

Media Release

Communiqué aux médias

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**Union des associations
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Match officials appointed for semi-final on Wednesday

The UEFA Referees Committee today announced the match officials for the second leg of the semi-final tie in the 2002/03 UEFA Champions League to be played on Wednesday 14 May 2003 at the Stadio delle Alpi in Turin, kicking-off at 20.45 local (and Central European) time.

The referee of the match between Juventus Football Club and Real Madrid CF will be Urs Meier of Switzerland. His Assistant Referees will be Francesco Buragina and Rudolf Käppeli, while the 4th Official will be Philippe Leuba. Like the referee, the other match officials are from Switzerland.

Urs Meier, 44, has been an international referee since 1994, when he made his debut during the European Under-16 Championship finals staged in the Republic of Ireland. Since then, his major international tournaments have included the 1998 and 2002 FIFA World Cup Finals, where he handled two matches in each, and EURO 2000, where he was the referee of the Denmark v Netherlands and England v Romania games.

Urs Meier has officiated at over eighty international matches, and this is his fourth visit to Turin. Or rather his fifth, if one recalls that he was the referee of the UEFA Champions League match between Juventus and Bayer 04 Leverkusen in November 2001 which was firstly postponed for a week and subsequently for a further day due to heavy fog at the Stadio delle Alpi. His previous visits had been for the 1998/99 semi-final, when Juventus were beaten 3-2 by the eventual champions, Manchester United FC, and the goal-less draw with Deportivo La Coruña in September 2000. Prior to that, he had crossed paths with Juventus Football Club in the return leg of the 1997/98 UEFA Champions League semi-final, when they were beaten 3-2 in Monaco but went on to meet Real Madrid CF in the Amsterdam final, having won the first leg 4-1 at home.

His first contact with Real Madrid CF was in a 4-0 home win over Sporting Clube de Portugal in the 2000/01 UEFA Champions League and he didn't meet them again until last season's final against Bayer 04 Leverkusen at Hampden Park, Glasgow. This is the second time that he has encountered Real Madrid CF in Italy this season, having been the referee at their 1-0 defeat by AC Milan during the second group stage.