

# THREE LIONS



**v MANCHESTER 1962**

GIBRALTAR FOOTBALL LEAGUE  
06.10.2024 | 19:30 |  
EUROPA POINT STADIUM



# OLBG

# FAITH | FAMILY | FOOTBALL



# Good luck to everyone at Lions Gibraltar FC this season!

From the team at OLBG



THE CHAIRMAN

# MARK PALMER



Good evening and welcome to our third home game of the season against Manchester 1962 FC.

A warm welcome to the officials, players, and staff of our opponents. Formed in 1962 by a group of supporters in honour of Manchester United, the club boasts a proud history with seven Gibraltar League titles and four Rock Cup victories.

Today's match is a classic six-pointer, with Lions Gibraltar FC currently in third place and in contention for European qualification. Our opponents are just three points behind, having had a mixed start to the season with two wins, one draw, and two losses.

We anticipate a close encounter, but a win today will help us consolidate our position in the top slots and widen the gap between us and the chasing group. The players and technical staff are approaching this match with focus and professionalism, aiming for three straight wins before a tough run of fixtures after the upcoming international break.

In this edition, we take a trip down memory lane with a fascinating article about our founders and original team members. Our Head of Communication, Sharon Millar, visited

our supporters club at 'The Den' to gather their insights into those early years and their thoughts on today's game.

Off the field, I would like to extend our personal condolences to Alex Grech, our former Club President, and his family, who sadly lost his father last week. Lions Gibraltar FC is a family, and we are all here for each other. Alex, may your dad find peace.

Before closing, I would like to thank our growing group of commercial partners who are backing our club and vision for taking Lions Gibraltar forward. Some of them feature in today's Match Programme.

Looking ahead to today's match, we expect another hard-fought

encounter, much like our previous two home matches. We aim to continue our rich vein of form in front of goal, having netted four times in each of the last two games. On paper today's game is a close one, but as the legendary Brian Clough famously said; "we play on grass, not paper."

Good luck to Neale, Davie, and the boys.

**Cede Nulli**  
Mark Palmer | Chairman & CEO



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### CHAIRMAN & CEO

Mark Palmer

### DIRECTORS

James Pickering, Darryl Eales

### SPORTING DIRECTOR

Neale Marmon

### HEAD COACH / HEAD OF YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

David Wilson

### CLUB SECRETARY

Kadrian Bugeja  
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### HEAD OF OPERATIONS

Alex Grech  
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Sharon Kerrie Millar  
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### HEAD OF FACILITIES

Daniel Buhagiar  
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### MATCH PROGRAMME

APE Publications





# ONLINE SUPERSTORE NOW OPEN FOR BUSINESS!

You can now purchase your favourite club apparel via the brand new online **superstore** - **lgfcshop.com**

Whether it's the much sought-after home or away 2024/25 season replica matchday shirt, your favourite training wear item or something in leisure wear, you can now order your merchandise while stocks last!

Even better, we have also launched our Worldwide Club Membership Scheme as part of the superstore opening, allowing members 20% off of any online official club merchandise.

Club Membership can be purchased via the online store for just £25 for the year and allows club members instant access to multiple discounts, benefits and experiences.

Check out the online superstore now...



# PLAYER SPONSORSHIP PACKAGES





SPORTING DIRECTOR

# NEALE MARMON

I have said that this is a team that I love and have fully bought into already, and I think in our opening five League games, people around our set up have been able to share that kind of feeling.

In football, it is not possible to have these feelings and thoughts for a team at the end of its journey; it has to start when it begins. Of course, you can see the imperfections and the things that need to improve. You can also have moments when it isn't as easy to believe, but hopefully, with this team, we are able to see what it is about and also the possibilities of what it could become.

To have potential, you have to have ability, and this team has a lot of that. It has also shown in the opening weeks of the season that it will not accept its fate easily – a quality which can take teams a long way. It is not a bad combination.

Again, though, it is still early days. The key now is to keep on improving so that the promise we have shown up to now

**... THE KEY NOW IS TO KEEP ON IMPROVING SO THAT THE PROMISE WE HAVE SHOWN UP TO NOW TURNS INTO SOMETHING THAT IS MORE STABLE...**

turns into something that is more stable.

It is stability that we are looking for more than anything right now. As I keep saying, this is a new team, so it would not make sense to obtain stability so early on. The big positive is that we have continued to pick up good results while in this phase of our development. But the sooner we can achieve it, the better it will be, and the more trust will develop in what we are doing and how we are going about it.

Last weekend's victory against Europa Point was a great example of what I am

talking about. It was a really good result, and in the end, we produced four goals. There was so much to like. But at the same time, we cannot and will not ignore some of the other elements of our game. That is not allowed. We will take the lessons of the bad and the good and use them because this is the only way.

To finish, I am expecting another tough match today and have respect for the way they set up. We know exactly what we are up against: a team with a strong mentality, some quality, a clear way of playing, and a sense of impetus after their late equaliser against St. Joseph's last weekend. A dangerous opponent, but one we have to cope with as part of our continued development.

Let's continue to strive on and believe!

Thank you for your valued support, enjoy the game...

**Neale Marmon**  
Sporting Director



# SHINING BRIGHT

SKUZA MAKING HIS MARK...



Polish goalkeeper, Konrad Skuza, believes that his experience of playing on The Rock last season has helped him hit the ground running this time around as he establishes himself between the posts for the Lions.

The 25 year-old was one of a large number of new signings brought in over the summer. He first came to Gibraltar in August 2023, initially with Lynx before moving mid-season to Glacis United.

“Being here last season and knowing the teams and players has definitely helped,” he admitted. “Also knowing the pitch and the environment here, even more so this season as we are playing at Europa Point Stadium where the wind is very strong.

“As we’ve seen in some of the fixtures, the conditions are proving to have an impact. Being here last year helps me in being more prepared as they can be difficult for goalkeepers.

“The start of the season has been very positive both for myself personally and the team in general. You can see the improvement each week in our

**... THE START OF THE SEASON HAS BEEN VERY POSITIVE BOTH FOR MYSELF PERSONALLY AND THE TEAM IN GENERAL. YOU CAN SEE THE IMPROVEMENT EACH WEEK IN OUR PERFORMANCE LEVELS...**

performance levels.

“Of course, after reviewing the games, there are always details that you would like to improve on, but overall we have started well and I am looking forward to the upcoming matches.

“The owners and coaches have made sure that everyone feels welcome and comfortable at the club.

“We spend a lot of time together with training sessions, games, recovery sessions and club meetings. The week is filled with us getting to know each other on and off the pitch and that has certainly helped to create a strong team spirit.

“As for the strength of the League, it’s very similar to last year in that things go on, a

hierarchy will start to emerge. It will be interesting to see who remains competitive this season.

“Our targets are simple; play well and win the next game. We’ll see where that takes us.”

Skuza began his career in England with Coventry City before moving to his homeland and spending five years at various levels before beginning a new chapter over here on The Rock.

We asked him his goalkeeping influences whilst growing up.

“I would say there are two goalkeepers who influenced me the most,” was his response.

“The first is Jerzy Dudek; he was the ‘keeper who made me want to play football. His heroics in the 2005 Champions League final were out of this world.

“The second is Hugo Lloris. As I’ve gotten older and started to analyse the game more, I began to look at goalkeepers with similar attributes and stature, so Lloris is someone I’ve tried to model my game on.”

IMAGES | Neil Wilson





# THE OLBG STORY

## A MATCH MADE IN HEAVEN

Lions Gibraltar FC recently announced OLBG, The Online Betting Guide, as their lead partner and front-of-shirt sponsor on a multi-year deal.

OLBG are a long-established brand, who for 22 years have been focused on growing a community of online betting enthusiasts in the UK.

They have drawn plaudits for their activation of horse racing sponsorship such as The OLBG Mares Hurdle at the Cheltenham Festival and more recently their work with Harry Derham Racing.

They are excited about the opportunities that a partnership with Lions Gibraltar FC will bring.

As well as front-of-shirt, OLBG are also the official training wear sponsor of the Lions. The agreement between the two growing organisations will see them coming together at an exciting stage in their respective journeys.

OLBG were delighted to get Sir Geoff Hurst involved with the launching of the Lions away kit earlier this summer and recognise the significance of this moment for the club as we embark on a new journey.

OLBG looks forward to supporting the Lions and sharing that journey with the wider UK audience.

Mark Palmer, Chief Executive Officer at Lions Gibraltar FC commented: "It's



fantastic to be able to welcome OLBG into the Lions Gibraltar FC Family, as we officially announce a multi-year Principal Club Partnership deal.

"When I met Richard and Toby for the first time, I knew immediately that they and the brand were exactly what I was looking for in a main club partner and we are pleased that we now embark on what we all expect to be a fruitful relationship for both of us, with the ability to elevate both parties brand recognition to a Global fan audience.

"Let the journey begin; the Lions are ready to roar!"

Richard Moffat, Chief Executive Officer at OLBG added: "We are delighted to

be joining the Lions on a multi-year Principal Club Partnership deal; they're a club steeped in tradition and we look forward to helping them tell their story to football fans across the UK.

"We're an ambitious brand and the Lion's new ownership has impressed us greatly, matching our ambition and drive.

"We're extremely excited by the journey they are on and look forward to this relationship going from strength-to-strength."

**OLBG**  .com

# THE LIONS STORY

A MATCH MADE IN HEAVEN



Lions Gibraltar FC were formed amidst the euphoria of England's World Cup triumph in 1966.

Special dispensation was given by The Football Association at the time to incorporate the iconic and instantly-recognisable Three Lions within our club logo and they have been at the heart of the club ever since.

We are driven by an over-riding passion for the game; a sense of great pride in who we are and where we come from.

Our history may not be laden with honours and trophies, but we have displayed tremendous courage and conviction in our beliefs to provide an environment where team spirit, development and a never-say-die attitude are key to everything that we do.

As a respected member of the football community in Gibraltar for almost 60 years, the time has come for us to embark upon an exciting new era.

The completion of a new ownership takeover by Mark Palmer in January 2024 means that we are Ready To Roar and really start to make an impact across all of our teams, in men's, women's and junior football as well as futsal.

"This is an extremely proud moment



**... AS A RESPECTED MEMBER OF THE FOOTBALL COMMUNITY IN GIBRALTAR FOR ALMOST 60 YEARS, THE TIME HAS COME FOR US TO EMBARK UPON AN EXCITING NEW ERA.**

for me," said Mark Palmer. "I am honoured to be the Owner and Chairman of this great football club.

"I would like to thank Alex Grech, Kadrian Bugeja and Daniel Buhagiar

for their sterling work and custodianship of the club. They have provided us with a foundation on which we can build and take the club into the next phase of its history.

"It's an exciting journey that we embark upon with great relish and determination.

"I am delighted that Alex, Kadrian and Danny will continue their involvement with the club going forward and will be joined on a new-look Board of Directors by Darryl Eales, Chairman & Majority Owner of Solihull Moors FC, and James Pickering KC, Deputy High Court Judge.

"Between us all we have a wealth of knowledge and experience of football, both on the Rock and in the UK, as well as the governance that surrounds this beautiful game of ours."

The club will be reaching out far and wide to embrace football fans here in Gibraltar and further afield.

We want to recapture the spirit of 1966 and working to the pillars that have served us well for almost six decades, create something special that will bring on-the-field success to all of our associated teams.

Join us at the start of this journey. It's the Awakening...

# LIONS ACTION

v MONS CALPE SC – WON 4-2 | 21.09.2024 ● v EUROPA POINT – WON 4-1 | 29.09.2024

The best of the action from our last two games at the Europa Point Stadium, which saw us secure all six points and score four times on both occasions, courtesy of Neil Wilson...





## HOW IT ALL BEGAN

# FOUNDING MEMBERS

SHARON KERRIE MILLAR MEETS THREE OF OUR FIVE FOUNDING MEMBERS...

This may be the start of an exciting new adventure for the club, both on and off-the-pitch, but we haven't forgotten our roots and where we came from.

Recently three of our five founding members, Louis Casciaro, Jimmy Posso and John Cruz, came along to The Den to share their memories of the early years of the club and meet current club officials, including Sharon Kerrie Millar, who found out a little more about our backstory.

"We were a group of football-mad eight and nine year-olds," recalled Louis Casciaro. "We all lived close together and would play football for hours on our patios.

"We wanted to form our own team but didn't know how to go about it. Then when England won the World Cup in the summer of 1966 there was a boom around football, which was felt here in Gibraltar too.

"Alfred Sene, the father of one of our founding members, Derek Sene, agreed to be our manager and first Club President. Knowing that we wanted to be called Lions because of the three lions on the England shirts, he used his connections at the GFA to get permission from The FA for us to have the lions on our shirts too.

"The next task was to decide upon our colours. Amongst our group we had Chelsea and Everton supporters so blue was the obvious choice, but Everton wore a tangerine away shirt at the time, alongside blue shorts, which we liked and so that colour was chosen too."

The boys had already been playing together informally for some time and were best friends.

"We had a chemistry that you don't find that often these days," said John Cruz. "In those days there were not so many other distractions, so we would be outside playing football every day of the week for as long as we possibly could



**... WE HAD TO ADAPT TO MUCH MORE DIFFICULT PLAYING CONDITIONS, BUT WE TOUGHENED UP BECAUSE OF IT AND IT IMPROVED OUR SKILL LEVELS. . .**

around our studies.

"It was a brotherhood, each of us loving our sport and spending time together. We were already a team but when it became formal, we benefitted from having Mr. Sene as manager and then John Da Sousa came in as a coach too and we flourished.

"We were winning matches all of the time, no-one could beat us, that was also the case for our Grammar School team as well as Lions. Then, in 1970, a new youth football association was formed but we were not allowed to take part. We believe that it is because we had been so successful and so the team

had to be broken up and we had to join different teams.

"But, when we reached the age of 14/15, we were allowed to join the GFA and so the team got back together. We joined the second division and the first season or so was tough because we were coming up against open-age men's teams, and it was the first time we had competed at this level.

"There was never any talk of giving up, though. We never let each other down and as we started to grow and develop physically, suddenly those 8-0 and 9-0 defeats turned into 8-0 and 9-0 wins and we started moving forward."

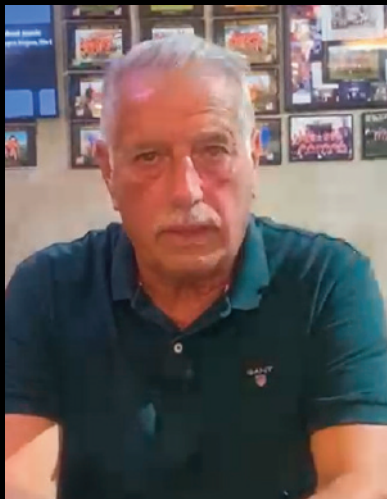
Jimmy Posso recalls the camaraderie that existed during those heady days of the 1970s and into the 1980s.

"We tried to play the Dutch way," he added. "We had a lot of attacking flair; we played with freedom, a telepathy from growing up together and, importantly, smiles on our faces. There are so many fond memories from this time.

"We represented the club with pride from the age of nine right up to our late 20s when a younger generation started to come in to help our ageing legs as we had taken the club up through the divisions to the top level, which was a strong competition against clubs such as Manchester 62, Glacis United, who were particularly strong at this time, and St. Joseph's. Time does start to catch up with you, but we returned to form a Veterans team in our 40s and on one occasion actually beat the first-team in an exhibition match!

"If we are being honest, when we first formed the club there is no way we envisaged that the team would be around this long. We thought that maybe after a few years it would just dissolve into one of the big, established clubs and that would be it.

"But, it's credit to the friendships and



close bonds that we had – and still have – that the club has a long and proud history within Gibraltarian football.

“We have gone through all of our life events together and to this day a group of former Lions players and officials regularly meets up and reminisces on the shared memories that we have of representing the club.”

This group has been invited along to one of our forthcoming games as we look to strengthen the link between them and the current club.

“We are all hopeful that the club can start to challenge at the right end of the table again,” continued Jimmy Posso. “The last few years have not seen much success, but the signs are that the club and team is on the right track to be able to start competing with the top clubs again.

“I feel that a top five finish this season would be an achievement and then build from there.”

Louis Casciaro added: “It is good to see the team winning again. We all follow the results and we all want nothing but success for our team.

“It would be nice to do it by playing progressive football, with no fear. We understand that in the modern game, players are athletes and there is so much more now at stake since UEFA membership, so it is a totally different game to the one we knew, with so many other facets too, such as sports science, strength and conditioning, things like that.

“We had to adapt to much more difficult playing conditions, but we toughened up because of it and it improved our skill levels.”

John Cruz agreed: “Football has changed a lot; money talks these days, not just here in Gibraltar, but all over. Training, pitches, equipment, it is all totally different. We would leave the pitch battered and bruised in our day, mainly because of the pitches we played on, but the ‘Holy water’ in the bucket with a sponge would always sort us out!

“We were always totally amateur, doing it for the love of the game. We would pay for our own items of kit, do fund-raising to pay for us to go on club tours and there have been times when injuries in football would mean that we had to take sick leave from work and lose money.

“Balancing work and family life with football commitments could also be a challenge at times, but I would do it all over again. In fact, give me a Lions kit and I would go out there and proudly represent the club again, even in my 60s, if my body would let me!

“You have to feel the colours and become part of the club. You play because you are part of the club.”

The trio spoke with such passion about the club that they formed with Derek Sene and Denis Nuza, who went on to spend 14 years in the role of President before handing over to the current incumbent, Alex Grech.

They also recalled many happy times socialising at our former base on Bell Lane, all part of the bonding and family values which is the bedrock that this club is built upon. Sadly, a large fire in 1984 meant that we were forced to leave those premises and set up home at Wellington Front, where we remain today.

We have diversified into other sports over the years and have also expanded our youth and women’s sections beyond recognition. The new ownership is determined to continue this progress and not only provide a bright and successful future but also celebrate and embrace our past and those people who have all played their part in making Lions Gibraltar FC what it is today.

We asked the three founding members what their message to the current playing staff would be:

“Be truthful,” they said. “Play hard and play with your heart.”

The Three Lions within our club logo have been at the heart of the club since 1966. We are driven by an over-riding passion for the game; a sense of great pride in who we are and where we come from.

We have displayed tremendous courage and conviction in our beliefs to provide an environment where team spirit, development and a never-say-die attitude are key to everything that we do and that is thanks to Messrs Casciaro, Posso, Cruz, Nuza and Sene.

**Cede Nulli.**

2024-2025

# THE ROAD AHEAD

## AUGUST

Sun 18	18:00	FCB Magpies	League	1-2
Sat 31	21:00	COLLEGE 1975	League	1-0

## SEPTEMBER

Fri 13	21:00	Glacis United	League	1-1
Sat 21	19:30	MONS CALPE SC	League	4-2
Sun 29	16:30	Europa Point	League	4-1

## OCTOBER

Sun 6	19:30	MANCHESTER 62	League	
Sun 20	19:30	St. Joseph's	League	
Sun 27	16:30	LINCOLN RED IMPS	League	

## NOVEMBER

Sat 2	19:30	Lynx	League	
Sun 10	19:30	EUROPA	League	
Sat 23	16:30	ST. JOSEPH'S	League	

## DECEMBER

Fri 6	21:00	College 1975	League	
Sat 14	16:30	GLACIS UNITED	League	
Sat 21	19:30	Mons Calpe SC	League	

## JANUARY

Sun 12	16:30	EUROPA POINT	League	
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## FEBRUARY

Sat 8	19:30	FCB MAGPIES	League	
Sat 22	16:30	Lincoln Red Imps	League	
Wed 26	21:00	Manchester 62	League	

## MARCH

Sat 8	19:30	LYNX	League	
Sat 15	19:30	Europa	League	

Please note that these dates and kick-off times are subject to change.

## GIBRALTAR FOOTBALL LEAGUE | LATEST TABLE

TEAM	P	W	D	L	GD	PTS
St Joseph's FC	6	5	1	0	12	16
Europa FC	6	5	1	0	9	16
<b>Lions Gibraltar FC</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>10</b>
Glacis United FC	5	2	1	2	4	7
Manchester 1962 FC	5	2	1	2	1	7
FCB Magpies	6	2	1	3	-1	7
Lincoln Red Imps	2	2	0	0	6	6
Mons Calpe FC	5	2	0	3	-1	6
College 1975 FC	5	1	0	4	-9	3
Lynx FC	6	0	1	5	-11	1
Europa Point FC	5	0	1	4	-15	1



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# THE TEAMS



## LIONS GIBRALTAR V MANCHESTER 1962

GIBRALTAR FOOTBALL LEAGUE

06.10.2024 | 19.30PM EUROPA POINT STADIUM

### PLD SUB

- 1 KONRAD SKUZA (GK)
- 25 JORDAN PEREZ (GK)
- 33 JOHN HERNANDEZ (GK)
- 2 LEON VOLZ
- 3 LUKE BAUTISTA
- 4 CONNOR PETERS
- 5 ADAM HAMDİ
- 6 SHEA BREAKSPEAR
- 7 KYE LIVINGSTONE
- 8 NICO THEISINGER
- 9 CONNOR FLYNN GILLESPIE
- 10 BEN SEATON
- 11 ALAN PARKER
- 12 MILAN ZIRIC
- 13 RAYNEER MARQUES SILVA
- 14 MIKAEL NDJOLI
- 15 MARK EDZES
- 16 HATIM SMITH
- 17 HARVEY WELCH
- 18 PATRICK DULLECK
- 20 GREYSON BASSO
- 21 MEL JOSE-BROWN
- 22 TEMILOLA SAMUEL AWOYLE
- 23 EVAN GREEN
- 24 BRIAN PEREZ
- LEON PAYAS
- KIRI MCGRAIL

### PLD SUB

- 1 RUIZ CANTO (GK)
- 94 DOMINIQUE YOUFEIGANE (GK)
- 3 JOSEPH CHIPOLINA
- 4 BARON KIBAMBA
- 5 PETER SARDENA
- 6 BEN DIXON
- 7 MOHAMED BADR
- 8 FRANKIE PERRY
- 9 SAMUEKL BENITEZ
- 10 EMMANUEL OCRAN
- 11 HENRY MOTT
- 14 HIBIKI MOCHIZUKI
- 16 JEREMY LOPEZ
- 19 YUSSEF FLALHI IDRİSSI
- 21 SANTI JARA
- 22 RYAN TROTMAN
- 23 JAYDEN VILLA
- 24 DYLAN PEACOCK
- 25 CARL DE TORRES
- 31 SAMUEL PAPAPIO
- 74 KIERON GARCIA
- 87 JOSE ALBERTO CANAS

## OFFICIALS

**REFEREE:** Jason Barcelo

**ASSISTANT:** Kyron Azopardi

**ASSISTANT:** Jose Luis Jimenez Pena

**FOURTH OFFICIAL:** Denis Perez

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