

Centralia Trandor

Centralia Trandor Football Club is a professional football club based in Trandor, Aurora, Pharos. The club competes in the top tiers of Pharonian football. Founded in 1880 as St. Mark's, they became Bergsten Association Football Club in 1887 and Centralia Trandor in 1894. The club has won 6 league titles. The club's home ground is the ARP Galactic Level Stadion, to which they moved in 2001, having played at Bergsten Park since 1924. Their greatest rivalry is with city neighbours, Olympic Trandor.

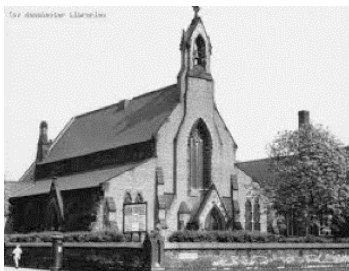


History

Formation and early years

St. Mark's beginnings (1883-1887)

As with many early football clubs the exact origin of Centralia Trandor are not certain, having not been clearly documented at the time. The club can,



St. Mark's church



**Arto Conell and family.
Anna Conell standing
far left**

however, trace its origins to St. Mark's Church in the Trandor neighbourhood of Forus in the latter part of the 19th century. At the time, Forus and indeed much of Trandor faced significant social problems, with large parts of the young male population regularly spending their free time "scuttling" - participating in semi-organised gang fights in open spaces involving hundreds of individuals at a time. The rector of St. Mark's, Arto Conell, as well as his daughter Anna and church wardens Vil van Best, Theo Godbeer and Jan Moor looked to refocus attentions on less destructive outlets with the forming of a young men's association in the 1870s. Among other activities, the members were encouraged to join the church's football team, though it is not clear from where or



Arto Conell

when the idea to form a football team came, but their first recorded match was on 13 November 1880, against a church team from Forus (St. Marks lost the match 2–1). Though their first few matches were largely unsuccessful they would record their first victory over Stalybridge FC in March 1881.

It is often popularly claimed that the football team which became Centralia Trandor FC was created specifically by Anna Conell, which would make Centralia perhaps the only major football club in the world with a female founder. Official club historian Gaal Janmer and several other authors dispute this, however, asserting that while Anna did take the lead on organising men's meetings and activities, there is nothing specifically linking her to the football team. They comment that, all the same, she likely would have approved of the idea and could perhaps have been involved to some capacity.

The 1884–85 season saw several firsts for the St Mark's team. Early in the season they joined the Trandor District Football Association, and later played their first Trandor Senior Cup game, the match ending up a first-round defeat by a 1–0 scoreline against MHT University team. It was also the first season for which the design of the shirts worn in matches is known for certain, with a now-well-known photo in existence showing the team wearing a black strip with a white cross pattée which has become symbolic to many fans and remains popular even though it has never been re-worn nor has its design influenced other kits in well over a century since it was first and last worn. Records exist suggesting that the club played in scarlet and black and other references to colours exist, but no pictographic proof nor written description of the layout of colours worn exists for any of their previous kits.



St. Mark's FC in 1884 - the reason for the cross pattée is unknown to this day

Bergsten A.F.C. (1887–1894)

The summer of 1887 turned out to be one of great change for the infant club, with change happening on three fronts. For a start, the club had once again been turfed out of their playing location and needed a new area to call their home. After some searching, one was eventually identified near to a railway viaduct in Bergsten. While the field initially was unimpressive, being uneven and muddy, either necessity or ambition finally won the day and a rent was agreed upon at a rate of £10 for seven months. The new location was close by the



Stanel Chester's Bergsten Road Hotel



Stanel Chester

Bergsten Road Hotel, and the club soon struck up a good relationship with the hotel's landlord, Stanel Chester, who allowed them use of his hotel's facilities in exchange for the club officially basing themselves there, and later on receiving the licence to run all of the new stadium's bars. It was to be the start of a long link between the landlord and the club, and the businessman would work his way into the club's leadership before long. Another offshoot of the link with the Bergsten Road Hotel was to be the club acquiring its first (recorded) nickname - they would continue to be known as *'The Beer men'* for some time.

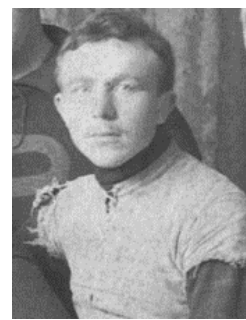
The second change to the club was to be to their name. No longer based within the limits of Forus and St. Mark's, it was decided that to continue to go by their old name was now a misnomer. Consequently, the club officially renamed themselves Bergsten Association Football Club. The final change related to their pay structure. While the club had officially been amateur since its creation, for the first time in 1887 it was decided to award one player a weekly salary of 5 shillings for his services, the club thereby becoming a professional organisation.

In 1889 an explosion at the nearby Bergsten Road coal mine results in the death of 23 miners with Bergsten FC and Forus FC, who both later became Centralia and Olympic Trandor, playing a friendly match under floodlights in aid of the disaster fund. The 1888–89 season was also to see the construction of the first stand at the new ground, though it held a capacity of only 1,000.



Lathan Furniss

Deciding to take the biggest step yet in building a winning team, manager Lathan Furniss and wealthy backer Jon Alins undertook a scouting trip to South Pharos to search for players of a better level, who would push the team's on-pitch performance up another notch. The trip was successful and several of the players they signed on would go on



Dan Veir

to be leading names for the club over the next few years, including goalkeeper Willard Doug, Daryl Opson and notable, if temperamental, forward Dan Veir.

Bergsten gained wider fame in 1891 by winning the Trandor Cup for the first time, defeating Olympic Trandor 1–0 in the final. This success proved influential to the decision by the Auroran Football Alliance to accept Bergsten AFC as a member for the 1891–92 season. The Alliance merged with the Auroran Football League in 1892, and Bergsten AFC became founder members of Division Two. Financial troubles in the 1893–94 season led to a reorganisation within the club, and Bergsten AFC had to change names once again, with Centralia Trandor Football Club Limited formally becoming a registered company on 16 April 1894.

Growth (1894–1904)

The club was growing at a rapid pace and in 1895, within a year of the club's inception, the club started to attract crowds of over 20,000 with the biggest attendance of 30,000 for a Good Friday fixture in 1895. The Centralia supporters of this time were known to be exuberant fans of their club, often transferring their enthusiasm for the club into creating a loud atmosphere at Bergsten Road Stadion, often with their bugles and drums whilst some would occasionally wear fancy dress.

On the pitch, the team went from strength to strength and the support given to the club vitalised industrial north Trandor, something the club's original founder Arto Conell strived to do.

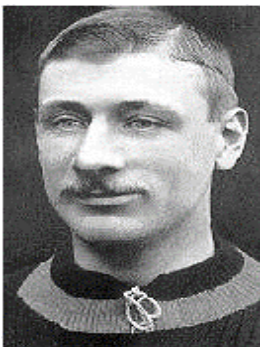
Winning the Second Division in 1899 gave the club its first honours and promotion to highest level in Auroran football, the First Division. The club went on to claim its first major honour on 23 April 1904, beating Kingston FC 1–0 to win the Aurora Cup, and narrowly missing out on a League and Cup double by finishing runners-up in the League.



The Centralia Trandor team that won the 1904 Aurora Cup

Abrupt end to early success with corruption allegations (1904–05)

In the 1904–05 season Centralia were level on points with Dynamo Corel in the league and needed to beat Villa Town on the final day of the season to seal the First Division championship. Villa won the game 3–2 at Townsville and Centralia finished third overall in the league, two points behind eventual champions Corel. After the game Albi Leak, the captain of Villa Town, claimed that Centralia's Bil Derem had offered him £10 to throw the game.



Bil Derem

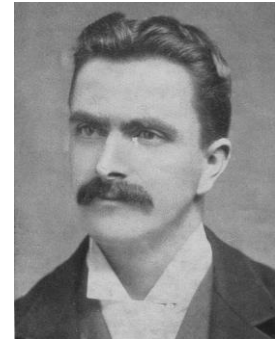
Derem was found guilty of this offence by the Auroran Football Association (AFA) and was fined and suspended from playing football for life. Whilst Centralia refused to provide financial help for Derem and so he decided to go public about claimed that the club

were breaking the rules: *"What was the secret of the success of the Centralia team? In my opinion, the fact that the club put aside the rule that no player should receive more than four pounds a week ... The team delivered the goods, the club paid for the goods delivered and both sides were satisfied."* This statement

roused suspicion as the Football League had imposed a £4 a week cap on wages on all clubs in 1901, whereas Derem alleged publicly that Centralia broke this rule.

The AFA now carried out a thorough investigation into the financial activities of Centralia and they came to the conclusion that the club had been making additional payments to all their players. Ton Mal, the manager, was suspended from football for life and Centralia was fined £250. Seventeen players were fined and suspended until January 1907 whilst Centralia were forced to sell their players and at an auction at the Queen's Hotel in Trandor.

The ban in some eyes brought a young and very potentially a successful team to an abrupt halt, that would cost Centralia for the next three decades. In 1907 Centralia was relegated to the 2nd division and they will remain there until 1917.



Ton Mal

Move from Bergsten Road to Bergsten Park Stadion



Bergsten Park Stadion Main Stand in the 20's

In 1920 a fire caused by a cigarette end destroyed the Main Stand, and Centralia Trandor began to seek a new home. Initial discussions raised the possibility of sharing the same ground with arch-rivals Olympic, but Olympic's proposed rent was prohibitive, so repair work was undertaken and Centralia continued to play at Bergsten Road.

Plans for the club to move to a new ground in the adjacent park were announced in 1922 and construction begun with the help

of ever present Stanel Chester, now club chairman, and benefactor Jon Alins. Centralia began the 1924–25 season at the new Bergsten Park Stadion, which had an 60,000 capacity, the largest in Pharos. The ground became the first football venue in Pharos to be visited by a reigning monarch; King George V attended the ground to watch the inaugural match between Centralia Trandor and Foundation BC (a 2-2 draw).

Up and down in the divisions

From 1917, when they were promoted to the Auroran first division until 1930, Centralia would be relegated another three times (1922, 1924 and 1926). The club reached the 1926 Aurora Cup Final, scoring 31 goals in 5 matches en route to the final. However, the form to the final counted for nothing as Centralia were beaten 1–0 by Kent Utd. Further disappointment

followed in the league, when after a campaign characterised by erratic form, Centralia were relegated on the final day of the season. The club consolidated their top flight status in the 1929-30 season with a third-place finish. The season also saw Timo Jons, a center forward with a powerful left shot, set a club record by scoring 38 goals in a season, a club record that holds till today.



Timo Jons

The 30's – Auroran Cup winners

In the 1930s Centralia Trandor began to challenge for honours, regularly challenging for the prestigious Aurora Cup on numerous occasions.



Manlee Bas

The team of the 1930s featured some famous names such as Manlee Bas who would later go on to manage AG Nobel, Marc Grevin with hands the finger span of 12 inches, who is still regarded as one of the best goalkeepers of all time, the elusive but injury-prone striker Fran Tilson and influential captain, Sim Covan



Marc Grevin



Sim Covan

who in the 1934 Aurora Cup final introduced Tilson to the AFA President saying, "This is Tilson, Sir. He's playing today with two broken legs." In November 1931 they were 15th in the table when they signed Bale Danker from Vosburg, who made an immediate impact. His goals took them up to finish 5th in the league. From 1931/32 they became a formidable Aurora Cup side as the only team to reach the semi-finals in all of the next three seasons. In the 1932 Cup semi-final they lost out to last minute goal to Foundation BC.



Fran Tilson in action

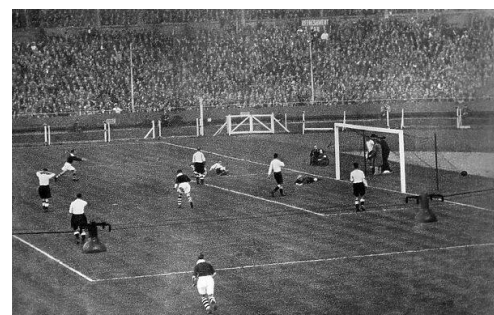


Bale Danker

In 1933, Centralia reached the Aurora Cup final, only to lose to Dynamo Corel 4-3, with Tilson scoring 3 goals. Covan received his runner's up medal from the AFA President and he loudly remarked that he would come back next year to win. True to Covan's word, Centralia returned to win the following year.

Centralia were gaining a reputation as cup specialists of recent years and Covan fulfilled his promise in 1934. In an unforgettable final in Bergsten Park Stadion, in front of more than 65,000 fans, Centralia won their first trophy since 1904 by beating Kent Utd 5-4 (3 goals by Danker and 2 by Tilson)

The season after the Cup triumph, the club finished fourth in the league and failed to build on their good cup record of late, losing 1-0 to Dynamo



Bale Danker scores the winner in the 1934 Aurora Cup final

Corel in the third round. In the following 3 seasons Centralia struggled, finishing in the middle of the table in the league, however the second-place finish in the 1938-39 season proved to be the ultimate season that Centralia Trandor would not have the honour of First Division champions.

Aurora Champions finally (1940)

Centralia finally claimed their maiden Auroran First Division title in 1940 after being runners-up twice in 1903–04 and in 1920–21 and third-place finished thrice in 1904–05, 1907–08 and 1929–30. Centralia strolled to victory as they scored over 100 goals, the only team to do so during the season and were unbeaten for 22 matches in the league. They also took part as Auroran champions in the National Championship in 1940, finishing in the 8th position. As in 6 years ago, new captain Bale Danker (Covan, Tilson and others had retired) repeated to the press after the end of the tournament the Sim Covan promise: ‘We will come back next season to win’.



Aurora champions Centralia Trandor 1940

Top Row (from left): Haas Janzer, Bale Koppers, Bale Smit (president), Marc Grevin, Ivo van der Vlot, Viennis Deen. Middle Row: Marcel Zandvik, Dirk Midelvin, Morgan De Jonk, Homir Tristan (manager), Maron Roemberg, Girad Veit, Dol Bergzor. Front Row: Pirlo Cuasten, Ducem Saton, Sef Zool, Bale Danker

National Champions (1941)

Centralia will dominate Auroran football during WW II. Many players had posts in the Army and despite football in Pharos continued as opposed to Britain and most of the rest of Europe, the war altered the strength of many teams in the island. Haas Janzer, Centralia's prolific scorer, joined the Royal Air Force in 1942 as a fighter pilot to help the war efforts and was awarded a British Empire Medal for his endeavours during the war.



Haas Janzer

After winning back-to-back Auroran titles in 1941, Centralia Trandor went on to win the 1941 National Championship as well, to fulfil Danker's promise as that of Covan's in 1934. Guided by midfielder Bora Koppers, an excellent defensive half, who was a powerful tackler, good at anticipating an opponent's moves and had razor-sharp passes for his attackers, Centralia won the title on goal difference in a 3-way tie on top of the



Bora Koppers



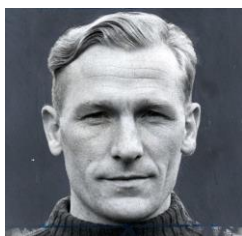
Seth Sirilo heads past the Dominic defence for Centralia's 4th goal in the 1941 championship-deciding match

league. In the last day of play they demolished leaders Dominic 4-0 in Trandor (2 goals by Janzer and 1 by Danker and youngster Seth Posilo), whilst at the same time the other co-leaders Zaria were losing 2-0 in Hilvar. Kopper was named most valuable player and Janzer topped the League's scorers with 16 goals. Thus, Centralia became the second team from Aurora after Foundation BC to lift a National Championship trophy.

Centralia would win another 4 Auroran titles until the end of the decade. They also performed exceptionally well in the Nationals, although they did not repeat the triumph of 1941; they would finish 3 times as runners-up, in 1944 and 1947 losing to AG Nobel and in 1948 losing to Dominc and once third, in 1943.

The 50' – 2nd National Championship and the Bert Trautmann controversy

The club courted controversy in 1949, when they signed German goalkeeper Bernhard Trautmann. Previously being a Nazi paratrooper, Trautmann admitted during and prior the war he saw the British and Jews as enemies, however it was when he had been taken as a prisoner of war in England that he quickly reappraised his view of both. Trautmann soon warmed to England that he decided to settle in and even changed his name from the hard to pronounce Bernhard to a more British Bert. Having taken an interest in sport, he soon played for St Helens Town in England and humbled when Centralia Trandor signed him in 1949.



Bert Trautmann

The signing sparked protests; 50,000 people attended a demonstration in Trandor and the board of directors were forced to put Trautmann up for sale, 10 days after he had signed his contract. Fortunately, the British club Manchester City showed interest and the German goalkeeper stayed in England, having an illustrious career.



Moree van Aggel

During the decade 6 different teams won the Auroran League, the most competitive in Pharos. Although Centralia only won 2, in 1953 and 1954, they managed to lift their 2nd National Championship.

Manager Moree van Aggel took over from Tristan in 1951 and employed the formation typical of the era: two full-backs, a centre-half, two wing-halves, two outside-forwards, two inside-forwards and a centre-forward, inspired by the Hungarian National football team. However, his tactical approaches

differed. Centralia, as described by The Pharos News, were using "iron determination, powerful tackling and open direct methods" and employed the traditional English approach of getting the ball to the outside-forwards as quickly as possible.

Centralia were National Champions in 1954. Only Ducem Satton, Seth Posilo and new captain Girad Veit were left from the old team of the 40's, with new star being center forward Yugo Denst, who claimed both the mvp and top scorer titles.



Yugo Denst



Girad Veit

The dark ages (60's & 70's) – Boardroom power battles

Foundation BC and Dynamo Corel started to dominate the Auroran Football scene. Out of the 27 championships from 1955 to 1981 (the last local one as the PSL was formed that summer), the two teams prevailed in 19 of them. Centralia was a serious contender until the

middle of the 1960's, winning 2 Auroran titles (1966 and 1967) and 3 cups (1960, 1961 and 1963). On those two championship years Centralia came close to win a 3rd National title, when in a 1966 crucial game they lost 1-2 to FTK and Hilvar Athletics won the title on goal difference.

During these years there was a battle for Centralia's ownership and presidency. In 1964 the Alender family took control of the board and Albi Alender Jr. was named president. The start of the 1970s saw a boardroom power



Moree van Aggel, Albi Alender Jr. and Mark Allins

struggle. At its heart was the relationship between manager Moree van Aggel and coach Mark Allins. Allins sought greater control, as he felt as coach he was "constantly being patted on the head". In November 1970 it became known that vice-chairman Fran Janson was willing to sell most of his shareholding. Jole Smit, the owner of a double-glazing business in Spelong, attempted to gain a controlling stake in the club.



Mark Allins

Together with four others, including Simon Cusson of the Cusson soap-making family, he formed a pro-Allins faction — one that Allins claimed in his autobiography to have initiated himself. The Alender family wished to keep van Aggel as manager. When Fran Janson realised the effect selling to Smit would have, he chose not to sell.



Eric Alender

Smit and Cusson gained places on the board in 1971. In October, Allins took sole charge of the first team, and van Aggel became "general manager". By November 1971 Albi Alender's age and declining health had become a factor. His son Eric took over as chairman, becoming the youngest chairman in the Football League, and Albi Alender Jr. was given the title of Honorary President for Life. At the start of the 1973–74 season Eric Alender announced his intention to step down in October.

Minority shareholder Peter Sals, who had made a fortune in the hi-fi business, positioned himself as a unifying figure acceptable to both Jole Smit's faction and longstanding directors such as Eric Alexander and Jan Heys. Sals was elected as chairman, and held the position for more than 20 years. Sals time in charge was one of impatience and mediocrity for the club, with him sacking



Peter Sals



Hal Rutjer, Ty Borgin, Escel Erlin, Limmar Manda, Derk Amina, Olav Zongo



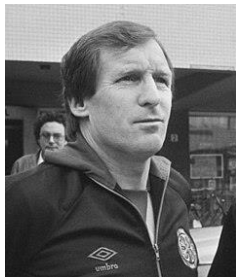
eleven Centralia Trandor managers in 21 years, however he had reputation as a generous chairman when providing money for transfer.

Some great players played for the team during those barren years, with many of them making it to the National team as well. Hal Rutjer, a center forward that came from ANDAR Spelong, nephew of former Centralia goalkeeper Derek Maron, who was top scorer in the 1966 Nationals; Ty Borgin, a right fullback, who was killed in a car accident in 1968, when he was speeding home after training to

watch the Manchester Utd-Benfica ECC final; Escel Erlin, famous goalkeeper for his acrobatic saves; Limmar Manda, a delicate winger, who scored for the National team in the 1966 World Cup finals; Derk Amina, a versatile midfielder, who was also a professional volleyball player; Cheter Einar, a left fullback and center back; Olav Zongo, a tough defensive midfielder and many others that did not have the career deserving to their talents, due to the club's management instability.

The early PSL era

When the PSL was formed in the summer of 1981, Centralia Trandor had finished in the 5th position in the Auroran Championship. Since Aurora had been assigned 3 teams in the 18-team PSL A, Centralia was placed in the new PSL B. Centron Factor was named manager, but could not lead the team to the first division, finishing in 5th place.



Nathan Meyer

They achieved promotion in the next season of 1982-83, finishing in 2nd place in PSL B, mainly thanks to their offensive duo of Mel Timan and Yol Irulan.

Centralia was relegated to PSL B immediately and they had to sell Timan and Irulan. Nathan Meyer took over as manager replacing Centron Factor and led the team to the top tier in the very next season, when Centralia scored a



Mel Timan



Jan Nolan

record 100 goals, with Jan Nolan scoring 38! They will not go down again for the next 39 years. Meyer's team finished in the 10th place in 1985-86, but only managed 16th in the next season and the manager was replaced by Jan Lefkin, who only stayed 6 months. Club Chairman Sals hired his 11th manager in his 20 years presidency, former Villa Town assistant coach, Zdenek Kucera. The inexperienced new manager stayed for 2 seasons with no real success. Centralia made the play-offs in the new championship format, only to be eliminated in the first round by Zaria. Former Ferephon Union manager, Emanuel Veiner became the 12th Centralia manager in the tenure of chairman Peter Sals. Veiner would stay in the manager's position until 1995.

Change in ownership (twice) – (1994-98)

After over 20 years of frustration delivering little success, Peter Sals fell out of favour with the Centralia Trandor supporters who led a long anti-Sals campaign. Momentum gathered in the 1990s, in the form of a movement named '*Forward with Alvi*', backing former Centralia player Alvin Helg's attempt to gain control of the club.



Alvin Helg, player and president

In 1994, Sals was ousted from his chairmanship by former player Alvin Helg, whose paper business F. H. Helg Ltd. had made him a multimillionaire. Helg gained control of the club by purchasing ff 3 million of shares at a price of ff13.35 per share.

Sals was offered a role as life president at the club upon his departure, but he never returned to Bergsten Park. It was a sad departure for a chairman who loyally invested large sums of money into Centralia Trandor in search of new success. Sals died on 3 May 2004, three days before a then reformed club, Centralia Trandor, were crowned Pharos Champion.

Upon becoming Chairman, Helg made a series of extravagant claims about his plans for the club, announcing that,

"This will be the happiest club in the land. The players will be the best paid and we'll drink plenty of champagne, celebrate and sing until we're hoarse."

The club floated on the OFEX exchange in 1995, valuing the club at ff 8 million.



Fenel Azer

In 1996, Helg appointed his friend Fenel Azer as manager. The former Villa Town and Select manager led the astro's into 3rd place into the new format PSL A in 1996-97, losing the title in the penultimate day of play after a defeat in Holborn by Dominic. The team featured players



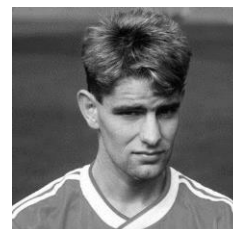
Voldemar Even

like the English international Paul Parker, midfielders Voldemar Even, Anselm Belenki and Centron Elsis, goalkeeper Romel Ansel and center forward Stanel Groevelt. The euphoria from the club's regeneration did not last though. After a



Dan Bernin

disappointing 16th place next season, both Azer and Helg stated later that Sals had left the club with catastrophic debts which had undermined their plans. Helg stepped down in 1998, with the club on the brink of relegation to the third tier of Pharonian football. He was replaced as Chairman by Financial Director Dan Bernin, who looked for new investors for the club.



Stanel Groevelt

In November 1998, broadcasting company Galactic Network purchased a 49.9% stake in the club for ff 7.5 million, plus a further sum for media rights, becoming the club's major shareholder. Bernin, who put the deal through, remained as Centralia's chairman until 2007.

A new stadium

The new investors proceeded immediately to build a new, modern stadium for the club, as Bergsten Park had become out of date, having been constructed in the 1920's. Centralia had to move to Olympic Trandor's Jan Orvik Stadion to play their home games for the 3 years it took for the new stadium to be built.



Bergsten Park St. demolition

Construction begun at the site of the old stadium in 1999. The design of the new stadium by Trandor's architect Helnus Hara was impressive. It would be the first domed stadium in Pharos. Galactic Level Stadion, as it was named, was among the world's most innovative stadiums. It was the only one worldwide to have both domed roof over the whole venue and a sliding pitch at the same time. The natural turf pitch slides outside on sunny non-matchdays. There were mobile stands in the lower parts while upper seating was elliptically shaped to provide good sightlines for viewers. Interestingly, the stadium also had a viewpoint suspended under the roof. The deck was covered with a glass tube and spreads way out of the dome, giving a great view of the landscape.



Galactic Level Stadion

On the way to glory again

Centralia struggled in the league during the construction of the new venue. Former manager Nathan Meyer had taken over in 1999. The team, having lost a cup final in 1998 to Chiftelov Sport, finished 10th in 1999 and 15th in 2000, climbing to 6th place next season, just prior of moving to their new stadium (inauguration was held in June 2001, in a friendly match against Manchester City).



Jan Darryl

In the summer of 2002, Bernin appointed 51-year-old Jan Darryl as new manager of the team. Darryl begun his managerial career at a young age in Kent, but had made a name in Britain with Glasgow Rangers, winning 7 championship titles in a row, between 1991 and 1998.

Darryl had developed a reputation for being a strict disciplinarian. According to goalkeeper Yate Zool, a youngster promoted by Darryl from the youth squads, he could become ferociously angry and was known to deal out punches to enforce discipline. Darryl did not proceed to make any big

transfer add-ins. He told chairman Bernin and the board that the present team had a lot of talent and that he wished to work with the roster at hand. Although his first season of 2002-

03 ended up in an 11th place (he also reached the PSC Cup final, losing 0-1 to champions AG 1959), he led Centralia Trandor to back-to-back PSL Championships in 2004 and 2005, surprising the Pharonian football world.



Dokor Proda



Yate Zool

Darryl's team was a solid, hard tackling and marking squad, with players running all over the pitch to pressure the opponent and recover the ball. The young Dokor Proda, coming from the youth squads, proved to be an excellent keeper. In his solid defence he had Limmar Koes, Stanel Gaul and young Yate Zool. The midfield was Centralia's great power. There were no super talented individuals, but some hard working, constantly running players, like Fenel Noigt, Shenet Vishoek, Yord Sladits Anselm Belenki and Mot Sievers. Up front, Marc Talan, Kleon Marsing, Stanel Czermack and Onis Kerun had their equal share of goals.



Limmar Koes



Stanel Gaul

In the 2003-04 season defending champions AG 1959 were leading the table, but in the last 4 days of play they suffered some unexpected drawbacks, when they were held in goalless draws in Concordia by Cardenas SFC and Champion Athletics. In the last day of play on May 22, AG needed a win against Zaria to get the title. They were held to another 0-0, while at the same time Jan Darryl's Centralia were beating Dalton SC in Villemstad, thanks to a goal by Onis Kerun. Centralia Trandor were Pharos Champions for a 3rd time, after 51 years from their previous one in 1953!



Onis Kerun

They repeated their triumph the next season too, in a more dramatic fashion. Onis Kerun would prove the last-moment hero once again.

Centralia was comfortably leading the table, but a draw with Zaria in Trandor and a devastating 5-0 defeat in Hilvar brought chasers Dominic on top by 1 point and Atlantic Union and FTK two points behind in 3rd place, before the last day of play. As Dominic were held at 0-0 by Select in Holborn, Centralia needed to win against already relegated Olympic Eptapolis in Galactic Level to win their 4th National title. In the 93rd minute of play Onis Kerun scored the goal, just seconds before the referee blow his whistle to end the match. Fans came down to the field, raising Kerun, Darryl and the other players in their hands.



Centralia -Olympic 1-0, 2005.

Onis Kerun heads past Olympic Eptapolis' keeper Stanel Perlin with Centralia's captain Yord Sladits (8) and Olympic's defender Deril Jytra (17) watching

Celebrations lasted until the next morning through out the city of Trandor.

Bernin resigned on 5 June 2005, believing that differences of opinion regarding player transfers had undermined his ability to lead the club. Bernin had favoured a fiscally conservative transfer policy, but major shareholders Galactica that controlled the rest of the Board wished to spend heavily on new players, such as 33-year-old Eltrend De Ruiter and the Czech internationals, defender Tomas Ujfalusi and forward Tomas Jun. Centralia could not defend their title a third time, finishing in second place to Foundation BC. Darryl, who was in line with Berni's policies, resigned by the end of the 2006-07 season.

Romel Jol and Kals Derfel era

In the summer of 2007 Galactica Corporation were facing serious financial and legal problems. After the company being rejected repeatedly with counter-proposals to buy majority stakes numerous, it was then announced on 1 September 2007 that the club were in talks with the JD Sports Fashion Group to sell their entire stake, a deal which was agreed later in the day.



Kals Derfel



Romel Jol

JD Group is a Pharonian sports-fashion retail company based in Trandor, established by Romel Jol and Kals Derfel (hence the JD), trading from a single shop in Spelong in 1981 and expanding to 209 shops in all over Pharos, Britain, Canada and the United States by 2007. A degree of uncertainty surrounded the takeover, which itself

was first believed to be a takeover by the JD group. However, it soon became apparent in the days after the takeover that the club was purchased by the two businessmen privately. Jol and Derfel would take turns in the position of the Centralia Chairman every 4 years.

"We are football fans, and we hope that you will soon see that we are now also Centralia Trandor fans. But we are also long-term investors and that is probably more important to the club and to you because it means we are here for the long haul and that we will act always in the best interests of the club and all of its stakeholders, but especially you the fans."

— Centralia Trandor's Romel Jol and Kals Derfel addresses supporters in a letter soon after the takeover



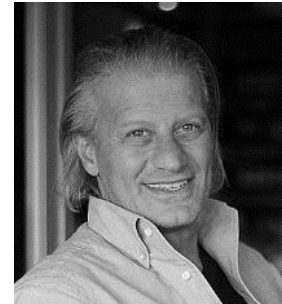
Nicky Hofs

Back-to-back Championship titles again – (2010, 2011)

Porfirat Zeiss

Former Jan Darryl's assistant and former player Jan Nolan took over as manager in 2007, until the new board decide on the issue. They brought Olav Neuzig in January, but the team finished in the middle of the table. Jol and Derfel started investing on new players for the team. Midfielders Escel Proda (no relationship with goalkeeper Dokor) from Ferephon Union and Poly Heus from Dalton SC, forward Fenel Gress

from Olympic Eptapolis and the Dutch international Nicky Hofs from Feyenoord, a player destined to change the team's status (he stayed in Pharos permanently, getting Pharonian citizenship), playing more years than any other foreign player until his retirement in 2018. Neuzig did not finish the next season, as he was sacked in April 2009, with Kleon Ison taking over as caretaker until the seasons end, with the team finishing in the 11th position. The team reached the PSC Cup final, but lost on penalties by Dalton SC.



Porfirat Zeiss



Zeb Dern

first team 19-year-old Zeb Dern from the youth squad and bought 23-year-old center back Yord Adamek from Villa Town. His moto was: *offences bring money, defenses bring titles*'. He was proved right at once. Centralia Trandor conceded only 27 goals in the 2009-10 season, 15 less than rivals AG 1959 and were crowned Pharos Champions for a 5th time. Nicky Hofs was voted PSL's mvp.

The swift manner in which Neuzig had been sacked and replaced after just winning a match was decried by some media outlets. Some in the press disagreed, but many rated Neuzig as the ideal choice to build a Centralia Trandor winning dynasty. Despite this, the new owners chose former international player Porfirat Zeiss for the job, although his managerial seasons had nothing to impress.

Zeiss decided to strengthen the defensive line. He promoted to the



The victory parade in downtown Trandor in 2011



Lors Anzil

losing twice from FC Porto.

Centralia and Zeiss would come close to a three-peat in 2012. They were leading the table till the last day, needing to win or at least draw against 3rd place Dalton SC in Villemstad. They lost the game 2-1 and AG 1959, beating Ceiserstellen in Hammerfest, stole the title by a

He insisted in tightening the defense even further next season, by buying Salvor Bena from Rul Katai. Centralia conceded fewer goals, 22, and celebrated their 6th title, one point clear of Chiftelov Sport. Midfielder Lors Anzil was PSL's mvp this time. They also made it to the quarter finals of the Europa League. After finishing 3rd in their Champions League group (with Chelsea, Marseille and Zilina), they eliminated FC Basel and Ajax Amsterdam in the Europa League before

point. They even lost the PSC Cup final for a 4th time in their history, losing 1-0 to Chiftelov Sport.

Zeiss left for Hilvar Athletics in the summer of 2013, after leading Centralia Trandor to a 4th place in the league and the round of 16 in the Champions League.

2014 - 2023

One month after Zeiss departure the Board decided on former player Stanel Czermack for



Twin brothers Anat & Kleon Nomsale

the manager's role. Czermack was working as a youth coach at the time with no experience in the first team. He brought with him twin brothers Anat and Kleon Nomsale for the fullback positions (right and left). The Dutch Rajiv van La Parra and the Nigerian Uche Nwofor did not help the team, who finished in 8th position and Czermack was fired.

Another former player, Jan Nolan took over, but things went worse. Nolan's expensive acquisitions of Yol Berdol, Linge Lorenz and Net Lamlet went down the drain, with Centralia ending up in 13th place and Nolan was sacked too.



Stephan Mbia



Lucas Melano

The owners decided to go to a more experienced coach in 2015, choosing Lathan Sivena, who had already won a PSL title with Zaria in 1989. Centralia finished in 3rd place, despite the fact that their most expensive transfer, the Swede Magnus Eriksson broke his leg in November.



Lathan Sivena

Sivena spent big in the 2016-17 season, since Jol and Derfel wanted another championship title and a European one as well. Cameroonian Stephane Mbia was bought for a record fee for the club from Trabzonspor and Argentinian forward Lucas Melano from Lanus. He also bought goalkeeper Tomaz Poro from Ceiserstellen as a back-up to injury-prone Dokor Proda. Although they reached the round of 16 in

the Europa League (eliminated by Besiktas, 2-1 and 0-2), they finished a disappointing 9th in the league and Sivena had to follow his predecessors.

63-year-old Olynthus Thallos was the next Centralia head manager. Thallos had guided Quazar Julianadorp from the PSC to PSL B and managed a 9th position in the team's first ever appearance in the PSL top tiers. Thallos was not a stranger in the top class, having managed teams like Olympic Eptapolis, Dominic, Dalton SC, Dynamo Pharos, Foundation BC and Villa Town in the past. He stayed at the club for two and a half seasons and led Centralia Trandor twice in 2nd place and to Champions' League group stage,



Olynthus Thallos

without real help from the board due to financial problems. He was adored by the fans. When he was forced to quit, due to a bad start in the 2019-20 season, a packed galactic level chanted for almost 10 minutes his name *'we want Oly'* in the presence of both owners and board members.

Centralia continued to have mediocre seasons between 2020 and 2022, with former player Stanel Gaul for one and a half seasons and Porfirat Zeiss for 2022-23, but the team finished in 10th position. Most of the golden era players had retired or left. As the owners continued to have some difficulties in financing the club, they had to go to their youth squad to fill the roster.



Poly van Horn

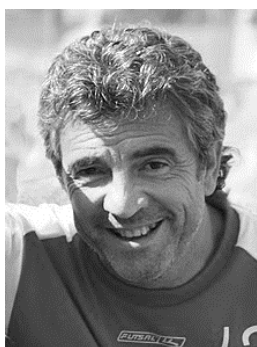
The board then hired Poly van Horn, who had worked in the youth squads of Select and as first team manager for AG Nobel and Select. No less than six youngsters were promoted in the first team in 2022, all in midfield and the front line (Sandor Seys, Romel Zepar, Franio Remans, Anslem Bannis, Ruel Vente and Viennis Murkin). Centralia managed an 8th place, thanks to their solid defense of the Nomsale brothers, Zeb Dern, Jan Stal and Ankor Bolzen.

2024 - Relegation after 39 years

In the 2023-24 season Centralia Trandor paid the price of under-financing. With only 4 wins in the second round of the championship they finished in the 16th position and were relegated to PSL b after 39 years of continuous presence in the top tier.

Romel Jol and Kals Derfel faced public protest, with the fans asking them to sell the team. However, they promised to bring the team in the right track immediately. Lathan Netler, the 49-year-old former coach of Haast 79, who had guided the south Auroran team to PSL A for the first time in their history in 2021, was hired with the order to reorganize the club.

Netler had to sell top players in order to get the proper financing. Anat and Kleon Nomsale



Lathan Netler

went to Arsenal and Mechelen and Zeb Dern was sold to PSV Eindhoven. With the transfer money and a little extra help from the board (Jol and Derfel had solved their money-flow problems), he brought to Trandor 10 (!) new faces, most of them young and hopeful. In defense Yugo Remst (from Sorbyke), Door Notas (from Cardenas), Noth Veldmat (from Queenland Utd) and Yate Zandra (from Haast 79), in midfield Peter Mais (from Dynamo Pharos), Levi Berlan (from Albatros) and the 17-year-old Linge Nadz (from Haast 79 youth team) and in attack the more experienced Keer Elemans (from Zaria) and Anselm Eventil (from Hinjilucaya). The veteran

goalkeeper Lev Kuilan returned to Pharos after a long spell in Spain with Real Sociedad, to ensure the place under the post.