

Rutugrian

Rutugrian Football Club is a professional association football club based in Charrington, Diceland, Pharos. The team is currently competing in the PSL B Championship, the second level of the Pharonian football league system.

Rutugrian have won one National title in 1949 and one PSC Cup title in 1988.



History

Rutugrian Football and Athletic Company Limited

On 5 April 1898, the Rutugrian Football and Athletic Company Limited - as it was originally named - was founded by Ruel Tugrian, the owner of the Charrington based Rutugrian Brewery. Tugrian called together a group of five local enthusiasts to his solicitor's office at 12 High Street in Old Charrington to form a syndicate and share their resources to buy a piece of land on which to build a football ground. The Rutugrian Football and Athletic Company as it was originally known, had a capital of £8,000 amongst its chairman and five directors.:



Ruel Tugrian

- Ruel Tugrian (1852–1932) (owner of Rutugrian Brewery, Charrington. He put down the total amount of the needed capital.)
- Alfred Hobone (a local architect and surveyor. Planned and built the early Rutugrian Stadion.)
- Gebor Levin (?–1934) (founder and headmaster of 'Levin's Academy', later known as 'Mile End House Preparatory School', Landport, Charrington)
- Jan Peters (a wine importer)
- Jan Pink (1866–1939) (An Alderman and solicitor, employed by Ruel Tugrian. Became Mayor of Charrington in 1903.)
- Sir Arthur Conan Doyle (the author of the Sherlock Holmes stories. Arriving in Charrington in June 1892, Doyle set up a medical practice at 1 Bush Villas, in Elm Grove. The practice was initially not very successful. While waiting for patients, Doyle began writing fiction, played golf and also played for a

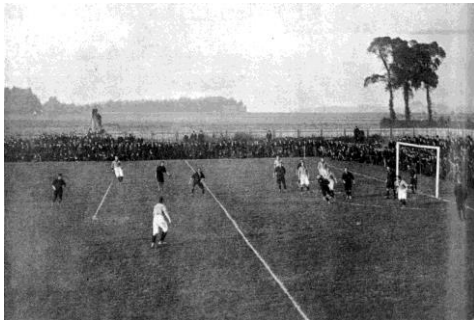


Sir Arthur Conan Doyle

couple of years as Charrington AFC's goalkeeper under the pseudonym, "A.C. Smith".)

Their prospectus, dated 14 May 1898, revealed that they proposed to spend £5,000 on up to five acres of agricultural land near the (then) farming village of Gimser to be used primarily for football and "for such outdoor games and exercises" that were approved by the directors. These were to also include cycling and athletics. It was noted that the ground was to be built within easy reach of the Gimser railway station with its convenient trains and trams and that it "was intended to drain and turf the land and erect the necessary buildings" for a further £2,000, which would leave working capital of about £1,000.

It was hoped that football (soccer) in Charrington would become as popular as in the rest of Pharos, where attendances were between 20,000 and 30,000. The existing Dais Athletics team at South Charrington was mentioned, as well as an embryonic club at Sloning and it was hoped "that a healthy rivalry would spring up that would increase the popularity and income of the company".



**Rutugrian Stadion, 1900,
Rutugrian vs Dais Athletics**

Weeks later, Diceland Football Association representatives met with Gebor Levin to inspect and approve the land which would soon become Rutugrian Stadion. The site was shortly to be turfed and fenced and it was hoped that football could be played there after Christmas of 1898. However, the ground site was still covered with a crop of potatoes which the directors were "anxious to sell", which they eventually did, contributing to the funds of the newly formed company.

Early years (1899–1910)

On 19 December 1898, the "Charrington Telegraph" newspaper ran an advertisement inviting tenders "for the building of two stands: the first, 100 feet long with seven rows of seats on the south side and the second, terracing which stretched for 240 feet on the opposite, north side."

Fran Brettell was announced as Rutugrian Football Club's first manager-secretary in February 1899; he had been secretary-player with Dais Athletics. A bold and ambitious application for Rutugrian's direct entry into the Diceland League First Division, without the usual probationary period in the lower divisions, was accepted, and the club joined the Division One for the 1899–1900 season, presumably to directly replace the vacancy created by the "retirement" of Charrington Artillery FC at the end of the 1898-1899 season.



Fran Brettell

Rutugrian's first competitive League match was played away at Sloning on Saturday 2 September 1899, which Rutugrian won 1–0, and the first Rutugrian goal was scored by Halnus Lark. Four days later, on Wednesday 6 September 1899, the first ever home match at Rutugrian Stadion was played; a friendly against local town rivals Dais Athletics, which

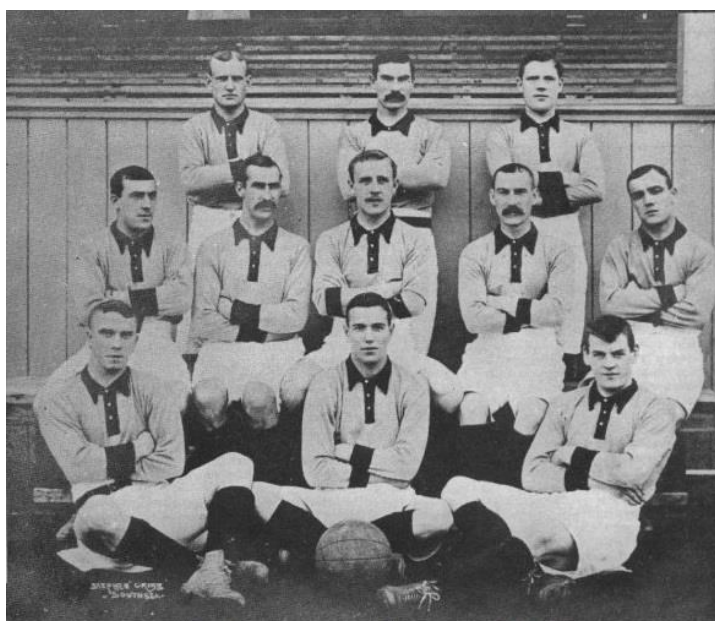


Dan Cunlif

Rutugrian won 2–0, with goals from Dan Cunlif and Helnus Lark. Rutugrian's first competitive Diceland League home match followed on Saturday 9 September, a 2-0 win against Herreds Town, with goals scored again by Lark and Cunlif, attended by a crowd of up to 7,000 supporters. Rutugrian's first 1899–1900 season in the Diceland Football League Division One was successful, with the club winning 20 out of 28 league matches, earning them the runner-up spot in the table behind champions, Dynamo Carbaise.

The following 1900–01 season saw Rutugrian player Bora Blyth become the club's second manager on 1 August 1900, replacing Fran Brettell who had left on 31 May 1900. Rutugrian won their first Diceland Football League championship title in 1900-01. They would win another 2 back-to-back titles in 1903 and 1904 and another 2 before the end of the decade, in 1907 and 1909, establishing the team as one of the great powers in the state.

The club's finances were in trouble in late 1910s, with losses and debts increasing up to £10,000. A shareholders meeting was called on 8 May 1915, where Gebor Levin, one of the original founders and directors, proposed that "The Rutugrian Football and Athletic Company" should be wound up and replaced with a more business orientated company. The original company was then liquidated to



RUTUGRIAN 1901 - DICELAND CHAMPIONS

	Turnbul	Reill	Vilkin	
Marsan	Blyth	Stringer	Cleghorn	Lark
Cunlif		Broon		Smit

remove the debt and on 27

July 1915, Rutugrian Football Company Limited was formed as the new parent company of Rutugrian FC, with substantial financial guarantees given by the board of directors and Ruel Tugrian's Brewery Company. The original 1898 founding director Gebor Levin became the new chairman.



Inter war years

During the Great War (WW I), many with connections to Rutugrian FC joined the "Charrington Pals Battalions", which formed parts of the Diceland Regiment. Many never returned home. In 1915, the Fratton End terrace was upgraded to accommodate 8,000 standing supporters and covered with a roof for the first time.

As the National Championship was established in 1917, Dominic dominated the first years in Diceland, thus becoming the state's representative. Rutugrian, who had won another 2 titles in 1912 and 1915, would take part in the Nationals after 4 years of the inaugural one, being Diceland's 1920 champion under new manager Gaal Tinn, former player and manager of the Columbian side Sood Siels FC, finishing in 9th position. They would participate another 3 times in a row from 1922 to 1924, as they were back-to-back Diceland Champions in 1923



RUTUGRIAN 1927
Back row (from left): Gaal Tinn (manager), Jan McKaan (assistant), Mark McGren, Pol Agnor, Lorn Veum, Din Grim, Nat Sturl, Helnus Tugrian (secretary).
Front row: Gordo Gill, Rik Grim, Bred Saetern, Dal Golpe, Daniel Arud, Adi Hilne

and 1924 (in 1922 they would earn a spot due to Dominic's 1st National title the year before). In all 3 occasions they finished in 8th place.

Their stars in this era were right fullback Mark McGren, midfielders Fil van Klepp and Gordo Gill, center forward Eric Boen and the brother wingers Rik and Din Grim.

Rutugrian, under Tinn would win another 4 Diceland titles before the

outbreak of WW II, in 1927, 1929, 1933 and 1938 and participated another 4 times in the Nationals, finishing always at the bottom half of the table, except a 5th place in the 1939 season.

WW II, post war and the glory year of 1949

During the War, Rutugrian lost many of the 1930's players due to retirement. Gaal Tinn also retired after winning one more Diceland Championship title in 1943. Kenneth Misa, the youth team manager replaced him.

Misa was hired at first as a caretaker manager in the summer of 1943, until the Board would find and sign a new first team manager. Due to lack of proper funds, many renown managers turn Rutugrian down, so they decided to go on with Kenneth Misa. After all, most of the squad players had emerged from the youth squads, where Misa was in charge since 1939.



Kenneth Misa

During and right after the War, Dominic would dominate the footballing scene in Diceland and Pharos, winning 9 local championships, from which 5 in a row (1944-1948) and 2 National titles (1945 and 1948).

In Rutugrian's 50-year "Golden Jubilee" anniversary 1948–49 season, Kenneth Misa's side managed an historic triple, winning the Dicelandic Football League and Cup "double", as well the National title. The potential of a rare 'Triple' saw Rutugrian Stadion attracting average home attendances of 36,000 supporters, and a record attendance of 51,385 in a Cup quarter-final match against Dynamo Carbaise on 26 February 1949, which they won 2–1. Rutugrian crashed Dominic 5-1 in the Dice Cup final on 26 March 1949. Then the team surprised Pharos by becoming National Champion in spectacular fashion at the end of the 1948–49 season, in one of the closest races for the title, with the 10 teams finishing within 5 points (Rutugrian was top with 21, two points clear of Dalton SC and Ferephon Union, while last place Atlantic Union had 16)!



RUTUGRIAN - PHAROS CHAMPIONS 1949

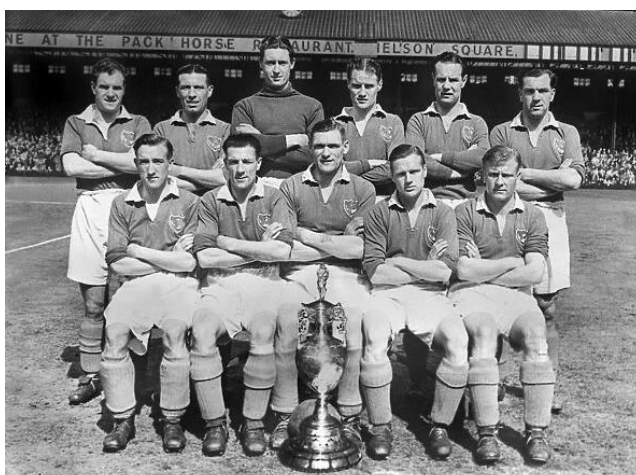
Back row (from left): Bale Goor, Joris Nasen, Arcadi Breugel, Toran Raes, Alan Jannes.
Middle row (from left): Kenneth Misa (manager), Syms Libret, Eugen Maesen, Ral van Marke, Vim Chepran, Florian Cerigioni, Edor Smas (chairman). **Front row (from left):** Banin Hesnel, Coir Danken, Noth Dumort, Rob Tant, Alfred Magnan

It was an amazing achievement by a team that no one would bet that they could go so far before the season started.

Celebrations in Charrington lasted for 3 days and nights, with the whole city taking part in the streets and pubs; the festivities lasted more than the V-day celebrations!



Left: Rutugrian's captain Ral van Marke with the Diceland cup in Charrington Town Hall. Right: van Marke on the shoulders of his teammates with the cup after 1949 season's last game



Libret - Maesen - Breugel - Silna - van Marke - Jannes
Hesnel - Kniping - Cerigioni - Tant - Magnan

Rutugrian team in the first game of the 1949-50 season with the 1949 trophy

The team would not have the same success in the next 2 seasons. Although capturing the Diceland Championships of 1950 and 1951, making their local trophies 18 and 3 in a row, in the national scene they would finish in 9th place. By 1952, only 3 players of the 1949 team had remained (Tant, Cerigioni and Kniping).

Kenneth Misa would stay as the team's manager until 1964. From 1952 he started working with another group of youngsters from the youth department, that would make the next

generation of Rutugrian's triumphs, although they did not come close to the feat of the 1949 side.

Thirty years of mediocracy (1952-1982)

During the next 3 decades Dominic would totally dominate football in Diceland. Out of 30 championship titles from Rutugrian's 3-in-a-row in 1951 and until 1981 when the PSL was formed, the Holborn club would win 23 of them, with Rutugrian winning 6 and Normatia Diaspar 1!



Limmar Roel

Rutugrian, under Kenneth Misa's guidance as manager would be Diceland champions in 1957, 1961, 1962 and 1964, when the prolific manager decided to retire after 21 years with the stallions.

Some great talents emerged during this decade, like fullback Limmar Roel, center back Bora Otnam, midfielder Sam Reindel and forwards



Bora Otnam



Ev. Meresar

Evander Meresar and Salvor Silna. In the National level though, the team could not repeat their 1949 triumph, with a 4th place in the 1961-62 season being their best performance.

Misa was replaced by another youth squad coach, Ron Tindal, in the summer of 1964. Despite limited financial means, Tindal maintained Rutugrian's status as Diceland Championship contenders throughout the rest of the 1960s until he was replaced



Ron Tindal

by Jan Mort in April 1970 as Tindal moved upstairs to become general secretary in April 1970, until his retirement from football in 1979.



Ider Stohn

The cash injection that accompanied the arrival of Homir Deacon as chairman in 1972 failed to improve Rutugrian's position, as Dominic was invincible, winning 12 straight titles from 1965 to 1976. Ron Tindall returned for two months as caretaker manager after manager Jan Mort left suddenly in 1974. Ider Stohn became new Rutugrian manager in September 1974.

With Deacon unable to continue bankrolling the club on the same scale, Stohn had to work with the same, aged squad of his predecessors. It is characteristic that in the 1977 championship winning season, Stohn had 4 players in the squad above 37 years old (Net Polgar at 39, Sam Reindel and Istis Gerlan at 38 and Ider Vaas at 37)! Rutugrian, under Stohn would also win the 1980 Diceland Championship, although the manager had to work with some young players from the academies.



Sam Reindel

During the 1979–80 season, in November 1979, the club found itself needing to raise ff 250,000 to pay off debts and so avoid bankruptcy. The money was partly raised from supporter contributions after a campaign led by the local newspaper, The Charrington Telegraph. With players having to be sold to ease the club's financial situation, and no money available for replacements, Rutugrian were forced to rely on inexperienced young players.

The PSL era and the 1988 Cup

When PSL was formed in the summer of 1981, Rutugrian was allocated to the 2nd division, as Dominic was the only Diceland representative in the top tier. They would spend 4 seasons in the second division before they were promoted in 1985 under new manager Rob Miler, but went down the next season, finishing in 16th place. In 1987, in the new format of the PSL with a 24-team regular season and play-offs, Rutugrian's chairman Homir Deacon was able to raise the money to be part of the new PSL fully professional era,



Homir Deacon

and they were put in the National Central division, together with Dominic, Hilvar Athletics, Oamaru FC, Dynamo Pharos and Cardenas SFC.



Lathan Devers

In the summer of 1986 Rutugrian hired former National Team manager Lathan Devers. He made one significant add-in to the team, buying all-around forward Mik Hulton from Hilvar Athletics. Devers and the emergence of some good young players, like goalkeeper Escel Tantal and defender Duncan Gerland, alongside the striking abilities of Hulton and Dokor Tomlin who came in 1985 from Taupo SC, sparked a

revival in the team's fortunes and in 1987-88 season Rutugrian reached the PSC Cup final. Their opponents were arch-rivals Dominic. In a packed 1st June National Stadion, underdogs Rutugrian beat defending champions Dominic 2-0 with goals from Fran Brethen and Mik Hulton, lifting their one and only Cup title. Oval Filip, the 30-year-old back-up keeper who played for injured Tantal, was the game's mvp with brilliant saves, including a penalty save, taken by Dominic's Zbigniew Boniek with the score at 1-0.



Mik Hulton



Up left: Mik Hulton scores with a header Rutugrian's 2nd goal past Fil Zanos.

Bottom left: Oval Filip saves Boniek's penalty with the score 1-0.

Right up: Salvor Opsand kisses the cup, with Less Appel and Lathan Devers.

Right down: Rutugrian's captain Oval Filip with Dokor Tomlin, Less Appel and Devers with the cup.

Near oblivion



Girad Regor

the summer of 1988 to demolish the unsafe upper tier of the Fratton End and its roof. The North and South stands were refurbished and both received new blue-coloured metal sheet roofs.

The team's results in the following seasons of the new PSL format were poor. Devers left in 1990 and 5 managers were hired by the new administration in the

next 7 seasons. Rutugrian would always be the bottom club in the championship and remained there solely because of their financial back-up from Regor (there were no relegation then).

When the format changed again in 1998, four teams, Rutugrian, together with Alma Sport and Kent Utd, were relegated to their local state Leagues with semi-professional status (Amar Lucaya were forced to dissolve, due to financial problems). Rutugrian played the new season in Diceland's 1st Division Championship as Regor could not follow the PSL economic standards. They would remain in the local leagues until 2004, when PSL format changed again, connecting the local championships with a new 2nd division. Rutugrian, together with Amateur National champions Normatia Diaspar took part in 2004-05 new PSL B, as Diceland's representatives, finishing in 13th place.



Milo Mandar

The summer of 1988 saw chairman Jan Deacon sell the club to Hilvar-based businessman and former Del Rey Hilvar chairman, Girad Regor. Rutugrian Stadion was in a poor condition, with the Fratton End still half closed to fans and leaking roofs in the North and South stands.

With new chairman Girad Regor injecting money into the club, work began in



Rutugrian Stadion aerial photo 1990

A while back, in 2003 they were saved from closure, by new chairman Milo Mandar, who saved the club with a takeover deal with Regor in May 2004. A new parent company for the club was created - Rutugrian Football Club Limited. The new chairman immediately started investing. Things did not get off to the best start under Mandar, as manager Fenel Stanmark, a former Pharos international center back, was sacked on 9 December 2006 with the club near the bottom of the table. Fenel Azer was added to the list of fired managers the next season. Fran Toran took over and steered the club to safety, finishing in 9th position in 2007-08 and missing promotion by 1 point the next season. He left the club in the summer of 2009, when he was put on

gardening leave (and sacked not long afterwards) due to a poor relationship with Mandar.

The new Stadium

By 2007, Lizug Velg, the owner of K-Power company among others, made a bid to buy the club from Mandar, which was turned down initially by the Rutugrian chairman. Finally, the 2 men agreed on a deal that Velg would invest in the club by building a new stadium, as the old one was becoming out of age, in exchange of 50% of the club's shares. Construction took 2,5 years and ended in 2009.

First naming rights deal was sealed with K-Power, a company owned by Velg, before it even opened, which aided covering of costs estimated at ff 170m. The venue could hold up to 24,000 people of whom 18,000 had double-tiered seated sections while most passionate supporters could find a 6,000 kop stand behind goal with terracing (convertible to seating for international games, but also decreasing capacity to some 21,000). The ground had a wide range of conference halls, largest of which holds 2,000 guests and smallest 20. There are also 54 skyboxes.



K-Power Arena

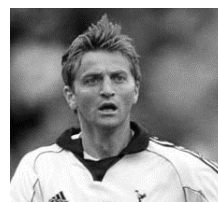
2009 – 2024, ups and (mostly) downs



Ak Ramanujan

Mandar hired former Normatia and Dominic player and manager Ak Ramanujan. He worked with the team methodically from the start, without making serious changes to the roster. After finishing in mid-table in his first 2 seasons, he led Rutugrian back to the top tier in 2011-12 with key players defender Centrik Luder and center forward Dokor Diker.

Unfortunately, Rutugrian would be relegated in the very next season and Ramanujan was fired, with Lathan Slvena taking its place, only to be sacked by

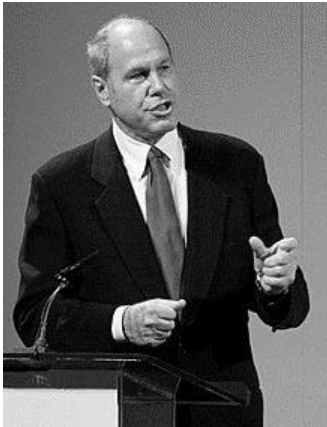


Dokor Diker



Centrik Luder

the end of the 2013-14 season due to poor results and a 13th place finish.



Lizug Velg

From 2014 until 2023 Rutugrian would finish in the bottom half of the 2nd Division table. The battle between Mandar and Velg for ownership had its effect on the team, since there were no steady administration to offer stability and talented players were mainly sold to the big clubs. In 2023, when Velg finally took complete control of the club with almost 80% of the shares, Rutugrian suffered another drawback, as they finished in the last position of PSL B and were relegated to the PSC.

Velg appointed his close associate Girad Steis as new chairman. Steis hired Yol Edlein as manager in the summer of 2023. Edlein had previously worked with Queensland Utd, Zaria and FTK. Rutugrian returned to the PSL immediately and Edlein remained for the next season as well.



Girad Steis