

Hilvar Athletics

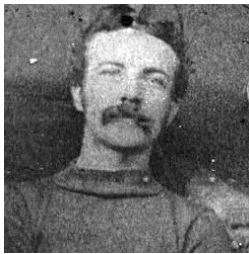
Hilvar Athletics FC is a professional football club based in Hilvar, the capital city of Pharos. The club competes in the PSL A, the top tier of Pharonian football.

Formed in 1879, the club has won 7 top-flight Championship titles, 2 PSC Cups and a UEFA Conference League Cup. The club has a long-standing rivalry with AG Nobel.



History

Early years and "The Team of all Talents": 1879–1914



Jan Nalas

blue strip, a contrast to the blue and yellow stripes they play in currently. Their first ground was the Blue House Field in Caletton, close to Jan Nalas' school, and they would change their home four times in seven years before settling at Capital Road in 1886.

On 16 October 1880 the "Hilvar Citizen" announced that the club's name had been changed to Hilvar Athletics Football Club; and non-teachers were allowed to join. They turned professional in 1885, the

Hilvar Athletics FC began life as "Hilvar & District Teachers Association Football Club", and was announced to the world on 27 September 1880 by "The Hilvar Citizen". Originally organised in 1879 by Jan Nalas, a teacher at Caletton Board School, with the objective to provide "recreational amusement" for the area's schoolteachers. Their first recorded competitive game was against Ferryhill Athletic on 13 November 1880, which they lost 1–0. Their first kit was an all-



Hilvar Athletics 1884 when playing at Horatio Street Field. Back row: Kirtle, Millan, Lumden, Singl (captain), Murd. Middle row: Donal, Jan Nalas, Hall, Grei, Marc Nalas. Front row: Lesel, Vaden, Innes



Ton Aston

Hilvar Soccer. Ton Aston became Hilvar's first manager when he was appointed in 1888.



Early souvenir card dating back from around 1890.



Capital Road Grounds

same year that the club recruited a number of players from around Centralia and Diceland and the local press labelled Hilvar Athletics as "the team of all talents" stating that they had "a talented man in every position".

Founder Jan Nalas left Hilvar Athletics in 1888 because of his dislike for the "professionalism" that had been creeping into the club, and subsequently formed

In the club's early seasons, games consisted of local competition. As their popularity grew, they applied for admission into the South Football League. At the League's annual meeting that considered this application, Hilvar Athletics offered to pay towards other

clubs' travelling costs and this offer secured their place. In their first season in the South League, Hilvar won the title by 5 points over Ferephon Union. This success was repeated in the following season, this time 11 points ahead of their nearest contenders, Taupo SC.

In 1891 Hilvar Athletics applied for the newly formed Centralian Football Association and was admitted in the first division, alongside 15 other teams. From 1886 until 1898, Hilvar's home ground was in Capital Road. In 1898, the club moved to what would become

their home for almost a century, Rekord Park.

The wealthy miner Sam Tyzak alongside landowner Ral Turn funded the "team of all talents" in the early years. In the 1890's, Jon Mileton was the top scorer of the league. Also notable in the attack at the time, and important to Mileton's success in attack, were other "Team of all Talents" players Jari Hanna and Jord Millar. Goalkeeper, Net Doig set a 19th-century world record by not conceding any goals in 87 of his 290 top division appearances (30%).

Further titles and the move to Rekord Park: 1896–1914

In 1898, the club moved to what would become their home for almost a century, Record Park. Initially the ground had a



Jon Mileton, a part of "the team of all talents", and league top scorer in Hilvar's first titles in the South League.



Net Doig



Rekord Park Stadion

capacity of 30,000. However, over the following decades it was continually expanded, and at its peak would hold an official crowd of over 75,000.

Despite being the wealthiest club in Centralia, Hilvar Athletics could not win the League championship in the 1890's. All they achieved were 3 Centralian Cup titles, in 1892 against champions Nobel SC, in 1896 against Caerau Nobel and in 1899 against Orage FC. Alex Makiel

had replaced Ton Aston as manager in 1897.

Hilvar Athletics won their first Centralian



Bale Hogg

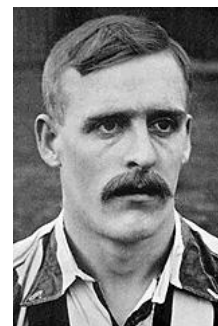
Championship title in 1900-01. Their main rivals were from Nobel, this time in the shape of Caerau and Nobel SC. The former pushed the blue and yellows all the way but

failed by 3 points and ended second. Bale Hogg was top scorer having replaced Mileton in attack. Gill Nost impressed at left back, with Hanna departing. Albi

Comon (the first player to be transferred for a fee of £1,000 from Monrovia to Hilvar Athletics) and Jan Gemel were the main stays in midfield.



Hilvar Athletics 1900-01



Albi Comon



Arto Brigs

In 1902 Hilvar Athletics were involved in a financial irregularity, when the club's board of directors gave their right back Arto Brigs £100 to start a business, with the view that his benefit game would enable him repay the money. Brigs however, saw the money as a gift and refused to pay back the club. The Centralian Football Association launched an inquiry and agreed with Brigs, stating that it was a "resigning/win/draw bonus". The club's records showed further breaches of the League's financial rules. As a result, Hilvar were

fined £250 and six directors were suspended for two and a half years. Brigs later signed for Orage FC, and helped towards their spell of League success.

After 214 matches in charge of Hilvar, Alex Makiel left the club in the summer of 1903 as a result of the "Brigs affair". He was replaced by Bor Kyle; another 70 candidates had also applied for the managerial.



Bor Kyle



Centron Bugar

Kyle won 5 Centralian Cups (he was known as “Mr. Cup-man” at the time), but achieved his first Championship title (and Hilvar’s 2nd) only in 2012-13, when Hilvar Athletics won the league with 54 points, 1 ahead of Orage FC. They repeated their triumph in the next season of 2013-14 to win their 3rd Centralian Championship title. This period in their history also saw the goalscoring of Centron Bugar, who went on to score 221 goals for Hilvar



Girad Tonso

Athletics, making him the highest goal-scorer in the club's history. Other prominent players of that period's Hilvar Athletics was Genar Hollen, who was league top scorer in the season before the 2012 title, and Girad Tonso, who captained the club.



Hilvar Athletics - Centralia Champions 1913

Back Row (from left): Milton, Crig, Tonso, Butel, Gladin, Lor

Front Row (from left): Mordu, Bugar, Hals, Hollen, Marty

First World War and inter-war period, 1913–1939

Hilvar Athletics finished in 5th position in the 2014-15 season before World War I forced the break-up of the team as men went off to fight on the continent. Centron Bugar and Bale Mordu each went on to win the Military Medal.



Levi Onsager

By 1917 and the formation of the PSC (Pharos Soccer Confederation), Hilvar were completely overshadowed by the rise of AG Nobel in the Centralian football scene. The Nobel giants would win 12 of 17 Centralian titles between 1917 and 1933, with Hilvar Athletics managing only 2 (1927 and 1930). Thus, the team's representation in the National

Championships were limited to those 2 seasons, when they finished in 4th position both times. In 1930 they failed to win their first National title by 1 point to eventual champions Ferephon Union, after failing to win in the last day of play against Oamaru FC. Great players of this period were goalkeeper Levi Onsager, right back Liem Reiten, midfielders Julien Maslov and Farel Grutman and forward Stin Lete.



Stin Lete



Julien Maslov



Hal Ranel

Kyle, who had been Hilvar's manager since 1903, resigned at the end of the 1932–33 season, after 30 seasons in charge of the club, managing 817 matches. He was replaced by Hal Ranel, who arrived from Academia Manacor. In his first season Ranel led Hilvar Athletics to their 6th Centralian title by a margin of eight points. They scored 109 goals during the season, with Stanel Apins and Alvin Stur each scoring 31.

Despite winning the league, the seasons did not go without tragedy. The young goalkeeper of the team, Lathan Torp, died as a result of a kick in the head and chest after he had picked up the ball following a back-pass in a game against Titania Schottegut at Rekord Park. He continued to take part until the match finished, but collapsed at home afterwards and died in hospital four days later from diabetes mellitus and heart failure 'accelerated by the rough usage of the opposing team'. The tragic end to Torp's career led to a change in the rules, where players were no longer allowed to raise their foot to a goalkeeper when he had control of the ball in his arms.



Lathan Torp

Ranel's Hilvar would win the Centralian Championship 4 times in a row from 1934 to 1937 and another one in 1939, just before the outbreak of WW II, but with no success in the National Championship, finishing in the bottom half of the table in all seasons.

Second World War and postwar period, 1939–1960

Bale Murr was appointed Hilvar's manager in 1939. During the war Rekord Park suffered minor damage from a German raid on Hilvar in 1944, which destroyed the Roker End clubhouse; a police constable was killed while patrolling the stadium's perimeter.

During the war Hilvar Athletics won 2 more Centralia Championship titles, in 1941 and 1945.



Bale Murr



Jan Rietveld

In January 1949, Hilvar were involved in what is often regarded as the first case of a player transferring himself when they paid £18,000 for Del Rey player Yol Oud, who handled transfer negotiations himself. This, along with record-breaking wage fees to secure the services of Jan Rietveld and Kelden Sredin, led to a contemporary nickname, the "Bank of Pharos club". The club finished 8th in the National Championship of 1949, 6th in 1952 and 2nd to Centralia Trandor in 1953, their highest finish ever in the Nationals.

The early 1950's saw a sharp downturn in Hilvar's fortunes, and the club was once again implicated in a major financial scandal in 1953. Found guilty of making payments to players in excess of the maximum wage, they were fined £5,000, and their chairman and three directors were suspended. Hilvar will win another 2 Centralian championships in 1954 and 1955, with 7th and 8th positions finish in the Nationals.

In the summer of 1956 Murr was forced to resign after pressure from the fans, who were frustrated with rival's AG Nobel success in both local and national level (the Nobel club became the first Centralian club to win a national title in 1944 and repeat it twice, in 1947 and 1951). The board hired former Nobel SC player and later manager Gebor Oratio Sultz, who led the Nobel minors to a 3rd place in the last National Championship.

Sultz picked up an under-trained team, with players who were lacking motivation. He took the team into a Monteneros Mountain resort in the 1956 summer-training season. According to goalkeeper Ruel Falmot it was like "going to hell and back, I was sure that neither of us would be able to play football in September at the season's start".



Gebor Sultz



HILVAR ATHLETICS - 1958 PHAROS CHAMPIONS
 Top (from left): Nat Ogur, Jan Sanc, Roman Dren, Virtus Dicom, Jan Rietveld, Kelden Sredin. Botom (from left): Yol Oud, Mil Cebor, Stanel Helio, Dokor de Vrens, Ducem Trimen

They started the season with four straight defeats and fans were shouting for Sultz to be sacked. After winning an away game vs Titania in Schottegut, the team started picking up the pace. They finished the Centralian League 15 points clear of Nobel SC and in 3rd place in the National Championship of the same year.

The 1957-58 season was Hilvar's best ever, as they managed a triple crown, winning the Centralian title undefeated, the Centralian Cup and their

1st National title with 1 point ahead of Dalton SC, by winning 4-0 vs Ferephon Union in the last day of play, while Dalton drew their match against Select in Deltalene.

Sultz and his harsh training habits were idolized in Rekord Park. Hilvar Athletics won the 1958-59 Centralian Championship and were set up for a back-to-back National title as well. They were defeated by Dynamo Pharos in Hilvar and then they drew their last 4 games in a row, so Dynamo Pharos “stole” the title in goal difference.

The battle with AG 1959 in Centralia and 3 more titles (1960-1980)

As AG Nobel emerged from a mid-50's crisis with a new owner and a new name (AG 1959), the battle for the title in Centralia became a fierce struggle between Hilvar Athletics and the Nobel club. After Orage FC won the 1960 title on goal difference to Hilvar, AG 1959 went on to win the next 4 titles in a row and the great Sultz's Hilvar Athletics could not advance for the National Championship race.



Salvor Pert

Sultz had to leave the club in the summer of 1964, as he decided to open a soccer academy in Schottegut. Salvor Pert was hired in his place, having managed the youth squad from 1955. Most of the great players of the 1958 title had either retired or left, so Pert had to rely on youngsters from his youth squads he had himself managed and trained the previous years.



Shenet Forel



Escel Borst

Hilvar won the 1965 Centralian Trandor and finished in 7th position in the Nationals, but next season they went all the way to win their 2nd Pharos Championship. This time Hilvar were crowned champions on goal difference over Centralia Trandor. Midfielder Shenet Forel, a transfer from Del Rey the previous years, central defender Stanel Helio, one of the players still around from 1958, goalkeeper Escel



Asper Argo

Borst and youth squad product 20-year-old Asper Argo were the keys for the success.

AG 1959 will win the next 3 Centralian Championships plus 2 National titles in 1967 and 1969, which meant that Hilvar were eligible for a place in the Nationals as well.



Orum Suni

They finished bottom 10th in 1967, the first time a defending champion finished last, and in the bottom half of the table in 1968, 1970 and 1971. Pert was fired in 1970 and another youth squad coach was promoted in his place, 40-year-old Centron Factor.



Centron Factor

Factor proceeded to re-organize the team. He purchased some talented young players, such as Orum Suni from Pharos Juniors, Theo Cabl from Internationale and



Stanel Dyvart

goalkeeper Stanel Dyvart from Del Rey Hilvar. He also promoted winger Muller Holc and right back Less Radu from the youth squad.

Factor's renewed team won the 1973 Centralian Championship and led the table in the Nationals from the start. They needed a draw against Dalton SC in their last game to secure the title from rivals Dynamo Corel. Dalton SC went



Theo Cabl



The open-top bus parade around Hilvar for the 1973 Championship



Theo Cabl's equalizer goal in 1973 Championship deciding game vs Dalton

ahead in the first half by a Homir Ayran goal. In the last minute of play Theo Cabl scored the equalizer with a superb volley from inside the area and Hilvar Athletics finished

1 point clear of Dynamo Corel to lift their 3rd National title.

The battle with AG 1959 continued for the rest of the 70's and early 80's (until the formation of PSL in 1981-82), with Factor's Hilvar Athletics winning 5 more Centralian Championship titles (to AG's 3 and 1 by Del Rey). The duo of Suni and Cabl were the best midfield combination in Pharos, competing with the Sonarel-Sivena duo of Zaria. Hilvar Athletics finished in 4th position in the 1979 Nationals and were crowned Pharos Champions the next season 1979-80, one point over rivals Champion Athletics.

They would have made back-to-back titles in the next season – the last with the old format, as PSL A and B leagues were formed in the summer of 1981 – but they failed to win their last two games (draws with Dominic in Holborn and Ferephon Union at home) and Zaria were crowned champions on goal difference.

The PSL, the first Cup title and new stadium

Hilvar were among the 18 teams to form PSL A division in the 1981-82 season. Centron Factor left to work at his native Centralia Trandor and Idor Schoeffer, former



Centron Factor on the shoulders of captain Ankor Zigenhus with the 1980 Cham'p cup



Idor Schoeffer

Del Rey Hilvar manager was hired. The team finished in 3rd position, just 2 points behind eventual champions Dynamo Corel. They also reached the quarter-finals of the UEFA Cup, eliminating on the way Beveren of Belgium (2 wins 1-0), Hajduk Split of Croatia (on away-goal rule, 2-1 and 2-3) and the Spanish side Valencia CF (after losing 1-4 in Spain, they won 5-1 in Hilvar). They were eliminated by IFK Gothenburg of Sweden (2-2 and 0-2).

In 1982-83 Hilvar Athletics came close to win the title, but they failed to beat Dalton SC in Rekord Park in the penultimate match of the season (a 2-2 draw) and the Villemstad side won the title, with Hilvar finishing 2nd. However, the season had a happy end, as they won their 1st PSC Cup title, beating Select in the 1st June National Stadion 1-0, thanks to a 59-minute goal by Fil Gar.

Under Schoeffler Hilvar will finish in the 5th and 7th position in the next 2 seasons and the coach was let go. Former star, Theo Cabl, was named manager.



Fil Gar (9) takes the rebound from a Less Radu (2) effort and scores past Zanos in the 1983 PSC Cup final



Hilvar's chairman Bale Mura with the City of Hilvar medal of honour

By the early 80's, the City of Hilvar were investing heavily on sports and sport facilities as they intended to bid for the 1992 Olympic Games. Unfortunately, the games were given to Barcelona, but the city had already begun the construction of new sporting sites. One of them, the most important, was the Hilvar Olympic Stadion, adjacent to the Hilvar International Airport. The success of Hilvar Athletics had increased the interest of fans and the capacity of Rekord Park Stadion was not enough, since it was reduced to only 35,000, due to FIFA's instruction of only seated spectators.

The board, under chairman and majority share-holder Bale Mura, came to an agreement with the city of Hilvar. The city will give Hilvar Athletics the use of the Olympic Stadium for 50 years with a minimum rent, in exchange for the 33% of the shares of the club. The deal went through by the summer of 1987, when the new stadium was ready for use. Its capacity was for 55,000 all-seated spectators, with state-of-the-art lights and a track around the field. The



Hilvar's Olympic Stadion in 1987

2 main stands were covered (the rest of spectator's area will be covered by 1993 in time for Pharos World Cup Finals of 1994).

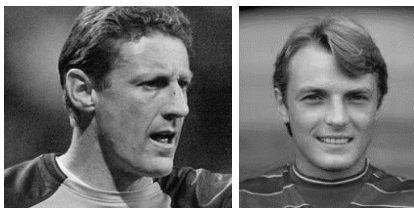
1986 – 1994, downs and ups on the way to triumph

Theo Cabl stayed as manager for the 1985-86 season only, as he had to follow his American-born wife to Florida. Rob Miler, former Rutugrian coach was hired, but the team finished in 13th place and he was let go, with Iac Marcos, who had worked successfully with Select, given the manager role in 1987.

Marcos' time as a manager had a stability effect on the team. As the

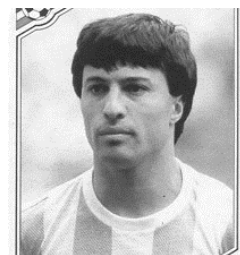


Iac Marcos



**Adber, Zeiss, Silver, Pratt,
stars of the 90's**

format of the PSL changed into a group-phase regular time and play-offs, Hilvar was allocated in the tough National Central group, alongside Dominic, Oamaru FC and Rutugrian. The board under new chairman, former player Yol Oud, bought Brazilian fullback Josimar from Botafogo and the Argentinian defender Julio Olarticoechea from Boca Juniors, spending a record amount of money for the club, creating a team full of stars, together with Pharonian internationals Ider Adber, Porfirat Zeiss, Ancy Silver and Kleon Pratt. Hilvar topped

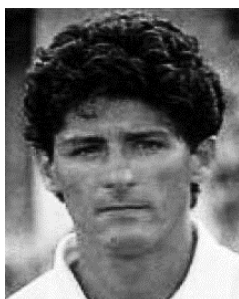


Olarticoechea

their regular season group and went all the way to the play-offs semi-finals, where they were defeated in the Olympic Stadion by Oamaru FC 0-1.

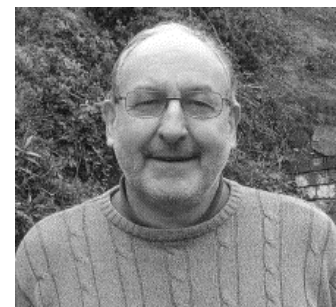
Unfortunately, they could not repeat their performance in Marcos' next 2 seasons, where they were eliminated in the 1st round of play-offs by Rutugrian and Dominic. Marcos was replaced by Fenel Ercling, who was working as a youth coach in Champion Athletics at the time. Ercling, with no experience in the top flight, managed to lead the team to the play-offs, but lost by Dominic in the first round of play. He also reached the PSC Cup final, with Hilvar Athletics losing 0-4 to champions AG 1959.

The board and the team were empty-handed after spending so much money and with a roster worth much better. They decided



M. Belodedic

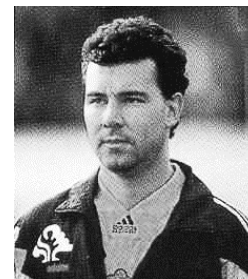
to hire former player and National Team manager Shenet Forel in 1991 for the manager position. Forel had led the National Team in 3 successive World Cup finals of 1982, 1986 and 1990 in Spain, Mexico and Italy, finishing in 4th place in the latter.



Shenet Forel

Forel's first move was to replace Julio Olarticoechea with Miodrag Belodedic from Red Star Belgrade for the center of defence. Belodedic, nicknamed "The Deer", due to his elegant tackles, born as

Belodedici in Romania, had defected to Yugoslavia in 1988 and was highly esteemed by Forel from his encounters with the National Team. He also bought young libero Yate Nagel from Chiftelov Sport and finally the Swede playmaker Stefan Rehn from IFK Gothenburg. In the 1991-92 season Hilvar although finishing 3rd in their group in regular season, they went all the way to the play-offs semi-finals, only to lose in extra time to AG 1959, who celebrated their 3rd consecutive title. The team also reached the quarter finals of the Cup Winners Cup (CWC) after eliminating Galatasaray and Banik Ostrava, losing to Werder Bremen.



Stefan Rehn

In the next season 1993-94, Forel led Hilvar to the top of their group with the 2nd best record in the league. They reached the play-offs semi-finals once again, but lost in Gilbey Town 0-4 to the best team and winners that season, Ferephon Union.



Hilvar players celebrate their 1994 Cup final victory

It was time for glory in the 1993-94 season. They won the PSC Cup, their 2nd title in the competition, beating Dalton SC 2-1 in the final by goals of Kleon Pratt and Centrik Minder.

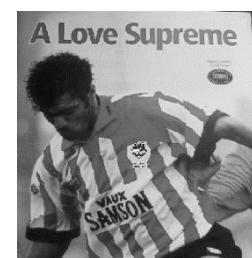


Hilvar Athletics - 1994 Champions / The players (from left: Duelin, Nagel, goalkeeper Benjamin, Spector, Silver, Rehn, Aker, Belodedic and Tita) lift the Championship Cup while Hilvar's chairman Yol Oud applauds

In the regular season of the PSL Championship they finished on top of their group and then went on all the way to the play-offs final to conquer their 5th National title. They also did that without conceding a goal; in the first round they eliminated Oamaru FC with 2 wins 1-0, in the 2nd round Dynamo Pharos 1-0 in extra time, in the semi-finals AG 1959 2-0 and in the final in Greenfield they beat Dalton SC 1-0 with a Kleon Pratt 19th minute goal.

Fanzines, fan produced material and Charitable associations

In 1995, former chairman and shareholder Bale Mura, in conjunction with the board, created the fan-magazine (fanzine) "A Love Supreme", with its base opposite the stadium, where the staff designed the magazine, updates Hilvar's website and social media pages and creates and sells a vast range of fan related merchandise. They also provide coach travel for Hilvar Athletics' fans for every away game.





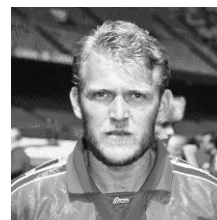
Kleon Mura

Mura and Hilvar Athletics also established in 1996 the Foundation of Light charity, to help educational development through football, and offers learning centres in addition to scholarships. The organisation engaged 280 children within a year, and three years after foundation opened a 1.6m facility along with double-decker buses redeveloped as classrooms. Bale Mura's son and former Hilvar Athletics footballer (1985-91) was appointed as the first chairman of the organization.

The Mura's also organized Hilvar's supporters' clubs. The more than 70 official clubs are represented collectively by a Branch Liaison Council that was formed in the 1970s. In addition, a HAFC Liaison Group (SLG) was created in 1996, that works with fans on club issues and an independent supporters' group, the Yellow & Blue Army (YABA).

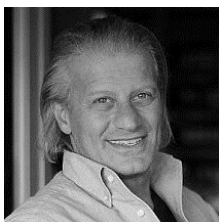
1995 – 2015, twenty years of mediocracy

In the 1994-95 season, following the double triumph of the previous season, the team emphasized in the Champions' League group stage, where they advanced eliminating Turkey's Galatasaray, signing the Croat Robert Prosinecki from Red Star Belgrade and Lathan Arden, the Pharonian talented midfielder from Olympic Eptapolis. Unfortunately, the draw put them in the same group with Manchester Utd and Barcelona, so it was next to impossible to go any further. They completely underestimated the regular phase of the PSL League and they were left out of the play-offs for the first time.



Prosinecki

Shenet Forel left for Villa Town in 1995 and Idor Proktor, a 2-time PSL winner coach with Dominica was given the job. Proktor could not revive the team and Hilvar Athletics missed the play-offs again for the next 2 seasons, so Proktor was sacked in 1997.



Porfirat Zeiss

Former player and youth coach Porfirat Zeiss was promoted as first team manager in the summer of 1997. Under his guidance Hilvar finished in 3rd place in the new format of 20 teams in the 1997-98 season, just 4 points behind AG 1959 and in 5th place in the next one.

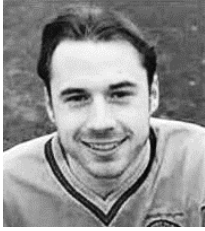
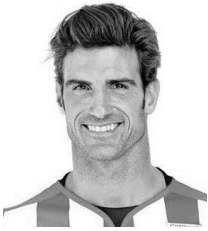
Ankor Silver was the league's top scorer with 19 goals in 1998, but managed only a 17th place in 2000, so he had to be fired.

Iac Marcos came back for a second spell. Hilvar Athletics finished a respectable 4th in 2000-01 and came close to win the championship of 2001-02, when they finished 2nd to a much superior AG 1959 team. Marcos decided to retire, so Hilvar were again searching for a new manager, which they found at former player Kleon Ison, who had worked mainly in the lower tiers of the Pharonian football.

Under Ison the team competed in the 2003 Champions League group phase, finishing 3rd in a group with Manchester Utd (once again), Bayer Leverkusen and Olympiacos of Greece. They continued in the UEFA Cup, eliminating Leeds Utd and AEK Athens, before going down in the quarter-finals by Benfica. In the League, Hilvar finished in 5th position in 4th in the 2003-04 season.



Kleon Ison



Great players of the 2000's: Venk, Maens, Spector, Demoz

Some great players were part of the team in the early 2000's, such as defenders Limmar Venk and Preeme Maens, midfielder Fenel Spector and center forward Lathan

Demoz. Ison was fired in the middle of the next season and Hilvar finished in 15th place, only 5 points above relegation zone, under caretaker manager Alfred Tarsenda, a former Ferephon Union international player and youth coach of the SPR team.



Bale Cleise

Tarsenda stayed as manager for two and a half years, with no real success. In the summer of 2007, the Board decided on Bale Cleise as the appropriate person for the job. Cleise had already 2 PSL championship medals with Oamaru FC in 2000 and Foundation BC in 2006. He completely changed the team, in persons and in philosophy of playing. A lover of possession football, Cleise needed

players with stamina and will, rather than a lot of talent. He went into a shopping spree, bringing to Hilvar no less than 7 new names; defenders Jan Topuza from Del Rey and Ador Bolt from Dynamo Pharos, midfielders Moree Dot from Del Rey, Anselm De Ropp and Fenel Odum from Olympic Eptapolis, center forward Jan Staner from Estwald Metropolis and the Pole fullback Marcin Kus from Korona Kielce. They missed the 2007-08 title by 1 point after failing to win against eventual champions Chiftelov Sport in Satemberg with 2 games left to play (the match ended up in a 1-1 draw and Chiftelov went on to be crowned champions, after winning their last 2 games). They came 2nd to Chiftelov Sport again in the next season.



Jan Topuza

Cleise disagreed with the board, as he wanted to spend more money on transfers, so he quit in the summer of 2009. Fenel Ercling came back for a second spell at the club. During his term from 2009 to 2012, Hilvar finished in the middle of the table (from 6th to 10th positions). Dewlat Haak, former National Team coach, worked for one season (2012-13) and Porfirat Zeiss made a second passage for 2 seasons (2013-15) finishing in 2nd and 3rd place (but 12 and 11 points behind champions Chiftelov Sport and Select).

A new Stadium

By the end of 2000's the need for a new football-specific stadium emerged. The Olympic stadium was aging and was not suitable for the team's needs any longer. The City of Hilvar, a major Hilvar Athletics shareholder, decided to proceed to the Board's demands and built a new stadium in the site of the Olympic Stadium. Hilvar's new venue was designed and built by the local construction company Arnik with construction lasting 3 years (2001 to 2014). Hilvar played their home games in Del Rey's Lester Stadion and some big games in Greenfield's National Stadion during construction. The new stadium was named Federation

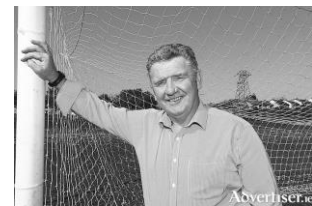


Federation Arena

Arena and belonged to the City (75%) and the Federal Government (25%). Hilvar Athletics would have a free of charge use for the next 50 years. The north end of the stadium adjoined the Hilvar Int'l Airport, while Route 20 ran close to the south end. The stand accommodated 50,100 spectators and is divided into two levels; the upper level accommodates 20,800 and the lower level 29,300 (both are all-seated). On each level, the stand was divided into four sections (main, back, north and south sides). All seats were covered, while part of the roof assembly is transparent to provide sufficient sunlight for the turf. In order to comply with height limitation close to the airport, the pitch was sunk below the level of the land around the stadium. The stadium's parking was designed underneath the arena and consists of three levels.

Back-to-back Championships

Bale Cleise came back to the club in the middle of 2015-16 season, replacing new coach Fenel Azer who was a disappointment. He managed to pull things together and the team finished in 9th position and the quarter finals of Europa League. Cleise had won a 3rd PSL Championship, this time with Dominic in 2013, just a couple of years after leaving Hilvar.



Bale Cleise 2017

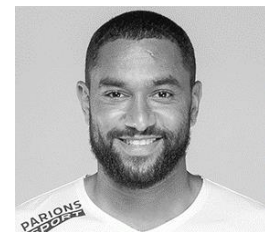


Stanel Abedin

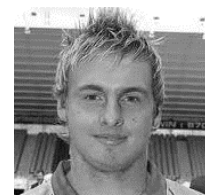


Fil Baak

Once again, he completely changed the team, as he did back in his first spell in 2007. He sold 3 foreigners who never really offered anything to the club the previous season (Missimovic and Diamanti to China clubs and Gilardino to Palermo) and with these money and a considerable help from the board, who spent ff 25 mln, he brought to Federation Arena 7 new players: goalkeeper Gaal Hendrin from Del Rey, French defender Jordan Amavi from Aston Villa, midfielders Fil Baak from Victoria City, Stanel Abedin from Atlantic Union and the completely unknown, but highly talented Homir Verbek from Albatros and Stefan



Jordan Amavi



Gaal Hendrin

Driskel from Elgin Utd and the French center forward Andre Pierre Gignac from the Mexican club Tigres.



Hilvar Athletics fans invade the pitch in Holborn after the end of the game, after the announcement of AG Nobel's defeat by Dalton that made Hilvar 2017 champions



Bale Cleise and his assistants celebrate when they hear that Dalton have won the game in Nobel

Bale Cleise stayed for another season finishing 4th and leading Hilvar Athletics to the group stage of Champions' League for a 2nd time in a row. He retired in the summer of 2019, being already 66 years old.

European Glory (2020 – present)

Roberto Di Mateo, the Italian coach who won the Champions League with Chelsea and was by then a permanent Pharonian resident, having coached Dalton SC, was chosen as Cleise's replacement.



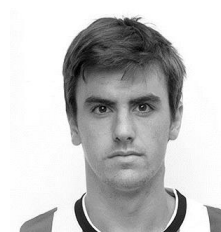
Romel Bor

The City of Hilvar that owned more than 60% of the club, reduced its share to 51%, selling shares to businessman Romel Bor, owner of Bridl Insurance, who became the new chairman of the Board.

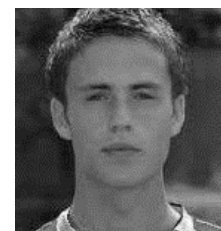
The 2016-17 season had a dramatic end. Hilvar Athletics and AG Nobel reached the final day of games equal in points (64 each), with AG having 1 goal advantage in goal-difference (+35 to Hilvar's +34). Hilvar played their last game away to Dominic, while AG Nobel faced Dalton SC in Nobel. With the score 0-0 in Holborn after the 90 minutes of play, all Hilvar players, staff and fans were listening to the radio for the result in Nobel, where the game was delayed by 5 minutes due to injuries. Dalton were ahead 3-1 when Leonis Ormin pulled one back for AG Nobel two minutes before the end of extra time. AG Nobel pushed forward, even with their keeper Centron Tanban needing to equalize to be champions, but to no

avail. Hilvar Athletics were Pharos champions for the 6th time and Bale Cleise won a championship medal with a 4th different team, a Pharonian record.

Cleise's miracle was repeated next season, this time more easily than the 2017 drama. With only 2 new additions this time, goalkeeper Cyrus Kors from Quazar Julianadorp and Dutch winger Luciano Narsingh from Swansea, Hilvar Athletics won their 7th National title, four points clear of Centralia Trandor.



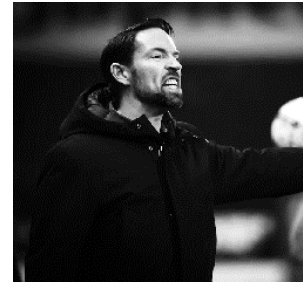
Fil Gronen, mvp 2017



Jan Selke, mvp 2018

With Di Mateo in charge Hilvar finished in 3rd and 7th positions in the table for 2019-20 and 2020-21. He left to join AG Nobel, while a former AG Nobel manager, Fran Levit, took over as general manager.

Levit did not have much success, as the new administration did not help much with financing (there was limited funds from the City council and Bor was in negotiations to buy more shares and become sole owner). Hilvar finished between 7th and 4th positions in the PSL table from 2020 to 2024, but hit the jack-pot in Europe. In 2021 they reached the quarter finals of the Europa League, eliminating big European names on the way, like Sporting Lisbon, Antwerp, Glasgow Rangers and Slavia Prague, before going down by Arsenal.



Fran Levit

In 2023-24 they participated for the second season in a row at the new UEFA Conference League. They disposed in the preliminary rounds Dila Gori of Georgia (7-0, 1-3), APOEL of Cyprus (1-0, 1-2 and 5-4 on penalties) and KAA Gent of Belgium (2-1, 1-1) to enter the group stage. They easily finished undefeated in the 1st place against Zorya Luhansk of Ukraine, Maccabi Tel Aviv of Israel and Breidablik of Iceland. In the round of 16 they eliminated another Israeli club, Maccabi Haifa (1-1, 0-0 and 4-3 on penalties), in the



Luciano Narsingh scores in the 2024 UECL final



**Luciano Narsingh
the hero of Athens**

quarter-finals Fenerbahce of Turkey (2-2, 2-2 and 4-3 on penalties) and in the semi-finals Aston Villa (3-1, 0-0). On May 29th in Athens they were crowned UECL Champions, winning Fiorentina 1-0 in extra time, thanks to a Luciano Narsingh goal from a Tanner Tessmann cross 3 minutes before the end. Hilvar's squad for this historic game was: Cyrus Kors, Jole Pander, Jordan Amavi (91 Helvet Stanbel), Fil Gronen, Huber Joris, Albi Hedel, Stanel Bastiens, Fil Baak (72 Mark Baer), Stefan Driskel (79 Tanner Tessmann), Adam Buksa (106 Yord Hanel), Luciano Narsingh.