

# Inside ORIENTEERING

INTERNATIONAL ORIENTEERING FEDERATION

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Photo: Marie Krejčíková

## Real-time TV on the run



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Good reading!

Anna Jacobson, Editor-in-chief



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# A Word from the IOF President



## Welcome new members

As those of you who follow the IOF website will have noted, our family is now up to 79 members with Egypt being admitted by the Council at its meeting in January. I want to start these few words by giving a special welcome to the Egyptian Orienteering Federation and to thank Zoran Milovanovich for all the work he has been doing to support this new federation. It is especially good to be able to welcome our first North African member and hopefully, Egypt will be the first of a number of members from the south shore of the Mediterranean Sea.

It is winter of course and that brings our ski orienteering discipline to the fore. Both the European Championships in Switzerland and the World Championships in Norway have provided excellent showcases for our winter discipline and I want to thank the Swiss and Norwegian Federations for the work they did to make these events so successful. As I have said before in these pages, the opportunities are there

for us to make a case for inclusion in the the Olympic Winter Games and continued improvement in the quality of our ski events is critical to us being able to make a strong case. With the International Olympic Committee's new Agenda 2020, further opportunities are opening up for diversification of the Winter Games programme and we need to be ready to grasp these opportunities if and when they become available.

I was pleased to be able to be at the European Ski Orienteering Championships in Switzerland (and sorry not to be able to make the World Championships in Norway!). In Switzerland I was especially impressed by the quality of the TV product produced with a relatively modest budget. We are not at the point where we can commit to a full TV product at every event but what the Swiss Federation showed was that good quality webTV with multilingual commentaries can be produced without a major budget.

There is however one further challenge we need to address and that is to start to build our spectator numbers. We now have good arenas, usually in ski stadia, and big screens so the spectator experience is a good one but we do need to work to turn out the crowds if we can. Winter sports generally have relatively small crowds when compared to their summer equivalents but we do need the TV pictures to show that we can attract reasonable numbers.

As the snows begin to recede, my thanks go to all those involved in the winter season and my thanks in anticipation also go to those getting ready for the summer excitement in Foot, Mountain Bike and Trail orienteering.



Roland Hellberg:

## Helping the small ski orienteering nations

**During the World Ski Orienteering Championships (WSOC), Roland Hellberg was much more than a member of the IOF's Ski Orienteering Commission. He was an athletes' leader, waxer and energy provider.**

"It's good to be active and not just be at meetings", laughs Roland. He is in fact very used to meetings as a member of the Ski Orienteering Commission in IOF, a member of the board in the Swedish Orienteering Federation and also other organisations. He does also have time for normal work, and is active with much more than taking decisions at the big events.

"The Ski Orienteering Commission wanted to help small and new nations in ski orienteering to take part. We wanted to give them help with waxing, taking part in the team leader meetings during the week and handing out energy food and drink during the races. It needs to be possible to take part with-

out bringing a leader or waxer to the championships", he says.

At the recent World Championships in Norway he helped the athletes from Poland, France and Ireland. "It's really nice to give some help", Roland says.

"Very valuable help from Mr. Hellberg. It would not have been easy to take part without help from him", Rory Morrish says. He is the Irishman who took part.

### The goal: more nations

For Hellberg and the other members of the Commission it is a big goal to lift the number of nations at World Ski Orienteering Championships. This year it was the second biggest number with 27. It is just in Kazakhstan two years ago where there were more with 28. For the next World Championships in Krasnoyarsk in two years' time, the goal is 30. The goal is to spread the sport and of course also to get into the Winter Olympic Games. Hellberg looks optimistically forward

Anna Kaminska from Poland was one of the athletes Roland Hellberg helped during the Ski Orienteering World Championships in Norway. Photo: Erik Borg

to what will be decided for 2022, when the Games will be either in Kazakhstan or China.

### Cheaper TV this year

From the championships in Norway there was live streaming of speaker sound and GPS tracking, but no live pictures on a big screen in the arena as there has been from the last two European Championships, Russia last year and Switzerland this year. In Russia the TV production was particularly good. "But it was also a very good production in Switzerland, costing about one tenth of what it cost the year before", Eivind Tonna, Chairman of the Ski Orienteering Commission says.

### Norway had a bit of everything

In Norway there was a big variety of tracks, from areas in open landscape up in the higher parts of the courses with few tracks, to areas with tracks everywhere. "A fantastic job has been done with tracks, courses and other facilities", Tonna says.



## Successful High Level Event Seminar in Tallinn

The IOF High Level Event Seminar, also known as the “HLES”, set a new participation record this year. The seminar, which focuses on education and experience-sharing for organisers of top-level international orienteering events, was held 7-8 February in Tallinn, Estonia.

This year 77 delegates and lecturers from 18 nations took part, including all appointed organisers of the World Orienteering Championships (2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018) as well as organisers of the World Masters Orienteering Championships 2015 and 2016.

The seminar consisted of both common sessions and three parallel blocks with special focus on Elite Foot Orienteering / World Orienteering Championships, World Masters Orienteering Championships and Information Technology respectively.

We asked some of the participants after the weekend what they thought of the seminar.

My general impression was very positive. I would maybe recommend having even some more speakers and a bit shorter presentations, if it is possible to arrange it so.

**Tõnis Erm (EST)**

It was one of the most fruitful High Level Event Seminars I have attended so far. The presenters were well-prepared and the discussions were full of good ideas and to the point. It was a pity we had to choose between 3 blocks, each of which promised high quality, but this is obviously essential in order to cover a lot in limited time. The joint sessions provided the advantage of catching up on the main ideas outlined in blocks we missed.

Thanks to the IOF and FootO Commission for having organised this excellent seminar.

**Nermin Fenmen (TUR)**

HLES gave many WOC 2017 organisers the understanding of what the WOC really is about: what needs to be done, how it needs to be done and what are the expectations of the teams, spectators and the IOF.

**Markus Puusepp (EST)**

My first time to HLES. The wide variety of professional presentations was a very pleasant surprise. I enjoyed the relaxed and outgoing atmosphere of the seminar a lot.

**Jaakko Lajunen (FIN)**

The HLES was interesting, compact, well-organised and full of current information. Particularly important are for me the personal contacts with Event Advisers, the members of the office and orienteers from other countries. I feel it is held in a good spirit and is also a motivation in the IOF... that's necessary for strong development.

**Felix Buchi (SUI)**

Congratulations to IOF officials for pursuing the mobilisation of organisers of HLEs and organising know-how transfer through personal exchanges.

**André W. Schoepfer (SUI)**



There was a record participation at the HLES this year. Photo: Riikka Tolkki

As a new member of the Foot Orienteering Commission it was really encouraging to meet so many really skilled people committed to making the most out of our sport.

The presenters were really well-prepared and presented thoughts that were inspiring and relevant to developing orienteering. Coming from a country where more and more organisers are pensioners, it was such a thrill to meet a WMOC 2016 organising committee with no member above the age of 35!

The true highlight was listening to Janus Manarin, the Event Director of WOC 2014, who provided valuable insight in how to organise our finest event with success. Another thrilling moment was listening to Brigitte Grüniger Huber's breathtaking story of how Simone's career-stop in 2013 was planned to the smallest detail.

**Helge Lang Pedersen (DEN)**

I was happy to get the chance to present my expectations from a coaches' point of view. I hope that my lecture gave IOF SEA's and the organisers for coming HLEs some detailed points to think of when they want to ensure the quality and fairness in their event.

**Kenneth Buch (DEN/NOR)**

It was a very nice seminar and very interesting. I participated in the IT block which was very useful for me. Romania is not yet up to the standards of Norway and Sweden, but we want to reach these standards and I learnt a lot of things during these days.

I was the main one that provided SportIdent support and time-keeping for the South East European Championships (also SEEMOC) and Coupes Pays Latins in 2013 in our country. Now I have a new vision of orienteering! I'm also sustaining the initiative with Eventor and LiveCenter with will help organisers like me a lot.

I hope that I can attend this kind of seminar again in the future. One of the interesting competitions that I organised was some underground orienteering in a salt mine 200 metres underground. Also an article was published about this in the Inside Orienteering no.2 from 2014.

**George Neagu (ROU)**

I think it was a great seminar: every year better, interesting lectures and the opportunity to exchange experiences. I would like to take part every year if possible and will try to involve other Italian participants.

**Janos Manarin (ITA)**

Overall HLES 2015 was a good seminar – it covered all main fields – SEA work and experience, challenges we have with TV production, experience in WOC and WMOC organisation, Swiss World Cup success story. The best part was presentation on Swiss World Cup development, importance of persistence, thought over marketing activities and overall strategy, and principles of organisation behind this event.

**Jurgis Krasts (LAT)**

The seminar gave a lot of interesting information. Some of it was new, some of it not so much, but it is always good to repeat the most important parts so we do not lose sight of our goal – to organise fair competitions that can be enjoyed both in the arena or at home.

**Sven Oras (EST)**

I very much appreciated you providing the opportunity to get valuable information about high-level orienteering events. I think that to learn from IOF events that have happened is quite important to improve the quality of the event. It should be recommended to future organisers that they participate in such a seminar every year.

**Koji Chino (JPN)**



Kennet Buch telling about expectations from coaches and athletes. Photo: Riikka Tolkki



## “I want to bring some footage with the sound of my breath”

“Orienteering is dear to my heart!” he says, opening another pack of cigarettes and adding at the same time that it is not the race itself that is attracting him. Radomir Dufek, 33-year-old cameraman, who during the Czech television’s broadcasting of an orienteering race doesn’t hesitate to pursue the best athletes through difficult terrain with a 15 kg heavy camera in his hands, has become a bit of a rarity but still an integral part of the Czech sports TV scene.

**The first question is obvious. How did you get to film orienteering?**

Through Czech Television, about eight years ago. Then I worked a lot for Brno Czech Television Sports Department, where the editor is Petr Sopoušek, who has devoted many years to orienteering. With him I shot a short report, and it was my first contact in the role of cameraman with this sport. I did not take it as something important as it was one of the many short reports I did, which for me have never been very interesting. In addition, I didn’t think that I or any part of Czech television would be paying more attention to this sport. This occurred right at the time when orienteering began to have live broadcasts. But my first real encounter was three years ago at the World Cup in Liberec, Vesec. There it was the first time I was doing a live broadcast of orienteering, and the first time I tried what I wanted to do with the camera during the orienteering race.

**It was the first transmission from the route in the forest, because until then we only had static images from the television controls.**

Moreover, at that time the technological set-up and formal composition of those transmissions were still being developed. That was mainly thanks to director Karel Jonák. Today this is at the cutting edge of thinking in Europe, perhaps even globally acclaimed. However it was the first time I did a live broadcast of orienteering and then I discovered that I enjoyed it. I have

a different relationship to different sports, always positive, but of course I prefer some sports more than others and orienteering was among the three or four that I really liked fundamentally. In Liberec, I got that relationship to this sport and I enjoy it.

**Who came up with the idea of running with the camera and bringing this different experience for the viewer?**

In these broadcasts, and it does not matter if it is cycling or skiing, there are always several cameras called a ‘loop’ which the camera operator has in hand or attached to a shoulder. They usually send out young, physically fit cameramen. This loop works so that one can film a part within the route and add it to the broadcast and that’s all done while you are slowly running, which was also my job. Although I would be running more than just a few steps, sometimes more like 150 metres, but that was largely for kicks!

**Did the pace not scare you?**

In the first live cut where I ran with the athlete, I was scared that I would not be able to keep pace with him, that the shot would be too fuzzy, or that someone would stumble, and that this simply would not work. When I first tried it I realised that it was possible, and then in the next runs the distance stretched. Colleagues laughed at me; why do I have such a big margin of extra cable, why am I winding up to two hundred metres of a cable ball? I

wanted to show them that I would use it. And when I ran, I heard the surprise in their voices in the headphones: “This is crazy, he is running after him all the time!” It made me happy. During the broadcast the director Karel Jonák came and said: “The coach of the Swedish national team came to see me, and said: A runner came to him and said that he heard stomping sounds behind him in the woods, so he turned around and saw this crazy cameraman skipping over branches on the path and still managing to run behind him. What was that?” And he laughed. At that moment I knew that I had got some interesting footage, which I will continue to produce in the future.

**The fact is that during the top events it might now be written in bulletins: “It may happen to you that the cameraman will run a few tens of meters with you”.**

I was afraid that this could throw an athlete out of concentration, which is not my intention. But again the shot is interesting, when I run in close proximity to him. And for that shot I’m willing to risk this. I’m sorry to all competitors for this.

**The question that naturally interests all: How much does that camera weigh?**

That depends on whether it is a camera that is connected to the transmission cable, or if it is wireless. Wired are lighter, their weight is somewhere between 7.5-10 kg, depending on what you also add to that camera. For wireless cameras it is usually heavier, it could be up to 15-16 kg. Plus on the camera there is still the transmitter and battery, and all these things are adding some extra kilos.

**Do you prefer Sprint or forest races? Sprint usually has better terrain to run on.**



Terrain is not that important to me. Actually I normally select a section in which running is harder. The Director or chief cameraman often consults with me about what camera position to choose. That’s how it was in the World Championships in Italy. On occasions I had to specifically ask for a certain position with the camera, mostly places that they would not choose for me, just because it was on a hill and they found it too challenging. Or they would rather not risk it because of the value of the camera. In the Sprint I love the atmosphere, especially when I join those competitors in the corridor where the fans are and I am capturing the atmosphere of spectators along the route. I like that kind of situation. It has its own atmosphere, which pushes my tempo higher, which gives me that kick. Today everyone is talking about their challenges; I do not want to talk about the challenges, for me it’s that kick!

**Have you ever dropped something? Can you estimate the cost of the damage?**

I have not destroyed anything expensive while running during an ori-

enteering competition. It happened to me with another of my favourite sports, which is bike trialing. One of the competitors jumped on to the beam under which I was hiding with my camera, and the bike pedal hit the lens and broke the UV filter, which is not that high a cost compared to camera, but still it was some 15,000 CZK (550 EUR) .

**You were also broadcasting at the Olympics in London. How did you like working at such a huge event?**

There is no other top world event of this dimension that has had such perfect organisation. It left a big impression on me. The way they were able to organise the event, and it was not only the biggest sports event but the biggest event of any kind on the planet, was impressive. We shot a field hockey tournament. It is good that athletes are still nice people who are sweaty, tired and trying to bring out their best performance. That Sporty or Olympic spirit at the Olympics is preserved, despite how monstrous that event is. At least that’s how I saw it.

**Can you imagine orienteering as an**

**Olympic sport, and if yes, in what form?**

I can imagine it only in the form of urban sprint. (he stably finishes his at least 10th cigarette during our conversation! - comment from the writer) The IOC wants to attract attention to all sports and it is clear that they want to have superior coverage for television transmissions. I could imagine also other formats within FootO could be in the Olympics. It would be possible to organise them, but still for the majority of the audience it is easier when the race takes place in the city, although it is only a part of what orienteering is all about.

**From my experience it seems that GPS tracks of runners are clear even for the general public to follow.**

Of course those who can’t read the map will not enjoy the tracking as much as those who can, because when they can read the map they are able to see why they made certain decisions. The beauty of orienteering is that everyone has at one point tried it at summer camp, or some form of it like treasure hunts. All of us at some time ►



has had a map or plan in our hands, which was drawn by hand and where there was a need to find a particular place. The basic principle of orienteering is actually easy to grasp.

**We have noticed your generally positive attitude to sport. Probably it couldn't be any other way, since you do what you do. But how active are you?**

I am a former athlete. I played baseball and I played for the team Dragons Brno, then for top league team MZLU in Brno for many years. This is a very different sport compared to orienteering, right from the basics like requirements on your physical performance.

**Would you ever like to try to run the race from the start to the end? Maybe even participate and run it without a camera?**

I would not manage. Better said, I would manage it, but the organisers would have to stay at least an hour after the last true orienteer came to the finish line! Not that I physically wouldn't manage it, that I think I would and I would enjoy it, but it certainly would not go so easily with the map-reading.

**So we can clearly say that when it comes to orienteering, we will see you only with a camera in your**



**hand!**

I was lucky that director Karel Jonák took me with him only thanks to my running while broadcasting. He directs transmissions not only for Czech TV, but also abroad. With him I visited for instance the Sprint World Cup in Sigtuna, Sweden, and the Scottish 6 Days where we just did output to a projection screen at the finish. Scotland next year will host the World Championships and we might go there too. It looks like there will be the same crew that was at the World Championships in Italy. I like it that I can see that orienteering is not just any group of fools who go through the forest with a map, but there are many races that have their own prestige and level, which is not bad at all. For example in Scandinavia this sport is highly popular and I like it that Scandinavians do not have just the one favourite sport that is the most publicised all over the world, which is football, but it can also be something like orienteering and they can be good at that. It is great that this environment allows us to buy Scandinavian television broadcasting rights of the top events in orienteering and it is broadcast live. That's what moves the sport even further, thanks to money coming in due to the popularity of the sport, which is good.

**This year at the Swiss-O-Week your work was replaced by camera drones; are you afraid of this competition? Is this on the horizon in the Czech environment?**

There are plenty of technologies that make it possible to track athletes over a period of time. Orienteering is complicated by the fact that in the forest it is hard to build positions for rails for the camera and it is silly to build cable cam, which is a small lift for the camera, because the orienteer runs which way he wants and he does not care if it's built here or there. Maybe a steady cameraman could be there, but not replacing me because he is not moving. His shot compared to mine is different in one thing: mine resembles a very authentic subjective feeling of the athletes, at least I think so. This emotion you won't capture any other way.

I know one other cameraman who

really likes running with athletes. I met him for the first time in Sweden and then he worked for us in Italy at the World Championships. He runs with a small camera which uses a wireless signal in a weak form which does, however, have a great range. It does have like 10 seconds delay, which is quite a lot, but that doesn't have to show in the transmission. He runs great and can keep pace to seriously great distances with the athletes, and thanks to the wireless technology that he has he is able to run with them over a much larger section of the track. But I'm not afraid of competition!

**I was thinking more of the planes ..**

Planes, drones, copters. A wireless signal transmission is necessary, and the drone has limited capacity. When you put camera and transmitter there, even though they are very small, it's already on the limit. A further restriction which hardly anybody knows is that under the rules of the Department of Civil Aviation, limiting it even more, you can't fly over people. And the person who controls this must be a licensed person for aviation work, which a total of only four companies in the Czech Republic have, and they do not operate the flying camera for live broadcasts. So this in my mind is not competition. And still it's different from the shaky broadcast with the sound of your own breath in the microphone! I say it's not wrong when the camera shakes a bit. I even succeeded in Italy during the Long race to fall three times in the same place. I think that's part of it, no matter if the viewer sees that suddenly the camera turns to heaven and returns again back to the ground and yet is able to keep track of the runner. The sport is tough and even competitors fall, so why should a cameraman not fall? You could 'clean' it, maybe it would be a nicer aesthetic shot, but then it would not give the information that is possible for the viewer's subconscious the way it should be.

Written by: Radim Hošek (first published in Czech Orienteering Magazine), Translation: Monika Ilvestie, Clive Allen, Photos: Radim Hosek, Michael Vamera, Jirka Bouchal and from archive, Radomír Dufek



## World Trail Orienteering Championships 2015 - Terms of Endearment

**They were born in different countries, at 1000 km distance from each other, and they followed separate careers. But fate wanted them together, and this was possible thanks to Orienteering. Married, with a child, Damir and Ivana Gobec are more involved than ever in their sport. Prominent figures in the organising committee of the 2015 World Trail Orienteering Championships, they tell us how much the event is demanding from them.**

Written by Joaquim Margarido,  
Photos by Joaquim Margarido, the Gobecs

Damir was born in Switzerland in the early 1970s. His parents were deeply involved in orienteering in Croatia, and he followed in their footsteps. Ivana was in sport as a gymnast first, and as a long distance runner later. Until the age of 22 she didn't have any connections with Orienteering. Then, one beautiful day, she was running down the mountain when a man put a flyer in her hands with a proposal about joining an orienteering club. She was curious. Together with his brother, Damir founded this club, OK Vihor, in 1985 and since then he has hardly missed an event in Croatia.

After her first experiences and with the precious help of her former club, Runolist, Ivana was soon integrated into the National Military Team, (by Damir's brother, Karlo), not because she was a great orienteer, but because she was fast.

"Yes, we met each other at some of the orienteering events", says Damir, answering the obvious question. He explains: "As I was team leader of the Military CISM team at that time and she was a team member, we started talking more often, training together, organising events together."

Ivana confirms, but adds a little gossip: "The funny thing is that we still

### Damir Gobec

Born in 1972 in Niederbipp, Switzerland  
Graduated from Faculty of Kinesiology (Zagreb)  
IOF FootO Event Adviser,  
IOF TrailO Event Adviser  
International Professional Alpine Skiing teacher (ISIA Card License)  
Couple of times National Champion in FootO and once in TrailO

### Ivana Gobec

Born in 1973 in Zagreb, Croatia  
Graduated from Faculty of Architecture (Zagreb)  
IOF FootO Event Adviser,  
IOF TrailO Event Adviser  
International Alpine Skiing teacher (IVSI Licence)  
The only one being National Champion in FootO and TrailO in the same year

Married in 2002, one son: Jan Gobec (12 y.o.)



don't agree about when we first met. I remember that we organised the first Sprint FootO events, when Sprint still wasn't official. I was doing the same kind of things in Runolist that Damir was doing in Vihor, and we didn't always agree with each other (same as now). I became suspicious of him when he started spending more time at my club than at his."

#### TrailO: A motivational shock

Trail orienteering is another story. In 2004, the Croatian Orienteering Team was represented at the very first World Trail Orienteering Championships (WTOC) in Sweden by only one participant. In 2005, Damir and Ivana went to Japan and tried the WTOC course for spectators. They solved the tasks separately but, joined together, their correct answers hardly reached half of the total number. That came as a motivational shock for them: "We thought we knew everything about orienteering, yet a whole new universe was opened up to us", Damir and Ivana admit. Together with friends from their clubs, it took three more years to get things going. It was in

2008 that Croatia first had a full team to participate in WTOC.

In 2008, in the Czech Republic, a funny episode happened, something that still remains at the back of our minds as a mark of Croatia's TrailO Team. Damir Gobec tells us how it was: "The first contact with the TrailO community was on the day of our arrival. At dinner we met the British team. We were too noisy and wearing white-red squared T-shirts. They were looking at us with curiosity. After a short while one of them said: 'Croatia! We don't know anything about you.' And a guy from our team instantly replied, with a grin: 'In three days you will know something.' On the last day, Zdenko Horjan won the first-ever IOF medal for Croatia. Since then, Croatia has won at least one medal in every WTOC competition. It is a nice tradition which we will try to keep going for as long as possible."

#### Until one beautiful day ...

We all know how orienteers are when they have an idea. Damir and Ivana are no different, and they didn't rest

until they put it into practice. Everything began with a simple question, maybe like this: What if we applied to organise the 2015 World Trail Orienteering Championships, here in Croatia? Damir Gobec leaves some clues: "It is hard to define the exact moment when the idea came to our minds, but we were preparing the application for the South East European Championships in foot orienteering. We had already made a presentation in Moldova during the annual meeting, when we heard the news that Great Britain would not organise the TrailO Championships in 2015. At that time we prepared some documents for the Turkish delegation, so they made the application with our help. We even gave some lectures at their University, in Izmir, but the plan unfortunately didn't work."

The point was: Did Croatia have enough people for the major tasks? Damir, again: "We knew that we had the knowledge, and we were ready to seek more volunteers. Our main question was, would we be able to organise it in Croatia due to the lack of financing and time. A very big issue was that a lot of time had passed, nobody had applied and there were only two years left for the preparation of WTOC instead of four." Suddenly, Damir started to put everything on paper and at OK Vihor's meeting they decided to go for it with what they had, meaning older maps and used terrains. Owe Fredholm gave his word of support, and after a while they got the support from the Croatian Orienteering Federation.

But things then developed in a different way. So, what was changed from the original idea? "An ordinary trailO competition wasn't what we wanted any more. Zdenko wanted new terrain and original ideas. Ivana didn't like the quality of the old maps (some being her own). Suddenly there came the opportunity to use Lidar data for the first time around Zagreb. There was a bunch of new factors", Damir concludes.

#### The Gobecs

But if the challenge within the club OK Vihor, even with the stated wari-



ness, was tacitly accepted, how have things been in this much more closed and constrained core, the Gobec family? Damir is the first to answer: "We talked a lot about it, and I have to admit that without Ivana this event wouldn't happen. Her will to make all the maps at her highest quality level gives us the energy we needed to go further. Of course we have had some hard times when everything hasn't gone as we planned and where there's been no line between private life, professional work and work in the club. It's not easy to manage it all together."

Ivana also had something to say about it: "No, it wasn't hard to convince me to start because I love it. It was harder to find a way to do everything, because I don't make my living by map-making. At the moment the economy in Croatia is suffering and there is a lack of jobs, so my flexible boss has let me go away for a while."

"It will be challenging for my husband to convince me to work all the time at this level. At the beginning we didn't plan so many brand new maps; these now include three for Pre-WTOC events, one extra area because of the storm, and one extra for

back-up. I am also surprised that we didn't have to coerce any controllers into doing the job; both being map-makers, Vladimir Tkalec and Tomislav Kaniški responded immediately before we started searching, and both Vibeke Vogelius and Lauri Kontkanen (Senior Event Adviser and Assistant Senior Event Adviser respectively) wanted to be here."

#### A "prominent vegetation feature"

*Who is the most involved one of you two?*

Damir Gobec: "At the moment we can say that Ivana is spending the greatest time in the terrain with map-making, sometimes assisted by me and IT support from the club, and followed by Zdenko's sharp eye and high expectations. My work is mostly based on a lot of writing, lots of phone calls and meetings. We are working almost 100% on these Championships. I am looking forward for some time after WTOC, doing some other things which do not involve full-time orienteering stuff."

*Do you have any idea how many hours a day you spend on organising work?*

Damir Gobec: "We do not count at all! Time varies depending on the type of work we do, but there are many days with 18 hours working."

Ivana Gobec: "I can say I get up, live and go to sleep with maps, squeezing all the other aspects of my life in between. But it doesn't only affect me. Last year I was driving my son somewhere when he jumped from the back seat screaming: 'Look, mum, there's a 'prominent vegetation feature\*! It was a huge tree with a crooked tree-top.' (\*exact terminology for ISSOM symbol no. 402)

*"Are there any international companies interested in supporting us?"*

So far, the organisers of WTOC 2015 have received the solidarity and support of almost all Croatian clubs, in the form of an important volunteer "army", something really good for Orienteering in Croatia. The WTOC organisers have also got support from the mayors of Zagreb and Karlovac, and some local institutions like Sports Associations, tourist boards, Croatian Forests... but unfortunately the economic crisis is getting bigger and bigger, and the fight continues. "Are there

#### What will WTOC 2015 be like?

"On the technical side we will have brand new maps, partially unusual terrain, an excellent course planner, respected IOF Advisers and a large number of enthusiasts, coming not only from the orienteering world.

We hope to introduce some new features, for example we will try to make a special ceremony in Karlovac for all competitors who qualify for the Tempo Finals. We will have the public watching the finish at the Tempo Finals. We will also provide open events on the same courses as for WTOC. There will be a FootO Sprint event for the Croatian Cup at Karlovac organised by a supporting club, OC Jelen, and we will try to provide a 'sprint' course for visitors and wheelchair users focused on sightseeing in Karlovac. Prior to WTOC there will be a round of the unofficial European Cup for TrailO (ECTO) organized by the supporting club OC Medimurje in the neighbouring area Varaždin.

But we really hope that the atmosphere will make the difference from past WTOCs, with the focus of the whole community being on TrailO. We know that IOF policy is to have joined FootO and TrailO Championships, but on many occasions we have had a really bad experience, being put to one side and behind the scenes. On some occasions, medals have been presented in a non-appropriate way. We will finally have the time to properly acclaim the winners of the TrailO competitions."

Damir Gobec





Zdenko Horjan, Lauri Kontkanen, Ivana Gobec and Vibeke Vogelius discussing the courses.

any international companies interested in supporting us?" asks Damir with a big smile.

The WTOC 2015 organising team has also had good feedback from the national controllers and from the IOF Event Advisers, and are ready to guarantee high standards in terms of technical challenge. Ivana has drawn the maps the same way she would like to have them as a competitor in a big international event. Almost everything is based on Lidar data and the survey is done for the entire terrain, not only around the tasks. Zdenko Horjan has already done his work on the controls and Damir talks about a set of tasks "both demanding and challenging".

#### A pearl named Divjaca

We asked Ivana, as map-maker, to describe the terrain. And she doesn't avoid the question: "When the final decision had to be made, although we are from Zagreb, we had only considered the city of Karlovac. We were sure that this beautiful little town near

Zagreb would be perfect for what we needed. The mixture of parks, historic urban labyrinth, arboretum and river banks make for some very lively scenery." Also the new private golf resort deserves her comments: "It is a completely closed terrain, with large lakes and chaotic hills around - something seen before, but also something that experienced orienteers 'love to hate'. It is very challenging. We heard a couple of 'Wow's' from our advisers and national controllers when they first visited the place."

But there's a third terrain, a special one, called Divjaca: "Although the golf terrain is huge, Zdenko didn't want to have all the competitions look the same. So Damir and I went around seeking for something better than we had. We looked at more than ten different areas and didn't succeed. Something was always missing. Lack of details, or too trivial views, or bad paths, or no facilities... We started to get desperate and almost returned to the 'old' terrain". And then, the miracle happened (see story apart). "If there's something different from what trailO competitors have ever seen before, it is Divjaca - with its continental forest, a terrain which will require some real

map reading", Ivana guarantees.

#### "The main goal for Croatia is to make TrailO visible and more popular"

*What are your expectations, seeing the nations and the names that have entered up to now?*

Damir Gobec - "At the moment we have 23 nations which have entered, including all the strongest teams. WTOC is a competition which can also give us some new names and we hope that it will be like that. In the teams there are a lot of past World Champions, so it will be hard to get or defend the title. In my opinion, a few things can decide the Champion, so it will be interesting to follow the event. Marit, Martin, Krešo, Jana, Ola, Stig, Lennart, Pinja, Jari, Anna ... a lot of well-known names who will have to give their best to beat the rest".

*What about Croatia? To play in your home country, could it be a positive factor in getting an individual title, or keeping the gold in the Team Competition?*

Damir Gobec - "The good thing is that our team won the gold medal last year,

so if they take a medal again, there wouldn't be any talking behind the back. Then again, the focus of the public will be on them and they will be under some pressure. Although some of the 'usual' team members will be organising the Event, they are still just as strong a team. In my opinion, this year the main goal for Croatia is to make TrailO visible and more popular and if medals come again, that is just a big plus. We would of course like to see someone on the podium."

#### The social side of WTOC

The WTOC is the biggest TrailO competition every year but, as always, it's not just a competition. So we've tried to pick up some of the "must-dos" for those who will visit Karlovac and Zagreb in June. Damir Gobec takes us on a little journey, starting at Karlovac: "It is a very charming and peaceful city, situated around four rivers. If the weather is fine you will have the opportunity to go for a swim just beside the competition area! We love special pancakes there, so don't miss them."

As for Zagreb, Damir considers that "it is hard to pick just one attraction". His recommendation goes to "the city centre and Tkalciceva Street in the evening." There is also a recommendation to always eat local food instead of any fast-food. "If you manage to stay hungry in Croatia, then you are doing something wrong, because the food is delicious and there is a great variety of affordable local places to eat in. It is also possible to choose from numerous coffee shops at any time of the day", Damir says. Given that Croatian Mediterranean food is pronounced non-material world heritage protected by UNESCO, Damir's advice is certainly good to follow. Cheers!

#### An "extremely positive" experience so far

The preparation work seems to be a "never ending story" but the experience, in personal terms, is proving extremely positive. Looking back, Damir and Ivana can still recall the "big project" which was the book they wrote about Orienteering. They also did a

#### A little game for the children

"The story about finding a third terrain is something special to me. I had already given up searching. One day I was alone and depressed, feeling just like a friend of ours, who was left at home with two small children. We went for a long walk to a place which was formerly a suburb of Zagreb. Being women, we just wanted to gossip, so I made a little game for the children as they didn't want just to walk. Thinking there was probably nothing to find, I told them that I would make a big trailO competition there if they found twenty special features along the way. So they started running around like crazy, pointing to all kinds of features. Being born in an 'orienteering family' they were choosing all the right things. I realised that this wasn't a joke any more, and immediately called Damir. The very next possible moment, we were there with a base map.

So, when you come to WTOC, please keep in mind that the terrain called Divjaca was picked by two very bright 7-year-old and 12-year-old children who took their task very seriously, and now we all have to keep the promise I gave too easily. To disappoint them would be the worst thing we could do. And yes, they will be there. They will be watching you, and some day you will be watching them."

Ivana Gobec

lot of map-making for local events, organised many orienteering events, gave regular lectures on different topics to all who were interested in orienteering, worked with kids, schools, universities... But nothing compares to the extent of involvement in organising the WTOC: "We have learnt a lot about ourselves and about organising, and many doors have opened. Every day we are meeting lots of people who otherwise we wouldn't get to know, so it's a huge experience in our lives", Damir says.

And Ivana adds: "For me everything is just about personal challenge, if I can or can't. And sometimes to see my husband happy (laughs)" "Would you do it again?" is a good question. "We don't know! We often think about the saying: A Japanese has to climb Mt. Fuji once in a lifetime. If he does it twice, he is a fool", they say.

#### Wishes, advice and... a request

But there are still some reasons why Ivana remains a bit uncomfortable, things that can disturb her sleep. She explains: "Yes, we had two huge storms during the winter and they did a lot of damage in the forest. As a consequence of that, we had to change to a completely different area from the

one I had been drawing for a whole month. Karlovac had the biggest flood in its history last summer, so we still have to make some changes there too. These are very disturbing things because you can't control them. My fears are not about all the work that is planned, but the possible things that can't be planned for. We have already taken some serious decisions, including having a back-up terrain. The main courses are ready; if needed they could be set up for tomorrow. We have the Model Event, Relay and 'back-ups' still in progress but, at the pace that things are going to be finished, I feel that I can have a better sleep."

The last words contain a wish, as sincere and heartfelt as all that we could feel throughout this interview: "We wish, once you leave, you want to come back! During the competition, you had better be focused! But, after that, enjoy the atmosphere and give yourself some time to look around. Remember that the word most connected with Croatia on the internet is 'beautiful'. Go to the Adriatic coast and visit the Plitvice lakes, which are a UNESCO site." And still a guarantee, joined with a request: "We will do our best to make a good and fair competition and if you see some mistakes, please be gentle with us".



# North South East West

North South East West is a regular feature in Inside Orienteering. In every issue, we focus on one of the IOF's 79 member nations. In this issue we showcase: Egypt.

## IOF Development Seminar in Cairo, Egypt, 12-15th February 2015



It has been a year since Dr Tamer Mehanna asked IOF for some more information about orienteering, and expressed his dream of bringing our lovely sport into ancient Egypt. Now, exactly a year later, the first part of the dream has become true. The Egyptian Orienteering Federation is a new member of IOF.

The second part of the dream started this week in Cairo, capital of Egypt, with Egypt's first-ever IOF development seminar.

In a four-day programme, IOF regional coordinator Zoran Milovanovic presented lectures and workshops in different fields of our sport. More than 30 participants of both gender from all over the Egypt gathered in Cairo to learn more about orienteering.

"I can't remember when last time I had such a group, asking so many questions searching for more and more information about orienteering", says

Zoran. "In the rooms of an Arab scout conference centre we had very good facilities for the presentations where we were talking about structures, rules, club work, training and competitions, maps, course planning and many other different aspects of our sport."

So that all of the participants could also try real orienteering in their own terrain, Bulgarian mapper Georgi Hadzimitsev and Zoran Milovanovic made a new sprint map for the occasion of a beautiful Cairo park named Al Azhar.

On Saturday afternoon, the day before the event, all participants in the semi-

nar joined the workshop, doing course planning for the Al Azhar park sprint. On Sunday the seminar closed with the small orienteering event on two courses, where there were more than 60 participants with the youngest aged 9. Smiling faces at the finish showed us that we are on the right way with orienteering here.

The nice, friendly and very hospitable people from Egypt invite orienteers from all over the world to come and enjoy orienteering in a country with a great history, and they have promised that we will have the opportunity next February, when it is planned to stage the first ever international 3-days event in famous Luxor. Of course there are many other lovely destinations in Egypt on the waiting list, such as Alexandria, Sharm el Sheikh, Hurgada...



"The President of the Egyptian Orienteering Federation, Dr Tamer Mehanna, together with his team of colleagues and friends, will make this dream come true, I am sure about that", says Zoran after this visit. "With Egypt, we will probably have a new orienteering leader within the Arab countries and the African continent very quickly".

What to say at the end of this short report but: come to exotic Egypt, new destination for orienteering, and be prepared for a whole new experience!

## The growth of orienteering in Egypt

The first ideas for orienteering in Egypt began when Dr Tamer Mehanna was in Germany on a sports course and tried orienteering there. When he came back to Egypt he made a plan for starting orienteering in his country, and made contact with IOF, who put him in touch with their regional coordinator Zoran Milovanovic.

### The plan to start orienteering activity in Egypt included:

- 1 - Co-ordinating with the Ministry of Sports in Egypt to work on the establishment of the Egyptian orienteering Federation
- 2 - Planning for the first local training course for coaches
- 3 - Planning for the first local training course for referees
- 4 - Planning a big festival and inviting all clubs and people of all ages, with the aim of having them know what the sport of orienteering is
- 5 - Planning the first championship in Egypt for clubs
- 6 - Propaganda work in TV and newspapers
- 7 - Planning for the first international course for coaches and referees by the IOF
- 8 - Planning an orienteering championship for all kinds of people (army - schools - universities etc.)

### And what the Egyptian Orienteering Federation achieved in 2014:

- 1 - First seminar on orienteering in Ismaelia City 11-12/6/2014
- 2 - First demo competition in Ismaelia city 13/6/2014 (with 76 participants)
- 3 - Second seminar in new Cairo 26/6/2014 (80 participants)
- 4 - TV sport programme about ori-

- enteering in Egypt and the steps we took to establish the Egyptian Orienteering Federation, 24/7/2014.
- 5 - Third seminar in Shobra city 7/8/2014 (100 participants)
  - 6 - First orienteering course for trainers and referees in Cairo 11-13/9/2014 (40 participants)
  - 7 - Second orienteering course for trainers and referees in Alexandria 25-27/9/2014 (33 participants)
  - 8 - Orienteering festival for schools in the international park in Cairo 11/10/2014 (250 participants)
  - 9 - Seminar no.4 in faculty of physical education for girls in Cairo 4/12/2014 (164 participants)
  - 10 - Seminar no.5 in faculty of physical education for boys in Alexandria 6/12/2014 (224 participants)
  - 11 - Seminar no.6 in faculty of physical education for girls in Alexandria 10/12/2014 (143 participants)
  - 12 - Seminar no.7 in faculty of physical education for boys in Zagazic 11/12/2014 (232 participants)
  - 13 - Seminar no.8 in Shams club 26/12/2014 (246 participants)

### The total activity until now:

- 1- 8 seminars in many cities in Egypt
- 2 - 2 orienteering courses for trainers and referees
- 3 - 12 clubs doing orienteering
- 4 - More than 1500 people have attended orienteering seminars
- 5 - More than 600 competitors
- 6 - 9 TV sport programme features about orienteering
- 7 - More than 20 electronic and paper magazines have included articles about Egyptian orienteering
- 8 - 2 festivals and championships for orienteering
- 9 - More than 70 people have been on an orienteering course as trainers or referees



**Cairo, Al-Azhar Park**

**القاهرة . خديقة الازهر**

Map for orienteering

خريطة للملاحة الرياضية

Scale 1:4000,E=2m

مقياس الرسم

Stand: February 2015

فبراير

Publisher: EOF & Zmaj Adventure

الناشر : الاتحاد المصري للملاحة الرياضية و

Mapped by: Georgi Hadzimitev &

صمم الخريطة كل من : جورجى هادزيميتيف

Zoran Milovanovic

وزوران ميلوفانيتش

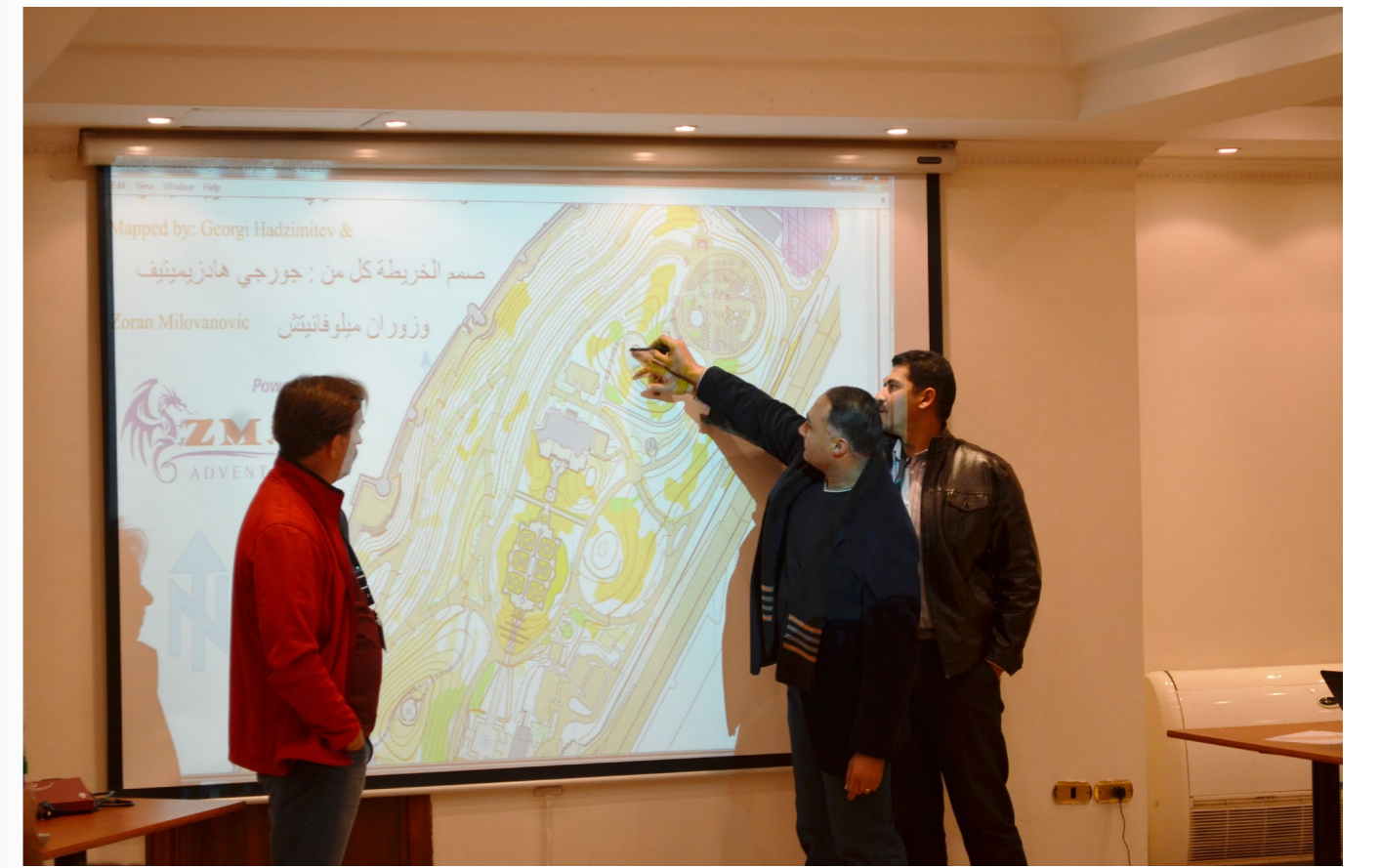


Powered by



Happy participants of the first IOF Development Seminar in Egypt. Photo: Egyptian Orienteering Federation

A lecture about map-making. Photo: Egyptian Orienteering Federation





An orienteer from the 1950s.



President of the Czech Orienteering Federation, Radan Kamenický, found his own mountain bike orienteering photo in one of the banners.



## Zlín museum shows orienteering history



The exhibition has been compiled by Jan Žemlík, the man behind the first orienteering museum in the world, the Centre for Orienteering History.

Text and photos by Anna Jacobson

In 1950, the first orienteering competition in the area of Zlín (then Czechoslovakia) was held. The Zlín Cup has been organised ever since, and it is therefore one of the oldest orienteering competitions still regularly staged. To celebrate the 65th anniversary of Czech orienteering competitions, an orienteering history exhibition is being held in Zlín, Czech Republic. The exhibition has been compiled by Jan Žemlík, the man behind the first orienteering museum in the world, the Centre for Orienteering History.

The exhibition shows Czech and international orienteering from its beginning to today. It includes orienteering gear, club and region chronicles from the 1950s onwards, medals, prizes, compasses, stamps – anything that has to do with orienteering. And what would an exhibition be without maps: a copy of the map of the first orienteering competition in Norway in 1897 was presented, as well as the original map of the first Czech competition in 1950.

I had the pleasure of representing the IOF at the opening of the exhibition, and presenting Mr Žemlík with the IOF pennant as a sign of appreciation for his work for the sport of orienteering during several decades. The local TV station was also present at the opening, and the news clip can be watched (in Czech) [here](#).

The exhibition will be open for visitors until April 2015 in the premises of the furniture company RIM in Ostravan, Zlín.



## IOF Eventor up and running

The new IOF Event Management Service IOF Eventor has been up and running for two months now. Entries to World Ranking Events and IOF Events can be made through IOF Eventor, and bulletins, start lists and results can be found there. We expect that before long, all entries to World Ranking Events (WREs) and other IOF events in all disciplines will be made using IOF Eventor, just as entries to events on the official fixture list in many nations are made using a single computerised entry system.

As with all new IT systems, there are some setting-up tasks and registration procedures to be undertaken by all those who will be using IOF Eventor. At 'management level' in national federations and clubs and by organisers of WRE and other IOF events, and at 'grass roots' level by all athletes taking part in these events and by key people working in organising teams. If you are one of these and have not yet created an account in IOF Eventor, please read on – one of the sections below will explain for you what you need to do.

### Athletes

All athletes who plan to enter a WRE or an IOF Event are encouraged to start using IOF Eventor as soon as possible. Even if you have an IOF ID, you need to create a user account in IOF Eventor. If you do not yet have an IOF ID, you get one when you create the account. All participants must have an IOF ID in order to take part in a World Ranking Event.

### This is what to do:

Go to [eventor.orienteering.org](http://eventor.orienteering.org), and click on 'Create user account'. Select the first option: 'I am an athlete participating in events'. After filling in your information, if you have participated in WREs in the past, IOF Eventor will ask: "Are you this or this person?"

Select yourself on the list displayed, and your account will then be merged with your previous results. **NB: Even if the birth date/year is wrong (say, 01/01/1980), please select the name that is yours.** Many dates of birth are wrong in the database, and you can

correct the date once logged in. If you need to create a club because yours is not registered in the system, do make sure to spell the name correctly.

When you have set up your IOF Eventor account, you can enter World Ranking Events. For IOF Major Events you must be entered by your national federation.

### Federations

Most federations have already started using IOF Eventor successfully. The administrator of the federation may give roles to other federation officials, such as National Team Managers, by first adding them as "members" of the federation and then giving them the role they wish to have.

*This is how you give roles in the federation to people:*

Federation – Roles – Search by person name – Edit roles

All athletes who are going to participate in IOF Major Events, for which athletes are entered by the national federation only, need to be made "members" of the federation in IOF Eventor. This can be done by administrators and national team managers.

How to make athletes and officials "members" of the federation in IOF Eventor:

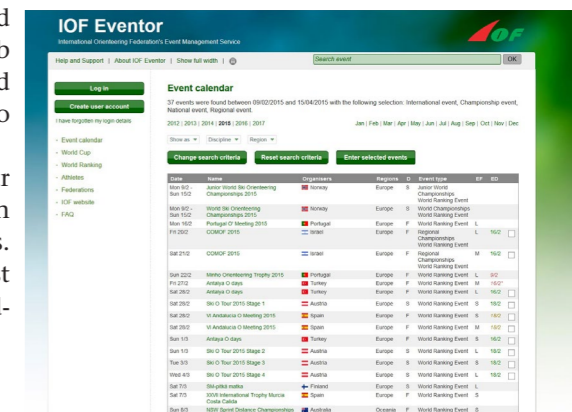
Federation – Members – Search person to add as member

If there is a person who is not yet in the database (which contains details of all athletes who have ever competed in a WRE plus all others who have created an account in IOF Eventor), then instead of choosing "search persons to add as member", choose "Create members". (Note that email address and SportIdent number are not obligatory).

### Organisers

As Event Organisers you will be able to:

- publish bulletins, details of embargoed areas etc.
- edit the contact details for your event
- collect entries
- collect accommodation & services



bookings

- export participant lists
- import start lists and result lists

To get started, members of the organising team need to create a personal user account, which can then be connected to their role in a club. The connection will be made by the person holding the administrator role for the club.

The role needed in order to add and edit details of a WRE in IOF Eventor is the Event Organiser role. When you have your user account ready and have been set up with the Event Organiser role in your club, please contact your national federation and ask them to add your club as organiser of your WRE in IOF Eventor, if that has not already been done. After this you can log in and start editing the WRE details through Administration/Events/Club's events.

### Help

Every national federation has an IOF Eventor administrator – or several – who can help you with Eventor as well as give you the necessary roles within Eventor. The list of the contact persons, as well as all user guides, can be found on the IOF Eventor [Help & Support page](#).

The IOF is also happy to help you when you cannot find the information in the on-line user guides. The address of IOF Eventor support is [eventor@orienteering.org](mailto:eventor@orienteering.org). All feedback is much appreciated as well, and can be sent to the same address.

Enjoy exploring and using IOF Eventor!





Norte Alentejo O' Meeting

## The Five Elements

What mystery is this, leading hundreds of people to abandon their “comfort zone”, year after year, facing the winter and heading to Portugal to participate in the Norte Alentejano O' Meeting? The answer comes in the five fingers: Water, Earth, Sun, Stone and ... Orienteering!

Written by Joaquim Margarido

It was in 2007 that the Norte Alentejano O' Meeting presented its credentials for the first time. Its beginning was in a bet made by Grupo Desportivo dos Quatro Caminhos, and since the very start one became aware of the orienteering potential of this inner region of Portugal. There was a perfect match between the ambitions of the northern club to move forward, and the proposal to put the Norte Alentejo region on the world orienteering map. The municipality of Nisa was successively joined by Castelo de Vide, Alter do Chão, Crato, Portalegre and Marvão, changing the initial dream into an undeniable reality: the Norte Alentejano O' Meeting is, today, an acclaimed event worldwide, both for its technical quality and organisational capacity.

Over nine editions, NAOM grew and consolidated itself. It incorporated the National Championships Sprint and Middle Distance in 2008 and 2012, and has been an IOF World Ranking Event six times. In 2011 it was part of the Portugal O' Meeting – one of the prestigious events of the regular winter calendar - with the presence of all the world's best athletes without exception. And last but not least, it has consistently contributed to the promotion and affirmation of Portugal, and in particular the Norte Alentejo region, as a tourist and sports destination of excellence, especially in the winter.

### Training Camps complete the offer

To wander through this region of Portugal is to meet with ancient times when the first men settled here, mak-

ing these lands into their “safe haven”. From prehistory to the Roman civilization, from the Arab and medieval period to the present day, art and culture have strolled hand in hand with a preserved landscape of great beauty, appealing to the good taste and the feelings of each. Reasons why Maria Gabriela Tsukamoto, former Mayor of Nisa, claims that “much more than the courses planned on the maps, more than practising a sport, more than a healthy relationship between the visitors and the locals ... the participants in the NAOM find here endless beauty, spread over a vast natural and architectural heritage.”

The charms from a cultural and landscape angle, combined with a unique gastronomy - where the wine, olive oil and herbs imposed themselves as excellent complements - are major attributes of this region. But to the competitor there, alongside the great competition, there are Training Camps of excellence. Founded in late 2011 by Fernando Costa, a man with great experience in the sports associations and event organization, Orievents has the goal to organise events and to promote orienteering activities for schools and companies. It works jointly with entities related to disability, promotes the training of sports agents, does the communication and sponsorship of events and produces orienteering maps. But it's in the Training Camps that lies one of Orievents' biggest offerings, with a current offer of 21 training courses on forest maps and 7 on sprint maps, with many of these workouts created by renowned figures in world orienteering such as Eva Jurenikova, Philippe Adamski or Oleksandr Kratov.



## Norte Alentejano O' Meeting From 2007 to 2015

The Romanian Ionut Zinca and the Finn Riina Kuuselo were the first athletes to sign their names on the event's Hall of Fame in 2007, opening a list that is growing year by year. The list already includes, among many others, names such as Simone Niggli of Switzerland, the Frenchman Thierry Gueorgiou, the Czech Eva Jurenikova, the Norwegian Olav Lundanes, the Swedish Helena Jansson and the Portuguese Tiago Romão. In 2015 it has been the turn of the Ukrainians Oleksandr Kratov and Nadiya Volynska, after two days of high level competition that attracted over 700 participants from 15 different nations to Castelo de Vide and Marvão.

To Oleksandr Kratov this year's NAOM was, “as always happens every time I travel to Portugal, a nice experience. I really enjoyed the courses and the terrain as well. Also the maps were great. Nowadays, the terrain is extremely well mapped, the maps are perfectly readable and it's a pure joy to run and read them. It's amazing.” The athlete concluded by saying that NAOM 2015 was “exact-

ly what I was looking for: really nice terrain, high quality maps, really good competition and a top level organisation.”

Nadiya Volynska also made a very positive summary of her participation in the 2015 edition of NAOM and in particular the second stage: “I really enjoyed the courses – in a very detailed terrain, greener than usual – so I had to work on my strategy. I had to be more careful, not run too straight, find some around route choices, and it worked. The placement of the controls was something that pleased me a lot, along with the infinity of route choices offered.” Regarding the victory itself, Volynska remarks that “It was very motivating”, adding that, “it was time to take a test race more seriously, pushing hard most of the time and I think that I succeeded.” Also a word to the organisation: “the best there is, at the level of major events in Scandinavia”, she concludes.

To learn more about NAOM 2015, please visit <http://www.gd4caminhos.com/naom2015>.



# News in Brief

Vice President Mike Dowling (to the right) at The World Games 2013 with Jose Fernando Gomez Rueda. Photo: Anna Jacobson



## The IOF Competition Programme Review Project

At the 2014 General Assembly, member federations of the IOF were advised of details of the IOF Competition Review project. This project seeks to examine the competition structure of the IOF across all disciplines of the sport. It will provide a progress report at the 2015 Presidents' Conference and the intention is that the project will be concluded by the 2016 General Assembly in Sweden.

The lead project group for the project is chaired by IOF Vice President Mike Dowling (AUS) and also includes Council members Mikko Salonen (FIN) and Nik Suter (SUI), Susanne Söderholm (SWE) and Jan Kocbach (NOR). In addition there are a number of Expert Groups across a range of key areas for consultation and feedback and a Reference Group for benchmarking any outcomes and proposals to be sub-

mitted to Council.

Work to date has consisted of a review of the IOF World Cup programme for foot orienteering, and a paper was endorsed by Council at its October meeting that establishes a roadmap for the future of this discipline's World Cup programme. Council endorsed one of the key suggestions from the road map, that the future of the World Cup in foot orienteering must be on a more "commercial" footing if it is to be sustainable and attractive to stakeholders into the future.

Over the last two months, the lead project group has been examining the Nordic federations' proposal for splitting the World Championships into "urban"-based and "forest"-based formats in alternate years. An initial analysis of the proposal has raised many questions. Accordingly, member fed-

erations and expert groups within the project framework will receive a paper from the lead project group seeking feedback in response to these questions.

Project group chair Mike Dowling says, "At the 2014 General Assembly it was indicated that this project will be a complex process. It is very important that the wider project and all the sub-tasks within the project are carefully thought through and analysed for what might be the consequences for any major changes to our competition programme. In the area of our World Championships, we must listen to and consult with our member federations as to the structure and future of our world championships in foot orienteering, as it is our most important "product" in the global development of our sport."

## National quotas for Orienteering World Cup competitions determined

The national quotas for the 2015 Orienteering World Cup competitions 4-6 and 10-11 have been determined on the basis of the Federation League standings as of 1st January 2015.

The federations getting eight places in the men's class will be Switzerland, Sweden, Norway, Finland, Russia and Great Britain.

The federations with 8 places in the women's class will be Switzerland, Sweden, Finland, Norway, Russia and Great Britain. All other federations will get 6 places in these competitions.

Check here [the current standings in the Federation League Table](#).

## Orienteering promoted on The World Games Channel

Both the European Ski Orienteering Championships from Lenzerheide, Switzerland, and the World Ski Orienteering Championships from Hamar, Norway, were shown live on The World Games Channel. The Channel is created to promote the sports that are in The World Games programme.

This is the second time that the European Ski Orienteering Championships have been broadcast on the channel. The 2014 Championships can still be found on the channel, as also highlights from the World Orienteering Championships and orienteering events from The World Games 2013.

[Orienteering on The World Games Channel](#)

## The World Games 2021 to be held in USA

The International World Games Association (IWGA) announced on 22nd January that the 2021 edition of The World Games will be held in Birmingham, USA.

"This was a great, historical day for Birmingham, Alabama", the newly appointed organisers said, and continued: "We will make you proud. These will be the best World Games ever."

The other two applicants were Ufa, Russia, and Lima, Peru. Orienteering has been part of The World Games programme since 2001. The 2017 Games will be held in Wroclaw, Poland.

## How to produce a school map

A new manual on how to produce a school map has been made by Swiss Orienteering and translated by Sergio Grifoni, former IOF Map Commission member. You can find the [manual here](#).

## SFR Punching System provisionally approved for FootO World Ranking Events

The IOF Council has decided to grant provisional approval for the use of SFR Punching System in Foot Orienteering World Ranking Events.

The provisional approval will expire in two years and it is possible for SFR to seek final approval after a minimum of one year period.



## Håkan Blomgren new chair of the IOF IT Commission

Håkan Blomgren (SWE), leader of the IOF IT Services project, has been appointed new chairman of the IOF IT Commission.

Other members of the Commission are Finn Arildsen (DEN), Björn Heine-mann (GER) and Henning Spjelkavik (NOR).

## IOF Event organisers and dates approved

The IOF Council has appointed Lithuania organiser of the **World Trail Orienteering Championships 2017**. The events will be held 10-16 July. Lithuania will also organise the **World Masters MTB Orienteering Championships 2016**, in conjunction with a MTB Orienteering World Cup round.

The proposed dates for the **World MTB Orienteering Championships 2017** to be organised in Lithuania were approved, and the Championships will be held between 19- 27 August 2017.

Finland has been awarded the **World Masters Ski Orienteering Championships 2017**. The dates for the events are 5-12 February.

The dates for the **World Orienteering Championships 2018** in Latvia have been approved. The Championships will be organised 27 July – 5 August 2018.



## FootO Event Advisers' Clinic to be organized in Prostejov

The IOF Foot Orienteering Commission will be organising an IOF Event Advisers' Clinic in cooperation with the Czech Orienteering Federation in Prostejov, Czech Republic on Saturday 14th March 2015. The clinic is organised for the education and recruitment of new IOF licensed Foot Orienteering Event Advisers. National Federations are asked to identify and enter suitable candidates by 20th February 2015.

Further details about the clinic can be found in the invitation available in the [Clinics section](#) of the IOF website.

## Presidents' Conference and Regional meetings in August

The 2015 Presidents' Conference will be held in conjunction with the World Orienteering Championships in Inverness, Scotland. The Presidents' Conference takes place from 9:00 to 12:00 on Thursday 6th August. Registration starts at 8:30.

European and out-of-Europe federations' meetings take place on Tuesday 4th August, 8:30-11:30.



## Orienteering World 2014 available online

The 2014 edition of the annual magazine Orienteering World is available online. In this issue you can read about development projects around the world – IOF ambassador Jose Angel Nieto Poblete in South America, US MTB Orienteering Tour, new multi-sports games and more.

[Online version of Orienteering World 2014](#)



## World Ranking, Top 10

(as of 17 February 2015)

### Orienteering

Women: 1) Tove Alexandersson SWE 5871, 2) Ida Bobach DEN 5712, 3) Judith Wyder SUI 5701, 4) Helena Jansson SWE 5611, 5) Mari Fasting NOR 5592, 6) Sara Luscher SUI 5513, 7) Annika Billstam SWE 5460, 8) Saila Kinni FIN 5455, 9) Sarina Jenzer SUI 5453, 10) Annika Billstam SWE 5418

Men: 1) Olav Lundanes NOR 5848, 2) Daniel Hubmann SUI 5826, 3) Fabian Hertner SUI 5791, 4) Matthias Kyburz SUI 5734, 5) Oleksandr Kratov UKR 5733, 6) Thierry Gueorgiou FRA 5643, 7) Gustav Bergman SWE 5599, 8) Baptiste Rollier SUI 5581, 9) Magne Daehli NOR 5556, 10) William Lind SWE 5539

### Sprint Orienteering

Women: 1) Judith Wyder SUI 5824 2) Tove Alexandersson SWE 5771, 3) Maja Moeller Alm DEN 5736, 4) Simone Niggli SUI 5556, 5) Emma Klingenberg DEN 5552, 6) Julia Gross SUI 5507, 7) Nadiya Volynska

UKR 5500, 8) Rahel Friederich SUI 5489 9) Galina Vinogradova RUS 5442, 10) Lena Eliasson SWE 5346

Men: 1) Daniel Hubmann SUI 5811, 2) Matthias Kyburz SUI 5786, 1) Jonas Leandersson SWE 5753, 4) Jerker Lysell SWE 5689, 5) Yannick Michiels BEL 5673, 6) Soren Bobach DEN 5658, 7) Martin Hubmann SUI 5656, 8) Tue Agner Hjort Lassen DEN 5538, 9) Jonas Vytautas Gvildys LTU 5518, 10) Gustav Bergman SWE 5506

### Mountain Bike Orienteering

Women: 1) Marika Hara FIN 5866, 2) Emily Benham GBR 5851, 3) Svetlana Poverina RUS 5817, 4) Martina Tichovska CZE 5726, 5) Olga Vinogradova RUS 5723, 6) Cecilia Thomasson SWE 5720, 7) Ingrid Stengard FIN 5623, 8) Eeva-Liisa Hakala FIN 5592, 9) Tatiana Repina RUS 5578, 10) Susanna Laurila FIN 5551

Men: 1) Anton Foliforov RUS 5928, 2) Ruslan Gritsan RUS 5851, 3) Jiri Hradil CZE 5844, 4) Hans Jorgen Kvale NOR

5796, 5) Baptiste Fuchs FRA 5760, 6) Lauri Malsroos EST 5754, 7) Jussi Laurila FIN 5740, 8) Pekka Niemi FIN 5724, 9) Valeriy Gluhov RUS 5721, 10) Luca Dallavalle ITA 5677

### Ski Orienteering

Women: 1) Tove Alexandersson SWE 7304, 2) Tatiana Rvacheva RUS 7249, 3) Mervi Pesu FIN 7227, 4) Iuliia Tarasenko RUS 7221, 5) Josefina Engstrom SWE 7192, 6) Mira Kaskinen FIN 7175, 7) Milka Reponen FIN 7140, 8) Audhild Bakken Rognstad NOR 7070, 9) Hana Hancikova CZE 7056, 10) Anastasia Kravchenko RUS 7050

Men: 1) Stanimir Belomazhev BUL 7347, 2) Andrei Lamov RUS 7336, 3) Lars Moholdt NOR 7315, 4) Eduard Khrennikov RUS 7296, 5) Andreas Holmberg SWE 7284, 6) Peter Arnesson SWE 7278, 7) Staffan Tunis FIN 7276, 8) Erik Rost SWE 7259, 9) Hans Jorgen Kvale NOR 7216, 10) Vladimir Barchukov RUS 7143