

= Vikingskipet =

Vikingskipet (" The Viking Ship ") , officially known as Hamar Olympic Hall (Norwegian : Hamar olympiahall) , is an indoor multi @-@ use sport and event venue in Hamar , Norway . It was built as the speed skating rink for the 1994 Winter Olympics , and has since also hosted events and tournaments in speedway , rally , association football , bandy , ice sledge speed racing , flying disc and track cycling . The arena is also used for concerts , trade fair and the annual computer party The Gathering . It is the home arena of Hamar IL bandy team . The venue is owned by Hamar Municipality , and along with Hamar Olympic Amphitheatre is run by the municipal Hamar Olympiske Anlegg . Vikingskipet has a capacity for 10 @,@ 600 spectators during sporting events and 20 @,@ 000 during concerts .

The arena was designed by Niels Torp , and Biong & Biong , and opened on 19 December 1992 . The complex cost 230 million Norwegian krone (NOK) . The localization was controversial , as it is located at Åkervika , a Ramsar site . It is Norway 's national venue for speed skating and bandy , and holds annual ISU Speed Skating World Cup races , as well as regular world championships . It has among other things hosted tournaments of the World Allround Speed Skating Championships , European Speed Skating Championships , World Single Distance Championships , World Sprint Speed Skating Championships , UCI Track Cycling World Championships , Speedway Grand Prix and World Rally Championship .

= = Construction = =

During the process of the Lillehammer bid for the 1992 Winter Olympics , the International Olympic Committee had not specified that it was necessary with an indoor speed skating rink . Calgary had used the indoor Olympic Oval during the 1988 Winter Olympics , but Albertville , who were awarded the 1992 Winter Olympics , had opted for the outdoor L 'anneau de vitesse . In its bid , the speed skating events were planned held at Stampsletta , an outdoor track and field stadium in Lillehammer . Only after Lillehammer had been awarded the 1994 Winter Olympics was it decided that an indoor venue would have to be built for the games .

Hamar had previously been a venue for international speed skating events at Hamar stadion . The town was therefore selected to host the two skating venues . In December 1989 , it was decided that the new venue would be built at Åkervika , a Ramsar site 1 kilometer (0 @.@ 6 mi) outside downtown Hamar . A compromise was reached whereby the stadium was moved 50 meters (160 ft) from its original location , two birdwatching towers were built , and a lumber yard was moved . Nature and Youth remained opposed to the plans , stating the location " has destroyed part of one of the world 's most important bird reserves " .

The construction was passed by the Parliament of Norway in April 1990 . Architects were Niels Torp , and Biong and Biong . Ole K. Karlsen was selected to build the building , in competition with eleven other contractors . The ventilation contract worth NOK 18 million had originally been awarded to Hagen & Haugan on 29 May 1991 . Two days later , the Lillehammer Olympic Organizing Committee signed a sponsorship agreement with Norsk Viftefabrikk and Elektrisk Bureau , both part of Asea Brown Boveri , which demanded discounts in their sponsorship payments for not receiving the contract . In September 1992 , Investa , which owned Ole K. Karlsen , filed for bankruptcy , causing delays in construction . When it opened , Vikingskipet was the largest indoor sports venue in the world , and has twice the spectator capacity of the Olympic Oval . The ice rink was first tested on 15 December 1992 , and officially opened on 19 December .

The construction of the venue cost NOK 230 million , which was almost entirely financed through state grants . Hamar Municipality contributed by building a co @-@ located fire station for NOK 21 million . Local businesses also contributed with NOK 8 million . Moelven Industrier and Fireguard both contributed in exchange for being able to use the venues for marketing large wooden structures . To finance the operating deficit after the Olympics , Hamar Municipality received a capital grant of NOK 30 million , with the interest going to pay for running Vikingskipet and Hamar Olympic Amphitheatre . Operating costs were estimated at NOK 7 million per year ; the venue will

receive income of NOK 1 million from larger events , NOK 1 million will come from free work from the fire department , and NOK 1 million from advertisements . Similar to Hamar Olympic Amphitheatre , the venue has two official names , Hamar Olympic Hall and Vikingskipet . The former cannot be used commercially by non @-@ Olympic events , such as in merchandise .

= = Facilities = =

The venue has a floor area of 25 @,@ 000 square meters (270 @,@ 000 sq ft) and a volume of 400 @,@ 000 cubic meters (14 @,@ 000 @,@ 000 cu ft) . The hall has a spectator capacity of 10 @,@ 600 people , of which 2 @,@ 000 can be seated . During the Olympics , this included 250 VIP seats , 250 press seats and 100 commentator seats . Access to the inner ring can be provided via an underpass . Lighting is provided at 1 @,@ 400 lux , while the venue has a ventilation system capable of both heating and cooling , as well as de @-@ moisturizing , and both re @-@ use and circulation of air . The refrigeration unit uses an ammonia and saline solution , which is transported in pipes within the concrete , which allows for an ice temperature of between ? 5 @.@ 5 and ? 6 @.@ 5 degrees Celsius (22 and 20 ° F) . The heat from the refrigerating unit can be reused .

The rink itself is 400 meters (1 @,@ 300 ft) long , with a turning radius of 25 @.@ 5 meters (84 ft) . Within the speed skating rink lies a bandy field . The venue was designed to also allow for association football , cycling , track and field , curling , motorsports and cross @-@ country skiing . The inside of the track can also be used for association football , with pitch dimensions up to 105 by 68 meters (344 by 223 ft) . It can also function as an indoor driving range for golf . The name derives from the roof looking like the keel of a Viking ship . The building is visible from the E6 motorway and the Dovre Line passing through Hamar , and was planned to be Hamar 's main landmark .

= = Transport = =

During the Olympics , transport was in part provided by Vikingskipet Station on the Røros Line , which passes right next to the venue . The station is a cul @-@ de @-@ sac station which is electrified and allowed trains during the Olympics and the Track Cycling World Championships to reach the venue within a short walk from the train . The station was officially opened on 16 August 1993 . The station has not been used since the Olympics . In 2006 , the Norwegian National Rail Administration proposed re @-@ opening the station in conjunction with larger events .

= = Events = =

Prior to the Olympic Games , the venue hosted three world championships in 1993 . In February , it hosted all but two preliminary matches of the 1993 Bandy World Championship . To make the games more attractive , preliminary round matches were reduced from 90 to 60 minutes . The final was spectated by 5 @,@ 338 people . For four months , the venue was equipped with a velodrome , which allowed the venue to host the 1993 UCI Track Cycling World Championships . The velodrome cost NOK 95 million less than building a permanent velodrome in Oslo , which would be hosting the 1993 UCI Road World Championships . The Norwegian Cycling Federation had originally bid for the championships to get a permanent velodrome built at Hasle in Oslo , but declined the offer and instead chose the temporary concept . Because the velodrome only has a circumference of 250 meters (820 ft) , the venue 's spectator capacity was reduced to 3 @,@ 000 people .

Hamar was the center for skating sports during the 1994 Winter Olympics . The other venue in town was Hamar Olympic Amphitheatre , which featured the short track speed skating and figure skating events . Vikingskipet held ten speed skating events , five for men and five for women . Norway 's Johann Olav Koss took three golds , in the men 's 1 @,@ 500 meters , 5000 meters and 10000 meters . In the latter two , he finished ahead of fellow countryman Kjell Storelid . The men 's 500 meters was won by Russia 's Aleksandr Golubev ahead of fellow countryman Sergey Klevchenya , while the men 's 1000 meters was won by American Dan Jansen . For women , American Bonnie

Blair defended her two 1992 golds in 500 meters and 1000 meters . Austria 's Emese Hunyady won the 1500 meters ahead of Russia 's Svetlana Bazhanova and Germany 's Gunda Niemann . However , Bazhanova took gold ahead of Nemeth @-@ Hunyady on the 3000 meters , with Germany 's Claudia Pechstein in third . Pechstein would go on to win the 5000 meters ahead of Niemann .

Vikingskipet was proposed to also host curling , should it be included in the Olympic program . It had been a demonstration sport in 1988 and 1992 Olympics , but was eventually discarded from the Lillehammer program . The event would have used the same production equipment as for speed skating , and would have consisted of a four @-@ team tournament for both men and women , and would have been held during the Games ' two last days . Vikingskipet was the venue for ice sledge speed skating during the 1994 Winter Paralympics . Eight events were held , four for women and four for men . The event had 22 participants from 7 nations competing for 24 medals , resulting in 23 of 24 medals being awarded to Norwegian athletes . Atle Haglund set two world records .

The venue is the national stadium for speed skating in Norway . It hosts annual ISU Speed Skating World Cup , and has in addition hosted many European and world championships . This includes the World Allround Speed Skating Championships in 1993 (for men) , 1999 , 2004 and 2009 tournaments . The World Sprint Speed Skating Championships has been held in 1996 , 1997 , 2002 and 2007 , while the World Single Distance Championships was held in 1996 . The European Speed Skating Championships has been held four times , in 1994 , 2000 , 2006 and 2010 .

Since 1996 , Vikingskipet has hosted The Gathering , a computer party which is held every Easter . Concerts held at Vikingskipet include Andrea Bocelli (2005) , Beyoncé (2007) , Cliff Richard (2007) , and Stevie Wonder (2008) . The Norway women 's national football team played Sweden on 21 January 1996 , winning 4 ? 0 . Vikingskipet hosted a round of the Speedway Grand Prix in 2002 , 2003 and 2004 . It was also the service depot and race headquarters for Rally Norway , which was arranged in 2006 , 2007 and 2009 . The latter two were part of the World Rally Championship .

In March 2011 , the Norwegian Skating Association announced that they indented that the Norwegian World Cup events would be moved to Sørmarka Arena in Stavanger , due to low attendance at Vikingskipet . Vikingskipet has been selected to host the 2013 World Allround Speed Skating Championships . Lillehammer is scheduled to host the 2016 Winter Youth Olympics , with Vikingskipet to host long track speed skating events .

= = Rink records = =

Vikingskipet is one of few indoor speed skating venues in the world , which has allowed for many world records . The following is a list of the rink records , including the distance , gender , the record time , the athlete who set the record , the country they represent , and the date the record was set . The list is as of 23 November 2009 .

= = World records = =

Vikingskipet has been the venues for world records in speed skating , track cycling , ice sledge speed racing and frisbee . The following is a list of world records set in Vikingskipet , including the sport , event , gender , time or distance , the athlete , their country and the date the record was set . During the 1994 Winter Olympics , four of the five distances for men 's speed skating received new world records .