

## Yearly report Sweden 2024/2025

As the work with Swedish veteran-fencing has grown, the group decided to split the tasks to two people instead of one. Jan Tivenius, board-member of the Swedish Fencing Federation, is since autumn of 2024 main-responsible for the activities so that Kerstin Warvsten can focus on international tasks. However, it is a close cooperation with the rest of the group that represents all three weapons.

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. Stockholm Veteran Open grew this year, more veteran-fencers took the opportunity to fence internationally without going abroad. It is a good scene to promote fencing for persons above the normal senior-age. From participating in other competitions in the Circuit we learn how to improve the competition to next coming years.

The amount of licensed fencers from the age of 40 and over has this year been 99 persons, 16 women and 83 men. However the amount of members in the fencing-family is a lot higher, 40 women and 196 men. Some fencers are just happy to train and do not need the excitement of competitions. We need to respect – and sometimes even admire – persons that keep on training just for health reasons or for the fun of it. We do not want a demand on competing to hold back on persons who just want to fence. On the other hand we would like to find out if there is anything we can do to make it easier and more priceable to take part in competitions for those who want to compete.

Swedish fencers have 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 fencers to take part. Competitions from the circuit are now included in our national ranking with the choice to choose 2 of them.

The start of a series of ladies' training-camps where any female fencer, no matter of experience, can participate has been a success. More and more fencers that we usually don't meet in the competition are seen here. As the total amount of female fencers over the age of 40 is not so big in each club, this is a very good opportunity to train with equals, under more fair conditions. We always have a qualified fencing-coach that gives lessons,

which is very important as not everyone can get lessons in their own club. This year we extended the geographical area and had the spring-camp in Gothenburg, where we could attract fencers that earlier not have had the courage or willingness to go to Stockholm for a camp. We will try to have camps in others parts of the country too, besides Stockholm. We even encourage foreign fencers to participate. An idea would be to spread this to men's veterans too, as senior camps can be too tough for some of the older fencers. Sometimes it is good to separate trainings for men and women, sometimes, especially for more new fencers and fencers of a higher age.

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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