

# Postás Sport Club, Orienteering section

## The early years

At the end of last century when Budapest Post and Telegraph Sports Club was founded there were only 4 sports played: "gymnastics, fencing, cycling, and ball games" The number of sections and members increased fast, in 1903 we can find hiking on the list. But the First World War caused a drop in the interest in hiking and the section was refounded only in 1922, however real development appeared only by the end of the decade. In 1920 the name of the club changed to Postal Sport Club (Postás Sportegyesület), and the short version of the name, P.S.E was introduced.

We consider the period around 1920 to be the birth of Hungarian Orienteering. During this period a new trend started to develop among the "Friends of Nature" and some events were organized called as "terrain exercise" These events can be considered to be the first "early-orienteering" events in Hungary. There is not much information available about members of Postás SE, but in 1942 István Rózsás and Etel Földváry were awarded at "Hungarian Hiking Federation's national Terrain Exercise".

The centre of Postás SE was Budapest but in reality it spread all over the country. Groups were started in most of the larger cities. In Szombathely a hiking group was also formed in which Ernő Nagy was member from 1927. Later he came to Budapest, started to take part in the terrain exercise events, and become trainer of the youths.

## On the way to Orienteering

In 1947 Terrain Exercise Committee was founded in the Hungarian Hiking Sport Federation and the basic rules of the sport were fixed. Upon these rules in 1948 a 24 hour event was held and the team of Postás SE was second. During the years of 1950-1970 the number of Terrain Exercise events increased, also the form changed and started to be called Orienteering. Around the beginning of 1960's in the hiking section of Postás SE a group of mainly young people formed – István Mátravölgyi, István Dessewffy, Huba Mészáros, Margit Végh, Antal Schell and his wife, Eszter Tóth, Péter Zoltán, etc. – who regularly took part in orienteering events. Later they were the heart of the independent orienteering section. In 1965 regular training started in the hills around Budapest. The house of Imre Szentgyörgyi was used as the centre of the training sessions. The number of training sessions increased fast and couple of training camps were also organised. Thus the results of Postás SE runners also improved, István Mátravölgyi, Antalné Schell, Eszter Tóth got first class ranking. At this time Andor and Vera Korik and the Hunyadi brothers joined the club.

In 1961 the International Orienteering Federation was founded, which gave an extra push to Hungarian Orienteering. European and World Championships were organised. And also Hungarian events improved, National Championships took place. The best result in these championships was achieved in 1967 when the women's team reached second place.

In 1969 the "heroic age" of Hungarian Orienteering was ended. On 1st January 1970 the independent Hungarian Orienteering Federation was founded.

## Orienteering Section in Postás SE

After the foundation of Hungarian Orienteering Federation the members of hiking sections formed independent orienteering sections one after the other. So did the members of Postás SE and the orienteering section was formed with 23 members. The leader of the section was Imre Szentgyörgyi. Erno Nagy qualified as a coach and continued his successful activity. The team of Postás SE was among the top 6 teams in the Relay and Team Championships in the following years. The section

organised map reading courses in schools from where Zoltán Kiss joined to the club. Later he became multiple National Champion, and until 2002 his 9th place in the World Championship organised in Zalaegerszeg was the best ever result in Hungarian men's orienteering.

In 1975 and 1979 two clubs VM Egyetértés and BSE assimilated into Postás SE, thus the number of the members increased rapidly and reached nearly 100. Couple of talented runners got into the club. In the following years Péter Vámos, Vera Korik, Antalné Schell were the leaders of the section, until 1992 when Antal Schell took over from his wife in this function. After the retirement of Erno Nagy, Márta Lovász, Zoltán Kudor, Ágnes Schlosszer and Andor Korik acted as coaches. In the recent years Vera Korik, Antal Schell and Zsuzsanna Riczel coached the groups of youngsters. From 1996 the name of Postás SE changed to Postás-MATÁV SE. (Post and Hungarian Telecom Sport Club)

## Results of the recent years

After 1970 both the men's and the women's team had 1st class ranking, at the Relay and Team Championships they reached couple of top 6 places. Zoltán Kiss achieved several podium places in the youth and junior classes. The "golden age" of Postás SE was between 1976-1986 when a total number of 13 Hungarian Champions' titles were secured by Postás SE runners.

1976	Night Champion (M21)	László Gyalog
1977	Classic Champion (W17)	Éva Hehl
1978	Long dist. Champion (M21)	Zoltán Kiss
1979	W21 Team Champion	Vera Korik, Irén Csökör, Éva Hehl
1979	Classic Champion (M21)	Zoltán Kiss
1980	W21 Team Champion	Vera Korik, Irén Csökör, Mária Danovszky
1980	Classic Champion (M21)	Zoltán Kiss
1982	W21 Relay Champion	Zita Lendl, Ilona Schmiedmeister, Irén Csökör
1983	W21 Team Champion	Irén Csökör, Zoltánné Boros, Zita Lendl
1983	Night Champion (M21)	Zoltán Kiss
1983	Long dist. Champion (W21)	Irén Csökör
1985	W16 Team Champion	Andrea Korik, Veronika Pap, Zsuzsanna Riczel
1986	M16 Relay Champion	Tamás Csejtej, György Riczel, István Szebeli

In this period 27 podium placements were reached at Hungarian Championships. Some of our members got into the National Team - Zoltán Kiss, Éva Demeter, Vera Korik, Irén Csökör, Zsuzsa Pintér, Zita Lendl, Zoltánné Boros, Zsuzsa Riczel - and took part at several international competitions. Vera Korik, Irén Csökör and Zoltán Kiss also competed at World Championships. Until 2002 the 9th place achieved by Zoltán Kiss in the World Championships organised in Zalaegerszeg was the best ever result in Hungarian men's orienteering. After 1987 we didn't win Hungarian Champions' titles but several podium placements were still achieved by Péter Panyi, Eszter Sotér, Johanna Sotér, Orsolya Mátravölgyi, Gábor Józsa, Marcell Olajos, János Pál, Róbert Veres, Ádám Nemesházi, Csaba Gösswein, László Kiss. At the Hungarian Student Olympics Zsuzsanna Vida became a champion, Róbert Veres and Balázs Korbély were also medal winners.

In the veteran class the members of our club got several Champion titles. In the recent years Postás-MATÁV SE was one of the most successful clubs in this age class. Vera Korik, István Jelinek, Zoltán Boros, Zoltánné Boros, János Sotér, Antalné Schell, Eszter Tóth, Alajos Németh, Ildikó Keszthelyi, Anna Farkas, János Buncsik, Julianna Grant, Antal Schell and László Lázár were the most successful. In fact Vera Korik won at the Veteran World Cup, and Zoltan Boros was also on the podium.

In 2001 Csaba Gösswein became National Team member and achieved a 9th place at the European Youth Championships (EYOC) in the individual competition and in the relay race he was member of the team winning the bronze medal. In 2002 he improved a lot and at the Classic distance Championship there were just 3 seconds separating him from his first Hungarian Champion title. 2003

brought even bigger improvement at the EYOC he became European Champion in long distance, and got another two silver medals in sprint and in relay. He won two Hungarian Champion titles (sprint and classic) out of the 5 and thus became 2nd in overall. In 2004 at the Junior World Championship he became 6th on Middle distance and 12th on Long. In the National Championships he won another two titles (sprint and classic again) and this year in a tight fight this meant also the overall victory.

## The section's present

Today Postas-MATÁV Orienteering Section belongs to the bigger clubs in Budapest with around 70 registered members. Most of them competing regularly and often with very good results.

Organising events plays great part in the section's activities. Originally the club didn't have own event. The assimilation of VM Egyetértés brought the "1st May" competition with itself, and the joining of BSE brought "Tanács Cup". From the 1st May event the Postás-MATÁV Night competition developed, and Tanács Cup was replaced with Postás--MATÁV Cup. In the past 27 years Postás-MATÁV Cup become one of the biggest international events in Hungary. With the internationally recognized mapping and course setting activities of János Sötér and his staff Postás-MATÁV SE became a highlighted organising club with so many successfully organised events. Besides Postás-MATÁV Cup we organised couple of National Championships and played part in the organising of the European Championships in 2002 in Sümeg.