



Title information



Journey into the Unknown

British Football's Early Adventures in European Club Competitions

By Neil Jensen

Key features

- Examines the development of pan-European football competitions, from the Mitropa Cup and Latin Cup to the introduction of the European Cup in 1955
- Explores the reluctance of England to get involved, from the stand-off with FIFA to the Football League denying Chelsea the chance to enter the first European Cup
- Looks at the impact of the introduction of floodlit friendlies and inviting clubs from abroad to take part
- Scotland's early adventures, with Hibs the first club to play in European competition and Rangers making early strides
- Manchester United's early years in Europe, ending with the tragedy of Munich in 1958
- Publicity campaign planned including radio, newspapers, websites, podcasts and magazines

Description

Journey into the Unknown explores the early years and development of pan-European football competition alongside changing British attitudes to overseas teams. British football was slow to embrace the idea. There was an underlying belief that England and Scotland, in particular, were among the leaders in the development of football and therefore de facto champions of the game. But when UEFA introduced a competition for Europe's top clubs, the Brits got a rude shock. It soon became clear that sides like Real Madrid, AC Milan and Benfica possessed more technically gifted players, and that Football League clubs had much to learn. European club football, played under floodlights, became an exciting spectacle, introducing audiences to crack eastern Europeans, skilful and cunning Latins and ultra-efficient Germans. Two-legged ties gave us terms like 'aggregate', 'away goals' and the much-derided 'toss of the coin'. In time, British fans learnt that foreigners didn't have two heads, but that didn't stop some supporters from believing opponents from Europe were from another planet.

Details

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