

## **Masters World Championships, Syktyvkar, 2015**

It's perhaps a shame that no one from Britain made the trip to Russia for this season's Masters, the 35<sup>th</sup> MWC to have taken place. From all reports I've received, it was an excellent event! As might have been expected, it was heavily dominated by Russians (in the M01 and M02 categories there were only Russians), but this doesn't automatically mean that the standard was outrageously high. I think that most of us would have struggled to beat many people in our respective classes, but we wouldn't have been outclassed either. There would even have been medals available, especially in the younger ladies categories (for the first time I can remember, no one took part in the ladies F01 30 km classic race on the final day, so just turning up and finishing would have guaranteed a gold medal!), and also possibly in the relays, as many countries struggled to put relay teams together.

On the following pages I've given the results for the categories which Brits usually compete in: M01-M06, M07-M08 and M10 and, for ladies, F01, F05, F07 and F09. Unusually, I've shown the winner and the last finisher in each category (together with the number of starters) because, by looking at the times of the slowest skiers, you can get some idea of whether you would have beaten anyone (I reckon that I'd have been lucky to beat one person in my M05 category!). I've shown fewer results for ladies because the aim is only to give an idea of the standard while, for both men and ladies, I've included results from all sub-distances in each race (e.g. in the 30 km races, some men do only 15 kms while the oldest men do only 10 kms). If you want to look at results for your specific category, you can find them in full on the website, <http://mwc2015.ru/en/>. On that website, you will also find videos of the event (it seems that it got on to TV in Russia), as well as a lot of photos and, if you're willing to copy them into something like Google Translate, you'll see some very short articles describing the different races.

In total, 17 countries were represented, although most countries other than Russia had far fewer skiers than normal; no one from Britain, no one from the Czech Republic, and very few people from the USA and Canada. The BMCCSA was, though (even if he wasn't aware of it!) represented by one of the US participants, Steve Smigiel. Steve, as we know, owns half of the state of Michigan, which he counts as his 'back yard', and he gets his training by skiing around this back yard. Steve manages to get his photo into this Newsletter for the very first time (actually two photos) and, at my request, he submitted a short article about his experiences, which is reproduced, in full, later on.

From the photos on the website, the tracks seemed to be excellent: wide and fairly 'open' and, in fact, they remind me a bit of the biathlon tracks at Khanty-Mansiysk in Russia which usually holds the last World Cup of the season. There appears to have been plenty of snow but perhaps not quite as much as might have been expected and, although temperatures should have been well below zero (based on previous average temperatures in March in that area), you can see that every race took place at well above zero so I'm guessing that all classic races required klister. Unlike at previous events where warm temperatures have reduced the tracks, by the time we get to them, to heavy, deep, slush, the Syktyvkar tracks seems to have held up fairly well. Below you will see some photos from the event which I've chosen at random.



**Wide tracks ...**



**Lovely conditions!**

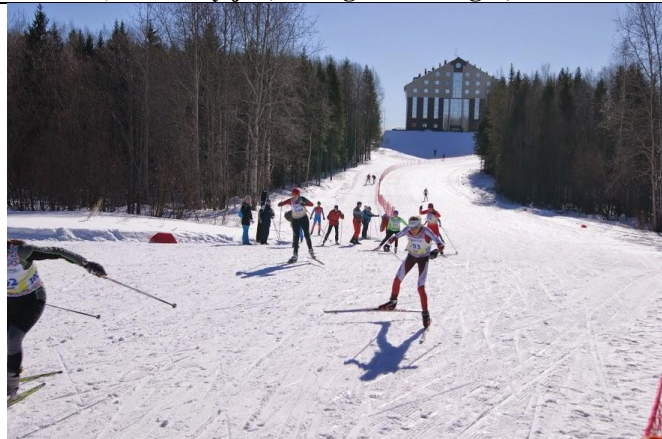




Hold on, that's my job, falling on a straight, flat section!



I like the look of this sweeping downhill!



Followed by a gentle uphill – the track seemed very fast



A random skier, but the track still seems fairly firm



Note the brown patch and thin snow!



This seems to be one of the longer hills



10 classic tracks – perfect!

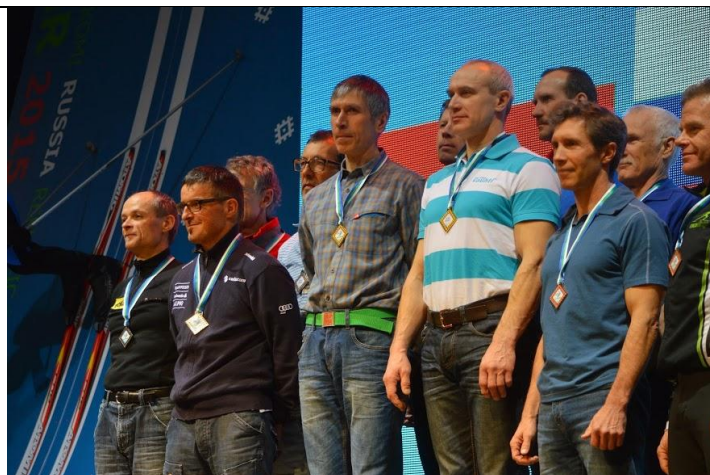


Our man Steve should be in here somewhere ...





**Steve finally gets his photo into the Newsletter!**



**And here he is again, second right, M05 relay bronze**

**Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> March – Men's 30 km free technique, air temperature +4.6 °C**

1)	Alexandr Syrvachev	RUS	M01	1.11:18.7	25.2 km/h	
19	Kaloshin Dmitry	RUS	M01	1.44:19.9	17.3 km/h	46.3 % (19 all Russian starters)
1)	Dmitrii Shestopalov	RUS	M02	1.09:43.1	25.8 km/h	
21)	Roman Abrosimov	RUS	M02	1.49:14.6	16.5 km/h	56.7 % (21 all Russian starters)
1)	Alexandr Tikhonchik	RUS	M03	1.10:12.3	25.6 km/h	
31)	Olivier Reilhan	FRA	M03	1.40:13.4	18.0 km/h	42.8 % (32 starters, 31 Russian)
1)	Eduard Kovyashov	RUS	M04	1.09:57.6	25.7 km/h	
40)	Sergey Kashirin	RUS	M04	1.42:51.7	17.5 km/h	47.0 % (41 starters, 36 Russian)
1)	Alexander Abramov	RUS	M05	1.11:02.5	25.3 km/h	
45)	Vyacheslav Vorobyev	RUS	M05	2.06:58.0	14.2 km/h	78.7 % (47 starters, 42 Russian)
1)	Guido Masiero	ITA	M06	1.14:18.4	24.2 km/h	
39)	Daniel Chapeland	FRA	M06	1.59:04.1	15.1 km/h	60.2 % (40 starters, 28 Russian)

**Men's 15 km free technique**

1)	Domenico Invernizzi	ITA	M07	39:11.3	23.0 km/h	
69)	Hafiz Alyautdinov	RUS	M07	1.00:26.0	14.9 km/h	54.2 % (70 starters, 55 Russian)
1)	Sakari Matikainen	FIN	M08	40:43.5	22.1 km/h	
29)	Steve Smigiel	USA	M08	51:34.5	17.4 km/h	26.6 %
38)	Alexandr Zaretskiy	RUS	M08	57:40.7	15.6 km/h	41.6 % (55 starters, 38 Russian)

**Men's 10 km free technique**

1)	Sverre Olav Matberg	NOR	M10	27:37.7	21.7 km/h	
28)	Gabriele Poletti	ITA	M10	48:05.2	12.5 km/h	74.0 % (29 starters, 18 Russian)

**Ladies 15 km free technique**

1)	Vera Moshkina	RUS	F01	41:13.3	21.8 km/h	
3)	Anna Prokusheva	RUS	F01	48:01.2	18.8 km/h	16.5 % (3 starters, 3 Russian)
1)	Natalia Kuzmina	RUS	F05	42:48.7	21.0 km/h	
11)	Jette Dorph	DEN	F05	1:23:36.0	10.8 km/h	95.2 % (11 starters, 8 Russian)
1)	Laura Colnaghi	ITA	F07	46:49.3	19.2 km/h	
7)	Lyudmila Razgildina	KAZ	F07	1.32:04.7	9.8 km/h	96.7 % (7 starters, 4 Russian)

**Ladies 10 km free technique**

1)	Nina Gracheva	RUS	F09	34:21.6	17.5 km/h	
7)	Mariia Kletkina	RUS	F09	39:21.8	15.2 km/h	14.6 % (8 starters, 6 Russian)

Steve got off to a good start in his first race, 15 km free technique. 51:34 was almost 3 minutes faster than Pillerseetaal last year, and it was actually (according to my records) his fastest ever Masters 15 kms, almost one minute faster than his previous best in Asiago in 2013. Unfortunately, in a strong field, his percentage of the winning time was a little down on his best ever of 19.1 % in the same race in Pillerseetaal. As an example of how conditions can play such a big part, though, in the bitter cold of Falun and the soft, soggy conditions of Autrans, he'd take over one hour for the same distance!

It seemed that the organisers only took and recorded the air temperature once during the day. But if it was +4.6 °C when the first groups went off, it must surely have got considerably warmer as the day went on.

The second race, on Sunday, was the mid-distance classic event. Slightly cooler than the day before, at least at the start, but still above zero degrees. Perhaps interesting to note was how relatively few people there were opting for classic, in some cases half as many as in the free technique equivalent. Only one F01 lady would have guaranteed a silver medal for anyone else who turned up and completed the distance!

#### **Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> March – Men's 30 km classic technique, air temperature +2.9 °C**

1)	Vyacheslav Kaydash	RUS	M01	1.17:17.4	23.3 km/h	
10)	Mikhail Pirogov	RUS	M01	1.35:04.3	18.9 km/h	23.0 % (10 all Russian starters)
1)	Mikhail Komendantov	RUS	M02	1.18:21.0	23.0 km/h	
7)	Dmitry Gladkiy	RUS	M02	1.32:34.1	19.5 km/h	18.1 % (7 all Russian starters)
1)	Sergey Cherny	RUS	M03	1.21:18.1	22.1 km/h	
19)	Gennady Popov	RUS	M03	1.42:52.6	17.5 km/h	26.5 % (21 starters, 20 Russian)
1)	Vyacheslav Sergeev	RUS	M04	1.23:49.4	21.5 km/h	
24)	Christian Mosler	GER	M04	2.03:00.2	14.6 km/h	46.7 % (25 starters, 19 Russian)
1)	Martin Furrer	SUI	M05	1.23:48.4	21.5 km/h	
23)	Vladimir Kaloshin	RUS	M05	2.10:47.5	13.8 km/h	56.0 % (23 starters, 21 Russian)
1)	Mikhail Kolobov	RUS	M06	1.24:31.4	21.3 km/h	
27)	Teddy Pless	DEN	M06	3.02:02.8	9.9 km/h	115.4 % (28 starters, 21 Russian)

#### **Men's 15 km classic technique**

1)	Ferdinand Kraller	GER	M07	44:27.2	20.2 km/h	
32)	Sergey Churakov	RUS	M07	1.03:58.4	14.1 km/h	43.9 % (32 starters, 23 Russian)
1)	Eero Vaisanen	FIN	M08	45:33.6	19.8 km/h	
40)	Richard Dixon	USA	M08	1.19:06.6	11.4 km/h	73.6 % (41 starters, 22 Russian)

#### **Men's 10 km classic technique**

1)	Gennady Ushakov	RUS	M10	35:10.6	17.1 km/h	
17)	Jean Taillandier	FRA	M10	1.04:47.3	9.3 km/h	78.2 % (19 starters, 11 Russian)

#### **Ladies 15 km classic technique**

1)	Olga Chernaya	RUS	F01	49:54.0	18.0 km/h	(1 starter, 1 Russian)
1)	Svetlana Dobrykh	RUS	F05	47:04.9	19.1 km/h	
13)	Merete Clasen	DEN	F05	1.03:29.6	14.2 km/h	34.9 % (13 starters, 10 Russian)
1)	Lubov Pospeshina	SWE	F07	55:01.6	16.4 km/h	
13)	Svetlana Fugenfirova	RUS	F07	1.29:41.2	10.0 km/h	63.0 % (13 starters, 8 Russian)

#### **Ladies 10 km classic technique**

1)	Anneli Myller	FIN	F09	41:24.6	14.5 km/h	
9)	Kyllikki Ratala	FIN	F09	49:30.2	12.1 km/h	19.5 % (10 starters, 3 Russian)

Things were somewhat more even, in terms of numbers doing classic and free technique, for the shortest races on Monday, and in the free technique version this was Steve's best individual performance of the event, at 25.1 %. It was marginally better than his 25.7 % in the same race in Pillerseetaal, but the best part of 8 minutes faster! That's almost one minute per kilometre quicker; no wonder he was happy with the snow conditions!

**Monday 16<sup>th</sup> March – Men's 10 km classic technique, air temperature +4.8 °C**

1)	Vyacheslav Kaydash	RUS	M01	25:17.8	23.7 km/h	
14)	Alexey Strekalovskiy	RUS	M01	32:18.5	18.6 km/h	27.7 % (14 all Russian starters)
1)	Mikhail Komendantov	RUS	M02	25:28.4	23.5 km/h	
14)	Valentin Tyrin	RUS	M02	31:46.0	18.9 km/h	24.7 % (14 all Russian starters)
1)	Andrey Mazurin	RUS	M03	26:14.0	22.9 km/h	
27)	Alexandr Telezhkin	RUS	M03	33:40.3	17.8 km/h	25.0 % (27 all Russian starters)
1)	Eduard Kovyashov	RUS	M04	25:38.1	23.4 km/h	
32)	Sergey Arkhutich	RUS	M04	36:14.7	16.6 km/h	41.4 % (32 starters, 26 Russian)
1)	Andrey Sergeev	RUS	M05	26:33.8	22.6 km/h	
31)	Vladimir Kaloshin	RUS	M05	40:08.9	14.9 km/h	51.1 % (31 starters, 29 Russian)
1)	Olivo Antoniacomi	ITA	M06	28:02.5	21.4 km/h	
30)	Zhumatay Abylkasov	KAZ	M06	49:34.0	12.1 km/h	76.8 % (30 starters, 22 Russian)

**Men's 10 km classic technique**

1)	Nikolay Grigorov	RUS	M07	28:44.8	20.9 km/h	
49)	Hafiz Alyautdinov	RUS	M07	47:53.6	12.5 km/h	66.6 % (50 starters, 37 Russian)
1)	Nikolay Rochev	RUS	M08	30:14.0	19.8 km/h	
43)	Fedor Posheluk	BLR	M09	45:07.2	13.3 km/h	49.2 % (43 starters, 23 Russian)

**Men's 5 km classic technique**

1)	Alexander Zakharov	RUS	M10	14:48.8	20.3 km/h	
23)	Paolo Palamidesi	ITA	M10	51:16.7	5.9 km/h	246.2 % (23 starters, 15 Russian)

**Ladies 10 km classic technique**

1)	Olga Ageeva	RUS	F02	30:17.0	19.8 km/h	
4)	Nataliya Petrova	RUS	F02	37:33.8	16.0 km/h	24.0 % (4 starters, 4 Russian)
1)	Svetlana Dobrykh	RUS	F05	31:21.6	19.1 km/h	
13)	Tatyana Dubrovina	RUS	F05	44:41.4	13.4 km/h	42.5 % (13 starters, 11 Russian)
1)	Laura Colnaghi	ITA	F07	35:35.8	16.9 km/h	
13)	Svetlana Fugenfirova	RUS	F07	58:22.4	10.3 km/h	64.0 % (13 starters, 8 Russian)

**Ladies 5 km classic technique**

1)	Nina Gracheva	RUS	F09	18:10.4	16.5 km/h	
13)	Dina Grigoreva	RUS	F09	28:23.4	10.6 km/h	56.2 % (13 starters, 6 Russian)

**Monday 16<sup>th</sup> March – Men's 10 km free technique, air temperature +7.0 °C**

1)	Alexandr Syrvachev	RUS	M01	23:42.1	25.3 km/h	
15)	Dmitry Kaloshin	RUS	M01	33:19.9	18.0 km/h	40.6 % (15 all Russian starters)
1)	Dmitrii Shestopalov	RUS	M02	23:06.1	26.0 km/h	
14)	Roman Abrosimov	RUS	M02	32:58.5	18.2 km/h	42.7 % (15 all Russian starters)
1)	Alexandr Tikhonchik	RUS	M03	23:46.5	25.2 km/h	
26)	Alexandr Suchkov	RUS	M03	31:39.0	19.0 km/h	33.1 % (26 starters, 24 Russian)
1)	Igor Kuznetsov	RUS	M04	24:07.5	24.9 km/h	
33)	Vyacheslav Gladyshev	RUS	M04	33:21.2	18.0 km/h	38.3 % (33 starters, 27 Russian)

1)	Alexander Abramov	RUS	M05	24:18.3	24.6 km/h	
37)	Vyacheslav Vorobyev	RUS	M05	36:47.3	16.3 km/h	51.5 % (37 starters, 32 Russian)
1)	Guido Masiero	ITA	M06	24:40.4	24.3 km/h	
42)	Teddy Pless	DEN	M06	48:23.5	12.4 km/h	97.1 % (43 starters, 33 Russian)
1)	Domenico Invernizzi	ITA	M07	26:14.2	22.9 km/h	
47)	Rashit Akhtiamov	RUS	M07	38:54.5	15.4 km/h	48.3 % (47 starters, 36 Russian)
1)	Sakari Matikainen	FIN	M08	27:41.7	21.7 km/h	
25)	Steve Smigiel	USA	M08	34:39.0	17.3 km/h	25.1 %
33)	Richard Dixon	USA	M08	45:07.0	13.3 km/h	62.9 % (33 starters, 18 Russian)

#### Men's 5 km free technique

1)	Sverre Olav Matberg	NOR	M10	13:36.7	22.1 km/h	
20)	Roberto Ligugnana	ITA	M10	27:11.1	11.0 km/h	99.7 % (21 starters, 11 Russian)

#### Ladies 10 km free technique

1)	Vera Moshkina	RUS	F01	27:07.0	22.1 km/h	
3)	Anna Prokusheva	RUS	F01	32:20.9	18.6 km/h	19.4 % (3 starters, 3 Russian)
1)	Natalia Kuzmina	RUS	F05	28:45.8	20.9 km/h	
13)	Jette Dorph	DEN	F05	51:20.9	11.7 km/h	78.5 % (13 starters, 9 Russian)
1)	Olga Zakharova	RUS	F07	35:16.2	17.0 km/h	
7)	Lyudmila Razgildina	KAZ	F07	50:44.8	11.8 km/h	43.9 % (7 starters, 4 Russian)

#### Ladies 5 km free technique

1)	Elena Peskova	RUS	F09	16:16.7	18.4 km/h	
6)	Elena Ganshina	RUS	F09	20:56.6	14.3 km/h	28.7 % (7 starters, 2 Russian)

#### Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March – Men's 4 x 5 km relay, air temperature +7.5 °C, M05

1)	RUS	Andrey Sergeev	12:01.0		
		Grigory Kornev	12:32.6		
		Vladislav Safin	12:54.7		
		Alexander Abramov	12:53.5	50:21.8	
3)	USA	Milan Baic	12:42.3		
		Bob Gray	16:26.7		
		Steve Smigiel	18:03.7		
		Kent Murdoch	13:13.1	1:00:25.8	

Winning a medal must be great, and this is exactly what Steve, as part of the successful US men's M05 team, did. At 7.5 °C this was the warmest race of the event so far. His team was always in third place but, then again, what do you expect? To illustrate the problems some countries had in finding relay teams, in an M05 category (50-55 year olds), only one of the US team (Kent Murdoch) was actually M05; first man off Milan Baic is M06, second man Bob Gray is an M10 (75-80 year olds), and Steve himself in M08 (65-70 year olds). It seems churlish to mention that his bronze medal was also a British gold medal!

Conditions must have been good for the final, long races, because this was Steve's fastest race of the whole event, 18.1 km/h and I don't think, in fact, that he has ever done a faster race at the Masters. He was 17 minutes faster than his 30 km time last year, and prior to this year, his fastest time over the distance had been just a few seconds under 1 hour 52 minutes. How much of this huge improvement was down to fast snow and how much was down to the track profile we might never know! Many other people in his class must have enjoyed the fast conditions, too because, bizarrely, this was Steve's *worst* race in terms of winner's time percentage.

**Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March – Men's 45 km free technique, air temperature +6.4 °C**

1)	Evgenii Bereznenko	RUS	M01	1.45:00.6	25.7 km/h	
19)	Dmitry Kaloshin	RUS	M01	2.40:13.7	16.8 km/h	52.6 % (21 all Russian starters)
1)	Dmitrii Shestopalov	RUS	M02	1.44:09.6	25.9 km/h	
15)	Oleg Pozolotin	RUS	M02	2.21:38.1	19.0 km/h	36.0 % (15 all Russian starters)
1)	Alexandr Tikhonchik	RUS	M03	1.44:42.8	25.8 km/h	
33)	Alexey Denisov	RUS	M03	2.25:35.3	18.5 km/h	39.0 % (33 starters, 31 Russian)
1)	Igor Kuznetsov	RUS	M04	1.46:05.3	25.4 km/h	
35)	Sergey Kashirin	RUS	M04	2.30:40.9	17.9 km/h	42.0 % (39 starters, 34 Russian)
1)	Alexander Abramov	RUS	M05	1.45:16.1	25.7 km/h	
40)	Oleg Izyurov	RUS	M05	2.51:33.4	15.7 km/h	63.0 % (44 starters, 39 Russian)
1)	Ilmo Pulkkinen	FIN	M06	1.50:12.7	24.5 km/h	
41)	Daniel Chapeland	FRA	M06	2.47:29.1	16.1 km/h	52.0 % (41 starters, 32 Russian)

**Men's 30 km free technique**

1)	Domenico Invernizzi	ITA	M07	1.13:54.4	24.4 km/h	
61)	Hafiz Alyautdinov	RUS	M07	2.00:40.6	14.9 km/h	63.3 % (61 starters, 49 Russian)
1)	Sakari Matikainen	FIN	M08	1.16:08.6	23.7 km/h	
27)	Steve Smigiel	USA	M08	1.39:13.0	18.1 km/h	30.3 %
37)	Richard Dixon	USA	M08	2.21:17.8	12.7 km/h	85.6 % (39 starters, 26 Russian)

**Men's 15 km free technique**

1)	Sverre Olav Matberg	NOR	M10	41:30.6	21.7 km/h	
24)	Gabriele Poletti	ITA	M10	1.11:58.6	12.5 km/h	73.5 % (24 starters, 14 Russian)

**Ladies 30 km free technique**

1)	Vera Moshkina	RUS	F01	1.17:24.7	23.3 km/h	
3)	Anna Prokusheva	RUS	F01	1.33:55.5	19.2 km/h	21.3 % (3 starters, 3 Russian)
1)	Svetlana Dobrykh	RUS	F05	1.20:17.4	22.4 km/h	
11)	Jette Dorph	DEN	F05	2.36:12.5	11.5 km/h	94.9 % (11 starters, 7 Russian)
1)	Laura Colnaghi	ITA	F07	1.29:13.9	20.2 km/h	
4)	Marguerite Grindler	FRA	F07	2.01:15.4	14.8 km/h	35.9 % (5 starters, 3 Russian)

**Ladies 15 km free technique, air temperature +2.3 °C**

1)	Elena Peskova	RUS	F09	48:43.3	18.5 km/h	
7)	Eva Carlsen	NOR	F09	53:14.8	16.9 km/h	9.0 % (7 starters, 5 Russian)

**Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March – Men's 45 km classic technique, air temperature +5.8 °C**

1)	Stanislav Peletskiy	RUS	M01	1.59:34.4	22.6 km/h	
5)	Evgeny Makarov	RUS	M01	2.25:43.0	18.5 km/h	23.5 % (5 all Russian starters)
1)	Mikhail Komendantov	RUS	M02	2.01:39.7	22.2 km/h	
10)	Andrey Danilov	RUS	M02	2.29:42.2	18.0 km/h	23.0 % (10 all Russian starters)
1)	Sergey Cherny	RUS	M03	2.02:22.2	22.1 km/h	
9)	Vitaly Levin	RUS	M03	2.19:50.9	19.3 km/h	14.3 % (9 all Russian starters)
1)	Eduard Kovyashov	RUS	M04	2.03:44.5	21.8 km/h	
27)	Vladimir Travnikov	RUS	M04	3.06:51.2	14.5 km/h	51.0 % (29 starters, 20 Russian)
1)	Andrey Sergeev	RUS	M05	2.04:27.7	21.7 km/h	
19)	Sergey Fominykh	RUS	M05	2.49:30.0	15.9 km/h	36.2 % (21 starters, 19 Russian)
1)	Mikhail Kolobov	RUS	M06	2.04:55.9	21.6 km/h	
18)	Valeriy Leonov	RUS	M06	2.46:51.6	16.2 km/h	33.4 % (20 starters, 16 Russian)

### Men's 30 km classic technique

1)	Ferdinand Kraller	GER	M07	1.25:35.2	21.0 km/h	
32)	Arne Stenon	DEN	M07	1.58:57.8	15.1 km/h	39.0 % (32 starters, 25 Russian)
1)	Eero Vaisanen	FIN	M08	1.27:46.4	20.5 km/h	
31)	Theo Haug	GER	M08	2.07:43.4	14.1 km/h	44.6 % (32 starters, 14 Russian)

### Men's 15 km classic technique, air temperature +3.5 °C

1)	Tapio Wallenius	FIN	M10	47:38.4	18.9 km/h	
14)	Roberto Ligugnana	ITA	M10	1.27:30.2	10.2 km/h	73.7 % (15 starters, 9 Russian)

### Ladies 30 km classic technique, air temperature +5.8 °C

F01 No starters

1)	Marina Berskaya	RUS	F05	1.37:31.2	18.5 km/h	
10)	Tatyana Dubrovina	RUS	F05	2.07:40.4	14.1 km/h	30.9 % (10 starters, 8 Russian)
1)	Lubov Pospeshina	SWE	F07	1.48:05.5	16.7 km/h	
8)	Tatyana Lobanova	RUS	F07	2.35:23.7	11.6 km/h	43.8 % (8 starters, 4 Russian)

### Ladies 15 km classic technique

1)	Tamara Karepova	RUS	F09	57:53.5	15.5 km/h	
8)	Elena Ganshina	RUS	F09	1.13:50.7	12.2 km/h	27.6 % (9 starters, 4 Russian)

*Some final images of Syktyvkar*



**Thank Heavens that's over!**



**Bye, bye, Syktyvkar downtown**

And that was it. Steve E-mailed his event report from the airport on his way home, and I promised to reproduce this in full, so here it is:

*Steve Smigiel's event report on the Masters World Championship 2015, Syktyvkar – by Steve Smigiel*

Should have been there, the snow and the skiing was the best.

Steve

Well, no point in wasting words. One day there might be a world shortage of words and, having saved his, Steve will still have many left when the rest of us have run out! Let's hope that we have a rather better British turnout in Vuokatti next year.