

DESCRIPTION OF THE EVENT

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1 Main incidents

I performed the World Record attempt for Longest Marathon Playing Accordion starting on July 11, 2018 at 08:00 AM and ending on July 13, 2018 at 00:03 AM. During the record attempt I played in total 610 different pieces, including Finnish as well as internationally popular music. Because I never played the same piece twice, the 4-hour non-repeating rule was definitely observed. The duration of each piece was more than 2 minutes and the pauses between pieces were mainly 26-27 seconds.

To maintain my own as well as the audience's mental condition I occasionally sang a few verses or strophes of the piece I played, without ever interrupting playing the accordion or interfering with it. Also the audience was allowed to sing along. Sometimes I changed the key of the piece I played, to keep my brain busy and to keep fresh. As a professional musician I am used to playing pieces according to the register of the artist I'm playing with, so changing the key did not cause any problem to me. Often I exchanged a few words with the audience or witnesses in a loud voice, because I wanted to interact with those present.

The old record 32:14:52 (*see 'video 25'*) was broken with the piece 'Säkkijärven polkka', a traditional accordion piece everybody knows in Finland. This piece was celebrated by brandishing the Finnish flag and the flag of North Savonia. At that moment, while the audience was cheering, I got the two-minute notice prematurely. In the records the duration of the piece was logged as 2 minutes sharp (32:14:35-32:16:35) (*see 'playlist A.pdf', page 22*) (*see 'playlist B.pdf', page 23*). Such a close shave required a video check, which showed that the correct duration of the piece was 2 minutes and 2 seconds. Consequently the minimum duration of 2 minutes was passed.

After the old record was broken I continued playing as usual. After the World Record attempt was finished the event clock could not be successfully stopped at the correct time, but in the records the witnesses logged the new World Record time as 40:03:10 (*see 'video 31'*), which can also be verified from the video recording. The old record was thereby exceeded by almost eight hours. 11 minutes and 10 seconds of entitled resting time remained unused.

Such a long marathon playing accordion would not have been possible without the experience from my previous World Record attempt in relation to both playing and maintenance.

1.1 Activity periods

There were 14 activity periods (*see 'log book.pdf'*): the first period lasted for 13 hours, and after that I had a maintenance break of about half an hour. During that break I took a shower and had a massage as well as TENS stimulation for my muscles. The later activity periods were shorter, as listed in the following table. The final column in the table contains a reference to the (continuous) video file, which shows the end of each activity period, the rest period itself and the beginning of the next activity period.

| Seq | Start | End | Duration | Available rest time | Used rest time | Remaining rest time | Continuous video reference |
|-----|----------|----------|----------|---------------------|----------------|---------------------|----------------------------|
| 1 | 00:00:00 | 13:01:49 | 13:01:49 | 01:05:00 | 00:28:34 | 00:36:26 | video 11 |
| 2 | 13:30:23 | 17:30:55 | 04:00:32 | 00:56:26 | 00:11:11 | 00:45:15 | video 15 |
| 3 | 17:42:06 | 20:42:58 | 03:00:52 | 01:00:15 | 00:10:06 | 00:50:09 | video 15 |

| | | | | | | | |
|----|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| 4 | 20:53:04 | 21:59:01 | 01:05:57 | 00:55:09 | 00:04:46 | 00:50:23 | video 15 |
| 5 | 22:03:47 | 23:04:33 | 01:00:46 | 00:55:23 | 00:04:49 | 00:50:34 | video 17 |
| 6 | 23:09:22 | 25:10:37 | 02:01:15 | 01:00:34 | 00:09:39 | 00:50:55 | video 19 |
| 7 | 25:20:16 | 28:20:43 | 03:00:27 | 01:05:55 | 00:15:29 | 00:50:26 | video 21 |
| 8 | 28:36:12 | 30:36:36 | 02:00:24 | 01:00:26 | 00:05:54 | 00:54:32 | video 23 |
| 9 | 30:42:30 | 31:43:48 | 01:01:18 | 00:59:32 | 00:08:18 | 00:51:14 | video 23 |
| 10 | 31:52:06 | 33:53:07 | 02:01:01 | 01:01:14 | 00:27:09 | 00:34:05 | video 25 |
| 11 | 34:20:16 | 36:20:43 | 02:00:27 | 00:44:05 | 00:19:02 | 00:25:03 | video 27 |
| 12 | 36:39:45 | 37:39:53 | 01:00:08 | 00:30:03 | 00:09:51 | 00:20:12 | video 27 |
| 13 | 37:49:44 | 38:50:09 | 01:00:25 | 00:25:12 | 00:14:02 | 00:11:10 | video 29 |
| 14 | 39:04:11 | 40:03:10 | 00:58:59 | 00:11:10 | | | |

1.2 The timetable of witnesses on duty

There were in total 31 people working as witness-timekeepers. Their personal working shifts are listed in the following table. Note that the witness-timekeepers on duty during the last shift were **Jussi Hakala** (witness ID 14), Chairman of Mensa Finland and **Petri Kauppinen** (witness ID 31), Musician.

| Witness ID | Witness Name | Witness on duty |
|------------|------------------------|--|
| 01 | Leila Savolainen | 00:00:00-03:03:30 |
| 02 | Kari Keränen | 00:00:00-03:03:30 |
| 03 | Maija Tapanainen | 03:03:30-06:01:55 19:54:00-22:13:00 |
| 04 | Tiina Kuosmanen | 03:03:30-06:01:55 13:56:35-15:54:45 |
| 05 | Jaakko Kosunen | 06:01:55-09:01:45 |
| 06 | Pasi Piironen | 06:01:55-09:01:45 |
| 07 | Matti Sariola | 09:01:45-11:59 |
| 08 | Katariina Kummala | 09:01:45-11:59 |
| 09 | Kari-Matti Kräkin | 11:59 -13:56:35 |
| 10 | Arto Tynkkynen | 11:59 -13:56:35 |
| 11 | Juha Happonen | 13:56:35-15:59:16 |
| 12 | Jari Sihvonen | 15:54:45-18:01:00 |
| 13 | Tatu Metsäpelto | 15:59:16-17:18:00 17:19:20-17:32:00 |
| 14 | Jussi Hakala | 17:18:00-17:19:20 17:32:00-19:54:00 37:43 -40:03:10 |
| 15 | Marko Kulhomäki | 18:01:00-19:56:50 |
| 16 | Juha-Pekka Tikkanen | 19:56:50-22:12:00 |
| 17 | Sari Raassina | 22:12:00-24:06 |
| 18 | Ulla Pekkarinen | 22:13:00-24:06 |
| 19 | Pekka Kantanen | 24:06 -27:00:00 |
| 20 | Juha "Elva" Antikainen | 24:06 -27:00:00 |
| 21 | Minna Halme | 27:00:00-30:02:00 |
| 22 | Esa Kokki | 27:00:00-30:02:00 |
| 23 | Esa Lindholm | 30:02:00-31:49:20 |
| 24 | Ilkka Petterson | 30:02:00-31:51:00 |
| 25 | Teuvo Laakkonen | 31:49:20-32:55:22 |
| 26 | Raisa Leinonen | 31:51:00-33:56:00 |

| | | |
|-----------|------------------------|------------------------|
| 27 | Aino-Maria Savolainen | 32:55:22-35:54:00 |
| 28 | Heidi Kotikumpu | 33:56:00-35:54:00 |
| 29 | Jukka Kervinen | 35:54:00-37:43 |
| 30 | Mika Hakkarainen | 35:54:00-37:43 |
| 31 | Petri Kauppinen | 37:43 -40:03:10 |

1.3 Playlist logs

The witness-timekeepers kept two separate playlist logs "**playlist A.pdf**" and "**playlist B.pdf**" as shown in the following timetable. This demonstrates that the playlist logs formed two separate entities.

| REAL | | "PLAYLIST A.PDF" | | | "PLAYLIST B.PDF" | | |
|-----------|-------|------------------|-----------------------|--------------|------------------|------------------------|--------------|
| DATE | TIME | ID | WITNESS NAME | ATTEMPT TIME | ID | WITNESS NAME | ATTEMPT TIME |
| 11.7.2018 | 8:00 | 01 | Leila Savolainen | 00:00:00 | 02 | Kari Keränen | 00:00:00 |
| 11.7.2018 | 11:03 | 03 | Maija Tapanainen | 03:03:30 | 04 | Tiina Kuosmanen | 03:03:30 |
| 11.7.2018 | 14:01 | 05 | Jaakko Kosunen | 06:01:55 | 06 | Pasi Piironen | 06:01:55 |
| 11.7.2018 | 17:01 | 07 | Matti Sariola | 09:01:45 | 08 | Katariina Kummala | 09:01:45 |
| 11.7.2018 | 19:59 | 09 | Kari-Matti Kräkin | 11:59 | 10 | Arto Tynkkynen | 11:59 |
| 11.7.2018 | 21:56 | 04 | Tiina Kuosmanen | 13:56:35 | 11 | Juha Happonen | 13:56:35 |
| 11.7.2018 | 23:54 | 12 | Jari Sihvonen | 15:54:45 | | | |
| 11.7.2018 | 23:59 | | | | 13 | Tatu Metsäpelto | 15:59:16 |
| 12.7.2018 | 1:18 | | | | 14 | Jussi Hakala | 17:18:00 |
| 12.7.2018 | 1:19 | | | | 13 | Tatu Metsäpelto | 17:19:20 |
| 12.7.2018 | 1:32 | | | | 14 | Jussi Hakala | 17:32:00 |
| 12.7.2018 | 2:01 | 15 | Marko Kulhomäki | 18:01:00 | | | |
| 12.7.2018 | 3:54 | | | | 03 | Maija Tapanainen | 19:54:00 |
| 12.7.2018 | 3:56 | 16 | Juha-Pekka Tikkanen | 19:56:50 | | | |
| 12.7.2018 | 6:12 | 17 | Sari Raassina | 22:12:00 | | | |
| 12.7.2018 | 6:13 | | | | 18 | Ulla Pekkarinen | 22:13:00 |
| 12.7.2018 | 8:06 | 19 | Pekka Kantanen | 24:06 | 20 | Juha "Elva" Antikainen | 24:06 |
| 12.7.2018 | 11:00 | 21 | Minna Halme | 27:00:00 | 22 | Esa Kokki | 27:00:00 |
| 12.7.2018 | 14:02 | 23 | Esa Lindholm | 30:02:00 | 24 | Ilkka Petterson | 30:02:00 |
| 12.7.2018 | 15:49 | 25 | Teuvo Laakkonen | 31:49:20 | | | |
| 12.7.2018 | 15:51 | | | | 26 | Raisa Leinonen | 31:51:00 |
| 12.7.2018 | 16:55 | 27 | Aino-Maria Savolainen | 32:55:22 | | | |
| 12.7.2018 | 17:56 | | | | 28 | Heidi Kotikumpu | 33:56:00 |
| 12.7.2018 | 19:54 | 29 | Jukka Kervinen | 35:54:00 | 30 | Mika Hakkarainen | 35:54:00 |
| 12.7.2018 | 21:43 | 31 | Pete Kauppinen | 37:43 | 14 | Jussi Hakala | 37:43 |
| 13.7.2018 | 0:03 | | | | | | |

2 About Evidence

I have loaded on a usb drive all required evidence named according to the instructions I received (based on my best understanding). The first page of each written document contains a description of the contents of the document. A full listing of all evidence I have sent is in the file '**evidence list.pdf**'.

2.1 Written documents

The entity of logbooks containing the activity periods is scanned in the file "**log book.pdf**" whereas the entries regarding the main incidents are scanned in the file '**main events log book.pdf**'. There are two separate entities of lists containing the pieces played, '**playlist A.pdf**' and '**playlist B.pdf**', with a written up version in the file '**played pieces.pdf**'. The statements of all 31 witnesses are combined in the file '**witness statements.pdf**'.

Since a significant number of witnesses could not speak English, the Finnish documents written by them were translated in English by a professional translator. References to documents written by each witness and notes about their appearance in general videos and still photos are collected in the file '**witness contact details with evidence references.pdf**'.

2.2 Video footage

2.2.1 Footage of the start of the attempt

The World Record attempt was recorded using several video cameras. In addition to the video file "**footage of the start of the attempt.mp4**" I have attached the same video recording with English subtitles so that you can trace the Finnish introductory speeches (see "*footage of the start of the attempt - english subtitles.mp4*").

2.2.2 The point at which the record is broken

For video recording "**the point at which the record is broken.mp4**" I have also attached a version in which I have compiled time-synchronized footage from multiple video cameras (see "*the point at which the record is broken - compilation of simultaneous footage from other cameras.mp4*").

2.2.3 The end of the attempt

For video recording "**the end of the attempt.mp4**" I have also attached a version in which I have compiled time-synchronized footage from multiple video cameras (see "*the end of the attempt - compilation of simultaneous footage from other cameras.mp4*").

2.2.4 Two minutes footage every hour

The video file "**two minutes footage every hour.mp4**", duration 1 hour 22 minutes (41 * 2 min), contains successively 2 minute periods starting from the beginning of each full hour.

2.2.5 Continuous video footage

Continuous video recording (see folder '**continuous video files**') was mainly recorded using two stationary video cameras in order to ensure uninterrupted video recording. The uninterrupted video recording was later compressed to minimise the file size, however so that the quality of video and sound remained clear. The recordings of the consecutive files (video 01 – video 31) overlap for about 30 seconds so that the fully uninterrupted video footage of the total 40+ hours of the record attempt can be authenticated.

2.2.6 General video footage

General video footage (see folder '**general video files**') was recorded with a freehand video camera. The aim is to document in the footage (*general video 01 – general video 71*) an extensive outlook on the event

in general, the witnesses (each of them is visible at least once in the total footage), other personnel, the audience and the venue. The name of each file contains a brief description of the contents of the file.

2.3 Still photographs

The folder "**photo files**" contains in chronological order 77 still photos (*photo 01 – photo 77*), of which three first (*photo 01 – photo 03*) were taken before the beginning of the record attempt and four last (*photo 74 – photo 77*) were taken after the record attempt was finished. The name of each file contains a brief description of the contents of the photo.

2.4 Media coverage

The folder "**media coverage files**" contains five press clippings (see '*newspaper 1' – 'newspaper 5'*) and two radio interviews, all translated in English. "*radio interview 1*" illustrates moods a few hours after the record attempt and "*radio interview 2*" contains an extensive subjective outlook on the course of the record attempt.

3 How the record was achieved and how it was measured

3.1 Measuring time

All documentation has been recorded in event time starting from 00:00:00 (hh:mm:ss). The event clock was a clearly visible large battery-backed digital sports clock panel. A timekeeping app running on a tablet was used as a backup event clock.

Each witness had in use two manual stopwatches for measuring the duration of pieces and pauses.

3.2 World Record attempt witnesses & timekeepers

There were in total 31 witnesses, all reputable people from North Savonia (the province of Finland), who mainly took turns in shifts of 2 to 3 hours. The witnesses doubled as timekeepers in accordance with specific guidelines. Before the event the rules related to this World Record attempt were sent to the witnesses in email.

Before their shift as a witness each witness got personal training for acting as a witness & timekeeper from the supervisor on duty, which included observing the work of witnesses on duty at the time. There was always at least one supervisor supporting the witnesses.

The witnesses had available two separate piece lists arranged by the reference number and by the name of the piece (see '*piece list.pdf*'). The witnesses kept two separate playlist logs of pieces played (see '*playlist A.pdf*' and '*playlist B.pdf*').

After their shift as a witness the supervisor directed each witness to a separate back room where they could prepare the statement about the events of the shift as a witness undisturbed, either in English or in Finnish (see '*witness statements.pdf*').

After the World Record attempt ended, the last pair of witnesses on duty (**14 Jussi Hakala and 31 Petri Kauppinen**) was directed to the back room where they reviewed all accumulated written documentation. After that they prepared their free-form statement where they gave their final opinion about the course of events during the World Record attempt (see '*witness statements.pdf*': pages 41-43 and 87-89).

3.3 World Record attempt supervisors

Although the rules did not require supervisors in this World Record attempt, I figured that they were necessary in order to advise witnesses and inform the audience and media people about turns of the event both verbally and by means of two separate info boards. There were in total six supervisors, and all the time at least two supervisors were present.

3.4 Maintenance team

During the World Record attempt I was supported by several assistants whose tasks included for example selecting the pieces to play and reporting them to witnesses using the name and/or reference number. While I was playing the assistants provided food and drink in small portions without interrupting the progress of the World Record attempt.

I was also assisted by a trained massage therapist who gave short specific massage treatments during the activity periods and more thorough care during the breaks. Occasionally the break was taken on the playing stage without moving to the back room. Then the massage therapist calmed down and relaxed my sore tendons and muscles, after which I immediately started the next activity period.

During the break the maintenance team told me to play after 25 seconds, so that witnesses could focus on their timekeeping duties. The witnesses gave me a separate note when I had played a piece for two minutes, after which I could finish the piece at a convenient moment.

3.5 Additions to the piece list

The witnesses had available the piece lists including 967 different pieces, which I thought were familiar to the audience and easy to listen. My own repertory includes about 2000 pieces, out of which four pieces were picked as additions *{see 'piece list.pdf', page 22}*. These additions were recorded in piece lists by witnesses.

3.5.1 Piece 2000 'Äiti pien'

After I started the piece #677 at time 00:17:51, both witnesses and the maintenance team identified the piece not by the listed name 'Answer Me' but by the Finnish name 'Äiti pien'. This caused so much confusion that I played the piece as the Finnish version, whose melody is very similar to the piece 'Answer Me'. (Witness-01 Leila Savolainen, Witness-02 Kari Keränen). *{see 'video 01' at 17 min 51 sec} {see 'playlist A.pdf', page 3} {see 'playlist B.pdf', page 3}*

3.5.2 Piece 2001: 'Konstan parempi valssi'

Another addition to the piece list was made at time 00:32:22 by the name 'Konstan parempi valssi' (composed by Konsta Jylhä), an old Finnish traditional style song often played using a two-block accordion. This was when I noticed an old folk musician among the audience and decided to play the song for him. This addition was early on in the beginning of the event so I knew the piece had not been played yet. (Witness-01 Leila Savolainen, Witness-02 Kari Keränen). *{see 'video 01' at 32 min 22 sec} {see 'playlist A.pdf', page 3} {see 'playlist B.pdf', page 3}*

3.5.3 Piece 2002: 'Just A Gigolo'

The third addition to the piece list was made at time 16:22:56 by the name of 'Just A Gigolo'. The piece was not in the piece list so I knew I had not played it yet. 'Just A Gigolo' is a medley with the piece 'I Ain't Got Nobody' made popular by Louis Prima in 1956. A similar version of these two pieces has been made by Village People and David Lee Roth. The piece came to my mind when I saw the pair of witnesses on duty, husky, rock'n'roll type of men. (Witness-12 Jari Sihvonen, Witness-13 Tatu Metsäpelto). *{see 'video 13' at 2 hours 16 minutes and 4 seconds} {see 'playlist A.pdf', page 13} {see 'playlist B.pdf', page 13}*

3.5.4 Piece 2003: 'Täti Monika'

The fourth addition to the piece list was made at time 39:18:30 by the name of 'Täti Monika', a very popular Finnish children's song made by Jukka Jarvola. I also knew I had not played this piece yet during this World Record attempt because it was not in the piece list. I heard that a child who was listening to the World Record performance 'live' through her parent's cell phone had specifically asked for this song, so she could play the singing game along with the tune. I fulfilled the request and made the kid happy. (Witness-14 Jussi Hakala, Witness-31 Petri Kauppinen). *{see 'video 31' at 10 min 21 sec} {see 'playlist A.pdf', page 26} {see 'playlist B.pdf', page 26}*

3.6 Record entries of witnesses

There are some flaws and human logging errors in the entries made by witnesses.

3.6.1 Witness-19, witness & timekeeper statement

Because of his position, Pekka Kantanen, Chairman of Kuopio Town Board, had to leave immediately after his own shift as a witness (24:06-27:00) to host a foreign delegation that had arrived in Kuopio. Therefore his free-form statement remained incomplete for sections 3 and 4, but his prestigious statement in section 5 and the playing times he had recorded indicate that the event proceeded according to the rules during his shift as a witness.

{see photo 39}

{see general videos 34, 35, 37, 38, 39 and 40}

{see 'witness statements.pdf' | pages 56-58}

{see 'playlist A.pdf' | pages 17-18}

{see 'log book.pdf' | pages 9-10}

3.6.2 Time critical markings in playing logs

In the records the duration of two pauses after pieces was marked as 30 seconds and the duration of one piece was marked as 2 minutes. Based on video checking the correct durations were as follows:

1. The duration of the pause in both playing logs is 30 seconds - the correct duration is 26 seconds | Piece #1 (ID 411) "Ankkurit ylös"
{see 'video 01' at 3min 8sec – 3min 34sec, attempt time: 00-03-08 to 00-03-34}
{see 'playlist A.pdf' | page 3}
{see 'playlist B.pdf' | page 3}
2. The duration of the pause in both playing logs is 30 seconds - the correct duration is 26 seconds | Piece #223 (ID 457) "I will stay"
{see 'video 11' at 20min 13sec – 20min 39sec, attempt time: 12-21-56 to 12-22-22}
{see 'playlist A.pdf' | page 11}
{see 'playlist B.pdf' | page 11}
3. The duration of the piece is marked as 2 minutes - the correct duration is 2 minutes and 2 seconds | Piece #497 (ID 377) "Säkkijärven polkka"
{see 'video 25' at 3min 32sec – 5min 34 sec, attempt time: 32-14-32 to 32-16-34}
{see 'playlist A.pdf' | page 22}
{see 'playlist B.pdf' | page 23}

3.7 Preparing for the World Record attempt

3.7.1 Application

In the end of November 2017 I noticed at the Guinness World Records website that Cory Pesaturo had broken my old World Record, and I immediately sent an application for a new World Record attempt. I got an approval for the World Record attempt between late January and early February 2018.

3.7.2 Partners

It was not possible for me to build a World Record attempt event alone so I needed some partners who would realise the event using their own resources without compensation.

- [Olavi Rytkönen / Vuolake Co.](#)
The organiser of the event. He arranged practicalities and assembled the necessary personnel, excluding the maintenance team.
- [Janne Juvonen](#)
Trained massage therapist. He assisted me during the whole event.
- [Jussi Hevander](#)
Video footage and still photography.
- [Savon XPress](#)
Preliminary public relations of the event.
- [Ritmos](#)
Posters of the event.
- [Kuopio Club](#)
The venue.
- [Ravintolamestarit Catering](#)
Small snacks and drinks, coffee, tea, refreshments, etc.
- [Sähkötoimisto Murtola](#)
Technical assistance.

3.7.3 Physical preparation

I knew out of experience that the World Record attempt would be physically quite demanding. I visited a hand surgeon who assured that there would be no sanitary constraints for the World Record attempt performance. A massage therapist relaxed my muscles three times before the World Record attempt once a week and designed protection for known problematic spots, i.e. fingers, the left wrist and thighs.

3.7.4 Equipment

I prepared a piece list where an assistant could mark each piece as played. For the witnesses I provided two piece lists, arranged by the name of the piece and by the reference number. For myself I reserved two chairs of different height and two spare accordions in case an instrument would malfunction. I brought my own safe provisions which the assistants served for me.

3.7.4.1 Forms

I prepared the required forms (logbook, endurance book, songbook, witness & timekeeper statement) for the witnesses to fill in during the event. I tried to maintain the instructed order in the forms.

3.7.4.2 Training of supervisors

I trained all six supervisors so that they should know 'everything about everything'. They were supposed to get through managing the event without my help in any situation, excluding the music. Therefore the supervisors were also able to teach each witness their duties. Before the event I had no contact with the witnesses myself.

The members of supervisors were Olavi Rytkönen, Virpi Laukkanen, Juhani Heiskanen, Aki Tuovinen, Jussi Salmi and Mika Lappalainen.

3.7.4.3 *Maintenance team*

I needed a maintenance team to assist me with my necessities. Anita Jämsén, the leader of the maintenance team from my previous World Record attempt, gathered ten assistants and trained them for the task.

The members of maintenance team were Anita Jämsén, Ella Jämsén, Virpi Kelavuori, Johanna Kelavuori, Tiina Laitinen, Pekka Laitinen, Anna Hirvonen, Touko Kekki, Seppo Niskanen, Anneli Kankaanperä and Helena Hautajoki.