

O-zine

International Orienteering Federation

On-line Newsletter

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PHOTO: ERIK BORG

Charlotte MacNaughton and Adrian Zissos show the map with tracks for permanent ski orienteering. Charlotte is a former President of the Canadian Orienteering Federation.

Optimistic outlook in Canada

BY ERIK BORG

In Canada, the 1998 Olympic Stadium is now a venue for permanent ski orienteering courses. And the Canadians have bigger plans: if the development of the sport continues, they will consider hosting a

World Cup Round.

Canmore Nordic Centre is a Provincial Park operated by the government of Alberta. The park is used year-round for many different types of outdoor activi-

ties, including orienteering. It started with permanent courses in foot and mountain bike orienteering and now permanent ski orienteering courses have been introduced.

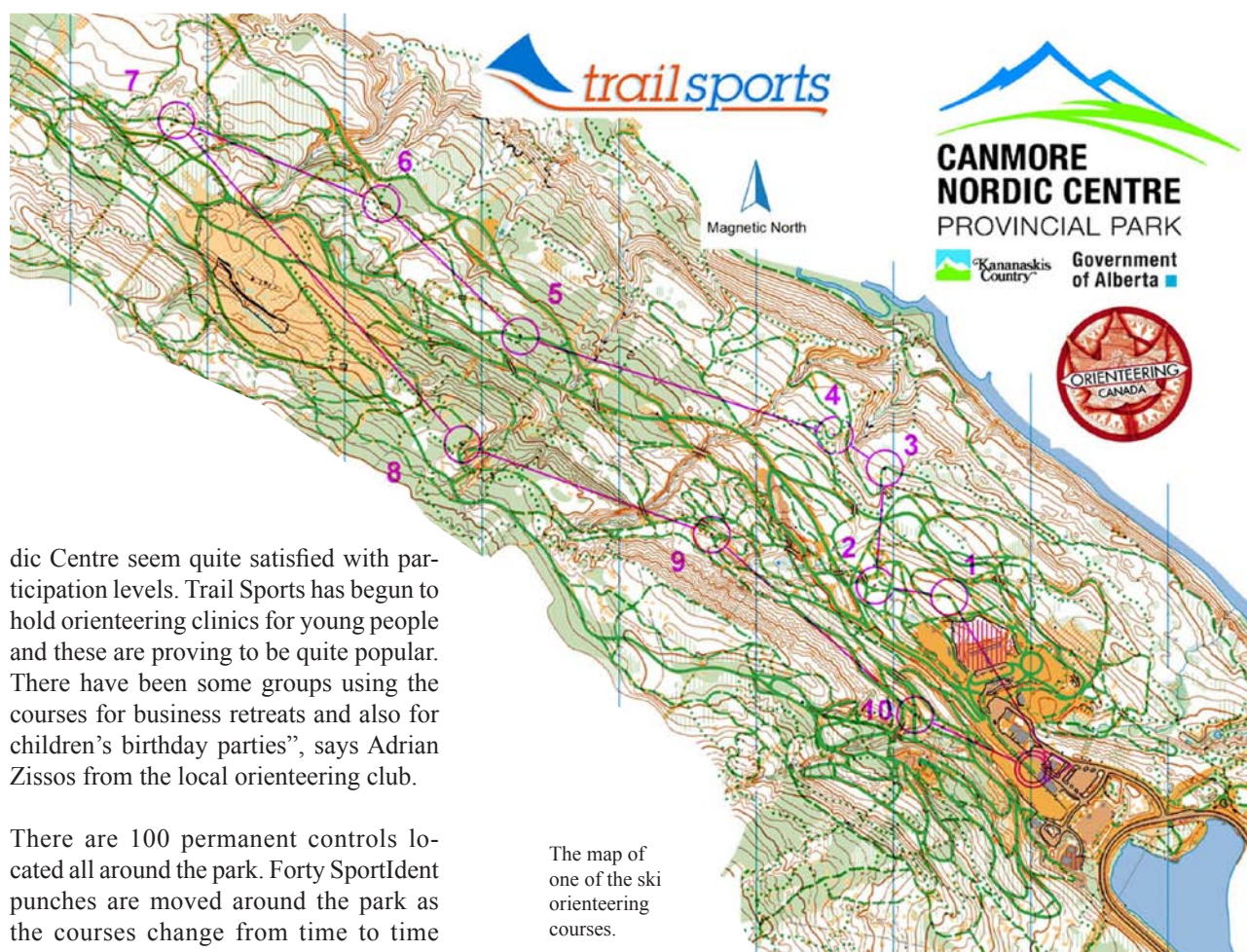
“Both Trail Sports and the Canmore Nor-

In this issue

- Optimistic outlook in Canada
- Asian Winter Games a big step forward
- WSOC – An ambitious ski orienteering family
- Full speed for MTB orienteering in Sweden
- Trail orienteering athletes with a vision
- Frédéric has high ambitions
- North South East West: Montenegro
- News in brief.

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ANNA ZEELIG
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF



The map of one of the ski orienteering courses.

dic Centre seem quite satisfied with participation levels. Trail Sports has begun to hold orienteering clinics for young people and these are proving to be quite popular. There have been some groups using the courses for business retreats and also for children’s birthday parties”, says Adrian Zissos from the local orienteering club.

There are 100 permanent controls located all around the park. Forty SportIdent punches are moved around the park as the courses change from time to time throughout the year. This winter there are three different courses. “In general, we have found that the first courses have been too difficult for the general public. As a result we plan to set less physical and less technical courses for beginners,” Adrian Zissos says.

The beginning

The inspiration for the permanent courses came after a visit that Charlotte MacNaughton and Adrian Zissos made to Agen in France. They noticed that a permanent course was administered by the local tourist office with advertisements in tourist brochures. They brought the idea back home to Canada.

The orienteering couple lives just a few minutes from the Nordic Centre on the edge of the map. The park was very interested in creating a permanent orienteering course to add a new activity for park visitors.

A natural progression

“We are thrilled to offer ski orienteering”, Magi Scallion, Event Coordinator at the Canmore Nordic Centre says.

The Canmore Nordic Centre was the arena for cross-country skiing and biathlon at the Olympic Winter Games 13 years ago.

“It’s a natural progression from our “semi-permanent” summer orienteering courses to include the great ski trails in the programme. We’re looking forward to hosting events and having more use for the tracks in the future when the sport expands in popularity. I expect interest to grow in future years, especially if we host a few events. We would love to host a World Cup”, Scallion continues.

A mainstream activity

Adrian Zissos hopes that by making the permanent courses easily available in a popular location, orienteering will become a familiar activity that many people do in a casual manner.

“We hope that orienteering will emerge from the shadows of being something unusual to being something that is mainstream” he says.

Marketing has resulted in some growing interest in Foothills Wanderers Orienteer-

ing Club, the local club. More people take part in training events and local races.

“The ski orienteering courses will, we hope, build on this increasing awareness and will be seen as a fun winter activity for everyone. Hopefully this will result in greater demand for more ski orienteering races in Canada”, Zissos says.

A shared responsibility

The responsibilities for the permanent courses are shared:

- Foothills Wanderers Orienteering Club is responsible for maintaining the map and setting the courses.
- Canmore Nordic Centre is responsible for installing and maintaining the orienteering controls, advertising the courses, purchasing and maintaining the SportIdent units .
- Trail Sports, the local rental/service shop, is responsible for purchasing the SportIdent finger sticks, selling the maps, and downloading times from the SportIdent equipment.

Asian Winter Games – a big step forward

BY ERIK BORG

In February, ski orienteering was for the first time present at the Asian Winter Games, alongside many Olympic winter sports.

“We were able to demonstrate that we can fit perfectly to the current infrastructure and programme of multi-sports games. This is a big step in establishing our credibility”, Markku Vauhkonen, Chairman of the IOF Ski Orienteering Commission, says, and continues: “All in all, and especially having seen the great success of the Asian Winter Games, I am very positive about the development of our sport and how far we have come in the recent years.”

Hugh Cameron, Honorary Member of the IOF, was the official IOF representative at the Asian Winter Games. According to Cameron, the presence of ski orienteering in the Asian Winter Games 2011 was very significant for the sport of orienteering, its world development and the goals of the IOF:

“Six nations, China, Iran, Kazakhstan, Korea, Kyrgyzstan and Mongolia with the support of their respective Olympic Committees, competed in a very high quality multi-sport experience. The atmosphere and organisation were akin to that of the Olympics. The event was a catalyst for the spread of ski orienteering in Asia. Athletes from five countries won medals. The Asian Winter Games illustrated that ski orienteering could easily share arena facilities with both biathlon and cross country skiing. The importance of ski orienteering’s presence cannot be over-estimated”, Cameron states.

The Asian Winter Games were held in Astana-Almaty, Kazakhstan from January 28th to February 6th. There were four ski orienteering competitions – sprint, middle, long and relay. All races were centred on a stadium that was also used for other winter sports – cross country skiing and biathlon. In total, 11 sports took part in the games.

“The IOC President Jacques Rogge, Asian IOC members, and the Olympic Winter Sports Federations were present. Ski orien-

www.orienteering.org

teering and the organisers did really well. The events were very well organised”, Markku Vauhkonen says.

Ski orienteering on TV

Vauhkonen feels that it was almost like being in the Olympic Games. Even small things such as an official Asiada mascot for ski orienteering give him good memories.

“I also believe that ski orienteering has never had so much TV time than this week in Kazakhstan and Asia.”

Ski orienteering was a new sport for the local spectators and for Asia. According to Markku Vauhkonen, the people understood very quickly what ski orienteering was about: “The organisers ran promotional videos on the large video screens to introduce the sport to the spectators. The spectators understood the mental challenge; it is not all that complicated. I believe that teams competing in other sports were intrigued and positively surprised about ski orienteering. Based on the reactions and feedback that I received, I believe this will not be the last international ski orienteering event in Asia. The Iranian team suggested regular Asian Championships in ski orienteering – just one example of the enthusiasm present in Almaty.”

In the way to becoming an Olympic sport, Vauhkonen points out some key points such as the spread of the sport. This winter there is a new record of participating countries at the World Championships. When reaching the goal of 35 countries, ski orienteering is on the level of most Olympic winter sports. The work with competition and TV formats will continue. Working with the TV concept and testing it for individual sprint and mixed sprint relay is very high on the agenda. Touch free punching will add to the TV appeal of ski orienteering with no stopping at the controls.

Enthusiasm for future

“We are working on expanding and strengthening ski orienteering worldwide. World Cup events will be brought to new countries and geographical areas. We are



Beejan Kangarloo's bronze was Iran's first medal ever in ski orienteering.

PHOTO: MARKKU VAUHKONEN

also preparing educational materials on ski orienteering training, map making and event organising for the new countries and to encourage new athletes, trainers and organisers to our sport”, Markku Vauhkonen says.

Hugh Cameron is also positive about the future of ski orienteering. “The Asian Winter Games created much goodwill and enthusiasm in ski orienteering circles. The presence of ski orienteering at the Asian Winter Games 2011 clearly showed that orienteering does have spectator and media appeal and can bring added value to multi-sports games. Our sport’s credibility was clearly demonstrated in Kazakhstan”, Cameron concludes.



PHOTO: ERIK BORG

Markku Vauhkonen has even more inspiration and energy for working with ski orienteering after the successful Asian Winter Games.



What a family: Nikolay Dimitrov (left), Stefania Belomazheva Dimitrova, Ivan Belomazhev and Stanimir Belomazhev all took part in the World Ski Orienteering Championships in Härjedalen, Sweden.
PHOTO: ERIK BORG

An ambitious ski orienteering family

BY ERIK BORG

At the new mixed sprint relay at the World Ski Orienteering Championships in Sweden, the sister and brother combination, Stefania and Stanimir Belomazheva, represented Bulgaria. Their father, Ivan, was coach and Stefania's husband, Nikolay, also competed in Sweden.

"I have joined an ambitious family", laughs Nikolay (32).

The Belomazhev's are working hard towards their goals and really enjoy both snow and winter.

"We love sport and were skiing from the time we were three years old. That's probably also the reason that things have gone so well for us in ski orienteering", says Stefania (30).

Father Ivan (55) and mother Vesca met at ski orienteering and both took part at the first World Championships in Finland in 1975. Ivan also took part in one more championship as an elite athlete and has been head coach at six World Ski Ori-

enteering Championships. Being head coach for Bulgaria involves a lot more than simply taking decisions. Ivan works hard with the skiers and undertakes a lot of other activities. "And he does his work very well", smiles daughter Stefania.

Heading high

Stanimir (23) has won two gold medals at the Junior World Ski Orienteering Championships and was fourth on the long distance at the European Championships in Norway in 2011. He has ambitious goals for the future.

"I want to be both European and World Champion", he says.

Stanimir has chosen ski orienteering as his main sport, but he has also competed very successfully in foot orienteering like others in his family. He is combining hard training with studies in Sofia. The family are from Trojan some 160 kilometres outside the capital of Bulgaria. Stefania and Nikolay don't quite have the same goals as Stanimir, even if they too enjoy competing. They have a little boy, Dimitar. He is four

years old and, of course, already skiing.

Equal coaching

It is not very common for a whole family to be in the national team.

"In some way it's special since we know each other so well", Stefania says.

"But Ivan doesn't favour his own children", Nikolay, Ivan's son-in-law, comments.

"I treat everyone in the team as an equal and when in the family we are friends, Ivan, the father, confirms.

"Big friends", Stanimir counters.

Good start

In the mixed relay at the World Ski Orienteering Championships in Härjedalen, the Belomazhev team started bravely and were 8th after four legs. Unfortunately, they got some problems on the last legs and were not able to finish the race. But they surely have given a warning for the future!

Full speed for MTB orienteering in Sweden

BY ERIK BORG

Interest in Mountain Bike (MTB) Orienteering is on the increase in Sweden. Just two years after the sport's real start in the country, it is obvious that there are big plans for the future. It's just months to the first World Cup round in Sweden.

In 2009, the Swedish Orienteering Federation decided to embrace MTB orienteering. That year there were three official races and around 70 individuals competing in MTB orienteering in Sweden. One year later, there were five to ten official races with around 150 individuals. This year

the goal is 250 people and more than ten competitions. There will also be a number of major competitions. The World Cup round two will be in Dalarna from June 18th to 20th.

"This year we hope that MTB orienteering will take-off in Sweden with National Championships in Skåne, the World Cup and the World Masters Championships in Dalarna and MTB orienteering on the programme at O-Ringen in Hälsingland", Magnus Wallenborg and Per Spik say.

Up until the beginning of 2011 Per was responsible for MTB orienteering matters

at the Swedish federation. Now both Magnus and Per are working hard to develop and grow MTB orienteering in Sweden. Magnus will focus on developing the sport as such, organise the MTB orienteering at O-Ringen and build a strong National Team. Per will focus on the World Cup competitions.

Committed federation and individuals keys to success

"One important reason for the positive development of the sport is the fact that the Swedish Orienteering Federation has determined to put MTB orienteering on the programme and is committed to supporting the discipline", Magnus Wallenborg says. "Other positive factors are the many interested and hard-working individuals in Sweden that are involved in building the sport and, of course, the enthusiastic pioneers in the MTB orienteering National Team. The members of the national team have been competing at MTB orienteering events abroad, mostly at their own expense, gaining important experience not only for themselves but for the sport in general in Sweden", Wallenborg and Spik say.

More recognition for MTB orienteering in the future

With the World Cup and World Masters events they hope to show what MTB orienteering is about and gain publicity for the sport.

"We hope to attract riders on all levels: from young to old, from recreational to elite. We also hope to see economic benefits for both the discipline and for orienteering as a result of MTB orienteering's presence at these two big events", Wallenborg and Spik explain.

For the future, the two men have two main goals: To establish MTB orienteering as a sport in Sweden by making it easier for the clubs to organise MTB orienteering around the country, and to build a strong National Team that can compete successfully at the very top level internationally in the near future. And given the speed at which things have been progressing until now, there is no doubt that they will succeed in their ambitions.



A race in Uppsala attracted participants of all ages. MTB orienteering is getting more and more popular in Sweden.

PHOTO: MAGNUS WALLENBORG

Trail Orienteering athletes have a vision for the future

BY ERIK BORG

Anne Straube, a mother of a young child, working 60 hours a week, is heading for more international medal success and is also working to make trail orienteering more popular and to increase the sport's standing. She is the Coordinator of the newly established IOF Trail Orienteering Athletes' Commission.

"I will make trail orienteering more attractive, fair and taken seriously by other orienteers and the sporting world", Anne states.

The German won the Open Class at the World Trail Orienteering Championships in 2008 in Czech Republic. When the IOF Trail Orienteering Athletes' Commission was established, she was asked to become the coordinator of the commission.

"The main task of the Athletes' Commission is to advise the Trail Orienteering Commission and the IOF Council about the view of the athletes. In the future, I hope that the Athletes' Commission will independently develop suggestions that we feed into the Trail Orienteering Commission for potential implementation into the guidelines or competition programme", she says.

Active life

Anne Straube lives in Great Britain and runs a scientific research lab, where 60 working hours a week is not unusual for her. Her son Max is one and a half years old and has already done some orienteering.

"Max still gets a bit too much distracted by other interesting things in the forest such as a puddle or a stick so the development of his navigational skills is not of high priority yet."

On weekends Anne is very often to be found orienteering. During a year she participates in approximately 50 competitions.

"I don't like running without a map, so I race to train. I also believe that regular orienteering is quite good preparation for trail orienteering. What is even better is map-



PHOTO: ERIK BORG

Anne Straube is the coordinator of the new athletes commission for trail orienteering. She is seen here enjoying gold at the World Trail Orienteering Championships three years ago. Martin Fredholm, Sweden, and Jari Turto, Finland, are the other medallists.

ping and planning for trail orienteering. However, as the time and effort needed for this is quite prohibitive, I resorted to offering my services as an event adviser for the World Trail Orienteering Championships 2012 in Scotland."

Stricter rules

Anne has a vision on how trail orienteering can be improved: "With a lot of enthusiasm and patience, but also with very careful decisions to generate thorough guidelines and rules that promote fair and exciting competition."

"The complaints procedure is something that needs to be looked at carefully. This is an important question for trail orienteering, not only because it is easy to be of a different opinion, but also because the outcome

of a complaint can influence the result of a competition. So it needs to be made very clear under which circumstances a control can be voided. It is a part of the on-going development of the discipline to establish clear rules for this and I have observed a positive development over the last few years to implement stricter rules aimed at removing unfairness."

Medal as the goal

Last year Anne was number four at the World Trail Orienteering Championships and this year's championships are of course in her mind - a bit any way!

"I try to train with a map as often as possible but otherwise I have to hope that my brain functions okay on the day. On a good day I might get away with a medal."

Frédéric has high ambitions

Last year Frédéric Tranchard won his first international medals. This year, on August 16th, he is aiming for more – on home ground.



PHOTO: ERIK BORG

Frédéric Tranchard on the way to his first World Championships medal last year.

BY ERIK BORG

In 2010, Frédéric Tranchard came home from both the European and the World Championships with a medal. He had an impressive run in the European Champion-

ships relay on the first leg for the French team. Together with Philippe Adamski and Thierry Gueorgiou the relay ended with a silver medal. At the World Championships in Trondheim, Norway, he won an unexpected bronze in the sprint.

“At the European Championships I was very happy and proud to be in the team. It gave me a lot of motivation to succeed. I was really satisfied with my race. The World Championships medal was a very nice surprise and I was of course really happy to get it. It has given me self-confidence. I have seen that my way of training and competing seems to be good”, Frédéric says.

Pausing, he continues: “Still, the World Championships medal hasn’t changed my life. But it might have changed how other orienteers look at me and it has made it easier to secure new sponsors like Inov-8 this year.”

Training for all formats

At the World Orienteering Championships 2011 in France, the 22-year-old athlete will focus on sprint because he knows he has a good chance of doing well at this distance, but he is also looking for more.

“It will be difficult to get a place in the French team for middle and long as there are only three places and three good runners who want to run these distances - Thierry Gueorgiou, François Gonon and Philippe Adamski. I’m still training for every format for other events during the year and for the future.”

Sprint is on August 16th with both qualification and final on the same day. “I would like to do my best on the D Day. We will see how it goes”, Frédéric says.

On the way to the World Championships he is, in particular, working to improve his speed. Taking part in major competitions gives him more and more routine.

“It will be a unique experience to compete at home. We will try to defend our ground! It definitely gives extra motivation. We will have more supporters than usual and our families and friends will be there. It’s also an advantage to know how to run and to orienteer in a specific terrain - although I don’t think that matters in a city environment and in sprint races.”

All together

Most of the runners in the French national team train together in Saint-Etienne: 'Le Pôle France'. There are good orienteering training opportunities and the possibility to train hard with others several times a week.

Frédéric studies civil, construction, and urban engineering at the Institut National des Sciences Appliquées in Lyon. He will study seven years instead of the normal five, so that he has more time to train alongside his studies. From Lyon it takes 50 minutes by car to Saint-Etienne.

"My orienteering training is around Saint-Etienne so I travel quite a lot during the week", he says. But the distance to the World Championships will not be as long as it normally is. From Lyon it takes only a couple of hours to Savoie-Grand Revard.

"It has been nice to arrive home quickly after the World Championships training camps", Frédéric smiles.



PHOTO: ERIK BORG

Frédéric Tranchand congratulates the World Championships silver medallist Fabina Hertner in Norway last summer.

World ranking, Top 10 (as of 15 March)

Foot Orienteering

Women: 1) Simone Niggli-Luder (SUI) 6133, 2) Helena Jansson (SWE) 6063, 3) Marianne Andersen (NOR) 6032, 4) Minna Kauppi (FIN) 5965, 5) Dana Brožková (CZE) 5687, 6) Anne Margrethe Hausken (NOR) 5685, 7) Vroni Koenig-Salmi (SUI) 5680, 8) Signe Søs (DEN) 5678, 9) Annika Billstam (SWE) 5667, 10) Lena Eliasson (SWE) 5641.

Men: 1) Thierry Gueorgiou (FRA) 5746, 2) Anders Nordberg (NOR) 5737, 3) Daniel Hubmann (SUI) 5703, 4) Olav Lundanes (NOR) 5668, 5) Carl Waaler Kaas (NOR) 5652, 6) Matthias Müller (SUI) 5648, 7) Valentin Novikov (RUS) 5621, 8) Emil Wingstedt (SWE) 5593, 9) Audun Weltzien (NOR) 5581, 10) Fabian Hertner (SUI) 5574.

Federation League (for leading 20 athletes)

Women 1) Sweden 95799, 2) Finland 92194, 3) Norway 91667, 4) Switzer-

land 83630, 5) Czech Republic 82118, 6) Australia 63733, 7) Great Britain 63309, 8) Russia 60692, 9) Denmark 42250, 10) China 41668.

Men: 1) Finland 101170, 2) Sweden 100275, 3) Switzerland 98726, 4) Norway 95812, 5) Czech Republic 82720, 6) Great Britain 80920, 7) Denmark 77074, 8) Australia 68656, 9) Italy 67933, 10) France 66947.

MTB Orienteering

Women: 1) Christine Schaffner (SUI) 7301, 2) Michaela Gigon (AUT) 7154, 3) Rikke Kornvig (DEN) 7032, 4) Marika Hara (FIN) 7001, 5) Anna Kamińska (POL) 6996, 6) Martina Tichovská (CZE) 6802, 7) Maja Rothweiler (SUI) 6745, 8) Ingrid Stengård (FIN) 6675, 9) Hana Bajtošová (SVK) 6628, 10) Ksenia Chernykh (RUS) 6621.

Men: 1) Anton Foliforov (RUS) 7259, 2) Erik Skovgaard Knudsen (DEN) 7101, 3) Samuli Saarela (FIN) 7071, 4) Beat Schaffner (SUI) 7058, 5) Jiří Hradil

(CZE) 7028, 6) Ruslan Gritsan (RUS) 7026, 7) Luca Dallavalle (ITA) 6960, 8) Jussi Laurila (FIN) 6890, 9) Tobias Breitschädel (AUT) 6884, 10) Clément Souvray (FRA) 6848.

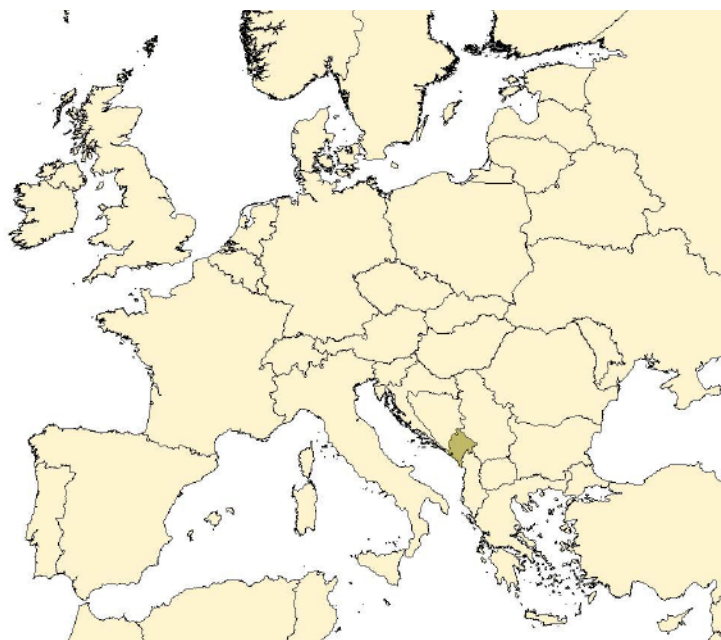
Ski Orienteering

Women: 1) Marte Reenaas (NOR) 1324, 2) Josefine Engström (SWE) 1289, 3) Tatiana Kozlova (RUS) 1275, 4) Helene Söderlund (SWE) 1268, 5) Polina Malchikova (RUS) 1260, 6) Kajsa Richardsson (SWE) 1259, 7) Natalya Tomilova (RUS) 1259, 8) Liisa Anttila (FIN) 1244, 9) Alyona Trapeznikova (RUS) 1236, 10) Anastasia Kravchenko (RUS) 1227.

Men: 1) Andrey Grigoriev (RUS) 1294, 2) Staffan Tunis (FIN) 1288, 3) Kiril Veselov (RUS) 1276, 4) Peter Arneson (SWE) 1266, 5) Eduard Khrennikov (RUS) 1262, 6) Lars Hol Moholdt (NOR) 1253, 7) Olli-Markus Taivainen (FIN) 1240, 8) Andrei Lamov (RUS) 1239, 9) Erik Rost (SWE) 1230, 10) Vladimir Barchukov (RUS) 1226.

North South East West

North South East West will be a regular feature in the O-zine. In every issue, we focus on one of the IOF's 72 member nations. In this issue we showcase:



Montenegro – IOF's youngest nation

At its meeting in January 2011, the IOF Council approved Montenegro as the latest IOF member. But it is not an inexperienced team that wants to take the country to new heights in orienteering.

BY ERIK BORG

“Now we have our own federation in Montenegro and both the sport and clubs that are doing orienteering have gained stronger status. Earlier, competitions have been realised together with the Orienteering Federations of Serbia and Bulgaria”, Pavle Bandović says.

Bandović is the secretary of the Mountaineering Association of Montenegro (MAM). “We are rebuilding activity and creating conditions to facilitate the work of the Commission for Orienteering in the MAM. We also have the support of the Of-

fice for Sustainable Development and the Montenegro Olympic Committee.”

New nation

The orienteering federation is new – but so is the country: Montenegro was established as an independent country on June 3th 2006. It has approximately 700 000 inhabitants and the size of the country is 14 026 km².

Orienteering has been practised in Montenegro for more than 20 years. The start of the modern sport of orienteering was in the late 1980s. At that time, the activities were

organised by the Yugoslavian Orienteering Federation.”I started orienteering in that period”, Board Member Gordana Jovovic says, and continues, “and there are some other very experienced people from that period in our association, but there are more people new to the sport. They are becoming better and better at orienteering every year.”

Aiming high

The new federation has about 150 members in six active clubs.

“We expect large membership growth during three to five years through the introduction of orienteering in school systems and the support of the Montenegro Olympic Committee”, Pavle Bandović says.

The plan is to have six to eight competitions this year and to do a lot of groundwork for sizeable future growth.

“We will increase the number of people taking part. There will be education, for example, for trainers and organisers of competitions. We will have orienteering in schools, and we will also have teams in one to two international competitions per year”, Bandović says.

Gordana Jovovic is also positive about development: “We have good maps, wonderful nature and very good possibilities for orienteering. But people are not yet well informed about this type of sport, so we have a lot to do. We will do our best to promote the sport of orienteering”, she concludes.



Facts in brief about the history of Montenegro orienteering development

BY ZORAN MILOVANOVIC

The start of the modern sport of orienteering in Montenegro was connected with the Yugoslavian Orienteering Federation in the late 1980s. The first two orienteering maps to IOF standards were made in Niksic, and later on in a famous tourist centre, Durmitor. Niksic has always been one of the biggest centres for orienteering in Montenegro.

In 1997 a two-day championship called YU OPEN was held in Durmitor, and about 200 competitors started in different classes.

Orienteering in Montenegro has developed within the mountaineering association and clubs. After some years of stagnation, in the last few years several new maps have been produced in Montenegro.

The decisive years

In November 2009 a meeting was held between a delegation from Italy and Montenegro. The purpose of this meeting was to determine how Italy could help Montenegro to develop orienteering.

After that there were several meetings within Montenegro with interested institutions such as the Mountaineering Association of Montenegro, Montenegro National Parks, and the Centre for the Promotion of Sustainable Tourism in Montenegro. They were all interested to help.

In February 2010 a Montenegro delegation took part in the Mediterranean Open Championships in Italy. This was a good opportunity to see how their Italian colleagues organised an international orienteering event.

Sub-regional cooperation brings results

Just a few days after the Mediterranean Open Championships a Montenegro delegation participated in a Balkan Orienteering meeting in Istanbul, Turkey, with 8 countries present, including for the first time Montenegro and Bosnia and Herzegovina. The new countries were accepted as members of the group. At this two-day meeting, it was decided to organise a development seminar in Montenegro. Montenegro also decided to send participants to the O-Ringen Academy 2010.

One of the aims of Montenegro was now to gather information about IOF membership.

In June 2010, Gordana Jovovic participated in the O-Ringen Academy in Sweden where she learnt about event organising, and competed in the biggest orienteering event in the world. In July, the Mountaineering Association of Montenegro and a club called Javorak held an orienteering school with 32 participants aged from 9 to 17. A new map was made for this school by a Bulgarian mapper. Besides the training, a competition was held with 45 participants.

In September 2010, the Montenegro national team took part in the Balkan Orienteering Championships in Bulgaria with a lot of young competitors. Montenegro also participated in the South East European Orienteering Working Group meeting.

At the end of 2010, the Mountaineering Association of Montenegro made the decision at its Congress to join the IOF, and the membership application was approved by the IOF Council in January 2011.

News in brief: WOC in the Future News

Following the decisions at the 2010 IOF General Assembly in Trondheim, the IOF Council appointed a project group to develop a proposal for the future World Orienteering Championships (WOC) programme. The group presented an intermediate report to the IOF Council at its meeting in Helsinki in January.

Guiding principles

The intention is to raise the attraction of the World Championships for athletes, media and spectators. Other objectives of the project include broadening the participation, opening up the Championships for new orienteering nations, and strengthening the World Championships as the primary showcase for orienteering by positioning it for high quality TV coverage.

The WIF group proposes a WOC where every competition day is a medal day. The number of medal races is proposed to be extended from the current four to five or six. According to the group, the qualification race for long distance should be removed. The programme should be formed to support the attendance of new orienteering nations, e.g. by being structured so that it is possible to take part in only part of the WOC.

Furthermore, the group is proposing to introduce a sprint-style relay with mixed teams of two men and two women, similar to the one on the World Games programme.

What next?

The project group is now working to



finalise its proposal. This will be subject to consultation with the IOF member federations, and a final proposal will be presented to the IOF Council in May 2011. It will then be a matter on the agenda for the Presidents' Conference in France in August 2011. You can follow the process in more detail at www.orienteering.org – Foot orienteering – WOC in the Future.

News in brief

Two applications to host the World Orienteering Championships 2015

By the application deadline of 31 January 2011, Great Britain and Sweden have submitted their bids to organise the World Orienteering Championships 2015.

British Orienteering has embargoed areas in the Scottish Highlands, including the

city centres of Inverness and Elgin. The Swedish Orienteering Federation plans to organise the Championships in Strömstad region, Western Sweden, close to the Norwegian border.

The organiser will be appointed by the IOF Council by 31 October 2011

Follow the IOF on Facebook

The easiest way to follow the IOF news is to become our fan on the IOF Facebook site: <https://www.facebook.com/IOFarena>.

Partnership with Kemira

The IOF has recently signed a 3-year (2011-2013) partnership agreement with Kemira, a global water chemistry company that offers water quality and quantity management. Kemira is committed to preventing and reducing harmful effects on the environment, people and property caused by their operations, and to using natural resources in a sustainable manner.

New Competition Rules for Trail Orienteering

The IOF Council has approved new Competition Rules for IOF Trail Orienteering Events. The rules are valid from 1 February 2011. The main changes to the previous rules concern the eligibility for paralympic class and the World Trail Orienteering Championships Team Competition. The new rules can be downloaded on the IOF website: www.orienteering.org – Trail Orienteering – Rules.

WSOC in Sweden

The World Ski Orienteering Championships in Tänndalen, Sweden, are going on until Sunday 27 March. For news and reports from the championships please visit the IOF website where articles will be published throughout the week. There is online TV and results service from the events on the organisers homepage. The link can be found on the IOF website at www.orienteering.org.



IOF
50 years

The International Orienteering Federation was founded on 21 May 1961 at a Congress held in Copenhagen, Denmark. The 10 founding members were Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Federal Republic of Germany, Finland, German Democratic Republic, Hungary, Norway, Sweden, and Switzerland.

This year we celebrate the IOF 50th Anniversary. News related to the Anniversary will be published on the IOF website, and a special logo will be used throughout the year.

Staffan Tunis new member of the Ski Orienteering Athletes' Commission

Relay World Champion Staffan Tunis, Finland, joined the Athletes' Commission for Ski Orienteering in January 2011. Tunis replaced Hannele Tonna in the Commission.

The other members of the Athletes'

Commission are Olga Novikova (KAZ), Johan Granath (SWE), Eduard Khrennikov (RUS) and Christian Sperry (SUI).

The Commission is coordinated by Eivind Tonna (NOR).

New IOF website

The IOF launched a new website 1 February 2011. The new website has several new features, such as the Athlete of the Month, and Competition maps. To view maps from past events, go to the discipline menu, choose the discipline you are interested in, and click on "Maps".

