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uefa direct

Including

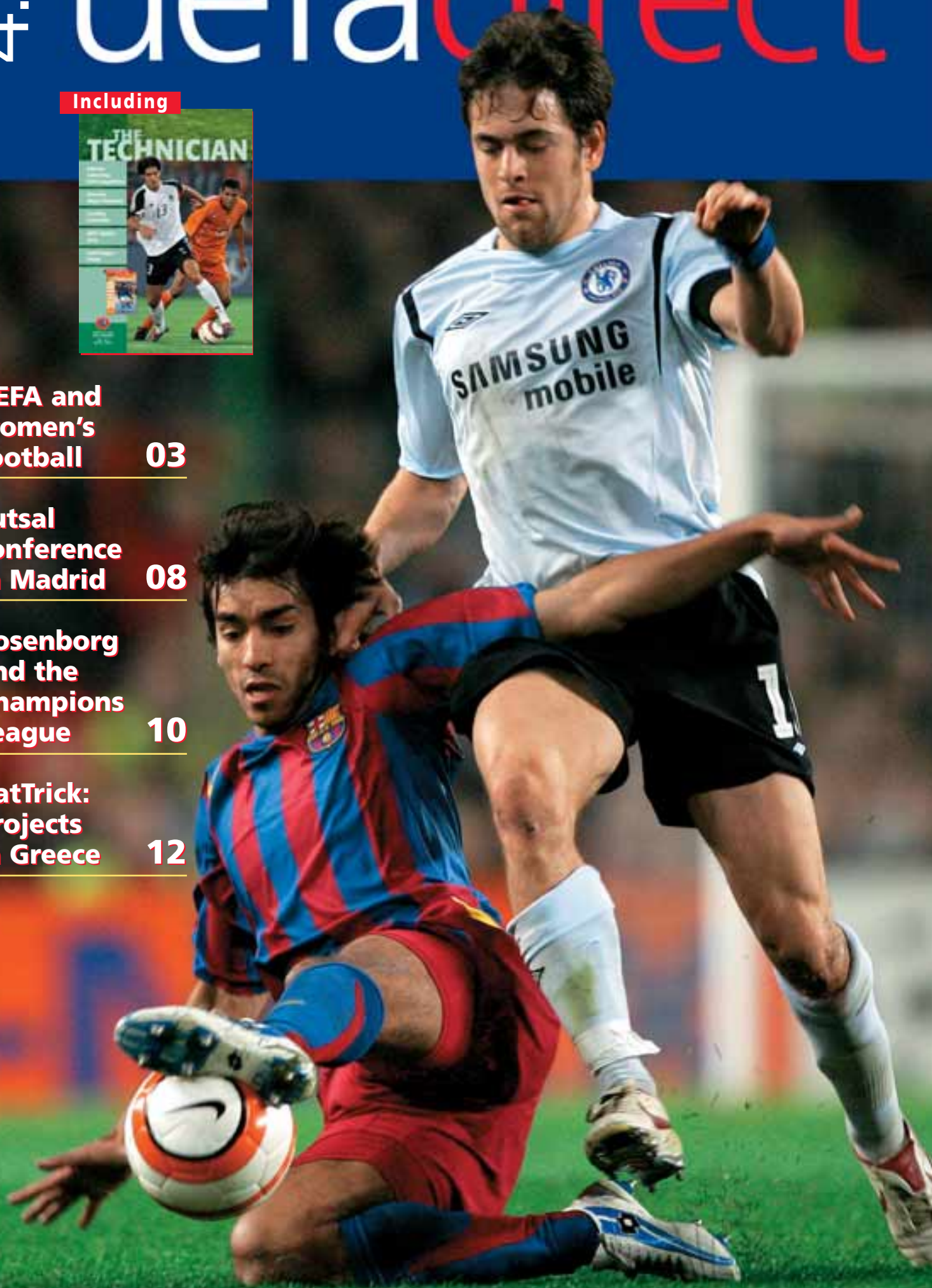


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COVER

In the last 16 of the UEFA Champions League, FC Barcelona had their revenge over Chelsea FC, who knocked them out of the competition at the same stage last year. Giovanni van Bronckhorst stops Joe Cole getting through.

PHOTO: L.GENE/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

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Editorial

Passion and reflection

A year with a World Cup final round on the calendar is always an important year in football. We are just over two months away from the tournament in Germany, but supporters in Europe have already been in the grip of football fever since the start of the year, with the draw for the EURO 2008 qualifying round and the resumption of the UEFA Cup and Champions League, as they move closer to their respective finals in Eindhoven and Paris.

So there will be no lack of emotion in our stadiums. Once again football will be an almost daily companion for its millions of fervent fans. While passion and reflection do not necessarily go hand in hand, 2006 offers opportunities for both to be the focus of attention: the European club competitions and the World Cup in the first case, a wide-ranging review of European football in the second.

The review, launched at the initiative of the United Kingdom while it still occupied the presidency of the European Union and supported by the football authorities, may not have the media profile or emotional impact of big matches but it may prove vitally important for the future of European football. Chaired by Portuguese ex-minister José Luis Arnaut, the independent review aims to look at the whole current situation of European football on the basis of a broad consultation in which all stakeholders, supporters included, can express their views. The review should then make it possible to determine the best means for managing European football in the spirit of the Nice Declaration of December 2000, which recognises the specific characteristics of sport.

The politicians and the football authorities have gone their separate ways for so long that it would be impossible not to give this joint initiative the warm welcome it deserves. It also comes at a good time, since many rules which have been in force for a long time have been challenged and sport is making an appearance in the courts far too often, a place where it certainly does not belong.

If the independent review helps to give a clear and universally recognised foundation back to sport, it will certainly prove to be one of the key features of this year, both for football and for sport in general.

Lars-Christer Olsson
Chief Executive



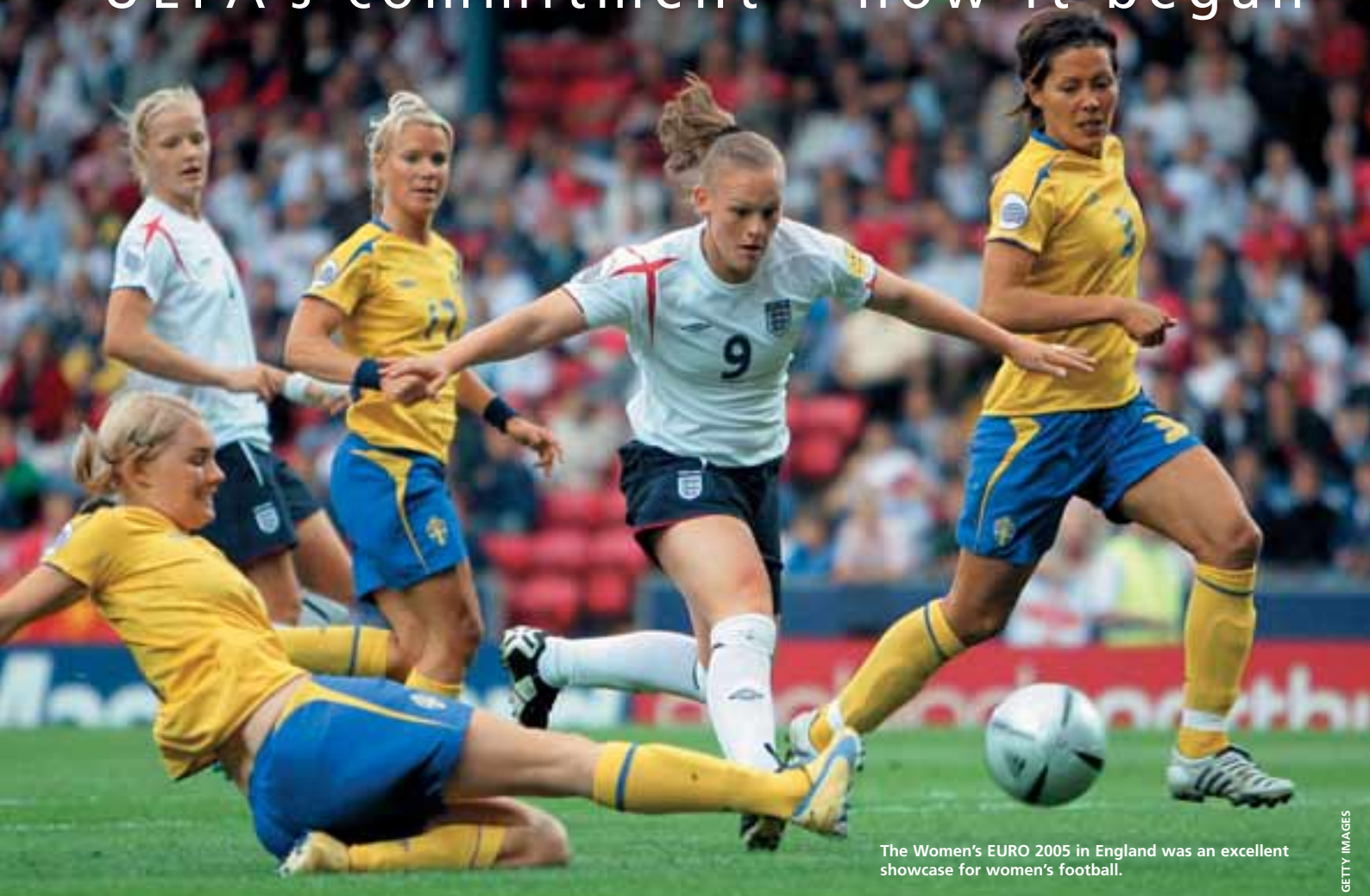
A special website has been set up where fans can express their opinions as part of the independent review of European football.

WE CARE ABOUT FOOTBALL



Women's football

UEFA's commitment – how it began



The Women's EURO 2005 in England was an excellent showcase for women's football.

GETTY IMAGES

IT WAS AT THE EXTRAORDINARY UEFA CONGRESS IN MONTE CARLO IN 1971 THAT WOMEN'S FOOTBALL IN EUROPE FIRST CAME UP FOR DISCUSSION.

The then vice-president Sandor Barcs made a speech on the subject and the Congress passed a resolution calling for a special women's football committee to be created.

First women's football conference

In 1973, the first European women's football conference was held. Among the associations invited to attend were Czechoslovakia, England, France, Italy, the Netherlands and Switzerland. A survey conducted prior to the conference revealed that seven associations ran national women's championships and another seven regional women's leagues. Five associations were interested in a European women's national team competition

and five in a European women's club competition. It was decided that the national associations should incorporate women's football as part of their structures, thereby preventing any splinter groups and uncontrolled growth, as experienced in Italy at that time, where three different organisations were chasing women's football, for commercial motives above all.

Before and after the conference, the Women's Football Committee also met. Back then, it had only one woman among its members, Kerstin Rosén from Sweden. The committee decided to submit the policy on women's football to the Executive Committee for approval as a matter of urgency. In contrast, the introduction of a European women's competition could wait.

A lull in the proceedings

The committee met again in 1974 but without taking any important decisions, and the initiative came to a standstill.

The committee was discontinued in 1978, but that same year, another survey revealed an increase in women's football activities in England, France, the Netherlands, Norway and Sweden. In Belgium, Denmark, Iceland, Romania, Switzerland and Yugoslavia, meanwhile, the situation had stagnated, while in Austria, the DDR, Finland, Italy and Luxembourg, interest was declining. Women's football was still non-existent in Cyprus, Greece, Malta, Portugal, Spain and the USSR.

Second attempt

On 19 February 1980, UEFA held another women's football conference. This time, 18 of its then 34



First committee discussions on women's football in Rome in 1971.



Meeting of the Women's Football Committee in Geneva in 1984.



Sweden won the first UEFA competition for women's teams in 1984.

member associations attended. Their representatives called for a serious commitment by UEFA to women's football and were in favour of the introduction of a European women's national team competition. As a result, it was decided to revive the Women's Football Committee.

Standing committee since 1981

On 17 March 1981, the UEFA's Women's Football Committee met for the first time in its current capacity. It decided that a women's national team competition should be launched, provided that at least 12 associations entered. The committee drew up the competition format and regulations,



The Women's Football Committee for 2004-06, with representatives of the UEFA administration.

UEFA's Women's Football Committee

In 1981

- Chairman: Louis Wouters (BEL)
- Members: Patricia Gregory (ENG)
Bronislaw Kolodziej (POL)
Carl Boedker Nielsen (DEN)
Hannelore Ratzeburg (GER)

and in 2006

- Chairwoman: Karen Espelund (NOR)
- Vice-Chairwomen: Susanne Erlandsson (SWE)
Hannelore Ratzeburg (GER)
- Members: Lidia Borska (POL)
Natalina Ceraso Levati (ITA)
Maria Rosario Garcia (ESP)
Ray Kiddell (ENG)
Nikol Misic (SCG)
Aleksandra Nikolovska (MKD)
Serghiy Storozhenko (UKR)
Bontcho Todorov (BUL)

The members of all UEFA's committees are appointed by the Executive Committee on the nomination of the CEO for two-year terms.



The 1998 conference in London.

and submitted its recommendation to the Executive Committee for approval.

More activities on the agenda

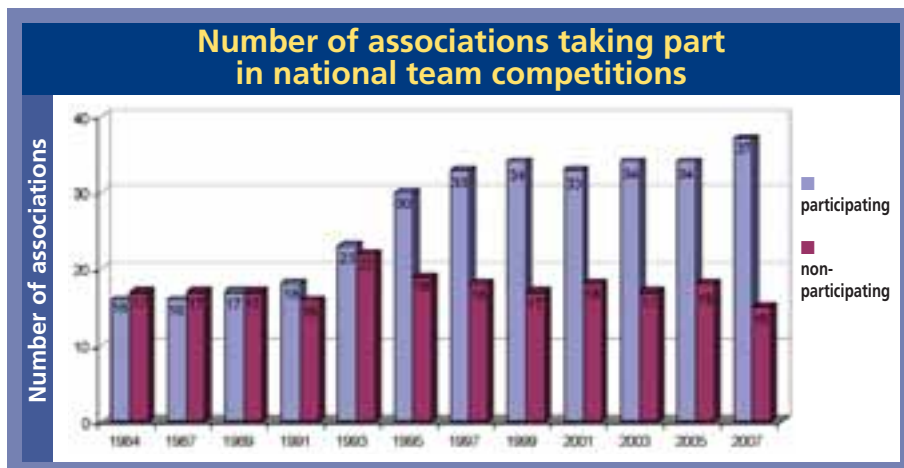
In the years that followed, the organisation of this competition was high on the Women's Football Committee's agenda. Gradually, other competitions were introduced – for the Under-18s and clubs. The discussions widened, and in 1991 possible topics for another women's football conference were discussed. In 1992, it was recorded in the minutes of the committee's meeting that that committee's activities should in future go beyond the organisation of competitions.

In 1998, UEFA staged its third women's football conference. Since then, conferences have been held in 2001 and 2005.

An international match calendar was established, and a first round table with national coaches was organised in 1999. A second round table took place two years later, and since 2004, there has been a UEFA forum for women's national team coaches.

In the top drawer since 2005

Last year, the top women's competitions, i.e. the European Women's Championship and the UEFA Women's Cup, were transferred to UEFA's professional football division, while the European Women's Under-19 Championship remains with the Football Development division. With this move, UEFA is reaffirming its intention to promote women's football and raise the status of its top competitions.





EMPICS/ALPHA

One of UEFA's prime objectives was that the national associations should take charge of women's football, which was not the case, for example, in England at the time of this cup match in 1977 between Dartford College and Bracknell Ladies.



MANTYLA/LEHTIKUVA/AFP

The immediate challenge for the national teams: qualification for the 2007 Women's World Cup (Finland v. Spain).

25 years on the Women's Football Committee

WOMEN'S FOOTBALL IN EUROPE IS BLOSSOMING FROM A CONCEALED WALLFLOWER INTO AN ESTABLISHED AND RECOGNISED DISCIPLINE.

Twenty-five years ago, on 17 March 1981, UEFA's Women's Football Committee assumed its present role. Hannelore Ratzeburg, who comes from the German FA (DFB), has been on the committee since its creation. Answering our questions, she considers how women's football has developed since then.

Hannelore Ratzeburg, you've been on UEFA's Women's Football Committee for 25 years. What has women's football achieved in Europe in the last quarter of a century?

Absolutely everything that has been set up in women's football at European level. Before that, there were no structures at all and it was only with the creation of the Women's Football Committee that UEFA started to do something concrete for women's football.

Such as?

Creating a competition, for example. At its first meeting, in Lisbon

in 1981, the committee declared itself in favour of a national team competition. At the time, we spoke about "national representative teams", which reflected the fear that the competition wouldn't last. We fought shy of talking about national teams.

How was this first competition put together?

Everything moved really fast. The decision was taken in 1981 and the first matches were already played the next year. The fact that 16 associations entered in such a short space of time was brilliant. In Germany, the DFB entered the competition first and then I had to set about creating a national women's team afterwards. We even had to postpone our first match, against Belgium because we still didn't have a team.

What were the Women's Football Committee's main tasks after that?

Hannelore Ratzeburg – Her life and career

A social worker by profession, Hannelore Ratzeburg has been involved in women's football since 1970, as a player, coach, referee and volunteer, as well running various committees.



"I can still clearly remember the first meeting of FIFA's Women's Football Committee. I was the only woman, the youngest, and was wearing a gold-coloured silk jacket. I stood out by a mile on the photos!"

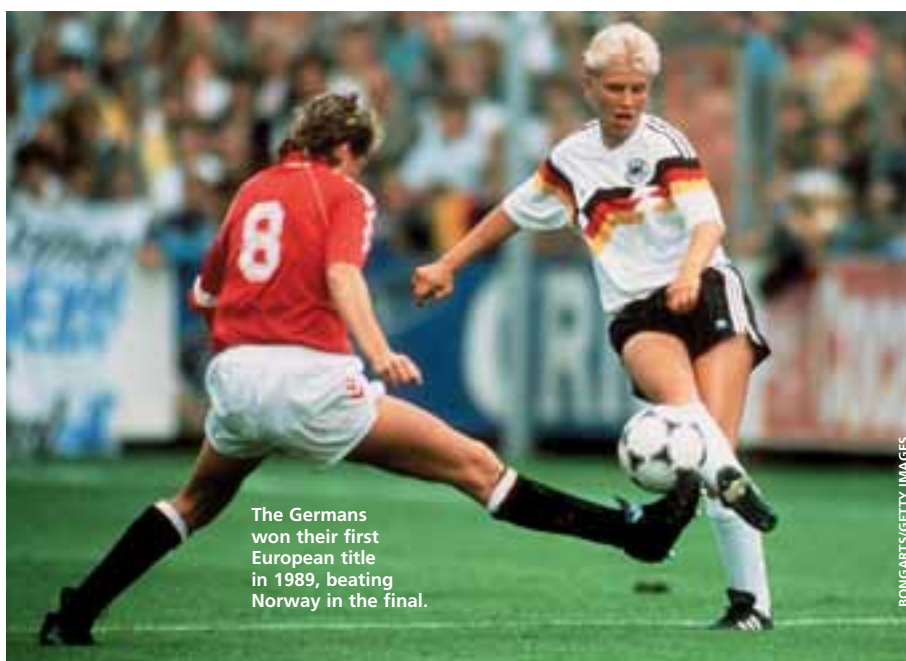
Since 1974: chairwoman of the women's and girls' football committee in Hamburg.

Since 1977: heavily involved in the development of women's football at DFB level (competitions committee, women's football committee, girls' football committee and DFB board).

Since 1980: member of UEFA's Women's Football Committee; vice-chairwoman since 1990.

Since 1990: member of FIFA's Women's Football Committee.

1996: honoured by the DFB with its golden pin award for her services to women's football in Germany.



The Germans won their first European title in 1989, beating Norway in the final.

BONGARTS/GETTY IMAGES



BOGRENBONGARTS/GETTY IMAGES

An Under-17 friendly match between Sweden and Germany. The introduction of a world championship for this category is sure to have an impact on women's youth football in Europe.



UEFA

Switzerland v. Hungary in the European Women's Under-19 Championship.

We spent a lot of time fine-tuning the competition. For instance, groups were formed according to geographical criteria to begin with, for financial reasons. But then the Scandinavian countries got fed up with this system because they always ended up facing the same opponents in the



Hannelore Ratzburg

qualifiers. There was always something to discuss and improve: the duration, the format, the match dates, infrastructure, regulations, and so on.

What were the biggest difficulties that women's football faced in the beginning?

Women's football was not accepted right off. There were a lot of reservations in the way. Football was still very much a man's game and the latest developments in women's football were regarded aloofly.

When I tell girls today that we were laughed at in my time for playing football, they find it hard to believe. Nowadays you no longer hear anyone saying that football isn't for girls.

And then there was the financial uncertainty. We never knew how far we could count on the national

associations to support our plans. That's why we felt it was premature to think about introducing a club competition back in 1981.

What does the Women's Football Committee typically do?

Basically we want everyone's needs to be met. We're always asking ourselves what is in the interests of the majority of associations and what is most important for the women and girls.

In this respect, we tried to limit the gap between the associations that were strides ahead in terms of women's football and those that were just starting out in this sector. Results in double figures, like 12-0, do no one any favours. The clearly superior team is not challenged enough and the losers are frustrated. What's more, results like that do nothing for the overall image of women's football. Limiting this gap was a major challenge, and the introduction of two divisions was a minor revolution.

What challenges lie ahead?

At European level, we have to do more for girls. In particular, in view of the introduction of a FIFA U-17 Women's World Championship, we have to devise a corresponding UEFA competition that will also serve as the qualifying competition for the FIFA event. What's the best way to organise it? A European Championship with a final round? Regional tournaments? And what about the format? Etc.

And in Germany we have the problem that the number of girls interested in football has grown so fast that we don't have enough people to take care of them, women coaches in particular.

What is the motivation for your lasting commitment to women's football?

Pure selfishness to begin with. I wanted to play football but no one had a clue how that could be done. And since I'm a doer by nature, I pursued it, got involved with the Hamburg association and built up something small. In 1977





The final of the UEFA Women's Cup is an all-German affair this year after the semi-final victories of Turbine Potsdam over Djurgarden/Älvsjö (photo) and 1. FFC Frankfurt over Montpellier.

EKSTROMER/AP/GETTY IMAGES



German women referees in training under the supervision of former FIFA referee Hellmut Krug.

HEIMANN/BONGARTS/GETTY IMAGES

the DFB asked me if I wanted to take on responsibility for the development of women's football. Three years later, UEFA came knocking, and then FIFA ten years after that.

I think it's great that these organisations have taken notice of us women. The introduction of the different competitions has awakened the interest of the media, and thanks to the increased coverage the women's game is getting these days, its acceptance has grown enormously. It's a very dynamic game that has developed immensely. I'm thrilled to have been involved in that process and proud of what we have achieved so far.



The European Women's Under-19 Championship final round was staged in Hungary last year.

UEFA

The German example

As reigning world and European champions, Germany is the leading nation when it comes to women's football in Europe, not only in terms of titles; the statistics speak for themselves as well.

In 1973, the football association of the Federal Republic of Germany had some 110,000 women members, and by 1978 that figure had more than tripled (380,000). The latest statistics (from 2005) show that 857,220 women are registered with the German FA (DFB). If only regular players are counted, the increase has been from 43,530 in 1990 to 113,350 in 2005. Only England can boast a higher number, with 131,378 women players in 2005, an amazing increase from only 36,000 five years earlier! Norway has also passed the 100,000 mark (104,597) and several other associations also witnessed spectacular growth between 2000 and 2005, such as Denmark (from 44,182 to 93,929 women players) and France (from 33,610 to 76,901), or, on a smaller scale, the Czech Republic (from 5,000 to 12,412) and the Republic of Ireland (from 5,252 to 12,500). Across Europe, there has been a 236% growth rate in women's football, and, with just one exception, all the UEFA member associations have women players on their books, which was not the case for about a dozen associations ten years ago.

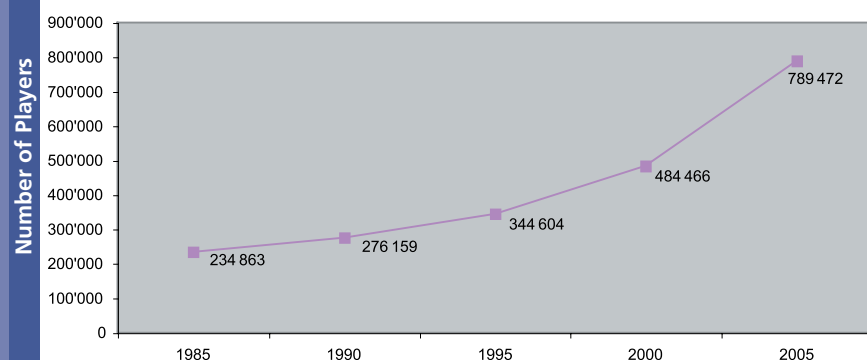
Women referees

As far back as 1978, Germany already ruled the statistics in terms of the number of women referees, with 1,000 "women in black" in West Germany. The Netherlands had around 230 women referees and Austria 175. And Germany is still in the lead, with last year's figure standing at 1,531. Not far behind are Italy, with 1,230, followed by Sweden, with 800, and England, with 792 women referees.

The number of women referees still varies enormously from one UEFA member association to another, and some still had none last year.

Consequently, the first editions of UEFA's women's national team competition ran into the problem of not being able to find suitable women referees, forcing UEFA to put male referees in the middle of the field. It was not until the 1997 European Women's Championship final round in Norway and Sweden that all the matches were refereed by women.

Number of women players registered in Europe





A big audience for this conference.



Petr Fousek, chairman of the Futsal Committee.

2nd UEFA Futsal Conference

Effervescence in Madrid

UEFA'S 52 MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS MET IN MADRID

FROM 13 TO 15 FEBRUARY WITH ONE ITEM ON THE AGENDA: PLOTTING THE FUTURE OF FUTSAL.

For sheer hustle and bustle, few conferences could outdo the 2nd UEFA Futsal Conference, organised by UEFA's Football Development division and hosted by the Spanish national association at its magnificent 'Ciudad del Fútbol' on the outskirts of Madrid with its president, Angel María Villar Llona – a long-standing champion of the futsal cause – very much in the vanguard. The presence of coaches and administrators from all of UEFA's member associations meant that the conference was rich in texture and bursting with ideas and visions for a discipline that is enjoying a period of explosive growth.

As Petr Fousek, chairman of UEFA's Futsal Committee, pointed out when opening the proceedings in Madrid, "our first conference in Florence in 2002 was all about reviewing

past progress, consolidating the present and encouraging more countries to jump on board. This one is about the future." Two days later, the plethora of proposals prompted him to comment "the key now is to sift through all the ideas and to draw up a list of priorities. There are a lot of exciting ideas and challenges but we mustn't fall into the trap of thinking that we can do everything at once. The important thing is to do some rational forward planning."

So the subjects referred to UEFA's debating tables in Nyon included basic issues such as the expansion of the European Futsal Championship finals in order to give more than eight teams a chance to sample life at the top, and the possible introduction of an under-21 competition – with

as many as 39 member associations expressing a desire to take part.

With the European futsal family steadily increasing, there were new faces at the conference in Madrid. Which meant they were all ears when experienced campaigners such as Dutch national team coach, Vic Hermans, Spain's world champion Javier Lozano and Russia's Semen Andreev took the stage to discuss the mechanics of futsal at elite, elite-youth and grassroots levels.

Andy Roxburgh, UEFA Technical Director, gave a presentation on how UEFA's pioneering work over the last decade or so has laid the foundations for today's success. The participants in Madrid agreed that rapid growth generates challenges such as the development of facilities and infrastructures at the same pace. Apart from reviewing and enhancing competitions at national and international levels, there is a great deal of work to be done in fields such as the education of coaches and referees, the establishment of futsal via school-orientated programmes, the development of branding and promotional material, the preparation of event manuals, or helping women's futsal to get off the ground.

In Madrid, UEFA was asked to lend further support via panels of instructors, workshops or seminars and the dissemination of promotional and educational material. One of UEFA's significant moves has been to welcome futsal under the professional football umbrella, and Giorgio Marchetti, director of UEFA's Professional Football division, pointed out in Madrid that this is helping to define business plans, to analyse the potential for women's futsal, to upgrade final tournaments in terms of sponsorship and promotion – starting with the 2007 European Championship finals in Portugal and a new-look UEFA Futsal Cup incorporating the concept of a Final Four at a single venue. The event in Madrid demonstrated that futsal is not only on the move but moving very quickly indeed.



The best place to learn: on the pitch.

PHOTOS: UEFA



VIACHESLAV KOLOSKOV

Russia
15.6.1941

Member of the UEFA Executive Committee since 1994. FIFA vice-president from 1980 to 1996, member of the FIFA Executive Committee from 1996 to 1998 and from 2000 until now.

Eleven questions for the Executive Committee members

AFTER THE FOUR VICE-PRESIDENTS AND THE TREASURER, IT IS THE TURN OF THE OTHER EIGHT MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE TO ANSWER OUR ELEVEN QUESTIONS IN THE CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER IN WHICH THEY WERE ELECTED.

Viacheslav Koloskov

Your first contact with football?

1945. FC Dynamo Moscow travelled to England to play four matches. I heard the sportcasts of the matches by our most famous radio commentator, Vadim Siniavsky. His account of the games created the impression of being present in the stadium. The tour took place right after the end of the World War II, and it was my brightest impression at the time, compared to all the horrors that the war had brought to my country and the rest of Europe. As for my own first contact with football, it was at the age of six, when I played football with local children the whole day long in total self-oblivion.

First experience of UEFA?

1994. By then I had already been a FIFA vice-president for 14 years, and I joined the UEFA Executive Committee, replacing Nikolay Ryashentsev, who had been a member for 25 years. Egidius Braun introduced me to the world of European football, since I had had no previous experience or any acquaintances in the UEFA Executive Committee.

A player?

Lev Yashin, of course; the best goalkeeper in the world, a winner of the Golden Ball trophy, an idol for all the youth of the Soviet Union who cared about football, and not only for them, since he embodied great sports skills, generosity, openness; he was a most brilliant representative of his people and a true gentleman. And this is something I was privileged to experience and see for myself during our joint activities in the USSR football federation.

A memorable match?

There are two. The final of the 1988 European Championship in Germany between the USSR and the Netherlands, the magnificent goal scored by Van Basten – a true masterpiece in performance. And the final of the 1988 Olympic football tournament in Seoul when the USSR defeated Brazil.

A memory linked to a UEFA activity?

Parrots. One of the UEFA Christmas dinners arranged by Rudi Rothenbuhler with performances by each of the Executive Committee members when we sang our famous Russian song "Sten'ka Razin", but the highlight of the party was the unexpected appearance of artists with oversized parrots which flew across the dining hall and finally chose to land on my good friends and colleagues Geoffrey Thompson and Giangiorgio Spiess. I remember the expression of confusion in their eyes and the mirth of the rest of us.

Defender or attacker?

I have played in defence all my life, as a central midfielder. And in general I believe that a man's role in life is to defend and protect his family, those he loves and cares for, his country, his views, to defend the world against meanness and treachery.

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

Look for company to play football with – at least 2 v. 2.

A town?

Moscow. I was born there, I know the intricate history of the city and admire the courage displayed by the Muscovites; I also admire the city's beauty, grandeur and rich history.

Detective story or economic treatise?

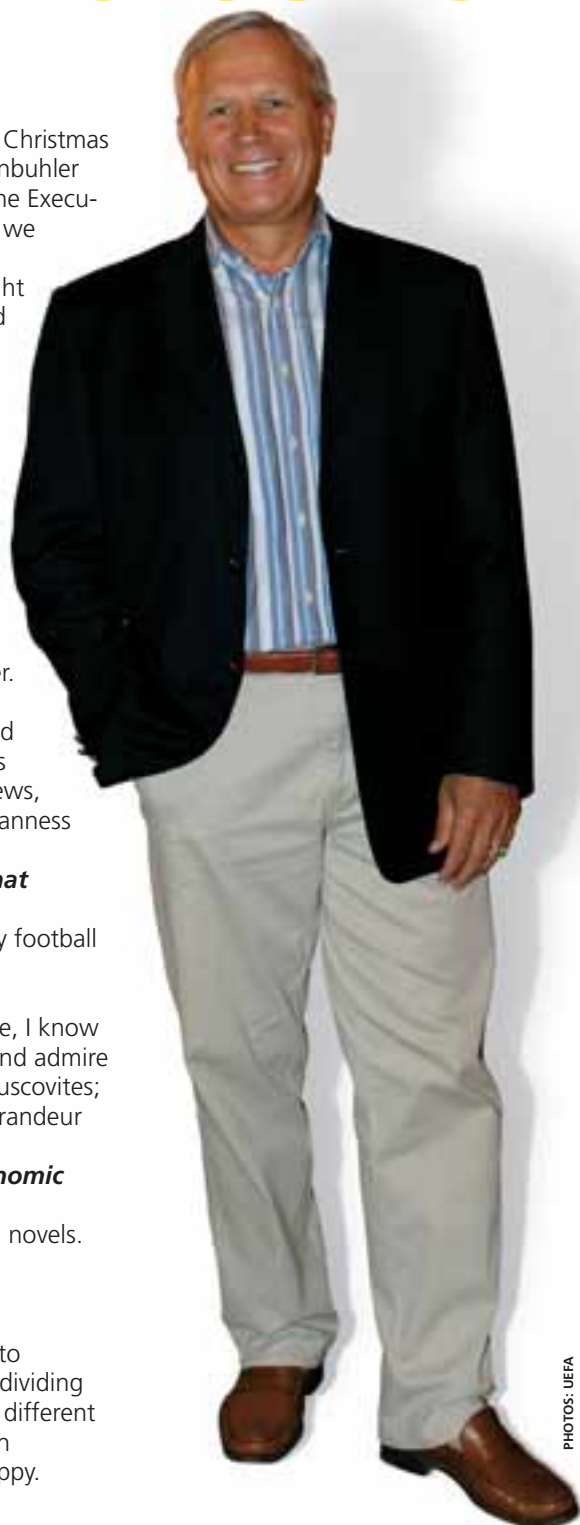
Neither. I prefer historical novels.

Sea or mountains?

Mountains.

A dream?

My dream is for football to become a uniting rather than a dividing force, so that, through football, different nations would close ranks, live in peace and friendship and be happy.



PHOTOS: UEFA



Rune Bratseth (left) playing for Norway against the Republic of Ireland.

EMPICS



Roar Strand, the Rosenborg No. 6, scores against Real Madrid in the UEFA Champions League last October.

MARCOU/APPI/GETTY IMAGES



The Rosenborg coach, Per-Mathias Høymo, conducts a training session.

MARCOU/APPI/GETTY IMAGES

Rosenborg BK

Ten seasons in the UEFA Champions League

THE CITY OF TRONDHEIM, HOME TO MANY-TIMES NORWEGIAN CHAMPIONS

ROSENBERG BK, WAS BURIED IN SNOW WHEN THE CLUB FACED

FC ZENIT ST. PETERSBURG IN THE LAST 32 OF THE UEFA CUP AFTER FINISHING

THIRD IN THEIR UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE GROUP.

Rosenborg play in one of the "small" leagues with limited human and financial resources. They also have to cope with a harsh climate, which condemns them to a long winter break. However, having been Norwegian champions 13 times since the early 1990s, they have taken part in 10 Champions League campaigns. They got through the first phase in 2000 and even reached the quarter-finals in 1997.

Rune Bratseth, the former Werder Bremen player, became their

technical director in 1994, in the twilight of his career. Since then, he has been seeking to pass on the experience he accumulated during 11 years of European Cup experience and playing in the Bundesliga. Some of the footballing minnows may feel the Champions League is out of their reach, but there was one big lesson that Rune Bratseth learned during his career. "In Germany I learned that anybody could be



UEFA

beaten. You mustn't be overawed by your opponents. Above all, you mustn't dwell on problems. You can always find plenty of reasons and excuses: Norway is a small country, there isn't much back-up, there aren't many foreign players in the domestic league, etc. I look at it this way: What's the key to being competitive at the highest level? What can we do with our resources? We have to focus on our strengths – in a nutshell, we have to be positive."

Challenges, not problems

Rune Bratseth is enterprising and bold, just like his club, which likes to play attacking football, usually with a 4-3-3 formation. What about Rosenborg having to play in the UEFA Cup in the middle of the winter break? "It's not a problem but a challenge. We were happy to be still in contention! We've got all the infrastructure we need to train, anyway."

But in essence, what are Rosenborg's strengths? "The team is very well organised. It may not have any individual stars but it's a tightly-knit unit. The players' level of fitness is excellent. This is an aspect that we can work on, just like tactics and set-plays. Heading is also an important part of the game. Although the senior team plays 4-3-3, we try to teach our youth players as many systems as possible. It's clear that the standard in the Champions League keeps rising all the time and even though we can't buy a lot of players, unlike certain other clubs, we can help to make up for that with constant, sharply focused work and lots of enthusiasm."



Rosenborg have produced some excellent performances in their Champions League campaigns, such as their 2-1 victory over AC Milan away from home in December 1996.

EMPICS



Rosenborg's Lekendal stadium often draws good crowds.



Rosenborg themselves have improved as a result of their European campaigns, adds Bratseth. *"It's difficult to pinpoint how we've progressed. We've gained experience, we've learned how to handle certain kinds of matches and certain match situations, and we've discovered what we're capable of. Continuity is a trump card for Rosenborg; we rarely make changes of coach or management at any level."*

A break in continuity

This continuity is about to be interrupted with a year-long break: Rosenborg finished seventh in the last domestic championship. They do not know yet how they are going to fill this absence from the European scene, but once again Rune Bratseth emphasizes the positive points. Skiing may well have a devoted following in Norway, but football has become the number 1 sport. Rosenborg regularly draw crowds of 10,000 and can rely on coverage in the media. *"The Norwegian championship is on the up. This is positive for us too since there's more competition. The clubs are in a healthy state, so they have more potential, and now any team can beat any of the others. Everything has become more professional."* Rosenborg's sporting director is satisfied with the evolution of the club but he prefers to look to the future. *"We've grown, we've become more professional. We want to remain the best in Norway and qualify systematically for the Champions League. We also want to go a step further by making our mark in it, not just taking part."*

Pascale Pierard

"Tactics make up for lack of technique"

Norwegian player Trond Sollied does not usually show his feelings, but when Olympiacos, his club since the start of this season, were put in the same Champions League group as Rosenborg, he was unable to repress a shudder. Memories of his younger days came flooding back: he played for Rosenborg and coached them from 1994 to 1998, before moving on to Ghent and Club Brugge in Belgium.

No stranger to the Champions League, Trond Sollied saw his team's involvement in the competition ended by Rosenborg, who finished third in the group on four points. *"Norway is making good progress, even though the national champions always have to qualify via one or even two preliminary rounds. When you're not sure of qualifying, making transfers is a tricky business. Even so, I don't think the competition is becoming inaccessible. You can make up for lack of technique or talent with clever tactics. And anyway, what's technique without physique? The two aspects form a whole. Everything is about work: you have to keep on with the tools at your disposal until using them becomes totally instinctive. A coach has to instil a sound general basis in his players. On the pitch, they have everything they need to cope with all possible scenarios, and then it's up to them to show creativity, to bring in "added value."*

Rosenborg have not changed their playing style over the seasons. *"They use a 4-3-3 formation, they always try to attack, even playing away against Real Madrid or AC Milan. They believe in themselves. And they're quite right: over a long campaign like the Champions League group phase, it's important to be yourselves and not to pay too much attention to the opponents, while still being aware that form on the day – which is always unpredictable – can tip the balance in a match. In this little world of ours, everybody knows how other teams play. But football is about more than tactics. It boils down to this: How can you create chances during the match itself?"*

P. P.



KALLESTAD, GORM/AP/GETTY IMAGES



A panoramic view of the training centre in Viotia. The mini-pitches are on the right.



A seminar room in the centre in Viotia.

UEFA HatTrick programme Projects in Greece

THE "NEWS FROM MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS" SECTION OFTEN CONTAINS REPORTS ON NEW ASSOCIATION HEADQUARTERS, TRAINING CENTRES AND MINI-PITCHES WHICH HAVE BEEN CONSTRUCTED AS A RESULT OF CONTRIBUTIONS FROM THE UEFA HATTRICK PROGRAMME. BELOW WE TAKE A CLOSER LOOK AT WHAT GREECE HAS ACHIEVED THROUGH THIS PROGRAMME SO FAR.

The UEFA HatTrick programme includes investment and mini-pitch components, and these are the two key aspects of the project in question from the country of the reigning European champions.

In December 2005, a UEFA delegation led by Executive Committee member Marios N.

Lefkaritis visited the town of Aspropyrgos to the west of Athens, where the Hellenic Football Federation (HFF) has constructed its prototype mini-pitch. As part of its golden jubilee, UEFA gave each of its member associations such a pitch. At the inauguration of the pitch Marios N. Lefkaritis said to those present:



"I am certain that the young people of the area will make the most of this facility. I wish to congratulate the HFF on this project and on the construction of the training centres for the use of its regional associations."

As it has done for all members associations, UEFA has allocated funding of CHF 1 million to the Greek FA for mini-pitch construction. What is particularly significant here is that the HFF not only plans to build 40 1,000 m² mini-pitches but also intends to combine it with another major project: the two-phase construction of 42 training centres across the country for the use of the regional associations.

The UEFA delegation also visited the already completed centre in Viotia. Thanks to the grant of CHF 2.5 million under the HatTrick investment programme, the centre comprises a number of pitches of different sizes, a stand and an office and teaching block. The centre will be used by 20 amateur clubs and some 2,000 children in the 8-16 age group.

The training centres are a major step forward for the Greek FA. Youth player development had always been lacking the necessary resources until now, and this was primarily due to high infrastructure costs arising from expensive turf maintenance in the dry climate of Greece. Thanks to the financial contributions from UEFA, all pitches can be laid with state-of-the-art artificial turf, thus ensuring that training with high-quality facilities can go ahead throughout the year.



The inauguration of the mini-pitch in Aspropyrgos.

PHOTOS: HFF



OESEB/AP/GETTY IMAGES

The Champions League draw in Paris.



SABATTINI

Saying "no" to racism before the Italy v. Germany match.



Report from Brussels

The European Parliament's Declaration on Racism in Football, which UEFA fully supports, has become the most successful declaration in the history of the parliament. On 15 February in Strasbourg, the declaration received its 367th signature, giving it majority support among the 732 members of the parliament. By the beginning of March, 420 MEPs had put their name to the text and set a new record.

UEFA vice-president Per Ravn Omdal helped to launch the declaration in November 2005. This signalled the start of a tense race against time: the supporters of the declaration had until 28 February 2006 to obtain the 367 signatures from their fellow MEPs. If the total had not been reached in that time, the declaration would have failed.

UEFA supported the campaign from start to finish, producing leaflets to explain why the declaration was necessary, and contacting key MEPs to win their support. In January, a personal letter from the UEFA president went out to all 732 MEPs, encouraging them to sign the text.

The most important part of the declaration reads as follows:

"The European Parliament:

■ Commends the excellent work that various organisations, including UEFA and FARE, have done in tackling these problems.

■ Calls on all those with a high profile in football, above all players and coaches, to speak out regularly against racism.

■ Calls on national football associations, leagues, clubs, players' unions and supporters' groups to draw up action programmes to combat racism and to apply UEFA best practice, such as the UEFA Ten-Point Plan of Action.

Competitions and other activities

A Latin flavour

THE UEFA CLUB COMPETITIONS RESUMED IN FEBRUARY.



In the UEFA Champions League, the outcome of the matches of the first knockout round, played on 21/22 February and 8/9 March, gave a distinctly Latin flavour to the final phase of the competition, with the elimination of title-holders Liverpool and the qualification of Juventus and AC Milan from Italy, Barcelona and Villarreal from Spain, Olympique Lyonnais from France and Benfica from Portugal. At the time of the draws for the quarter-finals and order of the semi-finals, one unknown factor remained because of the postponement of the return leg between Inter Milan and AFC Ajax until 14 March.

The outcome of the draw for the quarter-finals, to be played on 28/29 March and 4/5 April, was as follows:

1. Arsenal FC v. Juventus
2. Olympique Lyonnais v. AC Milan
3. FC Internazionale v. Villarreal CF
4. SL Benfica v. FC Barcelona.

In the semi-finals (first legs to be played on 18/19 April, return legs on 25/26 April), the winner of quarter-final 1 will play the winner of quarter-final 3, while the winner of quarter-final 2 will face the winner of quarter-final 4.

For the first time, the above draws and the equivalent for the UEFA Cup took place in the cities which will host the finals, namely Paris and Eindhoven respectively. In Paris, the traditional cup handover ceremony had a special flavour since a brand new trophy was on show, the previous one having been kept by Liverpool FC after winning the flagship competition for the fifth time. And it was one of the victors of the 1956 final, Francisco Gento, who handed the trophy over to the mayor of Paris for safekeeping until this year's final.



In the UEFA Intertoto Cup, the new format adopted this season seems to have gone down well since all 50 associations entitled

to a place, except Portugal, have announced that they will take part, with more than half of them requesting an additional berth. This season's Intertoto Cup will have only three rounds and will enable 11 clubs to qualify for the second qualifying round of the UEFA Cup. Previously clubs had the possibility, through the Intertoto Cup, of qualifying directly for the first round of the UEFA Cup but, with only three places available, these were nearly always monopolised by clubs from the "big" associations. The new format therefore gives representatives of other associations a better chance.

■ In the UEFA Futsal Cup, Interviu Boomerang and Kairat Almaty, on the one hand, and Dinamo Moscow and Shakhtar Donetsk, on the other, qualified for the semi-finals after the second qualifying round mini-tournaments. Belgian title-holders Action 21 Charleroi, however, failed to go through.

In the semi-finals, to be played in March, Shakhtar Donetsk will face Interviu Boomerang and Kairat Almaty will play Dinamo Moscow.

■ In Florence on 1 March, before the start of the friendly match between Italy and Germany, FIFA paid tribute to former UEFA president Artemio Franchi, who died in an accident in August 1983. He was posthumously awarded the FIFA Order of Merit.

In connection with the match, the Italian FA also organised a number of anti-racism events.

→ ■ 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.

■ 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."

Having won a convincing majority, the declaration now becomes a formal Resolution of the European Parliament. The resolution is not legally binding, and no organisation in European football is obliged to take specific action. Nonetheless, the text sends a strong political signal that the European Parliament will support UEFA's efforts to combat racism.

The declaration campaign has strengthened the relations between UEFA and the European Parliament. UEFA has demonstrated to an important stakeholder that it takes the problem of racism seriously, is willing to take action, and will cooperate with the political authorities to achieve a common goal.



Olwyn Butler, Wendy Quinn and Bridget O'Reilly, three members of the Special Olympics Irish women's seven-a-side team, show off their caps.

Award for Special Olympics women's football

The Football Association of Ireland (FAI) has long been associated with the Special Olympics Ireland programme, through its coach education programme, providing referees for matches, making facilities available for training and competition, and offering professional support for the development of the game, including, latterly, the development of women's football.

Recently, the Special Olympics Ireland women's football team that competed so successfully in the Special Olympics European women's tournament last year became the first ever Special Olympics athletes to receive international caps from the FAI. They were presented with their caps by former international goalkeeper Packie Bonner and FAI vice-president Maurice Fleming at an award ceremony on 24 February marking the very first cap presentations to international athletes within the Football for All programme. They are: Olwyn Butler, Bridget O'Reilly, Charlotte Martin, Christine Carr, Ann Brennan, Grace Nolan, Ann Marie Byrne, Regina Rattigan, Wendy Quinn and Mary Strain. The FAI has taken a leading role in recognising all players equally in football, and in particular should be commended for setting a new standard in giving special recognition to the skills, talents and achievements of those with disabilities.

Obituaries

■ **Maurice Burlaz**, a member of the UEFA circle of former committee members, passed away on 6 March at the age of 84. A member of the UEFA Youth Football Committee from 1982 to 1988 before his stint as vice-chairman from 1988 to 1996, he acted as special adviser to the committee from 1996 to 1998. Vice-president of the French Football Federation from 1985 to 1995, Maurice Burlaz accomplished a great deal in the service of

youth football, for which he received the UEFA Order of Merit in Ruby in 2002. As a further tribute, his name was given to the trophy awarded every two years to the national association obtaining the best results in UEFA youth competitions.

■ **Werner Müller**, a member of the Referee Observers Panel, died suddenly on 2 March at the age of 56. A former FIFA referee, he was in charge of Switzerland's elite referees.

PREPARING FOR EURO2008



●○● The EURO 2008 host nations are getting things moving. On 2 March, the Austrian FA issued an invitation to the presentation of the club "2008 – Austria On the Ball", and everyone turned up. Austrian President Heinz Fischer: "I'll be on the side of everyone who gives their wholehearted support to the EURO 2008 project". Chancellor Wolfgang Schüssel: "We want the tournament to be organised to perfection – and with enthusiasm!"

Former Vice-Chancellor and current Wüstenrot managing director Susanne Riess-Passer will serve as chairperson of the club. "We want to show that we cannot only organise first-rate international winter sports events but that we can do the same in summer too," Susanne Riess-Passer declared. The main purpose of the club is to take care of cultural, corporate and social actions related to EURO 2008 as well as to promote the event at both national and international level.



The chairperson of "2008 – Austria on the ball", Susanne Riess-Passer, flanked by the Austrian President and Chancellor, with ÖFB president Friedrich Sticker and honorary president Beppo Mauhart alongside.

●○● Meanwhile, the Swiss FA (SFV) has set up an advisory body under the chairmanship of SFV honorary president Marcel Mathier and composed of Anton Felder, chairman of the board of Coop Switzerland; Walter Berchtold, CEO of Credit Suisse; Oscar winner Arthur Cohn; former Swiss Olympic chairman Walter Kägi; Günter Netzer; MP Maximilian Reimann; SFV president Ralph M. Zloczower; general secretary Peter Gilliéron; and Euro 2008 SA's tournament director for Switzerland, Christian Mutschler. More members will join in the course of this year.

The purpose of the body is to promote EURO 2008 in the political, economic, cultural, sporting and social arenas and point out the numerous opportunities that the tournament opens up for Switzerland in particular. In addition, for projects that the SFV implements, well-known Swiss personalities will serve as ambassadors.



News from member associations

BELGIUM



A new website

On 17 January, the revamped website of the Belgian Football Association became operational. The website (www.footbel.com) has been completely restructured, is more user-friendly and more attractive, and meets the needs of the target groups in question.



A new strip for the Red Devils.

Out on the pitch, the Belgian national Under-18 team won its first match in an international tournament in Portugal (Castelo Branco), beating the host country 2-1. The second match, against Romania, finished with the same score, again in Belgium's favour. In the last match, the national team could not match their opponents physically (losing 2-1 to Denmark) but they still emerged as tournament winners, ahead of Denmark, Portugal and Romania.

On 1 March, the senior national team played Luxembourg, in their first international match with coach René Vandereycken in charge. Apart from having a new coach, the "Red Devils" were also sporting their brand-new shirts from the Nike "retro" collection for the first time. The new strip was unveiled to the media at the Stade Roi Baudouin on 27 February, on the occasion of the first training session run by René Vandereycken.

Looking back to last year, Sergio Conceição of Standard Liège was the winner of the 2005 Golden Boot. This informal award made at the end of every year goes to the best player in the Belgian championship, as voted for by the national

AUSTRIA



Volunteers make the difference

No other sport stirs people in Austria like football does, as a recent study commissioned by the Austrian FA demonstrates convincingly. Week in, week out, hundreds of thousands of people in Austria are involved in football in one way or another.

for fully at the going rate instead of being performed free of charge at least some of the time, football would have to find an extra EUR 306 million to cover the cost, corresponding to 11,800 jobs! The full version of the IHS study is available on www.oefb.at.

Ronald Gollatz

BELARUS



International tournament

The Belarus Football Federation (BFF) started the new season by organising its second international youth tournament, for which prizes were offered by the BFF and the city of Minsk. The tournament took place from 1 to 5 March. During the opening ceremony, the participants were addressed by the UEFA Chief Executive, Lars-Christer Olsson (by video), BFF chairman Gennady Nevyglas and the Belarus national team players.

Six teams participated in the Under-17 tournament: Azerbaijan, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland and two teams from the host nation – one an Under-17 side and the other an Under-16 side. The Minsk football hall was the venue for the event. The Belarus Under-17 team won the tournament, beating Poland 3-1 in the final, which was broadcast live on national radio and TV.

Apart from a trophy for the winning team and medals for the winners and runners-up, prizes were also awarded to the best players of the tournament in each position (goalkeeper, defender, midfielder, forward) and the top scorer. In view of its success and popularity, the organisers have promised to maintain the youth tournament as a traditional fixture.

Alexander Leshchik

The captain of the winning team, Pavel Grechishko.



BFF



ÖFB president Friedrich Stickler receives the results of the study.

Austria boasts some 592,375 registered players and 2,211 football clubs, and one in three young men belongs to a football club, which is an extremely high ratio compared with other countries.

From a health policy point of view, the economic advantages of playing football are astounding compared with the disadvantages of doing nothing by way of sport: playing football with a club produces an estimated gross health-cost advantage of EUR 104.1 million in terms of lower treatment costs, hospital care, etc. In contrast, playing football produces direct and indirect economic benefits of about EUR 27.1 million a year, corresponding to a net advantage of some EUR 77 million!

Moreover, football has an important place in social life and as an integration tool. In this respect, voluntary involvement in football is closely interrelated and underestimated in terms of its economic and social impact.

If all voluntary activities – from youth work to refereeing – had to be paid



press and various leading personalities in Belgian football. Conceição took the award ahead of two Anderlecht players, Vincent Kompany and Christian Wilhelmsson.

David Deldicq

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA



Club licensing seminar

Just like last year, a club licensing seminar was organised for all clubs just before the beginning of the second half of the season. The representatives of all clubs in the premier league attended the seminar except for Orasje. First division clubs Velez from Mostar and Borac from Banja Luka were also present. The seminar was run by FF BHZ General Secretary Munib Usanovic and Talat Sulejmani, head of the club licensing department. Josip Katalinski and Danijel Piric, experts on the sport criteria, also gave presentations, along with Savo Kosoric (administrative criteria), Jasmin Bakovic (legal criteria), Nihad Hodzic (infrastructure criteria) and Miodrag Kures (financial criteria).



The club licensing seminar.

Talat Sulejmani explained the licensing process for 2006/07 season and also the new UEFA club licensing regulations which will come into force from 2008/09. At the end of the seminar, Munib Usanovic congratulated the speakers on their informative and comprehensive presentations, which had provided the participants with everything they needed to know about their club licensing obligations.

The club representatives, for their part, indicated their willingness to approach the licensing project seriously and do what they were supposed to, by the deadlines.

For the domestic competitions, the FF BHZ's club licensing deadline is 30 May, while the clubs have to fulfil their obligations a month earlier for UEFA competitions, i.e. by 30 April.

Last year, Sarajevo's premier league clubs FK Sarajevo (domestic cup winners) and FK Zeljeznicar (championship runners-up) could not participate in the UEFA Cup, having failed to meet the licensing requirements.

On the field of play itself, the second half of the season has already started and will continue at a faster rate than usual because of the forthcoming World Cup in Germany. The last round of matches is scheduled for 13 May.

Looking ahead to the EURO 2008 qualifiers, the representatives of the FF BHZ visited Istanbul for a meeting to try and agree on the schedule for Group C. Unfortunately, the representatives of Greece, Turkey, Norway, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Hungary, Malta, and Moldova could not reach agreement, leaving the schedule to be decided by means of a draw.

Blaz Sliskovic, head coach of the national team of Bosnia and Herzegovina, is very satisfied with the result of the draw. His team will play in Malta first, and then welcome Hungary, then go to Moldova, and after that welcome European champions Greece.

As part of their preparations for their EURO 2008 qualifying campaign, Bosnia and Herzegovina played a friendly match against Japan in Dortmund, Germany, on 28 February, coming away with a 2-2 draw to their credit.

Fuad Krvacac

ENGLAND



Renewal of the cooperation with Oceania

The Football Association showed its continued commitment to developing football around the world by discussing the renewal of The FA Cooperation Agreement with the Oceania Football Confederation (OFC).

FA Chairman Geoffrey Thompson met OFC President Reynald Temarii and General Secretary Tai Nicholas at The FA's offices in central London last month to assess the needs of their confederation and to identify ways in which The FA could assist the development of football in that region.

The revised cooperation agreement will see The FA partnering the national associations of Fiji and the Solomon Islands, mirroring the structure of the former UEFA-CAF Meridian Project where all European football associations could choose to join forces with one or more African nations.

With Australia having left the OFC to join the Asian Football Confederation, New Zealand are now the top-ranked nation in the region. Fiji and the Solomon Islands are ranked second and third respectively in the OFC, and The FA is keen to help the islands' football development.

"I was particularly impressed by Mr Temarii's proposal that England be partnered with two of the OFC member countries," said Chairman Geoffrey Thompson. "This approach has proved to be successful for us in Africa – where we are retaining

our partnerships with Botswana, Lesotho and Malawi – and I am sure it has enormous potential in the Oceania region. It is an exciting prospect."

Representatives of the Fiji and Solomon Islands federations will be invited to England to discuss the content of the programme, which is due to start in the latter part of 2006. This agreement is one of five confederation agreements which form the core of The FA's International Development Programme.

Nada Grkinic

FINLAND



110,000 registered players

The historic 110,000 registered player mark was reached on 6 February, when eight-year-old Erkki Härkönen from Kajaani received his player's licence. Even though the birth rate in Finland has decreased in the last seven years, the number of footballers has been going up. In 1999, when the Finnish FA launched its "All Stars" programme, there were 88,000 registered football players. The dropout rate was 29%. Today, there are 110,000 players and the dropout rate is 24%. The "All Stars" programme created new rules for different ages. World of Play (7-11 years old), World of Friends (12-15) and World of the Future (16-20) all have their own rules, objectives and content, to take better account of the different periods in a child's development. At the same time as the "All Stars" programme was introduced, a huge step in youth football was taken by hiring youth directors for each of the football association's 12 districts. They have the important role of making sure that youth football is going in the right direction in their respective districts. Also, the quality club system, which guarantees a certain level of club activity, has been an important factor in being able to keep more children and youngsters involved in football. There are 38 quality clubs in Finland at the moment, with around 30,000 children and youngsters playing at these clubs.

Another major reason for the increase in the number of footballers is the rising popularity of football among girls and women. The "All Stars" programme also has a girls' and women's programme called FUN (Futaa = play football, Unelmoi = dream and Nauti = enjoy). This programme was launched in 2001, since when the number of girl and women players has increased by almost 50%.

Football has a good position in Finland as the most popular sport as far as the number of registered players goes. A government survey revealed that almost 500,000 people are involved in football each week, which means that 10% of



Finnish people play, coach or are actively involved in football in some way or another every week.

Jukka Salasuo

GEORGIA



Top results with Toppmöller

Since the new elected leadership took over at the Georgian Football Federation (GFF), there have been several important staff changes, the most important of which has been the appointment of Klaus Toppmöller as national coach. The football community and the government widely supported the idea of inviting a highly qualified and greatly experienced foreign coach to take on this job. Now, Georgian football fans have renewed hope that their national team will succeed at international level at last.



Klaus Toppmöller (left), with the GFF president Nodar Akhalkatsi, identifies with the Georgian style of play.

However, there is still much to be done. We must create an efficient and strong team which is able to compete and achieve good results. The Georgian national team is in the process of rebuilding. Young new players are being selected on a trial basis. With a view to selecting the right promising new players, Klaus Toppmöller has been attending domestic championship matches. Several international friendly matches involving the young players alongside experienced senior counterparts are scheduled.

Toppmöller likes the Georgian style of football, which is one of the reasons why he agreed to coach our national team. As he says, Georgian players have a very good technique and prefer an attacking style of play. And if you look at the teams coached by Klaus Toppmöller in the past, you see that they have all played in this way.

Georgia's EURO 2008 qualifying group is one of the strongest since it contains three teams from this year's World Cup finals, including two former world champions. The other teams in the group,

especially Scotland, are also very competitive and strong. Nevertheless, Georgian fans hope that their national team, under the supervision of the new head coach, will succeed in the forthcoming competitions and they will actively support them at home and away.

Bakar Jordania

GERMANY



A new director of sport

As from 1 April, Matthias Sammer will be the new director of sport at the German Football Association (DFB). The decision was taken by the DFB board at an extraordinary meeting in Frankfurt on 8 February. The former coach of Bundesliga clubs Borussia Dortmund and VfB Stuttgart will sign a five-year contract.

In this newly created post, Sammer will be the head coach for all national youth teams up to the Under-20s and will oversee the DFB youth coaching staff, as well as being responsible for the programme for the development of talented young players, the creation of more elite football academies and the establishment of coaching programmes that include the latest sports science know-how. Otherwise, Sammer is to work together with senior national team coach Jürgen Klinsmann to devise a uniform playing philosophy for all national youth teams and undertake intensive consultations on the aims, achievements and cost of the DFB's youth player development work.

Following the decision to appoint him, Matthias Sammer said: *"I see football as a process. In the medium term, I'd like to build things up and help talented young players develop. As director of sport responsible for the national youth teams up to the Under-20s, I'll be travelling a lot and watching international games. That's a great prospect! Helping to develop young talent is what motivates me."*

Maximilian Geis



Matthias Sammer.

HUNGARY



István Kisteleki leads Hungarian football

At an extraordinary congress held on 27 February, the Hungarian Football Federation (MLSZ) elected István Kisteleki as its new president, awarding him 66 votes (the other candidate, Péter Pellady, received 30 votes). Kisteleki has been involved in football in a variety of ways over the years, first as a player, then later as a first division coach and subsequently as a successful sports businessman, becoming president of the Hungarian Football League in 2005.

He is known for welcoming reform and relentlessly fighting injustice and financial imprecision. The MLSZ membership valued this philosophy and consequently chose him as the man in charge of Hungarian football at the end of February.

"I want to see hard work from everyone in the background – not just from myself. We need clear situations, order and good work in the future in order to start lifting up football in this country," Kisteleki stated after the election. *"Also, after 30 years of inefficiency, I would like to see new energy, some kind of happiness and positive thinking, which has almost disappeared from football in recent years. Be tired because of hard work but not because of endless fighting."*

With his skills and mentality, István Kisteleki deserves to be a successful new leader of the MLSZ in the next five years, but for football in Hungary to improve, the football family needs to start cooperating again, and the different parts of the machine should work together in harmony and peace.

Márton Dinnyés

LITHUANIA



New training programme for clubs

The Lithuanian Football Federation (LFF) recently invited all Lithuanian club coaches to attend a course on a special football training programme. This included a lecture given by a guest from Germany, Richard Saller, the owner of sportswear company Sport Saller. The new training programme is available to coaches in both schools and clubs.

Following the event, the LFF signed two new contracts, one with Sport Saller, the other with the firm UPS.



Signature of contracts with Sport Saller and UPS.

The Lithuanian national team will start the new season wearing a new strip provided by Sport Saller.

Youth, women's and children's teams will also be kitted out by the company.

Company head Richard Saller is a well-known figure in football. Apart from participating in youth player development programmes, he has written an essay entitled "Football – willpower" and has made a film about football.

His motto is: instead of giving children money, let's build their characters by means of football.

Vaiva Zizaitė

FYR MACEDONIA



A challenge for Srecko Katanec

After the poor results in the previous World Cup qualifying campaign, which saw the replacement of three senior national team coaches, the Football Federation of FYR Macedonia (FSM) has decided to appoint a well-known figure with the right credentials for the EURO 2008 qualifying round.

The appointment of Srecko Katanec, who has a rich football pedigree as both player and head coach, was greeted with unanimous approval. For the federation's executive management, the most important thing is that Katanec not only played a successful part in two top footballing events – EURO 2000 in the Netherlands/Belgium and the 2002 World Cup in South Korea/Japan – but did so with Slovenia, a small country like FYR Macedonia.

The satisfaction at the appointment was emphasized by FSM president Haralampie Hadzi-Risteski, who expects that under the leadership of Katanec, FYR Macedonia will show its real potential in European football.

"I think that we now have more national-team players than ever

before playing in the strong leagues of countries such as Germany, Italy, Turkey and Russia, and I believe that the national team can beat any opponents. I am convinced that Katanec is the right choice. It is our duty to provide the best conditions and then it is up to the technical staff and the players," said Hadzi-Risteski.

For Katanec himself, the appointment comes as a great honour, and despite saying during his first meeting with the media that he cannot promise miracles, he is still optimistic.

"The composition of the group, with England, Russia, Croatia and Israel, is a great challenge for me. The great wish of every coach is to play at Wembley. From now on, my thoughts will be entirely on the games to come. I will ask the players to be aggressive and focused on their tasks, and the rest will follow," said Katanec.

Zoran Nikolovski

MALTA



New initiatives

Looking after the social and educational welfare of young footballers in addition to honing their technical skills is of the utmost importance. Like other associations, the Malta FA is working along these holistic lines.

The latest initiative was announced earlier this year when the council of the Maltese association approved new regulations regarding the prevention and treatment of drug and alcohol abuse. These form part of a programme of education, prevention and treatment in this field intended to protect players in the national youth squads who may be at risk.

Each squad will have a focus person assigned to oversee the youths' welfare. The aim is to raise the young players' awareness of the inherent pitfalls of drug and alcohol abuse and help to



Women's World Cup qualifying match between Malta and Croatia.

prevent them getting involved in such undesirable practices.

Starting at a gradual pace, this commendable MFA programme will be extended to the younger sectors of Maltese football when the time is ripe.

Another MFA initiative was launched in women's football, where pioneering measures were taken with regard to playing conditions. A few weeks ago, arrangements were made for home national-team matches to be played on a grass pitch, which has been made available by top-division club Floriana FC.

This should enhance the level of football in this category, which has been attracting increasing interest in Malta over the last few years. The national team is competing in the preliminary stage of the Women's World Cup, and the group of players under coach Pierre Brincat have shown great enthusiasm and dedication.

Playing regular football on natural grass is another major step forward for women's football.

Alex Vella

NETHERLANDS



Football plays major role in integration campaign

Football is to play a major role in a campaign to integrate immigrant youths in Dutch society. The campaign runs until 2010. The Football Federation of the Netherlands (KNVB) has signed an agreement with the Ministry of Sports, the Ministry of Integration, the four largest cities in the country, as well as the Johan Cruyff Foundation, to make sure that the targets set will be reached.

The ministries concerned have noticed that football already plays a key part in the integration of immigrants in Dutch society. Football is the sport where the overall constitution of the population in a city is reflected in the composition of local teams. This reflection is typical of football in the Netherlands but has not yet reached other popular team sports such as hockey, volleyball or tennis. In the next five years, the Ministry of Sport is providing EUR 64 million to several sports associations (judo, boxing) in order to realise a programme to ensure that immigrant youths become fully accepted citizens in every sense of the word.

Sports associations and local governments will be asked to propose a number of clubs and schools for this project, which is aimed mainly at facilitating partnerships and endorsing the cooperation between them. The partners can choose their own approach as long as it is along the lines proposed by the national government.



Signature of the agreement concerning the integration of immigrants.

The first aim is to get immigrant youths more involved in sport. Compared to native youths, only 70% of immigrant youths are involved in sport, whereas the average for native youths is 85%. Furthermore, the project aims to protect vulnerable immigrant youths and try to make them citizens who participate in society. Of course, the policy aims to ensure that these youths do not end up in social isolation. For this purpose, 500 sports clubs will be selected. Thirdly and lastly, the programme wants to make sure that immigrant youths will not become dropouts. They can become integrated with the help of sport and thereby change their attitude and behaviour drastically.

In recent years, the Johan Cruyff Foundation has built artificial mini-pitches in the largest cities in the country where children can play and can learn how to play better with the help of professional coaches. The 'More Than Football' foundation, which coordinates the social involvement of professional clubs, will provide well-known professional players, who will take turns on a regular basis to serve as role models during the campaign.

For all parties involved, it is clear that sport is the major binding factor in Dutch society. The simple rules of the game make sure that there is no distinction between the social, cultural and religious backgrounds of players. By organising the events that will follow on from this initiative, immigrant and native youths will meet constantly during sport activities which will also involve their parents.

The KNVB wants to make sure that the EUR 5.4 million that will be allocated on an annual basis can be used as of next year to endorse 25 football clubs and 50 schools that will be picked for this occasion.

Rob de Leede

NORWAY



Football aid for Zambia

The Norwegian Football Federation (NFF) has launched a project with SOS Children's Villages in Norway to build

an SOS Children's Village in Livingstone, Zambia. The children's village will house 180 children and also include a school for 720 pupils, a kindergarten for 90 children, a social centre for 1,000 families, a medical centre with a capacity to treat 20,000 patients a year, and, of course, a football pitch. The NFF will also help organise football activities and train coaches.

In order to achieve this, the NFF will mobilise its 1,800 member clubs in different activities to collect a minimum of NOK 15 million (EUR 2 million) in 2006. The clubs will do jobs for local companies, organise lotteries, competitions, football tournaments, and so on. One good example of such a fundraising initiative is the Under-14 girl's team of the Sandviken club, who organised a night football cup for young boys and girls all by themselves.

The NFF finds it very motivating to be a part of such a meaningful project. "We have a responsibility to help people in countries who do not share our standard of living, and with a little effort from everyone in the football family, we can help many people cover basic needs like housing, education and health care," says the NFF's general secretary, Karen Espelund.

In Zambia, the average life expectancy at birth is less than 40. Out of a population of 11 million, nearly one million are infected with AIDS. The infant mortality rate is nearly 10%, the unemployment rate is 50%, and around 80% of the population lives below the poverty line.

Roger Solheim

PORTUGAL



Mini-pitches across the nation

The Portuguese Football Federation (FPF) and the Portuguese Sports Institute (IDP) have signed an agreement regarding state funding of mini-pitches all over the country, with the aim of giving youngsters the opportunity to get involved in different kinds of sport.

The mini-pitches are being built within the framework of UEFA's mini-pitch project, which was set up to help national associations in their efforts to develop grassroots football.

The agreement was signed by Gilberto Madail, president of the FPF, Luis Sardinha, president of the IDP, and Laurentino Dias, Portuguese State Secretary for Youth and Sport.

The installation of the 21m x 13m mini-pitches, intended for sports like football, basketball, volleyball and gymnastics, will require a global investment of over EUR 1.5m.

"With this mini-pitch project, UEFA is giving the Portuguese Football Federation and the Portuguese government a good opportunity to develop sport in general and, at the same time, to provide youngsters with a constructive way of occupying their free time. The mini-pitch programme has been enjoying enormous success all over Europe and I'm sure Portugal is following the same path. We mustn't forget grassroots football. A love and passion for sport and football is something that children develop at a very young age and they – especially the less well-off – deserve the support of the football family," said Gilberto Madail, who is also a co-opted member of UEFA's Executive Committee.



Signature of the agreement for the funding of mini-pitches.

"I'd like to thank UEFA and the FPF for raising the idea a few months back, which we accepted immediately. Football has an important social mission to fulfil and this initiative is a compliment to all those involved in Portuguese football," declared Laurentino Dias.

Onofre Costa

REPUBLIC OF IRELAND



Recognition awards for volunteers and clubs

The Football Association of Ireland (FAI) has announced two new football recognition awards in association with the Irish Daily Star and Citywest Hotel, which will honour those who serve the game at grassroots level.

The Service to Football Award will recognise and honour the significant and valued contributions of individuals at all levels of the game who devote their time and effort voluntarily to football and the development of the game in Ireland.

Volunteers may be nominated for outstanding service or contribution to football at club, local, league, provincial, national or international level. The awards will be made following adjudication by an independent panel in July.



The Club of the Month Award will recognise the contribution and significant achievements and performances on and off the pitch and contribution to football and the community by amateur and professional football clubs in Ireland.

The selected clubs will be outstanding role models to others and will inspire others to higher achievements at both recreational and competitive level.

There will also be a Club of the Year Award, which will be presented at the FAI AGM in July. An independent judging panel will select the Club of the Month and Club of the Year Awards.

Republic of Ireland Under-17, Under-18 and Under-19 manager Sean McCaffrey was a popular choice as Special Merit Award Winner at the 16th eircom/FAI International Soccer Awards, broadcast live.

McCaffrey's Under-17 and Under-19 sides have qualified for the elite phases of their respective UEFA championships.

Others who were honoured on the night included international goalkeeper Shay Given (Senior Player Award), Stephen Elliott (Young Player), Kevin Doyle (Under-21 Player) and Mick Martin (Hall of Fame).

Former FIFA referee Pierluigi Collina was awarded the International Personality Award but unfortunately could not attend on the night as his wife had been involved in a car accident in Italy the previous day.

Eighty-one players from the FAI's Football for All Programme (FFA), under National Coordinator Phelim Macken, received international caps recently. Those receiving caps were from the following teams:

- Special Olympics women's seven-a-side team – European runners-up 2005
- Irish deaf team – 4th at Deaflympics 2005
- Cerebral palsy team – 5th at the 2005 World Championships
- FFA schools' team
- Irish blind futsal team
- Irish street league (homeless) team.

The event follows the FAI taking a leading step in giving the FFA programme full affiliation to the association and a seat on the FAI National Council.

Pat Costello

ROMANIA



A busy year ahead

Following the successful organisation of previous mini-tournaments, the Romanian FA has been authorised by

UEFA to organise other mini-tournaments at various levels.

Indeed, 2006 will be a busy year for the Romanian FA. Preparations are well under way for the second qualifying round of the European Women's Under-19 Championship, to be held between 25 April and 1 May. The matches will be hosted by the National training centre and football academy in Mogosoaia and the village of Otopeni on the outskirts of Bucharest. Both locations offer very good pitches and facilities. Apart from that, all three guest delegations (England, Denmark and Iceland) will stay at the national training centre hotel, thus having excellent accommodation and also the use of a training pitch, fitness centre, etc. This is further proof of the excellent investment made by the Romanian FA in building the training centre.

Preparations have also begun for the youth mini-tournaments which will take place in the autumn. Between 25 and 30 September, the Group 3 matches of the first qualifying round of the European Under-17 Championship (France, Lithuania, Iceland and Romania) will be played, while from 4 to 9 October the Group 4 matches of the first qualifying round of the European Under-19 Championship (Belgium, Georgia, Northern Ireland and Romania) will take place. The national training centre will also be the main venue for the matches, but some matches are also likely to be played in the area around Bucharest.

With these preparations, the Romanian FA is seeking to create full-scale footballing events with appropriate media coverage. And as further items on this year's busy agenda, the national association will also be hosting qualifying matches for EURO 2008 and the European Under-21 Championship.

Paul-Daniel Zaharia

SERBIA AND MONTENEGRO



Special award for Sinisa Mihajlovic

Sinisa Mihajlovic, 37, FC Internazionale Milan defender and former Serbo-Montenegrin international, has received the greatest possible personal honour in his whole life. He has been made freeman of Novi Sad (a city in northern Serbia, in an area called Vojvodina, and the second most important city in Serbia, after Belgrade). He received his award there at the end of February.

The local government may have taken the decision, but the idea came from orphans living at "Decje selo" ("Children's Village") in Sremska

Kamenica, near to Novi Sad, who Mihajlovic has helped in so many ways during the last decade, not only by providing money, toys and presents, but also by visiting whenever he can. He has never talked about his deeds, but the "Decje selo" community decided to surprise him and spoke to the officials in Novi Sad, since Sremska Kamenica is geographically and administratively part of Novi Sad.

Mihajlovic joined FK Vojvodina (two-times former Yugoslav champions, in 1969 and 1989) in 1987. He spent two and a half seasons there, before moving to FK Crvena Zvezda. His good works for "Decje selo" and his spell at FK Vojvodina were enough for the local government to decide to make him a freeman of the city. Before the ceremony, Mihajlovic held a press conference and said:

"This is something special for me. To be made a freeman of Novi Sad is a phenomenal personal honour for me. It's something I'll never forget. Novi Sad means something really special to me. I came here as a young 18-year-old. Vojvodina and Novi Sad made me the player and the person I am today. Now I have a much stronger connection, which will stay with me all my life;



Mihajlovic: A great personality, not just a footballer.

wherever I am, my heart will always be in Novi Sad. My parents and brother live here, which is another reason for my attachment to this place."

Talking about the "Decje selo" children, Mihajlovic added:

"I am happy when I can help someone, particularly youngsters. "Decje selo" is part of me. I've never spoken about it because it hasn't been necessary for our cooperation. People might think I'm doing so for public attention. But that's not true; I'm a footballer and I am already in the spotlight. But as a person, I'm very sad when children are sad, when life is cruel to them. I'm proud when I visit them, when I play with them, or just talk with them. Now that our relationship is public knowledge, I want to say thanks to them – for their attention, smiles, nice words... We are one big family. I also hope that some other important person will support this project and that we can really do something good for these youngsters."

Finally, Mihajlovic said:

"As a player, I have won 14 trophies. As a person, this is my first. And it's bigger than all the rest combined. Now I can maybe think that I am a good person."

Sinisa Mihajlovic has five children – three sons and two daughters. But the "Decje selo" children are also like family to him.

Aleksandar Boskovic

TURKEY



A new board

Haluk Ulusoy was elected president of the Turkish FA for the third time in a very close election campaign. Ulusoy got 109 votes and Ayhan Bermek 102. Haluk Ulusoy is returning to the president's seat after an absence of 18 months.

Kemal Kapulluoglu and Affan M. Kececi become vice-presidents. The other members of the board are Rafet Kirgiz, Tahir Kiran, Süheyl Önen, Galip Asal, Mehmet Kemal Ünsal, Ender Alkoçlar, Mustafa Urhan, Metehan Berktaş, Ibrahim Usta, Turan Özen, Cihangir Onger and Erdal Batmaz.

On the field of play, the Turkish FA has hosted the traditional Aegean Cup. In addition to the host nation, Belgium, the Czech Republic, the Netherlands, Norway, Romania, Scotland and Ukraine took part. Ukraine won the final against the Czech Republic on penalties. Turkey finished third by defeating the Netherlands 2-1. Daley Blind was declared the most valuable player and Sercan Yildirim of Turkey won the golden boot with his tally of four goals. The



New management for the Turkish FA.

Czech Republic received the fair play trophy.

The TFF's medical committee, under the leadership of its chairman, Dr Mehmet Binnet, participated in a sports medicine seminar in Azerbaijan last month. Turkish FA doctors gave advice to the Azerbaijani national team doctors and informed them about changes in sports medicine.

Ilker Ugur

Kyiv. Having won the last two tournaments, the Kyiv team were defeated by the visiting Russian team on penalties this time. The motto of the tournament is "Replace minefields with football fields". This event brings together people who have endured the horrors of war, mental and physical anguish, but who are not broken by the experience.

Valeriy Nykonenko

UKRAINE



Various competitions

At the beginning of February, the Ukrainian Under-16 team returned from Turkey as winners of the Aegean Cup. It is the first such trophy in the Ukrainian trophy cabinet. The team coached by Yuriy Kalitvitsev beat the Czech Republic 4-3 on penalties in the final. In the semi-final, the winners' fate was also decided on penalties, with hosts Turkey being eliminated by Ukraine.

In February, the final round of the sixth national students' futsal championship was held in Kyiv. Sixteen universities competed for the title in a hard-fought contest. The students of the Dnipropetrovsk state financial academy emerged as winners of the competition and will now represent Ukraine in the students' world futsal championship in Poland in August.

Within the framework of events dedicated to remembering military operations and the 17th anniversary of the Soviet troops' withdrawal from Afghanistan, the third international futsal tournament for amputees took place in Kyiv on 15 February. Four teams from Ukraine and Russia took part. In the final, FC Olimpro Moscow met FC Salang



The Ukrainian Under-16 coach, Yuriy Kalitvitsev.



The Latvian national team in their new strip.



General secretary Janis Mezeckis, national team coach Juris Andrejevs and his assistant Vladimirs Serbins.

100 years of Latvian football

Activities galore

THE SNOW IS STILL ON THE GROUND, BUT FOOTBALL IS ON THE UP IN LATVIA, WITH THE JUBILEE YEAR OF THE LATVIAN "LMT VIRSLIGA 2006" DUE TO START ON 8 APRIL.

The Latvian Football Federation (LFF) is working hard to prepare the 100th anniversary of football's first mention in the national media. In addition to publishing the second volume of the "Latvian Football History" series, the LFF is organising its annual conference in Riga on 31 March. Then, on 11 April, FIFA and UEFA Executive Committee member Michel

Platini is due to arrive to open a three-day FIFA course in Riga. The course will cover discussions and decision-making involving government and media representatives, LFF partners and the LFF itself. Ministers of sport, finance, education, culture and health are invited, as well as other government representatives involved in the promotion of sport in Latvia.

After hours of debate, LFF general secretary Janis Mezeckis made a few suggestions. As a result, the group calendar for Latvia turned out to be broadly similar to the one for EURO 2004, when Latvia went through to the finals. The senior national team will play their first and last qualifying round matches against Sweden and four of the last five qualifying games will be away from home. Now Latvia is seeking opponents for the free friendly match dates in the 2006/07 season.

Baltic Cup

LFF president Guntis Indriksons has been appointed to the FIFA Club World Cup Organising Committee for a second term. In the capacity of UEFA delegate, LFF general secretary Janis Mezeckis went to Kazakhstan to meet the country's FA in connection with the organisation of work and other issues. Also as a UEFA delegate, Mezeckis played a part in the Barcelona v. Chelsea UEFA Champions League match on 7 March. Apart from that, the LFF is proud of the fact that Latvia is in fourth place in the UEFA fair play ranking. Other recent news can now be found on our website (www.lff.lv).

The general secretaries of all the Baltic football federations met in Riga on 2 March to discuss the organisation of the Baltic Champion Clubs Cup. It was decided that the three top national league winners would meet in the 2006 edition of the cup, and the regulations will be established soon by a working group from the three countries.

Martins Hartmanis

Five matches without defeat

After winning the King's Cup in Thailand on New Year's Eve, the Latvian senior national team played the German Under-21 team. Their run of success continued with a third win in a row and a fifth match without defeat. They had also received the new national strip from adidas, which sports the colours of the Latvian flag (dark red and white). Striker Maris Verpakovskis of Dynamo Kiev was the first to try out the new strip during training before the match against the German Under-21 side.

EURO 2008 qualifying round calendar

Just before the game in Germany, there were robust discussions to clarify the EURO 2008 qualifying round calendar for Group F.



The country's participation in EURO 2004 in Portugal remains the benchmark for Latvian football. Vitalijs Astafjevs (left) in an aerial duel with Edgar Davids of the Netherlands.



Communications Birthdays – Calendar

Many happy returns!

Jacques Devismes (France), member of the Technical Instructors panel, celebrates his 70th birthday on 8 April. Meanwhile, Arie van Eijden (Netherlands), member of the Club Competitions Committee, turns 60 on 5 April. Jean-Paul Houben (Belgium), member of the Administrative Experts Panel, joins him at that particular milestone on 14 April. Reaching the half-century mark is Lennart Wangel (Finland), member of the Youth & Amateur Football Committee, whose birthday is on 5 April. UEFA would like to wish them all a happy birthday and also extends birthday greetings to:

- Carlo de Gaudio (Italy, 1.4)
- Jan Peeters (Belgium, 2.4)
- Kaj Østergaard (Denmark, 3.4)
- Dennis Cruise (Republic of Ireland, 3.4)
- Yoav Strauss (Israel, 3.4)
- Christian Kofoed (Denmark, 4.4)
- Jan Ekstrand (Sweden, 5.4)
- William Attley (Republic of Ireland, 5.4)
- Aleksandra Nikolovska (FYR Macedonia, 5.4)
- Damir Matovinovic (Croatia, 6.4)
- Isak Mikladal (Faroe Islands, 7.4)
- James Fleeting (Scotland, 8.4)
- Zoran Petrovic (Serbia and Montenegro, 10.4)
- Vlastibor Minarovec jr (Slovakia, 10.4)
- Umberto Gandini (Italy, 11.4)
- Eduard Dervishi (Spain, 11.4)
- Rodger Gifford (Wales, 12.4)
- Viktor Derdo (Ukraine, 12.4)
- Olí Holm (Faroe Islands, 15.4)
- Georgios Bikas (Greece, 15.4)
- Werner Hackmann (Germany, 17.4)
- Charles Schaack (Luxembourg, 17.4)
- Peter Buckley (Republic of Ireland, 17.4)
- Oguz Sarvan (Turkey, 18.4)
- Jean Appietto (France, 20.4)
- George Frank (Israel, 20.4)
- Jean-Luc Veuthey (Switzerland, 20.4)
- Ronnie Lundqvist (Sweden, 20.4)
- Paolo Bergamo (Italy, 21.4)
- Vitor M. Melo Pereira (Portugal, 21.4)
- Alexandru Burlac (Moldova, 21.4)
- Patrick Fenech (Malta, 22.4)
- Jan Damgaard (Denmark, 22.4)

- Morgan Norman (Sweden, 22.4)
- Martin Bodenham (England, 23.4)
- Roland Tis (Belgium, 23.4)
- Mehmet S. Binnet (Turkey, 23.4)
- Roy Millar (Northern Ireland, 25.4)
- Ole Myhrvold (Norway, 25.4)
- Philippe Verbiest (Belgium, 25.4)
- Daniel Ryser (Switzerland, 25.4)
- Alfred Sengle (Germany, 27.4)
- Jan Carlsen (Denmark, 27.4)
- Henk van de Wetering (Netherlands, 27.4)
- Alexander Tukmanov (Russia, 28.4)
- Zdzislaw Krecina (Poland, 28.4)
- Gudmundur Ingi Jonsson (Iceland, 29.4)
- Emanuel Macedo de Medeiros (Portugal, 30.4)

Upcoming events

Meetings

6.4.2006, Luxembourg

Draw for the final round of the 2005/06 European Under-17 Championship

7.4.2006, Nyon

Stadium and Security Committee

10.4.2006, Nyon

Draw for the UEFA Intertoto Cup

24.4.2006, Nyon

Medical Committee

Competitions

4-5.4.2006

UEFA Champions League: quarter-finals (return legs)

6.4.2006

UEFA Cup: quarter-finals (return legs)

18-19.4.2006

UEFA Champions League: semi-finals (first legs)

20.4.2006

UEFA Cup: semi-finals (first legs)

25-26.4.2006

UEFA Champions League: semi-finals (return legs)

27.4.2006

UEFA Cup: semi-finals (return legs)

New publications

50 XPRONIA UEFA

The 50th anniversary of the European Champion Clubs' Cup/Champions League has generated a number of publications, including a magazine by Greek journalist Manos Staramopoulos. Containing a preface by UEFA CEO Lars-Christer Olsson and lavishly illustrated, the publication provides a history of the competition, details of all the finals, the top scorers, a selection of the best goals and players, plus all the results recorded by Greek teams. The UEFA Cup and the Cup Winners' Cup round off the magazine, which is published in Greek. (*Manos Staramopoulos. Fax: +30 – 21-993 67 24.*)

WOODBIDGE FOOTBALLS

Anniversaries being the occasion for retrospectives or nostalgia, a limited series of hand-sewn footballs (and rugby balls) from the 1930 to 1950 period, based on the manufacturing methods and know-how of John Woodbridge & Son, has been put on the market to celebrate part of football's colourful history. (*Distributed by classe-affaire@wanadoo.fr.*)



Communications

An extraordinary congress of the Hungarian FA has elected István Kistelegi as president of the association, which has moved to:

Kánaai út 314/24 – HU-1112 Budapest – Hungary.

Match agents

The Licensed UEFA Match Agents Panel has granted licences to two new agents:

Francesco Moretti and Wolfgang Vöge

Both have the same address:

International Football Management GmbH
Schaffhauserstrasse 2
CH-8401 Winterthur – Switzerland

Phone: +41-52 212 47 70

Fax: +41-52 212 47 77

f.moretti@ifmsport.com

w.voege@ifmsport.com

The panel has also renewed the licence of **Stephen Da Costa** (England) for eight years. Agents **Antonio Rosellini** (Italy) and **Johannes Korevaar** (Netherlands), on the other hand, have surrendered their licences.

WE CARE ABOUT FOOTBALL



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