

**Worthy  
of being finals 03**

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## COVER

In the absence of European Championship or World Cup finals this year, players of the calibre of Thierry Henry will be seeking to make their presence felt in the club competitions this season, particularly in the UEFA Champions League.

PHOTO: EMPICS

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# Editorial

## A quiet year in prospect?

The year that has just got under way is not going to see the excitement of an event on the scale of EURO 2004, but nor will it simply be a period of transition between the tournament in Portugal and next year's World Cup finals in Germany.

On the field of play, as well as behind the scenes, the months ahead will be anything but quiet. No fewer than 13 UEFA champions will be crowned in 2005, starting with the Meridian Cup in February and followed by the European Futsal Championship, the men's and women's youth competitions, the UEFA Regions' Cup, the European Women's Championship and, of course, the club competition finals, including, notably, the fiftieth champion clubs' final. And by the end of the year, the World Cup qualifiers will have reached their conclusion.



The year will be just as eventful off the field. In the first quarter alone, a conference of the presidents and general secretaries of UEFA member associations is being organised in February, and the UEFA Congress takes place in Tallinn in April. Apart from these two large gatherings, there will be all the usual committee and panel meetings, as well as events like European club and elite club coaches' forums, not to mention all the various competition draws.

EURO 2004 may still be fresh in our minds, but EURO 2008 is already under preparation and, given the complexity and scale of the event, already requires close attention.

On top of that, if you add in UEFA's ever-crucial relations with the European Union, the monitoring of the club licensing system, the protection of locally trained players, as well as refereeing matters, calendar issues and marketing business, it is not hard to see that, even without European Championship or World Cup finals, 2005 is not going to be an idle year, far from it!

*Lars-Christer Olsson*  
Chief Executive



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# UEFA Champions League

## Five ties worthy of a final



Real Madrid v Juventus: a tie worthy of being a final like the one in 1998, when Real (Manuel Sanchis and Fernando Redondo) beat Juventus (Didier Deschamps).

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**“AT LEAST FIVE OF THESE PAIRINGS WOULD BE WORTHY FINALS”,**

**SUGGESTED JUVENTUS VICE-PRESIDENT ROBERTO BETTEGA FOLLOWING THE DRAW FOR THE FIRST KNOCK-OUT ROUND OF THE UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE IN NYON.**

**WHO COULD ARGUE WITH HIM?**

The current leaders of the Italian, French, English, German, Spanish, Dutch and Portuguese championships are all involved in this stage of the competition. Between them, the 16 teams left have won the Champion Clubs' Cup/Champions League on 33 occasions. By way of comparison, last season that figure was 24. But rather than past glories, it will be the contrasts in style and the duels between the world's best players that will keep the spectators on the edge of their seats. Here is a brief foretaste of the matches to be played on 22/23 February and 8/9 March.



### Real Madrid – Juventus

A clash of the titans between the two clubs that have enjoyed the most domestic success in Spain and Italy. This tie between former winners is in fact a repeat of the 1998 Champions League final. Real won on that occasion, but Juventus gained their revenge in the semi-final five years later. Still awaiting the return of striker David Trezeguet, the Turin team has built its excellent start to the season on a rock-solid defence, conceding only one goal in its six Champions League group matches. Real Madrid, despite all their stars,

have not had such a smooth ride. Lagging behind in their domestic championship, Madrid had to wait until Matchday 6 to clinch their place in the last 16. Will the arrival of Arrigo Sacchi (technical director) and Wanderley Luxemburgo (coach) turn things around?

### Manchester United – AC Milan

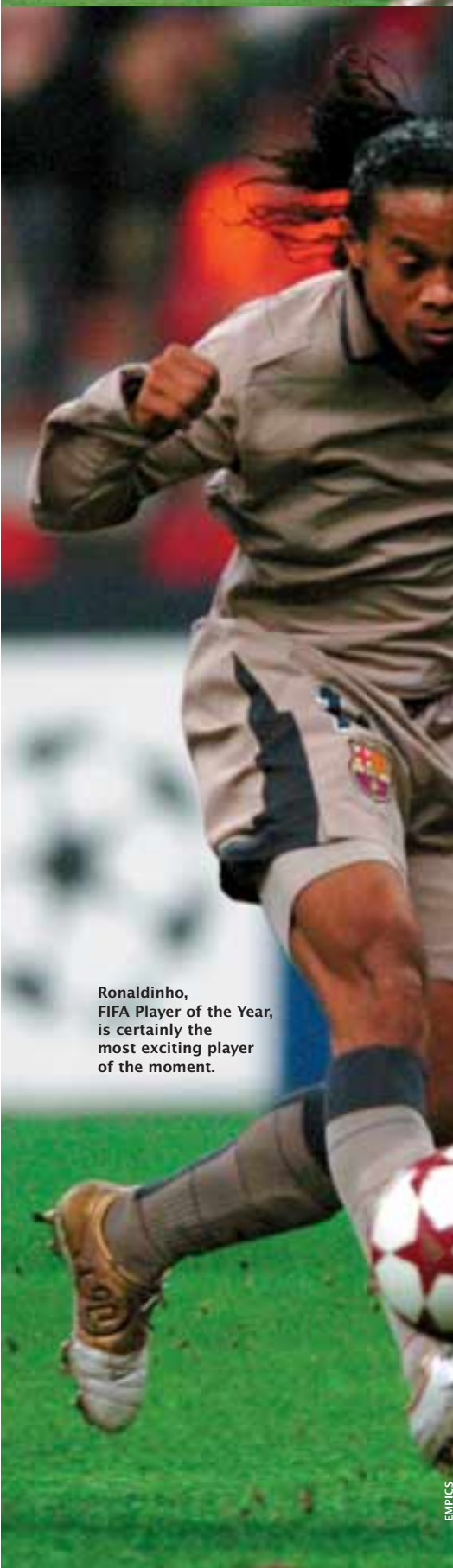
Can Sir Alex Ferguson see into the future? The day before the draw, the Manchester United manager predicted that his team would be paired with AC Milan! These two former winners have never faced each other in the Champions League, although Milan knocked United out of the Champions' Cup in 1958 and 1969. The contrast in styles between the Italians, for whom possession of the ball is the key weapon, and the English, who prefer a more



Werder Bremen (Daniel Jensen, right) and FC Internazionale (Andy van der Meyde) have so far been playing better in the UEFA Champions League than in their domestic championships.



Arjen Robben (Chelsea FC) penetrates the FC Porto defence.



Ronaldinho, FIFA Player of the Year, is certainly the most exciting player of the moment.

direct route to their opponents' goal, will be well worth watching. And what can you say about the duel between two of the best centre-forwards in Europe, "Golden Ball" winner Andriy Shevchenko and Dutchman Ruud van Nistelrooy?

### Porto - Internazionale

This is the third match in the round that brings together two former winners of the trophy. However, the Italians will not be starting as underdogs against the current holders. The Milanese club were unbeaten in all competitions between August and the end of December 2004. Although a host of drawn matches (12 in 16) prevented the "Nerazzurri" from keeping up with Juventus and Milan in Serie A, they ran away with their group in the Champions League. In contrast, FC Porto, had to wait until the closing minutes of their final game before securing qualification. Despite their success in the European/South American Cup, the European champions do not appear as solid as last season. The departure of coach José Mourinho and playmaker Deco, amongst others, are taking their toll.

### Barcelona - Chelsea

After a fantastic start to the season both in England and in Europe, Chelsea are emerging as one of the favourites for the Champions League. However, the London club has been drawn against the other team that has been setting Europe alight in recent months, Barcelona, who have been producing some dazzling, effective perform-

ances with Ronaldinho, FIFA Player of the Year, playing out of his skin. "This match will also be contest between the world's best two coaches, Frank Rijkaard and José Mourinho," said Joan Laporta. The Barcelona president knows what he is talking about, since Mourinho was assistant coach for many years at the Nou Camp, where he served under Bobby Robson and Louis van Gaal.

### Bayern Munich - Arsenal

This is the fifth of Bettega's worthy finals. Although Arsène Wenger has enjoyed frequent domestic success since arriving in London in 1996, he has yet to prove himself at European level. Thierry Henry and his team-mates face a tough battle against Bayern Munich, four-time winners of Europe's most prestigious trophy. After a difficult start to the season, the Bavarians have adapted to the methods of new coach Felix Magath and went into the winter break top of the German Bundesliga.

### PSV Eindhoven - Monaco

Although PSV won the Champions' Cup in 1988, they have never reached the competition's knock-out stages since it was restructured. They finally succeeded this year despite losing Robben and Kezman in the summer. Monaco, finalists last year, have also lost some key players. Following the departure of Giuly, Rothen, Prso and Morientes, Didier Deschamps now has a completely new forward line. After a few teething problems, he seems to have found the right blend, as demonstrated by the resounding 5-0 victory in La Coruña on Matchday 6.

### Liverpool - Bayer Leverkusen

The English club with the most European Cup victories (four-time winners) owe their place in the last 16 to a Gerrard goal scored in



AS Monaco (François Modesto, left) ended the group stage with a clear win against Deportivo La Coruña (Walter Pandiani).

AFP/MARCOU



Arsenal (Francesc Fabregas, left) and PSV Eindhoven are both still in the running.

EMPICS

the closing minutes of the last group match against Olympiacos. The replacement of Gérard Houllier with Rafael Benítez has not yet helped the “Reds” to close the gap on the Chelsea-Arsenal-Manchester United trio. The serious injury to Djibril Cissé has undoubtedly held them back. Bayer Leverkusen, finalists in 2002, may not be at the top of the German Bundesliga, but they won their Champions League group with some high-quality football.

### Werder Bremen – Olympique Lyonnais

This is the only match in the last 16 not involving a former winner of the competition. However, it brings together two reigning national champions. Werder, despite failing to shine in this season’s Bundesliga, have been excellent in the Champions League,

knocking out Valencia. Olympique Lyonnais, meanwhile, seem well on the way to lifting their fourth consecutive French league title. At European level, they are aiming to at least match their achievement of last year, when they reached the Champions League quarter-finals.

*Emanuele Saraceno*

## UEFA Cup wide open

While the Champions League is already down to the last 16, the new format of the UEFA Cup means that 32 teams will compete in the next round in February. Some 15 national associations are still represented at this stage of the competition, proving that this has truly become a wide-open event. Indeed, the last six winners have all come from different nations.

In this season’s competition, Spain lead the way with five teams still in contention, including holders Valencia, who have dropped out of the Champions League. Of the eight Spanish teams involved in European competition this season (excluding the UEFA Intertoto Cup), only Deportivo La Coruña have fallen by the wayside. Germany, with three representatives still in the UEFA Cup and three in the Champions League, has achieved a similar feat, with Bochum the only club to have failed to reach the February round of matches.

*ES*

## The matches:

- Grazer AK – Middlesbrough FC
- SC Heerenveen – Newcastle United FC
- FC Basel 1893 – LOSC Lille Métropole
- Parma FC – VfB Stuttgart
- Sporting Clube de Portugal – Feyenoord
- TSV Alemannia Aachen – AZ Alkmaar
- FK Austria Vienna – Athletic Club Bilbao
- FK Partizan – FC Dnipro Dnipropetrovsk
- Valencia CF – FC Steaua Bucharest
- AFC Ajax – AJ Auxerre
- PFC CSKA Moscow – SL Benfica
- Fenerbahçe SK – Real Zaragoza
- Panathinaikos FC – Sevilla FC
- FC Shakhtar Donetsk – FC Schalke 04
- Olympiacos CFP – FC Sochaux-Montbéliard
- FC Dynamo Kiev – Villarreal CF

*Matches to be played on 16/17 February (first leg) and 24 February (second leg).*



FC Basel 1893 and Feyenoord qualified from their group, along with Schalke 04.

KURT SCHORRER

## Extra time

In the semi-finals and consolation match, extra time will not be played if the two teams are equal at the end of the 40 minutes of normal playing time; the winners will be determined by penalty kicks.

Extra time is, however, possible in the final.

Encounters between Spain (Marcelo, in red) and Italy (Pellegrini) are usually action-packed and closely fought.



# European Futsal Championship

## Final round in Ostrava



FROM 14 TO 20 FEBRUARY, THE FINAL ROUND

OF THE 4TH EUROPEAN FUTSAL CHAMPIONSHIP WILL BE

TAKING PLACE IN OSTRAVA, IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC.

## FIXTURE LIST

### Group A

- 14.02.2005 Czech Republic - Ukraine
- 14.02.2005 Russia - Netherlands
- 15.02.2005 Czech Republic - Russia
- 15.02.2005 Ukraine - Netherlands
- 17.02.2005 Netherlands - Czech Republic
- 17.02.2005 Ukraine - Russia

### Group B

- 14.02.2005 Italy - Portugal
- 14.02.2005 Hungary - Spain
- 15.02.2005 Italy - Hungary
- 15.02.2005 Portugal - Spain
- 17.02.2005 Spain - Italy
- 17.02.2005 Portugal - Hungary

### Semi-finals

- 18.02.2005 Winner Group A - Runner-up Group B
- 18.02.2005 Winner Group B - Runner-up Group A

### 20.02.2005 Consolation match

### 20.02.2005 Final

All matches will be played in the Arena hall, except Ukraine - Russia and Portugal - Hungary, which will take place in the Sareza hall.

Out of the 33 teams that set out from the starting post last year, the final field is now down to eight, including hosts the Czech Republic, who are joined by Hungary, Italy, the Netherlands, Portugal, Russia, Spain and Ukraine in the last stage.

Six of these finalists took part in the last final round, in Italy in 2003: Italy, who actually won the title, losing finalists Ukraine, along with the Czech Republic, Portugal, Russia and Spain. Five of them (excluding Russia) also competed in the recent World Futsal Championships in Taipei at the end of last year, where they performed well as a whole, with all of them making it past the first round, and Italy and Spain even reaching the final, which resulted in Spain retaining their world title.

Such performances show that European football is in a solid and stable situation, as also confirmed by the fact that Italy, Russia and Spain have featured in all the European final rounds played to date, while the Czech Republic, the Netherlands, Portugal and Ukraine will be making their third appearance this year. The only newcomers are Hungary, raising the number of national associations represented in the final rounds to 13, which is not very high, considering that there have always been eight finalists, i.e. 32 places in total in the four final rounds staged from 1999 to 2005.

Consequently, some of the ties in Ostrava are bound to have a familiar look to them, which does not, however, make them any less interesting but, on the contrary, gives them the added spice of being "revenge matches" or even of "revenge for revenge", notably the duel between world champions Spain and European champions Italy. Both landed in the same group in the world championships in Taipei; Italy won the group match but lost to Spain in the final. Their renewed encounter in Ostrava will therefore certainly be one of the highlights of the final round.

■ The first three European Futsal Championships were won by Russia (1999), Spain (2001) and Italy (2003).



Spain celebrate victory in Taipei.

The Kusadasi stadium.



The senior Turkish national team (Emre Belozoglu, in red) will be taking part in the gala match in Istanbul.



AFP/OZER

# 5th Meridian Cup in Turkey

## Bringing two continents together

**TURKEY HAS BEEN KNOWN AS THE COUNTRY BRIDGING THE CONTINENTS OF EUROPE AND ASIA. NOW, HOWEVER, TURKEY WILL BE BRINGING EUROPE AND AFRICA TOGETHER.**

Two years after being held in Egypt, the Meridian Cup is now being hosted and organised by the Turkish Football Federation.

The best three teams from the 2003/04 European Under-17 Championship – France, Spain and Portugal – as well as hosts Turkey will participate from Europe, while their African counterparts will be the Under-17 teams from Egypt, Nigeria, Cameroon and Sierra Leone. These teams will face each other between 4 and 11 February in Kusadasi, Soke, Aydin, and Odemis. These cities are situated on Turkey's mild-weathered Aegean coast, a popular tourist destination. In recent years, this region has been home to the Aegean Cup international under-16 tournament, in which neighbouring European and African countries have taken part. Kusadasi will also be the home base for the Meridian Cup. Adidas, Anadolu

Insurance, Mercedes-Benz, and Aquafina are sponsoring the tournament.



UEFA and the local organising committees started discussing the Meridian Cup tournament in 2004. The first site visit was made in April by a delegation from the UEFA Administration.

During this visit, they inspected the stadiums, training grounds and potential hotels. Meetings were held to discuss the necessary steps and requirements. After this first site visit, preparations started to slowly take shape. On 9 September, a joint UEFA/CAF delegation visited Turkey for a final site visit and review. The local organising committees are now acting quickly to implement the latest UEFA/CAF recommendations.

The Meridian Cup gala match will be played at the Ataturk Olympic stadium in Istanbul on 9 February, kicking off at 20.00, between Turkey, bronze medallists in the 2002 World Cup, and Tunisia, reigning African champions. The match will also be a dress rehearsal for this year's UEFA Champions League final in May.

As the start of the Meridian Cup draws nearer, we are looking forward to welcoming our guests.

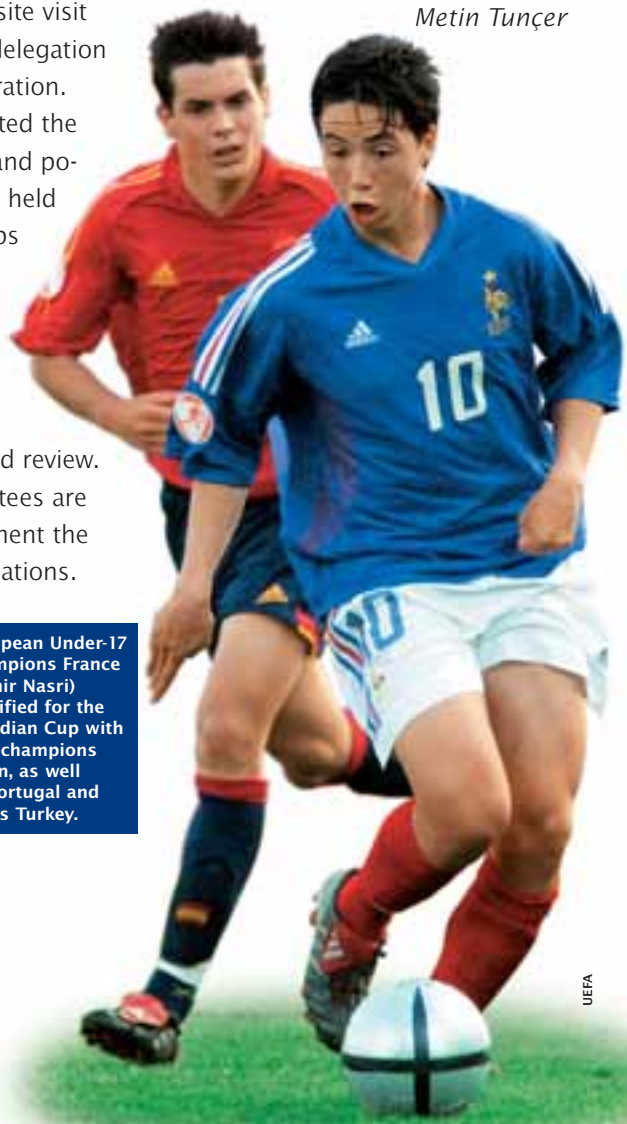
*Metin Tunçer*

## Fewer trophies

In the youth competitions, the educational aspect is supposed to be just as important as the result. This is especially the case in the Meridian Cup, which was conceived for the purpose of encouraging players from Europe and Africa to make friends and share values. The regulations for the 5th Meridian Cup have been amended to place greater emphasis on this aspect, by abolishing the trophies rewarding the best team of the tournament and the best team of each continent. Instead, just one single trophy, the Meridian Cup itself, will be awarded to the best confederation. Each European team will play each African team, with the winner earning three points for their respective confederation, and one point going to each confederation in the case of a draw.

A fair play trophy will also be awarded.

European Under-17 champions France (Samir Nasri) qualified for the Meridian Cup with vice-champions Spain, as well as Portugal and hosts Turkey.



UEFA



# Football and stress

## An expert's view of the problem

**PROFESSOR FLORIAN HOLSBOER IS ONE OF THE WORLD'S LEADING PSYCHIATRISTS. HE IS IN SUCH DEMAND**

**ALL OVER THE GLOBE THAT HE IS RARELY TO BE FOUND IN HIS OFFICE AT THE MAX PLANCK INSTITUTE IN MUNICH.**

**HE WAS DISCOVERED BY THE WORLD OF SPORT A YEAR AGO, WHEN IT EMERGED THAT HE HAD BEEN**

**TREATING SEBASTIAN DEISLER, BAYERN MUNICH'S GERMAN INTERNATIONAL, WHO HAD SUFFERED A SERIOUS**

**NERVOUS BREAKDOWN. IN CLOSE COOPERATION WITH HIS CLUB, HOLSBOER AIDED DEISLER'S RECOVERY.**

Deisler's breakdown hit the headlines because he was already a well-known player, but he is not the only one to have experienced psychological problems. With pressure and resultant stress on the increase, some people are suggesting that clubs should employ their own psychologists. Respecting medical confidentiality, Prof. Holsboer gives us his opinion: *"The Deisler case caused a sensation. He is a hero! He had the courage to expose his problems to the press and the whole world. He hid nothing. He confronted his situation as if he had fractured a bone in his foot. People talk about heart bypass operations, but not depression. It is still not really socially acceptable. The fact that people are talking about it more gives the impression that it is more common now than before. But that isn't true, despite the pressures of modern society, and not just in football. The number of cases is not rising, but it is easier to talk about now. It is thought that 10-15% of the population are at risk, although some experts are more pessimistic and suggest figures of 20% for*

*women and 15% for men. That's what the statistics say in any case."*

– Were you optimistic about Deisler?

– Yes, because he acknowledged that he was ill and talked about it. He also got treatment immediately, which is vital. His treatment lasted a year. Medication is used alongside psychotherapy. Sometimes the psychotherapy is provided by the psychiatrist himself, but sometimes he sends the patient to a psychologist.

– Can depression really be cured?

– The patient remains more susceptible, just like someone who has had a pulmonary infection. About 15% of patients have a second bout of depression, but these figures do not take into account the effectiveness of preventive measures. If Deisler follows our advice, he is very unlikely to suffer a relapse, although he might still have low days like everyone else.

– Antidepressants make you put on weight. Surely that is not recommended for athletes?

– He needed them. Sebastian put on eight kilos, which he has now

lost again. We could not have succeeded without this treatment. He also ate too much chocolate.... Since he is a sportsman, I stayed in contact with the Cologne Doping Institute to ensure that I never prescribed him any banned substances. The main effect of the different medicines is the same, but the side effects vary: some make you put on weight, while others cause drowsiness, which is sometimes necessary if the patient is suffering from insomnia.

– You stayed in permanent contact with Bayern Munich...

– Deisler cost Bayern a lot of money. They helped him because, when he's fit, he's a superb player. Ottmar Hitzfeld and Uli Hoeness spent a lot of time with Sebastian. They were extremely understanding of his problems. Hitzfeld was excellent, very sympathetic. He is extremely considerate, has a great sense of humour and is very intelligent. Successful men are always very understanding. Hitzfeld is a typical example. Hoeness was also very helpful.

– Your research suggests that some people are programmed



to suffer from depression because of an overreaction to stress.

*– We need these protein hormones to deal with stressful situations, but some people overreact. They are at greater risk than others. All they need is a trigger.*

*– Footballers' lives are more stressful than before. Is that a factor?*

*– They face two types of stress. Their job is physically demanding. The number of matches they play involves frequent travelling and separation from their families. They also have to deal with the psychological pressure of the travelling as well as the demands of playing. As multimillionaires, they are always open to criticism and have to perform well. The newspapers are full of reports about their performances or shortcomings. The 18 players in a squad are exposed to stress. Some of them cannot cope.*



Professor Florian Holsboer.

*– Do you think clubs should employ psychologists?*

*– No, and certainly not the national team. Every club should have a psychologist they can consult, just as every club knows an orthopaedic surgeon, a rehabilitation specialist, an eye specialist, an internist, etc. This person should be accepted and recognised by the players and available whenever the need arises. Many celebrities and important people have a psychologist but do not admit it. That is another reason why I have my reservations about a club psycholo-*

*gist: not everyone would dare to go and see him in full view of their team-mates. Rather, the manager, coach and staff should look out for the telltale signs in players who need help. People must receive help as and when they need it. If two players are at loggerheads, what can a psychologist do about it? Two people who are at odds do not use the same lawyer, so why should they consult the same psychologist? What matters is that the clubs are prepared to ask for help when necessary. A national coach therefore does not need to worry about this aspect: it is part of the clubs' everyday responsibilities. Why should a coach use a psychologist to motivate his players? That is his job. Coaches do not need such a big entourage, otherwise they will soon be out of a job. Coaches should be able to spot the symptoms of depression themselves.*

*– For example?*

*– Mental problems very quickly have an effect on the body, leading to difficulty sleeping, getting up in the morning and particularly training early in the day. Players lack a fighting spirit, motivation, etc.*



Press conference with Uli Hoeness.

Pascale Pierard



France's elite referees in training in the forest.



Marc Batta, manager of the elite referees, runs a working session.

# Top-class refereeing

## The preparation of elite French referees

**TODAY'S DEMANDING GAME LEAVES LITTLE ROOM FOR TRIAL AND ERROR IN THE PREPARATION OF TOP-FLIGHT EUROPEAN AND FRENCH FOOTBALL TEAMS. BY THE SAME VIRTUE, REFEREES NEED TO BE EQUALLY WELL PREPARED, A REALISATION WHICH PROMPTED FRENCH REFEREEING TO ADOPT THE SAME APPROACH TO REFEREE PREPARATION A FEW YEARS AGO.**

As a result, the physical, mental, technical and tactical preparation of referees now resembles that of a football team, which is normal, given that they have to be top-class athletes too.

Nowadays, French referees are raised on a rich annual diet of summer altitude training, winter spa rest and recuperation, a national end-of-season course, three fitness test/video analysis sessions during the season, as well as four occasional sessions, after every nine league matches, to review performances.

New technology plays an important role in this modern notion of the game. Video recordings of all French first-division matches are dissected on an ongoing basis, broken down according to the type of action, slow-motion replays, views from various angles, watched several times over, then discussed in groups to agree on consistent, uniform decisions.

An altitude training course held a few days before the start of the new season is designed to boost physical fitness. Apart from the sporting and biological benefits of oxygenation, combined with altitude training, fitness tests and video analyses, the course also offers the chance to build up the team spirit and to define common objectives with a view to ensuring uniform interpretation and application of the Laws of the Game. So literally just before the new season kicks off, the clubs and the professional league know what objectives and approaches they have to be aware of.

Midway through the season, a week-long thalassotherapy break revives those tired limbs. In between video sessions which allow the referees to make an initial evaluation of how the season is going and also to look ahead to the remaining

matches, the revitalising effects of the different treatments help them to relax and recharge their batteries. This get-together is also conducive to continued group cohesion at a key point in the season.

Between these two scheduled gatherings, the season is punctuated with half-day technical sessions. The national refereeing department brings the 20 elite referees together after every six or seven league matches to check that the instructions issued before the start of the season are being properly applied – notably by means of video recordings – and to correct any problems. Recent performances are summarised to indicate aspects that need to be worked on individually and collectively.

This extremely ambitious, innovative approach to referee preparation is also partly down to the large professional support team, made up of a doctor, physiotherapist, fitness trainer, video specialist, kit and logistics coordinator and experts from the national refereeing department.

And finally, none of this would be possible of course without the participation and support of the French Football Federation and the French professional football league. The presidents of these national bodies meet regularly with the referees to exchange views, to discuss how the championship is going and to see what kind of improvements need to be made.

*Marc Batta*



The mountain air provides the setting for a summer training camp.

PHOTOS: FFF



One of the conference sessions.



Markus Merk and Kim Milton Nielsen are enjoying the experience...

... as is Peter Schmeichel.

# Media Officers' Conference

The best 'thankless job' in the world!

**JUST BEFORE CHRISTMAS, THE 3RD UEFA CONFERENCE FOR MEDIA OFFICERS WAS STAGED IN COPENHAGEN. THE NAME HAD BEEN SLIGHTLY MODIFIED, AS THE PREVIOUS DENOMINATION OF 'MEDIA CONFERENCE' GAVE THE MISLEADING IMPRESSION THAT THE EVENT WAS FOR THE MEDIA.**

It was, in fact, for the press officers from top clubs and major national associations, along with UEFA's own squad of media officers. As much of his or her work is hidden from the general public, the importance of the press officer is generally undervalued. But, when it comes to selling TV rights or searching for sponsors, the marketing boys rely heavily on work done by the press officer in terms of media coverage and image.

What is more, since the previous conference, held at Old Trafford, Manchester, the media market has become even more competitive, heaping even greater demands on players, coaches and referees. The press officer's role is a balancing act between serving the media in the best possible way while, at the same time, offering maximum protection to the 'dressing-room people', the image of the club or national association and the game of football itself. As Peter Schmeichel remarked, "it's an ungrateful job and I wouldn't like it".

The goalkeeper who won European titles with Manchester United FC and Denmark was one of the guest

speakers, along with Ottmar Hitzfeld, Markus Merk and – in a specially taped interview – Arsène Wenger. In analysing the role of the press officer, they all stressed that the foundations for success are the human qualities of trust and respect, in addition to solid experience within the media world. As Arsène Wenger commented, "the press officer has to be like a fireman, staying calm when others are panicking. But prevention is also important because, once a fire has started, it can be hard to extinguish". This was endorsed by Markus Merk – the referee of the EURO 2004 final in Lisbon – who helped to review media strategy in the case of severe incidents, such as Anders Frisk's experience in Rome or the astonishingly virulent campaign against Urs Meier launched by an English tabloid after last summer's quarter-final against Portugal.

The conference struck a nice balance between attention to detail and the broader view. On the one hand, there was discussion on 'nuts and bolts' subjects, such as accreditation procedures, photographers' facilities or the working of the mixed zone, which are rarely visible to the general public.



On the other hand, EURO 2004 provided invaluable reference material when it came to debating media strategy for the future, and the opinions voiced in Copenhagen will undoubtedly help to shape UEFA's media policy for EURO 2008. By that time, the media and the technology they employ will have evolved even further and, in terms of sheer weight, the burden on top players, coaches and referees will not become lighter. A few months before Copenhagen, the national team coaches, at their own conference in Stockholm, unanimously agreed that coping with the media represented their worst headache. In the future, the press officer will face even greater challenges in helping them and all the other major protagonists to relieve it.



Ottmar Hitzfeld was one of the guest speakers.

PHOTOS: UEFA



Nigerian export Ayila Yussuf (left, with Real Madrid's Guti) has bolstered the Dynamo Kiev team.



Becoming well established with a club abroad can even result in a player joining the national team of his adopted country, as Emmanuel Olisadebe (playing here in the 2002 World Cup) has in Poland.

# Eastern Europe

## Foreign players on the increase

**THE WAVE OF PLAYER MIGRATION THAT SWEEPED ACROSS WESTERN EUROPE FOLLOWING THE BOSMAN RULING HAS SPREAD TO THE EAST, ALTHOUGH SOME NATIONAL ASSOCIATIONS CONTINUE TO RESTRICT THE NUMBER OF FOREIGN PLAYERS.**

Initially, Eastern Europe suffered a mass exodus of talented players, who took advantage of the new rules in the West by trying their luck in leagues that were generally more lucrative than their own. The resources created by the sale of these players enabled clubs to develop their facilities, although it was not long before they were also able to look abroad for new players. With Russia and Ukraine leading the way, national championships in Eastern Europe are now generally open to foreign players, often from neighbouring countries but also from Africa and South America; players from Western Europe remain in the minority for obvious economic reasons, although in a small number of cases clubs have been able to compete with rival bids from the West.

In 2003, more than 180 foreign players were registered in the Russian first division, a figure which rose to well over 200 in 2004. In 2003, around half of these foreigners came from the former Soviet Union countries (31 Ukrainians, 12 Belarusians, 11 Georgians and 11 Lithuanians).

The former Yugoslavia

and Brazil were also well represented (22 players from each). In 2004, FC Rostov, for example, had more than 20 foreign players on their books, while the reigning champions and UEFA Champions League participants, CSKA Moscow, had a dozen players from other European countries (mainly Russia's neighbours) and even from other continents (Argentina, Brazil and Nigeria).

### Competition from Ukraine

Alongside the Russians, the most active clubs in the international transfer market have been those from Ukraine, particularly the two participants in the 2004/05 UEFA Champions League. With three Brazilians, two Romanians, two Croats, an Argentinian, a Moroccan, a Bulgarian, a Latvian, an Uzbek, a Serb and a Belarussian, Dynamo Kiev could easily have fielded a team without a single Ukrainian player if they had had a foreign goalkeeper in their ranks!

Following the example of the club from the capital, Shakhtar Donetsk have added considerably to their nucleus of foreign players, to the extent that their squad included 18 non-Ukrainian players at the start of this year's UEFA Champions League campaign. Shakhtar had already benefited from Romanian input for several



Vagner Love, from Brazil to Moscow.



EMPICS/BUZZI

Slovakian Vladimir Labant alongside referee Graham Poll.

Belgian player Manuel Godfroid had done incredibly well in Romania.



PHOTONEWS

seasons, particularly thanks to the outstanding performances of defender Daniel Florea (who joined in 2001), and the arrival at the beginning of 2004 of Romanian coach Mircea Lucescu has undoubtedly been the catalyst for the signing of four new players from Romania. In addition to these and a small number of Ukrainians, the squad includes three Brazilians, three players from Serbia & Montenegro, two Czechs, a Croat, a Pole, a Russian, a Belarussian and a Nigerian!

Although other clubs, such as Dnipro Dnipropetrovsk, have tended to recruit more local players, there were more than 120 foreign players in Ukraine, including nearly 30 from Africa and South America.

### Hungary and Poland

In order to make up for the departure abroad of many talented home-grown players, Hungarian clubs have tended to go shopping in neighbouring countries, especially Romania, Slovakia and Serbia & Montenegro. The Hungarian league is also graced by a handful of players from South America, particularly Brazil.

There were 37 foreign players in Hungary in the 2000/01 season, a figure which has virtually doubled since then. Bekescsaba has the largest number of foreigners, while clubs such as FC Diosgyor and Ujpest tend to rely on Hungarian players.

Polish clubs, which have also had to deal with a mass exodus of talented players, have also, albeit to a lesser extent, recruited in countries with limited buying power. The number of foreigners has risen from around 20 at the turn of the century to approximately 30, with two clubs, Gornik Zabrze and Pogon Szczecin, each employing five Brazilians.

### Czech wisdom

Even though its economic situation is the envy of many East European states, the Czech Republic depends mainly on local talent to represent its first division clubs. For historical reasons, it is no surprise that the overwhelming majority of the 30 or so non-Czech players registered for the current season were Slovaks. Sparta Prague, multiple national champions and the Czech representatives in the 2004/05 UEFA Champions League, provide a good illustration of this sensible policy: they kicked off the current campaign with four Slovaks as their only foreign players.

Romania has also been barely affected by the boom in the international transfer market. A decade ago, there were only nine foreign players in the top division, including seven Albanians. Over the last ten years, this figure has only risen by a factor of 2.5, with a third coming from the former Yugoslavia. The nationalities of the other foreign players in Romania are rather surprising, with the 16 first division clubs employing four Australians, two Senegalese, a Cameroonian, a Ghanaian, a Nigerian, a Venezuelan and a Belgian!

Yugoslavia used to produce a large number of talented youngsters, who would emigrate all over Europe, and this pattern has barely changed since the country broke up. In Serbia & Montenegro, Croatia, Slovenia and Bosnia



& Herzegovina, local players continue to form the majority, aided sometimes by a few older stars who have returned to the country after plying their trade abroad for many years. Apart from a few African players, foreign footballers in these countries tend to be former Yugoslavian compatriots.

*George Gisca*



Romanian Vladimir Stoican is a highly rated player in Ukraine.

EMPICS/BUZZI



The Camp Nou stadium in Barcelona.



Philippe Le Floch, director of UEFA's new Marketing and Media Rights division.

# Activities and competitions

## New National Associations division

### Tsunami aid donation and benefit match

To raise funds for the victims of the tidal waves that devastated the coasts of South and Southeast Asia as well as part of Africa, FIFA and UEFA are joining forces to stage a special benefit match.

The "Football for Hope" match will take place at FC Barcelona's Camp Nou stadium on 15 February. The two teams will be led by AC Milan and Ukraine striker Andriy Shevchenko, reigning European Footballer of the Year, and Barcelona and Brazil's ace player Ronaldinho, who recently won FIFA's World Player 2004 award. Shevchenko's team will be coached by Marcello Lippi (Italy) and Arsène Wenger (France), while Carlos Alberto Parreira (Brazil) and Frank Rijkaard (Netherlands) will manage the Ronaldinho team.

In addition, UEFA is contributing a million US dollars to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to help relief work with child victims in the affected region, especially in Sri Lanka and Indonesia, two countries where the ICRC already had a strong presence before the disaster due to the ongoing conflict situations.

UEFA is also putting a million dollars into the solidarity fund set up by FIFA and the Asian Football Confederation to assist the affected football associations and populations.

**FOLLOWING ITS RESTRUCTURING IN 2000 AS A RESULT OF THE FORCE PROJECT, A FEW FURTHER ADJUSTMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE TO THE UEFA ADMINISTRATION SET-UP AS THE NEW YEAR GETS UNDER WAY.**

The main change is the creation of a National Associations division, which has been formed out of a concern to serve UEFA's member associations more effectively. It will constitute their point of access to UEFA and direct them to the right unit for dealing with their issues (legal, commercial, etc.). The new division is headed by Jacob Erel, until now director of the Competition Operations division, the tasks of which have been divided up between the new division and other units.

There is also a new Marketing and Media Rights division, directed by Philippe Le Floch, who joined UEFA in October 2000 as senior product manager in the Professional Football division.

Other changes include the transfer of marketing and media management to Philippe Margraff and his team, while everything to do with the organisation of events, including EURO 2008, comes under the responsibility of Martin Kallen.

### UEFA Futsal Cup



Following the preliminary round played in September and the first qualifying round in October, the 4th UEFA Futsal Cup moves into its second qualifying round in March.





Title-holders Boomerang Interviú.



## Report from Brussels

At their meeting in December, European sports ministers agreed to continue work on a 'rolling agenda' for future EU sports policy. First proposed by the European Commission in 2004, the 'rolling agenda' comprises nine different areas for debate, which are intended to give structure and direction to the ministers' discussions.

Future action in the field of sport is based on article 282 of the EU's new Treaty. Until the Treaty comes into force, when all 25 member states have approved it in their national parliaments and referenda, no new European legislation is possible. Sports ministers have agreed, nonetheless, to begin discussions on the possible shape of future sports policy, which explains the creation of a 'rolling agenda'.

Under the leadership of Luxembourg, which took over the EU's rotating presidency on 1 January, ministers will begin to look at the 'rolling agenda' in more detail.

At present, the first five questions on the agenda are directly related to sport and its role in society:

- the fight against doping;
- the promotion of healthy lifestyles;
- sport as a tool for social integration;
- volunteer exchanges between member states;
- academic cooperation at European level.

The agenda's remaining four topics look mainly at other areas of EU activity, such as competi- →

The eight qualifiers have been separated into two groups:

**Group A:** *Boomerang Interviú FS, Sporting Clube de Portugal, Action 21 Charleroi, KMN Litija.*

**Group B:** *FC Dorozhnik Minsk, El Pozo Murcie, MFC Dinamo Moscow, FC Shakhtar Donetsk.*

The matches will be played in the form of mini-tournaments being organised in Charleroi and Moscow respectively.

The winners of the two groups go through to the two-leg final.

## Meeting of the International FA Board

**The International Football Association Board (IFAB), guardian**

**of the Laws of the Game since the end of the 19th century, is holding its general assembly in Wales on 26 February.**

The board is composed of representatives from each of the four British football associations (England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland) and from FIFA. Each British association has one vote, while FIFA, which represents all the other national associations, has four votes. Six votes, i.e. a three-quarters majority, are required for an amendment to the Laws to be adopted.

At its upcoming meeting, the board will be discussing proposals originating from national associations, concerning, among other aspects, offside as well as the possibility to make use of modern technology to assist the referee. As its meeting in December, the UEFA Executive Committee expressed its opinion on the proposals put forward by UEFA member associations.

## Tenth anniversary of the UEFA Intertoto Cup

**This UEFA Intertoto Cup enters its tenth season this year.**



Since it was introduced, the competition format has undergone one or two changes over the years, and there may be more to come, depending on the outcome of the current discussions. But for this year at least, it will follow the same format as last year, with 61 teams starting out at different intervals.



Was it really offside? The application of the Laws of the Game gives rise to many a discussion.

→ tion and broadcasting policy, and examine their relationship to sport. Most important for UEFA are the EU's rules on the Single Market and how these are applied to sport. The European Commission, for its part, is encouraging governments to examine the financing of professional sports clubs and the role of public aid. The free movement of sportspersons is another area that will certainly appear frequently on the ministers' agenda.

In their meetings so far, ministers have only agreed on the concept of the agenda and its basic structure; deep divisions separate them on the real content. While some member states are keen to discuss sports finance, for example, others believe it should not even be on the agenda. The fight against doping appears to be one of the few areas where governments are prepared to work together and take action.

In parallel to the 'rolling agenda', the European Commission is making other preparations for a future sports policy. Specifically, it will be looking at the results of four studies on sport's social role and considering how best to integrate these findings into future policy. The studies investigated the following areas:

- the education of young sportsmen and sportswomen and their return to education and/or employment once their sporting careers have ended;

- the teaching of sports-related professions from the point of view of job-creation;

- the contribution of sport to multicultural dialogue between young people, and the part it plays in promoting the integration of recent migratory flows;

- young people's lifestyles and sedentariness.

The Commission has promised to consult Europe's sports federations on all of these issues.



One of last year's UEFA Intertoto Cup finals was a Spanish derby between Villarreal and Atlético Madrid.

In the first round, 42 teams will meet in home-and-away matches. The 21 qualifiers are then joined in the second round by 11 seeded teams. The 16 successful teams from that round continue their campaign in the third round, alongside eight top seeds, who only join the competition at this stage.

The semi-finals involve the 12 third-round winners and, in August, the finals will determine which three teams go into the first round of the UEFA Cup.

The national associations have until 25 February to confirm their participation to UEFA. The number of places allocated to each association is based on the five-year coefficient rankings compiled by UEFA from the club competition results, in this case for the seasons from 1999/2000 to 2003/04. In principle, the top 12 associations are entitled to two places each. However, if any places are vacant after the entry deadline, the best-ranked associations have first option.

The draws for the first three rounds will be made in Nyon on 11 April.

## World Cup qualifiers resume

**Action in the eight European 2006 World Cup qualifying groups resumes at the beginning of February.**

The next series of matches kicks off on 9 February with FYR Macedonia v Andorra in Group 1, Greece v Denmark and Albania v Ukraine in Group 2, and Spain v San Marino in Group 7, and ends with an intense week of double-header fixtures at the end of March. By the end of last year, 104 of the 276 qualifiers had already

been played, and the whole lot will have been completed by the end of October this year.

- The qualifying competition of the 2007 Women's World Cup gets under way on 20 and 21 August. Europe's national associations had until 21 January to enter the competition, which will culminate in a final round in the People's Republic of China.

The draw for the qualifying round is being made on 17 February.

## Notices

- The Danish FA has moved to: House of Football, DBU Allé 1, DK-2605 Brøndby.

- The XXIX Ordinary UEFA Congress will take place in Tallinn (Estonia) on 21 April.



Portugal's Costinha outpaces Luxembourg's Daniel Huss in a match won by Portugal last November.



# News

## from member associations

*"I couldn't believe that the collection would be so successful. We had to stop collecting 20 days earlier than expected as we had already received 320 kg of kit and had only planned for 100 kg. It's fantastic to know that the boys are delighted with their presents," said Muminovic.*

Looking at last year's overall results for the various Bosnia and Herzegovina national teams, the senior side were the most successful, playing six matches, with one defeat against FYR Macedonia, two wins against Luxembourg and Finland, and three draws, against France, Spain, and Serbia and Montenegro. Despite only taking two points from their first 2006 World Cup qualifying matches, drawing at home against Spain, and Serbia and Montenegro, Blaz Sliskovic's players remain optimistic, as they put in good performances in both games. With eight more qualifying matches left, the team have set their sights on reaching the play-offs via the runners-up spot. The team travel to Tehran on 2 February for a friendly against Iran, before their next World Cup game away to Belgium on 26 March.

Fuad Krvavac

## CYPRUS



### Preparing to host the UEFA youth conference

The first mini-pitch to be constructed with the support of UEFA's HatTrick programme was inaugurated by Marios Lefkaritis, honorary president of the Cyprus Football Association (CFA) and member of the UEFA Executive Committee, in Nicosia on 8 December. Tomorrow's football stars can now take their first steps on the mini-pitch, which is located in a park in the centre of Nicosia. *"We plan to build 30 similar mini-pitches all over the country under the same programme,"* said CFA president Costakis Koutsokoumnis.

In his address, Mr Lefkaritis expressed appreciation to UEFA for the support it provides to all its member associations and thanks to which the CFA will soon be housed in new headquarters of its own.



Marios Lefkaritis inaugurates the mini-pitch.

## ARMENIA



### Football festivities in Yerevan

The Armenian capital has played host to celebrations organised by the Football Federation of Armenia (FFA) to honour first division champions FC Pyunik, who have won their seventh title in a row. During the ceremony, FC Mika and FC Banants were also presented with silver and bronze medals respectively. Many distinguished guests were in attendance, including members of the FFA Executive Committee, representatives of the Armenian government and parliament, as well as journalists and photographers.

FC Pyunik received the winners' trophy and gold medals from FFA president Ruben Hayrapetyan, while FFA Executive Committee members presented the silver and bronze medals. Edgar Manucharyan, 17-year-old Armenian international and FC Pyunik player, was named Player of the Year. The poll had



Ruben Hayrapetyan presents the trophy to FC Pyunik.

been conducted by the FFA press service and included votes from eight first division chairmen, eight first division coaches, coaching staff and media representatives. The young star was unable to accept his award on the actual day as he was in the Netherlands playing for AFC Ajax in a friendly against FC Barcelona. However, his father picked up the bronze boot on his behalf. With 21 goals to his credit, the young striker was also Armenia's joint top scorer in 2004, alongside fellow FC Pyunik player Galust Petrosyan. The ceremony was rounded off with other

footballing nominations, such as best goalkeeper, defender and forward of the season.

Arayik Manoukyan

## BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA



### Charitable gesture by Scottish fans

A show of generosity by Scottish fans has received wide coverage in Sarajevo and throughout the country. Young players from the Bubamara football school, one of the first in the country, and also one of the largest, were presented with 800 football kits collected from all over Scotland at



A generous gesture by Scottish supporters.

an event opened at the Zetra Olympic Hall in Sarajevo by school manager Predrag Pasic, the former FK Sarajevo and VfB Stuttgart player.

Credit for this initiative is due to Bill Austin, a keen Scottish football fan who is also a member of the famous national-team supporter's club, the William Wallace Tartan Army. Together with Mirza Muminovic, a fan from Sarajevo, Bill launched an internet appeal asking Scottish supporters to donate football kits to the school.

His request met with a good response in Scotland, particularly among supporters of Heart of Midlothian FC, who followed their team to Sarajevo two years ago when they played FK Zeljeznicar in the first round of the UEFA Cup and made friends with many of the home fans.



Preparations for the 8th UEFA Youth Conference, which the CFA is proud to be hosting, have been under way for some time. A UEFA delegate visited Cyprus at the beginning of December to inspect the conference venues and to meet the local organising committee for this major event.

The conference, to which each of UEFA's 52 member associations will be invited to send two delegates, will be held in Limassol from 28 November to 2 December, and will include a number of workshops for youth coaches.

Meanwhile, the CFA is currently gearing up to host the 9th International National Teams Tournament, in which four nations will be competing from 7 to 10 February. As a result of the draw conducted by the CFA Executive Committee, Cyprus will face Austria, and Finland will play Latvia. Both games will be held on 8 February. The winners of each tie will go through to the final, with the losers contesting the consolation match on 9 February.

*Kyriakos Giorgallis*

## ENGLAND



### Visit to Bamako

The FA continued its work in Africa as 2004 drew to a close with a visit to Bamako, Mali, in November and to Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in December, training over 40 senior international referees from all over Africa in association with the African Football Confederation, CAF.

FA Head of Referees John Baker, together with regional managers Ian Blanchard and Ray Olivier, ran two three-day seminars which included practical sessions in local stadiums. The instructors demonstrated exercises that help develop referees' awareness and control, as well as using video footage of games from around the world to demonstrate decision-making and match control.

The delegates were also inspired by the new teaching methods that have been developed in England, particularly the focus on the importance of fitness work, which involved their participation in exercises used to help raise fitness levels within the context of referees' needs.

Overall, participants were able to share experiences from their domestic leagues and learn from The FA's instructors' expertise, as FA International Development Manager Ben Seeley explained: *"The courses aimed to encourage the exchange of ideas between top referees from Africa and England to help develop understanding and experience of the international game."*



Ray Olivier with one of the children in the SOS village in Bamako.

*"We at The FA are proud of our expertise in the various areas of football development in England, particularly in the field of refereeing, and welcomed this opportunity to help other countries whilst broadening our own experiences."*

The FA representatives also visited the SOS Children's Village on the outskirts of Bamako, where they presented T-shirts and educational material to the children.

*Ben Seeley*

## FINLAND



### Futsal Cup final in February

Since the inclusion of futsal in the Finnish FA's programme in 1997, the game has enjoyed a steady rise in popularity, most notably between 2001 and 2003. Today, Finland boasts numerous leagues and competitions, such as the premier league, first division and regional leagues for men, regional leagues and tournaments for women and veterans, and regional leagues and tournaments for youth teams.

The 2004/05 season kicked off with a new men's competition, the Futsal Cup. Whereas last season's competition was only open to premier league and first division clubs, this time round all 12 Finnish FA regions were allowed to enter the competition.

As a result, 88 clubs from every region bar one signed up for this first edition out of the 350 men's teams in the 12 regions. The first cup games took place at the beginning of October, and by round six in January there were only eight teams still left in the running, Ilves FS, TP-Kaarle, TPK and Golden FT, which all play in the premier league, Kuninkaat and MaKu, both first division clubs, and Härmä and LehPa, which play at regional level. Since Kuninkaat and MaKu are due to play each other in the next round,

a first division club is therefore sure of a place in the semi-finals.

The Futsal Cup semi-finals and final will be held in Valkeakoski, about 150 km north of Helsinki, at the end of February. Unfortunately local club Valkeakoski have already been knocked out.

The competition will close with a gala awards ceremony to honour the best futsal teams and players of the season.

*Kalle Martinen*

## FRANCE



### Enough is enough!

Although French football has, at various times in its history, experienced occasional trouble caused by the excesses and irresponsibility of disruptive supporters, it has never had to deal with waves of genuine hooliganism, let alone the tragedies that have befallen some of its illustrious neighbours.

Nevertheless, over the past few years, the stupid, reprehensible behaviour of a few groups of supporters in Paris, Marseille and elsewhere has tarnished the image of the French first division, leading Frédéric Thiriez, president of the professional football league, to declare war on the troublemakers and condemn the use of smoke bombs.

With the full backing of Claude Simonet, president of the French Football Federation, he took the matter to the highest national authorities, as a result of which the Minister of the Interior and the Minister of Justice recently took new steps to combat effectively all forms of violence.

The arsenal of new measures includes stadium bans for known troublemakers, who have to report to a police station or gendarmerie when matches are in progress.

These measures have been successfully introduced in other countries and will finally enable France to get on top of the problem.

The determination of the national sports authorities and the support of club directors had already been evident for quite a while, particularly through the creation of a National Security Committee and the requirement for stadiums to be equipped with CCTV cameras.

All that was needed was the political will and truly effective means to combat these problems.

Those missing elements are now in place.

*Philippe Tournon*



## GEORGIA



### Licensed coaches on the increase

Traditionally, the Georgian Football Federation (GFF) holds workshops for its coaches twice a year. The management of the federation is doing its best to promote the organisation of coach education courses at the highest professional level. With this aim in mind, we regularly invite experienced specialists from abroad to deliver lectures at these seminars, such as Franco Ferrari (Italy), Roger Spry (Great Britain), Jacques Devismes, Jacques Crevoisier and Alain Giresse (France), head coach of the Georgian national team. The courses are headed by GFF technical director Gaioz Darsadze, who chooses the topics and draws up the curriculum, based on the requirements of the UEFA coaching convention and its B licence. The sessions are a combination of theory and practice.

This year, the workshop participants included the coaches of the Georgian first division clubs and national teams, as well as renowned former players such as Vladimir Gutsaev (former USSR and FC Dinamo Tbilisi player, winner of European Cup Winners' Cup, presently a Georgian MP), Otar Gabelia (former USSR and FC Dinamo Tbilisi player, winner of the European Cup Winner's Cup, today one of the coaches of the Georgian national team), Gocha Tkebuchava (former FC Dinamo Tbilisi player, currently head coach of Georgian Under-21 team), Temur Ketsbaya (former FC Dinamo Tbilisi, FC Newcastle and FC AEK player), Kakha Tskhadadze (former FC Dinamo Tbilisi and FC Eintracht Frankfurt player), among others.

One of the key reasons behind their participation is the fact that the GFF club licensing committee has seriously questioned the level of qualification of coaches, and from the next season, any club whose head coach does not hold a licence issued by the GFF will not be granted a licence to play in UEFA competitions and the domestic championship. It should be mentioned that the GFF club licensing committee financed the partici-



Coach education course.

pation of the first division coaches in the aforementioned courses. As a result, the number of licensed and qualified coaches in Georgia is steadily increasing and presently stands at 120, of whom 82 hold the UEFA B licence. This year, the GFF hopes to obtain the right from UEFA to issue A licences and to prepare its coaches at a higher level, thereby further promoting the development of football in Georgia.

Bakar Jordania

## KAZAKHSTAN



### Awards time

Despite being the close season in Kazakhstan, football remains in the spotlight. Winter is normally the time to review the season and honour the teams and individuals who have delivered excellent performances. FC Kairat Almaty defender Samat Smakov, who also captains the national team, has been named Player of the Year by the Football Union of Kazakhstan. In parallel, two sports magazines carried out independent polls for the same purpose. The weekly "Goal" also selected Smakov, whereas the "Prosport" newspaper voted for midfielder Ruslan Baltiyev, who plays for Russian club FC Moscow.

And indoors, away from the cold of winter, futsal activities are still in full swing. On 16 December, Kazakhstan Independence Day, the 2004 Kazakhstan Futsal Cup final took place in Almaty between local team Kairat and Aktubrentgen from Aktobe. With the match standing at 2-2 at the end of extra time, the winners had to be determined in a penalty shoot out, which Kairat won 12-11. Kairat are coached by Brazilian Pauly Augusty Reeber.

Alexander Keplin

## LIECHTENSTEIN



### Team of the Year

The Liechtenstein senior football team was named Team of the Year at the Sports Review of the Year awards ceremony organised by the national Olympic committee of Liechtenstein in mid-December. This annual event is held to honour the different national champions, to bid farewell to sportsmen and women who are retiring, and to pick the sports personalities and teams of the year.

One of seven teams to be nominated for the Team of the Year award, the national football team emerged as outright winners in the first round of voting by the 47 members of the voting panel. The team's win against Luxembourg and draw against EURO 2004 runners-up Portugal certainly clinched the award for them.

The award was accepted by national coach Martin Andermatt, player Ronny Büchel and Liechtenstein Football Association president Reinhard Walser. Ronny Büchel explained why he had been chosen to represent his team-mates: "We drew straws to see who could go to the ceremony and who had to go on holiday, and I won."



The team of the year.

Martin Andermatt, who had never received a national award before, was absolutely delighted: "This sporting honour is the result of many different things. The team have great determination and always look on the bright side," he said after the vote. And it is also a real confidence-booster. "The award also shows that our efforts are appreciated and is an incentive for us. We are proud of this achievement and will do our utmost to continue to be worthy of it," he added.

Roland Ospelt

## MALTA



### Clearing the air

Constant cooperation between national football associations, including member clubs, and the media is vital in these days of instant communication. It helps increase the game's popularity.

Referees, too, need to be assimilated in this two-way equation with the media. While journalists have to comment in an objective manner on controversial incidents which give rise to referee action, the match officials are aware that the criticism they are subjected to from the media has to be accepted with professional dignity.

Nevertheless, nothing should stand in the way of some form of dialogue between the press and the referees, and the Maltese FA has taken a new initiative in this regard.

An interesting point that emerged from a round-table meeting between the Malta FA and the press early last year was that of helping journalists clear the air in certain episodes on and off the pitch which need clarification from the referees



Working with the media to improve understanding of refereeing decisions.

with regard to their subsequent decisions.

As a result, journalists are now being asked to put written questions on a specific form, whereby they can seek clarification from the referees on some of their decisions. An important proviso is that judgement of the officials' interpretation of the Laws of the Game does not fall within the scope of this exercise.

The media is then able to explain to the public why, for example, a free kick or penalty was awarded when the infringement was unclear, or the reason behind a booking or sending-off when the offence was not obvious from the stands. Verification could also be sought on the identity of a sanctioned player or goal-scorer in cases of doubt.

Incidents needing the intervention of the match officials such as the delay or abandonment of a match, the dismissal of a team official or a reserve player from the bench, or other happenings of an extraordinary nature, may also be clarified.

Having started on a trial basis almost four months ago, this exercise is turning out to be a step in the right direction. Thanks to the wholehearted support of the Malta FA's Referees Board and the caution of the media, the Maltese FA's policy of transparency, even in matters of refereeing decisions, is paying dividends.

Alex Vella

## NETHERLANDS



### KNVB supports grassroots events

During the last weeks of 2004, the attention of the Dutch FA (KNVB) turned to a number of grassroots activities.

First of all, there was the incorporation of the national CP (cerebral palsy) team. NEBAS/NSG, the organisation that has been the centre of sports activities for physically or learning-disabled

people, handed over the national team for physically-disabled players to the KNVB, which will now be fully responsible for the team and organise its matches as well. To mark this event, long-serving Dutch international midfielder Phillip Cocu presented CP captain Stephan Lokhoff with an official Dutch national team jersey.

In another ceremony, Dutch legend Johan Cruyff and current national coach Marco van Basten pulled on their boots again to officially present the first Cruyff Court KNVB pitch (CCKV) to the young residents of an inner-city area in Rotterdam. These pitches are the result of the mini-pitch project that UEFA launched in its jubilee year. UEFA, the professional football clubs and the Johan Cruyff Welfare Foundation are financially supporting this large project. The two former football stars are members of the board of the CCKV, which is chaired by KNVB president Mathieu Sprengers. The pitches will help youngsters to take social responsibility, to play together and to mix with young people of other nationalities and from other social backgrounds. Ernie Walker, former chairman of UEFA's Stadium and Security Committee, attended the ceremony.



Johan Cruyff and Ernie Walker.

The Johan Cruyff Welfare Foundation endorses sport for youngsters in urban areas irrespective of physical fitness. The cooperation between the Cruyff Foundation and KNVB will result in approximately 100 pitches being completed in the next three years. All these pitches are meant to bridge the gap between unorganised street soccer and organised club football.

Lastly, the organising committee of the annual football tournament for disabled players in Barendrecht received great praise for its initiative at the KNVB general assembly in December. During this tournament, initiated by the federation of professional football coaches, teams take on the name of a professional club and sport the club's colours as well. The head coaches of the clubs are in charge of their respective teams during this festive day, and professional referees officiate the matches. As a result, the tournament has been a success for more than a decade.

Rob de Leede

## NORTHERN IRELAND



### Much-appreciated UEFA gift

Northern Ireland's first UEFA mini-pitch was officially opened on 10 November at Mount Eagles, Dunmurry. The pitch, the first of its kind in Northern Ireland, was unveiled by Irish FA president Jim Boyce, who also chairs UEFA's Youth and Amateur Football Committee.

This event was extremely well supported, with officials from the Irish Football Association, Sports Council for Northern Ireland, Lisburn City Council and local community associations all in attendance. All were equally delighted with this gift from UEFA and very positive about the benefits this pitch could bring to the local community.

Ownership of the pitch was officially handed down from UEFA to the local community, which, through a local child, promised to "maintain and protect the pitch and make sure that everyone could use this great facility".

Lee Carroll (IFA development manager) said, "Such facilities affirm UEFA's commitment to promote grassroots football throughout Europe. These mini-pitches will not only capture the imagination of children and encourage them to play football, but also provide an excellent arena for them to play in a safe and secure environment".



Jim Boyce (second left) led the inauguration ceremony.

Through UEFA's HatTrick assistance programme and the donation of one million Swiss francs, the IFA hopes to build many more of these facilities throughout the country. These pitches will be an invaluable commodity in helping the development of grassroots football in Northern Ireland.

Closing the proceedings, children from the local 'Christ the Redeemer' school played an enjoyable and exciting game in front of a very appreciative audience.

Lee Carroll



## POLAND



### Magnificent history and promising future

In December, the Polish Football Association (PFA) celebrated its 85th anniversary. Our association was founded on 21 December 1919 in Krakow. In 1923, the PFA became a member of FIFA, and since 1954 has also been a member of UEFA. The greatest moments in the history of Polish football have been finishing third in the 1974 and 1982 World Cups, taking part in the World Cup finals in 1938, 1974, 1978, 1982, 1986 and 2002, winning three Olympic medals (1972, 1976, 1992) and victories in the European youth championships (U16 in 1993, U18 in 2001).

Michal Listkiewicz has been re-elected president of the Polish Football Association, a position he has held since 1999. The main goals set for the new term are to develop infrastructure and improve the youth training system. *"I am happy that my work has been valued so highly and that the delegates decided to put their trust in me again. I know there is still a lot to do to improve Polish Football, but I have never been afraid of difficult challenges. I will do my best to fulfil the expectations,"* Listkiewicz said.

Scouting for young talent should become more efficient thanks to the PFA's project launched in the autumn to create 14 football schools throughout the country.



Michal Listkiewicz has been voted back in as president.

We hope that as a result it will not be too long before the Polish national team comprises a new generation of players in the same class as Deyna, Lato, Boniek and Lubanski.

*Michal Kocieba/Bartek Marks*

## REPUBLIC OF IRELAND



### Advertisements for two posts

In keeping with the wishes of the Irish Government, the Football Association of Ireland (FAI) placed advertisements for the posts of Chief Executive Officer and Finance Director

in the national press before the end of the year 2004.

The position of Chief Executive Officer became vacant following the departure of Fran Rooney in November, while the financial post is a new opening, recommended in the findings of the Genesis Report into the affairs of the association after the World Cup finals in Japan in 2002, when Irish team captain Roy Keane was sent home by team manager Mick McCarthy.

Following Fran Rooney's departure, current FAI honorary treasurer John Delaney has stepped in to fill the role of CEO on an interim basis, although he has intimated that he would be willing to occupy the position in a full-time capacity.

In its advertisement, the association outlines the requirements expected of any applicant interested in the position of Chief Executive Officer.

*"Candidates should have a passion for sport and its place and importance in society as well as a knowledge and understanding of football,"* the advertisement states.

It further goes on to outline that the Chief Executive Officer *"will have overall responsibility for a significant number of staff and for managing the Association's finances."*

*"He/she will also have responsibility for building solid working relationships with a variety of stakeholders and will be required to actively engage with the board of the FAI, Government, staff, sponsors and the media."*

Regarding the position of Finance Director, the association states that *"candidates should have a proven, successful track record of financial management, team leadership of a finance department, evidence of meeting goals, strong written and spoken communication skills and strong decision-making ability."*

*"Candidates must be qualified accountants from a recognised professional accountancy body. It would be advantageous for candidates to have experience of managing finance in a commercial service or sports enterprise."*

*Brendan McKenna*

## ROMANIA



### Futsal – a promising start

Futsal was officially launched in Romania in January 2003 with the organisation of the first edition of a national competition, the Discovery Cup, which kicked off with local tournaments, followed by regional stages and culminating in a final tournament involving 12 teams, which then

formed the 2003/04 first division. AS Odorheiu Secuiesc won the popular competition, which attracted no fewer than 750 teams and 15,000 players.

The 2003/04 futsal season was dominated by Bucharest side AFC Bodu, who won the double – the championship and the domestic cup. Futsal has captured the public's interest, with sports halls often full and one game per championship match day (and more from 2005) shown live on television.

Romania currently has three futsal divisions: the first division consisting of 14 teams, the second division made up of



National futsal team.

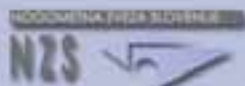
two groups of 12 teams (although there is currently only one group) and the third division comprising two groups of 10.

The national futsal team played their first match on 19 June 2003 – a friendly against Bulgaria – which they won 4-3. To date, they have played 35 matches and won 20. In 2003/04 the team took part – although without much success – in the European and World qualifying competitions. However, the 2004/05 season looks like being an outstanding one, as out of the 14 matches played up to the end of 2004, Romania won 13 and drew against Cyprus in Larnaca. The national side also won a futsal tournament organised by The FA in Manchester. Two players stand out in particular from the 35 international matches, Robert Lupu and Florin Matei. Matei is currently top scorer with 32 goals.

Dan Petrescu, president of the Romanian Futsal Committee and former international referee, commented:

*"Futsal has witnessed astonishing growth over a short period. As well as the three domestic divisions, most regions organise their own futsal championships, where the winners qualify for the play-offs to try for promotion to the third national division. The results of AFC Bodu in the UEFA Futsal Cup and of the national team are quite promising, as Romanian futsal players possess the necessary qualities of skill, pace and creativity."*

*Dan Cristea*



## SERBIA AND MONTENEGRO



### Mini-pitch inaugurated

Like many other European member associations, the Football Association of Serbia and Montenegro has taken advantage of UEFA's jubilee gift and installed an artificial mini-pitch within the agreed timeframe. This prototype mini-pitch (21 m x 13m) has been built at the Jelena Cetkovic primary school in Belgrade. It was officially opened on 10 December by the president of the FA of Serbia and Montenegro, Dragan Stojkovic. The inauguration ceremony was also attended by officials from the FA of Serbia and Montenegro, and representatives from the Ministry of Sport and Education, the local authorities and the media.



Inaugural match on the mini-pitch.

The opening of the mini-pitch was a major event for the pupils of the Jelena Cetkovic primary school, who now have a superb pitch where they can play football and other games and which, with its green artificial turf and ideal size, is perfectly suited to its playground setting. To celebrate the opening, pupils played an inaugural match wearing the national team colours. The FA president presented gifts to all players and announced the player of the match. The FA of Serbia and Montenegro has also donated five footballs to the school.

As a result of the wide media coverage given to the ceremony, many other schools and sports centres have contacted the national association to enquire about obtaining similar mini-pitches. The Executive Committee of the FA of Serbia and Montenegro will decide on the principles for allocating further mini-pitches at its next meeting, in accordance with UEFA's HatTrick programme.

Nebojsa Ivkovic

## SLOVENIA



### First mini-pitch inaugurated

Within the framework of its HatTrick programme, and as part of its golden jubilee celebrations, each of UEFA's member associations, including the Football Association of Slovenia (NZS), received the special gift of a prototype mini-pitch from UEFA.

The Slovenian mini-pitch was built in Sezana, as agreed between the NZS and the local sports institute.



The Under-10s prepare for kick-off.

The inauguration took place on a sunny and windy Friday in December. Besides young football players eager to try out the new pitch, some important personalities of Slovenian and European football attended the launch, including Mathieu Sprengers (member of the UEFA Executive Committee and president of the Dutch Football Association), Rudi Zavrl (president of the NZS), Andreas Kuhn (Head of the UEFA Assistance Programmes) and Davorin Tercon (MP and deputy mayor of Sezana).

Mathieu Sprengers wished the children many happy and carefree times on the pitch, and Rudi Zavrl promised 30 more such pitches throughout Slovenia. Srecko Katanec, coach of the Slovenian national team from 1998 to 2002, kicked off the opening boys' under-10 game.

Irena Illesic Cujovic

## SWEDEN



### Centennial celebrations draw to a close

The Swedish FA celebrated its centenary in style last year. As well as taking part in EURO 2004, the European Under-21 Championship and the Olympic Games, the association marked the milestone with banquets, jubilee matches and conventions.

The festivities were rounded off on 18 December at 15.15 - the exact date and time of the association's anniversary - with the inauguration of a monument in the centre of Stockholm, close to where the association was founded in 1904.



The president of the Swedish FA, Lars-Åke Lagrell, unveils the memorial.

The memorial was unveiled by FA president Lars-Åke Lagrell in the presence of representatives from some of the association's 24 founding clubs, all of which are still active.

Designed by artist Annie Winblad-Jakubowski, the bronze sculpture depicts the early leather-laced football, while the plaque is in the form of a football pitch.

Press office

## UKRAINE



### Refereeing under the spotlight

On 10 December, the Football Federation of Ukraine (FFU) organised the first-ever meeting to discuss the refereeing of first division matches played during the first half of the 14th Ukrainian championship. The session was attended by FFU president Grigoriy Surkis, UEFA Referees Committee member Nikolai Levnikov, as well as referees, club chairmen, coaches and players.

Mr Levnikov, from Russia, outlined the objective of the meeting, describing how a growing lack of confidence in the ref-



Left to right: Grigoriy Surkis, Nikolai Levnikov and Ravil Safiullin, president of the Ukrainian professional league.

ereeing of matches in Ukraine and Russia had been attracting increased media attention. "After the break-up of the former Soviet Union, we lost referee schools and training structures. What we'd like to consider doing now is to create an international referee training centre. There are many famous former referees in Ukraine and Russia who used to be well respected in the Soviet era."

Mr Surkis highlighted the need to improve relations between all areas of the game and proposed discussing ways of improving this aspect. Although the national referees' committee operates as an independent body, the FFU is responsible for refereeing activities as a whole. "We always try to evaluate our work with total objectivity. But we are aware of mistakes, problems and shortcomings that generate negative reactions from the players, coaches and clubs," explained Mr Surkis.

Valeriy Nikonenko



# Communications

## Birthdays – Calendar

### Birthdays

UEFA honorary member Egidius Braun (Germany) celebrates his 80th birthday on 27 February. On 12 February, Efstratios Papaefstratiou (Greece), member of the circle of former committee members, turns 70, while on 8 February, Erich Rutemöller (Germany), member of the Jira Panel, will be 60. Richard N. Parry (England), member of the Administrative Experts Panel, celebrates his half-century on 23 February. UEFA also wishes many happy returns to:

- Volker Roth (Germany, 1.2)
- Hüseyin Coskun (Turkey, 1.2)
- Karen Espelund (Norway, 1.2)
- Leonardus van der Kroft (Netherlands, 2.2)
- Trygve Bornø (Norway, 2.2)
- Steen Dahrup (Denmark, 3.2)
- Pascal Fratellia (France, 3.2)
- Nikolaos Zamboglou (Cyprus, 5.2)
- Vaclav Krondl (Czech Republic, 5.2)
- Yusuf Namoglu (Turkey, 8.2)
- Fino Fini (Italy, 9.2)
- Rinus Michels (Netherlands, 9.2)
- Donald McVicar (Scotland, 9.2)
- Dani Koren (Israel, 10.2)
- William McDougall (Scotland, 11.2)
- Antonio Ferreira de Sequeira (Portugal, 11.2)
- Nicolae Pantea (Romania, 12.2)
- John Blankenstein (Netherlands, 12.2)
- Oleksandr Bandurko (Ukraine, 13.2)
- Heinz-Herbert Kreh (Germany, 14.2)
- Dieter Pauly (Germany, 14.2)
- Marinus Engelsman (Netherlands, 14.2)
- Manuel Lopez Fernandez (Spain, 14.2)
- Peter Bonde (Denmark, 14.2)
- Georges Konrath (France, 15.2)
- John McBeth (Scotland, 15.2)
- Susanne Erlandsson (Sweden, 15.2)
- Katriina Elovirta (Finland, 15.2)
- Svitlana Shkil (Ukraine, 15.2)
- Adalbert Kassai (Romania, 16.2)
- Jozef Venglos (Slovakia, 18.2)
- Borislav Alexandrov (Bulgaria, 18.2)
- Flemming Serritslev (Denmark, 18.2)
- Patrick Kelly (Republic of Ireland, 18.2)
- Pertti Alaja (Finland, 18.2)
- Janis Mezeckis (Latvia, 19.2)
- Lars Arnesson (Sweden, 20.2)
- Eggert Magnusson (Iceland, 20.2)

- João F. De Magalhães Marques (Portugal, 20.2)
- Ralph M. Zloczower (Switzerland, 21.2)
- Lidia Borska (Poland, 21.2)
- Fernando Gomes (Portugal, 21.2)
- Asim Khudiyev (Azerbaijan, 22.2)
- Vladimir Sajin (Slovenia, 22.2)
- Peter Jones (England, 24.2)
- Alfonso Moreno Gonzalez (Spain, 27.2)
- Allan Hansen (Denmark, 27.2)
- Zorislav Srebric (Croatia, 28.2)
- Aron Schmidhuber (Germany, 28.2)

### Upcoming events

#### MEETINGS

- 2.2.2005, Nyon**  
Executive Committee
- 3.2.2005, Nyon**  
Extraordinary Conference of Presidents and General Secretaries
- 7-8.2.2005, Nyon**  
European Club Forum
- 9.2.2005, Istanbul**  
Meridian Project Board
- 17.2.2005, Nyon**  
Draw for the 2005/06 European Women's Under-19 Championship
- 24.2.2005, Nyon**  
Assistance Programmes Committee

#### COMPETITIONS

- 4-11.2.2005, Kusadasi (Turkey)**  
Meridian Cup
- 9.2.2005, Istanbul**  
Meridian Cup gala match
- 14-20.2.2005, Ostrava (Czech Rep.)**  
Final round of the European Futsal Championship
- 16-17.2.2005**  
UEFA Cup: round of 32 (first legs)
- 22-23.2.2005**  
UEFA Champions League: first knock-out round (first legs)
- 24.2.2005**  
UEFA Cup: round of 32 (return legs)

### New publications

#### European Clubs in European Cups Arsenal FC (1963-2004)

Italian Marco d'Avanzo has embarked on the ambitious project of compiling historical records in the form of statistical data on all the matches played by major European clubs in the UEFA competitions. The first, 180-page volume is devoted to FC Arsenal and contains the results of all the London club's matches in the Inter-Cities Fairs Cup, Champion Clubs' Cup/UEFA Champions League and UEFA Cup from the club's first European season in 1963/64 up to last season. For each match, information is provided on the team line-ups, the referee, goal-scorers and all the other usual details (venue, date, number of spectators, etc.). There are even summary tables listing all the players, the number of minutes they played, as well as data on the referees, and many more statistics besides. Soccerdata sas – Via Ciccotti, 6 – IT-20161 Milan. Tel/fax: +39 02 6480397. Email: soccerdata@consist.it



#### RAPPORTS ANNUELS ASF 2003/04

The business and financial reports of the Swiss FA for 2003/04 (mainly in German, but with one or two texts in French) also contain the results, league tables and various other data (honorary members, top goal-scorers, number of registered players, etc.). Swiss Football Association, PO Box – 3000 Berne 15, Switzerland. Tel: +41-31 950 81 11 / fax: +41-31 950 81 81. Email: sfv.asf@football.ch.

#### ROCZNIK 2004-2005

The Polish encyclopaedia piłkarska Fuji has just released a new edition of its year-book containing the results of the 2003/04 Polish competitions, as well as of the UEFA and other continental competitions. It also contains the final league tables of all the European domestic championships, as well as the national team results. Wydawnictwo GIA (www.gia.pl/wydawnictwo@gia.pl).



### Match Agents

George Koumas (Cyprus) has not renewed his UEFA licence and is therefore no longer a licensed UEFA match agent.

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