

YEARBOOK 2011

A summary of Årsskrift 2011.
Published by The Swedish Society of Golf Historians.



Nancy	Elof	Erik
Elin	Hugo	Rosa
	Rune	

The Runfelts – a family of champion golfers

All the six golfing brothers and sisters in the Runfelt family in Gothenburg won championships or played for Sweden.

Together with Nancy Gibbons, Hugo's English wife, they won 36 of the 132 championship finals played during 1910-1948.

Anders Runfelt, son of Erik, has written the history of his golfing family. The picture on the cover,

from around 1913, shows Rosa, the younger sister, looking after her brothers Elof and Rune on the course at Hovås. This is where Göteborgs Golf Klubb played and still plays.

Elof and Rune played for Sweden. Rosa won four championships, but there was no national team for her to play in.

The family had a summerhouse next to the Hovås course. Rune later said in an interview:





Erik Runfelt, in 1972, with two of his cups. They are The 1938 Open Swedish Championship (left) and Skandinaviska vandringspokalen, which was played for each year in Falsterbo, until Erik won it outright.

In the final of the 1938 Open Swedish Championship Erik defeated England's ASG "Guy" Thompson on the 37th hole. It was his last Championship win and he later said it was the most exciting match he ever played.



Peter Nordwall found the ninth tee at the Råsunda course in Stockholm.

The club he holds is a gift from Ted Roberts and is stamped George Roberts. It surely was out on the course when Stockholms GK played at Råsunda in the 1920s.

"We swam and sometimes played football, but as I remember our summer holidays they were just endless games of golf."

Erik, the eldest of the golfing brothers, became a member of Göteborgs Golf Klubb in 1910, at the age of 16. That same year he played in his first final in the Swedish Championship. He was to play in eleven finals and win five of them. He also won ten Swedish Open Championships and five Scandinavian Championships.

On top of that he was founding editor of the magazine Svensk Golf and served as General Secretary of the Swedish Golf Federation. He remained on the Federation's Rules committee until 1973.

At that time I interviewed him. He said he would no longer work for the Federation, but he would not stop playing.

"You can't stop playing golf", he told me.

Erik was an army officer and had few opportunities to play outside Scandinavia. He entered the British Amateur once, in 1914. He was then at the top of his game, having achieved a kind of grand slam the year before when he won all three championships – Swedish, Swedish Open and Scandinavian.

But Erik lost his first match at Sandwich. The day after he wrote a hole-by-hole account to Viktor Setterberg, the man who got golf

going in Sweden*. This letter is in Anders Runfelt's book.

Erik was three down with five to play but reached the 18th green. There he had a six-yard putt to take the match to extra holes. The ball hit the cup, but spun out.

It was clearly difficult for the 21-year-old Swedish Champion to get over his defeat.

"If only I had had a friend with me, ... now I had to walk alone all the way, no one who said he was sorry when I missed, no one to cheer me on when I did something well", he wrote.

But the letter ends on a cheerful note:

"When I get home I must play well to defend my reputation...I would like to play Roberts in an exhibition match."

This Roberts was George Roberts from Hoylake, who was then professional at Hovås. No record of a Runfelt vs Roberts match has survived.

PEHR THERMAENIUS

*Read more about Viktor Setterberg on page 10 in *Golf in Sweden*, published in English by the Swedish Society of Golf Historians.

Anders Runfelt's book *Golf-familjen Runfelt*, in Swedish (but pictures speak all languages), is also available from the Society. The price for these books is 50 kronor plus postage. Write to Pehr Thermaenius (address below).

Look what I found – a golf course!

Swedish golf historians prepare to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the course in Råsunda, where Stockholms GK played during 1912–1926.

They are led by Peter Nordwall, golf course architect and founding secretary of the Swedish Society of Golf Historians. He thinks six of the ten holes can be made playable, with a little help from the council.

The Råsunda course, northwest of central Stockholm, was laid out by George Roberts. He then moved to Gothenburg and advised the club to replace him with his younger brother Edwin. Young Edwin, always known as Ted, came over on a six-month contract in 1914 and stayed with the club until his death in 1978.

Most of the course is now a park, known as the Golf Meadows. In

1973 Peter took Ted for a walk around the Råsunda course. When they reached a hill in the park, Ted stopped and said:

"Here exactly was the second tee."

Peter asked how he could be so sure.

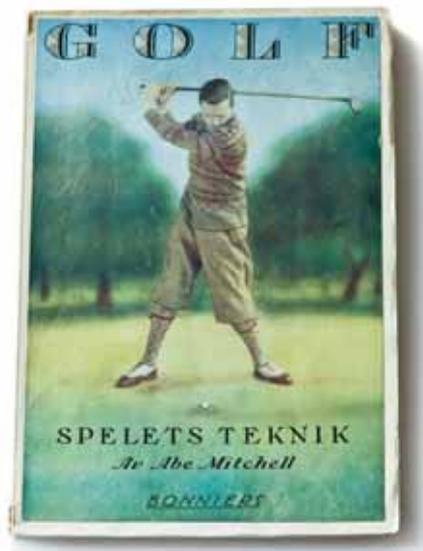
"Because the Crown Prince sometimes got his club under the ball and then he always hit that birch branch."

The Prince was Gustav Adolf, later king Gustav VI Adolf, who was earlier married to Margareta, daughter of the Duke of Connaught. In 1914 she reached the final of the Swedish Championship at Råsunda.

When Peter walked the course again last autumn, he came up with the idea to open it for a day next year to celebrate the anniversary. Strings are now being pulled to make it happen.



Ted Roberts in Stockholms Golfklubbs' 25-year history, 1929.



The cover of the Swedish edition of Abe Mitchell's *Essentials of Golf*, 1928.



Abe Mitchell in Present-day golf, 1921. Picture by George Beldam.



Leif Einarsson spotted Ted on the cover of Abe's book.



George Roberts sold Spalding clubs in Gothenburg.



Douglas Brasier and several other professionals imported clubs from Leyland & Birmingham Rubber Co.

Who's on the cover – Abe or Ted?

Abe Mitchell's *Golf – spelets teknik* was the first golf book to be published in Sweden. It was a translation of Mitchell's *Essentials of golf*. This book was published in 1927 and already in November that year, the Swedish translator Axel Poignant sent his manuscript to the Bonniers publishing house.

Someone at Bonniers must have been very keen to get the book ready for the market in the spring. This someone was Georg Svensson, a keen golfer in Stockholms Golfklubb. He was later a driving force in the Bonnier publishing house and in Swedish literature. He was also one of the enthusiasts who started the *Svensk Golf* magazine in 1946.

Essentials of Golf is a sturdy volume. It seems to have been made to be taken out on the

practice field. The Swedish volume is fragile and light and it is much more handsome, with a full colour cover showing a golfer at the top of his backswing.

But the swing on the cover does not look like Abe Mitchell's swing. It looks very much like the swing of Ted Roberts, professional at Stockholms Golfklubb.

Book collector Leif Einarsson noticed that the golfer on the cover looks like Roberts in one of his instructional pictures in SGK's 25-year history. This book was printed in 1929.

The golfers who read Bonnier's book saw on the cover a player who rotates to the top of the backswing. Then, on page 36, they were told to move their hips to the right in the backswing, parallel to the line of flight.

They must have been confused.

Wanted: Clubs with Swedish stamps

The Swedish Golf Museum searches for clubs stamped by professionals working in Sweden and Scandinavia.

Here is a list of the most wanted stamps:

- A stamp from the old Karlskrona GK, that existed during 1907–1914.
- William Hester, Falsterbo.
- Frank Dyer, Göteborg
- Any club that Carl-Erik Nordgren had made at Helsingborgs GK, Viken. He enga-

ged the anchor smith at the local shipyard and a furniture maker in the village.

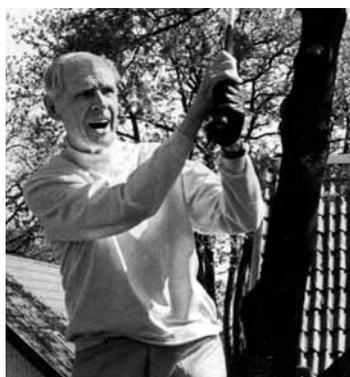
● Any of the clubs that the company Sandvikens Jernverk made for the Swedish Golf Federation in the 1940s. The Federation gave three of these clubs to member clubs who could not find clubs for their players.

If you see any of these, or other clubs stamped in Sweden or Scandinavia, please contact Leif at le.einarsson@telia.com.



Tage Svedestig gave Ted Roberts' trick shot a try. The aim is to hole the two balls in one stroke. Tage holed one ball but the other stopped short.

Tage tried Ted's trick



Ted Roberts from Hoylake was professional at Stockholms GK for 65 years.

Tage Svedestig is a long time member and caddy veteran at Stockholms Golfklubb. He got his golf education from Ted Roberts. He watched, from a distance, when Ted played with Edward, Prince of Wales, at SGK's course in Kevinge in 1932.

Ted used to do a trick shot, holing two balls in one stroke. We asked Tage to show us how it was done.

- Tage put one ball (A) down on the green. He told the spectators to

look for a helicopter. While they looked in the sky he pressed the ball into the turf with his foot.

- He then laid a second ball (B) straight behind ball A and gave ball B a firm tap with his wedge.

- Ball B jumped over ball A and ball A started to roll towards the hole.

- Ball B dropped into the hole. Ball A stopped short.

But Ted Roberts could do it. Can you? Let us know. Remember to repair the dent in the green.



Ville Nyman, soon to turn 3, practiced at Kevinge. Then he went out on the course to watch his father Per win the 2010 Swedish Hickory Championship.

Championship goes to Gotland

The 14th Swedish Hickory Championship will be played at Visby Golfklubb on the island of Gotland (see map). The dates are Saturday-Sunday 13-14 August. Google "Visby golfklubb" for information and pictures of the course.

To get to Gotland you can either fly from Stockholm or go by boat from Oskarshamn or Nynäshamn.

The club offers a tour package, including travel by boat, hotel, meals and green fee. For details, see the invitation folder, which is available at the website of the Swedish Society of Golf Historians (address below).

Gotland is one of Sweden's premier holiday destinations. For



more information, google "Destination Gotland". Both web sites have pages in English.

The Championship for gentlemen is a scratch strokeplay competition over 36 holes, Saturday and Sunday. At least 50 players will qualify for the second round. The ladies' and seniors' Championships are played over 18 holes on Saturday. On Sunday we play for Svenska Hickorykannen,

a handicap competition.

The Championship dinner will be held in the clubhouse on Saturday.

For entries and for more information, please write to Jörgen Linse, jorgen.linse@telia.com or Pehr Thermaenius (address below).