

## **LRNSC On-Snow Racing AGM Report September 2023**

The end of Covid allowed Club on-snow racers to spread their wings somewhat further than they had in last few years. Races were entered as far away as Ushuaia in southern Argentina and Canada as well as closer to home in Austria, Italy, Germany, Switzerland and the Czech Republic. Lewis Bachellet deserves a mention for winning the National Youth 7.5 kms race at Ruhpolding, but the stand-out racing achievement of the year has to be Anders Soderback completing both classic and skating 50 kms races at Gatineau in Canada on successive days. The Tour de Ramsau races fell victim to lack of snow for the second year running but Engadin fared better despite some route changes forced upon it by lack of snow on the lakes! Overall distances tackled varied from single figures up to the 70 kms of the Marcialonga in Italy.

Over the years there have not been many changes to the Worldloppet and Euroloppet calendars but there are growing signs of change. Firstly, night races are becoming more popular, Engadin for example, as indeed are relay races but at the same time team racing has effectively become a thing of the past within LRNSC. It's a decade now since we entered two teams in the Vasa relay in Sweden. Staying with Vasa, next year will see the 100<sup>th</sup> running of the 90 km Classic but also the introduction of skating races there for the first time. The Tartu races in Estonia will also allow free technique for the first-time next year.

There are two more innovations for next season which could potentially offer more choice to Club racers. Firstly, Engadin have introduced the Engadin Individual marathon whereby you can complete the marathon course with a timed result but in the days preceding the Marathon Race itself. Secondly, Marcialonga is spreading its wings and setting up a Norwegian Marcialonga just inside the Arctic Circle at Bodo in March 2024.

A notable feature of most if not all the races I've looked at for next year is, sadly, the rising cost of entry – all the more reason to look closely at the Engadin Individual Race especially if you're interested in re-launching Club Team Racing!! Wherever you go, let me know please if you want a Newsletter mention.

Des Goff LRNSC On-Snow Racing Co-ordinator

14<sup>th</sup> July 2023