



YEARBOOK 2009

A summary of Årsskrift 2009.
Published by The Swedish Society of Golf Historians.



PICTURE BY RONNY KARLSSON

The links of Falsterbo GK is on the south-west tip of Sweden,



MAP BY HELENA FAHLESON

From Copenhagen's Kastrup airport you travel over the Öresund bridge to Falsterbo.



The Swedish Hickory Calendar gives contact details for the tournaments. The calendar is at <http://golfhistoriska.golf.se>

Hickory championship set to break record of '08

We expect the Swedish Hickory Championship to attract a record field this year. The quality of golf will be at the highest level with the members of the Grail teams being challenged by the best Swedish players.

Last year in Isaberg we had 89 players competing for the ladies', gentlemen's and veterans' championships. With guests from the US and Europe and a steady increase of interest in hickory golf in Sweden, the field is expected to be much larger this year.

The championship could even be the biggest hickory golf tournament ever held at Falsterbo Golfklubb during its 100 years.

We asked Bengt Modéer, who edits Falsterbo's centenary club history, to be published later this year.

"I cannot think of any tournament during the hickory era with a larger field", says Bengt.

In an article in the Yearbook he tells how the club got started.

The initiative was taken by Erik Schweder, whose father was head of Malmö's bicycling club and also imported bikes from England. Erik was sent over to learn the business. He played golf in England and brought clubs back to Malmö.

Falsterbo was the obvious place to look for somewhere to play. Erik and his friend Adolf Faxé were out in the spring of 1909 and in October the club was formed. Many members were bikers.

At this time Falsterbo had become a fashionable resort. The rail service from Malmö opened in 1904.

A few years later the club had a golf course in the fields around the lighthouse and had engaged young William Hester from Hoylake as professional. He meant to stay a few years, but remained in Falsterbo all his life.

This is where Europe will play USA for The Hickory Grail on Thursday and Friday, 30-31 July. The Championship is on Saturday 1 August.

Hickory players in Sweden are kept busy from May to October

Eight golf clubs and hickory societies in Sweden will hold open competitions and local championships this year.

Players from abroad are always welcome.

Several club matches have also been established and the match between Stockholm and the district of Skåne in the south is in its third year.

Sweden and Finland established an annual match last year. The first

match was played in Finland and the home team won comfortably.

The Anders Janson Memorial, a match between the Golf Historians and Bro-Bålsta GK, is in its seventh year. The club won convincingly last year.

The following clubs have sent out invitations to open tournaments in the 2009 season: Bro-Bålsta GK, Falsterbo GK, Hickory Goffers of Helsingborg, Isabergs GK, Lunds Akademiska GK, Lundsbrunn GK, Nynäshamns GK and Torekovs GK.



Klas Ohlsson found the club's first tournament book just before the old clubhouse was demolished.

PICTURE BY KLAS OHLSSON

How a club historian saved a treasure from the dump

Just before Lunds Akademiska Golfklubb had its old clubhouse demolished, professional Klas Ohlsson went in to have a look. He found the club's first tournament book.

Klas is the club's historian. He has organized the archives and took part when LAGK published its 70th anniversary club history in 2006.

His advice to other clubs is to appoint an historian. So far only 17 clubs in Sweden are known to

have historians. The Swedish Society of Golf Historians encourages clubs to appoint historians and will give them assistance.

Klas' advice is to check everything the club is throwing away. Also, it is important that the club historian is known in the club so that members know whom to contact when they want to donate material.

"The tournament book might well have been taken away to the city dump if we had not spotted it", says Klas.



THE SWEDISH GOLF MUSEUM

Rafael Sundblom, right, played against Erik Runfelt in the final of the International Swedish Championship in 1929. Runfelt won 10&9.

Rafael Sundblom, golf architect

When Rafael Sundblom was out skiing in the 1920's he found the terrain where Stockholms Golfklubb built its Kevinge course, opened in 1932.

He went on to become Sweden's first golf course architect and he designed another 18 courses around the country.

Lassi Tilander, president of the Golf Historians in Finland, tells the story of Rafael Sundblom.

He was a native of the island of Åland, which belongs to Finland, and

came to Stockholm for his education.

After he started to play golf he soon became a member of the green committee. He went to see Harry Colt in England. It was Colt's right-hand man John Morrison and Sundblom who planned the Kevinge course.

This is where we will play the 13th Swedish Hickory Championship in 2010.

Sundblom also designed Halmstad GK's North course, where the Solheim Cup was played in 2007.



Leif Einarsson have listed 700 Swedish golf books.

Check out Leif's books on the net

Leif Einarsson has compiled a list of 700 Swedish golf books published from 1798 to 2000.

Last year Leif invited the players in the Swedish Hickory Championship to his library. Now you can have a look at Leif's book list on the Society website (se below).

Click on Golf litteratur. The link is at the bottom of that page.

The oldest book on Leif's list is a translation of Edward Topham's *Letters from Edinburgh*.

Leif welcomes comments and information about books that should be on the list. His address: le.einarsson@telia.com.



Åke Skeppare 1925-2009.

Åke Skeppare never stopped writing

Our founding president Åke Skeppare passed away on 17 February. Like his favourite author P.G. Wodehouse, Åke never stopped writing.

Åke belonged to the group that started the Swedish Society of Golf Historians in 1996. He was our pre-

sident until 2007. He was a member of the committee of the Swedish Golf Museum until last year.

He finished his last article for the Yearbook just hours before he was taken to hospital this winter. For the 2009 edition Åke wrote about the swing advise hidden in Wodehouse's golf stories.

Årsskrift 2009. Editor: Pehr Thermaenius, pehr.thermaenius@bredband.net. David Pihlblad kindly helped us process the pictures. **Swedish Society of Golf Historians.** Please visit our website: <http://golfhistoriska.golf.se>. President: Hasse Bergdahl, hasse@masterpro.biz. Hon Secretary: Bosse Wickberg, bo.wickberg@telia.com.