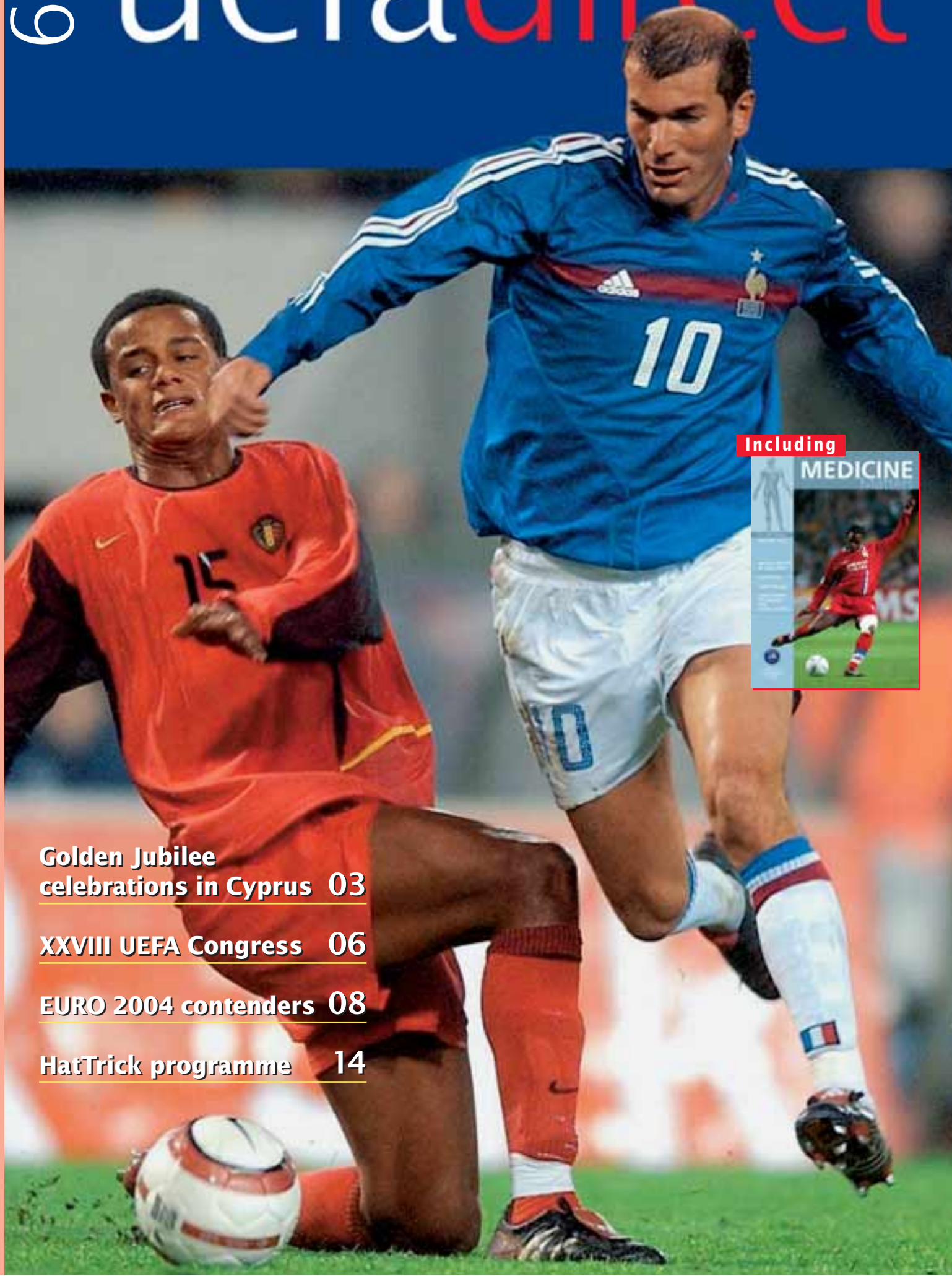


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Including



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COVER

Users of uefa.com voted Zinedine Zidane (shown here challenging Belgium's Vincent Kompany) best European player of the last 50 years.

PHOTO: BONGARTS

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Editorial

Let the game commence!

In April, European football experienced one of the administrative highlights of its year in Limassol on the island of Cyprus: the XXVIII Ordinary UEFA Congress, which was the perfect occasion to celebrate the organisation's Golden Jubilee.

For the delegates and guests it was an opportunity to pay tribute to some deserving servants of football, as well as to remember the pioneers and visionaries who built UEFA, and their successors, who have made it the dynamic and efficient organisation that it is today.

The representatives of the national associations also had the possibility to relive – through archive pictures and commentaries from some of the great figures of European football – the evolution of the game and some of the moments in the history of the European competitions that remain firmly etched in the memory, such as the incredible ending to the 1999 UEFA Champions League final in Barcelona between Manchester United and Bayern Munich and, further back, in 1960, the fantastic victory of Real Madrid over Eintracht Frankfurt in Glasgow, in front of a record crowd.

To a large extent, it was in order for European football to be able to experience top-level competitions in both the club and the national team sectors that the pioneers founded UEFA in 1954. Thanks to the competition calendar, which means that this Golden Jubilee year coincides with a European Championship final round, we will be able to pay the most magnificent of tributes to UEFA's founders: a European Championship final round beyond their wildest dreams, with 16 finalists, marvellous stadiums and excited crowds whose passion is heating up even before the tournament has kicked off.

So after the commemorative ceremonies, it's time for the action. Vive o 2004!

Lars-Christer Olsson
Chief Executive



WE CARE ABOUT FOOTBALL



UEFA Golden Jubilee

Time to celebrate



MONTE CAPUTO, HIGH ABOVE THE CYPRIOT CITY OF LIMASSOL, WAS THE VENUE FOR THE XXVIII ORDINARY UEFA CONGRESS ON 22 AND 23 APRIL.

Day one of this general assembly of the European national football associations was entirely devoted to the UEFA Golden Jubilee.

Images of some great moments from the European competitions immediately set the tone for this special occasion: a look back, not with nostalgia but with great admiration for the pioneers' achievements and with gratitude for the exciting footballing moments produced by the players during the first half-century of UEFA's existence.

Following welcoming remarks by Pefkios Georgiades, Cypriot Minister for Education and Culture, and Marios N. Lefkaritis, Honorary President of the Cypriot Football Association and a member of the UEFA Executive Com-



mittee, FIFA President Joseph S. Blatter emphasised the importance of European football and its competitions and paid tribute to the presidents and general secretaries who had left their mark on UEFA. He also pointed out that UEFA was the most powerful of the six FIFA confederations and that, without the expertise of European technicians, administrators and other specialists, "football would never have become a universal sport". He ended by saying, "Congratulations and thank you for what you have done".

The UEFA president, Lennart Johansson, for his part, said that, "This assembly of European football in Cyprus is an ideal opportunity to remember the pioneers who built

UEFA and to retrace the main stages of our confederation's development. These pioneers would surely be proud to know that UEFA today is a well-known, highly-rated institution built on sound financial foundations, which has been able to adapt its structures and working methods in order to meet the numerous challenges of a constantly changing world in which football can no longer pretend to be outside the social, economic and even political spheres."

Looking to the future, the UEFA President continued, "We must continue to show the pioneers' spirit: our faith in the particular values of football should give us the strength to continue protecting the interests of our sport and to maintain its global structures, focusing on solidarity and the common good rather than individual interests".



Lennart Johansson presents the Order of Merit to Joseph S. Blatter...

UEFA



... György Szilagyi...

UEFA



UEFA

Faithful servants

UEFA owes its prosperity to its competitions and players, but also to all those who work within its committees, panels and working groups as well as its administration and the national associations, not forgetting those people who, outside these institutions, have also played an active role in promoting football and its well-being. The Golden Jubilee celebrations were an ideal opportunity to pay tribute to some of these invaluable friends of football. For those who have served on its committees and panels for 12 years or more, UEFA has created a "Circle of former committee members" who, following their retirement from the European bodies, are invited to each Congress in order to maintain their links with the European football community and to rediscover the atmosphere of these large international gatherings. This year, 26 individuals became eligible for membership of the Circle once they step down from UEFA committees (see box).

UEFA Order of Merit

In 1998, for people who do not necessarily belong to the UEFA bodies, but who have given outstanding service to football, UEFA introduced its Order

of Merit, which is split into three categories: diamond, ruby and emerald.

Diamond is reserved for people who have assumed the highest functions in football or have served the game with particular distinction. On these grounds, FIFA President Joseph S. Blatter (Switzerland) has been added to the list of recipients, along with Egidius Braun (Germany), former president of the German Football Association and UEFA vice-president and treasurer; Antero da Silva Resende (Portugal), former member of the UEFA Executive Committee, president of the Portuguese Football Association and member of the committee responsible for revising the UEFA Statutes; Erwin Himmelseher (Germany), who has participated in the organisation of all major international football events since the 1974 World Cup; Klaus Hempel and Jürgen Lenz (Germany), co-founders of TEAM Marketing AG, UEFA's commercial partner since the creation of the UEFA Champions League; and Léon Straessle (Switzerland), Chairman of the UEFA Appeals Body from 1988 to 2002.

The ruby award, for people who have enjoyed a long career as a top-level official or technician, was presented to Rudolf Bata (Czech

Republic), former general secretary of the Czechoslovakian and Czech federations, former member of the UEFA Control and Disciplinary Body, Finance Committee and Stadium Committee; Valentin Ivanov (Russia), former player for Torpedo Moscow, Soviet international (59 caps), gold medallist at the 1956 Olympic Games, coach of Torpedo Moscow and Razha Casablanca; Josephine King (New Zealand), general secretary of the Oceanian Confederation from 1987 to 2004, who has always maintained excellent relations with UEFA; Edgar Obertüfer (Switzerland), former general secretary of the Swiss Football Association, member of the UEFA Control and Disciplinary Committee from 1982 to 1998 and current Disciplinary Inspector; Joseph A. Sacco (Malta), general secretary of the Maltese Football Association from 1983 to 2000 and former member of the UEFA Fair Play Committee; Torleif Sigurdsson (Faroe Islands), president of the Faroe Islands Football Association from 1981 to 2002 and member of the Youth and Amateur Football Panel; György Szilagyi (Hungary), member of various UEFA panels and committees since 1972, an expert in the Laws of the Game and fervent advocate of fair play.

The UEFA emerald Order of Merit was awarded for the first time and its first two recipients are Jacques Ferran (France), former chief editor of *France Football* magazine and, as a journalist for *L'Equipe*, a pioneer of the Champion Clubs' Cup, for which he drafted the rules; and Miljan Miljanic (Serbia and Montenegro), former player and coach of, among others, Red Star Belgrade, Real Madrid, Valencia and the Yugoslavian national team, former president and current honorary president of the Yugoslavian Football Association, director of the football coaches' school of the Serbia and Montenegro Football Association.



Lennart Johansson presents Gerhard Aigner with his honorary membership certificate.

UEFA

... and Egidius Braun.



The Golden Jubilee ceremony was conducted by Keith Cooper, Golden Jubilee Coordinator.



Before the Congress, Lennart Johansson met the President of Cyprus, Tassos Papadopoulos.

Finally, the highest distinction awarded by UEFA is the title of Honorary Member, as enshrined in the Statutes. It has only been awarded 12 times since UEFA was founded and only six recipients are still alive (Hans Bangerter, Sandor Barcs, Egidius Braun, Des Casey, Nikolay Ryashentsev and Lucien Schmidlin). The national association representatives added to this exclusive circle the recently retired Chief Executive of UEFA, Gerhard Aigner, whom they gave a lengthy round of applause. An emotional Gerhard Aigner confessed that he felt rather strange attending a major UEFA event as a "spectator" for the first time. He also stressed his belief that UEFA would continue to defend the specific values of football.

Zinedine Zidane top of the list

The undeniable merit of all these recipients should not, however, overshadow that of the key people of football – the players. The official UEFA Internet site, uefa.com, had launched a vast survey amongst its

readers, asking them to vote for the best player of the last 50 years; in order not to favour footballers still playing, the 250 nominees were separated into decades and each voter had to choose ten players from each decade, i.e. 50 in total. Around 150,000 people took part and the player with most votes was Zinedine Zidane (123,582 votes), followed by Franz Beckenbauer (122,569) and Johan Cruyff (119,332).

Franz Beckenbauer was in Limassol, along with Emilio Butragueno, Sven-Göran Eriksson and Michel Platini, to answer questions from another former football star, Hansi Müller, who led a discussion covering some of European football's greatest eras, such as Real Madrid's domination of the early years of the Champion Clubs' Cup, the exploits of Johan Cruyff's Ajax and Dutch national teams, the success enjoyed by Bayern Munich and the West German national side in the 1970s, that of the French a decade later and Gothenburg's UEFA Cup adventure with a team of amateurs.

Following the restructuring of UEFA in 2000, when the number of committees and committee members was scaled down, the Executive Council adopted interim provisions under which, for example, someone who had been a committee member for eight years and a panel member for four years. This interim period is now over: from 2006, only those who have been committee members for 12 years or more will be invited to join the Circle.

This year, the following received this distinction in recognition of their 12 years' service in a UEFA body:

- Sandor Berzi (Hungary)
- Mehmet S. Binnet (Turkey)
- Gero Bisanz (Germany)
- Corvel Cristian Bivolaru (Romania)
- Bernard Carrel (Switzerland)
- Cornelis de Bruin (Netherlands)
- Goetz Eilers (Germany)
- Jan Ekstrand (Sweden)
- Jean-Pierre Escalettes (France)
- Odd Flattum (Norway)
- Joan Gaspart (Spain)
- Marios N. Lefkaritis (Cyprus)
- Eggert Magnusson (Iceland)
- Gerhard Mayer-Vorfelder (Germany)
- Kazimierz Oleszek (Poland)
- Thomas Partl (Austria)
- Jan Peeters (Belgium)
- Vladimir Radionov (Russia)
- Mircea Sandu (Romania)
- Horst R. Schmidt (Germany)
- Torleif Sigurdsson (Faroe Islands)
- Stanislaw Speczik (Poland)
- Giangiorgio Spiess (Switzerland)
- Geoffrey Thompson (England)
- Andrzej Wach (Poland)
- Joël Wolff (Luxembourg)



Expert reviews on the first 50 years of UEFA: (left to right) Franz Beckenbauer, Emilio Butragueno, Sven-Göran Eriksson, Michel Platini and Hansi Müller.



Lars-Christer Olsson presents the budget for 2004-05.



The Congress was honoured with the presence of the FIFA President and representatives of other confederations. Left, Mohamed Bin Hamman (AFC) and Joseph S. Blatter; right, Mustapha Fahmy (CAF) and Jack Warner (CONCACAF).



XXVIII UEFA Congress

Stability in the Executive Committee

AFTER THE JUBILEE FESTIVITIES, THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION DELEGATES TURNED THEIR ATTENTION TO THE ORDINARY CONGRESS BUSINESS OF REPORTS, APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS, THE BUDGET, ELECTIONS AND AMENDMENTS TO THE STATUTES.

All 52 UEFA member associations were represented at the general assembly on 23 April, which the UEFA President opened by paying tribute to the organisation's late Honorary President, Jacques Georges, and other members of the European football family who had passed away since the last Congress. He also summed up the main activities of 2003, which he described as a "year of consolidation for European football". The corresponding activity reports of the Executive Committee and Chief Executive were both approved by the assembly.

Treasurer Mathieu Sprengers was able to present the delegates with a positive financial picture showing a net result of CHF 5.774 million for 2002/03. But he also stressed that

"a vast sum of money is not only an opportunity but also represents a challenge and obligations". He identified three priorities: helping the national associations to develop football at all levels and to become more professional, ensuring that the national associations could take part in all UEFA competitions, and safeguarding UEFA's future.

Regarding the budget for 2004/05, Chief Executive Lars-Christer Olsson pointed out that UEFA's finances were less dependent on UEFA Champions League revenue thanks to increased European Championship revenue.

Before actually proceeding with the elections, the Executive Committee already knew that its continuity was ensured since there were fewer new candidates than in previous years and

that number had been reduced further by the withdrawal of Gilberto Madail (Portugal), while an eighth seat had also become vacant following the appointment of Henri Roemer (Luxembourg) as UEFA special adviser on EU and other matters and his subsequent departure from the Committee.

All candidates obtained an absolute majority (27 votes) and all members standing for re-election were successful. They are joined on the Committee by Franco Carraro (Italy), a special adviser to the Executive Committee until now, who was elected for a four-year term. The members re-elected for four-year terms are Marios N. Lefkaritis (Cyprus), Geoffrey Thompson

The Executive Committee for the 2004-06 period: (left to right) (front row) Lars-Christer Olsson, Angel Maria Villar Llona, Senes Erzik, Lennart Johansson, Per Ravn Omdal, Geoffrey Thompson, Mathieu Sprengers; (standing) Giangiorgio Spiess, Eggert Magnusson, Marios N. Lefkaritis, Viacheslav Koloskov, Joseph Mifsud, Gerhard Mayer-Vorfelder, Michel Platini, Franco Carraro.



PHOTOS: UEFA



PHOTOS: UEFA WOODS

(England), Gerhard Mayer-Vorfelder (Germany), Mathieu Sprengers (Netherlands), Viacheslav Koloskov (Russia) and Per Ravn Omdal (Norway). It took a second ballot to separate Mr Omdal and Joseph Mifsud (Malta), who will take over the seat vacated by Henri Roemer for a two-year term. Vlatko Markovic (Croatia) was not elected.

In a brief meeting the same afternoon, the Committee confirmed its existing structure with Senes Erzik (Turkey) as first vice-president, Per Ravn Omdal as second vice-president, Angel Maria Villar Llona (Spain) third vice-president, Geoffrey Thompson fourth vice-president and Mathieu Sprengers as treasurer.

The Congress also had to elect four UEFA representatives for the FIFA Executive Committee, which it did by acclamation, as only four candidates remained after the withdrawal of Mr Madail. Michel D'Hooghe (Belgium), Senes Erzik, Viacheslav Koloskov and Michel Platini (France) will therefore serve on the FIFA Executive Committee for a further four years each.

After the elections, the assembly was presented with the changes made by the Executive Committee to the HatTrick assistance programme (see page 14) and voted on a proposed amendment to the Statutes (article 36, paragraph 4). The revised text was approved unanimously. It stipulates that *"A Committee shall comprise a minimum of 11 and a maximum of 13 members"*. This new clause concerns only those committees which do not require experts, which excludes the Professional Football Committee, the Women's Football Committee, the Futsal Committee, the Referees Committee, the Stadium and Security Committee and the Medical Committee, all of which will continue to be composed of 11 expert members.

Enlarging the other committees will allow a wider representation of member associations in UEFA bodies.

Two books for one jubilee

THE BOOK 25 YEARS OF UEFA, PUBLISHED IN 1979, WAS THE ONLY POINT OF REFERENCE FOR ANYONE LOOKING FOR AN OVERVIEW OF THE ORIGINS AND ACTIVITIES OF UEFA.

With the accelerating growth of the past few years, the reform of the competitions, the creation of new tournaments and a transformed football environment, it was high time this book was updated and the Golden Jubilee was the ideal occasion to do so. Back in December 1999, the Executive Committee approved an initial budget for the creation of a book by Rudolph Rothenbühler, a man with a detailed knowledge of UEFA, where he had worked since 1973, first as press officer and later as personal assistant to the President and then to the Chief Executive. He had also been responsible for the book commemorating the Silver Jubilee.

Assisted by a small editorial committee, Rudolph Rothenbühler quickly prepared a draft, but it very soon became clear that the subject-matter was so vast that it could easily fill two volumes, the first dealing with UEFA itself and the second with its competitions.

The two volumes, presented as a boxed set, were unveiled at the UEFA Congress in Cyprus. Together, they contain around 700 pages and weigh 6 kg!

The first volume, edited by Rudolph Rothenbühler and, after his death, by Keith Cooper, begins by placing UEFA in Europe's political, economic and sociological context of the past 50 years, as described by renowned academics. The focus then

falls upon the history of UEFA itself and a presentation of the national associations, before specific topics are covered, including tactical developments, women's football, fair play and even an attempt to describe the European player. Chapters on UEFA's relations with television and the media are also included.

In the second volume, Frits Ahlstrøm asked several journalists well versed in the UEFA



competitions to retrace the history of these competitions from a perspective of their choosing. World Cups and Olympic tournaments are not ignored in this publication, which is full of anecdotes and information often not known to many. This second book also deals with the Laws of the Game, equipment, floodlights, the ball and numerous other aspects of football. It is also superbly illustrated.

The two volumes have been published in the three official UEFA languages (French, English and German).

A limited number of copies of the UEFA Jubilee books will be made available for sale later in the year, according to demand. Price: 100 euros (plus postage). Requests should be addressed in writing to UEFA (attn. Jubilee Office), 46 route de Genève, P.O. Box, 1260 Nyon 2, Switzerland.





Fernando Morientes (in white) hopes to repeat his UEFA Champions League exploits with AS Monaco for Spain at EURO 2004.



Germany (Philip Lahm, in white) are counting on their legendary team spirit.



Italy have just bid farewell to Roberto Baggio but still have some other experienced players to rely on.

EURO 2004

A royal line-up

THE 12TH EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL ROUND FROM 12 JUNE TO 4 JULY IN PORTUGAL PROMISES TO BE AN EXTREMELY CLOSE-RUN CONTEST. THE FIVE ASSOCIATIONS AT THE TOP OF UEFA'S RANKINGS WILL BE THERE, AS WILL ALL THE FORMER WINNERS (IF WE CONSIDER RUSSIA AND THE CZECH REPUBLIC AS THE "HISTORICAL DESCENDANTS" OF THE USSR AND CZECHOSLOVAKIA). HALF OF THE TEAMS INVOLVED HAVE MORE OR LESS DECLARED THAT THEY AIM TO WIN THE EUROPEAN TITLE.



Thierry Henry, an extremely valuable asset for France.

Titleholders France, who also won the championship in 1984, have a chance to obliterate the memories of their early elimination from the last World Cup finals. They won all their qualifiers and clocked up a series of 14 victories, which was interrupted in March with a draw against the Netherlands. The team does not appear to have a weak point. Alongside the leaders of the team that won the World Cup in 1998 and the European Championship in 2000 - Zidane, Barthez, Desailly, Thuram, etc. - Jacques Santini has brought in some fresh talent (Boumsong, Sagnol, Silvestre, Pedretti...). Moreover, Henry and Trézeguet are among the best strikers on the continent, and the coach has exceptional reserves for just about every position.

Germany, three-time winners of the European Championship (in 1972, 1980 and 1996) look less well equipped. After reaching the final of the last World Cup, the Germans qualified for EURO 2004 without turning any heads.

Their subsequent friendly matches have done nothing to reassure coach Rudi Völler, particularly a 3-0 defeat against France and a 5-1 rout against Romania. The team relies heavily on Ballack and goalkeeper Kahn. It is solid but lacks genius. What is more, it has been

drawn into a really tough group, with the Netherlands and the Czech Republic. But as Franz Beckenbauer reminds us *"Germany know how to excel themselves at major events."*

After the 2002 World Cup finals, Italy (who won the European Championship back in 1968) seem to have advanced on an excellent basis and to have the means to lay claim to the much coveted European crown. At the back, with goalkeeper Buffon, supported by Nesta and Cannavaro, and up front, led by Totti, Del Piero and Vieri, to name but three, they are among the most impressive on the continent.

Apart from their success in 1964, Spain, who qualified through the play-offs, have often been disap-





The Netherlands can count on the experience of Pierre van Hooijdonk as well as some promising young players.

AFP CONTINENTAL



England's Wayne Rooney breaks away from Sweden's Olof Mellberg.

EMPICS

pointing in final rounds. Yet they deserve to be among the favourites. They are a balanced and talented team, led by Raúl and including several players who have stood out in the UEFA club competitions in recent years, such as Vicente, Valerón, Helguera, Michel Salgado, Baraja and Morientes.

Sven-Göran Eriksson could be the first England coach to win the European Championship. Rooney and Owen form a rapid and dangerous front line who are quite capable of making the most of the "gems" provided by Beckham. Lampard (who has had a great season with Chelsea) and the dynamic Gerrard complete an impressive midfield. On the downside, the suspension of central defender Rio Ferdinand and the lack of a reliable goalkeeper could cause problems.

The pretenders

Semi-finalists last time round, Portugal have their sights set on their first major title. Despite some rather



Pavel Nedved, a key component of the Czech team.

EMPICS

disappointing friendlies, the line-up of World Cup winning coach Luiz Felipe Scolari has the potential to achieve that goal. It may be the last major event for "veterans" Figo, Rui Costa, Fernando Couto and Rui Jorge, and they will be wanting to shine in front of their fans. The naturalisation of Brazilian Deco provides an additional solution for forming a skilled midfield which could best serve striker Pauleta.

Defeated in the semi-finals on home ground four years ago, the Netherlands, winners in 1988, are back with a spectacular team. Van Nistelrooy and Makaay are among the most prolific strikers on the continent. The "old guard", composed of Seedorf, Davids, Stam and Van de Sar, are complemented perfectly by some extremely talented youngsters (Van der Vaart, Robben and Sneijder).

Defeats against the Republic of Ireland and Japan have followed an unbroken run of 20 matches without defeat for the Czech Republic, finalists in 1996 and descendants of Czechoslovakia, who won the championship in 1976. Effective all over the field, Karel Bruckner's team has experienced players like 2003 Golden Ball winner Nedved, Poborsky and Koller, as well as established youngsters of the likes of Rosicky and Cech.

The outsiders

The USSR made its mark on the European Championship with one win (1960) and three finals (1964, 1972 and 1988). But the Russian team which succeeded it is not only counting on tradition to shine in Portugal under the leadership of Georgy Yartsev. Although their back line is not always flawless (by conceding 12 goals, Russia showed the most brittle defence of the qualifying competition), their team play is outstanding. And they are attractive up front, with rapid, powerful young strikers of the calibre of Boulykin and Kerzhakov.

In 1992, Denmark, who were invited to take part at the last minute following the exclusion of Yugoslavia for political reasons, caused one of the biggest surprises in the history of the European Championship by winning the title. This time again, Morten Olsen's men are not among the favourites, but the team is solid,

Live on euro2004.com

The new face of the official euro2004.com site was unveiled on 31 March. Offering eight languages (English, French, German, Spanish, Italian, Portuguese, Russian and Japanese), it plans to provide unprecedented coverage of the event, with live reports in text and image, video highlights, expert commentary and a wealth of information on the teams, the competition itself and the host cities. In addition, the use of multimedia technology will allow users to receive information directly on their mobile phones.



FLASH PRESS

It is the last chance for Luis Figo and Portugal's old guard to win a major title for their country.



Sweden's Niklas Skoog up against Portugal's Armando Petit in a warm-up match.



Dimitar Berbatov, Bulgaria's leading light.



Croatia (Josip Simunic, left, and Stjepan Tomas) are not short on skill.



EMPICS

Denmark (Martin Jorgensen) will be trying to cause another surprise.



FLASH PRESS

well balanced and efficient on the counterattack. Tomasson and Sand are in a position to make the difference in attack.

Sweden find themselves in the same group as Denmark. With a regular first-class formation (Sweden were seeded in the draw for the final round), they stand out for their solidarity. Their two coaches, Lars Lagerbäck and Tommy Söderberg, have announced that they are going to step down after EURO 2004. A solid defence and the promised return of Henrik Larsson in attack, alongside Ibrahimovic, should ensure that they do well.

Croatia, bronze medallists in the 1998 World Cup, have gone through a transitional phase following the retirement of their most experienced players, such as Boban, Prosinecki and Suker. Compared with 1998, there is perhaps less individual talent, but Otto Baric has a team which is tight in defence, with players who are used to playing at the top, like Simic, Tudor and Robert Kovac. Up front, Prso is often decisive.

In pursuit of a feat

After finishing the 1994 World Cup in fourth place and taking part in EURO 96, the only European Championship in which it has participated to date, Bulgaria disappeared from the front of the international stage. Finding players up to replacing champions of the calibre of Stoichkov, Lechkov and Kostadinov has not been easy, but a new generation is ready to take over. Bulgaria were one of the first teams to book their berth for Portugal and have

a number of talented youngsters in their side, including Stilian, Martin Petrov and Berbatov.

In Greece's only previous appearance in a European Championship final round, in 1980, they went out on two defeats and a draw. Boosted by finishing their qualifying group in first place, ahead of Spain, who they will face again in the final round, the men of Otto Rehhagel have the potential to do even better. With an iron defence (four goals conceded in the qualifiers) and a run of 15 matches without defeat (broken by the Netherlands on 28 April), they can also rely on the passes of Tsiartas and the goals of Charisteas to cause a surprise.

In their only appearance in a European Championship final round to date, in 1996, Switzerland went home with just one point. This time round, Köbi Kuhn's team is made up mostly of players who play in major championships abroad. The Swiss won their qualifying group with attractive football based on possession. Their striking trio of the "hardwearing" Chapuisat, Frei and Hakan Yakin may be a threat to many a defence.

Latvia, a country with only 2.3 million inhabitants, have qualified for a major international tournament for the first time in their history after eliminating Turkey – bronze medalists in the last World Cup – in the play-offs. Their trump cards are their unfaltering solidarity and their prolific scorer Verpakovskis. On paper, Latvia, who will be up against Germany, the Netherlands and the Czech Republic, have little chance of getting past the first round. But the fact that they will be under no pressure could be to their advantage.

Russia (Roman Sharonov) are dreaming of repeating the exploits of the USSR.

Emanuele Saraceno



Latvia (Igors Semjonovs) are making their debut in a European Championship final round.

FLASH PRESS



Greece are counting on their strength as a team in order to put on a good show at EURO 2004.



Many Swiss internationals play abroad, such as Johann Lonfat (FC Sochaux).

AFP/MIC DOUGALL

Ten players to watch

HERE IS A SELECTION OF SOME YOUNG PLAYERS TO WATCH OUT FOR WHO HAVE NOT PLAYED IN A EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP OR WORLD CUP FINAL ROUND BEFORE. THEY COULD WELL MAKE THEIR MARK IN PORTUGAL.

Dimitar BERBATOV

(23/Bulgaria): leader of the Bulgarian new generation, fast and skilful, signed with Bayer Leverkusen in January 2000 and is currently their top scorer. He is also a prolific scorer at international level (more than one goal per two matches on average).

Antonio CASSANO

(21/Italy): transferred from Bari to Roma for 30 million euros in 2001, Cassano is the most gifted Italian player of his generation. This season, he and Totti formed the most efficient striking duo in the Serie A. In the national team, he is competing with Del Piero for the third attacking position, behind the untouchable Totti and Vieri.

Alexander FREI

(24/Switzerland): a complete, fast striker, a good shooter with an indisputable eye for the goal, Frei scored 17 times for Rennes in the French league this season (goal tally as at 2 May). His national team average is also impressive: 15 goals in 25 matches.

Kevin KURANYI

(22/Germany): a tall and powerful striker, he was the revelation of the Bundesliga last season, notching up 15 goals for Stuttgart. Born in Brazil of a father of Hungarian origin and a Panamanian mother, he is considered the new Klinsmann and Bierhoff in the German team.

Benoît PEDRETTI

(23/France): though France are known for their striking force, the great retrieving half-backs have also contributed greatly to their success, be it Deschamps, Petit or Vieira. Sochaux's Pedretti, gifted with a great view of the game and an extremely accurate passer, is of the same calibre as the aforementioned greats. He will be competing with Makelele for a first-team place.

Dado PRSO

(29/Croatia): although he is not quite so young, this strong centre forward has only been playing top-level football for a few years. Trained in Split, he spent a long time playing amateur football in France before catching the attention of Monaco. He has been a major player in Monaco's excellent UEFA Champions League run this season.

Arjen ROBBEN

(20/Netherlands): one of the great revelations of the Dutch championship in the last two seasons with PSV Eindhoven, capable of playing on the wings, up front or behind the strikers. He is on his way to Chelsea this summer.

Cristiano RONALDO

(19/Portugal): a winger of extraordinary talent, he has succeeded in

making his presence felt at Manchester United, who he joined from Sporting Portugal last summer. The national-team "joker" right now, he could be the ideal partner for centre forward Pauleta.

Wayne ROONEY

(18/England): the youngest player to have ever pulled on an England shirt (at 17 years and 111 days), he is very mature for his age. With Owen, the Everton striker should form one of the most explosive striking duos of EURO 2004.

Fernando TORRES

(20/Spain): Atletico Madrid's young prodigy has often been compared to Raúl. This season he has broken new ground by marking repeatedly in the Liga. A skilful and powerful striker, he is competing with Morientes for a place alongside his "model". His goal in a friendly against Italy on 28 April puts him in a good position.

E.S.



Dado Prso: an explosive striker.

FLASH PRESS



The camera can help to ensure that unsporting behaviour is punished.

EMPICS



Unacceptable behaviour but no red card

DURING A UEFA COMPETITION MATCH BETWEEN TEAMS B AND R, PLAYER C RETALIATED AFTER A FOUL BY SLAPPING THE OFFENDING OPPONENT IN THE FACE.

The referee did not notice the incident. Therefore, from a disciplinary point of view, one of the questions that arose was that of deciding under what conditions unacceptable behaviour by a player could be punished if not reported by the referee.

In the 59th minute of the UEFA competition match between teams B and

R on 24 February 2004, players C and D challenged each other for the ball. Player D was only able to take the ball off player C by fouling him and in the process both players ended up on the ground. Player C then slapped player D in the face with his left hand. The referee gave player D a yellow card for the foul and awarded a free-kick against



It is difficult for the referee to see everything in situations like this.

EMPICS



Article 10 (3)

Disciplinary action may be taken even if the referee was not able to see gross unsporting conduct and was therefore unable to take any factual decision.

– Finally, the fact that the referee was unable to see the incident must be the reason why he did not take action. In other words, the fact that it was objectively impossible for him to see the incident prevented him from recognising and acting on the grossly unsporting offence in question.

Blatant assault

On the basis of the video recording of the incident, there is no doubt that the referee was unable to see player C slap his challenger because another two players were in the way. Therefore, the referee was objectively not in a position to see what player C did and to take appropriate action. From a legal point of view, player C's behaviour constituted an act of assault in the sense of article 10 (1c) of the UEFA Disciplinary Regulations. According to the established case-law of the UEFA disciplinary bodies, assault encompasses any action which deliberately disturbs someone else's well-being. Such acts include punching, head-butting, slapping, treading on, kicking, pinching etc. Assault is always a grossly unsporting act. Consequently, the third condition laid down in article 10 (3) of the UEFA Disciplinary Regulations is also met. The Control and Disciplinary Body was therefore right to judge the case.

This leaves the question of whether the two-match suspension imposed was proportionate or – as the appellant maintains – arbitrary. According to article 17 of the Disciplinary Regulations, *“the disciplinary bodies determine the type and extent of the disciplinary measures to be imposed, according to the objective and subjective elements, under consideration of incriminating and exonerating factors”*. And article 10 (1c) lays down a three-match ban for assault. As a mitigating circumstance, the fact that player C had been grossly fouled by his victim, player D beforehand and that player D was punished with a yellow card must be taken into account. The decision taken by the Control and Disciplinary Body was therefore commensurate and the appeal consequently rejected.

his team. The referee was not able to see player C slap his challenger because another two players were in the way.

The Control and Disciplinary Body suspended player C for two UEFA competition matches for assault. Club R and the player concerned appealed against this decision, calling for the ban to be lifted or reduced to one match, claiming that the referee must have been able to see the incident from where he was standing. Moreover, the appellant maintained that player C's behaviour was not an act of assault but a defence reaction in response to a dangerous tackle. In his pleading, UEFA's representative (disciplinary inspector) concluded that the appeal should be rejected.

On 8 March, the Appeals Body rejected the appeal on the following grounds.

A delicate matter

The purpose of article 10 (3) of the UEFA Disciplinary Regulations is to ensure that a player does not escape discipline because the referee was unable to see his grossly unsporting behaviour. The retroactive punishment of an offence that was not reported by the referee is a delicate matter and requires careful examination of three conditions, all of which must be met:

– The referee did not see the offence for a concrete reason. Lack of concentration on the part of the referee because he was distracted or whatever does not count.

– The offence must be of a grossly unsporting nature. In other words, not every foul that is punishable with a red card counts in this context. The offence must be serious and failing to punish it would be contrary to the general sense of justice. Assault would therefore fall into this category.



Report from Brussels

The European Commission is looking at ways to reform EU broadcasting law, and its conclusions could have a big impact on the way sport is shown on television and new media.

The so-called 'TV without frontiers' directive came into being in 1989. It is part of the EU's efforts to create a single European market in services. One of the main effects of the directive is to *“lay down the minimum rules needed to guarantee freedom of transmission in broadcasting”*.

For the world of sport, one of the directive's most important articles is 3a, which protects the right of each member state to *“ensure that broadcasters...do not broadcast on an exclusive basis events which are... of major importance for society.”* Since the directive came into force, EU countries have drawn up their own national lists of events, including major sports competitions, which should be made available to all television viewers. Whilst UEFA has always been sympathetic to the aims of article 3a, it takes the view that sports bodies should be responsible for the manner in which they sell their rights. In this context, UEFA considers that it is for sports bodies themselves to find the right balance between 'free' and pay-television.

The pace of technological change means that the European Commission must now review the directive and identify those provisions to be updated. Last year, the Commission launched a consultation exercise, to which UEFA responded with a written submission →

- sion. This year, consultations will continue in three specific areas:
- regulation of audiovisual content,
 - regulation of advertising,
 - right to information and the right to short reports.

It is the third area that most concerns UEFA. Until now, the 'TV without frontiers' directive has not included provisions on the right to make short reports on exclusive content. However, some groups are pushing hard for that to change. News agencies have been fighting a campaign to win free access to exclusive sports coverage, which would allow them to make short news reports. They base their demands on the public's right to information.

UEFA fully supports the right of the public to information. The broadcasting policy of UEFA has consistently been to ensure that important sporting events, such as the European Championship and the UEFA Champions League, are largely available on free television. This policy obviously maximises their availability to the public.

Nevertheless, UEFA also believes, as a matter of principle, that it is important to strike the correct balance between the right to freedom of information and the opportunity to commercialise sports rights on an exclusive basis. UEFA is assuming, therefore, that the Commission will not propose any amendments that would jeopardise these accepted practices and prejudice the legitimate interests of both rights holders and their licensees.

Towards the end of this year, UEFA will take part in a focus group to discuss these questions. Any subsequent proposal by the European Commission to revise the 'TV without frontiers' directive will not emerge before 2005, and the Commission may even consider alternative, non-legislative measures to revise the text. Nonetheless, UEFA will remain vigilant and monitor the process closely.

The referees are ready for EURO 2004.



The draw for this year's UEFA Intertoto Cup has been made and the matches kick off on 19 June.

Meetings and other activities

Solidarity payments agreed on

MORE THAN TEN YEARS AFTER ITS FIRST AND ONLY MEETING IN CYPRUS, THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE RETURNED TO THE ISLAND FOR ITS THIRD MEETING OF 2004, WHICH IT HELD IN LIMASSOL ON 21 AND 22 APRIL.

On the basis of the report of a delegation dispatched to Israel to assess the security situation there, the Committee decided to allow Israeli teams (national and club teams) to play their home matches in their country again, with immediate effect, subject to certain conditions, notably that matches must be played in the Tel Aviv area.

The Executive Committee also agreed on the details of the payments to be made under the HatTrick assistance programme next season and the season after.

For the 2004/05 financial year, in addition to a basic amount of CHF 500,000, each association will receive CHF 250,000 to cover their club licensing running costs, provided that the association fulfils all the obligations imposed on the licensor.

For 2005/06, this amount will be increased to CHF 300,000, but it will be linked to certain criteria. It will be reduced by CHF 10,000 for every missing club if fewer than ten clubs are subject to the national licensing system, and it may be reduced further (by 20% of the amount remaining after any deduction for fewer than ten clubs) if the licensor does not meet the requirements of the "standard" in 2004/05.

On top of that, payments will be made to encourage the associations to take part in all the UEFA competitions. For the same two seasons, each association will receive CHF 300,000 per season if it enters

the six following "non-top" UEFA competition for national teams: European Under-17, Under-19 and Under-21 Championships, European Women's Under-19 Championship, European Women's Championship and European Futsal Championship. There is a scale setting the reduction in the event of not taking part in one or more of these competitions. Furthermore, each association will also be entitled to an annual sum





UEFA/WOODS

of CHF 25,000 if it takes part in the UEFA Women's Cup and to the same amount again if it enters the UEFA Futsal Cup. These supplements will come from the UEFA Champions League solidarity fund.

Two of these "non-top" competitions, the European Under-17 and Under-19 Championships, were on the agenda again later in the meeting, when the Committee was called upon to approve their revised regulations for the 2004/05 competitions.

In the European Under-21 Championship, it was decided to maintain the play-off system involving the group winners and runners-up for the 2004-2006 qualifying competition.

The regulations of the 2004/05 UEFA Regions' Cup were also up for approval, as were the revised booklet *"The Duties of the UEFA Delegate at all UEFA Competition Matches"* and the amended *"UEFA Convention on the Mutual Recognition of Coaching Qualifications"*.



BONGAERTS

Financial support is being offered to encourage participation in the UEFA Women's Cup.



GETTY IMAGES



Boomerang Interviú win Futsal Cup

The UEFA Futsal Cup is staying in Spain but housed in a different trophy cabinet. Having been won by Playas de Castellón in the first two seasons, this year it went to Boomerang Interviú FS, who defeated SL Benfica (Portugal) in the final. The Spanish side won the first leg 4-1 at home, while Benfica won the return leg 4-3 in Lisbon.

Training camp for seventeenth team

Forty-odd days before kick-off, the match officials selected for EURO 2004 headed for a preparatory workshop in Portugal.

The referees got together at the start of the season and met again in Madrid in February for the annual seminar, so why did they need a third encounter in Portugal?

The answers are manifold and compelling. It was a unique opportunity for the group of 40 match officials to visit the hotel near Espinho that will be headquarters for 'the 17th team' during the final tournament. It gave them a chance to discuss the guidelines issued by the UEFA Referees Committee. It allowed them to fine-tune some of the issues raised in Madrid. And it gave them a chance to assess their physical condition - although, as chairman Volker Roth pointed out, there are no doubts about fitness at this stage of the season.

The importance of the get-together was underlined when UEFA's Chief Executive, Lars-Christer Olsson, jetted directly to Porto from Japan

to remind the match officials that the tournament offers a chance to set examples throughout the world; to safeguard the sporting elements that are close to UEFA's heart; and to enhance credibility among supporters.

As for practical issues, the sessions focused on facets such as team-work between referees and assistants, consistency in punishing heavy challenges and ways to detect and deal with various forms of simulation.

Competitions

■ In the European Women's Under-19 Championship, all the finalists are now known. Group winners France, Germany, Italy, Norway and Spain have qualified along with the best two runners-up, Russia and Switzerland. Hosts Finland complete the line-up for the tournament, which will take place from 28 July to 8 August.

■ The first leg of the UEFA Women's Cup final took place in Solna (Sweden) on 8 May, opposing Umea IK and 1.FFC Frankfurt (3-0). The return leg takes place in Frankfurt on 5 June.



GERMANY
Presentation
of the book by
Rudi Michel
(left).



News from member associations



ANDORRA

5th Francesc Vila Memorial Tournament

The fifth seven-a-side football tournament dedicated to the memory of the former president of the Andorran Football Association, Francesc Vila, will take place on 29 and 30 May. Since this year's tournament coincides with the tenth anniversary of the association, we wanted to enlist some prestigious clubs to take part and have had positive responses from Manchester United, Real Madrid, Barcelona, Valencia, PSV Eindhoven, Lazio, Grasshopper, Borussia Dortmund, Atletico de Madrid, RCD Espanyol, SK Slavia Prague, Hajduk Split, Athletic Club de Bilbao and Real Sociedad, to name just some.

The tournament will be split into two categories: the under-9s and the under-11s. In view of the number of participants, three stadiums will be required for this year's matches: Estadi Comunal, Escaldes and Aixovall. The finals on the Sunday will take place at the Estadi Comunal in Andorra la Vella.

We hope that this year's event will be as successful as previous editions and attract a wide following to watch some top players of the future in action.

Miquel Angel Quiñones



BELGIUM

UEFA club licence introduced

This season the UEFA licence has been introduced on top of the national licence with which Belgium already has a certain amount of experience. It is in fact the fourth year that the national licensing system has been in place. The licensing committee has licensed all first* and second division clubs for next year.

The first years of the national licensing scheme have been difficult for some of our clubs. There have been three major casualties, RWDM, Harelbeke and Lommel, while other clubs have incurred sporting and financial penalties, including Turnhout, KV Mechelen, Berchem Sport, Eendracht Aalst and FC Liégeois.

The URBSFA was certainly right to start applying this clean-up policy a few years ago, since it has allowed our clubs to prepare for the new economic constraints now being imposed by UEFA. Other European countries are already experiencing or will face problems which could be dramatic. Belgium can be proud that its licence is bearing fruit. Our clubs are aware of the need to do all they can to put their finances in order. Obviously, financial stability has been harder for some to achieve than others, but luckily all of them

have obtained the national licence they need to play in the first division*.

Others have also applied for the UEFA licence to be eligible to take part in the European competitions should they qualify. Those needing a UEFA licence for 2004/05 are Anderlecht, Club Brugge, Standard de Liège, KRC Genk, Mouscron, Westerlo, Beveren and Germinal Beerschot Antwerpen.

François Vantomme

* To date (30 April 2004), all clubs but one have been licensed. The financial dossier of the remaining club is still being examined.



BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

Hibic leaves and Muharemovic scores a century

Last month was marked by three important events in Bosnia and Herzegovina football. Firstly, UEFA A and B coaching licences were awarded to the first batch of graduates, including some well-known coaches and players: Blaz Sliskovic, head coach of the Bosnia and Herzegovina national team, his assistants Vlatko Glavac and Nedžad Kuružovic; Muhamed Preljevic and Mustafa Arslanovic (NK Dinamo, Zagreb), Amar Osim and Husnija Arapovic (NK Celik), Slobodan Karalic (FK Borac, Banja Luka) and Boris Živkovic, captain of the Croatian national team.

Among the successful coaches was Bahrija Herac, the first woman to obtain the B licence. One group of coaches will soon be embarking on the Pro licence programme.

The Bosnia and Herzegovina national team played their third friendly match of the year at the Bilino Polje stadium in Zenica and achieved their second win, beating Finland. Zvezdan Misimovic scored the one and only goal of the match. Player/captain Mirsad Hibic (31) officially finished his active playing career on this occasion, winning his 37th cap in the process. He received his first cap in 1993 in the Mediterranean games in Montpellier (France). He started his career with NK Celik in Zenica, then continued with NK Hajduk in Split and after that with Sevilla FC. He has spent the last year playing with Atletico de Madrid and had the honour of captaining the team.

"This is very hard moment, but I am happy to be saying goodbye now, in front of all my fans, and because I am going out on a winning note. I hope the Bosnia and Herzegovina national team will play an important role in the qualifying competition for the 2006 World Cup in Germany," he said after the match.



ANDORRA
Barcelona's young players
won the 2003 memorial tournament.



F. KRIVAVAC



CFA

Hibic played only six minutes of the match. Young Sasa Papax took his place for the rest of the game. During a modest ceremony in the centre circle, Hibic received gifts from the FF BHZ and from Finnish captain Jari Litmanen.

The third event that marked the month of April was the 100th goal of Dzelaludin Muharemovic in the 83rd FK Zeljeznicar vs FK Sarajevo derby. His second goal in this match was the decider (2-1). Muharemovic goes down in the history of football in Bosnia and Herzegovina and joins the Club 100. He scored his first goal for FK Zeljeznicar in 1994, during the first official championship.

"I'm delighted to be the first player to score 100 goals and because my goal decided this derby," he said.

Fuad Kravac



CYPRUS

Friends through football

The commitment of Marios N. Lefkaritis to a successful UEFA Congress raised the expectations placed on the organising committees. All concerned were therefore delighted to accept the congratulations of all participants and especially the words of praise from the UEFA president.

The magnitude of the event and the presence of numerous football personalities occupied the local and international media extensively for a whole week. The President of the Republic of Cyprus expressed his interest in the work of the Congress, arranging to meet with the delegations of UEFA and FIFA, accompanied by the CFA Executive Committee.

The Congress and festivities for the Golden Jubilee were hosted by the CFA in the town of Limassol, where the CFA organised a youth tournament for boys and girls as well as a game between veteran players. The two veteran teams were named Foe and Feher in memory of the two players who tragically lost their lives on the field of play. Michel Platini was present at the games and attracted many onlookers.

The CFA is satisfied with the overall result and the possibility afforded by UEFA to prove that small associations can deliver when called upon. The CFA motto that "through football we make friends" has once again proven right.

Kyriacos Georgallis



ENGLAND

Strengthened football relations

As the England team gears up for EURO 2004 in Portugal, on the other side of the world The FA has

also been involved in preparations for another continental championship.

The 41st edition of the Copa America, the world's oldest international tournament, will be held in Peru this July, and the local organisers sought to draw on the experience and knowledge of English football in a four-day workshop at the Peruvian Football Federation headquarters in Lima.

The FA's Senior Media Relations Officer Andrin Cooper and International Relations Manager Kim Fisher were joined by Glen Kirton, Tournament Director of the very successful EURO 96, and Middlesbrough FC Safety Officer Ron Turnbull to address a total of 37 enthusiastic participants comprising representatives from the Local Organising Committee, the Peruvian FA, regional associations, CONMEBOL and the police.

The sessions covered all aspects of tournament organisation, from management structures to media operations, from commercial partnerships to VIP management, but it was the harsh lessons learnt by the English on safety and security matters, and the stringent measures subsequently put in place that provoked the most discussion.

Peru will also host the FIFA Under-17 World Championship next year, and the Copa America provides the ideal opportunity for a rehearsal, testing facilities, infrastructure and personnel to meet the requirements of the world governing body.

For Tournament Director Irzio Pinasco, the workshop was an invaluable insight into the multi-faceted and complex nature of tournament organisation: *"It was a very rewarding event from which we have gained very good ideas that will be implemented for the Copa America. It also confirmed that we are working on the right track."*

The workshop was the fifth to take place in the South American region under the framework of the Cooperation Programme signed in September 2003 by FA Chairman Geoffrey Thompson and CONMEBOL President Dr Nicolas Leoz.

CONMEBOL Coordinator Alberto Almirall has been greatly encouraged by the results: *"We are delighted with the workshops that have been delivered by various FA and English experts in Paraguay, Ecuador, Chile and Peru. The feedback has been extremely positive and we would like to continue to build and strengthen football relations between England and South America."*

For The FA, it was a chance to share ideas and knowledge in an ever-expanding range

of football sectors. This is the first time The FA has been asked to deliver workshops on the themes of Stadium Safety and Security and Tournament Organisation, and we are pleased that our friends in the South American football family are so receptive.

Kim Fisher



FINLAND

Olympic Stadium under renovation

The Finnish national team will begin its 2006 World Cup qualifying campaign away from its traditional home, as the Helsinki Olympic Stadium is being renovated for the 2005 IAAF World Championships. The Olympic Stadium will close its doors at the same time as the Finns kick off their first qualifying match. Antti Muurinen's side will return there in June 2005 to entertain the Netherlands.

Helsinki's Olympic Stadium will be getting a cover on the East stand, thereby doubling the number of covered seats. At the same time, the acoustics and floodlighting will be improved, while the whole stadium will be brought closer to international standards.

The World Cup qualifying match against the Netherlands will be the first event at the



PHOTO NEWS

BELGIUM
A title and a licence for RSC Anderlecht.



FINLAND
The Olympic stadium is going to be renovated.

EMPHICS



GEORGIA
A prestigious name to coach the national team: Alain Giresse.

AFP/FISCHER

renovated venue, as the construction work should be finished in late May 2005.

In the meantime, the national team has found a new home in Tampere, about 180 kilometres from Helsinki. Since hosting the FIFA Under-17 World Championship in 2003, the Ratina stadium hosted Canada last October and will witness the arrival of Sweden on 28 May. However, the necessary departure from Helsinki is not affecting Finland's game, according to Muurinen.

"Playing at the Ratina stadium is not only a great experience for the national team; it also serves Finnish football. Tampere has everything it takes to arrange an international match. Moreover, we can spread top football further by playing outside Helsinki," he says.

Sami Terävä



FRANCE

Fair play challenge

The Centre-West league has launched the "Esprit Foot Jeunes" Challenge, a project aimed at youth teams from the region, rewarding clubs for their players' good behaviour.

Fair play, respect for opponents, referees and everyone involved in football: this is the principle behind the new initiative designed to promote sporting behaviour in the Centre-West region. Inspired by the "Esprit Foot" Challenge which has enjoyed success over the last decade or so, "Esprit Foot Jeunes" was

the idea of the Regional Youth Council, a committee set up within the Centre-West league and composed of leaders aged between 18 and 26.

It is aimed at teams in three different categories: under-18s, under-15s and under-13s. *"Our primary objective is to try to reduce the number of acts of indiscipline,"* explained Sébastien Gay, Deputy General Secretary of the Centre-West league and the driving force behind the Regional Youth Council. *"We were inspired by the "Esprit Foot" Challenge, which has been very successful but which only involves the region's senior teams."*

The project was launched very smoothly, with the help of League President, Henri Monteil, who is particularly interested in all coaching-related matters. Various Centre-West committees were also actively involved, particularly the Disciplinary Committee, which has been working closely with the Regional Youth Council.

Three of the 15 people working on the project are members of the league's Disciplinary Committee. Members of the Referees' Committee, Technical Committee and Youth Committee are also involved.

The rewards available are very attractive for the teams concerned: *"At the end of the season, we will award prizes to 18 clubs from the region: six from each category,"* said Sébastien Gay. *"There will be financial rewards as well as equipment. Shirts, shorts, parkas, windcheaters, T-shirts, etc."* In total, the equivalent of more than EUR 10,000 will be distributed to the best behaved clubs.

At the end of the season, a grand ceremony will be held at the "Technopole Ester" in Limoges, where the prizes will be handed out under the watchful eye of some well-known personalities. *"We are expecting ex-international Maxime Bossis and national referee Bruno Derrien to attend,"* said a delighted Sébastien Gay. *"There will also be professional players who grew up in the region, such as Nantes' Loïc Guion and Laurent Peyrelade from Le Mans. We are hoping that 200 people will be here."*

A great evening is in store, one which will highlight the efforts made over many years in the Centre-West region to promote fair play.

Roman Marthien



GEORGIA

Wind of change...

At its meeting on 15 April, the executive committee of the Georgian FF discussed different important issues.

After a long search and negotiations with candidates, the Georgian national team has a new coach in the person of well-known former player Alain Giresse. It is the second time a foreign coach has been put in charge of the national team since the country became an independent state. The GFF management is confident that Mr Giresse will fulfil the hopes of Georgian supporters, overcome the crises and take the national team through to the 2006 World Cup finals.

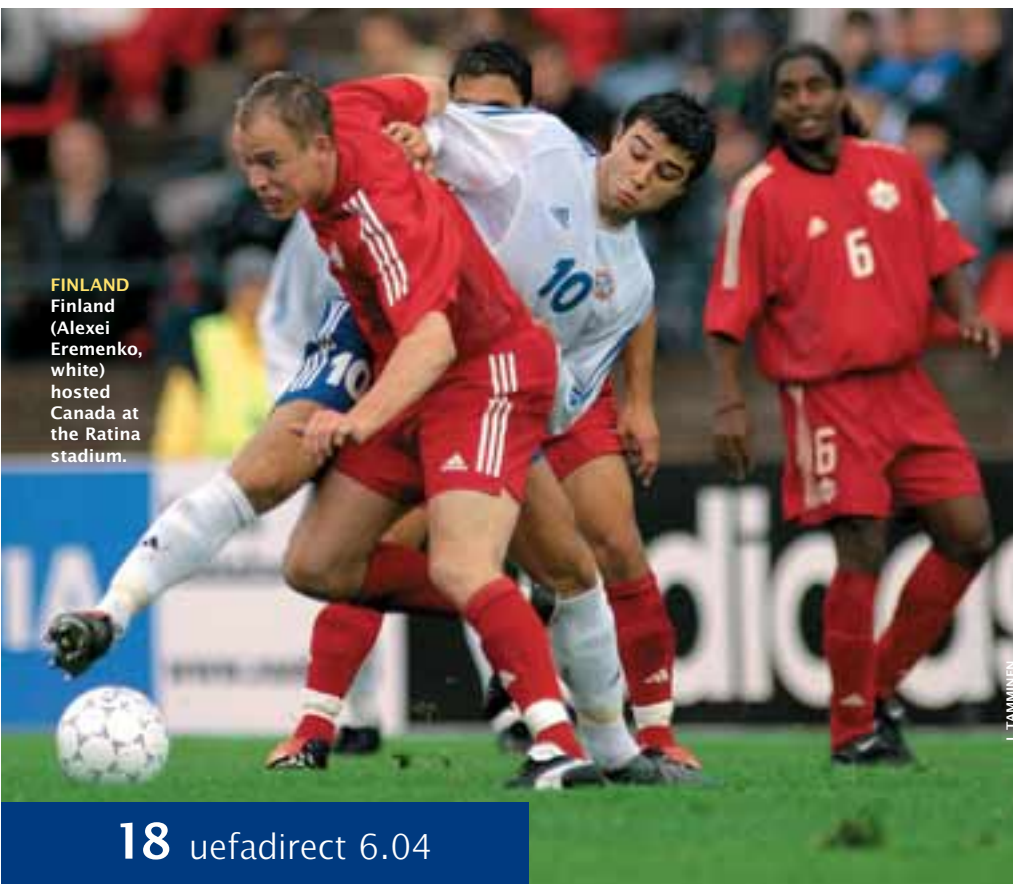
Important personnel and organisational changes have also taken place within the federation. In particular, following the retirement of Valeri Cholaria as General Secretary, Andria Abashidze has been appointed new Chief Executive of the GFF. Despite his young age (27), Mr Abashidze already has ample experience of working in such supervisory positions.

The executive committee also set the date for the VII GFF Ordinary Congress, which will be held on 17 June.

Finally, another important decision has been taken, the logo of the federation has been changed. The political events at the end of last year brought about serious changes in the entire country, and the scent of the "Revolution of Roses" influenced the GFF office as well - following the introduction of a new state symbol, the GFF decided to follow suit and change its logo too. From several proposals submitted to the GFF, the GFF executive committee chose the logo designed by Georgian journalist Alexander Tonia.

So, the changes are important, and we hope that the wind of change will blow some good things our way.

Bakar Jordania



FINLAND
Finland (Alexei Eremenko, white) hosted Canada at the Ratina stadium.

J. TAMMINEN



HUNGARY
The association's website has had a facelift.



MALTA
Non-national players (Danilo Doncic, in blue, from Sliema Wanderers) have helped improve football in Malta.



GERMANY

Remembering the "miracle" of Bern

On 4 July 1954, Germany won the World Cup for the first time. It remains an historic event in our nation's footballing history. Fifty years after the 3-2 win over Hungary in Bern, the DFB therefore organised different activities to commemorate the anniversary in a fitting manner.

The highlight of a series of jubilee events will be a celebratory afternoon at the Pfalztheater in Kaiserslautern on 6 June. Numerous guests from the worlds of sport, politics and society have already accepted the invitation. Federal President Johannes Rau will be the guest speaker. Among the VIPs in attendance will be Hungarian President Ferc Madl, FIFA President Joseph S. Blatter and the president of the Hungarian Football Association, Imre Bozoky. In the evening there will be the jubilee international between Germany and Hungary in Kaiserslautern, in the stadium named after the legendary captain of Germany's 1954 World Cup winning team, Fritz Walter.

Before that, on 31 May, an exhibition entitled "On the Ball of Time - Germany and the World Cup since 1954" will open at the Palatinate history museum in Spies. The exhibition will comprise not only football-related documentation but the game will also be represented in a political, economic, cultural and spirit-of-the-age context. It will run until 17 October.

In addition, the official DFB jubilee book was released at the beginning of March under the title "Germany the World Champions - memories of the 1954 miracle of Bern". The author is Rudi Michel, who was one of the four German radio reporters at the World Cup finals in Switzerland.

Niels Barnhofer



HUNGARY

New-look website

mlsz.hu has been the name of the official website of Hungarian football for two years now. The association launched the website in 2001 when the MLSZ celebrated its centenary. However, now the time has come to redesign the site.

The new site - which is based mostly on uefa.com's structure - tries to satisfy visitors as much as possible. For instance the site will provide the media with full information about accreditation, press conferences, match statistics and referee information. It will also focus on news of interest to Hungarian football

fans. One of the most popular topics of the new site is the weekly Monday round-up of the weekend performance of the internationals. The online chat room is also very popular with the fans.

Although the senior team of Lothar Matthäus' is the favourite, the site also devotes attention to youth development and women's football as well as providing news about the Hungarian futsal team.

The new mlsz.hu is multilingual as the site contains an English sub-site so that Europe and the rest of the world can check on results in Hungary promptly.

One of the most impressive aspects of the official website is the photo content. Photographer Zoltán Thaly attends every important event and supplies the site with superb pictures.

Márton Dinnyés



ISRAEL

The return of home matches to Israel

UEFA has given some meaningful news to football fans in Israel by deciding to return the home matches of the Israeli clubs and national teams to Israel.

Israel thanks Lennart Johansson, Lars-Christer Olsson and the Executive Committee for their support and decision.

The first home match of our women's national team in the European Women's Championship, against Estonia, took place on 9 May in Tel Aviv (12-1).

Adi Rosenberg



MALTA

Facing up to the challenges

It has certainly been a busy 2004 so far for Maltese football. With Malta having formally joined the European Union in May, the Malta FA had to make several amendments to the regulations regarding players registered with its member clubs, and this in conformity with EU regulations and with FIFA rules.

The main change was in

the interpretation and terminology of 'foreign' players. With effect from 1 July, only players who are not citizens of the other 24 countries (besides Malta) forming the EU or of those in the European Economic Area and others who have no freedom of movement or legal right to work within the Republic of Malta, shall be considered foreigners for the purpose of registering for clubs as full-time non-amateur players.

This means that the 'three foreigners' limit for top clubs is no longer applicable for citizens of EU and EEA countries. However, clubs are barred from signing players from outside Europe if they already have three or more players from the EU and EEA on their books.

This and other amendments involving internal regulations covering a wide area of operations, including competition rules, has clearly put the Maltese association on the right road to face future challenges.

The Malta FA has worked incessantly throughout the years to upgrade the game at all levels as well as on the infrastructural and administrative fronts. The central figure in this regard is Dr Joseph Mifsud, who has been involved in the country's FA since 1982 as vice-president and as president since 1992.

The administrative acumen of Dr Mifsud has also been recognised by UEFA and FIFA. A ten-year term as an Executive member of the European confederation, extended by another two years in April at the XXVIII Ordinary UEFA Congress in Cyprus, will make it an uninterrupted 12 years in the top echelons of the European body.

That is an impressive stretch by any standard, but more so when considering that Dr Mifsud comes from a small country. His services to UEFA

MALTA
Clevan Frendo (Pieta Hotspurs) is a home-grown player.



D. AQUILINA



REPUBLIC OF IRELAND
The Republic of Ireland (John O'Shea) continued their good run with a draw against Poland.



ROMANIA
Dinamo Bucarest are in the running for the domestic championship title.

on various committees go back more than two decades, and this reflects well on the untiring efforts of this 54-year-old lawyer to face the future challenges of the game of football, both in Malta and worldwide.

Alex Vella



NETHERLANDS

First woman coach for national team

Vera Pauw was appointed head coach of the national women's team in April. Pauw (41) succeeds Frans de Kat, who will end his term with the national side in June. She is the first woman to take the position as head coach of the national women's team in the Netherlands. Pauw has a long history in football. She won 87 caps for the Dutch national team over a period stretching from 1983 until 1998. She played as central defender and even captained the side. In the 1988/89 season, she played professional football for Modena in Italy, but she returned to the Netherlands after just one season to pursue her international career.

Vera Pauw studied physical education and was awarded the highest coaching certificate in 1987. She worked for the Dutch FA from 1986 until 1998 on the football development staff. For the last six years she has worked for the Scottish FA as technical director of women's football and national team manager. The Scots were promoted to

division one under her guidance. Vera Pauw will not start to work in the Netherlands until the Scots have finished their qualifying campaign for the 2005 European championship. Meanwhile an interim coach will be in charge of the Dutch women.

Pauw is a member of the FIFA Technical Study Group and attended the last two FIFA Women's World Cups in that capacity. Last year she was the first woman ever to join Michel Platini's FIFA Technical Committee.

Her determination and dedication to the cause of women's football have yet to pay off in the Netherlands. The Dutch team are still awaiting their first appearance in a major international tournament. However, there is talent looming on the horizon. The Under-19 side were the first ever Dutch women's side to qualify for the final round of the European Championship in 2003. Unfortunately they were knocked out of the 2004 campaign by European champions France in April. Still, with boys and girls playing in the same leagues up to the age of 18 and the female membership of KNVB still growing, Vera Pauw could be the first coach to lead the Dutch women's side to the final round of a European Championship or even the FIFA World Cup.

Rob de Leede



PORTUGAL

Praise from UEFA

Portugal's efforts to organise the coming EURO 2004 tournament have been praised once again, during the recent XXVIII Ordinary UEFA Congress in Limassol, Cyprus. In his closing speech, the UEFA president underlined the work performed by the Portuguese Football Federation and the Portuguese Government, in order to stage the best European Championship ever.

FPF President Gilberto Madaíl, who intended to stand as a candidate in the elections for the UEFA and FIFA Executive Committees, decided to withdraw both candidatures, bearing in mind "the higher interests of Portuguese football and the sports-political relationship between the FPF and FIFA and UEFA." Noting the Portuguese official's decision, the UEFA president issued a supportive statement saying that the decision "was driven by the need to concentrate on and give priority to the matters that have occurred recently in Portugal". The statement further recognised Madaíl's "outstanding" role and acknowledged that "he has been active on many fronts over the past few years", for which reason he "will be offered a very prominent position within UEFA in order to utilise his talents and vast

experience for the benefit of European football in future years."

A similar position was adopted by the FIFA president, during the Congress. Joseph Blatter saw the withdrawal of Gilberto Madaíl as an attitude of great dignity.

With EURO 2004 looming ever closer (12 June to 4 July), these words are a great incentive for football and for Portugal.

João Paulo Diniz



REPUBLIC OF IRELAND

Only one defeat in 14 matches

Football supporters in the Republic of Ireland had high hopes that Roy Keane would make a spectacular return to the international team for the friendly game against Poland in Bydgoszcz at the end of April.

The Manchester United midfielder had indicated that he planned to put his dramatic withdrawal from the 2002 World Cup finals in Japan behind him and make a return to the international scene.

Keane reported to the team hotel in Dublin to prepare for the game against the Poles but was forced to withdraw because of a hamstring injury sustained during a training session with the squad on the morning of their intended departure for Poland.

The player had complained of a hamstring problem following Manchester United's English Premiership game against Liverpool the previous weekend and the injury was confirmed following the run-out in Dublin under Irish team manager Brian Kerr.

There is now a chance that Keane may be ready to make his reappearance in the Irish team in some of the friendly games that have been arranged for the weeks ahead.

Ireland have games coming up against Romania, Nigeria, Jamaica and the Netherlands before the summer break.

For the game against the Poles manager Kerr had a difficult time with a number of players withdrawing from his squad for various reasons.

From an original list of 24 players he named for the game, no fewer than 11 withdrew. So, in the circumstances, with his depleted squad, manager Kerr was happy with the fact that the Irish managed a scoreless draw against the Poles.

There was a further sense of satisfaction for him in that the result of the game (0-0) brought Kerr's record since he took over as manager of the international team almost 18 months ago to just one defeat in 14 matches.



NETHERLANDS
Vera Pauw, new coach of the Dutch women's team.

KNVB



SLOVENIA
Borut Semler was able to show off his talent during the Under-19 qualifying tournament.

NZS



PHOTOS: FFU



UKRAINE
The Ukrainian house of football and a coin commemorating the 2006 World Cup finals.

Results and records like these are all helping to build up and strengthen the confidence of the team, which should stand them in good stead when the qualifying games for the 2006 World Cup begin in the autumn.

Brendan McKenna



ROMANIA

Places in Europe at stake

In the race for the 2004 title, the two biggest clubs are neck and neck as the championship reaches its climax. After the 23rd match day (out of 30) FC Dinamo Bucarest (now coached by Ioan Andone) are just two points ahead of FC Steaua Bucarest (coached by Victor Piturca) but the results of their direct encounters are in FC Steaua's favour, thanks to an away win (1-0 at home and 2-1 on Dinamo's turf).

At the halfway point, three teams were in the running for the title, but after a few unexpected defeats, reigning champions FC Rapid Bucarest lost any chance of retaining their crown. Rapid, who dispensed with the services of coach Mircea Rednic in January, even risk losing their current third place to FC Universitatea Craiova, now being coached successfully by... Mircea Rednic (since the 19th match day).

Rednic's replacement at FC Rapid - former international and Chelsea player Dan Petrescu - lasted only six match days before handing in his notice. FC Rapid brought in Viorel Hizo to help them out of their crisis, but success is still eluding them.

On 6 June, the 2003/04 cup final will be played out between FC Dinamo Bucarest and Otelul Galati (coached by Sorin Cartu), who are hoping that FC Dinamo will win the championship and leave them a place in the 2004/05 UEFA Cup.

The possible combinations for UEFA club competition places are numerous, but it is likely that outgoing champions FC Rapid Bucarest will not be in the picture.

Dan Cristea

NOGOMETNA ZVEZA SLOVENIJE



SLOVENIA

Successful Under-19 qualifying tournament

While Slovenia was becoming a fully signed-up member of the EU (on 1 May), the Football Association of Slovenia was busy organising another international tournament, this time the second-round qualifying mini-tournament for the 2004 European Under-19 Championship. Together with Slovenian football clubs

NK CMC Publikum, NK Rudar Velenje, NK Maribor PL and NK Aluminij Kidricevo, in whose stadiums the six tournament matches took place, and with the help of the perfect accommodation facilities of the Hotel Sava in Rogaska Slatina, where all the teams stayed, the host association ensured that everything ran smoothly.

The draw set Slovenia a very difficult task, putting them in the same group as England, Ukraine and Denmark, all of whose teams are highly rated in that age group. However, the young Slovenians were determined to put on good performances and finish in a good position, although it was clear from the beginning that their chances of qualifying for the final tournament were small (only group winners would qualify).

Things got off to a very good start. In their very first match, the Slovenian youth players, under the guidance of coach Branko Zupan, showed that they knew how to play. Against the much respected England they showed no fear - on the contrary - Bayern striker Borut Semler scored two goals and decided the winner already in the first half. The enthusiastic atmosphere in the new stadium in Celje rose to an undreamed-of level.

Although Slovenia then lost their second match against the best team and future winners of the tournament, Ukraine, they managed to finish in second place, after a draw against Denmark.

Irena Ilesic Cujovic



UKRAINE

Media meeting in Kiev

The first all-Ukrainian meeting for media and press officers of the top league professional clubs was organised by the Football Federation of Ukraine on 24/25 April. The two-hour meeting took place in the press centre of FC Dynamo Kyiv, where the president of the FFU, Grigoriy Surkis, addressed 75 guests from all regions of our country and then answered numerous questions. FFU Executive Director Olexandr Bandurko, First Vice-President Sergiy Storozhenko and the Head of Referees' Committee, Viktor Derdo, took part in the forum as well.

The participants put flowers at the monument to Valeriy Lobanovskiy and on the grave of legendary player and the first FFU president, Viktor Bannikov. A visit to the children's/youth football school of FC Dynamo Kyiv in Koncha-Zaspa was also on the programme. The participants saw the modern artificial mini-pitch and heard about the Ukrainian

football centre project. The mini-pitch, which was built with a grant from UEFA, was opened by journalists, who took part in an exhibition match on it afterwards.

At the beginning of April, the FFU, jointly with the national bank of Ukraine, issued two coins commemorating the 2006 FIFA World Cup.

To mark the anniversary of the death of Yuriy Voynov, the FFU, in cooperation with the professional league of Ukraine, unveiled a monument to the legendary footballer on his grave in the Baikove cemetery.

On 16 April, a time capsule was put into the foundations of the Ukrainian house of football. The ceremony was attended by UEFA Executive Committee member Gerhard Mayer-Vorfelder, UEFA Treasurer Mathieu Sprengers and the head of UEFA's Assistance Programmes, Andreas Kuhn.

Valeriy Nykonenko



REPUBLIC OF IRELAND
A deferred return to the national team for Roy Keane.

EMPICS



Thomas Nordahl and Nils Liedholm, two "Italian Swedes".



Lennart Johansson, honorary president of the SvFF.



100 years of Swedish football

Festivities in Stockholm

THE SWEDISH FA RECENTLY CELEBRATED ITS CENTENARY. THE ACTUAL DATE OF ITS FOUNDING IS IN DECEMBER, BUT AS THE ANNUAL MEETING TOOK PLACE AT THE END OF MARCH, THE FA CHOSE TO HAVE ITS FESTIVITIES ON THE SAME DAY.

After the morning's annual meeting, the city council hosted a buffet lunch in the City Hall of Stockholm. Typical Swedish delicacies - meatballs, smoked salmon, herring and Jansson's temptation - were served as clubs, national associations, sponsors and other companies had an opportunity to present their gifts to the centenarian, represented by its president, Lars-Åke Lagrell, and general secretary, Sune Hellströmer.

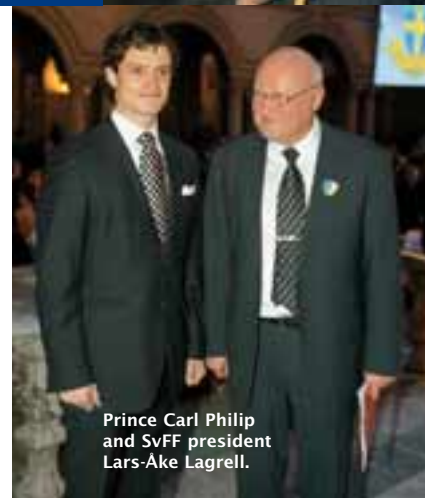
In the evening more than 900 guests - including 150 from national associations all over the

world - were invited to a banquet in the Blue Hall (where the Nobel Prize banquet takes place in December every year) in the City Hall.

"Those who built up modern football are here", said Lars-Åke Lagrell in his opening speech.

Swedish medallists and former players of the year, leaders, districts, clubs and other sports organisations were present at the banquet, as were representatives from the government.

To have at least one club in every village is the goal of the Swedish Football Association, and



Prince Carl Philip and SvFF president Lars-Åke Lagrell.

as interest of football has been developing and increasing in recent years, that wish is about to come true.

Swedish football has produced several great players to date, an achievement which Mr Lagrell also mentioned, in the context of the importance of football even in small villages:

"Tomas Brodin is not in fact from Parma in Italy, but from Finflo in Sweden", he said.

During the evening, the guests were able to trace the history of Swedish football through videos of memorable matches and interviews with legendary players such as Nils Liedholm.

Well-known leaders also said a few words about Swedish football.

FIFA President Joseph S. Blatter, spoke during the dinner about Sweden's international success in several championships, and Lennart Johansson, the president of UEFA, pointed to the fact that Sweden had not only had international success on, but also off, the pitch, with administrative work in different committees.

The Swedish Court was represented by Prince Carl Philip, who used to play football in his younger days. As he made a toast to and saluted the centenarian, he also wished the national teams good luck in the summer's tournaments.

Johanna Lundeberg



The delegation from the FA of Azerbaijan presents its gift to the Swedish FA.

PHOTOS: BILDBYRÅN



Communications

Birthdays – Calendar

Birthdays

Honorary member Hans Bangarter (Switzerland) celebrates his 80th birthday on 10 June, followed by Kurt Furgler (Switzerland), special adviser to the Assistance Programmes Committee on 24 June. Kyros Georgiou (Cyprus), member of the Referee Observers Panel, will be 60 on 11 June. Approaching the half-century mark is Pavel Mokry (Czech Republic), member of the Match Delegates Panel, whose 50th birthday falls on 15 June. UEFA also wishes many happy returns to:

- Wilfried Gerhardt (Germany, 1.6)
- Ivaylo Ivkov (Bulgaria, 3.6)
- George Courtney (England, 4.6)
- Rolf Haugen (Norway, 4.6)
- Georg-Adolf Schnarr (Germany, 5.6)
- Franz Wöhrer (Austria, 5.6)
- Ludovico Micallef (Malta, 5.6)
- Jaap Uilenberg (Netherlands, 5.6)
- Léon Straessle (Switzerland, 6.6)
- Michael Joseph Hyland (Republic of Ireland, 6.6)
- Francesco Tagliente (Italy, 6.6)
- Ryszard Wojcik (Poland, 6.6)
- Lars-Åke Björck (Sweden, 7.6)
- Kenneth J. Hope (Scotland, 7.6)
- Michel Sablon (Belgium, 7.6)
- Sondre Kaafjord (Norway, 7.6)
- Sándor Berzi (Hungary, 7.6)
- Engelbert Nelle (Germany, 9.6)
- Alun Evans (Wales, 11.6)
- Nathan Bartfeld (Moldova, 11.6)
- Alain Courtois (Belgium, 12.6)
- Tom A. Restall (Malta, 13.6)
- Giulio Campanati (Italy, 15.6)
- Viacheslav Koloskov (Russia, 15.6)
- Sabri Celik (Turkey, 16.6)
- Michael Joseph Maessen (Netherlands, 17.6)
- Gérard Enault (France, 18.6)
- Hannelore Ratzeburg (Germany, 18.6)
- Michel Platini (France, 21.6)
- Zoran Cvrk (Croatia, 21.6)
- Grigory Fedorov (Belarus, 24.6)

- Mirosława Kulesza (Poland, 24.6)
- João Rocha (Portugal, 24.6)
- Barry W. Bright (England, 27.6)
- Sigurdur Hannesson (Iceland, 27.6)
- John Byrne (Republic of Ireland, 27.6)
- Anton Parera de Andres (Spain, 29.6)
- Ivan Borisov Lekov (Bulgaria, 29.6)

Upcoming events

MEETINGS

2.6.2004, Basle

Draw for the final round of the 2003/04 European Under-19 Championship

15.6.2004, Nyon

Draw for the first qualifying round of the 2004/05 UEFA Women's Cup

24.6.2004, Lisbon

National Teams Committee

29-30.6.2004, Lisbon

Executive Committee

30.6.2004, Lisbon

National Teams Committee

COMPETITIONS

27.5-8.6.2004, Germany

Final round of the European Under-21 Championship

5.6.2004, Frankfurt

UEFA Women's Cup: final (return leg)

12.6-4.7.2004, Portugal

EURO 2004

19-20.6.2004

UEFA Intertoto Cup: first round (first legs)

26-27.6.2004

UEFA Intertoto Cup: first round (return legs)

New publication

PAPA! RACONTE-NOUS LE CHAMPIONNAT D'EUROPE

The imminence of EURO 2004 has, among other things, revived memories of previous finals. Such memories are



recounted in the book by Pascal Dachelet (35 euros + p & p from the author: 19, rue Chaussée – BE-6141 Forchies-la-Marche / eurofoot@tiscali.be) comprising 652 pages and divided into two volumes.

The author places

each tournament in the context of other major sports events, political events and scientific discoveries.

A full chapter is devoted to each competition since 1960. The book also looks forward to EURO 2004 and EURO 2008 and concludes with a host of statistical annexes.

Announcements

■ The Executive Committee has decided to change the date of the XXIX UEFA Congress in Estonia from 22 March to 21 April 2005.

■ On 3 April, Oli Holm was voted in as president of the FA of the Faroe Islands. He replaces Danjal Andreassen.

■ The Georgian FA has appointed Andri Abashidze as its new Chief Executive.

■ During the month of June, uefa.com will be featuring the national associations of Hungary, Iceland, Republic of Ireland, Israel and Italy in turn, as part of its UEFA Jubilee coverage.

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