

About Christian Balek

The facts:

Name: Christian Balek

Born: 7 November 1974 in Chur/Schweiz

Successes in the active career (1986-2003)

- 12x World Champion
- 3x European Champion
- 23x World Cup Winner
- 4x Europe Cup Overall Winner
- 13x Austria National Champion

How I became a producer of grass ski

My parents actually made it possible for me to attend secondary school specialised on skiing in Lilienfeld, Lower Austria.

As it was only possible during the rather short winters to engage in an intensive alpine skiing training, I decided at the age of 12 to extend my training to the summer months. It was important for me to have an intensive skiing training to further enhance my skills. Therefore I started with grass skiing and quickly made friends with other young people in this discipline. Finally, the alpine skiing training turned out to be the best training for me for the professional grass ski sport to which I then fully switched.

After finishing school, I started an apprenticeship as an instrument mechanic as I was very interested in more technical work. The preferential working hours allowed intensive and daily grass ski training. Due to my apprenticeship and my strong interest in technical products as well as the grass skiing, I tried to produce my first, own racing grass ski in 1995. Developing a grass ski further to become a really competitive product was very time consuming and asked for some patience as well as persistence, of which I had both. Already in 1997 I had my first success with the home-produced grass ski: I won the World Championship in 1997. Further successes were following.

As the demand in my own produced grass ski increased significantly, I founded my own company "SPEEDY JACK" in 1998 and started the professional production of grass ski. My professional success in grass skiing with my own, manually produced grass ski not only convinced my competitors but also the popular sport: after each of the competitions, which I won, I could immediately sell my own grass skis to interested competition fellows.

In 1999, I managed to successfully defend my three titles at the World Championship in Gaal in Styria/Austria and managed to become 2nd in the Super-G. Due to an injury during the alpine skiing training in winter 2001, I had to take a break during the entire grass ski season of summer 2001. This was especially bad as the World Championship only takes place every second year. Still encouraged, I again started at the next World Championship in 2003 and managed to become a double World Champion and therewith a world champion in all grass ski disciplines!

From 2004 onwards, I decided to more concentrate on further developing my grass skis and to build my own house including a garage where I could more professionally produce my own grass skis. I stopped the professional grass ski career and concentrated more on producing grass skis for racing as well as the popular sport.