

NOKIA Snowboard FIS World Cup goes Dutch

After the NOKIA Snowboard FIS World Cup Opening in Valle Nevado (CHI) in September, it was time for the Netherlands to bid the FIS Snowboarders welcome when Landgraaf and Rotterdam hosted three events between 7th and 9th of October.

The Snowdome at Landgraaf which is the largest of six impressive indoor ski centres in the Netherlands has previously staged two Nokia FIS Snowboard World Cups and one FIS Alpine European Cup and this occasion certainly lived up to the success of the previous ones with 57 men and 56 ladies from 21 nations participating in two Parallel Slalom competitions.

No less than 20'000 spectators turned up in Rotterdam on 9th October when for the first time the Netherlands staged a NOKIA Snowboard FIS World Cup Big Air competition. Arranged in spectacular surroundings at the foot of the river Maas (see picture below), 48 athletes from 11 nations were carried across the river in small water-taxis to take part in a competition



which was arranged alongside a number of side-events to give the spectators a superb snowboard experience for the day.

Sestriere (ITA) to host Forum Nordicum

With the clock ticking down for the opening of the FIS Cross Country Skiing, Nordic Combined and Ski Jumping World Cups, members of the press, national ski associations, local organizing committees, the nordic ski industry, athletes and representatives of FIS will meet in Sestriere (ITA) between 17th-19th October during the 26th edition of the Forum Nordicum.

The idea of the Forum Nordicum was originally fostered at the end of the 1970's when three members of the International Sports Press Association (AIPS), Willy Ahstl (AUT), Bruno Moravetz (GER) and Werner Kirchhofer (GER) following the cancellation of a Nordic event in Oslo, decided to create a forum in which members of the media were able to meet with key representatives of the world of Nordic skiing in order to discuss issues of particular interest to the media. And so the inauguration of the Forum Nordicum took place in Ramsau (AUT) in 1980.

It's the first time that the Forum has been arranged at this altitude (approx. 2000 metres above sea level) and FIS represented by President, Gian-Franco Kasper, General Secretary, Sarah Lewis, Marketing and Communications Director, Christian Knauth as well as the FIS Race Directors for the Nordic disciplines Juerg Capol, Walter Hofer and Uli Wehling, will make various presentations and be at the media's disposal during the FIS Day of the 2005 Forum Nordicum.

Düsseldorf to stage FIS Cross-Country World Cup organizers' meeting

For Cross-Country Skiing supporters the waiting period comes to an end when Düsseldorf (GER) sets the stage for the first competitions within the FIS Cross-Country World Cup on 22nd and 23rd October.

During the event the bustling German city will also host a three-day seminar for all organizers of the FIS Cross-Country World Cup. Organizers will get a chance to discuss the current FIS Cross-Country World Cup rules but will also have the opportunity to get a first-hand impression on site about the organization of numerous aspects of a FIS World Cup event including the team-captain's meeting, the competition site, mixed zone set-up, prize giving ceremony, etc.. Presentations during the seminar will be given by chairman of the sub-committee for rules, Karl-Heinz Lickert, chief of race Georg Zipfel as well as television and marketing expert Roger Feiner. Organizers may at the same time venture into a dialogue with several FIS experts including committee members, experienced officials and Düsseldorf organizing committee representatives on the various issues which could provide additional guidelines on how to stage FIS Cross-Country World Cup competitions.

Speed Skiing Committee prepares for season

Representatives from 6 nations were present when members of the FIS Speedskiing Committee and guests including TDs, races organizers and racers assembled in Zurich during the FIS Technical Committee. The Committee which welcomed representatives from France for the first time reflected on rising interest from potential organizers and had the chance to discuss the proposed locations for the 2007 and 2009 FIS World Speedskiing Championships (Verbier (SUI) and Les Arcs (FRA) respectively).

The Committee also took the opportunity to discuss the costs of meeting FIS TD and calendar fees while some minor amendments to rules mainly to improve safety of racers while proposed at the last

meeting in Amsterdam were ratified, and will be published in the Rules on the FIS website.

FIS Academy Management Education Programme – FIS Congress 2006

The FIS Academy Management Education Programme is the first in a number of executive education courses to be provided by the Academy.

The programme consists of three tailored, 2-hour intensive modules. The content has been specifically tailored to meet FIS Family interests and to enable FIS management to understand industry best practice and better manage their increasingly complex areas of responsibility.

The three modules on offer at the 2006 Congress will be presented by leading Manchester Business School experts in the specific fields include:

Finance & Budgeting

- Understanding the balance sheet
- Profit and loss statements and analysis
- Preparing management forecasts & budgeting

Governance & Stakeholder Relations

- Measuring Corporate Governance Performance
- Directors Duties
- Proposal writing & reporting to Stakeholders/ Funding Agencies
- Communicating with Key Stakeholders

Sponsorship Procurement

- Develop a strategic proposal
- Understanding the value of your offer
- Ensuring potential sponsor values and interests are aligned with your team or event
- Managing the sponsor relationship

These modules are available to the FIS Family attending the 2006 Congress in Portugal and places will be limited on a first come first served basis. To register your interest in the FIS Academy Management Education Programme – FIS Congress 2006 contact: Rachael Sullivan at RSullivan@dom01.mbs.ac.uk or fax your details to +44 (0) 161 27 56455.

Oberhofen hosts top international football stars

The French national football team chose Oberhofen, headquarters to the International Ski Federation, as their base when they played Switzerland in a crucial qualification match for the 2006 FIFA World Cup Finals on Saturday 8th October. Glorious autumn weather greeted Zinedine Zidane and colleagues who enjoyed a leisurely stroll along the shores of the Lake of Thun as part of their pre-match preparation. Their memories of the match at the Stade de Suisse in Berne were probably less positive as the Swiss fought back to draw 1-1 with the 1998 world champions.

Dear Friends of FIS,

Should you have any feedback, comments, you are most welcome to send them to me at: 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

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