

LAXFORSÉN DAGBLADET

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PERSSON CRASHES OUT

Rogue Swedish Driver in Difficulties

JUKKASJARVI – Anders Persson, the rogue Swedish driver who had intended to challenge Sweden's famed driver, Rutger "Hajen" Hägglund, for the right to represent the country in La Grande Épreuve, has crashed in during an sanctioned pre-dawn practice session on the newly plowed ice at Laxforsen. The racer was practicing in direct violation of the Isloppe's rules. No supervision or safety marshals were present on the course to monitor his speed trials and practice runs.

"The sound of an engine alerted me to something happening on the course," said Bo Eriksson, who lives nearby and is one of the many volunteers who will work the race over the weekend. "I thought it was the sound of a snowplow at first, then recognized the sound of a Bugatti engine. I thought everything was fine, but then the engine sound abruptly stopped, so I headed out across the ice to see what had happened. I found the driver and his wrecked car at the Lekböjen curve."

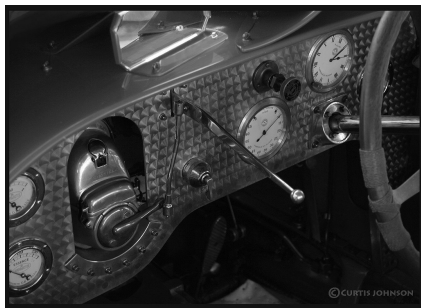
Race director, Magnus Johansson, came out to measure the commotion for himself later in the morning and he was surprised to see the young Swedish racer present beside the racer's twisted wreck. "I recognized him immediately – I had met him yesterday when he applied for the right to race. We had rejected him some months ago, even if he is well-known as a talented engineer. He had appealed and we had intended to ask the other Swedish driver, Rutger "Hajen" Hägglund if he would allow the young man to challenge him or race alongside. Nonetheless, we were reconsidering as we didn't think Mr. Persson had the experience to compete. Now, in retrospect, it appears we were right."

Persson's Bugatti a Complete Wreck

Sadly, the Bugatti racer, painted in a dark blue, is a complete loss. The center section of the car is bent from the impact with the snow bank and the front wheels are twisted nearly 90 degrees off center.

There were rumors that Persson was testing a unique engine modification, which is rumored to provide him an extra power boost in colder temperatures. Indeed, the exact nature of his modifications remains a mystery since, as the car was hauled away, Persson remained with it guard the engine from the watchful eyes of several of the other team's racing mechanics who, having heard the rumors, had come by for a look. These rumors persist, however, and the commonly held view is that his modifications include a foreign engine make inserted into the Bugatti's front bonnet.

Modifications are common in Swedish ice racing, so the exact nature of his work is probably of more interest to non-Swedes than those of Scandinavia.



The cockpit of a Bugatti T51 Racer

GRAND PRIX IN SWEDEN HERALDS NEW CAR DESIGNS

Drivers Bring New Cars to Laxforsen

JUKKASJARVI – The drivers at the Laxforsen Isloppe bring many car designs that were previously unseen on Sweden's ice circuits. Among the most interesting are the new cars driven by Belgium's famed racer, Victor Hugo Stéphane de Broqueville, who drives a bright yellow, American-made Duesenberg racer, sporting a large 8 cylinder 4.25 liter engine, and the Alfa Romeo Tipo B P3 racing car driven by the Monegasque driver, Louis de Montignac, painted in red and white.

The Swedish driver, Rutger "Hajen" Hägglund, drives an Alfa Romeo Monza, with a powerful, 2.3 liter, "Straight 8" engine.

Two Amilcar C6 racers, of which only less than half a dozen have ever been built, will be in Sweden, driven not by a Frenchman, but by an Englishman, John Milk, and his rival from Scotland, Alastair MacDougall, who was recently overheard saying that his United Kingdom counterpart would soon learn a lesson or two about driving.

Italy's Eusebius "Sebi" Orsi drives a Maserati 4CM which sports a small, 4 cylinder engine but, with its lightened body has been seen to be a match for the larger, 8 cylinder cars on the circuit.

Finally, France's Aristide La Fontaine drives a rare Salmson 8C, which many state is better suited for the circuits of southern, warmer nations.

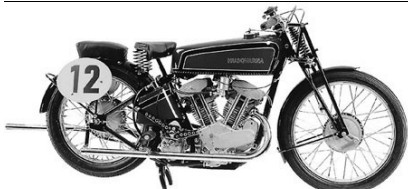
Together, these cars add a strong dose of international flavor to Sweden's Isloppe, where the familiar Bugattis, Fords and Chryslers have dominated the ice in recent years. Nonetheless, as Finnish driver Tavho Myrsky noted, "There is a reason why many of us drive the cars we do – they perform better in the cold and have better handling on the ice. I expect we'll see a lot of these cars lost on the first lap."



The cockpit of an Alfa Romeo Tipo B P3 Racer

HUSQVARNA TT BIKE DEBUTS IN RACING

Sweden's Newest Ice Bike



JUKKASJARVI – Expect next year's ice racing motorbike races to feature prominently the new Husqvarna 500 TT, a revolutionary design that boasts more power than seen in previous two-wheel circuits.

PRE-RACE ICE FESTIVAL CANCELLED

Finland Ambassador Still Plans Huge
Post-Race Ice Celebration for the Racers

JUKKASJARVI – Finland's ambassador to Sweden, Amb. Aappo Kanarvikki, who is co-hosting this year's Isloppe, has declared that the pre-race ice festival will not be held in lieu of providing a more extensive event after the race on Monday night to celebrate the victories at Laxforsen.

The frigid temperatures of the Laxforsen area resulted in the cancellation of the outdoor festival – not because the Scandinavians could not handle the cold and snow, but because many of the racers hail from warmer climes. They should not be expected to partake in traditional outdoor evening bonfire events, even now amidst the late spring thaw and light snow. "We could expect the Italian driver, Sebi Orsi, for instance, to make a good showing given his hot-blooded nature," said the Ambassador. The post-race ice festival will be held inside at the nearby mining town of Jukkasjärvi.

Orsi's race team could not be reached for comment, but the many fans already arriving by train was to proceed directly to the start of the race and celebrate afterwards. Already, many booths and stalls have been set up trackside to offer those attending the race ready access to the many celebrated dishes and drinks of the north, including smoked reindeer and moose jerky, gravad lax and luttfisk (more traditionally a holiday dish, yet nonetheless for some reason appearing in plentiful quantities for the Laxforsen race). Vodkas and schnaps stalls are also plentiful with warm wine drinks and fermented ciders.

Guest List for Post-Race Event

Attending the post-race ice festival, according to a guest list just released, will be the following noteworthy personages:

- Finland's Ambassador to Sweden, the Honorable Amb. Aappo Kanarvikki and his wife, Unelma
- The Swedish Foreign Minister, Anders Johansson and his wife, Linnea
- France's Grand Prix Committee Chairman, Claude d'Etoile, also of the A.C. de Nice et Côte d'Azur Committee
- Katrine "Kajsa" Kallesson, Swedish chemical engineering research professor at Lund universitet
- Heinrich Taube, German engine designer
- Amb. Watanabe Tomitani, Japan's Ambassador to Italy, who is a well-known Grand Prix fan
- Martina Steffensen, Swedish actress
- Britt Mondahl, the famed Norwegian chemical engineer and race fuel additives pioneer
- Anders Persson, Swedish ice racing driver and engineer from Piteå
- Sr. Carmena-Motta, wealthy Italian industrialist and race fan
- Camilla Lundgren, Swedish architect and designer from Västervik
- Bruno Rossi, Sicilian
- Sven Magnusson, the famous race fuel additives expert from Uppsala, Sweden
- Olaf Hammarsfjeld, the well-known Norwegian metallurgical engineer

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