



GERMANY
Helmut Krug,
refereeing
expert.



BELGIUM
Over the last
decade,
stewards have
proven
their worth.

News from member associations



BELGIUM

Ten years of stewarding

It was exactly ten years ago that Belgium put stewards in a football stadium. The first match to be stewarded was Club Brugge versus RSC Anderlecht on 6 March 1994. At the time, stewards did not have any officially recognised status.

Today, however, stewards are appreciated by everyone and recognised officially by the Football Law of 21 December 1998, which clearly defines their role: to ensure public order and safety, make casual checks on supporters and bags, accompany the referees if necessary, make sure that the stadium rules are respected, inspect facilities, take care of spectators on arrival, and take any necessary action while awaiting the intervention of the ambulance and police services.

All these tasks require numerous skills and serious training. Since 2001, the Belgian FA itself has been conducting steward training. Nico De Pauw, had of the FA's safety and security department, explains: "We organise regular full training courses of one or two days covering different safety and security aspects in depth, for example. The topics covered in a course for stewards to qualify as chief stewards or security officers concentrate mainly on practical situations that the candidates could encounter in the course of their duties. Basic knowledge about communication, management, medical aspects at a football match, legislation, labour laws and public order helps them to carry out their important responsibilities. The bulk of the course is devoted to the legislation regarding safety and security at football matches.

"Other training is provided by the safety and security department for the heads of division. We also produce course material for trainee stewards that we distribute to the clubs, which then take care of the training themselves. The courses require the cooperation of the police, fire service, Red Cross, etc. Once the stewards have received initial training, they have to follow compulsory further training courses every year to keep up to date on the latest developments in the different areas.

"Recently, we organised a further training course dealing with drug and alcohol consumption in football stadiums, binding safety and security instructions and instructions concerning insurance and responsibility".

Today, Belgium can count on the skills and support of almost 1,500 stewards.

François Vantomme



BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

Sliskovic remains loyal

As expected, the head coach of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Blaz Sliskovic, has signed a new contract with FF BHZ for the next two years. Sliskovic will lead the national team through the qualifying competition for the 2006 World Cup.

Neither Sliskovic nor the leaders of FF BHZ had any problem with him staying on in the position, considering how well the national team did in the EURO 2004 qualifying competition. Although they did not qualify for the final round in Portugal, football fans in Bosnia and Herzegovina are satisfied with Sliskovic's work and the performance of his players.

For the World Cup qualifying campaign, Bosnia and Herzegovina are in Group 7 with Spain, Belgium, Serbia and Montenegro, Lithuania and San Marino. According to Sliskovic, it is a very tough group and Bosnia and Herzegovina will be aiming for second position, with Spain the favourites to win the group. The team has already played two preparatory matches in Skopje, against FYR Macedonia and Luxembourg, and will play Finland in Zenica on 28 April. After that, they have their first two World Cup qualifiers coming up, both at home, against Spain and Serbia and Montenegro.

"I'm delighted that the FF BHZ has faith in me. I'm anticipating a tough ride in the qualifiers but I'm hopeful that we'll do well enough too make it through to the play-offs," said Blaz Sliskovic.



CZECH REPUBLIC

New look for the website

The Football Association of the Czech Republic (FAČR) has made another step towards improving its information channels by giving its official website www.fotbal.cz a face-lift. The Internet Division of the Communication and Relations Department of the association has been working on the new look for several months and has outlined its goals for the further development of the site, including an English version.

The new FAČR website started life in January 1998 and since its creation has been trying to provide extensive information about Czech football. It contains information about the performances of all the national teams (men, women, youth, futsal and amateurs), about the activities of individual football bodies (committees, working groups) and, of course, a comprehensive results service. In cooperation with uefa.com, space is also devoted to information about European football.

The aim of these changes was not only to make graphic improvements and structural changes to the single pages, but also to put in place the technical conditions to extend the information service offered by the server in the future. As from the 2004/05 season, the site will offer detailed information about events at all levels of Czech football, including links to the regional and local football associations, making it the most complete source of information about football in the Czech Republic.

Petr Havlík



ENGLAND
The need for security.

THE FA