



YEARBOOK 2008

A summary of Årsskrift 2008.
Published by The Swedish Society of Golf Historians.



Sweden's Grailer Claes Kvist will look after the teams in 2009.



MAP BY HELENA FAHLESON

To golf or not to golf?
Several courses and Hamlet's castle in Helsingør are within reach from Falsterbo.

Sweden welcomes Grail teams in 2009

The British Society of Golf Collectors has accepted our invitation to play the match against USA for The Hickory Grail in 2009 at Falsterbo GK.

The day after the match we will play the 12th Swedish Hickory Championship, also at Falsterbo.

Falsterbo is the premier links course in Scandinavia, where many championships have been played. The Grail match and the championship will help the club celebrate its centenary in 2009.

Europe's captain David Kirkwood said after the decision:

"We were impressed by Falsterbo and by the Swedish presentation."

"Players who have been over to compete in your Championship have given good marks to Swedish hickory golf."

"And as golf historians we look forward to take part in the Falsterbo club's celebration of its centenary."

Claes Kvist has played on the

European team in the last two matches in Kilspindie in Scotland in 2005 and in Brook Hollow, Texas, in 2007. He will be the Swedish Society's representative on the match committee.

The sixth match for The Hickory Grail will be played on Friday 31st July. The Swedish Hickory Championship is the next day, Saturday August 1st.

The Falsterbo links is featured in Pat Ward Tomas' *The World Atlas of Golf* on pages 96-97.

"Falsterbo incorporates all the links qualities of turf, natural hazards and changes of wind", he writes.

The club's website is at www.falsterbogk.se

Near Falsterbo, in the district of Skåne, there are several other prime golf courses. For those who prefer to forget about golf there is much to be seen around Skåne and across the bridge in Denmark.

Flight connections are excellent with Copenhagen's Kastrup airport, right by the bridge.

...but first we play in Isaberg

The 11th Swedish Hickory Championship will be played at Isaberg GK in southern Sweden.

We will help the Isaberg club to celebrate its 40th anniversary. The course cuts through the pine forests of the district of Småland, the land of Ikea and Emil i Lönneberga.

The Championship is on Saturday July 26th 2008.

Last year 87 players entered the Championships for ladies, gentle-

men and veterans (65 years during the year). We expect a good turnout this year also, led by defending champions Pia Ramel, Pierre Fulke and Ove Stenbeck.

Book collector Leif Einarsson has invited everybody to his library on Friday evening.

There are a hotel and cottages for rent near the golf course.

Interested? Write to Jörgen Linse, jorgen.linse@telia.com, or Pehr Thermaenius, pehr.thermaenius@bredband.net.



PICTURE BY PIERRE FULKE

The Ryder Cup enjoys the company of the Swedish Hickory Champion's cup in Pierre Fulke's trophy cabinet.



Chris Deinlein became the first US player to enter the Swedish Hickory Championship.

Hickory celebration in Ljunghusen

The Swedish Hickory Championship celebrated its 10th anniversary on the links of Ljunghusen, near Falsterbo.

The Ljunghusen club celebrated its 75 anniversary in 2007 and we played our front nine holes on the original course along the beach.

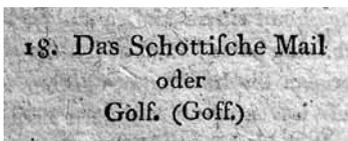
All three champions won by large margins. Home player Pia Ramel ran away from European LPGA winner Marie Wennersten From, while 2002 Ryder Cup winner Pierre Fulke scored a level par

71 to beat off fellow tour winner Adam Mednick and other players with impressive steel tournament records. Veteran favourite Ove Stenbeck lived up to expectations.

Ljunghusen veteran Sture Svantesson spoke at the dinner about what the game was like when he was a boy.

"Happiness was a good brassie lie", he said.

"Lots of things have changed, but not the flowers along the beach. I hope you did not miss them."



JCF GutsMuths had a chapter on golf in his 1796 sports handbook.

Golf in a sports handbook in 1796

A sports handbook, with four pages of golf, was read in Sweden around 1800.

Leif Einarsson, who specializes in early Swedish golf books, found this, until now, unknown book in the Royal Library in Stockholm. He learnt about the book in *100 Jahre Golf in Deutschland*,

It was written in German by JCF GutsMuths (1759-1839), who is known as the father of gymnastics in Germany.

He wrote his book - the title is too long for this summary - to reform youth. It was printed in 1796. He got his information about golf from England's most widely used betting handbook.

This book was published in 1790 under the name of whist champion Edmond Hoyle, although Hoyle by then had been

dead for 21 years. His name still had pulling power and the publisher kept on using it.

There is nothing to suggest that GutsMuths ever played golf or even saw it played. He could not read English, so he had an English pupil, 16-year-old Sam Glover from Birmingham, to translate Hoyle's golf chapter.

Another book by GutsMuths was published in Swedish a few years later. Unfortunately there is no golf in this book.

Still we believe that the golf chapter in German was read by the educated Swedish public around the turn of the century. There are three copies in the Royal Library, so the book might well have had a good circulation in Sweden.

The big questions are: Who read it? And did they start to play?



PICTURE BY VIKTOR SETTERBERG



The club carrier Viktoria was used in Arendal in 1892 - but by whom?

Viktoria is the star of the Museum

The club carrier Viktoria has come to reside in the Swedish Golf Museum in Landskrona, near Falsterbo.

Viktoria is a club carrier made of wood. She can be seen in a photograph taken by Viktor Setterberg in 1892 on the links of Arendal in Gothenburgh.

Viktoria has her name cut in runes under her handle. But we do not know to whom she belonged.

Viktor Setterberg was the first Swedish golf nut. He saw golf being played at Arendal, where the gentry of Gothenburgh, on the west coast, enjoyed sailing and

other sports. The golf club was started by A.V. Despard, who was pastor at the city's Church of England congregation.

When Despard's club failed, Setterberg carried on. He started Gothenburgh Golf Club in 1904 and was the first secretary of the Swedish Golf Union.

He himself estimated he wrote 40 000 pages on golf. He translated the rules, biked along the coast to find suitable golf land and he was an enthusiastic photographer. His papers and pictures are kept in the collection of the Gothenburgh Golf Club.

If only he had told us who carried Viktoria.



Åke Skeppare, founding president of the Society, was succeeded by Hasse Bergdahl at the 2007 AGM.

Hasse took over from Åke

Åke Skeppare, who took the initiative to start our Society in 1996, retired as president last year. Our new president is Hasse Bergdahl, professional at Elisefarm GC in Skåne.

Hasse is one of Sweden's most respected golf teachers. His aim for the Society is to help Swedish golf-players so that they can also become golfers.

"We need to spread knowledge about the history of the game and the spirit of the rules", he writes in the yearbook.

Åke has been a student of the history of golf since he started to play in the university town of

Uppsala in the 1940's. He is also a driving force in Jeeves, the Swedish Wodehouse Society.

In the yearbook Åke has written an article on W.E Norris article *The Apotheosis of golf*, published in 1892.

Åke would have liked to play a match against the author and he quotes Norris' conclusion:

"I cannot pretend to explain how it is that you can play golf day after day and year after year without growing tired of it; I know no other game of which as much could be said: but, Heaven be praised! so it is."

• The Swedish Society of Golf Historians has 630 members.



Tove Sundquist and Sara Ericsson played for Ågesta GK when the club won the 2007 Tjejligan.

Ågesta girls are part of our history

The Ågesta GK girl's team won the 2007 "Tjejligan", a team matchplay competition among Stockholm clubs. Ågesta GK is 50 years old this year and the girls are important in the club's history.

Committee member Annika Lindström writes that she thinks Ågesta was Sweden's first club to set up training groups for girls to encourage them to take up golf. Next year we will know if this is right. The Society has invited clubs to write and tell us about their veteran girls. In Årsskrift 2009 we will have an article that

covers this important part of the history of golf in Sweden. It will be a good read.

Visby GK, on the Baltic island of Gotland, also celebrates 50 years in 2008. The club has published a long club history on its website. It tells of financial difficulties at the start. The committee introduced life membership for the price of just over 100 pounds. But no one took the offer.

This year's third club to celebrate 50 years is Västervik in the southeast. The club history tells about Malte Nilsson who as president worked for the club for 14 years, but he did not play golf.



Prince Bertil, in his trademark beret, splashed his way round the new Sollentuna course and provided a photo-op for Ronny Karlsson.

PICTURE BY RONNY KARLSSON

Too wet? Not for me!

On the cover this year is Sweden's prince Bertil, photographed in 1972 by Ronny Karlsson. He is Sweden's most experienced golf photographer with pictures from 30 or so Scandinavian Masters in his files.

Prince Bertil (1912–1997), the uncle of king Carl Gustaf, was an enthusiastic golfer with a single figure handicap. When golf boomed in Sweden in the 1970's, new clubs asked the Prince to come and play the opening round on their courses. Bertil obliged.

Our cover picture was taken on a miserable September day when the Prince performed his duty in Sollentuna, just north of Stockholm. Club officials wanted to cut the round short to save the Prince from getting soaked, but Bertil would have none of it.

Ronny was then new in golf but he was an experienced sports photographer. He saw the potential for a good picture and kept his focus on the Prince. He got his chance on the second tee, and he took it.

Ronny later became the club's president.