

Including



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trilogy in
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Photos: UEFA/plwoods.ch

Message of the president Three priorities for 2009

A new year is a blank page in the history of an organisation, but in the case of UEFA the first few months of 2009 will also see the close of several chapters in its history. First, in March, at the next ordinary UEFA Congress, the terms of six members of the UEFA Executive Committee come to an end, three of whom are not standing for re-election. In addition, the seat that has been vacant since the death of Mathieu Sprengers has to be filled, as do two additional seats, giving the Executive Committee an unprecedented injection of new blood.

Then in May, the current club competition cycle concludes. In the UEFA Champions League, it will be the last final to be played on a Wednesday, thereby ending a tradition that dates back to the creation of the competition. In the UEFA Cup, it will be the last final ever under that name before the competition becomes the UEFA Europa League and takes on a brand-new format. This year also heralds the end of an era for the UEFA Women's Cup, which is set to change format and be linked to the UEFA Champions League, with the finals of the two competitions to take place in future in the same city during the same week.

2009 will therefore be a year of transition, but of progress too, with the work that has started in a number of areas continuing to be the focus of close attention. Three topics in particular will be top of the list of priorities in the months ahead. First of all, there is the matter of financial fair play, aimed at ensuring that the principle of equal opportunities applies in the broadest sense possible in our competitions. Secondly, underage players have to be protected from international transfers that rip them from their roots. This protection must go hand in hand with encouraging training, as promoted in UEFA's club competitions by the rule on locally trained players. The third priority concerns EURO 2012. The choice of Poland and Ukraine as host countries is such a wonderful opportunity for opening up to eastern Europe that every effort must be made to ensure that it does not become a missed opportunity and thereby hold back the process of integration which is so important to the unity of European football and even of Europe as a whole. They know what we expect of them and when. They also know that they can count on our full support.

It's going to be another busy year.

Michel Platini
UEFA President

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COVER

AC Milan midfielder Andrea Pirlo (21) will be trying to help his club to victory in the last ever UEFA Cup. Here he is up against Brazilian Josué from VfL Wolfsburg, who have also made it into the final 32.

Photo: Cacace/AFP/Getty Images

UEFA Champions League

Italy v England: a trilogy



Internazionale will be hoping Zlatan Ibrahimovic can lead them to victory against titleholders Manchester United.

Monteforte/AP/Getty Images

THE DRAW FOR THE UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE ROUND OF 16 WAS NOT EXACTLY KIND TO THE ENGLISH CLUBS, PAIRING THEM WITH THREE ITALIAN OPPONENTS AND REAL MADRID. COULD IT HAVE BEEN ANY HARDER? NEVERTHELESS, THESE FOUR TOP ENCOUNTERS SHOULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO OVERSHADOW THE OTHERS, WHICH ARE CERTAINLY NOT SHORT OF TALKING POINTS.

"Manchester United are the opponents I wanted," said José Mourinho after the draw, living up to his reputation as a coach with a tendency to come out with the unexpected. The Portuguese knows that his Inter Milan players love facing difficult opponents. But the Special One, who will enjoy returning to England after a previous spell at Chelsea, is also aware that he must get it right. Inter's president, Massimo Moratti, parted company with Roberto Mancini despite three successive Italian titles sim-

ply out of his desire to win the "cup with the big ears", which has eluded his club since 1965.



There are no such worries in Manchester. Led by the "eternal" Sir Alex Ferguson, the Red Devils are the current holders and recently won the Club World Cup. Last summer's arrival of Dimitar Berbatov has improved even further what was already a top-class forward line. The duel between Ballon d'or winner Cristiano Ronaldo and the outstanding Zlatan Ibrahimovic will be well worth seeing.

Fourteen cups!

Real Madrid and Liverpool have won 14 European Cups/Champions Leagues between them: nine for the Merengues and five for the Reds. However, recent history suggests that Rafael Benitez' men are the favourites, since they have regularly reached the latter stages whereas Real Madrid have fallen in the first knockout round for the past four seasons. However, the English team, currently on the hunt for their first national title since 1990, could feel the repercussions of Steven Gerrard's forthcoming court appearance. The midfielder is the lynchpin of a team for which he was also the leading goal scorer at the start of January. Real Madrid, meanwhile, seem to have found a degree of stability. Despite winning the Spanish title,



Ellis/AFP/Getty Images

After Atlético de Madrid in the group stage, Liverpool and their Spanish forward Albert Riera now face neighbouring heavyweights Real Madrid.



Desmazeres/AFP/Getty Images

Juventus (Mohamed Sissoko, centre) and Real Madrid (Raul and Ruud van Nistelrooy) are in the round of 16 again, against Chelsea and Liverpool respectively.



Hasenstein/Bongarts/Getty Images

Bernd Schuster did not survive his team's poor start to the current season. The team is making progress following the arrival of Juande Ramos, who was more successful at Seville than at Tottenham. Despite an injury to Ruud van Nistelrooy, with Raul, Higuain and Robben their striking power remains impressive. Will the defence reach the same high standard? The outcome of the duel with Liverpool will depend largely on the answer to this question.

Revenge for Ranieri?

Claudio Ranieri was one of Roman Abramovich's first "victims". When he bought Chelsea, the Russian billionaire replaced the Italian coach with José Mourinho. Now in charge of Juventus, Ranieri has the chance for revenge. His combative, well-honed team are emerging as Inter's main rivals for the Italian title. Moreover, in February the coach should be able to recall Buffon, Trezeguet, Tiago, Poulsen and Camoranesi, who are all currently injured. And with Del Piero apparently improving with age, hopes are high, especially since Chelsea do not seem to be at their best. Of course, the Blues are contending with Liverpool and Manchester United for the English title, but their

performances have been far from convincing.

Fortunately for new coach Luiz Felipe Scolari, who won the World Cup with Brazil in 2002, Nicolas Anelka has rediscovered his scoring boots and been the perfect replacement for the injured Didier Drogba. With players such as Cech, Deco, Alex, Ballack, Terry and Lampard, Chelsea remain strong in all departments.

However, there are no guarantees that this will be enough to win the Champions League, a competition that the London club are desperate to win, having never done so before.

Entertainment on the cards

The clash between Arsenal and AS Roma should be an entertaining one. These two teams, who have never won the European

Cup/Champions League before, are known throughout Europe for the quality of their football. With the ball on the ground, a varying tempo and impeccable technique at high speed, the playing philosophy of Arsène Wenger and Luciano Spalletti is certainly positive. And yet their teams, at national level at least, are not enjoying a great season. While Roma are improving after a nightmarish start, the young Gunners have lacked consistency and are in danger of paying a very high price for the injury to their key player, Cesc Fabregas, in this round of 16. Roma, on the other hand, should be able to call on their captain Francesco Totti. The "giallorossi" will have the additional motivation of knowing that the final will be played in their own Olympic stadium.

Fireworks

Most observers agree that Barcelona produced the most flamboyant football in the first part of the season. It only took a few weeks for Barça to understand the demands of former star player and new coach Pep Guardiola. It is worth remembering that the club has a host of exceptional performers, including the likes of Xavi, Iniesta, Messi and Eto'o. Another member of this fantastic orchestra, Thierry Henry, who had a disappointing season last time round, has rediscovered the solo performances on which he built his reputation at Arsenal. Lyon's dream of reaching the semi-finals for the first time in their history will therefore be difficult to achieve. However, Claude Puel's men have reasons for hope. As they seek their eighth successive national title, they can call on one of the world's most promising forwards, Karim Benzema, as well as the magical free kicks of Juninho.

Winning back the plaudits

Deprived of Champions League football last season, Bayern München quickly got their house back in order by winning their national championship. Now the team currently coached by Jürgen Klinsmann, who replaced Ottmar Hitzfeld when he became Swiss national coach, intends to shine in Europe as well.



Getty Images

Michael Ballack, Chelsea's ace player.

Olympique Lyonnais and Bayern München both hope to make it all the way.



Lionel Messi (10) tries to get through Sporting's defence: in the group stage the two teams dominated Group C.



FC Porto's goalkeeper, Helton Arruda, up against Arsenal during the group stage.

Led on the field by French hotshot Franck Ribéry, they have two top goal scorers in their ranks: Luca Toni and Miroslav Klose. A powerful team which is not always comfortable defending, they could find things tough against Sporting's highly technical style of play. Coached by the talented young Paulo Bento, the team has a strong Brazilian flavour, in terms of both its spine (defender Anderson Polga, midfielder Fabio Rochemback and striker Liedson) and its attitude on the pitch. If they can impose their own style and rhythm, Sporting promise to be formidable opponents.

A magical duo

FC Porto have won the European Cup/Champions League twice and finished above Arsenal in this season's group phase. Nevertheless, the Portuguese are not necessarily favourites to beat Atlético de Madrid. Despite a quality style of play and balanced squad (from goalkeeper Helton to centre-forward Lisandro Lopez), the Portuguese champions do not appear to have the same attacking force as their opponents. Atlético boast one of the best forward lines in La Liga, particularly thanks to an explosive South American duo who complement each other superbly: young Argentine Sergio "Kun" Agüero (20) has struck up an amazing understand-

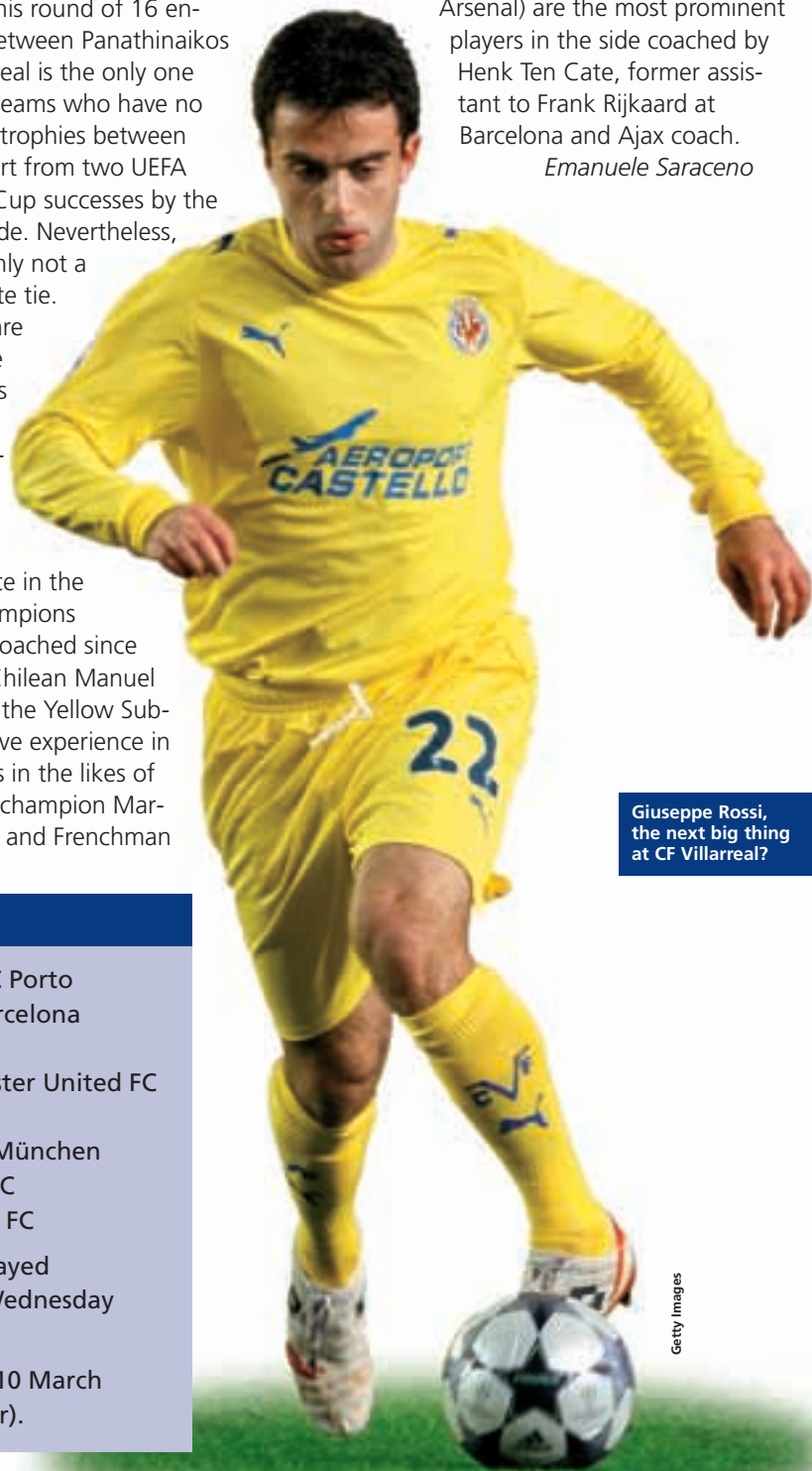
ing with the experienced Uruguayan Diego Forlan (29) – two players relatively small in stature who cause problems for opposing goalkeepers and frequently put a smile on the face of their former Mexico coach, Javier Aguirre.

Underdogs meet

This round of 16 encounter between Panathinaikos and Villarreal is the only one between teams who have no European trophies between them, apart from two UEFA Intertoto Cup successes by the Spanish side. Nevertheless, it is certainly not a second-rate tie. Villarreal are one of the best teams in Europe, as demonstrated by their semi-final appearance in the 2006 Champions League. Coached since 2004 by Chilean Manuel Pellegrini, the Yellow Submarine have experience in their ranks in the likes of European champion Marcos Senna and Frenchman

Robert Pirès, as well as talented youngsters such as Italian Giuseppe Rossi. Champions' Cup finalists in 1971, Panathinaikos won their group ahead of Inter and Werder Bremen. 2004 European champion Giorgios Karagounis, Austrian Andreas Ivanschitz and Brazilian Gilberto Silva (ex-Arsenal) are the most prominent players in the side coached by Henk Ten Cate, former assistant to Frank Rijkaard at Barcelona and Ajax coach.

Emanuele Saraceno



Giuseppe Rossi, the next big thing at CF Villarreal?

The draw



UEFA's general secretary, David Taylor, conducts the draw.

- Club Atlético de Madrid – FC Porto
- Olympique Lyonnais – FC Barcelona
- Arsenal FC – AS Roma
- FC Internazionale – Manchester United FC
- Chelsea FC – Juventus
- Sporting Clube – FC Bayern München
- Real Madrid CF – Liverpool FC
- Villarreal CF – Panathinaikos FC

The first legs of the first four ties will be played on Tuesday 24 February, with the other four on Wednesday 25 February.

The second legs will be played on Tuesday 10 March (last four ties) and Wednesday 11 March (first four).



AC Milan and striker Andriy Shevchenko are hungry for another trophy.

Caçace/AFP/Getty Images



Ivica Krizanac and Zenit St Petersburg are defending their UEFA Cup title.

Getty Images

UEFA Cup

On the road to the final in Istanbul



HALF OF THE CLUBS WHO WILL BE INVOLVED IN THE UEFA CUP ROUND OF 32 IN FEBRUARY HAVE PREVIOUSLY WON AT LEAST ONE UEFA COMPETITION, WHETHER THE EUROPEAN CUP/CHAMPIONS LEAGUE, CUP WINNERS' CUP OR UEFA CUP.

AC Milan, six-time winners of UEFA's most prestigious competition and with two Cup Winners' Cup victories also to their name, clearly top the list of former titleholders and will be doing their utmost to lift the only European trophy that has so far eluded them (they have also won the UEFA Super Cup and, at intercontinental level, the European/South American Cup and Club World Cup) before the competition is renamed the UEFA Europa League. However, Carlo Ancelotti's team face a difficult task in the round of 32, where they will meet another former European competition winner, Werder Bremen, who won the Cup Winners' Cup in 1992. The winner of this two-legged tie will take on Olympiacos CFP or AS Saint-Etienne in the next round.

Seeking to emulate past glories

Another club with a prestigious past, having won three consecutive Champion Clubs' Cups between 1971 and 1973, followed by a fourth victory in 1995, AFC Ajax – the only club apart from FC Bayern München and Juventus to have won the Champions' Cup, Cup Winners' Cup and UEFA Cup – will take on another club that is seeking to emulate past glories, ACF Fiorentina, who have been enjoying renewed success in recent seasons under coach Cesare Prandelli. The winners of this fascinating tie will face either Olympique de Marseille or FC Twente in the last 16.

Current UEFA Cup and UEFA Super Cup holders, FC Zenit St Petersburg may have failed to qualify for the Champions League knockout stage, but they are still hoping to add to their burgeoning collection of European trophies. Their encounters with VfB Stuttgart will offer an immediate opportunity to gauge their chances of doing so. If they beat the Germans, the Russian side will face the winners

of KKS Lech Poznan and Udinese Calcio.

Fourteen associations

Clubs from 14 national associations are still involved in this final edition of the UEFA Cup. France, Germany and Italy have the most representatives, with four each. England, the Netherlands and Ukraine each have three, while Denmark, Spain and Russia have two. The other participants are from Belgium, Greece, Poland, Portugal and Turkey.

Eight of the teams involved in the round of 32 entered via the Champions League (Aalborg BK, FC Dynamo Kyiv, FC Girondins de Bordeaux, ACF Fiorentina, Olympique de Marseille, FC Shakhtar Donetsk, Werder Bremen and FC Zenit St Petersburg), while another, Manchester City FC, qualified through the fair play competition.

Fixtures

1. Paris Saint-Germain FC – VfL Wolfsburg
2. FC København – Manchester City FC
3. NEC Nijmegen – Hamburger SV
4. UC Sampdoria – FC Metalist Kharkiv
5. SC Braga – R. Standard de Liège
6. Aston Villa FC – PFC CSKA Moskva
7. KKS Lech Poznan – Udinese Calcio
8. Olympiacos CFP – AS Saint-Etienne

9. ACF Fiorentina – AFC Ajax
10. Aalborg BK – RC Deportivo La Coruña
11. Werder Bremen – AC Milan
12. FC Girondins de Bordeaux – Galatasaray AS
13. FC Dynamo Kyiv – Valencia CF
14. FC Zenit St Petersburg – VfB Stuttgart
15. Olympique de Marseille – FC Twente
16. FC Shakhtar Donetsk – Tottenham Hotspur FC

Matches will be played on 18/19 February (first legs) and 26 February (return legs).



Bozzan

The draw for the last 16 also took place on 19 December:

Winner 11	–	Winner 8	Winner 13	–	Winner 4
Winner 6	–	Winner 16	Winner 2	–	Winner 10
Winner 7	–	Winner 14	Winner 15	–	Winner 9
Winner 1	–	Winner 5	Winner 3	–	Winner 12



A goal by Kolesnikov was not enough for Ukraine, who were beaten by Spain in the group stage.



A big crowd turned out in support of Russia.



Italy's Coco has the ball in the final against Russia.

European Under-21 Futsal Tournament

Promise for the future

THE FIRST UNDER-21 FUTSAL TOURNAMENT WAS A COMPLETE SUCCESS AND REACHED A MEMORABLE CONCLUSION WITH THE FINAL ROUND IN ST PETERSBURG. HOSTS RUSSIA WON THE TOURNAMENT THANKS TO A 5-4 VICTORY AFTER EXTRA TIME IN THE FINAL AGAINST ITALY.

The final created absolute pandemonium and unbelievable drama in the Yubileyny Sports Palace. The score was 2-2 after 40 minutes, when the fireworks really began. The Russians' 3-2 lead was transformed into a 4-3 Italian advantage within the space of 22 seconds, before Russia equalised and finally secured a wildly acclaimed victory with a goal from the second penalty mark. This enthralling conclusion to the match – and the ultimately decisive penalty – was made even tenser by the fact that both teams had already committed five fouls by the time the ten-minute period of extra time began.

Best advert for futsal

The strain on both coaches' nerves caused by the final was clear to see at the press conference. Russian coach Oleg Ivanov said: *"It was a really spectacular match with many goals and great movement from both teams, who showed all the great components of futsal. Our opponents played well yet I was close to having a heart attack. We were a little bit luckier in the end."* His counterpart Paolo Miniucci said: *"When it was 4-4 anything could have happened. The game was being played really fast which meant that it was played at the highest level. The game was really beautiful and exciting and I'm happy we showed such a game to all the fans."*



UEFA's first futsal youth competition can be described as a success in every respect. The group matches were watched by a total of around 10,000 spectators and the 7,700-capacity venue was virtually sold out for the semi-final between Russia and Ukraine and the final. Twenty-eight associations had entered the competition and the hosts were joined in the final round by Italy, Spain, Ukraine, Slovenia, Croatia, the Netherlands and Kazakhstan, who had never before qualified for the final round of a UEFA national team competition.

Pleasingly high standard

UEFA's futsal officials were particularly pleased with the high standard of play. The teams had been

superbly prepared both physically and tactically and the players' technical abilities were impressive in a very closely fought tournament: none of the Group A matches, for example, was decided by more than one goal. The top goalscorer was Spaniard Pola with five; a total of 71 goals were scored in the 15 final round matches, an average of 4.73 per match. The first edition of the European Under-21 Futsal Tournament certainly promises much for the future of this relatively new sport. Some of the players who particularly stood out in St Petersburg are expected to be on show at the 2010 European Futsal Championship final round in Hungary.

St Petersburg, 8-14.12.2008

Group A

Italy – Slovenia	2-2
Russia – Croatia	3-3
Croatia – Italy	1-2
Russia – Slovenia	4-3
Italy – Russia	2-2
Slovenia – Croatia	4-4

Group B

Spain – Kazakhstan	4-0
Ukraine – Netherlands	3-2
Netherlands – Spain	1-5
Ukraine – Kazakhstan	3-0
Spain – Ukraine	2-1
Kazakhstan – Netherlands	1-6

Semi-finals

Spain – Italy	0-1
Russia – Ukraine	1-0

Final

Russia – Italy	5-4 a.p.
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Victory for Russia.

Photos: Sportsfile



UEFA-plivwoods.ch

England captain Jack Cork with Jim Boyce and Andy Roxburgh at the Under-19 championship draw.



Wagner/Bonaparte/Getty Images for DFB

Under-17 friendly between Germany and Russia.

Young men and women already focussing on the 2009/10 season

THE DRAWS FOR THE EUROPEAN UNDER-17 AND UNDER-19 CHAMPIONSHIPS FOR MEN AND WOMEN TOOK PLACE AT THE END OF 2008 AT THE HOUSE OF EUROPEAN FOOTBALL IN NYON.

UEFA's 53 member associations are all involved in both men's youth competitions. Apart from the teams of the host associations of the 2010 final rounds – Liechtenstein for the Under-17s and France for the Under-19s – who qualify automatically for the final phase, the 52 associations were split into 13 groups of four for the qualifying round. The top two in each group and the two best third-placed teams will progress to the elite round, which will be played in spring 2010 in the form of seven mini-

tournaments, each involving four teams. The tournament winners will qualify for the final round.

Under-17s



The draw for the 2009/10 European Under-17 Championship was conducted by Jim Boyce, first vice-chairman of the Youth and

Amateur Football Committee, assisted by Danijel Aleksic, member of the Serbian team that won last season's fair play award. The matches in this qualifying round will be played in September and October 2009.

Qualifying round

Group 1

Serbia • England • Azerbaijan • Kazakhstan

Group 2

Romania • Spain • Lithuania • Faroe Islands

Group 3

Croatia • Belgium • Montenegro • Denmark

Group 4

Israel • Poland • Armenia • Austria

Group 5

Turkey • Germany • Finland • FYR Macedonia

Group 6

Rep. of Ireland • Sweden • Bulgaria • Latvia

Group 7

France • Ukraine • Slovenia • Estonia

Group 8

Netherlands • Northern Ireland • Andorra • Malta

Group 9

Italy • Norway • Moldova • Greece

Group 10

Scotland • Portugal • Cyprus • Georgia

Group 11

Hungary • Slovakia • Albania • Luxembourg

Group 12

Wales • Russia • Iceland • Bosnia-Herzegovina

Group 13

Switzerland • Czech Republic • San Marino • Belarus

Mini-tournament hosts in bold.

Under-19s

The draw for the European Under-19 Championship 2009/10 was also held on 3 December. This time, Jim Boyce was assisted by Jack Cork, a member of the English team that won the Under-19 fair play trophy in 2008. The qualifying matches will take place in October and November 2009. As for the Under-17s, the top two in each group and the two best third-placed teams will qualify for the next phase, the elite round, which in turn will determine which seven teams will join the host nation, France, in the final round.



Qualifying round

Group 1

Rep. of Ireland • Italy • San-Marino • Albania

Group 2

Slovakia • England • Slovenia • Finland

Group 3

Turkey • Germany • Moldova • Luxembourg

Group 4

Switzerland • Croatia • Lithuania • Estonia



France v Republic of Ireland in an Under-19 qualifier this season.

D. Aquilina



Line Sigvard of Denmark helped Viacheslav Koloskov, a member of the UEFA Executive Committee, perform the draw for the Women's Under-17 Championship.



All the draws were held in the auditorium at the House of European Football in Nyon, Switzerland.

Group 5

Greece • **Serbia** • Faroe Islands • Belarus

Group 6

Austria • Scotland • Armenia • Romania

Group 7

Bulgaria • Iceland • Northern Ireland • **Bosnia-Herzegovina**

Group 8

Portugal • **Spain** • Wales • FYR Macedonia

Group 9

Hungary • Russia • Liechtenstein • Latvia

Group 10

Netherlands • Czech Republic • **Malta** • Cyprus

Group 11

Norway • **Belgium** • Kazakhstan • Andorra

Group 12

Sweden • Ukraine • Montenegro • Georgia

Group 13

Poland • **Israel** • Denmark • Azerbaijan

Mini-tournament hosts in bold.

European Women's Under-17 Championship: World Cup qualification



Forty national associations have entered the 2009/10 European Women's Under-17 Championship, the third edition of the competition. The draw for the first qualifying round, held on 18 November, divided the teams into ten groups of four. The matches in the first qualifying round will take place in September and October 2009. The group winners and the six best runners-up will play in the second qualifying round, which will comprise four groups of four teams. As in the first two editions, the four group winners will travel to Nyon for the final round, which will be organised by the UEFA administration. The 2009/10 championship will determine the European representatives at the second edition of the U-17 Women's World Cup, to be staged in Trinidad and Tobago in 2010.

1st qualifying round

Group 1

England • Wales • Belarus • **FYR Macedonia**

Group 2

Switzerland • Italy • Georgia • Faroe Islands

Group 3

Hungary • Norway • Croatia • Greece

Group 4

Rep. of Ireland • Denmark • **Slovenia** • Turkey

Group 5

Poland • Belgium • Bulgaria • Romania

Group 6

Ukraine • Netherlands • Kazakhstan • **Moldova**

Group 7

France • Germany • Israel • **Iceland**

Group 8

Finland • **Sweden** • Estonia • Latvia

Group 9

Czech Republic • Scotland • Austria • **Lithuania**

Group 10

Spain • Russia • **Serbia** • Armenia

Mini-tournament hosts in bold.

European Women's Under-19 Championship



The draw for the first qualifying round of the 2009/10 European Women's Under-19 Championship was held on the same day as that for the Under-17 Championship. A total of 46 teams have entered the competition, including the final round hosts, FYR Macedonia, and Germany, who have been given a bye for the first qualifying round. The draw therefore divided 44 teams into 11 groups of 4. The matches will be played in the form of mini-tournaments in September 2009. The top two in each group, the best third-placed side and Germany, who have qualified for the second round automatically, will play in the second qualifying round, comprising six groups of four teams, at the end of March 2010. The six group winners and the best runner-up will contest the final round at the end of May 2010 (24 May

to 5 June) in FYR Macedonia, which will host the final round of a UEFA competition for the first time in its history.

1st qualifying round

Group 1

Rep. of Ireland • Finland • **Croatia** • Faroe Islands

Group 2

Czech Republic • Sweden • **Estonia** • Slovenia

Group 3

Wales • **Denmark** • Bosnia-Herzegovina • Moldova

Group 4

Scotland • Italy • Northern Ireland • **Bulgaria**

Group 5

Netherlands • Poland • Israel • Lithuania

Group 6

England • Norway • Belarus • Slovakia

Group 7

France • Serbia • Georgia • **Turkey**

Group 8

Hungary • Belgium • Latvia • Armenia

Group 9

Austria • Russia • Kazakhstan • Greece

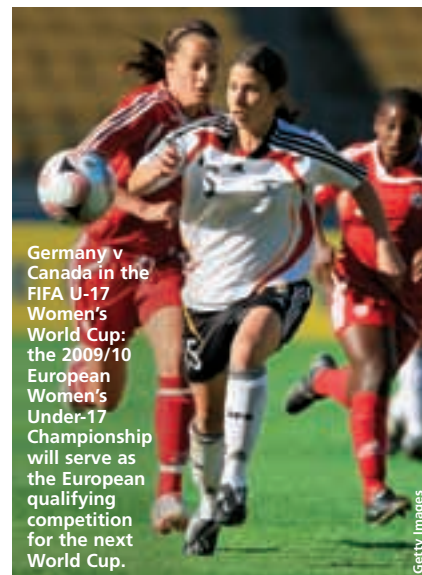
Group 10

Spain • Ukraine • **Azerbaijan** • Cyprus

Group 11

Portugal • Switzerland • Iceland • Romania

Mini-tournament hosts in bold.



Germany v Canada in the FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup: the 2009/10 European Women's Under-17 Championship will serve as the European qualifying competition for the next World Cup.



Views are exchanged to ensure coordinated action.



The time has come for Frits Ahlström (center) to bow out.

UEFA's Media Officers warm up for next season

ONE OF THE LAST EVENTS TO BE STAGED AT UEFA'S HEADQUARTERS IN NYON IN 2008 WAS A MEDIA OFFICERS WORKSHOP. IT IS A GET-TOGETHER THAT FEATURES REGULARLY ON THE UEFA FIXTURE LIST BUT NEVER MAKES HEADLINE NEWS.

Indeed, readers at clubs which have never played in the UEFA Champions League or national associations which have not reached EURO final rounds may never have encountered UEFA media officers and have every right to make polite enquiries about their role.

The MO, as he or she tends to be called in UEFA corridors, was born with the UEFA Champions League in 1992 – which means the founder members of the squad are now in their 17th season. As for their role, they might be described as the media sector's equivalent to referees in that their approach to the job is coloured by different cultures and personalities, but their prime objective is to apply rules and guidelines as uniformly as possible. The current MO squad covers the continent from Georgia to Portugal and from Norway to Greece, which is why the chance to meet at workshops

is so valuable, the latest gathering especially, as Frits Ahlström, who assembled and captained the current team, was bowing out and was deeply touched by the tributes and gifts he received as he handed the armband to UEFA's head of media services, Rob Faulkner.

Protecting the game

Being an MO is very much a behind-the-scenes job pegged to the philosophy of protecting the game, the coaches, the players and the image of UEFA's competitions while, at the same time, offering the best possible service to the broadcast partners and supporting club press officers – where they exist. You would be surprised by the number of top clubs who made their UEFA Champions League debuts without a press officer on the payroll.

So the workshop, opened by UEFA's general secretary, David Taylor,

focused on specialised areas, such as the fine-tuning of procedures at pre-match press conferences, the availability of suspended or red-carded players or coaches for media activities, or controlling the duration of post-match 'flash interviews' with a view to sharing the cake as evenly as possible among broadcasters. The MOs were also confronted with some case histories, with the aim of establishing uniform responses to out-of-the-ordinary situations.

Current trends

Markus Hörwick, a member of the MO squad who is more frequently seen performing as director of communications at FC Bayern München, gave his colleagues plenty to think about by reviewing current trends in journalism, many of them a direct result of the boom in online reporting. And there were fascinating views from both sides of the fence expressed by Graeme Le Saux who, between two spells at Chelsea FC, made his UEFA Champions League debut with Blackburn Rovers way back in 1995 and is now blowing dust off 'poacher turned gamekeeper' clichés as a TV commentator.

However, the prime objective of the workshop was to use past experience as a foundation for a busy future. Until now, the UEFA media officer has featured mainly at UEFA Champions League matches and in the centrally marketed sections of the UEFA Cup. With the play-off rounds of the former moving under the centrally marketed umbrella and the UEFA Europa League set to kick off in 2009, clubs less familiar with the media demands and expectations are likely to take part – and can expect to receive support from the UEFA media officers who will be joining forces with the venue directors at another workshop in June to prepare for exciting challenges ahead.



Photos: UEFA-pjwoods.ch

Meetings and other activities

Bidding opens for EURO 2016

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE HELD ITS FINAL MEETING OF 2008

AT UEFA HEADQUARTERS IN NYON ON 11 DECEMBER, WITH THE UEFA PRESIDENT, MICHEL PLATINI, IN THE CHAIR.

Numerous decisions were taken at this lengthy end-of-year meeting, including the adoption of the bid regulations for EURO 2016.

The process will be divided into three phases: in the first phase, launched in mid-December, any national association can express an interest in hosting the tournament. Joint bids of two associations are permitted, while those from three associations will be subject to special UEFA approval. This initial phase will last until 9 March. Once all the bids have been registered, UEFA may decide to draw up a shortlist of three or four candidates. This decision will be communicated to all the associations concerned, in principle, at the beginning of April.

The bid dossier development phase will then begin, with a workshop to be held for the selected candidates in Nyon in mid-April. Here, the requirements will be set out in detail, the bid dossier template will be distributed and all the necessary information will be presented. The bid dossiers will need to be submitted to UEFA by 15 February 2010.

This will be followed by the evaluation phase, including visits to the bidding associations. The UEFA administration and experts will examine the dossiers and prepare an evaluation report which will be submitted to the National Team Competitions

Committee in May 2010. A few days later, around 27 May, the Executive Committee will take its final decision, on the basis of a presentation by the candidates, overall analysis of the bids and the written evaluation report of the National Team Competitions Committee. The Executive Committee will take its decision in a secret ballot in which only members – including the president – who do not belong to bidding associations will be eligible to vote.

The 2016 final round will be the first involving 24 participants. Candidates will need to nominate nine stadiums, two with a net capacity of

at least 50,000 places, plus a possible three reserve stadiums.

New name for UEFA Women's Cup

Most European football associations are witnessing a boom in women's football and the UEFA Women's Cup for clubs has also become more popular. As its eighth season approaches its climax, the Executive Committee has decided to strengthen the position of this competition even further. To this end, following a proposal by the Women's Football Committee, it has decided to change the competition's name and format.

From the 2009/10 season, the competition will be known as the UEFA Women's Champions League. The eight best associations will be able to enter two teams, a privilege that has previously only been granted to the association of the current trophy holders.

The competition will begin with a qualifying round of mini-tournaments. This will immediately be followed by knockout rounds from the last 32 to the final, which will be →



The UEFA Women's Cup is changing name and format.



The Under-21s are off to Denmark for their 2011 finals.

Getty Images



Among other things, the HatTrick programme helped to set up lots of mini-pitches.

F. Kravac

→ played as a single match at a neutral stadium.

This final will be linked to the UEFA Champions League final and will be played in the same city (Madrid in 2010), but different stadium, on the Thursday prior to the UEFA Champions League final which, from 2010 onwards, will be played on a Saturday evening.

The UEFA Women's Champions League final will therefore form part of the activities designed to make the week of the final a true festival of football.

2010 Congress in Israel

The Executive Committee also awarded the hosting of various events:

■ the XXXIV Ordinary UEFA Congress is being held in March 2010 in Tel Aviv. It will be the first time the Israel Football Association has hosted the general meeting of European football;

Convention and charter: new members

At its December meeting, the Executive Committee approved the new version of the convention contract relating to the *UEFA Convention on the Mutual Recognition of Coaching Qualifications*. It also approved the admission of the national associations of Turkey at Pro level, Albania and Georgia at A level and Montenegro at B level. Following Montenegro's admission, all 53 UEFA member associations are now members of the convention.

In addition, the associations of the Netherlands and the Czech Republic were admitted for the elite youth diploma.

With regard to the Grassroots Charter, the Executive Committee approved the admission of the following national associations:

One-star membership: Bosnia-Herzegovina, Italy, Czech Republic, Slovenia; **two-star membership:** Andorra, Belarus; **three-star membership:** Iceland; **five-star membership:** Northern Ireland.



UEFA

■ the final round of the 2009-11 European Under-21 Championship was awarded to the Danish Football Association; the Executive Committee also approved the draw

procedure for the group matches in this competition;

■ the 2008/09 edition of the Futsal Cup is being wrapped up in April in Ekaterinburg, where the semi-finals and finals will be played over four days; the current holders, MFK Viz-Sinara Ekaterinburg, will be one of the teams involved.



Jean-Paul Turrian (left) and his successor at the head of the Services Division, Steve Aeschlimann.

UEFA.jp/woods.ch

Changes to the UEFA administration

After spending the past eight years as director of UEFA's Services Division, **Jean-Paul Turrian** reached retirement age in January. However, he is not stepping down completely, as he has taken on the part-time role of presidential adviser, with specific tasks including supervision of the construction of the new UEFA administrative building.

Steve Aeschlimann, aged 37, is the new director of the Services Division.

HatTrick II programme

The Executive Committee also heard a report on the launch of the HatTrick II programme for 2008-12 and approved the distribution criteria for the annual solidarity payments. Between August and December, each national association received EUR 900,000. An additional sum of up to EUR 400,000 will be paid in June. The total amount of EUR 1.3 million is split into a fixed sum of EUR 500,000 for running costs plus variable amounts for improvement of association governance (up to EUR 100,000), accession to the Grassroots Charter (up to EUR 100,000), being party to the Coaching Convention (up to EUR 100,000), implementation of the club licensing system (up to EUR



Viz-Sinara Ekaterinburg are defending their title at home.

Sportfile



News from Brussels

The conclusions of the Presidency of the European Council meeting held in Brussels on 11/12 December included in its annexes a brief declaration on sport which stressed, among other points, the importance of the specificity of sport.

The declaration reads:

"The European Council recognises the importance of the values attached to sport, which are essential to European society.

"It stresses the need to take account of the specific characteristics of sport, over and above its economic dimension.

"It welcomes the establishment of a constructive dialogue at the first European Sport Forum organised by the European Commission.

"It calls for the strengthening of that dialogue with the International Olympic Committee and representatives of the world of sport, in particular on the question of combined sports training and education for young people."

Apart from stressing the need to take account of the specificity of sport in European Union policies and law, the declaration calls for consultation and dialogue to be strengthened between sports organisations and EU institutions. It also emphasises the importance of 'dual training' (also known as the 'double project') whereby the sports training of young players should be combined with general education and/or vocational training, so that other employment prospects are open to them once their playing days are over.

The European Council comprises the heads of state or government of the 27 EU member states, who attend council meetings with their ministers of foreign affairs, and the president of the European Commission, who is accompanied by another member of the commission.

Although it has no formal powers, the European Council is an important EU Body in that it provides the EU with the necessary impetus for its development and defines its policy agenda.

250,000) and participation in UEFA women's, youth and futsal competitions (up to EUR 250,000).

The Executive Committee also:

- approved a new version of the UEFA Anti-Doping Regulations in order to bring them into line with the changes to the World Anti-Doping Code and FIFA regulations;

- agreed that a medical symposium should be held in Sweden in 2010;

- approved "desirable minimum requirements" for the statutes of national associations; the Executive Committee will ask the national associations, when they next revise their statutes, to take into account these minimum requirements, which were drawn up by the National Associations Committee and the Legal Committee in close cooperation;

- noted that one place at the 2011 Women's World Cup in Germany will be contested by a European team and a CONCACAF representative; the

regulations of the qualifying competition have been adapted accordingly;

- approved the new Regulations for Licensed UEFA Match Agents, which entered into force on 1 January 2009;

- heard positive feedback concerning the first experiments with five match officials, conducted in UEFA youth competitions, and noted that the subject would be submitted to the International FA Board at its spring meeting.

Anti-racism conference in Warsaw

On 3/4 March, the third Unite Against Racism Conference is being held in Warsaw, bringing together representatives of all UEFA member associations as well as anti-racism experts, media representatives, supporters and other stakeholders, particularly FARE (Football Against Racism in Europe), which has been working with UEFA for several years. →



Galup/Bongarts/Getty Images

Representatives of the nine German cities that are hosting the 2011 Women's World Cup.

Footballers take a stand against racism too.

Sportsfile



Getty Images

Wayne Rooney gets round Diego Calderon of LDU. The England forward was the most successful scorer in the competition.

→ This conference will be an opportunity to review the progress that has been made in the fight against racism, to share experiences and to outline new measures to combat the scourge of racism and discrimination.

The first two conferences were held in London in 2003 and Barcelona in 2006.

Afghanistan win Homeless World Cup

The Homeless World Cup, staged in Melbourne, Australia, from 1 to 7 December, was won by Afghanistan, who beat Russia 5-4 in an exciting final.

Around 350 matches were played in this UEFA-backed competition, which gives players a chance to change their lives for the better. Studies carried out after previous editions of the competition show that more than 70% of the players were able to improve their living conditions.

For the first time, this tournament, which involved participants from 56 nations, included a women's tournament, which was won by Zambia.



Photoworx

The Afghan captain, Sayeed Reza, lifts the trophy.

Manchester United complete a treble

Manchester United FC ended a memorable 2008 on 21 December by winning the FIFA Club World Cup in Japan and allowing Europe to draw level with South America on the honours list.

When the competition was switched to its current format in 2005, Brazilian clubs twice lifted the trophy at the expense of Liverpool FC and FC Barcelona. But AC Milan struck a first blow for Europe in 2007 and a solitary goal by Wayne Rooney in the 2008 final completed a European double.

However, United were made to sweat for victory in Yokohama by Liga Deportiva Universitaria (LDU), the club from Quito who had made history by winning the Copa Libertadores and becoming the first team from Ecuador to compete for intercontinental glory. As in previous editions, Europeans and South Americans successfully negotiated the semi-finals with LDU beating the Mexicans of Pachuca 2-0 and United posting a 5-3 victory over Japanese opponents Gamba Osaka, who won the play-off for the bronze medal.



Yamanaka/AFP/Getty Images

United forged clear chances during a first half which they dominated, but faced an uphill task after the dismissal of Nemanja Vidic shortly after the break, prompting Sir Alex Ferguson to remove striker Carlos Tévez and shore up the defence with Jonny Evans. "It meant we had to be very careful not to concede a goal," he commented afterwards, "because if we had done, it would have been very difficult to come back." As he had done in the UEFA Champions League final in Moscow, Edwin van der Sar needed to perform heroics between the posts and Rooney's 73rd-minute winner for ten-man United helped him to take the adidas Golden Ball award, as he had also come off the bench (after an injury) to score twice in the semi-final and top the tournament scoring chart.

The 1-0 win allowed United and Sir Alex Ferguson to take the intercontinental trophy for the second time, as a single goal by Roy Keane had given the Reds the European/South American title against SE Palmeiras in 1999. Gary Neville, who came on as 85th-minute sub in Yokohama, was the only United player to have taken part in both finals, though Ryan Giggs and Paul Scholes were on the bench against LDU. Edwin van der Sar also took the title for a second time, having been champion with AFC Ajax in 1995.

United are the only European team to have taken part in both tournaments during the same season as, a few weeks after celebrating the 1999 Toyota Cup victory in Tokyo, they were on their way to Brazil to compete in the inaugural edition of the FIFA Club World Cup – and controversially so, as it entailed the club's withdrawal from England's FA Cup. On that occasion, they returned home unexpectedly early after winning only one of their three group games. The Reds' trip to Japan almost nine years later to compete in the competition for the second time will create happier memories, as they made history by becoming the first English side to win the trophy and were able to end 2008 on a triple high note as champions of England, champions of Europe and champions of the world. The next challenge when the UEFA club competitions resume in a few weeks time will be to become the first team to make a successful defence of the UEFA Champions League title...



Jean-Claude Juncker, prime minister of Luxembourg.



Paul Philipp, president of the FLF, offers a gift to the UEFA president, Michel Platini.

Luxembourg Football Federation

Last celebration of the centenary



ON 22 NOVEMBER 2008, THE LUXEMBOURG FOOTBALL FEDERATION (FLF) OFFICIALLY DREW ITS YEAR-LONG CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS TO A CLOSE BY HOLDING AN ACADEMIC SEMINAR AT THE LUXEMBOURG CONFERENCE CENTRE.

Exactly 100 years after the FLF was established on 22 November 1908 in a café in Luxembourg City, the FLF's senior officials were honoured and delighted to welcome a delegation from UEFA, led by its president, Michel Platini, as well as representatives of the other European football associations and representatives of the Luxembourg government, including the prime minister, Jean-Claude Juncker, to this academic seminar, which can be considered to have been the high point of the FLF's centenary festivities.

Numerous celebrations

Throughout the year, the centenary committee, under the chairmanship of Norbert Konter, honorary president of the FLF, had already organised a large number of sports and cultural events held under the "100 Joer FLF" banner, some of which are mentioned below:

■ At the Luxembourg Cup final between CS Grevenmacher and Victoria Rosport (4-1), which took place on 24 May, the FLF decided to grant free entry to all spectators as part of an enormous programme of special events.

■ For the Football Family Festival held on 6 July, the FLF invited representatives from each of its 109 clubs as well as the members of its committees to an evening event held at the FLF headquarters in Mondrange.

■ The exhibition on the history of football in Luxembourg, held in a hypermarket in Luxembourg City from 22 October to 6 November, attracted

several thousand visitors, who were fascinated to find out more about the 100-year history of the FLF.

■ As far as activities on the pitch are concerned, the FLF organised several international matches and tournaments for the different national teams, culminating in the gala match between the national teams of Luxembourg and Belgium on 19 November, a closely fought match which ended in a 1-1 draw.

■ Other initiatives that formed part of the FLF's centenary celebrations included the organisation of a special evening for former internationals, the release of a commemorative postage stamp and participation in various cultural events.

Joël Wolff



Distinguished guests at the academic seminar.

Commemorative book

The publication of an official centenary book entitled 100 Joer FLF, which retraces the history of football in Luxembourg, was without doubt one of the highlights of the centenary.

This book retraces the history of the national team, contains a full page on each club in Luxembourg and describes the highlights of the 100 years of football in Luxembourg.



In the book, which contains 384 pages and more than 400 photographs, the authors describe the early days of football in Luxembourg, recount the successes of the national teams and clubs through the decades and present an extensive collection of detailed statistics for facts and figures enthusiasts.

Anyone wishing to obtain a copy of the centenary book can do so via the FLF's website, www.football.lu.



AUSTRIA

• PETER KLINGLMÜLLER •

New coach education director in Austria

In Thomas Janeschitz, the Austrian Football Association (ÖFB) has recruited a renowned expert as its new director of coach education. The 42-year-old UEFA Pro licence holder (born on 22 June 1966) previously coached at Rapid Vienna (youth team from 1999 to 2001), Admira Mödling (academy from 2001 to 2002), the Frank Stronach Academy (2002 to 2005) and Austria Vienna amateurs (July 2006 to December 2008), as well as working as assistant coach of the FK Austria Wien professional squad in the 2005/06 season (champions and ÖFB Stiegl Cup winners).



Thomas Janeschitz.

After Paul Gludovatz joined SV Ried in July, the role of ÖFB coach education director was filled temporarily by ÖFB technical director, Willi Ruttensteiner. Between 1991 and the end of 2007, the position was held by Gerhard Hitzel, who is now working for Lokomotiv Moscow.

Thomas Janeschitz took up his post as ÖFB coach education director on 2 January 2009. ■

award and the best player of the national championship award. Victor Goncharenko, who led BATE Borisov to the league title, was voted coach of the year. BATE Borisov players also won the best goalkeeper award, with Sergey Veremko finishing the poll way ahead of his rivals, and the best defender award, which went to Sergey Sosnovskiy. The only non-BATE player to pick up a statuette was Oleg Strahanovich (MTZ-RIPO), who was voted best midfielder.

The footballer of the year award went to Alexandr Hleb, who joined FC Barcelona last summer after a brilliant spell with Arsenal. He received 851 points from the 456 journalists and football experts who cast their votes. Vitaliy Rodionov finished second (472 points) and Alexandr Kulchiy third (450 points). The polls were organised by the BFF with the national football newspaper Vsyo o futbole ("All about football").

In his opening speech, the BFF president, Gennadiy Neviglas, said: "Thanks to the players of BATE Borisov, this season has been incredibly interesting for all football fans around the country. We will definitely see another exciting football season next year because all the other teams have a lot to prove and are doing everything to succeed and to follow in the footsteps of BATE. Our youth teams have also been very successful in 2008. Our Under-17 and Under-19 national teams qualified for the elite rounds of their respective European championships, while Yuri Kurnenin and his Under-21 team are going to be taking part in the final round of the European Under-21 Championship in Sweden".

He closed his address by wishing good luck to all the youth teams and a spectacular 2009 football season to all the fans. ■



AZERBAIJAN

• ELCHIN MAMMADOV •

Player registration begins

In mid-November, the Football Association of Azerbaijan (AFFA) embarked on the process of registering all players in the country who are over 11 years of age.



From the age of 11 every player is registered.

Before setting up this programme, the AFFA general secretary, Elkhan Mammadov, acquainted himself with similar databases in leading countries such as Germany.

The database will offer numerous advantages. For example, it will be possible to produce an analytical report on the numbers and ages of goalkeepers, defenders, etc. playing in any clubs or regions of Azerbaijan.

It will also present a major obstacle for players who want to lower their age artificially. A player's record is established when he or she turns 11 and it would then be impossible to change their age in the database.

At the beginning of each season, all players will receive plastic licence cards

bearing a personal code. The information on the cards will be taken from the database.

At present the programme is at the player-registration stage. In future, however, it is planned to register not only players but also coaches, club officials, and so on.

In this way, in the near future the AFFA will have full information on everyone involved in football. ■



BELARUS

• YULIA ZENKOVICH •

Player of the year awards

On 24 December, the Football Association of Belarus (BFF) closed the 2008 football season with its traditional awards ceremony.

It was no surprise that the players of BATE Borisov swept up a host of statuettes. With 16 goals apiece, Vitaliy Rodionov and Gennadiy Blizniuk shared the award for top scorer in the national championship. Rodionov became the star of the evening as he went on to collect the best striker



Gennadiy Neviglas, president of the Belarus federation, presents BATE Borisov's Vitaliy Rodionov with one of his three awards.



BELGIUM

• PIERRE CORNEZ •

Justine Henin and Kim Gevaert, World Cup ambassadors

As part of their joint application to host the 2018 World Cup, the Netherlands and Belgium are currently promoting their bid and putting together a team of ambassadors for this purpose. On 18 December, two top sports personalities known throughout the world were unveiled as the first Belgian ambassadors.

Alain Courtois, coordinator of the 2018 World Cup bid in Belgium and the



Alain Courtois with Justine Henin (left) and Kim Gevaert.

Netherlands and former director of EURO 2000, was very proud as he presented the two ambassadors: Justine Henin, former elite tennis player and world number one, and Kim Gevaert, a top-class sprinter who reached the pinnacle of her professional career by winning silver in the 4x100 metres at the 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing.

Justine Henin, a big football fan, did not hesitate for a second when she was asked to become an ambassador for the bid and the same can be said of Kim Gevaert, who was unable to hide her pride at being given the opportunity to be part of such an ambitious project. Both of them insist that Belgium is a country with enormous potential and talent and they share a deep-seated belief that the Belgian-Dutch bid for the 2018 World Cup will be successful.

These two great ladies recently finished their professional careers as athletes, but their example demonstrates that a small country such as Belgium is capable of achieving great things. Clearly, they enjoyed their success in sports other than football, but through their commitment and the enthusiasm they showed as they took on their new roles, they have proven that this project extends beyond the world of football and should be a true advertisement for Dutch and Belgian sport as a whole. ■



BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

• FUAD KRVAVAC •

Vedad Ibisevic, sportsman of the year

Vedad Ibisevic, Hoffenheim's striker, was in the spotlight in Bosnia-Herzegovina in December. Both Ibisevic and his club have been a revelation in the Bundesliga this season. At the end of the first half of the season, the league newcomers were sitting at the top of the table, with Ibisevic as the top scorer in the German championship with 18 goals on his sheet, six more than second leading scorer, Bayer Leverkusen's Patrick Helmes.

A number of news stations in Bosnia-Herzegovina organised a person of the year 2008 contest, in which Ibisevic was voted sportsman of the year, an award he certainly deserved. Besides many football fans, the most satisfied supporter of Ibisevic's play and goals is Miroslav Blazevic, head coach of the Bosnia-Herzegovina national team. Ibisevic will be the strongest link in the next World Cup qualifying matches.

"Being the top scorer in the Bundesliga after the first half of the season is a huge honour but also a commitment for the future. I didn't expect it, but now that I'm in the lead I want to stay there. I have a significant advantage, and I hope to score even more goals in the next half of the season. However, the most important thing is to play and avoid injury. My team-mate, Sejad Salihovic, who also plays with me in the national team, has been a huge support and has contributed to the results I have achieved," Ibisevic said.

The executive board of the Football Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina (FFBHZ) met recently for the main purpose of electing a new FFBHZ general secretary. However, no one was appointed, as none of the three candidates – former general secretary Munib Usanovic, Fuad Colpa and Nijaz Merdanovic – received enough votes. Therefore, new elections will take place before the end of February. Eva Pasquier from FIFA and Theodore Theodoridis from UEFA attended the meeting.

The second part of the premier league season starts on 28 February and runs until 23 May. ■



A fantastic first half of the season for Vedad Ibisevic.



CZECH REPUBLIC

• VACLAV TICHY •

Coach education system assessed

UEFA's technical director, Andy Roxburgh, has told the leadership of the Football Association of the Czech Republic that the education of Czech football coaches meets all the criteria of the UEFA coaching convention.

Both pilot projects got the thumbs up – the youth coach education and the UEFA Pro licence course. *"Once approved by the UEFA Executive Committee, our youth coach education will serve as a basis for youth coach education in Europe,"* said Jiri Zalabakthe, technical director responsible for coach education.

The coach education system for the UEFA Pro licence received a similarly positive

assessment. The current two-year course is approaching the halfway stage and will finish with a final exam in December 2009. Among the students are former internationals Zdenek Svoboda, Karel Kula and Martin Kotulek. The course is taught by well-known coaches such as Karel Vecera, Karel Jarusek, Jaroslav Hrebik, Petr Ulicny, Verner Licka, Stanislav Levy and Josef Csaplár. The participation of the head coach of the Czech national team, Petr Rada, and other league coaches is expected in the spring.

UEFA also appreciates the fact that the Czech system includes, as a first in Europe, an international exchange programme with neighbouring countries such as Germany, Slovakia and Poland. Cooperation with Austria is in preparation. UEFA has recommended this international dimension to all the signatory associations of the UEFA convention. ■



ENGLAND

• JENNIE HAMBLETON •

Women's course in Trinidad

FIFA vice-president Jack Warner opened The FA's women's and girls' football development course in Trinidad in December.

Describing the future of football as feminine, Mr Warner encouraged all 23 participants attending from the CONCACAF region to take the lessons from the course back to their respective countries to develop the game for women and girls.

England's women's national U23 head coach Brent Hills and exercise scientist Dawn Scott delivered the three-day course, which focused on psychological and physiological considerations as well as coaching methods, principally for girls aged 8-15.

The course also included a demonstration session led by Scott with the Trinidad and Tobago women's national U17 team.

Hills said: "The girls in the national U17 team and the primary school girls that took part in coaching sessions showed that there is a real love of football by girls in the Caribbean. I was very impressed by the level of skills I saw from some of the girls here. We sensed a real commitment from the course participants to see football develop for women and girls in their countries. It was fantastic to see such enthusiasm."

The workshop was the last of three courses delivered by The FA in 2008 in the CONCACAF region as part of the memorandum of understanding between The FA and CONCACAF. ■



Jack Warner with representatives of The FA.



FRANCE

• MATTHIEU BRELLE-ANDRADE •

Encouraging ex-players to become referees

As part of increasing dialogue between the different parts of the French football family, the National Referees' Department (DNA) of the French Football Federation (FFF) hosted a meeting with the National Union of Professional Footballers (UNFP) at the FFF headquarters in Paris on 19 January.

The meeting provided an opportunity to discuss the possibilities for professional players to become top-level referees, a career path that very few French players take. The DNA is keen to make it easier for retired professional players to become referees. Marc Batta, national refereeing director, described the procedures that need to be followed in order to make the transition from player to referee. Around 15 professional players interested in taking this step were in attendance, along with Sylvain Kastendeuch, UNFP co-president, and Philippe Piat, head of the European division of FIFPro.

Several former Ligue 2 players have already shown a desire to become referees. The first, Silas Billong, who played for Brest before taking up refereeing, participated in the meeting on 19 January, when he described his own experience. ■



ESTONIA

• MIHKEL UIBOLEHT •

Estonian football welcomes its centennial year

The Estonian Football Association (EJL) is preparing to celebrate the 100th birthday of football in the country in 2009.

The birth date of Estonian football is considered to be 6 June 1909, when the first official game was held between Tallinn sides Meteor and Merkuur. Meteor won this historical match 4-2. The EJL itself was established later, on 14 December 1921.

The EJL has planned a series of events in 2009 to celebrate the centenary and get the whole country beating to the football rhythm.

Before turning its attention to the new year and announcing plans for 2009, the EJL rounded off 2008 with an awards ceremony to honour the best players of the year.

Raio Piiroja, the Estonian national team defender who plays his club football with Fredrikstad FK in Norway, was voted player of the year for the third time in a row by the EJL and the football journalists. Goal-

keeper Pavel Londak (FK Bodö/Glimt, Norway) finished behind him in second place, with midfielder Joel Lindpere (Tromsö, Norway) coming in third.

Kaidi Jekimova (FC Levadia) was named female player of the year. Youth player of the year awards were presented to Sergei Zenjov (Karpaty Lviv, Ukraine) and Margarita Zernosekova (Pärnu JK).

In addition, the EJL also awarded three orders of merit. Its highest award, the golden order of merit, was presented to Arno Pijpers, former coach of the Estonian national team and FC Flora. Two silver orders of merit were presented to long-serving international Marek Lemsalu, who had announced his retirement from professional football, and Kristen Viikmäe, who has played a remarkable 109 games for Estonia.

The Estonian Meistriliiga fair play competition was won by FC Flora, who left the relegated Pärnu JK Vaprus and champions FC Levadia in second and third place respectively.

In other news, the EJL, together with the top clubs in Estonia, is taking big steps to develop the local leagues and clubs. Following the good example of UEFA, the EJL launched a Top Executive Programme in 2008.

The new programme consists of individual meetings between top officials from the

association and the clubs, with the help of specialists, to make strategic plans and set goals. With the association and the specialists, the clubs propose a bold and strong vision and then look at how it could be achieved. In this respect, the mutual understanding and assistance generated by the programme are the key to turning those visions into a reality. ■



Raio Piiroja, Estonian player of the year.



GERMANY

• THOMAS HACKBARTH •

DFB honours exemplary integration work

A jury containing national team manager Oliver Bierhoff shortlisted socially committed amateur clubs from Dormagen, Naumburg and Duisburg, one of which will be announced as the winner of the 2008 DFB and Mercedes-Benz Integration Prize in February.

For the second time, the German Football Association (DFB) and its general sponsor Mercedes-Benz will award the integration prize with under the motto "Football: many cultures – one passion", honouring projects and activities that use football to foster the integration of



Oliver Bierhoff is all in favour of integration.

children and young people – particularly girls – from an immigrant background in an exemplary way. The winners will be announced and presented with the integration prize at the international match between Germany and Norway in Düsseldorf on 11 February.

"Since people from foreign backgrounds are currently under-represented in football officialdom, tribute should be paid to initiatives that result in immigrants taking up voluntary positions in football", says the DFB's president, Dr Theo Zwanziger.

The integration prize is also awarded in school and project categories. As well as Oliver Bierhoff, jury members include the DFB's integration manager, Gül Keskinler; the DFB president, Dr Theo Zwanziger; the DFB vice-president, Rolf Hocke; Ursula Schwarzenbart, director of the Global Diversity Office of Daimler AG; Bettina Haussmann, senior manager for Branded Entertainment at Mercedes-Benz Cars; Prof. Maria Böhmer, the federal government's commissioner for integration; and Burkhard Jungkamp, the chairman of the sports commission of the standing conference of German ministers of education and cultural affairs.

The winners in each category receive a Mercedes-Benz Vito, a valuable addition for any club or school, providing a safe, comfortable means of transport to take children and young people to their tournaments or league matches. The three runners-up each receive EUR 10,000 for their integration activities, while the three third-placed clubs receive EUR 5,000 each. ■



ISRAEL

• SUZIN NIMROD •

International youth tournament

The Israel Football Association (IFA) hosted an international winter tournament for youth teams in December. The tournament, first held in the 1974/75 season and halted at the beginning of the present decade, was reinstated last year by the IFA, and this year eight national teams participated in two age groups.

The games were held at nine football pitches around the country. The German (U18) and Turkish (U17) national teams won in their respective age groups. In a ceremony held at the end of the tournament, trophies were awarded to the national teams and to the outstanding players from each team.

The IFA chairman, Avi Luzon, set out two strategies that the IFA will adopt in the next two years. The first is a national plan to enhance the national team and

establish a systematic method for building the next generation of Israeli footballers.

Last month, the cornerstone was laid for the national teams' complex that will comprise two football pitches, a guest-house, treatment and briefing rooms, and more. The aim is to create an ordered structure that will be supervised by a professional team of international renown.

The second strategy is to bring crowds back to the football grounds by directly subsidising the prices of tickets for premier league matches. The direct contribution of the IFA to the subsidies is estimated at around four million shekels (approximately EUR 756,000). ■



Young Israelis take part in the international tournament.



LITHUANIA

• VAIVA ZIZAITĖ •

Coach education course organised

Anatolij Buznik, an experienced coach educator from Ukraine, has been working with a group of 21 Lithuanian coaches at the national academy, where the second part of the UEFA A licence course took place.



Zeroing in on coach education.

Most of the lectures were delivered by Anatolij Buznik. He holds the UEFA Pro licence and at present he is head coach of the Ukrainian Under-19 team.

The seminar concentrated on topics such as tactical intellection, tactical team selection and formation, and the main precepts of defending in zones.

In addition to the esteemed guest from Ukraine, other lectures were given by the doctor of the Lithuanian national team, Laimutis Skikas, and by the director of the national football academy, Raimondas Statkevicius, among other specialists. ■



MALTA

• ALEX VELLA •

Intensive work during 2008

2008 was a very busy one for the Malta Football Association (MFA). There was uninterrupted work in the administrative, technical and infrastructural sectors.

Administratively, the association updated several sections of its statutes, amended regulations and competition rules, decided on matters of policy and carried out other work through boards and committees. The aim was greater efficiency for the benefit of football.

Embellishing the national stadium and the surrounding area, upgrading the Centenary Stadium and the project to improve the facilities of member clubs and member associations were prominent during the year.

Over EUR 12 million was earmarked to be spent on this ambitious plan to improve playing facilities and club amenities in Malta. UEFA is at the forefront in providing the funds through its HatTrick pro-



Malta's national stadium.

gramme, while the MFA, through bank loans, will also help in this respect. Assistance will also be forthcoming from the Maltese government.

Renewals of three-year sponsorship agreements with the Bank of Valletta for the national league competitions and with Maltco Lotteries Ltd for the U*BET FA trophy and the knockout competitions of the lower divisions were other high points during 2008.

Commitments for all Malta's national teams kept up the MFA's momentum of activity, while the technical centre was fully engaged in providing useful service. Coaches, referees, women's football, futsal and grassroots football were other busy areas of work for the MFA, making 2008 an intensive and fruitful year. ■



NORTHERN IRELAND

• SUEANN HARRISON •

Jonny Evans backs safeguarding poster campaign

Irish FA child/player welfare ambassador Jonny Evans has generously sponsored a safeguarding children and young players in football poster campaign by donating half his international match fees to the IFA's Child/Player Welfare Department.

The Manchester United and Northern Ireland star specifically requested that his donation be used to kick-start a campaign that will communicate a very important message to children and young players: "You have the right to feel safe and have fun while playing football."

The posters, which are being distributed to schools, clubs, mini football centres, church/youth groups and leisure centres throughout Northern Ireland, are designed to encourage children and young players to seek help if they have a problem, either by confiding in a trusted adult, for example, a parent/guardian, teacher, coach or club child welfare officer, or by contacting a children's charity helpline/website.

"As a footballer, I realise that safety and fun are two of the most important

aspects of the game," said Jonny. "If children and young players are going to develop as footballers, and more importantly as people, they need to participate in a secure environment that is free from abuse and harm. I hope that by sponsoring this campaign, I can contribute in some way to the development of children and young players throughout Northern Ireland."

Jim Grattan, IFA child/player welfare manager, praised Jonny's gesture: "Jonny's contribution to football is proving to be as significant off the field as on it. His voluntary donation to the department, which will be used to produce resources that will help to safeguard the welfare of our young players, reflects his continued support and commitment as ambassador to the programme." ■



Jonny Evans and Jim Grattan.



MOLDOVA

• VICTOR DAGHI •

Gala for award winners

Vitalie Bordian, midfielder of FC Metalist Kharkiv in Ukraine, received the 2008 player of the year award at the awards ceremony held in December in front of an audience of 2,500. This traditional event is when the FA of Moldova recognises the outstanding football personalities of the year.

At the gala, other awards were presented in the categories of best coach (Vlad Goian, FC Iskra-Stali and U19 national team), best referee (Valeriu Sorochin), best futsal player (Ian Iacovenco, JLC Chisinau), best female player (Svetlana Ceban, Roma Puhaceni), best beach football player (Ruslan Coberman, Real Succes) and best football-tennis player (Maxim Leghezin, CS Varnita).

Former FIFA referee Ghenadie Orlic was recognised by UEFA with a diploma for his six-year international refereeing career.

In the remaining categories, (Stanislav Namasco (FC Sheriff) was named best goalkeeper of the domestic championship, Igor Armas (FC Zimbru) best defender, Alexandru Suvorov (FC Tiraspol) best midfielder, Oleg Andronic (FC Zimbru) best forward and Igor Pucusiac (FC Sheriff) best goalscorer.

The national U21 team received the team of the year award, while FC Tiraspol took the 2008 fair play award. Mihai Andronic (CSCT Buiucani) received the youth coach award, Serghei Turcan (CS Tornado) the futsal coach award, Petru Nicora (UTM) the female coach award and Vladimir Colbasiuc the futsal referee of the year award.

Victor Bulat (FC Dacia) won the people's football personality of the year award from the Sport Curier newspaper and the Vremea newspaper honoured Alexandru Onica (FC Dacia) for the best debut in the Moldovan national team.

Other awards from UEFA and the FA of Moldova went to: Ciobruciu sports school

(Most Valuable Grassroots Football Event 2008), Congaz special school (Best Disability Football Event 2008), Chisinau veterans' team (Best Veterans Football Event 2008), CF Aset-Unita Straseni (Best Futsal Event 2008), the British Embassy in Moldova (Development of Grassroots Football) and, last but not least, Iurie Bulgareanu (Development of Beach Football).

The FA of Moldova also introduced a new award, Gentleman of the Year, which went to former referee Valeriu Sidenco. His story is simple but very captivating. As a taxi driver he returned a lost bag containing EUR 15,000 and became very well known in Moldova. ■



Pavel Cebanu addresses an audience of 2,500 at the awards ceremony.



NORWAY

• YNGVE HAAVIK •

Elite futsal established in Norway

Elite futsal for men has been introduced by the Football Association of Norway (NFF), and the historical kick-off in November marked the start of an important commitment.

In 2007, the board in the NFF decided to introduce futsal, and through qualifying rounds in 2007/08, ten teams qualified for the elite men's futsal league, the Telekiosken Futsal Liga, which was launched at the end of November.

"I think futsal is a sport that is developing well and that we will experience new

aspects in what for us is a new sector. We both hope and believe it will be a success. Futsal is played in most UEFA member nations, and we want to participate," said the NFF president, Sondre Kåfjord.

Regional elite futsal divisions have also been set up, and further down the road the goal is to develop local divisions.

The NFF also wanted to establish elite futsal for women, but because of a lack of interest in participating at a national level, two regional divisions have been put together for this season. However, the effort to establish elite women's futsal will continue.

The NFF hopes to have a national men's futsal team in place by the end of 2009, and the objective is the World Cup qualifiers that will hopefully take Norway to the final round in 2012. ■

for the transport and accommodation of the 12 teams which compete in the Romanian league.

In January and February, the first schools' cup for girls under 13 is taking place. After the local and regional phases, a final round will take place in Bucharest in March. The best players will be selected for the existing clubs playing at local and regional levels, where they will play mixed football. The aim is to increase the number of clubs. The best of those players will then be selected for the above-mentioned regional centres, where they will play in a youth championship which is to be created. The most talented girls will be picked for the Romanian national Under-15 team.

Interest among schoolgirls is high, and it is expected that once that interest has been demonstrated by the girls' Under-15 schools' cup, negotiations will begin with the Romanian ministry of education in order to have at least one women's football class in every school.

It is only the first step, but it is a very important one, in order to raise the level of interest in and financial support for women's football in Romania. ■



REPUBLIC OF IRELAND

• FRAN WHEARTY •

FAI carry out underage review

During November and December, the Football Association of the Republic of Ireland (FAI) held a series of 14 consultative workshops around Ireland as part of its far-reaching underage review.



John Delaney, chief executive of the FAI, and Des Tomlinson, the FAI's intercultural coordinator, at an event on interculturalism.

As a sport, football has grown significantly in Ireland over the past decade and is now the largest participation sport in the country despite keen competition from other team games such as rugby, Gaelic football and hurling. This underage review will enable the association to improve existing structures and put in place new structures fundamental to the continued growth of our game. The review will encompass all age groups from U18 level down and the steering committee contains representatives from the major football affiliates as well as Genesis Consulting, the country's leading sport consulting agency, whose staff acted as facilitators at the workshops.

In recent years, such review strategies have proved very beneficial to the devel-

opment of football in Ireland. Record investment in the association's technical development plan has enabled the FAI to roll out best practice strategies in interculturalism, schools, colleges and universities and the amateur sector, which has provided a significant long-term benefit to the grassroots of our sport. In addition, the FAI intercultural strategy – the first of any national governing body in Ireland – is taking the lead by using the world sport of football as a tool for integration and social inclusion in our country. ■



ROMANIA

• PAUL ZAHARIA •

Mixed football

Aware that, at the moment, Romanian clubs are not very interested in women's or mixed football, and that, consequently, the prospects are not good if this situation continues, the Romanian FA has unveiled a project led by Raluca Sandu (general manager of this project) and Daniel Robe (representative of the women's football clubs on the executive committee of the Romanian FA) and under the guidance of Mircea Sandu, president of the Romanian FA and member of the UEFA Executive Committee.

The main target of the project, launched on 16 December, is to have as many regional mixed football training centres as possible from 2010 where girls under 14 will be able to play. From 14 onwards, girls' and boys' football will be kept separate. *"It remains to be seen if the Romanian FA will be able to finance the whole project or if we will also use European Union funds,"* Mircea Sandu said at the press conference. The Romanian FA already provides financial support



SERBIA

• ALEKSANDAR BOSKOVIC •

A new national centre

Finally, after so many decades of dreams, the FA of Serbia (FAS) and Serbian football are going to get a real home of their own, the FAS sports centre. The centre will be built on land belonging to the municipality of Stara Pazova, 30 km from the centre of Belgrade. On 26 December, in Belgrade, the contract for the construction of the centre was signed by the FAS president, Tomislav Karadzic, and the mayor of Stara Pazova, Goran Jovic.

It will be huge complex, covering 10 hectares, with a whole range of facilities, including pitches with natural and artificial grass, a closed pitch, hotel and hall. The main idea is to build a home for Serbian football as a whole, including



From left to right: Goran Jovic, mayor of Stara Pazova, minister Snezana Markovic-Samardzic, and the president of the Serbian FA, Tomislav Karadzic.

the academies, a single place where everybody in Serbian football can come together.

The construction of the centre will be financed from two sources – there will be funding from the FIFA Goal project and a matching amount from the Serbian ministry of youth and sport. The contract signing ceremony was attended by the minister of youth and sport, Snezana Markovic-Samardzic. In her words:

"The FAS sports centre has been one of the priorities of our ministry. The interest of this project goes beyond football. Our ministry will contribute EUR 3 million and with other help I believe that will be enough. In Serbia, everybody loves football and now everybody is happy. We will also continue with new projects and the next step is to build 35 mini-pitches, in cooperation with UEFA and FIFA."

The FAS president, Tomislav Karadzic, added:

"This is the biggest victory for Serbian football in history off the pitch. This project means more than any three points; it is a pledge for the future, a concrete development for everybody. Now we will concentrate on our quality, not only that of the players, but also of young coaches and everyone else who works in football. The next task of our association is build headquarters, a house of football, in an appropriate location in Belgrade."

Work on the sports centre will start very soon and everybody will be keen to see the finished product as soon as possible. ■



SWEDEN

• ANDREAS NILSSON •

New tool for referees

Swedish referees will get a lot more than hot air out of their whistles next season. The Swedish FA and manufacturer Spintso have developed a handheld electronic organiser that attaches to the traditional whistle.

The device will be used to register information during the game, and offers the referee support through multiple functions. Practical testing was conducted throughout 2008, and following feedback from referees, wide-scale production and use will commence in the 2009 season.

In other news, construction work on the brand-new arena in Gothenburg is almost complete, and the Swedish FA has announced that the women's national team will call this stadium (16,500 capacity) its home. The first international game at the Gamla Ullevi will be played on 25 April, when the Brazilian women's team has been invited to play Sweden. ■



A new refereeing tool.

SvFF



SWITZERLAND

• PIERRE BENOIT •

SFV fan club launched

The new SFV fan club was founded at the end of 2008. Via the SFV website, www.football.ch, fans of the Swiss national football team can register free of charge, take part in regular joint events and benefit from exclusive offers. Before every home match, for example, there will be a chance

to win free tickets. In addition, special reports about the various national teams and fans will be published. The fan club was set up by the Swiss Football Association (SFV) and the national team sponsors Credit Suisse, Swiss Life, Kinder Nutella, Ochsner Sport and Puma.

The SFV hopes that the new fan club will generate closer, more emotional ties with its supporters. *"We are offering the fans an extra platform where they can find information about our national teams and participate in joint events,"* explained Peter Gilliéron, the SFV's general secretary. ■



UKRAINE

• YVAN DYVAK/DMYTRO SOBKO •

Congress concludes the football year

The congress of the Football Federation of Ukraine (FFU) marked the end of the 2008 football year in the country. The meeting of the highest FFU governing body approved changes and additions to the national association's statutes, accepted the annual financial report and received the latest information on preparations for EURO 2012.

In accordance with the new requirements of FIFA and UEFA, some changes and additions have been made to the FFU statutes. *"Football associations in all countries have to bring their statutes into line with the corresponding documents of the international football bodies. So we formed a working group to examine this matter and took all the requests and remarks of the international bodies into consideration in the final version of our statutes,"* explained FFU first vice-president Serhiy Storozhenko.

The FFU's executive director, Oleksandr Bandurko, summarised the work of the

Executive Committee from September 2007 until December 2008. He described this period as very complicated but quite successful. *"Grassroots and children's football was and still is our priority and, in this respect, Ukraine was awarded five-star status under the UEFA Grassroots Charter,"* he said.

The congress unanimously elected to remove the former national team coach, Oleh Blokhin, and the former president of the Ukrainian professional football league (PFL), Ravil Safiullin, from the FFU executive committee. In their place, the newly elected head of the PFL, Svyatoslav Syrota, was elected as a member of the executive committee, as was the future president of the Ukrainian premier league.

The head of the FFU's EURO 2012 executive directorate, Ivan Fedorenko, reported that preparations for the tournament were gradually speeding up. *"The UEFA Executive Committee is expecting the third stage of the preparation plan to be completed by May 2009. Then the list of host cities will be revealed. So I urge our regional associations to step up their action in order to help our country obtain the maximum number of EURO 2012 venues,"* he said. ■



The FFU congress.

Communications

Birthdays – Calendar

Birthdays

Leonardus van der Kroft (Netherlands), a member of the circle of former committee members, turns 80 on 2 February. On 5 February, Nikolaos Zamboglou (Cyprus), a doping control officer, celebrates his 60th. He is followed on 18 February by referee observer Patrick Kelly (Republic of Ireland), and on 27 February by Allan Hansen (Denmark), first vice-chairman of the Referees Committee. Vladimir Sajin (Slovenia), a member of the Referees Committee, celebrates his 50th birthday on 22 February. Birthday greetings also go out this month to:

- Volker Roth (Germany, 1.2)
- Karen Espelund (Norway, 1.2)
- Kyros Vassaras (Greece, 1.2)
- Trygve Bornø (Norway, 2.2)
- Mark Blackburn (England, 3.2)
- Vaclav Kroncl (Czech Republic, 5.2)
- Gabriel Weiss (Slovakia, 6.2)
- Erich Rutenmüller (Germany, 8.2)
- Yusuf Namoglu (Turkey, 8.2)
- Alexander Slutski (Belarus, 8.2)
- Fino Fini (Italy, 9.2)
- Donald McVicar (Scotland, 9.2)
- Danilo Filacchione (Italy, 9.2)
- Zoran Lakovic (Serbia, 9.2)
- Luc Rabat (France, 10.2)
- Dani Koren (Israel, 10.2)
- William McDougall (Scotland, 11.2)
- Borislav Mihaylov (Bulgaria, 12.2)
- Oleksandr Bandurko (Ukraine, 13.2)
- Pierluigi Collina (Italy, 13.2)
- Heinz-Herbert Kreh (Germany, 14.2)
- Dieter Pauly (Germany, 14.2)
- Marinus den Engelsman (Netherlands, 14.2)
- Peter Bonde (Denmark, 14.2)
- Manuel Lopez Fernandez (Spain, 14.2)
- Georges Konrath (France, 15.2)
- John McBeth (Scotland, 15.2)
- Susanne Erlandsson (Sweden, 15.2)
- Athanassios Machairas (Greece, 15.2)
- Katriina Elovirta (Finland, 15.2)
- Svitlana Shkil (Ukraine, 15.2)
- Adalbert Kassai (Romania, 16.2)
- Gudrun Inga Sivertsen (Iceland, 17.2)
- Jozef Venglos (Slovakia, 18.2)
- Borislav Alexandrov (Bulgaria, 18.2)
- Flemming Serritslev (Denmark, 18.2)
- Pertti Alaja (Finland, 18.2)
- Anders Frisk (Sweden, 18.2)
- Jaroslav Vacek (Czech Republic, 19.2)
- Janis Mezeckis (Latvia, 19.2)
- Lars Arnesson (Sweden, 20.2)

- Eggert Magnusson (Iceland, 20.2)
- João F. De Magalhães Marques (Portugal, 20.2)
- Ralph Zloczower (Switzerland, 21.2)
- Carlos Godinho (Portugal, 21.2)
- Asim Khudiyev (Azerbaijan, 22.2)
- Niels-Christian Holmstrøm (Denmark, 23.2)
- Maarten Fonteijn (Netherlands, 23.2)
- Peter Jones (England, 24.2)
- Juan Padron Morales (Spain, 25.2)
- Manfred Amerell (Germany, 25.2)
- Miroslav Radoman (Serbia, 25.2)
- Alberto Lopez Moreno (Spain, 25.2)
- Jens Erik Magnussen (Faroe Islands, 26.2)
- Egidius Braun (Germany, 27.2)
- Xavier Lebray (France, 27.2)
- Zorislav Srebric (Croatia, 28.2)
- Dino Zoff (Italy, 28.2)
- Aron Schmidhuber (Germany, 28.2)
- John Beattie (England, 28.2)

Forthcoming events

Meetings

1-6.2.2009, Malaga

Referees course

4.2.2009, Aarhus

Draw for the qualifying round of the 2009-11 European Under-21 Championship

16.2.2009, Nyon

Fair Play and Social Responsibility Committee
Futsal and Beach Soccer Committee

17.2.2009, Nyon

Youth and Amateur Football Committee
Players' Status, Transfer and Agents and Match Agents Committee

18.2.2009, Nyon

Club Licensing Committee
Club Competitions Committee

19.2.2009, Nyon

Women's Football Committee
Football Committee

20.2.2009, Nyon

Media Committee
Marketing Advisory Committee

Competitions

18/19.2.2009

UEFA Cup: round of 32 (first legs)

24/25.2.2009

UEFA Champions League: round of 16 (first legs)

26.2.2009

UEFA Cup: round of 32 (return legs)

Notice

■ The Latvia Football Federation has a new address: Olympic Sports Center, Grostonas Street 6b, Riga, LV-1013. Its telephone and fax numbers remain unchanged.

Match agents

Four more match agents have been awarded UEFA licences:

Serge Patrice Kuimi Tchatchoua

Kuim's Sport World SL
C/ Dos de Mayo 50, piso 5
Mostoles (Madrid) 28934, Spain
Tel./Fax: +34 91 664 6025
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Mobile: +31 628 411 481
i.gurel@hetnet.nl

New publication

Le Guide du Respect dans le Football

UEFA is, thankfully, not alone in promoting respect: the head of the French Football Federation's ethics committee and former French international Dominique Rocheteau has teamed up with journalist Chérif Ghemmour to produce this short guide, illustrated by Aki and published by Calmann-Lévy. The guide contains ten stories about a team called Respect, corresponding to ten commandments of respect: for the coach, your team-mates, your own body and health, others, the referee, your opponents, diversity, the public, equipment and facilities, and the match. Each story is accompanied by a contribution from a big name in French football, either a player or coach.



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