

# News from Vasaloppets Veteranklubb

October 2020 No. 4

## New veteran in Kopparberg

In September, Vasaloppet veteran Håkan Mossberg presented Per Ragnarsson, Ställbergs IK, who became a new veteran through a gathering at Bångbro Herrgård with a lot of other skiers.

Image caption, Per Ragnarsson, Ställbergs IK, centre, became the new Vasaloppet veteran in 2020



## Vasaloppshistorien's second "60 driver"

Vasaloppet veteran No. 32 Börje Karlsson, Landsbro IF, is Vasaloppet's second "60-driver". Here he's got the plaque for his 60th race.



## Digital Annual Meeting 2020

**The annual meeting on 5 September was a completely new experience for the participants; our first "digital" annual meeting! A historic event in over thirty years of operation for the Veterans Club.**

In addition to the current Board of Directors, Gun-Britt Cristoferson and Mats Rylander from the Vasaloppet organization and the Chairman of the Nomination Committee Erik-Åke Tranberg were also present at Vasaloppet's house in Mora. Eva-Lena Frick was there a short time before the meeting to express her warm thanks for the good cooperation with the Veterans Club's Board of Directors and her great appreciation to all of us veterans as an asset and important representatives of vasaloppet's entire organization. In addition to the board, about 30 Vasaloppet veterans participated online via Teams, most by phone, some via a screen.

Our Chairman Lennarth Larsson was elected Chairman of the Meeting by the Nomination Committee. Lennarth began with a brief reference to today's different approach with a pious hope that the technology would work satisfactorily, which it did. The formalities of the Annual Meeting Secretary, protocol adjusters, formal announcement of the meeting and agenda were quickly put through by the President, who then presented the annual report of the past year and provided a little more detailed information on the activities. Mats Rylander from Vasaloppet then took over and presented the economy and financial statements for the past financial year and the budget for the financial year 2020-2021. It can be noted that last year's revenue and costs for the veterans club were less than the set budget of approximately SEK 20,000 and that there was a surplus of just over FIVE THOUSAND SEK compared to the budget.

The fiscal plan for the coming year 2020-2021 was presented and approved, as well as the fact that the annual fee will be maintained at the previous SEK 200. The Board of Directors was discharged from liability for the past financial year.

The traditional ceremony of awarding veteran diplomas and medals could not be carried out for obvious reasons, but instead the Chairman presented the names of all new Vasaloppet veterans, new female veterans, new 40- and 50-driver of the year and the new 60-driver of the year, Börje Karlsson, Landsbro IF, and took the opportunity to mention our 60-rider from 2013, Bengt Eriksson, Sälens IF and his completely unbeatable series of Vasaloppet results.

Lennarth Larsson was re-elected Chairman of the Board for the coming year and Gudrun Hedlund and Karl-Erik Andersson were re-elected for the period 2020-2022. The current Nomination Committee was also re-elected. All regional representatives were re-elected except area 3, where Håkan Mossberg replaces Bo Pettersson, who declined re-election. In addition, the Committee for Vasaloppet Veteran of the Year, chaired by Birger Fält, Tore Södersten and Lars-Erik Tjäder, Birger Fält, remains chairman. This year, the Committee presented the award to Vasalopp veteran 493 Karl-Erik "KEA" Andersson, IFK Mora, who received a solid presentation in the latest issue of this newsletter. In this context, the annual meeting decided on an amendment to the Articles of Association § 20 which removed the requirement for 40 races. The annual meeting also decided that a motion to establish a special competition for Vasaloppet veterans, submitted by Vasalopps veteran 724 Thage Davidsson, would be prepared by the Board before a decision is made on the proposal at the annual meeting.

The final decision at the annual meeting was that the next annual meeting will be held on Saturday, September 4, 2021. In conclusion, the Chairman informed of the change that has taken place when Eva-Lena Frick is now leaving the CEO position and that Johan Eriksson will hold the position for

the time being. At the same time, Mats Rylander took the opportunity to inform about the group that is currently working on deciding how the winter week will hold in 2021 and the preparations for 2022 and the 100th Vasaloppet.

Image caption Karl-Erik "KEA" Andersson, "Vasaloppet Veteran of the Year 2020".



## **Eva-Lena Frick**

**As mentioned earlier in Dalarna's newspapers and on local radio, Vasaloppet's CEO Eva-Lena Frick has now left the Vasaloppsorganisation and Johan Eriksson has taken over as acting CEO. We have had a little conversation with Eva-Lena over the phone from Borensberg outside Motala where she now lives.**

"I have been ceo of Vasaloppet for almost five years now and have started to feel homesick. This longing grew stronger and stronger in recent years and I have felt that I should no longer resist but rather follow my inner voice. Mora has not been my "home" because I have roots in Småland and Östergötland. In the almost twenty years, when I have been at the forefront of both Vätternrundan and Vasaloppet, my personal life has in many ways come second. I wanted to make up for some of it now and that's why I've moved back to Borensberg where I've lived for twenty-six years. This feels like my home".

Eva-Lena was born in Sävsjö in Småland and during her active time as an elite skier has competed for both IFK Sävsjö and Stockviks SF in Sundsvall and Järpens SK in Jämtland. In Järpen there is also a ski gymnasium where Eva-Lena has studied. Eva-Lena had her best ski years from 1982 when she participated in the World Cup in Oslo, over the Olympics in Sarajevo in 1984 and until the World Championships in Oberstdorf in 1987. In the 1982-1983 season she was ninth in one of the competitions in the World Cup, a very honorable achievement!

Eva-Lena has run the CEO position for Vasaloppet in an impressive way, with never-failing energy in her work, and she has added a comfortable and natural air to her presentations. All of us Vasaloppet veterans thank Eva-Lena for her work as a very committed CEO of our valuable Vasaloppet and we wish her well in her new home in Borensberg, Östergötland.

## **Vasaloppet's summer week became Hemmavasan**

The long-planned summer week 2020 was one of the major events directly affected by the COVID-19 outbreak last spring. But giving up is not an option. Instead of setting up, the guiding star became "adapting". They did it with confidence, quickly arranged "Hemmavasan" and made the summer week 2020 a success. More than 16,000 participants signed up for Hemmavasan on August 15 - 22 and about 13,000 of these started, most of which ended their races. We have learned a lot from Hemmavasan and parts of the concept can be very useful.

Instead of the participants coming to Vasaloppet, Vasaloppet comes to the participants, as outgoing CEO Eva-Lena Frick skilfully put it.

## **MINI-PROFILE**

### **Vasaloppet Veteran 75 John-Erik Eggens**

**In order to present the current Board of Directors, the previous issue included a profile of two board members, Chairman Lennarth Larsson and Karl-Erik "KEA" Andersson. This issue presents board members John-Erik Eggens and Secretary Arne Sundquist.**

Board member and Vasaloppet veteran John-Erik Eggens, Lima IF, is one of our two most merited Vasaloppet veterans. He and Vasaloppet veteran 14 Bengt Eriksson, Sälen IF, have both shown a number of Vasaloppet results that no other Vasaloppet veterans have come close to! To be honest, the rest of us are light years away from their results!

John-Erik Eggens, with Vasaloppet veteran No. 75, has over the years competed for Lima IF and taken two third places in Vasaloppet (1960 and 1961) and helped Lima IF win both years. Lima IF, with John-Erik in the team, has also taken second or third place in the team competition for the next four years (1962-1965).

John-Erik was born in 1936 in the small village of Heden in Lima parish in western Dalarna. He was already on skis at the age of two or three, as children in Lima did then! Several of them became large, well-known skiers. During the winter, the children usually skied to school and there they often arranged their own ski competitions where they identified themselves as greats, such as "Mora-Nisse" and "Håsjö-Dahlqvist", and tried to imitate the skiing styles of those role models.

John-Erik finished third at the Junior Championships in Övertorneå in 1956 and got his breakthrough on the "big" Swedish championships in 1959 when he finished eighth in the 30 km, 15th in 15 km and was part of Lima IF's winning relay team together with Gunnar Samuelsson and Sixten Jernberg. In autumn and winter 1959, John-Erik cut in the forest together with Sixten according to the schedule Monday-Friday 4 hours of cutting+ 2 hours of running on bare ground with light shoes, or 20-30 km on skis during snowy periods. John-Erik rode his first Vasaloppet in 1960, the last year they started in Sälen's village. He then came as a surprising third behind Sixten Jernberg and Rolf Rämgård. Before vasaloppet 1961 he thought he had the chance to win when he finished 11th in the Swedish Championship 50 km and Sixten other big profile skiers competed in Lahti, Finland. However, he finished third behind winner David Johansson, Delsbo and Sture Grahn, Lycksele. John-Erik has completed 49 Vasaloppet races, the fastest was in 1979 with a time of 4:32:57 at the age of 42. John-Erik became a veteran in 1986 and "40-racer" in 2002.

During the years 1961-1966 John-Erik studied at Gammelkroppa forest school in Värmland and then at skogsmästarskolan in Skinnskatteberg, part of the University of Agricultural Sciences. Since then, he has worked as a forest teacher in Rättvik and Falun. John-Erik has been on the board of the veteran club since the 1990s and is well known not only in vasaloppet's context but also in the folk music movement as a nationally renowned folk musician, very adept at spilåpipa, birch trumpet, fenugret, as well as guitar and violin! For his cultural achievements, he was awarded the Rättvik Municipality Cultural Prize 2019! In short, a very skilled and versatile individual!

Image caption Vasaloppet 1960 at the roadside just before Oxberg, Rolf Rämngård in the lead before Sixten Jernberg, Janne Stefansson and John-Erik Eggens.



## MINI-PROFILE

### Arne Sundquist

**Board member and Vasaloppet veteran 305 Arne Sundquist took over the secretarial job after Vasalopps veteran 64 Torsten Löfgren passed away during Vasaloppet week 2017 and has been doing that job ever since.**

Arne was born in 1939 in the small village of Överturingen on the Jämtland side of Haverö parish, now part of Ånge municipality. Arne spent his first year of school in Hede in Härjedalen, but then the family moved down to Enköping in Uppland, where his father got a job at an auto repair shop and the rest of his school time was spent there. Arne studied biology and took an early aim at the forest industry and practiced forestry in both Uppland and Lapland during all his high school years. But after graduating, he first enlisted in Roslagen's Air Defense Regiment, Lv 3, where Arne completed fifteen months of officer training and then six months at the Air Force Cadet School in Linköping, after which he became an officer in the Air Defense Reserve.

After the cadet school came more forest work, in Kolmården and Värmland, before Arnehösten was admitted in 1963 to a preparatory forest course before entering the State Forest Master's School in Skinnskatteberg, long ago part of the University of Agricultural Sciences. After graduating as a ranger in the spring of 1965, Arne got a job at lantmäteriet in Dalarna to work on the extensive land changes that took place in large parts of Dalarna but especially around Siljan and in Västra Dalarna, and he stayed with lantmäteriet until his retirement in 2004. After several years of field work in Dalarna, he spent many years at the National Land Survey in Stockholm and the National Land Survey in Gävle. In parallel with his work, Arne studied KTH's surveyor and has worked as a traditional surveyor for a few years in the 1990s. In addition to his leadership of the Real Estate Assignments Unit from the late 1990s, Arne has largely worked abroad with various tasks, mainly in real estate economics. Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Belarus, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Mongolia, Indonesia, Botswana and Trinidad are among the developing countries where Arne has been commissioned. Much of 2007 was spent in Romania, where preparations for land reform began before Romania joined the EU. It led a working group with Danish-Swedish leadership.

Like most Vasaloppet veterans, Arne has been interested in sports since his youth, especially track skiing, cross-country skiing, orienteering and skiing. He became a Vasaloppet veteran in 2001 and

"40-racer" in 2013. Arne cannot boast elite results but he has completed a Vasa race for 6 hours, the fastest at 5:36:03 in the early 1980s, competing for Falun Korsnäs IF Skids all but two years. As his greatest sporting achievement, he mentions winning a competition for several cadet schools with over 100 participants at the age of 21. "I knew I had good chances because my strongest distances, 5km of terrain running and 10km of orienteering, were at the beginning and end of the race, but I had never been a master shot, just decent, so I worried a bit about that distance. But that day I got a bit lucky, I managed to hit all ten shots on five moving targets that appeared in the terrain temporarily.

A traffic accident and the resulting blindness in the right eye have put an end to all overly intense skiing, but in January Arne completed the 25 km Long Chinese Vasaloppet successfully. "Despite a real mistake in the Chinese thicket, after an extra five kilometre forest excursion I managed to orient myself back to the official course and as I passed both the usual chip controls, my race was fully approved!" In addition to professional life and exercise, Arne would like to spend time renovating houses and from 1969 has equipped a number of buildings in great need and received a cultural scholarship in western Dalarna for a knowledgeable and thorough renovation of a timber building. He can therefore often be seen on his farm in The Parish of Reach with a scythe, hammer and joint tail, or chainsaw and clearing saw, out in his own forest.

