

## WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP, Goldwashing in Kopparberg, Sweden -Where the Swedes took it all

By Thor Sørli

Through one whole week in the beginning of August, Kopparberg hosted the arrangement, and Stein Magazine could cover the last days.

More than 300 men, women and children in 12 different classes started out trying to qualify for finals. From early mornings to late nights we observed intense activity and different techniques in use. Naturally the Swedes were the majority, but also 45 Finnish men competed in different classes. Almost 20 nations were represented, and the participants showed good skills.



South-Africa where there and added music and song to the competition which most people appreciated to loosen up competitive nerves.

Norway was represented by Torill and Geir Langseth from Kirkenes. They have for several years spent many hours of their sparetime washing gold in their own claim in Finnmark, Norway's northernmost county. Even if they didn't win medals in

this competition they enjoyed competing and had fun and learned a lot.



*The competition has started!*



*Torill and Geir Langseth from Kirkenes were the only participants from Norway.*



*An enthusiastic audience.*



*The buckets are ready!*



*Geir is showing the result.*

The finals were really exciting. Sweden had many skillful participants, among them Ulla Kalander-Karlsson and Ken Karlsson. They have both competed earlier and won several titles, and they were really looking forward to compete at home in Sweden. Ken was disappointed after having been beating early in Men's Class, but he still had a possibility in Masters' Class.

First Ulla and Ken won their Class; two-men Team, and then Ulla won Ladies' Class, something which meant a lot to her. It was great excitement in Men's Class, but finally Matthias Kroon Ericsson, an unknown name among the competitors, won the victory.

In the end the Class of Masters' competition took place, and Ken got his gold medal; he

washed his 10 liters of sand in 55 seconds and found all 8 gold fragments!

Even if the Swedes won the most popular medals, there were other Nations that deserved to be proud: Switzerland won Nations' match, South Africa won five-men Team and Seppo Mauno from Finland won the Class for Veterans. All in all people were happy just for being there among friends and partners sharing a common interest.

The big tent in the area served food and drinks, and one would meet, talk and relax. Among people I met were Jouko Korhonen from Finland. He owns one of the best known claims in Lenmmenjokki in Finland. Every summer he searches for gold, and he has found gold nuggets up to almost



*Hilde and Leopold Deinhofer with his beautiful selfmade pan!*



*Jouko Korhonen is the owner of one of the historic claims in Lemmenjoki.*



*Ulla Kalander-Karlsson with the gold medal for women.*



*Ken Karlsson with the gold medal for Champions.*



*Torill in action.*



*Clara Salander deeply concentrated.*



*Matthias Kroon Ericsson.*



*Matthias Kroon Ericsson with the gold medal for men.*

90 grams. Also I talked to Unclefuzzy Mason from California. He competed, but he also promoted and wanted to remind everyone to join the World Championship in Placerville California this summer-

From Austria came Leopold Deinhofer. He used his beautiful selfmade wooden washing-pan, and he has won titles in other competitions. His favorite river is Enns, and I might one day go to see him there and try his river.

All in all this happening was nice also for an outsider. We could see friendship flowering, and I realized that goldwashing is a rather big sport, especially in Europe. Children enjoyed washing, too, so it seems to me that the sport should be able to survive and grow for many years still.

This PDF is a short version of the norwegian article in STEIN Magazine 1/2015 from the Championship.

Please have a look at some more pictures!

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