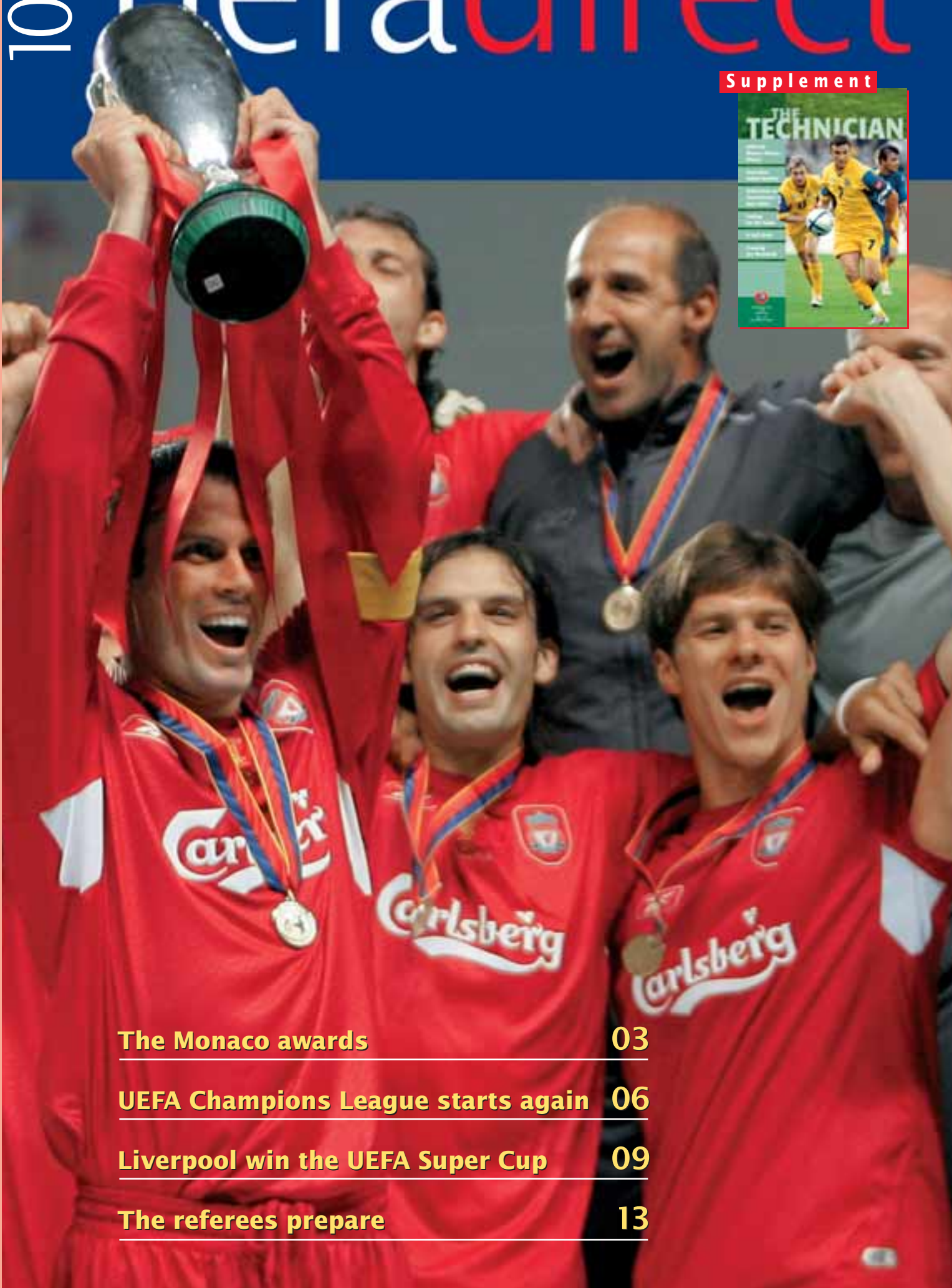


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COVER

Jamie Carragher holds the trophy aloft, following Liverpool FC's third UEFA Super Cup victory.

PHOTO: D. AQUILINA

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Editorial

G i v i n g b a c k t o s o c i e t y

Not even the most precociously talented player makes it to the international stage overnight. To get that far, he first has to learn his trade with a club and develop his skills along the way – with his club and the national teams – with the help of coaches who are often volunteers, and playing with team-mates who might probably never get as far as the professional ranks. The top flight cannot exist without the grassroots base, which needs to be as extensive as possible. It is therefore quite fitting that professional football should give back part of its substantial revenue to grassroots football, as happens in the UEFA Champions League and the

European Championships, for example, where the centralised sale of rights allows the solidarity principle to be applied.

Nor is there any top player who has failed to benefit from society's investments in sport, whether in terms of the installation of facilities, the provision of equipment, support for the training of coaches, or educational programmes and sometimes even financial support. Here too, it is normal that professional football should show its gratitude and assign part of its revenue to social causes, if possible to help the most disadvantaged sections of the population.

In addition to hosting the events which herald the new European club competition season, the gathering in Monaco at the end of August is the setting for two highly symbolic ceremonies. First, by rewarding the "magnificent seven", representing the countless enthusiasts whose dedication is a vital element in the game's universal appeal, UEFA seeks to strengthen the link between professional football and the grassroots game. Second,

by awarding a cheque for one million Swiss francs to a charity, UEFA not only highlights football's inspirational and beneficial role in society but also expresses its clear wish to support that role through specific financial backing.

Within the very full programme in Monaco, these two ceremonies are maybe not the prime focus of attention, but their particular significance certainly deserves a mention in its own right.

Lars-Christer Olsson
Chief Executive



Italy have won the Homeless World Cup for the second time.

MARK SHIPPERLEE

WE CARE ABOUT FOOTBALL



Season kicks off in Monaco

A full and varied programme



PHOTOS: UEFA-BOZZANI

IN EACH OF THE LAST EIGHT YEARS, THE PRINCIPALITY OF MONACO HAS BEEN THE CAPITAL OF EUROPEAN FOOTBALL FOR A FEW DAYS AT THE END OF AUGUST.

A wide range of activities are held during these few days. While particular attention is given to the UEFA Super Cup match and the draws for the group stage of the Champions League and the UEFA Cup first round, there is also plenty of activity behind the scenes, including meetings of UEFA organs such as the Club Competitions Committee, various discussions and preparations for the new season with the participating clubs, sponsors and television channels, as well as press conferences and other meetings with media representatives.

Another highlight is the presentation of awards to the best

players from the previous club season, as selected by the elite coaches.

This year, the prize-giving ceremony was not held during the gala evening at the Sporting Club in Monaco, but as a preliminary to Thursday afternoon's UEFA Champions League draw at the Grimaldi Forum.

Three players from each category (goalkeepers, defenders, midfielders and strikers) were the subject of a video presentation including comments from leading football personalities, before the names of the winners were announced from the podium.

President's award for Frank Rijkaard

Also during the gala evening in Monaco, the UEFA President's Award was presented to the current Barcelona coach, Frank Rijkaard. The prize was awarded in recognition of the human qualities and professionalism of a man whose humility has not been diminished by his numerous successes and honours and who is a true ambassador for football through his respect for fair play and his gentlemanly behaviour.



The guests were also shown images of some of the greatest goals of the 2004/05 Champions League campaign. Prizes were awarded for Ronaldinho's strike against AC Milan and, for set-piece goals, John Terry's winning header from a free-kick for FC Chelsea against FC Porto.



Steven Gerrard, a most valuable player for his team.

PHOTOS: UEFA-BOZZANI



Lars-Christer Olsson and Ronaldinho hand over the cheque to the representatives of ProPoor Sports.

A cheque for the homeless

Held during the evening following the Champions League draw, the UEFA gala evening in Monaco is traditionally an occasion for demonstrating European football's solidarity with the disadvantaged by presenting a cheque for one million Swiss francs to a football-related charitable project.

This year, the Executive Committee chose the ProPoor Sports (PPS) organisation, which promotes street football as a means of social integration.

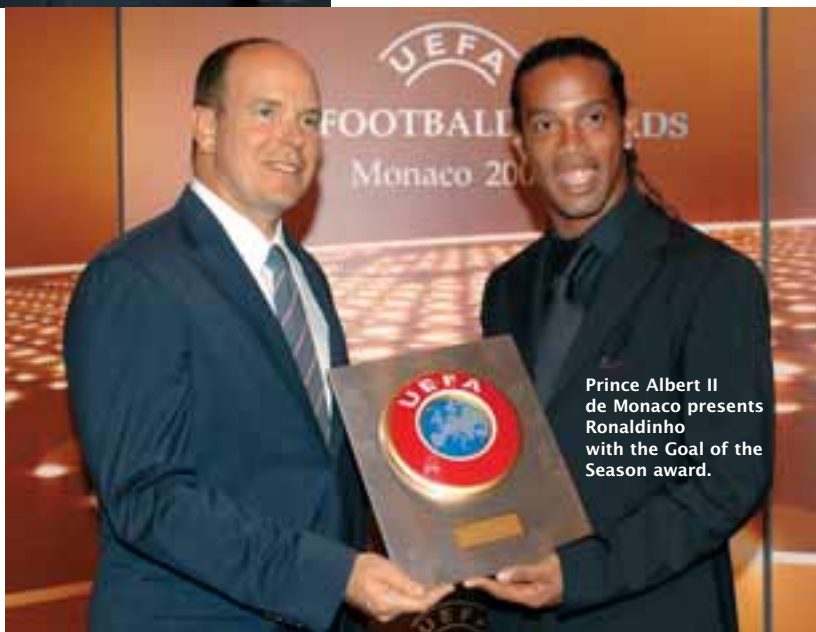
Since 2003, PPS has, in collaboration with the International Network of Street Papers (INSP), organised the *Homeless Street Soccer World Cup*, the third edition of which was held in Edinburgh in July. Within the space of five days, 27 teams played a total of 114 matches in which 625 goals were scored.

Around 60,000 people attended the tournament, which was won by holders Italy, who retained the trophy with a 3-2 win over Poland in the final.

An impact report prepared after the 2004 edition highlighted the extremely positive effects of this event, both in terms of the participants' self-confidence and at a professional level, with many of them having found a stable job after the tournament.

As a result, PPS is planning to expand this event in the next few years and the cheque from UEFA will help with this process.

The 2006 edition will be held in Cape Town, South Africa.



Prince Albert II de Monaco presents Ronaldinho with the Goal of the Season award.

This year's winners

- **Petr Cech** (Chelsea FC) won the award for best goalkeeper but was unable to travel to Monaco because of an English league match. The winner was announced by the hero of the 1986 Champion Clubs' Cup final, Steaua Bucharest goalkeeper Helmut Ducadam.
- Former Real Madrid striker Emilio Butragueño awarded the prize to the top midfielder, AC Milan's Brazilian star **Ricardo Kaka**.
- **John Terry** (Chelsea FC), for the same reason as his team-mate Petr Cech, was unable to be in Monaco, where former Inter Milan defender Giacinto Facchetti announced that he had won the best defender award.
- **Ronaldinho** (FC Barcelona) was presented with the award for the best striker by the former Benfica and Portugal star Eusebio.
- As in recent years, the coaches also selected the Most Valuable Player for his club; **Steven Gerrard**, (Liverpool FC) earned this award by demonstrating, particularly in the Champions League final against AC Milan, the crucial role he plays for his team. The prize was presented by the UEFA President.

Celebrations galore

Commemorations to mark the birth of the European Champion Clubs' Cup got under way in Monaco, where the special anniversary logo was unveiled before the UEFA Champions League group draw.

Apart from plaques for players who have left their mark on the competition, a number of activities are being organised during the season, culminating at the UEFA Champions League final in Paris next May.

A 95-minute DVD is being produced so that fans can relive the most exciting goals and moments in the 50-year history of the European Cup. 'Living legends' will also be sharing their memories of the competition as well as recounting

some anecdotes. The DVD will be retailed through newspaper promotions and other distribution channels.

The great moments of the competition will also be featured in a richly illustrated book. In addition, there are plans for a photo exhibition, a generic spot for the UEFA Champions League partner broadcasters to use, as well as plenty of other activi-

ties to promote the competition and pay tribute to the 21 clubs that have won it so far.

By means of these celebrations, it is hoped that the tradition of European club football will be passed down to the younger generation.



Seven examples of passion

As last year, a ceremony was held on the pitch shortly before the Super Cup kicked-off to pay tribute to a "Magnificent Seven" individuals whose involvement in football, however anonymous, represents an outstanding contribution to the popularity and success of the sport. The following were honoured this year:

Bengt Ågren (Sweden), who has dedicated most of his long career to football and young people, helping to organise the 1958 World Cup, last year's centenary celebrations of the Swedish Football Association and numerous youth tournaments.

Jacques Barlie (Switzerland) is not really an unknown figure, since his talents as a goalkeeper were rewarded with a place in the Swiss national team. However, his presence among the "Magnificent Seven" is testimony to his work after his playing career, as a goalkeeping coach, kit manager and general dogsbody for his club, Servette FC of Geneva.

Petro Beznosenko (Ukraine) has devoted more than 50 years to football development in Ukraine and the USSR. An instructor, coach and supervisor, he has also exercised numerous functions within committees and other bodies.

Antonio Martin Gaitan (Spain) is the youngest of the "Magnificent Seven", a footballer whose qualities have earned him numerous individual and team awards at national, European and world levels. He is particularly special because he plays for a team of visually impaired players. He is totally blind and it is his fight against adversity that earned him the award in Monaco.

Jørgen Pedersen (Denmark) has spent countless hours working for Brøndby IF, a club where he has served as coach and board member, carrying out a whole range of tasks for no other reward than the good of his club.

Stig Martin Sandvik (Norway) is another (young) example of the refusal to give in to adversity. A spokesperson for Special Olympics International, he fights for people with learning disabilities, in order that sport and football might help them to improve their quality of life and ease their integration into society.

Renato Trapanelli (Italy) represents, behind the scenes, what Paolo Maldini embodies on the pitch: loyalty to his club, AC Milan. An excellent talent scout, sports activity coordinator at the club's training centre and ballboy manager, he has been working with unwavering enthusiasm for the Lombard club for 65 years.



The Magnificent Seven with the UEFA President and CEO. Left to right: Jacques Barlie, Stig Martin Sandvik, Renato Trapanelli, Antonio Martin Gaitan, Petro Beznosenko, Jørgen Pedersen and Bengt Ågren.



Lennart Johansson and presenter Jim Rosenthal.



The tension mounts before the draw.

UEFA Champions League

Celebrating 50 years

LISBON, 4 SEPTEMBER 1955: SPORTING CLUBE DE PORTUGAL PLAY FK PARTIZAN OF BELGRADE IN THE FIRST-EVER MATCH IN THE EUROPEAN CHAMPION CLUBS' CUP, A COMPETITION CONCEIVED BY THE NEWSPAPER L'EQUIPE.

Sixteen clubs participated in that first edition of the competition. Fifty years later, five of those founding clubs were again preparing for the opening matches of what is now the UEFA Champions League: Real Madrid, winners of the first competition, AC Milan, RSC Anderlecht, PSV Eindhoven and Rapid Vienna.

Together with the 27 other teams involved in the competition, 16 national associations are represented.

The draw for the 14th UEFA Champions League was made in Monaco on 25 August. To mark the 50th anniversary of the competition,

the final will take place in Paris, just as it did in the inaugural competition, although at the Stade de France rather than the Parc de Princes. As a further celebration, players who have excelled in the history of European club competition will be honoured throughout the season. Paolo Maldini, who assisted in the draw in Monaco,

was the first to receive a commemorative plaque, followed later at the UEFA Gala by Helmut Ducadam, Eusébio, Didier Deschamps and Raymond Kopa.

The clubs participating in this season's Champions League were drawn into eight groups of four taking

into account club seedings based on UEFA indices. The principle of keeping clubs from the same association apart in the group stage was also observed (except for Liverpool, admitted to the competition on an excep-



tional basis but not afforded this protection). Other criteria taken into account mainly concerned the order of playing matches (bearing in mind climatic conditions and the qualification of more than one club from the same city or region). Clubs finishing first or second in their group will qualify for the knockout phase (round of 16); third-placed teams go into the UEFA Cup (round of 32).

The best of last season

Of the 32 clubs involved in the draw in Monaco, 21 were involved in the group stage last season, including the eight quarter-finalists: the eventual winners, Liverpool; the finalists, AC Milan; semi-finalists, PSV Eindhoven and Chelsea; as well as Internazionale, Juventus, Bayern Munich and Olympique Lyonnais. Manchester United and FC Porto are



Paolo Maldini assists Lars-Christer Olsson.

PHOTOS: UEFA-BOZZANI



Eleven appearances in total, including ten in a row, for Manchester United.

GETTY IMAGES

UEFA Champions League bonuses

The bonuses to participating clubs will be identical to the previous two seasons, namely:

- 2.5 millions Swiss francs per club as a participation bonus;
- 500,000 Swiss francs per group match played, irrespective of the result;
- 500,000 Swiss francs for each group match victory;
- 250,000 Swiss francs for each group match draw;
- 2.5 million Swiss francs for qualification to the round of 16;
- 3 million Swiss francs for teams reaching the quarter-finals;
- 4 million Swiss francs for each of the four semi-finalists;
- 6 million Swiss francs for the losing finalist;
- 10 million Swiss francs for the winner of the competition.

In addition to the total amount paid to the clubs (including the part based on the commercial value of the markets of the countries represented, the "Market Pool"), there will also be a revenue surplus (provisionally some 29 million Swiss francs) to be distributed in a manner yet to be decided.

For the 2004/05 season, there was a revenue supplement of some 16 million Swiss francs which has yet to be distributed.

the most regular competitors in the elite European club competition as they are both taking part in their 11th UEFA Champions League. They are followed by Bayern Munich, Barcelona, Real Madrid, Juventus, AC Milan, Rosenborg and PSV Eindhoven who are all competing for the tenth time. Manchester United hold the record for the most participations in a row (10).

Twelve clubs take forty titles

Alongside the veterans of the competition, five clubs are making their Champions League debuts. These are Udinese Calcio, a rising force in Italian

Calendar of the 2005/06 UEFA Champions League

Group A		Group B		Group C		Group D	
14.09	Rapid V.-Bayern München Brugge-Juventus	Sparta Prague-AFC Ajax Arsenal FC-FC Thun	Udinese-Panathinaikos Werder Bremen-Barcelona	Villarreal-Manchester Utd SL Benfica-LOSC Lille			
27.09	Juventus-Rapid Vienna Bayern München-Brugge	FC Thun-Sparta Prague AFC Ajax-Arsenal FC	Barcelona-Udinese Panathinaikos-Werder Bremen	LOSC Lille-Villarreal Manchester Utd-SL Benfica			
18.10	Bayern München-Juventus Rapid Vienna-Brugge	AFC Ajax-FC Thun Sparta Prague-Arsenal FC	Panathinaikos-Barcelona Udinese-Werder Bremen	Manchester Utd-LOSC Lille Villarreal-SL Benfica			
02.11	Juventus-Bayern München Brugge-Rapid Vienna	FC Thun-AFC Ajax Arsenal FC-Sparta Prague	Barcelona-Panathinaikos Werder Bremen-Udinese	LOSC Lille-Manchester Utd SL Benfica-Villarreal			
22.11	Bayern M.-Rapid Vienna Juventus-Brugge	AFC Ajax-Sparta Prague FC Thun-Arsenal FC	Panathinaikos-Udinese Barcelona-Werder Bremen	Manchester Utd-Villarreal LOSC Lille-SL Benfica			
07.12	Rapid Vienna-Juventus Brugge-Bayern München	Sparta Prague-FC Thun Arsenal FC-AFC Ajax	Udinese-Barcelona Werder Bremen-Panathinaikos	Villarreal-LOSC Lille SL Benfica-Manchester Utd			
Group E		Group F		Group G		Group H	
13.09	AC Milan-Fenerbahce PSV-Schalke 04	Ol.Lyonnais-Real Madrid Olympiacos-Rosenborg	Chelsea FC-Anderlecht Real Betis-Liverpool FC	Rangers FC-FC Porto A. Bratislava-Internazionale			
28.09	Schalke 04-AC Milan Fenerbahce-PSV	Rosenborg-Ol.Lyonnais Real Madrid-Olympiacos	Liverpool FC-Chelsea FC Anderlecht-Real Betis	Internazionale-Rangers FC FC Porto-A. Bratislava			
19.10	Fenerbahce-Schalke 04 AC Milan-PSV Eindhoven	Real Madrid-Rosenborg Ol.Lyonnais-Olympiacos	Anderlecht-Liverpool FC Chelsea FC-Real Betis	FC Porto-Internazionale Rangers FC-A. Bratislava			
01.11	Schalke 04-Fenerbahce PSV Eindhoven-AC Milan	Rosenborg-Real Madrid Olympiacos-Ol.Lyonnais	Liverpool FC-Anderlecht Real Betis-Chelsea FC	Internazionale-FC Porto A. Bratislava-Rangers FC			
23.11	Fenerbahce-AC Milan Schalke 04-PSV	Real Madrid-Ol.Lyonnais Rosenborg-Olympiacos	Anderlecht-Chelsea FC Liverpool FC-Real Betis	FC Porto-Rangers FC Internazionale-A. Bratislava			
06.12	AC Milan-Schalke 04 PSV-Fenerbahce	Ol.Lyonnais-Rosenborg Olympiacos-Real Madrid	Chelsea FC-Liverpool FC Real Betis-Anderlecht	Rangers FC-Internazionale A. Bratislava-FC Porto			

A brand-new trophy

On 17 May 2006, a new trophy – although identical to the previous trophies – will be hoisted high by the captain of the winning team in the UEFA Champions League final. By achieving their fifth victory in the champions' competition in Istanbul, Liverpool FC gained the right to keep the trophy, in accordance with the rule introduced in the 1968/69 season, which stated that any club winning the competition five times, or three times in a row, could keep the trophy for good.



Scotland's captain Billy McNeill receives the new trophy from the president of Portugal, Americo Thomaz.

In March 1967, the Executive Committee decided at a meeting in Vienna to allow Real Madrid to keep the original trophy, a silver cup offered by L'Equipe, after the team's sixth victory. The Executive Committee then made 10,000 Swiss francs available for a new trophy to be made. The Bernese jeweller, Jörg Stadelmann, designed a new silver cup, 74 cm high and weighing some 8 kg. It was presented for the first time to the Celtic captain, Billy McNeill, on 25 May 1967 in Lisbon, after the Scottish team had beaten Internazionale. This was also the first time that a non-Mediterranean team had won the trophy.

Apart from Liverpool, three other clubs have been allowed to keep the trophy as a result of the regulation (AFC Ajax, Bayern Munich and AC Milan).



GUYOT/AFP/GETTY IMAGES



MONTEFORTE/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Real Betis (Alberto Rivera, 18) qualified at the expense of AS Monaco, while Udinese (Christian Obodo, in black) eliminated this year's losing UEFA Cup finalists, Sporting Portugal.

football in recent years and the eighth Italian club to participate in the Champions League; Real Betis and Villarreal, bringing the total of Spanish clubs that have taken part in the competition to 11; Artmedia Bratislava, Slovakian champions last season and the second Slovak club to participate in the Champions League after FC Kosice in 1997-98; and finally FC Thun, promoted to the Swiss elite division in 2002, a team whose only previous experience of European competition has been two outings in the UEFA Intertoto Cup. Thun will be the third Swiss team to compete in the Champions League, after Grasshopper and Basel. The Swiss side eliminated one of the most regular participants, Dynamo Kyiv, nine times in the competition, including the last eight seasons in a row. These five newcomers mean that 97 clubs have

now participated in the Champions League at least once. This year's edition brings together all the previous winners of the Champions League apart from Olympique de Marseille and Borussia Dortmund. Twelve of the participating teams have previously won the champions' trophy, and indeed account for 40 of the 50 titles since the first final in 1956. One of the earliest winners, Benfica, are making a return to the Champions League after an absence of six years.

Of UEFA's 52 associations, 28 have been represented in the Champions League, a figure which has not changed since 2003. This season is marked by the absence of Russian representatives, who for the first time since 1998 have failed to qualify. No Ukrainian clubs will be represented either, after two clubs participated last season.

UEFA Cup Thirty national associations



AT THE DRAW FOR THE FIRST ROUND OF THE UEFA CUP, HELD IN MONACO ON 26 AUGUST, THE UEFA CHIEF EXECUTIVE, LARS-CHRISTER OLSSON, EMPHASISED THE FRESH MOMENTUM OF THE COMPETITION FOLLOWING THE INTRODUCTION OF THE NEW FORMAT LAST SEASON.



UEFA-BOZZANI

For the 80 teams in contention in the first round, the objective is to reach the group stage, which will ensure that they are involved in European competition at least until the end of the year.

Eleven previous winners of UEFA competitions are among the participants; heading the list are CSKA Moscow, last season's UEFA Cup winners. Thirty national associations are represented this season.

The French Federation has most representatives with six clubs, due in part to the success of its teams in the UEFA Intertoto Cup.

Germany follows closely behind, with five representatives, one club also qualifying through the UEFA Intertoto Cup.

Bulgaria, Greece, Norway, the Netherlands, Portugal and Russia each have four representatives.



The last major assignment for referee René Temmink, who has reached the 45 age limit.

Djibril Cissé, man of the match.



UEFA Super Cup

A hat-trick of victories for Liverpool FC

THE STADE LOUIS II IN MONACO WAS PACKED FOR THE FIRST-EVER SUPER CUP MEETING BETWEEN LIVERPOOL FC, THE UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE TITLE-HOLDERS AND TWO-TIMES PREVIOUS WINNERS OF THE SUPER CUP (IN 1977 AND 2001), AND CSKA MOSCOW, THE UEFA CUP HOLDERS, WHO WERE CONTESTING THE TIE FOR THE FIRST TIME.

Liverpool, without the services of playmaker Steven Gerrard, who had just received the Most Valuable Player award from UEFA for the previous season, were tipped as favourites before the match but were well aware how dangerous their opponents could be on the counter-attack.

However, this did not prevent a repeat of a classic scenario: the English team dominated the opening phase of the match, creating a few decent chances, but it was the Moscow team who struck first, only seconds after their first scoring opportunity, through Daniel Carvalho, easily one of their most inspired players in this curtain-raiser to the European club competition season.

The goal by the Russians made little difference to the shape of the match. Liverpool continued to dominate but were dangerous only on rare occasions, the strikers failing to capitalise.

It took the arrival of Djibril Cissé, some ten minutes before the end of normal time, to turn the match around. Latching onto a fortunate re-

bound, the Frenchman netted to level the scores before using his sheer physical presence, with extra time already under way, to burst through the Russian defence and score his second. Cissé then delivered the knockout blow by feeding the perfect cross to Luis Garcia, whose on-target header left goalkeeper Akinfeev stranded for the third time.

Since the Super Cup has been played under the auspices of UEFA, following an unofficial first edition in 1973, the trophy has been lifted 15 times by the European champions and 15 times by their opponents,



P. CUVOT/APP/GETTY IMAGES

namely the Cup Winners' Cup holders up to 1999 and the UEFA Cup winners since then.

This was only the third time in the history of the competition that extra time was needed to decide the outcome. On the last occasion, in 2000, Galatasaray brought extra time to an early conclusion by scoring a "golden goal" against Real Madrid.

Liverpool FC will now take part in the first Club World Championship, to be staged by FIFA in Japan from 11 to 18 December. Entering the competition on 15 December, Liverpool will play the winners of the match between Sydney FC and Deportivo Saprissa (Costa Rica). Depending on the result of this game, they will contest either the final or the third-place match, both scheduled for 18 December.



GETTY IMAGES

26 August 2005

Monaco - Stade Louis II - 17,042 spectators

Liverpool FC - PFC CSKA Moscow 3-1 (0-1, 1-1)

Goals: Carvalho (28), Cissé (82 and 103), Luis Garcia (119).

Referee: René Temmink (Netherlands)



Training young players is a long-term investment.

EMPICS



EMPICS

AJ Auxerre and Guy Roux

A passion for training

THE 18-YEAR-OLDS ARE IN THE MIDDLE OF A TRAINING SESSION. A MAN ON THE TOUCHLINE WATCHES WITH PROFESSIONAL DETACHMENT BUT THE PASSION CAN BE HEARD IN HIS VOICE. GUY ROUX, NOW VICE-CHAIRMAN OF AJ AUXERRE AT NEARLY 70 YEARS OF AGE, IS STILL IN FOOTBALL – BUT STAYING OUT OF SENIOR-TEAM BUSINESS.

Above all, he has no wish to be a backseat driver. *«Jacques Santini was chosen as my successor and he has my support, just as he had my support to become coach of the French national team. He has my fullest respect. I've been the coach for so long that I need to make it clear that the situation has changed. I'm only working with the youngsters now and that's a job I really love.»*

Founded by the Abbé Deschamps, AJ Auxerre have always made it their business to nurture young players. The club did a lot of youth training in the 1970s, even before it joined the top flight, but it only set up a proper training academy in 1982. Georges Boulogne, who was technical director of the French Football Federation (FFF) at the time, had concluded that the clubs should be self-sufficient, since the school system placed very little importance

on sport in general and none at all on football. Nantes and Sochaux were first off the mark in this respect but Auxerre have enjoyed unrivalled success, having trained 17 senior French internationals, including three world champions and one European champion. Guy Roux is reluctant to make comparisons but one thing is certain: he is the heart and soul of the academy – and of the club. *“In the past, professional contracts were given to the best amateurs. But since 1982, we've taken care of both training and schooling for the best youngsters, as the academy has a secondary school of its own.”*

Fifteen coaches

Fifteen qualified coaches train some 60 young people divided into three age groups: 14, 16 and 18-year-olds. The philosophy of the school has not changed over the years.

“Give youngsters a coach, a ball and a decent pitch and you'll make good footballers of them ... preferably a grass pitch, though artificial turf is a useful back-up, especially in winter: it's better than a sea of mud.” Guy Roux is the club's top coach and probably the strictest, if certain anecdotes are to be believed... *“Youngsters create legends, which thrive all the more on a few good stories. I won't let them go to discotheques, but that's normal, isn't it? Ask them how they feel about it. I think they can see the benefits of this kind of discipline. I suppose I've been a kind of father figure, and a bit strict with it. I won't stand for any nonsense.”* Like the time he stopped Basile Boli using his moped and received 600 protest letters from African fans ... Guy Roux has become more philosophical as times have changed. Many coaches complain about players having an attitude problem nowadays, but the Auxerre doyen shrugs his shoulders. *“I don't think they're worse than they used to be. I go along with Jean-Jacques Rousseau's theory: that people are born good but society makes them bad. If you take care of youngsters, they don't turn out bad.”*

No protection

Another development, a revolution even, marked Guy Roux as much as it did the rest of the football world: the Bosman ruling in 1995. The AJA academy gives its young protégés not only board and lodging,



An exciting new challenge for Guy Roux.

PHOTO NEWS



PHOTO NEWS

Setting an example goes with the job.

training and schooling, but also a wage, and parents often demand money.

For a long time, in exchange for this expensive training, the club kept the player in its professional squad for four or five years. All that has collapsed now, and the club is losing many of the talented young players which it has educated at enormous expense and effort, for no financial gain. *"The Bosman ruling was the beginning of the end for the rules that provided protection. They're falling apart more and more because of the imbalance of power between those running the game and the players' unions such as FIFPro. Legislation in both the sports and political fields undermines the work of the academies. If we're going to lose our players, what's the point of training them? Because of a stability clause, we now have to extend young players' contracts every two years. If players are really good, they're stolen from us. Even when the big clubs have good academies, they still*

hope to sign our most promising youngsters, and these new rules don't bother them in the least because they've got the resources to keep their own best players."

Many French players moved at an early age to England or other leagues where the financial rewards were greater, but that trend is now on the decline. *"Our national team isn't as strong as it used to be and it plays less attractive football. So French players are less sought after and we can just get on with the job,"* comments Guy Roux, who never minces his words...

UEFA has adopted measures to ensure that professional club squads include a minimum number of locally trained players, i.e. trained by the club itself or by other clubs belonging to the same association. *"UEFA is right and it's a good rule. Like FIFA, they want to do something useful. I agree with their thinking but they're coming up against political obstacles. The European Union has used football as a showcase; it owes its own standing to it and it should be grateful, but that's not the way it is. You know, it was foot-*

ball that made the European concept a reality, long before the Treaty of Rome. In 1955, the European Cup brought together all the clubs of the continent, despite the Iron Curtain. And Red Star Belgrade and Real Madrid played each other when there weren't even diplomatic relations between their two countries!"

AJ Auxerre have taken it all on the chin, enduring all the upheaval while somehow managing to look after their young talent. *"We've succeeded because of the way we are with people, how we relate to the parents, and because of the quality of our training. Have I ever been discouraged? No. First of all, it's my work and I've no right to be. Secondly, it's my passion and that's a lot bigger than all these rules and regulations."*

Pascale Pierard



EMPICS



D.AQUILINA

Individual exercises and matches are all part of the learning process.



MERLE/AFIP/GETTY IMAGES

The work of a lifetime

This year, AJ Auxerre are celebrating their centenary. They have done their arithmetic: Guy Roux has worked for them in various capacities for 54 years – ever since he was 14 years old. At the end of last season, he quit his job as coach and became vice-chairman of the club. He has also embarked on a new (*"less stressful"*) occupation: at 5.15 pm every Saturday, he offers his views on the latest developments in football on Canal+. But he will never criticise his colleagues. *"I was general secretary and chairman of the union for 23 years. I'm not going to part company with the coaches now!"*



Led by Karl-Heinz Rummenigge, chairman of the European Club Forum, the club representative had no hesitation in pulling on their football boots.



The forum is intended as a platform for dialogue.

European Club Forum

Resolution adopted and more dialogue called for

SET UP IN 2002, THE EUROPEAN CLUB FORUM, IN WHICH 102 CLUBS INVOLVED

IN THE UEFA COMPETITIONS PARTICIPATE, MET IN NYON FOR THE NINTH TIME ON 5 AND 6 SEPTEMBER.

More than a quarter of the meeting was taken up with group discussions, not to mention the talks that participants managed to fit in before or after the official working sessions, yet the club representatives were unanimous that they wanted more time to discuss among themselves, for example by setting aside the morning ahead of the opening of the forum in the afternoon. At present, a large part of the forum is given over to information and presentations leaving less time for dialogue. And the clubs – or at least some of them – would even like to have a say in decision-making process.

It has to be said that the topics on the agenda are often complex, and

the clubs therefore have a valid point when they ask to be able to consider the issues before they are presented in plenary session, so as to be in a better position to discuss them afterwards.

On this occasion, the agenda included presentations on celebrations to mark the 50th anniversary of the European Cup, on the “Vision Europe” strategy adopted by the UEFA Congress in April, as well as on cooperation between UEFA and the clubs, for which a memorandum of understanding similar to those that already exist with the professional leagues and now with the players’ union, FIFPro, is being proposed. Naturally, this proposal still requires a lot of thought and discussion, with intensive dialogue between UEFA and the clubs, as well as between the clubs themselves, of prime concern.

On another subject, the forum participants adopted a resolution regarding the European Union’s “Television without Frontiers” directive, agreeing that the idea of allowing short reports and introducing a news access right was unnecessary and even potentially dangerous, as it could destroy the value of new media rights currently exploited by the clubs themselves or by other rights-holders.

Other topics under discussion were the marketing of the UEFA Champions League, for which revenue for the 2006-2009 period is projected to be even higher than it was when the competition still included two group stages, i.e. 32 matches more. The concept for 2006-2009 also involves plans for the 125 matches all to be played with the official starball.

On a similar subject, the centralised marketing of the UEFA Cup, which comes into force in 2006/07 as from the quarter-finals, was discussed by the participants in groups, giving them the opportunity to express their views on the proposed revenue distribution system, among other aspects.

The planned changes to UEFA’s club licensing system were also explained. They will be put into practice if the Executive Committee approves the new version of the club licensing manual at its meeting in September.

Finally, information was given on two cross-border competitions – the Royal League (Scandinavia) and the Setanta Cup (Ireland) – which were authorised on a trial basis last season and which now have to be analysed in terms of impact and interest.

Memorandum with FIFPro

On 26 August, in Monaco, UEFA and FIFPro, the international players’ organisation, signed a Memorandum of Understanding recognising their respective roles and positions within European professional football.

The agreement, which underlines the values shared by the two organisations, creates the foundation for discussions in the interests of European football as a whole.



PHOTOS: UEFA



The new fitness tests have proved their worth.

UEFA



Referee-coach discussions with, left to right, Gérard Houllier, Ken Ridden and Terje Hauge.

UEFA

Meetings and other activities

Consistency and mental preparation

HOW CAN REFEREES BE HELPED TO REMAIN DETACHED? HOW CAN THEY BE PROTECTED FROM EXTERNAL PRESSURE? AND HOW CAN THEY PREPARE MENTALLY FOR MATCHES? THESE AND MANY MORE QUESTIONS WERE BROACHED AT UEFA'S HEADQUARTERS IN NYON ON 30 AND 31 AUGUST, WHEN LEADING EUROPEAN REFEREES AND ASSISTANT REFEREES GATHERED FOR THEIR ANNUAL SEMINAR.

To put a stop to the kind of the incidents that marred the UEFA Champions League last season, the Executive Committee recently decided to step up measures to ensure respect for referees. As a result, a new code of ethics encouraging responsible behaviour will be issued shortly. In another major effort to offer referees better protection, each member association will be called upon by UEFA to sign a convention on referee education and organisation.

"Football is a game of emotions and can therefore sometimes give rise to enormous frustration. It is the role of the referee to remain calm even when the players, coaches and supporters lose their cool," said UEFA Chief Executive Lars-Christer Olsson in his opening address to the third summer gathering for UEFA elite and premier referees, which partly overlapped with the fifth seminar for assistant referees. He added: *"It is also UEFA's duty to help you in this respect and to protect you. Respect for the referee and his decisions is crucial to the future of football"*.

Under the watchful eye of fitness expert Werner Helsen, the assistant referees were put through their paces on a physical level on the first morning as they tried the new FIFA fitness test. Alternating 40-metre sprints and endurance runs with deceleration

intervals and recovery breaks, the new test, which is monitored electronically, is more suited to the actual physical demands endured by the referee during the match.

At the same time, Vlado Sajin, a member of the UEFA Referees Committee, dealt out advice to the referees left in the auditorium, notably on how to ensure that their decisions were consistent, irrespective of the level of the competition. Illustrating his presentation with video examples, he underlined the actions and various subtleties that should be taken into account before any decision is taken. For example: What was the player's intention? The ball or the opponent? And how forceful was his intervention?

A carefully prepared mental suitcase

It is undeniable that the task of a top referee has become extremely difficult, requiring concentration, reading of the game, anticipation, instant decisions, effective communication, the physical performance of a top-level athlete, resistance to stress, emotional control and frequent travel, to list just some of the demands, and it therefore goes without saying that referees need to undergo the right kind of mental preparation for their job. As sports psychologist Mattia Piffaretti told them, a



UEFA

An excellent start to the new season

"At the beginning of a new Champions League season, it's important to strengthen the consistency and especially the team spirit of the UEFA referees' team. It's also important to talk about problems to avoid further trouble and to share opinions with other parties in football, as we did this time with the coaches. Although it was a large group, this summer gathering for elite and premier referees and assistants has been useful and helpful, and excellently prepared – it has been an excellent way for all of us to start the new season."

Markus Merk

mental suitcase has to be packed with care and taken to every match, a suitcase containing the referee's own emotions and the necessary antidotes. He explained how referees could identify their emotions and control them, how to use self-control to counter anger, calm to deal with anxiety, and interest to relieve boredom; and he stressed the importance of putting on a cheerful face, showing one's love of the game, control-



The video is a valuable analysis tool.



Andy Roxburgh and Valery Gazzaev share some thoughts.

ling body language, displaying authority and staying calm. Aware that referees could find training in this matter useful, UEFA is proposing to organise a course in mental preparation for top-level athletes.

Security

In cooperation with a specialised security institute, and at the referees' request, a protection plan can now be put into action, representing another commitment on UEFA's part to defending the easy target that referees have become.

Reading the game

With Olympique Lyonnais coach Gérard Houllier, the referees discussed the need for mutual understanding and better communication. In this respect, the referees think that a preparatory meeting with the coaches the day before the match at the stadium would be a good idea. They also stressed the influence of the coach on the behaviour of his players, and suggested that the team captains should be the only players to communicate with the referee.

The second day of the seminar focused on the assistant referees. Manuel Lopez issued instructions and other recommendations for the season ahead. Closing the seminar, Ken Ridden, vice-chairman of the Referees Committee, said that *"Working together to strengthen the status of referees is essential to the future of football today."*

Nyon's 'technical area'

On the first two days of September, a squad of 16 top-class coaches marked out their own technical area at UEFA's headquarters.

Some readers might ask why on earth they made the trip to Nyon. The immediate response of the technicians who had attended the six previous editions of the Elite Coaches' Forum was that they rarely, if ever, get the chance to sit down and exchange ideas. Usually, their contacts are reduced to a pre-match handshake on the touchline when minds are on other things or, at best, a few minutes together at the end of the game while the visiting team's bus already has its engine running. That's why they relish the opportunity to spend some quality time together.

This year's line-up was certainly not short of quality. The alphabetical team-sheet read: Co Adriaanse, Rafael Benítez, Fabio Capello, Sir Alex Ferguson, Valery Gazzaev, Gérard Houllier, Javier Irureta, Paul Le Guen, Vanderlei Luxemburgo, Felix Magath, Alberto Malesani, Roberto Mancini, Alex McLeish, José Mourinho, Manuel Pellegrini and Arsène Wenger, with the Technical Directors of UEFA and FIFA, Andy Roxburgh and Holger Osieck, joining the most experienced campaigners at the top table.

The talk, of course, focused on Football with a capital F. But the issues debated ranged from the number of substitutes on the bench to the behaviour of players and coaches, and from advertising boards to the difficulties of having to play behind closed doors. There was also great emphasis on the need to bring coaches and referees even closer to the same wavelength.

By definition, the forum is not a decision-making body but, as Lars-Christer Olsson underlined when he opened the gathering, the elite coaches have a loud voice within the European theatre. That's why we can expect to hear more about proposals to outlaw moving-track advertising boards which distract match officials, to cease allowing extra-time away goals to count double in knockout ties, or to arrange the international calendar so that the UEFA Champions League doesn't follow hard on the heels of national-team double-headers. There are other voices to be heard but, when the top coaches talk football, their opinions are always worth listening to...

More than 10,000 coaches complete Open Fun Football School courses

Open Fun Football Schools successfully organised 21 three-day seminars this summer involving a total

Extranet for the referees

Exclusively for the referees, this secure Internet network contains texts such as the Laws of the Game, competition regulations, media releases and documents issued by the Referees Committee and related panels. A documentation centre for the time being, this extranet will be developed by 2007 into a tool for completing match reports on line as well as for listing referee availability and appointments.



Thousands of children took part in the Fun Football Schools.



Report from Brussels

Football and other exercises were part of programme of the Fun Football Schools.

of 2,100 grassroots leaders and coaches from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Georgia, FYR Macedonia, and Serbia and Montenegro.

Those leaders and coaches have since been busy running summer football schools for almost 30,000 boys and girls between 7 and 11 years of age in their respective home towns.

"It is fantastic to be part of this programme," say Anders Levinson, who came up with the idea. "We are currently experiencing huge commitment to the development of grassroots football, and the quality of our workshops and seminars is improving from year to year. I am convinced that the strong UEFA focus on the development of grassroots football is having a major impact in this respect."

Since the Open Fun Football Schools were introduced in Bosnia and Herzegovina in 1998, more than 10,000 voluntary leaders and coaches have participated in Open Fun Football School seminars, and summer football schools have been organised for more than 100,000 boys and girls in cooperation with the national football association and local football clubs.

"The figures are impressive, and we are certainly seeing the fruit of our work. When we started our operation in Bosnia and Herzegovina, only 16 football clubs in the whole country were organising football for children. Today we know of about 398 football clubs and more than 100 private football schools that organise football for children. So in Bosnia and Herzegovina alone, we have seen an increase from 16 to 500 clubs in just seven years, which is fantastic. Of course, it is the local leaders and coaches who are responsible for these developments, but I am sure that our programme has had an important impact, stimulating and supporting their important work," Anders Levinson concludes.

The Open Fun Football Schools is a humanitarian programme coordinated by Cross Cultures (a Danish NGO) and the Norwegian FA in cooperation with the football associations of the above-mentioned countries. The aim is to bring football to children in post-conflict areas and to promote the game by bringing football to children who do not usually have the possibility to play football.

The Open Fun Football Schools programme is part of the UEFA charity portfolio and is further supported by the governments of Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden.

6th FARE action week

The Football Against Racism in Europe (FARE) network, with which UEFA works in partnership, is organising its sixth week of action against racism in football in Europe from 13 to 25 October.

This important campaign against racism and discrimination is aimed at football associations, clubs, players, supporters, ethnic-minority and migrant groups, schools and sports media. Anti-racist activities organised in conjunction with the UEFA Champions League matches on 18 and 19 October will be the focal point of this campaign, which this year places emphasis on the integration of migrants and ethnic minorities at all levels of football (teams, stadiums, administration, coaching). Last year, activities were organised in 33 European countries.

■ In Poland, the Station Woodstock music festival, which took place in Kostrzyn at the beginning of August, also included a football competition organised under the slogan of "Kick racism out of football!". Some 10,000 spectators watched the matches, in which 40 teams took part, involving 300 players altogether. An anti-racism magazine, Stadium, was launched in conjunction with the tournament, and 100,000 people visited an information stand.

The United Kingdom has assumed the rotating presidency of the European Union, taking over from Luxembourg. After a turbulent summer, which saw both the Dutch and French populations reject the new EU Treaty, the British government will be trying to restore some momentum to the European agenda.

Regarding the new treaty, EU leaders have already agreed to put the matter on hold, and use a "period of reflection" to assess the full impact of the negative votes in France and the Netherlands. The prime ministers will come together in the first half of 2006 to find a way forward. In the meantime, member states are free to continue their ratification process at their own rhythm. So far, 14 countries have approved the Treaty.

In the field of sport, the UK's Department of Culture, Media and Sport has promised to take forward the EU 'rolling agenda' in those areas where member states can usefully cooperate. It has organised an informal meeting of sports ministers, which will take place on 19 and 20 September in Liverpool. The meeting will focus on:

- doping;
- fighting discrimination in sport;
- the role of sport in the fight against obesity;
- volunteering.

The British Minister for Sport, Richard Caborn, has invited UEFA to speak at the Liverpool meeting. He would like UEFA to address the subject of combating discrimination in and through sport. "I know that UEFA takes this issue as seriously as the UK Government," declared the minister. "Your current campaign in cooperation with Football Against Racism in Europe is just one example of UEFA's commitment to taking action."

According to Mr Caborn, the EU could also make a significant contribution to eliminating discrimination from sport and promoting it as a force for bringing people together. He believes UEFA "could help to secure the ministers' support for collective action against discrimination, by explaining what Europe's most popular sport is doing to address the problem, and why."



Lens celebrate opening the score against Cluj of Romania.

New-look UEFA website

UEFA's official website at uefa.com has had a new look since mid-August.

The new homepage gives more room to new technology, notably video action. It is also easy to find information on all of UEFA's competitions, with a direct link to the official EURO 2008 site.

The UEFA website is available in nine languages: English, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Portuguese, Russian and Spanish.

Record ticket sales for UEFA Champions League final

The Club Competitions Committee met in Monaco to prepare the early-season draws.

It also received the financial results of last season and discovered that the UEFA Champions League final between Liverpool and AC Milan in Istanbul set a new ticket-sale record. As a result, in addition to CHF 10 million for the winners, Liverpool, and CHF 6m for AC Milan, the two finalists each received CHF 2,431,287 from the gate receipts.

Regarding the UEFA Cup final in Lisbon, CSKA Moscow received CHF 5m for their victory over Sporting Clube de Portugal, who received CHF 3.5m. Each finalist also received CHF 1,172,877 from the gate receipts.

The committee also received a status report on the club licensing system and a presentation by FIFA experts on the quality concept for artificial turf.

Ten years of the UEFA Intertoto Cup – French clubs supreme



French clubs further strengthened their dominance in the UEFA Intertoto Cup this year by winning two of the

three places at stake in the first round of the UEFA Cup.

Having joined the UEFA Intertoto Cup in the second round, RC Lens won five of their eight matches, drawing the remaining three. Olympique de Marseille, for their part, started their campaign in the third round and won four of their six matches, the other two being a draw and a defeat.

Including these two successes, French clubs have now benefited from 12 UEFA Cup places altogether via this route, and all different clubs at that.

The third UEFA Cup place at stake this year goes to SV Hamburg, who won seven of their eight matches and drew the other, bringing Germany's overall tally of UEFA Cup qualifications from the UEFA Intertoto Cup up to seven. Since the UEFA Intertoto Cup was launched in 1995, 29 clubs from six associations have shared the 32 UEFA Cup places that have been on offer.

The UEFA Intertoto Cup may have a new format next year. Discussions are under way with the lotteries regarding their financial involvement.

Futsal survey

The meteoric rise of futsal, as reflected by the growing number of players and increasing popularity of the international competitions, has prompted the UEFA Administration to pass responsibility for this sector to its professional football division.

In order to ensure appropriate continued development of this discipline, a questionnaire has been sent to all UEFA member associations with a view to obtaining a complete picture of the situation of futsal in Europe, aware that its development varies enormously from one association to another, as do the facilities and financial resources available.



SV Hamburg, one of this year's three winners.



News from member associations

ARMENIA



Leather Ball Tournament

On 27 August, UEFA's Open Fun Football programme kicked off again in Armenia, having now become a tradition, thanks to close and industrious cooperation between the Football Federation of Armenia (FFA) and UEFA in the past three years. This year, the project involves 15 football schools from Yerevan and the regions and over 3,000 children aged 8 to 12 from different football clubs. Last year the number of participants was under 2,000, and only eight football schools took part. At the FFA's general meeting, which was attended by UEFA vice-president Per Ravn Omdal, the FFA president, Ruben Hayrapetyan, declared that he would do his best to increase the number of participants, as the programme was a great base for the development of youth football. The project also involves more than 200 coaches, leaders and other trainers. All the participants have received the appropriate equipment and kits free of charge.

At the same time as the youth football development project in Yerevan, the Leather Ball Tournament took place. This is a competition in which teams from the yards of the capital participate. The main purpose of this tournament is to spot children who have the potential to become top footballers one day.



Children having fun playing football.

In other news, the FFA is preparing for forthcoming important competitions. The Under-19 team is preparing for the qualifying matches in Latvia, where, apart from meeting the host nation, they will play Serbia and Montenegro, and Ukraine. The team's coaches will be trying to repeat and surpass the success achieved by the Under-19 team in the European championship, where Armenia reached the finals. The Under-17s are also in the midst of serious preparations, as they will face a tough challenge in Israel at the end of October, when they meet Azerbaijan, Israel and Russia.

In recent years, women's football has also been developing. Recently, the Armenian women's team took part in a tournament in Copenhagen, and the women's Under-19 team is preparing to take part in the first qualifying round of their European Championship in Israel on 26 September.

Arayik Manukyan

AUSTRIA



New home page

The president of the Austrian FA (ÖFB), Friedrich Stickler, and national-team captain Andreas Ivanschitz have unveiled the association's new Internet site, which was developed with the support of the UEFA HatTrick programme.

The fact that www.oefb.at attracts around 30,000 hits each day is a clear sign that an informative Internet site is absolutely essential in this day and age. This is reflected in the ÖFB's decision to relaunch its website. "An up-to-date online presence is important for Austria's largest sports federation. I am delighted that the site has proved such a success," said Dr Stickler. Andreas Ivanschitz revealed that he is a big Internet fan: "I enjoy surfing the Internet and I am sure to be visiting www.oefb.at more often in the future. The comprehensive information it contains is clearly laid out and well structured."

The new layout catches the eye immediately, since the new home page contains a number of innovative technical and structural features, which will be gradually extended in the coming months.

With its 400+ pages, www.oefb.at contains comprehensive information about all the ÖFB national teams, the ÖFB Stiegl Cup, women's football and the ÖFB itself, as well as some interesting information on youth development. Particular attention was paid to the clarity and simple navigation of the site.



Friedrich Stickler and Andreas Ivanschitz unveil the home page of the new Internet site.

The Austrian FA would like to take this opportunity to thank the UEFA HatTrick programme for supporting the development of this new Internet site.

Ronald Gollatz

BELARUS



A landmark friendly match

The first-ever friendly match between the Belarus Football Federation (BFF) and the Lithuanian Football Federation has taken place. At the initiative of the presidents of both federations, the match was arranged for 6 August in Vilnius. On the understanding that there would be no professional footballers in the line-ups, the teams were drawn from the federations' office staff.

The venue for this landmark event was the mini-pitch at the Vetra stadium, which had recently been inaugurated on the occasion of a friendly match between the national Under-21 sides of the two associations. That occasion had been full of the customary ingredients: thorough pre-match preparation, the exchange of commemorative gifts, the taking of souvenir photos, and intense involvement in the game itself.

During the accompanying official function, the leaders of both federations gave their strong backing to the idea of holding such events between national associations. It was agreed that winning or losing in such games is of little importance - the vital thing was to



An international match with a difference.

foster international partnership, cooperation and friendship.

Other noteworthy events organised by the BFF in August included the official opening of a mini-pitch in the city of Pinsk, the 2005 edition of the UEFA Summer of Grassroots Programme in the Gomel region, and an official visit by BFF representatives to the SOS Children's Village in Borovlyany to mark its tenth anniversary. All these events are positive steps towards a brighter future.

Alexander Leshchik

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA



Sarajevo's young players enjoy success

The start of the new football season has already been full of surprises, an indication of excitement to come as the year progresses. The unexpected domestic league leader after four games were



F. KRIVAVAC

FK Modrica, who won all four matches, including the last one against NK Zeljeznicar at the Grbavica stadium in Sarajevo. Modrica head coach Mitar Lukic has been making full use of some younger players who enjoyed previous success as youth champions and cup winners. The result is better overall team performance, increased spectator numbers and more candidates for the Bosnia and Herzegovina Under-21 and Under-17 teams.

As in previous seasons, there has been a considerable turnover in coaching appointments. In the space of three match days, NK Celik had three different coaches: Esher Hadziabdic, Omer Kopic and then Moura Mango Nelson, the first Brazilian to take charge at the club. Before the beginning of the championship, the NK Zrinjski coach lost his job, following the club's elimination by Luxembourg champions F91 Dudelange in the UEFA Champions League first qualifying round. He has been replaced by Bosnia and Herzegovina national-team coach Blaz Sliskovic. FK Sloboda also had a change of coach after just two games, with Nihad Mujezinovic coming in for Sakib Malkocec. Last season, a total of 37 coaches were appointed at the 16 premier league clubs.

The theme of success achieved by young players also applied to national women's champions SFK 2000 Sarajevo, who finished runners-up in Group A8 of the UEFA Women's

Cup first qualifying round, with two wins over PVFA Bratislava from Slovakia and KRKA Novo Mesto from Slovenia. First place went to Russian club Lada Toliatti, who had emphatic victories in all their matches without conceding a goal.

Fuad Kravavac

SFK Sarajevo had a tough match against Polygraf Bratislava in the UEFA Women's Cup.

CROATIA



Good attendance and high quality

This summer saw a significant increase in footballing activities in Croatia compared with last year. In connection with the UEFA grassroots programme, the Open Fun Football School was a great success, building on previous experience. The Youth Games also continued to thrive, football proving the most popular individual sport, being played by over half of the participants.

Constructed in cooperation with UEFA, the prototype mini-pitch in Zagreb was inaugurated by UEFA vice-president Senes Erzik, accompanied by Minister Dragan Primorac and Croatian Football Federation President Vlatko Markovic. This special event was also marked by expressions of great interest in further cooperation between football schools and the education system with respect to the development of grassroots football.

Numerous clubs geared their preparations for the beginning of the new season to achieving the best possible ranking with an eye to the significant changes due in the competition system from next season, when the Croatian second division will be unified. Three third divisions will also be established and significant changes will also occur at the lower competition levels.

Split was the setting for the great spectacle of a match between the Croatian and Brazilian national teams. The electric atmosphere on the field of play was also transmitted to the crowd. The good performance of the Croatian team, underlined by a satisfying result (1-1), gave further grounds for optimism with regard to the forthcoming qualifying matches for the 2006 FIFA World Cup in Germany.

The participation of our clubs in UEFA competitions, on the other hand, has been a source of disappointment. The departure of young players to foreign clubs undermines the standard of domestic football. The Croatian Football Federation (CFF) is currently preparing a thematic meeting concerning work with youth players and the involvement of experts. Answers are needed to the question of how to maintain the quality of club football under such difficult conditions.



Left to right: Dragan Primorac, Senes Erzik and Vlatko Markovic.

With the need for construction of a technical centre for the CFF growing more urgent all the time, huge effort is being invested to enable this project to get off the ground.

Croatian women's champions ZNK Maksimir from Zagreb hosted a well-organised mini-tournament. The club's initiative reflects the CFF's continuous endeavours to develop women's football.

Ante Pavlović

CZECH REPUBLIC



Bid to host 2007 European Under-21 Championship finals

The Executive Committee of the Czech FA has decided that the association will apply to organise the European Under-21 Championship final tournament in 2007.

"The philosophy of the Czech FA is to bid for the largest possible number of final tournaments in all categories in the Czech Republic," emphasised the General Secretary of the association, Petr Fousek. At the moment, the country does not yet have suitable stadiums to host a main European Championship final round, even as part of a joint bid with a neighbouring association, though this is a long-term plan. So for the time being, an Under-21 final round is the highest competition the country can organise. The European Under-21 Championship is undergoing major transformation and, in this connection, championships will be taking place in both 2006 and 2007. As a result, the hosts of the 2007 final round will be selected in advance and not be dependent on qualification. "We have decided on 2007 because we would have more time

to prepare and organise a good-quality tournament. We fully support UEFA's plans to upgrade the Under-21 Championship, because this competition must step out from the shadows. It's not a youth tournament anymore, as all the players are already professionals in their clubs at home or abroad," added Fousek. "This is a great chance for small associations such as ours to host a UEFA tournament, and we will be able to offer good stadiums, nice hotels and suitable infrastructure, as well as genuine Czech hospitality."

The Czech FA bid to host the Under-21 final round in 2004, but its team did not make it into the final round.

Vit Pavlusek

FINLAND



Finnish Olympic Committee supports women's national team

The Football Association of Finland received good news from the National Olympic Committee just before its Women's World Cup campaign kicked off. Thanks to the good results achieved by the Finnish women's team in UEFA WOMEN'S EURO 2005, the National Olympic Committee decided to support the qualification campaign for the Women's World Cup in China in 2007 with a contribution of EUR 50,000.

"This support from our Olympic Committee is good news. It is great to see that the efforts and success of our women's team have been noticed. Reaching the semi-finals in England this summer was a huge boost for women's football in Finland. I am confident that the National Olympic Committee's support will further improve our chances of qualifying for the Women's World Cup," says the president of the Finnish FA, Pekka Hämäläinen.

Furthermore, the National Olympic Committee has decided to back the coaching of the women's and girls' national teams to the tune of EUR 12,000. Finland also reached the semi-final stage in the European Women's Under-19 Championship in Hungary this summer. A major factor in the NOC's decision was that the Finnish women's team has the potential to qualify for the Olympic Games in Beijing in 2008.

Finland are competing in the same World Cup qualifying group as Belgium, Denmark, Poland and Spain.

Sami Terävä

GERMANY



Birgit Prinz supports children in Afghanistan

The captain of our women's national team, Birgit Prinz, has been working to improve the educational situation of children in Afghanistan. As patron of the "Learn and Play" project supported by football's world governing body FIFA, the Afghanistan-Hilfe Paderborn aid organisation and the National Olympic Committee, she was in the crisis zone from 14 to 18 August. In conjunction with coaching expert Holger Obermann, who is working for the German FA and FIFA in Afghanistan, the German women's international presented 36 Afghan women with coaching licences. The women had completed a three-week course led by German development worker Klaus Stärk in the context of the UN International Year of Sport. World



Birgit Prinz in Afghanistan.

and European champion Prinz also presented awards to the winners of a youth football tournament which will be known from now on as the "Prinz Cup" and be an annual event. "The focus of the project is to provide schooling and vocational training for the children. Letting them play is an important part of awakening their enthusiasm for the project," said Prinz, describing the strategy.

Under the Taliban regime, children and teenagers were strictly forbidden to play any kind of games. "The schools must be heaven on earth for the children", Prinz continued. "You only had to see the smiles on the children's faces to know we'd done the right thing."

Maximilian Geis



MALTA



Refereeing – towards more efficiency

Bearing in mind its complexity as a game and consequently the different viewpoints on the application of its laws, football tends to reveal contrasting opinions in the way some of its rules are interpreted. Standardisation in enforcing these laws is thus of paramount importance.



DOMENIC AQUILINA

Manuel Lopez Fernandez (left) with Tom Restall, head of the MFA's refereeing department, and two seminar participants.

This is where the experts come in and pronounce their views from an official platform. The referees committees of FIFA and UEFA are constantly engaged in promulgating uniformity in the interpretation of the Laws of the Game and instructing match officials on how to assimilate new concepts when carrying out their duties.

Maltese referees are in the forefront in keeping abreast with modern trends in decision-making on the field of play. Referee seminars are established events on the Malta FA's annual calendar, and the usefulness of these 'brushing up' exercises can never be underestimated.

In a recent seminar, Manuel Lopez Fernandez, a member of the UEFA Referees Committee, was the main lecturer during a four-day workout which had the top Maltese referees fully involved in analysing the points of law, their interpretation and new trends in dealing with the ever-changing demands which match officials face on the field of play.

Besides several talks on the laws, the event was marked by group tasks followed by feedback. Several points on a similar task came under

scrutiny and the positive aspect that emerged was that reports from the six different groups tallied as to the interpretation factor.

This consistency was highlighted by Manuel Lopez Fernandez, who expressed extreme satisfaction at the outcome of the group work. The constant participation and involvement of the Maltese referees during the seminar came in for special mention by the UEFA Referees Committee official, who made use of excellent visuals throughout his lectures to illustrate his points.

The seminar was opened by the president of the Malta FA, Joseph Mifsud, and rounded up by the senior vice-president, Carmel Bartolo.

Alex Vella

NETHERLANDS



Youth competition for disabled players

The Football Association of the Netherlands (KNVB) is pleased to be launching the first-ever youth competition for disabled players on 1 October. Football for the disabled is nothing new in the Netherlands, but a well-structured competition for players between the ages of 6 and 18 is. The KNVB believes that this competition for disabled young players is also the first of its kind in Europe.



Young disabled players now have their own competition.

For a good number of years, the KNVB has had a competition for disabled players in which physically- and learning-disabled players were able to participate in their favourite sport, irrespective of their age or disability. In all, the number of disabled teams nationwide increased to 232 last season.

As the differences between players became more conspicuous as far as age and ability were concerned, the need for a solution arose.

During the final days of the FIFA World Youth Championship hosted in the Netherlands in 2005, the city of Utrecht and the KNVB jointly organised a symposium for all those interested in organising youth football for disabled players. Parents, coaches, team leaders, club administrators and many others were invited to take part in the symposium. It was obvious from the start that there was a niche for youth football for disabled players.

With the help of the Johan Cruyff Foundation and the efforts of

KNVB regional coaches throughout the country, the KNVB has managed to get approximately 40 clubs interested in starting up teams for disabled youngsters. For that purpose, all the clubs involved have assigned a coordinator for these teams. Some clubs even have as many as three teams taking part in the competition.



The KNVB has set up six leagues spread evenly across the country and crossing the official KNVB district borders just to make sure that life is made easy for all involved, not in the least for those on the sidelines. Gaining experience with this new branch on the football tree will help the KNVB to further develop football for disabled participants.

Rob de Leede

NORTHERN IRELAND



A game against racism

The Northern Ireland Community Relations Council soccer team lost by four goals to one in a recent friendly against the IFA's "Football For All", World United team on 10 August at the Billy Neil Pitches on the Comber Road, Belfast.



Triumphing over racism through football.

Good relations were the real winner of this game, which was played to highlight the IFA's anti-racism work through its "Football For All" project, which receives support from UEFA and the EU Programme for Peace and Reconciliation.

Thomas Meket from the Ivory Coast grabbed a stunning hat-trick for World United and Ridvan Nehani from Albania scored the fourth late on. IFA Community Relations Officer Michael Boyd scored a consolation penalty, guesting alongside Northern Ireland legend Ian Stewart for the Community Relations Council team. Mal Donaghy, Northern Ireland's most-capped outfield player, captained World United.

Hat-trick hero Thomas Meket commented, *"The IFA, UEFA and the Northern Ireland Community Relations Council have been fantastic in their support of World United. Most of our team is relatively new to Northern Ireland and through the sport of football we are able to come together and make new friends. The majority of the people I know in Northern Ireland I have met through the IFA's World United team."*

Defender Toraj Amiravagi from Iran, added, *"Through World United I have been able to contribute to the IFA's 'Football For All' project, taking part in anti-racism training, and I have also been able to enjoy the sport of football. Our team has players of over ten different nationalities who come together through the universal love of football. The IFA and their Community Relations department deserve great credit for this."*

Michael Boyd

ROMANIA



A new record

On 3 September, Dorinel Munteanu became the most capped player in the history of the Romanian national team. Against the Czech Republic, in a 2006 World Cup qualifier, Munteanu played his 126th match for the national team, one more than the Romanian legend Gheorghe Hagi. Ironically, both Munteanu's 125th match (v Andorra on 17 August) and his 126th (v Czech Republic) were played in Constanta (230 km from Bucharest, on the Black Sea Coast), at the Gheorghe Hagi stadium.

Munteanu, 37 (born on 25 June 1968), is a model of professionalism and modesty. By the time he was 14, he was already playing in the Romanian third division, and at the age of 17 he was playing in the second division. Knowing how to live like a true sportsman has allowed Munteanu to keep his playing career going so long. He played his first match for the national team more than 14 years ago, on 23 May 1991, in a friendly match away to Norway. Since then, he has played in the World Cup finals in 1994 (when Romania reached the quarter-finals) and 1998 (Romania reached the round of the last 16), as well as in EURO '96 and EURO 2000. A member of the so-called "golden generation", Munteanu was part of the small group of

players who were automatically in the starting line-up. The other members of that select group were Dan Petrescu, Gheorghe Popescu and Gheorghe Hagi. Only Munteanu still plays football for the national team.

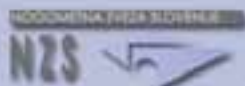
And Munteanu holds yet another record: he is the only active coach to have ever played for the national team. How come? Because, since this summer, Munteanu (who, during his career in Romania, has played for Inter Sibiu, FC Dinamo Bucharest and FC Steaua Bucharest, as well as for Cercle Brugge in Belgium, and FC Köln and VfL Wolfsburg in Germany) has been head coach and player with another Romanian first-division team, CFR Ecomax Cluj. In only two months, he has changed everything at the club, starting with the mentality and coaching methods. And he has already taken the team to the UEFA Intertoto Cup finals, where they were, unfortunately, beaten by RC Lens.

Our association also has another reason to celebrate. From 10 September, the Under-15 national team (players born after 1 January 1990) will embark on a two-year training programme at the national training centre in Mogosoaia (20 km from Bucharest). The players will live together, attend the same school and take part not only in international matches but also in one of the national youth championships, but without the right to become champions. In this way, our football association is resurrecting the "Luceafarul" football school which practised the same system until the 1989 revolution. Now there are hopes that this system of centralised training will again produce good results for Romanian football at youth level, and ultimately in the higher categories.

Paul Zaharia



Romanian FA President Mircea Sandu (front, fourth from the left) with the parents of the Under-15s.



SERBIA AND MONTENEGRO



General meeting

On 12 August, the Football Association of Serbia and Montenegro held its third general meeting in Belgrade. The assembly was also attended by UEFA Executive Committee member Marios N. Lefkaritis, who greeted the delegates on behalf of UEFA, wishing them success in their work and explaining the general direction of UEFA activities in the period ahead.



The new president of the association, Tomislav Karadzic, addresses the general meeting.

The assembly decided to extend the terms of the members of the executive board and supervisory board of the FA of Serbia and Montenegro by one year, due to the fact that elections should now fall between two World Cups, meaning that the next elections will be after the 2006 World Cup in Germany. The legislative body also endorsed the decisions taken by the executive board at its meeting on 15 July regarding the departure of the president of the association, Dragan Stojkovic (now chairman of FK Crvena zvezda - Red Star), and the election of Tomislav Karadzic as the new president of the FA of Serbia and Montenegro for a 12-month term. The business report for the last periods was also adopted, in which the successes of the youth teams and the association's coaching school were highlighted in particular.

Tomislav Karadzic, the new president of the FA of Serbia and Montenegro, was born in 1939 and has worked in the sports and football sectors for many years. He is also a successful businessman. He has been chairman of FK Spartak, chairman of the football association of Vojvodina, vice-president of the Yugoslav Football Association and a member of the executive board of the FA of Serbia and Montenegro. Addressing the

general meeting, he emphasised that the associations' two immediate priorities were, first, to ensure that the national team qualified for the 2006 World Cup finals, and, secondly, to improve the quality of the first-division competition.

Nebojsa Ivkovic

SWEDEN



Futsal makes progress

Sweden has been a blank spot on the world map of futsal. Since the early 1990s a five-a-side championship has been played, although with a slightly different set of rules than the international futsal laws.

Over the last couple of years the championship has found it increasingly difficult to attract the top clubs. Altered priorities and the risk of injuries have been cited as reasons for the fading interest. Moreover, the five-a-side game in Sweden has generally been regarded as a 'between-seasons' activity, not as a sport in its own right.

However, in view of the growing popularity of futsal, the FA is adapting the national indoor game to the international futsal rules this season. The first national futsal champions will be crowned in February 2006. Invitations to enter the championships have just been sent out and extensive instruction on the laws of the game is taking place during the autumn. The competition will start with qualifying groups in the districts, followed by regional knockout groups leading up to the finals in February.

This year, a policy of zero tolerance of foul language on the pitch has been introduced in the district of Gothenburg. The aim is to create a more friendly atmosphere on and off the field of play and to stop threats and violence in connection with football. The Gothenburg district, after years of such problems, feared that the sport's ability to foster youngsters was threatened. Though some referees may have initially followed the new instructions a bit too literally, the result looks promising so far.

The Gothenburg way does not imply a different set of rules but a more strict application of Law 12 of the Laws of the Game (action against "unsporting behaviour" and use of "offensive or insulting or abusive language and/or gestures").

Thomas Saletog

UKRAINE



International tournament in Kiev

The third Valery Lobanovsky international memorial tournament was held in Kiev in mid-August, with the participation of the national teams of four countries - Ukraine, Israel, Poland, and Serbia and Montenegro. One clause of the agreement between the national associations stipulated that participants in this year's tournament had to field their strongest teams, and mid-August provided the only 'window' in the FIFA and UEFA international match calendars for fulfilling such a condition. Apart from providing board and lodging, the Football Federation of Ukraine (FFU) also has to ensure that the participants have everything they need for training. This year's tournament saw the Polish side emerge victorious, beating Israel in the final, while the Ukrainian team finished in third place.

A new season in youth football started in September, with a total of 384 teams participating in the various leagues. An Under-19 tournament was also organised for youth players who are graduates of the specialist football academies but do not play at the professional level.



Remembering Valery Lobanovsky.

The annual audit of the FFU in the context of UEFA's club licensing system was concluded successfully in August. The results of the audit confirm that the FFU's licensing activity meets UEFA standards. The next stage of licensing with regard to the participation of Ukrainian clubs in competitions in the 2006/07 season was due to begin in September.

Valeriy Nykonenko

Communications

Birthdays – Calendar

Birthdays

Khennet Tallinger (Sweden) member of the Match Delegates Panel, celebrates his 60th birthday on 4 October. Joseph Bertram Worrall (England), member of the Referee Observers Panel, follows suit on 20 October, as does Michel Vautrot (France), member of the Referees Committee, on 23 October. Two members of the Referee Observers Panel turn 50 in October: Sergey Zuev (Russia) on 9 October, and Michel Piraux (Belgium) on 15 October.

Also celebrating their birthday in October are:

- Trevor Brooking (England, 2.10)
- Paolo Tavecchia (Italy, 2.10)
- Levent Bicakci (Turkey, 2.10)
- Andrzej Wach (Poland, 2.10)
- David Richards (England, 3.10)
- Léon Schelings (Belgium, 3.10)
- Wilfried Heitmann (Germany, 4.10)
- Aaro Mõttus (Estonia, 4.10)
- Frank Coulston (Scotland, 5.10)
- Kaare Inge Lindboe (Norway, 6.10)
- José João Mendes Pratas (Portugal, 6.10)
- Armand Duka (Albania, 7.10)
- Zvonimir Boban (Croatia, 8.10)
- Pierre Delaunay (France, 9.10)
- Ellert B. Schram (Iceland, 10.10)
- René Van Rokeghem (France, 10.10)
- Peeter Küttis (Estonia, 10.10)
- Milovan Nikolic (Slovenia, 10.10)
- Leonard Nokes (Wales, 10.10)
- David Petriashvili (Georgia, 10.10)
- Joan Gaspart (Spain, 11.10)
- Frits Kessel (Netherlands, 12.10)
- Bo Karlsson (Sweden, 12.10)
- Eduardo Herrera Jimenez (Spain, 12.10)
- Willy Goovaerts (Belgium, 13.10)
- George Brian Smith (Scotland, 14.10)
- Dusan Krchnak (Slovakia, 14.10)
- Tom van der Hulst (Netherlands, 15.10)
- Jean-Marie Philips (Belgium, 17.10)
- Frans Hoek (Netherlands, 17.10)
- Jean-Marc Puisseuseau (France, 18.10)
- René Hüsey (Switzerland, 19.10)
- Christian Müller (Germany, 19.10)
- Imre Bozóky (Hungary, 20.10)
- Ramiz Mirzayev (Azerbaijan, 20.10)
- Philip Pritchard (Wales, 22.10)

- Arie Wolf (Israel, 22.10)
- Mircea Sandu (Romania, 22.10)
- Jan C. Huijbregts (Netherlands, 23.10)
- Dragutin Karlo Poljak (Croatia, 23.10)
- Antonin Herzog (Czech Republic, 24.10)
- Pekka Hämäläinen (Finland, 25.10)
- Stefan Kapralov (Bulgaria, 25.10)
- Hugh Dallas (Scotland, 26.10)
- Javier Lozano Cid (Spain, 28.10)
- Rui Cacador (Portugal, 29.10)
- José Luis Astiazaran Iriondo (Spain, 31.10)

Upcoming events

MEETINGS

3.10.2005, Nyon

Club Competitions Committee
Medical Committee

4.10.2005, Nyon

Draw for the UEFA Cup group matches

13.10.2005, Nyon

Draw for the play-offs
in the 2004/06 European Under-21
Championship

17-19.10.2005, Oslo

Women's Football Conference

18.10.2005, Oslo

Draws for the second qualifying round
of the 2005/06 Women's Under-19
Championship and for the first qualifying
round of the 2006/07 Women's
Under-19 Championship

19.10.2005, Oslo

Women's Football Committee

21.10.2005, Nyon

National Teams Committee

28.10.2005, Nyon

Stadium and Security Committee

COMPETITIONS

18-19.10.2005

UEFA Champions League: group matches
(matchday 3)

20.10.2005

UEFA Cup: group matches (matchday 1)

Communications

■ The Executive Committee has approved the following age-category designations:

■ A-Youth	Under-19
■ B-Youth	Under-17
■ C-Youth	Under-15
■ D-Youth	Under-13
■ E-Youth	Under-11
■ F-Youth	Under-9

■ Five bids are under examination to host EURO 2012:

Croatia/Hungary, Greece, Italy, Poland/Ukraine and Turkey.

The Executive Committee will shortlist three candidates in November.

■ Member associations have until 21 October to enter the 5th UEFA Regions' Cup in 2006/07.

Match agents

The Licensed UEFA Match Agents Panel has granted licences for organising matches and tournaments to:

Kevin Beattie

10 Ogilby Court
Woodlesford
Leeds
LS26 8WG
England
Tel.: +44 113 393 4470
Fax: +44 113 393 4470 (phone first)

Alexandre Ribeiro

16, Rue du Massif Central
94800 Villejuif
France
Tel.: +33 6 07 42 19 71
Fax: +33 1 60 79 14 20

Romain Poirot (France) and Antonio Rosselini (Italy) have, on the other hand, given up their licences.

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

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européennes de football

