

News from Vasaloppet's Veteran Club

April 2022 No. 2

Historic participation in Stafettvasan 2022

For Vasaloppet veterans, Stafettvasan 2022 became historic in two ways. In part because it was the first time we could pull together a full women's team, and in part because it was the first time that three Vasaloppet veteran teams stood on the starting line! (Unfortunately, Vasaloppet Veteran Team 3 had to abort their race as the skier on the second section took an unfortunate fall on the hills down towards Tennäng, injuring their shoulder and making it impossible to continue the race. The injured party has since fully recovered). A total of 1,542 teams were registered, of which 1,129 completed.

The five ladies in Vasaloppet Veteran Team 1 wrote history by completing Stafettvasan with very honourable results:

1st section • 883 Margareta Östensson Lindblom, Sä lens IF
2nd section • 1077 Helén Östensson, Sä lens IF
3rd section • 987 Kristin Back Frisk, Vänersborgs Skidklubb
4th section • 906 Gudrun Hedlund, Falu IK
5th section • 1064 Inger Olsson, Korsnäs IF Skidor

These five resilient ladies skied down to Mora with a time of 7:53:50, thus taking place 957.

Vasaloppet Veteran Team 2, with one lady and four men, were slightly faster down to Mora with a time of 7:45:01, placing 933rd. The team consisted of:

1st section • 845 Heinz Felsner, Austria
2nd section • 889 Claes-Erik Karlsson, Turebergs IF
3rd section • 928 Carina Johansson, Tumba Mälarhöjden OK
4th section • 625 Sören Holmberg, Leksands SLK
5th section • 943 Karl-Gustav Björk, Finland

Forty-one new Vasaloppet veterans

During the Winter Week, we got forty-one new Vasaloppet veterans, one of whom is a lady, as well as seventeen new 40-racers, five new 50-racers and Gösta Lönnelid completed his 60th race. The latter will be introduced in detail in a special feature on page 4.

The new 50-race veterans:

- ✓ 161 Rune Persson, Malungs IF
- ✓ 201 Sven-Erik Eriksson, Stora Tuna IK Skidor
- ✓ 254 Stig Berg, Bodsjöböle SK
- ✓ 307 Folke Sjöberg, Lugi SK
- ✓ 341 Stig Liljeström, Täby OK

With these five additions, the number of 50-race veterans grew this year to fifty-three. Who could imagine this when Mora-born Vasaloppet Veteran 9 Gösta Aronsson skied down to Mora in 2000, becoming the first person to ski 50 Vasaloppet!

Interview with Vasaloppet Veteran 77

Gösta Lönnelid

Vasaloppet Veteran 77 Gösta Lönnelid skied to Mora in Öppet Spår on Monday, February 28, becoming our third 60-race veteran! Gösta's time was 7:08:44; definitely something to write home about for a skier who turns eighty-four at the beginning of May!

This time must undoubtedly instil respect in all Vasaloppet veterans! As far as we can see, Gösta has skied Vasaloppet or Öppet Spår every year since his first race in 1962!

The newsletter held a phone interview with Gösta just over a week after the fact and Gösta reported the following;

"Conditions were very fine this day, 5-6 degrees below zero at the start, sunshine and very nice tracks. In short, perfect conditions. It was a bit windy and some snow drifted into the tracks up on the bogs but it didn't disrupt things too bad. I skied using paraffin wax, completely without grip wax. At first I skated a lot but eventually that brought on some discomfort in my legs so I switched to poling my way forward."

Pure diagonal skiing?

"No, not for a metre, Gösta answers. "The tracks these days are so tightly packed, it was like skiing on rails. I skied on my well-used Fischer skis but I've tried different brands over the years. For a few years, I used Finnish Järvinen-branded skies which I got directly from Veikko Hakulinen, a skier I knew well. Since I speak Meänkieli (Tornedalen Finnish) I'd acted as interpreter several times for conversations between Hakulinen and Sixten Jernberg. In 1965 I skied Vasaloppet with a time of 4:50:23 on these Järvinen wood skis, finishing in eleventh place and I consider it my best race," concludes Gösta.

It can be added that Gösta was received at the finish line by Dalarna men and Vasaloppet veterans 76 John-Erik Eggens, 273 Tore Södersten and 493 Karl Erik "KEA" Andersson.

KEA also says that Gösta looked exceptionally sprightly at the finish line in Mora and that Gösta, true to his habit, took a training trip up to Eldris the next day where KEA met him by coincidence!

Veterans Club members collectively congratulate a man of great strength for his achievement! It will be a pleasure to hand over a 60-race plaque to Vasaloppet veteran 77 Gösta Lönnelid, IFK Mora at this autumn's annual meeting!

Image Caption: Vasaloppet veteran 77 Gösta Lönnelid across the finish line, becoming the third Veteran club 60-racer!

Summer Week 2022

You can sign up for the Summer Week 2022 right now.
The following activities are planned:

Friday 12 August: Cykelvasan Öppet Spår, 94 km, start Sälen
Friday 12 August: Cykelvasasprinten, 1 km, Lindvallen, Sälen
Saturday 13 August: Cykelvasan 90, 94 km, start Sälen
Sunday 14 August: Cykelvasan 45, 45 km, start Oxberg
Sunday 14 August: Cykelvasan 30, 32 km, start Oxberg
Sunday 14 August: Ungdomscykelvasan, 32 km, start Oxberg
Friday 19 August: Trailvasan 10, 10 km, start Mora
Saturday 20 August: Ultravasan 90, 90 km, start Sälen
Saturday 20 August: Ultravasan 45, 45 km, start Oxberg
Saturday 20 August: Trailvasan 30, 30 km, start Oxberg
Saturday 20 August: Vasastafetten, 90 km, running relay for ten-person teams, start Sälen
Saturday 20 August: Vasakvartetten, 90 km, running relay for four-person teams, start Sälen

DISCOUNT!

Discounted prices for us Vasaloppet veterans

Friday 12 August: Cykelvasan Öppet Spår 90, start Sälen
Sunday 14 August: Cykelvasan 45, start Oxberg
Sunday 14 August: Cykelvasan 30, start Oxberg

Registration has been open for a good amount of time. Go to Vasaloppet's website and you will find the right place to register. The registration code is VETERAN-CYKEL-2022

Priority and early registration for the Winter Week 2023

As Vasaloppet veterans, we have the advantage of guaranteed start places for any Winter Week 2023 races. This so-called "priority registration" must be no later than 2022-12-31!

The Vasaloppet organization would like if Vasaloppet veterans who already intend to participate in a 2023 race are early with their registration. Of course, an early registration makes the organization's work easier, as the January - February period is always busy! Help out the registration staff by registering as soon as possible! And do not forget that both the registration code below and our special Vasaloppet veteran benefits are tied to you as an individual; they should be handled with good judgment and, above all, not abused!

For priority or early registration, use the code VETERAN-VASA-2023.

The annual meeting this autumn

After two years of digital annual meetings, this autumn will allow us to meet again with a more "traditional" annual meeting in Mora Parken with the usual negotiations, mingling, stage performances, dining and other activities. The annual meeting will be held on Saturday, September 3, and agendas with an invitation will be in the July newsletter.

Membership benefits and discounts

We currently have partnership deals with Stadium sports stores and nine facilities from Frösö Park, Östersund, and Gällö Skidtunnel in the north to Kviberg Park Hotel & Conference and Kviberg Skidanläggning, Gothenburg, in the south. Take the opportunity to use these facilities for both training and recreation! By paying the Veteran Club membership fee and showing that you are a paying member upon arrival you can benefit from the following discounts:

Stadium: Discount on purchases in Mora and Sälen during the Vasaloppet Winter Week with the same percentage as you have completed Vasaloppet years as a veteran. You Veteran Club membership fee must be paid to avail of this offer.

Frösö Park: 15% off standard prices for accommodation including breakfast for members and companions in the same room/cabin. Cannot be combined with other discounts.

Gällö Ski Tunnel: 30% off standard prices (both one-day and multi-day cards) for skiing in the tunnel. 20% off standard prices for accommodation in the holiday village.

Orsa Grönklitt and Mora Parken: 10% off standard accommodation prices for members and companions in the same room/cabin (though not during high season weeks such as Christmas/New Year, sports holidays, Easter and more). Cannot be combined with other discounts.

Högbo Brukshotell and Högbo Bruk: 20% discount off standard accommodation prices including breakfast buffet during low season for members and companions in the same room. Cannot be combined with other discounts. 30% discount off standard prices for skiing in the artificially frozen ski tracks. Discount applies in addition to other discounts (groups, pensioners etc.) that might be applicable.

Torsby Skidtunnel & Sportcenter: 30% discount off standard prices (one-day and multi-day cards) for skiing in the ski tunnel. Cannot be combined with other discounts.

Täby Konstsnöspår: 15% discount off the standard price of seasonal cards.

First Hotel Billingeus: Up to 30% off standard prices for accommodation including breakfast for members and companions in the same room. Cannot be combined with other discounts.

Kviberg Skidanläggning and Kviberg Park Hotel & Conference: 10% off standard prices for accommodation including parking space in a heated garage for members and companions in the same room. 20% discount off standard prices for skiing in Kviberg Skidanläggning, both for one-day visits and annual cards. A one-time fee applies for armbands for 10-cards and annual cards.

For all overnight stays you need to book well in advance of arrival!

Work with our partners!