

= Balbergbakken =

Balbergbakken or Balbergbakkene was a ski jumping hill complex located at Fåberg in Lillehammer , Norway . The centerpiece consisted of a large hill with a construction point of 120 meters (390 ft) (K @-@ 120) , in addition to three smaller K @-@ 40 , K @-@ 25 and K @-@ 15 hills . The venue was opened in 1972 , having cost slightly more than one million Norwegian krone (NOK) after significant cost overruns . Balbergbakken hosted three Norwegian Championships , in 1973 , 1978 and 1983 , and a FIS Ski Jumping World Cup in 1984 . The hill record of 130 @.@ 5 meters was set by Tom Levorstad in 1981 . It was planned that the venue would be used for the 1994 Winter Olympics , but because of lack of infrastructure , the new Lysgårdsbakken was built instead . Balbergbakken was closed in 1992 .

= = History = =

The old hill at Lysgård in Lillehammer was closed in 1964 , and Lillehammer SK spent some time deciding where to build a new venue . Storhove , Vingrom and Kanthaugen were all considered as locations , although Balberg was eventually chosen . The municipal council passed the plans in May 1969 . The original cost estimate was for NOK 347 @,@ 065 . The hill opened in 1972 , having cost more than NOK 1 million to be built . In addition to the large K @-@ 120 hill , it consisted of three smaller training hills , at K @-@ 40 , K @-@ 25 and K @-@ 15 . The hills were owned by Lillehammer SK .

The construction was controversial in Lillehammer , both amongst the general public and politicians . The chief of administration had doubted whether he should recommend construction . The original plans had called for both a large and normal hill , but lack of funding meant that the normal hill was never built , meaning that the number of competitions in the hill would be severely limited . The cost overruns were largely created by errors in the plans , which estimated too little earthwork to fill the hillside , and not enough blasting . To cut costs , a floodlighting system was taken out of the plans , so the venue could not be used during the evenings , limiting the amount of time the venue could be used . It was also a concern that very few locals were able to jump on such a large hill . Many politicians stated in 1972 that the money should have been spent instead on an indoor hall for handball . The first trial jump was made by Helge Nordstrand , while Jan Stenbekk is credited with the first hill record , at 110 @.@ 5 meters .

In Lillehammer 's bids for the 1992 and 1994 Winter Olympics , Balbergbakken was the proposed site of ski jumping . Lillehammer was awarded the 1994 Olympics in 1988 , but a year later the plans to use Balbergbanen were abandoned . The venue was regarded as unsuitable ; for instance NOK 30 million would have to be spent on building a new access road . In addition , a new water and sewer system , new stands , participant facilities and a normal hill would have to be built . The available space at Balbergbakken was limited , and the organizers saw it as advantageous to have the ski stadium close to the ski jumping hills .

= = Events = =

The hill was used for 31 tournaments , of which six had to be cancelled because of wind or snow conditions . The tournaments included the Norwegian Championships in 1973 , 1978 and 1983 ; the Norwegian champions in Balbergbakken were Nils @-@ Per Skarseth (1973) and Per Bergerud (1978 and 1983) . A FIS Ski Jumping World Cup race was held on 9 March 1984 . It saw Pavel Ploc win ahead of Matti Nykänen and Ernst Vettori . The event drew 5 @,@ 000 spectators . The World Cup race incurred a large loss , with the organizers only covering half of the NOK 260 @,@ 000 it cost to host . The hill record was set by Tom Levorstad in 1981 , who reached 130 @.@ 5 meters . The final race was scheduled to be the 1992 Junior Norwegian Championships , but they were canceled because of lack of snow .