

Events leading to renouncement of the FIS rollerski World Championships 2004

* Summer 2002: German rollerski referent (Walter Ostermeier) and German president of the Subcommittee Rollerski (Karl Kamphenkel) mention St. Wendel as a good candidate for the FIS rollerski World Championships 2004

* End of August 2002: Mayor Klaus Bouillon and some more people from St. Wendel come to the World Championships in Cervinia (ITA) to learn how these championships are organized and they promise good World Championships in 2004 during the Subcommittee Rollerski meeting of August 28, 2002

* November 2002: FIS council decides on St. Wendel for the FIS rollerski World Championships 2004

* May 1, 2003: At the spring meeting in Strasbourg the Subcommittee Rollerski decides on the jury (extract from minutes):

"The jury is as follows:

Race director: Heinz Wirth

TD: George Brouwer

Assistant TD: Gian Luca Codemo

National TD: Karl Kamphenkel

World Cup manager: Gijsbregt Brouwer"

* July 31, 2003- August 1, 2003: There is a TD clinic in St. Wendel. The chief of race of the St. Wendel OC attends this clinic and hears which demands there are for FIS rollerski races. Also national TD Karl Kamphenkel en Walter Ostermeier (referent rollerski of the German Ski Federation) are there

* August 2-3, 2003: The OC of the FIS rollerski World Championships 2004 substitutes the FIS World Cup (which should be the pre- World Championships) with an "international race", which has no involvement from the FIS. Karl Kamphenkel, as a president of the Subcommittee Rollerski approves this decision.

* August 2-3, 2003: There is a meeting with the mayor of St. Wendel (Mr. Klaus Bouillon), the chief of race (Heinz Wirth), the national TD (Karl Kamphenkel), the assistant TD (Gianluca Codemo), Walter Ostermeier (referent rollerski of the German Ski Federation) and the world cup manager (Gijsbregt Brouwer).

The following items are discussed and agreed upon:

- Jury weekend in 2nd weekend of May 2004;
- The schedule (program) for the World Championships;
- The necessity of a visit of the OC to the World Cup in Rotterdam to gain experience. The OC is offered a shadow position during the World Cup in Rotterdam;
- The basics of a script for the World Championships (the OC gets handed a written manual for this);
- The necessity of a good relation with the "FIS office" for matters of doping, protocol, etc.;
- Changes in the tracks
- All relevant addresses, e-mails and phone numbers for when assistance is needed;
- Various other matters.

* August 29-31, 2003: Contrary to the agreement, there is no delegation of St. Wendel at the World Cup in Rotterdam.

* May 29, 2003: Subcommittee Rollerski meeting in Rotterdam.
From the minutes:

"Important is that the FIS and all the athletes will be shown how Rollerski is developing. Also the FIS is willing and able to help the organizers. Also, it is important that the organizers learn from other races. Visits to at least 2 races next year are recommended. The best for the organization is when an official TD is chief of race."

In the minutes the next meeting for rollerski is mentioned. This meeting is during the jury meeting: "The next meeting will be a Rollerski convention in St. Wendel May 8-9."

* October 4-5, 2003: Report by the substitute of the president of the Subcommittee Rollerski (Gijsbregt Brouwer) in the meeting of the committee for cross country in Zürich. The report is on the past season and on the FIS rollerski World Championships 2004.

* January 29, 2004: Geertje Richter (FIS office) asks the German Ski Federation to enter the World Championships in the FIS calendar.

* February 11, 2004: Walter Ostermeier (referent rollerski of the German Ski Federation) enters the World Championships in the FIS calendar by sending an e-mail to Geertje Richter.

* March 9, 2004: On request of the FIS office, Gijsbregt Brouwer, as a member of the Subcommittee Rollerski, mentions the exact number of FIS-medals for the FIS rollerski World Championships 2004.

* March 22, 2004: For the first time, a question of the OC of St. Wendel is put to the Subcommittee Rollerski. It concerns the invitation and the entries of the participants. There is a prompt response by Gijsbregt Brouwer, as a member of the Subcommittee rollerski. The OC asks for the exact forms. Gijsbregt Brouwer, as a member of the Subcommittee rollerski, refers to the forms made by the OC's of the World Championships in 2000 and 2002.

* April 16, 2004: Gijsbregt Brouwer, as a member of the jury for the FIS rollerski World Championships 2004, sends out the program for the jury meeting at May 7, 8 and 9. This includes the rollerski convention.

* April 21, 2004: The members of the OC of St. Wendel, chief of OC included, inform Gijsbregt Brouwer, as a member of the jury for the FIS rollerski World Championships 2004, that they cannot be present at the jury meeting. This renders this meeting useless. The OC offers two alternative weekends, but these are impossible because both are in the week of the FIS congress in Miami.

* April 24, 2004: The TD of the World Championships (George Brouwer) reflects on the cancellation of the jury meeting: "These dates are not possible for me; I reserved a half year ago the weekend of may 8, why is it not on this weekend; why did I get as a TD no information at all till now; is anybody seriously busy with organising this FIS world championship? If I do not get a good answer I have to inform the FIS that I have no trust in the organisation of this FIS world championship." There is a reaction of the assistant TD (Gianluca Codemo): "I agree 100% with George. I remember how many doubt and problem we had with Cervinia and I really can't imagine that everything is going so easy..."

* April 30, 2004: A concept invitation is sent out to Karl Kamphenkel (president of the Subcommittee Rollerski), Walter Ostermeier (referent rollerski of the German Ski Federation), Geertje Richter (FIS office) and Gijsbregt Brouwer (member of the Subcommittee Rollerski). St. Wendel asks Gijsbregt Brouwer for a list of the nations that are to be invited. Gijsbregt Brouwer (member of the Subcommittee Rollerski) answers that he has a list of rollerski stakeholders, but that all National Ski Associations must be invited. These addresses can be gotten through FIS.

* May 4, 2004: There is a new draft of the invitation. The OC of St. Wendel sends this one out to all of the jury members. The TD and the assistant TD were until then not on the mailing list and have not been informed by the OC. The TD reacts as follows: "The FIS has the end responsibility for the WCh, the German Ski Federation has the operating responsibility for the WCh; what has the referent Walter Ostermeier done till now on the organising of this WCh if even the names of the jury are not known at the local organising committee (besides of not organising a jury meeting on May 7 and 8)?" There is "verwunderung" (astonishment) from the side of Walter Ostermeier (referent rollerski of the German Ski Federation), which triggers the following answer of the TD:

"Mit sehr viel Verwunderung habe ich das letzte Jahr gewartet auf Berichte von der Deutsche Skiverband ueber die Weltmeisterschaefte. Die Deutsche Skiverband ist die verantwortliche Ausrichter.

Die Deutsche Skiverband soll den TD informieren ueber die Preparatione. Und innerhalb die Deutsche Skiverband bist Du den Rollskireferent. Der TD ist nicht die Veranstalter, er ist nur zur Kontrolle. (...) Nochmals es ist die DSV die nach Ueberleg mit mir eine Juryversammlung zusammen muss rufen. Nochmals, ich habe die Initiatieven von DSV sehr gemangelt. Ich hoffe dass jetzt die Verantwortlichen Ihre Verantwortlichkeit nehmen."

(With a lot of astonishment I have waited for the last year in information from the German Ski Federation. The German Ski Federation is the responsible organizer. The German Ski Federation must inform the TD on the preparations. Inside the German Ski Federation you are the referent for rollerski. The TD is not the organizer; he is there for controlling (...) Once more it is the German Ski Federation who, after referring to me, must call out a jury meeting. Again, I have missed the initiative from the German Ski Federation a lot. I hope that those who are responsible take up their responsibilities).

* May 13, 2004: Renouncement of St. Wendel (see attachment). Geertje Richter asks for an official renouncement of the German Ski Federation. This does not happen. There is a renouncement at the Saarlandische Ski Verband in which some sentences are changed after conferring with the president of the Subcommittee Rollerski (Karl Kamphenkel).

* May 20, 2004: A written reaction by Karl Kamphenkel (as president of the Subcommittee Rollerski) to the OC of St. Wendel (see attachment).

* May 13 to 27, 2004: There is a lot of contact by telephone between Karl Kamphenkel and Gijsbregt Brouwer (both as members of the Subcommittee). First about the astonishment. Both had never a remote feeling that this would happen. Inzell is mentioned as a substitute. None of the foreign jury members or the Subcommittee Rollerski hear anything from the German Ski Federation.

* May 26, 2004: Walter Ostermeier (referent rollerski of the German Ski Federation) and Hubert Bruhl (DSV) visit Inzell. There are minutes (protokoll) of this meeting, given to the Subcommittee Rollerski, during the meeting in Miami. See attachment.

* May 31, 2004, in Miami, day of the Subcommittee Rollerskimeeting: Hubert Bruhl (DSV) asks for an appointment with Gijsbregt Brouwer (as the substitute chairman of the Subcommittee Rollerski) before the meeting, but does not show up. During the first 10 minutes of the meeting he hands out the *protokoll* and asks for a reaction. There is no jury mentioned, and George Brouwer (FIS TD for the FIS rollerski World Championships 2004) is not mentioned as "FIS-vertreter" (FIS representative). During the meeting Hubert Bruhl speaks on behalf of the German Ski Federation and mentions he demands a jury without George Brouwer. This is a shock proposal to Gijsbregt Brouwer who chairs the meeting with only one other member of the sub-committee present (many guests are there). Gijsbregt Brouwer proposes to delay this matter. The German representatives (Bruhl and vice-president of the DSV, Norbert Scheid) go on with their proposal and say they will bring it in the FIS council. The sub-committee has no quorum and does not decide on this matter. The German Ski Federation refers it to the FIS council.

* June 2, 2004, in Miami at the committee for cross country meeting: The 3 jury members who are not German (3/4 of the still existing jury) propose a compromise: postpone the World Championships with one year to straighten things out and organize the pre- World Championships in a proper way this year. The CCC agrees, but after intense pressure of the German representative in the CCC (Detlev Braun) FIS race director (Jurg Capol) is appointed as an intermediate to make sure the races will be held in 2004, with a new jury.

* June 3, 2004: The German Ski Federation does not contact the Subcommittee Rollerski and bring their proposal to the FIS council.

* June 1-4, 2004: Intermediating contacts of secretary-general of Dutch Ski Federation (Herman Ram), towards German Ski Federation and the FIS office.

* June 4, 2004: FIS race director Jurg Capol states mandate of Gijsbregt Brouwer until October session of the FIS council.

* June 9, 2004: The secretary-general of the FIS confirms the German Ski Federation has renounced the FIS rollerski World Championships 2004.

Rotterdam, June 15, 2004

Attachment renouncement St. Wendel:

Rücktritt von der Organisation der FIS Rollerski Weltmeisterschaft

Sehr geehrte Damen und Herren,

nach eingehender Beratung in unserem Organisationskomitee teile ich Ihnen im Auftrag von Bürgermeister Klaus Bouillon und Race Director Heinz Wirth mit, dass sich die Stadt St. Wendel und der Ski- und Wanderclub Stenweiler aufgrund schwerwiegender Mängel in der Zusammenarbeit mit den Rollski-Verantwortlichen der FIS gezwungen sehen, von der Organisation der FIS Rollski Weltmeisterschaft 2004 mit sofortiger Wirkung zurückzutreten.

Zu dieser Entscheidung haben uns erhebliche Missstände in der Vorbereitungsphase veranlasst, die eine professionelle Organisation der Veranstaltung unsererseits in Frage stellen.

So ist uns bis dato von der FIS kein Vertrag zur Abstimmung und Unterzeichnung vorgelegt worden. Ohne Vertrag ist für das ausführende Organisationskomitee aber keinerlei Handlungs-, Planungs- und Rechtssicherheit gegeben. Gleichzeitig bestehen somit aber auch keinerlei rechtswirksame Verpflichtungen zur Durchführung der Veranstaltung. Das Fehlen eines Vertrages habe ich in mehreren Gesprächen und Briefen (per e-mail) z. B. gegenüber dem Vorsitzenden des FIS Subkomitee Rollski, Herrn Kamphenkel, und der FIS Disciplines Administration im FIS Headquarter, FrauGeertje Richter, leider ohne Ergebnis angemahnt.

Des weiteren mussten wir in der gesamten Vorbereitungsphase ein Erhebliches Kommunikationsdefizit seitens Rollski-Vertretern der FIS feststellen.

Die Klärung notwendiger Sachfragen geht in erster Linie auf unsere Bemühungen zurück und gestaltete sich als schwieriges Durchfragen bei verschiedenen FIS-Vertretern. Erst vor wenigen Tagen sind uns mit den Jury-Mitgliedern offiziell zuständige Ansprechpartner genannt worden. Die Mängel in der Kommunikation der zuständigen Jury-Mitgliedern gipfelten in der äußerst kurzfristigen Bekanntgabe des Termins für das sehr wichtige Jury-Meeting.

Knapp zwei Wochen zuvor teilte uns der World Cup Manager, Gijsbregt Brouwer, den Termin auch noch ohne Angaben genauer Details wie Namen der Teilnehmer und geplante Teilnahme des Subkomitees mit, obwohl dieser nach eigenen Angaben schon seit letzten Jahr feststeht. Durch diese äußerst kurze Vorlaufzeit, konnten die maßgeblichen Mitglieder unseres OK diesen Termin aufgrund anderer Verpflichtungen nicht wahrnehmen. Als neuer Termin wurde von der Jury der 19. Juni vorgeschlagen. Diese von uns unverschuldeten Umstände führen zu gravierenden Verzögerungen der nächsten Arbeitsschritte, so dass eine professionelle Vorbereitung der Veranstaltung kaum noch möglich ist. Die Tatsache, dass uns das Jury-Mitglied Brouwer im Zusammenhang mit den von der FIS zu verantwortenden Terminproblemen Unflexibilität und mangelnden Respekt vorwirft, werten wir als unsachliche Äußerung, die einer gedeihlichen und vertrauensvollen Kooperation weiter abträglich ist.

Schließlich zeigten sich in den letzten Wochen offenkundig auch Unstimmigkeiten und Akzeptanzprobleme zwischen Vertretern der FIS und des DSV, die für weitere Verunsicherung sorgen. Wie kann es sein, dass der TD, George Brouwer, Herrn Ostermeier, der uns als kompetenter Ansprechpartner vom DSV zur Seite gestellt wurde, in seiner Funktion als nationaler Chief of Competition angezweifelt und diskreditiert wird?

Wir bedauern sehr, dass die Häufung dieser Unstimmigkeiten uns keine

Andere Entscheidung als den Rücktritt von der Organisation dieser Weltmeisterschaft lässt und bitten um Verständnis für unsere Haltung.

Mit freundlichen Grüßen

i.A. Thomas Wüst

Proposal to the Cross Country Committee

From: The non German part of the Jury of the 3 rd FIS World Championships Rollerski

Concerning: Status of the FIS rollerski World Championships 2004

Miami, June 1st, 2004

Dear chairman, dear members of the committee,

It is with great regret that we must send out this proposal.

At this moment the German Ski Federation, who has been awarded the FIS rollerski World Championships 2004, has no organizer for the FIS rollerski World Championships 2004. The city of Sankt Wendel has retreated as the organizer. This city retreated after questions of the TD what the German Ski Federation and the local organizers had done to organise this championships.

The German Ski Federation wishes to substitute the place and in the process change the jury (without reasoning), which was appointed by the FIS sub-committee for rollerski at its meeting in Strassbourg, May 1st, 2003.

As the TD of this race as the assistant TD and as the FIS World Cup Manager, who acts as the FIS race director for rollerski, we state that at this short notice the German Ski Federation can not organize FIS rollerski World Championships 2004 at the standards that have been set by the FIS for FIS World Championships in general and rollerski races in special. After two world championships Rollerski we know how much work has to be done to organize proper World Championships. The not German part of the jury can not take responsibility for the organization of these races under these uncertain conditions.

There are many reasons for this statement:

- the budget is almost ten times as small as for the last two FIS rollerski World Championships;
- the proposed city has never organized a FIS rollerski race;
- the jury has not had the possibility to check the tracks or the organization;
- there is only 2 months and 3 weeks left before the races should begin;
- the German track record in organizing FIS rollerski races is poor (see for exemple the TD report of the races in 1997 and 2002 in Geyer/Zwönitz).

Therefore we suggest the following proper procedure:

The FIS decide to ask the German Ski Federation to delay the FIS rollerski World Championships with one year and organizes a pre-world championship World Cup in the weekend of August 27-29, 2004.

In that way the German Ski Federation has a year and 2 months and 3 weeks to prepare for the biggest event in the rollerski world. Besides this the German Ski Federation can set straight the fact that they did not organize a pre-world championships in 2003 and they can prove that they can organize a great competition. Also all the athletes have the possibility to focus on these new circumstances.

Our proposal is made with only two interests in mind: rollerski athletes and the rollerski sport in general. The FIS rollerski World Championships is supposed to be the best "product" rollerski has to offer and it is the high light for the athletes. A bad tournament will harm the athletes, the rollerski sport and the FIS. It is our responsibility as the non German jury to prevent this from happening. Even if we regret the current situation.

Counting on your wisdom to support us and choose for the athletes, the sport and the FIS interest, we remain.

Sincerely yours,

George Brouwer, TD of the FIS rollerski World Championships 2004
Gianluca Codemo, assistant TD of the FIS rollerski World Championships 2004
Gijsbregt Brouwer, World Cup Manager rollerski