



GERMANY
Presentation
of the book by
Rudi Michel
(left).

BONGARTS



THE FA

News

from member associations

have obtained the national licence they need to play in the first division*.

Others have also applied for the UEFA licence to be eligible to take part in the European competitions should they qualify. Those needing a UEFA licence for 2004/05 are Anderlecht, Club Brugge, Standard de Liège, KRC Genk, Mouscron, Westerlo, Beveren and Germinal Beerschot Antwerpen.

François Vantomme

* To date (30 April 2004), all clubs but one have been licensed. The financial dossier of the remaining club is still being examined.



ANDORRA

5th Francesc Vila Memorial Tournament

The fifth seven-a-side football tournament dedicated to the memory of the former president of the Andorran Football Association, Francesc Vila, will take place on 29 and 30 May. Since this year's tournament coincides with the tenth anniversary of the association, we wanted to enlist some prestigious clubs to take part and have had positive responses from Manchester United, Real Madrid, Barcelona, Valencia, PSV Eindhoven, Lazio, Grasshopper, Borussia Dortmund, Atletico de Madrid, RCD Espanyol, SK Slavia Prague, Hajduk Split, Athletic Club de Bilbao and Real Sociedad, to name just some.

The tournament will be split into two categories: the under-9s and the under-11s. In view of the number of participants, three stadiums will be required for this year's matches: Estadi Comunal, Escaldes and Aixovall. The finals on the Sunday will take place at the Estadi Comunal in Andorra la Vella.

We hope that this year's event will be as successful as previous editions and attract a wide following to watch some top players of the future in action.

Miquel Angel Quiñones



BELGIUM

UEFA club licence introduced

This season the UEFA licence has been introduced on top of the national licence with which Belgium already has a certain amount of experience. It is in fact the fourth year that the national licensing system has been in place. The licensing committee has licensed all first* and second division clubs for next year.

The first years of the national licensing scheme have been difficult for some of our clubs. There have been three major casualties, RWDM, Harelbeke and Lommel, while other clubs have incurred sporting and financial penalties, including Turnhout, KV Mechelen, Berchem Sport, Eendracht Aalst and FC Liégeois.

The URBSFA was certainly right to start applying this clean-up policy a few years ago, since it has allowed our clubs to prepare for the new economic constraints now being imposed by UEFA. Other European countries are already experiencing or will face problems which could be dramatic. Belgium can be proud that its licence is bearing fruit. Our clubs are aware of the need to do all they can to put their finances in order. Obviously, financial stability has been harder for some to achieve than others, but luckily all of them



BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

Hibic leaves and Muharemovic scores a century

Last month was marked by three important events in Bosnia and Herzegovina football. Firstly, UEFA A and B coaching licences were awarded to the first batch of graduates, including some well-known coaches and players: Blaz Sliskovic, head coach of the Bosnia and Herzegovina national team, his assistants Vlatko Glavac and Nedžad Kuružovic; Muhamed Preljevic and Mustafa Arslanovic (NK Dinamo, Zagreb), Amar Osim and Husnija Arapovic (NK Celik), Slobodan Karalic (FK Borac, Banja Luka) and Boris Živkovic, captain of the Croatian national team.

Among the successful coaches was Bahrija Herac, the first woman to obtain the B licence. One group of coaches will soon be embarking on the Pro licence programme.

The Bosnia and Herzegovina national team played their third friendly match of the year at the Bilino Polje stadium in Zenica and achieved their second win, beating Finland. Zvezdan Misimovic scored the one and only goal of the match. Player/captain Mirsad Hibic (31) officially finished his active playing career on this occasion, winning his 37th cap in the process. He received his first cap in 1993 in the Mediterranean games in Montpellier (France). He started his career with NK Hajduk in Zenica, then continued with NK Hajduk in Split and after that with Sevilla FC. He has spent the last year playing with Atletico de Madrid and had the honour of captaining the team.

"This is very hard moment, but I am happy to be saying goodbye now, in front of all my fans, and because I am going out on a winning note. I hope the Bosnia and Herzegovina national team will play an important role in the qualifying competition for the 2006 World Cup in Germany," he said after the match.



ANDORRA
Barcelona's young players
won the 2003 memorial tournament.

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