



COMMUNIQUÉ



COMMUNIQUÉ ISSUE FIFTEEN

The FA tackles racism

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Former England player
John Barnes leads a campaign
against racism helping to build
bridges between Jews and
Arabs in Israel.

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CONMEBOL

Extra-time for referees in Ecuador, Venezuela and Peru



January proved to be a busy month for The FA's work under the FA-CONMEBOL Co-operation Agreement as three back-to-back referees workshops were delivered in Ecuador, Venezuela and Peru to over 160 referees.



Peter Walton and Ray Olivier put the Ecuadorian candidates through their paces

With officiating football matches becoming an increasingly demanding and scrutinised aspect of the game, CONMEBOL has placed a firm emphasis on improving the standard of refereeing in South America.

The FA's Head of National Referee Development, Ian Blanchard, and The FA's Regional Referees Manager, Ray Olivier, were joined by top Premiership referee Peter Walton to help develop referees, both male and female, in each of the countries.

The three courses focused on advanced techniques for referees such as fitness, nutrition, communication, body language and dealing with players in challenging situations.

The Ecuador Football Federation received a three-day advanced referee training workshop in January 2005, and The FA delegation noted a marked improvement in the standard of their elite referees.

"We were really impressed with the positive changes since we last visited Ecuador almost 12 months ago," said Olivier.

"The commitment, dedication and the improvement of their fitness and refereeing skills were evident and we are sure they will

continue to develop these in the future. The federation is really forward-thinking and committed to their development and has a bright future. In general, all the referees showed tremendous interest in developing their skills and they thoroughly enjoyed both the practical and theory sessions.

"And it was really encouraging to see the participation of female referees in the workshops, which underlines CONMEBOL's commitment to all aspects of the development of women's football."



The workshops were well-attended by both male and female officials

CONCACAF

FA helps Colombian crackdown on violence



CONCACAF pays tribute to The FA



(L-R) Chris Whalley, Alberto Amiral, John de Quidt, Bryan Drew and Juan Diego Velez Sepulveda

The Football Association made a quick return to Colombia to deliver a Stadium Safety and Security seminar in Bogotá at the beginning of March this year.

An FA delegation had already visited the South American country in November 2005 to oversee a Marketing & Administration Workshop, but on this occasion the issue of football violence was at the top of the agenda.

Colombia has been blighted by crowd trouble at football matches and it was against this backdrop that the Colombian Football Federation (CFF) requested that The FA send over a delegation of experts to address the issue as part of The FA-CONMEBOL Co-operation Agreement.

The FA's Head of Stadium Safety and Security, Chris Whalley, was joined by Bryan Drew, Head of the UK Footballing Unit, and John de Quidt, Chief Executive of the Football Licensing Authority.

The trio addressed over 250 delegates, among whom was the Vice President of the Republic of Colombia, Dr Francisco Santos, as well as leading police, league and club officials.

Gustavo Morelli, an official from the Dimayor League of the Colombian Football Federation, had attended the same seminar in Peru last year and used that experience to push forward a case for the introduction of legislation which would curb football-related violence.

"The CFF has already worked out some proposals for possible new laws to deal with football violence; what they now need is co-operation and collaboration with the police, government and the judiciary in Colombia," said Chris Whalley.

"I think our seminar has helped to focus attention on the need for all agencies to work together to address the problems. This was certainly one of the key themes in our presentations. Given that the seminar audience included some high-ranking police officers and local authority officials as well as football clubs, hopefully this key message will be taken on board."

Indeed, the CFF has been invited to present its proposal to the Vice President's office as momentum grows to tackle the problem of football-related violence in the country.

CONCACAF Director of Development Richard Braithwaite praised the contribution of The FA in helping Trinidad and Tobago to qualify for the 2006 FIFA World Cup™ finals.

Braithwaite visited The FA's headquarters in March and reviewed the strong bonds which have been forged between CONCACAF and English football's governing body since 2000.

He is convinced that Trinidad and Tobago's national team has benefited from the work The FA has done in the Caribbean over the past five years.

"It was an amazing feeling when they qualified for the World Cup, which was thoroughly deserved," said Braithwaite. "It was ironic when it happened, because we were in the middle of an FA workshop on elite player development when we had to stop to celebrate. It was also fitting because these workshops have helped so much in improving football in the region.

"CONCACAF has an excellent relationship with The FA and we are extremely grateful for the support they have given us."

Coaching coaches in Trinidad



FA tutors, Graham Keeley and Michael Hennigan, delivered the acclaimed FA International Coaching Licence course in Trinidad in April.



AFC

Hong Kong football full of western promise



Hong Kong was the destination for an FA Level 1 course in March. A four-man team from the Birmingham County Football Development Scheme travelled to Asia to deliver the training at Hong Kong FC, which is one of the oldest sporting clubs in the region.

Coach educators Tom Stark, Stewart Hall and Ian Parkes, as well as administrator Howard Wheeldon, were very impressed not only by the facilities but by the standard of coaching.

"The course candidates were all professional people who work as volunteers on the HKFC

Mini Soccer programme, time being their most valuable commodity," said Parkes.

"Every candidate, without exception, spoke of how much they had enjoyed the course and how much they had learned. All had been enthused and wanted to try out their new knowledge, with five people volunteering to join a committee in the near future."



The four-man delegation from Birmingham County Football Development Scheme

Asia turns to tutor training

The Asian Football Confederation demonstrated its continuing commitment to improving the standard of its tutor training by requesting a follow-up to the course The Football Association delivered last year in Kuala Lumpur.

The FA's Les Howie and Jamie Houchen reviewed the outcome of the initial course in 2005 before delivering lead tutor training to 25 students. The course participants were asked to embrace their roles as lead tutors to help mentor and support developing tutors.

"We would like to record our thanks to our AFC colleagues for their wonderful hospitality and for the tremendous organisation which had gone in to the event," said Howie.

"The students were very receptive and it was satisfying that the FIFA colleagues who were present had noticed the impact of the initial training conducted 12 months ago."



AFC President Mohamed bin Hammam thanks Les Howie

Wilkie in Riyadh



FA Regional Referees Manager Alan Wilkie assesses the standard of officiating for the Saudi Arabian Football Federation at an inaugural play-off tournament in Riyadh.

CAF

South Africa stages football extravaganza



The British Council Africa 2010 Dreams programme in full swing

The British Council Africa 2010 Dreams programme reaped the rewards of its partnership with The FA when it staged two huge football festivals in South Africa in March this year.

The FA provided two Junior Football Organiser trainers in October 2005 - The FA's Nick Levett and school teacher Jo Maloney - to deliver the course to 100 teachers and representatives from

SAFA Districts, the Department of Sport and Recreation and the Department of Education.

The course focused on organisation, coaching and refereeing skills for young people, thus enabling them to organise football in their schools and communities. It culminated in over 10,000 children taking part in football festivals staged in Durban and Zululand.

CAF extends special invite to The FA

FA Vice Chairman and Vice President Ray Kiddell, accompanied by Head of International Relations Jane Bateman, represented The FA as special guests of the Confederation of African Football at their 2006 General Assembly in Cairo.

The invitation was a reflection of The FA's extensive work in Africa through its International Development Programme.

The congress preceded the 25th edition of the African Nations Cup which was won by Egypt for the fifth time in the history of the tournament.

With the score at 0-0 after extra-time, the host nation clinched victory 4-2 on penalties against Côte d'Ivoire.

The FA backs '6 villages for 2006' campaign



Work begins at the Rustenburg SOS Village

The Football Association has chosen SOS Children's Villages as its International Charity Partner for 2006.

The FA will support 6 villages for 2006 - the official charity campaign of the FIFA 2006 World Cup - which aims to see six new SOS Children's Villages built in Nigeria, Brazil, Vietnam, Ukraine and Mexico, as well as in South Africa, by the time the tournament kicks off in Germany in June.

A new village is currently under construction in Rustenburg, South Africa, where The FA has donated funds for a house to be built.

Danny Jordaan teamed up with FIFA/SOS Ambassadors Lucas Radebe and Craig Forrest at the sod-turning ceremony to begin the village's construction.



www.soschildren.org

Official Charity Campaign of the 2006 FIFA World Cup™



UEFA

Israeli football aims to show racism the red card



Players support the initiative during their pre-match warm up

Former Liverpool and England winger John Barnes joined forces with The Football Association to take part in an FA anti-racism initiative in Israel.

It was the third visit to Israel by The FA in just over two years in response to a cry for help in tackling the racism and violence which have marred Israeli football.

Barnes, who was the victim of racial abuse from the terraces in the 1980s - and who took a lead role in England's anti-racism campaign - said that the Israeli footballers had a major part to play.

Speaking at the launch of Israeli football's new campaign, inspired by The FA's *Football For All* strategy and England's *Kick it Out* campaign, Barnes said: "Before laws and legislation are put in place, it is the players who the fans will listen to - they provide the momentum for change."

Another former Liverpool player, Avi Cohen, now Chair of the Israeli PFA, reinforced this view. "Instinctively I have always wanted to shut my eyes to this problem but I will keep

them open and talk to our players," said Cohen. "It is important that they understand the role they have to play - first of all as human beings rather than just as footballers."

Brendon Batson, one of England's first black professional footballers and another key figure in campaigning against racism in football, was also keen to highlight the uniqueness of the problem facing the game in Israel. "Of course the problem in Israel is



Avi Cohen (left) with Bnei Sakhnin captain Abbas Suan

very different to that which England experienced," said Batson. "Whilst the English problem was largely one of colour, Israel's is highly complex as a result of the social, religious and ethnic diversity of the country."



Brendon Batson, John Barnes and FA Director of Corporate Affairs Simon Johnson take questions during a discussion session

The delegation visited Bnei Sakhnin, the only Arab club in the Israeli first division, to better understand the problems they face. Arabs make up only 19% of the population in Israel and consistently encounter racist abuse in the football arena.

The Israeli anti-racism campaign is being led by the Israel FA and the New Israel Fund, which promotes democracy and social equality in Israeli society.

FA NEWS

World Cup '66 heroes take trip down Wembley lane



An artist's impression of the new Wembley Stadium on its opening night

The 1966 World Cup Finalists, England and West Germany, were reunited to mark the 40th anniversary of that memorable match in which Sir Alf Ramsay's side triumphed 4-2 at Wembley.



Players from both the England and Germany teams from 1966 visit a very different Wembley from the one they remember

England's all-time leading scorer, Sir Bobby Charlton, and German legend Franz Beckenbauer, stood side by side as players from both teams visited the new Wembley Stadium to reminisce about one of the greatest football finals ever played in England. Both men were captivated by the impressive stadium that will be the new home of the England national team.

Sir Bobby said: "Wembley will be sensational and I'll hopefully be back here to watch the

first game. It was lovely being out there [on the pitch]. I had the feeling that I would have loved to play here.

"There is something special about it. The stadium is big but it is also personal. I can imagine with the roof across and the terraces full, it will be an incredible atmosphere."

Beckenbauer, who heads the organising committee for the 2006 FIFA World Cup™ finals in Germany, was equally complimentary about English football's new showpiece.

"Before I stepped inside, I thought the best stadium was the new one in Munich [the Allianz Arena], but now I have changed my mind," said Beckenbauer. "The construction itself is very impressive. It is beautiful. It is another world. It is a completely different world from the old Wembley I remember. But when it is finished in a few months it will be the best stadium in the world."

The former players left Wembley and drove to Downing Street for lunch inside no. 11 with Chancellor Gordon Brown, England boss Sven-Goran Eriksson and FA Chief Executive Brian Barwick.

FIFA NEWS

Beckenbauer takes 2006 FIFA World Cup™ tour to England

Franz Beckenbauer, President of the 2006 FIFA World Cup™ Organising Committee, and former World Cup winner both as player and coach, travelled to England in February as part of his world tour through the 31 countries taking part in this year's World Cup finals in Germany.

Beckenbauer met British Prime Minister Tony Blair at 10 Downing Street in London before hosting 200 guests at Gibson Hall in the city's capital.

Among the guests were England coach Sven-Goran Eriksson, as well as Germany internationals Jens Lehmann and Dietmar Hamann, both currently playing in the FA Premier League.



Franz Beckenbauer presents Prime Minister Tony Blair with a Germany 2006 football in anticipation of the forthcoming tournament

"For me, England is still the best team in Europe," said Beckenbauer. "It would be great for them to win the World Cup, 40 years after 1966."

There was a series of short films on the host nation as they gear up to stage the World Cup and Beckenbauer said: "We don't want to be perfect. First of all we want to be great hosts."

Q&A



with Simon Johnson, FA Director of Corporate Affairs

What is the nature of the Corporate Affairs Department?

The Corporate Affairs Department was brought together in 2005, covering a number of different business units within The FA. The aim is to pull together into one team all of those activities that relate to The FA's dealings with our partners, stakeholders, owners and shareholders (with the exception of Finance, Football and Commercial) and to ensure that the internal corporate governance of our association is running as efficiently as possible. The department includes the Legal and Company Secretarial function, Equality & Child Protection, Customer Relations and England fans, and our acclaimed Medicine and Exercise Science

meetings and The FA Council meetings and I help to manage the various teams that make up the Corporate Affairs Department.

How does this fit in with the recent trip to Israel?

I think our recent trip to Israel was a perfect example of how The FA can use the benefit of its experiences to help other associations who might have similar problems to those that we have dealt with in the recent past. We had been approached by the Israel Football Association to see whether it could learn from the work that we had done in England with our anti-racism campaign 'Kick It Out'. We worked with the Israel FA and its partners and stakeholders to see

how they might use the power of football to defuse some of the racial problems that they have in the game in that country. The FA enjoys playing its full part in sharing our experiences and best practice and, in turn, learning from other associations and confederations.

How important is it for The FA to have an international profile?

I believe that it is essential. England is the cradle of the game of football. The heritage that The FA has in the game makes it extremely important for us to work closely with all parts of the football family. For example, whenever we send any of our experts out to another country to offer a course, or to share best practice or simply to exchange ideas, everybody benefits. The FA benefits from giving our people the opportunity to improve their ability to coach, to teach and communicate and to learn about other football cultures and values. As a relative newcomer to The FA, I am delighted that this is a major part of our work and look forward to continuing and developing this aspect of our work in the years to come.

INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

DATE	VENUE	EVENT
May 30	Manchester	Senior Friendly International: England v Hungary
June 3	Manchester	Senior Friendly International: England v Jamaica
June 9-July 9	Germany	2006 FIFA World Cup™ finals
July 13-23	Israel	Football 4 Peace Festival
Aug 16	Manchester	Senior Friendly International: England v Greece
Aug 20-Sep 9	Lilleshall	FA International Coaching Licence Course
Aug 31	Venue tbc	Women's World Cup Qualifier: England v Holland
Sep 18-24	Staverton	FA International Course for Referee Instructors

Kit for Lesotho



The Herefordshire FA sends a collection of donated kit and footballs to Lesotho, a gesture echoed by the Shropshire FA.



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