



30 years of skiing
around the world

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The logo is a circular emblem with a light blue background. At the top, a row of various national flags is displayed. Below the flags is a stylized globe showing the continents. At the bottom of the globe, there are silhouettes of several skiers in motion. The word "WORLDLOPPET" is written in large, bold, orange capital letters across the bottom of the circle. The text "30" is faintly visible in the background behind the main title.

Worldloppet – 30 years of skiing around the world



Writing a book, and therefore handing down to history a series of events, facts and emotions, is a great aspiration for everybody, I think.

Writing a book which reports 30 years of history of a huge and complex organization, like the Worldloppet Association, is an honour that, I think, every cross-country skier would like to have. This is why I am grateful to Epp Paal, Office Manager of Tartu Maraton, for having the great initiative to gather and code as many documents as possible, in order to make this book interesting and complete.

It was a titanic undertaking; 30 years are really a long time. Documents and memories fade and become less and less clear, some determining people are no longer with us, and I remember with emotion Tony, Fritz, Risto, Giulio and many others.

Worldloppet practically bases on the enthusiasm of a lot of organisers, assisted by thousands of volunteers; people with a great selfless spirit, who devote part of their free time to a genuine and prestigious ideal like sport.

I want to say thank you to all my "colleagues", the managers of the 14 associated races, that I met all over the world, and to all the people who took part in our Annual General Meetings, contributing with their positive and constructive spirit, their skill and their enthusiasm to the gradual and continuous improvement of the individual organisations. I want to thank all these people

for all that they taught me, sometimes discussions were colourful and animated, opinions were dissimilar, proposals were accepted and refused, but surely the argument has always remained within the boundary of correctness and mutual admiration, even if it was often difficult because of the different languages spoken.

A special thought goes to the members of the Executive Committee, both the current members and those of the past: their cooperation has always been constructive and fantastic.

Where would our races be without sponsors and media? The answer is obvious, they would not exist! Consequently, it is to them that I personally and we all want to convey our greatest gratitude, even if we are sure to have offered them a media product of the highest value.

With the motto "no skiers no races and no races no skiers" I warmly greet all the HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS of participants in all our races. On the tracks all over the world, true friendships originated with a lot of them: their enthusiasm, their good sportsmanship, and even their sacrifices, both from the physical and from the economic point of view, are and will always be fundamental. Their criticisms and advice helped us to improve, their will surely contributed to a better understanding among peoples of such different cultures and traditions, and to a strengthening of peace among them.

A group of these racers, maybe the luckiest ones, created the big world family of the "Passport holders", and a further selection became "Worldloppet Master", a title of absolute prestige, an absolutely unforgettable experience.

Nobody is perfect, but to quote a motto of the great B. Franklin "An investment in knowledge pays the best interest" I apologise for any mistake or omission that could be present in this work; we all did our best in order to make this book complete and interesting.

With the greatest sincerity I wish to the whole big Worldloppet family much future success, a lot of satisfaction and a lot of luck.

Angelo Corradini

Secretary General

Worldloppet Master nr. 230 and 1238





The "World of Skiing" is writing a new and exciting history every year; photographers and the media are trying to set up this History and this Book will be another important milestone to keep in the living-room at home and show to friends and grandsons.

It is not easy for me, as a former athlete, to introduce in a few words the giant 30-year history of Worldloppet and generally the popular long distance races, but I am happy to do it with great emotion.

At the end of my career I took part, and I will do it in the future too, in some "Worldloppets" and it was really exciting. The giant starts with thousands and thousands of skiers, the tension of the last seconds before the "go", the enthusiasm of the supporters along

the course and at the finish, the happy hours after the race, sitting down in a comfortable hotel and remembering with "opponents-friends" are very strong emotions and feelings.

The Worldloppet Ski Federation sets up a new "way of life" for thousands of popular Cross Country skiers, travelling around the world, meeting new people, experiencing foreign traditions, skiing the most important and beautiful XC ski races in the world.

I am really grateful to the people who founded Worldloppet 30 Years ago, and of course to those who organise the races today, supported by thousands of volunteers, with a lot of work, personal risks and troubles, however with an incredible passion.

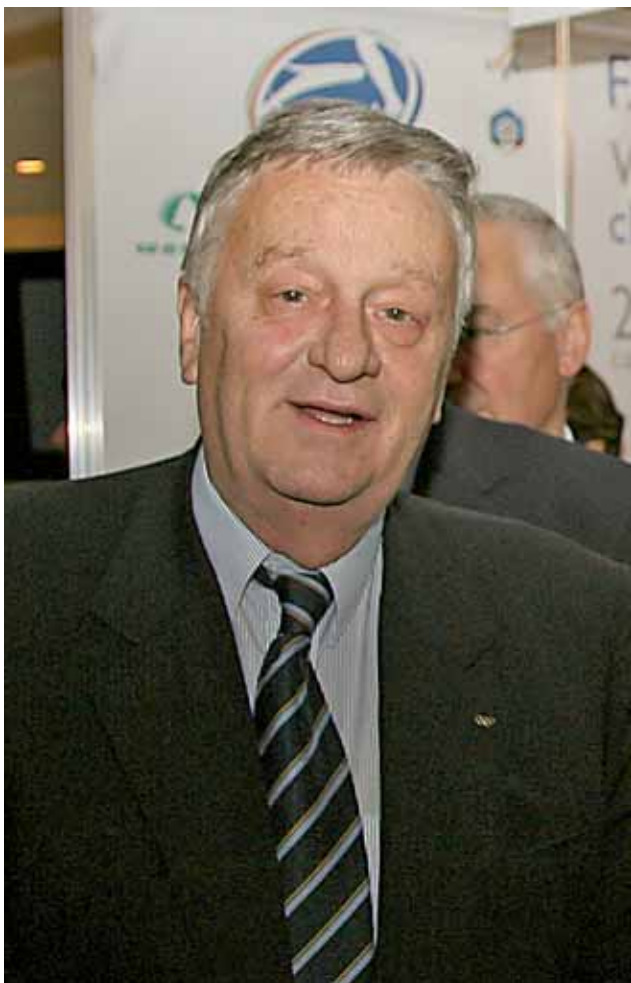
As "Ambassador" of RIGHT TO PLAY please allow me to remind you that in the world there are millions of children who need our help, and we need Yours!

In conclusion I would like to express to the authors of this book my compliments and wish to the Worldloppet Organisers good luck and lots of snow on the tracks all over the world. Certainly I will meet you on the course, because I want to add to my titles another prestigious one, as WORLDLOPPET MASTER!

Bjorn Daehlie

9 Olympic Winter Games medals

12 World Ski Championship medals



In the autumn of 1978, Tony Wise had a great idea: **“To set up a big association, on the basis of the experience of what had already happened with Euroloppet and Alpentris in Europe. A great world association including all the main and most prestigious long-distance cross country popular races”.**

This was a great intuition, and the history widely reflects it: the 9 starting races have now become 14, the 40.000 competitors have become nearly 100.000, the passport holders are over 12.000 and the Masters are 2.500! Moreover, other races will be added in a short time.

The statutory aims of the WORLDLOPPET association are: “To promote the popularity of cross-country skiing by organising quality long-distance popular races throughout the world and to recognise dedicated long distance cross-country skiers who have completed the required number of races during their

lifetime and have gained the prestigious title of Worldloppet Masters”; these purposes converge in large part with those of the International Ski Federation, that I have the honour to represent. The same aims were immediately appreciated by Marc Hodler, who was President at that time, and by the whole Council, which ever since considered these big events with great admiration and approval, recognising their extraordinary faculty and method in promoting cross country skiing all over the world.

Throughout these 30 years, the Worldloppet association developed in an exponential way, both in terms of quantity and of quality, becoming synonymous with excellent organisation and epic days during which amateur skiers compete with the most famous and important world champions.

Worldloppet is an association recognised and appreciated by the FIS, with which it is developing some interesting synergies, both direct and indirect: the most important and prestigious one is the FIS Marathon Cup, which gained its own, precise space and identity in the crowded programme of the world ski events.

This book tells the story of this colossal association, starting from its birth, with precise data, statistics, curiosities, striking events and information which were patiently collected by two big devotees of cross country skiing, Epp Paal and Angelo Corradini, the current Secretary General.

The FIS expresses its gratitude to them, for the great effort they made to create this work, which will remain forever an outstanding document, proof of the passion and the devotion to the cross country skiing of many great organisers, assisted in their praiseworthy commitment by thousands of irreplaceable volunteers.

Gian Franco Kasper
F.I.S. President



The logo is a circular emblem with a light blue background. At the top, a row of various national flags is displayed. Below the flags is a stylized globe showing the continents. At the bottom of the globe, there are white silhouettes of several skiers in motion. The word "WORLDLOPPET" is written in large, bold, orange capital letters across the bottom of the circle. The text "30" is faintly visible in the background behind the globe.

Worldloppet – 30 years of skiing around the world



My work for the Tartu Maraton and in the Worldloppet office has been always more fun than an obligation. I can say that for the last 9 years Worldloppet has been like a second family for me. This family consists of members with different character / traditions and skiers, with very different goals in racing. This family and its friends are bound by one certain habit: every autumn - all of them start to wait for snow. Discussions about the signs of nature and the best weather forecast websites are endless and form the most important part of the enthusiasm for cross-country skiing. Even if you do not ski yourself, acting like this is a sign of belonging to this „club“. When other people complain about having to clean up the snow from the sidewalks, you can hardly hide your joy.

Two years ago Aivo Pärn, an Estonian Worldloppet Master, a member of Club Tartu Maraton turned to me: „Please tell me, why a book on Worldloppet has not been published? It has always been difficult for me to explain to my friends what my hobby is really about.“ The first idea, to put together a short overview in Estonian, grew into a book about the complete history of the organisation. The ambitious plan to publish the book for the organisation’s 30th anniversary was encouraged by Angelo Corradini.

As people say - the best present is always made by yourself and the second best present is a good book. I am lucky to have the possibility to prepare a gift for my friends and at the same time get to know them better. During this work I found out that I have more friends than I ever imagined and also found new ones. Mine and Angelo’s biggest support on this journey has been Paddy Field, both his knowledge in popular cross-country skiing and Worldloppet races and as well as his superb English. I was strongly supported also by my colleagues in Club Tartu Maraton and my German speaking friends.

I wish to thank the Worldloppet family for trusting me to compose their first version of history. I also wish you all plenty of snow, enjoyable moments on ski tracks and a lot of new friends!

Epp Paal
author

A short history of skiing

Patrick Field

Any Scandinavian will tell you that skiing was invented by Ull, the God of Frost, Glitter and Skiing. In reality, the exact origins of skiing are unknown, but it is certain that skiing has existed, in one form or another, for the best part of 5000 years. Although it may be difficult to pinpoint the exact date at which skis were first used, the reasons why they were invented are easier to determine. In those parts of the world that are covered by snow and ice throughout the winter, primitive man developed, for his own survival, means of travelling across the snow. In North America snowshoes were developed; in Europe and Central Asia came the forerunners of what we know today as skis.

EARLY SKIS

Some of the early skis which have been found in Norway, Sweden, Finland and northern Siberia as well as in the Altai mountains of southern Kazakhstan date back at least 4500 years and are surprisingly sophisticated. All are recognisable as skis, although there is considerable variation between the short (111 cm) skis found in Hoting in Central Sweden, which date from about 2500 BC, and the long (204 cm) Finnish (Kalvtrask) skis dated around 500 years later.

Rock carvings showing skiers are widespread throughout the northern regions, the most famous being those at Rodoy in northern Norway showing a skier apparently wearing an animal mask and mounted on very long skis. This carving is thought to be more than 4000 years old, whilst others on the shores of the White Sea and Lake Onega in Russia may date back to even earlier times. Hunting is the recurring theme depicted and it seems clear that skis were originally devised for this purpose.

The discovery of the Altai skis in Central Asia can be linked to the known migration of the Steppe or Reindeer people from this area towards Scandinavia following the last ice-age between 15,000 and 10,000 BC. The conclusion to be drawn must be that these nomadic people were the inventors of the ski which they took with them to Northern Europe during their migration. This theory is enhanced by the similarity between the old skis to be seen in Swedish, Norwegian and Eastern museums. They are flat on both upper and lower surfaces, short and wide, generally made of pine, are pointed and curved at both ends. The binding is simply a thong passing through two vertical holes at each side of the foot.



A Norwegian soldier in full military kit – winter of 1800

LINKS WITH THE PRESENT

From this early period of history, two historical events stand out which link the skiing of that era to the sport of the present day. In 1206, during a time of civil unrest, the infant prince Haakon Haakonson was rescued from his enemies, known as the Baglers, by his bodyguards the Birkebeinere or Birchlegs, so called from their custom of wrapping birch bark around their legs as protection against the snow and cold. Two of them, Torstein Skevla and Skjervald Skrukka, carried

the prince across the mountains from near Lillehammer in the Gudbrandsdalen to the safety of Rena in the Osterdalen, from whence he escaped northwards to safety with his mother Inga of Varteig. Haakon Haakonson went on to become one of the greatest of Norway's early kings. Some three hundred years later, in 1520, the Swedish nobleman Gustav Vasa, unable to persuade

the people of Dalarna to rise up against their Danish overlords and oppressors, fled towards exile in Norway. Shortly after his departure from Mora, news reached the town of the Stockholm Bloodbath, in which many Swedish nobles were murdered by the Danes. They sent their two fastest skiers, Lars and Engelbrekt, to chase after Gustav Vasa. Catching up with him at Salen, near the Norwegian border, they persuaded him to return, raise an army and lead Sweden to independence. These two historical events are today remembered in two great popular races, Birkebeinerrennet (the Birchlegs Race) and Vasaloppet (the Vasa Race)

Shortly after the events surrounding Gustav Vasa, Olaus Magnus, Bishop of Uppsala in central Sweden, wrote "The History of the Nordic Races". Appearing in Latin in 1555, the book described the way in which the Lapps used their skis: "They attach the skis to their feet, take a pole in their hands to steer in the chosen direction, and run uphill, downhill and on the traverse as they wish across the snow-covered hills". Olaus Magnus' book is illustrated with drawings engraved for each chapter, and is made more interesting by the fact that the engraver, who had never seen the things he was drawing, used his imagination to depict skis in the form of pointed wooden shoes, curved in front and cut off square behind the heels.

Although educated Central Europeans were able to read of skis in works such as these, skis were still largely unknown outside Scandinavia, where their use had continued since the very earliest times. In 1636 Lapp skis were displayed at an exhibition in Worms and another 17th Century work explained that "when a Lapp skis, he has just one long and strong pole which he holds obliquely in both hands to push, support himself and brake on either side". By this time Lapp skis were of unequal length. One ski of the pair was short and wide. Called kalhu or sivakka in Finnish or ski in Norwegian (from the Old Norse word skid a split length of wood), it was often covered in skins and provided propulsion. The other ski was long (2.5 to 3.0 metres) and had a pronounced curve. The front narrowed to a very thin point while the rounded back curved gently upwards: called lyly or suksi by the Finns and andor in Norway, it was the gliding ski. The Lapps were already sufficiently sophisticated to make their skis of different woods to suit different snow conditions, using a flexible and heavily cambered ski for hard snow and a longer, lighter ski for fresh snow conditions.

Until the end of the 19th or beginning of the 20th Centuries, skiing was largely confined to the valleys and forests. About 1600 Peder Claussoen Friis wrote: "No man shall cross this mountain" (between Eidfjord and Hal-lingdal) "after the Feast of St Bartholomew (24 August) until the Feast In-



The world's first postage stamp to depict a skier

ventio Crucis (3 May) that they might not be overcome by snow nor go astray and perish" and it was as late as 1884 before Henrik Angell became the first recorded skier to cross the Hardangervidda. In 1868 Den Norske Turistforening (DNT) was founded with the objective of attracting hikers to the Norwegian mountains. The huts that they built for this purpose in areas such as Telemark and the Hardangervidda served also to open up the mountains to skiers and the Easter trip to the mountains to ski has now become an established Norwegian institution.

The first record of skiing taking place south of the Scandinavian countries comes in a book "Die Ehre des Herzogtums Krain" (The Glory of the Duchy of Carniola) written by Johann Valvasor (or to give him his true name Janez Vajkard Valvasor) in 1689. "The peasants of Upper Carniola" he writes "know of a rare invention of a sort I had never seen anywhere else: in wintertime when the snow is plentiful, they descend into the valley with incredible speed. For that purpose they take two strips of wood, each a quarter of an inch thick, half a foot wide, and some five feet long. the peasants take a stout cudgel into their hands, push it under their armpit, bend backward and use it as if it were some sort of a rudder to slide off, or even fly down the steepest slopes". A 19th Century painting illustrates Valvasor's description of the people of Carniola, in modern day Slovenia, skiing in a very similar way to the methods then and later developed in Scandinavia. How skiing was brought to Carniola and why it neither survived there nor spread to the rest of the Alpine regions remains a mystery, for the Carniolans were almost two centuries ahead of their time.

EMIGRATION TO THE NEW WORLD

In the latter half of the 19th century a disastrous economic depression caused massive emigration from Scandinavia, and particularly from Norway, to North America and Australia, where the newcomers found work in the main as loggers and miners. It was a natural reaction for those whose new homes were in mountainous or snowy regions to fall back on their skis both for their sport and as an essential means of winter transport. Many Scandinavian lumberjacks found work in the logging industry in Northern Michigan, Wisconsin and Minnesota, where their descendants still live and ski today. Ishpeming, in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, is widely regarded as having been the birthplace of North American skiing, but skiing was widely practised in the latter half of the 19th century throughout the Mid-West and Mountain States. In the Sierra Nevada of California, a Norwegian immigrant called John Thorsteinson (or Thoresen) became famous for carrying the mail through the mountains on skis and became immortalized as the first skier ever to be depicted on a postage stamp. He has passed into history by his popular name of "Snowshoe Thompson".

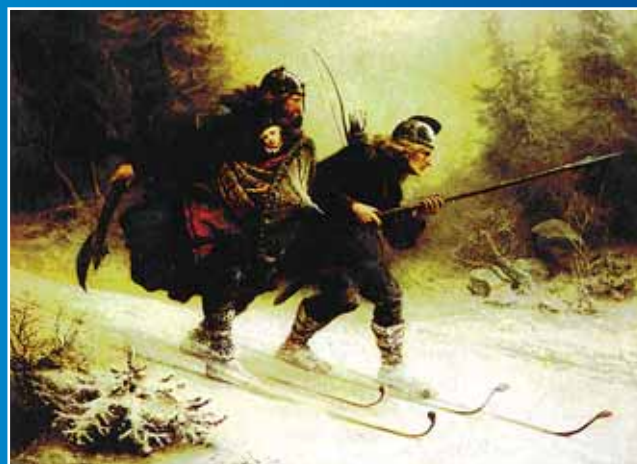
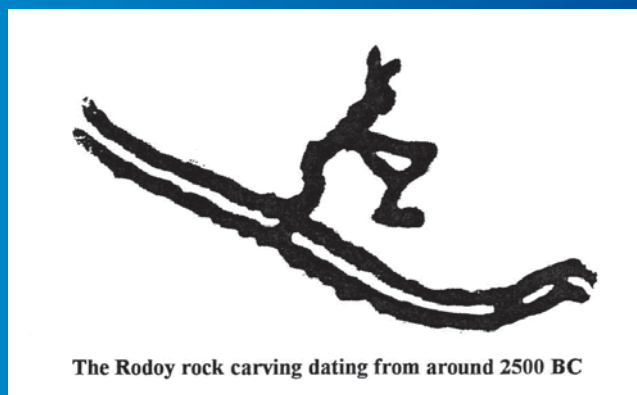
In 1861 the Kiandra Ski Club was formed in Australia, laying claim – in competition with the Trysil Shooting and Skiing Club in Norway – to being the oldest ski club in the world. The first skier in Central Europe is said to have been one Gut Muths who introduced the sport to the Thuringer Wald in 1795 but it was the 1850s before a Norwegian, H Moller, first began to promote the activity more widely in Germany. Skiing in the Alps was, of course, carried out on traditional Norwegian skis and bindings, with skiers using one long pole both as a brake and, placed to one side, to initiate clumsy turns.

SONDRE NORHEIM

In 1868 an event occurred which was to have a dramatic effect on the development of skiing. Sondre Norheim travelled to Oslo from his home in the Morgedal valley in the Telemark region of southern Norway and for the first time demonstrated true control of the ski, particularly through his use of the Telemark and Christiania turns, which he had invented and named after his home region and the capital town of his country. Norheim is often



Patrick Field



The Birkebeinere rescuing Haakon Haakonson, painted by Knud Bergslien in 1869



A drawing from the Olaus Magnus book "The History of the Nordic Races"



Participants of one of the first ski competitions of Tartu in 1912

called the father of modern skiing. Not only was he a technical innovator, but the cambered and waisted ski which he developed has scarcely changed its dimensions to the present day.

The competitions in which Norheim took part, were the forerunners of the Holmenkollen events which continue to the present day. All cross-country races included a downhill section on which a jump, which competitors had to negotiate, was built. The result of the race was based on a combination of the skier's time and style points over the jump. Jumping competitions were not held as 'stand alone' events separate from cross-country until 1883.

There are several claims to have organized the first official ski race and there can be no doubt that ski contests of various kinds would have been held since before Norheim's time. The best claimant to the title may, however, have been a 5 km uphill race which was held at Trondheim in 1843. Forty-one years later Sweden staged the world's first long distance event with the Nordenskiöld Ski Race, measuring 220 km and starting and finishing in Jokkmokk. The Jokkmokk race had arisen as a result of Adolf Nordenskiöld's claims that during his abortive attempt to cross the Greenland ice-cap, two Lapp members of his party had skied a total of 460 km in 57 hours. The disbelief with which this claim was greeted led to the Jokkmokk challenge, won by Lars Tuorda, one of Nordenskiöld's Lapps, in a time of 21 hours 22 minutes, five seconds ahead of his colleague.

By this time skiers on the ice-cap, as well as competitors in races, were using two long poles for propulsion. The origins of the use of two short poles, as used today, are shrouded in mystery, although it is recorded that a racer named Ernst Bjerkaes, used two poles in the Christiania (Oslo) competition in 1887 with some apparent success. In 1892 a new "rat trap" binding was introduced, the forerunner of the bindings used today. Waxes did not appear until later. In early days, skiers would use animal hide stretched over the bases of their skis to prevent them from slipping backwards, particularly when climbing hills. Reindeer, elk or seal skins were most commonly used. The first commercial ski wax to be sold was the Record Tar Wax of Thorvald Hansen, which made its appearance around the turn of the 20th Century. Grip waxes first came on the market in about 1910-12 with klister wax being patented by Peter Oestbye in 1913. The Swix company first employed high-molecular, synthetic waxes in 1946 and the introduction of polyethylene ski bases in 1974 saw further developments, with separate waxes being developed for glide and grip.

THE ISC AND FIS

In 1910 the International Ski Commission (ISC) was founded in Oslo as a result of collaboration between Norway, Sweden and Czechoslovakia which, in 1903, had formed the world's first national ski association. The ISC continued in being until 1924, when it was subsumed into the newly formed International Ski Federation (FIS) at its inaugural meeting in Chamonix.

Skiing was by now an international sport, reflected in the issue of the first postage stamp dedicated to skiing in 1925, when Hungary produced a stamp showing a skier executing a perfect telemark turn. This was only the forerunner of literally hundreds of postage stamps depicting skiing in all its forms, which have since been issued by nations across the world.

At the first Olympic Winter Games, which were held at Chamonix in 1924, only the Nordic disciplines (Jumping, Nordic Combined, 18 and 50 km Cross-Country and the military patrol race) formed the skiing programme. The British were, however, by now busy skiing in such places as Wengen, Muerren and Grindelwald and can claim to be the real inventors of Alpine skiing as they used the Jungfrau railway for uphill transport before making the return journey by ski. The installation at Davos of the first commercial tow-bar, the invention of Erich Constan of Zurich; the introduction of downhill and slalom races to the Olympic programme at Garmisch-Partenkirchen in 1936; and the development of the first chairlift at Sun Valley, USA, and the breakaway of Alpine skiing was complete.

The founding of the International Ski Federation (FIS) in 1924 brought ski racing under unified control. Until after the Second World War success in cross-country ski racing rested largely with the Scandinavian nations, but the last thirty years of the 20th Century saw a widening of interest and a rise in standards in North America, the Alps and Eastern Europe. Japan too has seen much success in Jumping and Nordic Combined competitions. The former USSR became a major cross-country nation, although their success has been somewhat dissipated by the break-up of their huge territories. Olympic medals – once the sole preserve of Norway, Sweden and Finland – have been won by Germans and Italians, by French, Swiss, Austrians, Poles and Czechs, and by Americans and Canadians.

In the early days after the introduction of Alpine skiing it was fairly commonplace to hold combined events, usually comprising cross-country, jumping, downhill and slalom competitions, but interest dwindled as skiers became increasingly specialised.

THE SECOND WORLD WAR

During the Second World War, many nations realized the importance of skiing in winter warfare. The Germans used ski troops in the Caucasus whilst the Russians threw their Siberian ski divisions into the defence of Moscow. The American Tenth Mountain Division, after whom the Tenth Mountain Trail in Colorado is named, played a major role in the Italian campaign (the Italians also having specialist ski regiments) but the most spectacular successes came in Finland, where the Finnish skiers appeared out of the forests to inflict devastation and demoralisation on the Russian supply lines during the Winter War.

BIATHLON

Biathlon became an Olympic event in 1960 at the Squaw Valley, USA, Winter Olympics. In 1978 a major development occurred with the change from large-bore rifles and long ranges to .22 calibre rifles and 50 metre ranges, making biathlon much more of a spectator sport. Traditionally a military, and therefore predominantly a male sport, biathlon opened its doors to women with the first Women's World Championships being held at Chamonix in 1984.

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

Whilst many changes were taking place in the competitive arena, another great breakthrough came in the 1960s with the development of ski touring for recreational skiers. In 1965 the Munich Invitational Ski Meet launched recreational skiing on a major scale and enthusiasm for this aspect of the sport spread quickly throughout Europe and North America

In the mid-1970s a revolutionary change occurred in ski construction. Fiberglass skis appeared on the market and within a few years the increases that they gave in speed combined with the lightness and durability of the skis themselves had made wooden skis, which had served their purpose for 4,000 years, virtually obsolete. At more or less the same time there was a world-wide explosion of interest in competitive endurance events, reflecting itself in an enormous growth in the number of popular races, generally over marathon distances. This boom saw such well-known races as the 90 km Vasaloppet (Sweden), the 75 km Finlandia-hiihto, the Engadin Skimarathon (42 km) and other big races assemble anything from 10-15,000 racers on the starting line.

THE INTRODUCTION OF SKATING

It was during these marathon races that a Finn, Pauli Siitonen, first brought the skating step to public notice. Although this technique had been used by Lapp hunters for centuries (hence the short and long skis of mediaeval Lapland), it had never been considered suitable for use in a wider context. Within a few years of its renaissance through Siitonen, followed by its introduction into international competition by Bill Koch of the USA, the skating steps were in widespread use and in 1985 the International Ski Federation was obliged to create two categories of races, those run in the traditional or classical style, and free technique events, in which skating was permitted. The development of modern and advanced methods of track grooming played a major part in the spread and popularity of skating, which was quickly adopted by recreational skiers, being particularly widely used in the Alps, where it is well suited to the valley terrain and to the variable temperature and snow conditions which can be encountered during the course of a single day.

In the same timeframe, Norheim's Telemark turn, which had fallen into disuse, began to re-emerge as a cross-country technique. Initially used mainly by back-country skiers, as its popularity has increased so it has become more often used on Alpine pistes, where a competitive Telemark circuit has developed. The specialisation of Telemark equipment, its general use on alpine slopes and specific development of the Telemark techniques led the FIS in 1994 to remove the discipline from the list of 'nordic' events and to re-classify it as an autonomous alpine discipline. The Alpine side of skiing continued to diversify with the growth of other sub-disciplines, such as Freestyle Skiing (Moguls, Aerials and Acrobatics), Speed Skiing and Snowboarding.

Meanwhile, all over the world millions of 'ordinary' cross-country skiers continue to enjoy the pleasure and benefits of skiing in much the same manner as their forebears have done for thousands of years. For them, little has changed. Skis may be lighter and made of different materials; they may use two poles instead of one; and their technical knowledge may be better developed. But the mountains and the forests remain the same and will continue to be available for skiers to practice their sport for as long as global warming leaves enough snow to cover the land.



Female skiers of Viljandi, Estonia in 1917



Children on skis in ca thirties

PHOTOS: ESTONIAN SPORTS MUSEUM



ALPENTRIS and EUROLOPPET – the precursors of Worldloppet

Hans Reicherl

The WORLDLOPPET SKI FEDERATION is an international union of long distance cross-country ski races. The aim of this union is to promote the sport of cross-country skiing through the provision of high-quality ski marathons around the world. The idea was introduced by American Tony Wise in 1978 and the organisation was founded in the same year by the 9 biggest ski marathons in the world.

Today the Worldloppet unites 14 ski marathons from 4 continents: Europe, America, Australia and Asia:

- American Birkebeiner (United States of America)
- Birkebeiner-rennet (Norway)
- Dolomitenlauf (Austria)
- Engadin Skimarathon (Switzerland)
- Finlandia-hiihto (Finland)
- Keskinada Loppet, from 2008 Gatineau Loppet (Canada)
- Jizerska Padesatka (Czech Republic)
- Kangaroo Hoppet (Australia)
- König-Ludwig-Lauf (Germany)
- Marcialonga (Italy)
- Sapporo International Ski Marathon (Japan)
- Tartu Maraton (Estonia)
- Vasaloppet (Sweden)

Approximately 90 000 athletes enjoy every year the pleasure of skiing in the Worldloppet marathons and meeting new friends around the globe.

The name of the organisation, Worldloppet (during the first period 1978-1981 World Loppet League), sounds well, but at the same time, the last part of it – loppet - has also been confusing, especially for people outside Scandinavia. Obviously the name of the world's most famous ski race Vasaloppet of Sweden has been the trendsetter for the followers without any need for profound explanation. The supplement loppet which has been used through the years in multiple names of ski and running race series over the world, does not tell most of us anything. Many ski friends do not believe that this word has any real meaning, and have accepted this loppet-word as something abstract but nice. The real explanation is: the word "lopp" means in Swedish language run and race. A substantive translation of the phrase Worldloppet is the slogan of the organisation – SKI AROUND THE WORLD!

The first thoughts of the foundation of a worldwide association of long distance ski races – the Worldloppet – sprang from earlier experiences in Europe with two race series: firstly the Alpentris and later the Euroloppet.

In 1968 the Koenig Ludwig Lauf ski marathon in Oberammergau, Germany, was founded, followed shortly afterwards by Dolomitenlauf, Lienz, Austria, and the Marcialonga in Cavalese, Italy. A group of cross-country enthusiasts soon grew up who did not want to miss the chance to participate in every available cross-country ski race that was on offer and those responsible for the three major ski marathons decided to establish an Association of Cross-Country Skiing. After numerous meetings and complicated negotiation the race series called 'Alpentris' was established in Oberammergau in the autumn of 1973. The name represented the fact that the series consisted of three different races in three different alpine countries.





▲ Founders of Alpentris: Robert Steiner, Roberto Moggio and Fritz Lang

◀ Hans Reicherl: Euroloppet
Secretary General 1987-2004

Tough negotiations took place before the rules and regulations could be compiled and put into practice, but the overriding thought in the mind of each race organiser was to make their race more international and to make their races famous outside the borders of their individual countries. The three 'founding' representatives were Roberto Moggio of Marcialonga, Robert Steiner of Dolomitenlauf and Fritz Lang of Koenig Ludwig Lauf.

The combined distance of the Alpentris races was 210 km: 50 km at Dolomitenlauf, 70 km at Marcialonga and 90 km at Koenig Ludwig Lauf. During the first year of the event in 1974 around 400 participants took part in all three races. The sense of friendly solidarity was evidenced through the 'Alpentrisiade' which was presented several times at Marcialonga. Another factor in the growth in the popularity of the Alpentris was the fact that many famous skiers, such as Pauli Siitonen and Alpo Virtanen from Finland took part. Between 1974 and 1980 other well-known Scandinavians participated in the Alpentris and took most of the podium places at the award ceremonies. For two years La Transjurassienne was also part of the series, but later withdrew.

The General Secretariat of Alpentris rotated amongst the races following a three-year cycle until 1989 when it found a permanent home in Oberammergau. The original concept of an overall Alpentris winner was abandoned after several races had been cancelled because of lack of snow and later in 2000 because of duplication with Euroloppet rankings.

Although Alpentris has been overtaken by other series, its name will not be forgotten, particularly at Marcialonga where an Alpentris flag is flown. The special song written for Marcialonga is also about Alpentris.

The success of the three races which had founded Alpentris in 1973 made other races, especially in Scandinavia, interested in establishing a Europe-wide cross-country skiing union. The first initiative in this direction came from Finland and in 1974 a meeting of interested races took place in Moena, Italy. The interests of the two great Scandinavian races, Vasaloppet and Finlandia-hiihto were represented by Risto Rytokoski, chairman of the Finnish race, and Raul Fuerstenborg, a Finnish ski fanatic and business man.

The first official meeting of Euroloppet took place on 10 August 1974 in the Hotel Sheraton in Munich. Representatives of the three Alpentris races were present together with Risto Rytokoski and Rune Andersson of Vasaloppet. The name of Euroloppet was decided upon, a common advertising strategy was defined and the need to develop by-laws was recognised.

Euroloppet was launched in 1975 with 358 ranked participants from 8 different countries. To be ranked in the overall series, each skier had to participate in one race in Scandinavia. At first rankings were only for men and women were not ranked until 1980.



1978. Three best of the first Euroloppet season: Heikki Ripatti, Pauli Siitonen, Inge Mörk



Euroloppet Founding Meeting in 1974: (from left) Risto Rytokoski, Kurt Lindholm, Gianni Pavanelli, Fritz Lang, interpreter, Robert Steiner, Rune Andersson, Arne Gustavsson, Erkki Linko, Beng Allan Gustavsson, Roul Fürstenborg

As with the Alpentris, the General Secretariat rotated amongst the races: in Lienz (Dolomitenlauf) until 1975, then in Oberammergau (Koenig Ludwig Lauf) to 1976 and in Lahti (Finlandia-hiihto) until 1979. From 1980-1983 the headquarters was in Predazzo (Marcialonga) and then until 1986 in Mora (Vasaloppet). In 1987 the General Secretariat moved back to Oberammergau where it remained for 17 years until 2004 when it was taken over by Skadi Loppet in Bodenmais.

The fall of the Berlin Wall made it possible for Eastern European races to become members of Euroloppet. Hans Reicherl, the then Secretary General, managed to change the Euroloppet rules to accept more than one race per country and Poland's Bieg Piastow, Czech Republic's Jizerska Padesatka, Slovakia's Biela Stopa and Russia's Toksovo Skimarathon and Prazdnik Severa applied for admission to the series.

The composition of Euroloppet has not always remained static and at different times La Transjurassienne (France), Skitrail Tirol-Allgaue (Germany), Vuokatti-hiihto (Finland) and Jizerska Padesatka (Czech Republic) have all been members of Euroloppet.

The Euroloppet Passport system is not dissimilar to that of Worldloppet, but there are some significant differences. The Euroloppet Passport is valid for 10 seasons beginning from the date of issue and 8 different races must be completed to earn the title of Euroloppet Champion. There is also a seasonal ranking of Euroloppet Racer for those completing three races during a season. To date, more than 100 Euroloppet Master titles have been awarded.

At the 2007 Euroloppet annual meeting four new marathons were accepted into the series, which now consists of the following 15 races:

Marathon de Bessans (FRA)	42/21 km F, 25 km C
Dolomitenlauf (AUT)	60/25 km F, 42 km C
Marcialonga (ITA)	70/45 km C
Koenig Ludwig Lauf (GER)	55/23 km F, 55/23 km C
Int. Tiroler Koasalauf (AUT)	50/30 km F, 25 km C
Biela Stopa (SVK)	48/25 F, 20 km C
La Transjurassienne (FRA)	76/54 km F, 50 km C
Gsiesertal Lauf (ITA)	42/28 km F, 30 km C
Toksovo Marathon (RUS)	53 km C
Gommerlauf (SUI)	30/21 km F, 25 km C
Sumavsky Skimaraton (CZE)	45/22 km C, 22 km F
Bieg Piastow (POL)	25 km F, 46/26 km C
Int. Skadi Loppet (GER)	42/20 km C, 30 km F
Laponia Skiing Week (FIN)	60/50/80/40 km F
Prazdnik Severa (RUS)	50 km F



Winner trophy of Euroloppet 1976

Worldloppet: a dream that has brought skiers together around the world

Tom Kelly

AUTHOR'S NOTE

Tom Kelly worked closely with Tony Wise in the formation of the Worldloppet as public relations director. He was on hand for the first meeting of the member races at Telemark in 1978 and the very first Worldloppet race in Austria in 1979. He later went on to form a travel company, Worldwide Nordic USA, which specialised in Worldloppet travel. Today Kelly remains active in the sport as the vice president of the U.S. Ski Team and is active in the International Ski Federation as FIS PR and Mass Media Committee chairman.

In all of sport on our great planet, there is nothing like the Worldloppet. Each year tens of thousands of skiers from around the globe come together to compete in remote locations known to them only because of the Worldloppet. And thousands of skiers have achieved a personal dream by competing in ten or more races, proudly displaying a gold medallion for their personal achievement as Worldloppet Masters.

The Worldloppet was the dream of Tony Wise, an American entrepreneur who conceived the idea as a means of bringing long distance cross country ski races around the world together. In its first 30 years, it has touched literally millions. Today the Worldloppet Ski Federation unites 14 ski marathons on four continents: Europe, North America, Australia and Asia, with over 90,000 skiers enjoying the excitement of the Worldloppet marathons and building new friendships around the world every year.

WORLDLOPPET FOUNDER TONY WISE: A MAN OF DREAMS

Tony Wise, who died in 1995, was a man of dreams. And he saw his dream of an international ski series for what he called 'citizen skiers' come true with the formation of the Worldloppet in 1978. But his dream was a long time coming.

Wise grew up in the small logging town of Hayward in remote northwestern Wisconsin, over 700 km north of Chicago, where lumberjacks felling trees had been one of the primary industries for a century. Wise served in Germany's Bavaria region with the U.S. Army during World War II. He first learned about alpine skiing in Garmisch-Partenkirchen, site of the 1936 Olympic Winter Games.

Wise returned to America after the war, getting his MBA from Harvard. He settled back in his hometown of Hayward, Wisconsin to start his own ski area in the nearby village of Cable. He named it Telemark in honor of his ancestral roots in Norway, the birthplace of the sport. Telemark boasted a very tiny ski hill – just over 120 meters – but became a very popular destination for alpine skiers in the 1940's, 50's and 60's. What made it popular was Wise's ability for pleasing people with entertainment and camaraderie among skiers, offsetting the fact that the hill just wasn't very big. Telemark's Rathskeller bar became one of the most popular après ski spots in America.

Wise was a big thinker. He and his staff were always on the lookout for the next great idea. He was a pioneer in snowmaking and grooming in an era when resort owners had to develop the technology themselves. And he would hire the best ski instructors from Norway and Austria, two countries most associated with the sport's roots. He and his staff would constantly look at the big resorts in the American Rocky Mountains and around the world for new ideas.

CROSS COUNTRY SKIING COMES TO TELEMARK

Wise knew that his Mount Telemark could never rival the big mountains of the Alps or the Rockies. But in the 1970's, he discovered cross country skiing and knew that the rolling hills and wooded trails were ideal for a world class cross country ski area. Cross country skiing was still a fledgling sport in America. But statistics like that never influenced Wise in his decisions.

In the winter of 1972-73, Wise opened his cross country ski trails. It was the same year the first guests enjoyed the fabulous, four-star Telemark Lodge hotel and conference center. Wise was known far and wide as the P.T. Barnum (historic circus owner) of skiing. At times it seemed like he had a new idea every day on how to promote his new lodge and his new sport of cross country skiing. He was the kind of marketing genius who would throw thousands of ideas against the wall in the hope that one would stick. And in 1973, one stuck!

Wise was steeped in history, including his own personal Norwegian heritage. He had long admired the history of the sport in Norway, and was familiar with the legendary story of the child prince Haakon Haakonson, who was carried to safety from Norway to Sweden centuries earlier. The daring rescue was embodied in the Norwegian Birkebeinerrennet ski race where participants carry a small rucksack signifying the child prince.

So in 1973, the American version of that race was born as the American Birkebeiner. Wise's dream was that someday thousands of skiers would participate and that the resultant promotion would put his new cross country ski area at Telemark on the map. 35 skiers took part in the first race from Hayward to Telemark, 55-km away (34 were to finish). Within just a few years, thousands of skiers were participating, including three charter planes of Norwegians in the mid-70s. Within three years, his dream of becoming a true international race had come true.

With the American Birkebeiner well on its way, Wise had another international idea. He knew that inviting the U.S. Ski Team to train at Telemark would boost the awareness of his resort. It worked. And when there was no snow for the U.S. Olympic Trials in December, 1975, Wise invited the Team to Telemark where young Bill Koch led the qualifying and went on to win America's only Olympic medal. A year later, the top cross country skiers in the world came to Telemark for the first Gitchi Gami Games, part of the



then-unofficial World Cup. Then, in Dec. 1977, Telemark was the host for the first FIS cross country World Cup.

DREAM OF THE WORLDLOPPET

The dream of an international cross country ski series grew with Wise in the mid-70s. One of the key proponents was an American Birkebeiner skier, John Lindstrom. Lindstrom was an airline pilot for Delta Airlines and regularly took part in overseas races. He told Wise about races like the Vasaloppet, and the European series, including the Euroloppet and Alpentriss. Wise's dream was to create a series highlighting the best race in each country and to provide 'citizen skiers' as Wise called them, an opportunity to achieve the goal of completing each race in the series to earn a medallion.

"Tony had such a great imagination," said Lindstrom. "He was always out ahead of everyone. He really seemed to pick up on the idea of an international event – having a Worldloppet and making the Birkie a part of it."



The first Worldloppet meeting attendees in front of Telemark Lodge, USA in 1978



Fritz Lang of König Ludwig Lauf



Giulio Giovannini of Marcialonga



Worldloppet logo in ice

Lindstrom first skied the Vasaloppet in the early '70s. And he went to the Finlandia (skiing it five times in that decade), where he was the only American. The Finnish promoters Risto and Leila Rytökoski would later play a key role in the Worldloppet. He then brought word of the formation of the Euroloppet in 1975 back to Wise. "Tony knew quite a bit about it but said he really wanted to make it a bigger international series," recalled Lindstrom.

The origin actually goes back to 1973 when three of eventual Worldloppet races formed the Alpentris – three important races in the heart of the European Alps – Germany's König-Ludwig-Lauf, Austria's Dolomitenlauf and Italy's Marcialonga. The first Alpentris was held in 1974. That same year the Swedish Vasaloppet and Finnish Finlandia Hiihto had sent their requests to join. The request was discussed at a meeting in Moena, Italy and in 1975 new long distance race series the Euroloppet began.

Wise mapped out a plan with his staff at Telemark including manager Dick Simono and Public Relations Director Tom Kelly. His plan included the five Euroloppet races (Austria, Dolomitenlauf; Italy, Marcialonga; Germany, König Ludwig Lauf; Finland, Finlandia Hiihto; and Sweden, Vasaloppet). Looking to add more races, he included the Swiss Engadin Skimarathon and the Norwegian Birkebeinerrennet. And for North America, he added the Canadian Rivière Rouge along with his own American Birkebeiner for the original nine races.

Wise and his staff then began to contact each of the races, inviting each nation to send its race director and a skier to the 1978 American Birkebeiner, providing them with airline tickets to fly to a place most of them had never heard of. And on Feb. 23-24, 1978, at Telemark Lodge, Wise presented his plan to a gathering of representatives from nine nations.

Wise presented an ingenious plan to mix what he called 'citizen skiers' with the elite racers in the sport – something still today unique among global sports. Think about it, in what other sport can thousands of recreational athletes share a race course with the best in the world? It was a brilliant idea.

Reaction from the European organisers was generally enthusiastic, albeit a bit sceptical at this new friend from America who had sent them all free airline tickets.

Skiers from each of the invited nations enhanced the international field at the sixth American Birkebeiner. And the discussion among the international race organizers set the groundwork for what would be an historic accomplishment when the Worldloppet was officially formed a few months later.

THE WORLDLOPPET DREAM BECOMES A REALITY

It was a spirited discussion in Uppsala, Sweden, a few months later at the annual meeting of the Euroloppet at the Esso Motor Hotel. In addition to the agenda for the five-event series, members of all the proposed Worldloppet nations (except Norway) convened to discuss the little challenges and rules to establish the new series.

When Wise asked the attendees who was in favour, only the USA and Canada were initially ready to confirm. The others approved the idea in principle but had questions: Germany wondered about financing, Finland wanted to maintain the Euroloppet as an independent organisation and keep the original race dates, Switzerland supported Finland regarding keeping the calendar, and Italy stressed keeping the individual identity of the races.

"The races should retain their own individuality," said Italy's Giulio Giovannini. "Some aspects of the races should have uniformity such as trail markings, ski markings and timing. And we could all gain better knowledge of the technicalities involving racing by an exchange of ideas."

"If such a league is to be formed it is most important that all communications and advertisements for our races contain information promoting the World Loppet League in order to gain worldwide publicity," said Germany's Fritz Lang.

In the end, most of the questions were answered and the group moved forward with the plan. Finland was selected to design the Worldloppet medal and logo. And the American Birkebeiner was nominated as headquarters of the new World Loppet League for the next three years, with Wise named as the first secretary general.

The Norwegian Birkebeinerrennet's requirement that skiers all wear a backpack to symbolise the rescue of the child prince Haakon Haakonsson would be a burden for elite skiers. Many were reluctant to agree to having elite

racers travel to North America each year to be eligible for the elite series. And there were issues with overlapping dates, especially between Finland and America.

New rules, a race calendar (no one wanted to change dates), how many races the Worldloppet elite must attend, limits on enrolment at races in Finlandia and Norway, and whether or not to join with the International Ski Federation (FIS) were hot topics. The challenges of bringing nine individual races together were huge.

Despite these issues, the concept was good and the Worldloppet (then called the World Loppet League) was born in Uppsala on June 10, 1978 to honor the dedication and enthusiasm of a unique new breed of athlete – the citizen skier.

WORLDLOPPET BEGINS

The news release “World Ski Marathon League Formed” composed by Press Secretary Tom Kelly after the founding meeting stated: “More than 50 000 of the world’s most avid citizen cross country skiers will have a new challenge beginning this year. Nine of the most famous ski marathons have joined together to form the World Loppet League.

The foremost purpose of the League is to honor dedicated long distance skiers who, during their lifetime, have completed the courses in all of the official World Loppet League races.

“The second purpose of the League is to keep outstanding cross country racers active after they have retired from national team activities. The skier with the most points from this elite group of racers will be crowned World Loppet League Champion each year.”

“World Loppet League officials are hopeful of bringing in other famous races from additional countries in future years.”

“Citizen skiers attempting to ski all the World Loppet League races will be issued with a special League passport book which certifies their completion of each race. A diploma will be issued to skiers completing all League races. They will then be able to acquire a gold medallion to further commemorate their feat. Medallions will be numbered starting from one, with lowest number carrying a great deal of prestige in future years. ...”

There were two very important decisions made in Uppsala that were to play a key role in the early days of the Worldloppet. First, elite skiers trying to win the Worldloppet title were required to participate in at least one race in North America. Given that the Finlandia and American Birkebeiner were the same weekend, this presented some challenges. Secondly, the requirements for World Loppet Master were to complete all nine events. Again, with the two races on one weekend, there would be no World Loppet Masters in the first year. But there were plenty trying!

1979: THE FIRST SEASON

Wise made many close friends in the year leading up to the 1979 debut of the World Loppet League. Finland’s Risto Rytokoski and his wife Leila were key partners, thanks in a big way to their marketing knowledge and Leila’s English. Another who became a close friend was Dolomitenlauf founder Robert Steiner, a promoter very much like Wise.

So Wise was very proud to be on hand at the January 1979 Dolomitenlauf, along with Kelly, for the first official Worldloppet race. At the pre-race dinner in Hotel Traube in Lienz, Wise honored Steiner and Lienz Mayor Hubert Huber, presenting Steiner with an American Indian headdress.

ADDITIONAL LISTS & STATISTICS

Telemark Meeting Official Attendees, Feb. 23-24, 1978

American Birkebeiner (USA) – Tony Wise, Dick Simono
Birkebeinerrennet (Norway) – Karl Snilsberg, Arne Myhren, Leif Norberg
Dolomitenlauf (Austria) – Robert Steiner
Engadin Skimarathon (Switzerland) – Albert Giger
Finlandia Hiihto – Heikki Salo
FIS – John Lindstrom (USA)
König Ludwig Lauf (West Germany) – Fritz Lang
Marcialonga (Italy) – Giulio Giovannini
Rivière Rouge (Canada) – Steve Cushing
Vasaloppet – Lars-Erik Larsson

Uppsala Meeting Official Attendees, June 10, 1978

American Birkebeiner (USA) – Tony Wise, Dick Simono
Birkebeinerrennet (Norway) – Did not attend
Dolomitenlauf (Austria) – Robert Steiner, Karl Obernosterer
Engadin Skimarathon (Switzerland) – Domeng Giovannoli
Finlandia Hiihto – Kurt Lindholm, Risto Rytökoski, Leila Vuotila-Rytökoski
König Ludwig Lauf (West Germany) – Hans Reicherl, Franz Aurhammer
Marcialonga (Italy) – Giulio Giovannini
Rivière Rouge (Canada) – Jock Coulson, Nick Close
Vasaloppet – Lars-Erik Larsson, Bengt Allan, Karl Andresson



Claudio Chiogna and Risto Rytökoski at the AGM in Mora, SWE in 1996



Worldloppet inspectors Rolf Kjaernsli, Robert Steiner and Tom Duffy wearing their race bibs at the 1990 inspection of the Australian International Ski Marathon

The Dolomitenlauf, which was celebrating its 10th anniversary, was a big success. Swede Matti Kuosko took the win. But it was a challenging first year with few really knowing much about the new series and few elite athletes thinking about coming to North America to qualify for the title. Wise stepped in to lobby and assist to ensure that sufficient skiers came to either the Canadian Rivière Rouge in mid-February or to his American Birkebeiner a week later – the same weekend as the Finlandia Hiihto.

While Kuosko knew little about the Worldloppet in January, he would learn much more with an invitation from Wise to come to America. He was one of a number of elite skiers who made the trek to America including Sweden's Tommy Jönsson, Norway's Per Knotten and international star Magne Myrmo (who was too sick to start), Italy's Ulrico Kostner Finland's Pentti Joronen, Austria's Rudi Kapeller, and more. Kuosko went on to win the first Worldloppet title.

The first season ended with 50,000 participants and 315 Worldloppet passport holders.

After a successful opening season, Worldloppet organisers met in Munich in June.

According to the official minutes, "In summary each race felt the World Loppet League was a good idea and welcomed the opportunity to be part of it. All members felt an obligation to see it work, and strengthen the League as an organisation for the benefit of cross country skiing and skiers." Finland's Risto Rytökoski was convinced that the success of the series depended on the agreement on the race dates calendar. But there was no settlement of that conflict then, and there still has not been 30 years later. Other discussion points included the ranking system and admittance of new members. Wise was very aggressive on new members, but most other races were less enthusiastic about growing too quickly.

The one race that did gather broad interest was the French La Transjurassienne. A second Italian race, the Pustertaler Ski Marathon, was also interested but Wise and others were clear on one race per nation.

1980: THE FIRST WORLDLOPPET MASTERS

The challenges of date conflicts caused quite a stir in year two. It would be a few years until someone would figure out how to do both the American Birkebeiner and Finlandia Hiihto on the same weekend in the same year (American Stuart Stevens did it for a film project). So it would be year two before anyone could qualify to be the first Worldloppet Masters. And what a battle it was!

The first potential date for anyone to complete all nine races was the 1980 American Birkebeiner. Always a savvy promoter, Wise had figured that out and was ready to take advantage of the publicity opportunity at the finish line. But a strange thing happened on the way to the finish.

The first Worldloppet Master candidate across the finish line in the American Birkebeiner was local Hayward, Wis. skier Carol Duffy. Finishing a short time later was German skier Heinrich Popp. Wise proudly presented medal number one to Carol Duffy (her husband Tom received number three) and number two to Popp. Popp, however, said he should be number one – after all, Carol Duffy hadn't skied the actual Vasaloppet a year earlier. He was somewhat correct. The Vasaloppet had not yet allowed women into the primary race, so Duffy had to ski a separate race, on the same course, earlier in the week.

After a spirited discussion with Popp, Wise had the solution: Carol Duffy would receive medal number zero and Heinrich Popp received the number one medallion.

One of the most interesting Worldloppet Masters in year one was American Steve Fossett. The American commodities broker from Chicago had little cross country experience, but had heard about the Worldloppet a year earlier. Fossett went on to become one of the world's greatest adventurers, holding over 100 world records or firsts including the first non-stop flight around the globe.

THE GROWING WORLDLOPPET

Wise's dream was to expand the Worldloppet literally around the globe. His plan was ambitious – far more ambitious than some of the more conservative European race organisers. In particular, Wise hoped to expand the Worldloppet into the then Eastern Block looking specifically at the Jizerska Padesatka in then Czechoslovakia and the Murmansk Marathon in the northern Soviet Union. Kelly visited both sites in the early '80s, with Wise joining him at the 1984 Murmansk event. But there was little support.

Ottawa, Canada was the site of the 1980 Worldloppet meeting – the first outside Europe. The formal title of the World Loppet League was officially changed to Worldloppet. The first new addition to the Worldloppet, La Transjurassienne, was approved, but it was also decided that there would be no further expansion until a development plan was implemented. The French race was an easy addition to the European-focused series. The next additions would be tougher.

Wise pushed hard to add a race in Asia. With the sport booming in Japan, that was the next natural stop. So in 1985, the Sapporo International Ski Marathon welcomed the Worldloppet despite protests from the larger Asahikawa Ski Marathon. Kelly took a large group of American skiers to the first race in Sapporo in 1985. And with the addition of the Japanese race, Wise saw the first phase of his global plan come to be.

Expansion slowed in the late '80s, but in 1991 the Kangaroo Hoppet of Australia was added. In 1994, the Tartu Maraton in Estonia joined the Worldloppet. Finally, in 2000, the Czech Jizerska Padesatka came into the Worldloppet nearly 20 years after Wise first attempted to bring the then Eastern-European race into the international series.

WORLDLOPPET TRAVEL

Tour operators played a key role in the early origins of the Worldloppet. In the late '70s and early '80s, international travel was still challenging for many skiers. And the races were usually located in places unknown to many traditional travel agents.

Travel specialists like Sport-Koepf in Munich, managed by Annelies Waneck, and Worldwide Nordic USA, started by Telemark's Kelly and Birkebeiner race announcer Peter Graves, were instrumental in providing arrangements for hundreds even thousands of skiers during that time. The growing races of the Worldloppet found that they were strong attractions for regional tourism with thousands and thousands of skiers descending on small mountain towns for the Worldloppet races.

Within a few years, many thousands of skiers were travelling around the world to compete in the Worldloppet. For some, it became a lifelong passion. It provided everyday skiers – citizen racers as Tony Wise called them – with an opportunity to enjoy the camaraderie of new friends worldwide.

WORLDLOPPET: 30 YEARS OF MEMORIES

It's been 30 years since Tony Wise brought together race organisers from around the world with his crazy idea. Many of those early organisers have remained close friends and colleagues for many decades. Countless thousands of friendships have been made on snow tracks around the world.

The Worldloppet has embedded millions of memories into the hearts and minds of thousands of citizen skiers. It's the memory of coming into the Hauptplatz on Sunday afternoon in Lienz, or the spectacle of 12,000 skiers crossing the frozen lake in Silvaplana. It's the Italian soldiers shovelling snow onto the village streets in Cavalese, or skiing by King Ludwig's Bavarian castles. It's the sound of the crowds on Hayward's Main Street and the crisp pre-dawn morning air in Lahti and Salen.

It's the anticipation as you board the plane for your first trip to Japan or Australia. It's the thrill of seeing your passport stamped for the first time or your heart pounding as you near the finish line to become a Worldloppet Master.

It's the dreams of Worldloppet founders Robert Steiner, Risto Rytokoski and Tony Wise played out on skis every year by 90,000 citizen racers.

It's for anyone who has ever dreamed to become a champion! Jeder ein Sieger, über sich selbst!

Attendees of 1991 AGM in Oberammergau, GER



FIRST WORLDLOPPET MASTERS (1980)

Medal	Name	Nation
0	Gunnar Sarring	Sweden
1	Carol Duffy	USA
2	Heinrich Popp	Germany
3	Thomas Duffy	USA
4	Robert Vangene	USA
5	Ekkehard Wille	Germany
6	Lennart Hakansson	Sweden
7	Friedrich Hartmann	Switzerland
8	Steve Fossett	USA

Later the list was corrected.

WORLDLOPPET RACE ORIGINS

Start	Worldloppet	Race	Nation
1922	1979	Vasaloppet	Sweden
1932	1979	Birkebeinerrennet	Norway
1960	1994	Tartu Maraton	Estonia
1968	2000	Jizerska Padesatka	Czech Republic
1968	1979	König Ludwig Lauf	Germany
1969	1979	Engadin Skimarathon	Switzerland
1970	1979	Dolomitenlauf	Austria
1971	1979	Marcialonga	Italy
1973	1979	American Birkebeiner	USA
1974	1979	Finlandia Hiihto	Finland
1978	1979	Rivière Rouge (Gatineau Loppet)	Canada
1980	1981	La Transjurassienne	France
1981	1985	Sapporo International Ski Marathon	Japan
1989	1991	Kangaroo Hoppet	Australia

Worldloppet developments in 1978-2007

GENERAL SECRETARIAT

According to the Worldloppet Constitution, the organisational work of the series is managed in General Secretariat lead by Secretary General. His responsibility is the administration and operation of the organisation. The location of the Secretariat is determined by the work-place of the Secretary General. The Secretary Generals normally use their home race office and the organisation covers the expenses that come with the job (mainly related to travelling).

Election of the Secretary General takes place at the appropriate Annual General Meeting. During the early years the election of the new leader took place every three years, but starting from 1993 the time was prolonged for one more year. The Secretary General's term may be extended for one year or he may be re-elected for an additional four year term.

Since 1985, from time to time, the idea of establishing a permanent office for the Worldloppet has been discussed to avoid problems of moving. A permanent office would also make easier the employing of professional staff, for example a press officer. Bringing this idea into life has always fallen over the financial hurdle, so until today the headquarters keeps rotating.

Who has determined the evolution of Worldloppet: the member races or Secretary Generals with their staff? No doubt that evolution has been the result of mutual discussion. The work of the headquarters, unlike the influence of the member races, is easier to trace and this is the reason why WL history in this book is divided into time sections by the leadership periods of Secretaries. The headquarters' influence on the Worldloppet evolution is hard to measure, as all the changes are connected also to the technological developments of the (sports) world overall. The handwriting of every Secretary General has been different and focused on areas determined by their personal knowledge and issues currently in the agenda of the organisation's everyday life. Worldloppet race organisers meet only once a year and the journey of an idea from proposal to reality takes long time. This way some issues (like new candidates for membership) have stayed on the list over the years.

1978-1981 Tony Wise, American Birkebeiner (USA)

The role of Tony Wise was to start the machinery of the circuit, whose basic elements have been unchanged until today.

Angelo Corradini: „Tony Wise's first idea gives 90% of its merit until today, even if copied from Euroloppet. First of all Tony had a very good "nose" for finding out something that people needed at the international level - it was and it still is "in" to practise aerobic sports. There was no big financial risk for organisers in joining the new organisation, because everything was based on existing races and there was not even an official responsibility (no agreement to sign). For customers it was important that the initial cost of a passport was not remarkably high (comparing to travelling etc)."

Tony worked close with Tom Kelly, his PR person, and their good promotional work resulted in remarkable passport sales already before the start of the first WL ski season. Even today the greatest number of passport holders is from the USA.



Tony Wise

The first season of Worldloppet was a success in many terms: all races took place as planned; Matti Kuosko of Sweden achieved the first Worldloppet Champion title and there were over 300 passport holders, which meant, that there were already customers for the next season. The first season of World Loppet League was completely financed by Tony Wise as no race agreed to pay the fee of 1000\$.

By the end of the second season there were already 559 passport holders and the first Wordloppet Master Titles were awarded, but there were still many weak sides to the organisation's work, such as the date conflicts in the race calendar and criteria of acceptance of new members. At the annual meeting in 1980 all members agreed on the present criteria: there can be only one event per country; the race must be the best and biggest race in that country; it must be not less than 42 km and not more than 90 km. Risto Rytökoski added that every event must be strong in order to keep the League strong. The meeting agreed that the race in France was worth investigating and from 1981 La Transjurassienne joined the Worldloppet family. It was decided that after 1. July 1980, the complete circuit would consist of 10 races and the price for a passport would be 20 USD.

Tom Duffy was requested to chair the committee to draft the WL Constitution and set of by-laws and to evaluate the possible value of existing Euroloppet documentation for the drafts.

A new problem appeared in the third season: who is the real first Worldloppet Champion? During the König-Ludwig-Lauf, on the last part of the race course, a group of 6 skiers, who were leading the competition with a gap of 5 minutes, missed the correct course and made an extra 4 km loop. The case was solved by declaring 7 skiers as the winners of the race. Worldloppet headquarters had to deal with the overall standing list. To make a fair decision, all members had to send their opinions. With the communication

technology of that day it took several months to exchange telexes and letters. Due to shorter FIS cross-country World Cup season, there were several World Champions competing in Worldloppet races, which helped to draw attention to the league.

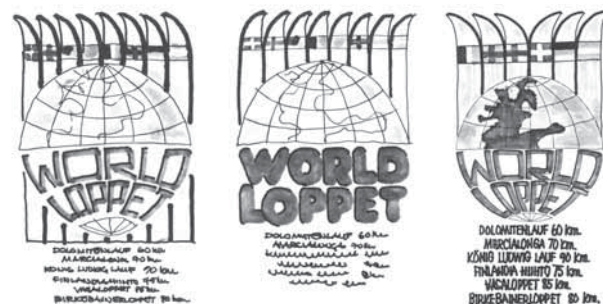
The “ski year” was concluded in Helsinki, Finland, where the new Worldloppet Secretary General Eugen Peter of Pontresina, Switzerland, was unanimously elected to lead the organisation during 1981-1984.

1981-1985 Eugen Peter, Engadin Skimarathon (SUI)

Eugen Peter’s main challenge was to keep alive the young formation and develop further the ideas of the first years. In addition to everyday work (taking care of the ranking lists of Worldloppet Championship and handling the passports and Master nominations) Eugen Peter started discussion about raising the organisational level of the races. His negotiations with FIS officials started the series of Technical Delegate (TD) seminars to educate popular cross-country ski events specialists and give them a possibility to exchange experience. Eugen Peter remained the Worldloppet TD coordinator even after he had handed over his position as Secretary General to Risto Rytökoski. He also was the Chairman of FIS Sub-committee for Popular Cross-country for a long time.

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As a representative of the Engadin Skimarathon I have visited all the Annual General meetings of Worldloppet since 1979 in Munich until 2003 in Liberec. At the foundation of Worldloppet in Uppsala 1978 my friend Dumeng Giovanoli was the representative as the President of Organising Committee of Engadin Skimarathon.



The first versions of Worldloppet logo



The first official letterheads of Worldloppet office



Worldloppet General Secretaries: Arne Andresson, Eugen Peter and Hans Reicherl at the 1998 AGM in Pontresina, SUI

After the first three years of Worldloppet's existence, on the occasion of the annual meeting in Helsinki 1981, it came to statutory reelection of the Secretary General of Worldloppet. Seven members from Europe above all were not satisfied with Tony Wise as the first Secretary General. USA seemed still to be a bit far away; the communication in those days was rather complicated and first and foremost the Europeans couldn't accurately come to terms with American customs. That is why they looked for the Secretary General from Europe, found it in my person and elected me.

In Helsinki the Worldloppet was enlarged for the first time. With the acceptance of La Transjurassienne de France, there were then eight European organisers. Discussion over possible co-operation with FIS was held at the meeting in Helsinki. Co-operation between WL and FIS was discussed during two hours with the president of FIS those days, Marc Hodler and the Secretary General of FIS those days and the present President of FIS, Gianfranco Kasper.

Different countries considered then that closer co-operation was not necessary, that Worldloppet knows better what it is to be done and that they don't want FIS to take part in their decision-making. I myself was already at that time a delegate of FIS and argued for a closer co-operation. What has come out of it we can see today from the good and successful co-operation.

During the following four years I exerted myself for the successful existence of Worldloppet and for the possible enlargement and the general rise in quality of our races. Together with a team from Pontresina with Claudio Chiogna as publicity manager for Worldloppet and Tina Vonmoos as Secretary of Engadin Skimarathon and Worldloppet, a great deal of work was accomplished.

First of all the rules of Worldloppet were revised and adapted to the conditions and laws in Europe and they were approved in the occasion of the next annual meeting in St. Moritz (SUI). Also the minimal requirements for the races who wanted to be members of Worldloppet were approved in St. Moritz. I visited the Marxa Beret in the Spanish Pyrenees as an observer in 1983. As a result of my report the race was not accepted to membership of Worldloppet because it didn't satisfy the minimal demands.

Klasse Kvänna (SWE), Bruce Cameron (CAN) and I visited and judged also the Sapporo International Ski Marathon. At the next annual meeting in Cavalese (ITA) the Sapporo International Skimarathon was accepted as the 11th member.

Different applications from the former Eastern block countries were answered negatively, because they couldn't assure the unhindered entry and departure of the skiers. Those were the applications from Russia, Poland and Czechoslovakia. The appropriate co-operation was unthinkable until the breakpoint of the communistic regime.

After four years, on the occasion of the meeting in Cavalese, I could hand over my position as Secretary General of the Worldloppet to Risto Rytökoski from Lahti (FIN).

It was a very intensive and also a very interesting time with a lot of work, but also with a lot of fun that I wouldn't have missed in a million years.

I'm still very interested in Worldloppet. I wish much fun and satisfaction in this valuable work to all the people in Worldloppet, especially to my follower as Secretary General.

Eugen Peter
Secretary General of Worldloppet 1981-1985
Pontresina, SUI

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1985-1988 Risto Rytökoski, Finlandia-hiihto (FIN)

Risto Rytökoski's main helpers were his wife Leila, who spoke 6 foreign languages, and Vappu Määttä, the secretary of Finlandia-hiihto. Under the leadership of Risto Finlandia-hiihto became the world's biggest skimarathon but he had also lot to offer to Worldloppet already from its beginning.

In Finland the present Worldloppet symbolics were finally worked out (logo, diploma) and also the idea and buildup of the yearbook, which has retained its form until today. For better promotion every race had to prepare advertising materials and send 100 copies to the central office every autumn. This request was made to make the information distribution easier. Among other innovations Risto Rytökoski concluded the first Worldloppet sponsor contracts with companies Fischer and Adidas.

Starting from 1986 the member races were asked to provide the headquarters with additional statistics about participation numbers and nationalities, to have more interesting facts for the media. A need for alphabetical results rose, as the number of passport owners had risen to 2174. For tracing results to stamp the passports of Master candidates, the General Secretariat was forced to use ranking lists (many of them on 50 or more pages). For many races this kind of data processing requirement was quite difficult to fulfill.

To make the organisational work and decision making more effective, several sub-committees were formed (for example a working group on the Worldloppet brochure, sponsorship, marketing of passports, rules etc.). Their task was to work out the drafts of decisions, as the only WL decisive body - the annual meeting once a year - was not enough to maintain the development.

Madis Lepajõe: "Risto Rytökoski was a highly respected professional, who always worked for developing WL into an organisation, which is open to new ideas and new members".

Angelo Corradini: "Risto was my best friend in all Scandinavia. No doubt, he was the best promoter of the Worldloppet family. We will remember forever his words at the AGM: "Freunde, wo geht Worldloppet hin?"".

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Risto Rytökoski was planning and founding Finlandia-hiihto in 1974 and was chairman of organising committee from then on. Risto was not a skier. He worked in Lahti as a marketing manager in a big enterprise and was a very active, skilful and voluntary-minded person. He was at once, with some other persons, ready to take responsibility for Finlandia-hiihto. In a short time, less than 10 year, Finlandia-hiihto became the biggest long distance ski race in the whole world. Risto was as a director of the Organising Committee of the race almost 2 years. He died in 2000 after a serious illness.

Risto was a big friend of long distance ski races. He was planning and founding the Euroloppet competition in 1976, which became a very popular competition of European long distance ski races.

Risto was convinced that we had to have same competition and marketing ring for the whole world of cross-country and he played a very important role in founding the Worldloppet, to fulfill this idea. He believed in the aim of Worldloppet to promote the sport of cross-country skiing through the various ski races around the world.

Risto worked in Finland with Wordloppet advertising and marketing. He had a very important role in creating all kind of Worloppet designs. He presented a

Worldloppet logo, medal and passport at the first annual meeting, which were accepted almost unanimously. The same logo is in use until nowadays.

Both Finlandia-hiihto and Worldloppet lost with Risto a great person and a good friend.

Vappu Määttänen

Secretary of Finlandia-hiihto 1974 – 1984

Secretary General of Finlandia-hiihto 1984 - 1993

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1988-1990 Arne Andersson, Vasaloppet (SWE)

The period of Arne Andersson's work as Worldloppet Secretary General coincided with a very difficult period for the ski world. In 1989 two races in a row, Dolomitenlauf and Marcialonga, were cancelled and three races were shortened because of the difficult snow situation. In 1990 five races were cancelled: Dolomitenlauf, Marcialonga, König-Ludwig-Lauf, La Transjurassienne, Vasaloppet and two races were shortened. It was Worldloppet's touchstone or test of survival. The number of participants in all races dropped, sale of passports and addition of masters declined.

The important task of the Secretary General was to motivate the colleagues, as the possibility that people were turning away from ski sport, was in the air. In 1989 the long-time partner Fischer finished sponsoring and the plan to establish a permanent Worlloppet office was postponed because of the difficult economic situation.

The main success of this period was the creation of the first Worldloppet Cup racing team - on the initiative of Vasaloppet "Scania Team" was composed. It was a very important step to improve the image of the racing series faced with a deficit of elite skiers and it also served as an example to the next sponsor teams (Team Intersport NOR, Team Subaru USA).

To get more feedback from the member races, it was decided in 1990 that in addition to current reports, the overview of media coverage must be composed.

During the "Swedish" era expansion of the organisation always stood in the agenda (candidates Australia, Chile, Argentina, Estonia) and reached its fruits some years later, when Worldloppet was coordinated from Germany. In 1988, when the Australian marathon's application was discussed, Secretary General Arne Andersson thought that the expansion should be wider, accepting several countries together (next to Australia also Chile and Argentina) to cut down the expenses of changing the logo etc. The General Secretariat was handed over to Hans Reicherl at an extraordinary meeting in October 1990, when the Kangaroo Hoppet was accepted as a new member.

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The work of the General Secretariat was organised from an office at my home, where I and my wife Carin handled all matters with passports, diploma and medals, as well as most of the correspondence with skiers and other actors in the cross-country ski world. Monica Eriksson took care of other questions concerning Worldloppet at the Vasaloppet office, and for technical questions Hans Eriksson and Rolf Hammar were involved.

My own ambitions for my period as Secretary General were to:

- *bring Vasaloppet as the largest cross-country race to be an active member in Worldloppet;*



Risto Rytökoski



Arne Andersson

- *develop the rules of the association;*
- *give Worldloppet a status that will interest elite-skiers in taking part and increase the importance and economy of the organisation.*

The body of Worldloppet is the big interest and engagement from all the ordinary skiers that make a tremendous work taking part in as many races as possible, hunting diplomas and medals. I met many skiers who were very thankful to the Worldloppet that it had given them a new life with better health and good friends all over the world.

Worldloppet today has a good position and all who have been working and today are working with Worldloppet have the right to be proud of the development.

Arne Andersson
Secretary General of Worldloppet 1987-1990
Mora, Sweden

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1991-1998 Hans Reicherl, König-Ludwig-Lauf (GER)

During the headquarters' location period in Sweden Hans Reicherl was involved with editing and printing the yearbook, because of lower printing costs. His work was highly appreciated and his candidature for Secretary General was the logical continuation of the process. At the same time Reicherl held the position of Euroloppet Secretary General.

In 1992 Hans Reicherl made a proposal to found the Worldloppet Silver Master title and it was confirmed the same year at the annual meeting. The first concerns, that skiers might be more in favour of shorter races than the main races, were unfounded. Today most of WL members have in their programme various races for people with different preparation, age and gender, but participation in the main races has nevertheless stayed stable or even increased.

Regardless of missing a general sponsor for the series, Reicherl succeeded in bringing the Worldloppet budget out of constant deficit and providing WL Cup winners with financial prizes. 1993 was the year to elect the next Secretary General. The sponsorship agreements were under attack, because they were all connected to Germany. The elections were postponed for one year and the decision, by which the Secretary General is chosen by personal skills and not by the location of a Worldloppet race, was made. Later H. Reicherl changed the format of the Worldloppet Yearbook, to cover the printing cost by selling advertising pages and this way brought some additional income for the organisation.

In 1994 two races were ready to take over the office from the König-Ludwig-Lauf: American Birkebeiner and La Transjurassienne. Finally it was decided that regarding the financial situation, it would be better to avoid moving costs if Reicherl would continue for 4 more years. By the middle of the 1990s the number of passport owners had reached 4000 and the exchange of letters with passport holders took most of the headquarters' time.

Hans Reicherl together with Robert Steiner were very active supporters of Worldloppet's expansion to Eastern Europe and they visited personally the possible candidates. In 1990 Robert Steiner proposed to discuss two candidates: Tartu Maraton from Estonia and Kangaroo Hoppet (then Australian Birkebeiner) from Australia. The Estonians could not attend the annual meeting to represent their race because of financial problems and so only the Australians were accepted by the organisation. Bieg Piastow of Poland put up its candidature at the 1991 annual meeting but as Worldloppet just

had accepted a new race, the meeting decided to have a 3 year break before accepting any new members. The other decisive factor was a non-supportive report of the Worldloppet commission (Reicherl, Corradini, Peter), who evaluated the level of organisation and expressed their opinion, that Bieg Piastow was not yet ready to join the series.

In 1992 at the annual meeting in Vienna, Austria, 4 countries were represented – Estonia, Slovakia, Czech Republic and Poland. They were told that there would be no expansion before 1995 and new candidates would have to accept the free weekends proposed by the organisation. In 1993, the requirements for candidates were reviewed.

In 1994 at the annual meeting in Lillehammer, Norway, 4 candidates made their presentations: Tartu Maraton of Estonia, Jizerska Padesatka of Czech Republic; Biela Stopa of Slovakia and Bieg Piastow of Poland. The decision was, that starting from the season 1994/1995 Tartu Maraton would be a new Worldloppet member; the other races were put on the waiting list again.

The Worldloppet Cup was under fire at every annual meeting, as the top athletes' interest was modest and in 1996 only 6 skiers were finally ranked. During this period communication with FIS started again through Paddy Field, Chairman of FIS Sub-committee for Popular cross-country. Paddy Field had been a Worldloppet passport owner from the first season of the organisation and knew all the member races by his own experiences as a participant.

This long 8 year period of location of the WL office in Oberammergau gave Worldloppet stability for focusing on new challenges like Internet. In 1997 Reicherl plugged Worldloppet to e-world by launching first website of Worldloppet, which was then by many members regarded as too expensive and unfounded.

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During my 8 years work as Secretary General of Worldloppet I tried to treat everyone impartially and honestly.

The organisation was in a very bad economic situation on its arrival in Oberammergau; there were no financial means at all. I succeeded in finding some generous sponsors. Even two cars were handed over as general prizes at this time and the headquarters were handed over to Tartu in good economic condition. The yearbook was also renewed and used as an income source for Worldloppet.

My biggest concern has always been helping and supporting of candidate races, to achieve the minimum requirements of Worldloppet, and having new members in the organisation.

All this hard work was done together with Helmut Kronthaler, Maria Heiss and Lilli Achilles as secretaries.

Hans Reicherl
Secretary General of Worldloppet 1990-1998
Oberammergau, Germany

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1998-2004 Madis Lepajõe, Tartu Maraton (EST)

The main supporter of Madis Lepajõe's candidature as the new Secretary General was Hans Eriksson, representative of the Nordic races in the Worldloppet Executive Committee. Hans Eriksson: "I followed the fast changes of

recent years in the Baltic countries and saw the same big potential and will to prove in the Tartu Maraton team. The organisation was in need of new blood and Madis had impressed colleagues positively in working groups. Year prior to election his team demonstrated their organisational skills preparing the annual meeting in Tartu"

Madis Lepajõe was the first Secretary General with a Worldloppet Master title and the Worldloppet General Secretariat became the first international sports organisation's headquarters in Estonia. The transfer of the General Secretariat from Oberammergau to Tartu was completed in the Spring of 1999.

To stay in the highlights of the sports world it is necessary to forward race results to the press in the fastest way possible. That is why the Worldloppet office in Tartu started to work out the system for fast data processing. The unified database for WL Masters, passport owners and race results was worked out in 4 years and it is used intensively nowadays, although each marathon has its own system for managing the data.

For the first time the Worldloppet office was separated from the daily work of a race office. For that Kairis Leinus, WL project manager, was hired. During the first season Madis Lepajõe's work consisted of finding out the new WL member candidates' suitability, composing the WL yearbook and finding sponsoring possibilities.

Although the Executive Committee had already been operating since 1994, the intensive cooperation between the committee and the Secretary General started in the autumn of 1998. Contacts with the FIS representative Paddy Field were tightened to reform the WL Cup. Already in the winter of 2000 Worldloppet and FIS introduced the first FIS Marathon Cup, consisting initially of Worldloppet races. One of the most important steps in WL history was its legal registration as an international non-profit organisation Worldloppet Ski Federation on August 18, 2001.

The year 2001 started with the development of the Internet web page into a web portal and creating the web based database of passport owners, Masters and race results. The most difficult task was to work out a common format for race results, because the races use very different programmes for race data processing. Thanks to this change all the races can now publish weather forecasts and press releases directly on the Worldloppet web-page.

After the end of the first term of office in 2002, Madis Lepajõe was proposed to continue for the next 4 years. He agreed to continue only for 2 years because of an increasing work-load in his main occupation (Vice-Chancellor of the Estonian Ministry of Education). Madis Lepajõe as the Secretary General changed the management of the organisation to put it on a more professional footing.

In 2003 the Worldloppet Executive Committee nominated Angelo Corradini's candidature for the next election in 2004. According to the members of the Executive Committee, Worldloppet General Secretariat in Tartu definitely helped to promote Tartu and Estonia to the ski friends in the whole World and introduced Estonia as a great country of cross-country skiing.

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I am proud and happy to say, that the time in WL office has been the most interesting period of my life. I had this wonderful opportunity and challenge to work together with many nice and active people from different countries and continents. My work could not be successful without the help of my colleagues and friends.



Exotic guests. Elephants in front of Worldloppet Headquarters in Tartu, EST in 2000

PHOTO: MALL ELVET

First and foremost I am thankful to the members of the WL Executive Committee – Angelo Corradini, Hans Eriksson and Tom Duffy. We had very effective and close cooperation. They trusted me and their great experience in WL was the best support to my ideas.

The WL office was located in the premises of Tartu Maraton. If I had no time or possibility to talk to the other WL members, I could start any important discussion in my office together with Alar Arukuusk, Indrek Kelk, Aet Nurk or Epp Paal. This way I formulated the first proposals to the other members.

With the support of Tartu Maraton I had the wonderful possibility of employing a professional assistant, WL Project manager Kairis Leinus. Kairis was usually behind the scene, but I can say, that most of my success in leading WL was achieved thanks to her hard work.

If I were to speak about my goals and achievements of my election period, then I would mention the following:

- *The most important step for Worldloppet as an international non-profit organisation was its legal registration in 2001.*
- *The most remarkable innovation for Worldloppet members and skiers was developing the WL website into an interactive information source, where every member can immediately publish useful information. The creation of the database of race results and transferring the database of Worldloppet passport holders and Masters to Internet was an enormous work.*
- *A big jump forward in the field of international marketing and attracting elite skiers to participate in WL races, was the introduction of the FIS Marathon Cup in collaboration with the FIS Sub-Committee for Popular Cross-Country. Personal thanks here belong to the Chairman of the Sub-Committee Paddy Field (WL double Master and author of many training and information materials on long-distance cross-country skiing).*

These goals were fulfilled during my election period 1998 – 2002. My working load had increased both in my everyday work in the Estonian Ministry of Education and in Worldloppet. So I decided not to be a candidate for the next election period, as I needed more time for my family and myself. But I liked my skiing colleagues and friends so much, that I accepted the extraordinary proposal from the WL Executive Committee (later supported unanimously by WL AGM) to prolong my term in the office for 2 more years. This gave me a good possibility to enjoy some of the fruits of my work and to prepare the office for handing it over in 2004 to the next elected Secretary General Angelo Corradini. Angelo was certainly the best candidate and I am happy that WL has been developing further under his great leadership.

In 1998, when I started as the Worldloppet Secretary General, there were more than 70 000 participants in Worldloppet races. Now more than 90 000 skiers complete Worldloppet races. I would be very happy to see the Worldloppet total participation numbers exceeding the magic bound of 100 000 in the coming seasons. This would be the best acknowledgement of Angelo's work.

*Madis Lepajõe
Secretary General of Wordloppet 1998 - 2004
Tartu, Estonia*

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2004-..... Angelo Corradini, Marcialonga (ITA)

Angelo Corradini has continued the direction started by Madis Lepajõe: so continues tight cooperation with FIS, (even from his position as Secretary General of 2 Nordic FIS World Championships in Val di Fiemme), raising the importance the FIS Marathon Cup, improving the results database and also looking for new outputs to make series attractive for new skiers.

During the Annual General Meeting 2007 in Norway on Angelo Corradini's proposal the new title of GLOBAL WORLDLOPPET SKIER (worked out by Hannes Larsson, President of the International Association of Worldloppet Skiers) was accepted and will be awarded to the WL skiers, who have completed all 14 WL member races. This is meant to be a new goal for Super Popular Cross Country Skiers.

At the same meeting the proposal to "open the door" to new Worldloppet Members was accepted and at this time there are lot of contacts with possible candidates - Bieg Piastow from Poland; Christmas Marathon and Prazdnik Severa via Russian Ski Federation. Most probably these races will be presented at the annual meeting in 2008 in Mora (SWE).

The present Secretary General wishes to use all the possibilities of the digital era: to publish live results in the web, introduce virtual Worldloppet passport and web based communication forum for making friends and information exchange between participants.

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It is a huge piece of luck for me to experience this period in two different roles: that of Secretary General and that of skier at various Worldloppet races.

Living these experiences "from the inside" allowed me throughout all these years to make numerous improvements and simplifications in the traditional routine work of the Secretary and in the necessary general strategies, too. It is useless to list all these improvements in this moment, but maybe it is important to underline the most significant one, which gave the possibility to all masters to communicate in real time with the headquarters, to order new passports and their well-earned diplomas/certificates using their credit cards easily at home.

With the help of my sons Denis and Luca, I worked hard in order to make the public database of our web www.worldloppet.com efficient: our site is now a real "giant", with more than 230.000 names and 1.000.000 results available on-line.

I have often taken the liberty of making some suggestions or giving some advice about some little organising modifications for various single races; these improvements and modifications were almost always accepted, exclusively in the perspective of the interest and convenience of our indispensable Worldloppet passport holders and Masters.

*Angelo Corradini
Secretary General of Wordloppet 2004-2008
Predazzo, Italy*

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THE FURTHER EXPANSION OF WORLDLOPPET

Tony Wise's idea, that one day Worldloppet could have a race in each FIS member country, has become utopic. Firstly, cross country skiing is not popular in some of them and secondly and what is the most important, it is difficult to organise a high level marathon that faces the international requirements.

Tony Wise thought that Worldloppet would become real Worldloppet when all the continents are represented. The organisation has widely expanded since its establishment. Within recent years no new serious candidates have appeared. The initial pace of expansion: one new member after every 5 years is slowing down, although from the Central European and Russian long time candidates some have made remarkable steps forward. Within years, the following marathons have showed their interest:

- a) Biela Stopa (Slovakia);
- b) Bieg Piastow (Poland);
- c) Prazdnik Severa (Russia);
- d) Toxovo Skimarathon (Russia);
- e) Christmas Maraton (Russia);
- f) Fossavatn Ski Marathon (Iceland)
- g) Different marathons from New Zealand, Argentina, Chile, China and Spain.

Central European marathons, Prazdnik Severa of Russia and Paddy Pallin of Australia had already put up their candidature in 1984. The poor snow conditions in the beginning of the 1990s and in 2000-2002 decreased the participation numbers and changes in some marathons' organising committees decreased their level of organisation. For Russian marathons there are two major obstacles in addition to the requirements: a visa is needed for entering Russia and it makes travelling more complicated; there are several equal level candidates from this country and the Russian ski authorities will have to decide, which one to favour.

The interest of Central European marathons has not disappeared. At the 2005 meeting Madis Lepajõe suggested bigger Worldloppet races to offer their patronage to the candidates and support them with their experiences to help them to reach the needed level of organisation. Madis Lepajõe believes that new members and the verifying of mentors will give everyone new developmental possibilities.

Another important dimension of expansion is the race calendar, which is now almost full, the only free weekends are in December, the first weekend of January and the beginning of April. A marathon from a southern hemisphere country would be a perfect choice. Right now 6 races share 3 weekends: La Transjurassienne and Sapporo International Ski Marathon are on the second weekend of February, Tartu Maraton and Keskinada Loppet take place on the third weekend of February and the fourth weekend is for Finlandia-hiihto and American Birkebeiner.

In 2003 Vasaloppet entered a new market for skiers – China – and helped to work up a new race – China Vasaloppet, which takes place in Changchun on the first weekend of January. These days the skiers over there still learn to ski, but the interest is remarkable. With the support and help from Vasaloppet this race may become a serious candidate to the Worldloppet.

In 2006 Paddy Field suggested working out a liaison between Worldloppet races and neighbouring marathons. Being in the same ranking with Worldloppet helps the candidate races to prepare for the needed level of organisation (for example Asian Cup consisting of Sapporo International Ski Marathon from Japan as a Worldloppet race, Kamchatka's Avatchinski Maraton from Russialoppet and China Vasaloppet).

One way of expansion is the addition of new distances from the middle of the 1990s. There were 9 races at the beginning, but now it consists of 40 different distances although only 5 new main races have been included. Different distances have been included just to fulfil the wishes of skiers with different training level.

Paddy Field: "Worldloppet may already be close to its optimal size and additional members may ruin the series' spirit. From some point the organisation may become even uncontrollable. But closing the doors for the rest of the world may also cause a static development. Still if a marathon fills the requirements, it must have something to offer to the organisation as a whole and also bring something new to other members."



Madis Lepajõe handing over the work of Secretary General to Angelo Corradini. AGM 2004 in Sapporo, JPN



The negotiations between Jörgen Aukland and Carla Braitto

The organisation of Worldloppet

MAIN PRINCIPLES

The idea of Worldloppet is to promote cross-country skiing by organising quality long-distance popular races throughout the world. These events should also promote friendship among skiers of different nations, thereby strengthening peace in the world. The organisation must recognise the most dedicated long distance cross-country skiers, who have completed the required number of Worldloppet races during their lifetime and have become Worldloppet Masters.

According to the Constitution, the role of the organisation is to supervise and coordinate the provision of well-organised races. The two next most important tasks are: the selling of Worldloppet passports to the skiers to be stamped for each completed race, as a confirmation of the completion of the race, and as an attractive memento of the race for each participant; and the awarding of medals of merit to Worldloppet Masters, in order to recognise that the skier has fulfilled all the requirements of a Worldloppet Master.

Worldloppet stands also for encouraging elite cross-country skiers to participate in Worldloppet races and to determine annually, in cooperation with FIS, the best long-distance cross country skiers in the world.

The members of the association shall be legal entities which organise long-distance cross-country races. Only one and the best marathon from each country can be a member of Worldloppet and its candidature must be approved by the national federation. The candidate must meet the following minimum requirements started in the "Worldloppet Rules and Regulations":

- The distance of the main race must be longer than 50 km. Races that are held at an altitude higher than 1500 m above sea level, must be at least 42 km long.
- The marathon must have taken place for at least three years in a row before the candidature.
- The total number of skiers participating in and completing the entire distance of the main race must have exceeded 1,000 in each of at least 3 previous years. However, the Worldloppet General Meeting may take well founded exceptions, in order to promote cross-country skiing in that special geographical region.
- The date of the competition must be on a fixed annual date, but this date should not be in conflict (if possible) with an already established Worldloppet race.
- The race results must be recorded electronically.
- The organisers must be reachable throughout the year by mail or by phone; fax and Internet connection are also mandatory.
- It must be guaranteed that participants from all Worldloppet nations can participate in the race without having any problems with visa, admittance or difficulties in leaving the country.

The applicant shall be an organiser of a traditional long-distance cross-country skiing race in its country that has gained sufficient popularity among local skiers. New members shall be admitted on the condition that

they demonstrate as high standards in organising long-distance races as the founders, and do not have permanent financial difficulties.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM)

All members of the Worldloppet meet once a year (usually in June) to conclude the previous season at the Annual General Meeting. The AGM is the highest body of the organisation. It is competent to adopt resolutions if at least two-thirds of the members of the association are present. Only a member of Worldloppet has the right to participate in the AGM. Each member of the association has one vote.

The members report their annual innovations and achievements there. The Secretary General gives a review of FIS Marathon Cup, new masters and passport owners, financial issues. He may also make suggestions for placing on the agenda different subjects within the competence of the AGM (admitting of new members, choosing a new Secretary General, amending the Constitution and Rules, establishing membership fees, approval of Executive Committee members, approval of budget, verifying the calendar and the place of next year's AGM). Additionally a Race Management Seminar for organisers takes place during the AGM. It is a seminar for discussing different subjects of high-level organisation (reviewing timing systems, anti-doping, regional co-operation of different races, media work, and environmental issues). The AGM is organised by members in rotation. The members participating in an AGM shall approve the country and proposed time of the AGM to take place in two years' time by simple majority.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

During the years 1987-1994 the organisation worked in so called "sub-committees"; the members of those were chosen according to the current issues needing to have proposals for the next AGM. For example the working groups in 1987 were as follows:

- The committee of the yearbook that had to elaborate the structure of next year's yearbook;
- The committee of sponsorship that had to work for finding sponsors to the organisation;
- The committee of Worldloppet passports that had to elaborate strategies for promoting the sell of passports;
- The committee of rules that had to draft the changes in the statutes to be confirmed at the AGM.

The need for this kind of division of work became apparent because of the long periods between meetings and the wish to use the time at the meetings more effectively.

On Tom Duffy's suggestion, the Worldloppet Executive Committee (EC) was established in 1994. The Executive Committee supervises, supports and assists the Secretary General and is an advisory body for the AGM.

The EC has three members who are not elected to the office but are appointed by the members of the association from the regions as follows:

- 1) North European races: Vasaloppet (SWE), Finlandia-hiihto (FIN), Birkebeinerrennet (NOR), Tartu Maraton (EST);
- 2) Central European races: Jizerska Padesatka (CZE), Dolomitenlauf (AUT), Marcialonga (ITA), König Ludwig Lauf (GER), La Transjurassienne (FRA), Engadin Skimarathon (SUI);
- 3) Overseas races: American Birkebeiner (USA), Keskinada Loppet (CAN), Sapporo International Ski Marathon (JPN), Kangaroo Hoppet (AUS).

Each region chooses its representative to the EC for four years. A principle is applied that changing of the membership shall take place two years after the election of the Secretary General.

The first members of the EC were Hans Eriksson (SWE) from North Europe, Angelo Corradini (ITA) from Central-Europe and Tom Duffy (USA) from the overseas marathons. These committee members stayed the same until the AGM in 2004 where Angelo Corradini was chosen to be the Secretary General and Thomas Nowak (GER) took his place to represent Central-European races.

The EC meets a couple of times within a year and its main function is to discuss suggestions made to Worldloppet and to discuss proposals for further actions. The EC decides whether a suggestion is worth debating at the AGM and each member determines the opinion of the other races in his region to present to the meetings of the EC. The Secretary General also takes part in those meetings as all decisions must be communicated to the member marathons by the Secretary General.

One important area of work for the EC is the FIS Marathon Cup, its rules and calendar. All decisions are made in consultancy with FIS and usually the



Executive Committee meeting in Mora 2004: Tom Duffy, Kairis Leinus-Ulp, Angelo Corradini, Monica Eriksson, Patrick Field, Hans Eriksson, Madis Lepajõe

WORLDLOPPET ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS 1978 – 2007

Year	Country	Location	Time	Chairman
1978	SWE	Uppsala	10.06.1978	Tony Wise
1979	GER	München	08.06.1979	Tony Wise
1980	CAN	Ottawa	01.-03.05.1980	Tony Wise
1981	FIN	Helsinki	11.-13.06.1981	Kurt Lindholm
1982	SUI	St. Moritz	09.-12.06.1982	Claudio Chiogna
1983	NOR	Lillehammer	10.-11.06.1983	Claudio Chiogna
1984	AUT	Lienz	14.-17.06.1984	Claudio Chiogna
1985	ITA	Cavalese	06.09.06.1985	Claudio Chiogna
1986	SWE	Mora	11.-14.06.1986	Kurt Lindholm
1987	FRA	Les Rousses	03.-06.06.1987	Claudio Chiogna
1988	USA	Hayward/Cable	16.-18.06.1988	Claudio Chiogna
1989	JPN	Sapporo	15.-17.06.1989	Claudio Chiogna
1990	FIN	Hämeenlinna	15.-17.06.1990	Claudio Chiogna
1990 Extra meeting	GER	München	03.11.1990	Rolf Kjaernsli
1991	GER	Oberammergau	12.-14.06.1991	Claudio Chiogna
1992	AUT	Vienna	25.-27.06.1992	Claudio Chiogna
1993	AUS	Melbourne	31.08.-01.09.1993	Claudio Chiogna
1994	NOR	Lillehammer	27.-28.06.1994	Eugen Peter
1995	CAN	Hull	09.-11.06.1995	Claudio Chiogna
1996	SWE	Mora	06.-09.06.1996	Claudio Chiogna
1997	EST	Tartu	06.-08.06.1997	Claudio Chiogna
1998	SUI	Pontresina	12.-14.06.1998	Claudio Chiogna
1999	USA	Hayward	11.-14.06.1999	Arne Andersson
2000	ITA	Predazzo	19.-21.05.2000	Arne Andersson
2001	FRA	Morez	09.-11.06.2001	Eugen Peter
2002	FIN	Lahti	14.-15.06.2002	Arne Andersson
2003	CZE	Liberec	13.-14.06.2003	Eugen Peter
2004	JPN	Sapporo	13.-14.06.2004	Angelo Corradini
2005	GER	Oberammergau	17.-19.06.2005	Madis Lepajõe
2006	AUT	Lienz	16.-17.06.2006	Paddy Field
2007	NOR	Hurtigruten	14.-18.06.2007	Thomas Nowak

Chairman of the FIS Committee for Popular Cross-Country is invited and present on EC meetings.

Since 1999 the Executive Committee has become more and more important as the Secretary General Madis Lepajõe kept the committee posted about member marathons and asked for its judgement on problems that had appeared.

The importance of the EC rose in August 2001 in connection with the registration of Worldloppet as a corporate body: non-profit association Worldloppet Ski Federation. It brought along the responsibility of the financial side of the organisation and expanded the EC rights of decisions.

WORLDLOPPET YEARBOOK

Since October 1980, the yearbook that covers the coming season of Worldloppet is published. This yearbook has become a bible for travelling cross country skiers as the only printed material about Worldloppet so far.

Each member marathon has one page for promoting their upcoming race, the programme and registration, contacts etc. The yearbook also includes a calendar for the coming season and a summary of the previous season. As this magazine is posted to all passport owners it has been the main source of information for them. For the past 10 years the names of all new Masters are also printed in this yearbook..

The changes in new marketing purposes, information sharing on the Internet and media outputs have raised Worldloppet's need to make the yearbook look more attractive and journalistic. This is connected with informing new skiers about the series and bringing them to the Worldloppet races more than for old clients as they already know where to find information (marathons' internet websites).

RACE CALENDAR

Each marathon has its certain weekend in the competition calendar from the moment of joining Worldloppet. According to the rules the race dates should not coincide. In 2006 La Transjurassienne and Tartu Maraton exchanged their dates hoping to simplify the trips of skiers who have decided to participate in as many Northern Worldloppet marathons as possible during one winter.

The calendar is confirmed at the AGM two years in advance. From time to time races have regularly changed their weekends mostly because of

some other big competition that takes place in the same area (for example in 2002 when there was a World Championships in Lahti, Finlandia-hiihto had to exchange its date with Tartu Maraton). The coordination of the race calendar has been a problem from the beginning of the series because of overlapping dates. The ideal would be if each race took place on in its own weekend, to avoid competition inside the series. Having a suitable date and a marathon's flexibility to change the date according to the series' needs is one of the most important criteria for widening negotiation later on.

PARTICIPANTS

Looking "only" 30 years back, to ski 50, 70 or 90 km in one day was for a "normal" skier a Superman task. The first popular skiers who went to Scandinavia in the 60s to ski the long distance races, were regarded as heroes back at home! Women were not allowed to participate in most of the races at least until middle of 70s. The maximum FIS racing distance was 50 km.

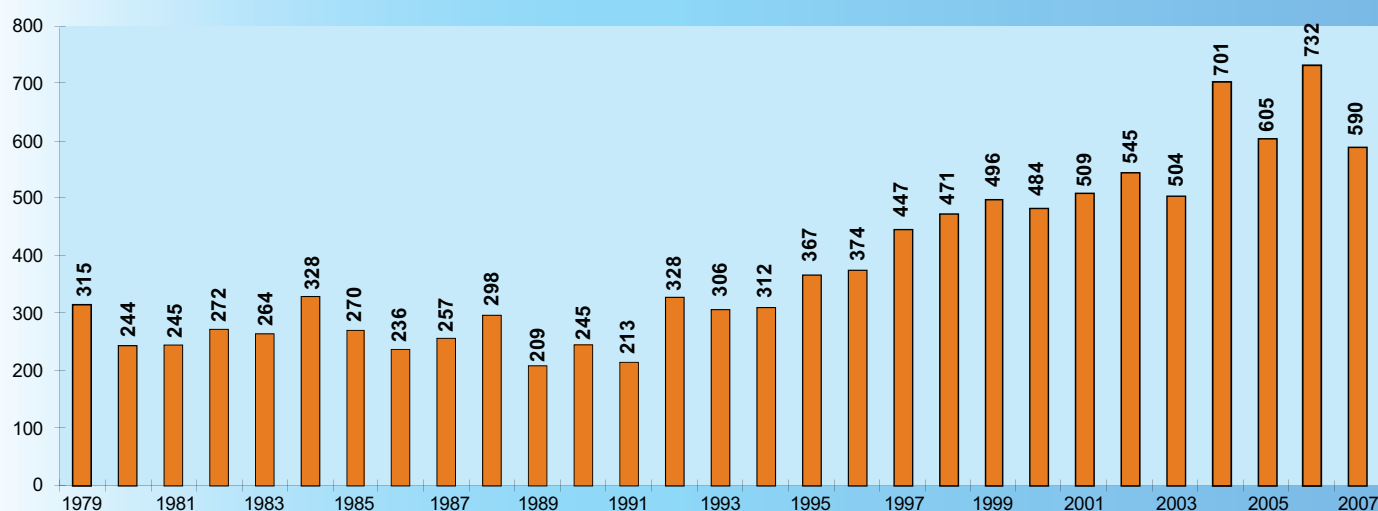
Today an average popular skier with a minimum of training is able to ski through the finish line of a ski marathon with an average speed of 10 km per an hour.

Looking at the age statistics we can see today happy "girls and boys" over the age of 80 finishing in a good time and good shape in long distance races! The main reason is not only the result of the much better skis, poles, shoes, energy foods and better prepared ski tracks, but most probably it is a new way of life, a different mentality, much more free time than in the past and a much better general health and financial situation all over the world. For example the average of age of participants in the Worldloppet races in 1973 (men and women together) was 34 years, now 30 years later, it has grown to 45.

In recent years about 90,000 skiers have taken part in the Worldloppet calendar races in each year. In the season of 2006 a new record was established: 99,411 participants! Looking at the change in the participation numbers over the seasons the picture is pleasant: the number is growing annually. In some seasons poor snow conditions caused only temporary relapses: the hardest year for skiers and organisers was in 1990 when 5 races did not take place. In 2000 three marathons, in 2002 two and in 2007 four marathons were cancelled due to lack of snow.

The addition of short races in the 1990s has had a positive influence on the Worldloppet. The fear that many long distance skiers would choose an

Worldloppet passport holders increase per year 1979-2007



easier way and specialise in the short races was baseless. Short races have become a good start platform for new long distance cross country skiers.

WORLDLOPPET PASSPORT AND MASTER TITLES

From the beginning of Worldloppet, the main motivation for skiers to take part in different marathons is to own a Worldloppet passport and the wish to achieve the Worldloppet Master title. It can be said that a Worldloppet passport is the base of these series.

The Worldloppet passport is a notebook in a passport format, in which each race has a page. After the competition a marathon skier gets the result and stamp put on the page of the relevant race by the event secretariat. Each skier who has purchased the passport and has participated in 10 different marathons (including one overseas) out of 14, earns a Worldloppet Gold Master Title. To receive this title the passport owner must send the passport to the Worldloppet headquarters. It is also possible to receive a Worldloppet Silver master title for which 10 short races must be finished (or also 10 races including 1 or more short races). At the beginning when there were only 9 marathons in the series or 10 later, all of them had to be finished to receive the title. The passport's point is to be a control mechanism of results and also a notebook for results. Nowadays when most of the results are reachable on the internet (since 2001 mostly), the passport still remained as a document for recording the results. There are several skiers who own more than one passport and having all races fixed together helps to keep achievements in systematic order. To avoid any confusion over the results, these are checked from the database by the Secretary General's Office before issuing the Master title.

Owning a Worldloppet passport is like belonging to a club, the so called Worldloppet Skiers Family. When buying a passport, each skier gets a pin which they proudly wear and at the trips to the various marathons, it makes it much easier for a passport owner to recognise other people with the same interests. Although the registration and seeding have different rules for each marathon, passport owners usually get better start numbers according to their previous marathons.

Worldloppet passports are available at the headquarters, at the race offices and via the Internet. As the passport is timeless, the owners do not have any time limit which makes it possible for every skier to achieve a Worldloppet Master title. Of course it is impossible to race without being in good physical shape, so the passport also motivates skiers who want the Master title to take part in sport and to live healthily. Participating in some Worldloppet races may cause "skiing addiction" and another potential Master is born.

The first Worldloppet passports to be sold were posted (for US\$ 2) on December 29th, 1978 – before the first season. By the end of that season on May 29th, 1979, the number of passport owners was already 315 (115 Americans). Then the price of a passport was raised to US\$ 10. The number of passports has been growing annually for last 27 years. Between 1979 and 1988, 2729 passports were sold; 1989-1998 already showed a number of 3272. But now, the time of 1999 – 2007 has added already 5166 new passport owners. As the growth is constantly ascending it can be concluded that Worldloppet is important and popular among cross-country skiers.

With the data from May 31st 2007, Worldloppet has 9790 passport owners (11167 passports issued) from 45 countries. The list of Worldloppet Masters consisted of 2127 names (2462 titles). As most of the passport owners have not yet become Masters, Worldloppet races are guaranteed a lot of potential skiers also for the coming seasons.

Already during the first season of Worldloppet the organisers of the American Birkebeiner managed to promote the series so much that 3 married

Worldloppet calendar 2008

Worldloppet main races 2007/2008 - valid for recognition as a Worldloppet Gold Master

Date	Race name	Distance	Techn	Country
25.08.07	KANGAROO HOPPET	42 KM	FT	AUS
13.01.08	JIZERSKÁ PADEŠÁTKA 50: PATRIA DIRECT	50 Km	CT	CZE
19.01.08	DOLOMITENLAUF: Classic R. Obertilliach	42 Km	CT	AUT
20.01.08	DOLOMITENLAUF	60 Km	FT	
27.01.08	MARCIALONGA	70 Km	CT	ITA
02.02.08	KÖNIG LUDWIG LAUF	50 Km	FT	GER
03.02.08	KÖNIG LUDWIG LAUF	50 Km	CT	
09.02.08	LA TRANSJURASSIENNE: La Transju'Classic	50 Km	CT	FRA
10.02.08	LA TRANSJURASSIENNE	54 Km	FT	
10.02.08	LA TRANSJURASSIENNE	76 Km	FT	
10.02.08	SAPPORO INTERNATIONAL SKI MARATHON	50 Km	FT	JPN
10.02.08	TARTU MARATON: Open Track	63 Km	FT	EST
17.02.08	TARTU MARATON	63 Km	CT	
16.02.08	GATINEAU LOPPET	53 Km	CT	CAN
17.02.08	GATINEAU LOPPET	53 Km	FT	
23.02.08	AMERICAN BIRKEBEINER	51 Km	FT	USA
23.02.08	FINLANDIA- HIIHTO	62 Km	CT	FIN
24.02.08	FINLANDIA- HIIHTO	50 Km	FT	
24.02.08	VASALOPPET: Oppet Spar	90 Km	CT	SWE
25.02.08	VASALOPPET: Oppet Spar	90 Km	CT	
02.03.08	VASALOPPET	90 Km	CT	
09.03.08	ENGADIN SKIMARATHON	42 Km	FT	SUI
15.03.08	BIRKEBEINERRENNET	54 Km	CT	NOR

■ - FIS Marathon Cup 2007/2008 race

Number of Worldloppet Passports and Master titles issued and number of Worldloppet Passport holders and Masters by countries

	Passports	Passport holders	Master titles	Masters	Multiple Masters	Silver Masters
TOTAL	11167	9790	2462	2127	190	41
USA	1564	1419	176	159	12	4
GERMANY	1401	1254	426	381	30	3
SWITZERLAND	1031	907	346	299	19	
ITALY	1004	895	183	164	10	1
NORWAY	838	764	169	160	5	2
FINLAND	737	637	206	183	15	4
SWEDEN	696	606	157	140	10	1
RUSSIA	671	556	127	106	14	5
CANADA	509	475	58	52	1	1
FRANCE	500	408	127	90	12	2
JAPAN	333	284	46	34	7	3
AUSTRALIA	295	252	59	48	9	7
ESTONIA	294	252	52	44	8	
GREAT BRITAIN	215	193	29	24	4	4
AUSTRIA	178	162	57	53	4	3
CZECH REPUBLIC	178	145	54	45	5	
SLOVENIA	129	99	60	49	8	
SPAIN	99	84	10	10		
POLAND	75	55	18	14	3	
SLOVAKIA	72	52	23	19	4	
NETHERLANDS	63	53	15	10	2	1
BELGIUM	41	36	12	10	1	
DENMARK	38	26	13	9	2	
LUXEMBOURG	26	19	13	8	3	
LATVIA	24	23	5	5		
ISRAEL	23	4	12	2	2	
ICELAND	11	11				
NEW ZEALAND	10	10	2	2		
HUNGARY	8	8	4	4		
ANDORRA	5	4				
BELARUS	4	4				
PORTUGAL	4	3				
IRELAND	3	2				
LIECHTENSTEIN	3	3				
LITHUANIA	3	3	1	1		
CHINA	2	2				
ARGENTINA	1	1				
CROATIA	1	1				
ECUADOR	1	1				
GREENLAND	1	1				
HONG KONG	1	1				
MALAYSIA	1	1				
NEDERLAND	1	1				
UKRAINE	1	1				
VENEZUELA	1	1				



Worldloppet Silver Master Medal

couples informed them of their plan to participate in seven races out of nine and in 1980 to achieve the Master title with the smallest possible numbers. Also media, flying companies and travel agencies showed their interest in the new series. One of those three couples was T. Duffy, one of the present members of the EC, with his wife Carol.

Not only was the Master title important to skiers but also the ordinal number of it. The number written on the medal is a prestigious additive and is important to the owner informatively as it is known which numbers were given in which year. Often the skiers who have already got one title want to get another with a certain number. In these cases they can express their wish to the General Secretariat where each case is decided individually. With a medal the Master also gets a personalised prestigious diploma in A3 format and a Master pin.

Usually each race has in its programme a reception for Worldloppet Masters. These kinds of meetings are the main places for Masters to get together. The names of new Masters are printed in a list in the Worldloppet Yearbook which is published annually.

The International Association of Worldloppet Skiers (IAWLS), registered in 2005, which unites more than 200 of the most active marathon skiers suggested to Worldloppet in the autumn of 2005 to introduce the new title: Global Worldloppet Skier (GWLS), to recognise once those who have taken part in all 14 Worldloppet races. This new title was confirmed by the AGM in summer of 2007.

GWLS is meant to be a new feature, a new prestigious goal to endeavour for the most dedicated competitors. If new races are introduced in the future, they will be added to the required races. There will be no new medal or pin but a diploma and an alphabetical list of GWLS on the Worldloppet website. After each name, the year in which the GWLS was obtained will show how many WL races were involved. The first year for which the recognition is awarded is the year 2000 (inclusion of the last race - Jizerská Padesátka).

The GWLS title does not compete with the WL Master system. When a skier has obtained his/her first Master, the next goal can be to ski the 4 races not included in the Master, and become a GWLS. When a skier has obtained 10 stamps in a passport, the passport is invalidated. For the GWLS it is not necessary to revalidate and amalgamate passports. The skier must send simply the dates, times and placements in the 14 races to the General Secretariat Office which will issue to the skier a new prestigious diploma without any payments or further formalities.



Worldloppet Gold
Master Medal

IAWLS is an association uniting long-distance ski fanatics: it has many multiple (up to 15 times) Worldloppet Masters and they have priceless experiences which they kindly share on their website <http://www.worldloppetskier.com/>. These association members have a wealth of information about their experiences which is very useful for beginners who are just starting their careers.

Worldloppet calendar 2008

Worldloppet short races 2007/2008 - Valid for recognition as a Worldloppet Silver Master

Date	Race name	Distance	Techn	Country
25.08.07	KANGAROO HOPPET: Australian Birkebeiner	21 Km	FT	AUS
11.01.08	JIZERSKÁ PADESÁTKA 50: BEDRICHOVSKA 30	30 Km	FT	CZE
13.01.08	JIZERSKÁ PADESÁTKA 50: PATRIA DIRECT Short	25 Km	CT	
20.01.08	DOLOMITENLAUF: Lienz Lauf	25 Km	FT	AUT
24.01.08	MARCIALONGA: Lavazelloppet	22 Km	CT	ITA
27.01.08	MARCIALONGA: Marcialonga LIGHT	45 Km	CT	
02.02.08	KÖNIG LUDWIG LAUF	23 Km	FT	GER
03.02.08	KÖNIG LUDWIG LAUF	23 Km	CT	
09.02.08	LA TRANSJURASSIENNE: La MiniTrans	25 Km	CT	FRA
10.02.08	SAPPORO INTERNATIONAL SKI MARATHON	25 Km	FT	JPN
10.02.08	TARTU MARATON: Open Track	31 Km	FT	EST
17.02.08	TARTU MARATON: Short Race	31 Km	CT	
16.02.08	GATINEAU LOPPET	29 Km	CT	CAN
17.02.08	GATINEAU LOPPET	29 Km	FT	
23.02.08	AMERICAN BIRKEBEINER: Kortelloppet	23 Km	FT	USA
23.02.08	FINLANDIA- HIIHTO	32 Km	CT	FIN
22.02.08	VASALOPPET: Kortvasan	30 Km	CT	SWE
23.02.08	VASALOPPET: TjeiVasan *	30 Km	CT	
26.02.08	VASALOPPET: HalvVasan	45 Km	CT	
29.02.08	VASALOPPET: SkejtVasan	30 / 45 Km	FT	
02.03.08	ENGADIN SKIMARATHON: EngadinerFrauenlauf *	17 Km	FT	SUI
09.03.08	ENGADIN SKIMARATHON: HALBMARATHON	21 Km	FT	

* - For women only

Worldloppet Multiple Masters

15 X WORLDLOPPET MASTERS

HANNES LARSSON, FRA

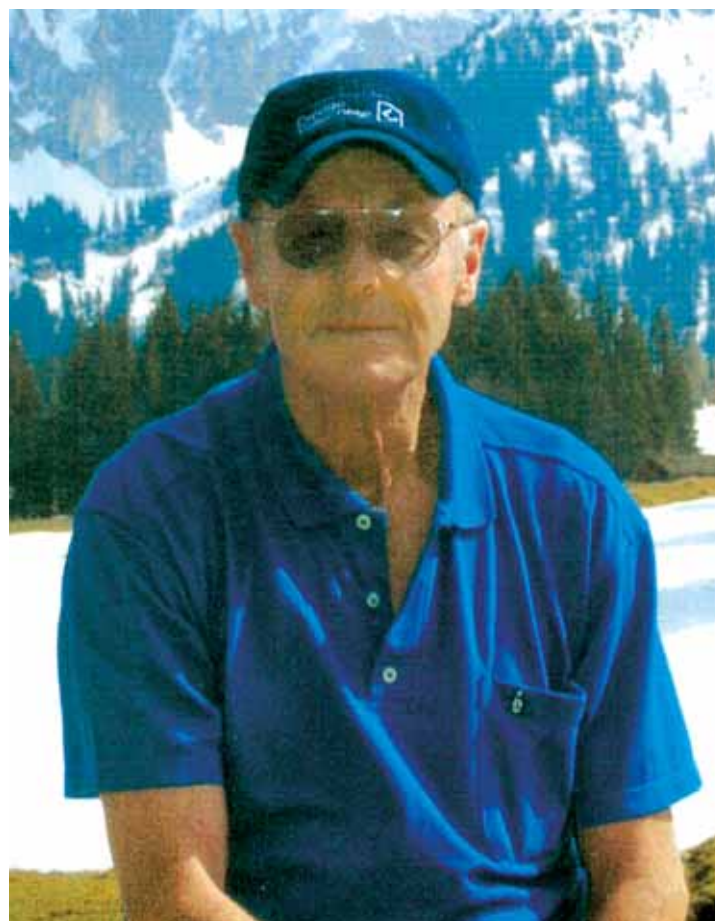
I started skiing when I was just under 3 years, in my home town Nokia. After some years of mainly alpine skiing, I restarted XC skiing seriously when I moved to northern Italy in 1976. The following year I skied Dolomitenlauf (indescribable euphoria when I crossed the finish line!) and Marcialonga, then every year at least the 5-race Euroloppet. In 1995 I skied Kangaroo Hoppet and in 1996 I got my first Worldloppet Master. Japan had to wait until 1997, Canada and USA until 1998.

Step by step I got the Worldloppet fever. The WL Master achievement is worth more than an Olympic gold which involves only one victory, whereas the Master has to be victorious in 10 races (over him/herself, according to the famous Dolomitenlauf motto). In 2007 I got my 15th Master.

Skiing every week-end one or two WL races is never boring because of the variety of races. Even in the same race the snow conditions are different from year to year. There are 14 venues and only 11 week-ends, so one can make a different program every season.

XC skiing is the best of all sports; it exercises every muscle and keeps you fit. In the WL circuit I find a motivation to train during the endless summer. And an ever-widening circle of friends from all around the world. A fitting aphorism is "XC skiers are nice guys!"

Hannes Larsson



JAN JASIEWICZ, SUI

I graduated as an engineer in electricity as well as later in process control and information systems.

During the Olympic Winter Games in Cortina D'Ampezzo I raced for Poland in the alpine disciplines. I have also participated twice in Academic World Championships.

In the 1970s I joined an American company and had to travel to many countries as a consultant.

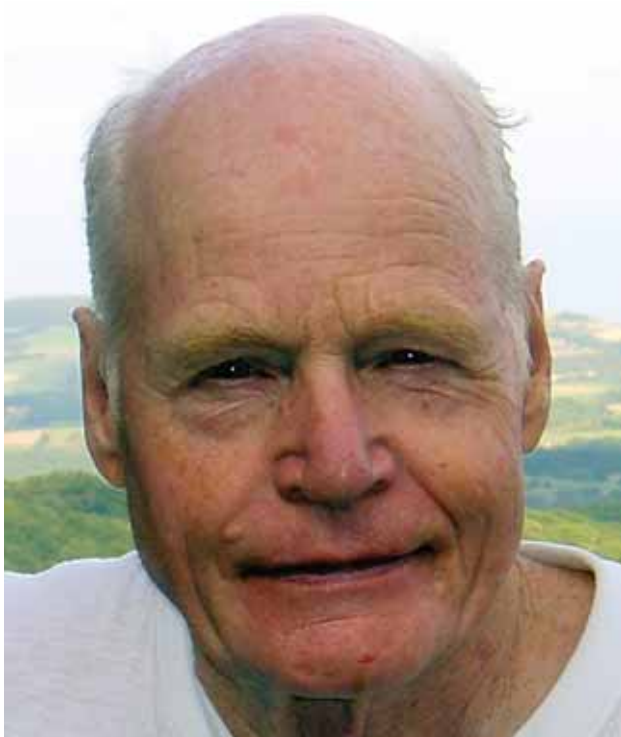
Living mostly in Switzerland my passion became mountain climbing, including the peaks of Everest (4 summit attempts but none successful) and Mc Kinley. I conquered at least 30 volcanoes in the South-America, Ruwenzori and Kilimanjaro in Africa. In Europe I have climbed more than 40 summits above 4000 meters including Elbrus.

Traveling is my next passion which has brought me to 142 countries.

I still practise the leisure sport of cross country skiing and up to now I have participated in more than 400 ski races at different distances.

I will be happy if I can continue to participate in Worldloppet races in the future.

Jan Jasiewicz



5 X WORLDLOPPET MASTERS

BLANKA NEDVEDICKA, CZE

LIUDMILA KOLOBANOVA, RUS

I was born in July 19, 1944 in Ustue, Tverskoy region, Russia.

Our school paid great attention to sport and to a healthy way of life. At the age of 7 I participated in my first ski competition and won my first award. I also went in for skating, athletics, shooting, chess and cycling. After school I graduated from technical college and university but I never gave up sport.

After injuring my spine I learned to go and run for the second time. After recovery in 1988, I ran my first marathon in Moscow. I have participated in more than 50 running marathons up to today.

I have government awards for my work and for sport. At the moment I am a sport reviewer of newspapers "Reut" and "Moscow youth". At the end of March 2007 I realised my dream - I skied the "Laponia-Hiihto" which has a total length of 190 km. My next goals are to ski in Australia and to run on the route of the Marcialonga.

I would like to thank the mayor of our town, Mr. A. N. Hodirev and my friends for their help and financial support. I wish health and success to all sportsmen on the ski track and in their lives.

Liudmila Kolobanova



Blanka Nedvedicka

15 X WORLDLOPPET MASTERS

LARSSON HANNES	FRA
JASIEWICZ JAN	SUI

10 X WORLDLOPPET MASTERS

VADLEJCH JAN	ISR
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8 X WORLDLOPPET MASTERS

FREI BRUNO EMIL	SUI
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7 X WORLDLOPPET MASTERS

PALLISER ROBERT	CAN
AMPEZZAN CORRADO	ITA

6 X WORLDLOPPET MASTERS

HERRMANN KONRAD	GER
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5 X WORLDLOPPET MASTERS

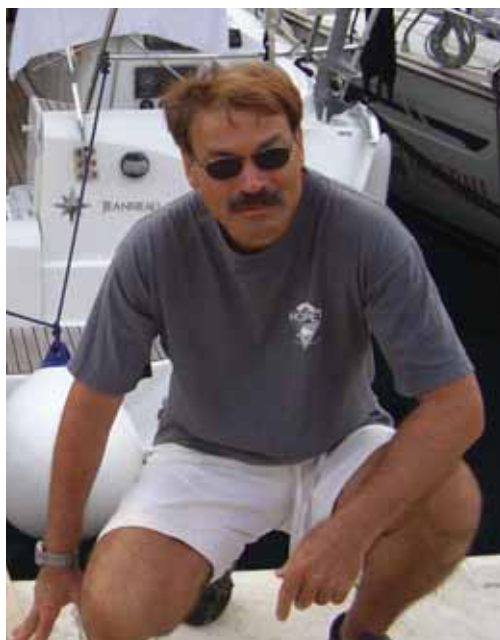
KNÜSEL MARKUS	SUI
KOLOBANOVA LIUDMILA	RUS
KÖRNER WERNER	GER
LARSSON EINAR	FIN
NARDELLI PAOLO	ITA
NEDVEDICKA BLANKA	CZE
PETROFF BORIS	FRA
SULSTERS ADRIANUS	NED
VIRY ANDRE	FRA



Liudmila Kolobanova

10 X WORLDLOPPET MASTERS

JAN VADLEJCH, ISR



7X WORLDLOPPET MASTERS



CORRADO AMPEZZAN, ITA



ROBERT PALLISER, CAN

"In the middle 80s I discovered together with a couple of friends, the Worldloppet series. At this time it was a really outrageous and big adventure just to think about skiing the 70km long Marcialonga. Thinking about this race, I had a kind of tension accompanying me all winter and for some nights before the start I slept only for a few moments.

In those years I participated only in one skimarathon, maximum two, in each winter, but now I ski one almost every weekend.

I am very happy that I have chosen Worldloppet for my hobby. Without this sport I would never have seen so many parts of the world and would not have so many friends. In Australia, France, USA, Finland, Japan and Norway: there are hospitable friends with the same interest waiting for me and they are always welcome also at my home.

*I hope to continue this way of life for a long time.
Corrado Ampezzan"*

8 X WORLDLOPPET MASTERS

BRUNO EMIL FREI, SUI



KONRAD HERRMANN, GER

5 X WORLDLOPPET MASTERS



WERNER KÖRNER, GER



EINAR LARSSON, FIN



PAOLO NARDELLI, ITA



ADRIANUS SULSTERS, NED

4 X WORLDLOPPET MASTERS

FIELD HILARY, GBR
HITZ URS, SUI
KARLSSON BENGT, USA
KVALE JORGEN, NOR
KVÄLE STEINAR, NOR
MATSUYAMA MINORU, JPN
MONTGERMONT DANIEL, FRA
POUX JEAN, FRA
RES JAKOB, SLO
SASAKI MUNEQ, JPN
SCHUMAKER ROGER, USA
SEGEFJÄLL ÖSTEN, SWE
SIEVÄNEN ASKO, FIN
URUSOV RAVIL, RUS
WIEZOREK KLAUS-DIETER, GER

3 X WORLDLOPPET MASTERS

ADDISON COLIN, AUS
ARNESSEN ARNE, NOR
BALLESTER WOLFGANG, GER
BEHM TERHO, SWE
BENDELI NICOLAS, AUS
BRANC MARIJAN, SLO
COURTINE HERVE', FRA
DASEK MIROSLAV, CZE
FILLINGER JOACHIM, GER
GIGER ANDRE, SUI
GIOVANETTINA SILVANO, SUI
GOLOUBKOV LEONID, RUS
GORODETSKIY SERGEY, RUS
HAGNÄS LARS WILLIAM, FIN
HAZARD ANDRE' CAMILLE, BEL
HELLMANN RALF, GER
HILSKA ASTA, FIN
HUBER THOMAS, GER
JOHANSSON LENNART, SWE
KALMO KARL, DEN
KALMO STIG, DEN
LILLIEROTH GUNNAR, SWE
MARCHAND DENIS, FRA
MÜLLER OTTO ADOLF, GER
PANICHELLA GASTONE, ITA
POPP HEINRICH, GER
RÄÄF JOHNNY, SWE
RIGOZZI AUGUSTO, SUI
RINCK ROMAIN, LUX
RUTSCHMANN PAUL, SUI
SARRING GUNNAR, SWE
SATSUMA SHOJI, JPN
SNICKARS GUSTAV, FIN
STROGANOV YURY, RUS
SZKARLAT PIOTR, POL
WOLTER REINHOLD, GER

2 X WORLDLOPPET MASTERS

ALEV MADIS, EST
ANTIPANOVA RIMMA, RUS

BARNES JUDITH, AUS
BATCHKOEV GENNADY, RUS
BERGMANN AXEL, GER
BOBE RUDOLF, GER
BOHM ANDREAS, GER
BOUTERAON MICHEL, FRA
BRÄUNIG DR. PETER, GER
BRESCIANI VITO LUIGI, ITA
BUNDI MARC, SUI
CAVIET NANCY LUCIENNE, NED
CONDRAU BERNARD, SUI
CORRADINI ANGELO, ITA
DUFFY THOMAS, USA
DYAKOV PHILIPP, RUS
FEAKES DEBORAH, AUS
FEAKES WARREN, AUS
FIELD PATRICK, GBR
FITZI HANS, SUI
FRIEDRICH URSULA, GER
GOLUBKOVA LIoudMILLA, RUS
GRASSE KLAUS-DIETER, GER
GRUDEN SRECKO, SLO
HABANEK JOZEF, SVK
HABEGGER WERNER, SUI
HARJU TOIVO, SWE
HARTIG WALTER, GER
HARTMANN PAUL, SUI
HEIMANN RUEDI, SUI
HENIGMAN BENJAMIN, SLO
HENTTONEN RAIMO, FIN
HILLIS JEFF, USA
HOLKERI TAUNO, FIN
HÜTTER MANFRED, GER
HYDE DEREK THOMAS, GBR
ILIC STOJAN, SLO
ILMAKI AHTI RAIMO, USA
INKINEN LAURI, SWE
JÄRVISALO ERKKI, FIN
JENNY PETER, SUI
JOANBLANQ CHRISTOPHE, FRA
JOHANSSON STELLAN, SWE
JUST ALAR, EST
KAINULAINEN PEKKA, FIN
KALIWODA ALFRED, AUT
KAUHANEN RAIMO ILMARI, FIN
KIVILOO LEMBIT, EST
KIYOSHI FUGIMOTO, JPN
KLEJSZTA WIESLAW, POL
KOCHETOV VLADIMIR, RUS
KÖNIG GERD, GER
KORHONEN TOIVO, FIN
KURAMSHIN RAMIR, RUS
KUZMIN DANIEL, ISR
LEHRICH NORBERT, GER
LEPAJÖE MADIS, EST
LIE ARNE, NOR
LIKSOR AIVO, EST
LUPU GIAMPIERO, ITA
MAGAND GUY, FRA
MAHER DONALD, USA
MANIORA YONEL, LUX

MATARESE ROLAND, FRA
MATSUMUTO AIKO, JPN
MILANESE FRANCO, ITA
MILEWSKI LECH, AUS
MILLER JOHN, AUS
MLINAR JANEZ, SLO
MÜLLER EDMUND, GER
MÜNTZEL GÜNTER, GER
NAGL HELGA, AUT
NAGL LOIS, AUT
NARDELLI MARCO, ITA
NISULA TARMO, FIN
OKROUHLIK JIRI, CZE
ONDRYAS RADEK, CZE
OSSIG EDGAR, GER
PÄRNPUU RAIVO, EST
PASEMANN KLAUS, GER
PETROFF ISABELLE, FRA
PETROV ANDREY, RUS
PIVA MARIO, ITA
POULL WILLIAM, USA
PUHR JOHANN, AUT
PULLES JAANUS, EST
RAE ALAN, AUS
RAITIMO MARKKU, FIN
REDAELLI UGO, ITA
RICHTER HUBERTUS, GER
RODI ARVO, EST
ROHRER ALOIS, SUI
RUPNIK ROMAN, SLO
SATO TADASHI, JPN
SCHÄFER INGRID, GER
SCHALDENBRANDT JEAN-JACQUES, SUI
SCHMIDT GÜNTER, GER
SCHNAITER WOLFGANG, GER
SCHNEITER BRUNO, SUI
SCHWEINBERGER BERND, LUX
SEHNAL JOSEF, USA
SEIFFERT ULRICH, GER
SIRO JAROSLAV, SVK
STANICEK PAVOL, SVK
SULLIVAN MICHAEL, AUS
SUNDKVIST INGVALD, FIN
SVENNEBY OLA, NOR
SWANSON STEPHEN, USA
SWENSON HENRY, USA
TACHIBANA TSUTOMU, JPN
TALAS JAN, CZE
TCHERNOV VITALI, RUS
TEEVAN DENNIS B, GBR
TÜNNERMANN DIRK, GER
UUSITALO KAARLO, FIN
VALENT PETER, SVK
VANGENE ROBERT, USA
VAUHNİK VIKTOR, SLO
WADIN JACK, SWE
WIENER JAY, USA
WILLMAN JERZY, POL
ZHITENEV IVAN, RUS
ZUBER HARRY, SUI

Worldloppet Masters

(up to 31th May 2007)

0	SARRING GUNNAR	SWE	73	LIMA KJELL ERIK	NOR	146	HORNBERGER MANFRED	GER
1	DUFFY CAROL	USA	74	HOLLINGER JULES	SUI	147	MESSMER WERNER	SUI
2	POPP HEINRICH	GER	75	RODUNER-BODENMANN ROSETTE	SUI	148	FIELD HILARY	GBR
3	DUFFY THOMAS	USA	76	KARLSSON GORAN	SWE	149	DECK HERMANN	SUI
4	VANGENE ROBERT	USA	77	DILLITZER LUDWIG	GER	150	WALLENIUS PENTTI	FIN
5	WILLE EKKEHARD	GER	78	PRETZSCH HANS ULRICH	GER	151	KROG FINN	NOR
6	HAKANSSON LENNART	SWE	79	MC LEAN ROSS	CAN	152	SKINDERHAUG MAGNE	NOR
7	HARTMANN FRIEDRICH	GER	80	JENNY PETER	SUI	153	GUSTAFSSON ANTTI	SWE
8	FOSSETT STEVE	USA	81	ST.ONGE DAVID L.	CAN	154	FOLKESTAD OLAV	NOR
9	WANG HAAKON N.	NOR	82	HOPT RUDOLF	GER	155	FOLKESTAD SVEIN A.	NOR
10	SCHOYEN PER ROAR	NOR	83	MÜLLER ARTHUR WERNER	SUI	156	NELNES TORBJARN	NOR
11	GREAKER BJOERN	NOR	84	HRANIK STANISLAV	AUT	157	COCHET HENRI	FRA
12	ANDERSSON PER ERIK	SWE	85	GREEN DENISE M.	USA	158	BENGTSSON SVEN	SWE
13	STERN MAX	AUT	86	SWENSON HENRY	USA	159	MARTENSSON JOHN	SWE
14	HAUGE ROLFE	CAN	87	ROHRER ALOIS	SUI	160	HERTZBERG JOHAN	SWE
15	KRISCHKE GUNTER	GER	88	ERIKSSON STIG	SWE	161	ROUX COLETTE	FRA
16	MICROYS HELMUT F.	CAN	89	CARLSSON GUNNAR	SWE	162	AYARRA DAVE M.	USA
17	HOEL JOSTEIN	NOR	90	HILLIS JEFF	USA	163	STEVENS STUART P.	USA
18	BABEL FERDINAND	GER	91	PAULSON WILLIAM T.	USA	164	FASCHING HEINZ	AUT
19	SEGEFJÄLL ÖSTEN	SWE	92	VIERTOLA JORMA	FIN	165	SIDLER KARL	SUI
20	DURBAND ROBERT GENE	USA	93	BUSH MICHAEL DEAN	USA	166	SEEWALD ALOIS	GER
21	ELVENMARK SVEN	SWE	94	LINDKVIST OLLE	SWE	167	PERROT YVES	FRA
22	EKESIOEOE HARRY	SWE	95	VIERTOLA RAIJA	FIN	168	JAEGER THOMAS	SUI
23	KLAUBE GERNOT H.	USA	96	NEATON ED	USA	169	JONSSON AINA	SWE
24	FILLNER FRANZ	GER	97	JUROSZ PETR	CZE	170	FRANKE SIEGFRIED	GER
25	RIGOZZI AUGUSTO	SUI	98	BREITHAUPT BERND	GER	171	BAKOS HARRY	NOR
26	HANSON MILTON CARROLL	USA	99	CONDRAU BERNARD	SUI	172	SEGEFJÄLL ÖSTEN	SWE
27	FLACHMANN HANS	SUI	100	POPP HEINRICH	GER	173	SCHMITZ JOANNE	USA
28	HAEUSSLER ARTHUR	GER	101	SORAGNA PIERRE	FRA	174	MOSER ADOLF	SUI
29	KOUBA GEORGE	CAN	102	HOECK HANS-CHRISTIAN	GER	175	MAZZU KEVIN A.	USA
30	O'MARA PATRICK	GER	103	BECK HELMUT	AUT	176	GORHAM ROBERT	USA
31	POTTER MICHELE	GER	104	WANIVENHAUS FRIEDRICH	AUT	177	TREMBATH JOHN H.	GBR
32	SCHÄRER ALFONS	SUI	105	SCHWERDTFEGER JÜRGEN	GER	178	GRAND ARMIN	SUI
33	SMITH SYDNEY	CAN	106	JAKSCH ERWIN	GER	179	ANGERER WINFRIED	GER
34	STAUFFER KARL	USA	107	SCHUMANN HERMANN	SCH	180	METTLER PAUL	SUI
35	ALTENBYRG DIETRICH	GER	108	MAZZONI MARCO	ITA	181	JOHANSSON BERTIL	SWE
36	BERGMANN AXEL	GER	109	LAWS RAY C.C.	CAN	182	SEISER ADOLF	GER
37	BOSCH HERMANN	GER	110	GOURVEST ANTOINE	FRA	183	ROHRER ALOIS	SUI
38	FILIPOWSKY ENGELBERT	GER	111	SCHULZE WERNER	GER	184	LADUSCH GUENTER	GER
39	HAIN GÜNTHER	GER	112	HARTIG WALTER	GER	185	ERSON ROLAND	SWE
40	KAVCIC MATIJA	SLO	113	JOSSI OSWALD	SUI	186	SODERLIND COSTA	SWE
41	SCHUM ULRICH	GER	114	SMITH CLAIRE	CAN	187	HAAS MANFRED	GER
42	STÖCKL ERICH	GER	115	DIEMAR GUSTAV	GER	188	REIST FRANZ	SUI
43	RUTSCHMANN PAUL	SUI	116	JOSS UELI	SUI	189	MANLIG WILHELM	GER
44	ZEZLINA JANEZ	SLO	117	STEINBERGER FERDINAND	AUT	190	SIEVI GERHARD	SUI
45	STRÖHLEIN ANTON	GER	118	CANDINAS SEPP	USA	191	SPRING WERNER	SUI
46	THIEDE ERWIN	GER	119	HILLIS JEFF	USA	192	BOENSCH ALOIS	GER
47	REITER HELMUT	GER	120	PETERSON BRADLEY J.	USA	193	FODEN JOHN BOYD	GBR
48	HENRICH WILHELM	GER	121	DEFRANCESCO TOMMASO	ITA	194	HAKULINEN TIMO	FIN
49	NORDSTROEM JOERGEN	SWE	122	DERAUF BRUCE J.	USA	195	CHARTON HUBERT	FRA
50	FEÜRER GEORG	GER	123	TERRAZ CLAUDE	FRA	196	GECK FRANZ JOSEF	GER
51	GANTER MAGNUS	GER	124	BRUHIN JOSEF	SUI	197	MONNET BERNARD	FRA
52	MURRMANN WILHELM	GER	125	ROOSA DARWIN J.	USA	198	KRAUS HELMUT	GER
53	VETTER DENNIS L.	USA	126	GALLO HORST	GER	199	MOSER HERMAN W.	SUI
54	IANNI CARLO	CAN	127	VOGL BODO	GER	200	POPP HEINRICH	GER
55	GIGER ANDRE	SUI	128	MEISTER HORST	GER	201	SCHULTZ ARTHUR B.	USA
56	PIPAUD JEAN-YVES	FRA	129	SCHÖNI HANSRUEDI	SUI	202	KAPUST ELEONORE	GER
57	ZOGG HEINRICH	SUI	130	CASTELLI TERENCE	ITA	203	KRUSE DENNIS V.	USA
58	BIERPRIGL FRITZ	GER	131	GIULIANI GIUSEPPE	ITA	204	KAPUST DIETER	GER
59	FANT GIOVANNI	ITA	132	REISCHL HERBERT	GER	205	MAHER DONALD	USA
60	HASPEL GERHARD	GER	133	BUEHLMANN JAKOB	SUI	206	SLETVOLD ASBJORN	NOR
61	HERDEGEN RICHARD	GER	134	STADSHAUG ANTON	NOR	207	SCHMIDT BERTWIN	SUI
62	KRÄMER RAINER	GER	135	HABEGGER WERNER	SUI	208	WEBER RUDOLF WERNER	GER
63	RITZLER GEORG	GER	136	IVANOFF JEAN MICHEL	FRA	209	HUBER AUGUST	SUI
64	SCHWEIZER JULES	SUI	137	JURA MIKE J.	CAN	210	LEU ROLF	SUI
65	SCHÖNACH JAKOB	GER	138	MILLISCHER HANSPETER	SUI	211	WESSIAK WALTER	AUT
66	VON STRAUSS H.GEORG	GER	139	RUTSCHMANN PAUL	SUI	212	SCHNABL DIETER	ITA
67	ENGLER HARALD	GER	140	HODLER FREDI	SUI	213	BARWIG ERHARD	GER
68	MARTENSSON STIG	SWE	141	TAIRA YASUO	JPN	214	TSCHOFEN AUGUST	AUT
69	LANDGREN GAIL L.	USA	142	POST CHARLES	SUI	215	GABRIELLI LINO	ITA
70	GODDING JACK M.	USA	143	DEPPE DIETER	GER	216	GAELLI WALTER	SUI
71	PATZ WERNER	AUT	144	DIEHR ARTUR	GER	217	EISENDLE ARNO	ITA
72	SCHICKER NORBERT	SUI	145	CECCACCI ADRIANO	ITA	218	JENNY PETER	SUI

219	PYFFRADER GUENTER	AUT	292	ROELLIN BERNHARD	SUI	365	VETTERS JO	BEL
220	FLANYEK KLAUS	AUT	293	TREADWAY BOB W.	USA	366	CORTESI RETO	SUI
221	SCHURER HANS KARL	GER	294	SIDLER FRANZ	SUI	367	KÄMPF HARALD	GER
222	SCHÖNE FRITHJOF	GER	295	SEGEFJÄLL ÖSTEN	SWE	368	BRINGSLIMARK TRULS	NOR
223	MONTAGNOLI SILVIO	ITA	296	BERGLUND ERLAND BO	SWE	369	DELAPRAZ ALAIN	SUI
224	BORTOLOT FAUSTO	ITA	297	POLANSKY PETER	AUT	370	DORNER HORST	AUT
225	NIEPENBURG KLAUS	GER	298	SERVAIS EMILE	LUX	371	SKOGLY KJELL-ARNE	NOR
226	KOLLER FRIDOLIN	SUI	299	DE NADAL BRUNO	ITA	372	JOHANSEN HILMAR	NOR
227	METZGER HANS PETER	SUI	300	SUTTER NIKLAUS	SUI	373	NORMANN KARL L.	NOR
228	RIEBER WALDEMAR	GER	301	RÜEGG BRUNO	SUI	374	CORTESI ROSMARIE	SUI
229	SCHUMACHER INGOLF	GER	302	SINNIGER HANS	SUI	375	COTTEGNIE ARTHUR	BEL
230	CORRADINI ANGELO	ITA	303	KUNKLER ERNST	SUI	376	CONDRAU BERNARD	SUI
231	NOSTITZ WERNER	GER	304	FUNKE FRANZ JOSEF	GER	377	ZOGG HEINZ	SUI
232	SCHÄLLIBAUM HANSUELI	SUI	305	PEIER RUDOLF	SUI	378	ZEISELMEIER LOTHAR	GER
233	GIETZ HANSPETER	SUI	306	BULLA NORIS	SUI	379	DUPERREX PIERRE	SUI
234	OSTERMEIER KURT W.	USA	307	STRANDBERG MATS	BEL	380	DUX KARLHEINZ	GER
235	SENECHAL FRANCOIS	FRA	308	ENGLUND LARS	SWE	381	FREI JÜRGEN	GER
236	MARKS JOHN D.	GER	309	GASLAND KARE	NOR	382	TACHIBANA TSUTOMU	JPN
237	DAVIS JIMMIE	USA	310	RHEINHEIMER FRITZ	GER	383	JUKKOLA PAAVO	FIN
238	STUMPP DENNIS	USA	311	BRANDT WALTER	AUT	384	PERANDER REINO	FIN
239	ASBJORNSEN ODDMUND	NOR	312	BRANDT NORBERT	AUT	385	AHOMÄKI RAIMO	SWE
240	DORNBIERER ALBERTO	SUI	313	LINDH TORE	SWE	386	OJANPERAE RAIMO	SWE
241	SAUVALA TOIVO	FIN	314	DIETSCH WERNER	GER	387	GRASS OTTO	GER
242	HUNDSNES GUTTORM	NOR	315	FRIEDMANN WILLI	GER	388	DORNER GUENTHER	AUT
243	HAAS BERNHARD	GER	316	KEYMOLEN MICHAEL	BEL	389	GIANOM GIAN PEIDER	SUI
244	FAUCETT ROBERT R.	USA	317	SEILER WERNER	SUI	390	SCHENK KARL HEINZ	GER
245	DENEFFE PETER	GER	318	OBERMAIER JOHANN	GER	391	BIGEARD CLAUDE	FRA
246	GILL KEVIN	GBR	319	NEU ALOIS	SUI	392	STAGNI SEVERINO	ITA
247	FAUCETT BETH M.	USA	320	ROGGER SEPP	SUI	393	TREACY TIMOTHY E.	USA
248	HODLER HANNI	SUI	321	HERTER HEINI	SUI	394	ANDERSON JAMES JORDAN	USA
249	REDMOND HELEN	USA	322	SCHNEITER BRUNO	SUI	395	BACHLER WILLI	AUT
250	KURTZWEL LLOYD G.	USA	323	FEUZ HANSPETER	SUI	396	SIMON JEAN-CLAUDE	FRA
251	GRIMM FRITZ	SUI	324	MONN AURELIO	SUI	397	AHTI RAIMO ILMAKI	USA
252	PITMAN PETER M.	USA	325	GRODE A EDWARD	USA	398	SCHMIDINGER EMIL	GER
253	GUBLER PETER	SUI	326	POMER STEFAN	AUT	399	KAEGI-THEILMANN ALBERT	SUI
254	LIBAL JAMES A	USA	327	SCHÄFER GUIDO	SUI	400	POUX JEAN	FRA
255	PERALA IRVING B.	USA	328	DAMM ALBRECHT	GER	401	FONTAINE-TOKLE SUSAN R.	USA
256	EBERLE BRUNO	SUI	329	ROSS W. GILLIES	CAN	402	KELLY SUZANNE M.	CAN
257	IMMONEN JUHANI	FIN	330	HYDE DEREK THOMAS	GBR	403	KOSKINEN RISTO	FIN
258	SCHNEEBERGER HANSUELI	SUI	331	MÜRNER CHRISTIAN	SUI	404	ZWICK JOSEF	SUI
259	ARNOLD JOSEF	SUI	332	STENMARK PER-KRISTER	SWE	406	DOLDER CHRISTIAN	SUI
260	HOLOPAINEN KEIJO	FIN	333	ROSSERO LOUIS	FRA	407	HUGUENIN PIERRE	SUI
261	DUPASQUIER KINET	SUI	334	MILNER JAMES L	USA	408	BRUENNER FRANZ	GER
262	ARNOLD ALEX	SUI	335	STUDER WILLY	SUI	409	LUCHSINGER PETER	SUI
263	DERIGHETTI ULDERICO	SUI	336	SCHNAITER WOLFGANG	GER	410	HEIM FRITZ	SUI
264	IMSENG ERICH	SUI	337	FRIAUD BERNARD	FRA	411	VALASJÄRVI KAARLO	FIN
265	SUNDKVIST INGVALD	FIN	338	BLES SAMUEL	SUI	412	TAUCHEN PAUL	GER
266	VON KAENEL WALTER	SUI	339	VIRTANEN OSSI	FIN	413	FICHTL HELMUT	GER
267	ROSENFELDER PETER	GER	340	MOSER BERNARDO	SUI	414	SCHNEIDER HANSRUEDI	SUI
268	PUENTENER ERNST	SUI	341	KREKLAU HORST	GER	415	KAINULAINEN PEKKA	FIN
269	WURST FRITZ	GER	342	HANRATHS PETER	GER	416	GISLER FRANZ	SUI
270	OEFNER OTTO	AUT	343	OTTO HERBERT	SUI	417	DAMMER WALTER	GER
271	KULLMANN HELMUT	GER	344	PLAISANTIN JEAN LOUIS	FRA	418	OSBERGHAUS ULRICH	GER
272	JOKINEN VÄINÖ	FIN	345	PRADER SIEGFRIED	ITA	419	THOMANN WALTER	SUI
273	BISKOP RUBEN	FIN	346	HUGHES JOSEF	USA	420	RAFFASERD WILFRID	AUT
274	MONIGATTI ARMANDO	SUI	347	BANNIER FRANK-JÜRGEN	GER	421	VELTIN WERNER	SUI
275	WALKER HERMANN	SUI	348	HUSCHKE KLAUS	SUI	422	NUSSBAUMER ALFRED	SUI
276	RUTSCHMANN PAUL	SUI	349	KUCHS WERNER	GER	423	SCHNEIDER WALTER	SUI
277	SCHMIDLI ROSMARIE	SUI	350	KUUSELA MATTI	FIN	424	MELCHER HAROLD	USA
278	MALSCH CORNELIA	NED	351	SIMEONI JOSEF	ITA	425	KELLY JAMES	CAN
279	MÄKELÄ MAURI	FIN	352	BREHMER RUDOLF	GER	426	TOMAMICHEL CESIRA	SUI
280	HARJU JUHANI	FIN	353	LINDH INGER	SWE	427	SCHERLER MICHEL	SUI
281	PLUESS ARMIN	SUI	354	SCHLETTTER EGON	GER	428	JOHANSEN GUNNAR	NOR
282	SANDSTRÖM OLLE	FIN	355	KUBLI HANS	SUI	429	BERG HARALD	NOR
283	VON PLANTA CONRADIN	SUI	356	SANER MARCEL	GBR	430	FAGERHEIM AGNAR	NOR
284	FITZI HANS	SUI	357	WIECK MICHAEL	GER	431	PFISTER HANS	SUI
285	SOMMER JÜRGEN	GER	358	PEIX ERICH	GER	432	SUTER BRUNO	SUI
286	RAPPENECKER HANS-PETER	GER	359	ERIKSSON KJELL	SWE	433	HAHNE BO-GOERAN	SWE
287	SCHNIDRIG ERNST	SUI	360	NOLOP NEIL C.	NOR	434	BUNDI MARC	SUI
288	SCHMIDLI RUDOLF	SUI	361	BLOMLI EIVIND	NOR	435	JOKINEN ERKKI	FIN
289	PENSEYRES HENRI	SUI	362	ERIKSSON SIGURD	SWE	436	ZWEIFEL GEORG	SUI
290	GROSSEN WERNER	SUI	363	WEMAN LEIF	FIN	437	NIEMI TONY	FIN
291	RUTKOWSKI HENRY T	USA	364	TIBBLING SVEN	SWE	438	BRESCIANI VITO LUIGI	ITA

439	SVENSSON INGRID	SWE	524	SCHÄRER FRANK	SUI	609	NÄCKDAL HELMUT	SWE
440	SVENSSON SUNE	SWE	525	BIEL HANS-JOCHEN	GER	610	NERBY IVER	NOR
441	PÜENTENER RUDOLF	SUI	526	BRAMBILLA CARLA	ITA	611	VANONCINI NUNZIO	ITA
442	HUNGERBUEHLER MARCEL	SUI	527	VISMARA MARIO	ITA	612	KVICK EVERT	SWE
443	PIONTEK GUNTER H.	SUI	528	MENEGOTTO VITTORIO	ITA	613	THOMMESSEN ERIK	NOR
444	SCHÖBER IGNAZ	AUT	529	FAUST PETER	GER	614	PASEMANN KLAUS	GER
445	SULSTERS ADRIANUS	NED	530	SPELDRICH WILHELMINE	GER	615	SEIFFERT ULRICH	GER
446	HOCKER SIEGFRIED	GER	531	RAVAIOLI MARIO	ITA	616	WISCHKONY HEINZ	GER
447	SVENSSON RUTH	SWE	532	ZUMBUEHL TONI	SUI	617	SCHNEIDER WERNER	SUI
448	ERIKSSON GUN	SWE	533	ZUMSTEG ERWIN	SUI	618	DZIADKOWIEC DOROTA	POL
449	ERIKSSON GERD	SWE	534	JEHLE ULRICH	SUI	619	GUNNARSSON ROLF	SWE
450	VIRTANEN LASSE	SWE	535	ROBINSON DON	GBR	620	HAEFELI CHARLES	SUI
451	SJOEDIN GUNNAR	SWE	536	GIANOM ARMON	SUI	621	SCHLATTER NIKLAUS	SUI
452	AMSKOELD ARNE	SWE	537	PFLUG JÜRGEN	GER	622	GIRARD DE VILLARS JAN	CZE
453	KÄRKÄS JUHANI	FIN	538	CLEMONS G. RICHARD	GBR	623	HAASE JOHN A.	USA
454	HÄRKÖNEN LASSE	FIN	539	TEEVAN DENNIS B	GBR	624	LIES WILLI	GER
455	KOKKO JUSSI	FIN	540	SCHOCH RUDOLF	SUI	625	SAURER SAMUEL	SUI
456	JOHANSSON PERTTI	FIN	541	BAILLY PIERRE	FRA	626	TINKER ROSS WARWICK	NZL
457	GIRARD DE VILLARS PAVEL	CZE	542	HAMMAR STINA	SWE	627	DOWNIE KEN	CAN
458	PESCHOT REGIS	FRA	543	MICHON STANISLAV	POL	628	BUFFET GARETH	GBR
459	BUNTZ GERHARD	SUI	544	LEHMANN THOMAS	SUI	629	SUKKI KYOESTI	SWE
460	MIKESKA JAN	CZE	545	BIEBL ALBERT	GER	630	PADRUN JACHEN	SUI
461	HALLWIG MANFRED	GER	546	BICHSEL ULI	SUI	631	MÜLLER MAX	SUI
462	NORDSTROEM ERIK	SWE	547	SIEGERT PETER	GER	632	PALMER MICHAEL	CAN
463	HOFER ALOIS	SUI	548	KÖNEN ENGELBERT	GER	633	MÜLLER PAUL R	SUI
464	SCHUMMER BERNARD	FRA	549	SCHMID HANS	SUI	634	WIEDERKEHR THERES	SUI
465	LACKONICK GEORGE	CAN	550	SOMMER MANFRED	GER	635	NILSON JOHN A	CAN
466	MEIER WALTER	SUI	551	SCHÜTZE WOLFGANG	GER	636	HOFER MARKUS	SUI
467	SAMPIETRO GIORGIO	ITA	552	ELLERBRACKE KARL-LUDWIG	GER	637	LARSEN KARL BORGE	CAN
468	BUCHER JUERG	SUI	553	LÖWE WOLFGANG	GER	638	DEPPMAN JOHN C.	USA
469	ULRICH ALFRED	SUI	554	DYCKERHOFF KLAUS	GER	639	VIRGO CHRISTOPHER HENRY	GBR
470	PERRY PATRICK W	USA	555	KLODE MANFRED	GER	640	SEGEFJÄLL ÖSTEN	SWE
471	STERR HANS RUDI	GER	556	ECHENBERG MYRON	CAN	641	ENSIGN JERALD C.	USA
472	SCHIVI MAURO	ITA	557	ENHOLM ERIK	FIN	642	FITZI HANS	SUI
473	KAMMERHOFER RUDOLF	GER	558	STANDEFER JAMES E.	USA	643	BEURSGENS HENK	NED
474	MAREGA PAOLO	ITA	559	MOCCHI FABIO	ITA	644	DELL'AGNESE DANCO	SUI
475	RIGOZZI AUGUSTO	SUI	560	JOKINEN TIMO	FIN	645	RUFLI HANS	SUI
476	FRIEDL GÜNTHER	GER	561	BLEY LARRY A.	USA	646	PORVALI TAUNO	FIN
477	VON LINGOLF LINGELSHEIM	GER	562	RINGSWIRTH WINFRIED	GER	647	KALLIOINEN PAAVO	FIN
478	ROGGY JEAN-PIERRE	FRA	563	LAUREN HANNU	FIN	648	LUESCHER PETER	SUI
479	FRENKEL ANDREAS	GER	564	SCHOBERT WALTER	GER	649	BROUWER INGE	NED
480	KALMO STIG	DEN	565	GOGOLIN THEOBALD	GER	650	HAEBERLING RENE'	SUI
481	KALMO KARL	DEN	566	BRUNNER ERNST	SUI	651	AMPEZZAN CORRADO	ITA
482	SCHRÖDER HARALD	GER	567	LUMME FERDI	GER	652	VIRTANEN MATTI JOH.	FIN
483	GERDIN HANS	SWE	568	JOHANSSON ERLAND	SWE	653	MARGUERAT RENE	SUI
484	STALBOM PELLE	SWE	569	JOHNSTONE GLEN	USA	654	FREI BRUNO EMIL	SUI
485	MESSMAN STEWART	USA	570	KLAUSEN HARRY	NOR	655	ENNING BERNHARD	GER
486	CADINE JEAN-PAUL	FRA	571	MADLIGER HANS-JÖRG	SUI	656	JOENSSON ALLAN	SWE
487	PAGE HERB	USA	572	KRAUS WERNER	SUI	657	LUETHY MARCEL	SUI
488	JÄÄSKELÄINEN OLAVI	FIN	573	LIE ARNE	NOR	658	HELLER RUDOLF	SUI
489	YLINEN HEIKKI	FIN	574	KIENZLER HUBERT	GER	659	WICHT TOM RENE WILHELM	FIN
490	WILLMETT CHRISTINA	AUS	575	ARNESSEN ARNE	NOR	660	FRANZKOWIAK BERND	GER
491	HOPKINS BARRY	AUS	576	MENGES HERBERT	GER	661	WANG ARVE	NOR
492	CRUNDWELL GILLIAN	AUS	577	DZIGGEL KARL-HEINZ	GER	662	OSSIG EDGAR	GER
493	LAHTINEN ANTTI	FIN	578	SCHIESSER FRITZ	SUI	663	BLEGEBERG TOR	NOR
494	JANSSON TORSTEN	SWE	579	FODSTAD OLAF	NOR	664	MARGOLA ALFREDO	ITA
495	KUOSMANEN MARTTI	FIN	580	BELLONI SERGIO	ITA	665	KREAGER RICHARD J.	USA
496	TOIVONEN MARJATTA	FIN	581	JOB ADOLF	GER	666	MEILER HANS RICO	SUI
497	TOIVONEN ERKKI	FIN	582	HERMS JÜRGEN	GER	667	WOLF BERTHOLD	GER
498	STALDER ANDRE	SUI	583	WOELFLE RUDOLF	GER	668	JOHANNESSEN OYVIND	NOR
499	LOOSLEY STEVE	USA	584	PEDRIOLI PATRIZIO	SUI	669	KOLLE ULF	GER
500	BAECHI HEINER	GER	585	STANDEREN ARVID	NOR	670	FRIEDRICH WERNER	GER
501	LOOSLEY SHELLEY BRIGGS	USA	586	HOFSTETTER KASPAR	SUI	671	FRIEDRICH URSULA	GER
502	VRABEC GEORGE	CAN	587	SCHUMACHER FRIEDBERT	GER	672	KUZMIC LAJOS	SWE
503	PAJUNEN TAUNO	FIN	588	STEIGER MARGRIT	SUI	673	KOLLE WERNER	GER
504	TEIR HENRIK	FIN	589	LAAGER MEINRAD	SUI	674	RÖDER DIETER	GER
505	PONTIGGIA ERNESTO	ITA	590	RATIMO MARKKU	FIN	675	ZELENKA HEINRICH	AUT
506	GLAUSER PETER	SUI	591	GUNNARSSON TAGE	NOR	676	LEBLANC LOUIS	CAN
507	SCHMID RENE	SUI	592	JAKOB FREDY	SUI	677	SCHEURER WILLY	SUI
508	MELANSON LOUIS	CAN	593	BEAUCHER JEAN-PHILIPPE	FRA	678	VILKMAN MATTI	FIN
509	GMUENDER SEPP	SUI	594	BRAUN HANS	GER	679	JOERGER RENATA	SUI
510	KRAL LUBOMIR	USA	595	GUILLERMOU JEAN-MARIE	FRA	680	ODERMATT JOSEF	SUI
511	PETROFF BORIS	FRA	596	SPIGA JEAN-PIERRE	SUI	681	KLARHÖFER CHRISTIAN	GER
512	SPELDRICH MARTIN	GER	597	JOHANSSON UNO	SWE	682	RIGOZZI AUGUSTO	SUI
513	NAGEL VOLKER	GER	598	RATTAZZI FERRUCCIO	SUI	683	LAUBE KARL-HEINZ	SUI
514	FREY HEINI	SUI	599	BRODERSEN KAY	GER	684	WINCENT PAUL	SWE
515	ZACH RUDOLF	AUT	600	LILLIEROTH GUNNAR	SWE	685	ERNST ARMIN	SUI
516	WOLTER REINHOLD	GER	601	MATL GOTTFRIED	AUT	686	FERRERO MASSIMO	ITA
517	FREIBURGHaus FRED	SUI	602	MÜLLER HENNING	GER	687	BLEUER PAUL	SUI
518	WILLEKE HORST	GER	603	KÖRNER KARL	GER	688	MORANDI GIORGIO	SUI
519	ZINKE WERNER	GER	604	MAIER EGON	GER	689	MYREGARD KENT	SWE
520	ERWES MANFRED	GER	605	WADIN JACK	SWE	690	LAUREN OLLI	FIN
521	FUHRER FRITZ	SUI	606	JOHANNESSEN BIRGER	SWE	691	MATSON PAUL C.	USA
522	MÜNTZEL GÜNTER	GER	607	HOLTERUD ERLING	NOR	692	BLEESZ ERNST	SUI
523	GIOVANETTINA SILVANO	SUI	608	OBERHOLZER HERBERT	SUI	693	SVENDSEN TORE	NOR

694	MEYER HEINZ	SUI	779	NAESLUND ULF	SWE	864	SCHMITT MARY LOU	USA
695	CARLSEN MAGNAR	NOR	780	CRYSDALE DAVID	USA	865	SCHMITT JOHN B	USA
696	HARTMANN PAUL	SUI	781	RUDOLF HEINRICH	SUI	866	RAEZ ADOLF	SUI
697	MAISSEN GUIDO	SUI	782	NORTHROP EDWARD H.	USA	867	IGNATOV SERGEY	RUS
698	MAISSEN BERNARD	SUI	783	VAUTHIER-CRELIER PIERRE	FRA	868	HAMEL SNOW HENRIETTE	USA
699	DOLDER MARIANNE	SUI	784	MOHLIN BENGT AKE	SWE	869	JUNGINGER HANS	GER
700	GIGER ANDRE	SUI	785	MACLEOD NEIL F.	CAN	870	WHITESTONE JIM	CAN
701	DON MONTAGUE	GBR	786	KNÜSEL MARKUS	SUI	871	JOHANSSON TAISTO	FIN
702	VÄINÖLÄ OIVA	FIN	787	FRIBOULET CLAUDE	FRA	872	MAAG WILLI	SUI
703	REDHAMMER HERBERT	AUT	788	DECURTINS ROMAN	SUI	873	PERRARD SIMON	FRA
704	MEDVESCEK KARL	SLO	789	SASAKI MUNEO	JPN	874	GORDON STEPHEN	USA
705	SPIZZO LUIGI	ITA	790	TANAMOTO MICHIKO	JPN	875	PANNATIER PASCAL	SUI
706	ASCHENBORN BERND	GER	791	HERRMANN KONRAD	GER	876	NURMI ESKO	FIN
707	DEMSCHAR GUENTER	AUT	792	FRULAND GARY L.	USA	877	PEKKALA TOMMI	FIN
708	DEBELS JEAN CLAUDE	BEL	793	PAUL HERBERT	GER	878	GEIGER ALOIS	GER
709	HEIMES ANTON	GER	794	AMELINE YVES	CAN	879	PICKL BERNHARD	GER
710	STANDEFER SARAH M.	USA	795	CHESTER WILLIAM	USA	880	HERRMANN WALTER	GER
711	MÜHLHOFF ADOLF	GER	796	GRANEL MICHAEL	GER	881	GUTKNECHT ROGER	FRA
712	KUHNI RUDOLF	SUI	797	COFLER FIORENZO	ITA	882	MORRIONE MAURIZIO	ITA
713	GORLA CARLO	ITA	798	FELLNER FRANZ	AUT	883	BJOERK KYOESTI	SWE
714	KRAUSE WERNER	GER	799	KRITZINGER HUBERT	AUT	884	PANICHELLA GASTONE	ITA
715	BERGMANN AXEL	GER	800	REINMUELLER FRIEDRICH	AUT	885	SORIA LUIGI	ITA
716	GRAU GEORGE	SUI	801	HAMMERTINGER JOSEF	AUT	886	LAMON DANY	SUI
717	HITZFELD BERND	GER	802	SCHNEEWEISS WALTER	AUT	887	REY PIERRE-MICHEL	SUI
718	SWENSON HENRY	USA	803	STANDEREN ODDVAR	NOR	888	WEIDMAN ROBERT	FRA
719	TUERLINCKX JAN	BEL	804	ORSKAUG BJOERN ERIK	NOR	889	FISCHER ALBERT	GER
720	VOLGER GEORG	GER	805	SEM HALVOR	NOR	890	SANTORO ROSARIO	ITA
721	OEHY ALBERT	SUI	806	FOSS TORSTEIN	NOR	891	SOMMEREDER JOSEF	AUT
722	WERNER KLAUS	GER	807	LEEMPOEL COR	NED	892	SCHNÜRIGER PAUL	SUI
723	HEITZ MAX-WALTER	GER	808	HOF S HERMAN	NED	893	HERMANN MANFRED	GER
724	JASIEWICZ JAN	SUI	809	LINDHOLM ARNE	FIN	894	KALIWODA ALFRED	AUT
725	WILDBOLZ ADRIAN	SUI	810	PUONTI JUHANI	FIN	895	PUHR JOHANN	AUT
726	HARTMANN PAUL	SUI	811	SKOGSTER ALF	FIN	896	MONNARD RAYMOND	SUI
727	MONTONEN PENTTI	FIN	812	SIEVÄNEN ASKO	FIN	897	REINMUELLER VOLKER	AUT
728	MATTILA REINO	FIN	813	HAKULINEN MARTTI	FIN	898	DONNOHUE TOM	USA
729	KUUSISTO TAUNO	FIN	814	MUKKULA KAUKO	FIN	899	LORENTSEN HARALD	NOR
730	KRÖGER WILHELM	GER	815	TOIVONEN ERKKI	FIN	900	HOLKERI TAUNO	FIN
731	SCHÄFER BERNHARD	GER	816	HÄMÄLÄINEN MARJA-LIISA	FIN	901	SALLINEN RAIMO	FIN
732	ADAMIETZ BERNHARD	GER	817	KIVISTÖ EERO	FIN	902	HENTTONEN RAIMO	FIN
733	DANIELMEIER ERNST	GER	818	MERK MICHAEL	SUI	903	HAGNÅS LARS WILLIAM	FIN
734	FAHRNI FRITZ-PETER	SUI	819	COURTINE HERVE'	FRA	904	LAURILA RISTO	FIN
735	NEUBERT KARL	GER	820	JENNY JOSEF	SUI	905	SYVÄRANTA JOUNI	FIN
736	HARTMANN JEANNETTE	SUI	821	VEDEL DANIEL	FRA	906	VALENTINO EMANUELE	ITA
737	ZURBUCHEN HANS	SUI	822	MONN SERAFIN	SUI	907	ILIC STOJAN	SLO
738	RUESCH SILVIO	SUI	823	STENHOLM ELIS	SWE	908	WEISS MARIANNE	CAN
739	PAVLICEV SERGEJ	SLO	824	GIOVANETTINA SILVANO	SUI	909	WEISS LEO CARL	CAN
740	RAITIMO MARKKU	FIN	825	RAACH THOMAS	GER	910	RINGSEVIEN ARNE STEEN	NOR
741	POSTAL UGO	ITA	826	FITZSIMONS LAURIE	AUS	911	LUNDE TERJE	NOR
742	DUCRET ANDRE	FRA	827	GIBB REX	AUS	912	MOTT RAIJA	SWE
743	MUELLER KARL	SUI	828	COVELLO CARL A.	CAN	913	JOSEFSSON RIKARD	SWE
744	RANHEIM KNUT	NOR	829	RYSTAD JARLE	NOR	914	JASIEWICZ JAN	SUI
745	THIESER ALFRED	GER	830	FIELD PATRICK	GBR	915	VAI ENZO	ITA
746	KUEHNIS WERNER	USA	831	LINDLGRUBER KURT	AUT	916	VALLEE PIERRE	CAN
747	ERONEN MARTTI	FIN	832	HÄMÄLÄINEN KAARLO	FIN	917	VAI ZAMBON EDDA	ITA
748	EHRUKAINEN AAPO	FIN	833	CIMENTI CARLO	ITA	918	POGGIO PIERCARLO	ITA
749	SAIMOVAARA JUHANI	FIN	834	WALTHER GIORGIO	SUI	919	ISHIMURA ISAO	JPN
750	TIMONEN KAUKO	FIN	835	GAUVREAU DANIEL	CAN	920	SAMPAKOSKI SAMPO	FIN
751	TIMONEN KARI	FIN	836	OESTHOL ERIK	SWE	921	AHOLA HANNU	FIN
752	LINDEVALL HILKKA	FIN	837	TACHIBANA TSUTOMU	JPN	922	HEINONEN SULEVI	FIN
753	KUHA KERTTU	FIN	838	NIKOLA TOIVO MATTI	FIN	923	JÄRVINEN LEO	FIN
754	SIHVONEN RISTO	FIN	839	UOTILA HANNU	FIN	924	KADYKOV GUEORGUI	RUS
755	ANDERSSON REINO	FIN	840	GULSTRAND RUDY	USA	925	PETERIT HEINRICH	GER
756	VIILLERMOZ ANDRE	FRA	841	LANGLOIS PIERRE	FRA	926	LEHTINEN ASKO	FIN
757	GARDON ANDRE	FRA	842	KARIUDA KEIICHI	JPN	927	WIHERKOSKI KJELL	SWE
758	GENNARI UMBERTO	ITA	843	MOISIO ESKO	FIN	928	JONSSON HENRY	SWE
759	MAZZUCATO DUILIO	ITA	844	CURTIS JOHN	AUS	929	DE SANDRE TITO	ITA
760	ABENI G PIETRO	ITA	845	LUETTKOPF GERT	GER	930	BJOERKMAN ROSA	SWE
761	MAGNONI FRANCO	ITA	846	DEFLOIRIN DIEGO	SUI	931	JOHANSSON LENNART	SWE
762	PARENTE RUGGIERO	ITA	847	SCHILL WERNER	GER	932	PRAVISANI EZIO	ITA
763	PEREGO PIETRO	ITA	848	BURAAS MARIT	NOR	933	KOSI EDI	SLO
764	WEBER HANS	SUI	849	NYGARD JENS-ROGER	NOR	934	AHTI RAIMO ILMAKI	USA
765	KELLER KURT	CAN	850	BESSONE LELIO	ITA	935	HAZARD ANDRE' CAMILLE	BEL
766	SCHNEITER BRUNO	SUI	851	HUEMPERT HEINRICH-CHRISTI	GER	936	DRISDAL HANSEN LISBETH	DEN
767	RATHS JUERG	SUI	852	HUGHESDON G H	GBR	937	DRISDAL HANSEN H.P.	DEN
768	KAINULAINEN PEKKA	FIN	853	MANIORA YONEL	LUX	938	BERTILSSON THORE	SWE
769	ECK FRANKLIN	SWE	854	PODOLSKI WERNER	GER	939	LARSSON HAKAN	SWE
770	LACROIX JEAN-PIERRE	FRA	855	GERHARDY GODEHARD	GER	940	BENNING L. REX	CAN
771	SATO KAZUO	JPN	856	WICKMAN PER	SWE	941	LAHTI INKERI	FIN
772	HOLDHUS PER	NOR	857	STOLL ANDREAS	SUI	942	HILSKA ASTA	FIN
773	FAELTSTAM ROLF	SWE	858	SUUNIITY VEIJO	FIN	943	KALLIONIEMI HEIKKI	FIN
774	ADE WALTER	USA	859	SCHLÄFFER THERESIA	AUT	944	HEIMANN RUEDI	SUI
775	PIVA MARIO	ITA	860	SCHLÄFFER ALEXANDER	AUT	945	MCVICAR STEVE	CAN
776	KIYOSHI FUGIMOTO	JPN	861	LILLIEROTH GUNNAR	SWE	946	PENSAMO PAAVO	FIN
777	ZAKRISSON SVEN-AKE	SWE	862	WEGMANN HEINZ	SUI	947	HUUSKO ANTERO	FIN
778	MAGNUSSON VIKTOR	SWE	863	WADIN JACK	SWE	948	MÄKELÄ EINO	FIN

949	GÖTHLING ERNST	GER	1034	MILEWSKI LECH	AUS	1119	VIKLUND LARS	SWE
950	SANDLER HENRIK	FIN	1035	CAVET NANCY LUCIENNE	NED	1120	GÄNSSLEN HANS DIETER	GER
951	PECCEDI ALDO	ITA	1036	INVERNIZZI ALDO	ITA	1121	BONAZZI ANTONIO	ITA
952	MARZANO MARIO	ITA	1037	NIELSEN-GROEN HARALD	NOR	1122	NARDELLI PAOLO	ITA
953	JOHANSSON EINAR	SWE	1038	ANTTILA ROBERT E.	USA	1123	KRIEG JAKOB	SUI
954	TAVAILA KARI	FIN	1039	LILLIEROTH ANNA-MARIA	SWE	1124	VAN LOON MATTHIEU	NED
955	JASIEWICZ JAN	SUI	1040	LILLIEROTH GUNNAR	SWE	1125	SHINDOH TOSHIKO	JPN
956	REHBERG HANS-JÜRGEN	GER	1041	CANTRILL HERBERT L	USA	1126	RUGGERI LUCA	ITA
957	RÄÄF JOHNNY	SWE	1042	MILLER PATRICIA	AUS	1127	BONAZZI GIOVANNI	ITA
958	GÄRTNER ROSI	GER	1043	MILLER ALLAN	AUS	1128	SAUNDERS JOHN	USA
959	GÄRTNER WOLFGANG	GER	1044	ROSSELLAT CLAUDE	SUI	1129	SPIERS JIM	AUS
960	MCCONNOHIE ROBERT B.	USA	1045	BERTHOUD JACQUES	SUI	1130	FURRER KARL	SUI
961	MEILE JEAN-FRANCOIS	FRA	1046	TROTTER CHRISTOPHER	USA	1131	GLEISSNER MANFRED	GER
962	ANGERSTEIN BURGHARD	GER	1047	PETERSON GOERAN	SWE	1132	GROSSMANN HORST	GER
963	UUSITALO KAARLO	FIN	1048	LARSSON EINAR	FIN	1133	LIEBISCH EBERHARD	GER
964	BAUER FRIEDHELM	GER	1049	KVALE JORGEN	NOR	1134	LAAKSO LAURI	FIN
965	JOHANSSON STELLAN	SWE	1050	JÄRVISALO ERKKI	FIN	1135	FARROW KEN	AUS
966	ALDER NORBERT	SUI	1051	KUUSIRANTA PAULI	FIN	1136	MERLE MAURICE	FRA
967	HILL ROBIN	AUS	1052	SAJOMAA MATTI	FIN	1137	VANGENE ROBERT	USA
968	KAUFMANN WALTER	SUI	1053	IZUMI TETSUO	JPN	1138	SCHALDENBRANDT JEAN-JACQUES	SUI
969	BRASCHI CARLO	ITA	1054	HAWKER KEVIN J.	USA	1139	FRICKER HANS W.	SUI
970	SOPPERA RENATO	ITA	1055	LARSSON HANNES	FRA	1140	BAUMELER WERNER	SUI
971	LINDVALL ARNULF	NOR	1056	MERLINO GIOVANNI	ITA	1141	OEHY PETER	SUI
972	HABEGGER WERNER	SUI	1057	SAIKKO OLLI	FIN	1142	CAVAGNA FEDERICO	ITA
973	HOVLAND NILS PER	NOR	1058	PFEIL MARJA-LIISA	GER	1143	BENDELI NICOLAS	AUS
974	STRAUME STEINAR	NOR	1059	PFEIL GÜNTHER W.	GER	1144	WAMBERA IVAN	CAN
975	LENKE HARRY	GER	1060	FRASCA CLAUDIO	ITA	1145	CIOCCO MARCO	SUI
976	STASCHEIT LOTHAR	GER	1061	SWANSON STEPHEN	USA	1146	GIGER ANDRE	SUI
977	DUENNENBERGER WALTER	SUI	1062	TRAVERSA PIERCARLO	ITA	1147	MALTSEV LEONID	RUS
978	VON GUNTEN HANSRUEDI	SUI	1063	GIOVANETTINA SILVANO	SUI	1148	MUHEIM ALDO	SUI
979	LAPACEK KAREL	CZE	1064	KUMLIEN WENDELL	USA	1149	CRIVELLI ANDREAS	SUI
980	LUPI GIAMPIERO	ITA	1065	BENDELI NICOLAS	AUS	1150	O'SHEA PATRICK	CAN
981	NILSSON ROLF	SWE	1066	KRSINAR JANI	SLO	1151	RIEDEL JOACHIM	GER
982	SASAKI MUNEO	JPN	1067	LOCNISKAR MARJAN	SLO	1152	DUBEUF FRANCOIS	FRA
983	KAGELMANN WALTER	GER	1068	RUPNIK ROMAN	SLO	1153	INKINEN LAURI	SWE
984	GNOS HANS	SUI	1069	TEPPAN JAANUS	EST	1154	SOLLI PAUL	NOR
985	HYDE DEREK THOMAS	GBR	1070	PULLES MARGO	EST	1155	DONOHUE RON	AUS
986	ZIMPEL DIETMAR	GER	1071	BAUMERT KLAUS	GER	1156	YUZA TAKESHI	JPN
987	ZANONE GUIDO	ITA	1072	MIGNANI GIANCARLO	ITA	1157	BARDILL HANS	SUI
988	VOGELI FRIDOLIN	SUI	1073	MONTGERMONT DANIEL	FRA	1158	PINGEL PAUL	GER
989	PFEUFFER BODO	GER	1074	LINDUPP RAY	AUS	1159	KÖHLER HEINZ	GER
990	SCHREYER ADI	SUI	1075	SULSTERS ADRIANUS	NED	1160	KAULFUSS ALFRED	GER
991	SCHREYER UWE	SUI	1076	BRUNO MARIO	ITA	1161	VOLLAN DAN	NOR
992	JUCKER THOMAS	SUI	1077	BRUNO FERDINANDO	ITA	1162	LETANT BERNARD	FRA
993	THIOUDELLET ANDRE	FRA	1078	BRUNO PIERANGELO	ITA	1163	CHAN HOWARD	CAN
994	LAHAUSSOIS CHARLES	ITA	1079	PALLISER ROBERT	CAN	1164	SULLIVAN MICHAEL	AUS
995	KRYGER JOSEPH	CAN	1080	HIRSIG ANDREAS	SUI	1165	NIEMELÄ JOUKO	FIN
996	BOILLAT VERONIQUE	SUI	1081	FILLINGER JOACHIM	GER	1166	VUORINEN SEPPÖ	FIN
997	RIESE HERBERT	CAN	1082	ALARI PIERBATTISTA	SUI	1167	JOKELA RAUNO NIKOLAS	FIN
998	POTOTSCHNIG HANS	GER	1083	HOTT-JOHANSEN CAMILLA	NOR	1168	KORHONEN SINIKKA	FIN
999	SNOW CARL W	USA	1084	GÖTZ KLAUS	GER	1169	HILTUNEN PEKKA	FIN
1000	SARRING GUNNAR	SWE	1085	LAMBERTIN MICHAEL	GER	1170	GÄDDTRÄSK KAUKO	FIN
1001	AMPEZZAN CORRADO	ITA	1086	BOERNER HORST	GER	1171	MELVEY CAMILLE	AUS
1002	STRAND REIDAR	NOR	1087	BOERNER REINER	GER	1172	SULLIVAN MICHAEL	AUS
1003	SANDVIK EINAR	NOR	1088	SÖRLI AGNAR	NOR	1173	BRÄNDHOLM SUNE	SWE
1004	BAKKE SIGMUND	NOR	1089	GJERSETH TURID	NOR	1174	ESSER PETER	GER
1005	SANDBAKKEN BJOERN	NOR	1090	STARMAN MATIJA	SLO	1175	DRESSEN GERD	GER
1006	STRAUME ARVID	NOR	1091	PONIKVAR UROS	SLO	1176	ANDERSSON BENGT	SWE
1007	STRAUME EINAR	NOR	1092	VADLEJCH JAN	ISR	1177	FERRERO GIAMPAOLO	ITA
1008	NAGEL HEINZ	GER	1093	BUNTROCK HANS	GER	1178	MÜLLER EDMUND	GER
1009	FERRERO MAURIZIO	ITA	1094	GAUDE GIOACCHINO	ITA	1179	SULSTERS ADRIANUS	NED
1010	SHINDOH KENICHI	JPN	1095	MÜLLER ANDREAS	SUI	1180	STACHE PETER	GER
1011	MISSEN LLOYD GORDON	AUS	1096	MORELL CLAUDIO	SUI	1181	ANTIPANOVA RIMMA	RUS
1012	TOIVONEN RAIMO	FIN	1097	FEAKES DEBORAH	AUS	1182	TCHERNOV VITALI	RUS
1013	LASAGNA MAURO	ITA	1098	FEAKES WARREN	AUS	1183	KRISGAARD EIVIND	NOR
1014	CARLINI FULVIO	ITA	1099	KORITZ RALPH	GER	1184	HILKER CARL	USA
1015	SCOCO ANNA MARIA	ITA	1100	PIVA MARIO	ITA	1185	MAGNETTI FRANCO	ITA
1016	GODSMARK DEB	AUS	1101	KRANZMAYR FRIEDRICH	AUT	1186	RIVA FRANCESCO	ITA
1017	GRANT NEVILLE	AUS	1102	HOENICKL GUENTHER	AUT	1187	AMERIO ANDREA	ITA
1018	KUHN WERNER	GER	1103	LUMPLECKER JOHANN	AUT	1188	JASIEWICZ JAN	SUI
1019	WIRTH PETER	SUI	1104	MADERTHANER ERWIN	AUT	1189	BERNHARDSSON SUNE	SWE
1020	JASIEWICZ JAN	SUI	1105	EISELE HANSPETER	SUI	1190	SKALMAN STEFAN	SWE
1021	HITZ FRIDOLIN	SUI	1106	FELCE GIUSEPPE	ITA	1191	DYAKOV PHILIPP	RUS
1022	FOSS NORVALD	NOR	1107	JASIEWICZ JAN	SUI	1192	XAVIER MARQUET	BEL
1023	HERRMANN KONRAD	GER	1108	SIEVÄNEN ASKO	FIN	1193	REDAELLI UGO	ITA
1024	MÜLLER OTTO ADOLF	GER	1109	HANNULA MARKKU	FIN	1194	GROSS ROBERT K.	USA
1025	NIKUS TORBJORN	FIN	1110	RICHTER GERHARD	GER	1195	ROFFLER LEONHARD	SUI
1026	SAMPELA KARI	FIN	1111	HAAS SIEGFRIED JUN.	GER	1196	VADLEJCH JAN	ISR
1027	SNICKARS GUSTAV	FIN	1112	SKUMAVC IVO	SLO	1197	NORDERHAUG KJELL	NOR
1028	HUBER OTHMAR	SUI	1113	CHARMOILLE GILLES	FRA	1198	CARLEBERG EVA	SWE
1029	HAEBERLING MAYA	SUI	1114	CHITTUSSI MILAN	SUI	1199	PALMGREN GÖRAN	SWE
1030	BAUMANN HARRY	SUI	1115	SHEEHY KEVIN	AUS	1200	DEZMAN STEFAN	SLO
1031	FRAEFEL ROSEMARIE	SUI	1116	HELDMANN GEORG-DIETER	GER	1201	KVÅLE STEINAR	NOR
1032	MARTSCHINKE ARNO	GER	1117	HELLMANN RALF	GER	1202	DUNLOP ERIK	AUS
1033	BIENTIK JÜRGEN	GER	1118	PURKHART JOHANN F.	CAN	1203	BARBLAN CORSIN	SUI

1204	BALLESTER WOLFGANG	GER	1289*	KOBRO PER	NOR	1374	SCHULZ HUBERT	GER
1205	LEISI PETER	SUI	1290	MIDTTUN OLAV	NOR	1375	FATZER ALFRED	SUI
1206	GORNIK MILAN	SLO	1291	HERMANN KONRAD	GER	1376	GIOVANETTINA ULISSE	ITA
1207	GRUDEN SRECKO	SLO	1292	ARNAU LUIS	ESP	1377	FUCHS FRANZ	GER
1208	ZNIDARSIC ANTON	SLO	1293	WESSIAK NIKI	AUT	1378	VIKEN ERLING	NOR
1209	RES JAKOB	SLO	1294	FERRO FLORIANO	ITA	1379	WIDMER PETER	SUI
1210	VIRY ANDRE	FRA	1295	SUVANTO TIMO ERKKI	FIN	1380	MEIER LINDA	CAN
1211	TRIVIERI ANTONIO	ITA	1296	MATILAINEN URPO	FIN	1381	BERTSCHI WALTER	SUI
1212	ZÜRCHER HANSUELI	SUI	1297	MATSUYAMA MINORU	JPN	1382	WOLTER REINHOLD	GER
1213	FURRER MARTIN	SUI	1298	UDOVIC ANTON	SLO	1383	O'CONNELL JOHN	USA
1214	FÜGNER HERBERT	GER	1299	LARSSON HANNES	FRA	1384	GIMMEL PETER	SUI
1215	HORNICH RAINER	GER	1300	LARSSON HANNES	FRA	1385	GALLI ANTONIO	ITA
1216	SCHÖTTELDREIER JÜRGEN	GER	1301	TILLESKJOER TROND	NOR	1386	SPREAFICO ARTURO	ITA
1217	BOUTERAON MICHEL	FRA	1302	KLOSE HANS-JOACHIM	GER	1387	FUMAGALLI CLAUDIO	ITA
1218	CLAVER DOMINIQUE	FRA	1303	KOLEHMAINEN HEINO	FIN	1388	SPANDRI FRANCESCO	ITA
1219	PERGOVNIK IVAN	SLO	1304	LOVSIN JANEZ	SLO	1389	COMBY JEAN-YVES	FRA
1220	NABHOLZ-WICKLI ANNA	SUI	1305	PETERLIN LUDVIK	SLO	1390	NORDQUIST BRITT-MARIE	SWE
1221	SCHANIEL ANDRI	SUI	1306	SILC NANDE	SLO	1391	ARNESSEN ARNE	NOR
1222	LACROIX JACQUELINE	FRA	1307	PULLES JAANUS	EST	1392	MARCHESI BENITO	ITA
1223	KRONIG CHRISTIAN	SUI	1308	MEGLIC DEZMAN FRANCKA	SLO	1393	BANZER PAUL	SUI
1224	SATO TADASHI	JPN	1309	SCHALDENBRANDT JEAN-JACQUES	SUI	1394	BULLO DANIELE	ITA
1225	GISIN ALIDA	SUI	1310	BURMO PER JOHAN	NOR	1395	VANZO MARIO	ITA
1226	GISIN CHRISTIAN	SUI	1311	KEPIC UROS	SLO	1396	HILSKA ASTA	FIN
1227	FERRY MICHEL	FRA	1312	PIETRAFESA ANTONIO	ITA	1397	SCHUNK FRIEDEL	USA
1228	SPOERRI THOMAS	SUI	1313	POULL WILLIAM	USA	1398	STOEHR THOMAS	GER
1229	CLAUS BERND	GER	1314	TURMO ASBJOERN	NOR	1399	SOSNA VLASTIMIL	CZE
1230	VIDIMOVA IVANA	CZE	1315	STREIT PETER	SUI	1400	LARSSON HANNES	FRA
1231	KREJSA JOSEF	CZE	1316	MULTALA MAURI	FIN	1401	PICHLER ANDREAS	AUT
1232	BENDELI NICOLAS	AUS	1317	DASEK MIROSLAV	CZE	1402	EVANS BRIAN	AUS
1233	HELBIG GÜNTER	GER	1318	GEISSER MAX	SUI	1403	GOLOUBKOV LEONID	RUS
1234	ROWE THOMAS	USA	1319	DOERING WOLFGANG	GER	1404	PENSINI MONICA	ITA
1235	DE GOBBI ALBINO	ITA	1320	BANKS TIM	GBR	1405	HAGEN EVEN ANDRE	NOR
1236	PASEMANN KLAUS	GER	1321	PELLI ULLA	FIN	1406	JOHANSSON STELLAN	SWE
1237	RUDOLFSSON TORSTEN	SWE	1322	MANGELROED KAY	NOR	1407	TURSIC MARJAN	SLO
1238	CORRADINI ANGELO	ITA	1323	JORTIKKA LAURIE	AUS	1408	JOHANSSON LENNART	SWE
1239	SANDBORG GUNNAR	NOR	1324	AGAPOV WJATSCHESLAW	RUS	1409	RÄÄF JOHNNY	SWE
1240	FLEIGE JUSTUS	GER	1325	RICHTER HUBERTUS	GER	1410	KORHONEN TOIVO	FIN
1241	HAKONSEN HARRY	NOR	1326	MAGAND GUY	FRA	1411	MÜLLER MICHAEL	GER
1242	VOLDEN TROND	NOR	1327	KAVKA FRENK	SLO	1412	MALERT JOACHIM	GER
1243	SCHNEIDER BERTHOLD	GER	1328	ZAFALON ROBERTO	ITA	1413	GERECKE GUNTER	GER
1244	JOCHIM MANFRED	GER	1329	ZAFALON FABIO	ITA	1414	GERECKE MARTIN	GER
1245	KUZMIN DANIEL	ISR	1330	JORDI VERENA	SUI	1415	VADLEJCH JAN	ISR
1246	SPANBLOECHL JR. KARL J.	AUT	1331	KARLSSON JAN-ERIK	SWE	1416	THOMPSON DARRELL C.	USA
1247	TSUCHIYA HARUO	JPN	1332	OTTOSSON STIG	SWE	1417	KIVILINNA VELI-ANTTI	FIN
1248	BENNER RAIMUND	GER	1333	TRUDE MIKE	GBR	1418	RUOTSALAINEN TAPANI	FIN
1249	JASIEWICZ JAN	SUI	1334	LANE DENNIS	AUS	1419	BEYELER ERNST	SUI
1250	VOGELI NIKLAUS	SUI	1335	HUBER-SCHNEITER HANSPETER	SUI	1420	NARDELLI MARCO	ITA
1251	FIELD HILARY	GBR	1336	ROOS J P	FIN	1421	MENEGHINI RINALDO	ITA
1252	HOLKERI TAUNO	FIN	1337	RINCK ROMAIN	LUX	1422	KRAUSS RICHARD	SUI
1253	MARCHAND DENIS	FRA	1338	SEHNAL JOSEF	USA	1423	STENGEL UWE	GER
1254	AMACHER ARTHUR	SUI	1339	KÖRNER WERNER	GER	1424	POPOV VIKTOR	RUS
1255	ROFFLER GERTRUD	SUI	1340	JASIEWICZ JAN	SUI	1425	OLLE RAUL	EST
1256	KOLOBANOVA LIUDMILA	RUS	1341	OLARS BERIT	SWE	1426	PETERSEIM THOMAS	GER
1257	SÖDER ROLAND	GER	1342	WORSNOP GREGORY	USA	1427	KRETZSCHMAR STEFAN	GER
1258	NAGEL JOHANNES	GER	1343	HIDENORI HARUNA	JPN	1428	HELLMANN RALF	GER
1259	ARHEIT RICHIE	GER	1344	KAMEI YOJIRO	JPN	1429	VIRY ANDRE	FRA
1260	NIINIMÄKI LASSE	FIN	1345*	LANE BEVERLEY	AUS	1430	MÜLLER OTTO ADOLF	GER
1261	NEY NICO	LUX	1346	ÄIMÄ HARRI	FIN	1431	TORGÖZEV ANATOLIY	RUS
1262	KARSCH MANFRED	GER	1347	HENIGMAN BENJAMIN	SLO	1432	ALEV MADIS	EST
1263	BRAUNEGGER ULRIKE	AUT	1348	NAUDIN MARCEL	FRA	1433	ARUKUUSK ALAR	EST
1264	BRAUNEGGER HUBERT	AUT	1349	NEUVONEN RAJA	FIN	1434	BRAUN HERBERT	GER
1265	PÄRN AIVO	EST	1350	NARDELLI PAOLO	ITA	1435	BUNDI MARC	SUI
1266	LOVIK RICHARD	SWE	1351	PALCIC LUDVIK	SLO	1436	FREIER ECKART	GER
1267	JOHANSSON RUNE	SWE	1352	LEVEC FRANC	SLO	1437	HAAS NIKLAUS	SUI
1268	JUVLAND EINAR	NOR	1353	SVET GUIDO	SLO	1438	KANKELHARDT ROLF	GER
1269	HAUGLAND GEIR	NOR	1354	OZBOLT IVAN	SLO	1439	PETRI ROCHUS	GER
1270	SNICKARS GUSTAV	FIN	1355	OZBOLT BOZIDAR	SLO	1440	WAHLUND KARIN	SWE
1271	CASTELLAZZI LUIGI	ITA	1356	EPICHIUE NIKOLAI	RUS	1441*	WAGNER MANFRED	GER
1272	NEWCOMB JAMES	USA	1357	VARLAMOV EVGENI	RUS	1442	WIENER JAY	USA
1273	WALLACE BRIAN	AUS	1358	LARSSON EINAR	FIN	1443	HAACK HANS-JÜRGEN	GER
1274	VIKEN TOR IVAR	NOR	1359	SCHELLER HANSPETER K.	SUI	1444	JÄDERHOLM SVEN OLAF	SWE
1275	ESPOLIN-JOHNSON GISLE	NOR	1360	RIBAS ELENA	ESP	1445	EMBICK ANDREW	USA
1276	KRUGERUD ARVE	NOR	1361	MONSONIS FRANCESC	ESP	1446	OCHSNER URS	SUI
1277	EBERLEIN KLAUS	GER	1362	RÜGER ARNOLD	GER	1447	HUBER THOMAS	GER
1278	FABI ALOIS	ITA	1363	DOGLIONE PASQUALE	ITA	1448	DEL DOT CARLO	ITA
1279	LOESCH ERWIN	ITA	1364	GRÜBEL JOSEF	SUI	1449	GUTZMANN WOLFGANG-RUEDI	GER
1280	VADLEJCH JAN	ISR	1365	SEIFFERT ULRICH	GER	1450	NARDELLI PAOLO	ITA
1281	DRENG MARTIN	NOR	1366	OFF JAN	GER	1451	AMPEZZAN CORRADO	ITA
1282	SVENDSEN RAGNAR	NOR	1367	RICHARDS BOB	USA	1452	ENGLER HANS-RUDOLF	SUI
1283	BERGENE REIDAR	NOR	1368	MATARESE ROLAND	FRA	1453	KAPPE HANS-GERD	GER
1284	CHARLLESEN TOR H.	NOR	1369	GRASSE KLAUS-DIETER	GER	1454	TANNER KURT	SUI
1285	BREDAL ODD LARS	NOR	1370	PRETINI REMO	ITA	1455	KURAMSHIN RAMIR	RUS
1286	CHRISTOFFERSEN KAERE	NOR	1371	PLACHT JOACHIM	GER	1456	STREICHER MARTIN	GER
1287	BERGAN JAN THORE	NOR	1372	SASAKI MUNEO	JPN	1457	HAPNES OTTO	NOR
1288	SANNES SVEIN	NOR	1373	BERTI DARIO	ITA	1458	SNICKARS GUSTAV	FIN

1459	CHALAEV DMITRI	RUS	1544	SATO TADASHI	JPN	1629*	HAGNÄS LARS WILLIAM	FIN
1460	JASIEWICZ JAN	SUI	1545*	MATSUMOTO AIKO	JPN	1630	MARCHAND DENIS	FRA
1461	CARTER PETER	AUS	1546	AARMO TROND HELGE	NOR	1631	BOUILLERET JEAN-LUC	FRA
1462	MAY CHRISTOPHER	GBR	1547	RINGDAL JAN PER	NOR	1632	MELCOT BERNARD	FRA
1463	KOBER HORST	GER	1548	PODGORNIK RES RAIKO	SLO	1633	DEMRRICH GERD	GER
1464	BRANC MARIJAN	SLO	1549	ZAGAR MATJAZ	SLO	1634	KLEVALIN ALEXANDER	RUS
1465*	KALIWODA HELGA	AUT	1550	LARSSON HANNES	FRA	1635	PETROV ANDREY	RUS
1466	KALIWODA ALFRED	AUT	1551	OBSYL PREMYSL	CZE	1636	EFIMOV ALEXEI	RUS
1467	SCHNAITER WOLFGANG	GER	1552	WILLMAN JERZY	POL	1637	FOJCIK VAVRINEC	CZE
1468	MATTILA MIKKO	FIN	1553	JUNG PETER	GER	1638	VICZIAN VERA	HUN
1469	GÖTTE BERND	GER	1554	KARLSSON BENGT	USA	1639	PERSSON PÄR A J	SWE
1470*	UUSITALO KAARLO	FIN	1555	RUDE ROBERT	USA	1640	FEOKTISTOV VLADIMIR	RUS
1471	EDMAN LARS	FIN	1556	GAUDERON WERNER	SUI	1641	FEOKTISTOV NIKOLAI	RUS
1472	MÜNTZEL GÜNTER	GER	1557	METTLER RETO	SUI	1642*	PUHR JOHANN	AUT
1473	FJAER PER ODD	NOR	1558	SEIFERT DIETRICH	GER	1643*	PUHR BRIGITTE	AUT
1474	NILSEN ERLING	NOR	1559	LEHMUNG KAI-UWE	GER	1644	KUZZY JAMES	USA
1475	FORMO OLE	NOR	1560	TONOLLI ALBERTO	ITA	1645	RYNDA ADOLF	AUT
1476	SKOGSTAD AGE	NOR	1561	SAVIANE BENITO	ITA	1646	HARJU TOIVO	SWE
1477	CICOGNA ASCANIO	ITA	1562	TERAJIMA TAKEHIKO	JPN	1647	PULLES JAANUS	EST
1478	FAROLFI ALBERTO	ITA	1563	GALLI VALENTINO	ITA	1648	JOANBLANQ CHRISTOPHE	FRA
1479	MANAVELLO FLAVIO	ITA	1564	SNYDER HUGH R	CAN	1649	LINDSTAD ERIK	GER
1480	LINDH MONA	SWE	1565	SVE MARTIN	NOR	1650	LARSSON HANNES	FRA
1481	BURNICHON PHILIPPE	FRA	1566	BEHM TERHO	SWE	1651	LEHMANN ROBERT	SUI
1482	HITZ URS	SUI	1567	BORG GUNDER	SWE	1652	SIEBER GÜNTER	GER
1483	BANNIER HENNER	GER	1568	LARSON LARRY	USA	1653	OUTROBINA TATIANA	RUS
1484	MELHUS RAGNAR	NOR	1569	FEDOROV VLADIMIR	RUS	1654	KVÅLE STEINAR	NOR
1485	YTREHUS INGUNN	NOR	1570	PETROFF BORIS	FRA	1655	KVÅLE STEINAR	NOR
1486	GUSEV BORIS	RUS	1571	PETROFF ISABELLE	FRA	1656	PONZANI PIERGIORGIO	ITA
1487	KANDARE ANTON	SLO	1572	FILIPEC PETER	SUI	1657	MALACIC JANEZ	SLO
1488*	MÜLLER EDMUND	GER	1573	NOWAK SABINE	GER	1658	BACKMAN KAI	FIN
1489*	KOBRO ATLE	NOR	1574	SETYI NIKOLAI	RUS	1659	MAURICE GERARD	FRA
1490*	TEEVAN DENNIS B	GBR	1575	POPOV PETR	RUS	1660	KUZMIN DANIEL	ISR
1491	BAUMANN NICOLAS	SUI	1576	KOREKHOV ENGUELS	RUS	1661	KÖRNER WERNER	GER
1492	BAUMANN ALAIN	SUI	1577	STROGANOV YURY	RUS	1662	DASEK MIROSLAV	CZE
1493	NISULA TARMO	FIN	1578	GLOVCHOUN JURI	RUS	1663	ERARD PHILIP	USA
1494	IWAI HIROTOMO	JPN	1579	SCHUMAKER ROGER	USA	1664	LIE ARNE	NOR
1495	NEDVEDICKA BLANKA	CZE	1580	SMIRNOV TOURI	RUS	1665	NEVELING ARTHUR	SWE
1496	EBERHARD DR. PETER	GER	1581	SOUCHKO SERGUEI	RUS	1666	BÄCKSTRÖM ERLING	SWE
1497	WALDHEIM FRANK	GER	1582	SOUCHKO-GOUMINSKI PAVEL	RUS	1667	KELLNER REINHARD	GER
1498	LARSSON EINAR	FIN	1583	GOLUBKOVA LIUDMILLA	RUS	1668	LEHRICH NORBERT	GER
1499	SIEVÄNEN ASKO	FIN	1584	MATTVEEV ALEKSANDR	RUS	1669	JAKOUBE VLADIMIR	CZE
1500	LARSSON HANNES	FRA	1585	SIBAEV MINGALIM	RUS	1670	LIENERT IAN	NZL
1501	SADOWSKI GRZEGORZ	POL	1586	POUX JEAN	FRA	1671	PANICHELLA GASTONE	ITA
1502	CZARSKI TOMASC	POL	1587	ZUBER HARRY	SUI	1672	JOHNSEN STEN HELGE	NOR
1503	MUUUKKA KEJO	FIN	1588	ANSIP ANDRUS	EST	1673	HOGAS GEIR	NOR
1504	TUOMINEN TEUVO	FIN	1589	BATTISTI LUCIANO	ITA	1674	WERSTAD BJÖRN OYVIND	NOR
1505	JÄRVISALO ERKKI	FIN	1590	VADLEJCH JAN	ISR	1675	SORENSEN KNUT	NOR
1506	PORRI VELI	FIN	1591	HÜTTER MANFRED	GER	1676	REZAC STANISLAV	CZE
1507	SCALAMONTI LUCIANO	ITA	1592	BOHM ANDREAS	GER	1677	CICHANOWSKI MIKE	USA
1508	JAKOBSEN GEIR	NOR	1593	THOMASEN JENS	DEN	1678	PERRON CHARLES	SUI
1509	HAUBRICH JIM	USA	1594	LAANINEN LEENA	FIN	1679	MÄKELÄ ARVO	FIN
1510*	PICARD JACQUES	CAN	1595	LEPAJÖE MADIS	EST	1680	BROUSSOU JACQUES	FRA
1511	MAYBLOOM BRUCE	AUS	1596	LAANINEN KARI	FIN	1681	CONVERT PHILIPPE	FRA
1512	TALAS JAN	CZE	1597	KORHONEN OLAVI	FIN	1682	RINCK ROMAIN	LUX
1513	SCHOWALTER TIM	USA	1598	JÄRVINEN KAUKO	FIN	1683	VALIN MICHEL	FRA
1514	MINDZAK ANDREJ	CZE	1599	JAVANAINEN ARVO	FIN	1684	RES JAKOB	SLO
1515	MEYNER HORST	GER	1600	KVALE JORGEN	NOR	1685	PEDERSEN CARROLL P.	USA
1516	BLEIMUTH MANFRED	AUT	1601	BRÄUNIG DR. PETER	GER	1686	SIEBER RITA	GER
1517	CHARLEUX MARC	FRA	1602	LEYDER JEAN	LUX	1687	LUKKARINEN HEIMO	FIN
1518	SUNDKVIST INGVALD	FIN	1603	LINDBAECK-LARSEN DAG	NOR	1688	RUFT REINER	GER
1519	FINELL ERKKI	FIN	1604	SIRO JAROSLAV	SVK	1689	AALTIO PETRI	FIN
1520	LOPEZ VICTORIA	ESP	1605	MARENDIAK VLADIMIR	SVK	1690	DRING GARTH	GBR
1521	ORRIOLS ANTONI	ESP	1606	VALENT PETER	SVK	1691	RIGBY PETER	AUS
1522	RITTER PETR	CZE	1607	PONCAK PETER	SVK	1692	OLSON WILLIAM	USA
1523	HAGNÄS LARS WILLIAM	FIN	1608	MLINAR JANEZ	SLO	1693	FOX BEVERLY	CAN
1524	KORIN KAJ	FIN	1609	FEE FREDERICK W.	CAN	1694	CAMPBELL CATHERINE	CAN
1525	ZHITENEV IVAN	RUS	1610	SCHWEINBERGER BERND	LUX	1695	SCHRÖDER ERWIN	GER
1526	DANZ ROLF	GER	1611	MARAI PAOLO	ITA	1696	VALVE TEUVO	FIN
1527	TJAEDER LARS-ERIK	SWE	1612	PAROLINI OSVALDO	ITA	1697	PALLISER ROBERT	CAN
1528	HOZJAN MARTIN	SLO	1613	TICHOV ANTONIN	CZE	1698	FEAKES DEBORAH	AUS
1529	KRAPEZ DARKO	SLO	1614	ZIDEK JAN	GER	1699	FEAKES WARREN	AUS
1530	FAZAKAS MONIKA	HUN	1615	CERVENKA ZDENEK	CZE	1700	PETROFF BORIS	FRA
1531	ROSIVALL ZOLTAN	HUN	1616	JASIEWICZ JAN	SUI	1701	AMPEZZAN CORRADO	ITA
1532	KOVACS JOZSEF	HUN	1617	HEDVICAK JAROSLAV	CZE	1702	HILLARD JOHN	AUS
1533	ROCTON JEAN	FRA	1618	ALBANESE RENZO	GER	1703	LEGEZO LJUBOV	RUS
1534	NOITRIN CLAUDE	FRA	1619	NEDVEDICKA BLANKA	CZE	1704	GALIMARD JEAN-CLAUDE	FRA
1535	KIYOSHI FUGIMOTO	JPN	1620	GORODETSKIY SERGEY	RUS	1705	VADLEJCH JAN	ISR
1536	TÜNNERMANN DIRK	GER	1621	GOLOUBKOV LEONID	RUS	1706	FILLINGER JOACHIM	GER
1537	ILIC STOJAN	SLO	1622	BONDAREV EUGENI	RUS	1707	MCCARTHY BERNARD JOHN	GBR
1538	CLARK RICHARD	AUS	1623	BYKOVSKIY SERGEY	RUS	1708	SCHÄFER INGRID	GER
1539	PALLISER ROBERT	CAN	1624	NEKRASSOV VIATCHESLAV	RUS	1709	BOBE RUDOLF	GER
1540	MATSUMUTO AIKO	JPN	1625	TCHERNOV VITALI	RUS	1710	NOWAK THOMAS	GER
1541	COSTA ALBERTO	ITA	1626	NILSSON PER	SWE	1711	ZURLONI FELICE	ITA
1542	THO TORLEIV	NOR	1627	LEMINEN HANNU A.	FIN	1712	ROBERT PATRICK	FRA
1543	MATSUOKA SADA O	JPN	1628	KAUHANEN RAIMO ILMARI	FIN	1713	CRAMERI CAMILLO	SUI

1714	JAKHELLN GEORG	NOR	1799	PATZELT BERND	GER	1884	VEZZOLI MARCO	ITA
1715	LIPPMANN KARL	GER	1800	LARSSON HANNES	FRA	1885	PIROTTA MARIO	ITA
1716	STAHL BERTIL	SWE	1801	FREI BRUNO EMIL	SUI	1886	YORK ELLIS	USA
1717	EKTOVA ELENA	RUS	1802	MATSUDA KIYOSHI	JPN	1887	MAHER DONALD	USA
1718	MÄNDMETS HELGES	EST	1803	BÜHLER RUDOLF	SUI	1888	STROGANOV YURY	RUS
1719	LEPIK HILLAR	EST	1804	JOHANSSON OLE	NOR	1889	PAULOVICH ADRIANO	ITA
1720	ZANETEL GIANANTONIO	ITA	1805	KUULA JUHA	FIN	1890	VADLEJCH JAN	ISR
1721	POLT KALJU	EST	1806	POHL BORIVOJ	CZE	1891	HELLMANN RALF	GER
1722	RODI ARVO	EST	1807	SVECENY JAN	CZE	1892	HOFS ARJAN	NED
1723	CRANAGE BOB	AUS	1808	TELEPIN NIKOLAI	RUS	1893*	HOFS-WIERINGA RENSINA	NED
1724	DROSTE PETER	GER	1809	KÖNIG GERD	GER	1894	KILPINEN KARI	FIN
1725	JASIEWICZ JAN	SUI	1810	HEMMO ANTTI	FIN	1895	LATORRE VIALLONGA XAVIER	ESP
1726	KARDEL KRISTIN	NOR	1811	RYTI RISTO	FIN	1896	RUMISEK STEPAN	CZE
1727	KARDEL MIKKEL	NOR	1812	ELLRICH MEINHARD	GER	1897	SIRO JAROSLAV	SVK
1728	BIERTHER JÜRGEN	GER	1813	OURAKOV ANATOLI	RUS	1898	GOUMENIOUK ALEXEI	RUS
1729	HOFMANN GÜNTHER	GER	1814	KOSTYNITCH SERGUEI	RUS	1899	STANNEK DETLEF	GER
1730*	MILLER JOHN	AUS	1815	GULBIN MATI	EST	1900	LARSSON HANNES	FRA
1731	LEMAIRE LAURENT	FRA	1816	OKROUHLIK JIRI	CZE	1901	AMPEZZAN CORRADO	ITA
1732	STENDAHL BJOERN	FIN	1817	LATKA MILAN	SVK	1902	SOUCHTCHIEV OLEG	RUS
1733	BARTHOLOME MANFRED	GER	1818	TERIUOTKINE IGOR	RUS	1903	LEHRICH NORBERT	GER
1734	MONTGERMONT DANIEL	FRA	1819	TOUTUNINE VIKTOR	RUS	1904	HENTTONEN RAIMO	FIN
1735	HITZ URS	SUI	1820	ANTIPANOVA RIMMA	RUS	1905	MYKLESTAD EDVIN	NOR
1736	BALLESTER WOLFGANG	GER	1821	HOHBACH PAUL	USA	1906	WENZEL FALKO	GER
1737	KOLOBANOVA LIUDMILA	RUS	1822	SVENNEBY OLA	NOR	1907	FREI BRUNO EMIL	SUI
1738	KOKOREV NIKOLAI	RUS	1823	JACOBSON GARY	USA	1908	FREI BRUNO EMIL	SUI
1739	KITAICHEV NIKOLAI	RUS	1824	KADAJANE RAUL	EST	1909	SEHNAL JOSEF	USA
1740	KOZLOV OLEG	RUS	1825	KVALE JORGEN	NOR	1910	TERVALA ESKO	FIN
1741*	KURAMSHIN RAMIR	RUS	1826	RAE ALAN	AUS	1911	NAGL LOIS	AUT
1742	TSAPLINE VLADIMIR	RUS	1827*	KOLOBANOVA LIUDMILA	RUS	1912	NAGL HELGA	AUT
1743	GUSTAVSSON RUNE	SWE	1828	PÜTSEP VELLO	EST	1913*	MILLER JOHN	AUS
1744	HERMANSSON AKE HENRY	SWE	1829	KOPPLIN WOLFGANG	GER	1914	BRANC MARIAN	SLO
1745	WIEZOREK KLAUS-DIETER	GER	1830	LIKSOR AIVO	EST	1915	FOULON DENIS	FRA
1746	NORITOMO SUSUMU	JPN	1831	FIELD HILARY	GBR	1916	SCHUMAKER ROGER	USA
1747	VAUHNİK VIKTOR	SLO	1832	KIVILOO LEMBIT	EST	1917	KOCHETOV VLADIMIR	RUS
1748	DEUBELBEISS WILLIAM	CAN	1833	SCHNEIDER KURT	GER	1918	RIAN BENTE	NOR
1749	MARRELLI ALFONSO	ITA	1834	MALERT TRAUDL GERTRAUD	GER	1919	VON ALLMEN KURT	SUI
1750	NARDELLI PAOLO	ITA	1835	KREEKMAN KALEV	EST	1920	HRIBERNIK FRANC	SLO
1751	SORENSEN MAGNHILD	NOR	1836	VOGLER DIETMAR	GER	1921	MASAKO YONEKAWA	JPN
1752	SCHNABEL DR. EDMUND	GER	1837	PALLISER ROBERT	CAN	1922	SAKURADA TAKASHI	JPN
1753	FJELDHEIM STEINAR	NOR	1838	JASIEWICZ JAN	SUI	1923	SAKURADA YUKIKO	JPN
1754	KARLSSON STEFAN	SWE	1839	TRAVNICEK JAROSLAV Sen.	CZE	1924	BATCHKOEV GENNADY	RUS
1755	BERGGREN TOMMY	SWE	1840	OLSSON PEKKA JUHANI	FIN	1925	HAZARD ANDRE' CAMILLE	BEL
1756	TATARA MIROSLAV	SVK	1841	OLSSON PIIRKKO-LISA	FIN	1926	YOUNGBLOM LE ROY	USA
1757	KÖCHLIN WOLFGANG	SUI	1842	BURIAN BEDRICH	CZE	1927	VIRY CHRISTIAN	FRA
1758	BAKKE OLAV ERIK	NOR	1843	NOVAK BRETISLAV	CZE	1928	MARTINS LOGINS	LAT
1759	TOP ADRIEN	BEL	1844	GRABOWSKI STANISLAW	POL	1929	JANSONS EDGARS	LAT
1760	HABANEK JOZEF	SVK	1845	KLEJSZTA WIESLAW	POL	1930	KOSMACEVS ANDRIS	LAT
1761	BUCHLI JÜRG	SUI	1846	TARVIS PEETER	EST	1931	NAGL HELGA	AUT
1762	NORDSTRÖM TORGNY	SWE	1847	TARVIS AIVI	EST	1932	KARLSSON BENGT	USA
1763	SAARINEN ILKKA	FIN	1848	WOLTER REINHOLD	GER	1933	NAGL LOIS	AUT
1764	ZIMMERMANN STEPHAN	GER	1849	MEDVEDEV SERGEI	RUS	1934	POUX JEAN	FRA
1765	HAZARD ANDRE' CAMILLE	BEL	1850	VENEROVSKY PETER	SVK	1935	DANILTCHENKO EVGUENI	RUS
1766	URUSOV RAVIL	RUS	1851	LANZINGER WILFRIED	GER	1936	EFIMEHKO ALEXANDRE	RUS
1767	ONDRIAS RADEK	CZE	1852	CAVIET NANCY LUCIENNE	NED	1937	KNÜSEL MARKUS	SUI
1768	NEDVEDICKA BLANKA	CZE	1853	KOHEI KOIKE	JPN	1938	KNÜSEL MARKUS	SUI
1769	MILEWSKI LECH	AUS	1854	MOREAU PATRICE	FRA	1939	PUTKONEN ERKKI	FIN
1770	KORHONEN TOIVO	FIN	1855	MELLEAGARD JAN-OLOF	SWE	1940	VIRY ANDRE	FRA
1771	WOLFRAM HEINZ	GER	1856	MARRONE MICHAEL	USA	1941	VANADZINS IVARS	LAT
1772	ONDRUS MIROSLAV	SVK	1857	MADEJ ANDREW	CAN	1942	HERMANSSON NILS	SWE
1773	DOUGAN DAVID	AUS	1858	KOHUT JAN	CZE	1943	STEDJE HALLVARD	NOR
1774	RUPNIK ROMAN	SLO	1859	LONGA ARNO	ITA	1944	GOLOUBKOV LEONID	RUS
1775	VADLEJCH JAN	ISR	1860	CASTELLANI ERCOLE S.	ITA	1945	MAGAND GUY	FRA
1776	MATARESE ROLAND	FRA	1861	COMPAGNONI MARCO	ITA	1946	SHIMAZAKI TAKASHI	JPN
1777	SCHMIDT GÜNTHER	GER	1862	SILVESTRI QUIRINO	ITA	1947	BOSSO LUCIANO	ITA
1778	BRESCIANI VITO LUIGI	ITA	1863	KINSCH CLEMENTINE	LUX	1948	LANO SILVANA	ITA
1779	BEHM TERHO	SWE	1864	KRIEGEL THOMAS	GER	1949	GOLEBIOWSKI BERND	GER
1780	LARSSON HANNES	FRA	1865	WHARRIE BRUCE	AUS	1950	ELLIS KATE	USA
1781	HERRMANN KONRAD	GER	1866	HAYES MARGARET	AUS	1951	HAUKVIK TORE	NOR
1782	SULSTERS ADRIANUS	NED	1867	ADDISON COLIN	AUS	1952	LAGUS ARNE	USA
1783	ARSENEAU FERNAND	CAN	1868	BARNES JUDITH	AUS	1953	PUIDAK PRIIT	EST
1784	FREI BRUNO EMIL	SUI	1869	MARCHAND DENIS	FRA	1954	EBERMANN HEINZ	GER
1785	KNOBBE BÄRBEL	GER	1870	KÖRNER WERNER	GER	1955*	FIELD PATRICK	GBR
1786	KAHLER MONIKA	GER	1871	YAKOVLEV ALEXANDRE	RUS	1956	BORCHARDT SCHEEL	GER
1787	KAHLER GERHARD	GER	1872	LAVONEN SEPPO	FIN		MAJ-BRITT BARBARA	GER
1788	NAVRÁTIL FRANTISEK	CZE	1873	ARCELLI GIUSEPPINA	ITA	1957	BORCHARDT MATTHIAS	GER
1789	LONTZ WILLIAM	USA	1874	BOHM ANDREAS	GER	1958*	BUETTNER HANS	AUS
1790	KLEMEN MARJAN	SLO	1875	LARS SNORE	FIN	1959	LARSSON HANNES	FRA
1791	COURTINE HERVE'	FRA	1876	FICHTER NANCY WANKEL	USA	1960	HEIMANN RUEDI	SUI
1792	KOUZMENKO VLADIMIR	RUS	1877	FICHTER GARY L.	USA	1961	STEINHAUG SIGFRED	NOR
1793	KRIOUKOV VLADIMIR	RUS	1878*	RION FRANCOISE	FRA	1962	JOHNSON BRUCE	USA
1794	VALTONEN AARNI	FIN	1879	MONTGERMONT DANIEL	FRA	1963	CHERNOV OLEG	RUS
1795	SCIRANKO JOSEF	SVK	1880	GRACJASZ JAN	POL	1964	VORONIN NIKOLAI	RUS
1796	MATSUYAMA MINORU	JPN	1881	BOIGK DIETER	GER	1965	GOLDMAN SAUL	CAN
1797	KROUTIKHINE VICTOR	RUS	1882	KUDROVA ROMANA	CZE	1966	KARLSSON BENGT	USA
1798	PLATZEK HANS	GER	1883	DE MARTINO FAUSTO	ITA	1967	MANIORA YONEL	LUX

1968	NEDERMO BARBRO	FIN	2053	WANKE LEIF	SWE	2138	BORISSOV VALENTIN	RUS
1969	SANDELL GÖRAN	SWE	2054	ZEHTNER ERIC	SUI	2139	CHURIKOV MAXIM	RUS
1970	HITZ URS	SUI	2055	DE CILLIA DARIO	LUX	2140	RACHMANIN VALENTIN	RUS
1971	ERIKSSON GUN	SWE	2056	VALENCIA NEBOT CARLES	ESP	2141	GORODETSKIY SERGEY	RUS
1972	ERIKSSON STIG	SWE	2057	BALLESTER WOLFGANG	GER	2142	AUDRLICKY JAN	CZE
1973	TRAVNICEK JAROSLAV JUNIOR	CZE	2058*	HIRAMTSU YOSUKE	JPN	2143	KOCHETOV VLADIMIR	RUS
1974	CARNOVALI GIUSEPPE	ITA	2059	KAZUAKI NIWAYAMA	JPN	2144	OSSIG EDGAR	GER
1975	PERSSON BOB	SWE	2060	NISHIYAMA MASAYOSHI	JPN	2145	MONTGERMONT DANIEL	FRA
1976	PERSSON CHRISTINA	SWE	2061	WIESENBACH REINER	GER	2146	KARL CHRISTINE	GER
1977	SLEZACEK ANTON	SVK	2062	ARNESSEN ARNE	NOR	2147	SAATKAMP JOERG	GER
1978	PATUC JAROSLAV	SVK	2063	HARJU GUNNAR	SWE	2148	SNELI ODDVIN	NOR
1979	STANICEK PAVOL	SVK	2064*	LARSSON EINAR	FIN	2149	ALEV MADIS	EST
1980	OLSEN GERT	DEN	2065	NEDVEDICKA BLANKA	CZE	2150	QUILLLOT JEAN	FRA
1981	ELIASINSKA MALGORZATA	POL	2066	ERNSTSEN OYSTEIN	NOR	2151	STRALEY DAVE	USA
1982	WALTILA ATLE JONNY	NOR	2067	VADLEJCH JAN	ISR	2152	NEKRASSOVA NATALIA	RUS
1983	SIEVÄNEN ASKO	FIN	2068	LITSCHER CHRISTIAN	SUI	2153	WILLMAN JERZY	POL
1984	BERGUM ROBERT	USA	2069	ANDERSSON ROGER	SWE	2154	KNÜSEL MARKUS	SUI
1985	LOUTSENKO VLADIMIR	RUS	2070	FAYHAGE LENNART	SWE	2155	SEMENYTCHEV IOURI	RUS
1986	JOANBLANQ CHRISTOPHE	FRA	2071	ELFVING LARS	SWE	2156	TOVERUD JON	NOR
1987	HERRMANN KONRAD	GER	2072	KOLOBANOVA LIUDMILA	RUS	2157	BRAUNIG DR. PETER	GER
1988	WUNDER ERIKA	GER	2073	CATTANEO MARCO	ITA	2158	PEDERSEN MONTI LARS	NOR
1989	VIRY ANDRE	FRA	2074	BORDIGA FAUSTINO	ITA	2159	COURTINE HERVE'	FRA
1990	NISULA TARMO	FIN	2075	COSTANTIN PIERLUIGI	ITA	2160	FREI BRUNO EMIL	SUI
1991	PERFUMO RENZO	ITA	2076	URUSOV RAVIL	RUS	2161	DASEK MIROSLAV	CZE
1992	PUUMALAINEN URPO	FIN	2077	URUSOV RAVIL	RUS	2162	FRITZSCHE GERD	GER
1993	BELLMANN BERNDT	GER	2078	RUBIO HERRERO DESIDERIO	ESP	2163	SPECHT MARK STEVEN	USA
1994	REDAELLI UGO	ITA	2079	RICHARDS CHRISTOPHER	GBR	2164	SLOTTE ALLAN	FIN
1995	SZKARLAT PIOTR	POL	2080	LARSSON HANNES	FRA	2165	MUSTVEDT-PLÜSS HEIDI	NOR
1996	ROGSTAD ASTRI	NOR	2081	KÖRNER WERNER	GER	2166	JAKOBSEN SVEIN OVE	NOR
1997	VACEK VÁCLAV	CZE	2082	SATSUMA SHOJI	JPN	2167	MEZZOGORI ELIO	ITA
1998	NARDELLI MARCO	ITA	2083	SOUKUP PETR	CZE	2168	GABCIK LUBOS	SVK
1999	ZHITENEV IVAN	RUS	2084	SZKARLAT PIOTR	POL	2169	SVACH RUDOLF	SVK
2000	SARRING GUNNAR	SWE	2085	ONDRYAS RADEK	CZE	2170	KOMORI AKIRA	JPN
2001	LEPAJÖE MADIS	EST	2086	DAVIES MARK	LUX	2171	SRUBAROVA MARIE	CZE
2002	PACZKO LIDIA	POL	2087	BOBE KLAUS HEINER	GER	2172	JOHANSSON LENNART	SWE
2003	TATONE AMABILE	ITA	2088	BERGMAN LARS IVAR	SWE	2173	NAGAPETIANTS RAFAEL	RUS
2004	SCHALTEGGER EDWIN	SUI	2089	VRBATA JIRI	CZE	2174	PRIEBIS WILFRIED	GER
2005	FRIEDRICH URSULA	GER	2090	BORKOVEC MIROSLAV	CZE	2175	NOHL EVA	GER
2006	BIER JEROME	USA	2091	JOHANSSON FOLKE	SWE	2176	RÄÄF JOHNNY	SWE
2007	WENZEL ANNEMONE	GER	2092	TEIXIDO ALPHONSE	FRA	2177	DELAVENAY PHILIPPE	FRA
2008	MÜLLER OTTO ADOLF	GER	2093	GURNEY PETER	GBR	2178	SCHLOSSER UWE	GER
2009	BUTTI RENATO	ITA	2094	SUSLOVA NATALIA	RUS	2179	GROSSMAN KARIN J.	USA
2010	PALOMAKI ERKKI	FIN	2095	HYDE BRENDON	AUS	2180	POULL WILLIAM	USA
2011	AUER FRANZ	GER	2096*	CRANAGE NORMA	AUS	2181	WIENER JAY	USA
2012	ANDERSSON JAN	SWE	2097	TESCH PETER	SWE	2182	VALENT PETER	SVK
2013	HILSKA ASTA	FIN	2098	SCHMIDT GÜNTER	GER	2183	CHALAYER GERARD	FRA
2014	RINCK ROMAIN	LUX	2099	ACKATZ SCOTT	USA	2184	SVENNEBY OLA	NOR
2015	DEZULIAN MAURO	ITA	2100	NARDELLI PAOLO	ITA	2185*	FIELD HILARY	GBR
2016	KAIREMO KALEVI	FIN	2101	GOREV KIRILL	RUS	2186	KAROLIUSSEN TERJE H	NOR
2017	LUEKE BURKHARD	GER	2102	BÜHLMANN JAKOB	SUI	2187	KOLOBANOVA LIUDMILA	RUS
2018	FONTANIVE RICCARDO	ITA	2103	PERMIKOV VLADIMIR	RUS	2188	PROBST ANDREAS	GER
2019	PALLISER ROBERT	CAN	2104	VIEROW PETRA	GER	2189	DENNIS FRANK	USA
2020	RANTA MARKETTA	FIN	2105	SCHIERZ HOLGER	GER	2190	MÄDER SABINE	SUI
2021	SLATTELID SKEIE MARIT	NOR	2106	KIRSIPUU AVO	EST	2191	RODI ARVO	EST
2022	SKEIE VIGLEIK	NOR	2107	REZNICK PAUL	USA	2192	KAURANEN AARNE	FIN
2023	SJKELVAN ASBJOERN	NOR	2108	KANEP URMAS	EST	2193	VAN ROOSBROECK WALTER	BEL
2024	LILAND GRO	NOR	2109	KOPPA AGU	EST	2194	O'CONNELL MARY BETH	USA
2025*	SCHUMAKER ROGER	USA	2110	MATSUYAMA MINORU	JPN	2195*	LARSSON EINAR	FIN
2026	SCHUMAKER ROGER	USA	2111*	MELLESGARD ELSE	SWE	2196	LARSSON HANNES	FRA
2027	BAEKEDAL ARNA	NOR	2112	SCHLEGEL LARS	GER	2197	VOSYLIVS ALGIS	USA
2028	VESTUES PER IVAR	NOR	2113	BARETTA PAOLO	ITA	2198	WOLF HARTMUT	GER
2029	WILKENS DEANNA	USA	2114	TALAS JAN	CZE	2199	HEPENSTRICK KONRAD	SUI
2030	HOLY KAZIMIERZ	POL	2115*	CHERNOLES VLADIMIR	RUS	2200	JÄRVINEN HANNU	FIN
2031	AXENOV VASSILI	RUS	2116	CHIROKSHINE NIKOLAI	RUS	2201	OKROUHLIK JIRI	CZE
2032	PEYROT LARA	ITA	2117	VÁLBA MART	EST	2202	JASIEWICZ JAN	SUI
2033	BARTNESS BRYAN	USA	2118	PLOOVITS HEINO	EST	2203	MC LEOD GRANT	CAN
2034	RES JAKOB	SLO	2119	MOORS CHRISTINE	GER	2204	BERGLUND RABBE	SWE
2035	MLINAR JANEZ	SLO	2120	SASAKI MUNEO	JPN	2205	PETROV SERGEY	RUS
2036	KODRIC MILIVOJ	SLO	2121	SWANSON STEPHEN	USA	2206	TÜNNERMANN DIRK	GER
2037	HINZ CHARLES	USA	2122	WALSH BOB	USA	2207	LUPI GIAMPIERO	ITA
2038	GILOT YVES	FRA	2123	KOLPAKOV IGOR	RUS	2208	MCDONALD JAMES	CAN
2039	JASIEWICZ JAN	SUI	2124	WIEZOREK KLAUS-DIETER	GER	2209	SOUREK LIBOR	CZE
2040	ROSENDAHL ARNE	NOR	2125	MIKHAYLOV ALEXANDER	RUS	2210*	SHIPPERLEE NAOMI	AUS
2041	STORM RICHARD	USA	2126	SCHWEINBERGER BERND	LUX	2211*	MCLENNAN ROBYN	AUS
2042	STUHLREHER CARSTEN	GER	2127	GLOUKHIKH JOURI	RUS	2212	FRANZOLIN MAURIZIO	ITA
2043	KIRILLOV BORIS	RUS	2128	STRAKOVA KVETA	SVK	2213*	OLSON SOLVEIG LISE	USA
2044	MILANESE FRANCO	ITA	2129	GRAY JOHN REEDE	USA	2214	JACOBSEN CHRISTIAN	DEN
2045	DAYTON GENE	USA	2130	KRESGE KATHLEEN	USA	2215	STARK HELMUT	GER
2046	DAYTON THERESE	USA	2131	MACCARTY ROBERT LEE	USA	2216	LINDGREN BORJE	SWE
2047	DUFFY THOMAS	USA	2132	INKINEN LAURI	SWE	2217	REALINI PIETRO	ITA
2048	EMERY VICTOR	GBR	2133	KLOBUCZEK HEINRICH	USA	2218	ENGEMANN KLAUS	GER
2049*	FIELD LORRAINE	GBR	2134	DATA MISSING		2219	SALLENT JOAN	ESP
2050	KOLLO TIIT	EST	2135	KALMO KARL	DEN	2220	LEPPÄNEN EERO	FIN
2051	KUPELA KALEVI	FIN	2136	KALMO STIG	DEN	2221	LEHTINEN JARMO	FIN
2052	GOLUBKOVA LIUDMILLA	RUS	2137	KISLYAKOV VLADIMIR	RUS	2222	MÄKINEN REIJO A.	FIN

2223	PONTIGGIA GIOVANNI	ITA	2308	HABANEK JOZEF	SVK	2393	THOMAS PATRIC MARC	FRA
2224	POUX PIERRE	FRA	2309	BALAKIN ARKADIS	LTU	2394	JASIEWICZ JAN	SUI
2225	POUX CHRISTOPHE	FRA	2310	PETROV ALEXANDER	RUS	2395	HOLECY SAMUEL	SVK
2226	KVALE JORGEN	NOR	2311	BESIK JOSEF	CZE	2396	TAISCH ARMON	SUI
2227	LUND-HANSEN STEFFEN	DEN	2312*	MIKHAILOVA VALENTINA	RUS	2397	STRAETE REIDAR	NOR
2228*	SATSUMA SHOJI	JPN	2313	VOIGT GUNTER	GER	2398	BOULANGER MICHEL	FRA
2229	HARJU TOIVO	SWE	2314	HAAMSOE EGIL	NOR	2399	RITTER HERMANN	GER
2230	LUND-HANSEN JORGEN	DEN	2315	HURST DONALD M.	USA	2400	HUBER THOMAS	GER
2231	HERMANSSON CHRISTER	SWE	2316	SDOBNIKOV EVGUENI	RUS	2401	AMPEZZAN CORRADO	ITA
2232	GRASSE KLAUS-DIETER	GER	2317	SATSUMA SHOJI	JPN	2402	ANTALAINEN LAURI	EST
2233	HERRMANN KONRAD	GER	2318	TRASKOWSKI EDWARD	POL	2403	LYASHOK ALEXANDR	RUS
2234	LIBERATORE CORRADO	ITA	2319	PAIN INDREK	EST	2404	LOGACHEV SERGEY	RUS
2235	DAHLBERG LARS-OLOV	SWE	2320	STANICEK PAVOL	SVK	2405	ZELLER ZBYNEK	CZE
2236	TORSTENSSON GÖTE	SWE	2321	LEIGHTON JOHN MARTIN	USA	2406	PETROFF BORIS	FRA
2237	FANCHETTI LUIGI	ITA	2322	LOVIK MARIE	SWE	2407	RANTA JOUKO	FIN
2238	CANCLINI ARRIGO	ITA	2323	TAKASHIMA KIYOHIRO	JPN	2408	FINSTAD BJOERN	FIN
2239	SCHULZE BERND	GER	2324	BORNHÄUSER PETER	GER	2409	HOFFMAN HARRI HENRIK	FIN
2240	BOBE RUDOLF	GER	2325	WASNER ANDREA	GER	2410	VAAGE SIGURD	NOR
2241	FRANZ KARSTEN	GER	2326	WASNER JUERGEN	GER	2411	LAUGALAND JOHANNES	NOR
2242	MATSUYAMA MINORU	JPN	2327	WEISE HENRY	GER	2412	KROHN-PETTERSEN ANN-HELEN	NOR
2243	HITZ URS	SUI	2328	FRENZEL RAINER	GER	2413	KROHN-PETTERSEN HARALD	NOR
2244	ZUBER HARRY	SUI	2329	APPELTOFFT CLAES	SWE	2414	KOUZMINOV SERGUEI	RUS
2245	FREI BRUNO EMIL	SUI	2330	KEMILÄINEN RISTO	FIN	2415	KOUBANTSEV VIKTOR	RUS
2246	PETROFF BORIS	FRA	2331	CICHANOWSKI GERRY	USA	2416	YVON VINCENT	FRA
2247	TOUFFAIT BERNARD	FRA	2332	MALIKOWSKI TONY	USA	2417	LIGUGNANA ROBERTO	ITA
2248*	BERTAU MARIE-HELENE	FRA	2333	SCAPINO MANLIO	ITA	2418	LARSSON HANNES	FRA
2249	WIEZOREK KLAUS-DIETER	GER	2334	TERENTIEV OLEG	RUS	2419	POUX JEAN	FRA
2250	KELK JÜRI	EST	2335	GUNDERSSEN MORTEN	NOR	2420	WIEZOREK KLAUS-DIETER	GER
2251	AMPEZZAN CORRADO	ITA	2336	RAUZETDINOV TALGAT	RUS	2421	FREI BRUNO EMIL	SUI
2252	PALLISER ROBERT	CAN	2337	ABRAHAMSEN ODD	NOR	2422	HÜTTER MANFRED	GER
2253	REBICEK FRANTISEK	CZE	2338	FRECH - WALTER GERT	GER	2423*	LAURENZI ADELINA	ITA
2254	JEANNEY FRANCOIS	FRA	2339	KIRIK SERGEY	RUS	2424	BRANC MARIJAN	SLO
2255	ABRAHAMSON THEODORE	USA	2340	YAKUSHIN YURY	RUS	2425	CALLAS WILLIAM	USA
2256	ABLER JAMES	USA	2341*	GORODETSKIY SERGEY	RUS	2426	RES JAKOB	SLO
2257	LASSERON ELINA	EST	2342	LUUKKONEN JAAKKO	FIN	2427	GAVRILOV MIKHAIL	RUS
2258	LASSERON INDREK	EST	2343	KVALSOEREN HANS	NOR	2428	SERGEEV DMITRI	RUS
2259	KLEJSZTA WIESLAW	POL	2344	LUCE JOSEPH	FRA	2429	MEEK CONSTANCE	USA
2260	SUNDVOR MAGNE	NOR	2345	KIRSCHEN GUNTER	GER	2430	VALOTA VITTORIO	ITA
2261	RECNIK BOGDAN	SLO	2346	GLACCUM JOSEPH	USA	2431*	BERRY ANN	USA
2262	GAVRILOVA SVETLANA	RUS	2347	RICHTER HUBERTUS	GER	2432	IVARSSON NISSE	SWE
2263	MANFERDINI LEONARDO	ITA	2348	BOUTERAON MICHEL	FRA	2433	PERSSON STEN	SWE
2264	FEIT HOWARD	USA	2349*	HARTIG WALTER	GER	2434	GUSTAFSON THORD	SWE
2265	SOYLAND KJELL	NOR	2350	KRONCHOVA JAROSLAVA	CZE	2435	PRUULI RIHO	EST
2266	IDLAND HARALD	NOR	2351	CERNOCH JAROMIR	CZE	2436	PIIRSOO HEINO	EST
2267	KÖNIG GERD	GER	2352	VIRY ANDRE	FRA	2437	JUST ALAR	EST
2268	KARTSOV SERGEY	RUS	2353	LATKIN OLEG	RUS	2438	JUST ALAR	EST
2269	TIKKANEN ERKKI	FIN	2354	BUCHELI JOSEPH	SUI	2439	POST PEEDU	EST
2270	MUZIK VACLAV	CZE	2355	PETROV ANDREY	RUS	2440	DYAKOV PHILIPP	RUS
2271	KACHUROVSKIY KONSTANTIN	RUS	2356	KALMO STIG	DEN	2441	MAKSIMOV MIKHAIL	RUS
2272	ARTAMONOV GRIGORY	RUS	2357	KALMO KARL	DEN	2442	ZUNTE ANDRIS	LAT
2273	TOOMAS PAUL	EST	2358	HUGHES ANDREW	AUS	2443	BURKHARD JUERG	SUI
2274	NEEDRIT VELLO	EST	2359	PALLISER ROBERT	CAN	2444	ADDISON COLIN	AUS
2275	TOOBAL HILLAR	EST	2360	HANSON PETER	USA	2445*	ADDISON COLIN	AUS
2276	KVÅLE STEINAR	NOR	2361	LIPEJ BOZENA	SLO	2446	BARNES JUDITH	AUS
2277	NEDVEDICKA BLANKA	CZE	2362	PLADZIEWICZ JOHN ROBERT	USA	2447	MATTIOLI ROBERTO	ITA
2278	VANHANEN MATTI	FIN	2363	BATZ JÜRGEN	GER	2448	ZAROTTI STEFANIA	ITA
2279*	VANHANEN KAARINA	FIN	2364	JASKOWIAK JACEK	POL	2449	PERHAJ ANTON	SLO
2280	KIVILOO LEMBIT	EST	2365	FILLINGER JOACHIM	GER	2450	VAUHNİK VIKTOR	SLO
2281	LIKSOR AIVO	EST	2366	ROVNY FRANTISEK	SVK	2451	LAEGREID VIDAR	NOR
2282	SEPP HEINO-LEMBIT	EST	2367	ENBERG JUHANI	FIN	2452	JAHN STEFAN	GER
2283	JÜRIMAA TõNU	EST	2368	BRANDALISE LUIGI	ITA	2453	KNÜSEL MARKUS	SUI
2284	GAETANI MAURIZIO	ITA	2369	CAPPELLETTI SILVANO	ITA	2454	JANN HANSPETER	SUI
2285	STROGANOV YURY	RUS	2370	SOLEIM CLARENCE JR	USA	2455	JOHNSEN ANDREW IVER	USA
2286	JOKIPELTO SEPPÖ	FIN	2371	SIMONSSON GOSTA	SWE	2456	RAE ALAN	AUS
2287	TORGENSEN ERIK	NOR	2372	HENIGMAN BENJAMIN	SLO	2457	DATA MISSING	
2288	MILANESE FRANCO	ITA	2373	NAGEL WOLFGANG	GER	2458	KRETZSCHMAR REINER	GER
2289	PANICHELLA GASTONE	ITA	2374	BEHM TERHO	SWE	2459	PIEPENBRING JACQUES	FRA
2290	SCHÖDL INES	GER	2375*	MANNINEN GERALD	USA	2460	STRASSER IVAN	SLO
2291	IVANOV ANDREY	RUS	2376	EDDY DONALD K.	USA	2461	SZKARLAT PIOTR	POL
2292	URUSOV RAVIL	RUS	2377	PETROFF ISABELLE	FRA			
2293	MAKAROV YURI	RUS	2378	DOBROTA JAN	SVK		* Silver Masters	
2294	MANIN ALEXEI	RUS	2379	VALENCIA NEBOT ENRIC	ESP			
2295	HAUSDÖRFER RUDOLF	GER	2380	KIVIRANTA PEKKA	NOR			
2296	KAUHANEN RAIMO ILMARI	FIN	2381	GRUDEN SRECKO	SLO			
2297	ZIMMER JÖRG	GER	2382	PALMQUIST BONNIE	USA			
2298	ODOBEZ MICHEL	FRA	2383	KÕOMÄGI ERIK	EST			
2299	SPODERVOLD PER	NOR	2384	PIIRA REIJO	FIN			
2300	SCHÄFER INGRID	GER	2385	LAITINEN ESKO	FIN			
2301	HUBER THOMAS	GER	2386	VANTAALA JOUNI	FIN			
2302	VADLEJCH JAN	ISR	2387	JÄRVENPÄÄ REIVO	FIN			
2303	UELAND SVEINULV	NOR	2388	SULSTERS ADRIANUS	NED			
2304	MATERNE BERND	GER	2389	PÄRNPUU RAIVO	EST			
2305	ROGAN FRANC	SLO	2390	PÄRNPUU RAIVO	EST			
2306	LARSSON HANNES	FRA	2391	BATCHKOEV GENNADY	RUS			
2307	KÖRNER WERNER	GER	2392	KARLSSON BENGT	USA			

The International Association of Worldloppet Skiers (IAWLS)

Hannes Larsson

WHAT IS IAWLS?

IAWLS is the association representing the skiers of Worldloppet (WL). Our double goal is:

- a) to help cross country skiers interested in WL races with practical advice,
- b) to serve as a link between skiers and organisers with a view to improving the quality of the races.

The basic philosophy is that we are WL enthusiasts. But we are also consumers and wish to get the best service for our money. Suggestions for improvements in the races are always presented in a constructive mode. This was crystallised in the motto

"No organisers, no race – no skiers, no race!"

EARLY HISTORY

A few days before Marcialonga 2000, Jan Jasiewicz (SUI), Hannes Larsson (FRA) and Lech Milewski (AUS) met in the coffee-house La Grillo in Cavalese. They agreed that it would be nice to find a way to forward the views of skiers to the race organisers. The IAWLS was founded and was publicised on the WL website; by early 2005 the committee included the three founders plus Robert Palliser (CAN, since 2000), Bengt Karlsson (USA), Minoru Matsuyama (JPN), Blanka Nedvedická (CZE) and Piotr Skarlat (POL). Jan Jasiewicz retired in 2005.

IAWLS, REGISTERED ASSOCIATION

A big step forward was made in August 2005 when seven persons fixed the statutes of the association and agreed to register IAWLS in France according to the Law of July 1, 1901, as an official organisation.

The founding members of IAWLS, registered association, are Bengt Karlsson, Hannes Larsson, Minoru Matsuyama, Lech Milewski, Blanka Nedvedická, Robert Palliser and Piotr Skarlat.

An important technical development also occurred in the autumn of 2005 when IAWLS opened its own website www.worldloppetskier.com with Bengt Karlsson as webmaster.

IAWLS STRUCTURE AND WORKING METHOD

The IAWLS consists of Members who have signed up on our website. The number of members in mid-June 2007 was 246, representing 25 countries, and it is constantly increasing. An Executive Committee (EC) elected for 3-year renewable terms by the members at General Assemblies takes care of the running of the association. The EC currently has eight members: The 7 founders and Lars Vagle (NOR).

The association operates by e-mail and uses the website extensively for communicating with members. There are no membership fees, simplifying the financial side of the organisation.

The language commonly used is English, but the EC often answers questions, comments and suggestions in other languages. The EC can handle 11 languages: Czech, English, Esperanto, Finnish, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Norwegian, Polish and Swedish.

ACHIEVEMENTS

Advice for skiers

The texts concerning each of the 14 races are visible on the website. They contain data on how to reach the area, on accommodation etc, and some features of the race useful for skiers. There are also general chapters on travelling by air, road or train, and indications on how to connect consecutive races in Europe. The Advice is regularly updated.

Race reports

During the 2005/2006 season we started publishing reports on each race on our website, concentrating on citizen skiers, according to the famous Dolomitenlauf motto "Everybody is a winner over him/herself". There is a picture taken by a skier from within the race, and a selection of IAWLS members' results.

Proposals to WL

It has become a tradition to write a letter to the WL organisation every year, containing everything from simple requests such as good quality stickers for the skis, country flags for the bibs and the organisation of food stations, to more demanding questions.

A recent proposal to WL was the adoption of a special recognition for those who have skied all existing races, 14 at this moment. This idea, the Global WL Skier, was accepted by WL in June 2007.

THE FUTURE

IAWLS plans to continue working with the WL organisation and to further our double goal. An increasing and active membership will provide benefits for everyone interested in WL skiing. Becoming an IAWLS member is simple and free and we are always interested in receiving comments and suggestions.

Presentation of Worldloppet races





1991: The first Hoppet. After the storm ... a perfect day for the delayed race

Kangaroo Hoppet

Even though my summer skiing experience at Falls Creek is now almost 15 years old, I still think of those two weeks as one of my most memorable experiences as a Cross-Country skier.

Travelling to Australia and Falls Creek to ski during the normal Norwegian-American summer season was a totally new and exciting experience. Growing up in Norway and skiing on glaciers in the Norwegian mountains as well as in the Alps, the experience of skiing on "normal" (not slushy) good snow in July and August was very rewarding. Skiing among green leaved gum trees on the early morning crust in a "new" environment created energy and enjoyment, although the training hours were very high. It resulted in my best World Cup and Olympic season ever as an international skier 4 – 6 months later.

During the two-week visit we stayed down in the valley at Mount Beauty, and also experienced the phenomenal (to a foreigner) nature of Australia, with the smell of Eucalyptus trees, the sounds of birds you only normally hear in a Zoo, and the sights of kangaroos you meet when running on the forest tracks in the valley.

The Australian people were also special; they welcomed us strangers in their farm homes for their famous barbecue, and showed us their famous and good looking Akubra (cowboy) hats and Blundstone boots – even a modest and scrappy skier can look great in those.

The Hoppet race in 1991 was the first time it was included in the Worldloppet circuit; so I often use this fact when needing to boost my image as a skier – "once a Worldloppet winner, always a Worldloppet winner". The competition was mainly from my US Ski Team mates, but we had a fierce and good battle at the end of the 42 km race. I remember mostly the beautiful sunny day, and the big smiles on everyone's faces.

Whenever I think back on Falls Creek, Mount Beauty and the Kangaroo Hoppet today, it also brings happy thoughts and an emerging smile.

John Aalberg
1992 and 1994 Olympic Games, USSA
2002 Olympic Games, Chief of Competition, Cross-Country
2006 Nordic World Ski Championship, Technical Delegate
2010 Olympic Games, Director Nordic Sports



KANGAROO HOPPET

Australia (Victoria)

Founders: Birkebeiner Nordic Ski Club of Mount Beauty

First race:

- 1979 Australian Birkebeiner 21km, 80 participants
- 1989 Birkebeiner Marathon 42km F
- 1990 Australian International Ski Marathon 42km F
- 1991 Kangaroo Hoppet 42 km

Highest number of participants: 1588 participants (1995)

Cancellations: never

Worldloppet membership: since 1991

Place in calendar: last Saturday of August

Main race: 42km F

Short races: Australian Birkebeiner 21km F;
Joey Hoppet 7km F

Website: www.hoppet.com.au



2005: Gregoire Lebel (FRA) leading Chris Darlington (AUS) soon after the start

FOUNDING & HISTORICAL FACTS

The Beginnings of the Kangaroo Hoppet

In 1977 a group of cross country skiers in Mount Beauty, a small mountain valley town in north east Victoria, decided to form a cross country ski club. Some of them had skied in Norway and taken part in the Birkebeiner Ski Race and thought that Birkebeiner would be a good name for their club. Two years later, in 1979, the Birkebeiner Nordic Ski Club decided to hold their own version of the famous Birkebeiner race and the 21km Australian Birkebeiner was held with some 80 participants, all carrying a 5kg pack. The course started and finished at the alpine ski village of Falls Creek, and took participants out into the wilderness area of the adjacent Bogong High Plains.

The Club ran this event for ten years to 1988, and in early 1989, in a decision that seemed very simple at the time, it was decided that since they had the best ski race in Australia there was no reason why it should not become part of that Worldloppet series of ski races that a small but growing number of Australians had travelled overseas to take part in.

Could a small local ski club conduct a 42km event? The easiest way to answer the question was to do it. In 1989 a 42km event named the Birkebeiner Marathon was held and the organisers also included a half distance of 21km and a 7km event. While the 42km was in free technique, the 21km was held in the classical style because that was the tradition of the race over that distance. Following the success of this event it was 'all systems go' to work towards becoming a member of Worldloppet.

After a lot of communication, mainly by fax (remember those good old days before email?) representatives from the Birkebeiner Nordic Ski Club and the Australian Ski Federation headed off to a Worldloppet Annual Meeting in Hämeenlinna (FIN) in June 1989 to put the case for a southern hemisphere race in the series. Their main task was convincing the assembled northern hemisphere folk that there really was snow in Australia.

The meeting decided that before being admitted the club had to demonstrate to Worldloppet that Australia could conduct a world class citizens cross country ski event. So another trial event had to be held. In 1990 the 42km The Australian International Ski Marathon with a half distance of 21km called the Australian Birkebeiner and a 7km race called the Birkebeiner Lite, all events in the free technique. The organisation, course layout, local infrastructure and participants were assessed by a delegation made up of Rolf Kjaernsli (NOR), Robert Steiner (AUT) and Tom Duffy (USA) and their report was discussed three months later at a special Worldloppet Meeting in Munich. The result was that Australia became the 12th member of Worldloppet ... but with one important proviso – a new name. Worldloppet already had two Birkebeiner events (Norway and USA) and two Ski Marathons (SUI and JAP). Australian Birkebeiner or Australian International Ski Marathon were definitely not on.

A new name!

Such an important decision definitely needed a committee meeting, no minutes were kept, but it went something like this. We need something Australian. Something to do with skiing. 'Too hard ... let's have a drink'. Kangaroos are Australian. Kangaroos hop. Hopp is a word in Scandinavia mean-



1993: A.Jungen (SUI), A.Aukland (NOR), A.Vanek (CZE)



1994: Bob Balk (USA) finishes his first full ski marathon and becomes the first sit skier to complete the Hoppet

ing ski jump' (or so some local linguistic expert claimed). Loppet is a Swedish word meaning long ski race. 'Let us open another bottle of this excellent north east Victorian red wine'. Kangaroo loppet... Kangaroo hop ... 'Aargh! Someone go out and get another bottle... Kangaroo Hoppet! And the race had a new name.

The process of gaining Worldloppet accreditation took 18 months of hard work not only by members of the Birkebeiner Club, but with the support of many people and agencies that could see the potential of having a world class ski race at Falls Creek. Movers and shakers in this process included the following: Paul L'Huillier (National Cross Country Skiing Development Officer and Coaching Director and Club member), Allan Marsland (Executive Officer and Club member), Bob Lawton (Chairman-Australian Ski Federation), Peter Keage (Alpine Resorts Commission), Phil Bentley (CEO Alpine Resorts Commission) and Richard Green (Chairman-Falls Creek Resort Management). Government departments and agencies that supported the event were: Alpine Resorts Commission, Falls Creek Resort Management, Tourism Victoria, Sport and Recreation Victoria, State Electricity Commission, Parks Victoria and the Shire of Bright.

The first Hoppet

The winter of 1991 was a year that all participants will never forget. It was the year the first Kangaroo Hoppet (42km) was conducted and we had not seen such heavy snow falls in over a decade. When a further metre of snow fell in 24 hours the event had to be postponed for one day as the trail groomers could not keep the course open.

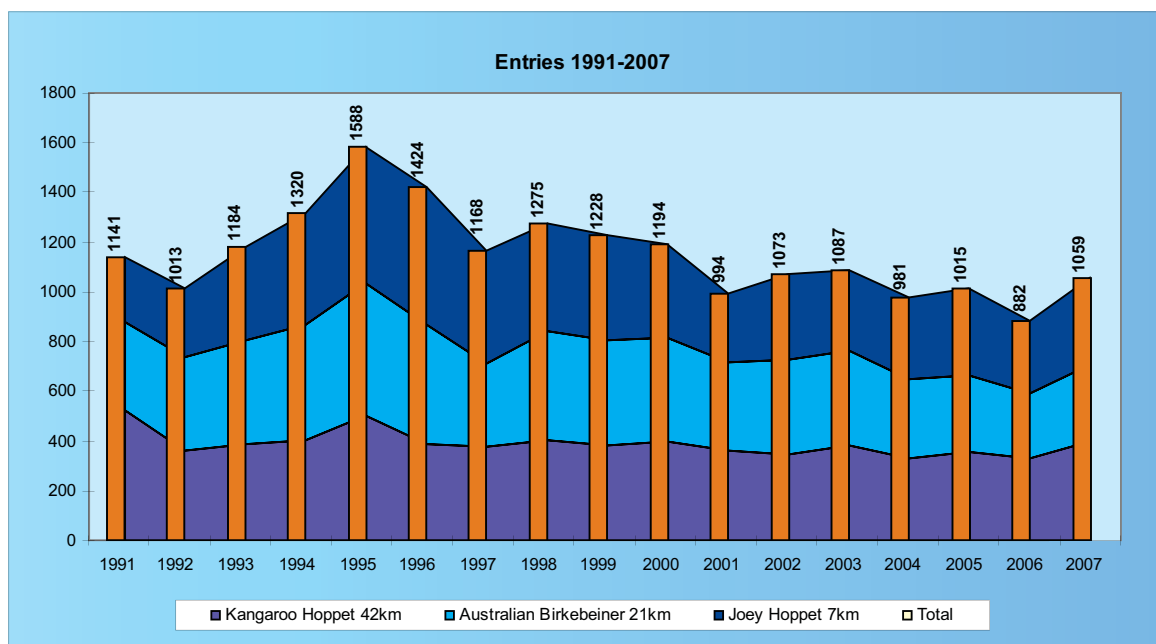
The following day dawned with a cloudless sky and gentle breeze. The USA National Team were down-under for training and racing and the biggest field ever assembled for an Australian cross country ski race lined up in the

WINNERS

1991	John Aalberg	Betsy Youngman
1992	Gudmund Skjeldal	Beatrice Grunfelder
1993	Anders Aukland	Elena Peratyagina
1994	Peter Schlickenreider	Antonina Ordina
1995	Andre Jungen	Maria Theurl
1996	Johann Muelegg	Hanne Lahtinen
1997	Paul Gray	Camille Melvey
1998	Alec Vanek	Nadia Simak
1999	Vitaly Tchernov	Jannike Oeyen
2000	Ben Derrick	Camille Melvey
2001	Ben Derrick	Belinda Phillips
2002	Stanislav Rezac	Belinda Phillips
2003	Ben Derrick	Belinda Phillips
2004	Ben Derrick	Clare-Louise Brumley
2005	Ben Sim	Clare-Louise Brumley
2006	Ben Sim	Nataschia Leonardi-Cortesi
2007	Thomas Freimuth	Katherine Calder

▼ 1997: Paul Gray becomes the first Australian Hoppet winner





starting area. The event was a huge success and the Kangaroo Hoppet, held at Falls Creek on the last Saturday in August became a regular fixture on the international ski calendar. 1141 skiers from nineteen nations took part in the events of Kangaroo Hoppet 1.

Race facts

- 1993 was the first Hoppet held on the alternative 'high altitude course' above Falls Creek village, planned for use in low snow years.
- 1996 was the the first bad weather Hoppet. With winds on the exposed upper ridges gusting to over 100 km per hour, organisers held the event on four loops of a sheltered course in the Sun Valley area of Falls Creek. The Australia/New Zealand Continental Cup was held for the first time, with the Kangaroo Hoppet being the final race of the series. Australian Anthony Evans took out the series title for men, with Finland's Hanne Lahtinen winning the women's event.
- In 1997 Paul Gray take his place in the history book as the first Australian to win the Kangaroo Hoppet, followed shortly later by Camille Melvey as she crossed the line to become the first Australian woman to win the event.
- In 2004 the crowd were treated to a 1 hour 35 minute 10 seconds course record by Ben Derrick, followed not too long later by a thrilling duel in the finish straight between Clare-Louise Brumley and Katie Calder for the women's event.
- Aged only 19, Ben Sim stamped his authority on this race to become the youngest Hoppet winner in 2005.
- In one of the worst winters in Australian ski memory, in 2006, Falls Creek lived up to its reputation as the nation's premier cross country ski destination when the Kangaroo Hoppet was held successfully once again on the high altitude course option on the summit plateau above the ski village.

FEATURES

In a country better known internationally for its natural environment - Uluru (Ayers Rock) and deserts, coral reefs, tropical rain forests, together with the wildlife - kangaroos, koalas, penguins and the incredible egg laying mam-



mals the platypus and echidna; the idea of snowfields and ski racing in Australia seems quite surreal.

That Australia is a land of contrasts is quickly made apparent to northern hemisphere skiers who arrive in Melbourne. After leaving the vibrant state capital of Melbourne with its combination of magnificent gardens, big city shopping restaurants and theatres, the would-be Hoppet skier travels through open farmlands and the world famous vineyards and wineries of the Milawa and Alpine Valleys wine regions to the town of Mount Beauty, nestled at the foot of the mountains. While in Mount Beauty there is blossom on the plum trees, oranges and lemons on the tree and daffodils in the gardens, just a short 30km drive through tall eucalypt forest and an increase in altitude of 1200 metres brings them to the alpine village of Falls Creek, nestled in a sheltered valley on the edge of the snow covered plateau of the Alpine National Park.

Last, but by no means least, of the features of the Hoppet is the friendly and relaxed approach to life of the Australian. Australians also love to participate in sport, and the Kangaroo Hoppet caters for this passion by offering not only the main 42km and the 21km event, but also a 7km event that attracts



◀ The 7km Joey Hoppet, held on the same day as the Kangaroo Hoppet, gives friends and family of Worldloppet skiers a chance to be part of the action

a diverse group of skiers, ranging from elite juniors to parents, grandparents, babies in pulkes and first time skiers.

SIGNIFICANCE OF WORLDLOPPET MEMBERSHIP

The Kangaroo Hoppet as a member of Wordloppet brings the Australian snowfields to an international audience, many of whom had no idea that there was snow in Australia.

A Worldloppet event in Australia creates a special opportunity for northern hemisphere skiers to indulge in their passion for skiing in the middle of the northern summer and to combine it with an extended holiday to explore the range of experiences offered across the diverse Australian environment. Each year skiers from over twenty nations make the trip to the other side of the world to take part in the Hoppet.

The reverse is also true, Worldloppet introduces Australian citizen skiers to the fun of international skiing and increasing numbers of Australians are taking up the challenge and travelling regularly across the world to become a part of Worldloppet with the eventual goal of becoming a Worldloppet Master. Watch out for one at a Worldloppet event near you.

Dressing up for the race is all part of the fun

The last Saturday in August. When the Cross Country Ski World comes to Falls Creek

I heard about the Kangaroo Hoppet from Australian friends on the World Cup, and when they invited me to ski in Australia in 1994, I couldn't say no. At the time I was in the middle of a high volume training block and I wanted to train a lot on snow while I was there. In August at Falls Creek you can often skate off-track everywhere on naturally packed snow. Skiing amongst the gum trees and across the top of the mountains with a huge panoramic view was a totally amazing experience and made it easy to ski 4-5 hours each day, with a little bit of back-country telemarking mixed in. Perfect! On the race day the sun was shining, the snow was perfect and fast, and helped me to break the race record for the 42km course. The atmosphere in the finish area was like a carnival, I was signing race numbers, T-shirts, posters, even bodies! All in all I have great memories and I will go back again one day with my family.

Peter Schlickerrieder
winner of the 1994 Kangaroo Hoppet



FOTO: TOM KELLY

The first Worldloppet race ever: Dolomitenlauf 1979

Dolomitenlauf – Everybody is a winner over himself

One of the founder members of Worldloppet, the Dolomitenlauf race first saw the light of day in 1970, the brainchild of Robert Steiner, who is still associated with the race today. It was he who brought to the race the twin mottoes 'Jeder ein Sieger über sich selbst' (Everybody is a winner against himself) and 'Dabei sein ist alles' (Taking part is everything), which epitomise the spirit of popular racing and of the Dolomitenlauf in particular. Together with the Marcialonga and the Koenig Ludwig Lauf, Dolomitenlauf formed the Alpentris in 1973 and, with the addition of Vasaloppet and the Finlandia-hiihto, was a member of Euroloppet, from which the idea of Worldloppet was born. Until Czech Republic's Jizerska Padesatka was admitted to the Worldloppet family, Dolomitenlauf was always the opening race of Worldloppet season.

Dolomitenlauf has a history of 38 years and many traditions that were mostly supported by long-time Mayor of Lienz – Hubert Huber. For the first

time in 1974 the finish of Dolomitenlauf was brought to the main square of Lienz, which demanded a lot of work from all locals and tight cooperation with the city authorities. For a long time H. Huber acted as the "Mayor of Worldloppet" who wanted to bring all the Worldloppet-family around one table. He well understood the importance and Dolomitenlauf's meaning for the city and was always ready to help when necessary.

In Lienz the initial ideas of Worldloppet have been followed for 30 years. In the frontline there are cross country skiing and friendship without borders. The Dolomitenlauf is therefore an athletic challenge where people with the similar goals gather from around the world. According to the slogan of Dolomitenlauf „everyone is a winner over himself“, every participant will be warmly greeted and celebrated in the finish.



DOLOMITEN-LAUF

Austria

Founder: Robert Steiner

First race: 19th of March 1970, 48 starters

Highest number of participants: 1982, 3302 finishers

Cancellations: 1989, 1990, 1994, 2000, 2002, 2007

Worldloppet membership: founding member

Place in calendar: third Sunday of January

Main race: 60km F

Additional races: Dolomiten Classic 42km C, Lienz Lauf 25km F

Website: <http://www.dolomitensport-lienz.com/>



The first Worldloppet winner Matti Kuosko at the finish in 1979



The most successful Dolomitenlauf: 3302 participants in 1982



Robert Steiner receiving gift from Tony Wise

FEATURES

The Dolomitenprint

One thing for which the Dolomitenlauf will be for ever famous is the Dolomiten Sprint. The idea of a cross country sprint race was born in Robert Steiner's head. This event, which can lay claim to being the first ski sprint event in the world, takes place in the main square of Lienz, as part of the Opening Ceremonies and attracts a large crowd as the skiers compete over a 350 m lap which includes both a jump and a specially built spiral feature on each lap.

Who has seen it once at the town square, knows that it is not only the oldest but one of the most exciting sprint events in the world. Over the years in the city sprint there has been a lot of innovation by Franz Theurl, the President of the OC. In the meantime there are not only sprint skills but also technical capabilities needed to achieve the honorable victory at the town square. Annually only 30 world class athletes can participate in the Dolomiten-Sprint.

The Course

The Dolomitenlauf is run in Free Technique along a 60 km course on the floor of the Osttirol's Drau valley, starting from the town of Lienz and passing through the villages of Lavant, Pirkach, Nikolsdorf, Doelsach and Tristach before finishing through the streets of the Lienz. The finish of Dolomitenlauf is in the main square, bringing the race directly to the local population, but involving a huge amount of work in the transportation and laying of snow through the streets of the town.

In recent years, global warming has brought with it a lack of snow at the low altitudes over which the race is run and the race had to be cancelled on three separate occasions between 1994 and 2002. This brought with it a reduction in the number of competitors, which had previously always stood at between 1100 - 1600 and the race faced severe problems if it was to continue.

The response of the organisers to this crisis was to form a liaison with the nearby village of Obertilliach (1450 m over sea level), which lies at higher altitude and has a snow-safe record. The possibility of moving the race to the Cross-Country and Biathlon Centre at Obertilliach in the event of lack of snow in Lienz has assured the future of the race. There is a longstanding



Skiers fighting for better positions





The awards ceremony in front of the impressive ice sculpture of Engelbert Hattenberger



The first skispint competition of the world

WINNERS

1970	Herbert Hanser	
1971	Josef Knoll	
1972	Sigi Maier	
1973	Berthold Bohn	Waltraud Haubold
1974	Pauli Siitonen	
1975	Herbert Wachter	Maritta Schleich
1976	Alpo Virtanen	Maritta Schleich
1977	Erik Wäppling	Katrin Glasl
1978	Hartmut Freyer	Astrid Engebretsen
1979	Matti Kuosko	Gerda Kunz
1980	Ola Hassis	Kathrin Glasl
1981	Matti Kuosko	Maria Canins
1982	Rudolf Kapeller	Sisko Kainulainen
1983	Bengt Hassis	Sisko Kainulainen
1984	Bengt Hassis	Sisko Kainulainen
1985	Orjan Blomqvist	Sisko Kainulainen
1986	Konrad Hallenbarter	Christina Brügger
1987	Andreas Grünenfelder	Christina Brügger
1988	Konrad Hallenbarter	Annerose Rees
1991	Andres Blomqvist	Vida Ventsene
1992	Walter Mayer	Vida Ventsene
1993	Mikhail Botvinov	Larisa Lazutina
1995	Haakan Westin	Maria Theurl
1996	Valeri Rodokhlebov	Olga Kosmacheva
1997	Mikhail Botvinov	Maria Theurl
1998	Mikhail Botvinov	Maria Theurl
1999	Mikhail Botvinov	Maria Theurl
2001	Christian Hoffmann	Svetlana Nagejkina
2003	Pietro Piller Cottrer	Lara Peyrot
2004	Markus Hasler	Andrea Höller
2005	Christian Hoffmann	Katerina Smutna
2006	Silvio Fauner	Irina Terentjeva



◀ The Dolomittensprint

◀◀ Final of the race at the main square of Lienz

partnership with this scenic village that is situated on the Southern side of the Lienz Dolomiten. In the last years there have been also activities around the course to make it more demanding.

Participants in the Dolomitenlauf have a choice of three races. The day before the main race, since 2004 there is the Dolomiten Classic, held over 42 km in classical technique and always up at Obertilliach. There is also the Lienz Lauf, a 25 km event in Free Technique, held in conjunction with the Dolomitenlauf on the Sunday.

The Participants

The 60km long Dolomitenlauf is not the biggest and the most difficult race in the Worldloppet, but it has the highest share of international participation in the circuit. Participants from more than 25 different nations - more than 75% of the overall field – know that sport has no boundaries, come to the Dolomitenlauf.

Swedes have the biggest number of victories in Dolomitenlauf. The absolute “King” of the race with 4 victories is Mikhail Botvinov. Many “red group” athletes have been fighting for the victory in Lienz and some of these stars of the cross country have succeeded to win the Dolomitenlauf.

In 1982 the number of 3300 participants set the new participation record of Dolomitenlauf. At that time the race was held in classical technique. When free technique came to the sport of cross country skiing, the participation sunk gradually.

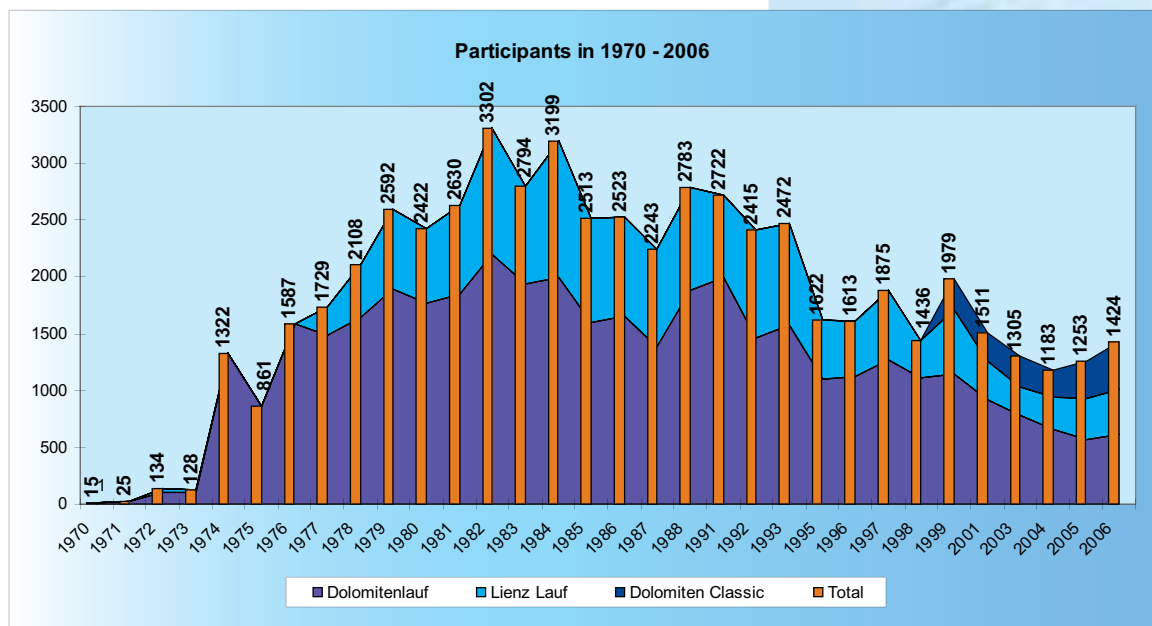
The Opening Ceremony

The opening ceremony of Dolomitenlauf is something really unique in the Worldloppet circuit because it takes place on Friday at the town square before the sprint event. Live music, program with children and Tirol guards – all contribute to this memorable show event. And finally with the lighting of the Dolomiten – Fire one can sense the breath of “Olympia”.

The Organisers

The organising committee consists of around 30 members that grow to more than 500 helpers during the race. The organising committee is lead by Franz Theurl for over 20 years.

Dabei sein ist alles.....be with us next year and in the future!





- ▶ FIS Marathon Cup leaders in 1999
- ◀ The intermediate sprint in Nikolsdorf

- ▲ The Austrian hunters with start gun
- ▲ The opening ceremony



FOTO: EPP PAUL

Bedřichov, start and finish village of Jizerska Padesátka

Jizerská Padesátka

DEAR SPORTSMEN AND FRIENDS OF CLASSICAL SKIING,

I would like to take the present opportunity to offer you an invitation to the 41st annual event of one of the oldest and most prestigious sport event in the Czech Republic. Historically, the Jizerská 50 was first held in 1968 as a testing race for the abilities of mountain climbers. However, the race gained a further dimension in 1971, when it was held in memory of Czech climbers perished in Peru in 1970 during a rock avalanche on the slopes of Mt. Huascarán.

During the entire period of its existence, the Jizerská 50 has won respect and recognition among professional and amateur skiers, not only from the Czech Republic but from all of Europe and indeed the world, considering that the race has also attracted entrants from the USA, Canada or Australia. In anticipation of the unique atmosphere of this great winter sports event, the region sees the arrival of over 4 thousand entrants, who can choose from three different routes: 30 km in free technique and 25 and 50 km in classical technique. The longest route, of 50 km, is part of the prestigious FIS Marathon Cup series. And of course, we cannot forget the younger members of the family, for whom a special children's race is laid on. Besides the race itself, the organisers have arranged many accompanying events that form a pleasant diversion not only for the spectators. As of

last year, the race acquired a new general partner, the financial company Patria Direct. Not only thanks to this new partner, the race is being modernised, the services improved, and above all, its reputation is increasing among the general public, both at home and abroad.

The 41st annual Patria Direct Jizerská 50 will be held on January 11. - 13., 2008 in Bedřichov. Come and visit the Czech Republic and discover the beauty of the Jizera Mountains. For more information, visit the official website www.jiz50.cz.

Looking forward to meeting with you, and wishing you a successful skiing season in 2007/08.



*On behalf of the entire Jizerská 50 team,
Kateřina Neumannová
6-time Olympic medallist and 4-time world
champion in cross country skiing*



JIZERSKÁ PADESÁTKA

Czech Republic

Founders: TJ Lokomotiva Liberec (mountaineer's club), Karel Troušilek, Gustav Ginzel

First race: 20 January 1968, 50 km for men, 25 km for ladies, 52 participants

Highest number of participants: 6467 finishers in 50 km (1977); 5511 - 50km + 1672 - 25km (1985)

Cancellations: 1988, 1990, 1998, 2007

Worldloppet membership: from 2000

Place in calendar: second weekend in January

Main race: 50 km C

Short race: 30 km F, 25 km C

Website: www.jiz50.cz



▲ Three best of 1991: Miloš Bečvář, František Karlík and Martin Koucký (current Secretary General of Ski Club Jizerská 50)





The eighties - start of the race on Hrabětická louka

FOUNDING & HISTORICAL FACTS

The Jizerska Padesatka (50 of Jizera) was established as a race testing performance for the mountain climbers from the TJ Lokomotiva Liberec club, who prepared themselves for severe mountaineering expeditions at the end of the sixties. The race was organised by the Ski club of Liberec town. The first race was held on the last Saturday in January, 1968 with 52 competitors taking part; it led through the Jizera mountains from the village of Bedřichov to Korenov and back. The winner was Josef Driml from the organising club.

All the members of the Expedition Peru 1970 took part in the third edition in 1970. Four months later on 31st of May the members (including 15 founding members of Jizerska Padesatka) were buried under a rock avalanche caused by an earthquake on the 6768 meters high mountain Huascarán in Peru. Since 1971 the race has been a memorial event for this tragedy and is also called „Memorial Expedice Peru 70“ to commemorate those climbers.

As the years went by, the race became very popular, the number of competitors grew and reached 7863 participants by the tenth year. As such a large crowd of skiers was regarded as being too damaging to the ecology of the Jizera mountains, a limit of 3000 participants was set in the late 1980s. In the following years, the number of entries decreased slightly. This was partly a result of the changing political situation. Nowadays, participation in the main race (50 km in classic technique) has stabilised to a total of around 2500 competitors.

The most dedicated participant in the Jizerska Padesatka is Ladislav Mika who has taken part in every race since the year 1968.

From the very beginning the race was highly valued because of its good organisation. Although early attempts to join an international long distance ski series were not successful, mainly for political reasons, this first step was achieved in 1995 when Jizerska Padesatka was included in the Euroloppet



family and became a candidate for the Wordloppet. Hard work during the following years resulted in the Jizerska 50 being admitted to Worldloppet membership in 2000.

THE MOST SUCCESSFUL RACE

was in 2006, with excellent snow conditions and a sunny day for the competition.

THE MOST EXTREME RACE

was in 2001. Poor snow conditions forced the organisers to change the start and finish 2 days before the race.

FEATURES

The Jizerska Padesatka course, which runs through the Jizera mountains environmental protection area, is quite unique and has a very good profile



2006: Climbing to the highest point of the race – “Rozmezí 999 m above sea level”

WINNERS

M 50 km C

1968	Josef Driml
1969	Arnost Hajek
1970	Tomas Sykora
1971	Miroslav Langmajer
1972	Günter Beutel
1973	Eberhard Matthes
1974	Jiri Princ
1975	Stanislav Rezac
1976	Zdenek Böhm
1977	Jan Fajstauer
1978	Jan Fejkl
1979	Jiri Beran
1980	Zdenek Böhm
1981	Frantisek Simon
1982	Jiri Beran
1983	Milos Becvar
1984	Jaroslav Balatka
1985	Jiri Beran
1986	Jiri Beran
1987	Jiri Beran
1989	Frantisek Mach

W 20-30 km C

Jitka Havlova
Bela Podrabska
Ivana Cervenkova
Milena Cillerova
M. Debertshaser
Eva Novotna
Eva Novotna
Helena Sikolova
Lida Strakova
Helena Sikolova
Anna Pasiarova
Gabriela Svobodova
Sigrun Filbrich
Zdena Janovska
Heidi Suchankova
Gabriela Svobodova
Sigrid Klinge
Jitka Semerakova
Gabriela Svobodova
Heidi Suchankova
Marcela Jebava

M 50 km C

1991	Milos Becvar
1992	Ales Vanek
1993	Ondrej Valenta
1994	Tomas Caslavsky
1995	Jan Dosla
1996	Martin Petrasek
1997	Pavel Benc
1999	Lubomir Buchta
2000	Stanislav Rezac
2001	Stanislav Rezac
2002	Raul Olle
2003	Oskar Svärd
2004	Oskar Svärd
2005	Karl Gunnar Skjonsfjell
2006	Marco Cattaneo

W 50 km C

Heidi Suchankova
Monica Bianchin
Bela Podrabska
Lucie Samkova
Martina Vondrova
Heidi Suchankova
Lucie Samkova
Lucie Kareisova
Lucie Kareisova
Raufa Zagidulina
Kamila Horakova
Lara Peyrot
Cristina Paluselli
Cristina Paluselli
Cristina Paluselli

Start of Jizerská 50
in 2006

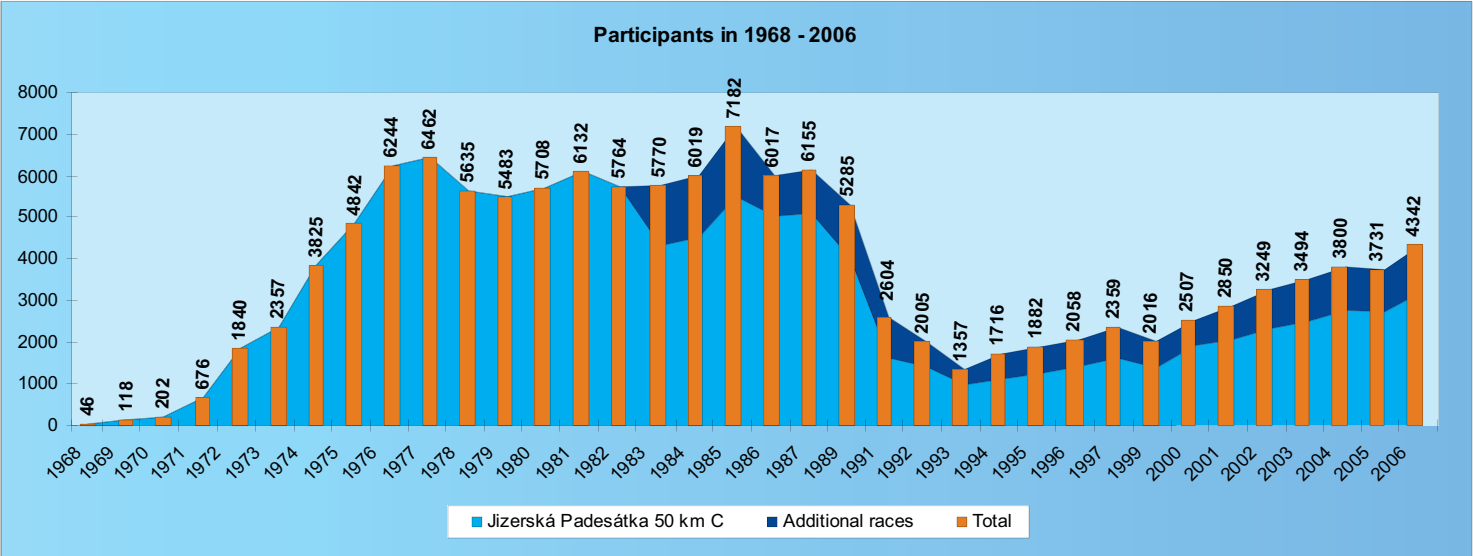


for classic technique. The course of the race has been changed in the last few years and is now even more attractive than previously.

In 2001 an additional challenge has been provided for those who prefer a sporty lifestyle: the mountain bike race in the Jizera mountains in June. The low cost of living in the Bedrichov and Liberec areas is another great attraction for foreign guests and competitors.

COOPERATION WITH WORLDLOPPET

The greatest single measurable result of Worldloppet membership has been the increase in the number of foreign participants; this brought a lot of prestige throughout the Czech Republic for the organising committee. This forces us, on the other hand, to keep pushing forward with the improvement in the quality of the ski tracks and of the organisation in general. Membership of the Worldloppet is our advertisement throughout the whole world, proving that Jizerska Padesatka is a product of people who love their work.



The fight for the first position – Norway vs Italy



- ▲ Fireworks of the opening ceremony at the Ski Stadium of Bedrichov
- ▶ 2006: Skiing in nice outfit gives extra power
- ◀ 2006: On the day before the main race the tracks are tested by the next generation of participants

FAMOUS PARTICIPANTS

- Katerina Neumannova, Silvio Fauner, Stanislav Rezac



Moena: the start

Marcialonga

I consider it a great personal honour to be able to introduce Marcialonga di Fiemme e Fassa in this book commemorating the thirty years of Worldloppet and I do so with some emotion.

I took part in Marcialonga in 1976 for the first time and during the years I tried not to miss for any reason this appointment that gave me joy but also pains, victories and disappointments. I saw the passion, the firmness and the tenacity of its committee become stronger and stronger through the seasons. I struggled along its tracks against the most famous athletes of the world. I embraced the crowd in the last metres of my exploit. I received the trophy of my victory from the hands of the President of the Republic of Italy: an unforgettable moment that will remain in my memories forever.

It is thanks to Marcialonga that cross-country skiing, since then a characteristic of the people from the northern nations, became popular also in

Italy, where thousands of people started loving it and who are still performing it regularly nowadays with passion.

The organising capability, the beauty of its landscape, and the warmth of the people, the satisfaction to win with in the ears the yell of the crowd and inside the heart one sole thought: I will be back.

Long live Marcialonga.

Maurilio De Zolt



MARCIALONGA



MARCIALONGA

Italy

Founders: Giulio Giovannini, Roberto Moggio, Nele Zorzi, Mario Cristofolini

First race: 7th February 1971, 65 km, 1022 participants

Highest number of participants: record of entries 6880 (1974)

Cancellations: 1975, 1989, 1990

Worldloppet membership: founding member

Place in calendar: last Sunday of January

Main race: 70 km C

Additional races: Marcialonga Light 45 km, Lavazelloppet 22 km C

Website: www.marcialonga.it

Maurilio De Zolt

Marcialonga		1978		3rd
		1979		3rd
		1983		2nd
		1986		1st
		1987		1st
		1988		2nd
		1991		1st
		1992		1st
		1993		2nd
Vasaloppet		1986		4th
CC	Rovaniemi	1993	30 km	1st
World Cup	Lahti	1982	30 km	3rd
	Obersdorf	1986	50 km	3rd
	Oslo	1988	50 km	3rd
	Calgary	1989	30 km	3rd
WSCS	Seefeld	1985	15 km	Bronze
	Seefeld	1985	50 km	Silver
	Seefeld	1985	4 x 10	Relay Silver
	Obersdorf	1987	50 km	Gold
	Val di Fiemme	1991	50 km	Bronze
	Falun	1993	4 x 10	Relay Silver
OWG	Calgary	1988	50 km	Silver
	Albertville	1992	50 km	Silver
	Lillehammer	1994	30 km	5th
	Lillehammer	1994	4 x 10	Relay Gold



Celebrating Marcialonga

PHOTO: NEWSPOWER/CANON



Cavalese: the finish

FOUNDING & HISTORICAL FACTS

The idea of the Marcialonga goes back a long way. In 1969, fired by the brilliant performance of Franco Nones in Grenoble Olympic Games the year before, in which he took the Gold Medal for the Men's 30 km, Italian athletes officially took part in Vasaloppet for the first time. Giulio Giovannini and Roberto Moggio managed to cross the finish line and the year after they were followed in the expedition by Nele Zorzi and Mario Cristofolini. As enthusiasm mounted, there came the idea of creating something similar, adding typical Italian warmth, seasoned with lots of imagination to the exertion of covering such long distances. The first problem was "where" to hold an event of this size and the two valleys of Fiemme and Fassa immediately came to mind. Here in the Italian cradle of cross-country skiing, the four founders were supported by a determined team of collaborators later to be joined by new volunteers. There was therefore a good basis from the organisational point of view and traditional parochialism was soon put aside in the desire to work together towards a single goal.

Finally, it was decided. The first race was to be held in 1971, the year in which the F.I.S.I. (Italian Winter Sport Association) celebrated its fiftieth anniversary. But what should it be called? The event itself, open to everyone was becoming better known and 50.000 leaflets were dropped from an aeroplane over the valley to publicise it among the inhabitants. In the end the name "**Marcialonga**" or Long March was chosen as it was felt to neatly encapsulate the idea of the hard work and friendly competition of the athletes as well as the involvement of the spectators of such great event. On 7th February 1971, the Fiemme and Fassa valleys heard the echo of the gun shot which signalled the start of the first Marcialonga, destined to revolutionise the history and traditions of cross-country skiing.

- The Marcialonga has been a founder member of the three most prestigious international cross-country skiing circuits: Alpentris, Euroloppet and Worldloppet
- Open to Ladies: 1978

- Change of technique: 2003 from free to classic
- The books: "Twenty years for a day" 1992 Author Mario Felicetti, "Marcialonga 1993-2002" 2003 Author Diego Nart
- The Soreghina: since 2002 Marcialonga has its own Kranskulla
- The mascot: Fondolo the gnome, was born in 1997
- The World Cup: in 2004 Marcialonga was included in the World Cup
- The motto: "The Marcialonga, a crusade of men rebelling against the slow death of modern life"

THE MOST SUCCESSFUL RACE

When considering the most successful race in terms of numbers, the 4th edition in 1974 can be said to be the one, with 6.880 competitors registered in the race. As far as satisfaction is concerned, the 34th Marcialonga in 2007, that was going to be cancelled for lack of snow, gave the greatest reward to the engagement and tenacity of its organisers and to the expectations of the 5.000 competitors on the perfect course. Not to be forgotten is the year 2004 when Marcialonga was a F.I.S. World Cup event.

THE MOST EXTREME RACE

The incessant rain during the 7th edition in 1978 forced more than 1.100 competitors to abandon the race. Concerning the course, the shortest length was reached in 1994: 45 km prepared mainly with the first artificial snow system owned by the organizing committee.

FEATURES

The Course

The classic course starts on the plain of Moena, Val di Fassa, and finishes in Cavalese, Val di Fiemme. After the start, it climbs towards the villages of Soraga, Vigo, Pozza, Campitello and Canazei, where competitors then turn round. Nearly twenty kilometres of gentle but continuous climbing means that the early part of the competition is definitely tough. After Canazei, the course begins to go downhill, returning to Moena and going on towards



Val di Fiemme

Predazzo, before starting the last part which goes through the villages of Ziano, Panchià, Lago di Tesero, Masi di Cavalese, Castello-Molina. Then comes the hardest part, the most difficult stretch, also because at this point competitors have covered more than 65 kilometres and are beginning to feel the effects. The outcome of the Marcialonga has generally been decided on the Cascata climb. Along this stretch the crowd becomes excited watching these extraordinary athletes. The final part of the course, in the centre of Cavalese, is simply there to glorify the skier destined to win the race.

It is the course that forms the most important part of the Marcialonga. Metre after metre, they measure out the heart of a mountain landscape, with its unequalled qualities and great traditions.

Among the houses, along the river Avisio and on the plains that lie at the foot of the Dolomites, there is a bottomless well of hospitality which will continue long after the Marcialonga has finished and the athletes have gone home. The Marcialonga has surely become famous thanks to its course, where no one ever feels alone, immersed as they are in an atmosphere of friendship and warmth which makes every participant feel a winner.

The People

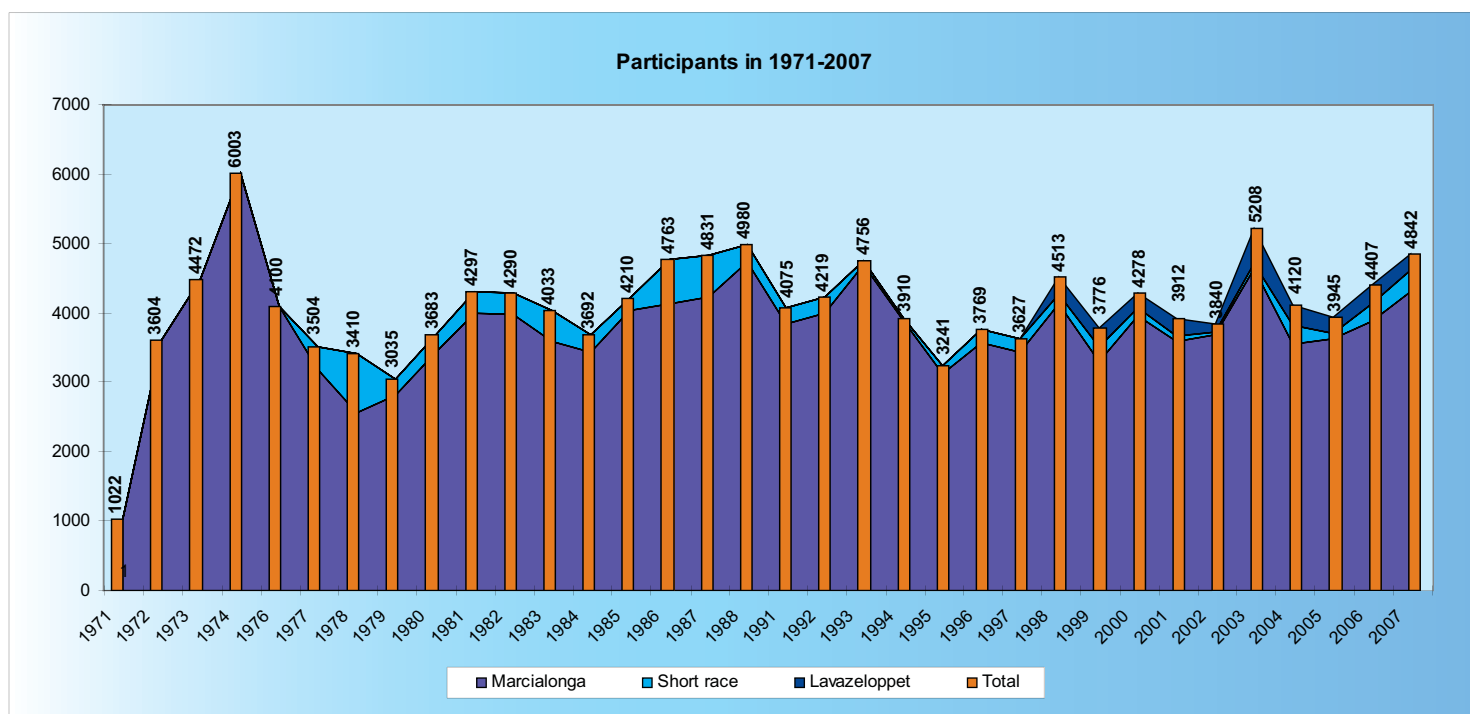
Through the Marcialonga, the Fiemme and Fassa valleys open up their history, culture and traditions to the world, showing a population which is reserved but which maintains its true identity in this rapidly changing world. Competing in Marcialonga and skiing through the villages, athletes breathe in the charm of a world which brims over with real values and the genuineness of people who are still refreshingly spontaneous. This is why Marcialonga stands out from all other cross-country competitions, with its villages that almost run into one another, with the natural way the inhabitants have of sympathy for the hard work of the competitors by offering a drink or a hot coffee or perhaps just by uttering a word of encouragement to alleviate their fatigue, with the bells ringing out as the race starts to get exciting and with every village around organising some kind of event to be

WINNERS

1971	Ulrico Kostner	
1972	Pauli Siitonen	
1973	Lars Arne Boelling	
1974	Magnar Lundemo	
1976	Tonino Biondini	
1977	J.Paul Pierrat	
1978	Ulrico Kostner	C. Dominique Robert
1979	Jorma Kinnunen	Maria Canins
1980	Ivan Garanin	Maria Canins
1981	Sven-Ake Lundbeck	Maria Canins
1982	Dag Atle Bjorkheim	Maria Canins
1983	Walter Mayer	Maria Canins
1984	Bengt Hassis	Maria Canins
1985	Giorgio Vanzetta	Maria Canins
1986	Maurilio De Zolt	Maria Canins
1987	Maurilio De Zolt	Maria Canins
1988	Albert Walder	Maria Canins
1991	Maurilio De Zolt	Guidina Dal Sasso
1992	Maurilio De Zolt	Tatiana Bondareva
1993	Mikhail Botvinov	Tatiana Bondareva
1994	Johann Mühlegg	Elena Kalughina
1995	Herve Balland	Eugenia Bichugova
1996	Maurizio Pozzi	Guidina Dal Sasso
1997	Mikhail Botvinov	Guidina Dal Sasso
1998	Mikhail Botvinov	Guidina Dal Sasso
1999	Johann Mühlegg	Guidina Dal Sasso
2000	Fulvio Valbusa	Svetlana Nageikina
2001	Juan Jesus Gutierrez	Irina Skladneva
2002	Juan Jesus Gutierrez	Anna Santer
2003	Joergen Aukland	Lara Peyrot
2004	Anders Aukland	Gabriella Paruzzi
2005	Stanislav Rezac	Cristina Paluselli
2006	Joergen Aukland	Cristina Paluselli
2007	Jerry Ahrlin	Hilde G. Pedersen



Men Podium



enjoyed by all and sundry. For more than 30 years, Marcialonga has been an extraordinary event in human and emotional terms, creating friendship and entertainment and a unique way of expressing itself by involving so many people. Hundreds of volunteers work side by side, motivated solely by the appeal of the competition. Mass participation beyond comparison, shown continuously throughout the event, whether in services, assistance, competitiveness or in terms of a great welcome. The response of the people of the valleys has been moving and continues to be so. Unequalled human warmth and natural friendliness in an enjoyable atmosphere continue to bear witness to unchanged values and feelings. The Marcialonga's strong point lies in this genuine expression on the part of the people of the valleys and it is this that will ensure that this event will be successful for many years to come.

More than just Marcialonga

Since its foundation, the organising committee of the cross-country ski race has been dedicating time, zeal and resources to other sporting events that have characterised more than just the winter season of the two valleys, embracing different disciplines throughout the year.

- The Skiolonga**

In the summer of 1984 the Skiolonga was set up, a green Marcialonga on roller-skis. The idea was stimulating, but sadly its life was short as, after a few years, the necessary conditions for its organisation were lacking.

- The Minimarcialonga**

The Minimarcialonga can be considered a real explosion of youth, enthusiasm and vitality. Set up in 1984, the race is a promotional event of great interest, reserved for young cross-country skiers aged between six and twelve years and covering a distance of 3 km. Hundreds of competitors, taking part for the same reasons as the adults in Marcialonga, are given equal weight as there is no final placing and each is welcomed at the finish line with the same enthusiasm. A friendly way of training tomorrow's Marcialonga participants, immersing them in the atmosphere of the great event and giving them the right incentives from a very young age to take part in the much-loved adult version.

- The Marcialonga Stars**

Since 2001 a new event is born to celebrate the Marcialonga. The Marcialonga Stars takes place on the international tracks of the cross-country ski stadium in Lago di Tesero and can be run either with skis or with snow rackets. This event is strictly linked to charity with the co-operation of the Association for Cancer Research and is rich in important protagonists from the world of sport, politics, television, who support this initiative to increase the collection of funds, all engaged in a common goal: the defeat of cancer.





- **The Marcialonga Running**

The running race was born in 2003 over the course used for the skiing race in winter, starting from Moena and finishing in Cavalese on a 24,00 km distance that is considered quite easy having a total climb of about 150 metres. This is the reason why everybody can take part in it, athletes, families and friends, tasting the feeling of being cheered along by the many spectators thronging the course and filling eyes and soul with the magnificence of the summer landscape they run through.

- **The Marcialonga Cycling**

Last in birth is the cycling event, a tough challenge for the organising committee. Being a long distance discipline and needing asphalt streets, this time the course escapes in some parts from the Fiemme and Fassa valleys and crosses the border of the two neighbouring regions, Veneto and the province of Belluno, Alto Adige Südtirol and the province of Bolzano. There are two distances, 80 and 135 km, immersed in the Dolomite environment that wakes up after a long and cold winter. The passes of Lavazè, San Pellegrino and Valles are witnesses of the Marcialonga caravan.



PHOTOS: NEWSPAPER/CANON

► Val di Fassa

▲ Ladies Podium

◀ The Minimarcialonga

FAMOUS PARTICIPANTS

Erich Pihkala (Finnish explorer); Abdon Pamich (walker); Klaus Di Biasi & Giorgio Cagnotto (Divers); Toni Hiebeler (German climber); Gianluigi Saccavo (fencing); Sergio Golser (sailing); Ted Jungg (canoeing); Carlo Benetton (fashion); Danilo De Longhi (industrialist); Venanzio Ortis (runner); Fausto Radici (slalom skier); Mootsabi Moorosi (South-African runner); Tone Valeruz (extreme skier); Jean Alesi (F1 driver); Francesco Moser & Claudio Chiappucci (cyclists); Guido & Paolo Barilla (industrialists); Carl-Philip Bernadotte (Prince of Sweden); Roberto Locatelli (MotoGP); Paola Pezzo (mountain biking); Antonio Rossi (canoeing)



1986 – the first race

König Ludwig Lauf

The König Ludwig Lauf represents Germany in the Worldloppet. It is the largest, most famous and most important race in Germany and runs through some of the most beautiful scenery in Bavaria. It would be possible to produce a long list of superlatives to describe the race, but I shall content myself by saying that the König Ludwig Lauf is much more than a race: it is a part of local culture and tradition, embodying a certain essential lifestyle. Everybody just has to be a part of this great annual event, if not as a competitor, then as a spectator or a member of the organising team.

Those of you who have taken part in the König Ludwig Lauf will understand exactly what I am trying to explain in these few sentences. Oberammergau is a place full of history. If you have time during the race, you will notice not just the beautiful landscape, but the wonderful buildings of Schloss Linderhof and Kloster Ettal, which you pass as you ski along the track. Ev-

ery participant enjoys the same kindly and friendly welcome from the local people. The spectators, as well as the policemen lining the course, motivate the competitors with their unbiased and knowledgeable encouragement.



I look forward in the future to many more people taking part in the race and experiencing the unforgettable atmosphere surrounding this lifestyle event.

Peter Schlickerrieder
Olympic Silver Medal 2002
Winner of Engadin Skimarathon 2001
Winner of Kangaroo Hoppet 2004



KÖNIG LUDWIG LAUF

Germany

Founders: Fritz Lang and Benedikt Stückl

First race: 17th March 1968, 90km & 45km,
altogether 796 participants

Highest number of participants: 3700 (1983)
(Birkebeiner 5498; Kortelo 2384) in 1997

Cancellations: 1972, 1975, 1985, 1990, 2002

Worldloppet membership: founding member

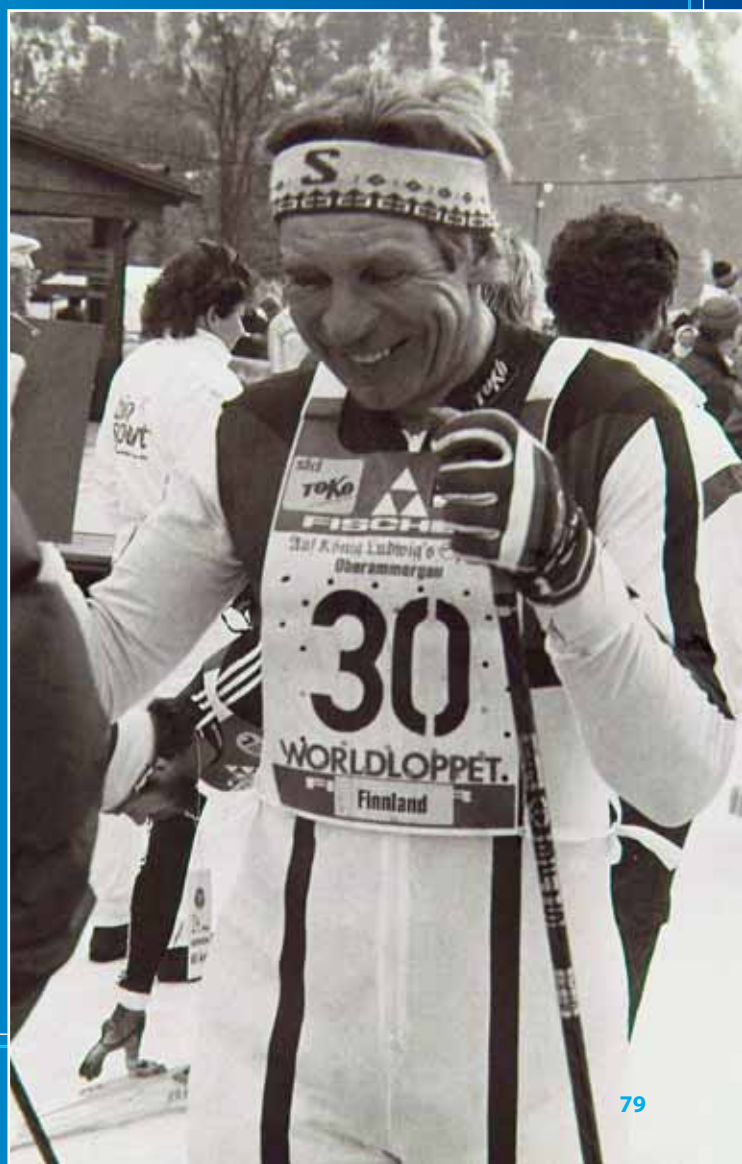
Place in calendar: first weekend of February

Main races: 50km C, 50km F

Short races: 23km C, 23km F

Website: www.koenig-ludwig-lauf.com

Pauli Siitonen





1983 - 300meters from the start

FOUNDING & HISTORICAL FACTS

The König Ludwig Lauf was born in 1967 in an Oberammergau Wirtshaus, the idea of Fritz Lang and Benedikt Stueckl. Their aim was to create a popular cross-country ski race that would be longer than the world-famous Vasaloppet. Vasaloppet at that time was 89 km in length and so the original König Ludwig Lauf course was set at 90 km.

At first the race was called 'Bayerischer Skilanglauf auf König Ludwigs Spuren' (Bavarian cross-country ski race in the tracks of King Ludwig), but within a few years the name had been changed to 'Ludwigslauf'. The name was derived from the fact that the race ran through land that at one time belonged to the king. In the early years the 90 km race consisted of two 45 km laps, but when the Alpentrail was founded in 1973 the course was changed to one 90 km loop from Oberammergau to Wildsteig and back.

In 1971 a 20 km distance for ladies and young skiers under 18 years of age was added to the programme and this year too saw the first Scandinavian participant: Ragnar Blackstad from Norway. The founding of Euroloppet a few years later brought foreign skiers to Oberammergau on a regular basis. The number of skiers taking part from outside Germany has grown steadily over the years. In 2006 the race attracted skiers from 34 different nations, bringing very positive benefits to the local economy as well as adding to the atmosphere of the race itself.

Problems arose in 1977 when the elite Finnish skier Pauli Siitonen, who won the race a record six times, introduced a new technique known as the 'Siitonen-step'. Nowadays this is commonly known as Marathon Skate and soon it was being widely used by many of the competitors. As a result the organisers decided to run two different races – skating on Saturday and Classical technique on Sunday. This change was very popular with the skiers as many of them now had the unique opportunity to take part in two races.

In 1980 women were allowed to take part in the 90 km race for the first time and the number of participants set a new record of over 3000.

By the mid 1980s recurring problems with snow forced the organisers to shorten the course to 50 km. The weekend now also included a shorter 23 km race and a 5 km 'Mini Kini' for children.

THE MOST EXTREME RACES

A memorable incident in the history of the race took place in 1981, when the leading group of five skiers had a lead of several minutes, only to lose their way, arriving in Oberammergau after the Russians Alexander Jurassov and the Finn Jorma Kinnunen had already finished. After lengthy debate the Jury decided to have seven winners, Ivan Garanin and Alexander Jurassov (both USSR), Rudolf Kapeller (AUT), Per Knotten (NOR), Matti Kuosku (SWE) and Pauli Siitonen and Jorma Kinnunen (both FIN).



WINNERS

1968	Klaus Niedermeier	
1969	Arthur Bodenmüller	
1970	Heini Simon	
1971	Robert Eiermann	
1973	Heini Simon	
1974	Pauli Siitonen	
1976	Pauli Siitonen	
1977	Pauli Siitonen	
1978	Pauli Siitonen	
1979	Pauli Siitonen	
1980	Per Knottner	Gerda Kunz
1981	Ivan Garanin	Kathrin Glasl
	Alexandr Jurasov	
	Rudolf Kapeller	
	Jorma Kinnunen	
	Per Knotten	
	Matti Kuosko	
	Pauli Siitonen	
1982	Lars Frykberg	Kathrin Glasl
1983	Per Knotten	Sisko Kainulainen
1984	Bengt Hassis	Sisko Kainulainen
1986	Konrad Hallenbarter	Sisko Kainulainen
1987	Bengt Hassis	Annerose Rees
1988	Konrad Hallenbarter	Christina Gilli
1989	Anders Blomqvist	Sisko Kainulainen
1991	Ladislav Svanda	Vida Ventsene
1992	Erik Hansson	Sisko Kainulainen
1993	Alec Vanek	Nataly Tschernych
1994	Alec Vanek	Maria Theurl
1995	Hakan Westin	Lucie Bucharova
1996	Hakan Westin	Gurdun Pflüger
1997	Martin Petrsek	Sigrid Wille
1998	Staffan Larsson	Elena Grigoreva
1999	Mikael Östberg	Dorota Dziadkowiec
2000	Stanislav Rezac	Svetlana Nageikina
2001	Christian Baldauf	Ramona Roth
2003	Joergen Aukland	Lara Peyrot
2004	Stanislav Rezac	Cristina Paluselli
2005	Stanislav Rezac	Cristina Paluselli
2006	Stanislav Rezac	Ine Wigernæs
2007	Daniel Tynell	Elin Ek

▲ 1988 - W. Thierstein, K. Hallenbarter, F. Schöbel

▲ 1989 - H. Westin, A. Blomqvist, B. Hassis

◀ 1983 - K. Glasl, S. Kainulainen, D. Weber

Two years later in 1983, heavy snowfall started three days before the race and continued throughout the event, causing the race to be shortened to 70 km. All the competitors had problems not only with waxing their skis, but even with finding the track in such poor visibility. The winner was Per Knotten in 3:36, but conditions were so bad that the last finisher Robert Gorham (USA) needed more than 9 hours to complete the course. It was in this race that the Finn Sisko Kainulainen took the first of her five victories.

FEATURES
The Organization

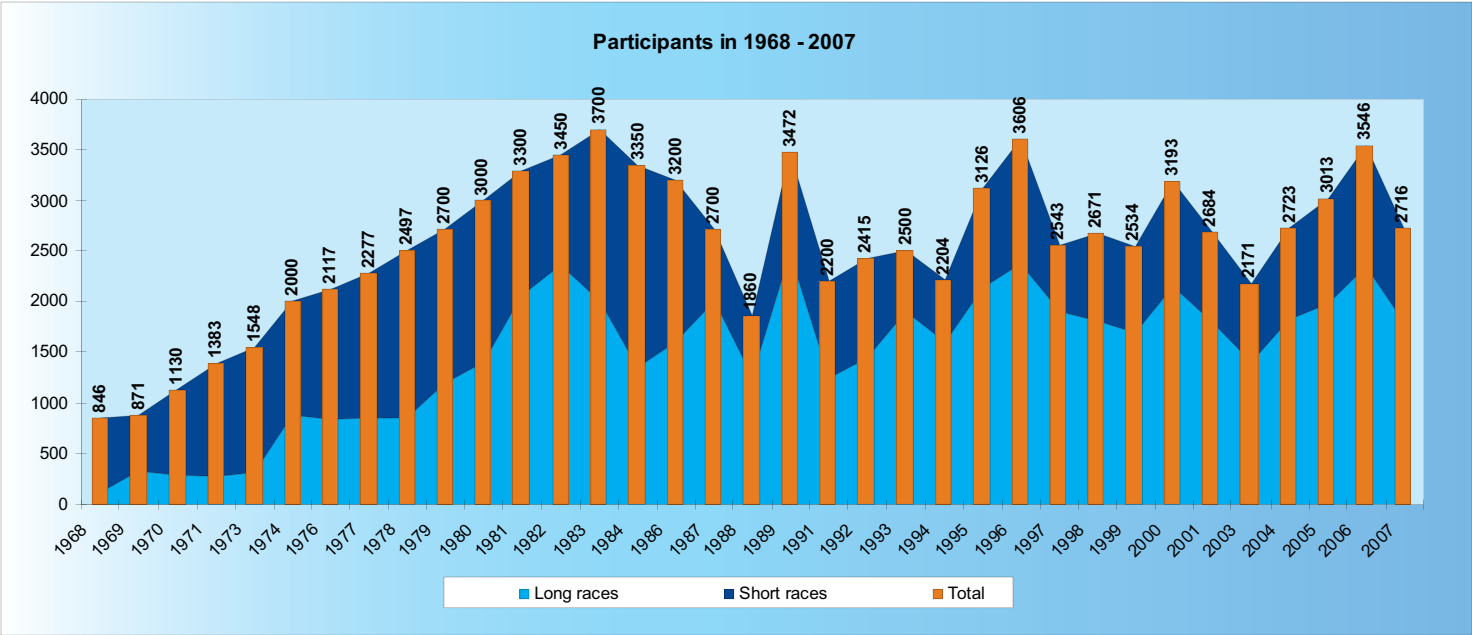
During the decade 1990-1999 the General Secretariat of Worldloppet had its seat in Oberammergau, led by Hans Reicherl who has been Chairman of König Ludwig Lauf for 30 years, from its beginning to the present day. König Ludwig Lauf has also been a regular member of the FIS Marathon Cup ever since the inception of that competition.

In 1977 the König Ludwig Lauf race organization became an independent part of the TSV Oberammergau (Sportclub of Oberammergau) forming

Club König Ludwig Lauf and Hans Reicherl has been its chairman from the beginning. Vice Chairman and Chief of Competition is Thomas Nowak, secretary Lilli Achilles and Chief of the track Bernhard Benedikt. Honaray members of the organization are Dr. Alfred Artmann, Helmut Kronthaler, Hermann Biermeier, Heini Wichan. For the event there are 400 volunteers of different local clubs helping.

The Course

The König Ludwig Lauf takes place in one of the most scenic parts of Germany, the wildlife sanctuary 'Ammergebirge' and the organisers, together with 400 volunteers; have to work in very close cooperation with the forestry department to ensure that the environment stays totally unharmed. The start for all races is in Ettal and the main race follows the route from Ettal to Graswang, Linderhof and back to the sports centre in Oberammergau. The area has been described as a paradise for cross-country skiing. Since the foundation of the race more than 70,000 skiers have taken part, as shown in the following chart:





◀ 1993 start of 55km C race

1987: B.Hassiss, A.Blomqvist, H.Persson ▶



▶ 1991 after start

▼ 1991 on the course

◀ Stanislav Rezac leading the race in 2005





PHOTO: B. FERRANDEZ

Lamoura – elite wave

La Transjurassienne

Involved in the Transjurassienne since its creation, it is a pleasure for me to retrace the story of La Transjurassienne; but what's more, it's also the occasion to pay respects to the two principal founders: Jacky MANDRILLON (sports journalist and Director of the Newspaper Le Progrès) and Georges BERTHET (President of the Regional Ski Committee).

In 1978, with the support of the French Sports Ministry, Le Progrès, the Regional Ski Committee, the French Ski Federation and the local Government authorities; the organizing committee backed by an army of volunteers, began the preparations for the first Transjurassienne. The goal was to create an event in the image of the reputed international long-distance events... to create a French Vasa. This first edition was to be called La Progressime du Jura and was to be held from Mouthe to Lamoura.

The event, scheduled to be held on February 18, 1979 would not take place, lack of snow forced the organizers (with rage in their hearts) to pronounce the cancellation of this first edition! The volunteers immediately got to work on the next edition, 76 km on February 17, 1980. The brochure would carry the name La Progressime du Jura but also the name of its geographical position, Transjurassienne. Under the responsibility of the new president of the Regional Ski Committee, Marc Dole, and in hopes of erasing the cruelty

of the first 1979 edition, the direction of the event was inversed becoming Lamoura – Mouthe. Unfortunately Jacky Mandrillon and Georges Berthet were no longer present to experience the enormous success of the event that provided well merited encouragement to the organizing committee. In 1981, with the arrival of its first sponsor, the event was logically and definitively baptised La Transjurassienne! That same year, La Transjurassienne also became the 10th nation to join the Worldloppet family... a total consecration!

Born with an international identity, La Transjurassienne unfolded its life; navigating through the evolution of cross-country skiing, first with the half skate step and then full skating technique; it swelled its number of participants, and finally gave birth to satellite events such as La MiniTrans, and La Transjeune... offering La Transjurassienne week. It went on to organize two Worldloppet annual meetings and to know the participation of numerous ski celebrities, both men and women, of both national and international renown.

Another important moment in the life of La Transjurassienne was the creation in 1997 of a new association, Trans'Organisation. This innovation sug-



gested by the Ski Clubs along the race-course and the Regional Ski Committee (which I was presiding) marked a turning point in the history of "La Trans". Over the years the local Government authorities, the Jura and Doubs departments as well as the region of Franche-Comté, have stood behind Trans'Organisation; they not only fully appreciate the notoriety and evolution of this important event in the sports world, but also the media and economical contribution that La Transjurassienne provides for an entire region.

Unfortunately, from time to time La Transjurassienne has been exposed to hazardous weather conditions and has been forced to modify the race track or even cancel the event altogether, but La Trans always bounces back and moves on to a new challenge and to a new success even serving as model for other great competitions. Such was the case as in 2000 when La Transjurassienne became the first FIS World Cup long-distance event!

The 30th anniversary of the Worldloppet is yet another platform for evolution of the cross-country ski industry all over the world, and for the everlasting Transjurassienne; a supreme compensation for our sponsors, for our devoted servants and to the enormous efforts deployed by the army of volunteers who remain the human support system vital to this wonderful event.

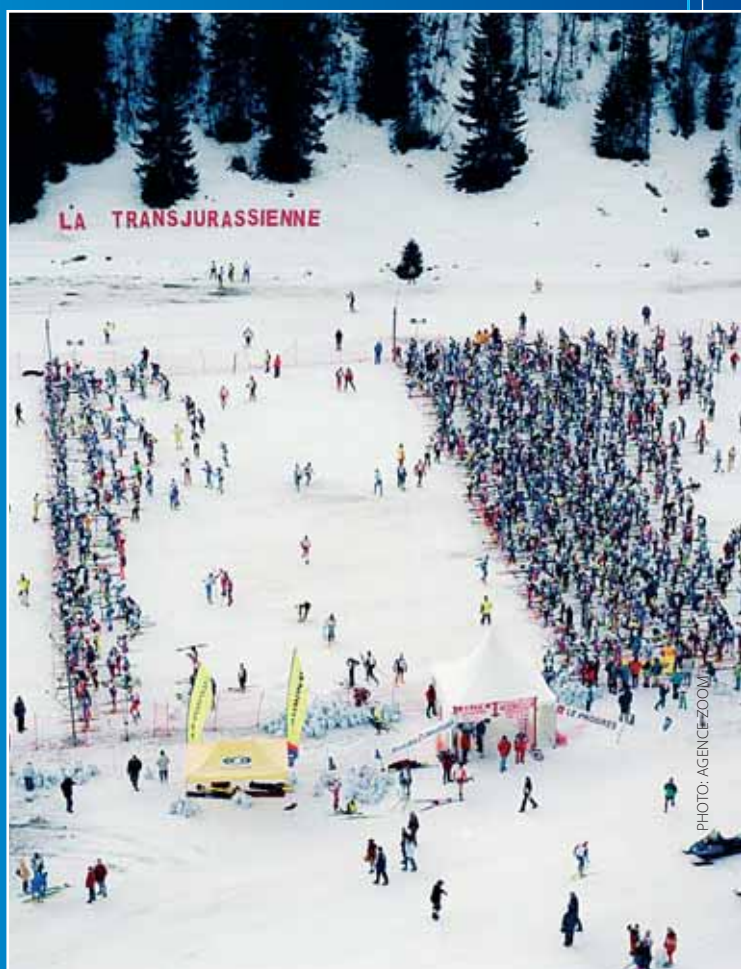


Marcel FLEURY – Vice President of CROS
(Regional Olympic Sports Committee)

LA TRANSJU

France

Founder: Jacky Mandrillon & Georges Berthert
First race: 17th February 1980, 76 km, 1750 entries, 1530 ranked
Highest number of participants: 3530 (1984) (Birkebeiner 5498; Kortelopet 2384) in 1997
Cancellations: 1990, 1993, 2001, 2007
Worldloppet membership: member form 1981
Place in calendar: second Sunday of February
Main race: 76 km F
Additional races: 54 km F, 50 km C, 25 km C
Website: www.transjurassienne.com/



Ariel view of start

FOUNDING & HISTORICAL FACTS

Jacky Mandrillon and Georges Berthert, both founders of the Transjurassienne, originally called the Progressime du Jura-Transjurassienne, programmed the first edition on February 18, 1979. The first organizational meeting was held in July of 1978, and the original track was to be from Mouthe to Lamoura; 76 km in the image of the renowned Vasaloppet and König Ludwig Lauf. 1700 participants registered for this first edition, that was forced to cancel after a full week of hard rain totally demolished the preparations of the volunteers.

The driving desire was to create an event in the image of the existing “big name” international events; the Vasaloppet, König Ludwig Lauf, Engadin and the Marcialonga. The driving force came from four major sources: the Youth and Sports Ministry, the French Ski Federation, the Progrès (major regional newspaper) and the Massif Jurassien Regional Ski Committee. These main players were motivated by the recent international success of French cross-country competitors and the desire to create a French long distance event.

THE MOST SUCCESSFUL RACE

The most successful edition of La Transjurassienne was without a doubt in 2000. For the first time ever, a Worldloppet event was also a FIS World Cup event. The enthusiasm for this exceptional event was wide spread; from the popular racers to the general public including several regional and national political instances. The challenge was enormous; the goal was to remain faithful to our popular racers while integrating top International competitors.

THE MOST EXTREME RACE

The 1999 edition of La Transjurassienne was certainly the most extreme; the weeks preceding the event, our region was blessed with more snow than we knew what to do with. Three meter snow banks lined the roads and the road crew worked night and day to try to maintain fluent traffic, but also to clear a sufficient number of parking lots. Just days before the race, a low front moved in bringing warm temperatures and non-stop rain. We were forced to shorten the MiniTrans on Saturday due to water torrents overtaking parts of the course. For the main event on Sunday we were able to maintain the original race distance but the course was modified to avoid the sensitive areas damaged by water. Extreme conditions were present at the start with water gradually filling the start area and slowly creeping over the boots of the last skiers. Beating rain persisted for the entire event and the track and security crews worked non stop to maintain safe condi-

tions for all racers and last minute track changes were made to abide the overflowing rivers constantly eating away at the track. Although weather conditions were extreme, participation numbers were up, and close to 3000 participants left with a total sense of triumph... not to mention a great story to tell!

FEATURES

If there is one very specific feature that defines who we are it is the “sense of ownership”, the population of an entire region has claimed ownership of La Transjurassienne. La Transjurassienne actually belongs to the people of the villages it traverses, to the surrounding communities, and to the political authorities of an entire region; personal and emotional investment is total, and present in all aspects of the organisation as well as in the fervour displayed along the track from start to finish.

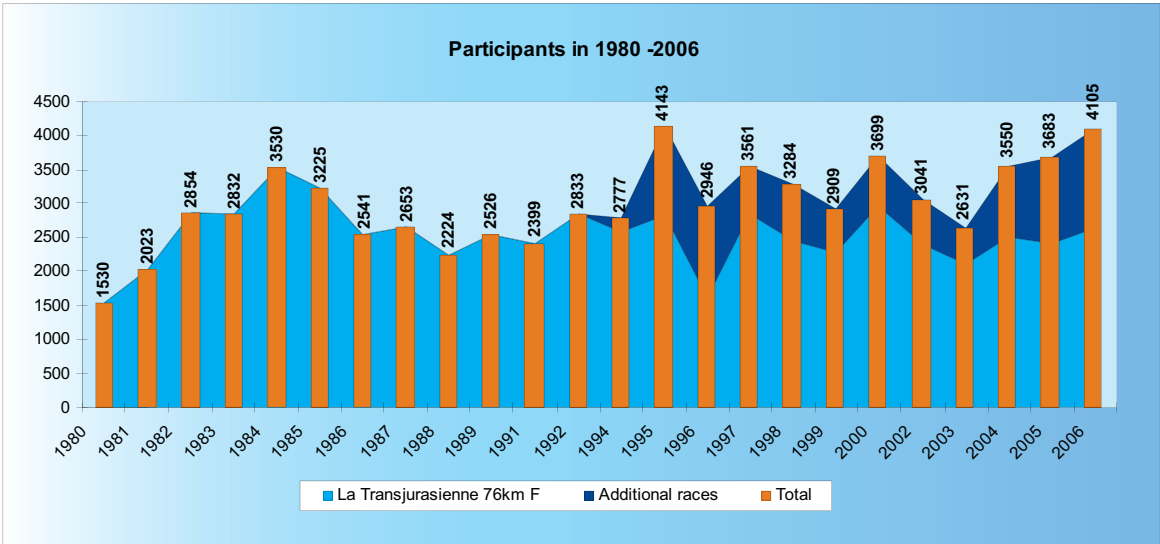
RECIPE FOR A GOOD TRANSJURASSIENNE:

- You need; 3000 to 4000 participants that you let marinate for one or two hours in -10°, -15° or -20 degree temperatures that you slowly bring to a boil around 8:30 a.m.
- Add a pinch of elites, a good dose of courage and motivation and a zest of humour. (Optional: 2 or 3 swear words and a little lactic acid).
- A barrel of atmosphere, a scoop of professionalism, self sacrifice and volunteers for the organisation.
- A few dried apricots, Comté cheese and several litres of tea; spread the above ingredients over 76 km and you have a recipe to consume without moderation every 2nd weekend in February!

Extract from the book: La Transjurassienne – 76 km en “Trans”

COOPERATION WITH WORLDLOPPET

The moment La Transjurassienne became a member of Worldloppet, an international declaration was made: La Transjurassienne had fulfilled the strict criteria set by the most prestigious long-distance cross-country ski races in the world and in becoming a member; “La Trans” gained instant international notoriety, opening our event to tens of thousands of new participants. When La Transjurassienne became a Worldloppet event, it became an important date on the calendar of all Worldloppet passport holders, therefore increasing the number of international participants and nations represented. But more than just increasing the number of participants, La Transjurassienne gained support from a very solid family of long-distance events and in that, was allowed the opportunity to grow as an organisation through shared experiences and in the sprouting of new ideas.





- ▲ The Optician climb
- ▲ La Combe du Lac

Finish 2002 - De Zolt Ponte ►

WINNERS

1980	Tommy Limby	Josiane Broyard
1981	Sven Ake Lundbek	Marie Christine Subot
1982	Nils Thore Andreassen	Michèle Durand
1983	Konrad Hallenbarter	Kjersti Strand
1984	Bengt Hassis	Marie Christine Subot
1985	Hans Persson	Marie Gabrielle Frasse Sombet
1986	Konrad Hallenbarter	Marie Gabrielle Frasse Sombet
1987	Jan Ottoson	Madeleine Galland
1988	Anders Blomqvist	Madeleine Galland
1989	Anders Blomqvist	Marie Pierre Guilbaud
1991	Hervé Balland	Marie Pierre Guilbaud
1992	Philippe Grandclement	Emmanuelle Claret
1994	Sylvano Barco	Marie Pierre Guilbaud
1995	Johann Mülhegg	Marie Pierre Guilbaud
1996	Hervé Balland	Olga Kosmatcheva
1997	Mikhail Botvinov	Olga Kosmatcheva
1998	Stéphane Passeron	Lucia Bianchetti
1999	Johann Mülhegg	Elisabeth Tardy
2000	Johann Mülhegg	Stefania Belmondo
2002	Roberto De Zolt Ponte	Josette Petite
2003	Patrick Poelli	Josette Petite
2004	Alexandre Rousselet	Sophie Rey
2005	Juan Jesus Gutierrez	Evelyne Casenave
2006	Roberto De Zolt Ponte	Sara Rigoni

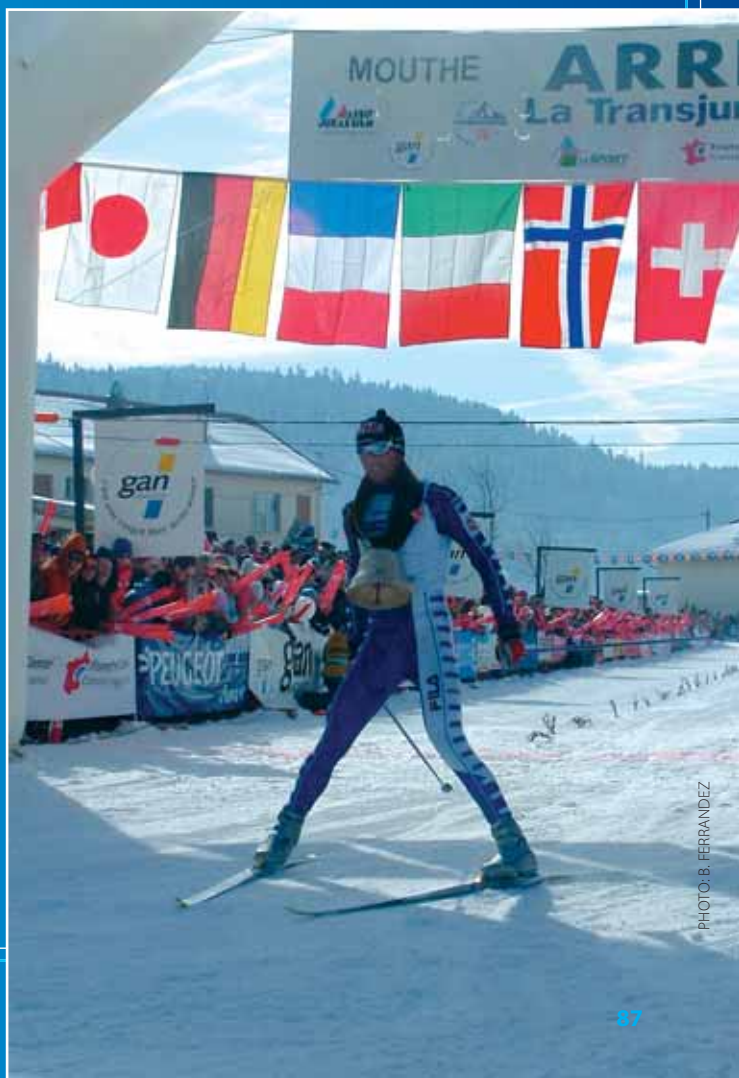






PHOTO: AGENCY ZOOM

FAMOUS PARTICIPANTS

Olympic Champions:

- Sven Ake LUNDBEK (Sweden)
- Thomas WASBERG (Sweden)
- Vegard ULVANG (Norway)
- Bjorn DALHIE (Norway)

World Championship medalist:

- Jean Paul PIERRAT (France)
- Hervé BALLAND (France)
- Vincent VITTOZ (France)
- Alexandre Rousselet (France)

◀◀ Food station in Chapelle des Bois

◀ Prémanon

▼ Lamoura



PHOTO: TRIAS



1987 owns a record of participation - 2048 skiers raced the 50km marathon

PHOTOS: ASAHI SHIMBUN

Sapporo International Ski Marathon

I am extremely delighted that we are able to hold the Sapporo International Ski Marathon in grand style every year with the participation of many skiers from both Japan and overseas.

The Sapporo International Ski Marathon began in 1981 as Japan's first international cross-country ski event, and in 1986 it became the only event in Asia to be recognised by the Worldloppet Ski Federation. Since then the event has steadily grown, learning from the good aspects of other historical and traditional competitions.

The special feature of the Sapporo Ski Marathon is that as well as being a race between top-level skiers, it also offers everyone who enjoys ski walking, from the elderly to young children, the opportunity to spend a day as their fancy takes them amid the splendid nature of Sapporo.

In addition, Sapporo Dome, which has been the start and finish of the marathon since 2002, is a world-class facility. Before the race participants

can take their time changing in a warm changing room, and afterwards they can enjoy a warm shower. Sapporo Dome also offers convenient transportation, with easy subway access to the centre of the city.

You are most welcome to visit Sapporo and take part in the Sapporo International Ski Marathon. It gives the sponsors more pleasure than anything else to see participants deepening their friendship through this event beyond nationality and generation. All of our staff sincerely look forward to your participation.

Soroku Ozawa
President
Sapporo International Ski Marathon Organizing Committee



SAPPORO INTERNATIONAL SKI MARATHON

Japan

Founder: City of Sapporo, Ski Association of Sapporo, Asahi Shimbun etc.

First race: 8th March 1981, 30 km, 114 participants

Highest number of participants: 2048 participants in 50km (1987)

Cancellations: never

Worldloppet membership: since 1985

Place in calendar: second Sunday of February

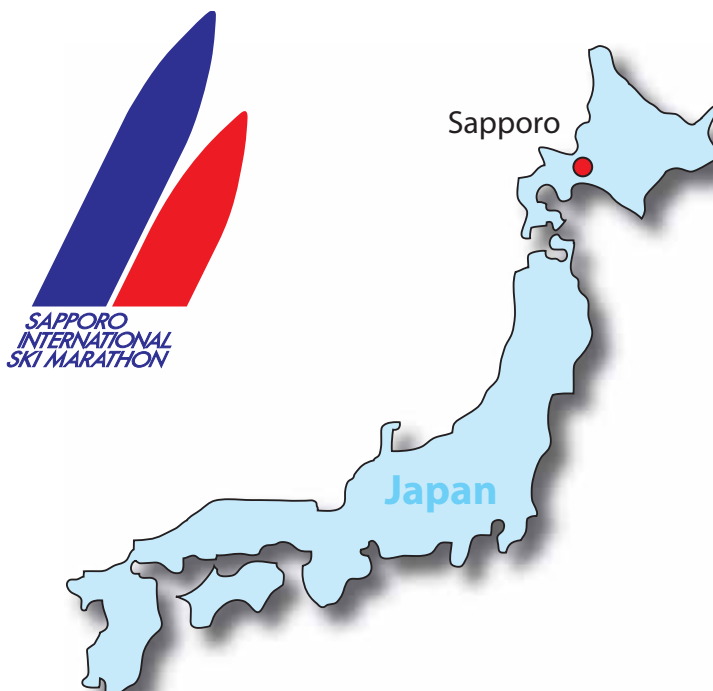
Main race: 50km F

Short races: 25km F, 10km F, 5km F, 3km F

Website: http://www.sspc.or.jp/ski/eng_top.html



1983





2001

FOUNDING & HISTORICAL FACTS

1981 – The first Sapporo International Ski Marathon took place on the Sapporo Olympic Winter Games tracks with distances of 30km, 20km and 10km. The inspiration for the race came from the Holmenkollen Games in Norway. In the winter of 1981 a delegation from Sapporo visited Germany to study the organisation of popular ski races. To ensure that the new race started successfully, the organisers invited all the Worldloppet winners of the season to Japan at the organisers'. In 1982 the distance of the long race was extended to 42km and after three more years to 50 km.

1985 - Worldloppet delegates Eugen Peter, Klasse Kvänna and Bruce Cameron observed the race and the Sapporo International Skimarathon was accepted as a new member of Wordloppet in the summer of the same year.

1986 – The first race as a member of Worldloppet took place with 1732 finishers in the 50km race. There were 47 nations represented.

1991 – a short race of 25km was added to the program

2002 – The start and finish areas were moved to the Sapporo Dome

2005 – 25th Anniversary race

THE MOST SUCCESSFUL RACE

was in 1987 with 3238 participants.

THE MOST EXTREME RACE

was in 1990. Four hours before the start the weather conditions changed alarmingly. There was a big storm that compelled the organizers to limit

the race to 25 km. Only 252 skiers of 1716 finished the race in the allotted time.

FEATURES

The Sapporo Ski Marathon is the only Worldloppet member race in Asia. The race is run over a scenic and demanding course, parts of which were used for the 50 km race during the Olympic Winter Games held in Sapporo in 1972. Although it does not have a 'feature' hill as do many of the Worldloppet races, its continually undulating nature makes it one of the more severe courses on the Worldloppet circuit.

The start and finish of the race take place at the world-famous Sapporo Dome, which is easily accessible by public transport from the centre of Sapporo, the largest city in Japan's northern island of Hokkaido. Sapporo has an excellent snow record and, as befits a venue which has staged Olympic Winter Games and World Championships, the facilities are first-class, the tracks prepared to the highest standards and the race organisation highly experienced.

Above all, skiers visiting Sapporo will benefit from their exposure to Japanese culture and cuisine. The Sapporo Ski Marathon is held at the same time the Sapporo Snow Festival, which draws visitors from all over the world, all of whom are enthralled by the friendly reception and welcome they receive from the inhabitants of this beautiful and sports-loving city.

COOPERATION WITH WORLDPLOPET

The main gain that has been experienced as a result of Worldloppet membership is in the increase in the number of participants from overseas countries who give a truly international atmosphere to the race.



Kenji Ogiwara preparing for the start in 2004

▼ Awards Ceremony of 2007

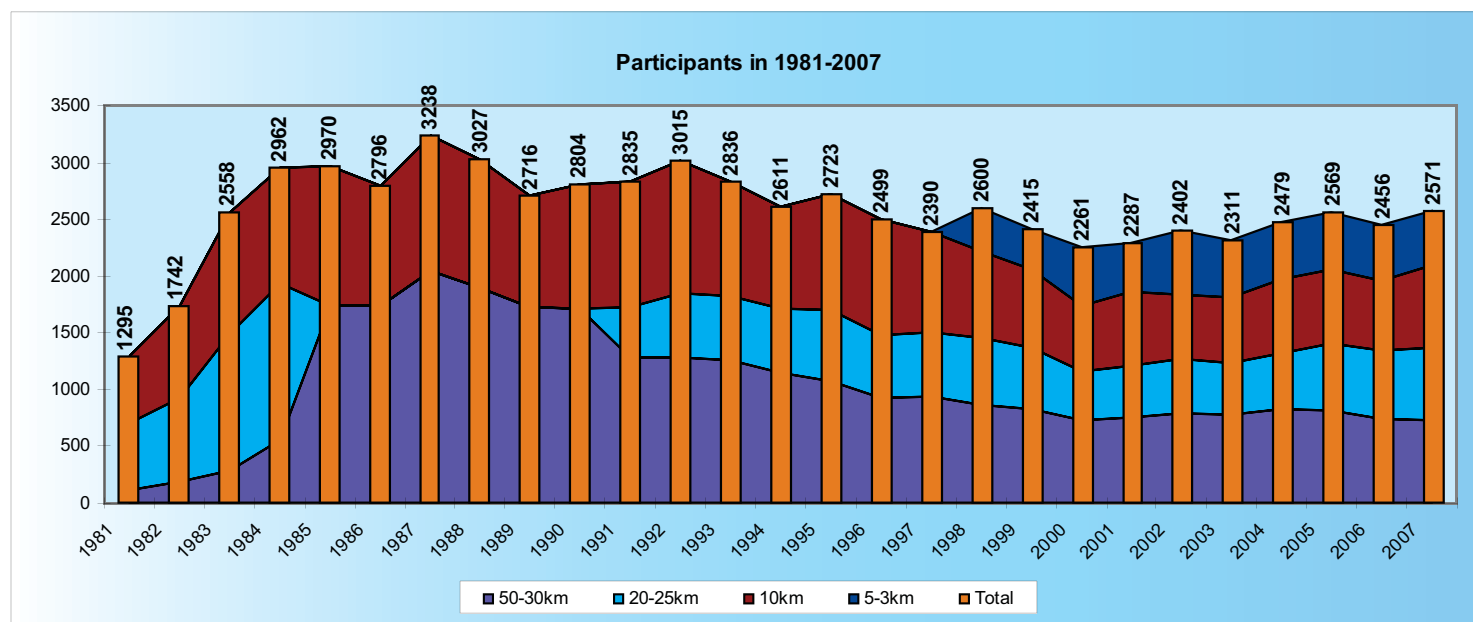
WINNERS

1981	Nyui Manabu	Kanai Hiroko
1982	Takahashi Minoru	Monique Waterreus
1983	Franz Renggli	Kanai Hiroko
1984	Yuki Taniyuki	Gaby Scheidegger
1985	Nakazawa Yusei	Shimizume Mihoko
1986	Konrad Hallenbarter	Joy Makpachuk
1987	Anders Blomqvist	Tsuchiya Mihoko
1988	Yaegashi Kazuhiro	Wada Natsuko
1989	Konrad Hallenbarter	Mikami Yoshiko
1990	Markus Fahndrich	Suzanne King
1991	Anders Blomqvist	Ryuno Mutsumi
1992	Watanabe Hirofumi	Kogawa Kimie
1993	Yuki Taniyuki	Kogawa Kimie
1994	Murota Sakae	Ohata Takako
1995	Yamazaki Masaharu	Yamamura Naoko
1996	Shindo Takashi	Tanaka Tamami
1997	Watanabe Hirofumi	Furusawa Midori
1998	Christian Hoffmann	Soneta Chizuru
1999	Egawa Satoru	Fukuda Yoshiko
2000	Egawa Satoru	Kono Kazuko
2001	Watanabe Kennosuke	Horinoue Juri
2002	Mizobuchi Takeshi	Koshita Yuka
2003	Shimada Takehiko	Naruse Miki
2004	Imai Hiroyuki	Hattori Ikumi
2005	Imai Hiroyuki	Konovalenko Tatjana
2006	Kanamaru Tomio	Sato Kanako
2007	Miyoshi Takafumi	Sato Kanako





At the start near Sapporo Dome in 2006





- ▶ 2007
- ▶ 2007
- ◀ 2005

▲ Marathon runner Ingrid Kristiansen at the 25km race in 1995

FAMOUS PARTICIPANTS

- Ingrid Kristiansen(Norway) who held the World Record for Women's Marathon running (2:21:06,1985) for 14 years-until 1999. She came to the Sapporo Ski Marathon in 1995 and won the women's short race over 25km.
- The 1998 winner was Christian Hoffmann of Austria, who went on to win a gold medal over 30 km in the Olympic Winter Games at Salt Lake City in 2002.
- Japanese hero in the ski-world Kenji Ogiwara, who won gold medals at Team Nordic Combined in 1992 and 1994, took part in 50km of Sapporo Ski Marathon in 2004.



PHOTO: ARNE KIVISTIK

The first climb in 1996

Tartu Maraton

I was a 13-14 year old boy when I heard about Tartu Maraton for the first time. It was already at that time the biggest and most popular sporting event in Estonia with about 6000 participants. I wanted to take part, but my trainer would not allow it. Although I knew he was right because I was too young, it still upset me.

The Tartu Maraton has its certain place in the sporting history of Estonia. The race has a long tradition of being the biggest sporting event in our country. Each winter it brings together thousands of ski friends from Estonia and from all over the world.

I look at my results in the Tartu Maraton with pride. Maybe I am proudest of my victory in 2001 when I beat Andrus Veerpalu, who had just been crowned as World Champion at 30 km in Lahti. But it is always a good feel-

ing to win at home and at the same time to feel a great gratitude from me to the organisers and spectators.

I cannot point out any special differences between the Tartu Maraton and other races, but definitely the good organisation and a great course profile are the best keywords for describing it. It is worth coming to the Tartu Maraton for its varied profile for popular skiers through the scenic landscape of Southern Estonia. Together with a very good organisation the race gives enjoyment for everyone.

Raul Olle

Winner of Tartu Maraton 1994, 2001, 2005
Winner of Vasaloppet and Finlandia-hiihto 2000
Winner of Jizerska Padesatka 2002
Winner of FIS Marathon Cup 2000





TARTU MARATON

Estonia

Founders: Tõnu Luik, Herbert Abel, Jüri-Hain Kaljusto
First race: 16 January 1960, 55 km, 210 participants
(ca 30 racers)

Highest number of participants: 1985 – 13200
entries; 1986 - 9858 finishers

Cancellations: 1961, 1972, 1973, 1974, 1975, 1988,
1989, 1990, 2000, 2004

Worldloppet membership: since 1994

Place in calendar: third Sunday of February

Main race: 63km C

Additional races: 31km C, Open Track – 63km, 31km,
16km F, Ladies' Race 16km F

Website: www.tartumaraton.ee

► Raul Olle with FIS Marathon Cup 2000 prize in gold

▼ Raul Olle takes his third Tartu Maraton victory in 2005



PHOTO: CLUB TARTU MARATON



PHOTO: SCANPIX

FOUNDING & HISTORICAL FACTS

In 1959 three skiers Tõnu Luik, Herbert Abel and Jüri-Hain Kaljusto saw an article of Vasaloppet (with 700 participants) in the March edition of "Sovetski Sport" (Soviet Sport) magazine. They decided that a similar event should also take place in Tartu. Word of their intentions spread very quickly all over Estonia and the feedback they received was very positive.

The organising body consisted of members from the municipality sports department, the hiking club and Tartu University. The date was set for January 16th 1960. The race course followed the Tartu-Otepää road. It was chosen as there was almost no traffic and no sand had been used on the roads for maintenance. At 9 o'clock the ski race from Tartu to Kääriku started for "hikers on skis"; two hours later they were followed by the competitors. The start took place on the frozen river next to the city hall. During the first years the "hikers" (participants without a race bib) continued as track groomers for the competitors. The first snowmobiles appeared on the Tartu Maraton tracks in 1976.

The 60s were a booming period for winter hikes in Estonia. Notwithstanding the warm winters from 1972-1975 until the beginning of the 1980s, the Tartu Maraton became a "fashion event": to be a man in Estonia you had to ski the Tartu Maraton!

In the first decades, many sport and medical specialists were opposed to the Tartu Maraton. It was considered irresponsible to encourage people to race ski a distance longer than that permitted in any FIS races. To avoid conflict, until 1979 the Tartu Maraton was organized as a ski hike.

A new era started in 1980 – the Olympic Games were held in the Soviet Union and sport was declared by all authorities to be the highest priority for the year. Working groups were formed to modernise the Tartu Mara-

ton. Among other innovations, the race direction was reversed to run from Otepää to Tartu, as the finish area in Otepää had become too small to accommodate the number of skiers. It was decided, that from then on, all participants must be registered and their results recorded. For the first time all participants wore bibs and started at the same time. Registration limits were set for every republic in the Soviet Union and for every big factory in Estonia, otherwise the entry numbers would have been over 100 000. Nobody from outside the USSR could take part, as Tartu was a closed city to foreign tourists because of its strategic military airport. In 1982 the first overseas skiers from Finland participated, although their nationality was not officially announced. The first foreign elite skier at the Tartu Maraton was Hakan Westin who took part and won the race in 1995 and 1996.

The hardest times of all started for the Tartu Maraton in 1988, when warm winters hit Estonia for 6 consecutive years, combined with a changing political and difficult economical situation for the whole country. Each winter preparations were made for hosting 10000 skiers, but in 1991, the organisers of the Tartu Maraton had to start again from zero. The previous organisational structures were dissolved; people struggled with their everyday problems and had no time for popular sports. A new word emerged: sponsorship.

15 ski enthusiasts led by Alar Arukuusk and Madis Lepajõe formed the Club Tartu Maraton in 1991 to bring life back into this unique event and lead it to Worldloppet membership in 1994. And this status confirms the true value of the race. Today, the Tartu Maraton, still holds its position as the most popular sporting event in Estonia.

THE MOST SUCCESSFUL RACE

Long distance skiing holds the record in Estonia for an event held in one place on one day with the biggest number of participants: the Tartu Mara-



Ski waxing before the race 1984



PHOTO: ESTONIAN SPORTSMUSEUM

Ladies leading group in 1964

ton had over 9850 finishers in 1986. That year, Tartu Maraton was beaten only by Engadin Skimarathon and Vasaloppet and was even bigger than Finlandia-hiihto. The biggest number of entries (13 200) was in 1985 but as the weather was extremely cold and young skiers were not allowed to participate the number in the finish was less remarkable.

In 1987 the Tartu Maraton was declared to be the number one popular sport event in the Soviet Union.

One of the most successful races was the Worldloppet candidate marathon in 1994. This was held in perfect conditions which made it easier to organise a perfect race to impress the Worldloppet delegates. In the summer of 1994, the Tartu Maraton was accepted into the Worldloppet organisation.

In 1999 the Tartu Maraton was awarded the title of The Best Tourism Establishment of Estonia.

THE MOST EXTREME RACE

The most extreme race so far was held in 2002 with extremely poor snow conditions. The Open Track race was shortened. Every other day the decision about the race was remade and the final decision by the organising committee was made on February 7th 2002, only

Italian team at the finish of the most extreme race in 2002



PHOTO: SCANPIX

WINNERS

1960	Rein Tikk	
1962	Valter Tennisson, Anatoli Kreinin	
1963	Valter Tennisson	
1964	Valeri Zelentsov	
1965	Tõnu Haljand	
1966	no records	
1967	Rudolf Mürk	Eha Abel
1968	Arvo Kütt	Ene Märtin (Altmäe)
1969	Hain Kinks	Ingrid Mägar
1970	Tõnu Kinks	no records
1971	Vladimir Shokman	no records
1976	M. Mallo	Taima Kuusk (Nurm)
1977	Tõnu Kinks	Tatjana Ojaverre
1978	Anatoli Shmigun	Rutt Shmigun
1979	Arne Sammel	Ülle Torop
1980	Arne Sirel	Küllike Ohno
1981	Mati Albert	Helmi Mihhailova
1982	Mati Albert	Rutt Shmigun
1983	Jaanus Teppan	Rutt Shmigun
1984	Vahur Kihuoja	Siiri Sepp
1985	Artur Daniel	Kerstin Margus (Kruuda)
1986	Nikolai Politajev	Ingrid Tikk
1987	Ulvar Pavlov	Krista Lepik
1991	Margo Pulles	Ene Tjulkina
1993	Ulvar Pavlov	Ene Aigro
1994	Raul Olle	Katrin Mauring
1995	Hakan Westin	Ene Aigro
1996	Hakan Westin	Maria Theurl
1997	Mikhail Botvinov	Gudrun Pflüger
1998	Mikhail Botvinov	Piret Niglas
1999	Johann Mühlegg	Nadezda Simak
2001	Raul Olle	Piret Niglas
2002	Havard Skorstad	Elin Nielsen
2003	Joergen Aukland	Svetlana Frizen
2005	Raul Olle	Tatjana Mannima
2006	Stanislav Rezac	Õnne Kurg
2007	Jerry Ahrlin	Elin Ek

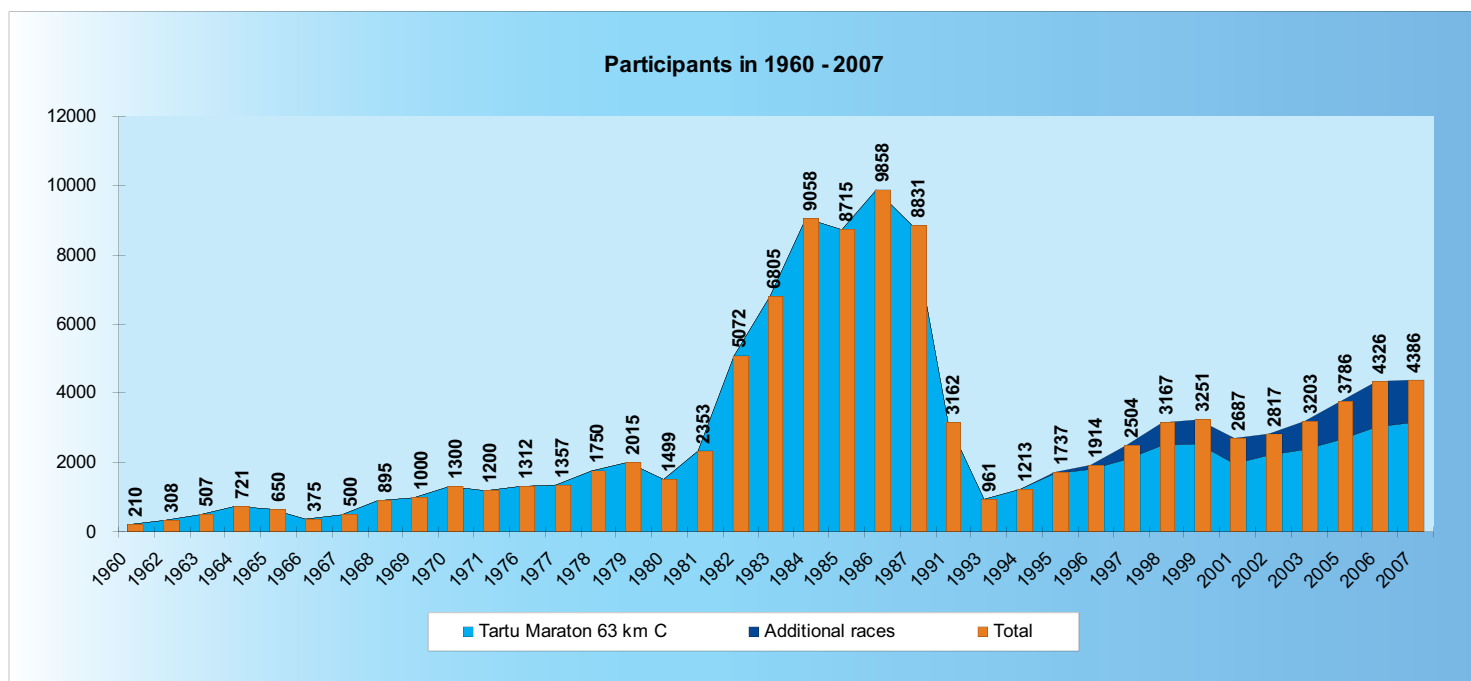


PHOTO: KÜLLI LEOLA

Start of the 36th Tartu Maraton in 2006

3 days before the race. A new start area and course had to be found, as it was impossible to follow the usual route. The Jury took the final decision on the length of the FIS Marathon Cup race in the evening before the event. On the demand of the Technical Delegate Thomas Nowak the course was shortened to 27 km, since the last part of the track was unsuitable for skiing and certainly not for competition. Many skiers came running to the finish line with their skis in their hands.

Even during the two days of rain before the race, when there was an abundance of green grass along the track and the organisers were worried as to the outcome, the eagerness to participate was very high amongst the skiers. This has always been a most interesting fact about ski enthusiasts in Estonia – the more extreme the conditions are, the more entries come in – the main aim of the skiers is to test themselves. After the race the organisers met unexpectedly positive feedback from the participants, much more



positive than during successful races in previous years. Even the most critical of Estonians were satisfied. Many skiers who had participated for years in the race enjoyed the possibility to ski the Tartu Maraton on a different course for a change.

The weather conditions also severely affected the race in 1991 when the finish area was in Hellenurme and the skiers finished, as they said, straight into a lake. The snow was melting visibly and on the following day when the organisers went to pick up the equipment from the finish area it was impossible to recognise the place – there was no sign of snow. According to the race secretary Agnes Sirkel, the organisers put the unused starting bibs in their boots to keep their feet dry during the day.

In 2001 the race was almost cancelled due to the extreme cold. As it had already been cancelled in 2000, it was a piece of great good fortune for the organisers that they were still able to hold the event.

As well as bad weather conditions, the political situation has also provided difficulties for the organisers of the Tartu Maraton. For example in 1983, when Antropov the great leader of the Soviet Union died, the marathon started with a commemoration and final permission for the marathon was given only by the Party on the day before the race. And the organisers heard about this decision not from the Party but from the team leader of the factory "Norma".

Buying food for feeding stations during the deficit conditions of the Soviet era was not easy: no shop existed where one could buy food in the quantities was needed for the Tartu Maraton in the 1980s. Getting Communist Party and Sport Minister's personal approval for that was a colourful annual story which is deserving of a separate book.

FEATURES

- Club Tartu Maraton mascots are rabbits, which were chosen in the 80's by a public contest in a local newspaper.
- Events for children – held on the day before the main event encouraging participation not winning (every child is treated as a winner).
- 25 years old Tartu Complex Event that unites Tartu Maraton (skiing), Tartu Jooksumaraton (cross country running), Tartu Rattaralli (road cycling) and Tartu Rattamaraton (MTB).
- Tartu Maraton has official anthem composed by Rene Eespere and four times a year it sends participants to the course.
- Estoloppet – the series of Estonian long distance skiing now consists of 6 races. The Tartu Maraton has been the headquarters of the series from its foundation in 1998.

COOPERATION WITH WORLDLOPPET

After regaining independence and re-opening its borders, Estonia finally had an opportunity to communicate with colleagues from abroad through the Worldloppet ski races. These were the best examples of modern long distance cross country skiing popular races and the wish to be one of them was a driving force for the development of the race. In 1994 the Tartu Maraton was accepted into the series, bringing it to the attention of elite and popular skiers worldwide. In 1995 the first big name, Hakan Westin, took part. The General Secretariat of the Worldloppet was also situated at the Tartu Maraton from 1998 to 2004.

FAMOUS PARTICIPANTS

- Bjorn Dahlie (ski legend, 8 x Olympic Champion)
- Andrus Veerpalu (xc skier, 2 x Olympic Champion)
- Jüri Jaanson (rower, Olympic Silver 2004 in single sculls)
- Allar Levandi (Nordic combined Olympic Bronze 1988)
- Steve Fossett (US aviator and adventurer, WL Master no 8)
- Andrus Ansip (Prime Minister of Estonia, former Mayor of Tartu, WL Master)
- Members of Estonian Government and Parliament



PHOTO: KÜLLI LEOLA



PHOTO: SCANPIX

2006: Tartu Maraton mascot rabbits ◀

2007: The Bear and The Rabbit in the start ▶



A race for every level of skiers

Gatineau Loppet

For me, the Canadian leg of the Worldloppet is today's number 1 ski race in Canada. It is greater than the Canadian Championships since it is the only opportunity to have international skiers racing in our backyard. I can remember in the 80s participating at La Rivière Rouge. Pauli Siitonen and Bill Koch were amongst the competitors. I believe Siitonen won the event ahead of Koch, a future World Cup winner and Olympic medallist. This was the first time I had witnessed "skate skiing." I followed them for a long time, but in the end they left me behind and I could not keep up! I have only won the loppet once, even though I have won 3 World Cup events, which for me demonstrates the calibre of this race! Each year, my objective is to be in top shape for the event (even though my shape is declining year by year), since

this event is the most competitive, enjoyable and best organised race in the country. Gatineau Park is literally at the geographic centre of Canada, the trails are exceptional and the organisation is second to none. Many thanks to all the organisers, volunteers and sponsors for offering us this marvellous event. I hope to have the opportunity to participate in it for a long time. Long live the GATINEAU LOPPET!

Pierre Harvey
 Winner of the Birkebeinerrennet in 1987
 Winner of the Gatineau 55 in 1989



GATINEAU LOPPET (KESKINADA LOPPET)

Canada

Founder: Dick Pearce

First race: February 1979, 55km, ca 1000 participants

Highest number of participants: 3 400 (2003)

Cancellations: Never

Worldloppet membership: founding member (Rivière Rouge)

Place in calendar: third weekend of February

Main races: 53km F & 53km C

Short races: 29km F & 29km C

Website: www.gatineauloppet.com

▼ Start of 2006 50km C race





FOUNDING & HISTORICAL FACTS

February 2008, will be Canada's 30th Worldloppet race. Canada's first Worldloppet race was called the Rivière Rouge; it was first held in 1979 in Lachute, Quebec. In 1983 the race moved to Gatineau Park and became the Gatineau 55. In 1996 it changed to 50km and was renamed "Keskinada Loppet". It is now official that for the 30th Anniversary the name will be GATINEAU LOPPET!

Beginning of the Rivière Rouge Race

The Canadian Ski Marathon (CSM) at that time had almost 5000 skiers and was really bursting at the seams. It was felt that something had to be done to reduce the pressure on the CSM, and to accommodate the ever-increasing numbers of long-distance racers.

Dick Pearce was President of the CSM and the one who proposed the formation of the Rivière Rouge race. He felt that the CSM was the only organisation that could pull off a race successfully as it had the infrastructure and, just as important, the trail network.

The first Rivière Rouge was so named because it started at the Rivière Rouge, the checkpoint #4 on the marathon trail. It basically followed the first three

◀ 2005 50km FT podium: S.Cyr, S.Rezac, I.Babikov

▼ Skiers getting ready for the wave starts



sections of the marathon, finishing at Lachute in the province of Québec. The first event was 55 km in length, and was very successful, with about 1000 skiers registered. This surprised us, as did the number of skiers who skied both in the marathon the weekend before and the Rivière Rouge. The fact that it was a race and not a distance event and that so many skiers registered showed that there was a market for the CSM to grow.

The Arrival of the Gatineau 55 in Gatineau Park

At the end of the '70s, Gatineau Park was exploring the possibilities for showcasing its network of cross-country trails. What was the best way to do this? Mass popular activities or cross-country skiing? There were many different points of view. Ideally it should attract the skiing public while offering a competition of national level, and why not international?

The Rivière Rouge event, although it had only been around for a few years, was growing quickly and the CSM wished to give the race its second wind and allow it to reach its full potential. This could be done by moving to Gatineau Park. Rivière Rouge moved to Gatineau Park in 1983. This heralded the birth of the Gatineau 55.

In the early days of the Gatineau 55 skiing still meant classic and we could all start together. But, with the coming of skating in the 80s the start turned into a nightmare of crashing, cursing, and broken ski poles. Thank God for wave starts! And speaking of skating, everybody still remember our disbe-



WINNERS

1979	Bjorn ARVNES	Louise SANDER
1980	Rudi KAPPELLER	Marilyn ATKINSON
1981	Pauli SIITONEN	Gail LANDGREN
1982	Magnar RISMYHR	Céline GIGUERE
1983	Lars FRYKBERG	Marie-Andrée MASSON
1984	Lars FRYKBERG	Jennifer CALDWELL
1985	Orjan BLOMQVIST	Angela SCHMIDT
1986	Orjan BLOMQVIST	Jennifer WALKER
1987	Orjan BLOMQVIST	Monique WATERREUS
1988	Anders BLOMQVIST	Jane VINCENT
1989	Pierre HARVEY	Elizabeth HOLCOMB

55km FT winners

1990	Manfred NAGL	Muffy RITZ
1991	Erik HANSON	Dorota DZIADKOWIEC
1992	Stefan ERIKSSON	Isabelle DUBÉ
1993	Hans-Christian UDNAES	Isabelle DUBÉ
1994	Chris BLANCHARD	Maria THEURL
1995	Hakkan WESTIN	Lucie BUCAROVA
1996	Hakan WESTIN	Gudrun PFLÜGER
1997	Manfred NAGL	Nancy DASSIE
1998	Jean PAQUET	Gudrun PFLUEGER
1999	Marc GILBERTSON	Marie-Odile RAYMOND
2000	Robin MCKEEVER	Nancy DASSIE
2001	Marc GILBERTSON	Tasha BETCHERMAN
2002	Karl SAIDLA	Sarah PETERS
2003	Gianantonio ZANATEL	Lara PEYROT
2004	Stanislav REZAC	Tara WHITTEN
2005	Stanislav REZAC	Muriel MARIN
2006	David ZYLBERBERG	Dasha GAIKOVA
2007	Stephen HART	Brooke GOSLING



Sam Morse racing in 2006



2005 Mini Keski skier

lief as the rumour spread that the race winner, Lars Frykberg, had skated the whole 55 km. We could not believe that anyone could skate an entire race!

What's in a name ?

After having known the names of Rivière Rouge (the name of the river between Montebello and Lachute) and the Gatineau 55 (for the 55 km race in Gatineau Park), it was decided, in the mid-1990s, to rename the Canadian Worldloppet event to "Keskinada Loppet." This change was introduced since 'Gatineau 55', might lead the participants to believe that the event

took place in the city of Gatineau, which was next door to the city of Hull from where it actually started. One other reason was that the race distance was no longer 55 km but 50 km. As a result, we launched a competition to the local population and asked them to suggest a new name for the event. The selection committee decided on Keskinada Loppet, a new name that started with "KE" for Quebec, "SKI" from cross-country skiing and finally "NADA" from Canada, and retained the word "Loppet" from Worldloppet. Keskinada remains a word difficult to pronounce even if some people call it affectionately "Keski." This all might have been prevented if only the board of directors of the time had been able to see into the future and realise that the new merged city would be called GATINEAU. It is now official that for the 30th Anniversary the name will be GATINEAU LOPPET!

THE MOST EXTREME RACE

The most bizarre race event was the year we crossed Meech Lake with water splashing to our knees. The night before the race the temperature rose suddenly to well above freezing. When we got to the crossing at the far end of Meech it looked like open water. The water was ankle deep all the way across. If you hadn't seen that line of skiers ahead, stretching all across the lake, one would never have tried to cross. It looked just like open water with water skiers floating on top. Imagine being the first guys to cross!

30 years of volunteering by Jean-Claude Legault

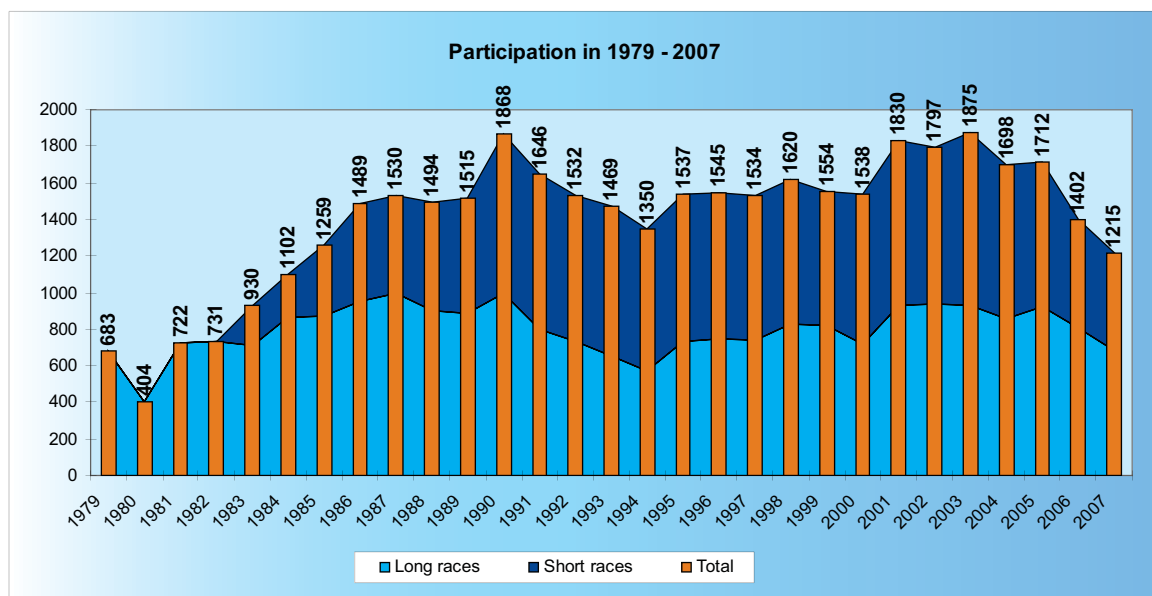
Being a volunteer at the Gatineau 55 and Keskinada Loppet for the last 30 years, I have met skiers from almost all countries. What an opportunity!

Originally the races were 55 km and 35 km, but have now been replaced by the 50 km and 25 km races. Other races have been added such as the 16 km 10 km, 5 km and the "mini 2 km" for the kids. Over the years we have developed in many areas, for example, radios, Internet and the "Championship."

The 1998 Ice Storm nearly beat us because of all the fallen trees on the course. We had to become lumberjacks for weeks, but we were able to hold the races on the parkways. This is still, in my memory, our biggest challenge.

COOPERATION WITH WORLDLOPPET

In the fall of 1977, Tony Wise, an American, approached the Canadian Ski Marathon (CSM) to see if we would be interested in becoming one of nine member countries in the proposed Worldloppet League. In 1979 the Rivière Rouge, created by the CSM became the Canadian leg of the Worldloppet.



And there's off!

Every year the Norwegian long ski relay race provides lots of fun



LOYAL PARTICIPANTS

Some participants in the Canadian event merit recognition. David Kennedy has done more events in total than anyone else (35), in other words he is our number one customer. Following with 30 participations are Raymond Young and Ronald Faltus. Ronald's twin brother, Robert Faltus, has 29 participations as well as Mike Sellon, Les Humphreys, Ross McLean and Chantal Métivier, our number one lady client. Ross McClean has done both our long races on 11 occasions. Markus Knüsel from Switzerland has done more events (17) than any other non-North American. Another participant, Hannes Larsson from France has done 7 double long events over the years. Mr. Larsson is chair of the International Association of Worldloppet Skiers (IAWLS).



Preparations for the first start in 1974

Finlandia-hiihto

FOUNDING & HISTORICAL FACTS

The history of popular long distance ski events in Finland goes back to 1945 when the Oulun Tervahiihto added an extra event to their programme for so called "tourists" with distances varying from 90km to 75km. In 1955, Lauri Pihkala, a Finnish sports professor, brought to life the idea of Erkki Palolampi, and 381 skiers started the 85 km Pirkan Hiihto from Niinisalo to Tampere.

One of the leaders of Suomen Latu (a organisation promoting recreational sports) Erik Pihkala and Raoul Furstenborg, visited Marcialonga in 1971, which gave rise to the question "why is there no ski race in Finland like Vasaloppet, where foreign ski friends could participate after Vasaloppet?" Returning home, Pihkala made a proposal to Pirkan hiihto for running an international event, but they were not interested. He finally found support from Lauri Lehto from Hämeenlinna and a race route was planned between Hämeenlinna and Hyvinkää in 1973. Several ideas for a name for this new event were discussed: Suomi-hiihto, Ainola-hiihto, Sibelius-hiihto and Finlandia-hiihto. The new race had to become the power presentation of Finn-

ish cross-country skiing. However, due to a lack of snow the race did not take place.

For the next attempt Pihkala turned to Lahti Ski Club, as they already had the structure and experience to organise big sport events such as the Lahti Ski Games. The first Finlandia-hiihto, coordinated by Risto Rytökoski, was

1981: Service station in Kaunkorpi





skied from Hämeenlinna to Lahti in 1974. Hämeenlinna was chosen as the start place because of its accommodation possibilities. The organisation was carried out by Suomen Latu, Lahti Ski Club, Hämeenlinna Ski Club and the Finnish Ski Association. The patron of the event was the President of Finland Urho Kekkonen, who was known as an enthusiastic skier. The number of participants surprised everyone except Risto Rytökoski, who was the only one who expected more than 1000 skiers and was convinced that soon the participation numbers would grow to 10000. His aim was to make not the biggest skimarathon of the world but the best one. The strategy was to offer participants a better service than they were used to get anywhere else, with the help of experienced local volunteers. Before the event there was discussion about the entry fee but after the race everyone praised the service stations, medical aid, free transportation and finishers' medal, designed by Raimo Heino, an artist from Hämeenlinna. Among the racers were Olym-

Start of 1990 ►

FINLANDIA-HIIHTO

Finland

Founder: Erik Pihkala

First race: 24 February 1974, 75 km, 1334 participants

Highest number of participants: 13226 (1984)

Cancellations: 1973

Worldloppet membership: founding member

Place in calendar: fourth weekend of February

Main race: 62 km C

Additional races: 32 km C, 50 km F

Website: www.finlandiahiihto.fi





▲ 1985: Vappu Määttänen, the head race secretary, and the chairman of the organizing committee, Risto Rytökoski

Start of the 50km race on the lake Katumajärvi in 1975 ►►

A run for the best start positions in 2005 ►



pic winners Franco Nones of Italy and Ole Ellefsäter of Norway, as well as multiple Holmenkollen winner (1959, 1961, 1962) Sverre Stensheim.

In the 1980s the entries filled up so fast that a new opportunity to ski the Finlandia-hiihto was offered: ReppuFinlandia. It was held the day before the main event without ranking the results.

The participation in the race of 1982 of Tomohito of Mikasa, the nephew of Emperor Hirohito of Japan, gave colour to the event. That same year Finlandia-hiihto exceeded the limit of 10000 participants and overtook Vasaloppet with this result. This race also saw the start of the legend of Finnish skier Sisko Kainulainen: it was not her third win in a row that surprised, but the 41 minute gap between her and the second lady. Sisko Kainulainen was 72nd in the overall ranking, next after Vasaloppet winner Walter Mayer!

Last editions of Finlandia-hiihto

- **2000** The start was transferred from Hämeenlinna to Lahti. After the race the decision was made to transfer the race permanently to the route Lahti-Hollola-Lahti because of constant warming of the weather. The start was transferred 5 times during the 90's. Finlandia-sauvakävely (Nordic walking event) was founded.

- **2001** First race on the new course. Not only the route was new, but the race logo was also redesigned. The World Ski Championships were organized in Lahti and the Finlandia took place two weeks earlier than usual. It took a lot of planning since the time between the two events was only 5 days.
- **2002** A new internet-based competition office system was built up. The Finlandia-train took skiers to the Sports Centre for the first time.
- **2003** The 30th Anniversary was celebrated in beautiful weather. It was decided that the Finlandia-hiihto Association would be found up by the next summer. The Finnish Ski Association made an offer to Lahti Ski Club and Hollolan Urheilijat-46 to organise the event technically and administratively for the next 5 years.
- **2004** About 5400 skiers registered for the race organised now by Lahti Ski Club and Hollolan Urheilijat -46.
- **2005** Finlandia-hiihto 2005 was skied in sunny weather. Skiers from over 25 different countries took part in the race and the arrangements went well. The cold weather kept the tracks in good condition and the fastest skier on the 60 kilometer course was the Estonian Meelis Aasmäe with a time of 2:53,38. The fastest woman was the Finn Satu Salonen with a



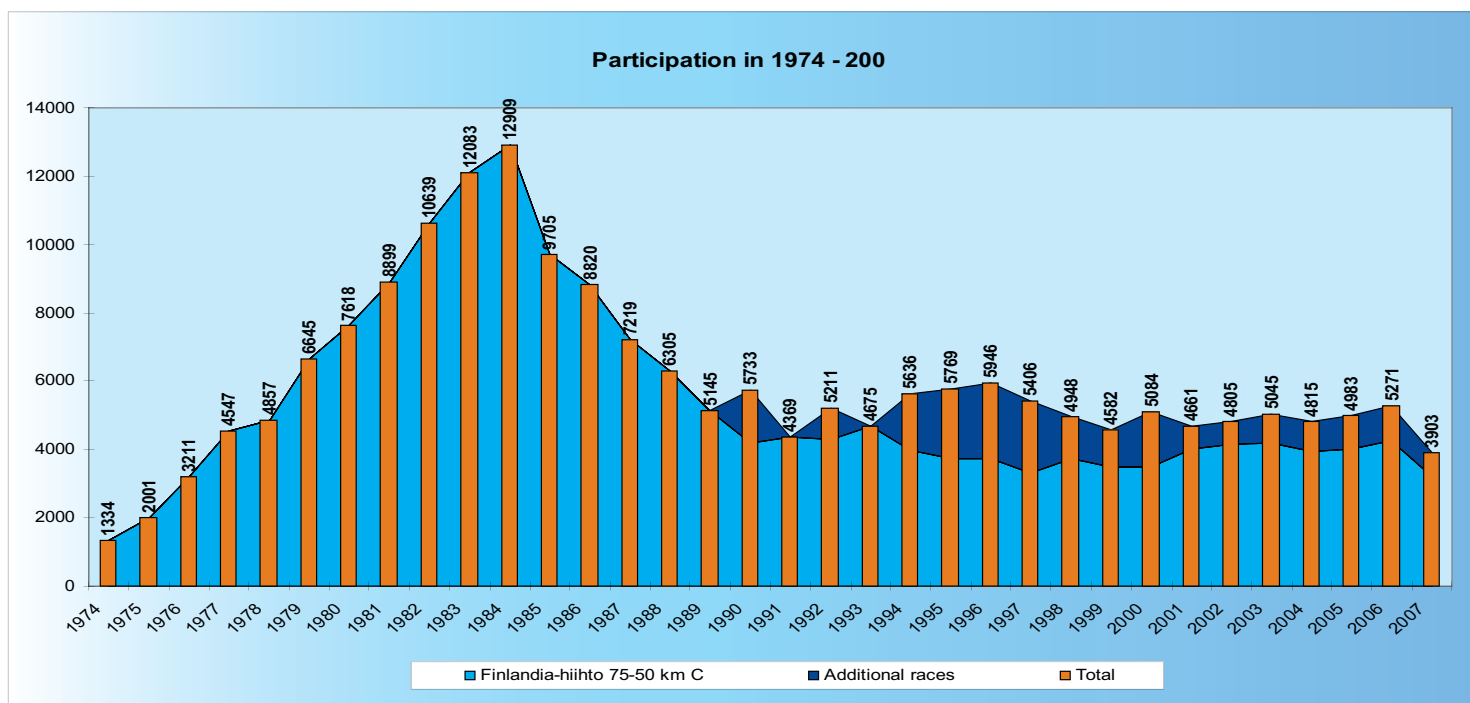
Ski park of 1998

time of 3:18,34. This year the layout of the event area was changed and the race office was situated in the Grand Stand Building of the Lahti Sports Centre.

- **2006** 5934 skiers participated this year, including 811 female skiers. The winner was the Estonian Andrus Veerpalu, Olympic and World Championships gold medal winner.

WINNERS

1974	Jorma Kinnunen	Saara Saarinen
1975	Alpo Virtanen	Marita Schleich
1976	Pauli Siitonen	Siiri Rantanen
1977	Pauli Siitonen	Siiri Rantanen
1978	Pauli Siitonen	Kaisa Mikkola
1979	Pauli Siitonen	Lea Hakio
1980	Pauli Siitonen	Sisko Kainulainen
1981	Matti Kuosku	Sisko Kainulainen
1982	Matti Kuosku	Sisko Kainulainen
1983	Magnar Rishmyhr	Sisko Kainulainen
1984	Orjan Blomqvist	Sisko Kainulainen
1985	Orjan Blomqvist	Sisko Kainulainen
1986	Orjan Blomqvist	Marja Auroma
1987	Veijo Hämäläinen	Sisko Kainulainen
1988	Anders Blomqvist	Marja Auroma
1989	Hannu Manninen	Reetta Vauhkonen
1990	Martin Hole	Marja Auroma
1991	Anders Blomqvist	Sisko Kainulainen
1992	Erik Hansson	Sisko Kainulainen
1993	Erik Hansson	Sisko Kainulainen
1994	Teemu Vesala	Sisko Kainulainen
1995	Karri Hietamäki	Tatjana Outrobina
1996	Hakan Westin	Nadezda Slessareva
1997	Alexandr Vorobiev	Sanna Virtanen
1998	Hakan Westin	Sanna Virtanen
1999	Hakan Westin	Merja Kuusisto
2000	Raul Olle	Natsumi Maduka
2001	Stanislav Rezac	Antonina Ordina
2002	Niemelä Ville	Anu Kyyhkynen
2003	Mika Myllylä	Anu Kopra
2004	Mika Myllylä	Maija Saarinen
2005	Meelis Aasmäe	Satu Salonen
2006	Andrus Veerpalu	Satu Salonen
2007	Kari Varis	Anu Tähtinen



- **2007** A new race was added to the marathon program – 50 km free technique. The snow situation was quite bad and a lot of snow had to be transferred to the tracks. For this reason, the classic long 62 kilometer route had to be shortened to 50 kilometres. Both the 50 km races of free and classic technique were won by the Finnish skier Kari Varis.

THE MOST SUCCESSFUL RACE

was in 1984 when Finlandia-hiihto was entered in the Guinness Book of World Records as the biggest skiing event in the world with 13 226 participants.

Paddy Field: „ My wife Hilary and I skied on the real ‘traditional’ route in 1984, the year of Finlandia’s record participation. The race started on a lake at Hämeenlinna and after crossing the lake the course narrowed to about 6 tracks, causing a huge build-up of skiers at the end of the lake. It took us 80 minutes to cover the first 10 km. At that stage in my life, I might normally have expected to cover the first ten kms in about 46 minutes, which gives some idea of the hold-up.”

THE MOST EXTREME RACE

In 1978 the World Ski Championships took place in Lahti and Finlandia-hiihto took place later than usual. It caused a lot of programme conflict: at the same time Vasaloppet, Pirkan-hiihto and the Swedish national Championships also took place. In addition there were hard weather conditions: the start area was slushy and ski tracks very slow. Despite working on it, slush became water and skiers started from the clean ice of Lake Katumajärvi, but their feet and skis were soaking wet. Over 10% of 5414 skiers abandoned the race.

WHAT IS THE FINLANDIA-SKIER LIKE?

In the year 1981 a large survey was made to find out what the Finlandia-skiers are like. The profile has stayed almost the same during all these years, although some groups of certain skiers have seen some growth.

During the time of the survey 91 % of the skiers were men and 9% were female. The number of female skiers has grown slightly, but not remarkably. The average age of a Finlandia-skier is 37. By far the biggest and most active age group in Finlandia-hiihto is 35-44 years, as about 39% of the skiers



belong to this age group. The number of the young people taking part in the marathon has grown also, but they are still a minority.

People ski for different reasons. In a recent survey made in 2005, tradition was listed most often (34%), it was also seen as a means for keeping in good health (27%) and the third most important reason was the challenge (15%). Seven out of ten skiers had skied more than 500 kilometers during the win-



▲ Service and refreshments station waiting for skiers in 2005

◀ Before the start at the Lahti Ski Stadium in 2007



FAMOUS PARTICIPANTS

- 1982 - Tomohito, prince of Japan,
- 2006 - Amen from Eurovision 2006 song contest winner band Lordi

ter, so Finlandia participants seem to follow a very active lifestyle! Four out of five skiers stated that they prefer the classic skiing style to the free skiing style.

Overall, Finlandia-skiers come in all shapes, sizes and origins. Both young and old skiers are found on the ski tracks and people enjoy meeting new and interesting faces in the Finlandia-hiihto.



Today's American Birkebeiner. The start at Telemark of Wave 1 at the 2006 Birkie

American Birkebeiner

The face of recreation in the Hayward-Cable area of Wisconsin, once known primarily for fishing, boating and hunting, was forever changed when a local named Tony Wise returned from World War II with a big, new vision to transform his Telemark Resort and the region into a mecca of cross country skiing.

While stationed in Europe's Bavaria, Tony experienced the European enjoyment of both alpine and cross country skiing. He knew that this fun in the snow could also provide the spark to ignite the local economy back in his home town.

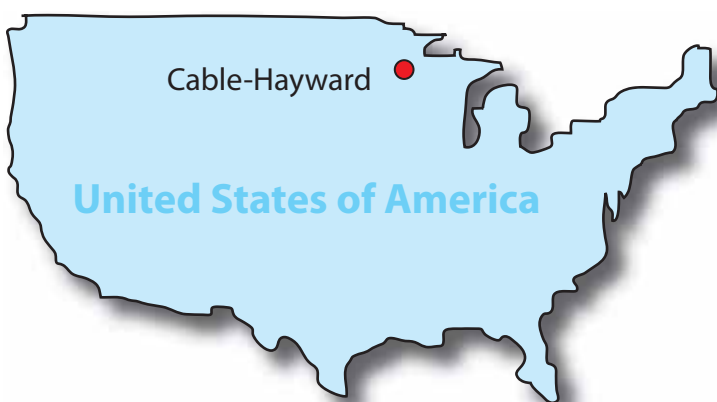
Tony dreamed of creating a cross country ski race the likes of the Norwegian Birkebeiner Renneet. He imagined more than 5,000 adventurous skiers – elite and citizen alike – racing on some of the most challenging terrain in North America. He anticipated the communities of Cable and Hayward,

population 3,000 on a good day, embracing a three-day ski celebration that catered to 15,000 skiers and spectators.

Tony Wise visioned the world coming to northern Wisconsin.

Wise, then owner of Telemark Lodge in Cable, was prodded by Carl Hanson, a Swede living in Hayward, to hold a race like the Swedish Vasaloppet to help promote new ski trails he had developed at Telemark.

In 1973, at a time when there were only 30,000 pairs of cross country skis in the United States, Wise recognized the potential and investigated the feasibility of cross country skiing at Telemark. He launched the American Birkebeiner calling on skiers to challenge themselves on a ski trail in the Wisconsin northwoods.



In the 35 years since the inaugural event, 189,285 men and women have strapped or snapped on skinny skis to participate in the American Birkebeiner and its sister event, the Kortelopet. Thousands of others have participated in shorter races and events catered to youth, teens, families and recreational skiers.

Wise knew once skiers stepped into their boots and glided onto the Birkie Trail that something remarkable would happen. Skiers would leave the hubbub of the world behind. They'd slide and glide through the pristine forest. They'd hear the sound of their skis and the rhythm of their breathing, and they'd be hooked on cross country skiing and the Birkie forever.

Today, long-time skiers are at the Birkie start line. While they no longer wear the three-pin bindings, leather boots and wooden skis of the early years, they still enjoy the beauty of the northwoods, the camaraderie of the ski community, and the enthusiasm of fellow skiers.

They all suffer from "Birkie Fever" -- that yearly craving for the excitement, camaraderie and challenge that can only be satisfied by clicking into a pair of skis and lining up at the start line with 7,000 other ski pals from around the world. It's a lifestyle that keeps them fit and healthy year-round. It's an annual test of personal endurance. And it's something no skier wants to shake.

Tony Wise, founder of the American Birkebeiner, passed away in the Spring of 1995 yet his influence and vision still dominate the American Birkebeiner. Telemark Resort and the Birkebeiner race were born because of his exposure to winter life in the Alps.

The Birkie dream grew strong from these humble beginnings and survived the Tony Wise bankruptcy at Telemark Resort and a subsequent transfer of the race to the non-profit Birkebeiner Foundation. The race is now financially sound and is one of the major winter sporting events in Wisconsin.

Those carrying on the Birkie vision see just one thing in the future. They, like Tony Wise, vision the world coming to northern Wisconsin each year to ski the Birkie.

AMERICAN BIRKEBEINER

United States of America

Founder: Anthony Wise

First race: 24th February 1973, 48 km
(34 participants), 22 km (19 participants)

Highest number of participants: 7882
(Birkebeiner 5498; Kortelopet 2384) in 1997

Cancellations: in 2000

Worldloppet membership: founding member

Place in calendar: fourth Saturday of February

Main race: Birkebeiner 51 km F and CL

Short race: Kortelopet 23 km F and CL

Website: www.birkie.com



Tony Wise, founder of Telemark Lodge and creator of the American Birkebeiner



▲ Birkie Founder, Ernie St. Germain lights the Birkie torch at Telemark

◀ Tony Wise with the 1977 Birkie Women's winner Berit Lammedal (left) from Oslo, Norway

handful of skiers to complete all 34 Birkebeiners, they just can't seem to stop. They represent the spirit of the Birkie community.

John Kotar, born and raised in Slovenia, former Yugoslavia, has been part of the Birkie lifestyle from the start. Now serving on the ABSF Board of Directors, Kotar says comparing the '73 Birkie with present-day races is like discussing two different centuries due to better trail grooming, better equipment and clothing, better race organization.

Dave Landgraff, a teacher, says the Birkie lifestyle has reinforced the importance of giving back to the sport of cross country skiing. He is involved in trail work and maintenance for a local 14 kilometer trail, teaches cross country skiing to middle school students, has started a high school cross country racing program, and continually brings others into the Birkie community and tradition.

Ernie St. Germaine, an employee at Telemark Resort in 1973, says he was "ordered" by Tony Wise to ski the inaugural race. "Tony was one of those people that didn't have to ask me with words," St. Germaine said. "He more or less asked me with a 'look' that ordered me to be there!" And be there he was in 1973 and every year since.

Jacque and Wayne Lindskoog never set out to do anything special when they entered the first American Birkebeiner in 1973. But that's exactly what

THE RACE & BIRKIE COMMUNITY

It wasn't long before the American Birkebeiner made its mark in the world of cross country skiing. The event that started with 54 skiers now attracts 9,000 participants and 15,000 spectators. Nearly 7,000 of those skiers enter the 51K Birkie and 23K Kortelopet.

Both races begin together in 10 waves designed to thin skiers out along the course. The first wave of 200 Elite Men skiers depart the start line at 8:20 AM, followed by Elite Women at 8:22. Alternating waves of freestyle and classic skiers then depart every 5 minutes until the tenth and final wave leaves at 10 a.m. Waves include both Birkie and Kortelopet skiers, the latter distinguished by their yellow bibs.

Three skiers -Ernie St. Germaine, John Kotar and Dave Landgraff -have skied every race since its inception. While they never intended to be one of a

they did. Between them they've skied 59 American Birkebeiner ski marathons. That's more than 2950 kilometers, or 1770 miles.

Although the first Birkie did not include a women's category, Jacque entered anyway. Nobody questioned her, assuming "Jacque" was a French male skier. "I signed up like everyone else," Jacque said. "I just did it." It was not until the following year that Jacque was named the unofficial winner of the 1973 women's class. She earned the same honor in 1974. In 1975 women were finally "allowed" to enter the race.

THE MOST SUCCESSFUL RACES

Every race has a special story. In 1973, 54 skiers were at the start line for the American Birkebeiner and Kortelopet. Just four years later, registrations jumped to 2,006. Among the additional skiers were 400 Norwegians wearing black and yellow outfits. They bolted from the start line 8 1/2 minutes early resulting in the 1977 race being remembered as the "Norwegian thief start."

In 1981, as the cross country ski phenomenon begins to reach a national peak, registration surpassed 6,000 for the first time. Unfortunately, high temperatures and rain cause the first-ever postponement of the Birkie. Foreign and elite skiers raced seven and eight laps, respectively, of 6K course on Mt. Telemark a day ahead of schedule in temperatures exceeding 60 degrees, and the Birkie Citizen's Race is run two weeks later for citizen skiers after 12" of snow falls.

In 1997, the American Birkebeiner celebrated its 25th anniversary. 7,882 skiers skied the 52K Birkie and 25K Kortelopet under ideal conditions, and course records were set by winners Mikhail Botwinov and Gudrun Pflueger, both of Austria. During the 3-day celebration, more than 1,000 kids entered the Sons of Norway/Swiss Miss Barnebirkie and another 1,000 entered shorter races and events as part of the festivities.

THE MOST EXTREME RACES

With a spectacular trail, eager skiers and a region embracing Tony Wise's Nordic vision, it seems the American Birkebeiner has everything going for it. And it does. The biggest challenge is one that is out of any race organizer's control: weather. While the weather has forced race changes including shortened events, the Birkie has taken place every year since its beginning with one exception.

In 2000 Mother Nature claimed victory when unseasonably warm temperatures and rain destroyed ideal course conditions just two days before the race forcing the only cancellation in race history.

FEATURES

The Course

In 1973, just weeks before the first race, Wise brought Nordic guru Sven Wiik from his home in Steamboat Springs, Colorado, to advise and assist with the creation of what would become more than a hundred kilometers of trails that blend natural beauty with athletic challenge. Wiik was quick to respond and develop a trail that would encourage Americans to embrace the Nordic tradition he grew up with in Sweden.

"Tony asked me to design a good trail system at Telemark," Wiik said. "I spent 14 days there and laid out trails similar to the Vasalopet trails in Sweden. Later Marty Hall added more hills. From the point of view of competitive skiers, it is a very good course."

When Sven laid out the temporary course for the first Birkie, he used snowmobile trails, logging roads, and anything else that would link 48 kilometers

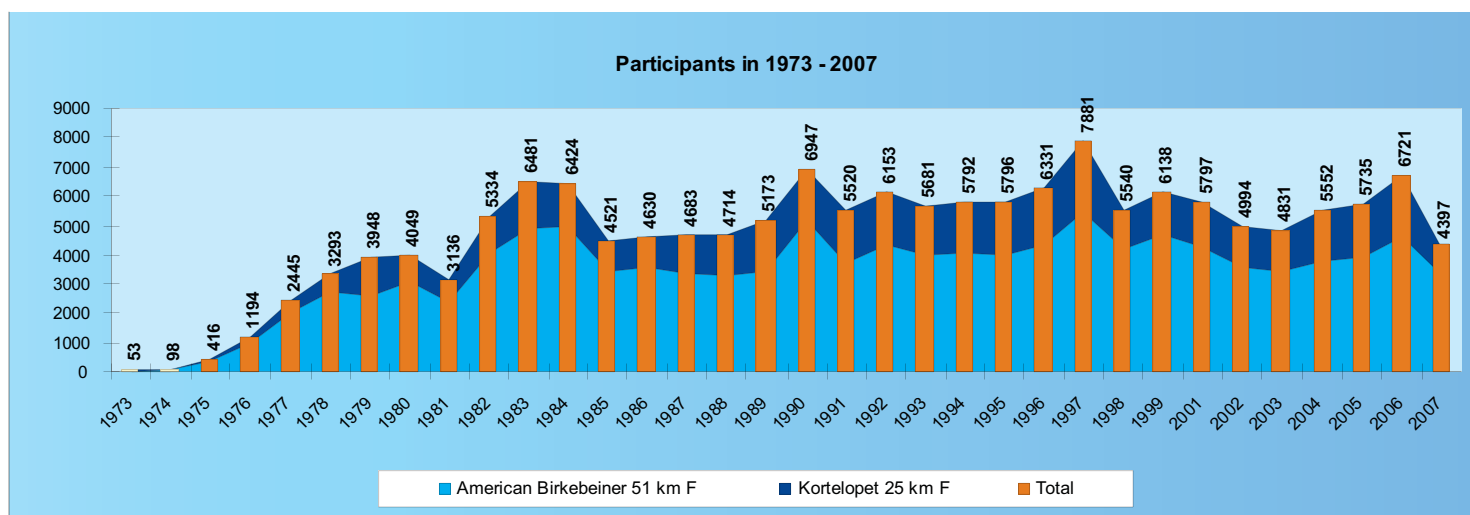
WINNERS

1973	Eric Ersson	Jacque Lindskoog
1974	Dave Quinn	Jacque Lindskoog
1975	Chris Haines	Vigdis Snekkjevik
1976	Audun Kolstad	Jana Hlavaty
1977	Bjorn Arvnes	Berit Lammedal
1978	Alfred Kaelin	Valborg Ostberg
1979	Arnt Haarstad	Judy Rabinowitz
1980	Per Notten	Gry Oftedal
1981	Jean-Paul Pierrat	Marianne Hadler
1981	Tim Caldwell	Muriel Gilman
1982	Ola Hassis	Gry Oftedal
1983	Rudi Kapeller	Jennifer Caldwell
1984	Bengt Hassis	Vigdis Roenning
1985	Oddvar Bra	Muffy Ritz
1986	Anders Blomquist	Muffy Ritz
1987	Konrad Hallenbarter	E.J. Holcomb
1988	Orjan Blomquist	Kelly Kimball
1989	Orjan Blomquist	Elizabeth Youngman
1990	Manfred Nagl	Lynne Cecil
1991	Manfred Nagl	Ingrid Butts
1992	Todd Boonstra	Nina Skeime
1993	Manfred Nagl	Suzanne King
1994	Tomas Caslavsky	Heike Wezel
1995	Andre Jungen	Maria Theur
1996	Silvano Barco	Gurdun Pflüger
1997	Mikhail Botvinov	Gurdun Pflüger
1998	Carl Swenson	Jennifer Douglas
1999	Johann Mühlegg	Laura McCabe
2001	Gianantonio Zanetel	Nadezhda Slessareva
2002	Maurizio Pozzi	Jeannie Wall
2003	Gianantonio Zanetel	Lara Peyrot
2004	Gianantonio Zanetel	Lara Peyrot
2005	Marco Cattaneo	Lara Peyrot
2006	Marco Cattaneo	Anna Santer
2007	Zack Simmons	Kate Whitcomb

Americans Carol and Tom Duffy ▶
from Hayward, WI, the first
Worldloppet Masters Skiers,
medal #1 and #2, in 1979

Jacque Lindskoog, first
woman to finish the
American Birkie





into a race course. "I used what was available, especially the trails that snowmobilers had been packing down," Sven said. "When I had flagged it, Tony announced the race."

The race grew rapidly and the original courses became inadequate. In 1975/76 a new 55K trail was designed and built specifically for the race. The trail was blazed through the large wooded hills that are the trademark of the course. Even this trail was not wide enough to handle the 4,459 skiers who were on the start line in 1979. Within hours after the race, plans were underway to widen the trail to 30 feet (9.1 m). Construction proceeded smoothly in 1979 and early 1980 with the resulting trail much like it is today.

A new classic trail was added in 2007. Beginning at the start line, the 20-foot wide classic trail weaves through forested terrain and merges back into

the Birkie Trail 14.5K later. The new trail is groomed with four sets of tracks giving classic skiers better tracks and skate skiers more room over the most congested section of the race.

"This new trail shows our commitment to classical skiers," said John Kotar, a Birkie Founder. "There are many out there who feel left out because the freestyle race does not suit them. I think this new trail will go a long way to bringing in some of those skiers who have never taken up skating but would otherwise partake in the race. I also believe we have the potential for bringing skiers from Norway as well as other European skiers, and I think that will be a good thing for the race."

The undulating Birkie trail traverses 32 miles of some of the most beautiful and challenging terrain of any trail system in the world.

The Skiers

They come in all shapes and sizes and from all walks of life. Some have done it dozens of times, including 771 "Birchleggers" who have skied the Birkie 20 times or more. Others are embarking on their first long-distance ski journey. They're cross country skiers and they are hooked on the American Birkebeiner.

While elite athletes race the Birkie each year, thousands of everyday folk participate as well. They say the race keeps them in shape, inspires them to live fit, healthy lives, and keeps them involved with the Birkie ski community.

Behind the Scenes: Organizing the Birkie

While Tony Wise was able to pull together the first American Birkebeiner with just a handful of helpers and enthusiasts, the growth of the event has spawned an infrastructure that's become a well-oiled machine. More than 2,000 volunteers ensure the behind-the-scenes details come together at the right moment. From organizing race logistics to sending out race information to handing out medals, pins, food and water on race day, volunteers are key.

So too is the full-time Executive Director, two full-and six part-time staff and a 13member American Birkebeiner Ski Foundation (ABSF) Board of Directors.

- ◀ Ojibwa Tribal Elder Jimmy "Pipe" Mustache and 106 year old Herman "Jack Rabbit" Johanssen, known as the "Father of Cross Country Skiing" in North America, watching the opening ceremony at the 1982 Birkie





Ice sculptures by Austrian Engelbert Hattenburger in front of Telemark at the 1982 Birkie



Classic skiers near the start of the 2006 American Birkebeiner

Future Birkie skiers take part in the Barnebirkie. In 2007, more than 1,200 children, ages 3-13 took part

FAMOUS PARTICIPANTS

- Greg LeMond, the first American to win the Tour de France, raced the event in 2001.
- Davis Phinney, Tour de France bicyclist, has completed six American Birkebeiners, the last in 1998.
- Carl Swenson, 3-time Olympian, 12-time National Champion and 1998 Birkie Champion from Salt Lake City, Utah, was at the 2007 start line for his fifth American Birkebeiner.
- John Bauer, Olympian on the 2002 US Cross Country Relay Team, now lives in Hayward, Wisc. and has completed four American Birkebeiners.
- Steve Fossett is among the world's greatest adventurers - and in his career he has set 115 new world records or world firsts, holding current official World Records in five sports. He has completed premier endurance sports events including the Iditarod, Ironman Triathlon, English Channel swim, and three American Birkebeiners.



Vasaloppet 1949

Vasaloppet

In the footsteps of our forefathers for the victories of tomorrow

Vasaloppet is the world's oldest, longest and biggest ski competition. And that epithet carries its obligations. If one is the oldest, longest and biggest, one must take special responsibility for one's arrangements and ensure that all expectations are fulfilled. And to avoid stagnation, one must also invest in progress and the future. Vasaloppet's organizers gladly accept this responsibility both for the race itself and for the wider development of ski sport above all in Sweden.

Vasaloppet is run in a country which many regard as the very birthplace of skiing. The oldest ski in the world has been found in Sweden, the Kalvträsk ski; dated to 3,200 BC, this makes it older than the Egyptian pyramids! It has been said that the Lapps – Sweden's original inhabitants – laid the basis of today's world skiing. Towards the end of the 1800's ski races began to be arranged all around Sweden. The first bigger, well known and more orga-

nized ski race in the world was probably Nordenskiöldsløppet in 1884; both start and finish were in Jokkmokk, over a distance of all of 220 km! So we in Sweden do feel we know about organizing long-distance races. Vasaloppet's staff is proud to represent a country with such a solid ski tradition and to represent and cherish what is today the world's biggest, longest, oldest and still very much alive ski-race.

The first Vasaloppet was back in 1922. Today, around the race, has developed a whole festival week of races over various distances, with as many as 45,000 skiers from some 40 nations taking part during the week. And you are most welcome to write your own personal piece of world ski history with a start in the race – always the first Sunday in March.

Rolf Hammar
Secretary General, Vasaloppet



VASALOPPET

Sweden

Founder: Anders Pers, editor, *Westmanlands Läns Tidning*

First race: 19th March 1922, 90 km, 119 participants

Highest number of participants: 14,584 (in 2004)

Cancellations: 1932, 1934, 1990

Worldloppet membership: founding member

Place in calendar: first Sunday of March

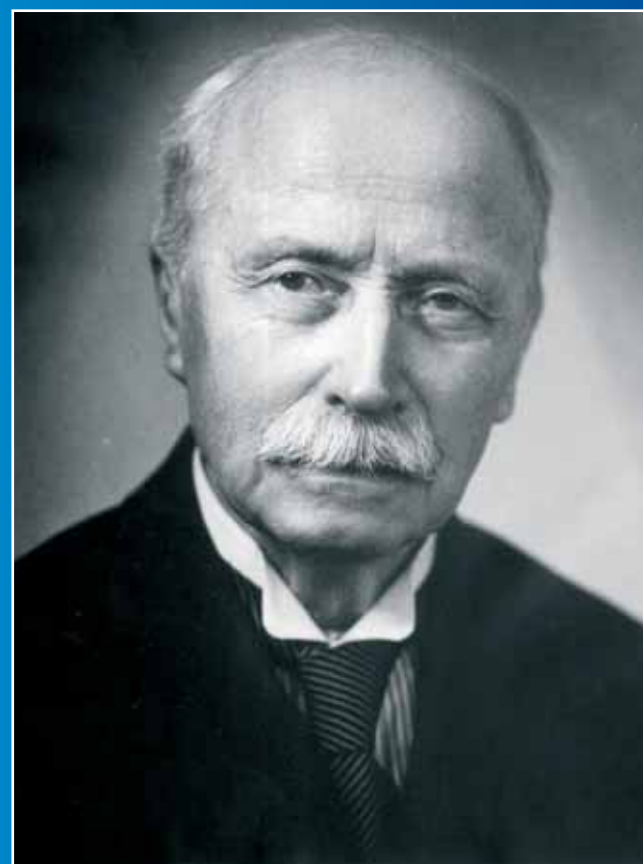
Main race: 90km C

Additional races: Öppet Spar 90km C, HalvVasan 45km C, TjejVasan 30km C (Ladies only), KortVasan 30km C, SkejtVasan 30/45km F, StafettVasan - relay

Website: www.vasaloppet.se



PHOTO: TOM KELLY



Anders Pers, editor initiated the first Vasaloppet race in 1922 in honour of the Swedish King Gustav Vasa

Opening ceremony 1985

HOW IT ALL BEGAN

Vasaloppet's historical background stretches almost 500 years back in time, more precisely to 1520, at a time when Sweden was under Danish rule. Gustav Eriksson Vasa, a Swedish noble opposed to the Danes, was a fugitive hunted throughout Dalarna by soldiers of the Danish King Kristian II, but sheltered and protected by the people of Dalarna. After many adventurous episodes, Gustav Vasa was finally elected king of a free Sweden on 6th June 1523.

Four hundred years later, in 1922, Anders Pers, from Mora and editor of Westmanlands läns tidning, a local newspaper, wrote about the contemporary interest in skiing, and linked this to Gustav Eriksson Vasa's flight on skis from Mora towards Norway in 1521. At the same time he launched the idea of a commemorative Vasalopp between Sälen and Mora.

After some discussion in the press IFK Mora's Board of Directors on March 5th decided to organise a trial race. The national newspaper, Dagens Nyheter, donated 1000 crowns to the organisers thereby providing a financial backing to run the first Vasaloppet on Sunday 19th March 1922. In total there were 136 entries via telegraph and telephone and at the start there were 119 skiers. Ernst Alm, from Norsjö, won the 90 km race in a time of 7 hours 32 minutes and 49 seconds.

A profile who must be mentioned in this connection is Mora-Nisse – Mr.Vasaloppet himself! Nils "Mora-Nisse" Karlsson is without doubt absolutely one of Sweden's foremost sportsmen of all time. He won Olympic gold in the 50 km, 1948, World Championship bronze over the same distance, 1950, and in total 37 Swedish Championship gold medals, of which 17 were individual. Of his 30 starts in the Swedish Championships, he was among the first three no less than 25 times! Mora-Nisse won Vasaloppet nine times on his wooden skis - 1943, 1945, 1946, 1947, 1948, 1949, 1950, 1951 and 1953. In his last victory in 1953 his time was 5 hours 1 minute and 55 seconds. And as Mora-Nisse himself has said "It feels good to work with something that has meant so much to so many".

MOST SUCCESSFUL RACE

The year was 1998 and Peter Göransson won in the record time of 3.38.57, a record which still stands. Conditions were perfect and many competitors had their best race ever.

MOST EXTREME RACE

2005 began with absolutely no snow at all in Sweden. Nevertheless, thanks to an immense contribution by a great many people, the race could be run. Tons of snow was produced with snow cannons and transported out over the 90 km between Sälen and Mora. Hundreds of people turned out to shovel snow by hand for the tracks on the soft marshes. And, in the end, what a success - the start went completely according to plan and, after a very tough battle towards the finish involving 12 skiers, the race was won by Oskar Svärd in a time of 3.51.47.

SPECIFIC FEATURES

Over the years Vasaloppet has developed in a very many ways. Above all, around the race has grown up a festival of skiing going on for a whole week. Seven different races over distances between 30 to 90 km means that very many people can be part of this great occasion, even without being long distance specialists. Over the years the most popular race, apart from Vasaloppet itself, has been TjejVasan, 30 km, just for ladies. We are also proud to present Europe's longest and biggest skate competition SkejtVasan, with two distances, 45 or 30 km. KortVasan is 30 km skiing for the whole family. StafettVasan is a relay race over the 90 km Vasaloppet course, divided into 5 stretches, where the longest is 24 km and the shortest 9 km. Öppet Spår



2007 winners Elin Ek and Oskar Svärd

runs on two days and is 90 km – the same course and distance as Vasaloppet, but without competitive stress. HalVasan is a 45 km race, increasingly attracting more entrants. During the whole Vasaloppet Week there is a big sports trade fair, a festival of music and entertainment, and many other festive ceremonies and events.

Kranskullan

It was not at all planned. But just before the winner in the first ever Vasaloppet was due to arrive in the finishing straight, young Therese Eliasson – in honour of the day, dressed in the beautiful local Mora costume – was asked:

"Could you place this laurel wreath on the winner?"

"Yes, of course I'd like to do that", was her reply.

When 22 year old Ernst Alm from Norsjö, in solitary majesty, came skiing in, Therese smartly stepped forward onto the course and placed the laurel wreath on him. And so, by chance, a tradition was born.

To be chosen as kranskulla is nearly as special as winning Vasaloppet itself, and almost as difficult! There are very tough requirements and to qualify a girl must satisfy certain criteria. To begin with, she must be from Dalarna and unmarried. Moreover, she should have demonstrated sporting merits, and here performance and achievements in competitions and other arrangements are taken into account.

Media interest

The year was 1925. Vasaloppet was then the first radio programme with direct transmission outside broadcast commentary. And since then media interest has remained and expanded over the years. Today media coverage of Vasaloppet is massive and the race is in the news all year round. During 2006, in Sweden alone, as many as 5,300 articles were published about the Vasaloppet phenomenon. Vasaloppet is a favourite with TV viewers both in



Sweden and abroad. Last year 2.4 million saw the finish on Swedish Television, 9.2 million followed the race on the German ZDF, and 572,000 on Norwegian NRK.

Regional involvement

Vasaloppet means a tremendous lot for the whole region around the 90 km course. There is exceptional local involvement and interest, shown not least by the fact that we have 3,500 voluntary workers as stewards and functionaries along the course. Vasaloppet is also of great importance financially for the whole region with thousands of visitors and participants from the whole world travelling here as spectators or competitors – and many of these choose to return as tourists to enjoy our beautiful countryside in the summer months as well.

Funny moments

Vasaloppet absorbs and fascinates masses of people – in fact; market research in Sweden reveals that 98% of the population knows about the race! This means that we constantly meet people with happy, enthralling, amusing and memorable stories to tell. Even our King Carl XVI Gustav has memories to share from his own personal Vasaloppet experiences.

The Swedish Church takes a great interest in the race and has many participants on the course every year. One year at the beginning of the 2000's, when there had been hardly any snow, the Mora priest Gunnar Kärrbom arranged a Service of Intercession to pray for snow from the heavens. Of course, this unusual venture caught the eye of the media, not least the daily newspapers. A few days later there was an immense snowfall over the whole region. A week or so later, however, the priest received a postcard from an elderly lady who wrote: "You have arranged for there to be snow. Now you must come home to me and clear it away!" Naturally the

WINNERS

1922	Ernst Alm
1923	Oskar Lindberg
1924	Johan Lindgren
1925	Sven Utterström
1926	Per-Erik Hedlund
1927	Conrad Pettersson
1928	Per-Erik Hedlund
1929	Johan Abraham Persson
1930	Verner Lundström
1931	Anders Ström
1933	Artur Häggblad
1935	Artur Häggblad
1936	Sven Hansson
1937	Artur Häggblad
1938	Elias Nilsson
1939	Alfred Lif
1940	Artur Häggblad
1941	Mauritz Brännström
1942	Olle Wiklund
1943	Nils Karlsson
1944	Gösta Andersson
1945	Nils Karlsson
1946	Nils Karlsson
1947	Nils Karlsson
1948	Nils Karlsson
1949	Nils Karlsson
1950	Nils Karlsson
1951	Nils Karlsson
1952	Sigrid Mattsson
1953	Nils Karlsson
1954	Pekka Kuvaja
1955	Sixten Jernberg
1956	Sigvard Jonsson
1957	Gunnar Larsson
1958	Gunnar Larsson
1959	Sune Larsson
1960	Sixten Jernberg
1961	David Johansson
1962	Janne Stefansson
1963	Janne Stefansson
1964	Janne Stefansson
1965	Janne Stefansson
1966	Janne Stefansson
1967	Assar Rönnlund
1968	Janne Stefansson
1969	Janne Stefansson
1970	Lars-Arne Bölling
1971	Ole Ellefsäter
1972	Lars-Arne Bölling
1973	Pauli Siitonen
1974	Matti Kousku
1975	Gert-Dietmar Klause



2007 start



A beautiful sight – the mass-start of Vasaloppet

priest, with his shovel at the ready, hurried home to the lady to do just that!

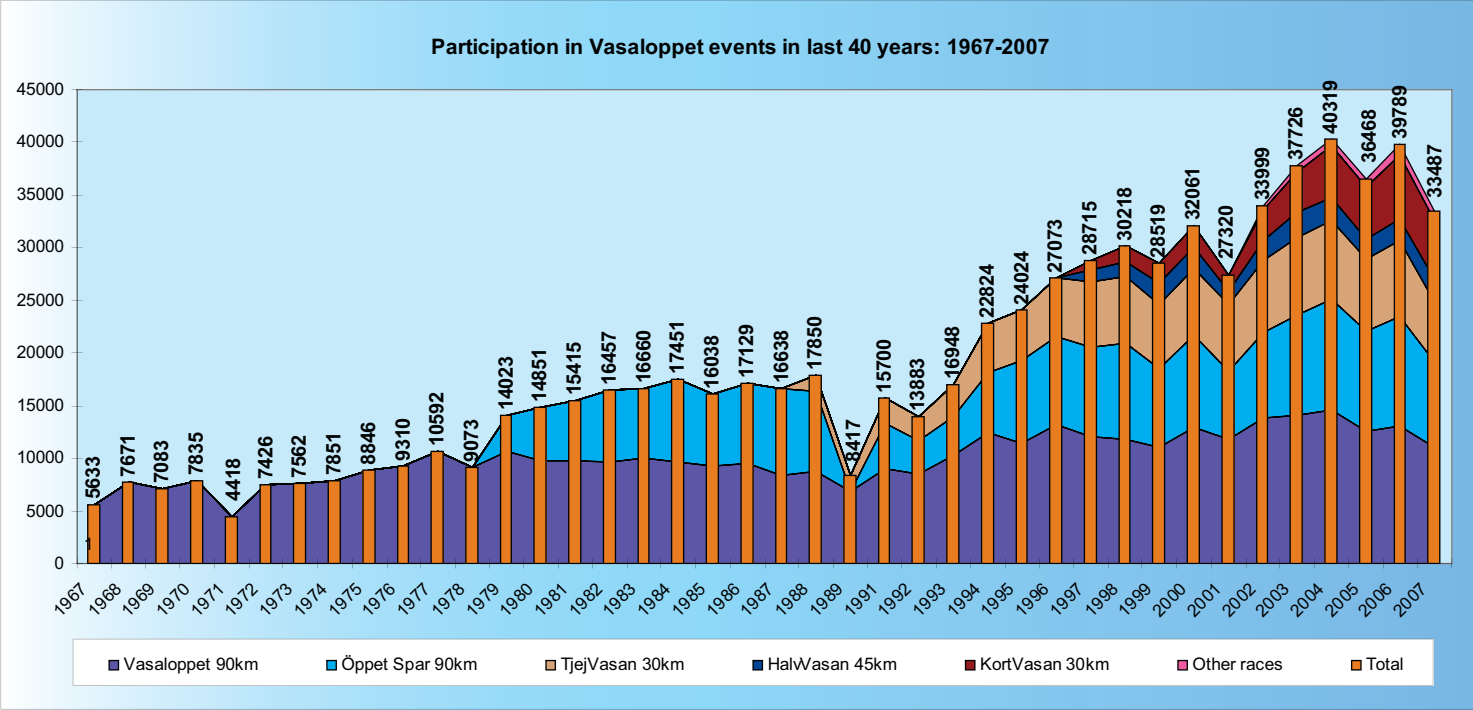
Cooperation with Worldloppet

Vasaloppet becoming a part of Worldloppet has meant increased international interest in the competitions. As many as 6,000 participants from over 40 nations are represented at the Vasaloppet week. The cooperation has also meant a mutually beneficial exchange of experience between the various countries. In Vasaloppet’s work exporting ski competition organiza-

tion know-how to, for example, China, Japan and the USA, Worldloppet has been an invaluable collaborator.

HISTORIC YEARS

1923 Margit Nordin, a gymnastics superintendent, from Grängesberg took part as the very first woman in Vasaloppet, time 10.09.45. It was not until 1981 that the International Ski Federation’s competition rules were changed to allow women to take part again. An official ladies class in Vasaloppet was introduced in 1997.





1997 Öppet Spar: Carl XVI Gustav with Kranskulla and Nils "Mora Nisse" Karlsson

- 1925 The first radio transmission from Vasaloppet was in 1925, the first TV transmission in 1968. Now each year Swedish Television has a 5½ hour live transmission.
- 1932 The first time that Vasaloppet was cancelled for lack of snow; this happened again as late as 1990.
In 1934 Vasaloppet was cancelled for lack of participants.
- 1950 1950 was the year that the biggest ever winning margin was noted when Mora-Nisse, IFK Mora, won 20 minutes 17 seconds before the second man. 1953 was Mora-Nisse's 10th and last Vasaloppet, and was his 9th victory.
- 1954 Vasaloppet's first non-Swedish winner, Finland's Pekka Kuvaja, in a time of 6.22.51.
- 1959 For the first time there were over 1,000 participants, to be precise 1,137.
- 1961 The first time the race started from the now classic Berga By in Sälen.
- 1967 The beginning of automated time and results reporting. 1998 was the première for timing with electronic chips.
- 2000 Now even relatives and friends can follow each individual skier via internet and SMS.

WINNERS

1976	Matti Kousku	
1977	Ivan Garanin	
1978	Jean-Paul Pierrat	
1979	Ola Hassis	
1980	Walter Mayer	
1981	Sven-Åke Lundbäck	
1982	Lasse Frykberg	
1983	Konrad Hallenbarter	
1984	Hans Persson	
1985	Bengt Hassis	
1986	Bengt Hassis	
1987	Anders Larsson	
1988	Örjan and Anders Blomqvist	
1989	Jan Ottosson	
1991	Jan Ottosson	
1992	Jan Ottosson	
1993	Håkan Westin	
1994	Jan Ottosson	
1995	Sven-Erik Danielsson	
1996	Håkan Westin	
1997	Michail Botvinov	Sofia Lind
1998	Peter Göransson	Kerrin Petty
1999	Staffan Larsson	Sofia Lind
2000	Raul Olle	Svetlana Nagejkina
2001	Henrik Eriksson	Ulrica Persson
2002	Daniel Tynell	Svetlana Nagejkina
2003	Oskar Svärd	Ulrica Persson
2004	Anders Aukland	Sofia Lind
2005	Oskar Svärd	Sofia Lind
2006	Daniel Tynell	Christina Paluselli
2007	Oskar Svärd	Elin Ek

Most FAMOUS PARTICIPANTS outside the world of skiing

- Carl Gustav Bernadotte, Sweden's king, has participated in Vasaloppet 3 times.
- The Swedish prince Carl Philip Bernadotte.
- Andrus Ansip, Estonia's president.
- Mikael Niemi, author.
- Martin Stenmark and Mark Levensgood, artistes.

CURIOSITIES

- About 92,220 litres of blueberry soup, sports drinks, gruel and coffee is consumed at seven food stations. And also 75,000 Vasaloppet buns!
- 428,587 Vasaloppet skiers have crossed the finishing line, together the equivalent of 1,069 journeys around the world or 56 return trips to the moon.
- The amount of energy that skiers generate during a Vasaloppet would be enough to light 221,000 60 watt light bulbs!



FOTO A. GIGER, SIEGER ESM 1978

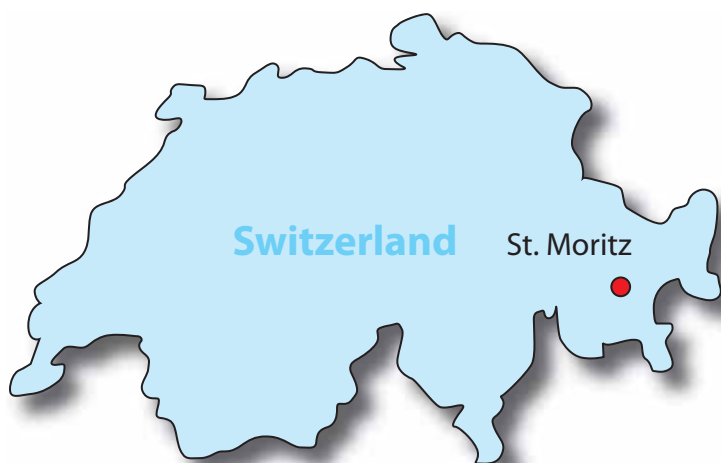
1978: Winner Albert Giger receiving the prize of ibex horns

Engadin Skimarathon – a name that emanates fascination!

Thanks to the idea of some local cross country skiing enthusiasts this event which leads through one of the most beautiful landscapes of the world will be held already for the 40th time next year. Who would have believed in the year 1969 when 945 cross country skiers lined up at the start to the first Engadin Skimarathon that one day this race would become the second biggest cross country skiing event in the world? To be honest, probably no one!

Engadin Skimarathon, this is where world class athletes meet with elite skiers, with recreational athletes and fortunately also with many skiers for whom the participation is far more important than the ranking. It is exactly this mixture that gives our event this unique touch.

I remember the first edition only too well. For us as young top athletes and participants in Olympic Games it was "inappropriate" to participate in a "popular" race! After all we were elite and not recreational skiers. This is why my colleagues of the national team and I failed to appear in the first race and we preferred to participate in the famous Holmenkol Games in Oslo. But very soon we had to change our opinion and were disabused by the great approval the race found of the participants, the media etc. So it occurred that ever since the second edition members of the national team have been present. Also more and more foreign elite and even top athletes registered for the race. A victory at the Engadin Skimarathon was and is up to this day a matter of great prestige. Having become an important event,



ENGADIN SKIMARATHON

Switzerland

Founder: Albert Scheuing

First race: 16th March 1969, 42 km, 945 entries, 805 ranked

Highest number of participants: 13527 entries (1998)

Cancellations: 1991

Worldloppet membership: founding member

Place in calendar: second Sunday of March

Main race: 42 km F

Short races: Frauenlauf 17km F,

Halbmarathon 21 km F

Website: www.engadin-skimarathon.ch

the Engadin Skimarathon has taken an active part in the development of cross-country skiing in Switzerland.

Due to the steady increase in the number of competitors the organisation had to be improved considerably. Out of a small organising committee a professional enterprise emerged. Every year not less than 1'500 volunteers strive to do an impeccable job. The organisational efforts of our event is highly esteemed by the participants.

It is impossible to imagine the calendar of events of the "Upper Engadin" without the Engadin Skimarathon. Too deeply is this event rooted the region. It is of great importance for the economy regarding the added value and helping considerably to prolong the winter season.

As a former active cross country skier I was able to profit for many years from the efforts of the organisers. After the end of my career my aim was to be on the "other" side in sport for at least as many years. I am glad to say that it gives me great satisfaction helping to represent the concerns of the participants in my function as race director for more than ten years now. As head of the cross country skiing school of St. Moritz I am still closely connected to my favourite sport.

Fascination Engadin Skimarathon: If you have not participated so far, you will have to experience it! To glide over the surface of the Upper Engadin Lakes in the midst of 12'000 like-minded people is a truly unique experience. I sincerely invite you!

Albert Giger
Race Director of Engadin Skimarathon
5 time winner of Engadin Skimarathon



2007: The main class A skiers



FOUNDING & HISTORICAL FACTS

The initiator and “spiritual father” of the Engadin Skimarathon was sporting goods dealer and former ski racer Albert Scheuing of St. Moritz.

On the Sunday after the Vasaloppet 1968 a few cross country skiing enthusiasts from St. Moritz and Pontresina met by chance on the track in the Staz forest. Two of them were excited about the Vasaloppet in which they had participated. Everyone was convinced that there was a great potential in this relatively new sport and that a similar race, of course smaller, should be possible in the Engadin. The idea of the Engadin Skimarathon was born and the nine Upper Engadin ski clubs joined to organise - of course after having overcome a few obstacles - the first race came one year later.

To meet the high standard of Worldloppet and of course to maintain the excellent quality of the race, improvements for the participants are made continuously. Milestones in the history of the Engadin Skimarathon were:

1993: Replacing the mass start by a block start.

1998: Election of the current President of the Organising Committee, Emil Tall. He is the successor of Eugen Peter who conducted the Engadin Skimarathon for 20 years.

1998: Switching the finishing area to S-chanf where there is much more open space and buildings with requisite infrastructure. Furthermore, in a joint agreement between the cantonal authorities, the Rhaetian railway and the organisers of the Marathon, a new station - S-chanf Marathon - has been built just a few metres from the finishing line.

1999: Reorganisation of the transport of personal belongings. Participants get their bags very quickly in the finishing area from the same truck to which they had handed them in at the start.

2000: For the first time the entry fee includes a return train ticket from any Rhaetian railway station to St. Moritz. This causes more people to leave their car at home which is better for the environment and to avoid traffic chaos in the Engadin.

2000: The first Frauenlauf (women's race) of the Engadin Skimarathon over 17 km from Samedan to S-chanf takes place with 728 ranked women. Meanwhile more than 1'000 women register every year.

2002: The online-registration for participants is introduced.

2003: The Engadin Skimarathon wins the second prize of the Prix Ecosport, an important award for Swiss sports events for efforts in ecological matters. The Engadin Skimarathon regards ecological concerns as very important and continues its efforts in this direction.

2003: New staggered starts. Men and women are divided up into percentage groups according to their overall ranking (until then men and women were separate). With this system fewer skiers have to be overtaken which makes the race run much smoother.

2004: Prolongation of the closing time for the finish by 40 minutes to 6 hours 40 minutes. This allows more skiers to be ranked.

2006: Successful introduction of the chip timing system.

Every year more participants use the Engadin Skimarathon SMS service to receive their results on their mobile phones. 3 times 13'952 SMS were sent out in 2006.

THE MOST SUCCESSFUL RACE

was on the 30th anniversary in 1998 with 13'527 entries.

THE MOST EXTREME RACE

was definitely in 2006. Freezing temperatures and a very strong, icy front wind demanded a great deal of the participants. Even the first skiers needed about 20 minutes longer for the race than in other years. The Organising Committee decided to prolong the closing time by an hour. Fortunately these conditions had been predicted by the weather forecast and the skiers could be warned the day before the race so that they could protect themselves against the cold.



The first Engadin Skimarathon in 1969



The winners of 2005: N. Leonardi Cortesi and G-A. Bundi of Switzerland

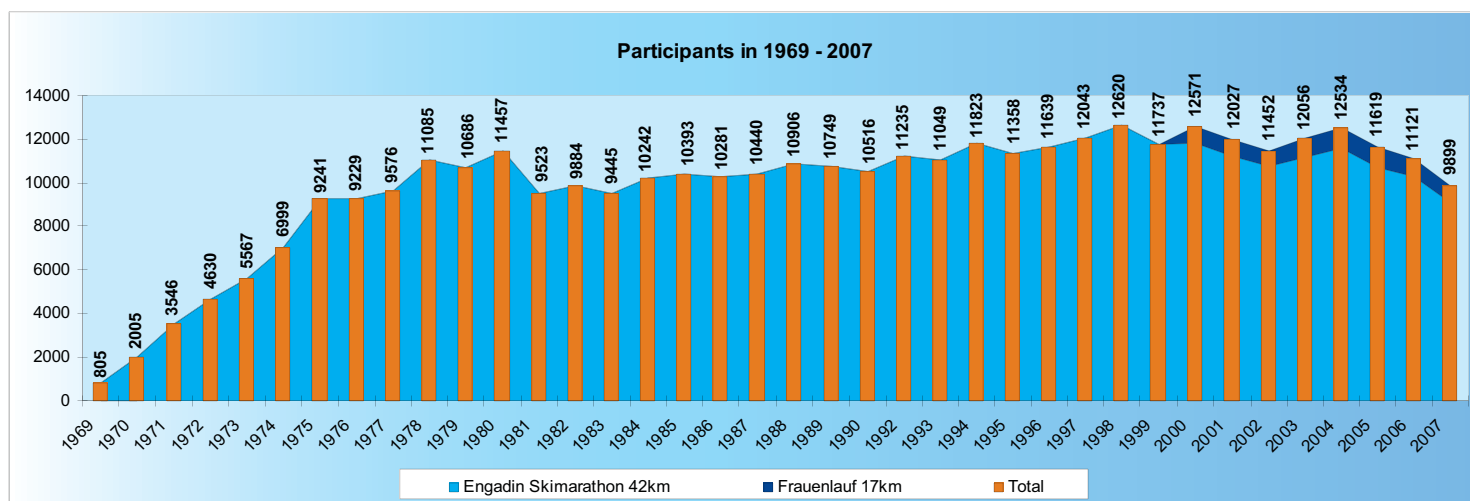


◀ The Swiss triple victory of 2007

◀◀ 2007: The lake of Sils

WINNERS

1969	Karl Wagenführ	Rita Czech
1970	Werner Geeser	Ursula Bösch
1971	Albert Giger	Ingrid Hadler
1972	Flury Koch	Rosmarie Kurz
1973	Albert Giger / Edy Hauser	Rosmarie Kurz
1974	Alfred Kälin	Rosmarie Kurz
1975	August Broger	Rosmarie Kurz
1976	Albert Giger	Rosmarie Kurz / Ursula Bösch
1977	Albert Giger	Rosmarie Kurz
1978	Albert Giger	Christine Brügger
1979	Alois Oberholzer	Christine Brügger
1980	Ola Hassis	Evi Kratzer
1981	Bill Koch	Cornelie Thomas
1982	Lars Frykberg	Evi Kratzer
1983	Lars Frykberg	Evi Kratzer
1984	Konrad Hallenbarter	Evi Kratzer
1985	Andy Grünenfelder	Evi Kratzer
1986	Konrad Hallenbarter	Karin Thomas
1987	Daniel Sandoz	Christine Brügger
1988	Andy Grünenfelder	Christine Gilli-Brügger
1989	Ladislav Svanda	Sandra Parpan
1990	Konrad Hallenbarter	Guidana Dalsasso
1992	Silvano Barco / Daniel Sandoz	Elvira Knecht
1993	Hervé Balland	Silvia Honegger
1994	Hervé Balland	Silvia Honegger
1995	André Jungen	Maria Theurl
1996	Hervé Balland	Maria Theurl
1997	Mikhail Botvinov	Anita Moen-Guidon
1998	Christian Hoffmann	Maria Theurl
1999	Tor-Arne Hetland	Brigitte Albrecht
2000	Gerhard Urain	Julija Tschepalova
2001	Peter Schlickenrieder	Brigitte Albrecht
2002	Juan Jesus Gutierrez	Brigitte Albrecht
2003	Patrik Mächler	Natascia Leonardi Cortesi
2004	Christophe Perrilat	Julija Tchepalova
2005	Gion Andrea Bundi	Natascia Leonardi Cortesi
2006	Mikhail Botvinov	Natascia Leonardi Cortesi
2007	Dario Cologna	Laurence Rochat



For the only time in its history, the Engadin Skimarathon had to be cancelled in 1991 at very short notice due to a sudden spell of warm weather. Not that there had not been enough snow or that the ice on the lakes would have been too thin. The reason was very heavy rainfall the day before which caused knee-deep icy water in the starting area on the lakes. A special challenge for the organisers was the preparation of an alternate route for the 34th Engadin Skimarathon in 2002 due to lack of snow on the lower part of the track. Several additional loops were planned on the big lakes which were fortunately frozen. Thanks to a quite heavy snowfall just one week before the race and many hours of additional work, the 34th Engadin Skimarathon could finally be held on the original track.

FEATURES

- The specific characteristics of our race are its size (second biggest in the world), the highest above sea level (1800 m), the landscape in a wide valley topped by high snow mountains, 35 % of the race course leading over frozen lakes etc.



Women's race one week before the Engadin Skimarathon

- The fact, that the Engadin Skimarathon is mostly flat, attracts many newcomers every year to try their first marathon or makes it possible for older people to participate. One of them is Walter Birrer, born in 1909. In the year 2003 at the age of 94 he still managed to finish the race (his 29th participation) within the time limit. Since then he has still been in the race every year but without finishing.
- There is always a group which pulls a life-size wooden ibex called "Alfred" all the way from Maloja to S-chanf.
- The descent in the Staz forest on the track between St. Moritz and Pontresina could be called "the great fun classic of the Engadin Skimarathon". Many less expert skiers - especially of the last two starting blocks - who cannot manage the tricky downhill in a quite elegant manner and showing spectacular tumbles add a lot to the amusement of the many spectators, photographers and film teams.
- For skiers from Luxemburg the Engadin Skimarathon is at the same time their national championship.
- Tina Vonmoos (secretary in 1975 - 1999): "It was on Monday just after the Engadin Skimarathon in the nineteen eighties when an Englishman phoned to ask for his bag of personal belongings, which had been left behind, to be sent to his address in England immediately. Asked about the reason for this rush, he said that his false teeth were in the bag and that he needed them desperately. This story seemed so unreal that the content of the bag was checked only to find that it was true!"

COOPERATION WITH WORLDLOPPET

The main gains from Worldloppet are the exchange of experiences with the other races, the increase in popularity and more international participants (every year 35 - 40 nations). Being part of Worldloppet and therefore always trying to do the very best might be one of the reasons why the Engadin Skimarathon can keep the same sponsors for many years. RIVELLA who has been sponsor from the beginning up to now is such an example.

The following story made us definitely believe that the Engadin Skimarathon had become world famous after joining Worldloppet: In one of the first years, a skier appeared in the last minutes before the start, and apologised for not being registered yet as the decision to participate was taken just the day before and he had managed to catch a stand-by flight directly from Anchorage/Alaska (which is definitely not next door to St. Mortiz/Engadin!).



- ◀ Engadin Skimarathon Night Sprint in Sils
- ▶ Zebra on the descent in the Staz forest
- ▼ Cows are in great honour in Switzerland
- even at the skimarathon



FAMOUS PARTICIPANTS

- Adolf Ogi (federal council of Switzerland and minister of sports, Special Advisor on Sport for Development and Peace in the UNO), 15 participation times
- Sir Norman Foster, (world famous star architect), 14 participations
- Klaus Schwab (founder and organizer of the World Economic Forum), 9 participations
- Peter Müller (alpine ski champion), 7 participations
- Reto Göttschi (bob world champion and Olympic medal winner), 3 participations
- Dr. Carl-Horst Hahn together with the whole head department of Volkswagen



Birkebeinerrennet

FOUNDING & HISTORICAL FACTS

The idea of the race was launched in an Oslo newspaper in the autumn of 1930 by Haakon Lie, a Lillehammer author. The main founders of the race were Lars Høgvold and Halvor Kampen from Lillehammer and Agnar Renolen and Peder Olsen from Rena. The first race took place on March 20th 1932, starting from Rena crossing mountains and valleys to finish in Lillehammer.

The underlying idea of the race was to commemorate an historical event from civil war-ridden Norway in January 1206. Two Birkebeiner skiers carried the 18 months old prince Haakon over the mountains and brought him to safety. Skiing in deep snow the staunch warriors wore leggings of birch bark, hence the name Birkebeiner (birch legs). In Norwegian history Haakon Haakonsson is known as a great king. He put an end to the civil war and during his long reign Norway had a heyday in the Middle Ages. The daring rescue of the prince made history and history made a ski race.





BIRKEBEINER- RENNET

Norway

Founders: Lie, Lars Høgvold, Halvor Kampen, Agnar Renolen, Peder Olsen

First race: 20 March 1932, 60 km, 155 participants

Highest number of participants: 10174 (2006)

Cancellations: 2007

Worldloppet membership: founding member

Place in calendar: third Saturday of March

Main race: 54km C

Additional race: UngdomsBirken 15km (Youth Race for 12 – 16 years), Inga Lami 15 & 30km for ladies

Website: www.birkebeiner.no



THE MOST SUCCESSFUL RACES

1932 - the first race

2002 - World Cup event

2005 - new wave start and nice weather

2006 – the race was fully booked for the first time

THE MOST EXTREME RACES

For weather and snow conditions the race in 1934 may have been the most demanding. The winning time was 5:41.25. The record as at 2007 is 2:33:05 (Erling Jevne 1997).

In 2007 the start was well under way; six waves had been sent off from Rena when the race had to be broken off owing to extreme wind, in the mountains approaching the force of a hurricane. About 4744 skiers of a total entry of 13000 had to be stopped and directed back to Rena.

FEATURES

The Course

About two thirds of the race is over barren mountains. That is why the skiers have to carry a pack containing the necessities for severe mountain weather (windbreaker, spare gloves, food, drink, wax etc.) Originally the required weight of the pack was 5,5 kilos, which since 1993 has been reduced to a minimum of 3,5 kilos. The original length of the course has also been reduced to 54 km. The course can only be reached by road at three points. Safety measures are therefore of the highest priority. In regard to total climbs Birkebeinerrennet is the most demanding of the Worldloppet races.

Wave start

Birkebeinerrennet has always had a wave start. Up to the year 2005 skiers in the same age class made up the waves, since then the entrants have been seeded in waves on the basis of estimated finishing time. The elite class, old skiers and the IPC have the privilege of an early start.



2006: The waxers at the start making their last efforts



Ladies podium of 2005:
A.Viljanmaa, C.Paluselli, S.Lind

O-B. Hjelmeseth and S.Rezac on
the podium in 2005



WINNERS

1932	Trygve Beisvåg
1933	Arne Rustadstuen
1934	Arne Rustadstuen
1935	Olaf Hoffsbakken
1936	Oscar Gjøslien
1937	Gunnar Hansveen
1938	Olaf Hoffsbakken
1939	Hallvard Eggeset
1940	Gunnar Hansveen
1946	Leif Haugen
1947	Gunnar Hermansen
1949	Ola Kveberg
1950	Gunnar Hermansen
1951	Thorfinn Staff Eid
1952	Odd Nyborg
1953	Johs. Woxen
1954	Johan Østvang
1955	Oddmund Jensen
1956	Einar Skaaren
1957	Oddmund Jensen
1958	Oddmund Jensen
1959	Einar Skaaren
1960	Martin Stokken
1961	Ole Ellefsæter
1962	Oddmund Jensen
1963	Magnar Ingebrigtsli
1964	Egil Tvedt
1965	Oddmund Jensen
1966	Egil Tvedt
1967	Ivar Skogsrud
1968	Erik Solberg Johansen
1969	Niri Helleberg
1970	Arne Vehus
1971	Bjørn Arvnes
1972	Erik Solberg Johansen
1973	Per Knotten
1974	Dag Anmarkrud
1975	Ivar Formo
1976	Audun Kolstad
1977	Audun Kolstad
1978	Anders Bakken
1979	Anders Bakken
1980	Dag Atle Bjørkheim
1981	Sven Åke Lundback
1982	Dag Atle Bjørkheim
1983	Per Knut Aaland:
1984	Magnar Rismyhr
1985	Ola Hassis
1986	Ørjan Blomquist
1987	Pierre Harvey
1988	Jo Helgestad
1989	John Kvale
1990	Per Knut Aaland



O-B. Hjelmeseth
winning in 2003

Berit Mørdre Lammedal
Valborg Østberg
Birgit Øverbye Tennøe
Anna Bjørgan
Anna Bjørgan
Vigdis Rønning
Birgit Øverbye Tennøe
Hilde Riis
Gry Otedal
Gry Oftedal
Ellen Grepperud
Astrid Dæhlie
Elisabeth Tharaldsen
Marthe Flugstad
Mona Fugli



Birkebeiner Triple

All participants who complete Birkebeinerrennet (ski race), Birkebeinerrittet (bike race) and Birkebeinerløpet (running race) take part in the Birkebeiner Triple.

Events take place as follows:

Birkebeinerrennet: March

Birkebeinerrittet: August

Birkebeinerløpet: September

UngdomsBirken/Youth Race

UngdomsBirken/Youth Race is for competitors between 12 and 16 years old. The course is 15 km with its start at Sjusjøen and finish in Lillehammer in classical technique. All entrants must carry a backpack of at least 1,5 kg throughout the race. The pack should contain a windbreaker, spare gloves, food, drink, wax etc. Like at the main race.

INGA LAAMI – the mother of a Birkebeiner King

Norway's largest ski event for women is held on second weekend of March in Lillehammer. There are two distances: 30 km or 15 km in classical technique, both on easy terrain.

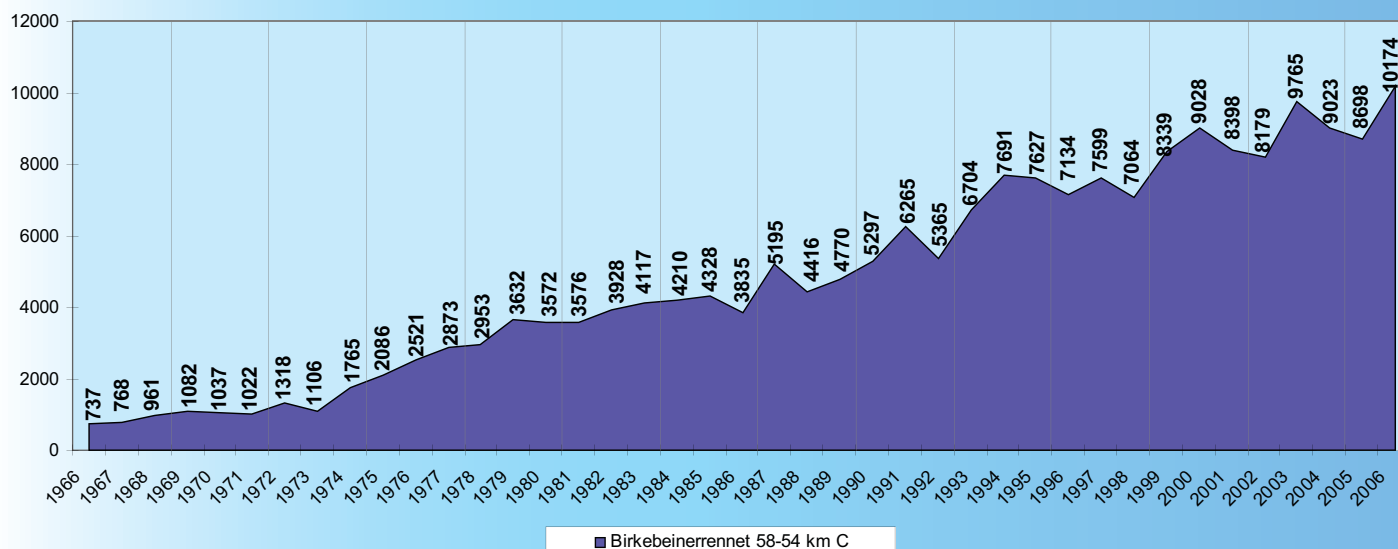
More information: www.inga-laami.no

COOPERATION WITH WORLDLOPPET

Birkebeinerrennet has not undergone any great changes since joining Worldloppet from its start. In the early Worldloppet days some members maintained that all Worldloppet races should be run on the same pattern, but Birkebeinerrennet made it a condition for joining that it should be allowed to keep its characteristics (pack, start procedures etc.)

The main gains from Worldloppet membership have been a great increase in participation from other countries, international contacts and cooperation. In its infancy Birkebeinerrennet was an all-Norwegian event. Today we are pleased to welcome about 900 skiers from 29 countries.

Participation in Birkebeinerrennet in last 50 years: 1966-2006





- ▲ Start of 2006
- ▲ Ready for the start

WINNERS

1991	Per Knut Aaland	Ragnhild Bratberg
1992	Odd-Bjørn Hjeltnes	Anne Jahren
1993	Alexander Goloubev	Astrid-Kr. Ruud
1994	Erling Jevne	Marit Elveos
1995	Odd-Bjørn Hjeltnes	Unni Ødegård
1996	Erling Jevne	Marit Mikkelsplass
1997	Erling Jevne	Marthe Flugstad
1998	Erling Jevne	Anita Moen
1999	Erling Jevne	Anita Moen
2000	Erling Jevne	Anita Moen
2001	Erling Jevne	Anita Moen
2002	Stanislav Rezac	Marthe Flugstad
2003	Odd-Bjørn Hjeltnes	Annemari Viljanmaa
2004	Gianantonio Zanetel	Annemari Viljanmaa
2005	Stanislav Rezac	Christina Paluselli
2006	Anders Aukland	Hilde Gjermundshaug Pedersen

FAMOUS PARTICIPANTS

Birkebeinerrennet has never paid special attention to celebrities.

Oddvar Brå, Ole Ellefseter, Erling Jevne, Oddmund Jensen, Stanislav Rezac, Thomas Alsgaard, Anita Moen, Hilde Gjermundshaug Pedersen, Gabriella Paruzzi, Ann-Mari Viljanmaa.



Worldloppet in numbers

**NUMBER OF SKIERS, WHO HAVE COMPLETED WORLDLOPPET MAIN RACES IN 1978-2007
VALID FOR WORLDLOPPET GOLD MASTER**

Name of the race	Distance		1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990
Kangaroo Hoppet	42 km	F													
Jizerska padesatka	50 km	C													
Dolomitenlauf	60 km	F	1641	1890	1763	1843	2201	1937	1996	1598	1656	1382	1876	c	c
Dolomiten Classic Race	42 km	C													
Marcialonga	70 km	C	2569	2802	3441	3993	3984	3592	3438	4026	4124	4233	4728	c	c
König Ludwig Lauf	50 km	C	852	1190	1400	2050	2350	2000	1350	c	1600	2000	1260	2471	c
	50 km	F													
La Transjurassienne	76 km	F				2023	2854	2832	3530	3225	2541	2653	2224	2526	c
TransjuClassic	50 km	F													
La Transjurassienne	54km	F													
Women's Race	46 km	F													
Sapporo International	50 km	F								1737	1732	2048	1903	1730	1716
Tartu Maraton	63 km	C													
Open Track	63 km	F													
Gatineau Loppet	53 km	F		683	404	722	731	708	865	871	952	993	899	886	996
(Keskinada Loppet)	53 km	C													
American Birkebeiner	51 km	F	2717	2581	3053	2358	4095	4896	4964	3488	3526	3335	3253	3425	5170
Finlandia-hiihto	62 km	C	4857	6645	7618	8899	10639	12083	12909	9705	8820	7219	6305	5145	4202
	50 km	F													1531
Vasaloppet	90 km	C	9073	10650	9823	9811	9623	9977	9679	9306	9486	8313	8792	6828	c
Öppet Spar	90 km	C		3373	5028	5604	6834	6683	7772	6732	7643	8325	7514	c	c
FIS WC ladies	45 km	C													
Engadin Skimarathon	42 km	F	11085	10686	11457	9523	9884	9445	10242	10393	10281	10440	10906	10749	10516
Birkebeinerrennet	54 km	C	2953	3632	3572	3576	3928	4117	4210	4328	3835	5195	4416	4770	5297
	Total :		35747	44132	47559	50402	57123	58270	60955	55409	56196	56136	54076	38530	29428

c – race canceled





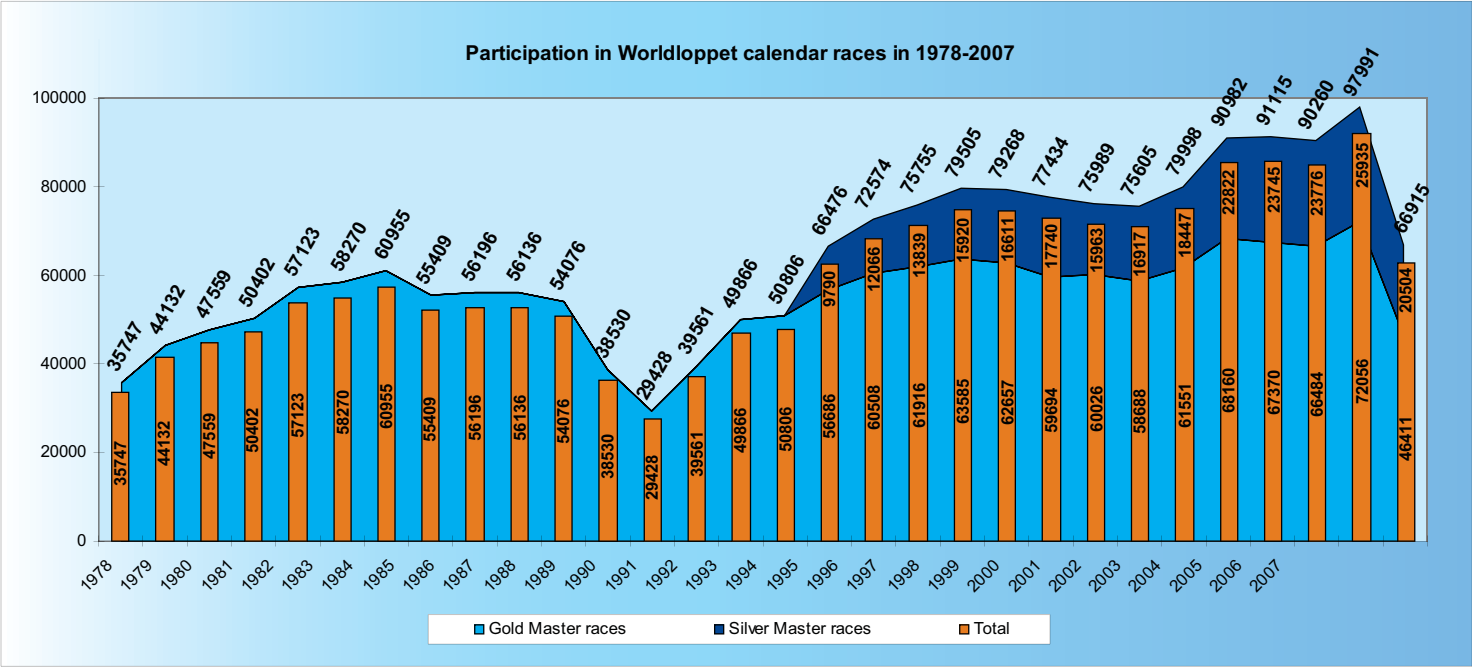
1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
401	357	305	376	403	289	349	345	354	329	362	299	299	315	318	284	360
									1931	2053	2320	2476	2748	2713	3203	c
1992	1457	1570	c	1104	1124	1264	1113	1141	c	923	c	778	661	571	614	c
															413	c
3839	3985	4700	3874	3118	3574	3433	4130	3296	3948	3584	3683	4641	3542	3619	3875	4307
1248	1434	1889	1102	1563	1803	1179	1174	1027	1351	1046	c	889	1171	1303	1508	1243
			489	571	560	715	636	663	790	739	c	509	646	674	826	543
2399	2833	c	2566	2816	1611	2831	2432	2260	2944	c	2375	2095	2499	2402	2620	c
														219	374	c
														649	714	c
									336	c	186	192	549			
1282	1285	1256	1151	1071	921	939	857	828	726	748	794	777	831	813	740	726
				1679	1788	2090	2506	2525	c	1966	2201	2384	c	2678	3044	3160
				13	44	27	56	65	120	109	131	93	89	115	125	118
798	736	655	574	731	750	545	610	587	456	602	616	552	429	456	434	360
						196	218	235	260	326	323	376	426	467	375	324
3720	4358	4025	4090	4030	4373	5498	4250	4676	c	4283	3630	3421	3833	3958	4617	3285
4369	4277	4675	3986	3732	3738	3307	3737	3473	3482	4007	4150	4176	3938	4024	4261	3186
	934		876	1411	1082	1085			780							614
8994	8497	10233	12473	11411	13231	12075	11737	10983	12977	11756	13826	14053	14585	12565	13006	11029
4254	3113	3745	5615	7870	8255	8410	9172	7505	8725	6551	8097	9490	10503	9553	10448	8068
															130	
c	11235	11049	11823	11358	11639	12043	12620	11737	11843	11235	10741	11194	11582	10689	10271	9088
6265	5365	6704	7691	7627	7134	7599	7064	8339	9028	8398	8179	9765	9023	8698	10174	c
39561	49866	50806	56686	60508	61916	63585	62657	59694	60026	58688	61551	68160	67370	66484	72056	46411



NUMBER OF SKIERS, WHO HAVE COMPLETED WORLDLOPPET SHORT RACES IN 1994-2007
VALID FOR WORLDLOPPET SILVER MASTER

Name of the race	Distance		1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Kangaroo Hoppet: Australian Birkebeiner	21 km	F	380	486	472	367	383	393	369	356	257	339	286	290	237	273
Jizerska padesatka	25 km	C							576	618	656	758	784	709	740	c
Jizerska padesatka	30 km	F								179	273	260	268	309	399	c
Dolomitenlauf: Lienz- Lauf	25 km	F	c	518	489	611	323	567	c	336	c	254	279	362	397	c
Dolomitenlauf	30 km	C						271	c	252	c	273	243	320		c
Marcialonga Light	45 km	C	36	123	195	194	136	217	118	86	32	79	282	93	253	304
Lavezeloppet	22 km	C					247	263	212	242	125	488	296	233	279	231
König Ludwig Lauf	23 km	C	613	992	1243		310	368	414	361	c	328	317	378	530	368
König Ludwig Lauf	23 km	F				649	551	476	638	538	c	445	589	658	682	562
La Transjurassienne: La MiniTrans	25 km	F	211	1327	1335	730	852	649	419	c	480	344	502	413	397	c
Sapporo International	25 km	F	562	634	557	562	602	541	437	462	475	453	485	589	603	643
Tartu Maraton	31 km	C				302	533	591	c	491	425	658	c	882	1019	1008
Tartu Maraton: Open Track	31 km	F		45	82	85	72	70	49	121	60	68	90	111	138	100
Gatineau Loppet	29 km	F	279	281	291	311	370	320	430	407	399	396	315	325	284	245
(Keskinada Loppet)	29 km	C	497	525	504	482	422	412	392	495	459	551	528	464	309	286
American Birkebeiner: Korteloppet	23 km	F	1702	1766	1958	2383	1290	1462	c	1514	1364	1410	1719	1777	2104	1112
Finlandia-hiihto	32 km	C	774	626	1126	1014	1211	1109	822	654	655	869	877	959	1010	717
Vasaloppet: HalvVasan	45 km	C				1164	1490	1991	1990	1357	1875	2325	2249	1958	2105	2095
Vasaloppet: TjejVasan	30 km	C	4736	4743	5587	6266	6304	6163	6308	6241	6895	7411	7456	6721	7184	5783
Vasaloppet: KortVasan	30 km	C				800	1515	1877	2061	1415	2925	3824	4840	4970	6073	5604
Vasaloppet: SkejtVasan	30 km	F									381	427	388	325	342	362
Engadin Skimarathon: Frauenlauf	17 km	F							728	792	711	862	952	930	850	811
Total :			9790	12066	13839	15920	16611	17740	15963	16917	18447	22822	23745	23776	25935	20504

c – race canceled



Bjørn Dæhlie – World Skier of the Century

Angelo Corradini

You have been elected as the “World Skier of the Century”, you won the highest number of Olympic Medals, an incredible number of competitions and you are “The XC Skier”, as well;

AC: Please tell me a bit more about Cross Country Skiing. Has it ever been only competition for you or also entertainment?

- BjD: XC skiing has been a part of my life since I was a small boy skiing with my parents at the weekends. In my early years it was never about seconds and competitions, but more the satisfaction of being out in nature and playing in the snow.
- It actually took a lot of years before I wanted to compete. The nice trips with my family in the Norwegian mountains gave me the motivation and the love for skiing.

AC: How has Skiing influenced your life? In General. Economically.

- BjD: It has been everything for me; I have visited a lot of countries and experienced other traditions. I have got friends from all over the world and this means a lot for me. I have done my hobby also as a job and also been able to live my sport and secure my economic future, but this was never the motivation behind my results.

AC: How is your life now? Professionally, Family, Sport.

- BjD: I am training a lot today too, but only about 20% of what I did before. I still love to do skiing in the winter and I do a lot of jogging in the summer.
- I have 2 boys 10 and 13 years old and they are also skiing and doing Biathlon.

AC: How do you think XC Skiing has changed from the ‘70s until the 21st century? Technical Preparation of equipments. Training and diet.

- BjD: The change has been enormous even during the period from my first Olympics in 1988 until 1998.
- In this 10 years equipment has changed a lot. The training has also been changing to being more systematic and professional.
- Maybe the introduction of good functional roller skis about 1985 - 1990 was the biggest change. This made the summer training more effective and made the skiers stronger.

The goals of training are achieved by the training being constructed to improve health through diet and the added dimension of increased knowledge through technical reading.

AC: How do you see the future evolution of XC Skiing? Technical Preparation of Ski. Training and diet. (In relation with Worldloppet Skiers).

- BjD: I think the actual level of the “Champions” is extremely high, the young generation of competitors is a little afraid; it is too difficult to be on top during so long a winter competitive season. Consequently, I personally think more and more talented skiers will start skiing Worldloppet competitions which are not so binding. Furthermore the “industry” is following this kind of competition with more and more interest.



PHOTO: SCANPIX

- Skis and generally skiing equipment are easy to prepare today, thanks to the technical evolution, you can find easy instruction in every sport shop about correct diet and products are finally not so expensive. The most “popular” skiers today are expert in this kind of matter. Furthermore there are a lot of possibilities to train in summer, like roller skiing, nordic walking and so on.

AC: You have skied both the World Cup Competition and Worldloppet “competition”. Tell me please, in general, the most important differences between the two.

- BjD: Of course the biggest difference is the huge number of participants, the giant simultaneous starts and the type of “Tactical” race; you are not running against the watch but against other skiers. In general the “atmosphere” is different. In the popular races most of the skiers are friendly, they are doing this for hobby, for them it is not a “must” they are skiing for own choice.

AC: Can you give some advice to Worldloppet Skiers referring to: how to prepare for the competition? How to participate in order to get the highest satisfaction?

- BjD: I could observe in general, that the technique of the most “Worldloppet” skiers is quite good, my advice is to take the time to train generally more hours before the beginning of the ski season, in order to be in good shape at the race and profit more from the landscape; do not take the competition too seriously.
- Perhaps not to train alone but with a better skier, follow him and “copy”.

AC: Can you give some suggestions to Worldloppet Organisers as to what to do better in the future?

- BjD: In the past I took part in Tartu Maraton, Engadin Skimarathon, Vasaloppet and Koenig Ludwig Lauf. I’m planning in the near future to ski the Kangaroo Hoppet, American Birkebeiner, Birkebeinerrennet, Marcialonga and two more to get my WORLDLOPPET MASTER TITLE.
- In general it is difficult for me to give advice to people who are working so fantastically, perhaps I can give as a recommendation “keep the traditions”.

AC: As a last question please tell me something about your XC line: Bjorn Dæhlie Wear, www.bjorn-daehlie.com

Bjørn Dæhlie Technical Wear was founded in the end of my career in 1996. The main goal of my company is to put on the market high technical products, I am happy to say that the line have been a big success and are used by a lot of the National Teams including the Vasaloppet Winner Oskar Svand. The feed-back we have from the teams helps us to develop new materials and products every year and the goal is always to deliver the very best for xc-skiers. New from summer (2009) is that we also will present a summer line. To test products and travel around presenting the line is my new and interesting job which I really enjoy.

Skating, Siitonen and Koch

Patrick Field & Angelo Corradini

The question is often discussed: who invented skating, and when? In Central Europe the advent of skating is often attributed to the great Finnish skier Pauli Siitonen, whilst in North America it is Bill Koch who is looked to as the originator of the new techniques.

In fact, skating has been with us for hundreds, if not thousands, of years. The picture below of a Lapp skier from about 1675 shows clearly that he was using skis of uneven length: a short ski for propulsion and a long ski for gliding. Standing on the long ski and pushing on the shorter ski, the skier progressed by means of a single-sided skating step.

Skating remained with us for many years and was in regular use in the earlier part of the 20th Century, when the alpine disciplines were beginning to break away from the traditional nordic events. In 1936 Hallberg and Mueckenbruenn, in their book 'The Complete Book of Skiing' illustrated skating in its double-sided form:

For decades the skating techniques lay forgotten or ignored by racers, but in the 1970s they were reintroduced by Pauli Siitonen, whose contribution to popular racing and to cross-country skiing in general cannot be overestimated.

Siitonen was a police officer from Helsinki who developed his skiing skills in southern Finland where there is little snow during the winter. He was already a promising skier as a junior, but his first successes came not in cross-country, but in ski-orienteeing, in which he won the bronze medal in the Finnish Championships long distance (25 km) in 1965 and 1966. Tough and relentless, Siitonen trained hard but real success did not come until 1967, when he was already 29 years of age. In 1968 he participated in the World championships in Grenoble, finishing 19th after problems with his waxing.

As he got older, Siitonen's interest turned to ski marathons. During his time as a ski-orienteer, Siitonen had learned to ski using single-sided free technique whilst reading the map and navigating. He started to use the same skiing style whilst touring the world taking part in marathon races. Before long, people were calling the age-old technique the 'Siitonen Step'.



This technique, together with Siitonen's natural ability and training, brought him huge success. His first big win was the Marcialonga in 1972 and the next year he won Vasaloppet. For the next ten years he was rarely off the podium in the major ski marathons, winning the Finlandia-hiihto 5 times, Koenig Ludwig Lauf 6 times and Dolomitenlauf in addition to the two victories mentioned above.

Other skiers began to copy Siitonen and in the early years of the Worldloppet Cup the winners frequently resorted to the Siitonen Step, as here in La Transjurassienne:

Now we must turn to the other side of the Atlantic.

Bill Koch was born in Brattleboro, Vermont, a state noted for its downhill skiers. He originally chose to compete in Nordic Combined, a discipline featuring cross-country skiing and jumping.

When Koch was 16 he tried out for the US Nordic Combined team as well as the Olympic cross-country team, and during the mid-point of both trials, was asked by the ski authorities to choose between them. He chose Nordic Combined but in his final qualifying event he fell, broke a ski and came in sixth, not high enough to make the team.

Koch decided to concentrate on cross-country skiing from then on. Two years later, at the age of eighteen, he became the first American to win a medal in international competition when he finished third in the 15 km event at the European Junior World Championships.

Koch made the US 1976 Olympic team as a cross-country skier and in Innsbruck, Austria, became the first American to win an Olympic medal in cross-country skiing, finishing second in the 30 km race. His time was 1 hr 31 mins 59 secs; the winner Sergiy Savaliev of the USSR finished in 1.30:29. In 1982, Koch became the first American to win a medal in a World Championship cross-country event when he finished third in the 30 km race in Oslo. In the same year he won the overall FIS Cross-Country World Cup title.

After the 1980 Olympics, Koch began working on his endurance, training at longer distances. In 1981 he won the Engadin Skimarathon, employing the same techniques used by Siitonen, now being called the Marathon Skate in North America. He also began to experiment with a 'new' technique borrowed from speed skaters, holding his skis at an angle with the tips outward and pushing off the inside edge. He is said to have been passed by a skier using this technique on a lake in Sweden and he immediately realised its potential. The new technique made his times faster by around 10 percent.

The new skating technique was not immediately accepted by everybody; some officials tried to ban its use and others simply added so much vertical climb to courses that the technique was unusable. Some World Cup competition organisers tried to build up 'Snow Walls' along the classical tracks, but finally FIS, officials and organisers had to accept the evolution. In 1986 Koch's fight to introduce the new skating style was victorious. The World Cup officials decided to allow his skating technique, but to hold separate races for those skiers using the new skating stride and those using the classical diagonal stride.



◀ Pauli Siitonen



PHOTO: TOM KELLY

Thanks to the touristic importance of cross-country skiing, ski resorts were able to prepare better and wider tracks for skating; this was a big help in the evolution of the new techniques, as were the development of more specific skis, poles, boots and bindings and the improvement of teaching practices.

Bill Koch retired temporarily in 1987, but came back to compete for the US in the 1992 Albertville Olympics. He did not medal at those Olympics, but was chosen to carry his national flag during the opening ceremony.

After moving to Ashland, Oregon with his wife Kathy and their two children, Koch returned to Hawaii, where he skis the sand and teaches other skiers, ranging from complete novices to experienced snow skiers, how to sand ski. Always an innovator, he continues to offer sand skiing training camps several times a year.

So who started skating? As we have seen, it has been a long and gradual process of evolution, a process to which a Scandinavian – Pauli Siitonen – and an American – Bill Koch – have surely been the most significant contributors.

Bill Koch

Heroes

Arnd Hemmersbach

30 years of Worldloppet... a history of many excellent ski marathons. It's a history of exciting competitions ... and countless dramatic finishes. A history of exceptional athletes – heroes of cross-country skiing. The names of these outstanding athletes sound well even years after their victories. There are many stories to be told about these athletes ... extraordinary ... exciting ... sometimes funny. But here we have to tell about another history – about the many nameless heroes of Worldloppet.

Who does not know the great names of Worldloppet: Lars Frykberg, Anders Blomqvist, Konrad Hallenbarter, Maria Theurl or Hakan Westin. The latter has won the Worldloppet Overall prize no less than five times. No one has done that before! The last time was in 1998 but even today he has these moments in his eyes and kept all the excitement of his favourite ski sport. A great athlete – a hero! But the great heroes of the Worldloppet are others ... that no one knows. They are mailmen, doctors, insurance salesmen, housewives or masons. They can only dream about winning a ski marathon or the overall Worldloppet series. But that's nothing! They dream about beating their neighbour, their own time from last year or finishing at all! Their preparations for the winter are rather chaotic than following a plan, they are busy with their everyday errands rather than systematically preparing for the winter. In between taking the kids to the viola lessons, cleaning the garage or declaring taxes they sometimes find an hour to jog in the park. But in winter they all are standing there on the same start line, with the big names of skiing, who have put behind them more than 10,000 kilometres on foot or roller skis since last year. The "Nobodies" are no less nervous than the aces. They have all good reasons to be nervous! Many hard kilometres are ahead of them that need to be survived. And many problems need to be managed before the start: should I cover the klister with blue or not? Is the headband better than the hat? Why the hell are the glasses turning so foggy? Where are the toilets? Why just now is the zipper stuck on my warm-up? Have I closed my dry clothes bag correctly? What – only two minutes to the start and I do not have my ski boots strapped? All in all enormous stress! The pros in the first line are lucky – they only have to think about winning the race!

And finally the start gun! It all gets going in a mood of great enjoyment. Of course, way too fast, like the finish line is just around the corner. For long somebody steps on my ski tips and poles. A poor guy loses a pole in this hassle and must now move ahead with only one pole. After a couple of kilometres the tempo will slow down a bit ... finally one can ski in one's own rhythm and let the skis glide. The first feeding station comes very soon! Let's get some food now! The memories from starving in the last marathon come quickly to mind! The banana pieces are eaten quickly and a cup of tea to flush it all in ... was that sweet! Doesn't matter! Let's go ... can't let the end of my group go away! It's going well! And the skis are so well prepared!

- The winners have taken a long shower, met the press when still in the late afternoon many happy finishers come to the end of marathon
- ◄ Only very few of them look like one can imagine the hero looks like but they are the real heroes of the Worldloppet-movement



PHOTO: ARND HEMMERSBACH



PHOTO: MARCO FELGENHAUER

But for almost all of them there come some problems to be faced during the race. For some, it's a long uphill under direct sunlight. The track is shining icy and the kickwax is not working at all! Again and again he falls on his poles using lots of power. The heart rate climbs up and the heart rate monitor beeps alarmingly. It hurts the lungs but the uphill still goes on and on! For the others it's the killing downhill in the forest. You can not make any mistakes here! Knees are pretty tired and soft by now and the track has many deep grooves. It looks like there will be an accident, legs are cramped and then it happens: the ski tips cross and he flies into hard snow and rolls over. Finally he stops, skis facing the sky. It's clear that there will be some blue spots on the bottom ... but where's the hat? The next one races with brand new ski boots that the salesman in the sports shop praised to heaven. When the boots were tried on in the shop, everything seemed to fit smoothly and perfectly ... but after 20 kilometres one can not ignore this burning pain. But let's not think about it and ski on! Maybe loosening the straps a bit helps? When he stops to tighten the straps again, it gets worse ... he loosens the straps ... these all-white socks have turned slightly red! He grits his teeth and straps the boot. With pain in his face he continues the torture.

They all have one experience to share on the way to finish: when they are dead tired, soaking wet headband sticking to the head, lips are brittle and covered with salt, arms and legs become heavier and heavier, the back hurts and the step has really become a short one ... then we are there ... To overcome one's lack of will power. Everyone must at that point talk to himself, look himself in the eye and eventually win this situation! An experience that the situation can go lower than zero belongs to the basics that a man has to live through. It's a victory of mind over body. You are lucky when you are alone in the woods at that very difficult moment. For the outsiders this fight is not a pretty one – quite a horror picture! Your wife stands there with your darling kids on the trackside and with very good thoughts in mind asks: "Darling! Wouldn't it be better to stop?" These words are not good to hear! The kids are standing there amazed ... they have not seen their father in such condition! At least they forgot to put the video camera to work! One can not imagine watching these very interesting pictures later in sweet home!

Anyhow it all goes further in the pain ... sometimes worse, sometimes better ... everyone carries himself from feeding station to feeding station. Like in a trance but unflinchingly moving on heavy willpower closer to the finish line. The final stretch to the finish is for every finisher like a triumphal march through Rome ... it doesn't matter whether you are the winner or you come to finish when it gets dark. It's done! Almost everyone has a special grin on their face when they cross the finish line. During some real cheering dances the euphoria comes slowly down. But the shining eyes in the totally exhausted face are telling that they are very happy. They are heroes! It does not matter whether they will celebrate this in front of the press or only their family. And what is the best thing for a ski marathon hero after the finish? A warm shower! It's a really blissful feeling when a warm stream of water massages the head and the dried sweat will be flushed away. After the shower the real feeling of fatigue steps in ... every move feels difficult and painful ... and that will not get better in the next days – quite the contrary! But it's a very good feeling! A feeling of completing a ski marathon and being a small hero. It's a lifetime experience that can not be easily described and that is shared by close to 100 000 Worldloppet skiers every year.



PHOTO: ARND HEIMENBACH



PHOTO: MARCO HELGENHAUER

- ▲ Sometimes the heroes look really tired
- ▲ The heroes would not like the pictures taken nor to be filmed in such situations

Happy participants





Worldloppet Cup

Epp Paal

As one of the main aims of establishing Worldloppet was to offer an alternative competition series for elite skiers, the Worldloppet Cup was created. It also seemed like a great opportunity to invite elite skiers from different countries to local competitions, bringing more attention from the media.

The requirements for ranking were agreed at the establishing meeting as follows: the skier had to participate in at least 6 marathons (out of 9) during one season, including one in North-America, one in Scandinavia and one in Central Europe.

Robert Steiner of Dolomitenlauf suggested that the ranking of Worldloppet Cup should be based on the system used in FIS World Cup. Dumeng Giovanoli of Engadin Skimarathon, proposed to use the Euroloppet ranking system – the winner gets one point, second place gets two points etc. For consensus, on October 1st 1978, the WL office sent out the first circular letter with voting ballot, to make a final decision about the rules of determining the Worldloppet Champion.

According to the FIS system the first 20 competitors would have received points as follows:

RANK	POINTS	RANK	POINTS
1.	26	11.	10
2.	22	12.	9
3.	19	13.	8
4.	17	14.	7
5.	16	15.	6
6.	15	16.	5
7.	14	17.	4
8.	13	18.	3
9.	12	19.	2
10.	11	20.	1

The Euroloppet system would have given points as follows:
Rank 1 - 1 point, Rank 2 - 2 points etc.



Ola Hassis, Lars Frykberg, Magnar Rysmyhr

As regular skiers were also interested in ranking, to know their result of the season and compare the results with other passport holders, it was decided to have two different ranking systems: Elite Championship for elite skiers (ranks 1-20 in marathons) and World Class Division for regular skiers. The first World Class Division ranking became very complicated as too many skiers wanted to participate in it and everyone wanted to compare results at an international level. A formula was worked out to equalise the results of marathons with bigger and smaller number of participants. This had many different subdivisions:

World Class Division – between skiers who participated at least in six marathons, including one in North America, one in Scandinavia and one in Central Europe;

World Class Division lower category – between skiers who participated in five, four or three marathons including at least one in North America, one in Scandinavia and one in Central Europe;

NorAm Division – between skiers who participated in both North American marathons (based on the experience of Euroloppet and Alpentris);

Eur-Am Division – one race in North America and one in Europe were considered;

European Division – only European marathons were considered. This division had three subdivisions: separate ranking for skiers who participated in six, five or four marathons.

As can be seen, this system was very complicated and in many divisions only one skier was classified for ranking at the end of the season.

The first World Loppet League Champion was a 41-year-old Matti Kuosko from Sweden. D.Giovanoli was the author of the rules for awarding the World Loppet Champion. The organiser of the ceremony had to be the native land of the winner. In cases when the winner was from none of the Worldloppet member countries, the awarding ceremony was carried out by the closest country. For the award, Dolomitenlauf had a trophy cup designed. The award (to the value of 1000 USD) was financed by a sponsor. The first awarding ceremony took place during the organisation's annual meeting in June 1979 in Munich, Germany.

Within years this system was replaced with one, where the winner's trophy is awarded at the prizegiving ceremony of the season's last race, and it has not changed until today.

After the first seasons, a need for reviewing the requirements for qualification of elite skiers, prize money and ranking of women appeared. This prob-



Hakan Westin

lem arose because women were not allowed to compete in Vasaloppet and König-Ludvig Lauf. The ranking of women began in 1988.

As the number of Worldloppet passport owners grew and new marathons joined the series the ranking of points became more and more complicated. The databases were primitive and to ascertain the results from the passports meant a lot of manual labor. Within a couple of years the World Class Division was abolished. The ranking remained only for skiers who had made a written registration as a Worldloppet Cup competitor. Points were given to first 30 skiers at the finish, the 7 best results from different marathons were considered and also the requirement of participating in marathons in different continents remained.

The renewed points system (also used in FIS Marathon Cup now):

RANK	POINTS	RANK	POINTS	RANK	POINTS
1.	100	11.	24	21.	10
2.	80	12.	22	22.	9
3.	60	13.	20	23.	8
4.	50	14.	18	24.	7
5.	45	15.	16	25.	6
6.	40	16.	15	26.	5
7.	36	17.	14	27.	4
8.	32	18.	13	28.	3
9.	29	19.	12	29.	2
10.	26	20.	11	30.	1

As the winner's prize money, which was paid from the organisation's main budget, was considered too small for attracting elite skiers (for example in 1994 the winner of the men's ranking was paid 10 000 DM, the winner of the women's ranking received 5 000 DM), in the middle of the 1990s the discussion of ceasing the ranking of the Worldloppet Cup was discussed. To achieve points one race had to be completed in America, Asia or in Australia. And it was also compulsory to own a Worldloppet passport. Despite the organisers' endeavours to adjust the requirements according to the situation of the season, the elite skiers lost interest in the Worldloppet Cup and the season of 1996 ended with only 6 names on the official result list. At the annual meeting in 1998 the question of changing or closing the Worldloppet Cup appeared. In 1999 the last Worldloppet Cup was held.



Örjan Blomqvist,
Anders Blomqvist

WORLDLOPPET CUP WINNERS / WORLDLOPPET CHAMPIONS

1979	Matti Kuosko	SWE		
	Björn Arvnes	NOR		
	Rudolf Kapeller	AUT		
1980	Matti Kuosko	SWE		
	Rudolf Kapeller	AUT		
	Alpo Virtanen	FIN		
1981	Sven-Ake Lundback	SWE		
	Jean-Paul Pierrat	FRA		
	Matti Kuosko	SWE		
1982	Lars Frykberg	SWE		
	Magnar Rismyhr	NOR		
	Ola Hassis	SWE		
1983	Lars Frykberg	SWE		
	Magnar Rismyhr	NOR		
	Ola Hassis	SWE		
1984	Bengt Hassis	SWE		
	Lars Frykberg	SWE		
	Magnar Rismyhr	NOR		
1985	Örjan Blomqvist	SWE		
	Bengt Hassis	SWE		
	Lars Frykberg	SWE		
1986	Konrad Hallenbarter	SUI		
	Örjan Blomqvist	SWE		
	Anders Blomqvist	SWE		
1987	Anders Blomqvist	SWE		
	Örjan Blomqvist	SWE		
	Bengt Hassis	SWE		
1988	Anders Blomqvist	SWE		
	Örjan Blomqvist	SWE		
	Konrad Hallenbarter	SUI		
1989	Örjan Blomqvist	SWE	Ellen Holcomb	USA
	Hakan Westin	SWE		
	Konrad Hallenbarter	SUI		
1990	Konrad Hallenbarter	SUI	Dorota Dziadkowiec	POL
	Markus Fährdrich			
	Anders Blomqvist	SWE		
1991	Hakan Westin	SWE	Dorota Dziadkowiec	POL
	Anders Blomqvist	SWE		
	Lennart Nilsson	SWE		
1992	Erik Hansson	SWE	Dorota Dziadkowiec	POL
	Hans Christian Udnaes	NOR		
	Anders Blomqvist	SWE		
1993	Hakan Westin	SWE	Beatrice Grünenfelder	SUI
	Erik Hansson	SWE		
	Hans Christian Udnaes	NOR		
1994	Alec Vanek	CZE	Maria Theurl	AUT
	Andre Jungen	SUI	Laurence Gindre	FRA
	Hakan Westin	SWE	Beatrice Grünenfelder	SUI
1995	Hakan Westin	SWE	Maria Theurl	AUT
	Andre Jungen	SUI	Lucie Buchareva	CZE
	Elbert Karlsson	SWE	Beatrice Grünenfelder	SUI
1996	Hakan Westin	SWE	Maria Theurl	AUT
	Mikael Isaksson	SWE	Olga Kosmatscheva	RUS
	Raul Olle	EST	Gurdun Pflüger	AUT
1997	Michail Botvinov	AUT	Gurdun Pflüger	AUT
	Silvano Barco	ITA	Ulla Pelli	FIN
	Elbert Karlsson	SWE	Beatrice Grünenfelder	SUI
1998	Hakan Westin	SWE	Nadezda Slessareva	RUS
	Elbert Karlsson	SWE	Elena Grigoreva	RUS
	Alois Blassnig	AUT	Dorota Dziadkowiec	POL
1999	Johann Mühlegg	GER	Nadezda Simak	RUS
	Stephane Passeron	FRA	Maria Theurl	AUT
	Vitali Tchernov	RUS		



Michail Botvinov

FIS Marathon Cup

Epp Paal

Seeing the declining interest in the Worldloppet Cup, Paddy Field, the Chairman of the FIS Sub-Committee for Popular Cross-Country Skiing, proposed to the Worldloppet AGM in Mora in 1996 that a new Cup, the FIS Marathon Cup, should be introduced. This would combine the ability of FIS to attract elite athletes with the proven record of Worldloppet to bring in large numbers of popular racers. The proposal was rejected by the AGM, who wanted to give the Worldloppet Cup a further impetus. This was not successful and when Paddy Field repeated his proposal to the WL AGM at Pontresina the following year, it was agreed that he could start negotiations with the Worldloppet Executive Committee. This started a long and fruitful cooperation between FIS and Madis Lepajõe, Secretary General of WL, which resulted in the introduction of the FIS Marathon Cup in 1999-2000.

Prior to this, almost the only connection with FIS was via Technical Delegates who were appointed by FIS to the WL marathons. They observed the fulfillment of race rules and gave the feedback which had only an advisory meaning for organisers.

M. Lepajõe's approach was – FIS is the organization that has the biggest influence on world's cross country skiing and Worldloppet racing series cannot exist without the co-operation between these two organizations. M. Lepajõe: „FIS, with its power and image is the best partner in this project. I hope the co-operation with FIS means the beginning of the new age for Worldloppet in the top skiing.” For many years FIS had discussed organising championships of the cross country skiing marathons and as Worldloppet unites the world's best skimarathons, discussions for uniting these two aims began.

In 1998, the working group co-ordinated by P. Field elaborated the following plans for the future:

- 1) A Marathon of at least 60km should be included annually in the World Cup. In 2000 a historic moment arrived when La Transjurassienne was the first marathon to be included in the World Cup. (Later on Birkebeinerrennet in 2002, Marcialonga in 2004 and Vasaloppet in 2006 have also been World Cup races);
- 2) A World Championship in long distance cross country skiing should take place every second year.
- 3) Every year – a Marathon Cup should take place with following rules:
 - a) Eight races should be included, with as wide as possible a geographic distribution;
 - b) At least six of the races should belong to Worldloppet;
 - c) The minimal length of distance is 42km;
 - d) Six distances out of eight should be longer than 60km;
 - e) Separate ranking for men and women;
 - f) FIS would have the supervisory role.

This looked like a possibility to increase the attractivity for the media and also the level of organisation. Paddy Field became a voice for Worldloppet in FIS and being himself a FIS technical delegate, he attended several WL races in every season. In the negotiations with FIS it was decided that Worldloppet races would have first claim to take part in the FIS Marathon Cup.

In 2000 the new series – FIS Marathon Cup (FMC), that at first was planned to have 8 races, began with 5 races (three of them were cancelled due to



Lara Peyrot, Svetlana Frizen, Monica Lazarut and Madis Lepajõe in 2003

the bad snow conditions - Dolomitenlauf, American Birkebeiner and Tartu Maraton). Everyone who was involved in the first season was satisfied with this experience.

Points were given according to the system similar to the Worldloppet Cup. For skiers the only prerequisites were to own a FIS licence and a Worldloppet passport. Right now neither of them is compulsory. As in the first years points were given to skiers with very different results a change in the ranking system was made from third edition: the first 30 skiers get points, but only if their percentage time difference behind the winner is not more than 10%.

The financing of the prize fund is effected by Worldloppet and the races in FMC. Each race must guarantee also a local prize fund of 21 000 EUR. Although in the first season FIS financed the final awards (in gold bars), in the following years FIS provides the crystal trophy and delivers the leader bibs.

The influence of FMC on the elite skiers was noticeable already from the first season: many elite skiers began to specialise in long distance skiing (Stanislav Rezac, Raul Olle, Staffan Larsson). In Italy, Sweden and Norway special teams for marathon skiers were established.

Some WL marathons have been in FMC every year (Marcialonga, Engadin Ski Marathon) and there are some that have not organised any FMC races

(Kangaroo Hoppet, Sapporo Int. Ski Maraton, Keskinada Loppet, Finlandia-hiihto). For the last four seasons one race from outside Worldloppet has belonged to FMC – La Sgambeda (Livigno, Italy). This marathon was accepted because its date does not coincide with any of the Worldloppet races (it takes place in the middle of December), and it helps to lengthen the season, to balance the number of free and classical technique marathons and to enlarge the prize fund.

The FIS Marathon Cup has become a visiting card of WL in the world of long distance cross country skiing. The 2007 season showed that about 30 elite skiers hunt the winning of the cup.

In the autumn of 2005, Thomas Nowak, a member of WL EC and member of FIS Sub-Committee of Popular Cross-country skiing and Paddy Field composed the minimum requirements for races which want to be part of FMC to unify the organisational standards. These requirements were confirmed in the autumn of 2005 by the FIS Sub-Committee and in the spring of 2006 were also approved by WL EC. This was regarded by all parties as a break through in the development of FMC.

According to the decision made by the Executive Committee and confirmed by the Annual Meeting in July of 2006 all races which want to be in FMC must fulfill the following Minimum Requirements for FIS Marathon Cup Races.

- 1) Reception for „Seeded Group” skiers according to the statute;
- 2) At least 20 min of TV broadcast within 48 hours after the race;
- 3) Preparing of the track according to international standards;
- 4) Transmission of results in real time to the internet and Worldloppet head quarters;
- 5) Photo finish;
- 6) Prize fund according to the FMC rules;
- 7) FMC Briefing one day before the race;
- 8) Press conference 1-2 days before and with 3 podium skiers just after the race;
- 9) Press centre according to the rules, with the presence of a professional photographer;
- 10) Accepting FMC requirements for sponsors if one is found;
- 11) Meeting the minimum requirements for a Worldloppet race.

From the season of 2007/2008 the FMC „Seeded Group” must meet the following requirements:

- 1) 3 days of accommodation and food for free;
- 2) No entry fee required.

„Seeded group” skiers are:

- 1) 10 best skiers from previous FMC season, if they participated at least in 4 races. After those 4 races comes the ranking list of present season;
- 2) Winners of races of present FMC season;
- 3) Red Group skiers of FIS cross country skiing.

For the seasons of 2007/2008 and 2008/2009 10 marathons wish to be in FMC. This fact shows that this cup is important to the Worldloppet races and it enables the General Secretariat to require marathons to raise their organisational standard. This in turn helps Worldloppet to co-operate with FIS more constructively and pushes races to go along with innovations of the sportsworld.

FIS MARATHON CUP WINNERS

2000	Raul Olle	EST	Svetlana Nagejkina	RUS
	Staffan Larsson	SWE	Maria Theurl	AUT
	Stanislav Rezac	CZE	Monica Johansson	SWE
2001	Gianantonio Zanetel	ITA	Antonina Ordina	SWE
	Stephane Passeron	FRA	Irina Skladneva	RUS
	Raul Olle	EST	Nadezda Slessareva	RUS
2002	Maurizio Pozzi	ITA	Antonina Ordina	SWE
	Roberto De Zolt	ITA	Elin Nilsen	NOR
	Gianantonio Zanetel	ITA	Natalia Alekseeva	RUS
2003	Joergen Aukland	NOR	Lara Peyrot	ITA
	Stanislav Rezac	CZE	Svetlana Frizen	RUS
	Gianantonio Zanetel	ITA	Monica Lazarut	RUM
2004	Gianantonio Zanetel	ITA	Cristina Paluselli	ITA
	Silvio Fauner	ITA	Lara Peyrot	ITA
	Stanislav Rezac	CZE	Sofia Lind	SWE
2005	Stanislav Rezac	CZE	Cristina Paluselli	ITA
	Marco Cattaneo	ITA	Lara Peyrot	ITA
	Gianantonio Zanetel	ITA	Sofia Lind	SWE
2006	Marco Cattaneo	ITA	Cristina Paluselli	ITA
	Pierluigi Costantin	ITA	Anna Santer	ITA
	Roberto DeZolt	ITA	Lara Peyrot	ITA
2007	Jerry Ahrlin	SWE	Elin Ek	SWE
	Joergen Aukland	NOR	Lara Peyrot	ITA
	Stanislav Rezac	CZE	Jenny Hansson	SWE

▼ 2004: Gianantonio Zanetel and Cristina Paluselli



Worldloppet Races in FIS World Cup

Bengt Erik Bengtsson

It is an honour for me to write down a few lines on the early cooperation between FIS and Worldloppet in order to reach the goal of introducing a Worldloppet race into the FIS Cross-Country World Cup.

The historical day when this took place was February 20, 2000 in La Mouthe where the well known French Marathon race La Transjurassienne has its starting place. The snow situation had been very poor and the organising committee had to move the finish area to a new place four km away and make new provisional installations, but what happened?

The snow came in such amounts that it led to discussions as to whether the race could be organised or not. It took a lot of hard work before it was possible to carry out the race.

60,000 spectators followed the competition through the small villages along the route. What is the history behind the realisation of this historical race?

In the beginning there was very little cooperation between the FIS and the organisers of the traditional popular Cross-Country races.

The legendary Italian sport journalist Pepi Aussersdorfer wrote in an article after the Forum Nordicum 1980 in Schonach (GER) that the development of popular Cross-Country was "Eine Spur ohne Ausweg" - A track without any way out. The discussion started after Angelo Corradini from Marcialonga informed the Forum that his race had brought Jean Paul Pierrat from the French World Cup event in La Bresse after his individual race to Moena by plane so he could participate in Marcialonga the next day—and not in the relay team in his home-event.

At this time I was the Swedish representative in the FIS subcommittee but this body had very little contact with Worldloppet. Ivar Formo who was chairman of the Cross-country committee and myself had the first contact with Worldloppet at their annual meeting in Lillehammer NOR 1983 and we made a very good contact with the participants chaired by Eugen Peter from the Engadin Skimarathon.

Technical Delegates from FIS were not appointed at this time and in our discussions with Worldloppet we decided to educate officials from Worldloppet to be FIS technical delegates.

Therefore Christian Egli, the chairman of the subcommittee for popular Cross-country skiing, and myself left Berne by train to Mora to educate the first group.

Some of the candidates who passed the examination were Tom Duffy, USA, Hans Reicherl BRD, Victor Arbez FRA, Hermann Biermeier BRD, Kevin Jones CAN, Rolf Hammar and Klasse Kvännå SWE, Paddy Field GBR, Angelo Corradini and Susy Bazzanella ITA.



Thus we had technical delegates but no specific rules for popular cross-country. Hermod Björkestöl NOR was appointed in 1988 to be a member of the subcommittee and he was given the task of working up rules for popular events.

I still remember 1991 in Oberammergau GER when the new rules proposal was presented to the Wordloppet Assembly. Some members were strictly against any rules at all for their events but the rules were accepted by a clear majority and are still in use.

During the years many persons interested in cross-country skiing put the question "Why is a Worldloppet race not included in the World Cup?" This question was raised year after year. In the mid 1990s there were serious dis-



cussions with Vasaloppet to be a part of World Cup but the different sponsoring rights could not be coordinated

In 1997 Paddy Field proposed at a CC meeting that a small group headed by an independent person like Vegard Ulvang assisted by members from FIS subcommittees for popular skiing, World Cup and Wordloppet should study the question. Already at the meeting in Ramsau, AUT; in the autumn of 1997 Vegard Ulvang was able to report that the group had been formed consisting of himself, Christian Egli SUI, Paddy Field GBR and Angelo Corradini from ITA.

The group around Vegard Ulvang acted very fast. Vegard had already at this time an imposing network and therefore he concentrated on the Transju-

Vasaloppet in FIS World Cup 2006



Erling Jevne, Birkebeinerrennet 2002



Start of Marcialonga 2004

rassienne which he had visited already in 1992 after his Olympic triumphs in Albertville. As interpreter and pusher he used Pierre Gay-Perret his partner from the Cross-Greenland expedition - the main reason for choosing La Transjurassienne was the course which is demanding and similar to a normal Cross-Country competition.

The following principles were very important in the planning:

1. The World Cup should be an independent part of the race with an own result list.
2. The participants could only be entered by their national associations and the number should be the same as the quotas.
3. The athletes must have FIS codes and be qualified for World Cup by results.
4. The women should have a shorter distance.

Furthermore a group of FIS marathon racers should be allowed to start in the World Cup group without having the right to achieve World Cup points.

The jury consisted of Hermod Björkestøl (NOR) as Technical Delegate, Paddy Field (GBR) as his assistant, Pierre Gay-Perret (FRA) chief of race and me.

Everything went very well- the men skied 76 km and the ladies had a shorter course of 48 km, starting at km 28 on the men's course.

Some figures:

43 men from 11 nations, of which 10 belonged to the seeded group, started. The corresponding numbers for women were 39, 14 and 16.

Johann Muehlegg (SPA) won the men race with a big lead ahead of Per Elofsson (SWE) and Juan Jesus Gutierrez (SPA).

I remember the happiness of the Spanish trainer to have two racers on the podium at the prize giving ceremony.

One month later Johann Muehlegg declared that this same trainer had sabotaged his skis by bad waxing throughout the season!

The women race was very open and was eventually won by Stefania Belmondo (ITA).

Unfortunately only a part of the race could be shown on television due to the high production costs – the Organising Committee had to pay these costs.

In 2002 Birkebeinerrennet in Norway stood on the programme as the World Cup final. This race is a typical Norwegian long distance race and the participants have to carry a 5 kg heavy "rucksack". However it was decided in the initial planning phase that the World Cup participants were released from the rucksack liability. The distance is 54 km and the race crosses a high mountain area which cannot be reached by cars. This fact forced the servicemen to go a long way on skis if they wanted to give their athletes food or wax assistance. The planning was intensive. It is worth mentioning that Birkebeinerrennet 2007 had to be interrupted one hour after the start due to heavy winds in the mountains. This was not the case in 2002 when the track was in splendid condition and the athletes who overnighted in barracks in Rena went to the start in a good mood.

On the wish of the TV producer NRK the ladies started 15 minutes before the men. NRK wanted to have both classes together for the last 5-6 km. The jury headed by Hans Enqvist SWE had to follow the race by helicopter as the only snow scooter that was allowed stood at NRK disposal. It was fantastic to see the field from above during the race.

As was said before, the race was the final competition in the World Cup. Thomas Alsgaard (NOR) had won the Holmenkollen race the week before and was in very good form; if he succeeded in winning Per Elofsson (SWE) needed to be ranked as number 9 or better. Alsgaard did win and an ex-

hausted Per Eloffson got the following information from his coach Magnar Dalen one km from the finish " Alsgaard has won, you are now number 10 and must overtake one racer if you want to win the World Cup. About 100 meters before the finishing line Per passed the German skier Jens Filbrich and the title was his.

Among the ladies Anita Moen (NOR) was the winner ahead of Vibeke Skofterud (NOR) and Manuela Henkel (GER). 48 women and 57 men participated in the World Cup classes.

The Marcialonga in Italy was planned as the next popular skiing event to be included in the World Cup in 2003, but the FIS World Cup manual could not be followed 100% and the race was postponed to 2004.

The Norwegian Anders Aukland and the Italian Gabriella Paruzzi were the two winners of the 31st Marcialonga, held on January 25th 2004. The competition offered the public a great performance along the whole track of the two valleys, Fiemme and Fassa, which was followed by a huge crowd of spectators.

There were about 4,300 participants at the start line in Moena. Punctually at 8.35 a.m. the athletes of the World Cup were the first to start, followed by the first 1,000 cross-country participants.

Right from the beginning the race was uncertain and challenging, especially for the men. The Italian Maurizio Pozzi, winner of Marcialonga 1996, was able to animate the public with a long escape (maximum advantage 1 minute and 20 seconds), that ended up only after 35 kilometers when the participants passed through Moena for the second time. It was at this point that the race got to its heart with a quartet of athletes, the Italian Giorgio Di Centa, Joergen Aukland and Anders Aukland, and the Swede Daniel Tynnel who were able to gain some metres of advantage on the following group containing many of the best athletes. They passed first through the cross-country World Championships 1991 and 2003 stadium of Lago di Tesero.

The uphill at Cascata was again decisive for the race. The final attack of Anders Aukland began in Masi di Cavalese, while the Italian Giorgio Di Centa had to stop to wax his skis, after the first metres of the Cascata climb. The Norwegian went on only with his arm strength and so he was able to keep some precious seconds advantage although Di Centa was closing strongly. Aukland arrived first at the finishing line in Cavalese, 19 seconds in front of the Italian Di Centa, and 42 seconds before the second Norwegian Joergen Aukland, his younger brother, who had won the previous running of the race. In fourth place came the German Andreas Schluetter, with a gap of two minutes behind the first group. He arrived before the policeman Gianantonio Zanetel, who achieved his best result in the Marcialonga.

For Anders Aukland, 31 years old athlete from Oslo, this was the fifth success in the World Cup. It was a solitary race in the women's category with the Italian Gabriella Paruzzi who, after a quiet start, increased her lead over the Ukrainian Valentina Shevchenko and the German Manuela Henkel kilometre after kilometre. For Gabriella Paruzzi, 34 years old champion from Tarvisio, the victory in Cavalese was her third of the World Cup season. In this way she managed to gain some important points over the Cup leader Kristina Smigun who didn't take part in the race and who had only 30 points advantage.

Fourth and fifth places went to the Russians Nagejkina and Savialova, with sixth place for the Swedish Elin Ek who preceded Cristina Paluselli from Fiemme.

The Marcialonga event went on with the arrival of the other few thousand athletes and amateurs who every year perform a unique and spectacular cross-country race in Fiemme and Fassa.



Podium of Vasaloppet 2006



Ladies podium of Birkebeinerrennet 2002



Gabriela Paruzzi, winner of World Cup 2004

The media interest Results in this competition was gigantic, with 65 International Journalists accredited and Live Production by RAI and broadcasting of the race in 7 different country in Europe.

Finally, let us turn to Sweden's Vasaloppet. During the years many asked "when will Vasaloppet be included in the World Cup?" Some persons said that Vasaloppet does not need the World Cup but the World Cup needs Vasaloppet.

Already in the mid 1990s Vasaloppet was listed in the World Cup calendar but the Swedish Ski Association did not support the idea.

The time came however in 2006 and Vasaloppet was a part of the World Cup programme. In planning also the Swedish Ski Games in Falun and a sprint in Borlänge a full week of World Cup skiing was completed in Dalarna. The support was enormous from many official institutions in Sweden and so were also the expectations. Now it was time to market Dalarna as a winter region. A tremendous planning was made by Rolf Hammar and his staff not to forget the Swedish Television SVT.

The women had their own race the day before the Vasaloppet with 15 000 participants. They started in Evertsberg at km 43 of Vasaloppet Marit Björ-gen got some revenge for the OWG in Pragelato and was able to win ahead of Hilde G. Pedersen and Petra Majdic (SLO). 39 athletes participated.

In the men's category the important decision had been taken that the World Cup would include all participants irrespective of national entries, FIS codes. Quotas etc. The winner thus got 100 WC points, prize money and so on. 2,400,000 spectators followed the 5 hour long TV programme. It was a little disappointing that so few true World Cup athletes competed. The best in this category was Anders Aukland (NOR) in third place and the next one Jaak Mae (EST) was 77th. The conclusion is that Vasaloppet is so demanding that the World Cup athletes do not have the time to prepare themselves specifically for this distance during the season.

I personally hope that once again popular cross-country events will appear in the World Cup calendar in the future.



◀ Gunde Svan together with Solveig and Bengt Erik Bengtsson



Daniel Tynell, the winner of Vasaloppet 2006

100 ski marathons of the world

Country	No for book	Name of the race	Location
North America			
USA	1	Yellowstone Rendezvous	West Yellowstone, Montana
	2	Mora Vasaloppet	Mora, Minnesota
	3	Pepsi Challenge	Biwabik, Minnesota
	4	Craftsbury Marathon	Craftsbury Common, Vermont
	5	Lake Placid Loppet	Lake Placid, New York
	6	Minnesota Finlandia	Bemidji, Minnesota
	7	Royal George's California Gold Rush	Soda Springs, California
	8	Tour of Anchorage	Anchorage, Alaska
	9	American Birkebeiner	Cable/Hayward, Wisconsin
	10	Boulder Mountain Tour	Sun Valley, Idaho
	11	Noquemanon Ski Marathon	Marquette, Michigan
Canada	12	North American Vasa	Traverse City, Michigan
	13	Gatineau Loppet	Hull, Quebec
	14	Canadian Birkebeiner	Edmonton, Alberta
	15	Kananaskis Marathon	Canmore, Alberta
	16	Les Aventuriers	Charlo, New Brunswick
	17	Canadian Ski Marathon	Lachute-Gatineau, Quebec
	18	The Great Labrador Loppet	Labrador City, Newfoundland
Argentina	19	Marcha Blanca	Ushuaia
Scandinavia			
Iceland	20	Fossavatn Ski Marathon	Isafjordur
Norway	21	Birkebeinerrennet	Rena-Lillehammer
	22	Holmenkollen Ski Marathon	Hakadal – Holmenkollen
	23	Skarverennet	Finsa-Ustaoaset
	24	Trysil Ski Marathon	Ostby
	25	Rennsfjellrennet	Storen-Vikvarvet
	26	Flyktningsrennet	Nordli-Gaddede
	27	Sesilami Loppet	Brokke-Sinnes
	28	Troll Ski Marathon	Venabu-Sjusjoen
	29	Svalbard Ski Marathon	Svalbard (Spitzbergen)
	30	Vasaloppet	Sälen-Mora
Sweden	31	Engelbrektsloppet	Norberg
	32	Skinnarloppet	Malung
	33	Orsa Grönklitt Marathon	Orsa Grönklitt
	34	Tornedalsloppet	Tornedal
	35	Finlandia-hiihto	Lahti
	36	Pirkan Hiihto	Niinisalo-Tampere
	37	Oulu Tervahiihto	Oulu
	38	Vuokatti-hiihto	Vuokatti
	39	Lapponia Ski Week	Olos
	40	Pogostan Hiihto	Ilomantsi
Estonia	41	Tartu Maraton	Otepää
Russia			
	42	Christmas ski marathon	Krasnogorsk
	43	Moscowskaya lygnja	Moscow
	44	Lygnja Rossii Marathon	Dmitrov
	45	Toxovo ski marathon	St.Petersburg
	46	Baikal ski marathon	Irkutsk
	47	Toljatti ski marathon	Toljatti
	48	Novovyatski Marathon	Kirov
	49	Europe-Azia ski marathon	Ekaterinburg
	50	Prazdnik Severa	Murmansk
	51	Marathon of Ioulia Tchepalova	Komsomolsk-na-Amur
	52	Avatcha Ski Marathon	Petropavlovsk-Kamchatski

Country	No for book	Name of the race	Location
Far East and Oceania			
China	53	Chinese Vasaloppet	Changchun
Japan	54	Sapporo International Skimarathon	Sapporo, Hokkaido
	55	Miyasama Ski Marathon	Biei
	56	Asahikawa Vasa	Asahikawa
Australia	57	Kangaroo Hoppet	Falls Creek
New Zealand	58	Merino Muster	Waiorau
Eastern Europe			
Poland	59	Bieg Piastow	Jakuszyce
Czech Republic	60	Jizerska Padesatka	Bedrichov
	61	Karlův Beh	Boží Dar
	62	Sumavský Skimarathon	Bohemerwald
Slovakia	63	Biela Stopa	Kremnica
The Alps			
France	64	La Transjurassienne	Lamoura-Mouthé
	65	La Savoyarde	La Féclez
	66	La Foulee Blanche	Autrans
	67	La Traverse du Vercors	Col du Rousset-Corrençon
	68	Marathon de Bessans	Bessans
	69	L'Etoile des Saisies	Les Saisies
	70	La Transpyrénéenne	Plateau de Beille
	71	Marathon des Glières	Thorens
Germany	72	König Ludwig Lauf	Oberammergau
	73	Schwarzwald Marathon	Schonach-Hinterzarten
	74	Skadi Loppet	Bodenmais
	75	Kammlauf	Klingenthal
	76	Erzgebirgs Skimarathon	Oberwiesenthal
	77	Tannheimertal	Bad Hindelang
	78	Rennsteig Lauf	Oberhof
Italy	79	Marcia Longa	Moena-Cavalese
	80	Marcia Gran Paradiso	Cogne
	81	Pustertaler Skimarathon	Dobbiaco
	82	Gsiesertal Lauf	Val Casies
	83	Millegrobbe	Lavarone
	84	Marcia Campo Imperatore Di Gran Sasso d'Italia	L'Aquila
	85	Linguaglossa	Sicily
	86	Dobbiaco-Cortina	Toblach-Cortina
	87	La Galopéra	Viote Monte Bondoni
	88	La Sgambada	Livigno
	89	Marcia Bianca	Enego
Austria	90	Dolomitenlauf	Lienz
	91	Koasalauf	St Johann i Tirol
	92	Tauernlauf	Radstadt
	93	Skimarathon Saalfelden	Saalfelden
	94	Ramsauer Volksskilanglauf	Ramsau am Dachstein
	95	Ganghoferlauf	Leutasch
	96	Steirerlauf	Bad Mitterndorf
Switzerland	97	Engadin Skimarathon	Maloja-S-chanf
	98	Gommerlauf	Goms
Elsewhere			
Greenland	99	Arctic Circle Race	Sisimiut
Spain	100	Marxa Beret	Baqueira Beret

Russialoppet

How the Loppet-movement overflowed Russia or as, once having been plunged into Worldloppet, I became its captive forever.

Georgy Kadykov

The marathon ski movement overflowed Russia (USSR) in the early 1970s, the same years, as the majority of the countries of the Central Europe. Following the example of the Swedish Vasaloppet, the MVTU race (50 km classic) in Moscow, then the Prazdnik Severa Ski Marathon in Murmansk, the Super-marathon 70 km in Novosibirsk, the Asia – Europe- Asia race of 70 km in Miass (Sverdlovsk region) and the “Lygnja Rossii” in Moscow appeared on the programme.

The Tartu Marathon was very popular with skiers from the Soviet Union. In the 1980s even in my town of Dubna located 100 km from Moscow, out of 50 active skiers there were 10 racers who travelled to what was then the Estonian Soviet Socialist Republic to take part in that race. I was about 12-14 years old and I remember the stripes on the sleeves of the ski suits, which allowed the wearer to take an exclusive place on the start line. In those years everything was strictly controlled; a participant could wait for some years to move up from the distant thousands to the first starting pen.

Before “Perestroika” only Soviet National team members had an opportunity to participate in competitions abroad. Best known of these athletes, Ivan Garanin, won Vasaloppet and participated in Marcialonga. Up to 1991 there was no information in Russia about the Worldloppet association of ski marathons.

In 1991 Marcialonga became a “window” into the Worldloppet for Russian amateurs when two delegations “Dynamo” and the Moscow State Universi-

ty arrived in Italy. For the first time, I got my hands on the Worldloppet Year-book during that visit. From that moment, together with Sergey Ignatov, my friend and colleague in Russialoppet, I had a new purpose in a life - to become a WL Master. And then it has twirled ... 1992 Finland and Norway, 1993 Canada and USA, 1994 France, Sweden and Switzerland, 1995 Austria and Germany

Sergey outstripped me by one year because of the cancellation of Dolomitenlauf in 1994. We were the first Russian skiers and visitors in the history of the majority of WL “villages”, helping us to find familiar faces and friends among the race organisers, gaining access to invaluable experience and knowledge.

During this period, in the beginning of the 1990s, in Russia there were no “private” commercial races, only the state-organised Lygnja Rossii, Prazdnik Severa and Europe - Asia. These competitions were well organized, but their spirit and atmosphere were different from Worldloppet. And Sergey and I were enthused with our desire to show our compatriots the world of Worldloppet and to demonstrate the thrill which we received from participation in Worldloppet races. We started to take groups of friends and athletes to races. And then we decided to make in Russia something beautiful and similar to WL-competition. In 1994 Sergey and I accordingly initiated the Christmas Race in Krasnogorsk and the Nikolov Perevoz Marathon in Dubna.

The impetus towards the birth of the Russialoppet idea came through the magazine “Ski track” owned by Boris Prokopyev, journalist and also editor of “Running and us” magazine. In one of the first issues of his magazine Boris published the calendar of all the open amateur races. Having noted that

RUSSIALOPPET Races 2008 (Tour de Russialoppet)					
	Name	Place	Date	Distance	Style
1	Christmas ski marathon	Krasnogorsk	1/7/2008	50	F
2	Race of V.Kuzin and L.Baranova	Moscow	1/27/2008	50	CL
3	Moscowskaya lygnja	Moscow	2/3/2008	50	F
6	Nikolov Perevoz	Dubna	2/10/2008	51	F
4	Lygnja Rossii Marathon	Dmitrov	2/17/2008	50	F Grand-prix Russialoppet 2008
5	Toxovo ski marathon	St.Petersburg	2/24/2008	53	CL Grand-prix Russialoppet 2008
7	Toljatti ski marathon	Toljatti	3/2/2008	50	F Grand-prix Russialoppet 2008
8	Baikal ski marathon	Irkutsk	3/2/2008	52	CL
9	Europe-Azia ski marathon	Ekaterinburg	3/9/2008	60	F Grand-prix Russialoppet 2008
10	Marathon of Alexander Zavjalov	Moscow	3/9/2008	60	F
11	Race of MVTU	Moscow	3/16/2008	50	CL
12	Demino Ski Marathon	Rybinsk	3/16/2008	50	F
13	Marathon of “Dvigatel”	St.Petersburg	3/30/2008	51	F
14	Prazdnik Severa ski marathon	Murmansk	4/6/2008	50	F Grand-prix Russialoppet 2008
15	Marathon of Ioulia Tchepalova	Komsomolsk-na-Amur	4/13/2008	50	F
16	Avacha ski marathon	Kamtchatka	4/20/2008	60	F Grand-prix Russialoppet 2008

there were marathons among the shorter races, I was stupefied- here is the Cup of marathons! I got a paper and made a Draft of the Calendar and Rules... It was in 1996, and the first prize-giving took place already in 1998 in Murmansk.

And so the Russialoppet was born ...

In 2008 there is a 10th anniversary incorporating the best marathons of Russia into the common calendar. 8 from 16 Russialoppet members races will be included in the FIS calendar. There are about 35 thousand people taking part every year at all distances, from 5 km up to 60 km, and those who finish the main distances get stamps in their Russialoppet passport. The Russialoppet Cup is open to masters (veterans). And the Grand Prix of Russialoppet is organised for elite races over 6 races.

I am sure that we have managed to transfer to the Russian skiers that same strong feeling which Worldloppet has made upon us.

Within the last 20 years Russia has changed tremendously... We now have a new aim with our Russialoppet team-mates. The time has come for Russia to enter into the Worldloppet. The time has come for our foreign cross-country friends to take part in Russialoppet.

Podium of Russialoppet
Grand Prix 2007

▼ Prazdnik Severa marathon
of Murmansk in 2007

Georgy Kadykov and Jaak Mae at
Kamtchatka ski marathon with
Estonian fan club in 2007



Constitution and Rules of Worldloppet

CONSTITUTION OF NON-PROFIT ASSOCIATION WORLDLOPPET SKI FEDERATION

1. Name of the Non-profit Association and Relations to Other Organisations
 - 1.1 The name of the non-profit association (hereinafter the Association) is non-profit association Worldloppet Ski Federation (Mittetulundusühing Worldloppet Ski Federation – in Estonian).
 - 1.2 The non-profit association Worldloppet Ski Federation is a sovereign non-profit association that is independent of any other associations.
2. Location and Financial Year of the Association
 - 2.1 The Association is located in the Republic of Estonia, City of Tartu.
 - 2.2 The financial year of the Association begins on April 1 and ends on March 31.
3. Objectives of the Association
 - 3.1 The objectives of the Association are the following:
 - 3.1.1 To promote the popularity of cross-country skiing by organising quality long- distance popular races throughout the world.
 - 3.1.2 To recognise dedicated long distance cross-country skiers who have completed the required number of Worldloppet races during their lifetime and have become Worldloppet Masters.
 - 3.1.3 To encourage the elite cross-country skiers to participate in Worldloppet races.
 - 3.1.4 To promote friendship among skiers of different nations, thereby strengthening peace in the world.
 - 3.1.5 To annually determine, in conjunction with the International Ski Federation (FIS), the best long-distance cross-country skiers in the world.
 - 3.1.6 To grant trainee and/or sports scholarships to support the purposeful development of the Association.
 - 3.2 The Association shall achieve these objectives through the following:
 - 3.2.1 By supervising and co-ordinating provision of well-organised races to large numbers of participants of various ages and abilities by the members of the Association.
 - 3.2.2 By selling Worldloppet passports to the skiers to be stamped for each completed race as a confirmation of the completion of the race and as an attractive memento of the race to each participant.
 - 3.2.3 By awarding Worldloppet Masters with medals of merit, in order to recognize that the skier has fulfilled all requirements to Worldloppet Masters.
4. Membership, Admission of New Members, Membership Fee
 - 4.1 The members of the Association shall be legal entities who organise long-distance cross-country races; applying a principle that only one member per nation is admitted.
 - 4.2 The applicant shall be an organiser of a traditional long-distance cross-country skiing race in its country that has gained sufficient popularity among local skiers.
 - 4.3 New members shall be admitted on the condition that they demonstrate as high standards in organising long-distance races as the founders, and do not have permanent financial difficulties.
 - 4.4 The membership application and the annexes thereof provided for in the document “Worldloppet Rules and Regulations”, approved by the General Meeting, shall be presented to the Secretary General.
 - 4.5 The General Meeting shall decide the acceptance of new members.
 - 4.6 The Association shall have a one-time entry fee, the amount and terms of payment of which shall be laid down by the General Meeting.
 - 4.7 The General Meeting shall lay down the amount and terms of payment of the membership fee for the next year.
5. Departure from the Association
 - 5.1 Any member of the Association shall have the right to leave the Association on the following conditions:
 - 5.1.1 After expiration of a term of two years for advance notice to the General Meeting (handing in one’s written resignation to General Meeting) and settlement of potential debts to the association.
 - 5.1.2 Before the expiration of a term of two years for advance notice in case such proposal has been made by the Executive Committee and approved by the General Meeting.
6. Exclusion from the Association
 - 6.1 A member may be excluded from the Association with the resolution of the General Meeting for the following reasons:
 - 6.1.1 Upon failure to adhere to the Constitution.
 - 6.1.2 Upon causing significant damage to the reputation of the Association.
 - 6.1.3 Upon non-payment of the annual membership fee for two years.
7. Rights and Obligations of the Members
 - 7.1 A member of the Association shall be entitled to:
 - 7.1.1 Participate in the activities of the Association in the manner provided for the present Constitution.
 - 7.1.2 Submit proposals and/or inquiries to the Management Board, Secretary General, Executive Committee and/or the General Meeting in the matters concerning the activities of the Association.
 - 7.1.3 Promote Worldloppet passports and symbolics.
 - 7.2 A member of the Association shall be obliged to:
 - 7.2.1 Adhere to the present Constitution.
 - 7.2.2 Pay entry and membership fees in the amount and on the terms as specified in the Constitution.
 - 7.2.3 When organising Worldloppet long-distance cross-country skiing member races, be guided by the “Worldloppet Rules and Regulations” and the rules established by the International Ski Federation, in case the latter are applicable to the Worldloppet race and are not at variance with the requirements laid down in the “Worldloppet Rules and Regulations”.
8. General Meeting and Calling of the General Meeting
 - 8.1 The General Meeting shall be the highest body of the Association. The Association shall hold one regular annual General Meeting, hereinafter referred to in this Constitution as the Annual General Meeting. Other general meetings of the Association shall be called Special General Meetings.

- 8.2. The members of the Association shall organise the Annual General Meeting in rotation.
- 8.3. As a rule, the Annual General Meeting is held in June. The members participating in an Annual General Meeting shall approve the country and proposed time of the Annual General Meeting to take place in two years' time by simple majority.
- 8.4. The General Meeting is competent to adopt resolutions if at least two-thirds of the members of the Association are present.
- 8.5. Only a member of the Association shall have the right to participate in the General Meeting. Each member of the Association shall have one vote.
- 8.6. The General Meeting shall decide all matters concerning the management of the Association, which have not been placed in the competence of the Management Board, Secretary General or the Executive Committee by the present Constitution or law.
- 8.7. Notice of the Annual General Meeting along with the exact time and location shall be given by the Secretary General (Management Board) at least 60 days in advance. The agenda approved by the Management Board shall be sent to the members at least 30 days in advance of the Annual General Meeting.
- 8.8. A Special General Meeting shall be called by the Secretary General (Management Board) at his/her discretion or if this is requested in writing by at least 1/10 of the members of the Association. The Management Board shall give notice of the Special General Meeting to the members at least 30 days in advance of the Special General Meeting.
9. Competence of General Meeting
 - 9.1. The General Meeting is competent to:
 - 9.1.1. Admit new members.
 - 9.1.2. Amend the Constitution.
 - 9.1.3. Adopt and amend the "Worldloppet Rules and Regulations".
 - 9.1.4. Establish the amount of the entry and membership fees for the Association.
 - 9.1.5. Decide on dissolution, merger and division of the Association, as well as decide upon proposal of the Executive Committee on foundation of a branch office of the Association - the Representative Office of Worldloppet Ski Federation.
 - 9.1.6. Approve of the reports of the Secretary General (Management Board) and the budgets.
 - 9.1.7. Evaluate the work of the Management Board (Secretary General).
 - 9.1.8. Remove and appoint the Secretary General and members of the Management Board.
 - 9.1.9. Approve of the members of the Executive Committee nominated by the regions.
 - 9.1.10. Approve Departure from the Association.
 - 9.1.11. Exclude from the Association
10. Resolution of General Meeting
 - 10.1. A resolution of the General Meeting is adopted if at least two-thirds of the members of the Association present at the meeting vote in favour.
11. Amendments to the Constitution
 - 11.1. A resolution of amending the Constitution is adopted if over two-thirds of the members present at the General Meeting are in favour.
 - 11.2. The resolution of altering the objective of the Association is adopted if all members of the Association are in favour. The consent of the members who were not present at the General Meeting shall be submitted in writing.
12. Management Board and Secretary General
 - 12.1. Member(s) of the Management Board shall be elected by the General Meeting for a term of four years.
 - 12.2. The Management Board shall have one or two members, one of whom shall ex officio be the Secretary General. In case the Management Board of the Association has two members, the Secretary General shall be the Chairman of the Management Board. One Member of the Management Board shall by Law be a permanent resident of Estonia.
 - 12.3. The Secretary General shall be elected by the Annual General Meeting for a term of four years.
 - 12.4. The precise procedure for putting up candidates to the office of the Secretary General and electing the Secretary General is laid down in the "Worldloppet Rules and Regulations".
13. Competence of the Management Board (Secretary General, in case the Management Board has only one member):
 - 13.1. Hear the opinions and suggestions of the Executive Committee and implement its decisions.
 - 13.2. Set up working parties for dealing with and solving joint tasks and problems.
 - 13.3. Provide the members of the Association with necessary information concerning management of the Association.
 - 13.4. Present annual account of the Association to the General Meeting for approval.
 - 13.5. Present the activity plan and draft budget for the coming year to the General Meeting for approval.
 - 13.6. Implement the resolutions of the General Meeting and manage the business of the Association.
 - 13.7. Manage the assets of the Association.
 - 13.8. Decide on which jobs shall be paid for, define salaries of the employees and decide on the payment of bonuses according to and not overcoming the budget.
 - 13.9. Perform other tasks, which are not placed within the competence of the Executive Committee or the General Meeting pursuant to the present Constitution or law.
 - 13.10. Make efforts for finding and contracting potential sponsors.
14. Resolutions of the Management Board
 - 14.1. The Management Board is competent to adopt resolutions if over one-half of the members of the Management Board are present at the meeting of the Management Board.
 - 14.2. A resolution of the Management Board is adopted with a majority of votes of the members of the Management Board present at the meeting of the Management Board.

15. Executive Committee
- 15.1. The Executive Committee shall be set up for supervising, supporting and assisting the Secretary General (Management Board). The Executive Committee shall be an advisory body for the General Meeting.
- 15.2. The Executive Committee shall have three members who are not elected to the office but are appointed by the members of the Association from the regions as follows:
 - One member of the Executive Committee shall be appointed by the member associations registered in the Scandinavian countries (Finland, Sweden, Norway, Estonia and other members in that region);
 - One member of the Executive Committee shall be appointed by the member associations registered in the Central European countries (Germany, France, Italy, Switzerland, Austria, the Czech Republic and other members in that region);
 - one member of the Executive Committee shall be appointed by the member associations registered in the overseas countries (USA, Canada, Australia and Japan and other members from outside Europe).
- 15.3. The members of the Executive Committee shall be appointed for a term of four years. A principle is applied that changing of the membership shall take place two years after the election of the Secretary General.
- 15.4. The Executive Committee may propose to the General Meeting to found a branch office of the Association - the Representative Office of Worldloppet Ski Federation - to the country of residence of the elected Secretary General.
- 15.5. The branch office of the Association - Representative Office of Worldloppet Ski Federation - shall not be an independent legal entity. The duration of activities of the Representative Office of Worldloppet Ski Federation shall be the duration of office of the elected Secretary General in the country of his residence.
- 15.6. The managing bodies of the Representative Office of Worldloppet Ski Federation shall be the managing bodies of the Association (Secretary General, Management Board, Executive Committee and General Meeting), who fulfil their duties towards both, the branch office as well as Worldloppet Ski Federation, according to their power of authority.
16. Supervision
- 16.1. The General Meeting shall supervise the activities of the Secretary General, the Management Board and the Representative Office.
- 16.2. The General Meeting may call for an audit to audit the financial activities of the Association.
17. Assets of the Association
- 17.1. The assets of the Association shall be composed of:
 - 17.1.1. Entry and membership fees.
 - 17.1.2. Donations and grants having pecuniary value. The Association shall not be entitled to alter the purpose of any purpose-oriented donations and grants.
 - 17.1.3. Income gained in publishing and distributing publications of the Association and income gained in organising gainful events and other activities in compliance with the statutory objectives of the Association.
- 17.2. The assets of the Association shall be managed, used and disposed of by the Management Board.
18. Dissolution of the Association
- 18.1. The Association shall be dissolved:
 - 18.1.1. Upon decrease of the number of members of the Association to below three.

- 18.1.2. Upon the inability of the General Meeting to elect the Secretary General.
- 18.1.3. Upon the inability of the Association to execute its statutory objectives.
- 18.2. Dissolution of the Association may always be decided by a resolution of the General Meeting.

19. Distribution of Assets of the Association upon Dissolution
- 19.1. After satisfaction of all claims of creditors and depositing the money, the remaining assets shall be transferred to any non-profit association that has similar statutory objectives. The Secretary General and the Executive Committee shall lay down the procedure for transferring the remaining assets.

The present Constitution has been compiled in English and Estonian, having equal legal effect (in case of any disputes, the English variant shall prevail). The Constitution has been approved by the Founders at the Foundation Meeting in Morez, France, on this 10th day of June, 2001.

WORDLOPPET RULES AND REGULATIONS

Article I

GENERAL REGULATIONS

- 1.01 Name: The name of this organization shall be Worldloppet Ski Federation. (Hereinafter referred to as Wordloppet).
- 1.02 The official languages of the organization shall be English and German. Internal communication shall be in English.
- 1.03 Logo: The Wordloppet shall have a Logo that has been approved by at least two-thirds of its members who may change or modify this Logo from time to time at the General Meeting.
- 1.04 Flag: The Wordloppet shall have an official flag that displays its logo and shall be shown at all Wordloppet races and at the General Meeting as well as at any other official Wordloppet gathering or function. The flag shall be attractively designed and may be changed from time to time at the General Meeting.

Article II

AFFILIATION WITH INTERNATIONAL SKI FEDERATION

- 2.01. Worldloppet shall be independent of any other organization.
- 2.02 In order to keep a consistently high standard and uniformity in cross-country ski racing, the member races shall recognize and honour FIS rules, when applicable, and not in conflict with the Worldloppet rules.

Article III

MEMBERSHIP

- 3.01 The Worldloppet shall consider membership of only one race from any nation. The race organization must meet the high standards of quality, which are evidenced by the other Worldloppet races. Any member must demonstrate financial stability and the popularity among its local skiers.
- 3.02 If a Worldloppet member has not fulfilled the intent for admission to Worldloppet (article 4.03) for 3 consecutive years, it will have to comply with the Executive Committee's corrective action plan. This includes, but is not limited to, the quality of the events, geographic inclusion, growth in participants, fulfillment of financial and reporting obligations, etc.
- 3.03 If a Worldloppet member has not fulfilled the Executive Committee's corrective action plan, the AGM will decide on its Worldloppet membership.
- 3.04 Any new member admitted shall be required to pay an initial once-only fee which shall be established by the General Meeting.

- 3.05 Each member shall be charged an annual fee in order to cover the financial interests of the Worldloppet organization. This fee shall be set forth annually at the General Meeting. Any member, who has outstandings in the payment of the annual fee shall be denied voting rights until the outstandings are settled. If a member has a two year debt of the annual fees it will result in expulsion from the organization if approved by a two-third vote by the members at the General Meeting.
- 3.06 Voting:
- 1) Each member race shall have one vote regardless of the size of the race.
 - 2) No proxies shall be allowed under any circumstances.

Article IV

NEW MEMBERS AND MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR ADMISSION TO WORLDLOPPET

- 4.01 Principle:
Only one race per nation shall be admitted to the Worldloppet.
- 4.02 Admission criteria for new members:
Adequate proof must be submitted that the applicant clearly represents the major event in the nation concerned and that it is the choice of the National Ski Federation which represents this race.
- 4.03 Minimum requirements for admission to Worldloppet:
- a) The distance of the race must be at least 50 km. For races held at an altitude of or above 1,500 metres sea level, the minimum distance is 42 km.
 - b) The race must have taken place at least 3 consecutive times before a request for admission can be submitted.
 - c) The total number of skiers participating in and completing the entire distance of the main race must have exceeded 1,000 in each of at least 3 previous years. However, Worldloppet General Meeting may take well founded exceptions, in order to promote cross-country skiing in that special geographical region.
 - d) It must be guaranteed that the race takes place annually at the same date, but this date should not be in conflict (if possible) with an already established Worldloppet race.
 - e) The recording of the results must be done on a computer system.
 - f) The secretary of the race must be available during the entire year to answer correspondence and telephone calls. Fax and Internet connection are necessary.
 - g) It must be guaranteed that participants from all Worldloppet nations can participate at the race without having any visa or admittance problems.
 - h) It must be also guaranteed that the skiers of all Worldloppet nations are able to travel to all Worldloppet races without having any difficulties in leaving the country or visa problems.
 - i) In any other case, the official rules and the constitution of Worldloppet have to be observed.
- 4.04 Procedure for Admission
- a) The following documents must be presented to the Secretary General:
 - a written application by the responsible organization (legal entity), which would like to be admitted;
 - a supporting letter from the National Ski Federation, confirming their choice of this race for representing their

country in Worldloppet (this should be sent by the National Ski Federation to the Secretary General);

- the official results of the main race of the last three competitions.
- b) An applicant is required to invite 3 delegates of Worldloppet, including at least 1 popular skier, for 3 days in order to inspect the race. All expenses (travel, accommodation and meals) have to be paid by the applicant.
 - c) Following the inspection, the decision of admission will be made at the next Worldloppet General Meeting based upon the report of the delegates.
 - d) A one-time entry fee of 13.000,0 EURO has to be paid by the applicant upon acceptance in order to cover the costs for changing various printed material, medals, flags, passports, etc.

Article V

WORLDLOPPET RACES

- 5.01 Responsibilities:
It shall be the responsibility of each individual member organization to provide a safe and efficiently organized race in general accordance with the FIS rules. A current edition of the FIS rules for cross-country ski races and the Worldloppet Rules and Regulations shall always be available at every race office.
- 5.02 Race dates:
Each member must submit a tentative race date for the following two seasons in writing to the Secretary General. All race organizers shall endeavour to avoid duplication of dates and work closely together with other races in their respective geographical region to promote the Worldloppet world-wide.
- 5.03 Substitution of races:
Substitute race dates cannot be considered.
- 5.04 After AGM has approved the next season's calendar, the members are not allowed to change their race distance or location of the start and/or finish places or to add into the programme new accompanying races, valid for a Worldloppet stamp, except in case of extreme weather conditions.
- 5.05 Shortening of races:
In case Worldloppet (main or short) race is shortened or altered due to bad weather conditions, the race will remain valid for a Worldloppet stamp.
- 5.06 Technical Delegates (TDs) shall be appointed by FIS from a list of qualified TDs having a specialisation in popular racing and, wherever possible, experience and knowledge of Worldloppet races.
- 5.07 Accommodation:
Each WL member shall provide free accommodation for at least 2 persons for 2 nights during their race for the official delegations of the other WL members. Official delegations shall consist only of members or VIP-s of the organizing committees of WL races.
- 5.08 Free starting fees:
Each member has the right to receive five free starting tickets at each other race, the entry has to be made by the office of the respective member.
- 5.09: Doping control.
Every Worldloppet member must:

- a) invite their national doping agency in order to carry out doping tests during their race.
- b) ensure that all necessary facilities are available at their race to ensure doping tests can be carried out.

Article VI

PROMOTION

- 6.01 Each member shall take all necessary steps to ensure that the ideas of Worldloppet and FIS Marathon Cup are commercialized effectively at their race.
- 6.02 At each individual event advertisement material for Worldloppet shall be available in the language of the respective host nation.
- 6.03 Each member shall send results to the Secretary General in printed and digital format, together with copies of relevant advertising material and newspaper cuttings.
- 6.04 Each member shall make supreme efforts to promote the popularity of Worldloppet through information to the racers and the media. Each member shall also provide press releases of the standings of the respective Worldloppet elite skiers from time to time as the season progresses.
- 6.05 Each member is obliged to register participating Worldloppet Passport holders, arrange a reception for Worldloppet Masters and announce it officially in the race programme and other information materials.
- 6.06 Each member race is recommended to ensure the possibility of registration for the race via Internet and to pay the entry fee with credit card.
- 6.07 Results and Information.
Each member is obliged to ensure the following:
 - a. actual latest information about the race is immediately published on its web-site and as a news on Worldloppet web-site;
 - b. the web-site contains a link for press information.
 - c. the preliminary start list of elite skiers and the whole current start list are published at least 1 week before the race on its web-site.
 - d. the unofficial result list of a minimum 30 male and 30 female racers, the photos of the female and male winners and a press release both in native language and English are published on the race's web-site within 2 hours after the finish of the winner and by 15.00 by the local time at the latest
 - e. the unofficial complete result list is published on the race's web-site within 12 hours after closing of the finish.

Article VII

THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE ORGANIZATION

- 7.01 The highest authority of this organization is the General Meeting.
- 7.02 The management of the organization shall be delegated to the Secretary General.
- 7.03 As support and supervision for the Secretary General an Executive Committee shall be established consisting of one representative from Scandinavia, Central Europe and Overseas (Asia, North America and Australia). The members of this committee shall not be elected at the General Meeting but are appointed by their respective regions for a term of four years. Changes in the membership shall wherever possible take place during the middle of the term of office of the Secretary General.

Article VIII

SECRETARY GENERAL

- 8.01 Term of Office:
The term of office for the Secretary General shall be four years. The Secretary General's term may be extended for one year or he may be re-elected for an additional four year term.

8.02 Electoral Procedure:

- a. Election for the office of Secretary General shall take place at the appropriate General Meeting.
- b. The Secretary General shall be voted for as a person and not the member race. An assistant should also be available to the nominee in order to carry on business in case of illness.
- c. Before the 4-year term of office of the Secretary General has expired, the Executive Committee shall prepare a list of 2 candidates agreeing to accept nomination.
- d. All candidates nominated should be individuals dedicated to the positive future of Worldloppet and with a background in business along with the ability to coordinate and direct an international organization such as Worldloppet.

8.03 Duties of the Secretary General:

- a. The Secretary General shall be responsible for the administration and operation of the organization.
- b. In the execution of these duties the policies, as established for this organization, must be observed.

8.04 Salary:

The Secretary General shall not receive any salary for the execution of his office however reasonable expenses shall be reimbursed.

- 8.05 The Secretary General may employ an assistant for a reasonable salary for the work for Worldloppet.

Article IX

MEETINGS

- 9.01 The General Meeting (Annual or Special General Meeting) shall be the highest body of the Association. The Association shall hold one regular annual General Meeting, hereinafter referred to in these Worldloppet Rules and Regulations as the Annual General Meeting.
- 9.02 Each member has the right to speak at the General Meetings, using the official languages. If a member does not speak one of the official languages, he must make his own arrangements for a translation into English or German.
- 9.03 The Secretary General must ensure that the proposals for constitutional amendments, additions or deletions are forwarded to each member in writing at least thirty (30) days prior to the General Meeting.
- 9.04 Conduct of the General Meetings:
 - a. The first order of business shall be the election of the Chairman from the attending members to preside over this particular meeting.
 - b. The purpose of this election is to enable full participation of the Secretary General in the business of the meeting. It also gives each member the chance to express themselves more freely about the conduct of the organization in regard to past events or planned future events in a positive or negative way.
- 9.05 Voting:
Unless otherwise specified in the Constitution of this organization voting shall be decided by two-thirds majority vote.
 - a. Each member race shall have one vote regardless of the size of the race
 - b. No proxies shall be allowed under any circumstances
 - c. Amendments of the Constitution require over two-thirds majority of the attending members.
 - d. The resolution of altering the objective of the Worldloppet require approval of all the members.
- 9.06 Quorum:
The presence of at least two-thirds of the members shall constitute the quorum. Where a lesser number is in attendance the meeting may be adjourned for a period of not more than three months from the date scheduled and the Secretary General shall cause a notice of this newly scheduled meeting to be sent to all members who

- were not present at the original meeting. A quorum shall be required at any adjourned meeting.
- 9.07 Annual General Meeting (AGM):
- The Annual General Meeting shall be rotated among the members and shall be held every year and generally in the month of June.
 - The site and date of each Annual General Meeting shall be decided by simple majority vote at the Annual General Meeting held two years in advance.
 - A notice of the Annual General Meeting must be sent to all members at least 60 days prior to the meeting date. A detailed agenda for that meeting must be forwarded a minimum of 30 days prior to the date.
 - Every member race shall attend the Annual General Meeting at their own expense.
- 9.08 Agenda of the Annual General Meeting:
- The agenda for the Annual General Meeting shall be prepared by the Secretary General. The agenda shall include at least the following items:
 - Election of Chairman
 - Financial report and budget planning
 - Technical interests
 - Calendar of the races for the next 2 years
 - Site of the next AGMs
 - Those members wishing to submit items for the agenda must send them to the Secretary General in writing at least 40 days prior to the meeting.
 - A detailed agenda for the Annual General Meeting must be forwarded a minimum of 30 days prior to the date.
- 9.09 Responsibilities of the host of the Annual General Meeting:
- The host member shall be responsible for all hotel and meeting arrangements. This has to be done in time to provide a notice together with an estimate of cost to each member at least 90 days before the meeting.
 - The host member shall be responsible for arranging a social calendar for evening events; it also should attempt to arrange daytime activities for visiting spouses.
 - If the host member has special arrangements with an airline they should try to assist overseas members with arranging the best possible fares.
 - No expenses for particular programme points, tours or other events shall be charged to Worldloppet, unless they are approved by a two-thirds majority of the members.
 - The host member shall find a secretary for the minutes in the official language of Worldloppet. The charges for this (travel excluded) shall be paid by Worldloppet.
- 9.10 Special General Meeting:
- Special General Meetings of the organization may be called by the Secretary General or on written request of at least one-tenth of the members setting forth the purpose of such special meeting. Each member must receive notice of a special meeting at least 30 days in advance.

Article X

WORLDLOPPET PASSPORTS - WORLDLOPPET MASTERS (GOLD AND SILVER)

- 10.01 Each cross country skier shall be able to buy a Worldloppet passport in which the Worldloppet races he/she has completed are certified.
- 10.02 Eligibility:
All cross country skiers world-wide are eligible.

- 10.03 Purchase of Passport:
The Worldloppet passport can be obtained at the office of the Secretary General or from any Worldloppet member race.
- 10.04 Fee:
The fee is decided at the Annual General Meeting (same price for gold and silver).
- 10.05 Worldloppet Gold Master:
After having completed the official races (main races) in 10 different countries, at least one of them overseas, the skier shall receive a diploma, confirming his/her status as a Worldloppet Gold Master. In order to receive this diploma the Worldloppet passport has to be mailed to the Secretary General. A Worldloppet Master also has the right to purchase a Master Medal at the office of the Secretary General.
- 10.06 Wordloppet Silver Master:
The Worldloppet also recognizes skiers who have completed the official short races (at least 20 km) in 10 different countries, at least one of them overseas. These skiers shall receive diplomas, confirming their status as Worldloppet Silver Masters. Skiers completing a mixture of 10 races (official main and short races) will be eligible to receive the Worldloppet diploma and medal in silver.
- 10.07 Silver and Gold pins:
Every new passport holder shall receive a pin from the Secretary General; a special gold pin shall be mailed to all new Worldloppet Gold Masters and a special silver pin to all new Worldloppet Silver Masters.

Article XI

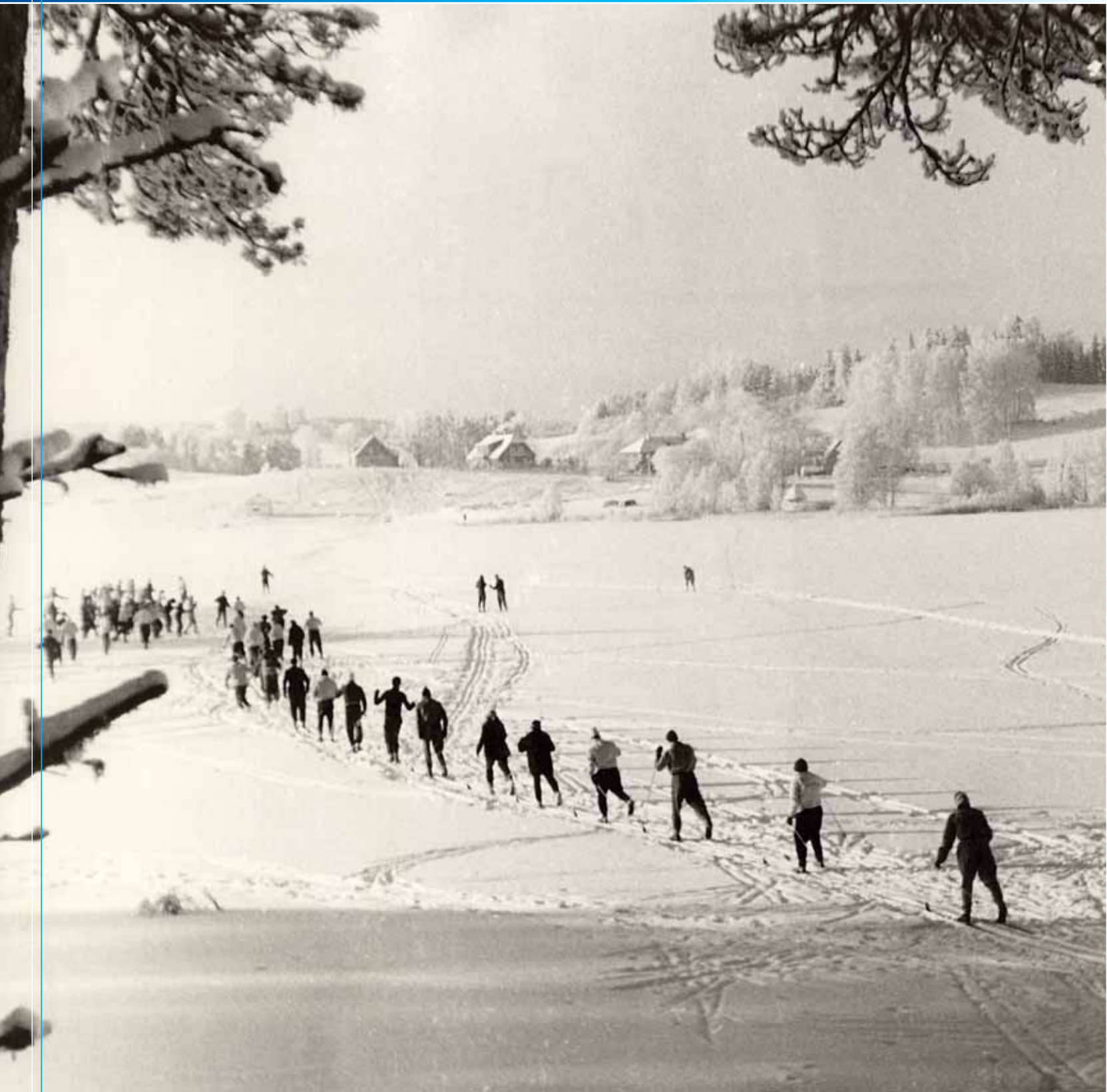
FIS MARATHON CUP

- 11.01 The Worldloppet organization shall work in partnership with FIS to promote an annual FIS Marathon Cup, based on the Worldloppet series of races.
- 11.02 The objectives of the FIS Marathon Cup are to improve the status of long-distance ski racing by attracting the world's best skiers to long distance races and to increase media and spectator interest in the Worldloppet races and in popular cross-country ski racing in general.
- 11.03 Rules for the FIS Marathon Cup are established by the FIS Sub-Committee for Popular Cross-Country Skiing, working in conjunction with the Worldloppet Management Board (Secretary General), and must be approved by both the Worldloppet Executive Committee and the FIS Cross-Country Committee. These rules may be amended from time to time with the agreement of both bodies.
- 11.04 Participants in the FIS Marathon Cup shall be registered on the official entry forms.

Article XII

WORLDLOPPET RULES AND REGULATIONS

- 12.01. Worldloppet Rules and Regulations shall be adopted and amended by the General Meeting according to the procedures for amendment of the Constitution.





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