

VICTORIA CITY

Victoria City FC is a professional football club based in Victoria, Concordia, Pharos. They were founded in 1885 as Old Victorians FC and changed their name in 1903. They have played home matches at the historic Lionstar Stadion since 1890, before moving to a new modern 21,000 seat stadium in Victoria Park in 2025. They have a long-standing rivalry with Champion Athletics and Dynamo Victoria, with whom they contest the «Marina derbies».

History

Early years

The club was founded following a meeting, at the Leger Hotel in Victoria on 5 November 1885. The meeting was organised by two young men, namely Jan Levis and Arto Constantine, two old-boys of Old Victoria School. The purpose of the meeting was "to discuss the possibility of forming a football club to play under Association rules". The name they adopted was Old Victorians Football Club, after the name of their school. They played their first match on 18 December 1885, a 1-1 draw to Victoria United Church FC.

OLD VICTORIANS
FC



First team logo



Back row: Loft, Intris, Bever, Edvar, Sutter, Forst, Birtviest (chairman).
Front Row: Doug, Solvers, Bronn, Avery, Hargen

**Old Victorians team, 1888 Southern League
champions**

In 1887, Old Victorians became one of the 24 clubs to form the Southern League and went ahead to win the League's first Championship title next year. They came 2nd to Hilvar Athletics in 1889 and 3rd in the next two seasons.

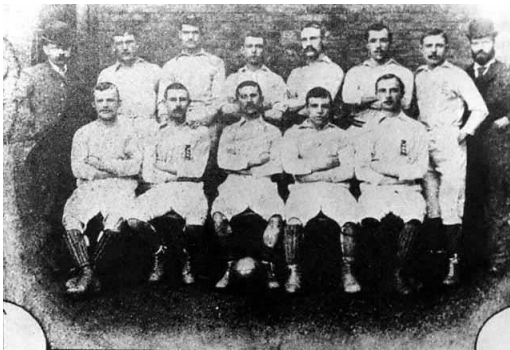
In 1890 the team moved from the premisses of the Old Victorian schoolyards to a new stadium to the north side of the city, close to the Victoria Park. The stadium could accommodate around 5,000 spectators. It was named Victoria

Park Stadium, but was to be known as Lionstar Gate Stadion, due to the Lion with a star statue in the entrance to the park. They would play their home games in this stadium, with several renovations, until 2025.

In 1891 Southern League was dissolved and Old Victorians were founder members of the Concordia Football Association. They were



Lionstar Gate Stadion 1900's



Old Victorians team, 1893

favourites to win the inaugural season, but finished 2nd to newly formed Estwald Metropolis. They emerged victorious in 1893 and repeated their success in 1894 and 1895. For this three-in-a-row titles the club was awarded a specially commissioned silver shield. They would have made it 4-in-a-row, but in 1896 they lost the title decisive game 3-4 to Cardenas SFC in Victoria. They came back next season, winning the 1897 title as well as the

1898 one, making them the most successful team in Pharos. Two more titles came in 1901 and 1903, reaching the total of 8 championship cups.

Change of name

In the summer of 1903, the board of directors decided that it was time for the club to expand. They issued 1000 new shares at the cost



**Victoria City FC
badge 1903**

of £11 each. Many of the club supporters thought the price tag was too high, so sales did not go well. The City of Victoria and Mayor Loris Avakin, a fervent supporter of the team, came to rescue. The city council voted in favour of the city's purchase of 600 shares, making the City of Victoria a majority owner of the club. Loris Avakin was the new chairman and in September of 1903 the new board voted for a name and badge change. The new name was Victoria City FC.



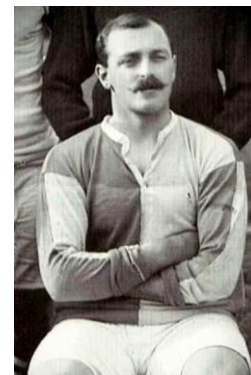
Loris Avakin

Victoria City won the 1904, 1906 and 1908 Concordian championships. Bale Krompton, a full back, was the biggest star of the team in that era. Krompton began his career as a centre-half, but it was at full-back that he excelled. Famous sports writer Carl Bethan described him as *"...the outstanding full-back of his time. A commanding personality, he was the best kicker*

of a ball I ever ran across". Also, in that era the City invested into the expansion of the Stadium, that reached a capacity of 20,000 by 1910.

Early 20th century

Victoria City struggled during the decades that followed until WWII, a period dominated by Select and their city rivals, Champion Athletics. They would first compete at the National Championship in 1941, as runners-up in the Concordian League (Select were National champions in 1940). They would finish in 10th and last position. In 1946 they were crowned Concordian Champions, 38 years after their last one,



Bale Krompton

with Krompton as manager, but once again they finished in the last position in the Nationals.

In 1948, Victoria City were relegated to Concordia's 2nd division. At this time the tradition of «burying a coffin» began. Fans took to the streets of Victoria, carrying a coffin, filled with vegetables (they were supposed to represent the players in the team, nowadays a dummy named Victor lies in the coffin). They paraded around the



«Burying the coffin» in 2018

city and «buried» the coffin in the cellar of Trade Hall Pub; a place supporters of the team gather before games. This tradition is repeated every time the team is relegated (the coffin is «raised» when the team is promoted again).

1960's team

In 1965 Duncan Dall came as manager. Dall had worked with arch-rivals Dynamo Victoria, winning 3 Championship titles (1955, 1956 and 1957). He sold most of the players in the team and bought experienced players from all over Concordian mid-table teams. By 1968 only 3 of the 17 players used were born in Victoria (forwards Velander, Vilmus and von Stin). «The outsiders», as Dall's team were called, won back-to-back Concordian Championships in 1968 and 1969, with stars like captain Anslem Kesla (who later became a successful manager with AG Nobel), left winger Amel von Stin, defensive midfielder Timo Rostia, defenders Krayl Gedamo, Genar Dileni and Helnus Uyl, and forwards Beno Velander, Yahim Hilmar and Julio Vilmus. They finished 4th in the 1968 National Championship, level on points with 2nd and 3rd place Atlantic Union and Foundation BC.



Duncan Dall

Unfortunately, this great team did not last. Dall was offered a contract in Britain with Blackburn Rovers, taking some players with him as well. Victoria City did not win another title until the formation of PSL in 1981.



1968 Victoria City

Back row: Krayl Gedamo, Sam Trinsel, Levi Yalin, Genar Dileni, Helnus Uyl, Timo Rostia.
Front row: Yahim Hilmar, Amel von Stin, Beno Velander, Fernando Ostiba, Anselm Kesla

The PSL era

When PSL was formed in the summer of 1981, Victoria City was selected for the 2nd division.



Anselm Kesla

Guided by former player Anselm Kesla as manager, the team finished in 2nd place and was promoted to PSL A. Kesla's reputation of finding young talents (like Mark Trendel and Bale Del Heez in Victoria City), gained him a lucrative contract with AG 1959. Anselm Lee replaced him, keeping the team in the top tier for the next 3 seasons.

Victoria City would stay in PSL B till 1987, when PSL changed its format to a closed 24-team one, with play-offs and no

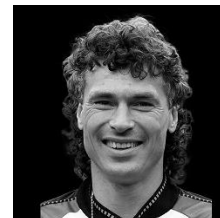


Mark Trendel

relegation. The team from Victoria was one of the teams that qualified. Marcel Motar was the new manager. They qualified for the play-offs (eliminated in the first round) in their first season in 1988, but failed the next 3 seasons, finishing last in the regular season. Former Select player Dan Glovic came in 1991, leading the team to the play-offs in 1992 and 1993, where they were eliminated in the 1st round by Ferephon Union. The Austrian international Anton Polster was 1993 top league scorer with 25 goals.



Dan Glovic



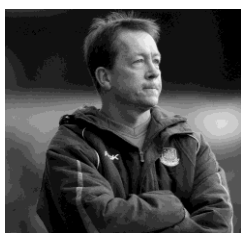
Anton Polster

Bankruptcy and rise again

By the mid 1990's the club was facing financial problems. The City of Victoria, the team's major shareholder, could not afford the rising expenses and put the team up for sale. Unfortunately, no serious buyer was found and in the summer of 1995 Victoria City declared bankruptcy.

In an effort to save the team and players' contracts, Champion Athletics and Victoria City FC agreed on a partial merger, with Champion taking over City's professional team, with Victoria City being relegated to Concordia's 3rd division as an amateur team. This merger did not please Victoria City fans, who demonstrated against the decision and demanded the resignation of the board. The City of Victoria council decided to sell the shares for 1,00 ff each to individual supporters, so the team was not written off the books of professional football.

The so called «black period» in Victoria City's history would last until 2005, with the team struggling in the lower divisions of Concordian League.



David Theunis

David Theunis, a former player of Champion VA and Palmar Vigo, who was forced to end his playing career early due to a back injury, was given the director of football and manager position in 2003. He managed to bring Victoria City to the top division of Concordia and win 8-in-a-row Concordian titles, from 2006 to 2013. He also won the National PSC Championship in 2011 and 2013, as PSL was still a closed championship with no promotion or

relegation.

2014 onwards

With the expansion of PSL in the 2014-15 season, Victoria City were PSC A champions and were promoted to PSL B division. They would gain promotion to the top tier in 2017, led by former Hilvar Athletics international star, center forward Istis Natral and winger Salvor



Istis Natral

Vervlot, who together scored 28 of the team's 56 goals. They could not hold more than a season, as Natral was sold to AG Nobel and David Theunis left for Titania Shcottegut.

In 2019 they avoided relegation to PSC by winning the play-out game against Dynamo Pharos, but could not avoid it the next season, as the finished in 17th position in PSL B and were relegated to PSC. Former player Zeb Nespoor was in charge as manager and brought Victoria City back to PSL B in 2021. Ador Carlin came in mid-season 2023 and almost guided the team back to PSL A in 2024-25, finishing in 4th position.

Things got better in financing as well, as the board of directors came to an agreement with Pharonian industrialist and businessman Theo Banger for the sale of the team's majority package. Banger built his fortune in the steel industry, amassing a personal fortune of ff 600 million. By the end of 2019 Banger became Victoria City's new owner.



Theo Banger

The new Victoria Park Stadium

The need for a new stadium for Victoria City was already apparent in 1980s and in 2023 Victoria's 2nd largest club got its dream. And dreamy it seemed: a stadium to combine a retractable roof, sliding field and cooling/heating of the entire volume. It was built just a few meters away from the old stadium, inside the Victoria Park, the area provided by the City of



Victoria, with Lionstar Gate Stadium to be demolished after the team's move to the new premises.

This unique challenge was taken up by Alyn Architect. To make it economic a simple steel frame was created without any room for corner seating, becoming both the stadium's outer walls and support for two rounded segments of the moving roof. The field moves on an 11,000-ton platform. The design created room for 21,000 seats including 49 skyboxes spreading across two floors of the west side. For concerts it's even higher, up to 41,000 people can cram inside. The cost was undertaken by Victoria City's owner Theo Banger, through his company ConCom and ownership was split in half with the City of Victoria that provided the land. The club has the option to buy out the City's

percentage in the near future. The stadium was inaugurated on June 1st 2025, with a friendly game between Victoria City and Pharos champions AG Nobel.