

News from Vasaloppet's Veteran Club

April 2025 no 2

An organiser's challenge with unexpected winners

This year's Vasaloppet victors offered two performances that stood out beyond the ordinary. Which of us seasoned veterans would have guessed that an 18-year-old would win the men's race, and that a highly skilled long-distance rookie would cross the finish line first in the women's race? Haven't we often said that Vasaloppet demands a lot of experience to come out on top? On Vasaloppet Sunday, the opposite was proven. Hats off to **Alvar Myhlback**, the youngest male winner ever – and very close to the record time, too. Alvar skied smartly and then sprinted past a very experienced lead group to the crowd's delight. Not quite as sensational, but still unexpected, was **Stina Nilsson's** dominant win in the women's class, gliding under the finish portal with time to spare. Fantastic performances from both.

36 new veterans

During Vasaloppet's Winter Week 2025, 36 new members joined Vasaloppet's Veteran Club, all having completed their 30th race. Sixteen completed their 40th race – two of whom are women. Four veterans completed their 50th race.

New 50-race finishers

Karl-Erik Andersson (KEA), with help from Tore Södersten, welcomed the new 50-race veterans. There are now a total of 65 who have completed 50 races or more. Lars Janlöv from Mariehamn finished in 5:24 and has an average time of 5:25 across his first 49 races – an unbeatable stat, according to KEA. Lars Ruberg, IFK Mora SK, from Lerum finished in 10:26, and Erwin Apitzsch, Lugi SK, from Lund finished in 12:15. Erwin was initially pulled off the track, but after getting his chip back, he picked up the pace and finished well within the time limit. Börje Enander, Ulricehamns IF, from Ulricehamn, completed his 50th race together with his two sons in a time of 6:47.

New veterans

New veteran in the elite group – PO Svahn skied strongly all day and finished 147th with a time of 4:00:26. That's seven seconds within the elite qualifying limit, while also earning his orange number bib for 2026. Peo placed 15th in Vasaloppet in 2007, but many of us veterans might say this year's performance is even more impressive. He skied Öppet Spår in 1994 in 5:36, and has since done every Vasaloppet except in 2016 and 2021. He's placed in the top 100 a total of 23 times, including 10 in the 15th–28th range. He has skied 30 races under five hours, with five races under four hours – best time 3:50:27.

Ulf Nordström also showed positive form in his 30th race, climbing the rankings and finishing in 268th place with a time of 4:15:13. Fantastic performances by these new members of the Veteran Club.

Fastest among the veterans were: Anders Sörensson, 286th, 4:16:40 and Fredrik Sätter, 288th, both equally matched during their race. Tommy Larsson came 361st, 4:23:54, Bernt Niva was 373rd, 4:24:45, and Ronnie Löf was in 539th place, clocking in at 4:35:31.

New 40-race veterans

Anders Karlsson	OK Nackhe	339
Arne Wenngren	Östervåla IF	340
Carina Johansson	Tumba-Mälarhöjden OK	341
Eivor Johansson	Navåsens IF	342
Gunnar Dalstrand	Åmåls OK	343
Johnny Rentner	IKHP	344
Lars Ivarson	Göteborgs SK	345
Leif Andersson	Loos IF	346
Lennart Abrahamsson	Mölndal	347
Olav Eriksson	Bondsjöhöjdens IK	348
Roger Sjöberg	Motala	349
Sigvard Larsson	Kristinehamns OK	350
Staffan Larsson	Främmestads IK	351
Stefan Zinkell	Eldsberga	352
Stefan Persson	Grava SK	353
Örjan Fägerblad	Arlanda-Märsta SK	354

New 50-race veterans

Lars Janlöv	Åland	62
Erwin Apitzsch	Lugi SK	63
Lars Ruberg	Ok Landehof	64
Börje Enander	Ulricehamns IF	65

The Veteran Club's three teams in Stafettvasan

In the women's team, the following skied (in order): 1077 Helén Östensson, 883 Margareta Östensson Lindblom, 928 Carina Johansson, 1074 Carina Hammarstrand, and 1064 Inger Olsson. These five women skied to Mora with the second-fastest time ever for an all-women's veteran team – 8:10:08. (The record time of 7:53:30 from 2022 still stands for now.)

More “veteran joy” came from one of the two men's teams, which skied to Mora in a new record time for a Vasaloppet veteran team. The previous record, set in 2015, was 6:34:14. But Vasaloppet veterans 1109 Martin Eriksson, 778 Jan-Ivar Volödegård, 1233 Mats Liss, 986 Jonny Birgersson, and 771 Rolf Fagerström pushed hard and finished in 6:14:44, breaking the 2015 record (6.34:14) by about 20 minutes. The other men's team had more trouble, with a malfunctioning ski binding, but the affected skier, 866 Hans Wiberg, handled the mishap with good humour and the team completed the race!

Arne Sundquist, who has served as our own “national team coach” for several years and managed the veteran teams in Stafettvasan with great success, is now handing over the responsibility to Margareta Östensson Lindblom, veteran 883, and Helén Östensson, veteran 1077. If you are interested in participating, you can already register your interest so we can hopefully put together three teams for 2026.

VETERANTINGET 2025

86 veterans took part in the Veterantinget meeting on Saturday, March 2, at Andreasgården. The day began with lunch before the formal gathering got underway. Johan Eriksson, CEO of Vasaloppet, spoke about future challenges related to infrastructure and new target groups, as well as the positive

impact on public health – now measurable in monetary terms. He presented research results with great enthusiasm, showing that skiing truly makes people happy. One piece of evidence: just before the gathering, veteran 839 Torleif Bakke welcomed his friend and Vasaloppet legend, veteran 77 Gösta Lönnelid, at the finish line after Vasaloppet 10, which Gösta described as a “short stroll” – understandable for someone with 61 completed races, more than anyone else.

One of Vasaloppet's greatest skiers has crossed the finish line

Bol Bengt Eriksson has passed away – one of the greatest Vasaloppet skiers of all time has completed his final race. Born and raised in Transtrand before moving to Älvdalen, Bengt passed away at the age of 94. He became the first skier ever to complete 60 races. That feat alone is impressive, but Bengt's average time and finishing record across those 60 races is also unlikely to be surpassed. His best placement was second in 1958, and his average time across all 60 races was an incredible 5 hours and 21 minutes.

Annual meeting in Mora Parken, September 6, 2025

Please reserve the first Saturday in September for our traditional annual meeting.

In addition to the usual annual meeting agenda, we can already announce that Anders Aukland will be our special guest, presenting medals and giving a talk.

Evening entertainment during dinner will feature none other than Nick Borgen, so this year's event will have a Norwegian theme.

You are most welcome! Registration will open once newsletter 3/2025 is published in early July, containing all details regarding the annual meeting.

Summer Week 2025

The first weekend of the Summer Week 2025 (August 8–9) is all about cycling. It begins Friday morning with Cykelvasan Öppet Spår from Sälen and Ungdomscykelvasan from Oxberg. In the afternoon, Cykelvasan 30 and Cykelvasan 45 start in Oxberg. On Saturday, the main race Cykelvasan 90 takes place, starting from the classic Vasaloppet start in Berga by, Sälen.

The second weekend (August 15–16) is dedicated to running. On Friday, Trailvasan 10 will take place with start and finish in Mora. On Saturday, one relay and three individual races are held. Vasastafetten, with ten legs between 4.5 and 15 km, starts in Sälen. The prestigious Ultravasán 90 also starts in Sälen, at 05:00, while the shorter version, Ultravasán 45, starts in Oxberg. Trailvasan 30 also starts in Oxberg.

Register for the Summer Week 2025

Vasaloppet offers members of the Veteran Club a 20% discount on all summer events, except for Cykelvasan 90.

Vasaloppet veterans can register as follows, but please note that your registration is personal and cannot be transferred or sold to someone else.

1. Register via **www.vasaloppet.se** and proceed to **REGISTRATION**.
2. Select the race and follow the instructions. When prompted for a campaign code, enter:
[REDACTED]
3. Proceed to payment by card or internet bank.

Register for the Winter Week 2026

Next winter might feel far away this spring, given that snow still lingers in the north, but it's already possible to register for the Winter Week 2026!

The code to use for any race during Winter Week 2026 is: [REDACTED] This code provides a free start in Öppet Spår Monday (February 23, 2026) and 50% off all other races. If you're planning to participate, register now – it helps the Vasaloppet office plan ahead!

NOTE: Those completing their 31st, 41st, 50th or more races should register with Gun-Britt Cristoferson at Vasaloppet's office.

Programme

FRIDAY, AUGUST 8

Ungdomscykelvasan *Start Oxberg, 32 km*
Cykelvasan Öppet Spår *Start Sälen, 96 km*
Cykelvasan 30 *Start Oxberg, 32 km*
Cykelvasan 45 *Start Oxberg, 45 km*

SATURDAY, AUGUST 9

Cykelvasan 90 *Start Sälen, 96 km*

FRIDAY, AUGUST 15

Funkisvasan, *Start Mora, 4 km*
Trailvasan 10

SATURDAY, AUGUST 16

Ultravasan 90 *Start Sälen, 92 km*
Vasastafetten *Running relay, ten sections, start Sälen, 92 km*
Ultravasan 45 *Start Oxberg, 45 km*
Trailvasan 30 *Start Oxberg, 30 km*