



The LLK-HLSK skating weekend

Third edition, February 10-12, 2017

Dear members of LLK and HLSK,

Our clubs will organize a new, combined skating weekend February 10-12 2017. This time Krister Valtonen (LLK) and Rob Mulders (HLSK) will be the organizing committee. This document describes what to expect if you participate either as leader or participant in this weekend.

Goal of the weekend

Our first aim is to skate on natural ice. If there is not a reasonable chance of skating, we cancel the weekend on Wednesday before the weekend. We do not plan an alternative activity. If the weekend starts and circumstances are getting worse, we will either abort the weekend, or we keep looking for good ice.

The second goal of the weekend is to have a nice weekend with both our clubs together. People will get to know each other better. During skating, breakfast, dinner and after dinner, everyone will be able to meet the other participants.

General approach

We won't be traveling with a 50-person bus as before, but we are focusing on a different approach where we travel more like HLSK does on their skating trips. We decided to travel with four minibuses: two from Holland and two from Linköping. A major advantage of this is that we can take the go/no-go decision very late, without any need to suffer financially for unused airline tickets.

The buses will meet near a skating area, which is chosen as late as possible. The leaders and participants interchange so that there is a group II, two groups III and one group IV. Each group consists of eight people, staying together for the rest of the weekend and traveling in their own minibus. After skating, we all meet in the same hotel to mingle, have dinner and prepare for the next day.

There will be two leaders in each group, one from HLSK and one of LLK. The leaders have more responsibility and more freedom for leading their group compared to previous editions of the weekend. The same leaders lead all three days with the same group. The list of differences between LLK and HLSK and other things to address will be provided to both leaders and participants by the organizing committee. The participants will also have individual responsibilities and tasks within their skating groups (see below). We can end up anywhere between Bergslagen and northern Germany, but ideally in Småland. One can for instance dream of skating on Fegen, Bolmen and Åsnen in one weekend!



Safety

From the very beginning of our planning, we have put safety on top of our list when making decisions. We consider the lessons learned from the last LLK-HLSK weekend as very important. We added numerous safety measures to the organization of the weekend, of which the most important ones are:

- We **limit the number of participants to 32** instead of 50 since we want to try out a new format and less people means it is easier to handle. After this weekend we will evaluate the new format and decide how to proceed in the future. If this is a success one option could be to do several joint LLK-HLSK weekends of this format in one season in the future.
- We **limit the number of clubs to two**: LLK and HLSK. We want to define procedures for the weekend and to mark differences between these procedures and how it is done in each club. Having more clubs in this equation makes it more difficult.
- We **don't book airplane tickets**, to make it easier to cancel the weekend before departure if conditions are bad. The fact that the Dutch participants had booked airline tickets made it very stressful for the organizing committee last time and we want to avoid that.
- We will do (almost) **three full days of skating** instead of four. Every change of skating area creates a pressure on the organization. By planning three days of skating instead of four we make it easier to organize.
- The **leaders for the weekend are appointed in advance** and **they lead all three days** with the same group. Last time, not having this organized in advance forced the organizing committee to organize leaders each night which took a lot of time and was very stressful. Also there will be two leaders in each group of 8 people, why we believe that being a leader is not as big task as being single leader for a group during three days. Also, knowing that you will be leader, will make sure that you will do necessary planning each evening before skating.
- Instead of having one big bus, we use **four mini-buses**. This will give the leaders more flexibility for the planning of their day tours. The use of mini-buses also avoids the situation where a lot of people rapidly enter unknown ice at the same time at the same place.
- We have developed a **risk analysis method (4x4)** to be used during preparation and skating of each day tour.
- We have set up a **task assignment list for all participants**, to give the organizers and leaders more time to think about safety.
- LLK and HLSK will **arrange detailed maps for all leaders** for the complete target area we cover with our weekend.
- We will use **WhatsApp as a communication channel**. With ten different WhatsApp groups we will have efficient communication channels to distribute information to proper recipients.

Before the weekend start, the organizing committee will release a safety document, where we zoom in on all the above measures.



Leaders

Each group has two leaders, one from LLK and one from HLSK. Krister and Rob in the organizing committee are not scheduled as leaders, they are spare leaders in case one of the scheduled leaders is not available, for instance due to sickness. The leaders of each group have had contact with each other before the weekend. They have agreed beforehand on how to solve differences in safety regulations between LLK and HLSK. They will inform their group about the decisions they made to harmonize the two sets of regulations into one. The leaders will ask an experienced participant from their skating group to be last man.

Participants

As mentioned earlier, all participants will get tasks, both in the preparation for the weekend, as during the weekend. Some examples are: taking care of snacks and drinks for your group; financial track keeping; making färdrapporter and isobs on Skridskonätet; being last man when the leaders decide to skate first and second; arranging how the thermoses are to be filled in the hotel; and more. The organizing committee will spread a list of all tasks assigned to whom, as soon as we know who has booked in for the weekend and who is in which traveling / skating group.

Target skating area

We decided to make the borders of the area we might go to very clear, to avoid misunderstandings about how long we might have to drive to find skateable ice. The area has the following boundaries:

- Northern limit: Mjösa - Värmland - Västmanland - Stockholm archipelago
- Western limit: Swedish west coast - Oslo - Mjösa
- Eastern limit: Swedish east coast
- Southern limit: Northern Germany (this requires LLK to start driving Thursday evening)

We decided that the following areas are outside our scope:

- Östergötland except for Sommen, Vättern and archipelago in the east. LLK wants to try new areas, but we might skate here with good conditions and very bad at other places.
- Denmark: skating on lakes and sea is forbidden
- Finland including Åland (needs boat trip which takes too much time)
- Estonia (needs boat trip which takes time; too far away)
- Poland (too far away; hard to find hotels; language problems)
- Holland

Dates, times, places

The weekend consists of three skating days: Friday 10th, Saturday 11th and Sunday 12th of February 2017. We travel in four mini buses, two from LLK and two from HLSK according to the following schedule:



	 Rented minibus from Linköping	 Rented minibus from Linköping	 Rented minibus from Holland	 HLSK bus
Thur 9th 18:00			Group Charlie (HLSK group 2 and 3a) starts to drive	Group Delta (HLSK group 3b and 4) starts to drive
Fri 10th 06:00	Group Alfa (LLK group 2 and 3a) starts to drive	Group Bravo (LLK group 3b and 4) starts to drive		
Fri 10th 9:30	Everyone meets. Regrouping to skating groups.			
	Group 2	Group 4	Group 3a	Group 3b
Friday 10th	Skating day 1	Skating day 1	Skating day 1	Skating day 1
Saturday 11th	Skating day 2	Skating day 2	Skating day 2	Skating day 2
Sunday 12th	Skating day 3	Skating day 3	Skating day 3	Skating day 3
Sun 12th 15:00	Everyone meets. Regrouping to traveling groups.			
	Group Alfa drives till Linköping	Group Bravo drives to Linköping	Group Charlie drives to Holland	Group Delta drives to Holland

Normally spoken, skateable ice will be found in the southern half of Sweden. There the traveling groups split into skating groups, known in advance. Each group has its own two leaders. At the end of the day, each skating group takes its own bus to drive to the hotel. We aim to have dinner at 19:00 and a group briefing at 21:00. On Saturday, each skating group has freedom after breakfast, to go skating on a lake within the area designated by the organizing committee. We stick to the breakfast times of the hotel; we do not take measures to start earlier than that. After skating, we all meet at the hotel designated by the organizing committee, where the same routine takes place. On Sunday, the four groups are still self supporting, but we all skate on the same lake. This is necessary, since we re-split the skating groups into traveling groups at 15:00. The LLK buses drive home. The HLSK buses will drive a short piece of the way home. To avoid the risk of tiredness, the HLSK groups stay over for an extra night. We foresee that one of the HLSK buses will drive home starting



Monday morning early. The other HLSK bus might do a short skating trip on Monday morning if there is ice southwards, like we are used to do on Sunday in a normal HLSK weekend. This bus will arrive home on Monday evening late.

Finance

The organizing committee will appoint a finance administrator to keep track of all finance related aspects.

Risk analysis

After the last LLK-HLSK skating weekend, HLSK started working on a risk analysis method to get better grip on possible difficult circumstances. We developed a risk analysis method to be used during preparation and skating of each day tour. The organizing committee worked on a special version of the risk analysis method for the LLK-HLSK weekend. Both the organizing committee as well as the leaders will use the risk analysis method during the skating weekend.

Disclaimer

With this document, including the linked documents, we hope to give you the best possible and realistic expectations about the LLK-HLSK skating weekend. Note however, that skating on natural ice always involves risks. It is up to yourself to decide if you are feeling comfortable enough with the organization to participate. The organizing committee is convinced that we learned a lot of past experiences, in a way that we can improve safety on this edition of the LLK-HLSK skating weekend. We hope to see you on the ice!

Please feel free to mail us any subject you would like to be addressed by the organizing committee: kristen.valtonen@gmail.com or r.mulders@furore.com