



# Draft:Docklands (nightclub)

The grand opening of **Docklands** was on September 2 in 1995.

Docklands became a sustainable, mega-club and the wet dream of each and every party kid. It was a rave temple located in a huge shipyard just outside of Stockholm. No one had seen a club like Docklands before in Sweden. The organisers put plenty of effort in setting the mood. The venue had a capacity for 800 people. The ceiling was 11 metres high. One of the best sound systems in the world and mushroom-shaped tables were installed, too.



Mushroom-shaped table <sup>[4]</sup>



Mushroom-shaped table



Gudrun Schyman at Docklands 1996. <sup>[1]</sup>

<b>Location</b>	<u>Stockholm</u> , <u>Sweden</u> <sup>[2]</sup>
<b>Active from</b>	1995-2002
<b>Founders</b>	<u>Anders Varveus</u> & <u>Mats Hinze</u> <sup>[3]</sup>

## The Rave Commission

However, raves were soon labelled "drug parties" by the media, and in 1996, Stockholm saw the dawn of Ravekommissionen [the Rave Commission]. The Rave Commission were a group within the police force. The purpose was to shut down raves and counteract drug use among the youth. There wasn't any alcohol available at Docklands and hence no age limit (this was later changed so that the final years held an 18-year limit). However, this drew more attention from the authorities, and on February 11, 1996, the Swedish police raided Docklands for the first time.

Gudrun Schyman (leader of Sweden's current political party Feminist Initiative and then-party leader of the Left Party) was invited to attend Docklands during the peak of the authorities' war on raves. As it happened, police raided the venue on that night, too. Schyman told the media that the police had used unnecessary force on people who were arrested.



Docklands entrance <sup>[5]</sup>

"They raided us almost every weekend for a couple of months. So we started having meetings about how we could make it harder for the police to close the parties," says Varveus. "The decks were located on a platform, which was attached with chains to the ceiling. We put generators in the ceiling and connected lights, smoke machines and sound to the generators. When the police arrived we pulled the DJ up to the ceiling, turned on full smoke and strobed the shit out of them. The police pulled out all sorts of cables but nothing happened. In that way, the party could continue for about two hours."

Between November 1996 and December 1997, the Rave Commission gathered 658 urine and blood samples from rave attendees. 1,329 people were arrested in total. <sup>[6]</sup>

## The last rave

On December 21, 2002, after a series of raids and conflicts between the morals of the adults and Stockholm's youth, Docklands held its last ever rave. Today, the building that changed an entire generation has been turned into a block of flats. <sup>[7]</sup>



The dance floor just before the very last party on December 21, 2002.

Videos
Termination ( <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=itGBejU1cZ8">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=itGBejU1cZ8</a> )
Tranceatlantic 2 ( <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hhlBwr1u2T0">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hhlBwr1u2T0</a> )
Tranceatlantic 3 ( <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dhpA6cJN6T8">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dhpA6cJN6T8</a> )

## Reunion party

In 2015, the rave club Docklands celebrates 20 years and is resurrected. <sup>[8]</sup>

Just two hundred meters from where the old Docklands was located, in an industrial premises almost three times the size on Kvarnholmen in Stockholm, work was being prepared for a reunion party. <sup>[9]</sup>

### The party was cancelled



Anders Varveus on the left on the truck during Pride 2015

Just in time for the 20th anniversary when the rave club was to be revived, at the last second Nacka municipality said no and the party was cancelled. <sup>[10]</sup>

### The truck at the Pride festival

At the same time as the clubhouse itself was being created, a dance floor was also built on a truck, which went through the Pride parade.



Restaurant Docklands <sup>[11]</sup>

### Restaurant Docklands

A newly built restaurant with the same name opens in 2015 just under a hundred meters from the old dance hall, but without techno on the menu.

## See also

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- Rave

## References

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1. The Left Party's then party leader Gudrun Schyman at a rave party in Docklands in Nacka in 1996. (Swedish) <sup>[1]</sup> (<https://www.dn.se/dn-150-ar/rejv-och-hen-vild-debatt-om-nya-ord/>)
2. Docklands in Stockholm (Swedish) <sup>[2]</sup> (<https://dasboot.se/docklands-i-stockholm/>)
3. Docklands was founded in 1995 by Anders Varveus and Mats Hinze. Until 2002, techno music was played in the premises at Finnboda shipyard every Saturday evening. (Swedish) <sup>[3]</sup> (<https://sites.jmk.su.se/laget/fuck-it-vi-har-kul-vi-knarkar-docklands-grundare-om-nittioalet-s-rejvscen/5242>)
4. Inslag om razzia mot Docklands i Aktuell<sup>t</sup> <sup>[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2HSVgaPMxcs]</sup>
5. Docklands - 29 min <sup>[4]</sup> (<https://vimeo.com/157617633?signup=true>)
6. The Youth Section, commonly known as Ravekommissionen (the Rave Commission)<sup>[5]</sup> (<https://www.vice.com/sv/article/kw97pm/stockholm-raving-docklands-20-years-666>)
7. The Rave Commission - The Only Culture Police In The Western World<sup>[6]</sup> (<http://www.mapinc.org/drugnews/v98/n163/a01.html>)
8. The rave place Docklands is resurrected<sup>[7]</sup> (<https://www.dn.se/kultur-noje/ravestallet-docklands-ateruppstar/>)
9. Docklands återuppstår – efter 20 år<sup>[8]</sup> (<https://www.svt.se/kultur/docklands-ateruppstar-efter-20-ar>)
10. When the rave venue was to be revived, Nacka municipality said no.<sup>[9]</sup> (<https://www.etc.se/kultur-noje/docklandsgrundaren-i-kamp-ratten-att-dansa>)
11. Restaurant Docklands<sup>[10]</sup> (<http://docklands.nu>)

Category:Nacka Municipality Category:Companies established in 1995 Category:Companies disestablished in 2002 Category:Techno

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