

Press Release 2004-06-03

## Race Start

As the sun was setting beautiful over the High Coast the racers were doing their last minutes preparation, stuffing themselves with free hot dogs and wraps. For now on and five days ahead they will have very limited access to food. Right before the race Dave Hitchton, Team Subaru Canada, was anxious to get in the water “Most crucial will be being on the plane in time” he said.

One minute past midnight the race started at the Högbonden Island just outside Kramfors. Even at the start the racers didn't know where they were heading, fires were leading them on their way to Cp 1 and it was not until then the racers got the map and roadbooks.

Team Maybe, Sweden, was fastest team down to Cp1. Coaststeering around the Högbonden Island, with the sea below and canotists patrolling for safety, they threw themselves into the water swimming the 400 meters to the next island. The sea was about six degrees cold but the racers didn't think twice.

Helena Lind and Mikael Nordström, the racedirectors, were really exited to see the racers take off. “We have worked our butts off these last days so now it feels really good” Nordström says.

“Everything can happen and it's crucial that the logistics is working during a race like this” Helena says and also say that it's great that the teams are so positive.

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