



The Danish Soldiers Club

July 2021

www.danishsoldiersclub.com

NEWSLETTER FOR THE DANISH SOLDIERS CLUB OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA, INC. POST OFFICE BOX 41, PETALUMA CA. 94953
MEMBER OF DANSKE SOLDATERFORENINGERS LANDSRÅD. PROTECTOR HER MAJESTY QUEEN MARGRETHE II OF DENMARK

THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER

July's meeting brought out 30-plus members for a picnic lunch on a beautiful afternoon at the club. After lunch, several issues facing the club were discussed, primarily the loss of our luncheon caterers. This discussion was lively as to what the members present would like to see going forward. The consensus was continuation of traditional open-face sandwiches as we have been enjoying. Several restaurants, caterers and event food trucks were suggested and volunteers are investigating our options. At this point, August's meeting will continue to be a bring-your-own picnic. The September barbeque lunch will be discussed at the August meeting,

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Address Correction Requested

The Governing Board

| | |
|---|---|
| Keith Brians President to 2020 | Petaluma (707) 789-9953 kastaniakeith@gmail.com |
| Dennis Wimple Vice President to 2021 | El Cerrito (510) 525-4120 denniswimple@yahoo.com |
| Margrethe Bækgaard Treasurer to 2020 | Santa Rosa (707) 293-7972 mbaekgaard@gmail.com |
| Jill Brians Secretary to 2022 | Petaluma (707) 227-8404 jcbrians@yahoo.com |
| Michael Stecher Web Master Director to 2022 | Mill Valley (415) 624-6215 mstecher@me.com |
| Ken Fultz Director to 2020 | American Canyon (415) 362-7509 KFCVA41@comcast.net |
| Adam Byer Director to 2021 | Oakland (510) 332 6932 adam@cherrystreetgames.com |
| Vagn Nielsen Director to 2021 | Sonoma (707) 996-9950 nielsen.vk@gmail.com |
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Volunteers:

| | |
|--|--|
| Lilian Rasmussen Membership Coordinator | Roseville (916) 771-4961 mormor@surewest.net |
| Rick Santarini Newsletter Editor | Santa Rosa (707) 477-6669 santarinirick@gmail.com |

THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER continued

Once again, a reminder that this club can only be a success with the active participation in its management by its members. As we were not able to hold an election in November 2020 for the three seats on the board that came open and three more positions are coming open for November's election, we will need your active participation in the election of directors for 2022.

Looking forward to seeing you all in August.

Keith Brians, President

Club News

As Keith stated in his Presidents Letter to the club we would like you to kick around ideas about how to resume some sense of normalcy to our monthly Club meetings. All ideas are welcomed. Email or send your thoughts to any of the board members listed above.

We continue to get good feedback for the "bring your own picnic lunch" club get togethers we have been holding this year. Until the club can figure our next step for the luncheons please join us on Saturday August 7th, for a "bring your own picnic lunch" at Kastania Field.

Members do not need to RSVP, but you will have to bring your own food, beverages and tableware. There is plenty of space to provide appropriate social distancing. In compliance with regional Covid guidelines, indoor activities are not planned at this time.

35 people attended the picnic on July 3rd. We enjoyed a delightful day with good weather and ended up being comfortable in the sun enjoying the company of fellow club members and guests.

With more people getting vaccinated and restrictions starting to ease hopefully more members will start attending. Eventually we can get to the point where we get can resume regular bar service and hold our club meetings. Fingers crossed . As stated earlier people seem to be enjoying the "bring your own picnic" lunches. If you have not tried it yet, think about joining us in August

Reminder: Elections for 2021 Board

Due to the COVID 19 situation the Board decided in 2020 to delay the election of a new board, that election is still on hold. We have three board members with expired terms; Keith Brians, Margrethe Bækgaard and Ken Fultz. Come November the terms of Denis Wimple, Adam Byer and Vagn Nielsen will also be expiring.

As always, this is a volunteer run organization and your participation in the board and other activities is appreciated and necessary for the club's success. So this is the time for Members to consider (especially new members) joining the board to help continue to keep this club strong and vibrant.

If you are interested please contact one of the Board Members to state your interest.

Sad News

We were notified that long time member Loren Midtgaard passed away on March 31, 2021. Loren was a long time member of the club who really enjoyed his trips to the Danish Soldiers Club and its beautiful setting. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family. Here is a link to his obituary where you read but an interesting and full life he led. [Obituary | Lorens Bonnichsen Midtgaard of Placerville, California | Habing Family Funeral Home](#)

Important Notice for the August Luncheon

Saturday, August 7th will again be a "Bring your own food and beverages" picnic, no reservations necessary.

To comply with the County guidance's the following requirements would be in place.

- *All buildings except restrooms would be closed.*
- *Members would provide their own lunch Groups of ten or fewer could sit together.*
- *Picnic tables would be spaced such that greater than six feet of space separate them.*
- *We will be compliant with CDC recommendation pertaining to Face coverings at outdoor events.*

Denmark makes to European Championship Semi-Finals.



Emotionally charged and emotionally drained, Denmark's most successful run since the 1992 European Championship has come to an end.

Powered by a resolve to win the title for teammate Christian Eriksen, who collapsed on the field during the team's opening Euro 2020 game and had to be resuscitated with a defibrillator, Denmark reached the semifinals at a major soccer tournament for the first time since winning the European title in 1992.

All without Eriksen on the field.

"We're disappointed, we're very disappointed," Denmark coach Kasper Hjulmand said Wednesday after the 2-1 loss to England in extra time. "But then there's another part of me and I can't describe with words how much I admire these players and our staff."

"They have been through so much. We have two people from the staff who saved one of our best player's life. We have been fighting like crazy. We play good soccer, and I am grateful for Denmark, the entire nation. We needed the support; we needed the empathy when that happened with Christian."

Eriksen fell face-first onto the field during his team's game against Finland on June 12 in Copenhagen. His teammates formed a protective wall around him as medical workers saved his life.

On Wednesday, the players fell to the field in exhaustion and disappointment at the end of the match. But they had nothing to be ashamed about.

The Danes scored first against England at Wembley Stadium, with Mikkel Damsgaard knocking in a free kick in the 30th minute but were forced into extra time after an own goal. Then Harry Kane put in the rebound of his saved penalty for the deciding goal.

"It's one thing to lose a game, that happens. But losing this way is a disappointment," Hjulmand said of the penalty. "Because these guys have fought a lot. It is bitter."

"I think we have to digest this before we can describe these feelings. It's a bitter way to leave a tournament."

Denmark had more than 15 minutes to equalize but the players appeared to be spent by that time. And the task was made more difficult when Jensen was forced off injured, leaving them to play with only 10 men for the second half of extra time after having already used up its six substitutes.

Damsgaard, the 20-year-old midfielder who scored the first goal against England at the tournament, replaced Eriksen in the starting lineup in the group stage after the captain's collapse.

That gives Hjulmand something to look forward to



ahead of next year's World Cup.

"Unfortunately, we didn't get to the final, but one thing's for sure, we're going to attack again, and our future is full of hope and belief," Hjulmand said. "These guys are outstanding and the whole nation can be proud and keep giving them the love and respect they deserve. They are an amazing squad that has done an amazing job."

England vs Denmark: a brief history

England welcomed Denmark for the second of the UEFA EURO 2020 semi-finals, less than a year after Kasper Hjulmand's side recorded their first competitive victory at Wembley since 1983.

Here is a look back over the nations' previous meetings and footballing connections.

Ancient history

England's Football Association was the first national association to be founded, in 1863; the Danish Football Association became the fifth, in 1897, and the first outside the British Isles. The nations' first recorded meeting was an unofficial friendly in London in October 1911: England won 3-0, though the Danes prevailed by the same score when they reconvened for another unofficial game in Copenhagen in 1914.

The teams also met – in a way – in two Olympic finals. Football was officially introduced to the Olympics in London in 1908, with Great Britain fielding a line-up composed entirely of English players. Great Britain beat the Danes 2-0 in the final and then confirmed their superiority with a **4-2 success** in the

1912 decider in Stockholm.

One of the stars of those Denmark sides, defensive midfielder Nils Middelboe, was a pioneer in English football as the first non-UK national to play for Chelsea. He represented the Blues from 1913 to 1923 but never signed a professional contract, even though doing so would have meant a big increase on the salary he earned as a banker. Dubbed 'The Great Dane', he preferred to stay amateur on the grounds that he was "by no means mad about football".

While the bulk of leading English clubs had turned professional by the end of the 19th century, Danish football remained amateur, with the top players who moved abroad to play for professional clubs excluded from the national team. England was to be the destination for some of them, notably Karl Aage Hansen (Huddersfield) and Viggo Jensen (Hull City), who were among the stars of the Denmark side that finished third at the 1948 Olympics, beating Great Britain 5-3 at Wembley in the bronze-medal match.

One of their international team-mates, Egil Nielsen, perhaps had a bigger impact on football all over the world. A leather and shoe industry worker by day, the goalkeeper is credited with devising the 32-panel soccer ball (20 hexagonal and 12 pentagonal patches). First introduced in 1962, it remains the standard design for all match balls.

EURO meetings

The sides were first paired in EURO qualifying for the 1980 finals. With the amateur rule having been abandoned in Denmark in 1971, the national team (featuring Ajax pair Frank Arnesen and Søren Lerby, and soon-to-be Barcelona man Allan Simonsen) gave Ron Greenwood's men a run for their money before losing 4-3 in Copenhagen and 1-0 in London. Simonsen scored the penalty that earned Denmark a 1-0 win at Wembley in EURO 1984 qualifying; the sides had earlier drawn 2-2 in Copenhagen and that victory in north London proved pivotal in Sepp Piontek's Danes making it to the finals, pushing England down into second place in qualifying Group 3.

Denmark also proved to be a thorn in England's side in their only previous finals meeting; the teams locked horns in the opening game of the 1992 European Championship in Sweden and a 0-0 draw in Malmö was the start of a miserable tournament for Graham Taylor's England, who bowed out bottom of their group. Denmark – who had only qualified for the finals because Yugoslavia were forced to withdraw – went on to win the competition against all odds, beating Germany 2-0 in the final.

Richard Møller Nielsen (coach of the 1992 Danish National team) did a phenomenal job," midfielder Brian Laudrup later explained. "He managed to trick each of us mentally and ignite a spark in us. He made us believe that we could actually win. He made us believe that the impossible was possible."

Manchester United goalkeeper Peter Schmeichel was the only member of Denmark's EURO '92 squad who played his club football in England. His son and fellow No1 goalkeeper Kasper Schmeichel (Leicester) is one of seven English-based players in Denmark's EURO 2020 contingent, along with Joachim Andersen (Fulham), Andreas Christensen (Chelsea), Pierre-Emile Højbjerg (Tottenham), Mathias Jensen, Christian Nørgaard (both Brentford) and Jannik Vestergaard (Southampton).



If you would like to know more about the 1992 Championship team check out this Movie on Netflix.

Sommeren '92 (English: Summer of '92). It is a Danish sports comedy directed by Kasper Barfoed. The film is based on the 1992 UEFA European Football Championship, Denmark's greatest ever football triumph.

The team had qualified only after Yugoslavia was disqualified as a result of the breakup and warfare in that country. The film examines the often difficult relationship between the team's coach Richard Møller Nielsen, and the Danish Football Association and leading players that nonetheless led to triumph in 1992.

Cast[

Ulrich Thomsen as Richard Møller Nielsen

Mikkel Følsgaard as Kim Vilfort

Birgitte Hjort Sørensen as Minna Vilfort

Cyron Melville as Brian Laudrup

Esbén Smed Jensen as John 'Faxe' Jensen

Henning Jensen as Kaj Johansen

Gustav Dyekjær Giese as Peter Schmeichel

Lars Brygmann as Frits Ahlstrøm

Jon Lange as Kim Christofte

Allan Hyde as Flemming Povlsen

