

Rul Katai

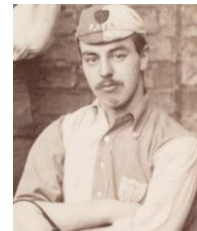


Rul Katai FC is a professional football club based on Katai, Hinji, Pharos. Founded in 1887, Rul Katai was the first football team in Hinji to turn professional. They are nicknamed 'The Bats' and their colours are red and black.

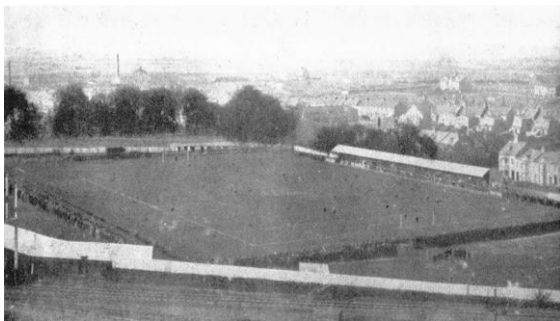
History

Formation and early years

Rul Katai was formed on 11 April 1887 from members of the Rul Cantabri Society of Katai. Beatus Dikon, secretary of the Society, was the one initiating the idea of finding a sport suitable for the society young members, other than traditional sports such as Pharonian-football and rugby. Dikon became the club's first secretary and Ernest Lomax the team's manager and captain.



E. Lomax



Dunstan Grounds

The club's first year saw around 35 matches

played between October and the following Easter. Most of these were friendlies arranged by the club's secretary. In the summer of 1888, Rul Katai were admitted to the Southern League. They played their games in a field by Dunstan Road, given to them by the Society,

used by their Pharonian-football team. It would be Rul's home ground until 1905, when they moved to their own Abumire Stadion.

On 15 December 1890, a salary of five shillings per week was offered to three players – Fran Litby, Harl Litby and Ton Reed – to replace their lost earnings for Saturday morning, to ensure they arrived at the game on time, thus becoming the first professional footballers in the Hinji region.

Rul Katai's achievements in the short-lived Southern League were not great. They entered the 1st division of the Hinji League in 1891 and finished in 8th position. Competition in the Hinji League was probably the most intense in all of Pharos, with more than seven teams

competing for the title each year, among them Rul Katai as well. They performed well during the last decade of the 19th century, with their best finish in 1897, when they were runners-up to Taupo SC.

Move to a new ground and the 1st title



Bale Hauk



Fran Hauk

The 1900–01 season was the first season of the Hauk brothers, Bale and Fran, who would become the club's heroes in the 1900's, staying with the club 21 and 19 years respectively.



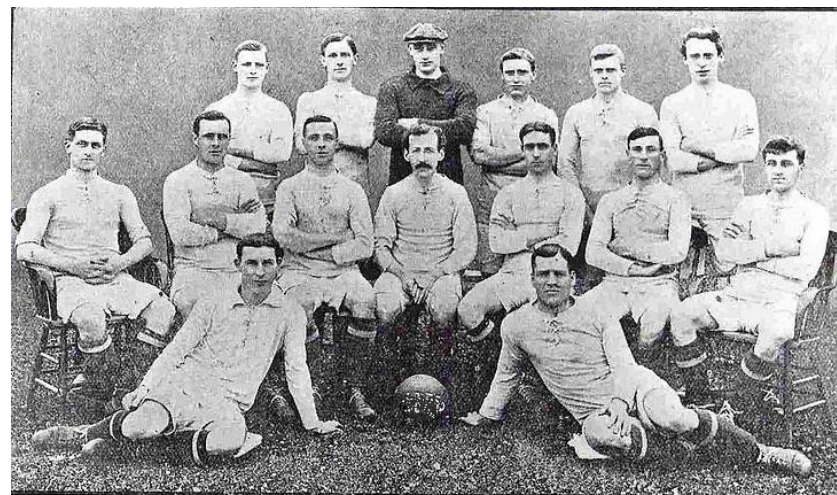
Rul Katai in their first Hinji championship in 1891

In the 1900–01, 1901–02 and 1902–03 seasons, Rul Katai finished 5th, 4th and 3rd respectively, finally making a profit for the first time since turning professional.

In the 1904–05 season the club was told to leave the Dunstan Road ground at short notice, as the City of Katai wanted the property for new schools. The club's directors quickly found a new site at the east end of the city and the 1905–06 season kicked off at a new ground at Abumire Field. The start was



Abumire Stadion, 1905



*Rul Katai - Hinji Champions 1907-08
Tineman-Hedel-Jarvin-Happ-Ruffer-Reiner
Stans-Smit-F.Hauk-B.Hauk-Keen-Modler-Janson
Potis-Jonas*

not easy, as the new venue was a 20 min walk from the nearest train station, but soon the club's officials arranged for an expansion of the rail network to just outside the stadium, serviced on match days. Rul's first season at the club's new home was a success, seeing the team finish second, a feat that was repeated the following season.

In 1907-08, Rul Katai, led by the Hauk brothers were Hinji champions for the first time. Bale Hauk was also the League's top scorer with 32

goals. The same team, with a few new additions were again Hinji champions 5 years later, in 1913.

During the PSC National Championships era, Rul Katai were Hinji Champions 3 times, in 1926, 1944 and 1958, thus competing respectively the same times in the Nationals, finishing last in the table in all 3 occasions.



Ador Kaire

Great players of this era were left full back Ador Kaire (1920-1935), midfielder Atuna Keno (1919-1937), goalkeeper Liono Hemanía (1934-1950), center back Hal Tuma (1933-1951) and attacking midfielder Mot Nurk (1952-1978).



Liono Hemanía



Mot Nurk

The PSL era, 1981-2004

When the PSL was formed Rul Katai did not get any of the Hinji spots in the new league, so they continued to compete in the local Hinji 1st division. They were crowned champions in 1981-82 and competed in the National PSC Championship, finishing 2nd and thus earning their promotion to PSL B division. They were relegated the next season, but then again, they won the Hinji league and another promotion to PSL through the PSC Nationals, where they



Fabian, Jager, Mikolaycak, Graf, Secor, Noreen, Bram
Brergerin, Bor, Bremer, Dancy, Fabian, Even

finished in 3rd position. This time they remained in PSL, finishing 9th.

In the next season of 1985-86, led by manager Dokor Pleet, Rul Katai won the PSL B title and were promoted for the first time in PSL A division,



Dokor Pleet

where they finished in the 20th and last position in

1988.

In the summer of 1988 PSL changed the format to a closed 24-team one, with a regular season, play-offs and no relegation, so Rul Katai, that had not the economic means to participate, had to go back to the local Hinji Championship.

From 1988 to 2004 and the expansion of PSL, Rul Katai would win 7 Hinji Championships, 5 of them in a row from 1994 to 1998. They also won the PSC National title in 1988 and 1996.

2004-2021

In 2004, Rul Katai rejoined the PSL, in the 2nd division with Horber Lind as manager, finishing in the last place. After this season and up to 2013, Rul Katai would finish in the bottom half of the PSL B table. Former Dominic player Ak Ramanujan succeeded Lind and stayed for 3 seasons, until 2008, with former international player Orum Osman taking his place for another 3 seasons, before being replaced by Edi Dervan, a former player, who had made a career with AG Nobel.



Edi Dervan

Dervan left in 2013 to join Oamaru FC and Stanel Jager took the manager's position. Things did not go well for the new coach, with Rul Katai finishing second from the bottom that meant relegation to PSC. Edi Dervan returned to the club, having troubles in Oamaru and led the team back to PSL B the very next season, only to be relegated once more. The board decided to stay with Dervan, who reorganized the team with a lot of experienced players from around the league, such as center back Escel Slan from Chiftelov Sport, midfielder Moree Chen from Kent Utd and forwards Onum Adendor and Less Garnal from Cardenas SFC. He managed to win the PSC A division in 2017 and return to the PSL once again. Dervan stayed with the club until 2021, when he lost the play-out game to Dynamo Pharos and Rul Katai were relegated once more to PSC.

A new stadium

A new stadium was decided in 2019 and went into progress the next year. Construction of a new stadium further from the city centre was supposed to release land occupied by the old Abumire Stadium. This would allow the sale and return on at least part of the public project, with a congress centre planned on the ground's site. The new stadium's location wasn't surprising, land along the Katai-Oamaru highway south of the city in the Te Matatini suburb of Katai was earmarked, to replace amateur sporting facilities. It's the most



Te Matatini Stadium

rapidly developing part of Katai, where 9 hectares were set aside for the stadium. Itself, the venue occupies 2.62 hectare, while the remainder is used to create 1,061 parking places (+25 for disabled fans). Conceptually, the 15,000-seater stadium is simple and modern. Covered primarily with metal sheet, the bowl has a dominant main stand and – as counterweight on the east side – amplified corners. The auditorium creates a continuous single ring around the field, only seeing two floors of additional facilities atop the west stand, which is why that stand's height is noticeably bigger.

2021-

Rul Katai could not go back to the PSL. Former Hinjilucaya manager Yol Ginger was the club's new manager in 2021 and stayed for 3 years. The financial situation was getting worse and the board was trying to sell the club, but with no success. In 2024 Ginger was let go over a salary dispute and 50-year-old Poly Slok took over. The club stayed afloat over goal difference, but they could not avoid relegation to PSC B, the fourth tier of Pharonian football, the next season.