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ROMERIKSDERBYET – THE BATTLE OF ROMERIKE

The first "Romeriksderby" was played in 1917, but before the war there were two clubs in Strømmen so only the 34 matches played after the war are recognised as The Battle of Romerike (an area just north east of Oslo). The two clubs played each other regularly between 1945 and 1971 but have only met seven times in the last 37 years. Lillestrøm have played at the highest level for a record 35 years, Strømmen are at the moment playing at level three but played in the top league of Norway in 1986 and 1988. Together with the Oslo derby (Lyn – Vålerenga) this is the only derby in Norway with almost hundred years of history. The first derby took place at Hesteryggen Stadion 5th of June 1917 were Lillestrøm beat Norrøna 3-1. The latest derby took place almost exactly 88 years later, 19th of May 2005 with a similar result.

Name : Strømmen Idrettsforening

City : Strømmen (Norway)

Colours : Red and grey

Founded : 1911 as Strømmen Fotballklubb (later Norrøna), Strømmen Idrettsforening since 1945.

League : None. Runners up 1954

Cup : None. Semi final 1957

Name : Lillestrøm Sportsklubb

City : Lillestrøm (Norway)

Colours : Yellow and black

Founded : 1917

League : 1959, 1976, 1977, 1986, 1989

Cup : 1977, 1978, 1981, 1985, 2007



Strømmen IF – Lillestrøm SK

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Match Statistics

34

Matches

13

Strømmen IF

6

Draws

15

Lillestrøm SK

Only derbies after the war

Previous matches

| | | | | | | | |
|-------------------|------------|------------|---|------------|---|---|---|
| Cup 2nd round | 2005-05-19 | Strømmen | - | Lillestrøm | 1 | - | 3 |
| Cup 3rd round | 1995-06-21 | Lillestrøm | - | Strømmen | 7 | - | 0 |
| 1. divisjon | 1988-07-24 | Strømmen | - | Lillestrøm | 0 | - | 0 |
| 1. divisjon | 1988-05-01 | Lillestrøm | - | Strømmen | 1 | - | 0 |
| 1. divisjon | 1986-10-12 | Lillestrøm | - | Strømmen | 1 | - | 0 |
| 1. divisjon | 1986-06-19 | Strømmen | - | Lillestrøm | 1 | - | 2 |
| Cup 3rd round | 1981-07-09 | Strømmen | - | Lillestrøm | 0 | - | 2 |
| 3. divisjon | 1971-06-16 | Strømmen | - | Lillestrøm | 0 | - | 0 |
| 3. divisjon | 1971-09-18 | Lillestrøm | - | Strømmen | 0 | - | 0 |
| 3. divisjon | 1970-09-19 | Strømmen | - | Lillestrøm | 2 | - | 0 |
| 3. divisjon | 1970-06-08 | Lillestrøm | - | Strømmen | 1 | - | 2 |
| 3. divisjon | 1969-10-04 | Strømmen | - | Lillestrøm | 2 | - | 0 |
| 3. divisjon | 1969-06-16 | Lillestrøm | - | Strømmen | 2 | - | 3 |
| 3. divisjon | 1968-08-24 | Strømmen | - | Lillestrøm | 0 | - | 3 |
| 3. divisjon | 1968-05-19 | Lillestrøm | - | Strømmen | 3 | - | 0 |
| 3. divisjon | 1967-08-19 | Lillestrøm | - | Strømmen | 0 | - | 0 |
| 3. divisjon | 1967-05-20 | Strømmen | - | Lillestrøm | 6 | - | 1 |
| 3. divisjon | 1964-08-12 | Strømmen | - | Lillestrøm | 3 | - | 1 |
| 3. divisjon | 1964-05-10 | Lillestrøm | - | Strømmen | 2 | - | 0 |
| 3. divisjon | 1962-08-18 | Lillestrøm | - | Strømmen | 5 | - | 0 |
| 3. divisjon | 1961-10-08 | Strømmen | - | Lillestrøm | 2 | - | 1 |
| 3. divisjon | 1961-08-20 | Strømmen | - | Lillestrøm | 3 | - | 1 |
| 1. divisjon | 1958-10-12 | Strømmen | - | Lillestrøm | 5 | - | 1 |
| 1. divisjon | 1958-07-30 | Lillestrøm | - | Strømmen | 2 | - | 0 |
| 1. divisjon | 1956-10-14 | Lillestrøm | - | Strømmen | 1 | - | 0 |
| 1. divisjon | 1956-07-29 | Strømmen | - | Lillestrøm | 4 | - | 0 |
| NM Kvartfinale | 1955-09-04 | Lillestrøm | - | Strømmen | 1 | - | 0 |
| 1. divisjon | 1954-06-07 | Lillestrøm | - | Strømmen | 1 | - | 1 |
| 1. divisjon | 1953-09-27 | Strømmen | - | Lillestrøm | 5 | - | 2 |
| 3. divisjon | 1947-09-07 | Strømmen | - | Lillestrøm | 0 | - | 2 |
| 3. divisjon | 1947-08-29 | Lillestrøm | - | Strømmen | 0 | - | 0 |
| KM, PO for 2. div | 1946-10-12 | Strømmen | - | Lillestrøm | 0 | - | 3 |
| KM, PO for 2. div | 1946-05-25 | Lillestrøm | - | Strømmen | 1 | - | 3 |
| District league | 1945-09-08 | Strømmen | - | Lillestrøm | 1 | - | 0 |

Strømmen IF – Lillestrøm SK

Club Results **Stadium** Fans Reports Links

Name : Strømmen Stadion
Address : Strømsveien 2, 2010 Strømmen
Capacity : 3.500 (200 seats)
Record : 12.800 (Strømmen - Larvik, 8 September 1957)
Opened : 1924
Other : Strømmen played their first three seasons in 1. div at Fedrelandet (Fet IL) due to no grass at Strømmen Stadion

Name : Åråsen
Address : Åråsen Stadion, 2007 Kjeller
Capacity : 12.000 all seater
Record : 13.795 (Lillestrøm – Vålerenga, 2003)
Opened : 1922
Other : Major development in the last few years, Åråsen is now a modern all seated stadium.



Strømmen IF – Lillestrøm SK

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Name : Strømmen Greyhounds
Location : Main Stand near club house
Founded : November 1992

Between a dozen and twenty faithful attend all matches. But for big games like a cup tie against Lillestrøm or promotion play offs the turn-up can be almost 300 supporters. Known as one of few "troublemakers" in the 2. division, both the (football) club and the local indoor hockey club have been fined for their behaviour.



Strømmen IF – Lillestrøm SK

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Official

www.strommen-if.no

Fansites

www.greyhoundsweb.no

Name : Kanarifansen Lillestrøm
Location : Right hand side in the Main Stand
Founded : December 1992

One of the three large supporter groups in Norway. Known for its continental/latin image. Developed quite a bit over the last few years thanks to groups like Ultras Felt C, Mental Boys 1917 and Sportsklubbens Fineste.



Strømmen IF – Lillestrøm SK

Official

www.lsk.no

Fansites

www.kanari-fansen.no
www.ultrasfeltc.com
s.mentalboys.com

Is this really a derby anymore? Will they ever meet again?

Well, some will for sure say no. But regarding the aspects of the local history, the rivalry between the clubs for almost 90 years and the recent cup match in 2005 others absolutely refer to this as a derby.

The clubs have only met twice since the last league meeting twenty years ago (both in the cup), and Strømmen have met both Lillestrøm 2 (reserves) and even Lillestrøm 3 (youth) in the league since then. Most people will say it is unlikely that the two clubs ever meet in the league again, now and then in the cup will be the only Romeriksderbies in the future. But if you take a close look at the tables as they stand at the moment (19. April 2008) Lillestrøm are bottom of the 1. division and Strømmen are top of the 3. division. You all know what that means..

Why rivalry between the two clubs?

The rivalry, what is left of it, goes back almost a decade. Strømmen and Lillestrøm are divided by a river and there ha always been competition and arguments between them – not only in football but also in shopping, parking fees, where to build the new city hall (same borough), the library and so on. When the river Nitelva flood Lillestrøm may be over flooded for a period of time, 1967 was last time. Many inhabitants of Strømmen then let their water taps open all day and night long. The two football clubs were bitter rivals playing in the 1. division in the fifties and then again in the 3. division in the late sixties and early seventies. Even in youth football the clashes have never been friendly, in the U12 district cup in 1965 all spectators had to leave the stadium before the referee allowed the match to restart. Lillestrøm “won” the football battle some thirty years ago (and now even have some support in Strømmen) but in 1986 and 1988 both clubs played in the 1. division. Since then there has only been two derbies, in 1995 and 2005 in the cup. In 2005 cup tie almost caused one of the biggest upsets in the history of Norwegian football as then 4. division Strømmen took the lead well into the second half.

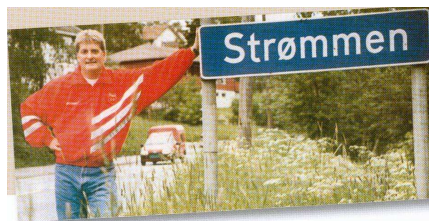
Big crowds?

In Norwegian standards definitely. The league record at both grounds is almost 9.000 (1958 at Strømmen, 1988 at Lillestrøm) and even in the 3. division 4.000 spectators gathered at Strømmen Stadion in the late sixties. 3.600 witnessed a cup tie in 1981 and for the last derby (cup 2005) 2.000 people turned up, both games at Strømmen. Does not sound to impressive perhaps, but Strømmen have not reached an average of 2000 since 1959 and had an average of less than 100 both in 1981 and 2005. The picture below is from the last derby in 2005.



Local heroes?

Most people from the two cities who really hated each other has now passed away. But the stories of people who hated the “wrong side of the river” so much that they did not even go there for family gatherings and drove a few extra miles to avoid driving true the city they hated are still to be heard. The most famous Strømmen inhabitant for hating Lillestrøm today are known as “Loffen”, se pictures below. In Lillestrøm people imagine themselves that Strømmen is not worth to be hated, but local pub fighters like Finn Bjerk and Bård Bjerkeland still strongly dislike everything from “2010” as they refer to Strømmen as (due to the postcode). Pic 1: “Loffen” at the edge of Strømmen, opposite Lillestrøm. Pic 2: Loffen and Bård Bjerkeland (then a player..!) in the stand after the last league derby. Pic 3: Keep Romerike tidy. Pic 4: The flood in Lillestrøm 1967.





Photos: Even if the good old stories of the rivalry between Strømmen and Lillestrøm give you feeling that it was just as bad as on these photos, that was probably not the case. (Over: Falls Road and Shankill Road in Belfast. Right: The bridge that divide the Bosnian and Croatian population of Mostar).

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Strømmen and Lillestrøm are divided by the Nitelva river. Strømmen at the top nearest Oslo and Lillestrøm below. Both are in the borough of Skedsmo with a total of 45 000 inhabitants, including places like Skjetten and Skedsmokorset.

Strømmen

The history goes back to the 16. century and industry connected to the waterfall Sagelva. Also a newer industrial history including Strømmen Steel and Strømmen Værksted. Both cars and trains have been produced in Strømmen. There are still some train production but one of the largest shopping moles in the country, Strømmen Storsenter, is the main moneymaker. About 8.000 inhabitants.

Lillestrøm

The history starts about hundred years after Strømmen, when the dampkraft came to Norway. Today there is almost 15.000 inhabitants and a selection og shops, bars, schools and one of the the largest mess in the country.



Picture left: Nybrua, the bridge that connect Strømmen and Lillestrøm

Picture below left: Strømmen Storsenter.



