

Yearly report Sweden 2023/2024

Even this year has had a lot of veteran-fencers' different kind of events and we reach out to more and more fencers.

We now have three veteran-competitions in Sweden, that is the National Championships, Malmö International and from February 2024 Stockholm Veteran Open in the Veteran Circuit. It's a raise with 50% from a small start, but still. The circuit gave more veteran-fencers an opportunity to fence internationally without going abroad and we are sure it will be easier to dare to go away further next season.

The amount of licensed fencers from the age of 40 and over has this year been 101 persons. The amount of fencers that are *training* is a lot higher. Many fencers don't need the competition to go to trainings, they are strong enough without that carrot. Some fencers after senior class think it is too expensive to pay a national license of 1000 SEK to participate once or twice a year in national competitions and are also holding back as we from north mostly need to pay for flights and more hotel-nights than if you just can drive to a competition like in Central Europe. However we are proud of the fencers that find fencing at the club enough fun to continue their training.

The official veteran committee has now finally settled a ranking-system for men épée. The work with a system for women épée and men foil is still to be worked out. The need is however not as big as with men épée as there are not so many fencers to choose between for team-competition and world championships in the other weapons. However, a ranking-list can be a motivation for fencers no matter where on the list you are – you can encourage yourself to work harder to get higher on the list than the year before, have your own goals.

Swedish fencers has continued to participate in the European Veteran Circuit and it has gotten to become more or less a tradition now for some of the fencers to go and we encourage more to take part. Competitions from the circuit are now included in our national ranking with the choice to choose 2 of them.

We are also happy to announce the start of a series of ladies' training-camps where any female fencer, no matter of experience, can participate to have a nice but hard fencing-weekend together under good leadership and on your own level. So far we have had 3 camps in Stockholm and at the last camp we also had visitors from Norway and from Finland. We have both had internationally merited fencers and persons that left fencing after junior-age but now want to start up again and also fencers who have started as grown-ups, maybe parents to young fencers or just persons with a dream to participate into this sport. Sometimes – sometimes – it is good to separate men from women, like in this kind of camps. A goal is to, when the right time come, “ship” this camp around the country to reach more fencers.

Last but not least; we were very happy to have one gold- and one silver medal in the last World Championships in Daytona Beach. We are happy for Jan Tivenius and for Annica De Groote and for the publicity it gave even out of the normal fencing-crowd, which is very important.

Most of our communication is hold through our Facebook-group Svensk Veteranfäktning, but also we reach out on svenskfaktning.se.

//Kerstin Warvsten

Swedish Veteran Fencers

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