

= Manchester City F.C. in European football =

Manchester City , an English professional association football club , has gained entry to Union of European Football Associations (UEFA) competitions on several occasions . They have represented England in the European Cup (now the Champions League) on five occasions , the UEFA Cup (now the Europa League) on seven separate occasions , and the now @-@ defunct Cup Winners ' Cup twice . Manchester City are one of twelve English football clubs to have won a European title , in City 's case the 1969 ? 70 Cup Winners Cup .

The club 's first entry into European competition occurred in 1968 , as a result of winning the 1967 ? 68 Football League Championship . However , the participation was short @-@ lived , as the club suffered a surprise defeat at the hands of Fenerbahçe in the first round . Entry into the Cup Winners ' Cup the following season was more successful ; Manchester City won the competition , defeating Górnik Zabrze 2 ? 1 at the Prater Stadium in Vienna . The club reached the semi @-@ final of the same competition the following year , and continued to play European football regularly during the 1970s . The club then endured a period of decline , and did not play in Europe again until 2003 , a gap of 24 years . Since then the club has qualified for European competition on a regular basis .

In the 1970s Manchester City also had a track record of repeated entry into several of the non @-@ UEFA sanctioned European competitions which were run in the era , including the Anglo @-@ Italian League Cup and the Texaco Cup .

= = History = =

= = = First entries into European competition = = =

European club football competitions began in the mid @-@ 1950s . Though Manchester City were moderately successful domestically in this period , the club did not play in Europe . City were not invited to play in the Inter @-@ Cities Fairs Cup , and the UEFA Cup Winners ' Cup did not begin until 1960 . When eight players from neighbours Manchester United lost their lives in the Munich air disaster when returning from a European Cup match in February 1958 , UEFA wished for City to take United 's place in the competition . City rejected the idea out of hand .

Manchester City 's first appearance in European competition occurred in the 1968 ? 69 season . City played in the European Cup , by virtue of having won the 1967 ? 68 league championship . Extroverted Manchester City coach Malcolm Allison made a number of grandiose statements predicting how the team would fare , saying that City would " terrify Europe " , and that " City will attack these people as they have not been attacked since the days of the old Real Madrid " . The opposition in the first round was Turkish club Fenerbahçe . The City management did not scout Fenerbahçe in advance of the game , opting to rely on a report from Oscar Hold , an Englishman who had managed Fenerbahçe between 1965 and 1967 . In the first leg at Maine Road , City had what the Guardian 's Albert Barham called " overwhelming territorial advantage " . However , to the frustration of the home crowd City were denied by a strong defensive performance by Fenerbahçe , most notably by goalkeeper Yavuz ?im?ek , and the match finished 0 ? 0 . The return leg in Istanbul was played in front of a Turkish record crowd . City took an early lead through Tony Coleman , but conceded two goals in the second half and were eliminated .

Manchester City won the 1969 FA Cup Final to earn a place in the 1969 ? 70 UEFA Cup Winners ' Cup . Their first tie was against Atletico of Bilbao , in Spain 's Basque Country . Atletico were themselves managed by an Englishman , Ronnie Allen . In the first leg , City recovered from a two @-@ goal deficit to secure a 3 ? 3 draw . The home leg was a routine 3 ? 0 win . Post @-@ match reports alleged that a scuffle had taken place at half @-@ time between Mike Doyle and José Ramón Betzen , The referee spoke to both managers , but did not take any further action .

In the second round City travelled to Belgians Lierse S.K. , and won the first leg 3 ? 0 , with two goals from Francis Lee and one from Colin Bell . The home leg produced a 5 ? 0 win , a club record for European competition that as of 2012 has still not been exceeded . The first leg of the quarter

@-@ final , at Académica de Coimbra , took place three days before Manchester City were due to play in the League Cup final . Malcolm Allison rejected the prevailing British football orthodoxy , in which domestic competitions took priority , by saying he would rather win in Portugal than in the League Cup final . The match finished goalless . At Maine Road , extra @-@ time was required for Manchester City to break down the stubbornly defensive Coimbra . Tony Towers scored the only goal of the tie with a minute of extra @-@ time remaining .

The draw for the semi @-@ finals meant Manchester City played the away leg first in every round , this time in Germany , where Schalke 04 were the opposition . Manchester City lost the first leg by a single goal . Needing to win at Maine Road by at least two goals , Manchester City used a very attacking approach . It worked ; City led 3 ? 0 at half @-@ time , and won the match 5 ? 1 . In the final , City faced Górnik Zabrze of Poland , who had progressed via a coin toss after three matches with AS Roma could not produce a winner in the other semi @-@ final .

= = = 1970 Cup Winners ' Cup final = = =

The final was held at a neutral venue , Prater Stadium in Vienna . The match took place in torrential rain , adversely affecting the attendance . The official figure was 7 @, @ 968 , though sources vary , with a number of figures between 7 @, @ 968 and 15 @, @ 000 reported . Of those , approximately 5 @, @ 000 were Manchester City supporters . Due to Eastern bloc travel restrictions , only 300 supporters , relatives and officials were permitted to travel from Poland .

Manchester City started the match strongly , particularly Francis Lee ; The Guardian correspondent wrote " Lee , indefatigable and nigh irresistible continually embarrassed the Górnik defence in the early stages " . Lee had the first chance of the match , a close range shot which was saved by Kostka . Manchester City took the lead in the 12th minute . Lee cut in from the left wing , escaping a tackle from Alfred Olek , and struck a fierce shot . Goalkeeper Hubert Kostka parried the ball , only for it to land at the feet of Neil Young for a simple finish . Shortly after City defender Mike Doyle sustained an ankle injury after colliding with Stefan Florenski . Manchester City played on with ten men for a period as Doyle received treatment from trainer Dave Ewing , but the defender was unable to continue . Substitute Ian Bowyer replaced him . The change prompted an alteration in formation , in which Colin Bell switched to a deeper position . Shortly before half @-@ time , Young won the ball after loose play from Florenski , which put him clear on goal . As Young moved into the penalty area Kostka rushed out of his goal and upended him , leaving the referee no option but to give a penalty . Lee struck the spot @-@ kick with power into the centre of the goal . Kostka 's legs made contact with the ball , but the force of the shot carried it into the net to make it 2 ? 0 . Górnik got a goal back midway through the second half , but there were no more goals and the match finished 2 ? 1 .

After the match City manager Joe Mercer said " the heavy rain in the second half ruined the game " and that he was " quite happy with the performance of our team , although the technical level was rather low in the second half " . Górnik manager Micha? Matyas blamed his side 's poor start , saying the " first goal came too early for us and we never recovered from this shock . " The trophy was Manchester City 's fourth major honour in three seasons . It made them the third English club to win the Cup Winners ' Cup , after Tottenham Hotspur and West Ham United .

= = = Regular participation in the 1970s = = =

As title holders , Manchester City were entitled to defend the Cup Winners ' Cup in the 1970 ? 71 season . Had they not won the trophy , they would still have been qualified for European competition , as City 's victory in the 1970 League Cup granted a place in the Fairs Cup . As a UEFA @-@ organised competition , the Cup Winners ' Cup took precedence over the Fairs Cup , and so the club took a place in the former . In the first round Manchester City almost suffered an upset at the hands of Linfield , from Belfast . City held a one @-@ goal lead after the first leg , but Linfield twice took the lead in the second leg . The match finished 2 ? 1 to Linfield , and Manchester City progressed on the away goals rule . Honvéd were the opposition in the second round . Manchester

City won both legs , the score 3 ? 0 on aggregate .

The quarter @-@ final saw a rematch with Górnik Zabrze , who City had beaten in the previous year 's final . Both legs finished 2 ? 0 to the home team , so to separate the sides a third match was played on neutral ground , in Copenhagen . Despite having several players unavailable through injury , City won this match 3 ? 1 , and were drawn to play fellow English club Chelsea in the semi @-@ final , to date the only time Manchester City have drawn another English club in European competition . Further injuries occurred in domestic fixtures in the run @-@ up to the game , to the extent that goalkeeper Joe Corrigan played the first leg of the Chelsea tie unable to fully open his left eye because of a facial injury . City lost the first leg at Stamford Bridge 1 ? 0 . Corrigan was unable to play in the second leg , in which stand @-@ in goalkeeper Ron Healey conceded an own goal , resulting in another 1 ? 0 defeat .

A mid @-@ table finish in 1970 ? 71 meant that for the first time in four years Manchester City did not qualify for Europe . The following year , a fourth @-@ placed league finish gave the club a berth in the UEFA Cup for the first time . The UEFA Cup had replaced the Fairs Cup in 1971 , when control of the competition transferred to UEFA . City 's debut in the competition was a short one . Drawn against a Valencia side managed by Alfredo Di Stéfano , City were bounced out in the 2nd leg at the Mestalla 3 @-@ 2 , despite producing a pulsating 2 ? 2 draw at Maine Road in the 1st leg .

Triumph in the 1976 League Cup final gave Manchester City a place in the UEFA Cup after a four @-@ year absence . City drew Juventus in the first round . Drawn at home first , City won the first leg 1 ? 0 , Brian Kidd scoring his first goal for the club . The second leg in Turin resulted in a 2 ? 0 defeat and elimination . Juventus went on to win the competition . As league runners @-@ up in 1976 ? 77 , Manchester City again qualified for the UEFA Cup . Drawn against Widzew ?ód? , City drew the first leg at Maine Road 2 ? 2 . In the late 1970s , hooliganism was becoming a more prominent part of English football . Following an incident where a fan invaded the pitch and attacked Widzew 's Zbigniew Boniek , City were fined by UEFA , and fencing was erected between the pitch and the stands . A 0 ? 0 draw in ?ód? resulted in City 's elimination on the away goals rule .

A league finish of fifth in 1977 ? 78 proved sufficient to qualify for Europe . Dutchmen FC Twente were the first opposition . In Enschede , Dave Watson gave City the lead . Twente equalised in the second half from a free kick . In the second leg City ran up a 3 ? 1 lead , but a second Twente goal meant a nervy finish . City held on , preserving their 3 ? 2 lead to win the tie . This was the first time the club had progressed past the first round of the UEFA Cup in four attempts . Further opposition from the Low Countries awaited in the second round , in the form of Standard Liège . A flurry of late goals gave Manchester City a 4 ? 0 lead after the first leg . The large lead meant that despite a 2 ? 0 defeat in Liège , in which Gary Owen received a red card , City progressed with ease . Owen 's sending off resulted in a five match ban .

In the third round City faced four @-@ time European trophy winners A.C. Milan . The first leg , held at the San Siro , was initially postponed due to fog , and was instead played the following day . City took a 2 ? 0 lead and came close to becoming the first English team to beat Milan at the San Siro , but conceded twice ; the equaliser scored eight minutes from time . City won the home leg 3 ? 0 , with goals from Booth , Hartford and Kidd . City 's first European quarter @-@ final since 1971 was against Borussia Mönchengladbach . The club received advice from Bob Paisley , whose Liverpool had met Mönchengladbach several times . City opened the scoring in the first leg , but while attempting to extend their lead were caught on the counter @-@ attack and conceded an equaliser . After failing to win the home leg , having conceded an away goal in the process , City travelled to Germany with few expecting them to progress . So it proved , as City lost 3 ? 1 at the Bökelbergstadion .

= = = Return to Europe in the 2000s = = =

Manchester City 's fortunes declined during the 1980s and 1990s . For a single season , 1998 ? 99 , the club fell as far as English football 's third tier . The club did not qualify for European competition in this period . In ordinary circumstances , the club 's fifth @-@ placed finish in 1991 and 1992

would have granted a UEFA Cup place . However , English clubs had recently returned from a ban issued after the Heysel Stadium disaster . As the UEFA coefficient that determines the number of places per country is based upon performances in European competition over the previous five years , England had a reduced allocation until 1995 .

By the 2002 ? 03 season , Manchester City were back in the Premier League . An unusual route into European competition for the 2003 ? 04 season was provided by the UEFA Respect Fair Play ranking , which provided extra UEFA Cup qualifying round places for the leagues with the best records for discipline and positive play . This marked Manchester City 's first European participation for 24 years . In the qualifying round City played Welsh club Total Network Solutions . The first leg was the first @-@ ever competitive match at Manchester City 's new ground , the City of Manchester Stadium . Trevor Sinclair became the first ever goalscorer at the stadium in a 5 ? 0 win . In the hope of attracting a large crowd , TNS switched the second leg to Millennium Stadium , the national stadium of Wales . With the tie effectively won , City made 10 changes to their team . The match finished 2 ? 0 to City . Against Sporting Lokeren in the first round proper , City won the home leg 3 ? 2 , and the away leg 1 ? 0 . A tie against Groclin Dyskobolia followed . Both legs were drawn , and just as in 1976 , City were eliminated on away goals after a 0 ? 0 draw in Poland .

In 2008 Manchester City once again qualified for the UEFA Cup through the Fair Play rankings . As City had to play the qualifying rounds , it meant a very early start to the season , in mid @-@ July . Their first match was a trip to the remote Faroe Islands to play EB / Streymur . As Streymur 's ground had a capacity of only 1 @,@ 000 , the match was moved to Tórsvøllur , the Faroese national stadium . Two early goals gave City a 2 ? 0 win . The home leg was unusual in that it was played outside Manchester . The pitch at the City of Manchester Stadium had been relaid following a Bon Jovi concert , and was not ready in time . Instead , the match was played at Barnsley 's Oakwell ground . Another 2 ? 0 win resulted in a 4 ? 0 aggregate scoreline . In the second qualifying round City played FC Midtjylland . The first leg ended in a 1 ? 0 defeat , only City 's second ever home defeat in European competition . In the second leg City looked to be heading out of the competition until an 89th minute cross was diverted into his own net by Midtjylland 's Danny Califf . The tie then went to extra time , and City progressed on penalties . In the first round proper Cypriots AC Omonia took the lead , but City overcame the deficit and won 2 ? 1 , and also won the second leg by the same scoreline .

A five team group stage then followed , in which each team played the others once . Manchester City were drawn with Twente , Schalke 04 , Racing de Santander and Paris Saint @-@ Germain . City topped the group , after wins against Twente and Schalke , a draw with Paris Saint @-@ Germain and a defeat in a dead rubber in Santander . The knockout stages then resumed , with a visit to F.C. Copenhagen in freezing conditions . City took the lead twice but could only draw 2 ? 2 . The home leg was more comfortable , and ended in a 2 ? 1 victory . Another Danish club , Aalborg , awaited in the next round . Both matches finished 2 ? 0 to the home side , and the tie was decided by a penalty shootout , which Manchester City won . City then faced Hamburger SV , in their first European quarter @-@ final since 1979 . The away leg was played first , and started exceptionally well for Manchester City , as Stephen Ireland scored after just 35 seconds . However , Hamburg soon equalised , and won the match 3 ? 1 . A difficult task in the home leg soon became even harder , when Hamburg scored an away goal early in the match . City scored twice , the first by Elano , who also hit the woodwork on two occasions with free @-@ kicks . However , City could not produce the third goal that would have taken the tie into extra time .

UEFA rebranded and restructured the UEFA Cup in 2009 , resulting in it becoming the UEFA Europa League . By finishing fifth in the 2009 ? 10 Premier League , Manchester City qualified for this competition . A play @-@ off round took place before the four team group stage , in which Manchester City beat Timi?oara of Romania home and away . City 's group stage opponents were Juventus , Red Bull Salzburg and Lech Pozna? . Each team played the others twice . City 's opener was in Salzburg , and resulted in a 2 ? 0 win . A 1 ? 1 draw at home to Juventus then followed . A 3 ? 1 win at home to Lech Pozna? is remembered primarily not for the action on the pitch , in which Emmanuel Adebayor scored a hat @-@ trick , but for the actions of the Polish supporters , whose backs to the pitch dance was later adopted by Manchester City fans , for whom it became known as

The Pozna? . The return match with Lech Pozna? resulted in a 3 ? 1 defeat , but a 3 ? 0 home victory over Red Bull Salzburg ensured qualification with a match to spare . The dead rubber against Juventus ended 1 ? 1 , and Manchester City won the group . In the knockout stages City then beat Aris Thessaloniki 3 ? 0 on aggregate , and met Dynamo Kyiv in the last 16 . City lost 2 ? 0 in Kyiv , and had to play most of the second leg with ten men after Mario Balotelli was sent off . A 1 ? 0 win was insufficient to overcome the deficit , as City lost 2 ? 1 on aggregate .

Manchester City finished third in the 2010 ? 11 Premier League , to qualify for the rebranded version of the European Cup , the UEFA Champions League , for the first time . The club 's league finish granted direct entry into the group stages without qualification . Their group stage opponents were Bayern Munich , Villarreal and Napoli . City 's first group match was at home to Napoli . The Italians took the lead in the second half following a counter @-@ attacking move , but five minutes later Aleksandar Kolarov scored from a free @-@ kick to equalise , and the match finished 1 ? 1 . City then lost 2 ? 0 at Bayern Munich , a match most notable for the refusal of Carlos Tevez to come on as substitute , which resulted in an exile from the first team lasting nearly six months . A double @-@ header with Villarreal resulted in two Manchester City wins . Sergio Agüero scored a last @-@ minute winner in the first , which finished 2 ? 1 ; the second was a comfortable 3 ? 0 victory . A 2 ? 1 defeat at Napoli then took qualification out of Manchester City 's hands , and despite a 2 ? 0 win against group winners Bayern Munich , City finished third in the group and failed to qualify for the knockout stages .

As a third placed team the club then entered the Europa League in the round of 32 , where they faced Europa League holders Porto . Manchester City won both legs . Agüero 's goal after 19 seconds of the second leg was the second fastest in the history of the competition . City returned to Portugal in the next round , against Lisbon club Sporting CP . Each team won their home leg ; the first leg finished 1 ? 0 to Sporting , and the second leg 3 ? 2 to Manchester City . Sporting won the tie on away goals .

= = UEFA competitions = =

= = Non @-@ UEFA competitions = =

In addition to the major UEFA competitions , Manchester City have also played a number of first team fixtures in other , more minor multi @-@ national competitions . As winners of the 1970 League Cup , Manchester City played against the Coppa Italia winners Bologna in the Anglo @-@ Italian League Cup . The competition started the previous year , as a way of enabling 1969 League Cup winners Swindon Town to play European opposition . For the first leg in Bologna , the City team stayed over 100 km (60 miles) away in the coastal resort of Rimini , and took a relaxed attitude to proceedings . City lost the match 1 ? 0 , and drew 2 ? 2 at home , losing the competition .

After missing out on a UEFA berth for 1971 ? 72 , Manchester City were invited to play in the Texaco Cup , a competition for English , Scottish and Irish teams . City fielded a weakened side for the second leg of their tie against Airdrieonians . As punishment Manchester City had their £ 1 @,@ 000 prize money withheld and were banned from the competition for two years . Upon the expiry of the suspension in 1974 , the club entered the competition again , but exited in the group stage . The tournament saw Denis Law play his final matches as a professional . The withdrawal of Irish teams saw the competition renamed the Anglo @-@ Scottish Cup the following year . Again , City failed to progress beyond the group stage .

= = Overall record = =

= = = By country = = =

===== UEFA competitions =====

===== Non @-@ UEFA competitions =====