



**Germany and Spain
retain their U19 titles** **03**

**Over €43 million
for the leagues** **07**

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Photos: UEFA-plwoods.ch

Message of the General Secretary

Evolution, not revolution

In the first part of the year, UEFA experienced one of the busiest periods of change in its history. A new UEFA president was elected, the UEFA Statutes were revised and the post of UEFA General Secretary created.

The UEFA General Secretary is responsible for the organisation, management and direction of the administration. It is a role including both leadership and management responsibilities. In this context, my experience of almost eight years at the Scottish Football Association has been very valuable, as the activities of UEFA are not so different from that of a national association – except in scale!

We succeed in UEFA by running top European football competitions, improving standards at all levels of the game, and by properly representing the interests of European football with FIFA and the European Union. There is much to be proud of in European football – pyramid league structures, solidarity schemes, grassroots activities – but we must never be satisfied with what we have achieved. There is always room to do better.

Football will prosper more if we create greater unity in the European football family, based on a recognition of the diverse interests which are represented in our game. My more immediate concern is to ensure that the UEFA administration performs at a high level in the service of European football. New leadership always brings change – but the success of UEFA means that change will be that of evolution, not revolution.

Best wishes for the coming season,

David Taylor
David Taylor
UEFA General Secretary

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COVER

Stability was the keyword in the European U19 Championship final rounds: Germany and Spain, the respective title-holders in the women's and men's championships, maintained their supremacy. Spanish captain Cesar Azpilicueta holds the trophy aloft.

Photo: Sportsfile

Women's Under-19 Championship

Favourites live up to their billing



Sportsfile

BEING CLEAR FAVOURITES TO WIN A COMPETITION IS ONE THING, BUT ACTUALLY MEETING THOSE EXPECTATIONS IS QUITE ANOTHER, AND MANY A TEAM OR ATHLETE KNOWS WHAT IT FEELS LIKE NOT TO BE ABLE TO HIT TOP GEAR WHEN IT COUNTS.

The German women's under-19 team did not, however, let themselves be put off by the pressure of being the favourites. Apart from being the reigning title-holders, following their victory against France last year, as well as four-times Under-18/19 champions, they looked more and more like potential winners after sailing through the two qualifying rounds of the competition by winning all six of their matches and notching up a goal difference of 43 for and only two against in the process!

In Group A of the final round played out in Iceland from 18 to 29 July, Maren Meinert's girls – six of the team

crowned champions last year among them – began their campaign quietly but successfully, beating Denmark by a single goal, before doubling this margin against Norway and the host nation.



Familiar opposition

In the semi-finals, Germany met an old adversary in the shape of their opponents from the 2006 final, France, who had also proved their considerable authority during the qualifying rounds, winning their six matches by scoring 31 goals and conceding only one, prompting their coach, Stéphane Paillard, to declare

before the tournament that they were a match for anyone. But in Iceland, after a victory over Spain, the French came unstuck against a fit English team, and despite beating Poland in their last match, they were only able to make it to second place in the group, behind England, which meant another duel between the only two teams which have taken part in every Women's Under-19 final round since 2002.

After opening the score just before half-time, Germany doubled their lead in the second half and seemed sure of a smooth ride, but France found the mettle to fight back and equalise within ten minutes. *"One of our strengths is that we never give up and we can always improve on our level of play."* German player Susanne Hartel, a second-half substitute, proved the truth of that state-



An all-Scandinavian tussle between Norway's Ingvild Landvik Isaksen (left) and Denmark's Louise Egebjerg Christensen.



The first goal of the final, scored by the German Nathalie Bock (8).



Participation in their first under-19 final round was a valuable experience for Iceland.

ment when she scored her team's third goal, in extra time, just six minutes away from a penalty shoot-out. Her teammate Isabel Kerschowski sealed the victory just a few seconds before the referee blew the final whistle. It will certainly have been a hard defeat for France to swallow, but they did not leave Iceland empty-handed, deservedly sharing the fair play award with Norway.

History in the making

In the other semi-final, England qualified for their first Women's Under-19 final without too much trouble, two goals from Ellen White and one from Elizabeth Edwards helping them to victory against a Norwegian side lacking in any incisive force.

Played in cool weather and intermittent rain, the final at the Laugardalsvöllur stadium in Reykjavik barely found any rhythm – perhaps because, even by admission of their coach, Mo Marley, the young and inexperienced English team surprised themselves by reaching the final, or maybe because the Germans

had burnt up some of their energy reserves in the tension of the extra time against France. Whatever the reason, caution was very much the watchword in the first half, and even in the second, neither defence had too much trouble quashing any attacks. As a result, extra time was needed again, during which the Germans eventually confirmed their superiority through two goals scored by Nathalie Bock and Monique Kerschowski.

Overall satisfaction

"It's been a good game," said Maren Meinert after another victory for her team in the final. "For eleven of the players, today is the first time they've won and for the others... the second one is no different to the first – they're all great. In extra time they were still in good shape and it was hard to create the first goal. Next is the FIFA U-20 World Cup – we have 17 months to get ready."



Germany (Isabel Kerschowski, No. 9) once again blocked France's route into the final (Chloé Mazaloubeaud).

Her English counterpart, Mo Marley, was obviously disappointed, but remained positive: *"We had a game plan, it worked and we were confident we could get through to extra time and then maybe penalties, and get something from it. It wasn't to be today but it's a new*

experience for all of us and it shows what we can do. You have to have that extra bit of quality and Germany had that today." Moreover, the presence of Mo Marley's team in the final confirms the progress of women's football in England, as already witnessed this year with the victory of Arsenal LFC in the UEFA Women's Cup.

Hosted by the Icelandic Football Association ten years after its first European final round, in the European Under-18 Championship, this tournament formed part of the association's 60th anniversary celebrations. In terms of a gift, it offered the association a superb opportunity to expand its experience, while showing its hosts – among them UEFA president Michel Platini – that it was already more than capable of satisfactorily fulfilling the task it had been set.

Iceland, 18-29 July 2007

Group A

Denmark – Germany	0-1
Iceland – Norway	0-5
Norway – Germany	0-2
Iceland – Denmark	1-2
Norway – Denmark	2-1
Germany – Iceland	4-2

Group B

Spain – France	0-1
Poland – England	1-1
England – France	3-1
Poland – Spain	0-2
England – Spain	1-0
France – Poland	4-0

Semi-finals

Germany – France	4-2 (a.e.t)
England – Norway	3-0

Final

Germany – England	2-0 (a.e.t)
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Four teams in Chile

The four semi-finalists of this European championship – England, France, Germany and Norway – will represent Europe in the next FIFA Women's U-20 World Cup, to be played in Chile in 2008.



Sotirios Ninis of Greece tries to fend off Spanish defender Javier Cantero.



The Greek public enjoyed plenty of exciting moments, such as the decisive goal by Andreas Lampropoulos in the semi-final against Germany.



European U19 Championship in Austria

Spanish dominance continues

play to win. We played a great Greece side. ...I liked their team a lot. But we had some good luck today and that's what decided it." His Greek counterpart Nikolaos Nioplias was disappointed at losing the final but had words of praise for his players: "I want to give my thanks to the whole team. We played against a Spain team that is very well formed at this level... but we were great opponents for them tonight."

The road to the final

Both semi-final matches could hardly have been more dramatic. First of all, Greece beat group B winners Germany 3-2, despite having a player sent off and playing with ten men for the last half hour. The decider only came in the last minute, Andreas Lampropoulos scoring from a corner. Despite their numerical superiority and a brace of goals from Anis Ben-Hatira, the HSV midfielder of Tunisian origin, the Germans suffered an unexpected defeat. In the second semi-final, group A winners Spain faced France, the group B runners-up. In a match with a dearth of clear-cut scoring chances which went to penalties after ending goal-less, Spanish replacement goalkeeper Sergio Asenjo, who had come on in the second half for the injured



A HARD-FOUGHT 1-0 VICTORY AGAINST GREECE MEANT THAT SPAIN BECAME THE FIRST TEAM TO SUCCESSFULLY DEFEND THE EUROPEAN U19 CHAMPIONSHIP TITLE SINCE THE COMPETITION CHANGED FROM ITS U18 FORMAT IN THE 2001/02 SEASON.

The Spaniards thus won both UEFA youth competitions in the same year, a feat previously achieved only by the Republic of Ireland, who were U16 and U18 winners in 1998. It was another triumph for legendary 70-year-old coach Juan Santisteban, who had already led the Spanish U17 team to the European championship title in Belgium in May and has now notched up eight European championship trophies. The Spanish dominance is particularly impressive in the U19 category, where they have won four out of the last six tournaments.

Final decided by moment of inspiration

In an intense, hard-fought final refereed by Swiss official Claudio Circhetta, it was a flash of opportunism by Daniel Parejo which ultimately made the difference. In the 38th minute, the Real Madrid midfielder beat the Greek keeper at the near post with a free kick from the left, from which a direct strike had looked unlikely. The Greeks, who were playing in only their second European youth championship final, having been finalists in 1985, moved heaven and earth to score

an equaliser but, as had been the case in the goal-less group stage game six days earlier, were unable to find a way through.

What the coaches had to say

Winning coach Juan Santisteban, who has been in charge of the Spanish youth teams since 1988, said after the final: "The final, as I always say, is a match in which we never play well – you just



Photos: Sportsfile



Malauri Martin (No. 8, France) up against Mikel Sanjose Dominguez of Spain in the semi-final.



Austria v Portugal: the Austrian spectators were out in force, even if their favourites didn't fully meet their expectations.



Dr Mogens Kreutzfeldt, member of UEFA's Medical Committee, draws the players' attention to the dangers of doping.

Felipe Ramos, was the hero of the hour, saving two spot-kicks, while his teammates converted all four of theirs.

Tournament facts and figures

A total of 42 goals were scored in the 15 matches in the final round in Austria, an average of 2.8 goals per game. A remarkable fact was that almost half the goals (20) were scored in the three matches involving the Serbian team. The Serbs, who had four players scoring two goals each, not only contributed to a great spectacle but also won the fair play trophy, ahead of Russia and Germany. Top scorers in the tournament, however, were Anis Ben-Hatira of Germany, Kostas Mitroglou of Greece and Kévin Monnet-Paquet of France with three goals apiece.

As usual, a UEFA technical study group attended the matches, and the experts were very impressed by what they saw. Technical observer Roy Millar said: *"I've sometimes forgotten I was watching youth football and thought I was watching senior internationals. All teams have been really well organised, especially in defence, and their technical skills were excellent... Physically the players are very*

good, it's becoming very athletic. When you look at the size of some of the French players and the back fours of Serbia and Russia, they're all athletes. It would worry me if we were going too much for the athletes, and less for the technician. Those are the players that are going to win you games."

Positive balance overall

In the run-up to the final in Linz, UEFA president Michel Platini praised the Austrian FA (ÖFB) and the Upper Austria FA in glowing terms for their organisational efforts. *"On behalf of UEFA I'd like to congratulate the ÖFB on the wonderful work they've done for this European U19 Championship,"* he said. *"It's been fantastic. A total of 70,000 spectators is fantastic. I don't know who'll win the final, but you have won already because you've done a fantastic job."*

This tournament, which was staged in Linz, Pasching, Ried and Steyr, was an important dress rehearsal for the host country with a view to the upcoming EURO 2008, which it is co-hosting with Switzerland. On the sporting side, the Austrians were unable to repeat their heroic exploits from the FIFA U-20 World

Austria, 16-27 July 2007

Group A

Greece – Portugal	1-0
Austria – Spain	0-2
Spain – Portugal	1-1
Austria – Greece	1-1
Portugal – Austria	2-0
Spain – Greece	0-0

Group B

Germany – Russia	3-2
France – Serbia	5-2
Russia – Serbia	2-6
Germany – France	1-1
Serbia – Germany	2-3
Russia – France	0-0

Semi-finals

Germany – Greece	2-3
Spain – France	0-0, 4-2 on penalties

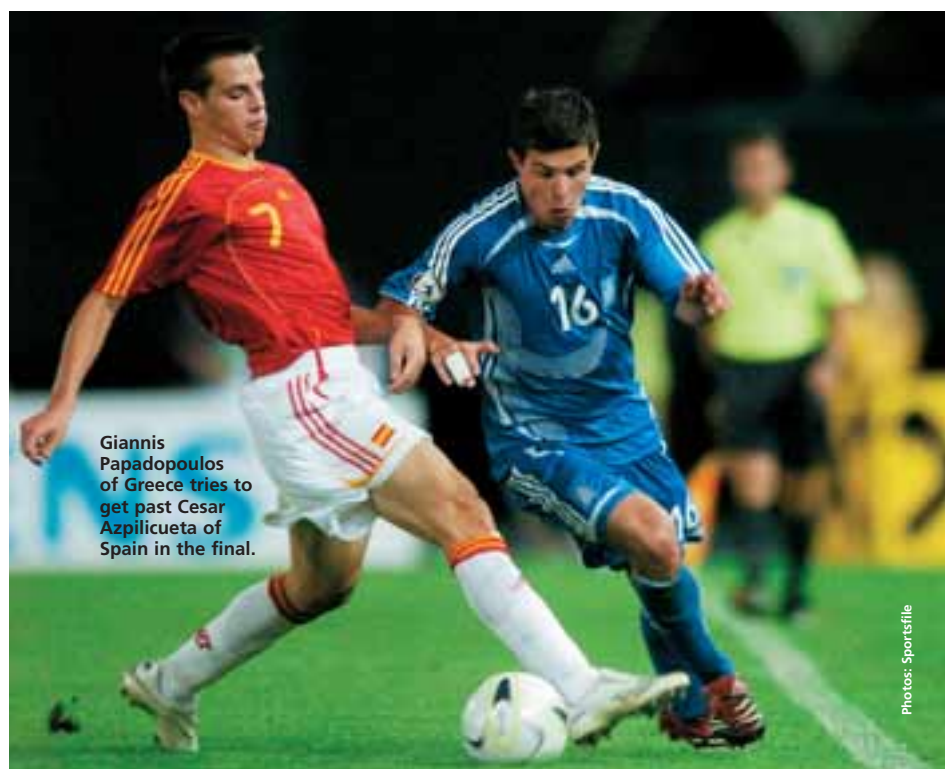
Final

Spain – Greece	1-0
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Cup final round in Canada, when they reached the semi-final. The team came to grief in the group stage against Spain, Greece and Portugal. Bearing in mind, however, that most of the Austrian players, unlike those of other teams, are still playing at lower league or amateur level, the tournament was at least an enriching and valuable experience for them.

Fight against doping and racism also in the spotlight

At the U19 Championship UEFA continued its series of anti-doping presentations, which it has been making at all final rounds of youth tournaments and the European U21 Championship for the last two years. During these one-hour sessions, the players were told of the risks that doping can pose to their health and their career, as well as being informed about doping control procedures. The fight against racism was also a focus at the tournament. Before the match between Austria and Spain, both captains turned to the crowd of nearly 12,000 and read out an anti-racism message, while the ÖFB had been running a major campaign in conjunction with many local schools culminating in various projects and initiatives.



Giannis Papadopoulos of Greece tries to get past Cesar Azpilicueta of Spain in the final.

Photos: Sportstyle



Solidarity payments to European leagues

THE SYSTEM FOR THE DISTRIBUTION OF REVENUE FROM THE UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE ALLOCATES A PROPORTION TO THE TOP LEAGUES OF UEFA'S MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS. THIS PAYMENT IS AIMED AT SUPPORTING YOUTH DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES IN PROFESSIONAL FOOTBALL. IT COMPLEMENTS OTHER UEFA INITIATIVES SUCH AS CLUB LICENSING AND THE INTRODUCTION OF RULES ON LOCALLY TRAINED PLAYERS.

For the first time, the payments for the season 2006-07 have been calculated in euros, and the share for the leagues amounts to more than EUR 43.2 million. The guaranteed minimum for each league is EUR 166,700. The amount then varies according to a number of criteria.

The most important of these is whether or not an association was represented in last season's Champions League. In 2006/07, a total of 16 national associations had at least one club in the competition and their leagues have received the following amounts, which vary according to the value of the respective markets in the countries concerned:



The distribution of these amounts does not concern the clubs that participated in the Champions League since they received their share of revenue directly (see *uefadirect* No. 63).

As regards the leagues which were not represented in the UEFA Champions League last season, the differences between the amounts paid are also explained by the value of the respective markets.

The payments are made through the national associations, which pass on the full amounts to their respective top leagues. If there is no league recognised by UEFA within an association, the association itself takes care of distribution according to the terms laid down by UEFA for the leagues. One of these terms states that clubs (non-participants in the Champ-

Leagues not represented

Norway	351 500
Austria	340 800
Poland	308 300
Switzerland	307 200
Sweden	282 900
Israel	243 000
Iceland	225 200
Republic of Ireland	224 700
Hungary	218 200
Czech Republic	198 500
Cyprus	195 900
Albania	192 100
Croatia	189 800
Serbia	187 000
Slovenia	180 700
Finland	180 200
Georgia	174 800
Malta	174 300
Slovakia	171 800
Bosnia and Herzegovina	171 700
Kazakhstan	170 500
Armenia	170 300
FYR Macedonia	170 000
Belarus	168 700
Azerbaijan	168 100
Moldova	167 200
Estonia	167 000
Latvia	167 000
Lithuania	167 000
Andorra	166 700
Faroe Islands	166 700
Liechtenstein	166 700
Luxembourg	166 700
Northern Ireland	166 700
San Marino	166 700
Wales	166 700
TOTAL	EUR 7 201 300

Leagues represented

England	6 515 000
Italy	6 465 000
Germany	4 056 000
Spain	3 861 000
France	3 409 000
Netherlands	2 670 000
Greece	1 441 000
Turkey	1 318 000
Scotland	1 160 000
Denmark	1 043 000
Belgium	991 000
Portugal	848 000
Romania	642 000
Russia	584 000
Ukraine	542 000
Bulgaria	455 000
TOTAL	EUR 36 000 000

ions League) are only eligible for a share of the revenue if they provide a youth training programme which meets the requirements of the UEFA-approved national club licensing manual. Requests for payments must be made by the national associations no later than 31 December 2007, indicating the exact allocation planned within the league and the criteria used in that process.



All the prestige of the UEFA Champions League highlighted as the two teams, AC Milan and Liverpool FC, came onto the pitch to contest the final last May.



Mhassyan/AFP/Getty Images

Armenia pulled off a great victory against Poland.



Bendiksby/AFP/Getty Images

Steffen Iversen scores for Norway against Hungary. The Norwegians are still in the running for the top two spots.



EURO 2008

Giants fighting back

ITALY, SPAIN AND ENGLAND ALL MADE DISAPPOINTING STARTS TO THE QUALIFYING CAMPAIGN FOR EURO 2008, WHICH IS TO BE HELD IN SWITZERLAND AND AUSTRIA. AS THEY APPROACH THE HOME STRAIGHT, THE BIG GUNS HAVE RALLIED AND ARE BACK IN THE RECKONING. NEVERTHELESS, SURPRISES ARE STILL LIKELY. A SUMMARY OF THE CURRENT SITUATION...

In the **Group A**, four of the eight teams still have a genuine chance of qualification, but whenever one of them seems capable of breaking clear, they are thwarted by an unexpected result. The latest example was Poland's surprising defeat in Armenia. Leo Beenhakker's men, who are aiming for their first-ever appearance in the European Championship finals, face tough trips



to Portugal and Finland in September. Finalists at EURO 2004, which they hosted, the Portuguese have the potential to top the group thanks to their technical ability and the presence of Cristiano Ronaldo. Following the arrival of Javier Clemente, the Serbs have regained the defensive sturdiness that they briefly lost at the World Cup finals and are also a force to be reckoned with. However, the Finnish team coached by Roy Hodgson, which started the campaign well, appear to be on a downward curve.

Group B: final sprint without Totti and Nesta

After a miserable start (one point from two matches), Italy have won five games on the trot. However, coach Roberto Donadoni will have to do without the services of Francesco Totti, who has officially announced his retirement from international football. The AS Roma captain has not pulled on the blue jersey since the World Cup final. Another significant loss is that of defender Alessandro Nesta who, a week after Totti, also announced that he would no longer be playing for his country. Group leaders France, meanwhile, have coped well with the retirement of Zinedine Zidane. Franck Ribéry has established himself and the young Samir Nasri has begun to show genuine technical ability. Behind last year's World Cup finalists, Ukraine and Scotland are also in the running. Oleg Blokhin's men, quarter-finalists in Ger-

many, have continued their good form. Meanwhile, the team coached since January by Alex McLeish (who took over from Walter Smith when he returned to Rangers) and which has failed to reach a major finals since 1998, is doing surprisingly well.

Group C: champions on course

Since collapsing to a 4-1 home defeat against Turkey, title-holders Greece, led by Otto Rehhagel, have recovered and appear to be breaking clear at the top of the group. This is partly due to the Turks' decline in form, despite five goals from the "eternal" Hakan Sükür. After successfully salvaging a point against Norway, Fatih Terim's men lost 3-2 in Bosnia, conceding an 89th-minute winner after leading twice during the match. The fact that they are now able to play matches at home again (the suspension having been served) is in their favour. However, Bosnia-Herzegovina, who have been making steady progress since their independence, and a solid Norwegian team are still in with a shout.

Group D: Germany lead the way

After finishing third in the last World Cup, Germany have almost qualified for EURO 2008. Joachim Löw's men have more points and goals to their name than any of the other 49 nations participating in the qualifying competition. Their win in the Czech Republic



Dufour/AFP/Getty Images

Samir Nasri: the new face in the French team.



The power of Germany's Christoph Metzelder (No. 21) against the fiery tempo of Matej Krajcik in the Germany v. Slovakia match.

Treblin/AP/Getty Images



David Villa on his own against the Liechtenstein defence – but the Spaniard ended up scoring twice.

Coffrin/AP/Getty Images



Russia and Croatia are among the four contenders for qualification for Group E.

Polini/AP/Getty Images

virtually guaranteed them a place in the finals. Karel Brückner's men, meanwhile, have no more room for error but still retain grounds for optimism: Karel Poborsky (118 caps) has rejoined the fold and the future seems bright following the Czech team's run to the final of the Under-20 World Cup. Their Slovakian "cousins", despite reaching the play-offs in the last World Cup qualifying competition and replacing coach Dusan Galis with Ian Kocian, are virtually out of the running, along with Wales, who are now without Ryan Giggs. The brilliant Manchester United winger has retired from international football. The Republic of Ireland, coached by young Stephen Staunton (a former "green army" legend), have not given up hope, despite a shock defeat in Cyprus.

Group E: the return of "King David"

Coach Steve McClaren recognised that David Beckham is still one of England's best players when he recalled him after several months out of his squad, during which the team failed to shine. However, his return does not automatically mean England will qualify. They are currently the worst placed of four potential qualifiers. Croatia have found a real goalscorer by naturalising Brazilian Eduardo da Silva, who is well supported by Mladen Petric (who also holds a Swiss passport). Israel are relying on their squad's togetherness to help them qualify for a European

Championship final round for the first time. Guus Hiddink's Russia can boast the best defence of the 50 participating teams (only one goal conceded). Matches between these sides will no doubt determine the final outcome. Another piece of news from this group is the resignation of Estonian coach Jelle Goes, who was replaced by Viggo Jensen on 17 July.

Group F: a sad derby

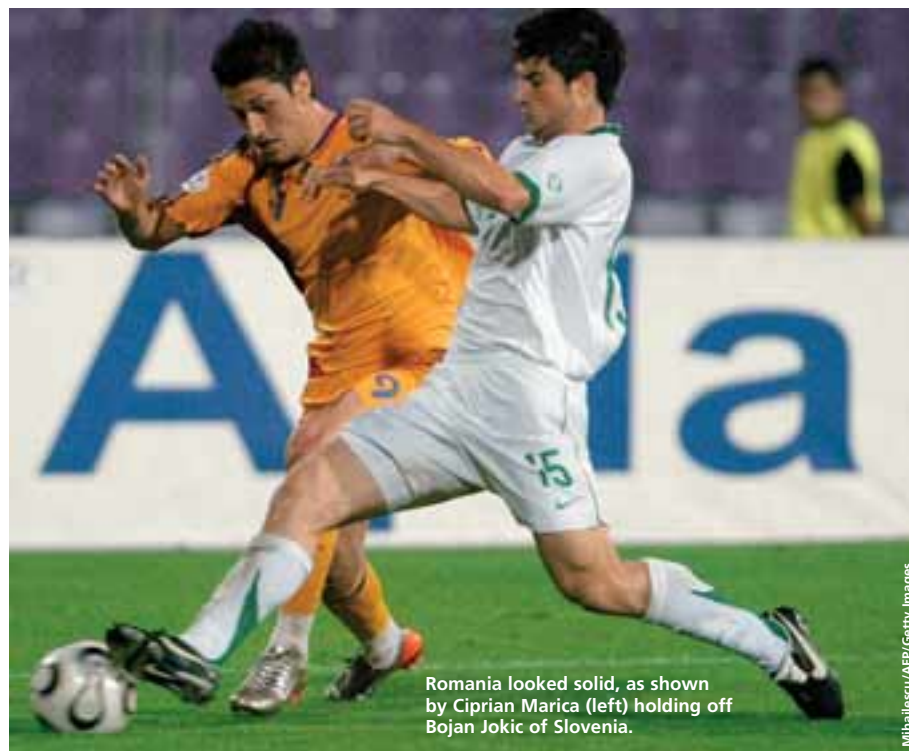
1992 European champions Denmark saw their chances of participating in the 2008 finals virtually reduced to zero after the 3-0 defeat to Sweden imposed by the UEFA Control and Disciplinary Body. Following the pitch invasion by a drunk supporter who attacked the referee, the Danes must also play two matches behind closed doors. The Swedes, who in Johan Elmander seem to have found a worthy successor to Henrik Larsson, currently lead the way. Spain, meanwhile, have recovered from a worrying start to the campaign, largely thanks to seven goals from David Villa. Imperious at youth level, will the Spaniards finally manage to convince in a major championship? Northern Ireland, whose David Healy is the top goalscorer in the competition

with nine goals, surprisingly lie in wait. However, they still have to travel to Sweden and Spain.

Group G: third coach for Bulgaria

Three nations have a legitimate hope of qualification. Led by Adrian Mutu, Romania appear strong and still have a home match with the Netherlands to come. Despite being a former world-class striker and 1988 European champion, Dutch coach Marco van Basten is having trouble devising a prolific attacking formula. His team have only scored eight goals. Even though Holland's youngsters are showing promise (having won the European Under-21 title twice in a row), the anticipated return of Ruud van Nistelrooy – voluntarily absent since the World Cup – should make the biggest difference. Bulgaria may fight all the way, despite two recent changes of coach. In April, Hristo Stoichkov left his post to coach Celta Vigo. On 30 July, Dimitar Penev (who led Bulgaria to the World Cup semi-finals in 1994) returned to replace temporary coach Stanimir Stoilov. On the same day, Belarus appointed German coach Bernd Stange to replace Juri Puntus.

Emanuele Saraceno



Romania looked solid, as shown by Ciprian Marica (left) holding off Bojan Jokić of Slovenia.

Mihallescu/AP/Getty Images



Fabien Barthez does community service.

Flash Press



UEFA's Control & Disciplinary Body.

UEFA/bjwoods.ch

Disciplinary measures

Sanctions in the form of community service?

MARK VAN BOMMEL, THE BAYERN MUNICH MIDFIELDER, HAS BEEN ORDERED TO TAKE PART IN ACTIVITIES TO PROMOTE FAIR PLAY AS PART OF THE DISCIPLINARY SANCTIONS IMPOSED ON HIM FOLLOWING THE OBSCENE GESTURE HE MADE DURING A UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE MATCH.

Playing against Real Madrid, Van Bommel lost his self-control. Venting his frustration with an obscene gesture towards the fans, the Bayern midfielder failed as a role model, and this kind of behaviour also runs the risk of provoking violence in the stands. The UEFA Control & Disciplinary Body imposed a three-part sanction on the Dutchman: apart from receiving a EUR 6,200 fine and a suspended one-match ban, Van Bommel will be required to promote fair play at a UEFA youth tournament. In this way the player will have to face up to his action and devote some of his free time to rectifying the bad example which he set for young players.

FIFA took a similar approach towards Zinedine Zidane, following his infamous headbutt in response to being insulted by Marco Materazzi in the World Cup final. This was the Frenchman's last match, in the aftermath of which he completed three days of community service.

Are such measures applicable at national association level? It seems that only France has made use of this course of action, but the member associations asked have expressed great interest in UEFA's idea.

Barthez: a precedent in France

During a friendly game played by Olympique de Marseille in Morocco in March 2005, Fabien Barthez spat at

a referee. After the Moroccan association sent the file to the French Football Federation (FFF), the FFF disciplinary committee suspended the goalkeeper for six months, from the end of March to the end of September 2005. It also obliged him to perform a total of ten community service tasks during his suspension, which included meeting referees, helping to train youth goalkeepers, and interacting with futsal and women's teams.

His has been the highest-profile case involving a disciplinary measure which has been in effect for more than five years, as Jean Lapeyre, FFF deputy CEO in charge of legal affairs, explained. *"This sanction forms an integral part of our statutes but we keep it for serious cases, such as assault on a referee. If it's a first offence, if the person concerned seems to be decent but did something stupid and let his emotions get the better of him, we make the following proposal: you're going to be suspended for five years. You have to serve your suspension but you can do community work as part of it. We have to have his agreement. If he struck a referee, he'll follow a course of train-*

ing after which we'll send him out on the pitch. Then he'll see what referees have to put up with. If he mends his ways, his punishment will be reduced and part of it will be suspended. But he has to serve at least half the original sentence." The FFF has two million members. It cannot afford to make these penalties standard, otherwise it would have to set up a "community service"

committee to handle them. The good thing for France is that football is organised on a decentralised basis. *"We were obliged to organise the tasks*



Punishment with a difference for Mark van Bommel.

Empics/PA Photos



Footballers have to promote fair play.

Bongarts



Media coverage of top-level football vastly increases its influence on the game at all other levels.

UEFA/PA Photos

for Barthez ourselves, as well as taking care of the media aspect, but our regional leagues and districts got involved as well." The educational penalty makes an impact and is very effective. "The offender feels understood and wants to redeem himself. Some have even continued with refereeing afterwards. This sanction shows both impartiality and understanding. It doesn't exclude the player concerned from football: he is punished within the realm where he committed the offence. This sends out an important signal to the victims too." A sporting attitude is sometimes lacking on the bench and among club bosses too. "We've doubled and even tripled the sanctions. A national ethics council also looks at statements in the press, with recourse to sanctions if appropriate."

Food for thought

The ad hoc committee of the German Football Association (DFB) is currently examining its range of sanctions and might possibly include punishments with an educational value. In Switzerland, Robert Breiter, legal secretary of the Swiss Football Association, is also looking at the statutes of the association. "Our range of sanctions provides for suspensions and fines, in particular, but not for community work. I'd certainly be in favour of it. It's an interesting subject of discussion, especially for very well-known players, because the press are interested and highlight the impact of the sanction. The whole point is to see whether this will really encourage the player to behave properly in future. We're too close to the subject to be able to see clearly. Overall, I'm not sure that the EUR 6,200 fine really made a dent in Mark van Bommel's wallet. A suspension, on the other hand, is effective, especially as it handicaps the club, which may dock the player's wages. Switzerland is witnessing violence at amateur and youth level – and also involving parents. This violence is taken out on referees, and we are looking for ways to counter it. Community work might be an interesting solution."

The Netherlands are opting for traditional sanctions as well. Frank Huizinga, spokesman for the Dutch FA, also points the finger at the bench. "Coaches and substitutes must also behave properly. Top players and coaches are role models for young people and so they should set an example. They must also realise that certain gestures harm their image. We penalise any inappropriate behaviour, including monkey noises. The weapons at our disposal are fines and suspensions. And community service? The good thing about the UEFA ruling is that it has opened the debate."

A positive step

Joël Wolff, general secretary of the Luxembourg FA, is a member of the UEFA disciplinary body which dealt with the Van Bommel case. "There's no explicit provision covering it in our statutes. It's a good idea, as long as it's not misused. Examples have to be made. We can't compare our players to Van Bommel; a fine hurts them much more. Anyway, where would we send them?"

Italy above all is suffering from violence committed by its fans. Diego Antenzio, Italian FA press attaché, confirms that parallel sentences for players do not exist. "Since the tragedy in Catania, the misdeeds of fans are our main problem. It's the absolute priority. This was the last

thing commissioner Luca Pancalli said and the first thing that was emphasised by the new president succeeding him, Giancarlo Abete. A draft law is under discussion in parliament. This envisages sentences or community service."

The Austrian FA has never imposed educational work or fines for improper conduct; it simply imposes suspensions on offenders. Christian Kircher, a spokesman for the Austrian Bundesliga, greatly appreciates the UEFA initiative. "It's a positive step. Not everything can be settled with fines. The offenders have to face up to what they did and bear the consequences. They have to be encouraged to reflect – even if they acted impulsively, as is often the case on a football pitch – and understand that they're harming their team. Some of our clubs, such as Austria Vienna and FC Wacker Tyrol, confronted with the violence of their fans, have already taken innovative steps. They've offered a choice of punishments to violent fans: a stadium ban, reparation for damages or service in the community, not just at the club. The offenders had to make themselves available to hospitals, schools, etc. Anyway, sanctions of this kind exist outside football, don't they? Naomi Campbell was sentenced to a spell of community work, wasn't she?"

Pascale Pierard



UEFA/PA Photos



The Czech Republic only narrowly missed out on the U20 world title.

Getty Images



The final of the last FIFA Women's World Cup in 2003 saw Germany take on Sweden.

Getty Images

Competitions and other activities

Silver in Canada for the Czech Republic

IT HAD BEEN TEN YEARS SINCE EUROPE LAST PROVIDED TWO OF THE FOUR SEMI-FINALISTS IN THE UNDER-20 WORLD CUP.

In Canada in July, the Czech Republic and Austria reached the semi-finals having initially finished second but undefeated in their groups, behind the other two eventual semi-finalists, reigning champions Argentina and Chile.

Czech penalty success

The Czechs had then beaten Japan on penalty kicks, while the Austrians eliminated Gambia in the last 16. In the quarter-finals, Austria had defeated the USA after extra time and the Czechs had knocked out Spain on penalties.

The two European teams locked horns in the semi-finals and the



An aerial battle between Martin Fenin (No. 9) of the Czech Republic and Austria's Sebastian Prödl in the all-European semi-final of the FIFA U-20 World Cup.

Getty Images

Czech Republic had secured victory by half-time, scoring the only two goals of the contest before the break.

Comeback by Argentina

In the final against Argentina, whom they had already held to a 0-0 draw in the group stage, the Czech Republic may have thought the trophy was theirs rather prematurely after opening the scoring in the second half. The goal probably caused them to lose concentration and Argentina equalised virtually immediately before netting the winner in the final minutes of the match in order to lift their sixth world title in this category.

Austria lost 1-0 to Chile in the match for third place.

Of the other European representatives, reigning European champions Spain looked set to go far after dominating their group and eliminating Brazil in the last 16. However, they were beaten by the Czech Republic in the quarter-finals. Poland and Portugal fell in the last 16 to Argentina and Chile respectively, two South American teams who went on to reach the semi-finals. Finally, Scotland were eliminated after the group matches.

Elite women in China

The Women's World Cup will be held in China from 10 to 30 September. Germany will be defending the title they won in the USA in 2003 and will be joined in China by four other European teams: 2003 runners-up Sweden, England, Denmark and Norway.

The European representatives have plenty of experience of these occasions, since Germany, Norway and Sweden have participated in every final round since 1991, when the Women's World Cup was first held. Denmark will be involved for the fourth time, while England have qualified for the second time, after 1995.



A long way to go to the UEFA Futsal Cup final.

Sportsfile



News from Brussels

On 11 July, the European Commission officially published its White Paper on Sport. Based on three main aspects (economic impact, societal role and organisation of sport in Europe), this 20-page document is the result of an initiative piloted by the European Commissioner responsible for education, training and youth, Jan Figel. UEFA's opinions on the White Paper are mixed...

Almost two years after launching its consultation campaign, the European Commission has therefore published its white paper.

This document, which has no binding legal force, aims to "give strategic orientation on the role of sport in Europe" by bringing together in a single document a list of coordination activities (symbolically entitled the "Pierre de Coubertin Action Plan") to be implemented by the commission in the near future in order to create conditions for more constructive dialogue with the European sports federations.

To this end, the European Commission has made its position known on a wide variety of themes relevant to the activities of UEFA's national associations in more than one respect.

As well as a clear desire to promote the practice of physical activities in order to improve public health and to contribute to the fight against doping, the commission expresses determination to help combat violence and racism at sports events.

With regard to aspects more closely linked to the organisation of sport, it considers that the gentleman's agreement on transfers

Germany will contest the opening match against Argentina in Shanghai on 10 September before facing England and Japan in their other group matches. Sweden will be up against Nigeria, the USA and Korea DPR; Norway will play Canada, Australia and Ghana; Denmark's group also includes China PR, New Zealand and Brazil.

The group matches will be staged in Shanghai, Chengdu, Hangzhou, Tianjin and Wuhan. The quarter-finals will take place on 22 and 23 September, with the semi-finals on 26 and 27 September. The match for third place and the final will be held in Shanghai on 30 September.

Club competitions resume

The UEFA Intertoto Cup, which kicked off the new season of club competitions, has already been completed.

Eleven teams reached the second qualifying round of the UEFA Cup via the Intertoto Cup: UD Leiria, UC Sampdoria, Atletico de Madrid, FC Otelul Galati, FC Tobol Kostanay, SV Hamburg, RC Lens, SK Rapid Vienna, Blackburn Rovers FC, Hammarby and Aalborg BK.

■ The 2007/08 UEFA Women's Cup also got under way when the first qualifying round was played in the first half of August, involving ten groups of four teams.

The group winners and the best runner-up will play in the second qualifying round from 11 to 16 October, where they will be joined by the five teams that have qualified automatically: current holders LFC Arsenal, last year's three other semi-finalists, Umea, Brøndby and Kolbotn IL, and Eintracht Frankfurt, competition winners in 2002 and 2006.

■ The 2007/08 UEFA Futsal Cup kicked off with preliminary round matches played from 11 to 19 August in the form of mini-tournaments involving six groups of three or four teams. The group winners will participate in the main round from 8 to 16 September. This phase will consist of six groups of four, with the top two in each group qualifying for the elite round, where they will join four teams that qualify automatically: current holders MFK Dinamo Moscow, along with MFK-Viz-Sinara Ekaterinburg, El Pozo Murcia and Kairat Almaty, who have qualified thanks to their position in the UEFA rankings.

The four group winners will contest the final phase of the competition, with the semi-finals and final to be staged in the same city, in principle from 24 to 26 April 2008.



Flash Press

After beating Chornomorets Odessa in the third round of the UEFA Intertoto Cup, Lens (Eric Carrière, facing the camera) are among the 11 teams who have qualified for the UEFA Cup via this competition.

→ concluded in 2001 by FIFA, UEFA and the European Commission is an example of "good practice". The "usefulness" of UEFA's club licensing system is also acknowledged.

The tricky questions of local training of young players and national teams were also addressed. For example – to UEFA's great satisfaction – the white paper backs the new rules on local training of young players and the importance of the "essential" role played by national teams "not only in terms of identity but also to secure solidarity with grassroots sport".

The sale of television rights for sports competitions is also discussed at length in the document. In this connection, the Commission describes the system of collective selling as "a tool for achieving greater solidarity within sports", although it does not disapprove of individual selling of rights, provided it is linked to a "robust solidarity mechanism", which is currently proving illusive.

The main point of dissatisfaction concerns the Commission's understanding of the "specificity" of sport.

Although the Commission acknowledges "certain specific characteristics" of sport, it adopts the principle laid down by the European Court of Justice last year in its Meca-Medina ruling (see *uefadirect* No. 56). According to this principle, "purely sporting rules", traditionally excluded from the field of application of the EC Treaty, no longer exist and the conformity of each one with Community law must be assessed on a "case-by-case" basis where disputes arise. This approach promises to result in legal uncertainty, anxiety and disputes for UEFA and its national associations.

To conclude, as UEFA, FIFA, the IOC and five other European sports federations stated in a joint press release, "much work remains to be done".

The European Commission White Paper is available in 24 languages at: http://ec.europa.eu/sport/index_en.html



Prince Frederik of Denmark congratulates Scotland's captain Paul Smith after his side's victory over Poland.

Ten years of Open Fun Football Schools

The Open Fun Football Schools (OFFS), which UEFA partners, have celebrated their tenth anniversary by organising 130 schools for some 26,000 boys and girls from 7 to 11 years old in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, FYR Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia and Moldova.

In addition, more than 200 voluntary coaches spent 60-80 hours taking part in coach and leader training courses run by the Danish Cross Cultures Project Association (CCPA), whose aim is to promote tolerance and peaceful co-existence in the Balkans and the Caucasus.

"This summer, we asked municipalities and clubs to let us know if they were interested, the idea being that at least two neighbouring municipalities and three football clubs should get together to organise a football school and, among other things, pay for the coach and leader training," reckons Anders Levinsen, project director.

"We only had a budget for 77 football schools but received more than 250 applications! For example, we received a request from three municipalities in central Bosnia who wanted to focus on women's youth football. But more than 800 girls wanted to take part. What could we do? We tried to resolve the "problem" with a double programme. During the day, the school took place in the stadium, and in the evening we organised a street football party in front of the town hall."

The organisers were also able to count on the support of national football associations like the Croatian FA, which assisted with the training of 84 coaches, including 24 women. *"Consequently, by the end of the Open Fun Football Schools, 84 Croatian coaches will have fulfilled requirements for the association's C licence – endorsed by UEFA under the auspices of the Grassroots Charter,"* added Anders Levinsen.



Scotland win Homeless World Cup

The fifth edition of the Homeless World Cup, played in Copenhagen from 29 July to 4 August, was won by Scotland, who beat Poland 9-3 in the final.

Around 500 players from 48 countries took part in this tournament, which attracted large crowds in spite of the gloomy weather. Former French international Eric Cantona and Danish ex-international referee Kim Milton Nielsen were among those who lent their support to the competition, which aims to give homeless people a chance to make a new start in life.

The next edition of the Homeless World Cup will be held in Melbourne next year.

Anti-racist activities in Poland

Young people from Algeria, Kosovo, France, Germany, Moldova, Austria, England and Poland took part in anti-racist activities on the occasion of the "Przystanek Woodstock" rock festival from 2 to 4 August.

These UEFA-backed activities were run by the Never Again Association, a FARE network partner which organised a football tournament and a vast information campaign on the dangers of racism and xenophobia.

ARMENIA



Nurturing the grassroots

Aware of the great importance of grassroots football and with a view to promoting and developing it in all its forms, the Football Federation of Armenia conducts many projects and tournaments throughout the year.

Among recent activities in this area were two leader and coach seminars, held from 30 June to 2 July and from 9 to 11 July respectively, which form an integral part of the humanitarian and non-profit Open Fun Football Schools (OFFS) programme, with which many football associations are familiar.

In 2003, the OFFS commenced activities on an experimental basis in two football schools in Armenia, and as early as 2004, it started training its staff. Since 2003, we have organised 40 Open Fun Football Schools for more than 7,000 children, trained ten certified instructors and approximately 700 leaders and coaches in local OFFS seminars.

The aim and essence of the OFFS leader education programme is to train leaders to run a local Open Fun Football School and how to involve relevant stakeholders and civil society in this process.

The OFFS coach education package consists of a three-day training seminar, five days of practice at an Open Fun Foot-



A resounding success for the Coca-Cola Cup.

ball School and an individual feedback session with an OFFS instructor.

This year, the OFFS summer schools started on 16 July and continued until 10 August. Fifteen schools from various regions of Armenia were enrolled. For the second time, we also staged the Coca-Cola Cup tournament for 12-year-olds. The present tournament was first introduced and staged last year, when children from 16 schools in Yerevan took part. This year, however, we enrolled schools not only from Yerevan, but also from two other cities, Gyumri and Vanadzor. In total, 40 schools took part.

Keen to follow up on one of the founding principles of grassroots football, i.e. the involvement of girls/women in grassroots activities, we made sure each participating team involved girls as well.

Another significant feature was the fact that the matches were held on the artificial mini-pitches recently installed in Yerevan.

Tigran Israelyan

– the euphoria surrounding the U20 team continued.

When the tired heroes arrived back at Vienna Schwechat late in the morning two days after their last match, they were not only cheered by hundreds of excited fans, but were also treated to an official state-like reception by a high-ranking delegation including Austrian Federal Chancellor Alfred Gusenbauer and Austrian FA president Friedrich Stickler.

Peter Klinglmüller

AZERBAIJAN



New look for our official website

The official website (www.affa.az) of the Association of Football Federations of Azerbaijan (AFFA) has a new look. All major events taking place in Azerbaijani football, the latest news, plus regular interviews with AFFA officials and national team coaches, are covered here in three languages (Azeri, English and Russian). To promote good public relations, regular forums are held and visitors to the site can put interesting questions to the AFFA administration. Information is available on Azerbaijan and its football history, and also on the AFFA structure, membership and committees.

The "national team" link leads to the latest news about the Azerbaijani national teams, both at senior level and for the other age groups, including information on the squads. In addition to providing photos of the players, the "national A team" section lists players' heights, weights, dates of birth, numbers of caps and clubs of origin. Otherwise, information is available on women's football, futsal and the senior national team's position in the FIFA world rankings, which are published every month and placed on the website.

All domestic premier and first division match results, plus regular updates giving the names of referees, referee inspectors and AFFA representatives officiating at matches, are posted on the website, as are reports on all Azerbaijani national team matches in the EURO 2008 qualifying phase. There are separate links to children's football and to the code of ethics for officials, coaches, technical staff and club footballers involved in the national championship. The AFFA site also gives access to the websites of FIFA, UEFA and the top clubs in Azerbaijan. Photos from AFFA events, domestic championship and national team matches are displayed in an online gallery, and a photo of AFFA headquarters features on the homepage. Finally, the national football anthem can also be heard on the website.

Elkhan Mammadov

AUSTRIA



Under-20 team triggers football euphoria in Austria

This year's FIFA U-20 World Cup in Canada will go down in the history books of Austrian sport. With successful youth coach Paul Gludovatz at the helm, the red and whites, including Erwin Hoffer, Zlatko Junuzovic, Veli Kavlak and Sebastian Prödl, who all have senior international experience under their belts, created a genuine wave of excitement across the country.



A heroes' welcome for the U20 team on their return from Canada.

After some inspiring performances in the group phase, in which Austria were unbeaten against Congo (1-1), hosts Canada (1-0) and Chile (0-0), the team captained by Sebastian Prödl, who was included by the renowned sports newspaper *Gazzetta dello Sport* in its team of the tournament, provoked a real storm of enthusiasm back home. Even though the matches were mostly broadcast in the middle of the night – most kicked off at 2 a.m. CET – the TV viewing figures shot up and, following victories over Gambia (2-1) and the USA (2-1), the excitement level reached its first peak. The quarter-final win over the USA, which took place – exceptionally – during European prime-time viewing hours, attracted a record TV audience and provided for a real Mediterranean atmosphere at the public viewing event held in the main square in Linz, which was also hosting the launch party for the European Under-19 Championship in Upper Austria.

Even though the "Baby-Wunderteam", as they were christened by Austria's biggest daily newspaper, suffered a painful 2-0 semi-final defeat against the Czech Republic before losing the 3rd/4th place match 1-0 to Chile – an unfortunate defeat in which Austria had a man sent off



Posing beside the Champions League trophy: the dream of any footballer.

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA



Champions League trophy on view at the Grbavica stadium

Over 300 young boys spent 15 days training with professionals from European champions AC Milan at the "World Milan Junior Camp" at FK Zeljeznica's Grbavica stadium. The boys were divided into eight age groups, each with its own coach from Milan. After warm-up exercises, the groups had individual and group exercises, giving the coaches enough time to pay attention to every single boy. "Our aim was to assess the talent and capabilities of the boys quickly and easily. All the participants received certificates for completing the course, and the best four got the chance to start training with AC Milan's juniors, along with boys selected from the camps held in other countries," said Marco Schembri, leader of the camp.

The organisers caused great surprise and excitement by bringing the UEFA Champions League trophy won by AC Milan to the Grbavica stadium. The boys clamoured to take photos of the valuable trophy.

Our national under-21 team has played several warm-up games in preparation for their European Under-21 Championship qualifiers. Nikola Nikić's squad will play their first match on 9 September, against

Malta, and will then play away in Romania. Up to the end of the year, they will play three matches, all away, in France on 13 October, in Wales on 17 November, and in Malta on 20 November.

The juniors of NK Orasje won the Bosnia and Herzegovina Cup, beating their peers from NK Siroki Brijeg 2-1, while FK Borac from Banja Luka won the junior championship, winning first place at the end of the competition in Doboj by beating Skola nogometa Novi Grad from Sarajevo and FK Velez from Mostar.

FK Slavija achieved the results that were expected of them in their first appearance on the European football scene, in the UEFA Intertoto Cup. First they beat Sant Julia from Andorra, with the same result in both legs (3-2), and then in the second round, against Otelul Galati FC from Romania, they drew 0-0 at the Kosevo stadium, but lost the return leg 3-0 away in Romania.

The Football Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina is preparing to host the Group 11 qualifying tournament for the 2007/08 European Under-17 Championship from 1 to 6 October. In addition to the host nation, the group consists of Finland, Russia and Azerbaijan. At the end of September, Bosnia and Herzegovina will also host a preliminary-round mini-tournament in the European Women's Under-19 Championship, when the host nation in Group 6 will welcome Denmark, Belgium and Latvia.

Fuad Kravac

ENGLAND



Helping develop football in Malawi

The FA's National Investment Manager, Peter Kay, and Facilities Manager, Eamonn Farrell, travelled to Malawi at the start of July to assess the football infrastructure needs of the country and to compile an action plan centred on how best to achieve several short and long-term development goals.

Farrell and Kay delivered an administration workshop to the Football Association of Malawi (FAM) in November 2006, which provided the impetus for them to return to follow up on some of their original proposals.



Stephen Constantine, an Englishman in charge of the national team of Malawi.

Malawi is one of The FA's partner countries through the UEFA-CAF Meridian Project and is in urgent need of a coherent grassroots football development programme. Facilities are a key issue for FAM and it welcomed The FA's expertise in this area, with Farrell and Kay meeting potential investors and construction companies to garner their interest and support.

Stephen Constantine, an Englishman who has been in charge of the Malawi national team for the past five months, said: "It is always nice to see someone from The FA when you are working abroad.

"It gives you that feeling of support and that people are interested in what you are trying to achieve outside of England. The main purpose of the visit was for Peter and Eamonn to follow up on their previous visit and to see how we can help move things along in Malawi. I spent a few days with them and was really impressed with how they went about their work.

"It is not easy coming from England and seeing some of the things that are going on here in terms of infrastructure and facilities. The facilities and the subtle pointers from both Peter and Eamonn have certainly given FAM a great springboard to change things here in Malawi and with the continued help of The FA we can make a huge difference."

Nada Grkinic

CYPRUS



Inauguration of the Cyprus House of Football

The Cyprus Football Association (CFA) has made its dream come true and acquired new headquarters, the CFA House of Football. The acquisition of the building was made possible as a result of financial assistance from UEFA and FIFA.

The CFA House of Football was inaugurated on 8 June by HE the President of the Republic of Cyprus in the presence of the UEFA president Michel Platini, UEFA vice-president Marios Lefkaritis, deputy UEFA general secretary Gianni Infantino, Jerome Champagne, representing FIFA, and numerous friends of football.

In his address, the UEFA president said: "We are pleased that you are building football on sound foundations. It is UEFA's goal that all associations, particularly the smaller ones, acquire their own offices."

The Cyprus FA president thanked UEFA and FIFA for their support, and particularly their financial assistance.

The 2006/07 season ended with the Cup final, which Anorthosis Famagusta

won 3-2 against Omonia FC in an entertaining game attended by 20,000 spectators.

As champions, Apoel FC are competing in the UEFA Champions League qualifying matches, while Anorthosis and Omonia FC are taking part in the UEFA Cup. Ethnikos Achnas have represented Cyprus in the UEFA Intertoto Cup for the second year in a row.

The teams of Athletic Union of Paphos, Ayia Napa and Digenis Morphou were relegated to the second division, from which Apop Kiniras, Alki and Doxa were promoted to the first division.

Kyriakos Giorgallis



Michel Platini presents the president of Cyprus, Tassos Papadopoulos, with a pennant, in the presence of the Cyprus FA No. 1, Costakis Koutsokounnis.

ESTONIA



New coach in charge of national team

In July, the experienced Dane, Viggo Jensen, was recruited by the Estonian Football Association (EJL) as head coach of the national team, following the departure of Dutchman Jelle Goes at the end of June.

Former Danish international Jensen said that he did not hesitate when called up by the EJL. *"I have been in charge of several club teams, but never coached a senior national team. It is a great challenge for me and I am very happy that I have this opportunity,"* he said.

Jensen has an impressive list of achievements, both as a player and a coach. In the 1973/74 season, he won the Bundesliga and European Champion Clubs' Cup with Bayern Munich as a player; and in 1992 he was the assistant coach when Denmark miraculously won the European Championships. Jensen has also coached Danish Superliga sides OB Odense, Viborg FF, Aarhus FC, Esbjerg FB and Silkeborg IF, as well as Swedish Allsvenskan team Malmö FF.



Viggo Jensen (right) shakes hands with EJL president Aivar Pohlak on the Dane's recruitment as head coach of the Estonian national team.

Jensen's contract runs until the end of the year. However, the EJL president, Aivar Pohlak, hopes for longer cooperation. *"We will discuss it after our EURO 2008 campaign,"* he said.

Mihkel Uiboleht

GEORGIA



Bidding to host the UEFA Cup final

The Boris Paichadze national stadium in Tbilisi is among the candidates to host the UEFA Cup final in 2010 or 2011.

Ucha Ugulava, general secretary of the Georgian Football Federation, Irakli Medzmarishvili, director-general of the Boris Paichadze national stadium, and Giorgi Sharashenidze, head of the city's inter-

national department, have submitted an official bid to UEFA.

The national stadium's rivals to host the UEFA Cup final are Bucharest (Romania), Poznan (Poland), Copenhagen (Denmark), Gelsenkirchen (Germany), Porto (Portugal), Madrid (Spain), Tel Aviv (Israel), Dublin (Republic of Ireland), Hamburg (Germany), Lisbon (Portugal), London (England) and Barcelona (Spain).

The stadiums will be inspected by UEFA in the autumn and the successful candidates to host the two finals will be named in March 2008.

Alexander Tsnobiladze



The Boris Paichadze national stadium in Tbilisi.

GERMANY



Fans' congress

420 fans from 50 clubs from the Bundesliga, 2. Bundesliga and regional and amateur leagues joined officials at the first national congress entitled "Football is our life – coming together", organised by the German Football Association (DFB) and the German Football League (DFL). *"There should be no gulfs within football, between its institutions, the association and the league, or between spectators in the stadiums. By organising this congress, the DFB and the German Football League have offered a chance for dialogue which the fans have taken with open arms,"* said DFB president Theo Zwanziger.

DFB general secretary Horst R. Schmidt explained, *"The congress was a success-*

ful attempt to strengthen dialogue and share different points of view. It was therefore a good thing that disagreements in specific areas were not ignored or trivialised. Of course, a congress like this is not an occasion for taking decisions. But the DFB will do its utmost to fulfil the undertakings that were made during the second half of the year."

The DFB accepts that there is a need to change the way stadium bans are imposed. Fan representatives agreed to take action against all forms of discrimination. Alongside Theo Zwanziger and Horst R. Schmidt, the DFB was represented in Leipzig by its security chief Helmut Spahn and fan officer Gerald von Gorrissen.

The DFB and representatives of the main fan organisations agreed to continue their discussions in the near future within the "Fan Dialogue" working group.

Thomas Hackbarth

HUNGARY



A new life – without fences

The board of the Hungarian Football Federation (MLSZ) has acknowledged Budapest Honvéd's request to let the fences be demolished at the József Bozsik stadium. The hurdles were used all around the ground to physically separate the supporters from the pitch.

Budapest Honvéd – a team with huge traditions in Hungary – are preparing for a promising new season. as the squad has been strengthened and the team is involved in the UEFA Cup as well. The club's owner, George F. Hemingway, asked the MLSZ president to support his initiative to create a civilised environment in the stadium named after one of the greatest stars of the "Magical Magyars". *"We would like to bring football even closer to the fans, especially to families and children,"* he said.

"We were more than happy to accept the request and I hope this will be a good

example of how supporters can really enjoy matches without barriers," declared István Kisteleki, president of the MLSZ, after the board meeting. *"Very soon, I expect we will not see fences in any stadiums."*

The decision fits into the MLSZ's philosophy regarding security regulations. It has also announced zero tolerance against verbal and non-verbal violence, and referees are instructed to interrupt matches immediately if there is any sign of such disrespectful behaviour.

Márton Dinnyés



Removing fences to create a more convivial atmosphere in the stadiums.



The JFK Olimps youth players are gaining valuable experience playing in the top division.

LATVIA



Higher league on its way to expansion

The Latvian first division championship, the LMT Virsliga, is on the way to expanding to ten clubs, as the board of the Latvian Football Federation (LFF) is considering promoting the best youth team from the second division. Before the season can be named when this move will take place, there is still a lot of analysis to be done. *"The infrastructure of our clubs is still not strong enough. Even all our eight LMT Virsliga teams are vastly different. But we have to give our young players a chance to gain experience at the highest possible level, in order to prepare them for the national teams,"* explained the LFF president, Guntis Indriksons. A decision as to whether the LMT Virsliga will be expanded in the 2008 season will be taken in December 2007, once all the clubs have been consulted and the analysis concluded.

During the 2007 season, the LMT Virsliga has proved to be a strong league without any outstanding clubs. Even the youth team JFK Olimps have proved to be a hard nut for the top teams to crack. They drew once with last season's champions, FK Ventspils, while SK Liepajas Metalurgs, a convincing club this year and champions in 2005, beat Olimps only by narrow 2-1 and 1-0 margins this year. Apart from JFK Olimps, other youth teams in with a chance of a place in an expanded LMT Virsliga are Ventspils Vindava and Blazma from Rezekne.

In other news, the Latvian Football Federation has met the FIFA requirement and shortened the summer transfer period from eight to four weeks. Now club transfers can be approved until 7 August, and not 31 August as in previous years. Former Latvian national coach Juris Andrejevs has accepted the invitation of SK Liepajas Metalurgs to work as a sports director there, dealing with transfer matters. During the summer period, the LFF is involved in organising different tournaments and hosting a UEFA Futsal Cup qualifying tournament.

Martins Hartmanis

Building on the sound foundations of his predecessors, the Malta FA president has literally changed the face of the game in his country. Infrastructure projects for football facilities in Malta in these last years, including the recently inaugurated FIFA two-star artificial turf at the Centenary Stadium, made possible by UEFA's HatTrick programme, and the revision of football legislative matters, are proof of this man's dedication to the game.



The Maltese minister of education, Louis Galea, and Malta FA president Joseph Mifsud at the official inauguration of the artificial turf.

A lawyer by profession, Mifsud started his links with football in his late teens as secretary of a small football club in an outlying village, Qrendi FC. He made his way through practically all possible administrative ranks in his country, while international duties, apart from UEFA responsibilities, also saw him on FIFA's Executive Committee for two years in the 1990s.

Forty years on, he is still as energetic and forward-looking as ever. With the constant support of the other Malta FA officials, he has realistic plans for opening new horizons in different sectors of the game in Malta, besides keeping up the good work he is doing in UEFA circles.

The core of the MFA officials has been retained in other elections, with the only new face in the six-man list of the association's hierarchy being that of Peter Fenech, also a lawyer, who was elected as one of three vice-presidents. Indeed, the saying in sports, *'Never change a winning team'*, could not have been more apt in the case of the Malta FA.

Alex Vella

LITHUANIA



A summer for the children

This summer, the Lithuanian Football Federation (LFF) is running quite a few football projects dedicated to young amateur footballers all over the country.

One of the projects is the *Ezio spirdalas*, a new project, which involves mobile football fields being set up every weekend in different city centres. Each team is composed of four players under 16. The main idea and challenge of this project is to give everyone the chance to play football, and not just basketball, on the city street.

Another project is the Ergo Fun Football School, for which the LFF selected 20 secondary schools and invited them to take part in a football festival. The main sponsor of this project is the Ergo Lietuva insurance company, for whose support the LFF is very grateful.

The LFF is pleased that lot of Lithuanian schools were interested in the Ergo Fun Football School. The schools obviously think it is a good idea for their pupils to have the opportunity to play football during the summer holidays and be offered an alternative to sitting in front of computers and the television.

Finally, in August, the LFF will organise a football festival for the residents of children's homes.

Such projects are proving to be a resounding success, as the number of children taking part has risen massively in the past three years, showing that the LFF is meeting a real need.

Vaiva Zizaitė

MALTA



Malta FA president's mandate extended

Joseph Mifsud, president of the Malta FA since 1992, had his mandate extended in elections for this top post during the association's annual general meeting. Standing against him was Norman Darmanin Demajo, former treasurer of the association.

Mifsud, also a long-standing member of UEFA's Executive Committee, having been elected to this body in 1994, with another four-year term renewed earlier this year, will now be guiding the MFA until at least 2010, amounting to a total of 18 years.

MOLDOVA



Moldova grassroots development in full swing

On 9 July, Stig Ove Sandnes, a member of the UEFA Grassroots Panel and the deputy general secretary of the Norwegian Football Association, paid a two-day visit to Moldova.

During the meeting at the premises of the Football Association of Moldova (FAM), our guest focused on grassroots football development programmes throughout Europe and drew up some recommendations for our country. As highlighted by the statement of Ghenadie



Mobile pitches for the Ezio spirdalas project.

Scurtul, the FAM grassroots manager, the grassroots football development programme involves junior and youth football, women's football, beach soccer and also amateur football. The programme comprises some ten posts, each of which is clearly defined. Mr Sandnes will attend a special session at UEFA in October to report on the implementation of the programme in Moldova. If our achievements in the field of grassroots football receive a positive assessment, then we will have the opportunity to join the UEFA Grassroots Charter, which has a current membership of 20 European countries.

Our UEFA guest also visited the town of Suruceni, where a new stadium still under construction was the setting for a youth football festival. This took place in the context of the "Open Fun Football Schools" programme. The purpose of the programme is to interest as many children of pre-school age as possible and involve them in football in non-traditional ways. The FAM has opened schools of this kind in many regions of the country and regularly organises grassroots football festivals, sharing the best practices in training methodology. More than 200 children took part in this festival.

After the football festival, Mr Sandnes went to the city of Cricova, where he attended a match between a group of Moldova football veterans and the inmates of a prison. The prison administration stressed that *"this is not for the first time they engage in such activities, since the people who are here to serve their sentences must not be deprived of basic human rights."*



The president of the Moldova FA, Pavel Cebanu, presenting important projects for the federation.

■ In the context of UEFA's Top Executive Programme, the FAM hosted a short working visit by a UEFA delegation headed by Viacheslav Koloskov, a member of the UEFA Executive Committee. The objective of our guests was to find out about FAM activities which have taken place over the last two years.

The UEFA delegation met the president of the Republic of Moldova, Vladimir Voronin. During this official meeting, Pavel Cebanu tackled two essential issues, namely the construction of the Republican Stadium and the building of a "sports

palace". Mr Koloskov came up with the proposal of establishing a football department within the National Institute of Physical Training and Sports. Mr Voronin gave assurances of presidential backing with regard to these two projects. This fruitful cooperation between the leadership of Moldova and the FAM will provide the basis for the successful implementation of FAM plans within the prescribed deadlines in the future.

Boris Harcenco / Vasile Vatamanu

NORTHERN IRELAND



Girls' football making a mark in schools

In the past, it was not perceived as acceptable for girls to play traditionally male sports such as football in school. Recently, however, following a sustained period of activity by the Irish Football Association in schools, there has been an upsurge in the number of girls playing football in Northern Ireland.

The pinnacle of the schools calendar is the Carnegie Schools Cup, which is organised at under-13, under-15 and under-18 levels. Both under-13 and under-15 are structured as mini-soccer events and this year 84 schools (132 teams) participated in seven regional heats, each vying for the opportunity to represent their area in the national finals on Monday, 25 June. Created this year, the under-18 competition, involving nine teams, is played on an 11-a-side knockout basis, also concluding on the finals' day.

In the under-13 section, seven schools earned a place in the finals, where they were joined by last year's winners, Our Lady and St Patrick's College, who automatically qualified for the finals. In a thrilling encounter, Thornhill College and Our Lady and St Patrick's College met in the final, with Our Lady and St Patrick's managing to defend their title with a 1-0 victory.

In the under-15 section, the schools earning a place in the finals were also seven and they were joined by last year's winners, Coleraine High. Movilla High stunned last year's champions, beating them in the semi-final stage and securing a place in the final against Dunclug College. Despite early attempts on goal, Dunclug College were unable to find the back of the net and Movilla punished them, scoring twice in the second half.

In the under-18 final, Thornhill College took on a young Donaghadee High team. Based in Derry, an area where the standard of girls' football has dramatically improved in the last couple of years, Thornhill College proved to be too strong for Donaghadee, beating them convincingly 3-0.



More and more girls are playing football at school.

We now have over 2,000 girls participating in schools football and this tournament allows the top schools to showcase their skills. Acquiring the Carnegie sponsorship has been a catalyst in allowing the IFA to increase the amount of work in this area and we are extremely grateful for their investment and support.

There are now over 54% of schools in Northern Ireland participating in girls' football, either through leagues, cup competitions, indoor tournaments or through "Soccer Roles", an initiative which uses female international players as role models to go into schools and speak about football, training, healthy lifestyles and education.

Sara Booth

NORWAY



Parental guidelines for children's football

Every summer, the Norway Cup brings together about 1,500 teams, amounting to some 30,000 children and young people from more than 40 countries, in Oslo. The Football Association of Norway (NFF) takes the opportunity to promote fair play. This year, the focus is on parents' behaviour on the sidelines.

From time to time, we see examples of over-eager parents who let their feelings take over. The NFF wants to remind parents that children's football is all about having fun and motivating children to continue to do what they like best – playing football. Therefore, the NFF is distributing a green card containing "Parental Guidelines" for children's football. The guidelines are:

1. Show up at practice and matches – the children want you there.
2. Encourage all players – not just your own child.
2. Provide encouragement both when things go well – and when they don't.
4. Respect for the coach/team leader's choices – serious suggestions can be made after the match.

- 5. Learn to see the referee as an adviser – respect his or her decisions.
6. Motivate and encourage your child to participate – don't pressure him/her.
7. Ask if the match was exciting and fun – not just what the score was.
8. Provide appropriate and sensible equipment – but don't exaggerate.
9. Show respect for the work of the club – take part in parent meetings to clarify attitudes and ambitions.
10. Don't forget that your child is the football player – not you.
11. Show respect – don't smoke on the sidelines.
12. Remember that children will do as you do – not as you say.

Roger Solheim



Norwegian FA president Sondre Kåffjord holding the green cards to be distributed to the parents.

POLAND



Camp Nou for the best young players

More than 16,000 children are playing for the Tymbark's Cup by taking part in the seventh edition of the "From the Backyard to the Stadium" football tournament. It is the biggest children's football tournament in Poland. The winners will visit Camp Nou, the famous football stadium in Barcelona.

Tomasz Zabielski, tournament coordinator, says: "Our mission is to encourage children to play football and give them a reason to try. No matter where they live, in cities or villages, football is for every boy and every girl." This year, there are more fringe activities around the tournament than before. The Jakub Blaszczkowski football school has just launched a website at www.zpodworkanastadion.pl. Children visiting this site can easily learn football skills by watching exercises performed by one of Poland's best players. In addition, Mezo, one of the country's best-known hip-hop artists, has composed an anthem for the tournament.

The summer football camps organised for the winners of the regional heats for the tournament have ended and the best teams are now looking forward to taking part in a grand finale from (21 to 23 Sep-



With the girls too, youth is no obstacle to commitment.

tember). Leo Beenhakker, honorary patron of the tournament, told the participants: "If you want to become someone in this sport, you have to work a lot. But it's possible only when you love it!" He added that young players "have to believe in themselves, believe in a positive result, and remember that they always play for and within a team. Nobody is more important than the team."

"From the backyard to the stadium" has been organised by the Polish Football Association since 2001 for boys and girls under 10. This year, the honorary patrons of the competitions are FIFA, the Polish Ministry of Sport and the Ministry of Education, and Leo Beenhakker, coach of the Polish national team. The main sponsor of the tournament is the Tymbark company.

Dorota Liszka

REPUBLIC OF IRELAND



An exciting season

Record levels of investment and huge infrastructural advances have marked this season's eircom League of Ireland campaign as one which has seen the game make important strides forward.

However, while the 2007 season might be remembered for improvements off the pitch, events on the pitch have made this one of the most exciting seasons over recent years. With just over half the season played, any one of five clubs could claim the league title in November. Drogheda United and St Patrick's Athletic have been the forerunners all season, with the two clubs rotating between first and second position since the season kicked off.

While Bohemians may have fallen too far off the pace to maintain their title challenge, Cork City remain on course for a late surge. City struggled at the start of the season but are now clicking into gear, boosted hugely by the signings of Ireland internationals Colin Healy and Gareth Farrelly.

However, the on-pitch story of the season has been the rise and rise of Shamrock Rovers. Relegated from the Premier Division for the first time in their history in 2005, the Hoops regrouped and rebuilt and, having won the First Division at the first time of asking, they now have a real chance of winning the Premier Division this time around.

Having undergone a total makeover both on and off the pitch, Rovers are now in their strongest position in years and appear to be on the way back to re-establishing themselves as one of Ireland's biggest football clubs.

■ The FAI AGM took place in Co. Kerry on 7 July. The association held a week-long 'Festival of Football' in Kerry in the build-up to the event.

FAI officials, including senior team manager Stephen Staunton, visited local clubs and held football-related activities throughout the county. Describing the week as "magical", chief executive John Delaney commented on the growth of football in the area.

"When I lived and played football here in Kerry in 1971 and founded Tralee Dynamos, five clubs formed the Kerry League – Dynamos, Killarney Athletic, Listowel Celtic, Fossa and Brendan's Park," he said. "Now there are 2,500 children playing football, 1,600 players, including juniors, 40 clubs and 57 teams."

Eoghan Rice

ROMANIA



Giving young referees a chance

On 25 July, the tenth edition of the Romanian FA Supercup was played. FC Rapid Bucuresti (FA Cup winners) won the trophy for the fourth time, beating champions FC Dinamo Bucuresti 6-5 on penalty kicks, after the score had remained level at 1-1 after extra time.

This year's Supercup match was, however, important for another reason. It was the first time in the history of Romanian football that such a young referee had taken charge of a Supercup match or FA Cup final. The young referee in question is Istvan Kovacs, a 22-year-old student. Until 25 July, he had only refereed third division matches and only one match in the second division. His new experience follows a decision by the referees' committee of the Romanian FA, supported by the association, to place their trust in several promising young referees – selected on the basis of referee observers' reports and the referees' skills – and to "throw them in at the deep end" by appointing them for first division matches, despite their lack of experience at that level. As Gheorghe Constantin, chairman of the referees committee, said, the aim is "to promote skilful young referees to allow them to reach the top of European and world refereeing".

As a result, only two referees over 40 now officiate in the first division, while seven are still under 30. For the Supercup match, besides the two FIFA assistant referees (Cristian Nica and Aurel Onita), the fourth official was Aurelian Bogaciu, who is only 25 and who has not been appointed for many first division matches yet.

The trust placed in the young match officials has been fully rewarded, because, except for normal and human mistakes, Kovacs and his colleagues did a good job in a hard-fought match between two very old local rivals, a match which lasted 120 minutes, plus the penalty kicks. The performance of Istvan Kovacs has been unanimously recognised by both teams, by the FA officials and by the media. Now it is up to him and his fellow referee talents to confirm that the referees' committee and the Romanian FA were right to adopt this new policy.

The referees' committee and the Romanian FA will continue this policy of promoting skilful young referees and of taking older referees who are unlikely to make any further progress out of the spotlight.

It could be said that Romanian refereeing is heading in a totally new direction which it hopes will bear fruit.

Paul Zaharia

SLOVENIA



Grassroots football developments in Slovenia

During the last few years, Slovenian school and youth football development has seen immense progress. The *Rad igram nogomet* (translation: I love playing football) and *Zogarija* grassroots projects, co-run by the Slovenian FA, are competitions for children up to ten which have been such a great success with players and parents that both competitions have evolved into a movement. *Rad igram nogomet* (RIN) is a winter competition which takes place in different venues around Slovenia in which each team fields five players plus a goalkeeper, while *Zogarija* is played on a small pitch with small goals and three players per team on the pitch at the same time. The effect of the rise in popularity of grassroots football in



Grassroots football on the up and up.

Slovenia is most visible from the increase in RIN participants from 800 in 1999 to 5,600 in 2006, while participation in *Zogarija* has risen from 240 in 2002 to 1,300 in 2006. Both RIN and *Zogarija* are run jointly by the Football Association of Slovenia, the Ministry of Sport and Mediasport, a partner agency handling promotion, pro-

viding commercial partners and supplying the awards for the best teams. The movements include clubs as well as schools, with the participation of both boys and girls. The FA of Slovenia is proud to report that the current trend indicates increased participation in the years to come.

Matjaz Krajnik / Uros Stanic

SWITZERLAND



52 mini-pitches thanks to UEFA support

It is less than two years since Ralph Zloczower, president of the Swiss Football Association (SFV), opened Switzerland's first so-called mini-pitch in Payerne.

Since then, the SFV has helped to fund no fewer than 52 projects as part of the UEFA HatTrick programme.

UEFA provided the SFV (and all its affiliated regional associations) with a total of CHF 1 million for the period until 2008,

to help it promote and strengthen grassroots football by building freely accessible mini-pitches.

The installation of a total of 52 mini-pitches in our country is designed to provide some of the opportunities for grassroots football that have been lost over the past 30 years and to enable not just the 130,000 SFV-affiliated young players, but all school and leisure-time footballers to play football in their spare time.

By supporting the construction of the 52 new mini-pitches, the SFV has used up the funds allocated by UEFA and is hopeful of being awarded further support from 2009 in order to help more Swiss communities build their own mini-pitches.

Pierre Benoit

WALES



Principality Welsh Premier League hosts EPFL

The Principality Building Society Welsh Premier League were honoured to host the general assembly of the European Professional Football Leagues (EPFL) at the St David's Hotel, Cardiff Bay on 26 July.

At the meeting, the Welsh Premier League were admitted as full members of the EPFL, along with the Professional Football League of Ukraine, the Russian Premier League, the Bulgarian Professional Football League and Polish Professional Football. The Association Professional Football League of Russia were also accepted as an associate member.

During the meeting, the European Commission's White Paper on Sport and the EPFL's Global Strategy Plan for 2007/08 were discussed. There was also a lively debate on possible changes to the UEFA Champions League.

Following the meeting, Welsh Premier League secretary John Deakin said: "It's interesting to see what other leagues are doing and what we can learn from them. It will benefit us greatly."

The Welsh Premier League has only been in existence for 15 years and Deakin is keen to take advantage of this opportunity to make more of an impact. Following recent calls from club managers, the debate to change to a summer playing season has been re-ignited, after a substantial majority of clubs rejected the



EPFL chairman Sir Dave Richards (left) and the secretary of the Welsh league, John Deakin.

change two seasons ago. It will be interesting to see how this situation develops over the coming months and the league's board of directors, many of whom are newly elected, will have an early opportunity to debate this contentious issue.

In a busy week for Mr Deakin, who is also the FAW Club Licensing Manager, the national association hosted a joint meeting of the club licensing decision-making bodies in the FA of Wales' offices the following day. The club licensing officer, Andrew Howard, presented a lengthy discussion to members of the first instance body and appeals body on version 2 of the club licensing manual. Mr Howard highlighted the problems and challenges that the Welsh Premier League clubs will face in trying to achieve the more stringent criteria. The two decision-making bodies found the meeting extremely beneficial and provided some excellent feedback to the licensors.

Andrew Howard



On the pitch, the Belgians were satisfied with their team's excellent performance in the Under-21 Championship in Holland. Jan Verthongen in action against Portugal.



Faris Haroun attempts to dodge the tackle of Dutchman Ryan Donk.

Belgian Football Association

A new organisational chart



AT THE STATUTORY GENERAL MEETING OF THE BELGIAN FA (URBSFA) ON 30 JUNE, THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ELECTED OR RE-ELECTED VARIOUS MEMBERS FOR A TWO-YEAR PERIOD.

The president of the Belgian FA, François De Keersmaecker, was re-elected for two years, while Philippe Collin was chosen to replace Roger Vanden Stock as first vice-president. Jean-Pierre Notelteirs, David Delferière and Louis De Decker were re-elected as vice-presidents. Georges Ingelbrecht, Herman Wijnants, Guy Craybex and Michel Dumoulin, all members of the Belgian FA Executive Committee, were appointed as directors and, finally, Antoine Vanhove was re-elected as chairman of the Technical Committee.

The Executive Committee also appointed Jean-Paul Houben as chief

executive until 31 August 2007, to be succeeded by Jean-Marie Philips from 1 September for an indeterminate period, while general treasurer Germain Landsheere was appointed as vice-president, also for an unspecified period.

Continuity and stability

The Belgian FA's general policy is therefore one of continuity, although this stability did not prevent the general meeting from adopting a new federal organisational chart based on three main organs.

Under the revised URBSFA structure, the *Executive Committee*

remains the supreme body. It consists of 25 members, 23 of whom, including the president and vice-presidents, have voting rights, while the chief executive and general treasurer have an advisory role.

The Executive Committee meets once a month and is responsible for taking strategic, political and financial decisions.

A new body

The second organ is the *Administrative Board*, a new body responsible for ensuring the Executive Committee's decisions are implemented and which also meets monthly, between Executive Committee meetings. It has 11 members: the FA president (voting rights), chief executive (advisory role), general treasurer (advisory role), four representatives of professional football (Philippe Collin, Guy Craybex, Georges Ingelbrecht and Herman Wijnants) and four representatives of amateur football (Jean-Pierre Notelteirs, Louis De Decker, David Delferière and Michel Dumoulin), who all have voting rights.

Finally, the *Steering Committee*, the third body in order of importance, which meets weekly, has been restructured. Chaired by the chief executive, it now comprises the heads of the communication, sport, administration, finance and commercial departments, who each have voting rights. The chief executive is responsible for the day-to-day running of the association. The president and general treasurer are entitled to attend Steering Committee meetings in an advisory capacity and may ask for a particular item to be included on the agenda.

In summary, the Belgian FA is continuing to modernise while respecting the interests of all parties. This is demonstrated by the equal representation of professional and amateur football within the Administrative Board, which is a first in Belgium for a federal body of this importance.

Pierre Cornez



The president of the Belgian Football Association, François De Keersmaecker, flanked by the old and new general secretaries, Jean-Paul Houben and Jean-Marie Philips (right).

Photos: Photo News



UEFA

Communications Birthdays – Calendar

Birthdays

Rudolf Bata (Czech Republic), who is part of the group of former UEFA committee members, celebrates his 80th birthday on 4 September. Gérard Houllier (France), technical instructor, has his 60th birthday on the previous day. He will be joined at the same milestone on 13 September by Stanislaw Speczik (Poland), another member of the group of former UEFA committee members, on 14 September by Per Andersen (Denmark), member of the Artificial Turf Panel, on 25 September by Dr Mogens Kreutzfeldt (Denmark), member of the Medical Committee, and on 28 September by Michael van Praag (Netherlands), vice-chairman of the Stadium and Security Committee. Referee observer Jon Skjervold (Norway) celebrates his 50th birthday on 13 September.

UEFA also wishes many happy returns to:

- Gerhard Aigner (Germany, 1.9)
- José Guilherme Aguiar (Portugal, 1.9)
- Manuel Diaz Vega (Spain, 1.9)
- Vassilios Gagatsis (Greece, 1.9)
- Helle Handler Petersen (Denmark, 1.9)
- Marco Brunelli (Italy, 2.9)
- David R. Elleray (England, 3.9)
- Ulrich Grzella (Germany, 3.9)
- Victor Mintoff (Malta, 4.9)
- Wilfried Kindermann (Germany, 4.9)
- Grigoriy Surkis (Ukraine, 4.9)
- Barry Taylor (England, 5.9)
- Vassilios Chatziapostolou (Greece, 5.9)
- Matthias Sammer (Germany, 5.9)
- Eija Vähälä (Finland, 6.9)
- Bernd Stöber (Germany, 6.9)
- György Mezey (Hungary, 7.9)
- Ali Huseynov (Azerbaijan, 7.9)
- Antonio Laranjo (Portugal, 7.9)
- Werner Helsen (Belgium, 7.9)
- Adrian Titcombe (England, 8.9)
- Yordan Letchkov (Bulgaria, 8.9)
- Geir Thorsteinsson (Iceland, 9.9)
- Franz Beckenbauer (Germany, 11.9)
- Ingrid Jonsson (Sweden, 13.9)
- Patrick Willemarck (Belgium, 13.9)
- Dejan Savicevic (Montenegro, 15.9)
- Karl-Heinz Tritschler (Germany, 16.9)
- Kelly Simmons (England, 16.9)
- Antonis Petrou (Cyprus, 16.9)
- Antero Silva Resende (Portugal, 18.9)
- Senes Erzik (Turkey, 18.9)

- Gaioz Darsadze (Georgia, 19.9)
- Milos Markovic (Serbia, 20.9)
- Wolfgang Möbius (Germany, 20.9)
- Helena Herrero (Spain, 21.9)
- Cornelis De Bruin (Netherlands, 22.9)
- Goetz Eilers (Germany, 23.9)
- Giangiorgio Spies (Switzerland, 24.9)
- Eugen Strigel (Germany, 24.9)
- Ionel Piscanu (Romania, 24.9)
- Matteo Frameglia (Italy, 24.9)
- Hans Reitingner (Austria, 25.9)
- Paul Krähenbühl (Switzerland, 25.9)
- Karl-Heinz Rummenigge (Germany, 25.9)
- Stephen Lodge (England, 26.9)
- Ales Zavrl (Slovenia, 26.9)
- Adrian Porumboiu (Romania, 27.9)
- Gerardo Gonzalez Movilla (Spain, 27.9)
- Jens Kleinfeld (Germany, 27.9)
- Mariano Delogu (Italy, 28.9)
- Prof. W. Stewart Hillis (Scotland, 28.9)
- Michel Girard (France, 28.9)
- Karel Bohunek (Czech Republic, 28.9)
- Vassilios Nikakis (Greece, 28.9)
- Roland Beck (Liechtenstein, 28.9)

Upcoming events

Meetings

4-6.9.2007, Nyon

Seminar for elite referees and assistant referees

6/7.9.2007, Nyon

Elite Coaches Forum

10/11.9.2007, Nyon

European Club Forum

21.9.2007, Nyon

Anti-doping Panel

24-26.9.2007, London

Symposium for coach education directors

26/27.9.2007, Istanbul

Executive Committee

Competitions

10-30.9.2007, China PR

FIFA Women's World Cup

18/19.9.2007

UEFA Champions League: group matches (matchday 1)

20.9.2007

UEFA Cup: first round (first legs)

Notices

■ At its general meeting, the Malta FA re-elected Joseph Mifsud as its president for a further four-year term. The association also has a new address: Millennium Stand, Floor 2, National Stadium, Ta'Qali ATD4000 – Malta

■ Ori Shilo has been CEO of the Israel Football Association since 1 July.

■ Since 20 July, Elkhan Mammadov has been general secretary of the Football Association of Azerbaijan.

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Match agent licences have been awarded to:

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New book

1930-2006 L'intégrale des 18 Coupes du monde de Montevideo (1930) à Berlin (2006)

All the facts and figures on all the football World Cups, with details about the 708 matches, 288 world champion players from 1930 to 2006 and a list of the 78 countries which have taken part (by Daniel Masnari, www.guidedufoot.com).

WE CARE ABOUT FOOTBALL



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