



ENGLAND
The FA runs a workshop for CONCACAF.

THE FA



URBSFA

BELGIUM
The logo of the new communication system between the Belgian FA and its clubs.

from member associations **news**



AUSTRIA Success seems guaranteed

For the Austrian Football Association (ÖFB), the beginning of the year has been dominated by the recent selection of Austria and Switzerland as co-hosts of EURO 2008. In February, the Bid Committee was disbanded and talks opened with UEFA concerning the new franchise company that will take organisational responsibility for the tournament. At the same time, funding has been secured for the "Challenge 2008" youth project – a support programme for young players (born in or after 1985). *"It is essential that we are successful on the pitch, because nothing would be worse than our team going out with a whimper in the first round"*, said ÖFB President Friedrich Stickler. From an economic point of view, success seems guaranteed: 6,000 new jobs, EUR 150 million of extra income from tourism, EUR 60 million of additional media revenue, 930,000 hotel bookings in 2008 alone, and building costs of around EUR 162 million.

The ÖFB is also very pleased with last year's advertising figures: TV coverage: 27 hours, average viewing figures in Austria for international matches: 871,125, total advertising value: EUR 22.6 million.

Meanwhile, clubs affected by recent flooding can breathe a sigh of relief: a total of EUR 472,740 was paid out at the end of the year to the regional associations of Salzburg, Lower Austria and Upper Austria for repairs and rebuilding work. This figure was broken down as follows: EUR 252,740 from UEFA, EUR 120,000 from the regional associations and EUR 100,000 from the ÖFB. The first match of 2003 for the national team will be a friendly against Greece (Graz, 26 March, kick-off 20.30), with a European Championship qualifier against the Czech Republic to be staged in Prague on 2 April.

Wolfgang Eichler



BELGIUM New method of communication

The Internet site of the Belgian Football Association (www.footbel.com) has now been extended to include an extranet system known as E-Kickoff. This system enables club secretaries, using an access code which guarantees data confidentiality, to consult a wealth of information about their respective clubs. It will revolutionise the life of club secretaries. All clubs are entitled to access the system.

Once they have received their ID codes, club secretaries will be able to register

the details of their club on E-Kickoff. Each of the nine sections is split into several subsections, which in turn contain individual modules.

Some modules enable the clubs to access comprehensive information about their members (affiliations, etc.). Others can be used to view the details of an accident file, including bills that were paid, or to consult the invoices and payments made between the association and the club. More traditional sections provide access to league tables, fixture lists, results, names of the players in each age category at the club, etc.

Clubs can now, therefore, access this information 24 hours a day and there is no doubt that it will make life easier for club secretaries.

This is one way in which the Belgian Football Association is implementing its plan to improve and accelerate communication with the clubs.

François Vantomme



BOSNIA & HERZEGOVINA

UEFA Progress IV

A UEFA Progress IV for medical staff, administrators and referees was organised recently for the Football Federation of Bosnia & Herzegovina (NS BiH). The course took place in Teslic, and, for the first time ever, representatives of the

FA of the Republic of Srpska took part. They had not participated in previous UEFA courses because their association was not a member of the NS BiH at the time, although they were invited. Just last year, their administrators took part in a UEFA Progress III course in Neum. Therefore, ahead of the latest course, the participants from the Republic of Srpska were introduced to the previous programmes, before joining the other participants for the UEFA Progress IV course. The UEFA lecturer for medical staff was Mehmet Binnet from Turkey, while Pekka Hämmäläinen from Finland addressed the administrators.

Within the framework of the Progress IV course, a programme was also organised for referees. It was held at the same time, but in Sarajevo. Referees from all over Bosnia & Herzegovina took part. The UEFA lecturer was Eugen Strigel from Germany.

The federation is continuing with coach education based on the UEFA scheme. The second term of the seventh UEFA B programme ended at the end of 2002. To date, this curriculum has been followed by 320 would-be coaches, most of whom qualified for the B licence. Now they are coaching the players in their clubs, particularly youth players. These courses are run by eminent coaches from Bosnia & Herzegovina as well as other experts connected with sport. Most of the participants are retired players, but there are also many coaches who are not educated or qualified enough to do this job.

"These programmes were a must because we had hardly any coaching staff to work with the younger players. Thanks to the UEFA syllabus, many of our coaches now hold the licence that is necessary for their work in clubs", said NS BiH President Jusuf Pusina.

Fuad Kravac



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ENGLAND The FA runs many courses as part of its education programmes.