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**Cover:**

*Favourites to progress from their group when the draw was made, title holders Chelsea FC and former European champions Juventus had to wait until the final matchday of the group stages to find out which of them would qualify. In the end, it was the Italian side that made it through.*

Photo: Getty Images



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## A BIG YEAR FOR WOMEN'S FOOTBALL

In the coming year, women's football will occupy some key dates in the European football calendar.

The UEFA Women's EURO 2013 is being staged in Sweden in July, two months after the most important women's club competition fixture – the 2012/13 UEFA Women's Champions League final on Thursday 23 May at Stamford Bridge in London. Although the capacity of Chelsea FC's stadium means that the record attendance of last year's final (50,212) cannot be equalled or exceeded, UEFA is aware that overall, the competition is appealing to a growing audience across Europe.

Apart from these two highlights, UEFA women's football development tournaments will also be taking place in spring and summer 2013. These tournaments, which started in 2012, are now open to all UEFA member associations, offering national women's Under-16 and Under-17 teams the opportunity to enhance their skills in competitive international matches. In turn, this will raise the level of UEFA's women's national team competitions, beginning with the UEFA European Women's Under-17 Championship, which, for its 2013/14 edition, will have a final tournament held elsewhere than Nyon for the first time – with England hosting the expanded eight-team event in November/December 2013.

These are not token gestures on behalf of women's football, but important additions to an expanding annual calendar aimed at strengthening Europe's footballing elite. UEFA recognises its responsibility to promote the women's game. The UEFA women's football development programme – which forms part of UEFA's HatTrick

programme of annual incentive solidarity payments – in itself represents a substantial investment totalling €21.2m over the next four years.

This investment should deliver UEFA's objective of supporting every member association through its women's football development strategy so that, from the grassroots level up, all girls get the chance to play football locally.

Moreover, the UEFA Executive Committee decided in March 2011 to ensure that a woman was included among its ranks, and this has been another milestone in sending a clear political message about UEFA's stand on women's football. UEFA's lead in changing its approach towards football's governance is having a positive effect across the game, as the number of women in leadership positions rises. The number of women on UEFA committees has also climbed significantly, standing at 22 in all for the 2011-15 period – an increase of 47% compared with 2009-11.

Such changes can only be good for the future of football from everyone's perspective.

**Gianni Infantino**  
UEFA General Secretary

## THE BENEFITS OF ADDITIONAL ASSISTANT REFEREES

The additional assistant referee (AAR) system is proving its value after being incorporated into the Laws of the Game this summer. The system is being used in the European club competitions and was successful at UEFA EURO 2012. UEFA explained the benefits of additional assistant referees to its 53 member associations at a workshop in Nyon on 14 and 15 November.

Senior referee managers from the associations were present at the House of European Football for an in-depth review and analysis of the system, in which the referee, two assistants and fourth official are joined by two additional assistant referees positioned alongside each goal line, with the particular brief to watch for incidents in the penalty area and help the match referee in taking decisions.

itive results of the system were clear to see. *"The main goal is for additional assistant referees to give support when a decision has to be taken – particularly inside the penalty area, where a decision can affect the result of a match,"* he explained.

*"What we have seen over some 1,200 matches since 2008 is a better [refereeing] control of the match,"* he added. *"There has been a reduction in incidents – particularly at set pieces such as corners and free-kicks – better control of the goal line and higher accuracy in terms of decisions taken by the assistant referees. These goals have been achieved thanks to additional assistant referees."*

### Information on DVD

UEFA has also produced a DVD for its associations, which provides information on implementing the AAR system. Through key video examples – particularly those related to UEFA EURO 2012 matches, where audio communication among the referee teams was recorded – the DVD demonstrates the practical benefits on the pitch, and offers solutions

for utilising refereeing resources efficiently in order to implement the system. At the workshop, UEFA's referee fitness expert, Werner Helsen, also gave a practical presentation including training exercises for additional assistant referees both on and off the field.

Collina emphasised that football's evolution over the past decade had helped create the need for additional assistant referees. *"The biggest change in the last ten years has been speed,"* he reflected. *"With football getting even faster and the players fitter, it seems that sometimes the men in black face a 'mission impossible',"* he added. *"Two extra pairs of eyes focusing on the penalty areas are of valuable assistance to the referee, and strengthen the refereeing team in confidence and numbers, while allowing the game to flow."* ●



Representatives of UEFA's member associations listen attentively to the explanations of UEFA's refereeing officers

### Encouraging trial

Following permission from the International Football Association Board (IFAB), the experiment with additional assistant referees began at a European Under-19 Championship mini-tournament in Slovenia in October 2008, and initial feedback was very encouraging, especially in terms of helping the match referee in his decision-making. The trial was eventually expanded to the UEFA Europa League, UEFA Champions League and UEFA Super Cup, and finally, the IFAB took the decision to include AARs within the Laws of the Game at its meeting in Zurich in July 2012.

### Better control

UEFA's chief refereeing officer, Pierluigi Collina, told the association representatives that the pos-

In Lausanne, the Executive Committee approved the use of additional assistant referees at next summer's European Under-21 Championship final round in Israel.

## AN APPEALING AND INNOVATIVE IDEA

The UEFA Executive Committee held its fifth and final meeting of 2012 in Lausanne on 6 December. The UEFA President, Michel Platini, chaired the debates.

Although it remains a long way off – and will be preceded by UEFA EURO 2016, preparations for which are progressing well – EURO 2020 has already attracted a high level of attention thanks to the innovative idea, suggested by Michel Platini in June, of holding a EURO for Europe to be played in several major European cities, marking the 60th anniversary of the competition's inaugural final tournament in an original way. The idea was discussed recently by senior national association officials, particularly at meetings held as part of the Top Executive Programme (TEP), and met with a generally very positive response. In Lausanne, the Executive Committee therefore decided to turn the idea into a concrete project and to give the green light to the EURO for Europe. Many questions will need to be addressed before the project can be implemented, and the National Team Competitions Committee was entrusted with the task of preparing the ground.

### UEFA Futsal Cup Final in Tbilisi

The Executive Committee also discussed various other, more imminent, competitions. The 2013 UEFA Futsal Cup final round, for example, will be organised by Iberia Star Tbilisi, one of the four finalists alongside FC Barcelona, MFK Dinamo Moscow and Kairat Almaty. The final round will be played at the Tbilisi Palace of Sports from 25 to 29 April 2013.

The dates of the European Women's Under-17 Championship were also fixed, taking into account the timing of the FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup in March/April 2014. The final tournament of the UEFA competition will therefore be held in England from 26 November to 8 December 2013.

UEFA's new Under-19 club competition, which will be launched on an experimental basis in 2013,

has been given the name UEFA Youth League. The trophy for the winning team will be named after the UEFA honorary president, Lennart Johansson.

### Congresses in Astana and Vienna

Turning to other matters, the Executive Committee decided that the 2014 and 2015 UEFA Ordinary Congresses would be held in Astana (Kazakhstan) and Vienna (Austria) respectively. The 2013 edition will take place on 24 May in London, on the occasion of the 150th anniversary of The Football Association.

The committee also discussed the FIFA Statutes revision process, a topic that will be covered at the meeting of member association presidents and general secretaries in Nyon on 24 January.

In relation to the integrity of competitions, the committee appealed for sports fraud to be recognised as a criminal offence in national legislation. It also expressed its firm opposition to third-party ownership of players and will be urging FIFA to take appropriate measures to ban this practice.

### New contract signed with TEAM Marketing

Having been chosen by the Executive Committee in February 1992 as its partner for the marketing of commercial rights for the UEFA Champions League, which was about to be launched that year, the TEAM agency will continue its loyal collaboration with UEFA. A new contract was signed in Lausanne, covering the UEFA club competitions for the next three seasons, with the possibility of it being further renewed thereafter. Meanwhile, UEFA will be represented on the board of TEAM Marketing by Executive Committee member Michael van Praag and David Taylor, CEO of UEFA Events SA. ●



Signing the new contract with TEAM Marketing. From left to right: the TEAM representatives, Martin Wagner and Bernhard Burgener, and those of UEFA, Michel Platini and Gianni Infantino.

# NINETY-ONE ARTIFICIAL PITCHES AND COUNTING!

Tero Auvinen, head of infrastructure at the Football Association of Finland, talks to UEFA-direct about the outstanding progress made across the country, where 91 full-size artificial pitches have been installed since the HatTrick programme began in 2006.

## How did you get started?

*“With the support of the UEFA HatTrick programme, we decided to channel the interest from other areas towards a national development project. Once UEFA had endorsed the plan, we joined forces with the government, numerous local authorities and football clubs, and together we have achieved unprecedented results. Finland now has 207 artificial pitches, 44% of which exist today because of this programme. Next year, we are looking at a further 21 projects, so we are moving full steam ahead.”*

## What is your selection process?

*“It is very straightforward – it is about building football pitches in the right places. We build artificial pitches only and focus on grassroots facilities, clubhouses and training centres. Certainly we look at both privileged and underprivileged areas. For example, a popular club in a busy town can benefit by drawing more players and more supporters into football. Obviously, less prosperous areas need the pitch just to be part of the game – it’s essential.”*

## What are the main benefits you have seen as a result of this project?

*“There are so many. To start with, the clubs’ attitude to infrastructure has been transformed. Now that they are more proactive, they can build and run their own grounds while at the same time becoming partners with the local authorities and community.”*

*The inauguration of the pitch in Iisalmi attracted a number of interested onlookers*



*“Investing in nationwide development is also about accessibility. Some clubs have reported up to a 50% increase in membership just thanks to a pitch being installed. Because of these new facilities, we can simply offer more football in a safe and modern environment. And this is football for everyone – children, women and seniors alike!”*

*“We have also developed an excellent relationship with the ministry of education and culture. Once we had the green light from UEFA, they also stamped their approval on this project. As well as being financial partners, we work together to ensure that the benefits are evenly spread.”*

## Why only artificial pitches?

*“They offer much more practical use: for every hour on natural grass, we can get ten on artificial turf. We can use an artificial pitch for 2,500 hours a year. Under-pitch heating can increase that to 3,500 hours a year, which is actually a record set by one of the new HatTrick pitches. Natural grass pitches in Finland offer about 250 hours of use a year, so it is easy to understand our choice.”*



Kai Jäderholm

*An ideal environment for young Finnish footballers to work on their technique*

### Is under-pitch heating essential in a cold climate?

*“Currently we use three methods to protect the pitches – under-pitch heating, air domes and daily maintenance. Twenty-six pitches have under-pitch heating. It is highly effective, but expensive to install and operate. We have eight air domes for use during the winter months, which is just like having a heated inflatable balloon over the pitch. The maintenance is a perfectly manageable option, but still includes chemical treatment and the daily removal of snow.”*

*“Sustainable development will, of course, unlock the future. We have seen projects where the energy used to heat a pitch is geothermal or bio-energy, but it is early days yet and only new innovations can lead the way.”*

### How important is pitch maintenance?

*“Crucial – a pitch can be destroyed in just a few years if this is not taken seriously. We hold regular groundskeeper seminars to share dos and don’ts. We also communicate with local authorities and clubs through a monthly information bulletin – the topics are always changing, but the principle is to keep people alert and*

*aware. For example, we have a new idea in mind at the moment – to install an asphalt area immediately next to the pitch specifically for snow removal. Each time snow is removed, it is inevitable that you will also take some pitch infill. With the asphalt, this rubber can be recovered in the spring and reinserted into the pitch. Like anything else, it is all about constantly looking for ways to improve.” ●*

*A guard of honour to welcome the president of Finland, Sauli Niinistö, to the inauguration of the pitch in Iisalmi*



Kai Jäderholm

The players of FC Olimp celebrate reaching the final round



D. Aquilina

Gozo, Malta's tiny sister island, proved the ideal setting for the UEFA Regions' Cup intermediate round mini-tournament, played at Gozo Stadium in October.



The Gozo regional football association flew the Maltese flag on behalf of the Malta Football Association (MFA) for the duration of the mini-tournament, played in a very amicable atmosphere by the four competing teams: FC Olimp from Russia, Gozo, Moldova's Ialoveni and Rinuzi/Strong from Latvia.

Russian side FC Olimp dominated the mini-tournament, winning their three matches without even conceding a goal. Gozo finished in second place on four points – a result which augurs well for their participation in future competitions.

The organisation of the mini-tournament drew admiration and positive comments from all the participants and officials.

### Fostering friendship

The president of the Gozo regional football association, Alvin Grech, said of the mini-tournament: "It was a great pleasure for the Gozo football association and myself as president to organise such an event. The trust shown by the administration of the MFA in the regional association of Gozo was rewarded by the actions of our organising committee on Malta's sister island. I believe that through this experience, the game of football will be promoted further throughout our beautiful island."

"The team from Gozo finished second – a milestone in the international sphere. Our thanks go mainly to UEFA, the organising committee, the participating teams, the MFA and the mini-tournament referees for this wonderful opportunity to foster friendship through football in such a beautiful setting as Gozo."

### Own competitions

The Gozo football association was founded in 1936 and is a member of the MFA. Although there are only about 30,000 inhabitants on the island, the association has two leagues of its own with seven teams each and caters for grass-

roots competitions. It also sends teams to participate in national competitions organised by the MFA.

Gozo Stadium is the main football venue on the island. It has occasionally hosted international U19 matches, and even played host to a couple of Malta's matches in the 2011-13 European Under-21 Championship qualifiers.

The Gozo FA secretary general and mini-tournament director, Joe Bajada, said: "Hosting, organising and carrying out such an important UEFA football tournament is not easy, but with the collaboration of all participants and, of course, the Gozo FA, I can say that this tournament proved to be a very successful and enjoyable one."

The MFA president, Norman Darmanin Demajo, also had words of praise for the event: "The participation in the UEFA Regions' Cup of a team representing our association further strengthens the ties we have with the European confederation's commitment to extend interest among amateur footballers. We are proud to form part of this commitment on a regional basis and are resolved to further promote the values of the amateur game. I am very pleased that the team from Gozo performed so creditably during this tournament".

Bjorn Vassallo, the CEO of the MFA, also joined those making favourable remarks about the tournament: "The 2012/13 Regions' Cup group matches played recently in our sister island, Gozo, represented another successful event in the history of this UEFA competition. Malta has always believed that such tournaments go a long way towards reflecting the importance UEFA reserves for the amateur game in all its member countries. The Malta FA endorses this commitment and will continue to do so in future. I am glad that the team from Gozo turned out to be very competitive during the tournament matches." ●

Domenic Aquilina



## TWO EUROPEAN TEAMS IN THE TOP THREE

For the first time, 24 teams contested the final round of the FIFA Futsal World Cup. But the outcome was no different. The top three teams in the tournament, which took place from 1 to 18 November in Thailand, were the same – and in the same order – as four years earlier.

The hosts last time out, Brazil successfully defended their title (winning the tournament for the fifth time overall), while Spain came agonisingly close once again. In 2008, they lost the final on penalties; in Bangkok, they went 3-2 down just seconds from the end of extra time, having led 2-1 with around three minutes of normal time remaining.

And Italy, too, repeated their achievements of 2008, finishing third after a 3-0 win against Colombia in the third-place play-off.

This FIFA Futsal World Cup showed that, although there is still the potential for mismatches (as evidenced by Brazil winning two of their games 16-0 and 13-0), there is now much less to choose between the top teams. That can be seen in the fact that Brazil and Italy both needed extra time in order to beat their quarter-final opponents (Argentina and Portugal respectively), while Spain had a tough game against Russia at the same stage, only winning 3-2.

There were seven European teams in this FIFA competition. They all performed admirably, with Ukraine, Spain, Italy, Serbia and Russia all topping their groups in the first stage of the tournament. Indeed, Russia won all three of their group matches, scoring 27 goals and not conceding at all. The other two teams, Portugal and the Czech Republic, also qualified for the knockout rounds.

In the round of 16, Serbia were beaten by Argentina, while the Czech Republic lost their

### ■ 2018 World Cup in Russia

On 29 September, a televised ceremony revealed the names of the 11 host cities for the 2018 FIFA World Cup in Russia. They are: Moscow (where both the Luzhniki Stadium and Spartak Stadium will be used), St Petersburg, Kaliningrad, Nizhny Novgorod, Kazan, Samara, Saransk, Volgograd, Rostov-on-Don, Sochi and Ekaterinburg. FIFA's Executive Committee had approved the list at a meeting in Zurich on 28 September.

At the end of October, representatives of those cities and their regions travelled to Warsaw, Wroclaw and Gdansk, three of the host cities at UEFA EURO 2012, to benefit from experience acquired there during that tournament and to look at issues such as infrastructure, transport, accommodation and general organisation.

### ■ 2013 Confederations Cup in Brazil

On 8 November, a press conference was held in São Paulo to reveal the six host cities for the FIFA Confederations Cup in June 2013. Matches will be played in Belo Horizonte, Brasilia, Fortaleza, Recife, Rio de Janeiro and Salvador.

The competition will be contested by Brazil, Uruguay, Mexico, Japan, Tahiti, Spain and Italy, as well as the champions of Africa (who will be crowned in February). ●

duel with Russia. The other five European teams reached the quarter-finals, where Ukraine were knocked out by Colombia and the four other European teams played each other (with Spain and Italy ultimately prevailing). ●

*A silver medal for the Spanish futsal team*



FIFA/Getty Images

## OVER €38 MILLION FOR 183 CLUBS

The 32 clubs taking part in the group stages of the UEFA Champions League are obviously the major beneficiaries of the revenue generated by the competition, but thanks to the solidarity principle applied to the distribution of this revenue, 183 other clubs involved in the qualifying matches for this year's competition have also received shares of between €100,000 and €720,000.

Moreover, solidarity payments concern not only the clubs eliminated in the Champions League qualifying rounds, but also those who took part in the equivalent stage of the UEFA Europa League. At least one club from each of UEFA's 53 member associations benefited from these solidarity payments.

The following amounts were paid out:

### 2012/13 UEFA Champions League

- €140,000 for each club that played in the first qualifying round but did not go on to qualify for the group stage;

- €140,000 for each club that played in the second qualifying round but did not go on to qualify for the group stage;
- €140,000 for each club eliminated in the third qualifying round.

In addition, every domestic champion that did not manage to qualify for the group stages received an additional €200,000.

### 2012/13 UEFA Europa League

- €100,000 for each club taking part in the first qualifying round;
- €100,000 for each club taking part in the second qualifying round;
- €100,000 for each club taking part in the third qualifying round;
- €100,000 for each club eliminated in the play-offs.

The champions of Luxembourg, F91 Dudelange, received the maximum total solidarity payment of €720,000 by playing in the first and second qualifying rounds of the Champions League, before being knocked out in the third qualifying round, and then losing in the Europa League play-offs. •



HJK Helsinki (Timi Lahti, in yellow, against Celtic FC) received a solidarity payment of €580,000 for their club competition qualifying campaign

Association	Clubs	UCL	UEL	Total
<b>All figures in euros</b>				
<b>ALBANIA</b>				
	KS Skënderbeu	340 000		340 000
	KF Tirana		200 000	200 000
	KS Flamurtari		100 000	100 000
	KS Teuta		100 000	100 000
<b>Total</b>				<b>740 000</b>
<b>ANDORRA</b>				
	FC Lusitans	340 000		340 000
	FC Santa Coloma		100 000	100 000
	UE Santa Coloma		100 000	100 000
<b>Total</b>				<b>540 000</b>
<b>ARMENIA</b>				
	Ulisses FC	340 000		340 000
	FC Gandzasar		200 000	200 000
	FC Shirak		200 000	200 000
	FC Pyunik		100 000	100 000
<b>Total</b>				<b>840 000</b>
<b>AUSTRIA</b>				
	FC Salzburg	340 000		340 000
	VfB Admira Wacker Mödling		200 000	200 000
	SV Ried		200 000	200 000
	SK Rapid Wien		100 000	100 000
<b>Total</b>				<b>840 000</b>
<b>AZERBAIJAN</b>				
	Neftçi PFK	480 000		480 000
	İnter Bakı PIK		200 000	200 000
	Xəzər Lənkəran FK		200 000	200 000
	Bakı FK		100 000	100 000
<b>Total</b>				<b>980 000</b>
<b>BELARUS</b>				
	FC Gomel	340 000		300 000
	FC Naftan Novopolotsk		200 000	100 000
	FC Shakhtyor Soligorsk		100 000	100 000
<b>Total</b>				<b>500 000</b>

**BELGIUM**

Club Brugge KV	140 000		140 000
KAA Gent		200 000	200 000
KRC Genk		100 000	100 000
KSC Lokeren OV		100 000	100 000

**Total** 540 000

**BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA**

FK Željezničar	340 000		340 000
FK Sarajevo		300 000	200 000
FK Borac Banja Luka		100 000	100 000
NK Široki Brijeg		100 000	100 000

**Total** 840 000

**BULGARIA**

PFC Ludogorets Razgrad	340 000		340 000
PFC Levski Sofia		100 000	100 000
PFC Lokomotiv Plovdiv 1936		100 000	100 000
PFC CSKA Sofia		100 000	100 000

**Total** 640 000

**CROATIA**

NK Osijek		200 000	200 000
HNK Hajduk Split		200 000	200 000
NK Slaven Koprivnica		200 000	200 000

**Total** 600 000

**CYPRUS**

AEL Limassol FC	340 000		340 000
Anorthosis Famagusta FC		200 000	200 000
APOEL FC		300 000	300 000
AC Omonia		100 000	100 000

**Total** 940 000

**CZECH REPUBLIC**

FC Slovan Liberec	480 000	100 000	580 000
FC Viktoria Plzeň		200 000	200 000
FK Mladá Boleslav		200 000	200 000
AC Sparta Praha		100 000	100 000

**Total** 1 080 000

**DENMARK**

AGF Aarhus		100 000	100 000
AC Horsens		200 000	200 000
FC Midtjylland		100 000	100 000

**Total** 400 000

**ENGLAND**

Liverpool FC		100 000	100 000
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**Total** 100 000

**ESTONIA**

FC Flora Tallinn	340 000		340 000
FC Levadia Tallinn		200 000	200 000
JK Trans Narva		100 000	100 000
JK Nõmme Kalju		100 000	100 000

**Total** 740 000

**FAROE ISLANDS**

B36 Tórshavn	340 000		340 000
Víkingur		100 000	100 000
EB/Streymur		100 000	100 000
NSÍ Runavik		100 000	100 000

**Total** 640 000

**FINLAND**

HJK Helsinki	480 000	100 000	580 000
Myllykosken Pallo-47		200 000	200 000
JJK Jyväskylä		200 000	200 000
KuPS Kuopio		300 000	300 000
FC Inter Turku		100 000	100 000

**Total** 1 380 000

**FRANCE**

Olympique de Marseille		100 000	100 000
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**Total** 100 000

**GEORGIA**

FC Zestafoni	340 000		340 000
FC Metalurgi Rustavi		200 000	200 000
FC Torpedo Kutaisi		100 000	100 000
FC Dila Gori		300 000	300 000

**Total** 940 000

**GERMANY**

Hannover 96		100 000	100 000
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**Total** 100 000

**GREECE**

Asteras Tripolis FC		200 000	200 000
Atromitos FC		100 000	100 000
PAOK FC		200 000	200 000

**Total** 500 000

**HUNGARY**

Debreceni VSC	480 000	100 000	580 000
Budapest Honvéd FC		200 000	200 000
MTK Budapest		100 000	100 000
Videoton FC		200 000	200 000

**Total** 1 080 000

**ICELAND**

KR Reykjavík	340 000		340 000
Thór Akureyri		200 000	200 000
FH Hafnafjörður		200 000	200 000
ÍBV Vestmannaeyjar		100 000	100 000

**Total** 840 000

**ISRAEL**

Hapoel Kiryat Shmona FC	340 000		340 000
Maccabi Netanya FC		100 000	100 000
Bnei Yehuda Tel-Aviv FC		200 000	200 000

**Total** 640 000

**ITALY**

FC Internazionale Milano		100 000	100 000
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**Total** 100 000

**KAZAKHSTAN**

FC Shakter Karagandy	340 000		340 000
FC Aktobe		300 000	300 000
FC Ordabasy Shymkent		200 000	200 000
FC Zhetysay Taldykorgan		100 000	100 000

**Total** 940 000

**LATVIA**

FK Ventspils	340 000		340 000
SK Liepājas Metalurģs		200 000	200 000
FC Daugava Daugavpils		100 000	100 000
Skonto FC		100 000	100 000

**Total** 740 000

**LIECHTENSTEIN**

FC USV Eschen/Mauren		100 000	100 000
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**Total** 100 000

**LITHUANIA**

FK Ekranas	480 000	100 000	580 000
FK Sūduva		200 000	200 000
FC Šiauliai		100 000	100 000
VMFD Žalgiris		100 000	100 000

**Total** 980 000

**LUXEMBOURG**

F91 Dudelange	620 000	100 000	720 000
FC Differdange 03		200 000	200 000
AS Jeunesse Esch		100 000	100 000
CS Grevenmacher		100 000	100 000

**Total** 1 120 000

## Solidarity payments

### FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA

FK Vardar	340 000		340 000
FK Metalurg Skopje		200 000	200 000
FK Renova		200 000	200 000
FK Shkendija 79		100 000	100 000

**Total** **840 000**

### MALTA

Valetta FC	480 000		480 000
Birkirkara FC		100 000	100 000
Hibernians FC		100 000	100 000
Floriana FC		100 000	100 000

**Total** **780 000**

### MOLDOVA

FC Sheriff	480 000	100 000	580 000
FC Zimbru Chisinau		200 000	200 000
FC Dacia Chisinau		200 000	200 000
FC Milsami Orhei		100 000	100 000

**Total** **1 080 000**

### MONTENEGRO

FK Budućnost Podgorica	340 000		340 000
FK Zeta		400 000	400 000
FK Čelik Nikšić		200 000	200 000
FK Rudar Pljevlja		100 000	100 000

**Total** **1 040 000**

### NETHERLANDS

Feyenoord	140 000	100 000	240 000
FC Twente		300 000	300 000
Vitesse		200 000	200 000
sc Heerenveen		200 000	200 000
AZ Alkmaar		100 000	100 000

**Total** **1 040 000**

### NORTHERN IRELAND

Linfield FC	480 000		480 000
Portadown FC		200 000	200 000
Crusaders FC		100 000	100 000
Cliftonville FC		100 000	100 000

**Total** **880 000**

### NORWAY

Molde FK	480 000		480 000
Rosenborg BK		300 000	300 000
Stabæk Fotball		100 000	100 000
Aalesunds FK		200 000	200 000
Tromsø IL		300 000	300 000

**Total** **1 380 000**

### POLAND

WKS Śląsk Wrocław	480 000	100 000	580 000
KKS Lech Poznań		300 000	300 000
Legia Warszawa		200 000	200 000
Ruch Chorzów		200 000	200 000

**Total** **1 380 000**

### PORTUGAL

CS Marítimo		100 000	100 000
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**Total** **100 000**

### REPUBLIC OF IRELAND

Shamrock Rovers FC	340 000		340 000
Saint Patrick's Athletic FC		300 000	300 000
Bohemian FC		100 000	100 000
Sligo Rovers FC		100 000	100 000

**Total** **840 000**

### ROMANIA

SC Vaslui	140 000	100 000	240 000
FC Rapid Bucureşti		200 000	200 000
FC Steaua Bucureşti		100 000	100 000
FC Dinamo Bucureşti		100 000	100 000

**Total** **640 000**

### RUSSIA

FC Anji Makhachkala		200 000	200 000
FC Dinamo Moskva		200 000	200 000
PFC CSKA Moskva		100 000	100 000

**Total** **500 000**

### SAN MARINO

SP Tre Penne	340 000		340 000
SP La Fiorita		100 000	100 000
AC Libertas		100 000	100 000

**Total** **540 000**

### SCOTLAND

Motherwell FC	140 000	100 000	240 000
Saint Johnstone FC		100 000	100 000
Dundee United FC		100 000	100 000
Heart of Midlothian FC		100 000	100 000

**Total** **540 000**

### SERBIA

FK Partizan	480 000		480 000
FK Jagodina		100 000	100 000
FK Crvena zvezda		300 000	300 000
FK Vojvodina		200 000	200 000

**Total** **1 080 000**

### SLOVAKIA

MŠK Žilina	340 000		340 000
FK Senica		200 000	200 000
ŠK Slovan Bratislava		100 000	100 000
FC Spartak Trnava		200 000	200 000

**Total** **840 000**

### SLOVENIA

NK Maribor	340 000		340 000
ND Mura 05		400 000	400 000
NK Olimpija Ljubljana		200 000	200 000
NK Celje		100 000	100 000

**Total** **1 040 000**

### SPAIN

Athletic Club		100 000	100 000
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**Total** **100 000**

### SWEDEN

Helsingborgs IF	340 000		340 000
Kalmar FF		300 000	300 000
IF Elfsborg		300 000	300 000
AIK		200 000	200 000

**Total** **1 140 000**

### SWITZERLAND

FC Basel 1893	340 000		340 000
Servette FC		200 000	200 000
BSC Young Boys		200 000	200 000
Luzern FC		100 000	100 000

**Total** **840 000**

### TURKEY

Eskişehirspor		200 000	200 000
Bursaspor		200 000	200 000
Trabzonspor AŞ		100 000	100 000

**Total** **500 000**

### UKRAINE

FC Metalurh Donetsk		200 000	200 000
FC Arsenal Kyiv		100 000	100 000

**Total** **300 000**

### WALES

The New Saints FC	340 000		340 000
Cefn Druids AFC		100 000	100 000
Bangor City FC		100 000	100 000
Llanelli AFC		100 000	100 000

**Total** **640 000**

**TOTAL** **14 280 000** **24 300 000** **38 580 000**

## TWO FRANCO-SWEDISH QUARTER-FINALS

By scoring 11 goals without reply in their two matches against the Russians of FK Zorkiy Krasnogorsk, the title holders, Olympique Lyonnais, breezed their way into the UEFA Women's Champions League quarter-finals.



Arsenal (Rachel Yankey, in red) emerged victorious from their round of 16 tie against 1. FFC Turbine Potsdam in the UEFA Women's Champions League



The French team, who have since lifted the first unofficial International Women's Club Championship in Japan, will therefore participate in the next round of UEFA's women's club competition in March. The Women's Champions League draw was held at UEFA headquarters in Nyon on 27 November, and produced a double duel between the clubs from the only two associations with two representatives each still in contention – France and Sweden:

*FCF Juvisy Essonne v Göteborg FC*  
*Olympique Lyonnais v FC Malmö*  
*Arsenal Ladies FC v ASD Torres CF*  
*VfL Wolfsburg v FC Rossiyanka*

The semi-final draw, held in Nyon on the same day, ensured that the final will not feature two clubs from the same association, since the winners of the first two quarter-finals will face each other in one semi-final, while the other will involve the winners of the other two quarter-finals between English, Italian, German and Russian teams.

The quarter-finals will be played on 20/21 March (first legs) and 27/28 March (return legs). The semi-finals will take place on 13/14 April and 20/21 April. The final will be held at Stamford Bridge in London on 23 May. ●

## European Under-21 Championship FINAL ROUND GROUPS

The draw for the final round of the current European Under-21 Championship was held in Tel Aviv on 28 November.



The seven play-off winners, and the hosts, Israel, were split into the following two groups:

**Group A:** *Israel, England, Norway, Italy*  
**Group B:** *Spain, Netherlands, Russia, Germany*

The group matches will be played from 5 to 12 June 2013, with the semi-finals on 15 June and the final on Tuesday 18 June.

### Youth competitions

## DRAWS IN NYON

Draws for the European Women's Under-17 and Under-19 Championships were held at UEFA's headquarters in Nyon on 20 November.

These draws determined the groups for the current season's second qualifying round and the first qualifying round for the 2013/14 season.

Nyon was also the venue for the draws for the elite round of the men's U17 and U19 competitions for the current season and the qualifying round groups for 2013/14. The results will be published in the next issue of UEFA-direct and on UEFA.com.

### Club competitions

## STAGE SET FOR KNOCKOUT ROUNDS

The group matches in the UEFA Champions League and UEFA Europa League were completed at the beginning of December.

The draws for the UEFA Champions League round of 16 and UEFA Europa League rounds of 32 and 16 will be held in Nyon on 20 December.

Whereas the Europa League holders, Club Atlético de Madrid, strolled through to the knockout stages, the same cannot be said of Chelsea FC, who won the Champions League in May but failed to make it past the group stage this time round.

Those through to the first knockout round are: *Arsenal FC*, *FC Barcelona*, *FC Bayern München*, Borussia Dortmund, Celtic FC, Galatasaray AŞ, Juventus, Málaga CF, Manchester United FC, AC Milan, Paris Saint-Germain FC, FC Porto, *Real Madrid CF*, FC Schalke 04, FC Shakhtar Donetsk and Valencia CF.

Only five of them (in italics) were in the round of 16 last season. ●



## The legacy of the U-17 Women's World Cup

This year has been a memorable one for Azerbaijan, both from a footballing and a broader social perspective. The country hosted a FIFA event for the first time since gaining independence. From 22 September to 13 October, the third FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup took place in Baku and Lankaran. Sixteen teams from six continents visited the "land of fires" to compete for the title. This overwhelmingly popular event has had a positive impact on young professional footballers, newcomers to football and the general public in Azerbaijan,



as well as on the popularity of women's football.

The competition came to a successful conclusion with a breathtaking final between France and North Korea. Although the final tournament itself lasted only 22 days, the sustainability

of this FIFA initiative in Azerbaijan will continue to benefit the country. In her interview to UNICEF Television, superstar Shakira emphasised the importance of female athletes in the process of balancing the role of women in societies such as Azerbaijan and improving the quality and accessibility of education.

The efforts and goodwill of the Association of Football Federations of Azerbaijan did not go unnoticed by the international football community or by FIFA, the main organisers of the tournament. During his visit to Azerbaijan, the FIFA president, Joseph S. Blatter, mentioned his satisfaction at the overall organisation, and thought that the event was a step in the right direction in terms of the integration of women into society. Through the social and cultural programmes that the country initiated hand in hand with FIFA during the competition, the message and the positive effect of the game was reflected far beyond the pitch. *"It is not just about football, it is about sport, since a proper sporting and physical culture shapes a healthy and exemplary society,"* said Mr Blatter in Baku.

The UEFA president, Michel Platini, also delivered his congratulations on the successful organisation of the event during a meeting with the president of Azerbaijan, and reiterated the importance of the implementation of further measures to develop football in the country.

Azerbaijan clearly showed a strong will and made a huge leap towards hosting regional and international sports events again in the near future. The Azerbaijani government is continuously investing in sports development, which is resulting in the establishment of a pool of young professional athletes and the construction of sporting infrastructure that meets high standards.

*"The successful organisation of the recent FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup will benefit the team and individual sports in Azerbaijan, and will help give the country confidence for future endeavours in international sports competitions,"* said the Azerbaijani president, Ilham Aliyev, in his speech before the Azerbaijani Olympic committee on the 20th anniversary of its establishment.

● Ayan Aghayeva



## Howard Webb: a role model for Belgium's young referees

Howard Webb, one of the world's finest referees, was guest of honour at an event for Belgian referees held at the headquarters of the Royal Belgian Football Association on 1 November.

The eloquent English referee spoke for an hour before an audience of young referees, who were impressed by his infectious enthusiasm.

At a time when it is not always easy to recruit new referees, he was a persuasive advocate for his profession, which is as noble as it is difficult.

Having been fortunate enough to referee an FA Cup final, a UEFA Champions League final and a FIFA World Cup final, he was obviously ideally placed to offer our young referees some valuable advice. Among other things, he focused on five key words that had helped to make him one of the best referees in the world: passion, vision, self-confidence, perseverance and courage.

He accepted that refereeing was difficult – all the more so given that both the pace of the game and the rewards at stake are constantly increasing – but insisted that you should always believe in yourself. Howard Webb had a dream and, with perseverance, he has made it to the



Howard Webb exudes a passion for refereeing

very pinnacle of his profession. Although he has already experienced all of the finest things that football has to offer, he is always conscious of how lucky he is to be living his dream, and his next goal is to officiate at the 2014 FIFA World Cup in Brazil.

Howard Webb also delighted those present at the Belgian FA event with his generosity with his time, happily posing for photos and signing autographs.

The entire event was further proof – if proof were needed – that the English referee is just as great off the field as on it.

● Pierre Cornez



## FK Željezničar on top at the halfway mark

With half the games played, defending champions FK Željezničar are at the top of the Bosnian and Herzegovinian Premier League, which from this season is sponsored by BH Telecom. The team from Grbavica Stadium head the table with 35 points, two more than city rivals FK Sarajevo. The first half of the championship will be remembered for the 100th derby between the two, which was played at Asim Ferhatović Hase Stadion and won by FK Sarajevo 1-0. The first of those 100 derbies was played 58 years ago on 10 October 1954. It is interesting to note that at the halfway stage the table is headed by four teams from the capital: FK Željezničar, FK Sarajevo, FK Olimpik Sarajevo and FK Slavija Sarajevo.

In the Bosnian and Herzegovinian Cup, defending champions FK Željezničar advanced to the semi-finals, where they were joined by NK Široki Brijeg, HŠK Zrinjski and surprise package FK Sloga Dobo.

The semi-finals will be played in March next year, when the premier league is also scheduled to restart after the winter break.

Bosnia and Herzegovina's national team followed this autumn's successes in qualifying matches for the 2014 FIFA World Cup with victory in a friendly against Algeria. Held as part of celebrations marking the 50th anniversary of Algeria's independence, the game saw Bosnia and Herzegovina beat their hosts 1-0, with the only goal being scored by Muamer Svraka of FK Željezničar in injury time. These teams are coached by two Bosnian legends – Vahid Halilhodžić and Safet Sušić – who are also good friends. Halilhodžić and Sušić played against

each other in the colours of FK Velež and FK Sarajevo in the Yugoslavian First League. Both then moved to France, where they played for FC Nantes and Paris Saint-Germain FC respectively. They played together in the Yugoslavian national team and spent one season together (1986/87) at Paris Saint-Germain.

In preparation for their qualifying campaign for the 2015 European Under-21 Championship final round in the Czech Republic, the Bosnian team has begun a series of five friendly matches. In the first of those games, at Stadion Bilino polje in Zenica, Vlado Jagodić's team drew 0-0 with Poland's Under-21s. Despite that result, Vlado Jagodić and his assistants, Avdo Kalajdžić, Dragan Perić and Adnan Gušo, have the support of the Bosnia and Herzegovina Football Federation normalisation committee and will lead the team for the next two years.

● Fuad Kravac



FK Sarajevo (in red) came away with the spoils from their 100th derby against FK Željezničar

## The Captain's Ball for Richard Møller Nielsen

The former head coach of Finland, Richard Møller Nielsen, was awarded the Captain's Ball, the highest award presented by the Football Association of Finland, at the season-ending gala in Helsinki on Monday 12 November.

The Captain's Ball is an annual prize given for exceptional merit in Finnish football. It was first presented to the then national team captain, Jari Litmanen, ten years ago. The former AFC Ajax striker decided that the prize should be awarded annually, and he is currently a member of the Captain's Ball committee, which decides who will receive the top award each year.

Richard Møller Nielsen, who tasted great success playing for the Danish national team that won EURO '92, coached Finland from 1996 to 1999. Although the national team only came close to qualifying for the play-offs for the 1998 FIFA World Cup during Møller Nielsen's tenure, the impact he has had on the Finnish game is undisputable. The Danish mastermind brought

new young players such as Jonatan Johansson, Hannu Tihinen, Teemu Tainio, Aki Riihilahti, Shefki Kuqi and Juha Reini into his squad, which quickly developed an identity of its own with established stars such as Litmanen and Sami Hyypiä.

"In Richard Møller Nielsen, Finland got a vital lift at international level not in terms of the men's A squad, but national football as a whole. Richard's commitment to Finland was – and still is – sincere. He brought respect and self-esteem to the domestic game, which built the basis for the future. Players from the domestic league were included in the national squad, and almost overnight they transferred abroad to bigger leagues, as they gained valuable trust in their abilities from Richard Møller Nielsen," the Captain's Ball committee said of the award winner.

"I have always felt welcome and at home in Finland, together with my wife. I appreciate this recognition tremendously, especially as it involves such a great player and professional as Jari Litmanen. I still closely follow Finnish



Richard Møller Nielsen was delighted to receive the Captain's Ball

football. Although the national A team is currently in a transition phase, I think that the future looks bright. With Mixu Paatelainen, Finland has a head coach with a winning mentality, which means a lot when it comes to team-building," said Møller Nielsen.

At the end-of-season gala, Niklas Moisander of Ajax was named player of the year. The women's national team captain, Maija Saari of AIK, took the prize in the women's category after leading Finland to their third consecutive European Women's Championship final round, which will be played in Sweden next summer.

● Sami Terävä

## Etoile Sportive Labeuvrière in dreamland

Launched at the beginning of October on the French Cup's Facebook page, the Dream Match competition organised by the French Football Federation (FFF) was won by Etoile Sportive Labeuvrière. As a result, when the cup reached the sixth round stage, all eyes turned to this village in the Nord Pas-de-Calais region – which has a population of 1,600 and a team in the lower leagues (at the "Excellence" level) – as it hosted a match with all the trappings of a cup final. A total of 25,000 people voted in the competition.

The team with the most votes would have its sixth round match in the French Cup treated like the final. Consequently, all the things that are normally reserved for the Stade de France came to Labeuvrière: the trophy was there; a press conference was held on the eve of the match; there were reports on preparations at the club and in the village; the stadium was decked out in the colours of the French Cup; entertainment was organised; and supporters' kits containing



A cup final atmosphere at the stadium in Labeuvrière

inflatable clappers, balloons, flags and even face paints were handed out. France Télévisions and Eurosport, which broadcast the French Cup, also joined in, showing the match live on their respective websites. The match could also be seen on www.fff.fr and the French Cup's Facebook page.

These two weeks will live long in the memory in this village in northern France. It was a fortnight in which Labeuvrière bubbled with excitement thanks to the FFF initiative: "One of our players read about it on the FFF's website," explained the club's president, Eric Lauridan. "After our success in the fifth round, we began telling people about it in order to get as many votes as possible. We gave out leaflets,

we went round local bistros and nightclubs... even the players' wives joined in!"

Their tireless campaign bore fruit. Etoile Sportive Labeuvrière finished well clear of the competition with 8,622 votes, ahead of runners-up FC Quimper, who managed 7,402 votes. So, the first winners of this competition earned themselves a sixth-round match worthy of the final contested each spring at the Stade de France, and a record 1,300 people squeezed into the Stade des Sablons to enjoy the party. Unsurprisingly, given that they faced opponents playing five leagues above them (at the "Honneur" level), Labeuvrière lost 3-0 to Cambrai. But that scarcely mattered.

"It is incredible for us to be in the limelight like this. We know that this will not happen again any time soon." The coach and the club president were in agreement: "This is a superb initiative. This has been a wonderful adventure for everybody at the club. A dream has come true." The name "Dream Match" is most apt.

● Matthieu Brelle-Andrade

## Two teams in the elite round once again

Georgia's Under-17 and Under-19 teams have again made successful starts to their participation in UEFA competitions. Just like last season, Georgia will be represented by two of its youth teams at the elite round stage.

Group 13 of the first round of the 2012/13 European Under-17 Championship was contested in Tbilisi, the capital of Georgia. Georgia lost their first match 3-1 against Ukraine, but then beat Luxembourg 3-1. They won their crucial final match, beating Scotland 3-0. George Devdariani's team finished with

six points and followed Ukraine into the elite round.

Last season, Georgia's Under-17 team were extremely successful, winning their group in the elite round and reaching the semi-finals of the final round in Slovenia, a first for a Georgian team. We hope to match that this year.

Georgia's Under-19 team, coached by Kakha Kacharava, had a tough start to their qualifying round in Croatia. They lost 2-0 to the hosts, before drawing 1-1 with Azerbaijan.

Like the Under-17s, the Under-19s qualified as the second-placed team by winning their third and final match. Bachana Arabuli scored both goals as Georgia beat Iceland 2-0, leaving



The Georgian Under-17 national team

them with four points and a place in the elite round.

Georgia's youth teams are now getting ready for the forthcoming UEFA tournaments. Georgia's young footballers have some exciting challenges ahead of them.

● Eka Eloshvili



### Georgios Sarris elected president

Fifty-four-year-old doctor Georgios Sarris has been elected as the new president of the Hellenic Football Federation. He was chosen as the head of the Greek football family at the federation's general assembly by the vast majority of representatives from local football unions.

Georgios Sarris takes over from Sofoklis Pilavios, who was president of the federation for the past four years, during which time Dr Sarris was a member of the board.

An amateur footballer during his early years, Georgios Sarris first became involved with football administration in 2001, when he was elected as a member of the board of his home football union on the island of Chios. Just two years later, in 2003, he took over as president of the football union there.

Speaking after his election at the helm of the Hellenic Football Federation, Dr Sarris said:



*Georgios Sarris, the new president of the Hellenic Football Federation, alongside the UEFA President*

*"The choice of the Greek football unions takes us to the future. I want to thank all those who participated in this general assembly, whether they voted for me or not. As far as I am concerned, it doesn't make any difference. My administration will assist everybody and cooperate with everybody. We have a programme, a vision, and we will make it happen. We need all members of the football family to be united and work together as one in order to succeed. Problems can only be solved through solidarity and unity."*

● Giota Kaisari



### Grassroots award for experienced coach

In November, the president of the Hungarian Football Federation (MLSZ), Sándor Csányi, and the MLSZ grassroots manager, Tibor Óze,



*Csilla Ugrai with Tibor Óze (right) and Sándor Csányi (left)*

presented this year's UEFA best grassroots leader bronze award to Csilla Ugrai.

The 47-year-old started her career at the age of 13, when she made her debut for her first adult women's side. She spent seven years in the Israeli football league, and only stopped playing futsal at the age of 45. She currently plays an important role in women's football in the town of Dévaványa, as the local club's technical director, and has also been head coach of the men's youth teams at the clubs in Dévaványa and Szeghalom. She is thus a respected coach in both the men's and women's games.

At a ceremony to inaugurate a new football pitch in Algyó, the MLSZ presented the award certificate to Csilla Ugrai on behalf of UEFA, along with 100 footballs. The Algyó pitch is just one example of the 74 new pitches that the MLSZ has built this year.

● Márton Dinnyés



### Traditional winter football tournament

As it has done most winters for almost four decades, Israel hosted again its traditional winter football tournament for national Under-18 teams. The tournament took place from 10 to 13 December, with games played at two recently completed sports complexes.

This tournament is an opportunity for top players from all over Europe to show what they can do. Over the years, many great players have come to participate in this tournament with their national teams – players such as Luís Figo (Portugal), Gheorghe Hagi (Romania) and Brian Laudrup (Denmark). All of the great Israeli footballers have played in the tournament, which the Israel Football Association (IFA) regards as an important part of its



*The tournament logo*

investment in the next generation of players. This year, the teams participating in the tournament were Germany and Serbia – along with hosts Israel.

All of the games were played at two new sports complexes: the new stadium in Netanya, which will also host the opening match of the European Under-21 Championship final round in June; and Beit Hanivharot, the Israeli national team's new home, which is just outside Tel Aviv.

The IFA is delighted to be hosting this important tournament, sharing not only our football, but also – given that most of Europe will be freezing in December – our great warm weather.

● Michal Grundland



### National football stars obtain coaching licences

A number of experienced professional players in Kazakhstan have recently passed coaching exams and will now be awarded A licences by the technical centre of the Football Federation of Kazakhstan (KFF).

The programme in question – which is aimed specifically at professional players with many years of experience – was launched a year ago as an experiment, and these are the first graduates of the course. Among them are several famous local players – including Samat Smakov, Ruslan Baltiev, Kairat Nurdauletov, Nurbol Zhumaskaliyev, Andrei Karpovich, Mourat Tleshev, Kairat Ashirbekov and Aidar Kumisbekov. According to Kairat Adambekov, director of the technical centre, everyone on the course was highly committed. It was extremely hard for the players, as they had to combine their studies with matches and training at their respective clubs.



*A number of former top Kazakh footballers are studying for their coaching licences*

Peter Maranda, the liaison officer for UEFA's coach education programmes in Kazakhstan, noted the calibre of the participants and the rising level of interest in coach education in Kazakhstan. "We are delighted that the KFF is paying so much attention to its educational and training responsibilities. Kazakhstan is among the best in Europe in terms of the implementation of coaching innovations, and following the Pro, A, B and C licences and the training programme for fitness coaches, we are delighted to report on the successful implementation of an A licence for professional players with considerable experience. We are especially glad that the KFF is giving a helping hand to top players who are close to retirement. I know that all the participants in the first course were stars of Kazakhstani football, and the fact that the KFF is providing them with opportunities to extend their careers in football is really encouraging. We appreciate our partnership and hope that joint educational and training programmes organised by UEFA and the KFF will open up new areas of cooperation for Kazakhstani football," said Peter Maranda.

● Izmail Bzarov



## New national team coach

At the end of October, the Liechtenstein Football Association (LFV) introduced its new national team coach. He is the former Under-21 coach Rene Pauritsch, who has been with the LFV since 2008. By mutual agreement, the LFV and Pauritsch's predecessor as national team coach, Bidu Zaugg, parted company sooner than planned, to allow the association to move forward as quickly as possible with changes in the youth sector, which will have a knock-on



Rene Pauritsch, the new head coach of the national team

be the LFV's national team coach, but will also hold the position of director of football.

effect on the national Under-21 and senior teams. Rene Pauritsch, who played football in the Austrian Bundesliga, will not only

As part of the ongoing restructuring process at the LFV, former German Bundesliga player Roger Prinzen becomes the new Under-21 coach. Prinzen, who is familiar with Liechtenstein football from his previous coaching activities in the country, will also take charge of the Liechtenstein Under-15 team, who play in the Swiss elite youth championship.

● Anton Banzer

## First UEFA Pro licence course in Lithuania

The first UEFA Pro licence course run by the Lithuanian Football Federation (LFF) is now well under way, with coaches taking part in a number of seminars.

The course began in the summer, when English instructor Stephen Constantine visited the national football academy in Kaunas to share his knowledge. Coaches have had to analyse matches from UEFA EURO 2012, before visiting Nyon for a UEFA student exchange course in October alongside colleagues from Latvia, Turkey and Slovakia.

The 16-strong group participating in the first course includes Lithuanian legend Arminas Narbekovas, former national coach Raimondas Žutautas and other well-known Lithuanian coaches.

"In our profession, you always have to look for new things. These courses are a good opportunity to share experiences and learn more. I'm delighted that, for the first time, we have a course like this in Lithuania," commented Valdas Urbonas, who recently led FK Ekranas to a fifth successive league title.

Urbonas was named coach of the year for the second successive season, while Gaziantepspor goalkeeper Žydrūnas Karčemarskas won the Lithuanian player of the year award for the second year running. The domestic player of the year award went to FC Šiauliai striker Artūras Rimkevičius, whose 35 goals last season beat a goalscoring record that had stood since 1956. FK Ekranas goalkeeper Emilijus Zubas picked up the young player of the year award.

● Vaidotas Januška



The Pro licence students

## UEFA A licence course

The commitment of the Malta Football Association (MFA) towards providing extensive coach education can be seen in the numerous coaching courses its technical centre runs throughout the year.

The latest activity of this sort is a comprehensive UEFA A licence course comprising eight modules and spanning a period of eight months. The course is the highest qualification that can be obtained in Malta, and so is tailored to coaches who have already accumulated substantial experience.

The inaugural session – covering the first module – was held at the end of October. For the occasion, UEFA sent its instructor Nico Romeijn, who is director of coaching academics at the Royal Netherlands Football Association and a member of the UEFA Jira Panel, which advises on coach education matters.

Nico Romeijn's vast experience in different spheres of coaching as well as his instructing abilities provided the right impetus for the 22 student coaches. The main objective of the course is to develop in the coaches a high level



Coach education is a top priority for the Malta Football Association

of self-confidence in their work and to help each of them acquire the ability and personality to be able to create a positive coaching environment.

Such qualities should help the participants to promote modern techniques, thereby developing the game and taking it to higher levels.

The course is being conducted in the ideal setting of the MFA complex at Ta' Qali, where facilities for theory and practical sessions are state of the art.

● Alex Vella

## Successful mini-pitch project in Moldova

The Football Association of Moldova (FMF), in partnership with local authorities and the country's sports institutes, has overseen the creation of 150 multi-purpose mini-pitches throughout Moldova within the framework of the UEFA HatTrick assistance programme.

"This project first came about in 2005 with the principal aim of creating mini-pitches around the country to encourage children and young people to play sports – and to provide them with a safe environment to do so," said the president of the FMF, Pavel Cebanu.

"We also wanted to foster unity and social inclusion in deprived areas, from both a social and a sporting point of view. The success of the first stage of the project led to an application for a new project to the UEFA HatTrick programme. And now that we have installed 150 mini-pitches in all regions of our country, we have a lot of requests to install them in other places! We intend to continue the work in this direction."

The construction of mini-pitches has been an important element of the UEFA HatTrick programme since it began in 2004, with each of UEFA's 53 member associations receiving funding to build pitches where young people can play football in a safe environment.

● Press office



The 150th mini-pitch in Moldova was installed in Razeni



### Grassroots football awards

The stars of grassroots football in Northern Ireland were celebrated recently by McDonald's, the Irish Football Association and former greats Pat Jennings, Sir Geoff Hurst, Ian Rush and Eric Harrison at the McDonald's Irish FA Community Awards 2012 at Belfast City Hall.

McDonald's has been the official community partner of the Irish FA since 2002, and the awards initiative was introduced last year to celebrate the local clubs, coaches and volunteers that make outstanding contributions to grassroots football and to local communities throughout Northern Ireland.

Pat Jennings supported the event through his position as head of Northern Ireland football for McDonald's: "I'm delighted that once again the Irish FA and McDonald's have recognised and rewarded the local people who do so much for grassroots football throughout Northern Ireland. The dedication, commitment and



The award winners from an evening celebrating grassroots football

passion shown by the nominees and winners is truly inspirational; they provide the opportunity for young people to play the game in a fun, safe and controlled environment, and it is only fitting that we recognise their outstanding efforts."

Nine category winners were announced on the night, with Jon Clifford posthumously receiving the main award for his outstanding

contribution to grassroots football. The full list of winners is as follows:

- Outstanding Contribution – Jon Clifford, Tristar FC (posthumous)
- Young Volunteer of the Year – Gareth Connor, Institute FC
- Volunteer of the Year – Andy Alcorn, Coleraine FC
- Coach of the Year – John Quinn, Ballinamallard FC
- Accredited Club of the Year – Ballymore FC
- Female Coach of the Year – Hannah Majury, Ballinahinch Youth FC
- Disability Football Coach of the Year – George Moffett, Clanrye ETS
- Community Relations Award – Christopher Moffett, Northern Ireland Community of Refugees and Asylum Seekers
- The People's Award – Jackie Mooney, Camlough Rovers FC

● Sueann Harrison



### Goalkeeper Day

The Portuguese Football Federation (FPF), in partnership with Desporto Escolar, a state body promoting sport in schools, has begun its second annual "Goalkeeper Day" initiative. Last season, approximately 200 children from all over Portugal participated in this project. The initiative – which is aimed at children born between 1998 and 2002 – focuses on a very specific position: the goalkeeper. This season's events began in November. Paulo Bento, head coach of the national team, is participating, as are Ricardo Peres, Fernando Brassard, Pedro

Espinha and Pedro Roma, the goalkeeping coaches of the various Portuguese national teams, and the first event in the north of the country featured a special guest appearance by Portuguese international goalkeeper Beto. This season's initiative promises to be another success.

In parallel, the FPF and Desporto Escolar have developed the "Technique-spotting goes to School" initiative, which seeks to draw children's attention to the emergence of a new activity: technical analysis and observation of the game. This initiative highlights the work carried out by the FPF's observation and analysis



Young Portuguese footballers learn more about the role of the goalkeeper

team, explaining the importance of this new area for national coaches.

● Bruno Henrique



### Fans' award dedicated to family of James Nolan

The UEFA president, Michel Platini, presented a special UEFA EURO 2012 award before the start of the recent international friendly at the Dublin Arena between the Republic of Ireland and Greece.

Mr Platini presented the family of James Nolan with the EURO 2012 fans' award after the Football Association of Ireland (FAI) and the Irish fans had decided that it should be dedicated to the memory of the 21-year-old Irish fan, who tragically lost his life in a drowning accident during the tournament.

James's father Jimmy, mother Essie, sister Susie and brother Andrew joined the UEFA president on the pitch for the presentation, which received a standing ovation from both sets of players and the spectators.

The FAI chief executive, John Delaney, said: "Football is a game we all cherish and pour our emotions into, but we must always put things into perspective and the memory of James Nolan reminds us of what really is most important in life."

● Stephen Finn



The UEFA President presents the fans' award to the family of James Nolan

## Fighting discrimination

The Romanian Football Federation (FRF) and Romanian internationals past and present have joined forces to produce a video aimed at fighting discrimination.

The video seeks to use football and its values to stamp out intolerance. The clip has already been broadcast by several TV stations, as well as being played on the giant screen at the Stadionul Național in Bucharest at Romania's qualifying matches for the 2014 FIFA World Cup. The initiative is part of the FRF's social responsibility activities.

Internationals Costel Pantilimon, Marius Niculae, Dorin Goian and Raul Rusescu – who

were given permission to leave their training camp ahead of a recent FIFA World Cup qualifier – joined Romanian footballing legends Miodrag Belodedici and Florentin Petre to shoot the video in the stands and dressing rooms of the national stadium.

The video is part of a long-standing partnership between the FRF and Romania's Policy Center for Roma and Minorities, which campaigns for social inclusion and changes in attitudes towards minority groups. A number of projects have been carried out, including campaigns at international matches and initiatives off the field.

Other projects will follow. "This is just a first step in a much wider campaign aimed

at promoting tolerance and fighting discrimination and violence, both inside and outside the stadiums," said Valeriu Nicolae, founder and executive director of the Policy Center for Roma and Minorities, who created the video together with two of his colleagues. He thanked the FRF and the national team for their cooperation.

● Paul Zaharia



## A positive environment for young players

Former Scotland national coach Alex McLeish has pledged his support to a Scottish FA programme which creates the right environment for young people to make the most out of playing football.

Positive Coaching Scotland (PCS), which has been incorporated into all Scottish Football Association (SFA) grassroots programmes, aims to create a football culture in Scotland where young players can develop in a positive, safe environment, where they learn to win through effort and where valuable life lessons are taught.

"Football has taught me a lot about life and the PCS programme recognises the power of the game to impact positively on people's lives," McLeish said.

"Coaches and parents have such a huge responsibility to develop kids' confidence.

I was lucky, when I was growing up in the Glasgow area I had terrific coaches around me who brought out my enthusiasm for the game. I then had great mentors when I broke through at Aberdeen. It was the ideal environment to do well in."

The PCS programme has a two-goal strategy: the first goal is to teach young people vital character-building skills through football; the second is to teach them to win. Learning to compete effectively is a necessity in all areas of life. The PCS way is to win, just not at all costs, but through applying concerted effort to achieve set goals.

Scotland's national team captain, Darren Fletcher, has also given his support to the programme by signing the PCS club pledge – which individuals and clubs can do at [www.scottishfa.co.uk](http://www.scottishfa.co.uk).

McLeish urged others to show their support too.

"This is a programme which can shape the Scottish football culture for years to come; people should get behind it," he said.

● Andrew Harris



Alex McLeish is giving his support to the Scottish Football Association's playing environment programme



The Valentin Granatkin memorial tournament has become a traditional fixture in the Russian football calendar

## Valentin Granatkin memorial tournament

The new 2013 Russian football season begins with the traditional international youth football tournament in memory of Valentin Granatkin, who was the very first vice-president of FIFA. The 25th anniversary tournament will take place in St Petersburg from 5 to 13 January.

This time, 16 youth teams – mostly Under-17s – will be taking part: Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, the Czech Republic, Finland, Greece, Iran, Italy, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Russia, St Petersburg, Slovenia, Turkey and Ukraine. The defending champions are Italy.

The draw for the tournament was conducted at the end of November, placing the Czech Republic, Ukraine, Azerbaijan and Lithuania in Group A, Russia, Greece, Slovenia and Latvia in Group B, Turkey, Finland, Iran and Kazakhstan in Group C, and, last but not least, Italy, Belgium, Belarus and St Petersburg in Group D.

The tournament started back in 1981, when it was organised in Moscow on the initiative of the then FIFA president, João Havelange. It attracted the attention of both professionals

and football fans, as well as the presence of the president of the International Olympic Committee of the time, Juan Antonio Samaranch. The winners were presented with their prize by Granatkin's daughter, Marina Valentinovna.

In 1982, the tournament was again held in Moscow, but it moved to Leningrad (now St Petersburg) in 1983, where it has remained ever since. In all, 16 countries took part in the 12 tournaments held up to 1992.

The second period in the tournament's history began in 2001, when it changed quite radically. The number of participants increased to eight teams, which played first in two round-robin groups, followed by knockout matches.

In its time, the Granatkin memorial tournament has showcased some future footballing greats, including Andreas Moeller, Oliver Bierhoff, Karsten Janker, Marcel Desailly, Dmitri Alenichev, Igor Kolyvanov and Alexandr Mostovoy, who all impressed when they appeared in the tournament for their respective countries.

● Irina Baranova



### Former national players embark on coach education course

In November, the Football Association of Serbia (FSS) kicked off a new A licence coaching course at its coaching school, founded in cooperation with UEFA. In the group of 41 newcomers are 13 former national team players, who have now started their education for what – at least for most of them – will be their future job.

The FSS's idea was to gather together a group of famous players, from which they expect some "big" coaching names to emerge in the future. The 13 former national team players in the group are Nemanja Vidić (captain, Manchester United FC), Darko Kovačević



Vladimir Ivić and Darko Kovačević, two of the coaching licence candidates

(sporting director, Olympiacos FC), Zoran Mirković (former sporting director, FSS), Mladen Krstajić (former sporting director, FK Partizan), Mateja Kežman, Dragan Čirić, Milivoje Ćirković, Goran Petrić, Vladimir Ivić, Dražen Bolić, Spira Grujić, Goran Drulić and Ivan Tomić.

*"It is a privilege to be part of a strong learning group in preparation for new duties in our lives. We have experience from the pitch, but now it is time to learn something new, to see how it looks from the other side and to prepare ourselves for new challenges. I am very proud because I have a chance to be here, and expect that one day we will all be good coaches,"* said Mateja Kežman, the former forward who won 49 caps for the national team and whose club career included spells at FK Partizan, PSV Eindhoven, Chelsea FC, Club Atlético de Madrid and Fenerbahçe SK.

At the end of the first week of the course, Kežman and Darko Kovačević assisted with the draw for the quarter-finals of the Serbian cup.

● Aleksandar Bosković



### Five central European football associations sign a memorandum of cooperation

The presidents and general secretaries of the Austrian, Czech, Polish, Hungarian and Slovak football associations met in Bratislava on 22 and 23 November. They presented work carried out by their respective national associations and signed a memorandum of cooperation, declaring their desire to foster friendly relations and mutual cooperation across central Europe in order to identify common needs and interests in the area of football. The main areas of cooperation will be legal affairs, marketing, IT, the organisation of football events, doping and match-fixing, and spectator violence. Cooperation will take the form of (i) sharing information, experience and best practices, (ii) exchange initiatives for qualified experts and employees, (iii) discussions and consultations on

various aspects of football governance, and (iv) the organisation of workshops, seminars and conferences.

Ján Kováčik, the president of the Slovak Football Association (SFZ), reported on the meeting at the subsequent press conference: *"I am delighted that we had the opportunity to organise the first meeting of this group. We have presented the work carried out by each association, and we have reported on what we do well and where we have problems. We have agreed on the main areas of cooperation and will meet on an annual basis. Now we need time. We have not yet had enough time to work in detail on any specific project, but we have evaluated the status of each association. Now it's down to our*



Ján Kováčik, president of the Slovak Football Association

*general secretaries, so next year we can talk about specific projects."* These central European member associations will meet every year, and in 2013 the meeting will be hosted by the Football Association of the Czech Republic (FAČR).

At the end of the meeting, the general secretary of the Polish Football Federation (PZPN), Maciej Sawicki, the SFZ president, Ján Kováčik, and the president of the Hungarian Football Federation (MLSZ), Sándor Csányi, officially inaugurated the new artificial pitch at the national training centre in Senec, which was financed with the aid of UEFA's HatTrick III programme.

● Juraj Čurný



### What an inauguration!

Exactly nine years, four months and 14 days after the decision to build a new national stadium, the Friends Arena was inaugurated on 14 November with a friendly match between Sweden and England. Construction work on Sweden's new national stadium had started in December 2009 and finished in October 2012, plenty of work is still going on in the area surrounding the stadium. The arena is a joint venture between the Swedish FA, the city of Solna, Fabege (a property company), PEAB (construction and civil engineering) and Jernhusen (railway network).

A sold-out arena filled with 49,967 spectators (Sweden's largest home crowd since 1960) were treated to a majestic inauguration by Zlatan Ibrahimović, who scored four goals on the night. Sweden's 4-2 victory was a grand finale to a fine year for Swedish football.

Ibrahimović's extraordinary performance against England came days after he was presented with "Guldbollen" (the Swedish



Four goals against England for Zlatan Ibrahimović, including a spectacular bicycle kick

player of the year award) for the seventh time. At the same football awards ceremony, Lotta Schelin received her third "Diamantbollen" as Swedish women's player of the year. The Friends Arena is set for a busy 2013

in football: Sweden v Argentina on 6 February is first up, with World Cup qualifiers and the final of the UEFA Women's EURO to follow.

● Andreas Nilsson

## It all began 30 years ago...

When the Swiss Football Association launched its schools football championship 30 years ago, no one in the association could have known what an incredible success story it would turn into – not even the head of grassroots football at the time, Charles Rubli.

Today, the schools football championship – the Credit Suisse Cup – in which some 150,000 boys and girls take part, is the biggest youth sports event in Switzerland and is still growing in popularity. The championship has flourished over the years and now involves 6,000 teams

of players aged between 10 and 16 from all 26 Swiss cantons, as well as from Liechtenstein. The winners of each cantonal qualifying tournament go through to the final round to play for the national title.

The 26 voluntary cantonal schools football leaders recently held their annual get-together. For a change, this information and coordination meeting did not take place at the headquarters of the Swiss FA, but in the media centre at the Stade de Suisse. Among the items on the agenda of the meeting led by Luca Balduzzi, the Swiss FA's head of grassroots football, were the new concept for the championship from



*The schools football championship is steadily growing in popularity among both boys and girls*

2012 to 2016, as well as various organisational matters. The presence of Meinrad Flury (member of the Swiss FA's amateur league committee) underscored the valuable contribution of the cantonal schools football leaders to the schools football championship.

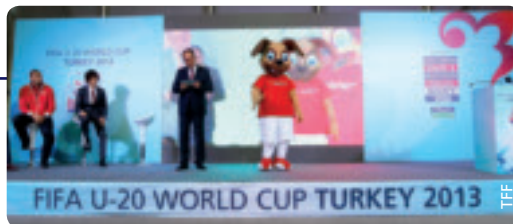
● Pierre Benoit

## Official mascot launched

The opening match of next year's FIFA U-20 World Cup in Turkey will kick off on 21 June, and as the countdown continues, the local organising committee launched the official mascot at the historic 19th century Ottoman Esmâ Sultan in Istanbul on 12 November.

Emre Aşık, the former Turkish national team player who is currently assistant coach of the U20 national team, Burak Yılmaz, the Galatasaray AŞ striker and current national team player who played in the U20 World Cup in 2005, and Salih Uçan, who plays in midfield for Fenerbahçe SK and the U20 national team, all came onto the stage during the launch to answer the compère's questions about next year's tournament.

Then the official mascot of the tournament, "Kanki", was invited onto the stage and was given a warm reception by the audience. Kanki gets his name from the Turkish word "kanka", which means "blood brother". He is an adorable one-year-old puppy, who was born



*Introducing Kanki, the mascot for next year's FIFA U-20 World Cup*

in a village called Kangal in the province of Sivas. He one of a unique breed of dogs, which was first introduced by the Oghuz Turks and which nowadays are pampered with special care and training at kennels. Kanki is a good-tempered, cheerful, obedient puppy. He is full of life, gets on really well with children and older people, learns quickly, and has a great memory. Like all Kangal dogs, Kanki is noble, friendly and protective, and will share the welcoming, warm and courteous qualities of Turkish culture with all visitors. He will stand up against all immoral and unhealthy behaviour.

In other news, the friendly between Turkey and Denmark on 14 November was the Turkish

national team's 500th international match in their 89-year history. Before the match, some memorable names from the past received awards for their service to Turkish football, to mark the occasion. Firstly, Fatih Terim, Rüştü Reçber, Hakan Şükür, Bülent Korkmaz, Recep Çetin, Servet Çetin, Oğuz Çetin, Oğün Temizkanoglu and Alpay

Özalan were presented with awards by members of the executive board of the Turkish Football Federation (TFF) for being capped more than 50 times during their senior national team careers.

Secondly, the Turkish minister of sports and youth, Suat Kılıç, and the TFF president, Yıldırım Demirören, presented second awards to Rüştü Reçber as the most capped player in Turkish national team history, to Hakan Şükür as the top goalscorer in national team history, and to Fatih Terim in recognition of his work as head coach of the national team. Lastly, Metin Oktay, Lefter Küçükandonyadis and Turgay Seren were also honoured for their success at international level.

● Aydın Güvenir

## Four Ukrainian clubs chase European glory

For the first time in Ukrainian football history, four clubs – FC Shakhtar Donetsk, FC Dynamo Kyiv, FC Metalist Kharkiv and FC Dnipro Dnipropetrovsk – will play in the knockout stages of this season's UEFA's club competitions. Not only that, but they all qualified in advance – one matchday before the end of the group stages. Two of them are even guaranteed to finish top of their groups. In spring, Shakhtar will contest the round of 16 in the

UEFA Champions League, while Dynamo, Metalist and Dnipro will line up in the UEFA Europa League round of 32. This is the first time Ukraine has been represented in the knockout stages of UEFA competitions by more than three teams.

In the 2004/05 season, three Ukrainian clubs reached the round of 32 of the UEFA Cup: Shakhtar and Dynamo, who had both finished third in their Champions League groups, alongside Dnipro, who had come through the UEFA Cup group stage. Four years later, in 2008/09, Dynamo and Shakhtar again finished third in their respective Champions League groups, this time joining Metalist in the UEFA Cup round of 32. While the team from Kharkiv left the competition in the round of 16, Dynamo's run continued to the semi-finals and Shakhtar went on to win the competition. The last time three Ukrainian teams were still involved in UEFA competitions beyond the group stages was in 2010/11.

The 2008/09 season was the most successful in terms of UEFA's coefficient system ranking points, with Ukrainian clubs scoring a total of 16,625. This season, we are hoping for at least a repeat of that result.

● Tatiana Gorobchenko

## Statue to former captain unveiled

In November, a happy occasion took place at the Cardiff City Stadium, when a statue of Fred Keenor, former Cardiff City and Wales captain, was unveiled. The funds for the statue were raised over two years by fans of the club, businessmen and members of the board of Cardiff City, the Football Association of Wales and the Wales Assembly Government. It was designed by artist Roger Andrews.

Fred Keenor was a mainstay for Cardiff City and Wales in the decade after the first world war, playing as a half-back in the Cardiff City team that won the FA Cup in 1927 and the Wales team that won the International Championship in 1924.

The statue, standing some 15 feet high including the plinth, is sited outside the ground, in the car park, and has already proven to be very popular with home and visiting fans alike.

● Ceri Stennett



*The statue in honour of Fred Keenor*



*Shakhtar Donetsk are guaranteed to progress from in UEFA Champions League Group E despite the presence of title holders Chelsea FC and Juventus of Italy*

Getty Images

## BIRTHDAYS IN JANUARY

Vlatko Marković (Croatia, 1.1)  
 Davor Šuker (Croatia, 1.1)  
**Monica Ortigueira (Switzerland, 2.1)**  
 ☆☆☆ 40th  
 Gerhard Sager (Sweden, 3.1)  
 Andreas Demetriou (Cyprus, 3.1)  
 Aleksei Spirin (Russia, 4.1)  
 Kuanysh Kanapyanov (Kazakhstan, 4.1)  
 David George Collins (Wales, 5.1)  
 Mariano Moreno (Spain, 6.1)  
**Walter Clarke (Northern Ireland, 6.1)**  
 ☆☆☆ 70th  
 Sergei Safaryan (Belarus, 6.1)  
 Rudolf Marxer (Liechtenstein, 6.1)  
 Sergiy Lysenchuk (Ukraine, 6.1)  
 Nelly Viennot (France, 8.1)  
 Bernhard Neuhold (Austria, 8.1)  
 Franco Ferrari (Italy, 9.1)  
**Velid Imamović (Bosnia-Herzegovina, 9.1)**  
 ☆☆☆ 50th  
 Herbert Hübel (Austria, 10.1)  
**Michel Dumoulin (Belgium, 11.1)**  
 ☆☆☆ 70th  
 Hans-Dieter Drewitz (Germany, 11.1)  
 Olivier Brochart (France, 11.1)  
 Elnur Mammadov (Azerbaijan, 11.1)  
**Juan N. Garcia-Nieto Portabella**  
 (Spain, 12.1) ☆☆☆ 50th  
**Sarah O'Shea (Republic of Ireland, 12.1)**  
 ☆☆☆ 40th  
 Derek Kirkwood (Scotland, 13.1)  
 Drago Kos (Slovenia, 13.1)  
 Sofoklis Pilavios (Greece, 13.1)  
 Sergei Ilyich (Belarus, 13.1)  
 Luis Horta (Portugal, 14.1)  
 Martin Iseli (Switzerland, 14.1)  
 Nodar Akhalkatsi (Georgia, 14.1)  
 Alessandro Lulli (Italy, 15.1)  
 Phivos Vakis (Cyprus, 15.1)  
 Atanas Furnadzhiev (Bulgaria, 15.1)  
 Mitja Lainscak (Slovenia, 15.1)  
 Kleomenis Bontiotis (Greece, 16.1)



*UEFA's offices in Nyon will be closed from 24 December to 2 January inclusive.*



*The next issue of UEFA•direct will be published in the second half of February.*



Sune Hellströmer (Sweden, 17.1)  
 Stephen Bennett (England, 17.1)  
 Blazenka Logarusic (Croatia, 17.1)  
 Fabrizio Tonelli (Italy, 18.1)  
**Bujar Kasmi (Albania, 19.1)**  
 ☆☆☆ 60th  
 Ansgar Schwenken (Germany, 19.1)  
 Lars-Åke Lagrell (Sweden, 20.1)  
 Pedro Ángel Galán Nieto (Spain, 20.1)  
 Bjorn Vassallo (Malta, 20.1)  
**Anders Mattsson (Finland, 21.1)**  
 ☆☆☆ 70th  
 Ángel María Villar Llona (Spain, 21.1)  
 Maria Teresa Andreu Grau (Spain, 21.1)  
 François Blaquart (France, 21.1)  
 Vladimir Iveta (Croatia, 21.1)  
 Are Habicht (Estonia, 22.1)  
 Alan Freeland (Scotland, 22.1)  
 Lassin Isaksen (Faroe Islands, 22.1)  
 Teuvo Holopainen (Finland, 23.1)  
 Harry M. Been (Netherlands, 23.1)  
 Pat Quigley (Republic of Ireland, 24.1)  
 Patrick Wattebled (France, 24.1)  
 Robin Dutt (Germany, 24.1)  
 Gevorg Hovhannisyan (Armenia, 25.1)  
 Metin Kazancioglu (Turkey, 26.1)  
 Florence Hardouin (France, 26.1)  
 Krister Malmsten (Sweden, 27.1)  
 Cosimo Bolognino (Italy, 30.1)  
**Brian Lawlor (Wales, 31.1) ☆☆☆ 50th**  
 Andreas Santis (Cyprus, 31.1)

## BIRTHDAYS IN FEBRUARY

Volker Roth (Germany, 1.2)  
 Karen Espelund (Norway, 1.2)  
 Kyros Vassaras (Greece, 1.2)  
 Leonardus van der Kroft (Netherlands, 2.2)  
 Trygve Bornø (Norway, 2.2)  
 Igor Shalimov (Russia, 2.2)  
 Steen Dahrup (Denmark, 3.2)  
**Mark Blackburne (England, 3.2)**  
 ☆☆☆ 50th  
 Renata Tomasova (Slovakia, 3.2)  
 Jelena Oblakovic-Babic (Serbia, 3.2)  
**Vaclav Krontl (Czech Republic, 5.2)**  
 ☆☆☆ 60th  
 Gabriel Weiss (Slovakia, 6.2)  
 Erich Rutenmüller (Germany, 8.2)  
 Yusuf Namoglu (Turkey, 8.2)  
 Michael Appleby (England, 8.2)  
 Fino Fini (Italy, 9.2)  
 Donald McVicar (Scotland, 9.2)  
 Danilo Filacchione (Italy, 9.2)

Zoran Laković (Serbia, 9.2)  
 Tomislav Karadžić (Serbia, 10.2)  
 Luc Rabat (France, 10.2)  
 Dani Koren (Israel, 10.2)  
 Stewart Regan (Scotland, 10.2)  
 William McDougall (Scotland, 11.2)  
 Annelie Larsson (Sweden, 11.2)  
 Fritz Stuchlik (Austria, 11.2)  
**Borislav Mihaylov (Bulgaria, 12.2)**  
 ☆☆☆ 50th  
 David McDowell (Slovenia, 12.2)  
 Oleksandr Bandurko (Ukraine, 13.2)  
 Pierluigi Collina (Italy, 13.2)  
 Christian Mutschler (Switzerland, 13.2)  
 Marinus den Engelsman (Netherlands, 14.2)  
 Manuel Lopez Fernandez (Spain, 14.2)  
 Thomas Weyhing (Germany, 14.2)  
 Livio Bazzoli (Italy, 14.2)  
 Peter Bonde (Denmark, 14.2)  
 Juan Carlos Miralles (Andorra, 14.2)  
 John McBeth (Scotland, 15.2)  
 Susanne Erlandsson (Sweden, 15.2)  
 Leif Sundell (Sweden, 15.2)  
 Athanassios Machairas (Greece, 15.2)  
 Katriina Elovirta (Finland, 15.2)  
 Svitlana Shkil (Ukraine, 15.2)  
 Orkhan Huseynzade (Azerbaijan, 15.2)  
 Adalbert Kassai (Romania, 16.2)  
 Roman Sowinski (Poland, 16.2)  
 Karoly Török (Hungary, 16.2)  
 Tervel Zlatev (Bulgaria, 16.2)  
**Helena Fernandes (Portugal, 17.2)**  
 ☆☆☆ 40th  
 Gudrun Inga Sivertsen (Iceland, 17.2)  
 Jozef Venglos (Slovakia, 18.2)  
 Pertti Alaja (Finland, 18.2)  
 Antonello Valentini (Italy, 18.2)  
 Borislav Alexandrov (Bulgaria, 18.2)  
 Flemming Serritslev (Denmark, 18.2)  
 Patrick Kelly (Republic of Ireland, 18.2)  
 Constantin Gheorghe (Romania, 18.2)  
 Mikael Santoft (Sweden, 18.2)  
 Vasily Melnychuk (Ukraine, 18.2)  
 Jordi Pascual (Andorra, 18.2)  
**Janis Mežeckis (Latvia, 19.2)** ☆☆☆ 60th  
 Lars Arnesson (Sweden, 20.2)  
 Eggert Magnusson (Iceland, 20.2)  
 Edward Potok (Poland, 20.2)  
 João F. De Magalhães Marques  
 (Portugal, 20.2)  
 Patricia Moyersoen (France, 20.2)  
 Ralph Zloczower (Switzerland, 21.2)  
 Asim Khudiyev (Azerbaijan, 22.2)  
 Holger Hieronymus (Germany, 22.2)  
 Vladimir Sajn (Slovenia, 22.2)  
 Ana Caetano (Portugal, 22.2)  
 Maarten Fontein (Netherlands, 23.2)  
 Peter Jones (England, 24.2)

Janos Ring (Hungary, 24.2)  
 Oleg Harlamov (Estonia, 24.2)  
 Miroslav Radoman (Serbia, 25.2)  
 Fevronia Minodora Ion (Romania, 25.2)  
 Vladimir Hrinak (Slovakia, 25.2)  
 Ghenadie Scurtul (Moldova, 26.2)  
 Egidius Braun (Germany, 27.2)  
 Allan Hansen (Denmark, 27.2)  
 John Beattie (England, 28.2)  
 Markus Stenger (Germany, 28.2)

## NOTICES

- On 1 November, Ilir Shulku took up the position of general secretary of the Football Association of Albania.
- On 15 November, Maciej Sawicki took over as general secretary of the Polish Football Federation.
- The Andorran Football Federation has moved. Its new contact details are: c/Battle Tomàs, 4 Baixos AD-700 Escaldes-Engordany, Andorra  
 info@faf.ad  
 www.faf.ad

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

### Meetings

#### 17 January, in Nyon

National Team Competitions Committee

#### 24 January, in Nyon

Meeting of the presidents and general secretaries of UEFA member associations

#### 25 January, in Nyon

Executive Committee

#### 31 January, in Nyon

2013-15 European Under-21 Championship: draw for the qualifying round

#### 21 February, in Nyon

Futsal and Beach Soccer Committee

#### 26 February, in Nyon

Women's Football Committee



### Competitions

#### 12/13 + 19/20 February

UEFA Champions League: round of 16 (first legs)

#### 14 February

UEFA Europa League: round of 32 (first legs)

#### 21 February

UEFA Europa League: round of 32 (return legs)



The UEFA President, general secretary, directors and staff wish football fans everywhere and all readers of UEFA•direct a merry Christmas and a happy new year.



WE CARE ABOUT FOOTBALL

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