

Alma Sport

Alma Sport FC is a professional football club based in Alma, SPR, Pharos. They compete in PSL B, the second level of the Pharonian football league system.



History

Formation through to the Great War (1884–1914)

According to Alma folklore, the idea for forming the football club was suggested during a tripe supper at the Corporation Hotel, Alma in the spring of 1884 and while this has since been discovered by club historian Harry Glasper to be untrue, it is certainly true that like many football clubs of the time Alma FC were formed by members of the local Pharonian Football club wishing to stay fit during the winter. Indeed, it was at Albert Park on Lintor Road where players from Alma PF Club formed the fledgling team. The club retained its amateur status until 1889 when several members of Alma FC split to form Alma Sport over a dispute. Both teams made their debuts as professional teams within a week of each other in December 1887.

After three years it was clear that both clubs were becoming more successful and club officials knew that only an amalgamation would give them a serious chance of a place in the SPR Football League. On 7 May 1890 an application was made to the Football League under the name of Alma Sport FC. They were accepted into the Southern League and finished on top of the second division in 1891.



Anthor Hue



Cheter Vatts

The next season 1891-92 the SPR Football League was formed and Alma Sport went on to win its first title, beating Ferephon Union by a single point. They repeated their triumph the next season too, beating Ferephon Union 5-4 in a decisive game in Gilbey. They would win another 3 SPR Championship titles in a row from 1896 to 1898, featuring players

like defender Cheter Vatts, midfielder Anthor Hue and center forward Val Macredy.



Val Macredy

In 1901, Alma Sport moved to their new ground Somayr Park (also known as The Paradise Ground), that would be their home for the next 33 years.

Alma Sport would win another 4 SPR



Somayr Park 1910's



1917 Alma Sport

Championship titles (1903, 1912, 1914, 1917) until the formation of the National Championship. Being SPR champions in 1917, they represented the State in the first ever PSC National Championship, finishing in 4th position with stars such as goalkeeper Droy Bielevelt, defenders Hal Jerlan, Max Ebbers and Fails Stans and forward Cyril Osternak.

Between the World Wars (1919–39)

From 1917 until the beginning of WW2, Alma Sport would win only 3 SPR Championship titles (1923, 1924, 1933) and would compete a total of 6 times in the National Championship, with the 4th position in 1924 being their best performance. Center forward Rodolph Ketelar and defender Robin van Oele were the most prominent players of



Robin van Oele

this period. Van Oele, nicknamed «The Golden Boy» due to his blonde hair, was a key figure in Alma and later became the team's general secretary. He was voted twice as best defender (1923 and 1931) of the National League. A statue of van Oele was raised outside the Alma Sport Stadium after his death in 2000. The club would

win one more SPR Championship title in 1944.



Robin van Oele's statue outside the Alma Sport Grounds

The Castle

In 1933, a major reconstruction of the Somayr Park Stadium took place, with the help of local businessmen and the city of Alma. The reconstructed stadium was named «The Castle» and would hold 15,000 spectators in 4 all-covered stands.



The Castle

Ups and downs (1945-1970)

After the war, the club was unable to recover the form of the previous seasons before the war, hovering around mid-table and exiting in the early rounds of the SPR Cup. Soon after the war, the team began to falter, and were almost relegated in 1952–53.



Mel Hartemin

This was the spell for a new start under a new board of young people, but this was the spell too that saw the emergence of one of the club's top performers, midfielder

wizard Mel Hartemin. Under his guidance Alma Sport would win 5 SPR Championship titles in 10 years, from 1955 to 1964. During this decade, Alma Sport were also represented by a



Ruel Luna

black player for the first time, Jamaican-born Ruel Luna, the first non-Maori coloured player to play in Pharos. Over that period, Alma Sport maintained reasonable progress in the SPR League, but were never serious contenders in the National Championship, finishing always in the bottom half of the table.



**Mel Hartemin's statue
outside the Alma Sport
Grounds**

The 1970's team

In the summer of 1971, the board selected 33-year-old Arp Dolan to be the new manager of the team. Dolan had just stopped his playing career with Alma Oilers due to a knee injury. He introduced a bunch of young players from the youth squads and lesser SPR teams, gradually replacing the Alma Sport aging first team. Players



Arp Dolan

like Liem Jeril, Poly Tinder, Lev Maugin, Fenel Holf, Victor Cuentzel, Raymond Devas and later on Theo Di Lorto would make a great Alma Sport team, probably the best in the club's history. They won 5 SPR Championships (1970, 1975, 1977, 1978, 1979) and came close to National



Liem Jeril, Poly Tinder, Lev Maugin, Fenel Holf

glory, but finished in 5th position in the 1977 Nationals, mainly due to injuries to key players.

PSL formation – elevator team and the 1992 Cup final

Alma Sport was selected – alongside Ferephon Union – to represent SPR in the new PSL A division in the inaugural season 1981-82. For the first 6 seasons they would be relegated 3 times and promoted another 3, gaining the nickname 'elevator team'. Stanel Mulgin, Jan Kostis and Sus Weshel were given the managerial role after Arp Dolan, with key players like Di Lorto, Ducem Roati and Asketh Tapau having been sold.

When PSL changed its format to 24 permanent members in 1987-88, Alma Sport was one of



**Mark Ktitor saves Orum Irgen's penalty
in the 1991-92 Cup final**

them, but never got past the 1st round of play-offs until the new format change in 1994-95. Their only claim to fame was the PSC Cup in 1991-92, when, under manager Yord Krese, they reached the final eliminating Centralia Trandor, Dynamo Pharos, Villa Town and Oamaru FC. In the National Stadion final, after a goalless 120-minute game, they lost 5-4 in a penalty shootout to



Yord Krese

champions AG 1959, with Mark Ktitor saving the last penalty of Orum Irgen.

1998-2004 – out of the first tier

In 1997-98 PSL decided to change its format for another time, introducing a 20-team fully professional league, without play-offs and relegation. Alma Sport did not meet the PSL's

criteria (Ferephon Union was the only SPR team selected), so they competed in the SPR A division, as well as the PSC National League. With no real adversary, they won all 7 SPR Championship titles during this period, but could not win any National title finishing 2nd twice (1999 and 2004).

2005-2011

In 2004 PSL announced its expansion and Alma Sport joined PSL B, the second division. They could not gain a promotion, as they finished in 4th position, missing the PSL A by a goal



Ducem Roati

difference to Titania Schottegut. Promotion came four years later, in 2007-08, under new manager and former player Ducem Roati, featuring players like midfielders Jan Selke and Lathan Elses and goalkeeper Horber Reger. They were relegated the next season, but Roati stayed with the team and lead them



Jan Selke

again to PSL A in 2010-11. This time they managed to stay afloat and finished in 10th position, their best placement ever in PSL.

The Puttills and the new stadium

In 2011 Pharonian billionaire Escel Puttil and his kids Roman and Pola acquired almost 75% of the club's shares, becoming Alma Sport's new owners.

The idea of a new stadium for Alma Sport football club had been raised from early 2000's, but only came to fruition in 2011, when the Puttil family bought the club. Official design was selected in 2012, while January 29th 2013 saw the beginning of the old Alma Castle Stadion's demolition. The scheme included retaining the historical stadium gate, along with set of sculptures from the original 1934 stadium. Also challenging for contractors, the stadium

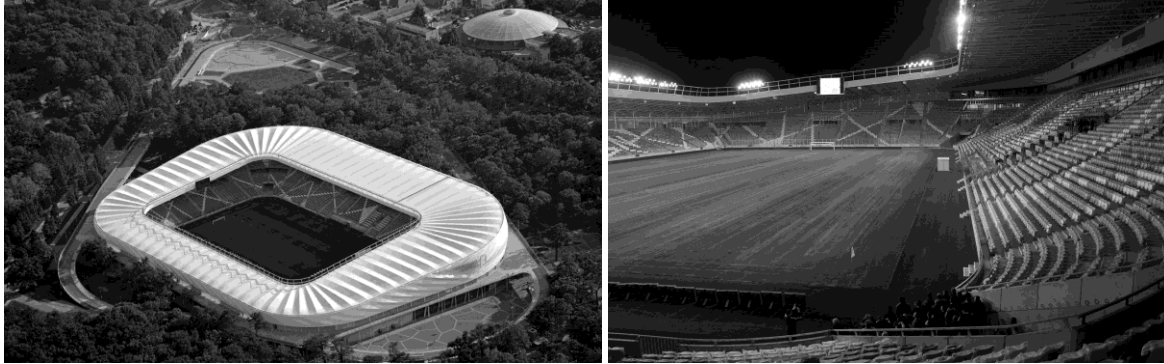


The Puttills, Pola, Roman and father Escel

was set to keep the surrounding trees, even though some of them were directly in the construction site. But despite the challenges delivery date of spring 2014 was kept. The stands accommodating just over 20,000 create a single tier enclosing the pitch from all sides, though their height differs, decreasing smoothly from west to the east. The tallest western grandstand provides press facilities and all of the corporate zones with 26 skyboxes. From the outside the stadium is wrapped with diagonal membrane strips. In western part the

wrap has numerous orifices to enable sunlight access for offices and hospitality spaces behind the membrane. It was named Sood Point Stadium, after Puttil's company.

2011-



New Sood Point Stadium

Alma Sport went down again in 2014 and Ducem Roati left the club for arch-rivals Ferephon Union. They came back to PSL A in 2016 under manager Arno Neuman, but were relegated again the next season. They would remain in PSL B for the next years, finishing usually on the bottom half of the table. In 2025 they even came close to relegation to PSC, but survived the play-out game against Cardenas SFC. From 2016 to 2025 six managers passed from the Alma Sport bench, with Linge Hudanit being the last one in 2025.



Linge Hudanit