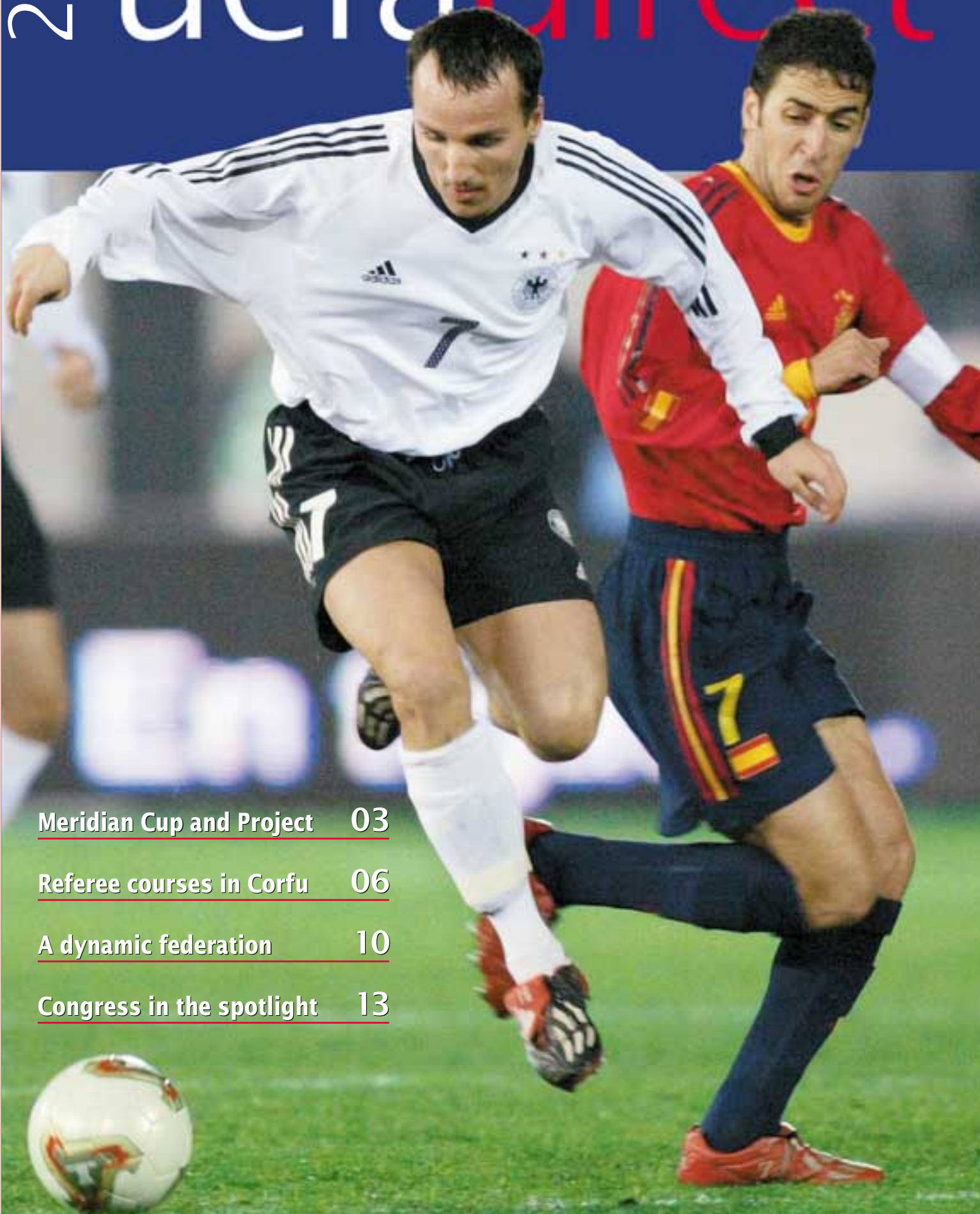


2.03

uefa **direct**



Meridian Cup and Project 03

Referee courses in Corfu 06

A dynamic federation 10

Congress in the spotlight 13

COVER

The EURO 2004 qualifiers resume in March, and the national teams, including Spain (Raul, in red) and Germany (Jens Jeremies), were busy preparing themselves in February.

PHOTO: BONGARTS

IN THIS ISSUE

Meridian Cup in Egypt	05
Referee courses in Corfu	06
Footballer migration	08

Italian Football Federation	10
Identical requests by parties	12
European Club Forum	15
News from member associations	17

editorial

united against racism!

The proliferation of international transfers and, in particular, of intercontinental transfers can have the positive effect of giving supporters the opportunity to get to know something about people from another culture and perhaps also of another colour. This, combined with the development of home-grown players from minority communities, has helped to produce a multicultural mix in the world of football.

In many instances this has helped to challenge prejudice and improve understanding. However, this is not always the case. Unfortunately, racist incidents still frequently rear their ugly heads in the form of banners or crowd behaviour, abuse of players and insults hurled by players on the field.

UEFA has been making a determined effort to eradicate racism for a long while, through disciplinary sanctions, by initiatives such as our ten-point plan of action, launched at the end of last year, and by offering financial support to the FARE (Football Against Racism in Europe) organisation.

UEFA realises that its action against this scourge of society is only one part of the picture, which is why we are pushing for a concerted effort on the part of all those concerned.

The European conference on racism being organised by UEFA in London at the beginning of March is a step in that direction. UEFA is joining forces with FARE and The Football Association to co-ordinate the event.

Representatives of the national associations, leagues, clubs, supporters' groups and the police will come together to raise awareness of racism, share experiences and propose solutions.

The first of its kind in European football, this conference is not an end in itself but rather a means to an end and the start of a campaign that should concern each and everyone of us.

Gerhard Aigner
Chief Executive



Players from other continents are an ever familiar sight on the football fields of Europe.

EMPICS

WE CARE ABOUT FOOTBALL





The Meridian Cup is an opportunity to make friends and discover another continent.

HASAN JAWALI

Meridian Project

t w o n e w d i r e c t p a r t n e r s

AS A PRELUDE TO THE MERIDIAN CUP, THE MERIDIAN BOARD MET ON 24 JANUARY AT THE NEW CAIRO HEADQUARTERS OF THE AFRICAN FOOTBALL CONFEDERATION (CAF).

One of the objectives of the meeting, which was chaired by CAF President Issa Hayatou and UEFA First Vice-President Senes Erzik, was to review co-operation between the two continental confederations and the direct aid provided over the past two years to the Cape Verde and São Tomé e Príncipe football associations. In the case of São Tomé e Príncipe, the first phase of direct aid provided equipment for 67 youth teams, around 500 plastic balls, referee equipment, first aid supplies and a photocopier and fax machine for the secretariat. In the second phase, assistance was offered in the IT sector, vehicles were provided and training courses organised. However,

the main aim was to provide the association with its own headquarters, and this was also achieved.

Collaboration with the Cape Verde FA was split into three phases. Since the country is made up of several islands, priority was given to communication as each regional association was equipped with computers, telephones and fax machines. Vehicles (coaches, minibuses) were also purchased. The focus of the second phase was on development, with the provision of equipment for players and referees, stadium facilities and first aid supplies. The third phase was devoted to training, with courses in the fields of coaching, medicine and administration.

In Cairo, the Meridian Board reiterated its belief in the usefulness of this collaboration and the need for it to continue. It also expressed support for the idea of extending bilateral relations between national associations from UEFA on the one hand and CAF on the other. It also hoped that the Afro-European co-operation programme could be better co-ordinated with FIFA's development programmes.

As far as direct aid from UEFA is concerned, two new national associations (Ethiopia and the Central African Republic) were chosen to benefit from the European confederation's support in 2003 and 2004.

Finally, the Meridian Board confirmed that, in accordance with the alternation principle, the next Meridian Cup would be held in Europe in 2005.

The Ajax players showed their support of the Red Cross campaign.



The Burkina Faso team.



The Cairo national stadium was filled to capacity for the gala match.



gala match in Cairo

Egyptian winning goal

THE GAME BETWEEN AFC AJAX AMSTERDAM AND EGYPTIAN TEAM

AL-AHLY RAISED THE CURTAIN TO THE 4TH MERIDIAN CUP. THE MATCH WAS PLAYED

ON 24 JANUARY IN THE CAIRO NATIONAL STADIUM IN FRONT

OF MANY DIGNITARIES, INCLUDING UEFA FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT SENES ERZIK,

UEFA CEO GERHARD AIGNER AND CAF PRESIDENT ISSA HAYATOU.

A colourful and lively crowd of 30,000 came to watch the gala match, 10,000 of whom were already in the stadium two hours before kick-off to cheer for the local team.

Al-Ahly, also known as the “Red Devils”, had shown in the past that they feared no one on their home ground, even high-calibre squads such as Real Madrid or AS Roma. However, the “Red Devils” were to lose their recent unbeaten streak against European squads, with Egyptian Ahmed “Mido” Hossam scoring AFC Ajax’s winning goal. Mido was undoubtedly the player to watch, and despite the fact that he used to wear the colours of Zamalek, Al-Ahly’s rivals in the Egyptian championship, he was well received by the local supporters.

Both teams tried to adopt a positive approach, but it was a defensive fixture with little space for the attackers on view, and despite the friendly nature of the contest, it was a very intense match. Ajax midfielder Tomás Galásek opened the

score in the 24th minute, a lead that the Amsterdam side took into the dressing room at half-time.

In the second half, Ajax soon began dominating the field, taking total control of midfield. Their efforts eventually paid dividends in the 70th minute, when a long ball from Nourdin Boukhari found Mido in the box. The Egyptian striker controlled well on his chest and managed to hustle the ball past Khashaba to give his side a 2-0 lead. Only two minutes later, Wael Gomaa opened the score for the “Red Devils” with a goal which set the Ahly stands ablaze, with the fans spurring their team on for an equaliser, which was not however to be.

This opener to the Meridian Cup match also served to draw public attention to the campaign of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to protect the child victims of war. Speeches were made and pennants and T-shirts distributed to highlight the fact that the 2003 Meridian Cup was dedicated to this particular ICRC campaign. UEFA Chief Executive Gerhard Aigner also paid a visit to the headquarters of the Egyptian Red Crescent.



Mido, Ajax's Egyptian striker.

Spain vs Egypt.



HASAN JAMALI

The prize-giving ceremony.



AP

Switzerland vs Mali.



HASAN JAMALI

Meridian Cup another European win

**ORGANISED JOINTLY BY THE AFRICAN FOOTBALL CONFEDERATION (CAF)
AND UEFA, THE 4TH MERIDIAN CUP WAS WON BY THE EUROPEAN CONTINENT
IN A SUNNY EGYPTIAN TOURNAMENT PLAYED IN EXCELLENT CONDITIONS
FROM 25 JANUARY TO 1 FEBRUARY.**

Europe's representatives, Switzerland, France, England and Spain, collected 36 points, leaving the African teams, Nigeria, Burkina Faso, Mali and hosts Egypt, with six points between them. This is the second time that Europe has won the competition since the new format was introduced last time round, when the tournament was staged in Bari, Italy. Under the new format, the competition is played as a round robin, with each European team facing each African nation once.

However, the Meridian Cup is not just about winning; it is also about friendship and cultural exchange between the participants from the two continents. In any other youth tournament organised by UEFA, the teams are accommodated in separate hotels, but to emphasise the importance of friendship among the participants, the teams involved in the Meridian Cup stay in the same place. This year, all eight delegations stayed at the Olympic Village in Ismailia, 150 km north of Cairo, on the banks of the Suez Canal.

On the rest days, the players had plenty of opportunities to make new friends, including on a trip on the Nile and a visit to the famous pyramids. The participants were also able to use the facilities of the resort, from the swimming pool to the gym. "It's great to be in the

Olympic Village. The atmosphere is fantastic", said Nigerian defender Nkem Ogunwo. "The Meridian Cup is special because it's Africa



against Europe, which makes it a very prestigious tournament for us to compete in."

Some of the participants even exchanged addresses and hope to meet again in the future. Swiss

defender Arnaud Bühler hooked up with Burkina Faso's Mustapha Diallo in this way. "We hope to stay in contact and I will do my best to help Mustapha to come to Europe. Playing in the Meridian Cup not only gave me the chance to play against African teams for the first time but also made me understand that the Africans are playing with fewer means than us, and for that they deserve a great deal of respect."

four wins for Spain

Although the Meridian Cup is now won by a continent rather than a single team, the regulations still make provision for the team which obtains the most points to be honoured. As was the case in Bari two years ago, Spain once again outperformed the rest and even bettered their points total of 2001 (10) this time round, by winning all four of their matches and clocking up the maximum total of 12 points, scoring 16 goals and conceding just one in the process. Europe's four representatives again came away with a remarkable record, with none of them actually losing a match.



AP

On the African side, Burkina Faso finished in the best position. Spain were also on the receiving end of some of the other awards at stake, namely for top scorer (Jonathan Soriano) and best goalkeeper (Gabriel Ribas). The fair play trophy was won by France.

The appreciable crowds (some 5,000 attended the Egypt vs Switzerland match) enjoyed matches which were generally attacking in style, as reflected by the average of 2.5 goals per match.



The captains of the four European teams.

AP



PHOTOS: UEFA



Werner Helsen (in white) prepares the participants for action.

UEFA

referee courses hungry to do well

IN THE MIDST OF WINTER, MANY FOOTBALLERS LIKE NOTHING BETTER THAN TO GET AWAY TO WARMER CLIMES TO PREPARE THEMSELVES FOR THE SECOND HALF OF THE SEASON. EUROPE'S TOP REFEREES ARE NO DIFFERENT, AND THE GREEK ISLAND OF CORFU PROVIDED AN IDEAL SETTING FOR THE ANNUAL UEFA REFEREE COURSES AT THE END OF JANUARY.

UEFA invited 29 elite-class referees – many of whom took part in last year's FIFA World Cup – and 21 first-class referees to Corfu for the eleventh UEFA Advanced Course for Top and First-Class Referees. In addition, a group of 52 newcomers to the European international refereeing scene travelled to this idyllic venue for the 12th UEFA Introductory Course for International Referees, to receive briefings about their new duties as match officials for UEFA games, and to prove their fitness for taking charge of high-pressure games at the highest level.

Training and practical elements

The courses combined training and practical elements. The referees were not only tested for their fitness, but also had the chance to discuss present items of concern with members of UEFA's Referees Committee, all of whom were in Corfu to give presentations at the courses and exchange ideas and proposals with the referees.

Another recent innovation by UEFA in this sector has been to hold the advanced and introductory courses at the same time, as this gives the young newcomers to the European scene the chance to rub shoulders with experienced referees of the calibre of Italy's Pierluigi Collina, who reached the refereeing summit last year when he was appointed to take charge of the FIFA World Cup final between Brazil and Germany.

Fitness test

As much of northern Europe was hit by the first heavy snow of the winter, spring-like sunshine greeted the new European referees for their fitness test at the Kerkyra stadium. Under the supervision of UEFA's referee fitness experts Werner Helsen – who prepares detailed training programmes for Europe's top referees – and Jean-Baptist Bultynck, the referees had to run a minimum 2,700 metres in 12 minutes,



The referees in the classroom...



... and out on the training ground.



The elite and first category referees.



two 50-metre sprints in a maximum 7.5 seconds per sprint, and two 200-metre sprints in a maximum 32 seconds per sprint.

All of the “rookies” came through the fitness test successfully, and some of them displayed the pace and stamina of top-flight middle-distance runners or sprinters. To survive in today’s high-pace game, referees have to be fitter than ever. *“It’s pleasing to see just how fit they are”*, said Referees Committee member José Maria Garcia-Aranda, himself a leading referee only a few short years ago. *“They’re obviously hungry to do well.”*

Specific training

Meanwhile, the elite referees did not take the full fitness test this year. They undertook a specific training session with Werner Helsen, in which their fitness preparation was checked. For the refereeing “crème de la crème”, fitness routines and rigorous dietary programmes are a way of life. You have to look after yourself if you want to keep up with the Zinedine Zidanes and Roberto Carloses of this world...

Current issues

Away from the running track and gymnasium, the referees took part in a series of discussions and presentations on current issues on and off the field. New referees were shown how to complete a referee’s report and prepare for a UEFA match – the latter advice coming from Portugal’s Vitor Melo Pereira, himself the UEFA Cup final referee last May, and now a UEFA Referees Committee member.

Technical discussions examined topics such as the standard application of the Laws of the Game, uniform decision-making on unfair challenges, and the necessity for referees to use their personality to take charge of football matches.

Fighting racism

UEFA took the opportunity to urge the referees to make a full contribution to the fight against racism in football. *“You will have seen and heard racism expressed in its various forms at matches in which you have officiated”*, UEFA’s competition operations director Jacob Erel told them. *“Chanting, in particular against black players, the harassment of players, referees and spectators, and banners. If you see a banner as a referee, please draw this to the attention of the match delegate.”*

English test

UEFA requires its international referees to learn English to an adequate standard, and the introductory course participants in Corfu took an English test in which they were asked to write a disciplinary report of a match incident. UEFA does not expect each referee to have a “Shakespearean” knowledge of English – but they should have a sufficient grasp of English to be able to communicate important matters in their dealings with UEFA.

Referees certainly deserve greater respect from players, coaches and the media – a point emphasised by Völker Roth (Germany), Chairman of the UEFA Referees Committee. *“For me, respect is a question of education, and there is not enough respect for referees at the moment”*, he said. *“Around Europe, the most criticism is for referees. If a player misses a clear goal, it is written about less than when a referee makes a human mistake – this is unfair on referees.”*

Credit to UEFA

“Referees are really a team, and a team only wins if all of the parts do their job”, said Pierluigi Collina. *“To do the job, the key word is preparation – fortunately, UEFA is giving the referees every support to be able to prepare in the best possible way”*, Referees Committee member Ken Ridden concluded the course by giving the top referees a glowing reference. *“The Referees*

Committee has tremendous faith in you as individuals – we know

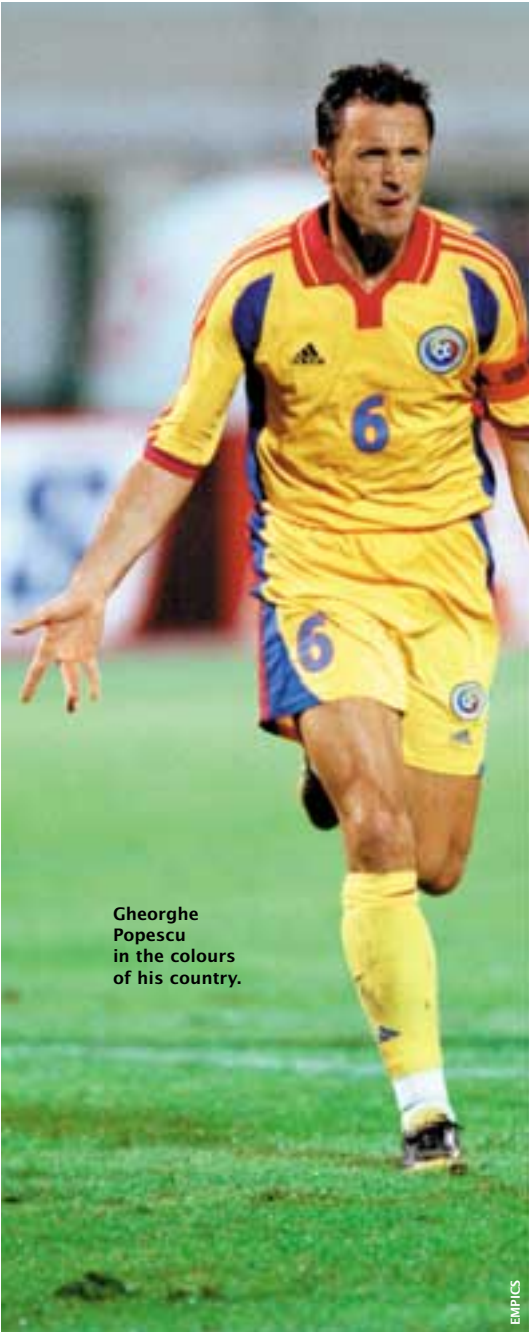
you are fit, and we know you are firm and impartial”, he told them. *“We have to be looking for quality, and we know that we have quality in Europe. We feel that you are a credit to UEFA.”*

The UEFA Referees Committee issued a set of guidelines and recommendations for European referees after the Corfu courses. These recommendations and guidelines can be found in the “Training Ground” section of the official UEFA website, uefa.com. (www.uefa.com/trainingground).

Like his fellow participants, Kyros Vassaras is ready for his next assignment.

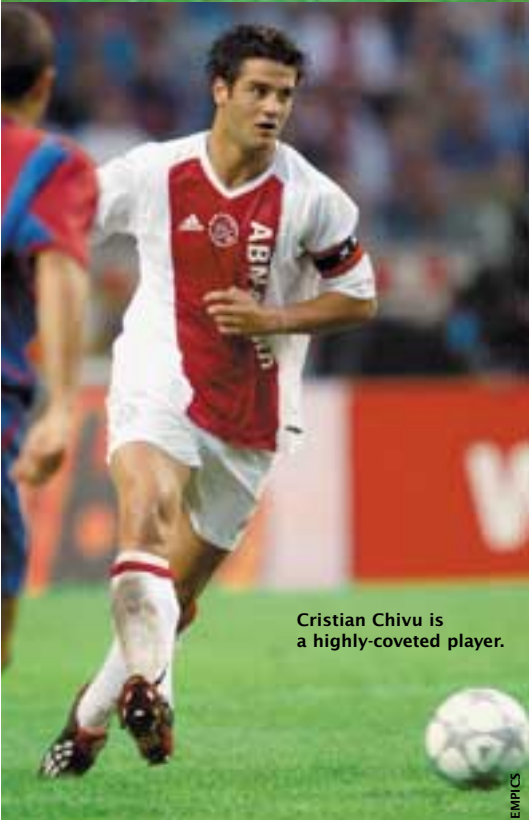


EMPICS



Gheorghe Popescu in the colours of his country.

EMPICS



Cristian Chivu is a highly-coveted player.

EMPICS

Romania vs Croatia in the 1998 World Cup.



Ioan Lupescu (right) in the colours of Borussia Mönchengladbach.

FLASH PRESS

footballer the Romanian example migration

THE MIGRATION OF FOOTBALLERS TO CLUBS PLAYING IN THE TOP EUROPEAN LEAGUES IS NOT A NEW PHENOMENON. IT HAS, HOWEVER, BEEN HAMPERED FOR MANY YEARS BY ADMINISTRATIVE BARRIERS (SUCH AS AGE RESTRICTIONS ON THE RIGHT TO LIVE AND WORK ABROAD) AND TECHNICAL OBSTACLES SUCH AS LIMITS ON THE NUMBER OF FOREIGN PLAYERS PER CLUB.

The break-up of the former Soviet Union and the liberalism which it triggered, together with the Bosman ruling in the west, have accelerated player migration to the extent that poorer countries are now finding it hard to prevent their best players moving abroad. Here, our correspondent George Gisca looks at the example of Romania.

Since 1990, an enormous number of Romanian players have moved to foreign climes to pursue their careers. Most have joined clubs in the top European leagues (Italy, Spain, England, Germany, France, Netherlands, etc.), although others have had no hesitation in signing for Ukrainian, Russian, Hungarian, Moldovan, Korean, Japanese and even Chinese clubs. For those who have tried their luck in the smaller leagues, the move has sometimes been a step backwards in career terms, but a small step forward from a financial point of view. Many have returned home before the end of their contract, bringing with them neither regrets nor particularly fond

memories. Ilie Dumitrescu and Miodrag Belodedici even finished their careers abroad in Mexico.

Successes and failures

Romanian players who have joined clubs abroad have experienced varying levels of success. Gheorghe Popescu has enjoyed a long, distinguished career despite playing for no less than five European clubs (PSV Eindhoven, Tottenham Hotspur, Barcelona, Galatasaray and Lecce). He was even appointed captain of Barça, a rare honour for a player born outside Catalonia!

Hagi shone with the Romanian national team, but for various reasons never really found his best form at Real Madrid or Barcelona. In contrast, he did well at Brescia, in Italy, and ended his career on a high in Istanbul, becoming the “sultan of Galatasaray”. Successful careers have also been (or are being) enjoyed by Lupescu (eight seasons in Germany, where he played for Bayer Leverkusen and Borussia Mönchengladbach), Filipescu (now in his fifth season with Betis of Seville), Gâlca (Mallorca,



Gloria Bistrita (Sorin Bucuroaia, left) were knocked out by Lille (Nicolas Bonnal) in the 2002 UEFA Intertoto Cup.

BONGARTS



FLASH PRESS

Dan Petrescu (left), playing for Chelsea against S.S. Lazio.



EMPICS

Espanyol and Villarreal), Craïoveanu (Real Sociedad, Villarreal and Getafe), Adrian Ilie (Galatasaray, Valencia and Alaves), Dan Petrescu (Foggia, Genoa, Sheffield Wednesday, Chelsea, Bradford and Southampton), Chivu (captain of Ajax and a defender coveted by Europe's top clubs), Contra (Alaves, AC Milan and Atlético de Madrid), Alin Stoica (who left for Belgium at the age of 17, played for Anderlecht and is now at Club Brugge), Dorinel Munteanu (Cercle Bruges, FC Köln and Wolfsburg), Mircea Rednic (Bursaspor, Standard Liège and K. Sint Truidense VV), Tararache (five seasons with Grasshopper-Club) and loan Timofte (Porto and Boavista). Mutu, who is currently doing very well for Parma AC, appears to have a bright future ahead of him.

A number of other players who were certainly talented, but also rather temperamental and physically fragile, such as Raducioiu (a genuine globetrotter, who played for Bari, Verona, Brescia, AC Milan, Espanyol, West Ham, Stuttgart and Monaco), Catalin Munteanu (Salamanca, Espanyol, Albacete) and Dennis Serban (bought by Valencia but loaned out several times to smaller clubs, including Rapid Bucharest) have experienced a mixture of success and failure. Others, including Hanganu (Samsunspor and Cercle Bruges), Sabin Ilie (Valencia, Cottbus) and Ionut Lutu (who moved several times from Steaua to Galatasaray, from Steaua to South Korea and back to his original club, Universitatea Craiova) failed to make an impression because of personal problems.

Finally, the careers of Gabi Balint (Burgos), Mateut (Real Zaragoza, Brescia, Reggiana), Daniel Pro-

dan (Atlético de Madrid and Glasgow Rangers) and Sabau (Feyenoord, Brescia) were blighted by a long list of injuries.

Consequences

For Romanian players, a transfer abroad represents a huge step forward both in terms of their career and from a financial perspective. Those who play in the strongest leagues in Europe gain in value, train hard and acquire a winner's mentality. The Romanian national team

selectors can therefore call upon the type of players they need for the tough qualifying campaigns and the major tournaments, the World Cup and European Championships. The Romanian team has achieved its best performances with the help of players from the "foreign legion".

Romanian clubs which sell their best players wisely have ensured they have the means to survive, improve their facilities and invest in youth development.

Young players themselves are highly motivated by the thought that they

might one day be able to join one of the top European clubs.

Not everything is rosy, however: the mass exodus of young talent to foreign leagues means that Romanian clubs rarely manage to get past the first round of the European competitions!

George Gisca



EMPICS

The best-known Romanian footballer, Gheorghe Hagi.



Franco Carraro with Artemio Franchi at the European Championship draw in 1980 and at a more recent event.

UEFA



FIGC



EMPICS



Luigi Di Biagio gets the better of Craig Bellamy (Wales), but the Italian national team is having trouble hitting the heights again.

EMPICS

XXVII ordinary UEFA Congress a dynamic federation

AFTER 1960, 1968 (ORDINARY AND EXTRAORDINARY CONGRESSES), 1973 AND 1980, ROME AND THE ITALIAN FOOTBALL FEDERATION (FIGC) WILL SHORTLY HOST EUROPEAN FOOTBALL'S PLENARY ASSEMBLY FOR THE SIXTH TIME. HERE, WE TAKE A LOOK AT A UEFA MEMBER ASSOCIATION WHICH IS ENDEAVOURING TO TAKE UP NUMEROUS CHALLENGES ON SEVERAL DIFFERENT FRONTS.

When, at the end of 2002, Franco Carraro looked back at his first 12 months as FIGC president (a position he had already occupied twice previously – from 1976 to 1978 and, on a temporary basis, in 1986), he bravely described the year as an “annus horribilis”. He was not just referring to matters on the pitch (no Italian teams reached the quarter-finals of the European club competitions, while the national team was eliminated from the World Cup at the last 16 stage), but also to financial, social and political developments: clubs were beset by financial problems (Fiorentina went bankrupt and were banished from the world of professional football), depressing phenomena such as violence and racism returned to Italian stadiums and, to sum up the decline of a country which had gloriously won three World Cups, one European Championship and numerous European club trophies, Italy was no longer represented on either the FIFA or UEFA Executive Committees.

Franco Carraro immediately set about restructuring the FIGC: in

order to force clubs to manage their finances more responsibly, he introduced sporting sanctions such as the forfeiture of league points for administrative irregularities – a kind of precursor of the UEFA club licence due to be introduced in 2004. At the sporting level, he brought in combined blood and urine testing to enhance the fight against doping; on the social front, he submitted to the government a bill proposing more severe penalties for violent supporters; and from a technical perspective, he created Club Italia, a project designed to boost the activities, competitiveness and image of all the national representative teams, from the youth team to the senior squad.

In a further effort to revitalise an outmoded system, the Italian leagues are to be reformed, with a reduction in the number of professional clubs to be counterbalanced by the strengthening of the amateur sector. In particular, discussions have begun with the government of Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi, a man who is sensitive to the problems facing football. The aim is, by all possible legislative means, to create more efficient structures, adapted to the modern game: 1) management of *Totocalcio* and betting, in order to

The Italian clubs have not won a UEFA club competition since 1999, when S.S. Lazio achieved a double (Cup Winners' Cup and Super Cup).



The Futsal conference in Coverciano.



The Coverciano technical centre.

guarantee a reliable source of financial revenue; 2) privatisation of club stadiums, which should be restructured with a view to multi-functionality and community use; 3) television rights and the fight against piracy, in order to promote more centralised marketing of goods, many of which are still being sold on the black market; 4) issues connected with contingency funds and taxes, with a request for special dispensation for football clubs, such as a law allowing them to spread over ten years any losses caused by the devaluation of players in a time of market decline.

As well as these internal reforms, Franco Carraro is attempting to restore Italy to its rightful place on the international scene where, as a leading expert in modern Olympism, he has always been very active and his work highly valued. FIFA, for example, asked him to chair its Audit Committee, which monitored FIFA's administrative affairs following its well-publicised financial problems; he is also a member of UEFA's working group on EU-related issues, responsible for dealing with all aspects of UEFA's complex, increasingly important relations with the EU. And, with Italy taking over the six-monthly EU presidency on 1 July, Franco Carraro (who is also an important economic and financial figure in Italy) will be able to lobby on football's behalf for recognition in Community legislation of the game's specific characteristics.

In the meantime, the FIGC has increased its representation within the UEFA and FIFA committees, where talks are aimed at the improvement of football. Italy now has more representatives than most countries and is the only one with a member in both refereeing committees, for example. Moreover,

Franco Carraro, who firmly believes in the principle of solidarity for the harmonious development of all European football, the engine of world football, has invited UEFA to use any of the FIGC's facilities for all kinds of events and meetings. Having hosted the first UEFA Futsal Conference (Coverciano, November 2002), Italy is the venue of the 3rd European Futsal Championship (Caserta and Aversa, 17 to 24 February). Demonstrating its willingness to assist other national associations, Italy has also granted Israel's request to play its EURO 2004 qualifying matches against France and Cyprus in Sicily in April.

Meanwhile, in February and March, Juventus, AC Milan, Internazionale and AS Roma will be participating in the second group phase of the UEFA Champions League; another UEFA conference is to be held in Italy for grassroots football coaches (Coverciano, 1-3 July) and the Italian technical centre has been made available for either a European doping conference (Italy is leading the way where doping controls are concerned) or a pre-season course for the top European referees. In the meantime, work has already begun

in preparation for the European Under-17 Championship, the finals of which will be held in Italy in 2005. The FIGC has also offered to help organise the celebrations for UEFA's 50th anniversary and FIFA's centenary in 2004 - an example of how Franco Carraro is keen to promote good relations between the two international federations.

For the time being, however the FIGC is preparing to host the XXVII Ordinary UEFA Congress on 27 March in Rome, a truly "eternal" city which will have the pleasure of welcoming Europe's football parliament for the sixth time; an event which will mark exactly 30 years since Artemio Franchi's election as UEFA President, but also the twentieth anniversary of the death of the "Grand Duke of Tuscany", a man who will never be forgotten and a solid pillar of a UEFA which, even before the European Union, managed to break down numerous obstacles in order to unite the continent. And still today, Franco Carraro is hoping to ensure that the FIGC can bring Italian football back to the European stage on which it truly belongs.

Sergio Di Cesare

Head of the FIGC International Affairs Department



The Italian referees in training.



A foul, a red card and disciplinary action is bound to follow.

UEFA appeals procedure identical requests by the parties

UNDER ARTICLE 55 OF THE UEFA DISCIPLINARY REGULATIONS (DR),

IF THE REQUESTS OF THE PARTIES ARE IDENTICAL, THE APPEALS BODY MUST COMPLY

WITH THE REQUEST, PROVIDED THAT IT IS NOT OBVIOUSLY INAPPROPRIATE. THIS HELPS

TO MAKE THE PROCEEDINGS QUICKER AND, IN PARTICULAR, LESS EXPENSIVE.

In fact

In the 39th minute of a UEFA Cup match played during the current season between clubs H and A, player N was shown the red card by the referee for head-butting an opponent. On 10 October 2002, on the basis of the referee's report, the UEFA Control and Disciplinary Body (CDB) suspended the guilty player for four UEFA club competition matches. From a legal point of view, the CDB considered the player's conduct to constitute assault under the terms of Article 10.1 (c) of the DR. The CDB judged that the offence had been aggravated because the assault had been committed with the head and was therefore dangerous.

On 14 October 2002, club H and player N both lodged an appeal against the decision. Referring to the prior provocation of the guilty player and the relatively harmless nature of his reaction, they asked for the suspension to be reduced to one match. In his reply to the appeal, the UEFA representative (disciplinary inspector) proposed that the suspension be reduced to three matches. He argued that video footage proved that the head-butt had constituted an assault. However, he believed that the CDB had failed to take into consideration the obvious provocation that had preceded the incident. In a submission made on 18 October 2002, the appellants

agreed with the disciplinary inspector's proposal.

On 25 October 2002, the Appeals Body complied with the parties' identical request and reduced the suspension to three club competition matches.

On these grounds

Both parties – the appellants on the one hand and the disciplinary inspector as the UEFA representative on the other – submitted the same request to the Appeals Body that the decision of the CDB be amended and the suspension of player N be reduced to three club competition matches. Under the terms of Article 55 of the DR, the Appeals Body must comply with these identical requests, provided that they are not obviously inappropriate.

These requests cannot be described as obviously inappropriate because they do not concern a breach of the rules. The disciplinary bodies use their judicial discretion to determine the length of a suspension in accordance with the general principles for the fixing of penalties set out in Article 17 of the DR. Reducing the suspension to three competition matches cannot be considered an abuse of that discretion; in fact, it is fully justifiable, since the CDB clearly failed to take into account the mitigating factor of provocation when taking its decision.



FLASH PRESS



France (here versus the Czech Republic) will play Brazil in Paris.



A. SABATTINI

Portugal is actively preparing for EURO 2004, both on the field (against Italy) and behind the scenes. The UEFA Executive Committee received a progress report at its meeting in Athens.

meetings and activities focus on the congress

The Executive Committee held its first meeting of the year in Athens on 5 and 6 February, devoting a large chunk of its discussions to the Ordinary Congress due to take place in Rome on 27 March.

Following a day of strategic discussions, and in between meetings with representatives of the Greek government connected with talks with the European Union concerning the specific nature of sport, the Executive Committee approved the programme and agenda of the XXVII Ordinary UEFA Congress. Since these general assemblies of European football are now held annually, there will be no elections in Rome. The main focus will be on finances, with the examination for approval of the annual statement of accounts for 2001/02 and submission of the budget for 2003/04.

In addition to the reports by the Executive Committee and Chief Executive, delegates from the member associations will receive details of the new UEFA assistance programme, which will replace current programmes such as KIOSK and the EEAB, and which will be available to all European national associations.

The delegates will also be asked to vote on a draft amendment to the Statutes, to be tabled by the Executive Committee. The amendment proposes that, without prejudice to the democratic procedure and outcome of elections to the UEFA Executive Committee, the latter should be permitted

to appoint one or two additional members itself, in order to guarantee the fair geographical distribution of members. The member(s) appointed by the Executive Committee would attend all its meetings but would not be entitled to vote. They would serve a two-year term.

Before forwarding the accounts statement and budget to the Congress for approval, the Executive Committee examined them itself. Treasurer Mathieu Sprengers drew attention to UEFA's healthy financial situation in spite of a drop in revenue, particularly non-football-related income, the faltering stock market and the contributing factor of falling interest rates. The Executive Committee members were also informed about the new accounting system which, with its three dimensions, will make it easier to monitor and, therefore, control expenditure.

50th anniversary preparations

Founded on 15 June 1954, UEFA will celebrate its 50th anniversary next year and a programme of festivities is already being drafted, the main aspects of which were brought to the Executive Committee's attention in Athens. Since UEFA has as many member associations as there are weeks in the year, each association will be honoured for one week in a variety of ways, including special features on the uefa.com website.

Book launches, award ceremonies and special events will be held throughout the year and the celebrations will be inter-linked with FIFA's centenary (with a match between France and Brazil in Paris in May), the 50th anniversary of the Asian Football Confederation and the centenaries of the Austrian and Swedish football associations.

Among the projects currently being implemented, the executive body was informed of the state of progress of plans for the UEFA club licensing project, which is due to be introduced across Europe in 2004/05 and should therefore be operational at national level from next season. Most national associa-

National team football (EURO qualifier between Iceland and Scotland) represents an increasing share of UEFA's revenue.



BONGARTS

Negotiations are going well as far as sponsorship contracts for EURO 2004 and the UEFA Champions League are concerned. Amstel has just prolonged its UEFA Champions League contract until 2006 and Canon have signed up as a sponsor for EURO 2004. Gerhard Aigner and Hajime Tsuruoka, President and CEO of Canon Europe.



KEYSTONE



EMPICS

tions (34) have already submitted their national handbook, setting out the criteria which their clubs will have to meet.

New video library

Another project that has the Executive Committee's backing is the creation of a video library of UEFA matches. The aim is to preserve UEFA's history whilst protecting its rights. Footage from all UEFA club competition and European

Championship matches will be digitised so that high-quality pictures are preserved for the use of UEFA itself, its disciplinary bodies, national associations, clubs and UEFA partners. UEFA New Media has already begun the task of processing video cassettes.

Football development is one of UEFA's primary objectives, which is why the Executive Committee welcomed a project devoted to grassroots football, i.e. all football that is neither professional nor elite. The aim of the project is to promote the principles on which the success of the UEFA Convention on the Mutual Recognition of Coaching Qualifications is based, i.e. a coaching structure which helps UEFA to monitor and support the work of the national associations and other bodies involved in grassroots football. The Executive Committee expressed

the wish that refereeing should be included in this project and that a precise budget should be drawn up.

Finally, the Executive Committee approved the *Guidelines and Recommendations for Stadium Lighting for all UEFA Competitions*. The previous version, which dated back to 1995, needed to be adapted in line with technical advances. This was completed following consultation with experts and broadcasters.

New format and regulations

The Club Competitions Committee met at the House of European Football in Nyon on 31 January to discuss, in particular, the club competition regulations for 2003/04, which will be put to the Executive Committee for approval in March.

The proposed amendments relate principally to the new UEFA Champions League format, under which the first (and only) group phase will be followed immediately by direct knock-out matches. The draw to be made after the group matches will respect the usual criteria: no matches between teams from the same group, or between group winners, or between teams from the same national association.

The committee was also in favour of the proposal to adopt the "silver goal" rule for all direct knock-out club competition matches. This extra-time rule, which has already been introduced for finals, means that if one team is in the lead at the end of the first 15-minute period of extra time, the match will stop there; otherwise another 15-minute period will be played and, if there is still no result after that, the match will be decided by kicks from the penalty mark. In the case of extra time only, this amendment could signal the end of the rule of away goals counting double.

The international calendar and the distribution of UEFA Champions League revenue also came under the committee's consideration. As far as the revenue distribution system is concerned, the committee preferred



FLASH PRESS

UEFA Champions League matches (AFC Ajax vs AS Roma) are archived digitally.

WORLD YOUTH (UNDER-20) CHAMPIONSHIP: FIFA has conducted the group draw for this competition, which will run from 25 March to 16 April in the United Arab Emirates. Slovakia join hosts UAE in **Group A**, alongside Panama and Burkina Faso, while Spain, in **Group B**, will come against Argentina, Uzbekistan and Mali. In **Group C**, the Czech Republic have been tied with Brazil, Canada and Australia; in **Group D**, England are joined by Colombia, Egypt and Japan; in **Group E**, Republic of Ireland will face Saudi Arabia, Mexico and Côte d'Ivoire, and last but not least, **Group F** pits Germany against Paraguay, USA and Republic of Korea.

to continue with the present system, whereby the participating clubs receive set amounts and an amount that varies according to the TV market, and solidarity payments are also made out of the revenue. The new format is expected to bring in TV and marketing revenue of CHF 850 mill.

On other matters, the committee was informed that the venues for the UEFA club competition finals in 2004 and 2005 will be decided in July, and that the field of participants in the UEFA Intertoto Cup will be increased from 60 to 61, to make room for a representative of the Football Union of Kazakhstan, which joined UEFA last year.



New guidelines for stadium lighting.

EMPICS

European Club Forum

Nearly 80 of the 102 member clubs of the European Club Forum were represented at the Forum's third plenary meeting, held in Nyon on 11 and 12 February.

These meetings always follow the same pattern, and the resulting routine favours an increasingly effica-

cious way of working: the proceedings begin with a presentation on a few topical issues, which are then discussed in four groups; a plenary meeting follows, providing a chance for debate, questions and, finally, conclusions.

Despite the natural diversity of interests to be found among the clubs within such a broadly based body, their delegates proved to be in agreement on a number of points, as observed by David Dein (Arsenal FC) at the press conference that followed the Forum. The Club World Championship, for example, does not strike them as having any great financial or sporting interest and, above all, it would add to the congestion of the international match calendar which efforts are currently being made to relieve. The Confederations Cup is equally unpopular with the clubs, who are keen to allow their players time to recover. The question of compensation for clubs releasing their players for national-team duty calls for a distinction between compensation and payment of insurance premiums. The clubs see the possibility of compensation for the final



England on the right track

Since 1993/94, UEFA has compiled fair play rankings based on the conduct of the teams of every national association (national teams and club teams) in all its competitions except the UEFA Regions' Cup. The national association that tops the rankings at the end of the season is rewarded with an extra place in the UEFA Cup, which goes to the team that wins the corresponding national fair play award. Another two UEFA Cup places are also at stake and they are assigned by means of a draw involving all the associations who finish on eight points or more.

At the mid-season stage, and subject to a few matches for which the data has not yet been entered, England top the table and another nine associations are on an average of eight points or more:

1. England	95 matches	8.203
2. Sweden	38	8.166
3. Poland	50	8.143
4. Finland	37	8.128
5. France	87	8.080
6. Russia	51	8.079
7. Rep. of Ireland	28	8.063
8. Slovakia	36	8.023
9. Switzerland	52	8.020
10. Germany	79	8.002

From top level down to the youth sector, the fair play spirit should always be present.



FLASH PRESS



Kicks from the penalty mark are the last resort for determining the winning team.

EMPICS



The study of artificial turf continues.

UEFA

administration waves two goodbyes

The small team of people who have retired from the UEFA Administration (former General Secretary Hans Bangerter, his deputy, Michel Daphinoff, Marc-Etienne Tapernoux and Vreni Peterhans) is growing in size, with a 50% increase in numbers, and certainly in terms of charm, with the retirement of two of the administration's most loyal members.

Silvia Meister has already joined this select group since, having taken up her duties 31 years earlier, on 15 August 1971, she retired from her regular work at UEFA at the end of 2002.



Silvia Meister was not only the longest serving member of the UEFA Administration (apart from Chief Executive Gerhard Aigner); she also embodied the transition from UEFA's time in Berne to the establishment of its Nyon headquarters. Indeed, she was responsible for looking after the UEFA archives until they were finally moved to Nyon last year. Silvia Meister had previously worked directly with the General Secretary before becoming a valued member of the personnel department.

Another witness of the rapid growth of European football's administration, Rita MacKinnon, has been working for UEFA since 1 September 1976.



She will retire at the end of February. As a loyal member of the finance department, she has managed to combine the precision necessary in her field with the flexibility required by the transition from calculators to computers and from traditional book-keeping to three-dimensional data processing. Responsible, among other things, for checking match accounts and reimbursing referees and delegates, she fulfilled her tasks with exemplary diligence.

These two departures represent the loss to UEFA's administration of almost 60 years' experience in one fell swoop. Fortunately, the two young pensioners have always been willing to pass on their expertise to eager colleagues, through whom they will continue to shine within the UEFA Administration whilst enjoying their new-found freedom for what we hope will be a long time to come.

stages of major international competitions, in particular.

The delegates also unanimously appreciated the presentation by Peter Kenyon (Manchester United FC) on behalf of a working group on the marketing of new media rights. A detailed document has been drawn up that will now be circulated. It will be put to the Forum at its next meeting with a view to its implementation from the 2003/04 season.

The clubs are also of one mind as regards the new transfer regulations: there is a need for greater clarity to put an end to doubts and differences of interpretation.

The 2003/04 UEFA club competition regulations did not draw any objections, however, with the proposal to introduce the so-called "silver goal" rule, currently applied in the UEFA club competition finals, in the knock-out stages of all UEFA competitions as well. The delegates were also unanimous regarding the international match calendar and are keen to see the final stages of the other confederations' competitions take place over the same period as the European Championship final round.

There were several proposals in response to the new, more liberal kit regulations which should come into force in 2004/05 (to give the manufacturers and the clubs time to adjust). However, opinions differed somewhat regarding the distribution of revenue from the new-format UEFA Champions League. The drop in income will necessarily mean a reduction in the amounts distributed and everyone naturally does not share the same view as to the right percentages in the distribution formula. Import-

tantly though, no one is challenging the solidarity principle.

Finally, on the subject of artificial turf, the delegates asked a number of questions indicating their interest. UEFA is currently carrying out a study in order to establish whether or not it will be possible to play UEFA competition matches on such surfaces in future. We should have the answer by 2005 at the latest.

Seminars in Nyon

On 21 and 22 January, the House of European Football in Nyon hosted an introductory seminar for 51 new delegates and referee observers. It was an opportunity for the participants to discuss their main duties and to familiarise themselves with UEFA competition procedures. Every year, some 1,300 UEFA competition matches are attended by delegates and referee observers.

On 22 and 23 January, more than 70 participants gathered at the House of European Football for a seminar on the role of venue directors at UEFA competition matches. The meeting focused on simulating situations at matches and giving recommendations to the participants as to how they should react in such cases. Such gatherings are organised twice a year with the aim of harmonising procedures and providing guidance on specific issues relating to the work of a venue director. The need to establish proper communications between all parties involved in the preparation and running of a football match was one of the major conclusions reached by the participants.



ENGLAND
The FA runs a workshop for CONCACAF.

THE FA



URBSFA

BELGIUM
The logo of the new communication system between the Belgian FA and its clubs.

from member associations news



AUSTRIA

Success seems guaranteed

For the Austrian Football Association (ÖFB), the beginning of the year has been dominated by the recent selection of Austria and Switzerland as co-hosts of EURO 2008. In February, the Bid Committee was disbanded and talks opened with UEFA concerning the new franchise company that will take organisational responsibility for the tournament. At the same time, funding has been secured for the "Challenge 2008" youth project - a support programme for young players (born in or after 1985). *"It is essential that we are successful on the pitch, because nothing would be worse than our team going out with a whimper in the first round"*, said ÖFB President Friedrich Stickler. From an economic point of view, success seems guaranteed: 6,000 new jobs, EUR 150 million of extra income from tourism, EUR 60 million of additional media revenue, 930,000 hotel bookings in 2008 alone, and building costs of around EUR 162 million.

The ÖFB is also very pleased with last year's advertising figures: TV coverage: 27 hours, average viewing figures in Austria for international matches: 871,125, total advertising value: EUR 22.6 million.

Meanwhile, clubs affected by recent flooding can breathe a sigh of relief: a total of EUR 472,740 was paid out at the end of the year to the regional associations of Salzburg, Lower Austria and Upper Austria for repairs and rebuilding work. This figure was broken down as follows: EUR 252,740 from UEFA, EUR 120,000 from the regional associations and EUR 100,000 from the ÖFB. The first match of 2003 for the national team will be a friendly against Greece (Graz, 26 March, kick-off 20.30), with a European Championship qualifier against the Czech Republic to be staged in Prague on 2 April.

Wolfgang Eichler



BELGIUM

New method of communication

The Internet site of the Belgian Football Association (www.footballbel.com) has now been extended to include an extranet system known as E-Kickoff. This system enables club secretaries, using an access code which guarantees data confidentiality, to consult a wealth of information about their respective clubs. It will revolutionise the life of club secretaries. All clubs are entitled to access the system.

Once they have received their ID codes, club secretaries will be able to register

the details of their club on E-Kickoff. Each of the nine sections is split into several subsections, which in turn contain individual modules.

Some modules enable the clubs to access comprehensive information about their members (affiliations, etc.). Others can be used to view the details of an accident file, including bills that were paid, or to consult the invoices and payments made between the association and the club. More traditional sections provide access to league tables, fixture lists, results, names of the players in each age category at the club, etc.

Clubs can now, therefore, access this information 24 hours a day and there is no doubt that it will make life easier for club secretaries.

This is one way in which the Belgian Football Association is implementing its plan to improve and accelerate communication with the clubs.

François Vantomme



BOSNIA & HERZEGOVINA

UEFA Progress IV

A UEFA Progress IV for medical staff, administrators and referees was organised recently for the Football Federation of Bosnia & Herzegovina (NS BiH). The course took place in Teslic, and, for the first time ever, representatives of the

FA of the Republic of Srpska took part. They had not participated in previous UEFA courses because their association was not a member of the NS BiH at the time, although they were invited. Just last year, their administrators took part in a UEFA Progress III course in Neum. Therefore, ahead of the latest course, the participants from the Republic of Srpska were introduced to the previous programmes, before joining the other participants for the UEFA Progress IV course. The UEFA lecturer for medical staff was Mehmet Binnet from Turkey, while Pekka Hämmäläinen from Finland addressed the administrators.

Within the framework of the Progress IV course, a programme was also organised for referees. It was held at the same time, but in Sarajevo. Referees from all over Bosnia & Herzegovina took part. The UEFA lecturer was Eugen Strigel from Germany.

The federation is continuing with coach education based on the UEFA scheme. The second term of the seventh UEFA B programme ended at the end of 2002. To date, this curriculum has been followed by 320 would-be coaches, most of whom qualified for the B licence. Now they are coaching the players in their clubs, particularly youth players. These courses are run by eminent coaches from Bosnia & Herzegovina as well as other experts connected with sport. Most of the participants are retired players, but there are also many coaches who are not educated or qualified enough to do this job.

"These programmes were a must because we had hardly any coaching staff to work with the younger players. Thanks to the UEFA syllabus, many of our coaches now hold the licence that is necessary for their work in clubs", said NS BiH President Jusuf Pusina.

Fuad Kravac



ENGLAND The FA runs many courses as part of its education programmes.

THE FA



BOSNIA & HERZEGOVINA
Numerous participants profited from the courses to improve their training.



PHOTOS: ARCHIVE NS BIH



BULGARIA

A championship with a new administrator?

The Professional Football League in Bulgaria is a union of the professional clubs of the country and it would like to participate more in the administration of the championship in the First League, reasoning that this will help reduce frictions between the clubs themselves, that referees will perform better and that the quality of matches will increase.

The Executive Committee of the Bulgarian Football Union subsequently decided to allow the Professional Football League to administrate the championship, much to the delight of those who had been pushing for it, who immediately got to work preparing for the spring season.

However, those efforts have apparently been in vain. The most talkative petitioners from some of the clubs have changed their minds and started to look for a way out of this responsibility, arguing that they do not have the support of the referees', disciplinary and technical committees, that the championship regulations and instructions have to be amended, and so on. It is quite possible that the Professional League will relinquish its delegated right and in this way perpetuate the impression that it is much easier to criticise than to work effectively in the name of football as a whole as opposed to only in the name of some clubs.

The organs of the Bulgarian Football Union which run the championship are now getting ready for the spring session, which starts in the second half of February irrespective of whether the Professional League actually takes up its delegate role or stays on the sidelines.

Radoslav Yankulov



ESTONIA
The 10th New Year Indoor Tournament



ENGLAND

The FA international education programme

The Football Association has launched 'FA Learning' as a specific brand to co-ordinate all of its educational services more effectively.

In 2003, FA Learning will be providing courses in England for international students in the following disciplines:

- Coaching - The FA International Coaching Licence
- Exercise Science - The FA International Fitness Trainers Award
- Sports Medicine - The FA International Diploma in the Treatment of Injury together with new awards in Football Psychology

Details of these courses and how to book online are available on The FA website www.TheFA.Com/FALearning.

The Football Association will provide some aspects of these courses as online modules from 2003 onwards. The FA can also provide the opportunity for other football associations to conduct such courses under licence from The FA in their own countries.

For further details of these services please email: robin.russell@thefa.com.

In addition, you can speak to Danielle Every about FA Learning at The Football Association stand at Soccerex in Dubai on 23/24 March.

Jane Bateman



ESTONIA

New Year tournament

After Christmas, the tenth EFA New Year Indoor Tournament took place. The first tournament in 1993 slotted into the period between Christmas and New Year's Eve. Now matches are also played on 2 and 3 January because of the growing popularity of the event. But only the better teams are invited to participate, on the basis of the latest league results and qualifying competitions.

A total of 218 teams took part in the last tournament, which was split into 13 tournaments for the teams from different leagues and sectors (youth and women). The playing area is reduced and each team plays with six players plus a goalkeeper. Every day the games got under way at eight o'clock in the morning and the programme continued without any breaks until ten or eleven o'clock in the evening, depending on the schedule.

Traditionally, the first tournament is for the countryside schools. The 16 participants this time round were the winners of the qualifying competitions organised in all 15 counties of Estonia, plus the previous year's winners. This year, the best team came from the village of Aravete in Järva county, in the very centre of Estonia.

The strongest tournament is the international tournament, to which one or two clubs from neighbouring countries are always invited. This time our guests were two clubs from Lithuania. The winners of the A. Le Coq Cup were FC Flora Tallinn, current Estonian champions. The game in the Kalev Sports Hall in the Estonian capital was in stark contrast to outdoor football, and the tournament results bear little resemblance to championship outcomes. In the last ten years, FC Flora have been champions of Estonia six times, but this was their very first win in the EFA New Year tournament.

The spectators and media are interested in the tournament, which provides a rare opportunity to see the majority of players from all leagues and youth groups.

The season in Estonia finished on 24 November, and the first game in the new championship will be on 9 March - earlier than ever. During the winter break, the teams train mainly on artificial fields, the number of which has been grown rapidly in the last two years. The indoor tournament was a welcome change, and made it possible to ignore the coldest weather that Estonia has known in recent decades - on some days the temperature fell to less than -30°C!

Raili Ellermaa



FINLAND

Futsal in Finland

Finland's first real go at Futsal was in 1994, when Finland took part in the World University Futsal Championship. In 1996, the World University Futsal Championship was organised in Finland. It was then that Futsal in Finland really took off. The first national championships for men and women were introduced in 1997. The Finnish national team played their first two matches in 1998. Since then, they have taken part in one World Championship qualifying tournament and two European Championship qualifying tournaments. Today we have over 16,000 players in about 1,000 clubs.

For the 2002/03 season we had two Futsal divisions for men: the Futsal League and the 1st Division. Futsal is also played at regional level in ten out of 12 regions. In the League, we have twelve teams all over Finland. The teams play one round and after that a final-four tournament. In the 1st Division, 18 teams competed in three groups. The teams played two rounds in the groups, and then the best teams took part in a qualifying tournament with two League teams.

The 2002/03 Finnish champions are the Golden Futsal Team (GFT) from Espoo. GFT beat three-time champions FT Kemi-Tornio 4-3 in an exciting final. The woman's national championship tournament will be played in February.

Kalle Marttinen



FINLAND
Espoo's Golden Futsal Team celebrate their 2002/03 championship title.

JOUNI PIHLAJA



GEORGIA
Anders Levinson demonstrates the art of taking penalty kicks in less than easy conditions!

GFF



GEORGIA

Viking "raid" in Georgia

Last winter was very fruitful for Georgian football from an educational point of view, with a series of UEFA Progress courses held one after another. They were usually run by Danish experts. Torben Mogensen ran the administrative courses for Georgian club officials, while Mogens Kreutzfeldt was dispatched by UEFA for the second time to run the medical courses. Another Dane involved was Anders Levinson, who, once he has completed his activity in Bosnia & Herzegovina, intends to assist with children's football and open 15 football schools in Georgia. The only one person who was not of Danish origin was UEFA's EEAB manager Bruno Wolfisberg.

The visit of the Vikings was hampered by severe weather conditions. Georgia had not seen so much snowfall for 20 years, and the temperature dropped below 12°C. While Torben Mogensen and Mogens Kreutzfeldt ran their courses in cosy rooms in the Tori hotel, Anders Levinson and Bruno Wolfisberg were out in the cold, first on a trip to Tskaltubo, in the Imereti region, some 250 km from Tbilisi, where they met young refugee footballers from Abkhazia, then on to Gori (in the Kartli region, 100 km from Tbilisi), Telavi (in the Kakheti region, 150 km from Tbilisi) and finally Tsereteli, in the Marneuli region, 60 km from Tbilisi, where they became the first foreigners to set foot in this village, where Anders Levinson put on a display of penalty kicks for the 100 or so children gathered at the snow-covered stadium.

Mamuka Kvaratskelia



GERMANY

Commitment to social action

The German Football Association (DFB) has been committed to social action for half a century. Over the years, it has demonstrated the power of football to help others by supporting numerous projects at home and abroad. Since 1976, around EUR 15 million has been spent on social action. And the tradition of good deeds will continue into the future. Via the Sepp Herberger and Egidius Braun Foundations, the DFB offers help whenever it can. For example, DFB General Secretary Horst R. Schmidt recently attended the launch of three projects in Mexico, supported by the DFB to the tune of EUR 220,000. The DFB's Egidius Braun Foundation contributed EUR 150,000 to a school centre in the slums of Guadalajara and EUR 50,000 to the construction of a new building for the Casa de Cuna orphanage in Queretaro. The same foundation also donated EUR 20,000 to a home for young mothers in Hogar-Vientino. The Sepp Herberger Foundation

will also be able to offer considerable help in the coming year, with EUR 600,000 in its budget for 2003. Some of this money will also be spent on sport for the disabled and football in prisons.

Niels Barnhofer



HUNGARY

Pro licence for 17 coaches

The Hungarian football coaching elite started the New Year with a great compulsory workshop in Sopron in Hungary. The leaders of the Hungarian Football Federation, the leaders of the coach education project and the recent graduates of the UEFA Pro-level course – making up the most important people in Hungarian football – came together in one place to discuss the major aspects of the game and to exchange experiences. About 100 football experts attended the three-day conference, including the 14 new students on MLSZ's Pro licence course.

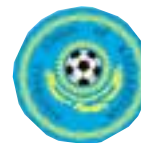
Kálmán Mészöly, former legendary player and later Hungarian and Turkish national team coach, who is now technical director of the Hungarian Football League (for professional football), was one of the special guests in Sopron. He said, "I'm very pleased with this serious work, and seeing the professionalism and high-quality work, I believe again in football's comeback in Hungary. As a former top manager in Turkey, I hope you will also savour such great experiences abroad one day".

Going back to the end of last year, 17 top Hungarian football coaches were presented with their UEFA Pro licence diplomas on 18 December, among them many prominent names, including the Hungarian national team's current head coach, Imre Gellei, and former head coaches György Mezey, József Verebes, József Garami and János Csank, as well as Hungarian championship coaches like József Both, Sándor Egervári and István Varga, and national under-21 coach Antal Róth.

"This is the end of a long road", said György Mezey, technical director of MLSZ, who also received the diploma. "Starting this nationwide coach education programme – from B to Pro level – was the only way for Hungarian football to improve in the field of coach education", added Mezey, who is a member of three UEFA panels, including the Jira Project Panel. The quality of coach education was undeniably very low before the first course started.

One of the students, national team coach Imre Gellei, was also pleased with the event: "By taking this step, the world is open again to Hungarian football coaches. We hope that more and more of our colleagues will work abroad as successfully as our predecessors", he said.

Márton Dinnyés/György Szöllösi



KAZAKHSTAN

National Football Day

This year, the Football Union of Kazakhstan celebrates its ninetieth anniversary. It was back in 1913



HUNGARY Representatives of the Hungarian FA signed the coaches' convention in Copenhagen on 8 November.

UEFA-KJAERBY

HUNGARY
József Garami,
György Mezey,
Imre Gellei and
József Verebes
all hold UEFA
Pro licences.



HUNGARY
Hungarian
FA president
Imre Bozóky
(left) and
Imre Gellei
present
the UEFA
diploma.



**NORTHERN
IRELAND**
Sara Booth
has just been
put in charge
of women's
football
development
in Northern
Ireland.



S. BOOTH

when the Russkii Sport newspaper, published in Moscow, first mentioned football in Kazakhstan. During the same period, the constituent assembly of the Muslim teachers' school team was held. Later, the team became known under the name of Yarysh. The same year, the following first teams were established in Semipalatinsk: SSC (Semipalatinsk Sports Club), the aforementioned Yarysh and Olimp. Since no exact date for the foundation of football in Kazakhstan is recorded, the Football Union of Kazakhstan decided to fix the date as 25 April - the date the association became a UEFA member.

To mark this anniversary, the Football Union of Kazakhstan has offered a present to all Kazakh football fans. In collaboration with the Khabar agency and Samsung Electronics, the general sponsor, the association concluded an agreement for matches in the domestic championship to be shown on television. One championship match per round will be televised. A Memo-

randum of Co-operation was signed on 22 January, when the official logo of the XII Kazakh Championship was also unveiled at the press conference afterwards.

Alexander Keplin



MALTA

Transfer period

The January transfer window afforded the top Premier League clubs a busy time, with a flurry of quality signings.

Current League leaders and title hopefuls Sliema Wanderers secured the services of Cyprus-based Orosco Anonam amid intense competition from their closest rivals, Birkirkara, who, in turn, paraded two late but significant 'captures', former Floriana and Congolese midfielder Rufin Oba and ex-Sliema Wanderers and current Maltese national team centre-back Luke Dimech, who has been temporarily released by Irish club Shamrock Rovers.

Champions Hibernians were also strengthened by the acquisition of Albanian sweeper Edmond Lufi and Argentinean defender Cesar Paiber, both on a 'free release' from Naxxar Lions FC and Hamrun Spartans FC respectively.

Valletta lost two key players when their prolific Yugoslav-born forward Daniel Bognadovic signed for Bulgarian side Chernomore Varna and top striker Gilbert Agius was ruled out with a long injury.

Several Premier League clubs passed through unwanted administrative turmoil. Edgar Bonnici Cachia, who replaced former stalwart Victor Tedesco a couple of months earlier, tendered his resignation as president of Hamrun Spartans FC, while Joe Gauci called it a day as president of Marsa Football Club. One of the oldest Maltese clubs, Floriana FC lost a court case instituted by former president, Anthony Grech Sant, and were ordered to pay him a hefty sum, plus interest.

For its part, the Malta FA Executive Committee has initiated dialogue meetings with all member clubs in view of a possible reshuffle in the current national league set-up. One of the proposals under consideration is a Premier League with eight clubs instead of the current ten as from the start of the 2004/05 season.

On the local domestic league front, ambitious Birkirkara closed the gap on Maltese Premier League leaders Sliema Wanderers to a single point with an emphatic 3-1 victory over champions Hibernians. Valletta consolidated their position in third place with an easy 4-0 win against seaxiders Marsaxlokk, inspired by striker Daniel Bognadovic, in his last match for the club.

Louis Micallef



MOLDOVA

Another step forward

On 18/19 January, in the capital Chisinau, UEFA, by way of the company AVC Media from Scotland, organised a course as part of the Tact-FOOT UEFA Kiosk Assistance Programme. The course was attended by the head coaches of the national teams of the Republic of Moldova, who consider this programme a top-level invention for theoretical preparation of coaches and footballers.

The presentation of team playing systems, player and ball movements on the field of play, correction of errors - all these aspects were learned in practice by the Moldovan technicians under the direction of Derek Reeley from AVC Media.

The course participants were most impressed by the programme and are very grateful to UEFA for its assistance in the development of football in Moldova, thanks to the above programme, among other things.

One more pleasant surprise - at the end of January, the champion club of Moldova, FC Sheriff Tiraspol, won the 11th traditional CIS Cup 2003 winter tournament. Fifteen champion clubs from the same number of countries participated in this tournament. In the final match, the team from Tiraspol defeated Skonto Riga (Latvia) 2-1. FC Sheriff Tiraspol are only the third team to have won this honorary title. In the previous ten editions, Spartak Moscow (Russia) have won the tournament six times and Dynamo Kiev (Ukraine) on four occasions.

Vasile Vatamanu



NETHERLANDS

Shell coaching day on team organisation

Over 500 youth coaches from all over the country gathered on 29 January for the 7th Shell Coaching Day organised by the KNVB. The aim of this annual meeting is to discuss a particular theme and to have coaches work on that theme in theory as well as in practice during the day.

The theme of the 2003 Shell Coaching Day was team organisation, in other words "how does a coach organise his team and what does he want to achieve by fielding his team in that way? And how do you handle team organisation with respect to youth football, where teams sometimes have fewer than eleven players?"

One of the key speakers during the plenary session was national team manager Dick Advocaat, who talked about team organisation in professional top football. He analysed the organisation of the Dutch team during their first qualifying match for EURO 2004 versus Belarus. Together with his assistant, Bert van Lingen, and supported by TV pictures from that match, Advocaat explained how the team organisation did not work out well during the first 20 minutes of



MALTA
Orosco
Anonam,
Sliema
Wanderers FC's
new recruit.

D. AQUILINA



the match, whereupon he had urged two or three players to change the way they played. Thus, the Dutch team were able to keep Belarus under pressure and eventually they won relatively easily 3-0.

In the afternoon, the under-16 teams of FC Utrecht and Vitesse enabled all coaches attending to watch in practice how team organisation works for youth teams. Apart from the plenary session, there were separate sessions for coaches specialising in girls' football, under-12 football and Futsal. All of them discussed what team organisation means at other levels of football and for teams with fewer than eleven players.

The Shell Coaching Day ensures that youth coaches, who work with the stars of the future, continuously ponder on what they do and why they do it. This has been the main force of the Shell Coaching Day in recent years.

Rob de Leede



NORTHERN IRELAND

IFA embraces women's football

In line with the tremendous increase in the number of women playing football worldwide, the Irish Football Association (IFA) has recognised the growth of the local game and employed its first ever Development Officer for Women's Football. With the appointment of Sara Booth, a former Northern Ireland international player, the IFA has clearly indicated that women's football is now a major priority for the association and has the potential to be "big business" some day.

Sara, a BSc (Hons) Sport, Exercise and Leisure graduate from the University of Ulster at Jordanstown, is incredibly excited about the future of the game in Northern Ireland. "There is a huge amount of talent in this country, clearly evident in what I call the "Atlantic Drift", whereby all our top players go to America on college scholarships. Now that the IFA has fully embraced women's football, I hope we can increase the playing structures for young girls in this country and eventually raise the performance level of our international teams", says Sara.

The future does look bright for Northern Ireland, and Sara hopes that the development and investment being put into junior level football will eventually pay dividends. In this respect, the target has to be the creation and inclusion of a senior Northern Ireland women's team in the 2007 World Cup qualifiers.

John Quinn



ROMANIA

Coaches' gathering

On 8 January 2003, the Technical Committee of the Romanian Football Association (FRF), chaired by national team coach Anghel Iordanescu, held a meeting of all the first

division coaches at the association's new headquarters. Invitations were also extended to a number of renowned Romanian coaches currently without a club and the greatest Romanian player of all time and former national team coach, Gheorghe Hagi.

The meeting was opened by FRF President Mircea Sandu. Also in attendance were two very well known speakers from the Technical Centre of the Italian Football Federation (FIGC) in Coverciano. Roberto Clagluna and Franco Ferrarini gave two very interesting talks on the current game and training methods, citing numerous examples from the major Italian clubs (Juventus, Internazionale, AC Milan, Parma and AS Roma).

Anghel Iordanescu presented his conclusions on the 2002 World Cup finals in Korea and Japan. He was a member of the FIFA study group that drafted the FIFA technical report on the finals. The Romanian national coach also presented a tactical study on methods of analysing football matches, which he illustrated with video clips.

Mircea Radulescu, director of the coaching school, described the current situation regarding the first Pro licence course due to be held in Romania in 2003. He mentioned the experiences of other European countries in this area and described the length of the course (six to eight months), the number of hours of tuition involved (120 hours of theory and 120 hours of practical work) and the course syllabus.

The coaches' meeting lasted six hours and was a great success, thanks to the active participation of those who attended and the use of video presentations by all the speakers.

One-day (eight-hour) seminars with youth coaches (children and juniors, B licence coaches) were held in six cities (Bucharest, Targoviste, Sibiu, Arad, Bacau and Galati) in January and February

2003. These professional development sessions will be repeated in the summer and winter (for two days each time). All B licence coaches will eventually have to take a theory test and practical assessment.

A similar procedure will take place for the coaches of amateur teams and assistant coaches (B licence).

Dan Cristea



SPAIN

Intercontinental tournament

The city of Malaga and four other towns in Andalusia in southeast Spain were the venues for the 1st RFEF Football-7 International Tournament organised by the Spanish Football Federation through its Centre for Football Studies, Development and Research (CEDIF) at the beginning of the year.

It was a very enjoyable sports experience for under-12 teams from three continents (America, Asia and Europe), who delighted the many spectators at the stadiums in Alhaurin el Grande, Benalmadena, Nerja and Ronda.

The Spanish team won the championship. Their coach, Teodoro Nieto, praised the great value of a tournament like this, where boys can become initiated into their favourite sport in a natural way, according to their weight and height; i.e. on smaller pitches, with smaller goals and footballs.

At the same time, also in Malaga, the 3rd International Conference of Football Schools was held, with the participation of more than 600 coaches and educators from 39 countries - nations as diverse as Costa Rica, Angola, Argentina, Israel, Mexico, Honduras, Portugal, Azerbaijan, Cyprus and Bosnia & Herzegovina.



MOLDOVA FC Sheriff Tiraspol, winners of the CIS winter tournament.



ROMANIA
The auditorium at the new headquarters of the Romanian FA hosted a meeting of first division professional coaches.

PRO SPORT



UKRAINE
Grigoriy Surkis (left), president of the FA of Ukraine, and Dmytro Tabachnyk, Deputy Prime Minister.

FFU

Finally, it should be emphasised that this sports initiative was also aimed at helping those less fortunate than ourselves; in the opening and closing matches of the Football-7 tournament a "goals for a better world" campaign took place in which toys and food for underprivileged children were collected for distribution by various charitable organisations.

Jorge Perez Arias



SWEDEN

Award for Lennart Johansson

There was an unusual twist when public service TV channel SVT broadcast their

annual review of the Swedish national team and the 2002 World Cup. Besides the usual offering of highlights and goals, viewers got to hear coaching duo Lars Lagerbäck and Tommy Söderberg discuss tactics and substitutions during the World Cup games versus Argentina and Senegal. This came as a great surprise to the Swedish FA, who did not know that it was actually possible for TV broadcasters to listen in on the dugout during games.

According to FIFA, these recordings must be regarded as unfortunate and accidental - there was definitely no intention that microphones should be able to pick up discussions between coaches and players during games. What SVT had done was to let sound engineers work on the World Cup tapes to enhance audio recorded from a microphone placed close to the dugout, a microphone that was placed with the intention to record spectator sounds.

The programme sparked a debate on whether TV companies should be allowed to "eavesdrop" on what is said on the bench during games. The Swedish FA's position on the matter remains that this is not acceptable - especially when it

is done without the knowledge or consent of the players and coaches involved.

The month ended with a more pleasant surprise when UEFA President Lennart Johansson was presented with an honorary lifetime award at the annual gala of Swedish sports. The award was given to Lennart Johansson for his outstanding career as a leader who has remained true to the democratic ideals of Swedish sport. The award was presented by King Carl XVI Gustav and Prime Minister Göran Persson, and Lennart Johansson chose to dedicate the award to the countless leaders at grassroots level who work voluntarily for the sports movement in Sweden.

Andreas Nilsson



SWITZERLAND

Swiss Cup more attractive and exciting

The Swiss Football Association (SFV) has introduced some important, revolutionary changes to the format of the Swiss Cup. From next season, football fans will find the Swiss Cup easier to follow, more exciting and more attractive.

Instead of the traditional 196 teams, only 64 will participate, playing six rounds instead of eight. These matches will be played at weekends at regular intervals.

Since teams from the top two national divisions will be involved from the very first round and the first two rounds will be played on a regional basis, there will be a greater likelihood of attractive local derbies with giant-killing potential. Cup pairings such as Gland vs Servette, Giubiasco v Lugano, Nordstern vs FC Basel, Thalwil vs Grasshopper-Club and Münsingen vs Young Boys will, in future, be much more common than before, when the top clubs were given a bye in the early rounds.

A major sponsor has already been found for the competition. *Swisscom fixnet* has signed a four-year deal as the main sponsor with the Cup's marketing agent Sportart AG.

Pierre Benoit



UKRAINE

State cares about football

Under the chairmanship of Deputy Prime Minister Dmytro Tabachnyk, the Ukrainian government has held an important conference on the realisation of the Mission-Oriented Comprehensive Programme of Football Development in Ukraine for 1997-2002. The programme was summed up and the further development of football in Ukraine was discussed. In spite of the

fact that the programme was not financed sufficiently and only 178 points out of the 280 planned were fulfilled, the strategic purpose was nevertheless achieved. The decline of Ukrainian football has been stopped, and force and resources have been accumulated for further advancement.

The realisation of the programme has contributed to the development of football in Ukraine and increased the country's standing in the world of football.

The new Mission-Oriented Comprehensive Programme of Football Development in Ukraine for 2003-2008 takes account of the possible risks as well as of the errors and shortcomings of the previous programme. The fulfilment of the new programme will be dependant on the financial support of the Cabinet Ministers of Ukraine and state regional administrations.

The experts elaborating the new programme have defined the priority directions which form the strategic basis for the development of football and which will take up the main resources:

1. Development of children's and amateur football.
2. Further improvement of professional football.
3. Higher quality education of coaches and other football specialists.
4. Development of material and technical resources.
5. State support of football and development of the legal and legislative foundations.

The Ukrainian government has instructed central and local bodies of the executive power to assist the development of football in Ukraine and its regions in every possible way. The State Committee of Ukraine for Physical Culture and Sports and the State Committee for Construction have to strictly follow UEFA's recommendations and requirements for building and modernising stadiums. In the budget of the State Committee for 2004, the Ministry of Finance has to include separate financing for the FFU for training and for the participation of the national teams in international tournaments. Consequently, everyone involved in the development of football in Ukraine will give more attention to this aspect in their day-to-day activity and be able to receive financial support.

The solution of many problems will be provided by the state.

This support is of vital importance to the FFU and deserves special attention, since it shows that we are working together and have our sights set on the same objective - the development of Ukrainian football.

Valeriy Nykonenko



SWEDEN
Lennart Johansson receives his award from King Carl XVI Gustav (left) and Prime Minister Göran Persson.

BILDBRÄN



EMPICS

communications

birthdays – calendar

Birthdays

UEFA Disciplinary Inspector Edgar Obertüfer (Switzerland) celebrates his 75th birthday on 29 March. Executive Committee member Gerhard Mayer-Vorfelder (Germany) will be 70 on 3 March, a milestone at which Club Competitions Committee member Pedro María Aurteneche Viñegra (Spain) joins him on 7 March. Reaching the half-century mark are Brian Kerr (Republic of Ireland), a member of the Youth Coaches Panel (3 March), Valeriy Nykonenko (Ukraine), a member of the Media Panel (13 March), and Referee Observers Panel members Marcello Nicchi (Italy), on 18 March, and Stefan Ormandjiev (Bulgaria) on 29 March.

Birthdays greetings are also extended to:

- Benny Jacobsen (Denmark, 1.3)
- Sergey Tatulyan (Ukraine, 1.3)
- Damir Vrbancic (Croatia, 2.3)
- José M. García-Aranda (Spain, 3.3)
- Dragan Stojkovic (Yugoslavia, 3.3)
- Esa Antero Palsi (Finland, 4.3)
- Karl Schmidt (Germany, 5.3)
- Boris Durlen (Croatia, 6.3)
- Liana Melania Stoicescu (Romania, 6.3)
- Dusan Maravic (Yugoslavia, 7.3)
- Thomas Frank (Hungary, 7.3)
- Tomás Gea (Andorra, 7.3)
- Josep Lluís Vilaseca Guash (Spain, 8.3)
- Giorgio Crescentini (San Marino, 8.3)
- Alexis Ponnet (Belgium, 9.3)
- Vladimir Aleshin (Russia, 9.3)
- Henk Kesler (Netherlands, 9.3)
- Joseph S. Blatter (Switzerland, 10.3)
- Amândio de Carvalho (Portugal, 10.3)
- Mateo Beusan (Croatia, 10.3)
- Philip Don (England, 10.3)
- Lucien Kayser (Luxembourg, 11.3)
- Peter Ridsdale (England, 11.3)
- Olga Zhukovska (Ukraine, 11.3)
- Jean-Francois Crucke (Belgium, 12.3)
- Vlastibor Minarovjech (Slovakia, 13.3)
- Thomas Partl (Austria, 13.3)
- Robin Russell (England, 14.3)
- David Taylor (Scotland, 14.3)
- Günter Linn (Germany, 16.3)
- Kevin Verity (England, 16.3)
- Cornelius Bakker (Netherlands, 17.3)
- Christakis Skapoullis (Cyprus, 18.3)
- Andreas Georgiou (Cyprus, 18.3)
- Mario Macalli (Italy, 19.3)
- Fabio Baldas (Italy, 19.3)
- Rune Bratseth (Norway, 19.3)
- Lambros Adamou (Cyprus, 20.3)
- Henning Lund-Sørensen (Denmark, 20.3)
- Aristides Stathopoulos (Greece, 20.3)
- Bülent Yavuz (Turkey, 20.3)
- Jim Boyce (Northern Ireland, 21.3)

- Keith Cooper (Wales, 21.3)
- Michail Kassabov (Bulgaria, 22.3)
- Luca Zorzi (Switzerland, 22.3)
- Jorge Monteiro Coroado (Portugal, 23.3)
- Andrea Lastrucci (Italy, 23.3)
- Stefan Reshko (Ukraine, 24.3)
- Maurizio Laudi (Italy, 24.3)
- Kurt Helmer Sørensen (Denmark, 25.3)
- Raymond Kiddell (England, 26.3)
- Wilfried Straub (Germany, 26.3)
- Ilija Atanasovski (FYR Macedonia, 26.3)
- Kemal Kapulluoglu (Turkey, 26.3)
- Konstantin Vikhrov (Ukraine, 27.3)
- Guglielmo Petrosino (Italy, 27.3)
- Joseph Gauci (Malta, 27.3)
- José Antonio Casajús (Spain, 27.3)
- Pavel Ciobanu (Moldova, 28.3)
- Mario van der Ende (Netherlands, 28.3)
- Hans Lesterhuis (Netherlands, 29.3)
- Valentin Cojuhari (Moldova, 29.3)
- Galina Epishkina (Russia, 29.3)
- Tore Krogstad (Norway, 30.3)

Forthcoming events

MEETINGS

5.3.2003, Nyon
Stadium and Security Committee

5.3.2003, London
European on racism conference

20.3.2003, Nyon
Club Competitions Committee

20.3.2003, Nyon
Licensed Match Agents Panel

21.3.2003, Nyon
Draws for the quarter-finals and semi-finals of the UEFA Champions League and for the semi-finals of the UEFA Cup

25-26.3.2003, Rome
Executive Committee

27.3.2003, Rome
XXVII Ordinary Congress

COMPETITIONS

11-12.3.2003
UEFA Champions League:
second group stage (match day 5)

13.3.2003
UEFA Cup: quarter-finals (first legs)

18-19.3.2003
UEFA Champions League:
second group stage (match day 6)

20.3.2003
UEFA Cup: quarter-finals (return legs)

25.3-16.4.2003, United Arab Emirates
World Youth Championship

THE TECHNICIAN as supplement

Starting with the next issue of *uefa-direct* and subsequently every three months (June, September and December), *The Technician*, which, to date, has been a UEFA publication reserved for experts in the technical sector, will be included as a supplement to *uefadirect*, thereby extending its circulation to all readers of this monthly publication when *The Technician* switches to a new, colour format. *Medicine Matters* will follow suit in due course.

Announcements

● Since 1 February, the Portuguese Football Federation has a new general secretary. He is Manuel Mourato Quaresma, who has been head of the Football and Education department until now. He replaces Antonio Sequeira, who has stood down for health reasons.

● Markus Wanger has resigned as president of the FA of Liechtenstein. Vice-President Fredi Hilti is acting president until the next elections.

● The uefa.com website has extended the range of languages it offers from English, French, German, Italian and Spanish to also include Japanese, Russian and Portuguese.

● On 12 February, the draw for the Confederations Cup produced the two following groups:

A: France, Japan, Colombia, New Zealand

B: Brazil, USA, Cameroon, Turkey

The tournament will take place from 18 to 29 June.

Obituary

Trevor Morris, a former member of the Youth Committee, Amateur Football Committee and Non-Professional Players' Committee, as well as a UEFA transfer expert, passed away on 3 February, aged 82, after a short illness.

Mr Morris served as general secretary of the FA of Wales from 1971 to 1982. He was awarded the OBE in 1976 for his services to football.

WE CARE ABOUT FOOTBALL



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

Communications and Public Affairs Division

Editor André Vieli

Produced by Atema Communication SA, CH-1196 Gland

Printed by Cavin SA, CH-1422 Grandson

Editorial deadline: 14 February 2003

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

The reproduction of articles or extracts of any information published in uefadirect is authorised, provided the source is indicated.

UEFA
Route de Genève 46
CH-1260 Nyon
Suisse
Téléphone +41 22 994 44 44
Téléfax +41 22 994 44 88
uefa.com

Union des associations
européennes de football

