

Sweden and Olympism

"By creating the Swedish Olympic Committee and vowing to show ourselves worthy of our mission, we were also convinced that we would be supported by all nations which appreciate sport for its merit."

Colonel Victor Balck*,
IOC founder member in Sweden
4th July 1912

"Of all countries, Sweden was the one in which the Olympic idea unquestionably found the most import."

Pierre de Coubertin :
"Une campagne de vingt et un ans"
(A twenty-one year campaign)

SWEDEN

449,200 square kilometres.
8,250,000 inhabitants (approximately).

Secretary General in office : Bo Bengtsson*.

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Role of the SOK

The Swedish Olympic Committee is the highest body of the national sports movement with regard to all matters related to the preparation of and participation in the Olympic Games and Winter Games.

As such, it governs and supports all the sports federations and collaborates with the Swedish Sports Federation.

SVERIGES OLYMPISKA KOMMITTE (SOK)

Founded on 2nd November 1905.

Constituted in its present form on 27th April 1913.

President in office : HRH Prince Bertil*.

Chairman in office : Carl Gustav Anderberg*.

* See biographical notes.

Background

Sport has a long history in Sweden ; both games and physical exercise have played a very important role in the life, and more specifically in the education,

We should like to express our thanks to Mr. Wolf Lyberg, Assistant Secretary of the SOK, for his valuable assistance in the preparation of this study.

of the Nordic peoples since early times, as testified by the oldest sources tracing back to the nations of the north and their history.

Everyone knows that skiing existed long ago from scholars who affirm that the Hoting ski is 4,500 years old.

Apart from winter sports, Nordic sports were very similar to those practised at Olympia in antiquity.

Sources

Around 500 AD, the Gothic historian, Jordanes, mentioned the "fleet-footed" inhabitants of the north. The Vikings (in the 9th - 11th centuries), hardy sailors skilled in the use of arms, also practised peaceful sports such as running, swimming and wrestling.

The first "sports school" was founded in the court of King Gustav Vasa (1496-1560) and in 1792 sports competitions, in the modern sense of the term, made their appearance.

The Uppsala aquatic society, which was founded in 1896, seems to be the oldest sports club still active today. At the beginning, however, this club concentrated rather on spreading a basic knowledge of how to swim than on holding competitions. Similarly, the first sports federation, the Swedish Cycling Federation ("Svenska Hjulföbundet"), founded in 1888, was oriented principally towards touring by bicycle.

The pioneers

The English, who were established in Sweden as industrialists and businessmen, contributed towards the spreading of modern sport. Although principally interested in gymnastics, *Per-Henrik Ling* (1776-1839), founder in 1813 of what has since become the Stockholm Gymnastics and Sports College, was also one of the forerunners of organised sport in Sweden. He was known as the "father of Swedish gymnastics",

Coubertin and Sweden

Sweden, for her part, agreed to a number of tremendous concessions, in the field of gymnastics in particular. When I visited that country in 1899 for the first time, I would never have believed it possible that the intransigence of Ling's disciples would weaken twelve years later to the extent of tolerating the glorification of all sports in the heart of Stockholm and the setting up of the detested apparatus right in the middle of the stadium. Fortunately, in these twelve years the evolution in Sweden's attitude to sport, which had started same time before, began to speed up thanks to the encouragement of the King and Princes and above all of our popular and enthusiastic colleague Balck.

Olympic Memoirs, page 99.

while a successor of his as principal of the College, *Victor G. Balck** (1844-1928), was called the "father of Swedish sport".

When 'Pierre de Coubertin invited personalities and organisations whom he considered qualified to support his move towards re-establishing the Olympic Games, he included *the Royal Swedish Court* where sport had held its rightful place for some time.

On 1st May 1894 the Marshal of the Court of Sweden wrote to Pierre de Coubertin :

"By order of HRH the Prince Royal of Sweden and Norway, I have the honour to inform you that His Royal Highness has pleasure in accepting the patronage of the International Athletics Congress from 16th to 24th June 1894 which you have so kindly offered him..."

Having won this support, Coubertin then acquired that of the Central Gymnastics Institute in Stockholm, and of its Director, at that time Captain Balck*.

Attending with *Frederik Bergh* and *Major Drakenberg* the 1894 Congress which resulted in the re-establishment of the Olympic Games, Victor Balck* was elected a founder member of the International Olympic Committee.

In 1895 Balck* told Coubertin that he had been working very hard and that



Victor G. Balck



J. Sigfrid Edström



Clarence de Rosen

the Prince Royal, the future *King Gustav V of Sweden*, whose reign covered the period 1907-1950, a sportsman admired by everybody, was taking a close interest in the development of the Olympic movement—an interest that never waned. The following year (1896), Victor Balck* travelled to Athens to attend the first Olympic Games, accompanying Henrik Sjöberg, the only competitor of Swedish nationality to take part in the events.

In 1900 *Count Clarence von Rosen* * became the second IOC member in Sweden, and according to Coubertin was an excellent recruit. For nearly fifty years he contributed most positively towards the development of Olympism. With the aid of *J. Sigfrid Edström* *, who was later to become President of the IOC from 1946 to 1952, Balck * played the main role in founding the Swedish Sports Federation on 31st May 1903.

He was also President of the Organising Committee of the first Northern Games which took place in 1901. These Games, which were repeated in 1903, 1905 and 1909, were presented in the "*Olympic Review*" of the time as the "*Scandinavian Olympiads*". The intensive focus of Scandinavian sport, they can be regarded as a precursor to the Winter Games which were to come.

Towards the creation of an NOC

The first Swedish Olympic Committee was formed on 2nd November 1905 in order to prepare a national team for the Intermediary Games held at Athens in 1906.

Colonel Balck*, its first President, was supported in this both by the Swedish Sports Federation and the Swedish Central Society for the Encouragement of Sport.

The members of the founder Committee included Burman, Major Drakenberg—who had taken part in the re-establishment of the Olympic Games in Paris, Frestadius, Baron Sven Hermelin and Astley Lewin—delegates of the Central Society for the Encouragement of Sport, J. Sigfrid Edström*—future President of the IOC, Bergvall, G. Drake, Westin and Nerman of the Swedish Sports Federation.

This Committee was dissolved at the end of 1906 and another created later to take on the responsibility for the excellent organisation of the Olympic Games which Stockholm was to host. The Committee in its present form dates from 27th April 1913 and was composed of a President, HRH Prince Gustav Adolf, and 15 members appointed for a period of four years.

First Board of the SOK (1913)

PT: HRH Prince Gustav Adolf.
VPTs: Lieutenant-Colonel Victor G. Balck* and J. Sigfrid Edström*.
S: Kristian Hellström.
T: Fritz af Sandeberg.
Ms: Astley Lewin, G.G.A. Lindecrona, Walter and Axel Murray, Count Clarence von Rosen, Gustav Torén, Gunnar C. von Ugglå, Baron Sven Hermelin. C. Kornerup, G. Drake and C. Silverstolpe.

First affiliated federations

Athletics, rowing, cycling, fencing, football, gymnastics, wrestling, swimming, tennis...
 ...and several months later: equestrian, modern pentathlon, shooting and yachting.

Royal support

We have mentioned above the Swedish royal family's links with the Olympic movement. This becomes even more evident as we record the constant and enlightened presence of different members of the royal family as Presidents of the SOK : HM King Gustav VI Adolf, his son HRH Prince Gustav Adolf, and since 1947 HRH Prince Bertil*, have in succession assumed the presidency with conviction, devotion and success.



On 19th January 1978 at the Royal Palace, the King and Queen received Prince Bertil (left) and Messrs. Bo Bengtson and Wolf Lyberg (right) who came to present the file of the city of Gothenburg's candidature to stage the XIVth Winter Games.

The present sovereign, HM Carl Gustav, SOK patron and an ardent sportsman, took part in 1977 in the traditional Vasaloppett, the most important cross-country skiing event in that it unites more than 11,000 skiers over a distance of 85.5 km between Sälen and Mora. Another closer link between followers of Olympism and the royal family is to be found in the ready, willing and able participation of the present Queen, then Miss Sylvia Sommerlath, in the organisation of the reception services at the 1972 Olympic Games in Munich and the 1976 Winter Games in Innsbruck.

Evolution

After the Second World War, HRH Prince Bertil * wisely gathered about

him a group of personalities who were active, competent and examples to be admired by young people. Most of them were former champions, like Messrs. Bo Ekelund*, Gustav Dyrssen* and Sven Thofelt *, who both within the IOC and International Federations or national sports life had all played-and continue to play-a major role.

Messrs. Gunnar Ericsson * and Matts Carlgren* in the IOC, and Bo Bengtson * as Secretary General of the SOK and President of the European National

Olympic Committees, also testify effectively to the enthusiasm which has for the last 80 years been a characteristic of the Scandinavian Olympic movement.

The successes of sixty-five years can no longer be counted although they can be explained, for the Committee has always succeeded in appointing leaders of very high quality. During the annual meeting of the Swedish Olympic Committee held on 16th November 1973 Lord Killanin, President of the IOC and guest at the commemoration of the 60th anniversary of the SOK, stressed particularly the importance of the work presently being undertaken by all Swedish sports associations within the NOC and the Swedish Sports Federation.



Bo Ekelund



Gustav Dyrssen



Gunnar Ericsson



Matts Carlgren

Successive Presidents of the SOK

1905-1913 : Colonel Victor Balck *.

1913-1933 : HM King Gustav VI Adolf.

1933-1947 : HRH Prince Gustav Adolf.

Since 1947 : HRH Prince Bertil *.

IOC members In Sweden

1. Colonel Victor Balck*, founder member, from 1894 to 1928.
2. Count Clarence von Rosen*, from 1900 to 1948.
3. J. Sigfrid Edström*, from 1920 to 1952, Executive Board member from 1921 to 1952, Vice-President from 1937 to 1946, President from 1946 to 1952 and Honorary President from 1952 until his death in 1964.
4. Bo Ekelund*, from 1948 to 1965, honorary member since 1965.
5. General Gustav Dyrssen*, from 1952 to 1970, honorary member since 1970.
6. Gunnar Ericsson*, since 1965.
7. Brigadier-General Sven Thofelt*, from 1970 to 1976.
8. Matts Carlgren*, since 1976.



Sven Thofelt

SWEDEN AND THE OLYMPIC GAMES

● First participation : 1896

Henrik Sjöberg goes down in Swedish sports history as his country's first Olympic competitor. He went to Athens at his own expense and participated in four athletic events (high jump - finishing 4th, 100 m, long jump and discus) and one gymnastics event (horse vault).

Since then, Swedish sportsmen have attended all Olympiad celebrations with the exception of 1904.

1972 - Munich : the Swedish delegation.

Representation of Sweden at the Winter Games from 1924 to 1976 ¹

	Biathlon (skiing & shooting)	Bobsleigh	Ice Hockey	Luge	Speed Skating	Figure Skating	Skating	Total
1924	●		10	●	2	1	10	23
1928	●		12	●	1	1	10	24
1932	●			●	1	2(1)	9	12(1)
1936	●		13	●	1	1	21	36
1948	●		16	●	6		29(1)	51(1)
1952	●	9	17	●	9	2(1)	28(9)	65(10)
1956	●	9	17	●	7	1(1)	24(7)	25(8)
1960	4	●	17	●	9(2)		17(2)	47(4)
1964	4	6	17		10(3)	1(1)	19(4)	57(8)
1968	6	6	18	5(1)	12(3)	1	29(7)	77(11)
1972	5	5	20		12(3)	1(1)	21(5)	64(9)
1976	5	5		6	9(2)		20(6)	45(8)

¹ The figures in brackets represent the number of women included in the first figure.

● Not included on the programme.

Figure skating : 4(1) in 1908 and 4(2) in 1920.

Ice hockey : 10 in 1920.

Representation of Sweden at the Olympic Games from 1896 to 1976¹

	Athletics	Rowing	Basketball	Boxing	Canoeing	Cycling	Equestrian Events	Fencing	Football	Gymnastics	Weightlifting
1896	1	x	●	●	●		x		●		
1900	8		●	●	●				0 ²		●
1904			0 ²		●		●		●		
1908	39		●		●	2	●	8	18	38	●
1912	118	28	●	●	●	12	17	22	14	244	●
1920	66	6	●		●	4	23	8	22	37	6
1924	32		●	5	●	4	12	9(3)	18		5
1928	29(6)		●	8	●	5	12	8(2)			2
1932	9		●	3	●	4	6	3			
1936	38(1)	5		4	9	5	9	13(2)	22		2
1948	50(5)	3		4	9(1)	4	7	8	18	8(8)	4
1952	45(7)	16		7	10(1)	8	9	10	20	15(8)	7
1956	17(2)	9		3	6	4	9	5		8(6)	1
1960	26(4)	11		2	6(1)	5	10	7(1)		12(6)	1
1964	16(1)				7(2)	4	3	7(2)		9(6)	3
1968	18(3)			1	11(1)	6		6(1)		6(3)	2
1972	28(10)	1		3	10(1)	8	6(3)	8(1)		1(1)	4
1976	18	3		3	11	7	2	7			5

¹ The figures in brackets represent the number of woman included in the first figure.

x Sport included in the programme but in which no event was contested.

² Demonstration sport.



	Handball	Hockey	Judo	Wrestling	Swimming	Modern Pentathlon	Shooting	Archery	Volleyball	Yachting	Total
1896	●	●	●					●		x	1
1900	●	●	●	●	1				●		9 ³
1904	●	●	●				●		●	●	0
1906	●		●	9	21		24		●	16	175
1912	●	●	●	34	64(16)		63	●		39	667(16)
1920	●		●	14	34(10)		30		●	14	271(10)
1924	●	●	●	14	34(7)		18	●		4	159(10)
1928	●		●	9	17(5)		●	●		11	104(13)
1932	●		●	13	3(1)		3	●		7	54(1)
1936	0 ²		●	14	17(3)		7	●		14(2)	162(8)
1948	●		●	16	19(5)		11	●		16	179(17)
1952	●		●	16	24(7)		10	●		14	214(23)
1956	●		●	10	7(6)		8	●		7	97(14)
1960	●		●	12	19(7)		9	●		11	134(19)
1964	●			9	15(7)		6	●		11	93(18)
1966	●		●	7	17(6)		9	●		11	97(14)
1972	16		1	8	17(10)		10	5(2)		17	147(28)
1976			1	8	22		11	4		16	122(19)

● Not included on the programme.

² Tennis : 4(1) in 1908, 16 in 1912, 8(3) in 1920 and 4(2) in 1924.

³ 50 gymnasts and 8 swimmers participated in exhibitions.

The Swedish Olympic Champions

I. Titles obtained at the Olympic Games¹

* The names in heavy print indicate that the champion in question will be mentioned again later on.
We would like to thank in advance all readers able to help us complete this table and give us news of all the champions.

Name	Christian Name	Sport	Event
Leming	Erik	Athletics	Javelin
Leming	Erik	—	Javelin (Greco-Roman)
Asbrink	Gösta	Gymnastics	Team combined competition
Bertilsson	Carl		
Cervin	Andreas		
Cedercrona	Hjalmar		
Degermark	Hjalmar		
Folcker	Carl W.		
Forssman	Sven		
Granfelt	Erik G.		
Harleman	Carl		
Hellsten	Nils E.		
Höjer	Gunnar		
Holmberg	Arvid		
Holmberg	Carl		
Holmberg	Carl		
Jahnke	Curt		
Jarlén	Jean		
Johnsson	Harald		
Johnsson	Rolf		
Kantow	Nils G.		
Landberg	Sven		
Lanner	Olle		
Ljung	Axel		
Moberg	Ossvald		
Norberg	Carl Martin		
Norberg	Erik		
Norling	Thor		
Norling	Axel		
Norling	Daniel		
Olsson	Gustav		
Pettersson	Leonard		
Rosén	Sven		
Rosenqvist	Gösta		
Sjöblom	Axel		
Sörvik	Birger		
Sörvik	Haakon		
Svensson	Karl-Johan		
Vinqvist	Gustav		
Widforss	Nils		
Martensson	Fritjof	Greco-Roman wrestling	Middleweight
Johansson	Hjalmar	Diving	Platform
Salchow	Ulrich	Skating	individual
Swahn	Oscar G.	Shooting	Running deer (1 shot)
Swahn	Oscar G.	—	Team running deer
Swahn	Alfred	—	—
Knöppel	Arvid	—	—
Rosell	Ernst O.	—	—



1900 - Lieutenant Berg surrounded by the Swedish delegation

¹ Certain documents mention the victory of a mixed team composed of Danes and Swedes in the tug of war event at the 1900 Olympic Games. This team comprised the following athletes : Edgar Aabye, August Nilsson, Eugen Schmidt, Gustav Söderström, Karl Staaf and Charles Winckler.
W : women.

Name	Christian Name	Sport	Event
Leming	Erik	Athletics	Javelin
Lindblöm	Gustav	—	Triple jump
Wieslander	Hugo	—	Decathlon
Andersson	Hjalmar	—	Team cross-country
Eke	John	—	—
Ternström	Josef	—	—
Andersson	Arvid L.	Tug of war	—
Bergman	Adolf	—	—
Edman	John	—	—
Fredriksson	Erik	—	—
Gustafsson	August	—	—
Jonsson	Carl	—	—
Larsson	Erik	—	—
Lindström	Carl H.	—	—
Friborg	Erik	Cycling	Team road
Lönn	Algot	—	—
Maim	Ragnar	—	—
Persson	Axel	—	—
Bonde	Carl	Equestrian	Dressage
Norlander	Axel	—	Military
Norlander	Axel	—	Team military
Adlercreutz	Nils	—	—
Casparson	Ernest	—	—
Kilman	Gustav	—	Team show jumping
Lewenhaupt	Gustav	—	—
von Rosen	Hans	—	—
Bertilsson	Per Daniel	Gymnastics	Team SWE system
Carlberg	Carl-Ernfrid	—	—
Granfelt	Nils Daniel	—	—
Hartzell	Curt	—	—
Holmberg	Oswald	—	—
Hylander	Anders	—	—
Janse	Axel	—	—
Kullberg	Anders Boo	—	—
Landberg	Sven	—	—
Nilsson	Per	—	—
Norelius	Benkt Rudolf	—	—
Norling	Axel	—	—
Norling	Daniel	—	—
Rosen	Sven	—	—
Silfverskiöld	Nils	—	—
Silfverstrand	Carl	—	—
Sörensson	John	—	—
Stiernspetz	Yngve	—	—
Svensson	Carl Erik	—	—
Svensson	Karl Johan	—	—
Torell	Karl Johan	—	—
Wennerholm	Edvard	—	—
Wersäll	Claës	—	—
Wiman	David	—	—
Johansson	Claes	Greco-Roman wrestling	Middleweight
Ahlgren	Anders	—	Middle heavyweight
Johansson	Greta	Diving W.	Platform
Adlerz	Erik	Diving	Platform
Adlerz	Erik	—	Platform (acrobatic)
Lilliehook	Gustav	Modern pentathlon	Individual
Swahn	Alfred	Shooting	Running deer (1 shot)
Lundeberg	Ake	—	Running deer (2 shots)
Björkman	Carl	—	Team free rifle
Blömqvist	Erik	—	—
Eriksson	Mauritz	—	—
Johansson	Hugo	—	—
Jonsson	Adolf G.	—	—
Larsson	Bernhard	—	—
Carlberg	Wilhelm	—	small bore rifle



1912 - Gymnastics

Name	Christian Name	Sport	Event
Carlberg	Wilhelm	Shooting	Team small bore rifle
Carlberg	Erik	—	—
Boivie	Gustav	—	—
van Hoist	Johan Hübner	—	—
Carlberg	Wilhelm	—	Team pistol
Carlberg	Erik	—	—
von Holst	Johan Hübner	—	—
Pålen	Paul	—	—
«Kitty»		Yachting	10 m.
Ericsson	Philip	—	—
Hellström	Carl	—	—
Isberg	Paul	—	—
Lundén	Humbert	—	—
Nyberg	Herman	—	—
Rosenswärd	Harry	—	—
Wallerius	Erik	—	—
Wallerius	Harald	—	—
Stenqvist	Harry	Cycling	Road
Mörner	Helmer	Equestrian	Three-day event
Mörner	Helmer	—	Team three-day event
von Braun	Georg	—	—
Lundström	Age	—	Dressage
Lundblad	Jänne	—	—
von Rosen	Hans	—	Team show jumping
König	Claes	—	—
Norling	Daniel	—	—
Abrahamsen	Isak	Gymnastics	Team SWE system
Beyer	Hans	—	—
Björnson	Hartmann	—	—
Engelsen	Alfred	—	—
Johnsen	Sigurd	—	—
Johnsen	Bjarne	—	—
Knudsen	Knud	—	—
Knudsen	Alf	—	—
Lie	Rolf	—	—
Lund	Tor	—	—
Martinsen	Petter	—	—
Mathiesen	Petter	—	—
Opdahl	Jacob	—	—
Opdahl	Nils	—	—
Pettersen	Bjarne	—	—
Saelen	Frithjof	—	—
Schirmer	Olstein	—	—
Selenius	Georg	—	—
Sivertsen	Sigvard	—	—
Sjursen	Robert	—	—
Ström	Einar	—	—
Thorstensen	Gabriel	—	—
Thorstensen	Thomas	—	—
Voss	Nils	—	—
Larson	Anders	Freestyle wrestling	Middle heavyweight
Westergren	Carl	Greco-Roman wrestling	Middleweight
Johansson	Claes	—	Middle heavyweight
Malmroth	Hakan	Swimming	200 m breaststroke
Malmroth	Hakan	—	400 m breaststroke
Wallmann		Diving	Platform
Julin-Mauroy	Magda	Figure skating W.	Individual
Grafström	Gillis	Figure skating	Individual
Dyrssen*	Gustav	Modern pentathlon	Individual
Johansson	Hugo	Shooting	Military rifle (prone)

Name	Christian Name	Sport	Event
« Kullan »		Yachting	30 m.
Bengtsson	Gunnar	—	—
Calvert	Axel	—	—
Lundqvist	Gösta	—	—
Steffenburg	Rolf	—	—
« Sif »		—	40 m.
Holm	Tore	—	—
Holm	Yngve	—	—
Ryding	Axel	—	—
Tengwall	Georg	—	—
Linder	Ernst	Equestrian	Dressage
Bühler	Hans	—	Team show jumping
Stahle	Axel	—	—
Thelning	Ake	—	—
Westergren	Carl	Greco-Roman wrestling	Middle heavyweight
Lindman	Bo	Modern pentathlon	Individual
Lundquist	Erik	Athletics	Javelin
Sjöstedt	Thure	Freestyle wrestling	Middle heavyweight
Richthoff	Johan	—	Heavyweight
Svenson	Rudolf	Greco-Roman wrestling	Heavyweight
Borg	Arne	Swimming	1500 m.
Thofelt*	Sven	Modern pentathlon	Individual
Thorell	Sven	Yachting	Dinghy
Johansson	Ivar	Freestyle wrestling	Middleweight
Richthoff	Johan	—	Heavyweight
Malmberg	Erik	Greco-Roman wrestling	Lightweight
Svensson	Rudolf	—	Middle heavyweight
Westergren	Carl	—	Heavyweight
Oxenstierna	Johan G.	Modern pentathlon	Individual
Rönmark	Bertil	Shooting	Small bore rifle
« Bissbi » :		Yachting	6 m.
Akerlund	Olle	—	—
Bergqvist	Ake	—	—
Hindorff	Martin	—	—
Holm	Tore	—	—
Bladström	Erik	Canoeing	Folding K2 10,000 m
Johansson	Sven	—	—
Fridell	Knut	Freestyle wrestling	Middle heavyweight
Cadier	Axel	Greco-Roman wrestling	Middle heavyweight
Jöhansson	Ivar	—	Middleweight
Svedberg	Rudolf	—	Welterweight
Ullmann	Thorsten	Shooting	Free pistol (50 m)
Ericksson	Heny	Athletics	1500 m
Sjöstrand	Thore	—	3000 m steeplechase
Ahman	Arne	—	Triple jump
Ljunggren	John	—	50 km walk
Mikaelsson	John	—	10 km walk
Fredriksson	Gert	Canoeing	K1 - 1000 m
Fredriksson	Gert	—	K1 - 10,000 m
Berglund	Hans	—	K2 - 1000 m
Klingström	Lennart	—	—
Akerlund	Gunnar	—	K2 - 10,000 m
Wetterström	Hans	—	—

Year	Birth	Death	Notes
<u>1920</u>			
—			
—	1892	1944	
—	1886		
—			1948-1960 - G. Fredriksson
—	1897		
—	1895		
—	1887	1871	
—	1896	1954	
1924	1886	1968	
—	1893		
—	1891		
—	1892		
1924	1895	1956	
1924	1899		2nd in 1928 and 1932.
1928	1908		
1928	1903		
—	1898		
1928	1899		
1928	1901		Twice 2nd and once 3rd in 1924 and once 3rd in 1928.
1928	1904		IOC member from 1970 to 1976.
1928	1888	1974	
1932	1903		
—	1898		
1932	1897	1964	
—	1899		
—	1895	1958	3rd title since 1920.
1932	1899		
1932			
<u>1932</u>			
—	1911		
—	1900		
—	1897		3rd in 1936 and 1948.
—	1897		3rd in 1928 and 1948.
1936	1918		
—	1912		
1936	1908		
<u>1936</u>	1906		
—	1903		
—	1910		
1936	1908		
1948	1920		1948 - H. Ericksson
—	1921		
—	1925		
—	1919		3rd in 1956 and 2nd in 1960.
—	1913		
<u>1948</u>	1919		
—	1919		
—	1918		
—	1916		
—	1923		
—	1923		



1928 - A. Borg



1948 - H. Ericksson



1948 - Football: from left to right, standing : K. Rosén, G. Gren, K. Nordahl, B. Nordahl, G. Nordahl, H. Carlsson, N. Liedholm ; kneeling : B. Rosengren, B. Leander, T. Lindberg, E. Nilsson, S. Andersson.

Name	Christian Name
------	----------------

Andersson
Carlsson
Gren
Leander
Liedholm
Lindberg
Nilsson
Nordahl
Nordahl
Nordahl
Rosén
Rosengren

Sune
Henry
Gunnar
Börje
Nils
Torsten
Erik
Bertil
Gunnar
Knut
Kjell
Birger

Andersson
Freij
Grönberg
Nilsson
Pettersén

Gösta
Gustav
Axel
Karl-Erik
Kurt

Discipline	Weight Class
Greco-Roman wrestling	Welterweight
—	Lightweight
—	Middleweight
—	Middle heavyweight
—	Bantamweight

Grut*

Wille O.

Discipline	Event
Modern pentathlon	Individual

Mikaëlsson

John

Discipline	Event
Athletics	10 km walk

Fredriksson

Gert

Discipline	Event
Canoeing	K1 - 1000 m

Grönberg

Axel

Discipline	Event
Greco-Roman wrestling	Middleweight

van Blixen-Finecke

Hans

Discipline	Event
Equestrian	Three-day event

van Blixen-Finecke

Hans

Discipline	Event
—	Team three-day event

Frölen

Karl

—

Stahre

Nils

—

St Cyr

Henry

Discipline	Event
—	Dressage

St Cyr

Henry

Discipline	Event
—	Team dressage

Boltenstern

Gustav

—

Persson

Gehnell

—

Thoresson

William

Discipline	Event
Gymnastics	Floor exercises

Berggren ¹

Evy

Discipline	Event
Gymnastics W.	Artistic

Blomberg ₁

Vänja

—

Lindberg ₁

Karin

—

Pettersson-Colling ¹

Ann-Sofi

—

Pettersson

Göta

—

Nordin

Hjördis

—

Röring

Gun

—

Sandahl

Ingrid

—

Anderberg

Olle

Discipline	Event
Freestyle wrestling	Lightweight

Hall

Lars

Discipline	Event
Modern pentathlon	Individual

Fredriksson

Gert

Discipline	Event
Canoeing	K1 - 1000 m

Fredriksson

Gert

Discipline	Event
—	K1 - 10,000 m

Kastenman

Petrus

Discipline	Event
Equestrian	Three-day event

St Cyr

Henry

Discipline	Event
—	Dressage

St Cyr

Henry

Discipline	Event
—	Team three-day event

Boltenstern

Gustav

—

Persson

Gehnell

—

Hall

Lars

Discipline	Event
Modern pentathlon	Individual

Bohlin

Folke

Discipline	Event
Yachting	Dragon

Pal m

Bengt

—

Wikström

Leif

—

Karlsson

Hjalmar

Discipline	Event
—	5.5 m

Stork

Sture

—

Thorn

Lars

—

Fredriksson

Gert

Discipline	Event
Canoeing	K2 - 1000 m

Sjödelius

Sven-Olof

—

Peterson

Rolf

Discipline	Event
Canoeing	K1 - 1000 m

Sjödelius

Sven-Olof

Discipline	Event
—	K2 - 1000 m

Utterberg

Gunnar

—

Ferm

Björn

Discipline	Event
Modern pentathlon	Individual

Sundelin ¹

Jörgen

Discipline	Event
Yachting	5.5 m

Sundelin ₁

Ulf

—

Sundelin ¹

Peter

—

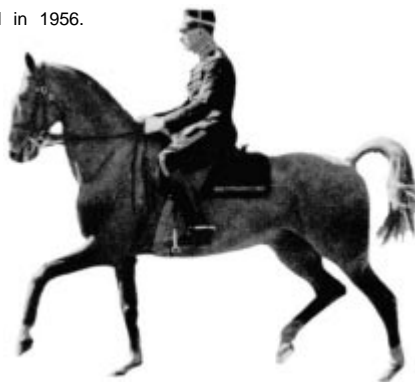
Year	Birth	Death	Notes
1948	1921		3rd in 1952.
—	1917		
—	1920		
—	1918		
—	1922		
—	1917		
—	1916		Member of the team placed 3rd In 1952.
—	1917		
—	1921		
—	1920		
—	1921		
—	1917		
1948	1917		
—	1922	1973	2nd in 1952 and 3rd in 1960.
—	1918		
—	1922		
—	1916	1957	
1948	1914		Present Secretary General of the UIPMB.
1952	1913		
1952	1919		
1952	1918		
1952	1916		
—	1916		
—	1908		
—	1909		
—	1902		
—	1902		
—	1904		
—	1910		
		1976	2nd in 1932 and 3rd in 1946.
1952	1932		
1952	1934		
—	1929		
—	1929		
—	1932		
—	1926		
—	1932		
—	1924		
1952	1919		
1952	1927		
1956	1919		
—	1919		
1956	1924		
—	1902		
—	1902		
—	1904		
—	1910		
1956	1927		
1956	1906		
—	1918		
—	1906		
—	1930		
—	1904		
1960	1919		
—	1933		
1964	1944		
—	1933		
—	1942		
1968	1944		
1968	1945		
—	1943		
—	1947		



1968 - B. Ferm



1952 - W. Thoresson



1952 - H. St Cyr

¹ Three brothers.

Name	Christian Name	sport	Event
Knape	Ulrika	Diving W.	Platform
Larsson	Gunnar	<u>Swimming</u>	200 m medley
Larsson	Gunnar	—	400 m medley
Skanakar	Ragnar	Shooting	Free pistol
Gärderud	Anders	Athletics	3000 m steeplechase
Johansson	Bernt	Cycling	Road
von Essen	Carl	<u>Fencing</u>	Team épée
Hogstrom	Leif	—	
Jacobson	Hans	—	
Albrechtson	John	Yachting	Tempest
Hansson	Ingvar	—	

II. Titles obtained at the Winter Games

Grafström	Gillis	Figure skating	Individual
Grafström	Gillis	Figure skating	Individual
Hedlund	Per	Nordic skiing	50 km
Utterström	Sven	Nordic skiing	18 km
Larsson	Erik August	Nordic skiing	18 km
Wiklund	Elis	—	50 km
Seyffarth	Ake	Speed skating	10,000 m
Karlsson	Nils	<u>Nordic skiing</u>	50 km
Lundström	Martin	—	15 km
Lundström	Martin	—	<u>4 x 10 km</u>
Eriksson	Gunnar	—	—
Östensson	Nils	—	—
Ericsson	Sigvard	Speed skating	10,000 m
	Sixten	Nordic skiing	50 km
Lestander	Klas	Biathlon	Individual
Johansson	Irma	<u>Nordic skiing W.</u>	<u>3 x 5 k m</u>
Ruthström-Edström	Sonja	—	—
Strandberg	Britt	—	—
Jernberg	Sixten	Nordic skiing	30 km
Nilsson	Jonny	Speed skating	10,000 m
Jernberg	Sixten	<u>Nordic skiing</u>	50 km
Jernberg	Sixten	—	<u>4 x 10 km</u>
Rönnlund	Karl-Ake	—	—
Stefansson	Assar	—	—
	Janne	—	—
Hoeglin	Johnny	Speed skating	10,000 m
Gustafsson	Toini	Nordic skiing W.	5 km
Rönnlund	Toini	—	10 km
Gustafsson	Rönnlund	—	—
Lundbäck	Sven-Ake	Nordic skiing	15 km

III. Titles obtained in the Art competitions

Name	Christian Name	Category	Position
Wallin	David	Painting	First
Blomberg	Stig	Sculpture	Third
Nordahl	Gustav	Sculpture	First
Olsson	Nils	Architecture	Third

Year	Birth	Death	Notes
1972	1955		2nd in springboard in 1972 and in platform in 1976.
1972	1951		1936 - E.A. Larsson
—	1951		
1972	1934		
1976	1946		
1976	1940		
—	1943		
—	1947		
1976	1936		
—	1947		
1924	1893	1938	
1928	1893	1938	2nd in 1932.
1928	1897	1976	
1932	1901		
1936	1912		
—	1909		
1948	1919		1976 - A. Gärderud
1948	1917		
—	1918		
—	1918		
—	1921		
—	1917		
—	1918		
1956	1930		
1956	1929		
1960	1931		
1960	1932		
—	1930		
—	1934		
1960	1929		
1964	1943		
1964	1929		
—	1929		
—	1939		
—	1935		
—	1936		
1968	1943		
—	1938		
—	1938		
1972	1948		1924-1928 - G. Grafström



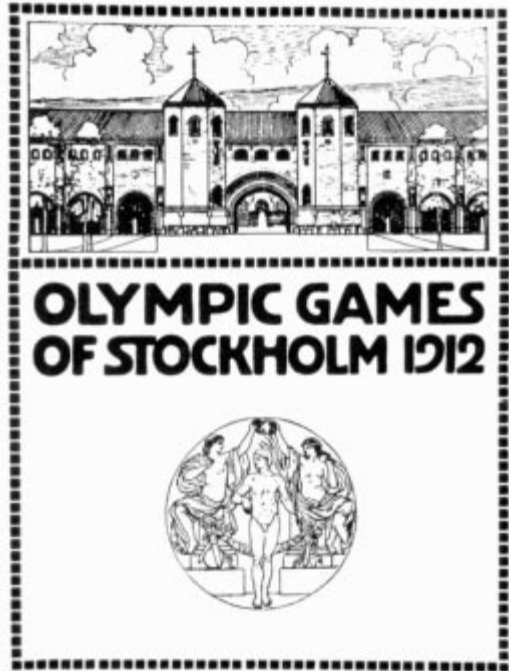
Year	Birth	Death	Work
1932	1876	1957	"Seaside at Arild".
1936	1901		"Wrestling children".
1948	1903		"Homage to Ling".
1948	1891		"Swimming and sports hall in Gothenburg".

● **Olympic medallists**

By coming third in the 1900 marathon, Erik Fast became the first Swedish Olympic medallist. Later on, many of his compatriots won similar honours, as shown in the previous tables.

● **Swedish cities which have applied to stage the Olympic Games**

- *Stockholm*, organising city of the 1912 Olympic Games celebrating the Vth Olympiad from 5th May to 22nd July, with 2,504 participants (including 57 women) from 28 countries. These Games were unanimously awarded by the IOC Session in 1909. Even today the image of these Games is preserved in the stadium, which was designed by Torben Grut who is none other than the father of Colonel Wille O. Grut*, 1948 Olympic modern pentathlon champion and current Secretary General of the Union Internationale de Pentathlon Moderne et Biathlon. These fifth Olympic Games of the modern era represent a major turning-point in the history of sport, which Coubertin recalled as follows : *“The understanding established by the Vth Olympiad between rival, and former enemy schools stood the test and survived the transitory national interest it had provoked. The pessimists just made troublesome predictions and it seems quite clear that both sides are satisfied with the reconciliation and prepared to cooperate actively in the future.”*
- *Stockholm*, organising city of the Equestrian Games of the XVIth Olympiad in 1958 from 10th to 17th June, with 158 participants (including 13 women) from 29 countries. Australian legislation prevented this sport from being included in the Olympic programme presented that year in Melbourne.



Stockholm 1912

The perfect organising machinery was above praise. Almost every detail had been foreseen in the most practical and simple way. The running of the offices was carried out with great ingenuity and an admirable order and method. A minimum of workers performed a maximum of work, such that a great many governments and public administrations might well have studied on the spot. Everybody was inspired by a wave of patriotism, the catchword for which was "Be a credit to Sweden". A committee of notable people presided by such remarkable individuals as Colonel Balck* and Mr. J.S. Edström* received the valuable support of the crown prince at its head. Never for one moment did HRH the Prince Royal's active interest in their work fail or diminish. The understanding between them remained unshakeable and served to show yet once again to what extent "unity is forc e".

Olympic Review, 1912, page 116.

- Gothenburg, candidate city for the organisation of the XIVth Winter Games to be held in 1984.

PRESENT ORGANISATION OF THE SOK

● *The present statutes* were adopted on 26th November 1970.

● *Composition*

In addition to the IOC members in Sweden who are ex officio members, the SOK is composed of one representative from each of the 26 federations whose sport is included in the Olympic programme, two delegates of the Swedish Sports Federation (SSF) and various individuals on account of their personal merit in the field of sport.

● *The General Assembly*, the highest authority, meets once a year. It holds elections every four years following the Olympic Games. It studies the annual reports of the SOK's executive bodies, decides and regulates the use of funds. Extraordinary meetings may be called at the request either of the Executive Committee or of at least one-third of the SOK members.

● *Office-bearers* (President, Vice-President, Executive Committee Chairman and members, Treasurer, Secretary, accountants, etc.) are elected for four years at the first meeting of the General Assembly immediately following the celebration of an Olympiad.

● *The Executive Committee* is made up of a Chairman, the Secretary and the Treasurer of the SOK, nine members and the IOC members in Sweden. It implements the SOK programme.

● **Present members of the Executive Committee**

Ch. : Mr. Carl Gustav Anderberg * ; *SG* : Mr. Bo Bengtson * ; *T* : Mr. Allan Adolfs-son ; *Ms* : Mrs. Stina Ljunggren (gymnastics), Messrs. Carl Wilhelm Engdahl (fencing), Matts Carlgren* (IOC member), Gunnar Ericsson* (Vice-President of the SOK and IOC member), Paul Hogberg* (Swedish Sports Federation and President of the International Handball Federation), Anders Lindstedt (canoeing), Wolf Lyberg (personal merit), George Pettersson (speed skating), General Stig Synnergren (skiing), Gunnar Werner (swimming) and Björn Schullström (shooting).

● **Federations affiliated to the SOK**

The 26 federations whose sport features on the Olympic programme are affiliated to the SOK.

● **Financing of the SOK**

A special commission of the SOK endeavours to raise the funds required for the Committee's administration and de-



The SOK Executive Committee in 1973 : Messrs. G. Ericsson (foreground), O. Westerberg, S. Bergman, G. Dyrssen, B. Ekelund, G. Hedberg, S. Thofelt, B. Bengtson, W. Lyberg, P. Högberg, C.G. Anderberg, Mrs. S. Ljunggren, Messrs. G. Pettersson, G. Werner, M. Carlgren.

	Creation	Affiliation IF	1973		1977	
			Clubs	Members	Clubs	Members
Athletics	1895	1013	900	80 000	920	85 000
Walking ¹	1934	—	385	10 000	—	
Rowing	1904	1946	65	5 000	—	
Basketball	1952	1952	330	95 000	456	
Bobsleigh	1949	1949	15	50		
Boxing	1919	1946	75	3 500	94	
Canoeing	1904	1946	90	10 000	98	
Cycling	1900	1900	155	25 000	185	
Equestrian	1912	1921	50	12 000	63	
Fencing	1904	1913	60	6 000	65	
Football	1904	1907	3000	135 000	3101	
Gymnastics	1904	1904	2025	465 000	1959	
Handball	1930	1946	760	75 000	858	
Hockey *	1978	1975			1214	
Ice hockey	1922	1920	1500	80 000		
Judo	1961	1963	95	10 000	200	
Luge	1949	1949	15	500		
Wrestling	1920	1921	195	12 000		
Swimming	1904	1908	430	75 000		
Modern pentathlon and biathlon	1909	1948	600	10 000		
Figure skating ¹	1904	1904	80	5 000	98	
Speed skating	1904	1904		8 000	92	
Skiing	1908	1924	1770	100000	1998	
Shooting	1943	1945	685	75 000	772	
Archery	1940	1931	200	5 000		
Volleyball	1961	1962	450	55 000		
Weightlifting	1922	1920		8 000	190	
Yachting	1905	1909		50 000	350	60 000

¹ Two bodies, one for athletics and the other for walking, are affiliated to the IAAF. Similarly, the ISU recognises one figure skating federation and one speed skating federation.

* Previously linked to the bandy federation.

velopment. This is achieved through the organisation of lotteries and the sale of various items. Several private bodies also contribute to national Olympic activities in the form of donations, whereas government subsidies cover participation costs in the Olympic Games and Winter Games.

In addition, the State grants sums to the sports federations out of the national budget. From this amount, the Swedish Sports Federation allocates the SOK approximately 100,000 Swedish crowns (SF.42,000) per annum for its running expenses.

THE SOK AND OLYMPISM

● IOC Sessions held in Sweden

1912 - Session in Stockholm.

1947 - Session in Stockholm.

● *Olympic day* is not yet celebrated in Sweden. However, the SOK endeavours to propagate Olympism by various events, such as the commemoration of its 60th anniversary in 1973, the meeting of champions in different disciplines at recreational evenings, the distribution of brochures, etc.

● Olympic awards obtained

Olympic Order

- 1977 - Silver medal to *Sven Låftman*, sports promoter. This award was attributed to him just before his 90th birthday and his death in July 1977.

Olympic Cup

- 1908 - By the *Sveriges Centralförening för Idrottens Främjande* (Swedish Central Society for the Encouragement of Sport) for its contribution to Olympism's development in Sweden, to mark its 10th anniversary.
- 1940 - By the *Svenska Gymnastik- och Idrottsföreningarnas Riksförbund* (Union of Swedish Athletic Sports Federations), since known as the Swedish Sports Federation.
- 1947 - By *J. Sigfrid Edström** for his steadfastness and dedication during the critical 1942-1946 period when he carried on the presidency of the IOC following the death of Count Henri de Baillet-Latour.

Let us note that the Olympic Cup was awarded rarely to individuals : only three times in 70 years.

Olympic Diploma of Merit

- By *Victor Balck**, 8th holder in 1908. At the time Coubertin declared : *"Although it is not normal practice to award this diploma to IOC members, his colleagues considered there was every reason to make him an agreeable exception. For Colonel Balck's whole life has been taken up with the personal practice of sport at the same time as the concern to improve his physical condition. It is your task to shake all countries out of their indifference and activate the willing forces. You will keep this diploma in memory of your efforts for the glory and independence of sport."*



Sixten Jernberg

Sir Thomas Fearnley Cup

- 1962 - By the *Föreningen för Skidloppningens och Friluftslivets Främjande* (Society for the Encouragement of Skiing and Outdoor Life).

Mohammed Taher Trophy

- 1956 - By *Gert Fredriksson*, exceptional Olympian, undoubtedly the most successful canoe-kayak champion.
- 1965 - By *Sixten Jernberg*, who became particularly famous in the history of cross-country skiing for his humane and athletic qualities.

Tokyo Trophy

- 1968 - By the *Käll brothers* (Lars Gunnar and Stig Lennart) for lending their assistance to opponents who were in difficulties during the Olympic competitions.

Prix de la Reconnaissance Olympique

- By *Torsten Tegner*, in 1973, for his whole career as a sports journalist, who was fortunate enough to attend all the Olympic Games from 1908 to 1972.

- **Protection of the Olympic emblems** is guaranteed on the territory of the Kingdom of Sweden by the registration of these emblems as a trade mark.

● International Olympic Academy

Sweden participated in the work of the IOA in 1964 and 1965, and then on a regular basis for the last four years.

● Swedish Olympic bibliography

- *"Vth Olympiad - Stockholm 1912"*, report of the Swedish Olympic Committee. Published by Wahlström and Wilstra, Stockholm.
- *"Equestrian Games of the XVth Olympiad - Stockholm 1956"*, report of the Organising Committee.
- *"Olympia-Boken"* : the SOK has been publishing its official report under this title every four years since 1948. Published by Brunnhages Förlags AB, Upplandsgatan 22, Stockholm.

General Works

Between 1920 and 1948, Erik Bergvall was the author of several books in Swedish on the history of the Olympic Games.

Miscellaneous

"Sweden, a land of sport". Published in English in 1949 by the Swedish Sports Federation.

"The Swedish Sports Federation" (in English or French), brochure presenting the national sports organisation.

SPORT IN SWEDEN

● Role of the State

The sports movement in Sweden maintains its complete autonomy in regard to the public authorities. No political influence may intervene. Nonetheless the State, by means of a considerable financial contribution, participates in the sporting life of the nation.

● Other sports governing bodies

The Swedish Sports Federation (SSF), under the patronage of HM King Carl XVI Gustav and the presidency of HRH Prince Bertil*, is the highest sports authority of the country. At the time of its foundation on 31st May 1903, it comprised no more than thirty member organisations ; in 1921 the thousandth organisation was admitted. Eight years later, this figure had doubled. The voluntary sports movement in Sweden has thus developed, abreast of the country's social evolution, from a minority pastime to a necessary occupation for a relatively large portion of the population.

Nowadays 35,000 affiliated clubs have a total membership of 3,000,000. At the beginning there were thirteen sections, each responsible for a particular sport. A regional decentralisation into 23 "district unions" was rapidly effected. This system remains virtually unchanged, but the number of national sports federations has now reached 56.

Independent of the SSF but working in close collaboration with it are the *Swedish Corporate Sports Federation* and the *Association for the Encouragement of Skiing and Outdoor Life*.

● Sports practised

Besides all the sports which feature on the Olympic programme, sports federations govern the following activities : badminton, bandy, bowling, canoe sailing, orienteering, curling, golf, miniature golf, tug of war, motor boating, skate sailing, casting, underwater diving, rugby, water skiing, motor racing, aeronautics, military sports, sport for the handicapped, school sport, student sport, squash, tennis, table tennis and varpa (traditional sport practised only in Sweden, the "varpa" is a flat stone which is thrown as near as possible to a post acting as the goal).

● Sport at school

School timetables include from one to three 40-minute periods per week for physical education. In addition, all schools organise between four and eight days per year in the open air which are devoted to sports initiation.

● Sports installations

Statistics show :

- 800 all-sports stadia (with athletics track).
- 2700 other football pitches.
- 300 sports halls.
- 80 indoor swimming pools over 25 m long.
- 75 outdoor swimming pools over 25 m long.
- 170 ice hockey rinks (including 35 indoor).
- 8 speed skating rinks.
- 90 equestrian centres.
- 50 rowing centres.
- 90 canoeing centres.

● Sports experiencing the greatest development

Volleyball and leisure sports such as badminton, bowling and tennis.

● Sports which draw the biggest crowds

Football, ice hockey, motor racing, athletics, skiing.

● Percentage of practising sportsmen

Almost 5% of the population practise a sports activity.

SWEDES AND THE INTERNATIONAL SPORTS FEDERATIONS

The table overleaf, although incomplete, demonstrates the confidence accorded to Swedish leaders.

Ulrich Salchow



Paul Högberg



Wille O. Grut

<i>Sport</i>	<i>President</i>	<i>Secretary General</i>
Athletics	J. Sigfrid Edström* ¹ (1912-1946)	Kristian Helström (1912-1914) Hilding Kjellmann (1914-1930) Bo Ekelund * (1930-1947)
Canoeing	Jonas Asschier (1946-1949)	
Handball	Gösta Björk (1946-1950) Paul Högberg* (since 1971)	Carl F. Borgh (1946-1950) *
Swimming	Erik Bergvall (1924-1926)	B. Sallfors (1952-1960)
Modern pentathlon and biathlon	Tor Wibom ¹ (1949) Gustav Dyrssen* (1949-1960) Sven Thofelt* (since 1960)	Sven Thofelt* (1949-1960)
Skating	Victor Balck* (1893-1924) Ulrich Salchow (1925-1937)	
Skiing	Ivar Holmquist ¹ (1924-1934)	Carl Nordenson (1924-1926) C.G.D. Hamilton (1926-1934) Sigge Bergman* (since 1961) Lars Eklgren (1949-1961)
Archery	Henry Kjellson (1949-1957)	
Orienteering	Lasse Heidemann (since 1977)	

¹ Founder President.

² Wolf Lyberg. Treasurer from 1946 to 1950.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

The following notes only refer to some of the Swedes who have played a major role either in the Olympic movement or international sport. It has not been possible to include many personalities who have equally contributed a great deal to the development of sport.

Carl Gustav Anderberg

Chairman of the SOK Executive Committee since 1976.

Born on 2nd November 1925, he presided the activities of the national cycling federation from 1973 to 1978. In this capacity, he greatly contributed to the evolution of the Swedish Olympic Committee.

Colonel Victor G. Balck

Founder IOC member from 1894 to 1928.

“The father of Swedish sport” was born on 25th April 1844 in Karlskrona. Captain in 1894 when he participated in

the Congress to re-establish the Olympic Games as Director of the Central Gymnastics Institute in Stockholm and President of the gymnastics union. An all-round sportsman, in 1880 he organised the first national sports competitions and introduced competition sport to the school curriculum. He founded many clubs and was the leading force behind the Olympic Games which were staged in Stockholm in 1912 under his direction.

He was President of the International Skating Union from 1893 to 1925, founder of the SOK and member until his retirement in 1925.

Bo Bengtson

Secretary General of the SOK since 1969.

Born on 5th June 1914 at Orebro. Director of the Swedish Sports Federation, his administrative and organising capacity led his European colleagues to appoint him President of the Association of European National Olympic Committees.

President of the SOK since 1947.

Top leader in Swedish sport since 1947, he was born on 28th February 1912 in Stockholm. Former athlete with a great reputation in speed skating, standing high jump and decathlon, he has become a leading expert in motor racing and golf.

President of the Organising Committee of the Equestrian Games of the XVth Olympiad in 1956, his administrative and diplomatic qualities have made him one of the most renowned sports officials both in Sweden and around the world.

Sigge Bergman

Secretary General of the Fédération Internationale de Ski since 1961.

Born on 31st July 1905. A teacher, he graduated from the Central Gymnastics and Sports Institute in Stockholm. Becoming a theorist in Alpine skiing following a stay in Austria (1934), he introduced this discipline to Sweden. A journalist from 1937, he devoted all his spare time to sports administration, above all within the Swedish Ski Association (1939-1974), the SSF, the SOK (member since 1953) and the Fédération Internationale de Ski (member for 37 years). He has participated as an official in all the Winter Games since 1936.

Matts Carlgren

IOC member since 1976.

A native of Stockholm where he was born on 24th September 1917, he studied economics at Uppsala University, following which he took up business administration. Since 1971 he has been Managing Director of MO och Domsjö AB, one of the major forestry organisations in Sweden.

As a sportsman, he enjoys athletics, cross-country skiing and tennis. For the

last twenty years, he has been devoting himself to national sports administration : Chairman of the Board of the Organisation for Encouragement of Swedish Sports, member of the Swedish Sports Federation, Board member (1961-1968) then President (1965-1973) of the Swedish Athletics Federation, member of the Swedish NOC.

General Gustav Dyrssen

IOC member from 1952, honorary member since 1970.

Born on 24th November 1891, he made the army his career and obtained brilliant results in the pentathlon-national champion in 1914 and 1922, Olympic champion in 1920 and second in 1924; and in fencing-national champion in 1927, 1932 and 1962 (at the age of 61 !) and member of the national team placed second in the 1936 Olympic Games.

President of the Swedish Fencing Federation (for 6 years), the National Association for the Encouragement of Sport (for 11 years), Vice-President of the Organising Committee of the Equestrian Games of the XVth Olympiad in 1956 and President of the Union Internationale de Pentathlon et Biathlon for 12 years.

J. Sigfrid Edström

President of the IOC from 1946 to 1952.

The best known of Swedish sports organisers was born on 21st November 1870 in Gothenburg.

As a student he was a successful athlete. With Balck in 1903 he combined the different branches of Swedish athletics and gymnastics into one association which he headed until 1940. He was one of those responsible for the success of the 1912 Olympic Games. At the time of these Games he took the initiative of founding the International Amateur Athletic Federation of which

he was the first President, in which post he remained until 1946. In 1920 he was elected a member of the IOC, although he had already taken part in IOC meetings in 1910 and 1911. He chaired the 1921 and 1925 Olympic Congresses. Elected a member of the IOC Executive Board in 1921, he became Vice-President in 1931. In this capacity, he took on the leadership of the IOC in 1942 when its President, the Count de Baillet-Latour, passed away. In 1946 he was unanimously elected President of the IOC at the first IOC Session after the war.

He retired in 1952 at the age of 82 and died on 18th March 1964. The *"Olympic Review"* devoted a special issue to him in October 1950.

Bo Ekelund

IOC member from 1948 to 1965, member of the Executive Board from 1958 to 1962 and honorary member since 1965.

Born in Gärlle on 26th July 1894, he studied at the University of Technology whilst successfully participating in sports competitions : bronze medal in the high jump at the 1920 Olympic Games, champion (1919 and 1920) and national recordholder (1919-1925) in this discipline.

Secretary of the University of Stockholm Sports Club from 1915, he subsequently never left sports administration : President of the Swedish Athletics Association (1925-1934), Secretary-Treasurer of the International Amateur Athletic Federation (1930-1946) and since 1929 member of the SOK of which he chaired the Executive Committee.

Gunnar Ericsson

IOC member since 1965.

Born in Stockholm on 29th June 1916. After studying at the School of Economic Sciences and the Royal National Defence College (active officer

from 1938 to 1943) he became a well-known businessman and President of the Facit AB group.

He succeeded his father, for a long time the leading figure in football administration, as President of the Swedish Football Association from 1971 to 1976. He participated in the work of the IOC Finance Commission from 1967 to 1972.

Paul Höberg

President of the International Handball Federation since 1972.

Born on 30th January 1911, a physical education specialist having graduated from the Central Gymnastics Institute in Stockholm, and physiologist after studying at the University of Copenhagen, he ran the Stockholm Physical Education College until 1976.

A confirmed sportsman, he was a member of the national cross-country team and an excellent handball player. He was President of the national handball federation from 1948 to 1967 and is currently a member of the SOK Executive Committee and the Board of Directors of the Swedish Sports Federation.

He is also the author of a number of publications and articles on the technique and training of several sports, and of scientific articles on physiology applied to sports.

Colonel Wille O. Grut

Secretary General of the Union Internationale de Pentathlon Moderne et Biathlon since 1976.

He has now taken on full responsibility as UIPMB Secretary General for the two disciplines governed by the Union. Everything predisposed him to this joint office—he was born in 1914 in Stockholm, the city where the competitions of this discipline, devised by Coubertin for the Games of the Vth Olympiad, had been held two years

earlier. He was one of the greatest pentathletes of the time—Olympic champion in 1948, five times champion of Sweden and second at the St. Moritz Winter Games in the winter pentathlon demonstration events composed of a 10 km cross-country race, a shooting competition, a downhill race, a fencing event and an equestrian event. In addition he took ten national titles in swimming (200 m and 1500 m freestyle) and was a renowned polo player. He successfully took on several offices—head of the national team from 1948 to 1952 and 1958 to 1960, and Secretary of the UIPMB from 1960 to 1972, becoming Secretary General for pentathlon.

Sven Låftman

Holder of the silver medal in the Olympic Order (1977 nominations).

Born in 1887. Having practised several sports he was national champion in athletics, bobsleigh and tennis, and devoted his efforts to the development of sport in Sweden (athletics and skating). In 1912 he was among those working for the foundation of the International Amateur Athletic Federation, having just ensured the success of the athletics and wrestling competitions in the Games of the Vth Olympiad. He was Vice-President of the International Skating Union for a long period and presided the Swedish Speed Skating Federation from 1940 to 1971.

He was chef de mission of the national Olympic delegations in 1964 (Tokyo) and 1968 (Mexico), and member of the SOK Executive Committee from 1961 to 1969. He was also the first Editor of the sports paper "Idrottsbladet".

He died on 5th July 1977.

Count F. Clarence von Rosen

IOC member from 1900 to 1948.

One of the best known Swedish sportsmen of the beginning of the

century, and *"impetuously zealous"* according to Coubertin. He was born on 12th May 1865 in Stockholm. He was amongst those responsible for the creation of the federations of rowing, football, skating, bandy and tennis.

A horseman of repute, he won 44 of the 132 events for which he entered and in 1907 drew up regulations on equestrian sports. Member of the SOK from 1903 to 1913 and also of the Executive Committee of the Swedish Sports Federation.

Brigadier-General Sven Thofelt

IOC member from 1970 to 1976, President of the Union Internationale de Pentathlon Moderne et Biathlon since 1960.

Born on 19th May 1904 in Stockholm, he entered the Royal Military Academy in 1923. Passing out in 1924 as a Lieutenant in an artillery regiment, he completed his career as Brigadier-General.

He has been known in all sporting circles for a long time, for he was not only Olympic modern pentathlon champion in 1928, but also distinguished himself at the 1932 Olympic Games in Los Angeles (4th) and in 1936 in Berlin. He also won the bronze medal for team épée in London in 1948.

His career in sports administration is equally rich in that he was elected a Board member of the Swedish Fencing Federation in 1935 and became its President in 1968. On 3rd August 1949, at the time of the foundation of the Union Internationale de Pentathlon Moderne et Biathlon, he became its first Secretary General and then in 1960 took over the presidency. He was also a member (1962) and President (1969-1976) of the SOK Committee.

