

# Dutch Triangle

37th Military World Championship Orienteering  
Number 1, 31 August 2004

**New record: 30 participating nations**

## Arrivals from all over the world

Even before the 37th edition of the Military World Championship Orienteering has really started, a new record already has been broken. With a number of 30 participating countries, the old Swiss record from 1998 (29 participating nations) got smashed.

Just till a couple of days ago, the organisation in Harskamp still expected 31 nations. Because of visa troubles Ukraine delegation had to cancel their participation, simply because it was impossible for them to leave their country. Although the Ukraine team isn't present at the World Championship, Ukraine flag will remain. Reason for this is that two



Ukraine made some very detailed maps of the woods in which the championship will be held. So far this area never had been de-

scribed in detail.

Ukraine delegation is not the only team facing difficulties. The Netherlands for example have to miss two of their team members because of tours in Afghanistan and Bosnia.

Most of the teams arrived yesterday at Schiphol national airport by plane. The delegations of some other countries like Belarus and Latvia had to travel much longer: they drove thousands of kilometers by bus. In total the 30 countries have 362 participants: 262 athletes (66 females and 196 males) and 100 companions.

During preparations Belgium delegation was hit by the unexpected death of team member Hughes Petit, last week.

The participating countries are: Belarussia, Belgium, Brasil, Bulgaria, Colombia, Denmark, Germany, Estonia, Finland, France, Hungaria, Ireland, Italy, Croatia, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Austria, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Slovenia, Spain, United Arab Emirates, Turkey, (Ukraine), Sweden, Switzerland and organising nation The Netherlands.



## Final Preparations

Last week Harskamp Barracks slowly turned into the area in which everything is going to happen this week. From digging holes for the flagpoles to

making the signs with country names for today's opening ceremony. Supporting unit is Dutch 320 Recovery Company from 't Harde.

From Tuesday 31th of August till Sunday 5th of September the newsletter 'Dutch Triangle' will appear daily. If you have any interesting information, please don't hesitate to contact the editors at the Press and Information Office in building 111, room 15 or by (military) telephone 54879. 'Dutch Triangle' will be distributed every morning at 08.00 hours.

# Profile

**Name:** Hans Goedings  
**Rank:** Major Dutch Royal Airforce  
**Function:** Projectofficer 37<sup>th</sup> Military WC Orienteering

**Goals:** 'Well, "Friendship through sport" is our slogan. When all the participants at the end of the tournament are satisfied, then this tournament will be perceived by me as a real success.'

**Kick of orienteering:** 'I'm working at the airforce. When flying in the air you have to find your way by means of orienteering. Of course, in the air everything is threedimensional, but in a way you need the same

skills. That's why I love orienteering. Orienteering is the most military game you can imagine. You really need all military operational skills as concentration, perseverance, knowledge of the surrounding area.

What's is also

very fine is the international atmosphere. With 31 participating countries this Military World Championship Orienteering has a real record: never had so many participants sometimes even coming from countries I never thought they would come, like the United Arab Emirates or Columbia.'

**Favourite team:** 'As Dutchy I'm of course supporting the Dutch team. Despite the fact two members of that team are doing right now their military tour in peacekeeping missions (Bosnia and Afghanistan, red.), they still have a team of good quality.'



# At the Infantry Range Harskamp



The 37th Military World Championship Orienteering is hosted at the Infantry Range Harskamp. This range is already being used since 1899. Of course this range, with all the passing generations of once conscripts and now professional soldiers,

has had a big economical and social influence for the nearby village of Harskamp. In the recent years not only the Dutch army, but also many other NATO-countries are here able to fire with all kinds of small arms, anti tank short range, 25 mm gun and



## Internet café

A rare view, this empty internet café. Counting ten computers connected to the internet with a fast ADSL-connection, without doubt this will be a very popular place during the relaxing hours of this Championship. The internet café can be used every day till 23.00 hours. It's located in building 111, room 13.



even mortars up to 120 mm. The Harskamp barracks is also a location where the Dutch army is partly being exercised and trained for peacekeeping missions in countries like Bosnia, Afghanistan and Iraq.

Just outside the gate there is also a nice historical collection to find about the Infantry Range Harskamp. This museum is to find in a wooden building dating back from the beginning of the Infantry Range Harskamp. At the exposition you will see a huge collection of different small arms, uniforms, maps and other historical objects. There is also much attention for the period of the Second World War when the German army was using the barracks.

People who are interested in the military history of the Infantry Range Harskamp are able to visit the museum for free. The museum is to find just outside the main entrance of the barracks (Otterloseweg 5). The opening times are from monday till friday: 13.00-16.00 in the afternoon.

## Today's programm

- All day: Training Orienteering,
- 09.00 hrs: draw startinglist,
- 13.00-19.00 hrs: Mobile Laundry opened,
- 15.00 hrs: Opening Ceremony.



The weather forecast for the period of this World Championship Orienteering isn't really nice. So, the availability of a mobile laundry at Harskamp barracks won't be an unnecessary luxury. Opening times of the laundry are daily from 13.00 till 19.00 hours, except for Friday 3rd of September when the laundry is closed. Washed clothing can be picked up on the same day, dependent of the busyness. The mobile laundry can be found on the field in front of the canteen

## Infodesk: Questions? Answers!

During this tournament there is an informationdesk for answering all your questions. You can reach this infodesk 24 hours a day by phone: 54190

During daytime you can also visit the infodesk in building 216, beter known as the canteen of this barracks. Lieutenant Natascha Hageraats and corporal

Cindy de Groot of this infodesk will help you in answering your questions or referring you to someone who knows the answer.



# To join more important than to win

The Dutch orienteering team has modest goals for this tournament according to major Anne Heikoop, the Dutch teamleader. The reason is easy: Internationally seen, Holland is somewhere to find at the 2/3 of the list of participating countries. Despite this realism there are however still some individual surprises possible, he thinks.



Holland is this year the host of the yearly Military World Championship Orienteering. Major Anne Heikoop don't think this will give the host country a real advantage in participating at this tournament. 'At the international level we have a modest position in orienteering. This has to do with the marginal role this sport has in Holland. Contrary to, for example, the Scandinavian countries we don't grow up with this sport. Most runners are meeting this sport during their military career. This means mostly it will be too late for reaching the international top of the orienteering sport.' Heikoop thinks that will not change soon. 'Holland is too small for a possible change of winning. An extra handicap for

making this sport here more popular is that orienteering is not a real mediagenic sport.'

## Nice surprises

So, to join is more important than to win. But that does not mean the Dutch team will not be good enough for some nice surprises. Like lieutenant Olga Zwikker or especially sergeant Marco Smulders. 'A top-30 position of the list of individual rankings would be fantastic for me', tells Smulders. 'We Dutchies have to be realistic. In this tournament are also Russian and Scandinavian runners to find who are appointed on a topsport contract. Orienteering is in Holland not an important sport. From my employer I only get some weeks off for the training for tournaments. That's too little to be significant.'

Smulders does not mourn about that. He loves his sport too much for it. Being asked about the charm of orienteering he answers immediately: 'To be absorbed in the nature and not realizing you are running. To be honest: I don't like to run. Orienteering, to be busy with the map and the terrain, is what I actually like to do. That makes this sport a lot of fun.'

And gone is Smulders, back to the forest for doing his trainingtraject.

Name: Carlos Pires  
Rank: Captain  
Function: Captain Portuguese team

Goals: 'We try to do better than last year in Lithuania.'

## Kick of orienteering:

'Orienteering is a very fine sport. In Portugal it's however a very young sport. Our goal is not winning, but to look for the future. This year we have, because of that, three new runners. Of course, we still have much work to do.'

## Profile

Tactics: 'The Portuguese team was the first team arriving in Holland; already last friday. No, that was not for spying around the area of Harskamp, but for smelling the



Dutch forests. In Portugal we know what's growing under the trees. Here we don't know the undergrowth. That's why we have had a trainingscamp near Eindhoven and, at saturday, a regional competition with some Dutch teams nearby Soesterberg.'

Chances in winning: 'I think the Russians will have the best changes to win. How about the chances of the Portuguese team?' After some laughings: 'No, I don't think we are able to win. But we have with sergeant Marej Povia a very good runner. Last year he even went to final A very easily. He has very good results in sprint. Maybe he can reach something like the 15<sup>th</sup> place! Believe me, that's not bad. Povia, he began the sport just five years ago!'

'Dutch Triangle' is a newsletter that will be published daily during the 37th Military World Championship Orienteering. Editors: Roland Keja and Jan Rensen. Special thanks to ltn Gian Santegoeds. Print: Thieme Apeldoorn. Edition: 500.