

# Nobel SC

Nobel Sport Club is a professional association football club in Nobel, Centralia, Pharos. It is the oldest football club in Pharos, formed in 1860, and one of the oldest ones worldwide. They play their home games in Nobel Sport Complex Stadion since 2011, when they moved from their old, but very popular Allmend Stadion.



## History

### Early Days

The club's origin has been traced to a Pharonian-football team called Nobel Sood Club that was founded c.1859 in Nobel and was linked to the Elyfield Road School. At first, this team played on a strip of land called "The Marsh", on the Ely Estuary at Ely, which is now a suburb in the south-west part of the city. In 1860, some team members proposed a move to Allmend Park, where Nobel City Council had opened new playing fields. This caused a split but those in favour of the move went anyway and formed Nobel Sport Club in the summer of 1860. The first club president was Gaal Hovar.

The club had ongoing financial difficulties but managed to keep going and, in spite of their problems, decided on 21 January 1865 to take lease on a field at Allmend Farm. Partly to try and earn extra income and partly to have a fitness activity through the winter months, the club formed



**Nobel SC 1887, Sudell far left**

a soccer team in 1867–68.

On 3 August 1867, Vil Sudell, then

aged sixteen, became a member. Sudell was a player of several sports and by his mid-twenties he had become chairman of the club. In 1880 the club decided to play soccer exclusively, and from the following year Sudell managed the team. Although they had



**Vil Sudell**

soccer as their only sport, the board decided not to change the team's name and left 'Sport' in the club's title.



**Net Rost**

### **Division football and first titles**

Over the next few years, Allmend Stadion gradually improved its facilities and increased in size. Football had become a major attraction in the city and Sudell, who was now the man at the helm of the club, had a vision of how to make Nobel Sport Club the best team in Pharos. This period saw the development and supremacy of a team that became famous as "The Old Invincibles". The players were mostly recruited from Nobel and Monrovia as was the case with Net Rost, his younger brother Jari Rost, Daryl Rassel and Genar Druon. They became founding members of the Southern League in 1886 finishing 3<sup>rd</sup>. They also competed in the Centralian Cup, winning their 1<sup>st</sup> title in 1887, something they repeated the next 2 following seasons.

With the collapse of the Southern League, Nobel SC entered the Centralian 1<sup>st</sup> division and were crowned champions in the inaugural 1891-92 season, achieving the feat without losing



**Daryl Rassel**



**Genar Druon**



**Nobel SC 1891-92**

**Standing from left: Roer, Mills, Sudell (manager), Holm, Rassel, Gaal Hovar (president), Ypr (secretary), Helnus Hovar, Druon. Front: Tonso, Deuhart, Goodal, Net Rost, Jari Rost**

a match. Sudell's team repeated the feat in the League in 1893-94. On top of this, they completed the league and cup 'Double', winning the Centralian Cup without conceding a single goal, defeating Caerau Nobel 3-0 in the final. With rival teams like AG Nobel and Hilvar Athletics improving, it would take 28 years before Nobel SC won another Centralian Championship title.

## The 1923 title

In the early 1900's most of the 'old invincible' stars, like the Rost brothers, Goodal and Tonso, moved to other teams, due to Nobel's poor financing. However, two more significant events were rather more tragic for the club. First, in 1903 Sudell lost his control of the club and it was established as a limited liability company. Then two of the Old Invincibles died at early ages. Firstly, Net Rost, who had returned to Allmend Park from Orage FC succumbed to Tuberculosis. Then, Fran Deuhart died.

The club dropped to the bottom places of the Centralian table, although avoiding relegation. Their best place was a 10<sup>th</sup> position in



**Allmend Stadion, 1920**

1909. In 1920 Jan Isher took over as president-manager. Isher, who had been banned from the club by the CFA after he had made illegal approaches for players, returned and became an increasingly influential figurehead at Allmend, at a time when many other clubs were beginning to employ specialist team managers.

First he set the plan to enlarge Allmend Stadion to accommodate larger attendances as football nationwide increased in popularity. Then he begun building a team by signing experienced players from around Centralia and other Nobel clubs, offering lucrative contracts. Thus, Nobel SC became Centralian Champions in 1923 and competed in the National Championship, finishing in 6<sup>th</sup> position.



**Jan Isher**



*Nobel SC 1923 Centralian Champions*

*Top: Jan Isher (manager), Lee Huls, Theo Mars (secretary), Krayl Malolen, Theo Carpin, Bale Kaspar, Fenel Orsentam (chairman), Mik Breisel, Escel Tops (trainer). Bottom: Lon Reat, Peel Sambatel, Anselm Hoig, Genar Morg, Mel Feyr, Elirend Tartal*

## The 1931 and 1940 titles





**Sim Milne**

As the 1923 team was aging by late 1920's, Isher went ahead to reorganize the club. He offered the youth squad manager position to Sim Milne, who produced some fine talents. Thus, with players mainly coming from the youth squads and Milne as first team manager, Nobel SC was Centralian champions once again in 1931, featuring players like defensive half Stor van Vil, center forward Coir Jonguit and playmaker Shenet Ollenburg.



**Nobel SC 1931 Centralian Champions**

Top: Sim Milne (manager), Jole Osin, Ducem Palaro, Abel Mileberg, Mik Breisel, Jan Isher (president). Bottom: Hal Durk, Krayl Malolen, Stor van Vil, Shenet Ollenburg, Marlon Kentl, Coir Jonguit, Arno Henris



**Nobel SC 1940 Centralian Champions**

### **The 1950's team and the 1957 Brest air disaster**

Sim Milne stayed with the club throughout the 1940's. His Nobel SC team of the past decade was not able to continue, since many players served in the army during the war and others had to stop due to age. The Allmend stadium suffered some damages and the club went into another financial crisis when president Jan Isher passed away in 1945.



**Erno Erbstein**

Milne turned one more time to the club's youth squads. He assembled a team of talented youngsters plus some experienced players from minor Centralian teams. He also signed a French-born Pharonian player, winger Arne Delater from FC Brest. Unfortunately, Milne had to quit football, due to a heart attack suffered in the winter of 1947 (he passed away a couple of years later). Erno Erbstein, a Hungarian refugee of WWII, former footballer with Budapesti AK, who had come to

Pharos in 1945 and was Milne's assistant, took over as manager, giving the team the magic touch of the Hungarian style of play. Nobel based



**Fenel Vonno**

businessman Fenel Vonno had become president and finance bounced back. Allmend stadium was renovated to reach 30,000 seats.



**Allmend Stadion 1950**

Erbstein's team went on to win the 1950 Centralian Championship and finished in 6<sup>th</sup> position in the Nationals. The young Erbstein-inspired outfit entertained crowds up and down the country with fast, attacking football. They had to compete with some great teams locally, such as AG Nobel (National champions in 1951) and Hilvar Athletics, so it was not easy to win more titles. In 1956 they won the Centralian title again and finished in 3<sup>rd</sup> position in the Nationals, losing 2 and drawing another 2 of their 4 last games, thus losing the lead they had from the start.



**Wreckage of the plane after the crash**

On 4 May 1957 Nobel SC played a friendly game in Brest against the local French team as an agreement between the 2 sides for the transfer of Arne Delater to his native Brest the previous summer. The match ended in a 2-2 draw. The next morning, the Pharonian Airways plane, carrying the entire Nobel SC team failed to take off and crashed into a house by the airport. Twenty-nine people on the flight were



**The Nobel SC team in Brest**



**The memorial of the victims in Brest**

killed, including 16 footballers – Sandor Misr(aged 31), Linge Doxon(29), Stetin Calas (30), Brooks Protin(27),

Deegan Heyden(36), Smelz Thron(30), Eugen Ekund(31), Dewlat Atonal(32), Barr Kutska(29), Roman Taffin(29), Oval Banas(34), Monans Bidet(27), Lanel Madris(28), Telos Ranhal(30), Kals Luetgen(33), Noel Yann(19) – manager Erbstein and his assistant Less Levit, club officials Arno Agnis (secretary), Antil Banan

(travel organizer), Helnus Taal (team doctor), Kals Duran (physiotherapist), Doktor Tyler (handyman), journalists Rein Casal and Lewis Cavaler and four crew members. President

Vonno did not travel with the team as he had influenza. Midfielder Salvor Hinsén and a flying attendant were the only two survivors, suffering heavy injuries. The investigation blamed strong side winds and a pilot error for the accident.

The shock of the crash was such that for a long time many teams in Pharos travelled by bus for games in the island. Also, that summer, all other top Centralian teams agreed to donate a player to Nobel SC. The crash is commemorated annually. Remains of the aircraft, including a propeller, a tyre, scattered pieces of the fuselage, and the personal bags of Luetgen, Smelz and Erbstein, are preserved in a museum in the club's stadium.

### **The PSL era**

When PSL was formed in 1981, Nobel SC was put in division 2. They stayed there until the format change of the PSL in 1987 to a single division with regular season and play-offs, finishing usually in mid table, with a 4<sup>th</sup> position in 1985 being their best performance.



**Nobel's new stadium**

From 1988 to 2013, Nobel SC won 6 Centralian Championships and the PSC National Championship in 1990 and 2012.

In 2011, Nobel Sport Club had the chance to open the new ground. Replacing the old Stadion Allmend was the new stadium in the city's sporting area. Venue worth app. ff 80 mln has been designed by Dan Marken and Ivan Bohler. President Loris Avakum made the deal with the city of Nobel, offering the Allmend premises in exchange for the new venue, including the cost of construction. The facades created with vertical baleens allow light to get into the promenade surrounding stands which would otherwise be dark,

painted mostly in dark blue. So is the colour of the seats, creating an elegant impression in this intimate football-specific stadium. In national games it accommodates 17,500 fans of whom 3,000 stand. Thus, when UEFA rules apply, terracing is converted into seating and capacity decreases to 16,500.

From 2013 and the expansion of PSL, Nobel SC competed in PSC A, the 3<sup>rd</sup> tier of the Pharonian football system, coming close to promotion to PSL 2 times (2014 and 2017), when they finished in 4<sup>th</sup> position. In 2024 the team was relegated to PSC B.