

News from Vasaloppet's Veteran Club

May | 2024 | Number 2

Veterantinget 2024-03-02

The Veterantinget meeting was conducted, as in previous years, at Andreasgården next to Mora Church.

The following members of the board attended (in alphabetical order by surname): Veterans 493 Karl-Erik Andersson, 839 Torleif Bakke, 557 Tommy Bogg, 730 Lennarth Larsson, and 305 Arne Sundquist. From the Vasaloppet organisation, Gun-Britt Cristoferson, Johan Eriksson, Anita Holknekt-Andersson, Gerd Källbäck, and Mats Rylander participated. About eighty Vasaloppet veterans attended. The gathering began at 12:30 with a shared lunch, followed by the formal veteran meeting which commenced at 13:30.

Weather & wind

Chairman Lennarth Larsson welcomed everyone, began with brief information about the programme, and handed over the podium to Pia Hultgren, meteorologist at SVT, who quickly showed a weather map where “low pressures are now lining Sweden both to the east and west,” as Pia described it. Pia further predicted that the temperature on Sunday would remain around freezing at the start location and then be one or two degrees above freezing along the track. Relatively calm weather, possibly with light westerly winds of 1-3 m/s, was expected during Sunday. There could also be some light rain or slightly damp weather during the day. Pia Hultgren then quickly moved on to her next engagement, and the podium was taken over by Vasaloppet's CEO Johan Eriksson.

Ambassadors

Johan Eriksson initially emphasised the important role that we Vasaloppet veterans play as ambassadors for Vasaloppet as an organisation and as a long-established institution in Dalarna, but also for all of Sweden's winter sports life! He also emphasised the good cooperation that Vasaloppet experiences with the Veteran Club, with written agreements reviewed regularly. The newly signed agreement is valid until and including the Winter Week 2026. He then went on to speak in general terms about the difficulties this winter brought in terms of track maintenance on certain sections and parking problems, especially in the Sälen area. Johan directed some cautious criticism towards the many first-time skiers who did not realise the difficulties that the enormous influx of skiers entails, with many being overly optimistic about the time and preparation required to get to the start location in Berga by in time for Sunday's Vasaloppet. This prediction proved to be entirely correct in retrospect, as many skiers missed the official start time of 08:00 on Sunday morning because they were stuck in traffic jams, which in turn meant that the cut-off time in Smågan had to be adjusted by half an hour.

Stafettvasan 2024

The effort to create two complete teams for Friday's Stafettvasan 2024 had been marked by some "reshuffling," with the final addition being made just a few days before the introductory meeting at the Vasaloppet House on Thursday evening. Two teams were assembled.

In the veterans' **Team 1**, the five skiing ladies were 883 Margareta Östensson Lindblom, 1077 Helén Östensson, 928 Carina Johansson, 1064 Inger Olsson, and 1036 Karin Johannesson. These five veteran women skied down to Mora in 8:46:58.

In the veterans' **Team 2**, the participants were 1109 Martin Eriksson, 889 Claes-Erik Karlsson, 845 Heinz Felsner, 943 Karl-Gustav Björk, and 1059 Lars Tjäru. These five veteran men skied down to Mora in 7:26:12. The veteran team in 2016, consisting of five club members from Stora Tuna IF, skied down to Mora in 6:37:46, and that record stood until 2020 when five other veterans, all slightly greying older men, skied down to Mora in 6:28:12. That record still stands.

Clothing Collection

As informed last year, it has become somewhat cumbersome for the club to manage the previous Vasaloppet veteran clothing collection. This is partly due to changes in designs and colours. Therefore, the club has decided to simplify and limit the range of clothes to the following three items: a thin shorter down jacket in dark blue, a polo shirt in a lighter blue and a training/competition cap in dark blue. These items will be available for viewing and ordering during the autumn annual meeting. The web store will be open from two weeks before and until two weeks after the annual meeting.

Annual Meeting 6–7 Sep 2024

The autumn annual meeting will be held during the weekend of September 6–7, 2024, with the formal annual meeting on Saturday, September 7. More information will be provided in the next newsletter, expected to be released in July. Please mark the weekend in your calendar already!

Summer Week August 9–17

The first weekend of the Summer Week 2024, August 9–10, is dedicated to cycling. It starts on Friday morning with Cykelvasan Öppet Spår from Sälen and Ungdomscykelvasan from Oxberg. In the afternoon, Cykelvasan 30 and Cykelvasan 45 start in Oxberg. The main event, Cykelvasan 90, takes place on Saturday, starting from the classic Vasaloppet start in Berga by in Sälen.

The second weekend of the Summer Week 2024, August 16–17, is dedicated to running. On Friday, Trailvasan 10 is organised, with start and finish in Mora. On Saturday, there is a relay and three individual races. Vasastafetten, a relay race with ten sections of 4.5–15 km, starts in Sälen. The prestigious Ultravasan 90 race starts in Sälen at 05:00, while the half version Ultravasan 45 starts in Oxberg. Trailvasan 30 starts in Oxberg.

Registration for the Summer Week 2024

Vasaloppet offers Veteran Club members a **20% discount** on all Vasaloppet Summer Week events except for Cykelvasan 90. Vasaloppet veterans can register as follows, but note – your registration is personal and cannot be transferred or resold to anyone else!

1. Register by going to **www.vasaloppet.se** and proceeding to **REGISTRATION**.
2. Select the race and follow the instructions. When asked for a campaign code, enter the code you will find in the newsletter e-mailed to you.
3. Proceed to payment via debit card or online bank payment.

Programme

FRIDAY, AUGUST 9

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 10

Cykelvasan 90
Start: Sälen, 96 km

FRIDAY, AUGUST 16

Trailvasan 10
Start: Mora, 10 km

SATURDAY, AUGUST 17

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

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Register for the Winter Week 2025

Though the **Winter Week 2025** feels far off in April when snow has not yet left the northern parts of the country, it is possible to register for the Winter Week 2025!

The code to use for registration for any of the races during the Winter Week 2025 you will find in the newsletter e-mailed to you. This code provides a free start in Öppet Spår Monday on February 27, 2025, and a 50% discount on other races. If you know that you are going to participate, register now to make things easier for the Vasaloppet office!

Membership benefits and discounts

We currently have partnership deals with Stadium sports stores and ten facilities from Frösö Park, Östersund, and Gällö Skidtunnel in the north to Kviberg Park Hotel & Conference and Serneke Ski facility/Skidome, Gothenburg, in the south, as well as Täby Konstsnöspår in the east and Voksenåsen Hotel in Oslo to the west. Take the opportunity to use these facilities for both training and recreation! By paying the Veteran Club membership fee and showing that you are a paying member upon arrival you can benefit from the following discounts:

Stadium: Vasaloppet's partner Stadium offers, as in previous years, a generous discount to members of Vasaloppet's Veterans Club. The offer provides a **30% discount** on one (1) entire purchase and is valid throughout Vasaloppet's Winter Week at Stadium's temporary stores in Sälen and Mora. **NOTE! The new arrangement simplifies the previous system of personalized discounts, and the 30% discount now applies to all Vasaloppet veterans regardless of the number of "Vasaloppet years" completed!** Please note that the 30% discount is personal and may not be used by anyone who is not a member of Vasaloppet's Veteran Club. The discount conditions apply to regular prices and package deals but not to already discounted products. Misuse of our discount may result in its removal in the future. If you have any questions regarding the discount, please contact Mats Rylander or Gun-Britt Cristofersson at Vasaloppet in Mora.

Frösö Park: 15% off standard prices for accommodation including breakfast for members and companions in the same room/cabin, applicable at any time of year. Cannot be combined with other discounts.

Gällö Ski Tunnel: 30% off standard prices (both one-day and multi-day cards) for skiing in the tunnel. 20% off standard prices for accommodation in the holiday village.

Orsa Grönklitt: 10% off standard accommodation prices for members and companions in the same room/cabin (though not during high season weeks such as Christmas/New Year, sports holidays, Easter and more). Cannot be combined with other discounts.

Mora Parken: 10% off standard accommodation prices (though not during high season weeks such as Christmas/New Year, sports holidays, Easter and more). Booking of accommodation should be completed well in advance of arrival at Mora Parken via telephone at +46250-276 00, with reference to your membership. Applicable for members and companions in the same room/cabin. Cannot be combined with other discounts or offers from Mora Parken.

Högbo Brukshotell and Högbo Bruk: 20% discount off standard accommodation prices including breakfast buffet during low season for members and companions in the same room. Cannot be combined with other discounts. 30% discount off standard prices for skiing in the artificially frozen ski tracks, when fees apply. This discount applies in addition to other discounts (groups, pensioners etc.) that might be applicable.

Torsby Skidtunnel & Sportcenter: 30% discount off standard prices (one-day and multi-day cards) for skiing in the ski tunnel. Cannot be combined with other discounts.

Voksenåsen, Oslo: 20% discount on regular accommodation prices (though not during high season weeks such as Christmas/New Year, sports holidays, Easter and more). Booking of accommodation should be completed well in advance of arrival at Voksenåsen Hotel by calling +47 22 81 15 00 or emailing booking@voksenasen.no, referring to membership in the Veteran Club. The discount is

applicable to members and companions in the same room/cabin. The discount cannot be combined with other discounts or offers by Voksenåsen Hotel.

Kalhyttans Sports & Leisure Arena, Filipstad: 20% discount on regular prices for all track cards for skiing in Kalhyttans artificially frozen ski tracks, when fees apply. Passes can be obtained by emailing kalhyttan@filipstad.se or calling +46590-613 54, with reference to membership in the Veteran Club.

Täby Konstsnoöspår: 15% discount off the standard price of seasonal cards. Cannot be combined with other discounts.

Kviberg Park Hotel & Conference: As a Vasaloppet veteran, you can sign up as a KPH Bonus Member at any time through the hotel's website and receive a 10% discount on regular accommodation prices. As a KPH Bonus Member, you also have additional benefits such as a discounted price for parking, and more. In the adjacent Serneke Skidome, you will receive a 20% discount on regular prices for single-day passes, 10-day passes, and annual passes. A one-time fee for a membership bracelet is required for 10-day passes and annual passes.

You can find more information about the different facilities on their respective websites. For all accommodation, be sure to book well in advance of your arrival. Support our partners!