

**The new Executive
Committee** **03**

**Professional
Football Strategy
Forum** **06**

**53rd UEFA member
association** **07**

**Referees train
in Rome** **11**





Photos: UEFA-plwoods.ch

Message of the president

The role of a coach

Although my election as president of UEFA in some ways stirred up the same emotions as I experienced when I won major trophies as a player, my new role is more that of a coach, in the true sense of the word.

My aim is to convince the leaders of European football to share my vision of football. It has been said that my vision of football is romantic or idealistic, but I believe that, in the long term, it is the right way to ensure the survival of our game and maintain its extraordinary popularity.

We should not be seeking instant reward and selling our "products" to the highest bidder, but making sure that our competitions have as wide an appeal as possible and doing everything we can to ensure that they are attractive both in terms of the quality of play and results that are not a foregone conclusion.

Of course, football needs money. It needs it to improve the education of coaches and, through them, the skill of players. It needs money to improve its facilities, to offer players the best possible conditions and spectators a safe and comfortable environment. It also needs money to develop grassroots football and to fulfil its social responsibilities by contributing to youth education.

On the other hand, football has no use for profiteers, for people who, seeing how successful football is as a business, get involved for their own personal gain.

Football has to encourage ideas and knowledge to be shared. It must insist on respect – for opponents and for the referee first and foremost. If it cannot rid society of its ills single-handed, it can at least set an example by promoting solidarity, fair play and fun.

Naturally, you have to be an idealist to believe that the common interest will prevail over personal gain, that the laws of sport will silence the rule of money, that players, clubs, leagues and associations will speak with the same voice. But being idealistic does not mean dreaming; it means wanting to improve things.

By electing me as UEFA president, the majority of UEFA's member associations indicated that they were ready for a change. Now it is up to me to be a good coach and to convey my ideas to the rest of the team.



Michel Platini
UEFA President

PS: Following my election, I have received numerous messages of congratulations, far more than I can reply to individually, so I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone concerned for their kind words.

IN THIS ISSUE

The new Executive Committee	03
Tribute to Lennart Johansson	05
First meeting of the European Professional Football Strategy Forum	06
FA of Montenegro: UEFA's 53rd member association	07
Referees train in Rome	11
News from member associations	16

COVER

San Marino and the Republic of Ireland resumed their EURO 2008 qualifiers a few weeks before the other teams. Irish midfielder Stephen Ireland tries to get past defender Nicola Albani.

Photo: Monteforte/AFP/Getty Images

New team at work

Extraordinary congress in May



THE UEFA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE FROM 2007 TO 2009:
Seated, left to right: Gerhard Mayer-Vorfelder, Senes Erzik, Michel Platini, Geoffrey Thompson, Angel Maria Villar Llona, Marios N. Lefkaritis.
Standing: Gilberto Madail, Mircea Sandu, Grigoriy Surkis, Mathieu Sprengers, Per Ravn Omdal, Viacheslav Koloskov, Franco Carraro, Joseph Mifsud.

UEFA-epjwoods.ch

"IT'S THE START OF A NEW ADVENTURE,"
SAID MICHEL PLATINI SHORTLY AFTER HIS ELECTION
AS UEFA PRESIDENT WAS ANNOUNCED AT THE CONGRESS CENTRE
IN DÜSSELDORF ON 26 JANUARY.

As is the tradition, the new Executive Committee met a few hours after the congress, but in order not to rush things, the four vice-presidents and the treasurer were elected at an extraordinary meeting in Nyon on 9 February.

For the next two years, the committee will comprise the following members: president: Michel Platini (France); first vice-president: Senes Erzik (Turkey); second vice-president: Geoffrey Thompson (England); third vice-president: Angel Maria Villar Llona (Spain), fourth vice-president: Gerhard Mayer-Vorfelder (Germany); treasurer: Marios N. Lefkaritis (Cyprus);

members: Franco Carraro (Italy), Viacheslav Koloskov (Russia), Gilberto Madail (Portugal), Joseph Mifsud (Malta), Per Ravn Omdal (Norway), Mircea Sandu (Romania), Mathieu Sprengers (Netherlands) and Grigoriy Surkis (Ukraine).

Friedrich Stickler (Austria) and Giangiorgio Spiess (Switzerland) were appointed as co-opted members until the end of EURO 2008, enabling them to liaise between the Executive Committee and the two host associations of the European Championship final round.

FIFA Executive Committee

The Executive Committee also elected a new member of the FIFA Exec-

utive Committee to replace Michel Platini who, as UEFA president, automatically becomes a FIFA vice-president. The Executive Committee opted for Marios N. Lefkaritis, whose mandate, in accordance with the UEFA statutes, will last until the next UEFA Congress, to be held in Kiev in early 2008.

In the meantime, the four British associations have elected a replacement for David Will as FIFA vice-president, a post to which they are entitled under the FIFA statutes. They elected the president of the Scottish Football Association, John McBeth, for a four-year term. The European representatives on the FIFA Executive Committee will therefore be: vice-presidents: Michel Platini, Angel Maria Villar Llona and John McBeth; members: Franz Beckenbauer (Germany), Michel



The UEFA president, vice-presidents and treasurer with acting chief executive Gianni Infantino.

UEFA's ninth treasurer **Marios N. Lefkaritis**

It was at the extraordinary congress held in Paris on 11 December 1959 (the first extraordinary congress in UEFA's history, held in particular to vote on whether to move the UEFA headquarters from Paris to Berne) that the post of treasurer was created. Austrian Alfred Frey, Executive Committee member since 1955, had previously dealt with financial issues, which is why he was chosen to become UEFA's first treasurer.

Since he retired in 1962, the post has been occupied by Lodewijk Brun (Netherlands, 1962-66), Herbert Powell (Wales, 1966-72), Jos. Coler (Netherlands, 1972-78), Lucien Schmidlin (Switzerland, 1978-84), Jo van Marle (Netherlands, 1984-95), Egidius Braun (Germany, 1995-2000) and Mathieu Sprengers (2000-07).

Marios N. Lefkaritis is therefore UEFA's ninth treasurer. He joined the Executive Committee at the congress in London in 1996.



nation. Having joined the UEFA administration in 2000 as director of the professional football and marketing division, Lars-Christer Olsson succeeded Gerhard Aigner as chief executive on 1 January 2004.

During his three years in charge of the UEFA administration in Nyon, he concentrated his efforts particularly on the marketing of UEFA competitions, from which income has risen considerably. New structures were set up for the organisation of the European Championship and UEFA recruited numerous experts in the marketing and new media fields. UEFA's support for the Independent European Sport Review was also a notable activity during this period.

Lars-Christer Olsson also extolled among his staff the virtues of flexibility and team work, qualities from which it will no doubt benefit as it embarks on a new era.

Having joined UEFA in 2000 and served as director of the legal services and club licensing division since 2004, Gianni Infantino has taken over from Lars-Christer Olsson on a temporary basis until a permanent successor is appointed in May. Talks are under way with David Taylor, current chief executive of the Scottish Football Association.

D'Hooghe (Belgium), Senes Erzik, Viacheslav Koloskov and Mario N. Lefkaritis.

At the same meeting, the Executive Committee also decided to hold an extraordinary congress (the tenth in UEFA's history) in Zurich on 28 May, since the national association delegates would be in the Swiss city for the official inauguration of the new FIFA headquarters on 29 May and for the FIFA Congress on 30 and 31 May. The extraordi-

nary congress will be devoted to a partial amendment of the UEFA statutes, pending their complete revision, as previously agreed. The Executive Committee will also hold an additional meeting in Nyon on 26 March.

Chief Executive resigns

A few days after Michel Platini's election as president, chief executive Lars-Christer Olsson tendered his resig-



The extraordinary Executive Committee meeting in Nyon in February.

Photos: UEFA-pjwoods.ch



The UEFA Congress in Malta in 1990 at which Lennart Johansson was elected president.

D.AQUILINA



Handing the reins to Michel Platini at the recent UEFA Congress in Düsseldorf.

KAISER/AF/GETTY IMAGES

Lennart Johansson

Seventeen years at the helm

By proposing that Lennart Johansson be named honorary UEFA president, Michel Platini wanted not only to pay tribute to the enormous contribution made by the outgoing president to UEFA's development, but also to demonstrate that his election represented a transition rather than a split and that he would continue to depend on the experience and advice of the man who served as UEFA president for nearly 17 years.

On 19 April 1990, at the 20th UEFA Congress, held in Malta, Swede Lennart Johansson became UEFA's fifth president, succeeding Frenchman Jacques Georges, who was named honorary president on the same day. In those days, UEFA had 36 member associations, including the Faroe Islands, who had become a full member at the same congress. Lennart Johansson beat Switzerland's Freddy Rumo by 20 votes to 15 (with one spoilt ballot paper). He had previously been a member of the Executive Committee for two years after serving as vice-chairman of the European Football Championship Committee, which he had joined in 1984.

New associations

Lennart Johansson's long presidency was marked by several political and social phenomena which required UEFA to show tremendous adaptability. The break-up of the Soviet Union and Yugoslavia, for example, resulted in a rapid and significant increase in the number of member associations. In order to facilitate the integration of the new associations and to enable them to haul themselves up to the level of the exist-

ing members, UEFA created its East European Assistance Bureau. The assistance programme later expanded under the HatTrick banner to cover all the member asso-



With Ronaldinho and Lars-Christer Olsson at the 2005/06 UEFA Champions League final.

EMPIGCS

ciations. This rise in the number of associations also had repercussions for the UEFA competitions, particularly the European Championship, the final round of which was enlarged to include 16 teams in 1996.

The growth of television and marketing, which generated unprecedented levels of income for football, also created problems, as people began to look after their own interests rather than adopt a collective vision. Under its president's leadership, UEFA managed to find a new solution by creating

the UEFA Champions League which, for the first time, brought together the clubs, TV broadcasters and sponsors within the same centralised marketing network. This centralised marketing strategy also made it possible to develop a financial solidarity programme which continues to benefit European football as a whole.

New openings

Lennart Johansson's presidency was also a period of new openings: dialogue with the other confederations, particularly the creation of the Meridian Project with the African football confederation; efforts to increase dialogue within the football family and to conclude agreements with all its members; keeping abreast with technical advances in new media, particularly the creation of the uefa.com internet site; contributing to the growth of women's football and futsal, development of youth competitions and numerous other examples, not least the establishment of authentic dialogue with the European Union and its institutions, with the aim of improving mutual understanding. The introduction of a club licensing system should also be mentioned.

Lennart Johansson's presidency also included some crucial moments in the development of the UEFA administration, such as the move to Nyon, where the House of European Football was inaugurated in 1999, the creation of new structures and a rapid but controlled increase in the number of staff.



The European Professional Football Strategy Forum.

The leagues' delegation.



European Professional Football Strategy Forum

A new instrument of dialogue

IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE DEMOCRATIC STRUCTURE OF FOOTBALL'S INSTITUTIONS, THE CLUBS AND PROFESSIONAL LEAGUES HAVE LONG BEEN ABLE TO MAKE THEIR VOICES HEARD WITHIN UEFA, IN PARTICULAR THROUGH THE CLUB COMPETITIONS COMMITTEE AND THE EUROPEAN CLUB FORUM, FOR THE FORMER, AND VIA THE PROFESSIONAL FOOTBALL COMMITTEE, FOR THE LATTER.

Nevertheless, the first meeting of the European Professional Football Strategy Forum, held at UEFA headquarters in Nyon on 19 January, was a new milestone in relations between UEFA and the major stakeholders in professional club football. *"It's a historic event because for the first time the leagues and professional clubs have direct access together to the Executive Committee,"* emphasised UEFA first vice-president Senes Erzik, who chaired this first meeting.

The new body, which was first mooted in 2004, is composed of the four UEFA vice-presidents (Senes Erzik, Per Ravn Omdal, Angel Maria Villar Llona and Geoffrey Thompson

for this first meeting), four representatives of the leagues (Sir David Richards, Frédéric Thiriez, Emanuel Macedo de Medeiros and José Luis Astiazaran Iriondo) and four representatives of the clubs (Peter Kenyon, Umberto Gandini, Maarten Fontein and Joan Laporta). The leagues and clubs appoint their own representatives and this explains why, unlike for the Executive Committee and UEFA committees, several members of this forum can belong to the same national association.

All in all, the participants hailed the formation of this new body as representing undeniable progress in strengthening the dialogue between UEFA, the leagues and the clubs, Peter Kenyon

also emphasising that open dialogue was the only way for football to move forward.

While the new forum is certainly a consultative body, the subjects it deals with will, in principle, already have been raised within the European Club Forum and the relevant committees. Therefore if a consensus is reached within the Strategy Forum, it will clearly assume crucial importance for the Executive Committee when it has to take a decision.

On the agenda of the January meeting were topical subjects such as the Independent European Sport Review, the release of players for national team matches and the role of players' agents.

With regard to the first subject, the meeting gave the opportunity to stress the fact that football does not expect politicians to impose new regulations but to produce clarification so that sport can manage itself in the light of its own special nature recognised in a clearly defined legal framework, without fear of interference from the civil courts.

Issues concerning the release of players for international matches are the subject of a FIFA study. Nevertheless, the participants unanimously recognised that footballers are entitled to play for their national teams. The principle of insurance for such matches was no longer disputed but opinions still differ as regards any payment to the clubs for the release of players.

The problems relating to players' agents are also currently being looked at by FIFA, to whom UEFA has made recommendations proposed by the working group which it set up on this subject. The Strategy Forum therefore restricted itself in this first meeting to highlighting the need for a central regulatory body and regulations that are truly enforceable in practice.



The participants in the first meeting.

Seated, left to right: José Luis Astiazaran Iriondo, Sir David Richards, Senes Erzik, Per Ravn Omdal, Geoffrey Thompson, Angel Maria Villar Llona.

Standing: Lars-Christer Olsson, Emanuel Macedo de Medeiros, Frédéric Thiriez, Peter Kenyon, Umberto Gandini, Giorgio Marchetti.

Bad weather prevented the other two club representatives from attending.

Photos: UEFA-pjwoods.ch



Dejan Savicevic, president of the FA of Montenegro, at the UEFA Congress... and leaping over the opposition in his days as a Yugoslavian international.



Facts and figures

- The Football Association of Montenegro has 63 affiliated clubs and 5,374 registered players in all categories, including around 4,000 aged between 10 and 18.
- In futsal, 345 players are registered with the 25 clubs. Women's football is expanding rapidly, with around 100 registered players.
- 87 coaches have obtained association diplomas, 61 hold a UEFA B licence, several have the A licence and two have the Pro licence.
- There are around 300 referees, including four FIFA referees and two international futsal referees, and 105 referee instructors.
- The top two divisions in the national championship each contain 12 teams; the third tier comprises three regional leagues run by the regional associations. The FAM also organises a league for Under-17s and the final rounds of youth competitions in other categories.
- The stadium in Podgorica, capital of Montenegro, has been modernised and is able to host international matches. The Montenegrin national team is due to play its first match there against Hungary on 24 March.



Football Association of Montenegro

UEFA's 53rd member

ADMITTED AS A PROVISIONAL MEMBER BY THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AT ITS MEETING IN LJUBLJANA IN OCTOBER, THE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION OF MONTENEGRO (FAM) BECAME THE 53RD FULL MEMBER OF UEFA AT THE CONGRESS IN DÜSSELDORF.

Addressing the Congress delegates, Dejan Savicevic, president of the Montenegrin FA, said: *"The Football Association of Montenegro has all the credentials to become the youngest association in Europe. However, it has indirectly been a member of the European and global football families for a long time."*

The FAM was founded on 8 March 1931, but was initially part of the Football Association of Yugoslavia and was then a member of the Football Association of Serbia and Montenegro until 28 June 2006. In this context, it made an active contribution to the success of the clubs and national teams of the countries concerned. More than 30 Montenegrin players represented the senior national teams of Yugoslavia and Serbia and Montenegro, a significant number for a population of around 650,000 inhabitants.

The number of Montenegrins to have played for the national youth teams is even higher. Five Montenegrin players were part of the Yugoslavian team that won the 1987 World Youth Championship in Chile, for example. The Yugoslavian team that played in the 1998 World Cup included seven Montenegrins. Players such as Predrag Mijatovic, Zeljko Petrovic, Ljubomir Radanovic, Zoran Filipovic or Branko and Dragoljub

Brnovic, not forgetting Dejan Savicevic himself, all played abroad, where they earned an excellent reputation.

"We have a rich football past and, we hope, a bright football future," concluded Dejan Savicevic.

On 28 June 2006, a new page was turned in the history of Montenegrin football. On that day, the association with the Serbian football association was dissolved as a result of the Montenegrin people voting in favour of independence on 21 May. Since then, the Montenegrin FA, with the help of the Serbian FA and UEFA, has expanded its administration in order to carry out many new tasks, such as the club licensing system,

and to meet all the conditions necessary to become affiliated to UEFA and FIFA.

UEFA decided to admit the Montenegrin FA on 26 January, although its membership will not take effect until 1 July. Meanwhile, FIFA will decide at its next congress whether to follow suit.



Twelve teams play in the Montenegrin top division.



The Action 21 Charleroi fans know how to produce a good atmosphere at their team's matches.



Build-up to the Futsal Cup final tournament

Action 21 Charleroi: a cloud with a silver lining

ALONG WITH BOOMERANG INTERVIÚ, MFK DINAMO MOSKVA AND EL POZO MURCIA FS, ACTION 21 CHARLEROI HAVE QUALIFIED FOR THE LAST FOUR OF THE UEFA FUTSAL CUP, TO BE CONTESTED IN MURCIA, SPAIN, IN APRIL. HARDLY A SURPRISE AT FIRST GLANCE FOR THE WINNERS OF THE 2005 FINAL...

However, the period between September 2005 and May 2006 was Action 21's "annus horribilus". The futsal club was caught up in the scandal involving Charleroi's city council, which was accused of various abuses. Just like other sports organisations in the city, Action 21, even though they were not involved in the affair in any way, saw their municipal subsidies drastically cut.

This funding represented a quarter of the club's budget. To make matters worse, many of the club's

partners jumped ship, either reluctant to have their image associated with that of Charleroi or involved in the city's administration themselves.

Last May, Action 21 therefore went into voluntary liquidation before a change of heart. "We found new partners and cut our costs. We wanted to save the 350 youngsters who put their trust in us," explains Salvatore Di Marco, the club's general secretary. Several paid positions were abolished and seven of the 12 Brazilians players left the club, opening the door for up-and-coming Belgians. The club's Brazilian coach was replaced by Zairian Christian Vavadio, whose entire playing career was spent in Belgium and who joined Action 21 as a player before becoming assistant coach.

Action 21 made no new signings in January. "To give you an idea of how we are trying to economise, I did not attend the draw for the last 16 of the Belgian Cup," says Salvatore Di Marco. "Quite simply because if a club is not present, the match is always organised by its opponents. A home match is expensive."

Action 21, founded 12 years ago, was Belgium's first professional futsal club. A promoted third division club owed money to the federal authorities. Sambreville, on the outskirts of Charleroi, took it over. "The president, Paul Locicero, knew the coach, who persuaded him." After finishing joint top in their first league season, Action 21 were promoted through the play-offs. They then competed in the championship run by the

Belgian FA, the gateway to European competition, with several league clubs following in their footsteps.

Professional structure

Action 21 benefited from the support of the municipal authority, but spared no effort in becoming a professional, progressive club. In the early days, for example, the club president attended matches in Spain and Brazil in order to widen his knowledge of futsal. Walter Chardon, the club manager, invites the club's partners to meet together and forge new business contacts. He is one of the few remaining paid employees of the club, along with Salvatore Di Marco, who manages the club and organises away travel as well as acting as the club's official correspondent, Caroline Vanuytrecht, secretary and communications officer, and Luiz Alberto Medina, who runs the youth academy. "The Brazilians created a lot of work: paperwork, apartments, personal assistance. There are only five of them left."

The club was keen to give youngsters a chance, although circumstances forced them to do so more quickly than originally planned. "We learned that you shouldn't rely on a single source," sighs Salvatore Di Marco, "but maybe it's no worse this way. All our players are professional, except the students, who have a different sort of contract. They are products of the club, Belgians or youngsters born abroad but brought up here. Many of the youth team players have already broken



Rodrigo Angelo Marques Coimbra, otherwise known as Zico, one of Action 21 Charleroi's Brazilian players.

Photos:





Young blood has been brought into the squad.



The Murcia sports centre will host the final round of the UEFA Futsal Cup.

through; we have been bringing them on in matches when we have had a comfortable lead, for example. Their mentality is extraordinary. Even if they only play for five minutes, their commitment is total. One day, we hope that the current youth team will represent the club at the highest level. Futsal comes from Brazil, which remains an enormous breeding ground, producing players who set standards for others to follow. Italy were European champions in 2003 with 12 or 13 naturalised Brazilians in their squad. Even Dinamo Moscow, whom we have faced twice in the final of the UEFA Futsal Cup, have six Brazilians on their books, two of them naturalised. In Europe, Spain are leading the way. Their youngsters are carving out a place for themselves. We hope to follow their example."

Charleroi is one of Belgium's most cosmopolitan cities. Action 21 helps with the social integration of young people, whether Belgian or foreign. "Sport attracts a lot of youngsters. It gives them a chance to develop and to meet other young people. They learn how to follow rules because we refuse to compromise where discipline is concerned. Sport is a fantastic way of learning about life."

Despite the dramatic reduction in the team's average age, Action 21 qualified for the UEFA Futsal Cup semi-finals by topping their four-team elite round group. "I thought we would finish somewhere near the bottom. We won seven matches by a narrow margin and enjoyed a touch a luck along the way, but it was mainly our character that saw us through. The players and coaches all stood up to be counted. I told the Brazilians we had kept – the least expensive ones – that it was up to them to prove their worth. They all responded magnificently. Our season is already a success thanks to our qualification for the semi-finals. Reaching the final would be the icing on the cake. We have nothing to lose, unlike our opponents."

Pascale Pierard

"The new format of the UEFA Futsal Cup is brilliant"

Belgian football clubs often complain that they are handicapped by the weakness of their national championship when it comes to European competitions. Action 21 are, however, waging their sixth European campaign. They have already reached three finals and won one. Salvatore Di Marco reveals their recipe for success: "We had a Brazilian coach. We have a professional team. We played numerous friendlies in Italy, Spain and Portugal in order to gain experience and get used to the speed of international matches. However, even though our championship is not as good as those of the major nations, it is improving. At the end of the first round, a journalist commented that we had scored 100 goals fewer than the year before. Why? Because we used to win with scores such as 16-1 or 18-0. Now our opponents are stronger and matches are much closer."

This season, UEFA has changed the format of its Futsal Cup. The top four in the European rankings are given a bye in the preliminary and first rounds. Action 21 are one of those elite clubs. Their general secretary welcomes the change: "UEFA has done the right thing. It would be unfortunate if a major team were eliminated at an early stage because it had an off day. Our young sport needs all its trump cards. If we're going to attract big crowds, we need the well known clubs to be involved."

P.P.



Action 21 Charleroi won the UEFA Futsal Cup in 2005.

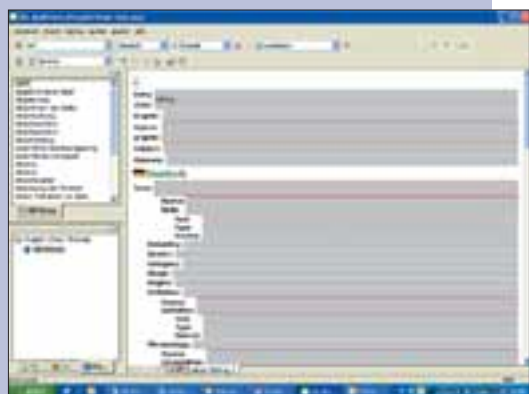
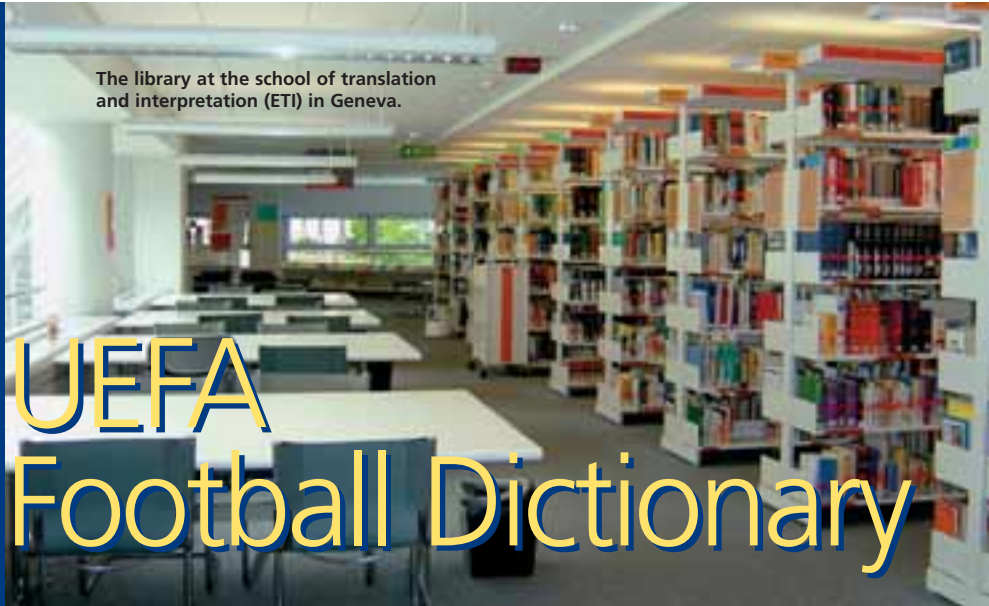
CEDRIC BOUILLON

FOOTBALL + LANGUAGE + UEFA = UEFA

IN THE RUN-UP TO EURO 2008,
UEFA IS COMPILING A THREE-LANGUAGE
DICTIONARY THAT WILL CONTAIN AROUND
3,000 FOOTBALL-RELATED ENTRIES.

Football Dictionary

The library at the school of translation and interpretation (ETI) in Geneva.



A dictionary entry.



A definition.



An illustrated entry.

The language of football is a complex affair, since it covers a variety of different subject areas. A coach, for example, uses a specific range of vocabulary which a disciplinary inspector will rarely need. The latter, meanwhile, uses terms that are as much a part of football vocabulary as words that are heard in and around the stadium.

Although English is increasingly becoming football's lingua franca, it is unrealistic to expect every coach, player, delegate and fan to be able to speak it. In fact, Europe's linguistic diversity is a valuable asset. UEFA is a multilingual organisation, publishing its official documents in its three official languages and providing interpreters at official meetings so that the majority of participants can speak in their own mother tongue.

Most of these documents are translated by UEFA Language Services, whose work over the years has resulted in the development of a database containing over 1,000 terms in the official UEFA languages of German, English and French. This collection is currently accessible only to the translators, which is a shame, since it could also be a useful aid for media representatives, association delegates, coaches and the UEFA administration in general.

It was in this context that the idea of the UEFA football dictionary was born. Over the past year or more, the existing database has been supplemented and expanded in close cooperation with the Sprachen- und Dolmetschsinstitut (SDI) in Munich and

the École de traduction et d'interprétation (ETI) in Geneva. On the basis of the original collection, which was made available to them, students of both institutions are in the process of adding entries in all three languages to a terminology database, which is being checked and validated by internal experts and UEFA Language Services. Each entry comprises various pieces of information, particularly the term in all three languages, a short definition, an illustration where possible and an indication of the field in which it is used. This will enable users not only to discover the translation of a particular term, but also to learn something about it if it does not fall within their particular area of expertise.

The fields covered by the dictionary include the terminology of the Laws of the Game, the field of play, equipment, technical aspects, tactics, the different competitions, football administration, media and doping. The most important medical terms relevant to football will also feature. Terms such as steward, grandstand seat, stoppage time, play-off, licensee, accreditation, set piece and solidarity payment will appear in all three official languages, as well as expressions such as outsmart the defence and level the score.

The dictionary is scheduled to be ready by April 2008 at the latest. It is not yet clear in what form it will be published (CD-ROM, via intranet and/or extranet). Whatever its form, however, communication within the football family should become easier as a result.



Pierluigi Collina gives his former colleagues the benefit of his experience.



Robert Malek and Grzegorz Gilewski, two participants in the elite referees' course.



Volker Roth, chairman of the Referees Committee.

Preparation in Rome

Referees must be firmer

AT THE ANNUAL WINTER COURSE FOR REFEREES, HELD IN ROME AT THE BEGINNING OF FEBRUARY, THE UEFA REFEREES COMMITTEE URGED MATCH OFFICIALS TO TAKE A FIRMER STAND AGAINST PLAYERS WHO ARE GUILTY OF A LACK OF RESPECT OR UNSPORTING CONDUCT.

Thirty-seven new international referees from 25 UEFA member associations gathered in the first half of the week at the 16th UEFA Introductory Course for International Referees. The participants first had to undergo the traditional fitness test, which for the first time did not consist of a 12-minute run (Cooper test), but an interval test in accordance with the new FIFA guidelines. As well as running six 40m sprints under 6.2 seconds, participants had to complete twenty 150m tempo runs, each in less than 30 seconds, with 35-second recovery periods. The referees each ran a total of 4,000m on the track at Rome's Olympic stadium.

As well as being familiarised with their new administrative duties, the new international referees were instructed on how to apply the Laws of the Game with uniformity and consistency. The different punishments for challenges deemed careless (free kick), reckless (free kick and yellow card) or using excessive force (free kick and red card) were discussed. Attention was also drawn to the importance of cooperation between referees and their assistants and of their duty to share responsibilities and communicate effectively.

The Referees Committee had similar messages for the participants in the 15th UEFA Advanced Course for Elite and Premier Referees, which was held in the second half of the week. *"If the*

referee doesn't gain the respect of the players, he will fail," said committee chairman Volker Roth. Excessive protesting, unnecessary provocation and simulation must be punished more heavily. *"We must stop this kind of behaviour,"* said committee member Hugh Dallas. Verbal and sometimes physical confrontation is becoming an increasingly serious problem, according to the Scot. He said that any attempt to deceive the referee should be punished with a yellow card. The referees were also urged to watch out for the increasing use of arms and elbows in challenges involving excessive force, particularly when directed at an opponent's head. *"It is the referee's responsibility to pro-*

tect the players from unfair play," said committee member Vlado Sajn.

His colleague Pierluigi Collina then told Europe's top referees that their preparations should no longer be limited to physical and technical aspects. *"Referees must be capable of reading the game, to know in advance how a match will be played,"* said the former Italian referee. Knowing a team's playing style and tactics, as well as the characteristics of their players, allows match officials to anticipate the way a game might evolve and to take preventive measures accordingly. However, mental preparation is becoming an increasingly important factor for referees. Mental training, according to sports psychologist Mattia Piffaretti, can help referees to maintain concentration during a match and to keep a cool head in critical situations.

After these courses, the referees are ready for the decisive phase of the UEFA club competitions. They will continue to use the radio communication system in these matches, since the committee has extended the trial period until the end of the season following the positive feedback received so far. The committee is expected to take a final decision on whether to officially introduce this technological aid for referees and their assistants in June.



Fitness tests for the new international referees.

PHOTOS: SPORTSFILE



The draw for the European Under-21 Championship in Stockholm.



The 2006/07 European Under-21 Championship will finish in the Netherlands this spring. One of the qualifiers, England (Kieran Richardson, in white) faced Spain en route.

Meetings and other activities

First competition for Montenegro



THE 17TH EDITION OF THE EUROPEAN UNDER-21 CHAMPIONSHIP (THE FIRST FIVE WERE KNOWN AS THE "UNDER-21 COMPETITION") BEGAN ON 13 FEBRUARY, WHEN THE DRAW WAS HELD IN STOCKHOLM, THE CAPITAL OF THE COUNTRY THAT WILL HOST THE FINAL ROUND IN 2009.

All UEFA's member associations except Andorra have entered this competition, which will see the latest new member, Montenegro, make its debut on the European scene.

The teams were split into nine groups of five and one of six, with matches to be played between 2 June 2007 and 10 September 2008. The 10 group winners and the best four runners-up will then contest play-off matches

to determine which seven teams will – along with Sweden, who qualify automatically – compete for the European title in spring 2009.

- Group 1:** Italy, Croatia, Greece, Albania, Azerbaijan, Faroe Islands;
- Group 2:** Czech Republic, Ukraine, Turkey, Armenia, Liechtenstein;
- Group 3:** Portugal, England, Bulgaria, Republic of Ireland, Montenegro;
- Group 4:** Spain, Russia, Poland, Georgia, Kazakhstan;
- Group 5:** Netherlands, Switzerland, Norway, FYR Macedonia, Estonia;
- Group 6:** Denmark, Slovenia, Lithuania, Finland, Scotland;
- Group 7:** Belgium, Slovakia, Iceland, Austria, Cyprus;
- Group 8:** Serbia, Hungary, Belarus, Latvia, San Marino;
- Group 9:** Germany, Israel, Moldova, Northern Ireland, Luxembourg;
- Group 10:** France, Romania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Wales, Malta.

LOOKING AHEAD TO EURO2008



EURO tickets

Tickets for EURO 2008 will be on sale via www.euro2008.com from 1 to 31 March 2007. Tickets can be ordered throughout the month on the official

If the number of applications exceeds the number of tickets available for one or more of the 31 matches, a lottery will be held for each over-subscribed match.

A total of around 75% of the tickets will go directly to the fans, including those allocated to the participating associations (the teams involved will each receive 20% of the tickets for each match).

A slogan for everyone

On 24 January, the official slogan of the final round of the 2008 European

Championship in Austria and Switzerland was revealed by Euro 2008 SA COO Martin Kallen: **Erlebe Emotionen, Expect Emotions, L'émotion au rendez-vous, Emozioni da vivere.**

"A slogan," said Kallen, "that describes in a nutshell what the 2008 European Championship has to offer: all kinds of emotions – joy, disappointment, relief and high tension – right up to the final whistle. Moments that will linger in the memory long into the future."

Friedrich Stickler, chairman of the Euro 2008 SA board and president of the Austrian football association, explained, "It was important that the slogan should apply to everyone: players, coaches and all the fans as well." Ralph M. Zloczower, member of the Euro 2008 SA board and president of the Swiss football association, said, "Having the opportunity to experience a European Championship final round live is an unforgettable experience for every sports fan; it's pure emotion."



The EURO 2008 host cities signed the Host City Charter in January. Zurich, Basle, Berne and Geneva for Switzerland...

website. It is important to note that applications received at the beginning of March will be treated no differently from those received literally at the last second.

No more than four tickets may be ordered per person (and match day).



... and Vienna, Innsbruck, Salzburg and Klagenfurt for Austria.



Unite, not divide: the motto chosen by FK Partizan Belgrade.



News from Brussels

On 24 January, the European Parliament took a close look at the report on the future of professional football in Europe. The Committee on Culture and Education, which is responsible for coordinating the report, discussed the substantial contribution of Belgian MEP Ivo Belet, as well as the opinion of the four other committees involved in the preparation of the final draft.



Ivo Belet

The report has been well received by UEFA, as it reflects the fundamental principles contained in UEFA's Vision Europe and in the Independent European Sport Review.

For example, the report states that:

[The European Parliament]:

1. Stresses its attachment to the European Football Model, with its symbiotic relationship between amateur and professional football;

5. Expresses its desire to avoid the future of professional football in Europe being determined by court decisions and to create greater legal certainty;

19. Believes that the Charleroi case currently before the European Court of Justice could seriously undermine the ability of small and medium-sized national football associations to take part in international competitions and threaten the vital investment in grassroots football made by national associations; in this respect, believes that clubs should release their players for national team duty without entitlement →

A match to celebrate the jubilee of the Treaty of Rome

On Tuesday 13 March, Old Trafford in Manchester will stage a match between Manchester United and an all-star European team.

The match, the proceeds of which will go to charity, is being held to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Treaty of Rome, which laid the founda-



Marcello Lippi will be in charge of the European team in Manchester.

RENTZ/BONGARTS/GETTY IMAGES

tions of the European Union, as well as 50 years of Manchester United's involvement in European competitions. It is being organised by the Manchester United Foundation and UEFA, with support from the European Union.

The European squad will be managed by Marcello Lippi, coach of the 2006 World Cup winners Italy, who will be assisted by UEFA Technical Director Andy Roxburgh.

Summer of Grassroots Football

Following the resounding success of UEFA's Summer of Grassroots Football campaign over the past three years, the fourth edition will soon be upon us.

UEFA, thanks to its partner, adidas, will be donating 350 grassroots programme footballs, 50 futsal balls, 40 ball nets, 150 T-shirts and 100 caps to be used at events organised by each national association.

As in previous years, each association will be able to nominate the best events organised in its country in the areas of grassroots football, disabled football, veterans' football and, for the first time this year, futsal.

A photographic competition is also part of the programme.

Fight against racism

The fight against racism remains one of the most serious concerns for European football and it receives support from many quarters, including the likes of FK Partizan Belgrade.

Playing on the fact that their traditional colours are black and white, the Serbian club has adopted the slogan "We do not separate black and white, we bring them together" in order to underline its determination to fight against all forms of discrimination. The club particularly demonstrated its commitment to combat racism at a domestic league match against FC Borac and its home UEFA Cup tie versus Livorno.

Roundtable in Nyon

Many professional sportsmen choose a career in sports management when they end their playing days.

Since 1978, the *Centre de droit et d'économie du sport*, based in Limoges, has been offering retired →



Last year the Summer of Grassroots Football photo competition was won by San Marino.

FA SAN MARINO

→ to compensation; encourages the UEFA and FIFA together with the European clubs to reach an agreement on a system of collective insurance being put into place;

20. Supports the UEFA club licensing system, which aims at ensuring a level playing field between clubs and contributing to their financial stability, and calls on UEFA to further develop this licensing system in order to guarantee financial transparency and proper management;

32. Clearly expresses its support for the UEFA measures to encourage the education of young players by requiring a minimum of home-grown players in a professional club's squad and by placing a limit on the size of the squads; believes these incentive measures are proportionate and calls on professional clubs to strictly implement this rule;

54. Maintains that joint selling in all competitions is fundamental to protecting the financial solidarity model of European football; welcomes a public debate on and further investigation by the Commission into whether this model should be adopted across Europe for both pan-European and domestic competitions, as suggested by the *Independent Sport Review 2006*; in this respect, calls on the Commission to provide a detailed evaluation of the economic and sporting impact of those media rights decisions and the extent to which they have or have not worked;

The 20-page report will be voted on by the 785 MEPs at a plenary meeting in Brussels on 29 March. If adopted, it would then become a resolution expressing the official view of the European Parliament, which embodies the will of the European people. The report is therefore of great importance to the European Union, UEFA, national football associations and in fact the sports community in general.



Souvenir photo of the CDES seminar.

→ sportsmen high-quality training in law, economics and sports management. Courses, symposiums and seminars are the components of these training programmes and UEFA hosted a seminar on sports event organisation at its Nyon headquarters on 5 and 6 February. Other topics covered by the seminar included development projects, implementation and ticketing, while on the Wednesday, UEFA officials presented different aspects of the European club competitions.

The event concluded with a roundtable discussion on the reasons behind the success of the UEFA Champions League. The speakers included two former French internationals, Laurent Blanc and Alain Roche, while Emmanuel Petit and Alain Boghossian, who also played for the French national side, participated in the seminar.

Congress of the European Former Players' Association

A professional footballer's life does not end when he finally hangs up his boots.

This undeniable fact forms the basis of the philosophy of the European Former Players' Association (EFPA), which aims to bring together

former top division players from all the UEFA member associations.

After a match played in Eindhoven the day before the UEFA Cup final last May, the EFPA's next major event will be a congress to be held in Barcelona from 23 to 25 March. The main theme will be the past, present and future of former players, their role in the football family and the ways in which they can help to spread the values of football among young people.

The aims of the congress are to analyse the situation of former players in Europe, to promote – through playing football – fair play, social values and the fight against discrimination, and to promote football and its values among young people.

The congress will be divided into three main sections:

- players' adjustment to their new life at the end of a career as a professional footballer;

- football as an instrument of social integration and growth of the community;

- healthy, sporting habits for young people.

The EFPA also aims to pay particular attention to young people, especially those who have to become integrated in a new community. Activities involving around 1,000 children are expected to bring the congress to a close.

Obituaries

- Vice-president of the German football association and president of the German football league, **Werner Hackmann** died on 28 January at the age of 59. He had served as a member of the UEFA Professional Football Committee since 2006, having been a member of the Administrative Experts Panel from 2004 to 2006. He had attended the UEFA Congress in Düsseldorf two days before his death.

- A member of the circle of former UEFA committee members, **Eliane Cremona** died at the beginning of February, aged 75. General secretary of the Luxembourg football association for 30 years, she was one of the first women, if not the first, to hold such an important post within a European national football association. She was also part of UEFA's group of experts on transfers from 1990 until 2004.



Joseph S. Blatter, Jean-Pierre Escalettes, Jean-François Lamour and Lennart Johansson cut the ribbon.



Jean-Pierre Escalettes, president of the FFF, outside the new headquarters.



French Football Federation

New headquarters in Paris

THE FRENCH FOOTBALL FEDERATION HAS MOVED INTO NEW HEADQUARTERS – THE FOURTH IN ITS HISTORY – WHICH REPRESENT THE START OF A NEW, MODERN ERA FOR THE FFF. THE BUILDING WAS OFFICIALLY INAUGURATED IN PARIS ON 11 JANUARY.

A new chapter in the history of French football began on Thursday 11 January. After 40 years near the Champs Elysées and Arc de Triomphe, the French football federation (FFF) left its opulent home on Avenue d'Iéna, where it had been based since December 1966, and moved into the "heart of the city", as FFF president Jean-Pierre Escalettes likes to emphasise. Crossing the Seine and moving from the 16th arrondissement of the French capital to the 15th, the "Maison Bleue" has a completely new setting on Boulevard de Grenelle, where life follows the rhythm of the elevated metro trains and the traditional Wednesday morning market.

But while this contrast is striking enough, the real change lies elsewhere: with a total surface area of 8,778 m², half of which is devoted to the administration, three floors of offices (140 staff), a 185-seat auditorium, 12 meeting rooms and welcome and reception areas, not forgetting the underground car park, the new FFF headquarters (double the size of the old premises, which had become much too cramped and fragmented on three sites) symbolise the firm desire of France's top football administrators to enter a new era, characterised by modernism and efficiency. "With these new headquarters," says Mr Escalettes, "we have designed an indispensable

tool that we hope will be highly efficient, so that our federation is better able to fulfil its responsibilities and act with greater strength, credibility and professionalism."

The official inauguration of these new premises on the evening of 11 January will have given the numerous guests (43 European nations were represented, 37 of them by their FA presidents) the chance to assess this transformation, which is coinciding with a far-reaching reorganisation of the internal functioning and federal image of the FFF, led by general secretary

Jacques Lambert, former CEO of the 1998 World Cup Organising Committee alongside Michel Platini and the late Fernand Sastre.

"With new headquarters and a new logo, your federation is moving forward," said FIFA president Joseph S. Blatter in his speech, in which he conveyed to the FFF the "congratulations of world football for the creation of this new tool. This magnificent headquarters is the future, an excellent example." His admiration was shared by Lennart Johansson, who was pleased "to wish the FFF good luck for the future", and by the minister of youth, sport and community life, Jean-François Lamour: "These new headquarters and this new environment also belong to the millions of players (editor's note: France has 2.2 million registered players) and football fans, as well as the hundreds of thousands of volunteers without whom football would not exist. I hope that this place will help to speed up the development of a discipline whose excellence is an inspiration for all French sport."

The new home of French football, which fits into the framework of a genuine "collective, motivating, action-based project," as Jacques Lambert described it, has therefore enjoyed a most auspicious opening. A page has been turned, but another is already being written.

Philippe Mayen



Photos: FFF

AUSTRIA



Austria has already chosen its team headquarters for EURO 2008

The die is cast! The Austrian national team's base before and during EURO 2008 will be in Burgenland – the Balance Resort in Stegersbach to be precise. Team coach Josef Hickersberger is absolutely delighted: "General Secretary Alfred Ludwig and I



The facilities selected by Austria as the base for its national team during EURO 2008.

have visited Burgenland several times and we have found the ideal location. I am sure that we will have the best headquarters of all the finalists," he said. With 318 beds and a health and fitness centre

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA



New head coaches elected

In response to the proposal of the technical coaching committee and the director of team selections, the presidency of the Football Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina (FF BHZ) appointed coaching staff for 14 teams.

After Fuad Muzurovic was elected head coach of the senior national team, Borce Sredojevic and Ivo Istuk were chosen as his assistants. The national "B" team will be headed by Husnija Arapovic, assisted by coaches Slobodan Ostojic and Ivan Soldo. The following head coaches were also appointed: Under-21s (Nikola Nikic), Under-19s (Ivo Knezevic), Under-17s (Velimir Stojnic), Under-15s (Zeljko Sperac), senior women (Ismet Bajric), Under-19 women (Dragan Joksimovic), futsal (Marin Corluka), Olympic (Sener Bajramovic), Mediterranean (Miran Dalic), amateurs (Slobodan Karalic), doctors (Edib Jerlagic) and veterans (Rade Vasiljevic).

Under his new contract, signed in the presence of general secretary Munib Usanovic, Fuad Muzurovic will be the head coach of the Bosnia and Herzegovina national team for the next three years, until the end of the qualifiers for the 2010 World Cup.

In other news, FF BHZ president Milan Jelic, together with vice-presidents Iljo Dominkovic and Sulejman Colakovic, welcomed a UEFA delegation headed by Executive Committee member Mathieu Sprengers. The subject of the meeting was the implementation of the HatTrick scheme in Bosnia and Herzegovina, including assistance with regular activities, the investment programme and the mini-pitch project. Significant emphasis was put on development of the FF BHZ administration and all other aspects of UEFA's assistance. Both delegations visited the first mini-pitch in the Sirokaca area of Sarajevo, which was constructed two years ago.

In the European Under-17 Championship, Bosnia and Herzegovina are set to host Group 3 in the elite round. The hosts will be joined by England, Serbia and Azerbaijan. The tournament will take place in the Kosevo and Grbavica stadiums in Sarajevo from 23 to 28 March.

For the first time in the history of Bosnia and Herzegovina, two women – Ivana Vlaic and Samira Hurem – are now on the list of FIFA referees. Ivana Vlaic is still an active player, while former international Samira Hurem is now a coach.

The second phase of the national premier league is scheduled to begin on 3 March and end on 23 May.

Fuad Krvac

DENMARK



A learning revolution in Danish youth football

In 2006, the Danish Football Association (DBU) initiated a radical renewal of football for children and youth players. This restructuring process is continuing in 2007 with strong political support.

The comprehensive change of strategy represents a long-term investment in improving Danish football and keeping youngsters in the sport. The new recommendations will contribute to securing the future of the Danish national teams while also focusing on the broad spectrum of grassroots football and young players as individuals.

These fresh initiatives ensure that youth football is played on the children's own terms. This implies smaller pitches, more playing positions, focusing on individual development instead of results, and of course ensuring that the children are having fun. The aim is to increase the involvement of children and heighten their desire to learn and play.

Danish Under-21 coach Keld Bordinggaard says: "Look at children when they play their own games of football spontaneously. They are involved, they play in a lot of different positions and they have to solve problems themselves. They are completely absorbed by the game and learn a lot – without fear of making mistakes and without the interference of adults. That is a wonderful environment for development."

The DBU initiative contains specific recommendations about the size of pitches, the number of players on the field and new training methods, which are all based on the children themselves. The extensive restructuring also means that competitive



The visiting UEFA delegation, headed by Mathieu Sprengers (centre).



Making football fun.

tournaments are replaced by weekend meetings for the youngest players. This will result in a reduced focus on results because the accumulation of points on a yearly or half-yearly basis will no longer take place.

Instead of only paying attention to the results, learning and development are much more important for young players. "Children need freedom to dribble, to do tricks and develop creativity. For children, progress is more important than results," says Danish head coach Morten Olsen. Young players need a safe and supportive environment in which to develop and to discover their creativity.

The learning revolution ensures coherence throughout the whole spectrum of Danish football – from the amateurs to the elite. To develop talent, it is necessary to have a broad basis and possess creative and individual players. This is the thinking behind the new recommendations in youth football in Denmark.

The next couple of years will be devoted to communicating the new approach to all parties in Danish football, including the clubs, parents and coaches.

Pernille Buus Mørkeberg

ENGLAND



Memorandum with the Asian Confederation

The Football Association (FA) signed a new Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) in January.

The new accord will continue the work of The FA's international development programme in Asia, which has benefited from The FA's technical expertise since 2000 after the first cooperation agreement was signed.

This latest MoU will run for an initial period of four years, 2007-2010, and will focus primarily on education and training,

FINLAND



First Nordic futsal conference

Finland had the honour of organising the first Nordic futsal conference in Helsinki from 30 to 31 January. It was attended by participants from Denmark, Iceland, Norway and Sweden, and FIFA and UEFA also sent representatives to the gathering.

Futsal started in Finland ten years ago. The first championship tournament was played in Jyväskylä in November 1997 and the first national futsal team matches were played in October 1998. Nowadays, Finland has over 20,000 futsal players in over 1,500 clubs. Other Nordic countries have just taken their first steps in futsal and there is enormous potential for growth. Sweden already had a representative in the 2006/07 UEFA Futsal Cup, Iceland has

tutor training, technical development and youth development, together with research and information gathering and kit donations.

All of the proposed FA activities have been identified to complement the AFC's own technical development plans and FIFA Strategic Development Plans.

"We are looking forward to starting this new phase of cooperation with the Asian Football Confederation in 2007," said FA chairman Geoffrey Thompson.

"It will build on a productive five-year period during which we established firm foundations in terms of education in football within the framework of Vision Asia.

"We value the personal interest and input from the president, Mohamed Bin Hammam, in ensuring that the FA-AFC cooperation agreement has been mutually beneficial.

"The sharing of expertise and experiences has undoubtedly contributed to the



Mohamed Bin Hamman, president of the AFC, and Geoffrey Thompson, chairman of The Football Association, shake hands on concluding their partnership agreement.

just staged its first national championship tournament, and Denmark and Norway intend to join the European futsal family in the near future. Willing as it is to help other Nordic countries develop their futsal activities, Finland presented many different viewpoints on futsal at the conference. SPL futsal expert Kalle Marttinen presented a history of Finnish futsal and how it is organised and being developed in Finland, including at national team level. Timo Korsumäki from the Ilves club presented futsal at the club level, while a broader geographical perspective was presented by Turku district manager Jouni Koivuniemi. In addition, key points from futsal refereeing were highlighted by Jyrki Filppu, an SPL refereeing expert.

Overall, the first Nordic futsal conference was a big success, with all the Nordic countries set to join the futsal family in the near future.

Kalle Marttinen

development of coaches, referees and administrators in Asia, and most certainly to the personal and professional development of our own tutors in England."

To kick-start the 2007 programme of events, The FA's Jamie Houchen and Les Howie travelled to Kuala Lumpur to deliver an FA learning workshop aimed at developing the AFC's elite instructors.

"Seminars like this are important for developing the skills of our coaches, instructors and assessors. Development is a continuous process," said AFC president Mohamed Bin Hamman.

Nada Grkinic

GERMANY



Bid to host 2011 Women's World Cup

The German Football Association (DFB) has decided to bid to host the 2011 FIFA Women's World Cup. The idea is supported by the DFB's president, Theo Zwanziger. "After the fantastic men's World Cup last summer, we want to organise an equally attractive World Cup for the women, to kindle enthusiasm amongst our guests and friends from all over the world and to enjoy wonderful football festivals in the cities and stadiums," he explained. The official launch of the DFB's bid campaign will take place in Berlin on 1 March.

The DFB's initiative is already being welcomed in various quarters, with the DFB receiving the full backing of the German government. Federal Chancellor Angela Merkel is the bid's most prominent supporter. She suggested the idea at the DFB's



BONGARTS/GETTY IMAGES

A photo shoot to boost the bid.

extraordinary general meeting in Leipzig in 2005. And long before the official FIFA list of bid requirements dropped through the letterbox at the DFB headquarters in Otto-Fleck-Schneise, numerous cities and stadium operators were putting their names forward as venues for the tournament.

The anticipation, which is already starting to build, is bound to increase steadily in the coming months. Various measures are planned, with support coming from many different sources. A photo shoot has already been held, for example, with members of the men's and women's national teams posing for a World Cup bid advertising campaign. "The widespread support that we are already receiving is serving to confirm our ambitions. If our bid is successful, we will leave no stone unturned in our efforts to organise another fantastic, unforgettable football festival," said Theo Zwanziger.

The 2011 Women's World Cup would build on the success of the 2006 World Cup as well as of the 2001 European Women's Championship, when attendance figures at German stadiums were excellent, setting a new tournament record. One thing in Germany's favour is the popularity of women's football in the country. This is reflected not only in the success enjoyed by the German national women's team, but also in the growth in the number of youth players, a result of the DFB's girls' football programme.

Niels Barnhofer

HUNGARY



MLSZ launches pitch project

As the Hungarian FA (MLSZ) has recognised, one of the main reasons why the standard of football and the number of registered players is lower than it should be – and certainly lower than in the past – is the reduced number and poor quality of football grounds in the country.

Although the standard of pitches was quite low under the communist regime, the situation became even worse after the political changes as many city councils made a profit selling youth and amateur club grounds. A survey showed that since 1990 almost 100 full-size football pitches were sold or otherwise disposed of by councils or companies in Budapest alone.

Encouraged by UEFA's successful Hat-Trick mini-pitch project, the Hungarian FA laid the foundations of a nationwide pitch project last November. As the state is unable to finance such a huge undertaking, the MLSZ leaders had to find alternative solutions. Together with the ministries for local government and regional development, the FA established a project agency under the direction of board member Sándor Scheer and monitored by the inventor of the project, MLSZ president István Kisteleki.



While not actually giving funding to applicants, the agency can help councils, schools or companies construct high-quality (third-generation) artificial turf pitches as quickly and as cheaply as possible. The agency also established an agreement under which banks would provide loans for those who best met the project criteria. All parties involved in pitch manufacture and installation were able to sign framework contracts via the agency. Although a city council or school has to fund its own pitch, in this way it pays much less than it would do if working with external contractors or banks.

As a first step, the OLLÉ (Országos Labdarugópálya Létesítési Program) agency held seminars and presentations throughout the country to underline the benefits of building communal pitches. Initial data showed that over 250 applications for pitch construction had arrived by the end

of January. The first pitches (about 100) will be completed by the end of the year.

There are three different sizes of pitch. The smallest is designed for children and is ideal for schools, since its surface area can be changed according to the size of the school playground. The medium-size pitch is a standard futsal pitch, which is the one chosen by most councils. The largest is a full-size pitch, which is ideal for clubs. All pitches include floodlights. Optional extras such as dressing rooms or benches are also available but are not needed in cases where an old pitch is restored.

Márton Dinnyés

MALTA



Growing involvement on European stage

For a country with a population of approximately 400,000, the role played by Malta in the competitive and administrative sectors of European football belies the small size of the football family on the island as compared to those of many other UEFA member associations.

Since joining FIFA in 1959, and UEFA a year later, Malta's name in global competitions has been cropping up time and again in almost all national team categories, men's and women's, and at club level in Europe.

The country's most recent involvement in international competition was in the 5th European Futsal Championship, where Malta was making its debut and also

LATVIA



First covered pitch in the Baltics

The first football field under a dome has been opened in Riga, at the Keizarmezs sports centre, where youth and senior teams will train. It allows training to take place in optimum conditions, regardless of the weather.

The Riga city council has bought the dome for more than half a million lats (EUR 800,000) and rented it to JFC Skonto for one year, with the possibility of prolonging the arrangement.

The pitch covered by the dome is a so-called four-star artificial pitch. It is also one of the best in the Baltics. It was a gift from the president of the Latvian Football Federation, Guntis Indriksons, to youth football, so that young players now can train near the lake in the fresh air during the summer.

The pressure which holds up the 18-metre dome is regulated by computer, which also heats up the dome to the desired temperature and reacts to the outside conditions – wind, snow, rain, etc. Inside, the dome measures 100 x 70 metres. A steel and cable frame support the dome and minimise the risk of damage to it.

Martins Hartmanis



Somewhere to play whatever the weather.



D. AQUILINA

Malta has joined the European futsal community.

hosting the preliminary round Group C matches, which had Kazakhstan, Cyprus and Georgia also participating.

This was endorsed by Pedro Angel Galan Nieto, the UEFA delegate, who stressed the significance of Malta joining the growing futsal family.

The logistical organisation of the tournament, being under the responsibility of the Malta FA Futsal Committee, invariably came under the scrutiny of UEFA.

Committee chairman John Farrugia, who is also MFA vice-president, said that the staging of the event on the island has served as an experience to fine-tune the organisational skills of the Maltese and enhance the name of the country as an ideal venue for similar competitions.

Malta's growing mention in European football, this time in terms of administration, was also very much apparent when late in January Joseph Mifsud, the Malta FA president, was re-elected to the UEFA Executive Committee for another four years, a post he will have held for a full 17 years when this latest term expires in 2011. This is an impressively long period, which continues to put Malta's name in continental football on a sounder footing.

Alex Vella

NETHERLANDS



A boost for futsal

The qualifying tournament for the 2007 European Futsal Championship in the city of Geleen was another recent boost for futsal in the Netherlands. Playing the likes of Serbia, Finland and Azerbaijan in the former mining area of the Netherlands was quite something in itself, but recent developments initiated by the Dutch FA (KNVB) have also provided incentives for schools, clubs and referees to further promote and professionalise futsal. It was always the idea of long-serving coach and former international Vic Hermans to make futsal a fully fledged member of the Dutch football family.

Last year, a number of schools in Amsterdam started a schools competition on Friday afternoons with the full support of the KNVB. Other cities followed this example soon after. Utrecht and Veldhoven now have a similar schools league and Maastricht is expected to follow suit. The initiative is now paying off. A

considerable number of youths have joined futsal clubs in their neighbourhood, and players and staff from one team at the Augustinus College in Amsterdam decided to join the futsal club AORC/Pallestra.

In other cities, the cooperation between schools and futsal clubs has been well received and very successful. Children involved in the schools competition are obliged to do a futsal referees' course in Amsterdam. Some schools have decided to make futsal a part of their physical education programme.

During the short winter break, many football clubs organised futsal events for their most junior members, once again indicating that this is far more than an occasional but entertaining pastime.

As in Belgium, futsal plays an even more prominent role than regular outdoor football in the integration of minorities. Youngsters can apply all their skills and try all their moves when playing in a limited space where they are not hampered by an uneven pitch, wind or rain. And the Dutch squad does not contain many typical Dutch names but quite a few that have more of a Moroccan sound to them.

Rob de Leede

NORTHERN IRELAND



Top award for Castle Park Juniors Mini Soccer Centre

Northern Ireland legend Gerry Armstrong recently paid a visit to the Castle Park Juniors FC Co-operative Insurance (CIS) Mini Soccer Centre.

As well as being on hand to pass on some skills tips to the children, he also presented them with a CIS Mini Soccer Centre Award for the month of January.

Each month awards are presented to two centres and, as well as receiving the honour of being named a monthly award winner, each centre receives ten footballs and a set of CIS bibs and CIS branded discs.

The Castle Park Juniors FC CIS Mini Soccer Centre is based at Ward Park in



Children at the Castle Park centre.

Bangor and runs on Saturdays from 9.30am to 1.30pm and on Mondays from 6.30pm to 7.30pm. As part of the IFA's grassroots programme, the CIS mini soccer centres play a key role in encouraging boys and girls of all abilities to participate in football.

The centres provide fun and informal football coaching based around small-sided games for girls and boys aged between six and 12.

■ BBC Radio One DJ and TV presenter Colin Murray, a keen Northern Ireland football fan, has agreed to become Northern Ireland's first ever Football For All Ambassador, helping to highlight supporter-led initiatives at both Irish League level and on the international scene to tackle sectarianism, racism, promoting disability football, women's football and community-led programmes which use the sport of football to promote positive community relations.

Colin's first act as ambassador is to host the first ever Football For All Awards night at the Wellington Park Hotel in Belfast on 24 February:

"The Football For All Awards night is designed to reward the unsung heroes and volunteers who are the lifeblood of football in Northern Ireland. It recognises the fans who have made a positive stand against sectarianism, promoting the game in the right light, and it rewards volunteers at grassroots level who promote disability football and women's football, as well as those behind the scenes who usually don't get the praise they deserve."

Northern Ireland international David Healy signalled his approval of Colin's new role:

"Colin has been a very vocal friend to Northern Ireland football and his support is appreciated by the players and fans. His continued support for Football For All both at international level, domestically and at grassroots level can only be a good thing for the game in Northern Ireland."

Caroline Menary/Michael Boyd

REPUBLIC OF IRELAND



FAI's standards among highest in Europe

On the occasion of the UEFA Congress in Düsseldorf recently, the Football Association of Ireland (FAI) was among the eight associations admitted to the UEFA Grassroots Charter.

The UEFA Grassroots Charter is a benchmark of quality and the FAI's technical department had to satisfy stringent criteria in the areas of structure and philosophy, player programmes, and league and coach programmes, as well as un-



David Blood, president of the FAI, presents a souvenir to former international referee Anders Frisk.

→ dergoing a formal inspection from UEFA's football development division.

FAI president David Blood and chief executive John Delaney received the grassroots charter from UEFA president Lennart Johansson and chief executive Lars-Christer Olsson at a special ceremony in Düsseldorf.

The FAI technical department has gone from two employees to over 70 in the past eight years and has an annual budget of EUR 10 million, which is spent on implementing 19 separate development programmes covering all levels of the game. It has already published a technical development plan, a women's development plan, an emerging talent programme and a referee development plan, and is currently working on a school development plan.

Among the technical department's most recent innovations have been the appointment a national intercultural coordinator and a national volunteers coordinator.

■ Former FIFA referee Anders Frisk was in Dublin recently to help the FAI launch its referee development plan. The plan for 2006-2011 is the vehicle through which an agreed, effective and integrated referee recruitment, training and development framework will be achieved. The association aims to double its current number of registered referees of 1,000 over the next five years.

It is also hoped that the charter will enable affiliated referees to progress at senior level and even officiate at UEFA Champions League group stage level.

■ The FAI has assembled a highly qualified team of experts to conduct a special professional coaching course for the top managers/coaches working at club and international level in Ireland. The course is the first of its kind to be held in Ireland and is geared for coaches/managers who have already qualified for the UEFA "A" coaching diploma.

Under UEFA club licensing regulations, the head coach is required to hold the top level coaching qualification in the country and the managers therefore needed to attend this course. The programme sched-

ule is highly intensive and covers practical as well as theoretical exercises.

Much emphasis is placed of course on team preparation and development, football tactics and squad training drills.

Representatives of the business world delivered papers on management styles and techniques, and attention was also paid to the business management of clubs, with emphasis on developing an effective club structure.

The second stage of the UEFA PRO licence will take place in June.

Fran Whearty

ROMANIA



EU entry leads to rule changes

As a result of becoming a member of the European Union on 1 January, Romania is faced with the need to adapt various laws and regulations, including those relating to sport.

At its first meeting of 2007, the executive committee of the Romanian FA took the first decisions in this respect aimed at regulating the issue of EU and non-EU players.

During this meeting it was decided that, as of 1 February, all Romanian teams regardless of their category will be able to sign an unlimited number of EU players. With respect to non-EU players, some restrictions will apply, as follows:

- first division men's teams, and also women's clubs, will be allowed to enter a maximum of five non-EU players on the match sheet, only three of whom will be able to play;
- second division and also futsal teams will be able to have up to three non-EU players on the match sheet, only two of whom can actually play;
- third and fourth division teams and those from the lower leagues, as well as youth teams, will be allowed to have two non-EU players on the match sheet and only one of them on the pitch.

However, because some first division teams had several non-EU players registered before January 2007, the next executive committee meeting, on 16 February, may decide to allow four non-EU players to be fielded in the first division until the end of the 2006/07 season.

Romanian FA president Mircea Sandu said: "It is imperative that we adapt our regulations. But we are right at the beginning in this issue and only practical experience will tell us what we need to do in the coming months and years with regard to the issue of non-EU players."

Paul Zaharia

SCOTLAND



Sponsorship for the SYFA Scottish Cup

The Scottish Youth Football Association (SYFA) has launched its partnership with Co-operative Insurance (CIS). The agreement will see CIS sponsor the SYFA 14s Scottish Cup, building upon its existing grassroots football programme.

The CIS Insurance 14s Cup is a national tournament in which over 4,000 players take part. All 306 youth teams who participated in this season's tournament will benefit from the agreement.

To mark the occasion, Archie Knox (SYFA youth teams national coach) launched the sponsorship with David Little (SYFA national secretary), Toni Franchittii (Co-operative Insurance) and children from Holyrood secondary school at Hampden Park.

Archie Knox commented: "The children who play in the CIS Insurance 14s Cup are the future of our national game. Youth football needs as much support as it can get, so to see CIS Insurance involved at grassroots, as well as senior level, is terrific."



Archie Knox (left), David Little, Toni Franchittii and the SYFA Cup trophy.

David Newman, Director of Marketing for Co-operative Insurance (CIS), added: "Football plays an important role in communities throughout Scotland and sponsorship activity like the CIS Insurance 14s Cup reinforces our involvement in community football. Our grassroots football programme also includes the CIS Insurance Cup Kit for Kids initiative that provides schools and youth clubs with football kit, the CIS Insurance Cup Roadshow, which provides access to the trophy and match tickets for families and junior teams, and CIS Insurance Cup masterclasses that see coaches from senior teams visit schools to provide them with training and equipment. We look forward to working with the SYFA and all its clubs during this season's CIS Insurance 14s Cup."

The CIS Insurance 14s Cup is a massive step forward for grassroots everyday football in Scotland. This generous spon-

sorship allows the SYFA to continue its valuable work with the most important people within Scotland, our nation's youth. Participation in grassroots football has a number of huge benefits to young players, such as health, but not forgetting fun and enjoyment.

The CIS Insurance 14s Cup final will be held at the Excelsior stadium, Airdrie on 6 May.

David Little

SERBIA



Boosting match attendance

Among a number of problems shared by various Balkan and South-East European countries, a major issue in football is the very poor attendance at domestic league matches. This is a reflection of other major social issues at the start of the 21st century.

With a view to making some improvement to the situation, the football association of Serbia has come up with a new strategy. Over the last two months it has held three Rotary Club sessions under the slogan "Bring supporters back to the stadiums".

The host of the sessions has been Serbian FA president Zvezdan Terzic, who has invited six different guests on each

occasion. All meetings have been held in the biggest media centre in Belgrade. The first guests were the chief editors of the major domestic newspapers, followed by a group of leading Serbian coaches. The third meeting involved top officials from Super League clubs, including Dragan Stojkovic from FK Crvena Zvezda and Nenad Popovic from FK Partizan.

Zvezdan Terzic said: "We want to be realistic, to identify the problem and do everything we can to solve it quickly. We are considering all the possible reasons why the stands are empty and taking an honest look at where the supporters are. It may be connected with the difficult economic and financial situation in the country, poor infrastructure, low quality of players and matches, concerns about security – especially from parents with regard to their children – and the wide choice of international matches shown live on domestic TV. I'm convinced that we will identify the reasons and find answers for the future which will bring the supporters back. That is both our desire and our duty. Domestic competitions form the base for the future and we cannot expect success at the national team level without that."

In other news, the Serbian FA has organised various visits to primary schools. National team players have come into the schools to talk to the children, take photos and invite them to take part

fully in sport and follow in their footsteps. The message is very clear and the schools are happy to hear it.

Aleksandar Boskovic

SWITZERLAND



The importance of players of foreign descent

Elsener, Grobety, Schneider, Tacchella, Fuhrer, Bani, Durr, Odermatt, Kunzli, Hosp, Schindelholz. These 11 players, all dyed-in-the-wool Swiss nationals, faced Germany in Sheffield in the summer of 1966 in their opening World Cup match. They lost 5-0. Their other results were



Johan Djourou is one of the best examples of the integration of players of foreign descent into the Swiss national teams.

SLOVENIA



15 years of international football

In 1992, a year after its independence, Slovenia became a full member of the international football community, and on 3 June the Slovenian national team played its first official international game. This was a friendly against Estonia – another newly independent country – and the match in Tallinn finished in a 1-1 draw. The first national head coach, Bojan Prsnikar, recalls: "It was hard to form a national team but even harder to find an opponent. In the end the only option was another new country such as Estonia. I can remember that we were accommodated in a youth hostel, there were a lot of students and even the food was geared to students." This was only the beginning of a 15-year series of successes. Slovenia started their first qualifying campaign in 1994 with a draw against then world vice-champions Italy and after only two campaigns managed to achieve their first big objective – EURO 2000. This was followed by the 2002 World Cup, with Slovenia be-



The commemorative match between Slovenia and Estonia was decided from the penalty spot.

ing the smallest ever country to participate in such an event so far, no mean achievement for a country of two million that this year celebrates only 15 years of international football. The football associations of Slovenia and Estonia decided to celebrate this joint anniversary with another friendly, which was staged this month in Domzale. The Slovenian FA provided the home fans with free tickets, a gesture that was greatly appreciated. The game was played in a wonderful atmosphere and was decided by a first-half penalty.

Uros Stanic

not much better. It mattered little whether they fielded Kuhn, Stierli, Quentin, Brodmann, Eichmann, Leimgruber, Gottardi, Armbruster or the players who had lost the opening game – two more defeats followed and the Swiss were eliminated after the group stage.

Twenty-eight years later, at the 1994 World Cup finals in the USA, with Italian-born Pascolo and Sforza and Argentinian Subiat in the team, the red and whites performed more honourably, reaching the last 16. Senderos, Siqueira-Barras, Milosavac, Maksimovic, Barnetta, Dugic and Antic were part of the 2001 Swiss Under-17 team which sensationally lifted the European Championship title. Djourou, Senderos, Barnetta, Hakan Yakin, Cabanas, Dzemaili, Benaglio and Behrami successfully wore the red and white colours at the 2006 World Cup in Germany. And Kiassumbua, Pribanovic, Borkovic, Knezevic, Nimeley, Cicek, Karac, Bankovic, Ben Khalifa, Dakouri, Drmic, Santabarbara, Savic, Seferovic, Ukoh, Mihajlovic, Baljic, Basha, Berisha, Duzhmani, Nguyen, Micic and Rebronja, who currently represent the Swiss Under-15, Under-16 and

Under-17 national teams, could all feature in the 23-man squad at the 2014 World Cup. The chances of Switzerland qualifying for the World Cup in seven years' time, rather than being spectators as they often have in recent times, are excellent. For since the Swiss (SFV) reorganised its youth set-up 12 years ago and decided to help youngsters from Africa, South America, Croatia, Serbia, FYR Macedonia, Kosovo, Italy, Spain and Portugal as well as those from Emmental, the Zurich Oberland and Lake Geneva in their efforts to become world-class players, Switzerland has once again become a force to be reckoned with on the international football stage.

One of the SFV's key objectives is to contribute to the general well-being and social integration of young people by helping them to use their leisure time constructively. Around 40% of the 240,000 registered footballers in Switzerland are of foreign descent. For them, football is a chance to become integrated in Switzerland through their on-pitch ability and camaraderie without suffering discrimination. It offers a path to respect, recognition and the prospects of a successful future. For in contrast to politics and society itself, different cultures coexist successfully in football, where the word "foreigner" has positive connotations.

The fact that the Swiss national team is now back among the world's best teams, occupying 14th place in the FIFA world rankings, which include more than 200 member associations, is primarily the result of the SFV's youth development programme and the seamless integration of foreign youngsters. Dzemaili and Gygax understand each other on and off the football pitch just as well as Behrami and Zuberbühler, or even Müller and Vogel, who both grew up near Meyrin on the outskirts of Geneva.

Pierre Benoit

TURKEY



Aegean Cup goes to Turkey

The traditional Aegean Cup which is organised every year by the Turkish football association ended with a Turkish victory at the beginning of February. Belgium, Greece, Norway, Romania, Slovakia, Spain, Ukraine and Turkey as hosts participated in the Under-16 tournament, which took place in the Aegean region of Turkey.

The hosts started the tournament with a 1-0 win against Romania. In the second match Turkey beat Slovakia 8-1 and in the last group match they drew 0-0 with Bel-



Batuhan celebrates the goal that secured the Aegean Cup for Turkey.

gium. With the group winners playing the final and the group runners-up contesting the third-place match, Turkey faced Group B winners Spain in the final. Batuhan's goal in the second minute gave the Under-16 side trained by Senol Ustaomer a 1-0 win against a very com-

petitive Spanish side and with its overall victory in the tournament.

Belgium and Ukraine played for third place in a match that ended in a goalless draw. Belgium went on to beat the Ukrainians 3-2 in the penalty shoot-out.

Ilker Ugur

UKRAINE



New trends in player development

In a recent training camp, Ukraine's Under-16 national side has continued gearing up for the qualifying round of the European Under-17 Championship, taking account of innovations made by the Football Federation of Ukraine (FFU) and general new trends in football. In January, Anatoliy Buznik's team contested the Aegean Cup in Turkey, finishing fourth in the competition, which has become an annual fixture for Ukraine.

"What plays a critical role in today's football is psychology. As a result of securing the services of sports psychology expert Professor Valentina Voronova for this training camp, we have been able to establish psychological profiles which help to discover and fine-tune the future potential of players," said head coach Anatoliy Buznik.

The coaching think-tank is carrying out a mission to identify and select prospective candidates for the national squad. In order to keep an eye on budding prospects, the FFU has set up centres of excellence for the development of children's football. Coaches are actively engaged in scouting for young talent throughout the country, the aim being to supervise and foster the professional development of young players.

"We are always placing major challenges in front of our team. Specific targets include sharpening players in matches against tough opposition, looking closely at their technical skills, and exploring various tactical scenarios." Two players have received their first caps for

the national team, with seven players receiving their call-up following a training camp for footballers recommended by the centres of excellence for developing children's football.

"The standard of the training camp was high," said Anatoliy Buznik. "We played matches against good sides, the quality of our performance visibly improving with every game. Over the entire period we identified about ten footballers who possess agility, quick thinking and other key qualities. The prime objective for our national side is to identify footballers who have the capacity to reach the top level of excellence in four or five years' time."

Valery Nikonenko



Coach Anatoliy Buznik issues his orders.



Communications

Birthdays – Calendar

Notice

On 1 February, Lazar Mitrovski resigned from his post as general secretary of the Football Federation of FYR of Macedonia. Ilija Atanasovski has replaced him on a temporary basis.

Match agents

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

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New publications

Rocznik 2006-2007

The latest in a series on football from the Polish *encyklopedia piłkarska*, this publication by Andrzej Gowarzewski is an official almanac of Polish football, with photos, league tables and lists of players from all premier division clubs. It also devotes a large section to international football and to competitions in other countries in Europe and America.

(wydawnictwo GiA – P.O. Box 2772 – 40 357 Katowice 14 – Poland; email: wydawnictwo@gia.pl)

Annuario del calcio mondiale 2006-07

The 19th edition of this perennial publication by Salvatore Lo Presti contains over 1,000 pages of essential reference material for all lovers of statistics and for anyone who needs easy access to all key information on international football.

(Cantelli Editore, Via Saliceto 22/E, 40013 Castelmaggiore (BO), Italy. Fax: +39 – 051 63 288 15)



Birthdays

Match delegate Konstantin Vikhrov (Ukraine) celebrates his 70th birthday on 27 March. Two referee observers will be 60 this month: Esa Antero Palsi (Finland) on 4th and Christakis Skapoullis (Cyprus) on 18th. Thomas Partl (Austria), chairman of the Control & Disciplinary Body, will follow suit on 13 March. Kenneth Scott (Scotland), security officer, reaches his half-century on 7 March, as does Juraj Obložinsky (Slovakia) the following day.

UEFA also wishes many happy returns to:

- Benny Jacobsen (Denmark, 1.3)
- Sergey Tatulyan (Ukraine, 1.3)
- Damir Vrbancovic (Croatia, 2.3)
- Gerhard Mayer-Vorfelder (Germany, 3.3)
- Boris Durlen (Croatia, 6.3)
- Liana Melania Stoicescu (Romania, 6.3)
- Pedro M. Aurteneche Viñegra (Spain, 7.3)
- Dusan Maravic (Serbia, 7.3)
- Tomás Gea (Andorra, 7.3)
- Josep Lluís Vilaseca Guasch (Spain, 8.3)
- Alexis Ponnet (Belgium, 9.3)
- Vladimir Aleshin (Russia, 9.3)
- Hendrik Kesler (Netherlands, 9.3)
- Joseph S. Blatter (Switzerland, 10.3)
- Mateo Beusan (Croatia, 10.3)
- Lucien Kayser (Luxembourg, 11.3)
- Olga Zhukovska (Ukraine, 11.3)
- Jean-François Crucke (Belgium, 12.3)
- Vlastibor Minarovech (Slovakia, 13.3)
- David Taylor (Scotland, 14.3)
- Michel Verschuere (Belgium, 17.3)
- Liutauras Varanavicius (Lithuania, 17.3)
- Andreas Georgiou (Cyprus, 18.3)
- Marcello Nicchi (Italy, 18.3)
- Marina Tashchyan (Armenia, 18.3)
- Steve Williams (England, 19.3)
- Lambros Adamou (Cyprus, 20.3)
- Luigi Agnolin (Italy, 21.3)
- Antal Dunai (Hungary, 21.3)
- Jim Boyce (Northern Ireland, 21.3)
- Chris Georgiades (Cyprus, 22.3)
- Michail Kassabov (Bulgaria, 22.3)
- Franz Krösslhuber (Austria, 23.3)
- Andrea Lastrucci (Italy, 23.3)
- Outi Saarinen (Finland, 23.3)

- Daniel Claudiu Prodan (Romania, 23.3)
- Maurizio Laudì (Italy, 24.3)
- Wilfried Straub (Germany, 26.3)
- John McClelland (Scotland, 27.3)
- José Antonio Casajus (Spain, 27.3)
- Armen Minasyan (Armenia, 27.3)
- Mario van der Ende (Netherlands, 28.3)
- Pavel Cebanu (Moldova, 28.3)
- Edgar Obertüfer (Switzerland, 29.3)
- Ian Beasley (England, 29.3)
- Stefan Ormandjiev (Bulgaria, 29.3)
- Alan Snoddy (Northern Ireland, 29.3)
- Bernadette Constantin (France, 29.3)
- Juan V. Dura (Spain, 29.3)
- Miriam Malone (Republic of Ireland, 29.3)
- William Hugh Wilson (Scotland, 30.3)

Upcoming events

Meetings

1.3.2007, Barcelona

Draw for 2007/08 European Under-19 and Under-17 Championship qualifying rounds

8.3.2007, Athens

Club Competitions Committee

9.3.2007, Athens

Draw for UEFA Champions League quarter-finals and semi-finals

16.3.2007, Nyon

Stadium and Security Committee

16.3.2007, Glasgow

Draw for UEFA Cup quarter-finals and semi-finals

19-20.3.2007, Nyon

European Club Forum

23.3.2007, Nyon

Anti-Doping Panel

26.3.2007, Nyon

Executive Committee

Competitions

6-7.3.2007

UEFA Champions League: first knockout round (return legs)

8.3.2007

UEFA Cup: round of 16 (first legs)

14-15.3.2007

UEFA Cup: round of 16 (return legs)

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