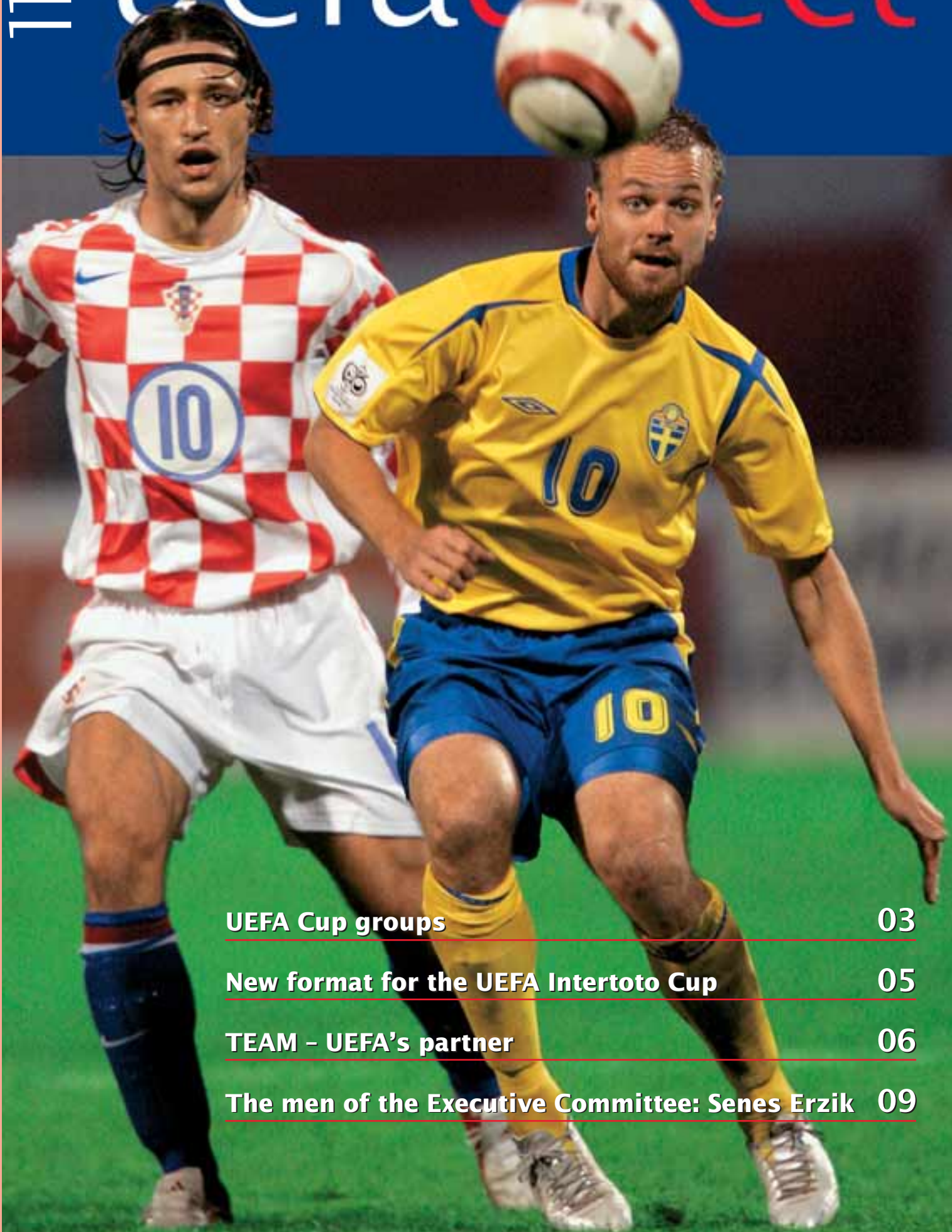


11.05

uefa **direct**



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COVER

By beating Sweden in early October, Croatia (Niko Kovac, left) made sure of their place in the 2006 FIFA World Cup finals. This was not the end of the road for Sweden (Mattias Johnson), however, since they would at least take part in the play-offs, the draw for which was due on 14 October.

PHOTO: FLASH PRESS

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Editorial

True servants of UEFA

Men in the shadows? This expression does not really apply to a group of people who all either hold or have held top positions within their national football associations and whose media profile within their respective countries is therefore considerable.

Nevertheless, when they are elected to the UEFA Executive Committee, the supreme body of European football, these same leaders are still able to function together as a group, chaired by the President, Lennart Johansson, and exercise shared responsibility in a way that shuns any form of individualism. Even the tasks they are called on to fulfil individually are carried out on the Executive Committee's behalf rather than their own. They work as a team and are well aware that, in football, it is the players who are the stars.

These men are nonetheless key personalities in the fabric of European football. They have been entrusted by the national association representatives who elected them with the job of taking our sport forward whilst upholding its traditions, protecting its interests, maintaining its equilibrium and, in particular, ensuring that the general good prevails over individual concerns.

Their task is huge; they are required to study carefully countless documents on the broadest possible range of subjects, from sporting aspects to legal and financial questions, as well as constantly evolving information on new media technologies.

Whether in meetings, travelling, pitchside, at seminars or in their offices, the Executive Committee members spend endless hours working to promote the development and popularity of football in general, particularly within the continent of Europe.

It is fitting that, in UEFA's official magazine, they should each be the subject of a brief, one-page tribute as part of a series which will provide an insight into certain aspects of their personalities.



Lars-Christer Olsson
Chief Executive

Spotlight on the players!

RANGEL/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

WE CARE ABOUT FOOTBALL



UEFA Cup

The contest is wide open



OVE/AP/GETTY IMAGES

Robert Mambo Mumba heads the winning goal for Viking in the first-leg match against Austria Vienna.



THE FORTY TEAMS PARTICIPATING IN THE UEFA CUP GROUP STAGE

WERE DRAWN INTO EIGHT GROUPS IN NYON ON 4 OCTOBER.

Each team will play two home and two away games in this stage, with the first three teams in each group qualifying for the round of 32 when the competition recommences in the spring. At this point another eight teams will join the competition, namely those teams placed third in the UEFA Champions League group stage. A home and away format will be followed from this round on.

Group A: father against son

(AS Monaco, Hamburger SV, SK Slavia Praha, CSKA Sofia, Viking FK)

Monaco and Hamburg are undoubtedly the favourites in this group. Monaco will be attempting to get their season back on track under new Ital-

ian manager Francesco Guidolin, the successor to Didier Deschamps and caretaker manager Jean Petit, and put their disappointing exit from the Champions League and poor showing in the French league behind them. For their part, Hamburg, the first team to beat Bundesliga leaders Bayern Munich this season, will be seeking to confirm their excellent league form. The club's Czech star David Jarolím will have his family loyalties tested when facing Slavia Prague, currently coached by his father, Karel! The Czech side will be seeking to qualify at the expense of Viking FK, coached by Roy Hodgson, and CSKA Sofia. But of course the Norwegians and Bulgarians will have their own plans.

Group B: Lokomotiv Moscow favourites

(FC Lokomotiv Moskva, RCD Espanyol, US Città di Palermo, Brøndby IF, Maccabi Petach-Tikva FC)

Leaders of the Russian championship but ejected from the Champions League by Rapid Vienna, Lokomotiv Moscow are the logical favourites for this group. Espanyol will do their best to upset these plans and put their disappointing start in the Spanish league behind them. Palermo, perhaps unfairly labelled as outsiders after an excellent start in Serie A, will do their utmost to overcome Danish side Brøndby, even though the Danes' coach Michael Laudrup fully expects to reach the round of 32. As for the Israeli mid-table side Maccabi Petach-Tikva, they will be hoping to emulate their excellent first-round victory over FK Partizan.



Like Houssine Kharja in the first round against Aris Thessaloniki, AS Roma will be aiming to overcome all obstacles in their group.

FILARCY/ROPOULOS/AFP/GETTY IMAGES



With Litex Lovech (Robert Popov, in red), CSKA and Levski Sofia, the Bulgarians have three clubs in the group phase.

ANSOLTE/RANOWSKI/AFP/GETTY IMAGES



Group C: a group packed with quality

(Hertha BSC Berlin, RC Lens, UC Sampdoria, FC Steaua Bucuresti, Halmstads BK)

This is an excellent group in which the Germans Hertha Berlin are serious contenders alongside French representatives Racing Club de Lens and Italian side Sampdoria. All three teams have made excellent starts in their domestic leagues but will have their work cut out when they meet Steaua Bucharest. The Romanian side are unbeaten in their league and have a wealth of European experience. The Swedish side Halmstads will be a tough proposition, even if they will have to raise their game after a disappointing domestic season.

Group D: can Louis van Gaal go one better?

(AZ Alkmaar, Middlesbrough FC, FC Dnipro Dnipropetrovsk, Grasshopper-Club, PFC Litex Lovech).

Despite their mid-table position in the English Premiership, Middlesbrough are still one of the favourites for this group alongside the surprise leaders of the Dutch league and semi-finalists in the UEFA Cup last season, AZ Alkmaar, now coached by Louis van Gaal. Will the Ukrainians Dnipro Dnipropetrovsk be the makeweights of the group judging by their domestic league position? Certainly not if Dnipro's well-known gritty determination is taken into account. As for the Swiss side Grasshoppers, although they trail FC Basel in the league, they have shown excellent recent form and should not be underestimated; neither should Bulgarian side Litex Lovech, despite inconsistent domestic results.

Belgrade, veterans of 220 matches in European competition. Finally, despite a disappointing season in the Norwegian league, Tromsø would love to spoil the party if offered the opportunity.

Group F: CSKA defends the title

(CSKA Moskva, Olympique de Marseille, SC Heerenveen, PFC Levski Sofia, FC Dinamo Bucuresti)

After their famous victory in the UEFA Cup final against Sporting in Lisbon last season, CSKA Moscow will not have it easy in this group featuring a strong Olympique de Marseille. The fact that Marseille will be CSKA's first opponents at home, however, must be seen as a great advantage to the Russians. Although these two sides are the favourites to qualify from this group, the Dutch side Heerenveen, Bulgarians Levski Sofia and Romanians Dinamo Bucharest, who are holding their own against old rivals Steaua this season, will all be doing their best to put a spanner in the works.

Group G: Stuttgart are the team to beat

(VfB Stuttgart, PAOK FC, FC Shakhtar Donetsk, Stade Rennais FC, AFC Rapid Bucuresti)

What thoughts were going through Giovanni Trapattoni's head during the draw which pitched his Stuttgart team against the Ukrainian champions Shakhtar Donetsk and Stade Rennais? One thing is for sure, VfB Stuttgart can take nothing for granted against these two opponents. The Ukrainians are sitting pretty at

Group E: AS Roma against the rest

(AS Roma, FC Basel 1893, FC Crvena Zvezda, RC Strasbourg, Tromsø IL)

Although Roma have had a poor start to their domestic season, they have to be considered favourites for this group. However, Bruno Conti's men will not have an easy ride, if such a thing still exists in modern European football. Swiss league leaders Basel, looking to put the disappointment of the departure of their striker Christian Gimenez to Olympique de Marseille behind them, will face a tough test against French side Strasbourg. For their part, the Alsace club will be anxious to cast aside their disappointing showing in Ligue 1. Another club that must always be taken seriously is Red Star



RIVAS/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Twenty associations are represented in this phase. France alone has five clubs involved, including Stade Rennais (Alexander Frei, No. 23).



Bolton Wanderers (El Hadji Diouf, up against two Lokomotiv Plovdiv players) is playing in his first UEFA Cup.

STR/APP/GETTY IMAGES



ANTONISE/APP/GETTY IMAGES

Heerenveen (Lasse Nilson, right) is one of ten clubs which already played in the group phase of the UEFA Cup last year.



RUPP/BONCAFFI/GETTY IMAGES

Hamburg SV (Stefan Beinlich, in red, battling with Tobias Linderoth of FC Copenhagen) are one of the last three winners of the UEFA Intertoto Cup in the old format.

New format for the UEFA Intertoto Cup

THE UEFA INTERTOTO CUP, THE PRODUCT OF COLLABORATION

BETWEEN UEFA AND THE EUROPEAN FOOTBALL POOL, CELEBRATED ITS TENTH ANNIVERSARY THIS YEAR.

The anniversary was an opportunity to reassess the competition and contemplate options for its future. After consideration and consultation, a proposal for restructuring was passed by the Executive Committee during its meeting in Rome.

The new formula will keep the tournament's place in the competition calendar, starting in the middle of June, but will reduce it to three rounds (instead of five) with the winners earning entry into the second qualifying round of the UEFA Cup. Forty-nine clubs will enter the first round (instead of the 61 clubs of previous editions), with one representative per national association. Any vacancies after the registration deadline will be filled, but no association will be allowed to have more than two representatives.



Twenty-six clubs will play in the first round in home and away legs; the 13 winners and a further 15 participants will meet in the second round, also on a home and away basis. Clubs from the eight national associations with the highest UEFA rankings will enter the third round together with the 14 qualifiers from the second round.

The 11 teams to come through this third round (home and away) will enter the second qualifying round of the UEFA Cup.

This format increases the possibility of clubs from small and medium national associations qualifying for the UEFA Cup. The number of matches will also be reduced as the UEFA Intertoto Cup will be

reduced to 76 matches instead of 116 and the total number of matches for the Intertoto Cup and the two qualifying rounds of the UEFA Cup will drop from 236 to 212.

Entry into the UEFA Intertoto Cup will be awarded to teams finishing highest in their national leagues behind those qualifying for the Champions League and the UEFA Cup. Only teams which finish in the four league places immediately below the UEFA Cup qualification places will be allowed to participate.

It remains to be decided which associations will be offered any places left vacant at the registration deadline.

The European Football Pool will continue its financial contribution to the competition. The financial reward of 50,000 Swiss francs per club per round of the UEFA Intertoto Cup will also continue to apply.

The new formula will come into effect next season.



Olympique de Marseille (Samir Nasir, in white), one of two French entrants (along with Lens) from the UEFA Intertoto Cup this season.

THYS/APP/GETTY IMAGES

the top of their league and although the Breton team are having a tough domestic season that is all the more reason for them to play out of their skins in European competition. These three teams are the logical favourites to progress but neither the Greek side PAOK nor the Romanians Rapid Bucharest, although trailing in their domestic championships, will make it easy for them. In another small world coincidence, the Rapid Bucharest coach, Razvar Lucescu, will face Shakhtar Donetsk managed by his father, Mircea.

Group H: an unpredictable group

(Besiktas JK, Sevilla FC, Bolton Wanderers FC, FC Zenit St. Petersburg, Vitória SC)

The pick of the teams in this group in terms of domestic league performance are the Russians Zenit St. Petersburg, who are giving the Moscow-based teams a run for their money, and Bolton Wanderers, having an excellent season in a very strong English Premiership. These two teams have an excellent chance of reaching the round of 32 together with Seville, even if Juande Ramos's side are trailing in the Primera División. Turkish side Besiktas and the Portuguese of Vitória Guimarães will lie in ambush and are perfectly capable of exceeding expectations in the heat of European competition.

André Winckler



Putting up the advertising boards: an example of teamwork.

EMPICS/UEFA



Jürgen Lenz shows UEFA President Lennart Johansson the "Champions Village", hosted by the Champions League sponsors.

EMPICS/UEFA

TEAM Marketing

In partnership with UEFA

AS THE STADIUM IS PREPARED AND DECORATED FOR A UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE MATCH, IT IS ALL SMILES AND HEARTY HANDSHAKES BETWEEN THE HOME TEAM MARKETING'S EMPLOYEES AND TEAM'S BLUE-UNIFORMED CREW, NOW SUCH AN ESTABLISHED PART OF THE LANDSCAPE IN EUROPEAN FOOTBALL.

Renowned for their professionalism, TEAM's employees have built up friendly relationships over the years with the other behind-the-scenes personnel: TV crews, club representatives, commercial managers, stewards as well as countless other collaborators involved at the stadiums. Behind all the preparatory activities, and after the excitement of match day has died away, TEAM is an efficient enterprise based in Lucerne, working all year round to ensure the success of the competition. Company directors Jürgen Lenz and Klaus Hempel founded TEAM (Television Event and Media Marketing AG) in 1991 after gaining experience with Adidas and ISL. TEAM brought a

fresh, dynamic image to the launch of the UEFA Champions League.

How did your collaboration with UEFA begin?

UEFA wanted to revamp the European Champion Clubs' Cup and give it a new, modern format. Seven agencies bid and UEFA awarded the contract to us. The Champions League was launched in 1992/93 and after the first years of collaboration between UEFA and TEAM were very successful, the contract was extended. When a new invitation to tender went out, we again won the contract, which will see us continue our relationship with UEFA until 2012. The contract has many benefits for UEFA and European football.

How would you describe your contacts with UEFA?

Our relationship is not just professional. Friendships have been forged, with the UEFA President for example. Trust is the defining element and the driving force behind our association. That is quite an achievement nowadays.

The media play a very important role in your sports marketing model ...

We have a special relationship with the media. In partnership with us, the media have contributed immensely to the development of football in Europe as well as in the rest of the world. We introduced a



UEFA President Lennart Johansson with Jürgen Lenz (left) and Klaus Hempel.

EMPICS

The "European Union" in Switzerland

TEAM's employees come from 17 different countries. Thomas Klooz smiles: *"This diversity is very important because we work all around Europe and are confronted with many different cultures. The fact that our employees come from such a wide range of countries really facilitates contacts. You could say that we have a European spirit here that is almost unique considering that we are a Swiss company based outside the European Union."*



A time-honoured ceremony before kick-off.

standard format for Champions League matches, with synchronised kick-offs at 8.45 pm. The ceremony is identical at all the stadiums: the flag, the anthem, advertising, TV coverage. UEFA and TEAM are partners working towards the same goal: a quality product.

How is TEAM structured?

We employ about 100 people from 17 countries at our headquarters as well as self-employed staff at the match venues. Our employees rarely come from a football background although they are often fans. Typically they are educated to university level or equivalent. Did you know that half of our employees are women, at all levels of the company? We have been organising training days for our staff for seven years, and they really appreciate it. The company comprises four departments: television, marketing, organisation and support functions (finance, human resources, legal, etc.).

What is your own role at the moment?

It has changed a lot! When we left ISL, there were just the two of us and a secretary. When the Champions League launched we had expanded to about a dozen people. We were convinced that our concept would be successful, but we never imagined how successful. Right at the start, we took on people who

would do an excellent job in all of TEAM's departments. We delegated the operational tasks so that we could concentrate on strategy and develop contacts with the UEFA management. We are always looking to the future, but we keep in close contact with our management team.

You took on quite a challenge.

It was a big step in 1992. The original concept was very good, but looking back, it's quite surprising how it has all turned out. We have developed the project and our company has expanded with it. When things are successful, everything seems to fall in place. The whole concept of European competition has been professionalised and the financial backing has followed, for UEFA and European football in general. UEFA has been able to assign revenue from the Champions League to other projects such as youth competitions and development programmes.

What proportion of TEAM's business activities involve football?

It's around 95%. We don't cover any other sports but we're involved in a marketing project for the Eurovision Song Contest, which is celebrating its 50th anniversary just like Europe's club football competitions.

Interview by Pascale Pierard

Team spirit

A few hours before kick-off, Mirjam Lussmann, TEAM Venue Manager, checks that all the TV cameras inside the ground are working properly. Mirjam pays special attention to the quality of the images and the visibility of the advertising hoardings. She points out a section of pole jettisoned in front of an advertising panel; it could be a safety hazard. A quick word with a UEFA colleague and the offending object is removed. Meanwhile, some of TEAM's drivers are busy with paintbrushes touching up an advertising hoarding without worrying about the specifics of their job descriptions. *"That's a great example of our concept of teamwork,"* says Thomas Klooz, TEAM's Deputy CEO.

As soon as the identity of the participating clubs is known, UEFA and TEAM send out their reconnaissance crews. Their job is to ensure that matches will be problem-free by assessing the stadium location and access and by building up contacts with club management, representatives of commercial partners, local TV channels, etc. A lot of preparatory work is involved, from contact with sponsors to dispatching lorry-loads of equipment. When UEFA signs TV contracts, it is TEAM that does the negotiating behind the scenes.

Thomas Klooz: *"We consider the TV companies to be partners with rights and obligations. A channel may have broadcasting rights but it also has the obligation to provide free coverage of matches in its own country."* TEAM's concept of partnership goes beyond a purely professional relationship: *"The camera operators are as important to us as the VIPs in their suits. Sometimes the conditions are terrible, it can get very cold working a camera. We offer them hot snacks and it is really appreciated."*



The Mogosoia centre and stadium.

New national centre in Romania A dream come true

"I HAD A VISION WHICH BEGAN IN 1992 WHEN I VISITED THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE BELGIAN FA. AFTER THAT, I STUDIED THE CENTRES AT CLAIREFONTAINE AND COVERCIANO." THOSE WERE THE WORDS OF MIRCEA SANDU, PRESIDENT OF THE ROMANIAN FA (FRF), ON MONDAY 26 SEPTEMBER 2005.

This was the day on which the FRF officially inaugurated its national football centre in Mogosoia, a village 20 km from Bucharest. *"It would have been much harder for us to build it without the support of UEFA's HatTrick programme and FIFA's financial assistance programme,"* said Mircea Sandu.

UEFA and FIFA Executive Committee member Michel Platini was the guest of honour at the opening ceremony. The new facility represents another successful investment for the FRF, following the inauguration of the House of Football (the FA's headquarters) on 22 August 2002.

The vision about which Mircea Sandu spoke during his speech became reality with the opening of this beautiful national centre, which covers 14,200 square metres and cost an estimated EUR 3.8 million. The work was completed in two stages. The first began in 1993, when the FRF obtained from the Mogosoia local council the land on which the main stadium, with 800 covered seats, and training ground, both with natural grass and floodlights, were built. This work was completed

in 2002. The main pitch, whose floodlights meet international standards, has already staged several competitive and friendly matches at youth, Under-21 and women's levels.

The second stage of work involved the construction of a beautiful hotel (which covers 4,410 square metres) and an artificial training pitch measuring 60 m x 40 m. The hotel is extremely modern, with the most up-to-date equipment. It has a basement, ground floor and two other floors with a total of 56 rooms. Twelve of the rooms are singles and there is also a large fitness room, two jacuzzis, a pool, offices, a restaurant, two meeting rooms equipped with computers, TVs, etc. (each with 50 seats), as well as other facilities.

The centre will host all the Romanian national teams, who will prepare for matches and tournaments in this peaceful oasis. The national women's Under-19 team have already prepared here for their European Championship qualification mini-tournament. On Monday 3 October, the senior men's national team arrived at the Mogosoia training camp to prepare

for the World Cup qualifier against Finland (in Helsinki on 8 October). The team will prepare for all future matches at the centre.

From now on, all the national teams will be able to train on their own ground, which will also save the FRF a great deal of money. Clubs will also be able to prepare for their own championship matches at the centre, although they will have to pay very reasonable accommodation costs.

Perhaps the most important aspect, however, is the fact that, having finished the centre, the Romanian FA has been able to relaunch the "Luceafarul" project. This already existed until 1989, and between 1991 and 1994, and involved a group of national youth teams living and training together and studying at the same school for at least two years. From 10 September 2005 until 30 June 2007, the Romanian national Under-15 team will stay at the centre, studying at two Bucharest schools. The team will also play in the "B" national youth championship, although it will not be eligible for promotion. Its main target is qualification for the final tournament of the European Under-17 Championship in 2007.

FA President Mircea Sandu added, *"I want this project to last for as many years as possible and hope that future generations will be able to come to the centre in the coming years and that, from 2010 onwards, thanks to this project, our national teams will emulate the golden generation made famous by Gheorghe Hagi, Gheorghe Popescu, Dan Petrescu and their teammates"*.

Such a dream would have been impossible without the new national football centre.

Paul-Daniel Zaharia



Romanian FA President Mircea Sandu addresses at the opening ceremony.

PHOTOS: PROFIR/MODERN PHOTO



SENES ERZIK

Turkey
18.9.1942

Member of the UEFA Executive Committee since 1990.
Vice-president since 1994.
Member of the FIFA Executive Committee since 1996.
Former president of the Turkish Football Association
and now honorary president.
Economist.

Eleven questions for the Executive Committee members

Senes Erzik

THE MEMBERS OF THE UEFA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE HAVE EACH AGREED TO ANSWER SOME QUESTIONS FOR *UEFADIRECT*. THE SERIES KICKS OFF WITH THE FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT, SENES ERZIK, AND WILL CONTINUE UNTIL THE END OF NEXT YEAR WITH THE OTHER VICE-PRESIDENTS, TREASURER AND MEMBERS IN THE ORDER IN WHICH THEY WERE ELECTED.

Your first football memory?

My first football memories are of playing the game as a child in our garden at home. My mother would complain sternly that we were destroying the flower beds, so we would move next door to the garden of the local Orthodox church, until the priest kicked us out. We used to play with small plastic balls or balls made of old newspapers and rags. This was in Giresun, on the Black Sea near Trabzon.

First experience of UEFA?

This was in 1977, when I was Chairman of the International Committee of the Turkish Football Association. I welcomed Hans Bangerter to Istanbul for his inspection trip relating to the 1978 Congress. We visited the different sites, including the Sheraton Hotel in Taksim, where the Congress took place. I was very lucky to get to know such a great man, who played such an important role in European football. He had a strong personality and was keen to guide and support others.

Players?

Two players fit the bill. The first was Lefter Kucuk Andoniadis, who played for my club Fenerbahce until the mid-60s. He was a great midfielder, intelligent and quick-thinking. The other one is Metin Oktay of Galatasaray, who played in the 50s and 60s. I used to watch him as a child. He could score with both feet and volley, but his best goals were with his head. Being a striker myself, I admired him greatly.

A memorable match?

It was against Sweden in Sweden. The final score was 2-2. Sweden led 1-0, we drew level, then Sweden scored again and it ended as a draw. The result meant that Turkey qualified for the European Championship finals for the first time (England 1996).

An anecdote from a UEFA event?

At an Executive Committee meeting in Antalya, we played a game between the staff and the Executive Committee. Sir Bert Millichip and Egidius Braun stood near the goal for the whole of the first half. Finally, the ball arrived and Sir Bert scored a goal. The staff screamed offside but Egidius ran to the referee and congratulated him on his decision.

Defender or attacker?

Number 9, always a striker.

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

I score immediately.

A city?

Rome. In 1969, I visited Rome for the first time on a joint UN project involving FAO-WHO and UNICEF. I was fascinated by the city, its monuments and how well kept it was. At secondary school, I was once asked by the history teacher to prepare the next lesson for the class. I have loved history ever since, and Rome and its ancient monuments became a symbol of history for me.

Detective story or economics treatise?

The economics treatise, I'm afraid. As a marketing expert, I feel it is my duty to keep in touch with the business world.

Sea or mountains?

The sea. I was born on the shores of the Black Sea. I was surfing when I was eight. People on the beach used to bet on us...

A dream?

These days, I only have one dream: for Turkey to win the World Cup. I am now honorary president of the TFA. I was the last to be appointed by a prime minister (Turgut Ozal) in 1989 and the first to be elected democratically in 1992. It was a dream come true when I became First Vice-President of UEFA. I will always be grateful to Lennart Johansson and my colleagues for their support.



PHOTOS: UEFA



Discussions and practice are the key components of technician meetings.



Inauguration of the first mini-pitch in the Republic of Ireland.

Symposium for coach education directors

Coaching the coaches

IT'S FAR FROM UNCOMMON TO READ THAT FORMER PLAYERS HAVE DECIDED TO TAKE PART IN A COACHING COURSE. BUT HOW OFTEN DO WE STOP TO WONDER WHO'S TEACHING THEM OR - MORE TO THE POINT - WHAT THEY'RE BEING TAUGHT?

That was certainly the main point when coach education directors from all over Europe converged on Dublin for the sixth UEFA symposium, impeccably staged from 27 to 29 September by the Football Association of Ireland with its Technical Director and former international goalkeeper Packie Bonner as 'mein host' alongside the Republic's current national-team manager, Brian Kerr.

They teamed up on the second morning to present 'The Spirit of Ireland' - a lively mixture of theory and practice which featured a training session at the Lansdowne Road stadium. While they were out in the Dublin

air, the participants were also witnesses to the inauguration of the first mini-pitch to be installed in the Republic, funded by UEFA's HatTrick programme.

In the conference hall, the emphasis was on an in-depth review of all the specialised activities encompassed by UEFA's football development programme, with an eye to coming up with proposals aimed at improving them. The evolution of teaching methods was an issue addressed by Henk van de Wetering of the Dutch national association, Germany's Erich Rutenmüller and England's Howard Wilkinson, followed, on the final

morning, by a thought-provoking session dedicated by UEFA's Technical Director, Andy Roxburgh, to the importance of reading the game and the question of whether this is a 'teachable' ability.

From player to coach

In the meantime, some of the points raised at UEFA's Elite Coaches Forum in September were laid out on the coach education directors' debating table. It hadn't passed unnoticed that a high percentage of the technicians attending the Forum were former top players. With more and more elite footballers embarking on coaching careers, do coach education programmes need to be re-orientated? That was one of the questions put to a number of former internationals who moved from the pitch to the dug-out, starting with Croatia's Vlatko Markovic - currently chairman of UEFA's Technical Development Committee - and also featuring Argentine international Gabriel Calderón (currently coaching the Saudi Arabian national team), Sweden's Roland Nilsson, Romania's Dan Petrescu and AC Milan's Croatian international Zvonimir Boban, who recently started his coaching course after initial doubts as to whether he was cut out for the job.

The coach education directors agreed that, irrespective of their students' playing experience, there are certainly motives for focusing more closely on areas such as stress management, leadership qualities and character development - all of which have become key components within the parameters of the modern high-pressure game. In other words, former star players might appreciate greater emphasis on man-management and self-management techniques. Everybody agreed, however, that their reason for switching from playing to coaching was, quite simply, passion for the game. And that doesn't need to be taught...



PHOTOS: UEFA



Asking questions, taking notes: the referees were fully involved in the meeting.



PHOTOS: UEFA

Training programme

New heights for women's refereeing

AS PART OF ITS REFEREE TRAINING PROGRAMME, UEFA WELCOMED THE TOP INTERNATIONAL WOMEN REFEREES IN EUROPE TO NYON ON 21 AND 22 SEPTEMBER FOR THE THIRD EDITION OF A COURSE THAT IS BECOMING INCREASINGLY AMBITIOUS. THE 38 PARTICIPANTS WERE PRESENTED WITH EACH OF THE NEW UEFA INSTRUCTIONS AND HAD A CHANCE TO AIR THEIR VIEWS BEFORE UNDERGOING FIFA'S NEW FITNESS TEST. AMONG THE PARTICIPANTS WERE TWO REPRESENTATIVES OF CAF (THE AFRICAN FOOTBALL CONFEDERATION), WHO CAME TO OBSERVE EUROPEAN TECHNIQUES.

The quality of women's refereeing is steadily improving, and UEFA is keen not only to maintain these standards, but to raise them even further. At the recent European Women's Championship in England, the women referees demonstrated an excellent spirit, proving that they are able to work as a team and want to progress further.

The first morning of the course was devoted to some clearly defined objectives: maintaining refereeing standards, consistent decision-making, uniform interpretation and application of the Laws of the Game, exploration of potential areas for improvement, and finally an exchange of experiences. The programme was very similar to the one followed by the elite male referees a few weeks earlier (*see uefadirect, October 2005*).

Similar demands

UEFA's aspirations show that refereeing is no longer an exclusively male domain. "In all UEFA competi-

tions nowadays, the demands and procedures are similar. We want things to be equal on the pitch," said Michel Vautrot, a member of the Referees Committee and a referee instructor. "We are entering the era of professional referees, we are trying to reduce the differences and to only take into account each individual's skills and abilities".

Link with Africa

Invited as part of the new Meridian Project, Fatou Gaye (Senegal) and Bola Abidoye (Nigeria) were

selected by CAF to observe European techniques and report back on their experiences. Launched in 1997, the Meridian Project now aims to provide technical training for young referees and coaches as part of the development of grassroots football. In the initial phase, UEFA is inviting and training selected African instructors who, on their return to Africa, are responsible for transferring this knowledge to other instructors who, in turn, will be asked to share their experience with all the African national associations.



“ You are piloting the match. If you experience turbulence, you must press the right button in the cockpit, remain calm and take the correct decision. ”
Michel Vautrot



UEFA



CAF representatives Fatou Gaye (right) and Bola Abidoye.



The new licensing manual is also designed to help fight racism.

“ With experience, you start being able to see what lies ahead. After 10 or 15 minutes, the referee should know how she will manage the rest of the match. ”
Fatou Gaye

“Participating in meetings such as this gives us new ideas about refereeing. Even though the Laws of the Game are the same, refereeing varies from one country to another. It’s an opportunity for us. Once we return home, we will try to share what we have learned here from the European referees,” said Fatou Gaye, 39, an international referee since 1996 who already has three African Cups, two world championships, including the Under-19 tournament in Canada in 2002, and the Athens Olympics under her belt and also took part in the FIFA seminar held in Portugal for the Algarve Cup.

More than theory

As well as the theoretical part (which was theoretical in name only, such as the participants’ active involvement in the practical examples used), a physical fitness programme was conducted at the end of the day. Undergoing the same FIFA test as the men during the previous course, the women referees were once again able to demonstrate their extraordinarily high fitness levels.

“What a long way we have come since the day when, as head of French refereeing, I suggested that UEFA select Corinne Lagrange for a match in the Azores!” said Michel Vautrot. Corinne Lagrange thus became the first female assistant referee to officiate abroad in a youth match.

Meetings and other activities

Club licensing manual revised

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE HELD ITS FOURTH ORDINARY MEETING OF THE YEAR, THE FIRST OF THE 2005/06 SEASON, IN ROME ON 21 SEPTEMBER.

During five hours of deliberations and discussions, the Executive Committee, chaired by UEFA President Lennart Johansson, covered a wide range of topical issues affecting European football, including matters relating to the European Union, financial issues, the European competitions and refereeing.

The Executive Committee also gave the green light to the new version of the club licensing manual. After a year’s experience and broad consultation, the manual has been revised in an effort to make it simpler and more consistent, to limit the necessary administrative work and to provide additional assistance.

New criteria have also been introduced, including, in the medical field, the obligation for all first-team players to undergo an annual examination; the clubs are also encouraged to adopt a policy aimed at fighting racism in football. For clarification purposes, a new approach has been chosen with regard to the stadium infrastructure criteria. All questions will now be dealt with by a new UEFA Stadium Regulation, which will set out all stadium requirements, so the stadium criteria will no longer be included in the licensing manual. The criteria governing club person-

nel and administration have also been reviewed with a view to improving quality.

On the financial front, additional guidelines have been introduced to help licensors and clubs. The number of criteria has been increased in order to include more detail and better information.

The new provisions adopted in Rome will enter into force for the 2008/09 season. However, since the 2006/07 tax year (or 2007 for those who follow a spring-autumn calendar) will be decisive as far as the financial criteria are concerned, national licens-



An extra rest day in the youth mini-tournaments.



The Swiss city of Montreux will host the first draw for EURO 2008.

KEYSTONE



Money from fines goes to the Open Fun Football Schools.

OFFIS

ing manuals will need to be approved by summer 2006 so that they can apply during the 2006/07 (or 2007) season.

Additional rest day

The Executive Committee also approved the regulations for the 2006/07 European Under-21 Championship, which will be the first to conclude in an odd-numbered year following the decision to enhance the competition's value by separating it from the European Championship. The regulations for the youth competitions for the 2006/07 season (European Under-17 Championship, European Women's Under-19 Championship and European Under-19 Championship) were also approved. In these three competitions, the main innovation is the introduction of an additional rest day in the qualification mini-tournaments. Designed to protect the young players' health, this measure should also enhance the quality of play.

EURO 2012 bids to be shortlisted in Malta

After hearing the encouraging news that preparations were advancing well for EURO 2008 – the first main event of which will be the draw for the qualifying groups in Montreux on 27 January 2006 – the Executive Committee agreed on the procedure for the next stage of the process to determine the host(s) of EURO 2012. Five bids are currently undergoing a detailed technical evaluation: Croatia/Hungary, Greece, Italy, Poland/Ukraine and Turkey. On the basis of this evaluation as well as political and economic considerations, the Executive Committee will shortlist a maximum of three candidates at its meeting in Malta on 7 and 8 November. These candidates will be invited to present their bids at the Congress in Budapest in March 2006,

with the final decision to be taken in December that year.

Charitable contributions

In accordance with UEFA's policy of donating the income from fines imposed by its disciplinary bodies to charitable causes, the Executive Committee approved the distribution of more than CHF 3 million – which were already included in the budget approved for the 2005/06 season – to projects run by the following institutions:

- Special Olympics: CHF 500,000
- ICRC: CHF 850,000
- FARE: CHF 600,000
- Danish Cross Cultures Project Association: CHF 600,000

A further CHF 500,000 will be put towards the organisation of a pan-European anti-racism conference, to be held in Barcelona on 2 February 2006.

Signature of the Grassroots Football Charter

The day before the Executive Committee meeting in Rome saw a key moment in the introduction of the Grassroots Football Charter, when the programmes of the five pilot associations were ratified.

After the Conference of Presidents and General Secretaries of the UEFA member associations had adopted a declaration of support for grassroots football in Prague in 2001, the Executive Committee approved, in Athens in February 2003, the idea of a Grassroots Football Charter, based on the model of the coaches' convention. Following on from this decision, discussions were held by a special working group and the Technical Development Committee, while



L'OR-VATICANO

An audience at the Vatican

Having been welcomed by the Italian prime minister, Silvio Berlusconi, and the mayor of Rome, Walter Veltroni, the Executive Committee was also granted an audience with the Pope in the Vatican. Pope Benedict XVI referred to the important human and spiritual values embodied by sport which, when practised in accordance with the rules, is also an educational tool (see also news from member associations, Italy, page 19).



The case of Liverpool FC this year will result in an amendment to the Champions League regulations to ensure that the title-holders will always take part in the competition.



On 19 and 20 September in Geneva, a FIFA-UEFA seminar on the FIFA Statutes brought together representatives of the national associations.

a number of national associations also became involved on a pilot basis. The Executive Committee approved the procedure for the application of the Charter in December 2004 and the five pilot national associations –



The representatives of the pilot associations and of UEFA's Football Development division at the signing ceremony in Rome.

England, Germany, the Netherlands, Norway and Scotland – obtained UEFA's approval for their grassroots football programmes in Rome on 20 September. These projects mainly concern the training of youth coaches, the provision of training opportunities for groups of young people of different ages (from 5 to 12 and from 12 to 19), the establishment of an infrastructure and the adoption of a philosophy to promote grassroots football at the same time as fair play and tolerance.

The way is now open for the other national associations to join in. UEFA will use funds from its HatTrick assistance programme to promote the charter and facilitate its application by organising regional grassroots football seminars, to which all the national associations will be invited.

Initial assessment of regulations

On 3 October, meeting in Nyon prior to the draw for the group stage of the UEFA Cup, the Club Competitions Committee discussed the competition regulations for the 2006/07 season.

These initial talks included discussion of various proposed amendments, whether connected to the participation of the holders in the Champions League or the centralised marketing of rights from the quarter-final stage of the UEFA Cup onwards. The Committee also agreed with the suggestion expressed by the elite club coaches at the UEFA forum held at the beginning of September, that advertising boards containing moving images should be banned, since they can distract players, referees and even spectators. The Committee thought that this issue should be discussed at global level. However, the Committee members did not agree that the number of substitutes should be increased, nor that the away goals rule should be abandoned if a match went to extra time. Statistics showed that the home team usually won such matches and, besides, more matches would be decided on

penalty kicks, which was certainly not the ideal outcome.

Mexico win in Peru

Mexico won its first ever world title by lifting the Under-17 World Championship crown.

Played in Peru between 16 September and 2 October, the XI Under-17 World Championship concluded in Lima with a victory that was as convincing as it was surprising (3-0) for Mexico over three-time winners Brazil.

The match for third place was a repeat of the last European Under-17 Championship final and enabled the Netherlands to gain revenge over European champions Turkey with a 2-1 victory. The Turks had progressed to the semi-finals with an unblemished record, beating the eventual winners in the group



Turkish player Ferhat Bikmaz squeezes between two Dutch defenders in the third-place match of the World U-17 Championship.



Keeping fit to reduce the risk of heart problems!

WHF/LOIS GREENFIELD



Report from Brussels

On 19 September, UEFA took part in the meeting of EU sports ministers in Liverpool. The British Minister for Sport, Richard Caborn, had personally invited UEFA to the meeting, an important gesture that marked a new high point in relations between UEFA and the EU member states.

The UEFA delegation comprised Per Omdal, UEFA vice-president, Lars-Christer Olsson, UEFA Chief Executive, David Will, FIFA vice-president, and Jonathan Hill, Head of UEFA's Brussels Office. UEFA participated in the final session of the first day, which looked at sport and the promotion of equal opportunities.

"Our presence here today shows the good health of UEFA's relationship with the European Union and its member states," declared Per Omdal, as he began a presentation of UEFA's work against all forms of discrimination. It is rare for non-governmental organisations to be invited to EU meetings, and UEFA expressed its appreciation of the initiative.

"When football is at its best, it brings people together. It breaks down divisions and treats all people as equals," explained the UEFA vice-president. *"Football in Europe is organised so that it creates equal opportunities for everyone. The great strength of the European sports model is that it links the grassroots to the professional game; it provides for solidarity."*

Mr Omdal then urged ministers to support UEFA's new rules on the local training of players.

stage before trouncing China PR in the quarter-finals. In the semi-finals, Turkey, who trailed 3-0 at half-time, embarked on a spectacular comeback after the break, but ended up losing 4-3 following a last-minute winner by their Brazilian opponents.

In the other semi-final, the Dutch were no match for Mexico.

World Heart Day

The World Heart Federation, a non-governmental organisation based in Geneva, aims to help the world's population to achieve a longer and better life through the prevention of heart disease and strokes.

Its activities include the organisation of World Heart Day, which took place on 25 September this year, focusing on the fight against obesity under the slogan "Healthy Weight, Healthy Shape".

Obesity is a major cause of heart problems and physical activity is an effective way of reducing the risks involved. Two-thirds of the world's children do not engage in enough physical activity to keep them healthy.

They had finished second in their group, with the same number of points as Brazil, before beating the USA in the quarter-finals.

The third European participants, Italy, were knocked out in the group stage. Although they finished equal on points with the group runners-up, Korea DPR, the Italians had an inferior goal difference.

UEFA joined in the campaign by recommending football as an enjoyable way of burning calories. An hour of exercise per day for children and at least half an hour for adults helps to alleviate the risks.

World Heart Day was celebrated in more than 100 countries through events such as medical checks, conferences, walks and fitness sessions, exhibitions, concerts and sports tournaments.



"UEFA believes these new rules are reasonable and proportionate," he stated. "They treat all young players equally, regardless of their nationality. Our aim is to promote training and encourage clubs to assume their responsibilities. The entire football family is behind our proposals – including the fans – and I hope we can count on your support in this vital matter."

The second part of Mr Omdal's presentation focused on the fight against racism. The UEFA vice-president explained that while it was important to strengthen the various sanctions imposed on associations and clubs, a longer-term effort to educate and inform was just as necessary. Football's massive popularity gave it a "special responsibility" to tackle the problem.

Mr Olsson then addressed the ministers on a separate issue: the proposed revision of the EU's 'Television without Frontiers' Directive. The Chief Executive explained the danger of over-regulating an area where no need existed. Referring to initial proposals from the European Commission that would introduce EU-wide legislation to protect the citizen's right to short news reports, he said there was "no evidence whatsoever" that EU citizens were being denied access to sports news.

"'News access' or 'fair dealing' rules already exist under the national laws of nearly every member state in the EU," Mr Olsson explained. "Voluntary codes of practice allow broadcasters to obtain access to the footage of other broadcasters."

At the end of the meeting, several ministers thanked UEFA for its contribution, and suggested that it be invited to take a greater role in such meetings. Austria will take over the presidency of the EU on 1 January 2006.

News from member associations

AUSTRIA



Challenge 2008: Personal training model

The Challenge 2008 project, an Austrian FA (ÖFB) initiative of hitherto unprecedented scope for the development of national-team players, took another big step forward with the presentation of the individual training model in Vienna on 21 September.

The clubs of the players concerned are making a particular contribution towards the success of Challenge 2008 and thus to the development of ÖFB national-team players and top-level football in Austria. In order to improve implementation of the project even further, the ÖFB is supporting the use of personal trainers in Bundesliga clubs. In addition to their usual club activities, trainers will be available for devising personal training plans with individual players which are geared to the Challenge project.

"With the individual training model we are reaching unprecedented levels of cooperation between clubs and the ÖFB," said ÖFB President Friedrich Stickler at the presentation.

Each club undertakes to nominate a trainer who possesses at least the UEFA A-licence (the recommended diploma for children's and youth coaches). A key proviso for making or continuing the arrangement is that at least two Challenge squad players must be on the club's books.

The clubs stand to benefit enormously from this model. At regular intervals the ÖFB provides surveys, evaluations and interpretations of analytical data relat-

ing to the four project areas (football per se, physical performance in sport, sports medicine and sports psychology). These serve as the foundations for the specific work with the player. The ÖFB also provides the club or the personal trainer with specialists from the four key project areas and, because of the club's commitment to Challenge 2008, gives it financial backing in the form of a standard payment which covers all costs.

Ronald Gollatz

BELARUS



Hope should never end

On 8 September 2005, the mini-pitch installed with the assistance of UEFA, PUMA and the Belarus Football Federation was inaugurated.

The Children's Rehabilitation and Recovery Centre (CRRC), known as "Nadezhda" (which means 'hope'), recently celebrated its tenth birthday. Since it opened, around 25,000 children and teenagers from areas polluted by radioactive waste plus others suffering from similar diseases (cancer, diabetes, etc.) have made a recovery. Nowadays, every 24-day camp receives a total of 265,000 people.

The CRRC was established and developed thanks to long-term, active support from various initiatives, state authorities and individuals from Belarus, Germany, Japan and other countries of the world, all demonstrating a sense of responsibility for our present and future society.

The "Nadezhda" project has shown how the combined efforts of people from different backgrounds can help to promote children's health. For this reason, the CRRC has become a focus for children and all people who acknowledge the importance of partnerships in building the future.

The installation of a football mini-pitch with artificial grass with the assistance of UEFA, PUMA and the Belarus FA is another example of such a partnership. Representatives of all the parties involved attended the inauguration. The children



The first personal trainers show off their contracts.



present were extremely grateful for the gifts they received from their guests and watched a football match between former Belarus players.

Alexander Leshchik



Inauguration of the mini-pitch.

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA



National team celebrates tenth birthday

The beginning of the championship season has already thrown up some surprises. Firstly, FK Modrica Maxima have made an excellent start, while former champions FK Leotar from Trebinje have begun very poorly. On the European scene, NK Siroki Brijeg reached the first round of the UEFA Cup but were eliminated by Basel of Switzerland.

Coaches are continuing to resign, almost on a weekly basis. People seem to think that changing the coach is the answer if a team hits a bad run of results. The head coach of NK Jedinstvo, Besim Sabic, resigned after five matches and was replaced by Miralem Ibrahimovic, former goalkeeper of NK Dinamo of Zagreb. One match later, Vjekoslav Lokica resigned as head coach of NK Posusje and was subsequently replaced by the experienced Ivo Istuk.



Vedin Music, international player for the last ten years.

The last few months will be remembered for two great results achieved by the national team, who recorded narrow wins over Belgium in Zenica and Lithuania in Vilnius in qualification matches for the 2006 World Cup in Germany. Both games ended 1-0, with both goals scored by captain Sergej Barbarez. This year marks the tenth anniversary of the first match played by the Bosnia and Herzegovina national team, a 2-0 defeat to Albania in Tirana on 30 November 1995. Vedin Music has been a member of the team ever since. He played in that first match and is expected to play in the next one. Over this ten-year period, the team has played in two European Championship qualifying tournaments and three World Cup qualifying rounds. Other national teams in different age groups have also participated in qualifying tournaments, with varying degrees of success.

The national Under-17 team recently played in a qualification tournament in Finland. They finished bottom of their group, losing to Greece (2-3) and Slovakia (1-4), but drawing 1-1 with group-winners Finland. The youngsters of Bosnia and Herzegovina had been expected to perform better at this tournament.

Fuad Krvavac

CZECH REPUBLIC



Sport and Physical Education Year

The next few months will see the completion of the two-year UEFA-endorsed pro-licence course in the Czech Republic. Opened by the Czech FA at the beginning of 2004, the course is in line with the UEFA coaching convention.

A key subject in the pro-licence course curriculum is humanitarian activities in relation to football club management, coaches and players, for which a special programme of study has been developed. Specific topics for examination include the concepts of charity and self-sufficiency, understanding minorities and marginalised groups, and learning about UEFA's involvement with the International Blind Sport Federation (IBSA), the Deaflympics or football for cerebral palsy sufferers and amputees.

Another special focus is the joint UEFA/Special Olympics unified football programme. Pro-licence students, most of whom are top players or coaches, visit Special Olympic clubs to meet footballers with learning difficulties and arrange sports activities for them. The footballers, most of whom live in residential homes and



Czech Republic Special Olympics Football Director Mr Juran presents a ball signed by all the Czech players who took part in EURO 2004.

centres, in turn invite the pro-licence students to observe them so as to gain a better understanding of their way of life. These activities culminate in a tournament which brings together Special Olympics unified football players, UEFA pro-licence students and university students, all of whom participate in individual tests of skills and matches. It is only fitting that the awards are presented by famous footballers, who are happy to provide the participants with photos and autographs.

Hana Válková

DENMARK



UEFA interest in Danish youth development

Denmark has developed a truly innovative youth development programme.

The Danish FA's new Integrated Talent Development (IDV) programme for players aged 16-21 has been so successful that UEFA has invited the Danish national Under-21 coach, Flemming Serritslev, to present the programme at its 8th Youth Conference in Cyprus.

Flemming Serritslev is responsible for the programme and will present it to youth coaches from 52 different nations.

"I am very proud of the enormous international interest in the Danish youth development programme. Our model of employing youth coaches in the leading clubs specifically to work with the young players is in many ways a new and unique way of thinking when it comes to youth development. I look forward to presenting and discussing the successful Danish programme with other coaches working with young and talented footballers all over Europe."

IDV was established as a pilot project in August 2000 and has been a



permanent feature of the DBU's youth development strategy since January 2004. It aims to improve the training of the most talented 16-21 year-olds and to help them advance to their clubs' first teams and the national youth teams.

The players' use of the Internet and electronic diaries to keep track of their goals, training and life in general has particularly generated interest at international level. The Internet diary idea is not used anywhere else in Europe.

As part of the project, the DBU advises the clubs on youth development, offers each club an annual sum of DKK 200,000 (approx. EUR 27,000) to employ a full-time youth coach and provides the coaches with professional guidance and further education.

The project takes account of each individual player's need for guidance, advice and support with regard to both the development of his football career and his general education.

Pia Schou Nielsen

ENGLAND



Mission in Mali

The Football Association (FA) joined forces with charity International Service to deliver Coaching For Hope, a football-based initiative aimed at delivering HIV/AIDS messages through youth coaching in Mali.

FA coaches Steve Rutter and Alan Gillett delivered a week-long youth coaching course to a mixed group of 25 local coaches in the Stade 26 Mars in Bamako. In tandem with the coaching sessions, the coaches attended HIV/AIDS awareness sessions to learn about the disease, which is ravaging sub-Saharan Africa.

Three female coaches were selected to continue the youth coaching programme with 50 girls from a Bamako orphanage, some of whom had never kicked a football, let alone put on a pair of football boots or been given a jersey.



Young orphans from Mali in football strips provided by The FA.

"They feel they are princesses now," said Mme Bibi, who runs the orphanage where children have found shelter after being abandoned or left without parents because of the AIDS pandemic. *"People were looking at them in the street this morning and asking about the strips. It made the children feel so proud."*

International Service estimates there are 75,000 AIDS orphans in Mali. *"The HIV situation is terrible here in Mali,"* explained Nawal Boumazza, a health expert from France. *"We want to raise the awareness of young players about HIV. We make the coaches aware that part of their responsibility is to educate their young players about HIV."*

The FA's work in Mali comes just months after England players David James, Rio Ferdinand and Gary Neville visited Malawi to take part in HIV/AIDS awareness sessions and promoted important health messages through radio jingles and a poster campaign.

Nada Grkinic

FINLAND



Skills academies to kick off in Finland

The Football Association of Finland has this year launched a programme designed to help clubs to run skills academies for children aged between 6 and 12. The main purpose of the academies is to offer the most enthusiastic and talented children a chance to engage in additional high-level training as well as their normal team practices. All junior teams contain children with different motivations and goals, which is one of the major reasons why the drop-out rates are still too high among 11-14 year olds. In order to keep all these children playing football, it is important to enable them to participate in accordance with their own motivation and ability levels. This is why additional training is very important for those who want it. The skills academies will focus mainly on teaching football skills, but will also cover all-round fitness, taking into account children's motor development and its different phases. Coaches from other sports such as athletics and wrestling may also be used, but only in support of football-related skills. Any club may organise one of these academies, but they will need to meet certain criteria in order to receive official status as an FA skills academy. For example, they will need to be run by someone with a sufficiently high qualification in coaching or some other related discipline. If a club's skills academy meets these criteria, the FA and

its regional offices will offer education, coaching assistance and certain other privileges.

During 2005, a group of experts from the FA and the clubs have been planning the launch of the programme. They have been gathering information from some existing skills academies run by clubs in Finland. The background work has now been completed and the first official skills academies will open in 2006. In 2007, the FA of Finland will host the 7th UEFA Grassroots Course and it is hoped that, by then, there will be a large number of high-level skills academies all around the country.

Jukka Salasuo

FRANCE



Referees please!

With fewer than 30,000 referees for 2,200,000 licensed players, France is suffering from a shortage of match officials. It is estimated that nearly twice as many referees are needed if all the scheduled matches on the national and regional calendars are to be controlled by fully-trained officials.

The dedication of volunteers is called upon to resolve problems, but the situation is far from satisfactory – and this state of affairs is not unique to football. The French Football Federation (FFF) joined with its counterparts in rugby, handball and basketball to promote the fourth edition of the BUT Referee Days campaign in October 2005 in partnership with a major commercial sponsor.

The event consisted of discovering, recruiting and instructing potential new referees in an atmosphere that was recreational, but educational, at 105 locations all over France.

And it works! In 2004 nearly 3,000 visitors declared themselves interested in refereeing football matches as a result of the event and came away with an insight into the referee's role. Over 700 took the next step and handed in application forms; a 60% increase on the previous year.

In 2005, the organisers distributed 33,000 information booklets, 18,000 whistles, 20,000 T-shirts, 50,000 posters and 460,000 flyers for the four sports, promoting involvement and recruitment with obvious success.

The promotion team for the event at Marignane near Marseille on 8 October included a special member: Fabien Barthez.



The international goalkeeper was taking part in his tenth and last community service activity as part of his suspension for misconduct against a Moroccan referee during a friendly match in February 2005.

Philippe Tournon

ICELAND



Transition period

The Icelandic national team has been going through a period of transition in 2005. Over the past couple of years or so, the team's results have deteriorated and performances have been somewhat disappointing. This year, however, some new faces have been brought in and the team has reacted in a positive way. The battling spirit and enthusiasm that have been trademarks of Icelandic teams in the past have returned. Visible improvements can be seen from match to match, but the team still needs more time to gel. With the chance of qualification for next year's World Cup in Germany long gone, the players now have time to gain experience at international level before qualification matches for EURO 2008 get under way.

One of the new faces in the team is Grétar Rafn Steinsson, who has been a revelation for Iceland this year and is surely a key player for Iceland in years to come. Steinsson, who only turned professional in January this year, usually plays either right-back or right-wing, but is also effective in the middle of the pitch. Swiss club Young Boys secured Steinsson's services from ÍA Akranes at the beginning of 2005, but this summer



Grétar Rafn Steinsson, a new face in the senior national team.

he switched clubs and joined Dutch side AZ Alkmaar, coached by Louis van Gaal.

Steinsson actually made his senior international debut as a raw 19-year old in 2002, when he came on as a substitute in a friendly match against Brazil in Cuiabá, Brazil, and scored a wonder goal after an excellent solo run. Determined not to become a "one-cap-wonder", Steinsson got another chance this year and took it extremely well.

Ómar Smárason

ITALY



A project for disadvantaged children

UEFA's Executive Committee met in Rome in September and the committee members were honoured by two receptions, one with the Italian prime minister, Silvio Berlusconi, and another with the mayor of Rome, Walter Veltroni. However, the most important meeting of all was an audience with Pope Benedict XVI. This was the first time that the German Pope, Joseph Ratzinger, elected on 19 April, had welcomed representatives from the world of sport. The Pope enjoyed a brief dialogue with the committee members.

In celebration of the meeting between the Holy Father and members of the UEFA Executive Committee, the Italian Football Federation (FIGC) organised a football display in the form of matches between children from the 16 countries involved in the "Calcio Cares" project on pitches set up in St. Peter's Square. The countries represented were Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia-Herzegovina, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Latvia, FYR Macedonia, Moldova, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Ukraine. The ambassadors of these countries to Rome were also present.

This "remote support" project was launched by the FIGC in 2003 in collaboration with the Vatican on the occasion of the Italian national team's audience with Pope John Paul II. The aim of the project is to help orphaned children (or those from severely disadvantaged families) to take part in football activities and to provide them with sports equipment. Referees and coaches nominated by the national associations of the countries involved are also invited to training courses hosted by the FIGC Centre of Excellence at Coverciano.

The Italian national team has contributed significantly to the project, through which the FIGC and the Vatican

are promoting football as an instrument of education, training and solidarity. For example, when Italy played Moldova in a World Cup qualifying match in 2004, the Italian players took part in the opening of a reception centre for orphans in Chisinau. In a subsequent qualifier in Belarus, the team visited an orphanage in Minsk and gave the children gifts of footballs.

Sergio Di Cesare



A delegation of children from the "Calcio Cares" project was received by Pope Benedict XVI, with members of the UEFA Executive Committee in attendance.

KAZAKHSTAN



UEFA Cup trophy in Almaty

On 6 and 7 September UEFA Executive Committee member Michel Platini visited Kazakhstan. The French footballing legend, who attended matches between the Kazak and Greek senior and Under-21 national teams, also presented footballs to young players from local orphanages. "I'm very happy to be here today. It's my first visit to Kazakhstan. Seeing these boys reminds me of my childhood," said Platini.



Memories of childhood for UEFA Executive Committee member Michel Platini.

On 27 September the UEFA Cup trophy arrived in Almaty. The cup was displayed to local spectators at the stadium during the Superleague match between



FC Alma-Ata and FC Kairat Almaty. This special occasion was made possible through the friendship between FC Alma-Ata and UEFA Cup holders CSKA Moscow.
Alexander Keplin

LIECHTENSTEIN



Visit by UEFA Chief Executive

UEFA Chief Executive Lars-Christer Olsson was in Liechtenstein for the international match between the home country and Luxembourg. The Liechtenstein Football Association (LFV) welcomed this visit, the LFV president Reinhard Walser emphasizing over an aperitif that it was a great honour for both the country and the national association. He also saw it as acknowledgement of the positive developments at the LFV in recent years.



Reinhard Walser greets UEFA Chief Executive Lars-Christer Olsson.

First, progress on the sporting front has secured international recognition for Liechtenstein. Second, past disputes within the national association have been put to rest and progress has been made towards paying off debts totalling millions of francs.

Lars-Christer Olsson stressed that UEFA takes full account of the small countries too. According to the "one country, one vote" principle, the aim was to give the small countries the same democratic rights as the big ones, such as England, France or Germany. Particular mention was also made of EURO 2008, due to be hosted by Liechtenstein's neighbours, Switzerland and Austria. UEFA is very interested in holding a special event in Liechtenstein in the context of EURO 2008.

The UEFA Chief Executive paid great tribute to the Liechtenstein national team, highlighting its tactical cohesion and sporting conduct. He was also happy to point out that although this was his first time in Liechtenstein, he was confident it would not be his last.

Roland Ospelt

MALTA



Easily accessible data

In line with modern practice, the Malta FA has published its handbook on CD-ROM. The new product was presented by an MFA-commissioned firm at a recent MFA Council meeting.



A new source of information on Maltese football.

The CD-ROM, which will eventually also be issued in book form, is designed to be a comprehensive source of information since it contains several sections of general and particular interest for football followers on the island as well as anyone wishing to learn more about the FIFA and UEFA Statutes and the latest Laws of the Game.

Data on the Malta FA's statutes, rules and regulations, member clubs and affiliated bodies, officials, contact details of office-holders, board and committee members, standing orders, sections for coaches and referees and the MFA's registration forms are all directly accessible and can be searched by section or word.

Most of the data is illustrated by Domenic Aquilina, a Maltese photographer who has gained a high reputation in his field.

As is usual with any CD-ROM, the information it contains is updated from time to time, thus rendering the CD a constant source of the latest information.

This recent technological breakthrough will undoubtedly help the Maltese association keep abreast with the latest developments in instant communication along similar lines to that of other federations. There are also plans to revamp the Malta FA's website in the

very near future in order to broaden the range of information available and offer a more dynamic visual presentation.

True to its total commitment to keeping up with the times, the Malta FA is making use of modern technologies to be of service to football followers. The spirit of involvement and dedication to the good of the game is indeed a trademark of the Maltese association.

Alex Vella

NETHERLANDS



Unprecedented youth success

The unexpected success of the Dutch national Under-17 team at the FIFA World Youth Championship in Peru has had an enormous impact on the attention paid to youth development in the Netherlands. The fact that the Under-17 side managed to qualify for the tournament was a rarity in itself. Never in the history of the Championship had a Dutch team even come close to qualifying.

After finishing runners-up behind Turkey in the European Under-17 Championship, the Royal Netherlands Football Association (KNVB) was proud that the team had qualified for such a major event. First-round matches against Qatar, Brazil and Gambia were never going to be easy. Nonetheless, a surprising 2-0 win over Gambia in the final group match secured second place in the group and a quarter-final clash with the USA. A 2-0 win over the Americans triggered a minor outbreak of the orange fever that has lit up



Bronze medal for the Dutch Under-17 team.



recent tournaments involving the Dutch senior team.

The national media suddenly took an interest in the team and the history of youth football, covering every aspect of the game, including scouting and youth development. All the members of the national Under-17 side already play for major clubs. One of them, goalkeeper Tim Krul, joined Newcastle United last year and is now the club's third-choice goalkeeper.

Unfortunately, Mexico proved too strong in the semi-final, leaving the Dutch side to contest third place with Turkey, who had beaten them in the final of the European Championship four months earlier. With two key players injured, third place seemed to be beyond the Dutch youngsters. However, the final match of the squad's three-week stay in Peru proved the value of a major international event for players of this age. In a spirited Dutch performance, the Turks were beaten 2-1 before a large crowd that was building up for the final.

At the end of the tournament, successful Dutch coach Ruud Kaiser was more than happy. *"The bronze medal at our first World Championship is like a gold medal to us,"* he said. The Dutch only lost to Brazil in the group stage and then to eventual winners Mexico: an amazing performance for a team that left for Peru with very little hope of getting amongst the medals.

This third-place finish provides further proof that the long-term master-plan for youth football, covering all areas of youth education, development and scouting, is truly paying dividends.

Rob de Leede



POLAND



Looking to the future of football

Accepting a special invitation from the Polish FA, UEFA President Lennart Johansson visited Poland in September 2005 as an honorary guest at the final of the tenth Telekomunikacja Polska Cup dedicated to the memory of Marek Wielgus. The cup tournament is the biggest football event for children organised in Poland. This year's edition, played under the patronage of UEFA, saw the participation of 1,760 teams of 11-year-olds, with some 17,500 players, including more than 3,500 girls.

Lennart Johansson stressed the key role of children's tournaments for the future of European and world football. It is



UEFA President Lennart Johansson, guest of honour at the children's tournament.

in such matches that the stars of the future get their first chance to compete. The UEFA President firmly believes that initiatives such as the TP Cup must be appreciated and promoted.

Supporters of the Polish national team have also had reason to celebrate. The great results achieved by Pawel Janas' team have taken Poland to 17th position in the FIFA rankings, the highest ever for the country.

In line with its commitment to promoting the highest sporting ideals, the Polish FA organised a match between Polish and Hungarian Romanies in September under the motto "Fight Racism and Intolerance". The visitors had the better of the encounter but it can be said that the real winners of the match were friendship, tolerance and mutual respect.

Michal Kocieba / Bartek Marks

SLOVAKIA



Success of the mini-pitch project in Slovakia

The mini-pitch project in Slovakia has been running successfully. The estimated number of 100 pitches should be completed by 2010, but so far children in 38 cities are enjoying the use of the artificial turf in 43 locations. The first mini-pitch for our young people was opened in September 2004, with the



The mini-pitches have been very successful.

number due to rise to 68 by the end of 2005.

The inauguration of the mini-pitches has received the patronage of famous football personalities from past and present, including Marek Mintal, top scorer in the German Bundesliga in 2004/05, national coach Dusan Galis, and former international and Slovak FA General Secretary Dusan Tittel, who have all provided great motivation for Slovak youngsters.

Using the new pitches, the Slovak FA has organised the "Mini Champions Liga Slovensko 2005", a national tournament for 13-year-olds which saw the participation of 1,000 children from all over the country.

The final tournament was organised in Banska Bystrica, where more than 120 boys and girls from 8 teams competed during the seven-hour marathon. Many big names in Slovak football came to support the talented youngsters, and internationally acclaimed referees such as Igor Sramka and Pavel Olsiak also contributed to the high standard.

The main objective of the tournament and the mini-pitch project is raise the profile of football, stimulate the younger generation's general interest in sport, and discover and develop talents which we believe will enable us to improve youth football in Slovakia.

Karolina Ducka

SLOVENIA



Success for Slovenian Under-19 team

This autumn, like any other, has been a busy time for the football association of Slovenia. The qualification matches for the 2006 European Under-19 Championship are one of the reasons for this. Group 1 matches in the first qualifying round took place in the Estonian capital Tallinn, with teams from Estonia, Georgia, Lithuania and Slovenia competing for the first two places, which would guarantee a place in the next round. The young Slovenians performed well, achieving two wins and a draw from



The Under-19s have reached their objective.

their three matches. Their first match against Estonia was attended by the Slovenian prime minister, Janez Jansa, who plays football in his spare time and took the opportunity to watch the match during the Slovenian Government's official visit to Estonia. Slovenia won the match 4-2 and continued to impress with a 2-1 win over Lithuania and a 1-1 draw against Georgia. Slovenia finished second in the group, with the same number of points as winners Georgia, who had a better goal difference.

By qualifying for the next round, the Slovenian Under-19 team exceeded most people's expectations. With the kind of combative play they displayed in Estonia, the future looks promising for the young Slovenian footballers (squad members: Rozman, Veselic, Apatic, Peterca, Drevensek, Zajc, Vancas Pozeg, Mijic, Fratina, Lovrecic, Korun, Naprudnik, Straus, Jahic, Balazic, Brezovacki, Kovac) and their coach Milos Rus.

Irena Ilesic Cujovic

SWITZERLAND



Youth training centre opened in Emmen

With representatives of the municipality of Emmen, the canton of Lucerne and UEFA in attendance, the president of the Swiss Football Association (SFV), Ralph Zloczower, opened the new SFV training centre in Emmen.

The Emmen academy replaces the training centre in Frauenfeld which closed a year ago. The SFV now has four youth training centres (Payerne, Tenero and Emmen for boys, Huttwil for girls). In Emmen, 12 players of the class of 1991 are being trained under the supervision of SFV coaches Markus Kälin, Kurt Wiprächtiger and Heinz Moser.



Twelve youth players currently at the Emmen training centre being supervised by three Swiss FA coaches.

Thus the SFV seeks to ensure the optimum provision of facilities to meet youth training needs. From 2007, about 30 boys and ten girls will receive two years' intensive sports and academic training at the centres. There is every reason to hope that this will take Swiss football a step further in the international arena. Perhaps one of these young players will become another Wicky, Cabanas or Vogel.

In his speech Ralph Zloczower expressed his gratitude to UEFA for its financial support and thanked the municipal and cantonal authorities for their wonderful cooperation and efficient solution to the question of school fees. Without UEFA's financial backing and active support from the municipal and cantonal authorities the SFV would have been unable to set up this vitally important centre for German-speaking Switzerland.

Pierre Benoit

UKRAINE



Football festival for schoolchildren

Under the slogan of "Make children happy!", the annual football festival for rural schoolchildren was organised by the Football Federation of Ukraine (FFU) with backing from other sports bodies as part of the All-Ukraine Rural Games. On 24 September, the city of Boryspil became the focal point for children's football. VIP guests presented awards to 1,500 young Ukrainians who were participants in the final competitions. Parliament Speaker Volodymyr Lytvyn, FFU First Vice-President Oleksandr Bandurko, local dignitaries, football veterans and numerous supporters celebrated the young players' performance. "Our national footballing successes, including qualification for the 2006 World Cup in Germany, have their roots in rural and children's football," said Oleksandr Bandurko.

The first two competition rounds in March/April saw the participation of 30,000 teams from 15,000 rural schools. The third and fourth rounds held at regional and district level in April/May involved 2,000 schools. A total of 100 teams, including 45 girls' teams, went through to the final round. The FFU's Executive Committee gave its full backing to the traditional festival.

FFU President Grigoriy Surkis represented Ukraine at the Rome meeting of the UEFA Executive Committee, which decided to hold the XXXII Ordinary UEFA Congress in Ukraine in 2008. This is a great honour and vote of confidence for Ukrainian football, the national association and Ukraine as a whole, which was the first country in the Commonwealth of Independent States to

host a meeting of the UEFA Executive Committee (5/6 November 2003 in Kiev).

The national Under-17 team returned from Poland as runners-up in the Syrenka Cup. Vadym Diord's side were beaten in the final by Slovakia, who won the penalty shoot-out after regular time had finished in a 3-3 draw.

Valeriy Nykonenko



Prize-giving at the Rural Games.

WALES



A change of calendar?

The Vauxhall MasterFit Welsh Premier League recently held a seminar to which various stakeholders were invited to discuss the possibility of changing the playing calendar to a summer season within the next two years. The findings of the seminar, together with a report on a visit earlier this year to the Republic of Ireland to evaluate the experience of the Eircom League, will be put to a meeting of all 18 member clubs on 30 October. The latter will decide whether to make the much-discussed change or keep the status quo.

This season has seen the introduction of the Welsh Premier League Under-21 section, which will be used predominantly for the development of young players. The league has been divided into a north and south conference, with the winners and runners-up of both sections competing in an end-of-season play-off for the title of overall Under-21 champions.

The Football Association of Wales has been cooperating over recent months with 'Show Racism the Red Card', and has contributed a UEFA grant for anti-racism projects to the appointment of a project worker to promote anti-racism in Welsh football.

As part of the initiative, 'Show Racism the Red Card' will be launching a DVD at the Vale of Glamorgan Hotel near Cardiff. This will be attended by the national team manager, John Toshack MBE, and a number of the Welsh team players. Several local schools will attend the event and will take part in coaching sessions prior to the launch. It is hoped that the DVD will promote anti-racism at schools throughout Wales.

John Deakin



Communications

Birthdays – Calendar

Birthdays

Otto Demuth (Germany), member of the circle of former UEFA committee members, celebrates his 80th birthday on 16 November, while Gero Bisanz (Germany), member of the Technical Instructors Panel, turns 70 on 3 November. Rosario Lo Bello (Italy), member of the Referee Observers Panel, and Micky Zager (Israel), member of the Doping Control Officers Panel, will be 60 on 4 November.

UEFA would like to wish them all many happy returns and also a happy birthday to:

- Marc Batta (France, 1.11)
- Josef Krula (Czech Republic, 1.11)
- György Szilágyi (Hungary, 2.11)
- Francesco Bianchi (Switzerland, 2.11)
- Jean-Pierre Papin (France, 3.11)
- Mike Foster (England, 4.11)
- Lennart Johansson (Sweden, 5.11)
- Fernand Meese (Belgium, 5.11)
- Mircea Pascu (Romania, 6.11)
- Jean-Claude Jourquin (Belgium, 6.11)
- Peter Gardiner (Scotland, 7.11)
- Sergeui Aleinikov (Belarus, 7.11)
- Andreas Nagel (Germany, 7.11)
- Sergio Di Cesare (Italy, 8.11)
- Rudolf Zavrl (Slovenia, 9.11)
- Willi Hink (Germany, 9.11)
- Theodore Giannikos (Greece, 9.11)
- Sandor Barcs (Hungary, 10.11)
- Rolf Hediger (Switzerland, 10.11)
- Marc Van Geersom (Belgium, 10.11)
- Frank Paauw (Netherlands, 10.11)
- Gerhard Kapl (Austria, 11.11)
- Uno Tutk (Estonia, 11.11)
- Manos Mavrokoukoulakis (Greece, 12.11)
- Antonio Silva Pereira (Portugal, 12.11)
- Howard Wilkinson (England, 13.11)
- Peter Rees (Wales, 15.11)
- Jean Lemmer (Luxembourg, 15.11)
- Michael Meier (Germany, 15.11)
- Wolf-Günter Wiesel (Germany, 16.11)
- Steve Stride (England, 16.11)
- Pablo Porta Bussoms (Spain, 17.11)
- Georgy Lunacharsky (Russia, 17.11)
- Jan Fasung (Slovakia, 17.11)
- Peter Schmeichel (Denmark, 18.11)
- Jacques Liénard (France, 19.11)
- Horst R. Schmidt (Germany, 19.11)
- Paolo Zeppilli (Italy, 19.11)
- Petr Fousek (Czech Republic, 19.11)
- Katrin Riechert (Switzerland, 19.11)

- David H. Will (Scotland, 20.11)
- Werner Müller (Switzerland, 20.11)
- Georges Vernet (France, 21.11)
- Serghiy Storozhenko (Ukraine, 21.11)
- Joeke de Jong (Netherlands, 21.11)
- Guido Vantaggiato (Italy, 25.11)
- Jonas Braga (Lithuania, 25.11)
- Indrek Kannik (Estonia, 25.11)
- Zbigniew Przesmycki (Poland, 26.11)
- Styrbjörn Oskarsson (Finland, 26.11)
- Marcos Del Cuadro (Switzerland, 26.11)
- Roland Nilsson (Sweden, 27.11)
- Marios N. Lefkaritis (Cyprus, 28.11)
- Ante Vucemilovic-Simunovic (Croatia, 28.11)
- Marko Illesic (Slovenia, 29.11)

Upcoming events

MEETINGS

7-8.11.2005, Malta

Executive Committee

21.11.2005, Nyon

National Teams Committee

24-25.11.2005, Brussels

UEFA Seminar on EU-related Matters

28.11.2005, Limassol

3rd UEFA Forum for Elite Club Youth Coaches Youth & Amateur Football Committee

29.11.2005, Nyon

2nd Seminar for Futsal Referees

29.11-1.12.2005, Limassol

UEFA Youth Football Conference

30.11.2005, Limassol

Draw for the elite rounds of the 2005/06 youth championships

COMPETITIONS

1-2.11.2005

UEFA Champions League: group matches (matchday 4)

3.11.2005

UEFA Cup: group matches (matchday 2)

22-23.11.2005

UEFA Champions League: group matches (matchday 5)

24.11.2005

UEFA Cup: group matches (matchday 3)

Notices

■ At its meeting in Rome, the Executive Committee entrusted the football association of Ukraine with the organisation of the XXXII UEFA Congress in January 2008. A call for invitations to host the 2009 Congress will be issued to all member associations.

■ The Executive Committee also decided on the venues for its meetings next year. It will meet in Nyon on 25/26 February, Budapest on 21/22 March, Glasgow on 22/23 May, Iceland on 12/13 July, Ljubljana on 4/5 October, and Nyon on 7/8 December.

■ The Football Association of (the Republic of) Ireland has a new president in the person of David Blood, who takes over from Milo Corcoran.

■ Alexey Spirin took up office as General Secretary of the football association of Russia on 29 September.

■ The football association of Ukraine has moved to 1, Ulyanovych Street, PO Box 293, 03150 Kiev.

Match agents

The Licensed UEFA Match Agents Panel has granted a licence to:

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The panel has also renewed the licence of George Gregoriou (Cyprus) until October 2013.

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