BALANCE SHEET 2017/2018 -FRANCE-

                         The Earth is warming up. This is a good way to save our heating bill. It will in return increase your fuel consumption to get to your training places. Snow will become a rare commodity. Your passion will suffer the pangs of sunlight at the peak of their shape. This is the first thing that comes to mind at the beginning of the 2018/2019 season.

2017/2018 - it's back to school. Balance sheets have already been drawn and attention is turning to tomorrow. Yes, but what did we remember from yesterday?

By visiting the world championships masters, all sports, I see that masters are rising. They will be 4700 rowers. They are more than 5000 selected swimmers. At the athletics championships they were more than 10,000 in Lyon. In cycling they are 2500 after selections. However, all the sports I have seen show a much larger workforce than ours. The results and calendars are available on the internet through federal sites, sites dedicated to masters (worldwide) and sites created by interested parties. An abundance of information that is pleasing to see. A dynamic that blends perfectly with the current need to escape the contingencies of today. So together we need to give back to cross-country skiing and it will be in Beitostolen!

2017/2018 - The balance sheet is a freeze frame. A base from which one builds one's house. - MINNEAPOLIS 2018  The World Cross Country Masters Championships were held in Minneapolis, Minnesota, United States of America from January 19th to 28th, 2018.    The cross-country skier, a man of the woods par excellence, seems to have been stopped by the immediate proximity of the skyscrapers. A rejection that was not justified. The city on the horizon and its excesses, the calm of the courses and its beauties. The snow almost ruined everything. She was languishing, she skilfully played prudes. But when she arrived, what a pleasure. The course of 7km500 had been designed for the game. Small dynamic ribs, short but numerous, 28 on the 40kms, technical turns, without any straight line, always attentive, the skiers had fun. Especially for the 10 km, when Mother Nature in a surge of charity, see excessive goodness, dumped 25 cm of fresh snow, just to check the strength of the lower limbs. A control not necessarily useful for all, but o how exhausting! On long distances the wind not wanting to stay in the back played muscles. Coming from the warm and violent south he has hardened the race and softened the snow, we can not have everything.

Fewer people than usual, but still difficult to get into the top 10. A championship of good organizational quality. The welcome of volunteers always on top. Accommodation and food very well, if not lunch, under the tent provided for this purpose, which remained to absent subscribers! The pleasant slopes, the perfect transport, the trip a little long, the weather very irregular like the modern winters. An originality that it would be a shame not to reveal, the classic 40 km of Thursday. The track moving away, crossed a railway line. The peloton was split into 4 parts because of a train that passed by while it was not programmed? 4 parts, 4 rankings !!! We are back to the big hours of the Tour de France.    As for the France team, it did better than defend itself. Few in terms of unity (21), certainly, but motivated as ever. The results attest, 12th in the team ranking. Regarding the news, the sparkling presence and how useful Christophe Blanchet Nicoud, the medal of our relayers who for more than 10 years would run after the many medals MJ Chaumery and Pierre Marty, highlight the excellent results of the M9 in general , which in the absence of a unit would have made the podium in relay! JC Perraud and P Vignard grazing individual podiums. The M7 with JM Berliat and Gilbert Levrino infiltrating the clan closed the TOP 10 and Stéphane Cugnot teacher at the French high school in New York who is the first tricolor to test the week of 3 days, 2 races on Monday and a mini banquet at night!

Gathered at the Double Tree Hotel, the French were able to benefit from the proximity of each, the very definition of a team, the comfort of the hotel suite and the quality of the organization to create an excellent atmosphere that was beneficial to all. The south wind, warm as usual, rose violently on Friday. The snow was not happy at all, rebelled by refusing to slip. Then as the elements did not want to change, it melted! From the plane we could not see the tracks anymore. At one day, we would have finished in sneakers! -The "Frances" championships brought together all the Masters usually present. At Bessans at the end of March 2018, all the Masters were together for a big Nordic party. The organization of very high level allowed to federate all the competitors and to offer under a bright sun what is done better in sport masters

-The various races organized by the FFS have also allowed us to find ourselves throughout the winter. Yet by looking more closely, all these tests are indicative of a number of more or less alarming symptoms that concern us all. Participation numbers are down. Fortunately the association masters France remains the backbone to which we hang up. It solidifies the structure and we must be faithful to it. She played her role perfectly during the last exercise. All ideas are welcome. I even think that it would be good to gather them, to formalize them in a document which would make it possible to comment it during meetings or by Internet. The FFS, our national federation has never been closer to us. The subsidies allocated are substantial. -It remains the personal initiatives. Internships most of which are to credit André Grob. The last one took place at the Markstein and took place at the end of August. At All Saints' Day, the masters gather in Ramsau, on the Dachstein Glacier (Austria), still under the leadership of André. Others skied on the Tignes glacier in excellent conditions, then in December in Prémanon

Two meetings related to the World Masters Championships were held this month. - Sunday, July 22, a first meeting was held in Bessans town hall The purpose of this meeting is to present at the Bessans station (the specifications follow), the different important elements that will make it possible to have a day (2027 and +) the possibility to apply for a candidacy. For French Bessans founders remains a reference. Its assets are numerous, especially the tracks, its capacity to organize and the quality of its natural environment. It is through these candidatures and the promotion of images that they generate, that the French Nordic will be able to measure itself internationally. My wish is to bring together all the partners (practitioners, station managers, economists, associations, mayors, equipment and clothing suppliers, etc.) in order to come up with a coherent Nordic policy.        -Tuesday, July 29th, a second meeting took place in Les Saisies. The purpose of the meeting was to meet John Downing and prepare for the summer meeting scheduled for September 20-22 in Cognes. We were able to meet the needs in housing, meals (half-board prices), tracks, reception infrastructure in harmony with the specifications. Two people from Les Saisies will be present during the presentation of the file in Cognes. The file is already well advanced. It remains to manage the day of rest of Tuesday, and allow to celebrate with dignity the 30 years of the 1992 Olympics, by inviting the medal-winning actors to the Saisies 92.

-As part of the 50th anniversary of the Grenoble Olympics 68, many popular events allowed me to present the importance of the masters category within the French sport. GGrindler