

# Normatia Diaspar

Normatia Football Club is a professional football club based in Diaspar, Diceland, Pharos. Formed in 1885, it was a founding member of the Southern Football League as well as of the Diceland Football Association. They have won 16 Diceland Championships and 4 National division B titles. They play their home games in BMO Stadion since 2024, moving from their old Meersed Stadion.

## History

### Early years

The club was founded by the Reverend Jole Farrall, Perpetual curate of Christ Church Diaspar, and Theo Ogden, the schoolmaster at the adjacent church school, in 1885 as Christ



**Normatia  
Diaspar crest**

Church Diaspar FC. It was initially run from the church of the same name on Dean Road, Diaspar, on the site where the Innovation factory of the Technology Institute of Diceland now stands. The club left the location following a dispute with the vicar, and changed its name to Normatia Diaspar FC in 1887. The name was chosen from the Normatia forest in the outskirts of Diaspar, where they found a permanent ground to play.



**Initial crest**

Normatia were one of the founder members of the Southern Football League, which formed in 1887. They competed in all 4 League's championships, with their best position an 11<sup>th</sup> place in 1889. They joined Diceland Football Association in 1891 and played in the 1<sup>st</sup> division, finishing 5<sup>th</sup> in the first championship of 1891-92.

**Normatia Diaspar 1905**

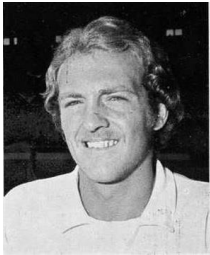


**left to right: Boid, Stock, Lamers, L.Sutters, Grenhag, Davins, Sephaer, K.Sutters, Tay, Vidth, McEvan**

They would have their first title in 1905 under secretary-manager Jan Addenbrok, with players like the brothers Kleon and Lathan Sutters, captain Jan Lamers and goalkeeper Arno Davins, who played till the age of 50!

## 1905-1981

Although being always on the top half of the Dicelandic Championship table, Normatia did not win another title until 1978, with Dominic and Rutugrian winning



**Escel Ormin**

all the titles from 1915. In 1971 Normatia finished in 2<sup>nd</sup> place and since Dominic were 1970 National Champions, they competed for the 1<sup>st</sup> time in a National Championship. They finished in the 10<sup>th</sup> and last position, with 3 wins and 7 draws in 18 games. Center forward

Escel Ormin, who scored 7 goals and

defenders Cyrus Nolt and Pori De Mol were their best players.



**Pori De Mol**



**Meersed Stadion**

In 1971 the board decided to go on and build a new venue for the club. The new Diaspar football stadium was partially financed by the Dicelandic Government in the outskirts of Diaspar, near their old stadium by the Normatia forest. On 27 September 1971, it was announced that the new ground would be named Meersed after Meersed Group won the naming rights to the stadium. Construction started in 1972 and was planned to end up with 15,800 seats. However, during construction the main contractor announced another 2,400 seats may easily be fitted inside the ground at the west end, without altering the nearby forest area. After this being approved, designers of Populous (then known as HOK Sport) altered the documentation to allow extra seating.

In 1978 Normatia

Diaspar were Diceland's champions, 73 years after their first title! Manager Gaal Mulhern had introduced some talented players from the youth squads in 1976, when he was given the general manager position by the team's new board. The likes of Ak Ramanujan, Lathan Vonnegut and Lors Krista led the team to the title and in the National Championship, where they finished in the last position, as in their previous run in 1971.



**Ak Ramanujan**

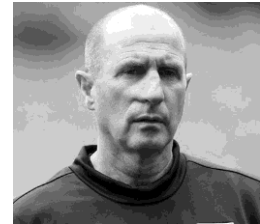


**Lathan Vonnegut**

Unfortunately, the club's finances were not good, so players had to be sold and Normatia was not included in the PSL championships, when the league was formed in the summer of 1981, with big names like Dominic and Rutugrian earning the two spots for Diceland.

#### **1981-2004**

From 1981 until the expansion of PSL in 2004, Normatia Diaspar competed in the local Diceland 1<sup>st</sup> division and the PSC National championships. They would win 14 Diceland titles and 3 PSC National titles (1992, 2002, 2004). In 2004-05 they were admitted in the newly formed PSL B division, led by former Ferephon Union player Theo Di Lorto as manager, with a team of youngsters known as the 'Diaspar babes' (only 3 players in the squad were above 23 years of age).



**Theo Di Lorto**

#### **The PSL era**

Normatia finished in 14<sup>th</sup> place in their first PSL championship. Theo Di Lorto left for Beatrix and former Hilvar Athletics manager Kleon Ison took over. After a disappointing 1<sup>st</sup> term (another 14<sup>th</sup> place), Ison sold goalkeeper Dokor Hogt to Olympic Eptapolis for a record fee for the club. Financing was much better and the team reached 6<sup>th</sup> place in 2006-07 and 2007-08.



**Bred McLean**

Kleon Ison found a better contract with Centralia Trandor and Diaspar-born former Dominic player Bred McLean was hired as manager. He re-organized the team, selling most of the old players. He led Normatia to a 5<sup>th</sup> place in 2011 and to the top of PSL B in 2011-12, gaining promotion to the top tier for the first time.

The Diaspar team surprised everyone in PSL A, as they managed to stay afloat, finishing in 12<sup>th</sup> position in their first season at the top, led by midfield star Levi Beitel. They would be more surprising next season, when they would finish in 7<sup>th</sup> place, just missing out a Euro-cup spot, despite having sold Beitel to Chiftelov Sport and Yahim Elbert to AG Nobel.

Normatia would be relegated in PSL B in 2017 and McLean left the next summer, not being able to gain promotion. Helnus De Brul was given the managerial job, staying for 4 seasons until 2021, managing 5<sup>th</sup> place twice. In the summer of 2021 Bale Valerian, team captain, decided to quit his playing career and took over as the new manager. Although his first season was disappointing, with the team avoiding relegation to PSC thanks to a play-out sudden-death win against Hinjioamaru, the board did



**Levi Beitel**

not dismiss him. Valerian led the team to PSL A for a second time in 2023-24, but could not avoid relegation the next season, despite having the League's top scorer in Lito van Dyck with 17 goals. Stanel Czermack replaced Valerian, who went to Dominic.



**Lito van Dyck**

### **A new stadium**

In 2022, the City of Diaspar decided to build a new stadium for the team. They collaborated with investor firm BMO, who got naming rights for 20 years. Construction began in January 2023 and finished by the end of 2024. BMO Normatia Stadium has a capacity of 22,000 seats.

Built in a symbolic site of Diaspar, replacing the aging Meersed Stadion, it had to fit in terms



**BMO Normatia Stadion**

of scale. The field of play was thus sunken 6.7 meters into the ground, which also facilitates crowd circulation as fans enter lower ring of the stands from street level. The front row of the stands is pushed as close as possible, at the nearest point reaching just 3.7m from the players. The furthest a fan can seat is 41 meters away, which means everyone has a good and unobstructed view of the field. For corporate customers the offer is specifically wide, starting with field-level armchairs, through vast clubs and lounges, through 22 private boxes with retractable glass front, to business clubs on top of the north and west stands, each with a unique feature like a view of the sunset or even a swimming pool. In turn, the northern cheapest seats for vocal fans represent completely different features. At 34° it has the steepest rake across PSL and is equipped with rails in order to facilitate constant standing. 3,252 fans can be seated or, actually, standing in the area. Even if it would have been seen as an oddity 15 years

earlier, the stadium provides almost complete cover of all seats. The canopy is lightweight and based on slender long-span cantilevers. In total only 2,300 tons of steel was used in the construction of this stadium, both to support the upper stands and to provide shade. The roof consists of 17,600 m<sup>2</sup> of ETFE. With no opaque facades and two empty corners the

stadium provides good ventilation and offers some fans a view of the skyline. Even before groundbreaking it was intended to be eco-friendly, aiming for (and receiving) the LEED silver certificate. This is owed to energy efficiency, rainwater harvesting, green spaces around and ecologic transport solutions (440 bicycle parking spaces, 5% parking places with EV charging stations, plus emphasis on public transport).