

# YEARBOOK 2017

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Here comes Sweden's first Open Champion Henrik Stenson parading the Claret Jug.

## **Henrik is one of 34 Open Champions who have come to play in Sweden**

**When Henrik Stenson enters the Nordea Masters in June he will be the sixth reigning Open Champion who has played in Sweden.**

The previous five are Jack Nicklaus, Seve Ballesteros, John Daly, Mark O'Meara and Louis Oosthuizen.

Here follows the 34 Open Champions – past, future or

reigning – who have played in Sweden, from Gene Sarazen, who won in 1932 to Henrik Stenson.

Gene Sarazen shot a 69 at Kevinge in 1962, nine over his age. Henry Cotton played in Båstad and at Kevinge in 1931, before his first Open. Alf Perry took jobs in Helsingborg, Malmö and Falsterbo in 1927, seven years before his Open win. Alf Padgham

had exhibitions in 1946.

Sam Snead had an exhibition together with Sven Tumba in 1974. Bobby Locke had six exhibitions in 1953. Peter Thomson had exhibitions in 1960 and played in the Volvo Open in 1970. Gary Player took part in a business golf event in 1974.

Kel Nagle won the Volvo Open in 1971. Arnold Palmer played ▶

**The Swedish Society of Golf Historians.** Please visit our website: [www.golfhistoriska.se](http://www.golfhistoriska.se). There you will find *Hickorykalender 2017* (under *Kalender*) with information about hickory golf tournaments in Sweden. President of the Society: Georg Kittel, [georg.kittel@home.se](mailto:georg.kittel@home.se). Editor of the yearbook: Pehr Thermaenius, [pehr.thermaenius@gmail.com](mailto:pehr.thermaenius@gmail.com).

## The world's golfers long for matchplay

Golf's longing for matchplay burst out into the open after Henrik Stenson had defeated Phil Mickelson in the Open last summer.

"What a match to watch", exclaimed the website of the USPGA. Others joined in. The Golf Channel, Golf Digest, Jack Nicklaus and a couple of London papers all went on about "the match". And so did the two players during their press conferences.

Based on this googled research I feel safe to write that the world of golf welcomed this fresh injection of matchplay into the dreary routine of strokeplay. Here was a major tournament decided in a thrilling head-to-head encounter. Yes, it was strokeplay but it really was a match.

Anyone interested in the history of golf knows that when golf is really, really exciting there is a match on. If we were offered a trip in the time capsule, we would ask to be taken to North Berwick for the Famous Foursome in 1849 or to Jones vs Hagen in 1926.

Let us now hope that also the people governing golf in the world – and in our clubs – learnt something from the "Duel of the sons" at Troon last summer. Let us hope they give us more matchplay, to play and to watch.

PEHR THERMAENIUS

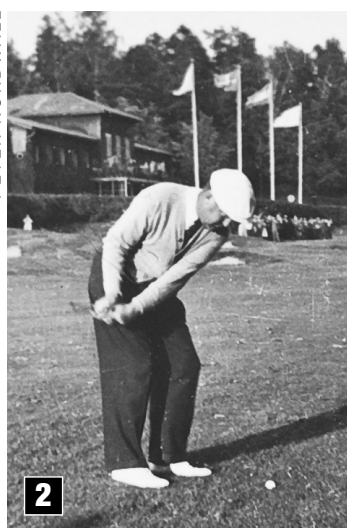
### Two for the match on the 72nd green

...and if it had really been a match over 72 holes, Henrik would have won 2 up after having been down at the end of each round. Phil was five up after 27 holes and still one up with five holes to play. Then Henrik got back to all square for the sixth time. On the last green he had two putts for the match.



1

RONNY KARLSSON



2

PETER NORDWALL

1. Sven Tumba (far left) brought four past and future Open Champions to the podium when he presented prizes after the 1980 Scandinavian Enterprise Open. Left to right: Greg Norman, trying on the winner's jacket, Sandy Lyle, Seve Ballesteros and Bob Charles. The fifth player is Mark James. 2. Bobby Locke in 1953 and 3. Henry Cotton in 1933 played at Stockholms Golfklubb.



3

STOCKHOLMS GOLFKLUBB

► four rounds in exhibitions and a corporate event during 1968–1974. **Bob Charles** won the first Scandinavian Enterprise Open (SEO) in 1973 and played in another seven events. **Jack Nicklaus** had three exhibitions and played in the first Volvo Open during 1969–1983.

**Roberto De Vincenzo** played in the SEO in 1973. **Tony Jacklin** failed to catch Bob Charles in the 1973 SEO. But Jacklin won the following year and played in another three events. **Lee Trevino** came in 1982 to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Swedish PGA. **Johnny Miller** tied for third in the 1985 SEO.

**Seve Ballesteros** played in 14 events, more than any other Open Champion (except Henrik Stenson). **Sandy Lyle** won the 1979 SEO. **Greg Norman** won the 1980 SEO, his third and last entry. **Nick Faldo** won the 1992 Scandinavian Masters.

**Ian Baker-Finch** won the 1985 SEO. **Nick Price** played in the 1978 SEO. **John Daly** played in 1995 Scandinavian Masters, two weeks after his win at St Andrews. **Mark O'Meara** played in the SAS

Invitational in 1998 and 2000.

**Paul Lawrie** has entered for the Scandinavian Masters nine times during 1992–2016. **Tiger Woods** was beaten by **Jesper Parnevik** in the 1999 SAS Invitational. **David Duval** played in the 1998 SAS Invitational. **Ernie Els** tied for 28th (with **Jesper Parnevik**) in the 1993 Scandinavian Masters.

**Todd Hamilton** missed cuts in the 2006 and 2011 Nordea Masters. **Padraig Harrington** has played four times in the Scandinavian Masters. His best finish was sixth in 1997. **Louis Oosthuizen** came to the Nordea Masters the week after his Open win at St Andrews in 2010. He finished fourth.

**Darren Clarke** was runner up in the 1998 Scandinavian Masters and lit **Jesper Parnevik's** victory cigar on the final green. **Rory McIlroy** played in the 2008 SAS Masters.

**Henrik Stenson** has won more than a dozen tournaments on the big tours, but he has only one professional win in Sweden. This was in Ljunghusen on the Challenge Tour in 2000.

Research by GEORG KITTEL

# Arnold Palmer playing in Sweden – unthinkable, until it really happened

RONNY KARLSSON



ANDERS RASMUSSON



PEHR THERMAENIUS



1. Sweden's royal Prince Bertil (the King's uncle) caddied for Arnold Palmer at Stockholms Golfklubb in 1972. Prince Bertil was Sweden's Golf Prince. He hit more than 90 opening drives on new golf courses.
2. Arnold Palmer driving from the fourth tee at Falsterbo, watched by his caddie Björn Stenberg (with towel) and Sven Tumba (in white trousers).
3. Tom Lidén (right) got to know Arnold Palmer while at university in the US. It was his idea to bring Palmer to Sweden for exhibitions. Here they are pictured at Lidingö in 1968.

**One fifth of Sweden's golfing population turned out to watch Arnold Palmer play when he came here in 1968.**

**"To see him play here was a thought that did not exist. It was unthinkable, until it happened", says golf veteran Peter Nordwall.**

Arnold Palmer played exhibition matches in 1968 at Lidingö (near Stockholm) and Falsterbo (in the south). He came back to play a round at Stockholms Golfklubb in 1972. And he played his fourth and last round in Sweden in a corporate golf event in Gothenburg in 1974.

When news about Arnold Palmer's death came last autumn, members of the Swedish Golf Historians wrote about their memories of Arnie's rounds in Sweden.

Gunnar Mueller, who had just won the Swedish junior championship, told of the embarrass-

ment when he realized his mother had clicked her camera to make Palmer break off a putt, only then to hole it and flashing a big smile at Mrs Mueller.

In just a few years Gunnar became the first Swede to play all four rounds in the Open.

"To me Arnold Palmer was always The King", Gunnar wrote.

It was Sven Tumba, Sweden's ice hockey hero and later driving force in golf, who brought Arnold Palmer to Sweden. But it was Tom Lidén who made it possible. He got to know Palmer during his university years in the US.

Tumba, always the promoter, got the royal Prince Bertil to caddie for Palmer at Stockholms Golfklubb in 1972. Arnold Palmer was deeply impressed. Addressing the lunch after the round he said:

"I have played with kings and presidents, but never before

have I had a real prince as my caddie."

Björn Stenberg, who carried for Palmer at Falsterbo, was impressed by the sound of Palmer's shots.

"They sounded different. It was more crispy. I was amazed."

Björn also remembers the weight of the bag. Palmer brought along several drivers and wedges to try out in preparation for the upcoming Open Championship at Carnoustie, where he tied for 10th place.

Michael Kennedy, who was professional at Göteborgs Golf Klubb and played in the event in 1974, told about meeting Arnold Palmer:

"Two things struck me. His hands. My hand seemed to disappear in his. And his genuine interest in other people. He was respected not only for his golf but also for his kindness and for the way he listened to others."



Magnus Sunesson won the Swedish Hickory Championship both in 2015 and 2016 playing with clubs that have come down to him in the family. Last summer he accepted the Championship trophy club together with the new ladies' Champion Frida Nyberg. Andrea Lindal carried for her father Henrik. She plays to 10 and we can expect her to return as a player – and as a champion.



STEN LINDBERG



## Magnus has won two championships with family treasures in his bag

Swedish hickory champion Magnus Sunesson carries three clubs that belonged to his grandmother's brother's wife's father, Carl-Philip Nilsson.

"I think of him, up there in hickory heaven. He probably misses his spoon, it's a mean club", says Magnus.

Carl-Philip Nilsson must have been a keen golfer. He was the third to sign for five years of membership when a golf club was started in Landskrona in 1929.

The club hired Falsterbo Golfklubb's professional William Hester to take a look at an exercise field recently evacuated by the army. Hester liked the sandy soil and laid out nine holes. That was the start of golf in Landskrona.

But this first club did not last. A new club in Landskrona was founded in 1960 and is since the year 2000 the home of



the Swedish Golf Museum.

Three of Carl-Philip Nilsson's clubs have found their way into Magnus Sunesson's bag – a spoon, a mashie and a putter. From an historical point of view the putter is the most interesting. It was manufactured by Anderson of Anstruther and sold by the firm Haskins & Son in Hoylake.

Swedish golf has a strong historical link to Hoylake. George Roberts was the first Hoylake professional to come here, in 1911. He worked in Stockholm and then in Gothenburg. After he left Stockholm the club engaged his brother Edwin, or simply Ted, who stayed with the club all his life. William Hester also came to Sweden from Hoylake. He took the job at Falsterbo in 1912.

The Falsterbo club's historian Bengt Modéer has found that all



Carl-Philip Nilsson's putter is stamped "Haskins & Son Hoylake".

these three professionals, who shaped early golf in Sweden, were trained by Charlie, the oldest of the Roberts brothers. He was professional and greenkeeper at Woolton Golf Club, near Liverpool.

A good guess is that William Hester bought clubs from Haskins and Son and then sold them on to Swedish players in Falsterbo, Landskrona and other places where he was engaged. Carl-Philip Nilsson's putter is a reminder of the Swedish link to Hoylake.