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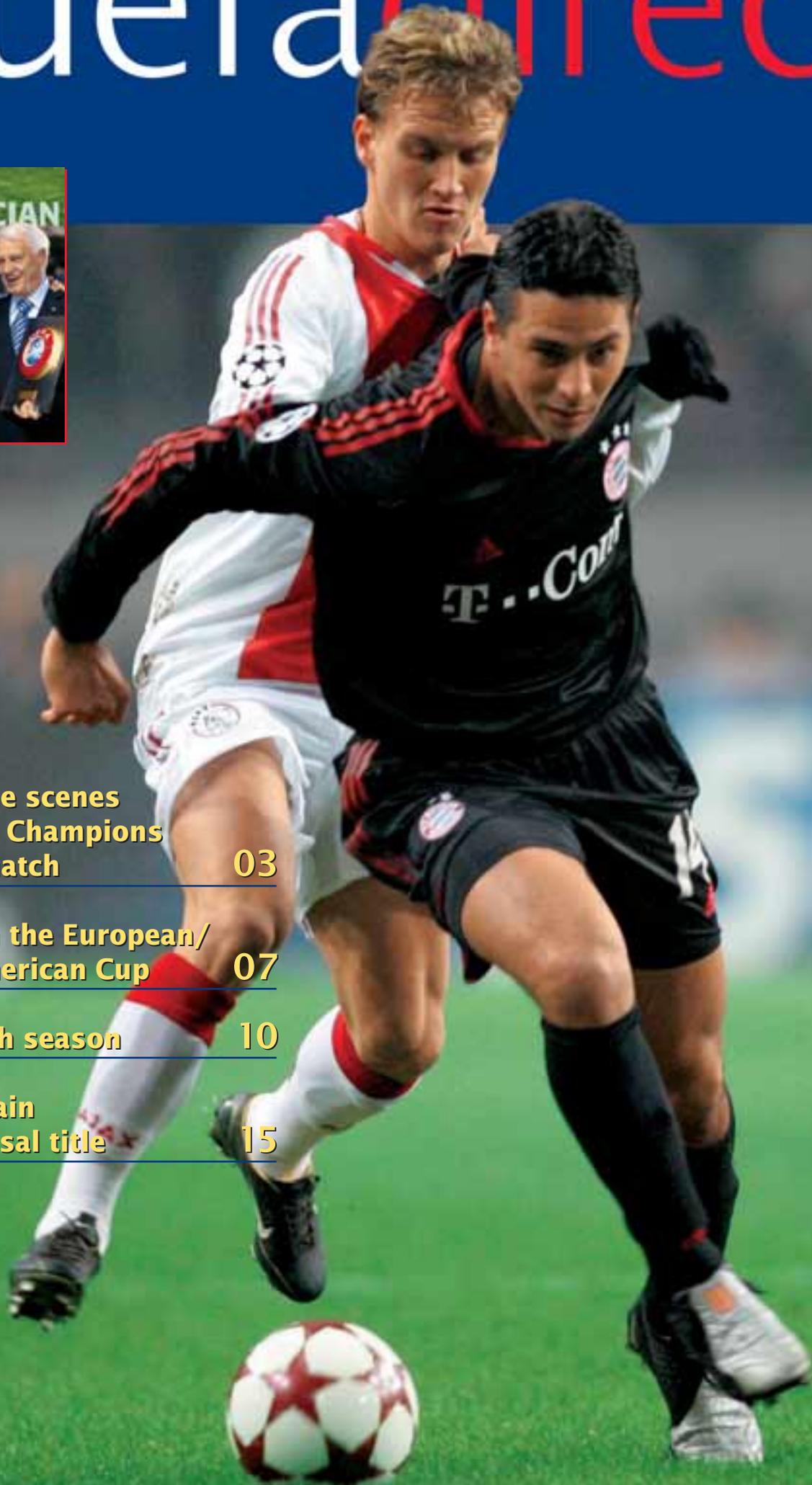


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Message from the UEFA President



As the cold winter nights draw near, it is nice to be able to bask in the some of the warm memories of EURO 2004. There are many different moments that spring to mind, beginning with the performances on the field, but what I remember most of all is the incredible atmosphere that pervaded Portugal for over a month. Everywhere you went there were decorated houses, flags flying, people singing and entire families in the street sharing their joy and excitement.

In the year when UEFA celebrated its Golden Jubilee, EURO 2004 was a most timely reminder of football's broad appeal and social importance, demonstrating that it is much more than a game. And for those of us in the driving seat, EURO 2004 was also an extraordinary sign of encouragement for our task to accomplish UEFA's core mission of promoting football and safeguarding its values and interests.

At European level, a number of major initiatives have been taken in this direction. We have introduced a club licensing system designed to improve infrastructure and the standard of football in general. We have also set up an assistance programme intended to strengthen the national associations and to help them better perform their centralising and regulatory role. Dialogue with the European Union authorities has been pursued, resulting in better overall understanding of the importance of football in society and agreement on appropriate ways to promote its collective interests.

And after extensive consultations with all parties concerned, a new UEFA Cup format has also been introduced.

Dialogue and consultation are essential working tools for a democratic organisation such as ours, allowing everyone to be heard and to defend their own interests. That is why UEFA has opened up fully to all components of the game through committees, panels and other bodies. In doing so, the idea is not to abandon the traditional "pyramid" structure on which UEFA was founded, as this is clearly the best way to keep global interests to the fore and to ultimately ensure that sporting and ethical values always prevail over purely financial considerations. This is not easy in a world where selfish attitudes seem to be replacing traditional values.

As the year comes to a close, I would like to thank everyone – including my colleagues on the Executive Committee, and in the committees, national associations, leagues, clubs and other institutions – who is working to look after the health of the game and especially its unity. I hope that the powerful images from EURO 2004 will remain firmly fixed in their minds, to remind them that a game that can give so much pleasure deserves their utmost efforts.

I would like to end with a personal message. I was very touched by the many kind greetings I received for my 75th birthday. As I will be unable to reply to each individually, I would like to use the occasion of this end-of-year message to thank everybody who expressed their friendship in this way.

I wish all of you a happy new year.

Lennart Johansson

“ **Football is much more than a game.** ”

COVER

Bayern Munich (Claudio Pizarro, with Ajax's Nicolae Mitea behind him) are one of the 16 teams through to the UEFA Champions League first knock-out round.

PHOTO: BONGARTS

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Venue Director Ettore Mazzilli (right) inspects the pitch with Tom Henning Ovrebo and his team of referees.

REPORTERS

UEFA Champions League

Behind the scenes

WEDNESDAY 24 NOVEMBER, MATCHDAY 5 IN THE UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

GROUP STAGE: RSC ANDERLECHT V VALENCIA CF, GROUP G.

The Anderlecht supporters are under no illusions about their team's qualification for the Champions League knock-out stages, nor even the consolation of a UEFA Cup spot. Nevertheless, after a visit to the snack bar, they rush to take their seats inside the stadium, lured by the magic of the Champions League. Countless others are glued to their TV

sets, caught up in all the pomp and force-fed a diet of slow motion replays and statistics.

The whole event is orchestrated right down to the tiniest detail so that the 32 stadiums across Europe provide exactly the same spectacle. As soon as Anderlecht qualified for the Champions League, the UEFA team paid a two-day reconnaissance visit to

the Constant Vanden Stock stadium. Ettore Mazzilli, Venue Director, Jorge Baptista, Media Officer, Mirjam Lussmann, venue director for TEAM (UEFA's commercial partner) and their colleagues have all sent their lists of requirements to the club. The office facilities, camera positions, TV studios and safety issues have all been scrutinised.

The Monday before the match, an enormous lorry brings all the equipment needed to transform the stadium. Ford, an official partner

The club's advertising hoardings are covered up...



...to make room for those of the UEFA Champions League sponsors.

of the Champions League, has provided the vehicles, all decorated with the competition logo. The workmen bustle about inside the stadium. They place star-studded banners over the Anderlecht advertising and set up the Champions League partners' advertising boards in the pre-arranged locations, giving a new lick of paint where necessary to a few faded hoardings. Since the gangways are narrow, bolts are fitted at regular intervals to enable

the crowd to evacuate the stands in an emergency.

Tuesday, 10 am. The organising team holds an initial meeting with the Anderlecht staff. Herman Van Holsbeek, club manager, warmly welcomes his guests. Over the course of three matches, friendly relations have developed between all these people, who share a common objective: a successful match. *"On the pitch, our campaign has not been very successful, but we are making it a point of honour to ensure our organisation is impeccable."* Safety, communication, supporter segregation, flood-lighting, special guests – such as Juan Lozano, Anderlecht's former Spanish prodigy – accreditations, a detailed list of issues is discussed. Ettore Mazzilli knows when to ignore the protocol in order to consider the specific issues linked to this match and listen to the clubs' concerns: *"We will have to segregate the Spaniards who live in Belgium and who are coming to support Valencia"...* *"We must inform Valencia that the extra tickets they were allocated – 125 instead of 200 – do not provide access to the main stand but to the corner section."* Spanish journalists are not always very disciplined; they will need supervision and translation facilities.

Numerous inspections are then held. Ettore Mazzilli attends them all as the representative of the UEFA administration. Conviviality is the key word: *"We are Anderlecht's guests. It is essential that we give reasons for our requests and create a healthy working environment."*

2 pm. Anderlecht send coach Hugo Broos and player Yves Vanderhaeghe to the press conference. Jorge Baptista and Jean-Pierre Kindermans, the home club's press officer, have organised everything. They take notes so that the Spanish journalists know what is being said – the media officer

Robert de Pot: "An honour"

Launched in 1992/93, the Champions League was greeted with scepticism in certain quarters. Wouldn't it upset the conservative world of football? The appearance of all those men in blue suits who had come to dictate to them what they had been doing themselves for decades rankled with the clubs. Although they were soon tempted by the rewards on offer, it was the professionalism and kindness of UEFA and TEAM that quickly won them over. Robert de Pot, deputy manager of Sporting Anderlecht, with special responsibility for international relations, observed this change of heart. *"TEAM are very particular but also very understanding and professional in their approach to things. The list of requirements is huge and demands a tremendous amount of work at the beginning. The system took two or three years to really get going, but the symbiosis was total from the very first season. Football is one big family. Over the years, I have forged good links with the UEFA representatives."* Anderlecht redeveloped their stadium at the end of the 1980s but are handicapped by its size and city-centre location, with few parking facilities. *"For example, UEFA insists that visiting clubs should be able to buy 200 top-category tickets in addition to the 5% quota of the stadium capacity, which amounts to 1,100 seats here. We were only able to give 125 to Valencia, but UEFA showed understanding."* When Celtic visited last season, Anderlecht discovered that between 5,000 and



Robert de Pot and media officer Jorge Baptista.

7,000 Scottish supporters would be travelling to the match, with or without tickets. *"Some 3,500 of them had no tickets. We set up a big screen near the stadium with UEFA's agreement and everything went well."*

Robert de Pot concludes: *"The Champions League is a flagship competition. Its unique atmosphere has grown thanks to television and the increasing presence of the cream of Europe. These are top matches, whether in terms of organisation, sporting interest or finance. It is an honour to be involved. For two days, eight club employees work with UEFA and TEAM. We have taken some aspects of the organisation into our national championship matches: the presentation of the team line-ups, movement of people inside the stadium, press, etc."*

P.P.



Meetings the day before the match to make sure everything is prepared right down to the very last detail.

will do the same at the press conference given by Valencia coach Claudio Ranieri. Communication is vital in the Champions League. From Nyon, UEFA have sent a ream of information and statistics. Jorge Baptista brings them up to date. As a Portuguese television commentator, he knows exactly what his colleagues need. *"If the journalists want to talk at greater length to a particular player, they have to ask the club press officer, but we guarantee access to information. For example, if a club decides to train behind closed doors, we open the gates to the press for quarter of an hour."*

3 pm. Television meeting.

In Belgium, VRT and RTL have acquired the broadcasting rights. VRT is responsible for most of the production work. TVE and Canal+ Spain are also in attendance and have specific requests. Mirjam Lussmann and Jorge Baptista look closely at the programme. B SkyB ask for ten minutes of live coverage, including part of the interview with Hugo Broos at 8 pm. Each channel's broadcasts are set out in tables, with precise timings. Seventeen cameras have been positioned inside the stadium in accordance with the UEFA guidelines. Around 100 people are involved in the production. Four people

from Delta Tre are responsible for graphics and statistics.

Shortly after 6.30 pm...

Claudio Ranieri arrives late at the press conference. Once it is over, he takes charge of Valencia's training session on the main pitch. The session is limited to an hour so that the pitch is not damaged, especially given the wintry conditions.

Wednesday, 9.30 am.

The organising team has already been at work for an hour. The accreditations have been sent out. It is an important time: Mircea Sandu, the UEFA delegate, inspects the pitch and its surroundings before chairing the second meeting. Police representatives and the match officials attend along with those involved in yesterday's meeting. UEFA's representative is Mircea Sandu, President of the Romanian Football Federation, who examines all the organisational arrangements. In contrast to the other team members, the delegate is different for each match. They are appointed by the UEFA administration. He is satisfied: *"This stadium is ideal for the occasion. When I arrived, I assessed the situation with the Venue Director. I have to be sure that the visiting team will be accommodated properly and that the supporters will be segregated. After the match, I write a detailed report on various aspects, including discipline and fair play. The referee observer will also prepare a report on the referee. Doping tests are carried out without warning: a doctor arrives ten minutes before the match, but the rooms need to be ready. At half time, two club representatives, the doctor and myself draw the names of the players to be tested, on the basis of the match sheets."* The delegate is also on the alert during the match. *"An emergency committee comprising*

Pär Zetterberg: "A dream"

At the age of 34, Pär Zetterberg may have just played his last Champions League match. The diminutive Swede has represented both Anderlecht and Olympiacos in the competition. In Athens, he played in front of 70,000 spectators. *"Nevertheless, the atmosphere is the same in all the stadiums. The organisation is the same and so is the flag. My first match was against Milan. A goalless draw. I must have been 22 and it was a completely different world. I will never forget those moments. It was like a dream. The Champions League gives us the chance to play the best teams and players in Europe. The stadiums are full. The matches are talked about for weeks. A good performance reverberates all over Europe. The ceremonials make the hairs on the back of your head stand on end, and hearing the anthem gives you goose bumps. Every footballer dreams of playing in the Champions League - even just one match - although once the whistle has gone you only think about the game itself."* P.P.



Pär Zetterberg against Valencia.

PHOTO NEWS



UEFA official delegate Mircea Sandu inspects the referees' dressing room.



Ettore Mazzilli gives his briefing.



Everything is dismantled the day after the match.

PHOTOS: REPORTERS

the chiefs of police, fire service and Red Cross, as well as representatives of the two teams, liaises with me. We have to act immediately. I was the UEFA delegate at the match between AS Roma and Dynamo Kiev. The referee, Anders Frisk, was hit on the head by a missile. We stopped the match. We had to act diplomatically to avoid inciting the crowd and to ensure the stadium was evacuated peacefully. Roma were ordered to play two home matches behind closed doors."

4 pm. In the VRT lorry, Ettore Mazzilli and Mirjam Lussmann are checking out the 17 cameras with the VRT producer. Meanwhile, the stewards are given their special jackets.

6 pm. Final TV production meeting: the "flash" interviews are organised and everyone's requests are noted.

7.15 pm. The stadium gates are opened. The pressure moves up a notch. Jorge Baptista takes a cameraman to film the complete strips to be worn by the players. He checks that they comply with the rules and will then ensure that the team line-ups are communicated to the TV subtitles. Together with the club press officers, he will organise the flurry of pre- and post-match interviews, not forgetting the "flash" interviews at half-time nor the press conferences. He has to be quick to stop any player who is in a hurry to get to the showers: the coaches and several players from each side have to appear before the cameras within fifteen minutes of the final whistle. The Venue Director and Media Officer take their places on the touchline bench. They communicate substitutions and other information to the various people concerned so that the subtitles can appear quickly. After the

game, UEFA will give the press a host of statistics as well as reports from the evening's other matches.

The countdown has begun for the Venue Director. Using a satellite watch, he has to ensure that the match kicks off at exactly the right time. He has therefore had to time how long it will take for the teams to walk from the dressing rooms to the pitch. Thirty seconds at Anderlecht, compared with four minutes in Rome. **8.05 pm:** the warm-up starts. **8.35:** the warm-up finishes and a welcome message from UEFA is read through the public address system. **8.38:** the children responsible for carrying the flag take up their places. **8.40:** the match officials check the players' studs. **8.41.30:** the players emerge from the tunnel and stand seven metres from the touchline for the Champions League anthem at **8.42.** The children lift the flag and take it away while the players and officials shake hands and pose for photographs. **8.43.40:** tossing of the coin with the two captains. When Ettore Mazzilli raises one hand with his fingers spread, the Norwegian referee Tom Henning Ovrebo knows that he has five seconds in which to start the match. Let the game begin...

After **11 pm.** It's all over. When Mircea Sandu congratulates Ettore Mazzilli, the whole team can breathe a huge sigh of relief. Their unremitting efforts have been rewarded with a perfectly organised event. Since Anderlecht have been eliminated from the Champions League, a page has also been turned. In three matches, the Anderlecht staff, from the manager to the stewards, have formed good relations with the UEFA and TEAM representatives. Ettore Mazzilli's team also goes its separate ways. Everyone is slightly sad. Football really is one big family.

Pascale Pierard

TEAM: a loyal partner

TEAM has been involved in the organisation of the UEFA Champions League since the competition began. Based in Lucerne, the company employs people from all over the world, more than 90 of whom are involved in the Champions League. TEAM also manages the commercial side of the UEFA Cup final, the UEFA Super Cup and other major events. It is mainly concerned with marketing, a broad notion which includes advertising boards, broadcasting rights and the Champions Club, which accommodates 350 representatives of the competition's sponsors in luxury surroundings similar to the clubs' executive boxes.



Mirjam Lussmann and TEAM are kept more than busy.

REPORTERS

Mirjam Lussmann says: "The week leading up to a match is very intense. VRT sent us a broadcasting plan on the Thursday before the match, but it can change. From Lucerne, we are in contact with the club, the TV companies and UEFA, which is responsible for the sporting aspects. The setting up of the advertising boards and office facilities begins on the Monday and everything is taken down the day after the match."



AFP/KITAMURA

Once Caldas goalkeeper Juan Carlos Henao defended his goal heroically.



AFP/YAMANAKA

Luis Fabiano (right) tries to outflank Once defender Miguel Alberto Rojas.



AFP/KITAMURA

The decisive goal by Pedro Emanuel.

European/South American Cup

FC Porto conclude the story

IT MAY NOT HAVE BEEN THE MOST IMPORTANT INTERNATIONAL FOOTBALL COMPETITION, BUT IT ENJOYED THE VALUE AND PRESTIGE OF A RARE OBJECT. IN ITS 44-YEAR HISTORY AND 43 EDITIONS, ONLY 44 CLUBS HAVE HAD THE HONOUR OF TAKING PART IN IT, AND ONLY 25 HAVE SEEN THEIR NAMES ENGRAVED ON THE TROPHY.

On 12 December, in the Yokohama stadium, the European/South American Cup was played for the very last time. As the curtain prepared to come down on the competition, the overall honours were split equally between Europe and South America, with each continent having won the trophy 12 times since it was first played on Japanese soil in 1980 (even though, strictly speaking, counting all the times the competition had been staged, South America were in the lead with 22 wins against Europe's 20). As it turned out, the ultimate match was far from a straightforward affair in terms of designating a global winner for the matches hosted in Japan. With no goals scored even by the end of extra time, the match was decided only when Pedro Emanuel converted the 18th penalty kick to give FC Porto their second victory in the European/South American Cup after their triumph against Nacional Montevideo in 1987.

On the whole, Europe's Portuguese champions dominated the match and were unlucky to see three of their shots rebound off the Colombian woodwork, not to mention having two goals disallowed for offside.

For all that, it was not a one-sided match. Skilful on the counter-attack, Once Caldas could have tied up the match before the penalty shoot-out. The Colombian team were, however, probably not averse to the prospect of having to resort to penalty kicks to determine the winners, having beaten Boca Juniors in their first-ever Copa Libertadores in this manner. And they came close to victory in the first series of penalty kicks, but, in the end, fortune favoured their Portuguese opponents.

After losing the UEFA Super Cup against Valencia in August, FC Porto were already out of the running for a European triple before the match in Tokyo, but they do nonetheless have the momentous honour of closing a winners' list opened by Real Madrid in 1960. Next year, the European/South American Cup is replaced by the Club World Championship, which will also be played in Tokyo.

In the space of two seasons, FC Porto have won the UEFA Cup, UEFA Champions League and European/South American Cup.

The winners

- 1960 Real Madrid CF
- 1961 Peñarol Montevideo
- 1962 FC Santos
- 1963 FC Santos
- 1964 Internazionale FC
- 1965 Internazionale FC
- 1966 Peñarol Montevideo
- 1967 Racing Buenos Aires
- 1968 Estudiantes de la Plata
- 1969 AC Milan
- 1970 Feyenoord
- 1971 Nacional Montevideo
- 1972 AFC Ajax
- 1973 Independiente Buenos Aires
- 1974 Atlético de Madrid
- 1975 Competition did not take place
- 1976 FC Bayern München
- 1977 CA Boca Juniors
- 1978 Competition did not take place
- 1979 Olimpia Paraguay
- 1980 Nacional Montevideo
- 1981 Flamengo Rio de Janeiro
- 1982 Peñarol Montevideo
- 1983 Gremio Porto Alegre
- 1984 Independiente Buenos Aires
- 1985 Juventus
- 1986 River Plate
- 1987 FC Porto
- 1988 Nacional Montevideo
- 1989 AC Milan
- 1990 AC Milan
- 1991 FC Red Star Belgrade
- 1992 São Paulo FC
- 1993 São Paulo FC
- 1994 Velez Sarsfield
- 1995 AFC Ajax
- 1996 Juventus
- 1997 Borussia Dortmund
- 1998 Real Madrid CF
- 1999 Manchester United FC
- 2000 CA Boca Juniors
- 2001 FC Bayern München
- 2002 Real Madrid CF
- 2003 CA Boca Juniors
- 2004 FC Porto



AFP/YAMANAKA

The 2001 final between Germany and Sweden.



BONGARTS

A warm welcome in Blackburn, venue for the final.



THE FA

WOMEN'S EURO 2005

The FA unveils venues

THE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION HAS UNVEILED ITS PLANS FOR THE 6TH EUROPEAN WOMEN'S CHAMPIONSHIP, WHICH WILL BE STAGED IN NORTH-WEST ENGLAND FROM 5 TO 19 JUNE NEXT YEAR.

Featuring eight teams in two groups, 15 matches will be staged at five different venues across the North West, with live TV coverage in 54 countries via Eurosport and on an additional UK network to be confirmed. England qualify automatically for the eight-nation finals and line up alongside World Cup finalists Germany and Sweden.



The City of Manchester Stadium will host the opening England game on Sunday 5 June, and The FA is planning major sporting activity for young people at SportCity on the day of the game as part of its plans to leave a sporting legacy from staging this event. The stadium will also host the final draw on 19 January, with representa-

tives from all eight competing nations present.

Blackburn Rovers FC will host England's next two group games and will also be the setting for the final on Sunday, 19 June. Blackpool FC completes the Group A stadiums and will host three group games. Preston North End's Deepdale ground

and Warrington Wolves' newly built rugby league home will be the fitting venues for the Group B games and will each stage one semi-final tie.

UEFA President Lennart Johansson said: "Staging the WOMEN'S EURO 2005 in England, where women's football is the top female sport is a great oppor-

tunity. I am sure that The FA and the North-West region will deliver a highly professional event, promoting women's football as a skilful and competitive game and enhancing its popularity in the UK and across Europe."

Germany are the current holders of the European Women's Championship, having won the competition for the third time on home soil in 2001 and thus retaining the trophy. A new trophy will unveiled on 19 January at the final draw. Joining England and Germany are group winners Sweden, France and Denmark. Finland, Norway and Italy qualified for the finals via the play-offs.

The FA Chairman Geoff Thompson added: "It is a great honour for The Football Association to be hosting such a prestigious tournament. Women's football is the fastest growing sport and also the top female sport in England, and The FA is delighted to show its commitment to the women's game by hosting this event."

WOMEN'S EURO 2005 is the first major women's football tournament to be played in the UK and it gives The FA the opportunity to drive participation in the game. Football is currently



France (Elodie Woock) have qualified by winning their group.

FLASHPRESS



the top female participation sport in England and is particularly popular with girls, with research showing that 1.6 million girls under 15 played football in 2003/04, while 101,000 girls and women are now involved in regular affiliated football competition.

"Staging a major tournament will give The FA a great opportunity to tell young girls about their opportunities to play football, and we expect participation levels to increase again as a result of this tournament," says The FA's Director of Football Development, Trevor Brooking. *"Having the games live on TV will also be a good showcase of how the England players can be role models for future generations."*

In conjunction with the launch, the UK Government's Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, Tessa Jowell MP, has become the first WOMEN'S EURO 2005 ambassador, and has even taken to playing in an all-female Labour Party five-a-side team at the age of 57. *"It is a fantastic coup to bring a European tournament of this prestige to the UK, and this could have a major impact on women's sports. Football is now the top female sport in England and boasts over 25 million players across the world, but it will be next summer when the game firmly hits the radar of sports fans in the UK,"* she commented. *"There will be some very talented sportswomen in this field and I am sure we will see young girls taking to pitches in their thousands, having been inspired by their performance. I hope the media will get behind the England team in their EURO 2005 campaign."*

Tickets for the event will go on sale shortly after the final draw on 19 January. The prices will be affordable for families, with special discounts for all football clubs and schools. More details are available at www.uefa.com and fans can register for ticket information and news at www.TheFA.com/Euro2005.

Beverley Ward

Another title for Germany

Germany, already women's world and European champions at senior level, have added the FIFA Under-19 Women's World Championship to their impressive list of honours.

Staged in Thailand from 10 to 27 November, the final round of the second edition of the championship involved four European nations altogether, the other three being Italy, Russia and Spain. Italy and Spain failed to get past the first round, while Russia lost to Brazil in the quarter-finals after extra time.

After winning their group without losing a match, Germany met Nigeria in the quarter-finals, in a match that was decided on penalty kicks.

The semi-finals reflected a certain stability in women's football at this level, since three of the teams involved were also semi-finalists in 2002, namely Brazil, Germany and the USA.

Germany eliminated title-holders the USA 3-1 to qualify for the final against China in Bangkok, where they crowned their unbeaten run with a 2-0 win. Third place went to the USA, who beat Brazil 3-0 in the consolation match.

■ In the 4th UEFA Women's Cup, Djurgården/Alvsjö (at the expense of Umeå IK), Arsenal LFC (vs Torres Terra Sarda), 1. FFC Turbine Potsdam 71 (vs Energy Voronezh) and SK Trondheims-Ørn (vs FC Bobruichanka) have qualified for the semi-finals, which will take place in April and pair Djurgården/Alvsjö and Arsenal LFC in one tie and 1. FFC Turbine Potsdam and SK Trondheims-Ørn in the other.



Germany's Under-19s have followed the example of their seniors and won the world title at their level.



Jim Boyce, Chairman of the Youth and Amateur Football Committee.



Eduardo Herrera Jimenez was in charge of the Under-19 draw.



Jean-Pierre Escalettes announces the results of the Under-17 draw.

Youth football

Draws and workshop

THE DRAWS FOR THE EUROPEAN UNDER-17 AND UNDER-19 CHAMPIONSHIPS

TOOK PLACE IN NYON ON 30 NOVEMBER AND 1 DECEMBER, TOGETHER WITH

A YOUTH FOOTBALL WORKSHOP.

This first-ever such joint event was a great success, with youth football leaders from 49 member associations in attendance with one or two delegates. The busy two days kicked off with the draws for the qualifying round of the 2005/06 European Under-17 and Under-19 Championships, followed by a two-and-a-half hour discussion to agree on the hosts and dates of the 24 qualifying-round mini-tournaments, as well as those of the 14 Elite-round mini-tournaments for the current youth competitions. The following day was devoted to a new event, a workshop on European

youth football, where the member association experts were able to discuss the latest developments in this key sector of the game.

The two draws were made by Andy Roxburgh, UEFA Technical Director, assisted by Jim Boyce, Chairman of the UEFA Youth and Amateur Football Committee, as well as vice-chairmen of the same committee, Jean-Pierre Escalettes (for the Under-17s) and Eduardo Herrera Jimenez (for the Under-19s). Richmond Rak,



2005/06 European Under-17 Championship

Group 1	Group 2	Group 3	Group 4	Group 5	Group 6
Northern Ireland	Italy	Belgium	Israel	Portugal	Iceland
Serbia & Montenegro	Ukraine	Austria	Russia	Germany	Czech Republic
Malta	Latvia	Georgia	Azerbaijan	San Marino	Andorra
Lithuania	Rep. of Ireland	Bulgaria	Armenia	Faroe Islands	Sweden
Group 7	Group 8	Group 9	Group 10	Group 11	Group 12
Finland	Moldova	Turkey	Hungary	Netherlands	Wales
Greece	Poland	Croatia	Scotland	Denmark	Switzerland
Slovakia	Liechtenstein	Romania	Albania	Slovenia	Kazakhstan
Bosnia-Herzegovina	Norway	FYR Macedonia	Cyprus	Belarus	Estonia

Mini-tournament hosts highlighted in bold type.



2005/06 European Under-19 Championship

FC Lausanne-Sport's Swiss Under-20 midfielder, was on hand to supervise the proceedings.



Both competition draws followed the same procedure, with 48 of the 51 competing member associations being drawn into 12 groups of four. The top two from each group will go through to the Elite round with the best third-placed team, as well as the three seeded teams in each age category, who qualify automatically (England, France and Spain in the Under-17s and the Czech

Republic, England and Spain in the Under-19s). As usual, the nation hosting the final round qualifies automatically for that tournament (Luxembourg for the Under-17s and Poland for the Under-19s).

During the workshop, Andy Roxburgh gave an overview of youth player development. The experts also spent time discussing the organisation of the mini-tournaments in the qualifying stages of the competitions. The issue of artificial turf was also examined, following the recent decision of the UEFA Executive Committee to allow it to be used for official UEFA competition matches from the start of next season. The two-day event wound up with the delegates given the chance to put forward recommendations for improving the organisation of the UEFA youth championships.

Group 1	Group 2
Slovenia	Slovakia
Lithuania	Denmark
Estonia	Kazakhstan
Georgia	Liechtenstein
Group 3	Group 4
Norway	Portugal
Israel	Russia
Malta	Azerbaijan
Cyprus	Luxembourg
Group 5	Group 6
Belgium	Italy
Hungary	Rep. of Ireland
Faroe Islands	Moldova
Sweden	Northern Ireland
Group 7	Group 8
France	Switzerland
Austria	Scotland
Wales	Finland
San Marino	Andorra
Group 9	Group 10
FYR Macedonia	Netherlands
Turkey	Germany
Albania	Greece
Romania	Belarus
Group 11	Group 12
Bulgaria	Serbia & Montenegro
Croatia	Ukraine
Iceland	Armenia
Bosnia-Herzegovina	Latvia

Mini-tournament hosts highlighted in bold type.



The popular and media success of the UEFA Champions League is not only of benefit to the participating clubs; the whole of European football reaps the rewards.

Solidarity payments

Some 278 million Swiss francs for youth football

WHEN IT APPROVED A NEW UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE FORMAT IN DECEMBER 1998,

THE UEFA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ALSO DECIDED, WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF ITS POLICY IN FAVOUR OF SOLIDARITY PAYMENTS, TO ALLOCATE PART OF THE REVENUE TO THE TOP EUROPEAN LEAGUES.

Criteria were set for the distribution of this money. It had to be distributed via the professional league to the top-division clubs which had not participated in a UEFA competition, and it had to be invested exclusively in youth football development. Where a professional league did not exist, the national association was responsible for distributing this allocation. In the light of experience, the distribution criteria have

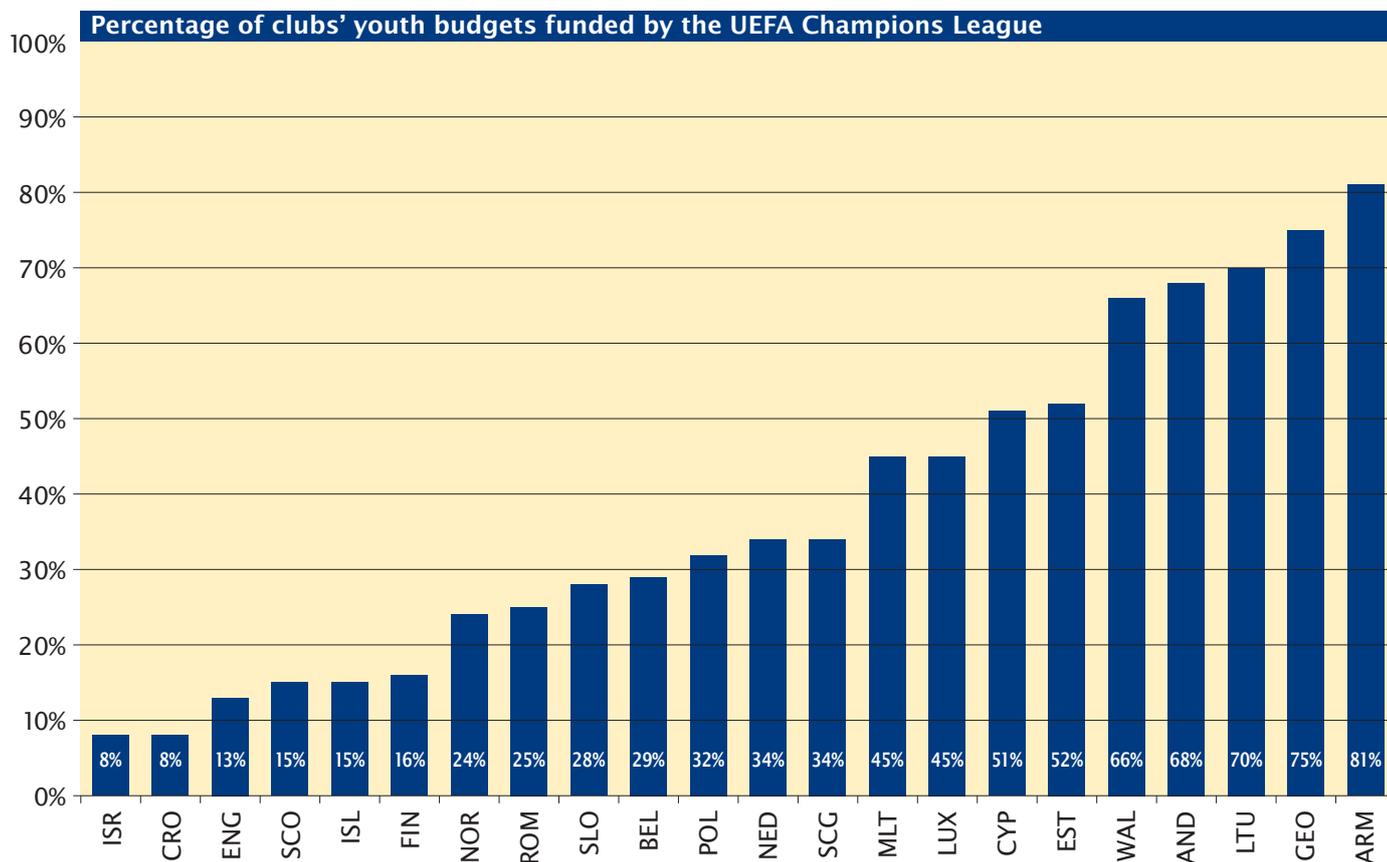
been modified slightly in the meantime.

The distribution mechanism makes a distinction between leagues represented in the UEFA Champions League group matches and those that are not, with the represented leagues receiving a larger share. The value of the domestic television market is also taken into account.

In theory, the money distributed to the leagues has to be paid on

to the clubs for youth training, but a few exceptions were granted to this fundamental rule in the first couple of years, with some national associations using the money for national projects such as the construction of a national youth centre, the organisation of youth training camps or the improvement of national youth football infrastructure.

Even though this practice may have been judicious in the case of the small associations, UEFA changed the





The money paid out to the clubs via the leagues goes towards improving youth training.



Report from Brussels

At the start of December, two Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) asked an oral question to the European Commission on the “balanced development of football in the EU”.

Most interesting for UEFA was the part of the question that asked the Commission for its opinion on UEFA’s new proposals to encourage the local training of players. This marks a new stage in the public debate over UEFA’s proposals. By submitting such a question, the MEPs have obliged the Commission to reveal its thinking on UEFA’s plans.

The two MEPs in question were Doris Pack, from Germany, and Ivo Belet, from Belgium. Mrs Pack was one of the European Parliament’s main actors in the 2004 European Year of Education through Sport. Mr Belet is a lifelong supporter of RSC Anderlecht.

The parliamentarians’ question comprised four parts:

1. What measures has the Commission already taken, or does it intend to take, as a follow-up to the Helsinki Report [on safeguarding current sports structures and maintaining the social function of sport]?
2. At the end of this European Year of Education through Sport, what measures does the Commission intend to take in order to strengthen the social and integrating role of football (that is now severely under pressure)?
3. What is the Commission’s opinion of proposals designed to force clubs to field a certain number of players who were trained in the country where the →



procedure and no longer expects the associations/leagues to report back on how the money has been spent, but rather to submit projects before the money leaves UEFA’s coffers, thereby ensuring that the money actually goes to the clubs. Exceptions can still be granted for national projects, but only if the clubs concerned have given their written agreement.

From 1999 to 2003, UEFA made more than 2,000 solidarity payments to European clubs. In principle, clubs from the same league receive an equal share, but since 2001/02, UEFA has allowed the leagues/associations to distribute the global amount according to the quality of youth training, as rated on the basis of criteria such as the number of youth players, the quality of coach education, the number of coaches or the number of women’s/girls’ teams. In Austria and Switzerland, for example, club training centres have been divided into three categories, and their share of the UEFA money varies according to the club’s position in its category. And in Estonia, the share received depends on the number of youth players, while in Germany it is the first team’s position in the domestic league that counts.

Generally speaking, UEFA’s solidarity payments represent anything between 8 and 81% of the total budget

allocated by the clubs to their youth set-up (see chart).

In the five seasons from 1999/2000 to 2003/04, a total of CHF 278.9 million was paid out to European clubs, broken down as follows:

- 1999/2000: 50.0 million
- 2000/01: 56.3 million
- 2001/02: 58.8 million
- 2002/03: 61.3 million
- 2003/04: 52.4 million

Leagues represented in the UEFA Champions League received CHF 221.3m and the others CHF 57.6m. More than 2,300 clubs – mostly small and medium clubs, since the UEFA Champions League clubs are excluded – have benefited from this money, a figure which has grown over the years by virtue of permission being given in certain cases for money to be distributed to clubs that are not in the top division.

In concrete terms, these 280 million Swiss francs represent the salaries of youth coaches as well as youth football facilities and equipment, training programmes, travel costs and medical care for young players. But first and foremost, this money that is made available to the clubs is a perfect illustration of the solidarity principle made possible by the central marketing of the rights of a competition on the scale of the UEFA Champions League.



→ club is established in order to contribute to the development and the motivation of young players and, hence, strengthen the social role of football clubs?

4. Does the Commission agree that national subsidies for youth training centres belonging to private football teams have to be allowed and even encouraged?

The general direction of the MEPs' question was quite helpful to UEFA. The MEPs underlined the importance of supporting "structures of self-government within sport that promote solidarity and the training of players". They also recognised that the "development of young players was no longer optimal". And the MEPs stated that UEFA's proposals on local training would help the development of young players and "strengthen the social role of football clubs".

Less positively, the question also highlighted a growing tendency among some European policy-makers to call for a greater EU role in sports policy: the MEPs asked, "which initiatives does the Commission intend to take in order to strengthen the social and integrating role of football?"

The fact that various MEPs are already taking the initiative to discuss UEFA's proposals on local training demonstrates the great interest that football generates in the EU institutions. Our sport provokes heated debate across the entire political spectrum, in all member states. Governments in some countries consider sport a 'public good', rather like education or culture, and argue that it needs support and protection; if sport is unhealthy, society suffers, they argue. These debates underline the need for UEFA to engage with policy-makers in the EU and national governments so that we preserve the autonomy of sports governing bodies and ensure that the politicians respect the specificity of sport.

Meetings and other activities

Customised programme for the associations

AT ITS NINTH AND LAST MEETING OF THE YEAR, HELD IN NYON

ON 15 AND 16 DECEMBER, THE UEFA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE GAVE THE GO-AHEAD

FOR A "TOP EXECUTIVE" PROGRAMME AIMED PRIMARILY AT THE

PRESIDENTS AND GENERAL SECRETARIES OF UEFA MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS.

On 3 February, an extraordinary conference will be held for these "top executives" at UEFA's headquarters in Nyon to brief them about the programme, which is intended to help the national associations to strengthen their management capacities.

At its December meeting, the Executive Committee also discussed the issue of home-grown players again and decided to finalise a proposal for their protection at its next meeting, in February, in order to present it to the UEFA Congress in April.

In view of the meeting of the International FA Board on 26 February, the Committee analysed amendments to the Laws of the Game proposed by national associations and decided which to put forward to the Board. It also indicated its willingness to study the use of new technology in refereeing.

On the competition front, the Committee approved the bid regulations for EURO 2012 and confirmed that the Polish FA would host the final round of the 2004/05 UEFA Regions' Cup.



A report on UEFA golden jubilee activities was also presented to the Committee, which decided to raise

the amount in the jubilee fund made up of donations from national associations to USD 100,000 and to offer this money for the development of football in East Timor, in collaboration with the Asian Football Confederation.

The "Summer of Grassroots Football" organised within the framework of the jubilee was deemed to have been a great success and will be repeated next year. The Committee also approved a list of grassroots football ambassadors, comprising former players who are now members of UEFA's Players Panel. The procedure for implementing the Grassroots Charter was accepted as well.

In brief, the Committee furthermore:

- approved the terms of reference of the UEFA committees;
- received a progress report on EURO 2008;



With the UEFA President and the Chief Executive, representatives of the football associations of Romania, Ukraine and Northern Ireland sign the Convention.

UEFA

■ received a report on stadium and security matters during EURO 2004, the conclusions of which will be made available to FIFA in view of the 2006 World Cup;
■ approved revised regulations for the UEFA Order of Merit.

Coach education convention signed

In June, the Executive Committee admitted the football associations of Northern Ireland, Romania and Ukraine as full members of the UEFA Convention on the Mutual Recognition of Coaching Qualifications.

Representatives of these three associations came to Nyon to sign the Convention at Pro level on 16 December, after the Executive Committee meeting.

The Committee has also accepted Albania and Moldova as members at B-Licence level.

It also decided that the members of the Convention should be reassessed every three years to ensure that the quality of their coach education remains up to scratch.

Spain retain their world Futsal title

The 5th World Futsal Championship, staged in Taipei from 21 November to 5 December, was marked by the success of Europe's representatives, with two of them, Spain and Italy, going as far as the final, which Spain won 2-1.

Europe's three other participants (Czech Republic, Portugal and Ukraine) also played well and all

qualified for the second group stage. As a result, one of these two groups was an all-European affair. Reigning champions Italy won the group ahead of Spain, Portugal and the Czech Republic, while in the other group, Ukraine finished behind Brazil, but level on points with Argentina, who pipped them at the post courtesy of better goal difference.

The first semi-final was a re-run of the last two World Championship finals, and Spain confirmed their triumph over Brazil in 2000, although they needed a shoot-out to see off their rivals this time after the game had finished 2-2 in normal and extra time. In the other semi-final, Italy wrapped up their win

against Argentina in the first half, going into the break with a 3-0 lead. The final score was 7-4.

The final between the world and European champions was tight until the final whistle. After losing their head-to-head in the second group stage, Spain put the pressure on Italy this time and broke the deadlock three minutes into the second half with a goal from Kike. Marcelo doubled the lead a few minutes later. Zanetti pulled one back for Italy with just 36 seconds to go, leaving the Italians with no time to turn the game around, despite their best efforts.

Third place in the championship went to Brazil, who beat Argentina 7-4 in the consolation match.



Spain hold onto their title.

AFP/LIN



The final of the new UEFA Cup was the subject of a press conference held in Lisbon on 26 November.



The Licensed Match Agents Panel at its meeting in November.

■ On 9 December, the Club Competitions Committee met in Nyon, among other things, to prepare the draws for the first knock-out round of the UEFA Champions League and the UEFA Cup rounds of 32 and 16. Four English teams have

qualified for the next stage of the UEFA Champions League (Arsenal, Chelsea, Liverpool, Manchester United), along with three Italian clubs (Internazionale, Juventus, AC Milan), the same number of German clubs (Bayer 04 Leverkusen, Bayern Munich,

Werder Bremen), two from Spain (Barcelona and Real Madrid) and France (Olympique Lyonnais and Monaco), plus one apiece from the Netherlands (PSV Eindhoven) and Portugal (title-holders FC Porto). Ten of these clubs were involved in the same stage of the competition last season.

The Committee also continued with its discussions into a new format for the UEFA Intertoto Cup, stressing, however, that the 2005 edition would stay as it was.

It also examined the club competition regulations for next season and the venues for the finals in 2006 and 2007, for which the bids of Paris (Stade de France), Athens (Olympic stadium), Moscow (Luzhniki), London (Wembley) and Berlin (Olympiastadion) have been short-listed as far as the UEFA Champions League final is concerned, while those of Athens (Karaiskaki), Glasgow (Hampden Park), Eindhoven (Philips stadium) and Seville (Ramon Pizjuan) are in contention for the UEFA Cup finals.

Regarding the surplus revenue from the 2003/04 UEFA Champions League, amounting to some two million Swiss francs, the Committee decided to allocate 250,000 to each of the clubs that finished the group stage in fourth place.

Finally, turning its attention to the UEFA Super Cup, the Committee discussed the future of this tie, in view of the termination of the contract with Monaco next year. A decision has to be taken as to where the 2006 event will take place and whether it should continue to be associated with a gala and the draws that kick off the new UEFA club competition season.

New spokesman for the licensed UEFA match agents

As agreed during the last meeting between the licensed UEFA match agents and the Panel for Licensed UEFA Match Agents (which took place in Nyon on 25 June 2003), Günter Bachmann (Germany) handed over his role of spokesman to his deputy, George Gregoriou (Cyprus), at the beginning of the new Panel mandate period (2004-06). At the same time, Mr Bachmann officially gave up his UEFA match agent licence and went into well-deserved retirement. He can look back at a long career which started as long ago as 1949, when he arranged his first international friendly matches. In 1969, he became the first licensed UEFA match agent, and he arranged more than 2,225 friendly matches during his 35 year of activity. His experience was also helpful when UEFA drew up its first specific Regulations for Licensed UEFA Match Agents in 1997. In his capacity as spokesman for the UEFA match agents, Mr Bachmann also attended meetings of the Panel for Licensed UEFA Match Agents from 1999 until the last Panel meeting on 25 November, when he officially handed over to George Gregoriou.

Giangiorgio Spiess, Chairman of the Panel for Licensed UEFA Match Agents, thanked Mr Bachmann for his immense involvement in the Panel's work and in football in general. Mr Gregoriou, a licensed UEFA match agent since May 2000, was warmly welcomed as the new spokesman of the UEFA match agents.

The role of the spokesperson is to attend meetings of the Panel for Licensed UEFA Match Agents as an observer and to share

knowledge and expertise as a match agent with the Panel.

At its latest meeting, the Panel also granted five-year UEFA match agent licences to the following applicants:

Ronny Geson Gunnarsson

Fotballkonsulent
Smedkasvegen 43
NO - 3919 Porsgrunn
Tel. +47 35 55 29 00
Fax +47 35 55 99 96
Email geson@c21.net

Mark Gibbon

GB Soccer
Suite 6 A, Armstrong House
GB - Washington, Tyne & Wear, NE37 1PR
Tel. +44 191 418 0214
Fax +44 191 418 0208
Email gb.soccer@talk21.com

Soukeyna Ba-Bengelloun

MSI
22, rue Robert Frappesauce
FR - 78100 St Germain en Laye
Fax +33 1 39 73 00 23
Mobile +33 6 17 42 11 81
Email bengelloun@noos.fr

Rob Groener

Topscore Soccer Consultancy
Beekzijdeweg 27
POB 3
NL - 7660 AA Vasse
Tel. +31 541 680 635
Fax +31 541 680 740
Email topscore@planet.nl

Arie Treffers

Sportconsult Nederland
Europark 18
NL - 4909 Oosterhout
Tel. +31 162 490063
Fax +31 162 42 73 78
Email info@sportconsultnederland.nl

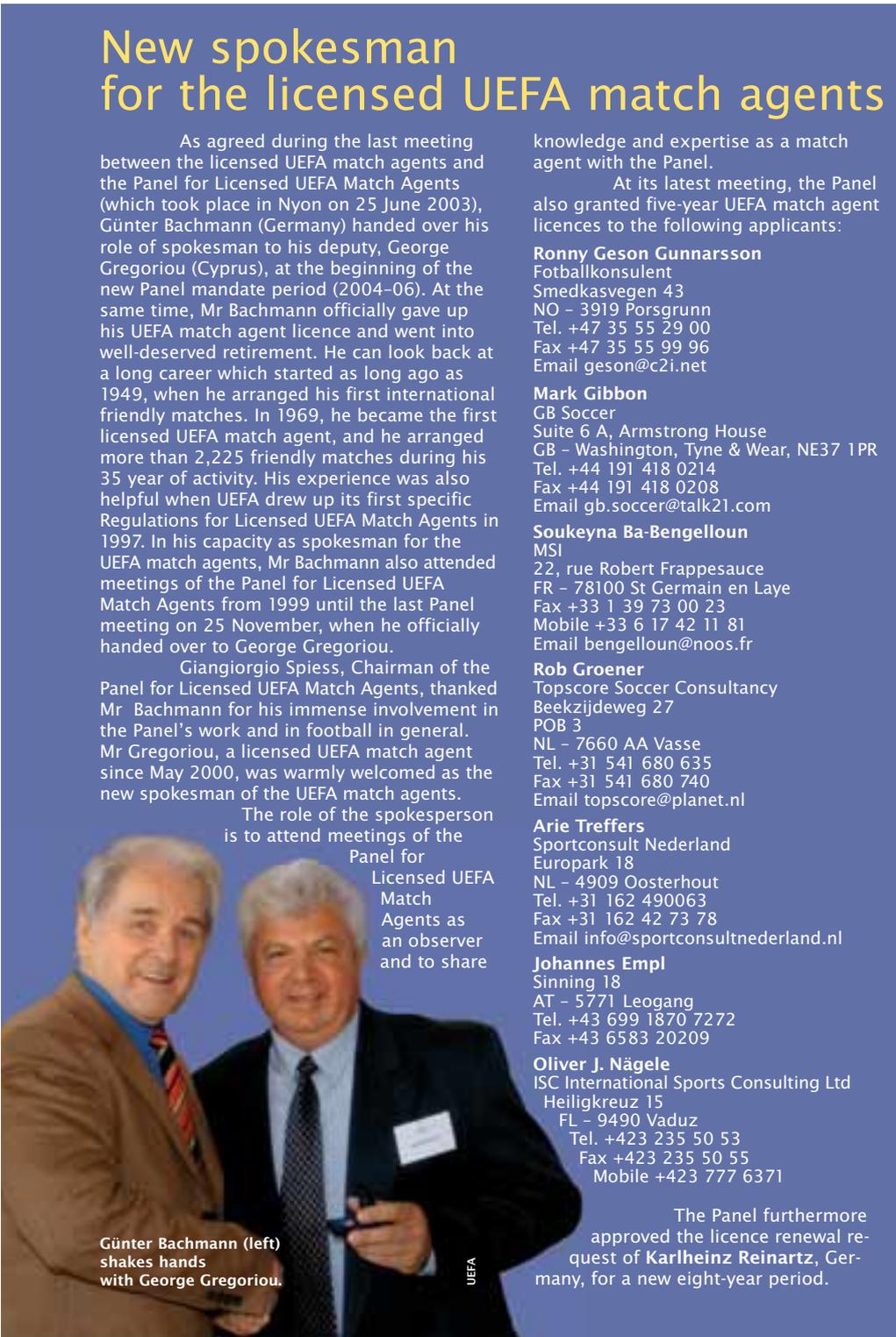
Johannes Empl

Sinning 18
AT - 5771 Leogang
Tel. +43 699 1870 7272
Fax +43 6583 20209

Oliver J. Nägele

ISC International Sports Consulting Ltd
Heiligkreuz 15
FL - 9490 Vaduz
Tel. +423 235 50 53
Fax +423 235 50 55
Mobile +423 777 6371

The Panel furthermore approved the licence renewal request of Karlheinz Reinartz, Germany, for a new eight-year period.



Günter Bachmann (left) shakes hands with George Gregoriou.



News

from member associations

ARMENIA



Festive opening of mini-pitch

On 26 November, hundreds of people, including many children, from one of the most built-up areas in Yerevan, where hundreds of thousands of people live, enjoyed a real party atmosphere at the opening of their mini-pitch, which had been constructed with the support of the HatTrick programme.

UEFA vice-president Per Ravn Omdal, who had travelled to Yerevan especially for the occasion, the president of the Football Federation of Armenia (FFA), Ruben Hayrapetian, and the mayor of Yerevan attended the ceremony.



The inauguration ceremony.

Against a backdrop of Armenian and UEFA flags, Mr Omdal, the FFA president and the mayor of Yerevan cut the ceremonial ribbon and let the guests and children take their first steps on the mini-pitch. The FFA president also presented kits and footballs to the local boys' team.

A special diploma was awarded to FC Araks by Mr Omdal as the best organiser of UEFA's "European Festival of Grass-roots Football" campaign in Armenia in 2004, and the FFA president also donated 50 footballs to the club. During their discussions with the media, the UEFA vice-president and the FFA president underlined the overall aim of the project to develop and popularise street football among Armenian children, and encourage more children to play football in general.

The mini-pitch will help to regenerate sporting activity in the area, as apart from football, it can also be used for volleyball, basketball, tennis and badminton.

As a result of the excellent cooperation between UEFA and the FFA, the FFA president announced the plan to construct 40 similar mini-pitches in other districts of Yerevan and in different regions of the country.

Arayik Manukjan

BELARUS



15th anniversary of the federation

On 29 November, the Belarus Football Federation (BFF) celebrated its 15th anniversary. In 1989, the BFF became the first sovereign sports federation in Belarus and one of the first post-Soviet football federations to join FIFA (1992) and UEFA (1993).

The 14th Belarus First Division Championship has just concluded. Seven-time winners FC Dinamo Minsk were crowned champions, with FC BATE Borisov taking the runners-up spot and FC Shakhtiyor Soligorsk third place.

Maksim Romashchenko, who is currently playing for FC Dinamo Moscow, was named Belarus player of the season and top scorer.

Elsewhere, the Belarus referee team won this year's Nikolai Latyshev international football tournament in Moscow.

And finally, the Belarus national team has played 11 official and friendly matches this last season (7 wins, 2 draws and 2 defeats), and improved its FIFA ranking in the process.

Alexander Tomin



BFF President Gennady Nevyglas congratulates top league scorer Maksim Romashchenko.

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA



NK Zrinjski in the lead at the halfway stage

In the Bosnia and Herzegovina Premier League, Mostar team NK Zrinjski head the division at the close of the first half of the season on 34 points, two ahead of second-placed FK Zeljeznicar from Sarajevo. NK Zrinjski have only lost one game, away to FK Zeljeznicar. Right from the opening game, NK Zrinjski have been turning in some formidable performances,



The Under-21s caused a surprise against their Croatian counterparts.

with excellent forward play, and Zoran Rajovic netting ten goals so far, making him the team's leading scorer.

At this stage, NK Zrinjski and FK Zeljeznicar are the two main contenders for the title, although NK Siroki Brijeg are not far behind, despite being nine points adrift from the current leaders.

"I feel that we deserve to be top of the league. We are keen to win our first-ever championship, but it will be extremely difficult because FK Zeljeznicar are tough rivals," said NK Zrinjski head coach Franjo Zidic.

FK Sarajevo, FK Sloboda and NK Celik have come in for a nasty surprise this season. All three teams are faltering near the bottom of the league, despite claims before the start of the season that they were all set to challenge for the title.

Meanwhile, the Bosnia and Herzegovina Cup is into its closing phase, with FK Slavija, FK Sarajevo, NK Siroki Brijeg and NK Zrinjski through to the semi-finals in March.

A recurrent occurrence of the season so far has been the replacement



of coaches. NK Celik has already changed coach three times, and only seven of the Premier League clubs still have the same head coach.

All national team activities have been completed for this year. The Under-21s played a friendly match against Croatia, with Zukanovic's side taking the Croatian favourites by surprise and winning 4-0 in Vinkovci. It is worth mentioning that most of the Bosnia and Herzegovina Under-21s play for Bosnian clubs, and only two of them play abroad (Senaid Ibrić for NK Zagreb and Jusuf Dajić for NK Kamen Ingrad).

The Football Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina has played host to Group 3 of the 4th UEFA Regions' Cup qualifying competition. Hosts Semberija-Majevisa-Bjeljina Amateur were pitted against Mid-Cheshire Amateur from England and sides from the Republic of Ireland and San Marino. Republic of Ireland Amateur sealed their place in the finals, and the Bosnia and Herzegovina side came third.

Fuad Kravac

BULGARIA



Mini-pitch inaugurated

The UEFA Executive Committee meeting in Bulgaria in September concluded with the official inauguration of the country's first mini-pitch. Like each of UEFA's 52 member associations, the Bulgarian Football Union (BFU) has been able to benefit from the financial assistance offered by UEFA.

The pupils, teachers and parents present at the Spanish Language School in Sofia on 17 September were thrilled with the new pitch, which was officially inaugurated by UEFA vice-presidents, Per Ravn Omdal and Geoffrey Thompson, and Borislav Mihailov, first vice-president of the BFU.

In his speech, Borislav Mihailov thanked UEFA and its Executive Committee for the gift to mark UEFA's Golden Jubilee.



Hristo Stoitchkov still knows how to kick a ball.

It was a great day for the children, as they had the chance to meet their idol Hristo Stoitchkov, recently appointed head coach of the Bulgarian national team. Stoitchkov was the first person to kick a ball on the mini-pitch; he almost scored from the penalty spot, but the goalkeeper, Mr Omdal, made a fantastic save.

Now the BFU plans to improve its football facilities on an even larger scale. Funds from UEFA's HatTrick Programme will be put towards these projects. Children all over the country are impatient to have their own local mini-pitches, so that they can demonstrate their great love of the game.

Press Office

CROATIA



A vintage year for Croatian football

Another successful year for the Croatian Football Federation (HNS) is coming to a close. After participating in EURO 2004, the national team has got off to a good start in its qualifying campaign for the 2006 FIFA World Cup. The Under-21s have also done well, so far winning all their qualifying matches for the 2004-06 European Under-21 Championship. Managed by new, young head coach, former international Slaven Bilic, the Under-21s have been able to demonstrate some of their wealth of talent. Meanwhile, Croatia's Under-17 and Under-19 teams have high hopes of going far in their respective European championships, both having qualified for the second (elite) round. Elsewhere, the women's Under-19 team have had their first, major success, advancing to the second qualifying round of the European Women's Under-19 Championship. With the creation of an under-16 side, Croatian women's football will soon be competing with the men's teams in terms of results.

Preparations for the HNS's traditional football camp, which brings together and prepares talented young players for the national youth teams, are now also underway. Futsal has also witnessed several success stories. The Croatian Under-19 futsal team are set to make their debut, and several futsal league clubs have formed under-15 and under-18 teams. Many cities in Croatia have built new, high-quality sports halls in order to be able to play futsal.

The development of youth players is a definite priority for the HNS, which intends to promote and further develop various activities within its ongoing youth programmes – Grassroots, Youth Sport Games and Open Fun Football Schools. In particular, the HNS is working so that boys and girls attending 2,315 primary schools can enjoy organised football activities.

Discussions regarding possible changes to the different elements of

Croatia's football competition system have also started. A decision determining the system for the next five years will be taken in spring 2005, and if approved, will be effective from 2006. In any case, the youth competition structure is sure to see certain improvements made.



A busy time for the president of the Croatian FA and his administration.

The HNS's Football Academy is also running well. Training courses are currently in preparation for the third generation of UEFA Pro coaches, who have already obtained the UEFA A licence and have demonstrated excellent results in their work and activities so far. The Academy has also produced a training manual for UEFA A and B coaches. These are the coaches who need most support, and as a result, special importance is given to their training programme. A refresher course is currently being prepared, based on UEFA's course guidelines and with the help of UEFA lecturers, to enable coaches who have followed other training courses to qualify for a UEFA Pro licence.

The HNS has also recently set up its own public relations department, managed by its press officer Ivan Rotim, a well-known journalist. The federation has started work on the production of a weekly half-hour radio show that will be broadcast on the most popular Croatian radio station, Zagreb-based "Narodni Radio". The HNS is also preparing its own monthly magazine to be issued with the popular daily Zagreb newspaper "Jutarnji list".

Ante Pavlovic

ESTONIA



Inauguration at the training centre

On 24 November, an artificial mini-pitch, co-funded by UEFA and the Estonian Football Association (EJL), was inaugurated at the A. Le Coq Arena training centre in Tallinn.

The opening ceremony was attended by UEFA Executive Committee member and Treasurer Mathieu Sprengers, who is also president of the Dutch FA, the mayor of Tallinn, Tõnis Palts, the



president of the EFL, Indrek Kannik, and the head of Tallinn's Sports and Youth Department, Jaak Raie.

Apart from football, the new pitch can also be used for other sports, such as basketball, volleyball, handball and tennis. The construction of this first pitch marks the launch of the EFL's mini-pitch project to build at least 40 similar pitches all over the country in cooperation with local authorities. Agreement has also been reached between the EFL and the Ministry of Culture, which is ready to take part in the project.

Mihkel Uiboleht

FINLAND



50th anniversary of youth skills competition

On 13 and 14 November, the Football Association of Finland, together with the local football association in Åland, organised its annual youth skills event as part of its "All Stars" youth programme. In each age group (10-17 years), there was one participant from each of the 12 football districts in Finland, including boys and girls who had achieved the Finnish FA's gold standard in the regional competitions.

The contest is designed primarily to encourage youngsters to develop their technical skills, rather than trying to find the most skilful.



The juggling exercise in the youth skills event.



Depending on the age group, each participant performs five or six different exercises, from dribbling and crossing to heading, passing, dribbling and shooting, juggling, long-range shooting and slaloming between posts. The results for each activity are added together to give an overall individual score. The three participants with the best scores win medals and other prizes, except for the 10- and 11-year-olds, who each receive a medal. Based on the individual results, the best-scoring district also gets an award.

Alongside the youth skills event, the Finnish FA also organises a ball-juggling contest, in which the participants have 90 seconds to demonstrate their ball-juggling technique in a 10m² area.

This year was the golden jubilee of the skills competition, in which such well-known names as Sami Hyypiä (Liverpool FC), Mikael Forssell (Birmingham City) and Joonas Kolkka (Crystal Palace) have taken part in the past. The 2004 competition took place in an indoor arena in Eckerö on the island of Åland, between Finland and Sweden. As a result, most of the participants first had to travel to the city of Turku and then take a ferry to Åland. Many of the younger participants, in particular, were cheered on by their own supporters, which created a fantastic atmosphere in the arena. Next year's event will be organised by the district of Keski-Pohjanmaa in Kokkola.

Jukka Salasuo

GERMANY



Stadium violence under discussion

For 20 years, we have witnessed a phenomenon in Europe's football stadiums whereby a minority use the arenas as a platform for violent and discriminatory action. Even if it is only a minority who cause these disturbances when compared with the millions of people who regularly enjoy football in a peaceful manner, the dissonance is too loud to be ignored, and the social damage too great to be disregarded.

"Football has had a fantastic impact on society, but of course it's not beyond reproach. The game also mirrors some of the less pleasant aspects of our society and so we have to identify these things that need to be changed," explained Theo Zwanziger, Executive President of the German Football Association (DFB). With this in mind, the DFB, in conjunction with the Littmann cultural projects organisation in Basle, Switzerland, has been put together an exhibition entitled "Kultort Stadion" - Stadium Cult(ure) - which is running in Hall No. 5 of the

Zeche Zollverein complex in Essen until 19 December. The exhibition examines the issue of football hooliganism and takes an original look at the problem, mechanisms and dynamics of such extreme behaviour, making some surprising connections, and also raising questions for discussion.

Visitors are able to gain an insight into football's present-day tightrope walk between gripping emotions and unbridled aggression. "The exhibition doesn't gloss over or try to hide anything; it points out the weaknesses in football today in order to change things and thus improve the health of the game," explained resident expert Prof. Gunter A. Pilz. In the first week alone, over 1,500 people visited the exhibition.

Stephan Brause

ISRAEL



Kicking racism out of football

An extraordinary historical partnership between The FA and the Israel Football Association resulted in a domestic conference that delivered a clear message for all: "Kicking Racism and Violence Out of Football". David Davies, The FA's CEO, and his top team of delegates shared their vast experience and knowledge with a strong crowd of 300 consisting of opinion leaders, clubs, ministers, members of parliament and legislators. IFA Chairman Izhak Menachem pointed to his philosophy for this combat: "Zero tolerance for racism and violence, in all shapes and aspects of the game".

After 55 years, the national team won in Cyprus for the first time, the fourth game in a row in which valuable points were collected. Together with France and Ireland, Israel currently share top position in Group 4, with eight points from four games. Second in their group at present, the Under-21 national team are matching the achievements of the other youth teams: The Under-19s (men and women) and Under-17s have already made it through the first qualifying stages of their respective UEFA championships.

In a new project that was recently launched, 12 former national football coaches and players will scout and locate talented young players. From more than 2,500 players representing 100 clubs, 30 gifted players will be chosen to create the skeleton of the "gifted team". A new scientific approach will be applied to evaluate players' performances and will help our professional scouts to identify the players of tomorrow.

Alon Zager



FYR MACEDONIA



Club licensing system approved

November was a very busy month for the Football Association of FYR Macedonia. Apart from the national teams' qualifying campaigns for various international competitions, the association has been involved in numerous activities during the hectic end-of-year period. On top of that, the first phases of the domestic championships have been winding up.

Following a thorough audit of its licensing administration by the international auditing company SGS from 22 to 24 November, the Football Association of FYR Macedonia has been given the go-ahead to start issuing licences to its clubs in accordance with UEFA's criteria.

The first half of the 13th Macedonian domestic championship wound up before Christmas, with new regulations in force, according to which the bottom two teams in the first division will be automatically relegated at the end of the season, while the two teams which finish third and fourth from bottom will contest play-off matches against the teams which finish third and fourth from the top in the second division. If the second division teams win the play-offs, they will be promoted.

On first analysis, it looks as if Macedonian football has finally found the right competition system. The fight for survival at the bottom has become even more interesting than the title challenge, with two of our best clubs, FC Sloga Jugomagnat and FC Sileks, currently trying to avoid the drop.

For the first time, FC Rabotnicki Kometal have been crowned autumn champions by a wide margin. But there are still many difficult matches ahead in the spring before they can reach their goal of winning their first championship title. And of course, five-time winners FC Vardar and current champions FC Pobeda are waiting in the wings in case they make any mistakes.

Zoran Nikolovski

MALTA



Laying solid coach education foundations

Young footballers have to be groomed and nurtured, and talent is honed through proper coaching, which is the basis for the development of a footballer's individual skills within the collective framework of the team.

In this respect, the Malta Football Association's Technical Centre is the hub of various coach education courses, reflecting its commitment to provide those who aspire to take up coaching as a career with a solid, technical and psychological grounding in the subject.



A-licence course.

Starting with the foundation course, from which students can go on to follow the "Coaching Young Footballers" course, the Youth Development Diploma and the Club Coach Certificate, the range of programmes on offer is designed to prepare candidates for higher-level coaching licences. The Technical Division, which is located in the national stadium complex, is operational throughout the year, regularly enlisting highly qualified external instructors to run UEFA 'B' and 'A' Licence courses.

Prospective coaches have to start from the basic levels, and after qualifying for their first certificates – for which they have to sit difficult theoretical and practical exams – they can then put their qualifications into practice by coaching at nursery level.

Ultimately, the centre plans to offer further diploma courses at higher levels, which would open new doors to coaches with the ambition to climb the ladder.

The initial coaching courses have been running for a number of years, and, as a result, there has been a marked improvement in the standard of football at nursery and youth levels in Malta.

The recent results of the Maltese national teams in the European Under-17 and Under-19 Championship mini-tournaments confirm the recent progress of the island's footballers at these levels. The latest UEFA rankings for these categories put Malta ahead of some of the bigger and more established European countries, credit for which is due largely to the association's coach education programme.

Alex Vella

REPUBLIC OF IRELAND



Change of leadership

The Football Association of Ireland is on the hunt for a new Chief Executive, following the departure of Fran Rooney, who had been in the job for 17 months, since June 2003.

The position was advertised before the end of the year. In the meantime, the Honorary Treasurer John Delaney has agreed to fill the role on an interim basis. He has also intimated that he would be interested in retaining the position permanently.

In agreeing to step into the breach in a temporary capacity, Mr Delaney said that his immediate priority *"was to accelerate the reform process within the Football Association of Ireland."*

"The key short-term priorities are to move the organisational structure changes forward, to improve relationships with all our stakeholders and to begin the process of developing a business plan," he said.

He also stressed that the association's relationships with the Irish Department of Sport, the Irish Sports Council and the Government were fundamental to the future successful development of football in Ireland.

Pointing out that the issue of funding was critical, he acknowledged that the management of the association's image and its actions were the key factors in the generation of funds, whether from the Government or from commercial sponsors.



"If we are to increase participation, provide facilities for our children and make an impact on the health and well-being of our community, we need to ensure continuity of funding into the long term," he added.

He admitted that the image of the association had been damaged, as it had come through a turbulent period, but he emphasised that the Football Association of Ireland was reforming.

"We have been changing. Not as fast or as fully as we planned, but we remain committed to getting the reform process back on track," he affirmed.

Mr Delaney declared that was looking forward to taking on the challenge at such a critical time.

"The association needs some stability right now. It's time for simply getting on with our business for the football community, and I see my role as providing the leadership for all those involved in the game throughout the country as we face the tasks which lie ahead," he added.

Mr Delaney was also aware that "we have a lot to do but with the right support we can also achieve a lot.

"We'll work as hard as we can as a team to gain the support of the Government, our sponsors, our staff, the football family and the general public.

"If we do, we can bring about real benefits for future generations of those who play the game in Ireland," he concluded.

Brendan McKenna

ROMANIA



FC Steaua Bucharest on a roll

You have to go back to 1993 to find the last time that a Romanian club qualified for the final stages of a European competition.

However, this season FC Steaua Bucharest have been enjoying a tremendous run in the UEFA Cup, winning 5-4 on aggregate (4-2 and 1-2) against FC Zeleznik Belgrade in the second qualifying round, and 4-3 on aggregate (2-0 and 2-2) against CSKA Sofia in the first round. The Romanian club then made home advantage count in their Group B matches by beating Standard de Liège (2-0) and Besiktas JK (2-1). They did not do so well away from home though, losing 1-0 against both Parma FC and Athletic Club Bilbao.

This excellent European form is part of the wider success of Steaua's Italian coach Walter Zenga, who is now in his second coaching position in Romanian football, having previously spent a season and a half with FC National Bucharest. Before the start of the season, Zenga replaced Victor Piturca, who is favourite to take over as national coach following Anghel Iordanescu's resignation after the 1-1 stalemate against Armenia in Yerevan.

At domestic level, Zenga can also be proud of his team's amazing success in the league. As the championship enters its winter break, FC Steaua Bucharest head the table, having suffered only two defeats, and stand six points ahead of their nearest rivals, who include former champions FC Dinamo Bucharest, FC National Bucharest, FC Farul Constanta and FC Rapid Bucharest. Under Zenga's command, FC Steaua Bucharest's only setback this season has been a 1-0 defeat against second division side Universitatea Cluj in the last 16 of the Romanian Cup.

Zenga's in-form side includes Belarus goalkeeper Vasile Khamutovski, their only foreign player, and the other goalkeeper, Gheorghe Martin Tudor, as well as defenders Sorin Ghionea and Matei Mirel Radoi, considered to be the best player in the league, half-backs Florentin Dumitru, Nicolae Dica and Sorin Paraschiv, and forwards Daniel Oprita and Adrian Neaga.

Dan Cristea

SLOVENIA



Under-19 mini-tournament

The Football Association of Slovenia has organised another qualifying mini-tournament, this time for Group 3 of the 2004/05 European Under-19 Championship. Aside from the hosts, Germany, Latvia, and Serbia and Montenegro were also involved in the matches, which were played at the grounds of first and second division clubs Celje, Maribor, Velenje and Kidricevo. Serbia and Montenegro, and Germany qualified for the next stage of the competition, as group winners and runners-up respectively. Slovenia finished in third place, after suffering a major setback in their first and only match played at the new Arena Petrol stadium in Celje, losing 3-0 to Germany.

In their second match, a deflated Slovenia were again beaten, this time 4-2 by Serbia and Montenegro, thus ruining their chances of qualification. Their third and final match, against Latvia, saw better play and a 2-1 win to end their campaign.

From an organisational perspective, this was another very successful tour-

nament; all teams were highly satisfied with the training facilities, accommodation and match arrangements.

Irena Ilesic Cujovic

SWEDEN



Awards ceremony

Sweden's annual football awards gala ended the domestic football season in November. Sports personalities were in attendance to celebrate the footballing year. UEFA President Lennart Johansson and former footballer Thomas Bodström – today Swedish Minister of Justice – were invited to present the awards to the Coaches of the Year.

Two veterans were named Swedish Players of the Year, and both had received the award before. Henrik Larsson was also Player of the Year in 1998. This year, after his national team comeback, he received the award "...for his decisive efforts in the national team, for Celtic and Barcelona. With his loyalty and qualities, Henrik was one of the key players in EURO 2004."



Left to right: Lennart Johansson, the two Coaches of the Year, Thomas Dennerby (Djurgården/Alvsjö) and Jan Andersson (Halmstads BK), as well as Thomas Bodström.

Kristin Bengtsson received the award for the first time in 1994. After a successful season with the national team, and after winning the double with her club Djurgården/Alvsjö, she received the same accolade again this year "...for energetic and decisive efforts for her club and for being 'Sweden's best player in the Olympics'."

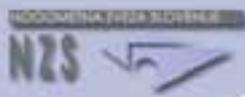
Although the domestic season ended in November, with Malmö FF winning their first league title in 16 years and Djurgårdens IF winning the cup final, four Swedish teams still have matches to look forward to. The new Scandinavian league, the Royal League, involving the top clubs from Sweden, Norway and Denmark, has started. Hopefully it will be a good preparation for next year's international club competitions.

Press Office



Slovenia vs Latvia.

TAKA



SWITZERLAND



New coaching appointments in the women's game

Changes are afoot at the helm of the women's national and Under-19 teams, following the retirement of Jost Leuzinger, former Swiss championship player and current Technical Director of the Regional Football Association of Eastern Switzerland, who has spent four-and-a-half years as coach of the senior women's national side. In recent years, Leuzinger injected a great deal of new blood into the team and laid the foundations for a successful future.

Acknowledging

Leuzinger's services to Swiss women's football, the Executive Committee of the Swiss Football Association (SFV) has announced that Beatrice von Siebenthal (photo) will succeed him from 1 January.

Until now, Von Siebenthal, head of the women's football department at the SFV, has been doing a first-rate job as coach of the Under-19s, who qualified for the finals of the European Women's Under-19

Championship in 2003 and 2004, and have already negotiated their way smoothly through the first qualifying round of this season's competition, leaving them in an excellent position to reach the finals again.

Meanwhile, former assistant coach Claudio Taddei takes over the Under-19 team. As Technical Director of the Solothurn Regional Football Association and a fellow coach with Von Siebenthal at the SFV's girls' training centre in Huttwil, Taddei knows the players well and will be able to continue with his good work in this new position.

At the level of the newly established Under-17 team, there are no changes on the horizon, and Susanne Gubler will carry on with her promising work with the girls.

Pierre Benoit

TURKEY



First mini-pitch inaugurated

UEFA's scheme to give children the possibility to play football anywhere, anytime, saw its first results in Turkey, when the first-ever mini-pitch built by the UEFA and Turkish Football Association (TFA) was opened at a fantastic ceremony held on 13 November. The TFA plans to build 100 mini-pitches in Turkey over the coming year.

The opening ceremony was attended by a number of high-level representatives, including Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan, who cut the ribbon.



Prime Minister Erdogan shows off his ball skills.

He is the first Prime Minister to date to have inaugurated a mini-pitch in Europe, underlining the importance the Turkish authorities give to youth programmes. The Prime Minister also got involved in the action on the pitch, recalling his days as a professional footballer.

UEFA vice-president Senes Erzik, Minister for Youth and Sports Mehmet Ali Sahin, and TFA President Levent Bicackci also took part in the opening ceremony. In his speech, the Prime Minister emphasised the long-term support the government plans to give to sports and youth development. UEFA has contributed CHF 1 million to support the Turkish project and also financed the first mini-pitch.

Ilker Ugur

UKRAINE



Oleg Blokhin meets the media

On the eve of the international match between Turkey and Ukraine, the Football Federation of Ukraine (FFU) invited Ukrainian media representatives to a press conference with head coach Oleg Blokhin. It was the first time that journalists had been given such an opportunity to meet the head coach for open discussions on a range of issues, and the meeting was such a success that all those present agreed that the constructive dialogue and excellent cooperation should be continued.

Aware of the different kinds of problems experienced by its clubs and of the complexity of the club licensing process, the FFU is organising courses for



Mini-pitch inauguration.

key officials from first and second division clubs and has promised to continue to offer its full, active support and solidarity to all clubs.

By the end of November, the FFU had installed 370 artificial mini-pitches out of the 400 that were expected to be in place by the end of the year. As the artificial turf was the only material being supplied from abroad, the mini-pitches were constructed relatively quickly. Each of the association's 27 regions has been provided free of charge with 10-15 mini-pitches, thanks also to the support of the Ukrainian government. Next year, the local authorities plan to install an additional ten mini-pitches in each of the 27 regions.

Valeriy Nykonenko

WALES



A new national coach

The year 2004 ended on a high note in Wales, with the official opening of the UEFA jubilee mini-pitch at Canal Park, Cardiff Bay on 2 December. The opening ceremony was conducted by UEFA vice-president Geoffrey Thompson, who was accompanied by the Right Honourable Deputy Lord Mayor of the City and County of Cardiff, and FAW President Tegwyn Evans MBE.

The project, which was funded with significant assistance from UEFA, will be the first of 42 mini-pitches that the FAW plans to locate throughout the Principality. The intention is for each of the 22 local authorities to be allocated two mini-pitches. These will obviously assist with the development of young players in Wales, both male and female.

It was indeed the Wales Under-19 girls who proved to be the most successful during the autumn period, progressing to the second qualifying round of their UEFA championship, which is due to be staged in the Netherlands from 25 April to 1 May 2005 in the form of a mini-group also involving Greece and Finland. Manager Andy Beattie was delighted to see his side progress through a strong first qualifying round group, finishing runners-up to hosts England, ahead of Romania and Bulgaria.

Welsh fans will be hoping to see an upturn in the fortunes of the senior team in 2005, following the appointment of a new national coach, John Toshack, after the departure of Mark Hughes. Prior to a long and successful managerial career, both in Wales, with Swansea City, and Spain, where he managed Real Madrid and Real Sociedad, Toshack gained 40 international caps and scored 12 goals for his country. He will head a strong managerial team, which will include his former assistant at Real Sociedad, Salva Iriarte, and former Liverpool manager Roy Evans.

John Deakin



Communications

Birthdays – Calendar

Birthdays

Robert Sterckx (Belgium), member of the Match Delegates Panel, celebrates his 60th birthday on 3 January, followed on 5 January by David Collins (Wales), member of the Licensed Match Agents Panel, on 17 January by Sune Hellströmer (Sweden), member of the Club Competitions Committee, and on 24 January by Pat Quigley (Republic of Ireland), another member of the Match Delegates Panel. Boris Bogus (Moldova), member of the Fair Play and Ethics Panel, reaches the half-century mark on 5 January, as does Fabrizio Tonelli (Italy), member of the Futsal Committee on 18 January. UEFA also wishes many happy returns to:

- Necdet Cobanli (Turkey, 1.1)
- Vlatko Markovic (Croatia, 1.1)
- Malcolm Moffatt (Northern Ireland, 1.1)
- Torben Mogensen (Denmark, 1.1)
- Robert Coar (England, 2.1)
- Jerzy Gos (Poland, 2.1)
- Monica Ortigueira (Switzerland, 2.1)
- Gerhard Sager (Sweden, 3.1)
- Alexei Spirin (Russia, 4.1)
- Mariano Moreno (Spain, 6.1)
- Walter Clarke (Northern Ireland, 6.1)
- Franco Ferrari (Italy, 9.1)
- Guido Cornella (Switzerland, 10.1)
- Tullio Lanese (Italy, 10.1)
- Andrzej Libich (Poland, 11.1)
- Sergei Ilyich (Belarus, 13.1)

- Alessandro Lulli (Italy, 15.1)
- Friedrich Stickler (Austria, 18.1)
- Lars-Åke Lagrell (Sweden, 20.1)
- Pedro Galán Nieto (Spain, 20.1)
- Anders Mattsson (Finland, 21.1)
- Angel María Villar Llona (Spain, 21.1)
- Maria Teresa Andreu Grau (Spain, 21.1)
- Bernd Heynemann (Germany, 22.1)
- Teuvo Holopainen (Finland, 23.1)
- Harry Been (Netherlands, 23.1)
- Eliane Cremona (Luxembourg, 24.1)
- Metin Kazancioglu (Turkey, 26.1)
- Krister Malmsten (Sweden, 27.1)
- Mircea Cojocari (Moldova, 27.1)
- Milo Corcoran (Republic of Ireland, 30.1)
- Cosimo Bolognino (Italy, 30.1)

Upcoming events

MEETINGS

19.1.2005, Manchester

Draw for the final round of the European Women's Championship

25.1.2005, Nyon

Club Licensing Panel

26.1.2005, Nyon

Professional Football Committee

27.1.2005, Nyon

Football for the Disabled Panel

31.1-3.2.2005, France

Referee courses

New publications

THE SCOTTISH FOOTBALL REVIEW 2004/05

The scope, accuracy and reliability of facts is more important to the statistician than the way in which they are presented, but none will complain if the presentation matches the information contained in a work. The 25th Scottish Football Review does just that. It also contains more statistics than ever before. Packed with illustrations and tables, the clear lay-out of this official handbook of Scottish football makes it a pleasure to consult. The review costs £9.95 and can be ordered at www.scottishfa.co.uk or from CRE8 (UK) Ltd, tel. +44-1993 822811, email slf@cre8ing.com.

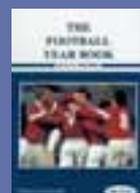


HISTORIA E KAMPIONATEVE NË SHQIPËRI 1939-42

Details of all Albanian championships from 1939 to 1942 have been compiled by journalist Besnik Dizdari in this 150-page work in Albanian which is of historical value since virtually no information about the three championships played under Italian occupation has been available before. (Futbollit Shqiptar Magazine, P.O. Box 8273, Tirana, Albania; email dizdarib@san.com.al)

THE FOOTBALL YEAR BOOK – MALTA 2004/2005

This almanac published by Lewis Portelli is always a pleasure to read as an insight into Maltese football, which may not hit the headlines but is developing steadily in its own quiet way. This 18th edition follows the same format as usual, with results, line-ups and other facts compiled in its 220 pages, interspersed with photos. (Tel./fax: +356-21435338, email lewport@maltanet.net)



Notices

UEFA vice-president Angel Maria Villar Llona has been returned to office as president of the Spanish Football Federation (RFEF) for a further four-year term.

Obituary

Alexandre Velez (Bulgaria), member of the UEFA Appeals Body from 1994 to 2002, passed away on 21 November aged 81. He also served as a UEFA delegate.

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

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européennes de football

