

the small town Brandis, where our team was supposed to play against the local team. The fascist were organized and prepared, they had wooden and iron sticks. Two older police officers from the local police department were not able to deal with the situation at all. So it was a big luck that some of our fans and also players defended the attack and that no one was badly harmed. But when the fascists left, they threw a glass bottle backwards over a fence and one of our fans lost the vision in one of his

been attracting fascists and hooligan-fan scene. Roter Stern was founded by fans of Chemie Leipzig, the other big club in Leipzig, where a small leftwing fan scene developed in the late 90s. Always in the history of both clubs, the match between them was the most important derby. So it was for us. About 1.000 people came to see the cup final. And we broadcasted the cup final for the local community radio station. It was a very special day for everyone connected to Roter Stern Leipzig.



Fight in Brandis

eyes. This violent fascist attack was a shock for everyone, everyone who was there and all others. There was no other topic for months.

This incident has changed a lot, and we are still dealing with the consequences today. From that day our matches are always secured by a big number of police officers. At once, there was public interest. Because someone made good photos, the public discussion was not about hooliganism or confrontation between youths, but about fascist violence. At once we had to deal with the media. And so on.

In some way it was the end of our light-heartedness, I think. In some way I miss the old times, this punk-rock attitude, when we arrived at the game already drunken, not caring about anything.

It was the 14th of June in 2008, our first men's team played the local cup final. Our opponent was the second team of Lokomotive Leipzig. Lok is one of the big teams in Leipzig with a long history beginning in the GDR times. Since the end of the 80s, Lok has

Lok scored the first goal, but we equaled. It was one goal to one when the regular time ended. And in the extra time, we scored the second goal, Lok didn't manage to equal again. The last fifteen minutes were exciting, fascinating, thrilling, but the end of the match... I don't know how to describe it better: it felt like a public collective orgasm. Crying, stupid, disarranged people everywhere, chaotically running in all directions, sitting and lying. Everyone was incredibly happy. Crazy moment. And later it was a spontaneous party in Connewitz, in the pubs, in the Fischladen, which is our club's location for members and guests, but first of all on the street. We occupied the whole district for that night. Unforgettable.

- What are your future plans? The first league? What activities do you plan?

We are amateurs. We don't want to pay players for playing football. The 7th division, where our first men's team is playing, seems to be the highest league we can achieve. Our

team should be the only one where no one gains money for football in this division.

Right now, we have nine senior football teams and seventeen children- and youth teams. So our main focus is to improve and maintain the infrastructure for them. That's already a lot. But it's not just an infrastructure. It's also about dealing with 1200 members: finding decisions, discussing the important questions, staying open minded for different ideas.

I can't name all the activities that we have. Teichstraße. Our fans do a lot, support, solidarity activities, linking and networking with other fan groups, participating in political activities. And we have a lot of anniversaries in the next two years: 10 years of winning the cup in 2018. And in 2019 Roter Stern Leipzig will become 20 years old, but it's also 10 years of Brandis. It should be the right time to focus at what we achieved, maybe what Roter Stern is exactly today, gaining some ideas for the future. And for a lot of party!

- Roter Stern for you is first of all sport or politics?

I feel that sports and politics cannot be divided. Sport and football are part of society. You can try to pretend it is not. But every time, people say: „leave politics out of sports“, it's already political. And it's an offence against us. Because of that, we have to deal with all the instances and actors in sports and administration; we became civil society actors on our own. Everything got more complicated, but our main slogan hasn't changed: „Love Football / Hate Fascism“.

Getting to the game of Red Star isn't difficult, the entrance is not expensive, and the annual season ticket costs about 30 euro. At the home stadium there are always alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks, vegan and meat food, distro and donations collection. The last time I was at the game they collected money for getting new tires for the team captain's car, which were punctured by right-wing opposition fans.

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