

sents a collaboration between Silkehuset in Norway and Vernon in Britain. The Queen's wardrobe also documents an extraordinary era of fashion history, from the decorative but elaborate dress of the Victorian era to the streamlined chic of the 1930s. Ankle-length skirts with layers of complicated clothing transformed into simple dresses finishing just below the knee. This amazing evolution can be followed in the display.

Maud engaged with contemporary fashion throughout her life, commissioning well-known couturiers and dressmakers like Worth, Redfern and Morin-Blossier as well as accomplished dressmakers such as Blancquaert and the Norwegian designer Sylvian. Flawlessly beaded gowns, perfectly cut and hand-finished suits, beautifully embroidered and appliquéd dresses exemplify the high standards of tailoring and couture dress-making during this period. The Queen's figure allowed for fashionable clothes even after she had passed the age of 60.

Queen Maud's wardrobe was donated by the Norwegian Royal Family to The National Museum of Art, Architecture and Design in Oslo. Using photographs of the wardrobe now preserved in the Kunstinstituimuseet in Oslo, *Style and Splendour: the Wardrobe of Queen Maud of Norway 1896-1938* by Anne Kjellberg and Susan North (*V&A Publications*) accompanies the exhibit and tells the story of the evolution of women's fashion from the 1890s to the 1930s.

(Below left) *The dress 'Flirt' ordered from Worth before the Queen's death in 1938 and (below right) the gold coronation dress*



## THE SPORT OF WIFE-CARRYING

This past summer the Espn.com sports website dispatched its columnist Jim Caple to the World Wife-Carrying Championship in Sonkajärvi as part of a "Lost in Translation Tour of European Sports".

Caple has filed hilarious reports from the small town in northern Finland and he even participated in the race with his wife Vicki. Above all, he tried to go to the roots of this zany hairbrained event and find out how it started.

"There's not much to do here." The laconic response from a local probably says it all.

Perhaps the answer is to turn around the issue and ask "How can a small community in northern Finland become world-famous?"

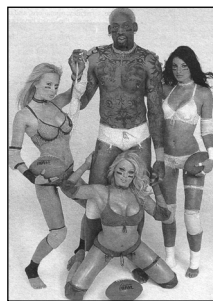
Sonkajärvi is no household name and will probably never be, but the more world media covering its wife-carrying competition, the closer the community gets to name recognition.

Neighbouring Lapinlathi with its Cattle Calling Championship, Pilavesi with an annual Boot Throwing Competition, Savonlinna with a cell phone throwing world championship and Rajajoki River with its annual Fish by Hand Championship are all jealously following Sonkajärvi's rise to fame.

Small Finnish towns are making use of their "sisu" to get into the big league. Nokia is already world-renowned and Sodankylä, 12 hours north of Helsinki with barely a hotel to its name, now draws up to 20 000 film enthusiasts, including celebrities like Frances Ford Coppola, to its Midnight Sun Film Festival every year.

The wife-carrying competition in Sonka-

järvi started in 1992. This year it got a lot of extra publicity because bad boy basketball legend Dennis Rodman phoned the organizers and asked if he could participate in the competition. The city fathers were so excited that they built an extra long bed for Rodman and interviewed possible partners as he was not going to bring a wife. But after arriving in Sonkajärvi, he backed out from the competition.



*Rodman and friends*

"I'm not in shape. It could hurt the back," said the former Chicago Bulls and Detroit Pistons forward when he saw the three football fields-large wife-carrying course. "I'll train by carrying the kids around the house."

Rodman has promised to be back in 2006. This year he made most of the media attention and presented the prizes also to the strongest and best-dressed teams.



*Caple and Miss Finland*

The competition attracted 42 couples from ten countries. The majority were from Finland with the two Irish couples attracting the most attention. Richard carried Gavin like a sack of potatoes over his shoulder, while Paul who, like Richard, is a member of the Irish Strength Association, carried Julia, who topped the scales in the 200-pound region, in the old-fashioned piggy-back fashion. John from Boston shaved his legs for extra speed and his partner Julie consulted a yoga instructor for advice on best body positioning.

Most couples use the "Estonian Carry", pioneered by competitors from the Baltic state who have won the competition during the last seven years. The wife is carried upside down with the front of her body >>>