

Welcome to Malmö, Sweden and the play-off draw



HSB Turning Torso Meetings.

The qualifiers have been played and now we know the 14 teams that will take part in the play-offs on 11–15 October for the seven places available alongside Sweden at the 2009 UEFA European Under-21 Championship.

In autumn 2006, Sweden was given the honour of hosting the forthcoming championship. Our bid proposed Borås, Gothenburg, Helsingborg and Malmö as host cities. This summer Borås was replaced by Halmstad.

Last year Halmstad hosted the Solheim Cup, an international ladies' golf tournament that pitches Europe against the USA. Football club Halmstad BK, Swedish champions in 1976, 1979, 1997 and 2000, have played international cup matches at their idyllic home arena of Örjans Vall, which also hosted an U21 international last year.

Halmstad is a city of great footballing heritage and knows all about organising international sporting events and we are delighted to welcome the city onboard!

We have been working very hard already, and with nine months and a few days left to go before the start of the tournament we are now moving into the final phase of our preparations.

The Swedish national Under-21 team played a tournament last spring against reigning European champions the Netherlands, Portugal and France. The team showed good qualities and can have high hopes for next year's tournament.

The greatest challenge will be attracting good crowds to the matches: getting everyone throughout Sweden to realise that a major international tournament is going to

be held here. It will be a football party attended by top professionals from the greatest clubs in Europe.

Today is the day of the play-off draw whereas the draw for the final tournament will take place in Gothenburg on 3 December.

Welcome to Malmö, the city that on 29 June 2009 will host the UEFA Under-21 Championship Final in a brand new state-of-the-art stadium!



Björn Ahlberg
*Chairman, Org. Committee
Swedish FA*



Karl-Erik Nilsson
*Tournament director
Swedish FA*

Larsson the Ambassador



"I am proud to be the Ambassador of the next UEFA European Under-21 Championship. I wish all participating countries good luck in the qualifying phase and welcome the finalists to Sweden and to my hometown Helsingborg in 2009."

Henrik Larsson is a unique player. He's the first to play for Sweden in six final tournaments, three World Cups and three European Championships. Other honours include 100 caps and 37 goals (statistics as of 7/9 2008) for Sweden, two times awarded "Guldbollen" for Swedish Player of the Year, the Golden Boot in 2001, UEFA Champions League winner 2006, and being named Sweden's outstanding "Golden Player" for the 2004 UEFA Jubilee.





The venues of the UEFA Under-21 Championship in Sweden 2009



GÖTEBORG is Sweden's second city with a population of almost half a million. There is a distinct maritime atmosphere since shipping and trade dominated the industry for a long time and the city became the centre for the East India trade. The city is today a centre for major events and exhibitions, not the least sporting events. Several sporting events on World Championship level has been held here, including football (World Cup 1958), athletics, ice hockey, speed skating and speedway.

"A new stadium is currently being built with a capacity of 16,700, during 2009 this stadium will host three group matches and one semi final".

Group matches 16, 19 and 23 June and Semi-Final 26 June.



HALMSTAD is a small (population 90.000) seaside city well known for tourism, beaches and it's excellent reputation for football. Halmstad is a prospering city, and an experienced host of big events – the latest being the Solheim Cup in 2007. The city also boasts a popular college, and a 700-year old history as a town.

Famous musician Per Gessle (Roxette) is a son of

the city, and owner of Hotel Tylösand which is one of Sweden's best conference hotels. Fredrik Ljungberg (Halmstads BK, Arsenal, West Ham, and former captain of Sweden) also still owns a home here.

Örjans Vall was built in 1922, and is home to Halmstads BK (46 seasons in Allsvenskan, champions in 1976, 1979, 1997 and 2000) and to IS Halmia (11 seasons in Allsvenskan). At UEFA Euro 2008, no less than four players in Sweden's starting XI first made their name at Halmstads BK: Ljungberg, Niclas Alexandersson, Petter Hansson and Mikael Nilsson.

Two games in the 1958 World Cup were played at Örjans Vall. The capacity today is 15.500 spectators (domestic league matches).

Group matches 16, 19 and 23 June.



HELINGSBORG with a population of 118,000 is famous for its port which is one of the leading ports in Europe. By ferry it only takes 20 minutes to Helsingör in Denmark. About 14 million passengers travel on this route every year. Helsingborg is on the 56th parallel. This line of latitude also runs through Glasgow and Moscow. Three group matches will be played in the city's football stadium, Olympia, which is one of the oldest in Sweden, dating all the way back to 1898.

It has undergone several renovations and the current capacity for international matches is 12,500. It has hosted matches both in the 1958 World Cup and the 1995 Women's World Championship and is the home of Helsingborgs IF.

Group matches 15, 18 and 22 June and Semi-Final 26 June.





UEFA
UNDER21
CHAMPIONSHIP
Sweden 2009



MALMÖ is the commercial centre of southern Sweden and the country's third biggest city with 270,000 residents. Malmö is in the process of undergoing a transition from being an industrial city to a city of knowledge. Malmö is also closely linked to Denmark and the European continent via the Öresund Bridge. 57,600 persons cross the bridge between Malmö and Copenhagen every day in cars and trains.

Three group matches including the opening match of the final tournament, as well as the final of the UEFA European Under-21 Championship in 2009, will be played at a brand new arena currently under construction next to Malmö FF's ground, the Malmö Stadion, which was used for the 1958 FIFA World Cup and EURO '92. The stadium will have a 21,000 capacity and will become the home of Malmö FF once building has been completed in April 2009.

Group matches 15, 18 and 22 June and Final 29 June.

Match schedule 2009

The final draw of the UEFA Under 21 Championship 2009 will take place on Wednesday the 3rd of December 2008 in Göteborg.

GROUP A

15th of June

Malmö Sweden (A1)–A2
Helsingborg A3–A4

18th of June

Helsingborg Sweden (A1)–A3
Malmö A2–A4

22th of June

Malmö A4–Sweden (A1)
Helsingborg A2–A3

GROUP B

16th of June

Göteborg B1–B2
Halmstad B3–B4

19th of June

Göteborg B1–B3
Halmstad B2–B4

23th of June

Göteborg B4–B1
Halmstad B2–B3

SEMI-FINALS

26th of June

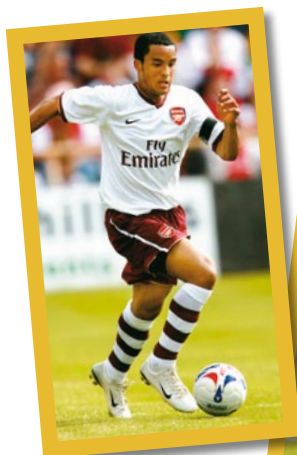
Göteborg Winner group A–Runner-up group B
Helsingborg Winner group B–Runner-up group A

FINAL

29th of June

Malmö Winner Semi-Final 1–Winner Semi-Final 2

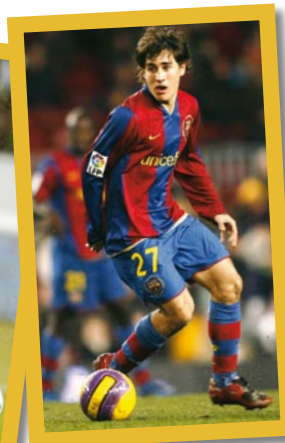
Coming to Sweden next summer?



Walcott.



Nani.



Krkic.



Babel.

Spain's Bojan Krkic and Cesc Fabregas are some of the top players in Europe who can come to Sweden next year.

Even Ryan Babel and Royston Drenthe from Netherlands, Portugal's Nani, England's Theo Walcott and Micah Richards have the correct age for Under-21 Championship.



Committed to the future of European football



Qualifying round

51 nations entered the qualifying round, from first-time participants Montenegro to reigning champions Netherlands. The results from the ten qualifying groups are listed here. The ten group winners (**in bold type**) and the four best runners-up (**in bold type**) advance to the play-off stage. The play-off is played home and away on October 11th and 15th. The seven winning teams at the play-offs join hosts Sweden for the UEFA Under-21 Championship final tournament in Sweden 2009.

GROUP 1	Pld	Pts	GROUP 2	Pld	Pts	GROUP 3	Pld	Pts	GROUP 4	Pld	Pts	GROUP 5	Pld	Pts	GROUP 6	Pld	Pts	GROUP 7	Pld	Pts	GROUP 8	Pld	Pts	GROUP 9	Pld	Pts	GROUP 10	Pld	Pts
Italy	10	24	Turkey	8	19	England	8	22	Spain	8	24	Switzerland	8	16	Finland	8	19	Austria	8	20	Serbia	8	17	Germany	8	17	Israel	8	17
Croatia*	10	22	Ukraine	8	15	Portugal	8	14	Russia	8	15	Netherlands	8	16	Denmark	8	16	Belgium	8	11	Belarus	8	17	Northern Ireland	8	12	Northern Ireland	8	12
Greece	10	18	Czech Republic	8	14	Montenegro	8	8	Poland	8	9	Norway	8	12	Scotland	8	16	Slovakia	8	10	Hungary	8	12	Moldova	8	12	Romania	8	15
Albania	9	11	Armenia	8	10	Bulgaria	8	7	Kazakhstan	8	6	F.Y.R. Macedonia	8	9	Slovenia	8	5	Iceland	8	7	Latvia	8	11	Luxembourg	8	0	Bosnia-Herzegovina	8	4
Faroe Islands	10	4	Liechtenstein	8	0	Republic of Ireland	8	5	Georgia	8	6	Estonia	8	3	Lithuania	8	1	Cyprus	8	6	San Marino	8	0	Malta	8	3	Malta	8	3

* Not: So although Croatia finished second in Group 1 on 22 points, their results against Azerbaijan or the Faroe Islands – either of whom could still finish sixth depending on the result in Azerbaijan's final Group 1 game against Albania on Wednesday – will not count in the tie-breaker. As Croatia won those matches, either way their points tally will be 16, leaving them level with both Denmark and the Netherlands. Goal difference is therefore used to separate the three sides. Denmark have plus nine, the Netherlands plus seven and Croatia either plus six, if their results against Azerbaijan are expunged, or plus five if the results against the Faroe Islands are removed. Either way, Denmark will have the better goal difference.

The Swedish team is ready for the big challenge

Sweden Under-21 coaches Jörgen Lennartsson and Tommy Söderberg used the 2007 season to take stock of all the players trying to get in the squad for the UEFA Under-21 Championship in 2009. No less than 40 players featured in the team and while Lennartsson and Söderberg were not satisfied with the scorelines of some matches, they were encouraged by the character and spirit the players showed.

The 2008 season has seen quite a few good results, with victories against Ukraine and Denmark, and a home tournament with three draws with Portugal and the Olympic teams of Holland and France.

– In this tournament on home soil we really proved that we can compete with the best teams in Europe. We have one more year to get ready for the big challenge next summer, it'll be fantastic says coach Jörgen Lennartsson.



Happy Swedish players after a goal against France in the tournament in Sweden in June.

