

# Inside ORIENTEERING

INTERNATIONAL ORIENTEERING FEDERATION

On-line Newsletter · Issue 3 · November 2015

## Winter is here



Photo: Václav Krejčíkova



### In this issue

A Word from the IOF President.....	2
IOF Office – The Beginning of a New Era .....	3
Behind the scenes – Jorn Sundby.....	4
Around the World – More women involved in orienteering .....	7
Coming up – Winter is here.....	10
Daniel Hubmann's favourite map .....	14
News in Brief .....	15

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*Good reading!*

*Malin Björkqvist, Editor-in-chief*



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# A Word from the IOF President

## Time to draw breath

November for most Northern Hemisphere orienteers gives us the time to draw breath at the end of the main foot, trail and mountain bike seasons and for some, the time to prepare for the ski orienteering season ahead. I want to thank all organisers of our season of major events in all disciplines and especially the British Federation for their organisation of the World Orienteering Championships in Inverness, Scotland. The economic impact study for the WOC and the Scottish Six Day Event has just been published by EventScotland showing a total economic value of nearly £9.5m (€13m) to Scotland. This is a quite outstanding result and will certainly make many countries wake up to the importance of orienteering events. It was, of course, a great privilege to be your President when the WOC was held in my own country.

After the WOC in Inverness I travelled to Liberec in the Czech Republic for the World Mountain Bike Orienteering Championships. The Czech Federation is known for their excellent organisation of major events in all disciplines in our sport and we certainly were not disappointed in Liberec. This was my first visit to a major mountain bike event and I was especially delighted to be able to participate (badly!) in two of the open races. What an outstanding discipline we have in MTBO! It is hugely challenging – especially when you cannot see your front wheel for the map board! I had the great excitement of doing something I have not done for the past 50 years – I went



over the handlebars of the bike – no injuries thankfully. On a more serious point, I can now see the potential for our mountain bike discipline to drive the growth of our sport in places where foot orienteering is less easy to organise.

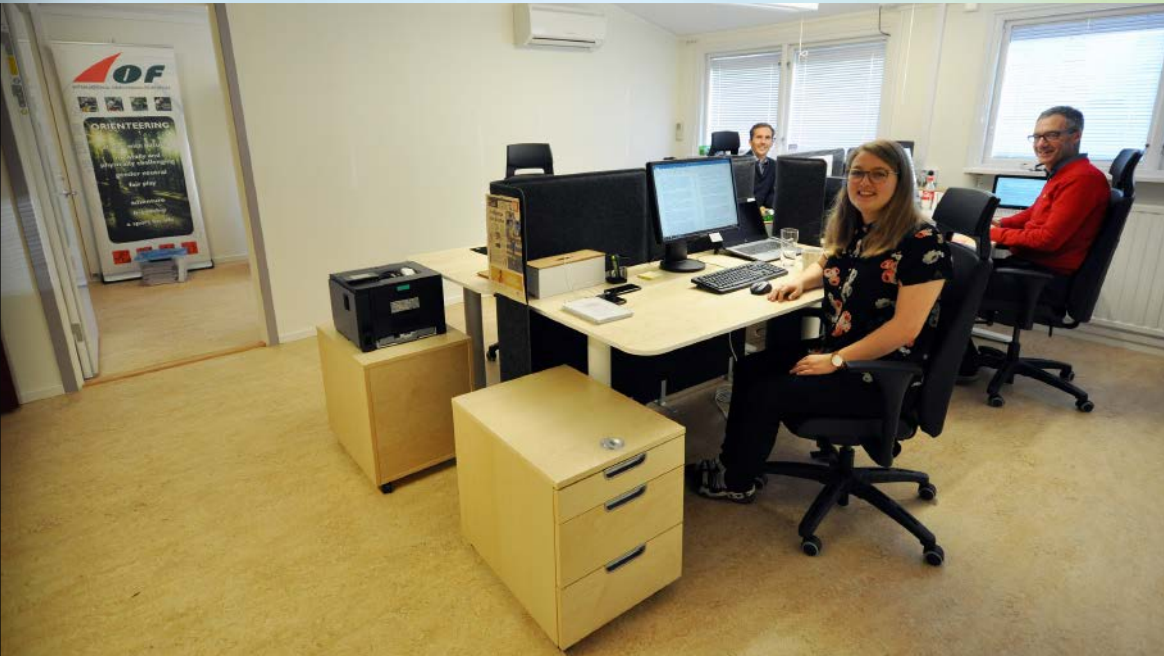
Finally thanks and congratulations to our Croatian Federation for the excellent organisation of the World Trail Orienteering Championships in Zagreb. I was just sorry not to be able to attend the competition but then, trail orienteering is far too difficult for me!

So as one season ends and we say thanks to organisers and congratula-

tions to medal winners, we can look forward to our ski orienteering season starting. As I have written before, the IOC's Agenda 2020 gives us real opportunities to be included especially in the Olympic Winter Games and it is important therefore that all federations who can support and encourage our ski discipline. Perhaps I can have the opportunity to take part in a skiO competition for the first time this winter?

*Brian Pateaus*





*David Wästlund, Tom Hollowell and Kirsty McIntyre at the new IOF office in Karlstad, Sweden  
Photo: Malin Björkqvist*

## IOF Office – The Beginning of a New Era

By Kirsty McIntyre

In the last issue of Inside Orienteering readers could enjoy a look back at the years that the IOF Office spent in Finland, and remember the hard work and progress that was undergone there.

Since then, a lot has been happening behind the scenes. The entire IOF Office has upped sticks and moved, from Finland's capital Helsinki, to the regional capital Karlstad in Värmland, Sweden.

The new office is steadily getting more furniture and equipment delivered and installed, whilst all the while the new staff is working away. There is a lot to be considered. What should stay the same and what should change? How should the new office be organised? Both in terms of what should go where and in terms of who does what.

The move of the office has also included a change of the people working in it. You may already be familiar with the new SG/CEO Tom Hollowell, who has been working with the IOF since the 1<sup>st</sup> of January this year, but you may not know some of the newer faces in the office.

As mentioned, the SG/CEO of the IOF

is Tom Hollowell. He is in charge of operational leadership, finance, contracts and sponsorship, executive support to Congress and Council and external relations.

David Wästlund is the Sports Administrator, who looks after all IOF Events, the World Ranking System, event advising, contact database management, materials management and everything in between.

Global Development & Communications Officer Malin Björkqvist works with regional development, youth orienteering and communications from her office in Falun, three hours north of Karlstad. This involves frequent video calls and emails between the offices, as well as trips to the office in Karlstad.

Kirsty McIntyre is the Office Administrator, working half-time. Her tasks as assistant to David, Malin and Tom include internal communication, processing applications, producing, editing and uploading content to the webpage, coordinating medal orders and day to day management of the contacts database and other materials.

Hans Jørgen Kvåle forms part of the team as the Marketing Manager, also working half-time. As well as providing a valuable link to the athletes' per-

spective, he is in charge of promotion, marketing, sponsorship and sales, with a special focus on ski orienteering and MTBO orienteering.

Jörn Sundby works part-time as the IOF Senior Event Adviser for the World Orienteering Championships. He is also working hard on the development of orienteering as a sport for television.

Henrik Skoglund does contract work with Eventor support, a few hours each month. Also on a similar contract basis, Anti-doping Officer Ed Niland works with management of the IOFs Anti-Doping plan.

Finally, the recruitment of an additional Marketing Manager, with a foot orienteering focus, is in its final phase, so hopefully the team will be complete very soon.

Looking ahead, there is a lot for the new IOF Office to live up to. There are the big, long term goals, such as spreading the sport of orienteering, and for orienteering to be included in the Olympic and Paralympic Games. Then there are the goals of the here and now, such as getting the new office up to speed and providing a good day to day service for all members, with a good flow of information and a positive and open atmosphere.



# Behind the Scenes

## – Jorn Sundby

Behind the scenes is a regular feature in Inside Orienteering. In every issue, we will write about someone working for the IOF. In this issue we present Jorn Sundby.



Jorn Sundby at WOC 2014 in Italy.

Photo: Erik Borg

## To secure the quality of WOC

**The Norwegian Jorn Sundby is IOF WOC SEA which means event advising at World Orienteering Championships with TV-development as one key part.**

*Tell us about your work as IOF WOC SEA?*

The mission is to secure the quality of WOC-events. I have a SEA-assistant for all WOCs, and we also have at least one national controller in our team. In addition, we have different experts within the IOF we can involve in technical details if necessary. The SEA is the main link between the IOF and organiser. One main task is of course to make sure that the IOF rules are strictly followed. Some IOF-rules are different from national rules. We have to approve the solutions chosen by the or-

ganisers in all areas, making sure that they not only follow the rules, but also have the quality that we want for our main event. Fairness is the most important guideline in judging all aspects of a WOC. Our aim is to be a support and a help for the organisers (not only a controller). Most WOC-organizers do this once in their life time, while the SEA-team have a lot of experience from many WOCs. In many cases we know what works and what doesn't work.

*Describe your work?*

I started working for IOF ahead of the



2015-season, replacing Bjorn Persson. I had some previous SEA-experience as Bjorn's assistant at WOC 2014. Right now I have the responsibility of the WOC's from 2016–2018. Normally we visit the host city once or twice each year in the three years prior to the WOC. Every visit is normally three to four days. Beside the visits we stay in close contact with the organizer through E-mail. For WOC 2016 it is a bit different, both me as the SEA and Unni Strand Karlsen as the assistant SEA lives quite close to the area, so we are visiting more frequently. We might just go for an evening meeting or a day in the forest.

We spend a lot of time on the different things that are different at WOC compared to a "normal" event. This is often where the organiser needs support and advice. Very few have experience with television, with the infrastructure needed, demands for IT, and so on. The demands of an international event, language, fairness for all countries is also new to many. Still, in the end, most time is used on maps and courses. There are many events at a WOC, and we want the best possible quality for the athletes.

*What do you like with this job?*

Meeting organisers from different countries and finding good solutions together as a team is very rewarding. There are so many people who spend so many hours for our sport, making these events happen. They all have this desire to make their event as good as absolutely possible, and this is fantastic to see. Especially I enjoy the early part of the event planning, when the main concepts are made. To find an arena and a terrain that can have world class courses, and at the same time give us a great presentation on TV and for spectators. I enjoy the challenge of trying to improve the standard of our events every year to the benefit of all our stakeholders.

*The biggest challenge?*

The biggest challenge is to find the concepts that can fulfil all the intentions of a WOC. We need to have world class maps and courses at the

same time as we need world class TV-production and presentation. This is often a challenge to combine, many of the best terrains are often in remote areas with struggling mobile connection no internet or infrastructure. The athletes will be happy there, but TV-broadcast and presentation will suffer. They need more infrastructure to be able to do their job. Many arenas that have the necessary infrastructure for the forest event don't have the best terrain nearby, leading to compromises that in the end neither athletes or TV are happy with. So it is absolutely crucial that we search for the area where we both have access to world class terrain, but also have the infrastructure needed for spectators and media/television.

In such a big organization as a WOC there are many different people with many different opinions. This is often refreshing as it brings different ideas to the table. But sometimes it can be very difficult when decisions need to be made and it is impossible to keep everybody happy. This is a big challenge, most organisers are volunteers and if they are not happy with the decisions they may choose to do other things than organise a WOC... So it is important to have a good and clean communication with all the key people in the organisation.

The sprint events are also a big challenge. Held in an urban area, it is very difficult to secure everything with so many people living and moving in the competition area. You always seem to get some unpleasant surprises.

The financial part of the event is also very challenging for most organisers, and it is sometimes necessary to choose second best or third best option because of financial issues.

*Give us an example of an incident to avoid.*

The most important is of course to avoid incidents that makes the competition unfair or even cancelled. The most important is to think about possible scenarios and have back-up plans ready. So we spend a lot of time discussing potential problems. What if

the area loses power? What if a bus breaks down on the way to the start? What if the competition maps get lost on the way to the start? And so on. The WOC 2015 organisers were great at making such plans. When a bus had problems on the way to the long distance start, they had already thought about this and could make fast decisions on what to do.

*How do we prevent incidents as the punching system fail in the WC?*

– By having done proper testing in advance with the same people, in the same conditions. It is very important that the organisers have test events where they test their systems (and people) in the same roles and with the same goal as in WOC. When people have to do something for the first time at WOC it increases the risk of error. People should have done their task so many times already in tests that they feel safe and know what to do during WOC. Many people were concerned about using punch-free system in WOC 2015 after the failure in June, but the organiser had done a really professional job testing many times and it worked well at WOC.

*Who are you?*

– I have a mixed background in orienteering. I competed myself at JWOC and Eurometing for Norway, but I had to give up the national team early due to an injury. I worked as the coach of the Norwegian junior team for four years, and I was one of the assistant coaches of the senior team for four years, helping the athletes with the technical preparations (maps, courses and trainings) for WOC being my main task. So I know a lot about how the coaches think, and how the teams prepare. Beside coaching I have been working in media for the last 25 years. In orienteering I have been an announcer for many World Cup events and also WOC. In television I have been a commentator for the last 15 years, doing winter sports, football, handball, and also some orienteering. I have also been involved in productions from events.

For three years I worked full time for

the Norwegian Orienteering Federation as their event manager, this included responsibilities in connection with WOC 2010. I have also been a course setter for many big events, including many Norwegian championships and also World Cup. I am a part time map maker, having maps made for Norwegian championships and for local events.

So I have a very mixed background that hopefully can help the understanding of all aspects of a WOC, and to find the best possible solutions.

*Can you compare the big orienteering events with other sports event?*

Our sport is very demanding to organize. So many details are important for a successful event, and this makes orienteering one of the more challenging sports to organize. What makes it even more challenging is that we don't have a fixed arena, we pretty much have to build everything from scratch every time. There are also big costs involved, especially for mapping and TV-production. It is easier (and much cheaper) to put up a couple of cameras at a beach volley or tennis arena than putting several kilometres of heavy cables out

in tough forest. One advantage is that our maps can be reused for years after our events, for everyone from elite to youngsters.

Orienteering organisers are generally good in the technical matters of the competition, but many other sports are much more professional in their work with presentation, TV, sponsors and partners. In this area we need to improve.

*How can we develop big events in the future?*

I believe that we are moving towards a more professional handling of our main events. This means that some tasks will be done by specialists, who will do the same job every year. This is already the case with areas like TV-production and mapping, but also some other areas, like IT/time-keeping should have a professional team who secure high quality every time. I think this will benefit everyone, especially the organisers, as they can spend more energy on the tasks that they have experience and feel comfortable with, and they can sleep better, knowing that some of their critical tasks are taken care of.

From 2019 the new system with split sprint and forest WOC will start, and it will be very interesting to follow this development. There are some challenges with it, but it also gives us possibilities that we didn't have before. New countries, new areas can be used, and with fewer events during the week it should be easier to improve the quality of the events held. I am hoping that we can improve the financial side of organising a WOC, that would make WOC much more attractive and means that we can choose from more and better concepts.

The TV-productions are moving in the right direction now, with more and more countries buying the rights for WOC. Hopefully, within five-six years, we no longer lose money on our TV-broadcasts.

I also hope that the level of the athletes continues to improve, hopefully we will have many countries fighting for medals also in the coming years. I want us to give them some WOC-events that gives them positive memories for life, and as long as I have this job I will do everything I can to make that happen!



*Jorn Sundby in Venice at the sprint in Italy 2014.*

Photo: Erik Borg



# Around the World |

## More women involved in orienteering



By: José Angel Nieto Poblete

“Women and Sports” is a program developed by the Spanish Orienteering Federation for the National Sports Council in Spain. The vision is to get more women involved in orienteering.

This year’s event in Vigo-Pontevedra (Galicia, Spain) in August was the seventh year it was arranged. Participants came from all over Spain to the university of Vigo. Also women from Argentina, Guatemala and Costa Rica took

part in the project, visiting Spain to develop their knowledge of orienteering. Each participant was assigned to a working group depending on their level in orienteering. They had classes, technical training, conferences, cultural activities and social activities. The opening ceremony was chaired by Victor Garcia Berenguer, president of the Spanish Orienteering Federation.

They had exercises on all levels, adapting different techniques and afterwards they analysed their work. The number of participants was 125, a very positive amount and the project is growing and growing. Every year they also have a program for small children trying orienteering.



# In the beautiful Al Azhar park in Cairo

Egyptian Championships in sprint orienteering



Best in W12 class – 1<sup>st</sup> place Rana Mohamed Refaee, 2<sup>nd</sup> place Jana Ahmed Saad and 3<sup>rd</sup> place Mariam Mohamed Saeed.

By Zoran Milovanovic

The first ever sprint orienteering Championships of Egypt was held on 6<sup>th</sup> November in the beautiful Al Azhar park in Cairo.

Egypt is one of the youngest IOF member countries, and is making really fast steps in developing orienteering. They started with orienteering activities not more than one year ago, trying to develop the sport all over Egypt. It is a big country with specific terrains, very different from European terrains, and a unique history and culture. For most of the young people who discovered the sport of orienteering, this is a big chance to learn, compete and enjoy.

More than 140 athletes, mostly youngsters, gathered from Menofia, Giza, Obour, Port Saeid, Ismailia, Hurghada, Garbia and Cairo of course, to be



The orienteering event drew a lot of attention by other park visitors.



EOF President Tamer Mehanna, Sec. General Mostafa Elkady and Zoran Milovanovic, IOF Regional Coordinator with participants, organizers and referees.

able to participate in the first Egyptian sprint orienteering Championships. Since Friday in Egypt is a free day, as Sunday is in Europe, the orienteers sparked a lot of interest from other park visitors, running around with a map and compass looking for the control points.

The smiles on their faces after finishing the races tell us that our sport in Egypt has found a new home, and lot of young enthusiasts ready to go on further.

The next big and important step will be from 19–21<sup>st</sup> February 2016, when 3 days of international orienteering event will be held in the famous Luxor.



Ready to count the result.



## WRE at World Military Games

By Dominic Yue

The sixth World Military Games was held in Mungyeong in Korea between the 2<sup>nd</sup> and the 10<sup>th</sup> of October this year. A total of 7300 participants representing 122 countries took part in 24 different sports. The IOF had reached an understanding with CISM that IOF will assist the organising of orienteering at their games.

The orienteering competitions were held between the 5<sup>th</sup> and the 10<sup>th</sup> of October. A total of 29 countries with over two hundred runners took part in the competitions which composed of middle and long distance individual events, and a relay race. Orienteering is also one of the seven contests of the Aeronautical pentathlon.

The Korea Military Game Organiser had made great efforts in providing very generous facilities and to organise the orienteering competitions at a professional standard. This was the first International Orienteering competition organised in Korea by the Korean Federation and the competition was a success. The Korean Orienteering Federation has gained valuable experience and shown their ability in the organisation of major international orienteering competitions.

CISM Orienteering has a very strong tradition. Their annual championship has a long history, and always has good participation. The 2016 Championship will be in Brazil, 2017 in Finland. To assist member countries to develop orienteering, there is a Regional Orienteering Development Centre in Africa.

CISM orienteering will form an important part of the IOF strategy to enhance our global presence. Through our presence in the CISM Games, orienteering will be brought into more countries. We should increase our presence in the games, and raise the profile of the Orienteering Competitions in CISM. The conferring of World Ranking Points at the World Military Games Orienteering compe-



tion will help to raise the profile of the competition and help it to attract good runners.

The Indonesian Military will host the 2018 Military Cadet Games and the Chinese Military will hold the next

World Military Games 2019 in Wuhan. This will be the first time for these two countries to organise an international orienteering competition. IOF is starting the liaison with both countries to see what assistance they need.



# Coming up – Winter is here



A perfect location for a championship



The European Championships of Ski Orienteering will start in 6 months in Obertilliach, Austria.

About 20 nations will be competing in March in various disciplines. The favourites are from Russia and Scandinavia, yet there are medal chances for local athletes as well.

On February 29<sup>th</sup> 2016 the European Ski-Orienteering Championships will start in Obertilliach/ Austria. There will be about 200 European athletes competing in five different competitions for more than six days. “We have found the perfect location for a European Championship here in Obertilliach. The infrastructure is equipped ideally for such an event”, says director Hans-Georg Gratzner. The championship takes place from February 29<sup>th</sup> until March 7<sup>th</sup> and will be held jointly with the Junior World Ski-Orienteering Championships and the European Youth Ski-Orienteering

Championships.

Obertilliach is located at 1450 meters above sea level and is inhabited by 700 residents. The arena in Alta Pusteria is guaranteed to have snow and has a modern biathlon centre. Up to five kilometres of trail can be covered with artificial snow. The athletes and fans are going to be taken with a shuttle bus to the competition courses.

The competition area is located in the Tyrolean Gailtal between Kartitsch and Obertilliach. The championship is hosted as a Green Event; various sustainability measures have already been set. The shuttle bus reduces the traffic to a minimum in order to protect nature and wildlife.

Ski-Orienteering combines cross-country skiing, orienteering and experiencing nature. The athletes must pass selected control points in a predetermined order by using a map. The map shows

information on the terrain, elevations and the quality of the trails. The sport is practiced in a dense net of tracks. In addition to the wide tracks, smaller tracks and so called Ski-Doo-tracks are prepared. The combination of map reading and endurance features makes Ski-Orienteering an exciting, fast and challenging sport. The competitions will be held in free technique (Skating).

Three individual events on different distances (sprint, middle and long) and two team competitions (mixed sprint relay, classical relay) are run at the European Championships in Obertilliach.

The favourites are from Russia, Sweden, Norway, Finland and Switzerland. The medal hopes for Austria are Tobias Habenicht and Simon Kugler. “Of course we hope that the two young cross country skiing athletes can take part at the European Championships in their own country”, says Gratzner.



# Great motivations with the big events

By Erik Borg

Alex Jospe has only one big event planned for this winter, but she is also looking forward to 2018. USA are again going to host big events in ski orienteering.

This winter it is the North American and US Ski Orienteering Championships held in March at Presque Isle, Maine. This is in northern New England, about 600 km north of Boston.

– Travellers can fly directly into Presque Isle. The venue has an extensive network of cross country trails, and we added several narrow trail mazes this summer to increase the challenge. In February 2016, Presque Isle will also host World Cup Biathlon races, which will be televised in Europe if anyone wants an advance look at the main trails, says Event Director Ken Walker.

For Alex Jospe these championships are the main goal for the winter.

– I don't have much vacation time to spend on ski orienteering this winter, so unfortunately the only big event will be the North American and US Ski Orienteering Championships. Besides that, I suspect that I will attend a few local meets, says Jospe.

## The future

Furthermore, Alex is not sure about what will come, and a big reason for that is the weather.

– Right now the long-term forecast does not look very good for a snowy winter! To stay fit, I try to do workouts with the juniors that I coach, and will do cross country skiing races, as there is a very good program of events all winter in my region.

She has been one of the best ski orienteers and orienteers from USA for several years. Alison Crocker was the best once, but she is now reducing her speed with map and compass since she has got a job as a professor

at a college.

Jospe isn't sure about her future in elite sport either, but the coming World Cup in 2018 is a big motivation.

– Right now I am not slated to be involved in the course setting or planning for the World Cup, so hopefully I will be able to race! Alex says.

– I don't know where my competitive career will be at that point, but a World Cup on home ground is always a good motivation to get fit. I am very excited to race at this World Cup, and I hope that the event goes off smoothly. We have a great team of organizers in charge, so everybody should put this on their calendar and come for this event!

The 2018 World Cup Ski Orienteering races will be at Craftsbury Outdoor Center in northern Vermont and will be in conjunction with World Masters Ski Orienteering races. Craftsbury has over 100 km of trails and is geared towards race competition and a long season - typically from mid-November to mid-April. Lodging and meals are available at the ski centre, which is a reasonable drive from Boston, Montreal and Burlington, Vermont.

– With both these events we look forward to bringing the highest level of ski orienteering competition to the United States and are honoured to have the opportunity to welcome skiers from Europe and the rest of the world, Ken Walker says.

## Junior possibility

In 2012 the World Cup in ski orienteering was held in the USA. Earlier it has been in orienteering.

Jospe hopes the big events will attract a number of junior cross country skiers to try the sport.

– And then provide a clear path for them to get to JWOC or WOC, but we struggle from not having a reliable



Photo: Erik Borg

event schedule of ski-o races in the winter. Getting to Europe, where the events have much more competition, costs a lot of money and takes a lot of time. There are simply not that many ski orienteers in US Orienteering either, but hopefully with enough publicity we'll get some people to try out ski-o and find that they like it enough to stick around!

USA is a country of 9.86 million km<sup>2</sup>! The distances are big. Only the northern area gets snow in the winter, and of those areas, only the northeast and mountainous California have a consistent schedule of ski-o races in the winter. The only nationally-sanctioned event is the US Championships, held every other year.

– To add to our problems, the snow can be very unreliable, and thick forests make it necessary to cut trails before we can groom a narrow-trail maze, and many ski areas do not want us to do that. But there are possibilities. In the northeast, where I live, we are getting better at having a consistent schedule of events every winter, and advertising them to the die-hard ski-o community, and to the broader cross country community. We are getting the occasional newcomer, but struggle to attract juniors, because those juniors who know how to ski, are busy skiing. We call ski-o a "niche sport of two niche sports", meaning that both orienteering and cross country skiing struggle to build their numbers, and ski-o is reliant on needing both of those skills!

Last winter Daisy Kudre had to take a break. Now the Estonian is headed towards a Championship that will take Ski Orienteering a step forward.

For first time ever a World University Championships (WUC) will be organised in Ski Orienteering.

– The World University Championships is the second most important week for me this season after the European Championships. It's a big step forward for Ski-O to have this competition and as I am a full-time student, I feel the responsibility and will to take part and give my best, Daisy says.

She's again full of energy and motivation.

#### Had to stop

A couple of seasons ago Kudre impressed a lot in her first year of competition in the senior class, but in her second year she was almost not visible at all in the ski orienteering. The soon to be 22-year-old athlete had to stop competing last winter one week before the World championships because of heart arrhythmia.

– My main goal for this winter is to be back in the ski-o world with a smiling face!

– Last February I was at a point where training and competing wasn't fun at all. I was very tired physically and mentally. I knew that something was very wrong. There were many reasons for that. I believe it started with mononucleosis in summer, followed by a combination of training and studying too hard and resting too little for too long. I stopped training for more than six months. Now I am just slowly on my way back. I haven't given up on sport and I want to become better than I was before, but it is not a goal for this winter. First of all, I want to be back in ski-o world and enjoy it.

#### Had to rest up

In the spring she took a break both from training and school and spent the time with her boyfriend Gion in Switzerland. She was there for five months and enjoyed it a lot.



Photo: Erik Borg

## A new challenge for Daisy

– I think it was an important time for my health and life in general. I loaded myself with happy emotions in a great atmosphere and wonderful nature. When I came back to Estonia I was again filled with life and energy and ready to dive into new challenges.

*How will your level be this winter?*

– Compared to last season – even if I should not be in better shape. I will for sure have more fun with ski-orienteering, and that is already a huge level rise for me.

#### Two important weeks

The European Championships in Austria is the main goal for the winter. Then comes the WUC in Tula.

– Russia is always a great place for ski orienteering. I look very much forward to Tula. It's also nice that the competitions will be in a place I've never been to, so in addition to ski-o tracks I look forward to visit the city as well.

*How do you think the first World University Championships will be?*

– Great, with a good atmosphere and also awesome ski-o network and courses! The program looks very interesting and challenging, so I believe it will be a great ski-o week.

She starts her season as always in Lapland in Finland and will take part in

first the World cup round.

– After that I hope we will have a lot of snow in Estonia because I'm looking forward to take part in all the nice ski-o competitions in my country.

#### Politics in day time

The 21-year-old woman is studying political science at the University of Tartu. This autumn she has also been working half time – as she has been keeping the level of training quite low.

– I used the opportunity to get some new experiences. I worked as a Project coordinator at the Archimedes Foundation. It's an organisation established by the Estonian government to coordinate different projects in the field of education and research. It was pretty crazy to study, work and do some sport at the same time. It became quite normal to leave the house before 8 am to work, getting home at 10 pm when the school library closed. In addition to this, I'm also a member of the Estonian Women's Home Defence military organisation where I'm trying to be as active as possible – it's really cool!

*What's your long term goal in sport?*

– To enjoy the process, not to focus on goals.

Daisy Kudre is looking forward very much to the new international event in ski orienteering.



# A door opener on the Olympic Road

By Erik Borg

Juraj Nemeč is the IOF Event Adviser for the World University Championships. He tells about great events waiting on the one hand, and important events for the sport on the other hand.

– The General Assembly of the IOF confirmed that one of the main IOF goals is to get orienteering into the Olympics. New IOC politics partly opened the door also for orienteering, but still inclusion of ski-o is much more realistic than orienteering. At least I feel so, Nemeč tells.

On the way to the Olympics the World University Championships are certainly a bench mark.

– The right to be part of the main world sport events increases our chances. And the fact that ski-o was selected from more competing sports, based on an independent evaluation by The International University Sports Federation (FISU), represents a rather important element, Nemeč tells.

The World University Championships (WUC) and the Winter Universiade are both organized on behalf of FISU. WUC is organized every second year with one sport at every game. The Universiade is organized every second year and is like a student Olympics with a lot of different sports. Ski orienteering will be a part of the Winter Universiade for the first time in 2019 when it's organized in Krasnoyarsk.

The Winter Universiade is the world's second biggest sport event during wintertime. Held in Italy this year, it had over 2500 participants from over 50 nations. It was televised on more than 100 TV channels worldwide.

Ski orienteering will be shown as an exciting and thrilling sport.

## Expect 10–14 countries

The World University Championships (WUC) is organized in the middle of February. The organisers expect a lot of nations to be represented.

The organisers are hoping to attract the largest possible number of foreign athletes to the historic event.

– We expect 100–120 athletes from 10–14 countries will take part in the competition, the organisers state.

## Short and social

Nemeč tells about games that will be organised with short distances and challenging races, but also races that can attract athletes on different levels.

– One of the main elements of this event is inclusiveness. We expect the best athletes, but also students from non-leading ski orienteering countries. This means that we have to prepare a track network and courses relevant to this event status and also to aim to promote our sport. Relatively flat terrain should allow us to prepare an appropriate network of tracks without over-demanding elements.

The core challenge for all should be pursuit – after testing this format at several events it will be applied for the first time on a Championship level. We hope that such a format can provide added value to our sport whilst maintaining its fairness.

The pre-start and finish for all events will be at the same place. The event centre is surrounded by forests and its characteristics give the organizers the opportunity to show athletes close to the finish area in full action.

The conditions outside the events will also be the best.

– The organisers have been able to find high level accommodation facilities – everybody should be fully satisfied. And we hope that some basic training possibilities will be available directly at the accommodation place. The strength of the event is also good social conditions for all participants.

## South of Moscow

Tula is the administrative centre of Tula Region and it lies 180 kilometres south of Moscow.



Juraj Nemeč is controller for WUC in Russia this winter. Photo: Erik Borg

## The program

The championship takes place over the course of five days, with four competition days and one rest day.

Thursday, February 11 Sprint

Friday, February 12 Pursuit

Sunday, February 14 Mixed relay, sprint

Monday, February 15 middle distance – mass start, banquet.



# Daniel Hubmann's favourite map

By Erik Borg

Daniel Hubmann had to think hard before picking a favourite map, and it's a few years old.

– It's a hard to pick just one map, because I don't have one favourite map, there are so many, he says.

– Irbene in Latvia is still one map which comes to my mind.

He has been on the map only once. It was on the long distance at the European Championship in 2008. Daniel finished second after Dmitry Tsvetkov. The difference between the Russian and Hubmann was 33 seconds on the 16,9 km long course with 33 controls.

*Why is Irbene a favourite?*

– It was such an exciting race, it had not been mapped before and we didn't know what to expect. Also, the terrain was very varying, from open to very dense. It was a real challenge.

Since the Championships in Ventspils he has never been back to the map.

*Are there any terrains you prefer for orienteering?*

– My favourite terrain is nice, challenging and tough all at once. But I can't really name only one terrain, just like with the maps, because what I most love about orienteering is the varia-

tion. One of my dream terrains is in the pre-alps of Switzerland, but unfor-

tunately most of those forests are under nature protection nowadays.



## Had to build a bridge

A lot of extra effort was required to be able to use the terrain at the European Championship in 2008. A lot of the terrain isn't that accessible.

– There are pretty big problems with using the terrain because of strict protection for this area. A bridge has to be built in order to access the map. I haven't heard of any near future plans of using this map for any competitions, because Latvia is mostly focused on Sigulda, where

the WOC 2018 will be held, Matīss Ratnieks says.

A bridge over the Irbe river had to be built specially for EOC 2008, in co-operation with the Latvian army.

The map has been used in later years for the Latvian Championships in middle distance 2010 and for the first day of Kāpa 2013.

– The terrain is not used actively.

Firstly, there's the missing bridge. Secondly, the forest is pretty big, and there are no good roads connecting to the major part of map in the east, Matīss Ratnieks says.

The map was made by Leonīds Malankovs. His maps have been used in national and international events numerous times. He has drawn maps all over Europe. The computer part was drawn by Sergejs Melihovs.



# News in Brief



**IOF Eventor**  
International Orienteering Federation's Event Management Service

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**Event calendar**  
20 events were found between 17/11/2015 and 23/01/2016 with the following selection: International event, Championship event, National event, Regional event.

2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017  
Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec | all

Show as [v] Discipline [v] Region [v]

Change search criteria | Reset search criteria | Enter selected events

Date	Name	Organisers	Regions	D	Event type	CF	ED
20 Nov - 2 Dec	Ski Orienteering World Cup 2015-2016 Round 1	Finland	Europe	S	World Ranking Event World Cup		
11 Dec	Russian Cup	Russian Federation	Europe	S	World Ranking Event	L	8/12
12 Dec	Russian Cup	Russian Federation	Europe	S	World Ranking Event	M	8/12
12 Dec	Sjuserennet sprint	Norway	Europe	S	World Ranking Event	S	
13 Dec	Sjuserennet mellom	Norway	Europe	S	World Ranking Event	M	
15 Dec	Russian Championships	Russian Federation	Europe	S	World Ranking Event	S	12/12
16 Dec	Russian Championships	Russian Federation	Europe	S	World Ranking Event	L	12/12
25 Dec	Asian Junior & Youth Orienteering Championships	Orienteering Association of Hong Kong	Asia	F	Regional Championships		
28 Dec	SYLVESTER5 - DAY 3 - PLUNVEN-NOORD	Belgium	Europe	F	World Ranking Event	M	30/11
30 Dec	Zuozer Sprint Ski-OL	Switzerland	Europe	S	World Ranking Event	S	
30 Dec	Big 5 O Week - Day 2	South Africa	Africa	F	World Ranking Event	M	1/12

## New IOF Events

Some new events have been added to the list of Official IOF Events. The events are all regional youth and junior events, and were previously organised by Regional Working Groups in the respective regions.

The events are the Asian Junior and Youth Orienteering Championships, the European Youth Orienteering Championships, the European Junior and Youth MTB Orienteering Championships and the European Youth Ski Orienteering Championships. The first of these events to take place is the Asian Junior and Youth Orienteering Championships, which is organised by The Orienteering Association of Hong Kong. They will be held in Hong Kong on the 25 – 27<sup>th</sup> December 2015.

## IOF Eventor is One Year Old!

The IOF Eventor system has been up and running for about a year now. The use of the IOF Eventor has improved immensely. There is now one calendar with all IOF Events, making for better overview and organisation. It also brings better management of WRE applications, and means that the IOF commissions can more quickly handle deviations and set the Event Calendar

However, teething problems are only to be expected when implementing a new system, and there have been some challenges for all Federations and athletes to start using a new system. Having said that, there are changes coming up in 2016 that hopefully will make the process much smoother.

Better management of World Masters Events, specifically the entry and payment procedures, is a priority. Also, adding Athletes' License management to the IOF Eventor system will make an improvement to this relatively new

format. Finally, better functions for searching and finding events, as well as improved reporting, will make the system more accessible and easier to use.

What improvements would you like to see in the IOF Eventor?

If you have any suggestions, please send them to [eventor@orienteering.org](mailto:eventor@orienteering.org).

## Updated rules

Thanks to the hard work of the IOF Rules Commission, in cooperation with each discipline commission, there are now updated versions of the Competition Rules for IOF Orienteering Events for all four disciplines available. They can be found on the IOF Homepage on each disciplines' page.

Major updates include the requirement that competitors have a valid IOF Athletes' Licence.

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## World Orienteering Day

The new IOF project “World Orienteering Day” will start on May 11<sup>th</sup> 2016. More information on how this day will be implemented will be announced in early February next year. Until then, we ask all National Federations who wish to participate to book this day, and to spread it to clubs and schools. Manager for this project is Göran Andersson, member of Regional and Youth Development Commission.

## Athletes' licence

The International Orienteering Federation (IOF) has decided to implement an Athletes' Licence, starting with the Ski Orienteering season 2015-2016. The IOF licence is an agreement between the IOF and the athlete, and

contributes to the fairness of our sport by having athletes confirm that they will respect and follow the IOF rules.

The Licence fee will go directly to the IOF Anti-Doping fund, which is part

of IOF Anti-Doping plan. The licence is needed for athletes participating in Senior World Championships and World Cup competitions. The licence is annual and is valid for all orienteering disciplines.

## What do you want to read?

Inside Orienteering has been published four or five times a year with news about what's going on within the IOF. We will continue with news from inside the IOF in some way in 2016. What do you want to read about?

You will also find more news on [www.orienteering.org](http://www.orienteering.org), Twitter (@IOFOrienteering), Facebook: (IOFArena), YouTube (IOFOrienteering), Instagram (IOF\_orienteering)

//Malin Björkqvist & Kirsty McIntyre, IOF communications



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