

From / Applicants:

Rogaining Finland

in collaboration with

**Orienteering club *Turun Metsänkävijät (TuMe)*
Turku, Finland**

To:

International Rogaining Federation (IRF)

APPLICATION FOR ARRANGING EUROPEAN ROGAINING CHAMPIONSHIPS IN 2023

Please consider our application when selecting the arranger of 2023 European Rogaining Championships (ERC). In case ERC will not be arranged in 2023, we would like to apply for ERC 2024.

THE APPLICANT

Turun Metsänkävijät (TuMe) is a Finnish Orienteering club located in Turku. The club has some 140 members and it is well known for its achievements in international orienteering competitions, the Jukola and Tiomila relays, and in Finnish, European and World Championships.

TuMe has also strong and decades long experience in arranging different level orienteering competitions, like the Finnish Middle Distance Championships in 2006. TuMe has arranged different district rogaining competitions during the last ten years, and its concept of city rogaining events called Street-O was awarded with the *Marketing of Innovative Orienteering* prize in 2017 by the Finnish Orienteering Federation.

In 2019 TuMe arranged (together with a scout organization Ilpoisten Vuorenkävijät) the Finnish Rogaining Championships (FinRC). TuMe was responsible of the courses,

mapping, map printing and computing the results of the competition. TuMe can easily recruit more than 70 people in its rogaining competition arrangement forces.

TuMe has had close collaboration with the organizers of ERC2009 and WRC2015 and the experiences of the competition were transferred to the organizers of FinRC2019, including experiences from ERC2009 and WRC2015 Event Director Jari Kaaja and Course Setter Juhani Isaksson (who also acted as the Supervisor of FinRC2019).

Appendix 2 shows a list of competitions arranged by TuMe.

GOALS FOR ARRANGING THE COMPETITION

We have the following goals for the competition, in the order of importance:

1. Produce a course that is demanding both physically and for planning the route
2. Produce a high quality map, putting emphasis on showing the passability of the areas in the terrain
3. Invest extra effort in recruiting orienteers especially from Finland, Sweden and Norway. We hope to lure a record high number of participants from these countries. In marketing we use different channels that are familiar to the Nordic orienteers (Nordic orienteering competitions and communication channels of the Nordic Orienteering Federations)
4. Quality arrangements regarding the overall infrastructure of the competition

PEOPLE IN THE CORE RESPONSIBILITIES

Competition director: *Mikko Knuuti*

Main course setter and map preparation: *Timo Lainema* with help from TuMe members

Map drawing: *Juha Hiirsalmi & Timo Lainema*

Results: *Hannu Arki*

Organizing committee: the above mentioned persons plus *Kari Lehto* and *Marko Orell* plus people who will be appointed later.

All these persons have long experience with similar responsibilities in earlier competitions, not least from the FinRC2019.

Timo Lainema, who is responsible of the courses has participated Rogaining World Championships in 2015, 2017 and 2019, and ERC in 2020. Timo was the course setter, terrain mapper and map drawer (together with Juha Hiirsalmi) of FinRC 2019.

Appendix 4 presents the core people in more detail.

COMPETITION TERRAIN

The terrain for ERC 2023 would be an area close to the city of Turku, easily accessible with different travelling options (ferry, railroad, flights, car).

The area is next to FinRC2019 terrain, with exceptionally interesting types of terrains from large marsh areas to some of the oldest forest in the whole southern Finland. The area is characterized by two specific areas: the *Kurjenrahka* national park and the military administrated *Raasinkorpi* forests. These two areas cover some 25% of the competition area, but their importance in course planning will be even greater than their size would indicate. The remaining areas are typical Finnish forests used as a source of timber for the forest industry.

In general, 2/3 of the competition area (the Northern part) is surprisingly sparsely inhabited, considering the fact that the area is in Southern Finland and very close to one of main cities in Finland (Turku). One could state that the Northern half of the terrain only includes houses and farms by the roads delimiting the competition area in West and in East. The contrast to the Southern part of the terrain is clear: in South, there are also agriculture and permanent habitation. Still the whole area is mainly forests, and fields only cover some 15% of the Southern part of the terrain.

Even though the area is covered by forest roads serving forest industry, there are also wide areas where the closest roads are more than 1 kilometer away. We are thus able to create a course in which the participants also need to proceed in terrain without roads or paths. The terrain includes all the possible terrain types one can find in Southern Finland: forests of different ages, open forests, logged areas, thickets, large open marshes, forest marshes, lakesides, and open rocky hills so very typical for the Southwestern Finland.

Kurjenrahka is one of the finest forest and marsh areas in Southern Finland. It has the feel of wilderness normally found in Northern Finland (*Finnish Forest Ministry* - <https://www.nationalparks.fi/kurjenrahkanp/>):

Kurjenrahka National Park includes the largest mires of Southwest Finland which are in their natural state, and the surrounding forests, of which some are old. The soil in the National Park is low in nutrients, which can be seen in the natural features of the area: the forests are mostly dry, and the mires are barren raised bogs, where the centre is higher than the edges, so nutritious water from the surrounding areas cannot run there. The plants of the raised bogs live only on the nutrients they get from the rain water.



The marked trails of the National Park, together with the larger hiking trail networks 'Kuhankuonon retkeilyreitistö' and 'Suokullan reitti', make up more than 300 km of trails.



The Mires in Kurjenrahka are unique to Southwest Finland in their size and diversity. Although some areas round the edges of the mires have been drained before now, most of the mire is still undisturbed.

Kurjenrahka Mire, which the National park is named after, is with its area of more than 20 sq.km. one of the largest unbroken mires in the whole of Southern Finland. It is a raised bog divided by forested islands.



The forests of the National Park grow round the edges of mires, or in forested islands in the middle of mires. Most part of the forests have been used for commercial forestry. However, there are many islands in the mires where the forests have been saved from logging for a long time, and they appear as if they were in their natural state: there are trees of different age, especially stout old trees, a lot of decayed wood, and many different tree species.



The Raasinkorpi area is one of the technically most demanding orienteering terrains in South-West Finland. It consists of very detailed hill areas. Races 1 and 2 in FIN5 orienteering week in 2005 were organized in this area, but normally there is no access to these forests as the area is military controlled. We can say that no orienteerer has had a possibility to visit these forests since 2005.

TuMe has already discussed the Finnish Forest Ministry and the district military management, who own and manage the Kurjenrahka and Raasinkorpi areas. Both parties have given preliminary acceptance for arranging the competition in areas under their administration. This guarantees us access to the central parts of the terrain.

The competition area allows for arranging a competition in an exceptionally interesting terrain, with excellent possibilities to plan a regaining course that is demanding both physically and mentally, requiring tactical skills in course planning.

A map showing the location of the competition area is shown in **Appendix 5**.

INFRASTRUCTURE

The Raasinkorpi area includes a military camp that can be used as a competition center, and the hash house will be located here. The competition center has well-functioning facilities for an event like ERC, and is easily capable of hosting more than 1.000 participants. The camp offers electricity, running drinkable water, showers, toilets and large open areas for parking. The competition center is some 40 minutes from Turku bus and train stations and the Turku airport.

MAPPING

We will be able to use the excellent map data sources of National Land Survey of Finland. These sources include laser scanned land data from the competition area. The laser scanning has been done in 2019 and 2020. Aerial photography of the area will be made in 2021-2022. This material forms the basis for the terrain work and mapping. Mapping will further be supplemented with different sources of digitalized aerial photography, providing up-to-date information on logging and different vegetation types in the area. As the quality of the basic material of the map will be automatically generated, we will put extra emphasis in preparing a map with high quality presentation of the passability of the terrain.

Mapping will be done with a team of mappers, led by the main course setter. The earlier the International Rogaining Federation is able to grant the competition to be arranged by TuMe, the more the team has time to prepare a quality map for the competition.

We are planning to have a map with scale between 1:25000 – 1:30000.

DATES OF THE COMPETITION

We aim at arranging the competition in **August**. The dates will be selected so that it will not clash with the Finnish orienteering competition calendar so that a maximum amount of Finnish orienteers will have the possibility to participate. At the writing of this application, it seems that August 19-20 would be most suitable for the event.

We see that there is a considerably population of potential rogainers among the Finnish orienteers. The same applies to Swedish orienteers and we will put special emphasis on marketing the competition to Swedish orienteers, who have excellent ferry access to Turku and the competition.

The competition would also serve as Finnish Rogaining Championships 2023.

ICT INFRASTRUCTURE

TuMe tested and created good practices with www and registrations systems in FinRC2019 and these practices will be followed in the ERC competition. We will, of course, be happy to receive any guidelines provided by the International Federation.

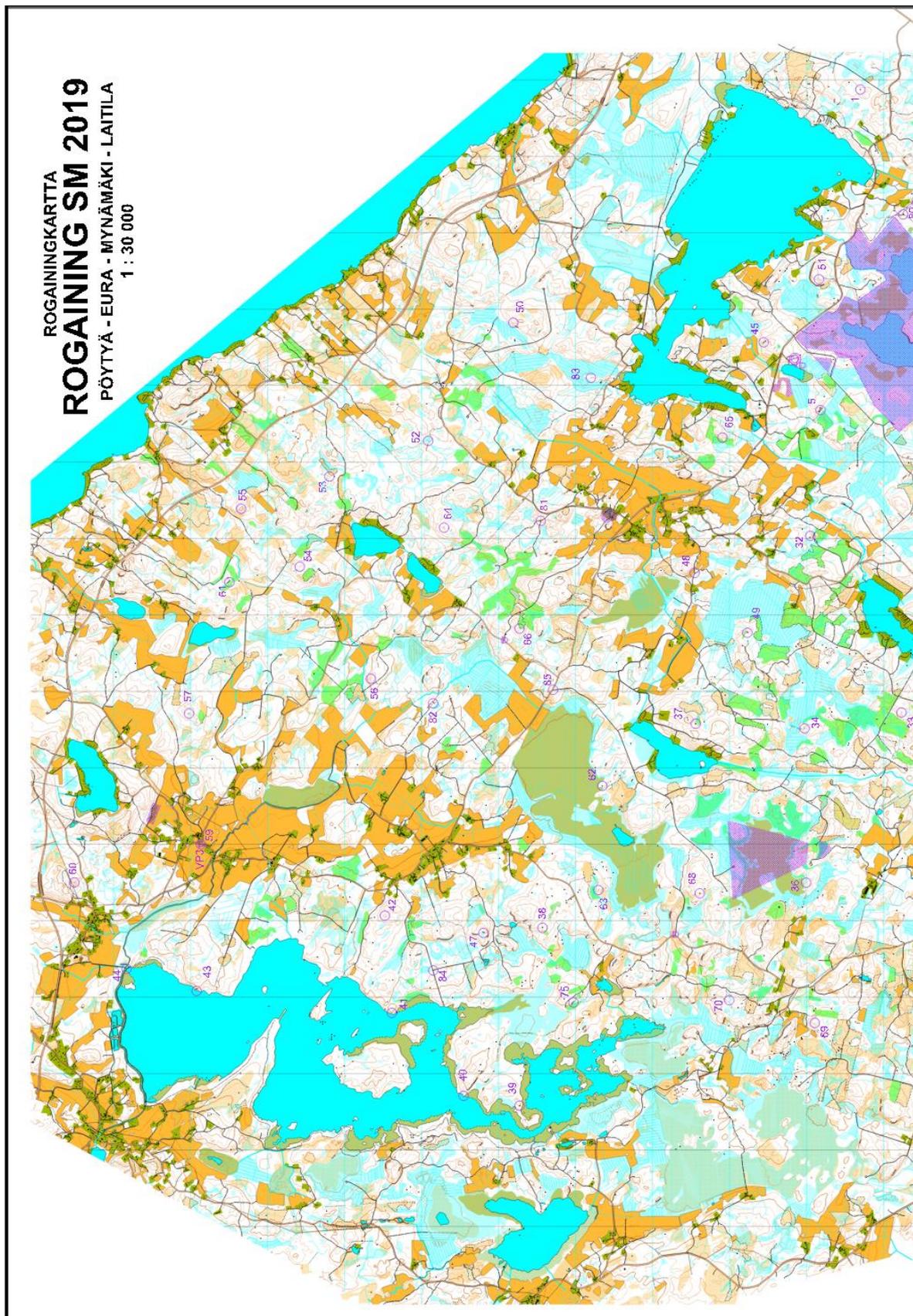
PUNCHING SYSTEM

TuMe has experience on SPORTident (and the Emit system). The FinRC was arranged using SPORTident. At writing this, the most probably system would be the SPORTident system and Tak-Soft Rogain Manager software (the same combination that was used in FinRC2019).

OTHER

Rules and overall arrangements permitting, we might be interested in arranging a shorter rogaining competition as a side event in the same location. This would serve as a marketing event for those people, who are novices and not ready to participate in the 24h race.

APPENDIX 1 - Extract of the Map of the Finnish Rogaining Championship in 2019



APPENDIX 2 – Feedback from the participants from 2019 FinRC

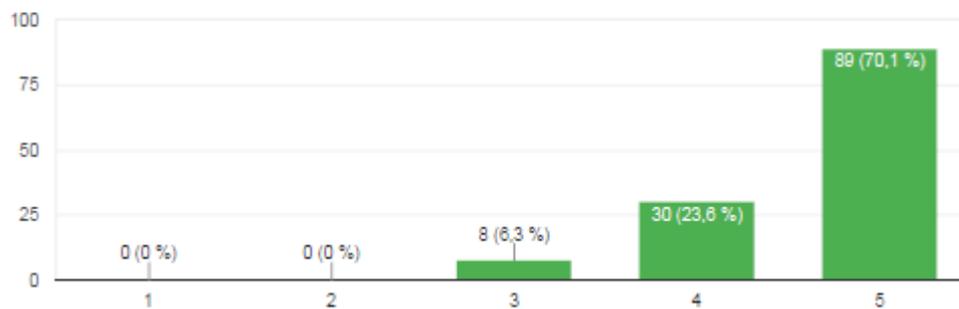


Scale: 1= Totally disagree; 5= Totally agree

Radan suunnittelu oli riittävän haastavaa/The route planning was challenging enough

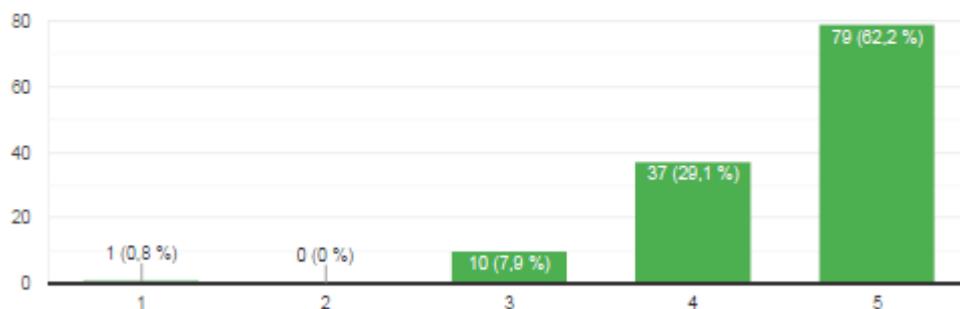
127 vastausta

k.a.: 4,64



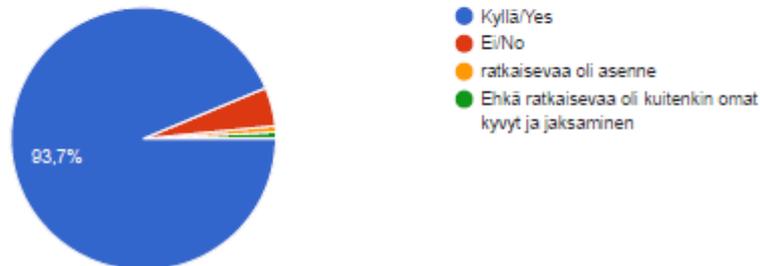
Kilpailumaasto oli riittävän haastava/
The competitive terrain was challenging enough

k.a.: 4,52



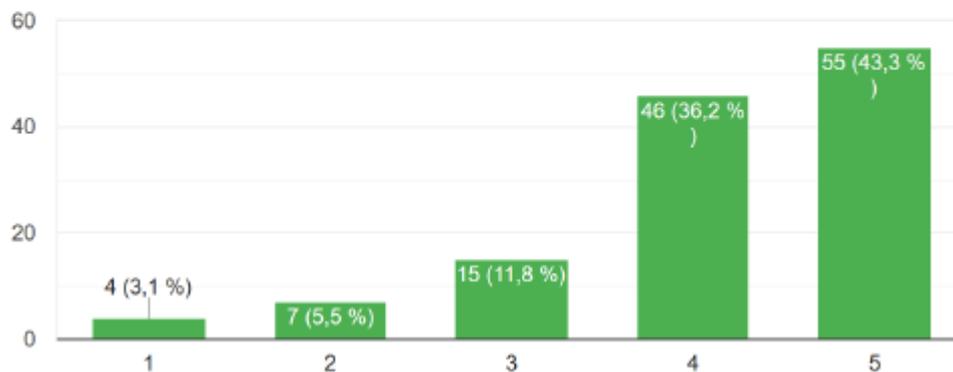
Tarjosiko rata tarpeeksi suunnitteluhaastetta niin, että suunnittelu oli ratkaisevassa roolissa menestyksen kannalta?/Did the course offer enough planning challenges so that the planning played a crucial role in the success of a team?

127 vastausta



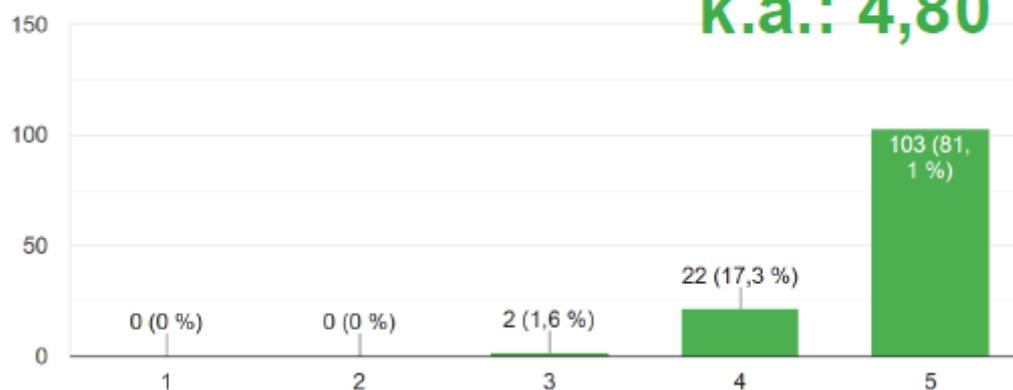
Kartta oli riittävän tarkka rogainingiin/The map was accurate enough for rogaining

k.a.: 4,11



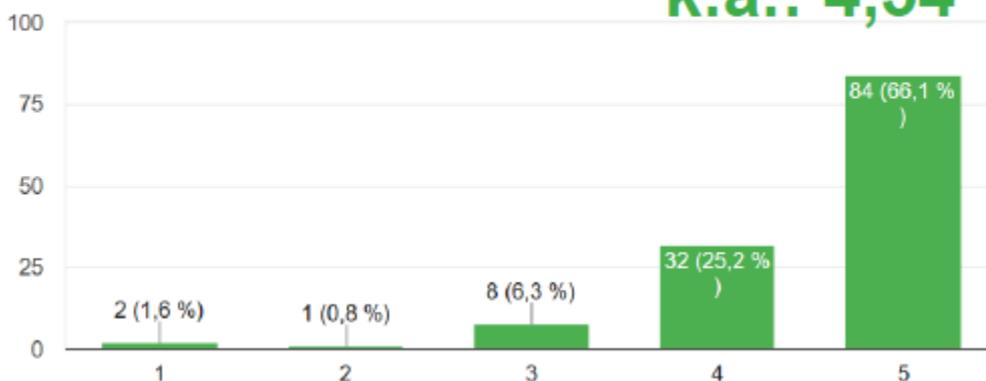
Kartan painolaatu oli hyvä/The print quality of the map was good

k.a.: 4,80



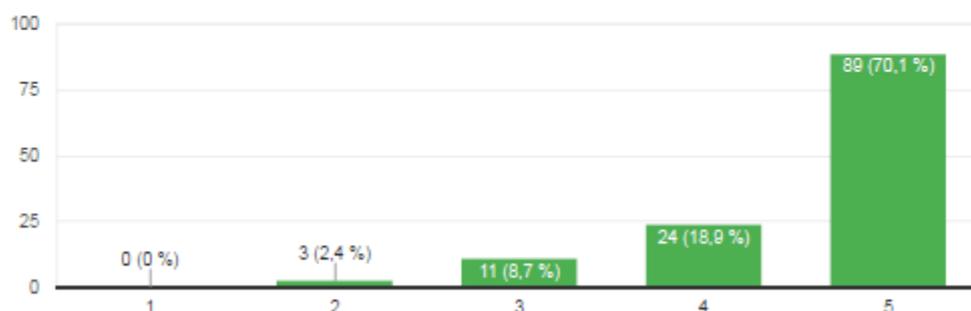
Tulospalvelu oli luotettava/The result service was reliable

k.a.: 4,54



Tarkastelin mielenkiinnolla muiden kilpailijoiden GPS-reittejä kilpailun jälkeen/It was interesting to study the gps-routes of the other competitors after the race

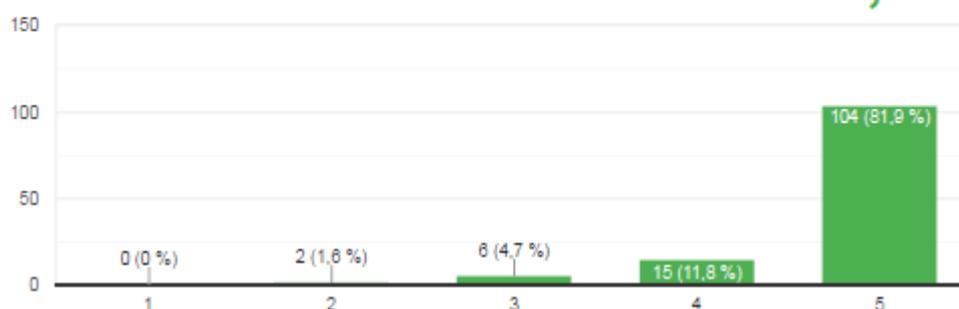
k.a.: 4,57



Minulle jäi se käsitys, että järjestäjät olivat panostaneet tosissaan kisan suunnitteluun ja toteutukseen/ I was left with the impression that the organizers had seriously invested in planning and conducting the race

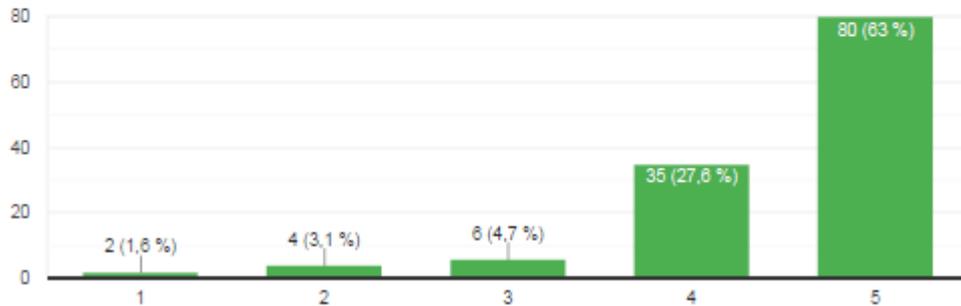
127 vastausta

k.a.: 4,74



Kilpailun järjestelyistä kokonaisuudessaan jäi ammattimainen vaikutelma/The overall organization of the competition left a professional impression

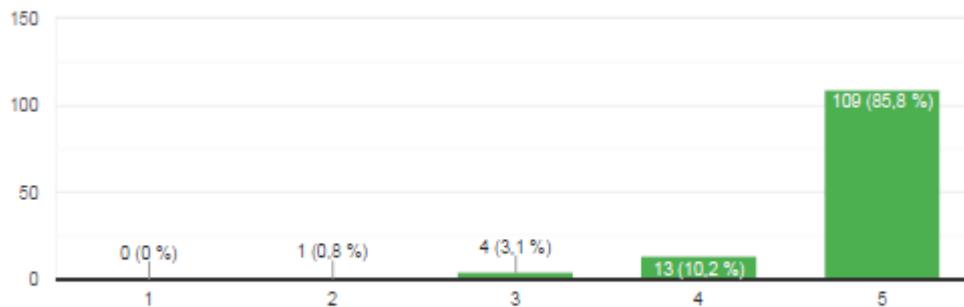
k.a.: 4,47



Kisasta jäi minulle hyvä fiilis ja olen iloinen siitä, että päätin osallistua kisaan/I was left with a good feeling from the race and I'm glad that I decided to participate

127 vastausta

k.a.: 4,81



APPENDIX 3 – Competitions arranged by Turun Metsänkävijät

Year	Competition name	Number of competitors	Number of Organizers
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Rogaining competitions

2019	Rogaining Finnish Championships	330	40
2018	Turku Rogaining Wintersprint	144	15
2017	Turku Rogaining Nightsprint	160	15
2017	Turku Rogaining Wintersprint	160	20
2016	Turku Rogaining Nightsprint	140	25
2016	Turku Rogaining Wintersprint	140	25
2015	Turku Rogaining Nightsprint	130	15
2015	Turku Rogaining Wintersprint	130	20

Orienteering competitions

2022	ETOC (European Trail Orienteering Championships)	~150	40
2020	FinTrailO	50	30
2019	youth district championships	149	30
2018	youth district championships	144	30
2018	FinTrailO, Trail Orienteering world ranking event (WRE) & Euro Cup	120	30
2017	District Sprint Championship	215	20
2016	District Middle Distance Champs	250	25
2015	TUPI & STPU Sprint Realy	50	10
2014	District Team Champs	200	25
2006	Finnish Champs, Middle Distance	1200	50
2004	District Short Distance Champs	390	30
1998	"Kopion iltapika" - national	~400	30
1997	"Kopion iltapika" - national	~400	30
1996	"Kopion iltapika" - national	~400	30
1995	"Kopion iltapika" - national	~400	30
1994	"Kopion iltapika" - national	~400	30

Turku Street-O – city rogaining

2020-21	Total of 20 competitions	estim. avg. 240	25
2020	Autumn cup, 5 competitions	avg. 103	
2019-20	Total of 20 competitions	avg. 208	25
2019	Spring cup, 7 competitions	avg. 74	
2018-19	Total of 20 competitions	avg. 199	25
2018	Spring cup, 5 competitions	avg. 50	
2017-18	Total of 21 competitions	avg. 164	25
2016-17	Total of 20 competitions	avg. 137	25

Scout Competitions

2015	"Alkulähde" – District Champs	300	100
2005	"Kontio" – Finnish Champs	500	180
2000	"Ursus Millenii" – District Champs	400	120
1995	"Karhusaari" – Finnish Champs	500	170

APPENDIX 4 – ERC 2023 Organization

COMPETITION DIRECTOR – MIKKO KNUUTI, email mikko.knuuti@turku.fi

Chair of the Board of TuMe. Former top orienteerer who has been a member in the successful TuMe relay teams. Best achievements are 2nd places in Jukola and Tiomila relays in the early 2000s. Mikko is highly experienced and motivated in arranging meaningful and well-functioning competition experiences for rogainers. Mikko has also several Finnish championships in scout competitions.

MAIN COURSE SETTER – TIMO LAINEMA, email timo.lainema@utu.fi

Active orienteerer since 1973. Participation in Jukola relay (some 35 times), Tiomila relay (+10 times), orienteering weeks in Finland, Sweden and Scotland, Fjäll/mountain orienteering (Sweden and Finland), and Worlds Masters Orienteering Championships (5 times, best performance 22nd in long distance, 2015). Participation in Rogaining World Championships in 2015 Finland, 2017 Latvia, and 2019 Spain. Participation in Rogaining European Championships in 2020 Latvia (5th in MSV).

Main course setter in Finnish Championship in 2019. Active course setter in Turku Street-O 2016-2020. Main responsible of the terrain work / mapping of the 2019 Finnish Rogaining Championship map.

MAP DRAWING: JUHA HIIRSALMI

Very experienced map drawer since 1994 with some 50 different orienteering/rogaining maps produced. Also responsible of the TrailO-maps of TuMe, including the WRE and Euro Cup competitions.

RESULTS – HANNU ARKI

Active rogaining competition participant (Rogaining Sprints). Responsible of the results in 18 different Rogaining Competitions (also in competitions organized by other clubs), especially in the locally popular Turku Rogaining Sprint (2h) events (2009-2020).

Responsible of the results in 2019 Finnish Rogaining Championship 2019. Hannu has also programmed the results computing application of Turku Street-O, 2016-2020.

Responsible of results in several orienteering competitions during the last +20 years, also in other than TuMe arranged ones. Professional in the ICT field.

ADDITIONAL ORGANIZING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Kari Lehto: Multiple times medalist of Finnish championships and World Masters Orienteering Championships (WMOC, veteran world championships) in orienteering. Participated in WRC2019 in Spain, and has participated in several national rogaining competitions in Finland.

Marko Orell: Active orienteerer since 1980s. Participated in WRC2015 in Finland and WRC 2017 in Latvia. Has participated in several national rogaining competitions in Finland.

APPENDIX 5- ERC 2023 competition area

