# 1 INTRODUCTION

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INTRODUCTION

UEFA BADGE OF DISTINCTION

In the year 2000, UEFA introduced a Badge of Distinction in order to pay a visible tribute to clubs which have played a prominent role in continental competitions. A special emblem, which can be worn on players’ shirts, is awarded to any team which has won a UEFA club competition three times in succession or at least five times in total. This feat has been achieved in the Champion Clubs’ Cup but never in the UEFA Cup or the UEFA Super Cup. The badge features a number, indicating the number of times that the club has been champion of Europe.

It didn’t require much delving into the history books to confirm that Real Madrid CF earned the badge on two different counts. They are the ‘top scorers’ having been champions of Europe nine times, including five successive titles between 1956 and 1960. Only four other clubs are entitled to wear the UEFA Badge of Distinction. AC Milan changed the number on their badge from 6 to 7 by winning the final at the Olympic Stadium in Athens in May 2007. In terms of rivalry, it was an important victory. Liverpool FC had grabbed third place in the ranking by beating AC Milan in the penalty shoot-out that decided the 2005 final in Istanbul and their fifth victory earned the right to add a Badge of Distinction to the English club’s famous red shirt. Had the result gone the other way in Athens, they would have equalled AC Milan’s tally of six.

Two other clubs are entitled to wear the Badge of Distinction. FC Bayern München earned the privilege by becoming champions of Europe in 1974, 1975 and 1976 before adding their fourth title in 2001. Following their win in the 2013-final at Wembley they will feature the number 5 on their sleeves. AFC Ajax also won their badge by recording a hat-trick in 1971, 1972 and 1973, before taking the European crown for a fourth time in 1995.

The idea of stringing together a hat-trick of victories seems, at the moment, far-fetched. During the 21-year existence of the UEFA Champions League one of the perennial talking points is that no club has successfully defended the title – let alone done so twice. For FC Bayern München one of the challenges of the 2013/14 season is to make history by lifting the trophy for the second successive time.

EDITORIAL

This publication has been produced annually for 20 years, developing from a modest “Statistics Handbook” (many people still refer to it as “The Stats Book”) into a major reference work offered as part of the UEFA Champions League back-up service.

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This season all player profiles appear digitally on uefa.com in order to constantly update facts and figures. The UEFA Champions League Regulations can also be consulted by using this link:

http://uefa.to/0QfUg0s

The competition format is the same as in previous years with the 32 clubs divided into eight groups, with matches being played on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. The two best-placed teams in each group qualify for the knockout stage with the group-winner being given the privilege of playing the return leg of the first knockout round at home. For that round, each group-winner is drawn against the runner-up from another group. Teams from the same national association are kept apart until the quarter-final stage.

Appointments of referees are announced two days before matches via UEFA.com at approximately 11.00 CET on Sundays and Mondays prior to matchdays. Each referee is accompanied by a team of two assistants; a 4th Official; and two additional assistant referees from the same country.

Additional general information, along with a guide to the different abbreviations and explanatory notes, can be found by checking the Press Kits on UEFA.com:

http://uefa.to/aQ29iD

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http://uefa.com/uefa/presskits
**THE POST SCRIPT**

Victory in the UEFA Champions League marks the end of a successful campaign but it is not the end of the story. FC Bayern München have earned a place in the UEFA Super Cup (against Chelsea FC) and a trip to the FIFA Club World Cup, this year to be held in Agadir and Marrakesh in Morocco from 11-21 December.

Both commitments have taken on new shape since the UEFA Champions League was born in 1992/93 season. For the first five years, the UEFA Super Cup was played on a home-and-away basis against the winner of the UEFA Cup Winners' Cup. Then, as from 1998, the opposition was the same, but the format was changed to a single match. When the Cup Winners' Cup was discontinued, the invitation was passed to the winners of the UEFA Cup and then to the champion of its successor, the UEFA Europa League.

The traditional curtain-raiser to the European season has been held at the Stade Louis II in Monaco every year since becoming a one-off match in 1998. Curiously, Chelsea FC took part in the first final to be played in Monaco in 1998, as winners of the UEFA Cup Winners' Cup – and defeated Real Madrid CF to take the title. Having been at the first final, Chelsea FC returned to the principality as UEFA Champions League winners for the last and also faced opposition from Madrid – this time Club Atlético, who had won the UEFA Europa League for the second time in three seasons. The meeting on 31 August was the 15th edition held in the principality.

As from this year, the showpiece will move to new surroundings following a decision taken by the UEFA Executive Committee – starting with the Eden Stadium in Prague on 30 August 2013. The Eden Stadium has a 20,800 capacity and opened in May 2008 on the site of the old ground of the same name. It is home to Bohemians 1905 and SK Slavia Praha. It was one of Slavia's most famous sons, Vladimír Šmicer, who cut the ribbon to officially launch the €40m venue. A Slavia XI took on English amateur team Oxford University AFC, their first foreign opponents 112 years ago, in the first match at the new ground, winning 5-0.

At the UEFA Executive Committee meeting in Kiev on 30 June, the 2014 and 2015 UEFA Super Cup hosts were assigned. In 2014 the UEFA Super Cup will take place at Cardiff City Stadium, Wales, while in 2015 the match will be held at the Mikheil Meskhi Stadium in Tbilisi, Georgia.

The first winner of the UEFA Champions League has never played in the UEFA Super Cup, Olympique de Marseille having been barred from competing and replaced by runners-up AC Milan – who lost. By doing so, they wrote the first chapter of a story which has not always been a happy one for the winners of the UEFA Champions League:

1993 AC Milan lost 2-1 on aggregate v Parma FC
1994 AC Milan WON 2-0 on aggregate v Arsenal FC
1995 AFC Ajax WON 5-1 on aggregate v Real Zaragoza
1996 Juventus WON 9-2 on aggregate v Paris Saint-Germain
1997 Borussia Dortmund lost 3-1 on aggregate v FC Barcelona
1998 Real Madrid CF lost 1-0 v Chelsea FC
1999 Manchester United FC lost 1-0 v SS Lazio
2000 Real Madrid CF lost 2-1 v Galatasaray AŞ
2001 FC Bayern München lost 3-2 v Liverpool FC
2002 Real Madrid CF WON 3-1 v Feyenoord
2003 AC Milan WON 1-0 v FC Porto

2004 FC Porto lost 2-1 v Valencia CF
2005 Liverpool FC WON 3-1 v FK CSKA Moskva
2006 FC Barcelona lost 3-0 v Sevilla FC
2007 AC Milan WON 3-1 v Sevilla FC
2008 Manchester United FC lost 2-1 v FC Zenit St. Petersburg
2009 FC Barcelona WON 1-0 v FC Shakhtar Donetsk
2010 FC Internazionale Milano lost 2-0 v Club Atlético de Madrid
2011 FC Barcelona WON 2-0 v FC Porto
2012 Chelsea FC WON 4-1 v Club Atlético de Madrid

In 1993, AC Milan also represented UEFA in the European/South American Cup, travelling to Tokyo and losing to FC São Paulo. In 2000, FIFA introduced a pilot Club World Cup played in parallel to the European/South American Cup and, as from 2005, the two competitions were merged into an event featuring the champion from each of the FIFA Confederations, with Europe's representative entering at the semi-final stage where they have, thus far, always won:

1993 AC Milan lost 3-2 v FC São Paulo (Brazil)
1994 AC Milan lost 2-0 v Vélez Sarsfield (Argentina)
1995 AFC Ajax WON 0-0 (penalties) v Grêmio Porto Alegre (Brazil)
1996 Juventus WON 1-0 v CA River Plate (Argentina)
1997 Borussia Dortmund WON 2-0 v SE Cruzeiro (Brazil)
1998 Real Madrid CF WON 2-1 v CR Vasco da Gama (Brazil)
1999 Manchester United FC WON 1-0 v SE Palmeiros (Brazil)
2000 Real Madrid CF lost 2-1 v CA Boca Juniors (Argentina)
2001 FC Bayern München WON 1-0 v CA Boca Juniors (Argentina)
2002 Real Madrid CF WON 2-0 v CA Olímpia (Paraguay)
2003 AC Milan lost 1-1 (penalties) v CA Boca Juniors (Argentina)
2004 FC Porto WON 0-0 (penalties) v CD Olimpo (Colombia)
2005 Liverpool FC lost 1-0 v FC São Paulo (Brazil)
2006 FC Barcelona lost 1-0 v CA Boca Juniors (Argentina)
2007 AC Milan WON 4-2 v CA Boca Juniors (Argentina)
2008 Manchester United FC WON 1-0 v Liga de Quito (Ecuador)
2009 FC Barcelona WON 2-1 v Estudiantes de La Plata (Argentina)
2010 FC Internazionale Milano WON 3-0 v TP Mazembe (Congo)
2011 FC Barcelona WON 4-0 v Santos FC (Brazil)
2012 Chelsea FC lost 1-0 v SC Corinthians (Brazil)