

= Ullevaal Stadion =

Ullevaal Stadion (Norwegian pronunciation : [ʊlˈvɛˌɑːl]) is an all @-@ seater football stadium located in Oslo , Norway . It is the home ground of Vålerenga IF and the Norway national football team , and the site of the Norwegian Cup Final . From its opening in 1926 to 2009 it was the home ground of FK Lyn . With a capacity of approximately 28 @,@ 000 , it is the largest football stadium in Norway . The national stadium is fully owned by the Football Association of Norway (NFF) .

The stadium opened on 26 September 1926 as the home ground for Lyn and several other local teams . The first international match was played in 1927 , and NFF started gradually purchasing part of the stadium company . The peak attendance dates from 1935 , when 35 @,@ 495 people saw Norway play Sweden . Since 1948 , Ullevaal has hosted the finals of the Norwegian Football Cup , and in 1967 the Japp Stand was completed . A new renovation started with the completion of the single @-@ tier West Stand in 1985 , and continued with the two @-@ tier North and East Stands in 1990 and the South Stand in 1998 . Ullevaal hosted the finals of the UEFA Women 's Euro in 1987 and 1997 .

In conjunction with the stadium is the head office of many sports federations , a bandy field , and commercial property including a conference center , hotel and shopping mall . The stadium is located adjacent to Ullevål Stadion Station of the Oslo Metro and the Ring 3 motorway . Plans call to replace the West Stand to increase capacity to 30 @,@ 000 and perhaps add a retractable roof and artificial turf .

= = History = =

= = = Construction and early years = = =

The first suggestions for a stadium at Ullevaal were launched by members of Lyn in 1917 , but not until 1924 was a committee appointed to look into the matter . Lyn had also considered building their stadium at Holmenkollåsen , Hoff , Tåsen , Frogner , Berg and Marienlyst . The club made an agreement with the tram operator Akersbanerne to purchase land they had acquired as part of the construction of the Sognsvann Line . It was decided that a limited company was to be established , with a share capital of NOK 100 @,@ 000 . Aker Municipality agreed to purchase 30 % and partially pay via access roads and utilities . All sports clubs in Aker were given the right to purchase up to 10 % of the shares , while the rest was to be bought by Lyn . Any costs exceeding the capital was to be paid for through loans and donations . At the same time , Lyn acquired land to build a training field which they would own themselves and was estimated to cost NOK 20 @,@ 000 . Both plans were passed by the club annual meeting on 23 May 1924 .

A / S Ullevaal Stadion was founded on 27 January 1925 . The company was owned 73 @.@ 5 % by Lyn , 24 % Aker Municipality and 5 @.@ 1 % by the clubs Ullevaal , Tåsen , Nydalen and Heming . The stadium was built with a running track , allowing the stadium to also be used for track and field , and had a capacity of about 35 @,@ 000 spectators . The stadium cost NOK 416 @,@ 000 . The grand opening was held on 26 September 1926 by Crown Prince Olav . It was followed by a friendly match between a reinforced Lyn and Örgryte IS of Sweden , where Lyn won 5 ? 1 . In the opening game , tickets cost NOK 3 for seats , NOK 2 for standing places and NOK 1 on the end stands . The stadium became both the home ground for Lyn and hosted track and field events . The first international match was held on 29 May 1927 and featured Norway losing 0 ? 1 against Denmark . The match against Sweden from the Nordic Football Championship 1933 / 36 on 22 September 1935 was held in front of a crowd of 35 @,@ 495 , which still stands as the spectator record . The stadium was served by the Oslo Metro with the opening of the Sognsvann Line in 1934 . In 1938 , a new East Stand (Klokkesvingen) was opened .

The Football Association bought Aker 's share of the stadium during the 1930s , and in 1945 also part of Lyn 's share . From 1948 , the Cup Final was held at Ullevaal , and has been held there since . Other activities held during the first decades included boxing , and a revival meeting hosted by Billy

Graham in front of 40 000 people in 1955 . In 1960 , NFF bought more shares from Lyn and became the majority shareholder with 50 % , while Lyn retained 44 % . The reason was the planned expansion could not receive public grants with such a strong tie to a single club , but the state was willing to give grants to the stadium if it was controlled by the federation . In 1967 , a new South Stand was opened , and the following year NFF moved into offices at the stadium .

== Two tier upgrades ==

In the early 1980s , the owner company presented plans for an upgraded stadium , which would have capacity for 40 000 spectators , of which 25 000 would be seated and 15 000 would stand . In 1984 , a new pitch was installed . The first renovation was an all new West Stand , which would be single tier and have capacity for 8 800 spectators , of which 3 800 could be seated under a roof . Costs were estimated at NOK 56 million . The costs were covered by Sogn Næringsbygg , who built the stands and then received free ground to build 12 000 square meters (130 000 sq ft) of commercial real estate . Because of the height , the new stand was met with protests from locals who felt the six story structure would wreck the idyllic neighborhood . The stand was completed in 1985 . On 14 June 1987 , Ullevaal was the host of the final of the 1987 European Competition for Women 's Football , where Norway beat Sweden 2 ? 0 in front of 8 408 spectators .

[[File : | thumb | The West Stand (right) from 2014 is the only single tier stand at Ullevaal after the renovation in 1998 .]] Plans for a new two tier stand to the north and east were presented next . The plans had called for 24 500 sitting places in the new and south stands , and 5 500 standing places in the west stand . However , in 1989 , the plans were modified , as the FIFA made new rules , requiring that only seating places could be used for international qualification matches from 1992 . It was thereby decided that Ullevaal would become an all seater . The renovations included a new turf with under soil heating , luxury boxes , VIP seating , a section for the Royal Family , new change rooms and 5 000 square meters (54 000 sq ft) of restaurant and meeting area . The upgrade involved the removal of the running track , making Ullevaal a pure football stadium .

Construction of the two stands started after the cup final in November 1989 , and started with the demolishing of the north stand from 1926 and the east stand from 1938 . After construction was completed , Lyn played its first home game on Ullevaal for the season on 13 September 1990 , after having played most of the season in the Second Division at Voldsløkka Stadion . The construction included 32 000 square metres (340 000 sq ft) of commercial properties built beneath the stands . Total investment costs for the new stands and commercial area was NOK 350 million , of which NOK 100 million was for the stands . Plans for a NOK 40 million underground squash court were discarded .

== NFF and Lyn dispute ==

In 1993 , Lyn was in deep financial difficulties after having been promoted to the Premier League after the 1991 season . To create additional liquidity , the club sold its 44 % share in Ullevaal to the Football Association for NOK 4 million in January 1993 . At the same time , NFF bought the 5 % stake owned by the other clubs , making NFF the sole owner of the stadium . In October , the limited company Lyn Fotball AS was founded to take over the elite football teams in Lyn . At the same time , the club announced that it planned to purchase back their shares in Ullevaal Stadion , by letting the club take up a loan .

In November , Lyn stated that they wanted to purchase the shares in Ullevaal from NFF , who stated that they were now worth NOK 10 million . NFF also raised questions if it was actually Lyn or the newly created limited company who were actually going to buy the shares . NFF stated that they were opposed to anyone but the federation and clubs owning the national stadium and that they were opposed to private investors . The federation hoped to use the high incomes generated from the recent success of the national team , including from participation in the 1994 FIFA World Cup ,

to allow the stadium company to charge high rent for the international matches and Cup Finals , thus quickly eliminating the stadium 's debt . NFF felt it was unfair that they were in practice subsidizing Lyn by not having similar rent increases for the club , and that this should be reflected in the share value . In March 1994 , Lyn sued NFF for the right to purchase the shares for NOK 4 @. @ 4 million plus interest .

In May , it was stated that the matter would not be handled in the courts , but instead by the Football Association 's Tribunal , with the possibility to appeal to the Norwegian Confederation of Sports ' Tribunal . This was because FIFA 's regulations forbade a club from suing their own federation . In January 1995 , the tribunal decided that Lyn had the right to purchase the shares for NOK 4 @. @ 4 million plus interest . By February , it became clear that Lyn did not have sufficient liquidity to purchase the shares . In December 1995 , three months before the purchase option became invalid , the club bought back the shares . In 2001 , it became clear that Lyn had given false information about the deal , and that the club had signed an agreement with Lyn Fotball AS which was later criticized by club members as a " raid " by the investors to secure the main asset in Lyn . The loan had a high interest rate and had clauses that made a refinancing expensive , it gave the investors a right of pre @-@ emption for the shares , the right for the investors to terminate the loan on short notice , and the right for the investors to take over the shares should the club not be able to manage the debt .

In February 1996 , Lyn and NFF stated that they had agreed that Lyn would sell their shares in Ullevaal to NFF for about NOK 5 to 6 million , plus support for Lyn 's new training facility at Kringsjå . The parties stated that with the plans for expanding and making new investments in Ullevaal , Lyn 's lack of financial backing would become a hindrance for financing the projects and that the sale would allow Lyn to concentrate on playing football . On 25 March , NFF and Lyn stated the sale was terminated by NFF , because it was considered too lucrative for Lyn by other clubs in Norway . In 1996 , the stadium featured a cross @-@ country skiing event with 5 @, @ 500 spectators . On 12 July 1997 , Ullevaal was the host of the final of the UEFA Women 's Euro 1997 , where Germany beat Italy 2 ? 0 in front of 2 @, @ 221 spectators .

In 1997 , NFF and Lyn agreed to renovate and expand the stadium . The plans called for new stands which would increase the capacity to 30 @, @ 000 spectators . The size of the field would be reduced by 350 square meters (3 @, @ 800 sq ft) , from 107 by 70 meters (117 by 77 yd) to 105 by 68 meters (115 by 74 yd) to make the stadium more intimate . The new grass would be lowered 130 centimetres (51 in) , allowing two more rows of chairs to be added . The South Stand (Japp) would be demolished and a new two @-@ tier stand would be built , in the same style as the northern and eastern stands . This would give three sides two @-@ tier height , although the western stand would remain single @-@ tier . The South Stand received 30 luxury boxes and press quarters for 192 people . The project involved the demolishing of the four light masts and instead installing the lights along the roof . The cost of the whole project was estimated at NOK 300 million .

The project also included 44 @, @ 000 square metres (470 @, @ 000 sq ft) of commercial real estate , to be located behind the south stands . Because public grants of about NOK 90 million could only be given to non @-@ profit entities , the ownership of the stadium was split in two . The stands and other core areas of the stadium remained owned by the stadium company , while a separate company was created to own the commercial areas . NFF wanted the profits from the commercial company to go to the stadium company to pay for operating expenses , while Lyn wanted the profits to be paid as dividend to the owners so Lyn could pay interests on their debt . Construction started in January 1998 , after Lyn had lost a court case regarding the dividend structure .

The Norwegian Olympic Committee and Confederation of Sports , including the federations for many smaller sports , chose to move to Ullevaal and establish their offices in conjunction with the stadium , in Dråpen located at the south side . The Norwegian Football Museum was established and received 250 square metres (2 @, @ 700 sq ft) in the southern stand building .

During construction in 1998 , Lyn and the national team played their games at Bislett Stadion ? the home venue for Vålerenga ? while Ullevaal was being rebuilt . Prior to the 1999 season , where Lyn would have to play in the First Division , Lyn applied to play all their matches at Bislett to cut rental costs at Ullevaal . However , this was rejected by the municipality , who owned Bislett , because

there was not vacant capacity at Bislett .

= = = Vålerenga enters = = =

In late 1998 , Vålerenga considered moving their matches to Ullevaal from 1999 . Although they stated that they had a better economic proposal from Ullevaal , the team stayed at Bislett to have more influence on the design of the new stadium that would replace the existing structure . Oslo 's other Premier League team , Skeid Fotball , stated that they had also considered playing at Ullevaal , but wanted to keep the more " intimate feeling " at Voldsløkka Stadion . However , Vålerenga were forced to move some of their 1999 matches to Ullevaal because the dilapidated standards at Bislett . Prior to the 2000 season , Vålerenga signed a three @-@ year contract with Ullevaal , making the national stadium their home .

In 2000 , Ullevaal Stadion AS bought the West Stand , including the commercial areas . In March 2001 , NFF gave Lyn a loan for NOK 12 @.@ 5 million , on the condition that if it was not paid back within two years , NFF would take over Lyn 's ownership in the stadium . This made it possible for Lyn to pay their investment company back the debt for the loan , which had increased to this amount in five years , and to purchase the stadium and secure NFF the right of pre @-@ emption . On 4 July 2002 , Lyn and NFF announced that NFF would make a private placement of NOK 27 million in Ullevaal Stadion AS and at the same time terminate Lyn 's debt . In exchange , Lyn 's ownership was reduced to 15 % .

In 1998 , Vital Forsikring bought the real estate located between the east of the stadium , Ring 3 and the Sognsvann Line . The lot covered 30 @,@ 000 square metres (320 @,@ 000 sq ft) , including the commercial properties under the stands . A new zoning plan was rejected by the municipality in 2000 , but in 2005 the plans were passed . In 2008 , Vital started constructing a hotel and more commercial spaces at the site . The hotel had 144 rooms and would be operated by Thon Hotel ; other investments included a congress hall for 800 people and a reconstruction of the sports facility Bergbanen . Total area was 24 @,@ 000 square meters (260 @,@ 000 sq ft) , including 1 @,@ 500 square meters (16 @,@ 000 sq ft) for the congress center , 5 @,@ 000 square meters (54 @,@ 000 sq ft) for the four @-@ story hotel , and a 6 @,@ 300 @-@ square @-@ meter (68 @,@ 000 sq ft) expansion of the shopping center by . The shopping center area thus became 53 @,@ 000 square meters (570 @,@ 000 sq ft) . The investments cost NOK 550 million and were scheduled for completion in 2009 . The project also included the bandy field Bergbanen and a new club building for Ullevål IL . Ownership of the bandy venue was transferred to the municipality .

On 23 October 2005 , Vålerenga set its attendance record of 24 @,@ 894 in a league match against Rosenborg BK . On 23 March 2007 , NFF bought Lyn 's remaining 13 @.@ 07 % share of Ullevaal , securing the federation full control of the national stadium . Lyn was paid NOK 32 @.@ 5 million for the transaction . Following Lyn 's relegation from the Norwegian Premier League after the 2009 season , the club decided to move its home games from Ullevaal to Bislett . This was to avoid the high costs that the club had renting Ullevaal , which cost the club NOK 150 @,@ 000 per game , compared to a similar fee per season at Bislett . Lyn played its last home game at Ullevaal on 3 November , when it lost 0 ? 5 against Fredrikstad FK . In the 2009 season of the Premier League , Vålerenga had the fourth @-@ highest average attendance at 10 @,@ 788 , while Lyn had the lowest at 4 @,@ 187 . Lyn 's least @-@ seen game attracted 2 @,@ 092 people . After it was decided that the Eurovision Song Contest 2010 was to be held at Stabæk 's home venue Telenor Arena , Stabæk was forced to rent Ullevaal to play three of its home games during April and May 2010 . In a 2012 survey carried out by the Norwegian Players ' Association among away @-@ team captains , Ullevaal was found to be the league 's best stadium , with a score of 4 @,@ 47 on a scale from one to five .

= = Facilities = =

The stadium is owned by AS Ullevaal Stadion , a limited company wholly owned by the Norwegian Football Association . Operations of the stadium is performed by the subsidiary Ullevaal Stadion

Idrett AS , while the NFF @-@ owned Ullevaal Business Class AS (UBC) is responsible for operating the luxury boxes , the conference center and VIP @-@ services . The commercial area in the North and East Stands , plus that located north and east of the stadium , is owned by Vital Forsikring .

The stadium has a capacity of 25 @,@ 572 spectators , of which 1 @,@ 470 are VIP seats and 28 are for wheelchair users . There are four stands : to the north the Postbanken Stand , to the west the VG Stand , to the south the Hafslund Stand and to the west the Bendit Stand . The stadium has 16 entrances with 40 counters , five VIP entrances , one ticket office with twelve booths , 40 toilets , 20 kiosks and three emergency rooms . The stadium building is 202 by 162 meters (663 by 531 ft) long and the height of the roof is 23 meters (75 ft) . The sound system provides 66 @,@ 000 watts , and the flood lighting has 160 lamps that give 1 @,@ 400 lux . Ullevaal Business Class offers 29 boxes and 1 @,@ 418 VIP seats directly accessible from the boxes . In addition , in part in conjunction with the hotel , UBC has a number of conference rooms , of which the largest can hold 800 people .

The pitch is 105 by 68 meters (115 yd × 74 yd) , and the area within the stands is 122 by 82 meters (133 yd × 90 yd) , of which grass covers 112 by 78 meters (122 yd × 85 yd) . The grass is a combination of *Lolium perenne* , *Poa pratensis* and *Poa annua* , with 3 % artificial grass sown in . The pitch features a sprinkler system and under @-@ soil heating with an effect of 750 kW located 25 to 30 centimeters (9 @.@ 8 to 11 @.@ 8 in) under the surface . The pitch has a plastic cover which can cover the full size and which , powered by a fan , hovers 4 @.@ 5 meters (15 ft) above the ground .

The stadium contains 39 square meters (420 sq ft) of press room , a television studio , 16 commentator boxes and 130 square meters (1 @,@ 400 sq ft) of working space for journalists . There is a photography room , a separate section for photographers on the stand , and a press conference room with place for 96 people . All the press facilities are in the South Stand . There are similar facilities in the North Stand , allowing a television team from the opposing nation to make a double production . They can film and send with advertisements from the other side of the stadium and thus increase advertisement income .

Both NFF , the Norwegian Olympic and Paralympic Committee and Confederation of Sports and many sports federations have their head offices at Ullevaal . At Ullevaal is the Norwegian Football Museum , which offers tours of the stadium . Just east of the stadium is Bergbanen , a municipal bandy field used by Ullevål IL . The field is located on top of a parking house . NFF owns 40 @,@ 000 square meters (430 @,@ 000 sq ft) and Vital owns 53 @,@ 000 square meters (570 @,@ 000 sq ft) of commercial property at Ullevaal , including a shopping center and office space .

= = Transport = =

The stadium is located next to the Ullevål stadion station of the Oslo Metro , and is served by lines 3 , 4 and 5 (the Sognsvann Line and the Ring Line) . The stadium is also within a ten @-@ minute walk from Rikshospitalet station of the Oslo Tramway , located on the Ullevål Hageby Line and served by trams 17 and 18 . In addition , the motorway Ring 3 runs nearby . Parking is available at Rikshospitalet , Domus Athletica and Sogn Upper Secondary School ; these are within a five minutes walk .

= = Future = =

In 2005 , NFF launched plans for a redevelopment of Ullevaal , including artificial turf , a retractable roof and redevelopment of the West Stand to increase total capacity to 30 @,@ 500 spectators . The combination of the three would allow Ullevaal to become a multi @-@ purpose venue and allow more matches to be played , grant the teams more practice time on their home pitch , make room for sponsor events , allow more concerts and potentially allow non @-@ football sports , such as sprint skiing , to be held .

To make it easier to attract good international teams , the management of Ullevaal considered

coordinating the laying of artificial turf with Parken Stadium in Copenhagen and Råsunda Fotbollstadion in Stockholm , the home of the Danish and Swedish national teams , respectively . Plans for artificial turf were rejected by both Lyn and Vålerenga , who both threatened to move elsewhere should the stadium install artificial turf . Commentators have stated that among older footballers there is opposition against artificial turf , but that long Norwegian winters cause pitches to be extremely bad during the early parts of the season . It has been argued that younger Norwegian players are used to artificial turf and that in the future they will need better pitches to play " finer " football . In 2010 , seven of sixteen premiership stadiums used artificial turf ; commentators have stated that if Ullevaal converted , it could be a pivoting point for other clubs to do the same .

Vålerenga has stated that they want to relocate and have conducted plans to build a new stadium at Valle Hovin , where the club currently have their administration and training facilities . Plans exist for stadiums for 22 @, @ 000 spectators , which would be expandable to 32 @, @ 000 . Part of the rationale for their own stadium is that Vålerenga traditionally is the east side team , while Ullevaal is located in the heart of the west side . As an alternative , Vålerenga has considered moving back to Bislett , at least as a temporary solution .

NFF has launched plans for a new national football stadium . Inspired by the new Friends Arena to be built in Stockholm , a new venue would have a capacity for 52 @, @ 000 spectators and was part of the joint Norwegian ? Swedish bid for UEFA Euro 2016 . To finance a new stadium , NFF would have to sell Ullevaal . NFF stated that expanding Ullevaal beyond 31 @, @ 000 spectators would be excessively expensive and that the location poses limitations in transport infrastructure to handle so large crowds . In 2008 , Ullevaal , including the 40 @, @ 000 square meters (430 @, @ 000 sq ft) of commercial area owned by NFF , was valued to about NOK 1 billion , of which the commercial area was valuated at NOK 750 million . In 2006 , Ullevaal Stadion AS had NOK 522 million in debt .