

## 5th Masters' International Single Distance Races 2007

Hamar/Norway, 13<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> January 2007

About 100 master skaters participated in this event in Vikingskipet, the unique ice rink which from the outside looks like an upside-down Viking ship and from the inside give a wonderful feeling of space. Unfortunately, the 8th Masters' International Meeting in Davos and the Single Distance Races in Hamar took place during same weekend, so most participants came from Norway, with the exception of three from Sweden, three from Italy and one from Spain.

The chief organizer, Vidar Skaar, and his friendly, experienced staff managed the event smoothly, as always allowing skaters to choose themselves which distances to skate. Thanks to the fact that two of the participants had sponsored the event, the temperature in the hall was higher than normal, which meant that conditions were perfect for setting new IMSSC records. The two exceptionally competent



announcers, Tore Andersen og Kjell Rune Kristiansen, added to the excitement by keeping us informed about possible new IMSSC records and new personal bests even while races were in progress.

Asier Peña Iturria from Spain (M30), now living in Oslo, with a solid background in inline skating but a mere novice on the ice, took full advantage of these good conditions, improving his personal bests to 42,90 – 2.05,41 – 7.31,74 and finishing his first ever 10K in 15.33,86, a new IMSSC record! He now holds all the Spanish speed skating records.

Picture 1: Asier Peña Iturria (right) receives congratulations from pair mate Gunnar Nyhus for his new 10K IMSSC Record in AG M30. (Photo: Sven-Åge Svensson)

The total results of the event was an enormous number of new personal bests as well as 13 IMSSC records, seven of which still stand after the end of the season: Martin Fagna (M75) amazingly set four new records: 50,87 – 2.38,16 – 9.46,13 and 218,584 points aggregate for 500, 1500, 3K and 5K; Erik Vea (M55) 41,80 – 2.04,85 and aggregate 174,074 points; Arne Kjell Foldvik (M70) 2.23,96 and 9.33,53; Ivar Amundsen (M55) 1.23,65; Ragnvald Næss (M50) 15.29,10; Ivar Njøs (M40) 37,81 and Asier Peña Iturria (M30) 15.33,86. The prizes were a pleasant surprise: Useful sports articles like goggles and clothing etc.



Picture 2:  
Martin Fagna, Erik Vea and Arne Kjell Foldvik received special prizes for their multiple IMSSC Records. Here the chief organizer, Vidar Skaar (left) has handed over the prize to Arne Kjell Foldvik.  
(Photo: Sven-Åge Svensson)

On Saturday night we had an enjoyable social evening in Vikingskipet Motell where most skaters stayed and which is situated only a stone's throw from the ice-rink. It goes without saying that we are already very much looking forward to the 6<sup>th</sup> Single Distance Races in Hamar, February 9 – 10, 2008 where again there is a free choice of four among all distances from 500 to 10K. An extra attraction for participants in the 2008 event is the new rule that Allround big, 500, 5K, 1500 and 10K, is now part of the IMSSC competition program, and consequently new IMSSC Records will be registered.

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