

News from Vasaloppets Veteranklubb

April 2021 No. 2

Third win for Lina Korsgren

Winter 2020-2021 is now over and warmer winds are starting to blow in across the country. However, the snow remains in large parts of northern Sweden and mountain tourism during the Easter weekend benefited ski resorts that experienced problems earlier this winter.

The fact that Vasaåket and Vasaloppet could be carried out in these corona times must be attributed to Vasaloppet's management, who, with innovative thinking and quick decisions, raised the question of how an adjusted winter week should be carried out. Thank you for that; us Vasaloppet veterans are very happy that everything can be done in the best possible way. You could also say that we got another honorary member of Vasaloppet veteran club where Lina Korsgren took her third victory over 90 km. Welcome, Lina!

The fact that Lina was able to put some distance between her and Norwegian ski queen Marit Bjørgen at the end of the race made Lina's performance even more impressive!

Regarding the past winter activities, Vasaloppet's Mats Rylander comments on the organization of Vasaloppet for this year's "winter month"; see reports on the next page.

Annual meeting Mora, 4 September

A traditional annual meeting will be held in Mora on Saturday 4 September, unless something unexpected occurs on the COVID-19 front, and if all participants are fully vaccinated. A small working group has already been commissioned to prepare the annual meeting and if you have wishes and ideas, you are welcome to contact board member 906 Gudrun Hedlund or 819 Bosse Wallin.

Next year Vasaloppet celebrates 100 years! There is great interest in the anniversary – Vasaloppet 2022 is fully booked and 28,000 have already signed up for one of the races during the winter week 2022.

Image caption Marit Bjørgen and Lina Korsgren during Vasaloppet 90



Vasaåket and Vasaloppet

This year's winter week and the traditional Vasaloppet have required a lot of innovation. This is what Mats Rylander of the Vasaloppet says when he was asked to do a retrospective for the newsletter.

The preparations for Vasaåket contained a lot of new things that the Vasaloppet organization had not previously worked on. Only two competitions would be held, elite competitions for Tjejvasan and Vasaloppet. For our organization, the focus was on creating a Vasaåket that would ensure minimal spread of the COVID-19 virus but still be a good skiing experience in Vasaloppet Arena.

Dialogue with authorities To help us, we had a long dialogue with authorities such as the Public Health Agency of

Sweden, the police and Region Dalarna. We also enlisted the help of other organizations such as Gotland Grand National (Enduro) to create safe processes. An action plan and guidelines were created and we also carried out training for officials and staff on how to organize starting points, checkpoints, finishes, etc. Due to legal limitations, we had to remove certain features that we would normally have. No number tags, no result reports, recommended start times, adjusted start group sizes, and more. Had we not made these adjustments, we would have been classified as an event that would have prevented us from carrying out Vasaåket.

Functionaires for a long time Another challenge was to organize how officials and staff could work with Vasaåket for such a long time. One difference from previous years is that the number of volunteers was much smaller, but those who worked had to take more responsibility with more working days. The Functionaires did their job fantastically and adapted their activities and workplaces based on current restrictions.

Positive feedback

Lucky weather gave us good, fast tracks throughout the period. A lot of people left faster than before. The wind picked up a lot for last weekend but we also managed to deal with this. We have had an evaluation with Sveriges Television and the TV broadcasts of Tjejvasan and Vasaloppet was once again a great success for both us and SVT. During Vasaåket, we have been examined by both authorities and the media in a matter-of-fact and critical way. When we look back at the implementation of Vasaåket, we have done very well and the response from our guests, partners, etc. has largely been just positive. About 20,000 people completed Vasaåket, of which 1,600 chose Vasaåket Home. We can see how important Vasaloppet's role is in society. Our ownership directives say that we should be an 'engine of exercise and health', which has really been achieved, and which is particularly important in these pandemic times.

Image caption Mats Rylander, Vasaloppet
2: Covid-19-safe checkpoint design during Vasaåket



Vasaloppet veterans in the Vasaloppet Arena

In Monday's Vasaåket (2021-03-01) many Vasaloppet veterans came to the start and enjoyed nice solid tracks. Three veterans each ran their 50th race and Vidar Lövving, Tibro OK, was the fastest of these three. Both Max Claesson, Hammarby IF, and Yngve Gustavsson, Gimo IF SK, also reached Mora with good results.

Earlier in the Vasaloppet, Kent Hiller, Alvesta, finished 50th. Kent was assisted from Risberg to the finish line in Mora by long-time Vasaloppet coach Mattias Svahn. Vasaloppet veteran 309 Stig Ericsson, Åskloster, also completed his 50th Vasaloppet. Gösta Lönnelid, Mora, represented Narkens IF finished his 59th. Our only French Vasaloppet veteran, No. 999 Boris Petroff, who lives in Paris, ran his 33th race. Thirteen Vasaloppet veterans made their 40th race between Sälen and Mora. Vasaloppet's veteran newcomer 1076 Magnus Hedlund, Granbergdals IF, was one of the elite in Sunday's regular Vasaloppet and had the extraordinary time of 4:07:43!

This year we have twenty-five new Vasaloppet veterans and now we can count 1,119 veterans in our ranks! Our combined ski miles in Vasaloppet last 85 laps around the world along the equator! With skis on your feet!

Vasaloppet veteran and board member 493 Karl-Erik "KEA" Andersson reported from the finish line.

Image caption Vidar Lövving, Tibro OK, completed his 50 Vasaloppet. Vidar was accompanied by his son throughout the journey.

Image caption New Vasaloppet veteran 1076 Magnus Hedlund, Granbergdals IF, was the only one to belong to the elite.

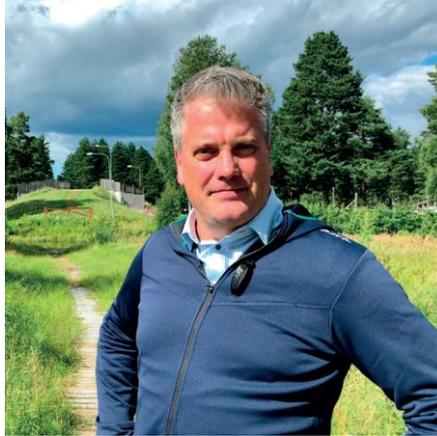
Image caption (bottom left): Max Claesson, Hammarby IF, had a big welcome party after the finish at the Zorn Museum.

Image caption (bottom right): Yngve Gustavsson, Gimo IF SK, fell on the slopes after Hökberg. After a lengthy medical check-up by paramedics, he was able to continue towards Mora and reach the finish line happily.



Vasaloppet organization

Johan Eriksson, who stepped in as acting manager after Eva-Lena Frick, has since January taken over as CEO of Vasaloppet. Gun-Britt Cristoferson and Mats Rylander, who have supported the Veteran Club for many years and have been our closest contacts with the Vasaloppet organization, will continue that mission.



Vasaloppet relay 2022

After a break in the winter of 2021, we will hopefully be able to put two veteran teams in the relay 2022. It will take place on Friday 4 March 2022.

A dozen expressions of interest have been noted from relay 2021 but several of these have already skied sections before so there's room for aspiring first timers. Previous years have shown that a couple of reserves are also needed, so feel free to register your interest by contacting us by email at arne.sundquist@orsalheden.se or phone +46 (0)70-527 79 28.

Vasaloppet Winter Week 2022

There are already 31,900 people registered for the winter week 2022. Us Vasaloppet veterans have some designated starting places so there is still time to register.

Registration and discounts for Vasaloppet veterans in Vasaloppet Winter Week 2022

(skiers who have 30 years of Vasaloppet and/or Open Track)

Registration for Vasaloppet must be made no later than 2021-12-31. If you already know that you are participating, it would be good to register now, as it makes it easier for us at Vasaloppets office!

Registration

As veterans, you can register in three different ways. Your registration is personal and cannot be transferred or sold to anyone else.

1. Go to www.vasaloppet.se and enter Registration/My Pages. Log in with your account details, select the breed, follow the instructions. When prompted for a promo code, enter the code you received in the newsletter. Continue paying by card or internet bank (you also use this open track code Monday, 2022-02-28, which then gives you a free start).
2. Register by paying the fee to PlusGiro 1922-4, Vasaloppsföreningen Sälen–Mora. There you

enter which race you are participating in, your name, social security number and club.

3. When you register for a race that is free (31st,41st and 50th and beyond) you sign up by sending an email to info@vasaloppet.se with the same information as above, or call 0250-392 00 and choose Vasaloppet.

VETERANPRISER

Registration fees for Vasaloppet's winter week 2022. For Nattvasan, this price is only available for individual starts, not teams.

Vasaloppet	6/3	961 SEK
Nattvasan 90	4/3	790 SEK
Nattvasan 45	4/3	480SEK
Nattvasan 30	4/3	375 SEK
Vasaloppet 45	1/3	440 SEK
Vasaloppet 30	25/2	338 SEK
Girl vase	26/2	455 SEK
Open Track Sunday	27/2	695 SEK
Open Track Monday	28/2	Free start

FREE STARTER

New veterans start their 31st race for free. Anyone who has ridden their 40th race can start for free in their 41st race at Vasaloppet on Sunday 6 March or Open Track Sunday, February 27. The 50th race is also free when you have ridden 50 races you start for free in all races in the future!

START INSURANCE READY

You can register for insurance at the time of your registration; Folksam Exercise Race Insurance Base. It is insurable of illness and accident and costs SEK 155 per year.

The larger Folksam Exercise Race Insurance Large costs SEK 275. With it, you will receive your registration fee if you cannot start as planned due to illness or injury, and you will leave a valid doctor's letter to Folksam.