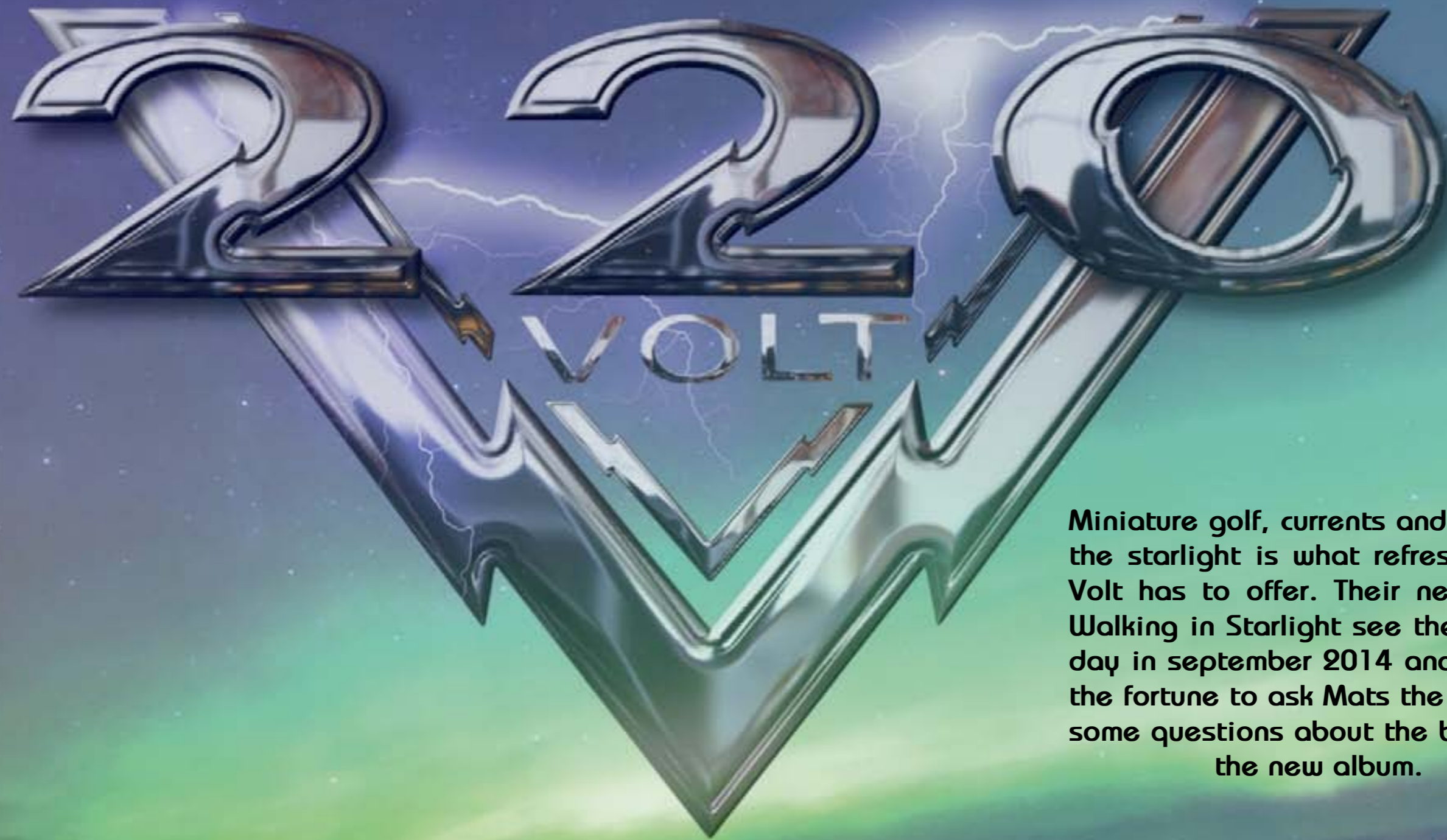


# WALKING IN STARLIGHT



Miniature golf, currents and walks in the starlight is what refreshed 220 Volt has to offer. Their new album *Walking in Starlight* see the light of day in september 2014 and we had the fortune to ask Mats the guitarist some questions about the band and the new album.

It all begun in 1979 when two guys with common interest met at a minigolf course. From there the band grew into an entity that released the first single 1982. The year after a contract with the label CBS (nowadays Sony) was signed and during that year the band's self titled debut album was released.

220 Volt is a different name for a band, but from where does it derive? Well according to Mats it is a name that was selected for marketing reasons.

- One of us was changing a battery in a pedal and said for fun: "Maybe we should call ourselves Nine Volt" followed by another one saying: "No, 220 Volt because then we'll have free marketing everywhere there is a power socket". It was probably most for fun to begin with but we liked it and that became it.

Following the debut in 1983 there was a number of records in quick succession: "Power Games" 1984, "Mind Over Muscle" 1985, "Young and wild" 1987 and "Eye To Eye" 1988. Perhaps they were boosted by the free marketing they had by the clever name.

But then the band was disbanded in 1992 and during a ten year period it did not exist at all. Still the album "Lethal Illusion" was released in 1997, an album that according to the band consisted of material they had lying in a drawer somewhere. Apparently they had quite a bit of unreleased material and when the labels showed interest they released an album with some of this material.

2002 the band was resurrected. This in order to celebrate the twenty years since the debut single, they were reunited as

the original line up that was the band when the debut single was released.

- We recorded some songs and released an album called "Volume 1". We were offered to make a few concerts and recorded some of them and released the live album "Made in Jamtland" in 2005.

This was however only a temporary reunion and the band in its original form was still dead despite being resurrected for a short while.

- We decided to not continue with that line-up and laid low for a few years. We released a new version of our christmas song *Heavy Christmas* in 2009 when it celebrated 25 years and we wanted to make it available again.

But one cannot be laying low for too long a time, and with a new vocalist in Anders Engberg the band thought it was time to go for it again and with all bits in place they have the album "Walking in Starlight" finished.

### Walking in Starlight

With long experience behind them there are a of course many things this band has experienced and learnt during the years as a successful band. And according to Mats they have learnt most what one should avoid doing in the music business. And some good stuff as well. They didn't go into more details than that, after all they have been around for a long time, over thirty years since the debut single in 1982.

But what is the difference between 220 Volt today and the one that debuted in 1982? One thing is of course that they were younger then and look older now. They have another singer, but besides these obvious visible clues the difference is experience according to the guys, something they think has made them better



musicians according to their way of looking at it. But many things are also the same.

- We are the same guys as then, and still thinks it is the same joy making music.

But they are no longer left in Östersund where it all started, only Thomas one of the guitarists still live there while Mats and Peter long since has left hime. But the Photographer who is behind the great looking cover lives there in Jämtland and it is his Northern Lights over a lake that covers the "Walking in Starlight" album.

- We had this title that we liked and got the idea to contact our friend the astro photographer Göran Strand to see if he had some cool picture. We found this one and asked him to try our idea with the logo hanging in the air being reflected in the water, it turned out really cool!

Inside the cool cover artwork there is an album that was well received by our writer here at Hallowed, an album the band begun working on two years ago.

- Late 2012 we started writing these songs with new singer Anders, it worked well and we had a good mood in the band. We decided to start recording when we thought we had strong enough songs.

And according to the band this album can be seen as an indication that they are back for certain and that the new album offers some fresh thinking.

- It is very varied, classic hardrock and melodic metal, and

some AOR-hints here and there but we have still managed to make it sound like us.

So, the old fans will recognise it?

- "Walking in Starlight" does not sound like the earlier albums but old fans will recognise us. It is an updated sound on the album and it was very important to us to sound modern and fresh.

And unexpectedly the band states that it is the best album they have done.

- Everyone says it but we really think so.

But one might wonder how many that says the latter too. But the advance interest has been

bigger than expected says the band (the album wasn't released when the interview was conducted), and also the reviewers seem to have been positive to the new album. Something they of course see as positive as the hard work they have put into it seems to be confirmed by the reviewers. kan ju undra hur många som säger det sistnämnda också. Men förhandsintresset har varit stort säger bandet (albumet är inte släppt vid intervju tillfället), och även recensenterna tycks vara positiva till 220 Volts nya album. Något de förstås ser som positivt då arbetet de lagt ned tycks bekräftas av recensenterna.

### Tour?

Touring is something they are thinking about doing but they are awaiting the release of the album to see the interest before deciding on anything.

- But we certainly wants to be playing live.

And with the long experience of the band they do know how to play live even though they have a slightly different line up today compared with the part. So what can one expect if one visits a concert with today's 220 Volt?

- Something heavy, catchy and energetic.

Kind of a cryptical response there but according to some live

reviews I have read that seems to be exactly what you get. Good energy, a vocalist with a strong voice and glowing guitar fingers. If you want to see that you'll have to follow the band's web to find out where they will play next because according to the band it is well worth a visit.

But before visiting the band's live shows you should have a closer look at the latest album "Walking in Starlight", an album you definitely should get the CD-version of.

- I think you should buy the record instead of downloading it or just listening to it on Spotify, it has a fantastically attractive booklet that everyone should own.

That includes you as well, so remember to buy the album as soon as possible.

And with that we thank Mats



and 220 Volt for taking the time to answer our questions, "Walking in Starlight" will be released on september 26, 2014 and following that the band will probably head out somewhere for some live shows.



**Links:**

Our review  
<http://220volt.se>  
youtube

**220 Volt are:**

Anders Engberg - vocals  
Thomas Drevin - guitars  
Mats Karlsson - guitars  
Peter Hermansson - drums

**Discography:**

220 Volt (1983)  
Power Games (1984)  
Mind over muscle (1985)  
Young and wild (1987)  
Eye To Eye (1988)  
Lethal Illusion (1997)  
Volume 1 (2002)  
Made in Jamtland (live 2005)  
Heavy X-mas revisited (EP 2009)