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1997 - 2017



Official Supporters Club
Gozo



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No man is an island - this is one of the reasons why social groups are formed. The people who make up such groups need not necessarily be friends; however friendships may commence within the group if its members share the same interests. This is exactly what happens when clubs are formed – people coming from different ways of life get to meet in the same place to enjoy a common pastime.

The above statement correctly describes what happened locally with the creation of the Liverpool Supporters' Club Gozo in 1997. Never in a million years could I have predicted that this venue was to introduce me to some of the most passionate and great characters on the island as well as to offer me some of the best football-related experiences of my life!

Early Days

A room next to the terrace on the first floor of a beautiful corner house was transformed into a meeting place. Its empty walls soon started filling up with signed photos of past and present Liverpool FC players. The bar started out as a table



in a corner. The first live matches were followed on a screen. Large cabinets were ordered to house replicas of famous cups as well as all types of memorabilia. A replica of the Shankly Gates was engraved and installed, Shankly's statue was stationed in front of the house to guard the premises whilst Liverpool's famous "You'll Never Walk Alone" was carved in stone right beneath the club window. A committee was elected and a statute was adopted. Relations with our Maltese counterparts were rekindled and contacts with the mother club were launched.



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Kopites from near and far have flocked to this shrine to follow their beloved team. The club has been a place of celebration as well as a place for discussion. It's also in the club that tears have been shed and dreams have been shattered. This is not to mention that several ex-players have been welcomed here, be it on official visits or as guests. Likewise, thanks to the exceptional relationship which exists between the LSC Gozo and the club in Malta, local Liverpool supporters can proudly say that they have managed to lift the FA Cup, the League Cup, the UEFA Champions League Cup, the UEFA Cup (nowadays known as the Europa League) and the UEFA Super Cup. Only a small fraction of the players who play in the English Premier League have managed to lay their hands on one of these cups; however, we can boastfully say that we have held them all! That's the extent of the club's esteem abroad. The club, which can also be considered as a museum, is now the pride of all the supporters' clubs on the island.



Publication

The articles in this magazine are intended to tell the story of the club in the form of personal accounts. Simply listing all the events which took place during the past twenty years would have rendered the magazine boring and unappealing. It would have been the perfect fact file. On the contrary, I wanted the people who make up the club to feel fully involved; to recount the club's history through their first-hand experiences. In short, I wanted the club to present itself to you. May you enjoy reading all the articles and relate yourself to some, if not most of the stories!

A word of appreciation

I would like to thank all the committee members for believing in me and giving me the opportunity to work on this publication. Their hard work and commitment have made the club what it is today.

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Pierre Camilleri - Editor

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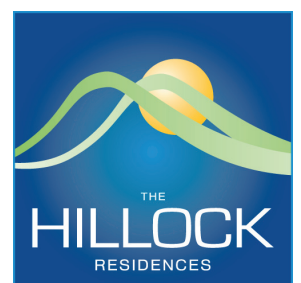
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For the Love of the Game



As the most popular game in the world, played and watched by millions across every race worldwide, football fans have also established a culture of support for their players, coaches and clubs. Gozo too has, over the years, established its own setting for followers of international stars far beyond the island's own shores.

The longest established football clubs in Britain or on the continent have become most popular with Gozitan and Maltese fans, partly due to the British stay in Malta and the country's geographical vicinity to Italy. The passion with which these clubs are followed, makes their local supporters feel part of the huge crowds that stand by their favourite teams throughout all ninety minutes and beyond, week after week, in each and every stadium.

Supporters' clubs have long been established locally in order to ensure the fullest support and high-quality entertainment enjoyed by millions of fans around the world. With the revolution that modern technology has brought to professional

sports, renowned clubs have a real-time way to extend their reach worldwide, resulting in an ever-increasing popularization of the game. In fact, local supporters' clubs are so well organised that they have managed to create an atmosphere similar to that found in stadiums.

When thinking of the Liverpool Supporters' Club Gozo, one cannot but recall that Liverpool has been a cultural hub where the Beatles redefined popular music, and where football transcended sport to become part of the arts, almost a religion. In Liverpool, music and football have always gone hand in hand. The passionate chants of Broadway's musical "Carousel" at Anfield since 1965, create the uplifting

message and melody that reminds all that "You'll Never Walk Alone!"

It has since become an immortal song of hope, solidarity and celebration. "Walk on" perfectly fits my congratulations to the Liverpool Supporters' Club Gozo on their 20th Anniversary. The Gozo Ministry welcomes voluntary organisations that enhance community spirit among Gozitans. May you continue to be a healthy meeting place for Liverpool supporters in Gozo, in a friendly relationship with all those following football and its overwhelming team spirit and support.

Hon. Dr Justyne Caruana
Minister for Gozo





Sport provides experiences and special moments. There is no doubt that all Liverpool's fans have lived through the good and bad days in their support cycle during the last 20 years. Many may remember victories or specific moments. Others may recall the person next to them when a goal was scored. In all cases, sport support brings joy, a sense of belonging and above all,

unconditional love to one's favourite team.

I therefore congratulate all Liverpool FC Supporters for these last 20 years of memories. They have built friendships and above all, they have "walked" with their stars. The statement "You'll Never Walk Alone" is in fact interpreted as a declaration of loyalty. This is seen as absolute faith in their club and they are there for their team whatever what. Liverpool supporters have a reputation for their support. Their chants have been admired throughout the team's history and their support has been the extra man on the field.

Wishing the Liverpool Supporters Club Gozo more

success is something that I as Parliamentary Secretary for Youth, Sport and Voluntary Organisations happily adhere to. Your supporters have been an example for many. Your behaviour has been exemplary, you cheered and were there singing even during lost matches. You showed others what decency in sport is and that fair play happens outside the pitch too.

I hope that my message will bring you more success and trophies in the coming years.

Hon. Dr Clifton Grima

Parliamentary Secretary for Youth, Sport and Voluntary Organisations



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Celebrating twenty years is indeed an achievement! How could I have predicted this when my friend Charlie Farrugia decided to open the club in Xewkija? From humble beginnings, the club has developed into one of the best venues where to watch football and where other fund-raising activities related to Liverpool FC are regularly organised.

However, if I were to go back in time, let's say about three to four decades ago, the idea of a Liverpool Supporters' Club had already existed on the island. At that time the perception of a supporters' club was very different from that of today. Nowadays, supporters' clubs are affiliated with the mother club and have to adhere to strict regulations to qualify as an official club. The present club has its official premises with a functioning committee elected by vote every year. But in the late 1970s, with no official premises available, we, Liverpool supporters, used to meet at the Oratory Don Bosco, which served

as an unofficial Liverpool Supporters' Club. I used to act as the barman and did my utmost to present an image of a supporters' club. In fact, I had adorned the bar with Liverpool photos, banners, scarves, players' posters and a set of red lights to create a Red atmosphere. Screening of matches was in black and white and live games were a rarity. We did our best to watch what was shown on television: European Cup Final matches, FA Cup Finals and the weekly Star Soccer, later on called

Big League Soccer, which showed the highlights of only one match a week after it had actually been played. One cannot compare today's availability of live football with the scarcity of what was available at the time. This highlights our dedication and love for the game, especially for Liverpool FC. Moreover, during those times, when the internet was still unheard of, several Liverpool supporters used to gather in anticipation around the phone every Saturday at around six in the



evening while I phoned the local radio station in Malta to ask for Liverpool's result. One can only imagine the air of anticipation which filled the room until the final result came through.

In addition, Mr George Mizzi, an ex-committee member, together with several others, myself included, used to attend meetings for Liverpool fans in Valletta. These meetings were held by Mr Alfred Fenech, one of the founders of the Liverpool Supporters' Club Malta. Knowing how hard it was for Gozitans to travel to Malta in those days, Alfred used to be delighted to see us present for most of the meetings. I clearly remember what Mr Alfred Fenech used to say when we arrived for a meeting: *'Ma għidtilkom x li jiġu 'l Għawdxin!'* meaning *'Didn't I tell you that the Gozitans would come!'* This also demonstrates the friendship and bond which existed and still prevails to



this day between the two Liverpool Supporters' Clubs on the islands.

Moreover, with the help of the Oratory Don Bosco Sports Board, football leagues used to be organised between local supporters who supported different teams representing European clubs. I vividly remember the two leagues won by what we used to call the

Liverpool team, a team made up of several Liverpool supporters who competed against other supporters of English, Italian or Spanish teams. Several Liverpool supporters who took part in that league would later on form part of the committee of the Liverpool Supporters' Club Gozo.

Twenty years as an official club is quite a milestone! Each Liverpool supporter should remember that the Liverpool heart had been beating long before the present Liverpool Supporters' Club opened its doors. It is thanks to the supporters and many others who passionately supported Liverpool during the years, that we now have one of the best supporters' clubs on the island.

Charlie Zammit

Honorary Club Chairperson
Liverpool Supporters'
Club Gozo



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My Liverpool Home

The premises of the Liverpool Supporters' Club Gozo in Xewkija form part of Mr Charlie Farrugia's house. In this interview with the editor, he shares his thoughts as the club owner.

How did you fall in love with the boys in red?

It all started way back during the 1976/77 football season. I was 10 years old and Kevin Keegan was my idol. He was one of the best players in Europe at the time. My best friend, Giovann Cassar, who supported Manchester United, tried to convince me to support the Red Devils but the team of the moment was Liverpool. They were on top and nothing would change my mind.

What inspired you to open the club?

When I fell in love with Liverpool FC, they had just won their tenth league and were also crowned champions



of Europe for the first time. Being quite young, I used to frequent local football clubs and band clubs where I used to meet other Liverpool supporters from around Gozo. There always seemed to be the need for a club where everyone could meet, as was the case in Valletta.

In 1983 I moved to New York where I still kept on following the team, in the company of other Liverpool supporters in Astoria. I always dreamt of opening a club in New York. In fact, while still in New York, I had already contacted Mr Brian Hall who was in favour of my idea and was also willing to help me.

In 1996, when I came back to Malta, I learned that the club in Valletta had closed down and was replaced by the one in Mosta. Back in Gozo, Dr Chris Said, a local lawyer, contacted me with the intention of forming a Liverpool Supporters' Club in Gozo. I informed him that it was my dream to open such a club and that I already had contacts abroad. We



decided to hold a meeting for local Liverpool supporters in his office in Victoria and during that meeting the first committee was elected. I also informed all those present that, as I was building a new house in Xewkija, I was ready to allocate a room for the club. My dream had come true and the club opened its doors in 1997.

For some time the club was officially recognised as a branch in Gozo of the Liverpool Supporters' Club Malta and on the 29th of June 1999, two Liverpool legends, Mr Phil Thompson and Mr Sammy Lee officially

inaugurated the premises. This was a historic and memorable day for us as it was the first time that club officials from Liverpool had set foot inside our club.

In 2006, Liverpool Supporters' Club Gozo became officially recognised as a supporters' club.

Whoever visits the club is stunned by the amount of memorabilia on show. Is this your private collection?

Yes, most of the stuff on display is mine, especially the old items. I bought all these items from the souvenir catalogue the club used to issue around three to four times a year. I have photos, pennants and match day programmes which date way back to 1976/77. I still buy such items to add to my collection. Over the years, the committee has also managed to invest in some memorabilia, after gaining the necessary funds from activities organised during the season. The cup replicas are an example of this.







Who are the people behind the club in Gozo?

The club's foundations are all its members, especially the committee members, including me. Without members or a committee, there wouldn't be a solid basis for a club to move forward. That's one of the factors the club is well known for. Although it's been quite some time since we saw some silverware, its loyal supporters have never ceased to back their beloved team. Our premises have never been left empty for a match, even though the team doesn't always get the desired results. On the contrary, I believe that attendances at the club have increased over the years. I just can't imagine what would have happened if Liverpool had won as many honours as other teams across the continent. I would also like

to thank my wife Josephine who has been very supportive throughout all these years.

How would you rate the local fans' expectations?

They're demanding but understanding as well. At the beginning of each football season, it is every supporter's dream to win the English Premier League and to progress as far as possible in all cup competitions. Even though there's a good number of supporters who are old enough to remember Liverpool's last league win, the new generation of supporters are still to witness this. The fact that all the cups Liverpool have won during these last twenty years have made it to the club in Gozo fills everyone with hope that, once Liverpool win the coveted Premier League, the cup will visit us as well.

Do team performances affect club attendance?

Yes they do, but the number of supporters who attend the club regularly has always been encouraging. Around one hundred supporters pay their membership fee every year and one third of them are ever-present for Liverpool's games, irrespective of the result Liverpool managed to get during the last game. This fills me with hope for the future. As I have already mentioned before, there's a growing





number of young supporters who are always at the club. This confirms the club's popularity here in Gozo. I always hope that this number will increase. Furthermore, the constant demand for match tickets is another indicator of the club's strength in Gozo.

The premises have changed drastically since the club opened its doors. One could say that it's constantly being upgraded. Are there any plans for the future?

Most of the money generated from membership fees and fund-raising activities has been invested in the premises. It is there for all to see. The barren room I dedicated as a club has now become a sort of museum, the pride of all Liverpool supporters in Gozo. Whoever pays it a visit is amazed.

The new modern look given to the club is proof that the club is constantly changing. Recently, the terrace next to the club has been refurbished. It has been roofed and garden furniture has

been installed. It has become very popular with the young supporters who regularly come to watch the games.

Future plans include a new bar as well as a new electronic noticeboard. I'm fed up of climbing ladders to physically change our team's opponents on the current noticeboard stuck underneath the club's window. At times, I have to do it twice a week. Modern technology is much safer and more comfortable and I intend to start making full use of it soon. One of the latest decisions taken by the committee is to install a new gate right outside the club to commemorate the 96 supporters who lost their lives at Hillsborough.

Liverpool has become your second home. Would you consider moving to the city?

It's true! I have visited the city so many times that I really consider it my second home. I go there around six or seven times a year to watch the team play. Unfortunately, my business



commitment is keeping me here at the moment but when I retire, I plan to visit more regularly, trying to fly in for Liverpool's games at the weekend. I have friends over there who I can meet.

What is your message to all Liverpool supporters?

Never give up, let's keep on working together. We have to be patient. It's true that it's not nice to sell players but ultimately nobody's greater than the club. Financial limitations may keep us from being the richest club on the planet but nobody beats Liverpool's fan-base across the world.

At the moment, the team seems to be on the right track. Klopp is building a very good team as he's changing players in every department. It's true that sometimes we don't agree with his decisions but ultimately he's the boss. He knows what he's doing.

Liverpool's name frequently makes headlines on the papers alongside other established names. Other teams, especially in Europe, never like facing our strong side. Even though we might not be the finished article, we seem to be getting there.

Apart from running the club in Gozo, Charlie has been a member on the committee at the Liverpool Supporters' Club Malta since the year 2000, occupying the post of Chairperson for the last 9 years.



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International Supporters' Clubs (ISC) / Official Liverpool Supporters' Clubs (OLSC) Network

Liverpool FC is undoubtedly one of the best supported clubs in the world. Its fan base includes more than 270 officially recognized Liverpool Supporters' Clubs in at least 88 countries spread over all the continents, with Europe boasting the most Liverpool supporters' clubs followed by America and Asia.



Unofficial LFC Supporters' Clubs started forming back in the late 1960s. In 1993, Liverpool FC took a decision to provide official statuses to these groups, with the creation of the International Supporters Clubs (ISC) network, known today as the OLSC network.

We, Liverpool FC fans, are famous the world over. What sets us apart from every other football club in the world is our loyalty, passion and knowledge. We have been instrumental in every great and famous victory that the team has had and have been the core strength in moments of great sorrow and huge loss. Although the management of each supporters' club differs throughout the world, all OLSC

branches are created to give valuable service to its members and to allow supporters to come together and celebrate the club they love as a family in that particular area. All OLSC branches also provide an excellent way of meeting fellow supporters and like-minded people, all of whom are devoted to following Liverpool FC, wherever they live in the world.

Liverpool Supporters' Club Gozo

Twenty years ago, a group of Liverpool supporters in Gozo decided to begin the process of forming a supporters' club on the island. Charlie Farrugia offered part of his premises to function as the club's premises, which has since then, been equipped with the latest technology for all supporters to come and watch Liverpool play. Once the club started functioning, the committee in Gozo faced a slight problem. It was informed that there couldn't be two supporters' clubs on the Maltese Islands as

there already was an existing supporters' club in Malta. Both sets of committees met in Malta and it was decided that our club would be considered as a branch of the Liverpool Supporters' Club Malta. It was also decided that the International Supporters' Clubs in Liverpool would be informed about this decision.

The club in Gozo continued to be listed as an official branch under that of Malta on the Official LFC website for around eight years. However, in 2006, the committee at that time decided to contact club officials in Liverpool inquiring if it were possible for the club to be obtain official recognition. The committee was informed that by paying the sum of around £100 per year for affiliation, it would be officially recognised by the mother club in Liverpool. This is due to the fact that the premises were based on another island. After yet another meeting with the committee from the Liverpool Supporters' Club Malta, it was decided that for





The club encourages all its members to pay the LFC Official membership since its benefits far outweigh the annual fee paid. It also helps our supporters feel part of the worldwide Liverpool family and closer to the club we all love.

One Great Big Family

It is always a great feeling for the fans to become officially recognised by the club. Even though our beloved team is based in England, its fame has spread so much that its fans can now be found everywhere around the world. It is quite fulfilling to see fans from all over the world joining our big family and we all hope that the club's fan base continues to grow stronger.

Last January, when welcoming 11 new supporters' clubs, Peter Moore, chief executive officer of Liverpool FC told the club's official website: *"We're absolutely delighted to welcome these new Official Liverpool FC Supporters' Clubs to the LFC family. As a Reds fan who lived abroad for many years, I know first-hand what it's like to support the club from afar, so it's really great to see so many of these groups come together to share their love of our club and recreate the special Anfield atmosphere wherever they are in the world."*

the financial benefit of both clubs, it was worth having two officially recognized clubs on the Maltese Islands.

Running of the club

The club's committee is elected during an annual General Meeting. The club members elect ten or eleven members to manage the club for the following year. The committee's main responsibility is to manage the club in the best possible way during that year. The posts of chairman, secretary, treasurer and other responsibilities are designated to the committee members during one of its first meetings with meetings taking place monthly, sometimes more frequently depending on the urgency of the decisions needed to be taken. The chairman is not only responsible for running the meetings but also ensures that all committee members fulfil their duties diligently. Since the club's inception, there have been five different chairmen, with another twenty different members who have formed part of the committee during these past twenty years.

Memberships

Each member becomes a club member by paying an annual fee. Members may also become LFC Official Members by paying a small annual fee. They receive an LFC official membership card, an exclusive membership pack full of LFC merchandise, have access to over 10,000 tickets for every Liverpool home game and may benefit from discounts when buying LFC merchandise from the Official LFC store.



Joseph Vella
Secretary

Liverpool Supporters'
Club Gozo



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OLSC Dinners and LFC Players' Awards

For the past five years Liverpool FC have organized the Official Liverpool Supporters Club Dinner, whereby Liverpool Supporters Clubs from around the world come together for a great night. This event has always been held on the penultimate home game of the season at Anfield.

Our committee has regularly ensured that it is represented during this very important event so as to improve its ties with Liverpool FC and other Supporters Clubs from around the world. The event begins with a drink reception where Liverpool legends greet the guests upon arrival. The guests have the opportunity to have their photos taken with these ex-players before they take the stage for a Q & A with an LFC TV host, while the guests are entertained with a scrumptious dinner.

Our Club has been represented in Liverpool on four occasions. Charlie Farrugia and Larry Vella attended the first event held in 2014, this prior to the Liverpool vs Chelsea game, which game will always be reluctantly remembered for the famous Gerrard slip which handed the Premier League title to Manchester City. Terry Camilleri attended the 2016 and 2017 event while Larry Vella represented our club during this year's dinner.

Moreover, members from the Liverpool Supporters Club Gozo committee, as well as local supporters, have had the opportunity to attend the Liverpool FC Players' Awards as well. During this important event, the achievements of the first team, the Academy and the Liverpool Ladies are recognised and honoured. On the night, awards including the Player of the Season, the Players' Player of the Season, the Ladies Player of the Season, the Young Player of the Season and the Goal of the Season are presented to the winners. Fans also have their say by casting their votes in a number of categories. Former players are in attendance during this ceremony as well.







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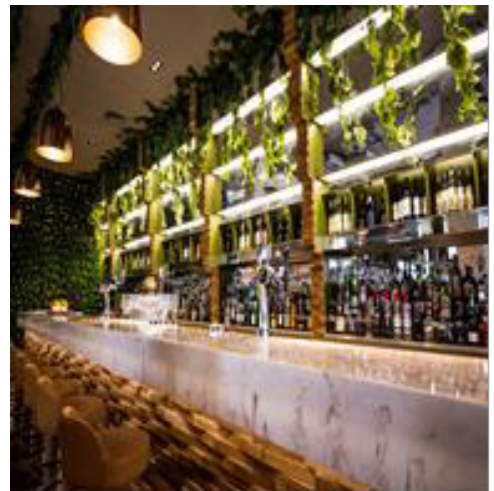
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Messages by the LSC Gozo Chairpersons



Dr Chris Said LL.D (1997 – 1999):

Twenty years ago, a group of supporters met in my office to form the Liverpool Supporters Club Gozo. At that time I was the President of the Gozo FA and, as soon as Charlie Farrugia came up to me with the idea, I informed him that he had my full support. What started back then has become one of the most organised supporters clubs in Gozo - it is the envy of all. I feel honoured that

I have contributed towards the evolvement of the club and I'm satisfied to see that it's still going strong. The regular activities organised by the committee keep together the local loyal Liverpool supporters as well as attract a good number of foreigners. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the supporters as well as all those who have voluntarily contributed towards the well-being of the club; without you the club wouldn't be what it has become today.

Mr Anthony Refalo (1999 – 2000):

The club we have today is the brainchild of Charlie Farrugia who, together with a small group of Liverpool FC supporters, took the bold decision to open the current premises

around twenty years ago. Nowadays, it can be easily described as the pace setter for all supporters' clubs on the island. I would like to take the opportunity to thank all those who have worked tirelessly so that the club could prosper.

Chev Carmel Zammit KHS (2000 – 2008 / 2012 – 2013):

On this special occasion, I would like to thank all the people who have worked so hard to help the club evolve into such a successful organisation. Their enthusiasm fills everyone with the courage to continue. In fact, it comes as no surprise that, after twenty years, the club is still going strong! I would also like to take the opportunity to

remember all our beloved relatives, friends and fans who have passed away. May they rest in peace. They might not be with us but they're surely looking upon us. Finally, allow me to remind everyone about our famous motto: **YOU'LL NEVER WALK ALONE!** meaning that together things can get done better in an easier way.

Mr Joseph Borg (2008 – 2012):

On the occasion of the club's 20th Anniversary, I would like to thank all those who have formed part of the committee

over the years for their hard work and dedication. I would also like to thank all the members for their continuous support. May our beloved club continue to be successful.

Mr Charles Xuereb (2013 – present):

This year we are celebrating the 20th Anniversary of the Liverpool Supporters Club Gozo. It is a remarkable feat, achieved over all these years by the respective committees and chairpersons elected. Every person involved has contributed towards what the

club is today. As the current chairperson of LSC Gozo, I am honoured that, together with the present committee, we are celebrating our 20th Anniversary and sharing its joy with our loyal members. I am sure that everyone will treasure this special magazine edition issued to commemorate the 20th Anniversary of the Liverpool Supporters Club Gozo.



Liverbird Upon my Chest

The football season 1992-1993 saw the introduction of the Premier League in England. This decision was brought about by the clubs in the old First Division who wanted to break away from the Football League and take advantage of the monetary injection derived through television rights. Today's abundant availability of live football matches is the result of that arrangement ...

Childhood Memories

For me, football is more than just a game: it's a way of life. This is especially true since I happen to live on an island where the love for the game is nearly as important as religion: only politics does it better. As a football club, Liverpool FC has had its fair share of ups and downs and as an ardent fan, I can proudly state that I have lived through some of the club's most memorable achievements and unfortunately, through their bad patches and downfalls as well.

It all started way back in the 1980s. Like the majority of kids at the time, football in general used to amaze me but in those days live matches on television were a rarity. So, my only links with the game across the continent were through magazines in the like of Shoot and Match while my favourite sports programme was called Big League Soccer. Who can ever forget Brian Moore's voice? No wonder he was called the voice of soccer! This programme was aired once a week on the only local television station available to the nation, TVM. All the action, goals and drama of the old First Division in England had to be followed more than a week after the games had actually been played, not to mention this was also subject to availability! Luckily enough, Télé Monte-Carlo (TMC), a free-to-air television station based in the Principality of Monaco, used to cover a few FA Cup games. Meanwhile, the FA Cup final used to be

broadcasted live on our local television station.

Falling in Love with the Game

At such a young age, the only two people I shared this pastime with were my dad, who happens to be a true Red Devil but also a genuine fan of English football in general and my grandpa, who was a Real Madrid and Spain national team diehard. Sharing the sitting room with them meant listening to complicated football arguments regarding the level of football in England and in Spain. It must have been this banter that instilled in me an outstanding passion for the game.

Next came the World Cup in Mexico in 1986. This football feast guaranteed a whole month of live football on television. This was my first experience of watching live football matches with huge interest. I hardly missed a match even though some of





the games were played early in the morning due to the local time zone difference. How can I forget the penalty shootout between Brazil and France, the 'Hand of God', the way Maradona dominated the whole tournament and the six goals scored by Lineker? Moreover, the Panini sticker album, which I still collect to date, undoubtedly had a major influence on me as well.

Becoming a Red

Nevertheless, it must have been the FA Cup Final, which had been played a month prior to the World Cup, which had a significant impact on me. Liverpool and Everton challenged each other in a final for the first time at Wembley. The nature of the game, being one-nil down by half-time, then turning the result in their favour to win the cup, reiterated Liverpool's never-say-die attitude. Moreover, the fact that Liverpool had Kenny Dalglish as a player-

manager, a key player as well as a very young manager when compared with others in top clubs, fascinated me. It must have been these factors that made me fall in love with the club. From that day onwards, I did my best to keep track of Liverpool's progress in the league on a regular basis. I considered the likes of Beardsley, McMahon, Whelan, Rush, Houghton and especially Barnes, which was also my school nickname for a few years, as my idols.

Unfortunately, my early days as a Liverpool supporter were marked in sorrow as well: the Heysel Stadium disaster in 1985; the Hillsborough disaster in 1989; losing the 1988 FA cup final to Wimbledon and losing the 1988-89 title in the last seconds of the match against Arsenal at Anfield, still haunt me to this day. To top it all off, Liverpool were banned from all European cup competitions for six years due to the disaster in

Heysel, virtually destroying my dream of witnessing success in Europe during my teenage years. However, I stuck to the team and never considered changing allegiances, even though Italian football was at its best and easily available on the box.

A Dream Come True

As I grew older, match days for me meant driving around the island to any one of the popular places where football was on live: the Aurora Snack Bar, the Xewkija Band Club, the Oratory Youths Bar and the Nadur Band Club were amongst Gozo's best places to watch football. However, something was still missing. The dream of being able to watch Liverpool play with a bunch of true Liverpool supporters still lingered in my mind. I longed for a place where I could share my joys and sorrows with local Kopites.

My dream came true in the mid-nineties when a meeting was held in a local lawyer's office with the intent of forming a club in Gozo. When I heard the news, I was overjoyed to say the least. The void I had felt as a little kid was over. Finally, there was going to be a place where I could watch Liverpool's matches in the company of persons who shared my own belief. Thanks goes to Charlie Farrugia and his wife Josephine, who made all this possible by offering part of their home to us Liverpool supporters. Today, this is where I regularly meet Liverpool



fans who come from all over the world and with whom I've become close friends. That short meeting made history.

Twenty years later, I can proudly state that I form part of the committee of the best supporters' club on the island. It is where I hang out during Liverpool matches, it's my favourite watering hole. I have witnessed the club's development over the years and thanks to the commitment of our ever-increasing members, I believe that the club will continue to be the local Liverpool supporters' 'home' for years to come.

This article recounts my journey to follow my favourite team, from the moment I fell in love with the game up to today. I'm quite confident that most of you will associate themselves with the story and claim that it's theirs as well.

Kevin Cassar

Club Activity Organiser
Liverpool Supporters'
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Liverpool FC in Malta

January 2000

Liverpool FC's shock home defeat in the FA Cup against Blackburn Rovers meant that the team hadn't made it beyond the fourth round for the fifth season in a row. Locally, everybody was in the doldrums as the club had not seen any silverware since April 1995 when Liverpool FC beat Bolton Wanderers 2-0 in the League Cup Final.

However, every cloud has a silver lining. The fact that the team had a free weekend without football towards the end of January meant that they could travel abroad for a training camp. To top it all off, Malta was chosen as their destination! No words can describe what we all felt at being told that our beloved team would be training amongst us. Preparations hit a high

as both committees in Malta and Gozo wanted to appease all their paying members. And I must admit that we were not let down.

Even though the team didn't make it to Gozo, we made sure that they were aware about our presence when we visited them at Ta' Qali for a training session and later on at the Corinthia San Gorg Hotel in St. Julian's for a squad presentation. Under David Moores' watchful eyes, Gerard Houllier gave total liberty to all the players to take photos with us as well as to sign autographs to all those who wanted. The whole squad was surprised by the local knowledge regarding the team, especially with the songs normally heard on the Kop.

The team's visit was every supporters' dream come true!





We Won It Five Times

With a history spanning over 125 years, during which 41 major honours have been won, Liverpool is considered as one of the most successful football clubs in the world.

Club honours

Domestically, Liverpool boast 18 league championships to their name, only the Premier League title still eludes them. However, Liverpool have managed to claim seven FA Cup wins. Two of these cup successes followed Merseyside derbies played at Wembley Stadium in the 1980s with the last two cup victories unfolding against Arsenal in 2001 and West Ham in 2006. Both these finals had dramatic endings to them.

No other team comes close to Liverpool's tally of eight League Cups, which have been won over the course of 12 final appearances. This success at home has enabled Liverpool to play in the season's curtain-raiser several times. In fact, the Reds have managed to get their hands on 15 Charity/Community Shields over the years, either



by winning the trophy outright or, as was the case before, by sharing it with another team following a draw.

Liverpool have also been very successful in Europe, having proudly won 5 European Cups to date. No other British team has managed that much success. The first European Cup success came under Bob Paisley, who added two more trophies to the trophy cabinet before his successor Joe Fagan also won the famous cup. The most recent triumph came in 2005, when Rafael Benitez oversaw the Miracle of Istanbul.

On a slightly lighter tone, Liverpool have won the UEFA Cup on three separate occasions. Bill Shankly, Bob Paisley and Gerard Houllier all led their teams to the trophy, the latter thanks to a 5-4 win over Alaves in one of the most incredible European finals of all time. To top it all off, two of Liverpool's UEFA Cup victories and one European Cup win were followed with success in the season-opening UEFA Super Cup.

Luckily enough, eleven of the above accomplishments were witnessed at the club in Gozo since opening its doors in 1997.



The Cups in Gozo

All the team's successes have, undoubtedly, been celebrated worldwide but only a few supporters' clubs around the world could say that they have organised activities to celebrate in the presence of the official cups. In fact, all the cups won by Liverpool FC since the turning of the century have been brought over to our island. It was thanks to Mr Phil Thompson's promise during the club's official

inauguration in June 1999 that the UEFA Cup, nowadays known as the UEFA Europa League Cup, the FA Cup and the League Cup made their way to Malta and Gozo in 2001. In 2006, Liverpool FC museum curator, Mr Stephen Done and his assistant, Mr Steve Newton brought the UEFA Champions League Cup and the UEFA Super Cup to Malta and Gozo. This is tangible proof of the level of respect and esteem our club benefits from.







Following the Reds

The opening of the club in Gozo brought about several opportunities: its close ties with the mother club have enabled local supporters to obtain tickets to go and watch their favourite team play. As a matter of fact, I have been to a Liverpool game at least once a year since the year 2000. My loyal support has taken me further as I have witnessed 5 cup finals namely the:

2003 League Cup Final against Manchester United in Cardiff;

2005 League Cup Final against Chelsea in Cardiff;

2005 UEFA Champions League Cup Final against Milan in Istanbul;

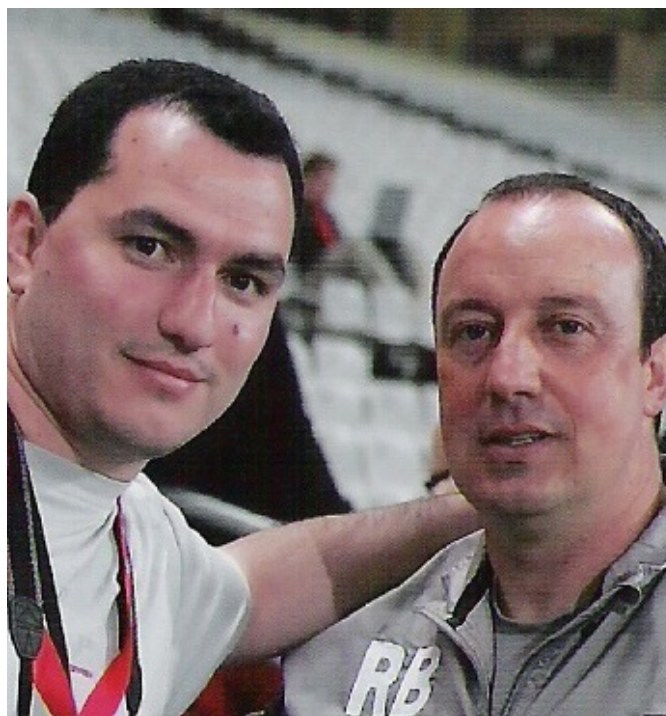
2007 UEFA Champions League Cup Final against Milan in Athens;

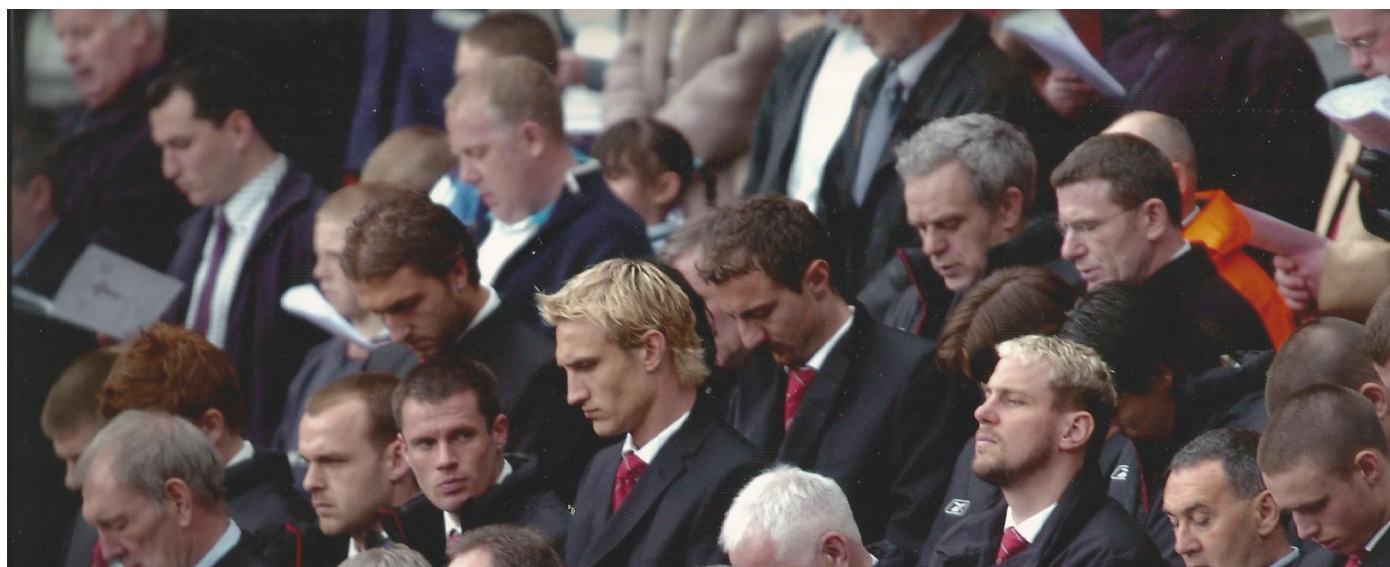
2016 UEFA Europa League Cup Final against Sevilla in Basel.

During my visits to Lancashire, I was lucky enough to go to Melwood a couple of times to see the players train and I even managed to meet most of the players and the managers. I also visited many stadiums, not to mention the privilege of sitting all over Anfield. While sitting in the away section against Charlton in 2003, I was lucky enough to be captured by a British photographer, just as Michael Owen slid his penalty into the bottom corner of the net. Unfortunately, we ended up losing 3-2 on the day. My latest experience in the Hospitality Lounge in the new Main Stand at Anfield has given me a taste of the huge investments by the club to give more quality for money to each supporter.

Personal experience

April 2004 marked the 15th Anniversary of the Hillsborough disaster. Having travelled to the city with a close friend for a couple of matches, we made it a point to be present for the memorial which was held at Anfield. We sat in the Kop that day, but boy, what a difference! Instead of the usual deafening noise coming from the fans, it was the eerie silence that filled the air that got to me. So solemn, so calm and so sad. However, I believe that my presence there was enough to console the families who





were commemorating the loss of their dear ones, who had gone to a football match but never made it back home.

As for excitement, I'll never forget the build-up to the UEFA Champions League Cup Final in 2005. I was lucky enough to be accredited by UEFA and saw the players train in the Ataturk Stadium the day before the match. I was also present for both press conferences given by Rafa Benitez, one on the eve of the match and the other after the success in Istanbul. I heard Gerrard issue the famous statement: 'How can I ever leave Liverpool after a night like this?' This contrasted sharply with my experience of Chelsea's supporters singing Gerrard's name after Chelsea beat Liverpool in the League Cup Final in 2005. It was heart-breaking because, at the time, there were rumours that Gerrard was about to join them. Moreover, seeing Mourinho tapping Gerrard's shoulder felt so agonising. Anyway, let bygones be bygones as that's history now.

Nothing beats Istanbul! But beating Manchester United and Everton are amongst the best experiences as well. I'll never forget watching Suarez single-handedly demolish Manchester United at Anfield, in the process of helping Dirk Kuyt score a hat-trick under King Kenny's second coming. Another electrifying atmosphere I experienced in the Kop was when Liverpool played Everton in 2006. Liverpool had Steven Gerrard sent off in the 18th minute but still managed to beat the Toffeemen 3-1.

Unfortunately, I was present for Gerrard's famous slip against Chelsea too. I never felt so low and my stomach churned the moment I saw Demba Ba dash towards goal. I couldn't come to terms with the defeat for days. But nothing would stop me from returning to the UK two weeks later for the final home game against Newcastle. I wanted to show my appreciation to my beloved team for the great season we had, this in spite of losing the league by just two points to Manchester City.

Local vibe

Even though I have had my fair share of globetrotting, my presence at the club in Xewkija for Liverpool's games is unrelenting. I can say that I've experienced some of the best European nights at the club as well. Victories over AC Roma, FC Barcelona, Internazionale FC, Real Madrid, Olympiakos FC, Borussia Dortmund and Manchester United are unforgettable. Each night has its own story! The atmosphere at the club is incomparable as nobody can celebrate like Liverpoolians do.

Liverpool is a team just like no other. I must admit that falling in love with the team has made me fall in love with the city, with its life. And as the Shanky quote states, I believe that ... *"I was made for Liverpool and Liverpool was made for me!"*

Larry Vella

Treasurer

Liverpool Supporters' Club Gozo

The main aim of our club is to provide a meeting place for Liverpool fans of all ages in Gozo, where they can come to support the team they love in a good ambience. The club, apart from being open for all Liverpool games, has always organised activities which have contributed to making many local Liverpool supporters feel part of what may be called 'The Liverpool Family' on our small island.

The most important activity organised each year is the Annual General Meeting. This yearly meeting which is usually organised in July, is the main activity where members may voice their concerns regarding how the club is managed and where each supporter can give suggestions for the club to move forward. During this meeting, all members present discuss both the financial and administrative aspects of the club and also elect the



committee to manage the club for the following year.

Several ex-Liverpool players have graced our club and have had the opportunity to admire all the mementos and memorabilia on display. Amongst these, one can find Phil Thompson, Sammy Lee, Phil Neal, David Fairclough, Alan Kennedy, Ian Callaghan, Jimmy Case, David Johnson, Craig

Bellamy, Patrick Berger and Vladimir Smicer, joined by several Liverpool youth players including John Flanagan, a youth player at the time of his visit, who later on made it to the first team.

Since its inception in 1997, the club has managed to organise two annual dinners, one during the Christmas period and another just after Easter. These group gatherings have always been a great success, especially the Christmas Dinner. **On the 7th December 2012, a dinner reception was held by the club to celebrate its 15th Anniversary. Liverpool's current all-time leading top scorer, Ian Rush was in attendance. During his visit, Rush officially inaugurated a replica of the great Bill Shankly statue found at Anfield. This replica, along with a replica of the Shankly gates, can be found guarding the club's premises in Xewkija.**





In addition to the Christmas and Easter dinners, the club organises similar functions at the club, albeit on a smaller scale. Two holy masses are organised each year as well, one in November and another in April, the former

in respect of club members who died and the latter dedicated to the victims of the Hillsborough disaster. Each Christmas, the club also organises a Christmas party aimed especially at young Liverpool fans.

Moreover, the good relations held with Liverpool FC have also enabled the club to organise several tours to Liverpool throughout the years. It is also worth mentioning the supporters' forum about the Premier





League organised by the club on the 17th November 2006, where local supporters of teams playing in the English Premier League discussed their beloved sport, football.

Looking back at these twenty years, one can surely be impressed by the great strides forward that have been accomplished by the club within such a short period of time. It is thanks to all the club members that the club has continued to flourish year after year and this special bond between all members certainly augurs well for the club's future.

Anthony Camilleri

Committee Member

Liverpool Supporters' Club Gozo



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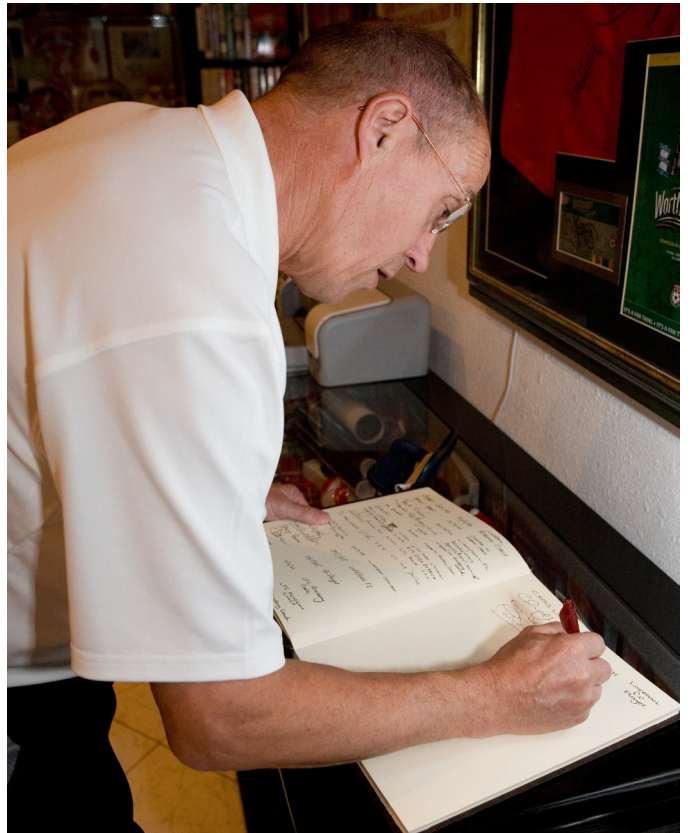


Vladimir Smicer



David Fairclough & Phil Neal





Phil Thompson & Sammy Lee





John Flanagan



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LFC Academy and Foundation Coaches in Gozo

The LFC International Soccer School, spearheaded by Mr Frank Skelley, visited our island three times in 2004, 2005 and 2011. These visits were organised in collaboration with the Liverpool Supporters' Club Malta. Several youth coaches from the Liverpool Academy organised training sessions aimed at children aged between 10 and 15 years. All these training sessions were a great success, with children from major nurseries in Gozo attending. Following these training sessions, three participants from Gozo namely Luke Vella, Rueben Farrugia and Keeva Camilleri, together with other Maltese entrants, were chosen to attend and train at the Liverpool FC Academy for a week.





Interview With Mr David Johnson

David Edward Johnson, born 23rd October 1951 in Liverpool, England, was a forward who won major trophies for Liverpool FC in the 1970s and 1980s. Amongst the clubs he featured for, one can find Everton and Ipswich Town. Surprisingly enough, David ended his football career playing for Naxxar Lions in Malta. Pierre Camilleri had the opportunity to have a few words with him.

What inspired you to play football?

Where I come from, when we were young, football was how boys played. We didn't have computers, Game Boy or PlayStation®; we grew up playing in the streets. Every possible moment was dedicated to football. Either you had a talent or you didn't. I was good enough and lucky enough to represent Liverpool Schoolboys and we won the English Schools' Trophy aged 14, which is the biggest schools trophy in the UK. And because I did that, I had the opportunity to join Everton. I must say that my mum and dad were my biggest inspiration because they were always there for me. They stood on the pitch side, rain or shine and backed me all the time.



What is the one thing that you enjoyed while playing football?

There are so many things. When you become a professional footballer, a lot of the enjoyment fades because it becomes your job. A lot of supporters can't understand that, but it's a full-time job where you're constantly being told to do a certain thing in a certain way, every single day! That's why it is not as enjoyable as many people think. However, travelling and

becoming known enable you to make more friends. Obviously, it's nice to be recognised. It's a very good barrier-breaker. It gives you something to talk about with whoever you're with. So, playing football is not just one thing, it's all of them. It's something special.

Who were your football idols when you were growing up?

My brothers took me to Anfield and I stood on the Kop. As I was a striker, my idol was Sir Roger Hunt and obviously Ian St John, his co-partner. So, I would say that Hunt and St John were my childhood idols, especially from Liverpool.

What are some of the lessons you've learned during your career?

Playing football is not easy. Everyone thinks that you just turn up on a Saturday to play football. It's not, you must have dedication. When I was at school, I had a lot of friends who would be out buying clothes, going to discos and obviously hanging around with the girls. Not for me. I had to be in bed at nine o'clock. It meant a lot of sacrifice to become a professional footballer, especially in the early years ... if you were adamant to make it. You know, when you're 15 in the 'B' team, you had to prove yourself. Once you're established in the first team, then, obviously, you can relax a bit but then you're always under pressure from people who lag behind but who want to get their chance as well. It meant a lot of dedication. But then the rewards were there to see as well.

Would you have traded football for any other sport?

Absolutely not! I often sit down and think: "If it weren't for football, what would have I done?" I was very good at cricket too. I've even represented Liverpool Schoolboys in cricket as well. So, actually, I did have a choice but I just wanted football.

What does it feel like to have played for both Liverpool sides?

I was born and bred a Liverpool supporter. I stood on the Kop. I dreamt that dream of playing

for Liverpool FC but I had the opportunity to join Everton as an apprentice aged 15. They made promises to me, which they kept. They promised me that they would make me a professional footballer. I went through the 'B' team, the 'A' team, the reserves – I was surrounded by some great players. So, I've never regretted joining Everton. However, in reality, the making of me was going to Ipswich under Bobby Robson. There I found out that Bill Shankly had tried to buy me on four different occasions, which I was disappointed about, since I was not given the opportunity to play under Bill. Then it was a dream come true for me because, after having supported Liverpool FC as a kid and having played against them for many times with Everton and Ipswich, I got the chance to play for the team I supported.

Any fond memories from your short stint in Malta with Naxxar Lions?

The gentleman who I owe everything to for bringing me over is Mr Michael Zammit Tabona. He used to fly me over on a Friday, played the game on a Saturday and if he could I would be back home on a Saturday night. If not, I'd fly

back home on a Sunday, subject to flights. And I did this once every fortnight. Back then, after my football career in England, I had to reinvent myself, as in those days you didn't earn enough money to retire. I didn't stay in football, I went into financial services – I became a financial advisor. So, while I was doing that it was a great release for me to get away from that and still continue playing football overseas. I thoroughly enjoyed the whole experience of coming to play in Malta. I had never visited Gozo. This is my very first time here but I'm pretty sure I'll be back.

I hear you're still involved in Anfield. What does your role, as host in lounges, entail?

Football has moved on. When I used to play, supporters just paid to come to the ground to watch the game. It was just watching the game, popping to the pub, having a fish and chips and then going back home. Now, because it's all corporate, all hospitality, you don't want people to just come to watch the game and go home. You want the people to come two hours before kick-off, have something to eat,



have a drink, and own the club. When Liverpool realised that the other teams were doing it and they were making money, they decided to do it themselves. Other football clubs were using ex-players to host the lounges because the supporters liked it. So Liverpool, obviously, followed suit. It's a great opportunity for me to go, not only to watch Liverpool every week but to go back, sit down and have a beer with some of the players I played alongside and some of the players I used to idolise on the Kop. I get to meet the likes of Ian Callaghan, Chris Lawler, my best friend Terry McDermott, Jimmy Case, David Fairclough, Alan Kennedy, Phil Neal... So, it's great. We meet before, we host, watch the match and then we sit and have a beer afterwards. It's a good social experience!

What would your message to all Liverpool FC supporters be?

What I'd say to any supporter is that sometimes you forget you support the football club. I've got the badge tattooed on my arm so that means I support Liverpool whether they win, lose or draw. Obviously, I like them to win but I'm not that type of supporter who'll say that I'll support you only if you win. Then you're no supporter at all. So it's win, lose or draw, the club and whoever's playing for my club has my support – and that's if they do the job for us! I'd be very critical if they wouldn't. Obviously, it's the manager's job to get the best out of the players. As a matter of fact, I consider Bob Paisley as the best manager in the world, not because of his

tactics but because every player he brought over completed the team. That's genius, that's where the man was a genius. He could buy a player from teams from lower divisions, they'd slot in and become great players. It's not about individuals, it's not enough having 11 great players who are not a team. It's much better to have 11 good players who form a great team. That's the genius of being a manager.

What are your views regarding our club in Gozo?

I have travelled around the world and it never ceases to amaze me that Liverpool are a global football team. I can clearly remember when Liverpool played a pre-season game in Melbourne, Australia, two and a half years ago. The hairs on the back of my neck still stand up when I mention that there were some 98,000 supporters singing "You'll Never Walk Alone". I've taped that and still watch it from time to time. That's Liverpool! So it doesn't surprise me to come to a small place like Gozo and go out and meet this smashing group of people who are having a Christmas bash. You've invited me over because I'm an ex-player and you're all Liverpool supporters. It doesn't amaze me, it makes me feel good! Earlier, I went to Charlie's house - boy you owe him a lot! – it's like a shrine to Liverpool. When I pulled up outside, I couldn't believe it's actually got Shankly outside guarding the club exactly like at Anfield. I can only applaud both sets of supporters, in Malta and in Gozo. I know that it takes a lot of sacrifice to come all the way to watch the team play. The amount of money you spend is unbelievable. If you were to be all millionaires, I'm pretty sure you'd be there every week to support the team. So, all I can do is applaud that!

Mr David Johnson was the guest of honour for the Christmas Dinner, which was held at Giovanni's Kitchen & Lounge in Xewkija on Friday 1st December 2017 to kick off the 20th Anniversary celebrations of the Liverpool Supporters' Club Gozo.





CAPTURED MEMORIES

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My dear friends in Gozo

It's a great privilege for me to be given the opportunity to contribute in this magazine which is being issued to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the Liverpool Supporters Club Gozo. Looking back, it seems like yesterday that we met your representatives to discuss the best way forward for your club. Fully aware that, in life, nothing comes easy, both sets of committees forged forward and did our utmost for the best common interest of the two clubs. Several meetings, during which good, constructive arguments were presented, were necessary before an agreement was reached. At times opinions differed but, ultimately, a reasonable conclusion was found, this based on bold and sensible decisions.

Twenty years after that historic agreement, so strong is the bond between the two clubs that I can proudly state that I can't single out any particular disagreement which ever arose between both sets of committees. On

the contrary, I risk affirm that, nowadays, one club can't do without the other. May God give the present and future committees in Malta and Gozo the wisdom and ability to keep the friendship between both clubs intact, as has always been the case. It wouldn't be fair to single out any particular person for this accomplishment, as all committee members, past and present, did their utmost for our clubs to flourish and to be of service to their respective members. For this, I only have words of praise and appreciation.

As part of your celebrations to commemorate reaching this milestone, your committee managed to bring over two ex-Liverpool stalwarts - Patrick Berger and Vladimir Smicer. It was no great surprise to me as I'm well aware of the committee's capabilities in organising such events to please all of you supporters. In fact, I must admit that I admire their enthusiasm and hard work. Every time I attend an activity in Gozo, I'm always impressed and remind myself to be present for the next occasion.



Furthermore, it was a great honour to have these two gentlemen with us. I'm convinced that they will remember this trip for a long time. Likewise, each one of you will undoubtedly have fond memories of this visit which must have reminded you of the excitement and joy felt each time these players donned the beloved red shirt of Liverpool FC. Berger's and Smicer's commitment on the field, as well as their decisive goals, shaped part of our beloved team's history, making us supporters all so happy in the process. Thank you LSC Gozo for bringing over these two players.

Lads, keep up with the good work you're doing. It's not easy to be a committee member but I'm sure that the members appreciate it and understand that you dedicate so much of your time to work tirelessly for the club.



Dear members, bear in mind that your support is of paramount importance and well appreciated. It's what keeps people going.

You'll Never Walk Alone!

Charles Sciberras

Chairperson 1997 - 2003
Liverpool Supporters' Club Malta

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By the time the floodlights fade, football games will have already been translated into numbers. Within minutes, match statistics are splashed on television screens worldwide; sports articles are ready to be printed; comments are uploaded on football websites and supporters start sharing Facebook posts, glorifying some players whilst condemning others. At the same time, football pundits are live on air on pay-per-view channels, sharing their opinion with us. For many people, such media influence is the catalyst for discussion for days afterwards.

Being a fervent Liverpool FC fan, once a game is over, I prepare myself to be on the receiving end of a barrage of comments, which may vary from praise to remarks intended to pull my leg. Others may be so low that they could be interpreted as deliberately trying to hit me below the belt, as if I had been the determining factor for the end result.

As soon as the other results start pouring in, I click on my favourite mobile app to see who

we will be playing against next time and I check their result. This sets me thinking about the way the team should approach that game and I base my arguments in this regard.

Pre-match build-up

Match days come thick and fast. Sometimes I don't even have time to reflect upon the latest game that another match looms. This gets me going through my familiar vicious routine once again: adrenaline starts rushing through my veins, thoughts of past and present performances go through my mind. Will we succeed? Which formation would be best? It doesn't matter who we're playing against, the feelings I get are indescribable and they're always the same.

My first reaction is to predict the result. For some of my mates this seems silly but I find it very comforting as it eases some of the tension off me. It's as if I'm preparing myself for what's to come, to accept the verdict of that game. For further reassurance I check the official LFC



website for updates on injuries of Liverpool players as well as our opponents' team.

Then my focus is diverted towards my good luck charms. I prepare the clothes I had worn for the last game won. I even use a particular towel to shower: I use my lucky red towel for home matches, green for away matches. Superstition tells me not to move any stuff left in certain places around the house if Liverpool had won the previous match.

Match day

Every game Liverpool play feels like judgement day to me. The team's performance will determine my temperament and my behaviour towards those around me. On match day, I get into the mood by playing my favourite eighties music, regularly checking all football-related apps and Liverpool's official channel for the day's line-up.

Reaching the club through the usual route way ahead of kick-off time ensures that I find my favourite parking spot. I always try to settle down in my cherished corner. It's funny, but people do look for their favourite spot at the club. They could easily be listed as club furniture; there's practically no difference from one game to another since everyone tries to sit in the same spot, day in day out.

I discuss the team's formation with whoever makes it to the club as early as I do. Optimists



are ever-present; others try to belittle our opponents; only a few individuals never commit themselves to comment. Pre-match discussions usually focus on the weaknesses of Liverpool's opponents and aspects from which the team could gain advantage. Statistics of the previous encounters against the team to play can also determine the mood on the day. The performance of the team during the first few minutes of the game has an impact on my aspirations as well!

Late kick-offs tend to leave their mark as well. The club is buzzing, especially if early

results have gone in Liverpool's favour. While interacting with others I hate being negative, I only speak from the heart.

Club life

The atmosphere at the club during games tends to be somewhat rowdy as well. Goal celebrations have been so wild that chairs and benches have had to be replaced, bar tops have been chipped and the contents of cash register drawers have been spilled behind the bar. All this during a moment of sheer madness to celebrate a goal!

Speaking of goal celebrations, who doesn't remember the





dash towards the television set when Gary McAllister scored directly from a free-kick in injury time against Everton in 2001? What about Michael Owen's two goals against Arsenal in the 2001 FA Cup Final, Steven Gerrard's third goal against Olympiakos FC in 2004, Xabi Alonso's goal during the 2005 Champions' League Cup Final against A.C. Milan, Steven Gerrard's injury-time equaliser against West Ham during the 2006 FA Cup Final and Dejan Lovren's header against Borussia Dortmund in the 2015 Europa League Cup quarter final? I'd place them as the top seven goals witnessed at the club. The roar was so loud that people living in the club's neighbourhood must have been scared out of their wits on those nights.

Watching live games during the club's early days wasn't always so plain sailing. It wasn't as easy as it has become nowadays. I'll never forget the night we watched a European Cup game on the roof of the club. Believe it or not, around twenty of us managed to watch a

whole game on a 14" television set on the roof of the club as someone had to physically hold the satellite dish in place. It was much easier for us to join him on the roof than call out to him from down below every time the picture got all blurry!

Incessant fan base

Support for Liverpool FC on the island has always been fervent. Way before the club was inaugurated, locals used to gather wherever they could, to watch the team play. It was customary to organise celebratory functions among friends but this was not so well co-ordinated, with supporters from different villages being kept apart as there was no

mother club joining us all together. Luckily for us, this all changed with the opening of the club in Xewkija.

Joseph Attard 'Beardsley' Football Tournament

The 21st of September 2004 marked the loss of Joseph Attard, one of the club's most avid supporters from Ghajnsielem. In the years which followed, the Liverpool Supporters Club Gozo organised a series of tournaments in his memory.

Juan Vella

Vice treasurer

Liverpool Supporters'
Club Gozo



Hold Your Head Up High

Dear Friends

On behalf of all the committee and members of Liverpool Supporters' Club Malta, I would like to congratulate you all on your 20th anniversary!

Writing this short article makes me look back and remember every milestone reached together by both clubs. We are surely the envy of most supporters' clubs in Malta, where unity has been considered as a priority in our relationship throughout the years. I would dare say that this was the secret of our success.

Who would have thought that after the initial planning and meetings of a few dedicated Liverpool supporters to form the Gozitan club, we would all be here congratulating you for this wonderful achievement? People might belittle this, but in today's world, where loyalty is very low on the agenda of most, every committee member should be proud to look back knowing that he's continuing to build on the good work which started many years ago. It was certainly not an easy ride but your will and determination transformed a relatively small group of friends into a very well organised and respected club. Not only in Malta and Gozo but also in Liverpool itself.

Your club continued to evolve along the years even with limited resources. Various club chairmen along the years took it up on them to move the club forward and with their leadership, the rest of the committee members worked to their full potential. We must admit that sometimes, in Malta, we do look up to you regarding some of your innovative ideas and trends on how to reach out to your members. You have a good club house which is very

welcoming to any visitor and your hospitality is second to none.

A number of ex-Liverpool FC players of a high calibre together with coaches of different Liverpool FC sides and other staff members visited your club and were always amazed with the level of professionalism of your 'voluntary' organisation and its passionate manner in making their stay a memorable one. Well, in reality, voluntary up to a certain extent as sometimes the club does take over your lives and your full time jobs as well. However, I believe that at the end, it's all worth it.

Like every other year, or perhaps it gets harder every year, you meet a number of challenges especially when it comes to finances. I therefore appeal to all Gozitan Liverpool fans to continue to support the club by paying the yearly membership and to participate in all the club's activities. That is what makes a successful club.

Last but not least, I would like to thank Mr Charles Xuereb, the current Liverpool Supporters' Club Gozo chairman and his committee members, for agreeing to extend their collaboration with the club in Malta for the foreseeable future. I believe that both clubs have agreed a win-win scenario for the benefit of their members.

Keep it up boys, let's look forward to the future with great enthusiasm. Hopefully with plenty of silverware along the way as well!

Steve Sciberras

PRO

Liverpool Supporters' Club Malta





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LFC Wall

Comments and remarks by some of the ex-players and staff from Liverpool FC who have honoured us with their presence at the club.

I've had some wonderful times in my life playing for Liverpool, doing different things with the club but probably one of the highlights of my life is the wonderful trips that I had to Gozo and to Malta. **One of the biggest is surely when I came over with the three cups. This was a monumental event, not just for myself but also for Liverpool FC, for allowing the trophies to go out of England. It was a very proud moment for me.** On the other hand, the hospitality shown to me and my wife by the people in Gozo has been incredibly phenomenal, I'll never forget that. The supporters' club, the Shankly Gates and Shankly's statue will always be a fantastic memory as well.

Phil Thompson



My visit to Gozo was a very memorable one. **I felt very welcomed, the hospitality was unbelievable.** The enthusiasm shown by the local supporters proves they're all mad about the team. It was wonderful going over to Charlie's and seeing Shankly's statue and the Paisley Gates both leading to the supporters' room. It's something I'll never forget, actually it makes me want to come to visit once again.

Ian Callaghan



Even though I visited the island around ten years ago, I still remember the welcome I had. **I just want to thank the committee and members of the Liverpool Supporters' Club in Gozo for their support for my team** and wish them all the best on their twentieth anniversary.

Phil Neal

It was an absolute pleasure for Michelle and myself to come to meet you all in Gozo. They're such beautiful places. We would like to thank all the supporters you have over there, the hospitality shown to us was fantastic. **We know first-hand how fanatical you all are in your support for Liverpool FC.** Thank you so much, Y.N.W.A.

Jimmy Case



When I visited the club in Gozo, it was after a very rough boat ride between the islands but the supporters I met really made me feel welcome. **I remember telling them my stories about the European Cup and my time with Liverpool FC, which they found really amusing.** It was a very good time and I really enjoyed it.

Alan Kennedy



I was invited over to Gozo around 15 years ago by Charlie Farrugia and Steve Sciberras. **Liverpool have a very good supporters' club over there - we found that the organisation - the club and all the people working voluntarily - could be easily compared to any other club in the world.** The work put in it by Charlie has demonstrated how professional the club is and how loyal the supporters are. Liverpool FC appreciate all time and work which is given to children as well as to disabled people in their development and association with the club.

Frank Skelley



The club is amazing, to be honest I never expected this. The collection you have is unbelievable, there's so much stuff. **I can only imagine what goes on in the club when the games are on, this place should be rocking!** If I were to live in Gozo I would be here for every Liverpool game.

Patrick Berger



The welcome by the committee and members of the Liverpool Supporters Club has been exceptional. I'm proud to be here, to be part of the 20th anniversary celebrations. **The club and players of Liverpool FC constantly need the support of their fans and it's amazing to see all the enthusiasm which you, even though you're a small club from a small island, manage to generate.** I'm very proud to be part of the Liverpool family and I can see this over here as well – we support the same team and this is best shown in our passion. The way your club is presented is like a museum. It's fantastic, the feeling generated is very positive.

Vladimir Smicer

From the Visitors' Book



What a place, **glad I came!**

Craig Bellamy



A **great place** to visit!

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As this popular Anfield song goes, Shankly built a team of champions and made them masters of the game. The strong belief he had in his players made everyone feel like a king, the best in all the land. With this same drive, I took a vow to do whatever it takes for the supporters' club in Gozo to move forward. For the past twenty years, my colleagues and I, along with the committee members, had to unite forces and persist in collecting memberships and annually strive to provide opportunities for local enthusiasts to be cultivated as true fans. Our aim is to develop a strong club culture that will keep on attracting a lot of people and provide financial security which, in turn, forms our club.

As vice chairperson of the Liverpool Supporters' Club Gozo, one of my main duties is to collect membership fees. It takes persistence, determination and commitment to contact the same people every year to renew their membership as well as try to convince others to join in. I take this role seriously and I do my utmost to see that the number of members grows

each season. I can proudly state that, since opening its doors, the Liverpool Supporters' Club Gozo, has seen a sharp increase in the number of regular paying members.

Besides memberships, I also help in organising social events. Pasta buffets, rabbit

stews, suckling pigs, children's Christmas parties and lotteries are just a few of the activities regularly held at the club. Apart from providing the much-needed monetary injection, such functions bring members together. Besides, I feel that this club duty has given me





the opportunity to grow as an individual since it involves developing important values and skills such as commitment, social interaction and last but not least, accepting other people's opinions.

Finally, it is worth pointing out that club affiliation makes members feel like they are part of a larger family. As Xabi Alonso once said: *"It's forever. It's not just about a football club, it's about family, how you live."*

Emmanuel Grech

Vice Chairperson
Liverpool Supporters' Club Gozo



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LSC Gozo on Tour

Since its official inauguration late in the 1990s by Mr Phil Thompson and Mr Sammy Lee, the Liverpool Supporters' Club Gozo has constantly grown in numbers. The good relations that the first committee built with our Maltese counterparts, as well as, with the mother club in England, has enabled it to become a home away from home for local Liverpool FC fans. So, it came as no surprise that years later, as a committee, we started contemplating the possibility to organise tours to satisfy the needs of local supporters.

The fact that I worked in a travel agency singled me out and I became an 'expert' in tour organisation overnight. In short, I was entrusted with this project, a responsibility which I duly accepted. Planning the first tour to Anfield was no easy feat. I barely had an idea of what I was doing. The stress caused by all the pre-planning and the logistics was very daunting. However, the thrill of sitting in the stands with a whole bunch of locals, watching my beloved team play made those initial steps extra worth it.



Flight options, hotel accommodation, contacts with transport companies for transfers were first on the check list. A lot of time and energy was invested in this new venture but, admittedly, it has been worth it. Every time a tour is over, the committee can proudly claim that the satisfaction derived from making someone's dream come true exceeds by far the pressure of the work carried out behind the scenes.

Our first official tour dates way back to 2007. We flew over to the UK to watch Liverpool take on FC Porto and Bolton Wanderers. The committee was very eager to see the response from its members and such was the request for the tour that it was sold out in less than three weeks. This set the ball rolling as we have managed to organise a tour each year ever since.

Mind you, this has not made us tour experts. We are always looking for new ways to improve our trips abroad and consequently, amendments do not lack. We strive to ameliorate the experience for any booking members. In fact, the tour itinerary has lately seen the introduction of a full-day excursion outside the city. This is offered over and above the stadium tour and the football match, which by themselves are already a unique experience. The work and energy we invest to satisfy all the people on tour does not involve just the experience of the match. We also work hard to ensure that everyone feels at home in Liverpool.

Allow me to conclude this article by listing the other occasions when Gozitan voices in their Scouse accent have been officially heard singing around the fields of Anfield Road:





Hundreds of other local fanatics have voiced their love for the team while accompanying family members, friends or colleagues on the stands. Believe me, I'm pretty sure that "You'll Never Walk Alone" has, since then, become their guiding prayer!

Charles Xuereb

Chairperson

Liverpool Supporters' Club Gozo

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The Beautiful Game

I took to football as a duck takes to water. I had no option as I grew up in a family that loves the game. Actually, my dad, who's a staunch Liverpool FC fan, even took me to Anfield to watch the boys play. I can proudly state that I sat in the Kop with him.

Growing up, listening to his tales of the team's glorious past always fascinated me and I spent my teenage years getting to know more about the team's history. I read all about the joys and tragic events which have moulded the club; this has helped me to understand how the team has become to being the Liverpool Football Club of today.

The Miracle of Istanbul

The UEFA Champions League Cup final win over AC Milan in 2005 is something I'll never forget. On that fateful night, I never stopped believing in the team and, ultimately, I was proven right. The television images of Liverpool's fans singing "You'll Never Walk Alone" during half-time really impressed me and still send shivers down my spine.

Having played football myself, I know, first-hand, how players feel when the fans back the team. Quite understandably, every game can have its ups and downs; thus I believe that a true fan should always remain loyal in his support, no matter the outcome of the game.



Club Life

My first experience of the Liverpool Supporters' Club Gozo was in 2006, when I was 11 years old. I immediately liked the ambiance and, once at school, I started to encourage my friends and other supporters to come to watch Liverpool's games with me. The place felt like home, having people from all over the Maltese islands as well as



visitors from abroad meeting up in one place, to support the one team that they love. The club gave me the feeling of win together, lose together; actually it's always nice to hear Liverpool's anthem being played at the club, it makes you feel part of the crowd, it's as if you're at Anfield!

Commitment

The one thing that drew me into joining the committee was the love I have for the club. I always felt the need to give my input to see it improving. Even though I'm one of the youngest members in the committee, I was bold enough to take the decision to join because I knew the kind of commitment required to see the club progress. My main aim is to make all supporters feel welcome at the club.

The love I have for the team encourages me to keep my work as a committee member

going. It's not always easy, since sacrifices have to be made but I do my best to strike a balance between my busy schedule and club commitments. Satisfaction is derived through members' attendance for gatherings and other social activities organised at the club, such as dinners and fund-raising activities. Moreover, seeing children being brought to the Christmas Party, shows that the Liverpool supporters' spirit is being passed on to the young ones.



Reaching out to all

Liverpool's 2017 – 2018 season came to an end in Kiev on the 26th of May with their eighth appearance in the UEFA Champions League Final in their history. European nights at the club during this season had attracted many supporters and the fact that the team made it to the final of this illustrious competition posed a new challenge to us, committee members. Experience taught us that past cup finals had attracted a large number of local fans as well as visitors from Malta and abroad to the club. Unfortunately, at times, this resulted in a somewhat bitter experience due to overcrowding. To satisfy this need to be present at the club, we decided to set up a screen

in the street right below our premises. If live screening at Anfield, as well as in squares around Liverpool, was reported as being a huge success, I can boastfully say that we did great as well. People from all over the island and elsewhere flocked to the club in Xewkija to be part of this historic day.

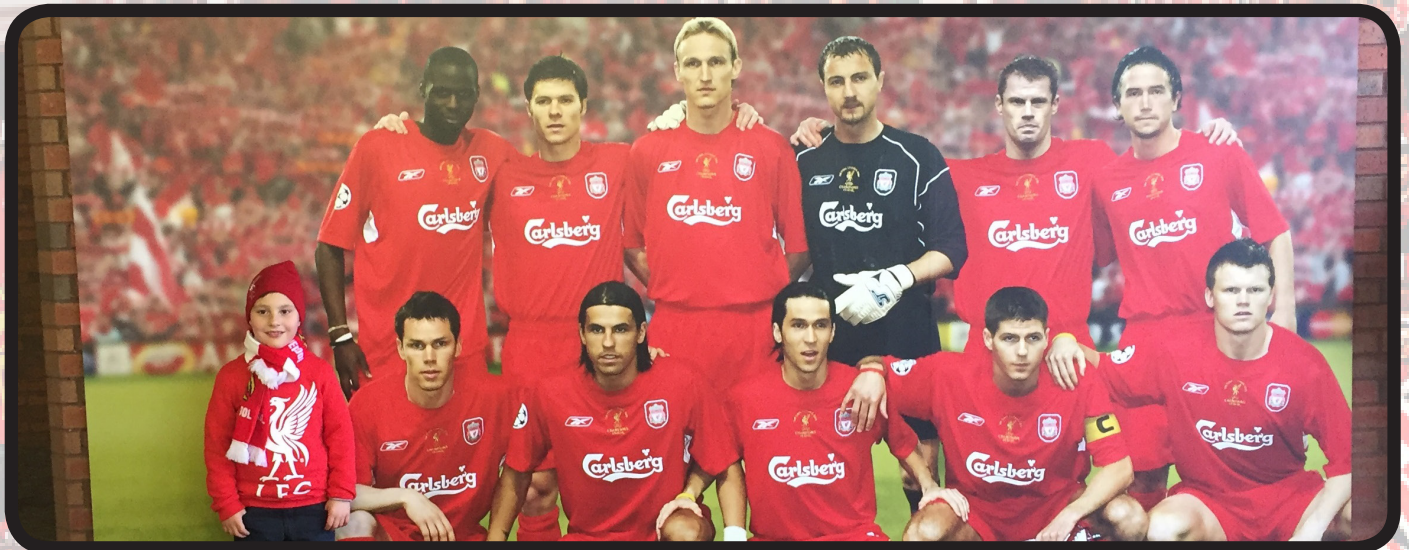
Sadly, fortune didn't favour our boys in red and Real Madrid's galacticos managed to make it three wins on the trot by beating Liverpool 3 - 1, totalling their number of UEFA Champions League successes to thirteen. In my opinion, this defeat shouldn't dampen Liverpool's season though. The team's effort and experience gained should be the catalyst for seasons to come. A great

big thanks goes to the team for providing us supporters with such beautiful European nights.

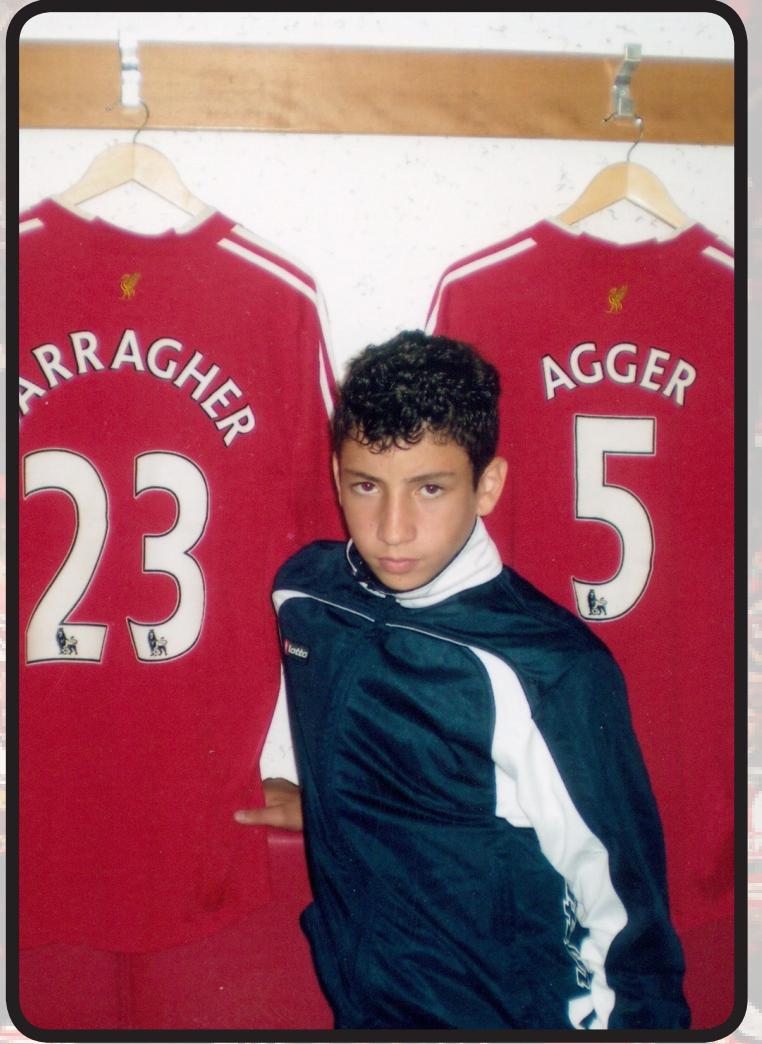
On the other hand, the successful organisation of this event has, once again, proven that the Liverpool Supporters Club Gozo committee is always there, ready to change for the good of the club and its supporters. In fact, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all local Liverpool supporters for their continuous support – your presence at the club fills us with hope and encourages us to do better!

Joel Xuereb

Club Social Activities
& Fund-raising Organiser
Liverpool Supporters'
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