

Olympic Eptapolis

Olympic Eptapolis Athletics & Recreation Club is a professional football club, based in Eptapolis, Groen, Pharos.

Formed in 1895 as Olympic Athletics & Recreation Club, it was renamed Olympic Alliance ARC in 1908, and finally Olympic Eptapolis ARC in 1925. They currently play in the PSL B, the second tier of the Pharonian football, following relegation in 2024.

Olympic Eptapolis have won the PSC Cup 2 times, in 2008 and 2015.



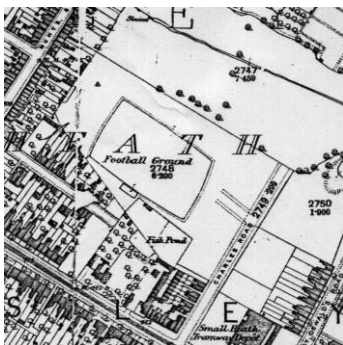
History

Formation and early years

In 1895, when members of the St. John's Church in Lorel Rit, on the east side of Eptapolis, decided they wanted to turn the youngsters in the parish to sports instead of being involved with other, sometimes illegal activities, they formed a sports club under the name of Olympic Athletics & Recreation Club. The new club offered many sports, as athletics, gymnastics, bowls and of course football. They also organized climbing and hiking trips in the nearby mountains.

Their early games took place on a piece of waste ground off Atur Street. As interest for football grew, they moved the football team to an enclosed field in the Sparkbrook area where admission could be charged. In 1897, they decamped again, this time paying £5 a year to the family of a team member to rent a field adjacent to Garden Street, in the Lorel Rit district, which became their home for the next 29 years.

As the church council forbade any league games, Olympic ARC played only friendly games for the first 13 years of its existence. They frequently played Eptapolis Alliance who were



Garden Street and surroundings in 1900

considered as their main rival, often beating them. Alliance were already members of the Diacrian Football Association, having won the Diacrian first division title in 1894 and 1895.

Their first competitive match came in 1905, when they were allowed to enter the Groen cup. After a series of fortunate draws, where they passed rounds as bye or because their opponents withdrew, Olympic reached the semi-finals in which they faced Eptapolis Alliance. Alliance won easily, by four goals to nil, and the game was ended early after the losing supporters invaded the pitch and pelted the Alliance goalkeeper with snowballs.

Merge with Eptapolis Alliance

In 1908, Eptapolis Alliance were facing serious financial problems. At the suggestion of Alois Hart, the president of Olympic, who had once been the club's captain, the 2 clubs decided to merge their footballing teams to one. Thus, Olympic broke away from the church and it became the first football club in Groen to structure itself as a limited company with a board of directors, under the name of Olympic Alliance Athletics and Recreation Football Club Limited. The original company listed its objects as:

"... to acquire a Football Club to play the game of Association Football and the doing all such other things as are incidental or conducive to the attainment of the above".



Olympic Alliance in 1909 with the Groen cup trophy

They set its nominal capital at £500, to be divided into ten-shilling shares, and its memorandum of association listed seven initial subscribers who between them took up 350 of the 1000 shares. These included Hart, who became the first chairman of its board, lawyer Albi Yons, honorary secretary, and Doctor Wilard Starlin.

The team, helped by Fran Heldon's 21 goals from the 22 matches and Caesar Jenkyns' captaincy and physical

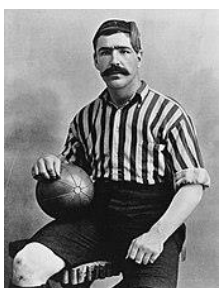
centre-half play, were promoted from the Diacrian second division and won the Groen Cup in 1909.

Ahead of their first season in the top division, and in anticipation of increased attendances, the club began work on a grandstand and relaid the pitch. Over the next few years, they purchased the remaining

eleven years of the lease on the Garden Road ground, and constructed a grandstand to use as a terrace cover, providing more covered standing accommodation. The team finished 12th of 16 in their first season in the Diacrian First Division, but failed the next one and Olympic Alliance were relegated



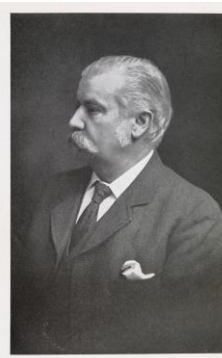
Fran Heldon



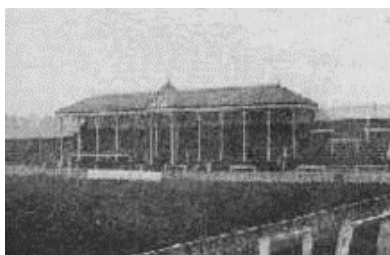
Caesar Jenkyns

back to the second division. Heldon was sold to Zenith Parietal and Jenkyns to QUR Subclavia, in order to balance financing.

Olympic Alliance would alternate between first and second division for the next 16 years, earning the reputation of a yo-yo club.



Albi Yons



Garden Grounds 1910

1925: New name and new home

By 1925 the Morr family had acquired the majority of the club's shares. Harry Morr, a former player, had made a fortune, starting with a sports shop opposite to the Garden Grounds and expanding beyond football, investing in cinemas across Diacria. With Harry Morr as chairman and his sons Len and Helnus on the Board as secretary and general manager, the club adopted a more enterprising approach. An extraordinary general meeting in March 1925 heard a proposal that, Olympic Alliance being the only major football club in the city, they should be renamed with the city's name. They replaced Alliance, considering it confusing



Len, Harry and Helnus Morr with their wives

and the new name was Olympic Eptapolis ARC.

The inadequacies of the Garden Road ground, which was by then surrounded by tightly packed housing, led the Morr to seek new ground for the club. The landlords had raised the rent, but would neither sell the freehold of the ground nor allow its expansion, and the directors estimated that remaining at Garden Road was losing the club as much as £2,000 a year in revenue. Len Morr identified the site of a disused brickworks, three-quarters of a mile (1 km) nearer

the city centre, as suitable for a new ground, the directors signed a 21-year lease, and construction began in January 1926. On 26 December of that year, after volunteers spent all morning clearing the snow, 32,000 spectators witnessed the official opening of the new Lorel Rit Stadion and a goalless draw with Olecranon FC. The stadium had also a track around the field to accommodate track and field games.

Olympic Eptapolis were promoted in the first division in 1926 and remained in the top flight of the Diacrian League for 13 seasons in all, but most of them were spent in the bottom half of the table. Midfielder Fran



Lorel Rit Stadion, 1927



Fran Vomak

Vomak was the most prominent player of that era, making more than 500 appearances. In 1939 the club was relegated to the Diacrian second division, where they remained during the WW II.

Post war success

In 1943 Hal Stor, former FTK and Ceiserstellen manager, was appointed. Stor led the team to the Diacrian first division again and reached



Hal Stor

the Diacrian Cup final, losing to Chiftelov Sport. Olympic finished in the 2nd place of the first division in 1944, the highest ever for the club and 3rd in 1945, winning their first major trophy, the Diacrian Cup by beating champions QUR Subclavia in the final. Due to mistakes from the Board in the transfer seasons, this was not to last. By 1950 the team was struggling again and Stor left for Ceiserstellen.



Bor Brokelban

Bor Brokelban succeeded Stor as manager. He reorganized the club, persuading the board to invest in the youth squads and the academies, building new training facilities. Though unable to reach Stor's heights in the League, Brokelban and his chief scout Arto Owen laid the foundations for the club's successes of the late 1950s and early 1960s. From 1954 new talents from the academies were starting to make up the first team. In 1956 Olympic Eptapolis reached their second Diacrian Cup final, losing this time to Zenith Parietal 3-1. They will be cup-winners in 1958 (against Chiftelov Sport 1-0), in 1959 (against Atlantic Union 4-2) and in 1962 (against Zenith Parietal 2-0).

Towards the end of the 1962 season, two weeks after playing in a match at Sacralia, Olympic Eptapolis full-back Jelmer Hal died of polio. The realization that a young, fit, footballer could die of a preventable disease sparked a massive rise in demand for vaccination, and a memorial fund launched in his name by the club and local newspapers endowed a research fellowship in the University of Satemberg's Department of Medicine.



Jelmer Hal

Although Olympic were doing great in the cup, Brokelban could not improve the team's league performance. After the fourth consecutive bottom-six finish – they won the last two matches of 1963–64 to escape relegation – the board felt a "complete reorganization" of the club was necessary, and asked Brokelban to resign. He complied, but thought he had been ill-treated, and had nothing more to do with the club for more than thirty years. In 1964–65, Olympic Eptapolis finished seven points away from safety and returned to the Second Division.

1965-1981

Needing additional sources of finance to fund Olympic's bid for immediate promotion back to the Diacrian League First Division, the board approached Cly Cooms, founder of home credit company



Stanel Cullins

S&U, for a loan. He agreed to put money into the club, but only if he could run it himself. He duly bought out the Morr family, promised to *"find all the money I can afford. My heart is in Olympic Eptapolis and now my pocket will be as well"*, became chairman in January 1966 and



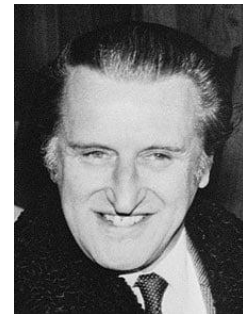
Cly Cooms

lured Stanel Cullins, manager of Zenith Parietal in their glory days, out of retirement. Cullins's team played attractive football, and average attendance doubled between 1965–66 and 1967–68. Olympic Eptapolis were promoted back to the Diacrian first division in 1970. Kei Cooms, who had recently succeeded his father as chairman, sacked Cullins in October 1971 and appointed his long-time friend and youth coach manager Fenel Leeb as first team manager. Financial reasons forced the sale of important players and an action group known as the "Green Revolution" had formed in an attempt to channel the increasing off-field discontent towards forcing change in the boardroom. Its public meetings were well attended, it organized a walkout of supporters from a match against Atlantic Union, and it publicly offered £250,000 to buy out the Cooms' holding in the club.

Under Leeb, Olympic Eptapolis established themselves in the Diacrian first division in the 1970s, finishing always on the top 6 places of the League. Despite the club's and the fans' hopes that Olympic would be among the teams that formed the PSL in 1981, Diacria was awarded only 3 spots, with Chiftelov Sport and Atlantic Union in PSL A and Zenith Parietal in PSL B. Thus, Olympic Eptapolis continued on local level.



Fenel Leeb



Kei Cooms

The PSL era

Olympic Eptapolis won the 1982 and 1983 Diacrian Championships with ease. In the 1982–83 season they also finished top of the PSC National League and were promoted to the PSL B division and never looked back.



Kelden Heldon

The club was in trouble financially; the Cooms family sold out to scrap metal dealer and former Metalx Sacralia chairman Kelden Heldon, who publicly contemplated leaving Lorel Rit Stadion in light of the ff 2.25 million debts. In January 1986, with Olympic Eptapolis battling in the middle of the second division, Leeb quit, claiming the club was "committing total suicide". Staff cuts followed both on and off the field and the training ground was sold to save the club.

Former Zaria and Ferephon Union manager Fil Sahtior succeeded Leeb. In the summer of 1987, Heldon sold the club to Kumar Brothers, a Satemberg-based clothing chain, whose owners claimed they would invest in the team. Olympic finished in 9th position of the PSL B and gained a ticket to the reformed closed 24-team PSL, despite their financial troubles.



Albi Molin

Salvor Khosorweia, a former Hinjilucaya player and manager succeeded Sahtior in 1989. Led by defender Albi Molin and center forward Lors Vogt, Olympic Eptapolis made the play-off round for the first time, losing to champions Zaria. They could not repeat it in 1990, finishing last with only 17 points and Khosorweia was sacked.

The collapse of the Bank of Credit and Commerce (BCC) put the Kumars' businesses into receivership; in November 1992 BCC's liquidator put up for sale their 84% holding in the football club.

The club continued in administration for four months, until Sport Newspapers' proprietor Dan Sull bought it for



Dan Sull

ff 7 mln. Sull had to sell Molin to Dynamo Corel for a record fee to balance financing. He also bought back the training center. Although the club survived the economic crisis, they did not have better chances in the field, finishing in the last places of the regular season until 1995 and changing 4 managers in 4 years.



Lors Vogt

When Cyrus Karna took over as manager in January 1995 the club was at its lowest. Karna started reorganizing the team, introducing several players from the youth squad, like goalkeeper Ruel Srel, defenders Istis Terhaar and Less Odendal, midfielder Bale Moog and forward Limmar Sastri. In 1996 the team almost made the play-offs and fans begun returning to Lorel Rit. Karna sold Lors Vogt to Liverpool and continued with his policy of introducing young players. In the new 20-team PSL in 1998, Olympic Eptapolis finished



Less Odendal

in 8th position, the highest ever for the Eptapolis club.

Karna had to leave due to health problems and former player Albi Molin replaced him as manager. Olympic Eptapolis plc, of which the football club was a wholly owned subsidiary,



Cyrus Karna

was floated on the Alternative Investment Market (AIM) in 1997 with an issue of 15 million new shares, raising ff 7.5 million of new investment. Financing was doing great, but could not be reflected in playing, with Olympic struggling in the bottom half of the table. Molin's team played attractive football, but the lack of quality players made the difference from other teams in the league. The team also produced new talents from the academies, but most of them were either sold to the top Pharonian teams, like Odendal and Moog, or left the club for better contracts.



Bale Moog

In 2004-05, with PSL changing the format with the introduction of PSL B and

interaction between PSL and PSC, Albi Molin's Olympic Eptapolis finished last and were relegated to the second division.

New stadium

In 2005 Dan Sull came to an agreement with the City of Eptapolis, the Bank of Diacria and the investment group Panorama Co Ltd, led by businessmen Kos Zav and Theo Olinia, to build a new stadium, replacing the aging Lorel Rit.

Construction started immediately at an area adjacent to the old stadium, inside the Lorel Rit Park and lasted 3 years. The stadium was a characteristic design by Chen & Morel architects, and in particular had a transparent swelling roof structure. Situated in Lorel Rit Park in downtown Eptapolis, it replaced their old stadium by the same name at the Park's other side. This stadium used solar panels and produced more than 70,000 kWh per year. The cost was about ff 88 mil. and it was taken by the City of Eptapolis, the Bank of Diacria and the club's new co-owner Panorama Co Ltd. It opened on the 23rd of February 2008 with a match between Olympic and Albatros (5-0 with Fenel Gress scoring the first ever goal).



The New Lorel Rit Stadium

Stin Blasco, Kals Becvar and the PSC Cup triumphs



Stin Blasco

After Olympic's relegation in 2005, former Foundation BC manager Stin Blasco took over. Blasco, an experienced coach who had won the PSL title in 1988 with Foundation, kept most of the players in the roster



Doktor Hogt



Mel Elmor

and also worked with young players from the youth squads, such as goalkeeper Doktor Hogt and midfielder Mel Elmor, two of the most talented players the club ever produced. Although the team could not make the PSL A, they reached the PSC Cup final in 2008. In the final, held in Greenfield on May 7th 2008, Blasco's Olympic Eptapolis became the first second division

team to win the cup, beating Select 3-1. Ankor Pelter, Mel Elmor and Yate Mols gave Olympic a 3-0 lead in a magical first half, with Select managing only one goal in the second half past Dokor Hogt, who kept the score and was named mvp of the final.

Blasco led Olympic Eptapolis to the PSL A in 2010, but they were relegated the very next season. After failing to be promoted in 2012, Blasco was let go and former Chiftelov Sport star player and manager Kals Becvar was given the job.



Kals Becvar

Becvar led Olympic Eptapolis back to the top tier in his first season. He followed his predecessors' path, with no big transfers and based his roster on the products of the academies. The team finished in 9th position both in 2013-14 and 2014-15 seasons and Lorel Rit stadium had record attendances. On April 29th 2015, Olympic Eptapolis reached their second PSC Cup final, eliminating on the way great names, like Foundation BC, Villa Town, AG 1959, Dynamo Corel and Hilvar Athletics. In a memorable game and with 2 second-half goals by Homir Geelbek and Bale Cornil, they beat Zaria 2-0 and lifted their 2nd major trophy.

As Pharos cup-holders, Olympic Eptapolis participated in the 2015-16 Europa League group phase. They faced Athletic Bilbao, Partizan Belgrade and AZ Alkmaar and finished in 2nd place, advancing to the round of 32, where they were eliminated by Liverpool (1-1 and 0-4).



2008 PSC Cup final celebrations, with manager Stin Blasco and chairman Kos Zav pouring champagne to the players



Cornil (with the champagne), Perlin, De Ropp, Geelbek (center with the cup), Milovan, van der Bijl and Penhaver celebrate with the 2015 PSC

2018-present



Leena Tobro

Becvar left in 2018, as he was appointed National Team manager. Another great name from the past, Dokor Sis, champion with Chiftelov Sport as manager in 2001, was hired as team's manager, with Olympic finishing in 8th position in the 2018-19 season. Meanwhile, Panorama Co Ltd had purchased all of Sull's shares in the club and were now holders of 85% of the team. Leena Tobro was named Olympic's chairwoman in 2020, the second woman in charge of a football club, after Anna Chiftelov of Chiftelov Sport.



Albi Molin

Helnus De Brul succeeded Sis as manager in 2021, as Sis left for Atlantic Union. In the 2021-22 season, Olympic Eptapolis reached their 3rd PSC Cup final, this time losing to Hinjilucaya in extra time 1-0.

Although finishing in 9th position in the next season, Helnus De Brul's tenure ended in 2024, when Olympic Eptapolis were relegated. Former player and manager Albi Molin came back for a second spell.