



Writing a book, and therefore handing down to history a series of events, facts and emotions, is a great aspiration for everybody, I think.

Writing a book which reports 30 years of history of a huge and complex organization, like the Worldloppet Association, is an honour that, I think, every cross-country skier would like to have. This is why I am grateful to Epp Paal, Office Manager of Tartu Maraton, for having the great initiative to gather and code as many documents as possible, in order to make this book interesting and complete.

It was a titanic undertaking; 30 years are really a long time. Documents and memories fade and become less and less clear, some determining people are no longer with us, and I remember with emotion Tony, Fritz, Risto, Giulio and many others.

Worldloppet practically bases on the enthusiasm of a lot of organisers, assisted by thousands of volunteers; people with a great selfless spirit, who devote part of their free time to a genuine and prestigious ideal like sport.

I want to say thank you to all my "colleagues", the managers of the 14 associated races, that I met all over the world, and to all the people who took part in our Annual General Meetings, contributing with their positive and constructive spirit, their skill and their enthusiasm to the gradual and continuous improvement of the individual organisations. I want to thank all these people

for all that they taught me, sometimes discussions were colourful and animated, opinions were dissimilar, proposals were accepted and refused, but surely the argument has always remained within the boundary of correctness and mutual admiration, even if it was often difficult because of the different languages spoken.

A special thought goes to the members of the Executive Committee, both the current members and those of the past: their cooperation has always been constructive and fantastic.

Where would our races be without sponsors and media? The answer is obvious, they would not exist! Consequently, it is to them that I personally and we all want to convey our greatest gratitude, even if we are sure to have offered them a media product of the highest value.

With the motto "no skiers no races and no races no skiers" I warmly greet all the HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS of participants in all our races. On the tracks all over the world, true friendships originated with a lot of them: their enthusiasm, their good sportsmanship, and even their sacrifices, both from the physical and from the economic point of view, are and will always be fundamental. Their criticisms and advice helped us to improve, their will surely contributed to a better understanding among peoples of such different cultures and traditions, and to a strengthening of peace among them.

A group of these racers, maybe the luckiest ones, created the big world family of the "Passport holders", and a further selection became "Worldloppet Master", a title of absolute prestige, an absolutely unforgettable experience.

Nobody is perfect, but to quote a motto of the great B. Franklin "An investment in knowledge pays the best interest" I apologise for any mistake or omission that could be present in this work; we all did our best in order to make this book complete and interesting.

With the greatest sincerity I wish to the whole big Worldloppet family much future success, a lot of satisfaction and a lot of luck.

Angelo Corradini

Secretary General

Worldloppet Master nr. 230 and 1238

