



# YEARBOOK 2010

A summary of Årsskrift 2010.  
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## Heroes of 50 years ago took Sweden into Europe

**50 years ago, Sweden's amateur golfers ruled Europe. They won the first European Team Championship in 1959 and successfully defended their Championship in 1961, the year England competed for the first time.**

Two of the leading players of that era are Gunnar Carlander, 72 years old and Per-Olof Johansson, Peo among golfers, who is 76. In the Yearbook they tell their story to sports journalist Jörgen Anderson.

Gunnar and Peo remember how the Swedes surprised the other teams in Barcelona with their daily 36 holes of practice. To cope with the heat they drank a lot out on the course and used ice cubes to keep their drinks cool. With the ice came foreign bacteria that soon made their presence felt in the Swedish stomachs.

The weakened team staggered through the matches with a taxi following the players, ready to whisk them to a toilet.

In the final match Sweden beat France five matches to four with Peo scoring his fifth win, top of the team.

This was Sweden's breakthrough in international golf. Sweden's leading newspaper Dagens Nyheter devoted eight lines to report this major success. Most of its attention was directed at New York, where Ingemar Johansson had just knocked out Floyd Patterson to win the world heavyweight championship.

In the 1961 Championship in Brussels, Gunnar Carlander set the pace with a 4 and 3 win over France's leading player Henri de Lamaze. Gunnar was out in 29

shots and holed a bunker shot for eagle to finish the match. The Frenchman was duly impressed and offered to sponsor Gunnar for two years on the professional tours. But Gunnar turned down the offer.

"There was no future in golf in those days."

Gunnar Carlander and Peo Johansson started as caddies on the Tylösand course in Halmstad, where the Solheim Cup was played in 2007. They sneaked out on the course and played with one club each. Gunnar used a 2 iron, which might explain how he came to master the long irons during his playing career.

Gunnar entered the Swedish junior Championship when he was 13 years old. He lost in the final, but then won six times, a record that is likely to stand for a long time.

His best known match was against golf writer Henry Longhurst in the Scandinavian Championship in 1956. Longhurst was two up after three holes and "the old dog", as he called himself in his report to The Sunday Times, felt comfortable. Gunnar then played nine holes in 29 strokes to win the match.

Gunnar and Peo were among the five Swedish players in the Continent's team against Great Britain and Ireland in 1962. Peo won the Swedish Championship that year and qualified for the national team for the World Cup. He turned professional in 1967 and held teaching jobs in Sweden and South Africa.

Gunnar left competitive golf early to concentrate on printing. He expected to score his age a few years after turning 60. He is still trying.



Gunnar Carlander  
1964  
and today



J. ANDERSSON



Peo Johansson  
1962  
and today



J. ANDERSSON



SVEN O. BLUMQUIST

HALLANDSPOSTEN



*Claes Olsson of Göteborgs Golf Klubb found the trophy of Sweden's first international match.*

## **Club historian found lost cup at the cradle of golf in Sweden**

**Claes Olsson heads the historical committee of Göteborgs Golf Klubb. When he looked through the club's archive, he found a winners' cup, awarded after Sweden's first international match in 1914.**

The cup belonged to Knut Lignell, one of the club's players in the team that defeated Germany at Falsterbo. Claes found some of Lignell's trophies in a shoe bag in the clubhouse.

Claes formed his committee in 2008. Their job is to organize the club's archive with a unique col-

lection of photographs from the late 19th century, when golf started in Gothenburg.

Claes' advice to club historians is not to try to do everything at once.

"Finish what you have set out to accomplish before you throw yourself at new ideas", he says.

He says it is important to display the archive's hidden treasures to make new members aware of the club's rich history. Claes' final advice is to ensure that the club gives the historical committee a big enough working budget.

## **...and talking about Gothenburg – sure the Scots played, we think**

**Golf Historians David Malcolm and David Hamilton are convinced that Scots and their friends played golf in Gothenburg in the 18th century. But so far we have no hard evidence.**

During the Hickory Grail match in Falsterbo last summer, David Hamilton gave a presentation on the ties between Scotland and Gothenburg. The city was a safe haven for Scots who had fought for Bonnie Prince Charlie during the 1745–1746 rebellion.

One of the young men who came to Gothenburg was George Carnegie, who became grandfather to the poet George Fullerton Carnegie. So when Fullerton Carnegie gambled and made golfing bets he used money earned from exporting Swedish iron and timber.

One of Carnegie's apprentices in Gothenburg was Thomas Erskine,

who was sent over from Scotland as a boy. He became a leading merchant and earned enough money to buy Cambo house and the Old Course in St Andrews when he moved back to Fife in 1790.

Erskine kept close ties with Scotland during his years in Sweden and often went back home for visits. Did he bring clubs and balls to Gothenburg and did he play with his British and Swedish friends? That is what we want to know.

David Malcolm thinks they did and he wrote to us:

"Like the Scots settlers in the Americas, Africa, Asia and Australia, who transported their golf as if a part of their domestic furniture, the 18th Century Scots émigrés in Sweden almost certainly played the game in their new found home, for they knew nothing else."

## **Hickory Championship in Stockholm**

**The 13th Swedish Hickory Championship will be played at Stockholms GK on 23-24 July.**

The gentlemen's Championship will be played over 36 holes. After the first round on Friday 23 July there will be a cut. At least 60 players will qualify for the second round on Saturday 24 July. Those who miss

the cut are invited to play a new handicap tournament, Svenska Hickorykannan, on nearby Djursholms GK.

The ladies' and seniors' Championships will be played over one round on 24 July. Please visit <http://golfhistoriska.golf.se> or the Stockholms GK's website [www.sgk.nu](http://www.sgk.nu) for more information.



*Thomas Erskine came to Gothenburg as a boy. When he moved back to Scotland he was captain of the Society of St Andrews golfers and owned the Old course.*



*Defending champions Marie Wennersten-From and Per G Nyman.*