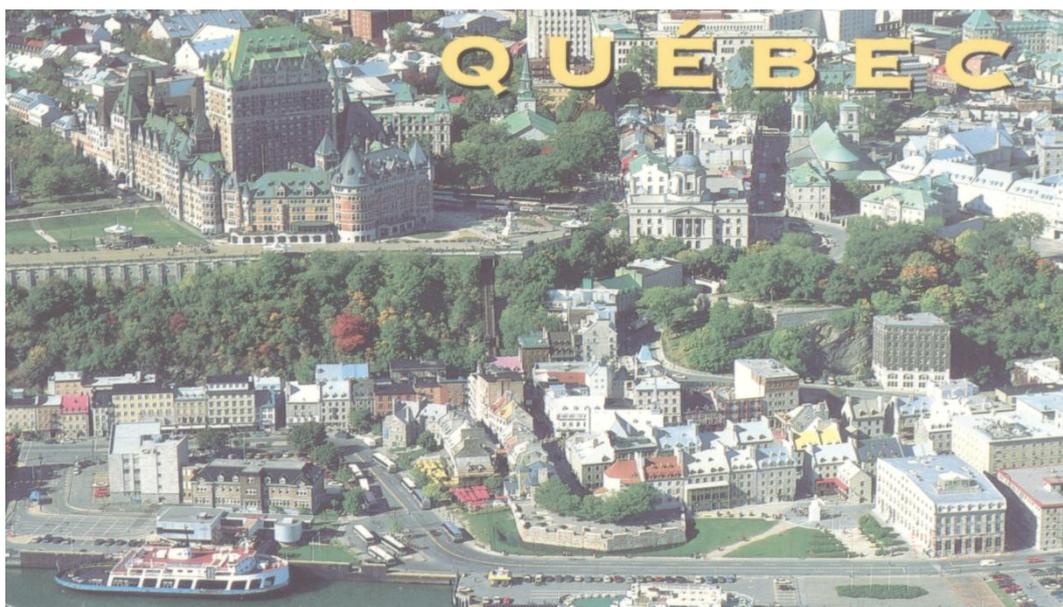


**Masters World Cup, Quebec 2002 – by our man on the spot, Tim East**



**This is what you would have seen if you'd gone to the Masters World Cup in Quebec, Canada, in February 2002**



**This is what you'd see if you'd mistaken the dates and planned to go to the Masters World Cup in June 2002. If you're that stupid, however, I have to point out that you wouldn't see those BIG YELLOW LETTERS**

Sadly, from the spot, I have to report a lot of adverse criticism of Quebec. The opening ceremony was very poor and badly organised, with too much hanging about (we left early), the WMA had to complain about the competence of the chief of competition, the jury was not listened to, the tracks were not marked well leading to exceptional levels of DSQ, including 11 relay teams and 50 competitors in 10 km events (the whole M1 10 km category was annulled). Pause for breath. The tracks were not marked for reconnaissance in advance of race day, the relay was run in the wrong order (FT, FT, CL, CL), there was only one, not two, relay routes, the tracks on the ground were not the same as on the maps, controllers did not assist competitors with route finding (asked for specifically as signage was so poor) and, finally, there were lots of weaknesses with timing and availability of results. A detailed report will be sent to the FIS.

On the positive side, ski marking was excellent, tents for food and wax cabins were good, and so were the start and stadium. Seefeld, Lillehammer and Moscow have been asked to take account of these points, and these organisers have been reminded that they have to follow FIS and WMA rules, not make them up as they want locally. This was the first year where the shorter programme (one day less than previously) was tried, but the common view, which all GB people here shared, is that the new format is far too compressed.

As to the competition itself in Quebec, a main drawback was that we had to travel about 50 minutes each way to the stadium from the hotel, difficult even for us with access to a car. With the compressed programme it has made fitting everything in quite difficult - no one feels there is any real rest or spare time. And it can mean races on three consecutive days for some. The organisation seems chaotic. On the racing front, Norman had to go home after one event due to a recurring back injury - but he was still only 17 % off the winner's time in his only race. Brian reduced his previous record percent in the 30 km skate. Irene did very well in the 10 km skate (actually beating my time over same course). Chris was very tired for the 30 km, but got round - he had a better performance in the 10 km classic. I've not been in touch with competitors in my group - but have beaten one M01 and have had more M03s etc. in sight than ever before. The courses are good but we've had unexpected conditions - rain, sleet/snow and temperatures around zero.

At the Annual WMA meeting, the Russian presentation was very much slicker than McCall, Idaho, and Russia won by 18 votes out of 25 (for the MWC in 2005). Norway (Lillehammer - 2004) made a very good presentation about their plans. 9 hotels have been agreed so far. All are in a short distance of the town centre, but only 4 in walking distance of the stadium, and all are quite expensive. Overall, though, it looks very good with use of major Olympic sites planned - e.g. Hakons hall for the office, ceremonies and banquet, and the ski jump area for the opening. The competition dates will be 27 Feb to 6 Mar 2004.

Tim.

***Men's M1-M6 30 km freestyle***

1)	P. Dzioubenko	RUS	M3	1.17:02.2	
32)	B. Adams	GBR	M3	1.29:42.1	16.4 %
35)	B. Scholten	NED	M3	1.33:08.7	20.9 % (49 starters)

***Men's M7-M11 15 km freestyle***

1)	V. Prykari	FIN	M9	45:25.3	
9)	N. Clark	GBR	M9	53:31.4	17.8 % (14 starters)

***Men's M1-M6 30 km classic***

1)	T. Bjerkheim	NOR	M2	1.31:35.1	
19)	T. East	GBR	M2	2.20:37.9	53.6 % (21 starters)
1)	N. Kharitonov	RUS	M6	1.40:02.0	
24)	P. o'Connor	IRE	M6	2.21:37.8	41.6 % (29 starters)

***Ladies F1-F6 30 km classic***

1)	R. Zagidoullina	RUS	F3	51:04.9	
15)	I. Chawko	GBR	F3	1.12:10.0	41.3 % (18 starters)

**Men's M1-M6 10 km classic**

1)	V. Koshkin	RUS	M3	30:05.8	
22)	B. Adams	GBR	M3	39:11.6	30.2 % (32 starters)
1)	N. Kharitonov	RUS	M6	32:23.9	
	P. o'Connor	IRE	M6	DNS	

**Men's M1-M6 10 km freestyle**

1)	A. Abramov	RUS	M2	29:08.1	
32)	T. East	GBR	M2	43:32.5	49.4 % (33 starters)
1)	V. Moussalimov	RUS	M3	27:20.5	
33)	B. Scholten	NED	M3	35:18.0	29.1 % (41 starters)

**Ladies 10 km freestyle**

1)	I. Doljenkova	RUS	F3	29:27.3	
16)	I. Chawko	GBR	F3	43:11.9	46.7 % (19 starters)

**Men's M7-M11 10 m freestyle**

1)	A. Berg	NOR	M9	32:23.5	
	N. Clarke	GBR	M9	DNS	

**Men's M1-M6 45 Freestyle**

1)	V. Popov	RUS	M6	2.21:26.2	(our Victor from roller ski events)
	B. Frampton	GBR	M6	DNF	
1)	V. Moussalimov	RUS	M3	2.09:14.7	
14)	B. Adams	GBR	M3	2.29:26.6	15.6 %
23)	B. Scholten	NED	M3	2.50:58.3	32.3 % (34 starters)

**Ladies F1-F6 30 km freestyle**

1)	S. Klemetti	FIN	F3	1.31:43.2	
21)	I. Chawko	GBR	F3	2.11:39.9	43.6 % (23 starters)

**Men's M7-M11 20 km freestyle**

1)	V. Prykari	FIN	M9	1.07:51.8	
	N. Clarke	GBR	M9	DNS	

**Men's M1-M6 45 km classic**

1)	K. Kvernerud	NOR	M6	2.22:41.8	
	P. o'Connor	IRE	M6	DNS	
1)	A. Mazourov	RUS	M2	2.07:42.1	
25)	T. East	GBR	M2	3.20:05.2	56.7 % (25 starters)