

A RETROSPECTIVE REVIEW OF THE EUROPEAN MAP-READING CHAMPIONSHIP AND WORLD CUP 2010, BULGARIA

(Professional paper)

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Abstract

In 2010 in Bulgaria, in the town of Primorskothe Eighth European map-reading Championship for men and women was held. The sprint finals, the medium and long distances actually were the 1st, 2nd and 3rd rounds of the World Cup. It was a very responsible and obliging activity. The unbelievable became a fact – world-famous runners came to Bulgaria, the repeated world champions Simone Niggli, Helena Jansson, Mina Kauli, Tieri Zorzu, Daniel Hubmann, Matias Merts, Andrey Hramov, Emil Vingshtet and others. The world elite of map-reading came here. The map-reading community in Bulgaria had the unique chance to meet them and to enjoy their sports performances. Judging the International map-reading organization assessment of the competitors and their coaches, who took part in the Championship, we understand that the arrangements and the organization of the championship were very good.

Keywords: *International map-reading organization, men and women, sprint, medium distance in map-reading, long distance long distance in map-reading, sports competitors Placement*

INTRODUCTION

The organizing committee had to arrange a lot of details: opening and closing of the championship, press office, press conferences, competitors' office, meeting and seeing the teams off, accommodation, meals, financial problems, etc. All these were taken care of on the spot, on time and without problems.

The people, responsible for the mass media, worked dedicatedly in order to ensure excellent conditions for the journalists, who were to reflect the event. Using the Internet, they could supply the Bulgarian and the foreign colleagues with current information. The beautiful and impressive advertising materials – leaflets, posters, bulletins, before and during the Championship, contributed to the brilliance of the event. The information section was one of the most important sections. The colleagues began working in 2008 and due to this fact we had current information at our disposal – an excellent

Internet site about EOC and EOC tour, perfectly designed bulletins full of tables, diagrams, data and a special scheme for the acceptance of the application forms and feed-back. It happened for the first time in the history of the European Championship that people could watch everything on plasma screens during the final. All the important data processing – start lists, final results, materials for the press conferences - was done by the Sport Ident electronic system. We cannot describe, in just a few sentences, the great amount of work and the sleepless hours of the people in the team. The wonderful final arena was the sum and substance of the Championship. The lay-out of the arena, the building of everything necessary, the shifting, the information panel, the prize platform, the putting up of the tents for the teams, judges, dope control, the VIP-guests-everything was done precisely and accurately. There has never been such a final arena, such beautiful lanes, such wonderful

manifestation either in the 55-year-long history of the Bulgarian map-reading, or at any other competition in the South-Eastern Europe.

The whole variety of multiple activities – dope control, parking, places for pulling up – everything was under close control.

The performances were beautiful. They were skillfully designed by the experienced professionals.

The building of the bridge, at the place where the competitors had to force a crossing over the river, is the masterpiece of the Bulgarian map-reading thought. Without it we wouldn't have been able to hold the competition.

The environmental campaign to clean the 12 - kilometer-long beach stripe, together with the adjoining dunes, the area of the sprint distances from the town of Primorsko to IYC, as well as the gathering of hundreds of kilograms of waste, will remain as an example of a well-organized and well-done voluntary deed by all participants in the Championship.

EXPOSE

The long segment of the long distance is of classical quality in map-reading

The long segment at final "A" of the long distance at the European Map-reading Championship for men and women 2010 was in the same field. The initial kt for men was on the little rock whereas the one for women was to the North-East, where the gullies join, being 65 m far from each other. The end of the segments was a common kt N 42 (a supporting point). The men's segment was 2115 m long and the women's – 2055 m long.

The long segment offered a choice of three basic variants and a few more subvariants. Whether a variant will prove to be winning depends on how quick the choice is made. Hence the time difference of the competitors although the performances are perfect.

Here are the *final positions of the first six competitors*:

Daniel Hubmann (Switzerland)	- 14,08
Philippe Adamski (France)	- 12,37
Fabian Hertner (Switzerland)	- 13,21
Carl Kaas (Norway)	- 16,03
Marc Lauenstein (Switzerland)	- 13,36
Kiril Nikolov (Bulgaria)	- 15,16.

Final positions:

1. 25 Daniel Hubmann SUI Switzerland- 1:44:29
2. 46 Philippe Adamski FRA France - 1:48:00
3. 42 Fabian Hertner SUI Switzerland- 1:48:43
4. 40 Carl Waaler Kaas NOR Norway - 1:50:50
5. 38 Marc Lauenstein SUI Switzerland- 1:50:56
6. 30 Kiril Nikolov BUL Bulgaria - 1:51:09

From the variants of the first four positions we can see that:

The best time for the segment is that of Philippe Adamski from France, who chose the route along the straight path, passing through the canyon of the big valley. This variant is the best, preferred by the members

of the jury. It's length is 2300 m and 110m sb upwards. It is due to his choice and performance that Adamski's time is by 3 min. and 55 seconds better than that of Carl Kaas from Norway who ranked fourth (he chose the left variant which is 3600 m long and 85m sb upwards). Only with this negative result for the long segment Kaas lost one of the two noble medal colours – the silver and the bronze. The competitor, who ranked third, was Fabian Hertner from the Swiss team. He also outdistanced Kaas by 2min. and 42 sec. He chose the middle variant, which is 2550 m long and 110 m sb upwards. Our champion Kiril Nikolov, like the Norwegian competitor, chose the left basic variant. He ran the long segment for 15 min. and 16 sec. His better performance is due to better subvariants than those of Kaas. That is why he outran Kaas by 47 sec.

Here are the *positions* of the first six women where the differences are with greater amplitudes:

Simone Niggli (Switzerland)	- 13,55
Dana Brozkova (Czech Republic)	- 15,38
Helena Jansson (Sweden)	- 17,51
Lina Persson (Sweden)	- 16,04
Eva Jurenikova (Czech Republic)	- 17,01
Maria Rantala (Finland)	- 19,58

Simone Niggli, who is a World Championship winner and the bearer of 18 gold medals, chose the route passing through the canyon, following the straight segment. That is why her time is better by far than the time of the other competitors.

Here are the final positions:

1. 251 Simone Niggli SUI Switzerland- 1:20:31
2. 243 Dana Brozkova CZE Czech Republic- 1:21:53
3. 250 Helena Jansson SWE Sweden - 1:26:22
4. 233 Lina Persson SWE Sweden - 1:28:22
5. 245 Eva Jurenikova CZE Czech Republic - 1:28:56
6. 238 Maria Rantala FIN Finland - 1:29:00

Along the 1730-meter- long track for men and the 11100-meter- long track for women there were a few more, comparatively long, segments, which gave the opportunity for a good variant choice.

The long distance of the European Championship proved that only the best and thoroughly prepared contestants were able to win. The current world champions Simone Niggli and Daniel Hubman became winners.

All competitors, coaches and spectators liked the spectacular character of the relay-race, due to a few simple factors: long well- marked segments and repeatedly crossing the start/final meadow, an attractive, visible kt on the lake peninsula; an extra, unexpected visible kt only for the three posts; incredible struggle for the gold medal for both men's and women's relay-race. The regions and the routes were so well-mapped out that they gave the chance to all sprinters to display their versatile abilities. The passing from one type of terrain to another – flat, park-like country, covered with oak woods of various visibility and roadability; residential part;

coastal terrain with dunes, covered with poor vegetation; resort complex with a net of alleys, paths and asphalt roads.

CONCLUSIONS

1. The choice of the long segment variant must never be underestimated. Even when it is correctly fulfilled but incorrectly chosen, it will lead to a significant loss of time. The choice of a variant must be trained in a lab. Only then will be easier for the competitors at the competition itself.

2. The so called “Butterfly” is very popular. For the last few years it has been applied basically for the long distances at the World and European Championships. But the Bulgarian “Butterfly” is different with respect to the following aspects:

– it appeared at the beginning of the 6700-meter-long men’s route and the 6000-meter-long women’s route. Both distances were suitable for eventual parting of the chasing competitors;

– both men’s and women’s partings were at different kt;

– the terrain where the two wings of the “Butterfly” had to be set up was interesting and appropriately chosen. There was a variety of terrain forms and situations, a full palette of rocks and stones, an exceptionally virgin nature;

– the lengths of the two circles of the “Butterfly” were different and designed in such a way that it could not be seen when the competitors were changed;

– the men’s and women’s routes were different with respect to rotation.

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