



YEARBOOK 2014

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The first golf course in the world – where Britons were not driving



Ida and Edvard Sager were among the first Swedes who played golf. The picture to the right shows Ida out on the course at the Ryfors estate, possibly around 1900. Edvard is pictured on the cover of the yearbook (above).

Recently found documents and photographs have given us new knowledge of the Sager family, Sweden's golf pioneers.

The family started playing in 1888 on a course at their manor Ryfors in south-western Sweden. This is arguably the first golf course in the world that was built without Scottish or English players taking the initiative.

The newly found documents tell us about Ida Sager and her husband Edvard, who seem to have been Sweden's first serious golf nuts.

Edvard had inherited the estate together with his brother. They visited England and learnt about golf. They commissioned an English landscape architect to lay

out a park and a golf course at Ryfors.

Among the documents is Ida Sager's score sheet, where she has recorded 105 nine-hole rounds, hole by hole, in the years 1897–1899. Her eclectic score for these years improved steadily: 78, 68 and 64.

Also among the documents is a golfing memo written by Edvard Sager. Among his advice is: "Do not try to lift the ball with your iron." Edvard Sager was one of the players who started Stockholms Golfklubb and the Swedish Golf Federation.

The Ryfors course is of the same generation as the courses in Pau, Biarritz and Antwerp. All these courses were laid out by Britons. Ryfors was Swedish.



Watch them swing



The first professional tournament in Sweden was in Gothenburg in 1916. It is shown on a film, available on the Sveriges Television (Sweden's BBC) website. The players are, left to right: Robert Turnbull, Copenhagen, William Hester, Falsterbo, Ted Roberts, Stockholm and George Roberts, Gothenburg. The film is shown here: <http://www.oppet-arkiv.se/video/1274276/golf>

Champions stayed on their thrones



JÖRGEN LINSE

Hasse Bergdahl, above, successfully defended his Swedish Hickory Matchplay Championship in 2013. The 2014 tournament will be played on the 1930's links of Ljunghusens GK on 28-29 June.

Magnus Persson Atlevi also defended his title in the Swedish Hickory Championship. But the holder of the ladies' title, Monica Andersson, lost the playoff to Eva Adermark.

Sweden won the 2013 Nordic Hickory Match against Finland.



FALSTERBO GOLFKLUBB

The four leading professionals in Scandinavia around 1920. From left to right: George Roberts, Gothenburg, Rubert Murray, Copenhagen, William Hester, Falsterbo and Ted Roberts, Stockholm.

From Woolton to Sweden

The professionals of Sweden's three leading clubs in the early 20th century had all been trained by Charlie Roberts at Woolton Golf Club near Liverpool. Bengt Modéer, historian at Falsterbo Golfklubb, has researched the schooling of those who taught Sweden to play golf.

George Roberts came first. He had worked for his older brother Charlie at Woolton. He took a job in Stockholm for the summer of 1910. On his way home he played an exhibition in Gothenburg and was promptly hired by the

club. He stayed there until he died in 1927.

Next was William Hester, who also worked for Charlie Roberts. He took the job at Falsterbo in 1912 and stayed until 1947. He then worked in Sweden for the rest of his life. He died in 1962.

Ted, the youngest of the Roberts brothers, also worked for Charlie. On George's advice he took the job in Stockholm in 1914 and stayed until he died in 1978.

Charlie Roberts left the Woolton club in 1915 to join the army. He was killed in France in 1918.

Chris won historic double



JÖRGEN LINSE

Chris Homer won the seniors' competition on the first day of the 2013 Swedish Hickory Championship. Next day he also won the handicap competition for the Swedish Hickory Jug. Never before has a player won twice in the championship weekend. Chris won the gentlemen's championship in 2001, so he now has his name on three of the trophies. The 2014 championship is held at Bro-Bälsta GK, near Stockholm, at 2-3 August.

The Swedish Society of Golf Historians. Please visit our website: www.golfhistoriska.se. There you will find Sveriges Hickorykalender with information about hickory golf tournaments in Sweden. President: Georg Kittel, georg.kittel@home.se. Hon Secretary: Hans Grandin, info@golfhistoriska.se. Editor of the yearbook: Pehr Thermaenius, pehr.thermaenius@gmail.com.