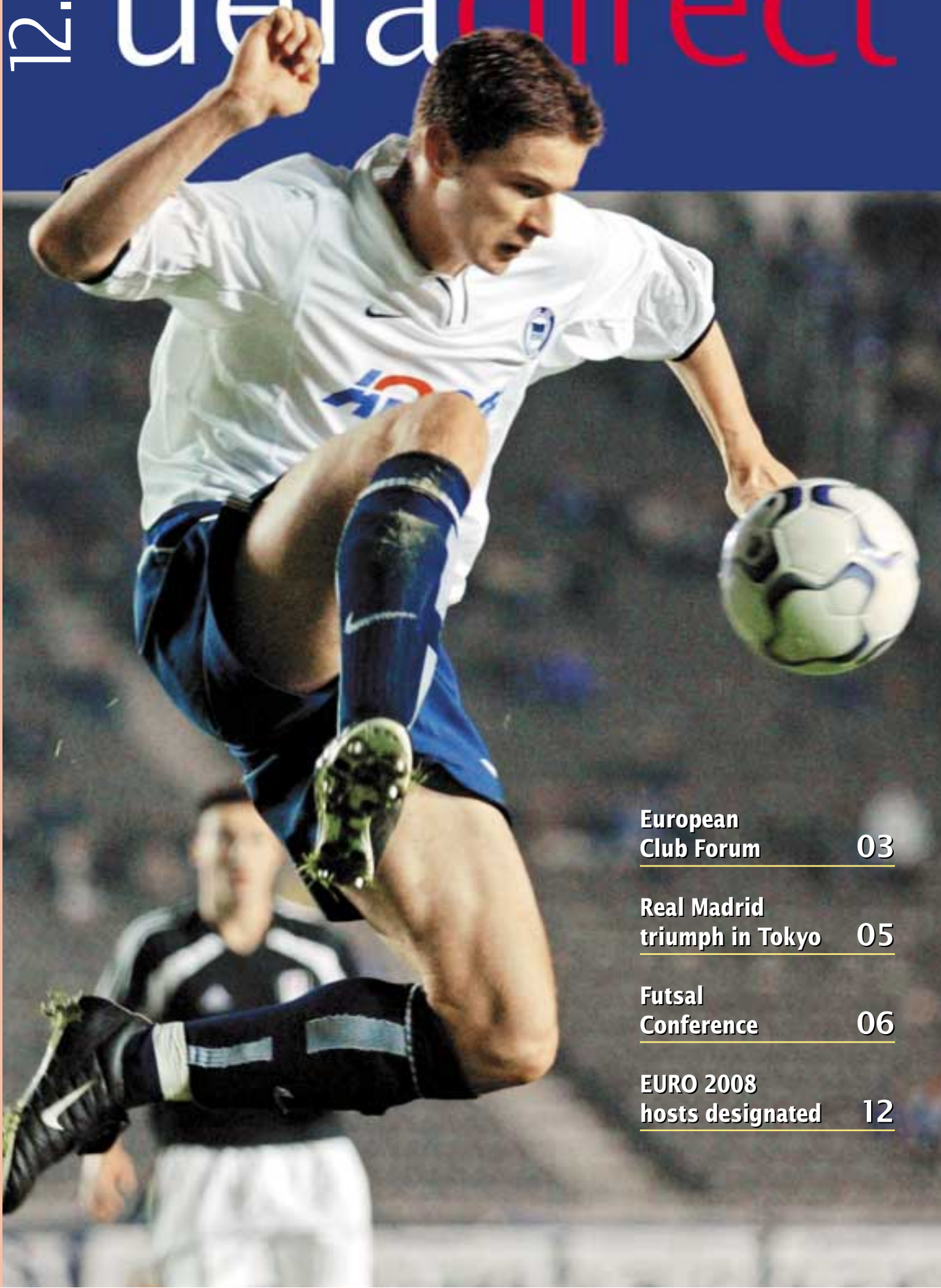
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uefa direct



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no 09 – december 2002



the UEFA President's message

Christmas 2002

2002 has been an exciting time for football fans all over the world.

Of course for the global game the highlight has to have been the World Cup finals in Japan and Korea this summer, when Brazil were crowned world champions for the fifth time. This first FIFA World Cup to be played on Asian soil was clear proof of the extraordinary popularity of football, and the host countries both played a huge role in helping to make the tournament such a success.

Although Europe did not produce the winning team, our continent was well represented on and off the field and we can congratulate Germany on reaching the final and Turkey on finishing right behind them in third place. We should also remind ourselves that Belgium won the less prestigious, but very important fair play award – important because, although football is a sport above all and competitive by nature, it must also – on account of its very popularity – promote values such as respect, good manners and solidarity.

Away from the World Cup, Europe's national football associations, and UEFA itself, have also made every effort to promote those values.

To single out just a few of the activities undertaken by UEFA in this direction, we have launched a new fair play campaign based on the notion of RESPECT, and initiated further action to eradicate racism in football, by giving financial support to the FARE network (Football Against Racism in Europe) and issuing a ten-point plan of action. At the same time, UEFA continues to acknowledge fair play in all our youth competitions with fair play trophies, as well as through the overall fair play competition, which rewards sportsmanship with places in the UEFA Cup.

UEFA has also been pursuing its policy to guarantee a healthy and balanced game. In this respect, work on the introduction of the club licensing system is forging ahead, the assistance programmes are preparing to expand their scope to embrace all UEFA member associations, and co-operation with the African Football Confederation (CAF) and its member associations is ongoing. On the solidarity front, UEFA Champions League revenue has again benefited the whole of European football, and the validity of its central marketing concept has even been recognised by the European Commission, with whom we have developed a very healthy dialogue.

Apart from that, football amenities are being improved all over Europe, unprecedented attention is being given to the quality of training and education, and the importance of preparing the next generation is accepted everywhere.

All of which combines to produce a picture of European football at the end of 2002 which is pleasing in many respects, and I would like to thank everyone – players, officials and referees – who, in the course of this year, have worked tirelessly for the development of our game, whether in the national associations, clubs, leagues or at UEFA level, in the committees, panels and other bodies.

Looking ahead, there is plenty to be excited about in 2003. On the field, there will be lots of action to keep the focus on European football, as the decisive phases of club and national team competitions alike draw near. In Seville and Manchester, next year's UEFA Cup and UEFA Champions League finals already promise to be exciting encounters, while, in the national team sector, the EURO 2004 qualifiers will be culminating before very long. And even now, the EURO 2008 final round is starting to take shape, with the hosts having just been designated after a bid campaign which was further proof of the desire to move forward across the length and breadth of our continent.

So with all of this in mind I wish you and every fan of European football a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year!

Lennart Johansson

"Football amenities are being improved all over Europe, unprecedented attention is being given to the quality of training and education, and the importance of preparing the next generation is accepted everywhere."

COVER

Hertha BSC Berlin (Arne Friedrich) vs. FC Fulham in the third round of the current UEFA Cup, a competition whose future is the subject of much discussion at the moment.
PHOTO: BONGARTS

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The club delegates in the auditorium at the House of European Football.
UEFA-HIGUERAS

European Club Forum on the right track

THE EUROPEAN CLUB FORUM HELD ITS SECOND PLENARY MEETING IN NYON ON 21 NOVEMBER, WITH KARL-HEINZ RUMMENIGGE (FC BAYERN MUNICH), CHAIRMAN OF THE FORUM BOARD, IN THE CHAIR.

The most urgent item for discussion was the possible reform of the UEFA Cup, since the Executive Committee was due to announce its decision on this subject a few weeks later. However, the agenda also included other items, including media rights and the UEFA club licensing system for top professional clubs.

The subjects were all dealt with in the same manner: a report was given to provide information about the issue concerned before the participants split into four discussion groups to express their opinions and points of view. Finally, everyone returned to the auditorium to hear the outcome of the discussions.

As far as the format of the UEFA Cup was concerned, three options were suggested to the participants. The status quo was unanimously rejected in favour of the introduction of group matches. The club representatives had a strong preference for a system of eight groups of five teams (with each team playing two home and two away games) rather than sixteen groups of three (home and away matches). However, they hoped that UEFA would examine the commercial implications of introducing such a group-match phase. Furthermore, they could not agree on when the new structure should be brought in, with some hoping it could be introduced in 2003/04 and others preferring to wait another year so that the commercial side could be fine-tuned.



Forum members

The European Club Forum is composed of 102 European top-division clubs (plus clubs admitted on the basis of past achievements). The number of clubs from each association is determined by the classification of national associations drawn up by UEFA on the basis of their clubs' results in the European club competitions. This figure varies from one to five.

The club(s) with the best UEFA coefficient(s) from each national association is (are) selected. If two clubs have the same coefficient and only one qualifies for a UEFA competition, that club takes precedence. However, if both clubs qualify, priority goes to the club that finished higher in the last national championship. No club, whatever its coefficient, may be represented in the Forum if it does not play in its top national division.

Permanent membership is awarded to clubs which have won a UEFA competition on at least five occasions.

The Forum members serve a two-year mandate.

Another idea which was well received was a change to the calendar, whereby, as far as possible, UEFA Cup matches would not be played in the same weeks as UEFA Champions League games. Separating the two competitions in this way should add value to the UEFA Cup which, in its present format, was suffering from the fact that matches were played immediately after two evenings of UEFA's flagship competition.

Guidelines being prepared

On the subject of media rights, the participants welcomed and commended the activities of a working group, which had been presented by Peter Kenyon (Manchester United, Vice-Chairman of the Forum Board). A set of guidelines, to be drawn up and submitted to the next meeting of the European Club Forum, would be based on the principle that the exploitation of new-media rights should not compete with the sale of television rights and that the clubs should only exploit products linked to their club and not to the UEFA Champions League itself.

The introduction of a European club licensing system was unanimously welcomed as a positive step likely to enhance the quality of European football as a whole, although the participants hoped that the new system, due to be introduced in the 2004/05 season, would be brought in with the necessary flexibility. They also called for good communication with the national associations. When asked for their opinion on an expenditure control system recommended by a group of European clubs, they expressed support for the principle but were rather sceptical about how this type of "gentleman's agreement" would work.

Specific issues

The Forum also gave its views on a number of specific issues. None of the participants saw any reason to increase the number of substitutes allowed to sit on the bench (currently seven). However, they thought that the question of friendly matches between national teams, particularly at intercontinental level, should be discussed in greater detail.

"I am very pleased with the efficiency with which this work has been carried out and with which the Forum is operating, even though we are still in the learning phase," said UEFA Chief Executive Gerhard Aigner. *"We shall now evaluate what we have heard in preparation for the next meeting."* That meeting will be held on 11 and 12 February 2003.





Luis Figo battles with Fernando Cordoba.



A goal and the Man of the Match award for Ronaldo.

European/ South American Cup

centenary treble

REAL MADRID FINISHED THEIR CENTENARY YEAR ON A HIGH BY BEATING COPA LIBERTADORES HOLDERS CLUB OLIMPIA FROM PARAGUAY 2-0 IN THE EUROPEAN/SOUTH AMERICAN CUP (TOYOTA CUP) AT THE YOKOHAMA INTERNATIONAL STADIUM ON 3 DECEMBER.

Real Madrid may not have won their national championship in their centenary year, but on the international scene they achieved triple honours: UEFA Champions League, UEFA Super Cup and European/South American Cup - an exploit previously pulled off by AC Milan (1989 and 1990), FC Porto (1987), AFC Ajax (1995) and Juventus (1996).

Real Madrid have now won the European/South American Cup three times, the first time being in 1960, the competition's inaugural year, followed by renewed success in 1998.

This year's match was a feast of technical skills and opportunities, much to the delight of the 66,000 spectators in the ground. World Cup winner Ronaldo opened the score for Real Madrid in the 14th minute. The Spanish side then kept control of the game despite threats from Olimpia. Real Madrid's pressure paid off towards the end of the match, when Ivan Guti scored their second goal and sealed the victory.

The European/South American Cup was being played for the forty-first time this year and for the twenty-third time in Tokyo. Although Europe's representatives have won the competition there more times than their South American opponents (12-11) and triumphed in seven of the eight last matches, the overall balance continues to swing just in favour of the South Americans (21-20). In terms of the participants, Real Madrid, now on three wins, join AC Milan, Penarol and Nacional Montevideo as the clubs that have won the title the most often. Real Madrid have also raised their total tally of UEFA trophies to 15: nine champion clubs' cups, two UEFA Cups, one UEFA Super Cup and three European/South American Cups – making them the most victorious club in Europe as their successful centenary year draws to a close.



The European/South American Cup and the Toyota Cup concluded Real Madrid's centenary year on a real high.



The second goal, scored by Guti.



PHOTOS: AFP



The participants at the Coverciano centre.





Viacheslav Koloskov, representing the Executive Committee.



The conference was not only a theoretical exercise.



Petr Fousek, Chairman of the Futsal Committee.

Futsal conference in Coverciano

a multi-stage rocket

SOME ARE AT THE HEAD OF THE RUNWAY PREPARING FOR IMMEDIATE TAKE-OFF; OTHERS HAVE ALREADY TAKEN TO THE AIR; AND SOME ARE ALREADY AT MAXIMUM CRUISING ALTITUDE. THAT WAS THE STATE OF PLAY WHEN REPRESENTATIVES FROM NO FEWER THAN 49 OF THE 52 UEFA MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS ACCEPTED THE INVITATION TO ATTEND THE FIRST-EVER UEFA FUTSAL CONFERENCE, IMPECCABLY HOSTED BY THE ITALIAN FOOTBALL FEDERATION FROM 26 TO 28 NOVEMBER IN THEIR NATIONAL TECHNICAL CENTRE AT COVERCIANO, ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF FLORENCE.

With some 30 national associations currently engaged in UEFA competitions at national team and club levels, it meant that a significant percentage of the participants travelled to Coverciano looking for a helping hand in getting a Futsal show on the road within their national associations. Although the sport can trace its origins back to Uruguay just over 70 years ago, Futsal has experienced explosive growth during the last decade with, to quote just one example, João Rocha - representing the Portuguese association that hosted the first final tournament of the UEFA Futsal Cup for clubs early in 2002 – reporting that there are now more Futsal than outdoor teams in the Lisbon area.

The Conference was therefore designed in such a way that it represented a review for the 'experienced campaigners' and, at the same time, a viable introduction for the newcomers. The first on stage were Viacheslav Koloskov, representing UEFA's Executive Committee, Giancarlo Abete of the host association, Petr Fousek, Chairman of UEFA's Futsal Committee, and Víctor Beceiro, FIFA's Futsal Manager. The current situation of Futsal was then assessed by UEFA's Technical Director, Andy Roxburgh, who was 'team captain' at the Conference.

The Spanish model

Ensuing sessions had a strong Spanish accent, with the spotlight on the coaches of the Spanish teams that currently wear the European crown at both club and national team level. Javier Lozano revealed that beating the seemingly invincible Brazilians to take the world title two years ago was the culmination of ten years of ambition and hard work. "Futsal", he stressed, "is more demanding than the outdoor game in terms of requiring greater speed of thought and execution during a fast game where space is at a premium. Mental preparation is therefore as important as physical and tactical preparations, which are also very different from the eleven-a-side game. Training has to be geared to the use of different groups of muscles, while psychology plays a vital role."

Andy Roxburgh, "captain" of the conference team.



The Futsal Committee.



Plenary meeting.

Javier Lozano maintains that youngsters should be encouraged to practise both disciplines – at least until the early teens, when it begins to become evident which players might have a brighter future indoors than outdoors. This view was endorsed by Faustino Pérez-Moreno, alias 'Tino', the 33-year-old coach who led Playas de Castellón to success in the first UEFA Futsal Cup. He described the parameters of the Spanish league, where the top division consists of 16 professional clubs, and explained how the imports of Brazilian players and coaches had played a fundamental role in raising standards to world-class levels. 'Tino' coaches a squad comprising nine full-time professionals and three home-grown talents who train twice daily throughout the week. This was in sharp contrast to the information provided by the Dutch national team coach, Victor Hermans, who, on the second morning of the Conference, explained how his amateur players had had to request 54 days off work during the last year in order to represent their country. This came as no surprise to Miso Martic, a Futsal star who moved from his native Croatia to the professional league in Italy, where he is currently working as a coach – and, in his spare time, running the highly-respected 'futsal.planet' website. The average Futsal player, he told participants, is not essentially money-motivated but a footballer who regards the game as a fascinating technical challenge and an opportunity to fully express his skills.

A series of interviews

The different strata within European Futsal were amply illustrated in a series of interviews with Fabrizio Tonelli (Italy), István Huszár (Hungary), Charles Rubli (Switzerland), Petr Fousek (Czech Republic), João Rocha (Portugal) and Semen Andreev, the highly-respected coach who led Russia to the European title in 1999. All of them talked about the work being done in their national associations to further promote Futsal and, importantly for the large contingent of 'newcomers', the position and structure of Futsal within their national associations.

All of them echoed the sentiments expressed by Javier Lozano on the opening day, when he stressed that Futsal needs to be treated as a separate discipline, supervised and co-ordinated by personnel dedicated exclusively to the indoor game. At the same time, he emphasised, Futsal needs to be totally integrated within association structures, and he pointed out that the Spanish Football Federation includes Futsal in the 'packages' offered to sponsors who, in the case of the Spanish national teams, include the state-run TV network.

Discussion groups focused on a wide range of topics, especially tournament formats and the need for a fully-integrated international calendar capable of avoiding repetitions of the events during the 2000/01 campaign, when the FIFA World Championship and the European Championship were disputed in a time-span of three months, causing significant problems in terms of player release. The format of qualifying groups was widely debated and, at the same time, the 'emerging nations' stressed that their further development depends on being able to compete at the highest level and proposed an increase of participants in the European Championship finals from eight to twelve and, eventually, sixteen teams to step into line with the outdoor game.

Last but not least, the participants were adamant that the UEFA Futsal Conference should be staged every two years. They left Florence with one very clear idea – Futsal is on the move.



Futsal is a game requiring different skills than 11-a-side football.

PHOTOS: UEFA-SABE

The 2001 Meridian Cup.







Meridian Cup

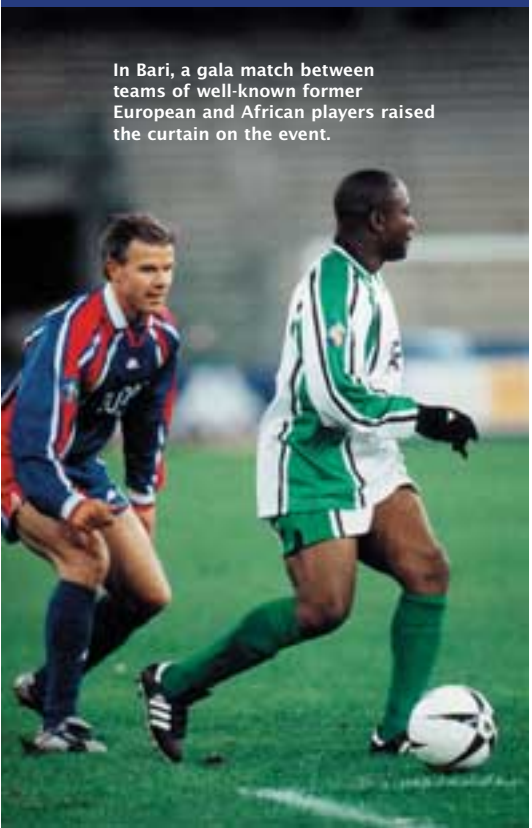
sporting and cultural interaction

THE 4TH UEFA-CAF MERIDIAN CUP WILL BE STAGED IN EGYPT FROM 25 JANUARY TO 1 FEBRUARY 2003. MATCHES WILL BE PLAYED AT THREE DIFFERENT STADIUMS IN THE SUEZ REGION: FC ISMAILIA, PORT SAID AND THE CANAL STADIUM IN ISMAILIA.





The Meridian Cup is also an opportunity for interaction and cultural visits.



In Bari, a gala match between teams of well-known former European and African players raised the curtain on the event.

The biennial youth tournament, which takes place in Europe and Africa alternately, gives a unique chance to the four best under-17 teams from the two continents to compete in an eight-nation tournament. The 2003 edition will showcase the African under-17 teams from the host country, Egypt, the winners of the 2001 Under-17 African Championship, Nigeria, and the semi-finalists, Burkina Faso and Mali. Europe's representatives will be Switzerland, France, England and Spain – the top four teams from the recent European Under-17 Championship 2001/02.

The format of the competition initially comprised a group stage followed by semi-finals and a final, but it was adapted to the round robin system in 2001 to allow for better interaction between the continents and to correspond more effectively to the spirit of the Meridian Project. Each team will therefore play each of the four teams from the other continent, and the winners of the competition will be either Europe or Africa rather than an individual team.

Having won the first edition of the UEFA-CAF Meridian Cup under the round robin format, Europe will certainly face a tough challenge against the Africans, who will be out to get even. They will have the advantage of playing in their continent on this occasion, and no doubt the warm Egyptian climate will suit them better than the cold weather experienced in Italy last time round.

The UEFA-CAF Meridian Cup aim of promoting cultural exchanges will also be reflected at the level of the match officials, as eight referees from each continent will be appointed for the tournament.

As in 1997 and 2001, a gala match between prestigious teams from both continents will be played in the Cairo international stadium on 24 January as a tournament opener. Dutch champions AFC Ajax will face Al Ahly from Egypt, who won the CAF Champions League in 2001.



the trophy

The Meridian Cup trophy symbolises the co-operation between two continents, Africa and Europe, and two football confederations, UEFA and CAF. It is 40 cm high and weighs 7 Kg. The top part, made of Plexiglas, is a globe onto which all the continents are engraved. The sphere is crossed by a line that represents the centre of a football field.





CAF

Last year's African champions Al Ahly will play AFC Ajax as the curtain-raiser.

schedule

Match day 1 – Saturday 25 January 2003

Venue	Kick-off	Match
Ismailia	17:00	Egypt – Switzerland
Ismailia	19:30	Nigeria – France
Port Said	14:30	England – Burkina Faso
Port Said	17:00	Spain – Mali

Match day 2 – Monday 27 January 2003

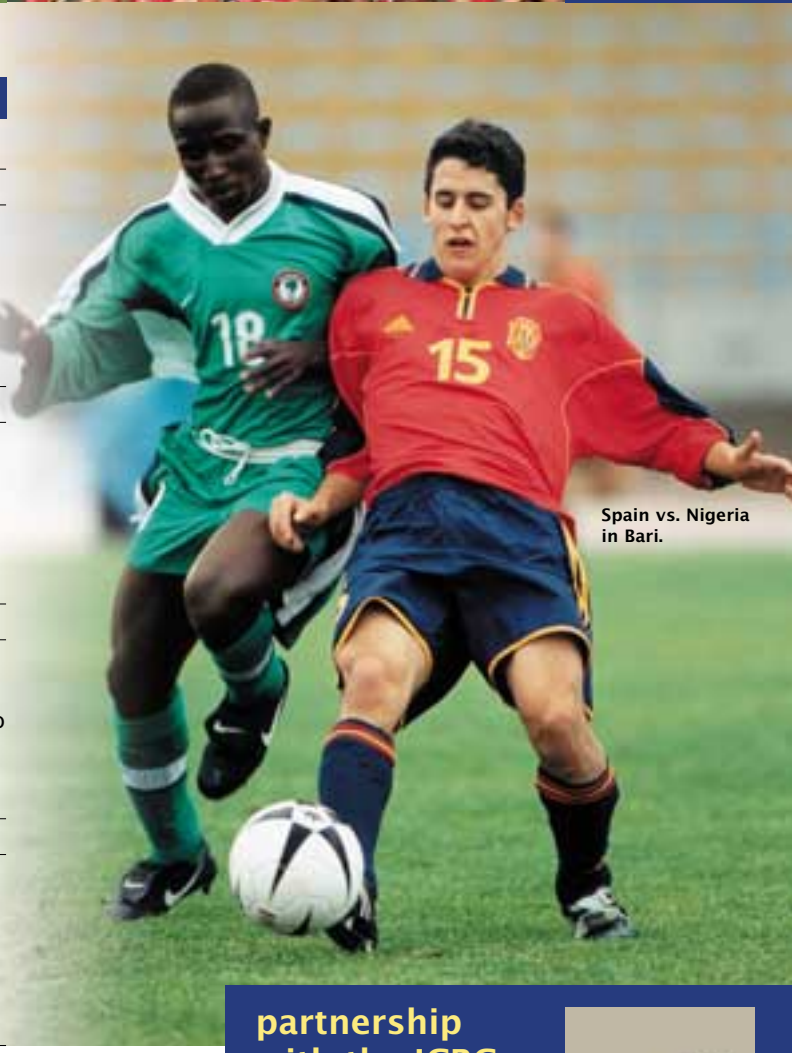
Venue	Kick-off	Match
Port Said	14:30	Switzerland – Nigeria
Port Said	17:00	France – Egypt
Canal, Ismailia	14:30	Burkina Faso – Spain
Canal, Ismailia	17:00	Mali – England

Match day 3 – Wednesday 29 January 2003

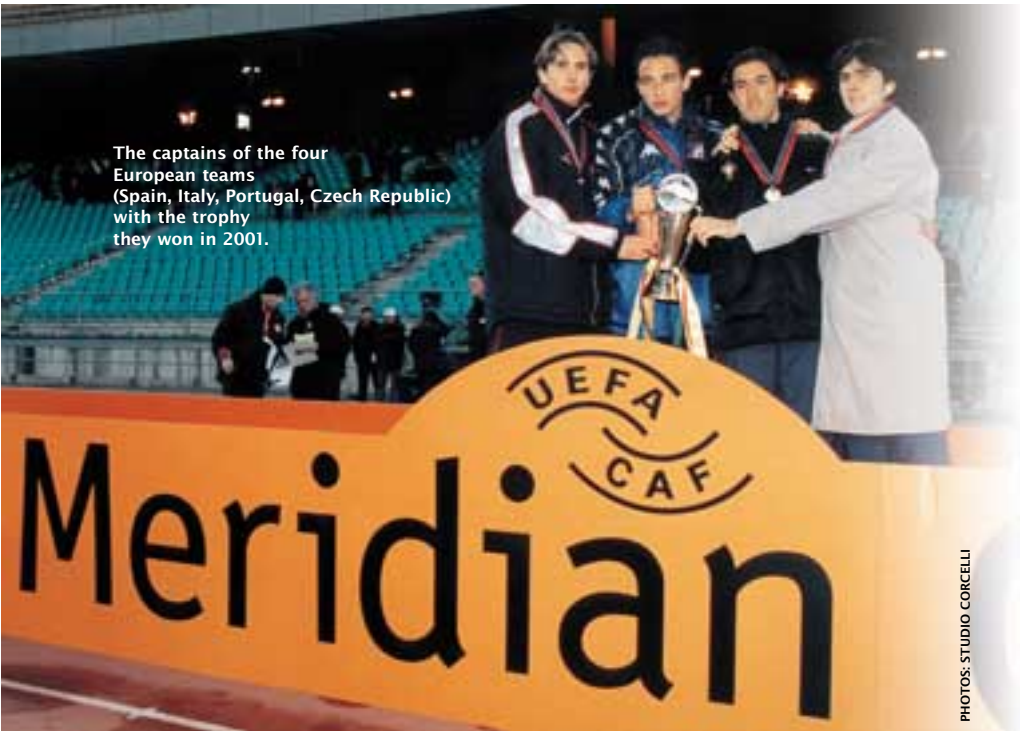
Venue	Kick-off	Match
Ismailia	14:30	Nigeria – Spain
Ismailia	17:00	Egypt – England
Canal, Ismailia	14:30	Switzerland – Burkina Faso
Canal, Ismailia	17:00	France – Mali

Match day 4 – Saturday 1 February 2003

Venue	Kick-off	Match
Canal, Ismailia	12:00	Burkina Faso – France
Canal, Ismailia	14:30	Mali – Switzerland
Ismailia	14:30	England – Nigeria
Ismailia	17:30	Spain – Egypt
Ismailia	**19:25**	**Trophy presentation ceremony**



Spain vs. Nigeria in Bari.



The captains of the four European teams (Spain, Italy, Portugal, Czech Republic) with the trophy they won in 2001.

PHOTOS: STUDIO CORCELLI

partnership with the ICRC and the Egyptian Red Crescent



The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the Egyptian Red Crescent (ECR) will be the humanitarian partners of UEFA and CAF for the 4th Meridian Cup in Egypt. UEFA believes that football has a role to play which can benefit society on a broad scale, by using its potential to influence attitudes and behaviour beyond the confines of the stadium. In this light, UEFA has been supporting the ICRC since 1997 and has chosen to dedicate the 2003 Meridian Cup to the ICRC's awareness campaign to protect children in war.



A useful exchange of views.



Tidiani Niambele, President of the FA of Mali, presents the viewpoint of the African partners.

Meridian Project

ON 14 NOVEMBER, THE HOUSE OF EUROPEAN FOOTBALL IN NYON HOSTED A WORKSHOP DEVOTED TO THE MERIDIAN PROJECT.

One of the aims of the meeting was to consider the results of the survey conducted last year among all the members of the co-operation programme involving national associations in Africa and Europe – a programme which, along with direct aid to two African associations and the Meridian Cup, forms one of the three strands of the Meridian project.

Experiences so far have demonstrated the importance of understanding the cultural differences between the partners, which can be seen in their different approaches to working, teaching and training. UEFA and the African Football Confederation (CAF) may be consulted by the national associations if there is a communication problem between any of the partners. Both confederations may also assist with the choice of projects suited to the particular needs of the associations.

The participants also emphasised the importance of respect,



The participants in the auditorium at the House of European Football.



PHOTOS: UEFA

which they consider to be a vital component of relations between the partners. The project's success also depends on personal contacts being established and meetings being held. Each national association involved should also appoint a Meridian programme co-ordinator.

UEFA itself also recommended, inter alia, that youth football be supported and developed, that experiences be shared and that equipment should be distributed fairly and as widely as possible.

At the Nyon workshop, which provided a great opportunity for experiences to be shared, several associations were able to make presentations about their partnership programmes. From a European viewpoint, the Norwegian FA had decided, with regard to its co-operation with the national associations of Tanzania and Mali, to combine this work with its welfare and health programmes and to invite other organisations to take part.

The Football Association (England), partnered with Botswana, Malawi and Lesotho, decided to send a significant staff contingent to carry out its activities in the field. Five full-time workers were involved in implementing the aid programmes.

The Dutch FA, which was linked with those in Kenya, Zambia and Burkina Faso, and the Turkish FA, partner of Eritrea and Mauritania, also presented their programmes and described the work already carried out.

An African perspective was given by representatives of Mali and Eritrea, who ensured that the overall picture was accurately presented. Participants then split into groups to discuss ways of improving the co-operation programmes further, stepping up communication and creating relations built on mutual trust. The groups also studied the role of UEFA and the CAF in order to see how the two confederations could play an even more useful part in the project.

conclusions of the workshop

- **Each association should appoint a Meridian project co-ordinator.**
- **Each national association should draw up a list of priorities with the help of UEFA and CAF.**
- **A set of recommendations should be available to ensure that partners' expectations are properly understood.**
- **UEFA and CAF should distribute activity reports to all the partners.**
- **UEFA and CAF should organise more meetings with the partners.**
- **Computer equipment should be considered a priority.**
- **Trust can be built up if objectives are realistic and if other cultures are respected.**
- **Co-operation between two European national associations to assist an African association may be an alternative solution.**
- **The African partners of a European association should be located in the same geographical area.**



PHOTOS: LAFARGUE

UEFA President Lennart Johansson reveals the name of the winning bid.



Ralph Zloczower (left), President of the Swiss FA and Friedrich Stickler, President of the Austrian FA, with UEFA President Lennart Johansson and CEO Gerhard Aigner.

EURO 2008 in Austria and Switzerland

At its last meeting of the year, held in Nyon on 12 December, the Executive Committee gave its preference to the Austrian and Swiss bid to organise EURO 2008.

Having received the seven bidding delegations the previous day, the Executive Committee, with the aid of the evaluation presented by the National Teams Committee, deliberated at length before entrusting the organisation of the final round of the 2006-08 European Championship to the Austrian Football Federation (ÖFB) and the Swiss Football Association (ASF). Before revealing the name of the host associations at a press conference in Geneva, UEFA President Lennart Johansson paid tribute to all the bids, pointing out the high quality of the bid documentation received and the support and enthusiasm mobilised by the bids in the countries concerned. *"The future of European football is in safe hands"*, he concluded.

The winning bid proposes the following venues for the matches in June 2008: Vienna, Salzburg, Innsbruck and Klagenfurt in Austria, and Bern, Basle, Geneva and Zurich in Switzerland.

The opening match is scheduled to be played in the new Wankdorf stadium in Bern, and the final is expected to take place in the Ernst-Happel stadium in Vienna.

The other bids were presented by Bosnia & Herzegovina/Croatia, Greece/Turkey, Scotland/Republic of Ireland, Hungary, Russia, and Denmark/Finland/Norway/Sweden.

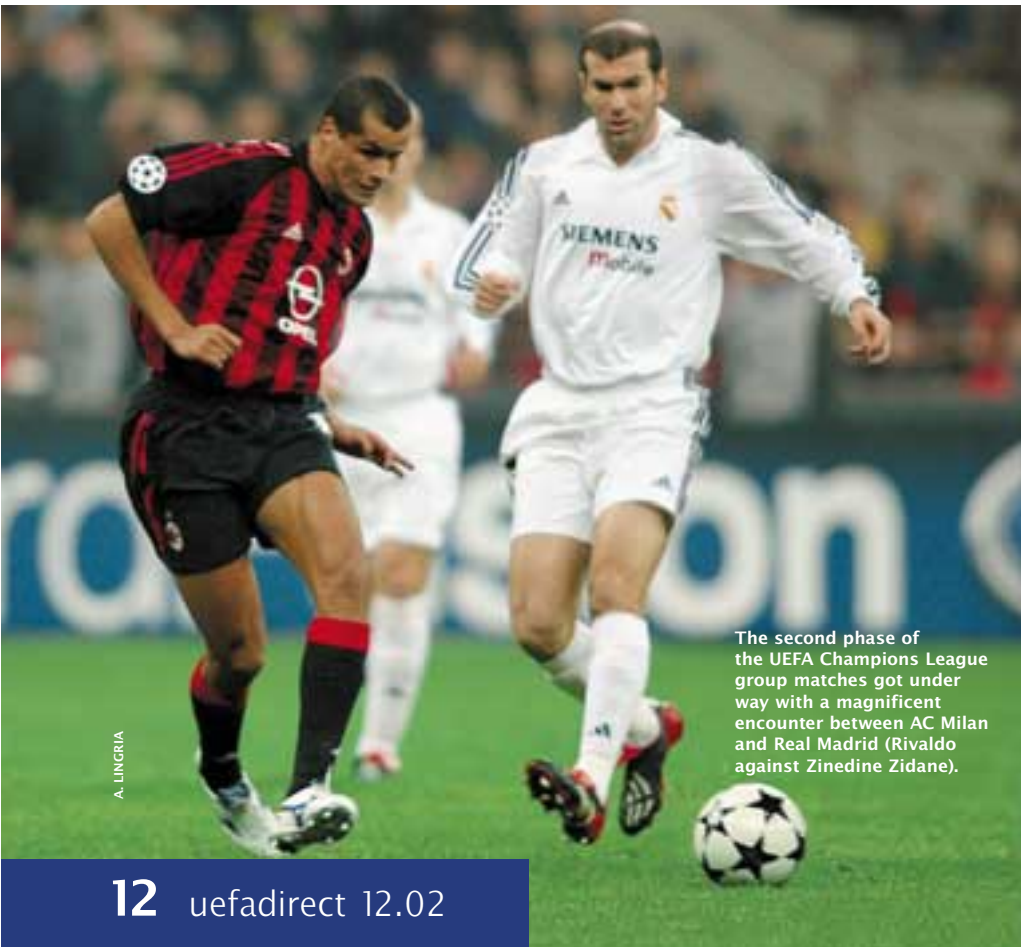
■ UEFA Cup: the Executive Committee has decided to postpone taking a decision on a possible new format until its meeting next July. The 2003/04 UEFA Cup will therefore be played according to the current format, but its calendar will be modified so that UEFA Cup matches will not be played the same week as UEFA Champions League matches as far as possible.

By postponing its decision, the Executive Committee is giving the UEFA administration time to evaluate the financial consequences of a format with group matches.

The other decisions taken by the Executive Committee at its December meeting will be covered in the next issue.

■ At its meeting in Geneva on 14 November under the chairmanship of Friedrich Stickler, the Club Competitions Committee also declared itself in favour of postponing the decision on the UEFA Cup format and the alternation of matches.

■ At its meeting in Nyon on 28 October under the chairmanship of Lars-Åke Lagrell, the National Teams Committee reviewed preparations for EURO 2004 and examined various matters regarding national-team football in Europe.



A. LINGRIA

The second phase of the UEFA Champions League group matches got under way with a magnificent encounter between AC Milan and Real Madrid (Rivaldo against Zinedine Zidane).

UEFA Champions League

The draw for the second group phase was made in Geneva on 15 November, and the first two match days were played before the year was out.

After the winter break, the competition will resume on 18/19 February. The subsequent match days are 25/26 February, 11/12 March and 18/19 March.

The quarter-final draw will be made in Nyon on 21 March. The winners and runners-up of each



PHOTOS: UEFA-HIGUERAS



Daniella Soltermann, captain of the Swiss Under-19 team, receives the fair play trophy for the 2001/02 European Under-19 Championship from Karen Espelund, Chairwoman of the Women's Football Committee, before giving her a hand with the draw.

of the following groups will make up the last eight:

Group A: *Internazionale FC, Bayer 04 Leverkusen, FC Barcelona, Newcastle United FC*

Group B: *AFC Ajax, AS Roma, Arsenal FC, Valencia CF*

Group C: *BV Borussia Dortmund, AC Milan, Real Madrid CF, FC Lokomotiv Moscow*

Group D: *Juventus Football Club, FC Basel, Manchester United FC, RC Deportivo La Coruña*

Women's football – France head for China

After Germany, Norway, Russia and Sweden, France are the latest and last European team to qualify for the 4th FIFA Women's World Cup.

The first four teams booked their places in the finals by winning their respective qualifying groups, while the fifth participant was determined by play-offs involving the group runners-up. In the first round of play-offs, France saw off Denmark, and England eliminated Iceland. Then in October, France went on to beat England 1-0 away from home, a score they repeated in the return leg on home soil a month later, thereby completing the European line-up for the Women's World Cup finals, which will be played in the People's Republic of China from 24 September to 11 October next year.

Meanwhile, another competition for women's national teams, the 6th European Women's Championship, kicked off recently, when the draw was made in Nyon on 5 December, under the leadership of Karen Espelund, Chairwoman of the Women's Football Committee, to form the groups for the qualifying round. The final round, for which the host nation qualifies automatically, will take place in England in summer 2005. Only the 20 first division teams – who have been drawn into four groups – can qualify for the final round. The teams in the second division, drawn into three groups, will be playing for promotion up to the first division.

First division:

Group 1: *Sweden, Italy, Finland, Switzerland, Yugoslavia*

Group 2: *Norway, Denmark, Spain, Netherlands, Belgium*

Group 3: *Russia, France, Iceland, Hungary, Poland*

Group 4: *Germany, Ukraine, Portugal, Czech Republic, Scotland*

Second division:

Group 5:

Romania, Republic of Ireland, Malta, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Croatia

Group 6:

Belarus, Israel, Estonia, Kazakhstan, Wales

Group 7:

Slovakia, Greece, Austria, Armenia

The matches will be played between March 2003 and September 2004.

Under-19 final round in Finland

On 5 December, the House of European Football in Nyon was also the setting for the draw for the 3rd European Women's Under-19 Championship.



BONGARTS

Germany vs. Sweden in the 2002 final round.



AFP

Marinette Pichon outstrips Rachel Unitt during France's victory over England.

Finland will host the final round from 16 to 26 May 2004. Its team therefore qualifies automatically. Entrants from 38 other national associations will be taking part in the competition, 36 of whom were drawn into nine groups. Germany and Denmark, who have the best coefficients, are exempt from this first round and start out in the second round, where they join the winners and runners-up from each of the nine groups.

Group A: *France, Wales, Austria, Greece*

Group B: *Norway, Yugoslavia, Estonia, Portugal*

Group C: *Sweden, Poland, Turkey, Slovenia*

Group D: *Czech Republic, Iceland, Slovakia, Latvia*

Group E: *Spain, Belgium, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Faroe Islands*

Group F: *England, Scotland, Ukraine, Romania*

Group G: *Italy, Russia, Lithuania, Northern Ireland*

Group H: *Switzerland, Israel, Hungary, Bulgaria*

Group I: *Netherlands, Republic of Ireland, Belarus, FYR Macedonia*



PHOTOS: UEFA

The workshop in Amsterdam.



Getting ready for the introduction of the licence.

The matches in the first round will be played between 10 and 16 November 2003. The order of the second round matches was also determined by a draw:

Group 1: *Germany, winners 4, runners-up 3, runners-up 8*

Group 2: *Denmark, winners 5, runners-up 4, runners-up 9*

Group 3: *winners 1, winners 6, winners 9, runners-up 5*

Group 4: *winners 2, winners 7, runners-up 1, runners-up 6*

Group 5: *winners 3, winners 8, runners-up 2, runners-up 7*

■ In the UEFA Regions' Cup, the Spanish team Principado de Asturias and the Dutch team North District emerged as the winners of Groups 2 and 7 respectively, thereby concluding the first phase of this competition for amateur sides. Central Bohemia will now contest a play-off over two legs against Principe de Asturias, while Aosta Valley face Gothenburg. The two winners will go through the final round in Württemberg together with the other six group winners: Geyazan (Azerbaijan), Ligue du Maine (France), Szabolcs Gabona Csoport (Hungary), Württemberg (Germany), North District (Netherlands) and Tessin (Switzerland).

■ In the first round of the European Under-19 Championship, only the outcome of the Group 11 remained to be settled. The suspense is now over, and Hungary, who finished ahead of Northern Ireland, Wales and Andorra, go through with Northern Ireland to the second round (see November's *uefadirect*).

Quality management for licensing system

The implementation of UEFA's club licensing project moved a step forward with member associations taking part in a series of training workshops dealing with the final version of the National Football Body Licensing Standard.

During two-day workshops, which took place in Amsterdam in November, participants learnt about minimum quality standards for improving their internal processes and their auditing role as licensors.

The "standard", which is being produced in English, French, German and Russian, is a comprehensive document containing the requirements to be fulfilled by the national associations or affiliated leagues (licensors) in order to assess their clubs and consequently issue the licence. The standard is designed to be flexible and support especially those countries that have not yet introduced a licensing system.

A set of proposals was submitted for consultation and five pilot associations – Belgium, Bulgaria, Germany, Luxembourg and Scotland – have been involved in the elaboration of the system.

The implementation of the standard by all licensors and an assessment of the licence applicants following the same principles and methods will ensure equal treatment of all football clubs.

An independent certification firm will then annually audit the licensors and release a quality certification against the requirements of the standard.

Third party certification will improve credibility of the whole licensing system. Moreover, licensors will be able to increase their management efficiency and effectiveness.

The National Football Licensing Standard will be of real benefit to football associations and their leagues across Europe. By setting measurable requirements, they will benefit from a set of regulations that will improve quality management systems and the way clubs are assessed. Clubs will be confident that clubs against which they compete have gone through equally rigorous processes.



S. DANIELSSON

Göteborg (in white) are in the UEFA Regions' Cup play-offs, having won their first-round mini-tournament.



Alex Ferguson and Peter Schmeichel.



UEFA President Lennart Johansson with UEFA Vice-president Per Omdal (right) and Oralbay Abdyrkarimov, President of the Kazakhstan Senate, and Rakaht Aliyev, President of the Football Union of Kazakhstan.

Media Conference in Manchester

From December 4 to 6, UEFA staged its 2nd Media Conference at Old Trafford with, of course, exemplary co-operation and hospitality from Manchester United FC.

The 'Media Conference' label is a little misleading as the three-day event was not for the media but rather for the press officers of clubs and national associations who spend their working lives walking the tightrope between protecting clubs, players and coaches while, at the same time, serving the media in the best possible way.

These days, football news does not only appear on the sports pages. We are just as likely to see headlines in the business or society sections. So Umberto Gandini of AC Milan, Peter Kenyon of Manchester United and Rick Parry of Liverpool FC offered some thought-provoking comments from the commercial standpoint, while Mick McCarthy and Sir Alex Ferguson illustrated the view from the technical area, and Peter Schmeichel provided a player's perspective. The referee's image and relationship with the media was discussed by Pierluigi Collina and Hugh Dallas, while the media were represented by Mike Collett and Ken Mainardis, chief editors for news and photography at Reuters news agency, plus John Watts of ITV, the experienced television director who will set a new record by taking charge of two successive UEFA Champions League finals as 'host broadcaster'.



Peter Kenyon and Umberto Gandini.

The conference, was an outstanding success – not only because of the quality of the presentations and interview sessions, but also because it gave press officers from all over Europe a unique chance to meet and exchange views. Discussion groups produced fruitful results and the aim of upgrading media services to a uniformly high level throughout Europe included a loud call from the smaller associations for UEFA to lend a hand when they face the daunting task of entertaining 'big' countries in European Championship qualifiers. This and many other proposals will now be placed on various tables at UEFA's headquarters in Nyon.

Lennart Johansson honoured

A UEFA delegation headed by UEFA President Lennart Johansson visited UEFA's latest member association, the Football Union of Kazakhstan, at the end of November. On this occasion, the UEFA President received one of the country's highest awards, the National Olympic Committee's Golden Olympic Award, in the presence of Kazakhstan's leading sports authorities and European ambassadors.

Coaching Conventions

It is the FA of Slovenia, not Slovakia, (cf. *uefadirect* No. 8) which signed the UEFA Convention for the Mutual Recognition of Coaching Qualifications along with England, Hungary and Poland in Copenhagen. These four associations bring the number of signatories at Pro level up to 20: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Denmark, England, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Scotland, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and Wales.

Announcements

■ Oliver Gerstgrasser is the new General Secretary of the FA of Liechtenstein.

■ Francesco Ghirelli has been appointed General Manager of the Italian Football Federation. Giancarlo Gentile is the new Secretary, replacing General Secretary Guglielmo Petrosino.

■ Brendan Menton has left his position as General Secretary of The Football Association of Ireland. He has been replaced ad interim by Kevin Fahy.

■ Guntis Indriksons and Janis Mezeckis have been re-elected as President and General Secretary respectively of the FA of Latvia.

■ Match agent Claus Runge (Hannover, Germany) has returned his licence and is therefore no longer a UEFA licensed match agent. UEFA's list of licensed match agents now numbers 50 as a result.

Obituary

Of the national association general secretaries in office at the time of UEFA's foundation in 1954, **William Drennan** was the last survivor. He passed away on 17 November, one week before his eighty-fourth birthday. General Secretary of the (Northern) Irish Football Association from 1950 to 1983, William Drennan also served on the International FA Board and several UEFA committees, including the Amateur Football Committee (1958-1964), the Cup Winners' Cup Organising Committee (1964-1972) and the UEFA Club Competitions Committee (1972-1984). After he retired, he became a member of UEFA's alumni association. For his services to European football, he was awarded the UEFA Order of Merit in ruby at the Luxembourg Congress in 2000.



BONGARTS

GERMANY
Uli Hoeness: "The promotion of youth talent has enhanced the DFB's relationship of trust with the Bundesliga."



FA

ENGLAND
Learning through football.

from member associations news

AUSTRIA

Andreas Herzog: Footballer of the Century

All eyes were on Austria's Footballer of the Century, Andreas Herzog, at the friendly match between Austria and Norway on 20 November. In front of a capacity crowd at the Hanappi stadium, the Austrian captain made his one hundredth international appearance and, although his team lost the game 1-0, celebrated his new status as Austria's most-capped player of all time. Herzog is now, therefore, one of 66 footballers to have played 100 times for their country. The world record-holder is Mexican Claudio Suarez with 170 caps.

Herzog also made history that evening by becoming the first player in the world to wear the number 100 on his back in an international match. He was given special permission to do so for the match against Norway.

The 34-year old made his international debut on 6 April 1988 (in a 2-2 draw with Greece in Athens). To date, his record with the national team is 37 wins, 21 draws and 42 defeats. Herzog, who has won championships with Rapid Vienna and Werder Bremen, and the UEFA Cup with Bayern Munich, has scored 26 international goals in total. He was also largely responsible for Austria's qualification for the 1998 World Cup finals in France (scoring both winning goals in Austria's 1-0 victories against Sweden).

Herzog's 100th cap will certainly not be his last, however. Coach Hans Krankl will also be counting on the services of his record-breaking international in 2003.

Finally, Herzog has also lent his full support to Austria's joint bid with Switzerland to host EURO 2008. Herzog has been promoting the bid, which is so vital for both countries, since the beginning of the year.

Bernd Fisa



PHOTO NEWS

BELGIUM
Marc Wilmots, winner of this year's Sporting Merit Trophy in Belgium.

BELGIUM

Award for Marc Wilmots

A jury of distinguished sports leaders has decided to award the national Sporting Merit Trophy for 2002 to Marc Wilmots. The trophy, which is the first individual award that Wilmots has won, symbolises the whole country's admiration for his exemplary career as a professional footballer. The Executive Committee of the Belgian Football Association (URBSFA) warmly congratulated our former international on this award, which a sportsman or woman can win only once in his or her career.

Marc Wilmots, 33, was deeply moved when he heard the news. The trophy had not been won by a professional footballer since 1990. Ceulemans (1990), Preud'homme (1989) and Van Himst (1974) were his illustrious predecessors. The jury explained its decision as follows: *"Wilmots won because he has always set a good example throughout his career, playing a vital role for the national team and acting as an ambassador for Belgium on the international scene. Whenever people abroad spoke about Belgian football, they would inevitably mention Marc's name".*

His performances at the recent World Cup were very impressive. He scored in every match, even against Brazil, who went on to win the tournament. Pictures of these matches were beamed around the globe and meant that Wilmots achieved world-wide fame. He is a true leader both on and off the pitch. A man of character, he is an example to the whole world, inside and outside football.

Meanwhile, the Belgian Futsal team has qualified for the final round of the European Futsal Championship. With three fantastic victories over Moldova (7-3), Finland (7-2) and Poland (7-4), Belgium topped their group and, after a two-year absence, have qualified for the final round, to be held in Caserta (Italy) from 17 to 24 February 2003.

It was a proud moment for national Futsal coach Daniel Knabben and his team. *"Throughout the tournament, this relatively new team showed a great attitude and excellent team spirit. We are now one of the best eight teams in Europe... What a fantastic feeling! Futsal is really taking off in Belgium. As well as the national team, the Belgian champions, Action 21 Charleroi, are doing very well. Having reached the final of the UEFA Futsal Cup last season, they have just qualified for the second round of this year's competition."*

Guido de Windt/François Vantomme

BOSNIA & HERZEGOVINA

Football unites

The first part of the Bosnia & Herzegovina championship has finished. Perhaps this would not normally be such big news, but this is the first time that the Football Federation of Bosnia & Herzegovina has managed to organise the competition nationwide. Many sceptics doubted that the championship would run smoothly, but they have been proved wrong. A total of 190 games have been played in 19 rounds. There were a few incidents of disorder and disturbance by a small minority of fans, but they were soon dealt with appropriately. Next spring, when the championship resumes, we are sure that there will not be so many problems off the field of play.

Although the league is very big, involving 20 clubs, spectators have had a chance to watch some good football. Attendance figures have been quite good compared with matches in other countries. For example, the games of current champions Zeljeznicar were watched by a total of 42,000 people in nine matches, which is not bad at all. Come spring, when the clubs are fighting for the top spot and for places in the European competitions, better games and attendance figures can be expected.



FUAD KRVAVAC

BOSNIA & HERZEGOVINA FK Leotar (Trebinje) lead the championship at the halfway stage.



EMPICS

BULGARIA An initiative against racism by CSKA Sofia (Macdonald Muskasi).



PHOTO NEWS

ESTONIA The A. Lecoq stadium in Tallinn.

The good results achieved by the Bosnia & Herzegovina Under-21 team in the European Under-21 Championship qualifiers just go to show that there are some quality young players in our country.

The first part of the domestic championship has been very quick, and the best team at the halfway point are FK Leotar from Trebinje, who are on 42 points, four points ahead of FK Sarajevo and FK Zeljeznicar. These three teams will be fighting for the title in a championship where, for the first time, clubs from all parts of Bosnia & Herzegovina are taking part. Football has united Bosnia & Herzegovina.

Fuad Krvavac

BULGARIA

Deterring racism

Initiated by one of Bulgaria's top clubs, CSKA, a meeting between the PR experts of the professional clubs took place in Sofia. The subject was "Racism in the Stadiums and Courses of Prevention". The ten points in UEFA's anti-racism action plan were considered. Professor Zdravko Raikov from the University of Sofia made a presentation on the subject of racism. Many participants took part in the discussion.

The representatives of the press office of the Bulgarian Football Union agreed to be the general co-ordinator of future action to eliminate racism and hooliganism from football stadiums.

A declaration on this subject was approved and adopted, and it is going to be circulated to all football clubs in Bulgaria.

The governing body of the BFU, the Executive Committee, will be officially acquainted with the crucial moments of the meeting and the decisions taken.

The next similar meeting against racism in football is scheduled to take place at the beginning of the new year. Representatives of the fan clubs of the leading football clubs will be invited to take part.

Radoslav Yankulov

CZECH REPUBLIC

National Futsal team head for European Championship

It is the third time that the Czech Republic has hosted a qualifying group from which the winners have progressed to the final round of the European Futsal Championship. In 1998, Yugoslavia won the group and two years later it was the Czechs' turn when we beat Belgium and Slovakia. This year, the third such opportunity presented itself during the first week of November in Ostrava, at Poruba's indoor stadium.

The tournament involved hosts the Czech Republic, Bosnia & Herzegovina, France and group favourites Croatia. Only the winners would qualify for the final round. In the first match of the mini-tournament, Croatia struggled to beat Bosnia & Herzegovina 3-2. The Czech team easily defeated France 5-1 in a great atmosphere created by the 2,000 spectators at Poruba's indoor stadium. On the second match day, there could have been a big surprise. France were leading Croatia 1-0 until ten minutes before the end, but Croatia fought back to clinch a 4-1 win. The Czech team also ran into problems against Bosnia & Herzegovina, but in the closing minutes the team found tremendous shooting form and won 6-2. As a result, in order to progress to the final round, the Czech team could not afford to lose their last match. A crowded stadium saw a match that was full of suspense. The Czechs attacked for the whole first half, but Croatia scored with a goal by Podrug from the only chance of the first half. But a fantastic turnaround started in the 25th minute when Roman Mares equalised. Michal Mares and Martin Dlouhy scored twice in the space of 13 seconds, giving the Czechs a 3-1 lead. The last goal by Roman Mares (who, with his brother Michal, is the only professional, playing for Russian club Dino Moscow), was scored during a period of power play by Croatia.

In the European Football Championship next year, the Czechs will try to defend the sixth place they obtained in their previous championship. The fact that the Czech team has progressed to the final eight can already be considered a huge success. It also proves that the Czech Futsal team are among the best in Europe.

Daniel Macho

ENGLAND

Learning through football

On Tuesday, 12 November, in Nottingham, The FA held its second annual Football Development Conference, entitled "Learning through Football."

The conference promoted best practice in using football in education, highlighting the power of football to deliver key agendas.

Football has a unique ability to engage young people and The FA is determined to maximise this and deliver on its overall mission of "using the power of football to build a better future".

In July 2000, The Football Association formed a new division to "lead the development of and investment in English grassroots football". Entitled The FA National Game Division, it pledges to invest £35million a year for the next ten years.

Last year, the division launched The FA Football Development Strategy 2001-2006, with one of its core objectives to implement a strategic educational programme through football.

Jane Bateman

ESTONIA

Development through training

Last year Estonia celebrated the tenth anniversary of its independence from the former Soviet Union. This small state, with only 1.5 million people, including 10,000 registered footballers, has shown great football ambition.

In recent years, new facilities have appeared, among which a brand new football stadium in Estonia's capital Tallinn and seven artificial fields spread throughout the country.

At the end of 2000, the Estonian Football Association hired two Dutch coaches for a period of four years. Alongside the main task of training the national teams, a lot of attention is being paid to professionalising football education in Estonia and to providing the FA with a basis for the continuation of this development.

As development of football starts with good education, courses for coaches at UEFA B licence level have been organised since the beginning of 2001. Participants are tested in both a theory and a practical exam. So far, about 125 coaches have completed this first course and received their diplomas. A follow-up course started last spring. To ensure the continuation of the programme, four Estonian coach educators have been trained over the past two years.

This year, the Estonian FA applied officially for the UEFA B licence.



BONGARTS

AUSTRIA Andreas Herzog, Austria's Footballer of the Century.



EMPICS

FYR MACEDONIA
Darko Pancev in the colours of Inter-nazionale FC.



FLF

LUXEMBOURG
The new national centre.

On different occasions during the course, members of the UEFA Jira Panel came to Tallinn to make a two-day observation of the course and take a closer look at the study material. The panel reported back to UEFA that the course corresponds to the UEFA requirements, and the B licence was admitted in November 2002. At the moment, the next level of education is being developed. The Estonian FA aims to apply for the A licence in 2003/2004.

Jelle Goes

GERMANY

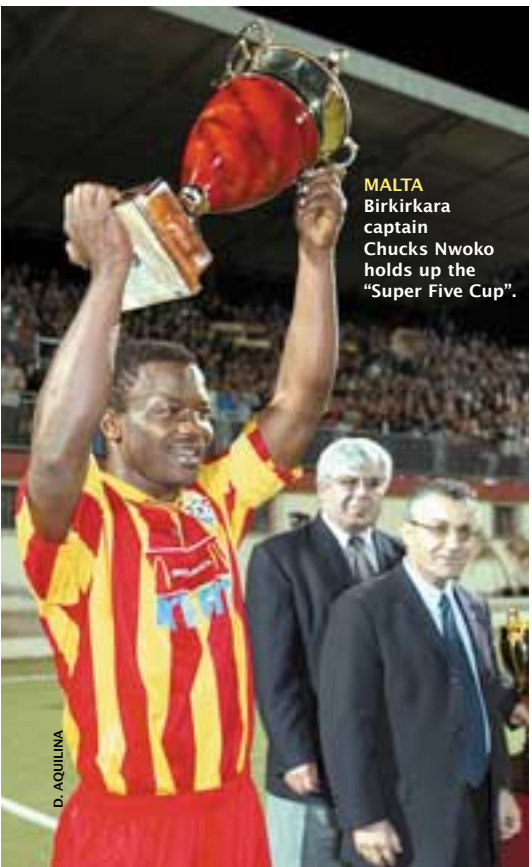
On the right path

"Promoting talent" was the theme of the annual conference of the DFB advisory committee, held in Frankfurt on 25 and 26 October. The committee, which comprises the DFB presidium and executive board, together with representatives of the 21 regional associations and the Bundesliga clubs, based its discussions on a study by Prof. Klaus Cachay on the impact of the Bosman ruling on football, handball, basket-ball and ice hockey. As well as a keynote speech by the Bielefeld-based sports scientist, the two-day meeting included a panel discussion involving Bayern Munich manager Uli Hoeness and DFB coach Jürgen Kohler, among others. DFB President Gerhard Mayer-Vorfelder summed up the conference by declaring that *"We are on the right path"*.

Prof. Cachay shared some interesting findings with the 80 members of the DFB advisory committee. The proportion of foreigners playing in the Bundesliga has risen to 56.2%, and even though the amount of support for youth players has not been reduced, the difficulty of breaking into professional football means that more and more promising young players are attaching greater value to academic or vocational training alongside their involvement in sport. The DFB advisory committee, a forum for issues connected with social and sports policy, considered the study to be an important reminder of the consequences that work with youth players can have on the professional game. A number of measures have already been taken to support youth players. For example, a talent development programme with 390 training centres got under way in the summer. The 36 licensed clubs each have their own youth academy. The basic conditions for fielding young players in the regional and top leagues were set at the extraordinary DFB assembly on 3 May. The national "Team 2006" came into being this season. The DFB also supports sports schools run by the North-East German Football Association by providing football classes.

These initiatives are proof of the DFB's solid commitment to the promotion of young talent, a cause backed not least by Uli Hoeness, who said that *"The DFB has chosen a good path to follow. The relationship of trust with the Bundesliga clubs has been considerably enhanced"*.

Niels Barnhofer



D. AQUILINA

MALTA
Birkirkara captain Chucks Nwoko holds up the "Super Five Cup".

ICELAND

Introduction of a licensing system

The introduction of the UEFA Club Licensing System has met with a positive response from Icelandic Premier Division clubs. The FA decided to introduce a licensing system for all teams in the top division following UEFA's decision to implement the system in its club competitions. Icelandic clubs have generally welcomed the system, as it will help them improve all aspects of their organisation, giving it more consistency and transparency, as well as providing spectators with excellent facilities and encouraging the clubs to improve training facilities and further promote the training and care of young players. Preparatory work is now in full swing as the first season under the new system will start in May.

The Icelandic national team played Estonia in a friendly match in Tallinn on 20 November.

The home side secured victory with two late goals in a match that was played in extremely difficult conditions, heavy snowfall basically making the pitch white, before turning it into heavy mud as the game progressed. The match was shown live on television in Iceland, but TV viewers were forced to play a game of 'spot the ball' for long periods at a time.

Omar Smarason

LUXEMBOURG

National football centre opens

The national football centre of the Luxembourg Football Federation (FLF) was opened in Mondercange at the beginning of December. The centre is situated 10 km south of Luxembourg City, very close to FC Mondercange's new outdoor facilities.

The centre was built by a joint-stock company called *"Centre National de Formation SA" (CNF SA)*, which was founded in 1999 by the Luxembourg Football Federation and Lottolux (a subsidiary of the FLF). The company president is FLF Chairman Henri Roemer.

The FLF Technical and International Departments have already moved to Mondercange. In January 2003, all the national teams will begin training on the artificial pitch and three grass pitches, which are equipped with the Grassmaster system (grass pitches with artificial grass fibres) and floodlights. The various squads attending the FLF football school (U13s to U19s), some of whom train every day, will particularly benefit from the new facilities.

The ground floor of the football centre's administrative and technical building houses four changing rooms, each capable of accommodating 30 people, rooms for coaches, doctors and physiotherapists, a gymnasium, fitness studio, sauna and jacuzzi.

On the first floor, in addition to multifunctional, hi-tech lounges and meeting rooms used by the various national squads and centre staff, there is a kitchen, an 80-seat dining room and a laundry.

The second floor contains offices for the coaches and administrative staff, which are linked up to the FLF headquarters in Luxembourg-Gasperich, and several meeting rooms. The building has a total floor space of 2,100 m^2.

Joël Wolff

FYR MACEDONIA

A league for veterans

The Under-19 national team did really well in the UEFA European Under-19 Championship qualifying tournament played in England in November. The Macedonian team, who were in the same group as hosts England, Romania and Moldova, finished the tournament in second place. Our young players lost 3-0 to England, but beat both Romania (4-0) and Moldova (2-1). On the basis of these results, Macedonia qualify for the next round and will play in Group 5 with Austria (host country), Yugoslavia and Cyprus.



FMF

MOLDOVA Mogens Kreutzfeld makes his presentation at the Progress IV course.



EMPICS

NETHERLANDS Paying attention to the well-being of referees.

Our national Futsal team have recently been involved in the European Futsal Championship qualifying competition, in which they lost to Spain (6-0) and Yugoslavia (4-1) and beat Lithuania (2-1).

On a future occasion, the FA of Macedonia hopes to be given the opportunity to host a European championship qualifying tournament.

At the end of November, the association was visited by Erich Epple, UEFA's Assistance Programmes Senior Manager. During his visit, Mr Epple was informed that 31 members of the association have appealed to the FAM President, Lambe Arnaudov, to convene another assembly in December.

A historical event has been the creation of a league for veterans (40 years and older), which was launched on 24 November. Four teams are playing: Vardar and Rabotnicki (Skopje), Bregalnica (Stip) and Kozuv (Gevgelija). The most famous name playing in the veterans' league is Darko Pancev, former player with Vardar (Skopje), Red Star Belgrade and Internazionale. Pancev was the top scorer in Europe in 1991, when he was awarded the last Golden Boot. Other famous players in the veterans' league are Ilija Najdoski Vardar, who played for his country as well as Red Star Belgrade, Valladolid (Spain) and Denizlispor (Turkey), Vasil Ringov, Vujadin Stanojkovik, former FIFA referee Goce Popev, Nikola Steriev and current national team coach Nikola Ilievski-Gigi.

Mijalce Durgutov

MALTA

A new trophy for Birkirkara

Birkirkara FC have won Malta's Super Five Cup for the second time, thanks to a resounding 4-1 victory over champions Hibernians FC in a final played in front of a capacity crowd at the Centenary Stadium. Goals from striker Michael Galea (2), George Mallia and William Camenzuli sealed the issue in favour of the Stripes. Roderick Baldacchino scored a late consolation goal for a depleted Hibernians side.

In the match for third place, Sliema W. FC got the better of fellow beaten semi-finalists Valletta FC with a 2-1 win.

The majority of affiliated clubs (48) and member associations were represented at the biannual seminar organised by the Malta FA at the Centenary Hall within the Ta' Qali Technical Complex. The seminar included presentations followed by discussions on the local Football Nurseries, Club Licensing, the Malta FA's anti-doping programme and the offer of a free internet service through www.di-ve.com for all affiliated clubs.

Malta registered mixed results in Group 7 of UEFA's Under-19 mini-tournament held in Limassol, Cyprus. The young Maltese lost 2-0 to Norway in the opening match and came back admirably to draw 2-2 with Bosnia & Herzegovina. Despite a very gallant performance, Malta bowed out 2-0 to hosts Cyprus, who won the group and qualification to the second round together with Norway.

Back on the Mediterranean island of Cyprus, within the same week, Malta lost by two clear goals in the Under-21 match at the Makarion Stadium in Nicosia, but deserved much better than a minimal 2-1 defeat against an improving Cyprus side in the other EURO 2004 Group 1 qualifier in Nicosia's GSP Stadium.

Louis Micallef

MOLDOVA

Progress IV course in Moldova

This autumn, the Progress IV courses were one of the main events of football life in Moldova.

Within the framework of the EEAB assistance programme introduced in autumn 1996, UEFA has regularly organised "Progress" courses. The aim of these courses is to raise the level of skills of coaches, referees, club and team administrators, and medical personnel in each of the newly independent states in Eastern Europe.

The first course of this kind, in the Progress I cycle, was successfully organised in Moldova in March 1997. Experts from different fields, such as Jozef Venglos and Ken Ridden, then chairmen of the Technical Development Committee and Referees Committee respectively, made presentations to the representatives of the Moldovan football community.

On subsequent occasions, professionals such as Paolo Casarin, Alexis Ponnet and Dan Cristea shared their vast experience and knowledge with course participants. Thanks to these courses, hundreds of Moldovan football practitioners enlarged their professional knowledge by attending theoretical lessons and participating in practical sessions carried out by leading European specialists.

The present cycle of courses, the fourth one, gave 125 participants from all regions of Moldova the opportunity to improve their football-related qualifications. Vladimir Sajn from Slovenia gave lectures to Moldovan referees and assistant referees, while Torben Mogensen and Mogens Kreutzfeld from Denmark made presentations to football club administrators and doctors respectively. The lectures for the coaches were made by Franco Ferrari (Italy).

In his address, Pavel Cebanu, President of the FA of Moldova, said that the Progress courses in Moldova had been highly effective, and he expressed sincere gratitude to UEFA, the EEAB and all the lecturers who had contributed to the success of the courses. Thanks to the Progress IV course, the development of modern football in Moldova has been given fresh impetus.

The organisation was excellent and the participants showed great interest, asking UEFA/ EEAB to continue with their Progress courses.

Serghei Donets

NETHERLANDS

Professionals meet on refereeing

On 1 and 2 November, professionals and committee members from nine football associations met in Amsterdam to discuss the current state of affairs in the world of refereeing. The football associations of France, Germany, Luxemburg, Scotland, Belgium, Sweden, Finland, England and the Netherlands all sent their most experienced and knowledgeable officers to the meeting. Also present were representatives of the referees' departments of UEFA and FIFA.

All participants were asked to present the position, structure and policy of their departments within their respective organisations. Aspects such as payment of referees, employment contracts, scouting and education, sponsorship, training and assessment of performances were highlighted during these presentations.

The aim of the meeting was first and foremost to allow colleagues who work in the same field to learn about the situations in the other countries and to see how various problems are dealt with in different football associations.

Two very long and useful sessions revealed that there is still a lot of work to do to make football attractive to young referees. Without exception, all those present agreed that this issue requires close attention in the future. It was also generally



EMPICS/TURKSPORFOTO

ROMANIA Mircea Lucescu led Galatasaray SK to the domestic championship title.



UEFA/KJAERBYE

POLAND
Polish FA President Michal Listkiewicz (right) and General Secretary Zdzislaw Krecina sign the convention.





PHOTOS: CMFS

CZECH REPUBLIC
The Futsal team are on their way to the finals.

agreed that this small group should meet more often in order to exchange information and to help each other where necessary and whenever possible.

Rob de Leede

POLAND

Safety in the stadia

On 7 November, a "Safe Stadia 2002" seminar was held in Kielce. FIFA and UEFA representatives – namely Walter Gagg and Ernie Walker – took part. The seminar looked at issues concerning safety and security in stadia during sports events. Representatives of the Polish Football Association, clubs, police, Ministry of Justice and the media discussed the problem of hooliganism and ways to prevent violence erupting in stadia. The meeting was accompanied by an exhibition of stadia equipment and monitoring systems.

The date of 8 November 2002 will be etched in gold letters in the annals of the Polish FA. On that day Poland became a full member of the UEFA Convention on the Mutual Recognition of Coaching Qualifications and therefore now has the right to start running Pro level courses. After sustained efforts, the Polish FA has been admitted to the exclusive group of signatories to the Convention. *"It was a great day for our federation. During the UEFA Executive Committee meeting in Copenhagen, we had the pleasure to take part in a ratification ceremony with Hungary, England and Slovenia. Unfortunately, the capital city of Denmark wasn't so hospitable a few days later, when our national team lost a friendly against Morten Olsen's team at the Parken stadium"*, said Polish FA President Michal Listkiewicz.

After 33 games without defeat in the Polish League, champions Legia Warszawa were eventually beaten 1-0 in Chorzow by Ruch. Legia were only four matches away from equalling Widzew Lodz's record. Polish clubs have been performing well in the UEFA Cup. Legia Warsaw beat FC Utrecht twice, and Wisla Cracow eliminated AC Parma. Perhaps next year a Polish team will play in the UEFA Champions League – that would be a dream come true for millions of fans.

Michal Kocieba

ROMANIA

Pro licences on the horizon

These days, many Romanian coaches enjoy international recognition: Anghel Iordanescu, coach of the Romanian national team, is also a member of the FIFA Technical Committee and of the study group which drafted the FIFA technical report on the 2002 World Cup finals. He also coached the Greek national team in 1998-99. Romanian Mircea Lucescu currently coaches Turkish team Besiktas JK. He previously won the Turkish championship with Galatasaray SK and, in the 1990s, coached Italian teams Brescia, Reggiana and Internazionale. Emerich Jenei used to be the Hungarian national coach, Mircea Radulescu has coached three national teams (Egypt, Syria and Algeria) and Mihai Stoichita is a former coach of the Panama national side, while Ilie Balaci has won several titles in Arab football with clubs in Tunisia, Morocco, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.

Since 1990, the Romanian Football Federation (FRF) has been running a national coaching school under the auspices of the Institute for the Training of Technical Staff, which was set up by the Ministry for Youth and Sport. The FRF coaching school is managed by Mircea Radulescu, who coached the Romanian national team from 1990 to 1992 and is currently director of the Federation for the Training and Development of Coaches.

"Since 1990, the FRF national school has awarded Category 3 licences (equivalent to the UEFA A and B licences) to six groups of coaches (approximately 40-60 coaches per group). There are 112 students in the 2001/02 group, including nine goalkeeping specialists and eight fitness instructors (these two groups follow a special syllabus)."

On 21 June 2000, an agreement was signed by UEFA and the FRF, under which Romania acceded to the UEFA Convention for the Mutual Recognition of Coaching Qualifications (A and B licences). At the same time, Romanian coaches holding the two highest national coaching certificates were granted temporary permission to coach professionally until Romania is entitled to organise its own Pro licence courses. According to Mircea Radulescu, *"The first Pro course should be held in Romania in the first half of 2003. If UEFA's requirements are met, the FRF coaching school could award Pro licences itself in the future."*

Dan Cristea

SLOVAKIA

Football against racism

The Slovak FA has taken up the UEFA challenge and organised a sports social event under the slogan "Football against racism" or "We are people".

Famous and well-known personalities from Slovak football, cultural and social life of different colour, religion and sexual orientation played in an exhibition football match. Among the participants were Ladislav Jurkemik, head coach of the Czechoslovak senior national team which won the European Championship in 1976; Dusan Tittel, SFA General Secretary and former national team player; and Ibrahim Maiga, the Angolan pop singer who lives in Slovakia.

SFA President Frantisek Laurinec kicked the match off. International referee Lubos Michel officiated. The match was followed by another cultural event that evening – a variety of exotic cuisine, a fashion show of exotic clothes, and a pop concert.

The event was held under the auspices of Minister of Foreign Affairs Eduard Kukan. The ambassadors of the United Kingdom and Angola were guests of honour. The spectators were given T-shirts in black and white with the event logo by the evening's performers.



SFZ

SLOVAKIA
United against racism.



SLOVENIA Taking part in the World Cup finals was reason enough to be happy with the year's achievements in football.



SWEDEN Fredrik and Hanna Ljungberg.



UKRAINE Footballs are needed for young players.

The "We are people" event was a response on our part to the racist behaviour that arose at the Slovakia vs. England EURO 2004 qualifier in Bratislava.

It was the first time we had organised a sports social evening of this kind, but it will certainly not be the last. The fight against racism is a long-term campaign and one of the first steps has to be to address this issue with young people. Consequently, we are keen to co-operate with schools in this crusade.

Karolina Ducka

NOGOMETNA ZVEZA SLOVENIJE

NZS

SLOVENIA

A positive year

At the end of the year, it is common to look back and take stock. Is the balance positive or negative?

As far as the football year 2002 in Slovenia is concerned, there is no doubt about it – the year has been positive by far!

The Slovenian senior national team qualified for the World Cup finals for the first time in the history of Slovenian football, which is reason enough to be more than happy with the year's results. Having been part of such an event has also had a great impact on the Slovenian nation and the popularisation of football in our small country. Before that, the most popular sports were basket-ball and skiing; now, football comes very close to the top of the list, if not even at the top. The World Cup experience has not only affected the supporters; it has also produced an increase in the number of active football players. More and more boys and girls are wanting to play football, and school teams are playing in the winter football league.

As we all know that everything starts at the base, the growing interest of youngsters in football has probably been the biggest success of the past year, thanks, of course, to the success of the Slovenian national team.

As 2002 draws to a close, we send our very best wishes for 2003 to the whole of the football family!

Irena Ilesic

SvFF

SWEDEN

The year of the doubles

The Swedish football season had its grand finale in November with a televised Football Gala. Fredrik Ljungberg, who contributed successfully to his club Arsenal's double in 2002, was awarded the Golden Ball. His namesake Hanna Ljungberg was proud to receive the Diamond Ball as best woman footballer of the year.

Though one might be tempted to think otherwise, Ljungberg is not a very common family name in Sweden (Fredrik and Hanna are not actually related), but this odd "double" was itself typical of 2002 – the year of the doubles in Sweden.

Just one week before the gala, a full house at the Råsunda national stadium saw both Djurgården (men) and Umeå (women) completing their doubles by winning the respective Swedish Cup Finals.

A successful year for women's football ended with another success – off the pitch – when a new TV deal with free-to-air channel TV4 was announced in November. TV4 has bought the rights to broadcast all home matches of the women's national team from 2003 to 2005. The channel has also acquired the Swedish rights to the 2003 FIFA Women's World Cup.

Thomas Saleteg

SWITZERLAND

Youth players honoured throughout the country

The efforts undertaken by the Swiss FA in recent years in the youth sector are paying dividends. The achievements are being applauded not only inside the game but also by those involved in other sports, as well as by fans and journalists.

The Under-17 team which sensationally won the European Under-17 Championship are in with a good chance of winning the annual Youth Prize awarded by the Credit Suisse bank, while the Under-21s are among the candidates in the running to be named Swiss Team of the Year at the Sports Awards in December. Even if the team which finished third in the European Under-21 Championship do not actually win the title as a result of the rousing performances of FC Basel in the UEFA Champions League, the fact that they are among the three final nominees shows just how well Switzerland's youth footballers are respected throughout the country.

Since resting on one's laurels effectively means stepping backwards rather than forwards, the Swiss FA has no intention of sitting still. Efforts are already under way to set up a third youth training centre – for girls. Other centres are already running successfully in Payerne and Frauenfeld. In this way, we intend to build on the marvellous progress achieved so far by women's football in Switzerland. It is our aim to place our women's teams among the best in Europe before too long.

Pierre Benoit

UKRAINE

A need for balls

At the beginning of November, UEFA EEAB (East European Assistance Bureau) manager Bruno Wolfisberg visited Ukraine. In some ways, his visit to our country was a historic event. At the request of the Football Federation of Ukraine, top managers from German sports equipment manufacturer Tramondi arrived with the UEFA representative to look into the possibility of licensing the Rossava company in Bila Tserkva to manufacture rubber and plastic footballs. The foreign experts spent three days acquainting themselves with the rubber production process at the factory, the leading manufacturer in this branch in Ukraine.

Since football lessons were introduced in Ukrainian schools in



SWITZERLAND Efforts in the youth sector are paying dividends, as highlighted by the Swiss Under-17s' victory in the European Under-17 Championship.


FSJ

YUGOSLAVIA
Yugoslavia have got off to a good start in the EURO 2004 qualifiers.

2001, there has been a pressing need for balls. The FFU decided to solve this problem by arranging for rubber and plastic balls to be produced locally. According to FFU First Vice-President Oleksandr Bandurko, the aim of the large-scale project is to provide balls for Ukrainian schools as well as schools throughout the Commonwealth of Independent States.

Tramondi Managing Director Werner Mucha was satisfied with the results of the meeting and saw no reason why the project could not go ahead. He promised to visit Ukraine again in the foreseeable future in order to finalise the arrangement.

Valeriy Nykonenko

YUGOSLAVIA

On the right track

The Yugoslav senior national team's season came to a close with their match in Paris on 20 November against the national selection of France (3-0). At the press conference held when the team landed back on home soil, head coach Dejan Savicevic analysed his team's performance during the past 12 months, amounting to a total of 11 matches played, with four wins, two draws and five defeats, and a goal difference of 12-15.

"The final score is negative and I am not completely satisfied with the result, but we must not forget that we had really strong opponents, including six teams who took part in the last World Cup finals. We also played only two of 11 matches at home", said Savicevic.

The head coach has been happier since the EURO 2004 qualifiers got under way. Yugoslavia have notched up four points in two matches (Italy 1-1 and Finland 2-0), and Savicevic rates Yugoslavia's chances of qualifying for the final round as quite real.

The entire nation shares the head coach's wish to form a strong new national team and he has all the backing he needs to work towards that goal. Savicevic firmly believes that, together with his assistants, he is on the right track. This year, out of the 41 of the players who turned out for the national team, 16 were capped for the first time, 22 under the age of 25, 12 were between 25 and 30 years of age, and seven were over 30. These statistics show that the process of rejuvenating the Yugoslav national team is well under way.

Nebojsa Ivkovic

HUNGARY

Sándor Barcs is 90 years old


MLSZ

Sándor Barcs, former President of the Hungarian Football Federation (MLSZ), and a former caretaker president and vice-president of UEFA, was 90 years old on 10 November.

Sándor Barcs was born in Szeged on 10 November 1912 and started to play football in 1925. He continued playing until the age of 43, and, as he was a well-known journalist, one of the teams he played for was Antenna (journalists' team), where he played alongside Dr György Szepesi (legendary radio commentator, former MLSZ President and FIFA Executive Committee member) and József Hoffer (former Hungarian national team head coach).

His career as a journalist and sports diplomat ran parallel. To mention only his highest position, he became head of the Hungarian news agency MTI in 1950 and led the company until his retirement in 1981.

He was named MLSZ vice-president in 1948 and became president in 1950, heading MLSZ until 1963. He was one of the great figures of the golden age of UEFA. The Cup Winners' Cup was his original idea. He was elected as a member of the UEFA Executive Committee in 1962. In 1966, he became a UEFA vice-president. After the death of UEFA President Gustav Wiederkehr in July 1972, he became caretaker president of the European association, remaining in office until the election of Artemio Franchi in March 1973. At the same time, he was elected as a FIFA vice-president and member of the World Cup Organising Committee. Later he chaired the FIFA Referees' Committee. He was involved with UEFA until 1978. In 1980, the Congress made him a lifelong honorary member.


MLSZ

Sándor Barcs with Sándor Berzi (left) and György Szepezi (right).

MLSZ General Secretary Sándor Berzi and honorary member Dr György Szepesi celebrated Barcs' ninetieth birthday in the name of the Hungarian football family on 19 November.

Asked what was the secret of being healthy for such a long time, Sándor Barcs replied:

"My mother used to say: 'Eat your breakfast, share your lunch with your friend and give your dinner to your enemy.'"

Barcs' successors are following in his footsteps. Dr Imre Bozóky, President of the Hungarian Football Federation, is already a member of UEFA's Appeals Body, General Secretary Sándor Berzi is a member of the Control & Disciplinary Body, Technical Director Dr György Mezey is a member of the Club Licensing Panel, and István Huszár, who is involved in Hungary's EURO 2008 bid, is Vice-Chairman of the Futsal Committee.

Marton Dinnés



communications

birthdays – calendar

Birthdays

Necdet Cobanli (Turkey) a member of the Circle of former UEFA committee members, will be 80 on 1 January 2003. Erich Linemayr (Austria), a member of the Referee Observers Panel, will be 70 on 24 January. Another two members of the same panel both celebrate their 60th birthdays in January: Walter Clarke (Northern Ireland) on 6 January and Anders Mattsson (Finland) on 23 January. On 28 January, David Attard (Malta) a member of the Sports Medical Panel will be 40 years old. UEFA also wishes many happy returns of the day to:

- Vlatko Markovic (Croatia, 1.1)
- Malcolm Moffatt (Northern Ireland, 1.1)
- Torben Mogensen (Denmark, 1.1)
- Robert Coar (England, 2.1)
- Robert Sterckx (Belgium, 3.1)
- Alexei Spirin (Russia, 4.1)
- David G. Collins (Wales, 5.1)
- Valeri Cholaria (Georgia, 5.1)
- George Sintoris (Greece, 5.1)
- Mariano Moreno (Spain, 6.1)
- Svein Rustad (Norway, 6.1)
- Sergiy Lysenchuk (Ukraine, 6.1)
- Franco Ferrari (Italy, 9.1)
- Guido Cornella (Switzerland, 10.1)
- Tullio Lanese (Italy, 10.1)
- Herbert Hübel (Austria, 10.1)
- Fuad Musayev (Azerbaijan, 11.1)
- Andrzej Libich (Poland, 11.1)
- Sofoklis Pilavios (Greece, 13.1)
- Suren Abrahamyan (Armenia, 14.1)
- Alessandro Lulli (Italy, 15.1)
- Sune Hellströmer (Sweden, 17.1)
- Yiannis Yiangoudakis (Cyprus, 17.1)
- Friedrich Stickler (Austria, 18.1)
- Fabrizio Tonelli (Italy, 18.1)
- Lars-Åke Lagrell (Sweden, 21.1)
- Pedro Galan Nieto (Spain, 20.1)
- Angel María Villar Llona (Spain, 21.1)
- Antonio Rocca (Italy, 21.1)
- Teresa Andreu Grau (Spain, 21.1)
- Gordon Savic (Switzerland, 21.1)
- Bernd Heynemann (Germany, 22.1)
- Teuvo Holopainen (Finland, 23.1)
- Harry Been (Netherlands, 23.1)
- Eliane Cremona (Luxembourg, 24.1)
- Pat Quigley (Republic of Ireland, 24.1)
- Metin Kazancioglu (Turkey, 26.1)
- Adam Crozier (England, 26.1)
- Krister Malmsten (Sweden, 27.1)
- Mircea Cojocari (Moldova, 27.1)
- José Carlos Freitas (Portugal, 27.1)
- Milo Corcoran (Republic of Ireland, 30.1)

Upcoming events

MEETINGS

21-22.1.2003, Nyon
Course for delegates and referee observers

27-31.1.2003, Corfu
UEFA referees' courses

29.1.2003, Abu Dhabi
Draw for the FIFA World Youth Championship

31.1.2003, Nyon
Club Competitions Committee

COMPETITIONS

25.1-1.2.2003, Egypt
Meridian Cup

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UEFA requires an accomplished manager who has sound experience of promoting and organising sports events. *You must have managed a team with success and have proven marketing skills. As Senior Manager, you must be dynamic and have entrepreneurial flair. Your English (oral and written) must be fluent to native level – German and French would be very advantageous.*

Applications should be addressed to Mrs Barbara Albertoni,
UEFA, *Human Resources Unit,*
Route de Genève 46,
1260 Nyon, Switzerland.

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