



## READING COMPREHENSION

Read the following text and answer the questions below.

### A PRE-SEASON GATHERING

**UEFA is dedicated to nurturing its referees and ensures that all match officials are fully primed for their assignments each season. The latest UEFA pre-season gathering in Nyon from 13<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> August prepared the referees for the months ahead and highlighted the key instructions for 2014/15.**

The Nyon meeting gave the 91 men and 16 women, all elite and first-category referees, an ideal opportunity to review the 2013/14 season and look ahead to the future, under the guidance of members of the UEFA Referees Committee.

With top physical condition required from modern-day referees, their fitness was also tested by UEFA training expert Werner Helsen and his team.

This year pre-season referees meeting was brought forward from the start of September. UEFA's chief refereeing officer, Pierluigi Collina, was joined by deputies Hugh Dallas and Marc Batta and Referees Committee member Vladimir Sajn to give presentations, video sessions and expert advice. Fellow Referees Committee members Dagmar Damková and Bo Karlsson had the specific task of guiding the female referees through their sessions.

Everyone was reminded that the protection of players and the game's image were crucial. Appropriate disciplinary sanctions should be taken, for example, against players whose actions might endanger the safety of their opponents, such as through serious foul play or violent conduct. Reckless challenges must also be identified and punished accordingly. The referees were advised that they should not be afraid to take unpopular decisions. "We are not interested in referees being liked," Pierluigi Collina told them. "We want referees to take correct decisions when necessary."

#### Passing on experience

UEFA is also turning to recently retired top-level referees to act as 'coaches' to a group of talented officials just outside the elite category.

*"We have chosen a select group of referees, and they will be carefully monitored over the coming months," said Dallas. "The former referees that we've appointed are passing on their vast experience down the line to young referees, in an attempt to give them the opportunity to make the next step in their already promising careers."*

*“The UEFA Referees Committee is determined to ensure that Europe’s referees make constant progress. “Overall we are very happy with the referees’ performances last season, particularly at the highest level,” Hugh Dallas concluded. “But we never rest on our laurels and always try to find areas where we think improvements can be made.”*

## **QUESTIONS**

- 1. The aim of the pre-season gathering in Nyon was...**
  - a) To review the 2013/2014 season and to prepare the referees for the 2014/2015 season
  - b) To review the 2013/2014 season, to prepare the referees for the 2014/2015 season and to test their fitness
  - c) To test their fitness
  
- 2. Last year referees meeting was held at...**
  - a) The middle of August
  - b) The beginning of August
  - c) The beginning of September
  
- 3. The UEFA members who were in charge of guiding the male referees through their sessions were...**
  - a) Pierluigi Collina, Hugh Dallas, Marc Batta and Vladimir Sajn
  - b) Dagmar Damková and Bo Karlsson
  - c) Werner Helsen and his team
  
- 4. According to the text, other aspect that was dealt with in the pre-season gathering was...**
  - a) Having a balanced diet
  - b) Fair play
  - c) The referees’ salary
  
- 5. The ‘coaches’ that will monitor a select group of young referees are...**
  - a) Top-level referees who are still officiating matches
  - b) Top-level football players
  - c) Recently retired top-level referees