



IMGA Press Release
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A dream came true



The inaugural World Winter Masters Games took place from the 25th to the 31st January 2010 in Slovenian town Bled and its surrounding Winter Resorts. 2'800 athletes from 42 different countries competed over a week in 6 different sports and 17 disciplines.

The President Kai Holm of The International Masters Games Association (IMGA) who is behind the event said: *"It has since the beginning of the IMGA always been our dream to establish a World Winter Masters Event. Slovenia has done a wonderful job in helping us making this dream come true."*

With more athletes than at the last Winter Olympic Games, the Giant Slalom became the biggest masters ski race in history with over than a thousand skiers taking part on the slopes at Kranjska Gora.

Cross-Country Skiing and Biathlon were held in the newly finished Biathlon world cup Center in Pokljuka where sun and recent snowfall made optimal conditions for the events.

Those who think Ski Jumping only is a sport for young people were proven wrong as a 120 international jumpers over the age of 35, including the former star Matti Nykänen, competed for gold at the jump hills in Ziri and Kranj. It was a truly spectacular event.

Ice Hockey brought together 28 teams from across the Globe while 30 teams competed in Futsal the only traditional summer sport on the Games. Summer or winter did, however, not matter at the end of the day when competitors met during the organized social events to share experiences and to celebrate the philosophy of sport for all and sport for life.

The IMGA has been successfully hosting the World Masters Summer Games for 25 years which has become the largest international multi sports event in the world with 32'000 participants at the last edition held in Sydney. The goal of the association is to grow and strengthen the Masters movement in partnership with the International Federations.

The next big Masters Events will be the European Summer Masters Games in Lignano, Italy in September 2011.

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