



Editorial

Dear Speed Skating Friends,

in the speed skating season 2006/2007 we had a lot of wonderful competitions for the Masters, in Erfurt/GER, in Baselga di Pinè/ITA, in Davos/SUI, in Hamar/NOR, in Inzell/GER, in Berlin/GER, in Calgary/CAN and in Heerenveen/NED. We have to say heartily thanks to all organizers, organization committees, to all juries and other coworkers, in the most cases volunteers. They all did help that we could have excellent competitions and much fun during the competition days.

The largest event were the Masters' Games in Calgary/CAN during 4 days with 288 competitors. There was never such a big event for Masters in International Speed Skating. It was wonderful organized with a fine Welcome Drink at the beginning. Then the perfectly organized competitions followed. At the end of the great 4 competition days there was a phantastic victory ceremony with wonderful cups from glass for the winners and a fine buffet with domestic specialties in the largest night club of Calgary, the "Cowboys". And afterwards we got competent instructions in Line Dance for keeping us fit. All had a lot of fun. Thank you very, very much, Karrie Kreutz, Gregg Planert, Jock Wilson, with your large staff, for your tremendous successful work. The proof for Gregg Planert, that the competitions were a top event and very well conducted, is shown by the fact that nearly all Masters' International Records (IMSSC Records) were broken at the Games in Calgary, 93 IMSSC Records. Until now this did never happen.

In the next season 2007/2008 we will have four additional competitions, the Masters' International American Sprint in the icehall of Milwaukee/USA, the Masters' International Canadian Championships in the Olympic Oval of Calgary/CAN, the Masters' International Heerenveen Sprint in the famous icehall Thialf in Heerenveen/NED and the Grishin Memorial in Moscow/RUS in the Icehall Krylatskoye. And all the other competitions of the last season again will again be organized. I was especially delighted, that the Thuringian Ice Federation organizes not only the Masters Games in the coming season, but is ready to hold again the November competition Masters' Criterion besides the Games. Thank you for your readiness to organize both.

The IMSSC (International Masters' Speed Skating Committee) and the IMSSG (ISU Masters' Speed Skating Working Group) furtherence are working in the background for the further development of Masters' Speed Skating, also in cooperation with the ISU Council. You can find informations about their sessions and decisions in this ICEOVAL 2007 and extensively in the Internet under www.imssg.org and www.imssc.org .

Because of the growing number of competitions there probably will be a change in ICEOVAL, our International Masters' Speed Skating News, for 2008. You saw already that we needed a separate special issue of ICEOVAL for the announcements last year, as again this year. With four competitions more next year and the same scale of informations per competition (Results, Reports, Announcements) ICEOVAL would get too large and too expensive. Because in the meantime **90 % of the international competing Masters have an internet connection** we likely will issue **announcements, results and reports in future only in the internet** under www.imssc.org and www.imssg.org . Then ICEOVAL 2008 would contain only IMSSC Rules, IMSSC Records, List of the IMSSC Members, Ice Crystals – small important news and a report with results of the Masters' Games. And it could not be sent to all international competitors as before, it would have to be subscribed. But all informations published in ICEOVAL can also be found at our webpages www.imssc.org and www.imssg.org.

I wish you a fine and successful speed skating season 2007/2008 and hope to see you at one or several of our International Masters' Competitions.

Best regards,

Valter Serini