

Skyline Day 1: A Review

The Skyrunning World Championships in Kinlochleven had a record breaking start on Thursday with the first race, the Salomon Mamores VK®, kicking off the event.

The Winner of the Men's VK was Switzerland's Rémi Bonnet, coming in with a record-breaking time of 39 minutes and 23 seconds, over two minutes faster than the runner up, he was dubbed a 'Future Star' of the sport.

Second, meanwhile, was hotly contested with a single second separating the next two runners. Both representing Norway, Thorbjørn Ludvigsen in second and Stian Angermund-Vik in third with times of 41:49 and 41:50, respectively.

The Women's Winner was Laura Orgué from Spain with a time of 51.35, beating her time from the previous year by 47 seconds, and setting a new women's record, despite the cold Scottish weather mostly unfamiliar for someone native to Spain.

Second and third were, Lina El Kott Helander in a time of 52.34 and Hillary Gerardi in 52.53.

The Salomon Mamores Vertical Kilometre® starts on trails leading out from the village of Kinlochleven before emerging onto the exposed side of the mountain, Na Gruagaichean. This section opens onto the final hair raising precarious ridge climb up to the 1056m summit.

The less than ideal weather conditions had the runners setting off with apprehension especially as the previous years being blessed with unusual amounts of sunshine. The finish line being at such a height posed more problems for the runners and medical team as the runners slow down as they make their own way back more leisurely than the mad dash up, causing exposure problems in many runners unused to the cold. When talking to Hannah, a member of the medical team, she highlighted exposure as a main worry, 'Two years ago it was more about people overheating... This year it is people who are coming down with blue lips.'

The day was wrapped up with the opening ceremony with performances by local Ardnamurchan and Kinlochleven pupils, traditional music, bagpipes and fireworks and the kids proudly bearing the national flags of the runners. Despite the weather, many spectators took to the streets of Kinlochleven to welcome the event.

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