INTERVIEW WITH MR. STEPHAN KRÄMER

Is this the first time you visit Spain?

No, I have been to Spain once before. This was at the 150 controls world record in Alicante in 2005. At that time we did not have SICards for 192 punches, so I wrote a special software so that the competitors could use 3 normal SICards6 (64 punches) in a row for the 150 controls. Since this was a very special software at a very special competition, I was there to support the organisers.

Have you visited Seville before?

No, this is my first visit to Seville.

What do you think about the development of orienteering in Spain?

I think this has grown rapidly during the last 10 years. Now you see Spanish Elite runners ahead of the best Germans... ;-)
And I hope I could contribute a bit to that development providing the SportSoftware to you. Currently Spain is the country with the most SportSoftware V11 licenses on the world, ahead of Germany and Sweden. This proves how high the standard of organising O events in Spain is today.

What do you think about the mix sport-tourisme in urban races like Seville O-Meeting?

This is a very nice and exciting kind of orienteering. I enjoyed to see historical places at such races, where I partly returned to later. I was running in Venice and other cities and I am eager to see how this will be in Seville! And of course this is the best way to promote orienteering to the non-O-world...

When do we get the Spanish help version of OE2010?

This depends mainly on how quick my Spanish translators are working... ;-) We hope to have a first incomplete but usable version soon. All Spanish SportSoftware users will be notified when this will be available.

What is the future about orienteering timing?

I do not believe that with the timing and punching itself we will have any decisive new developments in the future. I was part of the development of electronic punching and this

is the standard now for all orienteering competitions of all levels. Of course there will be interesting new features for the event software, think about mobile devices and the web, and I hope to stay at the top in this field.

Special features like the GPS online tracking will be further developed in the future but this will be used at high level world class competitions only. I believe for the average competition this will remain out of scope, due to financial and handling reasons.

Which one was there first, the orienteer or the engineer?

I began orienteering as a boy of 15 in 1974. So naturally the software engineer came later ;-) I began writing software for organising O events already in 1980 during my studies.

Beginning in 1978, I was organising numerous German national O competitions and other regional events. I was active in all parts of organising O events: map making, course setting, main organiser, event controller, time taking and computing (of course) ... Actually course setting is still my favourite job in organising O events.

At that time orienteering in Germany had been developed to a new level, and I am proud that I was part of this development. I implemented all my experience which I made there into my software. Later, after the introduction of Sportident in the 90ies, many organisers from all over the world contributed their ideas into the SportSoftware.