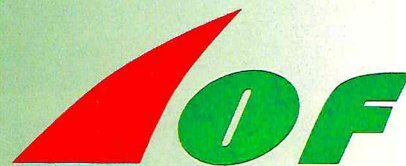


ORIENTEERING WORLD

98.1 February



FINLAND

1998



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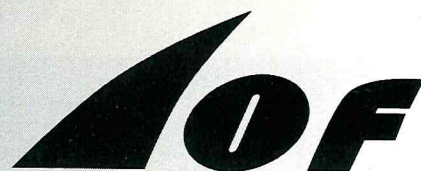
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PUBLICATION NOTES

All **contributions** should be sent to the Editor to arrive not later than the deadlines listed below. Text and graphics may be sent on floppy disk - please ring first to check compatibility and also send printed copy.

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Outside IOF news sections, opinions expressed by Orienteering World's Editor and contributors do not necessarily represent IOF policy.

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98/6	4 December	10 November

COVER PHOTO: A winning smile from Liisa Anttila, Finland, at the end of the long distance race in the Ski-orienteering World Championships in Windischgarsten, Austria
photo: Pirjo Valjanen

Editorial

The first calculations for the new official IOF World Rankings have been completed and the leading positions can be seen on internet (and also on page 14 of this issue of *OW*), so now at last there will be some competitive meaning to World Ranking Events (WREs), last year known as IOF Elite events. This year's WRE series, 57 events in all parts of the world, gives all elite orienteers the chance to compare themselves with the best. The list provides runners with objective evidence of their achievements which can be used by themselves and by their clubs and national federations to gain additional publicity, and perhaps also more personal sponsorship.

The organisers of a WRE can also use the list to help draw media attention to the event: who are the highest ranked to have entered, how many highly-ranked runners will be coming, and so on. And the post-event report in the paper will have more impact if a local orienteer has demonstrably done well against the acknowledged 'stars'.

One only has to look at a sport like tennis to see how much media attention is given to the ranking position of a competitor in the build-up to a match. In a mainstream sport such as tennis, a personal profile of each competitor is also provided for the media. In orienteering, very few nations have in the past produced good PR material about their elite runners, such as the colour leaflets containing a profile and photograph of each member of their teams which were given to the media by Finland and Sweden at the Ski-O WOC. Hopefully the launch of the World Rankings will encourage all nations to promote their elite more widely.

There is scope for more initiatives from the IOF as well. How about a similar scheme to provide Ski-orienteering World Rankings? This would surely help to raise the profile of ski-O further as the IOF continues its efforts to gain entry to the Winter Olympics. And the creation of a regularly updated electronic database of top elite orienteers' personal profiles would be of great benefit to event commentators and as a media resource at World Cup races and World Ranking Events.

Clive Allen

Ski-Orienteeing World Championships, Windischgarsten, Austria *Orienteering Skills Count*

Good orienteering as well as skiing skills were essential for success in the 1998 Ski-orienteering World Championships held at Windischgarsten, Austria from 19th to 25th January. So it is not surprising that some of the medal winners - Sweden's **Annika Zell** (1 gold, 2 silver), plus **Liisa Anttila** (2 gold, 1 silver) and **Raino Pesu** (1 gold, 1 bronze) from Finland - are not only well established names in ski-O, but expert foot orienteers too. Annika Zell has now achieved the impressive record of thirteen Ski-O World Championship medals since 1986, of which 6 are gold - 3 individual and 3 relay.

These Championships were as usual dominated by Scandinavian teams, with both **Finland** and **Sweden** enjoying much success, but **Russia** advanced dramatically to take gold both in the men's relay and through Victor Korchagin in the long distance race, and **Lithuania** gained its first-ever IOF medal with a short distance silver for Nerijus Sulcys.

Nicolo Corradini of Italy narrowly failed to win the long distance gold medal in three successive championships, this time taking bronze medal position just 12 seconds behind the winner.



Women's relay medallists - l to r Sweden, Finland, Norway photo: Clive Allen

MEDAL WINNERS 1998

SHORT DISTANCE

MEN		
GOLD	Raino Pesu	FIN
SILVER	Nerijus Sulcys	LTU
BRONZE	Kjetil Ulven	NOR

WOMEN		
GOLD	Annika Zell	SWE
SILVER	Lena Hasselström	SWE
BRONZE	Liisa Anttila	FIN

MEN'S RELAY

GOLD	RUSSIA
	(Nikolai Bondar, Eduard Khrennikov, Victor Korchagin, Vladislav Kormshtchikov)
SILVER	SWEDEN
	(Björn Lans, Mikael Lindmark, Claes Turesson, Bertil Nordqvist)
BRONZE	FINLAND
	(Jukka Lanki, Matti Keskinarkaus, Raino Pesu, Vesa Mäkipää)

LONG DISTANCE

MEN		
GOLD	Victor Korchagin	RUS
SILVER	Pekka Varis	FIN
BRONZE	Nicolo Corradini	ITA

WOMEN		
GOLD	Liisa Anttila	FIN
SILVER	Annika Zell	SWE
BRONZE	Lena Hasselström	SWE

WOMEN'S RELAY

GOLD	FINLAND
	(Mervi Anttila, Terhi Holster, Liisa Anttila)
SILVER	SWEDEN
	(Annika Zell, Arja Hannus, Lena Hasselström)
BRONZE	NORWAY
	(Hanne Sletner, Valborg Madslien, Hilde G Pedersen)

Snow at the Last Moment!

Ski-orienteers **have** to be adaptable in outlook. In Windischgarsten, a mountain village in the western Austrian Alps, first there was no snow, then almost too much came at once.

The short distance race, which had been moved to a reserve, higher venue only a short time before WOC week, was brought forward to Day 1 since at that time it was the only area with adequate snow. The race took place in a heavy snowfall (but mercifully, little wind) which lasted for 2 days, making the originally chosen long distance area, at the last gasp, ski-able.

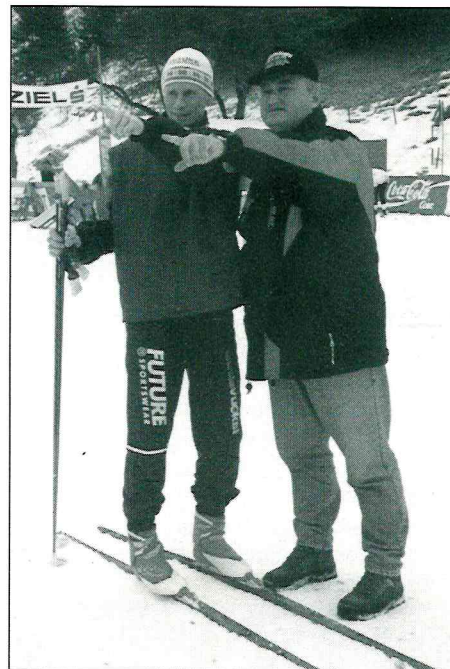
So at the latest possible moment it was decided to move the relay from the last to the penultimate day and the long distance race to the final day, with both races using the venue for the long distance race. The planned relay area wasn't used at all.

All these changes made for lots of work for the organisers, especially the planners, the

people preparing the maps and the track makers, all of whom worked long into the night. General Manager Karl Lex and his team produced three excellent races, which the 130 volunteers involved in one way or another with the organisation can look back on with much satisfaction.

Of course there were a few glitches, but they were relatively minor, and the jury was never called together to consider a formal protest. The short distance was too long and the relay too short, but no-one seemed too bothered. Everyone was just thankful that the races could go ahead, because just before the Championships, complete cancellation was a distinct possibility.

The evening ceremonies in the small squares of the town were performed in style, and we all left Windischgarsten at the end of a memorable week reflecting on a successful Championships - where winter arrived in the nick of time!



*IOF Controller Anssi Juutilainen and WOC General Manager Karl Lex had to re-plan the whole programme as snow conditions changed dramatically through the week
photo: Karl Lex*

Demanding Short Distance in Snowfall

A venue close to Hinterstoder, with the whole competition area above 1400 m, proved to be an extremely demanding short distance terrain. It was technically hard (with many controls), the hills were steep, white-out conditions prevailed on the higher open land (less than 50% of the courses were in forest) and some of the forest paths were hard to pick out.

Heavy snow fell throughout, but the wind was light. Good orienteering and skiing skills were needed: ideal conditions for experienced ski and foot orienteer Annika Zell to add yet another medal to her large collection with victory by almost 1 minute

over fellow Swede Lena Hasselström, with Liisa Anttila from Finland third. For 32-year-old Zell this was her first short distance gold medal; she had previously gained silver and bronze at this distance as well as two gold medals over long distance.

In the men's race 25-year-old student Raino Pesu from Finland - also a good foot orienteer and in his third Ski-O World Championships - took the gold, and Nerijus Sulcys, Lithuania, the silver medal - the first ever IOF medal for the Baltic country. Bronze went to Kjetil Ulven from Norway, for him a great triumph over adversity since just 5 years ago he underwent a serious operation to remove cancerous growth from his left thigh.

Pesu's win was as emphatic as Zell's - 1m 16s - but he survived a strong challenge from Victor Korchagin of Russia who had a clear lead at the spectator control, and from last but one starter Lars Lystad.



Hills in the background are still hidden by mist and heavy snow as the leading men celebrate victory - from left: Nerijus Sulcys LTU, Raino Pesu FIN and Kjetil Ulven NOR

photo: Clive Allen

LEADING RESULTS

Men, 10.8 km route, 270 m climb:

1. Raino Pesu FIN 44.30, 2. Nerijus Sulcys LTU 45.46, 3. Kjetil Ulven NOR 47.29, 4. Victor Korchagin RUS 47.50, 5. Claes Turesson SWE 47.58, 6. Lars Lystad NOR 48.05, 7. Bertil Nordqvist SWE 48.34, 8. Luigi Girardi ITA 48.41, 9. Tommy Olsen NOR 49.02, 10. Nicolo Corradini ITA 49.19, 11. Raul Kudre EST 50.01, 12. Nikolai Bondar RUS 50.10, 13. Jan Pecka CZE 50.12, 14. Kalle Junnikkala FIN 50.49, 15. Eduard Khrennikov RUS 51.01, 16= Johann Kugler AUT & Vesa Mäkipää FIN 51.17, 18. Lukas Stoffel SUI 51.34, 19. Björn Lans SWE 52.00, 20. Jan Beguin SUI 52.32.

Women, 8.6 km route, 230 m climb:

1. Annika Zell SWE 46.06, 2. Lena Hasselström SWE 47.02, 3. Liisa Anttila FIN 47.17, 4. Arja Hannus SWE 47.28, 5. Svetlana Khaustova RUS 48.14, 6. Terhi Holster FIN 48.58, 7. Tatiana Naumova RUS 49.30, 8. Hanne Sletner NOR 50.17, 9. Mall Alev EST 51.46, 10. Ann-Charlotte Carlsson SWE 52.13, 11. Natalia Frei RUS 52.20, 12. Mervi Anttila FIN 52.46, 13. Hanna Kosonen FIN 53.03, 14. Hilde G Pedersen NOR 54.56, 15. Stine H Kirkevik NOR 56.13, 16. Maret Vaher EST 57.08, 17. Valborg Madslien NOR 57.34, 18. Tereza Kucharova CZE 58.46, 19. Vilma Rudzenskaite LTU 58.51, 20. Ruth Vaher EST 59.23.

Very Slow Times

Winning times were over 15 minutes longer than recommended, due to the technicality of the courses, poor visibility and the depth of new snow; it had been snowing heavily for the previous 30 hours.

1998 Ski-Orienteering World Championships

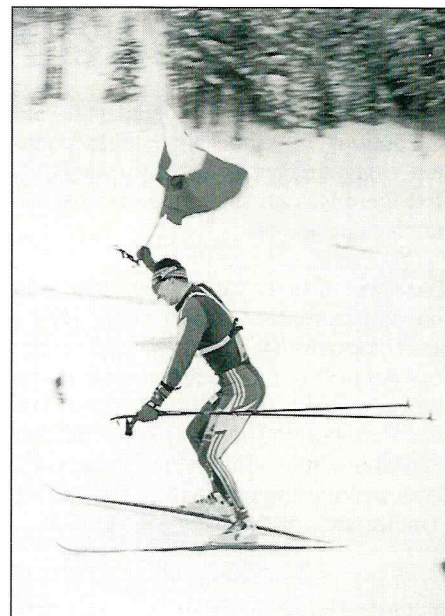
Russians Triumph in Relay

Weather and snow conditions were fine for the relay, where the finish area provided good views of competitors swooping down a steep alpen meadow from the penultimate to the last control. Spectators became even more alert when it was seen that a favoured route choice on this leg, presumably not considered by the course planner, was straight through the middle of the spectator area! Leg times were short - under 23 minutes for the fastest women skiers - and the leading teams were always close together, so there was plenty of excitement.

In the men's race Russia led narrowly throughout, with Sweden and Finland battling closely for the silver and bronze

medals. Sweden finally clinched the silver with Bertil Nordqvist on the last leg recording the fastest leg time of the day. For Russia this was their biggest ever success in ski-orienteering; their previous best was a silver in the women's relay in Lillehammer in 1996.

Russia also led after the first leg in the women's race, but Finland proved to be the strongest team on the day, winning in the end by almost 1 minute. Pre-race favourites Sweden were never in contention for the lead, but Lena Hasselström was fastest of all to bring Sweden up on the last leg from 4th to 2nd. Norway held 3rd place throughout the race, with Russia dropping to 4th.



*A delighted Vladimir Kormshtchikov brings the Russian team home for a historic victory
photo: Clive Allen*



*Relay victory for Finland - Liisa Anttila celebrates as she completes the last leg
photo: Pirjo Valjanen*

LEADING RESULTS

MEN: 1. Russia (Nikolai Bondar, Eduard Khrennikov, Victor Korchagin, Vladislav Kormshtchikov) 1.50.50, 2. Sweden (Björn Lans, Mikael Lindmark, Claes Turesson, Bertil Nordqvist) 1.52.43, 3. Finland (Jukka Lanki, Matti Keskinarkaus, Raino Pesu, Vesa Mäkipää) 1.53.59, 4. Norway 1.56.52, 5. Czech Republic 1.59.44, 6. Switzerland 2.04.10, 7. Estonia 2.07.52, 8. Italy 2.09.44, 9. Lithuania 2.11.03, 10. Austria 2.13.56.
WOMEN: 1. Finland (Mervi Anttila, Terhi Holster, Liisa Anttila) 1.09.53, 2. Sweden (Annika Zell, Arja Hannus, Lena Hasselström) 1.10.48, 3. Norway (Hanne Sletner, Valborg Madslie, Hilde G Pedersen) 1.10.58, 4. Russia 1.11.20, 5. Estonia 1.16.09, 6. Lithuania 1.16.39, 7. Czech Republic 1.22.45, 8. Germany 1.28.14, 9. Switzerland 1.33.59, 10. Slovakia 1.34.00.

Ski-WOC Jottings

28 Nations Present

Ski-O reinforced its bid to become a Winter Olympic sport with a record number of 28 nations competing in the Championships. Croatia, The Netherlands and Slovenia were represented for the first time, and long-time absentees Australia and Belgium were back.

Traditional Punching Used

Following difficulties with the Emit electronic punching system at the previous Ski-O World Championships in Norway two years ago, when competitors found it difficult to place the E-card accurately on the control unit whilst wearing heavy gloves and carrying ski poles, traditional punches and control cards were used here.

Limited Media Interest

Austrian TV was present on the final day and Slovakian TV sent a representative to cover the whole Championships, otherwise media interest was small compared to a foot-O WOC. Access for the press to good camera positions at the race venues

was restricted, especially at the relay; international event organisers who can provide well-marshalled access to some controls in the forest and close to the start and finish lines generally find the effort well rewarded with fine close-up action pictures of their races - future race organisers please note!

New Job for Hugh Cameron

Competitors called to the Doping Control after their races found it manned by IOF Vice-President Hugh Cameron, standing in for Brit Volden who was unable to be present. Hugh, who had to adapt quickly from the 30°+ temperatures back home in Australia, had a busy week as the main IOF representative until President Sue Harvey arrived on the Friday.

IOF Present in Force

The IOF Council met at the Championships, the first time it has met at a Ski-O WOC. As well as the Ski-O Committee, the Events Standards, Map and Foot-O Committees also met in Windischgarsten, several of their members encountering ski-orienteering for the first time.

*The first Controllers' Clinic for ski-orienteers was held in Windischgarsten just before the Championships. Participating were (l to r) Wolf Eberle AUT, Niklas Eriksson SWE, Erich Simkovics AUT, David Rosen GBR (course leader), Herwig Allwinger AUT, Magne Brekke NOR, Daniel Sägerser SUI, Hansrueidi Hany SUI, Veli-Markku Korteniemi FIN and Yngve Moberåthen NOR
photo: David Rosen*



Winter Olympics Decision in 1999

Olympics race programme announced

A short distance event - probably a 'one-man-relay' - and a relay event will be the orienteering programme in the Winter Olympics if entry is granted for the Games in Salt Lake City, USA in 2002, announced IOF Ski-O Committee Chairman Veli-Markku Kortenieniemi at his committee's well attended open meeting in Windischgarsten.

"There has been recent contact between the IOF and the IOC and local organisers, and we have heard that the decision will be taken in autumn 1999", said Kortenieniemi.

"Meanwhile it is essential that all IOF member nations continue to lobby their IOC members to support our inclusion".

The whole individual race must take no more than two-and-a-half hours, to meet media and organisational requirements. A 1-man-relay will be included in the Swedish Ski-O Championship programme for the first time in 1999, with a winning time of 45-60 minutes and 3 or 4 loops. It is considered in Sweden that the one-man-relay format is better suited to short than to long distance.



IOF Ski-O Events - Organisers Needed

There is at present a shortage of applicants to host certain IOF events from 2000 onwards, and nations are urged to consider applying to stage World Cup and Junior and Masters World Championships events in the period 2-5 years ahead.

Long Distance Race Another Russian Gold!

For the second time in two days there were great celebrations in the Russian camp when Victor Korchagin narrowly achieved victory in the long distance race. He skied the 21 km route (735 m climb) in 1.20.38, but had an agonising 30 minute wait while defending champion Nicolo Corradini from Italy, then Bertil Nordqvist of Sweden, and finally Pekka Varis of Finland, the last-but-one starter, were all announced with similar times at the radio controls. Varis finished just 11 seconds slower, Corradini 1 second behind Varis, and Nordqvist a further 8 seconds behind - a very close race in the later stages.

Liisa Anttila, Finland, won the women's race by more than 2 minutes over Annika Zell, Sweden, with Lena Hasselström of Sweden third. For 23-year-old student Anttila, already well-known in foot orienteering, this was a major triumph in her first Ski-O WOC, after a string of World Cup successes last year. Fourth place went to Arja Hannus of Sweden, now 37, who first won a ski-O medal in the 1982 World Championships.

Snow conditions were good at higher levels, but in the lower parts of the area rocks and fallen trees made progress on skis difficult and most competitors took to running in this section.

With both the start and a map exchange beside the finish, there was plenty of action for the spectators to watch on a cold and cloudy morning, and towards the end there was a fine atmosphere as the race came to an exciting conclusion.

Men's relay
medal winners -

1. Russia,
2. Sweden,
3. Finland

photo:
Clive Allen



LEADING RESULTS - LONG DISTANCE RACE

Men, 21.0 km route, 735 m climb: 1. Victor Korchagin RUS 80.38, 2. Pekka Varis FIN 80.49, 3. Nicolo Corradini ITA 80.50, 4. Bertil Nordqvist SWE 80.58, 5. Raino Pesu FIN 81.11, 6. Vladislav Kormshchikov RUS 82.02, 7. Kalle Junnikkala FIN 83.02, 8. Björn Lans SWE 83.19, 9. Lars Lystad NOR 84.11, 10. Nikolai Bondar RUS 84.41, 11. Luigi Girardi ITA 84.45, 12. Raul Kudre EST 84.58, 13. Lukas Stoffel SUI 85.03, 14. Claes Turesson SWE 86.32, 15. Tommy Olsen NOR 86.48, 16. Jan Pecka CZE 87.05, 17. Kjetil Ulven NOR 87.53, 18. Sergei Komlev RUS 87.55, 19. Jaroslav Rygl CZE 89.54, 20. Matti Keskinarkus FIN 90.37.

Women, 15.6 km route, 595 m climb: 1. Liisa Anttila FIN 84.27, 2. Annika Zell SWE 86.42, 3. Lena Hasselström SWE 87.13, 4. Arja Hannus SWE 88.14, 5. Natalia Frei RUS 89.16, 6. Svetlana Khaustova RUS 90.34, 7. Mall Alev EST 92.38, 8. Ann-Charlotte Carlsson SWE 93.35, 9. Hilde G Pedersen NOR 94.59, 10. Vilma Rudzenskaite LTU 95.58, 11. Irina Onishtchenko RUS 97.50, 12. Barbora Chudikova CZE 98.09, 13. Hanne Sletner NOR 98.15, 14. Terhi Holster FIN 99.08, 15. Hanna Kosonen FIN 99.36, 16. Stine H Kirkevikk NOR 99.42, 17. Maret Vaher EST 100.47, 18. Ruth Vaher EST 101.43, 19. Kristin Hasle NOR 102.03, 20. Arja Nuolijoa FIN 102.07.

Hannus & Corradini Win in Japan

Arja Hannus, Sweden and Nicolo Corradini, Italy were the winners of the short distance event in Sugadaira, Japan staged as part of the pre-Winter Olympics cultural festival there at the end of January. Skiing conditions were said to be "very heavy", with much fresh snow.

In the 'downhill supersprint' there was a qualification race from which the 8 best raced in the final later in the day, a race spoilt for the early starters by a heavy snowstorm. Winners were Lena Hasselström, Sweden and Pekka Varis, Finland.

A full report of the events in Sugadaira will appear in the April issue of OW.

Ski-O on Internet

An internet 'discussion group' has now been set up for ski-O. To subscribe, write to maiser@nw.fmph.uniba.sk with only the following text: subscribe ob-l. To send text, write the text to the e-mail address ob-l@nw.fmph.uniba.sk

Park Orienteering - Good for PR

- but not a championship sport, say the runners

These conclusions from an evaluation of the final four events in the 1997 Park World Tour suggest that the leading elite runners do not see park orienteering as a format for serious competition which could be used as an Olympic discipline for foot-O, but do see it as a fine way of promoting our sport. The evaluation has been undertaken by Ove Gasbjerg, Chairman of the Danish Orienteering Federation, and Olli-Pekka Kärkkäinen, until November the Danish National Coach. The participating runners were given questionnaires which sought their general opinions of the PWT concept as well as their views on each individual race.

No to Park-O in WOC

Sixteen of the twenty-four respondents believed that park orienteering should only be used for PR and marketing purposes, and only two felt that park-O should be part of the World Championships programme.

Rather more - but not a majority - thought that it would be a good idea to organise national and international championships in park-O. And whilst fifteen respondents considered the existing PWT concept to be a fair competition, several qualified their answer with references to map standards, traffic, assistance from spectators and prior knowledge of the terrain.

There was general acceptance of the present PWT organisation and race format, but differing views on the touchy subject of the method of selecting who takes part. Some were happy with selection by the PWT group, but others wanted "a fair selection system" based on results outside the PWT.

The organisation model used in Graz, Austria comes in for special praise in the report. PR activities such as features in the local press, formal presentation of the runners before the start, a lively prizegiving ceremony, good media facilities, public races for adults and youngsters after the main competition, and distribution of PR material to spectators are an important part of the PWT.

Unexplored Potential

A lot of experience is being gained in how best to attract spectators to the venues and provide continued interest and excitement for them. But there is still a lot of unexplored potential; as Ove Gasbjerg and Olli-Pekka Kärkkäinen conclude:

"Our strong impression is, after seeing the last four PWT races in 1997, that there are some possibilities for new kinds of PR and media coverage in the park orienteering concept".

The Questions and the Responses

Competition Format

What kind of terrain should be used? 'urban area' - 1, 'mixed' - 22, or 'real terrain' - 1.

Which map scale should be used? 1:5,000 - 24, other - 0.

Should different scales be used on the same map (as in Laxå)? Yes - 1, no - 21.

Do you like special features (such as water, climbing, indoor, fences)? Yes - 9, no - 15.

Which winning time do you prefer? 20 min - 2, 15 min - 18, 12 min - 2, 10 min - 2.

Which start interval do you prefer? 2 min - 2, 1 min - 20, 0.5 min - 1.

Points System

Should any changes be made to the present points system? Yes - 9, no - 13.

Programme Schedule

How many PWT competitions should there be per year in the series? 9-10 - 6, 7-8 - 11, 5-6 - 7.

Should the park races be separate competitions during the 'traditional' season? Yes - 13, no - 7.

Should the park races be arranged in periods during the 'traditional' season? Yes - 17, no - 6.

Should the park races be arranged outside the 'traditional' season? Yes - 8, no - 11.

Participants

How many participants should there be per race/class? 30 - 11, 25 - 9.

Selection of participants should be made by: international qualification - 8, national qualification - 2,

PWT group - 12.

Fairness

Is the existing PWT concept fair? Yes - 15, no - 6.

Should the access of spectators to the course be limited? No limitations - 7, some limitations - 15.

Status of park orienteering

Should park-O only be used for PR and marketing purposes? Yes - 16, no - 6.

Is it a good idea to organise national championships in park-O? Yes - 10, no - 12.

Is it a good idea to organise international championships in park-O? Yes - 10, no - 12.

Should a separate championship competition be arranged in park-O? Yes - 7, no - 14.

Should park-O be a part of the existing WOC? Yes - 2, no - 21.

The 1998 Tour

Programme

- | | |
|---------------|---------------------|
| 1. 6 March | Hong Kong, China |
| 2. 7 March | Hong Kong, China |
| 3. 14 March | Beijing, China |
| 4. 15 March | Beijing, China |
| 5. 1 May | Västerås, Sweden |
| 6. 12 June | Helsinki, Finland |
| 7. 9 August | Assisi, Italy |
| 8. 11 August | Schladming, Austria |
| 9. 13 August | Olomouc, Czech Rep. |
| 10. 15 August | Göteborg, Sweden |

Prize Money

There will be cash prizes totalling 400,000 Swedish kronor to the 10 best in each race and totalling 350,000 kronor to the 15 best on the Tour. All 10 races count in the overall Tour.

Selection Criteria

No runner is contracted for all races in 1998. Races 1-4 will include the best 5 in the 1997 PWT, the 1997 individual WOC medallists, the winners in the 1996 PWT, the winners in the 1996 World Cup and the individual gold and silver medallists in the 1997 Nordic Open Championships, plus other national representatives based on previous success in IOF and PWT races and from the organising nations.

The best 15 in the overall standings after races 1-4 will be invited to race 5. The best 15 overall after race 5 will be invited to race 6. The best 15 overall after race 6 will be invited to races 7-10. Numbers will be made up from the organising nations and other successful runners in 1998.

The individual runners selected for the Asian tour are:

Women: Gunilla Svärd SWE, Heather Monro GBR, Lucie Böhm AUT, Johanna Askölöf FIN, Marlena Jansson SWE, Hanne Staff NOR, Katarina Borg SWE, Hanne Sandstad NOR (withdrawn), Marie-Luce Romanens SUI, Reeta-Mari Kolkkala FIN, Sabrina Meister SUI, Anna Bogren SWE, Dorte Dahl DEN, Jana Cieslarova CZE, Kylli Kaljús EST, Frauke Schmitt Gran GER, Nina Winnyska UKR & Tania Robinson NZL.

Men: Rudolf Ropek CZE, Carsten Jørgensen DEN, Chris Terkelsen DEN, Jörgen Olsson SWE, Allan Mogensen DEN, Petter Thoresen NOR, Jörgen Mårtensson SWE, Kjetil Bjørlo NOR, Janne Salmi FIN, Timo Karppinen FIN, Bjørnar Valstad NOR, Johan Ivarsson SWE (withdrawn), Mikael Boström FIN, Odin Tellesbø NOR, Yuri Omeltchenko UKR, Gabor Domonyik HUN, Grant Bluett AUS, Cristiano Simoni ITA, Thomas Krejci AUT, Edgaras Voveris LTU, Valentin Novikov RUS, Steven Hale GBR, Tarvo Avaste EST & Alistair Landels NZL.

On the Elite Trail

Carsten Jørgensen European Champion in Cross-Country

Danish elite orienteer Carsten Jørgensen won the 1997 European Cross-Country Championships held in Portugal in mid-December, after finishing 4th in 1996. He also won the Nordic Championships in cross-country held in Finland a short time earlier. As he gained a relay gold medal at the foot-O World Championships in Norway in August, 1997 is a year he will remember. His feats in cross-country running have gained good additional publicity for orienteering in his home country.

A week after the European event, Carsten competed in Brussels in the first round of the World Cross Challenge and placed 5th behind 3 Kenyans and an Ethiopian, beating current World Cross-country champion and 10,000 metres world record holder Paul Tergat into 7th place. Early in 1998 his plans included spending two weeks in Kenya, helping the development of orienteering on one of Peo Bengtsson's tours.



Carsten Jørgensen on rough terrain - in the Park World Tour race in the Czech Republic last year photo: Petr Hranicka



Sweden's Gunilla Svärd - here pictured in the Park World Tour race in Venice - won the 1997 Park World Tour overall and was voted second to Jörgen Mårtensson by Swedish journalists photo: Petr Hranicka

Sweden's Orienteer of the Year, 1997 - Jörgen Mårtensson

Sweden's sports journalists voted 38-year-old Jörgen Mårtensson Orienteer of the Year in the annual poll carried out at the end of November. It is the fourth time he has been given this honour - previous years were 1988, 1991 and 1995. Gunilla Svärd took second place and Katarina Borg third.

Silver medal in the classic race and best Swede in the short distance at the World Championships, coupled with a win at O-Ringen and a good performance in the Nordic Open Championships, were the basis of Jörgen Mårtensson's achievement.

Others who have achieved the honour four times are Bertil Norman (early 60's), Ulla Lindkvist (late 60's and 1970), Bernt Frilén (between 1967 and 1975) and Annichen Kringstad (early 80's). No-one has managed five - yet!

Skogssport's World Rankings

World classic distance champions Petter Thoresen and Hanne Staff head the 1997 world rankings lists published by Sweden's O-magazine *Skogssport*. In both cases their first placing was indisputable, since their World Championship victories were backed up by a host of other notable results. Behind them the placings were very close. In the men's list, short distance World Champion Janne Salmi took second place despite missing major elite competitions in the autumn, just ahead of Jörgen Mårtensson (in the top ten for 13 of the 16 years the lists have been published) with Kjetil Bjørlo a close 4th. On the women's side, there was little between the contenders for places 2 to 6. Katarina Borg's reward for her best season ever is second place ahead of short distance World Champion Lucie Böhm.

The top ten (previous year's placing in brackets) are:

MEN

- | | | |
|--------|-------------------|-----|
| 1 (-) | Petter Thoresen | NOR |
| 2 (-) | Janne Salmi | FIN |
| 3 (1) | Jörgen Mårtensson | SWE |
| 4 (-) | Kjetil Bjørlo | NOR |
| 5 (-) | Carsten Jørgensen | DEN |
| 6 (8) | Mikael Boström | FIN |
| 7 (-) | Chris Terkelsen | DEN |
| 8 (3) | Timo Karppinen | FIN |
| 9 (4) | Rudolf Ropek | CZE |
| 10 (-) | Bjørnar Valstad | NOR |

WOMEN

- | | | |
|--------|---------------------|-----|
| 1 (3) | Hanne Staff | NOR |
| 2 (-) | Katarina Borg | SWE |
| 3 (-) | Lucie Böhm | AUT |
| 4 (8) | Hanne Sandstad | NOR |
| 5 (-) | Johanna Asklöf | FIN |
| 6 (1) | Gunilla Svärd | SWE |
| 7 (-) | Sabrina Meister | SUI |
| 8 (10) | Marie-Luce Romanens | SUI |
| 9 (7) | Heather Monro | GBR |
| 10 (-) | Anna Bogren | SWE |

National Coaches Come and Go

Klavs Madsen, a former Danish elite runner, has taken over from Olli-Pekka Kärkkäinen as Denmark's National Coach. In Norway the new coach replacing Egil Johansen is Erlend Slokvik, who was Egil's assistant in 1997. Meanwhile in Sweden the coach to the women's team, Signar Eriksson, has resigned in protest at what he considered to be unfair criticism in the Swedish O-magazine *Skogssport*, and has been replaced by Anders Tisted. In Britain it is planned to appoint a professional coach for the first time in 1998, using a grant awarded by the national lottery.

Nordic Relay League Scaled Down

The NRL has been reduced from 7 to 5 events for 1998, with a club's 4 best results counting in the final tally. Many clubs found that with seven events, the annual programme was becoming too crowded and the costs of participation too high.

Thought is also going into how the NRL

can achieve a higher profile within the events chosen, to gain greater media interest and hence more sponsorship.

The programme for NRL 1998 is: Smålandskavlen, Sweden (October 1997); Spring Cup, Denmark; Tio-mila, Sweden; Jukola, Finland; Norwegian O-Festival, Norway.

The rocky route towards the Olympics - more comment on orienteering's top issue

Fairness and the Olympics

Some observations from ENDRE KÖVARI, Germany

The IOC has expressed doubts about fairness because of the way IOF Rules require that many aspects of an orienteering competition are kept secret. Regarding this, it is my opinion that:

1. Keeping maps secret is no longer realistic and is not necessary.
2. Keeping the race area closed is no longer necessary.
3. It is necessary to keep the courses secret, otherwise orienteering loses its special identity.

The IOC criticises orienteering for being over-complicated and lacking in media and public appeal, and having no proper basis for assessing the magnitude of a victory or a result in comparison to other O-events. Some reasons for these criticisms are that:

1. The 'expected winner's time' approach to producing a standard course is too subjective and not understood by media newcomers and the public. It is therefore untenable for the Olympics. Better in my view to be like other sports: the 1,000 metres, the 3,000 metres, the 5,000 metres and other fixed distance O-races would be appropriate, trainable, good for the media and clearly understood.
2. The degree of technical difficulty of a course cannot be objectively assessed.
3. The method for data definition of courses - length *as the crow flies*, but climbing on *'the planner's optimum route'* - is not clear to observers and can be misleading.
4. We make event planning more difficult because it is considered that 'following' is an inevitable feature in elite orienteering.

But 'live' tests show that this is largely not the case. In principle a mass start for an individual competition, on the same course with no forking, is in my view perfectly feasible. However better use of the latest in electronic technology would be necessary to record visits to controls.

5. The O-relay as we know it is not really a relay, but instead a compilation of a team score where each component is defined in advance. The 'real' leaders cannot be identified during the event because of the forking systems used.

6. The basic criteria for orienteering map symbols include the requirement that objects will only be included which can be observed at full running speed. But this speed varies from runner to runner; the requirement is an 'elastic rule' and is in my opinion unnecessary.

7. Coaches, the public and the media are not allowed free entry to the competition area. There are obvious problems of the potential for influencing competitors, but more access than now could be granted.

As I see it, most of the IOC's demands can already be satisfied if we make our international rules simple, clear and media friendly without loss of identity.

Trail O - Progressing Towards the Paralympics

KNUD VOGELIUS, Denmark, takes stock of Trail-O's prospects as a Paralympic sport

Trail O has been in existence now for several years. During this time there has been a modest increase in the numbers of active physically handicapped people interested in orienteering. The journey to reach the form of Trail-O we know today has been long, and there have been many attempts to devise a demanding form of competition.

Trail-O, or Præ-O (Præcisions-orienteering) as it is known in Nordic countries, can these days provide elite-level competition, and so the question of admission to the Paralympics will certainly be raised within a year or two. In my opinion, Trail-O is not yet sufficiently widely practised to enable



us to seek admission to the 2004 Paralympics, but we must keep an open mind to Trail-O becoming a discipline in the Paralympics in the longer term.

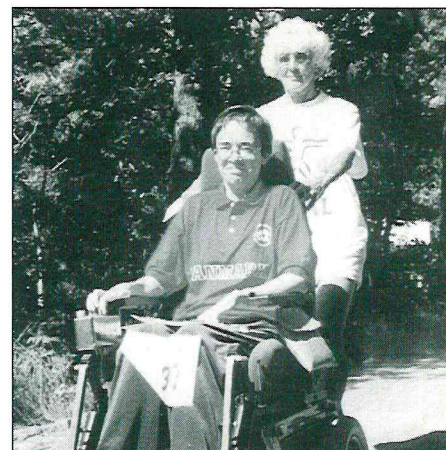
On what terms can we argue in favour of Trail-O as a Paralympics discipline? Orienteering is, for wheelchair users as for runners, about finding one's way with the aid of map and compass, following a route to a given place, selecting the control, punching the correct control and choosing the next route. It has been said that the 'classic' form of Trail-O lacks a physical component in competition, that it is "more like chess" - but unlike chess it is not played out in one place; the competitor navigates round a course of some distance and with, in places, significant height climb as the competition proceeds.

Orienteering as an Olympic discipline is not, in my view, immediately ahead of us. Our sport's individuality will find it difficult to adjust to the huge economic interests which accompany an Olympic discipline, and also at the same time comply with the requirement of fair play.

The same will apply for Trail-O when it becomes a part of the Paralympics. But I believe we can create some pre-conditions which will prevent the abuse of fair play.

Trail-O is, in both technical and physical aspects, a sport which has a future as a Paralympics discipline; whether it comes before foot orienteering cannot be foreseen, but I am sure we will see Trail-O continuing to develop steadily in the coming years.

(photos: author)



Student Games Application Rejected - "because ski-O isn't an Olympic sport"

JURAJ NEMEC, Slovakia, mourns the death of a good initiative, and questions the IOF's commitment to one of Congress's major decisions

Slovakia has been given the honour to be the organising country of the 1999 Students' Winter Games, to be held in the High Tatras. The Slovak Orienteering Association (with the permission of the IOF Ski-O Steering Group) sent an application to include ski-O in the programme of these important Games as one of the sports organised on the initiative of the local organising committee. However the students' federation FISU will allow Slovakia to include only one new sport in the Games programme, and we had to compete with snowboarding.

The idea of having ski-O in the Students' Winter Games is not entirely dead: Slovak orienteers will continue to try to find some way forward with regard to 1999. However the IOF can do much more in negotiation with FISU - we have orienteering in the summer students' championships, and this may be a very good argument in pursuing the idea of winter participation.

I hope we will discuss this issue within the Ski-O Steering Group and try to find the best way of achieving some progress. I hope too that the IOF Council and the new de-

velopment officer (who compared the large but closed gate (summer Olympics) with the small but open window (winter Olympics) - this was an excellent evaluation of the real situation.

When discussing the Olympic issue, maybe one more point has to be mentioned. It was not only the views of the representatives of Sweden and Norway which dissatisfied me, but also the fact that the general view of the Council about Ski-O and the Winter Olympics remained hidden. After the Congress in Jerusalem, responsibility for the Ski-O Olympic

Project has been transferred to the Council, but no member of the Council was willing to present the progress report! Veli-Markku Korteniemi (*Chairman of the Ski-O Committee - Ed.*), to whom the floor was given, cannot be responsible for issues being dealt with by others.

I think the IOF has to define more clearly its stand-point on Ski-O in the Winter Games. The application for 2002 has been submitted, but this is nothing in reality. To get into the Olympics, huge lobbying must be undertaken - will this be supported sufficiently by the new development officer or his 'adviser' Jörgen Mårtensson? Why has only a summer multi-champion been invited, if the Winter Games idea, much more realistic in the near future, is to be supported as one of our top priorities?



Ski-O is an exciting sport! Fighting for position at the start of the men's relay at the ski-O WOC in Austria photo: Clive Allen

In spite of many initiatives the final decision of the organisers was in favour of snowboards, with a very simple official argument: this is an Olympic sport, whereas Ski-O is not. We know very well that maybe other issues were decisive in deciding between snowboarding and ski-orienteering; however there is no chance to find contra-arguments to a decision based on the Olympic or non-Olympic status of the sport.

We cannot say that our effort was a waste of time, because at least some discussion about ski-O has been held. However the low marginal status of our sport was again used as the argument against it - and that is not good.

velopment officer will support this idea. To achieve the final goal - inclusion in the Winter Olympics - we need to build up our status step by step, and every possible initiative is welcomed.

Ski-O not a Dying Sport

Personally I do not think that Ski-O is a dying sport, or a sport which should not become part of the Olympics - the view presented by Sweden and Norway during the Presidents' Conference held at the 1997 World Championships.

I appreciated the presentation of the Hungarian representative (a country with marginal

Book Review

Teaching Orienteering (Second Edition), by Carol McNeill, Jean Cory-Wright and Tom Renfrew, 156 pages A4, published January 1998 by Harveys/Human Kinetics in collaboration with the British Orienteering Federation, price £15.95

The three authors, all well known in international orienteering circles, have applied all their experience as teachers, coaches and competitors to produce the definitive reference work for those involved with teaching orienteering skills at school and college level. This new edition retains the highly visual full-colour format of the original 1987 version, but its content has been expanded and fully updated.

The book presents information in a logical progression designed to help young people learn the sport in familiar easy terrain (the classroom, the school or centre grounds, local parks) before moving them into more difficult environments.

Each of the many suggested exercises in the book is self-contained, and is laid out so that teachers can quickly see the purpose of the exercise, the age groups it is suitable for, the time it will take to complete, and the equipment needed. Maps, line drawings or photographs on almost every page make this an attractive and easy book to use, but it is the variety and innovative nature of the exercises and games (many indoor as well as outdoor) linked to the step-wise progression in learning orienteering skills which give the book the stamp of quality.

The book includes short chapters on physical and mental fitness, orienteering in the school or college curriculum, map making, and O for people with disabilities. The 7 appendices - including a useful glossary of orienteering terms - are aimed primarily at British and North American readers, but in truth this is a book which has immense value to all orienteering teachers who can read English. One Scandinavian nation is already planning to produce a translated version!

Clive Allen

SUE HARVEY'S *President's Column*

Towards the Olympics

20-24 January saw the World Ski-O Championships take place in Austria. After early fears for lack of snow, the event went off well. You can read a full report of this event elsewhere in this issue. The IOF Council met in conjunction with the WOC. One significant item on the agenda was action on Development towards the Olympics. Immediately after the event, some 40 top ski-orienteers went to Sugadaira, Japan for international ski-O events staged close by and just prior to the Olympic Winter Games in Nagano. I and the Secretary General went too. It proved a valuable PR exercise for the sport.

Broadly, there are two stages in any attempt to become part of the Olympic Games programme: first, achieving the criteria in order to be eligible to apply for inclusion, and second, the lobbying etc. that must follow submission of an application. For orienteering, in one discipline, ski-O, we have reached stage two. For foot-O, MBO and Trail O we are still in stage one. Hence, many different jobs have to be done just now, involving many parts of the IOF. For example, on the one hand we have such

items as the Sugadaira event as a demonstration of top level ski-O. On the other hand, there is the need to push ahead with the basic development of the sport into more countries.

To co-ordinate all aspects of this work, the IOF Council has re-formed the Olympic Project Group under the chairmanship of Senior Vice President Åke Jacobson, giving it a new and wider remit. In Austria Åke presented the OPG's action plan to the Council. The plan gives an overview of all aspects of the work needed, but seeks to achieve immediate action particularly in three areas. The first is reaching a membership of 75 countries in the IOF. A project team is to work on this, with a key role taken by IOF's new Development Assistant, Sigita Stasiulis, who started work with the IOF this January.

Another area of importance is developing an Olympic distance - a form of event suitable for the tightly packed and demanding schedule of an Olympic or other multi-sport Games. The work on this will be done largely in the Discipline Committees of the IOF, since each will have slightly different requirements. The OPG will co-ordinate.

A third area of the work is lobbying, and this is mostly the job of the President, Vice Presidents and Secretary General, with national federations also playing an important part each in relation to its own National Olympic Committee. Because ski-O is in stage two, it is there that

lobbying is particularly important just now - hence the Sugadaira event. And in view of IOF's existing application for inclusion in the programme of the Winter Games 2002 in Salt Lake City, Council decided to retain a small project group to work on lobbying for this. But general raising of orienteering's profile within the international sports community is also essential for all disciplines, at whatever stage they are in relation to achieving Olympic programme status. To this end, IOF has applied to have foot orienteering included in the World Games in Akita, Japan in 2001. And to this end also, I visited Lausanne in November for a meeting with Mr Samaranch of the Association of Recognised International Sports Federations (see photo).

What we must never forget, however, in all this talk about the Olympics, is that essentially what we are doing is furthering the development of our sport. Whether it be spreading orienteering to more countries, or getting ski-O into the Winter Games, or developing an Olympic distance, or putting foot orienteering on to the programme of the World Games, what we are trying to achieve is more and better orienteering of all kinds in more places. Being on the Games programme - Summer or Winter or Paralympic - will help by providing exposure of the sport and that should lead to more recruits to orienteering and more funding for development. But it is not itself the end, rather the means to the end: more and better orienteering.



Presidents of the Recognised International Sports Federations with Gilbert Felli, IOC Sports Director (far left) and Juan Antonio Samaranch (front row, fourth from right) on the steps of the Olympic Museum in Lausanne on 11th November 1997

Decisions of the IOF Council

REPORT BY
BARBRO RÖNNBERG

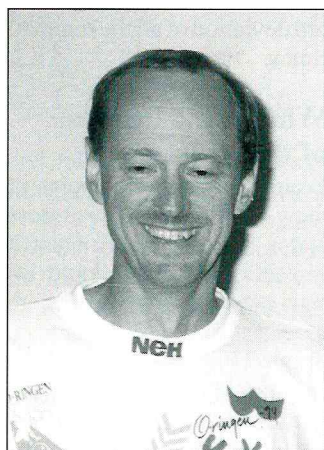
The Council met at the World Championships in Ski-orienteeing in Austria in late January.

Olympic Project Steering Group

Last autumn, Council took the decision to strengthen the organisation leading the work on development towards the Olympics. At its meeting in Austria Council confirmed the composition of the Olympic Project Steering Group as follows: Åke Jacobson (chair), Lucie Böhm, Livio Guidolin, Shin Murakoshi, Jörgen Mårtensson, Juraj Nemec, Maria Nimvik, Helge Simonsen, Barbro Rönnerberg and Sigita Stasiulis. The Steering Group is directly subordinate to the IOF Council.

New Dates for WOC 2001

Council endorsed a proposal to change the dates for the 2001 World Championships. The event will be conducted within the period 23 July - 5 August. The length of the WOC cannot, however, be longer than seven days. The change of dates was made in order to allow for the right interval between the WOC and the 6th World Games to be



Åke Jacobson, Sweden,
chair of the Olympic Project
Steering Group
photo: Christer Svensson

organised in Akita, Japan, on 16-26 August.

Sport Ident Electronic Punching System Approved

The Sport Ident punching system was approved for all 1998 IOF events provided that at least 2 units are placed at each control and that the competitors are given sufficient opportunity to practice beforehand, e.g. in a model event. The Events Standards Committee will closely monitor the use of Sport Ident and will consider permanent approval later this year.

Recognition of the Park World Tour Group

Council decided to formally recognise and support the PWT group. The IOF will work closely together with the group on matters like planning the event calendar, selection of organisers and technical aspects.

New Committee Members

Council confirmed the appointment of new committee members as follows:

Foot-O: Torgny Ottosson, Sweden; Trail O: Frank Kuhn, USA; Technology Development:

Rolf Heinemann, Germany & Øivind Stene, Norway.

New Medical Advisory Group

Council also decided to form a Medical Advisory Group to assist the Anti-Doping Controller, and appointed Bengt Saltin chairperson. The composition of the group will be decided on after consultation with the appointed chair.

Next Meeting

Council's last full-length meeting in this Congress session will be in London on 17-19 April. The Congress is to be held in Portugal from 7-12 July.

News from the Events Standards Committee

World Cup Start Interval

The Events Standards Committee at its meeting in Austria decided that a 3-minute start interval shall be used at all World Cup classic races this year.

The 3-minute rule already exists for the World Championships, although a 2-minute interval was specially allowed at the Championships in 1997 (see OW 97/6 page 5).

Sport Ident

The Sport Ident electronic punching system, approved by the IOF for use in 1998 (see Council report alongside), will be used at the World Cup races in England at the end of May.

Competition Rules

The new edition of the rules, to be used at all IOF events in 1998, has now been published and can be downloaded from the IOF's internet home page.

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Mountain Bike-O - Jean-Paul Hosotte, France

Ski-O - Veli-Markku Korteniemi, Finland

Trail-O - Anne Braggins, Great Britain

Events Standards - Barry McCrae, Australia

Map - Björn Persson, Sweden

Technology Development - Finn Arildsen, Denmark

Member Nations

(* - associate members)

Argentina*	ARG	Ireland	IRL
Australia	AUS	Israel	ISR
Austria	AUT	Italy	ITA
Belgium	BEL	Japan	JPN
Belorussia	BLR	Kazakstan	KAZ
Brazil*	BRA	Korea	KOR
Bulgaria	BUL	Latvia	LAT
Canada	CAN	Lithuania	LTU
Chile*	CHI	Macedonia*	MKD
China	CHN	Malaysia*	MAS
Croatia	CRO	Netherlands	NED
Cuba*	CUB	New Zealand	NZL
Czech Republic	CZE	Norway	NOR
Denmark	DEN	Poland	POL
Ecuador*	ECU	Portugal	POR
Estonia	EST	Romania	ROM
Finland	FIN	Russia	RUS
France	FRA	Slovakia	SVK
Germany	GER	Slovenia	SLO
Great Britain	GBR	South Africa	RSA
Hong Kong	HKG	Spain	ESP
Hungary	HUN	Sweden	SWE
India*	IND	Switzerland	SUI
		Ukraine	UKR
		United States	USA
		Yugoslavia	YUG

The IOF's World Ranking Scheme

1998 sees the introduction of an exciting new scheme to rank all the world's top orienteers in one single list for each sex. Last December, a contract was signed between the IOF and N3 Sport of Norway giving N3 Sport exclusive rights to maintain and promote the official IOF ranking list. The scheme will be overseen by the IOF Foot-O Committee.

N3 already hosts a major orienteering Internet Web site (<http://www.n3sport.no>) which received thousands of hits during the Grimstad World Championships. They now plan to extend their site in other ways, including providing information and results for the 1998 World Cup and, of course, setting up the IOF ranking scheme.

Various individuals have in the past set up their own ranking systems, the most notable of which is still being run by Bo Simonsen of Denmark, and these have often relied on the manual gathering and entry of the relevant data. N3 Sport offers an automatic system whereby competition results are submitted electronically, using approved file formats, meaning that a new updated list can be produced and be available immediately.

How will the System Operate?

1998 will be seen as a test year in which a comprehensive database of top orienteers' results will be built up (this will be started using results from recent WOCs and World Cups and also, we hope, a selection of recent national championships).

In addition to World Cup and World Championship events, fifty or sixty competitions worldwide will be designated as World Ranking Events (WREs) and competitors on the M/W21E courses will gain points according to how they have performed. The ranking list is calculated using the best six results in a twelve-month period.

In 1998 the lists will no doubt be dominated by World Cup runners, but all other elite runners will also have the opportunity to join the lists and maybe challenge the best at the same time.

Which Events will be World Ranking Events?

The Foot-O Committee allocates up to four events per year to each federation, the exact number depending on the recent elite strength of the federation. It is then up to federations to decide which of their events should be WREs, the main criterion being that they should be events that the competitors are known to take seriously, and not necessarily events which are prestigious for historical reasons only.

The current list of World Ranking Events for 1998 is available on the IOF Home Page (<http://www.orienteering.org>). An IOF licensed controller will ensure that each WRE is up to international standards. Note that the old IOF Elite events are now totally superseded by the new WREs.

How will Points be Calculated?

The main criteria we worked to were that the scheme:

- should allow for different strengths of field at different events;
- should allow for spreads of times being different for different terrain types;
- should avoid empirical fudge factors as far as possible.

These determine that a simple formula would be totally unsuitable, and so the use of a mathematically sophisticated formula becomes (unfortunately) inevitable.

We selected a calculation method based on that proposed by David Rosen (see *OW 97/5* page 18) which corrects for strength of field by considering the points gained already by the ranked runners at the event and corrects for time

spreads by measuring the standard deviation of all the runners' times.

What is the Purpose of the Lists?

From an organiser's point of view, a WRE should have more status than the IOFE event it replaces, and this should attract a stronger entry from both local and foreign elite runners. Sponsorship and publicity benefits could accrue from this, a particular bonus for the less developed O-nations. From the international perspective, the existence of a World Ranking List will enhance the image of orienteering in the eyes of sponsors (State and private) and also sports bodies of all types including the IOC.

From the runners' point of view, they now have the chance to measure themselves against the world's best - and maybe prove their national selectors wrong! On the other hand they may simply wish to see how they

DAVID MAY
describes the new
IOF ranking list
for elite orienteers

rate against the average Scandinavian elite runner, or against the elite in Australia, etc. There may also be benefits from local publicity and sponsorship for someone ranked, say, in the world's best 100.

I think that this new scheme will bring a new dimension to international orienteering for the elite. In many ways, we (N3 Sport and the IOF) are breaking new ground and are having to develop new procedures along the way. It will take time for the new scheme to bed down fully, and we don't want to be unresponsive to good ideas in the meantime. If you have constructive comments to make, please send them to me as soon as you can - via the IOF Secretariat or on e-mail:

djm@stpauls.richmond.sch.uk

Mårtensson and Staff Head First Edition

The first official ranking list, based on competitors' 6 best races from the past three years' World Championship and World Cup results plus the 1997 Nordic Championships and the Euromeeeting, was published on Internet on 1st February. Leading runners are:

MEN

1. Jörgen Mårtensson SWE
2. Petter Thoresen NOR
3. Bjørnar Valstad NOR
4. Mikael Boström FIN
5. Timo Karppinen FIN
6. Johan Ivarsson SWE
7. Janne Salmi FIN
8. Yuri Omeltchenko UKR
9. Thomas Bührer SUI
10. Kjetil Bjørlo NOR

WOMEN

1. Hanne Staff NOR
2. Gunilla Svård SWE
3. Marlena Jansson SWE
4. Hanne Sandstad NOR
5. Yvette Hague GBR
6. Vroni König SUI
7. Anette Granstedt SWE
8. Sabrina Meister SUI
9. Johanna Asklöf FIN
10. Marie-Luce Romanens SUI

World Ranking Events in 1998

The following changes to the list printed in *OW 97/6* (page 7) have been notified:

The Danish Påske 3-days (Apr 10) and Jættemilen (Nov 8) have been deleted. The Swiss short distance championships are moved from Apr 26 to Aug 30. The event in Germany on June 6 is also the Euromeeeting, and that in Austria on June 21 is in fact the 4th of the annual ranking events. The WRE day in FIN5 is now day 3, July 15, and that in O-Ringen is day 2, July 21 and includes the regular E classes as well as the World Cup race. There is one addition to the list: Aug 22, Bulgarian National Champs, classic race.

Organising an International Event? Then *Your Event Matters to Us!*

An appeal by JAN ZEMLÍK, Centre for
Orienteering History, Zlín, Czech Republic

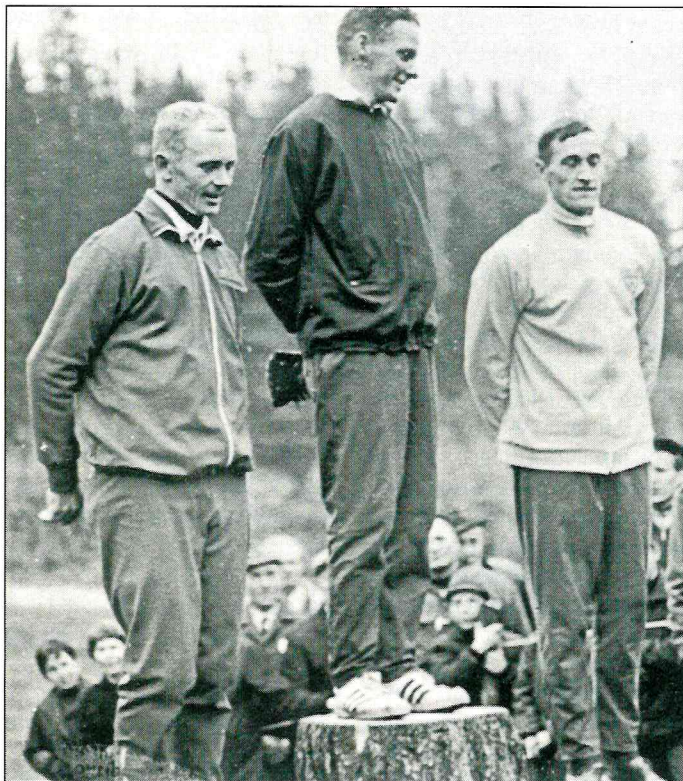
1997 was the 13th year of existence for the Centre of Orienteering History (COH) in Malenovice Castle in Zlín, Czech Republic. Articles about the collection have appeared in previous issues of *OW* (93/3 and 97/4). The COH now has more than 1,700 items in its collection, and in addition there is a large photo library (1,400 photos) as well as a vast video and audio library.

One of the most important activities of the COH is the presentation of items from its collection in special displays at events, for the benefit of the participants and also the gen-

eral public. Events where there have been displays include WOC 95 in Detmold, Germany, The Ski-O JWOC in Slovakia in 1996 and the Ski-O World Cup in the Czech Republic last year. Many event results, maps and photos have been displayed together with videotapes, clothing and equipment. Maybe you have seen some of our displays and can give your opinion of them (*they're fascinating, and set up in a very professional manner - Ed.*).



Photos from the COH library: Sarolta Monspart, Hungary (above), World Champion in 1972 and for many years a member of the IOF Council, here shown at the Zlín Cup in Czechoslovakia in 1971
World Championships prizegiving in Finland, 1966 (below left):
l to r Aimo Tepsell FIN (silver), Åge Hadler NOR (gold), Anders Morelius SWE (bronze)



Every year the COH appeals to all the top O-events' organisers to let us have at least some of the materials suitable to be included in the COH collections and subsequently used in displays.

Above all, these items include the following:

- * specification of the events: information sheets, bulletins;
- * maps, with the courses for the main classes drawn in;
- * results and records;
- * posters, logos, flags, badges diplomas, medals;
- * snapshots, postcards, stickers, souvenirs.

However we regret to say that our past experience with the response to our requests is rather disappointing, to say the least. In 1997, only 10% of those events to which we wrote sent us anything! Some materi-

als have been acquired through personal contacts (e.g. WOC 97), some from the IOF (especially results) and some are brought back by Czech competitors (e.g. from JWOC 97). However this is by no means enough for a full documentation of these events or for our displays. In previous years the situation was little better.

Event organisers and national associations, we would like to urge you to respond positively to our requests and by so doing help us to create complete and usable archives of our unique sport. Maybe you will be in need of some information on orienteering in the near future yourself, and so you will be able to benefit from the COH archives too.

We thank you all in advance for giving us a hand!

Improved E-cards Planned by Emit

An electronic control card which incorporates a visual display and has an exchangeable battery is to be introduced by Emit in 1999. The display will show the last

control code and the time of punching the last control, plus the running time. It will also be possible to 'leaf through the race' to display all split times. Thus the weakness of electronic punching systems mentioned in the *OW* 97/6 Editorial will be overcome - but the new card will cost more. A new 'stand-

ard card' is also being developed - no price increase - with a minimum lifetime of 5 years.

Improvements in the control unit, the start unit and computer-linked software are also planned. A new development in the pipeline is an 'electronic finish line', first to be used in

road races, which the e-card can communicate with from a longer distance. With this it will be possible in the future to use linked electronic timing without punching at the finish.

With the German system Sport Ident approved by the IOF for 1998, competition is hotting up!

Mountain Bike Orienteering

MBO Becomes Established in Italy

In November last MARTIN FÜRNKRANZ, Austria, took a short trip across the border

In recent years there has been a remarkable steady growth of MBO in Italy. In 1997 two regions (Véneto and Friuli Venézia Giúlia) inaugurated their respective local championships - the latter was a marvellous race on the Mediterranean hills overlooking the famous Adriatic town of Trieste. It all culminated on 16th November last year when the first ever all-Italian Championships were held near Mondovì in the well-known Piedmont (Piemonte) region.

For this important and well-attended competition on the very steep foothills of the already snowy Ligurian Alps, a

green-overprinted orienteering map (1:15,000, 5m) of acceptable quality was used. The network of trails was quite dense. Instead of following IOF norms - which state that tracks should only be overprinted if the surface of the track is better (solid green line) or worse (dotted green line) than what the original black drawing suggests - all trails were overprinted, indicating their surface quality in three different line categories (solid, broken and dotted).

Due to heavy rain a few days before the competition many tracks were muddy and this made the steep terrain a real physical and riding-technical

challenge. The men's class (13.5 km, 550m climb) was won by Alfred Psenner, a native German speaker from the South Tyrol, in 100.03.

To ensure that competitors don't leave their bikes during the race (and run to some controls), the Italians have devised a brilliant idea: the control card is sealed to the handlebar, and the seal is checked for damage at the end of the race.

A new development in 1998 is the Italian MBO Cup. The first event is on 14th February near Vicenza.



The author competing in the Italian Championships last November

MBO Eurocup Races in 1998

These are planned for 1-2 August in Slovakia, 7-9 August in the Czech Republic and 31 October - 2 November in Zarragoza, Spain. Further details in the April issue of OW.

1998 Raid Millet Altitude

The 3rd edition of this long distance mountain orienteering event in France, described in OW 97/5, will take place on June 27-28 around the ski resort of Prapoutel-les 7 Laux,

which is 30 minutes by road from Grenoble (reached by TGV from Paris). The map, to IOF norms, will cover an area including Prapoutel, Pipay and the peak of La Jasse, 2478m.

ENJOY ORIENTEERING AND HOLIDAYS BETWEEN
THE ALPS AND THE ADRIATIC COAST
ON THE BIGGEST O-EVENT IN
SLOVENIA

8th CERKNO CUP

21st - 23rd of August 1998

Meeting place: Črni vrh nad Idrijo

Terrain: Karsty

Classes:

Women: 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 21A, 21B, 21E, 35, 45

Men: 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 21A, 21B, 21E, 35, 45, 50

Entry fee:

before 23rd of July 1998:

Under 16 years: 12 DM/1 day and 25 DM/3 days

Others: 14 DM/1 day and 30 DM/3 days

after 23rd of July 1998: 50% higher

Each competitor with paid entry fee for all 3 days will get a T-shirt

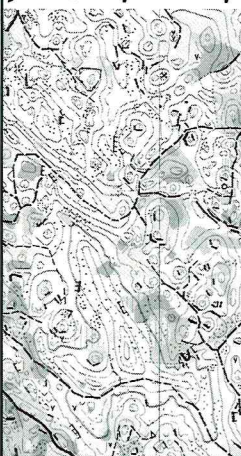
Prizes after 3 days together:

Medals for the best three in each class, cup and money prizes for the best three in D21E and H21E, cup for the best three clubs

Accommodation:

hotels, camping place, sport hall, inn, private rooms

Part of competition map:



Additional information:

OK AZIMUT, p.p. 27, 5282 CERKNO, SLOVENIA

Tel. & fax from 1st of April 1998: **386 65 745 311

E-mail: ok.azimut@siol.net

Internet Home page: http://www.arctur.si/ok_azimut

WE ARE SURE YOU WILL BE BACK ALSO IN 1999

Sweden's Fax Service for Events

- a Successful PR Venture

The Swedish O-event calendar for 1998, circulated with last November's edition of *Skogssport*, lists as usual several hundred events covering the whole country, giving basic information and a contact name and telephone number.

Additionally there is a 3-digit identity code which can be used to obtain detailed information about the event from the free fax answering service offered by the Swedish O-federation (SOFT).

Guided Responses

On ringing the given telephone number, a guided response process enables the enquirer to input the code of the chosen event and the fax number to which the information is to be sent. Normally the fax will be sent within 5 minutes. Other

information about SOFT's resources and activities, complementing what is on SOFT's home page on internet, can also be obtained using the service.

Free Publicity

The service is in Swedish and can only be used from within Sweden. It has been in existence for three years now, and is widely used.

Since it is a good way for clubs to get free publicity, most clubs routinely send in to SOFT the information sheets about their races, says Maria Nimvik, SOFT's Information Officer.

This is a scheme which could well be copied with benefit both to clubs and to individual orienteers in many national federations.

ERKKA LAININEN, full-time employee in the Finnish Orienteering Federation responsible for environmental issues, describes the

Environmental Policy in the Finnish Federation

The Finnish Orienteering Federation has recently published a policy concerning the management of environmental issues in orienteering. The main aim of the policy is to integrate environmental aspects into all segments of orienteering life. The policy involves minimising the negative effects that orienteering competitions have on nature, but the educational elements are also highlighted. For young people as well as adults, orienteering can serve as a new way for building a personal relationship with nature - and thereby becoming more responsible for protecting it.

The policy also stresses the importance of co-operation with other interest groups. By taking the initiative in managing the environmental issues with landowners, hunters, authorities and environmentalists, the Finnish Orienteering Federation believes it is better able to preserve the pre-requisites of orienteering activity.

"Nowadays, environmental issues are taken up as a subject of conversation more and more often. In Finland, sports organisations have considered these issues relatively little, but we feel that the significance of the environment will be emphasised in the near future. Therefore we want to be in the vanguard of development", says Jukka Pekkala, Secretary General of the Finnish Orienteering Federation.

The Finnish O-Federation's policy is one of three sports pioneering a larger project which aims to develop an environmental management system (ISO 14 001) for sports organisations in Finland.

The Finnish OF is the first sports federation in Finland to engage

someone full-time to work on environmental issues. During 1998 I will be developing a plan of action for the realisation of the environmental policy in co-operation with federation officials, O-clubs and individual orienteers.

The central idea of the project is to help and support O-clubs in developing policies and models of operation based on their own situation and activities. This involves education, materials and suggestions for action. We believe that we can get O-clubs and individual orienteers to participate in building an even greener culture for orienteers.

Focus on Traffic

During the past year 7 orienteering clubs have been pioneers for the project. One of the clubs, Tampereen Pyrintö (the organising club for WOC 2001 in Tampere), arranged an 'Eco Short Distance' competition in which environmental aspects were taken into account in course planning, clearing up and traffic.

Pyrintö announced beforehand that they were going to set higher parking fees, but in exchange have lower participation fees. The result was that some people complained about the fees and even left their car several km away from the parking area just to avoid the collection, but mostly the idea was accepted. The best evidence for this is the fact that 58% of the cars had three or more passengers, which is a much better result than the normal half as many cars as participants.

Orienteers already have a good reputation with respect to cleaning up the competition area. No new permanent buildings are needed, and the trails made by orienteers in the woods have

been found to vanish after a year or two. Therefore it now seems to us that we must pay more attention to how we travel to competitions, because it is that aspect which has the greatest significance for the state of the environment.

Nature is our Prime Asset

For O-clubs, investing in environmental issues can give new possibilities for building a green image and thereby gaining more collaborators and sponsors. In Finland it seems that there is considerable growth in the field of providing outdoor experiences for companies and their employees as well as tourists. Clubs have skills and equipment for taking people outdoors and teaching them how to use a map and compass. Along the route people can study nature or just enjoy beautiful landscapes.

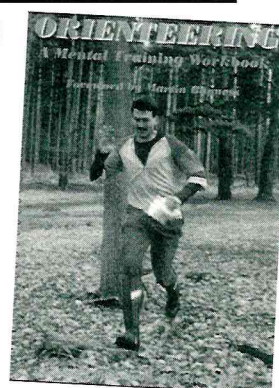
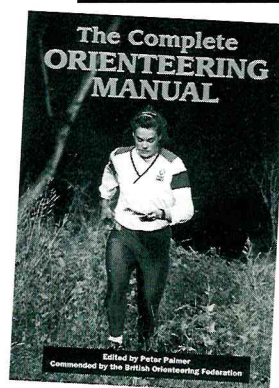
It is important to take young people outdoors not just for orienteering but also to experience and learn things about

nature. This viewpoint has already been added to the Finnish O-Federation's new materials and training courses for youth leaders in O-clubs.

For the future of the world it is very important that we give young people the possibility to build a personal relationship with nature. As I look back on my 18 years of orienteering, I can only say that the greatest thing this sport has given me is this 'connection' I can feel every time I run in the woods.

Editor's Note: Finland is one of a number of countries to define an environmental policy and appoint an Environmental Officer, and it provides a good example of how a national federation can safeguard future land access for orienteering by pursuing a positive environment protection policy which fits in with the values of the population as a whole - in line with recommendations of the IOF Council which endorsed a set of environmental principles in 1996 (see OW96/4 page 21).

Books from CompassSport



The Complete Orienteering Manual

History, equipment, basic technique, advanced technique, fitness, psychology, coaching, O for children, O for disabled from authors incl. Peter Palmer, Steven Hale, Andrew Kitchen, Susan Walsh, Derek Allison, Ian McLean, Tom Renfrew. Special purchase terms enable us to offer this major book at £15.75 postfree to UK addresses. Add £1 airmail Europe or surface overseas; £4.50 airmail overseas.

Orienteering Mental Training Workbook

By sport psychologist Gordon Underwood and exercise physiologist Steve Bird. Tables to fill in, analyses to carry out, worksheets to complete. Foreword by Martin Bagness. Price GB£8.95 plus postage & packing (UK £1.00; Europe £2.00; overseas air £4.25)

Order from address below. VISA/MASTERCARD accepted.
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Orienteering in the Land of the Side-hill Gouger

A very unusual missionary tale from
SVEN HAMMARSTEN

While working for a Swedish mineral exploration company in Eastern Mongolia a few years ago I took the opportunity to introduce some of the locals to orienteering. A few kilometres from the village where the exploration team was based is an area containing a random scatter of small, steep conical hills. The local name of the area can be loosely translated as 'The Goose Pimples'.

The geology and geomorphology of this area is most unusual and not well understood. It was a fascinating exercise making an orienteering map of a section close to the village using the company's photogrammetric base. Equally intriguing, however, is the maze of worn paths spiralling around the hills in a complicated network. These are shown in the attached section of map drawn on the team's computer using OCAD, which I had with me to assist with the geological mapping.

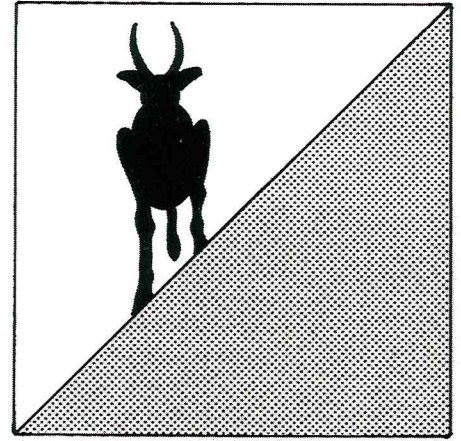
The tracks have been formed over many centuries by the movement of herds of the Side-hill Gouger, a little-known animal which has the strange morphological characteristic of two short legs and two long legs. On most of these animals (for reasons explained further below), both short legs are either on the left side (the left-hill gouger)

or on the right side (the right-hill gouger). This means that, when the animals move around the steep hills to which they are adapted, they must keep their short legs on the uphill side, otherwise they would over-balance and roll down the hill.

In order to move up or down the hill, the left-hill gouger can move only in an anti-clockwise direction and the right-hill gouger only in a clockwise direction. Being creatures of habit that tend to follow the same tracks, they have thus worn the complex track network shown on the map.

The Goose Pimples area is located in the middle of a flat plain, which forms a barrier confining the gougers to this area. While the animals may occasionally venture on to the plain, their unequal legs prevent them from moving in a straight line. Instead, they are forced to walk in an arc which takes them back to the hills again.

Within the hills, however, they are ideally adapted to the steep terrain and can generally move through the terrain much faster than any predators. They have thus evolved to become perfectly adapted to their unique environment, where they graze throughout the year.



The left-hill gouger and the right-hill gouger are different strains of the same species, but inter-breeding between the two strains seldom occurs for obvious physical reasons.

On the rare occasions when such inter-breeding does occur (e.g. if a pair of opposites happen to encounter each other in a deep, narrow ravine), the offspring are born with genetic characteristics which make their survival to reproductive age very unlikely. While they also have two legs shorter than the others, they are one of the following three types:

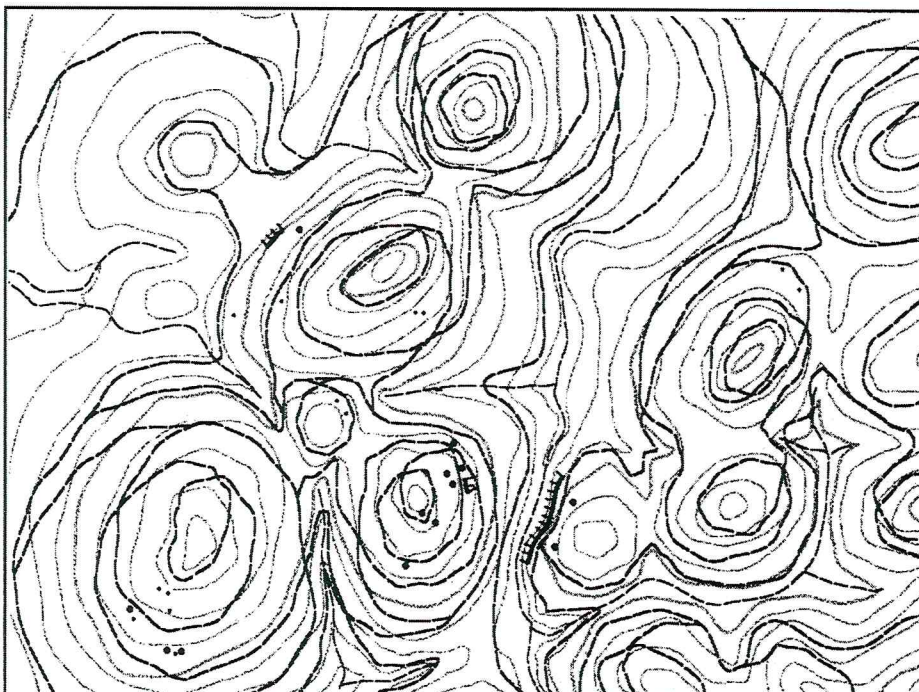
- **Front-hill gougers**, which have two short legs at the front, enabling them to move directly uphill very efficiently, but preventing them from coming safely downhill. (They can only move downhill backwards, which is quite slow, or by falling or rolling, which in the steep terrain makes them very prone to injury.) Consequently they are easily caught by wolves which chase them to the top of the hill where they are trapped.

- **Back-hill gougers**, which have two short legs at the back. They have the opposite movement problem, and tend to be concentrated at the edge of the plain where again they become easy prey.

- **Cross-hill gougers**, which have their short legs diagonally opposite. They have extreme difficulty moving anywhere, and tend to be confined to shuffling awkwardly along the bottoms of steep ravines or spending their time grazing on saddles, which soon become eaten out.

The side-hill gouger is a placid and timid creature for most of the year, but the males can become aggressive during the mating season. If chased by one, it is easy to escape, either by running in the opposite direction around the hill or by running straight downhill to the plain below.

Fortunately I managed to time my field-work and the event to avoid the mating season.



The Big Event

The event was held at the start of the local 'Spring Festival' which takes place every year during the first week of April. We had good local contacts in the village, and the event stimulated a surprising level of interest in a community where sport is limited to soccer, handball, wrestling and a couple of traditional local games.

In all there were 153 participants, about half of whom were children from the village school who arrived by ox-cart. The guest of honour was the village 'mayor', a well built former local wrestling champion who arrived in the exploration company's Land Cruiser.

Despite the rough home-made markers, pencils instead of punches, black-and-white maps reproduced on the company's ageing photocopier and no compasses, most participants quickly caught on to the new activity, following the gouger tracks around the hills, and successfully completed their courses.

The side-hill gougers rapidly vacated the competition area, but a number of them watched the day's proceedings from adjacent hillsides.

My work has now taken me to other parts of the world but, before departing, I left a local school teacher with a copious supply of maps. The village people had no concept of forming a club, but they were keen to go orienteering again and the teacher, together with a couple of enthusiastic youths, seemed to have the potential to make something work.

The teacher still writes to me occasionally with the latest orienteering news. The annual Side-hill Gouger Orienteering Event is now held at the start of every Spring Festival, on the date which seems to be traditional for such activities, and is growing in popularity also among nearby villages. If you ever happen to be in that part of the world at that time, it is well worth a visit.

The legendary Sven Hammarsten is a Swedish geologist who spends most of his time working in remote parts of the world, hence doesn't have much opportunity for competitive orienteering. However he still derives much pleasure from presenting the sport to others when circumstances permit, and keeps in touch with all the latest developments. Source of article and information: David Hogg, The Australian Orienteer, April 1997 issue.

Developments in Greece

Two members of the Board of the Norwegian Orienteering Federation, Svein Jacobsen and Solveig Sikkeland, recently paid a visit to Athens, hosts of the 2004 Olympic Games. They were accompanied by the President of the Norwegian Sports Federation, Arne Myhrvold, who has been an active orienteer and is proposed as the next Norwegian member of the IOC.

Their mission was to investigate the possibilities for orienteering in the area of the ancient Olympic area Olympia, with the idea that this could be the first arena for Olympic orienteering - as early as 2004.

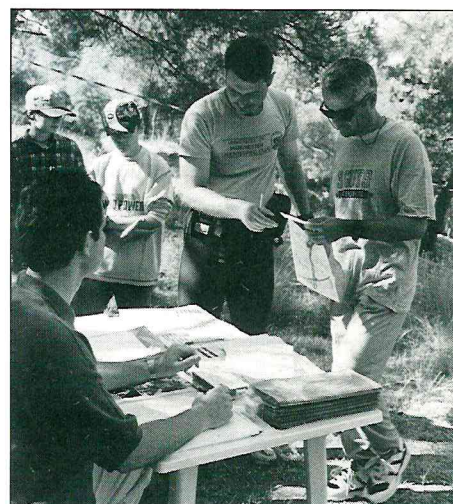
Myhrvold has previously spoken in favour of pressing ahead to try to get foot-O into the summer Olympics. The visit was apparently worthwhile; the group returned saying that there were possibilities for an Olympic standard competition there, although the amount of low vegetation might be a problem.

During their visit they met Konstantinos Koukouris, one of those at the forefront in trying to get orienteering established in Greece (see OW 97/3 page 20).

Some open events were held in Salonica in the later part of last year organised by the Physical Education Department of the University of Thessaloniki, where orienteering is included in the syllabus for the first time this year.

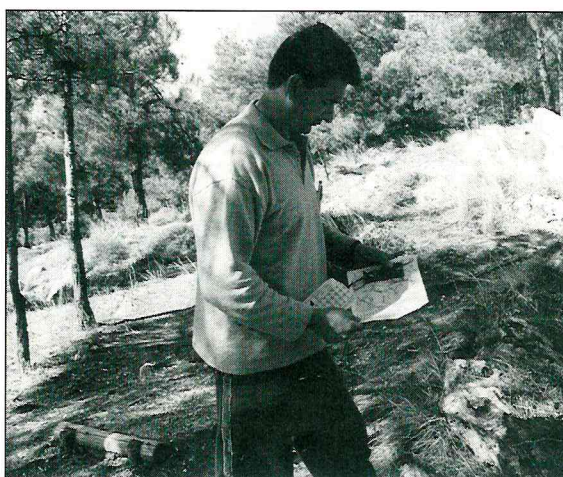
The lack of O-maps - and the difficulty of getting adequate base maps - remains a major obstacle to progress. Help with mapping is promised from Bulgaria, and last October IOF Foot-O Committee member Iordanka Melnikliyska paid a visit to offer more general support. There was a set-back in July last, however, when half of the Seikh Sou urban forest at Thessaloniki was burnt down, along with several other forests in Greece. It was clear that the fires were started deliberately.

Formation of a Greek Orienteering Federation is complicated by the attitude of the Greek Alpine Federation, which includes orienteering amongst its 'official' activities.



*Orienteering in Greece:
registration (above);
out in the forest (left)*

*photos:
Konstantinos Koukouris*



Sweden's New Year Competition Celebrates 50 Years

Every year for the past 50 years an O-event has been held on New Year's Day at Tormestorp, Skåne, south Sweden, with starts from dawn until midday. 216 runners came this year to join with the local club in celebrating the occasion, writes Christer Svensson. This year the

weather was more like autumn or early spring with temperatures up to +7 degrees.

Special diplomas were awarded to veteran organisers of the event including 78-year-old Alte Christoffersson who has been present at 48 of the events.

New Version of Australian Simulation Computer Program

Navigate! version 2 is a Windows 95 orienteering simulation program. It can simulate all forms of foot orienteering including map memory, corridor and 'window' exercises, and has a 3-D terrain view including many types of land feature plus control flags and a finish banner.

The program features fully functional bearing and thumb compasses, four O-maps of gully/spur, glaciated and karst terrain, pre-set courses of varying difficulty and length, an improved course setting module for setting new courses, and an enhanced results and race statistics module.

Several New Competition Variables

There is functionality for counting paces, simulating competitor tiredness, cheating (!), rotating the map, re-scaling the map, printing the map, and

varying a number of external parameters such as 'fog' and night conditions. There are three main modules: a 'race' module, a module for setting new courses including score events, and one for analysing results.

Requirements

There are many interesting facilities in the program - far too many to list here! It retails for US\$75, and requires 18MB of free disk space, a 486DX or Pentium processor chip, 12MB or more of RAM and Windows 95; also a sound driver and speaker.

Further information is on <http://www.ozemail.com.au/~glawford/navigate.html> or from:

Geoff Lawford, 126 Burrinjuck Crescent, Duffy, ACT 2611 Australia, tel. +61 2 6288 4760, fax +61 2 6288 2860, e-mail glawford@ozemail.com.au

Book Review

Orienteering - A Mental Training Workbook by Gordon Underwood and Steve Bird, 78 pages A4, published by Nonington Press, England, £9.95 from *CompassSport Book Department*

Every orienteer knows that sometimes his/her performance is good and at other times unbelievably bad. This is often due to differences in mental attitude - being too anxious or not fully committed - or to being unable to cope mentally with a small error or seeing a close rival out on the course.

Most orienteers spend little or no time on mental preparation, yet everyone who competes at any level can improve his/her performance through the correct mental training - a process which, like technical and physical training, takes time.

This is a book on how to develop your mental skills to help make you a better orienteer. Rather than giving you lots of theory to read, you are from the start encouraged to become involved - to analyse your strengths and weaknesses, set goals, plan a mental training programme to suit your needs, and perform a range of mental skills training exercises.

Analysis and log sheets and tables are provided for you, and the appendix includes analysis forms which can be photocopied.

This is an excellent resource book for coaches as well as an interactive training guide for individuals, and can be highly recommended to all English-speaking orienteers.

Clive Allen

CÉAD MÍLE Fáilte

or

A Hundred Thousand Welcomes to the Beautiful South West of Ireland

Cork OC invites you to three days of challenging orienteering on the unique complex terrain of SW Ireland as well as the friendly hospitality and relaxation for which the area is famous. We are committed to maintaining the same flexible approach as at previous events.

Many courses will have similar legs to those run by the World Cup Elites earlier in the day - compare your own elapsed times! We are hoping to provide electronic punching on most courses.



International Orienteering in SW Ireland



Shamrock
O-Ringen '98

May 22, 23, 24 - Killarney

In conjunction with '98 World Cup Events

10th SHAMROCK O-RINGEN 3-Day Event with Chasing Start on Final Day

May 22, 23 and 24, 1998

(Friday, Saturday and Sunday)

Day 1: Crohane, Co. Kerry
Day 2: Glenfesk, Co. Kerry.
Day 3: Black Lakes, Co. Kerry.

Day 1 (on Friday evening, start times from 4.30pm after WC Classic Qualifying) will be approximately two-thirds of normal length with a "Sprint-O" emphasis. Day 2 (after WC Classic Finals) & Day 3 will range from 2.5km (M/W10) to 10km (M21E)

Classes offered: M/W21E, L & S; M/W10-60 open; M/W novice

1997 winners: W21E Jenny James (SYO, U.K);
M21E John Feehan (BVOC, Ireland)

Accommodation information: Destination Killarney - +353 21 278594. Event application forms, etc., available from:
BERNARD & MARGARET CREEDON, MOUNT PROSPECT, DOUGLAS, CO. CORK, IRELAND

Tel: +353 21 361824 (home) + 353 21 361825 (fax) E-mail: bcreedon@indigo.ie <http://www.indigo.ie/~bcreedon/orienteering/shamrock>

Entry Fees

Once again, entries will be accepted up to the event and indeed possibly on the day if maps and time slots are available. Entries are accepted on the understanding that competitors take part at their own risk.

	Before 1st March	After 1st March (postmark)
ADULT	£8.00 per day	£10.00 per day
STUDENT (Full time)	£6.00 per day	£7.00 per day
JUNIOR (Under 18)	£4.00 per day	£5.00 per day
FAMILY*	£20.00 per day	£25.00 per day

*Family consists of parent(s) plus children in classes M/W18 or younger.

Add IR£2.00 per entry form to cover programme, etc. Cheques, drafts, etc. in Irish Pounds payable to "Shamrock O-Ringen 1998".

(Personal cheques in UK Sterling acceptable - please add 6%)

Entries please to Bernard & Margaret Creedon as below.

INTERNATIONAL FIXTURES LIST

This list includes open events in the 1998 IOF Calendar up to the end of June (some later multi-day events were listed in OW 97/6). The entry closing date, where known, is shown at the end of the event name. Then follows the type of event: I - individual, C - classic, S - short distance, L - long distance, R - relay, R(N+D) - relay (night + day). A number shows the number of days, e.g. 2I/R means 2-day individual followed by relay. Line 2 gives the contact address and telephone and fax numbers. A * indicates that the event is designated an IOF World Ranking Event.

MARCH

- 7, 8 * **X Trofeo Costa Cálida, Murcia, Spain 2I**
FORM, Apartado de correos 27, 30840 Alhama
(Murcia), Spain T +34 9 6863 9136, F +34 9 6863 9952
- 7, 8 * **Portugal O-Meeting 98, Lisbon, Portugal 2I**
Portuguese Orienteering Federation, Apartado 2,
PT-2640 Mafra, Portugal T & F +351 61 812710
- 21, 22 **XI Trofeo Martin Kronlund, Madrid, Spain 2I**
ADYRON, Gran Via 66-6°, pta. 3, 28013 Madrid, Spain
T +34 1 541 5457
- 27-29 * **Spring Cup, Hillerød, Denmark (27/2) N/C/R**
S Tandholdt, Søvang 4, DK-3460 Birkerød, Denmark
T & F +45 4281 5574, e-mail gert_steffensen@dialog.dk
homepage: <http://www.geocities.com/paris/2330>
- 29 * **Lunds OF, Sweden C** P Svensson, T +46 46 131 723

APRIL

- 4, 5 **Aros Elite Tests, Aboyne, Scotland (15/2) C/R**
A Panther, 2 Cromar Drive, Tarland, Scotland,
U.K. AB34 4UF T +44 1339 881203
- 9-11 **Påskeløb, N. Jutland, Denmark (1/2) 3C**
L Damborg, Klokkevej 22, Dall, DK-9230 Svenstrup,
Denmark T +45 9838 1983, e-mail ldamb@daks.dk
- 10 **New Zealand Championships, Dunedin, New Zealand**
D Melville, T +64 3 454 2575, F +64 3 455 8708
- 10-12 **Veteran Cup TUR, Turnov, Czech Rep. (28/3) 3I**
V Zakouril, Dvorakova 332, 511 01 Turnov, Czech
Republic T +420 436 25403
- 11, 12 **Metssiga 98, Saaremaa, Estonia (27/3) 2I**
Saaremaa OK, T +372 45 57180, F +372 45 55453,
e-mail erikeer@tkk.oesel.ee
- 11-13 **Holland-OL, Harderwijk/Ermelo, Netherlands (1/3)**
3I M Heikoop, Dominicushof 80, NL-4133 AP Vianen,
Netherlands T +31 347 322102, F +31 347 322107,
e-mail olnlmark@xs4all.nl
- 11-13 * **Postás-MATÁV Cup, Budapest, Hungary 3I**
B Kezdy, T +36 26 301 304, F +36 1 270 4035
- 11-13 * **Jan Kjellström O Festival, mid-Wales 2C/R**
J Powell, 22 The Willows, Raglan, Gwent, Wales,
U.K. NP5 2HB T +44 1291 690702
- 11-13 * **Australian 3-days, Maldon VIC, Australia (1/3) 3I**
P Creely, 51 Lowndes St., Bendigo Vic 3550, Australia
T +61 3 5443 1975, F +61 3 5444 7977
- 18 **Ronneby OK, Ronneby, Sweden C** H Lindblom,
T +46 457 31102, e-mail herbert.lindom@swipnet.se
- 18, 19 * **Vårspretten & Vårstafetten, Halden, Norway I/R**
Ø Holt, Bøstadelundvn. 46 C, N-1781 Halden, Norway
T +47 6918 2853, F +47 6918 7414
- 19 * **1. Nationaler OL, Bern, Switzerland (19/3) C**
M Streit, Rüttschelengasse 7, CH-3400 Burgdorf,
Switzerland T +41 34 422 2369
- 25 **Lördagskjappen, Moss, Norway (6/4) I**
S Koren, Gamlevegen 53, N-1534 Moss, Norway
T +47 69 25 45 96
- 25 **Slovak Long Dist. Champ., Pezinok, Slovakia (17/4) L**
P Poláček, Kupeckého 47, 902 01 Pezinok, Slovakia
T +421 704 402100
- 26 * **BOK Trot National Event, Somerset, SW England**
(27/3) C P Foster, 8 Windsor Road, St Andrews, Bristol,
England BS6 5BP T +44 1179 421572

MAY

- 1-3 * **ILVES-3, Tartu, Estonia (13/4) 3I**
OK Ilves, T +372 7 476 886, F +372 27 420 651
e-mail pillet@cut.ee
- 2, 3 **SAXBO 98, Zittau, Germany (1/4) 2I**
V Ender, Wilhelm-Fröhlich-Weg 12, D-02763 Bertsdorf,
Germany T +49 3583 701761

MAY

- 2, 3 **Tiomila, Tyresö, Sweden R(N+D)**
O Svensson, Vidablicksvägen 24, SE-135 54 Tyresö,
Sweden T +46 8 531 82545, F +46 8 987 858
<http://styx.dd.sigma.se/tiomila/1998/index.html>
- 2, 3 **IX Trofeo Int. Ciudad de La Coruña, Spain 2I**
ARTABROS, Santa Teresa 14-bajo, 15002 La Coruña,
Spain T +34 8121 3115, F +34 8122 0341
- 8-10 **Otepää Spring Event, Otepää, Estonia (24/4) 3C**
OK Kape, T +372 7 465839, F +372 7 425 475
e-mail tpani@math.ut.ee
- 9, 10 * **Eukkorastit, Puumala, Valkeamaeki, Finland S/C**
V Kovanen, T +358 5 68 54 063
- 9, 10 **Deutschland Cup, Ilmenau, Germany (9/4) I/R**
W Albrecht, Großmutterleite 12, D-99425 Weimar,
Germany T +49 3643 401272
- 10 * **2. Nationaler OL, Lugano, Switzerland (10/4) C**
T +41 91 682 2720
- 15-17 * **Vilnius '98, Vilnius, Lithuania (15/4) 3C**
OK Perkunas, PO Box 455, LT-2007 Vilnius, Lithuania
T +370 2 696585, F +370 2 220149
- 16, 17 * **Czech KB Cup, Jindrichuv Hradec, Czech Rep. S/C**
R Vondra, T +420 2 6661 0501
- 16, 17 **Deutsche Relay Champs + Rangliste, Dresden, Germany (16/4) R/C** J Gerhardt, F +49 351 4117467
- 23, 24 **15-stafetten & Knut Valstads Minneløb, Oslo, Norway (4/5) R/I** E Børsum, Kirkåsvn. 8A,
N-1178 Oslo, Norway T +47 2274 3484
- 30, 31 **Twin Peak '98, Lake District, England (1/5) C/S**
P Lomas, 31 Chatsworth Road, Hazel Grove, Stockport,
England SK7 6BJ T +44 161 483 4332
- 30, 31 **Slovakia Cup, Spisská Nová Ves, Slovakia (22/5) C/S**
P Soltés, J. Palárka 16, 052 01 Spisská Nová Ves,
Slovakia T +421 965 23710
- 30-1/6 * **3 Daagse van België 1998, Lommel, Belgium (1/4) 3I**
F Van de Moortel, Grasbos 40, B-3290 Diest, Belgium
T & F +32 13 312240, e-mail omegabe@ping.be
- 30-1/6 **Internationaler 3-Tage-OL, Leipzig, Germany (30/4)**
3I M Reichardt, Buchenweg 6a, D-04451 Panitzsch,
Germany F +49 34291 22427
- 31-2/6 **Queen's Birthday 3-day, Auckland, New Zealand 3I**
L Brighouse, T +64 9 298 8380
- JUNE**
- 6, 7 * **Eurometing & 30. Ramberg-OL, Quedlinburg, Germany C/R** G Wendler, PF66, D-06472
Quedlinburg, Germany T +49 3946 701953,
F +49 3946 915086, e-mail bergwerk-OL@t-online.de
- 6, 7 * **Scottish Championships, Darnaway, Scotland C/R**
E Lovie, 13 Northcote Crescent, Aberdeen,
U.K. AB15 7IE T +44 1224 319692
- 13, 14 **Venla & Jukola Relays, Siuntio, Finland R(N+D)**
JuhlaJukola, Tytyri, 08100 Lohja, Finland
T +358 019 318051, F +358 019 318052
<http://www.kolumbus.fi/jukola98/>
- 18-21 **Ilvesteade 98, Prangli/Tartu, Estonia (28/5) 4R**
OK Ilves, T +372 7 476886, F +372 7 420651
- 21 * **4. Rangliste, Wien, Austria C**
M Hümer, T +43 1 374 932
- 26-28 * **XVII Wawel Cup, Krakow, Poland (15/5) 3C**
WKS Wawel, Sekcja BnO, ul.Bronowicka 5, 30-901
Krakow, Poland T +48 12 6514465, F +48 12 6370645
- 26-28 * **Norwegian O-Festival, Oslo, Norway 3I**
O Byom, Sarabraatvn. 8, N-0687 Oslo, Norway
T +47 2226 7085, F +47 2226 2438
- 26-28 * **KAPA 3-days, Sigluda, Latvia 3I**
A Prosenkovs, T +371 721 7384

Events Noticeboard

1998 World Masters Games

More information is to hand about the orienteering component of this year's World Masters Games to be held in Portland, Oregon, USA. There will be a training event on 10th August, a short distance race on 11th August at Powell Butte Nature Park, Portland, and a 2-day classic event in Brooks Memorial State Park, Goldendale, Washington (approx. 2 hours drive from Portland) on 13-14 August. Courses will be to USOF 'A' Meet standards. The Nike World Masters Games runs from 9-22 August and expects 25,000 athletes from 100 countries taking part. For more information, ring +1 800 984 2637.

Four Weeks of O in the USA!

Why not start with the Sage Stomp (25 July - 4 August), move on to the US Championships in Washington (7-9 August), take in the World Masters Games, then finish with the Rocky Mountain 100 Day in Laramie, Wyoming (15-23 August)?! This last series of events is the successor to the very popular Colorado 1000-Day and is again organised by Mikell Platt; for information, contact Dan Walker, 1138 Northridge Dr., Erie, CO 80516, USA, tel. +1 303 828 3491, e-mail dwalker@csd.net

5 Days of Valle di Non

The advertisement in the past three issues of *OW* for this 5-day event from 7 to 11 July carried the wrong e-mail address. It is in fact predaia@tin.it

Keep up with O in the "New World" - read ORIENTEERING

NORTH AMERICA!!!

The only magazine to cover the sport for the US & Canada, with 8 full issues per year, color maps in about half the issues. We cover what's happening from coast to coast, all around this continent from north to south. You'll find O in all its forms: foot O, rogaines, ski-O, score-O, vampire-O etc.! We have lots of great forests and excellent maps.

RATES (8 issues per year):

Overseas surface mail	\$US 27.00
Overseas air to Europe	\$US 45.00
Overseas air elsewhere	\$US 51.00

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The orienteers' international Season Premiere

Spring Cup '98 Hillerød, Denmark

27 March: Nightsprint
28 March: Classic - IOF Elite Event
29 March: Relay - Nordic Relay League



Information

Spring Cup '98, Søvang 4, DK-3460 Birkerød
Tlf. +45 4281 5574 - Fax +45 4582 7274
e-mail: springcup@vip.cybercity.dk
<http://www.geocities.com/paris/2330>

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c/o Orienteering Association of BC
1367 W Broadway Vancouver BC V6H 4A9 CANADA
f 604 737 6043 Email ss98entry@oabc.bc.ca
Website Registration ss98.oabc.bc.ca

5. FORSSA PHONE GAMES

FINLAND, June 11 (Thursday), 1998

WELCOME

all orienteers over the world, before Jukola-relay to
Forssa Phone Games!

FORSSA PHONE GAMES, June 11, 1998,

Park World Tour, Helsinki, June 12, 1998,

Jukola Relay, Siuntio, June 13-14, 1998

Short distances, Winnertimes 20-25 min. Almost all classes.
Good prizes. About 1 000 orienteers!

Some earlier winners:

H21A: 1994 Mika Kuisma, 1995 Janne Salmi, 1996 Rudolf
Ropek, 1997 Janne Salmi

D21A: 1994 Reeta-Mari Kolkkala, 1995 Reeta-Mari Kolkkala,
1996 Anniina Paronen and 1997 Katja Honkala.

Invitation/Information:

Internet: <http://www.surffi.net/lhr>, e-mail: timo.rapakko@sci.fi
or fax: +358-3-4383 682.

WELCOME TO FORSSA!

LOUNAI-HÄMEEN RASTI RY



NOKIA
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HOTEL FORSSA FINLAND

Finally – the big one is also important

Every orienteer wishes to take part at least once in "the big one", the Swedish 5-day competition, O-ringen.

The Swedish name of this year's event is GästRike 5-dagars and it takes place in Gästrikland, about 200 km north of Stockholm.

Competing at this great O carnival gives invaluable experience, for elite as well as leisure orienteers. Navigating in Swedish forests improves your ability, proved by such stars as Hale, Hague, Palmer, Mogensen, Böhm and many others.

The format of O-ringen is extensive. It offers a world record number of

121 classes, ranging from elite through advanced classes, intermediate, run-for-fun, novice, pair and trail-O classes to ten open courses and nine entry-on-the day courses.

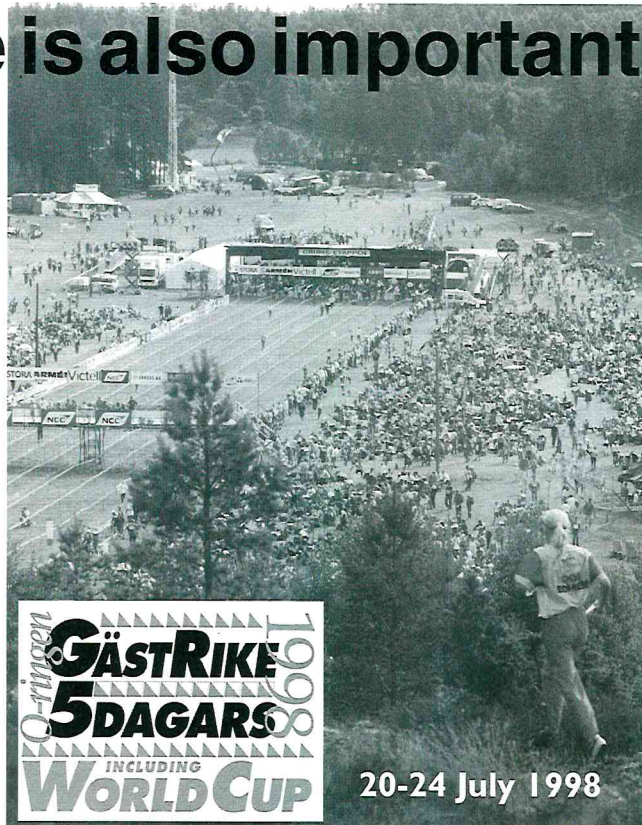
Now the world's elite can combine fun with importance. For the first time the World Cup is including the Mecca of orienteering in the series.

Winning here is special. But difficult. A number of world champions have tried several times without success.

Winners will need physical stamina, mental strength and all-round technical ability and consistency.

Welcome!

P.S. GästRike means "Realm of Guests".



20-24 July 1998

O-ringen '98
Box 1998
SE-811 26 Sandviken
Sweden

Tel +46 26 19 98 00
Fax +46 26 19 98 01
www.oringen.mm.se
oringen@mm.se



Enjoy your holidays at

Fin5 Orienteering Week 13th -18th July 1998 in Finland

Welcome to the orienteering and holiday week on the shore of lake Kyrösjärvi – to beautiful and wild landscapes. This 5-day orienteering event in Finland will be arranged in Ikaalinen, where Ari Anjala, the former Finnish national team orienteer, is the map and course master. The terrains are good surface rock and wildwood terrains – similar to those in the World Cup final in Hämeenlinna (August 98) and in the World Championships in Tampere in 2001 !

In Fin5 there are valuable money prizes: 10 000 FIM for ladies' and men's elite-classes. Plus bonus prizes and specials on the 16th July, which is also a part of World Ranki. For teams there are also training camp services - ask from the Fin5 office.

Competition days are Mon-Tue and Thu-Fri-Sat. Fin5 will provide race in all classes from 10 to 70 years old.

For holiday plans there is the biggest spa hotel in Nordic in Ikaalinen and the famous Särkänniemi amusement park in Tampere – near Ikaalinen. Furthermore there will be provided a lot of program for all ages from a rock concert at the Spa Beach to traditional summernight-dances and children's programs. On Wednesday there

is a Sprint Orienteering 'VJ Park Race' in Spa park made enjoyable for spectators.

For further information, entry forms and bookings, contact

Fin5
Valtakatu 8
FIN-39500 IKAALINEN
Finland
tel/fax +358-3-458 9670 or
+358-50-594 9456
e-mail: fin5.nouski@pp.kolumbus.fi and internet
<http://koti.kolumbus.fi/~fin5>

NEW! The top of thumb compasses with an extra-large magnifying lens. Special model for left-handers.



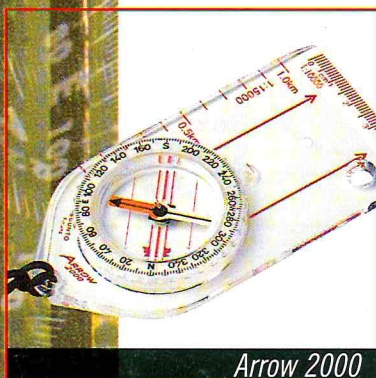
Arrow 2/R and 2/L

Another top-class thumb compass in the Arrow family. Easy to use, clearly visible scales, rotating capsule.



Arrow 1

A top-of-the-line compass that fits the hand. Ergonomically designed with rounded edges, hole for control marking, etc.



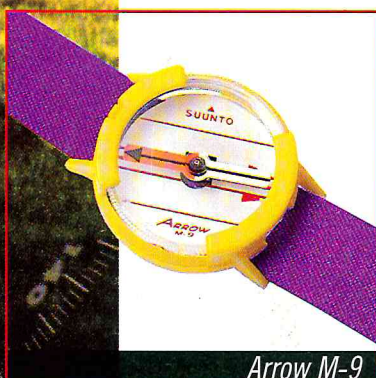
Arrow 2000

Similar to the Arrow 2000, with a TV-shaped magnifying lens.



Arrow 2200

The world's only double-bearing wrist compass. Can also be used for taking exact bearings as with a baseplate compass.



Arrow M-9

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SUUNTO