



My work for the Tartu Maraton and in the Worldloppet office has been always more fun than an obligation. I can say that for the last 9 years Worldloppet has been like a second family for me. This family consists of members with different character / traditions and skiers, with very different goals in racing. This family and its friends are bound by one certain habit: every autumn - all of them start to wait for snow. Discussions about the signs of nature and the best weather forecast websites are endless and form the most important part of the enthusiasm for cross-country skiing. Even if you do not ski yourself, acting like this is a sign of belonging to this „club“. When other people complain about having to clean up the snow from the sidewalks, you can hardly hide your joy.

Two years ago Aivo Pärn, an Estonian Worldloppet Master, a member of Club Tartu Maraton turned to me: „Please tell me, why a book on Worldloppet has not been published? It has always been difficult for me to explain to my friends what my hobby is really about.“ The first idea, to put together a short overview in Estonian, grew into a book about the complete history of the organisation. The ambitious plan to publish the book for the organisation’s 30th anniversary was encouraged by Angelo Corradini.

As people say - the best present is always made by yourself and the second best present is a good book. I am lucky to have the possibility to prepare a gift for my friends and at the same time get to know them better. During this work I found out that I have more friends than I ever imagined and also found new ones. Mine and Angelo’s biggest support on this journey has been Paddy Field, both his knowledge in popular cross-country skiing and Worldloppet races and as well as his superb English. I was strongly supported also by my colleagues in Club Tartu Maraton and my German speaking friends.

I wish to thank the Worldloppet family for trusting me to compose their first version of history. I also wish you all plenty of snow, enjoyable moments on ski tracks and a lot of new friends!

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