City goalkeeper.

Special schools throughout Manchester were invited to send

participants to the coaching days. The response was very positive, with approximately 60 Special Olympics athletes between the ages of eight and 16 wanting to participate in the sessions. Tom Flower, CITC administrator, was instrumental in organising the sessions that were held free of charge at the Manchester Leisure Sports Centre.

The sessions included warm-up, skills practice and five-a-side matches. There was also lunch and a tour of the City of Manchester Stadium, where some of the Special

Olympics footballers had the chance to meet David James, Manchester City and England goalkeeper, and score a few penalty goals against him. *"It is good to be able to play a part in this most worthwhile project,"* James said. Local television and newspapers covered the first session.

These introductory sessions have been followed by a six-week coaching programme run every Tuesday evening for approximately 15 Special Olympics athletes. They will be invited to the Manchester City vs Newcastle Premiership match on 1 May and will get a chance to meet some of the players.

On 5 May, the Special Olympics footballers will compete in a five-a-side tournament as part of Special Olympics European Football Week.

"This entire initiative has been well organised and the coaches and athletes taking part are highly motivated and have enjoyed themselves, while the club's commitment to the community clearly demonstrates that football is for all," said Chris Daws, Special Olympics Great Britain football administrator.

"In the future, we hope that special schools will be encouraged to start their own clubs and that CITC coaches will support and train the players," he added.



PHOTOS: ED GARVEY

Young Special Olympics footballers in action.



The Belgian and Norwegian teams (left and right respectively) prepare for a training session.



SOEE



Special assistant coaches

Coach Nico Hoeven (left) and assistant Kevin Lemmens demonstrate a stretching exercise.

THE FIRST-EVER SPECIAL OLYMPICS SEMINAR FOR FOOTBALLERS

WITH LEARNING DIFFICULTIES TO BECOME ASSISTANT COACHES WAS HELD

IN MAASEIK, BELGIUM, FROM 12 TO 14 MARCH.

Approximately 30 Special Olympics footballers and coaches from Poland, Denmark, Luxembourg, Norway, Monaco and Belgium participated. *“The aim of the seminar was to show that Special Olympics footballers have the potential to further develop their interest in the game. This is particularly true of older players who want to stay involved in football but need new challenges,”* said Nolwen Grassin, Manager of Athlete Leadership Programmes (ALPs), Special Olympics Europe/Eurasia, who initiated the project.

The seminar was developed around five subjects: philosophy of assistant coaching and athlete development, warm-up, principles of training and coaching, preparing a training session and practical application.

“I like to follow up on the instructions given by the coach to the team and then be in charge of part of the team,” said Special Olympics Belgium footballer Kevin Lemmens. *“As an assistant coach, it is important that I always react in the correct way, particularly when my team loses, because I must set an example in fair play,”* he said.

Special Olympics Monaco footballer Hervé Manrique said, *“I learned that assistant coaching is about helping lower ability players in many different ways, even simple things like helping them put on their shin guards.”*

“I feel that this seminar focused on our abilities, not our disabilities,” said Special Olympics Belgium footballer Evelyne Vandermoortele.

The seminar ended with a ceremony in the VIP lounge of Maasmechelen stadium following a



SO ROMANIA

match between second division KVK Tienen and Patro Maasmechelen. Onlookers in the crowded lounge turned their attention to the Special Olympics ceremony and followed the proceedings with enthusiasm as footballers received certificates qualifying them as Special Olympics assistant coaches. *“I am proud I was chosen as an assistant coach. It is one more step in my football career,”* said Special Olympics Poland footballer Tomasz Sperka.

“In Norway, we have some type of assistant coaching, but the certificate our players received today makes their role official,” said coach Kjell Bjelland. *“Our Special Olympics football players are ready to develop and this seminar has served to empower them to do more,”* he added.

“Individuals with learning difficulties serving as assistant football coaches is a revolutionary concept,” said André Peeters, Special Olympics Regional Sport Adviser for Football. *“We could all see that Special Olympics players gained self-esteem through this experience and their coaches learned that new and exciting opportunities do exist for their players.”* The newly certified assistant coaches will undergo a six-week initiation with support from their coaches before assuming responsibilities during Special Olympics European Football Week.

Support of the Romanian FA

On 22 March, five Special Olympics Romania footballers had the opportunity to meet the national team involved in UEFA European Under-17 Championship Qualifying Group 6 in Bucharest. Special Olympics footballers joined the national team and referees on the pitch and presented their banner to spectators. The invitation to the qualifying match was extended by Mircea Sandu, President of the Romanian Football Association, who has agreed to support Special Olympics Romania during Special Olympics European Football Week.



PHOTOS: UEFA-WOODS
The qualifying tournaments for the UEFA Futsal Cup were played in Lisbon and Torrejon de Ardoz.



European Under-21 Championship

Ever-increasing interest



THE EUROPEAN UNDER-21 CHAMPIONSHIP HAS GONE FROM STRENGTH TO STRENGTH OVER THE YEARS. THE TOURNAMENT WAS KNOWN AS THE COMPETITION FOR NATIONAL 'UNDER-21' REPRESENTATIVE TEAMS UNTIL 1986, WHEN IT ACQUIRED THE STATUS OF A EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP.



Germany (Markus Feulner, in black) prepare for the Under-21 final round with a match against Georgia.

Up until 1992 the final was decided by home and away legs. A final tournament of four teams was introduced in 1994 and 1996, and since then the finals have consisted of a tournament of eight teams. The huge media interest in elite football means that many of the players involved are already household names around Europe. Interest in the championship finals has grown immensely.

This year it is Germany's turn to welcome the eight challengers for the European title. In contrast to the European Championship for full national teams, first place in

a qualifying group did not ensure a team's place in the finals. Play-offs were required, pitting group winners against each other or the best second-placed teams. As a result, the play-offs led to the exit of five group winners: Turkey, France, Norway, Poland and Spain, who were put out by Germany, Portugal, Serbia and Montenegro, Belarus and Sweden respectively, all teams which finished second in their groups. Only Italy managed to hold off their second-placed opponents, Denmark.

In the play-offs between group winners, Switzerland eliminated the holders, the Czech Republic, and Croatia put Scotland out.

Among the eight finalists, Italy is most successful, with four victories (1992, 1994, 1996, 2000).

■ The 2004 UEFA Intertoto Cup is taking shape. After the national associations had indicated how many teams they wished to enter, places were allocated and the draw for the first three rounds made in Nyon on 5 April. Forty-five national associations are represented in the competition. Only England, Greece, Liechtenstein, Norway, San Marino, Turkey and the Ukraine are not involved. The national associations must register the names of the clubs taking part by 31 May.

■ Upsets in the second qualifying round of the UEFA Futsal Cup have led to an unexpected final. Playas de Castellón, the winners of the first two editions of the Cup, and their unfortunate opponents in both finals, Action 21 Charleroi, both failed to qualify for the final by finishing second in their respective groups. The Spanish team was headed by compatriots Boomerang Interviú and the Belgian side were squeezed out by SL Benfica.

The first leg of the final will take place on 24 April at Torrejon de Ardoz, with the return match on 1 May in Lisbon.

Schedule for the finals

Date	Group	Location	Match
27.05	A	Oberhausen	Serbia and Montenegro - Croatia
27.05	A	Bochum	Italy - Belarus
28.05	B	Mainz	Germany - Switzerland
28.05	B	Mannheim	Sweden - Portugal
29.05	A	Oberhausen	Belarus - Croatia
29.05	A	Bochum	Italy - Serbia and Montenegro
30.05	B	Mannheim	Germany - Sweden
30.05	B	Mainz	Switzerland - Portugal
01.06	A	Bochum	Italy - Croatia
01.06	A	Oberhausen	Belarus - Serbia and Montenegro
02.06	B	Mainz	Germany - Portugal
02.06	B	Mannheim	Switzerland - Sweden
05.06		Bochum	Winner Group A - Runners-up Group B
05.06		Oberhausen	Winner Group B - Runners-up Group A
08.06		Oberhausen	Third-place play-off
08.06		Bochum	Final



Jubilee books being printed.



PHOTOS: UEFA-WOODS



Report from Brussels

The enlargement of the European Union formally takes place on 1 May, when ten countries join the organisation. After six years of hard negotiations, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia are raising the EU's membership from 15 to 25 states.

All ten countries have fulfilled the same political and economic conditions before joining the Union. They are stable democracies, respecting human rights, the rule of law, and the protection of minorities; they have functioning market economies; and they have adopted the common rules, standards and policies that make up the body of EU law.

The benefits of enlarging the Union are political, economic, and cultural:

- the extension of the zone of peace, stability and prosperity in Europe will enhance the security of all its peoples;
- the addition of more than 100 million people, in rapidly growing economies, to the EU's market of 370 million will boost economic growth and create jobs in both old and new member states;
- there will be a better quality of life for citizens throughout Europe as the new members adopt EU policies for protection of the environment and the fight against crime, drugs and illegal immigration;
- the arrival of new members will enrich the EU through increased cultural diversity, interchange of ideas, and better understanding of other peoples;
- enlargement will strengthen the Union's role in world affairs – in foreign and security policy, trade policy, and the other fields of global governance.

To take full advantage of all these benefits, the EU urgently needs to reform itself so that it can operate



UEFA Golden Jubilee

An inconspicuous arrival

THE IMPACT OF THE FOUNDING OF UEFA IN JUNE 1954 HAS CLEARLY NOT ALWAYS BEEN ACCORDED DUE IMPORTANCE IN THE WORLD OF FOOTBALL, EVEN AMONG THOSE MOST DIRECTLY CONCERNED.

The event did not even get a mention in the *General Report on the 5th World Football Championships* published by the World Football Championship Association (ACM), which was set up in November 1949 to organise the 1954 World Cup.

The ACM, which was based in the same city where UEFA was founded, in Basle, did, however, note that “various events took place in Switzerland in conjunction with the World Championships”. The report mentions the 21st Congress of the International Sporting Press Association (AIPS) in Basle on 14 and 15 June, the 20th FIFA Congress in Bern, a dinner hosted by the Swiss Football Association for the FIFA delegates, and FIFA's Golden Jubilee, which was celebrated in the Bern region on 23 June, with an official ceremony at the castle in Spiez, followed by an excursion to Interlaken. Back then, FIFA, which had elected Belgian Rodolphe William Seeldrayers as its president at the 1954 Congress,

had 85 member associations, including 30 in Europe.

In 1954, the town of Nyon could never have dreamt that the newly founded European footballing body would be setting up home there 40 years later. Nyon did, however, already have connections with the world of football at that time, as the Mexican World Cup delegation – one of the 16 participants in the 1954 finals – stayed at the town's Beau-Rivage hotel. Since then, the hotel has become a favourite of many teams, notably Real Madrid, who traditionally hold their pre-season training in Nyon.

■ At the Congress in Cyprus, the two books published for UEFA's Golden Jubilee will be unveiled. A video recording some of the momentous occasions in the history of European football has also been produced.

■ In May, uefa.com will be featuring the national associations of France, Georgia, Germany and Greece in turn as part of its Jubilee coverage.



The famous final of the 1954 World Cup between Hungary and the Federal Republic of Germany.

BONGARTS

→ efficiently with 25 members. The need for reform has been the driving force behind the negotiations over a new Constitutional Treaty for the EU. Unless it can clarify and streamline its decision-making, the EU risks becoming paralysed.

Two of the main obstacles to agreement on the Treaty have been the Member States' voting rights in the Council, and the representation of Member States in the Commission. How do you ensure that all 25 members are fairly represented when there are such massive differences in the size of their populations?

Following the recent elections in Spain, governments have signalled a new willingness to compromise. It now seems probable that they will sign the Treaty in June this year.

Regarding UEFA's concerns over Article 182, which contains provisions on sport, the Member States intend to retain the text agreed last November in Naples. To UEFA's satisfaction, this text enshrines the principle of the "specific characteristics" of sport.



An invitation has been issued for bids for the UEFA Champions League rights for the period 2006 to 2009.

EMPICS



Meetings and other activities

Club competition regulations approved

DUBLIN, CAPITAL OF THE COUNTRY WHICH CURRENTLY

HOLDS THE EU PRESIDENCY, WAS THE VENUE FOR THE EXECUTIVE

COMMITTEE'S LATEST MEETING, HELD ON 22 MARCH.

After observing a minute's silence in memory of the victims of the Madrid bombing and UEFA Honorary President Jacques Georges, who passed away in February, the Committee got down to business by discussing matters of general interest to European football and concluded that maintaining the balance in football as a whole depended on having strong national associations.

No more silver goals

In topical business, the Committee approved the club competition regulations for 2004/05, in which the most evident change is certainly the requirement to hold a UEFA-approved licence in order to take part.



In the UEFA Champions League, which is being played according to a new format this season, no major changes are foreseen

for 2004/05. However, a recent decision of the International FA Board affects this and the other UEFA competitions, abolishing the silver goal and replacing it with the old system of extra time followed, if necessary, by kicks from the penalty

New coefficient calculation method

The Executive Committee approved a change to the way in which the club coefficients used to determine which teams are seeded for draws are calculated.

Until now, half of the national association's coefficient was added to the points obtained by the club during the previous five seasons. But from now on, the national association "contribution" will be only 33%. In addition, as from 2004/05, the clubs which qualify for the first knock-out round, the quarter-finals, the semi-finals and the final of the UEFA Champions League, or for the quarter-finals, semi-finals and final of the UEFA



The UEFA Champions League quarter-finals were played in March and April, with Jérôme Rothen's AS Monaco managing to knock out Luis Figo's Real Madrid (photo) and Deportivo La Coruña eliminating title holders AC Milan.

AFP/JULIEN



There will be no more silver goals, like this one scored by Derlei for FC Porto in the UEFA Cup final against Celtic.



Olympique de Marseille (Habib Beye, in white) knocked out Liverpool (Milan Baros) in the last 16 of the UEFA Cup, the last time this round will be played fully on a direct knock-out basis.

FLASH PRESS

mark. Likewise, away goals scored in extra time will again count double.

The Committee also approved the proposal of the European Club Forum regarding radio broadcasting rights. As a result, only the home club will have the non-exclusive right to exploit the radio rights of its matches.

Still in the rights field, three agencies have tendered to market the rights of the UEFA Champions League from 2006 to 2009, current UEFA partners TEAM Marketing AG, as well as Octagon and Sporfive GmbH. The tenders will be examined in April and a decision is due to be taken in May.

Central branding



In the UEFA Cup, the regulations have been amended to the new competition format, which from now on will comprise two qualifying rounds and a first knock-out round, followed by a group-match stage involving eight groups of five

teams, each playing two matches at home and two away. The top three from each group will then go through to the next stage, where they will be joined by the eight third-placed teams from the UEFA Champions League group stage. The round of 32 and subsequent rounds, the final included, will take the form of direct knock-out matches.

The visual identity of the competition will also be refreshed and branded centrally. Except for the final, the match rights will be left in the hands of the clubs for a two-year trial period. To allow central marketing to possibly be introduced thereafter, contracts concluded by the clubs will have to expire by 30 June 2006 at the latest.

In the UEFA Intertoto Cup, the clubs will no longer be required to pay levies to UEFA on their match receipts, but they will still have to submit detailed statements of receipts to UEFA for the purpose of charting the commercial revenue of the participating clubs.

In brief:

The Executive Committee also:

- approved the regulations for the 2004/05 UEFA Futsal Cup and 2004/05 UEFA Women's Cup;
- prepared for the Congress in Cyprus and approved the awards to be made there;
- noted a progress report on the club licensing project and agreed to a new financial concept being drawn up and presented in September 2005;
- approved revised Disciplinary Regulations;
- noted the format adopted by FIFA for the Club World Championship, involving six participants (one per continent) and a maximum of two matches for Europe's representative;
- noted with satisfaction the state of the preparations for EURO 2004.



UEFAWOODS

The regulations of the 2004/05 UEFA Women's Cup were approved by the Executive Committee.

■ On 23 March, a UEFA delegation met the Irish Minister for Arts, Sport and Tourism, primarily with regard to the inclusion of the specific nature of sport in the EU Treaty.

Women's final round assigned to Hungary

The last time the Hungarian FA hosted the final round of a UEFA competition was way back in 1990, when the USSR won the European Under-18 Championship in Békéscaba.

However, it will have the chance to put its organisational skills to the test again next year, following the Executive Committee's decision

Cup, will earn a bonus point for every round (maximum of four points in the UEFA Champions League and three in the UEFA Cup). Three bonus points will also be awarded for taking part in the UEFA Champions League group stage (as opposed to one point at present). These points will not be awarded retroactively. The new system will also affect the national association coefficient, which is calculated according to the results of all of an association's clubs in the UEFA club competitions during the previous five seasons. These rankings are used to determine how many clubs each association can enter for the UEFA Champions League and UEFA Cup as well as the point at which they start out in these competitions.



A good-humoured draw as Michel Platini assists Jim Boyce, Chairman of the Youth and Amateur Football Committee.



Karen Espelund, Chairwoman of the Women's Football Committee, managed the draw for the European Women's Under-19 Championship.

to designate it as host nation for the final round of the 4th European Women's Under-19 Championship. The association plans to stage the tournament in the Lake Balaton region, and hopes that it will help promote women's football throughout the country.

Draws held in Blois

Shortly after the award of the competition finals by the Executive Committee, the first act of the fourth European Women's Under-19 Championship took place in Blois, France, on 2 April with the draw for the first qualifying round.



Forty teams have been divided into ten groups of four. The winners and second-placed teams of each group, as well as the six best

third-placed teams, will qualify for the second round together with Germany and Norway, given byes in the first round in recognition of their achievements in the three previous championships.

Group 1: Austria, Netherlands, Slovenia, Bosnia-Herzegovina

Group 2: Belarus, Ukraine, Moldova, Scotland

Group 3: Denmark, France, Azerbaijan, Lithuania

Group 4: Wales, England, Romania, Bulgaria

Group 5: Israel, Russia, Kazakhstan, Latvia

Group 6: Switzerland, Iceland, Greece, Republic of Ireland

Group 7: Italy, Sweden, Armenia, Estonia

Group 8: Finland, Serbia and Montenegro, Portugal, Slovakia

Group 9: Belgium, Poland, Croatia, Faroe Islands

Group 10: Czech Republic, Spain, Northern Ireland, FYR Macedonia

The groups will be decided by mini-tournaments held in September and October 2004.



Blois was the venue for the draw for the Women's Under-19 Championship due to the fact that this region will host the finals of the third European Under-17 Championship in May. The draws for both competitions were made at the same time.

The eight finalists of the Under-17 Championship have been drawn into two groups (**Group A:** France, Northern Ireland, Spain, Turkey and **Group B:** Ukraine, England, Austria, Portugal). The schedule of the finals is given below.

The holders of the trophy are Portugal, five-time winners of the competition (initially as an Under-16 tournament and then Under-17). Portugal, together with Spain, who have won the competition six times, and England are the only teams to have participated in both the previous finals since the tournament was renamed the European Under-17 Championship.

■ The draw for the 4th UEFA Regions' Cup was also made in Blois. Thirty-seven national associations registered for the competition which gets under way with a preliminary round of two groups of four teams:

A) Slovenia, England, Malta, Northern Ireland

B) Romania, Latvia, Estonia, Slovakia

The two winners and the best second-placed team will go forward to the qualifying round.

Date	Group	Location	Match
04.05	A	Blois	France - Northern Ireland
04.05	A	Amboise	Spain - Turkey
04.05	B	Tours	Ukraine - England
04.05	B	Avoine	Austria - Portugal
06.05	A	Blois	France - Spain
06.05	A	Romorantin	Northern Ireland - Turkey
06.05	B	Tours	Ukraine - Austria
06.05	B	St Cyr-sur-Loire	England - Portugal
09.05	A	Amboise	Turkey - France
09.05	A	Romorantin	Northern Ireland - Spain
09.05	B	Avoine	Portugal - Ukraine
09.05	B	St Cyr-sur-Loire	England - Austria
12.05		Blois	Winners Group A - Runners-up Group B
12.05		Tours	Winners Group B - Runners-up Group A
15.05		Châteauroux	Third-place play-off
15.05		Châteauroux	Final



Umeå IK will contest the final of the UEFA Women's Cup against the winner of the match between 1.FFC Frankfurt and Malmö FF.

Obituary

Branko Bulatovic, General Secretary of the Football Association of Serbia and Montenegro and member of the UEFA Transfer Pool Panel, died tragically on 26 March at the age of 52.

His assistant, Mirosljub Rajic, will take over as acting General Secretary.



GERMANY
Helmut Krug,
refereeing
expert.



BELGIUM
Over the last
decade,
stewards have
proven
their worth.

News from member associations



BELGIUM

Ten years of stewarding

It was exactly ten years ago that Belgium put stewards in a football stadium. The first match to be stewarded was Club Brugge versus RSC Anderlecht on 6 March 1994. At the time, stewards did not have any officially recognised status.

Today, however, stewards are appreciated by everyone and recognised officially by the Football Law of 21 December 1998, which clearly defines their role: to ensure public order and safety, make casual checks on supporters and bags, accompany the referees if necessary, make sure that the stadium rules are respected, inspect facilities, take care of spectators on arrival, and take any necessary action while awaiting the intervention of the ambulance and police services.

All these tasks require numerous skills and serious training. Since 2001, the Belgian FA itself has been conducting steward training. Nico De Pauw, had of the FA's safety and security department, explains: "We organise regular full training courses of one or two days covering different safety and security aspects in depth, for example. The topics covered in a course for stewards to qualify as chief stewards or security officers concentrate mainly on practical situations that the candidates could encounter in the course of their duties. Basic knowledge about communication, management, medical aspects at a football match, legislation, labour laws and public order helps them to carry out their important responsibilities. The bulk of the course is devoted to the legislation regarding safety and security at football matches.

"Other training is provided by the safety and security department for the heads of division. We also produce course material for trainee stewards that we distribute to the clubs, which then take care of the training themselves. The courses require the cooperation of the police, fire service, Red Cross, etc. Once the stewards have received initial training, they have to follow compulsory further training courses every year to keep up to date on the latest developments in the different areas.

"Recently, we organised a further training course dealing with drug and alcohol consumption in football stadiums, binding safety and security instructions and instructions concerning insurance and responsibility".

Today, Belgium can count on the skills and support of almost 1,500 stewards.

François Vantomme



BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

Sliskovic remains loyal

As expected, the head coach of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Blaz Sliskovic, has signed a new contract with FF BHZ for the next two years. Sliskovic will lead the national team through the qualifying competition for the 2006 World Cup.

Neither Sliskovic nor the leaders of FF BHZ had any problem with him staying on in the position, considering how well the national team did in the EURO 2004 qualifying competition. Although they did not qualify for the final round in Portugal, football fans in Bosnia and Herzegovina are satisfied with Sliskovic's work and the performance of his players.

For the World Cup qualifying campaign, Bosnia and Herzegovina are in Group 7 with Spain, Belgium, Serbia and Montenegro, Lithuania and San Marino. According to Sliskovic, it is a very tough group and Bosnia and Herzegovina will be aiming for second position, with Spain the favourites to win the group. The team has already played two preparatory matches in Skopje, against FYR Macedonia and Luxembourg, and will play Finland in Zenica on 28 April. After that, they have their first two World Cup qualifiers coming up, both at home, against Spain and Serbia and Montenegro.

"I'm delighted that the FF BHZ has faith in me. I'm anticipating a tough ride in the qualifiers but I'm hopeful that we'll do well enough too make it through to the play-offs," said Blaz Sliskovic.



CZECH REPUBLIC

New look for the website

The Football Association of the Czech Republic (FAČR) has made another step towards improving its information channels by giving its official website www.fotbal.cz a face-lift. The Internet Division of the Communication and Relations Department of the association has been working on the new look for several months and has outlined its goals for the further development of the site, including an English version.

The new FAČR website started life in January 1998 and since its creation has been trying to provide extensive information about Czech football. It contains information about the performances of all the national teams (men, women, youth, futsal and amateurs), about the activities of individual football bodies (committees, working groups) and, of course, a comprehensive results service. In cooperation with uefa.com, space is also devoted to information about European football.

The aim of these changes was not only to make graphic improvements and structural changes to the single pages, but also to put in place the technical conditions to extend the information service offered by the server in the future. As from the 2004/05 season, the site will offer detailed information about events at all levels of Czech football, including links to the regional and local football associations, making it the most complete source of information about football in the Czech Republic.

Petr Havlík



ENGLAND
The need for security.

THE FA



BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA
Blaz Sliskovic and Sergej Barbarez.

PHOTOS: F. KRIVAVAC



EMPICS



Safety and security seminars in Ecuador and Chile

As part of the 2004 Cooperation Programme with CONMEBOL, made possible through an agreement signed by FA Chairman Geoff Thompson and CONMEBOL President Dr Nicolás Leoz, an FA-led delegation travelled to Guayaquil and Santiago to hold seminars on stadium safety and security in early March. Presenters included Detective Superintendent Bryan Drew (Assistant Director [Specialist Intelligence], National Criminal Intelligence Service), John de Quidt (CEO, Football Licensing Authority) and Chris Whalley (FA Head of Stadia, Safety and Security).

Over 170 delegates, ranging from government, stadium and club officials, to members of the police force, media and football authorities, were in attendance, including security experts from the Mexican and Paraguayan federations. Federation presidents and general secretaries, the British ambassador, the city mayor, police commanders and a FIFA Media Committee representative lent their support to the events, which were well received in both countries.

"We had the disasters so we had to learn. We have come to share our experience with others, but not to tell them what to do. Our hope is that they will learn the lessons without suffering the disasters," said de Quidt.

The FA's Chris Whalley said: *"We were banned from European football for five years and changes had to be made. The Government, police and football authorities implemented new security and safety measures in our stadia and introduced strict legislation such as Football Banning Orders. English football would be crippled if our clubs were banned again".*

Seminar sessions included "An Overview of Football Hooliganism", "Problems with Stadium Safety in England up to 1989", "Lessons from Stadium Disasters" and an "Overview of the Measures introduced in England".

Both federations presented an overview of their problems, including violent supporter behaviour in the stands, attacks on the police, under-resourced policing and stewarding, and a lack of safety legislation and guidelines.

"I think it is important that we share the knowledge and experience we have gained over many years with other countries, particularly if it helps prevent football-related criminality, and disorder from occurring across the globe," said Bryan Drew.

General Secretary of the Chilean FF, Sergio Toloza, spoke of two incidents when games were suspended due to a player and match official being injured by objects thrown from the crowd. He urged the government, police, media to work with the football authorities to tackle their problems, highlighting the negative economic impact on the

game from a decline in match attendances and loss of interest from sponsors.

"We are all delighted with the response your seminar generated within our country. The fact is that "security" is now finally being tackled not only from a "political", but a "technical" viewpoint and this signifies a huge step forward in terms of solving our problems," said Chile's Felipe Chaigneau.

The FA has cooperation programmes in place with every football confederation through its International Development Programme. Workshops and seminars held so far have covered coaching strategies, refereeing, administration, marketing, sponsorship, player contracts and transfers and fitness training. An FA-led "Tournament Organisation" workshop takes place in April in Lima, Peru, where the Copa America and FIFA U17 World Championship will be held in 2005.

Kim Fisher



FINLAND

Strong growth in women's football

To strengthen the growth of girls' - and women's football, the FA of Finland launched the FUN project in 2001. The project was originally designed to run until 2004. Last autumn, however, the association's General Assembly decided to continue the project until 2006.

Women's football has experienced steady growth in Finland. Last year, there were a total of 17,131 women players in all age categories, corresponding to 16 percent of all licensed players. The potential for growth in terms of the number of licensed players is enormous in the women's sector. Last year, while the number of men players remained almost constant, Finnish football experienced a growth of 8.4 percent in the sphere of women's football. At the moment, football is by far the biggest sport for women in Finland. Volleyball, in second place, has over 50 percent fewer licensed players.

While increasing the number of players, FUN aims to attract more women to the sport in other capacities, such as coaches, heads of delegation and managers. As a result, the number of women participating in coach education programmes has risen in recent years. However, there are still a lot fewer women in club managerial positions than desired.

The FUN project also aims to improve communication in women's football. Accordingly, there have been special meetings for women's football functionaries around the country. Another key activity has been the annual "Schools' Football Week", which has supported women teachers' ability to teach football in primary schools.

This coming summer, the final round of the UEFA Women's Under-19 Championship will highlight the FUN project. The goal is to arrange an unforgettable football event for the

participating teams and spectators alike. At the same time, Finnish women's football will get a further lift.

Minttu Paavola



GERMANY

Regular referees' meetings

"I have become a kind of coach for the Bundesliga referees," says Hellmut Krug. The former FIFA official has been in charge of the DFB's refereeing department for almost a year now. As part of his job, he introduced a new idea at the beginning of this season and now invites his colleagues to meetings every six weeks. At the three centres in Stuttgart, Cologne and Hanover, the referees meet to discuss the events of the previous few weeks. Video clips and even, on one occasion, a whole match have been analysed. *"This look back also serves as good preparation for forthcoming matches,"* explains Hellmut Krug. The idea has gone down very well. *"It has enabled us to exchange ideas more effectively and more frequently. The feedback has been very positive,"* says Krug.

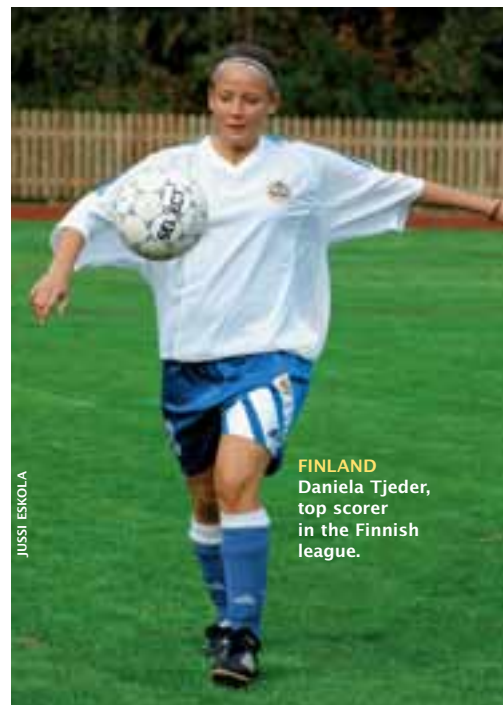
Niels Barnhofer



HUNGARY

New communication strategy with Matthäus

Lothar Matthäus, Hungary's head coach, once said that *"Honest and open communication both on and off the pitch is the most important thing."* The German coach is not the only one endeavouring to make this reality, since the Hungarian Football Federation (MLSZ) recently launched a new communication service for Hungarian football. The new



FINLAND
Daniela Tjeder, top scorer in the Finnish league.

JUSSI ESKOLA

SCOTLAND
The Scottish national team (Gavin Rae competing against Romanian Adrian Mutu) dreams about qualifying for a major tournament.



AFP/ISZA

HUNGARY
Hungary's Zoltan Gera outmanoeuvres of Welshman Carl Robinson in a friendly match.



BONGARTS

LIECHTENSTEIN
Martin Andermatt, new national coach.

press officer is Gábor Ganczer, who took over from György Szöllösi at the end of last year and who has 13 years' experience in journalism and sports management.

The fact that the new press officer worked with his predecessor for many years as a sports writer means that the positive, high-quality communication already in place is sure to continue. Gábor Ganczer will look after the Hungarian FA's media affairs with the assistance of a website editor (Márton Dinnyés), a senior consultant (Zoltán Thaly), a photographer (Zoltán Thaly Jr.), a PR manager (András Siegler) and an assistant press officer (Éva Jámbor).

Part of the new strategy is the mid-April re-launch of mlsz.hu, the official website of the Hungarian Football Federation. The structure and navigation of the site will be clearer and there will also be an English version. The 'Press Room' will make the provision of information more efficient and, with an on-line accreditation system based on uefa.com, it will be easier to obtain press passes. Women's football, futsal and youth education will continue to feature as part of the new strategy and on the website.

The arrival of the new head coach and his team's success in the international tournament in Cyprus have generated huge interest in Hungary and abroad. The new communication staff are hoping to add new services to the successful elements of the existing structure.

Gábor Ganczer/Márton Dinnyés



KAZAKHSTAN

Seminars for football referees and observers

Seminars for football referees and observers run by UEFA

referee instructor Alexey Spirin from Russia took place in Kazakhstan from 22 to 24 March. It was the second year in a row that Spirin has run similar seminars in Kazakhstan.

On 22 March, the referees had a one-day seminar in Shymkent. This was followed by a two-day combined seminar for the referees and observers in Almaty. The seminar focussed essentially on inspection and refereeing techniques.

This latest referee seminar followed three regional referee seminars held earlier this year in Taraz, Shymkent and Almaty. The basic purpose of the recent gathering was to prepare the referees for the new season, which starts on 3 April, and to identify particularly talented young referees. The referees also had the opportunity for some hands-on experience by refereeing some youth matches and the Nauryz international tournament.

As for the observers, they were tested at the end of the seminar and, if successful, can apply for Kazakhstani competition match service.

Alexander Keplin



LIECHTENSTEIN

Andermatt named national coach

The Liechtenstein FA (LFV) has appointed 42-year-old Martin Andermatt from Switzerland as its national coach with

immediate effect. Andermatt is already well known in the region from his involvement with FC Vaduz. Prior to that he worked as coach in Wil, Ulm and Frankfurt, among other places. As a player, he wore the colours of Wettingen, Grasshoppers and Basle.

Because of the extensive amount of work that the new position of technical director will entail, the LFV decided to separate the jobs of national coach and technical director. In this way, the association hopes to ensure that, despite economy measures, the sporting sector does not lose out.

There are no plans to change the national team's support staff for the time being. Manfred Beck, the LFV's head of professional football, will therefore remain head of delegation.

The contract between the LFV and Martin Andermatt was concluded without any opt-out clause until the end of the World Cup qualifying competition (October 2005).

In preparation for the World Cup qualifying competition, Liechtenstein are playing San Marino away on 28 April, Greece at home in Vaduz on 3 June and Switzerland in Zurich on 6 June.

Liechtenstein are in a very strong group, which finds them up against Portugal, Russia, Slovakia, Luxembourg, Estonia and Latvia. Three of these teams have qualified for the EURO 2004 final round in Portugal this summer. Liechtenstein

start their qualifying campaign with two home matches, against Estonia on 18 August and Portugal on 9 October.

Roland Ospelt



LITHUANIA

Nine licences awarded

The Lithuanian Football Federation has finished the long and difficult UEFA club

licensing process and has awarded licences to a total of nine clubs: FC Vetra (Vilnius), FC Ekranas (Panevezys), FC Vilnius, FC Babrungas (Plunge), FC Zalgiris (Vilnius), FC Atlantas (Klaipeda), FBK Kaunas, FC Suduva (Marijampole) and FC Silute. Two clubs were refused licences. The federation hopes that the experience gained from this first process will facilitate the exercise next time round.

The clubs which have been awarded licences are to be congratulated, and we are sure that football fans will see the benefits of the club licensing system.

Vaiva Zizaite



LUXEMBOURG

Change at the top

At the 85th ordinary FLF general assembly held

in Schieren on 8 November last year, the report on the 2002/03 season did not rally the majority necessary to be accepted by the governing body of the association. Consequently, elections had to be organised again in February this year.

The race for the position of FLF president was a two-man affair between outgoing president Henri Roemer and former long-serving national coach Paul



HUNGARY Lothar Matthäus and the Hungarian FA President Imre Bozoky, advocates of open communication.

AFP/ISZA



LUXEMBOURG
New
President
Paul Philipp.



MALTA
The media have
a role to play in
enhancing the
prestige of the
championship.

Philipp. For the first time in the history of Luxembourg football, both candidates were running publicly for election with a team, though at the end of the day only the candidates' names are on the ballot papers.

This duel for the presidency received unprecedented coverage in the media. Finally, at the extraordinary FLF general assembly held on 14 February, Paul Philipp won the election by 341 votes to 294. Six of his team were also elected to the new governing body.

After six years at the helm, Henri Roemer therefore had to hand the reins over to the former national coach.

Paul Philipp is 53 years old, played for his country 51 times, spent 13 years in Belgium with, among others, Union St Gilloise, RSC Charleroi and Standard Liège, and was Luxembourg's national coach from 1985 to 2001.

The priority of the new leadership of the FLF for the future is to ensure that Luxembourg football regains the popularity and recognition among the public at large that it deserves.

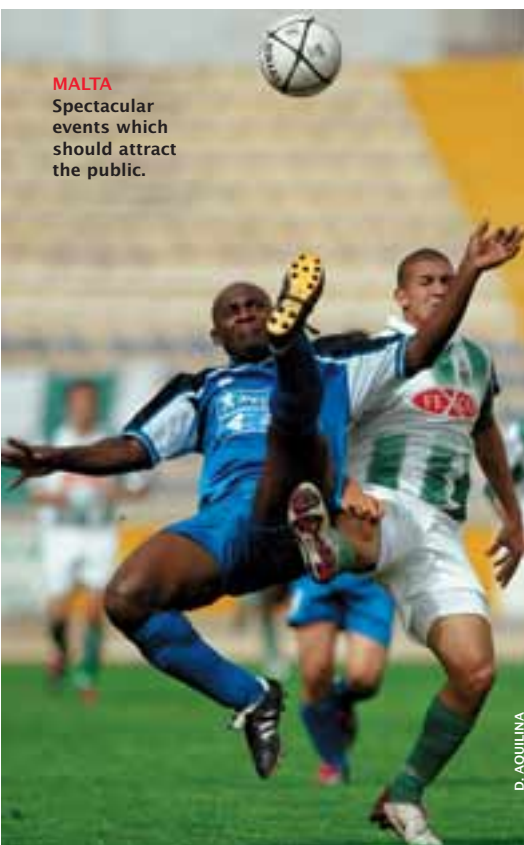
Joël Wolff



MALTA

Enhancing media coverage

New initiatives by the Malta FA to boost the domestic game have been part of an ongoing process to revive interest among the island's



MALTA
Spectacular
events which
should attract
the public.

stadium-goers and upgrade standards of local football at all levels. This campaign has gained momentum following a recent survey commissioned by the FA on the state of the game in Malta.

Although the quality of refereeing, the level of discipline and a sense of fair play on and off the pitch, and crowd behaviour are more than acceptable, it is believed that the standard of football does not quite live up to what is expected by the discerning Maltese spectators and the media, given that constant comparisons are made with other European leagues.

The outcome has been a gradual and progressive fall in attendances. Reasons for such a slump have been various, according to the survey. Certainly there is no lack of following for football in Malta, at least from a distance. Statistics reveal that fifty percent of the island's population show an interest in the game.

The situation has prompted the Malta FA to take corrective action, with some measures to be introduced immediately and others within a given time-frame. Innovations cover various areas.

MFA action in this regard can be traced back several years.

In the late 90s, the top league set-up was revised to infuse more competitiveness throughout, and more recently, fixture schedules were shifted to accommodate potential spectators who would otherwise watch foreign football on the small screen.

Late in March, MFA officials and club representatives had a formal meeting with the media to explore other ways and means of breathing further oxygen into the domestic game. Journalists acknowledged that a more positive approach from them when reporting or analysing football at club and national team level would be a step in the right direction.

Pre- and post-match coverage could be enhanced through more cooperation from the clubs. Upgrading and pooling of technical resources, particularly in the use of TV cameras and match transmissions, were looked into. The inclusion of football slots in radio and TV entertainment programmes was another possibility to give more attractive exposure to the game.

A post-match press conference by the clubs involved in a top match was an innovation which was implemented forthwith. More extensive use of mobile TV cameras at pitch level was also given the go-ahead.

Coherent with its efforts to improve the image of the game, the Malta FA has committed itself to introducing other incentives to revamp interest among people who are traditionally known as 'football mad'.

Enhancing media coverage has been another important element in this process.

Alex Vella



REPUBLIC OF IRELAND

A wonderful boost for the future

Ireland has received a wonderful boost for the future of football in the Republic with the news that UEFA would be very willing to consider granting a UEFA Champions League final to Dublin in the not too distant future.

The move comes following a recent meeting between the Irish Minister for Sport, John O'Donoghue, and representatives of UEFA.

The European football delegates were in Dublin for a meeting of the UEFA Executive Committee, which was held in the Irish capital as part of the functions being held in the Republic in conjunction with Ireland hosting the Presidency of the European Union for the first six months of 2004.

The meeting with the Minister of Sport was attended by representatives of the Football Association of Ireland, and the possibility of staging a UEFA Champions League final in Dublin on completion of the redevelopment of the rugby ground at Lansdowne Road was discussed with the UEFA visitors.

The Irish Football Rugby Union headquarters is the stadium used by the Football Association of Ireland for its international football matches and the go-ahead has been given to convert the stadium into a 50,000 all-seater arena.

Following the normal time delay required for obtaining the necessary planning permission for the project, it is expected that work on the conversion will commence in 2006 and will be completed by 2008.

The response received by the Irish delegation - which included Mr Fran Rooney, Chief Executive Officer of the Football Association of Ireland - to its request to host a UEFA Champions League final in Dublin was extremely positive.

Should the request be successful, it would be a mammoth boost, not just for football but for trade, tourism and the economy of the Irish nation.

It goes without saying that Irish football officials, in conjunction with the Irish Government, will be working extremely hard and diligently in the months and years ahead to make this dream come true. The Irish Government is, in fact, supporting the conversion costs at the stadium to the tune of EUR 200 million.

The members of the UEFA delegation who met the Irish Minister were Chief Executive Lars-Christer Olsson, vice-president Per Ravn Omdal and FIFA vice-president David Will.

Brendan McKenna



WALES
The quality of training for coaches will have an impact on the national team.



CZECH REPUBLIC
The new face of the website fotbal.cz



ROMANIA

A busy month

March was a busy month for Romanian football. First of all, the second half of the domestic league season kicked off after the winter break. The first division was supposed to have resumed on 6 March but bad weather meant that the fields were not fit for use and the matches were therefore postponed until 13 March, which was when the first and second divisions also returned to action.

The title race is a three-club and all-Bucharest affair this season, involving Dinamo, Steaua et Rapid.

Before that, the Romanian FA (FRF) hosted a meeting of the UEFA Executive Committee's National Associations Working Group with the FRF executive committee on 5 March. The UEFA Executive Committee was represented by UEFA vice-president Geoffrey Thompson and members Joseph Mifsud and Marios N. Lefkaritis.

On 15 March, the FRF held its General Assembly, and the next day the first Pro coach education course got under way. UEFA Technical Director Andy Roxburgh was on hand to make a presentation to "student" coaches Hagi, Lacatus, Rednic, Sabau, Dan Petrescu, Balint, Florin Marin, Cartu and Ion Moldovan. The aspiring "Pro" coaches followed the presentation on the UEFA Champions League and reading the game with great interest.

On 22 March, Gheorghe Hagi was named as coach of Galatasaray, one of Turkey's most prestigious clubs (thanks to player Hagi, among others). At present, two Romanian coaches are in charge of two big Turkish clubs, Galatasaray and Besiktas.

Finally, the Group 6 qualifying mini-tournament in the 3rd European Under-17 Championship took place at the Mogosoaia national centre and the national stadium in Bucharest from 22 to 26 March. Apart from the hosts, the other participants were Austria, Finland and Moldova. Romania and Austria have subsequently qualified for the final round in France from 4 to 15 May.

Dan Cristea



SCOTLAND

Planning for the future

The Scottish FA has launched a GBP 31.1m action plan to increase the number of players in Scotland and raise standards at all levels of the game.

"Many Players One Goal: An Action Plan for Scottish Youth Football" will make wide-ranging changes in the way the youth game in Scotland is organised and financed over the next ten years.

It is the outcome of the most comprehensive and independent review of youth football ever undertaken in the UK, commissioned in 2002 by the Scottish FA and its partners and carried out by sports consultancy PMP. More than 200 separate individuals and organisations contributed to the review over an 18-month period – and its findings now form the basis for the Action Plan's recommendations.

Significantly, the plan now has a long-term funding strategy in place. Welcoming the launch of the Action Plan, the SFA's Chief Executive David Taylor said: "There has never been a better time to address some of the fundamental issues in Scottish football."

"For years, we have been hampered by a lack of investment. But there has been

a great deal of good work and we are beginning to see young players come through. Now is the time to recognise that these players are our future, and devote sufficient resources to youth development."

He adds: "The Action Plan presents us with a clear and cohesive way forward, backed by a viable and robust funding strategy. It has evolved through independent consultation, engaging everyone who cares about the future of the Scottish game – from the parents and coaches on the touchline to the national coach and the top clubs."

"We are now in a position to make real progress, providing more opportunities for young people to play the game in Scotland. This will lay the foundations for clubs and national teams at the performance end of the game, so Scotland can get back to qualifying for major tournaments."

Central to the Action Plan's recommendations is a radical streamlining of how the youth game is structured in Scotland, from both a national and regional perspective. This is supported by funding for a wide range of radical initiatives to improve the Scottish youth game, from its grassroots to the highest echelons of the sport.

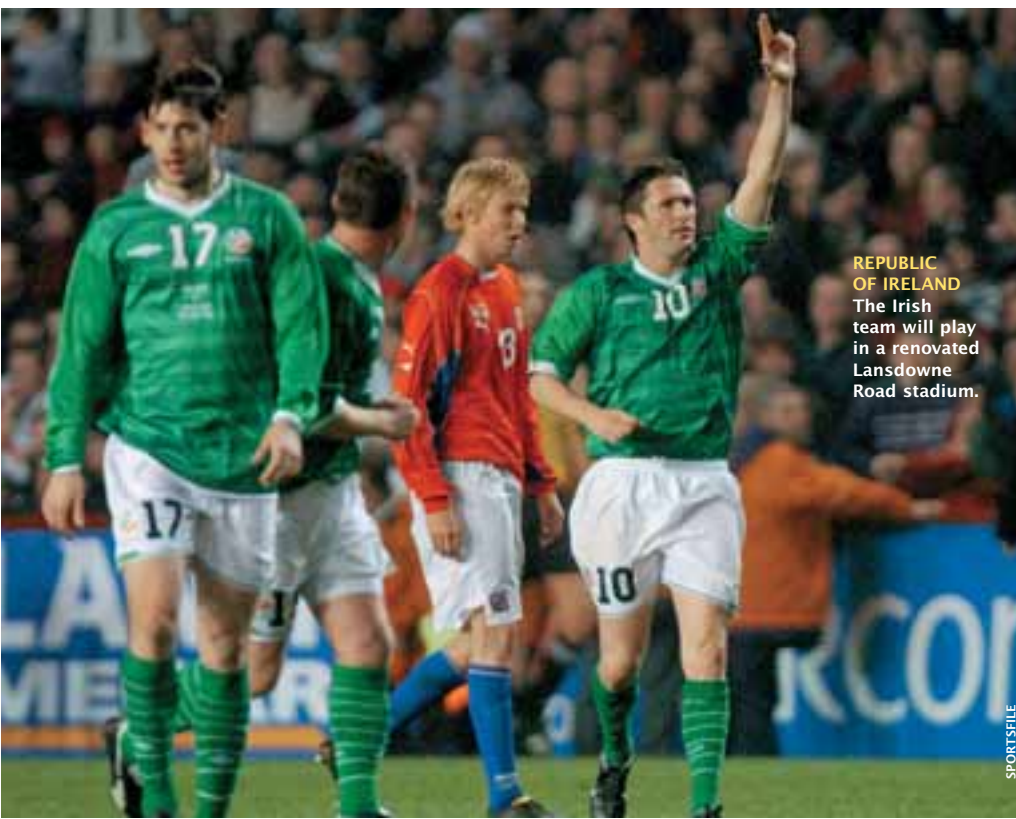
A single, unified strategy for Under-19 football, under the overall leadership of the SFA, will bring together existing youth programmes managed by SPL and SFL clubs, and national activities managed by the Scottish Youth FA, the Scottish Schools' FA and the Scottish Women's FA. Six new regional "alliances" will be set up to manage youth football on a local level.

Performance levels will be boosted by the introduction of a national and regional performance club criteria, and the development of a national talent identification programme. Clear player "pathways" will be set up to ensure swift progression for talented players from youth leagues to national squads, with partnerships introduced between top clubs and international youth teams. There will also be improved access to quality regional facilities for talented young players, through the implementation of the Scottish Executive's national and regional facilities strategy.

Changes at grassroots levels will see support and investment provided to schools to increase participation, and to youth football clubs to strengthen club and community development.

A new quality mark for coaches, schools and clubs will be introduced, while a programme of incentives, courses and materials will be provided to attract and reward new volunteers to the game. And a new and simplified national registration system for all players over 12 years of age will do with away with excessive bureaucracy, making it easier for more young players to get involved at the very start of their game.

At the heart of the Action Plan's proposals is a massive drive to increase participation in the Scottish game across all



REPUBLIC OF IRELAND
The Irish team will play in a renovated Lansdowne Road stadium.



ROMANIA
UEFA Technical Director Andy Roxburgh and Mircea Radulescu, Director of the Romanian Coaches' School.



SERBIA AND MONTENEGRO
Branko Bulatovic.



SWEDEN
Stamps dedicated to Victoria Svensson and Thomas Ravelli.

sectors of society. Ambitious targets have been set by the SFA and its partners to increase player participation in Scotland by 20%.

Andy Mitchell



SERBIA AND MONTENEGRO

Tragic death of the General Secretary

On 26 March, the life of the General Secretary of the Football Association of Serbia and Montenegro, Branko Bulatovic, was cut short in a criminal manner. Mr Bulatovic was killed in front of the offices of the national association, where for many years he had performed the task of first administrator. The entire football community in Serbia and Montenegro was plunged into a state of disbelief and sorrow. Hundreds of telegrams of condolence have arrived at the association, reflecting the respect Mr Bulatovic enjoyed in the world of football.

Branko Bulatovic was born on 10 December 1951 in the town of Kolasin, Montenegro. He was an active youth football player. He graduated in law in 1976, and while studying he was also involved in sports journalism, for the football pages, of course. He was General Secretary of first-division club Buducnost (Podgorica) for seven years and in 1987 became legal counsellor to the Yugoslav Football Association. His enormous energy for work, intelligence and love of football were the basis for his election as General Secretary of the football organisation in 1993. He was appointed for that post for two terms and performed his duties successfully until his tragic death.

Branko Bulatovic has left a huge and indelible mark on domestic football. He was also respected and appreciated in international circles, where he had many football friends. The Football Association of Serbia and Montenegro bid farewell to its General Secretary in a big memorial ceremony held at the Belgrade

City Hall. The funeral of Branko Bulatovic took place at the new cemetery in Belgrade on 29 March.

Nebojsa Ivkovic



SWEDEN

Commemorative stamps to mark the centenary

Swedish national team coach Tommy Söderberg is stepping down after EURO 2004, leaving current companion Lars Lagerbäck in charge on his own. Lagerbäck has signed a contract with the FA until the 2006 World Cup and will bring in Roland Andersson as his assistant. Söderberg, who has led Sweden to three consecutive final tournaments, conceding only one defeat in the qualifying campaigns, will return to his old position as Under-21 coach. Current Under-21 coach Torbjörn Nilsson will take over one of the youth teams.

To mark the FA's centenary this year, Sweden Post issued a series of special stamps on 26 March featuring some of the country's most famous players: Nils Liedholm, Henrik Larsson, Fredrik Ljungberg and Thomas Ravelli, along with female stars Victoria Svensson and Hanna Ljungberg.

All the players have expressed their gratitude for the honour of being portrayed on such a historical occasion as the centenary.

One of the stamps depicts Thomas Ravelli's historical save in the penalty shoot-out versus Romania in the 1994 World Cup.

"It is quite incredible to have a stamp dedicated to me for having thrown myself in the right direction twice in my life," joked Ravelli, who earned 143 caps playing for his country.

The stamps, six in all, have been designed by Norbert Tamas from photographs supplied by Bildbyrån and Pressens Bild.

Thomas Saletog



UKRAINE

Developing the game in the regions

The problems and further development of football in West Ukraine have been under consideration in Uzhgorod, in the Zakarpattia region, where many well-known players grew up. The first expanded meeting of the FFU's Regions' Council involved FFU President Grigoriy Surkis, the chairman, and representatives of the Western regions. "It is clear that we can't expect national football to be successful at all levels - youth, amateur and professional - without the wide development of the game in the regions," Grigoriy Surkis said. The speakers drew attention to the problems of children's and youth football.

The FFU President talked about the projects being implemented at national level, including the "Our Future" programme, which aims to provide each regional centre with a mini-pitch with an artificial surface, the

creation of inter-regional centres for the development of the youth football, the creation of a fund to provide financial encouragement to youth coaches, and the revival of a competition for reserve club teams.

The FFU's leadership commented that Ukrainian football as a whole - the national teams, youth teams, professional clubs and the amateur game - will only reap rewards on the basis of the success of regional football at all levels.

In the near future, similar meetings will be held in all regions of Ukraine.

Valeriy Nykonenko



WALES

Technical Department launch 2nd UEFA Pro Licence course

On 5 June, the Football Association of Wales takes another step forward towards achieving its national development strategy when it admits a second cohort of candidates for the UEFA Pro Licence. This prestigious award forms an integral part of the development of coaching standards in Wales, and as such will allow many Welsh coaches to meet the requirements of the UEFA club licensing system. This system has been embraced throughout Wales and clearly stipulates that coaches should hold this particular qualification if they are to work at the highest level through out the Principality and abroad.

Director of Coach Education, Kevin Thelwell, said: "The UEFA Pro Licence provides a further opportunity for the Technical Department to work with Welsh coaches who will ultimately be responsible for the development of elite performers both now and in the future. The syllabus is such that it allows a focus to be placed on the application of key processes required to be successful in football, and we are excited to work with and develop coaches who already have a huge amount of experience and expertise."

Coach education standards in Wales have been highly regarded by UEFA, with all qualifications up to and including the UEFA Pro Licence being recognised by European football's governing body. For such a small nation in comparison to others, Wales is extremely proud of its current status, but is still working hard to ensure standards are continually evaluated and upgraded.

Kevin Thelwell added: "When you are attracting former international players such as Ian Rush, Dean Saunders, Clayton Blackmore, Barry Horne, etc. to embrace coaching qualifications, then it is imperative that all courses at all levels are of the highest possible standard. This should not only enhance the reputation of the association, but, most importantly, improve standards of coaches and ultimately standards of play throughout Wales."

John Deakin



UKRAINE
FFU President Grigoriy Surkis presents an award to Jozsef Bets, Olympic champion with the USSR in 1956.

FFU



Communications

Birthdays – Calendar

Birthdays

Fair Play and Ethics Panel member Jean-Marie Gantenbein (Luxembourg) celebrates his 70th birthday on 12 May. Natalina Ceraso Levati (Italy), member of the Women's Football Committee, will be 60 on 21 May. The same day Luis Paulo Relógio (Portugal), member of the External Legal Experts Panel, will be 50. Also reaching the half-century mark on 19 May is Bernard O'Byrne (Republic of Ireland), member of the Security Officers Panel. Birthday greetings are also extended to:

- Mircea-Lucian Salomir (Romania, 1.5)
- R. Campbell Ogilvie (Scotland, 1.5)
- Peter Mikkelsen (Denmark, 1.5)
- Petro Lavrenyuk (Ukraine, 2.5)
- Johann Hantschk (Austria, 3.5)
- Mortan Poulsen (Faroe Islands, 3.5)
- Anghel Iordanescu (Romania, 4.5)
- Selami Özdemir (Turkey, 4.5)
- Peter Gilliéron (Switzerland, 5.5)
- Costakis Koutsokoumnis (Cyprus, 5.5)
- Kenneth Ridden (England, 6.5)
- Andrej Machovic (Slovakia, 7.5)
- Pekka Luhtanen (Finland, 8.5)
- Michel Pralong (Switzerland, 8.5)
- Haim Zimmer (Israel, 9.5)
- Hans Boll (Netherlands, 9.5)
- Robert B. Valentine (Scotland, 10.5)
- Ivan Slavkov (Bulgaria, 11.5)
- Arie Frost (Israel, 11.5)
- Ernst-Peter Radziwill (Germany, 11.5)
- Steve Parkin (England, 12.5)
- Henrik Ravnild (Denmark, 13.5)
- Hans-Jörg Eissmann (Germany, 15.5)
- Piotr Maranda (Poland, 15.5)
- Nikolay Levnikov (Russia, 15.5)
- Lars Appelqvist (Sweden, 18.5)
- Andreas Morisbak (Norway, 19.5)
- Jozef Marko (Slovakia, 19.5)
- Michal Listkiewicz (Poland, 20.5)
- Serge Muhmenthaler (Switzerland, 20.5)
- Fred Ernst (Switzerland, 21.5)
- Nicolae Cibotari (Moldova, 21.5)
- Roman Kopytin (Kazakhstan, 22.5)
- Mathieu Sprengers (Netherlands, 24.5)
- Semen Andreev (Russia, 25.5)
- Daood Suheil (Israel, 25.5)
- Dan Tana (Serbia and Montenegro, 26.5)
- Marco Tura (San Marino, 26.5)
- Dag Steinar Vestlund (Norway, 27.5)
- Zdenek Sivek (Czech Rep., 28.5)
- Patrick A. Daly (Rep. Ireland, 28.5)
- David Davies (England, 28.5)
- Mehmed Spaho (Bosnia-Herzegovina, 28.5)
- Maria Rosario Garcia (Spain, 28.5)

- Jim Stjerne Hansen (Denmark, 28.5)
- Jean-Pierre Escalettes (France, 29.5)
- Jacques Antenen (Switzerland, 29.5)
- István Huszár (Hungary, 31.5)
- Arnaldo Cunha (Portugal, 31.5)

Upcoming events

MEETINGS

10.5.2004, Nyon

Medical Committee

12.5.2004, Nyon

Women's Football Committee
4th Seminar for Referee Talents and Mentors

13.5.2004, Nyon

Futsal Committee

19.5.2004, Gothenburg

Executive Committee

20-21.5.2004, Paris

Ordinary FIFA Congress

25.5.2004, Gelsenkirchen

Jira Project Panel

26.5.2004, Gelsenkirchen

Technical Development Committee

COMPETITIONS

1.5.2004, Lisbon

UEFA Futsal Cup: final (first leg)

4-5.5.2004

UEFA Champions League: semi-finals (return legs)

4-15.5.2004 in France

Final round of the European Under-17 Championship

6.5.2004

UEFA Cup: semi-finals (return legs)

19.5.2004, Gothenburg

UEFA Cup: final

20.5.2004, Paris

FIFA Centennial Match

26.5.2004, Gelsenkirchen

UEFA Champions League: final

27.5-8.6.2004 in Germany

Final round of the European Under-21 Championship

New publications

ANNUARIO DEL CALCIO MONDIALE 2003/04

Published under the guidance of its founder, Salvatore Lo Presti, and edited by Cantelli Editore (Via Saliceto 22/E - IT-40013 Castelmaggiore; fax: +39-051 63 288 15), this annual publication, containing more than 1,000 pages, is an essential guidebook to the history of football and its competitions. Italian football receives special attention, with over 300 pages dedicated to it, although all European and South American national associations, as well as the most important ones from the other continents, are also included, with details of the people in charge and their clubs and competitions. This yearbook also contains a clearly presented list of winners and results from the main international competitions.



ALBANIAN FOOTBALL YEARBOOK 2004

Last year, Besnik Dizdari published the first ever guidebook on Albanian football, which is still relatively unknown despite the progress made by its national team. The author has repeated the exercise this year, with a new edition containing the results of last season's competitions and an overview of the new season, including details of the players of every Albanian first division club. The final section of the book is devoted to the UEFA competitions. SHQIPERIA VJETARI FUTBOLLI 2004 - Neptun SHPK, Rr. Zoja Curre Nr 30 - AL-Tirana; tel./fax: +355 4374 953.



ANNOUNCEMENT

At its general assembly held in early March, the Norwegian Football Federation (NFF) unanimously elected Sondre Käffjord as its new president. His predecessor, Per Ravn Omdal, was appointed as an honorary member.

MATCH AGENTS

The Match Agents Panel has granted a licence to:

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info@isto.org.uk

The Panel has also renewed the licence of Ger Lagendijk (Netherlands) for an eight-year period.

WE CARE ABOUT FOOTBALL



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