

DAVOS

**- One of the Nicest Places in the World for Speed Skating -
- but Unfortunately no Artificial Ice -**

9th Masters' International Speed Skating Meeting in Davos

Already more than hundred years the Eisbahn Davos is famous because of its fast natural ice. For example there were already World Championships in Davos in 1908, as can be seen from the poster at the back cover outside. For a long time Davos had the fastest ice on the world until speed skating tracks were built with artificial ice. But despite of the tracks with artificial ice Davos stayed interesting for speed skating. The ice was fast enough so that many world records were still made here. The reason is that the ice is extremely fast because of the



sunshine coming onto the track at about 11 o'clock in the morning and making the famous thin water film on the cold ice surface, so that speed skaters glide extremely good.

But not only the fast ice was attractive for speedskaters. It was found that the altitude of 1560 m may have a positive influence on the performance because of the increasing number of red blood cells. So many National teams, for example teams of the Netherlands, USA, DDR, and others, made their training in Davos still until about 1990. Also world records were still skated until about 1990. But with the new covered icetracks in Heerenveen, Calgary and other places with partially still faster ice and perhaps with new training methods most of the National teams lost their interest in Davos.

Additionally World Championships were not longer allowed to be in Davos from the International Skating Union (ISU) since about 1978 because of the risk of too soft ice at foehn days. Because of such foehn days the planned World Championships 1977 in Davos had already been held in Heerenveen in the new icehall Thialf on artificial ice. And since some years also Speed Skating World Cups are not longer organized in Davos because of the same risk. It's a pity for Speed Skating in Davos since the 1990s, that the speed skating track of Davos could not be equipped with artificial ice.

Nevertheless the International Speed Skating Masters come since 9 years to Davos every year to compete at the Masters' International Speed Skating DAVOS MEETING, an Allround Competition organized by the Internationaler Schlittschuh-Club Davos (ISCD) with great

effort by Vice President Bryan Carbis and his large crew. The Masters love the fast ice at sunny weather, and the January is a very stable month for frosty weather and much sunshine



in Davos. And the Masters love the wonderful mountain scenery around the track too. And until now they had since 9 years the luck that they had never to cancel the competition because of foehn days. And the ice is still fast as could be shown by Top Master Skaters, who skated Master World Records (IMSSC Records) at this competition, as for example Patrick Kelly/USA (on the left).

This year the 9th Masters International Speed Skating Meeting could be held at 11 - 12 January 2008. 33 Participants (4 Ladies and 29 Men) from 9 Nations competed on the natural ice in Davos. Leader of the competition was Bryan Carbis, main referees were Peter Rothert and Sigi Ritter. At the first day the weather was difficult for the skaters, it was snowing strongly. Because of the snow on the track the reached times were a bit disappointing.

But on the second day the clouds disappeared still in the morning and we got sunshine and fast ice. So the competitors could reach excellent times.

Especially Regula Bürgin/SUI in F 40, Jim Cornell/USA (see below) and Hubert Kreutz/AUT in M 40, Patrick Kelly/CAN in M 45, Markus Ulmer/SUI in M 50, Brett Arnason/CAN in M 55, Knut Nesse/NOR in M 65 and Ludwig Meijering/NED in M 70 reached excellent results. And one IMSSC Record was broken by Patrick Kelly/CAN M 45 at 1000 m with 1:19,04 min, a fantastic performance.

Saturday evening the ISCD had invited for a nice Aperitif at Sigi Ritter, Hotel Terminus, as every year. There the results of first competition day could already be discussed. It's always a nice meeting. An hour after the end of the competition the victory ceremony could be held at the speed skating track on nice sunshine. All were happy that they had had such a nice competition.

Thank you very much for your great effort, Bryan Carbis, Peter Rothert, Sigi Ritter and all members of the jury and the competition office. The participants of this fine competition hope to come back for the 10th JUBILEE Masters' Speed Skating DAVOS MEETING next year.



Volker Serini/GER

Further Impressions at the Masters Davos Meeting 2008



