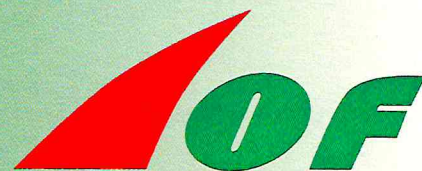


ORIENTEERING WORLD

98.6 December



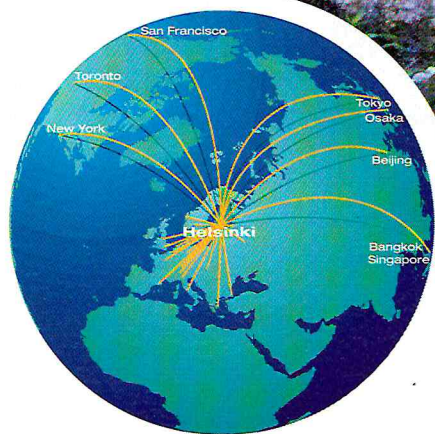
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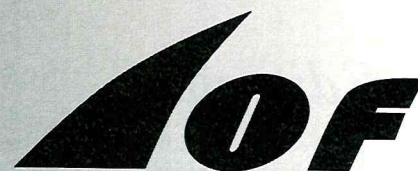


A NEW PERSPECTIVE

ORIENTEERING WORLD

Official journal of the International Orienteering Federation

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Tel. +358 9 3481 3112, fax +358 9 3481 3113
e-mail: iof@orienteering.org
home page: <http://www.orienteering.org>

Editor-in-Chief: Barbro Rönnerberg,
Secretary General, IOF

Editor: Clive Allen

Editorial Address:
Gravbækvej 4B, Virklund,
DK-8600 Silkeborg, Denmark
Tel. & fax +45 8683 7495

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PUBLICATION NOTES

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

Thank You!

I would like to express my warm thanks to everyone who has contributed to OW during my period as Editor. My special thanks go to Sue Harvey, Barbro Rönnerberg, Lennart Levin, Karin Tibbelin, Berit Pehrson, Ned Paul, Christer Svensson, Kim Rud, Kjell Larsson, Erik Borg, Per Nylander, David Hogg, Ian Baker, Martin Färnkranz, Jan Zemlik, Peter Gehrmann, Maria Nimvik, Olavi Mäki, Pirjo Valjainen, Roald Kramer, Lukas Jenzer and Petr Hranicka for particular contributions to the magazine in terms of text and/or photos or special assistance, to all the OW agents around the world and above all to my wife Birthe Helms for all her help and support.

Clive Allen

COVER PHOTO: Armed protection from the law for the Park World Tour race in Assisi, Italy in August: one of many memorable scenes from this year's Tour
photo: Brian Parker

Editorial

The internet is now so widely used, both by contributors and receivers of information, that for many orienteers it has become the source of almost all the information which they previously got from *OW*. It is partly for this reason and partly to improve the IOF's PR effort that *OW* will change its style in 1999 and be published just twice a year, as announced last June.

More details of the change are given in *The SG's Angle* on page 14. I have had some letters expressing disagreement with the new policy, but I personally believe the IOF is making the change at the right time.

As with many of its predecessors this issue of *OW* does, however, illustrate clearly the continuing need for an open debating forum where orienteers interested in IOF affairs can react to IOF's proposals and decisions, share their opinions with others and indirectly contribute to forming future IOF policy. IOF communications channels need to be two-way to be effective, and with the input coming not only from those chosen to sit in committee rooms. Perhaps part of the IOF's own web site could be used this way.

I always used to be sceptical when people talked about the 'paper-less office', but with the internet and e-mail becoming such an important part of communication, and a computer becoming an accessory on almost every office desk, it is now almost possible to work without paper.

The present *OW* office is certainly not paper-less - very far from it! - but the nature of the papers on the desk will shortly change, as this is my last issue as *OW*'s Editor. After 6 years (36 issues) I have much greyer and rather less hair, but many memories of intensive but happy hours producing the magazine and keeping in contact with the many contributors.

In the future I will be editing two elite guides per year for the IOF, a winter task which blends well with my summer job of running a busy youth hostel.

I hope you have enjoyed reading the present style of *OW*, and I wish all readers a happy new year and a successful orienteering future.

Clive Allen

Staff and Ivarsson Head World Rankings

The latest official IOF World Rankings published by n3sport show Hanne Staff and Johan Ivarsson at the top of the lists after inclusion of all the major events of the 1998 European season.

Hanne Staff has dominated all kinds of competition in 1998, and has built up a lead of 290 points over 2nd-placed Katarina Borg. Johanna Asklöf and Reeta-Mari Kolkkala have both had excellent seasons and follow closely behind in 3rd and 4th places.

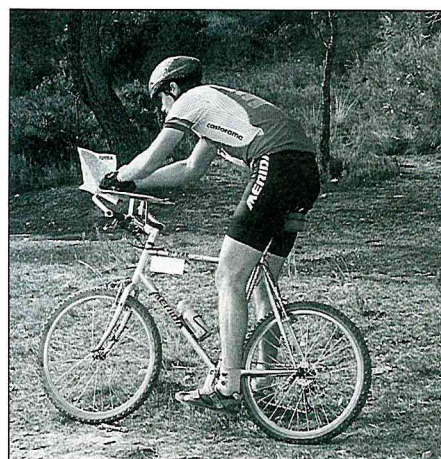
Johan Ivarsson has also impressed throughout the season and he, Bjørnar Valstad and Chris Terkelsen were at the head of the World Cup standings for much of the season. Jörgen Mårtensson's fourth place shows that at 38 he has lost none of his ability.

Runners such as Yvette Hague and Yuri Omeltchenko who missed a number of key races in the later part of the season do not appear in the top 50 in the current World Rankings.

LEADING OFFICIAL RANKINGS

MEN			WOMEN		
1. Johan Ivarsson	SWE	8795	1. Hanne Staff	NOR	8771
2. Bjørnar Valstad	NOR	8757	2. Katarina Borg	SWE	8481
3. Chris Terkelsen	DEN	8568	3. Johanna Asklöf	FIN	8459
4. Jörgen Mårtensson	SWE	8516	4. Reeta-Mari Kolkkala	FIN	8449
5. Timo Karppinen	FIN	8477	5. Brigitte Wolf	SUI	8355
6. Juha Peltola	FIN	8392	6. Sabrina Meister	SUI	8287
7. Kenneth Cederberg	FIN	8377	7. Anniina Paronen	FIN	8286
8. Thomas Bühner	SUI	8327	8. Liisa Anttila	FIN	8260
9. Carl H Bjørseth	NOR	8274	9. Satu Mäkitammi	FIN	8213
10. Jani Lakenen	FIN	8273	10. Katarina Allberg	SWE	8153
11. Janne Salmi	FIN	8264	11. Vroni König-Salmi	SUI	8125
12. Jimmy Birklin	SWE	8261	12. Heather Monro	GBR	8013
13. Alain Berger	SUI	8195	13. Gunilla Svärd	SWE	7982
14. Mikael Boström	FIN	8141	14. Elisabeth Ingvaldsen	NOR	7954
15. Frederik Löwegren	SWE	8104	15. Annika Viilo	FIN	7936
16. Peter Jacobsson	SWE	8058	16. Birgitte Husebye	NOR	7925
17. Valentin Novikov	RUS	8053	17. Jana Cieslarova	CZE	7872
18. Steven Hale	GBR	8034	18. Maria Sandström	SWE	7804
19. Flemming Jørgensen	DEN	8015	19. Karin Craig	SWE	7784
20. Rudolf Ropek	CZE	8006	20. Käthi Widler	SUI	7703

MTB-O in the Sun



Mountain bike orienteering, now officially abbreviated as MTB-O, held its most successful international event yet in Saragossa, Spain at the end of October. Photos by Martin Färnkranz show the start of the relay and Miroslav Rygl, second rider of the leading Czech team, fixing his map at the changeover. Full report on page 10

Asia Pacific Orienteering Championships

APOC'98 in China - A Learning Experience

by DAVID HOGG, Australia, APOC Secretary

When the Asia Pacific Orienteering Championships was first held (as the Pacific Orienteering Championships) in Australia in 1980, its purposes included the promotion of international competition among the relatively inexperienced APOC nations at their own level, and providing these nations with experience in organising international orienteering events.

The latter consideration was at the forefront when China's application to host APOC'98 was supported by the Meeting of APOC Nations, in the knowledge that China would not have the experience or resources to match the standards normally expected for an event of this status.

A leading IOF Controller, Øivind Holt, explained at an IOF Controllers Workshop in Australia recently that the most important consideration in providing satisfaction to the participants in an event is for the organisational performance to match expectations. Most competitors who went to China did not have expectations of competing in events which would rival their own national championships. They came away satisfied with a week of smoothly run competitions and enjoyable social functions, excellent hospitality from the Chinese hosts, plenty of interaction with orienteers from other nations, and a great excuse to experience the sights, sounds and smells of China.

Learning Experience Shared

Certainly the maps were not to normal O-map standards and many of the courses were rather short and easy, but those with a long history of orienteering could remember their own countries going through a similar formative stage in technical development. Why not share your learning experience with the rest of the world? It is a good way of obtaining feedback and advice.

These aspects of APOC'98 were perhaps more significant than the competition itself. There were no genuine elites from most of the APOC countries - their priorities lay with the World Cup, a competition which did not exist when APOC was established.

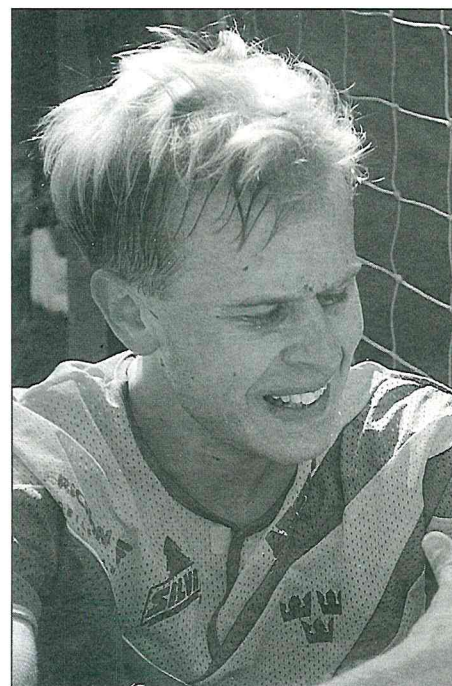
Jörgen Mårtensson and Gabor Domonyik were in China promoting the Park World Tour. Jörgen won the APOC Classic in 45 minutes, but was unofficial because he was not from an APOC nation, then returned home. Gabor stayed on to win the Short Course event which was open to all.

In W21E Sweden's Lina Karlberg won the Classic with a Chinese competitor winning the Short Course (the official results printed the names of local competitors in Chinese characters only). The toughest competition was in some of the masters classes between traditional rivals from APOC nations. Indeed APOC'98 was to a large degree a masters competition.

Finding the Right Balance

If the IOF's 75 Nations Project is to be more meaningful than just a head-counting exercise, more of the new, inexperienced nations should be tempted to host international events. The ethos of APOC will certainly encourage this within its region. There is no way, however, that APOC'98 could have come close to matching the technical standards required for an IOF Ranking Event without destroying Chinese ownership of the event. Finding the right balance between technical standards and other factors which make a successful international event will be an increasing challenge in the years to come. APOC'98 proved that it is not always necessary for the former to be paramount.

Historic Win for Ivarsson



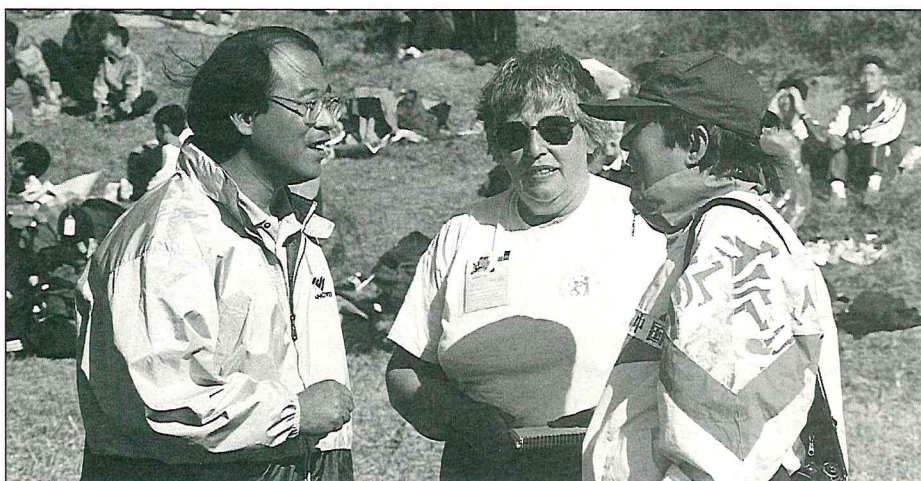
Johan Ivarsson made orienteering history on 23 October when he won his fifth Swedish night orienteering title, beating the previous record for Swedish championship victories set by Annichen Kringstad.

Ivarsson now has 14 Swedish championship medals to his name, of which 13 are gold, whereas Kringstad's total of championship wins was 12.

Text & photo: Christer Svensson

PWT Race Cancelled

The Park World Tour race planned to be held near London on 15th June '99 has been cancelled; as OW went to press an alternative venue was still being sought.



The most well known Chinese orienteer is Ma Huimin, Deputy Secretary of the Orienteering Association of China. Here he is pictured (l) with Anne Braggins, Chair of the IOF Trail O Committee, and a local journalist photo: David Hogg

DEBATE: Four pages of comment on the World Cup and PWT plans and orienteering in the Olympics

The Park World Tour - the Present and the Future

We'll make the new World Cup a strong product

ANDERS VESTERGÅRD, the Park World Tour President, comments on Clive Allen's editorial "The new World Cup - are we on the right track?" in *OW* 98/5

The Park World Tour (PWT) started three years ago as a marketing instrument for our sport, putting the essential elements of orienteering into a new package, attractive for runners, sponsors, media and new target groups.

In a world crowded with sports and activities, competing for support and attention from spectators, sponsors and the community, we wanted to raise the profile of orienteering. This is being done by high class events, bringing the action and excitement from the forests into the cities, creating a great atmosphere for spectators and putting lots of emphasis on marketing and co-operation with journalists and TV.

Not least, we want to put our hard-working athletes into a focus that they really deserve, and at the same time make it possible to earn some money from the sport that demands such a lot from them.

Creating a Network

The PWT races have certainly not all been perfect, but we are learning all the time, gathering standards, rules and new ideas into a growing guidebook for the organisers. We are also rapidly getting new friends and contacts, from school kids, journalists and mayors in Europe to students, ambassadors, Olympic Committee representatives and TV channels with hundreds of millions of viewers in China.

The PWT concept is getting stronger all the time, and we

will certainly not be giving it up! The PWT will go on in 1999, 2001 and every second year from then on, bringing orienteering into big cities and more exotic surroundings, also kicking off development projects such as the one we have now started in China.

The PWT learnt early on that water adds greatly to spectator excitement! Here Carsten Jørgensen creates a big splash in a PWT race in 1997

photo: Kjell Larsson



Olympic Ambassadors

Through the PWT and the activities in China we have also been able to engage two excellent and enthusiastic orienteers and ambassadors for our sport, the Olympic Champions Anders Gärderud (3000 m steeplechase, 1976) and Tomas Gustafson (speedskating 1984 & 1988).

In December, Anders and Tomas are already back in Beijing, giving seminars about orienteering and hosting competitions for thousands of students, together with our World Champions Jörgen

entire PWT 1999 series will be specially filmed for TV and broadcast in several countries.

This, together with the experiences and contacts we have, is something that the PWT group will now make use of when we get the chance to co-operate with the IOF in developing the World Cup from the year 2000.

Something to Watch

One main goal is to make the World Cup a stronger and more attractive product, in close co-operation with the local organisers. If we put as much emphasis on marketing and

media work as on terrain and course planning, the profile of the traditional World Cup and the classic races can certainly be raised.

We can make the competition centre more colourful, compact and spectator-friendly so that you can see both the start - or pre-start - where the runners are introduced, one or more spectator controls and the finish. This can definitely be achieved at all kinds of orienteering events - and has already been suggested by team leaders at the World Cup.

A professional arena production with an international orienteering speaker covering all the Cup races who has a wide knowledge about the sport and the runners will make the events a great show for the spectators with interviews, music, effects and memorable prizegiving ceremonies.

Lowering the Costs

We would also like to work to lower the costs for each participant and nation, so that all the teams could have the same accommodation and standards - and a fair chance to compete under equal conditions.

A goal is also that the best runners, as in the PWT, would receive prize money both in the individual races and in the overall World Cup.

At the moment, finance is perhaps the biggest reason for not extending the World Cup programme. In the year 2000 there

may be 15 individual competitions, of which 3 would be park races. With good planning, and increased sponsor interest for a stronger product, it might be possible to develop the programme in the future while still not making it too tough for the runners.

Increasing Media Potential

With increasing media interest and TV coverage from the World Cup making our orienteering world stars more well known, national federations, clubs and organisers will also have a better chance of drawing attention to their events, especially when their world class orienteers compete on home ground.

This applies both for the traditional classic races and for park races for elite runners, beginners and all age groups where the number has grown rapidly, especially in Sweden, during the last two years.

All of this, however, demands a lot from all the enthusiasts involved in our sport, from the local to the highest international level. The PWT has shown that there is the potential for all kinds of new orienteering arrangements - from club and regional races right up to World Cup events.

Challenging Arenas

A programme spanning the globe from the Olympic city of Sydney through the Skiing World Championships host Lahti to the Portuguese capital Lisbon offers us challenging World Cup arenas in the year 2000.

This new World Cup will certainly not find its final form in one or two years, but with all the knowledge, contacts, visions and ideas of the IOF, the Park World Tour and the local organisers together, a good base for further development can surely be built.

Far From Dead!

The work towards a new and strong World Cup has just started - and the Park World Tour remains far from dead!

The World Cup in 2000

PEKKA NIKULAINEN, Director of Coaching and Education in the Finnish Orienteering Federation, outlines the opinions of Finland's leading coaches and WOC group athletes on the present situation regarding the World Cup in 2000

We take a positive attitude towards the aims of improving the World Cup programme. In accordance with a model put forward by the IOF in the summer of 1998, ultra-short races should be included in the World Cup programme to make orienteering more interesting for the media etc. We favour these plans. Later on, however, another programme has been presented (in *Skogssport* and on the N3 web site) which we criticise on the following grounds:

(1) The programme has been published, but there is some uncertainty regarding the final decisions. It is not advantageous for the development of the discipline that important decisions are made in narrow circles. It is a question of guidelines which we wish to influence and give our feedback on before decisions are taken. This is very important for us (and for other IOF member countries) for two reasons:

- **The trend and content of orienteering:** who plans the future of orienteering? In view of our commitment, it is important that there is an opportunity to give feedback on the proposed plans.

- **Finance:** the World Cup is being financed by the member countries. Thus it is important that the member countries can have influence over the contents of the programme.

(2) **Regarding the basic programme of the World Cup 2000:** the Finnish opinion is that the IOF should stick to its earlier plan (*see panel*). Ultra short races and/or other new models could be included in the programme of these events. The Park World Tour races in China and the 'prologue race' at the 5-days

(Sweden) should be excluded due to the increased expenses and travel, and also the content of the events, i.e. they are all ultra short events without fixed rules and contents.

(3) **Implementation of the World Cup in 2000:** Classic and short races shall still form the foundation of the World Cup. The ratio could be e.g. 2-3 ultra short races (or other experimental races), 3-4 short races and 3-4 classic races. One race of each 'discipline'

The World Cup in 2000

The programme published by the IOF:

15-16 April	Japan	classic & relay
22-24 April	Australia	short & classic
1-2 July	Ukraine	classic
5-6 July	Belorussia	relay & classic
18-21 July	Finland	3 days of FIN5
October	Portugal	short, classic & relay

Following the IOF Council's decision in July to continue discussions regarding a merger with the Park World Tour, proposals to add to or modify the above programme at the same venues are under consideration.

The plan published in the October *Skogssport* (but not approved by the IOF Foot-O Committee) shows 2 park races in China (11-12 April), a short/park race in Sweden (23 July) and extra park races in Belorussia and Portugal.

could be dropped out in the overall result. The relay events (3 races) could be so-called mixed relays where all complete teams (6+6) may participate with 3 relay teams. It would be very important to discuss the contents and rules of the ultra short races or other experimental races in order to maintain the nature of the discipline (e.g. equality and performance requirements of the discipline).

(4) **Development of the World Cup:** It is of the utmost importance that matters are developed in co-operation with member countries. Procedures should be developed which enable interaction and feedback. The IOF bodies shall, naturally, have the final right to make decisions which further shall bind the member countries. We agree that the World Cup and other orienteering events should be developed in a direction which also interests the general public. These reforms and experiments are welcome, but they should be in control of both the IOF and the member countries.



Finnish star Reeta-Mari Kolkkala had a successful 1998 season which included overall 4th place in the O-Ringen 5-days in Sweden
photo: Christer Svensson

Olympic Games - Poor Route Choice for Orienteering

COLIN KIRK, President & Executive Director of the Canadian Orienteering Federation, questions the IOF's pursuit of the 'Olympic Dream'

In a letter in the October *OW* Martin Färnkranz asked the question, "When will the IOF finally stop dreaming? Orienteering will never be a part of the Olympic Games". I agree with Martin. For the last 20 years there have been endless discussions on how to get orienteering into the Olympics - should the priority be Summer or Winter Games, Classic or Short, 1-person relay or special 'Olympic distance' format, mixed relay, qualification races, etc. There are only two ways for a sport to get into the Olympics - MONEY and TV Audiences - and orienteering has neither.

MONEY: Not just money, but lots of it. The IOC craves money and wants sports that can fill stadiums with 20 to 50 thousand spectators purchasing high cost tickets and spending money buying food, drink and souvenirs from concessions.

TELEVISION: Television networks generate most IOC revenue and play a major role in deciding which sports are accepted. TV networks favour sports that can be covered by 4-6 cameras placed around an arena without a lot of setting up requirements.

Unless we can convince the IOC and TV moguls that orienteering will bring truckloads of cash, we are wasting our time and efforts. If we can convince them, then we don't have to worry about anything else, the IOC and TV networks will welcome orienteering, and our money, with open arms.

Forget Olympics - Concentrate on im- proving World Championships and World Cup

Instead of chasing the 'Olympic Dream' our efforts should be directed into making orienteering a sport that TV and other media *want* to cover, and one our members *can relate to* rather than a made-for-TV 'Olympic special'.

The WOC is about as exciting as watching grass grow or, if you live in Canada, as exciting as watching snow melting. Most spectators congregate in front of the result board to observe the split times, and except for seeing the athletes running a few hundred metres from the last control to the finish line there is little else to watch.

Orienteering 'superstars' such as Yvette Hague, Janne Salmi and Petter Thoresen have expressed opinions and suggested changes in the organisation/

promotion of WOC and World Cup events. Their comments (*see box*) deserve serious consideration.

We Must Obtain Professional Advice

It has been said that the biggest problem with amateur sport is that it is run by amateurs. Amateur sport places emphasis on the technical aspects and is less concerned with marketing, spectators, facilities etc. while professional sport places a higher priority on spectators.

Quotes from Orienteering 'Superstars'

Janne Salmi (Oct. 96) "The World Cup - What do we want, what do we get?"

"People driving on the nearest road would not have noticed that anything was going on."

"'Very secret' attitudes should be prohibited! Instead, telling openly about the coming race, where, when and so on. Starting from the finishing area, not hiding ourselves for hours in the bushes so as not to get knowledge about the race. In France (*World Cup final '96 - Ed.*) the coaches weren't even allowed to yell split times or cheer the athletes!"

"Races should be easy to reach and advertised to the public and in the media."

Yvette Hague (Oct. 98) "90% of top orienteers prefer traditional orienteering"

"Only a handful of orienteering spectators are interested and even then, only if they have a race of their own to compete in. I certainly wouldn't be interested in spectating at an orienteering race, although I'm very interested in results, routes, statistics etc."

Petter Thoresen (Oct. 98) "We don't try any harder or do anything different"

"I have run World Cup races since 1988 and we have not been successful in marketing orienteering through the World Cup races. The reason is quite obvious. We don't try any harder or do anything different to bring orienteering into the market, rather the opposite. In England there were only two sponsor banners at the finish, Silva and Suunto. At places without almost any media there are of course very few sponsors. To be cruel, why waste money on orienteering?"

"It also highlights how little effective marketing we gain from the World Cup. It is just not fair that this goes on year after year."

I don't think very many would attend a hockey or soccer match played in the forest with the score posted on a scoreboard and the winning team running in to the stadium to cheers from the crowd. So why should we accept the present WOC format where more can be learned from reading magazine articles than from attending?

Rather than spending money on the remote chance of getting into the Olympics we should invite a few select media reporters and sport marketers to attend the 1999 WOC to give candid opinions on the event and steps IOF should implement to improve the product. Give them access to top orienteers - Yvette, Janne and Petter would be good representatives - and keep them away from those who think that the status quo is acceptable.

Better Organised Events, Better Market- ing, Better Promotion

I cannot recall any of our top competitors stressing the necessity of being in the Olympics. Is it because they know their career will be long finished or is it because it is not too important to them?

My observations are that Janne Salmi, Petter Thoresen and others want better organised events, and better marketing and promotion to bring more money into the sport. They want to be recognised and rewarded for their efforts, whether orienteering is in the Olympics or not. This is a reasonable position for world champions in any sport and we should strive to help them achieve this recognition.

Changes made to the WOC, World Cups and other major events may attract television networks, major sponsors and perhaps, eventually, acceptance into the Olympics on the merits of our sport. If so, fine - if not it is also fine, as the sport will have benefited from the changes made.

"Why Can't ..."

ASKS
COLIN KIRK

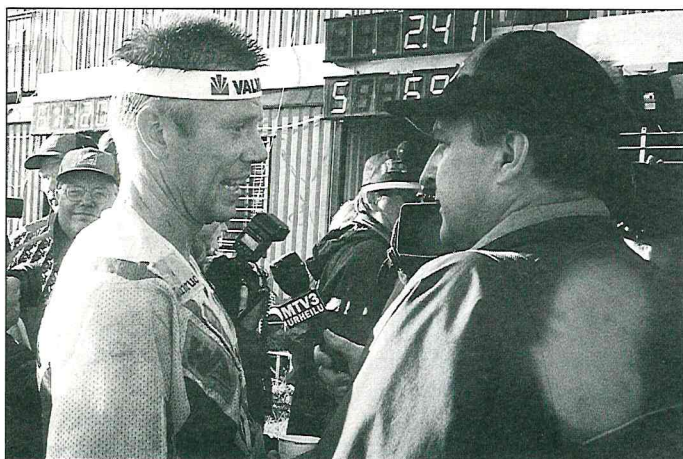
Advertising Boards

Why can't large billboards announcing the WOC be erected on major highways in the area 3 months before the event? A month before the WOC the billboard could be altered to 'only 30 days to the World Orienteering Championships' and updated in a daily countdown to 29, 28, 27 etc.

Highway travellers would be constantly reminded of the upcoming WOC.

Start From the Finish Area

Why can't runners start from the finish area rather than a remote forest location? I doubt whether any other sport goes to such lengths to hide the athletes from the spectators. TV networks would not tolerate such secrecy. It would be a change to see the runners in new O suits, clean faces and combed hair rather than torn suits, wet plastered hair and muddy feet!



Petter Thoresen is one of the stars calling for better marketing of the World Cup. Here he speaks to Swedish TV after bringing Halden SK in to win the Smålandskavlen relay in October
photo: Christer Svensson

Introduce a 'Run-Through Funnel'...

Why can't WOC courses be designed to bring runners through a 'run-through funnel' in the finish area with about 20% of the course remaining? A clock mounted in the funnel would display the race running time and fastest time recorded at the 80% mark and fastest finish time to that point. Runners would see how they stood relative to the leader and could use the information to change tactics over the final 20%.

Spectators would be able to follow the build-up to the finish - and also SEE THE RUNNERS!! The clock could also be located at a radio control somewhere about the 80% mark, but having it in a finish area funnel is preferable as it gets coaches and spectators involved.

...and an 'Officials Lane'

Why can't an 'officials lane' be set up alongside this funnel and coaches/team officials be allowed to provide information to their athletes? Nations could be allowed 2 coaches/officials in this lane. It is often more exciting to observe the antics of coaches rather than the athletes.

In this context, A Point About Fairness:

In the 1978 WOC the men's course came close to the finish and then looped back into the forest for a few more controls. While on the course, defending champion Egil Johansen heard a finish area announcement that he was in second place 2 minutes behind. The map showed several short and one long leg remained. He changed his planned long leg 'safe' route to a riskier one and gained enough time to overtake the leader and win.

Good fortune played a part in his win. If he had not been close enough to hear the announcer he would not have changed his route and probably not have won. He gained by being in a favourable place at the right time. This means the conditions were not the same for all runners. If the course had gone through a finish area funnel/clock or a clock at the previous radio control, the conditions would have been the same for all runners.

Similar situations occurred at the 1997 WOC because of the audibility of the public address system in parts of the forest - Ed.

National Olympic Committees' Criteria - No Go for O

In the enthusiasm to get orienteering into the Olympics an important item has been overlooked - the role of the National Olympic Committee (NOC), writes Colin Kirk.

It may be easier getting orienteering into the Olympics than getting approval from the NOC's as to the number of athletes they will sanction to compete in the Olympics.

The IOF may suggest that nations may enter 3 men and 3 women, but the decision is made by the NOC, not by IOF or national O federations. I sug-

gest national federations contact their NOC for a copy of their Olympic selection criteria.

A survey by the Canadian Olympic Association prior to the 1996 Summer Olympics asked 46 NOC's the criteria they used to select athletes for their Olympic teams. The survey covered all Olympic disciplines.

Most used results from the most recent world championships or world ranking lists. Only athletes who met the criteria were selected to Olympic teams.

The selection criteria used by some nations:

Top 16:	Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Great Britain, Slovenia, Canada
Top 12:	Norway
Top 8:	Germany, Romania, Sweden, Czech Republic, Finland, Switzerland
Top 3:	Russia

Most of the nations listed above have announced that the same criteria will be used for the 2000 Olympics.

Review of the 1997 World Championship and 1998 World Cup final standings shows that Norway and Sweden would qualify 3 men + 3 women by their NOC criteria, Denmark 3 men + 1 woman, Switzerland 3 women + 1 man, Britain 2 women + 1 man, Czech Republic 1 man, Austria 1 woman. Canada, Belgium, Germany, Romania, Russia and Slovenia would not get one athlete approved by their NOC.



Rudolf Ropek - the only Czech to get to the Olympics on present criteria photo: Erik Borg

Mountain Bike Orienteering

European Cup Final 1998 Saragossa, Spain

The 1998 Mountain Bike Orienteering European Cup came to an end in early November with 3 events in northern Spain. The competition centre was located in Zuera, a small town about 25 km north of the Aragónian capital Saragossa. Competitors from Spain, Portugal, France, Italy, Germany, Belgium, Great Britain, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Austria - and even one participant from Israel - gave this gathering a truly international touch. Temperatures were very mild (more than 20°C) and the weather was dry and sunny - ideal conditions for MTB-O.

A free order (score) race, which is extremely popular in Spain (and also in Germany) took place on 31st October in a desert-like open grassland area which included 2 patches of newly planted, very small forest. Some controls were off the tracks and finding them in this mildly hilly terrain with many contour details was sometimes rather difficult. The map quality was very good and the courses demanding. The race was dominated by Czech and French riders.

The terrain for the classic event on 1st November was totally different - a typical Mediterranean 'green' coniferous forest,

mildly hilly with many overgrown thorny paths, which made long trousers and long sleeves very popular among the athletes. The rough ground meant a lot of punctures; one British competitor had to stop and repair his inner tube 5 times! The elite courses had a map exchange and used two different but overlapping maps. Again Czech and French competitors won all the medals.

The relay was held in the same forest as the classic race, but on a new map further south. The Czech and French teams dominated once more, but this time the Spanish women were able to take silver.

We have to congratulate the Ibon Club with Julio Rivera, Jesus de Miguel and the Spanish Federation's President Juan Marco Garcia for all their efforts.

MTB-O is still a very young sport (the first real MTB-O events in Spain were only in 1991) and much is still in its infancy. It will be a while before we achieve the high quality of organisation found in the World Cup in Foot-O, but we will be striving to improve standards in 1999 when for the first time there will be a MTB-O World Cup.

LEADING RESULTS

Free Order race: Men: 1. Sylvian Mougin FRA 69.24, 2. Pavel Bures CZE 69.44, 3. J-M Bouchut FRA 70.06, 4. Benjamin Midena FRA 73.14, 5. Gilles Perrin FRA 73.16. **Women:** 1. Marie Hrdinova CZE 57.07, 2. Laure Coupât FRA 58.14, 3. Sylva Koskova CZE 65.38, 4. Esther Gil ESP 65.57, 5. Anicka Podrabska CZE 66.06.

Classic distance: Men: 1. Gilles Perrin FRA 79.18, 2. Jaroslav Rygl CZE 82.30, 3. Sylvian Mougin FRA 85.09, 4. J-M Bouchut FRA 87.04, 5. Pavel Bures CZE 87.52. **Women:** 1. Laure Coupât FRA 77.55, 2. Marie Hrdinova CZE 79.56, 3. Françoise Mege FRA 80.31, 4. Antje Bornhak GER 82.04, 5. Anicka Podrabska CZE 82.38. Jaroslav Rygl CZE & Marie Hrdinova CZE are overall winners of the 1998 European Cup.

Relay: Men: 1. CZE1 (Jaroslav Rygl, Miroslav Rygl, Pavel Bures) 2.42.48, 2. CZE2 2.43.29, 3. FRA1 2.49.24. **Women:** 1. CZE1 (Anicka Podrabska, Sylva Koskova, Marie Hrdinova) 2.38.50, 2. ESP1 2.49.48, 3. FRA 3.00.15. CZE are overall winners of both relay classes.

News contributed by
Jean-Paul Hosotte and Martin Fűrnkranz



Prizewinners after the classic race at the European Cup Final, with Spanish O Federation President Juan Marco Garcia:
l to r Marie Hrdinova CZE, Jaroslav Rygl CZE, Laure Coupât FRA, Gilles Perrin FRA, Sylvian Mougin FRA, Françoise Mege FRA
No mistaking the sponsors at this event!
photo: Martin Fűrnkranz

World Cup Proposed for 1999

IOF MTB-O Committee plans venues for October events

The IOF MTB-O Committee met at the end of October in Spain in conjunction with the open international event held there. Among the decisions made were:

It is planned to change the name European Cup to World Cup in 1999. Two of the events contributing to the 1999 World Cup will be:

16, 17 October: Classic distance/relay, Brno, Czech Republic.

Information & entries: Pavel Pekárek, Chytilova 6, CZ-624 00 Brno, Czech Republic, T & F +420 472 15251

29-31 October: Classic distance/Free order ('Spanish score')/Relay, Lleida (Lérida), Spain.

Information & entries: A.E.C.O., Gran Via, 66, Pl.8, offic. 17, E-28013 Madrid, Spain, T & F +34 91 542 0880, e-mail aeco@adv.es

Another venue will be added to this list after applications have been received from member federations, and the full programme of World Cup races will be published in due course.

The World Cup remains open to all competitors interested in

it (there may be restrictions for the 2002 World Championships). 3 out of 3 individual events will count for the overall result. Both relays will count for the relay overall result. Every World Cup event will have an IOF Controller.

Proposals were put forward that maps at World Cup events must be available for inspection before the start to all competitors, and that from the year 2000 onwards, the World Cup should have a 'red group' with the best 15-20 competitors starting last.

Also that competitors in a World Cup race are not allowed to leave the trails unless the respective organiser gives written permission to do so in the event information, that red crosses on the map are to indicate forbidden trails - not obstacles on the trail, and that the measure of length is applied to the 'ideal route' - not as the crow flies.

IOF Abbreviation Changed to MTB-O

• In future the abbreviation MTB-O will be used by the IOF, and not MBTO or MBO, to make a clear reference to the well known abbreviation MTB.

World Orienteering Marathon Event to be Held in 1999

Report from a Council Working Group
by EDMOND SZÉCHÉNYI

Orienteering marathons are becoming an increasingly popular form of our sport and the best runners have for some time been lobbying for international competitions. By orienteering marathons we mean extra long events (more than 50 km) which have been part of the orienteering scene for many decades.

Over the years these events have had a grass roots development with very little international or even national co-ordination. Almost invariably the major competitions are run with teams of two runners. At present events in Europe are mostly of the 2-day KIMM type organised by orienteering clubs, while in Australia and North America this activity has taken the form of 'rogaining', sometimes under a rogaining federation. Rogaining differs from the KIMM type orienteering event mainly in the general approach and in that the competitions are score events.

Unofficial Trophy

In order to create international competition, a number of European countries got together in 1997 to organise an unofficial 'International Trophy' ranked on a series

of events across Europe. This series has now been going on for two seasons, and it has become clear that it does not satisfy the runners. This is mainly due to the travelling costs involved and the physical difficulty in taking part in a series of such demanding events for a whole season.

In 1998 the IOF Council set up a working group to further the development of this discipline and to look into its needs. It is obvious to the group that the long-term objective is a World Championship. To work towards this, the group first envisaged giving an official 'world' image to the existing 'International Trophy', but now realises that this is not the way to go.

Single Annual Trophy Event

In order to continue to offer top level international competition, the group has decided for the immediate future to recognise each year one of the major existing annual events as the official IOF 'World Orienteering Marathon Trophy event'. This single event as against a series should limit the difficulties for runners competing for the Trophy. The level of international participation in this event will determine the

future of the discipline.

For 1999 a quick decision was necessary. It was therefore decided that the 1999 'World Orienteering Marathon Trophy event' will be the well known French 'Raid IGN-Francital', to be held in the Lyon/Grenoble area on 23-24 May. Invitations will be published as soon as possible. Venues for 2000 and onwards have already been suggested, but the choice will be made on proposals from IOF member federations. Appropriate forms will be sent out at the beginning of 1999.

At present the general basic rules for this Trophy are:

- a 2 day event
- teams of 2 runners
- 3 classes: Women, Men, Mixed

Initially, the specific rules will be those that are traditional for the chosen event.

Calendar to be Published

In order to improve the international profile of Orienteering Marathons, the group has decided that an international calendar of these events shall be published. Federations will be asked to send the calendar of all the events in their country to the IOF. A long-term task of the group is to find some common ground between the form of activity mainly practised in Europe and that more prevalent in the antipodes, namely rogaining. The group welcomes all ideas and suggestions for the development of orienteering marathons (*mail to Edmond Széchényi via the IOF Secretariat*).

Roller-blade Orienteering: an Israel First?

Report and photo by CHEN NIRAN

An orienteering event on roller blades - perhaps the first of its kind in the world - was held in Yarkon Park in Tel Aviv, Israel on 1st August.

It all began when my partner Boaz Morag took his 14-year-old son to a roller-blades jumping ramps arena in this park and got the man in charge there interested in the idea. This contact led to a sponsor - Lametayel - a network of touring equipment stores. They gave us prizes and the help of the chief of their public relations office.

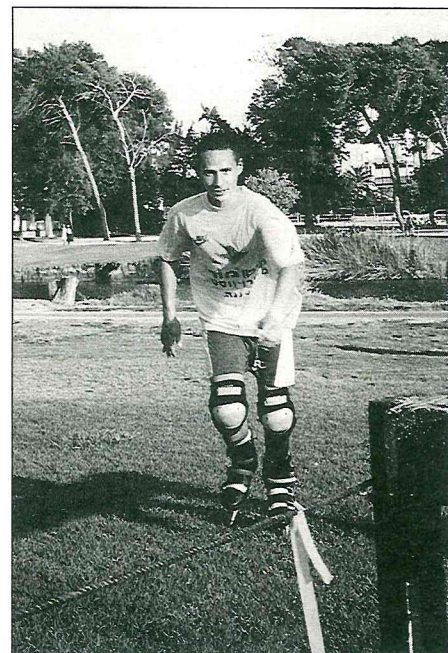
She attracted the attention of some major newspapers and radio stations, and even put us on TV (a morning news programme) before the event. We said it was the first time in Israel and might be the first time in the world - any reader who thinks otherwise should correct us!

Thirty roller-blades competitors took part in a score event to find the 9 small controls we put in the park (small so as not to attract thieves). We had two categories: Solo and Duo (that was in order to attract families) and we made them cross two bridges over the Yarkon River.

The winners were some 'expert' rollers (who also play hockey on roller-blades): Solo winner was Amit Bar-Av by 15 seconds in 12.22, and the first Duo (Li'or Shpigel + Ran Goldstein) made it in 13.38.

Most of the orienteers in this event were newcomers and all of them said it wasn't long enough, but they enjoyed it a lot.

The event wasn't a commercial success because most of the money went to buy a special insurance policy, but we think we'll try another event later in the year.



Michael Kossakovski, 3rd in the Solo category, reaches the finish line

SUE HARVEY'S *President's Column* **Moving with the Times**

In the year 1971 I joined the IOF committee which was responsible for publishing the federation's magazine. It was known as the *Mitteilungsblatt*. Published once a year, in German, in black and white, it had been going more or less since the IOF was founded.

By modern standards the *Mitteilungsblatt* would be seen as a little dull, perhaps. It included results of the IOF's event (there was only one: the foot-O World Championships) and the decisions of the Congress. The back page traditionally contained the addresses of the member federations (there were 17 at that time), Council and committee members.

The Editor, and Chairman of the Presse Kommission (as it was known) was at that time Ragnar Pettersson of Sweden. Several of the members were professional journalists.

IOF Becomes Bi-lingual

I, a barely retired elite athlete, from a 'new' country (Britain had joined the IOF some 5 years before) felt very honoured and somewhat over-awed to be invited to join this illustrious group. The objective in bringing me on to the PK was to allow the magazine to become partly bi-lingual by adding some English text. The official language of the IOF was German, but there were an increasing number of federations where English was a more natural common language. The IOF became bi-lingual, as did its magazine, which was re-named *IOF Report* since that was a possible title in both languages.

In 1977 Ragnar retired and I took over the role of editor and Chairman of the PK. In 1976 the *Report* became bi-annual.

Checking Galley Proofs

At that time the biggest challenge was still the pure mechanics of production. Printed in Sweden by letterpress, the procedure involved receiving galley proofs from the typesetters about 3 weeks after the text had been supplied to them. These proofs were laboriously checked for spelling and other errors, all of which had to be marked up in the margins of one copy using the special hieroglyphics

of the print trade. My job was, of course, primarily the English half. Fine craftsmen and well-trained linguists though the printers were, this process resulted in some unexpected errors, especially in hyphenation, as Swedish and English have different rules. Typically, one got

"Both men's and women's classes had the same last control, and as the runners sped to change over, the crowd went completely wild with excitement."

Photos came up from all sorts of people, but notably the intrepid Bretislav Koc (CZE), who turned up all over Europe on his motorbike, and who developed and printed his photos himself. Photos, of course, had to be expensively half-toned, but we still managed to include quite a number. The rough layout I did myself - cutting up the second copy of the galley proof and pasting pieces of text on to A4 pages to indicate to the printer what I wanted where.

The IOF Report - 4 Months to Produce!

The corrected and laid out galley proofs were sent back to the printer, who incorporated the corrections. Being before the days of litho (let alone computers), to correct an error meant removing a strip of metal type and physically replacing the offending letters. Spaces between words were created by placing lumps of blank type in between. Thinking back now it all seems unimaginably tedious. No wonder it took 4 months to produce the *IOF Report*. Today *Skoggsport* is produced in 4 days, Ola Gustafsson tells me.

Anyway eventually the magazine was printed and I spent some happy hours putting 25 copies into each envelope and sticking on address labels for each federation, weighing them and stamping them. The distant ones (Australia, Canada etc.) were not sent air mail, of course. After 6 weeks at sea they would eventually arrive about 6 months after the World Championship upon which they were reporting!

Traditional Events

Despite this, the magazine still had subscribers - 25 SEK was the annual fee, if I remember correctly. The most valuable item for many people was the international fixture list. Federations paid 25 SEK to have an event included. Most had just one or two. Traditional (besides the Swedish 5 Days) were the Eotvos Pokal, Sørlandsgaloppen, Friede und Freundschaft, Kainu Rastiviikko, Jysk 3-Dage, Ostsee OL, the Jan Kjellström Trophy, Grand Prix Slovakia etc.

In parallel with the *Report*, after 1983 we started the *IOF Bulletin*. This was a small informal newsletter - black and white and photocopied - which went out to Council, Committee members and federations to keep people in touch between times. The *Report* was indeed truly a report and mainly focused on providing a record for the archives.

Emphasis on Image

By 1986 international sports were finding themselves in a competitive market, and image had become a key weapon in obtaining sponsorship. After the Secretariat moved to Stockholm, the *Bulletin* was further developed, then in 1989 *Orienteering World* was born. (The *Report* had been discontinued.) Only once previously (in IOF's 20th Anniversary year) had the magazine had a full colour cover before. Now every issue had colour cover and adverts, and this has continued to the present day. Though technology has now made production easier, and correcting spelling mistakes when it's on a computer is a dream compared with altering metal type, there is still a lot of work in producing the magazine. Our present Editor Clive Allen took on the job in 1993 and, now with 6 issues a year, this has been a considerable task. Typing in text is one thing, but before you can do that you have to persuade people to write the articles and send you photos. Having laid it all out, you have negotiations with the printer to get the quality and delivery you want. You must seek subscribers, and advertisers, and keep accounts.

Using the Speed of Electronics

Twenty years ago it was acceptable to produce a magazine 4 months after the event. Today's world of instant internet is a quite different environment, and IOF will be moving in future to a new scheme which will take advantage of the speed of electronics.

On behalf of all *OW's* readers, and the IOF in general, I'd like to thank Clive for the loyal and consistent job he has done over the last 6 years. It has been a big commitment carried out faithfully and carefully, and involving much time and energy.

Clive goes on to edit the two editions of the Elite Orienteering Guide (winter and summer) for the IOF, so it's not "good-bye". But no doubt it will be with a little sadness that he says "goodnight" to this, his last issue. (Traditionally, sending a magazine to be printed is termed "putting it to bed".)

Thanks Clive. And Good Luck!

IOF Committees and Other Groups

as from 1st January 1999

Foot-O

Ove Gasbjerg DEN (Chair)
Laszlo Deseö HUN
Leho Haldna EST
David May GBR
Torgny Ottosson SWE
Marcel Schiess SUI
Luis Sergio POR
Geir Tveit NOR
(Due to reorganisation of the committee, the list of names is still to be completed)

Ski-O

Juraj Nemec SVK (Chair)
Tim Kankfelt FIN
Kåre Kirkevik NOR
Tullio Manzinello ITA
Tord Nilsson SWE
Igor Stolov RUS
Daniel Sägerser SUI

MTB-O

Jean-Paul Hosotte FRA (Chair)
Blake Gordon AUS
Serge Ninanne BEL
Colin Palmer GBR
Jesus de Miguel Rey ESP
Jan Semik CZE

Trail O

Anne Braggins GBR (Chair)
Frank Kuhn USA
Patrick Ng HKG
Knud Vogelius DEN
Faith White IRL

Events Standards

Barry McCrae AUS (Chair)
Øivind Holt NOR
Lars-Åke Larsson SWE
David Rosen GBR
Tim Kankfelt FIN (Ski-O contact)

Map

Björn Persson SWE (Chair)
Andreas Dresen GER
Søren Nielsen DEN
Chris Shaw GBR
Laszlo Zentai HUN

Technology

Development

Finn Arildsen DEN (Chair)
Rolf Heinemann GER
Marko Häkkinen FIN
Bruce McAlister USA
Øivind Stene NOR

Medical Advisory Group

Bengt Saltin SWE (Chair)
Marja Ramm-Schmidt FIN
Wendy Smallwood GBR
Roger Aerts BEL (Anti-Doping Controller)

Environment Group

Brian Parker GBR (Chair)
Åke Barklund SWE
Ernst Gruhn GER
David Hogg AUS

Some names have yet to be confirmed by their federations

IOF Major Events 1999-2000

1999 Ski-O Events - see page 19

1999 Foot-O Events

World Orienteering Championships

1-8 August Inverness, Scotland

Junior World Championships

5-11 July Varna, Bulgaria

World Masters Orienteering Championships

18-23 July Aarhus, Denmark

2000 Ski-O Events

World Championships in Ski-O

29 February - 6 March Krasnoyarsk, Russia

World Cup in Ski-O

I1 & 2, R1 - Vuokatti/Sotkamo, Finland

I3 & 4 - Muhlviertel, Austria

I5 & 6, R2 - Donovaly/Banska Bystrica, Slovakia

I7 & 8, R3 - WOC in Ski-O

Junior World Championships in Ski-O

31 January - 6 Feb. Banska Bystrica, Slovakia

2000 Foot-O Events

World Cup

Programme not finalised - see page 7

Junior World Championships

10-16 July Nove Město na Morave, Czech Rep.

World Masters Orienteering Championships

2-7 January Feilding, New Zealand

International Orienteering Federation

Secretariat

Radiokatu 20, FI-00093 SLU, Finland

Telephone: +358 9 3481 3112 **Fax:** +358 9 3481 3113

Secretary General: Barbro Rönnerberg

Development Assistant: Sigita Stasiulis

IOF Council 1998-2000

President

Sue Harvey, Great Britain

Senior Vice President

Åke Jacobson, Sweden

Vice Presidents

Hugh Cameron, Australia

Edmond Széchényi, France

Council Members

Thomas Brogli, Switzerland

Higino Esteves, Portugal

Jan-Erik Krusberg, Finland

Iordanka Melnikliyska, Bulgaria

Bruce Wolfe, USA

IOF Committees and Committee Chairmen

Foot-O - Geir Tveit, Norway

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

Development Project Consultant: Birthe Helms, 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
Chinese Taipei*	TPE	Moldova*	MDA
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 SG's Angle



BARBRO
RÖNNBERG

Shooting the Rapids

At the recent GAISF (General Association of International Sports Federations) Congress I had the opportunity to attend the first public meeting of the newly established GAISF Media Working Group. The group has been formed with the aim of assuring co-ordination and co-operation between media Officers of the GAISF member federations. Many of the speakers underlined the necessity of keeping up with the rapid changes in today's world - and in particular with the changes in information technology.

The water in the river is flowing very fast. We need to keep up with the speed of the waves

but at the same time we need to keep the boat clear of the rocks in the rapids. To quote Mr. Philippe J. Silacci, Press Officer of the International Gymnastics Federation: "Once the target has been identified, you must use the right tools to reach it. In this area, you must be especially careful in your selections, since technology develops very rapidly. It is necessary to look far but act close. In other words, take note of the technological evolution and communication methods by looking around you and then make your choice based on what you have learned; this will ensure a smooth integration to the systems currently in use."

The IOF is now in the process of revising its communications policy. The change is largely a response to the development of information technology. It is also designed to meet the need to create a higher profile for orienteering in the international sports world. The target groups have been identified, and in order to be successful we now need to choose the right tools. We need to have a small number of high quality, targeted publications to help deliver the orienteering message to specific groups - both internal and external.

The first tool has already been created: the PR publication 'The World of Orienteering'. This publication is primarily designed to spread a clear, universal orienteering message and improve the knowledge of the sport within external target groups all over the world.

The next step is the re-launch of *Orienteering World* as a PR style magazine. The main target groups of the new magazine are international sports bodies, sponsors, media contacts and other external groups. The content will still, however, be of great interest to everyone involved in orienteering activities.

Like 'The World of Orienteering', the new *Orienteering World* will hopefully become a useful tool for national orienteering federations, clubs and individuals when 'selling' the sport.

The elite events such as the World Championships and the World Cup are our most visible products. In order to respond to the needs of the media representatives covering these events, the IOF will in future publish two yearly Media Guides (one for foot-O and one for ski-O), each containing information about IOF events, statistics and background articles on elite orienteering and elite athletes.

And what about the orienteering family: the federations, the clubs and the individual orienteers? How is the IOF going to meet the requirements of these important target groups? To improve the flow of information about ongoing IOF activities, more emphasis will be put on the use of electronic communication - the IOF's own internet web page and e-mail.

Not everybody does have access to e-mail and internet, though, and in order to "ensure a smooth integration to the systems currently in use", circular letters, fax messages, the *IOF Headlines* and other traditional means of communication will still be used.

I do believe that we have chosen the right tools to reach the various target groups and that we will be able to keep up with the speed of the waves. The boat may of course from time to time get scratched on some of the rocks in the rapids but I feel sure that, in the end, we'll be home and dry.

Since this is the last issue of the 'old' *Orienteering World*, I would like to pay tribute to the marvellous work Clive Allen has done as Editor of the magazine since he took over the task in January 1993. Thanks for all your efforts - you have done a great job, Clive!

Orienteering Comes to Venezuela and Colombia

Portuguese IOF Council member Higino Esteves has recently completed a successful mission to South America, leading clinics and meeting top-level sports representatives in Venezuela and Colombia, as part of the IOF 75 Nations Project.

In Venezuela Gino organised a clinic for 28 participants, all with little or no experience in orienteering, and some became very enthusiastic.

It is anticipated that the 'Orienteering Club of Caracas' will

apply to the IOF for Associate Membership in the near future, and by next April the 'Federacion Venezolana de Deporte de Orientacion' will be created by 6 or 7 clubs.

In Caracas Gino met the President of the National Olympic Committee, the Director General of the National Sports Institute and others.

PR work and a seminar were also the objectives of the Colombia visit. A presentation was

made in Bogota to national sports officials on orienteering and IOF activities, and a seminar for about fifty teachers and students from different regions of the country was held in the University of Colombia in Bucaramanga.

Gino's work was received with much enthusiasm throughout his visit, and there will be follow-up when P-O Bengtsson takes a World Wide Orienteering Promotion tour to Caracas, Bucaramanga and Bogota around New Year.

This tour continues to Quito in Ecuador and San José in Costa Rica. Of these countries, only Ecuador is an IOF member.

Stig Carlsson Leaving NOF

Stig Carlsson, who has been Secretary General of the Norwegian Orienteering Federation for the last 18 months, has announced that he is to leave the post shortly and will be returning to Sweden. In the past he has also been Secretary General of the Swedish O-Federation (SOFT). He will work as a Project Manager for SOFT from the beginning of 1999.

According to n3sport, family reasons have been given for the decision.

Transferring Information Between Computer Systems

FINN ARILDSEN, Chairman of the IOF's Technology Development Committee, describes a new IOF interface project

Among orienteers there is a common wish to benefit from using the latest technology. A clear indication of this is the number of computer systems we use when we organise orienteering events. It may sometimes appear as if we want to use as many computer systems as possible.

There is of course a perfectly reasonable explanation for this. Each of the systems performs its own specialised task: handling event entries, course planning, timing competitors, producing results, providing information for event commentary, checking electronic punches, etc. In addition, computers are used for mapping.

It can be quite an undertaking to make all these systems co-operate, and much hard work is

put in at each event to ensure safe and reliable transfer of information from one computer system to another.

Effect of the Internet

The internet is here and it provides even further opportunities and challenges. We have come to expect that event information and results are posted on the world wide web. Some events already accept entries on-line from their web page. And even more new systems are in sight on the horizon, such as web casting systems that can publish results, and position monitoring systems that can publish competitors' positions in the forest, both of these in real time.

All this leads to the conclusion that there is a need for a simple means to enable all these dis-

parate systems to communicate information in a reliable manner.

In an attempt to address this need the IOF Technology Development Committee (TDC) has launched an Interface Standards project. The project group has been given the task of coming up with a set of standards that are both simple to use and flexible enough to cater for a wide range of events.

Experts Met in Norway

A group of experts from national federations and orienteering systems vendors met in Oslo, Norway, on 17-18 October to kick off the project. Stefan Nordmark from the

Swedish Orienteering Federation was appointed project leader, and since the meeting Ian Watson (GBR) has joined the project management team. It was agreed that the project will deliver its first draft set of standards in March 1999. Before that, there will be a 'public phase' where the intermediate results of the work will be subject to open discussion on the internet. Everyone who is interested is invited to contribute to help ensure that the final result will be as useful as possible.

The outcome will take the form of a generic specification. TDC envisage that the standard will provide, for example, a file format for competitor data transfer as well as a unified interface to electronic punching systems.

The expertise and competence present in the project group, together with the enthusiasm shown by the group, give the TDC great confidence that a useful result will be reached.

More information on the project is available on internet at the address: <http://www.orienteering.org/TDC/InterfaceStandards/>

Events Standards Committee

IOF now has 130 Licensed Controllers

The Events Standards Committee (ESC) met in Albury, Australia in late October. Also present was Shin Murakoshi, the Orienteering Technical Delegate for the **World Games** in August 2001 in Akito, Japan. The ESC will continue to work with the Foot-O Committee to develop the special rules that will be required for this event.

An **IOF Controllers Licensing Clinic** was held in Minsk, Belorussia earlier in the year. There are now 118 licensed Foot-O Controllers and 12 licensed Ski-O Controllers. In 1999 Foot-O Controllers Clinics are proposed to be held in Switzerland, Denmark and possibly USA.

The extension of the Licensed Controller scheme to other disciplines is continuing. A Ski-O Controllers Clinic will be held in Finland in December and a similar clinic for Trail-O will be held at WOC 99.

It was agreed that the current versions of Emit and Sport Ident **electronic punching systems** have IOF approval, provided that each manufacturer can confirm that they satisfy the new criteria that the IOF Technical Development Committee is drawing up. Appendix 4 to the rules - 'Approved control cards and marking devices' - will then be amended to include Sport Ident (currently only Emit is mentioned). The approval for Sport Ident was immediately

extended to the end of January 2000 (to include the WMOC 2000 period).

Revision and harmonisation of the **Ski-O Rules** is nearly complete. A new rule allowing free change of equipment at equipment controls was approved.

It is agreed that at **JWOC 1999** in Bulgaria there will be only one classic race. A shorter start interval (or simultaneous start procedure) may be necessary to reduce the overall start times. The question of whether incomplete relay teams should start with the other teams at World Cups and JWOC is being considered.

Reports from the Controllers of **WOC 99 and 2001** were received. Both events are making good progress. In Finland, advances are being made with GPS tracking but a lot more development is still needed. A deadline for the demonstration of GPS tracking has been set for August 2000.

Reports from the **1998 World Cup** series indicate that it was very successful with no major technical problems and a number of successful innovations.

In future the ESC will more closely monitor the reports from IOF Controllers both before and after the events. Responsibility for the various categories of event has been subdivided amongst the Committee members.

David Rosen

Sportident for All at O-Ringen

The Swedish O-Ringen 5-Days has chosen to use the German/Swedish electronic punching system Sportident for all courses at the 1999 and subsequent events.

"All the expected 15,000 competitors will get their split times at the finish" says Sportident's Gunnar Larsson.

Trail Orienteering



Karen Darke GBR - competed in Rolli-O race

Russians Compete in O-Ringen

Just over 2 years after the IOF Trail O Committee were invited to Yekaterinberg, Russia to introduce Trail O to a group interested in a new sport for disabled people, a team of juniors travelled with their coach, the team supervisor (a director of the DISpO centre for disabled children) and an essential interpreter to the O-Ringen in July. They returned home with the overall 2nd and 3rd places in the under 16 class.

In the 2 years since May '96 there have been several competitions in different areas of the Ural mountains. Now it is hoped that the success in Sweden will encourage more groups to join in, together with the inclusion of adults and maybe competition with school groups of all physical abilities.

Trail O Committee in China

The IOF Trail O Committee held a meeting associated with the APOC event in China and wish to thank the organisers for their assistance, the events and the tour to the Great Wall.

In spite of having no previous experience of Trail Orienteering the event organisers welcomed the Committee members and scheduled an 'Introduction to Trail O' session into the week's programme. Multi-day international events are certainly a good place to promote Trail O.

The following week a meeting was arranged with representatives of the Disabled Sports Federation of China. They will now discuss with the orienteers the development of this inclusive sport for all people. The maps being produced of the university campuses are excellent for Trail O.

Anne Braggins

Rolli O - timed orienteering using wheelchairs

The name, derived from the German *Rollstuhl*, is used for timed rolling wheelchair orienteering on a conventional course. Because good speed is needed for success, it is most suited to people with good upper body strength. Most competitors use hand-cranked cycle adaptations to their wheelchairs which are not cheap.

Peter Gehrmann has organised an annual race for disabled competitors from Paderborn and Bielerfeld (Germany) for many years and this year was no exception, with a long course being set on 2nd August to coincide with the European Trail Orienteering Championships held nearby.

The direct route was around 30 km, but competitors had to travel a bit more than this when keeping to navigable tracks.

The winner Heinz Krietenbrink seemed pleased with his time of 2.24.03, and the prize of some training weights should help him beat that in the future.

It is hoped that as part of the Mountain Bike Orienteering activities during the WOC99 week in Scotland at least one day will be suitable for hand cranked cycles. The course will be in rougher and steeper terrain than that experienced in Germany, and should prove an interesting challenge.

Heinz Krietenbrink
receives his prize
of a set of
training weights
from Euro MP
Elmar Brock

photos:
Anne Braggins



Trail O Comes to Japan

TARO KOYAMI and ATSUSHI TAKAHASHI describe the formation of the Japan Trail Orienteering Development Group

In Japan about thirty orienteers who live in various districts and take much interest in Trail Orienteering began their study last February by setting up a new group. One of them took part in the European Trail O Championships in Germany last summer (see OW 98/5 page 19).

And at last we have had a small but memorable first event in a small park in Yokohama City on September 23rd. We set a course named 'Variety' with 11 controls and even a timed control on it. 12 competitors, all veteran orienteers including one now disabled, enjoyed the course very much as their first experi-

ence of Trail Orienteering and they got a great impact from it and learned a lot. "Seeing is believing", it is true.

We are planning more similar events for foot orienteers to let them know not only what Trail O is but also what we have to do without delay. In fact some members of the group are going to have trial events in their home areas straight away.

As the following step we intend making contact next year with some sports associations for disabled people in Japan. And we would really like to send a delegation to the first World Cup in Trail Orienteering in Scotland next summer.

IOF Vice President HUGH CAMERON describes

A Visit to China

I had been asked by Council to represent the IOF at the 1998 Asia-Pacific Championships and to meet with members of the Chinese Olympic Committee. The trip also provided the opportunity to join Jörgen Mårtensson, Anders Gärderud and Tomas Gustafson as the Park World Tour brought the joys and skills of orienteering to 1500 students at three Beijing universities.

My knowledge of China was found in books, a study of history at university and the viewing of current affairs programmes on TV. I recalled the words from the travel guide I had read, 'in preparation', before departing from Australia: "China is an experience that stays with you for years after you leave". Simple words but unquestionably true.

The orienteering was also a memorable experience. One cannot forget the reception given to the PWT as the university seminars were conducted - students so incredibly motivated to learn, to experience something new, to converse in English. The potential appeared limitless.

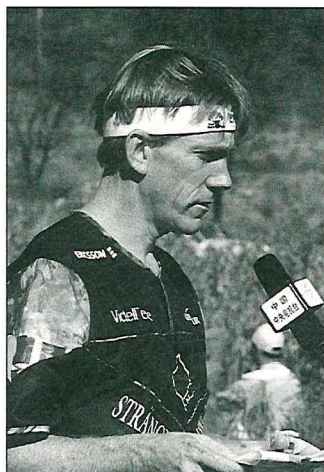
The meeting between the IOF and representatives from the Chinese Olympic Committee proved most fruitful. Discussions regarding the world of orienteering, orienteering in China and orienteering in the Olympics were conducted over lunch in a conducive atmosphere of informality.

At APOC itself the Orienteering Association of China made optimum use of available resources to ensure an enjoyable orienteering experience in China. Competitors gained some small comprehension of rural life in China as they negotiated cultivated fields and village dwellings.

While many villagers preferred to concentrate on the demands of daily life, others stopped to observe and enjoy, with some

bemusement, the behaviour of orienteers from around the world. Village children as young as 2 or 3 delighted in saying 'hello' as they continually walked backward and forward through the relay assembly area.

APOC was also an ideal opportunity to meet and discuss, with representatives of Asian orienteering nations, the development of orienteering in the Asia-Pacific Region. Consideration was given to such issues as the best way of establishing orienteering in new Asian O nations, current difficulties facing developing O nations, the nature and source of external assistance likely to be most beneficial, including initiatives that both the IOF and the more developed orienteering nations could take. The possibility of more international competition between Asian nations was considered.



Jörgen Mårtensson giving an interview to Chinese TV after finishing first in the M21E classic race photo: David Hogg

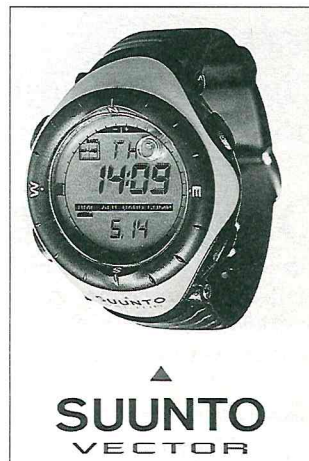
At the conclusion of the short distance final, a police escort for 5 buses of orienteers ensured a speedy return through Beijing traffic to the Olympic Hotel where a farewell banquet and prize-giving ceremony brought APOC '98 to a close. Some 333 orienteers from 16 nations competed in APOC '98; the event marked a watershed in the development of orienteering in the Asian Region.

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The instrument can be set to show information in imperial or metric units, it has an electroluminescent backlight and features a user-replaceable battery. The ergonomic design of the Vector Wristop Computer, with a large display and convenient control buttons, adds to the ease of use already guaranteed by the clear logic of the user interface.

Measure your vertical performance

The altimeter features a range up to 9,000 m, which puts all 14 of the world's 8,000+ metre summits within the avid climber's range. It also features an adjustable altitude alarm, as well as different levels of memory functions. The user-configurable logbook allows the user to record total and cumulative vertical ascents and descents, as well as the number of runs skied.

Keep ahead of the storm

The barometer function of the Vector keeps the user one step ahead of the storm. In addition to current barometric pressure and temperature, Vector gives pressure related data for the past four days: the first six hours in one hour intervals and after that in six hour intervals. The instrument is also adjustable for sea level pressure, which makes it easier to read and understand the barometric pressure at high altitudes.

Accurate readings

The electronic compass features a bubble level for accurate readings. When the liquid bubble of

the level is in the marked centre of the bubble, the Vector is in a level enough position to give bearings with 2-3 degree accuracy. The compass display also shows the cardinal or half-cardinal point abbreviated, as well as indicates where North is. The compass can be set to track a certain bearing, and graphically show the difference between this and the actual bearing. This is a valuable tool, when trying to get back on track after minor or major detours in the terrain. The declination adjustment function allows the user to correct the difference between true North and magnetic North, which is especially useful in North America for example.

A reliable time keeper

Vector also features three daily alarms, a calendar clock pre-programmed to the year 2089, a stopwatch with split time measurement, and countdown timer. The time can be shown in either 12 or 24 hour format.

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For further information, contact marketing co-ordinator Kirsti Laasio on phone +358 9 8524 0515, fax +358 9 8524 0592, or e-mail: kirsti.laasio@suunto.fi

Presenting Orienteering to the International Olympic Committee

IGOR STOLOV, Russia, a member of the IOF Olympic Project Group, suggests which features of the sport of orienteering we need to emphasise most

One of the issues discussed at the IOF Congress in Portugal this year was orienteering in the Olympic Games - a detailed plan targetting 2012 as the year when foot orienteering might be included in the Olympic programme.

This is an interesting perspective, however; it is so prolonged in time that it is hard to believe that any of the present world elite O-runners could get on to the Olympic podium.

It seems to us in Russia that the 'Ski-O Olympic Project' is a very perceptive plan and well advanced too. Its main aim is seen as the Winter Olympics in 2002.

Philosophy of Olympism

We would like to compliment the IOF on its efforts in presenting the sport of orienteering to the International Olympic Committee (IOC) not only from a 'technical' point of view, but also based on the philosophy of 'Olympism'. "Olympism embodies the philosophy of life, elevating and uniting in a symbolic whole one's body, will and mind. Olympism, bonding sport with culture and education, aims at creating an image of life based on the pleasure of an effort, on the value of the instructive good example, and on the respect towards ethics in general".

In the summer Olympic programme, only sports widely practised in no less than 75 countries on 4 continents for men, and 40 countries on 3 continents for women, may be included. In the winter programme, only sports practised in no less than 25 countries on 3 continents may be included. Orienteering is practised in more than 50 countries, and the winter requirements are already met.

However this is not enough for the sport to be allocated a place in the Olympic programme. The spread of our sport, international recognition, accessibility - all these criteria only relate to the process of spreading and assimilating culture. However they do not guarantee success and are not of importance organisationally.

Not Like Any Other Sport

Orienteering assists the harmony in human development, and is not similar to any other sport in the Olympics, which is very important. In promoting orienteering we have to decide what culture values it brings to Olympism. Foot, ski and bicycle orienteering all fulfil the full philosophy of Olympism as conceptualised by Pier de Kuberten at the end of last century.

Fundamental to all types of sport is the culture of motor activity, aiming at high efficiency of movement in space. Hence there is educational potential, which guarantees development of not only physical and ethical capacities, but also sensor-intellectual and social characteristics, and motor competency and mastership.

Man and Nature

In order to move forward from here, we first need to answer the question: "What does man need today, and tomorrow in the 21st Century? What is the relationship between 'man-machine' and 'man-nature'?" It is surely not enough for mankind just to win by overcoming artificially created sport 'hurdles'.

Orienteering is a sport reflecting the cultural-historical activity of man, where competition is expressed in natural motor activity. Orienteering is modulating man's vitality as a part of nature. This is a natural necessity for all people.

Man - Always Navigating

In orienteering, it is nature itself that requires man to react, not the designers and constructors of artificially created hurdles as in the spectacular sports. The orienteering philosophy is a philosophy of life, as described in the Olympic Charter. And this seems to be very important to the IOC. Man navigates from the very first days in life until its end. Throughout life, man seems to be trying to find his right position in space, seeking 'targets' of various kinds.

Elite runners' demonstrations of the short 'Olympic distance' will bring new emotions: the mental demands of the

competition, the analysis of the course, and many other components in our multi-component sport will illustrate in the Olympics the unexpected qualities of orienteering. This will help towards 'humanising' the Games.

Orienteering as a fully developed sport has all the elements of motor culture activity:

- by type of form, orienteering is natural
- by structure, orienteering is a cyclic type of sport
- by specification of the participating functional systems, orienteering integrates mental and functional resources of energy supply.

Moreover the ratio of the motor activity elements changes during competition, and through its informative potential it also educates - a good addition to the list of technical characteristics of orienteering.



More than 300 orienteers had their first taste of navigating in China's natural environment when the Asia-Pacific Championships were held there in October.

Here Irina Tscheglova of Kazakstan leaves the final relay control to bring her team in 4th in W21 behind three Russian teams
photo: David Hogg

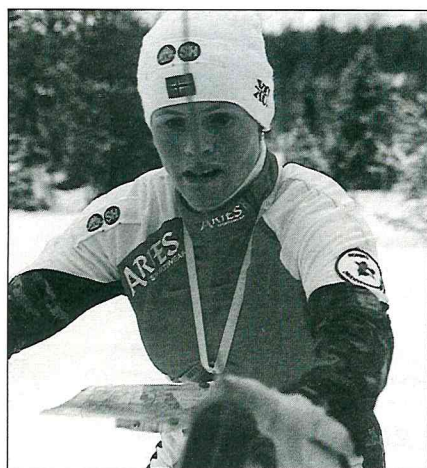
An Instinctive Skill

On its way to the Olympic Games orienteering must win the competition with other sports which have a very strong lobby backed by sponsors and sports equipment and technology vendors. So we need to stress orienteering's special characteristics and its links with one of man's fundamental instinctive skills to back our case.

Initial translation from Russian by Iordanka Melnikliyska, Bulgaria

Ski-O Prospects

A full World Cup programme, a Junior World Championships and for the first time ever a World Masters Championships are the highlights of the new northern ski-O season. The standard of competition promises to be higher than ever as the ski-O world awaits the decision on inclusion in the Winter Olympics in 2002.



Hilde G Pedersen, Norway will be out to repeat her World Cup win of 1997

photo: Per Nylander

1999 IOF SKI-O EVENTS

World Cup in Ski-O

Campo/Olivone, Switzerland:

21-25 January I1, I2

Pinzolo, Trentino, Italy:

26-30 January I3, R1

Keuruu, Finland:

10-14 February I4, I5, R2

Otepää, Estonia:

15-18 February I6, R3

Batak, Bulgaria:

2-6 March I7, I8, R4

Junior World Championships in Ski-O

2-6 March Batak, Bulgaria

World Masters Championships in Ski-O

20-27 February St. Petersburg, Russia

Australian Ski-O Programme Curtailed - No Snow!

An expanded ski orienteering schedule was in place for Australia last southern winter, writes *Ian Baker*, but was cut short due to the snow season ending prematurely. A 'Come-and-Try-It' had been promoted for the Sunday directly after the Kangaroo Hoppet international cross-country ski race at Falls Creek which had 1,300 entries; the course for the race on Saturday had to be moved to higher terrain and the area of the ski-O map was too patchy to be useable.

A new map at Mt. Hotham was drawn for the Australian Championships but these too had to be cancelled, and the map will have its first use next year.

An important part of the strategy for developing ski-O in Australia is to schedule events for the same weekend as popular mass participation cross-country races.

IOF PUBLICATIONS AND PRODUCTS

'Orienteering Technique from Start to Finish'

(Bertil Norman, Arne Yngström)

FIM 46

'Orienteering for the Young'

(Tom Renfrew, Carol McNeill, Peter Palmer) FIM 21

Orienteering on Permanent Courses

FIM 12

Simple Maps for Orienteering

FIM 14

Control Descriptions

FIM 18

International Specifications:

for Orienteering Maps

FIM 18

for Ski Orienteering Maps

FIM 10

Competition Rules:

for IOF Foot Orienteering Events

FIM 25

for IOF Ski Orienteering Events

NEW! FIM 25

General Rules for Trail Orienteering

FIM 20

IOF Anti-Doping Rules

FIM 14

IOF Statutes

FIM 20

IOF Centenary T-shirt (size XXL only)

FIM 30

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The normal subscription rates are respectively FIM 80 and FIM 105.

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GOOD READING!

Hiisi-Jukola Relay, 12-13 June 1999

The biggest orienteering relays in the world, the Jukola Relay (open) and Venla Relay (for women's teams) will this year take place at Eurajoki in the heart of Satakunta in western Finland, about 100 km from Turku.

Information: Hiisi-Jukola toimisto, PL 27, 27510 Eura, Finland
T +358 865 4777, F +358 865 4774,
e-mail hiisi-jukola@kolumbus.fi, www.satanet.fi/hiisi-jukola/

Mountain Bike Orienteering Fixtures

In addition to the World Cup races listed on page 10, the following international MTB-O events have been notified:

27 June 1999: Criterium Internazionale Costi Smeralda Sardegna, Olbia, Sardinia, Italy

31 July - 6 August 1999: MTB-O and 'Trailquest' in association with the foot-O WOC. Venue: Nethy Bridge, Aviemore, Scotland. Details from Colin Palmer, Raycomb Lane, Coddington, Ledbury, U.K. HR8 1JH, T & F +44 1531 636247,
e-mail colin-palmer@branchline.demon.co.uk

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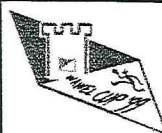
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XVIII Wawel Cup

International 3 - days Orienteering Event
2-4 July 1999
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Information and entries (final entry date 01.06.99):
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ul. Bronowicka 5
30-901 Kraków, POLAND
tel. +48 12 6374465
fax. +48 12 6370645
e-mail wawel@wawel-ol.krakow.pl
Internet page: http://www.wawel-ol.krakow.pl/

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FOOT-O INTERNATIONAL FIXTURES LIST

This list includes major open multi-day events notified for inclusion in the 1999 IOF Calendar. Abbreviations: I - individual, C - classic, S - short distance, R - relay, R(N+D) - relay (night + day); T - telephone, F - fax.

FEB		JUNE	
6, 7	New Zealand Masters Games, Wanganui 2I Pat Larsen, e-mail patricia.larsen@xtra.co.nz	25-27	3Käpa 99, Jekabpils, Latvia 3I Aivars Prosenkovs, AK 70, LV-2163 Latvia F +371 782 8039, e-mail kapa99@js.parks.lv
MARCH		JULY	
6, 7	Lipica Open, Sezana, Postonja, Slovenia 2I Preglov, trg 2, SI-10000 Ljubljana, Slovenia www.orientacijska-zveza.si	2-4	XVIII Wawel Cup, Ogrodzieniec, Poland 3I Sport Club 'Wawel', Sekcja BnO, ul. Bronowicka 5, 30-901 Krakow, Poland T +48 12 637 4465, F +48 12 637 0645, e-mail wawel@wawel-ol.krakow.pl www.wawel.ol.krakow.pl
6, 7	Portugal O-Meeting, Tomar 2I FPO, Apartado 2, PT-2640 Mafra, Portugal T & F +351 61 819171 e-mail fpo@mail.telepac.pt	2-4	Alpok-Adria Cup, Sopron, Hungary 3I Z Bárdosi, H-9700.Szombathely Fábán u 15
26-28	Spring Cup '99, Hillerød, Denmark N/C/R Søvang 4, DK-3460 Birkerød, Denmark T +45 45815574, F +45 45827274 e-mail springcup@vip.cybercity.dk www.geocities.com/paris/2330	2-4	Magnus Cup, Ljubljana, Slovenia S/2C Goran Nagy, Brodarjev trg 12, SI-1000 Ljubljana, Slovenia e-mail goran.nagy@aster.si www.orientacijska-zveza.si
APRIL		5-9	5 Jours de France, Carcans-Maubuisson-Gironde, France 5I 5 Jours de France, 99 Maison des Sports, 119 boulevard Wilson, 33200 Bordeaux, France T +33 5 5722 4217, F +33 5 5722 4214 e-mail laco@mygale.org, www.mygale.org/01/laco/
1, 2	7-manna Budkavle, Halmstad, Sweden R(N+D) Rune Karlsson, T +46 34 066 0449 www.orientering/tavling/apr99.htm	10-16	Sørlandsgaloppen, Porsgrunn, Norway 6I Kjell Meen, Langerødvn. 11, N-3711 Skien, Norway T +47 3550 1412, F +47 3556 5201
1	Holland-OL by night, Ermelo/Harderwijk N	10-18	Great Lakes O Festival 99, Toronto, Ontario, Canada V Bondy, 37 Chestergrove Crescent, Scarborough, Ontario, Canada M1W 1L3 T +1 416 493 7124 e-mail glof99@shaw.wave.ca www.toronto-orientering.com/glof99
2-4	Holland-OL venue as above, 3I Entry after 1/3 + 50% (limited) Mark Heikoop, Asberg 1, 5508 DC Veldhoven, The Netherlands T +31 4023 01640, F +31 4023 01641 e-mail olnlmark@xs4all.nl	12-17	FIN5, Pello & Ylitornio, Finland 5I FIN5-99, PL33, FI-95701 Pello, Finland T +358 16 518 111, F +358 16 513 373 e-mail tarja.kuusijarvi@aol.inet.fi www.personal.inet.fi/tapahtuma/fin5-99
2-4	Prague Easter 3-Days, Kokorin, Czech Republic 3I Ing. Z Prochazka, Plickova 565, 149 00 Praha 4, Czech Republic T +420 2 791 7850, F +420 2 2431 0503 e-mail zdepro@uochb.cas.cz	18-23	World Masters O Championships, Aarhus, Denmark WMOC 1999, Postbox 164, DK-8100 Aarhus C, Denmark F +45 8619 1436 e-mail wmoc99@mmm.uni-c.dk www.mmm.uni-c.dk/wmoc99/
2-4	Mecsek Cup, Pécs, Hungary 3I E Kiss, H-7615 Pécs 15. Pob 22 T +36 72 258 655	24-31	Schweizer 6-Tag-OL, Langenthal & Ulrichen, Switzerland 6I Schweizer 6-Tag-OL 1999, Postfach 805, CH-4901 Langenthal, Switzerland T +41 79 335 6606, F +41 790 335 6606, e-mail 6day99@solv.ch, www.ch6days99.com
2-5	New Zealand Easter 4-Day, Auckland 4I Alistair Cory-Wright, al@ak.carsongrp.co.nz	26-30	O-Ringen 5-days, Dalarna, Sweden 5I O-Ringen 1999, Box 1999, S-781 21 Borlänge, Sweden T +46 243 73799, F +46 243 73795 e-mail dalarna@5dagars1999.w.se
2-5	Jan Kjellström O-Festival, Surrey, England 2I/R R Wood, Pantiles House, 22 London Road, Bagshot, Surrey, England GU19 5HN T +44 1276 473579	31-8/8	Highland '99, Inverness, Scotland 6I Highland '99, Inverness Sports Centre, Bught, Inverness, U.K. IV3 5SS T +44 1463 714712, F +44 1463 714713 e-mail highland99@btinternet.com www.scottish-orientering.org/highland99/
3-5	Australian 3-Days, Hobart, Tasmania S/2C PO Box 339, Sandy Bay, Tasmania 7006, Australia T & F +61 3 6225 1738, e-mail vpa.oti@trump.net.au www.tased.edu.au/tasonline/otinc/index.htm	AUGUST	
10	SSM Klassisk, Jönköping, Sweden C Anna Pettersson, T +46 474 12277 www.orientering/tavling/apr99.htm	6, 7	Ungdoms Tiomila, Jönköping, Sweden R(N+D) Anders Eriksson, T & F +46 500 433616
10, 11	Vårspretten & Vårstafetten, Halden, Norway I/R Espen Glomsrud, Stigvn. 16, N-1785 Halden, Norway T +47 6918 7826, F +47 6919 6970	13-15	Cerkno Cup, Crni vrh, Idrija, Slovenia 3C OK Azimut, p.p. 27, SI-5282 Cerkno, Slovenia www.arctur.si/ok-azimut
24	Tiomila Relay, Stockholm, Sweden R(N+D) Olle Jacobson, T +46 832 3022 www.orientering/tavling/apr99.htm	15-17	3-Daagse van Vlaanderen, Hasselt, Belgium 3I Mark Hermans, Hamsesteenweg 11, 3971 Leopoldsburg, Belgium T +32 11 344734
MAY		15-21	Hungaria Cup, Keszthely, Hungary 6I Hungaria 99, H-1173 Budapest, Pesti út 64.IV.12 F +36 1 256 0489, e-mail hegedus@compuserve.com www.lazarus.elte.hu/hun99.htm
1, 2	Saxbo '99, Krompach (CZE) & Jonsdorf (GER) 2I Volker Ender, Wilhelm-Fröhlich-Weg 12, D-02763 Bertsdorf, Germany T +49 3583 701761, F +49 3583 611740, e-mail v.ender@htw-zittau.de	18-22	Bohemia 5-days, Straz pod Ralskem, Czech Republic 5I Miroslav Beranek, Sadova 745, 473 01 Novy Bor, Czech Republic T +420 424 31449, F +420 424 32058 e-mail jiri.beranek@telecom.cz
22-24	10. Panthersprung Internationaler 3-Tag-OL, Munich, Germany 3I Christian Ufholz, Wilhelmshavenerstr. 15, D-80997 München, Germany T & F +49 891 42114		
22-24	Budapest Cup, Budapest, Hungary 3I BTFSz, H-1053 Budapest Kuria u 3		
22-24	Drie Daagse van Belgil, Lummen, Belgium 3I Jos Bylemans, 20 Kruisblokken, B-2491 Olmen, Belgium T +32 14 309263		
JUNE			
25-27	Norwegian O-Festival, Sandefjord, Norway 2I/R Steinar Reppesgård, Sandarvn. 8B, N-3215 Sandefjord, Norway T +47 3346 8703		
25-27	Shamrock O-Ringen, SW Ireland 3I Bernard Creedon, Mount Prospect, Douglas, Co. Cork, Ireland T +353 21 361824, F +353 21 361825 e-mail bcreedon@indigo.ie		

Events Noticeboard

For those in the Northern Hemisphere, it is time to begin planning the 1999 orienteering season - and as usual there is a huge range of multi-day orienteering events to choose from. Many of the bigger ones are included in the fixture list on page 21, but at the time of going to press information was still lacking from some events and countries.

Early-season

The **Portugal O-Meeting** has become a favourite with those seeking a bit of early spring warm sunshine. The other early-season highlight, the **Spring Cup** in Denmark, is two weeks later this year, hoping for warmer weather - the relay, the second race in the

Nordic Relay League, is on particularly fine terrain in the northern part of Sealand.

Easter

Easter has the usual range of well-known events around the world. **Holland-OL** is on the very best of Dutch forested sand-dune terrain - well worth a visit - and has the added attraction of a night event as curtain-raiser. Tasmania is the venue for this year's **Australian Easter** competitions. The 'JK' in England is on forested downland in Surrey.

Summer

The **Shamrock O-Ringen** at the end of June incorporates this year the Irish Championships on Day 2, when this year's

World Cup terrain and map will be used. Because of this, courses on Day 1 will be particularly short with little climb.

For many of those on holiday in early July the **French 5-Days** is a magnet, perhaps especially this year when the venues are the coastal forests near Bordeaux. The **Great Lakes O Festival** in Canada incorporates the Canadian Championships in an attractive series of events. The 3-day **Wawel Cup** in Poland is always worth a visit, and in 1999 the terrain is that which was used for a World Cup race earlier this year.

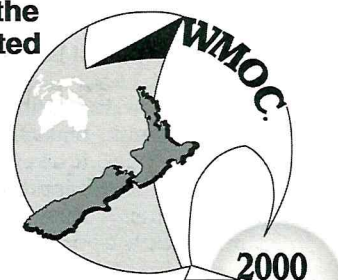
Later in July, the **World Masters Championships** is in a hilly part of Jutland in Denmark, and as the entry level is limited it would be wise to send your entry in good time. Those looking for a good northern

Europe tour can take in the WMOC and the **Swedish O-Ringen** - this year based on the well known inland holiday resort Falun - or move on to one of the biggest open events of the summer - **Highland '99**. Alongside Highland '99 and the World Championships there will also be a 'Trail O World Cup' and an open MTB-O competition.

For those staying in mid-Europe one of the highlights of the summer will be the **Swiss 6-day** event with its popular 3 + 3 format using two different event centres. In August the **Hungarian 6-Days** will be held west of Lake Balaton on challenging terrain with a lot of contour detail used for the World Championships in 1983, whilst the **Bohemia 5-Days** visits the sandstone terrain around Stráz pod Ralskem south-east of Novy Bor.

WORLD MASTERS ORIENTEERING CHAMPIONSHIPS 2000

ONLY 366 days till the event you have waited a 1000 years for.



The event you've waited 1000 years for...

New Zealand
31 DECEMBER 1999 -
7 JANUARY 2000



FEILDING

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Midnight and Dawn event - 1 January 2000
Supporting 3 Day event - 2, 4 and 5 January 2000
WMOC Model event and Opening Ceremony - 3 January 2000
WMOC Qualification races - 4 & 5 January 2000
WMOC Final - 7 January 2000



Contact Details:

WMOC 2000, P.O. BOX 180, Feilding
NEW ZEALAND Fax: +64-6-323 0822

e-mail: wmoc2000@xtra.co.nz

VISIT OUR WEB SITE!!!

<http://tef.massey.ac.nz/~pet/wmoc2000.htm>

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 24th – 31st JULY 1999

The event takes place in two contrasting regions of Switzerland. The first part takes you to deciduous and pre-alpine, coniferous forests, the second part to alpine forests and pastures.

Don't miss the picturesque landscapes and the breathtaking views of snow-covered mountain peaks and glaciers.

We offer you high quality maps, 36 categories for all age groups and abilities, various possibilities of accommodation and catering, as well as transportation from the event centres to the competition areas.

SCHWEIZER 6-TAGE-OL

1999

Entry forms and information:

Schweizer 6-Tage-OL 1999

Postfach 805

CH-4901 Langenthal

Tel: 079 335 66 06

Fax 0790 335 66 06

e-mail: 6day99@solv.ch

www.ch6days99.com

Deadline for entry:

15th April 1999

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.

This year the Shamrock O-Ringen will incorporate the Irish Championships on Day 2 and this will also be an IOF World Ranking Event for the elite..



June 25, 26 and 27, 1999

(Friday, Saturday and Sunday)

Day 1: Gougane Barra, Co. Cork

Day 2: Crohane, Co. Kerry.

Day 3: Inchigeelagh, Co. Cork.

Day 1 (on Friday evening, start times from 4.30pm) will this year be much shorter than usual to facilitate and encourage participation of Irish Championship entrants in the full 3-Day O-Ringen.

Day 2 courses will be full length and will be Irish Championship courses for those eligible. On Day 2 M/W21E will also count as an IOF World Ranking Event.

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

Accommodation information: +353 26 49012.

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>

International Orienteering in SW Ireland



**Shamrock
O-Ringen '99**

June 25, 26, 27 - Inchigeelagh

In conjunction with Irish Indiv. Championship

11th SHAMROCK O-RINGEN 3-Day Event with Chasing Start on Final Day

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

* £10.00/£12.00 if entering Day 2 only as Irish Champ'ship or WRE runner.
**Family consists of parent(s) plus children in classes M/W18 or younger.

Add IRE2.00 per entry form to cover programme, etc. Cheques, drafts, etc. in Irish Punts payable to "Shamrock O-Ringen 1999".

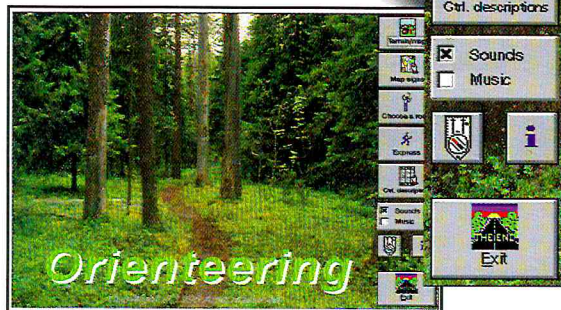
(Personal cheques in UK Sterling acceptable - please add 6%)

Entries please to Bernard & Margaret Creedon as below.

Event application forms, etc., available from:

Your first control marker in the world's toughest orienteering competition.

From now on the world's most demanding orienteering competition will take place on your table. In your own computer. The new Suunto Orienteering PC-game will challenge the skills of even the most experienced champion. ▼



The game provides all the important information about the map and control description symbols, demonstrates how to use a compass and shows you how to reconcile a map with the terrain. Choose a route -simulator allows you to practise choosing the best and fastest route on a map in a very realistic way. ►

<http://www.suunto.fi>

The Orienteering PC-game is a visual game showing how the features described by the map symbols look like in the terrain. You can answer quiz-questions, practise the map symbols with the Memory game or by computer orienteering – just Choose a route! ►

System Requirements: IBM-compatible computer with a 486 Pentium processor, or higher • DOS® 5.0 and Microsoft Windows® 3.1, Windows for Workgroups® 3.11, or Windows® 95 • VGA color monitor with 800 x 600 resolution. Display with 256 colors, or more recommended • At least 8 MB RAM, and 10 MB free disk space.

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