



**PRESS RELEASE**  
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## **New York Auction Winner Runs Volkswagen Prague Marathon**

After watching the New York City Marathon twenty years ago and noting how the City came to a standstill with crowds of people encouraging the runners and enjoying the celebration Kim Puntillo decided to train for and run her first marathon in 1995. She enjoyed the training and the camaraderie of the experience so much she decided to continue, but before completing her second NYC marathon in 1996 she learned of a man who had run a marathon on all seven continents.

Only two years later the New York City resident and New York Road Runners member became the first woman to complete that feat. Her first non New York marathon took place on King George Island in Antarctica. After races in London, Nepal (the Everest Marathon), Tanzania (Kilimanjaro), and Australia (Sydney) she completed the ultimate international running tour in South America in the beautiful city of Buenos Aires. She is assured of being the answer to a road running statistician's trivia question for the very foreseeable future. Who was the first woman member of the Seven Continents Club? She has since also added very adventurous runs on the Great Wall in China and the Medoc Marathon in France which features French wineries supplying the drinks stations.

When Kim saw the opportunity to place a bid on a trip to run the Volkswagen Prague Marathon at a silent auction being held by the New York Road Runners to raise funds for the their children's running programs she definitely felt a need to participate. Her maternal Grandparents were Czech and she had only visited the Country once before. As the winning bidder at the auction Kim enjoyed a VIP visit to the 2013 Volkswagen Prague Marathon where she mingled with the other guests including Mary Wittenberg, the President of the New York Road Runners. Ms. Wittenberg was in Prague to attend the annual meeting of the IAAF Road Running Commission and she also decided to run the Marathon, her first one in nineteen years.

Ms. Puntillo's trip to Prague was a joint effort of the New York Road Runners and the Prague International Marathon as a part of the RUNCZECH Running League's continued cooperation and engagement with the international running community.

According to Cliff Sperber the NYRR Vice President in charge of Youth and Community Services, The Road Runners will use the funds raised in the auction to help "more than 150,000 kids -- many with little or no access to organized athletics -- engage in running-based activities which improve fitness, build character and fight obesity".



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# RUNCZECH

Carlo Capalbo, the Chair of the RunCzech Running league, stated "We are happy to contribute to this worthy program which mirrors some of our own efforts here in the Czech Republic and continues to cement a growing relationship with our friends in New York."

**Should you be interested in further information, please contact:**

**Prague International Marathon spol. s r.o. / tempo team prague s.r.o.**

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**Notes for editors:**

### **The RunCzech running league**

The RunCzech running league brings together all the prestigious Prague races organized under the Prague International Marathon heading, along with races in selected regions of the Czech Republic organized by tempo team prague, and collectively known as the RunCzech races. This series of races spanning the whole Czech Republic allows all those involved to combine their passion for running with a love for travel.

During the course of 2012, 64,043 runners from all over the world took part in the RunCzech running league. This created a prestigious running ranking system for the 34,346 people participating in competitive runs allowing them to measure their results against other runners in categories according to sex, age, and the new grouping by professions.

In 2013 the RunCzech running league includes the following races:

- Hervis Prague Half Marathon (April 6<sup>th</sup>)
- Volkswagen Prague Marathon (May 12<sup>th</sup>)
- Mattoni Karlovy Vary Half Marathon (May 25<sup>th</sup>) – a new race in 2013
- Mattoni České Budějovice Half Marathon (June 8<sup>th</sup>)
- Mattoni Olomouc Half Marathon (June 22<sup>nd</sup>)
- Prague Grand Prix (September 7<sup>th</sup>)
- Mattoni Ústí nad Labem Half Marathon (September 15<sup>th</sup>)
- And the host race the Košice International Peace Marathon (October 6<sup>th</sup>)

An eighth race will be added to the RunCzech running league in 2014, at which point capacity is expected to reach 81 000 runners, completing the project.

Boasting a total of five IAAF Road Race Label awards, organizers of the RunCzech running league have received more of these accolades than any other group in the world which attests to the first-rate standards of the organization.

These awards include:

The IAAF Road Race Gold Label for the Hervis Prague Half Marathon



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The IAAF Road Race Gold Label for the Volkswagen Prague Marathon  
The IAAF Road Race Silver Label for the 10 km Run featured as part of the Prague Grand Prix  
The IAAF Road Race Silver Label for the Olomouc Half Marathon – new in 2013  
The IAAF Road Race Silver Label for the Ústí nad Labem Half Marathon - new in 2013

#### **Prague International Marathon, spol. s r.o.**

Prague International Marathon spol. s r.o. ("PIM") was set up in 1995 by Carlo Capalbo, President of the Company with the aim of organizing a large-scale international marathon on the streets of Prague. A total of 958 runners made it to the start line of that first race. Since then, PIM's activities have burgeoned into a whole series of running events referred to as the RunCzech running league.

The Volkswagen Prague Marathon ranks among the top 10 world marathons taking place in one of the most beautiful locations. The 2012 race attracted 9 057 competing runners from all over the world. Since 1999 we have also been organizing the Prague Half Marathon along with the the Prague Grand Prix races over shorter courses. In 2012 the Hervis Prague Half Marathon became the year's fastest half-marathon in the world! The Ethiopian runner, Atsedu Tsegay completed it in the event record time of 58:47.

Races organised by PIM are sponsored by some of the largest companies in the Czech Republic; Volkswagen, adidas, Hervis and Mattoni. The whole organization and atmosphere of the races has drawn a number of renowned names in the athletic world to the Czech Republic (the likes of Haile Gebrselassie, Stefano Baldini, Paul Tergat, Moses Tanui, Antonio Pinto and Patrick Makau), as well as thousands of visitors.

In addition to the above events, PIM also organizes the Junior Marathon for high school students. A relay race comprised of ten member teams which initially participate in regional rounds, the winners will proceed to the final as part of the Volkswagen Prague Marathon, scheduled for Sunday May 12<sup>th</sup> 2013.

#### **tempo team prague s.r.o.**

tempo team is dedicated to developing marathon races along with other running events held in Europe. It was established in 2000 by a group of experts and sporting enthusiasts. The term "tempo" is derived from the name of the organization "The European Marathon Promotion Organization".

tempo team's activities entail concept creation, brand building, and marketing as well as the actual organization of sporting events. Right from the start, tempo team has played a key role in organizing the Prague marathon as well as developing the RunCzech Running series.

tempo team is the name of the main organizer of races taking place in various regions under the RunCzech running league heading comprising the České Budějovice Half Marathon, the Olomouc Half Marathon, the Ústí nad Labem Half Marathon and most recently the Karlovy Vary Half Marathon.

