

## French masters report for the year 2022

2022 will have been another year, for France, under the sign of the pandemic linked to covid 19, and this will have again greatly affected the cross-country ski season.

Two important events will have marked the calendar of the French Masters: the French Masters championships which took place in Champagny en Vanoise on February 5 and 6 (very close to the two very famous alpine resorts of Courchevel and La Plagne), and the Masters World Cup of Canmore which took place from March 5 to 11, 2022.



The French championships, which happened in cool but ideal conditions in terms of weather (beautiful snow and sunshine), saw around 80 athletes on Saturday in classic, and nearly 100 on Sunday in Freestyle competing for titles in the different categories, with a fairly high level for the first ranked athletes.

A few remarks on these championships very well organized by the local club and the resort of Champagny: a sharp drop in participation in these championships compared to previous editions before covid (the 2021 edition had been canceled, the 2020 edition had taken place in January), with 30 to 50% fewer participants (an observation which we also do for a large part of the races organized in France)



Women represent barely more than 10% of all participants: it is too few, and we will surely have to work in the future to have more women in our races and championships.

The other major event for the French Masters this winter will of course have been the MWC in Canmore, from March 4 to 11, 2022.

21 French athletes took part in this great annual event, with 14 medals won for our team, including one in gold (the first gold medal in the history of our nation in relay); exceptional images and memories for all present: what a superb region, what grandiose mountains, and what kindness of all the inhabitants or organizers.

Here again, we may be a little disappointed with the number of french participants, but the pandemic (again), the distance and the cost of this long trip, will probably have made many French people hesitate to make the trip.

There should be many more French people in Seefeld for the MWC 2023 !