

Worldloppet logo, medal and passport at the first annual meeting, which were accepted almost unanimously. The same logo is in use until nowadays.

Both Finlandia-hiihto and Worldloppet lost with Risto a great person and a good friend.

Vappu Määttänen

Secretary of Finlandia-hiihto 1974 – 1984

Secretary General of Finlandia-hiihto 1984 - 1993

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1988-1990 Arne Andersson, Vasaloppet (SWE)

The period of Arne Andersson's work as Worldloppet Secretary General coincided with a very difficult period for the ski world. In 1989 two races in a row, Dolomitenlauf and Marcialonga, were cancelled and three races were shortened because of the difficult snow situation. In 1990 five races were cancelled: Dolomitenlauf, Marcialonga, König-Ludwig-Lauf, La Transjurassienne, Vasaloppet and two races were shortened. It was Worldloppet's touchstone or test of survival. The number of participants in all races dropped, sale of passports and addition of masters declined.

The important task of the Secretary General was to motivate the colleagues, as the possibility that people were turning away from ski sport, was in the air. In 1989 the long-time partner Fischer finished sponsoring and the plan to establish a permanent Worldloppet office was postponed because of the difficult economic situation.

The main success of this period was the creation of the first Worldloppet Cup racing team - on the initiative of Vasaloppet "Scania Team" was composed. It was a very important step to improve the image of the racing series faced with a deficit of elite skiers and it also served as an example to the next sponsor teams (Team Intersport NOR, Team Subaru USA).

To get more feedback from the member races, it was decided in 1990 that in addition to current reports, the overview of media coverage must be composed.

During the "Swedish" era expansion of the organisation always stood in the agenda (candidates Australia, Chile, Argentina, Estonia) and reached its fruits some years later, when Worldloppet was coordinated from Germany. In 1988, when the Australian marathon's application was discussed, Secretary General Arne Andersson thought that the expansion should be wider, accepting several countries together (next to Australia also Chile and Argentina) to cut down the expenses of changing the logo etc. The General Secretariat was handed over to Hans Reicherl at an extraordinary meeting in October 1990, when the Kangaroo Hoppet was accepted as a new member.

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The work of the General Secretariat was organised from an office at my home, where I and my wife Carin handled all matters with passports, diploma and medals, as well as most of the correspondence with skiers and other actors in the cross-country ski world. Monica Eriksson took care of other questions concerning Worldloppet at the Vasaloppet office, and for technical questions Hans Eriksson and Rolf Hammar were involved.

My own ambitions for my period as Secretary General were to:

- *bring Vasaloppet as the largest cross-country race to be an active member in Worldloppet;*



Risto Rytökoski



Arne Andersson