

# Zagreb 041 in the last year and a half



Club review

We are aware that we often communicate, especially on our mailing list and sometimes on social networks on Croatian language and we wanted to share with all our international friends some of the things that happened to us this season.

As most of the people, we also faced difficulties with Covid-19, last season (2019-2020) was abruptly finished in March and this season we had an extra long break between the games. Lack of games and nation wide bans for fans to watch games also affected our club and unfortunately we declined a bit in membership.

On the other side we gained a whole lot of new players, both for our senior team but also in our youth section and with young players came their parents who were great support and did a lot to help the club.

For the first time ever we had more than one team competing and we used the word "historic" for a lot of things. First 041 youth team competing and senior team first time playing in 2nd local league (instead of 3rd). It was a bumpy ride, both teams had ups and downs but both finished their season in a good form and are satisfied with how it went.

We also had some activities outside of the pitch, our members volunteered and helped after major earthquakes that hit Zagreb in March of 2020 and Petrinja (town 50km south of Zagreb) in December 2020. On a more positive note, we participated in great online activities such as Clapton CFC discussions about fan owned clubs (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xwSqH4eJsFQ>) and in some online e-games tournaments organised by Borussia Leer.



The poster for the Alerta-Cup 2021 tournament features a background image of a man in a white soccer jersey with 'CLAPTON' on the back. The text is arranged as follows:

- GROUP A**
  - SV BORUSSIA LEER
  - C.D. INDEPENDIENTE DE VALLECAS
  - CLAPTON CFC
  - ST. AMBROEUS FC
- GROUP B**
  - ASC QUARTOGRAD
  - FK KOZMOS
  - IFC ROSTOCK
  - NK ZAGREB 041

**ALERTA-CUP 2021**

**6th/7th march 2021**  
**Saturday and sunday from 19.30 CET**  
**STREAMING LIVE ON  WWW.TWITCH.TV/ALERTACUP**


Unfortunately due to COVID restrictions there weren't much visits from other fans nor did our fans travel to other clubs.

All in all it was a challenging but interesting year and a half. We have some ambitious plans for the future but more on that as well as a short summary for all our teams you can read below. We hope that you find this kind of summary useful and as always, feel free to contact us if you ever arrive in Zagreb, enjoy the read!

# Youth Team



Last season was marked as a sort of breakthrough for our club. For the first time our youth team has entered an official season-long competition under the jurisdiction of our local football association (ZNS). We consider it a big step forward because it is a tangible result of our continuous work in the local community, and a foundation on which we can keep on building. We entered the competition with our U9 team (players born in 2012. and 2013.), and we finished 10th out of 11 teams competing



The start of our youth team season was very tough on all involved - parents, kids, coaches and supporters. As a new youth team we had to start from the absolute beginnings, playing against the kids that already had some experience in competitive football and it was a steep learning curve. Even though the kids trained well and developed according to their age we kept losing games, with our best game being a 8-3 loss against NK Devetka that were eventually crowned as champions. Throughout the whole first part of the season (before the winter break) we insisted, according to our credo, that the most important part of football is enjoying training, developing as players and building a positive and inclusive culture in the team.

Second part of a season after a break was welcomed by kids and parents alike and it lifted our spirits. We got an influx of new youth players whose parents recognized our vision and the team grew, both in number and in approach to the training and competition. Progress became visible at a rapid rate and all of a sudden we started playing much better football, with teams that beat us easily in the first part now having to fight hard against us. Even though we finished a season without any wins, in the last four games we managed three draws lacking only a bit of luck to finally win an official game. The reward came in a friendly game after the season ended when we won 3-2 against a team we played previously during a season.

In a span of one year we made great progress - from a team that couldn't get to the opponents half to a team that has defensive stability and is dangerous in possession. Besides the development as a team, a number of kids have made big steps forward in a footballing sense, showing more and more technical and tactical abilities and, in a way, we are sad that the season ended because the kids began to see their progress and started to beam with self confidence.

Besides the beginning of a new 041 youth team and all the joy it brings to us, one of the biggest gains are the parents that have become involved in the functioning of the club. They were very supportive of our coach's work during the bad results and they brought a new energy to the club.



Filip Meglaj, parent: "We chose ZAGREB 041 because it was a new club in making and when we met the coaches and the leadership of the club, we were thrilled. Since we joined the club, we have seen great progress of children on the field, both in physical and mental development. In this club, coaches talk to children, which unfortunately is not the case in most clubs today. We are grateful that there is such a club with such people and we believe in the successes that will follow, therefore we can only say - ZAGREB 041 in our hearts."



Frane Visković, U8 coach: "In the previous season we focused on elementary football technique and creating a team spirit. We have made great progress in technical elements and managed to transform a group of playful kids into a cheerful, yet competitive squad."



Right now, we are just a few kids short of being able to compete with two categories - U9 and U11. If the trend which we witnessed last year continues, we should be able to field those two teams and continue competing. Our U11 team has already played their first friendly game and has shown potential. In the next season we believe that the start will be somewhat easier than last years, primarily due to the experience the kids have gained in the last season. Also, we are looking into acquiring an additional coach to help us provide the kids with the best possible development conditions.

# First team



Igor Krpan, 1st team manager: "This past season proved to be a real rollercoaster within every element of our club's functioning. Before the start of the season, we faced many challenges and uncertainties in getting everything on track, both in organizational and competitive terms. However, all the people involved put in a lot of good faith, effort, and time into making a fresh start. A personal objective of mine was to succeed in laying solid foundations, by creating strong team spirit and maintaining the club's vision and postulates set from the very start of the club's existence."



In terms of the competition and the final result, we have experienced many ups and downs in form, especially in the first half of the season, where we struggled to live up to our potential and expectations. However, we managed to welcome some of the new lads who proved to be a great addition to our team but were also lucky to welcome back some of the familiar faces, giving us the boost we needed in order to put all the pieces together and achieve an impressive run in the latter part of the season, having won many difficult games against the teams sitting ahead of us on the table. Something I am most proud of is the fact our game improved significantly and I enjoy the fact that we can definitely hold our heads high and wait eagerly for the start of the upcoming season."

To summarise, we finished the season at 9th place out of 16 teams in the league. We had 14 points more than the 10th team and were only 7 points behind 5th placed team. Our goal difference was +19 with 54 scored goals. Biggest win came in last game of the season where we beat opposing team with impressive 0-8, while biggest losses were 0-3.

We also had more than 45 different players playing for our club and even more impressing is the fact that almost half of them (20) scored at least one goal! It really showed that we had a lot of changes but also that team managed to get by. Throughout the season first team was coached by our former player Igor Krpan and according to the players, he did one hell of a job



Every year we also have a voting for the award called "Purgerski ponos", which is usually earned by good performance on and off the pitch. Winner for this season was Toni Kolnrekaj who not only played in 24 games but also showed up on training, took upon himself to promote the ideas of club among new players and always was the first to thank the fans after the games. For that we once again thank him.



Our new season is expected to start in early September although we still don't have exact schedule. It is expected that the league will be made of 15 teams with two games against each opponent.

We are currently making arrangements to continue playing on the same pitch we played last 2 seasons and we'll let you know about full schedule as well as our home pitch as soon as possible.

Also, if you happen to be in Zagreb and in a good shape or you have a child who wants to join a sports team, feel free to contact us and join one of our teams.





Women's team wasn't active this season. Unfortunately last year saw for some a drop in enthusiasm by our players and a bit of unrealized potential. Due to high costs of participation in professional league (both 11 a side football as well as futsal 5 a side league) we couldn't offer our women's team to participate in a proper league but just in tournaments and local unofficial leagues. Due to this, some players left the club to play in a more competitive environment while others lost interest and with the pandemic it resulted with complete stop of all training for our women's team. However, we do hope and plan to start with the team again after the summer since we already had several inquiries about how to join the team.

For all the latest info as well as some random statistics follow us on Facebook, Instagram or website (although we are really lazy with the last one)

If you want to support our club you can always become a member, both as an individual or if you are a member of an organization or a network.

Last but not least, make sure to get in touch if you are coming to Zagreb, we always like to welcome like-minded people and try to make them part of our story! Till then #samoljubav

