

Press Release **Ice Climbing**

Russians World Champions in Ice Climbing Speed discipline

Russian athletes dominated, as expected, the Speed discipline in the UIAA Ice Climbing World Championships, held on March 7-8 in Kirov, Russia.

Pavel Gulyaev was crowned men's World Champion ahead of fellow countrymen, Ivan Spitsyn and Pavel Batushev. It was also a Russian sweep in the women's event, with Maria Tolokonina coming first, ahead of Maria Krasavina and Nadezhda Gallyamova.

Gallyamova also turned in an excellent performance in the World Cup Lead event, beating Lucie Hrozova of the Czech Republic and Tolokonina.

Maxim Tomilov, also Russian, pulled off an upset in the men's Lead event, by finishing first, ahead of Lead 2011 World Champion Hee Yong Park of Korea. Ukraine's Valentin Sipavin came third. The overall winner of the past two years, Markus Bandler, representing Romania, ended the competition a disappointing 17th.

Bandler started the 2011 season where he left off in 2010 - winning the Lead event in Cheongsong, Korea, and following it off with another victory in Saas Fee, Switzerland. The competition in Korea was the first time the UIAA Ice Climbing World Cup has ever been held in Asia.

Read the full results (http://www.theuiaa.org/ice_results_2011.html) of each of the four events held in 2011.

Go to the photo galleries for images of the competitions: Saas Fee, Switzerland, Cheongsong, Korea, Busteni, Romania and Kirov, Russia (<https://picasaweb.google.com/uiaainternational> and <http://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=pu.142898939104147> for Busteni, Romania).

Lead and Speed

UIAA recognises Ice Climbing as a competitive sport and is responsible for organisation and promotion of the Ice Climbing World Cup and International Championships. There are two Ice Climbing disciplines; □ Speed and Lead. In Speed, athletes race up an ice face for the best time. In Lead competitions the climbers' ability to master a difficult route in a given time is tested. See video on <http://www.youtube.com/user/uiaabern>

Global reach

The UIAA, with 80 member organisations in 57 countries, represents more than 1 million people worldwide. It's the International Olympic Committee's recognised international federation for mountaineering and □ natural surface climbing.

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