

partnership with this scenic village that is situated on the Southern side of the Lienz Dolomiten. In the last years there have been also activities around the course to make it more demanding.

Participants in the Dolomitenlauf have a choice of three races. The day before the main race, since 2004 there is the Dolomiten Classic, held over 42 km in classical technique and always up at Obertilliach. There is also the Lienz Lauf, a 25 km event in Free Technique, held in conjunction with the Dolomitenlauf on the Sunday.

### The Participants

The 60km long Dolomitenlauf is not the biggest and the most difficult race in the Worldloppet, but it has the highest share of international participation in the circuit. Participants from more than 25 different nations - more than 75% of the overall field – know that sport has no boundaries, come to the Dolomitenlauf.

Swedes have the biggest number of victories in Dolomitenlauf. The absolute “King” of the race with 4 victories is Mikhail Botvinov. Many “red group” athletes have been fighting for the victory in Lienz and some of these stars of the cross country have succeeded to win the Dolomitenlauf.

In 1982 the number of 3300 participants set the new participation record of Dolomitenlauf. At that time the race was held in classical technique. When free technique came to the sport of cross country skiing, the participation sunk gradually.

### The Opening Ceremony

The opening ceremony of Dolomitenlauf is something really unique in the Worldloppet circuit because it takes place on Friday at the town square before the sprint event. Live music, program with children and Tirol guards – all contribute to this memorable show event. And finally with the lighting of the Dolomiten – Fire one can sense the breath of “Olympia”.

### The Organisers

The organising committee consists of around 30 members that grow to more than 500 helpers during the race. The organising committee is lead by Franz Theurl for over 20 years.

Dabei sein ist alles.....be with us next year and in the future!

