



Suunnistus- MÄNKIJÄ ⁶ 2026



The team consisted of Yannick (right), Aksu, Edu, Lari, Hatman, Johan, Fisu, Danny, Samu and Uldis.

Ninth Place at Tiomila

Suunnistuspöytäkirja 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.



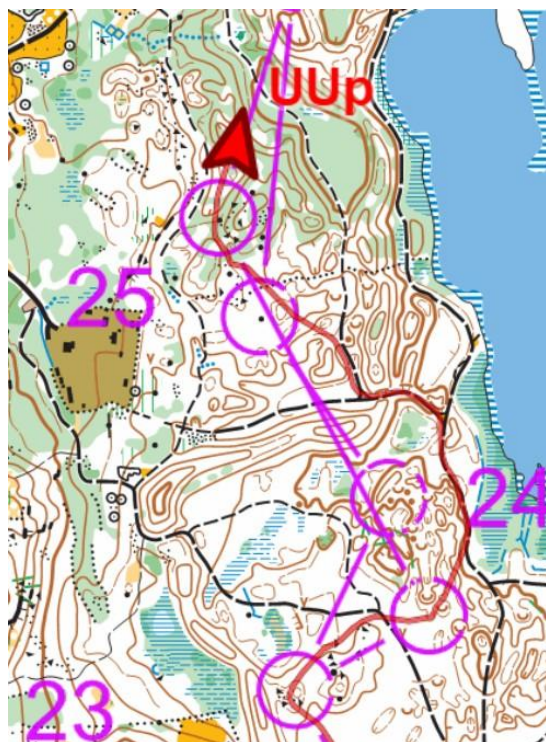
The whole team on the podium.

Anchor-Leg Thriller

Samu squeezed out everything he had from the spectator control to the final exchange in order to send Uldis out together with Gustav Bergman. He managed to reduce a gap of around twenty seconds to just one.

At the first radio control, Bergman and Uldis were still together. By the second, Bergman had pulled away, and it seemed that a Top 10 finish was slipping out of reach.

But Uldis stuck to his own race. He caught and passed Bergman, and although a less favourable fork near the end slowed him down, he was still battling for seventh place on the run-in. He kept Halden behind him, and even fifth place ended up being only a minute away. Bergman crossed the finish line three minutes after Uldis.



Uldis at the finish, with Samu and Hatman on the left.



Uldis grimacing.

Uldis: A Big Step Forward

Overall, I'm very happy with how 10Mila went for both the team and myself personally. Unfortunately, I had been feeling a bit sick during the last 24 hours before the start, and during the race I felt like I was missing an extra gear to really run fast. That's why it felt a bit frustrating that sixth place was so close — with better feelings, it might also have been possible.

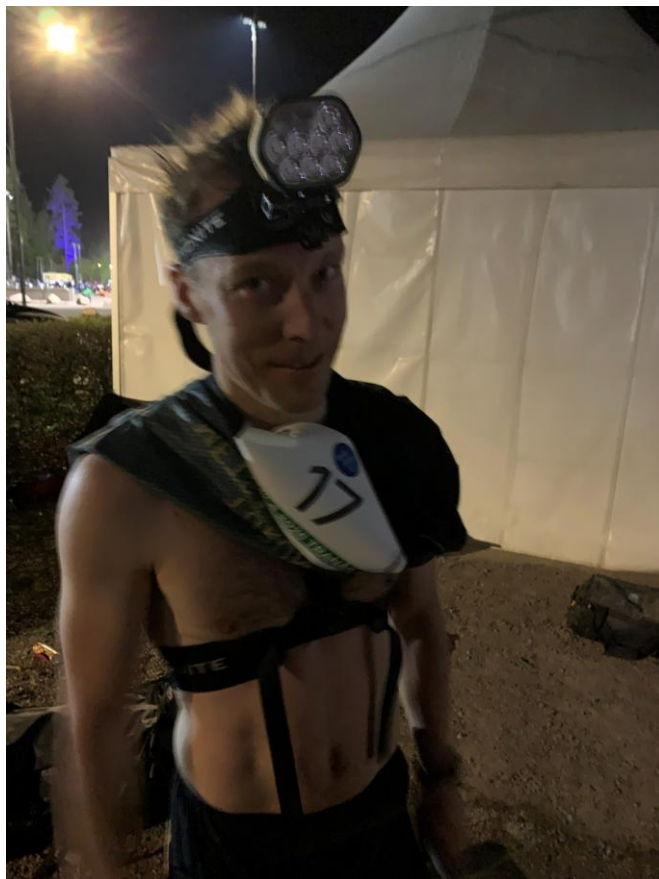
I'm really happy with my technical performance, and I did the best my body allowed me to do. Looking at the leg times — sixth place on the leg and only two minutes behind the fastest time — it still feels like a big step forward for me, especially on a day when I didn't feel good at all.

I still need to work a bit on my sprint finish, but I'm already really looking forward to Jukola with the Black Boys.

The start went brilliantly

Yannick led the field from the running track into the forest and came to the first exchange in fifth place, not counting Kasper Fosser's breakaway. Aksu navigated cleanly and brought the team to the exchange with the second chasing group. Edu produced a tremendous run, coming to the exchange in second place only five seconds behind the lead while keeping Olli Ojanaho behind him.





Hatman and Fisu back at the team tent after completing their legs.

Fisu Third Fastest on Leg Seven

After a long night, TuMe remained firmly inside the Top 10 all the way to the finish. The standout performance on the night legs was probably delivered by Fisu on the seventh leg, where he recorded the third-fastest leg time and brought the team to the exchange in sixth place.

Top 10 leg times were also achieved by Samu and Uldis on the final two legs of the relay.



Johan and Samu on the run-in to the finish.



Watch Lari Fly!

“Look at Lari leap! Oh, oh, oh, he jumped from so high! The Turun Metsänkävijät runner, uh, Lari Takanen, so many metres, wow, wow, so many metres!” That was how the Swedish TV commentator described the spectacular jump seen on Lari’s headcam footage.

Lari explained afterwards at the team tent that he simply had to jump — otherwise he would have lost contact with the group and their lights ahead. There was no time to search for a better crossing point. He only had to make sure to avoid the large rock underneath.

Scott on the Move

Scott found himself in a strong train led by Simon Hector during the long night leg. The result was the best leg placing of the second team — 27th.

At the finish, the second team placed 108th.



Scott (right) spent after the finish. Sale and Ökö had laid the groundwork for a strong run on the long night leg.



The coach's debrief immediately after the race.

Taini: We Showed Our Potential

Overall, the team performance was excellent and one of our best in years. The start of the relay went extremely well, and we managed to join the seven-team leading pack. Surprisingly, the front group stayed together for quite a long time, which gave us excellent positions heading into the night legs.

The night also went well, and we stayed in contention throughout. Small mistakes eventually dropped us from the leading group onto the long route-choice section. There we made our only bigger mistake of the relay, but in the end it proved meaningless when a fast chasing group caught us and pulled us back along.

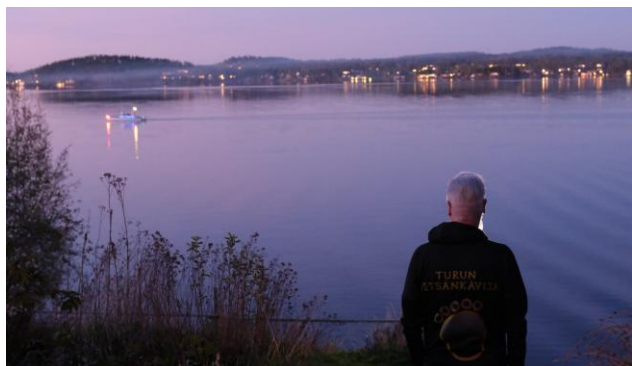
The final two legs were excellent as well. Riv's anchor leg especially stood out as one of the best in TuMe history — only two minutes behind the fastest anchor runner and quicker than the anchor runners of the two leading teams.

The total gap to the winners was only nine minutes over the entire relay, which says a lot about the quality of the performance. Remarkably, half of the team recorded Top 8 leg times.

Only very small details separated us from fighting for a podium place. The level was extremely high, and the medal-winning teams performed with clinical precision.

This gives us a great foundation heading toward Jukola. We showed our potential. With just a little more sharpness, anything is possible.

The manager is already considering the pleasantly difficult selection choices for Jukola.



Erling a Photographer for Turun Sanomat

ERLING SOMMERFELDT



Samu Heiska toi aamuhämärässä Turun Metsänkävijät viimeiseen vaihtoon jo yhdeksäntenä. Sijoitus säilyi lopulta maaliin saakka, vaikka 15 kilometrin ankkuriosuudella ehti tapahtua lukuisia muutoksia kärkijoukkueiden sijoituksissa.

Turun Metsänkävijät oli neljänneksi parhaana suomalaisjoukkueena ja parhaana lounaissuomalaisena miesten kisan yhdeksäs. Edelle ennätti Kalevan Rastin ja Helsingin Suunnistajien lisäksi Tampereen Pyrintö, joka oli kisassa seitsemäs.



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Turun Metsänkävijät suunnisti neljänneksi parhaana suomalaisjoukkueena yhdeksänneksi.



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Kalevan Rasti vei perinteisen Tiomilan voiton





Aksu and Fisu in action in the A Final. Photos: Jarmo Koskela.

Aksu Improved in the Final

At the Finnish Sprint Championships in Kerava, Aksu finished 14th and Fisu 21st. Starting fifth, Aksu moved into the lead early and held first place for a long time, both at the intermediate controls and at the finish.

In the M50 class, Manu claimed the Finnish Championship title in dominant fashion. Taneli finished fifth in M40, while Lergo placed sixth in M65.

On the same weekend, as is traditional one week after Tiomila, the Roslagshelg races were held in Sweden. In the middle-distance race, Johan and Russe secured a one-two finish. Russe's recovery and return to form were further demonstrated by his victory in the long-distance race the previous day.

At the same time, the Latvian long distance championships were held in Latvia. There, Uldis, Edgars and Sale swept the podium with a clean one-two-three finish. Many former TuMe runners also featured prominently in the results. For example, Oskars Zernis and Janis Ozolins, who both ran for TuMe's first and second teams in 2001, took first and second places in the M50 class. Kaspars Ummers, remembered for his legendary opening leg in Jukola 1993, finished sixth in the M55 class.



Uldis, Edgars and Sale.



The first team featured Aksu, Samu and Uldis. On the anchor leg, Uldis kept the second teams of HS and Ikaalinen behind him over the closing kilometres.

Sixth in the Jukola Dress Rehearsal

Uldis once again delivered a strong anchor-leg performance in the fast-paced Kymen Rastiviesti relay. Recording the third-fastest anchor-leg time, he lifted the first team five places to sixth. Aksu and Samu had laid the foundation on the opening two legs.

However, the final rehearsal before Jukola, now just two weeks away, still revealed areas for improvement.

Russe, back in relay action, showed encouraging form on the second leg. He was the third-fastest runner on his leg, only seven seconds behind Olli Ojanaho. Russe lifted the third team 12 places and handed over in seventh position.

The third team eventually finished 13th. Alongside Russe, the team consisted of Lari and Edgars. The second team's race was ruined by a map mix-up.



Russe was flying on the second leg. Photos: Timo Mikkola.



The Jukola Relay Executive Board visited the Valperri-Jukola terrain and event centre site in May. From TuMe: Mikko, Juha, Lergo and Häiskä.

Jukola 2032 Project Moves Forward

The joint project of TuMe, LiePa and MS-52 to host the Jukola Relay in Valperri, Nousiainen, in June 2032 took an important step forward in May. The Jukola Relay Executive Board gave the project the green light to proceed to the formal application phase, with the application deadline set for October.

During a site visit, the board received an overview of the preliminary plans and organisational structure from the candidate organisers. The visit also included a chance to test the terrain on a couple of short orienteering courses and to tour the proposed event centre area.



Before Jukola: Check the Website

The Jukola website maintained by Hannu contains everything you need to know before travelling to Kotka. The pages are updated whenever new information becomes available or existing information needs to be corrected.

TuMe will field seven men's teams and one women's team. The managers and preliminary line-ups for men's teams 4–7, as well as the Venla team, are already available on the site. The tent locations in the accommodation area are R158, R159, R161 and R162. The wind shelter allocated to the first teams is number 29.

The website can be found at tume.fi/suunnistajat/jukola.

Aksu Named Märsky Coach



Aksu has been appointed as an orienteering coach at Mäkelänrinne Sports High School (*Märsky*). He will begin his new role when the autumn term starts in August.

According to a statement from the Finnish Orienteering Federation, the future Master of Sport Sciences brings experience from both club coaching and coaching at national training camps for lower secondary school athletes.

TuMe Rogainers

Before the start of the Finnish Rogaining Championships, course setter Samu had time to encourage the event's only TuMe representative, Ville Taimi. Together with his partner Arto Kauko, Ville went on to win the bronze medal in the men's elite class. Hatman served as Event Director in Isokyrö.



In the previous club newsletter, it was stated that the history of TuMe's Venla teams began in 2000. A photo found in Timo Lainema's archives revealed this first team, consisting of Elisa Lassy (left), Tytti Helin, Minna Palo and Kirsi Lainema.

Three times in the TOP 10

Over the last ten years, the first team has finished in the Top 10 three times. The second team has reached the podium twice and on a couple of occasions challenged the first team very closely.

The club has typically entered seven to nine teams in Jukola. Only in Rovaniemi did it manage to field just five teams. In the Venla Relay, TuMe has usually had one or two teams.



Juppu arrives at the exchange in third place. Photo: Turun Sanomat.

Yannick, Antti, Doug, Martins, Juppu, Edgars and Scotsa waiting for their turn on the podium.

At the 2015 Jukola in Paimio, the team had been renewed, and the results improved as well. New additions to the first team included Yannick Michiels and Antti Parjanne, while Scott Fraser returned to TuMe after five years in Södertälje.

The team battled among the top ten throughout the relay. Top-10 leg times were recorded by Parjanne, Martins Sirmais, Jussi Suna and Edgars Bertuks. After a dramatic anchor leg, TuMe finished sixth.

TuMe also entered an Old Blacks team in Paimio, featuring former first-team runners from past decades. The team finished 155th. The lineup included Pessi Liukkonen, Petri Rintala, Aigars Leiboms, Mikko Knuuti, Kari Lehto, Sami Hämälistö and Janis Ozolins. Hämälistö showed he was still in excellent shape by recording the 47th fastest time on the sixth leg.



The team on the podium in Paimio 2015.



Eetu Hirvonen and Rauli Helkkula in the demanding conditions of Lappeenranta.

The 2016 Jukola in Lappeenranta is remembered for mud, rain and poison ivy. Already in the changeover area there was a real danger of losing a shoe in mud reaching up to the knees.

Although Martins Sirmais ran the third-fastest time on the fourth leg, the first team spent much of the relay behind the second team and only managed to pull ahead for good on the sixth leg. The final placings were 23rd and 34th.

The strong performance of the second team was largely built on Janis Kums' excellent second leg, where he recorded the 11th fastest split time and brought the team to the exchange in 17th place. It was probably Fox's finest run in TuMe colours.

The following year in Joensuu, TuMe received distinguished attention when President of Finland Sauli Niinistö cheered Antonio Martinez Perez into the first exchange in the lead.





Antonio punches at the first exchange together with Rasti-Kurikka. Yannick exceptionally ran the anchor leg.

In Joensuu, the first team finished 22nd and the second team 38th. Timo Varila ran his 50th Jukola Relay. The following year, he became the first TuMe orienteer to receive the honorary title of Jahtivouti.



Timo Varila runs down the finish chute of his 50th Jukola Relay. His first Jukola had been in 1965.



Scotsa brings the relay in from the fifth leg for Juppu.

At the 2018 Jukola in Hollola, held in terrain famous for its raccoon dogs, the relay never really went as expected. Towards the end, the first and second teams ran together for a long time, and even at the finish their placings were consecutive: 33rd and 34th. The best individual performance came from Tappi on the fourth leg of the second team. He ran at almost the same pace as the leaders and recorded the club's only Top 10 leg time.



The Venla team of Eija Sulavuori (right), Pirjo Viitala, Marjo Hovirinta and Henni Hiirsalmi finished in 1351st place.



Yannick (right), Martins, Juppu, Edgars, Edu, Uldis and Robbe navigated TuMe to 10th place in Kangasala.

At Kangasala in 2019, TuMe returned to the Top 10 after a few leaner years. Austria's Robert Merl anchored the first team for the second time, while familiar names Eduardo Gil Marcos of Spain and Uldis Upitis of Latvia made their debuts in the first team.

The team stayed within the Top 10 throughout the relay, which guaranteed exceptional media attention. After every leg, TuMe runners were interviewed on television. Martins' lengthy analysis of the club coaching staff's relay tactics became especially memorable.

At the finish, the second team placed 63rd and the third 87th.



The men being interviewed by Yle.

The second team.



TuMe's teams on the prize-giving stage, with Kalevan Rasti — anchored by Miika Kirmula — between them.

After the pandemic year, the 2021 Jukola Relay in Rovaniemi was held unusually late, in August. The relay is particularly remembered for the outstanding performance of the second team. From the second leg almost all the way to the finish, the second team stayed ahead of the first team. Tappi, Fisu and Riku all brought the team to the exchange within the Top 10 on legs four, five and six. The team eventually finished 13th. On the final leg, Samu lifted the first team past the second and into 11th place. The two teams climbed onto the prize-giving stage together.



Preparations for the 2022 Lukkari-Jukola Mynämäki were carried out with a large group on home ground in Turku. Accommodation, meals and team meetings were held at Kolo. Yle was also interested in TuMe's preparations.



The team that finished eighth consisted of Yannick (right), Hatman, Mara, Edgars, Samu, Russe and Juppu.

At Lukkari-Jukola in 2022, TuMe once again reached the Top 10 despite preparations being troubled by numerous health issues and the running order having to be rearranged several times. The final placing was eighth. Special mention goes to Samu, who ran the fastest time on the fifth leg and lifted the team into third place.

The second team finished 33rd and the third team 91st. TuMe started the relay with nine teams, but only six reached the finish. In the Venla Relay, the ratio was even worse, as both teams failed to complete the course.



In Porvoo 2023, the first three legs were run in the same order as in Mynämäki: Yannick (left), Hatman and Mara. Fisur ran in the first team for the first time on the fourth leg, followed by Juppu, Robbe and Samu.

In Porvoo, bad luck with health issues struck already before the relay, when Russe developed a severe tooth infection the day before the race and was not cleared to run by a doctor. The first team finished 16th, with the second team right behind in 18th place. The third team performed well too, placing 58th.

The strongest individual performances came from Juppa and Uldis. Juppa recorded the eighth-fastest time on the fifth leg, while Uldis showed his strength on the anchor leg. Running the ninth-fastest anchor leg overall, he lifted the second team to within just two places of the first team.

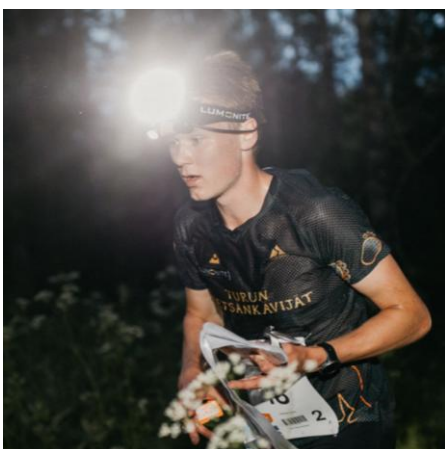


The second team on the prize-giving stage. The runners were Slaikku, Danny, Edu, Tappi, Sale, Edgars and Uldis.



Saija Mutka broke her arm but bravely brought the Venla team to the finish, from where she was taken by ambulance to Häiskä's car and then on to Porvoo Hospital.

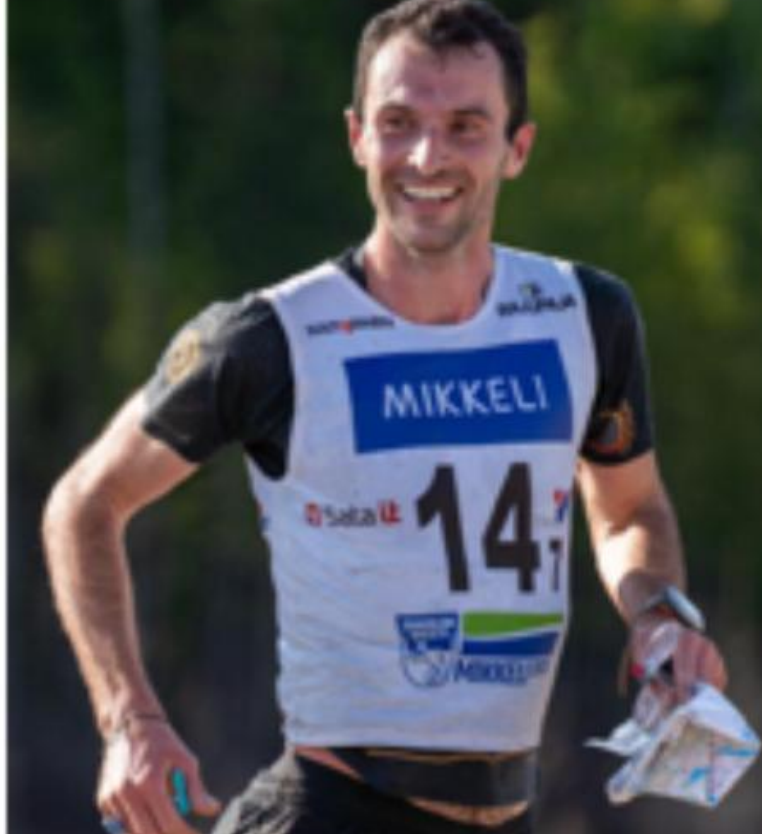
Ahead of Lokia-Jukola 2024, Samu had prepared with high expectations but was unable to compete due to a leg injury. Nevertheless, the relay went well, with the team staying around the Top 10 throughout much of the race. Yannick laid the foundation with an excellent opening leg, bringing the team to the first exchange in third place, only nine seconds behind the leaders. At the finish, the first team placed 14th and the second team 38th.



At Lokia-Jukola, Aksu ran in black for the first time and lifted the second team 35 places to 13th on the second leg.



The first team waiting for the prize-giving ceremony. From the right: Russe, Fisu, Hatman, Uldis, Mara and Danny. Mara had run an excellent race in the second team and stood in for Yannick and Juppu at the ceremony.



On the sixth leg, Samu lifted the team into the Top 20, and Russe, producing his best-ever run for TuMe, was the fifth-fastest anchor runner.

At last year's Mikkeli-Jukola, TuMe entered a total of seven teams and one team in the Venla Relay. After a difficult start, the first team fought its way up to 13th place, improving by one position from the previous year.

The team consisted of Yannick, Danny, Johan, Aksu, Fisu, Samu and Russe. Johan on the third leg and Russe on the anchor leg both recorded the fifth-fastest leg times. As in Mikkeli, the team once again could not start with its strongest possible lineup, as Uldis had to withdraw due to a leg injury.



Johan recorded the fifth-fastest time on the long third leg.

After the competition, coach Juha noted that TuMe had been the seventh-fastest team from the first exchange to the finish despite starting from position 115. He described it as the club's best overall team performance of the last ten years, highlighting the team's exceptional fighting spirit and unity. The second team also struggled early on but eventually climbed to 47th place, while the third team finished 92nd.

The six stories told during the spring have covered TuMe's first 49 appearances at Jukola. With that tradition behind them, the club now heads proudly toward its 50th participation in two weeks' time.