

From September 19-22, 2019 the annual meeting of The World Masters Cross-Country Ski Association took place in Canmore, Alberta, Canada. The board members of the most important ski destinations as well as the presidium had the opportunity to visit the venue of the Masters World Cup in 2021, being held from March 4-12. The organizers have created the best conditions for the various meetings and proved the competence of the main functionaries present. The competitions will be held in the spacious Canmore Nordic Center, best known for cross-country and biathlon World Cups. Already in 1995, Canmore hosted a Masters World Cup. Since then a lot has happened in Canmore. Many new hotels have been opened with a very good standard, but the resort itself has retained its natural and original charm amidst impressive and fascinating mountains.



WMA Delegation at Canmore Nordic Centre

The annual meeting of the WMA under the direction of President John Downing (Bend, OR / USA) included many points of discussion, with one major point being the re-election of the Executive Committee. President John Downing (USA) and Vice Presidents Klaus Pleyer (SUI) and Maya Chernenkaia (RUS) and Elisabeth Heckmann (SUI) as Treasurer were confirmed in their offices. The other previous Vice President Rolf Hammar (SWE) was no longer available after 8 years. Rolf Hammar was thanked for his many years of service with warm words of appreciation and applause. For him, Elisabeth Heckmann was elected unanimously. Rolf Hammar will continue to serve as Sweden's National Director. The nomination of Vladimir Speshilov as new National Direktor from Kazakhstan became confirmed unanimously.

Treasurer Elisabeth Heckmann (Hergiswil / CH) informed about the financial situation. She was granted unanimous discharge. As next year's auditors Tetyana Bilous (UKR) and Libor Koubek (CZE) were re-elected.

A proposal by Arne Stonor (DEN) regarding the composition of the relays was unanimously approved. This says that in the future only one racer of the youngest age group in a relay team must be used.

Another focus was to discuss organizational details of the next Masters World Cup from March 5-13, 2020 in Cogne / Aosta Valley, ITA. All important information, such as competition program, track maps, travel plans, accommodation and excursions can be found on the website of the organizer [mwc-2020.com](http://mwc-2020.com). Klaus Pleyer informed that the registration for the 40th MWC is open as of October 1<sup>st</sup> and can be exclusively made online via Datasport, [www.datasport.com](http://www.datasport.com).



Farewell of Rolf Hammar

In Albertville, the venue of the 1992 Winter Olympics, the 30th anniversary will be celebrated in 2022. That's why Les Saisies, the site where cross-country and biathlon competitions were held in 1992, has applied for the Masters World Cup 2022. The application and presentation of the five-member bidding committee was accepted unanimously by the WMA Board. At the next annual meeting in autumn 2020 in Les Saisies, all the locations that are important for the MWC, will be visited by the delegates.

In small working groups they also dealt with the topic of changing the competition program at the MWC. These options the National Directors will bring closer to their competitors during the coming months. At the meeting in Cogne, a suggestion will be made in the WMA Board.

With the renowned organizer of the Tartu Ski Marathon, Otepää / Estonia, for the first time a destination from the Baltic States applied for a Masters World Cup. The award for 2023 will take place at the next annual meeting in 2020. The Masters World Cups of the years 2024 and 2025 will take place in Central Europe, the MWC 2026 in Scandinavia. As per the rotation system Sweden is on turn.