

= Anglo @-@ Italian Cup =

The Anglo @-@ Italian Cup (also known as the Anglo @-@ Italian Inter @-@ League Clubs Competition and from 1976 ? 86 as the Alitalia Challenge Cup , Talbot Challenge Cup or Gigi Peronace Memorial) is a defunct European football competition .

The competition was played intermittently between 1970 and 1996 between clubs from England and Italy . It was founded by Gigi Peronace , following the two @-@ team Anglo @-@ Italian League Cup in 1969 . The initial Anglo @-@ Italian Cup was played as an annual tournament from 1970 to 1973 . The first final was abandoned early due to violence , with Swindon Town declared the winners . During its time the tournament had a reputation for violence between fans , but it returned as a semi @-@ professional tournament from 1976 before it was abolished again in 1986 .

In 1992 , the Anglo @-@ Italian Cup was re @-@ established as a professional cup for second tier clubs ? it replaced the English Full Members Cup . The Italian representatives were Serie B teams . This version of the Cup ran for four seasons , until 1996 , before being discontinued due to fixture congestion . The trophy was a 22 @-@ inch (56 cm) high gold loving cup mounted on a wooden plinth .

= = History = =

= = = Professional era = = =

From 1967 , a place in the Inter @-@ Cities Fairs Cup was awarded to the Football League Cup winners , but that season 's winners , Queens Park Rangers , could not take up their place because UEFA did not at that time allow third @-@ tier teams to compete in the Fairs Cup . When the same situation arose two years later with Swindon Town , a two @-@ legged match against that year 's Coppa Italia winners , A.S. Roma , was organised by way of compensation . Following the popularity of that event , dubbed the Anglo @-@ Italian League Cup , and as a way to generate income to pay players ' wages during the extended close season caused by the 1970 FIFA World Cup , the first Anglo @-@ Italian Cup was inaugurated in 1970 .

For the first competition there were six English teams and six Italian teams . These teams were split into three groups consisting of two English and two Italian teams each , with two points being awarded for a win , one point for a draw , and a point for each goal scored . The final was contested between the best team from each country , and Swindon played Napoli at the Stadio San Paolo on 28 May 1970 . Swindon were 3 ? 0 up after 63 minutes , when violence started to break out . The match had to be abandoned after 79 minutes , with Swindon being declared as the first winners of the tournament .

In 1971 , the second edition of the tournament , Blackpool and Bologna were the two nations ' best @-@ ranked teams and contested the final at the Stadio Renato Dall 'Ara on 12 June 1971 . Prior to the match , tournament organiser Gigi Peronace stressed that it was imperative for an Italian club to win back the trophy . After 90 minutes the score was 1 ? 1 and the match went into extra @-@ time , during which Micky Burns scored the winning goal for Blackpool .

Blackpool qualified for the final again in 1972 , but were unsuccessful in their defence of the title , with Roma winning 3 ? 1 . In 1973 , points were no longer awarded for each goal scored , and Newcastle United went on to win the final 2 ? 1 against Fiorentina at the Stadio Artemio Franchi on 3 June 1973 . Due to lack of interest the tournament did not continue , and it was not until 1976 that it re @-@ emerged as a semi @-@ professional competition .

= = = Semi @-@ professional era = = =

In March 1976 , the Anglo @-@ Italian Cup was re @-@ introduced as a semi @-@ professional tournament , with six entrants from each country . Wimbledon and Monza reached the final , with Monza winning the final 1 ? 0 , making them unbeaten for the tournament . For the next two years

Bath City were the English finalists but they lost to Lecco in 1977 , and Udinese in 1978 , when the tournament was renamed the Alitalia Challenge Cup .

In 1979 , each country had four entrants and Sutton United defeated Italian finalists Chieti 2 ? 1 to become the first and only English winners of the competition during its time as a semi @-@ professional competition . Attempting to defend their title the following year , Sutton United reached the final but were defeated by Triestina .

In 1981 , the tournament was called the Talbot Challenge Cup and Modena were the winners . The following year the tournament was renamed the Gigi Peronace Memorial , after the man who organised the tournament , and reduced to four teams . The new format consisted of two Anglo @-@ Italian semi @-@ finals , which meant the final was not necessarily contested by an English and an Italian team . That year , Modena successfully defended their title in a final against Sutton United , who were the last English team to reach the final of the semi @-@ professional tournament .

From 1983 to 1986 , the finals were all @-@ Italian contests , and after the 1986 instalment the tournament was discontinued .

= = = Professional tournament again = = =

The competition was re @-@ established in 1992 ? 93 as a replacement for the Full Members Cup . It was a professional tournament for teams competing in the second tier of football ? the newly renamed First Division in England and Serie B in Italy .

The new version of the tournament began with preliminary rounds ? 24 English teams competed in 8 groups of three teams . Each team played the others once , and the eight group winners progressed to the main competition .

The main competition consisted of two groups , each with four English , and four Italian teams . Each team would play four group games ? against every team in its group from the other nation . Then , the top team in each group from each nation competed in semi @-@ finals : an all @-@ English semi @-@ final , and an all @-@ Italian semi @-@ final . The final was a single match played at Wembley .

In the 1992 ? 93 tournament , Derby County lost the final 3 ? 1 to Cremonese . Brescia won the final in 1994 against Notts County , but Notts County reached the final again in 1995 and defeated Ascoli 2 ? 1 . The last instalment of the competition was held in 1995 ? 96 , and Genoa triumphed 5 ? 2 over Port Vale in the final on 17 March 1996 . The competition was abandoned in 1996 because the two leagues could not agree on dates for fixtures , and due to increasing violence at matches .

= = Participants = =

For the original professional tournament in the 1970s , the English entrants were either First Division or Second Division sides . (The First Division sides had generally finished in the lower half of the table , while the Second Division sides were generally mid @-@ table or better .) With the exception of Bari and Como in 1973 , all Italian teams playing in the 1970s tournament had just competed in the previous Serie A season . The Italian clubs were often mid @-@ table or higher finishers who had sometimes also qualified for the European competitions .

When the competition was revived in the 1990s , for the first two seasons all English sides playing in the First Division (2nd level) participated , but in the last two tournaments only 8 English teams played . In 1994 / 95 , two of the clubs relegated from the Premiership were joined by six teams that had just missed out on promotion . For 1995 / 96 , only one relegated Premiership team competed ? most of the remaining teams had finished in mid @-@ table or lower table in the previous First Division campaign , and Birmingham City had just been promoted from Division Two .

The Italian participants in the revived 1990s tournament were the four teams that had just been relegated from Serie A and the four teams that had finished highest but not been promoted in Serie B. The exception to this was Verona , who were relegated in 1991 / 92 , but did not play in the 1992 / 93 cup .

== Table of participants and performance by season ==

Key

Won tournament ; runner @-@ up ; lost in semi @-@ final (English or Italian final) ; lost in quarter @-@ final (English or Italian semi @-@ final) ; eliminated in group stage ; eliminated in preliminary qualifying .