



## **Jani Söderhäll**

Originally from Sweden and now living in France, Jani is the current President of ISSA International Slalom Skateboarding Association and a fervent promoter of slalom racing since the 1980's.

Jani started skateboarding in the late 70's and participated in the creation of the Swedish Skateboard Association in 1980. Since his first participation in the European Championships in 1981 he established an important network of international contacts and became the first president of the newly formed Association of European Skateboarders, a position he held until 1987. The ISSA was formed in 1990 to better promote slalom racing and events and the zine Slalom! was the communication channel at the time. With contributions from all over Europe, USA, the former East Block and also Japan, it contributed to slalom's international success in the late 80's and early 90's.

In 2002 the website SlalomSkateboarder.com initiated by Adam Trahan (Arizona, USA) and the Internet replaced the former ISSA paper zine. The Internet and international collaboration helped bring slalom skateboarding back to center stage with more than 1000 racers or more participating in ISSA sanctioned races in a year. Through this period the equipment was pushed to a new level with a variety of wheels (more than ever!), CNC machined high performance trucks, and carbon fibre boards became common place.

Jani had a successful career in racing with many European and national slalom titles during the 1980's and 1990's. Returned back to Pro slalom racing in 2002 with a Pro Model for Airflow Skateboards and since 2013 races in the Masters category where he became European Masters Champion in 2014.

In the 80's Jani was also one of the organizers of the cult Swedish Skateboard Summer Camps with invited trainers such as Rodney Mullen, Mike McGill, Steve Caballero, Tony Hawk and many more. Skateboarders from all over the world met during a few weeks in Sweden each summer to skate with the best. The Swedish summer camps became the inspiration for many other skate camps around the world.