

News from Vasaloppets Veteranklubb

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MINI-PROFILE

Board member 819 Bosse Wallin

Vasalopps veteran 819 Bosse Wallin was born in the village of Östnor in Mora. It's not surprising that he started skiing given where he came from. Östnor has trained a number of talented skiers.

The first IFK Mora winner in Vasaloppet, Anders Ström came from Östnor as well as both Nils "Mora-Nisse" Karlsson (nine wins in Vasaloppet and a 50 km Olympic gold in St Moritz in 1948) and Gunnar Eriksson (relay gold in St Moritz in 1948 and world championship gold in 50 km in Lake Placid). We should also mention our first "50-racer", Vasalopps veteran number 9 Gösta Aronsson, also from Östnor and related to Bosse! Bosse says that when Gösta Aronsson finished his 50th race between Sälen and Mora, Bosse caught up with Gösta between Gopshus and Hökberg and accompanied him up to the control station in Hökberg. Bosse Wallin had prominent role models in Östnor— there is no doubt about that!

Bosse himself has been a sharp Vasaloppet skier in his day! How about the time 4:53 in 1983? Bosse became a Vasaloppet veteran in 2013 and has also ridden Stafettvasan, Kortvasan and Halvvasan as well as Marcialonga, Engadin Ski marathon, Vasaloppet China, Birkebeinern and Svalbard Ski marathon and a number of other races.

When Bosse returned to his childhood and youth in Östnor, he tells us that many other young people, started in Lilla Vasaloppet. Getting to and from school on skis during the winter was the rule than the exception. The ski tracks to the school went between the apple trees on Mora-Nisses land. Östnor was the first with electrically lit trails in Mora municipality and Bosse remembers that when it was inaugurated.

Bosse's interest in cross-country skiing is still great and he is a member of vasaloppet's seeding committee, as well as responsible for skiing in Hökberg at Vasaloppet 30 and Open Track Monday. Bosse has been on the veteran club's board since 2014 and his term was extended last fall. In civilian life, Bosse has been an operations technician at Orsa municipality and worked with water supply.

During his active time Bosse competed for a few years for Orsa SK, but most of his races for IFK Mora!

Image caption Bosse Wallin and Gudrun Hedlund after completing the Svalbard Ski Marathon 2016



MINI-PROFILE

Board member 906 Gudrun Hedlund

Vasalopps veteran 906 Gudrun Hedlund became a veteran in 2015 and has so far completed a total of 34 Vasaloppet/Open Track. In addition, Gudrun has completed an impressive number of other ski races, Engelbrektsloppet, Raid Norvegia Svezia and other foreign competitions, including Marcialonga, Engadin Skimarathon, Dolomitenlauf, Lavaze in Val di Fiemme, König Ludvig Lauf, Finlandia-hiihto, Birkebeiner, Tarttu Skimaraton, Transjurassiene, Jizerska Ski, La Diagonela and Svalbard marathon.

When it comes to ski competitions on other continents, Gudrun has ridden Gatineau Race in Canada, American Birkebeiner and Vasaloppet China and won three Worldloppet Masters (2008, 2012, 2019). In 2014 Gudrun became the first woman to complete "A Swedish Classic" 25 times.

Gudrun was born and raised in Särnaheden northwestern Dalarna, Älvdalens municipality. "Särna-Hedlund", was from Särnaheden where Gudrun comes from and they are both related to each other.

Gudrun has lived in Falun for a long time and after first competing for Slätta SK she later joined Falu IK. She's a trained medical secretary and has been employed by Dalarna County Council and has developed computer support for planning, implementing and monitoring the operations of all six major hospitals in the region. Gudrun has been on the Veterans Club's board since 2016 and her term of office was extended at the annual meeting in September 2020.

Image caption Gudrun Hedlund after finishing the Sweden-France cycling race in 2018



Veteran Gösta Viker 100 years

It is not every day that Vasaloppet Veterans get the opportunity to celebrate a centenarian, but it happened on 26 November. Gösta Viker, from Falun, turned 100 years old.

Gösta Viker, who has been technical director at Sveriges Radio in Falun, received a good presentation in Falukuriren newspaper on the same day. Gösta was born on a farm on Lidingö in Stockholm a hundred years ago. Gösta has always enjoyed the outdoors and takes a long walk every day in his home district of Falun. Gösta started his skiing career relatively late in life and became a Vasaloppet veteran in 2002 after turning 81 years old. He completed his last Open Track in 2003.

Gösta has had many aspects of life. He started as an errand boy at Radiotjänst at Kungsgatan 8 in Stockholm and much of the work consisted of walking around with scripts for all the actors and radio voices of the time, not least to the Dramatic Theatre by Nybroplan. Eventually he trained as an engineer and got a job as a sound engineer at the then Radiotjänst, now Sveriges Radio, and later ended up at Sveriges Television, a company he stayed with until his retirement in the 1980s. At work, he had the opportunity to play a lot in Sweden and elsewhere. One trip he especially remembers was with the well-known Orient Express on the Paris-Istanbul route. "We made many nice recordings, including up in the Turkish mountains. The recording equipment of the time could go up to 300–400 kg, compared to today when you can make perfect radio recordings with only a small box in your chest pocket. After a few years in Karlstad, he became Falun's technical manager up in the regional TV house at Lugnet Arena.

Vasaloppet veterans Gudrun Hedlund, Arne Sundquist and Lennart Olsson had the opportunity to court with flowers on the big day.



Member benefits and discounts

We currently have cooperation agreements with Stadium sports stores and eight facilities from Frösö Park, Östersund and Gällö Skidtunnel in the north to Skidome/Kviberg Park Hotel & Conference, Gothenburg in the south. Take the opportunity to use these facilities when starting your training! By paying the Veteran Club membership fee and showing that you are a paying member on arrival, you can benefit from the following discounts:

Stadium: Discount on purchases in Mora and Sälen during Vasaloppet's winter week with the same percentage as you have completed Vasaloppet as a veteran, with the understanding that you are registered no later than 31/12.

Frösö Park: 15% discount on standard rates for accommodation including breakfast for members and companions in the same room/cottage. Cannot combine with other discounts.

Gällö ski tunnel: 30% discount on standard prices (both one-day and multi-day passes) for skiing in the tunnel.

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

Högbo Brukshotell and Högbo Bruk: 20% discount on standard accommodation prices on breakfast buffet in low season for members and escorts in the same room. Cannot combine with

other discounts. 30% discount on standard skiing prices on the artificially frozen ski tracks. Discounts apply in addition to other discounts (groups, pensioners, etc.) that may apply.

Torsby Ski Tunnel & Sports Center: 30% discount on standard prices (one-day and multi-day passes) for skiing in the ski tunnel. Cannot combine with other discounts.

Täby Konstsönpår: 15% discount on the standard price of season passes.

First Hotel Billingehus: Up to 30% off standard rates for accommodation including breakfast for members and companions in the same room. Cannot combine with other discounts.

Kviberg Ski Resort and Kviberg Park Hotel &Conference: 10% discount on standard rates for accommodation including parking space in a heated garage for members and companions in the same room. 20% discount on standard ski prices in Kviberg Ski Resort, both for one-day visits and annual cards.

For all overnight stays, you must book well in advance of arrival! Work with our partners!

Great gift to Mora-Nisses Jubilee Fund

When Lennart Söderhäll, Gävle SK, crossed the finish line in Vasaloppet in 2013, he was the oldest skier ever to complete Vasaloppet. He was 86 years old at the time. In 2020, Börje Karlsson reached in the same age.

Lennart was the first Vasa race at the age of 49-49. During his working day, Lennart lived in Stockholm and worked as a diver. At retirement age, he returned to his home in Gävle. Between 1975 and 2013, Lennart ran 33 races.

Bengt Söderhäll, Lennart's nephew, contacted the Mora-Nisse Fund and informed that his uncle's last wish was for SEK 100,000 to go to the Mora-Nisse Fund. Together with his cousins, Bengt has fulfilled Lennart's request. His nephew described Lennart as very stubborn and determined.



Remembered with brightness and gratitude

Lennart Söderhäll

Born 28/9 1926 • Died 5/6 2020

Board of Mora-Nisses Jubilee Fund