WOC News No 12

I still can improve my training volume

Regarding medals, Minna Kauppi had the better statistics, and perhaps we expected that from her. But Daniel Hubmann managed to produce a very successful final leg run in the relay just the day after he won the long



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... demonstrating his incredible strength and the depth of his potential. It was with that in mind that we put a couple of questions to this master of orienteering ...

(cont. on page 2)

We really want to spread out live tracking

WOC 2008 was a success as measured by the application of technology aimed at bringing orienteering closer to the public. In this respect TracTrac is one of the most important developments, moreover one which is tailor-developed for our sport. We put a few questions about this increasingly popular tracking system to one of its providers, former top orienteer Chris Terkelsen.

(cont. on page 4)

For future organisers this is a challenge

There are the organisers, there are the competitors and there are the spectators. And then there are a couple of especially important individuals standing behind. One of these is the IOF Event Adviser, who is actually not only an Adviser but is very much involved with the organisation too, spending a lot of time and effort on the event. For the 2008 WOC, Unni Strand Carlsen was appointed to this role. What were her feelings, after the "batt-le"?

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I still can improve my training volume

(cont. from page 1)

Hello Daniel, so first let's return to your WOC races. Sprint - I think there is not too much to talk about, perfect race, and just the route choice to 15th decided it.... But you had secured a medal already from the first race, which might give you a positive mental impulse...

After the sprint I was really happy with my race, I almost did everything correct. But there were these two seconds missing to my first gold medal... However, for the rest of the week it was important to see I was in very good shape.

Middle – medal was very near, but first one of the controls in rocky terrain - 9th - cost you some time. How did you evaluate this mistake then – was it possible to avoid it, or perhaps also to keep more concentrated?

I wasn't very happy after the middle, because I lost the medal or even more at the 9th control. Of course it was one of the most difficult ones. But I think I wasn't concentrated enough at this moment. Just the control before I caught up Olle Kärner, this broke my flow. But for sure it was my mistake - as an orienteer you should deal successfully with a situation like this.

Long – no-one was absolutely perfect, but you were the strongest of those, who made just a couple of small mistakes (2nd c. in your case). Would you do anything in a different way now? How about the long 15-16 leg – Jamie and Matthias were faster with a little bit more hilly route choice.

I suppose that you wouldn't be aware of a couple more uphill metres, so was your choice made simply by the fact, that you needed to decide immediately? Moreover you then couldn't change it, since you ran down to the lower road.

Certainly I would try to avoid the mistake at the 2nd control, I was too imprecise when I entered the control area. I didn't spend so much time thinking about the long route to number 16. Maybe too little time, because I didn't see the route Jamie and Matthias did. I just saw a good option going along this big road and tried to get there as fast as possible.

Relay - did you already feel a little tired...? How did you feel about the possibility that you would maybe would have to fight at the finish with Dlabaja? I mean just because you had the long race in your legs, otherwise all Tiomila spectators could see, what sort of finishman you are...

Yes, my legs were really heavy after the long. It was the first time in the WOC week I felt really tired. But I guess it has to be like this and I was mentally prepared for it. First, when I saw Djabaja I got a little bit insecure and thought maybe I'm too tired to do well today. Then I managed to keep up my concentration, I wasn't thinking about a possible finish.

Did you see the WOC schedule – relay just one day after long – as a disadvantage, or in contrary as an advantage, since you felt strong enough anyway, which would make your team as strong as the others? I can see both sides. I had respect to run the relay just the day after long. Especially running the last leg was not always my

favourite plan, because of the tired legs.
But I guess other teams too had
the same problem - their best runners
were running the long. For my relay performance it was definitely not the best to
run the long just the day before. But there
was almost no other choice for me and of
course, I'm really happy with the way it
came out.

Did some of the terrain surprise you in comparison to what you expected and to the areas where you trained here?

In the middle final I was really surprised how big the stony areas were. We did quite a lot of training in relevant middle terrain, but never met this.

Based on your results and performance, we can call you the strongest runner of this WOC... Would you reveal how the training year of the WOC's strongest runner looks like? Total km or hours volume, what sort of training do you prefer, and do you apply any unusual methods?

In the last 12 months [note - up to summer 08] I trained about 520 hours in total. Most of this was running, 150 hours orienteering. I try to train high intensity all year and I prefer to train twice a day than to do a very long training session.

Did your training year before WOC 08 differ in any way from the previous? I suppose that you could consider successful also the previous training years – you still waited for an individual medal from a WOC race longer than sprint, but it was seen that you were approaching it with determination...

More or less I trained like the years before. Until now I have managed to increase my training volume from year to year. And I think I still can improve it...

Do you prefer to train alone or in a team? I suppose that when you are at home, in Eschlikon, there is no other Swiss team runner who could join you?

In fact I train often together with some other runners. David Schneider, a national team runner, lives very close to me and we train together 2-3 times a week.











I think it was your first WOC long, although it was already your fifth WOC and you had two medals from long at JWOC and silver from long at EOC 2006. Was it your own decision in the past that you didn't run long races, or was it determined also by the quality of other Swiss team members and thus it was difficult to be selected for long?

Yes, it was my first time running the long distance at WOC. I was already thinking about it for at least the last two years. For sure I wasn't on the same level then. One other reason why I didn't was the schedule of the WOC weeks, it was always quite tough to run some other disciplines additionally to the long.

You belong amongst the runners who achieve very good results also in athletic running – do you have some ambitions or targets to break your current results or times? In early August you took part in the Swiss Champs in 5,000 m (and achieved 2nd place...) and were just three seconds behind your best time (14:44), although being after a very demanding July; moreover you wrote that it was quite a tactical race..

I never prepared for this athletic competition very seriously, I just like to push my limits there and to run some competitions. But my heart is beating for orienteering, I can't imagine just to run athletic competitions.

Do you remember what your time was on 3,000 or 5,000 m, when you were for example at the age of 16?

When I was 17 I did 16:30 on 5,000m.

And what about some other running activities outside orienteering, for example uphill leg of Dolomitenmann...?

I don't know. I did just some small uphill running competition, but I have the impression it's really tough compared to orienteering. You have to fight all the way. But maybe it's just because I much prefer to orienteer.

Dou you have time for some other hobbies? What about carpentry, which was your subject at your school?

Since the beginning of 2007 I have

been a professional orienteer, so I havn't been working since then. Of course I have time for some hobbies, but most of them are connected to orienteering or running.

Did you became a professional orienteer right after school, or did you for some years before need to compromise your time between work and orienteering?

After finishing school I worked part-time. In the first year it was maybe 60% and in 2006 less then 40%.

What are the financial opportunities for top orienteering runners in Switzerland? Apart from sponsors, do you have some support from federal or cantonal funds or perhaps the army budget?

My biggest supporter is the Olympic Ferderation in Switzerland, and then I have some personal sponsors. The army in Switzerland is also supporting us, but we just earn some money during the time we are running military world champs and during some military training camps.

I believe that this gives you possibilities to train as you want. How much time within one year, just roughly, do you spend outside Switzerland for training? For example training camps in warmer countries during winter, training camps or competitions in Scandinavia with Kristiansand, preparations in terrain relevant for upcoming champs,....

This year I will spend 120 days abroad in total. The good point is that I'm very flexible and I can profit from different inputs, like from the national team and Kristiansand OK, and I can organise some camps myself and together with friends.

How were you spending the rest of the summer? After the World Cup you ran the 5,000m race in early August and then you had holidays without competitions – were you just continuing with your training to be ready for the rest of the World Cup season?

For the last two weeks of August I've been in Norway to prepare for WOC 2010. After Swiss Champs in Sprint and Long I tried to prepare myself as well as possible for the World Cup final in Switzerland.

Questions by Petr Kadeřávek



An Austrian woman who in 2007 won an IOF gold medal at long distance, a silver in sprint and a relay bronze medal has qualified for the long distance final at WOC 2008.

No, the medals were not in foot orienteering. This multi-talented Austrian, Michaela Gigon, is a mountain-bike wizard and won the medals in the 2007 World MTB Orienteering Championships held at Nové Město na Moravě here in the Czech Republic.

Another athlete with a string of medals from another discipline to her name, also running in the long distance final today, is Liisa Anttila from Finland, whose biggest successes in recent years have been in ski orienteering. Silver at middle distance and relay, and bronze in sprint are the most recent impressive results from Liisa, won at the 2007 World Ski Orienteering Championships in Russia.



Just a week after WOC finished, Michaela Gigon took part in the two-day Czech event Merida Bike Adventure, a sort of bike orienteering race with free order of controls, and achieved second place in the mixed MD category.









We really want to spread out live tracking

(cont. from page 1)

How and when did the idea of trac trac and tracking of runners in the forest arise?

The premiere was the Copenhagen City Cup in 2004, a sprint orienteering series in Copenhagen made to attract more attention from media and non-orienteers. We thought the GPS-technology had become mature enough to make something cool of it for orienteering. It just started as a hobby-project and worked quite well.

via your server in Denmark to screens and displays...

The runner carries an integrated GPS and a normal mobile phone SIM-card. The GPS receives signals from the satellites orbiting the earth and uses these to position itself. The position is sent through the GSM network (by GPRS), and then via the internet back to our server in Denmark. From

there the tracking is made available via

the internet for anyone who would like to

watch.

it works"? From the runner in the forest,

Can you briefly describe "how

And so you need to calibrate the map exactly to real coordinates?

How do you get exact coordinates of the places somewhere in another country - are these usually provided by the organisers or is it today sufficient to get them from some free map-server? Normally the maps can be calibrated using some free map service (e.g. Google Earth). In some areas the resolution of these services is not good and the organisers or makers of the orienteering map will have more accurate data.

How many times have you used trac trac now?

We have done live tracking in 9 different sports apart from orienteering, we have a team-building concept called GPS Adventure, a winter service (called SkiTrac) informing live about the status of crosscountry skiing tracks, and we have even tracked a general

election and a royal wedding. In total, I think we have done between 200-300 tracking events.

So it is already a well developed business; how large is the company? And what's your next orienteering job?

We are 3 founders and we use student helpers from time to time. No events booked finally yet - but we are already testing with some events next year.

What is the accuracy? For sure it differs in various conditions, so can it be defined for example in ideal conditions of open flat area or for example clear forest in flat terrain?

In optimal conditions the accuracy is +- 1-2 metres.

Both signals - GPS for positioning and GSM for data transmission - need to be in place for a position to be rendered. With the quality of GPS-positioning nowadays it is usually the GSM connection that is critical for being able to make a successful live-tracking - especially in orienteering, which often takes place in areas with poor GSM-coverage.

What was your experience during Czech WOC? Were for example terrains somewhat more challenging or did you need to solve issues of signal strength too?

LIVE-tracking at WOC in the Czech Republic was challenging for a number of reasons and it provided some of the most difficult conditions that we have performed live tracking in.

The GPS signal was affected by the vegetation (the Czech forests provided a very dense leaf cover that moreover was at its



Johan Fegar and Chris Terkelsen (behind), provided Trac Trac at WOC 2008.

WOC 2008 with balanced budget

After all the pluses and minuses were counted together, the Organisers of WOC 2008 were happy to announce that the event ended with a balanced budget. Both income and expenditure were around 13.5 million CZK, which at the current exchange rate is about 520 thousand Euro. The key factor in fund-raising was cooperation with the "TK PLUS" marketing agency, which is engaged in the domain of sport in the country. The positive result was achieved in spite of the unexpected changes in the exchange rates of CZK vs. EUR, which caused losses of almost one million CZK (over 35 thousand Euro).

One of the recommendations for future organisers is thus not to fix entry fees and payments for accommodation and catering as far as a year ahead, or alternatively to append a clause providing for a possible rise in charges by 5 % in the event of increases in prices or changes in exchange rates. Another recommendation is to reconsider the necessity for high IOF levies... A more detailed appraisal of financial matters can be found in the Final Report which has just been published.









densest due to the competitions being held in the peak of summer), the topography (with deep valleys and steep slopes making it more difficult for the tracking unit to capture signals from a sufficient number of satellites to calculate an accurate position) and the geography (rocky areas reflecting and disturbing the signals from the satellites). All in all, modern GPS technology is very reliable, but due to these circumstances we did experience a higher number of inaccurate GPS positions at the WOC than you would at an average orienteering event.

For the GSM coverage, TracTrac as provider of live tracking has to rely on the GSM net provided by the local telecom provider. Also the GSM coverage was challenged by vegetation, topography and geography - especially the deep valleys and steep slopes of the WOC competition terrains made it in reality impossible for the telecom provider to secure full coverage throughout the competition area, although we had good co-operation from the organisers and the telecom provider, O2. Therefore, you saw more fallouts of data than at a competition with optimal GSM coverage e.g. Jukola in 2008.

Especially the tracking of the long distance was marked by large areas where we could get no live data due to absence of GSM signal.

During the relay, the transmission was

interrupted and the sign of the runner either stopped for a while and then appeared on another place, or it showed the wrong way (for example trace of some runners between 24 and 26). Did such things happen to the usual extent or were there in some way more difficult conditions?

These two problems had different causes.

When transmission is interrupted it is simply because the GSM module has lost contact to the GSM net – just as

can happen with your mobile phone. The marker then reappears when the connection between the GSM module and the GSM net is re-established. Our internet software shows the number of seconds since the position has been rendered and the internet viewer can therefore always see for how long the connection to a specific runner has been interrupted. However, this feature was not possible to incorporate in the LIVETV production and the viewers of the big screen and the TV were therefore left without this valuable information. We will look into how to incorporate this information into future TV productions.

Dots of runners appearing in the wrong place is due to disturbances to the signals from the satellites causing the GPS unit to calculate the position incorrectly. These disturbances can be due to the factors mentioned before or even atmospheric disturbances. It is normally something that we see very little of, but unfortunately we experienced some very visible examples of drifting (when the marker slowly drifts off in relation to the GPS's true trajectory) in the most decisive final moments of the men's relay. It was just very unfortunate that it happened at this exact moment.

How do you see the future for trac trac? Is there some hope that technological development might make it cheaper, and thus it might be used more frequently? We experience a growing interest for live tracking both in orienteering and in other sports. At the same time the tracking units are getting better, smaller and hopefully cheaper, which should make it more accessible. We really want to spread out live tracking and we are almost ready with a new software platform that will let partners or even organizers themselves set up their own event - they just need the tracking units and a password to our administration web-page, then they can set up the tracking very easily and a lot cheaper. At the moment we are looking for partners in different countries that would like to hook up to our new platform to provide tracking to orienteering and many other

And of course we also have many new features under way which we hope will make live tracking even more exciting.

It sounds really interesting - when might the new software platform be available, and can you outline how much cheaper it then might be?

The new platform is actually ready. It is in the final testing phase. Prices have not been finally determined yet.

Questions by Petr Kadeřávek











For future organisers this is a challenge

(cont. from p. 1)

So, what are your basic impressions about WOC 2008 now, one month later – when the experiences and memories might already be a little bit more sorted out and seen from some "distance"?

A successful WOC related to sporting fairness:

7 out of 8 gold medals to different nations; Challenging courses in the finals.;

The atmosphere in the arenas;

Excellent TV production;

Well skilled, positive and hardworking organisers;

That we had planned for a high quality level in medical care.

You supervised all the preparations for WOC. But was there, in spite of that, anything which surprised you during WOC itself, both in a negative and a positive way?

The positive feedback on the Web page. The organisers had even higher ambitions; they wanted to send on-line pictures and the speaker's voice. It was expensive, and they were unable to organise external payment and had to cancel this idea.

We were lucky with the weather and temperature, except for the middle distance races

To see how the planning of the arenas turned out in reality.

I wish more countries had used the TV production from WOC.

And in general, what issues did you spend most time on during WOC?

Supervising preparation of the start lists; Preparation for Team Officials` Meetings; Checking at the starts, staying there until the first runner had come through;

Closing the quarantine;

Chair person of the jury;

Available for advising and answering questions and requests from organisers and team officials, and interpretations of IOF Rules.

Did the jury need to resolve any complaint during WOC? I remember only one, which didn't concern medal positions.

The jury handled one complaint regarding a missing punch on the last control in the Middle final. The complaint was rejected by the Jury.

What challenges with startlists did you need to resolve?

There were some questions regarding allocations of athletes in start groups in each heat in the Sprint Qualification. The startlist was drawn according to the IOF rules. The rules should be clarified on this point in the futhure.

In the interview in WOC News#5 you answered, that the most critical will be the sprint- and middle qualifications since we would be organising the finals on the same day. How do you think now, that the organisers managed this challenge? Very well. Everything worked as planned without any problems.

Is there now anything that you would advise the next WOC organisers to do or not to do, just based on the Czech WOC?

The atmosphere the organiser created at the campus in Neředín with cheap accommodation for most teams.

Follow up and learn from the experience on arena/TV production. It is not easy to have a signed agreement with TV years in advance. In Czech the agreement was signed in November 2007. Czech TV visited the terrains in late April. The course planners then had to make changes to suit their requirements: move the start for the long finals and make adjustments on the courses.

Learn from the Czech IT and time-keeping solutions.

Have high quality medical care at the arenas, to secure equal treatment for athletes from all nations.

Follow IOF's rules on winning times.

As almost anywhere in human activity, the level of services offered during WOC is more or less still rising, I hear opinions that still fewer federations will be able to meet the demands, under the usual conditions that the event is almost entirely or at least in a major part ensured by volunteers. And thus that there will be still fewer federations applying for organising WOC - the recent examples are quite confirming this, Switzerland was the only

bidder for 2012 and Finland is so far the only one for 2013. Do you see it in the same way? Do you see some solution...?

You may be right, however in the future we have to accept that different nations have different resources, both regarding manpower and finance to put into organising a WOC.

The Czech federation bought the sponsorship rights from IOF. They worked together with TK Plus marketing agency.

In this WOC Czech TV had 72 persons working on the TV production. For future organisers this is a challenge.

What do the sponsorship rights from IOF mean in particular and what advantages does purchasing of such rights bring to the organiser?

This was a good solution for the organisers. They were allowed to find their own sponsors. They worked closely with TK Plus marketing agency. One of the results of the cooperation with TK Plus was WOC by CEZ GROUP.

In the first interview, I didn't ask more about your own top orienteering experiences, but I think, you were once also member of Norwegian national team? And your husband too?

I was a member of the Norwegian team from 1972 to 1980 and so was my husband. From 1986 I have done administrative work in orienteering in the club, district, federation and IOF

My husband worked during WOC as the national controller's assistant.

Do you already know, or plan, what might be your next duty in a role of an IOF advisor? I have to end the work with this WOC before I accept my next duty. However I will be willing to do a new IOF advisor's job, if I am asked.

And what remains in your duty with WOC 2008?

To complete the final report.

Will you be somehow involved in the Norwegian WOC in 2010?

Not yet. However I talked to the national controller yesterday and he asked me for advice.









How a Star Is Born

I just met the "happy mum", Rája Smolová from Zlín, the mum of the "happy and silver" Michal Smola. And we talked together with his father - Ivan Smola.

How did Michal actually come into orienteering?

Mum: From a child already, he wanted to run and know the time he took. At that time already, we had to measure his time with a watch. Later, when he was in the fifth class, he became a member of Astra Zlín orienteering group. His first trainer was Jiří Stacke. Then just a small step brought him to SKOB Zlín orienteering club.

Father: We were taking our children into the country on foot, on ski, on bike and so on. In Michal's case this experience seems to have penetrated deep. He used to spend a lot of time training. Sometimes we had to remind him of his school and study tasks - but it was a success.

What does a day in Michal's life look like?

Mum: In the morning he runs, then he works as a teacher at the Tomáš Baťa University in Zlín, then he runs again. I don't have an exact figure, but I estimate that he runs maybe 100 km a week, maybe even more.

What does that mean for you?

Mum: To wash his laundry and to repair his shoes - and then – how to feed him. Sometimes I make something that fits, sometimes he takes the meal alone. But he never argues, he's a good son.

Father: We watched his progress from youth to junior and then to senior. We got acquainted with all his team leaders

Orienteers usually see each other looking anything but smart, so it is a strange experience every time they meet in a gala. Czech runners could enjoy such a situation during the ceremony for announcing the best of the year's o-runners, held on 12 December 2008 in Hotel Tennis Club in Prostějov. All three Czech WOC medallists look really different here, don't you think? The overall results of the poll contest matched the medal achievements at WOC - golden Dana Brožková (left in this photo) got the award of Best Czech Orienteer of 2008. Michal Smola was second and Radka Brožková third.











The Smiths Family

one of the youngest, Victoria, about the remarkable success story of the Smiths.



Mum and dad Smith have 6 children in all. Wil, the oldest, started orienteering at school and when he began to go to events, his parents decided that it was something all the family could take part in, in one way or another. Little did they realise at the time the extent to which orienteering would take over family life.

The youngest members of the family are the twins Victoria and Heather. Victoria herself, who started orienteering when she was 7, has run in just one WOC before, that in Ukraine last year, whilst Heather competed also in Denmark in 2006. Next in line of increasing age is Jon, who is no longer an orienteer.

Mike is the next oldest, and then comes Sandy Hott, who is married to the Norwegian elite runner Holger Hott Johansen. Sandy holds the honour of the best Smith WOC result so far, 9th place at middle distance in Japan in 2005. She has a son, Aksel, aged just over 1, so Mum Smith was here too along with Holger, not selected for the Norwegian team this time because of earlier sickness, in a babysitting role.

Wil (on the left in the photo) is the oldest and most experienced family member in the team, and when not running he was amongst the media people taking photographs.

I asked Victoria if there had ever been an all-Smith relay team at WOC. "Not yet", she says, "but it could happen amongst the girls". This year's pre-selected team has

Sandy and Victoria running with Louise Oram. Apart from Sandy who has bigger ambitions, the Canadian team as a whole will be happy whenever someone does well enough in the qualification races to reach the finals.

The Smiths are now spread all over Canada and beyond, so WOCs and selection races become occasions for big family reunions.

What is the secret behind so much orienteering success in the family, I asked? A hard work ethic was the answer. And they clearly have worked hard for the fantastic achievement of having 5 of the family in the Canadian team.

> Clive Allen Photo: Luella Smith (mother)











The less fortunate ...

Normally during WOC the main focus is naturally on the most successful runners, the medallists and others who perform up to or better than expected.

This year, however, there were two incidents of a more negative character which hit the orienteering headlines:

Thierry Gueorgiou's bee in the throat which deprived him and France of a more-or-less certain medal in the men's relay, and Emil Wingstedt's missed punch at the TV control in the sprint when he was on his way to a bronze-medal time.

Other less fortunate runners included Riina Kuuselo FIN who had to retire in the long distance final because of the effects of high fever the day before; Marianne Andersen NOR who lost a contact lens in mid-race in the long distance final; Øystein Kvaal Østerbø, also NOR, who lost 50 seconds in the sprint retrieving his SI card; Michal Smola CZE who got a stick in his eye one-third of the way through the long distance final.

Then there were those who didn't get to WOC at all because of longer-term illness or injury: these included Lena Eliasson and David Andersson, Sweden. And of course we were missing the 'queen of the forest' from the last few years, Simone Niggli, but for the best of reasons – pregnancy.



An injured shoulder troubled Heli Jukkola from the start of WOC, and finally forced her to miss the long distance final and the relay and thus almost for sure at least one WOC medal...



Merja Rantanen didn't enjoy the long race much. On the long leg she fell from 7th to 12th place, and after losing 4 minutes on the 22nd control - almost at the finish - she was even down to 17th, managing 15th place in the end.



Apparently Emma Engstrand wasn't satisfied with her ninth position either, which in the end was the worst amongst the Swedish women in the long race.



Audun Weltzien collapsed from exhaustion at the finish of the long.

An enthusiastic fan and spectator, who arrived by bike from Lithuania (!) was visibly so different that many remembered him, including the organisers, for example because he regularly stayed at the computer in the Event Centre adjusting his photos until very late in the night. And why is he included on this

page? One day, his much-travelled bike was stolen from directly in front of the event office...











Finland heads medals table

Runners from eight different nations won medals at WOC. Finland, the only nation to win two gold medals (Minna Kauppi at middle distance and the women's relay team), tops the medals table. Second equal are Russia and Switzerland, both with one gold, two silver and one bronze. The full medals table is:



	GOLD	SILVER	BRONZE
Finland	2	1	0
Russia	1	2	1
Switzerland	1	2	1
Norway	1	2	0
Czech Republic	1	1	1
France	1	0	1
Sweden	0	0	4
Great Britain	1	0	0





















