

= Stampsletta =

Stampsletta is a multi @-@ use stadium complex in Lillehammer , Norway . Owned and operated by Lillehammer Municipality , it consists of a track and field venue , an artificial turf football field , three natural grass football fields , a gravel field and natural grass training pitches . In addition , it features a club house , locker facilities and a grandstand between the athletics and artificial turf fields . The venue is located about 1 kilometer (0 @. @ 6 mi) from the town center , and serves as the home ground for the Second Division side Lillehammer FK , Lillehammer KFK , Roterud IL in football , and Lillehammer IF in athletics .

Construction of Stampsletta started in 1946 and the grass football field opened in 1949 . A now removed equestrian exhibition area opened in 1958 , and in 1973 the track and field venue opened . The latter received a hard surface in 1982 . During the 1994 Winter Olympics , Stampsletta itself was used for medal ceremonies , attracting crowds of up to 30 @, @ 000 people . The area around Stampsletta was sometimes referred to as the Olympic Park , as it also has in its immediate vicinity the ice hockey venues Håkons Hall and Kristins Hall , the ski jumping hill Lyngårdshøgda , and Kanthaugen Freestyle Arena . The two halls are often regarded as part of Stampsletta . The arena is used as the goal are for Birkebeinerøstet and Birkebeinerløpet , and from 1932 to 1992 for Birkebeinerrennet . Stampsletta hosted the Norwegian Athletics Championships in 1977 , 1995 and 2009 , and annually hosts Norway 's second @-@ largest track and field tournament , Veidekkelekene . Stampsletta is scheduled to host the opening and closing ceremonies of the 2016 Winter Youth Olympics .

= = History = =

The area around Stampsletta , which is located along the creek Mesnaelva , and means " the plain beside a mill " . The area , which traditionally had been called Myra , was originally part of the farm Lyngård , with Stampsletta being its own croft . The area was bought by Lillehammer Municipality in 1933 . The hillside further up , at Kanthaugen and Lyngård , featured ski activities from the turn of the 20th century . Plans to use one of the few flat places in Lillehammer for sports was launched by the municipal planning office in 1941 . However , the German occupation of Norway caused an interruption in the plans , and a prisoner @-@ of @-@ war camp for Russians , Lager Edelweiss , was located there instead .

Construction of the grass field started in 1946 , after the municipality had decided to build a multi @-@ sport complex . The original stadium was by the contemporary capital press described as having " international proportions " . The venue was planned built in several stages , and the plans called for a main football field with grass turf and a main athletics field . Additional plans called for an outdoor swimming pool , tennis courts , an indoor arena for handball and gymnastics , and a club house . The grass pitch was officially opened by Mayor Einar Hansen in 1949 , and had a spectator capacity for 12 @, @ 000 people . Two years later , a hostel , owned by the municipality and with room for 108 people , opened beside the venue .

In 1958 , an equestrian exhibition area was built at Stampsletta to host the state 's mare exhibition , which had previously been held in Lillehammer from 1887 to 1940 . It was by Agricultural Director Aslak Lidtveidt as the country 's most modern . The venue also became home of the state 's stallion display . The exhibition grounds covered an area of 4 hectares (10 acres) , cost NOK 190 @, @ 000 and included two stables . The show remained at Lillehammer until the opening of Biri Travbane .

The track and field venue opened in 1973 , with a capacity for 6 @, @ 000 people . The following year Lillehammer IF moved from Sportsplassen i Lillehammer to Stampsletta , with the old venue being retired in 1975 . In 1977 , Stampsletta hosted the Norwegian Athletics Championships . It was the last time the championships were held on gravel , and this caused problems because excessive rain drowned the venue , and the fire department had to pump off the water . The club started planning fixed surface on the venue in 1980 , and was granted a loan for NOK 500 @, @ 000 . On 18 August 1981 , the municipal council voted to grant NOK 200 @, @ 000 for the upgrade . The

work was largely done with voluntary work , and the new surface was inaugurated on 28 August 1982 with the Norwegian Relay Athletics Championship .

In 1970 , the plans for an indoor arena , primarily for handball , was launched again , but the cost of NOK 6 million was not able to be financed . Following the work with the Lillehammer bid for the 1992 Winter Olympics , the plans resurfaced , this time with an ice hockey rink to be the centerpiece . In 1985 , Lillehammer Municipal Council accepted an agreement with the Norwegian Confederation of Sports (NIF) , which offered to finance 50 % of a new multi @-@ use arena in Lillehammer . The venue opened in December 1988 and cost NOK 65 million . After Lillehammer was awarded the 1994 Winter Olympics in 1988 , it became necessary to build a larger venue to hold the Olympic ice hockey matches . In June 1989 , the municipal council voted to locate most of the Lillehammer venues to the Stampsesletta area , and to put Håkons Hall adjacent to Kristins Hall . This was controversial among the politicians , and many councilors voted in support of the originally @-@ planned decentralized plan , with the venues spread out through the municipality . Håkons Hall cost NOK 238 million and it opened on 1 February 1993 . Prior to the Olympics , the power lines across the fields were dug down to give better television images . The bid for the Olympics had also included using Stampsesletta for the speed skating events , but with the demands for an indoor venue , it was instead decided to build Vikingskipet in Hamar .

The running track was renovated in 2003 , and received a new surface layer and paint job . In 2005 , the club house was completed by the women 's football club . In 2006 , the gravel ice rink received an artificial ice machine to secure stable ice conditions throughout the winter .

= = Facilities = =

The sports complex consists of a track and field venue , a main artificial turf football field with a grandstand , three natural grass football fields , a gravel field and warm @-@ up / practice fields with grass . The track and field venue has eight lanes around the full course , as well as a start allowing 110 meter hurdling .

Kristins Hall consists of two halls , one featuring an ice hockey rink and one with a handball court . The arena also has a curling rink and a running track . The ice hockey rink has room for 3 @, @ 197 spectators and is the home venue of GET @-@ ligaen side Lillehammer IK . Håkons Hall is a multi @-@ sport arena which is used for international handball and ice hockey matches , as well as conferences , conventions and banquets . The venue has a capacity for 11 @, @ 500 , making it the largest handball and ice hockey venue in the country . It can make use of the main hall for two handball or football field , or six volleyball or badminton courts . In addition , there is a permanent health club , a climbing wall , an aerobics room , a golf center with two golf simulators and a putting green , and two badminton courts . The hall also features a 370 meters (1 @, @ 210 ft) long sprinting track and the Norwegian Olympic Museum The Olympics ski jumping hill Lysgårdskbakken and Kanthaugen Freestyle Arena are located a few hundred meters from Stampsesletta . Collectively , the area is sometimes referred to as the Olympic Park .

= = Events = =

The football fields are used by Lillehammer FK , Lillehammer KFK , and Roterud IL 's senior teams . As of 2012 , Lillehammer FK 's first @-@ team plays in the Second Division . The track and field venue is used by Lillehammer IF . Veidekkelekene is an annual track and field tournament held at Stampsesletta . In 2010 it had 1 @, @ 150 participants and is organized by Lillehammer IF , Gausdal FIK and Moelven IL . The tournament is the second @-@ largest track and field event in Norway , after Tyrvinglekene . Lillehammer IF has hosted the Norwegian Athletics Championships three times , in 1977 , 1995 and 2009 . They have also hosted a series of other Norwegian championships , such as the Norwegian Junior Athletics Championships in 1958 , 1987 and 2002 , and the Norwegian Relay Athletics Championships in 1960 , 1974 , 1976 , 1982 , 1991 and 1999 .

From 1932 to 1992 , Birkebeinerittet , a mass ski marathon between Rena and Lillehammer , has used Stampsesletta as a start or goal area , depending on if the race ran from Lillehammer to Rena

or in the opposite direction . Since 1992 , the goal area was moved to Birkebeineren Ski Stadium . Birkebeinerrittet , a cycle version of the ski marathon , has its goal area at Stampsletta . The half @-@ marathon terrain race Birkebeinerløpet uses Stampsletta as its start and goal area . During the 1994 Winter Olympics , Stampsletta was used for medal ceremonies for all non @-@ skating events . The backdrop for the podium was built using ice and snow , with the podium itself being made from ice from the glacier Jostedalsgreen . This contrasted with the surrounding pine elements . Attendance was free , and between 25 @,@ 000 and 30 @,@ 000 people attended the medal ceremonies . Lillehammer is scheduled to host the 2016 Winter Youth Olympics . The Stampsletta area will be used for the opening and closing ceremonies with a spectator capacity of 6 @,@ 000 to 8 @,@ 000 ; existing and new buildings nearby will be used for the Olympic Village .