



49th Uhrencup 2010

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The World Championship in South Africa is already over, and for many teams the focus is now on the 2010/2011 season which is either just around the corner, or like the Swiss football league, has already begun. Grenchen, home to the Uhrencup and situated just below the Jura mountain range will, for one week, become the center of the Swiss football scene.

The Organizational Committee welcomes you to the 49th Uhrencup tournament in Grenchen. The tournament will take place in the Stadium Brühl, the local stadium of the football club FC Grenchen. The opening of the stadium in 1962 marked also the start of the Uhrencup tournament, which is now the oldest football tournament in Europe. It is fitting to have the Uhrencup take place in Grenchen which is considered a football town with no less than four clubs based here, and a high level of interest in football from the population. Since the relegation of FC Grenchen out of the top Swiss league, the Uhrencup offers local spectators the chance to again watch top quality football.

This year, for the first time, the Uhrencup tournament will have three foreign clubs taking part. Returning again this year is the team from southern Germany, **VfB Stuttgart**, with their Swiss coach Christian Gross. Challenging VfB Stuttgart will also be the Dutch champions **Twente Enschede** along with the traditional Spanish club and former permanent Champions League participants, **Deportivo La Coruna**. Last but not least participating in this year's tournament is the Swiss league 2009/2010 season runner up the **Bern Young Boys**. This year the tournament will return to knock-out mode in order to increase the tournament's appeal to spectators.

Besides being a quality sporting tournament, the Uhrencup has also become a small festival drawing countless visitors from Switzerland as well as abroad. Despite the continued growth of the Uhrencup, the organizers are deeply committed to maintaining the familiar character of the tournament.

On the following pages you will find important information regarding the 49th Uhrencup tournament, should you wish to have more information, please visit the official tournament website at www.uhrencup.ch. For any questions you might have during your stay in, there will be a press officer located at the accreditation stand and in the grandstands at your disposal.

Thank you for your visit to Grenchen and enjoy the 49th Uhrencup tournament.

The Uhrencup Team 2010



Four different football philosophies

The 49th Uhrencup comes up with a novelty. For the first time the responsible persons succeeded to engage three teams from abroad for the oldest football tournament in Europe. All clubs represent their way of playing with the typical football philosophies of their home countries of Germany, Holland, Spain and Switzerland. In the first semifinal the Berne Young Boys play against Deportivo La Coruna, one day later meet the VfB Stuttgart in the German-dutch duel on Twente Enschede. The last day Friday decides in the big and small final the placings of the teams at the 49th Uhrencup.

Since last December, the traditional club **VfB Stuttgart** from southern Germany is trained by the Swiss Christian Gross. The former coach of FC Basel brought back the success to the Swabians. In his nearly 120-year history, the German VfB became five times German champion (last 2007) and won three times in the DFB Cup. International football stars such as Jurgen Klinsmann, Joachim Low, Mario Gomez and Aliaksandr Hleb have their roots in Stuttgart.

Next to a lot of tradition, the name of **Twente Enschede** stands also for great success. Last season, Twente won against the three most successful clubs in Holland such as Ajax Amsterdam, PSV Eindhoven and Feyenoord Rotterdam and won for the second time after 1926 the title. The fans of Twente maintain a friendships with fans of former Uhrencup participants Schalke 04. Players like Jan Vennegoor of Hesselink, Youri Mulder and Ronald de Boer made a successful career with Twente Enschede.

Deportivo La Coruna caused quite a stir with various matches at the beginning of the new millennium in the Champions League. "Depor", how they are called in Spain, won against big clubs such as Juventus Turin and AC Milan. In 2000 "Depor" was for the only time Spanish champion. During the successful time of the club, world class players like Roy Makaay, the former world footballer Rivaldo, his countryman Beбето and the Spanish striker Diego Tristan played for Deportivo.

Like last year the **BSC Young Boys** are set as the first participants in Grenchen and also this year they will do their utmost with their goalkeeper Marco Wölfli, who is grown up in Grenchen, to bring a successful home game. Since three year YB is back to top Swiss football and had regularly the chance to get the Masters Cup. They won seven times the Uhrencup, last win was in 2007. Swiss football stars such as Martin "Tinu" Weber, Stéphane Chapuisat and Erich Hanzli have become legends with YB.

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Participants of the 49th Uhrencup Tournament 2010



VfB Stuttgart



Twente Enschede



Deportivo La Coruña



BSC Young Boys

Match Schedule

Tuesday, July 20th 2010

19:30 Game 1: BSC Young Boys – Deportivo La Coruña

Wednesday, July 21st 2010

19:30 Game 2: VfB Stuttgart – Twente Enschede

Friday, July 23rd 2010

18:00 Consolation game: Loser game 1 – loser game 2

20:45 Final: Winner game 1 – winner game 2

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Play mode

The winner of the first semifinal BSC Young Boys – Deportivo La Courña competes against the winner of the second semifinal VfB Stuttgart – Twente Enschede to win the tournament. Both who lost the semifinal challenge on the final day for the third and fourth place. In case of ending a semifinal after 90 min in a tie, the winner will be set by penalty shootout.

The rules

The 49th Uhrencup is under the rules of the World Football Association FIFA. The only exception is the number of the substitute per team. Each team is allowed to have five substitute per game. The games last 90 min plus additional time. If the game ends in a tie, the penalty shootout will be done just after the final whistle.

Presentation ceremony

After the final matches on Friday the winning team receives from the Tournament Director the Uhrencup Cup. The trophy presentation will take place on the main stand (erdgas-Tribune) above the players' tunnel.

Player of the Game

After all four games the player of the game will be chosen by the attending journalists. Therefore the journalist receive for each game a form. The player of the game will be rewarded with a special engraved watch from the company Atlantic Watch Lenganu/BE.

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Information for the media

During the matchdays a media container behind the grand stand of the stadium will be available for the accredited press. During the games you find us also near the press seats. For the entrance of the stadium you need a valid badge which you get on each day from 4 pm at the media container. Opening time is each day one hour before the match. In case you have any questions, please contact the responsible person.

- A Mixed-Zone is after each game available for interviews with the players or coaches. This Mixed-Zone is at the stadiums entrance between the busses of the teams.

- Interview inquiries will be forwarded to the media responsible of the teams. There are no guarantees for interviews.

- The press is not allowed to enter the catacombs.

Media Team 49th Uhrencup

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Looking back at the 48th Uhrencup 2009

Luis Adriano, Jadson, Leonardo oder Fernandinho. No, it wasn't the Brazilian national team playing in Grenchen but the reigning UEFA cup winners Schachtjor Donezk from the Ukraine. Sprinkled with some players from across the ocean but consisting of mainly honest, working, football players from Eastern Europe, Donezk played with Europe's crème de la crème in the season 2008/2009. In preparation for the upcoming 2009/2010 season, Donezk wanted to participate in the traditional Uhrencup Tournament in Grenchen. What a challenge for the Uhrencup Organization, never before had a team from so far in Eastern Europe participated in the Uhrencup and the Organizational Committee wanted to make a good impression. The great success that Donezk had had in the UEFA cup brought many spectators to the Brühl Stadium, could Schachtjor Donezk live up to their previous season?

Besides Schachtjor Donezk, the call of Grenchen and its traditional tournament brought another big name European football club in 2009: Panathinaikos Athens, with all things considered probably the most successful club on the continent. Panathinaikos used the tournament as a preparation round before the Greek Championships. Only days before the 48th Uhrencup tournament, Panathinaikos made a sensational player transfer. Djibril Cissé, the French football star was to make Athens the next stop in his carrier. Unfortunately the Athens Sport Management forbid Cissé to take part in the Uhrencup in Grenchen, but although he could not play, he was at least present. Some lucky spectators were even lucky enough to spot Cissé kicking a ball around on the green with other Panathinaikos substitute players.

Defying the Weather

The Uhrencup Organizers were not making it easy for the two Swiss teams participating in the tournament. Both the Bern Young Boys and FC Basel were regarded as the clear underdogs of the tournament. Just days before the start of the season, the Uhrencup games were to be a great indication of where the Swiss teams were standing in preparation for the new season. The new coach of FC Basel, Thorsten Fink, created a buzz among the fans and media who were interested to see how FC Basel would fare without coach Christian Gross, who was for the first time in years not present at the Uhrencup with the boys from Basel. The Young Boys chose to participate in the Uhrencup over the OBI-Cup and found their way back to Stadium Brühl for the first time since 2007.

The Uhrencup Tournament was ready to start with the best field of competitors in history according to the fans and these came, as the rain, in droves. Just hours before the first whistle to start the game the rain was pouring down but the thousands of fans, undeterred by the weather, still made their way to the Brühl Stadium. Any fears that the spectators had of problems between fan clubs were soon put to rest as it was clear by the number and presence of police and security personnel that everything was under control. Along with the innumerable spectators, the tournament owes its existence to the many volunteers who sacrifice their time for three evenings during the Uhrencup, without them this tournament would not be as successful as it is, and probably wouldn't even be possible at all.

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The Organization Committee is thankful to be able to count on a loyal core of volunteers, many of whom return year after year and whose familiar faces can be seen around the stadium grounds during the tournament. The VIP tent was set up with a Holiday Destination Greece theme with corresponding decorations and Mediterranean food was available at the buffet.

Doumbai and Basel's second Line

The spectators were ready to watch exciting and diverse games on the playing field. The first game had the Bern Young Boys playing against Panathinaikos Athens, and just in time for the game the weather cleared, to the delight of all. Although the rain had stopped, the question on everybody's mind was whether or not the field could still be played on after all the rain. Luckily, and thanks to the work of the greenkeepers before the game, the field was in good enough shape for the game. Panathinaikos won the game with a score of 2:1. Many spectators were curious and anxious for the second game to be played that day which would involve the UEFA Cup winners Shakhtar Donetsk. Shakhtar had their Brazilians but the Bern Young Boys had Doumbai. It was Doumbai who scored twice in the match to win the game for the Young Boys with a score of 2:1. FC Basel's first game at the 48 th Uhrencup tournament was played under floodlights where they were able to secure a 2:0 win against the Greeks. FC Basel had gone from underdog to tournament favourite, but still had one more decisive last game against Shakhtar Donetsk which was unfortunately mis-played when new coach, Thorsten Fink, sent out a young second line to come up against the first line players of the UEFA Cup champions. Needless to say, FC Basel didn't stand a chance and lost the game 0:3. On one hand the decision of Coach Fink was understandable in order to save any first line players from injury before the start of the season, but on the other hand, many Basel fans were dissatisfied by the game and the loss of the potential prestige a win against Shakhtar would bring.

The Uhrencup tournament found a worthy winner with Shakhtar Donetsk for the 48 th tournament and there was an unexpected celebration of players and staff after the triumph as the memory of the UEFA cup celebrations was still fresh in their minds.



History of the tournament

Tradition since 1962

For over 40 years now the Uhrencup has firmly secured its place on Switzerland's sports agenda. A tournament which took off on the opening ceremony of a stadium's newly constructed grandstand, is now not just Switzerland's oldest football tournament, but has also become one of its most important events. Years of cooperation between us and leading Swiss agencies, UEFA-match agents, and trustworthy travel agencies help us to maintain a steady high-level organization. Our guests have all, so far, expressed nothing but satisfaction at the professional manner the tournament is organized, including the provision of training locations and facilities. Schalke 04, Bayer Leverkusen, 1st leaguer FC Köln, Trabzonspor and many other top clubs have all recently experienced the benefits of taking part in the Uhrencup. The Teams welcome this opportunity to test and display their fitness and readiness for their upcoming European Championship matches, to the delight of the fans.

The thunderous appreciation of these entertained fans is always incredible, to say the least. Very few events anywhere else could boast of having many fans so close to an arena to witness the actions in it unravel, year in year out. Although the tournament has evolved into a great event it still retains its small-town charm and beautiful countryside. Whoever experiences the Uhrencup magical atmosphere always comes again – be it as a player or a fan. The Uhrencup is under the sponsorship of the Swiss Football Association (SFV). This, coupled with our worldwide renowned Swiss hospitality, we always do our utmost best to fulfil the wishes of all our guests, to ensure that their stay in Grenchen will always be memorably fruitful to their preparation for the upcoming football season. As we look forward, therefore, to the Uhrencup 2007, we hope to welcome you to this very important event of our football history.

From the inauguration to a top tournament

In 1962 the Grenchen football club – FC Grenchen – celebrated the inauguration of its new sports stadium – the Bruehl – with a big international tournament. Watch industry towns were then household names within the SWISS FOOTBALL circus and famous abroad. Biel and Grenchen competed against the Belgium champion FC Brügge and the Italian team AS Como. The resonance of the tournament was so great that the fans and the Journalists wanted its continuation. With the support of the then flourishing watch industry it evolved into a yearly football festival, during which time international top teams like Ipswich Town, FC Sochaux or Juventus Turin has graced the event with their participation.

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From Littbarski and Köln to SC Subingen

Even when the 1980s watch industry crises financially affected the FC Grenchen so much so that it was relegated to the 2nd Division, the tournament never lost its importance.

Unforgettable was the appearance of the 1. League FC Köln coach Christoph Daum and the world champion Pierre Littbarski shortly before the crises, which created such a spectacle and drew throngs of spectators as never before. The long waiting line of eager fans and spectators seemed endless, but alas, endless too was the long list of creditors waiting to be honoured. Unable to win over new creditors, FC Grenchen could no longer financially showcase international teams for the tournament and pay off its debts. The Uhrencup became reduced to just a regional event in the 90s. The 4th leaguer FC Subingen won the tournament then – 6 years after the last champion, the 1st leaguer FC Köln.

The return to international level event

Since 2003 the tournament, under a new management, has been experiencing a unexpected revival and regained its popularity once again. Changes were made in the organisation, marketing and sponsoring was outsourced and in addition, Grenchen town and the local industries were won over as partners, in short, the event became a regional event with international flair. The positive outcome of this was that in 2004 when FC Basel, YB, the Bundesliga clubs Schalke 04 and 1. FC Kaiserslautern participated in the tournament, thousands of spectators again back to the stadium. Since then two international top teams always compete against their Swiss counterparts. Old tradition combined with a professional organisation is the recipes for the successful of hosting this, meanwhile, Switzerland's most important tournament. This organization works hand in hand with Swiss Football Association SFV, an acknowledged UEFA match agents and all participating clubs. The tournament, therefore, will cater and see to the needs of all teams to the best of its ability and guarantee a most competitively enjoyable and unforgettable event for all.

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Statistics

Uhrencup winner record holder is the FC Basel with eleven titles to their name, followed by the Bern Young Boys with 7. Third is the FC Grenchen having won the Uhrencup tournament 6 times. Among other winners of the Uhrencup are such teams as Partizan Belgrade, FC Cologne, Ipswich Town, and the last season champions and UEFA Cup winners Shakhtar Donetsk. On the website www.uhrencup.ch you will find all of the winners along with goals scored from the past 48 years.

- Since 1962 there have been 18 different teams who have won the title, of these 10 were Swiss teams and 8 were foreign. No foreign team has ever won the Uhrencup twice.
- There have been eight teams from Germany who have participated in the Uhrencup in the past making that the most of any other country. Following Germany, are England and Poland each having three teams who have taken part. Deportivo La Coruna will be the first Spanish team to ever participate in an Uhrencup Tournament.
- During the Uhrencup, 718 goals have been scored in regular game time since 1962.
- Throughout the Uhrencup there have been a total of 30 games which finished with a tie. The penalty shootout was invented and used for the first time at the Uhrencup in 1963 when the Tournament Organizers wanted to find a better solution to settle the game than the customary coin toss. The penalty shootout solution was first used internationally during the European Championships in 1976.

Famous Goal Scorers

Berth Theunissen (1965 for YB); Karl Odermatt (1969 for Basel); Serge Mumenthaler (1970 for Grenchen); 1981 Ottmar Hitzfeld (for Luzern); 2003 Christian Gimenez (for Basel); 2004 Ioannis Amanatidis (for Kaiserslautern); 2005 Carsten Jancker (for Kaiserslautern); 2006 Bernd Schneider (for Leverkusen); 2008 Nelson Valdez (for Dortmund); 2009 Seydou Doumbia (for YB); 2009 Jadson (for Donezk).

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2540 Grenchen

Grenchen is located at the foot of the mountain range of the Jura Mountains area between Solothurn and Biel. Grenchen has a large traditional watch industry and several famous manufacturers are based in the city like SWATCH, RADO, FORTIS, CERTINA, CASIO, BREITLING or OMEGA. With over 17,000 inhabitants, it is one of the larger towns of the canton of Solothurn. Airport, good road and rail access create competitive and safe business areas.



Grenchen FC – The Figurehead of a Fottballtown

Grenchen FC is the sportive symbol of the city and once was a top-ranked competitor in the Swiss League. The tournament will be held at stadium Bruehl that can access over 9000 spectators for the Uhrencup. The floodlight masts, even games held in the evening are assured illumination as bright as day.

For more information about Grenchen please contact: grenchen.ch | grenchentourismus.ch

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