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# Message of the president

## Fresh impetus for UEFA

Increasingly affected by a rapidly changing outside world, UEFA has in recent years sought, above all, to adapt to this situation, by improving its efficiency, its means and its flexibility. To do so, it opted to expand its administration and to enlarge its field of action and responsibilities.

By electing me president of UEFA at the Congress in Düsseldorf, the delegates of the national associations showed their acceptance of my proposed programme, a programme which clearly expressed my desire to fully restore the importance and, more especially, the power of the elected representatives of the national associations.

Why this rethink? Because although the development of UEFA's activities, their increasing complexity and the growing influence of the environment made it necessary to rely initially on people with specific know-how – the members of the UEFA administration – the conditions are now again met for the representatives of the national associations to fully resume their role of decision-makers.

With an executive president and members who are widely available and kept constantly up to date, coupled with the advances in means of communication and information technology, the Executive Committee is back in a position to fully exercise its role, especially since it is now also equipped with a choice tool for assisting it to take its decisions, in the form of the Professional Football Strategy Council. This body completes UEFA's democratic structure by offering all the different stakeholders in professional football greater and more direct involvement in the decision-making process, in which the final say remains the prerogative of the Executive Committee.

The role of the committees is also being restored to full strength, so as to allow all the national associations to again participate actively in UEFA's work by developing and drafting proposals within bodies that are directly linked to the Executive Committee and chaired by its members.

It is not a question of taking a step backwards, but of moving forward. The synergy with FIFA and its committees is not only essential to the unity to which football aspires, but also proof of efficiency and harmony.

**Michel Platini**  
UEFA President

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### COVER

A seventh victory for AC Milan in the champion clubs' competition and a fifth trophy for Paolo Maldini to get his hands on.

Photo: PA Wire/PA Photos

# Xth Extraordinary UEFA Congress

United in change



Unanimous approval of the proposed amendments to the UEFA Statutes.

UEFA-pjwoods.ch

## THE XTH EXTRAORDINARY UEFA CONGRESS, HELD IN ZURICH ON 28 MAY, UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED THE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE UEFA STATUTES THAT WERE PUT BEFORE IT.

*"The philosophy underlying these changes," the UEFA president, Michel Platini, explained in his opening address, "will continue to inspire our action in the future. I want to return power to those who exercise it at national level thanks to the fundamental democracy which lies at the root of the European sports movement."*

The amendments adopted by the national association delegates clarify the powers and duties of the UEFA president, increase the number of members of the Executive Committee from 13 to 15 (from 2009) and abolish the co-optation of members by the Executive Committee. The number of committees will also increase, from

11 to 19. Each will in principle be chaired by a member of the Executive Committee and report directly to the Executive Committee. The office of chief executive has been replaced by that of a general secretary, who is responsible for running the administration. The partially revised statutes also establish a new body, the Professional Football Strategy Council, thanks to which, the UEFA president said, *"we can put our quarrels behind us, stop meeting in the courts, and stop making a spectacle of ourselves in front of the whole of Europe. It is high time that the entire football family united to defend the European sports model, a model based on solidarity..."*

The UEFA president continued his closing address with an appeal to Europe's big clubs: *"I officially ask the traditional big clubs of European football... to join all the other clubs to engage in fruitful, positive and democratic dialogue with the other members of the European football family."*

The FIFA president, Joseph S. Blatter, did not have far to travel from the Zurich-based headquarters of world football's governing body to address the UEFA Congress. He complimented the delegates on the unity they had shown at the congress and stressed again the important contribution of European football to world football.

Finally, Friedrich Stickler, president of the Austrian Football Association and chairman of the board of Euro 2008 SA, presented a status report on preparations for next year's major European sporting event.



Empics Sport/PA Photos

Goalkeeper Andres Palop was the hero of the penalty shoot-out.



Roca/APP/Getty Images



Fife/APP/Getty Images

Sevilla's FC Luis Fabiano (in orange) in a tackle with Espanyol's Daniel Jarque.

# Sevilla FC retain the UEFA Cup

fate in 1988 against Bayer Leverkusen, when the final was still a two-leg fixture.

For Sevilla FC and their coach Juande Ramos, however, it was the third successive triumph in a UEFA competition final, following their victories in the 2006 UEFA Cup against Middlesbrough FC and in the Super Cup the same year against FC Barcelona. Hence Sevilla also became the only club, apart from Real Madrid, to successfully defend the UEFA Cup. Spanish clubs now have five victories between them in this competition and, while still some way behind Italy, who hold the record with nine successes (the last one going back to 1999), they are catching up with England and Germany, who both have six titles under their belt.



**EVEN THOUGH THERE HAVE BEEN A NUMBER OF UEFA CUP FINALS INVOLVING CLUBS FROM THE SAME NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, THIS WAS THE FIRST FINAL BETWEEN TWO SPANISH CLUBS.**

At Hampden Park in Glasgow, which was hosting its first UEFA Cup final, Sevilla FC, the title holders, faced RCD Espanyol, who had enjoyed a remarkable run in the competition on the way to the final, the Catalans having notched 11 wins and three draws with a positive goal difference of 32-9.

Despite the falling rain, the final took little time to burst into life, a long kick from goalkeeper Palop allowing Adriano to open the score for the Andalusian team in the 18th minute.

The Sevilla keeper would continue to play a major role in the match, making a number of quality saves in open play and then, in particular, during the penalty shoot-out after extra time.

Long before that, however, only ten minutes after the first goal, Espanyol equalised and kept the momentum going, dominating play until an hour into the game. But a second yellow card that meant expulsion for Moises changed the whole picture. Sevilla regained control of the match, though they had nothing to show for their domination by the end of normal time.

In extra time Kanouté finally managed to beat the Catalan keeper and the result seemed a foregone conclusion, especially as Espanyol had depleted their

energy making up for their numerical inferiority. But their pride still burned fiercely, and this fuelled an unexpected equaliser, only for their efforts to be in vain as Palop magically saved three out of four penalties. It was a cruel end for the Catalan club, which had met the same



Empics Sport/PA Photos

Michel Platini hands the trophy to the Sevilla FC captain, Javier Navarro.

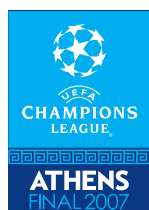
16 May 2007  
Glasgow – Hampden Park – 47,602 spectators  
**Sevilla FC – RCD Espanyol 2-2 (1-1, 1-1)**  
Penalties 3-1  
Goals: 18' Adriano, 28' Riera, 105' Kanouté, 115' Jonatas  
Referee: Massimo Busacca (Switzerland)



The three goals of the final, in chronological order, from left to right.

# UEFA Champions League

A seventh  
title for AC Milan



**IN ATHENS, AC MILAN WON UEFA'S FLAGSHIP CLUB COMPETITION FOR THE SEVENTH TIME, BEATING LIVERPOOL FC 2-1 IN THE FINAL.**

Twelve of the players in the starting line-ups (seven for Milan, five for Liverpool) had taken part in the unforgettable final in Istanbul two years ago, in which the English club overturned a three-goal deficit in the space of a few minutes before going on to win on penalties. Memories of this encounter, which received extensive media coverage before this year's final, were too fresh not to have an influence on everyone present.

On this Wednesday in Athens, caution was the order of the day. Seeking to prevent their opponents from producing their best game, Liverpool proved the most adept for nearly the whole of the first half, hampering the Milanese in their movements thanks to an appropriate tactical formation. Milan, for their part, were also good at covering ground to reduce

their opponents' room for manoeuvre. Chances on goal were therefore few and far between in the first half and the result of defensive errors rather than well constructed attacks.

Under such circumstances, the predatory instinct of a striker such as Filippo Inzaghi is priceless. Deflecting a free kick from team-mate Andrea Pirlo just before half-time,

Inzaghi gave his team a crucial advantage to take into the second half.

Despite more space opening up as expected after the interval, Liverpool could not break down Milan or stop their counter-attacks. It was Inzaghi once again who, perfectly set up by Kaka, showed his coolness in front of goal to net the second.

When a header from Kuyt reduced the deficit, memories of the Istanbul final came flooding back, but this time the Milanese kept a firm grip on their advantage for the little time that remained. Paolo Maldini soon had the well-deserved privilege of going up into the stand to receive his fifth European champion clubs' cup and his second as captain. The trophy was presented by UEFA president Michel Platini, against whom Maldini played in the Italian league, the former at the end of his career, the latter as he was just starting out.

AC Milan's victory brings the number of Italian triumphs in the competition to 11, putting them in joint first place with the Spanish clubs. In addition, this was the 16th UEFA competition won by AC Milan, an unprecedented achievement.

23 May 2007  
Athens – Olympic Stadium – 63,000 spectators  
**AC Milan - Liverpool FC 2-1 (1-0)**  
Goals: 45' and 82' Inzaghi, 89' Kuyt  
Referee: Herbert Fandel (Germany)



Sabbatini

# Club competition revenue

## Participating

## UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE 2006/07

CLUBS	Group matches				Final phase				TOTAL EUR
	Fix amount and additional bonus	Match participation	Performance bonus	Market Pool	1st knockout round	Quarter- finals	Semi- finals	Final	
<b>Group A</b>									
PFC Levski Sofia	3 000 000	2 400 000	-	164 000					5 564 000
Chelsea FC	3 000 000	2 400 000	2 700 000	18 862 000	2 200 000	2 500 000	3 000 000		34 662 000
Werder Bremen	3 000 000	2 400 000	2 100 000	10 969 000					18 469 000
FC Barcelona	3 000 000	2 400 000	2 400 000	12 702 000	2 200 000				22 702 000
<b>Group B</b>									
FC Spartak Moskva	3 000 000	2 400 000	1 200 000	610 000					7 210 000
Sporting Portugal	3 000 000	2 400 000	1 200 000	1 161 000					7 761 000
FC Internazionale	3 000 000	2 400 000	2 100 000	19 882 000	2 200 000				29 582 000
FC Bayern München	3 000 000	2 400 000	2 700 000	15 932 000	2 200 000	2 500 000			28 732 000
<b>Group C</b>									
Liverpool FC	3 000 000	2 400 000	2 700 000	12 418 000	2 200 000	2 500 000	3 000 000	4 000 000	32 218 000
Galatasaray SK	3 000 000	2 400 000	900 000	7 658 000					13 958 000
Girondins de Bordeaux	3 000 000	2 400 000	1 500 000	9 220 000					16 120 000
PSV Eindhoven	3 000 000	2 400 000	2 100 000	19 400 000	2 200 000	2 500 000			31 600 000
<b>Group D</b>									
FC Shakhtar Donetsk	3 000 000	2 400 000	1 500 000	483 000					7 383 000
Olympiacos CFP	3 000 000	2 400 000	900 000	4 584 000					10 884 000
Valencia CF	3 000 000	2 400 000	2 700 000	9 801 000	2 200 000	2 500 000			22 601 000
AS Roma	3 000 000	2 400 000	2 100 000	18 886 000	2 200 000	2 500 000			31 086 000
<b>Group E</b>									
Real Madrid CF	3 000 000	2 400 000	2 400 000	11 026 000	2 200 000				21 026 000
FC Dynamo Kyiv	3 000 000	2 400 000	600 000	437 000					6 437 000
FC Steaua Bucuresti	3 000 000	2 400 000	1 200 000	1 786 000					8 386 000
Olympique Lyonnais	3 000 000	2 400 000	3 000 000	12 047 000	2 200 000				22 647 000
<b>Group F</b>									
SL Benfica	3 000 000	2 400 000	1 500 000	893 000					7 793 000
Manchester United FC	3 000 000	2 400 000	2 400 000	16 033 000	2 200 000	2 500 000	3 000 000		31 533 000
Celtic FC	3 000 000	2 400 000	1 800 000	6 288 000	2 200 000				15 688 000
FC Kobenhavn	3 000 000	2 400 000	1 500 000	5 268 000					12 168 000
<b>Group G</b>									
Arsenal FC	3 000 000	2 400 000	2 400 000	9 274 000	2 200 000				19 274 000
FC Porto	3 000 000	2 400 000	2 400 000	1 519 000	2 200 000				11 519 000
CSKA Moskva	3 000 000	2 400 000	1 800 000	674 000					7 874 000
Hamburger SV	3 000 000	2 400 000	600 000	8 327 000					14 327 000
<b>Group H</b>									
AEK Athens	3 000 000	2 400 000	1 800 000	4 147 000					11 347 000
RSC Anderlecht	3 000 000	2 400 000	1 200 000	4 812 000					11 412 000
LOSC Lille Métropole	3 000 000	2 400 000	2 100 000	8 345 000	2 200 000				18 045 000
AC Milan	3 000 000	2 400 000	2 100 000	17 392 000	2 200 000	2 500 000	3 000 000	7 000 000	39 592 000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>96 000 000</b>	<b>76 800 000</b>	<b>57 600 000</b>	<b>271 000 000</b>	<b>35 200 000</b>	<b>20 000 000</b>	<b>12 000 000</b>	<b>11 000 000</b>	<b>579 600 000</b>

# clubs' share



Frank Fife/AFP/Getty Images

**THE 2006/07 SEASON MARKED THE BEGINNING OF A NEW THREE-YEAR CYCLE FOR THE MARKETING OF UEFA'S CLUB COMPETITIONS. FOR THE FIRST TIME, THE MARKETING OF THE RIGHTS TO THE UEFA CUP WAS PARTLY CENTRALISED; IT WAS ALSO THE FIRST TIME THAT ALL THE PRIZE MONEY WAS CALCULATED IN EUROS RATHER THAN SWISS FRANCS. THE FIGURES, INCLUDING SOLIDARITY PAYMENTS, WERE ALSO INCREASED.**

For the UEFA Champions League, however, the principles governing the distribution of revenue between the participating clubs remained the same: half of the total amount is distributed in the form of fixed sums, while the other half depends on the value of the commercial markets of the national associations involved.



As far as the second half of the prize money is concerned, each club's share depended on the value of its national market ("market pool"), as well as the number of clubs per association, their standing in the 2005/06 national championship and the number of matches they played in this season's UEFA Champions League.

### Solidarity payments

A proportion of the revenue from the UEFA Champions League was reserved for solidarity payments awarded to the clubs that participated in the Champions League qualifying matches, the qualification phase and first round of the UEFA Cup and the UEFA Intertoto Cup. As far as the Champions League is concerned:

- With regard to the fixed sums:
  - each club received a participation premium of EUR 2 million; the surplus income generated over and above the expected revenue meant that each club received an additional EUR 1 million;
  - each club also received EUR 400,000 per group match played, i.e. a total of EUR 2.4 million per club;
  - each group match victory was worth EUR 600,000 and each draw EUR 300,000. Olympique Lyonnais came closest to the maximum of EUR 3.6 million by earning EUR 3 million;
  - each of the 16 teams that qualified for the first knockout round received a bonus of EUR 2.2 million; the eight quarter-finalists earned a further EUR 2.5 million, while the semi-finalists were awarded another EUR 3 million. AC Milan received EUR 7 million for winning the final and the runners-up, Liverpool, received EUR 4 million. These figures do not include income from the sale of match tickets.

- national champions which did not reach the group stage of the Champions League received EUR 160,000;
- clubs that participated in the Champions League first and/or second qualifying round were awarded EUR 100,000 per round, except for the clubs that went on to qualify for the Champions League group matches;
- there were no solidarity payments for the participants in the Champions League third qualifying round; the eliminated clubs played in the UEFA Cup, where they qualified for solidarity pay-

## Solidarity payments to the national associations for their clubs

ASSOCIATION	Amount in EUR
ALBANIA	470 000
ANDORRA	230 000
ARMENIA	400 000
AUSTRIA	610 000
AZERBAIJAN	470 000
BELARUS	540 000
BELGIUM	420 000
BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA	570 000
BULGARIA	630 000
CROATIA	470 000
CYPRUS	680 000
CZECH REPUBLIC	610 000
DENMARK	560 000
ENGLAND	350 000
ESTONIA	610 000
FYR MACEDONIA	570 000
FAROE ISLANDS	500 000
FINLAND	500 000
FRANCE	490 000
GEORGIA	570 000
GERMANY	350 000
GREECE	280 000
HUNGARY	470 000
ICELAND	500 000
ISRAEL	510 000
ITALY	280 000
KAZAKHSTAN	400 000
LATVIA	640 000
LIECHTENSTEIN	140 000
LITHUANIA	640 000
LUXEMBOURG	400 000
MALTA	400 000
MOLDOVA	570 000
NETHERLANDS	420 000
NORTHERN IRELAND	400 000
NORWAY	820 000
POLAND	610 000
PORTUGAL	210 000
REPUBLIC OF IRELAND	710 000
ROMANIA	420 000
RUSSIA	210 000
SAN MARINO	230 000
SCOTLAND	310 000
SERBIA	610 000
SLOVAKIA	610 000
SLOVENIA	640 000
SPAIN	280 000
SWEDEN	610 000
SWITZERLAND	890 000
TURKEY	520 000
UKRAINE	280 000
WALES	470 000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>EUR 25 080 000</b>



File/AP/Getty Images



Quick/AP/Getty Images

# UEFA CUP 2006/07: DISTRIBUTION

Group matches			Final phase						TOTAL EUR
TEAMS	Fix amount and solidarity suppl.	Performance bonus	Round of 32	Round of 16	Market Pool	Quarter- finals	Semi- finals	Final	
<b>Group A</b>									
Rangers FC	170 000	140 000	70 000	70 000					450 000
Maccabi Haifa FC	170 000	100 000	70 000	70 000					410 000
AS Livorno Calcio	170 000	80 000	70 000						320 000
AJ Auxerre	170 000	60 000							230 000
FK Partizan	170 000	20 000							190 000
<b>Group B</b>									
Tottenham Hotspur FC	170 000	160 000	70 000	70 000	3 553 000	300 000			4 323 000
FC Dinamo Bucuresti	170 000	100 000	70 000						340 000
Bayer 04 Leverkusen	170 000	60 000	70 000	70 000	895 000	300 000			1 565 000
Besiktas JK	170 000	40 000							210 000
Club Brugge KV	170 000	40 000							210 000
<b>Group C</b>									
AZ Alkmaar	170 000	140 000	70 000	70 000	611 000	300 000			1 361 000
Sevilla FC	170 000	100 000	70 000	70 000	2 441 500	300 000	600 000	2 500 000	6 251 500
SC Braga	170 000	80 000	70 000	70 000					390 000
FC Slovan Liberec	170 000	80 000							250 000
Grasshopper-Club	170 000	-							170 000
<b>Group D</b>									
Parma FC	170 000	120 000	70 000						360 000
CA Osasuna	170 000	100 000	70 000	70 000	1 329 000	300 000	600 000		2 639 000
RC Lens	170 000	60 000	70 000	70 000					370 000
SC Heerenveen	170 000	60 000							230 000
Odense BK	170 000	60 000							230 000
<b>Group E</b>									
Blackburn Rovers FC	170 000	140 000	70 000						380 000
AS Nancy-Lorraine	170 000	100 000	70 000						340 000
Feyenoord	170 000	80 000	-						250 000
Wisła Kraków	170 000	40 000							210 000
FC Basel 1893	170 000	40 000							210 000
<b>Group F</b>									
RCD Espanyol	170 000	160 000	70 000	70 000	2 441 500	300 000	600 000	1 500 000	5 311 500
AFC Ajax	170 000	100 000	70 000						340 000
SV Zulte Waregem	170 000	80 000	70 000						320 000
AC Sparta Praha	170 000	60 000							230 000
FK Austria Wien	170 000	-							170 000
<b>Group G</b>									
Panathinaikos FC	170 000	100 000	70 000						340 000
Paris Saint-Germain FC	170 000	80 000	70 000	70 000					390 000
Hapoel Tel-Aviv FC	170 000	80 000	70 000						320 000
AFC Rapid Bucuresti	170 000	80 000							250 000
FK Mladá Boleslav	170 000	60 000							230 000
<b>Group H</b>									
Newcastle United FC	170 000	140 000	70 000	70 000					450 000
RC Celta de Vigo	170 000	80 000	70 000	70 000					390 000
Fenerbahçe SK	170 000	60 000	70 000						300 000
US Città di Palermo	170 000	60 000							230 000
Eintracht Frankfurt	170 000	60 000							230 000
Werder Bremen*					1 692 000	300 000	600 000		2 592 000
SL Benfica*					387 000	300 000			687 000
* Club from the UEFA Champions League									
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>6 800 000</b>	<b>3 200 000</b>	<b>1 610 000</b>	<b>910 000</b>	<b>13 350 000</b>	<b>2 400 000</b>	<b>2 400 000</b>	<b>4 000 000</b>	<b>34 670 000</b>





De Souza/AP/Getty Images

Last year, Newcastle (Steven Taylor, No. 27) made it from the UEFA Intertoto Cup into the last 16 of the UEFA Cup.



STRI/AP/Getty Images

## 2007 UEFA Intertoto Cup kicks off

**THE 2007 UEFA INTERTOTO CUP GETS UNDER WAY AT THE END OF JUNE UNDER THE NEW THREE-ROUND FORMAT INTRODUCED LAST YEAR WHICH SEES 11 TEAMS CONTINUING SUBSEQUENTLY IN THE SECOND QUALIFYING ROUND OF THE UEFA CUP.**



Fifty associations are represented in this 13th edition, in which the Football Association of Montenegro is making its debut in the UEFA club competitions. Following the draw conducted at the House of European Football in Nyon on 23 April, the associations communicated the names of their participating clubs at the beginning of June.

The schedule for this year's competition is as follows:

**23/24 June:** first round, first legs

**30 June/1 July:** first round, return legs

**7/8 July:** second round, first legs

**14/15 July:** second round, return legs

**21/22 July:** third round, first legs

**28/29 July:** third round, return legs.

ments from the first round onwards; they were also able to keep the payments received for the first two qualifying rounds.

### As regards the UEFA Cup:

- each club received EUR 70,000 per round played, from the first qualifying round to the first round proper, i.e. a maximum of EUR 210,000;
- part of the aforementioned surplus revenue from the Champions League was awarded to the 80 clubs that played in the UEFA Cup first round. Each of these clubs received EUR 100,000, i.e. a total of EUR 8 million.

### As for the UEFA Intertoto Cup:

- each participating club received EUR 50,000 per round played, i.e. a maximum of EUR 150,000; the clubs that qualified for the UEFA Cup (from the second qualifying round stage) were allowed to keep these payments.

### UEFA Cup revenue

The UEFA Cup quarter-finals and semi-finals were marketed centrally

for the first time this year, as well as the final and the Super Cup. The revenue was also distributed to the clubs that played in the group matches.

- Each participant in the group matches received a fixed sum of EUR 70,000.
- Each victory in these matches was worth EUR 40,000 and each draw EUR 20,000.
- The teams that qualified for the knockout stages were awarded EUR 70,000 for the round of 32 and the same amount for the round of 16 (these sums were not paid to the teams that came out of the Champions League after the group matches).

- Each quarter-finalist received EUR 300,000; the semi-finalists were each paid EUR 600,000. Sevilla FC's victory was worth EUR 2.5 million, while Espanyol received EUR 1.5 million.

- In addition to these payments, the quarter-finalists received a sum depending on the value of their national market and whether they qualified for the semi-finals.



Fife/AP/Getty Images



A scare in front of the England goal in their semi-final against France.



Bojan Krkic was the most prominent player on the pitch.



Belgium had a successful tournament and qualified for the U17 World Cup.

# European Under-17 Championship in Belgium

## First European Under-17 title for Spain

**WITH A 1-0 WIN OVER ENGLAND, SPAIN WON THEIR FIRST EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP TITLE IN WHAT HAS BEEN THE YOUNGEST AGE CATEGORY AMONG UEFA'S YOUTH COMPETITIONS SINCE THE UNDER-16 EVENT CHANGED TO AN UNDER-17 COMPETITION IN THE 2001/02 SEASON. INCLUDING THE UNDER-16 CHAMPIONSHIP, SPAIN HAVE NOW WON THE TOURNAMENT A RECORD SEVEN TIMES.**

The final in the Luc-Varenne-Stadion in Tournai was fiercely contested. Both teams were rather cautious and the two defences were rarely faced with major problems. One of the players of the tournament, Bojan Krkic, scored the winning goal for Spain shortly after half-time. Despite their endeavours and a few chances, the English team were unable to find an equaliser.

### Shop window

Once again, the final round in Belgium was a shop window for the future stars of European football. The brightest of them all was Bojan Krkic, son of a former Red Star Belgrade player, who has come through the youth academy at FC Barcelona and had already hit the headlines with five goals at the 2006 finals in Luxembourg. He it was who had also rescued ten-man Spain from a precarious situation in the semi-final

by netting a magnificent last-gasp equaliser against hosts Belgium.

### Spain v England: a fitting final

Spain and England, who reached the final of the 2006/07 European Under-17 Championship, were the two strongest teams of the tournament. The parallels en route to the final were amazing: both achieved maximum points in the elite round, only conceding one goal in the process, both won their final round groups without losing a match and both were severely tested in the semi-finals. The Spaniards, despite having a man sent off, recovered from a goal down against the hosts before winning 7-6 on penalties. England, meanwhile, took an early lead against France and had to battle hard to protect their advantage after losing three players through injury.



### Sixth title for Juan Santisteban

For legendary Spanish coach Juan Santisteban, this was the sixth under-16 or under-17 title. The successful 70-year old was nevertheless overjoyed: *"It's always a great joy to win a final and a title. Not just for me, but for the players, as there are always new players and it's always great to take new players to win a final of a European championship, which is a big, big moment for those players."* England coach John Peacock, who had every reason to be proud of his players despite the defeat, said: *"It was always going to be a tough game, quite a tactical game in the first half, not many chances. But it just takes that one goal and unfortunately it wasn't us today."*

### Five European representatives at Under-17 World Cup

The European Under-17 Championship final round in Belgium was also a qualifying event for the Under-17 World Cup starting in August in South Korea. Since Europe has five places in the finals, a fifth-place play-off was contested by Germany and the Netherlands, who had finished third in their respective groups. After a thrilling match, in which the lead changed hands twice, Germany finally booked the last ticket to the World Cup with a 3-2 win. The other two participants in the tournament, Ukraine and Iceland, found it tough going in their high-quality groups, although they were able to gather valuable experience. For the North Europeans, who had surprised everyone by knocking out holders Russia and Portugal in the elite round, reaching the final round was a great success in itself.



Photos: Sportstyle

### Belgium, 2-13 May 2007

Group A	
France – Spain	0-2
Germany – Ukraine	2-0
Spain – Ukraine	3-1
France – Germany	2-1
Ukraine – France	2-2
Spain – Germany	0-0
Group B	
Iceland – England	0-2
Netherlands – Belgium	2-2
Belgium – England	1-1
Netherlands – Iceland	3-0
England – Netherlands	4-2
Belgium – Iceland	5-1
Play-off for fifth place	
Germany – Netherlands	3-2
Semi-finals	
Spain – Belgium	1-1, 7-6 after penalty kicks
England – France	1-0
Final	
Spain – England	1-0



Left to right: Leo Windtner, vice-president of the ÖFB, Hermann Stadler, in charge of the under-19s, tournament director Willi Ruttensteiner, Andreas Herzog and Ludwig Scharinger, managing director of the tournament's principal sponsor.



Austria's under-19s will try to go one better than the semi-final stage they reached last year.



Andreas Herzog, tournament ambassador.

# European Under-19 Championship

## Top youngsters come to Austria

**THERE IS TREMENDOUS ANTICIPATION IN AUSTRIA AHEAD OF THE EUROPEAN UNDER-19 CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL ROUND, STARTING ON 16 JULY.**

For months now, a wide range of promotional activities have been held all over the country, the highlight being a roadshow touring through Upper Austria and Bundesliga stadiums all over Austria. In the country's most-capped player Andreas Herzog, the Austrian Football Association (ÖFB) has also found a perfect crowd-puller for the European Under-19 Championship, which is expected to attract a total of more than 40,000 spectators to the 15 matches being played in four different stadiums.

Andreas Herzog, who wore the red and white of the national team more than 100 times and, as personal assistant to national coach Josef Hickersberger, is an important member of the coaching staff for the team who will attract enormous attention at EURO 2008 in Austria and Switzerland, said in his capacity as ambassador for the European Under-19 Championship: "I am doing all I can to ensure that the stadiums are jam-packed in July 2007. Unfortunately, I never played in a European Under-19 Championship myself, since such events can be an ideal springboard for young players, whose good performances can demonstrate their ability to play at a higher level."

Matches will be staged in the Upper Austrian cities of Ried, Steyr, Pasching and, of course, Linz, where the final will be played on 27 July. Leo Windtner, president of the host regional association in Upper Austria, is looking forward to the tournament: "The 2007 European Under-19

Championship is more than just a warm-up for EURO 2008. Our objective is to perform so well that a genuine European



Championship atmosphere is generated in Austria a whole year before the big event. This tournament should set new standards, both as a sporting highlight and as a top event for the people." ÖFB technical director Willi Ruttensteiner, who will also

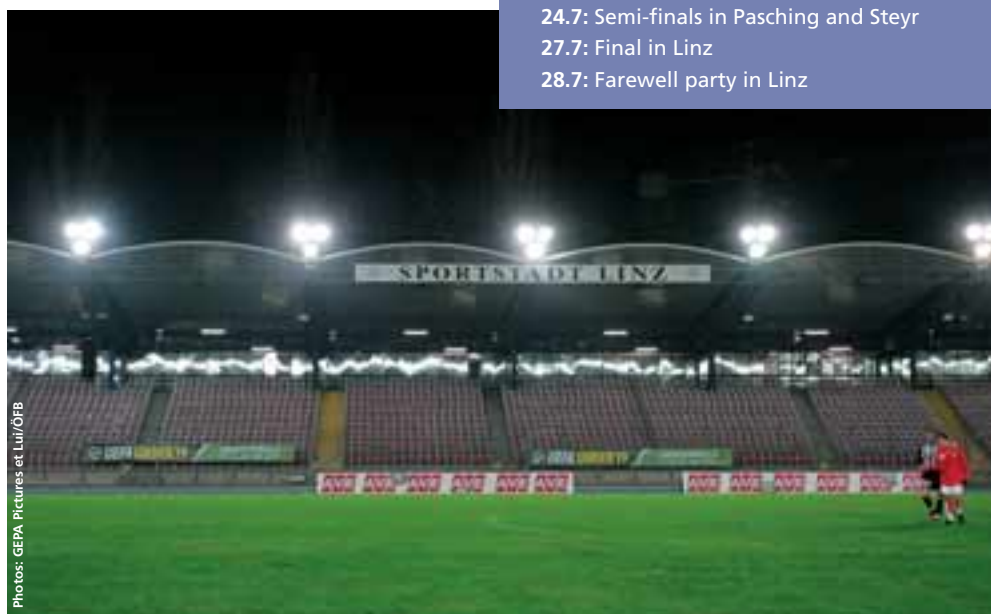
act as tournament director for the Under-19 Championship, can hardly wait for the event, which will also include numerous activities with schools and clubs in the region, to begin: "The European Under-19 Championship will set new standards in Upper Austria; no football fan should miss these matches!" ÖFB president Friedrich

Stickler also considers the Under-19 Championship to be a highlight of the 2007 football calendar: "I am very confident that the European Under-19 Championship in Upper Austria represents an ideal launch event in relation to EURO 2008: I have great hopes that the tournament will help to raise awareness amongst the people and generate a feeling of football euphoria throughout the country!"

Peter Klinglmüller

## Key dates

- 14.7: Launch party at the Hauptplatz in Linz
- 16.7: Presentation of the "Der Österreichische Weg – Challenge 2012" First matchday with a double-header in Linz and further matches in Ried and Steyr
- 17.7: Dinner with all delegations and VIPs in the Marmorsaal at the St Florian monastery
- 18.7: Second matchday with a double-header in Pasching and further matches in Ried and Steyr
- 19.7: Social day in Ried
- 20.7: Panel discussion with international coaches in the RLB Forum Linz
- 20/21.7: International coaches' symposium with star guests in the Linz Design Centre
- 21.7: Third matchday with matches in Linz, Pasching, Steyr and Ried
- 22.7: Austrian Copa Pele team with Herbert Prohaska & Co plays a "Best Of Upper Austria" team in Steyr. Preceded by a match between the Austrian national women's team and a business, politics and media team
- 24.7: Semi-finals in Pasching and Steyr
- 27.7: Final in Linz
- 28.7: Farewell party in Linz



Photos: GEPA Pictures et Lui/ÖFB



Reykjavik, capital of Iceland.

Michael AFP



Germany will be defending the title they won in Switzerland last year.

Keystone

# European Women's U19 Championship

## Iceland welcomes finalists

**THE FA OF ICELAND IS CELEBRATING ITS 60 ANNIVERSARY IN 2007. ONE OF THE MAIN EVENTS TO COMMEMORATE THE ANNIVERSARY WILL BE THE HOSTING OF THE FINALS OF THE WOMEN'S EUROPEAN U19 CHAMPIONSHIP, A HUGE PROJECT FOR A SMALL ASSOCIATION. EIGHT TEAMS WILL PARTICIPATE, IN TWO GROUPS. THE TOURNAMENT IS A GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY FOR FOOTBALL FANS ALL OVER THE COUNTRY TO SEE SOME OF THE CONTINENT'S MOST PROMISING WOMEN PLAYERS IN ACTION.**

The draw for the final round took place at the Football Association of Iceland's headquarters at the Laugardalsvöllur stadium, which will play host to the final on 29 July. Assisting with the draw were the mayor of Reykjavik, Vilhjalmur Vilhjalmsson, and Margret Lara Vidarsdottir, Iceland's woman footballer of the year.

In **Group A**, Iceland will compete against Norway, Denmark and reigning champions Germany, who will be the team to beat in this group. Having claimed their fourth title – and their second since the competition changed from an U18 event – with a 3-0 victory in the final against France in Switzerland a year ago, Germany have continued their ominous form in the qualifying phase, scoring 42 goals in six games and conceding just two. Norway have reached the finals for the first time since losing

the showpiece to France in 2003. Norway and Denmark played in the same group in the second qualifying round and an



88th minute goal by Norway secured them a place in the finals as the best runner-up. Denmark won their group and will arrive in Iceland with their confidence on high. The Icelandic team is well prepared and looking forward to playing against the best in Europe.

In **Group B**, losing finalists for the last two seasons, France, are hoping to do one better in Iceland. Spain, the surprise winners in 2004, are also in this group, together with England who failed to qualify last season. Poland are also in Group B for their first appearance in the finals. By beating the favourites, Russia in their final game, Poland are the dark horse of this final round.

*Thor Ingimundarson*

## The stadiums

### REYKJAVÍK

The *Laugardalsvöllur* stadium was opened in 1957 and at that time had one main stand on the west side with no roof or benches for spectators. The capacity of the west stand was then increased, a roof built and finished in 1970. A second stand was opened on the east side in 1997. In 2007, the renovation and extension of the west stand was completed, and the stadium now has a total seating capacity of 9,800.

Fram FC have played their home matches at the Laugardalsvöllur stadium through the years, but the stadium has also hosted a few other Reykjavik teams for shorter periods.



The Laugardalsvöllur stadium.

KSI

The stand at the *Víkingsvöllur* stadium, home to Víkingur FC, was built in 2005 and has a total seating capacity of 1,150.

The *KR-völlur* stadium is the home ground of the black and whites of KR FC, with a seating capacity of 1,550, built in 1993 and renovated in 2005.

Orange and black are the colours of Fylkir, the home team of the *Fylkissvöllur* stadium, where 500 seats were installed in 2006.

### GRINDAVÍK

The stadium in Grindavík, one of the finest in the country, is home to the local team, Grindavík FC. The main stand was built in 1999 and renovated in 2003 with a seating capacity of 1,500 – quite a large capacity considering that the town's population is just under 3,000, but proximity to the capital means that visiting fans only have to make a short drive to the *Grindavíkuvöllur* stadium to watch their team.

### AKRANES

The main stand at the *Akranesvöllur* stadium, built in 1995, renovated and extended in 2002 and 2007 to a current total seated capacity of 1,000, stands practically on the beach, where local footballers have trained since football first made its mark in Akranes.

### KÓPAVOGUR

The *Kópavogsvöllur* stadium is home to local football clubs and long-time rivals – HK and Breidablik. For the first time in their history, both clubs are now playing in the premier division. The stadium has two stands – the older one having been built in 1975 and renovated in 1997, and a brand-new one having been opened in the summer of 2007. The total seating capacity of the stadium is now 1,800.



The draw was conducted by the mayor of Reykjavik and Margret Lara Vidarsdottir, Iceland's woman player of the year.

KSI



Volker Roth, chairman of the Referees Committee.



A training session under the supervision of Werner Helsen.



Pierluigi Collina runs an analysis session on a giant screen.

# Talents and mentors

## A wonderful investment

**UEFA HAS SUCCESSFULLY RUN A REFEREE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME IN RECENT YEARS WHICH, TOGETHER WITH THE WORK UNDERTAKEN WITHIN THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATIONS, HAS HELPED EUROPE PRODUCE SOME SPLENDID MATCH OFFICIALS.**

This programme has included the "talents and mentors" programme. Since 2001, Europe's up-and-coming referees have been given expert guidance along the career path by a group of experienced former international referees. The latest group of European "hopefuls" recently got together with their mentors and UEFA Referees Committee members for a valuable seminar from 8 to 10 May at UEFA's headquarters.

The young referees are guided to help them prepare for, and cope with the demands placed on them in modern football. UEFA is of the view that, in the same way that young footballers need the advice of experienced current or former professionals, young referees can benefit from the experiences of colleagues who have served as match officials at the highest levels. The programme has already borne considerable fruit, with many graduates going on to take charge of European games at the highest level.

The mentors remain in constant contact with their specific referees by email or phone, and by either visiting them or inviting them to the mentors' respective countries. Their discussions focus on on-field performances as well as on matters such as diet, social and private conduct and improving communication in English – now the common language of refereeing at UEFA level.

This latest seminar combined practical, theoretical and training work. And UEFA used the event to give the referees vital encouragement for the future. "You are here because you are good," Jacob Erel, director of UEFA's national associations division, told them. "You have been detected by national associations and

*identified within UEFA as potential top European referees of the future. You have a great chance – don't let it pass you by.* "Programmes such as this are a wonderful investment in the future of European football," explained UEFA Referees Committee chairman Volker Roth.

One of the top European referees, Massimo Busacca of Switzerland, has reached the summit after taking part in the talents and mentors programme. He took charge of the recent UEFA Cup final, and stressed that the young referees must believe in themselves and listen to advice to take their careers further.

A fascinating insight into referees and tactical preparation was given by a refereeing legend, Pierluigi Collina (Italy), now a UEFA Referees Committee member after a distinguished career. "You have to know the rules of the game," he said. "Consistency is a very important value –

*if you are consistent, you are credible, and respected by players. Anticipation is better than reaction, and your goal is to reduce the gap between the players' action and your reaction. If you know what is going to happen in advance, you have the match in your hands, and you take the proper decisions."*

Passion and mental strength were identified as key referee characteristics by Swiss sports psychologist Mattia Piffaretti, and the referees were also given a fitness workout by Belgian referee coach Werner Helsen. The UEFA seminar will have certainly helped them on their way – and a mentor, Northern Ireland's Leslie Irvine, gave a wise piece of advice to them to take home – "Set realistic goals, do not be overly ambitious. UEFA does not take chances. You will progress if they see you can perform."



The talents and their mentors.

Photos: UEFA-plwoods.ch



The Executive Committee in Zurich.

UEFA-pjwoods.ch



The European Futsal Championship trophy and official ball.

UEFA

# Meetings and other activities

## A fifth vice-president in charge of finances

**THE UEFA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE HELD AN EXTRAORDINARY MEETING IN ZURICH ON 28 MAY, JUST BEFORE THE X<sup>TH</sup> EXTRAORDINARY UEFA CONGRESS.**

The main purpose of the meeting was to prepare the congress, and in this respect the committee decided that the proposed amendments to the UEFA Statutes should not be presented one at a time but as a whole, if the congress so agreed, given that the proposed amendments had already been presented to all the member associations in detail and the associations given the opportunity to express their views.

On the same subject, the committee also decided that if the congress

adopted the proposed amendment allowing the Executive Committee to elect a fifth vice-president to chair the proposed Finance Committee, this office would be entrusted to the current UEFA treasurer, Marios N. Lefkaritis.

After discussing the agenda for the FIFA Congress on 30 and 31 May, the committee set bases for forming the UEFA committees for the 2007-09 period, a task that it would deal with at its meeting in the Netherlands on 22 and 23 June.

## European Futsal Championship draw in Portugal

The fifth European Futsal Championship will reach its conclusion in Portugal from 16 to 25 November, when eight



teams will be competing for the title.

A draw was made in Porto on 12 May to separate the finalists into two groups, as follows:

**Group A:** Portugal, Italy, Czech Republic, Romania;

**Group B:** Spain, Ukraine, Serbia, Russia.

The group matches will take place from 16 to 21 November, from which the winners and runners-up go through to the semi-finals on 23 November. The final is scheduled for 25 November, preceded by the third-place play-off.

For the first time, an official ball, designed by adidas, will be used for a European Futsal Championship final round.

## UEFA Regions Cup

After the qualifying phase, which concluded at the end of April, the eight teams that have reached the final round of the current UEFA Re-



gions Cup were drawn into two groups in a ceremony organised on 17 May in Sliven in Bulgaria, where the tournament will take place.

The groups for the matches taking place from 20 to 24 June are as follows:

**Group A:** Tuzla Canton (Bosnia and Herzegovina), Basse-Normandie (France), Eastern Region (Northern Ireland), South-East Region (Bulgaria);

**Group B:** Aveiro (Portugal), Ticino (Switzerland), Ivan Odessa (Ukraine), Dolnoslaski (Poland).

The winners of each group go through to the final, to be played in Sliven on 26 June.

## Last meeting for David Will

Having joined the UEFA Executive Committee at the Paris Congress in 1984 and becoming a vice-president in 1986, David Will (Scotland) left in 1990 to take up the vice-president's seat on the FIFA Executive Committee reserved for the four British associations. He did not remain on the sidelines of the European Executive Committee for long, however, as in 1992 the UEFA president of the time, Lennart Johansson, decided to invite the European members of the FIFA Executive Committee to attend meetings of UEFA's corresponding body, to ensure a coherent UEFA position at world level.

At the extraordinary UEFA Executive Committee meeting in Zurich in May, David Will said his goodbyes, ahead of his retirement from the FIFA Executive Committee a few days later. The UEFA Executive Committee thanked him for his valuable contribution over so many years. At the FIFA Congress, David Will was made an honorary vice-president of FIFA.

His FIFA vice-president's seat has been taken over by Geoffrey Thompson (England), who is already a UEFA vice-president. The four British associations appointed him following the withdrawal of John McBeth of Scotland, who had been their first choice.



David Will (left) in conversation with former UEFA general secretary Hans Bangerter in Zurich.

UEFA-pjwoods.ch



The UEFA Cup finalists hand with the fair play draw: Walter Pandiani (Espanyol, left) and Javi Navarro (Sevilla), watched by the Sevilla coach, Juande Ramos.



## Report from Brussels

Lilian Thuram, the French captain and FC Barcelona defender, was in Brussels on 22 May for the inauguration of *Only a Game?*, the interactive exhibition in which UEFA and the Brussels region portray Europe through football. It was an exciting day...



Lilian Thuram with the designer of the exhibition, Olivier Guilbaud, and Evelyne Huytebroeck, member of the Brussels Region government.

Thuram, who won the 1998 World Cup and EURO 2000 with France, is the ambassador of the exhibition, which is taking place in conjunction with the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Treaty of Rome, on which the European Union was founded, and is supporting it with pride, enthusiasm and feeling. *"Being European doesn't mean losing your identity. Quite the opposite. It means being more grown-up, more mature and more open to the world."* The same theme runs through the exhibition, which seeks to show to what extent football can be viewed as a vehicle for social phenomena, values and characteristic cultural traditions in Europe.

To bring this ambitious project to life and attract visitors of all ages, football fans and non-fans alike, the exhibition relies on a resolutely hi-tech design: the visitor can therefore travel to the four corners of Europe by means of a sphere controlled remotely by pointing at it, whereby UEFA Champions League teams serve as the basis of a highly interactive geography lesson.

The fans and amateur football clearly take centre stage, as the

## The luck of the draw for the Nordic countries

Having finished top of UEFA's fair play rankings, Sweden automatically earned the right to an additional place in the UEFA Cup qualifying competition.



The two other associations to benefit from an additional UEFA Cup berth each were picked out of the hat containing the ten associations which had achieved an average of eight points or more in the fair play competition.

The draw, which was made in Glasgow the day before the UEFA Cup final, went in favour of two of Sweden's neighbours, Norway and Finland, who, as it happens, were immediately below Sweden in the rankings and therefore duly deserved the two UEFA Cup places.

All three UEFA Cup places awarded in this way are reserved for clubs which qualify via their association's respective domestic fair play competition, in this case, BK Häcken (Sweden), Lillestrøm SK (Norway) and Myllykosken Pallo-47 (Finland).

## Anti-racism conference

On 19 and 20 May, the FARE network (Football Against Racism in Europe) organised a conference on the theme of "Football, Ethnic Minorities and Equality" in Paris.

Around 100 representatives of non-governmental organisations and organisations representing ethnic minorities, supporters' groups and clubs attended the conference, at which UEFA was also represented.

The discussions highlighted, among other things, the problems related to the emigration of so many young African players to Europe, as well as the importance of football as a means of integration.

On 24 May, the Hungarian club Ferencvaros TC began a series

of anti-racism roundtables in collaboration with the national FARE partner to exchange good practices and come up with new anti-racism activities.

The "Mondiali Antirazzisti" anti-racism tournament in Italy, with 204 participating teams, takes place from 11 to 15 July in Casalecchio di Reno, near Bologna.

UEFA lent its support to the 4th Mini European Championship, a cross-border tournament played in Frantiskovy Lazne (Czech Republic) and Rehau (Germany) at the end of April. It involved 250 players under-11 years of age, cheered on by almost 3,000 supporters.

The championship was won by the CSKA Moscow juniors, who beat the hosts, the German-Czech Football School, 2-1 in a penalty shoot-out. The main aim of the organisers was, however, to contribute to understanding between peoples, an aim which was reflected in the theme of this year's tournament, "Against Racism and Violence".

The discussions organised on the fringe of the tournament stressed the importance of working with young people and pointed out that intercultural tournaments of this kind were an excellent way of encouraging respect for foreigners in an enjoyable way.



Despite the disappointment of losing, fair play is still expected.

→ exhibition reminds the visitor that football, which is so deeply entrenched in community life, is based essentially on being associated with a club or team and a very strong sense of identifying with that particular club or team. Satisfied that the exhibition “reminds people that football is much more than a professional game, but also – and above all – a matter of supporters and roots,” Thuram afterwards paid a visit to FC Barça Jette, a Brussels club whose players and officials share a passion for football... and for FC Barcelona, where the captain of the French national team currently plays.

The staff of the Belgian daily newspaper *Le Soir* were also excited to receive a visit from the world and European champion, who dropped in to give a fascinating and emotional interview to promote the exhibition.

His (too) short stay ended with a stroll through the centre of Brussels. A last word, Lilian, before returning to Catalonia? “I’d like football to remain something that everyone enjoys!” A message that is clearly shared by the designers of *Only a Game?*

*‘Only a Game?’ – Football & Europe: 50 Years of History*

23 May – 26 August 2007  
www.onlyagame.be

## René Eberle retires



**You had to be ready to turn your hand to just about anything in the days when René Eberle joined UEFA in the early 1970s. The UEFA administration had just expanded to a staff of – a dozen or so employees. A spirit of cooperation was therefore indispensable and meant that everyone did a bit of everything and had the chance to get involved in all aspects of the game.**

The “jacks of all trades” were, however, also expected to be specialists, and René devoted the bulk of his time to disciplinary matters, a rather paradoxical choice for someone renowned for his affability and conviviality. But René has always known how to combine strictness, amiable nature and the ability to adapt, which has been essential for keeping up with the evolution of the UEFA administration as it modernised, grew at a phenomenal rate and even moved its headquarters from German-speaking Berne to French-speaking Nyon.

René has always been keen on travel and discovering other horizons and mentalities. Despite his diverse and numerous areas of activity (after discipli-

nary matters, he moved on to refereeing, safety and security, and matters concerning match delegates, among other things), he always managed to make room for a holiday at the end of the year to travel to some far-flung destination, where he still often managed to bump into acquaintances, which was not surprising, given the multitude of people he knows in the football world. His football-related memories and anecdotes are just as numerous.

René's retirement at the end of May after nearly 35 years with UEFA will certainly be full, not least because he will continue to serve as a UEFA delegate. There will doubtless be many further occasions to see him again and to spend some special moments with him.

## Draw in Linz for the Under-19 final round

**A year ahead of EURO 2008, which it is co-hosting with the Swiss FA, the Austrian Football Association is paying very close attention to the final round of the European Under-19 Championship which it is hosting in July (see p. 11).**

On 13 June, the draw for the final round was made in Linz by Jim Boyce, chairman of the Youth and Amateur Football Committee, assisted by tournament ambassador Andreas Herzog, Austria's most-capped former player. The draw produced the following groups:

**Group A:** Austria, Spain, Greece, Portugal;

**Group B:** Germany, Russia, France, Serbia.

The group matches run from 16 to 21 July, while the semi-finals take place on 24 July and the final itself on 27 July, in Linz.

Only three of the finalists were involved in last year's final round in Poland: Austria, who qualify automatically this time as host nation, Portugal



The draw for the European Under-19 Championship final round in Linz.

and reigning champions Spain, the only team, along with Serbia, to have won all three of its matches in the elite round of the current championship.

## FIFA U20 World Cup in Canada

**The best six teams from last season's European Under-19 Championship (Spain, Scotland, Austria, Czech Republic, Poland and Portugal) are taking part in the FIFA U20 World Cup which kicks off in Canada on 30 June.**

The group matches run until 8 July and will be played in Montreal, Burnaby, Edmonton, Victoria, Ottawa and Toronto, the venue for the final. The group winners, group runners-up and best four third-placed teams go into the first knockout round, involving 16 teams on 11 and 12 July. The quarter-finals take place on 14 and 15, and the semi-finals on 18 and 19 July.

The final, which takes place on 22 July, will be preceded by a third-place play-off. The title has not been won by a European team since 1999, when Spain were successful. Argentina are the reigning champions.

## Award for UEFA

**UEFA has received the inaugural European Communication Award in Brussels.**

Presented by the European Association of Communication Directors (EACD), the award recognised UEFA's efforts to democratise football in Europe and “to use the power of football as Europe's ultimate common language.”



## ARMENIA



### The importance of club licensing

The month of May was a very busy one for the Football Federation of Armenia (FFA), with the first training sessions of both Armenia's senior and U21 squads, as well as the national team's matches at the end of May and beginning of June against teams from Kazakhstan, Poland and Liechtenstein.



A workshop on media rights.

FFA

Furthermore, Armenia's cup final took place on 9 May at the Republican Stadium in Yerevan between FC Banants and FC Ararat. The match was not short of appeal: both teams won the crystal trophy in the 1990s (Ararat in 1993, 1994, 1995 and 1997, and Banants just once in 1992) and so they were both hungry for victory. The match was played to a very high standard, with both sides attacking and very enthusiastic support from the teams' fans. The equal level of the opponents was confirmed by the full-time score (1-1), but in extra time the FC Banants players showed the greater physical presence, scoring two goals and winning the match 3-1.

Thus, after a 15-year interval, FC Banants won the Independence Cup, and the FFA president, Ruben Hayrapetyan, was the first to congratulate team captain Eghishe Melikyan as he presented him with the distinguished trophy. The first ceremony of the day took place before the match, however, and celebrated club licensing. On the basis of the FFA licensing committee's decision, the FFA CEO and club licensing project leader Armen Minasyan awarded licences to Armenian clubs' presidents in the presence of local media representatives in the press hall of the Republican stadium. In his welcoming speech Mr Minasyan stressed the importance and significance of the club licensing system, as Armenian clubs pay more attention both to their personnel and to financial and youth football development matters since its application in 2003.

Furthermore, he urged club representatives to strive for ever better results for next season, as a new stage in the FFA club licensing system is to be introduced whereby only licensed clubs will be able to play both in UEFA club competitions and the top division of the FFA championship in 2008.

On behalf of the clubs, the president of FC Mika, Karlos Ghazaryan, expressed his deepest gratitude to the FFA licensing committee officials and experts for their hard work and assistance throughout the season.

On 10 and 11 May, UEFA and the FFA organised a workshop entitled "Managing our TV and Media Rights Successfully" as part of the UEFA knowledge-sharing programme with representatives from the football associations of Armenia, Bulgaria, Georgia, Hungary and Moldova. The workshop was conducted by UEFA representatives and partner organisations. The participants were brought up to date with information on TV and media rights (including valuation,

negotiation, exploitation and implementation), as well as the current situation regarding internet and mobile media rights. There were also various exercises and Q&A sessions.

It is well worth mentioning that this was the first UEFA workshop of such a high level to take place in Armenia and it received very favourable evaluations from organisers and participants.

On 27 May the Republican stadium hosted another important match, the Hakob Tonoyan Super Cup between 2006 winners FC Pyunik and 2006 Independence Cup winners FC Mika. Matches between these two teams have become almost national derbies, never failing to produce hard-edged, stubborn and yet entertaining football, and this one was no exception. Neither team could break the deadlock in normal time, but the spectators were rewarded with three goals in extra time. Scoring two goals to Mika's one, Pyunik won the trophy for the fifth time.

Tigran Israelyan

## BELGIUM



### Inauguration of the Robert Louis-Dreyfus Academy

After many months of work, the new Standard de Liège training centre, which goes under the name of the Robert Louis-Dreyfus Academy, was officially inaugurated on 2 May in the presence of numerous well-known figures. The centre, which is named after the club's principal shareholder, was a dream that has now come true.

On assuming office in 1998, the new board of the club made this idea – inspired by the French examples – one of its priorities.

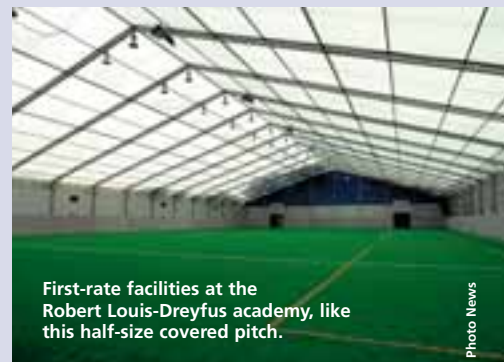
A number of plans were drawn up, but following a feasibility study, the site of Bois-Saint-Jean, situated no more than two kilometres from Standard de Liège's Maurice Dufresne stadium, was selected, in agreement with the Walloon region and the SLF (Liège Finance Company).

In December 2004, the project was officially launched at a press conference given by Michel Daerden, minister, and Gilbert Van Bouchaute, president of the SLF. From then on, everything got a move on and made it possible for Standard de Liège to now see the club's enormous youth training efforts rewarded in the form of a top-level infrastructure.

This outstanding centre, which will also be used by the first team for retreats and its summer training camp, is split into three areas: a youth area consisting of two natural pitches, dressing rooms, washroom facilities, offices and a cafeteria; a pro zone, with three natural pitches, dressing rooms, medical facilities, offices, 30 bedrooms and recreational rooms; and a mixed zone fitted out with an artificial pitch, a half-size latest-generation artificial pitch, a reception area, a press room and a function room.

Standard de Liège realise that the club's future depends on the training of youth players, a venture that will allow the club to assert its regional roots and to keep its first-team budget within its means. That is why the club decided to cover 65% of the investment, which it is sure will pay off in the long term.

Pierre Cornez



First-rate facilities at the Robert Louis-Dreyfus academy, like this half-size covered pitch.

Photo News

## BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA



### Sarajevo crowned champions as Siroki Brijeg win the cup

After holding onto first place for the whole season, FK Sarajevo have finally won the championship. At the opposite end of the table, FK Radnik (Bijeljina) and FK Borac (Banja Luka) were relegated from the top division. NK Siroki Brijeg, the 2006 champions, and NK Zrinjski were also tipped to do



Champions FK Sarajevo.

well this year, but these two teams lost their way in the second half of the season, allowing FK Slavija from Sarajevo to join the top four unexpectedly in the fight for first place. In the decisive match at the Lukavica stadium, FK Slavija hosted FK Sarajevo and the teams took a point each from a 1-1 draw. FK Sarajevo therefore managed to retain their advantage and the two-time champions of the former

Yugoslavia (1967 and 1985) became champions of Bosnia and Herzegovina for the first time. The season's top scorers were Stevo Nikolic (Modrica) and Dragan Benic (Borac) with 19 goals each.

The Bosnia and Herzegovina cup final between FK Slavija and NK Siroki Brijeg attracted a great deal of attention. In the semi-finals FK Slavija eliminated FK Sarajevo and NK Siroki Brijeg beat NK Celik. The first leg of the final in Siroki Brijeg ended 1-1 and in the return match in Lukavica, NK Siroki Brijeg won 1-0 to lift the cup for the first time after taking part in three finals in a row.

The final of the women's cup took place in the Grbavica stadium in Sarajevo. The winners were SFK 2000 from Sarajevo, who beat ZFK Borac from Banja Luka.

The futsal competition for this season has also been decided. In the final tournament, held in Modrica, Kaskada Drvostil (Gracanica) were crowned champions after beating off the challenges of Banja Luka and Seljak (Livno).

FK Sutjeska organised "Football Friends Foca 2007", its third international event for young players. The winners were the youth team of Polish premier league club Groclin, who beat the youth team of Slovene club Maribor on penalties in the final. In the match for third place, Sarajevo's FK Zeljeznicar beat hosts FK Sutjeska 3-1. Eight teams from seven countries took part in this competition: Sutjeska and Zeljeznicar (Bosnia and Herzegovina), Maribor (Slovenia), PAOK (Greece), Crvena Zvezda (Serbia), Vardar (FYR Macedonia), Buducnost (Montenegro) and Groclin (Poland).

Fuad Kravac

## CROATIA



### Admission to the UEFA Grassroots Charter

The Croatian Football Federation's efforts to implement the UEFA's grassroots programme produced great satisfaction when the UEFA Executive Committee admitted the federation to the UEFA Grassroots Charter. The Open Fun Football School, Sports Youth Games, veterans' football, Special Olympics, as well as the development of grassroots football, greatly contributed to this success. Within the promotion of this programme, we composed an appropriate song.

Our delegation, led by Drago Katalenic, member of the Croatian Football Federation's executive committee and coordinator of its grassroots programme, presented this song at the UEFA Grassroots Conference in Helsinki.

We are glad that the song was well received and that there is interest in it becoming international. We gave our approval to UEFA to distribute the song with the possibility for each UEFA member association to record it in their own language. That way, the grassroots programme would gain even more popularity. We are currently producing a video to accompany it.

Croatia has a tradition dating back several centuries of emigration to countries all over the world. Wherever Croats settled, they founded football clubs. In some of these countries, such as Australia, New Zealand, USA and Canada, they greatly contributed to the development of football and left a significant trace. Besides participating in the official competitions of their football associations, they organise annual tournaments. Our emigrants have always been a bridge of cooperation between Croatia and their new homeland as far as football is concerned. Wishing to pay an tribute to them for the development of



Drago Katalenic (second from the left) with some kingpins of grassroots football in Croatia.

football, the Croatian Football Federation is going to organise the first world football competition for clubs founded by Croats outside their homeland. Following a qualifying competition, the following clubs are now going to participate in the final round at the end of June in Zagreb and its surrounding region: Croatia Toronto (Canada), Canberra FC (Australia), FC Croat San Pedro and Zrinski Chicago (USA), Croatia Willefrance (France), Croatia Essen and Croatia Berlin (Germany), as well as the winner of last year's competition for the national teams of the Croatian minorities in Europe – the Croats from Gradisca. This competition is going to become a regular occurrence and is planned to be organised every four years.

The national competitions have also come to a close. NK Dinamo Zagreb won a league and cup double in dominant fashion. From this youngest team in the league we expect significant results in the UEFA club competitions. We also look forward to good performances by NK Hajduk Split, NK Slaven Belupo Koprivnica and NK Zagreb.

We are especially glad that the change of the competition system proved to be successful and look forward to the foundation of the unified second league.

Ante Pavlovic

## GEORGIA



### Presidential election

The 12th ordinary congress of the Georgian Football Federation (GFF) was held on 13 May. The most important issue on the agenda was the election of a new president, for the post of which there were three candidates: Nodar Akhalkatsi, the current president; George Nemsadze, who captained the Georgian national team from 1998 to 2004; and Mamuka Kvaratskhelia.

The election was held in Tbilisi at the Courtyard Marriott hotel. The 32 delegates present (out of 33) cast 19 votes in favour of George Nemsadze and 13 for

Nodar Akhalkatsi. However, within an hour of the election, George Nemsadze stepped down of his own accord. Given the seriousness of the situation, and after due consultation with FIFA and UEFA, the general secretariat of the GFF decided to hold a 13th extraordinary congress on 17 May, with two candidates – Nodar Akhalkatsi and Mamuka Kvaratskhelia – running for the presidency. Nodar Akhalkatsi received 25 of the 26 votes cast, the remaining ballot paper being declared invalid. The representative of

UEFA gave a positive assessment of the elections. Nodar Akhalkatsi will now preside the Georgian Football Federation for the next four years, from 2007 to 2011.

The newly elected GFF president said after his appointment: *“Two years ago I announced that my programme was planned for a period of two plus*

*four more years. The first two years have been successful. Now our main goal is to see the Georgian national team qualify for the FIFA World Cup in 2010.”*

Alexander Tsnobiladze



Nodar Akhalkatsi, president of the Georgian Football Federation.

## HUNGARY



### A tough stance on racism

The leaders of the Hungarian Football Federation (MLSZ) have decided to make serious efforts to keep violence, hooliganism and racism out of football stadiums. Earlier this year, the president of the MLSZ, István Kisteleki, established a security committee within the federation to help achieve this goal. The committee members are all experts in the field of security – leaders of police, security officials from the biggest clubs, heads of security guard companies and lawyers. The primary aim of the security committee is to prevent all violent



The behaviour of its supporters cost FC Újpest three points.

acts in the stadiums and the second was to combat verbal violence, including of a racist nature.

In parallel to this, the Hungarian FA board has encouraged the referees committee and the leaders of the disciplinary and appeals bodies to penalise all violent or racist actions. The security committee was called into action for the first time when racist chants were heard by the security observer at the Újpest FC v. Debreceni VSC match at the Szusza Ferenc Stadium in early May.

In accordance with FIFA, UEFA and MLSZ guidelines, the disciplinary committee decided to deduct three points from Újpest FC immediately. Although the decision meant that the Budapest club's European dreams were over, the club management accepted the decision and released a statement in which they asked the fans to create an atmosphere in the stadium that is friendly and enjoyable for everyone.

As a result of the fair and consistent actions and decision, it seems quite likely that the security committee will have to investigate fewer and fewer incidences of violence and racism next season, but the body will keep on working to reduce aggression and intolerance as much as possible.

Márton Dinnyés

## LATVIA



### Juggler sets new record

In May, Riga was taken over by the Nordea Riga marathon, which was also a challenge for the Latvian Football Federation (LFF), because a former Latvian U15, U16 and U18 player and LFF delegate, Ugis Zarins, started the mini-marathon (6 km) with a ball and juggled it until the finish line! He covered the distance in less than 1 hour and 35 minutes, an uncontested Latvian record.

The crowd greeted 24-year-old Ugis with loud applause at the finish line – he did the seemingly impossible and won an adidas “Nothing is impossible” prize for his achievement.

*“First of all I had to get used to the wind – it was very unstable. The road section of the marathon was the most difficult, but looking at the time I did that part faster than the tarmac track. This is for my three-month-old son Eriks,”* said Ugis on receiving the award.

Ugis started playing football 16 years ago, but for the last ten years he has been concentrating on ball techniques. He has already participated in juggling events in Riga, Valmiera and Cesis, where he managed to set the previous Latvian record for ball juggling. He hopes that his example



Ugis Zarins has taken the football-juggling record to six kilometres.

will be followed by new football enthusiasts and that his record will be beaten by longer distances and better times. Next year Ugis plans to juggle for a distance of 20 km and the LFF will support him all the way!

Martins Hartmanis

## LITHUANIA



### Children's football tournament kicks off

The latest edition of the Eziogolas football tournament, which has been running for three years, has started under the name “Eziogolas 2007”. Ten teams from Vilnius, the capital of Lithuania, participated in the opening ceremony, a fitting way to launch this football fiesta.

*“The Lithuanian Football Federation is so pleased that so many more young football teams have registered this year than last year. We are happy that all these footballers gather together on the football field, showing that football is not only the king of sports but also a good communication tool. We wish all the best to the participants, and hope that all young football players will not forget the main things in football – fair play and a perfect*



The Eziogolas tournament is going from strength to strength.

→ atmosphere during the tournament," said Lithuanian Football Federation (LFF) president Liutauras Varanavicius.

Special gifts and surprises were prepared for all supporters and fans of football, and the LFF was eager to publicise the event as much as possible.

From this year, it will also be possible for all participants and supporters to visit the official internet site of the Eziogolas tournament at [www.eziogolas.lt](http://www.eziogolas.lt), to communicate with each other, and also to vote for awards, including the best team and the best player. A football expert will also visit the site one day each week to contribute personal experience and professional opinions.

"It is very nice to see so many young amateur football players getting together in this tournament. I remember my childhood, the times when I was a young boy and used to play football. They were the first steps in my career. Of course we hadn't the same opportunities as you do today. Instead, the goalposts were made of stones, and we made pitches in village fields. But the wish to play football then was as big as yours is now," the head coach of Lithuania's national team, Algimantas Liubinskas, said at the tournament, which is organised by the Lithuanian Football Federation. The main sponsor is mobile communications company Ezys, and the patron is the Department of Physical Culture and Sports.

Vaiva Zizaitė

## NORTHERN IRELAND



### Gillespie backs Summer Soccer Schools programme

Northern Ireland international Keith Gillespie has given his backing to the IFA / Nutty Krust Summer Soccer Schools, which will run throughout the province during July and August. The Larne-born winger, who has 75 senior caps, is one example of someone who has come through the IFA's grassroots coaching programmes. Keith is encouraging both boys and girls to take part in the Summer Soccer Schools initiative and in order to learn and develop footballing skills.

"These Summer Soccer Schools are an ideal opportunity for boys and girls to learn new skills and develop as players. The coaches will help you improve all aspects of your game, like dribbling, control and shooting. To improve as a player, it's important that you listen to the coaches on schemes like this, as they have the experi-



Launch of the summer soccer schools programme.

ence and knowledge of what's needed to make you a better player. I really hope you enjoy your time at these soccer schools and remember to have fun when playing football."

The Summer Soccer Schools programme was recently unveiled following the launch of a new partnership between the Irish FA's grassroots department and Irwin's Bakery. The schools are coordinated by the IFA's grassroots development officers and staffed by fully qualified coaches. Running throughout July and August, they are an ideal way to get children actively involved with football during the summer.

"These Summer Soccer Schools are in many cases a child's first introduction to

football," said IFA grassroots manager Lee Carroll. "The key thing is therefore that they should be fun, enjoyable, safe and rewarding, and provide a positive learning experience. We strongly believe that if a child's first experience is positive, he or she will continue to be involved in football long into the future – perhaps as a player, coach, referee or administrator."

Michael Murphy, Irwin's commercial controller, added: "Nutty Krust is delighted to be involved with the IFA soccer schools as sport and good nutrition are an essential part of a healthy childhood and we would love to see as many children as possible taking part."

As an added incentive this summer, Umbro, the official partner of the Irish FA, will be sponsoring two players for the year. These children will receive training and playing equipment in the same way as their senior counterparts (Peter Thompson, Glen Ferguson, Paul Leeman, etc.). The players will be chosen from a skills challenge day, which will involve the best players selected from the Nutty Krust Summer Soccer Schools.

The soccer schools are open to boys and girls of all abilities aged six and above.

Sueann Harrison

## MALTA



### Momentous honour for seaisiders

The small village of Marsaxlokk on the south coast of Malta is the primary fishing locality of the island. Until a few years ago, the place was hardly ever mentioned in football circles.

However, people at the helm of the village football club ambitiously sought to build a team which would put the seaisiders' name in a prominent place in the Maltese game.

After their debut in European football by participating in the UEFA Cup in 2004/05, and their subsequent appearance in the UEFA Intertoto Cup early this season, Marsaxlokk went a step further when they won the BOV Premier League championship and thus the right to represent their country this month, with their blue and yellow flag fluttering prominently as the kings of Maltese football.

Coached by Brian Talbot, of Arsenal fame, the team all but ran away with the coveted prize, collecting a record number of points in the process. This feat was the result of a collective effort by the players, technical staff and club directors, and was greeted joyously by the people of the locality.

Neutral followers of Maltese football will certainly regard this milestone success by Marsaxlokk with much pride and satisfaction. Championship victories by so-called provincial teams in every country are always a welcome sign that football is a dynamic game which reserves no exclusivity for the big clubs as far as success is concerned.

The triumph of a non-glamorous team in the case of the Maltese top league will certainly strengthen the belief that the democratisation of football is a healthy process wherever the game is played.

Alex Vella



The captain of Marsaxlokk, Carlo Mamo, shows off the trophy that he has just received from the president of the Malta FA, Joseph Mifsud.



Gilberto Madail, president of the Portuguese Football Federation, at the inauguration of the Amadora mini-pitch.

## PORTUGAL



### The first of many smiles

The first of 95 mini-pitches designed to promote children's and youth sports and to increase the popularity of physical exercise has been inaugurated in Amadora on the outskirts of Lisbon. Approximately 22x12 m, the mini-pitches are made of synthetic turf and will be used for the informal practice of football, handball, gymnastics, basketball and volleyball.

This new infrastructure is the product of a partnership between the Portuguese Football Federation (FPF) (through the UEFA HatTrick programme) and the Portuguese government (through the Sports Institute of Portugal).

The president of the FPF, Gilberto Madail, stressed that "these mini-pitches are a small contribution from the FPF to children and young people, especially those from more deprived areas, and will enable them to practice sport – not just football, but also basketball, handball or volleyball. We know that we have social responsibilities and it is on occasions such as this that we fulfil our obligations to Portuguese society. I heard a young man say that this was the first time that he had stepped onto a grass field. This shows clearly the importance and benevolence of this partnership with the Portuguese government."

The Portuguese minister for the presidency, Pedro Silva Pereira, reminded those present at the inauguration that the investment made by the government corresponds to established goals, and made it clear that this infrastructure will represent an important contribution to the social inclusion of deprived children and young people, and simultaneously encourage physical exercise.

Filipe Félix

## REPUBLIC OF IRELAND



### WFAI land biggest sponsorship deal ever

Umbro Ireland have announced the biggest sponsorship deal ever negotiated on behalf of women's football in Ireland

The deal, worth EUR 150,000 over three years, will see Umbro become the title sponsor for all WFAI Cups from U12 to senior level, as well as for the Gaynor Cup, which is an inter-region under-age tournament which acts as the breeding ground for international teams.

This is on top of the record EUR 16 m deal announced by Umbro and the FAI last November, which is the biggest sponsorship deal ever done in Irish sport.

Umbro already sponsor 16 national cups at all levels and have now added a further eight to their portfolio.

■ Demolition work has commenced on the Lansdowne Road stadium. The work, which commenced in May, will initially concentrate on the south terrace of the stadium. In all, the demolition work will take

seven months and is due for completion at the end of December this year. Construction of the new stadium will commence before the end of May 2008.

■ Drogheda United FC claimed their second successive Setanta Sports Cup title with victory over Belfast outfit Linfield after a dramatic penalty shoot-out following a 1-1 draw after 90 minutes.

The Setanta Sports Cup, which was inaugurated in 2005, is a cross-border competition between clubs from the FAI eircom League of Ireland from the Republic of Ireland and the Irish Premier League from Northern Ireland.

Fran Whearty



Drogheda United, winners of the Setanta Sports Cup.

## SCOTLAND



### Former player appointed chief executive

Gordon Smith has been appointed as the new chief executive of the Scottish Football Association. He will take up his position at the beginning of July.

The former professional footballer was born in 1954 in Kilwinning, Ayrshire, and after a successful career as a player he has combined a business and financial career with his role as a players' agent and broadcaster.

He started out as a player with Kilmarnock, making his debut in 1972. He made 158 league appearances for the Ayrshire side before signing for Rangers in August 1977. In his first season at Ibrox he won the treble of league, Scottish Cup and League Cup, and followed that the next season with a

League Cup and Scottish Cup double. He moved south in 1980 to Brighton and Hove Albion, then in the top division, and played in the FA Cup final. Later in his career he played for Manchester City, Oldham Athletic, Admira Wacker, FC Basel and Stirling Albion.

Gordon Smith is only the seventh man to take the top job at the SFA in over a century. After a variety of secretaries in the first ten years of its existence, the association's secretaries and chief executives have been John K. McDowall (1882-1928), Sir George Graham (1928-1957), Willie Allan (1957-1977), Ernest Walker (1977-1990), Jim Farry (1990-1999) and David Taylor (1999-2007).

Meanwhile, the Scottish FA also has a new president. George Peat was elected unopposed at the association's annual meeting on 1 June. His vice-presidents will be Campbell Ogilvie and Alan McRae.

Andy Mitchell



Matches to raise awareness of "different" footballers.

## SLOVENIA



### Domestic cup final for homeless and Special Olympics footballers

On 22 May, the day before the UEFA Champions League final, the Hervis Cup, the Slovenian domestic cup final, was played in Celje. As the domestic championship was decided as early as April, when Domzale accumulated a 20-point lead over the second-placed team, the cup final attracted greater interest than usual. The FA of Slovenia's fair play committee, Special Olympics Slovenia and newly established Zavod 69 – the institute implementing the Homeless World Cup project in Slovenia – have joined forces to show the public how universal game football is and how it connects people. The fans coming to see the cup final on neutral ground between FC Koper and NK Maribor had the opportunity to cheer on teams with a bit of a difference, when a team of homeless people met a Special Olympics team of learning-disabled players for a game of street football next to the Arena Petrol stadium and demonstrated their competitive but fair spirit and surprisingly high level of football skills. For the Special Olympics team, this has become a traditional appearance at the domestic cup final, whereas for the homeless team and its head coach Ales Ceh, former national team captain, this was one of the last tests before the Homeless World Cup this summer in Copenhagen. The event proved to be a success and the FA of Slovenia is already planning to move it from a weekday to a weekend and to offer this kind of showcase to even more groups of different football players.

*Uros Stanic*

## SWITZERLAND



### Alex Frei is player of the year

Alex Frei, with 32 goals for the Swiss national team to his credit and top goalscorer for Bundesliga side Borussia Dortmund, won the top award at the "Night of Swiss Football", organised for the tenth time by the Swiss Football Association and the Swiss Football League. The public overwhelmingly voted him the most successful Swiss national team player.

Another important award, presented to the best player in the Swiss championship, went to Mladen Petric, striker for Cup winners FC Basel 1893. Unfortunately, Petric was unable to receive his trophy in person, since he was away with the Croatian national team.

The public also voted the wonder goal scored by Basel's Ivan Rakitic as goal of the season.

As last year, the prize for the most successful coach of the year was awarded to Lucien Favre

of champions FC Zürich. The award for the greatest team exploit in the Swiss Cup was presented to the semi-finalists FC Wil, who play in the second tier of Swiss football. Just like Favre, Marisa Brunner received an award for the second time, having previously been honoured in 2004/05. The goalkeeper for the national women's team and Bundesliga club Freiburg is the calming influence on the Swiss national team. Ivan Rakitic (FC Basel 1893) was crowned young player of the season, while the award for the referee of the year went to Ticino's FIFA referee Massimo Busacca for the third consecutive season.

*Pierre Benoit*



Alex Frei, voted most successful Swiss national team player.

## UKRAINE



### Presidential backing

The decision of the UEFA Executive Committee to award UEFA EURO 2012 to Ukraine and Poland has excited both nations, but it is especially important for Ukraine as it provides a wonderful opportunity to greatly accelerate the development of infrastructure to European standards. Moreover, in a country that is currently locked in political crisis, the opposing factions are united about EURO 2012.

Thus, Ukraine's authorities have underlined their commitment to EURO 2012. The president of Ukraine, Viktor Yushchenko, will head the national coordination board to prepare Ukraine to stage EURO 2012 in conjunction with Poland in five years' time. Yushchenko will lead preparations for the tournament, aided by a 13-person board that includes a number of other high-profile names, in particular prime minister Viktor Yanukovich and Football Federation

of Ukraine (FFU) president Grigoriy Surkis, along with boxer Vitali Klitschko and former pole vaulter and head of the Ukrainian Olympic Committee, Serhiy Bubka.

Viktor Yushchenko has also authorised the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine to establish the country's organising committee for EURO 2012, which will be accountable to the president's board and will be headed by prime minister Viktor Yanukovich. It will include members of government and parliament, governors, mayors of hosting cities, football association officials and presidents of major football clubs. FFU president Grigoriy Surkis and the first president of independent Ukraine (1991–1994), Leonid Kravchuk, are also members of the 70-person committee as well.

Regional organising committees have been formed in the host cities – Dnipropetrovsk, Donetsk, Kiev and Lviv – as well as in the reserve cities of Kharkiv and Odesa. They are to draw up and implement local plans to provide the best infrastructure possible for the tournament.

*Bohdan Buga*



# Communications

## Birthdays – Calendars

### Birthdays

Referee observer Alfredo Trentalange (Italy) celebrates his 50th birthday on 19 July. UEFA also wishes many happy returns during the month of July to:

- Frédéric Thiriez (France, 1.7)
- Ton Verhagen (Netherlands, 1.7)
- Domingos Gomes Dias (Portugal, 3.7)
- Antonio Matarrese (Italy, 4.7)
- Martin Maleck (Switzerland, 8.7)
- Hana Válková (Czech Republic, 9.7)
- Murad Mammadov (Azerbaijan, 10.7)
- Nina Hedlund (Norway, 11.7)
- Ilija Stoilov (FYR Macedonia, 11.7)
- Sergio Zuccolini (Italy, 11.7)
- Günter Benkő (Austria, 12.7)
- Carlo Tavecchio (Italy, 13.7)
- Sándor Puhl (Hungary, 14.7)
- Vladimír Petr (Slovakia, 15.7)
- Ben Veenbrink (Netherlands, 15.7)
- Johannes Malka (Germany, 16.7)
- Ernst Nigg (Liechtenstein, 16.7)
- Lars Lagerbäck (Sweden, 16.7)
- Jiri Ulrich (Czech Republic, 16.7)
- Dominique Boissard (France, 16.7)
- Giuseppe Mifsud-Bonnici (Malta, 17.7)
- John Edward Martin (England, 18.7)
- Allen Wade (England, 19.7)
- Vicente Muñoz Castillo (Spain, 19.7)
- Derek O'Neill (Republic of Ireland, 19.7)
- Ernest Walker (Scotland, 20.7)
- Vladimir Radionov (Russia, 21.7)
- Jaroslav Dudl (Czech Republic, 21.7)
- Boris Voskresensky (Ukraine, 22.7)
- Michel Wuilleret (Switzerland, 22.7)
- Balázs Makray (Hungary, 22.7)
- Bontcho Todorov (Bulgaria, 23.7)
- Pavel Malovic (Slovakia, 23.7)
- Haralampie Hadzi-Risteski (FYR Macedonia, 24.7)
- Mario Gallavotti (Italy, 25.7)
- Ferenc Ragadics (Hungary, 25.7)
- Izhak Iche Menachem (Israel, 26.7)
- Alfred Ludwig (Austria, 26.7)
- David I. Bowen (Northern Ireland, 26.7)
- Jeff Davis (England, 27.7)
- Björn Ahlberg (Sweden, 28.7)
- Stefan Tivold (Slovenia, 28.7)
- João Leal (Portugal, 30.7)

- Des Casey (Republic of Ireland, 31.7)
- Tugomir Frajman (Slovenia, 31.7)
- Joël Wolff (Luxembourg, 31.7)
- Phelim Macken (Republic of Ireland, 31.7)
- Cenk Cem (Turkey, 31.7)

### Upcoming events

#### Meetings

##### 2.7.2007, Nyon

Draw for the 2007/08 UEFA Futsal Cup

##### 5.7.2007, Nyon

Draw for the 2007/08 UEFA Women's Cup

#### Competitions

##### 1.7.2007

UEFA Intertoto Cup:  
first round (return legs)

##### 7/8.7.2007

UEFA Intertoto Cup:  
second round (first legs)

##### 14/15.7.2007

UEFA Intertoto Cup:  
second round (return legs)

##### 16-27.7.2007, Austria

Final round of the European  
Under-19 Championship

##### 17/18.7.2007

UEFA Champions League:  
first qualifying round (first legs)

##### 18-29.7.2007, Iceland

Final round of the European Women's  
Under-19 Championship

##### 19.7.2007

UEFA Cup: first qualifying round  
(first legs)

##### 21/22.7.2007

UEFA Intertoto Cup:  
third round (first legs)

##### 24/25.7.2007

UEFA Champions League:  
first qualifying round (return legs)

##### 28.7.2007

UEFA Intertoto Cup:  
third round (return legs)

##### 31.7.2007

UEFA Champions League:  
second qualifying round (first legs)

### Announcements

■ At its meeting in Zurich at the end of May, the UEFA Executive Committee decided to change the venue for the next ordinary UEFA Congress on 31 January 2008 from Ukraine to Croatia.

■ David Taylor, former chief executive of the Scottish Football Association, took up office as UEFA general secretary on 1 June, succeeding former chief executive Lars-Christer Olsson and previous general secretaries Henri Delaunay (1954-55), Pierre Delaunay (1956-59), Hans Bangerter (1960-88) and Gerhard Aigner (1989-2003). Following the departure of Lars-Christer Olsson, Gianni Infantino served as acting chief executive until the arrival of David Taylor.

■ The 57th ordinary FIFA Congress, held in Zurich on 30 and 31 May, entrusted Joseph S. Blatter with a further four-year term as president.

■ At the same event, UEFA honorary president Lennart Johansson became an honorary vice-president of FIFA, while



Lennart Johansson displays the certificate presented by the FIFA president, Joseph S. Blatter.

retiring FIFA Executive Committee member Gerhard Mayer-Vorfelder was made an honorary FIFA member.

■ FIFA officially inaugurated its new headquarters in Zurich on 29 May. It now resides at FIFA-Strasse 20, PO Box, CH-8044 Zurich, Switzerland.

■ Four months after the UEFA Congress accepted it as a UEFA member, the Football Association of Montenegro became a member of FIFA at the congress in Zurich.

■ Rudolf Repka has been appointed general secretary of the Czech FA.

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