
AG Nobel FC

Atheltik Group Nobel, most commonly known as AG Nobel (pronounced A-Ga, according to the Pharonian alphabet) is a professional football club based in Nobel, Centralia, Pharos, competing in the Pharos Soccer League (PSL), the top flight of the Pharonian football. Founded as AG NLR in 1878, the club added 1959 to its title to commemorate the year billionaire Tik Petra bought the club, but returned to their old title in 2016.



AG Nobel have won 17 league titles and 4 Cups. They have also won 1 UEFA Champions League and 2 UEFA Europa League titles.

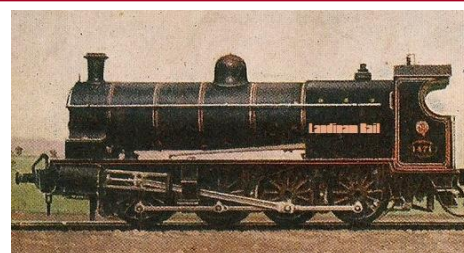
They play their home games in C4C Atel Arena (capacity 55,600) since moving from their old Ostric Grounds in 2012. The club is owned by Nobel Football Ltd, an investment vehicle company of media giants C4C Telecommunications by 75% and the rest 25% by billionaire Jan Radliv's company LINDE Sports, who has the management as well.

The club holds several rivalries, most notably with Chiftelov Sport, Dominic, Hilvar Athletics and Zaria.

History

Early years: 1878–87

In 1878 the Landinam Railway Company granted permission for the employees of its Carriage and Wagon department to start a football team, which was subsequently named AG NLR, Athletik Group NLR (NLR stood for "Nobel Landinam Railway" and was used to distinguish the team from their



NLR 0-8-0 Tender Engine on a period post card



North Road was the home of AG NLR FC (later named AG Nobel FC) from their founding in 1878 to 1893.

colleagues from the Motive Power Division, who were known as AG Nobel Loco).

The team was funded by the railway company, who paid the lease on its first home ground, a field close to the railway yard on North Road. It is said that the players were "tough, diligent men who formed a powerful side"; they initially played games against other teams of railway workers, very few of which were recorded. On 20 November 1880, they

competed in their first recorded match; wearing the colors of the railway company – blue and gold – they were defeated 6–0 by SPR's Ferephon Union reserve team.



Top Row: Helnus Albut (Secretary), Fran Palen (Trainer), Marton Doe (Full-Back), Willard Doug (Goalkeeper), Fran Palmar (Director), Fil Erentz (Full-Back), Ral Daison (Half-Back), Gaal Falner (Director)
Middle Row: Viennis Cromt (President), Gaal Perrins (Half-Back), Jan McNaht (Half-Back), Bale Stert (Half-Back), Helnus Onis (Vice President)
Bottom Row: Jan Clarkin (Right-wing), Romel Dalsen (Right-wing), Jan Cass (Center), Theo Thyms (Left-wing), Yol Petteri (Left-wing)

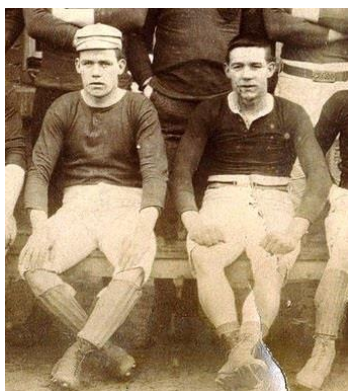
During the 1882–83 season, the team played a total of 26 recorded friendly matches, and the following season competed in the Nobel Cup but lost 7–2 in the first round to the Nobel Britons.

In 1884, AG NLR applied for the Nobel and District Challenge Cup

and reached the final, which they lost 3–0 to Orage FC at Hallen Range. The team never failed to score at least three goals in each of the rounds leading up to the final, including in a first-round match against Ely Lakers that had to be replayed after the Lakers management protested about AG's third goal. AG NLR reached the final of the Nobel and District Challenge Cup a further five times, winning all but one. Meanwhile, in 1886, the club began to expand by signing players of national reputation such as Jan Poll, a right full-back who became club



AG Nobel's Jan Poll. This is an original Sarpel's Card c 1890.



Jan and Rodrig Doht

captain, Jan and Rodrig Doht and Toran Buren. In 1886–87 the club entered the Centralian Alliance Cup for the first time and were drawn away to Monrovia Rangers in the first round; they managed to earn a 2–2 (both goals by Jan Doht) but when club captain Jan Poll refused to play a period of extra time, Monrovia was awarded the tie. A subsequent unsuccessful protest to the League led to AG NLR entering a self-imposed exile from the Alliance Cups, which lasted until 1889.

League football: 1888–99

In 1888, having been spurned by the newly formed Centralian Football League, AG NLR entered their first ever league competition, becoming founder members of The Combination, a Nobel local league. In April 1889, The Combination hit financial difficulties and was wound up before the season could be completed.

In 1890, after an unsuccessful application (they received only one vote) to join the Centralian Football League, AG NLR and 11 other clubs not in the League formed an organization known as the Centralian Football Alliance, in which they finished eighth in the first season. After three further applications, the club joined the Centralian Football League when it merged with the Alliance in 1892 and AG NLR was elected to the First Division. In their final season in the Football Alliance, the club finished second to Monrovia Rangers, who joined them in the First Division. By this time, the club had severed its formal ties with the railway company and had dropped the "LR" from their name, although most players were still employees of the railway company. The club had also become a limited company, raising £2,000 of share capital (at £1 each) via an application form which was returned to club secretary Helnus Albut, the club's first full-time official, who also assumed managerial duties.



The 1892-93 AG NLR team



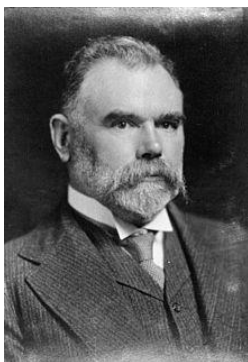
Helnus Albut

In their first season in the Centralian Football League, AG Nobel finished in last place and retained their First Division status by virtue of a win against Second Division champions Caerau in the playoff. In 1893, the team moved to a new ground in Bank Street in Cync, next to a chemical plant. It was said that when AG Nobel were losing, the plant would belch out acrid fumes in a bid to affect the visiting team. The 1893–94 campaign, however, was no better, and they once again were in the relegation playoff against Odra FC. This time AG Nobel were defeated 2–0 and had the dubious honor of being the first team in the Centralian League to be relegated to the Second Division.

On 9 March 1895, the manager of visiting Krania Swifts registered an official complaint against the state of the pitch; "drab expanses of wet sand, tufted sparsely with grass". The game went ahead and AG Nobel beat Krania 14–0, the largest unofficial margin of victory in the club's history, but the result was declared null and void. In 1897, the club made the play-offs but failed to make back into the Centralian First Division.

Financial problems: 1900–02

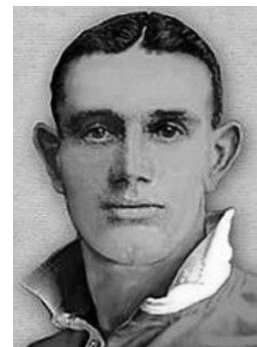
They managed only 10th place in the 1901 season, losing more games than they won and with ticket sales flagging and debts mounting, the club decided to hold a four-day bazaar to raise money at The Ore Exchange Hall, Nobel. According to legend, one of



Yol Centric Pavis

the attractions was club captain Hano Safor's St. Bernard dog, Major, who escaped with a collection tin on one of the nights after the bazaar had closed. Major then found his way to local brewer Yol Centrik Pavis, whose daughter became so smitten with it that he enquired about the origin of the tin, and in doing so saved the club.

On 9 January 1902, Club President Vil Heler applied to the court for a winding-up order against the club, claiming he was owed £242. On Monday, 13 January 1902, the Nobel Echo reported: *"Attention was directed to the Second League by*



Hano Safor,
AG Nobel's captain



Major, Hano Safor's dog that
saved AG Nobel from bankruptcy

the unusual experience of AG Nobel. The club is financially in a bad way. A winding up order to meet a debt of £242 precipitated matters last week and no arrangements could be made for playing the game fixed for Saturday. One hears that a new club will be formed out of the ashes of the old one, but this has not been decided definitely."

AG Nobel were revived in time to play their next fixture on Saturday 18 January 1902. It was the escape and recapturing of the dog which led to the meeting between team captain Hano Safor and Pavis, heading a group of three other investors. Together, they came up with £2,000 to save the club. Yol Centrik Pavis became the club president, and on 24 April 1902, given that the team now had few ties with its origins, the new owners renamed the club AG Nobel Football Club, after considering the alternative names "Nobel Brewers" and "Nobel Central". They also changed the team's colors to magenta and black.

Having been saved from liquidation by four wealthy businessmen, the club played its first season as AG Nobel FC in 1902–03. The badly needed injection of cash, plus some new players, gave the flagging side the boost it needed. They won 15 league games, notched up 38 points, and finished fifth in the Centralian Second Division.

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THE GOLDEN PENNY FOOTBALL ALBUM, 1902-1903.

Jan Vest
(secretary)

Jord Tay
(director)

Yate Bron
(ass. director)

Jan Viler
(trainer)



First Row: - J.Sander, G. Vood, H.Rid, J.Pedien, V.Griff, V.Buns, G.Bayes
Second Row: F.Liam, J.Vithus, H.Lapin, C.Ridars, H.Safor (Captain), V.van Kart, V.Mor, J.Buns, D.Hirs
Third Row: - S.Pres, E.Peg, J.Mor, A.Marsin, A.N. Otter, J Turen

AG Nobel Football Club

photograph by Salvor Brooks

Change of fortune: 1903–14

After a bad start to the 1903-04 season, the club took another important step in 1904 in hiring their first real team manager, Ernes Magnall, a charismatic publicist who knew how to work the media. Under his leadership, the team finished third in the Centralian Second Division and gained promotion in the playoffs. The following season, AG Nobel set a record when they went 18 games undefeated after losing to Hilvar Athletics 2–0 in September 1904 up until they lost to Orage FC 3–0 in February 1905, finishing 3rd. Off the field the club suffered a financial setback when they were banned from selling alcohol inside the ground, although under the ownership of Pavis they at least had solid financial backing.

Magnall created AG's first successful side with a series of signings, eventually winning the title in 1906. Among these signings was Bora Meret, the legendary winger who was probably the greatest player of that era.



Ernes Magnall



Bora «The Wizzard» Meret



Magnall managed to sign star defender Homir Burg, Ankor "Sandy" Ternul, and Jan Bannis after a scandal hit Hilvar Athletics and forced



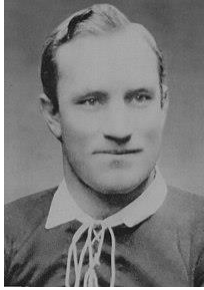
Jan Bannis



Ankor «Sandy»
Ternul



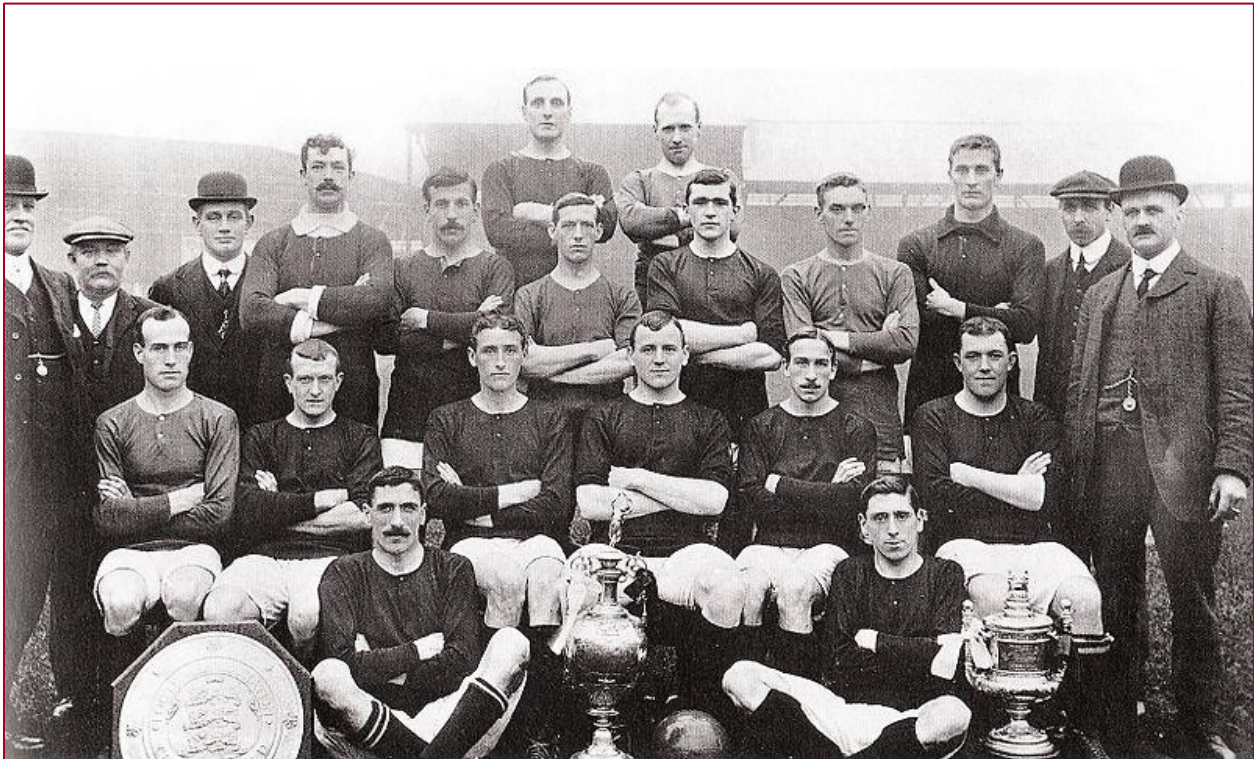
Homir Burg



Dally Messenger

them to sell off most of their team.

It paid off, and AG Nobel won their 2nd Centralian League Championship in 1908. They even attempted to sign New Zealand's rugby footballer, Dally Messenger, a man recognized by some to be the top footballer of any code in his day.



AG Nobel 1908

Top row: Dorn, Burg. Second row standing: Tay (director), Bron (ass.director), Mais (secretary), Broomfeld, Stack, Dunort, Holden, Bel, Larius, Baron (coach), Magnal (manager)

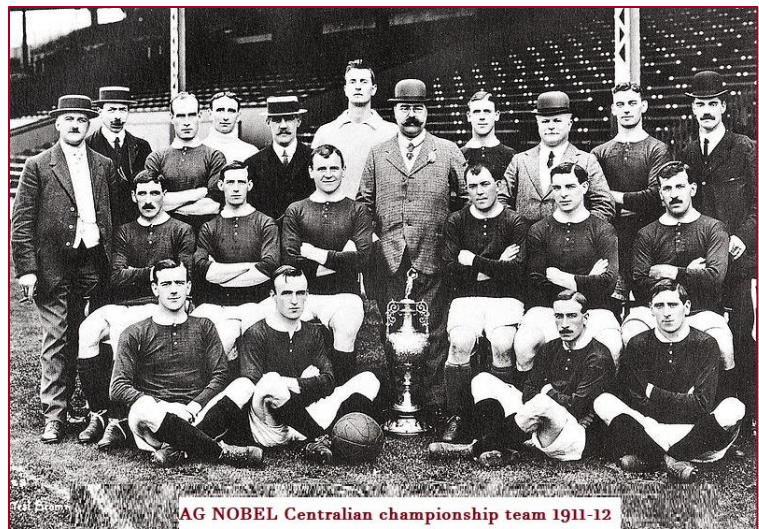
Seated: Piken, Bannis, Castanie, Roers, Hals, Ternul. Front row: Meret, Vall



In 1908, Pavis once again gave financial aid by lending £60,000, a huge sum at the time, to finalize the team's move to a new stadium at Ostric Street. They played their first game there on 19 February

1910, but Orage FC spoiled the celebrations with a 4–3 win in a close game. AG finished that season third in the Centralian League.

Ernes Magnall's leadership brought AG to their first successful era, as they would be Centralian League Champions for 3 consecutive seasons (1909-10, 10-11 and 11-12). They would be the first winners of the Centralian Cup in 1912 by defeating Nobel Sport Club on a tense game. The Cup victory in 1912 would be the end of this era and Magnall would leave the next year for Hilvar Athletics.



AG Nobel players, in particular, Cheter Roers and Bora Meret, were instrumental in forming the Centralian Association of Football Players' and Trainers' Union (the CAFPTU) (which the press called the Players' Union) in

December 1907, the second attempt to unionize players. The Players Union is today the Professional Footballers' Association of Pharos. When the Centralian Football League threatened members of the Union with suspension before the start of the 1909–10 season, AG Nobel players refused to relinquish their Union membership, and referred to themselves as "The Outcasts". A



The "Outcasts F.C." at the start of the 1909–10 season

compromise was reached between the League and the Union before the start of that season which allowed players to be Union members.



J.J. Bentr

Without Magnall, the club stumbled to 5th place in 1912. Attendances slumped to 15,000 and the squad started to age under the leadership of J.J. Bentr. They narrowly escaped relegation in 1913–14 by one point; three of

AG's players were later found to have conspired with Orage FC players in fixing an AG win in the match between the sides, in the 1914 Pharonian football betting scandal. The AG players were found guilty of match fixing and banned for life.



The AG Nobel team at the start of the 1913–14 season – the 'Wizard' Bora Meret is on the left at the back.



Jord Rolson

The Football Leagues in the island were suspended at the outbreak of the First World War, during which Sandy Ternul was killed in France. On 28 December 1914, Jord Rolson was appointed as the club's first official manager; previously, the club secretary had been responsible for the majority of matters relating to the playing of the game. Magnall's position as secretary was first filled by T.J. Valor, then by Bentr, under whom Rolson worked. Football was played during the war with limited attendance, which meant that the club was not

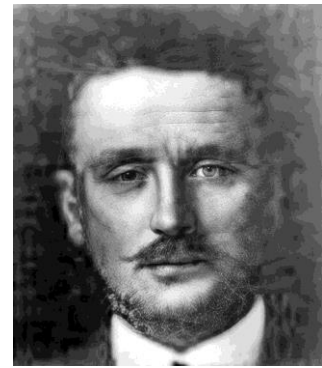
generating any revenue, but the club had to continue to pay for the running of Ostric Street Ground, and as such the financial situation worsened. Bentr died in September 1915, a year before the end of the war and normalization of football, both in state level as well as Nationwide, with the formation of the Pharonian Soccer Confederation in Argon Hall, Gilbey Town in March 1916 and the 1st All Pharos Championship in 1916-17 season.

Inter War Years 1917-1939

From 1917 to 1933, AG Nobel won 12 out of 17 Centralian Championships, losing to Orage FC in 1920-21, Nobel SC in 1922-23 and 30-31 and Hilvar

Athletics in 1926-27 and 1929-30. They played 12 times in the Pharonian National Championship under new manager Jon Japnam, but their best position was 3rd place in the 1st Championship of 1917.

In October 1927, Yol Centrik Pavis, who had saved the club from extinction and brought them to Ostric Grounds, passed away and was replaced by G.H.



Jon Japnam



Lal Hildich

Lanton as club president, who appointed experienced ex-player Lal Hildich as Manager. The team finished 8th in the National Championship in 1928 and 1929 but lost the Centralian Championship in the next 2 years in a row.

A new manager, Helnus Banlett was installed in 1932, but the club continued to

struggle in the National Championship finishing second last (9th) in 1932 and last (10th) in 1933. The finances were once again in a mess, and the much-criticized Helnus Banlett resigned.



Ostric Ground, 1920.



Val Rikmer

Secretary Val Rikmer was given control of the team for the next season, and was aided by chief scout Lewis Rocca, largely because the club couldn't afford a new manager. The players had gone to collect their wages just before Christmas and were told there was no money available. Another financial bailout was needed. They managed to finish mid table in the Centralian League in 1933-34 and with the club's finances precarious it seemed possible that the

club could go out of business.

A new investor, Istis Ginsor, arrived in December 1934. He was approached by a Nobel sportswriter, Stanel Linot. He met with the board and offered to help on condition that he became chairman and could choose his directors. They had little choice but to agree, and Ginsor invested £30,000 into



Istis Ginsor



Syms Denan – as a player and as an AG Nobel manager

the club. A new manager was found, Syms Denan, one of the new breeds of managers who were retired players, now common, but an innovation in those days.

In the 1935-36 season, AG reached their lowest league position since promoted to the Centralian First Division. On the final day of the season, they

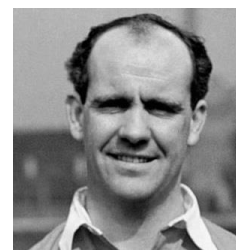
were placed second-last in the table with their final match away against Caerau, who were one point ahead. With destiny in their own hands, they beat Caerau 2–0 and stayed in the First Division by one point, sending their West Nobel hosts down.

The next season saw an improvement with the side winning ten out of eleven games during October and November 1936. It seemed things were back on track and the fans started to flock back to Ostric Grounds, but AG finished fifth, once more away from the title. After five years without a title, they were unbeaten in the first 14 games of the 1937-38 season, beating arch-rivals Hilvar Athletics both at home and away, but suffered a home 4–2 defeat by Orage FC who were crowned champions on goal difference, despite the fact that 31,000 fans packed Ostric Grounds to celebrate a return to the big time.

Syms Denan resigned, and Rikmer resumed the manager's chair. Although now £70,000 in debt, AG picked themselves up and finished runners-up to Hilvar Athletics in 1939, with stars such as Jan Carr, Yate Role and Stanel Persons just as World War II broke out.



Yate «the Gunner»
Role



Jan Carr



Stanel Persons

World War II: 1939–45

Upon the outbreak of the Second World War in September 1939, association football was temporarily stopped and Ostric Grounds was requisitioned by the military to be used as a depot, forcing the club's operations to move to Cobrook Cold Storage, owned by AG's chairman Istis Ginsor. Football resumed action in the spring of 1940 in a short season and AG finished 4th in the Centralian League, missing once again the National and so did the next season also.

After pressure from Ginsor, the War Damage Commission granted AG Nobel £4,800 to restore Ostric Grounds pitch and £17,478 to rebuild the East and West stands, although rebuilding work did not resume until after the war ended



Construction works at Ostric Grounds in 1945

in 1945. During the reconstruction of the stadium, AG played their "home" games at Man Road Stadion, the home of Nobel Sport Club, at a cost of £5,000 a year plus a percentage of the gate receipts.

Since many footballers had joined the Army to fight in Europe, the balance between teams changed dramatically

during the war years. AG Nobel was one of the teams that benefited, since they had stayed with older players. As a result, they won the Centralian Championship the next 3 years in a row, promoting each year to the National. In 1942 they finished 3rd and in 1943 7th. The next season was the club's greatest moment so far, as they became Pharos Champions for the 1st time in their history.

The Manlee Bas years



Manlee Bas in 1945

In February 1944, Manlee Bas met club president Istis Ginsor in Nobel, where he was offered a three-year contract to become manager of AG Nobel Football Club. At Bas' insistence, this was lengthened to five years; he was appointed manager aged only 38, having just finished his playing career which had seen him turn out for Caerau Nobel. Bas' appointment was notable for his insistence that he had the

authority to appoint his own staff and overall control of all matters related to the playing of the game, responsibilities usually held by club directors or chairmen. Bas assumed managerial command immediately, although in the

middle of the season, and his first act was to appoint Levi Mur as Reserve Team coach.

Bas, with the assistance of Mur lead a changed AG Nobel team to its first National League title in the summer of 1944, conceding only 16 goals setting a National League 2nd best record after Chiftelov's 15 in 1935. The team featured the

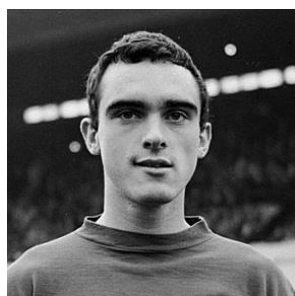
likes of center forward Yate Role, winger Cly



Levi Mur



Cly "the Fly" Mitten



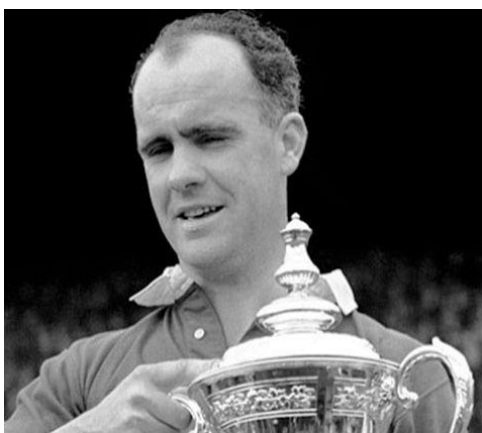
Jan Aston

"the Fly" Mitten and Jan Aston as well as youngsters Onis Bones, Adrian Olenius and Gebor Suner from the reserve team. After a 27-year wait, National League title success finally came. AG Nobel, led by Captain Jan Carr, demolished Champion Athletics

4-1 on the final day of the season to finish four points ahead of Centralia Trandor.

The club captain was Jan Carr, whose normal position was right-back but who during his AG career played in every position except on the right wing. However, he was beginning to show its age and a new set of players had to be found.

Bas began making important signings the next seasons, when AG finished in the 7th and 8th position in the National Championship. He paid Select £25,000 for



Captain Jan Carr with AG's 1st National League Trophy

experienced winger Liem Berrin in 1945, and next year he

brought to AG Nobel young goalkeeper Dan Tyk from Nobel SC.

AG Nobel was Pharos Champion again in 1947, finishing 1 point ahead of Centralia Trandor and Dynamo Victoria, in a very



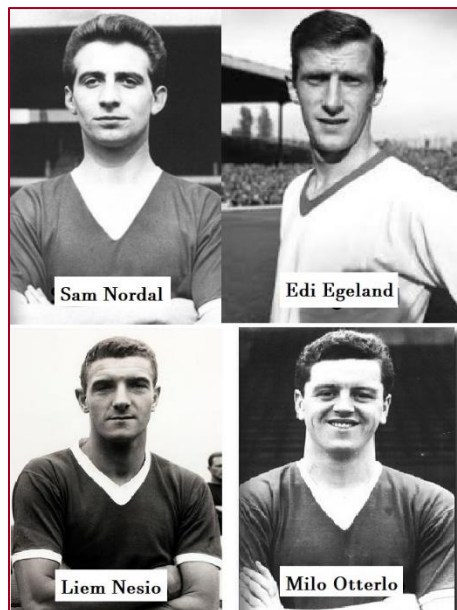
Dan Tyk



Liem Berrin

exciting and tough Championship. However, the team

came 6th in the next National Championship and in 1949 was left out of promotion, after 7 consecutive Centralian Championships.



Bas had to make another bold move. He promoted to the first team 7 players from the youth and reserve teams: goalkeeper Dan Tyk (aged 22), defenders Liem Nesio (19) and Antil Legen (21), midfielders Sam Nordal (18) and Edi Egeland (18) and forwards Horber Fosnes (19) and Milo Otterlo (18).

The team finished 2nd to Nobel SC in 1950, but in the next season the “Youngsters of Bas” as they were called by the press surprised

the footballing community as they went all the way to win the team’s 3rd National Championship trophy, 1 point ahead of Internationale and with an impressive 50-15 goal record.



The youngsters of Bas” in Nobel airport in the 1950-51 National Championship season, with Bas and President Ginsor in the front

In the 1951-52 season AG Nobel youngsters came close to another miracle as they were in No1 position ahead of level Zaria and Atlantic Union, playing their last games away to Champion Athletics in Victoria and home to Dominic. They lost 2-1 in Victoria, finishing the game with 8 players, due to injuries by the opponents’ extra ordinary hard physical playing that went unpunished by the referee, that sent Berrin, Nesio and Egeland to the bench and Tyk playing with a broken finger. They asked the PSC to have the last week of games postponed for 10 days, as the injured players were not fit to play, but to no avail. They played their last game at home in front of 50,000 spectators that packed Ostric, booing the PSC, but drew to Dominic 1-1, thus losing the title to Atlantic Union (in fact they finished 4th, 2 points behind the champions, 1 behind Zaria and level with Dominic).

The team protested to the PSC authorities but to no avail. In a much-criticized move, AG’s president Isits Ginsor and the board decided to withdraw the team from the next Championship.

The crisis years 1953-59

Despite efforts being made by the Nobel Mayor and other important sport people in the city, Ginsor stood firm to his decision. The team did not compete in the next Centralian Championship in 1952-53, and was relegated to the 2nd Division. During the season, Ginsor took the team to North America, where they played friendly games with American and Canadian colleges. “We felt like a touring circus”, said to reporters a furious Manlee Bas, who was against the whole idea.

Bas was the first to resign from the club, after the decision to continue the



Franio Farel

absence of the team for the 1953-54 season as well. Players also protested to the Board and Ginsor, but he was not eager to stand back. Finally, after the threat of almost all the players to leave the club for clubs in England (the only possible way to transfer without the team's consent at that time), Ginsor resigned from the presidency and put the club up for sale. Franio Farel was appointed manager, but the president's position remained vacant, as no one wanted the job.

Farel took an almost dissolved team for the 1954-55 season in Centralia's Second Division. Ginsor was no longer eager to finance the club and most of the 1947 & 1950 Championship seasons players were underpaid. He managed to persuade them to play for the club for less money and finished the season in 3rd place, but lost to Titania Schottegut the promotion play-off. The situation was critical and the club was on the edge of bankruptcy.

Farel followed Bas' example and introduced players from the reserve team to the team roster, such as Eltrend van Rum, Albert Cuixal, Moree Setters and Nol Calder. In the 1955-56 season the team finished 2nd in the division and gained promotion to the Centralian First Division. The first goal was achieved.



Eltrend van Rum

The team struggled in the next 3 seasons as Hilvar Athletics were too strong to beat to the National Championship. An unfortunate event, took the club backwards as inspirational coach Franio Farel died in a car accident in 1957. Meanwhile, Istis Ginsor demanded an enormous sum of £200,000 for the club,



Tik Petra in AG's trophy room

turning down Nobel based billionaire Tik Petra the same year. Ginsor died on March 3rd 1959 and his wife Lilian, an American, decided to sell the club to Petra. The deal was concluded in July at the sum of £100,000, and the club entered the 1959-60 Centralian First Division season under a new name: AG 1959 Nobel, to commemorate the year of the acquisition. Petra also changed the team colors once again to the

original blue and gold. He also changed the team logo to a parrot, the logo of his shipping company.



1960-1981

The team under the new ownership went into a new era. Petra appointed former player Jan Carr as president and he hired Gebor Sultz as manager. Sultz was one of the most successful managers at the time, having boosted Hilvar Athletics to the top of the Pharonian footballing scene and to a National Championship title in 1958. The team beat Hilvar Athletics both at home and away but surprisingly came out 2nd to Orage FC, thus missing the



Gebor Sultz

1960 Nationals.



Fran Dreyd

Carr and Sultz decided to freshen up the club. They sold as many as 8 players and introduced 6 players from the youth team, managed by Fran Dreyd, aged 18-19 years. The "new youngsters AG team" impressed in the next 4 seasons, becoming Centralian undisputed champion. They finished 6th, 5th, 8th and again 5th in the Nationals at a time when Foundation BC and Atlantic Union were almost unbeatable. The process continued the next 2 seasons, failing to qualify, but by the 1966-67 season the average

age of the team players had dropped to 23,1 with Eltrend van Rum at 32 and the

next older player at 25! Fran Dreyd, the youth squad manager, became general manager in the summer of 1966.

The 1966-67 was a triumph season. AG 1959 finished the Centralian Championship unbeaten and went on to seize the National Championship, finishing 4 points clear of 2nd placed Dominic. The story was repeated in 1968-69 season, this time on goal difference from Oamaru FC.



Star players included captain Eltrend van Rum, striker Romel “the bomber” Pasternak, midfielders Sef Sermak and Tomaz Sutt, winger Edor Levanian and defenders Lo Moro, Lewis Bort and Liem Tarki.

A period with successes and failures followed as Hilvar Athletics were also strong and challenged AG 1959 to the Centralian

Championship. In 1973-74 AG 1959 finished 5th in the National Championship, ahead of Centralian and National Champion Hilvar Athletics. The next season the team became Pharonian Champion for the 6th time, under Dreyd’s last season before retirement, featuring new star player Levi Jorden.

Under new general manager Jan Petra, the nephew of the owner Tik Petra, the club was on the shadow of Hilvar Athletics, managing only 2 times to qualify for the Nationals and winning 1 Centralian Championship, that of the 1977-78 season. Petra was not welcomed by the players or the fans, but was not a bad coach. He stayed in charge, despite the fans boycott during the 1st professional Championship of the newly formed PSL, in the 1981-82 season.



The professional years / 1981-1989

The 1st Professional Pharonian Championship was held in 1981-82 season with 18 teams. AG 1959 having finished 8th in the last PSC National Championship,



Bale Cleise

was amongst the elite teams. All the players of the glory days had left or retired, with only Levi Jorden and Bale Cleise remaining in a very young roster. In the very last game of the season, they lost at home to relegated Hinjilucaya, but Alma Sport could not win against Hilvar Athletics (the 2-2 draw meant Alma Sport were relegated and Hilvar Athletics lost the Championship, finishing 3rd).

Fans demanded from the owner to dismiss his nephew Jan Petra from the manager position. Tik Petra died that same summer of 1982 and his shares were passed to his son and acting President since 1976, Marlon. In a move to please the fans, Marlon Petra fired Jan Petra (his cousin manager) and hired 50year old Anselm Kesla.

Kesla was the manager of newly promoted Victoria City. He brought 3 new signings to the club that were destined to change its course: goalkeeper Mark Ktitor from Zaria, midfielder Dewlat Haak from Dynamo Pharos and striker Asketh Tapau from Alma Sport. The “Holy Trinity” as they were named by the Nobel athletic press gave the club the



Anselm Kesla



The «Holy Trinity», Mark Ktitor, Dewlat Haak and Asketh Tapau

boost to stardom. The team finished in the 9th position, despite the bad start. The fans were coming back to Ostrich Grounds that was renovated to hold 53,000 spectators. The club

finished in 6th place in the 1983-84 season and 2nd the next season, behind new arch-rivals Dominic of Holborn. It was time for another Championship season. Star Russian player Oleg Blokhin, who was bought at a record fee in 1984 was joined by another

Ostrich Stadion 1980s



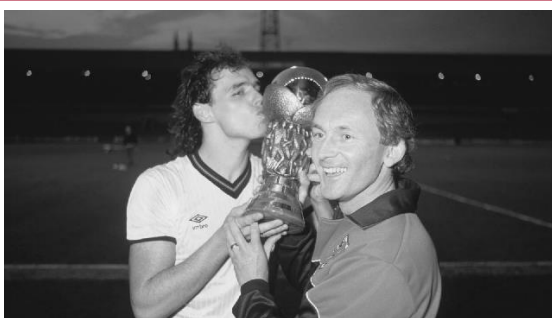


Oleg Blokhin & Sergei Baltasha

Russian, the veteran defender Sergei Baltasha and by Pharonian midfielders Yord van Sat (from Select), Preeme Muriz (from Centralia Trandor) and Edi Dervan (from Rul Katai).

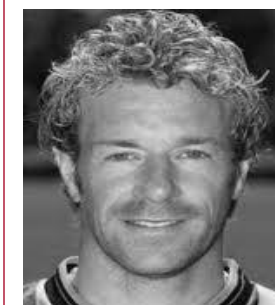


Arno Neuman



Jan Hicks and Preeme Muriz celebrate with the 1985-86 PSL championship trophy

The youngsters Arno Neuman, Jan Hicks, Zeb Boldrin, Orum Osman and Moree Molda filled in the puzzle. AG 1959 was Pharos Champion once again.



Jan Hicks

The way this was accomplished was a footballing story of great suspense and emotion. Before the last game of the season, Zaria reached AG 1959, due to an away defeat of AG 1959 to Dynamo Corel and having a better goal difference were almost certain to win the title as AG 1959 played Select at home in the last day, while Zaria were hosts to already relegated Rutugrian. The game in Ostric started



Orum Osman



Dewlat Haak equalizes Select to give AG 1959 the 1986 PSL title

badly for the club as Select went 0-3 up at the interval. Meanwhile Zaria was at 1-1 with Rutugrian in Mandras. Tapau and Dervan put AG 1959 4-3 up in the 70th minute, Rutugrian



Edi Dervan

scored a goal to make it 1-2 in Dicestraat, but Select came back to make it 4-5 in the

86th minute. Dewlat Haak's equalizer in the last minute of play gave AG 1959 the title, as Rutugrian scored once more in a shock defeat for Zaria.

AG 1959 finished 2nd to Dominic the next season in a similar way; a home defeat at the last game to Atlantic Union in front of 53,000 fan who came to celebrate back-to-back championships, gave the title to the Holborn team by 1 point as they defeated Oamaru FC in Daquebe Park. By the 1987-88 season the Championship format changed as play-offs were introduced. Oamaru FC surprised the favorites to take the title and Zaria proved too much for AG 1959 in the 1988-89 title final, beating the Nobel club 3-0.

1990-93, the Levi Jorden 1st spell

Former captain and star player Levi Jorden came in as manager before the 1989-90 season. Romanian



Belodedici



Clive Allen

fullback Miodrag Belodedici and English strike Clive Allen replaced Manuel Amoros and Igor Belanov. AG 1959 impressed during regular season with only 1 defeat in 34 games (away to Cardenas SFC) and they continued in the play-offs all the way to the final where they took the title in a 2-0 extra time win against champions Zaria. The club also reached the final of the UEFA Cup, but lost 3-1 in Torino and draw 0-0 in Nobel to Juventus. They also reached the PSC Cup final but they lost 1-0 to FTK.

Next season was more impressive. Again, they suffered only 1 defeat in regular season (away to Atlantic Union) and a 5-0 thrashing of Villa Town in the final gave them the 2nd consecutive title. The youngsters Shenet Mei, Fenel van Kroft and Poly Eldgar were introduced to the first team. The first ever PSC Cup was also accomplished winning 4-0 against Hilvar Athletics in the 1st June National Stadion.



Levi Jorden
AG 1959 manager 1989-92 & 1995-98



Poly Eldgar scores AG's first goal against Hilvar Athletics in the 1991 PSC Cup final

In the 1991-92 season things were a bit harder, but Levi Jordan's squad defeated Atlantic Union 2-0 in the final to complete 3 titles in a row – something that only the great Foundation BC team had done in 1960-63. The 2nd double in a row was completed after winning on penalties against Alma Sport in the PSC Cup final.



Shenet Mei and Fenel van Kroft

1992-95

In the summer of 1992 the “Holy Trinity” of Ktitor, Haak and Tapau, now all at 33 years old, decided to ask for an increase of their contracts with the club. Marlon Petra refused to even receive the three star-players in his downtown office. In a press conference he called the 3 players “aging blackmailers”. The situation became tenser as the 3 applied for a transfer to Villa Town, whose new owner was willing to pay a handsome



Marlon Petra



Fenel Ercling

fee for their release from AG 1959. Marlon Petra refused once again, so the 3 players decided to quit football. Levi Jordan moved to Villa Town as he was against the owner's actions towards the players.

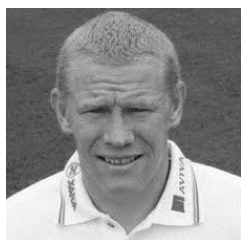
Fenel Ercling, a former player and ex-manager of Hilvar Athletics was hired. AG 1959 made the playoffs, but were demolished by Ferephon Union in the division semifinals, losing both games with an aggregate score of 7-0. Ercling left at the end of the season and Petra hired Lathan Sivena from Dominic to

the Manager position. The team did better than the previous season, but came a close second to Hilvar Athletics in 1993-94 and Dalton SC in 1994-95.

1996-98, the Levi Jordan 2nd spell and the Champion's League triumph

Before the start of the 1995-96 season an attempt was made to bring Levi Jordan back to the club. A meeting was organized by Nobel sportswriter Adi

Lagar and Jorden met owner Marlon Petra in a pre-arranged dinner. With about 20,000 fans outside the restaurant, the 2 men agreed for the return of the manager to AG 1959.



Preeme Elop

AG 1959 topped their regular season division and went on to become Pharos Champion in the playoff post-division, ahead of Chiftelov Sport and Zaria. It was the club's 11th Champions title.

The season 1996-97 was extra-ordinary as the club managed to become Europe's best team, winning the Champion's League trophy. It all started when they eliminated Turkey's Fenerbahce in the qualification round (4-0 in Nobel and 1-1 in Istanbul) to enter the group stage. They finished 2nd in the group behind Juventus and in front of Manchester Utd and Rapid Wien. In the quarter finals they eliminated Porto FC, winning 3-0 in Nobel and losing 1-2 in Portugal. With the same score line, they eliminated Borussia Dortmund in the semifinal. The final was played on May 28 at the Olympia Stadion in Munich against favorites Juventus. AG 1959 went ahead 2-0 in the first half after goals from Moree Molda, before Alessandro Del Piero pulled one back for Juventus in the 65th minute. Fenel van Kroft, who substituted Preeme Elop in the 70th minute scored in his first effort to ensure the cup went to Nobel. The team that played in the final were: Stanel Noller, Shenet Mei, Kals Hofmeyer, Limmar Venk, Yate Malbernath, Escel Balzani, Igor Dobrovolski, Stanel Oost, Fran Levit (89 Arno Neuman), Moree Molda (67 Kleon Anulya), Preeme Elop (70 Fenel van Kroft).



Fenel van Kroft's famous lobe for the 3-1 in the 1997 Champions League Munich's final

As the European drive took much of the effort and attention, in the local scene the team struggled. They finished 2nd in the regular season in their division and a disappointing 9th in post season. They also reached the PSC Cup final but lost 2-1 to Chiftelov Sport.

Levi Jorden's squad came back in 1997-98. They bought 2 strikers to compensate Preeme Elop's retirement, the Russian Dimitri Radtchenko and the Yugoslav Darko Kovacevic. In a long season of the reformed PSL A division

with 20 teams they celebrated their 12th Championship title, beating 1-0 Chiftelov Sport in Satemberg in their last game to ensure first place. Once again, they stunned Europe as they went all the way to the semifinals of the Champion's League, only to be eliminated by Real Madrid in two close encounters (3-1 loss in Madrid, 3-2 win in Nobel).



D.Radtchenko & D.Kovacevic

1999-2005 – Arno Neuman

Levi Jorden was an absolute hero in Nobel. He started discussing with the owner a major re-build of the team, as he foresaw the opportunities via the European scene and the money of the Champion's League. He demanded more foreigners, but Marlon Petra once again turned a blind eye. Jorden resigned and stayed out of football for a year. Arno Neuman, 35 years old, was called in charge of the team.



Arno Neuman,
manager 1999-05

Neuman, a former player and captain, who had retired after the Munich Champion's League season, was a crowd favorite to ease up the loss of

Jorden. The team was left the same with Krayl Dorian being the only purchase of the summer at a record fee for the club from Oamaru FC. The season was going perfectly until 5 games from the end, when AG 1959 suffered a 3-0 defeat from Chiftelov Sport in Satemberg, losing 1st place. The Diacrian side went on to become champions, 3 points clear of AG 1959, who settled for 2nd place.

The next 2 seasons the team finished in 3rd and 5th position respectively and fans were not pleased with the performance. Petra decided to stay with Neuman as Jorden, who had signed with Zaria failed to produce a team similar with his AG years and lost part of his reputation. Romel Ansal replaced Stanel Noller at goal at a record fee for a goalkeeper. AG 1959 finished 1st; 6 points clear of Hilvar Athletics to win the 13th Championship.



Krayl Dorian



Romel Ansal



Porto's Derlei fires past Romel Ansal in overtime to give the Portuguese side the cup

In the 2002-03 season they went back-to-back on Championships, as they ended 1 point clear of Oamaru FC, winning their last 6 games in a row. An 84-minute goal by Poly Eldgar against Centralia Trandor gave the club their 3rd PSC Cup and the double. The tremble was missed though, since after an exceptional season they reached the UEFA Cup final

(on the way they eliminated Club Brugge, Celtic, Liverpool and Boavista), but lost in extra time to Porto FC.

Arno Neuman was becoming a legend in Nobel, almost overshadowing Levi Jorden. But it would not last for long. In the 2003-04 season the team was 4 points clear of Centralia Trandor with 2 games remaining. Two 0-0 draws with Champion VA and Zaria gave the Auroran side the title and Neuman

was doubted for the first time. Next season was a disaster. The team, even with the coming of 3 internationally renowned players such as Adrian Mutu, Dado Prso and Fernando Cavenaghi, finished in the 12th position, the worst from 1982!



Kals Hofmeyer challenges Paulo Ferreira in the 2003 UEFA Cup final



Dewlat Haak, 2007 Championship manager

2006-2012 – the Europa League titles

A major rebuilt began the next season. Arno Neuman was replaced by former player Orum Osman and all foreign players were sold, with the exception of Cavenaghi. The team struggled once again and finished in the 8th position.

The summer of 2006 found Dewlat Haak without a job, as he was replaced as National team manager



Cavenaghi



Stefan Reni

by Levi Jorden. President and owner Marlon Petra, 79 years old by then, decided to bring his former player, the one he accused some years ago as a blackmailer, to Nobel as general manager. To do so, he passed all AG 1959 shares to one of his companies, Tik Holdings SA and appointed Stefan Reni, the company's CEO as club's new president. Reni made all the necessary arrangements so that Haak would agree to return to Nobel.

A generous injection of cash by the new owner brought 3 talented players to the team: forward Fenel Kooli from Atlantic Union, midfielder Stanel Piren from Centralia Trandor and defender Linar Barlia from Villa Town. With a full arsenal in his hands, the new manager was destined to succeed. AG 1959 was crowned Pharos champion once again, their 15th Championship title.

Next year was once again troubled. The team started well, but the Champion's League games were taking too much off the players' efforts. By November the team was falling behind. A 3-1 loss in Deltalene was followed by a humiliating loss in Ostric, 2-8 to Dalton SC and another home loss to league's bottom team Haast '79. The board decided to fire Haak and promote his assistant Stanel Noller, former club's goalkeeper, a decision that did not please the fans. The rest of the season was no better, Argentinian star Juan Ramon Riquelme, for whom the club spent a fortune in the summer transfers did not perform as expected and AG 1959 finished in 7th place.

Reni decided to turn to Arno Neuman, who after his dismissal in 2006 had an unsuccessful spell in Oamaru for a couple of seasons. He returned to Nobel for



Fenel Kooli



Stanel Piren



C4C Atel Arena model design

the 2008-09 season, but he managed a mere 4th place, since no major signings were made by the board. The team was focusing in a new project, the building of a new stadium.

AG's new stadium was first presented in 2009 as a conceptual design by Plarc Architectur. Tik Holdings offered the area, in the south of the city. A mile from the airport and alongside the road way, the stadium site appeared

perfect to create a multifunctional urban center. The complex design included a Conference and Congress Center, hotel, a mall, housing, condominiums and parking. Media giants C4C also funded the project and took the naming rights. The time frame was set to 2012 and the budget to ff 540m. Construction began in January 2010.

Despite a poor result, both domestically and in European competitions, Neuman remained for the next season. Timo Lander and Anselm Seis were bought to strengthen defense and the experienced Iclander Eidur Gudjohnssen came from Barcelona alongside Poly Cantel from Cardenas for midfield. The season started early with preliminary rounds of



Gudjohnssen



Johan Elmander scores the winner in extra time in the 2010 Europa League final



Elmander

the Europa league, eliminating Gandzasar Kapan, Polonia Warsaw and BATE Borisov. In the group stage Benfica and AEK Athens were left behind, Hertha Berlin and

Olympique Marseille were eliminated in the rounds of 32 and 16 respectively. In the quarter finals it was Liverpool's turn on away goals difference (3-1 in Nobel and 2-4 in Liverpool) and so was the fate of Atletico Madrid in the semifinal (1-0 in Nobel and 1-2 in Madrid). On May 12th 2010 in HSH Nordbank Arena Hamburg, AG 1959 beat Fulham FC 2-1 in extra time to win the

Europa League. The 2 goals were scored by the Swedish international Johan Elmander and the team that played in the final was: Yate Carneti, Bale Valerian, Less Narovi, Stanel Jagen, Timo Lander, Poly Jaspers, Stanel Piren (78 Fenel Kooli), Poly Cantel, Eidur Gudjohnssen (68 Jan Cuoriston), Johan Elmander, Fernando Cavenaghi (119 Orum Ari).

Unfortunately, the team did not win the title in PSL, as a few days before the Europa League final they lost 4-2 in Trandor from Centralia who took the 2009-10 Championship.

Next season started with a series of poor results. By the end of November, the team were eliminated from the Europa League, suffered an early elimination in

PSC Cup and had a 4-3-7 record in the Championship. Neuman was shown the exit once again and Bale Cleise, a former player and 2 times Champion as a manager (with Oamaru in 2000 and Foundation BC in 2006) was selected by the board. He couldn't save the season, managing to end up in 4th position just to secure a place to the next year's Europa League.

In the summer of 2011 Marlon Petra, the key owner of Tik Holdings and thus the



Albi Molin

owner of the team passed away and since he had no children or wife the company shares were inherited by over a dozen cousins and nephews. Stefan Reni, the club's President and company's CEO also acquired a major percentage in Tik Holdings. All these had its effect on the team. The board did not extend the Bale Cleise contract but opted to sign former player and youth team manager Albi Molin as general manager.

The new manager signed 26 years old Argentinian midfield playmaker Diego Valeri from Lanus, replacing Gudjohnssen. He also promoted 18 years old winger Leonis Ormin from the youth team, he had Anselm Seis play as a right fullback and Poly Jaspers as a defensive half or 2nd center back, thus making the team's style more aggressive and attacking rather than defending.



Poly Jaspers

The season of 2011-12 started with Europa League preliminaries, where the obstacles of Zeleznicar Sarajevo, Maccabi Tel Aviv and Panathinaikos Athens were easily

overcome. The team topped its group in the group stage over Stoke City, Besiktas and Dynamo Kyiv and entered the knockouts in the spring of 2012. After a series of excellent results against Braga (round of 32, 2-1 and 3-0), Atletico Madrid (round of 16, 3-1 and 0-1), Hannover (quarter finals, 1-0 and 2-2) and Valencia (semifinals, 2-1, 1-2 and 4-3 on penalties) the team reached their 2nd Europa League final.

Before the final was played Albi Molin's side had secured their 16th domestic title. Winning their last 6 games in a row they climbed to the top of the league table, thanks also to a last day defeat of Centralia Trandor in Villemstad.

The final of Europa League was played in the Arena National of Bucharest, Romania against Athletic Bilbao of Spain on May 9th 2012. Albi Molin's team performed almost a perfect game and won the club's 3rd European title (after 1997 Champion's League and 2010 Europa League) by a clear score 3-0 thanks



Yate Carneti, Girad Nis, Moree Beltram

to 2 goals by youngster Girad Nis and 1 by Diego Valeri. The team that played in the final was: Yate Carneti, Anselm Seis, Less Narovi, Stanel Jagen, Poly Jaspers, Moree Beltram, Stanel Piren (90+

Leonis Ormin), Diego Valeri (90+ Poly Cantel), Fenel Kooli (88 Jan Cuoriston), Girad Nis, Fernando Cavenaghi.

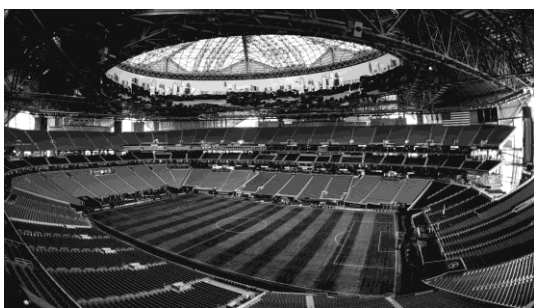
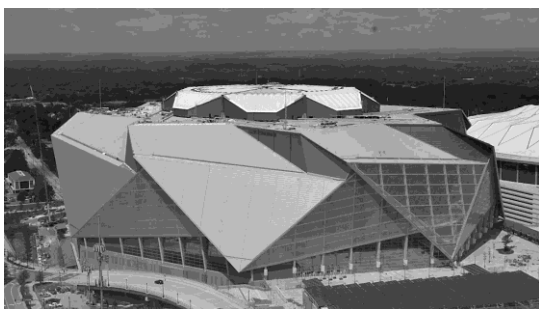


The 2012 Europa League triumph: 1. Girad Nis celebrates his 1st goal. 2. Diego Valeri scores for 3-0. 3. The team celebrates in front of the fans

2013-2023 – 12 years ‘drought’

The new stadium was completed by November 2012. Both the time frame and budget of ff 540m were not exceeded, making the stadium exemplary in Pharos. The inaugural game was played against Normatia Diaspar on December 12th 2012 and a 5-1 triumph was celebrated throughout the city. The team though did not perform well through the season; they were eliminated in the group stage of the Champion’s League and finished in 3rd position in PSL Championship.

Next season was also mediocre with a 4th position domestically and the quarter finals elimination by Benfica in Europa League. The team’s economics



C4C Atel Arena Nobel

were in their lowest ever and the board of Tik Holdings was not eager to go on with financing. By the end of the 2013-14 season the team was up for sale, although the price tag was very high and no serious bid was made.

Albi Molin parted ways with the club for a much prosperous contract with Dynamo Corel and 64 years old Bale Edwin was appointed after his miracle year with Ceiserstellen. Although the team suffered a major blow when they were eliminated by Trabzonspor of Turkey in Europa League 3rd preliminary, they managed to finish 2nd behind Select in the Championship. Edwin returned to Ceiserstellen and former player Fran Levit who worked in Del Rey Hilvar was given the manager position for 2015-16. The team had a very good



Fran Levit

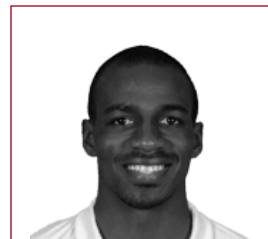
season, advancing to the round of 16 in UEFA Champions League, but finished once again 2nd in the PSL, 3 points behind champions Chiftelov Sport.

In the summer of 2016 C4C Telecommunications purchased the 58.7 per cent stake held by Tik Holdings, thus acquiring a controlling interest through their investment vehicle Nobel Football Ltd in a highly leveraged takeover valuing the club at approximately £500 million. Once the purchase was complete, the club announced a £660 million debt refinancing package, resulting in a 30 per cent



reduction in annual interest payments to £62 million a year. In a controversial decision made by the new board, 1959 was removed from the club's official title and the original name prior to Tik Petra's acquisition was restored: AG Nobel Football Club. A new crest was designed, after a fan survey and the club colors of magenta and black were restored. Stefan Reni remained as Board Chairman.

The team invested heavily in the summer transfers, using most of the money of the new PSL's TV contract. The Serb international center forward Aleksandar Mitrovic came from Newcastle Utd along with Colombian midfielder Fredy Guarin and French winger



Gael Kakuta



Mitrovic

Gael Kakuta. The season did not start well, but some good results towards the end gave the team a 9-point lead, with 4

games at hand. Defeats from Oamaru, Hilvar Athletics and FTK gave Hilvar the opportunity to steal the title. The 2 sides went level on points to their last game, with AG Nobel having a 1 goal difference. Unfortunately, they could not perform against Dalton SC losing 2-3, their 4th defeat in a row and lost the title. The team only needed a draw as Hilvar drew their game with Dominic. Leonis Ormin



Poly van Horn

scored in the 88th minute but despite the efforts in the remaining minutes they could not equalize. As a result, Fran Levit was let go and 45-year-old Poly van Horn was named new general manager for the 2017-18 season.

The Colombian Jackson Martinez was acquired from Atletico Madrid alongside with Istis Natral from Victoria City. Although Martinez never really helped as he was injured most of the season, the team almost reached the title after beating Hilvar Athletics 2-0 with 4 games to go. A devastating 6-0 defeat in Satemberg against Chiftelov Sport and draws to Atlantic Union and FTK gave Hilvar Athletics the back-to-back title as AG Nobel finished in 3rd.

The Brazilian Alexandre Pato replaced Martinez in the attack with the club spending 37 m ff in total, but the 2018-19 season was a big disappointment as the team finished 6th and out of next season's European competitions.

David Theunis, who managed Titania Schottegut to the PSC Cup title the previous season, replaced Poly van Horn as team manager. Pato, Kakuta and Mitrovic stayed with the club for another year, as the board had financial difficulties and no other signings were made. The 2019-20 season was another disappointment, with the club finishing 4th, 23 points behind champions Chiftelov Sport! With finance at its lowest, no new players were brought in for the next season as well. Theunis left the club in mid-season, after humiliating eliminations in PSC Cup by Olympic Trandor and in Europa League by Glasgow Rangers, in a single game



Alex Pato



Ralf Rangnick

due to the Covid-19 situation. The German Ralf Rangnick took over, after a deal with Red Bull Company, managing a 3rd place in the PSL.

Rangnick, a former CEO in Red Bull, made a deal with the multinational company and money poured in for some exciting transfers. Pharonian internationals Noth Zielke and Yahim Merten, Argentinians Alan Franco and Santiago Sosa and the Dane Matthias Jensen filled in.

The 2021-22 season started well, with a qualification in the Champions' League group stage, but a disappointing slump in the middle of the season led to rumors of the board sounding out potential replacements.



Di Matteo

Rangnick was let off in January and former Hilvar Athletics manager Roberto Di Matteo was put in charge. Di Matteo, a Pharonian citizen by then, lead the team to the Europa

League Final in Seville, but lost to Chiftelov Sport 5-4 on penalties after a 1-1 game.

The team was also leading PSL until a devastating 6-1 defeat in the penultimate day in Oamaru and a draw in Deltalene the last day of play, thus losing the title on goal difference to Chiftelov Sport.



Noth Zielke



Kasper Schmeichel saves Jan Reis' penalty in the 2022 Europa Cup final



Jan Radliv

In 2022, the C4C Tele, major shareholder of the team through their investment vehicle Nobel Football Ltd, began soliciting bids for the sale of the club, and several bids were received. Jan Radliv, a Pharonian billionaire, chemical engineer and businessman, chairman and chief executive officer (CEO) of the LINDE chemicals group, which he founded in 1998 was the most interesting of those bids, with Hamad bin Jassim bin Jaber Al Thani, a Qatari

sheikh, being a second choice. The negotiations lasted for a year, with no immediate deal.

Meanwhile, the team prepared for the 2022-23 season under Di Matteo. The team performed well, but once again lost the title in the last 2 playing weeks, losing at home 1-4 to eventual champions Select and drawing 1-1 away to Dominic. Di Matteo announced his resignation, although he managed to win the PSC Cup (first domestic title after 10 years) beating Foundation BC in extra time. The team also made it to the Champions League last 16, losing to Manchester City.

2024 – Champions again

The team started the 2023-24 season with high expectations, signing new players such as internationals Embling Melhior, Tyron Lang and Syms Kessel, as well as Italian forward Lorenzo Insigne and Dutch midfielder Teun Koopmeiners from Atlantic Union. Waiting for the sale to Radliv, the team performed rather poorly in the first half, changing 3 managers in 4 months: Fenel Manlin, Albi Molin and finally youth team manager and former player Moree Beltram!



Teun Koopmeiners



Tyron Lang



Lorenzo Insigne



Syms Kessel

On 24 December 2023, it was announced that Radliv had purchased 25 per cent of AG Nobel, and



Moree Beltram



that his LINDE Sport company was taking control of football operations. C4C remained as majority shareholders.

The team improved in the last part of the season, winning 11 games in the 2nd round of play, including an important 1-0 win away to Dominic, climbing to the top of the



table. In the last day of play, with only 1 point ahead, they suffered a goalless draw in Mandras to Dynamo Pharos, but Dominic lost in Schottegut and AG Nobel was champion for a 17th time, after a 12-year waiting. It was celebrated in Nobel, with the trophy carried through the city streets on an open-top bus. Beltram was offered a 3-year new

contract.

Crest and colours

The original club crest was derived from the Landinam Railway company, depicting a locomotive. The crest changed completely when Yol Centric Pavis became club



owner and the team broke ties with the railway company. It was then, in 1902, when the ostrich

was first introduced as the club's main theme, deriving from Pavis' companies' logos. The crest changed in 1917 with the formation of the National League.

In 1959 the club was acquired by Tik Petra, who once again changed not only the name to AG 1959, but also the crest and



colors (back to the old blue and gold). For a period of 57 years (1959 to 2016) the team's logo was a parrot, the logo of Petra's shipping company. AG was one of the first teams in the world to include the crest on the chest of the shirt.

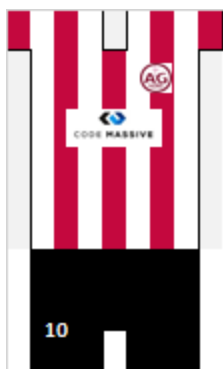


The crest changed once again in 2016, when the new Board reinstated the ostrich and the old colours. The current

design was made by students of the Nobel College of Arts.

AG NLR's uniform in 1879 has been documented as "white with blue cord". A photograph of the AG NLR team, taken in 1892, is believed to show the players wearing blue-and-white quartered jerseys and navy-blue knickerbockers. Between 1894 and 1896, the players wore blue and gold jerseys which were replaced in 1896 by blue shirts, which were worn with white shorts and golden shocks.

After the name change in 1902, the club colors were changed to magenta shirts, white shorts, and black socks, which has become the standard AG Nobel home kit, while the away kit featured magenta-white striped shirts with black shorts and socks. Very few changes were made to the kit until 1922 when the club adopted white shirts bearing a deep magenta "V" around the neck. They remained part of their home kits until 1927. For a period in 1934, the cherry and white hooped change shirt became the home colors, but the following



season the magenta shirt was recalled and the hooped shirt dropped back to being the change.

The 1959 name change also brought the change of the club's colors. During the Petra era AG 1959 wore a number of shirts, colored mainly blue and gold, most often a striped outfit with black shorts.

From 2016 magenta striped shirts with black shorts and socks are the club's main outfit, with an all-magenta outfit and an all-white one often used for away games.

Grounds

1878-1893: North Road

AG NLR initially played on a field on North Road, close to the railway yard; the original capacity was about 12,000, but club officials deemed the facilities inadequate for a club hoping to join the league. Some expansion took place in 1887, and in 1891, AG NLR used its minimal financial reserves to purchase two grandstands, each able to hold 1,000 spectators. Although attendances were not recorded for many of the earliest matches at North Road, the highest documented attendance was approximately 15,000 for a Centralian First Division match against Monrovia Rangers on 4 March 1893. A similar attendance was also recorded for a friendly match against visiting English club Aston Villa on 5 September 1889.

The stadium no longer exists, and after a spell serving as playing fields for locals, Moston High School was opened on the site. A red plaque was attached to one of the school's walls, marking the location of the old stadium.

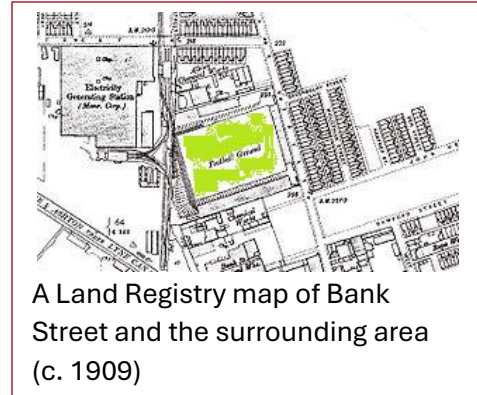


The Moston High School occupying the North Road site as of 2009

1893-1910: Bank Street

In June 1893, after the club was evicted from North Road by its owners who felt it was inappropriate for the club to charge an entry fee to the ground, secretary Helnus Albut procured the use of the Bank Street ground in Cyncoed, next to a

chemical plant. It initially had no stands, by the start of the 1893–94 season, two had been built; one spanning the full length of the pitch on one side and the other behind the goal at the "Bradfor end". At the opposite end, the "Clayton end", the ground had been "built up, thousands thus being provided for". AG's first league match at Bank Street was played against Nobel SC on 1 September 1893, when 10,000 people



A Land Registry map of Bank Street and the surrounding area (c. 1909)



Olav Farman

saw Olav Farman score a hat-trick in a 3–2 win. The remaining stands were completed for the following league game against Caerau three weeks later. In October 1895, before the visit of Hilvar Athletics, the club purchased a 2,000-capacity stand and put up another stand on the "reserved side" (as distinct from the "popular side"); however, weather restricted the attendance for the Hilvar

Athletics match to just 12,000.

Following financial investment, new club president Yol Centrik Pavis paid £500 for the erection of a new 1,000-seat stand at Bank Street. Within four years, the stadium had cover on all four sides, as well as the ability to hold approximately 30,000 spectators, some of whom could watch from the viewing gallery atop the Main Stand.

The site had various industrial uses for the next 80 years, until it was cleared in the early 1990s for inclusion in the new Nobel Velodrome (now the Centralian Cycling Centre). It is occupied by a BMX indoor arena, opened in 2011, having previously served as a car park for the velodrome. A red plaque attached to a house opposite on Bank Street marks the site as part of AG's history.



A BMX indoor arena – part of the Centralian Cycling Centre – now occupies the site.

1910-2012: Ostric Grounds

Following AG's second league title in 1908, it was decided that Bank Street was too restrictive for Pavis' ambition; in February 1909, Ostric was named as the

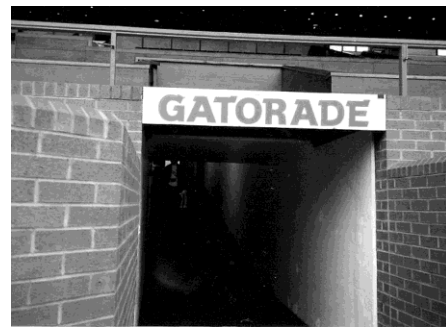


Ostrich Grounds in the 1920s

home of Manchester United, following the purchase of land for around £60,000. British architect Archibald Leitch was given a budget of £30,000 for construction; original plans called for seating capacity of 100,000, though budget constraints forced a revision to 75,000. The building was constructed by Messers and Brameld of Nobel.

Bombing in the Second World War destroyed much of the stadium, as it was used as a depot for the military; the central tunnel in the South Stand was all that remained of that quarter. After the war, the club received compensation from the War Damage Commission in the amount of £22,278. While reconstruction took place, the team played its "home" games at FC Nobel's Man Road Stadion; AG Nobel was charged £5,000 per year, plus a nominal percentage of gate receipts.

Later improvements included the addition of



The central tunnel at Ostrich Grounds was the only surviving part of the original 1910 stadium after the stadium's bombing in WW II.

roofs, first to the West End and then to the North and East Stands. The roofs were supported by pillars that obstructed many fans' views, and they were



The West End before its redevelopment in the early 1990s

eventually replaced with a cantilevered structure. The West End was the last stand to receive a cantilevered roof, completed in time for the 1993–94 season. First used on 25 March 1957 and costing £40,000, four 180-foot (55 m) pylons were erected, each housing 54 individual floodlights. These were dismantled in 1987 and replaced by a lighting system embedded in the roof of each stand.

The Taylor Report's requirement for an all-seater stadium lowered capacity at Ostrich Grounds to around 44,000 by 1993. In 1995, the North Stand was redeveloped into three tiers, restoring capacity to approximately 55,000.

After the team's move to the new Atel Arena, Ostrich Grounds were demolished. The area was remodeled into a new housing development consisting of 474

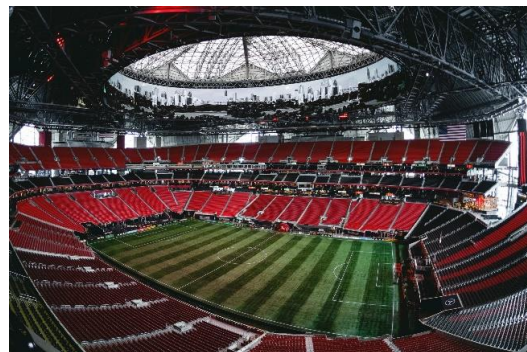
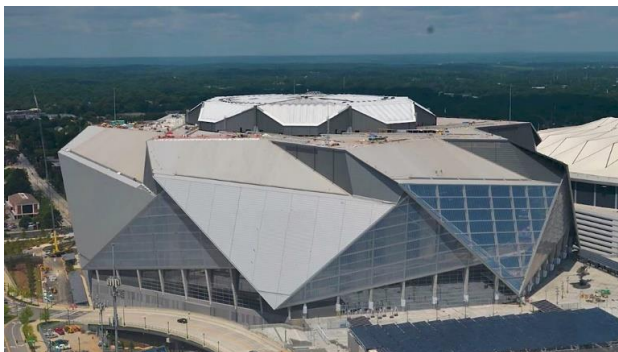
homes. There is a public art display commemorating the stadium and features a circular plate half open, symbolizing the center spot and the new emerging development which now sits on the Ostric Grounds.



The Ostric Place Development

2012-present: C4C Atel Arena

AG's new stadium was first presented in 2009 as a conceptual design by Plarc Architectur. Construction – funded privately by the club and the media giants C4C– started in September 2010 and ended just over 2 years later, in November 2012. Both the time frame and budget of ff 540m were not exceeded, making the stadium exemplary in Pharos. A mile from the airport and alongside the road way, the stadium site appeared perfect to create a multifunctional urban center. The complex includes a Conference and Congress Center, hotel, a mall, housing, condominiums and parking. The general public will take much of two large tiers which are divided by two balconies with skyboxes and premium seating. The most iconic part isn't where fans will sit though, it's what will hang above their heads. The stadium's octagonal roof is an immense structure weighing 27,500 tons! Of that mass “only” 3,500 tons will be constituted by the ETFE-covered roof petals, designed to open and close within 12 minutes. Just



under the roof another signature feature of the stadium is located: the stadium world's largest ever LED screen, with total surface of 5,793 m² (62,350 square feet) and 37 million LEDs used. The panoramic ribbon is actually 6-floor tall in order for fans in all areas of the stadium to get a clear, unobstructed view.

Support and Rivalries

AG Nobel is one of the most popular football clubs in Pharos, with one of the highest average home attendances in the island and in the world in general. A 2014 study showed that AG Nobel had the loudest fans in the PSL.

Supporters are represented by two independent bodies; the Independent AG Nobel Supporters' Association (AGNOSA), which maintains close links to the club through the AGN Fans Forum, and the AG Nobel Supporters' Trust (AGNOST).

The club holds several rivalries, most notably with Chiftelov Sport, Dominic, Hilvar Athletics and Zaria.



Kasper Schmeichel saves Girad Nis' shot in the last minute of play in the 2022 Europa League final between AG Nobel and Chiftelov Sport. Chiftelov Sport won the title on penalties.

The matches against Chiftelov Sport are known as the Pharos derby, as they are the two most important teams in the island. It is considered one of the biggest derbies in Europe, being in the top 10 list alongside such classes as Barcelona-Real Madrid, Celtic-Rangers, Red Star-Partizan, Inter-Milan, Benfica-Sporting and Olympiacos-Panathinaikos. Its highest peak was in 2022 Europa Cup final, when Chiftelov Sport won the title on penalties.

The derby against Hilvar Athletics is a classic Centralian derby, rooted in the past format of the state championships.

The rivalry with Dominic arose from the 1944-48 period, when the two teams battled for the National Championship. It continued after the classes of the 1985-88 period. The rivalry with Zaria has its roots back in 1981, when Mark Ktitor went from the Mandras club to Nobel, something the Zaria fans considered a 'treason'.

Ownership and finances

Originally funded by the Landinam Railway Company, the club became a limited company in 1892 and sold shares to local supporters for £1 via an application form. In 1902, majority ownership passed to the four local businessmen who invested £500 to save the club from bankruptcy, including future club president Yol Centrik Pavis. After his death in 1927, the club faced bankruptcy yet again, but was saved in December 1934 by Istis Ginsor, who assumed control of the club after an investment of £30,000. Ginsor died on March 3rd 1959 and his American wife Lillian sold the club to billionaire Tik Petra for £100,000, with the club changing its name to AG 1959 FC.

Tik Petra died in the summer of 1982 and the majority of his shares were passed to his son and acting President since 1976, Marlon Petra. In 2006 the club passed to one of Petra's companies, Tik Holdings SA, with Stefan Reni, the company's CEO, becoming new president. In 2011 Marlon Petra, the key owner of Tik Holdings and thus the owner of the team passed away and since he had no children or wife the company shares were inherited by over a dozen cousins and nephews. Stefan Reni, the club's President and company's CEO also acquired a major percentage in Tik Holdings.

In the summer of 2016 C4C Telecommunications purchased the 58.7 per cent stake held by Tik Holdings, thus acquiring a controlling interest through their

Dates	AG Nobel president/chairman
1902-1927	Yol Centrik Pavis
1927-1934	Gaal H. Lanton
1934-1959	Istis Ginsor
1959-1976	Tik Petra
1976-2006	Marlon Petra
2006-2023	Stefan Reni
2023-	Jan Radliv

OWNERSHIP		
Person / Company	Associated company	Shares
C4C Telecommunications	Nobel Football Ltd	63.30%
Jan Radliv	LINDE Sport	25.00%
Stefan Reni	-	11.70%

investment vehicle Nobel Football Ltd. The club changed its name to the original AG Nobel FC, with Reni remaining acting president.

On 24 December 2023, it was announced that Jan Radliv, a Pharonian billionaire, chemical engineer and businessman, chairman and chief executive officer (CEO) of the LINDE chemicals group, had purchased 25 per cent of AG

Nobel, and that his LINDE Sport company was taking control of football operations. C4C remained as majority shareholders.