

# FTK



Football Tilbruck Klub, most commonly known as FTK, is a professional football club based in Tilbruck, Solaria, Pharos. The club plays in the PSL B, the second tier of the Pharonian football.

FTK was formed in 1883 as a football team of the factory of Frank-Titily Keiser, a manufacturer of armaments, ammunition and explosives. They adopted their current name in 1939, when they merged with Tilbruck Klub FC, paraphrasing the initials in order to incorporate the two names in one and also to differ themselves from the factory. FTK has won the PSC Cup twice, in 1990 and 2002.

## History



**Frank-Titily Keiser**

Spoorlaan, called Doells Field. The company's founder and director Frank-Titily Keiser was its first president. FTK FC played around forty games in their first four years, which were basic in nature, lacking a regular playing staff and sometimes missing equipment such as goal nets.

### Early years

FTK was founded in 1883 as Frank-Titily Keiser Football Club, following a meeting between Stanel Keiser and seven employees from the FTK (Frank-Titily Keiser) Artillery Company at the Ayles Inn in Tibruck's Spoorlaan district. It was one of several 19th century clubs linked to the artillery manufacturer factories all over North Pharos.

The club's first headquarters was the White Lion in Gosford Green and they began playing matches at a pitch in



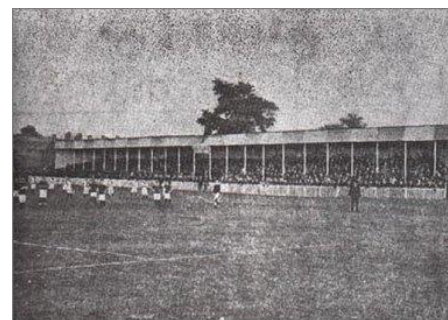
**FTK 1883, first recorded photo 1886.**

**J.G. Moran on the right standing**

In 1887 FTK FC appointed J.G. Moran as club secretary, and he oversaw a transformation of the club into a serious operation. Moran was the first official at the club who did not play and fulfilled a role similar to a modern manager. FTK FC relocated from their original pitch at Doells Field to an enclosed ground called Feeld Park Street, located just to the south of the future Canon Park location. The ground had a small stand and entrances close to the White Lion and Binl Oak pubs, where an admission fee of two pence was charged.

The club played an organized fixture list for the first time in the 1887–88 season in Solaria's second division, finishing 14<sup>th</sup>. Capitalising on the renewed interest in football within the city, Tilbruck Klub FC began to achieve their own success. FTK and Tilbruck K developed a fierce rivalry and games between the two clubs attracted crowds as high as 4,000. The 2 clubs went their different paths until their merger in 1939.

FTK turned professional in 1892. Feeld Park Stadium opened in 1899, but its construction caused a financial crisis and subsequent salary disputes with the players. The club endured several poor seasons on the field, having to re-apply for membership of the league three times in the space of ten years. In 1901, FTK suffered their worst ever defeat with an 11–2 loss against Hammerfest Vikings. The club became a limited company in July 1907 and the team was more successful the following season, finishing in the 5<sup>th</sup> position of the second division.



**Feeld Park Stadion, 1909**

### **FTK, Tilbruck K and the merger**

Meanwhile, Tilbruck K achieved better results, climbing to the Solaria's first division and winning the Solaria Championship in 1905 and 1914. They won the title again in 1919 and competed in the following National Championship, a first for a Tilbruck-based club, finishing in 9<sup>th</sup> position. They repeated their feat in 1925 with their 3<sup>rd</sup> Solarian title, but finished last in the Nationals, with the worst ever recorded record (7 points and 64 goals against in 18 games).



**Eltrend Brandis**

FTK were struggling in the second division all that time, with an occasional promotion in 1909 and 1919. In addition to poor form on the field, the club ran into financial difficulties by the end of the 1920s, having to rely on fundraisers by supporters and a cash injection by Dan Coor, who had become club president. A committee of enquiry in 1928 concluded that the club was being mismanaged, leading to resignation of chairman Stanel Carp and his replacement by Eltrend Brandis, who was in charge of a very successful Nadin Bergen side in the 1920's under manager Hal Stor.



**Hal Stor**

The club's form began to improve under the new board, and the appointment of Hal Stor as manager in 1931 brought in an era of success at the club. FTK scored a total of 108 goals in the 1931–32 season, gaining the nickname "The Old Five" as a result of scoring five or more in many games. New



**Cly Bourn**

signing Cly Bourn's individual tally of 49 goals was the record for that season. Two further 100-goal seasons followed, the first time in the league that

a team had achieved three in a row, and FTK recorded their largest ever league victory in April 1934, 9–0 against Conteroga. Despite scoring heavily, FTK missed out on promotion every season until 1935–36, when they finished as Solaria Second Division champions. They attracted large crowds in Feeld Park Stadium, which had now a capacity close to 30,000, with their gates being double than rivals Tilbruck K, who played in Solaria's first division for many years, sharing the same field.



**Ted Brink**

The club continued their good form in the first tier, finishing eighth, fourth and fourth again between 1936 and 1939, with rivals Tilbruck K winning another championship in 1937. They also constructed a new main stand and purchased the freehold of Feeld Park Stadion, utilising a loan of £20,000 from local motor-industry entrepreneur Jan

Siddel.

In September 1939 with the outbreak of WW II, an historic meeting took place in Tilbruck's Rock Garden Hotel. Tilbruck K's Board, facing serious financing difficulties at the time, agreed on a proposed merger from FTK's Board. The merger papers were signed on September 12, 1939 and the club's new name was decided on Football Tilbruck Klub (FTK) in order to incorporate the two names and identities in one. A new chairman, Fran Stringer, secretary of Tilbruck K at the time, was elected with the new Board having 5 members from FTK and 3 from Tilbruck K plus the chairman.

### 1940-1981

Hal Stor was replaced as manager by Dirk Bayliss, who was his assistant. After the merger, FTK team, using players from both sides,



**FTK 1931, 'the Old Five'**



**FTK vs Tilbruck K. 1937**



**Dirk Bayliss**

became a powerhouse in Solaria, questioning the dominance of Eastern Solaria's clubs, Dalton SC and Ceiserstellen.

After a strong Dalton SC domination, both in Solaria as in the National Level as well, winning the 1942 and 1943 National titles, FTK would win 4 Solarian Championship titles in a row, from 1944 to 1947, the first as FTK (although the 5 Championships won by Tilbruck K were added to the team's honour list).

They suffered a major setback when Bayliss, who was returning from a scouting mission to Northern Solaria, became stranded in a snowstorm in Yrkan mountains. He became seriously ill and died in April 1947.



**Ivo Eijken**



**Hoevel Prans**

He was replaced by Bel Frith, who guided the club to another 2 Solarian championships in 1950 and 1951 and in 4<sup>th</sup> place in the National Championship of 1950, just 3 points from champions Zaria, the best ever performance for FTK or Tilbruck K. Goalkeeper Ivo Eijken, midfielders Hoevel



**Bel Frith**

Prans and Edor Derval and forwards Stefan Hubers and Ted Brink were some of the stars of that era.

Frith was let go in 1953 and Hal Stor returned as manager, persuaded to leave Ceiserstellen and return to Tilbruck, and had an instant effect with the team winning the Solarian title in 1954. This feat, plus another championship in 1956 against a much superior Dalton SC, following his earlier success with the club, enhanced his popularity with the club's supporters. His dismissal in November 1958 with FTK lying at the bottom of the table was a shock. According to the club he had resigned, but Stor himself described his departure as a sacking. The team was run by the board for two months, after which Jan Farb took over as manager.



**Stefan Hubers**

In April 1959 a new board was elected following a contentious annual general meeting. The new board was led by Erle Sanks and also featured Derk Robyns as director, who would later go on to become a highly influential figure in the club.



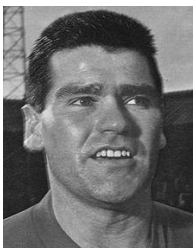
**Derk Robyns**



**Jan Farb**

### **The Tilbruck Revolution**

Jan Farb led FTK to two consecutive Solarian championship titles in 1960 and 1961. In the summer of 1961, eight players from the first team retired or left for other clubs, so Farb had to reorganize with players from the youth squad. He was lucky to work with some great talents of that era,



**Ider Olefors**



**Einmar Sol**



**Syms Haakan**

"Eton Boating Song", which was still being sung at matches by FTK supporters fifty years later. They would finally become Solarian champions again in 1966 and in 1967, the latter one undefeated. Unfortunately, long time injuries to key players did not allow this great team to continue for long. Farb was let go in 1972 and Jan Fertis, the 41-year-old youth team manager took over.



**Jan Fertis**

Derk Robyns left

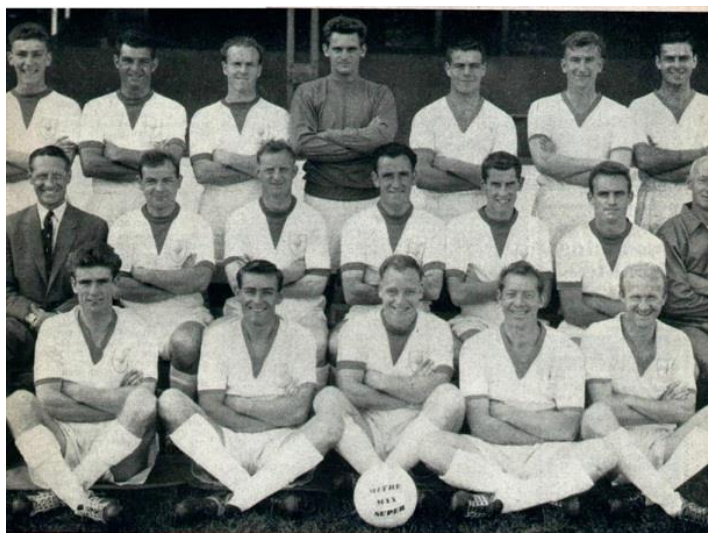
the club in April 1974 due a relocation to New Zealand, ending a fifteen-year career at the helm which had transformed the club's history and mentality.

### **Close to a first National title and the way to PSL**

Fertis inherited an aging and tired team in 1972 and had to deal with the lack of proper funding from the Board. He started by selling some players in order to find money for his plans of complete renewal. Robyns' replacement as chairman was Jari Scap, a local industrial relations expert who had previously chaired Astrid Tilbruck. Scap remained in the role for two years before being replaced by Fil Meed. More significant, however, was the return of Erle Sanks to the club as managing director, which was announced at the end of the 1974–75 season. It was not initially clear what Sanks' role would be, and his FTK duties were combined the job with his

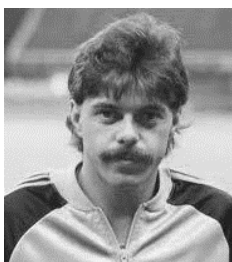
marking the beginning of what was called '*the Tilbruck Revolution*', with players like central defender Ider Olefors, midfield wizard Einmar Sol and forward Syms Haakan. Despite initial failures – they finished in 8<sup>th</sup> place in the 1961-62 Solarian Championship – Farb and his team, with the support of Robyns, soon started playing attractive football and contested the big names of Dalton SC and Ceiserstellen.

FTK began 1962–63 with a raft of changes instigated by Farb. This included a change of strip, to an all-white colour. The change of colour came with an associated nickname change, the "canons" moniker being dropped in favour of the "Whities", and Farb wrote the "White Roar Song", sung to the melody of the

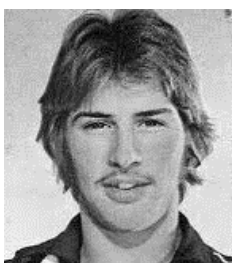


**FTK 1966** - back row (from left): P.Vormel, F.Elan, K.Gellers, D.Tipen, I.Olefors, P.Molder, A.Stas. middle row: J.Farb (manager), H.Zasen, S.Haakan, E.Sol, L.Vidal, E.Voners, A.Heel (trainer). front: F.Miggs, A.Borne, B.Lundren, D.Herzler, L.Erl

ongoing television and consultancy work, but his arrival was greeted with less optimism than when he had first joined the club in 1959.



**Dan Ander**



**Fran van Bild**

With the help of Sanks and the money from sales, Fertis begun buying talented youngsters from teams all over Pharos at low cost. He brought to Tilbruck Bale Tipelum from Albatros Helsingborg and Dan Ander from Aragon Gizerak in 1975, Lewis Marcialis from Gint Lakers and Fran van Bild from Dynamo Carbaise in 1976 and Lewis Koe from Rijson Vagen in 1977. In the 1976-77 season FTK won the Solarian Championship and came close to winning the National title for the first time, finishing in 2<sup>nd</sup> place, just 1 point less than champions Zaria. They would win their 14<sup>th</sup> local Championship in 1980, as they entered the newly formed PSL 1<sup>st</sup> division, alongside Salton SC as Solaria's representatives to the top tier.



**Jan Parp**



**Lewis Marcialis**



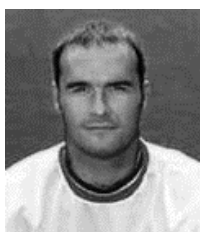
**Lewis Koe**

### The PSL era

A complete reconstruction of Feeld Park Stadium was abandoned in 1977 and the Board came to a deal with the City of Tilbruck to build a new stadium just a few hundred meters south in an area given by the City Council in exchange for the existing stadium area. The new Stadium was ready by Christmas 1981. It was an all-seater modern stadium, with a capacity of almost 20,000, well below average attendances in the late 1960s. Explaining the development, Sanks cited the rise of hooliganism, saying *"you can't be a hooligan sitting down"*. The new stadium was named Canon Park, after the location and the club's past history as an artillery company club.



**Canon Park, 1981**



**Omar & Zeb Rudel**

FTK, under Jan Fertis, was a major force in the early years of the PSL, finishing always on the top part of the table, as high as 4<sup>th</sup> place in 1983-84. Fertis introduced more young talents to the team, such as the Rudel brothers, Omar and Zeb and midfielder Jan Parp. They



**Jan Parp**

reached the PSC Cup final in 1987, but lost 2-0 from Zaria. They would reach the final again in 1990, this time though they will win their first major National trophy, beating champions

AG 1959 1-0 by a 72-minute diving-header goal of Zeb Rudel. Returning from the team's brief



**FTK players celebrate the 1990 Cup title.**

trip to Spain to escape the cold before the final, Jan Fertis told the press "Our name is on the cup", but AG 1959 were the



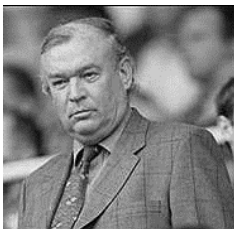
**Zeb Rudel scores past Stanel Noller**

firm favourites. Recently appointed AG manager Levi Jorden cited FTK's better play for his team's defeat, saying "*their players were prepared to risk life and limb – ours weren't*".

The PSL format changed in 1987 to a closed 24-team regular season and play-offs. FTK, still with Jan Fertis in the helm, reached the 2<sup>nd</sup> round of the play-offs each time and the semi-finals in 1991, where they were eliminated by Villa Town, in Fertis' last season at the club. The talented manager left in the summer of 1991 after nineteen years to work with Olympic Eptapolis on a better salary, the longest serving manager in the history of the club and the 2<sup>nd</sup> longest serving manager in the history of PSL after Stanel Mulgin of Titania Schottegut.

### **Six years of decline and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Cup title**

Rin Bryan took over as club chairman in summer 1993, making large sums of money available for players over subsequent years, but FTK did not enjoy the same success as before. After Fertis' departure, the club struggled to make the play-offs, reaching the 1<sup>st</sup> round only twice from 1993 to 1997, changing 4 managers (Marcel Motar, Lori Grod, Escel Demen and Fil Dek).



**Rin Bryan**



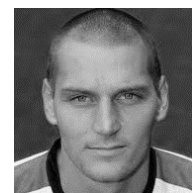
**Lev Opi**

In the summer of 1997 Bryan hired Dan Bauer for the manager's position. Bauer had spells with Oamaru FC and Select in the past. He began rebuilding the team by signing young players. FTK had already in their squad one of Pharos' greatest ever center forwards, Lev Opi, who was discovered by Jan Fertis in the academies of AG 1959 at the age of 15. Players like defender Peter Nanut from Altar Hawera,

midfielders Escel Vurens from Rutugrian, Moree Setler from Erebus Dorval and Jan Nalas from the youth squads were introduced by Bauer. FTK started to rise again, finishing 12<sup>th</sup> in 1998 and 3<sup>rd</sup> behind Chiftelov



**Dan Bauer**



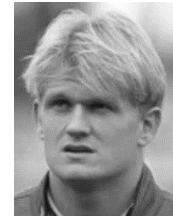
**Escel Vurens**

Sport and AG 1959 in 1999. In 2000 they reached their 3<sup>rd</sup> PSC Cup final, but although being the favourites, they lost 0-2 to Dominic.

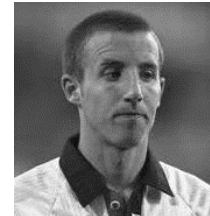


**Fenel Azer**

Dan Bauer was replaced by Fenel Azer after the cup final. Azer continued with the same roster, with the exception of Opi, who was sold to AG 1959 for a record fee in 2000. His smarter move was to buy from Leeds Utd the Norwegian



**A.I. Haaland**



**Fenel Marty**

international center back Alf Inge Haaland (father of Erling Haaland) to pair with young Fenel Marty in the middle of the defensive line.

In 2002 FTK won the PSC Cup title for the 2<sup>nd</sup> time, beating Chiftelov Sport 2-1 in extra time. Moree Brak scored both goals in the 51 and 110 minutes, with Horber Vandam having put Chiftelov in front in the first half.



### **On the rise again and stadium reconstruction**

Fenel Azer stayed in the club until 2005 and FTK enjoyed one of the most successful periods of their history, contenting for the title each year. They finished in 6<sup>th</sup> position in 2003 and 2004 and in 4<sup>th</sup> in 2005, where they missed the title by 2 points, losing 3 out of their 5 last

games. Azer left in the summer of 2005, attracted by the money of Dominic, and Albi Molin, former Olympic Eptapolis manager, replaced him.



**Albi Molin**

The Canon Park ground had been erected back in 1981 but it couldn't cope with the new standards of the league and UEFA. The stadium was completely rebuilt between 2005-07 to accommodate some 28,000 people. Next came the construction of external illumination panels and finally a cover, designed by Arcadis, with its solar panels to give power sufficiency to the site. Although naming rights were sold to the BoFrost food company, the fans refused to call it



**The new Canon Park**

BoFrost Arena and continued calling it by its old name (BoFrost went out of business after a few years and the stadium remained as Canon Park). The new stadium opened in 2007, having been reduced in size to just 21,000 and delayed several times; the club had previously sold its 50% share to the Alan Higgs charity to repay debts. The club's financial situation remained poor, and by 2007 they faced the possibility of being forced out of business; this was averted when the club was bought by hedge fund owner Sisu Capital.

### **2006-present, ups and downs (and more downs)**

After 2 mediocre seasons in 2006 and 2007, FTK under Molin were relegated to the 2<sup>nd</sup> division in 2008, finishing in 17<sup>th</sup> place.

With Bale Edwin as new manager, FTK was immediately promoted back to the first division in 2009 and finished in 9<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> positions in the next 2 seasons. Sisu began reducing investment from 2010 as debts mounted and FTK just avoided a new relegation in 2012, finishing 15<sup>th</sup>. They could not avoid it in 2013, finishing 16<sup>th</sup> on goal difference from Oamaru FC and were forced to groundshare with Astrid Tilbruck for more than a year from 2013, following a rent dispute with the Canon Park owners.



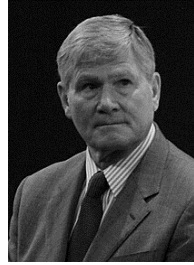
**Dokor Kin**

The Sisu era at FTK ended in 2015, when local businessman Dokor Kin purchased the club. He also bought the stadium in 2018.

Centron Luder was named manager in 2015 leading FTK to a 5<sup>th</sup> position in 2016-17, but the next season the team faced

relegation once more and Luder was fired. Under new manager Steel Galen, FTK will remain in the 2<sup>nd</sup> division until 2022, when Homir Suel succeeded Galen and led the team to the first division. It wouldn't last for long, as they were relegated again next season, finishing last with only 14 points, the second lowest a team has gathered after Aragon Gizerak's 11 points in 2011.

Kin took drastic measures in the summer of 2023. He hired 65-year-old Yol Iders, who had performed miracles working in Villemstad with Astrix and spent a lot of money in the transfer period, buying experienced players, like Bale Ojval from Olympic Trandor, Orum Speiser and Liem Regen from Astrix Villemstad and Porfirat Yan from Atlantic Union.



**Yol Iders**