

## Press information

# Stockholm Stadion: 100 years ahead of its time.

The fifth Olympic Games were held in Stockholm in 1912. Many say they saved the modern Olympics. Why? Perhaps because the games were forward-looking in many ways: Stockholm Stadion, the main stadium, was built with an eye on the future. The progressive stadium became a model for similar arenas all over the world. And today, Stockholm Stadion is just as relevant as it was 100 years ago.

### Stockholm Stadion in 30 seconds

Constructed from	1910–1912
Architect	Torben Grut
Construction costs	SEK 1.25 million
Number of athletic world records	83 (world record for arenas)
Technical innovations	Use of the first photo finish camera in athletics First electronic timing

### The world's oldest Olympic stadium still in use

Initially, it was thought that Stockholm Stadion should be built entirely of wood. But architect Torben Grut, who also built the royal family's castle on Öland, wanted the arena to be more durable. Therefore, the stadium was built of brick: Grut found his inspiration in the ring wall that has surrounded the medieval Swedish town of Visby for over 700 years.

The work was performed meticulously and embraced many modern concepts, for example, that the stadium should be used for a variety of events - a standard trait of today's large stadiums. Today, Stockholm Stadion is the oldest Olympic arena still in use, and living proof that the notion of a sustainable society was just as topical in 1912. For more information: [www.arenastockholm2012.se](http://www.arenastockholm2012.se)

In connection with the anniversary, the National Sports Museum of Sweden (Riksidrottsmuseet) in Stockholm is presenting the exhibition "The Fifth Olympiad". For more information: [www.riksidrottsmuseet.se](http://www.riksidrottsmuseet.se)

### **World record in world records**

An impressive 83 world records have been set at Stockholm Stadion, making it the stadium where the most athletic world records have been set in the world. Among the more unusual records is the 1912 Olympic wrestling final between Anders Ahlgren from Sweden and Ivar Böhling from Finland. The match lasted over nine hours without either finalist getting his opponent down, before it was finally declared a draw. The two combatants were each awarded a silver medal for their efforts.

### **Finish time: almost 55 years. Talk about a marathon.**

The 1912 Olympics in Stockholm are often referred to as the “Sunshine Olympics”. The audience delighted in the oppressive heat, but it was nearly unbearable for the athletes—especially the marathoners. Of the 69 participants, almost half broke down because of the heat.

One of them was Japan’s Shizo Kanakuri. When his energy ran out, he collapsed in a cottage garden where the thoughtful host and hostess offered him a glass of juice. They even lent a suit to Kanakuri, who returned to Stockholm and, from there, home to Tokyo. The organizers were not told that Kanakuri dropped out until much later. In 1967, Kanakuri was invited to Stockholm again for the chance to symbolically cross the Stockholm Stadion finish line. Finish time: 54 years, 8 months, 6 days, 8 hours, 32 minutes and 20 seconds.

On July 14, 2012, a Jubilee Marathon will be held along the same course as the 1912 marathon.

For more information: [www.arenastockholm2012.se/jubileet](http://www.arenastockholm2012.se/jubileet)

### **Stockholm Stadion rocks**

People make pilgrimages to Stockholm Stadion primarily for athletic events and sports highlights. But today, Stockholm Stadion is just as much a stadium for major music events. The Rolling Stones, Bruce Springsteen, U2 and Luciano Pavarotti are just some of the artists who have performed here. Since 2011, Stockholm Stadion has been the stage for Summer Burst, Sweden’s new electronic music festival that presents artists like David Guetta, Tiësto, Axwell and more of the best DJs in the world to a youthful audience.

### **A world record is born. A world-renowned author passes on.**

In 1912, Stockholm was a city filled with festivities and jubilation. But it was also a city lost in sorrow. Just before the Olympic Games began came the death of one of Sweden’s biggest and most important personalities: author, artist, playwright and social commentator August Strindberg. His life’s work includes nearly seventy volumes, many considered classics of Swedish literary history. He was also highly interested in athletics and sports as an institution, which he followed and reported on as a journalist for the newspaper Afton-Tidningen.

Strindberg is Sweden's greatest playwright of all time, and in 2012, his memory will be commemorated in a series of events that coincide with the 100 year anniversary of the Stockholm Olympics.

For more information: [www.auguststrindberg.se](http://www.auguststrindberg.se)

### **Two new arenas that think 100 years ahead.**

Friends Arena is being built just over 67 world-record discus throws away from Stockholm Stadion. When it is complete in autumn 2012, it will be Scandinavia's biggest and most modern arena, with space for up to 65,000 spectators. It belongs to the new generation of stadiums—built as much to revitalize older areas and create new neighborhoods as to develop housing, infrastructure and a business community in a sustainable society. Friends Arena is a multi-purpose arena for sports, events and concerts.

For more information: [www.friendsarena.se](http://www.friendsarena.se)

Stockholmsarenan, Stockholm's next major arena, is being built right next to the Ericsson Globe, the largest spherical building in the world. It is a multi-purpose arena for culture and sports and will have room for up to 45,000 spectators. Stockholmsarenan is being built with a focus on sustainability and the environment. It will be environmentally classified at the highest level. The materials, construction methods, energy supply, waste and material management and more have all been selected to ensure minimal environmental and climatic impact. Most visitors will be able to walk, bike or carpool to and from the arena.

For more information: [www.stockholmsarenan.se](http://www.stockholmsarenan.se)

### **Contact**

Maria Fogelström Kylberg, PR-manager Stockholm Business Region  
+46 70 472 80 69, [maria.fogelstrom-kylberg@stockholm.se](mailto:maria.fogelstrom-kylberg@stockholm.se)

### **Stockholm Business Region**

Stockholm Business Region promotes business and tourism in Stockholm, together with its subsidiaries Stockholm Business Region Development and Stockholm Visitors Board. The Stockholm region is marketed under the common brand Stockholm - The Capital of Scandinavia.

Stockholm Business Region is a wholly-owned municipal company within the City of Stockholm.