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SEPTEMBER 17, 1977

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It is indeed a great honour and a pleasure for me as President of Valletta F.C. that on behalf of the Valletta F.C. committee, I welcome to Malta such a renowned Russian team as Dynamo Moscow.

I am sure that in so doing I am voicing the sentiments of thousands of Maltese football followers and the Valletta F.C. supporters in particular who are eager and anxious to assist at the Malta Stadium the home match against the finalists and probable winners of the USSR Cup. The strength and reputation of Dynamo Moscow is not unknown in Malta and this visit being the first Russian team to play in Malta should prove to be a main attraction. Therefore my Committee and I feel positive that the players and officials forming part of Dynamo Moscow will be given our warmest greetings when they arrive in Malta.

Both Valletta F.C. and Dynamo Moscow would still be fresh from their respective home encounters and should our team Valletta F.C. again produce the same determination and form of recent months, let me be allowed to anticipate a keenly contested match.

May I therefore extend my sincerest welcome to our visitors and hope that their brief stay in Malta will be a most pleasant and enjoyable one.

MR. PAUL AZZOPARDI,
President, Valletta F.C.

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CITY'S 'UPS AND DOWNS' IN THE LEAGUE COMPETITION 76-77

FIRST ROUND

VALLETTA, under the control of their coach Sig. Terrenzio Polverini, started the League Campaign of season 1976/77, against Floriana on the 9th October, and although Valletta lost the game by three goals to one, it was a pleasant match to see. The city side had four young lads playing for the first time for Valletta: L. Farrugia, R. Mifsud, Buhagiar and Grioli. All the Valletta players offered an encouraging performance from the start. In the 11th minute a "Maxi" Magro shot hit the crossbar, a shot which earned him the applause of all sections of the crowd present. Floriana scored first. In the 53rd minute Valletta obtained the equalizer through Carlo Seychell. Another chance came again to Seychell in the 57th minute when he won a tussle with a Floriana defender in the midfield, but as he reached the edge of the area, he hit over the bar to spurn another good chance. Floriana scored again twice in succession. Just before the end Fenech scored for Valletta, but the goal was disallowed on the flagging of the linesman for an imaginary infringement.

Our next match was against Sliema Wanderers. A game which saw some well

executed moves and some fine finishing which produced four well taken goals. During this match Valletta dominated in a most forceful manner, especially during the first half, scoring their two goals in process. From the start Valletta were soon on the warpath and for the first half-hour there was no stopping the Darmanin Demajo/Seychell tandem on the right, who were playing havoc with the groggy Sliema defence, penetrating at will and crossing over some really dangerous balls. In the 16th minute Valletta went ahead when Denis Fenech with a fine shot from the edge of the area drove home. City's second goal arrived in the 31st minute, when Seychell gave the slip to a Sliema defender and put across a hand shot which the Sliema goalie partially saved, the ball going to Magro, who had the easiest of task to put Valletta on velvet. But during the second half the Wanderers came back into the game and scored twice. Thus Valletta failed from achieving their first victory at their own cost.

Another disappointment was soon to arrive for the next match against Zebbug Rangers. Valletta took the field without Debono, Fenech and Darmanin Demajo. These absences were sorely felt by Polverini's team as the city lacked Fenech's in-



Valletta players cheer up in scoring against Hamrun Spartans. Valletta 2, Hamrun Spartans 1

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TOHĦDUHOM ID-DAR F'RECĪPĪJENTI SPECĪJALI
MAGĦLUQA U IĠENIĪI*

ventiveness and Darmanin Demajo's rhythm. All the midfield responsibilities fell on the young player Chircop. The city side was very poor and disappointing. Valletta suffered the only goal of the match in the 80th minute, when city goalie Mirsud badly cleared a Theobald freekick and a Ranger's forward stretched himself to nod into an unguarded Valletta net. This was undoubtedly our worst game so far.

Valletta achieved their first victory of the season in style when they put no less than four goals against Msida St. Joseph. Valletta started well with Fenech and Giglio just missing the crossbar with well directed shots. City's first goal came when in the 26th minute Seychell's cross from the left eluded the whole Msida defence and Magro threw himself at length to put the ball into the net. Again Seychell passed to Farrugia L. who put Darmanin Demajo through to shoot past Msida goalie to make it 2-0. Msida scored in the 70th minute. Then Seychell again burst into the picture and during the last fifteen minutes virtually destroyed Msida on his own.

Infact a few minutes from the end, Seychell gave a short pass to Magro who merited the lovely shot which gave the Msida goalie no chance to save. Finally, Farrugia Emm. completed Msida's misery when he headed in-off the upright another Seychell corner in the last minute of the game.

Hibernians were our next opponents and again another day of despair came for Valletta, when they lost by two goals to nil. The City made use of the Marsa goalie, Franky Grima who joined the City on loan only a few days before the match. Franky played quite well and had a very satisfactory performance, not like his team-mates who apart from Farrugia L. were never in the match. Infact the three strikers: Seychell, Agius and Magro, had a very poor day. Through this defeat the citizen's situation became very problematic as they began to consider themselves already out of the Championship race. After this match Poverini resigned.

The city Committee then engaged a new coach, Lolly Debattista. Valletta vs Vittoriosa Stars was our next match. Valletta won by four goals to nil and should have fortune occurred they would have reached double figures. In the first 17 minutes Valletta were already two goals up through Darmanin Demajo and Carlo Seychell who effected a lovely solo effort in the citizens' second goal. In the 51st. minute Seychell again standing in the centre of the field gave an immaculate through ball to Max Magro who scored the third goal. The last goal came when the full-back Farrugia shot home a hard grounder.

Another greater victory had to come. This time against St. George's. Valletta won by seven goals to two. This was the largest score of the season. During this match, Valletta literally destroyed their opponents scoring goals at will, some of which of a

very high quality. Thanks go to Seychell and Magro, who showed how attractive the citizens could be when these two international wingers are on top of their form. The game was only 7 minutes o.d when Seychell scored a splendid goal. Five minutes later City scored again through Farrugia E. Valletta continued to dominate and after 23 minutes Farrugia L. receiving from Fenech scored with a beautiful first timer. Four minutes before half time Darmanin Demajo ran through on the right and sold the ball past the advancing St. George's goalie. During the second half City scored three times through the substitute J. Borg II, who took advantage of a defensive error, and twice through Farrugia Leonard who completed a hat trick.

Valletta then met Hamrun Spartans. In this match the Citizens were clearly the better team in the field and after pressuring the Spartans for long periods they scored two goals which completely shattered the Reds. The match was interesting all along, though very good football could not possibly be seen, because of heavy rains. Hamrun scored first, but the City reacted well and had they paid better attention, they could have scored twice in the first period. In the second half City's ideas were more clear. In the 70th. minute, City's centre forward Borg J. brought the equalizer after receiving a corner kick from Magro. With four minutes to go, Valletta scored the winning goal. Seychell crossed from the right, Fenech nodded towards Darmanin Demajo who beat Spartans' goalie with a nice header. Such victory over the Spartans meant a lot for the City players and supporters.

Valletta ended their first round commitment in good mood against Senegale Athletics when they won four to nil. The City team worked like a well-oiled machine with Seychell always being in the heart of things and giving a five star performance. From the start City chased every ball and quickly took the lead by Darmanin Demajo, when he shot on the turn a good Fenech header. In the second half Valletta scored again twice through Magro and against through Darmanin Demajo. With this win the Citizens recorded their fourth consecutive victory, and they still remained with a slight outside chance for the Championship title, as during the last matches they made great strides forward in the table.

SECOND ROUND

The match between Valletta and Floriana in the second round of the League Competition, was the one much awaited by all football lovers. Infact a large crowd was present at the Stadium. The Citizens played quite a good game as from the start, and for a long time managed to threaten the Green posts on various occasions. First a Fenech low cross created havoc in the Floriana rearguard with a defender nearly committing an own goal. Then again the citizens went near when Fenech passed low for Leonard Farrugia who hit badly from a



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A Floriana defender heads clear during a city attack.

good position. A few moments later, from Emm. Farrugia freekick, Agius nodded down to Seychell whose lob was turned to corner by Floriana goalkeeper. Floriana took the lead in the 88th. minute. But the Citizens still had enough fighting spirit to gather a point. In the final minute, they won a free kick near the corner-flag. It was taken by Seychell whose lovely "banana" shot finished at the back of the net. Thus the Lillywhites began to make tremendous progress and their never-say-die-spirit earned them a most deserved draw.

Against Silema Wanderers, Valletta made three changes from the side that held Floriana to a 1-1 draw by fielding Galea and "Pesu" Borg, in place of the Gauci brothers, and Giglio in place of Joe Borg (who eventually substituted the same player in the latter stages of the game). This match which ended in a nil-nil result has been a big one for Valletta. They had good moments of scoring. Infact they hit the crossbar on not less than three occasions, Val-

letta were now showing tremendous progress and their consistent displays in the match earned them the platonic "title" of the most in-form team of that moment.

In their triumphant march forward against Zebbug Rangers, Valletta chalked up another valourous victory. All the players showed fine football and combined themselves well. Farrugia Emm. was outstanding. Also Fenech had a good game, whilst Seychell was all the time irresistible. Valletta scored four times through their fine strikers Agius, Seychell (2) and Magro.

Valletta kept on their winning ways when they beat Msida St. Joseph by 3 goals to one. Thus they achieved their sixth victory in eight matches (the other two being a draw). For Valletta Seychell had another great game scoring two goals in the process and making enough openings for his colleagues, which if taken could have doubled the score. In the second half, Magro hit his real form and he too was a constant worry to the Msida defence, adding a third goal.

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Now Valletta were showing that they were an efficient side possessing the nucleus, the ideas and the techniques of fine play.

Our next match was against Hibernians. It was a balanced encounter with both teams performing nice football. Hibernians scored first in the 64th. minute. But then Valletta reacted well and kept up the pressure for a long time. Denis Fenech soon brought the best out of Mizzi when after a fine solo effort, the latter effected a great one-handed save at the near post. At the end, Joe Abdilla up with the forwards had hard luck when he saw his shot hit the side rigging following a free-kick by Farrugia Emm. Loopholes were appearing in the Hibs defence and in a moment of panic, a defender headed into his own net a cross by Vince Magro. Thus Valletta went through nine games without a defeat.

The match between Valletta and Vittoriosa may be described as a comedy of errors from the officials and players of both teams. Nice football could not be seen. In the 11th. minute Valletta went into the lead through Leonard Farrugia. Then, Vittoriosa took the lead by scoring twice. Fenech scored city's equalizer following a confusion in the Stars' defence. Again Valletta took the lead when Seychell shot home direct from a free-kick near the bye line on the right. The game seemed won and lost, when all of a sudden a Vittoriosa player netted home for his side. Many Valletta players should blame themselves for losing a point, especially goalie Grima who was definitely off-form and was entirely at fault with all the goals scored against him.

Our next opponents were St. George's. A match which Valletta won by four goals to nil, scoring two goals in each half. Keeping their record of not losing a match since Lolly Debattista took control as coach, Valletta were soon on the lead when after only five minutes Carlo Seychell scored the first goal. As time went by, Valletta increased their lead through Gauci Ray and twice through Leonard Farrugia. It was so

an easy match for Valletta that the City coach gave a chance in play to their young goalkeeper Mifsud.

Over Hamrun Spartans, again, the Citizens enjoyed all superiority. The Citizen players enjoyed the Lion's share of the attacking from the start with Leonard Farrugia playing a very good match in mid-field. Before the interval the Citizens went near twice of scoring, first L. Farrugia just missing the target, and later the same player seeing Spartans' goalie effect a grand save from a first timer shot. The Citizens took the lead through Charles Agius. From then onwards they dominated all the way round. In the 50th. minute Magro missed an easy sitter, while a few minutes later a Seychell corner saw Fenech heading at goal, but a Spartans' defender cleared on the fatal line. Again Seychell twice saw Spartans' goalie effect good saves, after a Fenech cross, while the final rebound was taken by Farrugia Leonard who hit the crossbar. With this match Valletta obtained a double over Hamrun Spartans.

Then came the final match of the League Campaign: Valletta vs Senglea Athletics. With Senglea already relegated to the Second Division, and Valletta showing such progress, one thought and expected that Valletta would round up the League in a fine style of football, but their indifferent attitude after scoring their first goal through Abdilla Joe, made them look an inept side for long stretches of the game, with Seychell and Magro doing a lot of running and scheming without however producing positive conclusions. Really these international wingers were guilty of some incredible misses from under the bar, and another Valletta defender, this time Gauci Ray, headed home the second goal.

Valletta finished in the 3rd. place in the final classification in which from 18 matches they won 10 games, lost 3 and drawn 5; having scored 43 goals and conceding 19, and finishing with 25 points.

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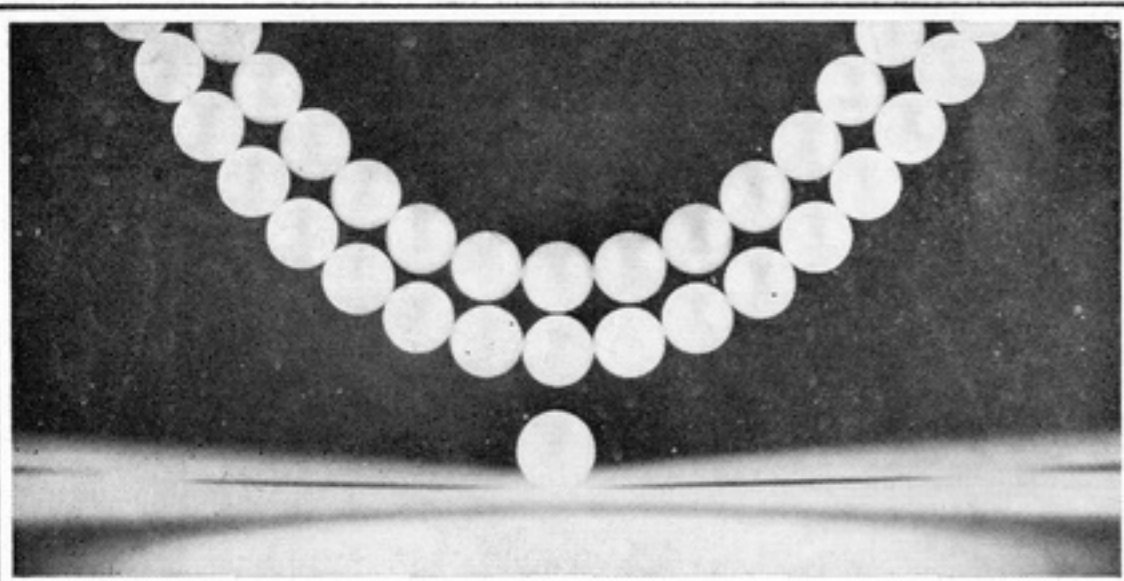
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F.A. Trophy Competition 76/77

WITH the League Championship Competition being over, the F.A. Trophy was the only major honour left to which Valletta had to fight for. The Lilywhites having made tremendous progress in the field of play possessing enough fighting spirit and showing good will, were ready to keep marching on and obtain also positive results in the F.A. Trophy Competition.

Valletta were first drawn against Vittoriosa Stars which match they won 7-0. From the result itself, one can imagine how easy it was for an in-form Valletta side. The citizens started the match on a top note when after only 3 minutes play they took the lead through Darmanin Demajo. Few minutes later, Darmanin Demajo himself put Magro through on the right and after running half the length of the pitch scored with a rising shot to double the score. In the 33rd and the 36th minute Valletta scored again through their defenders Joe Abdilla and Emm. Farrugia.

The second session was simply a training one for Valletta. There was only one team in field. Shots from the citizens were now coming from every angle. It was now all Valletta and the Stars could do nothing against the supremacy of the citizens. In fact, Valletta scored again through their international wingers Magro and Seychell, and also through Tony Giglio.

Our semi-final opponents were Senglea Athletics. The citizens went on the attack from the start and commanded play for most of the time. During the first thirty minutes, they had several scoring occasions, but Senglea's goalie distinguished himself with glory, perfect anticipation and some saves as well.

Until the 38th. minute the score was 0-0. But between the 38th. and the 42nd. minute Valletta found their true rhythm and scored three goals in quick succession through Agius, Darmanin Demajo, and Ab-

dilla. Sure of their victory in the 2nd. half, Valletta started playing possession football never really pressing hard. But between the 58th. and the 80th. minute Valletta scored again through Emm. Farrugia, Magro, Abdilla and Gauci Ray. So Valletta marched on to the final.

The final took place on the 29th. May and our opponents were Floriana. The team lined-up in this formation: Grima, Gauci R., Farrugia Emm, Abdilla, Bone, Fenech, Magro, Darmanin Demajo, Agius, Farrugia Leon., and Seychell. Valletta played a good game. The outstanding player in this final was Leonard Farrugia, whose play in the midfield was an inspiration to his team-mates. Valletta had took the match in hand. And whenever they wanted they were always ready to go forward and harass Floriana, especially down the right flank, and defend their posts whenever any danger threatened them. Valletta scored the all-important goal ten minutes into the second half. When Leonard Farrugia, city's hero, having collecting a ball on the left moved forward toward the middle, and from the edge of the penalty area he beat Sultana, Floriana custodian, with a precise and fine shot! It had been a grand personal goal. A great goal which gave the F.A. Trophy to Valletta! A great goal through which Floriana's unbeaten record during the season went up in smoke! A great goal through which Valletta burst Floriana bubble! And finally a great goal which was enough to book Valletta a trip into Europe for next year's CUP WINNERS CUP Competition.

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Sa minn fil-ghodu kmieni kulhadd fil-Belt jikkellim fuq il-kapaċita' li l-players tal-Valletta għandhom b'lekk jirbhu din it-tazza. Hafna supporters beltin bdew iduru mat-toroq tal-Belt ikantaw, ixejjru bandieri, idoqqu hornijiet, eċċ.

Sa minn kmieni wara nofs in-nhar li-"Valletta Side" fl-Istadium, kien mahnuq bin-nies. Kulhadd jistenna herqan lit-team Belti jiffaċċa fil-ground. U hekk kif il-players qalbienq beltin debru fil-ground, is-supporters Beltin infexxew f'ghanja wahda

jkantaw l-innu popolari Belti "Forza Valletta City" fost ċapċip qawwi u hruq ta' mijlet ta' suffarejli. Kienet xena tassew eċċitanti! Imma l-kbir għadu ġejj.....

U dan sehh il-10 minuta tat-tieni taq-sima tal-logħba, meta l-player żagħżuħ Leonard Farrugia b'xutt sabih minn barra l-kaxxa l-kbira għeleb għaj kollox lil goal-keeper Furjaniz u l-Valletta marru fil-vantaġġ. Kien goal li l-Beltin kollha kienu qegħdin sistennaw sablex iżvugaw l-eċċitament li kellihom. Tant li ma dan il-goal li-Valletta Side infexx fi briju eċċezzjonali: kant, żfin, tixjir ta' bnadar u hruq ta' suffarejli. Dan il-briju baqa' sejjer tul il-kumpliment tal-logħba, kulhadd ikanta "Up the Whites". Mat-tmiem tal-logħba hafna supporters niżlu fil-ground sablex jifirhu lil players u jattendu għal preżentazzjoni tat-Trophy lil Captain tat-team Carlo Seychell. Il-briju mill-Istadium kiber aktar fil-Belt Valletta, briju li baqa' sejjer sa tard bil-lejl. Imma e-ċelebrazzjonijiet ma waqfux hawn.

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Nhar il-Gimgha, 3 ta' Gunju l-Kumitat Belti għamej laqgħa straordinarja li players fejn ilha pprezenta bonus sabieh ta' £M230 lii dawk li hadu sehem fil-kompetizzjoni tat-Trophy, filwaqt li pprezenta wkoll somma proporzjonata lir-"reserves players". Għal din il-laqgħa l-mistieden speċjali k.en Monsinjur Mikiel Azzopardi, id-Direttur ta' Dar il-Providenza, il-post ta' l-inkapaċitati fis-Siggiewi. Din l-istedina kellha skop karitattiv għaliex fuq inizjattiva tal-captain tal-team Carlo Seychell, li-players kollha għabru s-somma ta' £M100 u pprezentawha lil Mons. Azzopardi għal bżonnijiet ta' "Dar il-Providenza".

F'diskors qasir li għamej Mons. Azzopardi rringrazzja hafna lil players tal-Valletta u fahharhom għal dan l-att ta' karita għaliex huma kienu l-ewwel fost li-clubs tal-football li hasbu f'min hu fil-bżonn, f'min ma jistax jimxi, ma jistax jigril, f'min m'għandux l-istess enerġija bħal ma għandhom huma. Mons. Azzopardi spoċca d-diskors tiegħu billi awgura suċċess akbar lit-tim tal-Valletta F.C. u xtaq il-timijiet oħra tal-football Malti jimitaw li players tal-Valletta u bħalhom iwettqu għemejje ta' karita.

IKLA U PREZENTAZZJONI TA' RIGALI

Celebrazzjoni oħra f'għieħ ir-rebħ tal-F.A. Trophy kienet ikla mogħtija mill-Club tal-Valletta nhar l-erbgha, 8 ta' Gunju fil-Bologna Restaurant. F'din l-okkażjoni mill-aktar soċjali, li-players kollha tal-Valletta, fimkien man-nisa u l-gharajjes tagħhom kienu preżenti. Attendew ukoll membri tal-Kumitat u mistiedna oħra. Il-mistieden tal-unur kien Dr. J. Mifsud Bonnici, President tal-Malta Football Association u s-Sinjura tiegħu, li qassam trofew u rigali ta' tifkira

lii kull player.

F'diskors tal-okkażjoni l-President tal-M.F.A. qal li l-atmosfera Beltija hija eċċezzjonali. Huwa fahhar l-ispiritu kumbattiv li fiħ li-players Beltin waslu biex rebħu dan l-unur. Huwa fahhar ukoll l-appoġġ tal-partitarji Beltin li se jiswa hafna lit-team fit-Tazza tat-Tazzi Ewropej. Il-President komplia billi qal li jekk li-Beltin jilgħabu bl-istess determinazzjoni jistgħu jiksbu riżultati pjaċevoli.

Wara l-President tal-Valletta s-Sur Joseph Salinos fakkar lii dawk preżenti li minn dejjem kellihom ikunu li-Valletta li waqqfu l-monopolju tal-"Old Firm" milli jirbħu bejnlethom l-unurj tal-M.F.A. Din is-sena, komplia s-Sur Salinos "Iqajna l-bużżeġa Furjanija." Huwa rringrazzja lii dawk kollha li għinu sabieh it-team kiseb is-suċċess misthoq u temm id-diskors b'tama qawwiya li li-istagun 1977/78 Valletta jergħu jsiru Champions.

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Iċ-celebrazzjonijiet waslu fit-tmiem tagħhom permezz ta' Gala Dinner Dance li sar fil-Ballroom tal-Hotel Phoenicia fil-24 ta' Gunju. L-istess players, membri tal-Kumitat u għadd sabieh ta' supporters Beltin attendew għal din il-laqgħa soċjali. Kul-hadd kien kuntent, dahkan, ikanta u jiften filwaqt li jawgura lii Players u lii Kumitat habrieki Belti, unuri u suċċess akbar għall-istagun 1977/78. Mela kuragg "Whites", ma ninsewx li għandna materjal biżżejjeħ b'leħ inkunu "THE PROUD ONES" fil-football Malti.

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Id-difensuri Joe Abdilla u Franky Grima iwaqqfu attakk Sliemiz.



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VALLETTA F.C. IN EUROPE

SO far the sixth time, and for the second time in three years the City are in Europe. This will be the 3rd. time that Valletta will be competing in the Cup Winners Cup Competition. The previous occasions being in 1964/65 against Saragoza (Spain) and in 1975/76 against Haladas Vasutas of Hungary.

In the other European Competitions, Valletta met Dukla (Czechoslovakia) in 1963 and Helsinki (Finland) in 1974, in the Champions Cup and the world famous Internazionale of Milan in the U.E.F.A. Cup in 1972.

In all the above matches the local players rose to the occasion and in fact positive results were registered at home, both against Helsinki (1-0) and against Haladas (1-1). No doubt we shall be looking forward to a similar positive result today when meeting our crack Russian visitors: Moscow Dynamo.

At this stage it is worthwhile reminding on the world famous players which these clashes have given us the opportunity to see in action — Mosapust, Pluskal and Kucera of the Dukla Prague side which was at the time among the leading soccer teams in the world and which most of their players having seen in

the national side which reached the World Cup Final against Brazil in 1962.

The Spanish side Saragoza also brought to Malta a fine array of international stars, among whom Marcelino and Carraris, two of the best forwards which Spanish soccer has ever produced.

But perhaps for the local soccer public always in touch mostly with Italian and English Soccer, the visit of Inter of Milan with Facchetti, Mazzola, Bertini and other household names, was the most thrilling of our 'European' encounters. Although the result was not favourable, our great hearted display was appreciated by the local soccer public.

In our last three encounters with Internazionale, Helsinki, and Haladas, the citizens have always succeeded in scoring. We all remember Maxj Magro's goal after only one minute of the match vs Helsinki and the roar from the Valletta side when Giglio's bombshell left the Haladas 'Keeper standing to equalize for the city against our Hungarian visitors, two seasons ago.

We sincerely hope to see a repeat against our Russian visitors for although against such top sides we make no bones about the end result, we always look forward to a good display especially on our pitch in front of our magnificent crowd of supporters.

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DINAMO MOSKA — tim kbir mhux maghruf

Minn FR. HILARY

META tim jirbah it-Tazza f'kompetizzjoni li hadu sehem fiha 18,000 club, meta tim gejj minn nazzjon li ghandu b'kollox 4,300,000 player tesserati mal-federazzjoni, meta tim rebah b'kollox aktar minn 17:1 darba l-kampjonat u daqshekk iehor it-Tazza, huwa bilfors tim kbir.

B'danakollu Dinamo Moska, bhal hafna timijiet oħra mill-Unjoni Sovjetika, ma tantx huwa maghruf fid-dinja u b'mod partikulari Malta Barra n-nuqqas ta' taħrif li johroq mill-Unjoni Sovjetika minhabbs raġunijiet politiki, ahna l-Maltin hafna drabi nabsbu wkoll li fid-dinja jeżistu biss żewġ nazzjonijiet tal-football — dak ta' l-Italja u dak ta' l-Ingilterra.

Għalhekk hija fortuna kbira għad diletanti tal-football f'Malta li l-poolza f'Lulju li għadda telletet li dan it-tim kbir blex jilgħab kontra l-Valletta.

Dinamo Moska huwa l-aktar tim antik fl-Unjoni Sovjetika — twaqqaf fl-1923. Huwa l-pijunieri tal-football fil-Belt kapitali Moska, u t-tim baqa' minn dak iż-żmien fuq quddiem mhux biss fir-rebb ta' l-unuri imma wkoll fl-akkwist ta' l-aħjar players u l-użu ta' sistemi teknici u tattici li moortu mill-Punent. Kien l-ewwel tim fir-Russja, per eżempju, li dahhal il-WM Plan meta kienet popolari fl-Ingilterra, kien l-ewwel tim li dahhal il-kundizzjoni fizika u s-sahha atletika bhala arma qawwiya fil-football u kien l-ewwel tim fir-Russja wkoll li lagħab bil-"libero".

It-tim huwa mexxi minn industrija kbira li għib l-isem ta' Dinamo — il-kuluri tal-klabb huma flokkijiet bojod bl-ittra D stampata kbira fuq il-flokk u ożiezet blu. Fil-lista ta' players li libsu l-flokk ta' Dinamo jidher l-isem ta' wiehed mill-aowa goalkeepers li kien hawn fid-dinja — Lev Yashin. Barra Yashin, li għamel fama internazzjonali, Dinamo kellhom goalkeepers kbar oħra bhal Homie u d-difensuri Soloviev u Semiciastinji. Fl-1968, fl-eta' ta' 38 sena, Lev Yashin gie moehti l-aowa unur li jista' jakkwista titla fl-Unjoni Sovjetika meta nehata l-midolja "Il-Hajja Sportiva fl-Unjoni Sovjetika".

Yashin kien l-ewwel Russu li rebah it-titlu ta' Footballer of the Year fl-Ewropa fl-1963, u kien għal hafna snin għażla awtomatik, fil-lasti f'kull partita ravprezentattiva għal tim mid-dinja magħzula kontra xi nazzjon oħra. Ta' min jfakkar il-partita tajba li kien għamel Yashin f'Londra kontra l-Ingilterra meta l-Ingilzi kienu rebhu

bl-iskor ta' 2-1. Lagħab b'kollox 6 darbiet f'partiti bhal dawn.

Hafna Maltin jiftakruh fl-ewwel partiti li rajna bit-televisjoni bejn il-lasti mat-tim nazzjonali Russu, il-qabziet akrobatiċi tiegħu, libes kollu kemm hu l-iswed, u b'harra ta' oħtus attent u ntelligenti, Yashin kien jimpresjona mhux biss bis-saves tiegħu spettakolari imma wkoll bl-isordtu sportiv tiegħu, u meta l-cameras tat-TV kienu jgħibu close-up tiegħu, kienet tispikka l-harġ malinkonika imma hanina tiegħu.

Kellu mument ikrah fil-hajja tiegħu meta fil-final ta' Tazza Russa — proprju l-istess unur li minhabba fih gejjin Malta — waot li Dinamo kienu oed jilgħabu kontra Red Star fl-istadju monumental Lenin, u meta l-iskor kien 1-1 fi kilma elettrizanti, ir-referee Laticew saffar għal penalti kontra Yashin li Agopov skorja, wara protesti kbar. Il-partita thassret għal kollox, u ma' l-ewwel ballun li Agropov reġa' gie bih vicin, Yashin idhollu wahda sewwa u r-referee kien pront kecca 'l barra li goalkeeper ta' Dinamo. Kienet l-unika darba li kellu incident fil-karriera twila tiegħu.

Il-coach li mexxa it-tim għal diversi unuri u successi huwa l-famuz Beskov, li wara zmien twil player ta' Dinamo, sar coach tagħhom u kien ukoll responsabbli għal hafna zmien tat-tim nazzjonali. Kien Beskov infatti, li mexxa tant talieb it-tim fil-kampjonat Ewropew tan-Nazzjonijiet fl-1964 u fil-partita kontra l-Italja jirbah 2-0 f'Moska imbaeħad sit-tieni leg f'Ruma, Lev Yashin iloa' penalti ta' Sandro Mazzola u l-partita tintemm draw ta' 1-1.

Minn dak iż-żmien, il-players ta' Dinamo nbidlu sewwa, imma l-isem ta' tradizzjoni kbira u elorjuza għadhom jagħmlu f'Dinamo l-aowa tim li hemm fl-Unjoni Sovjetika li bla dubju wiehed mill-aowa li hawn fl-Ewropa. Illum it-tim jagħti aktar min-nofs tal-players għat-tim nazzjonali u minkeija li fil-kompetizzjonijiet internazzjonali oatt ma waslu biex akkwistaw unuri verament kbar u konsistenti, kull darba li hadu sehem dejjem hallew impressjoni tajba.

F'Malta, oatt ma gie illeħab klabb Russu. Imma fl-24 ta' Novembru 1971 rajna t-tim nazzjonali ta' taht it-23 sena jilgħab fil-Stadium u kien rebah it-tim nazzjonali ta' hna 2-0. Din għalhekk hija okkazjoni unika għad-diletanti Maltin, li iraw mill-vicin li dan it-tim kbir, li ahna certj għandu jagħti spettaklu fil-Stadium.

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Matul iz-zmien li kien jilghab ma' Floriana fejn nistghu liberament nghidu li kellu karriera mill-aktar brillanti. Lolly kien membru tat-team li rebah it-triple crown tliet darbiet waqt li rebah ukoll l-unuri kollha li kien joffri l-football Malti matul il-karriera tieghu.

Infatti fl-istagun 1954/55 Lolly gie maghzul Footballer of the Year ta' Malta fl-ewwel sena li dan l-unur gie ntrodott 22 sena ilu.

Lolly huwa wkoll ex-player internazzjonali fejn laghab kemm ghat-team tal-Youths kif ukoll fl-ghola livell fejn gieli wkoll gie maghzul bhala captain.

Il-karriera ta' Lolly Debatista giet fit-

tniem taghha fl-istagun 1964/65 fl-eta' ta' 35 sena meta minn full-back spioca jokkupa l-pożizzjoni ta' libero.

L-akbar sodisfazzjon gha' Lolly wara li mexxa t-teamijiet ta' S. Gwann u Hamrun Spartans kien meta fl-istagun li ghadda huwa ghen lit-team tal-Valletta jirbah l-FA Trophy ghar-raba' darba mill-1960 'ij hawn kontra l-ex team tieghu, Floriana, Fl-istess hin it-team Beltj ma garrab l-ebda telfa fit-13-il loghba tal-kampjonat mindu ha r-riedni f'idejh wara li rrizenja Terrenzio Polverini. Infatti l-unika telfa tahtu kienet fl-1 ta' Jannar, 1977 meta Floriana kienu rebhu 3-2 fis-Sons of Malta Cup wara li konna darbejn fil-vantagg.

Issa Lolly jispera li t-team jaghti sfida akbar ghar-rebh tal-kampjonat fejn il-players akkwistaw aktar esperjenza. Bla dubju ta' xejn l-ghajmuna tal-kumitat, tal-players u l-partitarji kienet ferm evidenti l-istagun li ghadda, u hawnhekk Debatista jispera li kollox jerga' jimxi l-istess l-istagun li ge'j halli t-team tal-Valletta jkompil jnizzel ismu fuq aktar tazzi ghas-sodisfazzjon ta' kulhadd fil-kamp Belti.

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CARLO SEYCHELL — VALLETTA FOOTBALLER OF THE YEAR

Last June, Carlo Seychell, Malta and Valletta Football Club left-winger, was voted for the Valletta FOOTBALLER OF THE YEAR, by the Club Committee. This is the second time that Carlo achieved such honour from the club. Infact in season 1974/75, he was awarded such honour.

Carlo started his football career at the age of 14 years with the Valletta Vanguard. He made his first appearance with the Valletta Team in the season 1968/69. Through all this time, Carlo was always first choice for the Valletta Squad. He is also one of the top scorers both of the Club and of the Island. Infact last season he has obtained the second place in the scorer's list.

Carlo is also an international player. He played his first match against Sweden. In all he played 15 international matches.

As a Valletta player, Carlo has won nearly all the major honours which Maltese football can offer, including a league Championship 1973/74, Sons of Malta Cup 1974/75, and the F.A. Trophy 1974/75; 1976/77. In fact it was Carlo who last season, as Captain of the Lillywhites, led Valletta to win the F.A. Trophy, and thus making his team capable to participate for the third time in the Cup Winners Cup Competition against DYNAMO MOSCOW of Russia.



Carlo Seychell (No 11) in action against St. Georges.

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Up the Whites,
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Kif fil-ground jidhru l-Lilywhites
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GOAL, GOAL, GOAL,
Up the Whites, l-ghajta tagħna
tkun din
Int VALLETTA bik tassew kburin
Gamra kbira fina xghelt
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Ahna t-tfal tal-Valletta
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Għax inti tajt twelidna
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Malta Cup: 1943/44, v Floriana 1-0.**F.A. Trophy:** 1959/60 v Floriana 3-0; 1964/65 v Silema W. 1-0; 1974/75 v Hibs 1-0; 1976/77 v Floriana 1-0.
Cassar Cup: 1944/45 v Floriana 2-1; 1958/59 v Hamrun 2-1; 1965/66 v Silema W. 1-0; 1967/68 v Silema W. 2-1.
Scicluna Cup: 1961/62 v Floriana 3-1; 1963/64 v Floriana 2-0.**Christmas Cup:** 1966/67 v Hibernians 1-0.
Sports Festival Shield: 1962 v Silema 3-1.
European Competitions: (Cup of Champions): 1963/64 v Dukia Prague (Czechoslovakia) 0-6, 0-2; (Cup of Cups) 1973/74 v Helsinki 1-0, 1-4; 1964/65 v Real Saragoza (Spain) 0-4, 0-2; (UEFA Cup): 1972/73 v Inter 1-6, 0-1; (Cup Winners Cup) 1974/75 v Haladas (Hungary) 0-7, 1-1.**Valletta F.C. players chosen as "Footballer of the Year":** 1957/58 u 1963/64 — Joe Cilla; 1960/61 — Joe Zammit; 1962/63 — Edwin Schembri; 1972/73 — Alfred Debono; 1974/75 — Eddie Vella.
Coronation Cup — 1953.
Good Conduct — 1966/67.
Independence Cup — 1974/75.
Sons of Malta Cup — 1974/75.

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FACTS AND FIGURES OF PAST SEASON

Results

vs FLORIANA	3-1
vs SLIEMA W.	2-2
vs ZEBBUG R.	0-1
vs MSIDA S.J.	4-1
vs HIBERNIANS	2-0
vs VITTORIOSA S.	4-0
vs ST. GEORGE'S	7-2
vs HAMRUN S.	2-1
vs SENGLEA A.	4-0

Line-Ups — First Round

Mifsud, Gauci V. (Buhagiar), Farrugia E., Abdilla, Borg J., Fenech, Magro, Darmanin Demajo (Grioli), Agius, Farrugia L., Seychell.
Scorer: Seychell.

Debono, Zarb, Farrugia E., Abdilla, Borg J., Fenech, Magro, Darmanin Demajo, Agius (Borg J.), Farrugia L. Seychell.
Scorers: Fenech, Magro.

Mifsud, Zarb, Farrugia E., Borg J., Gauci V., Borg J., Magro, Gauci R. (Bone), Agius, Chircop, Seychell.

Mifsud, Zarb, Farrugia E., Abdilla, Borg J., Fenech, Magro, Darmanin Demajo, Giglio (Agius), Farrugia L., Seychell.
Scorers: Magro, Darmanin Demajo, Magro, Farrugia.

Grima, Zarb, Farrugia, Abdilla, Borg J. (Borg J. II), Fenech (Grioli), Magro, Darmanin Demajo, Agius, Farrugia L., Seychell.

Grima, Gauci R. (Zarb), Farrugia E., Abdilla, Gauci V., Fenech, Magro, Darmanin Demajo, Agius (Giglio), Farrugia L., Seychell.
Scorers: Darmanin Demajo, Seychell, Magro, Farrugia.

Grima, Gauci R., Farrugia E. (Galea), Abdilla, Gauci V., Fenech, Magro, Darmanin Demajo, Agius (Borg J.), Farrugia L., Seychell.
Scorers: Seychell, Farrugia L. (3), Darmanin Demajo, Farrugia E., Borg J.

Grima, Gauci R., Farrugia E., Abdilla, Gauci V., Fenech, Magro, Darmanin Demajo, Borg, Farrugia L., Seychell.
Scorers: Borg, Darmanin Demajo.

Grima, Gauci R., Farrugia E., Abdilla, Gauci V., Fenech, Magro, Darmanin Demajo, Borg, Farrugia L., Seychell.
Scorers: Darmanin Demajo (2), Magro (2).

Second Round

vs FLORIANA	1-1
vs SLIEMA W.	0-0
vs ZEBBUG R.	4-1
vs MSIDA S.J.	3-1
vs HIBERNIANS	1-1
vs VITTORIOSA S.	3-3
vs ST. GEORGE'S	4-0
vs HAMRUN S.	1-0
vs SENGLEA A.	2-0

Grima, Gauci R. (Galea), Farrugia E., Abdilla, Gauci V., Fenech, Magro, Darmanin Demajo, Borg J. (Agius), Farrugia L., Seychell.
Scorer: Seychell.

Grima, Galea (Micallef), Farrugia E., Abdilla, Borg J., Fenech, Magro, Darmanin Demajo, Giglio (Borg J. II), Farrugia L., Seychell.

Grima, Gauci, Farrugia, Abdilla, Borg, Fenech, Magro, Darmanin Demajo, Agius, Farrugia L., Seychell.
Scorers: Agius, Seychell (2), Magro.

Grima, Gauci, Farrugia, Abdilla, Borg, Fenech, Magro, Darmanin Demajo, Agius, Farrugia L., Seychell.
Scorers: Seychell (2), Magro.

Grima, Gauci, Farrugia, Abdilla, Borg J., Fenech, Magro, Darmanin Demajo, Borg J., Farrugia L., Seychell.
Scorer: o.g.

Grima, Gauci, Zarb (Galea), Abdilla, Borg J., Farrugia E., Magro, Farrugia L., Giglio, Fenech, Seychell.
Scorers: Farrugia L., Fenech, Seychell.

Grima (Mifsud), Gauci, Galea, Abdilla, Bone, Farrugia E., Magro, Farrugia L., Fenech, Giglio (Agius), Seychell.
Scorers: Seychell, Gauci, Farrugia L.

Grima (Mifsud), Gauci, Galea, Abdilla, Bone, Farrugia E., Magro, Farrugia L., Agius, Fenech, Seychell.
Scorer: Agius.

Mifsud, Gauci, Galea, Abdilla, Bone, Farrugia E., Magro, Farrugia L. (Borg), Agius, Fenech, Seychell.
Scorers: Abdilla, Gauci.

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FINAL PLACINGS 1911/12 - 1976/77

Season	Team	P.	W.	D.	L.	F.	A.	Pts	Position
1911/12	Valletta Utd.	4	1	1	2	2	4	3	Fourth
1913/14	Valletta Utd.	6	4	0	2	7	4	8	Third
1914/15	Valletta Utd.	5	4	1	0	15	0	9	CHAMPIONS
1916/17	Valletta Utd.	5	2	1	2	9	6	5	Fourth
1917/18	Valletta Utd.	7	3	1	3	14	9	7	Fifth
1919/20	Valletta Utd.	5	3	1	1	8	4	7	Third
1920/21	Valletta Utd.	7	4	0	3	9	6	8	Fourth
1921/22	Valletta Utd.	6	3	1	2	10	10	7	Fourth
1922/23	Valletta Utd.	4	2	0	2	4	4	4	Sixth
1923/24	Valletta Utd.	6	3	1	2	12	2	8	Third
1924/25	Valletta Utd.	7	2	2	3	8	6	6	Third
1925/26	Valletta Rovers	6	3	0	3	16	8	6	Third
1925/26	Valletta Utd.	6	2	0	4	3	7	4	Fourth
1926/27	Valletta Rovers	3	0	2	1	1	3	2	Fourth
1926/27	Valletta Utd.	4	3	0	1	11	5	6	Runners-up
1927/28	Valletta Utd.	6	4	1	1	16	4	9	Runners-up
1928/29	Valletta Utd.	4	0	3	1	1	5	1	Third
1929/30	Valletta Utd.	4	1	2	1	8	12	3	Third
1930/31	Valletta Utd.	6	1	3	2	8	11	4	Third
1931/32	Valletta Utd.	3	2	1	0	0	1	5	CHAMPIONS
1937/38	Valletta Utd.	6	0	3	3	4	9	3	Third
1938/39	Valletta Utd.	6	1	2	3	4	4	4	Fourth
1944/45	Valletta F.C.	3	2	0	1	7	3	4	CHAMPIONS
1945/46	Valletta F.C.	12	8	3	1	30	13	19	CHAMPIONS
1946/47	Valletta F.C.	14	8	4	2	30	18	16	Runners-up
1947/48	Valletta F.C.	14	10	3	1	44	16	23	CHAMPIONS
1948/49	Valletta F.C.	14	9	1	4	40	20	19	Third
1949/50	Valletta F.C.	14	7	2	4	25	11	18	Fourth
1950/51	Valletta F.C.	14	8	2	4	26	11	18	Third
1951/52	Valletta F.C.	14	7	2	5	24	19	16	Fourth
1952/53	Valletta F.C.	14	7	5	2	26	17	19	Third
1953/54	Valletta F.C.	14	5	3	6	17	20	13	Fifth
1954/55	Valletta F.C.	14	5	3	6	17	20	13	Fourth
1955/56	Valletta F.C.	14	3	5	6	14	23	11	Sixth
1956/57	Valletta F.C.	14	9	2	3	29	15	20	Runners-up
1957/58	Valletta F.C.	14	6	3	5	23	18	15	Fourth
1958/59	Valletta F.C.	14	10	3	1	39	11	23	CHAMPIONS
1959/60	Valletta F.C.	14	11	2	1	41	8	24	CHAMPIONS
1960/61	Valletta F.C.	14	10	2	2	38	10	22	Runners-up
1961/62	Valletta F.C.	14	11	2	1	41	8	24	Runners-up
1962/63	Valletta F.C.	14	11	2	1	46	9	24	CHAMPIONS
1963/64	Valletta F.C.	14	10	2	2	42	2	22	Runners-up
1964/65	Valletta F.C.	12	8	2	2	42	6	18	Runners-up
1965/66	Valletta F.C.	10	2	5	3	11	13	9	Fourth
1966/67	Valletta F.C.	10	4	3	3	14	9	11	Fourth
1967/68	Valletta F.C.	14	6	1	7	14	16	13	Fourth
1968/69	Valletta F.C.	14	8	2	4	23	9	18	Runners-up
1969/70	Valletta F.C.	14	6	5	3	13	6	17	Third
1970/71	Valletta F.C.	14	6	3	5	11	9	15	Fifth
1971/72	Valletta F.C.	18	10	4	4	18	13	24	Third
1972/73	Valletta F.C.	18	9	6	3	29	14	24	Fifth
1973/74	Valletta F.C.	18	12	4	2	23	8	28	CHAMPIONS
1974/75	Valletta F.C.	18	8	3	7	21	15	19	Fifth
1975/76	Valletta F.C.	18	6	6	6	34	27	18	Fifth
1976/77	Valletta F.C.	18	10	5	3	43	19	25	Third

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Hamburg SV (West Germany) vs Reipas Lahti (Finland).
Hajduk Split (Yugoslavia) vs Dundalk (Ireland).
Real Betis Sevilla (Spain) vs AC Milan (Italy).
Coleraine (Northern Ireland) vs Lokomotive Leipzig (East Germany).
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