

DURING HIS FIRST SEASON IN S1

JAN FARRELL ESTABLISHES HIS PERSONAL BEST AT 143.946MPH.

- Farrell beats his record by over 20km/h, clocking 231.660km/h
- The strong winds and complicated track conditions placed the race on hold for 3 days.
- 3 Men's World Records were broken during this edition of the Vars Speed Masters: Ski, Snowboard, Bicycle and disabled ladies by Heather Mills.
- Heather Mills, Paul McCartney's ex-wife sets the disabled ladies Speed Ski record at 103.60mph

Vars, 7th of April 2015.- After finishing 6th in his first FIS World Cup season in S1 category, Jan went to the Vars World Record attempt race. With the objective of beating his speed from last year (210.035km/h, the 3rd fastest in history on downhill skis), Farrell, born in Lancaster, 1983, achieved a top speed of 231.660km/h, or 143.946mph from a lower start than the final run that he did not qualify for. He said: "I'm happy, and next season I want more. I need to change a few things, improve the aerodynamics of my equipment, hard training... and I'm motivated, going to give it everything I have! Next year in Vars it would be great to beat Marc Poncin's British Speed record of 152,37mph."

The 17-second run was extremely bumpy due to the thin layer of snow on the top half of the track. Philippe Billy, chief of race and retired local ex-World Record holder, stated "this is like Speed Skiing in the 1970s!" According to Jan, it's very difficult to describe what he feels during a run, but: "You adopt your tuck, head down and stare around 50m in front of your skis to maintain the ideal aerodynamic position. I was aware of my speed; I knew I was skiing faster than ever before. I could feel the air pressure, but wasn't aware of the noise; it was like being isolated in a bubble, with my skis pointing down and concentrating on letting my body adapt to the imperfections of the track. Now I want more, 240, and 250km/h!"

The renowned invitation only event Speed Masters is the highlight of the season; it's the fastest non-motorised race in the world. The annual event's objective is to beat World Records, National records, and The Châbrieres slope has the perfect record-cocktail: a start 2750m above sea-level, 98% gradient and 495m vertical drop. The first days of the race boasted excellent weather, and on the second day of racing, Jan already achieved over 134mph. The next days were marked by high winds, obliging the race to stay on hold for 3 straight days. Speed Ski rules state that the maximum wind speed permitted for racing is 15km/h.

4 World Records

Italian **Simone Origone's** World Record of 252.454km/h set in 2014 was the main objective of the 21 racers registered, but once again he demonstrated absolute dominance at high speeds, setting a new World Record at **252.632km/h** or 156.978mph. Jan said "Simone is the best Speed Skier in history, and the man to beat. He's my reference, and the most professional athlete of the circuit, and example for everyone!" **Edmond Plawczyk**, after 3 years of preparations, finally beat the **snowboard** World Record with a top speed of 203,275 km/h (126.309mph). "We all watched in silence" Jan stated, "Edmond's run was shaky and he steered far left through the timing, having to correct his line at the point of maximum speed. It's an amazingly brave accomplishment, I could never imagine myself doing that!"

Eric Barone reached a top speed of **223.30km/h** (138.75mph) on a bicycle, beating his own World Record by over 1km/h. "I had the opportunity last year to race head to head against Eric at Hintertux glacier, and I was especially proud of him getting a new record, on such a hairy run, he's a brave man!"

Heather Mills, set the disabled ladies Speed record at **166.84km/h** or 103,67mph. Jan, after witnessing her record, said: "Heather is an incredible person, the effort and dedication she puts in to everything is amazing. I'm very happy for her, and looking forward to see further Record attempts from her part, it's great to have her involved in our sport."

About Jan Farrell

Jan Farrell was born in 1983, the son of a Czech mother and an English father. Jan first put on a pair of skis when he was 2 years old, and he has never missed a season since the age of five. His first speed ski race was in 2011, and soon began to have success: he is the top ranked British ski racer; 9th in the world in 2012, and 5th in 2013, before winning the top spot in 2014, becoming FIS Speed Ski World Cup SDH Champion. He reached a speed of 210.035 kph, thus becoming the third fastest skier in history on downhill skis. Jan combines his career as a top sportsman with that of an entrepreneur. When he is not skiing and creating content, you will find him in his office at Liberalia, the company he founded at the age of 18. He is actively involved in over half a dozen firms, plays an active role in various federations, including FIS and the Madrid Ski Federation and acts as a Mentor for budding entrepreneurs who are studying their MBA at IE Business School. His passion to create, develop, compete and his will to win is just as strong in his business environment.

Jan is sponsored by:

GoPro, X-Bionic, Atomic, Leki, Liberalia, Manifiesto, GlobalPhysio, SkiClinic and CoppelDental.

MORE INFORMATION:

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