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uefa **direct**



Coaches meet in Warsaw

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Ten years of the UEFA Champions League

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Behind the scenes at a draw ceremony

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500,000 CHF per association

14

COVER

Five-time winners of the champion clubs' competition, AC Milan have made a thundering start in this season's UEFA Champions League. With seven goals in the first three matches, Filippo Inzaghi (opposite Coulibaly from RC Lens) has played a prominent role at this early stage.
PHOTO: RICHARDI

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the importance of the national teams

Major events are remarkable in that they are talked about well before they happen and long after they have taken place. This summer's World Cup finals in Korea and Japan are no exception, as borne out by the fact that coaches from all of Europe's national football associations gathered recently in Warsaw to cast their expert eye on FIFA's flagship competition.

The European Championship falls into the same category.

Interest in EURO 2004 was running high even before the qualifiers got under way, particularly since many national teams are embarking on this adventure under a new coach. The first results have boosted or damped initial hopes, and speculation on the chances of qualifying is high among officials and fans. At the same time, the host association for the final tournament, the Portuguese Football Federation, is working closely with UEFA to accomplish a vast and ambitious task, that of providing all the conditions needed for a successful event in the summer of 2004. Progress is good.



The importance of the European Championship is also evident from the number and quality of the bids to host EURO 2008. All the visits carried out by the UEFA inspection team these past few weeks have revealed considerable efforts, a high level of political support and a real enthusiasm to host the tournament.

National-team football has remarkable rallying power.

It allows rival club fans to forget their differences and to identify with each other as supporters of the same national team.

For the players too, it represents both a feeling of pride in representing their country and the special experience of playing on the international stage.

Club football and national-team football have always complemented one another to shape the history and legend of European football. The mass interest generated by the major international national-team competitions complements the success of the club competitions and is necessary for the long-term health of the game.

*Gerhard Aigner
Chief Executive*

A feeling of pride for all players who, like Portugal's Luis Figo, defend the colours of their nation.

EMPICS

Conference for coaches in Warsaw

World Cup under the microscope



PHOTOS: BOZZANI

FOOTBALL'S MAJOR EUROPEAN AND WORLD TOURNAMENTS GIVE THE TECHNICAL SECTOR PLENTY OF FOOD FOR THOUGHT. TACTICAL TRENDS, TECHNICAL DEVELOPMENTS, KEY PLAYERS AND COACHES' EXPERIENCES ARE ALL ASPECTS THAT ARE RIPE FOR CONSIDERATION AFTER THE EVENT.

Consequently, this summer's FIFA World Cup in Japan/Korea was put under the microscope by Europe's technical community at the fifth UEFA Conference for European National Coaches in Warsaw from 23 to 25 September.

National-team coaches, their assistants, technical directors and coach-education directors from throughout the continent gathered in the Polish capital for three days of discussions which served as an essential pointer to the future for all those involved in guiding the fortunes of Europe's 52 senior national squads.

The event has become a traditional feature in UEFA's packed calendar. This year, European football's governing body also gave the hosts, the Polish Football Association, the opportunity to send all of the country's top-division coaches to the gathering as observers. "We want to learn from the best," said Polish FA President Michal Listkiewicz.

"As the umbrella organisation of European football, UEFA considers it as its duty to bring you all together after a major event such as the World Cup, and to give you the opportunity to exchange views at a European level," UEFA

Chief Executive Gerhard Aigner told participants. "As national coaches, your work and opinions are important to us. National-team football remains an important part of top-level football."



Berti Vogts (Germany,1996), Rinus Michels (Netherlands,1988) and Roger Lemerre (France, 2000) – three European Championship winning coaches took part in the forum in Warsaw.

The working group sessions gave rise to interesting discussions.



Zbigniew Boniek, Polish FA president, Michał Listkiewicz and Andy Roxburgh at the press conference.

BOZZANI

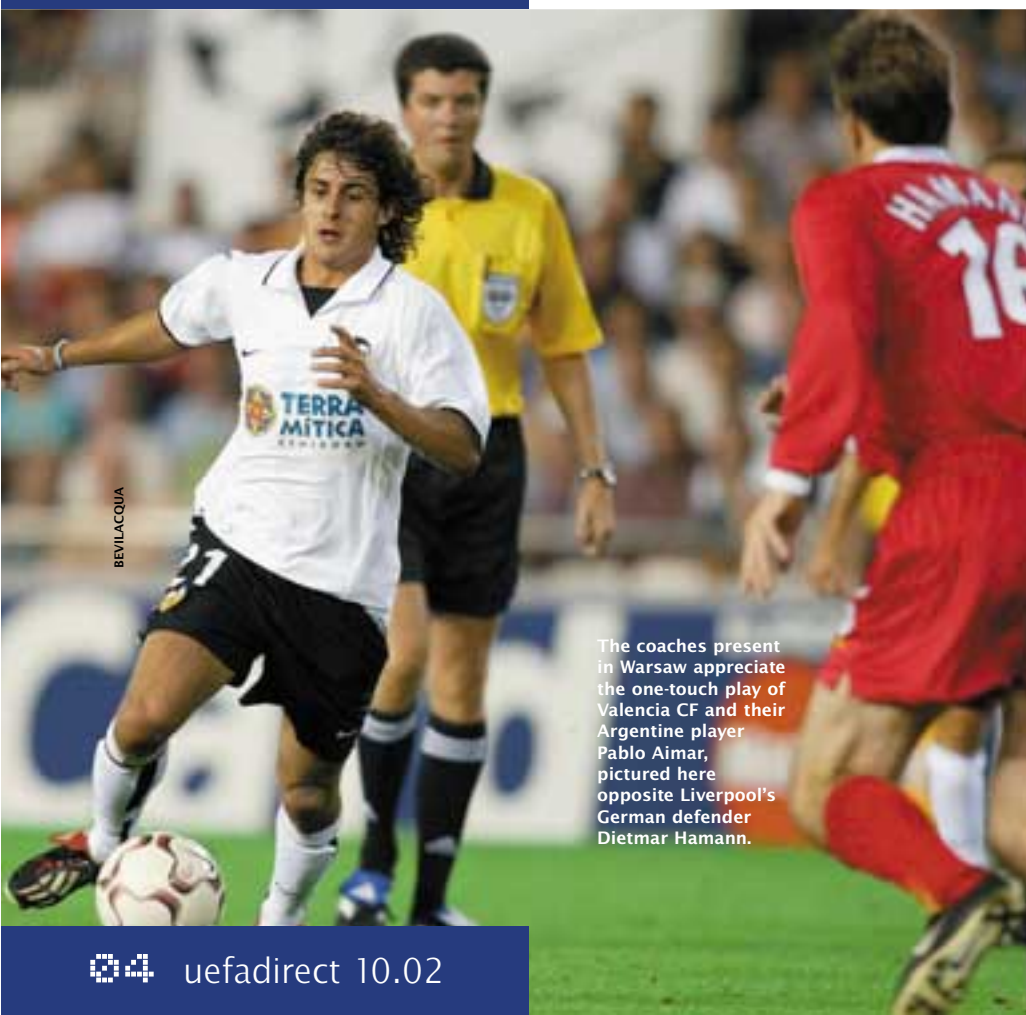
The World Cup in the Far East was the subject of a thorough technical and tactical analysis, which was given additional weight by contributions from many of the coaches who undertook the adventure with their national teams. Germany's coach Rudi Völler and his assistant Michael Skibbe gave the conference a fascinating insight into their experiences in taking their country to the runners-up spot, and how they handled the public and press pressure that comes with the job.

Republic of Ireland coach Mick McCarthy explained the particular pressures he had to face in having to send home his key player Roy Keane. Turkey's Senol Günes expressed his country's

sheer pride at reaching an unexpected third place, and France's Roger Lemerre gave his impressions of the problems he lived with in a disappointing campaign for the 1998 world champions and reigning European title holders.

The conference gave UEFA and the national coaches a chance to talk about refereeing, following a World Cup in which referees and their assistants were regularly in the headlines. Italy's Pierluigi Collina, acknowledged as a referee at the summit of his "art", who officiated at the final in Yokohama, was a guest in Warsaw. Collina reminded everyone about the tough demands placed on referees and assistants, given the pace and stakes of the modern-day game. *"Referees must be allowed to make errors, just as coaches and players do,"* said Collina, who also stressed the importance of referees having good tactical acumen to help them run matches.

The coaches also discussed possible ways of helping referees in their task. The majority favoured experiments involving a human element – proposals included the use of two additional assistants on each goal line to tell whether a ball was over the line or not, or to have a better view of certain penalty-area incidents, while there were also calls for former top-class players to be fast-tracked into refereeing because of their technical and tactical knowledge of the game.



The coaches present in Warsaw appreciate the one-touch play of Valencia CF and their Argentine player Pablo Aimar, pictured here opposite Liverpool's German defender Dietmar Hamann.

BEVILACQUA



PHOTOS: BOZZANI

At the end of a fruitful three days, UEFA Technical Director Andy Roxburgh emphasised the European body's commitment to national-team football, and praised the coaches for their endeavours. *"What a job, and what pressure,"* the former Scotland coach told them. *"But you are stimulated by your work and you cope with that pressure because you have an intense desire to be successful."*

"National-team football matters," he added. *"It is pure spirit. We're dealing with the passion of the national jersey, and an identity. We have to protect national teams. Some people think that we don't need them. This is not true. We now have to keep searching for the correct balance between the demands of club and national teams."*

The centre passes of David Beckham (England and Manchester United) are a real treat for the spectators... and for his team mates.



BONGARTS

THE KEYS TO SUCCESS

What do today's top national and club teams need to keep them at the summit? This was one of the questions debated in detail at the Warsaw conference. Several key elements were identified in the discussions...

It was agreed that successful teams need individual players who can seize a decisive moment in a game to create or score the goal that brings victory. With the exploits of Brazil's striker Ronaldo at the FIFA World Cup in mind, UEFA Technical Director Andy Roxburgh said: *"Such players are gold"*.

The ability to capitalise on mistakes is also seen as an essential element in winning matches at the highest level. In the top competitions, such as the World Cup and UEFA Champions League, 89 minutes of intense concentration and effort can come to nothing because one mistake in the closing seconds might be punished ruthlessly.

Europe's national coaches insisted upon the paramount importance of scoring the first goal in a match. Teams that took the lead earned themselves a vital psychological advantage. The need to go ahead in a game was backed up by statistical evidence, which showed that in the World Cup and UEFA Champions League respectively, 61% and 62% of teams went on to win matches after grabbing the lead.

The use of video "evidence" was a feature of the conference, and the participants were shown several examples of another way of gaining the edge in the modern-day major competitions – the rapid collective counter-attack to catch the opposition unawares. Teams who win possession, break forward quickly in numbers and exploit the space left by opponents are seen as possessing a crucial quality for high-level success.

Fans enjoy the spectacle of England's David Beckham firing in his pinpoint corners and free kicks – and the technicians identified set-piece skill as an important factor in the current game. *"Players' technical ability to strike the ball nowadays is phenomenal,"* said Andy Roxburgh. *"Exceptional delivery of the ball, and good movement, often result in the chance to finish off a set piece with a goal."*

Finally, even the most rock-solid rearguards can be prised open with rapid combination play. Fantastic one-touch passing at speed, such as that shown by Valencia CF to score against Liverpool FC in a recent UEFA Champions League match, gives teams an invaluable key with which to unlock any defence.



Spartak Moscow (Baye Kebe, in white, up against Liverpool FC's Jamie Carragher) are one of the six clubs which share the record for appearances in the UEFA Champions League.

ten years of the UEFA Champions League facts and figures

IN SEPTEMBER, THE UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE CELEBRATED ITS TENTH BIRTHDAY... AND ANOTHER CHANGE IN FORMAT (THE SIXTH IN ALL, SEE RIGHT) WAS ANNOUNCED FOR NEXT YEAR.

It was therefore an ideal opportunity to compile some statistics and take stock of a decade of top-level European football. Which countries have been represented most times in the UEFA Champions League? Which clubs have made the most appearances? Which have achieved the most success?

How has the balance of power evolved? Here are some of the answers in figures... and facts.



Since it was launched, 87 clubs from 27 national associations have participated in the UEFA Champions League.

As far as the total number of appearances by clubs from different countries is concerned, it could hardly be closer at the top, with Spain (24) just one ahead of Italy and Germany.

(absent in 1996/97 and 1997/98) and Turkey (no participants in 1992/93 and 1995/96).

Clubs from less developed footballing nations such as Slovakia, Finland, Slovenia and Israel have also had the opportunity to rub shoulders with the best teams in Europe. On the other hand, the fact that no Yugoslavian club has ever participated in the UEFA Champions League – even though Red Star were impressive European Champions in 1991 – makes you think. The war, the difficult national economic situation and the years of exclusion from international competitions have all probably played their part.

France and Italy ever present

Italy and France (with 19 appearances overall) are the only countries to have been represented in each of the 11 UEFA Champions League seasons. Italy would be the only one if we also included the 1991/92 season, when group matches were first introduced, but the competition was still known as the European Champions' Cup at that time and so is not part of our survey.

Spain and Germany only missed out on the very first season (1992/93), while the current season is the first time that Portugal has not been represented. The Netherlands' only absence was in the 1993/94 season. Three countries have been involved in nine of the 11 seasons so far: England (whose clubs were not qualified in the first two seasons), Russia

Record-breaking Rosenborg

As far as the clubs are concerned, the "big fish" have obviously been frequent participants, with Barcelona and Manchester United, along with Porto, involved eight times, once more than Bayern Munich, AC Milan, Juventus and PSV, for example. It became easier for these big names to qualify regularly when the most successful national associations were allocated two (in 1997) and then up to four UEFA Champions League places (in 1999). At the same time, clubs from countries lower down the UEFA rankings have qualified for the UEFA Champions League virtually every year by more or less dominating their national league championships. Examples include Spartak Moscow (eight appearances),



A good many French clubs have played in the UEFA Champions League, including RC Lens, who are taking part in the competition this season. Their striker John Utaka (left) challenges Enrique Romero of Deportivo La Coruña.



Legia Warsaw (in green) and Blackburn Rovers have each had a single taste of the UEFA Champions League.



Oliver Kahn in action in the 2001 UEFA Champions League final.



The UEFA Champions League is also a media success.

TOWARDS A SIXTH NEW FORMAT

Galatasaray and Rosenborg. In fact, the Norwegians have just qualified for the first group stage for a record-breaking eighth consecutive season!

The opposite has happened in France. No fewer than nine different French clubs have participated in the 11 seasons of the UEFA Champions League, none of them more than three times. Thanks in part to a national TV rights distribution system based largely on the principle of solidarity, the French championship is one of the most variable in Europe. No team has really dominated the league for a long period as they have in the other major national championships.

Concentration of powers

While qualification remains all-important for many clubs, others are primarily interested in actually winning the UEFA Champions League. We have therefore drawn up a table of clubs who have reached at least the quarter-finals since the competition began. By awarding 10 points to the winners, 6 to the runners-up, 3 to the losing semi-finalists and 1 to the losing quarter-finalists, we can see fairly clearly that Spanish clubs have dominated (they also top the UEFA rankings), followed by Italy, with Germany close behind. England, France and the Netherlands complete the group of six countries with more than ten points.

Looking at the statistics in relation to how the competition structure has changed (see right), we see what at first glance appears to be a paradox: the larger the UEFA Champions League has become, the fewer clubs from different countries have reached the final stages. Since the competition was expanded to 32 clubs in 1999,

Although the UEFA Champions League is only in its eleventh season, it has been restructured many times.

Season 1992/93: Last 32 and last 16 played as a straight knock-out. Then two groups of four teams (home and away matches). The two group winners contest the final.

Season 1993/94: Same system until the group stage, but introduction of single-leg semi-finals (group A winners vs group B runners-up; group B winners vs group A runners-up) with home advantage for the group winners.

Seasons 1994/95 to 1996/97: Early round (from which champions from countries at the top of the UEFA rankings are exempt) played as a straight knock-out, but instead of the last 32 and 16 knock-out rounds, four groups of four teams, all playing each other home and away. The top two in each group qualify for the two-legged quarter-finals. The semi-finals are also two-legged, but the final is a one-off match.

Seasons 1997/98 and 1998/99: UEFA allows the top eight European associations to enter a second team (league runners-up) for a qualifying round. The teams eliminated in the second qualifying round qualify for the UEFA Cup. The number of teams participating in the group stages increases from 16 to 24, with six groups. The group winners and the best two second-placed teams qualify for the knock-out stages, beginning with the two-leg quarter-finals.

Seasons 1999/2000 to 2002/03: The competition expands again. Depending on their UEFA ranking, the best associations are allowed to enter up to four teams, including two at the preliminary round stage. Eight groups of four teams are then drawn. The top two in each group qualify for the second stage with four groups of four teams. The third-placed teams qualify for the UEFA Cup. The top two in the second phase groups qualify for the knock-out quarter-finals (two legs).

From season 2003/04: The second group stage will be replaced by a straight knock-out last 16.

Emanuele Saraceno

A record for Rosenborg BK, who are appearing in the UEFA Champions League for the eighth season in a row.





BONGARTS



FLASH PRESS

S.S. Lazio (Nedved, right, against Feyenoord's van Gobbel) are just one of the many Italian teams to have played in the UEFA Champions League over the years.



SABATTINI

Real Madrid (Zinedine Zidane breaks away from AS Rome's Christian Panucci) have contributed significantly to Spain's domination of the UEFA Champions League.



BONGARTS

Associations represented in the UEFA Champions League*

Associations	Appearances
Spain	24
Italy and Germany	23
England	20
France	19
Netherlands	18
Portugal	14
Turkey and Greece	12
Russia	11
Norway	9
Belgium and Ukraine	8
Scotland and Sweden	6
Austria	5
Czech Republic	4
Croatia, Romania and Switzerland	3
Poland and Denmark	2
Hungary, Slovakia, Finland, Slovenia and Israel	1

* Teams qualifying for the group stages (and the first group stage since 1999/2000) in seasons 1992/93 to 2002/2003 are included.

only three associations – Germany, Spain and England – have been represented in the semi-finals. Italy, Portugal and Turkey have each managed to reach the quarter-finals only once. Three countries have therefore occupied 87.5% of the places available from the quarter-final stage. Clubs from countries as prestigious as France and the Netherlands, previous winners of the champion clubs' competition, have yet even to reach the last eight.

Consistent Manchester United

With three victories under their belt (the only team to have won the UEFA Champions League more than once), Real Madrid are inevitably at the top of our team classification table. Manchester United, on the other hand, have reached the final stages most regularly: since the 1996/97 season,

Club appearances in the UEFA Champions League*

Appearances	Clubs
8 appearances:	Spartak Moscow, Porto, Barcelona, Galatasaray, Manchester United and Rosenborg
7 appearances:	AC Milan, Juventus, PSV Eindhoven, Real Madrid, Bayern Munich and Dynamo Kiev
6 appearances:	Borussia Dortmund and Olympiakos
5 appearances:	Rangers, Ajax, Bayer Leverkusen and Arsenal
4 appearances:	Anderlecht, Göteborg, Feyenoord, Panathinaikos and Sparta Prague
3 appearances:	Paris Saint-Germain, Olympique Lyonnais, Monaco, S.S. Lazio, Deportivo La Coruña, Valencia, Steaua Bucharest and Sturm Graz.
2 appearances:	Lokomotiv Moscow, Club Brugge, Olympique de Marseille, Nantes, Lens, Auxerre, Roma, Internazionale, Benfica, Sporting Portugal, Boavista, Fenerbahce, Besiktas, Newcastle, Liverpool, AEK Athens, Croatia (now Dinamo) Zagreb and Grasshoppers.
1 appearance:	CSKA Moscow, Genk, Lierse, Lille, Bordeaux, Celtic, Parma, Fiorentina, Aik Solna, Helsingborgs, Willem II, Heerenveen, Atletico Madrid, Athletic Bilbao, Mallorca, Werder Bremen, Kaiserslautern, Hertha Berlin, Hamburg, Schalke 04, Blackburn Rovers, Chelsea, Leeds United, Shakhtar Donetsk, Hajduk Split, Salzburg, Rapid Vienna, Legia Warsaw, Widzew Lodz, Molde, Ferencvaros, Basel, Kosice, Aalborg, Brøndby, HJK Helsinki, Maribor, Maccabi Haifa.

* Teams qualifying for the group stages (and the first group stage since 1999/2000) in seasons 1992/93 to 2002/2003 are included.



A historic goal by Basile Boli, with which Olympique de Marseille won the first UEFA Champions League.



BONGARTS

BONGARTS

PHOTONEWS

Alex Ferguson's team have never failed to reach the quarter-finals. Real Madrid and Bayern Munich are the only other clubs to have reached the last eight on six (not consecutive) occasions.

In contrast, teams which dominated the early years of the competition, such as AC Milan (once winners, twice runners-up), Ajax (once winners, once runners-up, once losing semi-finalists) and Juventus (once winners, twice runners-up, once losing semi-finalists), have not reached the last eight since 1995, 1997 and 1999 respectively. Will they repeat their past glories this season?

Emanuele Saraceno

Classification by associations*

Associations	Points
Spain	63
Italy	49
Germany	47
England	24
France	23
Netherlands	20
Portugal	7
Greece	5
Ukraine	4
Russia	3
Sweden and Turkey	2
Scotland, Croatia, Belgium, Poland and Norway	1

* Only appearances in the quarter-final stage onwards in the 1992/93 to 2001/2002 seasons are taken into account. 10 points for the winners, 6 for the runners-up, 3 for the losing semi-finalists and 1 for the losing quarter-finalists. For the 1992/93 and 1993/94 seasons, participation in the group stage is counted as equivalent to reaching the quarter-finals. There were no semi-finals in the 1992/93 season.



Manchester United are conspicuous by their appearances in the UEFA Champions League.

SVEN SIMON

Classification by club*

Clubs	Points
Real Madrid	35
Juventus	25
Bayern Munich	24
AC Milan	22
Ajax and Manchester United	19
Borussia Dortmund	14
Barcelona	13
Valencia	12
Olympique de Marseille	10
Bayer Leverkusen	7
Porto and Monaco	6
Panathinaikos and Dynamo Kiev	4
Leeds, Nantes and Paris Saint-Germain	3
Göteborg, Spartak Moscow, Galatasaray and Deportivo La Coruña	2
CSKA Moscow, Club Brugge, Rangers, PSV Eindhoven, Werder Bremen, Anderlecht, Hajduk Split, Benfica, Legia Warsaw, Auxerre, Rosenborg, Atletico Madrid, Olympiakos, Internazionale, Kaiserslautern, Chelsea, S.S. Lazio, Arsenal and Liverpool	1

* Only appearances in the quarter-final stage onwards in the 1992/93 to 2001/2002 seasons are taken into account. 10 points for the winners, 6 for the runners-up, 3 for the losing semi-finalists and 1 for the losing quarter-finalists. For the 1992/93 and 1993/94 seasons, participation in the group stage is counted as equivalent to reaching the quarter-finals. There were no semi-finals in the 1992/93 season.



uefa.com covers the draw as it happens.



The final preparations before the draw.



UEFA Cup behind the scenes

DRAWS ARE A RUN-OF-THE-MILL EVENT – OR ARE THEY? SINCE 1955, UEFA HAS BEEN STAGING DRAWS REGULARLY FOR ALL ITS COMPETITIONS, INCLUDING THE CLUB COMPETITIONS OF COURSE.

and for their transport back to the airport after the draw.

The day before the draw, Patrick Vonnez and his team in the Logistics Unit prepare all the signage, backdrops and the trophy needed for the draw. As there are still some 48 clubs involved in the UEFA Cup at the second round stage, it is important to provide clear meeting point areas where the clubs can discuss arrangements, as well as suitably branded backdrops for television interviews.

Meanwhile, the draw procedure has been established by the Product Management team of the Club Competitions Unit, in accordance with Article 6 of the UEFA Cup regulations. The 48 participating clubs are divided into four groups of 12, with half the clubs seeded and the other half not. Once approved by the Club Competitions Committee, this list of seeds can be made public and the clubs informed accordingly, so they know which opponents they could possibly meet.



Welcoming the media representatives.

PHOTOS: UEFA-HIGUERAS

On 8 October, at UEFA's headquarters in Nyon, the draw was made for the second round of the UEFA Cup. A routine matter many might think. But few have any idea of the work that goes on behind the scenes to enable the draw to take place smoothly and efficiently.

Leading the whole operation, Michele Centenaro and his Club Competitions Unit rely on the support of many other units of the UEFA Administration.

The Events Unit starts preparing for the draw some one and a half months in advance. Ines Lauber keeps an eye on the arrangements and co-ordinates the internal infra-

structure and logistics. She orders the necessary signage and IT equipment, prepares a staffing plan showing all duties and responsibilities, and creates a detailed timetable of activities leading up to and including the draw day itself.

The in-house Travel and Conferences Unit organise all the food and beverage requirements of the club guests. They are also in charge of booking and setting up of the different meeting rooms (draw, media area) and hotel reservations in Nyon. Travel and Conferences, via the receptionists, are also responsible for arranging the welcome of club officials at the House of European Football



The draw results, ready for distribution.



Taking care of the club representatives.



Product Management and Club Competitions staff then prepare the balls containing the names of the seeded and non-seeded clubs (based on the club coefficients), normally in the presence of Chairman of the Club Competitions Committee. These are the famous plastic balls you see being opened during any UEFA draw.

Jean Fournet-Fayard, former Chairman of the Club Competitions Committee, conducts the draw with Michele Centenaro.

Throughout the draw, and as each match pairing is drawn and announced, the ties are shown on the main screen in the draw hall and relayed live to screens outside the auditorium where radio media reporting live, as well as club officials who cannot wait to relay the news, are busy chatting on mobile phones.

The Competition Services Unit, which prepares all the relevant documents (translated into UEFA's three official languages by the Translations Unit) before a draw, including club contact details and the deadlines for notifying UEFA of the venues and kick-off times, is also responsible for producing the results sheet after the draw. They also announce any necessary reversals (swapping the home and away tie dates).

The first official fixture list (no reversals possible) is distributed immediately to the club officials present. The Media Services then distribute the same information directly to the attending media. The Media Services staff are also on hand prior to the draw to welcome and accredit the visiting media

representatives, including television reporters, photographers and journalists from the written press.

This particular draw was not televised live, but a number of ENG camera crews were inside the draw hall. After the draw, there is of course a mad scramble for TV crews and reporters to get the first quotes and reactions from the club officials. While all this is going on, the Media Services distribute the draw results to the wider football family and main news agencies and sports newspapers by email, fax and phone.

uefa.com also spring into action once the draw is over, roaming the foyer with their reporters and picking up quotes to be used within minutes on the official UEFA website. In addition, uefa.com broadcast the draw live on the site with live audio streaming.

As soon as the club officials are off the premises, the Logistics Unit start dismantling the draw installations, and the House of European Football falls back into its usual rhythm. However, the draw continues to keep many units busy. In the Refereeing Unit, for example, the referee and assistant referee appointments for the 48 matches now have to be prepared.

On receipt of confirmation from the clubs by the set deadline, the Competition Services

Unit can start entering the finalised match fixtures and dates into the UEFA Competition System database. These records are used as the official database source by the Media Services for media enquiries and also for the statistical content on uefa.com.

The travel agency based inside UEFA can now begin making the travel arrangements for the officials to get to their various matches across Europe.

Later, it will be the turn of units like the Disciplinary Services to get in on the act, all for the same purpose of ensuring the smooth running of the UEFA competitions.



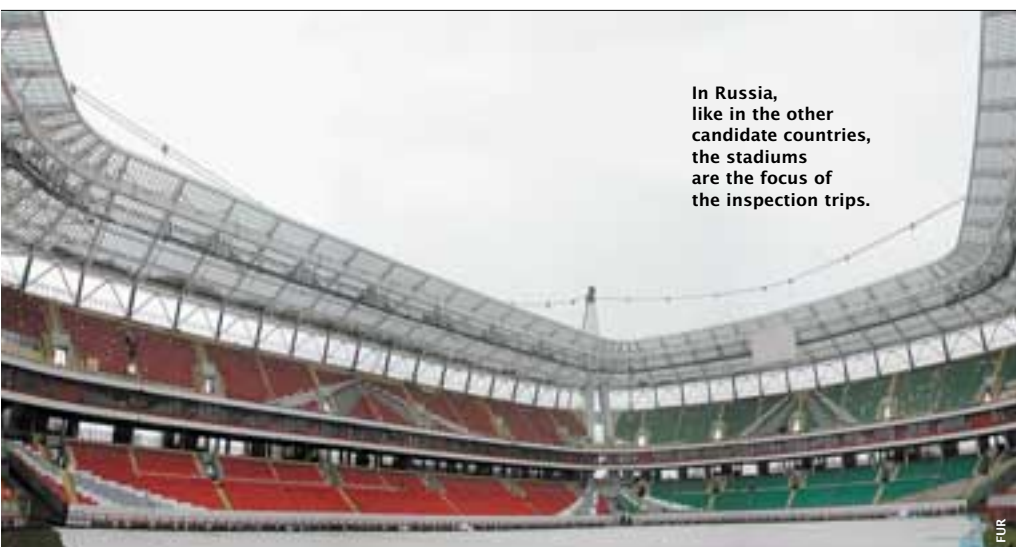
Preparing and checking the balls.

Gerhard Aigner receives the bids of Scotland/Republic of Ireland (left) and Hungary.



bids to host EURO 2008

another three inspection visits



In Russia, like in the other candidate countries, the stadiums are the focus of the inspection trips.

IN THIS ISSUE OF *uefadirect* WE LOOK AT THE RECENT TRIPS UNDERTAKEN BY THE UEFA DELEGATION TO ASSESS THE BIDS OF THE ASSOCIATIONS HOPING TO HOST THE UEFA EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP IN 2008.

In the September issue we covered the first two trips, to Austria/Switzerland and the Nordic countries of Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden.

This month it is the turn of the only two solo bidders, Russia and Hungary, and the joint effort from Scotland/Ireland, to be in the spotlight.

The Russian bid, which bases itself on the five pillars "history, tradition, professionalism, enthusiasm and resources", proposes the following cities as venues for matches in 2008 – St Petersburg, Moscow, Kazan, Samara, Saratov, Volgograd, Rostov-on-Don and Krasnodar. The inspection team, in Russia from 9 to 13 September,

sampled the possibility of river transport with a boat trip on the Volga river, a waterway which connects the eight host cities. The UEFA team also experienced the atmosphere at the Russian League match between Spartak Moscow and Lokomotiv Moscow, an exciting, top-of-the-table local derby.

The visit to Scotland and Ireland from 16 to 20 September began in Dublin, where the team was shown a presentation on the proposed national stadium, and then visited Croke Park. The other venues of the joint bid are across the Irish Sea in Scotland. Three of the proposed stadi-

ums for the Scotland/Ireland bid are situated in Glasgow, including Hampden Park, the stage of this year's UEFA Champions League final. Edinburgh is the proposed venue for the draw for the qualifying competition of EURO 2008. On greeting the UEFA guests, the Lord Provost of Edinburgh, Eric Milligan, commented: *"Both Scotland and Ireland have football in their blood and we, in Edinburgh, are thrilled at the prospect of hosting the first draw in December 2005 and welcoming the participants and visitors in 2008."*

The week beginning 23 September saw the inspection team arrive in Hungary. The Hungarians are planning five new stadiums, in Budapest, Debrecen, Kaposvar, Miskolc and Szeged. The other three stadiums, in Budapest, Szekesfehervar and Győr will be completely renovated. President of the Hungarian Football Federation, Imre Bozóky, said: *"I think by 2008 Hungary will have accomplished its economic development and will have the infrastructure of a quality to welcome Europe's football family."*

The other two bids are the joint candidatures of Bosnia & Herzegovina and Croatia, and of Greece and Turkey.

The announcement of the hosts of the European Championships in 2008 will be made in Geneva and is expected on 12 December 2002, after the first day of the Executive Committee meeting in Nyon.

Computers and various other equipment will facilitate the daily running of the Cape Verde Football Federation.

UEFA



UEFA



UEFA

assistance workshop in Nyon

SINCE THE ASSISTANCE PROGRAMME THAT UEFA WANTED TO RUN IN SOMALIA COULD NOT GO AHEAD BECAUSE OF THE SITUATION THERE, IT WAS DECIDED THAT THE FOOTBALL FEDERATION OF CAPE VERDE (ALONG WITH THAT OF SÃO TOMÉ E PRÍNCIPE) WOULD BENEFIT FROM DIRECT AID FROM UEFA INSTEAD, WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE MERIDIAN PROJECT.

An inspection trip for the purpose of identifying the priorities in terms of assistance took place at the start of this year. As a result, a programme of co-operation has now been set up in agreement with the federation to develop youth football.

Since the territory of Cape Verde is split over several islands and the football federation has 11 far-flung regional associations, 13 computers have also been provided to facilitate communication. In addition, refereeing, coaching and medical equipment has also been supplied.

The purchase of a minibus and another vehicle to improve transport is also planned. Youth football remains,

however, the number one priority, and, in this respect, a hundred or so youth teams are to be kitted out.

In the area of bilateral co-operation between national associations in Africa and Europe, the European partners will be gathering for a workshop in Nyon on 14 November. Following on from the round table held in Geneva in June 1999, this meeting will be an opportunity to review Afro-European co-operation, swap experiences and give a fresh boost to co-operation programmes.

To that end, two African associations are being invited to the workshop to give their points of view.

COACHING SOFTWARE

Within the framework of the Kiosk Programme launched for the benefit of member associations in 2001, UEFA is offering them the opportunity to receive a comprehensive electronic coaching communication programme.



EMPIRES

Communication is a key aspect for all coaches, including Sven-Göran Eriksson.

The package, produced by a British company, includes coaching communication software, a laptop computer with DVD, projection hardware and training. It is all being funded by the Kiosk Programme or, in the case of the associations concerned, by the East European Assistance Bureau (EEAB). By the beginning of October, 29 UEFA member associations had requested the package, from which the football associations of Scotland and Latvia were the first to benefit.

Easy to use, "Tactfoot" is an interactive tool which helps coaches to share information on training routines, be able to dispense professional coach education and have DVD hardware to use with UEFA development productions.

This new tool is designed to help improve the quality of coach education throughout Europe, a goal that UEFA is working hard to achieve.

Mario Mendes Dos Reis Semedo, President of the Cape Verde Football Federation, and some of the equipment received thanks to the Meridian Project.



UEFA



MIROSLAV KRKOULEC - SPECIAL OLYMPICS

Special Olympics offers mentally handicapped athletes the chance to make new friends.



EPA

EBU President Arne Wessberg presents the award to Lennart Johansson.



Vice-Chairmen appointed

At its meeting in Istanbul, the Executive Committee appointed the Vice-Chairmen of the standing committees for the current two-year term.

■ Club Competitions Committee:

- Karl-Heinz Rummenigge
- Roger Vanden Stock

■ National Teams Committee:

- Mircea Sandu
- Noel White

■ Professional Football Committee:

- Jean-Marie Philips
- Wilfried Straub

■ Referees Committee:

- Lars-Åke Björck
- Pierluigi Pairetto
- Kenneth Ridden

■ Stadium and Security Committee:

- Alfred Ludwig

■ Youth and Amateur Football Committee:

- Jean-Pierre Escalettes
- Eduardo Herrera Jimenez

■ Women's Football Committee:

- Susanne Erlandsson
- Hannelore Ratzeburg

■ Futsal Committee:

- Hans Boll
- István Huszár

■ Medical Committee:

- Jan Ekstrand
- W. Stewart Hillis

■ Technical Development Committee:

- Rinus Michels
- Roger Lemerre

■ Assistance Programmes Committee:

- Pekka Hämmäläinen
- Janis Mezeckis

■ Control & Disciplinary Body:

- Thomas Partl
- Jim Stjerne Hansen
- Jacques Antenen

■ Appeals Body:

- Jean Appietto
- Levant Biçakçı

activities in brief

meetings and competitions

500,000 Swiss francs per association

At its meeting in Istanbul on 18 and 19 September, the Executive Committee confirmed that each of UEFA's 52 member association would receive CHF 500,000 both this year and next.

Initially, the amounts drawn from the EURO Pool were to have been CHF 350,000 per association for 2002 and CHF 375,000 for 2003. The Committee also decided to increase the amount deducted for non-participation in the youth (Under-21s, Under-19s and Under-17s) and women's national-team competitions from CHF 25,000 to 40,000 per competition (except for the women's competitions, where a deduction will only be made if an association does not enter either the European Women's Championship or the European Women's Under-19 Championship). The Committee's reasoning is that the associations should be allocated an amount that is adequate to cover their participation in the youth and women's competitions.

Remaining in the financial domain, the Committee also approved donations to charities. This money comes from the fines imposed by the disciplinary bodies in the UEFA competitions. The 2002/03 programmes of Special Olympics Europe/Eurasia in favour of football for the mentally handicapped have been awarded CHF 450,000 and a further donation of CHF 650,000 will be made for

the Special Olympics World Summer Games. The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) is to receive CHF 1.1 million towards its programmes in favour of war victims in Europe. The organisation Football Against Racism in Europe (FARE) will benefit from a donation of CHF 400,000 towards an anti-racism seminar which is being organised in Manchester in 2003. Last but not least, CHF 100,000 is being paid to the Egidius Braun Children's Foundation.

Additionally, the Executive Committee released CHF 3 million to help repair damaged sports facilities in countries recently devastated by flooding. It also approved plans to associate EURO 2004 with a charity, namely the ICRC.



UEFA

Georgia vs. Poland in the European Under-17 Championship: the payments made to the national associations are intended to allow them to take part in the UEFA youth and women's championships.

Hungary vs. Moldova in the UEFA Regions' Cup mini-tournament hosted by Hungary.

THALY ZOLTAN



UEFA

The Medical Committee during its meeting in Nyon.



MIROSLAV KRKOULEC - SPECIAL OLYMPICS

Members of the Danio and Vinent families (Gibraltar team) with team members from Special Olympics Belgium.

In brief:

- The Executive Committee will hold an extraordinary meeting in Copenhagen on 7 and 8 November. Its meetings in 2003 will take place on 5/6 February, 25/26/27 March (in Rome), 9/10 July, 17/18 September and 10/11 December.
- To strengthen its links with its member associations and share views on current topics, UEFA's top management is inviting the general secretaries of the associations to the House of European Football in Nyon. Two groups came in September and a third group will be coming at the end of October.
- The accounts of the UEFA Champions League final have been approved. In addition to the CHF 10 million they receive from the TV and marketing contracts, Real Madrid also obtain CHF 1,358,862 from gate receipts. Bayer 04 Leverkusen receive the same amount from ticket sales, plus CHF 6 million from TV and marketing rights.
- As far as the last UEFA Cup final is concerned, winners Feyenoord pocket CHF 5 million from TV and marketing rights, while Borussia Dortmund take home CHF 3.5 million. Each finalist receives an equal share of the ticket sale revenue, which amounts to CHF 932,576 per club.

Award for Lennart Johansson

The UEFA President, Lennart Johansson, has been honoured by the European Broadcasting Union (EBU) for his support of free-to-air football on television.

Receiving his award in Stockholm on 28 September from EBU President Arne Wessberg, Mr Johansson said that the accolade paid tribute to the policy applied by UEFA in respect of TV broadcasts.

Doctors in the house

UEFA's Medical Committee met in Nyon on 7 October with four new members taking their seats in the Board Room at UEFA's headquarters: Pedro Magro (Portugal), Alfonso Moreno González (Spain), Leonard Nokes (Wales) and Paolo Zeppilli (Italy).

Dope testing was one of the major items discussed, with Michel D'Hooghe reporting on the blood tests carried out during the FIFA World Cup. It was agreed to make detailed proposals to the Executive Committee with a view to implementing similar sampling during EURO 2004, including out-of-competition tests.

It was also confirmed that dope testing in the UEFA competitions for women will make its debut at the European Under-19 Championship in 2003.

At club level (following up a request made by the elite coaches at their forum in September), it was agreed to investigate the viability of increasing dope testing - not to search for positive analyses but to offer more conclusive evidence to the public and to people within the game that football is a clean sport.

Other issues raised were the need for medical guidelines for youth tournaments and the feasibility of harmonising the professional qualifications of the people who enter the pitch to offer immediate aid to injured players.

Competitions in progress



The EURO 2004 qualifying competition has kicked off and this season's club competitions are already in full swing. But it is not just the professional footballers who are busy on the field.

In the 2003 UEFA Regions' Cup, the qualifying groups have already started playing and most of the winners



The UEFA Regions' Cup: amateur players but exemplary play.

THALY ZOLTAN

are known. The format has not changed since the first edition in 1999 - although due to the increased number of teams competing, an intermediate round has been added. Six group winners will qualify directly for the final tournament but the winners from Groups 2, 4, 8 and 10 will have to contest the play-offs to determine which two of the four qualify for the remaining two spots. One of these eight finalists will host the final tournament.

Qualifying started in early September in Estonia, where, in Group 4, Central Bohemia Amateur from the Czech Republic ran out clear winners over the teams from England, San Marino and hosts Estonia. Their three straight wins in three matches gave them a group-winning nine points. Group 9 was also won convincingly, with Ticino Amateur from Switzerland claiming top spot with nine points. Group 1 was a closer affair, with Geyazan Amateur from Azerbaijan winning on home soil with nine points from three games, chased by Pivdenstal Amateur from the Ukraine with six points.

Group 6 played in Lithuania in the middle of September. The four amateur teams from Germany, Poland, Lithuania and Belarus fought out a



Special Olympics: a scene from the tournament in Zlin.



The teams of Slovakia (left) and Bosnia & Herzegovina before the final in Zlin.

competitive and entertaining group. In the end, Württemberg Amateur proved the strongest, winning all of their games and going through with the maximum number of points.

In Group 8, the Italian side Piemonte Aosta Valley Amateur qualified with seven points, ahead of the teams from Slovakia, Romania and Russia.

Group 3 was particularly close, with three teams tying on points. Ligue du Maine (France) clinched the winners' spot thanks to their superior goal record in the direct matches.

In early October, Group 5 played in Hungary, where local team Szabolcs Gabona Csoport Amateur came out on top. Finally, in Group 10, Gothenburg were the winners.

This leaves only the matches in Groups 2 (October) and 7 (November) still to be played.

The intermediate round (play-offs) will pit Central Bohemia against the winners of Group 2, and Piemonte Aosta Valley against Gothenburg.

■ In the UEFA youth competitions, Croatia, Yugoslavia, Israel, Switzerland, Wales, Norway, Austria, Romania, Scotland and Azerbaijan are already

through to the second qualifying round in the current European Under-17 Championship. The remaining qualifiers will be known by the end of October.

At Under-19 level, the first qualifiers for the second qualifying round are Poland, Sweden, Germany, Israel, France and Russia. The remaining matches will take place by the end of November.

■ In the UEFA Futsal Cup, the first phase has been completed, leaving eight qualifiers, who have been divided into two groups:

Group A: Action 21 Charleroi (BEL), Norilsky Nickel (RUS), Antena 3 Boomerang (ESP), MNK Split (CRO)

Groupe B: Shakhtar Donetsk (UKR), Prato C (ITA), Playas de Castellon (ESP), KMF Nis (YUG).

The two group winners (the group matches will be staged in the form of mini-tournaments) go through to the final next April.

The first-ever UEFA Futsal Conference will be held from 26 to 28 November in Coverciano (Italy). The theme will be "The Future of Futsal in Europe".

Special Olympics tournament

The second Special Olympics Europe/Eurasia Seven-a-Side Unified Football Tournament took place from 20 to 25 August in Zlin, Czech Republic.

Fifteen teams from 11 countries competed: Belgium, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Georgia, Gibraltar, Hungary, Latvia, Monaco, Slovakia and Ukraine. Special Olympics Unified Sports programmes bring together individuals with mental handicaps (athletes) and individuals without mental handicaps (partners) of similar age and ability to train and compete on the same teams. The aim of the programme is to encourage inclusion in the community by helping break down barriers that keep people with and without mental handicaps apart. The programme often leads to improved self-esteem, equal status with peers and new friendships. The Gibraltar team had one of the most unique compositions – a real family affair – with father Henry Danino as head coach, son Nicholas, a Special Olympics footballer, and son Karl, son-in-law Chisum Sanchez and his brother Caine, as partners. The team also had members of the Vinent family: Darren, a Special Olympics footballer, and his father Brian, a coach. The tournament was held at the Vrsava sports complex and officiated by federation-certified referees. "The Games Organising Committee, headed by Dagmara Detkova, Special Olympics Czech Republic Regional Co-ordinator, is to be commended for holding this event despite the flooding that was causing wide-spread damage throughout Europe at the time," said Mariusz Damentko, Sports Director, Special Olympics Europe/Eurasia. A seminar was also held that focused on different aspects of Unified Football. The Zlin tournament and seminar were funded by the Special Olympics Football Development Project. Local media covered the event.



The unified Special Olympics football team of Monaco during the tournament in Zlin.

PHOTOS: MIROSLAV KROGULEG-SPECIAL OLYMPICS



ARMENIA
Renovation work
at the Yerevan
Republican
Football School.



ENGLAND
Les Howie running a training course.

from member associations news



ARMENIA

The Yerevan Republican Football School was one of the best in the days of USSR. Its territory covered about

10 hectares and it had several grounds where many young players trained. The school was well known in the USSR and was the main supplier of professional football players for Armenia.

Many famous Armenian players made their first steps here, among them most of the Ararat '73 players, who in 1973 won the USSR championship title and the USSR Cup.

Khoren Hovhannisyan also started out in the Republican School. In 1980 he won a bronze medal at the Moscow Olympics. Hovhannisyan played in the USSR national team for many years and competed in the 1982 World Cup in Spain.

After the downfall of the USSR, the Republican School was demolished within ten years. Youngsters wanting to practise football had to train in dust and on sand. There were no simple conditions like hot water, dressing rooms, green grounds.

On the proposal of the Armenian Football Federation, plans to restore the Republican School have been approved by FIFA, which has granted 400,000 dollars towards the project. Restoration work began this year in May and 80% of it has already been completed. Two of the four grass pitches are already operational and according to the chairman of the school, Michael Zakarian, the remaining grounds will be ready by the end of October. The central pitch has two stands where only the seats are still missing. This ground will have 5,000 seats. That means it would be possible to play here not only Armenian championship matches but also official international matches.

The restoration work is scheduled to be finished by 20 November, when a FIFA special committee will check on the accomplishments. UEFA President Lennart Johansson will be among the guests at the opening ceremony. By that time the ground with artificial and asphalt coverage will be ready.

In total, the school will have eight grounds with various kinds of coverage. Work on the administrative block and dressing rooms is already finished. There will be permanent well water at the school.

According to Zakarian, there are about 800 young players registered at the school who still train on other sport school grounds. The number of teenagers wishing to enter the Republican Football School is constantly increasing.

There is no doubt that the school will regain its due place in Armenian football.

Suren Baghdasaryan



BELGIUM

In Belgium as elsewhere, refereeing is confronted with new problems: a constantly diminishing number of referees (despite new members), harsh criticism from the media and a growing tendency for players, officials and even parents to lack respect for referees. A PR campaign in favour of referees was therefore launched throughout the country and lasted several weeks. The results were not slow in coming.

Belgium has always been a fertile soil for referees. Those in charge of refereeing in Belgium therefore put their heads together to find ways of restoring the image of the referee in our country. Today, some 6,500 referees enable over 280,000 players to live out their passion. The number of active players and matches is constantly increasing. It is therefore vital to increase the number of referees in Belgium.

Of course, we need to raise awareness of the referees' cause among the kingdom's various clubs. Without the referee, there would be no football match. A promotion campaign was launched countrywide in August, with numerous objectives. One of the aims of the "Do you have an eye for football?" campaign is, of course, to improve the referees' image and in so doing to increase the number of referees but also keep the existing ones. This is easier said than done.

The campaign has been quite successful so far, with several hundred applications received in only a few weeks. All the information and documentation relating to refereeing is also available on our website, www.footbel.com.

The federation authorities are aware of the problems faced by referees and everything possible is being done to improve the situation in order to hang on to our men in black. The Executive Committee has accepted a number of

proposals put forward by a working group. Training and support structures will be improved and a new project is in the pipeline: the creation of a refereeing academy.

François Vantomme



BOSNIA & HERZEGOVINA

Since football in Bosnia & Herzegovina was finally unified on 23 May, it has been

on the up and up. The Premier League of B&H is in full swing, and the attitude shown by the players and officials of the participating clubs indicates that the united league has achieved its goal. A host of clubs from throughout B&H have been given the chance to play for places in the UEFA competitions. Reigning champions FK Zeljeznicar, vice-champions NK Siroki Brijeg and cup winners FC Sarajevo have demonstrated that clubs from B&H can put up a good fight against European counterparts.

Although these clubs were eliminated in the first round of the UEFA Cup, the experience gained is nonetheless valuable. All three clubs played a combined total of 16 games in this season's UEFA campaign - FK Zeljeznicar in the preliminary round of the UEFA Champion League, and than in the first round of the UEFA Cup, and NK Siroki Brijeg and FC Sarajevo in the first round of the UEFA Cup. Their record was not bad - between them they won seven matches, lost seven and drew two, and notched up a goal difference of 16:12.

The results of these clubs are motivating other clubs to compete for places in Europe. The contest will be very long and hard because there are 20 clubs taking part in the championship this season.

On the downside, a huge number of head coaches have been shown the door.



BOSNIA & HERZEGOVINA
FK Zeljeznicar (Haris Alihodzic, right) made it into the third qualifying round in the UEFA Champions League, where they lost to Newcastle United (Kieron Dyer).



BOSNIA & HERZEGOVINA
The coaches of FK Sarajevo and FK Zeljeznicar, Husref Musevic (left) and Amar Osim.



After the tenth round of the championship, some ten clubs replaced their head coaches because they were not satisfied with their work. Two coaches were replaced after the first round (NK Bosna and NK Jedinstvo), while right at the beginning of the championship, seven clubs in the starting line-up were under new head coaches, namely FK Leotar, FK Borac, NK Zrinjski, FK Sarajevo, NK Orasje, NK Posusje and FK Glasinac.

Most of these changes were not expected, but clubs do not want defeats this season when six clubs have to drop out of the league.

Fuad Krvavac



ENGLAND

In August 2002, The FA's Chief Executive Adam Crozier and National Game Division Director Steve Parkin joined

Technical Director Howard Wilkinson in backing the launch of a new FA Coaching Award that aims to see 15,000 'graduates' in its first year alone.

The FA Level 1 Club Coach Award was developed by The FA National Club Development Manager Les Howie, with the course mantra: 'let the game be the teacher'.

This week, The FA received further backing for the quality of the course from none other than UEFA Technical Director, and former Scotland Manager, Andy Roxburgh. Upon receiving the new FA Level 1 Club Coaching Award pack that contains a video of all 23 fun coaching drills, he endorsed the FA Club Coach Video as "an excellent educational tool for budding grassroots coaches".

"This professionally produced tape provides numerous training ideas for young players and is an excellent addition to the resources in the field. The principles which apply to the coaching of young players are also addressed on the video, and The FA has to be commended for promoting positive, ethical behaviour as an integral part of their coach education programme."

All budding coaches will receive a comprehensive video as well as an interactive CD-ROM that will encourage students to develop an understanding and knowledge of the rules of the game, as well as assisting them in the refereeing of training sessions/junior football games.

Over 350 UEFA 'A' and 'B' Licence coaches were trained over the Summer to deliver the new FA Level 1 Club Coach Course across the country, and already 1,000 existing or budding coaches have completed the new course.

Jane Bateman



GEORGIA

The Georgian football family has received a wonderful gift. With the financial support of UEFA/EEAB, the Football Federation of Georgia has built a five-storey office, the "Georgian House of Football".

On 20 August, UEFA President Lennart Johansson, UEFA Vice-President Senes Erzik and Senior Manager Assistance Programmes Erich Epple visited Tbilisi on the occasion of the opening ceremony and inauguration of the "Georgian Football House". Georgian President Eduard Shevardnadze, UEFA President Lennart Johansson and GFF President Merab Jordania solemnly opened the office of the GFF and one more remarkable building was added to Tbilisi.

The UEFA President officially presented the UEFA Order of Merit in Ruby to GFF Vice-President Alexander Chivadze and later had a one-hour audience with the president of Georgia, during which the most important issues concerning Georgian football were discussed.

At the official dinner Mr Johansson was presented with the Honourable Award of the Georgian National Olympic Committee by the Head of the National Olympic Committee of Georgia, Mr J. Bagrationi.

While in Tbilisi the UEFA delegation visited the newly opened Locomotive stadium, the Olympic Children's Football Academy and the technical centre of national team of Georgia, which is presently under construction. The guests praised the changes undertaken to the Georgian football infrastructure.

Mamuka Kvaratskhelia



GERMANY

At the initiative of Gerhard Mayer-Vorfelder, President of the German Football Federation (DFB), the DFB has launched the national "Team 2006".

With 1980 European Championship winners and 1982 World Cup runners-up Ulli Stielike and Horst Hrubesch at the helm, the new team is meant to serve as a springboard into the senior German national team for talented players who have progressed through the Under-21 ranks. The team of international hopefuls lost its inaugural match to the Turkish "B" team by 2-1 at Mönchengladbach's Bökelberg stadium.

"It would be fatal if the existence of Team 2006 were justified purely on the basis of its results," said Ulli Stielike, appealing for patience. "Team 2006 provides an incentive for young players. The aim is to give international experience to youngsters who have a chance of playing in the 2004 European Championships and 2006 World Cup.

If we are able to develop two or three players for the 2006 World Cup squad, Team 2006 will have served its purpose." With this aim in mind, the new team will play between six and eight international matches before the end of 2003. It will also participate in the Future Cup, a competition also involving teams from Turkey, the Czech Republic and Scotland. The Scots will be the next opponents for Germany's Team 2006 on 17 December.

The DFB's training staff has been strengthened by the addition on 1 July of former international Jürgen Kohler, 1990 World Cup and 1996 European Championship winner. Kohler, who ended his playing career with German champions Borussia Dortmund in May, is responsible for the men's Under-21 team and enjoyed a successful start to his career as a DFB coach. His team beat the Italian Under-21s 2-0 in Grosseto (Italy) and won their opening European Championship qualifier against Lithuania in Vilnius by 4-1.

Thomas Dohren



HUNGARY

The "New Europe." This is one of the slogans of the Hungarian bid to host EURO 2008, the bid of "new friends, new impressions, new wins". The new Europe. This is what the members of UEFA's inspection team saw in Hungary when they visited at the end of September. They saw the plans of the stadiums, the roads under construction. They saw that the candidate cities are going to build new hotels, sports centres, airports and entertainment centres. They felt the message of "New Europe"



BELGIUM

The referee poster recruitment campaign.



HUNGARY
The UEFA inspection team hold a press conference.



EURO 2004
The EURO 2004 qualifiers are the centre of the national associations' attention just now. San Marino (in blue) played Poland at home back in September.

when they witnessed the developments in the country and the achievements of the Hungarian Football Federation (MLSZ). In the three years since the experts last visited Hungary, when the association was bidding to host EURO 2004 (a joint bid with Austria at that time), real changes have taken place and many stadiums have been totally rebuilt nationwide.

Budapest is preparing for the event by doubling the airport's capacity, building two new underground lines and new roads, with two modern stadiums and several new hotels. But it is not only the capital of the country that is making plans. For instance in Debrecen, the road network will be completely changed. A new motorway will connect the town with Budapest and the airport will be upgraded. The new arena of the city - built in eight months - was inaugurated in October.

And these are only some examples from the candidate cities. The nation's love of football goes back a long way, and this is Europe's biggest football festival. Hungary is moreover a country where there are no great distances and everyone is close to each other.

Meeting the inspection team, Ferenc Mádl, President of Hungary, said that his country, the "New Europe", would be a good setting for the competition. He also assured the delegation that all the costs of the plans would be met.

The youth and the coach education programmes of the association which are already under way also augur well for the successful hosting of EURO 2008. As Mádl said, along with the rest of the nation, he would be very happy to see the final of the competition in Budapest, at the Ferenc Puskás stadium.

*Márton Dinnyés/
György Szöllösi*



ICELAND

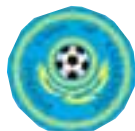
The championship race in Iceland was as exciting this year as in the last few seasons, with the title being decided in the very last round of matches. This time around, KR Reykjavík pipped Fylkir Reykjavík to the post on the final day by crushing already relegated Þór Akureyri 5-0 at home, while Fylkir lost away to 2001 champions ÍA Akranes. This was KR's twenty-third title, a record in Iceland, and their third in four years.

The battle against relegation was a close one. ÍBV Vestmannaeyjar and Fram Reykjavík were equal on points with Keflavík, but the latter's goal difference doomed them to first division football next year along with previously mentioned Þór. Two Reykjavík clubs, Valur and

Thróttur, will take their place in next year's Premier Division, meaning that out of the ten teams, half will be from the capital.

Fylkir took some consolation for losing the league title to KR by beating Fram 3-1 in the domestic cup final. This was Fylkir's second cup victory in two years, as they were cup winners in 2001 as well.

Omar Smarason



KAZAKHSTAN

On 15 August, at the Extraordinary Conference of the Football Union of Kazakhstan (FUK), it was decided to extend the top national division, the Super League. This season, 12 clubs are playing in the Super League; next season they will be more, 16 or 18. On the election front, Anatoly Ionkin, former striker with FC Kairat (Almaty), was elected Vice-President for Sports Matters.

At the end of the conference the new book "Our Football is in Europe" was presented. Its co-authors are FUK President Rakhat Aliyev and Vice-President Tlekbek Akpayev. The book describes the facts and events that led the Football Union of Kazakhstan to leave AFC and join UEFA.

From 11 to 28 August, Under-16 matches were played in Almaty. Twelve teams from Kazakhstan regions and from Almaty and Astana played in the tournament. The Almaty team emerged as the winners, the runners-up were from the Pavlodar region and Astana team finished in third place.

From 13 to 22 September, an Under-15 tournament was hosted in Taraz. This time the winners were the football team from the Zhambyl region. The team from Almaty finished in the runners-up spot, and the South Kazakhstan region team took third place.

From 17 to 23 September, 15 teams - divided into four groups for the first phase - took part in the Futsal Cup final round. The winners and runners-up in each group qualified for the quarter-finals, at which point the competition assumed a direct knock-out format. Alibi Almaty and Zhigitter Astana met in the final, which Zhigitter Astana won 3-1.

On 5 and 6 September, in Almaty, the FUK Referees' Committee held a seminar/meeting to review the first phase of the Super League. Following the seminar, all referees involved in the first phase of the Super League completed fitness tests.

On the same dates, the Observers' Committee of the Football Union of Kazakhstan also held a seminar/meeting, as a result of which the list of Super League observers was reduced to 16.

Although Kazakhstan are not taking part in the EURO 2004 qualifying phase, the association remains active off the pitch. In this respect, the FUK is going to propose a new kind of football sport - New Football - to the committee organising EURO 2004. New Football, which was invented in Kazakhstan, is a kind of fusion of football and chess, an interesting game which develops the imagination and intellectual abilities. The New Football Federation, a member of the Football Union of Kazakhstan, is fine-tuning the game.

Alexander Keplin



LIECHTENSTEIN

Chaired by the LFV General Secretary, a project group set up by the LFV Executive Committee, comprising referees and club representatives, drew up a regulatory framework for the creation of a Referees' Commission during the last year. The regulatory framework will be adopted by the LFV general assembly in the next few weeks and will then enter into force.

The focal points of the regulatory document are, firstly, disciplinary matters arising from the LFV's own competitions and, secondly, the support of and need for referees in Liechtenstein. The five-man commission will be composed of one Executive Committee member, two referees and two marketing experts. In order to highlight the importance of their position, the commission members will be elected by the LFV assembly for a three-year term and will be granted their own budget.



ICELAND
Fylkir Reykjavík (Petursson, right) vs. Excelsior Mouscron (Mpenza) in a UEFA Cup qualifying match.



LFV



LAFARGUE

LIECHTENSTEIN
The LFV are giving thought to who is going to take over from Roland Beck (third from the left).



AQUILINA

MALTA
A Malta FA IX gave a credible performance against Internazionale FC (Hernan Crespo).

By setting up the new commission, the LFV aims to strengthen efforts to enlist talented male and female referees and to support those who have already been recruited. The regulatory framework was prepared in close consultation with the relevant referees' bodies of the Swiss Football Association (SFV) in order to prevent misunderstandings and make use of the SFV's experience.

General Secretary Markus Schaper said, "Now we have a body in which professionals are working on behalf of professionals and are able to support our referees. I hope that this will strengthen refereeing and that, in the long term, we will be able to find a successor to our FIFA referee Roland Beck. At the same time, I also hope that information from the FIFA and UEFA refereeing departments will be passed to us directly and efficiently."

Markus Schaper



LUXEMBOURG

For several years now, Luxembourg's top referees have had regular opportunities to gain international experience by officiating at league and cup matches abroad.

This welcome development was initially based on an agreement between our association and the Saarland Football Federation (SFV). FLF referees have been officiating at matches in Saarland since 1990, and vice versa.

Introduced in 1993 at the initiative of Michel Vautrot, the referee exchange programme with the French Football Federation (FFF) is very important for both associations. While Luxembourg's



PHOTO NEWS

LUXEMBOURG
Alain Hamer in action.

leading referees are given the chance to officiate at professional matches, talented up-and-coming French officials are able to gain their first international experience by refereeing matches in the top two divisions in Luxembourg. Our leading referee, Alain Hamer, who is now in the elite group of UEFA referees, has been officiating regularly in the French first division since 1998. His experience of French professional football has opened the door for him to referee important matches in FIFA and UEFA competitions.

A referee exchange programme with the Belgian Football Federation (URBSFA) has been in place since the 2000/01 season. Luxembourg's top teams of officials operate in the Belgian first division, while talented referees from Luxembourg have also been officiating in the Belgian province of Luxembourg for the last three years.

On 2 October 2002, a team of officials from Luxembourg (A. Hamer, H. Reuter, F. Mangen) was responsible for refereeing a UEFA Champions League match (FC Liverpool - FC Spartak Moscow) for the very first time. This was a result of the international experience they had gained, proving that foreign exchange programmes are extremely important for refereeing in Luxembourg.

Joël Wolff



FYR MACEDONIA

The main event in October was the AGM of the FA of FYR Macedonia, which took place on the third of the month in Bansko (Strumica).

Only 53 of the 102 members attended (35 other members decided to have a separate meeting in Skopje). Nevertheless, the meeting, under the direction of the president Lambe Arnaudov, was able to proceed with the necessary quorum and some important decisions were taken:

- In future, the assembly will have 12 more members (six from the youth sector and six from women's football).
- Five new members were voted on to the executive committee: Ilija Jovkov, Saso Tasev, Dragan Bozinovski, Dusko Dimitrov and Ljubenco Janusev.
- A new list of FIFA referees (main and assistants) was proposed: Emil Bozinovski, Saso Lazarevski and Delco Jakimovski (main), and Zoran Josifov, Ilija Davcev, Bekim Bauta, Tode Tikovski, Branko Manojlovski and Mijalce Mihajlov (assistants).

In another historical moment for football in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, the first ever women's league kicked off on 22 September. Ten teams are taking part.

Mijalce Durgutov



MALTA

The date of 3 September 2002 will be etched in gold letters in the annals of the Malta FA as the date when the Millennium Stand, the association's biggest ever project and the brainchild of its president, Dr Joe Mifsud, was officially inaugurated.

The sparkling new stand replaces the East Stand, which was declared a dangerous structure several years ago and had to be demolished. The first phase of the project may have stirred some controversy within the association itself but the new construction, with its glass facade, is truly an impressive site to behold.

The president of Malta, Professor Guido de Marco, who officiated at the inauguration ceremony, praised the Malta FA's efforts to strengthen the sporting culture in the Maltese islands. "Even if the Malta FA's efforts and investment do not reap immediate dividends, future generations will certainly benefit from the work of their predecessors in years to come," President de Marco said.

The president was also fulsome in his praise of the Malta FA's president whom he described as a true leader capable of bring the best out of the individuals around him.

A beaming Dr Mifsud said, "My association had to go to great lengths and expense to complete this big project, which apart from its terraces and all ancillary facilities, which can take 5,200 spectators, will also include other amenities such as a swimming pool, gymnasium, restaurant, squash courts, small-arms range, etc. which will be run on a commercial basis."

The inauguration formalities were followed by the plum event of the evening from a pure football perspective when a Malta FA XI pitted their strength against the crack Italian side FC Internazionale. The Nerazzurri emerged clear 2-0 winners in a match which had an exhibition-cum-friendly flavour about it, though the Maltese performed credibly in an entertaining game.

Louis Micallef



MALTA
Guido de Marco (left) congratulates Joseph Mifsud.



NETHERLANDS
A powerful slogan for the team in orange.



NETHERLANDS

Having sadly missed the 2002 World Cup in Japan and Korea, the Netherlands Football Association (KNVB) have already made a couple of steps towards EURO 2004 in Portugal. Prior to the first qualifying match, the marketing department thought of a catchy slogan to capture the ardent wish of the Dutch to qualify for EURO 2004 and, moreover, to perform well in Portugal.

Inspired by the prolonged shouts of South European and especially Brazilian radio reporters, the slogan Portugooaal! was judged fitting to cover the feelings and emotions evoked by the Dutch national team. The supporters, and not least the KNVB, want the national team to do well and provide them with plenty of images of a smooth orange machine stealing the hearts of spectators all around the world with attractive play and individual skills.

The slogan has already appeared in radio commercials to successfully promote the sales of tickets for the first qualifying match. Surprised by its brevity, the sound level and apparently meaningless message, one or two listeners reacted in a quite shocked manner. But the message is clear. The logo also appears on perimeter boarding in the stadium, on posters, in the official programme and in other magazines published by KNVB. The logo and slogan were launched in Eindhoven before the kick-off of the Netherlands-Belarus match, with tens of thousands of spectators waving their blue flags with the Portugooaal!! logo and thus literally showing the Dutch players the way to Portugal.

On the pitch, the players showed their ambitions as well. Still unbeaten this year, Dick Advocaat's squad left no doubt about their intentions versus Belarus in their first EURO 2004 qualifying match. The 3-0 victory before a capacity crowd in Eindhoven showed that the Dutch are keen not to miss out on another major championship. Portugooaal!! here we come!

Rob de Leede

Nineteen senior Irish League clubs have now been identified as potential centres and the new funding will enable each of these clubs to appoint a full-time youth development officer. Their job will be to implement and manage a carefully constructed national programme.

Each senior club development centre will focus on three areas of activity, namely:

1. Mini-soccer (6-12-year-olds)
2. Football in the community (12-16-year-olds)
3. Centres of excellence (elite coaching for 12-18-year-olds)

Within these 19 centres it is a government requirement that all opportunities must be open to both boys and girls at every level as well as to people with disabilities or learning difficulties.

Spike Hill



SWEDEN

Umeå's and the Swedish national team's top marksman Hanna Ljungberg has set a neat record. In Umeå's 3-0 away victory over Bälinge, Ljungberg scored for the 36th time this league season, surpassing Lena Videkull's and Pia Sundhage's former records of 35 goals in a season.

With two more rounds to go in the Swedish League, Hanna may very well add more to that record.

If Umeå manage to grasp the League title (third consecutive in that case) ahead of challengers Malmö, Hanna can sum up a remarkable season - League top-scorer for the first time, best-ever scorer in a season and a successful World Cup qualification with Sweden. Add to that Umeå's comfortable elimination of all opposition in the UEFA Women's Cup group phase with Hanna striking seven times. One challenge remains - the quarter-final against Toulouse, and Hanna, who missed out on last season's cup final in Frankfurt (suspended), is certainly motivated.

Thomas Saletog



UKRAINE

At the beginning of September, two members of the UEFA Jira Project Panel, Dr Zdenek Sivek from the Czech Republic and Dr Gyorgy Mezei from Hungary, visited Ukraine. They got acquainted with teaching and training work and the skills of our coaches. The UEFA representatives attended coaching sessions involving three top league clubs, one first division



MOLDOVA

The role of the technician in modern football is difficult to overestimate. Future Moldovan football instructors are prepared at the National Institute for Physical Education and Sports (INEFS). In practice though, this training is sometimes not enough.

That is why the FA of Moldova has elaborated a system of retraining, advanced training courses and licensing of technical staff on a practical basis. This activity is headed by Valentin Cojuhari, Vice-President of the FA of Moldova, who has vast experience of practical work in Moldovan club teams and also with different Moldovan youth and women's national teams. This year, thanks to the support of UEFA and Italian Football Federation (FIGC), he was the first Moldovan specialist to follow the advanced training courses at the Coverciano technical centre in Italy and to be awarded the Pro Licence.

Beginning in 2000, under his leadership, retraining and refresher courses for technicians from all regions of the country have been organised. So far, a total of 206 coaches have passed the examination and obtained local licences.

This process is monitored by the President of the FA of Moldova, Pavel Cebanu, who offers practical assistance. He is a graduate of the Higher Coaches' School in Moscow and a member of the UEFA Technical Committee.

In the field of coach education, the FA of Moldova is grateful to UEFA for its constant support in the preparation of Moldovan specialists, the best of whom have followed UEFA Progress courses run by well-known specialists like Jozef Venglos (Slovakia), Franco Ferrari (Italy), Jos Bolt and Jan Trienekens (Netherlands). The next Progress course will take place at the end of November.

The higher the qualifications of the coaches, the greater the successes in the development of the game.

Serghei Donets



NORTHERN IRELAND

Sports Minister Michael McGimpsey has announced a major grassroots development programme of £1 million which is calculated to change the shape of senior club football and, hopefully the viability of the game at the highest level. Government funding, financed through the Northern Ireland Sport Council, will be utilised for the creation of football development centres.

UKRAINE
The student champions.



YUGOSLAVIA
The poster for the Stevan Vilotic tournament.



and one second division team, and the U-15 national team. In a conversation with the president of the Football Federation of Ukraine, Mr Grigoriy Surkis, a member of the UEFA Professional Football Committee, they said they were highly satisfied with what they had seen.

A Progress IV course on "administrative management" took place on 16 and 17 September. The course was attended by the heads of 27 regional football federations of Ukraine. Dr Torben Mogensen from Denmark and FFU experts were the principal lecturers. In addition to problems concerning the organisation and preparation of international matches, the club licensing procedure and FFU regulation documents, vital problems of marketing, advertising and budget were dealt with. The participants were also familiarised with the structure and work experience of the Danish Football Federation.

At the end of September, according to the FFU plan, 27 young referees from all over Ukraine gathered in Kiev. They spent the week raising the level of their professional skills under the direct guidance of leading Ukrainian referees.

In the last weekend of September, the first student football championship was organised. Fifty-two teams took part in this tournament. The winners, the Kirovograd State Flying Academy, will represent Ukraine in the European

students' championship in Italy. The final matches were attended by the president of the European Student Football Association, Mr Piter Verboven, who noted the high organisational level of these competitions.

Valeriy Nikonenko



WALES

The month of October began really well for football in Wales with our National League announcing a new sponsor at a launch event on the second of the month. This will involve a substantial cash injection into the League, and clubs will be able to lease Mitsubishi vehicles at very competitive rates. Also, players, referees and assistant referees registered with the League can purchase cars at significantly discounted rates. At the launch, the National League was renamed "The Welsh Premier" sponsored by J. T. Hughes Mitsubishi.

This came at an exciting time for Welsh football, as the whole country waited with "baited breath" for the visit of Italy to the Millennium Stadium in the European Championship qualifying competition on 16 October. Following the national team's recent victory in Finland, there was much excitement and anticipation, and seats were sold out some weeks ago for the 76,000 capacity stadium.

We must also not forget the Wales Under-17 team, who qualified for the second round of their own UEFA Championship with a clean sweep of victories over Norway, Luxembourg and Bosnia & Herzegovina in their recent mini-tournament.

John Deakin



YUGOSLAVIA

The Yugoslavian towns of Sabac, Valjevo and Sremska Mitrovica hosted the 9th International Memorial Football Tournament "Stevan Vilotic Cele" from 2 to 6 September. The tournament is dedicated to the memory of our eminent coach and sports pedagogue, who spent most of his life working with youth players and in so doing achieved the respect of the world of football. Players in the under-19 category take part on this established tournament, which is also very important to the Yugoslav Football Association. The first tournament was held in 1994, when it involved Yugoslavian regional selections, but from the next year it became an international event.

This year's participants came from the Netherlands, Israel, Turkey, Italy and Belgium. Yugoslav FA President Dragan Stojkovic opened the tournament.

In Group A, Yugoslavia finished in first place, ahead of Israel and the Netherlands, while in Group B, the winners were Italy, followed by Turkey and Belgium. The final match was played on 6 September in Sabac, the birthplace of the coach after whom the tournament is named. Italy performed better than Yugoslavia in this interesting match, which they won 2-1. The best player and top scorer award was presented to the Italian player Francesco Lodi.

The tournament was organised to perfection and took place in a spirit of fair play. All participants expressed their wish to return to Yugoslavia and take part in the tournament again.

Nebojsa Ivkovic



SWEDEN
A remarkable season for Hanna Ljungberg.



communications

birthdays – calendar

Birthdays

Honorary UEFA Member Sandor Barcs (Hungary) celebrates his ninetieth birthday on 10 November. Disciplinary Inspector Peter Gardiner (Scotland), a former member of the Appeals Body, will be 75 on 7 November. Fellow Disciplinary Inspector Georges Vernet (France), will be 70 on 21 November. On 17 November, Jan Fasung (Slovakia), a member of the Referee Inspectors Panel, reaches the half-century mark, while Futsal Committee Chairman Petr Fousek (Czech Republic) will be celebrating his fortieth birthday on 19 November. UEFA also extends best wishes for a happy birthday to:

- Marc Batta (France, 1.11)
- György Szilágyi (Hungary, 2.11)
- Francesco Bianchi (Switzerland, 2.11)
- Gero Bisanz (Germany, 3.11)
- Rosario Lo Bello (Italy, 4.11)
- Michael Zager (Israel, 4.11)
- Lars Richt (Sweden, 4.11)
- Lennart Johansson (Sweden, 5.11)
- Fernand Meese (Belgium, 5.11)
- György Bogнар (Hungary, 5.11)
- Mircea Pascu (Romania, 6.11)
- Jean-Claude Jourquin (Belgium, 6.11)
- Rudi Zavrл (Slovenia, 9.11)
- Jorge Peréz Arias (Spain, 9.11)
- Willi Hink (Germany, 9.11)
- Aleksandras Gorinas (Lithuania, 10.11)
- Gerhard Kapl (Austria, 11.11)
- Manos Mavrokoukoulakis (Greece, 12.11)
- Antonio Silva Pereira (Portugal, 12.11)
- Howard Wilkinson (England, 13.11)
- Jean Lemmer (Luxembourg, 15.11)
- Michael Meier (Germany, 15.11)
- Otto Demuth (Austria, 16.11)
- Wolf-Günter Wiesel (Germany, 16.11)
- Volodymyr Lashkul (Ukraine, 16.11)
- Pablo Porta Bussoms (Spain, 17.11)
- Nicolae Rainea (Romania, 19.11)
- Jacques Liénard (France, 19.11)
- Horst R. Schmidt (Germany, 19.11)
- Paolo Zeppilli (Italy, 19.11)
- David H. Will (Scotland, 20.11)
- Werner Müller (Switzerland, 20.11)
- Serghiy Storozenko (Ukraine, 21.11)
- Jyrki Filippu (Finland, 22.11)
- Reiner Calmund (Germany, 23.11)
- William J.P. Drennan (Northern Ireland, 24.11)
- Guido Vantaggiato (Italy, 25.11)
- Dainis Gudermanis (Latvia, 25.11)
- Steve Heighway (England, 25.11)
- Hans-Georg Moldenhauer (Germany, 25.11)
- Reinhard Nachbagauer (Austria, 25.11)
- Indrek Kannik (Estonia, 25.11)
- Marcos Del Cuadro (Switzerland, 26.11)
- Sorin Alexandru Satmari (Romania, 26.11)
- Zbigniew Przesmycki (Poland, 26.11)
- Henri Roemer (Luxembourg, 26.11)

- Styrbjörn Oskarsson (Finland, 26.11)
- Aimé Jacquet (France, 27.11)
- Noel O'Reilly (Republic of Ireland, 27.11)
- Marios Lefkaritis (Cyprus, 28.11)
- Tinerfe Villar (Spain, 28.11)
- Marko Ilesic (Slovenia, 29.11)
- Edward Maurice Watkins (England, 30.11)
- Wolfgang Niersbach (Germany, 30.11)

Upcoming events

MEETINGS

4-5.11.2002, Nyon
Disciplinary Workshop

5.11.2002, Nyon
Women's Football Committee
Draw for the second round of the European Women's Under-19 Championship 2002/03

6.11.2002, Nyon
Stadium and Security Committee
Fun Football/Children's Football Panel

7-8.11.2002, Copenhagen
Executive Committee

13.11.2002, Nyon
Assistance Programmes Committee

14.11.2002, Nyon
Meridian Project Workshop

14.11.2002, Geneva
Club Competitions Committee

15.11.2002, Geneva
Draw for the second group stage of the UEFA Champions League and third round of the UEFA Cup

19.11.2002, Nyon
Professional Football Committee

21.11.2002, Nyon
European Club Forum

26.11.2002, Coverciano (Italy)
Futsal Committee

26-28.11.2002, Coverciano
Futsal Conference

COMPETITIONS

12-13.11.2002
UEFA Champions League:
first group stage (match day 6)

14.11.2002
UEFA Cup: second round (return legs)

26-27.11.2002
UEFA Champions League:
second group stage (match day 1)

28.11.2002
UEFA Cup: third round (first legs)

New publication



EL ESTILO BRASILEÑO

Marcos Falopa,
Technical Director
of the North,
Central American
and Caribbean
Association

Football Confederation (CONCACAF) and a FIFA instructor, has dissected the Brazilian game to uncover the keys to their success. The result is a booklet packed with diagrams that coaches can use to teach their players some of the Brazilian art. Following the English version published in 1997 (The Brazilian Way to Play Soccer), a Spanish edition has now been released (for information, fax +55-11-5573 5026 or email marcosfalopa@yahoo.com). The publication also exists in the form of a CD-ROM, in English and Finnish.

Announcements

- The XXVII UEFA Ordinary Congress will take place in Rome on 27 March next year. The 2004 Congress will meet in Cyprus on 11 March.
- The FA of Georgia has new telephone numbers: +995 32 912610 (secretariat) and +995 32 235169 (international and information). Its fax number is still +995 32 001128.

Obituaries

- Former international referee and member of the UEFA Referees Committee from 1988 to 1994, Augusto Lamo Castillo (Spain) passed away on 10 September. He was 63.
- Member of the Control & Disciplinary Committee from 1980 to 1990, then Vice-Chairman of the same body until 1996, Otto Andres (Germany), a member of the UEFA alumni association, died on 6 October. He was 82.

WE CARE ABOUT FOOTBALL



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