

32. 1998 - HUNGARY: 9TH ARDF IARU WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

They were held from 1 to 6 September 1998 in Nyiregyhaza in Hungary. It lies 250 km east of Budapest.

The organization was in the hands of MRASZ. The total cost of stay and participation is U.S. \$ 200 per person plus \$ 15 for the closing banquet.

The 244 participants from 29 countries were housed in Besenyei Gyorgy Teachers Institute in Nyiregyhaza.

During the event the amateur station HG0FOX on HF and VHF was on the air [369].



349. 1998: The accommodation. Buildings B/I up to B/IV are for the accommodation. Building 3 is the restaurant.

The Dutch team

The team consisted of:

Women	Jenny Fijlstra - NL12125
Seniors	Ferry de Vroom - PA3FDC (also team leader)
Oldtimers	Evert Wind - PA3BNU
	Dick Fijlstra - PA0DFN
	Jo Somers - PA0SOM
Coach	Grietje Wind - XYL of PA3BNU

A report of the event by Jo Somers - PA0SOM (also ON9CSJ), without pictures, only appeared in the January 1999 edition of Electron. The following summary is drawn from this report.



350. 1998: Dick and Evert at the hotel entrance. Photo PA0DFN

The journey

We left on Tuesday 1 September. Although anyone can tell that we Dutchmen have little chance against the supremacy of the Eastern bloc, it became an experience that was very worthwhile.

There were two members of the team who had never flown, including myself. Although about flying it is told that it is safer than driving it was for someone like me, who is afraid on a stepladder, not something I really was waiting for. When I was in the Navy the troops were divided across the ship, so in an accident, not all cooks or all engineers were gone all together.

ARDF IARU Championships

And now almost the entire fox-hunting team of the Netherlands was in one aeroplane. It was so good that I could travel with the Belgian team which departed from Brussels. To be recognized by all we had a cap with 'ARDF Team Belgium' on it. The flight went smoothly.

Because the sky was open above southern Germany, we even had the good fortune that from 10 km altitude we could see where we, the year before, had participated in the Championships in St. Englmar. The mountains that we saw in Hungary seemed to be even higher, but that turned out not to be true.

After arriving at the airport I could drop off my Belgian cap and transfer to the Dutch team which, slightly earlier, had a good landing.

Moments later we received the first signs that the Hungarians had spared no effort to make our stay pleasant and enjoyable. There was a guide with a sign 'ARDF' and the familiar logo on it and he came to us and escorted us to the buses that waited for us and would bring us in a four hour drive to Nyiregyhaza. Everyone got a big bag with a lunch that was more than enough for the trip. When everyone was eating and trying how the Hungarian spread tasted, we had to spread it without cutlery, it became very matey on the bus.

While driving, we got the first impressions of the Hungarian countryside and saw that it actually was as flat as ours. Would we still have a chance?



351. 1998: The entire Dutch team at the opening. Ferry, Grietje with the flag, Jo, Jenny, Dick and Evert. Photo ?

When the bus finally stopped at the hotel it was already dark. Along the way it was noticed that the night there falls much earlier than in The Netherlands.

After the check in we all got a big bag of lovely welcome gifts and a beautifully crafted identity card. That we could wear around our necks, with cord in the tricolour of the country. With this card we could freely use the bus, that almost every five minutes drove to the city. We did not yet realize at that point that we were VIP's. Later on that would become clear.



348. 1998: Logo 9th ARDF IARU World championships.

The training and the opening

Wednesday 2 September was to practice and to give people the opportunity to get rid of their jet-lag. Because there were also teams from America (USA - for the first time), China and Japan.

In the training it could be tested how strong the transmitters were. This is important for later use in the competition, to have an idea of how far you are from the transmitter.

The output of the transmitters was 1 (2 m) and 3 (80 m) watt, which is usual with us. Although we had the idea that the transmitters on 2 m were weak and on 80 m just very strong. Yet that would give later no problem in the competition.



352. 1998: The Dutch team marches towards the opening. Leading are two girls with the sign 'Hollandia', behind the flag is Grietje with the rest of the team. Photo ?



353. 1998: Opening ceremony with e.g. an orchestra. Photo ?

The opening ceremony took place later in the afternoon, it made a big impression on us again. Even in the city banners were hung. They welcomed the fox-hunters, so we.

From the place where the buses dropped us the teams went in procession to the marketplace at which, in front of the beautiful town hall, the mayor and other dignitaries welcomed the fox-hunters.



354. 1998: The teams from Hungary, Ukraine and Slovenia during the opening ceremony. Photo US0VA

All this took place surrounded by the large local population that which came to watch the event with interest. The previous

year we had been impressed by a group of children that graced the opening ceremony with some dances. The Hungarians went some extra miles. We were treated to a cultural programme for which, at home, we have to go to the theatre to see it.

More and more I started to ask myself how it was possible that for fox-hunters, by many people still considered as crazy runners with some equipment in the forest, there is put so much effort.

Sport is in Hungary in high regard. Especially in the city Nyíregyháza where we were, you could see that much is done for the sports. It was no coincidence that our home was a large sports hotel where people in training could stay.

The 2 m competition

Thursday 3 September would finally bring what we really came for, the fox-hunting. At five o'clock we had to get up. At seven buses would bring us to the competition area. I had the impression that many people already had risen earlier than five o'clock, because by now the tension was palpable in their stomachs, they could not longer remain in bed. The toilets had never been so busy and those who had not thought to take some toilet paper from his room had the first problem.

In our country the buses would drive quietly to the forest, because it was only eight o'clock. But for the Hungarian organizers that was apparently not stylish enough, because there was a full police escort on motorcycles. Apparently that was also very nice for them, because as real cowboys they tore with flashing lights and blaring sirens past the buses. We wondered, who in the Netherlands could get something organized like that. It was a pity that we could not record the show on video.

Some members of the team had already started with the orientation on the map and followed the route of the buses.



355. 1998: The Dutch team on its way from the bus to the waiting area for the 2 m competition. Photo PA0SOM

After about an hour we arrived somewhere near the Romanian border in a place where strange people were probably rare and certainly not so much simultaneously. That, at least came to the attention of a Bouvier who was at a farm on a chain. Because of that dog my fox-hunting almost prematurely ended. When I wanted to take a photo of all participants who were now almost all out of the buses, I ran, without looking, back and noticed that everyone else started laughing before I had said 'say cheese'. Luckily I noticed, just before the dog could tear me apart, that they only laughed because they seemed to appreciate that there already would be a participant less. It was the first time in my life that I could get three hundred people to laugh for one photo.



356. 1998: Special rigging had been made for the deposited receivers. Photo PA0DFN



357. 1998: Waiting until it is your turn to start. Jo, Dick, Jenny and Evert. Photo PA3FDC

Our start times were pretty average but we still had to wait a few hours before it was our turn.

The waiting is usually not too bad because there is plenty to see, like how people are preparing for the competition. The organizers had announced that the permissible running time was extended to 130 minutes.



358. 1998: Start group in the 2 m competition with ? ,177 - Jozsef Cserhati, 53 - Nikola Spirkoski, 113 - Richard Ulrich, 206 - Klara Zarnoczay. Photo from Hungarian newspaper via USOVA.

Thinking, I will not spoil it again by finishing too late, I put on my watch the alarm for 1:30 and I went, without knowing in the wrong, because look what happened.

In the forest it went well, because in a world championship I am not nervous, because I'm happy when I get out of the forest alive. Finding a pair of foxes is a bonus.

Fairly quickly, I had already found two foxes and had a little talk with a few participants.

A while later I met a Japanese woman who asked me if I could show her on the map where we were. Although I can never refuse anybody help, certainly I could not do so now because since I was a child, have a weakness for Japan and dreamed to make QSO's with JA. I left the lady happy, because she believed more than I that I knew the way. I walked on and looked at my alarm watch. To my horror I discovered that I only had about 29 minutes. I knew immediately that it also applies in Hungary that 'sociability knows no time'. Like a madman I put on a run towards the finish, which was quite far away.

ARDF IARU Championships



359. 1998: By the referees in the field the passage times of the participants were passed to the finish via 70 cm and there they were written on boards. Photo KE6HTS

When I actually was on the point of accepting that I would finish too late, because a conversation with a charming Japanese makes a lot of good sense, I discovered what had happened. By setting the alarm watch at 1.30, I had not set it to 130 minutes, but at 1 hour and 30 minutes.

By doing so I had undermined myself, but I was back very early, but with only three foxes found instead of four. Apparently the place on the map, which I pointed out to the Japanese lady, had been right. For in the evening I saw her again and she came to thank me with a beautiful gold tie pin of the Japanese amateur club JARL. For someone with a weakness for Japan this was even a greater reward than a first place on the podium...



360. 1998: Jenny reaches the finish. She had found three of the four foxes. So she became the 34th of 47 in her category. Beside the finish tent is the antenna of 70 cm connection with the foxes in the field. Photo PA0DFN

In the evening there was, as usual at world championships, the results ceremony. That was in style again on a grand scale. The whole thing was set up in a magnificent sports hall in the city where we again were taken with buses. Seated on comfortable chairs we sat with the guests to enjoy the programme. Because the ceremony was graced again with ballet and dance and an orchestra played. The only thing we lacked was a bit of coffee, because running makes a man thirsty and in the hotel coffee cups were very small.

The ceremony itself was worthy of the winners and went as we expected. When the flags were hoisted and the national anthem played over and over again we saw red white and blue, but in the wrong order. Russia and some Eastern bloc countries have also red white and blue in their flags. Socially conscious, as we are, we were whole heartedly pleased for these people, because I always thought to see on their faces that it did more to them than to us, because we already have so much. The only disadvantage for us was that we always had to get up when the national anthems were played. Our muscles were already tested a lot, but we did that too for the benefit of the winners.



361. 1998: 2 m finish. 30 - Zsolt Cserpak (exhausted) and 94 - Janos Moravszki (winner OT). Photo from Hungarian newspaper via USOVA.



362. 1998: Nils Schmiedeberg (SWL GER) finishes in the 2 m competition. He became 11th with the Seniors. Photo DL1AQ

Meanwhile, we were already a few days in Hungary and it was noticed that the room of Evert - PA3BNU and Grietje was the nicest. Everyone came there together in the evening and there was extensive discussion and laughter. All enjoying the coffee made by Grietje. If there had been a prize for the most enjoyable team, we had definitely won it because there was a lot of laughter in that room.

Excursion to an Open Air Museum

Friday 4 September was reserved for the cultural programme. The buses took us to an open air museum where we were welcomed with drinks, whose name I forgot but for me were too strong. A band played music of the region to adorn it. We could make a tour by guides through the terrain. There

were old houses which gave an impression of how life must have been in the past in Hungary. There was food being cooked and baked in the open air, which we later were allowed to eat.

There were also carriages with horses in which visitors could be driven around. A team leader of a neighbouring country, I saw regularly passing by very quickly, together on the coach with the Chinese. It has certainly made impression because the Chinese were not to leave him. He told me on the plane that he had given money to the coachman to drive very fast.

The food tasted delicious.

Whether it was cooked to increase our speed, I do not know, but to start with every guest got a large bowl of bean soup that for us was enough for a whole family. For safety, I hoarded some toilet paper for the next day.

Meanwhile in the newspaper there were every day pictures and reports of the competitions. The first day two members of the Belgian team were on the front page and thus in Hungary became famous Belgians. Regularly you saw participants who went to the city by bus to buy a newspaper that was obviously to become a collectors item.

The 80 m competition



363. 1998: Hunter at 80 m fox 4.
Photo KE6OTF

Saturday 5 September we had to get up at 5 am for the 80 m competition.

The buses took us this time to the north, towards the border with Ukraine.

But not to the mountain area on which we had counted.

All week it was excellent weather. This morning was a bit foggy and quite fresh so early in the morning. This time I had to start in the second group and did not have to suffer cold, while waiting.

The disadvantage was that there still were no tracks in the forest, on which you could see that many people came along like in the first competition.

The first fox gave some difficulties in the last 100 metres. But then a moment later Evert - PA3BNU arrived, who had started 10 minutes later with his Polish loop antenna, there was no stopping him and the fox was soon found.

Furthermore armed with the tactical support in map reading I had received from Dick - PA0DFN, I went quickly to the next foxes.

The sun had now broken through the clouds and when I arrived at the finish, Grietje was already looking forward to welcoming Evert who had started 10 minutes later, but already was well on my heels.

The other members of the team had later start times. From the team leader we had got a note with the start times, so we could watch on score-boards [359] how their performance was and at the finish we could stand up to encourage and to film them.

For the exact results I refer to the Internet website of the Hungarian club ARDF (not in use anymore...).



364. 1998: A part of the Ukrainian team at the start of the 80 m race. Far right Igor - US0VA. In the tent left hang the 80 m receivers. Photo US0VA

At the finish meadow it slowly become very cozy. While in the morning we had to pick our thick sweaters, now the sun was shining and you saw many people walking around in bathing suits.

The finish meadow was actually the football field of a children's home, where we could use the toilets. As I also once was going there, I was suddenly approached in Dutch by a Hungarian girl. Because of my early start I was the first Dutchman to cross the finish line and had got close attention because she wanted to speak some Dutch. Her name was Janet, and was as a foster child four years in a Dutch family in Zwolle.

While I was talking with her there were more and more children who all wanted to be in the picture and quickly learn some words in Dutch from Janet. Who later on went to the toilet had to hear from all sides calling "Hallo Hallo". At the stall on the meadow I bought all the bags of chips they had and distributed them.



365. 1998: Ceremony 80 m - SEN: Nils Schmiedeberg is 2nd. Karel Fucik (CZE) was 1st and Petro Smolyarenko (UKR) was 3rd. Photo DL1AQ

Due to certain complications Nils Schmiedeberg wanted, just as Josef Tuttmann - DL8YBA/PA1RDF later, at a given moment no longer be part of the German team. He is now an active orienteer.



366. 1998: The German. Photo DL1AQ

Back home again

Sunday 6 September buses brought us neatly back to the airport, again with a packed lunch.

This time it rained for the first time and we all thought we had had good luck with the weather.

At the airport were more teams here and there waiting for their plane to leave.

One of the participants already knew what he would do at home first, eat ten slices of brown bread and drink a whole pot of coffee. Because despite the great care that we had missed this a little. Apart from a member of the Belgian team who had brought brown bread.

In the souvenir shop, the remaining Forints were spent. For a reminder of the championships in which we have not won, but at least we are returning equally happy as the winners. Because we had had a wonderful week.

The report so far has come from Electron.

The report does not discuss the details of the site. From a U.S. report, we note the following:

The terrain was relatively flat with areas ranging from open field to fairly dense forest, where it was difficult to walk through quickly. There were also harvested and not harvested grain fields, areas of fields with trees planted in rows and newly ploughed fields where it was difficult to walk.

That the terrain was not too difficult, ie no major differences in height, is also evident from the fact that all five Dutch participants in both competitions found all the required foxes and also within time.

The three Oldtimers (OT's) were so in both competitions in the teams standings and certainly not in the last place.

The maps were slightly smaller than A3 at scale 1:15,000 with contour lines at 2 m height difference. So it was fairly flat terrain.

As in 1997 there were five categories.



367. 1998: The tag, the medal and the competitor's number.



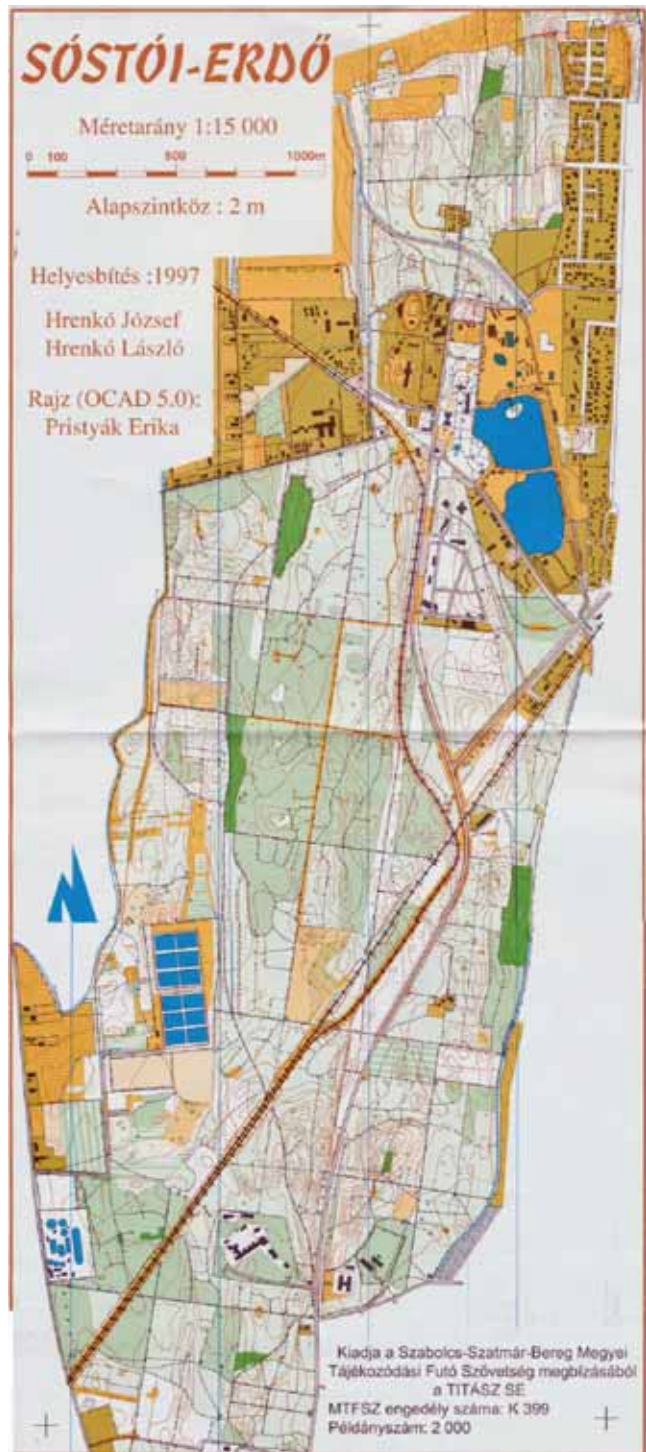
368. 1998: The entire Austrian team shown on a Reminder card. Photo US0VA.



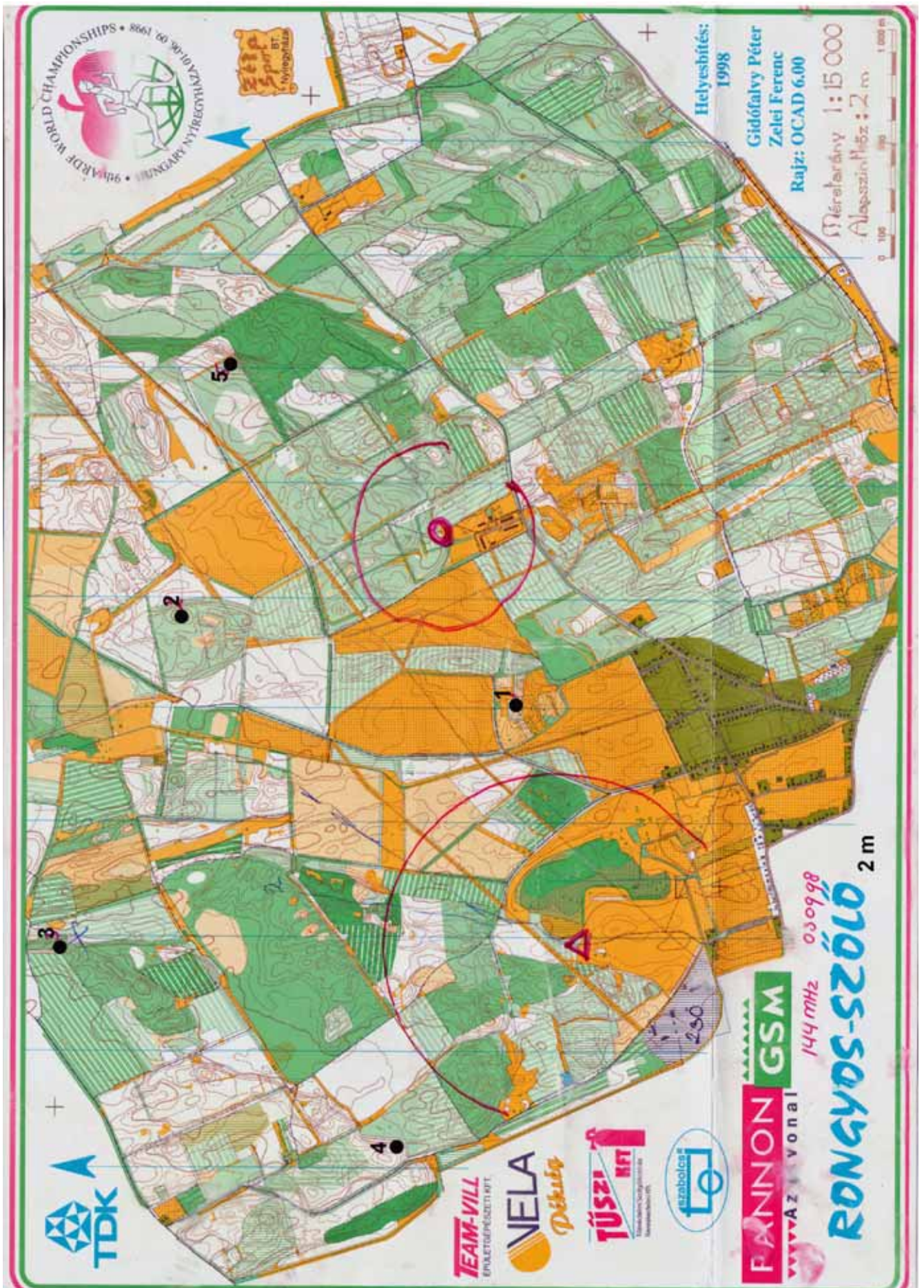
369. 1998: The QSL-card of the amateur station HG0FOX



370. 1998: Reminder card of the Dutch team.



371. 1998: Map of the training area. It is on the north side of Nyíregyháza.



372. 1998: Map of the 2 m competition. The start is 1 km north of the village Nyigelse. The area is about 30 km southeast of Nyiregyhaza.



373. 1998: Map of the 80 m competition, 27 km northeast of Nyíregyháza. The start is at the edge in the centre at the right, north of the village Ramcsahaza. The finish is at the edge at the centre left.