

Atlantic Union



Atlantic Union Cress is a professional football Club based in Cress, Diacria, Pharos. The club competes in the PSL A, the top tier of the Pharonian football.

Formed as Atlantic Utd in 1877, the club changed its name to Atlantic Union Cress in 1910. They have won 3 Pharonian Championships and 1 PSC Cup title.

History

Formation and early years

The team were founded as Atlantic Utd Football Club in 1877 by Jole Baynt and Jan Brode, after a group of pupils at Atlantic High School in Limbo district of Cress had been presented with a football by their headmaster Harry Bacroft. Brode became Atlantic's first team captain and Bacroft its first chairman of the Board.

The club were initially given the use of two fields – Harp's Field and Red Park – both off Lower Villers Street in Limbo. From there, they



Jan Brode

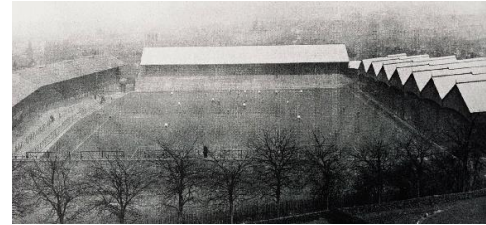


The Atlantic Utd team that won the 1897 double.
Back row (from left): Dokor Bau, Bale Malpass, Hal Allen, Willard Ros, Gaal Kinser, Gaal Sift. Front row (from left): Ral Toppam, Dan Vilks, Jan Brode (captain), Fenel Oud, Asper Griff

moved to a site on the Dudl Road, opposite the «Titans of the Ocean Inn» in 1881. There they incorporated the Ocean Titan figure in their team crest, from the Inn badge. The club then became one of the twelve founders of the Diacrian Football League in 1888 and finished the inaugural season in a creditable third place, as well as reaching their first ever Diacrian Cup Final, losing 3–0 to the first "Double" winners, Sliema Foy.

Atlantic Utd won the Diacrian first division in 1897 for the first time, making it also a double triumph, by winning the Diacrian Cup, beating Alliance Eptapolis 1-

0 in Satemberg. They repeated their Double two years later in 1899, winning the Championship, after beating Chiftelov Sport 5-0 in the last game, and the Cup (they beat Sliema Foy 3-1 this time). At the conclusion of the campaign the club relocated for a final time when they moved to Nerfeeld Stadion, then a pleasure park known as the Nerfeeld Grounds.



Nerfeeld Stadion 1900's

Betting scandal and merge

The club won two more Diacrian Championships, in 1904 and 1909. Their form declined from 2010 and they finished in 12th place in 2012-13.

The following season three Atlantic Utd players were implicated in the 1914 Pharonian



Vernon Skill, Atlantic Utd's keeper involved in the betting scandal

football betting scandal, which involved a match with Chiftelov Sport. A 2-0 victory for United was required to win the bet, in which players from both sides were involved. With the score at 2-0, Chiftelov Sport's Fenel Pagnam hit the crossbar with a shot, at which several of his teammates gestured angrily towards him. Subsequently, 4 Chiftelov Sport's and 3 Atlantic Utd's players were found guilty by a Diacrian Football Association enquiry of conspiring to fix a United win. All the players involved were banned for life (following the end of the First World War the DFA lifted the bans in recognition of their service in the conflict).

By that time the Board of the Atlantic High School, that financed the football team so far, decided to withdraw from soccer and keep only the track & field team. Brode, who had become Atlantic Utd's secretary called a general meeting, where it was decided that the team should find proper investment. In order not to lose their status with the Diacrian Association, they started talks with Cress' football club Cress Union FC in order to merge. The deal went through in 1914 and the club changed its name to Atlantic Union Cress FC. Cress Union FC shareholders had the majority in the new board, despite being a 2nd division club, (due to Atlantic Utd's status, the new club kept the position in the Diacrian 1st division after the merging).

1915-1935, 20 years of decline

Atlantic Union would be relegated to the 2nd division in 1922. The lack of proper financing and the constant quarrel among the board members were enough reasons for this decline. They stayed in the 2nd division for 5 seasons, facing even problems of existence. In 1928 they gained their top-flight status as Second Division Champions under manager Gaal Job.



Gaal Job



Y. Addenbrook

Meanwhile things changed in ownership, as Cress businessman Yahim Addenbrook gained the majority of the Atlantic Union Board and became the team's chairman. Addenbrook, who had a fleet of fishing boats, invested serious money and the club could afford to buy some quality players in order to stay afloat. Atlantic Union came 2nd behind Diacrian and National champions Chiftelov Sport in 1930 and participated for the first time in the National Championship. Job depended mostly on his native young talents and some experienced players bought the years before, like goalkeeper Lewis Grind from

Zenith Parietal, defender Alvin Voll from Cress Ironopolis, midfielder Noth Sunde from Progres Parva and forward Porfirat Arro from Rul Katai. They finished in a respectable 5th position, just 3 points behind champions Ferephon Union.

Unfortunately, their good performances would not last for long. In the 1932-33 season the team would be relegated for a second time in the 2nd division. Job was let go and Bert Hoskin took over. The team returned to the Diacrian first division in 1935.

Addenbrook died in the winter of 1935 and his shares were divided between his wife and 6 children, so there were no clear majority in the board. Financing became a problem again.



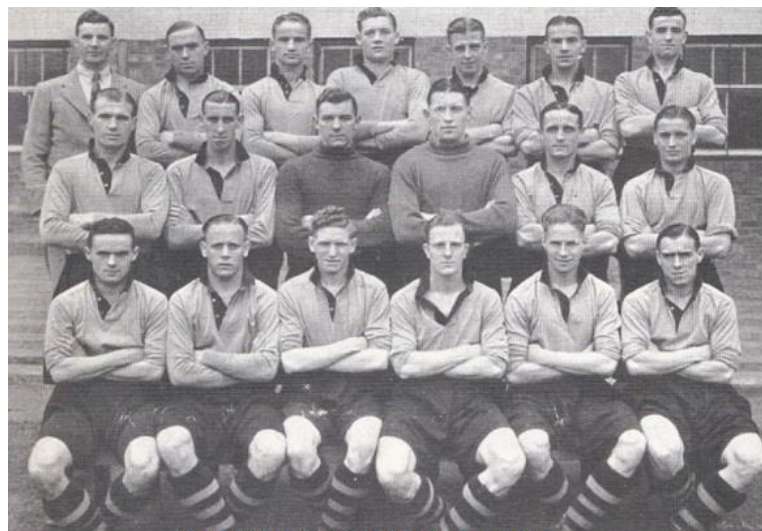
Bert Hoskin

On the rise

Hoskin guided the team to respectable positions in the Diacrian first division, having to battle with giants Chiftelov Sport (already 5 times National Champions) and very strong sides from Parietal and Subclavia. They finished in 2nd place behind Chiftelov Sport in 1935-36 season upon their return from the second division, and participated for the 2nd time in the Nationals, finishing in 6th position.

In 1938 Atlantic Union would end Chiftelov Sport's 9-year in a row Diacrian Championships, winning the title, their 5th and 1st by the new name. They conquered their 6th in 1939, the first back-to-back for the club.

Atlantic Union won three championships in a row during WW II and they were for good a



ATLANTIC UNION 1938

Back Row (from left): Bert Hoskin (manager), Dewlat Rinde, Zelik Folden, Edi Distan, Cyril Homs, Moree Sild, Sim Manik. Middle row (from left): Zeb Laas, Insin Gevin, Huber Fongus, Pelleas Orav, Jan Enevol, Dal Grenal. Front row (from left): Orum Lian, Anselm Palm, Porfirat Arro, Sale Lember, Daryl De Vlit, Dirk Stroen

serious competitor for Diacrian rivals Chiftelov Sport. In 1943 they came close to a national title as well, but finished 1 point behind winners Dalton SC.



Ankor Zeev

midfielder Istis Heimer and forward Romel Marosan, discovered by Zeev, would become the backbone of Atlantic Union's success in the 50's and early 60's.

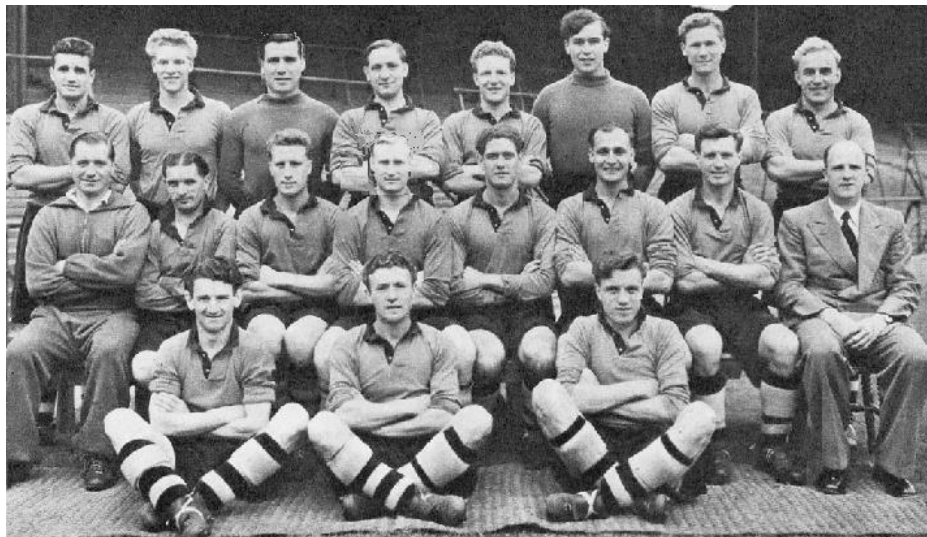
No less than 10 players would leave due to retirement in the next couple of years, so did manager Hoskin. Ankor Zeev, youth manager of Standard Nacken, was offered the job. Zeev liked to work with young players from the area, so the club recruited the greatest talents for the youth squads. Players like defenders Bale Heesters and Stanel Elan,



Atlantic Union stars: Bale Heesters, Stanel Elan, Istis Heimer, Romel Marosan

The glory era, 1950-1965

The youngsters of Ankor Zeev shocked the Pharonian footballing community in 1952, when



ATLANTIC UNION - Pharos Champion 1952

Back row (from left): Dokor Paden, Kleon Ondil, Huber Fongus, Florian Falan, Litoral Askev, Gundy Callan, Bale Heesters, Len Azazi. Middle row (from left): Ankor Zeev (manager), Ano Roan, Ider Baert, Romel Marosan, Istis Heimer, Daryl De Vlit, Stanel Elan, Jan Garne (chairman). Front row (from left): Orum Lorben, Ador Nider, Dors Tiron

they were crowned Diacrian champions vs a superior and more experienced Chiftelov Sport side. They will go on to win the National Title for the first time, when they beat Foundation BC 2-0 in Terminus by 2 goals of Romel Marosan in the last day of play, while in the meantime their major rivals for the title were held in draws; Zaria to

Internationale and Dominic to AG Nobel. 22-year-old Istis Heimer was named the league's MVP.

During the 50's the battle with Chiftelov Sport was fierce. The Satemberg side, led by the "trio magnificent" of Stabbins, Lindel and Balmer won 7 out of 10 Diacrian championships, so the

great Atlantic Union team was left mostly out of the National Championship contention. They missed the 1955 National title by 1 point, as they were held to a 3-3 draw by Zaria in



Kleon Jaros

Nerfeeld in the penultimate day of play, losing the title to Dynamo Corel.

Ankor Zeev left in 1955 and Kleon Jaros, former Zenith Parietal manager, took over. Building upon principles of hard work in training, exceptional physical fitness coupled with early pioneering use of sports science, strict discipline and a doctrine of all-out attack on the field, Jaros' «kick and rush» method incorporated long passes and speed of execution, hitting the opposition penalty box faster and more frequently to apply the percentage principle to goalscoring. The method was characterised by

a defensive resilience, built as it was around the Pharos internationals Heesters and Stanel Elan, but also incorporated quick movement of the ball and swift attacking support for the player in possession, particularly around the wing play of Marosan and Dors Tiron.

Jaros organised high-profile friendly matches that gave the club an international prestige. Nerfeeld was one of the first stadiums in Pharos to use floodlights and to televise the games in Pharos and England. Wins over Real Madrid, Racing Club of Argentina, Spartak Moscow and the famous Honved of Budapest, with Ferenc Puskas and most of the Hungarian national side players, led the national media to proclaim Atlantic Union *"Champions of the World"*.

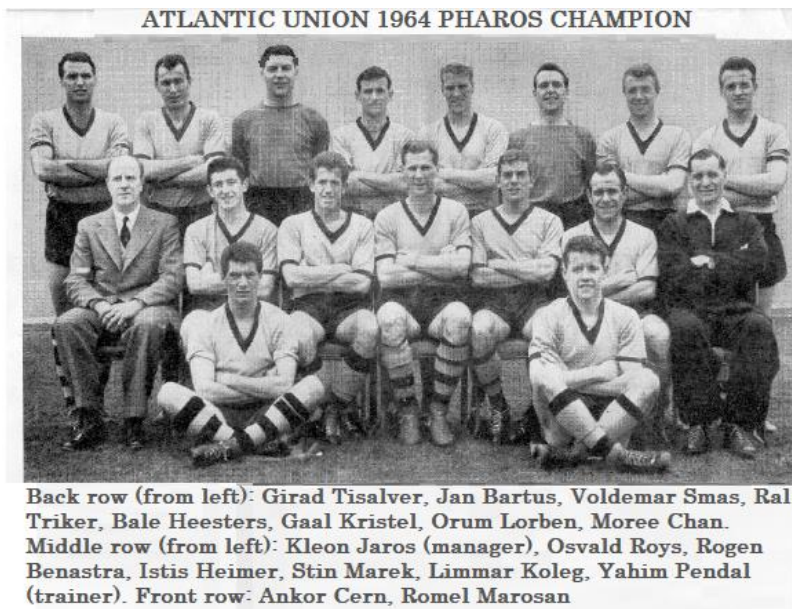
During the 60's and 70's Jaros' Atlantic Union would win 16 out of 21 Diacrian titles, establishing a name as one of Pharos' greats. They had to battle with Chiftelov Sport domestically, but also with the great Foundation BC team that won 3 National Championships in a row from 1961 to 1963. They could have taken the 1961 title, but they lost in Nobel and drew to Dominic in Holborn in the last 2 games of the season and Foundation got the trophy on goal difference.



Istis Heimer scores the winner against Honved



A defeated Puskas (right) is congratulated as he leaves the pitch with Bale Heesters and Voldemar Smas.

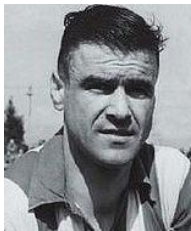


They were 2nd again in 1962 and did not compete in the next season, as Chiftelov Sport won the Diacrian title. It was time for greatness for the Cress team.

In 1963-64 season the team finished on top of the Diacrian League and performed brilliantly in the National Championship, scoring 38 goals (12 by Girad Tisalver, top scorer of the season) and conceded

only 15 to

win their 2nd National title. Istis Heimer, at 34, was once again the League's MVP, with Bale Heesters, Jan Bartus, Limmar Koleg and Rogen Benastra



Jan Bartus

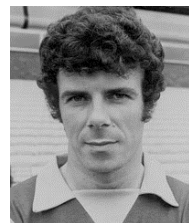
named part of the best squad. They secured the title 3 playing days before the end, by demolishing defending champions Foundation BC 4-1 (goals by Heimer, Triker, Benastra and Tisalver).

Atlantic Union will win back-to-back National titles in 1965, scoring again 38 goals, with Marosan and Tisalver on top of the scorers list. This time Jan Bartus,

the right back, was named MVP in his last season. It would be the last one for Marosan, Heesters and Heimer as well. The retirement of those 4 meant the end of a glorious era for the Cress club, the best in their history.



G. Tisalver



R. Benastra



Ral Triker scores the winning goal in the USA final in Detroit

1967 – Atlantic Union American champions!

During the summer of 1967, Atlantic Union played a season in North America as part of a fledgling league called the United Soccer Association. This league imported twelve entire clubs from Europe and South America to play in American and Canadian cities, with each club bearing a local name. Atlantic Union, playing as the "Halifax Titans", won the Eastern Division and then went on to earn the League Title by defeating the Western

Division champions Vancouver Royal Canadians (Sunderland of England) in the championship match. (This FIFA-sanctioned league merged the following season with the



Kleon Jaros' statue outside Atlantic's Stadium

non-sanctioned National Professional Soccer League, which had also begun in 1967, to form the North American Soccer League).

The Seventies

Kleon Jaros retired in the summer of 1968, after finishing in 2nd place in the National Championship. He retired having established one of the finest teams ever in Pharonian history. After his retirement and that of key players, Atlantic Union began to deteriorate.

From 1968 to 1981 and the formation of PSL, no less than 11 managers passed from the Nerfeeld Stadion doors (Ankor Beet, Bale Gar, Sam Cheng, Jan Baarn, even former players Pelleas Orav, Edi Distan and Limmar Koleg among others). Although the team dominated the Diacrian footballing scene, they could not achieve National glory as they did with Jaros. Their best places were a 3rd in 1980 and a 4th in 1978, with Koleg in charge, who led the team in the PSL A division of the inaugural season of 1981-82, the only Diacrian side in the top division (big rivals Chiftelov Sport and Zenith Parietal were allocated in the 2nd division).



Limmar Koleg



Helnus Blok

The PSL early years, 1981-95

Atlantic Union would finish at the bottom half of the table in the five first seasons of the PSL. Koleg was sacked in mid-1983 season and Helnus Blok, the youth squad manager replaced him. The team was a completely new one, as no player from the glory days or even the 70's had remained. Blok,

who had played professionally with Cardenas SFC before becoming a manager, stayed for 5 seasons until the PSL changed its format to a 2-phase system, with regular season and play-offs. He worked mainly with Cress and Diacria-born players, with no great talented ones among them, with the exception of prolific scorer Less Jaulmes, who scored a total of 196 goals for the club (4th in PSL's history). The team had a 9th and 8th place in 1986 and 1987, reached the PSC Cup final in 1986, losing 3-0 to Villa Town, but could not make the play-offs in the next season and Helnus Blok was let go.



Less Jaulmes



Lev van Saren

Idor Proktor, twice champion with Dominic, was hired at Nerfeeld, but Atlantic Union failed again to proceed in the play-offs and he was fired after 2 seasons in 1990. Limmar Koleg, who at the meantime had become general secretary of the club



Yol Malm

was called to take the manager role once again, in order to put things together. Koleg signed some talented youngsters like Lev van Saren and Yol Malm from the youth squad, Ankor Brill from Rutugrian and experienced goalkeeper Moree Graf who was a free agent from Hinjilucaya. Financing was at its lowest, and the club almost went out of business just before the start of the 1990–91 season with ff 2½ million debts. The club was saved from liquidation when former player Istis Heimer, who had become the landlord of the New Inn public house across the street from Atlantic's Nerfeeld Ground, helped formalise a takeover deal as a front man for the Batt brothers, who owned one of the biggest real estate



Mark Trendel

businesses in Cress and Diacria.

Atlantic Union topped their regular season group in the 1990-91 season, with Less Jaulmes scoring 24 goals, the league's top scorer, but lost in the 1st round of play-offs by Chiftelov Sport. In 1992 with the addition of international right back Mark Trendel from Dynamo Corel and the Scotsman center forward Alan McNally from Bayern Munich, they topped their group again, but this time they went all the way to the play-

off final, eliminating Ceiserstellen, Chiftelov Sport in extra time and Villa Town. In the final they lost 0-2 to defending champions AG 1959. In all next 3 seasons, Limmar Koleg's Atlantic Union would make the play-offs, but were eliminated in the 1st round by Chiftelov Sport every time. In 1995 they managed to reach the PSC Cup final for the second time in their history. In a packed National Stadium Atlantic Union won their 1st Cup trophy, beating Ferephon Union 1-0 with a Lev van Saren early goal.



Lev van Saren beats Marcel Gery in the air to score past Hanski in the 1995 PSC Cup final

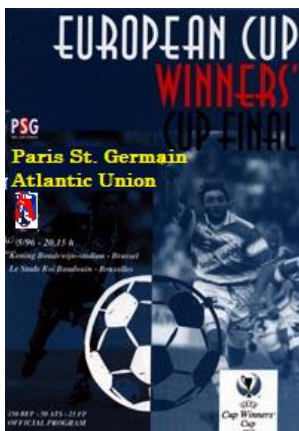
Koleg decided to step down in the summer of 1995, as the team was once again in the verge of financial collapse.

Economic rescue, a European final and a new stadium



Marlon Mallar, new owner and chairman

On 2 July 1996 the Batt brothers' era came to an end when the official receiver was called in at Atlantic Union FC. However, the club was saved from extinction when Cress City Council purchased Nerfeeld for ff 1.12 million, along with the surrounding land, while Mallar Estates Limited, in conjunction with the ASDA Superstore chain, agreed to pay off the club's outstanding debts, subject to building a new stadium and planning permission for an ASDA superstore on land adjacent to the stadium being granted by the council.

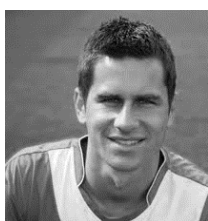


Match programme cover

Marlon Mallar, the new chairman of the board, acknowledged the challenge of managing the club's economics, stating to local media "The initials MM on my top stand for Marlon Mallar, not Merlin the Magician". He hired Lathan Sivena as manager and quickly scraped together a squad, largely from the club's youth ranks, like Bale Notny, Salvor Bersygy and Orum Venders, out of contract players and loan signings. After an inconsistent first half to the season, an impressive run of form followed and the club eventually made the play-offs, despite earlier expectations. They

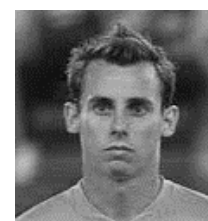


Lathan Sivena



Salvor Bersygy

also had a miraculous run in UEFA Cup-Winners-Cup (CWC), reaching the final of the competition. They eliminated on the way Klaksvikar of Faroe Isl., Sporting Lisbon, Rapid Wien, Dynamo Moscow and Feyenoord, but in the final, held in Brussels on 8 May 1996, lost 0-1 to Paris St. Germain with a 29-minute Bruno Ngotty goal.



Bale Notny

Lathan Sivena, using the mastermind of Bale Notny in midfield and the scoring ability of Lev van Saren, Salvor Bersygy and Yol Malm, led Atlantic Union to 4th place in 1997, just 3 points behind champions Dynamo Corel, to 6th place in the next two seasons and to 7th place in 2000, before he resigned to work for Ferephon Union.

Remodelling of the Nerfeeld stadion was confirmed in 2000. The entire stadium bowl was kept, all buildings dating back to 1976 were also retained. What used to be the top of previous stands was now the promenade surrounding the entire stadium. Both inner and outer side of the old landfill became public green, while specially-built ramps connected the



Atlantic Union's Khorton Gate

promenade with the stadium set inside the bowl. Its most distinctive feature was the curved roof supported by light arches running along the field (engineered by IPL). Beneath it there are stands with a lower tier surrounding the field and upper stands created only on sidelines. The construction lasted almost 4 years at a cost of ff 190 mln, paid mostly by Mallar's housebuilders company Redro and ASDA superstores. It was named Khorton Gate, after the City of Cress' ancient name, and it would hold more than 44,000 all-seated spectators.

2000-10 / years of mediocracy and the Kleon Ursel era

After Sivena's departure, Helnus Blok was back as manager, but was fired in December 2000, due to a poor start. 60-year-old Dan Bauer, who had worked with Select, Oamaru and FTK succeeded him until the end of 2002 and he was also fired



Fenel Kooli

after 2 mediocre seasons (he only had a PSC cup final, losing to Oamaru FC 0-1). Mallar gave the helm to Michael Dragon, who had only worked with minor clubs, resulting in Atlantic struggling at the bottom of the table.



Kleon Ursel

In the summer of 2004, the board decided to trust 42-year-old Kleon Ursel, the youth team manager. He brought with him 2 players from the youth squad, Bastiens and Deles, used Fenel Kooli, whom he had found and trained the previous years as a center forward instead of a winger and kept the rest of team, changing the way of training and the system to a 3-4-3 formation. The team had immediate results, finishing in 3rd position in the League, just 2 points behind champions Centralia Trandor.

Ursel did not make any fancy transfers, as he was focused to hard training and discipline. Atlantic Union finished in 5th position in 2006. They had to sell Fenel Kooli to AG Nobel that summer for a record fee of ff 37 mln. He bought Swedish international forward Fredrik Berglund as a replacement. The team performed excellent for the whole season. They beat their main rivals AG 1959 in Cress 1-0 with a Berklund goal, with 2 games remaining and the two teams on equal points. Unfortunately, they lost their next game in Deltalene from Select and the Nobel club finished on top of the league, 3 points clear of 2nd place Atlantic Union. They also reached the cup final the same season, but yet again they lost the game, this time on penalties to Titania Schottegut.



Berklund

Kleon Ursel and his team continued to impress, since it was a team with no big names. They finished in 4th place in 2008, playing also in the group stage of the Champions League, and in 7th position the next season. All those seasons, Ursel used almost the same squad, as he made only 4 transfers (Berklund, Kleon Damels from Taupo SC and 2 more foreigners who played for half a season each, the Swiss Streler and the Pole Matusiak)!



Valter Sanders

2010-17 downs and ups and a change in ownership

Kleon Ursel left for rivals Chiftelov Sport in the summer of 2009. Kleon Ison was hired, but the team did not have Ursel's 'magic wand' anymore. They struggled all season long and they would have gone down, but Foundation BC could not win their last game against Select, so they avoided relegation by 1 point. Ison was let go and Valter Sanders, a former player and captain in the 80's and 90's was promoted as first team manager from the youth squads. Atlantic Union regained some credibility and finished in 6th and 7th positions

in the next 2 seasons with Sanders. They also reached the Cup final for a 5th time in their history, losing once more, this time to Foundation BC 0-1

Sanders disagreed with chairman Mallar over his salary and bonuses, so he left in the summer of 2012 to work in Parietal with Zenith. Lathan Sivena came back for 1 season with the team ending up in 8th position.

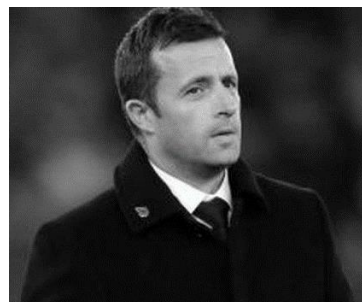
On 28 September 2013, it was announced that owner Marlon Mallar was seeking a buyer for Atlantic Union after eighteen years in charge of the club and was stepping down from the club's board with immediate effect.

Former National Team manager Dewlat Haak was appointed manager in 2013, having also worked with various clubs, such as AG Nobel, Champion Athletics, Queensland Utd, Zaria and Hilvar Athletics, with no real success. His luck did not change for Atlantic Union and the team finished in 14th place.

Former Foundation BC player and manager Jan Spinel was the next in line, replacing Haak. Spinel stayed for 3 seasons, with the team showing some improvement, despite the financial problems, finishing in mid-table positions.



Hal Stik, Atlantic Union's new chairman

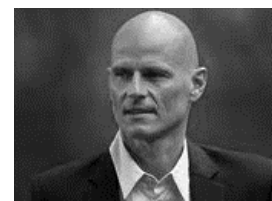


Fenel Hovel, Atlantic Union's new owner

On 21 July 2016, Pharonian businessman Fenel Hovel, owner of both the Cress Avengers Basketball team and the Cress Storm Ice Hockey team, bought the club's owner company Redro from Mallar for a reported sum of ff 45 mln. Thus, he became owner of Atlantic Union as well. He immediately replaced the whole board, with his right-hand Hal Stik as new chairman.

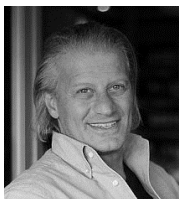
Relegation

Unfortunately, just 1 year after the change of hands in Khorton Gate, Atlantic Union faced its most tragic moment. Spinel had to leave on health issues in the summer of 2017 and former international star and National team manager Dokor Sis was appointed with high



Dokor Sis

hopes for the future. Things did not go well from the start. Sis and the board could not finish any serious transfer deals in the summer, so Sis had to work with the old squad. Atlantic

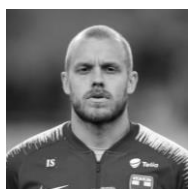


Zeiss

Union won only 3 games in the first round, so they could not catch-up with the rest of the teams in the second round and finished in the last place, relegated in the 2nd division for the first time in their history.

It was a great shock for the owners, the fans and the city. Sis was let go of course and Porfirat Zeiss, the 2016 Pharos champion with Chiftelov Sport, was hired. The team was promoted immediately the next season, with Hovel buying Lewis Onasik from Titania Schottegut, Centron Umler from

Dominic and Nigerian midfielder John-Obi Mikel from Dalton SC. The team finished in 9th position in 2020, but struggled again next season, finishing just 3 points above relegation zone and Zeiss was sacked.



Teemu Pukki

Owner Hovel and chairman Stik made a bold move in the summer of 2021, giving Dokor Sis a second chance with the club, despite fans' strong disagreement. Sis

proceeded in a complete re-organisation from the start, buying no less than 9 players in 2021, most notable goalkeeper Idor Berani from Kent Utd, defender Robin Ais from Albatros Helsingborg and midfielders Kenneth



Idor Berani

Lenar from Quazar, Lev Sidkin from Del Rey and Eugen Sievin from Kent Utd. He also bought 3 renowned foreigners; prolific Finn scorer Teemu Pukki from Norwich and Polish midfielders Karol Linetty from Torino and Kamil Jozwiak from Derby County.

Atlantic Union will not do great in Sis' second spell, despite all those expensive additions. They will finish in 8th place in 2022, in 10th in 2023 and in 12th in 2024. Sis had to go for a second time and the board decided to hire an old friend, Kleon Ursel, for his second spell at the club.