Anne Margrethe Hausken, Halden SK and Norway
Winner of EOC 2008 (Sprint and long)
WOC 2008 (Sprint)
WC 2008 (Overall and most of the races)

webpage: www.amhausken.com

Photo: Per Frost

Congratulations to "Orienteering today". Best wishes for the future of this exciting magazin!

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Never give up!

Dear orienteering friends!

Sometimes you end up with all the work. This is also what happened to me this autumn. It had been a hard struggle to to establish a editorial organization for the magazine with a editor I felt did a decent job.

We were about to plan the marketing and subscription sale for Orienteering Today. In the budgeting process for 2009 new demands came, which I felt there were no logical reason to accept. Then, beside running my other business, I had to start the hard work to establish a new organization and finish this issue.

I am now very happy to announce that Kjell-Erik Kristiansen is on board an will take care of the editorial work from next issue. Together we now work to find a marketing director an I think we will succeed also here.

I am deeply sorry for the delay according to our publishing schedule. I hope that our subscribers can forgive this. But I am also very happy that the magazine is still is alive. I think that the orienteering world need a magazine of this kind.

I will also say thank you to those who have helped to finish this issue: Kjell-Erik Kristiansen, Angelo Frighetto, Per Frost, Julianna Grant, Michaela Gigion, Stig Alvestad, Øystein Kvaal Østerbø, Jan Kocbach, and of course Bernt O. Myrvold.

Best regards,
Per Arne Troset
Managing director Sport of Today

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Cover photo

This is how it looked at the mountain in Sälen during stage 4 of O-ringen 2008. High speed, open terrain - but also possibilities to make mistakes… In this photo is it Jani Ojala from Ikaalisten Nouseva Voima in Finland (no 2943) in the class H21-1 who is battling the mountain
Photo: Per Frost

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The future of Orienteering Today

The publishing of Orienteering Today has been a long and bumpy road. But despite some problems, Orienteering Today is still alive and will also be alive in 2009. And it is always a inspiration to have the great support we have from our subscribers. This helps us to keep up the work in hard times. We are looking forward to the future with joy.

The magazine was started several years ago by Jan Skricka in the Czech Republic. Jan made a impressive job making a brilliant magazine. Under various owner constellations he, almost alone, struggled to hold it alive. But there is a limit for how much it is possible to put into a project without economic outcome. I have quite clear feeling that Jan was doing everything with the magazine from editing to marketing, advertisement sale and subscription.

Ownership to Norway

In 2006 it was quite clear that a dramatic change in organization was necessary. The ownership was moved to Norway and the company Sport of Today. Issue 4-6/2006 was the first issue published from Norway. Jan Skricka was still the editor.

Subscription system

We started to make a new subscription system. And we had to make a fully automatic system that could handle payment from all over the world. Only credit card payment was the solution here. We had to make a choice, and we realized that we could loose some subscribers without credit card. But the cost of having a direct payment system with all the individual handling this needed was much higher than the income.

Earlier the magazine have had a system with sales agents around the world. Many of these agents have done a very good job promoting the magazine. But cash payment to the agents was a real challenge. There has always been a rather huge different in expected payment from agents and the money that arrived. I will not accuse any of the agents for taking money and I am quite sure that this not have happened. But there has been large difference in subscribers and payment. I am quite sure that there earlier have been many that have received the magazine without payment. And I am also quite sure there are many that have paid for magazine without receiving it. Another problem with the agent system was tax payment. The agent system could have caused us rather big problem legally with tax payment.

By these reasons we had to make a new subscription system on web, fully automatic. Here the subscribers can subscribe and manage their subscription. We want all address changes to be done by the subscribers. Then the subscribers can be sure that we will send the magazine to the right address.

Economic challenge

Publishing the magazine has been and is an economic fight. After overtaking the ownership in 2006 we realized that the economic situation was much worse than expected. Number of paying subscribers was much lower and the expenses were much higher. Normally it is like this when overtaking business. If you know how hard work it will be, you never will start on it. The .new subscription system also has been much more expensive than expected

To keep the magazine alive we therefore have made an low cost production and and most of us who make the magazine work for free our with very little payment. We have a extremely effective production of the magazine, with close to no administrative cost. There is spent much time to find the cheapest and most effective system for printing and distribution.

Nobody have so far had any significant economic outcome from the magazine, only much work and lot of expenses. But we hope with keeping up the hard work, this will change within a few years. We have to admit that we doing this mostly for idealistic reasons. Orienteering Today is a great hobby for us who love the sport.

Subscription is the key

The key to success for Orienteering Today is subscription. We need more subscribers. The number of subscribers are slowly increasing, but at the moment we need to double the numbers of subscribers to have a healthy economic situation. This will be our main focus in 2009.

What makes us happy is that the advertisement income is better than expected and with more subscribers we can see a potential here.

We are now looking for a marketing director for Orienteering Today, who will be responsible for both advertisement and subscription. If there is someone out there looking for extra income and a part time job, please contact us.

Editor

Jan Skricka was planned to be the future editor of the magazine. When he unfortunately was hit by ME syndrome in 2007 we had to look for other solutions. . After seeking for a long time, Geir Nilsen was the new editor, a job he did till the summer of 2008. Geir Nilsen did av good job with the magazine, but in the future planning for Orienteering Today we were sorry to realize that our future plans were not comparative.

Again the work to find solutions started. There has been negotiations to sell the whole magazine, but we were not able finish end these negatiantions. The aim has always been to find a solution for the best of the magazine and the subscribers.

We are now happy to tell that well know orienteering announcer Kjell-Erik Kristiansen will be the new editor of the magazine. He will also be a part of the ownership of Sport of Today. A presentation of Kjell-Erik will come in a later issue of the magazine.

Content and design

During the last two years we have had a complete redesign of the magazine. We now have updated it again with some rather small changes. We now feel that the design is both functional and good looking. At the same time the design is very easy to produce.

Orienteering Today will not be a news magazine, more a lifestyle magazine. We will write about elite orienteering, orienteering travels and interesting o-events, both small events and the big ones. We are planning to do more interviews and we will find place for more technical articles. We have today some very good writers around the world which delivers us excellent material. But we hope for more help to do this and will be very thankful for ideas, informations and articles from around the world.

The focus in the articles will still be on maps, photos and text. For orienteers maps are the most interesting. In 2009 we will try to show more routechoices. We hope we can be able to produce better graphics to the magazine. We also hope to show more tables with splittimes, but making them takes a lot of time so we will not make any promise.

Next year

For next year we are planning to increase to 6 issues. This will give us the opportunity to make two special edition we have been dreaming of for a long time. It will be an "international championship special" and a "national championships special". The plan is to make one issue in the winter, one in the spring, one in the summer an then tree issues form August to Christmas.

So, yes, we are looking forward to the future with joy.

Per Arne Troset
– main owner of Sport of Today.

Shamrock O-Ringen

1989 2009

Killarney 2009

Orienteering 3-Day

Killarney, Co. Kerry, Ireland

May 30th - June 1st 2009

www.corko.net/shamrock

Kjell-Erik Kristiansen new editor:

New winds blowing at Orienteering Today

I'm happy to announce that I'm the new editor of Orienteering Today. I'm just now helping Per Arne Troset to get the two last numbers of 2008 together and from the first issue of 2009 I'll be in charge of the content and the lay out of the magazine.
It's nice to come back to orienteering again. I have been in the sport for most of my life, but since I have lived in three different countries I've been meet different people all the time during all these years.
I'm originally Norwegian. I grew up in Mysen, just north of Halden and in one of the best areas for orienteering in the world. My club OL Flaggtreff had a lot of good runners and we were one of the Norwegian topclubs in the big relays with a 4th place from Jukola 1983 as the clubs best. The club had also won the Norwegian world championships and club member Per Fosser was a former world champion.

In 1987 I moved to Sweden and changed to Järfälla OK in Stockholm, even though I was living in Borlänge. I was honoured to run the "long night" at Tiomila -88, where we finished 10th.
I later moved to Domnarvets GoIF in my hometown Borlänge. This was more of a skiclub and we had some of Sweden's best skiers. But together with some others in the club I started to build a womens team, which has been a great succes. The team have won Tiomila twice and this year they also won the Venla-relay in Finland.
In the end of the 90's I moved to Stockholm and started my old boys-career with IFK Lidingö. Much because their topstar and world champion Lucie Böhm was working in my company. It was also a nice period with a 3rd place in the 25-manna as the most memorable for my part.
Since the summer of 2002 I have lived in Finland, just outside Lahti. I'm still active in orienteering and taking part in the Finnish "iltarastit" (evening competitions) two-three times a week and I occationally run some bigger competitions. My club today is Rastivarsat, from the local city of Orimattila.

I've been a journalist since I was 14 (!) years old… I've been working with several newspapers and magazines through the years and today I'm also the editor for Cykla (Sweden's biggest cycling-magazine) and www.langd.se (Sweden's biggest website for cross country-skiing).
I have been working a lot with TV, 10 years as a Norwegian commentator for Eurosport. I've been a part of the leading-group building up FilmNet/SuperSport/Canal+ in Scandianvia and I've been working for Norwegian and Swedish channels as a commentator and producer.

But my biggest career is been as a venue-announcer, specially in the winter where I've been the main announcer for three Winter Olympic Games and 8 World Ski championships and 4 World championships Biathlon.
I've done everything also in orienteering, such as Tiomila, Jukola, O-ringen, O-festivalen and much more. The biggest announcing work in orienteering are may be the two World championships from 2003 (Rapperswil-Jona) and 2004 (Västerås). I've been announcing in 21 different countries and the comming winter I'm fully booked with a lot of interesting skiing - like the Tour de Ski and the upcomming World championships in Liberec in the Czech Republic.
I'm looking forward to work with all of you…!!!

KJELL-ERIK KRISTIANSEN
Editor Orienteering Today

Kjell-Erik Kristiansen
Photo: Orienteering Today

Arena photo shows the dimentions of O-Ringen
Photo: Per Frost

Scottish 6-Days Orienteering

Tay 2009

Scottish 6 Days Orienteering

2nd to 8th August

Scottish orienteering

Technical in the Highlands

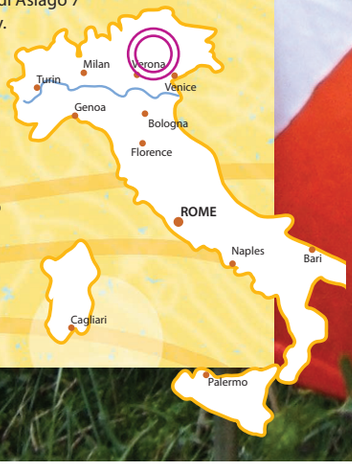
The first edition of Highlands Open was organized in 2001 and the ambitious goal was to organize every year a multi-day international orienteering event on the Altopiano of Asiago 7 Comuni. The first edition was held in May 2001 in the areas of Turcio and Barenthal. In 2004 Highlands Open registered a record participation of over 1200 entries also thanks to the WMOC 2004 Championships which were held in the same area. This year Highlands Open offered all the different o-events: middle, sprint, long distance and Trail-O.

Highlands Open 2008

Date: August 29th- 31th, 2008
Location: Altopiano of Asiago, Italy
Organizer: ASD Erebus Orientamento Vicenza
Participation: Over 900 runners each day
Webpage: www.highlandsopen.com

Highlands Open is a three day international O-event organized each year on the Altopiano di Asiago 7 Comuni in Italy.

Highlands Open 2009 will be held on May 16-17, 2009 with a training camp from May 11 to 15, 2009.



John Rocke, GBR
Photo: Highlands Open

Photo: Highlands Open

Text: Angelo Frighetto

The Altopiano of Asiago 7 Comuni is a joyful place which, with its thousand-year tradition of the "Cimbri" people, promises entertainment, rest, cultural enrichment, and the possibility to rediscover the joy of living. On the border of the Po Valley, it is easily accessible by highway and an efficient regional road network. It is also easily accessible from the North and is a beautiful place to stay if you want to visit the whole of the "Veneto" region. Here you can find all that Italy offers: hills, mountains, seaside and lakes together with art, culture and history. The "Altopiano of Asiago 7 Comuni" has an average of 9 hours of sunshine : this makes the people of the "Altopiano" more active and more serene. The serenity is also felt by the huge number of guests who come back year after year and who often choose this land as their "second home". Each season offers you both tranquillity and vivacity. The land of the "Cimbri" is certainly one of the most beautiful Mountain resorts in Europe.The rupestrian inscriptions in the "Assa Valley" of Canove di Roana and the remains of the Paleovenetian village Bostel in Rotzo tell us about the ancient human presence in these mountains. Physical characteristics, rites, uses, and the ancient language of these people together with their mythology show Nordic if not Bavarian origins. The "Cimbri" people colonized this land many centuries ago.

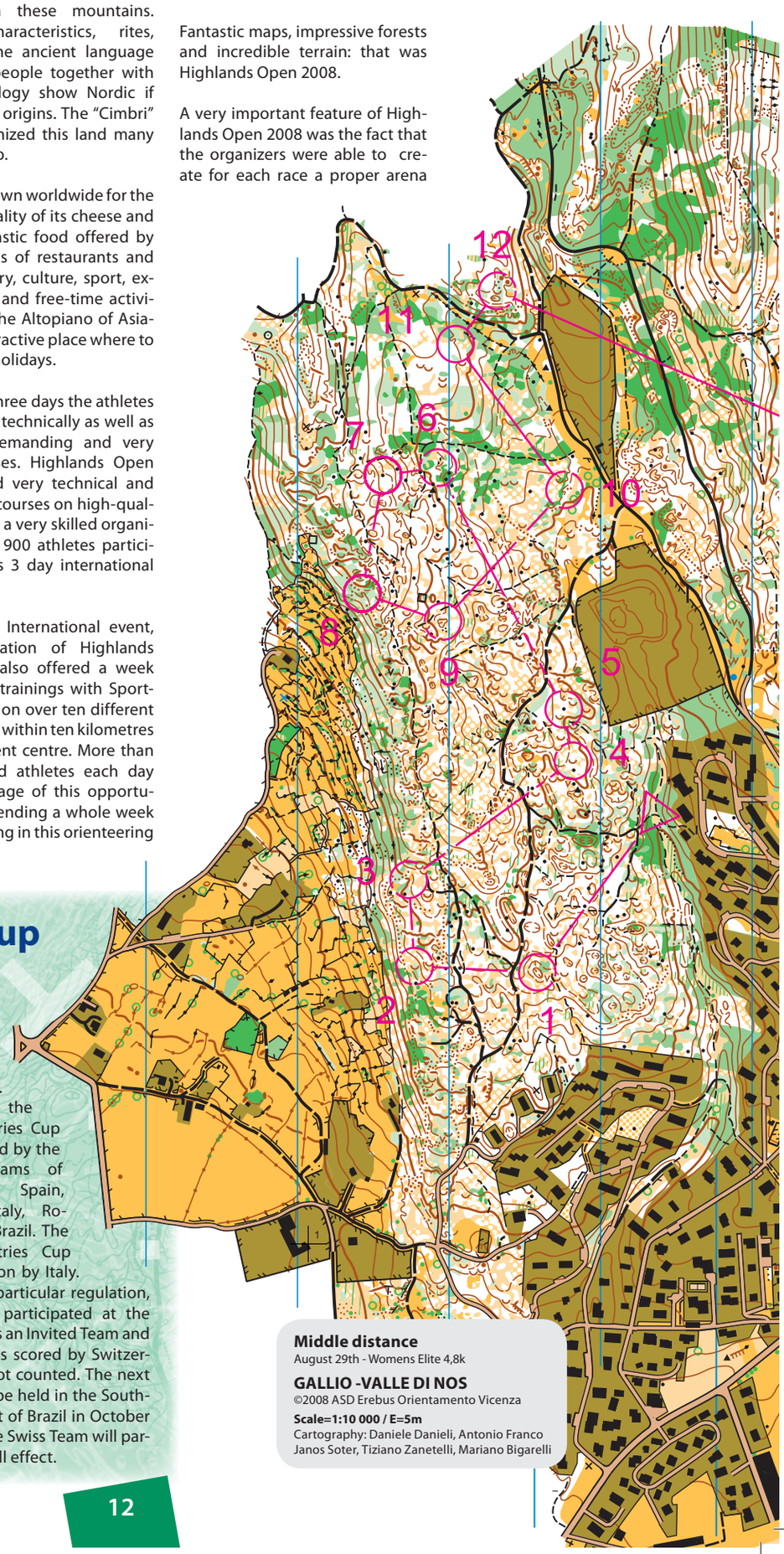
Asiago is known worldwide for the excellent quality of its cheese and for the fantastic food offered by the hundreds of restaurants and hotels. History, culture, sport, excellent food and free-time activities makes The Altopiano of Asiago a very attractive place where to spend your holidays.

During the three days the athletes experienced technically as well as physically demanding and very varied courses. Highlands Open 2008 offered very technical and demanding courses on high-quality maps and a very skilled organization. Over 900 athletes participated at this 3 day international event.

Prior to the International event, the organization of Highlands Open 2008 also offered a week of technical trainings with SportIdent timing on over ten different quality maps within ten kilometres from the event centre. More than two hundred athletes each day took advantage of this opportunity, thus spending a whole week of orienteering in this orienteering paradise.
Asd Erebus Orientamento Vicenza has set up an Orienteering School on the Altopiano di Asiago for the development of orienteering and the possibility of training camps on more than twenty high quality maps. For more information: www.scuolaorienteering.org

Fantastic maps, impressive forests and incredible terrain: that was Highlands Open 2008.

A very important feature of Highlands Open 2008 was the fact that the organizers were able to create for each race a proper arena next to the towns and villages, and therefore, were able to bring Orienteering right to the heart of the population. Everyone noticed that in those towns and villages all the people knew what is Orienteering.



Middle distance
August 29th - Womens Elite 4,8k

GALLIO -VALLE DI NOS
©2008 ASD Erebus Orientamento Vicenza
Scale=1:10 000 / E=5m
Cartography: Daniele Danieli, Antonio Franco
Janos Soter, Tiziano Zanetelli, Mariano Bigarelli

The Latin Countries Cup

Highlands Open 2008 also hosted the 'Latin Countries Cup' 2008 and one stage of the Italian Cup 2008.

The "Latin Countries Cup" was created in 1995 and the first meeting took place in Romania. At present six countries with neo-Latin languages take part: Portugal, Spain, France, Italy, Romania and, since 1997, Belgium. Brazil has participated once or twice. Other Latin American countries will take part in this international event in the future. The competition team consists of three women and three men from each country: two Youths of under 18, two Juniors and two All-age members. Three events count for the ranking: a medium and a long-distance race, plus a third event chosen by the organizer. This is either a sprint, a relay or a sprint relay. The whole competition lasts four days. This year the Latin Countries Cup was attended by the national teams of Switzerland, Spain, Portugal, Italy, Romania and Brazil. The Latin Countries Cup 2008 was won by Italy. Due to the particular regulation, Switzerland participated at the event only as an Invited Team and all the points scored by Switzerland were not counted. The next edition will be held in the South-Western part of Brazil in October 2009 and the Swiss Team will participate in full effect.