



Suunnistus- MÄNKIJÄ 3 2026



After the night session: Danny (left), Mara, Uldis and Jossu.

Successful Camp in Storm-Hit Portugal

Suunnistuspäivä is the newsletter of the orienteering club Turun Metsänkävijät, which is distributed by email almost on the first Monday of every month. It can be read on the club's website under "Jäsenille". Send announcements, tips, pictures and reports about your competitions, training, trips. The deadline is always at the end of the month. Address is kari.vainio@tume.fi.

Strong Team Spirit and High Motivation

“Southern Camp destination was Portugal again. This time the coastal maps around Praia de Mira offered excellent terrains with similarities found in Jukola this year. Flat 'empty' areas with limited (contour) details, which needed exact compass use.

We started the camp with Portugal O-Meeting, where we found high level competition with the first ever GOLD WRE races. The startfield was very strong, making this POM a great start of the season. Some runners only had the opportunity to stay for the (long) weekend but most kept going 5 more days for day & night trainings. The motivation and spirit was high whole camp making it a very successful trip to Portugal.

I was happy to start the 2026 race season with a second place behind Kasper Fosser in the first ever Sprint GOLD WRE during POM.”

Yannick



Ideal Terrain for Season's Main Focus

“South camp is always the most anticipated camp of the year! Seeing teammates in the middle of training is season is both exciting and motivating.

The terrains here in Portugal are also supporting our main goal - Jukola - as we can run on flat and fast surface and face similar challenges as the coming summer. Looking forward to the coming season!”

Fisu



Finally Training in the Warmth

“I've been waiting for a long time to escape this cold winter we are having and finally enjoy warm weather combined with doing forest running and orienteering of course. I haven't had the best circumstances to spend much time outside meaning most of my training has been done indoors. Before arriving there felt that my form was already good, but I didn't consider that hard surface training would result in very tired legs when running on soft foundation or sand.

So there I was standing on Portugal o meeting second days start with already empty legs and overall tired feelings. This continued also into the camp, so I just decided to focus on orienteering, sometimes even walking. Only at the end of the camp, I started to feel that I am getting back to forest form. But for me this is a win as my muscles have been woken up now and not in a month. This camp helped me to better understand and configure what I have do in the near future. Otherwise, it was lovely to meet up with many of TuMe boys again and spend quality time in training sessions as well as between them. I believe these were good terrains for trainings specifically aimed at Jukola 2026.”

Sale



Excellent Direction Training

“The southern trip is always a welcome break from the routines of winter. This time I had to leave just after recovering from a bad cold, so the first few days were spent easing back into running. Because of this, I largely had to skip POM at the beginning of the trip.

After the races, we continued for a week in the Mira terrains. In my opinion they were fairly monotonous and easy, but excellent for practising direction and running straight, essential skills for this year’s major relays.

After the TuMe camp, the journey continued to Punta Umbría with Samu.”

Aksu



Pre-Season Performance Test

“South camp, as always, was a valuable milestone in the off-season preparations. The World Cup level starting field in POM allowed me to precisely compare my level with others and give me a clear directions on which aspects to improve until the season starts in April.”

Riku



After a fast-paced night session, Mara goes through his route choices with Jossu and the coach.

Under the Portuguese Night Sky

“TuMe’s training camp was in full swing. The session had been planned as a “semi-fast” effort — but judging by the pace, some may have taken the instruction a little too seriously.

Night orienteering brought its own special challenge: sharp focus, steady compass work, clear route choices and the ability to trust one’s instincts in the dark. Headlamps were switched on, maps unfolded and concentration sharpened.

It was in conditions like these that real progress was made.”

Mara

Excellent Results in Night Racing

“Before the camp, the storm-damaged terrain caused quite a bit of concern. In the end, the training weather was excellent and the areas we used had been spared.

The main focus of the camp was running straight and improving directional accuracy in preparation for Tiomila and Jukola. In this we succeeded very well, and the results — even at night — were excellent.

Some athletes had minor issues, but everyone was still able to train.”

Taini, coach

Seven Competed in POM Age Classes

Rale, Eija and Hannu (pictured), as well as Oxana and Joni, all took part in POM, each competing in their respective age classes. For all of them, this marked their second competition week in southern Europe already this year. Suntila and Taini also ran in their own categories at POM.





Samu finished sixth overall in POM, just three seconds ahead of HS's Veli Kangas.



Jossu.



Ökö.



Mara (left), Uldis, Danny and Jossu.



Sale, Riku and Yannick.



Ökö and Jossu.

Portugal "O" Meeting '2026 Passadiços da Praia de Mira Scale - 1:3000 Contour Interval - 2m

Part 1 of 2	205m
1	A H A
2	A A A
3	A A A
4	A A A
5	A A A
6	A A A
7	A A A
8	A A A
9	A A A
10	A A A
11	A A A
12	A A A
13	A A A

Use only if SPORTident fails.

R1	R2	R3
A	A	A
Z	Z	Z

Map maker Daniel Silva
Map age September 2025
Last update January 2026 (Rafael Miguel)
205 m + 65 m = 270 m
Open Class - 32 min. max time
P-Class - 35 min. max time

Portugal "O" Meeting '2026 Passadiços da Praia de Mira Scale - 1:3000 Contour Interval - 2m

Part 2 of 2	65m
14	A A A
15	A A A
16	A A A
17	A A A
18	A A A
19	A A A
20	A A A
21	A A A
22	A A A
23	A A A

Use only if SPORTident fails.

R1	R2	R3
A	A	A
Z	Z	Z

Map maker Daniel Silva
Map age September 2025
Last update January 2026 (Rafael Miguel)
205 m + 65 m = 270 m
Open Class - 32 min. max time
P-Class - 35 min. max time

TrailO Brings Variety to a Rest Day

Greetings from the TrailO event held in connection with the POM. The precision orienteering competition took place on the sandy dunes by the beach in the coastal town of Mira, Portugal.

To begin with, participants were allowed to walk along a boardwalk through the dunes and assess the correctness of five control points as a practice exercise. The actual competition, held in a strong sea wind, consisted of two parts: a total of 23 control points with a maximum time limit of 23 minutes. In my view, the controls were challenging, located in the folds and depressions of the sand dunes.

I got 18 out of 23 correct and was pleased with my performance. My overall placing dropped, however, as I used nearly twice as much time as the competitors at the top.

The TrailO competition provided a welcome change between the forest races of the orienteering week.

Pirjo L



Portugal "O" Meeting '2026 Passadiços da Praia de Mira Scale - 1:3000 C. Interval - 2m

POM 2026 PreO Sprint 14/02/2026	
▷ SP1	A A A
▷ SP2	A A A
▷ SWU	A A A
1	A A A
2	A A A
3	A A A
4	A A A
5	A A A
6	A A A
7	A A A
8	A A A
9	A A A
10	A A A
11	A A A
12	A A A
13	A A A
14	A A A
15	A A A
16	A A A
17	A A A
18	A A A
19	A A A
20	A A A
21	A A A
22	A A A
23	A A A
201	A A A
202	A A A
203	A A A
204	A A A
205	A A A

Map maker Daniel Silva
Map age September 2025
Last update January 2026 (Rafael Miguel)

Flag in Right Place
Flag in Wrong Place

Pirjo Lähteenmäki represents PR in foot orienteering and TuMe in TrailO.



Club Signs Main Partnership Agreement with Sisu Auto

Orienteering club Turun Metsänkävijät has signed a two-year main partnership agreement with Sisu Auto during the final week of February. The collaboration brings together two Finnish operators whose performance is tested in demanding terrain conditions.

Sisu Auto is known for its durable vehicles designed for heavy-duty use. The company's core values, Finnish heritage, perseverance and reliability, strongly support the club's goal-oriented elite sports program.

The partnership strengthens the club's operational foundation. At the heart of the agreement are the major relay events Jukola and Tiomila. Sisu aims to gain visibility at large international events and to support the club's ambition to succeed at the highest level while systematically building a competitive relay team for the long term.

In practical terms, the agreement will initially mean the addition of the Sisu Auto logo to club apparel. The logos will appear on elite athletes' competition gear immediately and will be added to members' clothing as new items are ordered. From March onward, Sisu's logo will also be featured on all printed materials, including maps.

Membership Fees for 2026

Youth members, under 20 years	€5
Elite / representative orienteers	€10
Licensed orienteers, over 20 years	€50

- The club covers entry fees for domestic national competitions and Finnish Championships under the Finnish Orienteering Federation (SSL). For multi-day events (“rastiviikot”), the club reimburses half of the lowest entry-fee category. In addition, one domestic rogaining competition is reimbursed upon presentation of a receipt. Licensed orienteers also have the same rights and benefits as members paying the “Other adults” fee (see below).

Other adult members	€20
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- The club covers entry fees for local AM orienteering events. Membership also includes the right to participate in Turku StreetO, Turku Rogaining, bus transport to the Jukola Relay, and regional training events.

The family membership fee has been discontinued. Children under 12 years of age may be registered as club members in connection with a parent’s membership application.

Payments

Membership fees and all other orienteering-related financial transactions are handled through the following bank account:

IBAN: FI69 1590 3000 1511 32

Payment deadline: 28 February 2026

Account holder: Turun Metsänkävijät

Treasurer: Rauli Helkkula

Important Notes

If you are unable to participate in an event paid for by the club, you must reimburse the entry fee to the club account, except in cases of illness or injury. Late entry fees are not covered by the club. Indoor orienteering events and fitness orienteering events are not reimbursed.

Ten Years of Turku Street-O Orienteering



Record participation was set on Independence Day 2017. In the photo Mikko Ääri.

Lergo, Juha and Hannu organized the first Turku Street-O on January 27, 2016. The event attracted 51 participants. By the end of this winter season, a total of 208 events will have been held over ten years, along with about 40 additional off-season Street-O events of various kinds and numerous events organized in cooperation with partners.

The idea and the event name came from Britain, introduced by the club's then chairperson Lergo. In spring 2016 a couple of additional events were organized, and encouraged by their success, a full season was launched the following autumn. The record attendance was set on Independence Day 2017 at the Finland 100 Years special event, which drew 265 orienteers.

By far the most dedicated participant has been Jyrki Kajavalta, known to everyone who has attended the events. He has taken part in 200 regular events and 32 off-season events, collecting approximately 157,000 points. According to Turku Street-O results records, a total of 3,291 participants under different names have taken part in the events.

The season finale on March 18 will celebrate the ten-year journey.

Turku Street-O in March

ke 04.03.2026	17:30 - 19:00	Metsämäki
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ke 11.03.2026	17:30 - 19:00	Saaronniemi
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ke 18.03.2026	17:30 - 19:00	Impivaara
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A Long, Slow but Eventful Climb Toward the World's Elite Begins

To understand the arc of the club's history in the Jukola Relay, one must first understand the background of the club's activities. A brief look back at the early 1980s is therefore necessary. This eight-year period is described from my own perspective, based on my personal recollections.

Background

At the turn of the 1970s and 1980s, several orienteers who had learned their skills in Turun Metsänkävijät were competing for various specialist orienteering clubs. As a club, Turun Metsänkävijät was virtually unknown.

I recall a prize-giving ceremony in the late 1970s, before I moved for a few years to a “proper” orienteering club. After pondering the abbreviation “TuMe” next to my name, the announcer finally awarded the prize to a young man from Turun Metsästäjät (Turku Hunters).

It took a few brave men to put into practice what many contemporaries considered a doomed dream: turning Metsänkävijät into a genuine and competitive orienteering club. At the end of 1983, the idea was born to build Turun Metsänkävijät into a club specializing in men's relay orienteering, aiming first for the national elite in smaller relays held around Finland and later, with a strengthened squad, for top positions in the classics — Jukola and Tiomila.

The idea was put together by a small and, above all, young group. The key figures were Kari Vainio, who agreed to serve as club chairman and handle administrative matters, and returning athletes from a successful major club, Jyrki Eskola and myself.



*Jyrki Eskola
and the author
of this article,
Kari Lehto, in
1984.*

I took responsibility for the sporting side of the club. The average age of the trio was around 23. There was enthusiasm — though perhaps not a very precise understanding of the scale of the task ahead. Fortunately.

To field a team capable of respectable results in the smaller relays, we needed a couple of reinforcements. From neighboring clubs came Esa Jääskeläinen and Anssi Rantanen to join Jyrki and me. Otherwise, the team consisted largely of scouts who had learned their orienteering in the movement. A valuable addition emerged when Jari Eskola, successful in competitive cycling, became inspired by orienteering.



Jari Eskola, Esa Jääskeläinen and Anssi Rantanen.

At first, we had to build the club itself: a budget, an entry system (in the days before the internet), training plans, competition plans, club clothing, and more. A car was considered almost essential — and one was eventually acquired (the scouting side reportedly had no need for it).

As a curiosity, I recall organizing a tough urban training session in those early years without control flags. Controls were verified by answering questions about the location — laying the groundwork for what would decades later become Turku Street-O.

Jukola 1984–1991

At the beginning, we had to adopt a “strong runners up front” strategy — aiming to give the club visibility and thereby attract reinforcements to the relay team. This applied both to Jukola and Tiomila. Early success came particularly in Tiomila, and along the way the club steadily grew stronger.



TuMe:n kärkisuunnistajat, Patu, Kurppa ja Jypä kuva piirin viestikisoista Liedosta

JUKOLAN VIESTI

Yli kymmenen vuoden tauon jälkeen olimme saaneet kaksi iskukykyistä joukkuetta mukaan Jukolan viestiin. Lisäksi Vierumäen maastossa juoksi monia mänkijöitä muissa joukkueissa ja olihan meitä tullut myös muuten vain kisapaikalle seuraamaan kesän yhtä kohokohtaa.

Yli 900 sadan joukkueen joukosta nousi meidän ykkösjoukkueemme kaikkien aikojen parhaaseen saavutukseen. Sijoituksemme olivat 220 ja 757. Vähän tietysti jäi kaivelemaan kakkosjoukkueen tappio

Helsingin kaimaseuralle, joka myös juoksi varmasti yhden kaikkien aikojen parhaista sijoituksista olemalla maalissa 498.

Oheissa Pepsin kuvaus Jukolan metsistä.

TuMe I 215 Jypä – 49 Kurppa – 146
 Köppä – 157 Jakke – 159 Patu – Pepsi
 219 – 220 Anssi.
 TuMe II 686 Hantta – 732 Kake – 746
 Toippa – 757 Jykä 741 Epo – 709 Kaitsu
 – 757 Häiskä.

JUKOLAN VIESTI 6. OSUUS PEPSI

Lähtöön tuli taas kiire. niin kuin yleensä. Hyvin sentään kerkisin. Mutta kovin kauan ei tarvinnut vaihtoalueella verryttellä, kun Häiskä jo huusi Patun tulevan. Otin verrat vauhdilla pois päältäni ja ajattelin, että Patulla on täytynyt mennä tosi hyvin, koska hän jo nyt tulee. Vaihto menikin sitten rutiinimaisella varmuudella.

Ykkösväli meni kohtalaisesti kunnes saavuin sen ns. kanjonin reunalle. Aloitin rastin hakemisen aivan liian aikaisin löydettyäni ensin yhden hajontarastin. Jäin pyörimään jyrkänteiden reunalle ja löysin vielä yhden väärän rastin. Kun aikani olin hätäntyneenä kartoittanut aluetta, osui eteeni sopivan rauhallinen suunnistaja ja kysyin häneltä olinpaikkaani. Rasti löytyi lopulta, mutta juoksuni oli saanut todella masentavan alun: varovaisimmankin arvioni mukaan tuhurasin 15 minuuttia hukkaan!

Eteenpäin oli jatkettava kaikesta huolimatta, vaikka suurin into oli jäänyt ykkösrastin ympärille. Kakkonen löytyi lopulta hyvin, kun eräs ruotsalainen esti minua tekemästä aikamoista pummia kysymällä omaa olinpaikkaansa! Hän näytti kartalta paikan, jossa arveli olevansa ja siitä minäkin itseni löysin. Joskus käy säkä. Kolmonen löytyi hyvin ja myös lyhyt matka neloselle meni ilman vaikeuksia. Viitosväli oli helppo. Myös kuutonen tuli hyvin vastaan. Seiskaväli oli taas vähän pitempi ja kasviali erittäin raskas kanjonin ylityksen takia. Loppumatka meni kohtalaisesti. Kaiken kaikkiaan 11.2 km:n pituisella lenkillä oli 12 rastia ja nousua peräti 480 m. Aikaa sain kulumaan ruhtinaalisesti eli n. 1 h 47 min. Jukolan viestin ollessa suunnistuskauden kohokohta näin vaatimaton juoksu kyllä harmittaa. Mutta kyllä silti oli hienoa olla mukana; paranihan sijoitus kuitenkin roimasti.

1984 – Vierumäki, 220th place

The strategy faltered immediately when first-leg runner Jyrki Eskola fell ill, resulting in a performance below expectations. I was in the shape of my life that year and, despite mistakes, managed to lift the team just inside the top 50 at the second exchange — noted by the stadium announcer. Likely the first such mention in the club's Jukola history.

Not a dream start, but we knew how to celebrate small steps forward. Compared to previous years, we had already climbed to a completely different level in the results.

1985 – Laitila, 121st place

We still relied on a core of four dedicated orienteers, supplemented by scout runners. Perhaps the second year of the project influenced the entire team's attitude and training, as our position was halved. Inspiration likely also came from the magical Tiomila night when Tapio Järvensivu, running as a borrowed athlete, handed over in the lead — forcing Swedish commentators to learn to pronounce our difficult club name.

I ran Jukola that year with a hole in my heel, heavily medicated — which may have cost us a top-100 finish.



Kakkaosjoukkueen miehet eivät turhia hermoille. Takana ykkösjoukkueen juoksija Heikki Knuuti on toki yhtä rauhallinen.



Avausosuutta seurattiin radiosta ja vaihdettiin vielä viimeiset piikit tossuihin.



Tapsa noteerasi kolmen osuuden jälkeen meidän kaikkien aikojen parhaan Jukolavaihdon — 23.

1986 – Kaanaa, 132nd place

Expectations were high for an improved placing. Tapio Järvensivu and Timo Varila had joined the club to strengthen the team. Earlier that spring, Timo had delivered the “Tiomila Miracle” on the third leg — for the second consecutive year.

From the scouting side, Heikki Knuuttila earned his place in the team as a specialist in Häme terrain. Despite a reasonably strong start, we faded toward the end and were unable to improve our final position.

1987 – Hollola, 65th place

A breakthrough was close. Juha Hiirsalmi and Harri Louna joined the team. The early legs were outstanding — especially Tapio on the second and Jari Eskola on the third. Then came the biggest failure of my own orienteering career, a trauma that followed me for a long time. Although the club's best Jukola result was halved again, far more had been within reach. In hindsight, perhaps we were not yet ready for success. We lacked systematic post-race analysis — a stark contrast to today's elite structure with managers and performance directors.

1988 – Isosyöte, 71st place

For the first time, we traveled to Jukola by plane. The route took us from Turku via Helsinki to Oulu, and from there by bus to Syöte. Upon arriving in Oulu, we discovered that our luggage was still in Helsinki.

The unbelievable conclusion to the episode was that Finnair delivered the bags to Oulu on a flight bound for Rovaniemi — which made an unscheduled extra stop in Oulu just for that purpose! On top of that, the airline paid for the first two leg runners to take a taxi to the competition center and to purchase equipment there.

After the incident, the relay did not get off to the best possible start. Although our performance improved steadily almost to the very end, we were unable to raise our final placing.

Turun Sanomat 1988

Joulupukki innostui suunnistuksesta

PUDASJÄRVI (TS)

Jukolan yössä voi nähdä ja kokea monenlaista. Jo kisapaikalle pääseminenkin saattaa tuottaa arvaamattomia vaikeuksia, niin kuin Turun Metsänkävijöille kävi. Seuran veljessarjat suihkivat kotimaisin siivin Oulun lentokentälle huomatakseen, että matkavarat olivat koneen vaihdossa jääneet Helsinkiin. Siinä pojat ihmettelivät T-

paitasillaan, missä asussa metsään lähtisivät.

Mutta Jukolan viestin henki tuntui tarttuneen myös lentokentän henkilökuntaan. Puhelinlinjat Helsinkiin olivat hetken kuumina, ja rastin hakuun halaavien Metsänkävijöiden palatessa lentoyhtiön tarjoamalta maukkaalta päivälliseltä oli virkailjoilla heille iloisia uutisia. Samana iltana Rovanie-

melle matkalla oleva kone tekisi poikien varusteiden vuoksi ylimääräisen välilaskun Ouluun.

Niin viimeisen päälle Finnair tilanteen hoiti, että lähetti kolmen ensimmäisen osuuden juoksijat etujoukkona taksilla Pudasjärvelle valtuuksin ostaa juoksijoille täydelliset suunnistusvarusteet, jos operaatio ilmasilta ei ajossa ehtisi välittämään heidän

omia tavaroitaan perille.

Hip hurraa Finnair. Se oli reilun pelin urheilusporitus.

**JOULUPUKKI
ASUKIN
ISO-SYÖTEELLÄ**

Jukolan yössä selvisi myös, mistä joulupukki on

kotoisin. Yllätys, yllätys. Jouluihin ystäväme asustaakin Iso-Syöteellä

eiä Korvatunturilla, niin kuin yleisesti on luultu.

Kansainvälisissä maratonkisoissa tutuksi tullut pukki kiiroitti avausosuudelta vaihtoon parta viipottaen. Pönttövuoren peikkojen viestiä lähti siljältä 397 jatkamaan joukko tomeria tonttuja, ja ankkuriosuudesta huolehti itse

metsäpelkko. – Tuolla metsässä pakkasi hiki yllättämään, kun kaverit ympärillä tunsivat minut ja pakkasivat peesaamaan. Hermostuksissani tein muutaman kiepin vai pummeiksiko virheitä kutsutaan, virkkoi pukki. – Olen joskus aikaisemmin pärjännyt paremminkin, silloin tosin valepuvussa ilman partaa, vakuutti kaikkien tuttu punanuttu.

1989 – Joutseno, 66th place

Arto Virtala and Pekka Kaski joined the club's elite squad. Despite the further strengthening of the team, the overall performance was steady but uninspiring hard work throughout, with only Harri Louna and Juha Hiirsalmi delivering solid runs.

At this stage, the club's level had plateaued around 60th–70th place. During these years, the team was still searching for the right running order. Joutseno can be seen as an example of how the “wrong” running order can leave a team far from its true potential in the final standings.

1990 – Juva, 103rd place

Although Juva's (Navin) website praises the event as a success, it has certainly not remained in the memories of the TuMe team to any notable extent — most likely due to the substandard performance by the entire squad. In the official history of Jukola, no result can be found for the first team, except at the very bottom of the results list among the disqualified and retired teams.

Neither I, Kari Vainio nor Juha Hiirsalmi have much recollection of the event. Arto Virtala, who ran the opening leg, recalls: “There was something strange about it — we didn't get any final results. Someone from the club asked why TUME 1 had no official result, and the organizers promised to correct it. I ran the first leg, and I think Lehto and Järvensivu followed. My recollection is that Kaski ran the last leg and finished.”

In reality, Tapsa — who ran the anchor leg — later dug out the map from his archives and commented: “I remembered that I had run the anchor leg in Juva — and not particularly well. The map shows our placing as 103rd. That must have been an officially accepted result for the team. If we had been disqualified, I would most likely have marked it on the map.”

Since the Mänkijä magazine also reported the placing as 103rd at the time, it can probably be considered the correct result, even if official records no longer acknowledge it. All in all, however, it was a major disappointment — one that has been efficiently erased from memory.



JUKOLAN VIESTI	
Juvalla 16.-17.6.1990	
1. NTHI, Norja	8.38.27
2. Ockelbo, Ruotsi	8.38.30
3. Angelniemen Ankkuri	8.38.34
103. TuMe I	9.30.46
308. TuMe II	10.48.16
531. TuMe III	12.00.18
668. HeMe I (ainoa)	12.32.02
791. Auran Tähti Pojat	13.11.11
893. TuMe IV	14.01.23

1991 – Lakeaharju, 34th place

For the first time in TuMe's Jukola history, a foreign orienteer wore the club jersey, when Latvian Aigars Leiboms ran the anchor leg for the first team. In Aigars' wake also came Girts Vegeris, who had competed in the junior class and was placed as the starter for the second team (handing over in 10th place). He would go on to run that leg successfully many times in the years that followed.

Jaska Järvistö also made his first appearance in the club's Jukola first team. He had been recruited to the club a few years earlier during his military service. When his instructor (the author of this article) heard that he had orienteered in his youth, the order was clear: “This weekend, Tiomila with TuMe. Any questions?”

For the second time in TuMe's Jukola history, a major breakthrough was close. After the fifth leg, the team stood in fourth place, about two minutes behind the leaders — and, importantly, with already significant gaps to the teams behind. Unfortunately, a late hillside control proved fatal this time. Both Jaska and anchor Aigars lost time at the same control. The disappointment after the race was naturally great, but the relay demonstrated that the potential for a truly strong result was there.

Summary and a New Beginning

In eight years, we had built a serious relay club out of what had been a scout hobby group. Twice, success was within grasp. In the big picture, we had climbed from 220th to 34th. An outsider might have concluded that we had paid our dues and were ready for the Jukola Top 10.

But the path to success would not be straightforward. I left for the Middle East to serve on the windy Golan Heights, and news arrived that five first-team runners had departed for other clubs. A long winter followed, reflecting on whether to continue — and where.

Knowing that the Latvian brothers would stay and that homegrown junior Mikko Knuuttila was developing into a strong relay runner, I chose to continue building TuMe. It meant burying personal dreams of immediate major relay success. In a way, construction began again — but from a higher level and with more builders.

The lessons of those eight years — especially understanding team composition and the importance of matching individual strengths to specific relay legs — would only bear fruit much later, with the successful teams of the early 2000s.

Lergo



Lergo is writing this article for Suunnistusmänkijä at an altitude of 1,000 metres in Routeburn Falls Hut on New Zealand's South Island.

Jukola 1984 Vierumäki			Sijoitus		Ero	Sijoitus	
TuMe 1		Matka km	viestissä	Aika	kärkeen	osuudella	Osuusaika
1	Jyrki "Jypä" Eskola	12,9	215	1:40:42	+18:57	215/920	1:40:42
2	Kari "Kurppa" Lehto	12,9	50 (-165)	3:11:36	+13:52	14/920	1:30:54
3	Esa "Jääsy" Jääskeläinen	12,9	145 (+95)	5:09:06	+36:37	441/920	1:57:30
4	Jaakko "Jakke" Hirvonen	8,2	157 (+12)	6:14:57	+44:28	263/920	1:05:51
5	Petteri "Patu" Hirvonen	8,2	160 (+3)	7:18:45	+54:24	181/920	1:03:48
6	Jari "Pepsi" Eskola	11,2	220 (+60)	9:05:48	+1:28:47	463/920	1:47:03
7	Anssi Rantanen	14,2	220	11:08:10	+1:57:30	366/920	2:02:22

Jukola 1984 Vierumäki			Sijoitus		Ero	Sijoitus	
TuMe 2		Matka km	viestissä	Aika	kärkeen	osuudella	Osuusaika
1	Hannu "Hantta" Arki	12,9	686	2:13:34	+51:49	686/920	2:13:34
2	Kauko "Kake" Salonen	12,9	732 (+46)	4:46:10	+1:48:26	772/920	2:32:36
3	Hannu "Toippa" Toivonen	12,9	742 (+10)	7:05:58	+2:33:29	725/920	2:19:48
4	Jyrki "Jykä" Tuominen	8,2	756 (+14)	8:38:05	+3:07:36	762/920	1:32:07
5	Esa "Epo" Toivonen	8,2	741 (-15)	10:07:23	+3:43:02	662/920	1:29:18
6	Kai "Kaitsu" Nyman	11,2	710 (-31)	12:00:48	+4:23:47	567/920	1:53:25
7	Kari "Häiskä" Vainio	14,2	757 (+47)	14:53:14	+5:42:34	824/920	2:52:26

Jukola 1985 Laitila			Sijoitus		Ero	Sijoitus	
TuMe 1		Matka km	viestissä	Aika	kärkeen	osuudella	Osuusaika
1	Jyrki "Jypä" Eskola	13,3	104	1:25:31	+7:35	104/936	1:25:31
2	Esa "Jääsy" Jääskeläinen	13,7	97 (-7)	2:58:43	+12:25	125/936	1:33:12
3	Kari "Kurppa" Lehto	13,7	78 (-19)	4:33:35	+22:53	95/936	1:34:52
4	Anssi Rantanen	8,5	106 (+28)	5:33:46	+27:19	357/936	1:00:11
5	Jaakko "Jakke" Hirvonen	8,5	102 (-4)	6:27:53	+31:58	164/936	54:07
6	Hannu "Hantta" Arki	14,1	115 (+13)	8:04:37	+54:01	259/936	1:36:44
7	Jari "Pepsi" Eskola	17,1	121 (+6)	9:55:59	+1:14:22	236/936	1:51:22

Jukola 1985 Laitila			Sijoitus		Ero	Sijoitus	
TuMe 2		Matka km	viestissä	Aika	kärkeen	osuudella	Osuusaika
1	Petteri "Patu" Hirvonen	13,3	576	1:45:57	+28:01	576/936	1:45:57
2	Jyrki "Jykä" Tuominen	13,7	675 (+99)	4:05:30	+1:19:12	747/936	2:19:33
3	Hannu "Toippa" Toivonen	13,7	765 (+90)	6:49:16	+2:38:34	856/936	2:43:46
4	Esa "Epo" Toivonen	8,5	738 (-27)	7:49:49	+2:43:22	368/936	1:00:33
5	Teppo "Kalja" Kallioniemi	8,5	736 (-2)	9:11:59	+3:16:04	770/936	1:22:10
6	Martti "Mikki" Mikkilä	14,1	725 (-11)	11:10:09	+3:59:33	603/936	1:58:10
7	Kari "Häiskä" Vainio	17,1	695 (-30)	13:12:53	+4:31:16	481/936	2:02:44

TuMe 1		Matka km	viestissä	Aika	kärkeen	osuudella	Osuusaika
1	Jyrki "Jypä" Eskola	11,8–12,4	78	1:20:29	+5:18	78/992	1:20:29
2	Kari "Kurppa" Lehto	13,0–13,5	44 (-34)	2:53:12	+10:39	73/992	1:32:43
3	Tapio "Tapsa" Järvensivu	11,8–12,4	23 (-21)	4:13:01	+11:11	27/992	1:19:49
4	Esa "Jääsy" Jääskeläinen	7,8–8,2	59 (+36)	5:19:33	+21:52	400/992	1:06:32
5	Heikki "Hiiski" Knuuti	7,8–8,2	95 (+36)	6:24:48	+36:02	354/992	1:05:15
6	Hannu "Hantta" Arki	11,3–11,4	126 (+31)	7:57:29	+57:17	334/992	1:32:41
7	Timo "Timppa" Varila	14,1–14,3	132 (+6)	9:40:38	+1:13:20	196/992	1:43:09

Jukola 1986 Teisko			Sijoitus		Ero	Sijoitus	
TuMe 2		Matka km	viestissä	Aika	kärkeen	osuudella	Osuusaika
1	Petteri "Patu" Hirvonen	11,8–12,4	644	1:41:38	+26:27	641/992	1:41:38
2	Anssi Rantanen	13,0–13,5	650 (+6)	3:54:37	+1:12:04	672/992	2:12:59
3	Kari "Häiskä" Vainio	11,8–12,4	710 (+60)	6:00:11	+1:58:21	846/992	2:05:34
4	Teppo "Kalja" Kallioniemi	7,8–8,2	692 (-18)	7:12:46	+2:15:05	597/992	1:12:35
5	Esa "Epo" Toivonen	7,8–8,2	735 (+43)	8:43:38	+2:54:52	832/992	1:30:52
6	Jaakko "Jakke" Hirvonen	11,3–11,4	712 (-23)	10:33:47	+3:33:35	677/992	1:50:09
7	Martti "Mikki" Mikkilä	14,1–14,3	682 (-30)	12:47:13	+4:19:55	685/992	2:13:26

After 1986, TuMe has fielded more than two teams.