

Report of the activities of the Nordic Masters France Season 2022-2023

After the cancellation of the summer camp scheduled in the Vosges at the end of August, preparation for the 2023 season began with the Ramsau am Dachstein camp from October 23 to 30, 2022.

Under the enlightened guidance of André Grob, our multi-medalist at the Masters World Cup (more than 70 medals to date, including a large part in gold), a dozen participants will have prepared on the glacier at an altitude of 2600m, in very good conditions, some skiing up to 350km in the week.

During the fall, from November 24 to 27, the technical training camp was held in Bessans (1750m above sea level).



This early-season course brought together more than 30 participants, all licensed FFS competitors, from many Committees (Pyrenees, Ain, Ile de France, Savoie, Dauphiné, Southern Alps, Mont Blanc, etc.). It was even an opportunity to recruit new members to the association.

We were accommodated at the Gîte "le petit Bonheur", located in the immediate vicinity of the tracks, which was unanimously approved by the participants.





In terms of snow cover, we were lucky, because in addition to the 3 km loop of snowfarming, other tracks had been opened (a smooth plane in the valley of L'Avérole, to the hamlet of Vincendières and also the loops of the plateau, towards the barn of Travérole and towards the Bessanaise), which allowed to do a lot of km on a track that required a lot of balance....

The 4 days were very full: We alternated the technical sessions either in Classic or in Skating. This year 2 instructors, Yann Gaudry and Franz Charrondière, both Members of the association and state graduates, brilliantly ensured the supervision of the various sessions.

After multiple course changes or race cancellations in January and February 2023, due to the mild winter and the lack of snow almost everywhere in France, the French Masters Championships were able to be held completely normally, on the resort of Champagny en Vanoise (Savoie), the weekend of February 25 and 26, and this for the second consecutive year.



More than a hundred Masters skiers met on this occasion, for 20km in classic on Saturday (and in very good weather and pleasant temperatures), and for 20km in skating on Sunday, facing a freezing breeze, and under increasingly heavy snowfall.

The podiums were presented in classic, free and combined by age and gender categories, in difficult conditions on Sunday (snow, wind and cold)



Finally, 55 French competitors met in Seefeld (near Innsbrück, Austria) for the Masters World Cup, from March 18 to 24, with also about thirty companions.

And there, as in France, very little snow (thanks to artificial snow!), and too high temperatures (no or very little frost) will have greatly complicated the task of the organizers, to maintain all the races to be organized in rather good conditions, throughout this week.



And the organizers will have done a remarkable job, both in terms of organization, preparation and grooming of the tracks: salt will have been very fashionable to keep tracks in good condition, especially for classic races.

Our French delegation returns with 9 medals, including 4 gold with André Grob, and especially Marie-Jo Chaumery who won 3 individual titles in the W AG11 category.

Congratulations to them, congratulations to our entire team, and finally a big thank you to the organizers for their fantastic work.

Gilbert LEVRINO
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FFS representative of the Esprit Racing section