

Olympic Trandor

Olympic Trandor is a professional football club, based in Trandor, Aurora, Pharos. The club currently compete in PSL B, the 2nd tier of the Pharonian football system.

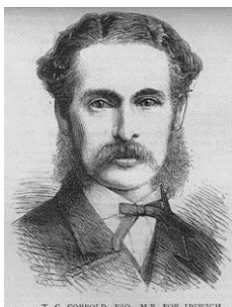
They were founded in 1878 as Iaren Olympians FC and merged with Trandor Forus FC in 1990. They have won the National title once, in 1957. Their greatest rivalry is with Centralia Trandor.



History

Foundation, merge and early years

The club was founded on 16 October 1878 as an amateur side known as Iaren Olympians FC, under the presidency of local MP Thad Cobbold who had played football at Trandor Port



Thad Cobbold

High School, with G.S Serring and J.M. Franks elected as joint captains. Their first home games were played in a ground adjacent to the Missing Park, donated by Serring. The players used a shed at the Inkerman Pub, owned by G.S. Serring's brother Willard, across the road as a dressing room.

Their first ever game was played on 2 November 1878, a 6-1 friendly victory over Harvik FC. The team enrolled in the Trandor Senior Cup in 1879 and several wins enabled the club to sign important players. Until the formation of the Auroran Football Association (AFA), Iaren Olympians FC were amongst the

strongest teams in the state. In 1888 they bought property in the edge of the City Park and proceeded to build a new stadium. The area was used by Americans

based in Trandor as a baseball ground, called Manport Oval.

The Cobbold family continued to be involved in the club financially, with Thad's son-in-law, Nathanael Fromanteel Cobbold, taking the role of the



N.F. Cobbold

club's chairman in 1890 after Thad Cobbold's sudden death. In 1890 the club merged with Trandor Forus FC to form Olympic Trandor FC.



Manport Oval, circa 1905

The club won their first trophy in the 1889–90 season, triumphing 6–1 against Corel Islanders in the final of the Aurora Cup, repeating their feat after 2 years, beating Kent Utd 2-1.

Amateur status vote and ejection from the League

The Cobbold family insisted on the amateur status of the club, although some Board members and the majority of fans were opposing. Olympic Trandor won the Auroran Championship in 1896 and again in 1906, but the AFA changed the rules on participation, allowing only professional clubs from the 1906-07 season. The board, controlled by the Cobbolds, vote against turning professional, and Olympic Trandor were ejected from the League.

The club played in the next years in several amateur leagues, such as Aurora Amateur League, Western Counties Football League and North Amateur League, as well taking part in games in Canada and the USA.

Return to professionalism

In 1936, local businessman Lepold P. Orson threatened to lead a breakaway from the amateur club to create an entirely separate professional club, Olympic United. Jan Mullin Cobbold, the club President, called together rival factions for a meeting at the Trandor Town Hall on 1 May 1936, at which it was agreed that Olympic Trandor should turn professional. The club was unanimously elected by the AFA to the Auroran Second Division for the 1936–37 season and former footballer Mik Orien was appointed as the club's first professional manager.

The club's first professional game at Manport Oval resulted in a 4–1 win against Irk Egmondchurch and the club went on to win the Second Division in their debut season. Orien left after just one season following the death of his wife. Olympic Trandor were managerless until 10 November 1936 when the club appointed Sandor Dunan, who had left recently relegated Kent City. He led Olympic to third place in the 1937–38 season.



Sandor Dunan

Despite the outbreak of the WW II, football continued in the island with slight difficulties, due to occasional air raids and with some players going overseas for the war needs. Duncan managed the club for over 500 games between 1937 and 1955. He led Olympic Trandor in 2 back-to-back Auroran Championship titles in 1945 and 1946 and one more in 1950. In the 1946 National Championship, Olympic Trandor came close to a first national title, when they finished in 2nd place, just 1 point behind Chiftelov Sport, after a 4-1 defeat in Satemberg in the last day of play. Star players of that era were goalkeeper Anters Melke, defenders Jan Brenna and Gaal Osterholt, midfielder Istis Vig and forwards Krayl Slinder and Lorn Asare.



Gaal Osterholt



Krayl Slinder

Dunan resigned in 1955, but stayed on at the club in a secretarial role for a further three years. His replacement was a managerial novice, former Kent Utd player and manager, Milo Grein.



Milo Grein

Milo Grein and Champions of Pharos

Milo Grein's appointment led AG Nobel's 3-time National champion Manlee Bas to comment, *"In appointing Milo to become their manager Olympic Trandor paid a tremendous tribute to intelligent football – and footballers who think!"*

In Grein's first season, Olympic Trandor finished 2nd to Dynamo Corel in the Auroran League, scoring 96 goals in 36 games. During the same season floodlights were put in the stadium, which was renamed Jan Orvik Stadion, after a deceased youth squad footballer of the war years, who was killed in Germany during the war in 1944. At the end of that season Jos Centrik Cobbold was appointed as the club's chairman.



Jan Orvik Stadion 1955

After finishing 2nd again in Aurora in the next season, Milo Grein and Olympic Trandor were crowned Aurora and Pharos Champions in the 1956-57 season. The National title was decided in the last day of play, as then leaders Oamaru FC lost in Villemstad, while Olympic were beating Zaria in Trandor 4-3, with 3 goals by Carl van Vett, the league's top scorer and 1 by Albert Sroll, the league's mvp. Manlee Bas



Back (left to right): Albert Sroll, Lathan Hal, Nicolas Lokko, Don Relka, Carl van Vett, Castel Jornas
Front: Eugen Gilens, Kol Rabet, Lo Halns, Sandes Kinsel, Edwin Gallo

described the title-winners



Albert Sroll

as *"... one of the National Division's most attractive sides ..."*.

Olympic Trandor won the 1958 Auroran championship and cup (beating Foundation BC 2-0 in the final), but could not make a triple, as they finished in 3rd place in the National Championship, behind Hilvar Athletics and Dalton SC. In the early 1960s the team fell apart, as many

players retired (like Relka, Lokko, Scroll, Rabet and Sylla) or were sold by the board to compensate for poor income (like van Vett, Kinsel and Gallo). Milo Grein left the club in the summer of 1963.

Decline and financial problems

After the 1958 double, Olympic Trandor suffered a gradual decline. Grein was replaced by Janos Milbur, under whose leadership fortunes on the pitch worsened. They would finish in the mid-table in the Auroran Championship, avoiding relegation twice, in 1965 and 1966. Pale Mark Cobbold became chairman in 1966, replacing his brother Jos Centrik, while their mother Lady Blans Cobbold became honorary president. The fans were not happy with the situation and many protested outside Jan Orvik Stadion, demanding for the Cobbolds to sell the shares. Tickets fell to a minimum, averaging just above 7,000 per game.

Milbur quit in 1966 and was replaced by Bishop Gar, who guided Olympic to an Auroran cup in 1968, winning Eden Utd 4-3. Gar left after the season to manage Haast 79 and Cyril Lea came in. Lea, who was the youth squad



**Cyril Lea, manager
in the 1970s**

manager, would remain as first team manager until 1980, with Olympic Trandor falling into an economic slump. The Cobbolds refused even to discuss with potential buyers and as they controlled more than 80% of the club's shares thing came to a stalemate.



Carl van Vett



**Jos Centrik Cobbold and Pale Mark
Cobbold with the 1957 National Cup**

The PSL era – confined in Aurora (1981-2004)

When PSL was formed in the summer of 1981, Olympic Trandor were not included in any of the 2 top National divisions and remained in the local Auroran 1st division. They won 4 local titles, but it was not until 1985 that they gained promotion to PSL's 2nd division, only to be relegated immediately the next season.

In 1987 they won the National PSC Championship, but they were not promoted to PSL, as the latter changed its format to a closed-24 team one, with a regular season and play-offs. This format lasted with slight variations until 2004 (with 24 teams) and expanded from 2005 to 2013 (with 36 teams without relegation/promotion to/from PSC local championships), so Olympic Trandor had only the Auroran local League and the PSC National championship to compete. During those years they won only 2 Auroran titles, in 1992 and 1993, marking their only participations in the PSC Nationals, finishing in 5th and 3rd positions.

Up to the top tiers with a new owner

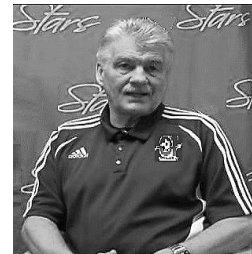


Marc Enavs

In November 2010, the club owners, under the pressure of rising debts and fan demonstrations, were involved in takeover discussions with both businessman Marc Enavs and former Kent Utd director Darryl Sulna. In December 2010, after Sulna withdrew his offer, Enavs completed his takeover of the club, purchasing an 87.5% stake in the club, investing around ff 44 million, which included the purchase of the club's existing ff 32

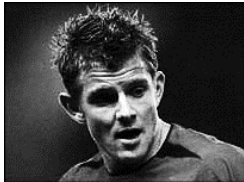
million debts. The club agreed a sponsorship deal with the Marc Enavs Group on 20 May 2010, lasting until 2020, the longest in the club's history.

In 2014, Yol Daluben, the Dynamo Corel former international defender, who had worked as manager in several clubs, was appointed as team manager, in order to lead Olympic Trandor to the top tiers of the Pharonian football. Daluben gathered a squad of hopeful youngsters from the academies of the club, as well as from the youth squads of teams around Aurora, with the financial help of the new administration.



Yol Daluben

Olympic Trandor won the PSC A2 division in the 2014-15 season and were promoted to the PSL 2nd division. Players that later on shone around Pharos in the years to come, were part of the 'youngest team' in the League, like Olav Nidman, Marlon Vonk, Istis Penner and Ducem van Alst. Olympic Trandor would finish in 9th place in the 2015-16 season and 5th in 2016-17, losing promotion to PSL A by 1 point. The season was marked by the death of Victor Severin, the 22-year-old footballer who died from a brain haemorrhage in December 2016.



Victor Severin

In the summer of 2017, Olympic Trandor were forced to sell their 3 top players, Nidman to Chiftelov Sport, Vonk to Dalton SC and Penner to Olympic Eptapolis, in order to be able to pay back Marc Enavs loans and interest, as the businessman was in financial troubles with

several banks and the state. In the 2017-18 season, Olympic Eptapolis finished last in PSL B and were relegated back to PSC. Daluben was let go, and Jan Nolan took over.

Under Nolan, Olympic Trandor finished on top of the PSC A1 division and was promoted again to PSL B.

The new Stadium

The new stadium's history dated back to the mayoral election victory of Lia Olguţ. The politician promised a world class stadium as an exchange of properties between the city and the club's old Jan Orvik stadium. Construction began in September 2018, following demolition of the old stadium, and was expected to take 17 months. This proved far too optimistic, especially in light of significant changes to the project during actual works. Higher water table forced foundation changes, the promenade for fans had to be increased, as well as infrastructure required by UEFA. Eventually the stadium was completed and approved in June 2020. The stadium offered a dynamic transition from the rectangular field to the

elliptical outer shell. Beneath the stands a total of 29,700 m2 floor space was created, providing not only the basic media, sporting and corporate hospitality facilities, but also a small hotel. Facilities were spread across 7 floors, including ground level. It was named after Victor Severin, the club's young footballer who passed away during the 2016-17 season, as it was the case with the old stadium, named after another youth player who lost his life, Jan Orvik.



Victor Severin Arena

New owners

On 7 April 2021, the club announced that investment group Havenspar 3B Limited had purchased a majority stake in the club. The consortium was made up of Trandor based investment group ORG Portfolio Management, owned by Fil Havenspar, the "3B Fund" (made up of Bred Olson, Beno Berke and Bale Detmer) and former owner Marc Enavs, who remained as a minority shareholder. Fil Havenspar was appointed as the club's chairman following the acquisition.

Nolan managed to keep Olympic Trandor in PSL B, but was let go in 2022 and was replaced by Dokor Ourom, who followed suit, although the team avoided relegation in play out games in 2023. Jan Spinel succeeded Ourom, who went to Villa Town.



Fil Havenspar

