MATCH PRESS KIT

Round of 16 – 2nd Leg

Esteghlal (IRN) vs Al Shabab Al Arabi (UAE)
Azadi Stadium, Tehran
Wednesday, 22 May 2013, 21:00 local time

Contents

This press kit includes information relating to this AFC Champions League match.

Match background

Newly-crowned Iranian champion Esteghlal are firmly in the driver's seat in their Round of 16 clash against United Arab Emirates side Al Shabab Al Arabi after a powerful second-half performance in Dubai saw them come from a goal down to win 4-2.

The hosts grabbed the advantage at the Maktoum Bin Rashid Al Maktoum Stadium when Luiz Henrique scored with a fine individual effort on the stroke of half-time.

But the Iranian side hit back in the second half with Jlloyd Samuel equalising before Javad Nekounam and Farhad Majidi scored with headers to give them a 3-1 lead.

Edgar pulled a goal back with five minutes left but Khosro Heidari's brilliant volley in the final minute sealed a memorable win for the Tehran giants.

Group D winners Esteghlal have never managed to go beyond the Round of 16 in the AFC Champions League but barring a miraculous turnaround for the UAE club at the Azadi Stadium, they already have one foot in the Quarter-Finals.

Al Shabab Al Arabi have already shown a great deal of resolve in this year's tournament, equalising in the final minute and then winning a penalty shootout in a play-off against Iranian side Sabaye Qom to qualify for the Group Stage and then coming back from a hopeless-looking position in Group D to win their last two games to qualify for the last 16 as runners-up.

But the UAE club must win the return match by three goals in order to go through to the Quarter-Finals on their first appearance in the Knockout Stage.

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Round of 16 facts

- The Round of 16 was introduced to the AFC Champions League format in 2009 when the number of competing teams was increased from 29 to 32. The previous format (used from 2004 to 2008) saw the first-placed teams from seven four-team groups advancing directly to the Quarter-Finals along with the winners of the previous year's tournament.

- From 2009 to 2012, the Round of 16 featured one-off matches hosted by the winners of the eight opening round-groups. From this season onwards, the Round of 16 will be played over two legs with the group runners-up hosting the first leg games and the group winners hosting the second leg games.

- Last year's penalty shootout between Al Jazira of the United Arab Emirates and Al Ahli of Saudi Arabia was the first in the Round of 16 since 2009 when two matches were settled that way. All three ties have been won by the away side – Al Ahli won 4-2 in 2012 after a 3-3 draw in Abu Dhabi, Umm Salal of Qatar beat Al Hilal of Saudi Arabia 4-3 after a goalless draw in Riyadh and Korea's FC Seoul downed Kashima Antlers 5-4 after a 2-2 draw in Japan.

- In addition to those games, only one other Round of 16 match has gone to extra time. Lee Dong-gook got the winner for Jeonbuk Motors of Korea in their 3-2 victory over Adelaide United 3-2 in Australia in 2010 after the game was deadlocked at 2-2 after 90 minutes.

- Al Hilal recorded the biggest ever win in the Round of 16 with their 7-1 thrashing of UAE side Baniyas last year. Korea's Pohang Steelers also won by a six-goal margin when they crushed Newcastle Jets of Australia 6-0 in 2009.

- Bunyodkor of Uzbekistan and Al Hilal of Saudi Arabia are the only teams to have qualified for the Round of 16 in all five editions since it was introduced in 2009. Al Shabab of Saudi Arabia are appearing in the last 16 for the fourth time while Korean sides FC Seoul and Jeonbuk Hyundai Motors are making their third appearances at this stage.

- Al Shabab Al Arabi of the United Arab Emirates, Central Coast Mariners of Australia, Buriram United of Thailand, and Lekhwiya and El Jaish of Qatar are making their first appearances in the Round of 16. El Jaish are the only tournament debutants to have reached this season's knockout stage.

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Match facts

Esteghlal and Al Shabab Al Arabi are meeting for the second time in the AFC Champions League after the Iranian club's 4-2 win in Dubai last week. Esteghlal are in the Round of 16 for a third time while Al Shabab have reached this stage for the first time.

Esteghlal
- Esteghlal are looking to go beyond the Round of 16 for the first time in the AFC Champions League. In their previous two appearances at this stage, they lost 3-2 at Saudi Arabia's Al Shabab in 2010 and 2-0 at Iranian rivals Sepahan last year.
- The Tehran club are looking to ensure Iranian representation in the Quarter-Finals for the fourth season in a row. Zobahan reached the last eight in 2010 and 2011 while Sepahan emulated them in 2011 and last year.
- Esteghlal's 2-0 win over Al Ain in March was their first-ever home victory against a UAE club in the competition. They had previously hosted Al Jazira on three occasions, drawing 1-1 in 2009 and 0-0 in 2010 and losing 2-1 last year.
- With a goal each in the 4-2 win at Al Shabab Al Arabi in the first leg, Farhad Majidi and Jlloyd Samuel joined Arash Borhani as the club's leading scorers in the tournament with three goals.
- Esteghlal are now tied with El Jaish as the competition's fourth highest scoring side with 15 goals, two behind leaders Al Ahli of Saudi Arabia.

Domestic form
Having clinched their eighth Iranian league title with a game to spare, Esteghlal completed their 2012-13 campaign with a 2-1 home loss to Damash Gilan on May 10. They finished with 67 points, two ahead of runners-up Tractorsazi Tabriz.

Al Shabab Al Arabi
- Al Shabab Al Arabi are looking to become the first United Arab Emirates side to win a game in the Knockout Stage since Al Ain beat China's Shenzhen Jianlibao 6-0 in the 2005 Semi-Finals.
- On their previous visits to Iran in the competition, they lost 2-0 at Sepahan in 2009 and 6-1 at Persepolis in 2012, but they eliminated Sabaye Qom in this year's Play-off when they won 5-3 on penalties after a 1-1 draw
- Al Shabab's 2-1 victory at Pakhtakor on Matchday Six was their first-ever away win in regulation time in the competition after they had gone winless in their previous nine matches in Iran.
- Of the 16 teams left in the competition, Al Shabab share the worst defensive record with Al Ghafara after conceding 13 goals in seven games.
- They will welcome back four defenders who were suspended for the first leg – Mohammed Marzooq, Walid Abbas, Mahmood Qassim and Hassan Ibrahim.

Domestic form
Al Shabab Al Arabi beat Dubai 2-0 in their penultimate match of the United Arab Emirates Pro League season last Saturday to move up to fifth in the table.

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Competition fixtures & standings

GROUP D	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	+/-	Pts
ESTEGHLAL (IRN)	**6**	**4**	**1**	**1**	**11**	**5**	**6**	**13**
AL HILAL (KSA)	6	4	0	2	10	6	4	10
AL AIN (UAE)	6	2	0	4	6	9	-3	6
AL RAYYAN (QAT)	6	1	1	4	7	14	-7	4

27 February 2013
AL AIN (UAE)   3-1   **AL HILAL (KSA)**
(AA: Omar Abdulrahman 27, Alex Brosque 46, Asamoah Gyan 90+2; AH: Abdulla Zori 9)
AL RAYYAN (QAT)   3-3   **ESTEGHLAL (IRN)**
(AR: Rodrigo Tabata 37-pen, Hanif Omranzadeh 58-og, Nilmar 87; E: Jlloyd Samuel 27, Arash Borhni 45+1, Javad Nekounam 86-pen)

13 March 2013
AL HILAL (KSA)   3-1   **AL RAYYAN (QAT)**
(AH: Yasser Al Qahtani 57, 74, Mohammed Al Shalhoub 88; AR: Hamid Ismaeil 86)
ESTEGHLAL (IRN)   2-0   **AL AIN (UAE)**
(E: Jlloyd Samuel 64, Farhad Majidi 73)

03 April 2013
AL HILAL (KSA)   1-2   **ESTEGHLAL (IRN)**
(AH: Salem Al Dawsari 68; E: Pejman Montazeri 80, Arash Borhani 86)
AL AIN (UAE)   2-1   **AL RAYYAN (QAT)**
(AA: Jires Kembo-Ekoko 34, Alex Brosque 70; AR: Nilmar 32)

09 April 2013
ESTEGHLAL (IRN)   0-1   **AL HILAL (KSA)**
(AH: Nawaf Al Abid 35)
AL RAYYAN (QAT)   2-1   **AL AIN (UAE)**
(AR: Nilmar 59, Jaralla Al Marri 86; AA: Yousef Ahmed 78)

23 April 2013
AL HILAL (KSA)   2-0   **AL AIN (UAE)**
(AH: Salem Al Dawsari 4, Wesley 24)
ESTEGHLAL (IRN)   3-0   **AL RAYYAN (QAT)**
(E: Farhad Majidi 45, Hashem Beikzadeh 73, Arash Borhani 90+1)

30 April 2013
AL AIN (UAE)   0-1   **ESTEGHLAL (IRN)**
(E: Javad Nekounam 80-pen)
AL RAYYAN (QAT)   0-2   **AL HILAL (KSA)**
(AH: Nawaf Shaker 78, Wesley 83)

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GROUP B	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	+/-	Pts
LEKHWIYA (QAT)	6	3	2	1	10	7	3	11
AL SHABAB AL ARABI (UAE)	**6**	**3**	**0**	**3**	**8**	**9**	**-1**	**9**
AL ETTIFAQ (KSA)	6	2	1	3	6	5	1	7
PAKHTAKOR (UZB)	6	2	1	3	6	9	-3	7

26 February 2013
LEKHWIYA (QAT)   **2-1**   **AL SHABAB AL ARABI (UAE)**
(L: Sebastian Soria 20, Youssef Msakni 33; AS: Edgar Da Silva 10)
PAKHTAKOR (UZB)   **1-0**   **AL ETTIFAQ (KSA)**
(P: Temurkhuja Abdukholiqov 73)

12 March 2013
AL SHABAB AL ARABI (UAE)   **0-1**   **PAKHTAKOR (UZB)**
(P: Jamshid Iskanderov 85)
AL ETTIFAQ (KSA)   **0-0**   **LEKHWIYA (QAT)**

03 April 2013
AL SHABAB AL ARABI (UAE)   **1-0**   **AL ETTIFAQ (KSA)**
(AS: Naser Masood 81)
LEKHWIYA (QAT)   **3-1**   **PAKHTAKOR (UZB)**
(L: Issiar Dia 21, Sebastian Soria 84, 90+1; P: Gulom Urunov 40)

09 April 2013
AL ETTIFAQ (KSA)   **4-1**   **AL SHABAB AL ARABI (UAE)**
(AE: Saleh Bashar 16, 71, Yahia Al Shehri 42, Yousef Al Salem 80; AS: Edgar Da Silva 51)
PAKHTAKOR (UZB)   **2-2**   **LEKHWIYA (QAT)**
(P: Gulom Uryunov 26, Dame Traore 56-og; L: Sebastian Suria 1, Youssef Msakni 67)

24 April 2013
AL SHABAB AL ARABI (UAE)   **3-1**   **LEKHWIYA (QAT)**
(AS: Essa Obaid 46, Ciel 76, Edgar Da Silva 90+2; Youssef Msakni 36)
AL ETTIFAQ (KSA)   **2-0**   **PAKHTAKOR (UZB)**
(AE: Yahia Al Shehri 24, Jamaan Al Jamaan 41)

01 May 2013
LEKHWIYA (QAT)   **2-0**   **AL ETTIFAQ (KSA)**
(L: Luiz Martin 12, Khaled Muftah 65)
PAKHTAKOR (UZB)   **1-2**   **AL SHABAB AL ARABI (UAE)**
(P: Kakhi Makharadze 19-pen; AS: Esam Dhahi 1, Kakhi Makharadze 64-og)

ROUND OF 16
1st leg – 15 May 2013
AL SHABAB AL ARABI (UAE)   **2-4**   **ESTEGHLAL (IRN)**
(AS: Luiz Henrique 45+2, Edgar Da Silva 85; E: Jlloyd Samuel 55, Javad Nekounam 72, Farhad Majidi 80, Khosro Heidari 89)

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Squad information

Esteghlal

No	Pos	Player Name	DOB	Nat	Pl	Min	Gs	YC	RC
1	GK	MEHDI RAHMATI	03 Feb, 1983	IRN	7	630	-6		
2	DF	KHOSRO HEYDARI	14 Sep, 1983	IRN	6	540	1		
3	MF	JLLOYD SAMUEL	18 Mar, 1981	TRI	6	540	3	1	
4	DF	AMIRHOSSEIN SADEGHI	06 Sep, 1981	IRN	5 (1)	495		2	
5	DF	HANIF OMRAN ZADEH	30 Apr, 1985	IRN	5 (1)	495			
6	MF	JAVAD NEKOUNAM	07 Sep, 1980	IRN	7	585	2	1	
7	FW	FARHAD MAJIDI	03 Jun, 1976	IRN	2 (3)	298	3		
8	MF	MOJTABA JABARI	16 Jun, 1983	IRN	7	630			
9	FW	ARASH BORHANI	14 Sep, 1983	IRN	3 (4)	226	3		
10	MF	SIAVASH AKBARPOUR	21 Jan, 1985	IRN	3 (3)	303		2	
11	MF	SAEED LAMEIRAMANDI	10 May, 1987	IRN					
12	DF	ASHJARI HASSAN	01 Aug, 1979	IRN	1	66			
13	GK	MEHRDAD HOSSENI	08 Feb, 1989	IRN					
14	MF	KIANOUSH RAHMATI	18 Sep, 1978	IRN	(1)	1			
16	MF	HASHEM BEIKZADEH	22 Jan, 1984	IRN	5 (1)	458	1		
17	MF	MEISAM BAEOUDIZABADI	19 Sep, 1983	IRN					
19	MF	ABBAS MOHAMMADREZAEI	09 Sep, 1982	IRN					
21	MF	ARMEN TAHMASIAN	05 Jun, 1990	IRN					
22	GK	SEYEDHOSSEIN HOSSEINI	30 Jun, 1992	IRN					
24	FW	FARZAD HATAMI	04 Jan, 1986	IRN	3 (3)	258		2	
25	DF	HOJAT CHAHAR MAHALI	25 Mar, 1989	IRN					
28	MF	MEHRAN GHASEMI	11 Nov, 1991	IRN					
33	DF	PEJMAN MONTAZERI	06 Sep, 1983	IRN	7	630	1	1	
35	GK	HADI RISHI ESFAHANI	19 Feb, 1992	IRN					
36	FWD	SEYEDIMAN MOOSAVI	05 Feb, 1989	IRN	3 (1)	229		1	
38	MF	VICENTE ARZE CAMACHO	22 Nov, 1985	BOL	2	81			
40	DF	ALI HAMOUDI	21 Mar, 1986	IRN	5 (2)	466		1	

Pl: Matches Started (substitute appearances in brackets)

Min: Minutes Played

Gs: Goals scored (when Goalkeeper refers to goals conceded)

YC: Yellow Cards

RC: Red Cards

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Al Shabab Al Arabi

No	Pos	Player Name	DOB	Nat	Pl	Min	Gs	YC	RC
2	DF	ESSA MOHAMMAD	19 Apr, 1980	UAE	3	255		1	
3	DF	ABDULLA DARWISH	11 Sep, 1979	UAE	1	73			
4	DF	MOHAMMED MARZOOQ	23 Jan, 1989	UAE	4 (1)	364			
5	DF	WALID ABBAS	11 Jun, 1985	UAE	5 (1)	467		2	
6	FW	SANAD ALI	13 Nov, 1988	UAE	1 (1)	100			
7	MF	AZIZBEK HAYDAROV	08 Jul, 1985	UZB	6	519			
8	MF	LUIZ HENRIQUE	02 Jul, 1981	BRA	5	414	1	2	1
9	FW	EDGAR DA SILVA	03 Jan, 1987	BRA	4 (2)	408	4	1	
11	FW	ABDULLA EISSA	01 Jan, 1987	UAE					
12	MF	SHABAN FAHAD HASSAN	22 Nov, 1992	UAE					
13	MF	IBRAHIM ABDULLA	01 Apr 1990	UAE	2	180		2	
14	DF	SAMI ANBER	18 Jun, 1984	UAE	4	337		2	
15	MF	DAWOOD ALI	29 Dec, 1983	UAE	2 (2)	169			
16	MF	KHALIFA IBRAHIM	29 Sep, 1992	UAE					
18	GK	SALEM ABDULLA	18 Jan, 1984	UAE	5	450	-11		
20	MF	NASER MASOOD	06 Mar, 1986	UAE	2 (2)	200	1	2	
21	MF	ADEL ABDULLA	03 Jul, 1980	UAE	2 (1)	174		1	
22	DF	MANEI MOHAMED	19 Jun, 1989	UAE	1 (2)	147			
24	FW	ESSA OBAID	10 Apr, 1984	UAE	5 (2)	416	1	1	
25	DF	MAHMOOD QASSIM	08 Sep, 1987	UAE	3 (1)	268		2	
26	DF	HASSAN IBRAHIM	19 Oct, 1990	UAE	4 (1)	360		2	
29	DF	ESAM DHAHI	03 Oct, 1982	UAE	6	495	1		
30	GK	ISMAIL RABEE	11 Jan, 1983	UAE	2	180	-2		
32	FW	ABDULLA HASSAN	05 Aug, 1990	UAE					
33	DF	HAMDAN QASSIM	02 Oct, 1988	UAE	2 (1)	181			
35	GK	HASSAN HAMZA	10 Nov, 1994	UAE					
77	FW	RASHED HASSAN	17 Nov, 1991	UAE	3	232		1	
91	FW	ISHAQ AL MAAZMI	29 Jun, 1994	UAE					
94	DF	JASSIM HASSAN	30 Sep, 1994	UAE					
99	FW	CIEL	31 Mar, 1982	BRA	5 (2)	500	1	1	

Pl: Matches Started (substitute appearances in brackets)

Min: Minutes Played

Gs: Goals scored (when Goalkeeper refers to goals conceded)

YC: Yellow Cards

RC: Red Cards

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Team coach profiles

Esteghlal
Amir Ghalaenoei
Born: 21 Nov, 1963 (49)
Nationality: Iranian

The most successful coach at club level in Iran, Amir Ghalenoei has won four of the 11 titles of the professional era – two each with Esteghlal and Sepahan – as well as three Hazfi Cups. He also finished as a runner-up with Tractorsazi Tabriz last season,which earned them a spot in the AFC Champions League for the first time, before he rejoined Esteghlal in the summer.

Al Shabab Al Arabi
Marcos Paqueta
Born: 27 Aug, 1958 (54)
Nationality: Brazilian

Having coached Al Shabab Al Arabi early in his career, Marcos Paqueta returned to the club last year after a gap of 23 years. The Brazilian led his country's youth teams to victory in the FIFA U-17 and U-20 World Championships before he returned to the Middle East to coach Al Hilal, the Saudi Arabia national team and Qatari sides Al Gharafa and Al Rayyan.

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Team facts

Esteghlal

- Founded in the mid-1940s by a group of cyclists from the army, Esteghlal are one of Iran's oldest clubs. They share the cavernous Azadi Stadium with bitter rivals Persepolis and were the biggest team in the country before the arrival of the Reds.

- Their haul of trophies includes seven league titles and five Hazfi Cups, and although they have yet to make a mark in the era of the AFC Champions League, they twice won the tournament's fore-runner, the Asian Club Championship, in 1970 and 1991.1991.

- Their previous AFC Champions League campaigns have been largely disappointing as they were eliminated in the Group Stage in 2003, 2009 and 2011, and went out in the Round of 16 in 2010 and 2012, losing 2-0 to league rivals Sepahan in the latter.

AFC Champions League record
2012 – Round of 16
2011 – Group Stage
2010 – Round of 16
2009 – Group Stage
2003 – Group Stage

Overall AFC Champions League record (including play-off games)

	P	W	D	L	GF	GA
Overall	40	17	11	12	61	47
Home	16	9	6	2	27	11
Away	21	7	5	9	30	32
Neutral	2	1	0	1	4	4

Biggest wins
Home: 3-0 – vs Al Gharafa, 2010, Group Stage, vs Al Rayyan, 2012, Group Stage;
        vs Al Rayyan, 2013, Group Stage,
Away: 4-2 – vs Al Shababa Al Arabi, 2013, Round of 16
        2-0 – vs Nasaf, 2012 Group Stage

Heaviest defeats
Home: 1-2 – vs Al Jazira, 2012, Group Stage
        0-1 – vs Al Hilal, 2013, Group Stage
Away: 1-3 – vs Al Ain, 2002-03, Group Stage
        0-2 – vs Sepahan, 2012, Round of 16

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Al Shabab Al Arabi

- Founded in 1958, Al Shabab Al Arabi have long been established as one of the leading clubs in the UAE, winning their domestic league championship in 1990, 1995 and 2008 and lifting the President's Cup on four occasions.

- After finishing third in the United Arab Emirates Pro League in 2012, Al Shabab Al Arabi booked their place in the AFC Champions League Group Stage for the third time overall when they beat Iran's Sabaye Qom 5-3 in a penalty shootout after a 1-1 draw in a Play-Off match on February 9.

- They missed out on the Knockout Stage of the AFC Champions League by just a single point on their tournament debut in 2009 but they had a disappointing campaign last year when they managed only two points from six games. The Dubai-based club also reached the Semi-Finals of the Asian Club Championship in 1992 and were runners-up in the Asian Cup Winners' Cup three years later.

AFC Champions League record
2012 – Group Stage
2009 – Group Stage

Overall AFC Champions League record (including play-off games)

	P	W	D	L	GF	GA
Overall	21	6	4	11	25	39
Home	11	5	2	4	16	15
Away	10	1	2	7	9	24

Biggest wins
Home: 3-0 – vs Neftchi, 2012, Play-Off
           3-1 – vs Lekhwiya, 2013, Group Stage
           2-0 – vs Bunyodkor, 2009, Group Stage
Away: 2-1 – vs Pakhtakor, 2013, Group Stage

Heaviest defeats
Home: 1-4 – vs Al Ettifaq, 2009, Group Stage
Away: 1-6 – vs Persepolis, 2012, Group Stage

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Domestic results & standings

Esteghlal

Most recent games

Comp.	Date	Opponent	Res.	
Hazfi Cup	29/03/13	Sepahan (H)	1-1	Semi-Final. Lost 4-5 on penalties
League	12/04/13	Gahar Zagros (H)	2-0	
League	15/04/13	Sepahan (H)	1-1	
League	05/05/13	Foolad (A)	1-0	
League	10/05/13	Damash Gilan (H)	1-2	

Iran Pro League – final standings 2012-13 season (top five)

Pos.	Club	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
1	**Esteghlal**	**34**	**19**	**10**	**5**	**42**	**18**	**67**
2	Tractorsazi	34	18	11	5	55	32	65
3	Sepahan	34	19	7	8	60	33	64
4	Foolad	34	14	14	6	52	35	56
5	Naft Tehran	34	14	13	7	42	29	55

Al Shabab Al Arabi

Most recent games

Comp.	Date	Opponent	Res.	
League	19/04/13	Al Wasl (A)	1-2	
League	27/04/13	Dibba Al Fujairah (H)	2-0	
President' Cup	06/05/13	Al Wahda (H)	2-0	Semi-Final
League	09/05/13	Al Ittihad Kalba (H)	3-2	
League	18/05/13	Dubai (A)	2-0	

United Arab Emirates Pro League – current standings (top five)

Pos.	Club	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
1	Al Ain	25	19	2	4	72	25	59
2	Al Ahli	25	15	6	4	61	31	51
3	Baniyas	24	13	5	6	48	34	44
4	Al Jazira	24	12	7	5	51	34	43
5	**Al Shabab Al Arabi**	**25**	**13**	**3**	**9**	**47**	**37**	**42**

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Competition facts

Roll of Honour

Year	Winners	Runners-up	Score	Venue	
2012	Ulsan Hyundai (KOR)	Al Ahli (KSA)	3-0	Ulsan	
2011	Al Sadd (QAT)	Jeonbuk Motors (KOR)	2-2 (4-2pen)	Jeonju	
2010	Seongnam Ilhwa (KOR)	Zobahan (IRN)	3-1	Tokyo	
2009	Pohang Steelers (KOR)	Al Ittihad (KSA)	2-1	Tokyo	

Year	Winners	Runners-up	1st leg	2nd leg	Agg
2008	Gamba Osaka (JPN)	Adelaide United (AUS)	3-0 (H)	2-0 (A)	5-0
2007	Urawa Red Diamonds (JPN)	Sepahan (IRN)	1-1 (A)	2-0 (H)	3-1
2006	Jeonbuk Motors (KOR)	Al Karama (SYR)	2-0 (H)	1-2 (A)	3-2
2005	Al Ittihad (KSA)	Al Ain (UAE)	1-1 (A)	4-2 (H)	5-3
2004	Al Ittihad (KSA)	Seongnam Ilhwa (KOR)	1-3 (H)	5-0 (A)	6-3
2002-03	Al Ain (UAE)	BEC Tero Sasana (THA)	2-0 (H)	0-1 (A)	2-1

- The first Asian club competition – the Asian Club Championship – began in 1967 when Hapoel Tel Aviv of Israel defeated Selangor of Malaysia 2-1 in the Final in Bangkok. The competition was discontinued in 1972 but was revived in 1986 when Korean side Daewoo Royals beat Al Ahli of Saudi Arabia 3-1 in the Final in Jeddah.

- In 2002, the Asian Club Championship was discontinued and merged with the Asian Cup Winners' Cup to form the AFC Champions League. The inaugural tournament in 2002-03 was won by Al Ain, who beat Thailand's BEC Tero Sasana in the Final to become the first United Arab Emirates club to win an Asian continental title.

- Al Ittihad of Saudi Arabia are the only team to have won two AFC Champions League titles. They claimed the 2004 crown after a 6-3 aggregate victory against Seongnam Ilhwa Chunma of Korea Republic in the Final and they retained the title with a 5-3 aggregate victory against Al Ain the following year.

- Jeonbuk Hyundai Motors of Korea Republic were crowned champions of Asia in 2006 despite not previously winning their domestic league title. They beat Al Karama of Syria 3-2 on aggregate in the Final.

- Urawa Red Diamonds of Japan took the title the following year when they beat Iranian side Sepahan 3-1 on aggregate in the Final. The J.League side did not lose a game during their run to their title, winning five matches and drawing the other seven.

- Gamba Osaka were also unbeaten when they claimed the AFC Champions League title in 2008. The Japanese club won nine of their 12 games, including all six of their away matches, and thumped Adelaide United of Australia 5-0 on aggregate in the Final. They also enjoyed a record 19-match unbeaten run in the competition that was ended by a 2-1 defeat to FC Seoul in the Group Stage in 2009.

- Pohang Steelers became the first team to win both the AFC Champions League and Asian Club Championship with their 2-1 victory over Al Ittihad in the 2009 Final in Tokyo. Having won back-to-back Asian Club Championships in 1997 and 1998, they are also the first side to be crowned Asian club champions on three occasions.

- Seongnam Ilhwa Chunma became the second team after Pohang to win both the Asian Club Championship and AFC Champions League when they beat Zobahan of Iran

  3-1 in Tokyo to win the 2010 tournament. They won the 1995 Asian Club Championship and 1996 Asian Super Cup when the club was known as Ilhwa Chunma.

- The 2011 AFC Champions League Final was the first to go to extra-time and penalties. Jeonbuk Motors were denied a second title after they lost 4-2 on penalties to Al Sadd after a 2-2 draw at the Jeonju World Cup Stadium.

- Ulsan Hyundai became the third Korean club in four years and the fourth overall to lift the AFC Champions League trophy with a 3-0 win over Al Ahli of Saudi Arabia in the 2012 Final. In winning the championship, they went unbeaten throughout their campaign and set a new tournament record with nine consecutive victories.

Asian Football Confederation information

The Asian Football Confederation (AFC) is the governing body of the football in Asia, including Australia with a total of 47 members.

The organisation was founded on 8 May 1954 in Manila, Philippines and is one of FIFA's six continental confederations. The headquarters is at AFC House in Bukit Jalil in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia and the Acting President is Zhang Jilong of China.

The AFC organised the first continental championship – the Asian Cup – in 1956, and introduced the first continental club competition – the Asian Club Championship in 1967.

In 1990, the AFC introduced a new competition for the continent's cup winners – the Asian Cup Winners' Cup. In 1995, the winners of the Asian Club Championship and Asian Cup Winners' Cup began to meet annually in the Asian Super Cup.

In 2002, however, all three club competitions were merged into the AFC Champions League, which featured domestic league and cup winners from throughout Asia. The inaugural tournament featured more than 40 teams but the competition format was streamlined for the second edition in 2004, which had the defending champions and 28 other teams from 14 countries.

The competition was revamped again in 2009 with 32 teams competing in eight groups. The Final was also changed from a two-legged affair to a one-game championship match.

The tournament has been revised again for the 2013 season with the Final reverting to a two-leg format. The Round of 16, which was introduced in 2009 as single elimination games, will also be played over two legs from 2013 onwards.