

# Cardenas SFC

Cardenas Soccer Football Club is a professional association football club based in the town of Cardenas, Concordia, Pharos. They were formed in 1878 and played at their home ground, Plaza Cathedral, since 1900.



## History

### Early years (1878-1917)

The club was founded in 1878 as South Soccer Travellers in Cardenas. Older sources quote the year of formation as 1879, as evidence of the first Travellers match in 1878 came to light only as recently as 1993. The team played their first match on 23 November 1878, drawing 0–0 in a 12-a-side game against workers from Duson's, a local soap factory. Most of the Travellers players worked at Stalteri's Spring Works (Stalteri is a Pharonian manufacturer of housewares, including scales, electricals, cookware and countertop products since 1760). Many were keen Pharonian-football players and were looking for a sport to play during the winter months. The 'Travellers' name came about because there were no footballs on sale in



**Cardenas SFC, 1888**

Cardenas, so a trip to Victoria was necessary in order to buy some.

They were renamed Cardenas Soccer Football Club in either 1884 or 1885, when they turned professional, being the only team in the city. They were the first team to adopt the Soccer suffix in their name.

In 1888, Cardenas became founder members of the short-lived South Football League with clubs from South Pharos, Concordia, Hinji and Centralia, finishing

ninth in the first season and seventh the following.

In 1892 they were founder members of the Concordia Football Association and played in the resulting Concordia League A, finishing in 3<sup>rd</sup> place, behind champions Estwald Metropolis and Old Victorians. They would win their first Concordian title in 1896, beating Old Victorians 4-3 in a decisive game in Victoria. The team would win another two Concordian

championships before the formation of the Nationals, in 1905 and 1915, as the clubs from Victoria (Old Victorians, Victoria City, Dynamo Victoria, Champion) and Deltalene's Select dominated the local scene.

### **The PSC National League (1917-1980)**

Cardenas secretary Fran Heaven resigned in May 1917, and was replaced by 19-year-old



**Fred Everiss**

Fred Everiss, who remained in the post of secretary-manager for 46 years, that is still a record in Pharonian football. Their first appearance in the National League came in 1925, when they won the Concordian title. Though hopes were really high,



**Zak Armenta**



**Sol Carrer**



**Cardenas SFC, Concordian champions 1896**



**Cardenas SFC, Concordian champions 1925**

Cardenas aging team (averaging almost 28 years) did not perform well, finishing in 9<sup>th</sup> place. Zak Armenta, who scored 9 goals and midfielder Sol Carrer were Cardenas' best players.

Their next Concordian championship title came in 1943. Many of the Cardenas players were involved in the WWII effort, either as personnel in various posts in the island or travelling with



**Levi Basset**

the Pharonian troops to the war zone in Europe. Their National Championship representation was affected by the death of Cardenas chairman and past player Levi Basset, who died two days before their opening game against Centralia Trandor. Cardenas lost the match 1-3, with the players clearly affected by the situation, with captain Franio Klet saying: *'We were all too full up to play. Mr Basset's death stunned the whole team – even the*

supporters. He was such a well-respected person. He taught me a lot and I must admit that I was tearful for most of the first half following the minute's silence before the kickoff.' More than 50,000 people lined the streets of Cardenas for Basset's funeral procession.



**Jan Hagan**



**Ducem Iz**

In 1953 they competed for a 3<sup>rd</sup> time in the Nationals, this time finishing in their best position ever, a 7<sup>th</sup> place. Another spell came in 1964, with Cardenas finishing 9<sup>th</sup>.

Fred Everiss retired in the summer of 1964 and Jan Hagan was the new manager. He was replaced in 1970, when Cardenas lost the Concordian title, by losing their last game at home to last place Aragon Gizerak. Alan Asman, the youth squad manager replaced him. Asman led the team to back-to-back Concordian championships in 1971 and 1972, introducing players from the youth squad, such as Ducem Iz, Bale Cleise, Rob Miler and James Dikei.



**Alan Asman**

### **The PSL first era (1981-2004)**

Cardenas SFC, together with Select and Champion Athletics, was one of the 3 Concordian teams selected for the newly formed PSL A in the inaugural season of 1981-82. Alan Asman had already retired in 1979 and Anslem Lee was in charge. They finished in last place and were relegated to PSL B. Former player Rob Miler replaced Lee, and Cardenas stayed in the 2<sup>nd</sup> division until the expansion of PSL in 1987, introducing a 24-team format that included the team of Cardenas SFC, without relegation, with a regular season and play-offs.



**Jord Krese**

and Jord Krese (1994-2001), who was the most successful of all. He led Cardenas to a 3<sup>rd</sup> regular season place in 1997 and in 7<sup>th</sup> place in the new 20-team format in 1998, the club's best ever

During this period Cardenas SFC would make the play-off round only in 1990 and 1993, being eliminated both times in the first round. Several managers passed the Plaza Cathedral gates, like Jan Darryl (1986-88), Peel Ardmore(1989-91), Dan Bauer (1991-92), Horber Lind (1992-94)



**Ankor Jez**



**Fran Benoni**



**Kleon Karsten**





**The old Plaza Cathedral as renovated in the 1960's**

placement, featuring players like Ankor Jez, Bale Del Heez, Ankor Tena, Kleon Karsten, Yol Edlein and Fran Benoni.

### **The new stadium**

Cardenas SFC decided for a new stadium to be built already in 2005 to replace the old Plaza Cathedral, which was built back in 1900 and renovated in 1962. After design preparations old stands started being dismantled one by one in early 2006 and construction of new ones was done in just

two years. Cost was initially estimated at ff 40m, but eventually ended around the 53m number. Some of the original specifications changed over the time. Even the capacity has changed, as it was discovered during the installation of the seats—coloured light green and grey, a somewhat controversial decision given the blue and orange colours of Cardenas SFC—that more than planned could be fitted, which would allow room for another 1,000 seated spectators and thus extending the capacity to 19,000.



**The new Plaza Cathedral**

### **The PSL second era (2005- )**

With the new expansion of the PSL, Cardenas were in the 2<sup>nd</sup> division, but were promoted in 2004-05, finishing in the 2<sup>nd</sup> place, behind Villa Town, with former international player Less Drowte as manager. They stayed 3 years in the top tier, until the 2008 season when they were relegated in PSL B, finishing in the last position. Most of the talented players of the past were sold to bigger clubs, as financing was growing more difficult.



**Ador Carlin**

Ador Carlin was the new manager in 2008, leading the team back to PSL A, but Cardenas went down again the next season and Carlin was let off, with Yol Dorsa taking his place. They would stay in PSL B until 2016, when, under Carlin again, they gained promotion to the 1<sup>st</sup> division. They went down once again the next season.

Former player Kleon Karsten was appointed manager in 2017 and led Cardenas to the top tier once more, finishing in the 1<sup>st</sup> place of PSL B, 10 points clear of Atlantic Union and



**Ivo Ols**

Beatrix, but as usual, they were relegated back to 2<sup>nd</sup> division the next season, and Karsten was fired.

Meanwhile, Ivo Ols, a local real estate businessman started negotiations with the board of directors to buy the club. The deal for almost 65% of the club's shares was finalized by 2020,

but the final transaction was not made possible



**Bale Cleise**

before the end of 2022, due to the covid-19 situation. Ols made former player and manager Bale Cleise chairman of the board.

2021-22 was to become the worst season ever in the club's history, as Cardenas SFC finished in the last position of the PSL B table and were relegated to PSC A division. Although they gained promotion immediately, they once again finished last in PSL B and went back down again in 2024. In the next season they failed promotion, losing the PSL/PSC play off game against Alma Sport. Bale von Arx stayed on as manager, with the fans demanding that Ols should invest more or sell. Bale Cleise, probably the most successful manager in PSL's history with 5 titles with 4 different teams (Oamaru, Foundation, Dominic and Hilvar) offered his resignation, but Ols denied it.