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## COVER

With the group matches completed before the winter break, the UEFA Cup resumes in February with the direct knockout rounds. RC Strasbourg (Gaëtan Krebs, in blue) are among the teams that have qualified for the next round.

PHOTO: FLASH PRESS

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# Editorial

## Fair play first

The national teams were in the headlines between the end of the 2005 and the start of the new year, not for their exploits on the field but because of the draw made in Leipzig in December for this summer's World Cup finals and the draw conducted in Montreux at the end of January for the EURO 2008 qualifying competition.

The national-team competitions are more popular than ever and their appeal extends way beyond the borders of the participating teams, achieving viewing figures beyond compare. With club teams frequently made up of players of a real mix of nationalities nowadays and international transfers commonplace, the international players have a following that is not limited to their home country but which very often includes the fans of the foreign clubs for whom they play.

In this context, national-team football and club football are closely linked, a situation from which the players benefit the most, both in terms of popularity and financial advantages – which is logical since they are the ones in the starring role.

As far as the clubs and the national associations are concerned, however, matters are more complex, starting with relations between the two. The national coach's job has become harder, as has that of the club coach in many cases, especially when his team contains players of different nationalities with duties all around the world. Furthermore, the financial stakes generated by the commercial success of football do nothing to facilitate matters or take the heat out of the discussions.

Under these circumstances, it is easy to forget that football is first and foremost a game and that its success is built on adherence to sporting values, starting with respect for the Laws of the Game and for opponents, in other words, fair play. A referee is, understandably, needed to settle disputes on the field, but off the field, is it necessary to go to court every time there is a conflict of interest between different parties in the game? Wouldn't it be wiser and in the general interest of our game to seek agreement through dialogue, showing respect for the fans and the institutions that have contributed to football's success and popularity?

*Lars-Christer Olsson*  
Chief Executive

WE CARE ABOUT FOOTBALL



A referee is necessary on the field of play, at the heart of the action, but off the field, disagreements are better resolved through dialogue.

DE SOUZA/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

# UEFA Champions League

Action and excitement guaranteed



AC Milan's Brazilian player Kaka breaks through the Schalke 04 defence. The Italian club now has another German club to contend with, in the shape of Bayern Munich.

SABATTINI

## THE DRAW FOR THE LAST 16 IN THE 2005/06 UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE HAS ONCE AGAIN PRODUCED SOME MOUTH-WATERING FIXTURES, WITH A REPEAT OF LAST SEASON'S CLASH BETWEEN CHELSEA AND BARCELONA ONE OF THE HIGHLIGHTS IN THE UNFOLDING DRAMA OF THE COMPETITION.

Ten of the 16 remaining teams – including three each from England, Italy and Spain – have already won the flagship European club competition at least once, and 12 of them also reached the last 16 last season. Apart from that, six teams had to get through at least one qualifying round before the group phase. The home legs will be played on 21/22 February and the return legs on 7/8 March, except for the Inter Milan v. Ajax game, which will be played on 14 March because of the stadium sharing arrangement with AC Milan. Below is a brief overview of the matches ahead.

### Bayern Munich – AC Milan

This is one of several ties which are worthy of being a final. Both clubs

are giants of European football, having won the trophy ten times between them. Both made few changes to their squads before the current season, except for the signing of Alberto Gilardino, who joined Carlo Ancelotti's team to replace Hernan Crespo when he returned to Chelsea. Apart from that, this clash will pit Andriy Shevchenko, the leading scorer in the competition so far with six strikes to his name, against one of the strongest defences, Felix Magath's men having conceded only four goals. It is also worth noting that Bayern and Milan are the only teams who can boast victories in the current season over Juventus, one of the joint favourites. For the "Rossoneri", who only just scraped through the group phase and are a



team with a relatively high average age, the crucial question will be whether they have recovered from the trauma of last season's final in Istanbul. For Bayern, the question is whether the self-confidence they have shown in the Bundesliga can be reproduced on the European stage.

### Benfica – Liverpool

Until last year, the talk would probably have been of two clubs whose glory days are long behind them. Benfica dominated the European Cup at the start of the 1960s, as did Liverpool in the late 1970s and early 1980s. The "Reds" have been mounting their defence of the title without any major transfers, apart from Milan Baros, whose attacking role has been taken over by Fernando Morientes since January 2005. Liverpool have shown major improvement particularly in the Premier League, where they notched up ten successive victories, though they are still way



Beto (16) and Ricardo Rocha (33) are dreaming of helping Benfica relive the glory years of the 1960s.

ANDRIEU/AP/GETTY IMAGES



FLASH PRESS

Olympique Lyonnais (Karim Nenzema, in black) are a team with definite ambitions.

behind Chelsea, and Rafael Benitez' team will face a tough task against Benfica. Under the leadership of former Dutch international Ronald Koeman, the Portuguese club is slowly regaining its old strength, including a victory which sealed Manchester United's elimination in the group phase, and the side contains technical wizards such as Petit, Beto, Simão and Nuno Gomes. During the winter break their squad has been strengthened by Brazilian goalkeeper Moretto and French winger Laurent Robert.

### Real Madrid – Arsenal

This is a pairing of two teams whose recent form has been unconvincing in their respective domestic leagues. In a continuing search for greater stability, the nine-times European Cup/Champions League winners Real Madrid have parted company with coach Wanderley Luxemburgo and appointed Juan Ramón López Caro as caretaker coach. The summer signings of Julio Baptista, Robinho and Sergio Ramos have not yet had the

desired effect, but this may change with the recent additions of Cicinho and Antonio Cassano to the Real squad. Arsenal's problems are of a different kind: the "Gunners"

are still playing attractive

football but opponents have increasingly sussed out their style of play, stifling it with a more physical approach.

The loss of skipper Patrick Vieira to Juventus has also been a major blow. That said, Arsène Wenger has brought in plenty of young talent with the likes of Van Persie, Reyes, Fabregas and Senderos, and this will clearly pay dividends in

the future – perhaps next season, when the club moves to its new Emirates Stadium home. Progress to the next round would be a welcome relief for either team.

### PSV Eindhoven – Olympique Lyonnais

A repeat of last year's quarter-final meeting, in which the Dutch side emerged victorious from the penalty shoot-out after two fiercely contested matches. Guus Hiddink's team never ceases to surprise the experts, maintaining its high standards despite the exit of major players from the club. This summer's departures included skipper Mark van Bommel and the strong South Korean pair Park and Lee. The team still qualified from an extremely difficult group containing AC Milan, Schalke 04 and Fenerbahce, and is top of the Eredivisie, albeit by a narrow margin. Their opponents Lyon have the French championship more or less sewn up, and are often regarded as the dark horses in this year's Champions League. The team is strong in all areas, with an excellent playing style and massive self-confidence. Changes to the coaching line-up (with Gérard Houllier replacing Paul le Guen in the summer) and to the squad (with the departure of Essien and the arrival of Carew) are unlikely to reduce their chances of success. The French side will be keen to make amends for their defeat last year.

### Chelsea – Barcelona

This fixture is certain to have neutral fans all over the world rubbing



Real Madrid's newcomer Sergio Ramos.

EMPICS

## The fixtures

- FC Bayern München – AC Milan
- SL Benfica – Liverpool FC
- Real Madrid – Arsenal FC
- PSV Eindhoven – Olympique Lyonnais
- Chelsea FC – FC Barcelona
- Rangers FC – Villarreal CF
- Werder Bremen – Juventus
- AFC Ajax – FC Internazionale



EMPICS

After reaching the final with AC Milan last year, is Hernan Crespo heading for another final with Chelsea?



EMPICS

Glasgow Rangers held Inter Milan to a draw – a good omen perhaps?

their hands in anticipation and is full of superlatives and parallels. Both clubs won their respective domestic championships last season by some distance, both have made the 2005/06 Champions League top priority, and this season both are again dominating their national competitions – the Premier League and the Primera Liga respectively. Each team has a young, dynamic and ambitious coach (José Mourinho, Frank Rijkaard), and both have grown even stronger since their previous meeting in

the last 16 in 2005, which could hardly have been surpassed for drama and suspense. Last but not least, Barcelona and Chelsea between them have the best three players in the world at present: Ronaldinho, Lampard and Eto'ó took the top three places at the FIFA World Player Gala awards in December and they have already scored a combined total of over 40 goals in this season's domestic championships. It is well nigh impossible to predict a result here but this season's knockout phase is

almost bound to kick off with a great spectacle, if nothing else. But there is one big difference from last year: "Barça" will be on their home turf, the Camp Nou, for the return leg and will be looking for revenge.

### Rangers – Villarreal

This is a pairing between two outsiders who are also the only teams left in the competition which have never progressed beyond the group stages – so the tie should be open and competi-



Barcelona can count on the prowess of Ronaldinho as they pursue their Champions League campaign.

GETTY IMAGES



Juventus (Fabio Cannavaro, right) are on form, but Bayern Munich (Ze Roberto) showed them that they are also a force to be reckoned with.

BEHNE/BONGARTS/GETTY IMAGES



Villarreal's Hector Font (centre) penetrates Manchester United's defence.

EMPICS

tive. Managed by Chilean coach Manuel Pellegrini, Villarreal have coped remarkably well with the double challenge of the Champions League and domestic championship, having qualified in style from a tough Group D and once again contesting the top places in the Spanish first division. Interestingly, the big names in the team are players who struggled to make an impression at other top clubs but are now positively flourishing. The South American trio of Riquelme, Sorin und Forlan have amazed their former employers. Rangers, on the other hand, who are strong performers at home, have talented internationals from a dozen different countries in their ranks, including Slovenian Dado Prso and the Dane Peter Løvenkrands. Even so, Alex McLeish's team has a typically British style of play, with a direct, uncomplicated approach and a great fight-

ing spirit. Despite lying an unaccustomed fourth in the Scottish championship and trailing city rivals Celtic by 17 points, Rangers may deliver the goods if they start well in the home leg at Ibrox.

### Werder Bremen - Juventus

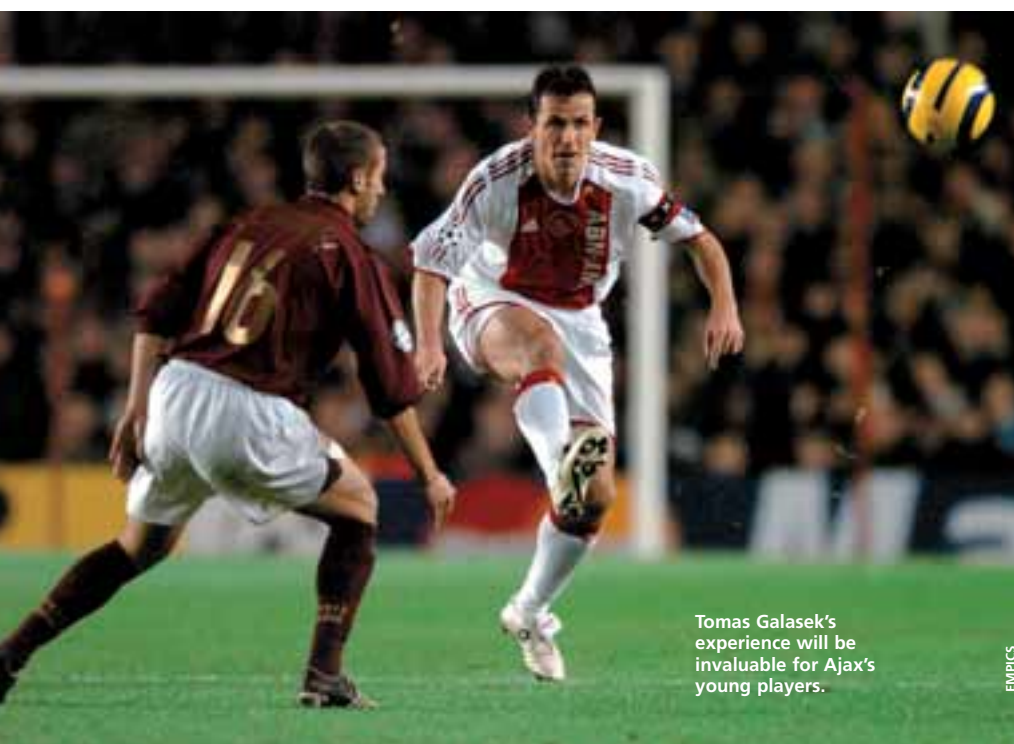
A contest in which the roles appear clearly defined at first sight. Since the start of the 2005/06 season, Fabio Capello's team has made a strong impression. In Serie A so far, they have bagged 49 from a possible 54 points, are extremely strong in all departments, and, moreover, completed the transfer of the summer with the signing of Patrick Vieira. Czech star Pavel Nedved seems to be over his dip in form, and even the lengthy absence of keeper Gianluigi Buffon, who should be ready for action again soon, has barely had an impact. The "Old Lady" is certainly one of the hot favourites for the title. Werder Bremen, on the other hand, reached the last 16 with a mere seven points, but richly deserved their success with their attractive style of play. The North Germans have provided clear proof of their goal-scoring ability in the

Champions League (12 goals in six games) and the Bundesliga (46 goals and in third place after 17 games) and can cause problems for any opponents with the striking duo of Klose and Klasnic and the midfield strategists Micoud, Borowski and Frings. Thomas Schaaf's team must aim to put pressure on the Italians and not make the same defensive mistakes as they did against Lyon in the first knockout round last year (when they lost 10-2 on aggregate).

### Ajax – Internazionale

In this tie there is also a clear favourite: now that the four matches behind closed doors – imposed on them after the incidents in last year's quarter-final against local rivals AC Milan – are over and done with, Inter will be highly motivated for the return leg in front of their home crowd. Apart from their three signings from Real Madrid – Luis Figo, Santiago Solari and Walter Samuel – much is expected from goalkeeper Júlio César, one of the new generation of talented Brazilian goalkeepers. In Serie A, Inter have slightly improved on last season's position, lying in third place after 18 matches, just behind local rivals AC Milan, though still some distance behind Juventus. If Roberto Mancini's men are able to establish a good rhythm and key man Adriano stays fit, the "Nerazzurri" are capable of anything. Ajax qualified from their (relatively easy) group without difficulty, but for the moment things are not running smoothly in the national league, with Danny Blind's team well behind the leaders. The fact that the club's best players are constantly being lured away (with Rafael van der Vaart's departure for Hamburg the most recent example) certainly does not help. The current team is extremely young, and even stalwarts such as the Czech Tomas Galasek, the South African Steven Pienaar and the "homegrown" Wesley Sneijder can be expected to get even better.

Frédéric Wyler



Tomas Galasek's experience will be invaluable for Ajax's young players.

EMPICS



MAROU/APP/GETTY IMAGES

Despite this goal by Vagner Love and victory over Levski Sofia, CSKA Moscow did not make it past the group stage.



The Evoluon centre in Eindhoven.

# UEFA Cup

## Everything still to play for

**THE UNDOUBTED ATTRACTION OF THE UEFA CUP IS THAT THE CONTEST IS STILL WIDE OPEN.**



Title-holders CSKA Moscow, who came off worse in a tough Group F against 2003/04 finalists Marseille and against Levski Sofia and Heerenveen, have already been eliminated. In the last seven

years, seven different nations have lifted the trophy, and as was the case last season, 15 different associations are still in contention. Remarkably, Portugal and Scotland no longer feature in the competition, despite still having teams in the last 16 of the Champions League (Benfica and Rangers). The cities of Seville and Bucharest still have two representatives each: Real Betis and Sevilla, Rapid and Steaua, respectively. France has the most teams (five) in the last 32, followed by Germany (four), Spain and Italy (three each).

Among the clubs still in contention, only four have already won a UEFA trophy (Hamburg, Schalke 04, Steaua Bucharest and Olympique de Marseille).

The home legs will be played on 15/16 February, with the return legs scheduled on 23 February.

- |                         |                       |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. PFC Litex Lovech     | – RC Strasbourg       |
| 2. FC Thun              | – Hamburger SV        |
| 3. OSC Lille            | – Shakhtar Donetsk    |
| 4. Udinese Calcio       | – RC Lens             |
| 5. Lokomotiv Moskva     | – Sevilla FC          |
| 6. VfB Stuttgart        | – Middlesbrough FC    |
| 7. Real Betis           | – AZ Alkmaar          |
| 8. Rosenborg BK         | – Zenit St-Petersburg |
| 9. FC Schalke 04        | – RCD Espanyol        |
| 10. SK Slavia Praha     | – US Palermo          |
| 11. Artmedia Bratislava | – Levski Sofia        |
| 12. Hertha BSC Berlin   | – Rapid Bucuresti     |
| 13. Club Brugge KV      | – AS Roma             |
| 14. FC Basel            | – AS Monaco           |
| 15. SC Heerenveen       | – Steaua Bucuresti    |
| 16. Bolton Wanderers    | – Olymp. de Marseille |

## Draws in the cities hosting the finals

The draw for the last 16 of the UEFA Cup was made in Nyon on 16 December:

- |                 |                   |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| Winner match 7  | – Winner match 14 |
| Winner match 8  | – Winner match 1  |
| Winner match 2  | – Winner match 11 |
| Winner match 4  | – Winner match 15 |
| Winner match 3  | – Winner match 12 |
| Winner match 6  | – Winner match 10 |
| Winner match 9  | – Winner match 16 |
| Winner match 13 | – Winner match 5  |

The matches will be played on 9 March (first legs) and 15/16 March (return legs).

To get the host cities in the mood for the finals well in advance of the actual event, the draws for the quarter-finals and semi-finals will be made there. The UEFA Champions League draw takes place at Paris city hall on 10 March, and the UEFA Cup draw at the Evoluon centre in Eindhoven on 17 March.



Paris city hall.

The schedule for the final stages of the **UEFA Champions League** is as follows:

- 28/29 March: quarter-finals, first legs
- 4/5 April: quarter-finals, return legs
- 18/19 April: semi-finals, first legs
- 25/26 April: semi-finals, return legs
- 17 May: final at the Stade de France in Paris-St-Denis

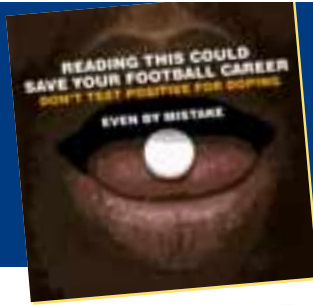
### UEFA Cup

- 30 March: quarter-finals, first legs
- 6 April: quarter-finals, return legs
- 20 April: semi-finals, first legs
- 27 April: semi-finals, return legs
- 10 May: final at the PSV stadium in Eindhoven



MIHAILES/CU/APP/GETTY IMAGES

Steaua Bucharest faced a test away to Heerenveen.



The doping awareness leaflet.

# Anti-doping campaign

## Health and career first

**UEFA'S ANTI-DOPING UNIT IS STEPPING UP ITS ACTION, WITH ADDED EMPHASIS ON PREVENTION, THROUGH MORE INTENSIVE COMMUNICATION, FOR EXAMPLE, AND TAKING OTHER MEASURES, SUCH AS EXTENDING DOPING CONTROLS AND INCREASING THE NUMBER OF DOPING CONTROL OFFICERS.**

2005 was a year of intensification. By creating a specialised anti-doping unit, the UEFA administration demonstrated its desire to be more proactive in this field by reaching the players more directly to protect them.

### Forceful communication

Published in seven languages, 25,000 awareness leaflets were distributed before the season to the clubs involved in the UEFA club competitions as well as to UEFA's 52 member associations.

Via its website, UEFA has launched an extensive information campaign. A new anti-doping page has been created with information on the anti-doping regulations, the list of prohibited substances and methods, in- and out-of-competition procedures and controls, therapeutic use exemption (TUE) forms and other useful anti-doping information.

At last year's European Under-19 Championship final round in Belfast, sessions were organised with the eight participating teams for all players, coaches, doctors and officials as a way

to warn the players about the risks of doping on their health and careers.

Every possible effort was made to ensure that the message got across, with the sessions being interpreted into the languages of the participating teams where necessary and supported by videos and strong messages from football personalities such as Michel Platini, Bobby Charlton, Ronaldinho, Frank Rijkaard and Paolo Maldini.

Building on this positive first experience, sessions of this kind will be extended this year to the European Under-17 Championship final round in Luxembourg, the Under-19 final round in Poland, the Under-21 tournament in Portugal and the Women's Under-19 event in Switzerland.

Future plans include the development of a special programme for young players in the 13-17 age range, whose coaches would be responsible for much of the awareness work.

### Testing programme

In the 2005/06 season, the number of in-competition tests will be increased to ensure that at least 20% of club competition matches are covered. Aside from these regular tests in all UEFA competitions (women's football and futsal included), out-of-competition tests are also conducted. The doping control programme for the UEFA Champions League teams is running smoothly. Conscious of their responsibilities, the clubs are cooperating and providing the UEFA administration with a "whereabouts form" every week. Up to ten players per team can be tested. Spot tests are welcomed by the players, who are often more relaxed at training sessions than during matches. The samples are analysed by laboratories approved by the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) and EPO is tested for as far as

possible in samples taken during out-of-competition doping controls.

### What's new?

Since the seminar for doping control officers held in May last year, five new officers have passed their exams, bringing the number of UEFA doping control officers up to 31.

A confidential extranet communication system has also been set up which allows the doping control officers to access all the information they need

### Tests in figures

Over 750 players were tested in the second half of 2005 (all competitions combined), 550 of whom were tested in-competition and 211 out-of-competition. Five players tested positive and disciplinary measures taken against them. In one case, where a player had tested positive for anabolic steroids, the UEFA Control & Disciplinary Body suspended the player for 18 months and had its decision upheld by the UEFA Appeals Body.

for their assignments (player lists and photos, stadium access information, procedures, regulations, etc.)

In the UEFA Champions League, doping control officers can now count on the assistance of assistant doping control officers appointed by UEFA who prepare the material, guard the doping control station and take the necessary measures to guarantee the players' privacy and comfort.

Finally, the new list of prohibited substances and methods issued by WADA that has been in force since 1 January has been communicated to all the national associations and to the clubs still involved in UEFA competitions by circular letter.



Prevention by information.

UEFA





## Eleven questions for the Executive Committee members

# Geoffrey Thompson

**OUR SERIES DEVOTED TO THE MEMBERS OF THE UEFA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CONTINUES WITH THE FOURTH VICE-PRESIDENT, GEOFFREY THOMPSON.**

### **Your first contact with football?**

Playing football with my friends in our gardens and on the street. I remember my father taking me to my first football match in the early 1950s to watch Sheffield United versus Liverpool in the old Football League Division Two. Liverpool had a famous Scottish international player called "Billy Liddell". I have childhood memories of the club sometimes being referred to as "Liddellpool".

### **First experience of UEFA?**

In 1983, UEFA's Under-18 tournament was held in England, with some group matches played in the North Midlands where I was on the local organising committee for The FA. I met for the first time Senes Erzik, who was a member of the UEFA Youth Committee, and we began a friendship that has continued to this day.

### **A player?**

Bobby Charlton, who was an integral part of the England team which won the World Cup in 1966. He was a forward who knew how to use both feet effectively and scored some tremendous goals from outside the penalty area. He has continued his involvement in the game throughout his life and is a wonderful ambassador for the sport.

### **A memorable match?**

There have been several: Manchester United winning the UEFA Champions League 2-1 against Bayern Munich; England's victory over Germany 5-1 and of course Liverpool's achievement last year. But the most memorable match in my life so far has to be England winning the World Cup at Wembley in 1966.

### **A memory linked to a UEFA activity?**

My first involvement on a UEFA committee was on the Control and Disciplinary Committee, chaired by the remarkable and distinguished late Dr Alberto Barbé. Dr Barbé refused to travel by air, having lost a close colleague in an air crash. I remember being asked by him, towards the end of a

meeting, to go to Russia to interview some players on behalf of the committee. Alberto laughed when I asked if the Trans-Siberian Express had stopped running!!

### **Defender or attacker?**

Attacker, ...goalscorer, ...in the Jimmy Greaves' mould.

However, when it comes to protecting the game I'm very much a defender. I have always believed in the power of football and the influence for good that it can have upon us all.

Each participant has a tremendous responsibility to leave for the next generation a game that is conscious of its impact on society, is honest to itself and its roots. After all, nobody gets lost on a straight road.

### **We give you a ball, what do you do with it?**

Control it, look up and shoot.

### **A town?**

Interlaken, between two lakes and overlooking the Swiss Alps. A veritable paradise on earth.

### **Detective story or economic treatise?**

Certainly a detective story. I like criminal intrigue. I try to work out "who done it".

### **Sea or mountains?**

Inevitably mountains.

### **A dream?**

That UEFA will continue to be governed by people of integrity. We live today in a world which increasingly believes in things that you may touch and see. And the big joke is that these things hardly matter at all.

All the things that really matter are precisely the ones that you cannot touch and see: humour, courage, loyalty, steadfastness and above all integrity. Integrity of mind is the quality without which all the others are diminished. It means setting your sights ever higher; it implies setting any new idea or venture against the measure of your own principles, and resolutely turning away from any form of shabbiness, unkindness

or deceit. It implies service not for reward but because service in itself brings its own reward.

And finally humour – the quality that makes endurable the unendurable and puts everything into proportion and perspective.





HEIMANN/BONGARTS/GETTY IMAGES

Horst Hrubesch is in charge of Germany's Under-19s.



ROSE/BONGARTS/GETTY IMAGES

Arne Friedrich (left), one of Germany's talented young players.



CHRISTJANS/BONGARTS/GETTY IMAGES

Bernd Stöber works with the Under-17s as an education specialist.

# German Football Association

## Ex-players guide the young

**MANY FOOTBALLERS BECOME COACHES WHEN THEY RETIRE. NATIONAL ASSOCIATIONS LIKE THEM TO COACH THEIR SENIOR NATIONAL TEAMS. HOWEVER, NOT SO MANY GO ON TO COACH THEIR NATIONAL YOUTH TEAMS.**

There are a few famous examples, such as Gentile in Italy. The DFB (German Football Association) has, for several years, followed a policy of appointing former internationals to these posts: Dieter Eilts looks after the Under-21s, Ulli Stielike the Under-20s and Under-18s and Horst Hrubesch the Under-19s. Before taking over Bayer Leverkusen's first team, Michael Skibbe

used to coach the Under-18s. Unlike his colleagues, he earned his fame through coaching, although he was a youth international before a serious injury forced him to change direction prematurely.

The personal experience of these former star players gives them a special insight, while their names are an attraction for the youngsters as well as for the press and spectators, with crowds aver-

aging 10,000 for youth internationals. Niels Barnhofer, member of the DFB's communication team, explains: "We carry out promotional activities before the matches. As well as sending out detailed documentation about the match and the stakes involved, we offer the local press interviews with these former international players." The newspapers are also able to interview the youngsters, particularly those who come from the region where the match is taking place.

The DFB has not recruited these big names simply because of their fame or the admiration that their past achievements can generate among their protégés. They all harbour genuine qualities as coaches. In any case, the studies required to obtain a coaching certificate are particularly arduous in Germany, which is why many German coaches are successful abroad: Otto Rehhagel and Christoph Daum are just two examples.

### Education specialists

On the other hand, in order to help the youngest players, who are still in the midst of puberty and need close supervision and guidance, the DFB also employs qualified education specialists: Bernd Stöber (U17), Paul Schomann (U16) and Jörg Daniel (U15). Although they all used to play the game to a high standard – goalkeeper Daniel played in a European Cup Winners' Cup final with Fortuna Düsseldorf – they are mainly known for their work with the regional associations. They understand the youngsters, speak their language and are very familiar



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Dieter Eilts moved from the field to the bench, from where he coaches the Under-21s.

EMPICS



Bastian Schweinsteiger is one of Bayern Munich's young hopefuls.

SIMON/APPI/GERTY IMAGES



Lukas Podolski fends off French star Claude Makelele in a friendly match.

EMPICS

with the breeding grounds for talented players all over the country.

The DFB has also developed other projects to stimulate the emergence of young players. In preparation for the World Cup on home soil, it launched the Team 2006 project in September 2002, when Rudi Völler was in charge of the senior national team. This national B team includes players over 21 who have not yet broken into the A team and who would lose several valuable years without this "bridge". This initiative has enabled players such as Kevin Kuranyi, Arne Friedrich, Fabian Ernst, Timo Hildebrand and Tim Borowski to gain more experience and keep their place in the international set-up. Few nations still have a B team. Team 2006 has therefore crossed swords with its Austrian, Swiss, Scottish and Russian equivalents on dates set aside in the international calendar, but not necessarily against the same countries that the A team has faced. The DFB is currently talking about prolonging this experiment beyond 2006.

Also in 2002, the DFB launched a vast youth support programme, investing EUR 10 million per year. This programme involves 22,000 11- to 17-year olds and more than 1,000 coaches throughout Germany. In addition, teams in the regional league are required to field a certain number of local players and a Youth Bundesliga has been created for talented young players. They are thus able to play in high-level matches and learn how to cope with pressure. The Youth Bundesliga involves sides from the Bundesliga clubs and the top lower division teams. It is divided into three geographical zones, North/North-East, West and South/South-West, so as to avoid excessive journey times for these youngsters, who are still busy with their studies.

Finally, for a long time now, the Bundesliga clubs have been required to run their own coaching academies, which have produced many talented players, such as Bastian Schweinsteiger (Bayern) and Lukas Podolski (1. FC Cologne).

Pascale Pierard

## Ulli Stielike: "Youngsters are more receptive"

*You are well known and very experienced. How is your experience useful to you in your work with the youngsters?*

I have experienced lots of things first hand, I haven't learned about them from other people. It is a definite advantage. Also, the best experience I can share is that which I am gaining with the team over the long term. For example, if the team is trailing 2-0 and has already been in the same situation before, the players are more able to deal with it. The concept is easier for them to understand.

*Are the players impressed by your CV and are they more willing to accept your advice?*

I finished playing in 1988, just when my players were being born. In some countries, such as Spain, your status alone can command respect. In Germany, you have to continually prove yourself and convince people. My playing career gave me a good way in, but after that it's the quality of your work that counts most. In addition, my players are already 17 or 18 and fairly well into their football careers. I should add that I take into account the players' character as much as their sporting ability when picking the team.

*You are involved in promoting youth football at national level. Does that increase your workload?*

Other people spend a lot of time in aeroplanes or cars. Many other jobs are much harder. I really can't complain.

*What are the main differences between the youngsters and professionals?*

Young people are much more inquisitive, receptive and able to learn. As time goes by, you develop your own ideas. It becomes more difficult to change your ways.

*You have already coached senior teams. You have been working for the DFB for eight years. Would you like to coach professionals again?*

Yes. My contract comes to an end at the same time as the next World Cup. I miss the day-to-day work and being on the pitch. I only see my players a few days each month.



UEFA

P.P.



GETTY IMAGES

After its experience as a venue for EURO 2004, the Braga stadium will now play host to matches in the Under-21 final round.



VERHAEGEN/ARF/GETTY IMAGES

France qualified for the final round after a closely fought encounter against England.

# Meetings and other activities

## Under-21 final round in Portugal

**ON 15 DECEMBER, THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE HELD ITS SIXTH AND FINAL MEETING OF THE YEAR IN NYON, WITH THE UEFA PRESIDENT, LENNART JOHANSSON, IN THE CHAIR.**

The committee's initial focus was the financial outlook, in particular strategic aspects such as the distribution of revenue and the duration of the financial plan.

After the report of the CEO, Lars-Christer Olsson, on recent activities and topical issues, and following reports on the Executive Committee working group meetings and the tasks performed by their members, the Committee was informed about the progress of preparations for EURO 2008, which in general are on schedule in both Austria and

Switzerland. Also in connection with EURO 2008, the Executive Committee approved the procedure for the qualifying competition draw, the teams being divided into seven pots according to the results obtained in the qualifying matches for EURO 2004 and the 2006 World Cup.

The draw procedure for the qualifying phase of the next European Under-21 Championship was also approved. This will be a somewhat different edition since it will be played over a single season (2006/07) to allow the

transition of the final round from even to odd years. It will also set a new record for participation since 51 of UEFA's member associations have entered (compared with 48 for 2004-06).

### Change of date for the Under-21 final round

The Executive Committee also had to designate the host association for the final round of the current edition, for which the remaining contenders are Italy, the title-holders, plus Germany, Denmark, France, the Netherlands, Portugal, Serbia and Montenegro, and Ukraine. The Portuguese Football Federation were given the nod to stage the final round this year. The Executive Committee also agreed to the final tournament being brought forward by two days. It will therefore take place from 23 May to 4 June, which will enable the final to be played on a Sunday. The draw for the final round will take place in Porto on 8 February.

Since the host associations for the final round will be designated in future before the start of the qualifying competition, the Executive Committee has already designated the Dutch FA as hosts of the 2007 final round. It also confirmed that the host nation, which qualifies automatically, would not participate in the qualifying phase, in line with the principle in force in other UEFA competitions.

The Executive Committee also decided on the host associations for the final round of the European Women's Under-19 Championship. In 2008, France will be the host country, while in 2009 it will be the turn of Belarus.

### Testing a referee communication system

The meeting also dealt with refereeing matters and in particular a referee communication system. Tests will be conducted, in agreement with the International FA Board, and if the results are positive, the system might be introduced for Champions League and UEFA Cup matches.

## Homage to the winning clubs



UEFA

As part of the commemorations for the 50th anniversary of its flagship club competition, UEFA took the opportunity of the draw for the UEFA Champions League first knockout round to honour the 21 clubs whose names have been engraved on the trophy over the years, presenting a commemorative plaque to their representatives.



FLASH PRESS

A communication system for referees is being put to the test.



## Report from Brussels

Last November, UEFA and the European Parliament launched a Written Declaration on Tackling Racism in Football. In an unprecedented act of cooperation between the two organisations, the Declaration calls on all parts of the football family to strengthen their fight against racism. By the end of 2005, more than 200 MEPs had signed the Declaration.

If half of the European Parliament – at least 367 MEPs – sign the Declaration before 1 March 2006, the Declaration will become a formal Resolution of the European Parliament. This would be only the fourth Declaration in the history of the Parliament to have won majority support.

Claude Moraes was the driving force behind the initiative. Almost a year ago, the British Socialist MEP approached UEFA's Brussels Office with the proposal for a text, which



UEFA would be free to improve and refine. Nine months later, the Declaration saw the light of day.

*"Football is not the cause of racism, but it is in our stadiums and on our pitches that some of the most visible and violent abuse takes place,"* says Mr Moraes. *"We should see this as an opportunity. The massive popularity of football presents us with the means to reach millions of people and, we must hope, to promote tolerance and understanding."* →

## Adopting a firm stance against racism

At the end of its December meeting, the Executive Committee issued a declaration in which it reiterated its categorical condemnation of all forms of racism and reaffirmed its "zero tolerance" policy towards any kind of discrimination within European football.



GETTY IMAGES

The Executive Committee reiterated that the fight against racism is a matter for everyone involved in football and it called upon the members of the European football family to take action.

In particular, it called on referees, delegates and coaches to monitor closely the conduct of players and supporters and fulfil their duty to punish and denounce all forms of racism inside and outside football stadiums by taking the measures which they are authorised to do.

The Executive Committee also urged the national associations, leagues and clubs to implement UEFA's plan and best practice across Europe. It also asked supporters to condemn and report any expression of racism they encounter in football.

It emphasised the excellent work done by organisations such as the FARE network and drew attention to the anti-racism conference to be held in Barcelona on 1 February.

The Executive Committee looked at the international match calendar for the years in which a European Championship final round is held. In reply to FIFA's question as to whether it would be desirable to bring forward the closing date of the domestic competitions in order to give an extra week's rest to the selected players, the committee considered that this measure, which is applied for the World Cup finals, was not necessary for the European Championship final rounds since no long-distance travel was involved and the competition was shorter.

Having opened the meeting with financial matters, the Executive Committee concluded the proceedings by looking at certain economic aspects, regarding the sale of UEFA competition rights and

the fact that football's popularity is constantly growing, thus enabling substantial revenue to be gained for European football as a whole.

■ On 12 December in Nyon, the Club Competitions Committee, chaired by Friedrich Stickler, continued its preparation of the club competition regulations for the 2006/07 season, which will be submitted to the Executive Committee in the spring. It also discussed matters such as the official matchball for all Champions League matches, hospitality facilities, and the possibility of restricting access to the UEFA Cup to the winners of domestic cup competitions (and no longer to the finalists).

→ *By winning hearts and minds on the terraces and on the pitch, we can make a crucial breakthrough in the bigger battle to free society of racism."*

Below are the main parts of the Declaration.

### "The European Parliament:

1. Strongly condemns all forms of racism at football matches, both on and off the field,
2. Commends the excellent work that various organisations, including UEFA and FARE, have done in tackling these problems,
3. Calls on all those with a high profile in football, above all players and coaches, to speak out regularly against racism,
4. Calls on national football associations, leagues, clubs, players' unions and supporters' groups to apply UEFA best practice, such as the UEFA Ten-Point Plan of Action,
5. Calls on UEFA and all other competition organisers in Europe to ensure that referees have the option, according to clear and strict guidelines, to stop or abandon matches in the event of serious racist abuse,
6. Calls on UEFA and all other competition organisers in Europe to consider the option of imposing sporting sanctions on national football associations and clubs whose supporters or players commit serious racist offences, including the option to remove persistent offenders from their competitions."



Steven Gerrard in action against Deportivo Saprissa.

It also took a decision on the distribution of some 34 million Swiss francs of additional revenue to the clubs participating in the 2005/06 Champions League.

It opted for dividing the total amount into two parts: half as an additional qualification premium (i.e. more than 500,000 Swiss francs for each of the 32 clubs) and the other half as a supplement to the "market pool". The clubs will receive the additional money after the end of the season, when the final accounts have been drawn up.

### Liverpool in the final in Japan

**Despite the change in format, Liverpool FC left Tokyo empty-handed once again: after two defeats in the European/South American Cup, in 1981 against Flamengo and in 1984 against Independiente, the English club lost out again in the final of the FIFA Club World Championship.**

The second edition of the FIFA Club World Championship in Tokyo, which continued the traditional duel between the champions of Europe and South America in a new form, brought together six continental champions.

In the initial phase staged on 11 and 12 December, the quarter-finals saw Al Ittihad (Saudi Arabia) beat Al Ahly (Egypt) and Deportivo Saprissa (Costa Rica) qualify at the expense of Sydney FC (Australia). The European and South American representatives entered the competition at the semi-final stage and justified their favourites' tag, with Liverpool beating Deportivo Saprissa 3-0 and the Brazilian club FC São Paulo securing a 3-2 victory after a tough battle with Al Ittihad.

In the final played in the International Stadium in Yokohama on 18 December, Liverpool tried everything to equalise after Mineiro opened the score just before the half-hour mark. But there was to be no happy end for the English club this time and São Paulo were able to cling on to their one-goal lead until the final whistle, thereby adding a world title to the two victories they obtained in Tokyo in 1992 and 1993 at the expense of two other prestigious European clubs, FC Barcelona and AC Milan.

Deportivo Saprissa secured third place in the tournament with a 3-2 victory over Al Ittihad. FC Sydney finished fifth as a result of their 2-1 win over Al Ahly.



São Paulo's goalkeeper Rogerio Ceni was invincible against Liverpool.



# News

## from member associations

### AUSTRIA



#### Josef Hickersberger named new national coach

As the new year got under way, Josef Hickersberger took over as coach of the Austrian national team. The 57-year-old moves into the national coach's seat from SK Rapid Vienna, whom he took into this season's UEFA Champions League.

It is not his first experience in this position, having already served as head coach from 1988 to 1990. The highlight of that first era was reaching the 1990 World Cup finals in Italy. Hickersberger recalls: *"The opening match in Rome in particular, at the Olympic Stadium, against the hosts made a lasting impression on me. I definitely want to experience the incredible feeling and atmosphere of*



Josef Hickersberger.

*such a tournament again.*" And he will have that opportunity in 2008, when Austria and Switzerland co-host EURO 2008: *"My main reason for absolutely wanting to be national coach again was to play in the European Championship on home soil. It's a fantastic challenge for any coach and, naturally, for me too,"* he explained.

After this first stint as Austria's national coach, Hickersberger worked in the German and Austrian Bundesliga, before spending seven years in the Middle East, where he coached in Bahrain and Qatar, making the national championships one-horse races with his respective clubs.

In 2002, he returned to Austria, where record-breaking champions SK Rapid Vienna secured his services following the departure of Lothar Matthäus. Hickersberger led the team from the bottom third of the table back to the top, culminating in the championship title and qualification for the 2005/06 UEFA Champions League.

Ronald Gollatz

### BELGIUM



#### René Vandereycken succeeds Aimé Anthuenis

René Vandereycken was introduced as the new coach of the Belgian national team on 23 December at the headquarters of the Belgian FA following a meeting of the executive committee the previous day. His contract runs from 1 January 2006 to 30 June 2008.



PHOTO NEWS

His appointment came as no surprise since his name had already been mentioned for a while as the main contender to take over from Aimé Anthuenis.

René Vandereycken is a prominent figure in Belgian football. He has proved himself in numerous clubs, both as a player and as a coach.

He is described as a perfectionist with a strong personality, articulate, and passionate about his work. He is a coach who protects his players but without stepping into the realms of friendship. He also fulfils the four requirements for being national coach: he's Belgian, bilingual, licensed by the national coaching academy, and currently under no contract with a club.

Wherever he has been, he has left his players with fond memories. His appointment has also met with the unanimous approval of the current "Red Devils" as well as among his fellow coaches at national level.

As a player, René Vandereycken played in the 1980 European Championship

final as well as in the Belgian side that finished the 1986 World Cup finals in fourth place, and, at club level, in the European Champion Clubs' Cup final with FC Bruges and twice in the UEFA Cup final, once with Anderlecht and once with FC Bruges.

As a coach, he has managed several prestigious Belgian clubs, including Anderlecht, Standard Liège, FC Bruges, RWD Molenbeek and KAA Gent. He has also worked abroad as coach of FSV Mainz 05 in Germany and FC Twente Enschede in the Netherlands.

Despite having all the qualities for success, the new national coach has a tricky task ahead of him: to regain the prestige of the national team, with the first objective being to qualify for EURO 2008.

Self-confidence is another of René Vandereycken's great attributes. *"As far as I'm concerned, playing against strong teams isn't necessarily a drawback,"* he said in his first interview after accepting the job, when asked what he thought about Belgium being put into the fourth pot for the EURO 2008 qualifying draw.

Belgium are thirsty for revenge and looking forward to the first (friendly) match under the new coach's orders on 1 March.

David Deldicq

### BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA



#### Successful season

As always at the end of the season, the leadership of the Football Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina (FF BHZ) evaluated the success and financial work of the federation. Munib Usanovic, general secretary, concluded that the last season had been successful and that there had been a great improvement in administrative work during this last period. *"The unified FF BHZ had been established thanks to the help of UEFA and FIFA in 2002 to cover the whole territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Though still a young organisation, it was making great strides forward from one season to the next in all fields. Every aspect of football in our country was fully under control. The committees had been doing a great job. The federation had had some problems with the licensing project, as a result of which its most successful teams, FK Zeljeznicar and FK Sarajevo,*



The national team.

could not take part in the UEFA Cup because they did not meet the licensing requirements. But these two clubs were now close to fulfilling the licensing terms for the next season.

"The national team had also done well, only just missing out on the play-offs for the World Cup finals. Considering the conditions in Bosnia and Herzegovina, third place in the group was a very good result. The federation was hoping that it would be a case of third time lucky in the qualifying competition for EURO 2008," Munib Usanovic said.

On 30 November, the national team of Bosnia and Herzegovina had celebrated ten years of existence. The team had played its first match in Tirana, Albania. Achieving third place in Group 7 in the qualifying competition for the 2006 World Cup had been its greatest success to date.

The development of the federation's educational programme was also highlighted in the general secretary's press conference. The first intake of students for the UEFA Pro coaching licence had completed the second term of their course. They had had the privilege of being tutored by famous professionals of the likes of Miljan Miljanic, Vahid Halilhodzic and Zdenko Verdenik. Once they had successfully completed their training, the coaches would be licensed to work at any club in the world.

The general secretary also announced an interesting futsal tournament. UEFA had invited the FF BHZ to initiate a project against racism, but considering that nationalism is more prevalent in Bosnia and Herzegovina, it had been decided to organise a tournament under the banner of "football against nationalism". Teams of journalists, artists, international organisations, government and religious communities would take part.

The excellent cooperation established between the FF BHZ and FIFA and

UEFA would continue this year, with one of the main subjects on the agenda being the FF BHZ constitution and its adjustment to the FIFA and UEFA statutes.

The FF BHZ's top executive also declared that anti-violence measures were to be taken and cooperation with fans promoted with a view to ensuring a peaceful and friendly atmosphere in and around stadiums.

Fuad Kravac

## ENGLAND



### A project for young people

Football is being used to tackle a wide range of social problems in some of England's most deprived communities as The FA's new £4.5 million HatTrick project for young people swings into action.

Nineteen Community Football Workers have been employed by The FA to work in areas that suffer from multiple deprivation: poor health, housing, education, and high incidences of crime and drug abuse.

"This is a hugely exciting and rewarding project which demonstrates how The FA can support the Government in key areas," said FA Chairman and UEFA vice-president Geoffrey Thompson.

FA Chief Executive Brian Barwick visited South Kilburn in London just before Christmas to see for himself how successful the initial stages of the projects have been. He also heard how two local children had recently been invited for trials at QPR since taking part in the after-school club.

"We are all aware of the increasing concerns about obesity in young people," said FA Head of Football Development Kelly Simmons. "It follows on that as young people become more active and involved in leadership and coaching



Brian Barwick visits South Kilburn.

opportunities, so we are likely to begin tackling problems that stem from boredom and lack of direction too.

"We also want to give as many young people as possible the confidence and motivation to gain football coaching and leadership qualifications so they can go out and work in these areas, many of which include large ethnic minority communities within them."

The FA have secured £1.1 million from UEFA and £3.4 million from the British Government for this three-year programme.

The community football workers will work closely with schools and local clubs, and have four priorities:

- To get young people into football
- To develop sustainable opportunities for children through FA Charter Standard clubs
- To develop leaders and coaches from within the communities
- To support the government target of providing two hours of PE in schools every week.

Alex Stone

## FINLAND



### Women's football on a high

Finland's success in Women's EURO 2005 has given the women's game a real boost. Two home fixtures in the Women's World Cup qualifying competition witnessed new record audiences during the autumn. The final match of last year, against Spain at the Helsinki Olympic Stadium, was followed by 5,892 spectators and watched live on national television by 300,000 viewers.

The Finnish FA's executive committee is trying to further develop the women's game by bidding to host the Women's EURO 2009 final tournament. Women's head coach Michael Kälđ welcomed the decision:

"I hope we get the tournament, although the bid alone is having a positive impact and further promoting women's football. There is a new crop of young players coming through the ranks, so hosting the Women's EURO 2009 would set them a great goal."

Michael Kälđ himself has received many awards after reaching the semi-finals in England in June 2005. One of the most cherished nominations came





Women's football is enjoying a boom.

from the Finnish Sports Journalists' Association, which named him Coach of the Year for 2005.

*Sami Terävä*

## GERMANY



### Gerhard Schröder made DFB honorary member

At the extraordinary general meeting of the German Football Association (DFB) on 9 December, former German Chancellor Gerhard Schröder was made an honorary member of the DFB in recognition of his services to German football and his role in the country's bid to stage the 2006 World Cup. DFB executive president Theo Zwanziger paid tribute to the former chancellor at the gala event at the Leipzig opera house: *"Gerhard Schröder recognised the big opportunity that staging the World Cup represented for Germany. But as a former footballer he doesn't lose sight of the other aspects either."*

Earlier on, DFB president Gerhard Mayer-Vorfelder had opened the extraordinary general meeting by welcoming not only Federal Chancellor Angela Merkel but also FIFA President Joseph S. Blatter, UEFA President Lennart Johansson, FIFA honorary president Joao Havelange and DFB honorary president Egidius Braun to Leipzig.

In addition, nine foreign celebrities were awarded the "DFB Golden Award" in recognition of their associations' services to German and international football, including Ferenc Puskás, Gyula Grosics and Jenő Buzánszky, three of the great Hungarian team which contested the 1954 World Cup final in Berne, losing 3-2 to Germany. Other award winners included Sheik Hamad Bin Khalifa Al-Thani, the Emir of Qatar, Ken Naganuma of the

Japanese FA, Edgar Obertüfer of the Swiss FA, Emanuel Shaffer from the Israeli association, Michail Kassabov from the Bulgarian FA and Argentine association president Julio Grondona.

*Maximilian Geis*

## GREECE



### Four new sports centres

During November and December, within the framework of the development of football in all regions, the Hellenic Football Federation, in the presence of its president, Vassilis Gagatsis, inaugurated four sports centres (complexes).

On 25 November, Michel Platini, member of the FIFA and UEFA Executive Committees, opened the new sports centre in Veria, which was constructed thanks to the FIFA Goal programme.

Then on 5 December, Marios Lefkaritis, member of the UEFA Executive Committee, inaugurated the country's first mini-pitch in the town of Aspropyrgos, which was constructed thanks to the UEFA HatTrick programme.

Mr Lefkaritis also inspected the new centres of the local leagues of Amfissa and Livadia.

Finally, Joseph Mifsud, member of the UEFA Executive Committee, was present for the inauguration of the centres of the local leagues of Thesprotia, on 10 December, and Arta, the day after, which were also financed from the UEFA HatTrick programme.

*Michalis Koutsouris*

## ISRAEL



### New executive committee

The return of international football to Israel was highlighted in 2005 as the Israel Football Association (IFA) experienced a busy schedule, hosting no fewer than three mini-tournaments on an almost back-to-back basis.

At the beginning of October, Austria, Italy and Armenia visited Israel for a Women's Under-19 mini-tournament, which was won by the Italians, with Austria capturing the second spot. Later that month, Armenia, Azerbaijan and Russia arrived for the Under-17 Group 4 qualifying stage, which was won by the Russians, with Israel also advancing to the

elite round as runners-up. The Under-19's Group 3, which was hosted here the following week, saw Israel maintain a 100 per cent record, while Cyprus qualified from the runners-up spot.

Avraham Grant's reign as Israel's national-team coach has come to an end after he announced his decision to step down after four years in charge. Grant, who led Israel to an unprecedented unbeaten World Cup qualifying campaign, failed to guide Israel to a major tournament in two attempts and will be replaced by Dror Kashtan.



Izhak Iche Menachem, president of the Israel FA, and new coach Dror Kashtan.

The veteran and most coveted coach in Israel's history, who is currently head coach of Hapoel Tel Aviv, has already held two meetings with the IFA chairman, Izhak Iche Menachem, and will see his appointment approved by the IFA secretariat in the near future.

The annual general meeting, which took place towards the end of the year, elected a new executive committee comprising 29 members, 12 of whom are new members.

The IFA also hosted UEFA Chief Executive Lars-Christer Olsson for a visit at its headquarters, where he received a presentation of its activities and future plans.

As the licensor responsible for issuing licences to Israeli football clubs for the purpose of participation in UEFA club competitions, the IFA's licensing body underwent a successful audit, which showed that it complies fully with UEFA's National Football Body Licensing Standard.

In addition, the IFA has been granted partial admission to the Convention on the Mutual Recognition of Coaching Qualifications, pertaining to UEFA's B and A levels only.

*Ofer Ronen-Abels*



## LIECHTENSTEIN



### National team receive team of the year award

The Liechtenstein senior national team was named team of the year for the second year running at the Liechtenstein annual sports awards. The Liechtenstein Olympic Sports Association hosted the traditional event at the Kirchplatz theatre in Schaan. Guests from the world of sport and politics and many sports enthusiasts attended the crowning social event of the national sporting year.



Martin Andermatt (front) talks to the press.

The senior national team, coached by Martin Andermatt, won the third round of voting, beating beach volleyball players Oliver Indra and Matthias Wachter and the Liechtenstein model aircraft association.

Receiving the award, Andermatt said proudly, "2005 was a successful year, a year of achievement for us. But we can't afford to rest on our laurels, we've still got a lot of hard work to do. Our success has shown us that we can do even more in future. The important thing is that we carry on representing Liechtenstein with our whole heart and soul."

At a press conference on 6 December, the LFV revealed that Martin Andermatt's contract was being extended indefinitely. In future, the successful coach will have a varied portfolio of duties, not only taking care of the national team but also having responsibility for football as a whole, from the children's game to the national eleven. Special emphasis is to be placed on initial and ongoing coach education.

The LFV hopes that with Andermatt at the helm it will be able to build on the successes of the World Cup qualifying campaign, in which Liechtenstein achieved a draw against EURO 2004 runners-up Portugal and chalked up a total of eight points. Team captain Daniel Hasler was pleased at

the extension of the coach's contract, saying that the team was happy to continue working with him. He said that Andermatt had the trust of the whole team, and his competence, intuition and great international experience were valued highly.

Judith Frommelt

## LITHUANIA



### Changes in the licensing rules

In preparation for the third season in which licences are required by Lithuanian clubs, some changes have been made to the licensing rules.

According to licensing section manager Edvinas Eimontas, a very positive trend can be seen.

"In general, Lithuanian football clubs which have obtained a licence have made good progress. There is better communication and interaction between football clubs and sports institutions. Stadiums have been renovated in Vilnius, Kaunas, Siauliai, Panevezys, Klaipeda and Silute. Club coaches have attended seminars and there have been other positive developments," he said.

The licensing system is, of course, not the only factor in the development of Lithuanian football. Clubs and municipalities are also making major contributions to this upward trend.

Vaiva Zizaitė

## FYR OF MACEDONIA



### Awards ceremony in Skopje

At the end of December, a gala night was held at the Aleksandar Palace hotel in Skopje, where the Football Federa-

tion of FYR of Macedonia made its annual awards for 2005.

The award for best player went to FC Rabotnicki Kometal's Stojan Ignatov.

FC Rabotnicki Kometal received another three awards, as best football club, for the coach of the year, Gjore Jovanovski, and for the best foreign player, Ivan Pejčić.

FC Sileks' striker Stevica Ristic, an international player from Serbia and Montenegro, was recognised as top scorer in 2005 (25 goals).

Other awards went to Mainz player Nikolce Novevski, who was singled out from among the internationals who play for clubs elsewhere as his country's most valuable football representative abroad.

FIFA Referee Emil Bozinovski was named referee of the year, and FC Cementarnica's general secretary, Dragojlo Jovanovic, was nominated best official.

The fair play team of 2005 was FC Belasica GC from Strumica.

Best youth player was FC Sken-dija's attacker Agim Ibraimi, and the coach of the year, in the youth categories, FC Pelister's Zlatko Cvetanovski.

In futsal, the best team was champion club KMF ALFA PARF, and best futsal player Marjan Petkovski from the same team.

ZFK Skiponjat and its player Afro-dita Salihi were awarded as best club and best player in women's football.

Finally, the Football Federation of FYR of Macedonia also honoured sport journalists Dimce Minovski, Ilija Karovski and Saban Sinani for their outstanding contributions to football in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia on the media side.

Zoran Nikolovski



The prize-winners.



## MALTA



### Positive trends

In his traditional end-of-the-year address to the Malta FA Council, Joseph Mifsud, president, outlined the association's main achievements for the year 2005.

He said that the outlook was positive, despite the fact that the standard of play in Malta's top league had been a little below par in the first months of the year. However, there had been an improvement since the beginning of the current season, with an evident enhancement in competitive levels.

It was generally thought that the quality of domestic football in Malta would take time to improve unless the number of teams in the premier division is reduced. Unfortunately, a motion to this effect had been rejected by the MFA Council earlier in the year.

On the other hand, the results of the Maltese national teams in different categories during the latter part of 2005 had been a source of satisfaction to all. Identical 1-1 draws against Croatia and Bulgaria in Malta's last two World Cup qualifiers, increased attendances for both games and progress by the Under-21 and youth teams were in the forefront of this renewed confidence in the ability of the island's representative teams.

During 2005, two new sponsorship agreements for national competitions, and a new TV rights contract for international matches had boosted the association's finances and, hence, football in general. In fact, the sponsorships were also intended to provide direct financial incentives to all clubs.

Formalities in the allotment of the UEFA jubilee mini-pitches as part of the confederation's financial aid to all national associations to mark its 50th anniversary were being finalised and the first pitches were in the process of being installed.

The Malta FA's next project was the laying of new artificial turf at the Centenary Stadium to conform with FIFA standards, while plans for new MFA headquarters at the Ta' Qali national stadium complex were at a very advanced stage.

A healthier financial position, resulting particularly from crowd-pulling international matches, would help the MFA complete such projects sooner rather than later.

According to the MFA top official, if the past calendar year was anything to go by, 2006 should have more positive trends in store for the Malta FA and the island's passionate followers of the game.

Alex Vella

## NETHERLANDS



### Referees in the limelight

Dutch referees have been in the limelight on several occasions during the past few weeks. In line with the refereeing master plan launched in 2003, football in general has benefited from the measures taken to increase the number of certified referees and to improve the quality of refereeing at all levels.

Last November, the president of the Dutch Football Association (KNVB), Mathieu Sprengers, presented Abdelhak Jermoumi with his certificate as the 10,000th referee to successfully complete a KNVB course. This huge number in a period of just under two years indicates that people of all ages and at all levels of football are



Mathieu Sprengers, president of the Dutch FA, with Abdelhak Jermoumi and FIFA referee Kevin Blom.

willing to acquire a basic knowledge of refereeing. Youth courses for players under 16 have been extremely successful. More than 4,000 youngsters have completed a one-day course to become a certified youth referee. These young referees officiate at Under-8 and Under-10 matches, while still having plenty of time and opportunity to play football themselves.

For senior referees at amateur level, the KNVB has organised six regional seminars that were attended by approximately 3,500 referees, assistant referees and referee observers. During the seminars, well-known referees, past and present, related their experiences and gave real-life examples from the pitch. Each included several workshops from which referees could choose topics that they found of particular interest.

In January, the professional referees went to Turkey for a five-day training camp. This group of over 60 referees and assistant referees worked hard on their physical fitness and received technical instructions as well. At the same time, a masterclass of

young and promising referees went to Portugal for a similar experience as their senior colleagues. Mario van der Ende, the experienced international referee and coach of these upcoming match officials, helped the youngsters work on their overall performance. For that purpose, quite a few of the young Dutch referees officiated at friendly matches played in the Algarve area.

In all, the refereeing master plan has already proved successful in many areas, and Dutch football can only benefit from what is yet to come out of this ambitious plan.

Rob de Leede

## PORTUGAL



### Looking to the future

The end of 2005 saw the staging of two important competitions in the sporting calendar of the Portuguese Football Federation (FPF). The final rounds of the Eusébio and Manuel Quaresma tournaments in the national stadium, for Under-20 regional representative teams and Under-18 players respectively, brought together some 300 promising youth players, who competed vigorously but fairly for the trophies in question.

"These tournaments are not only a unique occasion for observing players who have not yet achieved recognition in the national teams, owing to varying speeds of sporting progress and individual development, but also an important forum for coordination between the FPF national technical structure and the 22 district and regional football associations across the country," explained FPF national technical coordinator Arnaldo Cunha.

The Eusébio tournament, which seeks to provide a platform for scouting players who may be of interest to the national Under-20 or Under-21 teams and directing them to clubs in the upper divisions, already offers the incentive that the winner can represent Portugal in the UEFA Regions' Cup.

These two competitions also pay tribute to two outstanding figures in Portuguese football: Eusébio da Silva Ferreira, one of the all-time greats of world football, and Manuel Quaresma, the late FPF general secretary, who played a major role in the successful organisation of various tournaments, especially EURO 2004 and the 2003 European Under-17 Championship final round.

Filipe Félix



## ROMANIA



### New structure

The elections for the presidency of the Romanian FA, which were won again by Mircea Sandu, brought with them the changes within the association which Mr Sandu had promised.

Inspired by the organisational model of UEFA, Mr Sandu made the necessary suggestions, which were approved by the executive committee of the Romanian FA.

As a result, immediately below the president in the new organisational structure are the general secretary (Adalbert Kassai stays in the same position as before) and the newly created position of CEO, the first incumbent of which is Ioan Angelo Lupescu. The general secretary and CEO are on the same level. Lupescu (37) is a former key international (74 caps), who played, among other achievements, in the World Cup finals in 1990 and 1994

and in EURO '96 and EURO 2000. The general secretary is responsible for monitoring the domestic competitions, including the referees' committee, while the CEO is responsible for all other areas of the administration. Lupescu is one of the four former important members of the so-called "golden generation" of the Romanian national team, all of them participants in FIFA World Cup and European Championship final rounds, who will hold key positions within the Romanian FA.

Former goalkeeper Florin Prunea (37 years old, 40 caps) is the new director of international relations, replacing Cristian Bivolaru, who has

stepped down. Former defender Daniel Prodan (34 years old, 54 caps) is sports director for all the national teams (a new position), with responsibility for organisational matters concerning those teams. Last but not least, another former defender, Miodrag Belodedici (41 years old, 53 caps), is the new technical director of the national youth teams.

*"It makes sense to have former important players alongside us who want to work for the administration. I trust them and I am well aware that all of them are keen to work and that they enjoy this work," said Mircea Sandu, while Ioan Angelo Lupescu added: "There are some things which I knew about the work of the FA, but I realise that there is still a lot that I do not know. But, step by step, I will learn and I am happy that Mr Sandu is letting us into the secrets of this job".*

Under the new structure, the president will deal more with the general strategy and general programmes of the association. He has delegated some of his tasks to the newcomers, but, of course, all decisions will be taken in consultation and with the approval of the president.

These are not the only changes made at the beginning of this year. Some departments will be restructured, including the marketing department, which will now have increased importance and value.

*Paul Zaharia*

Ioan Lupescu during EURO 2000.



EMPICS

## SCOTLAND



### Smoke-free zone

Scotland's home international matches and major cup finals will be played at a smoke-free Hampden Park from now on, after the stadium announced a complete smoking ban.

Hampden Park has introduced a smoking ban in all areas from January, while Glasgow's other major stadiums, Celtic Park and Ibrox, will follow suit shortly afterwards.

This decision means that no smoking will be allowed at the Scotland v Switzerland match at Hampden on 1 March and the Tennent's Scottish Cup final on 13 May, as well as a wide range of other major football matches and events.

Legislation comes into effect in Scotland on 26 March which bans smoking in all enclosed public spaces. David Kells, managing director of Hampden Park, said: "Hundreds of thousands of football fans go through the doors of Hampden over the course of the year. We also cater for music fans of all age groups with concerts throughout the summer. We felt we should start 2006 with this positive health message and support the lead given by the Scottish Executive on this important initiative."

■ An amateur club in Edinburgh, Spartans FC, has announced ambitious plans to build a new football academy.

The club, who play in the East of Scotland League and regularly qualify for the Scottish Cup, will build a facility with a fully enclosed stadium and grass pitch, with seats for 500 spectators and an overall capacity of 3,000, as well as an extra large third generation artificial pitch, a clubhouse with six changing rooms and office accommodation.

The academy will provide a new home for Spartans, whose old ground is being demolished, and will be managed by the club. Coaching will be provided by full-time Spartans coaches, supported by the club's 50 part-time youth coaches. In addition to Spartans, the academy will be used by local schools and community groups.

It was launched by Celtic FC manager Gordon Strachan, who grew up in the area and is a patron of the club. He said: "I agree with the Spartans philosophy. That's the reason I got involved. The academy will be an organised environment where kids will learn respect for themselves and each other and learn how to be team players."

Spartans club captain Craig Graham said "We are excited about the Spartans Community Football Academy and we believe it will make a real difference to the lives of youngsters in North Edinburgh. It will use football to increase physical activity, encourage teamwork and develop football skills."

The capital cost of the project is over £2 million, work starts in February 2006 and the facility is scheduled to open in the autumn this year.

Andy Mitchell

## SERBIA AND MONTENEGRO



### High distinction for Miljan Miljanic

On 13 December, at Belgrade City Hall, Miljan Miljanic, honorary president of the FA of Serbia and Montenegro (FS SCG), received one of the highest domestic civil



Miljan Miljanic (left) receives his award from Tomislav Karadzic.

medals, the "Orden Nemanje Drugog stepena" (or just "Orden of Nemanja"). The FSS CG president, Tomislav Karadzic, presented Mr Miljanic with the medal on behalf of Svetozar Marovic, president of Serbia and Montenegro, in recognition of Miljan Miljanic's services to domestic and international football in the last 50 years.

Miljan Miljanic was born on 4 May 1930. He started out as a player at FK Crvena zvezda in 1947, where he returned as a coach 11 years later. Between 1966 and 1974, he won seven trophies with Crvena zvezda and also played for Real Madrid CF (two seasons, three trophies). He served as head coach of the national team of the former Yugoslavia (1973-74 and 1979-82, two World Cups, in 1974 and 1982). Apart from that, he worked as a coach at FC Valencia and some Asian clubs. Then, from 1993 to 2001, he was president of our association.

Having spent 50 of his 75 years in football and received awards from UEFA and FIFA, Miljan Miljanic has finally been honoured in his home country. He is a shining example for others to follow.

It was a great day in Belgrade. Some 300 guests attended the ceremony, including Miljan Miljanic's family, FS SCG officials and other football personalities, and guests from former Yugoslav republics.

"This is our victory, a victory for the football family, a victory for the future. My work in football has been simple, but my love for the game is enormous. Football asks everything of you, but you have to give more than that if you want to go that bit further," said a proud Miljan Miljanic.

Praising Miljan Miljanic, Tomislav Karadzic and former Crvena zvezda president Dragan Dzajic said he was a pillar of domestic football and a more than worthy recipient of this award.

Aleksandar Boskovic

## SLOVENIA



### "I like playing football"

The Football Association of Slovenia (NZZ) is seriously pursuing the goals of its youth programme. In accordance with the programme, the NZZ has started up numerous activities within the sphere of children's and youth football. Children's football schools, the "I like playing football" project, school football competitions and a footballer's badge are just some of the projects going on at the present time and all of which are part of UEFA's grassroots project.

The main goal of the NZZ in this respect is to ensure that the work with all young football players is unified and coordinated, and to take special care of the candidates for the national youth teams.



The photo entered by Slovenia won first prize in UEFA's Summer of Grassroots Football photo competition.

The "I like playing football" project in particular has produced some great results recently.

More and more Slovenian children are deciding to take up football, at first for the fun of it, later maybe as a professional. The "I like playing football" project started in 1999 as a winter Under-8 and Under-10 competition but soon grew into a nationwide event. The increased popularity of football in Slovenia is the most visible result, since the number of participants jumped from 800 in 1999 to 3,600 in 2004. The participants – girls and boys – come from school teams as well as clubs, and we are very pleased to say that the growing interest in football is continuing.

Irena Ilesic Cujovic

## UKRAINE



### National congress

At the end of December, the national association held its seventh congress and summed up the results of 2005. More than 250 participants, including members of the government, were in



Grigory Surkis.

attendance. The first vice-president of UEFA Senez Erzik, who is also a European member of FIFA Executive Committee was among guests of honour. The president of the Ukrainian Football Association (FFU), Grigory Surkis, reported on the basic directions of FFU activity in 2006 and these were then discussed as one of the main Congress topics.

In April last year, fans of national coach Oleg Blokhin formed themselves into a club, the main purpose of which is to support needy sectors of the population. Recently, New Year's gifts have been presented by Oleg Blokhin to a boarding school in the capital which the fan club is sponsoring in the long term.

Valeriy Nykonenko



Pyunik, as captain, receives the championship trophy from Ruben Hayrapetyan, president of the federation.



The media also received awards.



# Football Federation of Armenia Successful gala

**"WE DECLARE THE FFA'S 2005 GALA OPEN." WITH THOSE WORDS, WELL-KNOWN ARMENIAN TV PRESENTERS GOT THE PROCEEDINGS UNDER WAY TO HONOUR THE 2005 PRIZE WINNERS AT THE ANNUAL AWARDS CEREMONY.**

Before introducing the prize-winners of the 2005 season, everyone present once again congratulated the national Under-19 team and its coaches, especially head coach Samvel Petrosyan, for their success in the European Under-19 Championship, which had resulted in Armenia qualifying for the final round for the first time ever.

Afterwards, Armenian second division champions Pyunik-2 were invited onto the stage. They have demonstrated that they are a match for their fellow players in the first team and proved to be the strongest second division side in both 2004 and 2005.

Of the first division teams, FC Banants were the first to receive an award, as they had finished the domestic championship in third place.

One of the most stable clubs in Armenia this year, FC Banants have also contributed considerably to the development of club football in Armenia, bringing in fresh blood, new coaches and new players, all of which had a huge impact on their style of play, as reflected in the fact that FC Banants proved to be a really tough opponent for stronger teams in the UEFA Cup.

After FC Banants, it was FC MIKA's turn to be honoured as championship runners-up for the second year in a row. The 2005 season was characterised by change for FC MIKA too. The team is headed now by a young coach, Armen Adamyan, who had done his best to deliver modern, competitive and attractive football.

Finally, the champions were honoured. The 2005 season was also a unique one for many-times champions of Armenia FC Pyunik – a new coaching staff, new mentality and new players. FC Pyunik received their trophy and medals from the president of the FFA, Ruben Hayrapetyan.

Armenian international and FC Banants striker Aram Hakobyan was named player of the year.

The award for top scorer of 2005 went to FC Kilikia's striker Nshan Erzurmyan. He received the bronze boot prize from the FFA president.

At the suggestion of the FFA president, the ceremony involved numerous different footballing nominations.

The media awards went to Shant TV, Haykakan Jamanak journalist Armen Nikoghosyan and Haykakan Football journalist Ishghan Kishmiryan.

There were also nominations for best official and best referee, which went to Aram Grigoryan and FIFA referee Karen Nalbandyan respectively.

Like last year, lots of prizes in different categories were presented by the media.

The award for notable development was presented by the official broadcaster of national-team matches, Armenian national TV, to Armenian international and FC Pyunik defender Robert Arzumanyan.

The best goalkeeper award was made by Hay TV to FC Pyunik goalkeeper Gevorg Kasparov.

The Haykakan Football newspaper presented its best defender prize to FC Kilikia defender Artashes Baghdasaryan, while the Haykakan Jamanak newspaper named FC Banants striker Tigran Gharabaghtsyan best forward of the year.

The goal of the year award was presented by the TV Profootball TV programme to FC Banants player Aram Hakobyan.

The best attacking midfielder award was presented by Kentron TV to FC Pyunik player Aleksander Tadevosyan.

And finally, the award for the greatest achievement in 2005, presented by the national team's official partner, Sil Group, went to the Under-19 coach Samvel Petrosyan.

The ceremony finished with the FFA president congratulating all the prize-winners and wishing them a competitive and attractive 2006 season.

Many distinguished guests were in attendance: the mayor of the city, the president of the national Olympic committee, members of the FFA executive committee, representatives of the Armenian government and parliament, as well as journalists and photographers. Many singers and other artists entertained the audience during the ceremony.

## 11 clubs in first division

In other news, at the FFA's last meeting of 2005, alongside other questions concerning refereeing and the club licensing programme, among other things, the number of participants in the 2006 first division championship was also discussed. The FFA president informed the executive committee, that second division clubs FC Gandzasar and Yerevan United had already submitted a written request to be allowed to play in the first division.

After a lengthy discussion, it was decided to let these two clubs participate in the first division, thereby increasing the number of participating teams to 11.

*Arayik Manukyan*



PHOTOS: FFA



# Communications

## Birthdays – Calendar

### Birthdays

Jozef Venglos (Slovakia), vice-chairman of the Technical Development Committee, celebrates his 70th birthday on 18 February, while Lars Arnesson (Sweden), member of the Match Delegates Panel, reaches the same milestone on 20 February. On 12 February, Nicolae Pantea (Romania), member of the Youth and Amateur Football Panel, turns 60, as does Marinus Engelsman (Netherlands), member of the Futsal Delegates Panel, on 14 February. UEFA would like to wish them all many happy returns and also a happy birthday to:

- Volker Roth (Germany, 1.2)
- Huseyin 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)
- Mark Blackburne (England, 3.2)
- Nikolaos Zamboglou (Cyprus, 5.2)
- Vaclav Krondl (Czech Republic, 5.2)
- Erich Rutenmüller (Germany, 8.2)
- Yusuf Namoglu (Turkey, 8.2)
- Fino Fini (Italy, 9.2)
- Donald McVicar (Scotland, 9.2)
- Dani Koren (Israel, 10.2)
- William McDougall (Scotland, 11.2)
- Antonio Ferreira de Sequeira (Portugal, 11.2)
- Efstratios Papastratiou (Greece, 12.2)
- Oleksandr Bandurko (Ukraine, 13.2)
- Heinz-Herbert Kreh (Germany, 14.2)
- Dieter Pauly (Germany, 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)
- Borislav Alexandrov (Bulgaria, 18.2)
- Flemming Serritslev (Denmark, 18.2)
- Patrick Kelly (Republic of Ireland, 18.2)
- Pertti Alaja (Finland, 18.2)

- Anders Frisk (Sweden, 18.2)
- Janis Mezeckis (Latvia, 19.2)
- 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)
- Richard N. Parry (England, 23.2)
- Peter Jones (England, 24.2)
- Egidius Braun (Germany, 27.2)
- Alfonso Moreno Gonzalez (Spain, 27.2)
- Allan Hansen (Denmark, 27.2)
- Zorislav Srebric (Croatia, 28.2)
- Aron Schmidhuber (Germany, 28.2)

### Upcoming events

#### Meetings

- 1.2.2006, Barcelona**  
UEFA anti-racism conference
- 6-7.2.2006, Nyon**  
European Club Forum
- 8.2.2006, Porto**  
Draw for the final round of the 2004–2006 European Under-21 Championship
- 13-15.2.2006, Madrid**  
UEFA Futsal Conference
- 14.2.2006, Nyon**  
Assistance Programmes Committee
- 27.2.2006, Nyon**  
Professional Football Committee

#### Competitions

- 15-16.2.2006**  
UEFA Cup: round of 32 (first legs)
- 21-22.2.2006**  
UEFA Champions League:  
first knockout round (first legs)
- 23.2.2006**  
UEFA Cup: round of 32 (return legs)

### New publications

#### ROCZNIK 2005-2006

The piłkarska Fuji encyclopaedia is the indisputable reference resource on Polish football. This new edition of the Polish football yearbook, published by Andrzej Gowarzewski, gives details of all the domestic competitions and also goes beyond the national borders to provide the results of the international competitions and of the European and South American domestic championships. The encyclopaedia is distributed by Wydawnictwo GiA ([www.gia.pl/wydawnictwo@gia.pl](http://www.gia.pl/wydawnictwo@gia.pl)).



#### LA NAZIONALE ITALIANA AI CAMPIONATI DEL MONDO

The forthcoming World Cup is an opportunity to publish books on the subject. Statistics specialists Soccerdata (Via Ciccotti, 6, 20161 Milan, Italy – [www.soccerdata.it](http://www.soccerdata.it) – [Info@Soccerdata.it](mailto:Info@Soccerdata.it)) have produced an exemplary publication about the Italian national team. Going back to 1934 and covering all of Italy's matches right up to the qualifiers for the 2006 World Cup, the book lists all the team line-ups, names the referees and scorers, and finishes with a list of all Italian internationals and national-team coaches, indicating how many appearances they made in qualifying competitions and final rounds.



#### HISTORIA E KAMPIONATEVE TE SHQIPERISE

This Besnik Dizdari publication is the fourth volume on the history of Albanian football, covering the period from 1950 to 1954 and describing the highlights of the championships during those years. It also contains detailed statistics on the matches and tables summarising the Albanian championships from 1930 to 1954.



Available from Futbolli Shqiptar-Magazine at [dizdarib@san.com.al](mailto:dizdarib@san.com.al)

### Communications

- Ucha Ugulava is the new general secretary of the Georgian FA. His predecessor, Grigol Tsaava, has become adviser to the president.
- The executive committee of the Czech FA has re-elected Petr Fousek as general secretary.

WE CARE ABOUT FOOTBALL



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

Communications and Public Affairs Division

**Editor** André Vieli

**Produced by** Atema Communication SA, CH-1196 Gland

**Printed by** Cavin SA, CH-1422 Grandson

**Editorial deadline:** 13 January 2006

*The views expressed in signed articles are not necessarily the official views of UEFA.*

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UEFA  
Route de Genève 46  
CH-1260 Nyon  
Switzerland  
Phone +41 848 00 27 27  
Fax +41 848 01 27 27  
[uefa.com](http://uefa.com)

Union des associations  
européennes de football

