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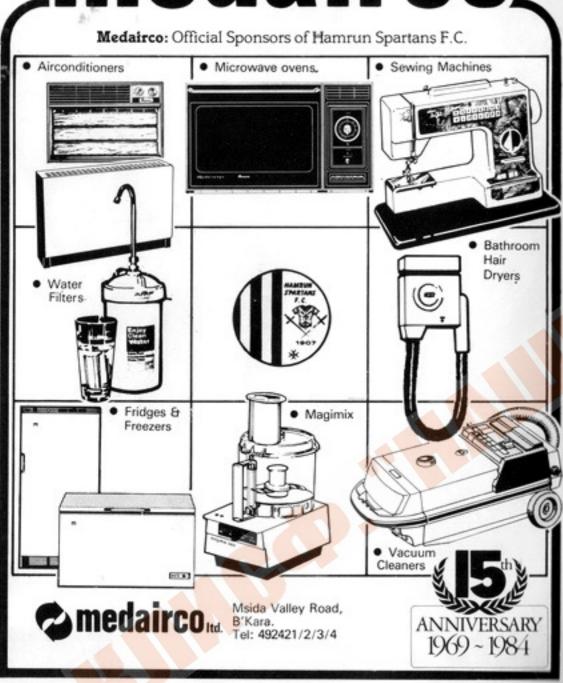


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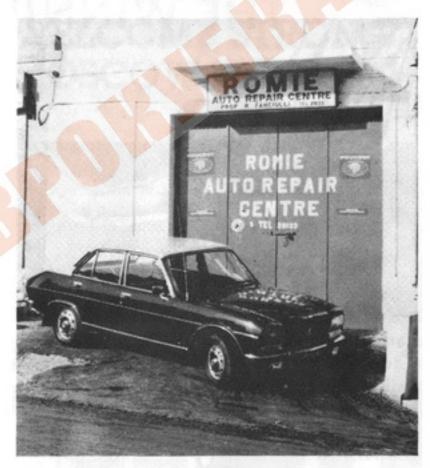
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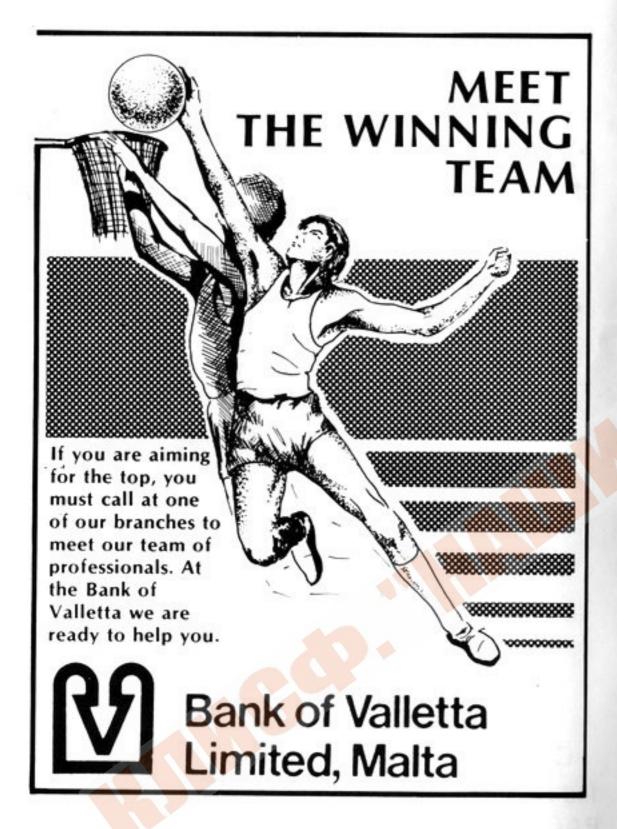


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PROUD SPARTANS WELCOME STRONG MOSCOW DYNAMO

To say that it has been the dream of every football administrator in Malta to compile a team of strength from Maltese resources, and to watch this team progress not only locally, but at an acceptable international level is no exaggeration. Our team, proud Hamrun Spartans, has done just that. Over the last three seasons my Committee colleagues and myself have been building our team step by step, often in the face of great controversy; and therefore during September, Hamrun's passage over Ballymena United of Northern Ireland into the Second Round of the Cup Winners Cup - a merited passage I may add - offered infinite reward and a limitless source of satisfaction.

The achievement was not limited to the administrative side and great credit



must of course go to our players, and particularly Raymond Xuereb for his three fantastic and historic goals, as well as to the team as a whole. To achieve a victory away from home, as Spartans did, was in itself a breathtaking achievement, and to follow this up with another classic victory marked the greatest achievement by any Maltese club in the history of our participation in European competitions.

In achieving this historic hallmark, the Spartans players showed character and grit. After taking the lead at the Ballymena Showgrounds they had to

suffer a dubious penalty, but with fortune favouring the brave, Campbell's shot went high and wide. In the return at Ta' Qali, fortune again favoured the brave, and although Spartans began badly and slipped into 1 – 0 arrears with the aggregate being levelled, they made a superb comeback.

Well, that is behind us now, and has entered the realms of soccer's history books. Today we have a much more formidable task, that of facing our Second Round opponents Moscow Dynamo, a team from the Soviet Union replete with achievement and history. It has been said that this season Dynamo are not doing too well domestically, and true enough they are languishing in the Soviet League. But the way they polished off Yugoslav opponents Hajduk Split (a team well-known to us here in Malta) in the First Round, is indicative of the side's strength. In the first leg in Moscow, Dynamo showed their true strength with a superb performance against us.

Moscow Dynamo, with a history of Soviet League and Cup successes behind them, have always represented that which is best in Soviet football, and although in Malta we have to modestly admit to facing a team of a calibre superior to ourselves, the Spartans have so far done Malta proudly in Europe and we hope that this afternoon our performance will be no less than we have

served in our other European matches at the Ta' Qali Stadium.

On a final note I would just like to dwell on what dedication and a determined will can do in any sport. For years now we have critics who have complained that Maltese teams are not fit to appear in Europe because they cannot compete even against the lesser calibre teams. The Spartans have now laid that myth and now we know that with will and determination we can fare better than we have done in the past.

Part of this success must lie in building up confidence. Over the last three seasons, we have not only taken part in domestic and European competitions, but we have also played a number of high-calibre friendly matches, thus

giving our players good doses of stiff competition.

As I have often said in the past, it is my wish that this success is not only confined to Hamrun Spartans, but that through our example, other teams will also build up their strength and their confidence. People say to me that Hamrun Spartans have been instrumental to causing a reawakening of Maltese football. Today I think I can safely say that this is so. Let us therefore hope that this flame which has been rekindled will not be allowed to die and that this afternoon, the Spartans will once more illustrate the improvements which have been made by at least making amends for the first leg defeat.

Finally, may I on behalf of my Committee, our players and supporters and myself, wish a speedy recovery to M.F.A. President Dr. George Abela.

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THANK YOU SPARTANS!



As President of the Malta Football Association, it is difficult for me to single out any particular club side in order to offer praise. However, in this instance I do not think that any criticism will be drawn from my offering praise to Hamrun Spartans for their great achievement in eliminating Ballymena United in the First Round of the European Cup-Winners Cup competition.

As a small and football-mad island we have often enough been on the wrong end of inflated scorelines and

on each occasion after such defeats and debacles we have been pressed to reconsider the wisdom of Maltese participation at any international level. This year, perhaps for the very first time, our policy has been vindicated. It is true that in the past there were other Maltese clubs who qualified. But this season has been particularly refreshing with Spartans winning both legs of their round and our other two competing clubs also faring extremely well against calibre opponents.

This afternoon, Hamrun Spartans face a more daunting task when they tackle tough Soviet Union team Moscow Dynamo, a team whose history has always been replete with international players and League and Soviet Cup successes. In fact, Dynamo have already established a commanding 5 – 0 lead from the first leg in Moscow and I augur that Hamrun Spartans will be able to give a good account of themselves this afternoon.

Thus, as President of the Malta Football Association, I am indeed proud to be writing this foreword to a programme for a match in the Second Round of a European competition and I hope that I shall have other opportunities in the future now that Spartans have opened a historic trail.

On behalf of my Association, the MFA Executive and the MFA Council, as well as on behalf of everybody connected with the game of football in Malta, I would once more thank Hamrun Spartans for making us proud. I welcome our visitors from Moscow this afternoon and I sincerely wish the best of luck to Hamrun Spartans, their President, Committee, players and numerous followers.

DR G. ABELA B.A., LL.D.,
President Malta Football Association



VICTORS OVER BALLYMENA UNITED



The Spartans as they lined-up for the return encounter against Ballymena United at the Ta' Qali Stadium, a match which they went on to win 2 – 1, thus winning the tie 3 – 1 on aggregate: From L. to R. standing, Mr Ronnie Attard (club coach), George Xuereb, Alan Zammit, Edwin Farrugia (captain), Marco Grech, Raymond Xuereb, Benno Stegner, Mr Romeo Fanciulli (Vice-President). Squatting, Alex Azzopardi, Alfred Azzopardi, Leo Refalo, Michael Degiorgio and player-coach Malcolm Robertson. Mascots were masters Migneco and Mallia.





Ray Xuereb delivers the goods

After scoring that historic first away win for Maltese football in Northern Ireland, the Ta' Qali National Stadium was packed for the big occasion of the return encounter on 26th September 1984. Top left, Spartans team captain EDWIN FARRUGIA shakes hands with the Ballymena captain as the teams prepare to kick-off. Looking on is the top Italian official PIERI and linesmen BALDI and CAPOTELLI. The match began badly for the Spartans with Ballymena taking the lead, but shortly before half-time, RAYMOND XUEREB flicked a pass from BENNO STEGNER into the net (bottom left) and Spartans had equalised the match and gone 2 – 1 ahead on aggregate. Below, the goal which killed Ballymena and sent thousands of fans into elation. BENNO STEGNER was brought down in the Ballymena area, and from the resultant penalty kick, RAYMOND XUEREB continued to establish himself as the hero of the tie by slamming the winner into the net. Spartans were through to the Second Round. (Pictures – Mr. Alfred Stagno).



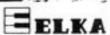
















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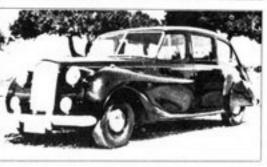
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A HISTORY OF SOVIET FOOTBALL

For many soccer fans, the intricasies of Soviet football remain a mysterious force which perhaps has never known its full potential. The Soviet Union is a land mass of 8.5 million square miles with a population of 267 million people. Football is one of the more popular sports and the Soviet F.A. has over 51,000 registered clubs and over four million registered players, with 199 teams competing in the National Championships.

Although Soviet sportsmen have continuously excelled in a number of sports, particularly at Olympic level, their football record achievement does not compare with the potential. In its early days, the Soviet Union won the European Championship for Nations Cup (1960) and were runners-up in 1964 and 1972. On two occasions Russian teams Dynamo Kiev and Dynamo Tbilisi (in 1975 and 1981) won the European Cup-Winners Cup, whilst **MOSCOW DYNAMO** reached the final of the Cup-Winners Cup in 1972, losing 3 – 2 to Glasgow Rangers in the Barcellona final encounter. In 1975, Dynamo Kiev also managed to win the Super Cup, but the record stops there. In fact to date, a Russian club has not been able to make the final of the Champions Cup.

The vast size of the Soviet Union perhaps affords an explanation. With such a great land mass, a large population and varying climatic conditions, the Soviet football season has to suffer a certain amount of dislocation. Because of climatic conditions, the season in the North of the country has to be suspended in September, in Central areas in October and in the warmer South, in December.

This puts the Soviets at a disadvantage when European competition is resumed in March because whilst the majority of European teams are at the peak of their season, Soviet clubs have to commence warming-up by picking up the threads where they left off for the winter break.

Yet, despite these handicaps, the Soviet F.A. has done its best to instigate a truly national competition, something which has become easier with the improvement of modern communications. Up to 30 years ago it was almost suicidal to talk of a national league competition because of the vast distances involved. For example, up to 1960, there were only 12 teams in the top

division, mostly from Moscow or Leningrad. Up to this point, since its inception in 1936, the League Championships was exclusively held by the larger Moscow clubs like MOSCOW DYNAMO, Moscow Torpedo, Moscow Spartak or CSKA Moscow (the Red Army team). But in 1961 the onus began to change when for the first time, a team outside of Moscow (Dynamo Kiev) won the Championship and since then, in a remarkably short period of time have gone on to take the Championship no less than ten times in 25 years, a remarkable achievement indeed.

In 1963, the Soviet F.A. opted for a First Division of 20 teams, with the modern-day number now having been reduced to 18. Behind these come a number of regional groups. The F.A. faced the same problem when organising the national knock-out competition. When this was initiated on a national basis in 1951, no less than 18,000 teams entered the competition and there was a rapid decision to call a halt. Today this has been re-organised on a more selective basis for the top teams with lesser teams having their own regional competitions.

Despite these problems, Soviet football has always managed to set and adopt a good standard for sportsmanship, endeavour and achievement, and it is with pride therefore that the Maltese football public welcome MOSCOW DYNAMO to Malta for what should be a most interesting encounter against HAMRUN SPARTANS.

SOVIET LEAGUE AND CUP WINNERS SINCE 1936

LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP WINS (1936 to 1984)

- 11 Times MOSCOW DYNAMO
- 10 Times Dynamo Kiev
- 10 Times Moscow Spartak
- 6 Times CSKA Moscow
- 3 Times Torpedo Moscow
- 2 Times Dynamo Tbilisi
- 1 Time Saria Voros.
- 1 Time Ararat Erevan
- 1 Time Dinamo Minsk
- 1 Time Dnepr Dnepro.

SOVIET CUP WINS (1936 to 1984)

- 9 Times Spartak Moscow
- 6 Times Torpedo Moscow
- 6 Times MOSCOW DYNAMO
- 5 Times Dynamo Kiev
- 4 Times CSKA Moscow
- 4 Times Donets
- 2 Times Loko. Moscow
- 2 Times Dynamo Tbilisi
- 2 Times Ararat Erevan
- 1 Time Karpaty Lvov
- 1 Time SKA Rostov
- 1 Time Zenit Leningrad

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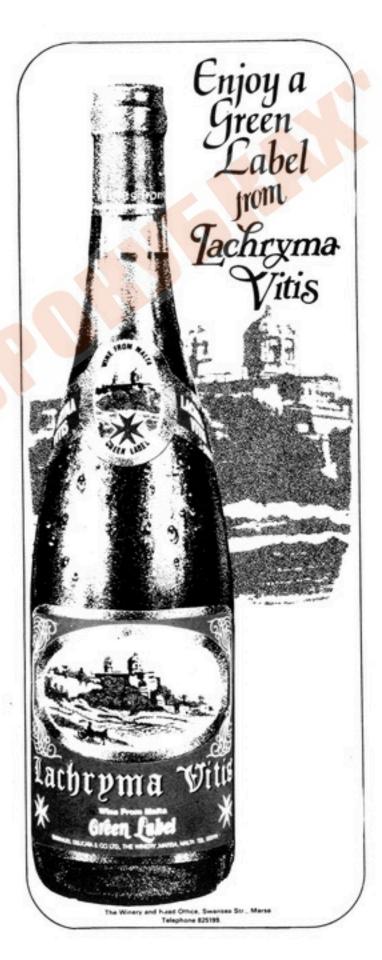
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Cassar Cup Finalists: 1949/50; 1951/52; 1953/54; 1955/56; 1958/59.

Scicluna Cup Winners: Section "B" 1950/51.

M.F.A. Cup Finalists: 1912/13.

Second Division Winners: 1921/22; 1932/33; 1933/34; 1937/38;

1975/76.

Second Division K.O. Winners: 1946/47 (as Hamrun Liberty): 1947/48:

1948/49: 1952/53 and 1970/71.

Previous European Experience: 1983/84 Champions Cup First Round:

1st Leg Hamrun S. O Dundee U. 3 2nd Leg Dundee U. 3 Hamrun S. 0

Path to last year's Trophy Final:

1st Round Hamrun S. 3 Senglea A. 0 2nd Round Hamrun S. 4 L. Rainbows 0 Semi-Final Hamrun S. 1 Sliema W. O.

Final Hamrun S. O Zurrieg O (after extra-time) Replay Hamrun S. 1 Zurrieg O (after extra-time)



MOSCOW DYNAMO'S GOLDEN ACHIEVEMENTS

CLUB HISTORY

GROUND: Dynamo Stadium Moscow; capacity 70,000. COLOURS: White shirts; blue shorts and white trimmings.

CUP-WINNERS CUP: Losing finalists 1972.

SOVIET LEAGUE CHAMPIONS: 1936; 1937; 1940; 1945; 1949; 1954;

1955: 1957: 1959: 1963: 1976.

SOVIET CUP WINNERS: 1937; 1953; 1967; 1970; 1978; 1984.

CLUB HISTORY IN EUROPE

1971 - 72 (ECWC) First Round v Olimpiakos (2 - 0, 1 - 2); agg 3 - 2.

Second Round v Eskisehirspor (1-0, 1-0); agg 2-0.

Q-Final S-Final

v Red Star Belgrade (2-1, 1-1); agg 3-2. v Dinamo Berlin (1 - 1, 1 - 1); agg 2 - 2

(won penalties).

Final

v Glasgow Rangers; lost 2-3.

1977 - 78 (ECWC) First Round v Valletta F.C. (2-0, 5-0); agg 7-0.

Second Round v Uni Craiova (2-0, 0-2); agg 2-2

(won penalties).

Q-Final

v Betis (0-0, 3-0); agg 3-0.

v Austria Wac (2-1, 1-2); agg 3-3 S-Final

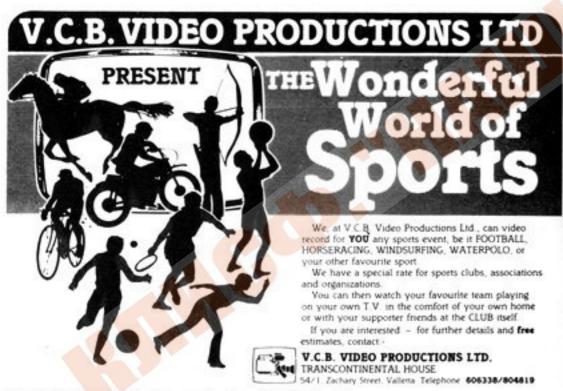
(lost penalties).

v Hajduk Split (1-0, 5-2); agg 6-2. 1984 - 85 (ECWC) First Round

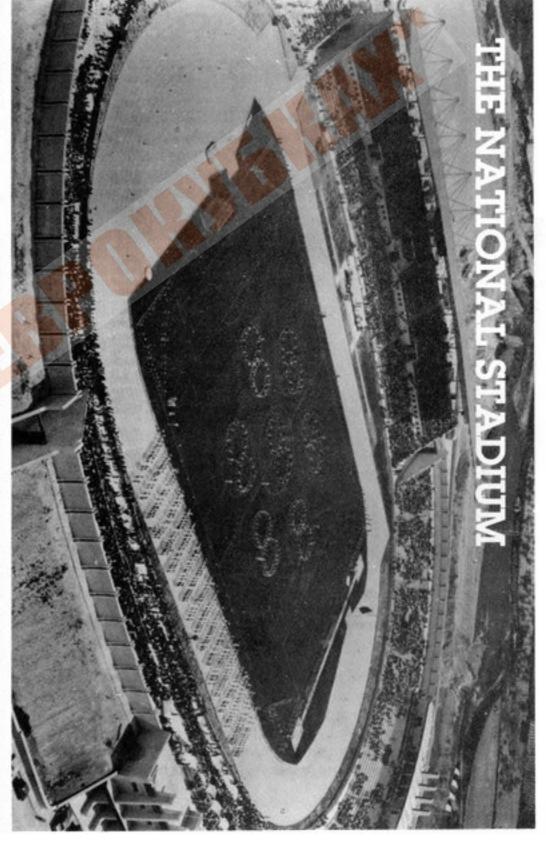
Second Round v HAMRUN SPARTANS (5-0, __); agg __.

Moscow Dynamo's Golden achievements

1974 – 75 (UEFA Cup)	First 1	Round	v	Oesters (2 – 3, (away	2 - 1); agg 4 - goals).	-4
	Second Round v Dinamo Dresden (0 - 1, 1 - 0); agg 1 - 1 (lost penalties)					
1976 - 77 (UEFA Cup)	First l	Round	V.	AEK Athens (0	0-2, $2-1$); a	gg 2-3.
1980 - 81 (UEFA Cup)	First l	Round	v	Lokeren (1 – 1	, 0 – 1); agg 1	-2.
1982 – 83 (UEFA Cup)	First 1	Round	v	Slas Wrocklaw	(2-2, 0-1)	agg 2 – 3.



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MOSCOW DYNAMO

one of Russia's Greatest Teams

The legand of MOSCOW DYNAMO in Soviet and international football spheres is only matched by the legend of great international goalkeeper LEV YACHIN, perhaps the best known figure ever to be produced by Russian football, a doyen of goalkeepers, an upstanding figure of sportsmanship and one of the greatest goalkeepers the world has ever known.

For a period of ten years, during the 50's, the words Soviet football and Moscow Dynamo were almost synonymous. During this golden patch, with Lev Yachin at the height of his and international club career, the crack Moscow club managed to win the Russian League in 1954, 1955, 1957, 1959 and 1963. In 1953 they also won the Soviet Cup. In all, Dynamo have inscribed their name on the Soviet National League on no less than 11 occasions, taking the Russian Cup on six other occasions, the latest being last season and thus qualifying them for the Cup-Winners European Cup.



The legend in action as the great Yachin tucks his head in from a charge by bustling England centre-forward Bobby Smith in 1963. Czechoslovakia wing-half Pluskai looks on concerned.

It is perhaps with regret

that in recent years one notes that Dynamo have fallen on fallow times. Since 1963 they have only won the Russian League once, and that was on a joint basis in 1976 although it was Moscow Torpedo who entered the Champions Cup in the following season. Since 1963, Dynamo have been more favoured in the k.o. Russian Cup competition, and this has given them entry into Europe on a number of occasions, including several attempts in the UEFA Cup.

Since the constitution of the Russian League in 1936, Moscow Dynamo have always been one of the leading teams, together with Moscow Torpedo, Moscow Spartak and CSKA Moscow, the Red Army team. Dynamo were in fact the first winners in 1936 and 1937, and then again in 1940.

In the early 50's, Moscow Dynamo proved to be the emerging force of Russian football when they took the world by storm on a club visit to Britain, deflating the "invincible" tag of the English and being the forerunners of the great international Hungarian team in doing this. Had the Champions Cup been in competition at the time, and had the Dynamo been entrants, then they would have surely inscribed their name on the Trophy in this period. However, it was not to be, and when the Champions Cup was introduced in the late 50's, Dynamo had already overshot their bolt, and there was the great Real Madrid to compete with.

When Dynamo finally entered Europe, it was in the Cup-Winners Cup in 1971 – 72, the first-ever European competition entered by the club. At the first time of asking they went right through to the Final, eliminating on the way Olimpiakos (Greece), Eskishirspor (Turkey), Red Star (Yugoslavia) and Dinamo Berlin (East Germany) before losing a balanced final 3 – 2 to

Glasgow Rangers in Barcellona.

The Dynamo team for that final on 24th May 1972 was the following:-Pilgui; Basalev, Dolmatov, Zykov, Dobbonosov (Gerschkovitch), Zhukov, Baidastchini, Jakubik (Estrekov), Sabo, Makovikov, Evryuzhikin.

Of these, Basalev, Sabo and Evryuzhikin were of decisive international fame, and Dynamo decisively made a name for themselves at the first time of asking. When Dynamo once more entered the Cup-Winners Cup in 1977 – 78, they reached the Semi-Finals, this time eliminating our Maltese colleagues Valletta F.C., Universita Craiova of Rumania, Betis of Spain before losing unluckily on penalties to Austria Wacker in the semis.

This year too, Dynamo appear to be making a strong bid judging by the way they swept Hajduk Split aside in the First Round, registering a marvellous 5 – 2 victory in Split. In the UEFA Cup, they have not had such good fortune, and in four entries, they fell at the First Round on three occasions and going out in the Second Round on the other occasion.

But, back to the great legend of Lev Yachin, a man who today has fallen on unfortunate times with a history of injury and illness. Recently he was in the news again for a sombre occasion when it was reported that his leg had been amputated after he had suffered from thrombosis, a far cry indeed from his agile-catlike days between the posts of Moscow Dynamo and the Soviet Union.

In 1945, Dynamo gave Yachin a trial on the suggestion of their other great goalkeeper Alexei "Tiger" Komich. By 1953, on Komich's retirement, Yachin had established himself as the outstanding first-team goalkeeper and from that moment on, there was no looking back on his resplendent figure dressed fully in black, giving him a panther-like appearance. He became known as the sport's gentle giant, besides his ability, his sportsmanship being his outstanding attribute. Within a short period he was four times Soviet Goalkeeper of the Year, twice Player of the Year and

during one period of 30 League matches he only conceded 11 goals, a remarkable feat.

He also holds the record for penalty spot kicks in one season saving no less than eight penalty shots from the total of 11 awarded against Dynamo. In 1963, Yachin undoubtedly reached his peak when Fernando Riera selected him to keep goal for a historic Rest of the World side against England at Wembley to mark the centenary of the English F.A. The Rest of the World included other legandary stars like Ferenc Puskas, Djalma Santos, Pluskal, Popluhar, Masopust, Kopa, Di Stefano, Eusebio, Denis Law, Gento and Uwe Seeler. Yachin turned in a remarkable performance, including two point-blank saves from Jimmy Greaves and another from Bobby Smith. England won 2 – 1, but they only found the winning goals when Yugoslav goalie Soskic sportingly replaced Yachin for all the stars to make an appearance.

Moscow Dynamo are perhaps at a crucial stage of development. The palmy days of yesteryear are over, as is the legand of Lev Yachin, although the memories remain; since 1963, Russian football has veered away from the dominance exersised totally by Moscow's teams in the past, and this has marked the emergence of such sides as Dynamo Kiev and Dynamo Tbilisi.

The Dynamoes of Moscow are perhaps trying to find their feet to cope with the modern demands of the game. But nothing will detract from the fact that they are, and always will be, one of the Soviet Union's greatest clubs.

Yachin at his peak during the Rest of the World line-up at Wembley in 1963, a team with a wealth of star talent. Standing from L. to R. Fenenc Puskas (Hungary), Djalma Santos (Brazil), Pluskal (C'vakia), Lev Yachin (Soviet Union), Popluhar (C'vakia), Karl Schnellinger (W. Germany), Soskic (Yugoslavia), Masopust (C'vakia), Eyzaguirre (Chile) and Jim Baxter (Scotland). Front Row, Kopa (France), Denis Law (Scotland), Alfredo di Stefano (Spain and Argentina), Eusebio (Portugal), Francesco Gento (Spain) and Uwe Seeler (W. Germany) — all class individuals which alas the sport of football today sadly lacks.





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EUROPEAN CUP-WINNERS' CUP

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Brincat Joseph

Calafato Carmel

Consiglio Cons.

Ciantar Jesmond

Farrugia Edwin

Grech Marco

Portelli Alan

Refalo Gaetan Robertson Malcolm

Salerno Gigi

Stegner Benno Sultana Conrad

Sultana Stefan

Xuereb George Xuereb Raymond Xuereb Marco Zammit Alan Zarb Joseph

Sultana Jesmond

Refalo Leo

Degiorgio Michael

Calleja Brian



VS

MOSCOW DYNAMO F.C.



Ta' Qali Kick-off 14.45



Officials:

Referee: Mr Helmut Kohl Linesmen: Mr Wolfgang Klocker Coach: ALEKSADER SEVIDOV (ex international and ex Dynamo player)



National Stadium Wednesday 7th November 1984

Mr Bernhardt Clermont (Austria)



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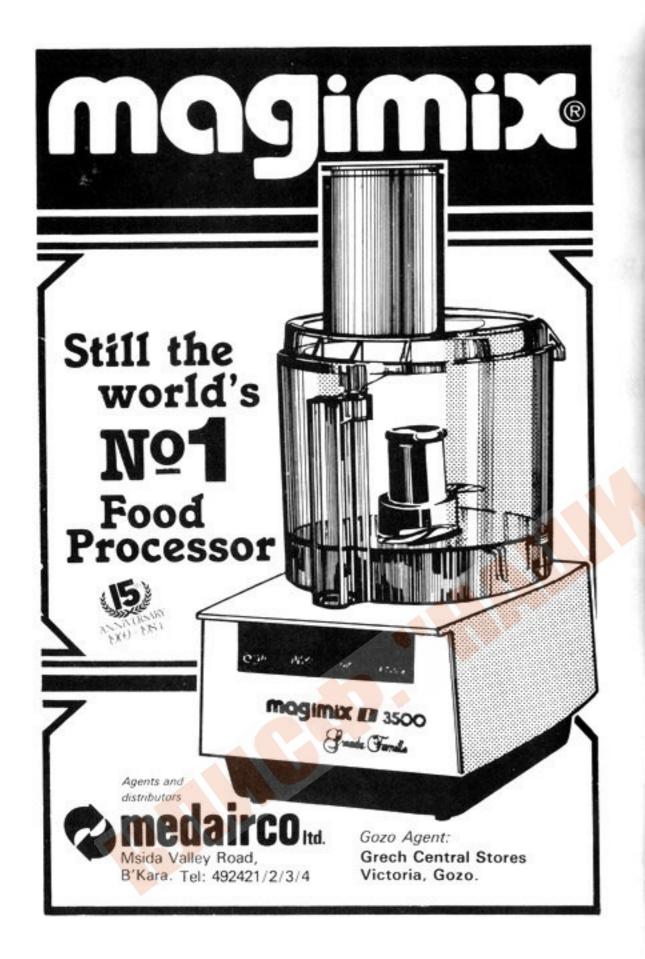
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SPARTANS PICTURE GALLERY



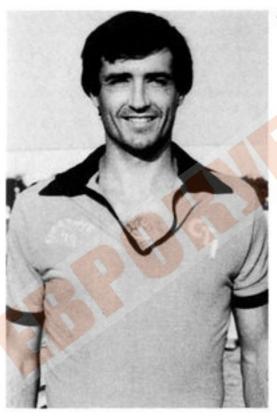
DEGIORGIO MICHAEL (Attacking midfielder)

One of the more accomplished ball players
in the side. Degiorgio has substantial talent
and this has enabled him to become a regular
Malta international player and during the
early season he visited training camps in
Bulgaria, the Soviet Union and Israel with the
full Malta squad.

FARRUGIA EDWIN (Defender) — A veteran of the squad who joined Spartans from Floriana F.C. and has a wealth of experience at international, European and club level. In fact he has made 41 appearances for the national side and is a highly steadying influence on his defensive companions.



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XUEREB RAYMOND (Attacking midfielder) – a veteran international, and like his brother George, coming to Spartans via Floriana F.C. Raymond first made his appearance in 1971 and has since played for Malta on 41 occasions. He has won every honour that the local game can offer and additionally underwent a trial with English First Division club Newcastle United F.C.

XUEREB GEORGE (Defender) — George spent many years as a striking centre-forward whose early career was with Floriana F.C. where he scored an invaluable number of goals both for the Greens and for Spartans. He made 31 international appearances for the Malta international team and his wealth of experience has enabled him to drop back into a central defensive position.



ZAMMIT ALAN (Goalie) — In his second season with the Spartans on a loan basis from Sliema Wanderers. A most accomplished goalkeeper and leading athlete who has been in great form since joining the Spartans where he has become the regular first-team keeper.

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AZZOPARDI ALEX (Defender) - Alex made his Malta international debut in 82 - 83 and has been a Malta regular ever since and recently went on trips to Bulgaria, the Soviet Union and Israel with the national side. He is remarkable in his overlap.



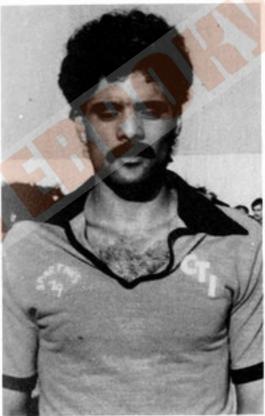
AZZOPARDI ALFRED (Midfielder) - Freddie has been playing with Hamrun since the age of 14 (he is now 24) but his career has taken an upturn and he is regularly being selected for the Malta international team, where, like Alex Azzopardi and Michael Degiorgio, he has recently visited Bulgaria, the Soviet Union and Israel.



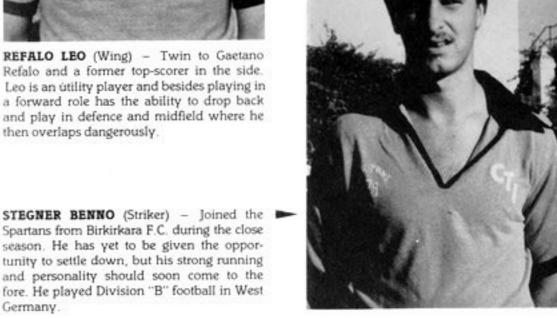
GRECH MARCO (Defender) - During the last two seasons Marco has made rapid steps of improvement and has now become a regular defender in the side. He has been playing football since boyhood and played for Hamrun Liberty and Hamrun Minors.

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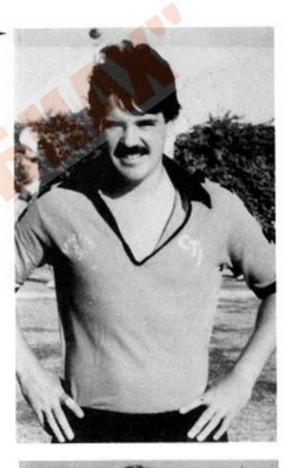
ROBERTSON MALCOLM (Midfielder and attacking Wing-half) - Joined this season as a player-coach after an extensive career with Hearts and Hibs of Scotland. Also played in the North American Soccer League and a former Scottish Youth International. He has a wealth of experience and has blended in well with the side.



Refalo and a former top-scorer in the side. Leo is an utility player and besides playing in a forward role has the ability to drop back and play in defence and midfield where he then overlaps dangerously.



Spartans from Birkirkara F.C. during the close season. He has yet to be given the opportunity to settle down, but his strong running and personality should soon come to the fore. He played Division "B" football in West Germany.



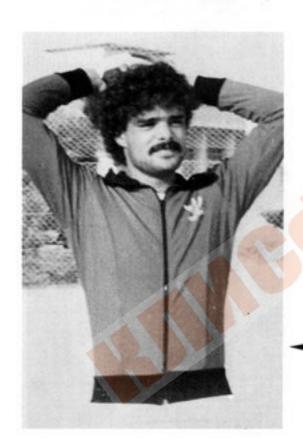
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BRINCAT JOSEPH (Goalie) — Joe began his career with the Cospicua team St George's and is one of three ex-St George's players in the squad. He has represented Malta as an amateur against Italy and was top goalie in Spartans' "double" year 82 — 83.



SALERNO JOSEPH is another of the side's veteran players who has been making a steady comeback this season. He played an important part in the "double" season 1982/83.



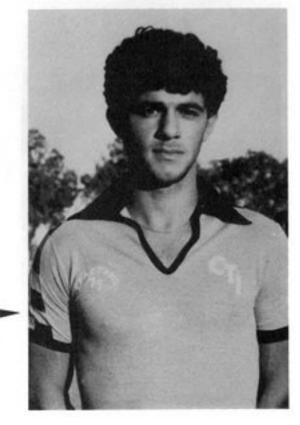
REFALO GEJTU (Defender) — One of the twin-brothers in the team (the other being Leo). Gaetan is a tenacious full-back who has developed his career since playing youth football at an early age. Missed the first leg against Ballymena through suspension.

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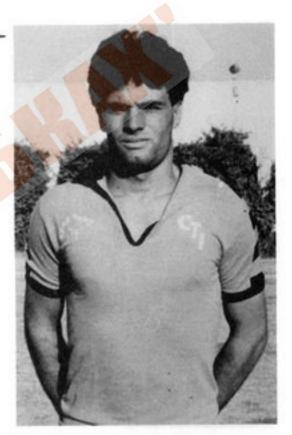
ciantar jesmond (Wing) - A strong runner with dribbling potential and accurate crossing. Like Conrad Sultana, he improved his team status last season and is a game fighter likely to tussle strongly for a team spot.



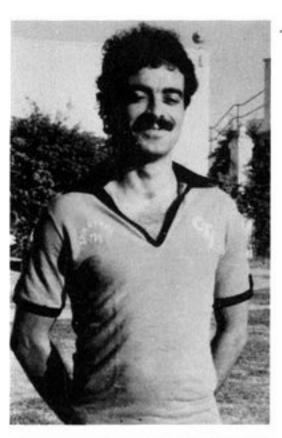
ZARB JOSEPH (Striker) — one of the side's exciting prospects. Joe joined the Spartans from St George's and quickly settled in to be a mercurial forward with ability both on the ground and in the air. When he settles down well he should be giving first class performances.



sultana conrad (Striker) – One of the several exciting youths in the side. He very much came to the fore last season scoring important goals and scoring the all-important winner in the Trophy Final replay against Zurrieq. He has good future international prospects.



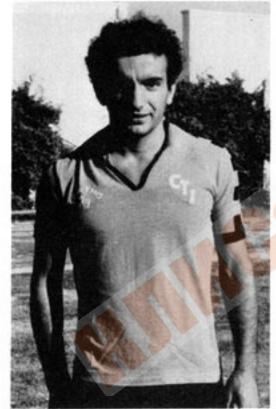
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CONSIGLIO CONS. (Defender) – Rejoined the Spartans at the close-season stage from Hibernians F.C. after having previously been on Hamrun's books too. He is another seasoned defender who has given the side defensive wealth.

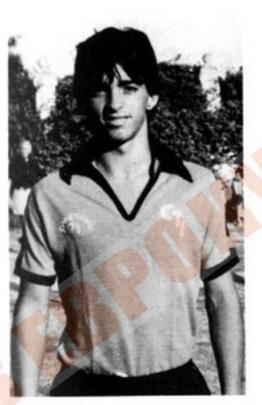


CALLEJA BRIAN has Premier League experience but also has to compete against the ability of the squad's other goalkeepers. He is a good clubman and adds valuable support to the side.



CALAFATO CARMEL (Defender) – One of the club's close-season signings from St. George's, Despite the number of seasoned defenders on Spartans' books, Calafato has made rapid steps of improvement.

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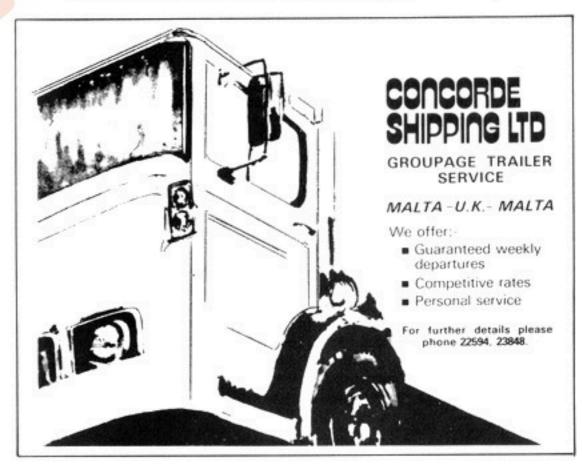
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GOLDEN SEASONS FOR THE RED AND BLACKS

By Spartan

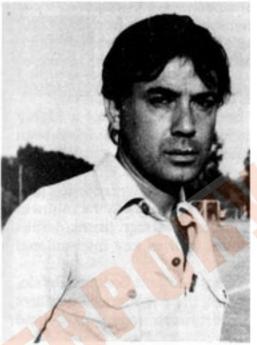
Few can deny that during the last three seasons **HAMRUN SPARTANS**F.C. have come a long way, and have gone a long way to providing a much-needed revival to Maltese football. Over this three-year period (we are now at the start of the third), the Spartans have won the League Championship once and the F.A. Trophy twice — and who knows about this year? — besides additionally also becoming the first Maltese team to win a competitive match of any kind away from Malta, following this up with another victory and qualification into the Second Round of the Cup-Winners Cup.

Is this the greatest team which the Spartans have ever had? The veterans may dispute this and say that the Hamrun edition just after the War was the best and strongest formation which the Spartans ever had. Overall, that is something for the fans to argue over, but undoubtedly, present-day fans are living through historic times.

The revival began three seasons ago with the Spartans celebrating the 75th year of the club's formation. The team had been strengthened by the addition of international players George and Raymond Xuereb, as well as Edwin Farrugia. Additionally, there were the Spartans' own products, the up-and-coming stars like Michael Degiorgio, Alex Azzopardi and Alfred Azzopardi amongst others.

In fact, the two Azzopardis and Degiorgio have now become regulars of the Malta international side, and it is being strongly tipped they will soon be joined by Marco Grech who is fast emerging as the most effective manto-man marking defender in Maltese football. The underlying note therefore has been the consistency of the side, and the stream of players who have been coming in, giving the Spartans one of the best squads both in depth of playing strength and in talent.

Hamrun have been adventurous too. Three seasons ago in the face of stiff opposition, in order to strengthen the team and in order to give local players more confidence, Hamrun introduced English players Peter Hatch and John Linacre into the side. Much of the groundwork for this was due to the insistence of President Victor Tedesco who has undoubtedly been at the heart of this Hamrun success and revival. Peter Hatch in particular took the Malta scene by storm and by the end of the season he had easily established himself as the prime motivator of the side.



Coach Ronnie Attard

Alas, when that season was over, and Spartans had completed a "double" of both League and F.A. Trophy, it was hoped that both Hatch and Linacre would stay on for another season and guide the Spartans in Europe. Sadly that was not to be for various domestic reasons connected with both players, and Spartans made alternative arrangements.

Continuing the revolutionary trend, last season Spartans imported Argentinian Youth international centre-forward Alex Gutman from Buenos Aires to give the team striking power much-needed. But this bold experiment failed and Gutman failed to settle down satisfactorily. Simultaneously, Spartans signed Bulgarian international Georgi Ivanov who also acted as

player-coach and settled into the side more easily. Ivanov had finesse and was also a capable striker but unfortunately had a language problem which made communications difficult.

Nevertheless, last season Spartans also did well by taking the F.A. Trophy and only just missing the runners-up spot in the League. Last season too marked the important emergence of youth stars Marco Grech, Konrad Sultana and Jesmond Ciantar, three youngsters who are destined to become the side's future stars. Marco Grech has already made the half-back position his own and has proved to be an effective marker of dangerous opposition strikers.

This season, the Spartans have come back with renewed strength, as Ballymena United of Northern Ireland found to their great surprise. It is no secret that when Ballymena drew Spartans in the First Round of the Cup-Winners Cup they were convinced they had an easy passage into the Second Round. Irish and British newspapers commented that Ballymena were certain to qualify.

They found otherwise to their great cost, and were really shaken when the Spartans won at the Ballymena Showgrounds. In this season too, Spartans managed to make a number of important acquisitions. Experienced Malcolm Robertson was brought over from Scotland after a playing career with Hearts, Hibs and in North America. He has added guile and fighting qualities to the side. Additionally, Benno Stegner of West Germany and formerly with B'Kara F.C. has proved to be a valuable acquisition, his two actions having set up the goals against Ballymena at Ta' Qali. Stegner is equally capable as a striker and on the wing.

Additionally, Joseph Zarb and Carmel Calafato were acquired from St George's, whilst Constantine Consiglio rejoined the club from Hibs F.C. The Spartans also confirmed that for the second successive season, coach Ronnie Attard took charge of the team. Ronnie has long been connected with the Spartans at youth level, and the up-and-coming stream of young and youth players have all been through his charge at Hamrun Liberty.

With these talents, the Spartans have been able to present a highly balanced line-up. For the second season goalkeeper Alan Zammit has been acquired from Sliema Wanderers, Veterans Edwin Farrugia, George Xuereb and Raymond Xuereb have all found a new lease of life, whilst Raymond Xuereb was able to find the net three times against Ballymena. Michael Degiorgio has emerged as the most talented player in Malta at the moment and has also attracted the attention of a number of foreign teams; whilst Alex and Alfred Azzopardi have settled down well as key international players.

This talent is enhanced by the Terrible Twins Leo and Gaetano Refalo, both tenacious players with great fighting spirit, the experienced qualities of Gigi Salerno and Constantine Consiglio, whilst newcomers Joe Zarb and Carmel Calafato have fitted well into the side.

Looking ahead, Spartans have also built on youth with players like Konrad and Stefan Sultana, Jesmond Ciantar and Jesmond Sultana, Marco Xuereb, Alan Portelli and goalkeeper Frankie Zammit, the two other goalies in the squad being Joe Brincat and Brian Calleja. No wonder the Spartans

look to the future with high hopes and aspirations.

Over on the administrative side, Spartans have also progressed on their plans for professionalism, a transition period which has been planned at three years. The club has also consolidated its ambitions and plans are afoot for the building of a club ground at the Mile End, for which plans are presently being drawn up. All this has entailed a great amount of administrative work and fundraising, so that even today, the Spartans are more than just an ordinary and run-of-the-mill semiprofessional club.

Over these three years the club's loyal fans Bulgarian International have certainly been repaid in full for their support Georgi Ivanov. and attention during the years when the Spartans struggled and they have had several causes which to celebrate to the full. During these last three seasons the club has come up against such teams as Everton, Norwich City, Dundee United, the Bulgarian national team, Wycombe Wanderers, Ballymena United and now of course Moscow Dynamo. It can really be said that these have been three golden seasons for Spartans fans.

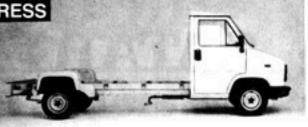




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Following the historic accomplishment over Ballymena United, the club's notice board was swamped with congratulatory letters from individuals as well as clubs, all expressing their sincere congratulations to Hamrun for making all of Malta glow with pride.

The club would like to thank the following for having taken the opportunity to congratulate the Spartans:

Dr Karmenu Mifsud Bonnici, Designate Leader MLP and Hon Minister of Education.

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Dr Eddie Fenech Adami, N.P. Leader and Leader of the Opposition.

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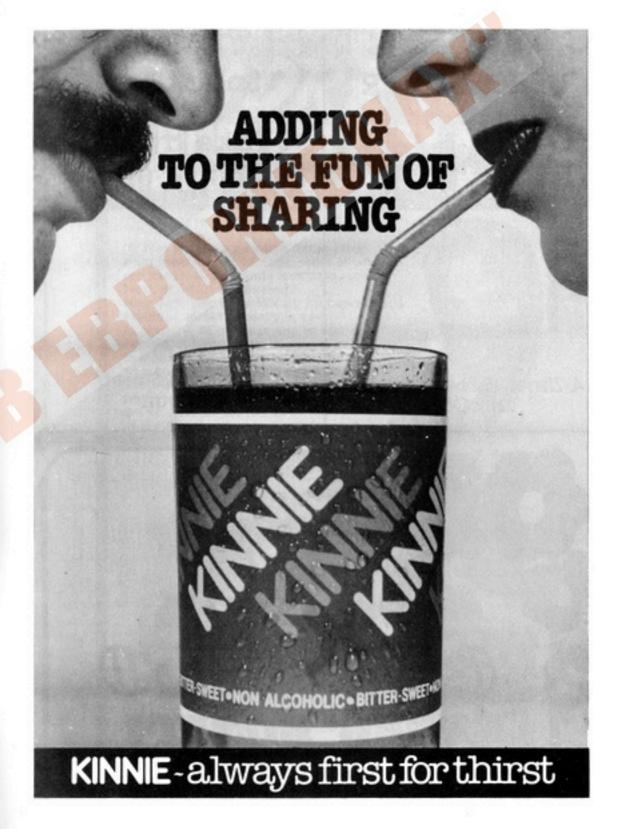
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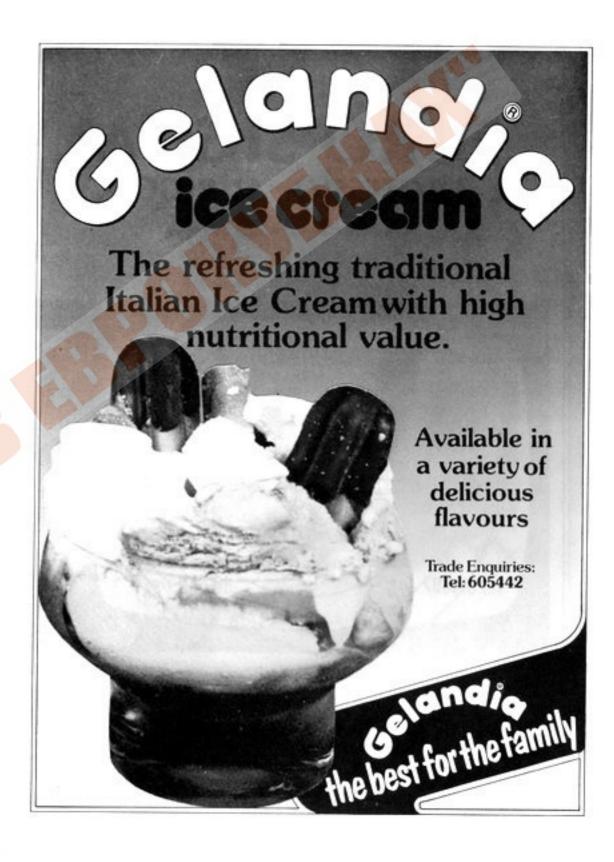
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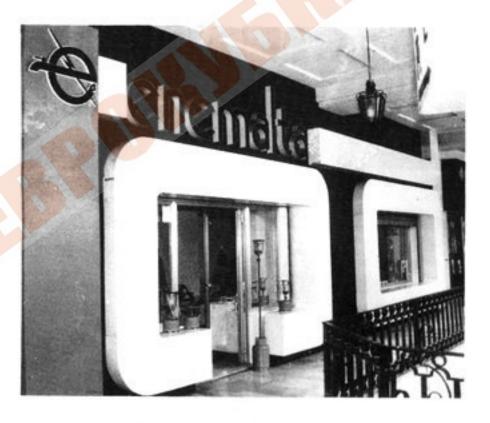
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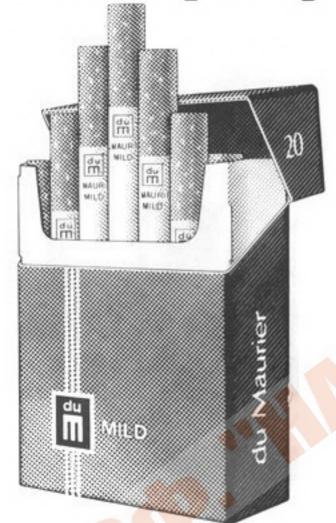
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