

= Telenor Arena =

Telenor Arena , sometimes referred to as Fornebu Arena , is a multi @-@ purpose indoor arena located at Fornebu in Bærum , outside Oslo , Norway . It serves as a venue for a variety of events , including concerts , exhibitions , action shows , family shows , TV and sport . It has a capacity for 15 @,@ 000 spectators for sports and 23 @,@ 000 for concerts , including 40 luxury boxes and club seating for 1 @,@ 200 . The venue has a fixed roof and an asphalt floor . The venue was opened ahead of the 2009 Norwegian football season as a replacement for Nadderud Stadion . It cost 585 million Norwegian kroner ( NOK ) to build , of which NOK 300 million was for the sports venue .

During the 2000s , Nadderud was below standards for play in the top national league . Fornebu was at the time undergoing an urban redevelopment ; after several years of negotiations and public grants , Stabæk secured a lot in 2004 . Construction started in 2007 . In 2010 , a disagreement arose between the club and venue @-@ owner Kjell Chr . Ulrichsen , with the latter demanding that the team leave the venue to allow for more event revenue . Telenor Arena has hosted the Eurovision Song Contest 2010 , as well as concerts by artists and bands of international fame , such as Adele , Muse , Foo Fighters , Roger Waters ( the Wall tour ) , Rihanna , Lady Gaga , Beyoncé , Jay @-@ Z , Kanye West , Metallica , AC / DC , Black Sabbath , The Rolling Stones . Telenor holds the naming rights .

= = History = =

= = = Planning = = =

Stabæk traditionally has played their home games at Nadderud Stadion , a municipal multi @-@ purpose stadium at Bekkestua . Following the club 's rapid ascent from lower divisions to the top league during the first half of the 1990s , Nadderud became in need of upgrades , resulting in a new main grandstand opening in 1996 . The stadium remained severely lacking adequate facilities for professional football , and fell short of increasing requirements from the Football Association of Norway ( NFF ) .

Originally , a redevelopment of Nadderud was proposed , but in 1999 Stabæk players launched the idea of building a new stadium at Fornebu , which became subject to an urban redevelopment project after the 1998 closing of Oslo Airport , Fornebu . The initial proposal was named Blue Dream Arena , would have seating for 25 @,@ 000 spectators , blue artificial turf and a retractable roof . Other proposed amenities were movable seating which would also allow the stadium to both host athletics and be configured as an intimate football stadium . The idea called for Bruce Springsteen to hold a concert before the first match , which would be played against Barcelona . Several of the initial concepts of the stadium were never materialized . International rules disallowed blue artificial turf ; instead , the flooring in the boxes were made in a blue , artificial turf @-@ inspired material . Also the idea of having a retractable roof was discarded , both because of technical difficulties and cost issues .

In May 2001 , Oslo City Council voted to sell their properties at Fornebu to Fornebu Boligspar ( FB ) , which again had agreements to sell a lot for the stadium to Stabæk . In November 2002 , Borgarting Court of Appeal concluded that Norrønaflly had the right to continue leasing a hangar ? located at the planned location of the venue ? until 2014 . In June 2003 , Stabæk was in financial difficulties , and investor Kjell Chr . Ulrichsen bought shares for NOK 10 million to avoid bankruptcy ; these shares had the option to be converted to shares in the arena company .

Fornebu Boligspar later determined that it was more profitable to build apartments at the arena site . Negotiations started between the club , the property company and Mayor Odd Reinsfelt . In November 2003 , it was announced that a compromise was reached whereby Fornebu Boligspar would give the lot free to Stabæk , in exchange for a lot nearby . Two weeks later the compromise was rejected by FB . A new compromise was announced on 29 June 2004 , whereby FB would give 50 million Norwegian krone ( NOK ) and a lot free to Stabæk in exchange for the commercial

properties which would be part of the stadium . However , the following day the parties announced that they were not able to agree on the risk , as Stabæk demanded that FB take the full risk in the project .

Instead , Stabæk started negotiating with IT Fornebu to take over a lot they owned . They needed a 300 hectares ( 740 acres ) lot which would have a market value of between NOK 60 and 80 million , and Reinsfelt stated that the municipality was willing to help by " maneuver in gray areas within the margins " . The club was further pressured by NFF , who were going to limit the exceptions allowed for Nadderud and other stadiums not meeting their criteria . On 29 October , FB and Stabæk signed an agreement whereby Stabæk received a free lot and NOK 50 million , in exchange for FB taking over the commercial properties . The condition was that the municipality allowed a more dense use of the rest of FB 's area . This would require a re @-@ regulation of the area , and Reinsfelt estimated that it would not be possible for construction to start until 2006 . In November , UEFA changed the rules for artificial turf to state that it had to be green . Until Stabæk 's proposal was made , UEFA had not thought that anyone would build a pitch with a non @-@ green turf , and representatives stated that it was because of Stabæk the rule change was made . The plans were nearly terminated in October 2006 , after discussion about the planned Fornebu Line ? a people mover which would connect Fornebu to Lysaker ? stopped the regulation plan . However , in November the final permissions were granted by Bærum Municipality . On 22 December , Stabæk announced that the financing was secured .

= = = Construction = = =

Architects were HRTB and the main contractor was NCC Construction . While domed stadiums have been common in North America , no such stadiums of comparable size of Telenor Arena had previously been built for football in Europe . Construction started by demolishing a hangar , which was completed in February 2007 . However , because of the building boom , concrete elements needed for construction to start meant that the rest of the construction was delayed . The cornerstone was laid on 5 September .

In June 2008 , Stabæk announced they had signed an eleven @-@ year sponsorship agreement with the telecommunications company Telenor , where the latter would pay up to NOK 115 million for the sole naming rights for the arena , in addition to tickets and access to executive boxes . In March 2009 , the retailing property was sold from Scandinavian Property Development to KLP Eiendom . The plans called for twenty to twenty @-@ five football games , four to eight concerts , three to four large sports events and two other large events and conventions per year . Because of larger seating capacity , an all @-@ seating arrangement , higher attendance and VIP facilities , Stabæk is able to generate three times the matchday revenue from Telenor Arena as Nadderud . The stadium is plagued with traffic problems on matchdays , with large crews hired to create temporary barriers to direct the crowds . The bus stops closest to the venue are closed , and a large number of police officers have to direct the traffic . These are costs which have to be carried by the arena company , and contrasts to matches at the nearly twice as large Ullevaal , where no such measures are necessary .

= = = Football versus event controversy = = =

In October 2009 , ten individuals bought the operation company of the club and signed a 40 @-@ year lease for the use of the arena for Stabæk 's home matches , as well as the right to use the facility for certain other activities . This contract has a revenue of NOK 9 million per year . In 2009 , Stabæk Holding had a deficit of NOK 66 @. @ 1 million , while Stabæk Fotball lost NOK 23 @. @ 6 million . To keep the operating company running , Ulrichsen increased the company 's share capital by NOK 73 million from late 2009 through late 2010 .

On 4 November 2010 , Stabæk Holding stated that they were near a bankruptcy , and that they intended to throw out Stabæk as a tenant , remove the turf and instead use the venue exclusively for events . Chair Diderik Schnitler in Stabæk Holding stated that the business model was not

sustainable . The football schedule was not made until early in the year , while in the event business , bookings were common one to two years in advance . It was therefore difficult to secure lucrative events , as large parts of the year had to be held in reserve in case the venue was needed for yet @-@ to @-@ be scheduled matches . The holding company stated that they might have to file for bankruptcy . Stabæk Fotball stated that they had a 40 @-@ year contract to use the venue .

Stabæk 's director of sports , Inge André Olsen , stated that returning to Nadderud was not an option , as it had too little capacity and insufficient facilities . Should Nadderud be used , it would have to be rebuilt , with new grandstands under roofs , VIP seating , a new parking house and new change room , which would cost NOK 100 million . Because of building permits , construction would take two to three years . Nadderud is also not approved to host games in the Premier League , so Stabæk would have to either play their games at Ullevaal Stadion in Oslo or Marienlyst Stadion in Drammen . Telenor stated that if Stabæk moved , they would have to re @-@ negotiate the naming rights agreement for the arena , as the value of the contract was largely based on the naming exposure of Stabæk playing in the Premier League . The company also stated that they had difficulty understanding the argumentation from the holding company , as there was no football being played October and March , but that the venue , which has the largest capacity for indoor concerts in the Oslo area , failed to attract large artists , such as Rihanna , during the winter months .

On 4 December , Stabæk Fotball stated that they were willing to move their training , Norwegian Football Cup and UEFA matches to either Nadderud or Ullevaal , as a compromise to free up more available time in the arena . This was rejected by NFF , who stated that the licensing rules required that a club 's main arena be available for all league , cup and UEFA matches , and that a general exemption would not be given for the cup . In mid @-@ December , Stabæk Fotball started the process of a judicial registration of the right to lease the venue , which was permitted according to the contract . This would grant Stabæk Fotball the right to continue to lease the venue even if the holding company went bankrupt . A preliminary injunction for this was granted by Asker and Bærum District Court .

In a 16 December statement , three Stabæk Fotball officials said that they suspected that Ulrichsen 's plan all along was to convert the venue to a pure convention center , and that the use as a football venue was a decoy to get a free lot worth up to NOK 200 million plus grants worth NOK 50 million . The book value of the venue was NOK 303 million at the end of 2010 , although a statement from the district court stated that the value of the venue was significantly lower than that . The bank DnB NOR held at the time a mortgage with security in the property worth NOK 260 million , while Ulrichsen through his investment company held a mortgage worth NOK 60 @.@ 1 million .

On 7 January 2011 , the parts announced that they had reached a compromise . Stabæk would remain at Telenor Arena for at least the 2011 season . In addition , the club held an option to take over the responsibility for events at the venue . Stabæk Fotball had until 30 June to accept the option , which would allow the club to remain at the venue on a permanent basis . This would require them to invest NOK 20 million in an event administration , which would increase event revenue , but at the same time move the risk from Stabæk Holding to Stabæk Fotball . If the club declined the option , they would not be allowed to play at the venue from the 2012 season . On 30 June , Stabæk announced that they would not fulfill the option to continue renting the stadium . The necessary NOK 35 million would entail a risk the club was not willing to take . The club stated that they hoped they could remain at the stadium by establishing a foundation which could purchase the venue from Ulrichsen . If this does not work out , the club will have to relocate from the 2012 season . The club is then considering relocating back to Nadderud , to Ullevaal or to Marienlyst . The club estimates that any relocation would result in the club losing half their revenue . Stabæk played its last match at Fornebu Arena on 20 November 2011 , losing 1 ? 2 against Haugesund . Subsequently the pitch was removed , and Stabæk returned to Nadderud from the 2012 season .

The Norwegian Handball Federation announced in May 2013 that the arena would be used for a four @-@ nation men 's handball tournament , Bring Cup , in November . The federation stated that they would use the tournament to evaluate if the venue was suitable as a new national arena for handball . The venue received mixed reviews . The tournament saw low attendance and Danish

commentator Bent Nyegaard criticized the arena for being too large . The federation was happy with the arena , and stated that were planning on using it for finals in their bid for future World and European Handball Championships . Telenor Arena is part of the Oslo bid for the 2022 Winter Olympics , in which it has been proposed used for short track speed skating and figure skating .

= = Facilities = =

The venue is located at Fornebu , a peninsula in Bærum , located 10 kilometers ( 6 @. @ 2 mi ) from the city center of Oslo . The venue is owned and operated by Fornebu Arena AS , which is again owned by Stabæk Holding , which also owns Stabæk Fotball . Telenor , Norway 's largest telecommunications company , holds the naming rights for the stadium . The venue has seating for 15 @, @ 000 spectators for football , and 23 @, @ 000 for concerts . This includes club seating for 1 @, @ 200 , 40 luxury boxes and a restaurant which can seat 800 . The arena is entirely indoors , and has a height clearance of 23 meters ( 75 ft ) to the beams and 33 meters ( 108 ft ) to the roof . The floor surface is 120 by 82 meters ( 394 by 269 ft ) , while the pitch is 105 by 60 meters ( 344 by 197 ft ) . The venue has a considerably lower heating cost than similar conventional halls because the warm air is stored in the building 's concrete and steel elements , and using the inert energy created by the spectators . The venue is the largest indoor stadium in Northern Europe . The retailing area of 2 @, @ 600 square metres ( 28 @, @ 000 sq ft ) in the complex is owned by Arena Handel AS , a subsidiary of KLP Eiendom .

The venue is owned and operated by a conglomerate of six companies all owned by Kjell Christian Ulrichsen . The mother company for the other companies is Stabæk Holding AS . Fornebu Arena AS is the actual owner of the real estate . Fornebu Event AS is responsible for renting out the venue for concerts , conventions and other non @-@ sporting events . FA Leie AS partially leases and partially owns installed facilities in the venue . Sameiedrift Widerøeveien nr . 1 AS is the management company for the property as a whole . Arena Idrett AS hold the rental guarantee given to Fornebu Arena by the renters of the commercial properties and Sameiedrift Widerøeveien nr . 1 .

= = Transport = =

Ruter bus 31 is a high @-@ frequency service which runs from the city center of Oslo via Lysaker Station to Fornebu . During regular schedule it stops just outside the stadium ; however , on matchdays it stops further away because of traffic . Lysaker Station is served by both the Oslo Commuter Rail and selected intercity and regional trains . Dedicated football buses are operated by Ruter to Stabæk home games . There are 1 @, @ 500 parking spaces immediately near the venue , although additional parking is available at IT Fornebu and at Lysaker , which are a seven- and fifteen @-@ minute walk away , respectively . The Fornebu Line is under planning , and would be built either as a light rail or a rapid transit , which would allow rail transport from the city center of Oslo and Lysaker to the stadium .

= = Events = =

Telenor Arena was the home ground for Stabæk Fotball , which plays in the Norwegian Premier League . The first match was a friendly against Sweden 's IFK Göteborg on 24 January 2009 . The official opening took place on 8 March , when it was host of Superfinalen 2009 , a pre @-@ season match between Stabæk as league champions and Vålerenga as cup champions .

Stabæk has played four UEFA tournament matches at Fornebu : against Tirana and Copenhagen during the qualification for the 2009 ? 10 UEFA Champions League , against Valencia in the play @-@ off for the 2009 ? 10 UEFA Europa League , and against Dnepr Mogilev in the qualification for the 2010 ? 11 UEFA Europa League . Stabæk 's record attendance at Telenor Arena dates from 13 September 2009 , when 13 @, @ 402 people saw a league game against Rosenborg . The record in a UEFA game was 12 @, @ 560 , who saw the match against Copenhagen .

The following list shows the average , maximum and minimum attendance for Stabæk 's home

games in the Premier League . It also gives the rank among the average attendance for the Premier League teams .

Telenor Arena is often used as a concert arena when international superstars visits Norway . The other big concert arena in Norway is Oslo Spektrum . Madonna visited Telenor Arena with her The MDNA Tour on 15 August 2012 . Rihanna visited Telenor Arena with her Diamonds World Tour on 25 July 2013 . The arena when filled could get very hot and the organisers where criticized for the water priced at 44 NOK ( approximately \$ 7 @, @ 2 ) for a cup with water. Justin Bieber visited Norway and Telenor Arena with his Believe Tour 16 @, @ 17 and 18 April 2013 . The three concerts were all full seated . Other major concerts held at the venue include AC / DC with their Black Ice World Tour and Tina Turner with her 50th Anniversary Tour in 2009 , Andrea Bocelli in 2010 , Metallica for two nights on their World Magnetic Tour in 2010 , , Bruce Springsteen for two nights of the Wrecking Ball World Tour in 2013 and Iron Maiden on The Final Frontier World Tour in 2011 . Kylie Minogue will perform in 2015 as part of her Kiss Me Once Tour . Telenor Arena was the host of the Eurovision Song Contest 2010 on 25 , 27 and 29 May 2010 . During the proceeding weeks , Stabæk had to play their home matches at Ullevaal Stadion in Oslo . Other events at the venue include the Solberg Extreme Motorshow , Oslo International Horse Show and Sensation .