

Del Rey Hilvar

Del Rey Hilvar Football Club is a professional football club based in Hilvar, the capital city of Pharos. Their colours are green, blue and orange and their nicknames are 'The Foxes' or 'The Oaks', based on the features on the club's badge.



History

Early years and early success

The club was founded in 1895 in South Hilvar. The club owes its name to the Del Rey River, named after the recognized doctor and politician Lester Del Rey. They were admitted to the Centralian 2nd division. Their first game in the League was on 7 September 1895 at Bloomfield Road Stadium, then used by Hilvar Athletics reserves, beating Assin Rangers 2–0.

They took the 2nd division championship in 1899, winning 30 out of 38 games (with a record 14 consecutive wins) and were promoted to the Centralian 1st division. Center forward Bale Vendlo scored 49 goals, a record, and goalkeeper Ral Klei kept 17 clean sheets. Nicknamed 'The River Babes' at this time, they finished runners-up to Orage FC in their



Bale Vendlo



Del Rey Hilvar 1905 Centralia Champions
Back row (from left): Speer (manager), Marr, Annan, Klei, Cotter, Hanlin, Hinton (trainer). Front row: Stanfon, Gillin, Covell, Vendlo, Forst, Searman

inaugural first division campaign.

Del Rey were serious contenders for the Centralian title the next years, which they finally conquered in 1904-05.

Following their initial success, they moved to an open field close to Bloomfield, where they built their own stadium, called Lester Stadion, holding about

5,000 spectators back then. The stadium soon expanded, reaching 15,000 by the early 1920's. Unfortunately, this great Del Rey team could not win another Championship title. Their only other honour came in 1909, when they beat Monrovia Rangers 3-2 in the Centralian Cup final.



Lester Stadion 1900's

The yo-yo era (1922-1965)

The 1920s were a rocky time as Del Rey bounced between the First and the Second Division. The season after they were relegated, they achieved promotion back to the First Division, before being relegated back to the Second Division again the following season. After successive high finishes in the league, they were promoted again in 1926-27. However, by the 1930s they had slumped into the lower division and stayed that way until over 10 years after the Second World War.



Harry Dolman

Harry Dolman became chairman in 1949, a post he would hold for over 30 years. An engineer who had bought out the firm he worked for, he designed the first set of floodlights installed at Lester Stadion in the early 1950s. The late 1950s were a better time for Del Rey, with a five-year stay in the First Division, a league they returned to for a further permanent spell in 1965.

Back among the elite (1966-80)



Albi Blumental



Marc Rumens

In 1964, Alav Deeks was appointed manager, and things gradually began to improve, with promotion to the First Division in 1965. Deeks had an eye for talent, acquiring talented players from Hilvar as well the surrounding states, such as center forward Albi Blumental from Dynamo Staker, center back Amel Isher from Titania Schottegut, midfielder Lend Stuiver from Academia Manacor as well as winger Marc Rumens and full back Alav Zerom from Hilvar minor clubs.



Alav Deeks

Deeks' Del Rey was one of the best teams in Centralia in the early 70's, finishing in the top 5 positions of the local championship, which at the time was dominated by AG 1959 and Hilvar Athletics (those 2 teams were National champions 5 times from 1966 to 1975). With the addition of several youngsters from the

youth squads and mainly with the loan of international right full back Less Radu from Hilvar Athletics, Del Rey managed to win the Centralian Championship of 1976-77, 72 years after their previous one in 1905.



Less Radu

The first PSL era

When PSL was formed in 1980, Del Rey was admitted to the PSL 2nd division, as one of the two Centralian teams in the division (the other being Nobel SC). They finished in 6th position and next season they managed to finish 3rd, thus being promoted to the PSL A.



Jari Eloranta

Although having bought from Zenith Parietal one of the finest talents the Pharonian football ever produced, winger Jari Eloranta, they could not stay in the top tier, since he was injured early in the season and missed almost the first half of 1983-84. They fell back to PSL B, sold Eloranta to Dalton SC, and had mid-table positions until the format change of the league to a single division with regular 24 teams. Del Rey returned to the local Centralian scene and remained there until the expansion of the PSL in 2004. During those years they won another four Centralian Championships, one in 1989 and 3-in-a-row from 1996 to 1998.

The new stadium

Decision to build a new stadium for Del Rey was made back in 1988 as the old one was already obsolete. Then location had to be chosen, final capacity, then design competition was held and so construction wasn't ready to commence until March 1993. Most of the construction expenses were covered by the team's new owner, Onum Monter, a real estate businessman and owner of AAA-bet company from Hilvar.

Construction ended in May 1995, having consumed a large amount of money for that time – ff 94 million, significant especially when compared to initial estimates of a 54-million



New Lester Stadion

budget. Initially capacity was almost 24,000 thanks to standing places, but after the Furiani tragedy in Bastia, Corsica, in 1992 and the new regulations by FIFA, UEFA and the PSL, all terraces were banned and so the size decreased to around 21,500. The name of the new stadium was the same as the old after the recognized doctor and politician Lester Del Rey, to whom the club owes its name.



**Onum Monter, Del
Rey's owner**

The second PSL era (2004-)

From 2004 the club came back to the PSL divisions, competing regularly in PSL B. They could not accomplish a promotion, coming close in 2014 and 2015, when they finished in 5th and 6th position respectively. In 2017 they lost the play-out game against Astrix Villemstad and were relegated to PSC, but bounced back immediately the next season.

Some great players have passed from the club in this new PSL era, but most of them had to be sold to bigger clubs for financial reasons. Such players, who became international stars, include Jan Topuza, Gaal Hendrin, Daniel Belani, Stanel Plein, Leonis Kil and Lev Geen.

No less than 10 managers have passed from Del Rey's bench since 2004, like Theo Cabl, James Dikei, Fran Levit and Onum Aker, with no real success. In 2025, Helnus De Brul was appointed new manager from the club's new president Jon Monter, Onum Monter's son.