

UEFA·direct

No. 139 | June 2014



IN THIS ISSUE

Official publication of the
Union of European Football
Associations

Chief editor:
Emmanuel Deconche

Produced by:
Atema Communication SA,
CH-1196 Gland

Printing:
Artgraphic Cavin SA,
CH-1422 Grandson

Editorial deadline:
6 June 2014

*The views expressed in signed
articles are not necessarily
the official views of UEFA.
The reproduction of articles
published in UEFA-direct
is authorised, provided the
source is indicated.*

Cover:

*Captain Iker Casillas
brandishes the UEFA
Champions League
trophy after Real Madrid's
eleventh-hour victory*

Photo: Sportsfile

REAL MADRID CF WIN THE CHAMPIONS LEAGUE DERBY

4

Real Madrid celebrated their tenth victory in UEFA's most prestigious club competition in Lisbon on 24 May.



VFL WOLFSBURG SUCCESSFULLY DEFEND THEIR EUROPEAN TITLE

6

Germany's Wolfsburg gave it everything they had to pull back in the second half against Sweden's Tyresö FF and lift the UEFA Women's Champions League trophy for the second year in a row.



PENALTIES DECIDE THE EUROPA LEAGUE FINAL

7

Sevilla FC came out on top in the penalty shoot-out that followed 120 minutes of deadlock against SL Benfica.



TURIN HOSTS THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

13

The Executive Committee met on the eve of the UEFA Europa League final played in Turin on 14 May.



NEWS FROM MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS

19

WITH THIS ISSUE

Issue 56 of *UEFA•technician* presents the new UEFA coaching licences and discusses the diversity within the coaching profession.





GREAT FOOTBALL AND HISTORIC DECISIONS

The curtains have come down on another memorable European football season, and it is with great pride that I look back at what UEFA has achieved on and off the pitch.

I am sure fans across the continent were thrilled by the fantastic football on show this past season, and they will certainly have been gripped by the club competition finals, which saw Real Madrid CF, Sevilla FC and VfL Wolfsburg win the UEFA Champions League, UEFA Europa League and UEFA Women's Champions League in dramatic fashion.

Off the field, we faced a series of important challenges. I have spoken and written about some of the historic decisions that were taken, all to my great satisfaction. From approving a new resolution on match-fixing at our Congress in Astana, to amending the UEFA Statutes in order to improve our fight against all forms of discrimination and taking a stand against third party ownership, we should all be proud of the work we have done together.

The successful implementation of financial fair play also deserves a mention. Many years ago, I was asked by owners of European clubs to take action in order to control the incredible amounts of money they were obliged to invest in order to be competitive. That is why we set up the Club Financial Control Body (CFCB) and the financial fair play rules in 2009 to help monitor and improve the financial landscape of European football. Now the first assessment period has been concluded, I have to say I firmly believe we are on the right track. There is still work to be done of course, and we will consult our stakeholders and specialists to determine whether the process can be improved.

As I take a look at what lies ahead, I can tell you I am committed to continuing our efforts to develop football across the continent and using our beautiful game as a force for good and for social change. I am personally looking forward to the creation of the new UEFA foundation as I feel it will give us a unique opportunity to help children around the world. Soon there will be more developments regarding the establishment of this charity project, which I am sure will give us all every reason to be proud.

I am also eager to see the new formats of our national team competitions put into practice. The rebranded European Qualifiers kick off with the new week of football model in September, a sequence that will culminate in a record 24 teams qualifying for UEFA EURO 2016. I am sure it will be a success, with more fans watching more football than ever before.

I could not finish this message without mentioning the 2014 FIFA World Cup. I sincerely hope it will be a successful tournament and I wish all the European nations in Brazil the very best of luck!

Michel Platini
UEFA President

MADRID COMES TO LISBON

The 59th European Cup ended in the same fashion as nine of the previous editions – with Real Madrid CF holding the trophy aloft.

For so long, however, it seemed the Lisbon final would finish with a new name on the UEFA Champions League trophy, thanks to Diego Godín's 36th-minute header for Club Atlético de Madrid – following on from his goal that had clinched the Spanish Liga title for Atlético six days earlier.

But just as in Atlético's sole previous final appearance, against FC Bayern München in 1974, there was late heartbreak in store. Madrid kept

coming and Sergio Ramos finally levelled in the third of five minutes of added time, nodding in from a corner – the same route from which he had scored twice in the semi-final second leg in Munich. Madrid then ran away with it when Gareth Bale nodded in the rebound from another fine save by the excellent Thibaut Courtois, this time from Ángel Di María, in the 110th minute. Further goals from Marcelo and Cristiano Ronaldo – a penalty after he had been fouled



Gareth Bale scores Real Madrid's second goal in the 110th minute

AT THE HEART OF THE ACTION

The 2013/14 UEFA Champions League final in Lisbon was the most social yet, with a truly global audience interacting and engaging on all platforms, using the official hashtag – #UCLfinal – over a million times. The UEFA.com team in Lisbon brought fans from around the globe closer to the action via comprehensive multi-platform social media coverage. Working in direct partnership with Facebook, there were live Q&As with 2007 UEFA Champions League winner Cafu, Steve McManaman, who lifted the trophy twice with Real Madrid CF, and FIFA World Cup winner Yuri Djorkaeff. There were also text-based question-and-answer sessions with the UEFA President, Michel Platini, Atlético striker David Villa, and former Ghana international Sammy Kuffour, with thousands of questions flooding in from around the globe. The UEFA Champions League Facebook page ([facebook.com/uefachampionsleague](https://www.facebook.com/uefachampionsleague)) hosted much of this great

content as it continued to go from strength to strength, passing the 30 million mark and consolidating its status as the most popular sports league or association page on the platform.

The UEFA.com Instagram account ([instagram.com/uefacom](https://www.instagram.com/uefacom)) also swelled its ranks to almost 200,000 followers and provided the perfect platform to share exclusive photos and 12-second video clips from Lisbon. Elsewhere, the official @ChampionsLeague Twitter account came into its own and supplied over 4.5 million followers with live updates, photos and six-second Vine videos, as well as reinforcing the use of #UCLfinal. This was the account to follow for all things #UCLfinal, initiating some fantastic interaction with the two finalists. The UEFA.com and UEFA Champions League Google+ pages, which boast over 6.5 million fans between them, also kept fans up to date as events unfolded at the festival and the Estádio do Sport Lisboa e Benfica. ●

and his record 17th goal of the season – secured *La Décima* for Madrid and made Carlo Ancelotti only the second coach after Bob Paisley to have won three European Cups.

As UEFA Champions League winners, Madrid will take on UEFA Europa League winners Sevilla FC in the 2014 UEFA Super Cup at Cardiff City Stadium in Wales on 12 August. Madrid will also be Europe's representatives at the 2014 FIFA Club World Cup, to be played in Morocco from 10 to 20 December.

More than just a football match

With the capacity of the Estádio do Sport Lisboa e Benfica set at 61,000 for the final, the participating clubs were given 17,000 tickets each – Real Madrid occupying the south end of the stadium and the home dressing room as the designated home team, and Atlético taking over the north end. In addition to the spectators inside the ground, the final had an estimated audience of over 380 million viewers in over 200 countries and territories, with an estimated live match viewership of 165 million.

As usual, it proved a huge draw for the media. There were over 120 TV rights-holder cameras inside the stadium on matchday, with the host broadcaster, Sport TV, using 34 cameras to provide the live coverage, including a Spidercam and a helicopter camera. Sport TV and the other UEFA Champions League broadcasters combined had 1,500 staff working at the match.

There were 350 media seats with desks and 130 TV and radio commentary positions, plus a further 220 seats without desks. In addition, for the photographers there were 160 pitchside positions and 10 media seats. In total, 550 written press representatives attended the match, plus 200 photographers and technicians.

There were 260 staff working at the final and 500 volunteers, while 175 drivers helped move people around the city.

Festival atmosphere

The UEFA Champions Festival has been a key element of the final for several years and 2014 proved no exception. Fans flocked to the Praça do Comércio between Thursday 22 and Sunday 25 May for four days of entertainment. As always, a highlight was the Ultimate Champions match, a five-a-side exhibition match between former footballers. This year, a Portuguese *seleção* coached by Paulo Futre and featuring the likes of Vítor Baía, Cafu, Luís Figo, Rui Costa and Deco took on a UEFA all-stars side that included Fernando Hierro, Predrag Mijatović, Michael Laudrup, Fabio Cannavaro and Steve McManaman, coached by Emilio Butragueño. A member of the public – 23-year-old David Pereira – got to be the UEFA all-stars goalkeeper, having been selected by Vítor Baía and Peter Schmeichel from hundreds of applicants who sent in 30-second video clips.

Elsewhere at the festival was the UEFA Museum of Champions – the official museum of



Sportsfile

The Champions Festival training session led by Cafu was very popular

the European Champion Clubs' Cup and UEFA Champions League, which houses an ever-expanding collection of rare European football items and artefacts, from playing shirts and boots to trophies. The mini-pitch was also as popular as ever, with former Real Madrid CF midfielder Christian Karembu running skills clinics and teams from all age groups taking part in small-sided matches.

Lisbon's city hall staged the UEFA Champions Gallery – an exhibition of more than 150 pictures, including many that had never been seen before. The collection traced the history of the competition back to the inaugural European Champion Clubs' Cup in 1955/56 and included photos of some of football's most famous faces, including Portuguese greats Eusébio and Cristiano Ronaldo.

UEFA also donated a maxi-pitch to Lisbon, ensuring a lasting legacy for the city. This was the fifth successive year that UEFA had handed over a cutting-edge 3G pitch to the final's host city. The pitch at Clube Oriental de Lisboa was opened by UEFA Champions League winners Maniche and Costinha as part of the UEFA Grassroots Day celebrations. Work on the maxi-pitch began just after Christmas, after the site had been nominated for development by the Portuguese Football Federation. The new state-of-the-art facility replaced the previous sand and gravel pitch at the same location and offers youngsters a safe environment in which to play football for years to come. ●

24 May 2014

Estádio do SL Benfica, Lisbon – 60,976 spectators

Real Madrid CF v Club Atlético de Madrid 4–1 aet (0–1, 1–1)

Goals: Godín 36 (0–1), Ramos 90+3 (1–1), Bale 110 (2–1), Marcelo 118 (3–1), Ronaldo 120p (4–1)

Referee: Bjorn Kuipers (Netherlands)

WOLFSBURG DEFEND THEIR EUROPEAN CROWN

VfL Wolfsburg became the third team to successfully defend the European women's club title after the most exciting of the 13 finals so far.



VfL Wolfsburg win their second of two UEFA Women's Champions Leagues

In 2013 in London, debutants Wolfsburg thwarted Olympique Lyonnais' bid for an unprecedented third straight title, winning 1–0 through a Martina Müller penalty. Müller, who joined a then freshly relegated Wolfsburg in 2005, struck the decisive goal again in Lisbon.

No easy way to reach the final

Like Wolfsburg a year earlier, Tyresö FF were making their bow in Europe. But their team, including Marta – who played on the last Swedish team to win, Umeå IK, in 2004 – did not want for experience, and in their maiden tie edged past highly fancied Paris Saint-Germain 2–1 on aggregate. Former finalists Fortuna Hjørring, Austria's first quarter-finalists, SV Neulengbach, and Birmingham City LFC also fell to the club from the Stockholm suburbs.

Pärnu JK of Estonia, Sweden's FCR Malmö and FC Barcelona, the first Spanish side to reach the last eight, all failed to dethrone the champions. In the semi-finals there was an all-German encounter, with Wolfsburg taking on 1. FFC Turbine Potsdam, who in the last 16 had beaten Olympique Lyonnais on away goals to become the first side to win at Stade de Gerland

22 May 2014

Estádio do Restelo, Lisbon – 11,217 spectators

Tyresö FF v VfL Wolfsburg 3–4 (2–0)

Goals: Marta (28, 56), Veronica Boquete (30), Alexandra Popp (47), Martina Müller (53, 80), Verena Faisst (68)

Referee: Kateryna Monzul (Ukraine)

in seven years, keeping the French side out of the final for the first time since the UEFA Women's Champions League began in 2009/10. Potsdam held Wolfsburg 0–0 at home and twice led in the first half away, only to lose 4–2 in the end.

A final of two halves

Wolfsburg were considered favourites for the final at Lisbon's Estádio do Restelo, but things seemed very different at half-time, with Tyresö in the lead thanks to Marta's brilliant run and finish on 28 minutes and Verónica Boquete's follow-up soon after. The Swedish side's pace and verve seemed to be proving too much for Wolfsburg, but in the second half the Germans were a team transformed and what followed was the most thrilling 45 minutes in the competition's history.

Alexandra Popp's header on 47 minutes got Wolfsburg back in the game and Müller then levelled. Tyresö seemed on the ropes but Marta's geometrically perfect finish restored their lead three minutes later. Then, in the 68th minute, with Tyresö defender Meghan Klingenberg off injured, substitute Verena Faisst celebrated her 25th birthday with a Wolfsburg equaliser and, ten minutes from time, player of the match Nadine Kessler beat three Tyresö defenders in the box and then held up the ball before setting up Müller to volley the winner.

Only Milena Nikolić of ŽFK Spartak, 10 of whose 11 strikes came in the qualifying round, topped Müller's competition tally of 10. Wolfsburg have made it 8 German victories in 13 seasons and although Conny Pohlers did not come off the bench, she claimed a record fourth winners' medal and retires with a competition-best 48 goals. Wolfsburg have matched Umeå (2003, 2004) and Lyon (2011 and 2012) in retaining the title.

"We knew that Tyresö would start very strongly, and that it wouldn't be an easy game," Müller told UEFA.com. "We had a hard time getting into it, and didn't really get the spaces right. Everything was very confused for us. But we managed to turn things around after 45 minutes. The coach found the right words, and we deservedly won in the end." That coach, Ralf Kellermann, added: "When I looked into their eyes at half-time during the team talk, I could see the motivation and the determination that we could come back. Right away after that we scored our first goal, and then the belief increased and the team did great. And their third goal didn't really bother us; the team kept on believing. It was sensational." ●

A FINAL FOR EVERYONE IN TURIN

The UEFA Europa League final between Sevilla FC and SL Benfica was the main event in Turin, but there was a strong undercard to engage visiting supporters, local school children and even detainees at a juvenile detention centre.

It was ten to midnight when Ivan Rakitić joined an exclusive band of captains to lift the UEFA Europa League trophy, a fittingly triumphant moment to cap a long, successful day for the Italian Football Federation (FIGC) and UEFA as it sought to capitalise on Turin's moment in the sun (literally and metaphorically).

"Any big football event supported by grassroots initiatives – especially when children are involved – can bring a lasting legacy as it allows us to show that football is not only played on the biggest stages," said Luca Pancalli, the FIGC's head of the youth and schools sector. Inclusivity was the watchword. In the morning Turin's Ferrante Aporti juvenile detention centre hosted a mini-tournament linked to grassroots activities as the FIGC seeks to engage young detainees using football as an educational tool.

They played under the banner 'Nessuno escluso!' (Nobody excluded!), which could easily apply to the FIGC's approach as a whole. *"Professional football is the tip of the iceberg,"* added Pancalli. *"The foundations are laid by the thousands upon thousands of kids who enjoy the game, play it and dream of becoming champions one day. Our mission is to help them fulfil their dreams."* A former swimmer, Pancalli certainly achieved his, winning 14 medals (eight of them gold) at the Paralympic Games in 1984, 1988 and 1996.

Taking football everywhere

The 50-year-old also underlined the importance of the growth of women's football. *"We are working in collaboration with UEFA on this,"* he said. *"We are trying to take advantage of all the resources at our disposal, like the mini-pitches UEFA gave us [as part of the HatTrick assistance programme], to take football everywhere, especially to the most difficult areas of big Italian cities, and women's football, too. We had some difficulty in Italy in this respect, but we are making up for it."*

By the afternoon the focus had shifted to the beautiful Piazza San Carlo in the heart of the city, where a grassroots tournament was staged. Boys and girls aged 8 to 16 played knockout

SPOT-ON SEVILLA

Sevilla FC went into the Turin final almost under the radar as SL Benfica and talk of Béla Guttmann's curse dominated pre-match thoughts. *"Not in 100 years from now will Benfica ever be European champion,"* the Hungarian coach had warned when he stormed out of the club after leading them to a second European Cup in 1962. Since then, the Eagles had reached seven UEFA finals and lost them all – in Turin it became eight as Sevilla overtook them with a third European trophy in nine seasons.

It was a final short on chances, where there was always a body in the way, but it stuck to the 2013/14 formula of drama to the last, i.e. penalties. Sevilla, of course, had been here before and the hero of their 2007 triumph over RCD Espanyol, Andrés Palop, was at Juventus Stadium to watch Beto deny Óscar Cardozo and Rodrigo, leaving Kevin Gameiro to stroke in the winner. Seven years previously, Unai Emery had watched Palop inspire Juande Ramos's side to glory, *"wondering what it would feel like"*. Now he knew. ●

competitions on two temporary pitches on the 17th-century square. The mounted statue of Count Emanuele Filiberto of Savoy surveyed the action alongside proud parents, intrigued passers-by and supporters of Sevilla and Benfica, lured down the Via Roma from their morning base at the Piazza Castello.

As the hot sun sank the fans began making their way across town towards the snow-capped Alpine peaks that provide the picture-postcard backdrop to Juventus Stadium. The fans themselves provided an energetic and colourful milieu for the match and were invited to take their place in the history books by putting a name to their face in a 360-degree interactive photo, to say 'I was there'. ●

Sevilla FC took the trophy for a third time after winning on penalties in Turin



14 May 2014

Turin – 33,120 spectators

Sevilla FC v SL Benfica 0–0

Sevilla FC win 4–2 on penalties

Referee: Felix Brych (Germany)

ENGLAND EDGE THE UNDER-17 TITLE

At a memorable tournament played in Malta from 9 to 21 May, England laid ghosts of previous shoot-outs to rest by beating the Netherlands 4–1 from the penalty spot to take the European Under-17 Championship for the second time in five seasons.



England succeed Russia as U17 title holders

The down-to-the-wire denouement provided a fitting climax to a final tournament enriched by 46 goals and a commitment to attack. As Ginés Meléndez, Spain’s youth development ‘guru’ and a UEFA technical observer at the event, said: *“This wasn’t about poor defending. Far from it. This was all about attacking philosophies and highly skilled players.”*

With the final tournament set to switch to a 16-team format as from next season, the last eight-team event was the first to be staged by the national association of Malta. Another ‘first’ was the decision to play four matches on the island of Gozo, which led to the novel spectacle of teams travelling to the venue by boat. One of the many positive aspects of the tournament was that all eight delegations shared a single hotel – with contact between the players arguably contributing to a substantial reduction in the number of fouls and yellow cards (all but halved) in comparison with previous seasons.

On the field of play there were tales of the unexpected. The German team, hampered

by wayward finishing, hit the net only once and travelled home after the group stage. Switzerland, seemingly en route to the semi-finals after taking the lead during an impressive first half of their must-win match against Scotland, took their eye off the ball after the break, conceded three goals and allowed the Scots to exceed expectations by reaching the knockout stage. A talented Portuguese side topped the table, winning all three games without conceding a goal.

In the other group, the Maltese hosts made as many friends with their performances as they did with their organisational skills. Although beaten three times, they ambitiously carried the game to their opponents and could have scored more than twice against the Dutch, who – like England – qualified for the semis with a game to spare. Turkey, having taken the lead against both the Netherlands and England, relinquished their advantage in both matches and travelled home after a consolation victory over the hosts.

The surprises continued when Portugal, having overpowered England throughout the first half of their semi-final and hit the woodwork three times, succumbed after the break, when John Peacock’s side upped the tempo, took control and scored twice. In the other semi-final, the Dutch team’s fast, fluent attacking proved too much for the valiant Scots – who were nonetheless over-punished by the 5–0 scoreline that put the Dutch into a creditable fourth final in six seasons.

In their closing group game, Maarten Stekelenburg’s team had prevailed 2–0 over a much-changed English side to preserve their impressive record of having won every competitive game throughout the season. But John Peacock’s side effectively spiked their attacking weapons and, although the Dutch made it 1–1 on the stroke of half-time, England shaded the second half on points. With neither side finding a knockout blow within the 80 minutes, the final, for the third successive season, went to a penalty shoot-out. The English players, who had assiduously practised their penalty-taking techniques at the end of every training session in Malta, converted all four of their spot-kicks, while their goalkeeper Freddie Woodman saved the first Dutch effort and Calvin Verdonk, who had converted two penalties during the tournament, sent his third wide of the post, allowing Jonjoe Kenny to earn a 4–1 shoot-out victory for the impressive England team who emerged as the champions of a magnificently exuberant tournament. ●

RESULTS

Group A

9 May	Netherlands v Turkey	3–2
9 May	Malta v England	0–3
12 May	England v Turkey	4–1
12 May	Malta v Netherlands	2–5
15 May	Turkey v Malta	4–0
15 May	England v Netherlands	0–2

Group B

9 May	Germany v Switzerland	1–1
9 May	Scotland v Portugal	0–2
12 May	Switzerland v Portugal	0–1
12 May	Germany v Scotland	0–1
15 May	Portugal v Germany	1–0
15 May	Switzerland v Scotland	1–3

Semi-finals

18 May	Netherlands v Scotland	5–0
18 May	Portugal v England	0–2

Final

21 May	Netherlands v England	1–1*
--------	-----------------------	------

* England win 4–1 on penalties

UEFA ROLLS OUT FUTSAL COACHING LICENCE

The UEFA Futsal B coaching licence has been born. There has previously been no specialised UEFA-endorsed qualification for coaches working in the indoor game, but work on the project to introduce one gathered momentum when an expert working group was set up in 2012.

Further steps towards implementation were made during three pilot courses aimed at presenting the guidelines to UEFA's member associations and fine-tuning them in response to feedback. After the first two ground-breaking pilot courses in Spain and Italy, the sequence was completed when coaches and coach educators met in Prague from 5 to 8 May. The opening two courses had brought together nations currently climbing the futsal ladder, while the grand finale in Prague was something of an elite event, attended by futsal specialists from 21 of Europe's top nations in the futsal field, among them the coaches who, earlier this year, led their national teams into the UEFA Futsal EURO 2014 in Antwerp.

As UEFA's chief technical officer, Ioan Lupescu, explained on the opening day: *"The aim of this course is to outline the key elements in this new B licence and to make it clear that UEFA is willing to offer tailor-made support to member associations who feel they would benefit from outside expertise in building up their futsal structures."*

The implementation of a new licence is not exactly a 'magic wand' procedure. It takes administrative resources and, of course, specialist futsal expertise to organise courses that fulfil UEFA's criteria and entail a minimum of 123 hours of tuition. The feedback from the three pilot courses suggests that there should be no shortage of candidates for the new licence. But it is one thing to have students. It is quite another to have tutors who are properly equipped to teach them.

So 'teaching the teachers' was a core topic at the event in Prague. The programme for the pilot course was based on specialised topics of great interest to the coach educators at UEFA's member associations, who will be helping to bring the UEFA Futsal B licence to life. More

details about the content of the theoretical and practical sessions can be found in UEFA's coaching supplement, *UEFA•technician*, which accompanies this issue of *UEFA•direct*.

A pool of specialists

One of the fundamental messages given to the national associations during the three pilot courses was that UEFA, as from the start of the new season, would be underpinning the new futsal licence with an extensive manual compiled by the continent's top experts, along with DVD material that coach educators should find invaluable. At the same time, UEFA is planning to recruit new members into the pool of specialists who have made huge contributions to the guidelines for the UEFA Futsal B licence and who have played key roles in presenting the parameters of the new licence to national associations.

Additions to this pool of experts will allow UEFA to offer tailor-made assistance to national associations who plan to introduce futsal coaching courses. On the final morning of the course in Prague, feedback from the participants underlined that many national associations were ready, willing and able to roll out the UEFA Futsal B licence immediately, while others would be seeking support from UEFA as they prepared to introduce specialised futsal courses in the near future.

Javier Lozano, serial world and European champion as coach of Spain's national team and a member of the working group that set the UEFA project in motion, said: *"This demonstrates that UEFA is leading by example. The UEFA futsal licence is a positive move and a democratic one, in the sense that it will help all national associations to continue to climb up towards the standards of the top countries."* ●



Prague hosted the third and final pilot course laying the groundwork for the new futsal coaching licence

KEEPING PACE WITH THE TIMES

The 1960s was a decade of development and expansion for UEFA and its competitions. As the European governing body celebrates its 60th birthday, we look back at a memorable ten years when football kept pace with massive social changes and the game became more popular than ever.

Settling into its new home in the Swiss capital, Berne, after moving from Paris at the start of 1960, UEFA diversified as it gained in stature, promoting constant dialogue and a continual search for improvement within the European game. The UEFA Congress and Executive Committee were the key decision-making authorities, and additional expert committees were gradually introduced to deal with the various aspects of the game as UEFA's range of activities continued to grow.

Regular courses for coaches and referees were established, as well as conferences for national association general secretaries and presidents. Effective agreements with media and broadcasters became essential, in particular concerning the regulation of television transmissions of football matches.

On the competition front, Real Madrid CF's five-year grip on the European Champion Clubs' Cup – crowned with a magnificent 7–3 win over Eintracht Frankfurt in the 1960 final in Glasgow – finally loosened. The next team striding through came from Portugal. SL Benfica, master-

mindful by brilliant Hungarian technician Béla Guttmann, triumphed in 1961 and 1962 – and a shy Mozambican-born youngster hit the headlines. Eusébio da Silva Ferreira's two goals settled a thrilling 5–3 victory over Real Madrid in 1962, and 'the Black Pearl' went on to collect the European Footballer of the Year award in 1965. *"It was the moment which launched my career,"* said Eusébio of his exploits. *"That was the game that made me believe that I could be a world-class player."*

A lesson in team-building

The mid-60s brought the Italian football stronghold of Milan to the fore – the city's two sides were kings of Europe. AC Milan prevailed in 1963, with Brazilian spearhead José Altafini scoring 14 goals, then FC Internazionale Milano took over in 1964 and 1965. Coach Helenio Herrera's charges included the brilliant full-back Giacinto Facchetti and the sophisticated attacking skills of Sandro Mazzola, who still speaks in awe of that first triumph in 1964. *"The captain lifted the trophy, then we ran around the pitch with [Armando] Picchi, who was a great, great captain,"* he explained. *"Every now and again he allowed us to touch it and to lift it, and it didn't seem real to us. When we went back to the hotel and we couldn't sleep, we stayed up all night chatting – only then did we realise we had won the European Cup."*

British success finally arrived. Scotland's Celtic FC – fielding a team of players who had grown up within a 50km radius of Glasgow – surfed on a wave of glorious attacking football to triumph in 1967, their 2–1 success over Internazionale in Lisbon earning the closely knit side immortality as the Lisbon Lions. *"We always had the attitude of you and us – we can beat you when we're on top of our game,"* said Celtic captain Billy McNeill. *"The very fact that the Italian club met us*

With Eusébio, pictured in action against AC Milan in the 1963 final at Wembley (2–1 to Milan), Benfica put an end to Real Madrid's domination of the European Cup



Getty Images

in the final was magnificent, and as they came out of the tunnel they started singing, so we started singing louder than them and I think that is what helped us."

There was great poignancy when the trophy crossed over to England the following year. Manchester United FC's precocious young team built by manager Matt Busby had been on the verge of a European breakthrough in 1958, when the Munich air disaster cost eight players their lives. Ten years on, a new side came good on home soil to overcome Benfica 4–1 on an emotional night at Wembley. Two players who, along with Busby, had survived at Munich were in the 1968 outfit – Bobby Charlton and Billy Foulkes. They were joined by Northern Ireland's George Best, whose Beatle-length hair, magnetic appeal and extraordinary skills made him arguably football's first 'pop star'. *"It was a marvellous night because it put things right in a way,"* said Charlton. *"The accident had happened, this great tragedy and loss had taken place. It helped Matt Busby. This made it a little easier for him in some ways."*

The flowering of a generation from a relatively unheralded country marked the end of the decade. The emergence of the Netherlands as a footballing force came with the arrival of Amsterdam club AFC Ajax. Driven by innovative coach Rinus Michels and his on-field lieutenant, the dynamic young superstar-in-waiting Johan Cruyff, Ajax reached the 1969 final, where the power of Milan was to prove too much for them. Nevertheless, much more would be heard of Ajax and Cruyff in the decade to come.

A second club competition

The 1960s also heralded the start of a sister club competition for the Champion Clubs' Cup – the European Cup Winners' Cup – open to winners of UEFA member associations' domestic cup competitions. The first edition in 1960/61 was not run by UEFA, but by central Europe's Mitropa Cup organisers, and UEFA assumed the organisation the following season. From 1963, the Cup Winners' Cup final was staged over one match at a chosen European venue. The competition gained in prestige and boasted a distinguished list of winners in the 1960s – AC Fiorentina, Club Atlético de Madrid, Tottenham Hotspur FC, Sporting Clube de Portugal, West Ham United FC, Borussia Dortmund, FC Bayern München, AC Milan and ŠK Slovan Bratislava.

The second European Nations' Cup, meanwhile, saw 29 European associations enter, proving that the competition was on the right track. The format remained the same as for the first edition, with a four-team final round. Spain hosted the final tournament and made their home advantage count. Spurred on by the all-round talents of midfielder Luis Suárez, Spain edged out the USSR 2–1 in the 1964 final in Madrid. *"Other Spanish national teams I played in were much better than that 1964 side but we never*



Getty Images

achieved anything," the gifted Suárez said. *"That one was a team rather than a selection of top players."*

A new name for a new format

The 1968 competition was the first to be named the European Championship and brought a new format. The qualification phase now comprised qualifying groups that led to a quarter-final round featuring the eight group winners. The final tournament consisted of semi-finals, the final and a third-place play-off. Italy staged the 1968 final round, and again the hosts took the title. The Azzurri won by the toss of a coin after a 0–0 semi-final draw with the USSR and then beat Yugoslavia 2–0 in a replayed final after the first game had ended in a 1–1 draw.

Two key figures were at UEFA's helm in the 1960s – Gustav Wiederkehr (Switzerland), who succeeded Ebbe Schwartz as UEFA president in April 1962, and his compatriot Hans Bangerter, who became general secretary in 1960 and held this post for nearly three decades. Having taken its first steps in the 1950s, UEFA grew into a sturdy 'youngster' in the following decade and strode boldly towards its age of maturity in the 1970s... ●

Billy McNeill's Celtic beat Inter 2–1 in Lisbon in 1967 to become the first European champions from outside southern Europe

FITNESS PILOT CYCLE COMPLETED

The first cycle of Fitness for Football seminars was successfully rounded off in Baku between 28 April and 1 May as the third pilot event engaged a total of 17 UEFA member associations in the dialogue between coaches, coach educators, fitness experts and medical staff.

Following similar courses in Oslo in March 2013 and in Istanbul last August, UEFA is satisfied that all the European national associations have been involved in the initial pilot process.

The governing body has also received rewarding feedback, the delegates clearly having appreciated the expert guidance on this specific and important topic. The coach education directors all heard useful new ideas on 'fitness for football' that could be integrated into their respective national coach education concepts.

With the pilot cycle now closed, the concept will soon be taken to the next level as the topic is further fine-tuned as a part of the UEFA Study Group Scheme next season.

football, explaining that: *"If coaches better understood the demands of the game, they could tailor training methods more appropriately."* *"The key thing is to replicate in training the demands of match play for each individual player,"* he said.

Dr Mogens Kreutzfeldt of the UEFA Medical Committee looked at injuries and their prevention at senior level, using the UEFA Champions League injury study – spanning the 2001-13 period – to share practical information about the frontline of football.

Leicester City physiotherapist Dave Rennie took an integrated approach to injury prevention and treatment in his presentation, stressing the importance of communication between physios or sports scientists and coaches. *"If we work in a collaborative fashion then we have a chance,"* he said, adding that coaches had to be educated because injury prevention was the foundation for team development.

New directions

Long-term player development, meanwhile, entered the equation as Fritz Schmid, a UEFA, FIFA and Swiss Football Association coaching instructor, led several contributors on this multi-faceted subject. *"Key stakeholders must establish a common understanding of developing young football players,"* he said.

Throughout the seminar, delegates split into groups for workshops that facilitated a sharing of best-practice examples. With UEFA fitness experts assisting the UEFA fitness working group members, the associations were at once

stimulated to integrate relevant fitness-related topics across the coach education domain and familiarised with the latest trends.

This cascading of information from UEFA to the associations and beyond was embraced by Andrey Leksakov, technical director of the Russian Football Union: *"We believe UEFA is going in the right direction in expanding various technical areas. These events are very beneficial and extremely informative, with a strong practical dimension. This type of seminar enables us to benchmark what we do in these areas against UEFA's own activities."* ●



Small group discussions

Understanding the demands of the game

Through a busy agenda of presentations, discussion groups, observations from delegates, practical training sessions, workshops and Q&As, the seminar in Baku nurtured the ongoing 'fitness for football' dialogue – while communicating the clear football-specific message that underpins the philosophy of this UEFA Jira Panel-inspired initiative.

Paul Balsom, performance manager of the Swedish national team and Leicester City FC, spoke about the physical demands of playing

ZERO TOLERANCE FOR RACISM

A call for strict punishment of racist offences in football and the voting procedure for selecting the hosts of UEFA EURO 2020 matches were key items on the agenda at the UEFA Executive Committee's last meeting, on 13 May in Turin.

The committee, chaired by the UEFA President, Michel Platini, met on the eve of the UEFA Europa League final in the Italian city and – together with the UEFA Professional Football Strategy Council (PFSC), which also met in Turin – reacted strongly to recent racist incidents in European domestic football.

The Executive Committee and the PFSC urged the responsible bodies to implement the measures that had been approved by all UEFA member associations at the 2013 Ordinary UEFA Congress in London as part of a resolution whereby, among other things, incidents of a racist nature must be punished by a partial stadium closure for a first offence, and by a match behind closed doors and a €50,000 fine for a second offence. The UEFA Executive Committee and the PFSC also stressed the importance of the strict application of the so-called three-step procedure, which gives referees the power to abandon a match in the event of racist conduct by spectators.

"The UEFA Executive Committee strongly condemns all acts of discrimination and I was outraged by the incidents which took place in recent weeks," said the UEFA President. *"It is unacceptable for anyone to be racially insulted or abused inside our stadiums, and we simply cannot tolerate it."*

"We call on all our member associations and stakeholders to apply a zero-tolerance policy against all forms of discrimination and to follow the UEFA guidelines in sanctioning all guilty parties. Our statutes were recently amended to ensure all UEFA member associations adopt effective policies to eradicate racism."

Venues known on 19 September

UEFA EURO 2020 – the 'EURO for Europe' – will be staged at 13 venues across the continent in six years' time and UEFA received final bids to host matches from 19 member associations representing 19 cities on expiry of the 25 April deadline.

The voting procedure for the allocation of UEFA EURO 2020 matches was confirmed in Turin, and the announcement ceremony will take place at the Espace Hippomène in Geneva on 19 September. The winning bid for the final



Getty Images

The Executive Committee's third meeting of the year

and two semi-finals will be selected first, followed by the four venues chosen to stage the quarter-finals and three group matches each. Regional zones, to be finalised by the end of August by the UEFA Executive Committee members whose associations are not bidding, will be used to appoint venues hosting a round of 16 match and three group games, before the remaining venues are decided for the remaining matches. The regional zoning, with at least two venues in each zone, will ensure that games are held all over Europe.

"To have qualified bidders at this stage of the procedure from 19 different countries means that in Europe, we can have – as we wished – the European Championship taking place throughout the continent in 13 countries," the UEFA General Secretary, Gianni Infantino, said.

The UEFA Executive Committee also approved competition and medical regulations, upgraded the UEFA Coaching Convention status of Armenia, Latvia, Lithuania and Montenegro to Pro level and ratified the proposed 'UEFA Foundation' structure. The foundation, approved by the UEFA member associations at the 2014 Ordinary UEFA Congress in Astana, will help children by providing support in the areas of health, education, access to sport, personal development, integration of minorities and defence of the rights of the child. ●

SEASON FIVE GETS UNDER WAY

The UEFA Research Grant Programme – supporting the work of doctoral and post-doctoral researchers studying European football – is proving to be a resounding success as it enters its fifth season. The research produced offers interesting new information on European football and helps the European football family fulfil its mission, making its decision-making more effective and informed.



The jury with the researchers who were awarded grants in 2013/14

On 19 and 20 May, at the House of European Football in Nyon, the Research Grant Programme jury chose research proposals for the 2014/15 season and heard the final presentations of the researchers who had received grants for 2013/14.

This initiative was launched by UEFA to encourage and support academic research in topics dealing with European football. The programme has been more than successful, and the variety of topics and proposals received has been very satisfying.

UEFA hopes that the research will help European football prosper and develop further – which is UEFA's central mission, after all.

A total of 48 applications for research grants were received for the 2014/15 season and the jury has chosen the following four projects:

- *Intentions to drop-out in adolescent female footballers from five European countries: The role of the coach-created motivational climate*, Paul Appleton, University of Birmingham, UK
- *A comparative perspective on European football: Organizational capacity of European football clubs*, Christoph Breuer, German Sport University Cologne
- *Risks versus benefits: Should youth football players be encouraged to take creatine?*, Pascale Kippelen, Brunel University, UK

- *Player load monitoring: Protecting the elite player from overload using miniature high-frequency triaxial accelerometers*, Mark Robinson, Liverpool John Moores University, UK

The researchers will devote the next nine months to their research and present their results to European football's governing body next year.

The jury meeting also saw the researchers who had been given grants for the 2013/14 season present the results of their work:

- *Does anti-racist activism by fans challenge racism and xenophobia in European football?*, Mark Doidge, University of Brighton, UK
- *The effects of mental fatigue on repeated sprint ability and cognitive performance in football players*, Samuele Marcora, University of Kent, UK
- *The identification of good practice principles to inform player development and coaching in European youth football*, Julian North, Leeds Metropolitan University, UK
- *Football as a novel therapeutic approach to pediatric obesity: A randomised controlled trial and its effects on fitness, body composition, cardiometabolic and oxidative markers*, André Seabra, University of Porto, Portugal
- *Reciprocal effects involving the recipients of social engagement by football associations and clubs*, Stefan Walzel, German Sport University Cologne

The jury for the UEFA Research Grant Programme comprises a chairman, four representatives of the European football family and four academics known internationally for their work linked to European sport (in particular football). Proposals may be made in the following areas: economics, history, law, management, political science, sociology and medical sciences. Priority research topics for UEFA include doping, the environment, event management, women's football and the evolution of the game. ●

UEFA SUPER CUP IN CARDIFF

There is a great deal of excitement in Cardiff, with the staging of the UEFA Super Cup at Cardiff City Stadium on 12 August set to be a first on several counts.



Above all, it will be a first for the Football Association of Wales (FAW), as the governing body hosts its first one-off UEFA match, following on from last year's European Women's Under-19 Championship final round in west Wales.

As for the city, Cardiff has hosted international football, FA Cup finals, the Rugby World Cup and Speedway World Championships, among other things. But this will be a new experience and a first for Cardiff City Stadium.

As a city, Cardiff has developed over the years. It has a proud history and made a huge contribution during the Industrial Revolution, with its docks seen as a gateway to the world. These days it is a young, vibrant, bustling capital with much to see and do, including the castle, Cardiff Bay, the Millennium Centre and Millennium Stadium.

Cardiff City Stadium itself is a relatively new venue. It is the home of Cardiff City, who next season will be playing in the English Championship. It is also the venue for the Wales national team's forthcoming European Qualifiers. A great deal of work is being done to increase the stadium's capacity over the summer and when ready for the UEFA Super Cup it will hold 33,000 spectators.

The venue is on the outskirts of the capital, where it replaced Cardiff City's former home, the famous Ninian Park, which hosted several memorable events over the years, including international and European matches.

As well as the game and the day itself, the chance to host the UEFA Super Cup in Cardiff is an opportunity for the FAW to showcase the trophy and to create awareness of the history of European club football.

A UEFA Super Cup launch day was held at the stadium in February. It was attended by members of the local organising committee (led by the chief executive of the FAW, Jonathan Ford), representatives of the Welsh government and Cardiff city council, and two greats from the world of European football, Ole Gunnar Solskjaer and Kevin Ratcliffe. Solskjaer is, of course, famous for having scored the winning goal for Manchester United in the 1999 UEFA Champions League final against FC Bayern München and Cardiff City FC had just appointed the Norwegian as their manager in January. Alongside him was Ratcliffe, the former Everton FC and Wales captain who captained Everton to European Cup Winners' Cup success in 1985, beating SK Rapid Wien 3-1.

In order to broaden the appeal and awareness of the Super Cup, the FAW has also taken the

trophy to schools, clubs and football tournaments in towns and villages all over the country.

FAW staff have taken pictures along the way and posted them on the website under the heading: Where in Wales is the UEFA Super Cup?

Supporters are invited to get in touch and say where they think the trophy was on that particular day. The response has been excellent.

Over the summer the FAW will continue to take the trophy to events and festivals around Wales, but the most ambitious project will take place in the fortnight leading up to UEFA Super Cup itself in August, when all three of UEFA's European club trophies go on tour. It will include activities on and off the field in some of the most iconic locations in Wales and will combine learning about the history of European club football with participation in the beautiful game.

At the end of the tour, the trophies will have received huge publicity all over Wales. The FAW will also have raised awareness of the history and tradition of European club football, reminding everyone about some of the Welsh players who have played their part and hopefully teaching a few youngsters about the history of the tournaments. Last but not least, thousands of youngsters will have been given the opportunity to see the trophies on display and to take part in associated football events. ●

Ian Gwyn Hugues



Kevin Ratcliffe (left) and Ole Gunnar Solskjaer at the launch day in February

Cardiff City Stadium (in front), the venue for the 2014 UEFA Super Cup



Getty Images

FINAL ROUNDS FOR U19 MEN AND WOMEN

Portugal finished top of their elite round group, earning them a ticket to the finals



João Vieira/DPI

The European Under-19 champions – male and female – will be crowned in July.



Hungary is hosting the final round of the 2013/14 European Under-19 Championship from 19 to 31 July. As well as crowning the season's continental champions, the tournament will also decide which six teams will go forward to the next FIFA U-20 World Cup, to be held in New Zealand from 30 May to 21 June next year. Hosts Hungary and the seven elite-round group

winners (Ukraine, Bulgaria, Israel, Serbia, Germany, Austria and Portugal) will be drawn into two groups and play at four different venues: Szusza Ferenc Stadium in Budapest, Pukas Akadémia Pancho Aréna in Felcsút, ETO Park in Győr and Stadion Perutz in Pápa. The group matches will be played on 19, 22 and 25 July, the semi-finals on 28 July and the final on 31 July. The four semi-finalists and the two third-placed sides from the group stage will qualify for the U-20 World Cup.



The European Women's Under-19 Championship final round is being held in Norway from 15 to 27 July, with 15 matches to be played in the stadiums of Sarpsborg, Tonsberg, Strømmen, Mjøndalen, Jessheim (UKI Arena) and Ullevaal. The hosts will be joined in Group A by Belgium, Scotland and the Netherlands, while England, Spain, the Republic of Ireland and Sweden contest Group B. The group matches will take place on 15, 18 and 21 July, with the semi-finals on 24 July and the final – at Ullevaal Stadium – on 27 July. Although the current holders, France, failed to qualify, three former winners are still in the running: Sweden, who won in 1999 and 2012, Spain (2004) and England (2009). ●

SILVER FOR SPAIN AT THE U-17 WOMEN'S WORLD CUP

Defeated 2–0 by Japan in the final, Spain finished as runners-up at the fourth FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup, which took place in Costa Rica from 15 March to 4 April.

Italy took third place after beating Venezuela on penalties and Germany, Europe's other representatives, went out in the group stage. ●

FIFA U-20 WOMEN'S WORLD CUP

Sixteen teams will be competing for the FIFA U-20 Women's World Cup in Canada from 5 to 24 August, for which the draw results were as follows: Group A: Canada, Ghana, Finland, North Korea; Group B: Germany, USA, China, Brazil; Group C: England, South Korea, Mexico, Nigeria; and Group D: New Zealand, Paraguay, France, Costa Rica. Only once have Germany failed to finish in the top three places (runners-up in 2012, winners in 2004 and 2010, third in 2002 and 2008). ●

YOUTH OLYMPIC FOOTBALL TOURNAMENTS

The Chinese city of Nanjing will host the Youth Olympic Games, including two football tournaments, in August. Slovakia will represent Europe in the girls' tournament from 14 to 26 August, while Iceland will compete in the boys' tournament from 15 to 27 August. ●

UEFA AND EUROPOL SIGN MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

On 27 May, the UEFA President, Michel Platini, and Rob Wainwright, director of Europol, the European Union’s law enforcement agency, met at UEFA headquarters in Nyon to sign a memorandum of understanding designed to step up the fight against match-fixing in European football.

The memorandum makes provision for the sharing and exchange of expertise, information and know-how between the two organisations, as well as ongoing consultation on match-fixing in football and related organised crime.

Europol and UEFA undertake to work together on joint activities, implement relevant projects and exchange information on suspected match-fixing and the methods used by individuals and criminal groups to influence matches. Europol will also provide UEFA and its 54 member associations with support and expert advice on the key aspects of match-fixing perpetrated by criminal organisations.

UEFA operates a policy of zero tolerance of match-fixing and has imposed severe penalties, including lifetime bans from football, in cases where clubs, players, officials or referees have been found guilty of such offences. Furthermore, UEFA operates a strict policy with regard to the participation in its competitions of any clubs that have been involved in match-fixing activities.

Since 2011, Europol has been assisting the European Union’s judicial organs with the task of analysing the data generated by investigations into corruption in sport, primarily in football. At



the start of this year Europol established a sports corruption focal point, in which 14 EU member states are currently participating together with two non-EU countries and Interpol. ●

The UEFA President, Michel Platini, and Rob Wainwright, director of Europol, sign the memorandum of understanding

NORDIC TRIO TOP UEFA FAIR PLAY RANKINGS

Three Nordic countries have topped UEFA’s fair play rankings for the 2013/14 season. As a result, Norway, Sweden and Finland each receive an additional berth in the first qualifying round of the 2014/15 UEFA Europa League. The rankings are based on fair play points awarded in all UEFA club and national team competitions played between 1 May 2013 and 30 April 2014, taking into account only those national associations whose teams have played a minimum of 35 matches. This cut-

off point was calculated by dividing the total number of UEFA matches played during the season (1866) by the total number of associations (54). The additional Europa League places will go to the clubs that top the domestic fair play rankings of the countries concerned. If any of the teams in question have already qualified for a UEFA competition, the second-placed teams in their respective fair play rankings will be eligible to take up the place, and so on.



Final UEFA fair play rankings

	Total points	Matches played
1. Norway	8.233	80
2. Sweden	8.198	93
3. Finland	8.196	55
4. France	8.154	120
5. England	8.117	165
6. Denmark	8.097	81
7. Netherlands	8.097	103
8. Scotland	8.092	73
9. Germany	8.032	160
10. Czech Republic	8.013	81

EQUALITY AND INCLUSION THE FOCUS AT WEMBLEY

The English FA’s newly formed Inclusion Advisory Board continues the country’s long history in tackling discrimination in the game.

The turn of 2014 saw a significant development at The Football Association as a pool of experts in tackling inequality in football, sport and wider society was assembled to help foster more inclusion and counter discrimination and unacceptable behaviour across all levels of the game.

Collectively known as the Inclusion Advisory Board, or IAB for short, it is chaired by The FA board’s first female member, Heather Rabbatts. She is joined, among others, by former England and Chelsea FC player Graeme Le Saux, Shelley Alexander from the BBC and Joyce Cook, chair of Level Playing Field, the group campaigning for better access for disabled supporters in England, and across Europe as part of CAFE (Centre for Access to Football in Europe).

“This group is vital for meeting the future aims and ambitions of a modern FA,” said Rabbatts. *“We believe that we have a breadth of representation, skills and experiences that will give direction and guidance to the game.”*

The IAB will meet quarterly and provide advice on all equality matters to the main FA board. In addition, it will monitor the delivery of the

inclusion and anti-discrimination action plan which was drawn up and agreed by all the leading authorities in the English game.

Le Saux, who appeared for England at the 1998 FIFA World Cup and who now undertakes UEFA ambassadorial work, sees this as a vital role for the IAB to lead on:

“The inclusion and anti-discrimination plan touches every part of the game, with contributions and input not only from the governing bodies, but from a range of campaign groups that are so important in making sure that as many people as possible feel a part of the game here in England. This work will widen football’s talent pool, make regulations and sanctions clearer, instil confidence in reporting and increase knowledge and understanding of what equality and inclusion means.”

Now, as Rabbatts confirmed, the work begins in earnest: *“Our job is to translate the plan into action and change. Each member contributes not only a deep knowledge of the game, but also experience across all the strands of equality to support The FA’s overarching message – football is a game for everyone.”*

Since its first meeting in January, the IAB has contributed to a number of FA-backed equality initiatives, including a futsal event focussing on Muslim women at St Georges Park, and an initiative called ‘Get on Board’ which will create and increase the presence of black and Asian ethnic minority people at boardroom level.

In addition, the group also helped to disseminate The FA’s ‘Reporting Discrimination’ animated films, which demonstrate what players should do if they hear or see discrimination at either amateur or professional levels.

“When discrimination takes place at any level of the game, we need to ensure that we can take positive action, and the best means of ensuring that is to encourage players and supporters to report it,” continued Le Saux, who narrates the films. *“These films will help explain to players and supporters both the importance of reporting discrimination and highlight the many ways in which they can do so.”*

With a range of initiatives under way which have equality and inclusion at their core, Rabbatts is keen to see The FA’s IAB playing an important role: *“As we all know, bringing about change is a collective effort across all of football. The idea of the group is not to be a talking shop, but to go out there and make a difference and feed that experience back to help us all learn and drive the agenda forward.”* ●

Danny Lynch

THE ENGLISH FA’S INCLUSION ADVISORY BOARD (IAB) COMPRISES:

- Heather Rabbatts (chair)
- Shelley Alexander (BBC)
- Graeme Le Saux
- Joyce Cook (Level Playing Field/CAFE)
- Rishi Jain (Kick It Out)
- Edward Lord (Amateur Swimming Association)
- Rimla Akhtar (Muslim Women’s Sports Foundation)
- Peter Clayton (Middlesex FA)
- Thura Win (Hampshire FA)

Graeme Le Saux, a member of The FA’s Inclusion Advisory Board and a UEFA ambassador



MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS

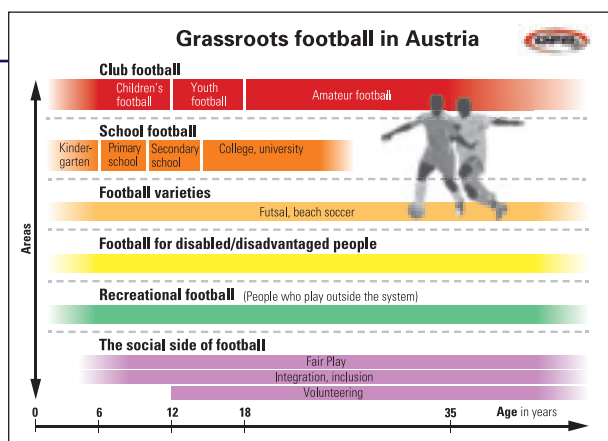


No elite without grassroots

An increasingly important part of the work of the Austrian Football Association (ÖFB) is the development of a national grassroots football programme. This programme is designed, in particular, to highlight the social power of football and to show that football is accessible to everyone.

The breadth of grassroots football is illustrated in the diagram. Activities are divided into a total of six areas: club football, school football, football varieties, football for disabled/disadvantaged people and recreational football and the social side of football.

The idea is to draw up and implement an Austria-wide activity programme to promote the grassroots game. "Grassroots football is becoming more and more important all over the world. In Austria, our regional associations are already running numerous fantastic programmes and activities. The aim is to bring



The layers of grassroots football in Austria

grassroots football into the national spotlight and to use football to have a positive impact in numerous areas of life. A study carried out in 2010 showed, for example, that the health benefits of football in Austria were worth between €83.6 million and €118.9 million per

year," the ÖFB's sports director, Willi Ruttensteiner, said.

Stefan Gogg, operations director, added: "The slogan 'Ohne Breite keine Spitze' (No elite without grassroots) is particularly relevant here. Football is popular right across the social spectrum and we want to get as many people as possible playing it, whatever their age or gender. Football brings people together, creating relationships that often last a lifetime."

● Wolfgang Gramann



International volunteering forum

An international football volunteering forum was held on 19 May in the Azerbaijani capital, Baku. It was attended by the president of the Association of Football Federations of Azerbaijan (AFFA), Rovnag Abdullayev, the first vice-president of the AFFA, Rauf Aliyev, Azerbaijan's deputy minister of youth and sport, Ismail Ismailov, and the deputy minister of education, Jeyhun Bayramov, as well as famous Italian footballer and forum ambassador Gianluca Zambrotta. Eight international speakers addressed the participants, and the UEFA General Secretary, Gianni Infantino, recorded a video that was shown after the opening of the forum and presentation of the agenda. The UEFA General Secretary said that volunteers played an important role in the organisation of football tournaments and that this international volunteering forum was a very important event

for the development of football. He wished the organisers every success in their work.

The AFFA general secretary, Elkhan Mammadov, welcomed the attendees and also spoke about the role of volunteers in prestigious football tournaments. He pointed out that it was not only the younger generation that got involved in volunteering, but that you could find volunteers of all ages in sports and other events all over the world.

The deputy minister of youth and sport and the deputy minister of education both gave speeches expressing their positive views of volunteering.

The floor was then given to Gianluca Zambrotta: "I am very proud that I was invited to this event as an ambassador. Young people have a special role in all spheres of life. I had a lot of success in my youth. As a player, the greatest success of my life was at the World Cup in 2006, and I was young then in comparison with today. We achieved that success as a team,



A full house for the volunteering forum

by uniting around a single goal. Volunteering is the same: it is very important to work together and go after a single goal. At every football game nowadays, volunteers are of special importance. I hope that this forum will be very helpful in terms of directing the activities of volunteers in the future."

After the speeches there were conference sessions and workshops involving the international speakers and participants.

● Mikayil Narimanoglu



Cup victory for Shakhtyor Soligorsk

FC Shakhtyor Soligorsk beat FC Neman Grodno in the Belarusian Cup final at the new Borisov Arena at the beginning of May.

A 35th-minute long-range shot by Artem Stargorodsky helped FC Shakhtyor win their first domestic trophy since 2005. FC Neman, on the other hand, lost their second cup final in four years, which was quite an upset after having knocked out BATE Borisov in the quarter-finals. The reigning champions, meanwhile, had their own reasons to cheer, with the final held at their new home ground. Construction of Borisov Arena began in 2010 and, four years later, the stadium finally held its first match – the cup final – on 3 May. Even



A brand-new stadium for the cup final

though the country was about to host the 2014 IIHF Ice Hockey World Championship, the president of Belarus, Alexander Lukashenko, was not going to miss the opening of this

state-of-the-art football stadium. In his speech the president stressed the importance of the sports ground for the club, the national team and the football infrastructure of Belarus. He then wished both teams the best of luck and stayed to watch the game.

Borisov Arena can seat up to 13,400 spectators and has everything necessary to host various types of international competition.

After playing nine UEFA Champions League matches in Minsk, FC BATE Borisov finally have their own home for the next season of Europe's greatest club football competition.

The Belarusian national team will also use the stadium as their home ground during the European Qualifiers and beyond, until a new stadium has been built in the capital.

● Alexander Aleinik



Dragons help flood victims

The month of May was marked by catastrophic flooding in northern parts of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Lots of football facilities and equipment were destroyed, but that did not stop a large number of players, clubs and fans from helping to save other people and their property. In light of this selfless dedication, the Bosnia and Herzegovina Football Federation (NFSBiH) would like to thank all of those who took part in humanitarian action. The NFSBiH is proud of this show of solidarity with those who needed it most and commends the clubs and fans on the extraordinary voluntary effort that is ongoing still. The NFSBiH has, in turn, initiated measures to help all those clubs whose facilities and equipment have been damaged.

Representatives of the national team supported the humanitarian action while in Sarajevo preparing for the World Cup in Brazil. The Dragons also played a charity match in Gradacac against the U21 national team. A record 7,000 spectators filled the stands of Banja Iliđa Stadium and all the gate receipts (together with 100 shirts signed by the Dragons) will be donated to the three municipalities that suffered the most flood damage, Maglaj, Domaljevac and Bosanski Samac. Around €50,000 was raised overall. During the trip to Gradacac, the teams visited the flooded towns of Maglaj and Doboj and expressed their support for the local population.

Many matches were postponed because of this natural disaster.

In other news, a special match was played at Otoka Stadium in Sarajevo under the auspices of UNICEF, the NFSBiH, the Youth Sports Games, Special Olympics and the municipality of Novi Grad. Under the motto 'All in one place', 100 boys and girls played against the national team. Children from Maglaj, Zavidovići, Tuzla, Nemila, Gorazde, Mostar, Fojnica, Capljina, Zenica, Sarajevo and other places around the country all turned out to support the Dragons and wish them luck in Brazil.

'Dragons and little Dragons of the entire region, we are stronger together' was displayed on a banner before the match, which was kicked off by a girl called Ajla from the association Have a Heart for Children with Cancer. The initiators of the event were Emir Spahić, Edin Džeko, Miralem Pjanić, Asmir Begović and other Bosnia and Herzegovina national team players.

In Mostar, meanwhile, over 500 boys and girls from across the country celebrated UEFA Grassroots Day.

To allow for preparations for the Dragon's first appearance at the World Cup, the Bosnian and Herzegovinian Premier League was completed on 10 May. HŠK Zrinjski were crowned champions for the third time, while FK Leotar Trebinje and FK Rudar Prijedor were relegated. The league's top scorer, with 18 goals, was Wagner Santos Lago of NK Široki Brijeg. The Bosnian and Herzegovinian Cup was won by FK Sarajevo, who beat NK Čelik Zenica 5–1 on aggregate (2–0, 3–1). The youth cup winners were FK Željezničar, who overcame HŠK Zrinjski 3–0 over two legs (2–0, 1–0). In the futsal cup competition, Tango Sarajevo beat Ugljevik on away goals (5–3, 4–6), while the women's cup winners, for the 11th time in a row, were SFK 2000 Sarajevo, who beat Banja Luka 7–2 on aggregate (4–2, 3–0). Sarajevo also won the championship.

● Fuad Kravac



The federation and national team help Slavonia

A natural disaster hit Eastern Slavonia in May, destroying numerous homes and taking a deadly toll. Croatia's most easterly counties experienced severe flooding, the worst in living memory, and tragic stories encouraged solidarity in other parts of the country, from individuals and organisations. The Croatian Football Federation (HNS) joined in by donating the profits from ticket sales for the Croatia v Mali friendly and the Croatia v Ukraine European Under-21 Championship qualifying match. "Slavonia has given a lot to Croatian football and I hope our contribution will help to rebuild what the floods have destroyed. We send our condolences to those who have lost family members and our sympathies to those who have lost their homes. The Croatian national team is with you, as you have always been with us," said Davor Šuker, president of the HNS.

The Croatian national team's head coach, Niko Kovač, his assistant Robert Kovač and international striker Ivica Olić visited the areas in Slavonia affected by flooding and promised to send aid to the victims. The delegation went to devastated towns such as Gunja and Rajevo Selo, where they heard first-hand accounts of the previous days' troubles and rescue operations.

"Croatians know how to show kindness and stick together in these kinds of situation. It is difficult to see this level of devastation, but it is encouraging to see how far are we willing to go in order to help each other. I have spoken to the team captain, Darijo Srna, and we have decided that the players and the coaching staff will donate one million kuna (€1,67m) to the victims. These people have always been by our side; now we want to show that we will stand by them," the head coach, Niko Kovač, said.

● Tomislav Pacak



Niko and Robert Kovač in Slavonia



Additional assistant referees experiment

For the first time ever, additional assistant referees have been used in the Faroe Islands. The system came highly recommended by UEFA and so the Faroese FA decided several months ago to try it out.

The preparations for testing in the Faroe Islands started around six months ago and the top division clubs were informed at a meeting in early March about the plans to try the system this summer. "We decided to conduct these tests so that we as a federation can acquire our own experience and form our own opinions of the system that UEFA speaks so highly of," said Lassin Isaksen, referee coordinator at the Faroese FA.

Before the first test match, all the top referees in the Faroe Islands were brought

together for a short course, where they learnt about the role of the additional assistant referee under the guidance of Lassin Isaksen and Niklas á Líðarendi, both referee instructors.

The semi-finals of the Faroese Cup were chosen as the matches at which the system would first be tested and it must be said that it was a success. In the first semi-final, between holders Víkingur and last year's losing finalists, EB/Streymur, there was an incident when one of the additional assistant referees indicated that a penalty should be given, but viewing the video footage after the game clearly proved that he was right.

During testing it is only top referees from the highest division that are being used as additional assistant referees. Whether the system will continue to be used in future in the Faroe Islands has not been decided yet. Obviously it demands a lot of extra manpower and it has

increased refereeing costs for the Faroese FA, but there is no doubt that the tests have so far proved positive.

● Terji Nielsen



Additional assistant referees were used for the first time in the Faroe Islands for the semi-finals of the Faroese Cup

Women's football week

As part of its efforts to promote women's football, the French Football Federation (FFF) organised a country-wide women's football week from 7 to 14 May. The event was designed to highlight the different activities run by football authorities and clubs to promote playing and coaching among girls and women.

"In the three years since the women's football programme was launched, we have registered 21,000 new members. That's an enormous number. We had registered only 10,000 in the previous 12 years. Now we have more than 71,000 active female players. Our ambition remains more than ever to pass the 100,000 barrier," said Brigitte Henriques, FFF general secretary, who is in charge of the programme.

The third edition of women's football week comprised a number of activities aimed at both registered and non-registered players, who were invited to play each other and all received gifts. The leagues and district associations organised special beginners' days at pilot venues, while clubs held open days throughout May.

Women's football week was launched at national level at the France v Hungary match (4-0) in Besançon on Wednesday 7 May, when the 250 winners of a 'Football for Princesses' competition were introduced to the French national team. This year, 1,357 primary school classes, 252 secondary school teams and 91 college teams took part in the competition, which was organised with the help of the ministry for education and featured training sessions, matches and artistic productions in an effort to promote football as an educational tool.



Giving young girls the chance to meet the national team was a highlight of the week

"Attitudes have also completely changed," said a delighted Brigitte Henriques. "Girls no longer wonder whether they can play football. They just play. There is now a demand for our sport to be mixed that can make clubs more successful. Schools are also driving this development."

● Stéphane Lanoue

Special Olympics football tournament

The Georgian Football Federation (GFF) and Special Olympics Georgia together held a Special Olympics European football tournament at Mikheil Meskhi Stadium in Tbilisi from 14 to 18 May. More than 230 Special Olympics athletes took part, forming 6 women's and 12 men's teams, representing 14 different countries: Azerbaijan, Belgium, Denmark, Estonia, France, Georgia, Hungary, Italy, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Poland, and Russia.

Besides the GFF and Special Olympics Georgia, the company For Sport, attached to the ministry of sport and youth affairs, made a significant contribution to the organisation of this great occasion.

The tournament started with an Olympic torch relay, which set off from Tbilisi's Independence Square and finished at Mikheil



A lot of happy faces

Meskhi Stadium. Security, defence and law enforcement agencies were all involved – a fine show of support for Special Olympics athletes by hundreds of representatives of Georgia's interior ministry. The tournament was part of Special Olympics European Football Week, which was celebrated from 17 to 25 May all over Europe. It was also timed to coincide with UEFA Grassroots Day, together promoting healthy lifestyles and bringing together athletes of all abilities in their love of football.

The GFF president, Domenti Sichinava, the general secretary, Revaz Arveladze, and sports director Archil Arveladze presented awards to

the winners at a ceremony on 18 May. Archil Arveladze was involved in the event as an ambassador and actively assisted in all aspects of the tournament's organisation. All the participants received memorable prizes on the final day, regardless of their results, in the true spirit of the Olympic Games, where it is not the winning but the taking part that counts.

This European Special Olympics football tournament proved once again that there is no such thing as 'disabled' people and that football is a magical game that can be played by anyone, irrespective of age, sex and ability.

● Tata Burduli

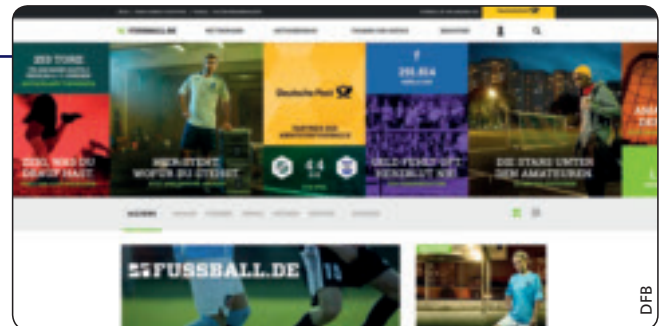
The online home of amateur football

Amateur football in Germany is getting a new virtual home on 29 July, when the German Football Association (DFB) takes full editorial and technical control of the website fussball.de. With a new editorial concept, a range of high-quality services and an innovative new look, the site will be dedicated entirely to the amateur game. "The new fussball.de offers much more than just match results. Users can follow their teams, manage their own profiles and find useful advice on everything from training to taxation," the DFB president, Wolfgang Niersbach, said. Deutsche Post is the main partner of this new online project, which is an integral part of the amateur football master plan passed at last year's annual general meeting of the DFB.

The most important sections of the site are the official results and statistics from the 80,000 or so amateur matches played in Germany each

week. These results and statistics are published in real time, exclusively on fussball.de, as soon as the final whistle is blown. Minute-by-minute live match commentaries are also available. On top of all that, the services offered to regional associations, clubs, players, coaches and

volunteers have been greatly expanded, as have the possibilities for these groups to interact. Under the DFB's amateur football campaign motto 'Unsere Amateure. Echte Profis' (Our amateurs: real pros), every amateur footballer now has the opportunity to create and maintain their own online player profile. The clubs, teams and regional associations can also design their own virtual calling card. "The creation of a home on the internet for the whole amateur football community, an idea unanimously



The new website for amateur football in Germany

supported by the regional associations, was one of the most important things called for by the grassroots representatives at the 2012 amateur football congress in Kassel. With the launch of this site at the end of July, amateur football in Germany is entering a new digital age," said Rainer Koch, first vice-president of the DFB.

● Stephan Brause



UEFA President visits Gibraltar

The UEFA President, Michel Platini, paid an official visit to Gibraltar on 10 May and attended the final of the Rock Cup, the Gibraltar FA's premier domestic cup competition. Mr Platini touched down in Gibraltar, where he was met by the members of the Gibraltar FA council. He then met Gibraltar's chief minister, Fabian Picardo, before being taken to lunch with representatives of all of Gibraltar's clubs.

In the late afternoon the UEFA President headed to Victoria Stadium for the Rock Cup



A goal by Liam Clarke won Lincoln the cup

final, which proved to be an attritional game of tactics between newly crowned league champions Lincoln FC and College Europa FC. As extra time loomed, Lincoln's Liam Clarke scored with one of the final kicks of the game to win the Rock Cup and clinch the domestic double. The UEFA President presented the trophy

to the winners before returning home.

College Europa FC will be the Gibraltar FA's representatives in this seasons' UEFA Europa League, as Lincoln FC had already secured a Champions League spot.

● Steven Gonzalez



Respect in Taybe

The Israel Football Association (IFA), together with the New Israel Fund and the Kick it Out Israel project, celebrated the end of the 2013/14 season with a special tournament in the Arab city of Taybe, under the Respect banner.

The head coach of the Under-21s, Michael Nies, alongside his assistant, Alon Hazan, the team manager, Eli Rozen, and players Roei Kehat, Yarín Hasan, Taleb Tawatcha and Omer Tzalisher, all attended the Respect tournament, which involved 300 boys and girls from Jewish and Arab clubs in Israel.

The New Israel Fund and the IFA also invited UEFA Respect Diversity ambassador and former player Paul Elliott to join the tournament and celebrate the importance of the values shared with the younger generation via football, in the spirit of football for all.

At the end of the tournament the players got UEFA Respect adidas balls, which were

distributed by Elliott and the U21 players and staff. As Nies, the U21 coach, said, "it is very important to create a link between football and the younger generation, to provide them with values of respect for the opponent and respect for the game. It brings true happiness to see those young boys and girls playing and enjoying themselves together under the umbrella of football. Football is a great channel for great values".

● Michal Grundland



UEFA Respect Diversity ambassador Paul Elliott (black shirt) helped to hand out footballs



First national team coach passes away

Former Liechtenstein national team coach Hans Müntener passed away on 9 April, aged 74, following a lengthy illness.

Liechtenstein has been playing on the international stage officially since 1982. Initially contesting occasional friendly matches, it was not until 1994 that the country's small national association decided to enter European Football Championship and FIFA World Cup qualifying competitions.

Hans Müntener was involved at the very start of this international era. A Swiss citizen born in 1939, he was appointed by the Liechtenstein Football Association (LFV) in the early 1980s to take charge of a representative team in a number of unofficial test games, including a tournament in Asia. In 1982 he was asked to lead the Liechtenstein national team in its first ever official match, against Switzerland. This game against Liechtenstein's westerly neighbour ended in an honourable 1-0 defeat.

Although he retired from coaching after this first official match, Hans Müntener always kept in touch with football in Liechtenstein. Most recently, he was a guest at the 2012 LFV awards ceremony, where he presented the coach of the year award.

● Anton Banzer



Hans Müntener at the awards ceremony in 2012



A song for the World Cup

"Un amore così grande 2014," Negramaro's cover version of a song written by Guido Maria Ferilli, will be the Italian national team's official song for their forthcoming Brazilian adventure. The 2014 version created for the Azzurri was unveiled at the Coverciano technical centre in

Florence at a media conference attended by the band, the national team coach, Cesare Prandelli, and the players at their World Cup training camp. The event was streamed live on the FIGC Vivo Azzurro YouTube channel. The video to accompany the song was produced by director Giovanni Veronesi.

The profits from this initiative, suggested by

Radio Italia, official partner of the Italian Football Federation (FIGC), will be used for scientific research by the Italian associations for motor neurone disease and multiple sclerosis.

What is more, hearing-impaired supporters will be also able to follow the Italian national team thanks to the Italian deaf association, which has provided the FIGC with a sign language interpreter. This new collaboration was launched at Cesare Prandelli's first media conference at the start of the national team's pre-tournament get-together.

Through this initiative, sport – and football in particular – wants to demonstrate once again that it attaches enormous importance to the inclusion of hearing-impaired people and that communication barriers can be overcome. The FIGC is grateful to the president of the Italian deaf association, Giuseppe Petrucci, and to Rai, the Italian state broadcaster, which is enabling it to cover all media conferences with a sign-language interpreter live and in full as part of the Azzurri programme on Rai Sport 1.

● Barbara Moschini



Cesare Prandelli with a sign-language interpreter at a media conference at Coverciano

UEFA made the right choice

When UEFA decided to entrust Malta with the hosting of the 2013/14 European Under-17 Championship final tournament, some may have thought that the small Mediterranean island did not have the credentials to stage such a high-profile event on its shores. Malta knew it could offer its well-known hospitality and showcase its traditions to the visiting teams and their supporters. As for resources and organisational skills, the Malta Football Association (MFA) was indeed put to the test, this being the first time that a competition of this magnitude had been held in the country.

UEFA's show of confidence in giving the island the green light two years ago was met with a resolute response from the Maltese football authorities, who showed much-needed optimism in their ability to organise the event successfully.

Looking back we believe it is safe to say that expectations were met and we hope that the

UEFA officials – including the UEFA President, Michel Platini, who attended the final between England and the Netherlands – were satisfied and can confirm that Malta was well up to the task. The MFA's local organising committee was central to the success of this sporting event, every detail of which was carefully seen to. The match venues, the technical preparations and the logistics were all under UEFA and the committee's microscopes.

The culmination of all this hard work was reached on 21 May, with an enthralling final at Ta' Qali National Stadium that was won by England on penalties and watched by almost 10,000 spectators, crowning 13 days of fantastic football at youth level. As well as



Smiles all round for England after the European Under-17 Championship final

competing as the host country, Malta played its part exceptionally well off the pitch and has surely enhanced its reputation in the eyes of the European governing body as a nation able to host an international competition as efficiently as one could expect. ● Alex Vella

FC Zimbru win Moldovan Cup

The 23rd Moldovan Cup final on 25 May in Chisinau pitted FC Sheriff Tiraspol against FC Zimbru Chişinău. After a dramatic match, FC Zimbru lifted the Moldovan Cup for the sixth time in their history, seeing off league champions FC Sheriff 3–1.

The showpiece meeting between the two local powerhouses attracted plenty of attention, and there was drama early on when referee Danny Makkelie of the Netherlands sent off Sheriff midfielder Luvannor Henrique for an elbow on 23 minutes. After that FC Zimbru began to play more offensively and five minutes into the second half Dan Spătaru scored, finding himself one on one with the goalkeeper. Sheriff nonetheless hit back via Brazilian Juninho Potiguar, but Serbian midfielder Marko Stanojević scored an own goal soon afterwards to restore Zimbru's lead. Unperturbed, the 2013/14 league winners had chances to level for a second time, yet it was Zimbru who struck



FC Zimbru lift the cup for the sixth time

next, captain Iulian Erhan unleashing a powerful effort 13 minutes from time to seal their showpiece triumph.

At the official ceremony after the match, Erhan was handed the trophy by the president of the Football Association of Moldova, Pavel Cebanu.

"The red card was the key moment in the game; it didn't give us the chance to play according to our plan," said Veaceslav Rusnac, the FC Sheriff coach.

"We are very happy to have won the final and earned our club's first trophy of the last seven years. We went through a tough journey to get this trophy, we had

difficult opponents and we beat the champions in the final. They were a man down, but we still deserve full credit. Today we celebrate," said the Zimbru coach, Aleh Kubarau of Belarus.

● Press Office

A great day out

Over 150 pupils from 16 special schools throughout Northern Ireland travelled to the Valley Leisure Centre in Newtownabbey to compete in the Coca-Cola FA Cup run by the Irish Football Association (IFA). The Coca-Cola FA Cup is an annual five-a-side competition divided into two age categories – Under-15 and Over-15. All the schools that take part in the event cater for pupils with learning disabilities. With over 40 competitive games on four pitches this year, the action was non-stop and the talented youngsters put on a great display of skills and goals.

In the Under-15 section, Sandleford (Coleraine) beat Knockavoe (Strabane) 2–1 after extra time

in what was a pulsating final. In the Over-15 final, meanwhile, it was Knockavoe who lifted the trophy after defeating Torbank (Dundonald) 4–2 in another close-run affair. The Irish FA's development manager for disability football, Alan Crooks, was keen to praise the players



after a successful day: *"Well done to all the players for putting on a great show. It is a pleasure to organise this event and I know Coca-Cola are delighted to be associated with it."*

Katie Hutchinson, events team manager for Coca-Cola HBC Northern Ireland, added: *"Coca-Cola is dedicated to providing opportunities for people of all ages and abilities to get out and get active. We are proud to continue our partnership with the Irish FA by supporting the Coca-Cola FA Cup. Congratulations to all the teams who took part in what was an exciting and competitive day of football."*

● Sueann Harrison

Sandleford, winners in the U15 category



Happiness is playing football

The Romanian FA always takes note of UEFA Grassroots Day and each year likes to find a special way to celebrate it. This year was no exception. On 21 May more than 100 children played various forms of football on artificial turf covering the roof of the overground car park by the National Arena in Bucharest, which hosts the country's most important matches and was used for the 2012 UEFA Europa League final.

On this hot day, the children demonstrated not only their skills but also, and more importantly, the happiness they experienced when playing football. Many of them had disabilities, some of them Down's syndrome, which only increased the joy of seeing them play. Two days later, on 23 May, children with Down's syndrome also escorted the players and

referees onto the pitch for the Romanian FA Cup final, played at the National Arena and won for the first time by FC Astra against FC Steaua București (0–0 at the end of normal playing time, 4–2 after penalties).

On the whole, special attention is paid in Romania to children with disabilities, who are integrated into mainstream children's projects through dedicated programmes. This is the approach not only of the Romanian FA, but also of all its 41 county associations and of the Bucharest football association. All celebrated UEFA Grassroots Day, some in special partnerships with state authorities, such as the authority for social assistance and child protection, to name but one. Aside from children with disabilities, plenty of county associations dedicated their Grassroots Day activities to orphans, abandoned children or



Grassroots Day in Romania is all about having fun

children who live in special centres. All played football and got to take part in training sessions with professional coaches who had volunteered their services.

As well as organising its own activities, the Romanian FA offered balls, cups, medals, diplomas and kit to the county associations and the football association in Bucharest, so that they could reward the children (some of them very young) who took part in their activities. But UEFA Grassroots Day was only a start, because all around Romania there are plans – for later this year and further in the future – for special championships dedicated to children without parents or who live in special centres.

● Paul Zaharia



A first for the cup final

St Johnstone FC's victory in the Scottish Cup final was captured from the captain's perspective with the use of a GoPro camera. In the moments following full time, the Scottish FA attached the miniature camera device to Dave Mackay's chest, giving fans from all over the world a unique glimpse into what it is like to lift the oldest cup in club football. The camera also caught his view as he went over to celebrate with the 15,000 St Johnstone fans who had



A unique perspective for supporters

travelled from Perth and beyond to make it to the final at Celtic Park.

The technique was also used to capture the reactions of St Johnstone fans as their team

took the lead, with the 'fan cam' – a GoPro attached to the net beam – able to record the moment the Saints fans were sent into delirium. The match was a piece of Scottish football history, with St Johnstone winning their first major trophy in their 130-year history thanks to goals from Steven Anderson and Steven MacLean. The use of technology in this way is a first in a major cup final but it is highly unlikely to be the last. You can watch the footage here: <http://scotfa.co/TrophyGoPro>

● David Childs



Victory for the young Russians again

In May 2013 Slovakia hosted the final tournament of the 2012/13 European Under-17 Championship, in which Russia, led by head coach Dmitry Khomukha, lifted the trophy after a tough final that was decided on penalties. A year later Khomukha came back to Slovakia, this time for the 24th international U18 Slovakia Cup – the biggest and oldest tournament in Europe for this age group. Eight countries took part: Belgium, Czech Republic, Japan, Norway,

Russia, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates and Slovakia. Just like last year, the Russia coach led his team to victory. The final, between Russia and Ukraine, ended 1–0 and Khomukha was named coach of the tournament. The best player award went to Slovakia's Tomáš Vestenický – Slovakia's top scorer at the FIFA U-17 World Cup in the United Arab Emirates, who has since signed a contract with the famous AS Roma.

The tournament finished with a wonderful, important gesture when both finalist teams,



Russia and Ukraine, the 24th U18 Slovakia Cup finalists

Russia and Ukraine, spontaneously posed for a picture together, to prove that the sportsmen of the two countries had no problem with each other.

● Juraj Čurný



New general secretary



The new general secretary, Håkan Sjöstrand

Håkan Sjöstrand has been named general secretary of the Swedish FA. Sjöstrand is a 47-year-old marketing executive with experience from the ICA retail group and Svenska Spel (both long-standing partners of the Swedish FA). He has also played football, for Gefle IF in division one, and is currently coaching his twin daughters' youth team at Skiljebo SK. "This feels a bit like coming home. Football has always meant a lot to me, and I look forward to the challenge of setting the agenda for Swedish football. Football has an important role in Swedish society and engages

so many people. But this is also an exciting industry and one of Sweden's strongest brands," Mr Sjöstrand said.

"We're pleased and very proud about this appointment. Håkan will provide all the necessary skills we need to develop the Swedish FA further. He is exactly the person we need," the president of the Swedish FA, Karl-Erik Nilsson, said.

Håkan Sjöstrand will take up his new post in November at the very latest. Krister Malmsten, chief legal counsel and deputy general secretary, will stand in until then.

● Andreas Nilsson

How injury-prone am I?

The Swiss Football Association and Swiss accident insurer Suva have been working closely together for many years to promote fair play in football and reduce the risk of injury. One of the upshots of this collaboration has been the amateur football fair play trophy, launched many years ago and awarded annually (with cash prizes) to the teams with the best fair play records. Now, on the website football.ch, footballers of all ages and in all categories can

find an anonymous questionnaire that will help them find out how injury-prone they are, as well as answering many other questions that could concern them as active players.

For example, respondents are asked to describe the injuries they have sustained in the past, including where and when they were injured, how their rehabilitation went, whether they were urged to return to playing earlier than recommended by the doctor, and how their return to training and playing went. Other questions include: Would you describe yourself

as tough? Can you always keep your emotions under control? Do you push yourself to the limit towards the end of a match? Respondents are also asked whether they always wear the right boots, thereby reducing the risk of injury, and whether they do a proper, controlled warm-up. The whole questionnaire, which is clear and well-structured, takes around 15 to 20 minutes to complete. At the end, each respondent receives an overall score, valuable tips and a detailed report that could help them avoid injuries in the future. ● Pierre Benoit

Super Cup moved to Manisa after mining disaster

Due to the explosion at a coal mine in Soma which killed hundreds of mine workers in May, the executive board of the Turkish Football Federation (TFF) has decided that the TFF Super Cup match between Super League champions Fenerbahçe and Turkish Cup winners Galatasaray will be held in Manisa on 15 or 16 August and all profits from the match will be donated to citizens of Soma affected by the disaster. In addition, the TFF will transfer five million Turkish lira (€1.7m) to a Soma coal mine disaster

support account that is being set up. The TFF's executive board and the national A team organised a visit to Soma on 19 May, where they visited the graves of miners who died in the explosion and talked to people who lost fathers and husbands. When the disaster happened, the TFF's referees committee, referees, referee observers and referee mentors all chose to donate their recent earnings to the support account. The executive board has also decided that the 2014/15 Super League will run from 29 August to 31 May and that the 2014/15 Turkish Cup final will be held in Bursa.

● Aydın Güvenir



The players pay their respects to the miners from Soma

U19s through thanks to added-time goal

The Under-19 national team of Ukraine edged past England in their European Under-19 Championship elite round match to qualify for the final round. The captain, Eduard Sobol, scored the winning goal in the 94th minute of what had been a thrilling match. Only one team from this match could go through to the final round and England were the better side in the first half, holding their ground on the pitch and forcing Ukraine to produce a more defensive style of play. Their

goalkeeper, Roman Pidkivka, repeatedly got to demonstrate his safe hands on the line.

The second half could have been a disaster for Ukraine, when Pidkivka left the field injured in the 68th minute. But this unfortunate loss obviously motivated England's guests, who doubled their teamwork to score the goal they needed for the win. The closing stages of the match were truly dramatic. In the fourth minute of added time, Sobol scored the winner that shocked the local Burton-on-Trent crowd and sent the visitors through to their first European Under-19 Championship final round since 2009, when they took gold on home soil.

Oleksandr Petrakov's team have their tickets to Hungary, where the tournament is being held from 19 to 31 July.

● Yuri Maznychenko



Ukraine clinched the win against England that put them into the final round

Invitations to 146 youngsters

This year the city of 's-Hertogenbosch in the Netherlands is celebrating the 70th anniversary of its liberation during World War II. On 4 June, the Netherlands played Wales in a send-off match for the Dutch team before the World Cup in Brazil. The Royal Netherlands Football Association invited 146 youngsters aged between 7 and 14 from the liberation area to attend the game at Amsterdam ArenA.

The 146 children represent the 146 Welsh servicemen who died in the city during the fighting. On the morning of the game the youngsters met the Wales manager, Chris Coleman, and some senior players, as well as Jonathan Ford, the chief executive of the Football Association of Wales, and the association president, Trefor Lloyd Hughes.

● Ceri Stennett



The 146 Welsh youngsters invited to the game against the Netherlands

FORTHCOMING EVENTS IN JULY

Meetings

3 July, Nyon

2014/15 UEFA Futsal Cup: draws for the preliminary and main rounds

18 July, Nyon

2014/15 UEFA Champions League and UEFA Europa League: draws for the third qualifying rounds

Competitions

1/2 July

UEFA Champions League: first qualifying round (first legs)

3 July

UEFA Europa League: first qualifying round (first legs)

8/9 July

UEFA Champions League: first qualifying round (return legs)

10 July

UEFA Europa League: first qualifying round (return legs)

15–27 July, Norway

European Women's Under-19 Championship: final round

15/16 July

UEFA Champions League: second qualifying round (first legs)

17 July

UEFA Europa League: second qualifying round (first legs)

19–31 July, Hungary

European Under-19 Championship: final round

22/23 July

UEFA Champions League: second qualifying round (return legs)

24 July

Europa League: second qualifying round (return legs)

29/30 July

UEFA Champions League: third qualifying round (first legs)

31 July

UEFA Europa League: third qualifying round (first legs)

FORTHCOMING EVENTS IN AUGUST

Meetings

8 August, Nyon

UEFA Champions League and UEFA Europa League: draws for the play-offs

22 August, Nyon

UEFA Women's Champions League: draws for the rounds of 32 and 16

28 August, Monaco

UEFA Champions League: group stage draw

29 August, Monaco

UEFA Europa League: group stage draw

Competitions

5/6 August

UEFA Champions League: third qualifying round (return legs)

5–24 August, Canada

FIFA U-20 Women's World Cup

7 August

UEFA Europa League: third qualifying round (return legs)

9–14 August

2014/15 UEFA Women's Champions League: qualifying round

12 August, Cardiff

UEFA Super Cup

14–27 August, Nanjing

Youth Olympic Football Tournaments

19/20 August

UEFA Champions League: play-offs (first legs)

21 August

UEFA Europa League: play-offs (first legs)

26/27 August

UEFA Champions League: play-offs (return legs)

26–31 August

UEFA Futsal Cup: preliminary round

28 August

UEFA Europa League: play-offs (return legs)

BIRTHDAYS IN JULY

Frédéric Thiriez (France, 1 July)

Antonie Marinus Verhagen (Netherlands, 1 July)

Frank De Bleeckere (Belgium, 1 July)

Marinus Koopman (Netherlands, 2 July)

Pjetur Sigurdsson (Iceland, 2 July) 50th

Rusmir Mrković (Bosnia-Herzegovina, 2 July)

Emre Alkin (Turkey, 2 July)

Peadar Ryan (Republic of Ireland, 3 July)

Bertrand Layec (France, 3 July)

Carolina De Boeck (Belgium, 3 July)

Antonio Matarrese (Italy, 4 July)

Neale Barry (England, 4 July)

Valentin Ivanov (Russia, 4 July)

Roland Ospelt (Liechtenstein, 4 July)

Massimo Cumbo (Italy, 4 July)

Patrick Nelson (Northern Ireland, 5 July)

Natalia Avdonchenko (Russia, 5 July)

Tiago Craveiro (Portugal, 5 July)

Hans Schelling (Netherlands, 7 July)

Jacobo Betrán Pedreira (Spain, 8 July)

Martin Maleck (Switzerland, 8 July)

Holger Blask (Germany, 8 July) 40th

Anna Bordiugova (Ukraine, 8 July)

Paul Allaerts (Belgium, 9 July) 50th

Murad Mammadov (Azerbaijan, 10 July)

Thomas Christensen (Norway, 10 July) 50th

Markus Kopecky (Austria, 10 July)

Nina Hedlund (Norway, 11 July) 60th

Ilija Stoilov (FYR Macedonia, 11 July) 60th

Edo Trivković (Croatia, 11 July) 50th

Günter Benkö (Austria, 12 July)

Carlo Tavecchio (Italy, 13 July)

Maria Teresa Costa (Portugal, 13 July)

Alex Horne (England, 13 July)

Elke Günthner (Germany, 14 July) 50th

Robert Sedlacek (Austria, 15 July)

Ben Veenbrink (Netherlands, 15 July)

Johannes Malka (Germany, 16 July)

Ernst Nigg (Liechtenstein, 16 July)

Lars Lagerbäck (Sweden, 16 July)

Jiri Ulrich (Czech Republic, 16 July)

Michail Anagnostou (Greece, 16 July)

Giuseppe Mifsud-Bonnici (Malta, 17 July)

Antonia Kokotou (Greece, 17 July)

Vicente Muñoz Castillo (Spain, 19 July)
Kari Iuell (Norway, 19 July)
Alfredo Trentalange (Italy, 19 July)
Tormod Larsen (Norway, 20 July) 60th
Vladimir Radionov (Russia, 21 July)
Michel Wuilleret (Switzerland, 22 July)
Nico Romeijn (Netherlands, 22 July)
Balazs Makray (Hungary, 22 July)
Bontcho Todorov (Bulgaria, 23 July) 70th
Pavel Malovič (Slovakia, 23 July)
Marcelino Santiago Maté Martínez
(Spain, 23 July)
Gijs de Jong (Netherlands, 24 July)
Mario Gallavotti (Italy, 25 July)
Ferenc Ragadics (Hungary, 25 July)
Nenad Radivojević (Serbia, 25 July)
Jacob Erel (Israel, 26 July)
Alfred Ludwig (Austria, 26 July)
David I. Bowen (Northern Ireland, 26 July)
Jeff Davis (England, 27 July)
Björn Ahlberg (Sweden, 28 July)
Stefan Tivold (Slovenia, 28 July)
Karl Espen Eriksen (Norway, 28 July)
Peter Stadelmann (Switzerland, 29 July)
João Leal (Portugal, 30 July)
Des Casey (Republic of Ireland, 31 July)
Tugomir Frajman (Slovenia, 31 July)
Jozef De Ryck (Belgium, 31 July) 60th
Joël Wolff (Luxembourg, 31 July)
Duncan Fraser (Scotland, 31 July) 50th
Cenk Cem (Turkey, 31 July)

BIRTHDAYS IN AUGUST

Sheila Begbie (Scotland, 1 August)
Alf Hansen (Norway, 1 August)
Kimmo J. Lipponen (Finland, 1 August)
Vibeke Karlsen (Norway, 1 August)
Luciano Luci (Italy, 2 August)
Johan van Kouterik (Netherlands, 2 August)
Mehmet Süheyl Onen (Turkey, 2 August)
Andreas Schluchter (Switzerland, 3 August)
Marie Barsacq (France, 3 August)

Zdravko Jokic (Serbia, 4 August)
Sergey Sidorovskiy (Russia, 4 August)
David Gill (England, 5 August)
Yves Wehrli (France, 5 August)
Aleh Chykun (Belarus, 5 August)
Piet Hubers (Netherlands, 6 August)
Pierino L. G. Lardi (Switzerland, 7 August)
Marcel Vanelshocht (Belgium, 8 August)
Plarent Kotherja (Albania, 8 August)
Olivier Henry (Belgium, 8 August)
Nico de Pauw (Belgium, 8 August)
Odd Flattum (Norway, 9 August)
Roy Hodgson (England, 9 August)
Nick Nicolaou (Cyprus, 9 August)
Dr Urs Vogel (Switzerland, 11 August)
Domenico Messina (Italy, 12 August)
Eva Ödlund (Sweden, 12 August) 50th
Emil Kostadinov (Bulgaria, 12 August)
Roger Vanden Stock (Belgium, 13 August)
Joseph Mifsud (Malta, 13 August)
Cornel Cristian Bivolaru (Romania,
13 August)
Patrick Willemarck (Belgium, 13 August)
George Pandelea-Dobrovicescu
(Romania, 14 August)
Jevgenijs Milevskis (Latvia, 15 August)
Kjell Alseth (Norway, 15 August)
Jacques Lagnier (France, 16 August)
Victor Beceiro (Spain, 16 August)
Sergey Pryadkin (Russia, 17 August)
Bente Ovedie Skogvang (Norway,
17 August)
Dennis Beiso (Gibraltar, 17 August)
Dane Jost (Slovenia, 18 August)
Borja Santana (Spain, 18 August)
Vitalijs Liholajs (Latvia, 19 August)
Mordechai Shpigler (Israel, 19 August)
Patricia Gregory (England, 19 August)
Hans Reijgwart (Netherlands, 19 August)
František Laurinec (Slovakia, 19 August)
Graham Hover (England, 19 August)
Per Ravn Omdal (Norway, 20 August)
Carmel Bartolo (Malta, 21 August)
Hasan Ceylan (Turkey, 22 August)
Kazimierz Oleszek (Poland, 22 August)
Geoffrey Thompson (England, 23 August)
Ioannis Economides (Greece, 23 August)

Demetrio Albertini (Italy, 23 August)
Luis Manuel Rubiales Bejar (Spain,
23 August)
Enrique Gonzalez Ruano (Spain, 24 August)
David Delferiere (Belgium, 24 August)
Nicolae Grigorescu (Romania, 24 August)
Pavel Kolev (Bulgaria, 24 August)
Bert Andersson (Sweden, 25 August) 60th
Giancarlo Abete (Italy, 26 August)
Regina Konink-Belksma (Netherlands,
26 August)
**Karen Nalbandyan (Armenia, 27 August)
50th**
Clémence Ross (Netherlands, 27 August)
Karl Hopfner (Germany, 28 August)
Joseph McGlue (Republic of Ireland,
28 August)
Denni Strich (Germany, 29 August)
Scilla Gennaro (Italy, 29 August) 40th
Leo Windtner (Austria, 30 August)
Charles John Grundie (Northern Ireland,
30 August)
Marian Ruzbarsky (Slovakia, 30 August)
Christer Fällström (Sweden, 31 August)
Cristel Brorsson (Sweden, 31 August)
Stefano Podeschi (San Marino, 31 August)
Pedro Dias (Portugal, 31 August)
Christoph Kollmeier (Germany, 31 August)

OBITUARY

Former prime minister of Belgium and member of the European Parliament **Jean-Luc Dehaene** passed away on 15 May, aged 73. Mr Dehaene played a key role in the establishment of financial fair play when he became the first chairman of the newly created Club Financial Control Panel in September 2009. In June 2012 he was appointed chief investigator of the UEFA Club Financial Control Body, set up to oversee the application of the UEFA club licensing system.



NO TO RACISM



RESPECT