

= Aker Stadion =

Aker Stadion , formerly known as Molde Stadion , is a football stadium located at Reknes in Molde , Norway , and is the home of Norwegian Premier League club Molde . The stadium has a capacity of 11 000 spectators .

The building was designed by architect Kjell Kosberg . It cost NOK 212 million , most of which was paid for by club owner Kjell Inge Røkke ? after whom the ground has been nicknamed " Røkkeløkka " . The main construction work took place 1997 , and the stadium was inaugurated on 18 April 1998 in a league game against Lillestrøm , replacing Molde idrettspark as Molde 's home ground . The stadium was nominated for the FIABCI Prix D ' Excellence and awarded the City Prize in 1999 . The record attendance of 13 000 was set in a league match against Rosenborg in 1998 . The same year , the arena hosted its first international match , where Norway beat Saudi Arabia 6 ? 0 . The following year , when Molde reached the UEFA Champions League , the stadium was converted to an all seater , reducing its capacity . Since May 2006 , the stadium name has been sponsored by Røkke 's company Aker . The grass pitch was replaced with artificial turf in 2014 .

= = History = =

Since 1955 , Molde had been playing their home games at Molde idrettspark (at the time called Molde stadion) , a municipal owned multi use venue . A new stadium was proposed to be located at the waterfront at Reknes . There were many local protests , including complaints about the size of the structure . Construction of the land fillings and preparation of the construction site started in March 1997 , before final approval had been granted by the municipality .

The stadium was inaugurated on 18 April 1998 , when the stadium was officially opened by Prime Minister and Molde fan Kjell Magne Bondevik . In the opening match , Molde beat Lillestrøm 4 ? 0 in their first home game of the season , attracting 13 010 spectators . During the season , this was the match in the country with the most spectators not hosted at Rosenborg 's home ground Lerkendal . On 27 May , the arena hosted its only international match , with Norway beating Saudi Arabia 6 ? 0 in a 1998 World Cup friendly . On 11 August , CSKA Sofia visited Molde for the second qualifying round of the UEFA Cup , for which Molde failed to qualify . The all time spectator record was set on 26 September , when Molde hosted Rosenborg BK in front of 13 000 people .

During the fall of 1999 , Molde played two qualification games for UEFA Champions League at the stadium . Following the aggregated victories over CSKA Moscow and Mallorca , Molde qualified for the group stage , where they played Real Madrid , Porto and Olympiacos . Following entry into Champions League , the stadium was converted to an all seater , with seats being installed on the lower sections of the short end stands . This reduced the attendance capacity permanently , because the club chose to not remove the seats afterwards .

In 2006 , an agreement was made where Røkke 's company Aker became the stadium name sponsor , with the stadium being renamed Aker stadion . The same season , the club was relegated to the First Division , where the team played in 2007 . Despite the relegation , average attendance increased , and Molde won the league . Since 2008 , the team has again played in the Premier League .

Molde later entered the UEFA Cup four times (renamed to Europa League in 2010) , in 2000 ? 01 , 2003 ? 04 and 2006 ? 07 , 2010 ? 11 , playing a total of eight home games , before they in 2012 again played qualification for the Champions League and Ventspils and Basel visited Aker Stadion . Molde were eliminated by Basel , but managed to qualify for the Europa League group stage and played against Heerenveen , Stuttgart , Steaua Bucuresti and Copenhagen at Aker Stadion .

Aker Stadion has been proposed used during the annual Moldejazz , Norway 's largest jazz festival , but this has been rejected several times by the festival management . The issue was intensified in 2004 , when a much smaller arena was used for a quickly sold out Stevie Wonder concert . On 6 October 2007 , StatoilHydro arranged a free concert at the stadium with Ane Brun and

Røyksopp to celebrate the completion of their near @-@ by processing plant for the gas field Ormen Lange . In a 2012 survey carried out by the Norwegian Players ' Association among away @-@ team captains , Ullevaal was found to be the league 's fourth @-@ best stadium , with a score of 4 @. @ 27 on a scale from one to five .

The club decided on 4 October 2013 to lay artificial turf on the field , which it hoped would be in place ahead of the 2014 season . The club was especially concerned with the poor surface during March , April , October and November . It also cited the possibility of hosting all trainings at the stadium and that the field could be used 2 @, @ 000 instead of 130 hours per year . The stadium hosted its second international match on 19 November 2013 , when Norway was defeated 0 ? 1 Scotland in a friendly match watched by 9 @, @ 750 spectators . It was the first time since 2002 that a home Norway game was not played at the national stadium , Ullevaal Stadion .

= = Facilities = =

The stadium was designed by Kjell Kosberg of Kosbergs Arkitektkontorer . In addition to featuring the stadium , the complex has 2 @, @ 800 square metres (30 @, @ 000 sq ft) of commercial space . The whole structure cost NOK 212 million , of which NOK 160 million was for the stadium itself . The stadium is located at Reknes , just west of the city center , on the shore of the Moldefjord . The exterior of the building is clad with two colors of granite , glass and aluminum . The building was financed by Kjell Inge Røkke , although NOK 10 million was paid by the municipality and NOK 2 @. @ 7 million by Norsk Tipping . In 1999 , the structure won the City Prize , that is awarded to the Norwegian building project that is both profitable , innovative and increases the value of the surrounding area . The stadium was also nominated to FIABCI 's Prix D ' Excellence .

There are four stands in two tiers built as a continual whole and a capacity of 11 @, @ 167 . Prior to 1999 , the lower tiers along the short sides had terraces , allowing an initial capacity of 13 @, @ 308 . There are 13 entrances , 52 toilets and 9 kiosks . The stadium has thirteen executive boxes in the north stand , varying in size between 18 to 33 square metres (190 to 360 sq ft) . The arena is 17 @, @ 250 square metres (185 @, @ 700 sq ft) , measuring 150 by 115 metres (492 by 377 ft) . It includes a restaurant and café , in addition to a medical clinic . The pitch is 105 by 68 metres (344 by 223 ft) of natural grass , with 4 % artificial turf sown in . Floodlight is provided with 176 lamps , mounted at a low 19 @. @ 5 metres (64 ft) . The speaker system has 32 kW .

The stadium is located within walking distance of the city center . There is no public transport that serves the arena , but all city and regional buses serve the city center 's bus terminal , which is within walking distance . On game days , Aukra Auto operates a bus service from Aukra , while Nettbuss operates from Eidsvåg , Kleive , Batnfjordsøra and Sjøholt . Tide Sjø operates a fast ferry to Helland and Vikebukt . There are a very limited number of parking spaces at the stadium , and these are limited to holders of VIP tickets .

= = Attendance = =

The stadium has hosted more than 10 @, @ 000 spectators 30 times . One match was the international game between Norway and Saudi Arabia , which attracted 13 @, @ 114 spectators . Molde FK has attracted such attendance twenty @-@ six times in Tippeligaen , of which eight have been against Rosenborg BK and six in derbys against Aalesunds FK . In addition , two high @-@ attendance matches have been played in Champions League and one in the Norwegian Football Cup . The all @-@ time record dates from the 1998 derby with Rosenborg BK , which was followed by 13 @, @ 308 spectators .

The following list includes the attendance for Molde FK during the home domestic league matches . It excludes cup and UEFA tournaments . In 2007 , the club played in the First Division . The table includes average , minimum and maximum attendance , in addition to the attendance rank among the top @-@ league teams .