



# Communiqué

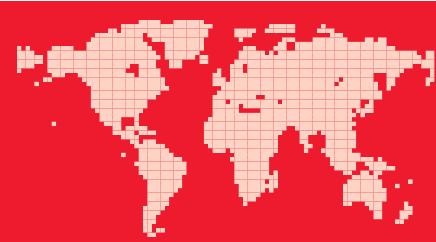


## Communiqué Issue NINETEEN

### Boost for women's football in Botswana

England women's star Rachel Yankey shares her experiences with aspiring female football coaches in Botswana.

- FA Ambassador Viv Anderson visits Malawi's orphans
- Referee recruitment in AFC gets FA backing
- CONCACAF makes sports First Aid a priority
- Referee development plan kicks off in OFC
- The FA votes for major reforms
- Q&A with Geoff Thompson, FA Chairman



CAF

# Women's football in Botswana gets star treatment



FA Instructor Jo Meloni explains the warm-up sessions to the participants

**England women's star Rachel Yankey shared her football experience with 23 aspiring female coaches during a two-day workshop in Botswana in May.**

Yankey, who will be playing for England in the FIFA Women's World Cup™ in China in September, took time away from her own soccer school to assist with the delivery of coaching sessions led by FA instructors Anthony McCallum and Jo Meloni.

The women's football coaching seminar followed a female soccer development course which took place in October 2006 in Gaborone, maintaining The FA's focus on developing the girls' and women's game.

Yankey admitted she was taken aback by her first experience of southern Africa and the desire of the women to join in, with one coach travelling for two days just to attend the seminar.

"My father is Ghanaian yet I'd never been to Africa, except Egypt," she said.

"The enthusiasm of the girls for football is massive. Most women players in England make sacrifices and face prejudice but these girls have far bigger barriers.

"Travelling two days to get here, that is amazing. Another girl told me that when the course finished she would leave for home at 8am and would not arrive until 6pm.

"Given the passion for the game and the talent of Africans in other sports, the potential is huge. I don't see why the game here can't be what it is in Europe."

McCallum and Meloni then headed to Lesotho to conduct the same workshop to a mixed group of local coaches, many of whom were returning to take part in their third workshop on girls' and women's football since the programme was launched in October 2005.



FA Instructor Anthony McCallum passes out instructions



England's Rachel Yankey proves an inspiration to the women

# FA goodwill visit offers hope to Malawi's orphans



FA Ambassador Viv Anderson (back row, right) helps to distribute equipment

## FA Ambassador Viv Anderson travelled to Malawi to assist with a goodwill mission in June.

The Football Association gave its backing to the work of Malawian charity Friends of Mulanje Orphans (FOMO) by assisting with the identification of coaching staff, providing kit and equipment, and enlisting the help of former England defender Anderson.

FOMO is a community-based programme working through a network of nine centres. Its mission is to provide and enhance the health, education and shelter of all orphaned children of Mulanje, a district of Malawi.

FOMO, operating from its base in the north of England, has worked closely with the Manchester and Lancashire FAs in the area of fundraising, and the charity decided to offer some expert football coaching to the children at its centres.

Anderson was joined in Malawi by Abdul Basit, Community Cohesion Officer at Bolton Wanderers, and Lancashire FA coach Bret Barrell Harris, with the latter two spending 10 days coaching the youngsters at the orphanages.

"It was enlightening to say the least," said Anderson. "I can't put the experience into

words really. It was simply unbelievable and it is something I will remember forever.

"You don't realise what these kids have to go through every day of their lives.

"FOMO is an excellent charity and I am glad I was able to help out and do a bit of coaching with the children at the orphanage."

The Malawi national team, coached by Englishman Stephen Constantine, took time out of their schedule preparing for regional qualifiers to visit the centre, sparking amazing scenes among the children of Mulanje who were able to meet their football heroes.

# FA assists with referee recruitment in Asia



AFC referee recruiter delegates engaging in group-work discussions during the seminar

**The FA's Head of National Referee Development, Ian Blanchard, and FA Regional Referee Manager Ray Olivier visited Kuala Lumpur to assist the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) with its Referee Recruiter Course.**

The FA has committed to assisting the AFC over the next four years, addressing the confederation's education and training needs.

The course was well received and AFC President Mohamed Bin Hammam praised the contribution of The FA's Referees Department during the three-day workshop.

He said: "I believe the success of this course will contribute to the development of Asian refereeing across the continent."

Ian Blanchard was equally positive about the outcomes of the course and said: "The candidates worked hard, shared ideas and were open to new suggestions and processes."

"I have no doubt that this will be successful as the right people are involved in recruiting, organising and supporting this refereeing project, which will bring widespread benefits to football across the whole continent."



Comparing notes during a break



Delegates in a break out session



Ian Blanchard explains The FA's referee programme

# Referee development begins in Fiji and Solomon Islands



**The FA's Head of National Referee Development, Ian Blanchard, Regional Refereeing Manager Edward Stone and former FA Head of Refereeing John Baker delivered a pilot referee development programme for the Oceania Football Confederation in The FA's two partner countries Fiji and the Solomon Islands in May.**

Blanchard and Baker spent 10 days in the Solomon Islands facilitating two courses for referees as part of The FA's International Development Programme, with Stone replicating the pilot in Fiji.

The first workshop focused on encouraging community workers, youth leaders and experienced referees to educate and prepare stand-in referees.

The second workshop was aimed at new and existing referees. The course was

designed to improve knowledge and understanding of the laws of the game as well as enhancing refereeing skills.

Blanchard said: "For the first time ever the participants were introduced to outside coaching, something they took to with great enthusiasm and joy. I believe they took a great deal from those sessions in terms of confidence and self-belief.

"At the end of the fourth day, our referees officiated games involving under-12s and under-13s.

"I was really impressed with the high skill factor among the children, who tend to play their own version of futsal from an early age, as well as the progress made by the referees.

"The participants were really good to work with. They were open to new ideas and had a lot of fun learning new skills."



Participants prepare for outdoor work in the Solomon Islands



The FA gives impetus to referee development in the Solomon Islands



CONCACAF

# CONCACAF takes FA's lead on sports First Aid



CONCACAF delegates welcome FA Sports First Aid course

**The Football Association's Medical and Exercise Science Department delivered a Sports First Aid Course to delegates from CONCACAF at the Dr João Havelange Centre in Trinidad in June.**

The Department's Deputy Head Mike Healy, and senior FA physiotherapists Tracy Lewis and Simon Spencer spent five days with 21 representatives from 17 of the Caribbean islands within CONCACAF, teaching national team first-aiders basic First Aid and lifesaving skills.

The course covered the newly-revised European Resuscitation Guidelines implemented last year by The FA and St John's Ambulance which aim to save the life of individuals with life-threatening injuries such as cardio-respiratory complaints.

The FA team gave presentations on a wide variety of subjects, spanning basic anatomy

and the more common injuries that an individual is likely to be confronted with on the football field, or at a training ground.

Participants were asked to differentiate between a major and a minor injury and to safely manage the more common football injuries which are likely to occur.

"Tracy and Simon did an excellent job in delivering the course, interacting with the students and adapting to an evolving programme," said Mike Healy, Deputy Head of The FA's Medical and Exercise Science Department.

"The feedback from the students was most complimentary.

"My general impression was that the course was very well received by CONCACAF and all the students. I fully expect greater demands for medical courses from this region."





# England return to Wembley



England were denied victory in their first game back at Wembley Stadium since September 2000 after Brazil midfielder Diego headed home an equaliser in the 90th minute of the international friendly in June.

England captain John Terry made history by being the first senior international player to score at the new Wembley, thundering a header from David Beckham's cross past Brazil goalkeeper Helton.

The match between England, who gave the world football, and Brazil, who gave the world the beautiful game, was a fitting way to celebrate the return of international soccer to Wembley.

Brazil's President, Luiz Inacio Lula Da Silva, watched on from the Royal Box, while many FIFA dignitaries also accepted The FA's invitation to the friendly fixture.

England's good performance against the five-times world champions stood them in

good stead as they went on to beat Estonia 3-0 in their Euro 2008™ qualifying match in Tallinn five days later.



## Thompson named FIFA Vice-President

**FA Chairman Geoff Thompson has been appointed as FIFA Vice-President representing the four British Associations.**

At a special meeting of the four associations held at the FIFA Congress in Zurich in May, the decision was taken to withdraw the nomination of John McBeth of Scotland. Thompson will serve a four-year term at the football's world governing body.

He said: "I am very honoured to be nominated for this position and would like to thank the national associations of Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland for the trust they have placed in me.

"I have gained considerable experience of the world game over the years and look forward to making a real contribution to the FIFA Executive Committee's debate and decisions on behalf of British football."

## FA votes for major changes

**The Football Association will have an independent chairman from August 2008 after the governing body's shareholders voted in favour of major reforms at its annual general meeting (AGM) in May.**

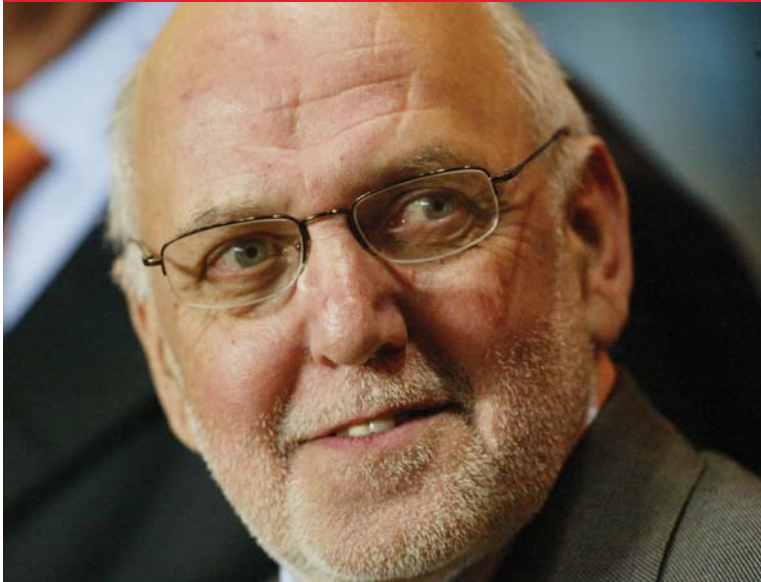
The vote by The FA Council at the AGM at Wembley Stadium resulted in a majority of 78.5% of the 915 votes cast agreeing to adopt the changes recommended in Lord Burns' structural review of The FA.

FA Chief Executive Brian Barwick said: "The decision marks the start of an exciting new era for The FA. This was a vote for change and for a modern, representative and effective FA, which is better equipped to take decisions in the wider interests of the game."

The other major changes to The FA's structure as a result of the vote include the expansion of The FA Council to include representation from players, managers,

referees, women and ethnic communities; a semi-autonomous Football Regulatory Authority to govern the game, reporting to its own board; and a new funding formula dividing The FA's profits evenly between the professional and national games. FA Chairman Geoff Thompson will be succeeded by an independent chairman when he steps down next year.





## with Geoff Thompson, OBE Chairman, The FA

### How important is the new constitution to The FA going forward?

Approval from our shareholders represents a significant step to modernising The FA. The new constitution will allow us to more effectively govern our sport, notably through an expanded, more diverse Council, a committee structure which will better define areas of authority, and a semi-autonomous Football Regulatory Authority to govern the game with

50:50 between the professional and national games.

### Will The FA's role in European football change under Michel Platini's leadership?

I think that European football is, like The FA, ready for change and I admire the initiative Michel Platini has taken to lead UEFA into a new era. The new statutes brought in a new committee structure within which English football has greater representation than ever before.

increased transparency and independence. The new 'funding formula' will ensure that The FA's profits are clearly and fairly divided

I believe this is a reflection of our commitment to not only protect the interests of the English game, but to work towards strengthening the unity of European football in very challenging times.

### What are you looking to achieve as the new British Vice President of FIFA?

It is a privilege to represent the four British Associations on the FIFA Executive Committee. I have worked intensively on a European level over the last ten years particularly and am well-versed in the challenges which face the global game.

At The FA, we have developed a good knowledge and understanding of these issues, and a desire to share experiences and best practice with our colleagues from around the world. I have no doubt that this will stand me in good stead to support the interests of the British nations at FIFA.

## International Events

DATE	VENUE	EVENT
Aug 18-Sept 9	South Korea	FIFA Under-17 World Cup™
August 22	Wembley	Senior Friendly International: England v Germany
Aug 19-Sept 8	Lilleshall	FA International Coaching Licence Course
Sept 2-9	Staverton	FA International Course for Referee Instructors
September 8	Wembley	Euro 2008 Qualifier: England v Israel
Sept 10-30	China	FIFA Women's World Cup™
Sept 12	Wembley	Euro 2008 Qualifier: England v Russia
Sept 18-27	Botswana/Lesotho	FA International Coaching Licence Course
Sept 19-28	Trinidad	FA International Coaching Licence Course
Sept 19-22	Namibia	Next Step Conference

## England suffer spot-kick woe



England Under-21s endured the agony of being knocked out of the European Under-21 Championship semi-finals in the Netherlands.