

= Malmö Stadion =

Malmö Stadion , often known simply as Stadion before the construction of Swedbank Stadion between 2007 and 2009 , is a multi @-@ purpose stadium in Malmö , Sweden . As of 2015 , it is the home of association football club IFK Malmö , presently of Division 4 , and athletics club MAI . The stadium served as the home ground for Malmö FF , an association football team in Sweden 's top flight , Allsvenskan , from its opening in 1958 until 2009 , when the club moved to the newly constructed Swedbank Stadion , built beside Malmö Stadion , in 2009 . Malmö FF still use the stadium for training purposes and youth matches . Besides being used for sports , the stadium has also hosted various concerts and other events . The ground 's record attendance , 30 @,@ 953 , was set in the very first match played at the ground , a 1958 FIFA World Cup match between Argentina and West Germany .

Malmö Stadion was originally built for the 1958 FIFA World Cup , during which it was the venue for four matches . It replaced Malmö IP as Malmö 's main sports stadium , where IFK Malmö , MAI and Malmö FF had been based since the early 20th century . It also hosted three matches during the 1992 UEFA European Football Championship . The stadium today holds 26 @,@ 500 spectators when in its sporting configuration , with 14 @,@ 000 fans seated and 12 @,@ 500 standing . For concerts , the ground can hold up to 40 @,@ 000 people depending on the location of the stage . On 2 February 2015 Malmö Stad took the decision to approve the demolition of the stadium for redevelopment of the area . Malmö Stad has previously decided that a new public swimming arena is to be built on the site in the near future . As of February 2015 it is still not known when the demolition process will begin .

= = History = =

Plans to build a new stadium in Malmö originated in 1943 , when local officials deemed Malmö IP to be too small for major events . However , the city council could not agree where to build the new stadium , and the matter was dropped for the time being . It was not until Sweden was chosen to host the 1958 FIFA World Cup that the question resurfaced . The location of the stadium was a main subject of discussion : some suggested a suburban location in Jägersro , while others thought that the stadium should be located in central Malmö , near the neighbourhood of Pildammsparken . Proponents of a central location ultimately won the day ; the site was confirmed in 1954 .

The plans were agreed upon in 1956 , and building started on 5 June that year , when the chairman of the city 's sports committee turned the first sod . The ground officially opened about two years later , on 28 May 1958 . At the time of the stadium 's inauguration , it held 31 @,@ 000 spectators . It was designed by architects Sten Samuelsson and Fritz Jaenecke , who also designed another of the World Cup stadiums , Ullevi in the city of Gothenburg ; as a result , the two grounds share many architectural features . During the World Cup , the stadium hosted three matches : West Germany vs Argentina in Group 1 , which was the inaugural match of the stadium ; West Germany vs Northern Ireland , also in Group 1 ; Northern Ireland vs Czechoslovakia , in the Group 1 play @-@ off ; and , finally , West Germany vs Yugoslavia in the quarter @-@ final round .

During the 1992 UEFA European Football Championship (commonly called Euro 1992) , Malmö Stadion hosted three matches in Group 1 , which comprised the national teams of Sweden , Denmark , England and France . None of the matches played in Malmö involved Sweden , however , as the host nation played all of their matches at Råsunda , a stadium in the capital city Stockholm .

Malmö Allmänna Idrottsförening (MAI) , the largest athletics club in Malmö , have used the stadium for training purposes and outdoor competition since the stadium 's inauguration in 1958 . MAI organises its own international athletic competition , the MAI Gala , which has been held since the 1930s . It was originally hosted at Malmö IP , but moved to Malmö Stadion after its construction . Some notable athletes who have competed in the gala are Marion Jones , Maurice Greene , Sergej Bubka and Kajsa Bergqvist .

Malmö Stadion served as the home ground of association football club Malmö FF between 1958 and 2008 . The team moved to the stadium on its opening in 1958 , leaving its original home ground

at Malmö IP to do so . The first Malmö FF match at the new ground was played on 8 August 1958 ; in an Allsvenskan fixture , Malmö FF took on their cross @-@ town rivals , IFK Malmö , who had also moved to the stadium from Malmö IP . Played in front of 17 @,@ 368 fans , the game ended with a 4 ? 4 draw . IFK were relegated from Allsvenskan in 1962 , and have not returned to the first tier since , but the club continues to play at Malmö Stadion nonetheless . Malmö FF experienced an average attendance of around 13 @,@ 000 for the first ten years at the stadium ; average crowds then dropped to below 10 @,@ 000 by the end of the 1970s . By the 1990s , attendances were at an all @-@ time low , with less than 5 @,@ 000 people on average coming to Malmö FF matches . The club therefore let Malmö Stadion for the newly renovated Malmö IP in 1999 , IFK Malmö followed in August the same year . By this time IFK Malmö were playing in Division 2 , then the third tier in the Swedish league system . During their seasons in Allsvenskan , IFK Malmö had attracted an average attendance of around 10 @,@ 000 spectators between 1957 ? 58 and 1962 . IFK Malmö 's attendance at Malmö Stadion reached its peak during the 1960 season when the club finished as runners @-@ up in Allsvenskan and attracted 12 @,@ 787 spectators on average to the stadium . The attendance had decreased to around 1 @,@ 000 spectators per match in 1999 when the club had dropped in the league .

Malmö FF 's move to Malmö IP occurred during the second half of the 1999 Allsvenskan . It soon became apparent to the club that Malmö IP was too small , and lacked the safety facilities that Malmö Stadion offered . When Malmö FF were relegated to the second tier of Swedish football at the end of the 1999 season , the club board decided to move the team back to Malmö Stadion before the next season started . IFK Malmö , however stayed at Malmö IP . After Malmö FF were promoted back to Allsvenskan after one season in the second division , Superettan , the average attendance began to rise . Malmö FF 's average crowd during the 2001 Allsvenskan season was 11 @,@ 315 ; it was the first time since the 1970s that the club had drawn an average crowd of more than 10 @,@ 000 spectators . Average attendances then increased year on year as Malmö FF experienced a successful period . In the 2004 Allsvenskan season , as Malmö FF won their first Swedish championship since 1988 , the team also set a new club record for attendances over a season , with an average of 20 @,@ 061 spectators watching Malmö FF matches . Around this time , both club and fans began to feel that Malmö Stadion had served its purpose , as the ageing stadium began to deteriorate . Some fans also expressed their discontent with the distance between the pitch and the stands , necessitated by the running tracks surrounding the playing area .

Malmö Stad , the city council , announced on 25 April 2005 its intention to either help the club renovate Malmö Stadion , or build a new stadium in the same area . Four days later , five different scenarios were laid out by the municipality : the first proposed the construction of an entirely new , football @-@ specific stadium to the south of Malmö Stadion , while the second suggested the demolition of Malmö Stadion , and the erection of a new ground for football and athletics on the same site . The third , fourth , and fifth ideas all proposed the building of two stadiums , one for football and one for athletics , on various local plots . The municipality chose the first option on 3 December 2005 : the new football ground would be built south of Malmö Stadion , with a capacity of 20 @,@ 000 to 25 @,@ 000 , on a 399 million kronor budget . Malmö Stadion , meanwhile , would be renovated into an athletics stadium for 50 million kronor . Swedbank Stadion was completed in 2009 . As of 2012 , no renovation has been done on Malmö Stadion .

Malmö FF left Malmö Stadion at the end of the 2008 Allsvenskan season . The last Allsvenskan match played at the stadium was the team 's final game of the season , against GIF Sundsvall on 9 November 2008 . The match was won 6 ? 0 by Malmö FF , who wore a special kit designed to honour the legacy of the stadium . Malmö FF still uses the stadium for training purposes and youth matches . IFK Malmö returned to Malmö Stadion for the 2009 season . The move was done in protest against Malmö Stad 's decision to lay out an artificial turf at Malmö IP . Since returning to Malmö Stadion , IFK Malmö 's average attendance has been around 100 ? 200 spectators per match . The team currently plays in Division 4 , the sixth tier of Swedish football .

In June 2011 , Malmö Stad decided that a new public swimming arena is to be built in the same area as the stadium in the near future . This leaves the stadium 's future clouded in uncertainty . Recent occurrences have indicated that Malmö Stadion might continue to be used as an athletics

arena , as MAI intends to revive the MAI Gala . In November 2012 , MAI lobbied to attract 100 metres Olympic champion Usain Bolt to the stadium for the proposed MAI Gala in August 2014 . MAI are also working towards hosting the European Athletics Junior Championships in 2015 , and have written to the European Athletic Association to express their interest . On 31 January 2015 new reports suggested that the city council had reached an agreement that Malmö Stadion is to be demolished . The decision to approve the demolition of the stadium was taken on 2 February 2015 . As of February 2015 it is still unknown when the demolition process will start and what will become of the area .

= = Structure and facilities = =

Malmö Stadion has an overall capacity of 26 @, @ 500 spectators for sports , of which 14 @, @ 000 are standing spectators . When hosting concerts , the stadium can host 25 @, @ 000 spectators when the stage is on either long side of the stadium , or up to 40 @, @ 000 when it is placed in front of either short side . It comprises two main stands on each of the long sides of the pitch : the Southern Stand and the Northern Stand , both of which have two tiers . The lower tier of the Northern Stand is terraced , and was the only tier of the stand until the upper , seated tier was built in 1992 . The short sides of the pitch feature two minor terracing sections , respectively named the Eastern Stand and the Western Stand . When Malmö FF were based at the ground , the Northern Stand terracing was the section with the most season ticket holders , while the Eastern Stand was the section used to house away fans .

The stadium features a 100 by 65 metres (328 ft × 213 ft) association football pitch , and eight all @-@ weather running tracks , which surround the pitch . The tracks are certified for national and international athletic competitions . Also available at the stadium are areas on each short side of the pitch for the high jump , javelin throw , pole vault and shot put events . In front of the Southern Stand there are pits for long jump and triple jump . When the stadium is used for association football , two dugouts are placed at the edge of the pitch in front of the Southern Stand . Behind the two dugouts , on the other side of the running tracks , is the entrance and exit to the players ' changing rooms , which are located in the Southern Stand . There are a total of 12 changing rooms inside the stand , as well as facilities for referees and media . There are reserved seats for officials and media in the Southern Stand . In the respective corridors behind the Southern and Northern Stands , as well as in the open area between the Northern and Western Stands , there are several vendors selling snacks , light meals , and beverages . The entrances to the stadium are located along the Southern and Northern Stands . A ticket office , formerly used for selling the tickets for Malmö FF home matches , is connected with the Southern Stand .

= = International football = =

= = = 1958 FIFA World Cup = = =

The following 1958 FIFA World Cup matches were held at Malmö Stadion :

= = = UEFA Euro 1992 = = =

The following UEFA Euro 1992 matches were held at Malmö Stadion :

= = = Sweden matches = = =

The stadium has also hosted several matches played by the Sweden national team . This is a list of all competitive matches played by Sweden at Malmö Stadion :

= = Other uses = =

On 15 September 1961 , the stadium was used for Motorcycle speedway when it was chosen as the host for the Speedway World Championship Final . The event , the first of its kind not to be staged at Wembley Stadium in England , was won by Swedish rider and defending champion Ove Fundin who won the third of his five Individual World Championships . It would prove to be the only World Final staged at Malmö Stadion . From 1964 , World Final 's held in Sweden were run at the Ullevi Stadium in Göteborg .

Malmö also hosted other World Championship Motorcycle speedway meetings . In 1967 it hosted the Final of the Speedway World Team Cup . The host nation Sweden won their 5th WTC title with riders Göte Nordin , Bengt Jansson , Torbjörn Harrysson and Ove Fundin . They defeated Poland , Great Britain and the Soviet Union . In 1970 Malmö hosted the Speedway World Pairs Championship which was won by New Zealand riders Ivan Mauger and Ronnie Moore . The Kiwis defeated Sweden (Ove Fundin and Bengt Jansson) , and England who were represented by brothers Nigel and Eric Boocock . 1970 was the final time the stadium was used for World Championship speedway . Mauger would go on to break Ove Fundin 's record of 5 World Championships by winning the title on 6 occasions . Sweden later regained a share of the record when Tony Rickardsson would win 6 World Championships between 1994 and 2005 .

The use of Malmö Stadion for concerts has increased since the construction of Swedbank Stadion and Malmö FF 's departure . Since 2007 , several known artists such as Ozzy Osbourne , Elton John , Dolly Parton , The Eagles , Kiss , and Rod Stewart have performed at the stadium . Due to the climate in Sweden and the lack of a retractable roof at the ground , all of these concerts have been held during the European summer , between June ? August . The main stage has been placed either facing the Southern Stand , or along one of the short sides of the stadium . The pitch has been covered up with wooden floorboards during the performances to minimize the damage done to the grass . Many spectators complained about the less than impressive sound quality at both the Elton John and Dolly Parton concerts , citing the stadiums layout as unsuitable for this kind of concert .

= = Records = =

The ground 's present attendance record was set during the 1958 World Cup , when 30 @, @ 953 spectators saw the first game ever played at the stadium , the Group 1 match between Argentina and West Germany . The match ended 3 ? 1 in West Germany 's favour . The record crowd for a Malmö FF match played at the ground was set on 24 September 1967 , when 29 @, @ 328 attended the Allsvenskan match between Malmö FF and Scanian rivals Helsingborgs IF . Helsingborg won the match 2 ? 1 . IFK Malmö 's record attendance was set on 10 September 1969 in a Division 2 Scanian derby fixture against Helsingborgs IF which attracted 25 @, @ 624 spectators to the stadium , the match ended 1 ? 0 in Helsingborg 's favour .

Malmö FF 's average attendance at Malmö Stadion initially lay steady at around 15 @, @ 000 per season from the mid @-@ 1960s to the early 1970s , before decreasing to around 10 @, @ 000 spectators per season for the remainder of that decades . During the 1980s and the 1990s , attendances decreased even further down to an average of around 5 @, @ 000 fans per season ; the general interest in Swedish football was also very low at the time . Attendance took a sharp turn upwards during the 2001 season , Malmö FF 's first season back in Allsvenskan after a season in Superettan . Average crowds then increased annually , and reached their peak during the 2004 season , when Malmö FF reached an all @-@ time record average attendance of 20 @, @ 061 . Attendances afterwards decreased each year , and were down to a seasonal average of 11 @, @ 182 by the time of Malmö FF 's final season at the ground . Only 6 @, @ 580 attended Malmö FF 's last Allsvenskan match at the stadium , on 9 November 2008 .

IFK Malmö played five Allsvenskan seasons at Malmö Stadion between 1957 ? 58 and 1962 before being relegated to Division 2 . The average attendance during these years stayed around 10 @, @ 000 fans , reaching its peak at 12 @, @ 787 spectators in average during the 1960 Allsvenskan season when IFK Malmö finished as runners @-@ up .

= = Transportation = =

Just like the neighbouring Swedbank Stadion , Malmö Stadion is currently served by Malmö bus lines 3 , 5 , 6 and 34 , all of which stop in the vicinity of the two stadiums . Local transit authority Skånetrafiken also operates dedicated match @-@ day buses , branded as line 84 , which run from different areas of Malmö when Malmö FF play home matches at Swedbank Stadion . Due to the central location of the two stadiums within the city , parking space is limited , and spectators are advised to use public transportation , particularly for more prominent matches at Swedbank Stadion . This does not apply to matchdays for IFK Malmö , as not so many fans are drawn for that club 's games . Malmö Stadion is also near the underground railway station Triangeln , which opened in December 2010 as a part of Citytunneln . The station is served by Pågatåg and Öresund Trains , and is reachable non @-@ stop from many parts of the Öresund Region .

The closest parking location to Malmö Stadion is " P @-@ huset Stadion " , a parking garage with 440 parking spaces , which was purpose @-@ built for Swedbank Stadion . The garage opened in September 2009 . It is located 100 metres (330 ft) from Swedbank Stadion , just beside Malmö FF 's training ground . There are also various other local parking spaces , and a large number of bicycle stands surrounding the western edge of Swedbank Stadion .