

Press release 2005-05-18



A very happy Team Lundhags crossed the finish line, an hour after the winners Cross Sportswear yesterday evening. “This is the best we have ever done!” smiled a happy Björn Rydvall. They were about half an hour after Cross on the ski section, but stopped for some food and ended up an hour after. “We are very happy with the second place! We did our own race, and hoped it would be enough to go all the way,” said team captain Mikael Andersson.

It had stopped snowing when Lundhags came down the mountain in Kittelfjäll on their skis. Hanna Wikberg, the incredibly strong girl on the team said that “We have felt really good all of the race, and have been fresher than usual.” “Now we are going to eat and take a shower, and then rest from training for at least a week,” said Björn. “This is the hardest race I’ve ever done!”

Tactics and determination gave Salomon Suisse the advantage they needed to overtake Buff at the very end of the race. At the last section of the Via Ferrata, they could push away and ski down Kittelfjäll to a meriting bronze medal at 01:45 on Wednesday morning. 17 minutes later, a happy gang of Spaniards skied down the mountain, glad to finish the cold and tough course. Both teams were of course very exhausted, but otherwise in good condition.

Fifth over the finish line was Team Montrail, at 04.08 Wednesday morning. “This was really cool! Definitely one of the best races I’ve ever done!” smiled a happy but tired Rebecca Rush. “We are happy with a fifth place in this race with so many strong teams,” she continued.

It has now been 14 hours since Team Montrail crossed the finish line on fifth place, and more than 24 hours since Cross Sportswear took home the first place in Explore Sweden 2005. Two teams are still out on the course, team Sole and team Nomad. They are slugging it out, determined to cross the finish line. Team Sole are on the kick bike section and they look really tired. They are expected at the Via Ferrata in about an hour. Team Nomad are still on the mountain, and will hopefully make it over the finish line before 22.00 tonight.

There is a beautiful sun shining from a clear blue sky over Kittelfjäll, where the rest of the teams are packing and drying their stuff. The teams that have finished, and the teams that have dropped out are hanging around chatting, exchanging stories of what happened out there on the course. The team members that was not feeling good out on the course, are all doing much better now after a long nights sleep and some real food. Volunteers are getting everything ready for the price ceremony tomorrow, and for the transportation of all the gear down to Stockholm from where the teams will leave Sweden on Friday.

For further information please visit www.exploresweden.se or contact Media Manager Stefan Nordström +46 70 642 1910.

