

2019 AGM: Competitions Report

The dominant event of the year by far was hosting the World Para Nordic Skiing Championships. This was the first world championships for both the club and for the city and the first time the WPNS championship event was held in Canada. I won't elaborate in this report as there will be a separate presentation specifically on this immensely successful undertaking. With both Nordic disciplines skiing and biathlon our field of play officials totaled 150+ which is the largest ever, and in addition crews for broadcasting, media and the many athlete services were on site at the venue. Accolades were many from the national and international sport organizations, the athletes and the coaches. A huge amount of work was involved but I believe it was a very positive experience for everyone. Discussions are underway for a similar event in 2024.

Other events included a biathlon BC Cup, a regional fall invitational biathlon event and the traditional year end Loppet. The cross-country BC Cup was scheduled in late December to facilitate provincial team selections but was re-located to Penticton due to low snow levels locally.

The Competitions Committee is a committee of the board that meets bi-annually for the purpose of planning and budgeting for upcoming events. Routine annual events in the long-term event hosting plan include BC Cups in both disciplines, Spirit of the Rivers Loppet, and a regional biathlon event. BC Winter Games trials are held every second year.

Major events in the five-year plan (subject to successful bids) include a Canadian Ski for Light (visually impaired) competition, Western Canadian Championships in both disciplines, Canadian National Championships in both disciplines and a pre-Olympic World Cup final combined with a Para Nordic Biathlon World Championship.

CNSC and the Nordic venue at Otway are favourably recognized in the global ski community as a quality venue with strong officiating and awesome volunteers. The venue has internationally homologated competition courses and venue facilities for both Para Nordic and able-bodied competitions, lighted courses and a basic snow making system that will be grown to guarantee snow for almost any circumstance.

The list of upgrades this year is substantial due the WPNS funding efforts and is too long to detail here. Some of the more significant ones besides snow making include new timing system equipment including transponders, activators, readers and software to enable real time online timing of competitions, which in turn enables live streaming capability with the potential to reach millions of viewers worldwide, as well as local participants and spectators. Major purchases for biathlon included a sonar based target system for visually impaired athletes, and a state-of-the-art camera system was installed for the shooting range with zoom and playback ability that can accurately monitor activities for rule and safety infractions.

A number of officials training courses and race experience opportunities were provided leading up to the world championships, including participation in a pre-Olympic Para Nordic World Cup in Canmore last December. All of our cross-country major officials are level 2 or higher as required, but we have only one level 3 official which is required for national/international competitions. That level 3 official is me and I am stepping down after 14 years in the position. We are sending four level 2 candidates to the level 3 course in March 2020 to support the successional plan for officials that can continue to support long-term event hosting plans for CNSC.

Jim Burbee, Competitions Director

competitions@caledonianordic.com

