Number 100

Three trophies to conquer

08/2010
In March 1956, a little less than two years after UEFA was founded, vice-president Gustav Sebes suggested to the Executive Committee that a quarterly UEFA bulletin be produced in the three UEFA official languages, English, French and German, and circulated to all national member associations.

His idea was accepted and, in May 1956, the maiden issue of the Official Bulletin came out. In his message on the first page, the UEFA president, Ebbe Schwartz, set out the publication’s aims as being to ensure “that the national associations of our continent may be informed of news and problems which occur within our continent.”

From May 1956 to December 2001, 177 issues of the Official Bulletin were published. During this time, the magazine grew in size, expanded its readership and opened up its pages to contributions from the national associations, enabling them to share their news with their fellow UEFA members.

Between 1970 and 1991, the magazine was supplemented by UEFA Information, a bimonthly newsletter, the primary purpose of which was to relay results and official UEFA information to the media. With the advance of communication technology, this newsletter was phased out while, as a quarterly publication, the Bulletin, which went colour at the start of the 1990s, struggled to keep up with the increasingly wide and diverse range of UEFA activities.

In May 1991, a new four-page publication, UEFA Flash, took up the baton from UEFA Information, supplementing the more general content of the Official Bulletin with monthly updates on UEFA’s activities.

In April 2002, the Official Bulletin and UEFA Flash were merged to form a new monthly magazine. Less focused on day-to-day news, which is covered in detail on UEFA.com, but remaining loyal to the original mission of the Bulletin, uefadirect continues to provide a platform for the member associations.

To mark the occasion of this, its 100th issue, uefadirect has a new design and a slightly modified name: UEFA-direct. The changes are designed to underline the complementary relationship between the magazine and UEFA’s official website, UEFA.com.

Like UEFA.com, UEFA-direct is meant to be a platform where members of the European football family can share their views and stories. Any comments, information or suggestions are therefore most welcome. Write to uefadirect@uefa.ch.
By making its first visit to Africa, the World Cup further boosted the extraordinary impact of football. The tournament also demonstrated the excellent state of health of European football, which, thanks to Spain, was able to celebrate winning the World Cup outside Europe for the first time. Above all, however, the presence of Germany, the Netherlands and Spain in the semi-finals gave a fantastic sign of encouragement to every national association which, like Europe’s three semi-finalists, has been making youth player development its top technical priority and which has decided to encourage attacking football and playing to win.

European football must always avoid the temptation to rest on its laurels and, instead, constantly strive to do better, in order to be a successful match for opponents who are also constantly raising the level of their game. The key to success is player development, which also means giving talented young players the possibility to gain experience in top competitions, which are certainly not lacking in Europe.

The season that is just kicking off will provide further proof of that, as Europe’s national teams embark on their UEFA EURO 2012 qualifying campaigns. Some will be seeking to consolidate their World Cup performances, while others have to rebuild teams that are a force to be reckoned with.

As for the clubs, apart from their domestic championship, the top names will again be enjoying the unique experience of playing in the UEFA club competitions. For them, the temptation to call on experienced players rather than talented youngsters is no doubt greater. Hopefully though, they will take inspiration from the example of the national teams and give talented young players the possibility to improve and develop by playing alongside more experienced footballers – for the good of European football and out of respect for financial fair play.

Michel Platini
UEFA President
Triumphant Europeans prepare for battle

Spain, world champions having beaten another European team, the Netherlands, in the final, with Germany winning the bronze medal: never before has Europe enjoyed such success at a World Cup played on a different continent. Having asserted their supremacy, the Europeans are set to battle it out among themselves in the qualifying competition for UEFA EURO 2012, to be held in Poland and Ukraine. Each group winner and the best runner-up will qualify directly, while the remaining four places will be filled by the winners of play-off matches between the eight other group runners-up.

Even without their remarkable run at the World Cup, which ended with a deserved bronze medal, Germany would have been considered the big favourites in Group A, where Turkey are expected to be their closest rivals. Joachim Löw will be hoping to continue where his side left off in South Africa, although he will have to solve the problem that might result from Michael Ballack’s return to the squad. Meanwhile, with Guus Hiddink at the helm, the Turks, who were prominent World Cup absentees, will attempt to contest the Germans’ supremacy. However, Belgium, whose coach, Georges Leekens, is rebuilding a team that has spent a long time in the wilderness, cannot be discounted, along with Didi Constantini’s Austria, who have a very difficult task ahead. As for Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan, who both have German coaches in charge, they will be hoping to cause an upset or two.

Russia and Slovakia favourites

In Group B, Russia and Slovakia will be the favourites, although they will face a tough challenge from the Republic of Ireland, who have a score to settle since being eliminated in the World Cup play-offs. With Russia, Dick Advocaat will have the difficult task of trying to succeed where Hiddink, his fellow Dutchman, failed. The Slovaks caused a World Cup shock by knocking out Italy in the group phase before an honourable defeat to the Netherlands in the round of 16. They will need to be taken very seriously, as will the Irish, who, coached by the old sorcerer, Giovanni Trapattoni, will once again be pulling out all the stops. However, they will have to be careful not to drop points against Armenia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Andorra, who, although they are bound to have their work cut out, are improving all the time.

Italy’s elimination from the World Cup, where they finished bottom of their group, was viewed as a national disgrace. They...
will have to set the record straight quickly under Cesare Prandelli. However, Serbia, who also had a disappointing time in South Africa apart from a win over Germany, are likely to be serious contenders. Meanwhile, Slovenia once again demonstrated their potential at the World Cup and Nigel Worthington’s Northern Ireland are certainly capable of spoiling a party or two. Estonia and the Faroe Islands are the real outsiders in Group C.

New start for France

After hitting rock bottom at the recent World Cup, France will be desperate to get off to a good start under Laurent Blanc and to finish as Group D winners. Les Bleus will face tough competition from Romania, who, with Razvan Lucescu at the helm, will be hoping to qualify for the final round, as they did in 2008. The same aim will be shared by Belarus, who are progressing under the leadership of Bernd Stange, and Bosnia-Herzegovina, who were only knocked out of the World Cup in the play-offs and are now coached by Safet Susic. Albania and Luxembourg will hope to make life awkward for the group favourites, as they did very successfully in the World Cup qualifiers.

As World Cup runners-up, the Netherlands will be the hot favourites in Group E. However, they will need to be wary of Sweden, who have a new coach in Erik Hamren and are seeking to make up for recent disappointments. Sandor Egervari’s Hungary will try to revive former glories, which are fading into the increasingly distant past, while Finland, with Stuart Baxter in charge, will hope finally to qualify for a European Championship final round. Although the odds will be stacked against Moldova and San Marino, overconfidence could prove costly against these teams with nothing to lose.

Change in Greece

Croatia and Greece are the favourites in Group F. Having failed by a single point to reach the World Cup play-offs, Croatia will have their sights fixed high with Slaven Bilic at the helm. After the Rehhagel era, which included a European Championship title, Greece have changed direction completely with the appointment of the Portuguese Fernando Santos as coach. Just as they did in the last World Cup qualifying phase, the Greeks will face Latvia and Israel (coached by Frenchman Luis Fernandez), who are both sure to be hoping for better things this time round. Georgia and Malta will be keen to do more than just make up the numbers.

England, who have decided to retain Fabio Capello as coach despite a disappointing World Cup, are expected to win Group G, where they will face a Switzerland side used to big-match occasions. However, apart from a win over world champions Spain, Ottmar Hitzfeld’s team failed to convince in South Africa. Bulgaria, led by Stanimir Stoilov, will hope to qualify for the final round again after missing out in 2008.

A title for Spain to defend

In Group H, Portugal will have to keep a particularly close eye on Denmark, who also made it to South Africa, and Norway. Under the baton of Egil Olsen, the Norwegians will hope for a smoother path than the one they trod in the World Cup qualifiers, when the Netherlands stood in their way. Cyprus and Iceland may not be favourites, but they certainly intend to play their part.

Finally, it is hard to foresee anyone other than world champions Spain finishing top of Group I. The main danger for the Spaniards will be posed by the Czech Republic, who missed the World Cup and will be making a fresh start under the leadership of Michal Bilek. Scotland, coached by Craig Levein, will be determined to show their fighting spirit, while Lithuania will hope to continue their progress under the watchful eye of Raimondas Zutautas. For their part, Liechtenstein will remember that they held Portugal to a draw at home during the 2006 World Cup qualifiers.

André Winckler

> www.uefa.com/uefaeuro2012
# UEFA Champions League

## Groups

### Group A
- FC Bayern München
- Juventus
- FC Girondins de Bordeaux
- Malacka Plaza FC

### Group B
- Manchester United FC
- VfL Wolfsburg
- PFC CSKA Moskva
- Besiktas JK

### Group C
- AC Milan
- FC Zurich
- Real Madrid CF
- Olympique de Marseille

### Group D
- APOEL FC
- Chelsea FC
- FC Porto
- Club Atlético de Madrid

### Group E
- ACF Fiorentina
- Liverpool FC
- Debreceni VSC
- Olympique Lyonnais

### Group F
- FC Rubin Kazan
- FC Internazionale Milano
- FC Barcelona
- FC Dynamo Kyiv

### Group G
- FC Unirea Urziceni
- VfB Stuttgart
- Rangers FC
- Sevilla FC

### Group H
- Arsenal FC
- Olympiacos FC
- AZ Alkmaar
- RSC Standard de Liège

## Participations and Bonuses

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The clubs’ share of the revenue

Last season’s UEFA Champions League differed from the previous season in a couple of ways. First, in sporting terms, it had a different qualifying format and, second, on the commercial front, it marked the start of a new three-year cycle and increased revenue. The table on the left shows how the clubs’ share of almost €750 million was divided up.

The amounts paid to the 32 participating clubs depend on how far they go in the competition and, as well as on the value of their domestic TV markets.

Solidity payments to national associations for the clubs involved in the 2009/10 UEFA club competition qualifying rounds

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<td>NORWAY</td>
<td>1 180 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POLAND</td>
<td>960 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PORTUGAL</td>
<td>270 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REPUBLIC OF IRELAND</td>
<td>870 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ROMANIA</td>
<td>360 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RUSSIA</td>
<td>490 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SAN MARINO</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
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<td>SERBIA</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLOVAKIA</td>
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<tr>
<td>SLOVENIA</td>
<td>910 000</td>
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<tr>
<td>SPAIN</td>
<td>90 000</td>
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<tr>
<td>SWEDEN</td>
<td>960 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SWITZERLAND</td>
<td>360 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TURKEY</td>
<td>580 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UKRAINE</td>
<td>670 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WALES</td>
<td>600 000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

TOTAL 34 360 000

Solidarity payments

Part of the UEFA Champions League revenue is reserved to finance the solidarity payments made to those clubs eliminated in the club competition qualifying stages. As far as the UEFA Champions League is concerned, the following amounts were allocated:

– €200 000 for each domestic champion which failed to reach the group stage;
– €130 000 per club for each qualifying round played, i.e. a maximum of €390 000 altogether – however, only those clubs that were knocked out in the third qualifying round were entitled to the €130 000 earmarked for that particular qualifying round since, instead of this solidarity payment, the clubs that qualified for the play-offs received a bonus of €2.1 million and by moving across into the UEFA Europa League, the losers of the play-offs earned the group match payments related to that competition.
Off to a promising start

By general consensus, the first edition of the UEFA Europa League has fulfilled its objective of successfully replacing the UEFA Cup, not least in financial terms, having generated almost €135 million in revenue for the participating clubs.

A clearer competition format, which sees 12 groups of 4 teams instead of the UEFA Cup’s 8 groups of 5, was without doubt one of the major factors in the positive reviews that the first edition of the Europa League received. Moreover, the centralised sale of TV rights from the group stage onwards enabled sizeable payments to be made to the participating clubs, split, as in the UEFA Champions League, into bonuses for participation and results, as well as further sums tied to the national market value of the clubs involved.

- Each club that reached the group stage was rewarded with a bonus of €600,000.
- For each match contested during this stage, each club received €50,000, making a total of €300,000 for the six group matches.
- In addition, clubs received a further €120,000 for a win and €60,000 for a draw. Only FC Salzburg earned a maximum €720,000, with six wins out of six.
- Clubs that reached the last 32 each received €180,000.
- Clubs progressing to the last 16 netted an additional €270,000.
- The quarter-finalists each received a further €360,000.
- The four semi-finalists each received €630,000.
- The winners of the final, Club Atlético de Madrid, received €3 million, while the runners-up, Fulham FC, received €2 million.

All of the clubs involved in the group stage, as well as the eight clubs that crossed over from the group stage of the UEFA Champions League, received a share of the market pool of €54 million, which was divided into two equal parts.

- The first part was distributed based on the value of the media rights in each country and was reserved for each national association represented in the group stage, which divided its share equally between its participating clubs, except in the case of the winners of the domestic cup competition, who were entitled to a bigger slice.
- The second half of the pot was divided up between the rounds of the competition, from the group stage to the final. The amount allocated to each round was then split between the associations represented in the round, calculated according to the value of the national media rights, and this amount was in turn divided by the number of clubs from that association which were involved in the round.

As in the UEFA Champions League, the clubs involved in the Europa League were entitled to retain all their gate receipts.

Payments for the qualifying rounds

Clubs that were eliminated during the qualifying rounds of the UEFA Europa League received solidarity payments, allocated as follows:

- all clubs involved in the qualifying rounds, irrespective of whether they qualified for the group stage, received €90,000 per round, making a possible maximum of €270,000;
- each club eliminated during the play-offs received €90,000.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Groups</th>
<th>Clubs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Group A</strong></td>
<td>RSC Anderlecht, AFC Ajax, FC Twente, NK Dinamo Zagreb</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Group B</strong></td>
<td>SK Slavia Praha, LOSC Lille Métropole, Valencia CF, Genoa CFC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Group C</strong></td>
<td>Hamburger SV, Hapoel Tel-Aviv FC, Celtic FC, SK Rapid Wien</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Group D</strong></td>
<td>Sporting Clube de Portugal, Hertha BSC Berlin, FK Ventspils, SC Heerenveen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Group E</strong></td>
<td>AS Roma, PFC CSKA Sofia, Fulham FC, FC Basel 1893</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Group F</strong></td>
<td>FC Inter 1948 Bucuresti, Panathinaikos FC, Galatasaray AS, SK Sturm Graz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Group G</strong></td>
<td>PFC Levski Sofia, S.S. Lazio, FC Sabburg, Villarreal CF</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Group H</strong></td>
<td>FC Twente, FC Steaua Bucuresti, FC Sion, Tonewalske SK</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Group I</strong></td>
<td>AEK Athens FC, SL Benfica, FC BATE Borisov, Everest FC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Group J</strong></td>
<td>Udinese FC, Club Brugge KV, SK Shalke 04, FK Partizan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Group K</strong></td>
<td>FC Krasnodar, AC Sparta Praha, PSV Eindhoven, CSM 1907 Cluj</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Group L</strong></td>
<td>Werder Bremen, Athletic Club Bilbao, FK Austria Wien, CD Nacional</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total clubs that crossed over from the UEFA Champions League**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Clubs</th>
<th>28 800 000</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FC Utrecht</td>
<td>180 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Club Atlético de Madrid</td>
<td>288 113</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FC Rubin Kazan</td>
<td>1 918 740</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Juventus</td>
<td>1 972 428</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liverpool FC</td>
<td>1 774 208</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Olympique de Marseille</td>
<td>360 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R. Standard de Liège</td>
<td>360 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VfL Wolfsburg</td>
<td>360 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td>134 960 000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
For the first time in the history of the two youth development competitions, the same two teams met in the Under-19 final two years after disputing the Under-17 final.

In Turkey in 2008, Spain ran out convincing 4-0 winners. But the 2010 title went the other way, as the hosts, France, came from 1-0 down to beat the Spaniards 2-1 in a splendid final on 30 July in Caen.

Home soil for the French was Lower Normandy, where local and regional bodies combined with the French Football Federation to stage the tournament in Bayeux, Caen, Flers, Mondeville and Saint-Lô. The tournament proved to be quite a success with the public – attracting over 70,000 spectators at an average of 4,712 per match.

Dramatic final

France and Spain lived up to their pretournament billing as favourites. Their squads featured 19 of the players who had caught the eye in Turkey two years earlier, while the Dutch squad was also based on the side that had taken Spain to extra time in the 2008 semi-finals. However, Wim van Zwam had to reshuffle his defence because of absences – and this was reflected in an opening 4-1 defeat by the hosts, who also won their second match, versus Austria. The Netherlands then bounced back to beat England 1-0 and, with less than five minutes of their last group game remaining, a goalless draw with Austria seemed enough to secure a semi-final place. Even a late penalty converted by the Austrians appeared to have limited relevance, as England were also losing 1-0 to France. But the drama and unpredictability of football was proved again by a 93rd-minute English equaliser – spelling elimination from the tournament for the Dutch, and, as only the top three in each group qualified, from the FIFA U-20 World Cup. That prize went to the plucky Austrian team.

Three wins for Spain

In the other group, Spain took maximum points, playing some excellent attacking football and scoring spectacular goals in the process – including a penalty taken by Ezequiel Calvente with his “standing” leg. Italy, on the other hand, did not score at all, leaving Croatia and Portugal with World Cup places and a battle for the second semi-finalist position. The surprise came when they met on the final matchday, when Croatia hit their stride immediately, steamrolled into a 3-0 half-time lead and, despite a dismissal soon after the break, scored twice more with counterattacks.
They then took an early lead from a free-kick in their semi-final against the hosts and, after Gaël Kakuta had equalised, were defeated seven minutes from time when substitute striker Cédric Bakambu hit the second.

Spain, in the meantime, were producing another entertaining performance against England in a semi-final which could have produced a wider margin than the final 3-1 scoreline.

Huge crowd at the final

Before a huge crowd at the Michel d’Ornano stadium in Caen, Luís Milla’s team carried on where they had left off – playing some attractive combination football and going ahead through central striker Rodrigo Moreno, alias ‘Rodri’. But, as France’s coach, Francis Smerecki, said afterwards, “there was a lot of heart in the second half and that transformed the game. We threw aside the apprehension, the fear of losing, and the tremendous support by the crowd also made a difference.”

After Gilles Sunu had equalised for the hosts, it was, again, a substitute striker who secured victory – Alexandre Lacazette heading the winner which provoked celebrations that continued deep into the night after France’s Norman conquest.

In the semi-finals, Gaël Kakuta of France scores against Croatia (left) and Keko of Spain scores against England (below).

Always a new experience

Those who grumble that it is always the same teams that top the bill in European football need only to look at the UEFA Super Cup, where this is anything but the case.

In the 34 times that it has been played, 35 clubs from 14 national associations have been involved and the match has never featured the same lineup twice.

This year will be no different. The match to be played on 27 August at the Stade Louis II will oppose two teams that have never met in the competition before and the winning club will become the 23rd to have its name engraved on the trophy, neither FC Internazionale Milano, winners of the 2009/10 UEFA Champions League, nor Club Atlético de Madrid, UEFA Europa League titleholders, having ever taken part before. And although Spain have been represented in the match the most times (15 UEFA Super Cups / 5 clubs) and Italy are in third place (12 UEFA Super Cups / 5 clubs) behind England (13 UEFA Super Cups / 6 clubs), Italian and Spanish clubs have only actually come face to face in the competition twice. On both occasions, the trophy went to Italy, thanks to AC Milan, who beat FC Barcelona in 1989 and FC Seville in 2007. AC Milan and FC Barcelona have both played in the UEFA Super Cup a record seven times, while AC Milan hold the record for the number of wins, having lifted the trophy five times.

As usual, the UEFA Super Cup will be the highlight of the traditional season kick-off event in Monaco, which also includes the group draws for the UEFA Champions League and UEFA Europa League.

UEFA Super Cup in Monaco

Atlantic celebrate victory against Fulham in the UEFA Europa League final by throwing their coach, Quique Sanchez Flores, in the air.
Spain clinch European title

Victory in a penalty shoot-out after a goalless final against the Republic of Ireland gave the Spanish women’s U17 team their first European title in a competition previously monopolised by Germany.

Despite seeing more of the ball and creating better chances than the Republic of Ireland, Spain were unable to break the stalemate even in extra time. In extreme heat, the Irish kept the game level for 100 minutes, but fell down in the penalty shootout when their first two attempts were thwarted by the quick reflexes of the Spanish keeper, Dolores Gallardo.

Hard work and determination pay off

Jorge Vilda’s team, who were comprehensively beaten by Germany in the 2009 final, came to Nyon determined not to suffer the same fate as last year and to lift the trophy this time around. Their captain, Amanda Sampedro, whose 17th birthday happened to coincide with this year’s final, will have particularly fond memories of 26 June 2010: “To win on penalties and go up to lift the trophy in front of all those people who had come to support us, and together with all the girls and coaches who have worked so hard together this year, was a massive feeling for me… With hindsight, last year was a valuable lesson and we learned a lot from it. Once we knew we were in the final again, our only thought was to win it this time.”

Inspired Irish

Defeat in the final was particularly hard on the Republic of Ireland, not only because they had conceded no goals in either game, but also because, in the semi-finals, they had been the first team in the history of the competition to beat the favourites, Germany. Ireland’s coach, Noel King, was full of praise for his girls: “My reaction is one of pride, one of enjoyment and delight in the performance of the Irish team. I’m not downhearted.

RESULTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SEMI-FINALS 22.6.2010</th>
<th>0-3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Netherlands – Spain</td>
<td></td>
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<td>Republic of Ireland – Germany</td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>THIRD-PLACE PLAY-OFF 26.6.2010</th>
<th>0-3</th>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FINAL 26.6.2010</th>
<th>0-0, 4-1*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Spain – Republic of Ireland</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Spain win on penalties
as we’ve matched a very good team: Spain are terrific, very technical. We have a different style of play and we held them out. We rode our luck a few times but I couldn’t ask for any more from that bunch of Irish girls.”

Semi-final upset

The Republic of Ireland’s 1-0 victory over Germany in the semi-finals was, without a doubt, the biggest talking point of the final tournament. Ralf Peter’s team were going for a third consecutive title but could not find their way past an inspired Ireland defence and, even when they did push forward, could not find that finishing touch. So, it was Megan Campbell’s screaming, long-distance free-kick just before half-time that earned the Irish their place in the final. In the other semi-final, the technically adept Spaniards, led by playmaker Amanda Sampedro – the pre-eminent player of the tournament – overcame the Netherlands, who were making their tournament debut, with a final score of 3-0.

Last World Cup ticket

Since Europe has three berths at the FIFA U-17 Women’s World Cup in Trinidad and Tobago this September, the third-place play-off was tantamount to a second final. Germany rallied well after the semi-finals and secured the last ticket to the World Cup with a 3-0 victory over Maria van Kortenhof’s Oranje. Spain and the Republic of Ireland had already booked their places by making it into the final.

As in the last two years, UEFA organised the final tournament in Nyon, once again with the help of many a volunteer from the administration. Lots of activities were organised for the young spectators throughout the Colovray sports centre, which UEFA recently took over the management of. On the Saturday of the final, the crowds were particularly excited about the presence of Swiss internationals Johan Djourou and Caroline Abbé, who had come along to sign autographs and present the teams with their medals. Next year’s European Women’s Under-17 Championship final tournament will once again take place in Nyon.

Germany triumph on home turf

Germany are the new U-20 women’s world champions, having reclaimed the title they won in Thailand in 2004, this time as the host nation of the tournament, which took place from 13 July to 1 August.

Marcus Meinart’s team had a remarkable run in the final round, winning all six of their matches, against Costa Rica, Colombia and France in the group stage, Korea DPR in the quarter-finals and Korea Republic in the semi-finals, and Nigeria in the final, which they won 2-0 in Bielefeld on 1 August. In all, they scored an impressive total of 20 goals and conceded only 5. With ten goals to her name, their striker Alexandra Popp was the top scorer in the final round, which earned her the player of the tournament award.

In the third-place play-off, Korea Republic beat Colombia 1-0.

Germany can also be extremely proud of their organisation of the tournament, which attracted huge public interest, average match attendance exceeding 12,000 and total attendance approaching 400,000. The host cities were Augsburg, Bielefeld, Bochum and Dresden.

Four other European teams took part in the tournament, with mixed fortunes. Sweden did well in the group matches, winning two – against New Zealand and Korea DPR – and drawing one – against Brazil – to finish top of their group. However, they fell at the quarter-final stage, where they lost against Colombia. France, who were in the same group as Germany, finished on the same number of points (4) as Colombia but were eliminated on goal difference. The European champions, England, had to make do with a draw against ultimate finalists Nigeria. As for Switzerland, who did not manage a single point or a single goal, the tournament will have been a valuable experience if nothing else.

U-17 Women’s World Cup in September

The FIFA U-17 Women’s World Cup will take place from 5 to 25 September in Trinidad and Tobago. Among the 16 finalists are the gold, silver and bronze medallists from the recent European Women’s Under-17 Championship: Spain, the Republic of Ireland and Germany.

The draw for the final round, which took place in Port of Spain in Trinidad, put the finalists into the following groups:

- **Group A:** Trinidad and Tobago, Chile, Nigeria, Korea DPR
- **Group B:** Germany, Mexico, South Africa, Korea Republic
- **Group C:** New Zealand, Venezuela, Spain, Japan
- **Group D:** Republic of Ireland, Brazil, Canada, Ghana.

UEFA• direct | 08.10
Seminar for doping control officers

Keep up the good work!

UEFA’s doping control officers (DCOs) held their annual seminar at the House of European Football on 14/15 June, and the message to them that emerged from the event was crystal clear – keep up the good work!

The DCOs carry out doping controls on players in all of UEFA’s competitions, and the Nyon seminar centred on the various aspects of what is a crucial job amid UEFA’s concerted drive to rid football of drug-taking.

A total of 46 DCOs attended the seminar. They are medical doctors who perform in and out-of-competition controls in connection with UEFA’s competitions. Their work is an essential cog in the wheel of UEFA’s anti-doping campaign, which has expanded considerably with increased doping controls, out-of-competition testing, and an educational programme at European youth tournaments which is designed to warn young players – who are particularly vulnerable – of the dangers of doping, both for their well-being and their careers.

Comprehensive programme

The seminar delegates heard how the anti-doping campaign is now an integral part of a comprehensive medical programme at UEFA. The Medical Committee keeps an expert eye on the sports medical world under the guidance of its chairman, Dr Michel D’Hooghe. Elite club doctors meet each year for their own forum, the sports medical community meets every four years for the UEFA Medical Symposium, and trends are detected and comparisons made in an invaluable UEFA injury study.

Digital refractometers

The DCOs were informed about amendments in the new UEFA anti-doping regulations, which came into force in early June. The volume of the sample that a player must give during a doping control is still 90ml, and no change has been made to the rule about the specific gravity of samples (which must be 1.005 or higher when measured with a refractometer, or 1.010 or higher when measured with a test strip).

In 2009/10, a number of UEFA DCOs were equipped on a trial basis with digital refractometers to ascertain the best way of gauging the specific gravity of samples. The refractometer offers greater accuracy than test strips. In the wake of positive feedback from players, team personnel and DCOs, and after consultation with the world football body, FIFA, all UEFA DCOs are to be equipped with digital refractometers from the beginning of the 2010/11 campaign.

The chairman of the anti-doping panel, Dr Jacques Liénard, called for continued efforts to eliminate doping from the game. “Although there were so few positive cases, we should not remain indifferent,” he said. “Give no chances to those who cheat.” Jacques Liénard praised the DCOs for their flexibility and devotion to their duty, and encouraged them to maintain the top-quality standards and professional attitude which they had shown until now.

Delegates were given a detailed update of the doping control statistics for the in-competition and out-of-competition testing programmes for both the 2008/09 and 2009/10 European seasons. In 2009/10, 1,098 players had been tested in competition so far, including 612 for EPO – a substance that increases endurance and aids recuperation and physical strength. Three positive cases had been identified – two for the banned substance cathine and one for metabolites of cocaine.

As for out-of-competition tests in 2009/10, 476 players from all 32 teams in the UEFA Champions League group stage had been tested, and all had also been tested for EPO. One positive result for furosemide had been registered.
European Cup Winners’ Cup makes its debut

On 1 August 1960 in Berlin, local side ASK Vorwärts faced Czechoslovakian team Ruda Hvezda (Red Star) in the very first match of a new club competition, the European Cup Winners’ Cup.

The first leg of this preliminary round tie ended in a 2-1 victory for the Germans, but Ruda Hvezda overcame the deficit in Bino to qualify for… the quarter-finals! Their further progress was halted by Dinamo Zagreb.

The first edition of the Cup Winners’ Cup featured only ten teams. The small number of participants (at that time UEFA had 32 members associations) reflects the lack of enthusiasm that the launch of the new competition generated. However, it should also be noted that many of the national associations did not have a domestic cup competition in those days and were therefore unable to enter a representative. Initially, this inaugural edition of the Cup Winners’ Cup was not recognised as an official UEFA competition, since it had been organised by the committee of the Mitropa Cup, a competition launched in 1927 for clubs from central Europe. It was only two years later, in October 1963, that, at the behest of the Italian Football Federation, the European Cup Winners’ Cup organising committee agreed to officially acknowledge the 1960/61 edition, in which ACF Fiorentina had defeated Rangers FC 4-1 over two legs (2-0 away and 2-1 at home), as the first official edition of the competition.

In 1961, UEFA assumed responsibility for organising the competition. The number of teams competing more than doubled (23 teams took part in the 1961/62 edition) and the final, on 10 May, was played on neutral turf in Glasgow (although a replay was required after Atlético de Madrid and Fiorentina ACF played out a 1-1 draw). Both finalists included a number of national team players in their ranks whose services were required that summer for the World Cup finals in Chile. This meant that the replay, which took place in Stuttgart, had to be deferred until 5 September, when Atlético de Madrid produced a convincing 3-0 victory.

The Cup Winners’ Cup continued to prosper for almost 40 years, but eventually, like the two teams who had contested the first ever encounter in the competition back in 1960, it bit the dust. A victim of the success and the formula of the UEFA Champions League, the Cup Winners’ Cup was staged for the final time during the 1998/99 season, after which it was absorbed by the UEFA Cup.

Anti-racism World Cup

From 7 to 11 July, 204 teams, bringing together players from 34 countries, took part in the Anti-racism World Cup, organised with the support of UEFA partner FARE (Football Against Racism in Europe).

The tournament, the 16th of its kind, took place in Casalecchio di Reno near Bologna. Its theme was equal rights, without which integration is not possible.

NEWS FROM BRUSSELS

On 17 June, the European Parliament adopted a resolution on players’ agents in sport, calling on sports governing bodies – at national, European and international levels – to intensify their cooperation with the EU institutions in order to deal with issues connected with the activities of players’ agents.

Although it is not legally binding and cannot therefore change the regulations in force, the resolution sends out a clear message to the European Commission, its member states and the sports movement.

The parliament based its resolution on the study on sports agents in the European Union published at the beginning of the year. Commissioned by the European Commission, this independent study provides an overview of the activities of sports agents, examines the regulation of their activities and concludes with a series of recommendations to the sports movement, the EU institutions and its member states.

The study recommends that “the sport movement must continue to play the leading role in implementing the applicable regulations”. This recommendation is echoed by the parliament’s resolution, which recognises “that federations such as FIFA are entitled to regulate the profession of agents […]”.

It also expresses particular concern about “organised crime with links to players’ agents activities […] detrimental to the image of sport, its integrity and […] its role in society” and, consequently, welcomes “initiatives by some clubs and governing bodies to increase the transparency of financial transactions”.

The parliament also underscores the fact that the sports federations have only “limited supervisory and sanctioning powers, since they lack any means of control or direct action […] to impose civil or criminal penalties” and is convinced that “the effectiveness of control and the enforcement of sanctions can only be tackled by joint efforts of sports governing bodies and public authorities”.

In its opinion, stricter regulation of players’ agents’ activities is necessary, aiming, in particular, at “transparency in agents’ transactions”, “a prohibition for remuneration to players agents related to the transfer of minors”, “an efficient monitoring and disciplinary system” and “a gradual remuneration conditional on the fulfilment of the [player’s] contract”.

A few days before this resolution was adopted, the French parliament passed a law aimed at controlling the activities of match agents, envisaging, in particular, annual checks on agents by the sports federations and the introduction of criminal sanctions going as far as a two-year prison sentence for illegally working as a players’ agent.
Day of Sportsmen

The promotion of grassroots football in Armenia is having a positive impact on football as a sport in general. At the same time, we promote the professional game too, with the aim of getting lots of children interested in football.

The Day of Sportsmen was celebrated on 23 June in the city of Artashat. About 800 local school and kindergarten children took part. The event was organised by the Football Federation of Armenia’s grassroots department in cooperation with the non-governmental organisation Sevan, under the supervision of experienced instructors from the Open Fun Football Schools. All sorts of sports activities were on offer at the city’s stadium, including boxing, wrestling, karate and football, of course. The day ended with a tournament for local football teams. Brightly coloured sports kits and the happy smiles of the children and football fans gave the day a festive atmosphere.

Football was a very popular activity of the Day of Sportsmen. After the exciting activities, the children were given presents, balls, certificates and awards.

The Day of Sportsmen celebration was attended by local officials and school directors and was shown on Armenian TV channels.

Editorial

To mark UEFA Grassroots Day on 19 May, the Association of Football Federations of Azerbaijan (AFFA) arranged a number of football events attended by many boys and girls. A ball festival in Sumgayit in the east of Azerbaijan was just one of the activities organised to showcase the AFFA’s diverse work at grassroots level. At this forth ball festival, about 280 children signed up for a keepy-uppy competition. The winners received various prizes, which were presented by the AFFA and its sponsors. FIFA representatives also attended the festival in Sumgayit, which in previous years had been organised across the country in Baku, Ganja and Lankaran.

The AFFA also organised a girls’ mini-tournament on its football academy mini-pitch, in which eight teams participated.

Another UEFA Grassroots Day event was held at the Shaghan Olympic Sports Complex in the capital of Azerbaijan, Baku, for children aged 8 to 12.

The general secretary of the AFFA, Elkhan Mammadov, stressed the importance of grassroots football and UEFA Grassroots Day by saying: “This exciting day recognises the power of football, and helps to improve our young people’s physical and social development. We were delighted to be taking part in the UEFA Grassroots Day celebrations. So much hard work goes into grassroots football across the world, and was shown on Armenian TV channels.

The president of the CFA, Costakis Koutsokoumnis, reaffirmed that the association would be heavily supporting efforts towards the further development and progress of refereeing.

At the same time, the annual seminar for referee observers took place.

On 28/29 August, our 2010/11 football season gets under way. For the fourth consecutive year, our championship will be played in two phases.

Fourteen teams will be participating in the championship, at the end of the first part of which the bottom two teams in the table will automatically be relegated to the second division. A third team will be relegated at the end of the second part of the season.

Close attention will also be paid this year to our youth championships, which kick off at the end of September. We are delighted to see interest in these championships growing year after year.

Kyriakos Giorgallis

Highly successful referee seminar

The Cyprus Football Association (CFA) held its annual seminar for referees and assistant referees from 9 to 11 July. It was a great success, as witnessed by UEFA referee instructor Jaap Uilenberg, who was in attendance.

In his opening speech, the president of the CFA, Costakis Koutsokoumnis, reaffirmed that the association would be heavily supporting efforts towards the further development and progress of refereeing.

At the same time, the annual seminar for referee observers took place.

On 28/29 August, our 2010/11 football season gets under way. For the fourth consecutive year, our championship will be played in two phases.

Fourteen teams will be participating in the championship, at the end of the first part of which the bottom two teams in the table will automatically be relegated to the second division. A third team will be relegated at the end of the second part of the season.

Close attention will also be paid this year to our youth championships, which kick off at the end of September. We are delighted to see interest in these championships growing year after year.

Kyriakos Giorgallis

New artificial pitch

A new artificial pitch was opened in Novopolotsk, in the north of Belarus, in June.

Gennady Neviglas, president of the Belarus Football Federation (BFF), took part in the official ceremony held on 25 June. At the Atlant stadium, which is also home to top division team FC Nafan Navapolatsk, the new 500-capacity floodlit ground was opened in the presence of many local football fans and young players. The BFF president also presented sports equipment to the Naftan youth team players.

Gennady Neviglas

Who can keep the ball in the air the longest?
Czech Republic

Fokus win Regenbogen Cup

On 12 May, Czech football team Fokus arrived in Munich for the 13th international Regenbogen Cup, a championship for footballers with learning difficulties, in which 12 teams entered this year.

In the first round, Fokus drew 0-0 with the home team, Regenbogen, before beating Pro Sport Linz 8-0 and Real Bad Tölz 3-0. In their penultimate first round match, Fokus were up against an ambitious team from Manchester and, although they were 2-0 ahead at half-time, the final score was 2-2. They were then narrowly beaten 2-1 by historically the best team in the competition, Bunter Haulen Haar.

To make it to the quarter-finals, Fokus then had to beat last year’s winners, Red Cross Kickers, from Plalling, Germany. The Czech players had an excellent match and beat the Germans 4-0 to book their place in the next round. Their opponents in the quarter-finals were the Mancunians again and the match was once again very balanced. In the end, it came down to a penalty shoot-out, in which Fokus demonstrated stronger nerves and beat their rivals from England.

In the semi-finals, Fokus met the team from Haar again. The Czech players surprised their opponents with their physical prowess and dominated throughout the match to earn a clear 3-0 victory and advance to the final.

In their last game of the tournament, Fokus went up against Pro Sport Linz from Austria. Both teams made enormous efforts and showed great determination, but the score at the end of normal time was 1-1, so the winners of the tournament had to be decided in a penalty shoot-out. This is a real strength of the Fokus team, who scored one more goal than their opponents, sparking tremendous celebrations.

A big thank you goes to the grassroots department of the Czech FA, for supporting the Fokus team and giving this great opportunity to players with learning difficulties. Thanks to the long-standing support of the Czech FA, Fokus is also entering a tournament in Plalling, Germany, followed by another, on home turf this time, in Neratovice, Czech Republic.

Míchal Blážej

School Ball 2010 champions crowned

The School Ball 2010 tournament ended in victory for Zugdidi school No. 4 in Batumi, Georgia, on 27 June.

Bolnisi school No. 1 and Zugdidi school No. 4 contested the final, which the Zugdidi team won 3-0.

The final was attended by Domenti Sichinava, president of the Georgian Football Federation (GFF), and Dimitri Shashkin, minister of education and science.

This year’s tournament, which took place from 22 to 27 June, involved a total of 1,000 schools and 13,000 pupils, setting a new School Ball record. The competition is the result of successful cooperation between the GFF and the ministry of education and science, and has been held annually for several years now. It is one of the most important grassroots projects in Georgia and its aim is to promote football, increase its popularity and involve as many children as possible.

Since Domenti Sichinava was elected president of the GFF, the house of Georgian football has undergone extensive renovations, inside and out. In the space of six weeks, the federation’s offices, built in 2002, were fully modernised.

Following negotiations between the GFF and the Georgian government, several new laws have been drafted to help football clubs and youth football academies.

Finally, Torpedo Kutaisi, former Georgian champions from the country’s second largest city, Kutaisi, have been playing outside the Georgian premier league because of financial problems for the last two years. This year, they topped the first division and regained premiership status. The team and city authorities subsequently decided to reconstruct the 15,000-capacity Givi Kladadze stadium. Under the leadership of the GFF president, a great deal of work has been completed in the space of just a couple of months and three weeks ago the stadium was opened by the Georgian president, Mikheil Saakashvili. At the same time, Torpedo obtained a new sponsor, the oil company Vissol Petroleum, which has promised to help build a new Georgian super club.

GFF press office

Clubs and leagues form FA focus in the Caribbean

The Football Association shared its expertise in the areas of club and league development with member associations of CONCACAF in June.

Club services manager, Mick Baikie, and national league development manager, Andrew Hailwood, delivered a three-day workshop focusing on areas such as league and club development in England; club structures, rules and governance; and workforce development.

Given the mature and well-established football systems which exist in England, the participants on the course were keen to adopt FA good practice in the administration of the game in their respective countries.

Andrew Hailwood said: “The FA resources that we distributed to all candidates, including the Club Administration Handbook and the Standard Code of Rules template, were very well received, and we anticipate that many elements from within these documents will be implemented by clubs, leagues and FAs across the Caribbean.

“By the end of the course all the candidates had agreed three key actions that they were committed to rolling out on their return to their home FAs, leagues and clubs.”

Mick Baikie added: “From a club administration perspective the real challenge for many of the associations was how to develop teams into clubs and create structures that would last over time. Utilising examples from England and highlighting the success of The FA Charter Standard club programme, candidates wished to focus on topics ranging from club structures, club governance, club codes of conduct to volunteer workforce recruitment and development policies.”

Daryll Warner, FIFA development officer for CONCACAF, highlighted this as a concern across the whole region in his opening address and candidates were able to access FA resources and create specific plans on how they would develop the club infrastructure across their associations.

Nada Grkinić

England

The FA is sharing its expertise in the field of club and league development.
Youngest German World Cup squad since 1934

The youngest German squad since 1934 captivated football fans the world over during the recent World Cup finals. The average age of Joachim Löw’s team was under 25, working out at 24.96 years to be precise.

The team included five European Under-21 champions: Manuel Neuer, Jerome Boateng, Dennis Aogo, Sami Khedira and Mesut Özil. It is, however, no accident that the current national team features so many young players. So too does the Bundesliga, where, last season, 77 players under the age of 21 took part – twice as many as back in 2000/01.

Matthias Sammer, the German FA’s technical director, sums up the association’s youth development system: “Only an integrated training structure from the level of the enthusiastic kindergarten child up to that of the national team player can ultimately guarantee the necessary world-class football skills. And our youth development system is based on exactly that kind of targeted training. Every level, from the amateur club to the regional academies and specialist sports schools, and right up to the level of elite player development in the DFB (German FA) teams, has a distinct and vital role.”

Ulf Schott is the German FA’s head of youth development: “The 1998 World Cup and EURO 2000 were the turning point for us. That’s when systematic talent scouting and development – today’s youth development programme – began in the regions.” The 3-0 defeat against Croatia at the 1998 World Cup, as well as losing against England and Portugal at EURO 2000, prompted the new approach. A tremor went through German football and, out of necessity, youth football became a priority.

Former Bundesliga coach Jürgen Gelsdorf, today head of the Leverkusen academy, says about the change: “25 years ago, I was one of only three or four full-time youth coaches in Germany. Nowadays every single regional academy has about ten full-time staff. 400 highly qualified people work in youth football on a daily basis. This development is positive and essential.”

In concrete terms, this new approach has resulted in 366 regional training centres, 46 academies and 29 specialist sports schools endorsed by the German FA. At the training centres, around 14,000 players – boys and girls – in the 11-14 age bracket are coached by 1,000 paid coaches.

Andre Schürle of Mainz 05 is one of the players who has gone along this route. After winning the Under-19 Bundesliga in summer 2009, he completed his first, successful season in the top flight. “The training I received at the Ludwigshafen/Oppau regional training centre was so incredibly beneficial,” the 19-year-old says. “In particular, training with the best talents was incredibly important for me. For one year, I also received tailor-made individual training.”

In the past nine years, the German FA has invested around €100 million in the development of talented young footballers.

Thomas Hackbart

Traditional youth tournament takes place

The Hungarian Football Federation (MLSZ) has just hosted its 30th international youth tournament in the region of Téliki and Ráckeve. It was an opportunity for some of Europe’s youth teams to put in some final practice before competing in the European Under-17 Championship qualifying tournaments. It was in 1980, 30 years ago, that the MLSZ first organised the tournament and it has now become an established tradition for many countries, especially from central Europe, to go to Ráckeve in the first week of August (the final was in Téliki on 7 August).

This year, seven European teams – Belgium, Croatia, Czech Republic, Israel, Republic of Ireland, Romania and Serbia – took part in a competition where the preparation opportunities it provides are often more important than winning the trophy.

The hosts, Hungary, who went into this year’s tournament with a record six victories under their belts, were hoping to do well again this year. The event also marked the debut of the MLSZ’s new sports director, former international Tibor Nyilasi, and its new technical director, József Both, who joined the association on 1 August. They were appointed by the new president, Csányi Sándor, who will lead Hungarian football for the next five years.

Márton Dinnyés

New home for national teams

An opening ceremony was held at the new technical centre for the national football teams of Kazakhstan in Talgar, Almaty province, on 31 May.

The project began with the installation of an artificial pitch, for which the FIFA president, Joseph S. Blatter, laid the foundation stone on 15 September 2004 in the context of the FIFA Goal programme. Construction of the technical centre itself then started in March 2008. It was built by the Football Federation of Kazakhstan (KFF), with support from the UEFA HatTrick programme.

The hotel complex at the centre includes 19 double and 9 single rooms, a conference hall, pool, sauna and gym, medical and massage rooms, a kitchen, a dining room and recreation rooms. The technical centre, destined for Kazakhstan’s national teams, is equipped to facilitate training and match preparation. Two natural turf pitches are soon to appear alongside the artificial one.

Cutting the ribbon

The opening ceremony was attended by the KFF president, Adilbek Jasybekov, UEFA Executive Committee member Liutauras Varanavičius, and FIFA’s European development manager, Eva Pasquier. They each addressed the other guests, which included football veterans, football club chairmen, Kazakhstan internationals and media representatives.

Adilbek Jasybekov said: “Today we are opening the technical centre for the Kazakhstani national teams. This is one more victory for Kazakhstan football. We have accomplished this project in close collaboration with our partners, UEFA and FIFA. Kazakhstani national teams can now prepare for international matches in excellent conditions. I congratulate the players, coaches and specialists on this event, which is of such significance to Kazakhstan football.”

Liutauras Varanavičius added: “Today I am visiting Kazakhstan as a UEFA Executive Committee member, a FIFA Goal Bureau member and the Lithuanian Football Federation president. An event such as this is very important for the country and proves that football here is developing as it should. Programmes such as Goal and HatTrick are aimed primarily at promoting football development locally, so that players and specialists are able to improve their skills in their country and do not have to go abroad. Football in Kazakhstan is developing today. You are opening a wonderful technical centre for your national teams. Let me congratulate you on such an event!”

The traditional ribbon cutting ceremony was followed by the launching of thousands of balloons into the sky, a tour of the centre and a media briefing.

That same day, 31 May, the Kazakhstan national team held its very first training session at the new technical centre.

Alexandr Kaplin

Kazakhstan

www.kiff.kz

Hungary

www.mlusz.hu

Germany

www.dfb.de

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Joining forces to make children’s lives brighter

As we live in a world where all children are entitled to equal opportunities and friendship, four organisations – the International School of Latvia, SOS Children’s Villages Latvia, the Latvian Samaritan Association’s Make A Dream Come True project and the Latvian Football Federation (LFF) – recently joined forces to organise a friendly football tournament for orphaned children at the Latvian national team’s training base in Riga.

“Friendship without borders” was chosen as the motto for the tournament, in which more than 70 children, both orphans from SOS Children’s Villages and pupils at the International School of Latvia, participated.

They met national team players after a training session on a sunny day in June and played football on the first mini-pitch in Latvia. In a special draw, six of the children also won a trip to Hamburg, where they will meet Bundesliga team Hamburger SV.

The trip to Hamburg is being organised in cooperation with the Samaritan organisation in Hamburg and the children’s tickets there and back have been kindly donated by Air Baltic. During the trip, the children will also visit the Hamburg Arena and HSV museum.

All the tournament organisers agreed that a bridge needed to be built between the Latvian national team and Latvian youngsters, to bring the children closer to the game. Therefore, all of the participants got a chance to meet, talk to, get autographs from and have their photos taken with their Latvian football idols when the national team held an open training session in Riga before leaving for a friendly match against Ghana.

The Latvian national team has visited orphans in the past, but never have so many children visited them at their Keizarmezs training base in Riga, and the many photos taken will ensure that the event remains unforgettable. “This is an outstanding event. For the kids it will be unforgettable. We’re happy to provide such a chance for kids and we are thankful to the co-organisers,” said Guntis Indriksone, LFF president, at the opening ceremony, at which Philipp Plischke, representative of the German embassy in Latvia, was also present.

To ensure equal chances for all the participants, the children were split into two age groups. All participants and supporters enjoyed food, drinks and souvenirs from sponsors of the tournament and a special BBQ was organised afterwards, courtesy of the German embassy and the parents of children at the International School of Latvia.

“Football is an excellent and healthy way to link the ideas of cooperation between organisations, understanding between people and open friendships without borders,” said Laura Bulmane, representative of the Samaritan association.

A Dream Come True project and the Latvian Football Federation (LFF) – recently joined forces to organise a friendly football tournament for orphaned children at the Latvian national team’s training base in Riga.

Liechtenstein

Making football more enjoyable

Under the patronage of the Liechtenstein Football Association (LFV), a successful children’s football project has been under way in Liechtenstein and the neighbouring Swiss regions of Sarganserland and Werdenberg for the past four years. The objective of the project is to help children’s football coaches to provide age-appropriate coaching by offering them advice and supervision. The leader and spiritual father of the project is Beni Bruggmann, the pioneer of children’s football in Switzerland.

The LFV children’s football project crosses national borders: all 7 of Liechtenstein’s football clubs and 11 clubs from neighbouring Switzerland are endeavouring to work together to promote age-appropriate football for children.

There are 8 coach instructors supervising around 80 coaches.

Even today, there is still a long way to go to achieve football that is carefree, enjoyable and not results-oriented, although at least a start has now been made. The coach instructors support the children’s football philosophy, which has the following key elements: the coaches convey to the children the joy of playing instead of the fear of failure; the children play in many (or even all) positions and do not specialise at an early age; and all children play for the same amount of time, so the weaker players can improve their football skills while the stronger ones are helped with their social development.

However, all this does not make Liechtenstein and neighbouring Switzerland the “Promised Land of children’s football.” Here also, there are coaches who are only interested in winning, who rarely make substitutions and who tie children down to a single playing position. But the coach instructors are delighted to report that there are already many coaches who are adopting age-appropriate methods and more and more who are dedicated to making football more enjoyable.

Anton Banzer

Referee seminar

Maltese top division referees and assistant referees were busy at the end of last season when they spent time at a hotel during a weekend residential seminar, the first of its kind, organised by the Malta FA’s referee board. This was part of an ongoing series of seminars aimed at acquainting match officials with the latest refereeing techniques.

After the official opening by Carmelo Bartolo, MFA senior vice-president and chairman of the referee board, the seminar covered a variety of topics, including incident analysis, psychological pressure on referees, responsibilities and abilities of match officials, as well as teamwork and correct decisions.

The speakers were Patrick Fanec (head of the MFA refereeing department), referee board members Tom Restall, Richard Spanno Navarro (he passed away on 19 June) and Gaetano De Gabriele, while Ken Ridden, a former member of the UEFA Referees Committee, delivered a presentation on field management techniques.

Another speaker was Paul Zammit, coach of Maltese champions Birirkara FC, who focused on reading the game, with the practical session being led by Ronald Zammit, the referees’ physical trainer.

Most of the presentations were backed by video clips, with animated discussions ensuing. Group work and feedback from participants, followed by the presentation of certificates by the MFA president, Joseph Mifsud, brought this very useful activity and successful experience to an end.

UEFA • direct 08.10
Moldovan coach education course

The FA of Moldova is continuing its work to improve the level of local coaches. Recently, a coach education course for 120 Moldovan coaches from all over the country who are holders of UEFA Pro, A and B licences was successfully organised.

The course was run by Gabi Balint, head coach of the national team of Moldova, who has plenty of coaching experience, gathered while working in Europe at clubs such as Galatasaray (Turkey) and Poli Timisoara (Romania) and with the national team of Romania.

The Romanian coach delivered a theoretical lesson entitled “How to organise the defence during a football match”, after which he was bombarded by the participants with questions about this subject. Following the theoretical lesson, all the coaches and the lecturer left for the associations’ Vadul-lui-Voda technical centre for a practical session involving the players of the FC Zimbru Chisinau youth team.

At the end of the session, Gabi Balint said that he was impressed by the high number of coaches taking part in this course and by the interest of Moldovan coaches in improving their knowledge and tactical preparation.

Montenegro

Improving football infrastructure to boost youth development

The president of the Football Association of Montenegro (FAM), Dejan Savicevic, has announced that the FAM will continue to focus on improving football infrastructure in the year ahead. At the FAM’s annual meeting, he recalled that last year the association had invested more than EUR 1.8 million and said that this should be the trend next season, too.

Thanks to the funds we obtained through UEFA programmes and our own sponsorship deals, the Football Association of Montenegro has managed to build several artificial turf training pitches, in Podgorica, Cetinje, Pljevlja, Niksic and Kotor. We will try as hard as we can to install the same number of pitches in other areas of Montenegro. This development will give our clubs better conditions for training, but also a solid basis for youth football,” Savicevic said.

Another important area for improvement he highlighted was coach education, especially in the clubs’ youth structures: “I must stress this to the clubs: please encourage your coaches to learn more about modern trends in football and the things they don’t know; tell them that it is not a bad thing to ask for help when they need it. Our school for coaches will help them to extend their horizons and perspectives in understanding and teaching football, but it is up to them to use this tool to their best advantage. This is essential for your youth team coaches.”

Montenegro

Orange tribute to Dutch national team

All of the Netherlands turned orange for four weeks of FIFA World Cup football in South Africa. In spite of the 1-0 defeat in the final against Spain, more than 700,000 fans paid tribute to the national team in Amsterdam on Tuesday 13 July. The team and staff had returned home the day before. After entering Dutch air space, the plane was escorted by two orange-painted F-16s of the Royal Netherlands Air Force.

The celebration in the capital came after a visit to The Hague, where the prime minister, Jan Peter Balkenende, hosted the team and technical staff. The head coach, Bert van Marwijk, and captain, Giovanni van Bronckhorst, were awarded royal decorations before the side had the honour of an audience with Queen Beatrix.

The festivities in Amsterdam started with a cruise through the characteristic inner city canals. Alongside, thousands and thousands of people were cheering the World Cup runners-up. The impressive parade ended near the Rijksmuseum for an official tribute at Museum Square. Almost 200,000 excited fans gathered to give a spectacular and warm welcome home to their orange heroes.

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Press office

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Press office

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Visit of Nigel Worthington at summer schools

Northern Ireland’s manager, Nigel Worthington, recently visited two of the Irish FA Nutty Krust Summer Soccer Schools – at Newtownabbey and Belvoir – to cast his eye over budding young footballers from the local areas. And before the coaching sessions began the children got the chance to ask the international boss some questions as well as getting advice on how to improve their skills.

“I was delighted to have been able to visit two of the Irish FA Nutty Krust Summer Soccer Schools and meet all the young players. The soccer schools provide boys and girls with an excellent opportunity to learn new skills and develop as players. The programme is a vital component in the Irish FA’s grassroots strategy and by introducing children to the game at an early age and providing them with a fun and positive experience will hopefully in turn generate an interest which will keep them involved in football for life.”

Lee Carroll, the Irish FA’s head of grassroots football, added, “It is fantastic to see our international team manager supporting the grassroots programme. It gives the kids a great lift and hopefully these visits will help inspire them to continue and develop their football careers. I think it is also important to show that Nigel and all our international team support the work that goes on at grassroots level, as this is where the next generation of future stars is going to come from.”

Coordinated by the Irish FA’s grassroots development officers and staffed by qualified coaches, the soccer schools take place each year during July and August and are attended by thousands of boys and girls.

Michael Murphy, Irwin’s commercial controller, said, “Irwin’s Nutty Krust is delighted to sponsor the summer soccer schools for the fourth year running. Every year we see more and more kids attending the schools right across the country over July and August. The schools are all about kids having fun while learning new skills and hopefully they’ll be able to develop into the next stars for Northern Ireland.”

The Swedish media closely followed the visit of the Northern Ireland’s national coach, Nigel Worthington, to the Swedish bid to host the Women's EURO 2013. Sweden's bid proposes six host cities: Gothenburg, Halmstad, Norkoping, Linkoping, Kalmar and Vaxjo. One of the ambassadors for the bid is Sweden’s most capped player, Victoria Svensson, who participated in the site visit. Victoria Svensson competed with the proposed host cities in Sweden was conducted in late July and drew a great response from both the public and the media. The enthusiasm and commitment in the host cities played a huge part in making the European Under-21 Championship final round in Sweden in 2009 a great success, a success that Sweden now hope to emulate for women's football in 2013.

Noel King becomes new Irish U21 boss

Noel King was recently confirmed as the new head coach of the Republic of Ireland Under-21 team. He took charge of the Republic of Ireland Under-21 team for the first time on 10 August, when the team hosts Estonia in a European Championship qualifying match at Tallaght Stadium.

King brings a wealth of experience to the role. After a long stint in club management, managing clubs such as Shamrock Rovers, Derry City, Limerick FC and Finn Harps, he was appointed manager of the Republic of Ireland senior women’s team in 2000. In the ten years since then, King has played a vital role in the strengthening of women’s football in Ireland. The Republic of Ireland senior women’s side has made significant progress under his guidance, while the women’s Under-17 side last month finished second at the European Championship.

The success of the Under-17 side assured them of a place in the FIFA U-17 Women’s World Cup in Trinidad and Tobago in September. King will continue to manage this team for the duration of the World Cup, with the international performance director, Wim Koevermans, taking temporary charge of the Under-21 team for its matches away to Switzerland on 3 September and Turkey on 7 September.

The role of senior women’s head coach will be advertised straight away, with the current women’s Under-19 manager, Sue Ronan, taking charge on an interim basis.

Nigel King has taken over as coach of the national U21 team.
Sights set on Women’s World Cup in Germany

Both the former president of the Swiss Football Association (SFV), Ralph Zloczower, and his successor, Peter Gilliéron, put women’s football in Switzerland high on their list of priorities. Hence the enormous efforts made in recent years to help their women players compete on a more equal footing with the European elite. Since the creation of the Credit Suisse Football Academy in Huttwil in 2004, their efforts have started to bear fruit. The U19 team’s qualification for the last U-20 World Cup is a clear sign of the progress being made in the women’s game.

What is more, after their recent victories in World Cup qualifiers in Russia and Kazakhstan, the Swiss women’s A team have had their first taste of life at the top of the qualifying group table. At the time of writing, the team, coached by Béatrice von Siebenthal, are preparing for their last qualifying match, against Kazakhstan in Fribourg on 19 August. Victory would put Switzerland in the play-offs for the World Cup finals for the first time ever. To compete in the final round in Germany would be an absolute dream for all, especially for the likes of Marisa Brunner, Danique Stein, Ana Maria Crgoarcvic, Vanessa Bürks, Martina Moser and Noémie Beney, all of whom currently play for clubs in the German Bundesliga.

Pierre Benoit

The biggest ever children’s football tournament to be held in Turkey

Two big youth football projects implemented

The Turkish Football Federation (TFF) conducted two major youth football projects in the summer, sponsored by Ülker. The first project was a football village project for elite young players, where 560 youngsters selected from 81 cities all around Turkey gathered in 7 football villages for 10 days. Apart from football training, the 320 boy and 240 girl participants had lessons in chess, drama, first aid, nutrition and respect, among other subjects.

The aim of the football villages is to improve the technical and personal abilities of promising young footballers and give them a chance to play and train at an advanced level. Such special training has been shown to assist their personal development. This project is now into its fourth year and, so far, 15 players who have come through these villages have gone on to play for national youth teams. The youngsters are not only taught to become elite players but also expected to become good referees, coaches and responsible spectators.

The other project was the biggest children’s football tournament ever to be held in Turkey. It involved some 20,000 youngsters aged between 10 and 12 playing non-competitive matches over two months in 62 cities.

Former players honoured

The Football Association of Wales was delighted when two former international players were recently honoured by Queen Elizabeth II in her birthday honours list.

Gary Speed was the first footballer to reach 500 Premier League appearances in England, as well as winning 85 caps for his country between 1990 and 2004. Among his clubs have been Leeds United, Everton, Newcastle United and Bolton Wanderers.

Karen Jones was one of the pioneers of women’s football in Wales, representing the national team as a goalkeeper from the late 1980s. After her playing days ended, she continued to work with her club in Cardiff as a coach and then administrator. She has been very involved in all the Cardiff City Ladies’ matches in Europe and has helped to make the side one of the leading teams in Wales.

These two players have given many years of service to football in Wales and beyond, and their recognition by the Queen is just reward.

Ceri Stennett

Former Wales captain Gary Speed and former women’s international and now club official Karen Jones were both awarded MBEs (Member of the Order of the British Empire) for their services to football.

Karen Jones and Gary Speed

Former players honoured

The Football Association of Wales was delighted when two former international players were recently honoured by Queen Elizabeth II in her birthday honours list.
Communications, birthdays, calendar

Notices

Professor Wilfried Kindermann (Germany), member of the Medical Committee, celebrates his 70th birthday on 4 September. Turning 60 in September are match delegate Paul Krähenbühl (Switzerland) on 25th and referee observer Karel Bohunek (Czech Republic) on 28th. Frank Womacht, member of the Jira Panel, will be 50 on 13 September.

UEFA also extends birthday greetings for September to:

- Georgios Aigner (Germany, 1.9)
- José Guilherme Aquiar (Portugal, 1.9)
- Manuel Diaz Vega (Spain, 1.9)
- Marco Brunelli (Italy, 2.9)
- Gérard Houllier (France, 3.9)
- David R. Elleray (England, 3.9)
- Ulrich Grizzle (Germany, 3.9)
- Rudolf Bata (Czech Republic, 4.9)
- Victor Montolf (Malta, 4.9)
- Hryhoriy Surks (Ukraine, 4.9)
- Barry Taylor (England, 5.9)
- Bogdan Ceko (Bohunek, Switzerland) on 25th and referee observer
- member of the Medical Committee, celebrates
- his 70th birthday on 4 September. Turning 60 in September are match delegate Paul Krähenbühl (Switzerland) on 25th and referee observer Karel Bohunek (Czech Republic) on 28th. Frank Womacht, member of the Jira Panel, will be 50 on 13 September.

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Forthcoming events

Meetings

- 30.8.–2.9.2010, Slovenia
  Summer course for referees and assistant referees
  1/2.9.2010, Nyon
  Elite Club Coaches’ Forum
  8.9.2010, Nyon
  Futsal and Beach Soccer Committee
  9.9.2010, Nyon
  Youth and Amateur Football Committee
  Women’s Football Committee
  10.9.2010, Herning (Denmark)
  Draw for the play-offs in the 2009–11 European Under-21 Championship
  20.9.2010, Madrid
  Jira Panel
  20–22.9.2010, Madrid
  Conference for European national team coaches
  22.9.2010, Nyon
  Fair Play and Social Responsibility Committee
  Club Licensing Committee
  24.9.2010, Nyon
  Draw for the qualifying round of the 2011/12 European Futsal Championship

Competitions

- 5–25.9.2010, Trinidad and Tobago
  FIFA U-17 Women’s World Cup
  14/15.9.2010
  UEFA Champions League: group matches
  (matchday 1)
  16.9.2010
  UEFA Europa League: group matches
  (matchday 1)
  22/23.9.2010
  UEFA Women’s Champions League: round of 32 (first legs)
  25.9–31.10.2010
  UEFA Futsal Cup: main round
  28/29.9.2010
  UEFA Champions League: group matches
  (matchday 2)
  30.9.2010
  UEFA Europa League: group matches
  (matchday 2)

New edition of UEFA football dictionary

The second edition of the football dictionary compiled by UEFA, and published by Langenscheidt is now available.

The trilingual English-German-French dictionary covers official terminology used by UEFA and FIFA as well as terms in current usage by football professionals and fans. The updated edition includes 300 new entries, most of which focus on terminology relating to the game itself and the media.

The dictionary is primarily aimed at translators and interpreters, but it is also a useful tool for media professionals, national associations and supporters. The main goal of the dictionary is to help promote dialogue within the football family.

Dictionary entries, complete with definitions, are grouped into six chapters; within each chapter the entries are listed in alphabetical order, based on the English. In order to make the dictionary easy to search, there are three indexes at the back, one for each language.

The dictionary is the result of a terminology project undertaken by UEFA in collaboration with two academic institutions specialising in languages and interpreting: the Language and Interpretation Institute (SMI) in Munich and the Geneva School of Translation and Interpreting (ETI). The dictionary has been typeset by Langenscheidt.

In the international world of football, where borders have been eroded, the ability to communicate effectively is of cardinal importance, which makes this comprehensive and reliable multilingual dictionary an invaluable resource (€17,95 – www.langenscheidt.de).

Michel Girard (France, 28.9)
Michael van Praag (Netherlands, 28.9)
Roland Beck (Liechtenstein, 28.9)
Eric Romain (Belgium, 28.9)
Lufti Arıbagan (Turkey, 30.9)