

Nordic meeting

Location: Idrottens hus, Stockholm, Sweden

Date: May 20-21, 2011

Participants: Carsten Lau Isaksen (CLI), Denmark

Rikke Halskov Vestergaard (RHV), Denmark

Niels Staun (NS), Denmark

Jari Koski (JK), Finland

Kari Vanebo (KV), Norway

Lars Ole Gudevang (LOG), Norway

Ole Morten Olsen (OMO), Norway

Pontus Axelsson (PA), Sweden

Mikaela Rydberg (MR), Sweden

Karin Persson (KP), Sweden

Jonas Paulsson (JP), Sweden

The meeting started at 1 pm.

1. The meeting was opened by PA.
2. KP was appointed the role of Chairman for the meeting.
3. JP was appointed the role of Secretary for the meeting.
4. The meeting started with an introduction by all participants.
5. Coordination and planning of Nordic Championships
 - a) Order and planning: There was a discussion about what time of year boulder and lead championships should be held.
 - *It was decided that we cannot set rules for this but that there is a strong recommendation of arranging the boulder championships during spring and the lead championships in the autumn in order to follow the international competition schedule.*

Then there was a discussion about how to arrange the competitions, if one country should host the championships for both juniors and seniors. Norway's representatives stated that it worked well for them when organizing both junior and senior lead championships during the same weekend, and that they would like to keep the schedule that was agreed upon during last years meeting. Denmark had the same view as Norway, while Finland and Sweden wanted to separate all events so that each country needed to arrange one competition each year. The main argument for this is that it puts less stress on the organizing country. The main arguments for keeping the agreed schedule are: So far the number of senior competitors in the lead event is too small to make it financially acceptable for the organizers; the agreed schedule leaves a year free of Nordic arrangements for each country.

- *It was decided that we will keep the schedule that was agreed upon last year, which looks like this (including the Nordic meetings):*

Year	Organizer Lead (Tau)	Organizer Bouldering	Organizer Nordic meeting
2011	Norway	Finland	Sweden
2012	Sweden	Denmark	Finland
2013	Finland	Norway	Denmark
2014	Denmark	Sweden	Norway

After this decision had been made there was a discussion about a plan B if any of the countries are unable to organize the competition. There was a suggestion that the country who is cancelling should help financing the event if any of the other countries is stepping in to take care of it. No decision was made about this though, although all participants thought it was a good idea that should be followed up in the future.

b) Competition classes for juniors

OMO stated that Norway are not legally able to include 12 year olds in competitions and therefore the Nordic championships cannot include them, not even when the championships are held in the other Nordic countries. This is also in accordance with international regulations from the IFSC.

- *It was decided that we will follow the IFSC regulations, i.e. that juniors are allowed to participate in Nordic championships during the year when they turn 13.*

We then discussed if juniors can compete in both junior and senior classes from the year they turn 16.

- *It was decided that juniors who are allowed to compete in the senior class (from the year they turn 16) cannot participate in both the junior and senior class in the same competition if it is held on the same occasion. That means that if the organizing country decides to arrange the junior and senior championships on separate occasions it is ok for the juniors to compete in both classes, but if the organizer arranges the junior and senior championships on the same occasion the juniors have to choose which class to compete in.*

c) Applications to Nordic Championships

- *It was decided that all applications to the Nordic championships must go through the national federations and that all applications must be made according to the organizer's instructions.*

d) IFSC membership for Nordic Championships

Iceland is not a member of the IFSC but everyone agreed that of course they should be able to participate in the Nordic Championships.

- *It was decided that national membership in IFSC is not a requirement for participation in the Nordic Championships.*

6. Nordic cooperation

We went on to discuss the possibilities to establish more cooperation between the Nordic federations. An existing example is the Nordic Youth Camp. Now there are two existing networks of female climbers in Sweden and Denmark – Girls Get Higher and Dolls On Walls – who have started a cooperation. Contacts are Moa Wall (Girls Get Higher, skogsflicka@gmail.com) and Jill Sindholt (Dolls On Walls, jis@munksoegaard.dk).

Norway informed us that they will invite the other Nordic countries to a route setting course during 2011.

We all agreed that we should improve our communication when it comes to events that are open to other Nordic participants, for example we should strive to include these events on our respective website.

It was decided that all federations shall give each other contact information to all relevant representatives in the federation, to facilitate communication between board members, committees and so on. KV will start by sending Norwegian information to Sweden, who will then pass it on.

Denmark also expressed the need to solve the question of how we keep the members in our clubs. What can we learn from each other and what can we do to keep the climbers as member of our clubs? Denmark told us about an English education system, with different courses and levels that you could offer to climbers as one thing that the clubs could offer. Denmark also thought about an improved cooperation when it comes to book publishing for example. These were all ideas and discussions, so no decisions were made about this.

After the break Norway informed us about their national climbing meet. They also revealed to us that if their application to host a World Cup event in 2012 goes through they will arrange a big climbing festival in junction with the competition. The festival will of course be open to all other countries as well. NS referred to the possibility of finding funding for Nordic initiatives by various funds, for example from the Nordic Council (Nordisk råd). NS sends a collection of links regarding this, to the federation offices.

Nordic Youth Camp. NS will contact the organizing group to make sure they communicate with the national federations. We also need to know who is involved in that group.

Nordic training cooperation: This has been hard to achieve in the past, but it has been discussed. Norway will be heading to other parts of Europe on training camps and they said that participants from the other Nordic countries are welcome to join.

Finland raised the question of maybe having one person responsible as both administrator and “team manager” for the Nordic countries. It was agreed that this is a good idea, but with some practical problems. Therefore no decision was made about this.

Nordic representation in the international climbing organizations: Sweden raised the question of possibly having a formal procedure when it comes to the Nordic representation in UIAA and IFSC.

- *It was decided that we shall have the ambition to make sure we have full Nordic representation at meetings with UIAA and IFSC. If physical representation is not possible from all countries we shall collect and carry the votes from those who can't participate, to make sure our common Nordic interests are taken into account.*

7. Sweden's work with “Målstegen”

PA did a short description of the Swedish Climbing Federation's work with Målstegen, a work that will help organizations with strategic planning.

8. After that the representatives described their participation in their respective national outdoor organizations.

9. We then discussed the membership situation in the Nordic countries; how the membership is administered and how many members there are in each country. We also got into talking about club development.

10. Competition disciplines: Towards the end of the meeting we came back to competition questions again. Denmark asked what the situation was on speed competitions. The other representatives agreed that speed comps seem to attract the younger climbers, but it is often neglected or given a low priority in the various competitions. No decisions were made though.

11. Cooperation with schools: Denmark wanted to know more about the other countries' work with this question but there was no time to discuss this at this year's meeting.

12. Next meeting.

- *It was decided that Finland – in accordance with the agreed schedule – will host next years Nordic meeting and that it shall be held sometime in the winter/early spring.*

13. The meeting was closed at 11:15 on Saturday and we all went to Ekoberget for an afternoon's climbing.