

## Saab 96: Group 3 competition car Project.



The donor car.

**The Saab Car Museum Support Organization** has purchased a Saab 96 which will be converted to build a replica of the 1962 Group 3 race car driven by Gösta Karlsson. Once the conversion has been completed the car will be donated to the Saab Car Museum.

Between 1958 and 1966 Saabs factory competition cars were successful in several Swedish touring car championships.

During the two-stroke era, a total of 7 championships were won on ice, and 9 on tarmac road surfaces. Throughout this period, Saabs foremost racing driver was Gösta Karlsson who competed in many Swedish and European championships. In a single weekend Gösta often competed in both Group 2 and Group 3 cars. On some occasions in 1961 he even drove the Saab Formula Junior.

New Swedish regulations introduced in 1960 divided Racing and Rally competitions into different groups i.e. Group 1 for standard cars, Group 2 for tuned cars and Group 3, being somewhat more flexible, allowed for tuned

engines and a lighter gross vehicle weight where interior fittings could be removed etc. The Saab group 3 cars were also equipped with twin Solex carburetors and 4-speed gearboxes.

Today, Saabs early racing era is not fully depicted at the Saab Museum in Trollhättan and to our knowledge, there are no Group 3 cars preserved.

To give this era the representation it deserves the support organization has dedicated a project to the purchase and conversion of a donor vehicle which will be used in creating a replica of Saabs 1962 championship winning Group 3 cars.

Such a car has now been purchased at a very competitive price, from Mr. Peter Johansson in Örebro, Sweden.

During 2010 and 2016 this car was successfully driven by Peter Nylén in several Swedish Historic Championships races i.e. 1000 cc Cup, and since 2016 the car has been maintained for track day driving.

The aim of this project is that the Museum will be able to exhibit an example of a Group 3 car used during the Saab two-stroke racing era.

The fully restored drivable Group 3 car is planned to be exhibited at shows and historical motoring events, and hopefully will assist in attracting further interest towards the Saab Car Museum and enrollment of new members to the Support Organization.

The car is planned to be repainted in the red colour used for SAAB competition cars in those days.

If anyone is willing to donate towards the financing of this project etc., please enter our homepage (<http://www.supportsaabmuseum.com/>) and follow the instructions on the tab "Membership & payment".



Gösta Karlsson driving the original Group 3 car to victory in the final of the Swedish championship race at the Skarpnäck airfield track in Stockholm 1962

Ulf G Andersson

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