

Carl XVI Gustaf : Rumours.

It has long been rumoured that Carl Gustaf visits porn clubs, hires call girls or otherwise exploits women. Watching striptease is legal but considered bad form. The use of prostitutes is (from 1999) illegal. On November 4, 2010, a fourth biography of Carl Gustaf, "The Reluctant Monarch", was published by the trio of writers Thomas Sjöberg, Deanne Rauscher and Tove Meyer. The biography claimed that if Carl Gustaf was guilty as charged, he could, as in the charges of homosexuality levelled against Gustaf V, be subject to blackmail. Sjöberg had found six episodes that each gave rise to a number of rumours. Since they have been given such importance in the debate, I will describe them and two similar episodes in some detail.

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The first such rumour dates from 1977. On Friday, September 16, the magazine Pockettidningen R published a very high-profile article which, if it was true, would have implied that during his public relations trip to the United States just before the wedding the previous year, Carl Gustaf hired a State Department official to smuggle women into his room after the working day for relaxation:

One of the employees of the Foreign Service in the United States was tasked with helping King Carl Gustaf with various practical tasks during his trip: He would fix taxis, transport luggage, arrange tickets etc. He would in other words act as a kind of modern men's servant - an all in all with all that it meant. ... In the early hours - after the official program was completed - King Carl Gustaf began to yearn for female company. The government-appointed "butler" was tasked with trying to acquire the king young ladies who were reliable enough to take up the room so late at night. The Butler had a hell. For outside the king's hotel was always the Expressen royal reporter or any other reporter on guard, hoping to capture something sensational. It was a great embarrassment for the "butler". He was forced as nicely as possible to try to smuggle the ladies in without the press guardian discovering it. They were taken in via garage and kitchen, through spare exits and over the roof. Fortunately, the "butler" and his female companions were never discovered. He had fabulous luck. Because it wasn't just once that he had to go out looking for girls for the king. That mission he got every night and every other night. It happened that he had to call the girl in question at three o'clock in the night and announce: "King Carl Gustaf wishes to see you. Can you come to his hotel?" She was picked up by car and was thus smuggled in to the king. In all honesty, it must be admitted that it is not possible to establish whether the king paid or not. But the question remains: Is it prostitution or not? The girls might have done for free, and in that case certainly because a Swedish king in America is perceived as a very special attraction.¹

In the days leading up to the publication, rumours circulated that the article was grossly slanderous. Early Thursday morning, the Chief Librarian of the University Library in Lund, Krister Gierow, called the Attorney General Sven Romanus and demanded that the edition be immediately withdrawn. He had not seen the article but had it read for him on the phone. As the magazine was to be distributed the next day, Romanus had to act quickly. He arranged five copies which he, Secretary of State Henry Montgomery and some others studied and compared with the legal provisions on defamation and high treason. Then he contacted Carl

¹ Stig Edling. Kungen och prostitutionen. Pockettidningen R, 1977:4.

Gustaf who was currently in Skåne. Carl Gustaf was very upset but did not want the government to act. Romanus also approached Chancellor of Justice Ingvar Gullnäs, who was to decide on a possible prosecution. At an extraordinary cabinet meeting at 3 p.m. it was decided not to take any action. The reason for not prosecuting was that this rarely led to redress. The wording of the article was too vague to warrant a conviction.

The journalist Stig Edling was supposed to have received the information from a Foreign Ministry official. At a press conference on Friday, he revealed that this UD official was ambassador Tore Tallroth, now chief master of ceremony at the court. Tallroth could not recall ever talking to Edling. He identified the “butler” as consul Jacob Ankarcrona at the Consulate General in Chicago who served as a tour operator and “fixer”. Edling referred to further anonymous testimonies and that all the evidence was verified by two independent sources. Edling enjoyed a good reputation, but none of his colleagues seem to have believed the article, instead seeing it as an accident at work. For example Annette Kullenberg portrayed both Edling and Tallroth as two of indignation trembling idiots. Edling's hatred of the monarchy and the establishment being surpassed with a vengeance by the smart-alec ditherings of Tallroth and the State Department.²

“But what happened during the King's US trip? - Many of the King's old friends happen to live in the United States,” says Ambassador Tallroth. When we came to Chicago, San Francisco, Los Angeles and so on, these people wanted to arrange private parties for the king when the official program was over for the day. It's quite natural if they also invited girls. Maybe it happened that they sometimes called the girls at night.”³ Two days later Edling denied that Tallroth was a first-hand source. “The ambassador Tallroth confirmed that the king's friends may have invited their girlfriends to private parties held since the official program was over for the day. To my knowledge, Ambassador Tallroth has never personally had anything to do with these parties.”⁴

The editorial of Expressen expressed the opinion that the Pocket magazine R was “throwing around a series of unsubstantiated claims about famous people, companies and institutions but - for all the world – never mentioning sources. It is supposed to look like investigative journalism. But in this lazy and uncritical execution it becomes something completely different, it becomes a low-minded denunciation, incompatible with both fairness and publicist morals.”⁵ Prophetic words it appeared.

Edling resigned as editor-in-chief. The new editor-in-chief became Cecilia Modig, who threatened further information in case of prosecution. In connection with the Henemark affair in 2010, she again referred to the newspaper's anonymous sources, which she refused to divulge. The following year, Edling was again interviewed about his sources. His new version was that an employee of the State Department approached him on the grounds that they “were tired of procuring whores for the king wherever he was”. By coming out, they hoped it would end. Edling received an oral promise from his spokesman that if the court were to sue Pockettidningen R for the article “people at the Foreign Ministry had promised to come forward and confirm the story”. However, the promise did not come from the State Department in its official capacity.⁶

² Annette Kullenberg. Debattartikel. Aftonbladet, 1976-09-16.

³ Per Wendell. Ambassadören om kungens USA-resa. Expressen, 1977-09-16.

⁴ Expressen, 1977-09-18.

⁵ Åtal oförtjänt reklam för R. Expressen, 1977-09-16.

⁶ Fredrik Nejman. UD ville stoppa kungens kvinnor. SCOOP, tidskrift för grävande journalistik, 2011:3.

Since both Tallroth and Ankarcrona are now dead, Edling is believed to have had the last word on the subject. However, Tallroth had both clients and superiors who wanted a more detailed explanation of what was actually going on. In a memo to Foreign Minister Söder et al, Tallroth explained that 14 days before the news broke he had been contacted by Aftonbladet:

The editor of Pockettidningen R, Stig Edling, had told Aftonbladet that two young ladies had informed him that during the trip a named official had called them with suggestions of meeting the king and his company. I rejected this statement. I mentioned, however, that after an official dinner in Chicago, he himself and his wife, who at that time were living in Chicago, had arranged a meeting at their home for the King and the younger members of the travel delegation and suggested that the invitations related to this event. ... I later on Friday evening [after the press conference] had a conversation with Edling who admitted that he had received his information about my so-called consent from Aftonbladet and based his article on this informant [or rather co-writer]. He admitted that perhaps he should not have mentioned my name as a source during the press conference. Aftonbladet's employee has since confirmed that he told Edling about our conversation.⁷

Edling's motive for this litany of lies is shrouded in mystery. It has been speculated that he was affected by the Geijer affair. Although the writings only began in November 1977, Doris Hopp was arrested in May 1976. There was also an earlier story about the so-called "castle guard", an employee of the castle, a former carrier, who from 1968 ran a brothel to supplement the bad salary. The investigation was classified because of all the well known persons that he named as clients. The most likely source of inspiration, however, is the communist party who at this time presented an unusually infamous motion on Carl Gustaf's partying and love life,⁸ and which was extensively referenced and "improved" by Expressen journalist Ulf Nilson.⁹

The facts about Carl Gustaf's nightlife during the American trip are detailed in an earlier chapter. It is hard to understand how Carl Gustaf and Ankarcrona would have managed to include yet another secret nightlife in addition to the documented nightlife. In any event, Carl Gustaf allegedly succeeded in convincing Silvia that the allegations were false.¹⁰

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In December 1987, Carl Gustaf was on a hunting trip in Denmark. He and the company partied until four in the morning at the Fellini discotheque outside Copenhagen. The party continued at Hotel Kung Frederik. Danish Se & Hør claimed that Carl Gustaf the the time fell for Jannie Spies' friend Pusle Helmuth. Husmodern published an alternative version:

Carl XVI Gustaf had just been on a trip to Japan. ... That same weekend Queen Silvia and some friends were in London for Christmas shopping. ... The King then took the opportunity to meet some old friends from his bachelor years at a pure men's event. The company included Aje Philipson and dozens of other people plus the King's acting adjutant, Commander Bror Schwieler. They met at Hotel Savoy in Malmö and

⁷ Tore Tallroth. Utrikesdepartementet, protokollet. PM, 1977-09-21.

⁸ Lars Werner m fl (vpk). Motion om övergång till republik. Motion 1976/77:46.

⁹ Lars Werner m fl (vpk). Motion om övergång till republik. Motion 1976/77:46. 1173 Ulf Nilson. Lars Werner angriper kungaparet. Expressen, 1977-01-11.

¹⁰ Svensk Damtidning, 1977:50.

the event was surrounded with great secrecy. The king is said to have officially gone by the name "Herr Jönsson". As always, there were security guards nearby, both in the bar and outside the hotel.

They had a lively men's dinner and the king sat with his back to the dance floor. He did not dance himself and the women at the surrounding tables, who recognized him, made no attempt. The next day, the party continued to Copenhagen and had dinner at the mentioned discotheque Fellini. Then the group went pheasant hunting on a large estate in Denmark before ending the event and returning home. Nothing remarkable.

[At the dinner at Fellini, the king met] a young Danish blonde, former child star Pusle Helmuth. ... The background to this was that Pusle Helmuth was one of several young Danish women who were introduced to the King and his party when they visited the hotspot Fellini in Copenhagen. Pusle worked as a waitress at Fellini but was free this evening. She thought it would be exciting to meet the Swedish king, and therefore she had gone there on her night off and met some acquaintances who could introduce her to the king.¹¹

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The next such rumour was from a hunting trip to Iceland in 1989. The trip had been preceded by complaints that Carl Gustaf's hunting party had been given the right to down 10 reindeer when the quota for remaining Iceland was only 243. According to the hunters' association an "insult to the Icelandic people":

King Carl Gustav's party is accused of having hired special "table ladies" during the hunting trip to Iceland in August.

- The Swedish king was very sympathetic. It's been a long time since I had such fun, Helga Tomasdottir, one of the three "table ladies", told Aftonbladet.

On August 31 the Icelandic newspaper Timinn published a major article on the visit. There was a huge fuss in Iceland. Between the lines the article suggested that it was be some kind of call girl activity.

Nothing that merits attention

It was at the end of August that the king, along with nine hunting friends, went to Iceland to hunt the wild reindeer. Birger Erlandsson, who runs the travel agency Islandsspecialisten and arranged the trip, claims that the article is incorrect and based on misunderstandings.

- The women were hostesses who helped with the arrangement. This is nothing that merits attention, he says.

On Friday August 26, the Royal crowd travelled east in two small planes. The King and his hunting friends were quartered at the large farm Skrithuklauster near Egilsstaðir. At two o'clock on Saturday afternoon, one of the planes flew back to Reykjavík and picked up the three girls.

¹¹ Michael Jägerblom. Det hemska skvallret om vårt kungapar har berört dem illa. Husmodern, 1987:50.

- It was just me and my two friends on board, says Helga Tomasdottir. Who were they and what do they do?
 - Well, I don't actually remember their names...
- Helga herself works as a head waiter at the hotspot restaurant “Vid Tjörnin” in central Reykjavik.
- I am in my ”20s” and have previously worked as a model.

After the dinner, which ended just before half past midnight, the party withdrew to a large room upstairs.

- There we had a fireplace with fire. We had some drinks, says Birger Erlandsson.
- I didn't speak much with the king, says Helga. Then adds that she thinks he was a very funny and exciting man.
- The whole company was really nice. Everyone was very funny, yes it was a crowd of unusually funny men.

At 12:58 the next day, the three women flew back to Reykjavík.

- I would have liked to have stayed longer, but we had to go home and work again. According to Birger Erlandsson, there were only two women and they acted as hostesses.

The king slept alone

- They welcomed us and then showed us the rooms where everyone would sleep. There is nothing strange about this. In the courtyard where the society stayed the men slept two and two in each room.
- But the king slept alone in a suite, says Birger Erlandsson.
- There was a lot of gossip about this trip, when we came home, says Helga, who does not give much for the insinuations in Tidmann's article.
- I do not understand why it became such a huge affaire. But it all blew over in a couple of days. Then my compatriots found something else to gossip about.¹²

Elisabeth Tarras-Wahlberg later referred to mendacious articles in Svensk Damtidning and that Expressen's Ulf Nilson was interviewed by German Stern and claimed that “the king drinks too much and chases tails, while the queen sits at home and waits, because she so desires to remain queen”.¹³ It has not been possible to identify which articles.

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In 1995, Carl Gustaf also reportedly visited Carl Serung's porn club Tabu, where the later famous Serbian gangster and boxer Mille Markovic was employed as a bouncer. However, the information is from much later: From the satirical newsletter Seriously! 2001-06-09 & from Aftonbladet 2011-05-29.

THE COURT ANNOUNCES 2001

King Carl XVI Gustav has never been to a porn club, either in Sweden or abroad.

¹² Richard Aschberg & Svante Lidén. Vad gjorde damerna i kungens jaktstuga? Expressen, 1989-09-28.

¹³ Per Öqvist. Intervju med Elisabeth Tarras-Wahlberg. Expressen, 1994-07-03.

King Carl XVI Gustav has never been to a party where you have enjoyed yourself with strippers.

King Carl XVI Gustav is his wife forever faithful.

King Carl XVI Gustav has never seen a woman before he married.

King Carl XVI Gustav was actually a virgin before he married.

King Carl XVI Gustav has never seen anything naked at all.

King Carl XVI Gustav will Wednesday walk on water over Riddarfjärden.

THAT QUESTION IS TABOO!

As you know, it has been some ruckus in the media about the claim that King Carl Gustav should have been at a porn club in the USA. A little strange is that the rumours about his visit to the infamous porn club Tabu in Stockholm, despite this, just lie and bubble without ending up on the front pages of the evening newspapers. As for the Tabu rumour, there are even strippers who, with hand on the silicone, have sworn that he has been there. Perhaps it's time for someone to re-examine the credit card info from the latest bankruptcies - to investigate if citizens so-oder-so from any of the court's anonymous "operating companies" have rocked the Casbah. Incidentally, the court is not alone in having "operating companies" [outsourcing state responsibilities to private companies]. The National Police Board and the political parties also have anonymous companies for shady activities that should not be done in their own name.¹⁴

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They were instructed to dress in "miniskirts and stay-ups". The year was 1995 and champagne was delivered home to them before being picked up in a taxi and driven to Grand Hotel in Saltsjöbaden. Guards waited outside the entrance. "They told us to be flirty and use our charm," says Miriam - one of several women from the strip club Tabu that Aftonbladet interviewed. They would get 10,000 kronor each for one night. But they never knew in advance who to meet. When they stepped into the privately booked spa department, they caught their breath. They had expected a famous rock band or something like that to sit in the hot tub. But there sat the King of Sweden and his best friends - Anders "Aje" Philipson, Anders Lettström and Carl Adam "Noppe" Lewenhaupt.

The women ran their strip show. Miriam says it didn't take long for the first sexual contact to be made. But the king himself made no advances. "I was very afraid that they would do something with me. I thought of course that it was exciting but I definitely didn't want to have sex with anyone. Another of the dancers from Tabu tells how she participated in two private dinners with the King's friends. - It was dinner and alcohol. No more remarkable than that. But then I don't know what happened afterwards. Miriam and her friends were hired four times by "Aje", "Noppe", Anders and the king before she herself refused coming.

For Aftonbladet, several sources state that the wild partying continued well into the 2000s. No information in itself links the friends to any serious organized crime in Sweden. But the strip club Tabu at Odenplan in Stockholm was run until 1994 by the porn king Carl Serung. During a coup, it was taken over by his aides. [Serung 1999-2004 lived abroad under an assumed identity to avoid being prosecuted for tax fraud

¹⁴ Henrik Alexandersson. Allvarligt talat! 2001:2, 2001-06-09.

and could do nothing.] It was the beginning of an extensive war about the Stockholm porn market. He enlisted the help of gangster and professional boxer Mille Markovic (1961-2014) to put pressure on his former friends and colleagues. The premises were subjected to several bombings and one of the new owners was threatened and later shot in the legs.¹⁵

A copy of the information in Seriously! was later in 2001 also distributed on the internet through Flashback News Agency (FNA). This existed from 1995 to 2008 and at the end had over 120 thousand subscribers. Other information in 2001 was that Carl Gustaf had a relationship with journalist Anna Lindmarker and that he would have visited the strip club “Gold Club” during the Summer Olympics in Atlanta in 1996. During the year, URLs to various nude images of Carl Gustaf on a bear trap were also available. The images originally depicted Christer Pettersson, published in Svenska Hustler in 1990, but were edited in such a way that Carl Gustaf’s face was copied.

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Another rumour was that Carl Gustaf would have visited a strip club at the 1996 Summer Olympics in Atlanta. The rumour was from much later though. At a trial in May/June 2001 against the striptease club “Gold Club” that prostitution occurred, defence lawyer Nicholas Lotito, in an attempt to prove the innocence of the place, claimed that even the King of Sweden had visited the place and, although he was staying in a so-called “Gold Room”, had been guarded by both American and Swedish bodyguards and could therefore hardly have engaged in any sexual activities.¹⁶

Aftonbladet, Expressen and Göteborgs-Posten sent journalists who interviewed Lotito and employees at the club.¹⁷ Lotito repeated what he said earlier. The defendant, Roy Cicola, added that Carl Gustaf had presented his credit card but had no identity card.

In 2009, journalists Thomas Sjöberg and Deanne Rauscher re-interviewed the same people. On that occasion Lotito explained that the reason he mentioned the matter was that the American bodyguards were a guarantee that no improper action took place. Cicola told me that he was notified that Carl Gustaf and the American bodyguards were on the way and then handed the responsibility to VIP host Richard. He was also interviewed, as was the waitress Heather. Striptease dancer Nico was inaccessible.

At no time does it seem that an attempt was made to check whether the persons recognized Carl Gustaf in a photograph. The interview data is also doubtful. Carl Gustaf is alleged to have presented his credit card but no identification. Since Carl Gustaf always assigned the payment to his adjutant, the scenario does not seem likely. Carl Gustaf reportedly paid \$7,000 in membership fees, food and entertainment, \$10,000, and tipped the waitress \$2,000. Since Carl Gustaf has been known always to make others pay and to be cheap with the tip, this does not seem likely either. [Desirée Ahokas later pointed out that Carl Gustaf was accompanied at the Olympics by Silvia

¹⁵ Claes Petersson & Martin Ekelund. Innersta kretsen kring kungen. Aftonbladet, 2011-05-29.

¹⁶ Wolfgang Hansson. 'Kungen var på Gold Club'. Aftonbladet, 2001-05-16.

¹⁷ Aftonbladet, 2001-05-16; Expressen, 2001-05-16 & 2001-05-18; Göteborgs-Posten, 2001-05-17.

and two of the children. It seemed unlikely that he would leave them to their own devices to visit a strip club and have champagne.^{18]}

In 2003, one of those involved, the dancers Jacklyn Bush, published an account of the club where Carl Gustaf was allegedly one of the customers, a point she maintained when Expressen interviewed her in 2011.

Since Säpo after the murders of Olof Palme and Anna Lindh followed Carl Gustaf wherever he went, Expressen in 2001 requested the bodyguards' travel bills and credit cards. No luck though. Both Säpo and later the administrative court of appeal refused. Carl Gustaf denied the visit both orally with an exasperated “no, no, no!” and through his lawyer. He considered suing, but declined. However, when the rumours returned to the fore in 2010/2011, Carl Gustaf's then adjutant, now his chief of staff, Major General Håkan Pettersson issued a denial. “I was never further than two meters from the king during the whole Olympic Games. We've never been to a club like this.”¹⁹ Sjöberg argued that since the interviewees insisted on their versions, they must be considered credible.

A similar rumour exists about the 1992 Barcelona Summer Olympics, but not as widespread. Some Swedish companies had, through a foundation called the Olympia boat, founded in 1988 with Carl Gustaf as patron, hired a Finnish ferry that was driven down to Barcelona with various exhibitions and that was also used for representation. The profits went to the Swedish Olympic Committee. The Olympic boat and about 10 other passenger ships served as floating hotels during the Olympics. Carl Gustaf arrived in Barcelona on 5 August and appears to have spent the night on the boat. He and Silvia were also invited to dinner, but Carl Gustaf lacked a lady. He and the adjutant then went out into the bar where there were five ladies, according to what the journalists present thought luxury prostitutes. Carl Gustaf pointed out one of them to the adjutant who made Carl Gustaf's invitation.²⁰ However, since Carl Gustaf had the whole family with it at the time, the scenario of luxury prostitutes seems unlikely.

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Sjöberg and Rauscher also investigated information that Carl Gustaf visited the Carat Club strip club in Bratislava during a hunting trip in Slovakia in January 2008. They were there the year after the visit took place. The guards outside the club claimed to recognize Carl Gustaf and Noppe Lewenhaupt in a photograph, but the owner later claimed that this was impossible because they were not employed then. It is unclear where Sjöberg's information about the strip club originated. The sources mentioned are an unknown whistleblower and the Slovak newspaper “Plus JEDEN DEŇ” but they are not mentioned there. Maybe the Expressen article below made them suspicious. No smoke without fire...

The King has a secret boys only club. Once a year they go somewhere in the world to relax and drink exclusive wines.

- Now they are in Slovakia to hunt pheasant. It's just his closest friends. Those who know all his secrets, tell a source. The king is 61 years old. But still has a boys only club.

¹⁸ Harrison & Schein, 2012.

¹⁹ Sebastian Chaaban. ”Vi har aldrig varit på någon sån här klubb”. Aftonbladet, 2011-06-01.

²⁰ Holmström, 2011.

- They actually call it their boys only club. Perhaps a gentlemen's club would be more appropriate, but they want to feel young in spirit, Expressens source says. The King's secret club includes the businessman Aje Philipson, Count Noppe Lewenhaupt and financier Anders Lettström.
- They are a small group of men. Childhood friends. He trusts them unto death, says a source.

Every year, the King's old boys club goes on a trip.

- Each member may choose one year choose their destination. Over the years, there have been solar and skiing holidays interspersed with Formula 1. Last Friday it was time for this years trip. Destination? Slovakia and hunting. At Arlanda there was a sunburned and happy Noppe Lewenhaupt. He and his friend Aje Philipson were long inside the duty-free shop whisky bargains. Also included were Anders Lettström, Torgils Bonde and Archie Hamilton. When Austrian Airlines was taxiing out of the gate destination Vienna, the king was last on board with two bodyguards. The friends greeted him happily and soon there was a lively discussion at the front of business class.

- This was a journey that everyone had been looking forward to for some time. It is planned in excruciating detail. It is Noppe Lewenhaupt who has organized this year's kold boys trip - to Slovakia for pheasant hunting.
- The most ostentatious castle available had been booked for the king and his company.

The journey was to take place at an earlier date.

- But they had to wait for Aje Philipson who recently became a father for the eighth time, concludes the source.²¹

The company secretly flew with Austrian Airlines from Arlanda to Vienna. From there, the gang took the boat over to Slovakia and the capital Bratislava. Once there, the king and his friends checked into the Devin hotel on the Danube. The king received the hotel's only suite. Early the next day, the king and his gang of friends travelled in a chartered bus to the small community of Cifare, 100 miles from Bratislava. Three months before the trip, the king and friends had arranged the hunt through a Danish tour operator, the hunt at its own cost 100,000 SEK. Travel and subsistence expenses in addition.

The king's visit to Slovakia was surrounded by great secrecy. Although he was not there on any official visit, he had local bodyguards from Slovakia. Local news media in Slovakia reported that a large forest area had been sealed off for the king's pheasant hunt.

- The pheasants were chased towards the king and his company. They then stood and just fired at the pheasants who came flying, says news reporter Daniela Starovicova at the national magazine Plus Jeden Den.
- It was target practice.
- In addition, there was always one person at every hunter who reloaded the weapons, she continues.
- The king's pheasant hunt lasted from 08.00 in the morning until 15.00. Every hour the king changed position.
- The Swedish King shot 70 pheasants in seven hours, says Daniela Starovicova.

²¹ Johan T Lindwall. Hemlig jaktresa med grabbgänget. Expressen, 2008-01-13.

- In total, his group shot 450 pheasants. According to Slovak media, the king refused to take his pheasants home from the hunt. This was because they were perforated by all the buckshot.
- Other hunters took care of the birds. This is the information I have received, says Daniela Starovicova. The next day, the king left Slovakia and returned home to Sweden and Drottningholm castle.²²

Anders Lettström later protested against the article that he had not actually taken part in the hunt but had been in Huddinge Hospital for a hip replacement.

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According to Thomas Sjöberg's biography *The Reluctant Monarch*, Carl Gustaf also visited the underground "Club Power" and attended a striptease. The club existed in the second half of 1992 and was located on Kungsholmen in the corner of Hantverkargatan and Södra Agnegatan: On the street level was the restaurant Aquavit. In the basement the club. Its history and prehistory can be traced in detail using official information:

The street level and basement were rented from 1985 by the property manager m Bernt- Åke Hamstad. 1985-1988, he ran a salad bar and café at street level and "Club Alpha" a banquet room and spa in the basement with sauna, whirlpool, sunbeds, manicure, etc. In September 1988, the premises were taken over by businessman Joel Widengren's firm "Take Care Widengren AB". Hamstad continued for a few months as a location manager & "restaurateur" for an intended restaurant:

"Take Care" had been made to believe that it would be possible to obtain an alcohol permit for the restaurant and that the premises themselves were approved by the health authorities and others. However, this proved not to be the case and extensive rebuilding was required. The sum of all this was that the company had to withdraw from the business and that the landlord, the Teachers' Association, was charged with the costs which they however refused to pay. ... In connection with the losses it was decided that "Take Care" would suspend payments. This happened in May 1989. However, bookkeeping continued until May 1990.²³

Since neither Club Alpha nor Take Care had an alcohol permit, they arranged dinners for private parties that brought their own booze. The party fixer Christer Gustafsson booked two dinners for the Monday club and Carl Gustaf must have attended one of them - unknown date but no later than 1988.²⁴ There have been questions about why the Monday club met in this particular not very luxurious place. The answer is probably the spa, sauna & hot tub. Hamstad himself did not want to comment on the matter: "If I have had the king with me, I am not so sure that I want to reveal details of what he has been up to at my place."²⁵

In 1990, the Teachers' Association transferred the rental contract to the new tenant Fikonträdet AB with the three partners Darios Beg, Dragan Vucenovic and Eva Kristina Bengtsson who intended to continue the restaurant business. The writings concerned if Carl

²² Johan T Lindwall. Kungen i jaktslakt. Expressen, 2008-02-02.

²³ Förvaltarberättelse K 118/90. Nacka Tingsrätt.

²⁴ Erik Söderman. Mejl från Lars Degerman, ordf Backgammonförbundet, 2013-01-16.

²⁵ Sjöberg m.fl., 2010.

Gustaf had set his foot on the premises after the change of ownership. It does not appear to be so.

First the renovations were completed. From April 15, 1991, Beg and Vucenovic then ran the street level Aquavit restaurant and from September 24 also a banquet hall in the basement rooms with hen parties, student parties etc. It didn't work out too well for them either. On July 1, 1992, they sublet the basement rooms to "Club Power" with Wimpex Trading AB as owner. This company was owned by the three individuals Larry Kwock, Tommy Millberg and Rolf Heed with Hans Ljungholm as financial manager. The official activity was boxing training and café. The unofficial business was an after-hours speakeasy - mostly sales of strong beer. The Serbian gangster and former boxer Milentije "Mille" Markovic (1961-2014) was employed by Wimpex as a coach but, according to various testimonies, served as a supervisor, wardrobe attendant and bouncer. Ljungholm was by all accounts his decoy. The operation lasted until December 21. "The environment was simple, the room was barely furnished. In one corner they had a disco ball and a DJ facility that played loud music. At the rear was a proper bar and some makeshift bars around. Besides a couple of doormen waving in people, they had a crowd of several hundred. It was very, very simple and spartan but people got to party all night long."²⁶ After complaints from the neighbours - a lot of noise during the small hours and the lack of toilets made the customers urinate all over the place - the environmental administration closed down the business and Markovic and others were fined for unlawful dispensation.

Due to Markovic's subsequent actions, the charges against Carl Gustaf became such a circus that they have received a separate chapter. However, the information contained in Thomas Sjöberg's biography and in the writings immediately after publication is contradictory. Markovic claimed that Carl Gustaf participated in parties with sexual entertainment. A woman "A" who had been employed at restaurant Aquavit and with whom Markovic had a relationship, could afterwards not decide on whether Carl Gustaf was at Club Power or not.

According to Markovic, an evening with the Monday Club began with the arrival of the properly dressed royal gang at six or seven in the evening - the times the king was present he came separately with his bodyguards - to eat a dinner that could last for several hours. ... After dinner, [the sexual] entertainment began. [The reluctant monarch.]

"A" met Carl Gustaf at Alexandra's in 1985. "She perceived him as pretty boring and bland, but spruced up with alcohol he became completely different, danced on the table, joked and held his liquor." She had also attended a party at Club Power in 1992 with Mille Markovic, Aje Philipson and the rest of the "King's Gang". [The reluctant monarch.]

In connection with the book release, "Caroline" = "A" was interviewed a second time: "It was a very charged atmosphere. Some girls suddenly walked around dressed just in bas and panties. Mille Markovic later said that they were professional girls, which he took from the strip clubs. ... Caroline emphasizes, however, that she has never seen the king himself do anything inappropriate." [Christian Holmén & Michael Syrén. "The king danced on the tables." Expressen, 2010-11-04.]

²⁶ Webb, 2012.

In connection with Markovic's biography, "Ewa" = "A" was interviewed a third time: She had met Markovic at the Aquavit restaurant one night when the "King's Gang" was there. There was love between her and Mille at first sight. She was tall and blonde and had blue eyes. Mille's ideal. The relationship lasted from about 1991 to 1994 and was tempestuous but Mille was for a while an important part of her life. [Mille Markovic : The biography.]

In his biography, Sjöberg stacks facts to achieve a kind of "guilt by association". The mere fact of having once been in the same premises as Markovic is ultimately proof of guilt. The description is muddled and extremely difficult to read, but it appears that the only person who claims to have seen Carl Gustaf in Aquavits basement while Markovic rented the premises is actually Markovic himself. He claimed (in a debate on TV4) to have pictures but refused to present them, tell when and in what context they were taken or what they showed. However, they would be revealing. In his biography, he describes the technique:

"We had filled the whole club with surveillance cameras in loudspeakers and lights. They were very small, like eyes. Every corner of the hall was covered. They were all taped on VHS tape recorders that were walled in so the police wouldn't find them during the raids. We were shooting video all the time. And we had microphones, too. I have the tapes.²⁷

No tape recording was ever presented why it should be assumed that they was pure fiction. These invented recordings came to dominate the debate however, as everyone believed that they existed and that everyone but themselves had seen them. Regarding the question whether Carl Gustaf ever set his foot at Club Power, Sjöberg published further information the following year with the source being party fixer Christer Gustafsson who should be in the know:

Nothing has happened except that the king likes to sit and talk to people, and preferably to unknowns. He thinks that's funny. And then he goes home with Säpo. No more with that. No one would have reacted if he hadn't been king. *If we sit at Mille* [my emphasis], or if we sit at Under, where we have sat, or if we sit at some other tavern, then the king has the right to his private life. And no one bothered us, everything was perfect and the Aquavit basement was perfect, one hundred percent perfect to be in. Lovely local, good food from the pub. Everything was perfect. Twice we were there, I said. And there is nothing else to say.²⁸

According to Sjöberg, there was thus evidence (my emphasis) that Carl Gustaf had visited Aquavits basement after the change of lease. It would have been on a Monday - a day when Club Power had no tavern business. In connection with a supposed hacking of the journalist Nuri Kino's personal computer in the summer of 2011, the original interview with Mille Marcovic became public. [What actually happened is obscure however.] In this interview it was stated "that the royal friends' visit to the black club had taken place long before he himself [Markovic] had anything to do with the premises".²⁹ Sveriges Radio made a valiant attempt to settle the question. The verdict was that Markovic was no longer credible, that the four interviewed women A-D, when reading the text carefully, never claimed that Carl Gustaf

²⁷ Hansson & Rauscher, 2012.

²⁸ Thomas Sjöberg. Varför betalar kungens vänner om anklagelserna är falska? Newsmill, 2011-12-16.

²⁹ Harrison & Schein, 2012.

was there and that neither Sjöberg nor Ahokas had provided enough information to allow the issue to be decided one way or the other.³⁰

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Sjöberg also had something to tell about an older episode, a party in a hunting lodge or villa, but where place, time and details were quite foggy. The closer the presumed moment of penetration, the more incomprehensible what actually happened.

“E”: By mid-October in the late 1980s, “E” and four other women had met Carl Gustaf on a crayfish party in the vicinity of Nynäshamn together with Aje, Noppe, Lettström, Gustafsson and an unknown younger man. They played “Nubbeleken”, letting a mouthful of schnapps wander from mouth to mouth. Carl Gustaf thought it was disgusting and had to be persuaded. “We made fun of him and were pretty merciless. His title didn't count. But as soon as it went for him, the party was somehow over.” The adjutant and an older woman, possibly his wife, were there. The woman made sure they came back to town. Carl Gustaf brought a black dog that he let out.

“F”: They were playing “Nubbeleken”. After dinner, the “amorous escapades” took place. She undressed. “The only thing I can attest is, well, he had sex, then if it was with me or anyone else, I can say it wasn't with me, but I saw it.”

“G”: She stripped. “One of the friends then dragged the king into a bedroom and inside the girls gathered with the monarch in the center.” - “What G remembers especially from that night was how she and her friends played with their monarch, as if they had power over him and how he let everything just happen.”

In connection with the book release Expressen tried to reinterview the five women who had been at the party in the hunting cabin: Eva = “E”, Annelie = “F”, Gunilla = “G”, Karin & Sofie. Only “F” seems to have complied. She was not very communicative and if you delete what had already emerged through The reluctant monarch, often quoted verbatim, no new information was added.^{31,32} When asked why she did not insist on more detailed information, Deanne Rauscher answered that she felt sorry for the women and therefore did not want to be too hard on them.³³ 2023 an investigation into the spread of rumors was published, but no attempt was made to evaluate the veracity.³⁴

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The supposed behaviour of Carl Gustaf was discussed at great length in the media and from a variety of angles: Was he a product of the 1960s more loose views on sexuality? Did it amuse him to exploit women of lower social classes and with their poor basic sense of worth? Was he surrounded by groupies trying to get inside his pants for private reasons? Had his entire sexuality gone bad? Was it a way for the “lads” to confirm their group? Was it necessary for him in order to endure his 60-hour working weeks? Was it his right as king? Questions, questions, but no answers. – The counter-image was that, although he was married, it was still

³⁰ Karl Brodin, Lars Truedson & Katarina Andersson. Kungabokskoll och sponsrat gräv. SR P1, 2012-10-27.

³¹ Michael Syrén & Christian Holmén. Relationen med kungen beskrivs som romantisk verklighetsflykt. Expressen, 2010-11-06.

³² Christian Holmén, Michael Syrén & Mia Karlsson. Den nya bilden av skandalen. Expressen, 2010-11-07.

³³ Erik Söderman. Samtal med Deanne Rauscher 2012-03-06.

³⁴ Hammarlin & Jönsson 2023: ss. 135-190.

common with sexual fantasies about Carl Gustaf's person. It was noticeable both during the national tours and in the letters. All eight episodes seem invented, not necessarily by the journalists though. Everybody is complicit.

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