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Winners 1964-5 Runners-up 1975-6 Semi-Finalists 1965-6

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Winners 1963-4 1974-5 1979-80 Runners-up 1922-3 Semi-Finalists 1932-3

Football League (Div. II) : Winners 1957-8 Runners-up 1922-3

Football League Cup :

Runners-up 1965-6 Finalists 1980-81 Semi-Finalists 1963-4 1966-7 1971-2

F.A. Charity Shield : Joint Holders 1964 Runners-up 1975 1980

Football League War Cup : Winners 1940

F.A. Youth Cup :

Winners 1962-3 Runners-up 1956-7 1958-9 1974-5 Semi-Finalists 1952-3

"HAMMER" is the only official Club match-day publication
Season 1980-81 : Issue No. 24

Printed by Helliar & Sons, 235-237 Barking Road, London E 13
Communications to the Programme Editor (Jack Helliar) at above address

OUR COVER PICTURE

... shows the latest aerial photograph of the Hammers' Boleyn Ground.

TO-NIGHT'S MATCH SPONSOR



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Return to European Competition

Tonight we temporarily turn our thoughts away from the prospects of promotion and the League Cup Final to the European Cup Winners Cup which is our third possibility of major honours this season.

Two-leg ties provide both teams with an opportunity to amend their errors from the first meeting. We were able to do that earlier this season against Castilla in this competition and also against Coventry City in the League Cup.

However, it does help to an easiness of mind if one gains an advantage from the first engagement. So we are stating the obvious by saying that we hope to be in such a situation when the squad flies off on Monday week to Russia.

We may also by then be in the happy situation of having booked a place in European competition next season by defeating Liverpool at Wembley and qualifying for nomination in the U.E.F.A. Cup as League Cup holders. It's a nice thought, but we have no illusions about the demands of that task either!

At least we have had the opportunity to "size up" the Merseysiders in the flesh, but our knowledge of Dinamo Tbilisi has been limited to some films of their team in action and dossiers compiled from those who have previously opposed the Dinamos from Georgia.

These include two clubs from the British Isles.

Liverpool played Dinamo last season in the Champions Cup, and were eliminated after gaining a 2-1 lead at Anfield.

Southern Ireland club Waterford (under the leadership of former Everton player Tommy Jackson) were beaten in both legs of their First Round tie this season.

From each we have gleaned some information, but it eventually comes down to "getting it right on the night." Nevertheless, we thank both Liverpool and Waterford for their advice, which involves not only experiences on the field but also those off it.

A 4,000-miles-each-way journey and a four-hour time-difference are only two of the side-lines to be taken into consideration. These aspects have also been gone into (with the advice of experts readily available), so our preliminary preparations could not have been bettered in that respect.

Of course, our opponents have also to overcome similar problems. Their manager paid a visit to Upton Park for our League match v Cambridge United, and he has probably had ample opportunity to watch us on film. So it all adds up to being evenly balanced for both competitors.

Nodar Achalkatsi does not speak any English, but thanks to the assistance of those who accompanied him here a few days ago we were able to gather some of his opinions about our club. He especially remarked on the fact that the pitch-perimeters of the Boleyn Ground are much closer than those of the giant Dinamo Stadium in Tseretly Street, Tbilisi, Georgia, U.S.S.R. The attendance here will probably be only half of that for the second leg, but the visiting team will probably hear at least as much noise from the fans!

It has every prospect of being another great "Upton Park night." We feel sure that our opponents will find their visit to England memorable in many ways. In turn, we look forward to our second visit to the U.S.S.R., and are confident that they will also do their best to provide us with similar hospitality.

Acknowledgements

Gathering information about foreign opponents is not always easy, but we are fortunate in having several contacts at home and abroad who are able to assist.

This is particularly helpful at club level, for in comparison obtaining of information regarding national teams is something of a "doddle."

We wish to thank the following people (who we have placed in alphabetical order, as they have all made individual contributions):

Jan de Bruyn of The Hague, Holland for information regarding Russian soccer, player-photographs and also the item from *France Football* from which we were able to translate details of the "Russian Footballer of the Year."

Mr. Yuri Kobaladze, of Soviet TV and Radio, and M. Valery Maisuradze, London Correspondent of Tass News Agency; they accompanied the

Dinamo Tbilisi manager during his recent visit to Upton Park, and were most helpful in translating from Russian into English and finalising of a multitude of arrangements.

Paul Parish of *Football Weekly News* for the pictures of the Dinamo Tbilisi players and manager. These were obtained through a correspondent in Yugoslavia, where the Tbilisi team played some matches last month.

George Scanlon will again be accompanying us to Russia (as in 1975, when he went to Erevan). George formerly played soccer for Cambridge University and the Combined Universities club Pegasus; he is now senior lecturer in the Russian language at Liverpool University. His fluency in Russian and other languages has already been invaluable.

Frank Sjomán has made a major contribution to the information about the Dinamo club and soccer in the U.S.S.R. Frank, born in Finland and now resident in Taby, Sweden, is at present helping to complete the Swedish football annual which is a best-seller by the publishing company for whom he works; but he kindly took "time out" to send eleven sheets of details, from which we have incorporated much into this special issue of *Hammer*.

Frank obtained some of his items by translating from the Russian sports daily "*Soviet Sport*," to which his company subscribes. He says that if some of our figures differ from other sources, please trust him, as they should be the official ones!

We have transcribed names in this programme as near as possible into their English equivalents, but the Cyrillic language used in the original is not one of the easiest to correlate.

OUR FRONT COVER

The picture of Upton Park is by Danny Rose, B.Sc., of London, N.W.2.

Dinamo Tbilisi : A Club History

Dinamo Tbilisi was founded in 1925; like many other "Dinamos" in Eastern Europe it is a club of the security forces and police.

At first they played in local competitions, but when the Russian League started in 1936 Tbilisi joined for the autumn championship. The spring championship during that opening season was played mainly between Moscow teams.

Dinamo Tbilisi is one of the few teams never to have been relegated from the top division. Though champions only twice, they have usually been among the top placings.

On the other hand, Tbilisi is known as a good Cup side, having participated in no less than eight Finals, winning twice.

Tbilisi is situated in the southern-most part of the Soviet Union, in the Soviet Republic of Gruzija (Georgia). There is a *Latin* flair in life-style and mind, and it certainly shows in the team's way of playing.

Tbilisi's football is neither dour or regimented. It's inventive, brilliantly technical and most of all it's attacking football. The players are allowed to express themselves and enjoy doing so. Sometimes their enthusiasm backfires on them, and they lose matches they should have won; but that's the charm of the team.

It has always been like that, and the Georgian fans love their club. Win or lose, they always draw big crowds at home in their new 75,000 capacity stadium.

The team's nickname among the fans is "The Uruguayans"; that presumably alludes to the Uruguayans of old, before the kicking really started in South America!

Our correspondent Frank Sjoman says: "I saw Tbilisi on Finnish T.V. when they beat Liverpool at home; and that was a brand of football that would grace any European final. Judging by what we have seen in

those finals during the last few years, it would enhance the standard of play considerably."

Dinamo Tbilisi won its first league-title in 1964, when they were equal on points with Torpedo at the top, but won the play-off 4-1. When they took the title for the second time (in 1978), they finished four points clear of second place Dinamo Kiev.

Coach at the time of the second win—and still in charge—is **Nodar Achalkatsi**. He is assisted by **Sergej Kutivadze**.

SOME LEGENDARY PLAYERS

Many well-known players have worn the colours of Dinamo Tbilisi.

Among the most legendary is the pair of wingers from the championship team of 1964. On the right it was **Slava Metreveli**, capped 48 times (during which he scored eleven times for the national side). He played for Russia in the 1962 and 1966 World Cups, and won a European Championship gold medal in 1960 (though in those days the European tournament was not official). Metreveli scored 84 League and 17 Cup goals during his career.

He was partnered on the left wing by **Michail Meshki**; 35 caps, four goals; World Cup player 1962, European Championship winner 1960 and scorer of 53 League goals for Dinamo.

Just breaking through into the first team during 1964 was that muscular

midfielder **Revaz Churtsilava**, who went on to become the third most-capped Russian ever, 70 caps and seven goals; he played in the 1966 and 1970 World Cups and won a European Championship runners-up medal in 1972.

Other good players round the early '70's and all members of the 1970 World Cup squad were full-back and stopper **Revaz Dzodzoashvili** (49 caps, three goals), midfielder **Kachi Asatiani**

(16-5) and centre-forward **Givi Nodiya** (21-5). Nodiya scored 93 League and seven Cup goals for Tbilisi, being the League's top scorer in 1970.

More recently **Manutjar Matiaidze** was captain of the team which won the Russian Cup in 1979. A marvellous dribbler, fast and tricky, and a fine kicker of a dead ball, he won four caps in the national side before transferring to Spartak Moscow this year. He is now 32.

This picture was taken in Yugoslavia during Dinamo Tbilisi's recent tour. It shows manager Nodar Achalkatsi (in coat) and assistant trainer Kahi Asatiani on the bench.



Dinamo Statistics

LEAGUE RESULTS: 1980

	Home	Away
Kairat Alma Ata	3-0	0-0
Nettchi Baku	1-2	0-2
Schaktor Donetsk	3-0	0-3
Ararat Erevan	4-0	1-1
Dinamo Kiev	0-1	0-1
Kouban Krasnodar	3-0	2-2
Zenith Leningrad	5-1	2-3
Karpati Lvov	2-0	2-1
Dinamo Minsk	1-2	0-0
C.S.K.A. Moscow	2-0	2-0
Dinamo Moscow	1-0	1-1
Lokomotiv Moscow	0-0	1-0
Spartak Moscow	1-2	2-4
Torpedo Moscow	2-1	2-0
Chernomorets Odessa	1-0	0-1
S.K.A. Rostov	4-1	1-0
Pakhatakor Tashkent	1-1	3-0

RUSSIAN LEAGUE PLACINGS

1936: 3	1954: 8	1968: 7
1937: 4	1955: 9	1969: 3
1938: 6	1956: 8	1970: 4
1939: 2	1957: 7	1971: 3
1940: 2	1958: 9	1972: 3
1945: 4	1959: 3	1973: 5
1946: 3	1960: 8	1974: 9
1947: 3	1961: 7	1975: 8
1948: 4	1962: 3	1976: *3
1949: 6	1963: 5	1976: *3
1950: 3	1964: 1	1977: 2
1951: 2	1965: 6	1978: 1
1952: 4	1966: 7	1979: 4
1953: 2	1967: 3	1980: 4

1976: Two championships, spring and autumn

THE LAST FIVE YEARS

	P	W	D	L	F - A	Pts.	
1976	15	7	4	4	18 - 10	18	3rd
*	15	6	5	4	16 - 12	17	3rd
1977	30	13	13	4	43 - 26	39	2nd
1978	30	17	8	5	45 - 24	42	1st
1979	34	19	12	3	54 - 27	46	4th
1980	34	16	7	11	51 - 32	39	4th

*There were spring and autumn championships

PREVIOUS RESULTS IN EUROPE

U.E.F.A. Cup: 1972-73 H A
Twente Enschede 3-2, 0-2

U.E.F.A. Cup: 1973-74
Slavia Sofia 4-1, 0-2
OFK Belgrade 3-0, 5-1
Tottenham Hotspur 1-1, 1-5

Cup Winners Cup: 1976-77
Cardiff City 3-0, 0-1
MTK Budapest 1-4, 0-1

U.E.F.A. Cup: 1977-78
Inter Milan 0-0, 1-0
KB Copenhagen 2-1, 4-1
Grasshoppers Zurich 1-0, 0-4

U.E.F.A. Cup: 1978-79
Napoli 2-0, 1-1
Hertha Berlin 1-0, 0-2

Champions Cup: 1979-80
Liverpool 3-0, 1-2
Hamburg 2-3, 1-3

Cup Winners Cup: 1980-81

Kastoria (Greece) away 0-0
Attendance: 15,000.

Kastoria (Greece) home 2-0
Scorers: Shengalia (52 mins.), Gutsaev (80 mins.).
Attendance: 60,000.

Waterford (Eire) away 1-0
Scorer: Shengalia (66 mins.).
Attendance: 8,000.

Waterford (Eire) home 4-0
Scorers: Daraselia (66, 79 mins.), Chivadze (74 mins.), Chilaya (87 mins.).
Attendance: 70,000.

RUSSIAN CUP FINALS

1936 Lokomotiv Moscow lost 0-2
1937 Dinamo Moscow lost 2-5
1946 Spartak Moscow lost 2-3
1960 Torpedo Moscow lost 3-4
1970 Dinamo Moscow lost 1-2
1976 Ararat Yerevan won 3-0
Scorers: Kipiani, Chelebadze, Kantiladze.
1979 Dinamo Moscow drew 0-0
(won 5-4 on penalties)
1980 Schaktor Donetsk lost 1-2
Scorer: Chilaya.

QUALIFICATION FOR 1980-81

Dinamo Tbilisi qualified for this season's Cup Winners Cup through their win in 1979. The Russians play a spring - autumn championship, and the respective winners play in Europe the year after they have won the League or the Cup.

The preliminary stages of the Russian Cup is played off in pools; the teams are drawn together in groups of five or six and play a mini-league. This is usually held during the winter in February, and played in the south where the climate is warmer. But Moscow and Leningrad now have big indoor arenas, so they usually get a group each.

When Tbilisi won the cup in 1979 they were top of their pool with five wins in five matches and a goal-difference of 14-2. Among their victories was a 5-0 drubbing of Zarya Voroshilovgrad. From then on the results leading to the final victory went like this:

Quarter-final:

Kriliya Sovjetov, Kuibishev 2-0

Semi-final:

C.S.K.A. Moscow 2-1

Final (in Moscow):

Dinamo Moscow 0-0
(won 5-4 on penalties)

CUP EXEMPTION

The Russian Cup this season is being played on a group system. The winners of 14 groups will qualify for the last 16 of the competition, and will be decided during 12 - 13 March.

They will go into the draw together with Spartak Moscow and Dinamo Tbilisi, who have been exempted until that stage.

MATCH ATTENDANCES

During 1977, Dinamo Tbilisi had an average attendance of 68,000 for their 17 home matches. They repeated those figures in 1978, with a total of 1,023,000 fans.

Player of the Year

ALEKSANDR CHIVADZE was voted "Russian Footballer of the Year" for 1980 by 165 Soviet journalists in a poll organised by the sports journal "Football - Hockey." He obtained 83 first places, 25 seconds and 20 thirds; this was a total of 259 points, in advance of Oleg Blokhin (the left-winger of Dinamo Kiev) with 187 and Vagig Kidiatouline with 103 points.

The French soccer journal "France Football" devoted considerable space to this nomination, pointing out that Blokhin had been voted "European Footballer of the Year" by the European soccer writers in preference to his compatriot.

It also mentioned that the seriously-minded "Pravda" newspaper had devoted an entire article to the 25-year-old, an honour conceded to very few Soviet soccer players.

It added that Chivadze had been a star in the national team's match against Argentina last December, when U.S.S.R. held the World Champions to a goalless draw at Mar del Plata.

Chivadze is not merely a stopper. He can prompt attacks, and has a powerful shot from around 20 yards.

The Soviet team-manager Beskov was quoted as saying: "Sacha is at present one of the best players in Europe. He gave a perfect exhibition, and had nothing to learn from his adversary, the Argentinian captain Pasarella.

Chivadze is completing his course in Economic Studies at the University of Tbilisi.

POLITE REQUEST

Will ALL spectators please keep off the pitch and not sit on the barriers.

A tough code for Russian Footballers

Britain has one of the more lenient attitudes towards misconduct on the field, and as a result discipline is considered by many as being of a low standard. In Russia they have really clamped down on misbehaviour, and some English League players would stagger if they had to face penalties such as these:

For dissent or for questioning the referee's authority, a player could get 10-15 weeks suspension!

Unsporting behaviour towards an opponent or team-mate (!) results in four matches suspension; time-wasting or encroaching at a free-kick means three matches suspension. It may not be that the football of Russia is better than that in Britain, but it lacks some of the "ugly faces" of the English version.

—From our Swedish correspondent

U.E.F.A. Representative

The U.E.F.A. representative at this match is **M. Albert Roosens**

M. Roosens is Secretary-General of the Belgian Football Association. He was Secretary-General of F.C. Anderlecht when we played the Belgian club in the European Cup Winners Cup Final in 1976.

We extend a hearty welcome to M. Roosens, and will be pleased to renew our acquaintance

Match Officials

Tonight's match officials are from Portugal, and we welcome them to Upton Park. Senor Antonio Garrido is very well known in international circles.

It may well be that if we win this tie that we could meet Benfica in the Semi-Final; thus providing us with an opportunity to visit their beautiful country, which is so well-known to many of us.

TONIGHT'S MATCH - BALL SPONSORS

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TONIGHT'S MATCH-MASCOT is **Steven David Snell**, aged 10, from Valley Drive, Gravesend, Kent. He attends Westcourt Junior School.

His hobbies are football and all types of sport. Steven plays for Milton and Denton F.C.; his position is right-half.

His favourite player is Billy Bonds, captain of his favourite team.

Steven is a regular visitor to Upton Park with his father, a supporter for over 15 years.

We wish Steven an occasion to remember.



West Ham United

- 1 Phil Parkes
- 2 Ray Stewart
- 3 Frank Lampard
- 4 Billy Bonds*
- 5 Alvin Martin
- 6 Alan Devonshire
- 7 Jimmy Neighbour
- 8 Paul Goddard
- 9 David Cross -1
- 10 Trevor Brooking
- 11 Geoff Pike
- Paul Allen
- Bobby Barnes
- Paul Brush
- Nicky Morgan
- Bobby Ferguson

* Captain

Dinamo Tbilisi

- 1 Otari Gabelia
- 2 Tamaz Kostava
- 3 Aleksandr Chivadze* -1
- 4 Shota Khinchagashvili
- 5 Dimitri Mudzhiri
- 6 Vitali Daraselia
- 7 Tengiz Sulakvelidze
- 8 Georgi Tavadze
- 9 Vladimir Gutsaev -1
- 10 David Kipiani
- 11 Ramaz Shengelia -2
- 12 Nodar Khisanishvili
- 13 Zurab Svanadze
- 14 Georgi Chilaya
- 15 Revaz Chelebadze
- 16 Dimitri Imnadze

* Captain

● Jersey numbers, changes, etc., will be announced

Referee: **ANTONIO JOSE DA SILVA GARRIDO** (Portugal)

Linesman (Red Flag): **MANUEL JOAO POEIRA** (Portugal)

Linesman (Orange Flag): **MARIO SILVA LUIS** (Portugal)

SCORERS:

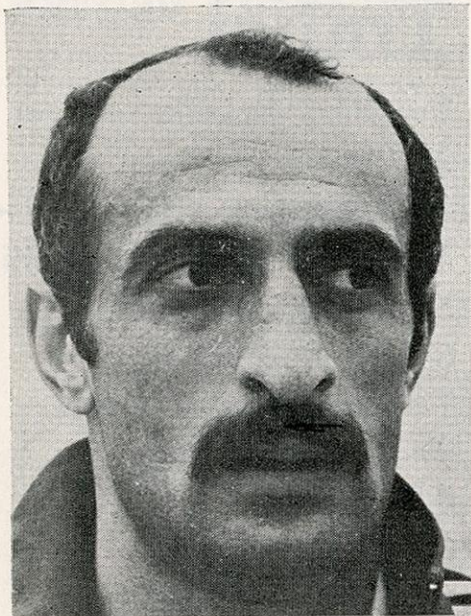
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Visiting Squad



David Kipiani, Midfield-striker



Ramaz Shengelia, Striker

Date of birth in brackets

Revaz Chelebadze (1955). Forward.

Currently in the full national side with nine caps and three goals; member of the 1980 Olympic team. Eleven league goals in 1980.

Georgi Chilaya (1957). Left back.

Always looking for the chance to attack; brilliant dribbler, fast.

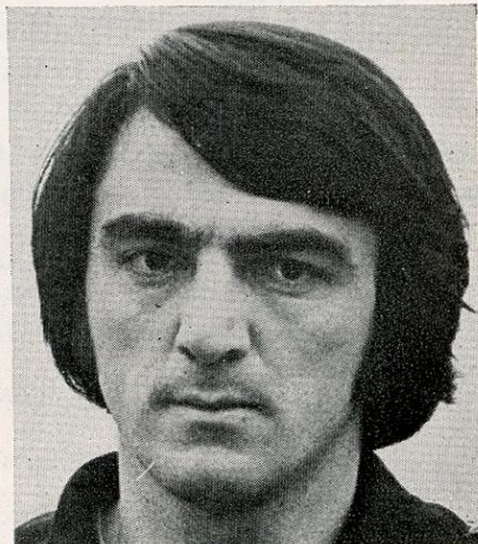
Aleksandr Chivadze (1955).
Centre-half.

Now captain. "Footballer of the Year" in Russia 1980. A fixture in the national side at the moment; member of the Olympic team in 1980; strong marker and very good at going forward. Five league goals in 1980. Fourteen full caps, one goal for U.S.S.R.

Vitali Daraselia (1957). Midfield.

A member of the Under-21 team that won the European Championship in 1980. Always on the move. Three league goals in 1980. Eleven full caps and two goals for U.S.S.R.

Otaria Gabelia (1953). Goalkeeper.
Capped twice; made his international debut versus West Germany in 1979; safe and with good reflexes.



Otari Gabelia, Goalkeeper

Vladimir Gutsaev (1952). Forward.

A fast and direct striker who was unlucky with injuries in 1980, thus only one league goal. Twelve caps, four goals for U.S.S.R.

Dimitri Imnadze

A newcomer to the club this season.

Shota Khinchagashvili (1951).

Calm and safe, uses the ball well; good tackler, organises the defence. Eleven caps for U.S.S.R.

Nodar Khisanishvili (1953). Defender.

David Kipiani (1951). Forward.

Very much the star of the side. If he had played for a Western club he could have been a superstar. A schemer-cum-scorer. Deceptively slow, but very fast when going past somebody. Splendid vision and an excellent passer of the ball, good shot. Always looking for the ball, always in position to get it; eight league goals in 1980. Plays a roving role behind the front forwards. 18 caps and seven goals for the national team.

Tamaz Kostava (1956). Right back.

Four caps, one goal for U.S.S.R.

Amiran Minashvili (1957). Midfield.

Three league goals in 1980.

Dimitri Mudzhiri (1956). Left back.

Yuri Maminasyvili (1957). Goalkeeper.

Ramaz Shengelia (1957). Forward.

"Footballer of the Year" in 1978, when only 21. The team's top scorer with 16 League goals last season. Fast, always on the move. Scored a goal in each of his four first full international matches, but has since been largely omitted; seven caps, four goals for U.S.S.R. A member of the European Under-21 champions 1980.

Tengiz Sulakvelidze (1956). Midfield.

Previously a defender, now a hard-working midfielder. Member of the 1980 Olympic team. Chosen as right back in the "Team of 1980" voted by Russian sports journalists. Fourteen caps, and at present in the national team.

Zurab Svanadze (1958). Forward.

In his first season for Dinamo Tbilisi. Signed from Division II club Torpedo Kutaisi of Georgia.

Georgi Tavadze (1955). Midfield.

Signed from Second Division team Turia of Georgia. Scored three goals in ten league games.

Vazja Zvania (1960). Forward.

One league goal in 1980.



Shota Khinchagashvili, Midfield

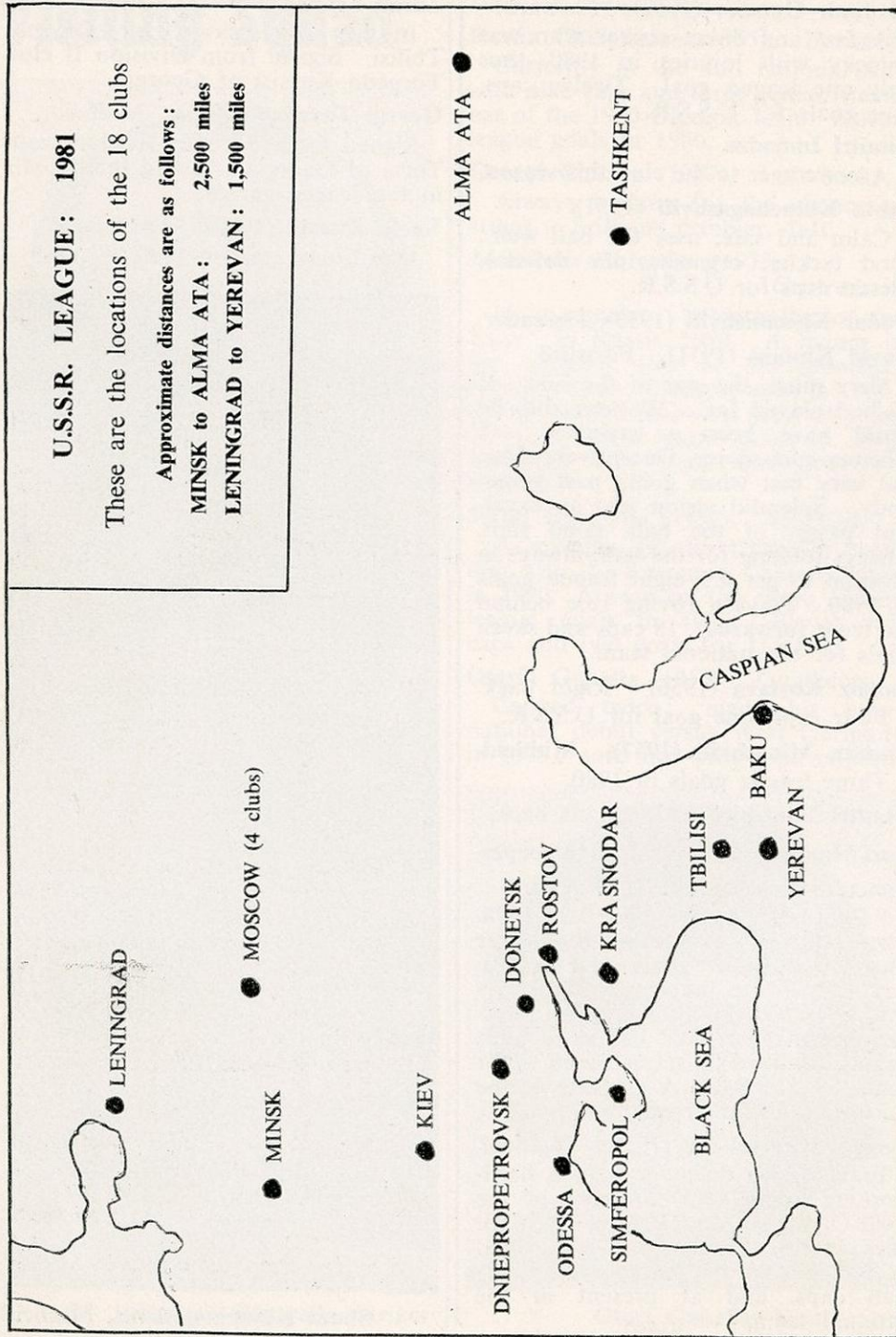
U.S.S.R. LEAGUE: 1981

These are the locations of the 18 clubs

Approximate distances are as follows:

MINSK to ALMA ATA: 2,500 miles

LENINGRAD to YEREVAN: 1,500 miles



Soccer in the U.S.S.R.



During the five years since we last played a Russian team, soccer in the U.S.S.R. has continued to develop; among the major internal changes the national league has been increased from 16 to 18 clubs.

An article in our programme five years ago outlined the history of soccer in Russia. Such a subject is necessarily partially static. In reproducing some of it on this occasion we can bring our younger readers into the picture, and also revive the memories of those who may have read it previously.

The birth of football in Russia is recorded in some official circles as 1897. It began in the second largest city, St. Petersburg (since renamed Leningrad). The game developed in Moscow, where the first league championship was staged, and then spread to other parts.

The adverse climate and enormous distances, with thousands of miles separating the principal sports centres, hampered development on the scale of other European countries, but is nowadays being speedily rectified, thanks to air-travel.

British footballers first played in Russia in 1911, when a combined Oxford - Cambridge side gave the local teams an insight of the arts and crafts of the game.

A year later, Russia's first test abroad, in the Olympic Games in Stockholm, ended in a first round defeat against Finland by 1-2. In a consolation match the Russians were swamped by Germany to the tune of 16-0.

But a number of resident Britons, playing in Russian teams, helped to improve standards. This may have influenced the Russian attitude towards superb athletic preparation, speed and determination, as opposed to the adventurous play, subtlety of movement, or artistry on the ball which is a forte of such as the South Americans.

But soccer has caught on, and today the Soviet Union has well over four million registered players.

VISITS TO BRITAIN

Russian footballers made their first impact in Britain after World War II, when Moscow Dynamos came here in the autumn of 1945. Their visit aroused such tremendous interest, that 271,000 spectators watched the four games in which the Russians remained unbeaten against Chelsea (3-3), Cardiff City (10-1), Arsenal (4-3) and Glasgow Rangers (2-2).

INTERNATIONAL CONTACTS

Soviet footballers have sometimes suffered from semi-isolation. While other European nations exchanged ideas on coaching methods, the Russians restricted themselves to their home-bred experts.

Thus, for some years, their style of play did not compare with the more modern concept of the game, as demonstrated by the Central Europeans from Austria and Hungary in the early 'fifties, or by the great club sides from the Iberian Peninsula (such as Real Madrid and Benfica) of the late 'fifties and 'sixties.

It was not until 1958 that the national team entered for the first time in the World Cup competition, although their representatives had successfully competed in the Olympic Games, winning the 1956 tournament in Melbourne.

Through such international contacts the Russians began to produce outstanding individual players and club

sides to match the best in Europe. Such stars as Lev Yashin (generally regarded as one of the finest goal-keepers of all time), defender Shesternev, half-backs Voronin and Netto, and forwards Simonian, Strelzov and Ivanov, became known and respected all over the world.

ALL AMATEURS

All players have amateur classification, as they have other employment apart from football. Many are students or physical education instructors, and their wages as such may vary.

The majority of clubs are sponsored by local factories, universities, Army garrisons and other such organisations.

An interesting point is that a 31-year-old Russian player—Anatoli Sintchenko—has been given permission to play for Rapid Vienna in the Austrian League.

The club only pays his expenses, thus preserving his amateur status.

NATIONAL STATISTICS

The U.S.S.R. Football Association was formed in 1912, and the national colours are red shirts, white shorts, red stockings.

From a population of over 255 million, there are 4,505,000 players. These are formed into clubs with a total of 50,664 teams.

The national stadium is the Lenin Stadium in Moscow, which holds 102,000 people. Among others are: Ukraine Republic, Kiev (100,000); Kirov Stadium, Leningrad (84,000); Dinamo Stadium, Tbilisi (75,000); Rasdan Stadium, Erevan (70,000); Pakhtakov, Tashkent (60,000); Dynamo Stadium, Moscow (54,000).

The national President is Boris Fedosov, and the Secretary Anatoly Chetirko.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

The top division in the U.S.S.R. National League now consists of 18 clubs, of which two are relegated at the end of each season.

The promoted clubs come from the First Division (virtually the second division); this is also nationwide.

Below this are several Second Divisions, made up in geographical zones. The winners of these play off for promotion places to the First Division.

For many years the U.S.S.R. played a spring-autumn season like the Scandinavian countries. The most recent League championship was concluded before the end of 1980.

League Championship 1980

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Dynamo Kiev	34	21	9	4	62	23	51
Spartak Moscow	34	18	9	7	49	26	45
Zenit Leningrad	34	16	10	8	51	42	42
Dynamo Tbilisi	34	16	7	11	51	32	39
CSKA Moscow	34	13	12	9	36	32	36
Sjachtior Donetsk	34	13	9	12	45	40	35
Tjernomoret's Odessa	34	13	9	12	37	37	35
Ararat Erevan	34	11	11	12	39	43	32
SKA Rostov-on-Don	34	11	10	13	41	47	32
Dynamo Minsk	34	11	12	11	41	42	32
Torpedo Moscow	34	10	11	13	28	32	30
Kajrat Alma Ata	34	10	11	13	33	44	30
Neftji Baku	34	10	9	15	29	41	29
Dynamo Moscow	34	9	14	11	32	33	28
Kuban Krasnodar	34	9	10	15	32	43	28
Pachtakov Tashkent	34	9	8	17	26	43	26
Karpaty Lvov	34	9	8	17	23	46	26
Lokomotiv Moscow	34	8	9	17	34	44	25

The Russian league now has a rule that says that a team cannot be awarded points for more than ten draws. After that it is counted as a defeat. Naturally the opponents do not count those "superfluous draws" as wins.

When two or more teams have the same number of points, placings are decided by a mini-table where only the matches between the teams involved count.

Promoted for 1981:

Tavrija (Simferopol) and Dniepr (Dniepropetrovsk).

Top Scorers in 1980:

Sergej Andrejev (Rostov) 20; Oleg Blochin (Kiev) 19; Revaz Shengalia (Tbilisi) 16; Jurij Goriatjev (Odessa) and Aleksandr Tarchanov (C.S.K.A. Moscow) 14.

Goal average 1980:

2.23 goals per match.

Off the Record

by BILL REMFRY, Hammers' "DJ"

In the fields of music, theatre and sport the artistes of the U.S.S.R. have made more than a useful contribution to the arts.

In music we have enjoyed the works of Tchaikovsky, Shostakovitch and Dimitri Khachaturian; in the theatre Chekhov, Turgenev and Gogol.

These famous names are part of the U.S.S.R. culture of which they are proud.

In sport, the U.S.S.R. has stars who have become household names the world over.

Western "pop" music is slowly becoming accepted in the U.S.S.R. Its popularity varies in different places of this vast country. None more so than in the South.

I shall endeavour to play some Georgian or Armenian music this evening; if not, we will have to settle for "Georgia on my mind" (from the other Georgia in U.S.A.).

NEXT HOME MATCH

Saturday 7 March 3 p.m.

NEWCASTLE UNITED

Football League: Division II

HAMMERS' CUP RESULTS THIS SEASON

EUROPEAN CUP WINNERS CUP			Scorers	Attendance
Sept. 17	Castilla (Spain)	A 1—3	Cross	40,000
	<i>First Round (first leg)</i>			
Oct. 1	Castilla (Spain)	H 5—1	Cross 3, Goddard, Pike	262
	<i>First Round (second leg)</i>			(a.e.t.) (won on aggregate 6—4)
22	Poli Timisoara (Romania)	H 4—0	Bonds, Cross, Goddard, Stewart (pen.)	27,257
	<i>Second Round (first leg)</i>			
Nov. 5	Poli Timisoara (Romania)	A 0—1		25,000
	<i>Second Round (second leg)</i>			(won on aggregate 4—1)

F.A. CUP			Scorers	Attendance
Jan. 3	Wrexham	H 1—1	Stewart (pen.)	30,137
	<i>Third Round</i>			
6	Wrexham (a.e.t.)	A 0—0		13,643
	<i>Third Round replay</i>			
19	Wrexham (a.e.t.)	A 0—1		14,611
	<i>Third Round (2nd replay)</i>			

FOOTBALL LEAGUE CUP			Scorers	Attendance
Aug. 26	Burnley	A 2—0	Cross, Goddard	6,818
	<i>Second Round (first leg)</i>			
Sept. 2	Burnley	H 4—0	Goddard, Pike, Stewart (pen.), o.g.	15,216
	<i>Second Round (second leg)</i>			(won on aggregate 6—0)
23	Charlton Athletic	A 2—1	Cross 2	17,884
	<i>Third Round</i>			
Oct. 28	Barnsley	H 2—1	Cross, Martin	21,548
	<i>Fourth Round</i>			
Dec. 2	Tottenham Hotspur	H 1—0	Cross	36,235
	<i>Fifth Round</i>			
Jan. 27	Coventry City	A 2—3	Bonds, own goal	35,468
	<i>Semi-Final (first leg)</i>			
Feb. 10	Coventry City	H 2—0	Goddard, Neighbour	36,551
	<i>Semi-Final (second leg)</i>			(won on aggregate 4—3)
Mar. 14	Liverpool	(Final at Wembley)		

COMMERCIAL DEPARTMENT NEWS

IRONS TRAVEL CLUB

TRAVEL TO WEMBLEY FOR THE LEAGUE CUP FINAL ON 14 MARCH

Irons Travel Club have coach transport to Wembley for a return fare of £2.50.

Why bother taking the car or messing about on trains and tubes, when you can go direct from Upton Park and return for only £2.50 ?

Enjoy the fabulous atmosphere from the time of leaving Upton Park.

Book today at the Irons Travel Club or from the Pools Office during the week. Don't miss this trip.

HAMMERS' SHOP — Special for Wembley

Why not call in and see our excellent range of new sales items made especially and exclusively for West Ham United Football Club for our appearance at Wembley on 14th March; or apply for our up-to-date Mail Order List.

Don't miss out: get your Wembley souvenirs from the Hammers' Shop.

On sale today from the Hammers' Shop is the **official Wembley programme** (West Ham United versus Liverpool); **60p each.**

Why not save all that hustle and bustle and **purchase your programme now?**

HAMMERS' "KASH-IN" LOTTERY

Our Lottery offers excellent **prizes** ranging from **25p** up to that magical **£1,000** prize.

The ticket is always in great demand in all areas. Our only problem is the number of people to handle our sales; that is Agents, to look after the selling of our Lottery tickets.

We have decided, due to the great demand, that we will extend the number of Agents handling our tickets, and you are invited—if interested—to apply to the Pools Office.

Remember, Agents receive many benefits, including commission on the sale of tickets and the selling of winning tickets, plus free entry into the ground for all League games.

"Kash-In" and apply to be an Agent.

TONIGHT'S MATCH SPONSORS BERGER PAINTS

We extend them a warm welcome and wish them and their Guests an enjoyable evening



LEAGUE CUP SEMI-FINAL

These pictures were taken during the second leg at Upton Park on Feb. 10. David Cross and Trevor Brooking are in the top one, and Paul Goddard is congratulated by his team-mates in the other.