



## Rovaniemi (FIN) stages memorable FIS Junior Nordic World Ski Championships

The future of Nordic skiing were all present in Rovaniemi, when the dynamic Finnish city, located right in the middle of the fascinating Lapland 800 km's north of Helsinki, created a sensational venue for the 16<sup>th</sup> edition of the FIS Nordic Junior World Ski Championships since the event was inaugurated in 1990 in Les Saisies (FRA).

All competitions were staged in the spectacular Ounasvaara Ski-stadium 3,5 kms outside of Rovaniemi at the bottom of the Ounasvaara hill where Tanja Poutianen – winner of the 2005 FIS Ladies Alpine World Cup Giant Slalom and Slalom titles – had her first lessons. 380 athletes (227 in the Cross Country competitions, 71 in Nordic Combined and 82 in the Ski-Jumping competitions) from 31 nations took part in the event in which 20 nations earned positions in the top ten during the 15 competitions that were staged over the six-day period from 21<sup>st</sup>-26<sup>th</sup> March 2005. . It was the second time Finland has played host to the championships that had a total budget of 555,000 EURO

With two gold and two silver medals, Petter Northaug (NOR) stole most of the headlines in the Men's competitions while team-mate Petter Tande, who already revealed his talent at the FIS Nordic World Championships in Oberstdorf (GER) as expected earned two top spots on the podium. In the Ladies' events Norway also displayed their strength at junior level with Marte Elden capturing two gold medals and consequently it was no surprise that the Norwegians also ran away with the Marc Hodler Trophy in front of Russia and Finland. (The "Marc Hodler Trophy is a competition where nations are awarded

points according to the competitors position in the individual races and team placing in the team events, whereby a maximum of two competitors per nations may score points in the individual races.)

All cross country results from the FIS Nordic Junior World Ski Championships may be found here: [http://www.fis-ski.com/uk/604/1228.html?event\\_id=15406&cal\\_suchsector=CC](http://www.fis-ski.com/uk/604/1228.html?event_id=15406&cal_suchsector=CC) - Nordic Combined results can be traced here: [http://www.fis-ski.com/uk/604/1228.html?event\\_id=15404&cal\\_suchsector=NK](http://www.fis-ski.com/uk/604/1228.html?event_id=15404&cal_suchsector=NK) - and all Ski Jumping results are presented here: [http://www.fis-ski.com/uk/604/1228.html?event\\_id=15405&cal\\_suchsector=JP](http://www.fis-ski.com/uk/604/1228.html?event_id=15405&cal_suchsector=JP)

## FIS Snowboard Junior World Championships cancelled due to bad weather

The time had come for the young snowboarders to show off their talents in Big Air, Snowboardcross, Halfpipe and Parallel GS as Arosa (SUI) was scheduled to stage the FIS Snowboard Junior World Championships from 4-8<sup>th</sup> April. However, unfortunate weather conditions have forced FIS to cancel the event.

Extremely warm weather during the past days has made it impossible to complete the final design of the various runs and consequently FIS is unable to guarantee the organization of a safe and fair event.

## Vasaloppet and Changchun mark the innovations of new 2005/2006 FIS Cross Country World Cup schedule

If the Swedish long distance cross country competition "Vasaloppet" is already enjoying

a well established reputation that reaches far beyond Scandinavian borders, the race, which celebrated its 81<sup>st</sup> birthday on 6<sup>th</sup> March 2005 when Oscar Svärd triumphed with the smallest of margins in front of Martin Larsson, will gain an extra dimension in 2006 when it is included in the FIS Cross Country World Cup calendar for the first time.

When the FIS Cross Country World Cup schedule was approved by the FIS Council on 16<sup>th</sup> March the Swedish Ski Association expressed its pleasure, "It's extremely gratifying that we've been entrusted with organising a World Cup event" says Jan Palander, Swedish member of the FIS sub-committee for World and Continental Cups. No less than 16,000 cross country enthusiasts from across the world participate in the race which has been part of the FIS Marathon Cup for a number of years, but is now set to gain even further attention through its status as World Cup venue. Especially the Ladies are set to benefit from "Vasaloppet's" new status as they will now have their own edition of the famous competition. "With their own race, the ladies competition will have completely different exposure," says Palander. The FIS World Cup editions of "Vasaloppet" will take place on Saturday 4 March for Ladies with a 45 km long distance race and for Men on Sunday 5 March with the classic 90 km race.

In addition to Vasaloppet, Changchun (CHN) features as the other innovation in the FIS Cross Country World Cup schedule. Indeed for the first time in history, China will host a stage in the FIS Cross Country World Cup schedule which will be a major impact on the positive development of the sport in China which has already been very well received by the media and public. Changchun – a city with around 8 million inhabitants located 900 km north-east of Beijing - has already proved itself as a well-functioning cross country venue with a number of events held there earlier in the season. FIS is currently working with the Chinese Ski Association to give further guidance in how to prepare slopes, time keeping, administrating affairs, etc..

Dear Friends of FIS,  
Should you have any feedback, comments, you are most welcome to send them to me at: [frandsen@fisski.ch](mailto:frandsen@fisski.ch). "FIS Newsflash" will not only be distributed via e-mail but also be published in the News section of the FIS Website.

Best regards

Svend Frandsen  
INTERNATIONAL SKI FEDERATION  
Communications Manager