

## Lotta Love for the New Captain

Written by Gene Oberto

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Last summer, as she was preparing for her first contest in the LPGA Legends tour, I had the opportunity to interview Liselotte Neumann for [Golf Digest \(Sweden\)](#) . It was the first conversation I had with her, and I couldn't had a better discussion.



Neumann, who has just been announced as the Captain of the European Solheim Cup in 2013. In 1988, she won the U.S. Woman's Open, becoming Sweden's first golf professional to win a major event. It established the small country of Sweden as a producer of golf stars and opened the door for the Swedish women who would follow her collecting majors, the two Annikas, Sorenstam and Nordqvist.

Neumann, who hails from Finspång, Sweden, is a perfect pick for the Captaincy, as she has represented Sweden and Europe in the Solheim Cup six times and has held the cup victoriously twice. She has been an assistant captain once and last year, in Ireland, she was Captain of the European Junior Solheim Cup.

It was during this event that I got to meet Liselotte in person. She is a striking woman. Tall and blonde, she has an athlete's bearing. When she smiles, which is pretty often off the golf course, she lights up the room. On the course, even as the captain of junior girls, you can see the competitive demeanor that has carried her throughout her career. She is gracious and not full of herself when talking to civilians. Yet, she is proud of her accomplishments. To illustrate that, during our interview, I had mentioned something about the number of Solheim teams she was a part of. She quickly corrected me, not because she felt slighted, but to insure the record was correct.

When it comes to promoting herself, she isn't one to do so. Her golf does her talking, and when someone comes up to her to say how much they liked her as a player, Liselotte modestly accepts the compliment.

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Now, for the next 18 months, it will be collecting data and watching potential golfers as they compete to make the team. Publicity and the press will become part of her job, and you can bet that she will defer all reference to her towards her team. I'll only be there do what I can to help the team win, she will say.

If the team wins, she'll say that it was the hard work of the team. If Europe loses, Liselotte will blame herself for not helping more. It will be tough work to keep the Cup on the USA's home turf. However, Europe couldn't have picked a better captain to get the job done.