

50 European Cup years



PUBLISHED BY
UEFA'S COMMUNICATIONS
AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS
DIVISION

OCTOBER 2004

Cover page::

The trophy may not be the same, but Jose Zarraga (Real Madrid) felt just the same emotion on receiving the European Champion Clubs' Cup as Derlei (FC Porto) did on being presented with the UEFA Champions League trophy. Real Madrid earned the right to keep the first trophy, while the second has already been reproduced three times, as a result of AFC Ajax, Bayern Munich and AC Milan either winning the competition three times in a row or five times in all and thereby being entitled to keep it on permanent display in their trophy cabinets.

The first edition: 1955/56

First KO round

4. 9.1955	Sporting Lisbon - Partizan Belgrade	3-3
7. 9.1955	Vörös Lobogó - RSC Anderlecht	6-3
8. 9.1955	Servette FC - Real Madrid	0-2
14. 9.1955	Rot-Weiss Essen - Hibernian Edinburgh	0-4
20. 9.1955	Djurgårdens - Gwardia Warsaw	0-0
21. 9.1955	Århus GF - Stade de Reims	0-2
21. 9.1955	Rapid Vienna - PSV Eindhoven	6-1
1.11.1955	AC Milan - 1. FC Saarbrücken	3-4
12.10.1955	Partizan Belgrade - Sporting Lisbon	5-2
12.10.1955	Real Madrid - Servette FC	5-0
12.10.1955	Hibernian Edimburg - Rot-Weiss Essen	1-1
12.10.1955	Gwardia Warsaw - Djurgårdens	1-4
19.10.1955	RSC Anderlecht - Vörös Lobogó	1-4
26.10.1955	Stade de Reims - Århus GF	2-2
1.11.1955	PSV Eindhoven - Rapid Vienna	1-0
23.11.1955	1. FC Saarbrücken - AC Milan	1-4

Quarter-finals

23.11.1955	Djurgårdens - Hibernian Edinburgh	1-3
14.12.1955	Stade de Reims - Vörös Lobogó	4-2
25.12.1955	Real Madrid - Partizan Belgrade	4-0
18. 1.1956	Rapid Vienna - AC Milan	1-1
28.11.1955	Hibernian Edinburgh - Djurgårdens	1-0
28.12.1955	Vörös Lobogó - Stade de Reims	4-4
29. 1.1956	Partizan Belgrade - Real Madrid	3-0
12. 5.1956	AC Milan - Rapid Vienna	7-2

Semi-finals

4. 4.1956	Stade de Reims - Hibernian Edinburgh	2-0
19. 4.1956	Real Madrid - AC Milan	4-2
18. 4.1956	Hibernian Edinburgh - Stade de Reims	0-1
1. 5.1956	AC Milan - Real Madrid	2-1

Final

13. 5.1956	Real Madrid - Stade de Reims	4-3
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At the UEFA gala in Monaco in August, Jacques Ferran received the UEFA Order of Merit in emerald from the UEFA President and Raymond Kopa, one of the first stars of the Champion Clubs' Cup when he played for Stade de Reims and Real Madrid.



Tribute to the pioneers

We each have our own particular memories of the European club competitions, depending on our age and the matches we have witnessed either in the stadium or on television.

Of course, these memories tend to be focused on the players, their exploits and goals, or maybe even their attitudes or habits.

Although it is fully understandable that the players should be in the spotlight, the European Champion Clubs' Cup was not thought up by the players themselves. The idea began to form in the middle of the last century in the minds of certain journalists, particularly those of *L'Equipe* who, led by Gabriel Hanot, were the main instigators of the competition. Credit for getting the event off the ground should also go to the game's administrators: those of the clubs, who immediately shared the journalists' enthusiasm, and those of the recently founded UEFA, who realised that such a competition needed legitimacy and solid foundations in order to be successful in the long run.

The faith of these pioneers has been paying off for many years: the European Champion Clubs' Cup enthralled millions of supporters before it was restructured in 1992 to become the UEFA Champions League.

It is under this prestigious name that the competition recently embarked upon its fiftieth edition, providing an ideal opportunity to remind ourselves of how the Champion Clubs' Cup first came into being. Nobody is more qualified to trace the origins of this competition than Jacques Ferran who, more than just a spectator, was involved as a *L'Equipe* journalist, in the conception of the queen of all European club competitions and, in particular, drafted its first set of rules.

We paid tribute to him in Monaco by awarding him the UEFA Order of Merit. Now, through the publication of this article, we want pay homage to all those who contributed to the creation of the European Champion Clubs' Cup.

Lars-Christer Olsson
Chief Executive



WE CARE ABOUT FOOTBALL



By Jacques Ferran



The birth of the European Champion Clubs' Cup

Fifty years on, it is hard to imagine what a primitive state European football was in at the end of 1954, a key year in the history of the European game.

The World Cup, which had just been held for the fifth time in Switzerland, was the only tournament that, every four years, awakened people's interest in international football. The rest of the time, national teams faced each other occasionally, purely on the whim of the associations themselves. There was plenty of talk of an England v Hungary or a Spain v Italy, but then it was simply forgotten.

At club level, it was even worse. The few tournaments that existed (Mitropa Cup, Latin Cup) were only open to a small number of teams from the same geographical area. With the exception of rare money-spinning tournaments, there was no way of making genuine comparisons or drawing up a hierarchy of the great English, Italian or Soviet clubs.

It is quite staggering to note the extent to which European football – which rightly prided itself on being at the forefront of world football in terms of quality, structure, wealth and spectators – still lagged behind its South American counterpart at an

organisational level. Since being founded in 1916, the South American Confederation, which comprised the ten associations from that continent, had regularly organised a highly reputable championship between its members.

However, in 1954, it became clear that some major changes were in the pipeline. In view of the expansion of football throughout the world, the old European associations decided they needed to work together in order to move forward and, in 1954, a European “Entente”, which took the name “UEFA”, was founded. The agenda of its inaugural congress held in Vienna in March that year included one major project in particular: a European Nations' Championship. There was also talk behind the scenes of a tournament involving cities that organised trade fairs and of the reform of the Mitropa Cup.

At the same time, a similar spirit of innovation and desire for change was evident in the *L'EQUIPE* newspaper's dilapidated offices on the second floor of its headquarters at 10, rue du Faubourg-Montmartre, Paris.



EMPICS/TOPHAM PICTUREPOINT

The first trophy, donated by L'EQUIPE, resides in Real Madrid's trophy cabinet. In 1967, it was presented by UEFA President Gustav Wiederkehr (left) to Real Madrid Chairman Santiago Bernabeu after his club won the competition for the sixth time.

However, as one of those involved in these events (one of the few still alive, alas), I can testify that they were totally independent of any kind of outside intervention or influence.

Gabriel Hanot's response

It all started with an inspired journalistic response by the editor of the football newspaper L'EQUIPE, Gabriel Hanot, to an article which appeared in the DAILY MAIL towards the end of 1954. Commenting on the double victory recently achieved by the English champions of 1953/54, Wolverhampton Wanderers, against the illustrious Hungarian champions, Honved (3-2), and Spartak Moscow (4-0), the author had proclaimed Wolverhampton as world champions.

Hanot was 65 years old at the time and had devoted his whole life to football. As a young footballer at US Tourcoing in Northern France and then as a student in Germany, Hanot had worn the French national jersey as a fullback or winger on 12 occasions. Having served as an airman during the First World War, he had been forced

to give up active sport prematurely following an accident. He had become one of the most talented journalists of his generation, working for L'AUTO and the MIROIR DES SPORTS before the Second World War, and then for L'EQUIPE and FRANCE FOOTBALL. However, his achievements as a football administrator and technician were also remarkable. He had been one of the main protagonists of professionalism in France (1932) and had subsequently served as technical director of the French national team. His influence as a coach had spread all over the world.

A keen advocate of anything which would take the game forward, he had been searching for many years for ways of developing international competition. Exactly 20 years previously – in December 1934 – he had suggested in LE MIROIR DES SPORTS, where he was the editor, that two foreign teams should be invited to play in each national championship, and had invited his readers to discuss the idea.

In response to Hanot's proposal, one reader, the dynamic president of

Racing Club de Paris, Jean-Bernard Lévy, had written the following extraordinarily premonitory words: *"In my view, this suggestion, although very good in theory, is impractical... although it may be possible to set up a European championship... Each of the 16 countries involved would nominate one club... Such a competition would be a tremendous sporting and financial success... Racing is therefore willing to organise such an event this very season for the MIROIR DES SPORTS."*

Unfortunately, the 1934/35 season was the first of many that came and went without this idea, which was well ahead of its time, coming to fruition. Jean-Bernard Lévy did not survive the war, but Gabriel Hanot remembered his idea.

On reading the English journalist's proud claim, he took the opportunity to respond as follows in L'EQUIPE on 15 December 1954:

"Before we declare that Wolverhampton are invincible, let them go to Moscow and Budapest. And there



For the fans, friendly matches were virtually the only opportunity to watch top foreign players. In July 1955, AC Milan, captained by Gunnar Nordhal, met Honved Budapest and their star striker Ferenc Puskas.

are other internationally renowned clubs: Milan and Real Madrid to name but two.

The idea of a club world championship, or at least a European one – larger, more meaningful and more prestigious than the Mitropa Cup and more original than a competition for national teams – should be launched. Let us take such a risk.

Only four months later

The idea had been launched and the die cast. It was only four months before what became probably the most important and successful competition invented in the second half of the 20th century came into being. Four months was nothing compared to all those years of standing still. However, football was in desperate need of some new blood and an internationally renowned sports daily such as *L'EQUIPE* was an ideal springboard for the launch of a major competition. Once its editor had provided the impetus, the whole newspaper – management and editorial staff alike – got down to work and did not stop until it had achieved its objective.

The very next day after Gabriel Hanot made his suggestion, Jacques de Ryswick, who was in charge of the football section, discussed it in minute detail under the title: "*L'EQUIPE* presents its plan for a European club competition." "Football," he wrote, "*is breaking out of the structures in which it has remained for so long... A European Nations' Championship will soon be launched, but this will not be easy... So in the meantime, why not create a European club competition?*"

It could be based on the following basic principles: home and away legs on midweek evenings, sponsorship from international television, involvement of 12 to 14 clubs, one per country.

The French newspaper's next task (in January 1955) was to promote the idea throughout Europe so that, having been dissected and amended by the main parties involved – club officials and national associations – it began to resemble a collective project. The reactions it aroused are worth a close look, since they reveal some of the attitudes and concerns of the time.

"A good idea," said the Germans, for example, "*but how can we expect our players, who are not professional, to put in the extra effort? In any case, Germany does not have adequate electrical equipment and this would be expensive to install*". People could already foresee, therefore, how such a huge competition would inevitably change the game's structures, traditions and finances. It was as though they were scared of the European Cup before it even existed!

Those who immediately understood and welcomed the introduction of such a tournament included the young president of Sporting Anderlecht, Albert Roosens, who advocated the immediate creation of a knock-out competition which would "*remain perfectly clear and fire the imagina-*



Alfredo Di Stefano was one of the great figures in the early years of the Champion Clubs' Cup.

tion"; Santiago Bernabeu, president of Real Madrid ("*Spain is ready to welcome to its 100,000-capacity stadiums teams from all European countries, including those from behind the Iron Curtain*"); and the Hungarian Deputy Minister for Sport, Gustav Sebes, who formed the famous national team of Kocsis, Puskas and Boszok and was confident of winning the support of his association.

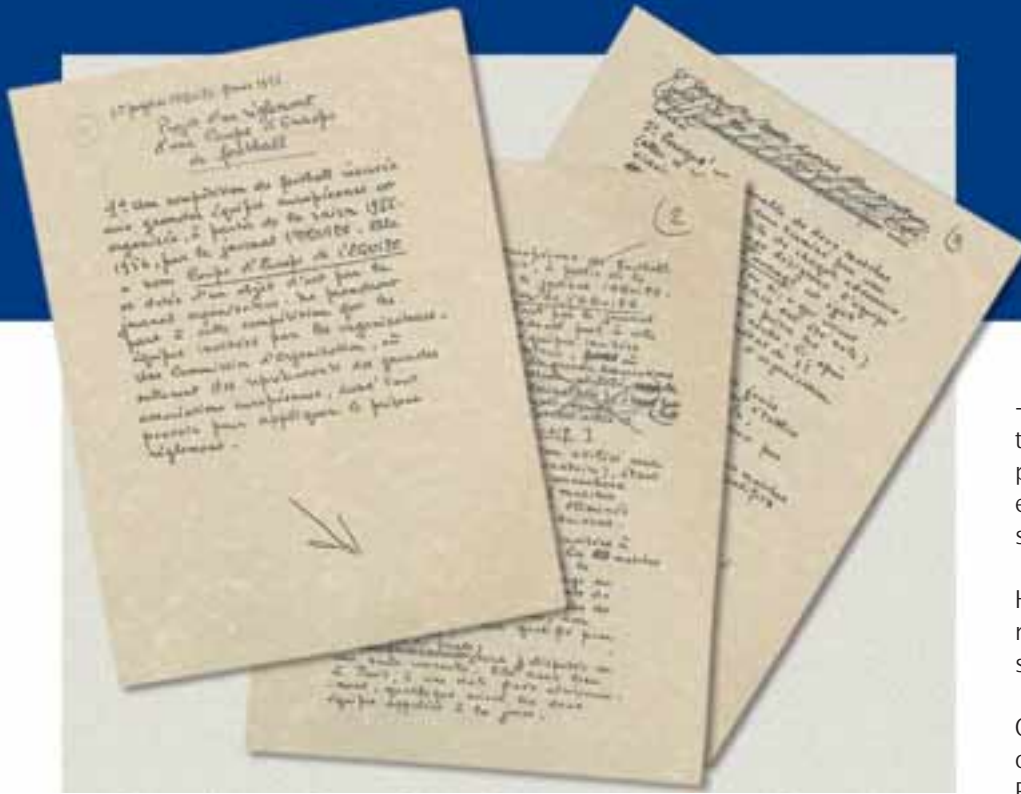
Yellow pages

By the end of January 1955, *L'EQUIPE*, having consulted the rest of Europe, was able to draw up a draft plan for the competition, which was detailed and more or less definitive. This task was entrusted to me, and I have kept the small number of yellow pages containing the first regulations of a tournament which was destined to set European sport on fire.

The main points of these regulations were as follows:

1. Sixteen teams would be invited to participate in the first edition (1955/56). They would be selected by the organisers, with one from each country.
2. The competition would follow the traditional cup format (direct knock-out), with home and away legs, and the aggregate score being taken into account if need be.
3. The first round pairings would be determined by the organising committee. Subsequent rounds would be drawn.
4. Each round of the competition would be completed within certain months of the year: August to October (first round), November to January (quarter-finals), February to April (semi-finals), May to June (final).

It has recently been pointed out that only one major element of the future European Cup did not appear in these initial regulations: the compul-



The first draft regulations, drawn up by Jacques Ferran.

sory and exclusive participation of the champions of each country.

We thought that, in order to give this new competition the greatest chance of success, it was indispensable that the first edition should include the most representative and prestigious clubs. In addition, since we wanted to launch it in the following season, we needed to know who the participants would be and to ensure they were happy to take part without waiting for the conclusion of the national championships that were still in progress.

However, I can offer clear assurances that it was the intention of all the organisers that the honour of competing in this European tournament should in future be reserved for the champions of each country.

A list of well-known clubs was therefore drawn up by Hanot and his *L'EQUIPE* colleagues and published on 3 February. It contained the following names: Rot-Weiss Essen (Germany), Chelsea (England), Rapid Vienna (Austria), Anderlecht (Belgium), BK Copenhagen (Denmark), Hibernian (Scotland), Real Madrid (Spain), Stade de Reims (France), Holland Sport (Netherlands), Vörös Lobogo (Hungary), AC Milan (Italy), Sporting Lisbon (Portugal), FC Saarbrücken (Saarland), Malmö (Sweden), Servette Geneva (Switzerland), Partizan Bel-

grade (Yugoslavia). Dynamo Moscow (USSR) and Sparta Prague (Czechoslovakia) had also been approached.

Shortly afterwards, these clubs received a letter from the editor of *L'EQUIPE*, Jacques Goddet, asking whether they were prepared to participate in a European Cup to be held the following season.

Almost all of them quickly agreed. Only AC Milan, who were experiencing internal problems, expressed reservations. However, as expected, the majority said they would only participate with the blessing of their national association.

How could the associations' consent be obtained? And what should be done if they refused?

In search of an organiser

At this point, I should mention that at no point did *L'EQUIPE* envisage organising the competition itself, as it did the Tour de France, for example. We had neither the resources to manage such a large event nor the desire to come into conflict with the national and international associations, who were understandably keen to guard their authority. Our sole objective was to get the competition off the ground in order that a sport which was close to our hearts might flourish, and also

– and we never hid this fact – for the good of our publication. A competition of this kind would help us enormously to increase our midweek sales.

Having conceived our baby, our main concern was therefore to find someone to adopt it.

Of course, FIFA was our first port of call. Its president, Belgian Rodolphe William Seeldrayers, wrote to *L'EQUIPE*: *"The organisation of such a tournament is not subject to the prior agreement of FIFA, whose Statutes (Art. 38) only concern competitions between representative teams of national associations... I have no doubt that, if it is possible to reconcile the dates of this tournament with the busy calendar of the national championships and international matches, this event will be extremely interesting and very successful."*

This point of view, which seems rather strange some fifty years later, was shared by the former FIFA President, Jules Rimet, and his General Secretary, Kurt Gassmann. *"FIFA"*, they said, *"does not need to get involved. It is up to the clubs themselves to organise their competitions."*

Keen to investigate every possible option, Hanot and I travelled to a snowbound Vienna, where UEFA was holding its first Congress in early March. The Executive Committee agreed to meet us the day before the Congress.

Gabriel Hanot began by stressing the enthusiastic welcome given to our plan by the top European clubs. Meanwhile, I pointed out that we were not interested in organising the competition ourselves, since we had neither the desire nor the resources to do so. We only wanted to help set it up. It was up to those responsible to tell us how to go about it.



April 1977: Silversmith Hans Stadelmann from Bern, Switzerland, presents UEFA General Secretary Hans Bangerter with a new trophy exactly the same as the old one, which had been won by Bayern Munich for keeps after three victories in a row.

Mr Schwartz, Mr Crahay, Mr Sebes, Mr Graham and Mr Pierre Delaunay welcomed us warmly but did not seem particularly interested. José Crahay, the future “patron” of the European Cup, appeared more understanding than the others. However, it was the UEFA President, Ebbe Schwartz, who summed up the Committee’s view: *“It is a good idea, but nobody knows how the associations will react.”*

The French representative, Pierre Delaunay (representing his father, Henri, who was already suffering from the illness which led to his death), was unable to comment, since the French FA had decided that *“having given its approval to the organisation of a Nations’ Cup, it could not take into consideration the L’EQUIPE project.”* However, it had added that it would not stand in the way of the plan if it were discussed in Vienna.

The inaugural UEFA Congress, held on 2 March, began with the postponement sine die of the plan to organise a European Nations’ Cup, which was the whole reason for holding the meeting. As for the L’EQUIPE project, UEFA President Schwartz alluded to it only briefly: *“UEFA does not need to give an opinion. It is up to the associations to give their clubs permission to participate in such an event.”*

Taking the bull by the horns

On our return home, we were hardly any further forward, but at least we knew that neither FIFA nor UEFA would take the initiative of organising the competition.

“The clubs we have approached have said yes”, I wrote in a series of articles published between 8 and 15 March. *“I am sure the associations will go with the flow. It is now up to the interested parties to organise this event. Once it has existed for a few years, we will probably be wondering why it was not created earlier.*

And maybe then this young, timid UEFA, which for the time being is content to sit and observe, might take responsibility for a competition which, in return, would provide it with its raison d’être.”

It was actually only two months before this prediction came true, thanks to L’EQUIPE’s decision to take the bull by the horns by inviting to Paris the clubs which had agreed to take part and by laying the foundations for an independent organisational structure which would have ultimately weakened the official bodies’ position.

There was another reason why we were in such a hurry to get the competition off the ground. We knew that two similar projects had been discussed in Vienna. Firstly, the old Mitropa Cup had been reformed and enlarged, with the first draw scheduled for 10 April. Secondly, three important association officials, Stanley Rous, Ottorino Barassi and Ernst Thommen, had proposed the creation of a tournament spread over several seasons, involving 12 teams selected from cities that organised

trade fairs. This event was due to be launched in Basel on 18 April.

An extraordinary race against the clock had therefore begun, involving three projects, among which ours appeared to have the brightest future. Our optimism grew even further when we learned that the association of French professional clubs (now the Professional Football League), then chaired by former international centre-forward Paul Nicolas, had decided to support our project and to send representatives to our inaugural meeting.

When delegates from the most illustrious clubs across Europe descended on Paris, we were sure that our own gamble had the greatest chance of paying off.

Pioneers who should not be forgotten

All the clubs we approached responded to our invitation, except Hibernian, the Scottish club (although they said they would participate) and Dynamo Moscow.

The president of the Soviet FA, Valentin Granatkin, had written to Jacques Goddet: *“The Soviet FA regretfully informs you that, due to the impossibility of holding international matches on Russian soil during winter and because of the overloaded summer calendar, no Russian team will be able to participate in the European Clubs’ Cup.”*

Not until 1967, when the European competition was entering its 13th edition, did a Soviet team, Dynamo Kiev, take part.

The meetings in Paris, in which an active role was played by representatives of L’EQUIPE, led by its editor, were held on 2 and 3 April 1955 at the Ambassador Hotel, Boulevard Haussmann, in an amazingly



The first final without Real Madrid, in 1961 in Bern. Luis Suarez scored for FC Barcelona but Benfica won the cup.



Real Madrid, winners of the first final.

warm and friendly atmosphere. Hungarian Gustav Sebes and Spaniard Santiago Bernabeu discovered they had memories in common. Englishman Battersby joked about his Scottish colleague's thrift. Frenchman Bédignans, representing the association of French professional clubs, chaired the proceedings with a mixture of austerity and humour.

The regulations drawn up by *L'EQUIPE* were very quickly adopted with a kind of joyful excitement, as if the delegates from Milan, Belgrade, London and Lisbon were deeply aware of the importance of what they were doing. The Real Madrid President, Santiago Bernabeu, accompanied by his brilliant young treasurer, Raimundo Saporta, was largely responsible for the success of these meetings. His French, although sometimes hesitant, was generally good enough to impress upon the others the need to move forward. His personality and the importance of his great club, whose support he was throwing into the ring, were crucial to the project's success.

The competition's first set of regulations was unanimously adopted. An Executive Organising Committee was appointed from among those present in order to enforce them. It comprised Ernest Bédignans (France), Chairman; Santiago Bernabeu (Spain) and Gustav Sebes (Hungary), Vice-

Chairmen; members: Mr Battersby (England), Mr Keller (Saarland), Mr Piazzalunga (Switzerland) and Mr Jansen (Germany). Gustav Sebes was also vice-president of the recently formed UEFA.

The first-round pairings of the 1955/56 competition were not drawn, but fixed by the organisers. These are the only European Cup matches not to have been drawn out of the hat since the competition began.

The eight ties were as follows:

- Chelsea (England) - Djurgårdens (Sweden)
- Real Madrid (Spain) - Servette FC (Switzerland)
- AC Milan (Italy) - Saarbrücken (Saarland)
- Rot-Weiss Essen (Germany) - Hibernian (Scotland)
- Honved or Vörös Lobogo (Hungary) - Anderlecht (Belgium)
- Reims (France) - BK Copenhagen (Denmark)
- Rapid Vienna (Austria) - Holland Sport (Netherlands)
- Partizan Belgrade (Yugoslavia) - Sporting (Portugal)

Realism wins the day

The decisions taken in Paris were a real watershed. In fact they were just a bluff, since the people appointed to

organise the competition would have been unable to do so, since they were both judge and judged and had no arbitral or disciplinary powers.

However, the determination of these pioneers was so sincere that the sports authorities could not fail to be roused to action. It was clear that the European Cup would go ahead without them if they chose not to be involved.

It was therefore only a few weeks before UEFA first, then FIFA, took things into their own hands. Meeting in London on 6 May 1955, UEFA's Emergency Committee stated that FIFA should not authorise a group of independent people to create and organise a competition of this nature. It also submitted a motion to the FIFA Executive Committee, which met on 8 May, in which, having been informed of the various ideas for European tournaments and noting in particular that 16 clubs, all from different national associations, had stated their intention to create a European Cup, it urged FIFA, with reference to article 9 of the FIFA Regulations, to examine the conditions for the organisation of such a competition, in order to ensure that it complied with the international rules governing the responsibilities of the national associations. The Executive Committee had also requested that the word "EUROPE" be reserved exclusively for UEFA.

In accordance with this request, FIFA soon decided to recognise the new competition, on condition that:

1. the participating clubs had the consent of their national associations;
2. the competition was organised under the authority and responsibility of UEFA;
3. the noun "EUROPE" could only be used for competitions involving national teams.



Stade de Reims and Real Madrid line up in front of the trophy before the first final kicks off.

Finally, the UEFA Executive Committee, meeting in Paris on 21 June, decided to organise a competition known as the “European Champion Clubs’ Cup” and adopted its regulations, specifying that the event would remain open to all associations that wished to enter their champions.

At the time, the clubs involved and the association of French professional clubs were, quite understandably, rather annoyed. They had moulded the event themselves after the associations had refused to do so; and now that everything was ready, those same associations wanted to take control.

Nevertheless, the club officials and we journalists soon realised that it would be advantageous if UEFA took charge of the new competition, since it alone was able to give it the necessary status and profile.

They had played an important role and, without them, there would not have been a European Cup. Now, however, in the interests of the competition, they had to step back.

An instant success

UEFA wisely left things more or less as they had been decided in Paris. The 16 clubs previously nominated were invited to participate in the inaugural tournament and the first-round matches proposed by the short-lived organising committee were confirmed.

Nonetheless, a few changes were made during the summer. Not surprisingly, England decided to sit out the first edition and see how things developed before entering a team. When the English league “advised” Chelsea to withdraw in order not to compete with the national championship, the London club was replaced by Polish outfit Gwardia Warsaw.

In addition, Holland Sport, who had been chosen to represent the Netherlands, gave their place to PSV Eindhoven, while Danish side BK Copenhagen were replaced by Århus GF.

However, all the big clubs remained and the imposing silver trophy pro-

vided by *L’EQUIPE* had some worthy suitors.

On 4 September 1955, barely nine months after the European Cup had been conceived in an office in the Faubourg-Montmartre, the baby was born.

Lisbon hosted the first match of a competition whose future success was hard to imagine. In front of 30,000 spectators, the Portuguese club Sporting and Yugoslavian side Partizan drew 3-3 in a match refereed by Frenchman Mr Harzic. The special correspondent for the French press was a certain Gabriel Hanot.

Although no English team was involved, the inaugural European Cup campaign was under way. The 29 matches were watched by a total of 800,000 fans, an average of 28,000 per game. Some 127 goals were scored, at an average of more than four per game!

Never had a new competition fulfilled people’s expectations so quickly. It was as if the format, as simple as the laws of the game themselves, had already achieved some kind of perfection, and as though the public and media from throughout the continent had merely been waiting for this signal to rediscover the joys of football.

When the second edition included the champions of England, Bulgaria, Romania, Czechoslovakia, Turkey and Luxembourg in addition to those who had entered first time round – bringing the number of countries involved to 21 – it was clear for all to see that UEFA’s first competition had already come of age. And that its importance and influence on the game’s development – its habits, structures, economy, training methods, techniques, refereeing, etc. – would never cease to grow.

The first final

Having eliminated Servette, Partizan Belgrade and AC Milan, Real Madrid faced Stade de Reims, who had beaten Århus GF, Vörös Lobogo and Hibernian, in the final at the Parc des Princes in Paris on 13 June 1956. The match, watched by around 40,000 spectators, was refereed by Englishman Arthur E. Ellis.

Real Madrid, coached by José Villalonga, lined up with Alonso in goal, Atienza, Marquito and Lesmes in defence, Muñoz and Zarraga in the midfield and Joseito, Marsal, Di Stefano, Rial and Gento in attack.

Jacquet was in goal for Stade de Reims, who were coached by Albert Batteux. In front of him were defenders Zimny, Jonquet and Giraud. Leblond and Siatka supported the attackers Hidalgo, Glovacki, Kopa, Bliard and Templin.

Following a thunderous start (2-0 up after 10 minutes, with goals from Leblond and Templin), Reims had been pegged back by the half-hour mark, with goals from Di Stefano and Rial. In the second half, Hidalgo restored the French side’s lead, but they eventually lost thanks to goals from Marquitos and Rial.

“It is always rather moving to witness the birth of a tradition”, wrote Antoine Blondin in L’EQUIPE. “A historic moment is an opportunity worth experiencing on the spot. The other evening, there was something of the nativity at the Parc des Princes where, under a starry sky, football’s first European Cup was glimpsed by 40,000 wise men who had brought with them the myrrh and frankincense of a new enthusiasm”.

1956-2004: The winners

Date	Venue	Teams	Results	Referee
13.06.1956	Paris	Real Madrid CF – Stade de Reims	4-3	Ellis
30.05.1957	Madrid	Real Madrid CF – Fiorentina AC	2-0	Horn
28.05.1958	Brussels	Real Madrid CF – AC Milan	3-2 a)	Alsteen
03.06.1959	Stuttgart	Real Madrid CF – Stade de Reims	2-0	Dusch
18.05.1960	Glasgow	Real Madrid CF – Eintracht Frankfurt	7-3	Mowat
31.05.1961	Bern	FC Barcelona – SL Benfica	2-3	Dienst
02.05.1962	Amsterdam	SL Benfica – Real Madrid CF	5-3	Horn
22.05.1963	London	SL Benfica – AC Milan	1-2	Holland
27.05.1964	Vienna	Internazionale FC – Real Madrid CF	3-1	Stoll
27.05.1965	Milan	Internazionale FC – SL Benfica	1-0	Dienst
11.05.1966	Brussels	Real Madrid CF – FK Partizan Belgrade	2-1	Kreitlein
25.05.1967	Lisbon	Internazionale FC – Celtic FC	1-2	Tschenscher
29.05.1968	London	Manchester United FC – SL Benfica	4-1 a)	Lo Bello
28.05.1969	Madrid	AFC Ajax – AC Milan	1-4	O. de Mendibil
06.05.1970	Milan	Feyenoord – Celtic FC	2-1 a)	Lo Bello
02.06.1971	London	AFC Ajax – Panathinaikos FC	2-0	Taylor
31.05.1972	Rotterdam	AFC Ajax – Internazionale FC	2-0	Hélies
30.05.1973	Belgrade	AFC Ajax – Juventus	1-0	Gugulovic
15.05.1974	Brussels	FC Bayern München – Atlético de Madrid	1-1 a)	Loroux
17.05.1974	Brussels	FC Bayern München – Atlético de Madrid	4-0	Delcourt
28.05.1975	Paris	FC Bayern München – Leeds United AFC	2-0	Kitabdjian
12.05.1976	Glasgow	FC Bayern München – AS St-Etienne	1-0	Palotai
25.05.1977	Rome	Liverpool FC – Borussia Mönchengladbach	3-1	Wurtz
10.05.1978	London	Club Brugge KV – Liverpool FC	0-1	Corver
30.05.1979	Munich	Malmö FF – Nottingham Forest FC	0-1	Linemayr
28.05.1980	Madrid	Nottingham Forest FC – Hamburger SV	1-0	Garrido
27.05.1981	Paris	Liverpool FC – Real Madrid CF	1-0	Palotai
26.05.1982	Rotterdam	Aston Villa FC – FC Bayern München	1-0	Konrath
25.05.1983	Athens	Hamburger SV – Juventus	1-0	Rainea
30.05.1984	Rome	AS Roma – Liverpool FC	1-1 b)	Fredriksson
29.05.1985	Brussels	Liverpool FC – Juventus	0-1	Daina
07.05.1986	Seville	FC Barcelona – Steaua Bucharest	0-0 b)	Vautrot
27.05.1987	Vienna	FC Bayern München – FC Porto	1-2	Ponnet
25.05.1988	Stuttgart	PSV Eindhoven – SL Benfica	0-0 b)	Agnolin
24.05.1989	Barcelona	Steaua Bucharest – AC Milan	0-4	Tritschler
23.05.1990	Vienna	AC Milan – SL Benfica	1-0	Kohl
29.05.1991	Bari	FK Crvena Zvezda – Olympique Marseille	0-0 b)	Lanese
20.05.1992	London	Sampdoria UC – FC Barcelona	0-1 a)	Schmidhuber
26.05.1993	Munich	Olympique Marseille – AC Milan	1-0	Röthlisberger
18.05.1994	Athens	AC Milan – FC Barcelona	4-0	Don
24.05.1995	Vienna	AFC Ajax – AC Milan	1-0	Craciunescu
22.05.1996	Rome	AFC Ajax – Juventus	1-1 b)	Diaz Vega
28.05.1997	Munich	Borussia Dortmund – Juventus	3-1	Puhl
20.05.1998	Amsterdam	Juventus – Real Madrid CF	0-1	Krug
26.05.1999	Barcelona	Manchester United – FC Bayern München	2-1	Collina
24.05.2000	Paris	Real Madrid CF – Valencia CF	3-0	Braschi
23.05.2001	Milan	FC Bayern München – Valencia CF	1-1 b)	Jol
15.05.2002	Glasgow	Bayer Leverkusen – Real Madrid CF	1-2	Meier
28.05.2003	Manchester	Juventus – AC Milan	0-0 b)	Merk
26.05.2004	Gelsenkirchen	AS Monaco FC – FC Porto	0-3	Nielsen

a) After extra time

b) After penalty kicks

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