

The sporting life of King Gustav V of Sweden

(Communication given to the president of the I. O. C. by Mr. Sten Svensson, editor of The official paper of the Swedish Sport Organisation.)

When the King Gustav was a young man, he devoted himself to skiing and skating, but has not taken part in any competition.

When the King was lieutenant (in 1877-1880) he competed as a horseman in several races and won several prizes. The 20th. June 1870 he competed in a race one English mile without hindrances and got the 3rd prize. The last time the King was riding was when he was 80 years old, in front of the troops, gathered to celebrate him.

The King has been a prominent sportsman in shooting all his life. He has shot deers and elks. He has a prominent collection of heads, which often have won prizes at international exhibitions. He was also an interested fishing man.

In 1879 the King played tennis for the first time in England and played it then intensely afterwards until 1946, i. e. for 67 years, which in a way is a world record.

The King has won 200 prizes in tennis.

In 1879 the King built the first tennis track in Stockholm. He has also taken the

initiative to various lawn tennis buildings in Stockholm.

In 1889 the King took the initiative to start the jockey-club of Sweden, and remained its president until he became King in 1907. In 1897 he was one of the persons who started the important organisation the Swedish Central Society for Furthering the Sport, and he remained president until 1907, and afterwards he has been its protector.

It was during 1904-1907 that I worked with the King in this organisation. From 1904 he has been the patron of the Swedish Central Sport Organisation, which comprises 500 000 athletes.

In 1896 he started the « Lawn Tennis Club of the Crown Prince », and was its chairman until 1907, when he became king. The name was then changed to the « Royal Lawn Tennis Club ».

His Majesty was the patron for the Olympic Games 1912, and also for the Northern Sporting Games since 1901, for the Baltic Sport Games 1914, and several other sporting events.

The King has during his whole life given prizes to sporting events and in many ways supported the sport and amateur athletics.