



**ANDORRA**  
The first official coaches' course organised by the Andorran FA.



**ENGLAND**  
The FA's international coaches' course was attended by 35 students from 26 countries.

# News

from member associations



## ALBANIA

### New championship structures

The Albanian FA (FSHF) is taking steps to strengthen its domestic championship, which, in recent years, has been weakened considerably by the emigration of many of its best players. One such step has been the reorganisation of the three domestic leagues which takes effect for the upcoming 2003/04 season.

The top division (A1) has been reduced from 14 to ten teams, who will play four rounds of home and away matches, amounting to 36 match days – a first in the history of Albanian football. The bottom two teams will be relegated to the A2 division, which also comprises ten teams. They will play two rounds of home and away matches, after which they will be divided into two groups. The top five will battle it out for the two spots for promotion to A1, while the other five will fight to stay in A2 and avoid relegation, for which three clubs will be destined at the end of the day.

The third division (A3) will be made up of three geographical groups of 12 teams (North, Centre, South) who will be vying for three A2 places.

The 2003/04 season will therefore be a totally new venture for Albanian football, though the problems of infrastructure, and particularly of stadiums, will persist. The FSHF has set new rules, with serious parameters and surefire conditions, to ensure the smooth running of the three domestic championships. At a pre-season press conference, FSHF President Armand Duka said that the upcoming 65<sup>th</sup> domestic season would be a first not only because of its new structure but also because of the association's objective to bring about rapid infrastructural development. Thanks to UEFA's assistance, all the main stadiums in Albania will have separate accommodation for spectators. No fewer than five grounds have been renovated for the start of the new season, including the Qemal Stafa stadium in Tirana, the Loro Borici in Shkodër, the Niko Dovana in Durrës and the Besa in Kavaja. The association is also building a football centre with money from the FIFA Goal programme.

Finishing on a note of history and tradition, an Albanian player has been awarded the Olympic Order of the National Olympic Committee (KOKSH) for the first time. He is Klani Marjani, the only surviving player from the first domestic championship in 1930. Now aged 90, he played in his day for Skenderbeu Korca, with whom he won the Albanian championship

in 1933. Marjani played until 1947 and was one of the country's leading goalkeepers for some 15 years.

*Besnik Dizdari*



## ANDORRA

### A first course for coaches

On 1 May, the Andorra Football Association

launched its first official coaches' course. This aim of this course, attended by over 30 technical directors from clubs in the Principality of Andorra, is to expand the technical and tactical knowledge of all the country's coaches.

The course, which is divided into a theoretical part and a practical part, covers 172 hours, 90 of them devoted to practical exercises. The syllabus covers themes such as knowledge of football and methodology, psychology, the Laws of the Game, technique and tactics and full physical preparation, complete with practical sessions. Instruction is given by specialists in all the different subjects who have acquired experience in the Andorran Government's professional sports schools and in the Spanish coaches' academy.

At the end of the course, the students will receive a diploma that qualifies them as B level coaches, enabling them to coach grassroots and amateur categories.

The FA has asked UEFA to include this course in the Jira project, and a technician will shortly be travelling to Andorra to inspect the way the course operates.

*Miquel Angel Quiñones*



## AUSTRIA

### Change at the top of the ÖFB

Since 1 September, there has been a new face at the administrative helm of the Austria FA (ÖFB), following the appointment of Alfred Ludwig as Austrian Tournament Director for EURO 2008. Ludwig joined the ÖFB in 1981 and has been General Secretary since 1986. His successor is 39-year-old Wolfgang Gramann, who recently headed the EURO 2008 bid.

*"It was a decision that came from the head, not the heart. I accepted the request of ÖFB President Friedrich Stickler, who said that I was the only person for the job," Ludwig said. "Many of the regional presidents also told me that I should take on the challenge. So I said yes."* Ludwig was appointed General Secretary on 1 January 1986, under ÖFB President Beppo Mauhart. Since then he has organised no fewer than 87 home national matches. The 53-year-old has also been appointed

on three occasions as UEFA's delegate for one of its finals (1996, 1997, 2002). Ludwig's first task in his new job is to approve all the stadium contracts for EURO 2008.

Wolfgang Gramann joined the ÖFB in August 1997 and was head of the Communications & Team Management Department until December 2001. In 2002, he became project manager for the EURO 2008 bid, and since March of this year, he has been working for the association again. Gramann, who hails from Lower Austria, is married to Claudia Herzog, sister of record national team player Andi Herzog.

*Wolfgang Eichler*



## BELGIUM

### Social charter launched

No one today can deny that football plays a social role in the community. The Belgian FA (URBSFA) participates significantly by performing numerous social activities and initiatives. The association and the clubs have a contribution to make in developing this social aspect and promoting greater tolerance.

Football is, for example, accessible to minorities, to disabled persons, to women and to children. We firmly believe that everyone is entitled to enjoyment and relaxation. Thanks notably to football, we can all live together in harmony.

Currently, the association is launching the "URBSFA and National Team Social Charter". All the Belgian national teams subscribe to this charter, which has been drawn up in co-operation with the Centre for Equal Opportunities and the Elimination of Racism and the Samen Kleurrijk Sporten Foundation.

■ The URBSFA promotes football as a way of bringing together people – men and women – from all cultures and of



**GERMANY**  
Gerd Müller, the Bundesliga's all-time top scorer.



**AUSTRIA**  
Wolfgang Gramann is the new General Secretary of the Austrian FA.



**BOSNIA & HERZEGOVINA**  
NK Zeljeznicar celebrate (left), and the match between FK Sarajevo and NK Jedinstvo youth teams.



all colours and of building a better future. Football is open to everyone.

- The URBSFA excludes no one and prohibits any form of discrimination rooted in gender, race, nationality, religion or handicap.

- The URBSFA appeals to all football supporters to apply the positive values of fair play, fervour and ambience.

- The URBSFA sees football as a way to improving general well-being, tolerance and social integration.

- The URBSFA supports UEFA's ten-point "unite against racism" campaign.

- The URBSFA supports a number of national and international social development programmes.

François Vantomme



## BOSNIA & HERZEGOVINA

### Unified youth competitions

The cadets (U17) and juniors (U19) have finally started playing in a united competition this season, in two leagues each, one at the level of the Football Federation of Bosnia & Herzegovina and the other at the level of the Football Association of the Republic of Srpska.

At the end of these preliminary competitions, the two top teams from the federation and the top team from the smaller entity will play for the U17 and U19 championships respectively. Until now, competitions in these categories were played at cantonal or regional level, with the best teams in Bosnia & Herzegovina going through to a final tournament. However, this former system lacked quality, as reflected in the poor results of the U17 and U19 national teams in the UEFA championships. There were also financial problems and a shortage of stadiums (according to the rules, youth players have to play in the stadiums where the seniors play).

In the federal youth league, there are 18 clubs (Premier League and First League), while ten clubs play in the entity of the Republic of Srpska.

The senior competition in the premier league of Bosnia & Herzegovina now numbers four clubs less. This has resulted in better quality of play and more spectators in the stadiums.

The only team from Bosnia & Herzegovina to remain in the European competitions is FK Zeljeznicar, who eliminated Anorthosis Famagusta from Cyprus in the UEFA Cup qualifying round with two victories. In the first round of the UEFA Cup, FK Zeljeznicar will be up against Hearts from Scotland. Beating Hearts and going through to the second round would be a major success for the team from Sarajevo.

Fuad Kravavac



## ENGLAND

### FA International Coaching Licence Course

The FA's established and highly-regarded international coaching course for non-EU coaches took place last month at Lilleshall in England, involving some 35 students from 26 countries, ranging from South Africa to Saudi Arabia, Israel to India, Japan to Australia. The course - equivalent to the 1st4sport Level 3 Certificate in Coaching Football [UEFA B Licence] (The Football Association) - was inaugurated in 1977, since when over 1,000 students have attended from 90 different countries. In practice, it is a three-week residential course comprising theory and practical sessions covering a range of issues, from coaching demonstrations to sessions on Attitudes & Ethics, Football Fitness, Football Psychology and Health & Safety. The course is one of a number of educational programmes embraced by the new FA brand, 'FA Learning'. (For more information, refer to [www.TheFA.com/FALearning](http://www.TheFA.com/FALearning)). For the fifth consecutive year, the group included two coaches from each of The FA's partners under the UEFA-CAF Meridian Project - Botswana, Malawi and Lesotho - whose places are sponsored by The FA's International Development Programme. "The sponsorship has become an integral part of our assistance programme under the Meridian Project", explained The FA's Head of

International Relations, Jane Bateman. "All three of our partner countries have identified the development of technical expertise as a major priority. This course is ideal for helping their promising coaches to develop their skills and to gain a qualification as well as to give them a first-hand introduction to football in this country".

Jane Bateman



## GEORGIA

### Open Fun Football days in Georgia

In August, with the support of the Georgian Football Federation, Open Fun Football Schools were implemented successfully in the three republics of Transcaucasia - Georgia, Azerbaijan and Armenia. The author and the director of this programme, Anders Levinsen, supervised the event. In total, 12 schools were organised in Georgia, two in Armenia and one in Azerbaijan. More than 200 coaches and assistants ran activities in 15 schools, where more than 3,000 children received training. More than 500 refugees were involved in the courses. Anders Levinsen, Tamaz Tevzadze (project co-ordinator in Georgia), Badri Karkashadze (programme assistant from the side of the GFF) and four Balkan instructors were highly satisfied with the way the programme went. To everyone's surprise, one of the greatest success stories was a small village in the Marneuli region, the village of Tsereteli (coached by Malkhaz Kvaratskhelia). This very region was visited last winter by Anders Levinsen and Bruno Wolfisberg from the UEFA Assistance Programmes, who played football with the children on the snow-covered field. (See [uefadirect](http://uefadirect.com), January 2003).

In one of the cities, Tsalenjikha, children went back to school on 1 September wearing Open Fun Football School T-shirts.

We would like to express our gratitude to Anders Levinsen for the idea and to UEFA, the Danish and Norwegian governments and Swedish company Novo Nordisk for their valuable assistance.

Mamuka Kvaratskhelia

**BELGIUM** The URBSFA and national team social charter.



PHOTO: NEWS



## GERMANY

### Bundesliga 40 years old

The Bundesliga is celebrating, and with good reason, because it has been in existence for 40 years. As the sole remaining original participating club, Hamburg SV had the honour of kicking off the official celebrations with a match against record champions Bayern München on 24 August. The evening before, the German FA (DFB) and the German League (DFL) hosted a gala at the Coloneum in Cologne. The 1,100 guests included many well-known figures from the worlds of sport, culture and politics.

Among them, record goal-scorer Gerd Müller (Bayern München) and record player Karl-Heinz Körbel (Eintracht Frank-