

Information on SV Babelsberg 03 and SG Dynamo Dresden

Many thanks to Germany based FC United fan, Ed Barrett, who has written the following background information.

SV Babelsberg 03

SV Babelsberg 03 are based in Potsdam, near Berlin, a town also famous for its film studios. The club has undergone several name changes in its history, including two deliciously Eastern Bloc guises as Rotation Babelsberg and Motor Babelsberg. Sporting success has been rare for "Null drei", although they have graced the 2nd Bundesliga previously and are currently holding their own in the German 3rd division. Their strengths lie elsewhere, however. The club, team and fans have a closeness which is not often witnessed at other professional outfits. Fans are also involved in many of the official tasks related to the day to day running of the club.

Through many local projects, as well as the squatting scene in the area, an "alternative" fanscene developed. Antiracism and the fight against discrimination based on sexuality or gender are key foundations of the support culture at the club. This is not only present on the terraces, but also means that both ultra/supporter groups and the club itself have previously engaged in demonstrations on the streets to counter nazis.

The club play at the Karl Liebknecht Stadium, known affectionately as the "KarLi", a wonderful ground complete with folding floodlights.

Sportgemeinschaft Dynamo Dresden

Dynamo Dresden were formed in 1953, originally as a police side. Their immediate success in the league didn't please the head of the East German secret police (the "Stasi"), however, and a year later their entire team was moved to Berlin to form BFC Dynamo. The club, left with only youth and reserve players, dropped down the leagues as a result. They clawed their way back up though, and by 1967 had qualified for the Fairs Cup. The hatred of BFC Dynamo, however, remained.

In the 70s, Dynamo Dresden, had their glory years, amassing titles and featuring regularly in European competitions. Despite continuing to produce excellent players, including one of Europe's finest defensive midfielders in Matthias Sammer, match-fixing by the Stasi and attempts by players to escape to Western Europe took their toll.

Reunification and being thrown into the capitalist world of professional football was not an easy process for Dynamo, like for many former East German sides. Heavily in debt, they lost their licence and had to drop down to the old 3rd division. Sporting mediocrity continued for a while, nevertheless their fans stuck by the club. Dynamo eventually got themselves back on an even keel. Qualification for the newly formed 3rd division was achieved, and in 2011 they won the play-off for Bundesliga 2, where they have remained.

The team's stadium was redeveloped in recent years, so that the famous giraffe-like floodlights are no longer a feature of the ground itself. Nevertheless, the newly developed Rudolf Harbig Stadium, built on the old site, still offers a famously loud atmosphere, a beer garden next door and is within walking distance from Dresden's famous riverside.