

1. Information before the event and communication with organiser

AUT No answer from official mail account for answers a couple of days before race.

FRA Team leader took care of the communication.

EMTBOC

The website was confusing.

Very good bulletin 4 to prepare for the competition. But latest information and results were appearing very slowly to the website. Some split times are still missing... I really hope to see them.

Wrong starts list, no results after the race

There are still no results and split times online, new startlists were published during quarantine zone, etc.

Quick delivery of training maps

FRA Before event all information was easy to find. During event they took out startlists, put back wrong ones etc.

Masters

It was not made clear whether W40/45 and W60/65 were separate or not even at medal ceremonies!

Start lists were extremely last minute - the night before races and on at least one occasion were then changed again the next day as competitors had been left off. Changes in results (from the live centre) were not widely publicised - e.g. new results lists were put on the program page from the sprint race but not publicised on e.g. Facebook so some prize winners whose time had been adjusted were not at prize giving whilst others who thought they had medals attended.

My main difficulty was in paying for the events - not enough information in the bulletin to provide all the information that the Australian banks required for international money transfers. (Other events in Europe this year allowed us to pay in cash on arrival. That would have solved a lot of hassles at registration - some being charged more because of fees at the French end.)

The few times I have written to the organizers (problem with registration and ordering of SIAC) I received a response fast and with a clarifying/positive response.

Up until the last few weeks the system worked reasonably well, but then the event changed to SIAC but didn't broadcast the fact, rather they allowed people to find out when they looked at the website, which I didn't because I had no reason to. There were no Start Lists on the website prior to the event. There was a Start List at the Event Centre when we registered but it wasn't in course and name order. Then all the Start times changed and again there was no notification and they kept changing and/or not being available until late the previous night. Frankly it was a total dog's breakfast!

I had some questions. They were answered but took a few days.

During the competition days they improved.

No start list I did not know that W 65 was closed.

I asked several times for more information about O-France but did not get an answer for a long time. As I do not take part regularly in MTBO competitions I was more interested in O-France to get some exercises... But as the start times World Masters and O-France were not suitable I had to register for the Masters as my husband took part there.

My asking for training maps was replied very quickly. Brilliant! But to find out my start times was a real mess and nobody could help at the event centre, at the end (after one hour waiting...), we got the wrong ones for the middle and the long...

LTU Very good communication from organizers to us competitors.

I got little advice from organisers when trying to decide whether to have our pre-event training camp in Vilnius or Kaunas. Would have been better off at K... especially as organisers wouldn't give us all the May training maps, as they had promised by email. Two of the areas given were almost unrideable. Non European countries have enough disadvantages without being penalised further with non equal access for training. I believe there should be protocols in place for countries to have a proper training camp in the week prior to the champs, with good maps, set courses and some tapes at control sites. In taking about 20 teams to World Champs (incl foot O) this was the worst prior training week ever - couldn't prepare tr courses beforehand as no maps - some areas weren't very rideable Official training maps used in year of competition must all be available to ALL countries, not just European based ones who can attend May camp. These should be available digitally in high definition, on the website/ sent to all countries, as should previous maps of embargoed areas. Some, but not all were on the Lithuanian map site but this information wasn't available in any bulletins. Maps should have been provided for free to coaches to ride on the day of the events. Open / public events would help get more spectators, and more officials.

2. Event programme

AUT Public races should start sooner with exceptions for team officials, who could have late starts.

Some prize giving ceremonies were too late (eg Sprint).

The start for the youth and master classes could easily have been earlier after the elite classes without any interference, so we didn't have to wait 4 hours before we could go home on Monday.

Programme was excellent. Earlier starts than normal meant the afternoon was relaxed. Would be great if all events can have all elite starting before 12.

In order to "shorten" the time in competition area I would prefer start of the public races immediately after world cup is finished. Waiting for world cup's prize giving ceremony did not show the effect of more audience, however, it forced athletes with family in public races to wait even longer.

FRA There could have been a model event before the first competition.

EMTBOC

The rest day on Monday after the Sprint was not useful at all.

Schedule wasn't done perfectly. Especially when you compare with WOC in Lithuania. I didn't like the idea of organizing sprint relay and relay on the same event area and same forest area. And public race after sprint relay on the same map and area for everybody (including national teams).

Unusual programme with no model event before the sprint, and a day between the sprint and middle, and middle and long.

Rest day after middle was not necessary. Sprint / Middle / Sprint Relay should be better.

The rest days were scheduled in a useless way - it would have been a much better idea to have an schedule like: e.g. : Sprint-Middle-rest day-mixed sprint-long-rest day-relay

Master + Youth + Juniors + Elite + Open Comp is too much

FRA Master's events neglected

Masters

To arrive on a Saturday and do registration (chaotic), some training, attend an opening ceremony, move into accommodation, attend a team leaders meeting and prepare for the next day's competition was completely unrealistic. To have a model event after the first event was crazy - testing out the SI Air+ to see how far away it would work after you had already done a race.... World Masters seem to be a small side show. We were in the forest the same time as the Juniors and Youth and there was no commentary at all on any of the Masters classes.

There were some complaints about having the model after the sprint - especially from those who had not previously used SIAC. It was not a problem for me and I was OK with the rest day on Wednesday. With sharing transport, and then having to go to the presentations each night, I didn't have much free time on the competition days.

Good Idea to make the WMMTBOC before the EMTBOC to make the conditions of the EMTBOC more fair between early and late starter concerning tracks and wear in the forest.

I found the order and schedule suited well.

The 'model' event was AFTER the first event, and was totally irrelevant to any of the events.

A WMMTBOC should never just be "attached" to another big event such as the European or the World Champs. Especially the smaller, more inexperienced clubs are simply overloaded with the multitude of tasks. In Orléans, the maps and courses and eventually the time keeping were done really well and well appreciated. But the information and sometimes the start lists were often just marginal and needed to be acquired by osmosis?? Or by simply showing up and seeing what's going to happen? It is often a mistake to put the masters into the category "we just attach these lovely folks onto that event: they are old, docile and not so smart anymore anyway". It is the privilege of the young to view the over-60 as friendly grandparents. It all is far from the reality and the truth and we deserve the respect of being viewed as equals in terms of event organisation.

Order is ok. Too many rest days. Holidays can be made before or after the races. Hungary next year is much better.

One or even none rest day is enough. See Hungary next year. Those who need more days in the region for sightseeing can have this before or after competitions. This is also a matter of finance.

Too many events at the same time. 1 rest day would have been enough.

It's very nice to support the elite riders, but a no go to start at the same time as the juniors, either you are in their way (as we could use a lot of very lovely single trails...) or they ride over you and you end up in some naughty bushes.

I'd prefer shorter, more compressed Masters events, like in Sweden in 2011 (I think). Only the most enthusiastic - or retired - masters will spent one full work every year.

LTU Sprint should not be after long.

Bit unusual to have relay in the middle, but still good and compact program

For me the rest day should be after the long distance. To ensure fair competitions the day after!

It was maybe too hard with 2 "middle" races and hard mass start before the rest day. The middle should be placed later in the program. Really fun with an official mass start even for M/W20.

Difficult for riders to do well in both mass start and long perhaps with timing.

3. Event Centre

AUT Infrastructure was great. Some staff were really stressed and didn't know exactly all the details they should have known.

Not enough instructed people around at check in time.

Many helping people, but maybe they should know more about the event.

The staff was not speaking a fluent English.

FRA Not enough toilets on the sprint.

EMTBOC

The staff was too old in general and most of them didn't speak English! Long queues for everything and a big big big disorganization.

Problems with toilets (sprint) and warm-up areas

A few spoke good English, but there was a lot of confusion. Many teams were being told to have a special document to race, but there was no information about this beforehand. It turned out, this was only for masters...

Staff had a lack of know how.

FRA The volunteer staff was not prepared enough for the event.

Masters

The staff had great difficulty finding our bag with numbers etc. Many had to discuss whether the payment was right.

I'm not sure if the staff knew their tasks.

Staff were poorly briefed and often could not deal with queries and no recourse to someone who could. Promised updates rarely appeared.

Registration was chaotic - lists of people in no particular order - not sorted by name, country or even age category made it hard for all concerned. The volunteers themselves were very helpful and did try their best. There was no easy parking near the event centre so getting to it was always time consuming. Event centre at event was easier to visit but they had no record of which of us had paid for the banquet - thankfully they trusted us when I could name the 5 of us who had paid.

Staff were very friendly and trying to help but not all were sufficiently competent in English to be helpful to the international competitors. Also registration on Saturday morning was chaotic. Insufficient signs on the lanes; long hold-ups when there were problems with payments; some items collected by name, others by number. We did not know the number in advance and there was only one number list at the registration desk. Some people came away without having been given all their items and had to return later. Some packets were missing items (I and others did not receive all 6 bike/person labels. Why did we need different labels for each event?). Why were safety pins not provided for the person-labels?

Parking facilities were almost non-existing. The event center was chaos, with a staff filled with person with small to no knowledge and no language capabilities to communicate in other than French. The bags for the athletes with information were filled with errors: - No safety pins for bibs. - Many athletes did not receive the right or all their bibs. - There was no printed issue of bulletin 4, which according to the regulation is to be handed out printed. - Their lists of athletes were incorrect, with several athletes missing.

Registration was a total shambles with entrant lists in competitor number order but nothing to tell you what your competitor number was. They tried to be helpful but it was a total mess.

Small, difficult to park near and get to.

Chaos for reclaiming the documents. The staff was not well informed. One bib for each competition is not necessary. Bib for the middle distance was missing, so I used the same as in sprint.

At the main event center: reclaiming the documents was a chaos. We don't need three bibs. The bib for the middle was missing.

A big mess to get the documents.

Price giving late most days. Slow hand out of numbers etc.

The staff was very lovely, they really tried hard to help you. Thanks! But too many of them had no idea of MTB orienteering and therefore they were unable to answer your questions.

If you could get hold of people like Tiago or Frank, you got competent answers, the others were hopeless.

Very friendly and helpful staff! But not organised: Payment information was missing (a bad start) and hopeless communication with the timekeepers, resulting that our late entry for the Masters Relay disappeared.

LTU Good showers and toilets.

There was always somebody to contact! Perfect!

It was totally excellent, everything in one place, really good with the bike storage close to the hotel.

Perfect! It's better when everything is on the one place. Accommodation, event center, food. I like the atmosphere when all athletes are together.

Having most teams stay there was the highlight. Its remoteness from the old town or any nice facilities was the lowlight.

4. Accommodation and food

AUT Everything was good, except bike storage. They told us that there will be a guard. Especially in the first evening the bike storage was wide open (even after 9 pm) and nobody guarded it. Luckily nothing got stolen, but that has to change for next year's world champs!

There were no guards at bike storage, only after complaints intermittently guards were present.

Special requests for the food were not met. Vegetarians still need a source of protein, just removing the meat from a course is not sufficient.

Secure bike storage could be more controlled. It was on a road open to traffic but more than once we found it open without anyone checking it.

Meals were good and there was enough for everybody.

We used the camping. We were charged for breakfast when we didn't need it and this was not communicated before we paid. We thought we were only paying for camping.

A minus to the hot accommodation, no refrigerator or microwave to use, no food market within walking distance. WiFi turned off too early.

The accommodation was perfect, but the bike storage did not seem to be secure. What would happen if a bike disappears?

Bike storage must be manned during opening times. Food was ok, but pretty cheap canteen food from wholesale. Something regional would be nice. One could expect that an agricultural vocational school would provide something from their own production.

There was no choice for the food, maybe two different kinds of main dishes would be a better choice.

Bike store sometimes not closed.

The bike storage was not supervised all the time.... That needs to be changed to guarantee a secure storage.

WiFi was turned off at 21:15 - that may cause a rebellion in 2018 ;-)

FRA EMTBOC The food was full of vinegar which is a bad thing. There was enough food. The food was versatile. They ran out of the pre ordered lunch at the long distance.

LTU No bike wash though it was promised. We washed our bikes at the nearby graveyard, which is embarrassing.

Excellent food! Suitable rooms, perfect for sportsmen!

I missed the bike wash at the accommodation.

The bike storage too small and the security was maybe instable. Sometimes I needed to show accreditation and sometimes not, but overall my bike is still mine and I haven't been told someone who got any problem so it was ok. I think the accreditation is something that I think is a proper thing at a championship but it should include a picture.

No bike wash at the accommodation. Food was great.

Food was very boring with it being similar each day. However, the quantity and good provision of carbohydrates was a highlight.

5. Transport to the competitions / finish arenas

AUT Close to the finish.

GPS-Position is good, but having a map in the bulletin would be also good. Overview map and suggested route to the starts.

Signposts from parking to the start were not very clear and big.

FRA EMTBOC The maps of the arena never included the event center and were too small on the bulletin, impossible to read. It was possible to reach the arenas ONLY with a navigator/mobile phone with internet connection. Not good.

Parking was a little chaotic for the sprint and middle.

FRA Masters The route was not marked at all. It was only possible to find arena with online GPS.

Only GPS coordinates, not maps or directions.

We only had lat/long coordinates which do not work accurately in Google maps unless you know how to digitise them. My car GPS does not work with lat long coordinates. There was one small overview map in the bulletin that showed a general dot roughly where each event was happening but a small map extract for each venue would have made finding things much easier.

Not satisfactory to only provide gps coordinates. At the sprint relay, my car satellite navigation sent me to a closed gate to the chateau. We should also have had street addresses. Very friendly parking staff.

I only used parking facilities at the middle distance, and this was all OK.

This worked well, apart from the Model Event where they didn't seem to expect anyone to arrive at the time of opening.

We wanted a map with the place.

Many people ended up in front of closed gates for the sprint relay ...-there was a wrong placed (or at least very misunderstanding) arrow at a roundabout and the given coordinates sent you to the closed gates.

Giving coordinates means people enter them in their SatNav, but this led them to closed gates...

LTU No parking at the long distance.

The parking place on the long distance it felt a bit chaotic, otherwise parking areas were very nice organised

Longdistance parking situation was not optimal.

Parking where good, but at the long distance team sweden struggled to get there.

The maps for the bike routes to the arena was not that good.

Were there any signposts? Without own map / Google Maps you had no chance to find the races. Too few parking places at Long Distance.

Best to have decent maps as well as GPS co-ordinates. Parking was at times not supervised enough

6. Feedback on different competitions

AUT **MIDDLE DISTANCE:**

Quarantine zone too small.

Good jury work regarding disqualifications. On tricky parts marshalls should disqualify also those riders without GPS signals.

Pink course drawing was really badly readable. Some gaps between two paths (which aren't connected -> forbidden to cross) were drawn too small -> badly readable. No consistent use of the 'unclear junction', sometimes it could have been also a gap which would be forbidden to ride. Small path between 23-24 was not readable, could have been rocks too!

Race was good from an athlete's perspective but no good finish arena from spectator's perspective. Arrangement of finish line, spectators' area and podium was weird and did not seem to be well thought of.

Needs more space for warm-up in quarantine. Arena could be more spectator friendly.

Good terrain and good courses overall. Some paths were really unclear in the forest (late starters have a big advantage here). This also made the map somewhat unclear at parts as rideability was greatly improved after a number of riders passed. Some paths that were almost connected were really hard to read when riding. Maybe cut some of the path (since it's not connected) so make it more clear that it's not possible to go through? This would probably mean less people are cutting unknowingly.

I did not compete but the map looks very promising!

Maybe there could be some more space for the audience. It was a little annoying to have people smoking near the Athletes and the GPS screens.

Very interesting courses and good terrain - unfortunately some mistakes on the map and map drawing.

Nice terrain, but women elite course was not as interesting as the men's. Almost no challenging route choice options. Some tracks were really indistinct.

It was a very nice and challenging middle distance. But the following can be improved:

- GPS handout. Not enough people.
- fairness: generally I think it is good if one gets disqualified for obvious shortcuts.

Missing water at the start, but was fixed during next days. Starting personal should not interact with starters, no jokes or anything - time of concentration for the athlete. Start could have been a bit off the warm-up main spot, was quite loud.

Interesting area and course. The quarantine zone at the start was really sad, too small and too hot. And the rollers for warm up should be used far from the athletes who are resting and concentrating. The warm up area uphill was a bad choice. Difficult to transport all the staff by bike/walk from the parking to the start (not allowed to drive till there was a bad idea). The finish arena was sad, impossible to take picture of the riders if not after the finish and impossible to cheer for them from the last control to the finish.

Interesting course, great forest, good map.

SPRINT:

Quarantine zone too small

Crossing over small water could be marked better on map. Tricky path close to that crossing should be marked as forbidden.

Badly readable pink course drawing, especially in the urban area.

Race was great from an athlete's perspective but finish arena was very strange from spectator's perspective. Although much space on the meadow was available, everything was concentrated on little space so that e.g. moving the flags to the prize giving ceremony was done through the crowd in front of the monitors. And strange positioning of the buffet stands and the podium. I would expect for the world champs a more representative setup in the finish arena.

Fun. Good mix between forest and urban areas.

I'm not sure the solution to signal the required passages with the 708 symbol was the best. Perhaps the symbol 843 was sufficient and the map was more readable. Some athletes started early, had difficulty finding some traces in the woods and lost a few minutes. The races and courses, however, were very good!

also some mistakes in map drawing

Great course which was a challenge until the end.

It shows, how good course-setting can make a nice competition out of a little-suitable map.

Forest area was too simple for sprint.

Difficult race, really challenging course.

The readability of the tracks was not perfect and some tracks on the map were almost not existing in reality. And it's not fair that the first riders have to open the tracks from high grass... The quarantine zone at the start was pretty sad and thank God it was not a sunny and hot day or... And the rollers for warm up should be used far from the athletes who are resting and concentrating. The finish arena was better but always sad without music. It was like the promotional race of a small town, not a World Cup event.

LONG DISTANCE:

Quarantine zone too small. 1 or 2 really long route choices were missing.

Why said an owner of a part of the forest: "It is illegal, what you do here?". I was on a correct path to a control point.

Great race and map!

Paved roads were drawn under the pink course (men elite control 13), that was horrible for reading the map. The 'black paths' were drawn over pink -> good. Some really stupid controls (ME control 9) -> not best course setting Some unclear mapping (e.g. near control 6 -> North East; Control 12: Wrong junction (the one in the north - coming from control 11 - was just different in terrain) and the gap between parallel paths was just too small! Many competitors 'cheated' there because of this wrong/unclear mapping). Control Nr. 8 was set wrong and some barrier tape was in terrain.

Same as for the two races above. Good race, but for the world champs I would expect more representative finish arenas (e.g. think about where to put TV cameras for best shots of sprints at finish line and then layout the finish accordingly).

Good terrain. Numbers did at some points cover up vital parts of the maps (left route choice to 4th for example). Some paths that were almost connected were really hard to read. At 1:15000 this was almost impossible to read without stopping. A 3-4mm gap between paths on a 1:15 000 is not fair. Maybe cut some of the path (since it's not connected) so make it more clear that it's not possible to go through? Make it clear that it isn't allowed to go through. It shouldn't be about who has the best eye-sight, but who takes the best route choice. This would also probably mean less people are cutting unknowingly.

Great race! Great map and courses.

Good course and map, some controls were in-and-out controls. (or up-and-down...) :-P

Many thought provoking route choices. Women's course was very interesting and challenging. Sometimes too much riding on the same route into and out of the controls.

IMPORTANT: You cannot block paths without informing the rider: control 8. I was very confused and became even more, when the control was at another place. If there is no time to inform the athletes at the prestart, there has to be a marshal who can explain the situation and indicate where to ride. The course could have been better. After the interesting start, there were no real route choices in the middle part. (6,7,8,9,10,11)

The quality of the map was the same as the Sprint and many junctions on the main route choices were badly drawn. On the two most reasonable route choices everything must be perfect in my opinion. Some tracks were unmapped! The quarantine zone at the start was finally ok, same problem with the rollers for warm up that make too much noise used inside the official tent. The finish arena was ok but always in a "promotional race mood". No music, no pathos...

Terrain did not offer many route choices.

Good terrain and some tricky route choices. Unfortunately from a number of controls I had to go the same way back as I came.

FRA SPRINT:

EMTBOC

Controls were hidden and had fallen over. Staff mingled with the athletes at the start procedure. Poor and dangerous warm up area. Not enough shelter and toilets.

Some cps were dangerous because you could find other competitors in opposite direction in your way and behind dangerous building corners. Quarantine zone in all races were poor and without sufficient shelter for everybody in case of bad weather.

Great course and terrain but poor organizing.

Terrain was suitable but controls were hidden inside the bushes and most of them on the ground. Quarantine was very poor, under a full sun with only 3 small shelters and only 2 toilets for Juniors, Elite and Masters: 40 minutes to go to the toilet!!!!!! Warm up area on the track was dangerous. Start was not silent, the volunteers were having fun and laughing and disturbing the riders. Finish with two last controls in 100m was stupid, they forgot to tell it at the Team Leader's Meeting. Even the zig zag in the finish corridor was stupid.

I think the terrain was interesting but I expected more from the courses. I liked the French champs 2013 courses from same area more. Overall it was nice. Just one thing bothered me most in every distance - short sensitivity of the SI stations. It was less than 50cm. Should have been at least 1m. a) that created the need for athletes to nearly hit the controls. And controls fell down several times. That causes inequality. b) safety reasons - you should have your both hands on the handlebar as much as possible. Bad example here was CP25 on the M21 sprint course, where station was placed behind curbstone. Fastest option there was to jump over the 20cm curbstone and at the same time one hand away from handlebar to take the control.

Terrains and courses were excellent. Everything else was very poor. Control placement was terrible, no marshals in the terrain, with riders going everywhere. Quarantine was a nightmare. Two toilets and massive queues. Chatty start staff was nice but inappropriate. Severe lack of shelter. Severe lack of warm up space.

2 toilets for 700 athletes. Quarantine zone so small and dangerous. Helpers not quiet at the start area. Control difficult to find GPS given at the wrong athletes. No live result. No screen for result Finish area dangerous with 2 control points. Quarantine : No shelter in case of rain

terrain - perfect! courses - good! safety -horrible! fairness - horrible (quarantine troubles etc.) quarantine - horrible - we were lucky that the weather was not that bad..., no toilets, no water, etc. start - people talking to competitors, not quiet, no shelter controls hidden behind trees and bushes... wrong GPS

Some dangerous corners around buildings. Maybe we could make additional obstacles (e.g. fences) to reduce speed and improve visibility around corners.

MIDDLE DISTANCE:

Poor and dangerous warm up area.

Terrain was suitable but controls were not perfectly placed and some of them on the ground. Quarantine was very poor, under a full sun with only 3 small shelters and only 3 toilets for Juniors, Elite and Masters. Warm up area was small and not suitable.

Best course of the EC. Just sad that CP had fallen to the grass and I didn't notice it along with few other competitors.

Still too few toilets. Still a lack of warm up space in quarantine. Still a lack of shelter. Controls better positioned and not hidden in trees. Maps and courses excellent. Live results and timings worked.

Still 2 toilets Quarantine : No shelter in case of rain

Terrain good! Courses OK. Safety good. Fairness - ok---controls on the ground... Quarantine not ideal -- no shelters

LONG DISTANCE:

Poor and dangerous warm up area. Boring course and terrain.

The map was boring, a lot of long, flat and easy straights.

Quarantine was much better with enough warm up area, shadow and 4 toilets. Finish area was poor in an open field in the sun with no shelters.

Still lack of shelter. More toilets was much better. Maps were good, but courses went to the boring terrain twice and not the interesting southern area. Surely a more interesting long distance area could have been found?

No choice for men elite. All riders made the same route choice. Quarantine : No shelter in case of rain

Terrain - OK! Courses - not ideal! All other things good!

Too less demanding; some routes had to be done twice

SPRINT RELAY:

Poor and dangerous warm up area.

Quarantine : No shelter in case of rain

Terrain – perfect, courses - good

Narrow paths are not suitable for sprint relay.

RELAY:

The trails were marked badly on the maps. Black and yellow was the same. Poor and dangerous warm up area.

No route choice! Quarantine : No shelter in case of rain

Terrain – perfect, courses – poor, fairness - bad! No right maps and forking!!!! Shouldn't count as EOC Relay! Furthermore there were many reasons to disqualify teams - if there are rules, you have to use them!!!

GENERAL:

Warm up areas were too small and with people all around. No logical selection of areas.

FRA **SPRINT:**

Masters

Great map and course.

Maps and courses were very good.

Not enough space in the quarantine zone to warm up. Too few toilets in the quarantine zone. Too few team tents provided by the organizers. The start list was too late to view in the quarantine zone. Poor course setting at the end.

By 50cm SIAC distance meant controls damaged or collapsed, some hidden too much for security.

The only thing out of the above list that was good was the courses (and map). My guess is that they had to use the university on a Sunday as the campus would be as empty as possible. The organisers failed to realise that there is obviously a Sunday market just outside the arena each week - it took up all the parking. The arena (quarantine) had insufficient toilets - 2 for the 500 people was never going to be sufficient. There was almost no shelter, certainly not enough for 500. They were only setting up the arena as the first people were about to start. The start was shambles - call up was on the wrong minute - there was too much noise amongst all the officials and seemingly no system to ensure the right people were starting at the right time. There was some commentary for the masters and updates of class winners. Results were really hard to read on the screens and since we were all in quarantine before we started we could not have phones on us to look at the live centre.

This was a good area and I enjoyed the course, but some problems with the tram track crossings. Before I had got into the map, all of a sudden I had crossed the tram track. Should have had some out of bounds warning on the crossing roads that were not allowed. It was good that off-track riding was allowed in this area. Was there advice early on about following a route to the start triangle? First event, I hadn't quite realised that the maps were not at the start triangle. Quite unsatisfactory toilet provisions. All riders had to be in quarantine, and only one toilet for women! Dangerous entry to the start area - warm up track/toilet queue/ people trying to access the start.

Great challenging courses (EXCELLENT). The park-area was very interesting with a constant change in terrain (EXCELLENT). The following was POOR: The start quarantine was too small and the warm-up area was dangerous and too narrow. There were a lot of facilities missing: - sufficient nr. of toilets. - Startlists (in order off class - how hard can it be???) - was first published after the first riders was in the forest. - The start crew was uninformed and was talking to the athletes (stupid) and had no startlists in the beginning and could not see the start watch due to sunlight. The results in the finish were non-existing and wrong (due to problems in the start), the tracking did not work either.

Great area, great map, great courses, except for the two unnecessary and dangerous controls in the finish chute which should not have been used.

Map great. Quarantine a complete disaster. 1 toilet, no real warm up area. Right outside venue was a market. They picked the wrong day to be there.

Map and course best. Course very good. Start was not under control. See some times between start and control number 1. Toilets: waiting time up to 40 minutes. Second last, last control and finish: distance and winding line too dangerous. Second last control: bad readable on map and unnecessary.

The start was absolutely not under control. Wrong intermediate times from start to control number 1. The wounded part from the last control to the finish was too dangerous. There should be two points with control units at the last control, because there are too many competitors at the same time. Waiting time for toilets up to 40 minutes!

2 TOILETS IN QUARANTINE ZONE FOR 500 RUNNERS, ERRORS IN START TIME

Big problem with the start. Wrong start time for us. Wrong result in M 70 have we seen today by looking at split time to control 1. Area ok, Map ok, NOT fairness ! Problem with the start.

All was good, BUT it absolutely needs more toilettes for 700+ riders before a competition!!

Toilets missing. Unsafe warm up area. Late start times. Start personnel not competent or not instructed properly. Too little space in start area. Some riders started at wrong time. Late results. Flower ceremony cancelled without information.

best ever raced sprint (Orienteering), wonderful! But awful quarantine zones, no shade, 2WC for several hundred competitors.

Top terrain, excellent map, super course, but the start crew was incompetent - they had obviously no experience whatsoever how to run a start.

If the start had been ok, it would have been fine, but start times were filmed with failures, and several participants had wrong times, example given, no. 3 in male 70 has an average speed over 60 km/h.

The warm up was terrible (too many people on a piece of the running track, no marshalling). Start list was not correct, no Start lists at the Start, start organization was not in order (no audible signal, no start marshal to survey the right start minute etc.)

MIDDLE DISTANCE:

Map and course fine. Toilet facilities horrible. I was in a queue for 42 minutes and therefore late to the start.

Maps and courses were very good.

Same comment re SIA to save money.

The start was a lot better organised and there were 4 toilets. There was no commentary for the Masters competition, what little there had been the previous day did not happen at all. Again results were hard to read on the screens - not dark enough under the shelter although there were more screens. I noticed that the control codes were really hard to read on the controls as stencil type numbers had been used 3's and 5's hard to distinguish between. They were not up to standard.

Better for toilets. It was good that the tracks were not as rough as the model area led us to believe. I had problems with the open area around control 60 near the end - the orange open area seemed to merge with the semi-open area and I did not realise that the mown tracks (which started looking like orange open as I approached the control) were in fact the marked tracks on the map in the semi-open and lost quite a bit of time there. It would have been good to have had some warning of that type of mapping/ terrain marking. Finish quarantine was OK, though would have been good to have some grass to sit on and shade rather than just the car park ground.

Great challenging courses (EXCELLENT). The terrain chosen for the middle distance was perfect and well chosen (EXCELLENT). The following was POOR: The warm-up area was dangerous and too narrow (small and the main road was not suited to warm-up due to traffic). There were a lot of facilities missing: - sufficient nr. of toilets. - Startlists (in order of class - how hard can it be???) - The start crew was better but not great.

Great area, great map, great courses.

Excellent map. Parking changed at last minute which made turn off dangerous (we were expecting to go further along road). Quarantine and warm-up still inadequate. I had an issue with an out of bounds track which was NOT bunted off...also several other riders went along it not realising. Certainly my carelessness caused my initial confusion, but it nonetheless added to my confusion to be on a completely open looking track on the ground, but which was completely covered by pink zig zags on map.

All was good, BUT it absolutely needs more toilettes for 700+ riders before a competition!!

Problem with the area not recognised.

Course very good.

Top terrain, map good except a few areas with so many terrain details that made it impossible to map it at this map scale. Course great. Start crew much improved.

Boring terrain counts down

LONG DISTANCE:

Course fine but quite a few tracks not graduated right.

Maps and courses was very good

Too few route choices and orienteering

Lack of 3D terrain made route choice not testing enough

There was a "short cut" path near the end of many people's courses that given how other paths were marked was an obvious route choice. However, it should have been marked as a dotted track as it was a narrow track on a bank that had trees too close for your handle bars let alone other riders.

Confusing in the central area where tracks were marked out of bounds on the map in the vicinity of the fields - it seemed that some tracks had tape barriers but other out-of-bounds tracks did not. Should have been more consistent. OK for route choice, but more a test of fast riding than navigation. I was confused by the placement of the control numbers on the map for our last 2 controls and mistook the area of many road barriers (on the map) for a broken control circle that belonged to the number for our second-last control. Abandoned an excellent route to the second last control to go to that location.

Course was OK, but I feel the level of difficulty was too low and the physical challenge was missing an aspect of ascent and decent (OKAY). Start-crew was OK - so no problem there - they do learn (OKAY). Warm-up area was good and with sufficient room to roam (GOOD). The following was POOR: There were a lot of facilities missing: - sufficient nr. of toilets. - Startlists (in order off class)

All was good, BUT it absolutely needs more toilettes for 700+ riders before a competition!!

This was not a suitable area for a Championship event. It offered minimal navigation and rudimentary route choice. Moreover, the inconsistent mapping made the route choice a lottery in any case. Given the quality Middle Distance area and map I would have thought that would have been some much better areas available in the district.

Map quite inaccurate due to very poor track grading. Many route choices became 'bingo' due to poor grading. For example: one critical very long leg had the most direct route with a section of dotted track. Apparently this dotted track was fine, so made those of us who took the long way round quite cross. But I heard another intersecting dotted track was awful. Another track mapped as thinnest long dash was unridable, but critical to route choice. Start, warm-up, finish arena all ok.

Terrain and competition suites for a normal bike race, it was not very challenging for orienteers. South of control number 78 there was a hole marked by a wooden tripod with red/white ribbon. But I fell in a hole north of the control. The hole should have been also marked. If I remember well: the toilets were too late on the place.

TERRAIN AND COURSE NOT INTERESTING.

The terrain too easy.

Course was a race on bike, but few orienteering. There was a wooden tripod with a red/white ribbon south of control 78. But I fell into the hole north of 78.!!

Terrain a bit uninteresting.

Not enough shelter in the quarantine zone. The courses too short.

Terrain made it impossible to plan technical courses - some may like the more physical nature of this course, I don't.

Very boring terrain counts down.

These were not orienteering challenges, it was only speeding on bike.

UNOFFICIAL SPRINT RELAY

No doubled control stations. Biker unfriendly control positions in the forest.

The control codes on the uprights were hard to read with the stencil style numbers - we had 54 and 44 on parallel tracks very close by on the two loops. I will admit I did not sufficiently check the control code - mistakingly thinking I had the correct one on the second lap - if the numbers had been clearer I am fairly sure I would not have mispunched. Some dangerous dips and ditches that were not really warned about which caught people out in the head to head style racing - one in particular that was not at the edge of a main track but half was down and caught people who were riding close in a pack.

I really enjoyed this area, though coming across an accident from a woman who had fallen crossing a ditch, made me very wary of crossing those deep ditches for the remainder of the course. However I was very disappointed that the second leg repeated many controls from the first leg, and most of the remaining controls just visited an adjacent track. So really just repetition of the first leg. And we paid 50 € per person for this! Much too expensive for what we got. (We also had problems finding the arena - see above for my comments on only getting gps coordinates.)

Too expensive!! So did not attend.

Good fun event in an excellent area with good courses. Only negative was announcing a delay to the start only 20 minutes before the scheduled start time.

Nice area but quite dangerous ditches that single tracks crossed. There should have been warnings about these ditches. I saw an unconscious woman who didn't make one of the ditches. The courses were too similar for both rides. Organisers were hand drawing numbers on my map, one minute before mass start! Needless to say, there was a major issue with my SI at finish. A kind young lad finalised my team result 2 days later. Very very poor forethought

Lovely arena, nice courses but very, very dangerous, juniors and oldies together on singles with "doglegs" and tiny invisible ditches is awful.

Terrain in many places unsuitable for the purpose: difficult to see obstacles (ditches), made it a dangerous event. The planning with many dog-legs in singles added to the risks. Organisation poor (missing maps at start resulting in teams not having fair set of controls)

Boring course and a terrorleders price

Did not compete. Sightseeing in Paris instead ;-)

Didn't take part.

UNOFFICIAL RELAY

Poor announcements and lack of prize giving initially despite promised.

We paid around €35 each for these relays with the estimated times 40 - 45mins, almost everyone went round in around 28 - 29 minutes with almost everyone in under 35 minutes - these courses were much too short. The prize giving at the end was embarrassing - they are unofficial relays because they are not recognised by the IOF but they did not recognise the teams at the end of the Elite / Junior / Youth as had been done on previous days. We were told at first it would be at the Banquet and then word came as we were packing up that we needed to go back to the arena for prize giving - but sadly this was too late for many of the teams.

I did not participate. We didn't have enough people to form teams at the time for payment cut-off.

Didn't do this event so cannot comment.

Didn't attend.

Too expensive, so did not attend.

Wrong times in the programm (the riders needed about half the time...) and no announcement in the arena made it difficult to be in time in the change over area.

Good courses.

Didn't take part.

LTU **MIDDLE DISTANCE**

Too steep terrain. Had to push the bike uphill. Not enough shelter in quarantine. Small warm up area.

It took too long time but still very good.

Course for women elite was too long. Needed to be 10 minutes shorter. Terrain was challenging and perhaps better suited to a long distance.

Winner times were actually much longer than they should have been.

Really tough race, great map. A world class map and course.

good and safe passage of the roads, warming up zone but could be better

Great, very challenging race.

Small start quarantine zone. It was hard to warm up before the race. Finish area was one big muddy pool. I know it depends on weather but I think it wouldn't be problem to use some wood planks if you expect rainy weather. Anyway - perfect map, courses. Well built controls.

MASS START

It was wrong map for me.

If there are so many maps, the maps should be as small as possible.

Excellent courses with the map and scale changes. Fantastic head to head racing. This format could be the ONLY WMTBOC race! Dangerous with the men elite in the same area going to different controls at the same time. Many small crashes.

5 maps went fast and everything was well organized. No big mess with the maps.

Map was good, but there were too many of them.

Nice with many map changes, but some dangerous path crossings where riders didn't see each other.

Too many people in the forest.

Men and women should not meet each other in a mass start race where you have too many riders out at the same time anyway. Some very dangerous situations at the first loop of the women.

It wasn't the best idea to put start triangle after crossroads, because it led to oncoming traffic.

I like an idea that the last map is the same for everybody. But I think it shouldn't happen that two (or more) people have the same course all the time. It's easy mathematic combination. Use more butterflies or circles.

Good format. Liked that 1 map was at a different scale. Need maps back to back, so 3 not 5. This aspect should have been tested many months before from the event.

RELAY

Poor warm up area. Good course!

Nice that juniors also had GPSes

Poor Warm up area.

There was good change over area and finish, the map was not that good. At the end there were very many trails that made it hard to see where you should go because the circles were not opened.

More tents in quarantine would have been necessary if the weather had been bad.

Interesting courses and really good position of spectators control and start quarantine, but small place to warm up.

Terrible start quarantine. No great space to warm up. Nice race - long, short courses and really hard end of the race. Just how relay should look like.

LONG DISTANCE

Better for a middle distance perhaps, but there were many route choices legs balanced with more technical orienteering legs.

The finish corridor and start quarantine zone was not optimal.

Can't say anything negative about it, TOP CLASS.

I missed start quarantine but what I saw it was the same problem - no space to warm up. Nice terrain with lakes and many singletrails. Hard to be concentrated all the time. I liked this race! We had no information about junior class during the race from the finish quarantine. On the board were just live elite GPS and results.

SPRINT

Unusual sprint with the forested area, but it wasn't really used.

Fun race, with a really competitive course.

Warm up area was way too small in all competitions but worst at the sprint. It's hard to do a proper warm up without a roller.

Too many people in city centre, cars were not stopped, a team member had to crash on purpose to avoid being hit by a car. The venue was awesome, but harmed race quality.

TV broadcast was the best! But I was so disappointed because of tourists on the last controls, they were not ready for lots of bikes and competitors, and because of them some competitors lose seconds there.

Again...start quarantine was bad. Finally our sport was visible and attractive for spectators thanks to organizers and their media work.

Great variety of terrain meant a challenging course. Finish with steps and providing a ramp provided safety. Potentially dangerous in urban areas - I wasn't out there on the race day so can't judge how this was - maybe had enough control minders to keep public out of the way?? The embargo area had several changes to it beforehand - bit confusing. Need to have a definite date & time after which riders can't walk in embargo area ...midday the day before?

GENERAL COMMENTS:

Would be easier to comment on these if organisers gave coaches maps after every event not just at end (with courses, not all controls). Easier to study maps "in hand" not on the web, as can do anywhere, anytime. Quarantine areas beforehand often had inadequate shelter - lucky that weather wasn't really wet / hot. Big screen with tracking was great, as were the videos produced each day and TV coverage.

7. Maps

AUT 4 controls in long distance covered 2 paths. Some paths or tracks were not on the map. It's not fair to disqualify by GPS tracking some riders on middle and sprint distance and not in long distance!!!!

As described at the competitions. The mapping of that many stones and cliffs wasn't really good for the readability. Draw less rocks and only the really big ones which are seen while riding! Generally the maps should be drawn more carefully. Junctions and strokes were often not at good fit -> decreased readability.

Numbering for control 4 on men's long race covered track/junction on potential route.

Difficult to see on map if tracks were connected or not. Control numbers were printed atop of possible route choices (long distance).

Numbers did at some points cover up vital parts of the maps.

Many junctions were not joined properly.

This made it difficult to know if the junction was distinct or indistinct, or even if it was connecting. Sometimes it was really difficult to know if two tracks were actually joining...

Maps should be drawn more carefully to make them well readable. Examples from men's middle distance course: north of control 4: indistinct junction or disconnected? 23: cliffs look like a path, 24: connection path not visible.

Numbers sometimes covered paths, e.g. in long distance number 14-53 covered a possible route to number 1.

Lots of junctions were not correctly drawn, the Elite riders are very fast and looking at the map for one second they have to imagine how the junction is going to be...not clear.

FRA I didn't like two maps at same time and in two different papers. It was difficult to change
EMTBOC and put well the maps in the mapholder. Moreover a lot of competitors threw away their used maps.

I liked the quality of the maps!

Drawing was at several points not good for readability. (e.g. middle; sprint relay). Gaps of dashed lines made it bad.

FRA Some poor track classification in places in Long.

Masters

The tracks appeared to have been mapped for visibility rather than speed of riding. Especially in the long it was impossible to predict the rideability of the tracks from the map which had massive effects on route choice and the overall results.

The maps were on the whole first class - the change in the open areas to orange on the Sprint made it fairer for all. There was a slight inconsistency of marking of track rideability - most noticeable on the Long.

The maps for sprint and middle was EXCELLENT, no issues at all. The Map for the longdistance was inconsistent in the way the rad/paths was categorized throughout the map, which resulted in big time losses due to big differences in the way they were drawn.

Issues on the Long map already mentioned. There were a few places where the overprinting could have been improved to allow details to be better seen.

Only in sprint: second last control not very good visible on map and unnecessary.

Did not get to test in moisture etc.

The ditches on the sprint relay were difficult to see on the map and in the forest!

It was bone dry, so moisture resistance unknown.

LTU Too big maps.

Control circles could have been cut in some key areas, as well as the connecting lines.

Maybe I am getting too old to read 1:15000 maps in cloudy conditions but at the long distance I found it partly very hard to read the map.

There is a need in MTBO to follow foot O protocol and cut circles and lines where they cover useful information. In sprint O and occasionally elsewhere it would be useful to have a dot in the middle of the control circle, as this gives more clarity to its exact location.

8. Time-keeping and results

AUT It was good to check all the GPS data, good to disqualify the riders who cheated! SI-Air+ should be used at ALL major IOF-Events!

The time was difficult to read at the start clocks because of strong sun light falling onto the displays.

Touchfree worked well, the last control should be accessible from both sides.

The disqualification of athletes based on GPS wasn't fair. Some athletes that took a shortcut got disqualified and some didn't.

GPS-Disqualification was good. But a bit confusing since not really announced before. Makes the sport hopefully fairer.

Screens for GPS-tracking and results could be larger.

The screens with GPS and results were not high enough and only the few people in front of them could follow the race.

FRA
EMTBOC The results screen was updated late and there aren't the winsplits in the web, also the results were published too late on the website.

No screen or so small. No split times and results on the website after the race 3 days later.

GPS were mixed up among riders at sprint.

FRA
Masters I AM in W65. Was every day announced nr 2, 1, 2; even called upon the flower ceremony. The combined classes were not mentioned. Not Even on the result list.

Catastrophic 48h after the long distance; the results were not online.

Live results were correct, except on sprint distance. Official results, well, after four days there are no official results on long distance available. All split times are missing in proper format.

Poor and inaccurate (several times for start lists) and results provision. Often late and inaccurate.

Shambles on the Sprint race with minutes been taken off some peoples time and not others so that whilst I could understand that they moved people forward on the wrong minute at the start I could not understand why some people in the final results had 2 minutes taken off their time so changing the final order. We had medallists not attending the ceremony as a result and one person who was sure they were in 3rd so went up and received their medal only to find the that the person in 4th had jumped ahead of them.

Could not read the small print on the computer screens. I did not have wifi ability to check on my device. It is only after I arrived home that I found the results of the sprint relay. Are the splits published yet? I have seen splits for the sprint and the middle but the layout was very hard to make comparisons. Did they eventually go onto Winsplits? If not, why not. It was only that my class was very small and I could check with each rider to know our results. How did others know if they had to go to the presentations?

The results at the sprint were terrible - not existing and when they were finally shown filled with errors. There were results in classes W45 and W65 even though these classes did not exist (due to a stupid rule by the commission). Same classes were also mentioned as winners during the competition?????

The screens seemed to "flick" between classes very quickly and very few people could look at them at the same time. They were broadcasting live results, but only if you had internet access. It would have been much better if a WiFi system was set up in the assembly area with the results live on that system. I have seen this done at previous events

Sprint results never up at finish. Also no start lists before. Mixed sprint relay....results hadn't been put up correctly when I left well over an hour after last finishers.

The screens didn't work every time. Results of sprint partly wrong, because of wrong start times (see times from start to control number 1). Results on internet: split times only on excel sheet, some controls were missing (middle distance M 65). Route gadget is missing!!! This is a real shame.

Not sprint. No split time at all before later.

Distance to the screens too big. Screens not always working. Results in internet not very promptly. No adequate split times (only excel sheet, also with some mistakes) No route gadget. This is a must.

Sportident air+: You had to go very near to the control station to catch the signal, 50 cm was much too far away. At the last control you need 2 stations!

The lovely sun made it difficult to read the results on the screen. The results were late uploaded to the internet.

Quite small screens, but don't need a bigger setup. Liveresults was also available online.

LTU Wooden board would have worked better. Had to wait a while to see some results when GPS was on etc.

Really good with those big screens, nice and fun!! The juniors should have GPS also at world and European championship like in foot-o. The GPS makes the competitions so much more fun for spectators.

9. Team officials' meetings and information during event

AUT Some different and conflicting information between the members of the organisation staff.

Except LD startlist everything was good.

I think team leaders meeting information always should be published online.

Results, splits and GPS-Tracking were online fast and easy to find.

Would have been good to have extra pictures from the team leader meeting on the web site.

For sprint competition the organizers forgot to enter me into the start list. (I still don't show up in the result list for Austrian cup - maybe a late result of these troubles?)

We got the complete start list only before the Sprint then we didn't get the complete start list but only our riders' start time.

Acoustics of the room was very poor.

FRA There were some startlists changes during the event.

EMTBOC

Problems with on-line information

Whatever happened to the standard start list?!

FRA The times have changed three times, it's not serious!

Masters

The combined classes were not combined on start and result list. Should have been merged on start list.

The start times for all 3 events were published on the web, but quite late before the start of the week of events. And then on Saturday, different start lists were put up for the Middle and the Long. No one seemed to know which list (on the wall or on the web) was correct. There was confusion in the start queue at the Sprint. Some people were left off the web list for one of the later events. It was chaotic and totally unprofessional. They had our entries for weeks. Why could they not have produced start lists, in sensible order, for all events well in advance???

I chose not to participate because the room chosen for the information was like 50 degrees and stank of sweat - it was too small and without sufficient air-circulation.

That was the most important failure of the organization. Start lists were changed all the times, the start times shown on internet were not correct.

Chaotic sit several different start lists.

The corrected middle start list was updated only at 4 am? I was affected in as I was an hour too early, there at 8:30 am instead of sleeping an hour longer. On another note: this infamous rule of merging the classes if less than 10 riders have signed up, is absolutely mad and so counter-productive to further the sport and participation at events on an international level! It mostly affects the women's classes and is totally unfair. One only knows whether the classes will be merged appr. 3 weeks before the event at the final entry dead-line. By that time most people have paid their entry fee and finalized their travel plans, purchased airplane tickets, booked hotels, etc. Many women would withdraw their entry at that time if they had a chance because competing in a merged age class takes away all the joy for the competition and for participating in general. Since introduction of that ruling, some women have already decided not ever to participate in a world champs anymore and after Orléans, many more will follow. Is that a good marketing strategy? Is that what the commission wants, to belittle the performances and efforts of the masters women? It actually feels that way.

Information session kicked off the good atmosphere. Wasted a lot of the leisure time, looking for start lists in vain. We missed the podium in Masters Relay class Mixed160 due to bad communication: No information about this extra "secret" class, no start lists, our teams entry got lost, price ceremony cancelled but later done anyway..... However, thanks to the organizers for the nice prices :-)

LTU Start lists were once wrong or missing riders.

It was some struggle with disqualifications in the start list, but the staff did well and solved it.

10. Questions for non-competitors

FRA I find it scandalous that the French speaker on the spot cannot intervene to the
Masters microphone to give the results live for a majority of French following the event.

As I had not entered the final relay, I entered the O-France race for the last day. However I was told at registration on the first Saturday that they could not do my registration until the day before that race. And as it was a chasing start based on earlier results, it seemed like I would have a very late start on the final day. In the end I did not bother to register or start for that final event.

Per Forsberg was great!

LTU Speaker was really good.

11. General organisation

AUT Everything ran smoothly. The organisers had control.

Model event should be in the accreditation fee. 10 Euro for this model event was not fair, I think. But one had to do it not to get a disadvantage.

We were lucky to have good weather. In rainy conditions there should be more possibilities for bike wash and a shower in cc would be nice.

FRA Good bike mechanic, bike wash not needed.

EMTBOC

Organisation was rather poor, mostly the first day. It improved a bit during the event.

FRA Not much did function at all. Emily Benham said it all on Facebook.

Masters

I am not sure, if the organizers were prepared for such an event. The competitions (maps, courses) were very good (nearly excellent) but the general organisation was nothing.

Worst organised event I have attended in 45 years of sport. Only the quality in the actual races saved the day. Masters treated as cash cow 2nd class citizens. Start lists and results shambolic. Poorly organised prize ceremonies and amalgamated classes not made clear even at prize giving. Event only saved by EA's heroic efforts. Start at Sprint totally disorganised. Map collection at relays not used so maps could be seen. Poor quarantine overseen. Drug testing?

The cost of this event was extremely high compared to many others - a lot of money would appear to have been spent on every helper who had a technical t shirt, a vest and a bag. I am sure our money went towards getting a commentator who then gave no mention to the Masters - this was our WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS. Whilst the toilet situation improved slightly clearly they had not got some of the basics right.

Big and VERY expensive event, but the organizers were not ready to perform and did a very poor job to perform an event memorized as anything but a faulty organisation. They were lucky that their course-planners did a good job, otherwise this poor event would have gone from poor to catastrophic. I can for sure say that I am not in the mood to return to France anytime in the future (this is the second event I am at in France, last was Foot-O years back), and both have been expensive and poor.

The lack of toilets, particularly at the Sprint Start Quarantine but also at all events, was extremely poor. I have had the (mis)fortune of being the Event Director of a major international World Championship event recently. Fundamental to success is the organisers thinking carefully about the competitors' needs and ensuring they are fully met. This event absolutely failed to do that and will be remembered for the farcical organisation and not for the great courses. It was our second MTBO Carnival in France and we will be very cautious about venturing there again.

On EVERY level the organisation was poor. For example, the starters had no idea how to operate the start.....5 minutes before first starter. Tiago had to take over. Registration was a total joke. The people you first spoke to had no other language. They ONLY had a name list with what had been paid. There was NO number to cross reference with competitors bags, which also had no names on them. So we ended up opening every bag, pulling out number plates to try and help/speed up rego. I have never seen anything so poorly thought out.

For the exorbitant entry fees, the organisation was poor. But sprint and middle courses made the event worth coming.

There is a huge gap between the exorbitant entry fees and the quality of organisation. I heard that French people started at O-France instead of masters.

Started catastrophic, improved over time to fail again on the sprint relays.

LTU The bike wash was too harsh.

Bike wash at the accommodation would have been really good.

Better bikewash facilities needed at event centre, as Australian team (and others) needed to have very clean bikes to get back through customs.

12. Ceremonies and banquet

AUT Too few spectators at the ceremonies (too late, open starters already gone).

Was great to have prize giving completed before 3pm every day. This was really appreciated.

Good that there was a common accommodation at the EC for all types of accommodation.

The prize-givings were always a bit "poor" and for the middle distance there wasn't the podium even. The podium should always be present in such an important race.

No podium on MD prize- giving ceremonies.

FRA Didn't follow the schedule, delayed.

EMTBOC

30 euro for a banquet with low cost drinks and low cost food!

Big problems with sprint prize-giving ceremony, but it was getting better every day.

After middle and long the flower ceremony and prize giving were too close together. Only 30-60 mins at accommodation to sort ourselves out. Flower ceremonies only work if there is a gap of 5+ hours until prize giving. Sprint prize giving was terrible. Better for middle and long.

No music at the prize giving ceremonies. Wrong anthem, wrong flags at the first prize giving.

FRA No need for a flower ceremony for Masters - I had starts within the first 20 minutes of start times each day. I was not staying around until mid afternoon for a flower ceremony!!! Less dignity and consideration for masters than for European Championships. Why were women and men not given separate acknowledgement? And there should have been arrangements made for photography so the photographers did not stand between the podium and the audience - those in the lower tiers could not see the podium! It was good to have a 5:30 start for the Middle Day - gave better time to get away for dinner afterwards.

Masters

The ceremony was a comedy: - Wrong flags - Wrong national anthems - Again classes W45 and W65 was repeatedly called to the podium but canceled when the organizers found out the classes did not exist, and at the sprint M35 was also called (the class is not a medal class, Tiago apologized personally after the ceremony).

Only went to one prize-giving as the timing was at our normal dinner time. The Masters appeared to be considered second rate within the ceremonies.

Didn't go to banquet.

There were no medals for W55 class as the organisers had not spotted that IOF had not sent them. On the first day we got the "spare" medals (in case of same time dead heats) but these were taken off us. None of the medals on this day had ribbons on them - it looked as if people were being given a chocolate coin! On subsequent days at least all the medals did have ribbons. Once the mistake of no medals for W55 had been spotted (sunday evening) it would have been possible to get the medals engraved and shipped to France by the end of the week. There were some extremely disappointed W55 who would have been receiving their first World Championship medal who have gone home with nothing. I have not been given any information about when I might receive my medals. I gave details to someone on the last Saturday who said they would email me that day to say what was happening - I heard nothing. I emailed them on Monday when I was back home and have heard nothing. Each prize winner got a goodie bag of some groceries some of which was local produce - a bottle of wine and a bottle of vinegar. If you have flown to an event it is hard to carry these things home safely and you are not going to drink 75ml of vinegar! I treasure my Portuguese drum, my Lithuanian mug which are probably cheaper to produce..... The banquet did not cater in any way to vegetarians or to someone driving. I had a bit of salad before it ran out and a glass of water for my €30 - no juice as advertised. The deserts were however very good and there was enough for everyone.

The entry fee (160 € for 3 races) was exceedingly high. One pays gladly for that price if the competition is adequate. BUT, if the French (masters) riders chose instead to do the open OFrance, then something is fundamentally wrong.

No ribbons for the medals on sprint. Wrong flag and national anthem. Maybe too late, because of having dinner afterwards. Putting together the classes W 40/45 and W 60/65 is a no go. We are sure that this harms to the MTBO sport. It's definitely time to install categories of 5 years comparable to the masters series!!!

No ribbons on the medals for sprint. Wrong flag and anthem on sprint. Nice reward bag. To put the categories W40/45, and W 60/65 together is a no go. The organisers were not obliged to put them together. Why did they do that? It's time to make the same categories as for masters series with no limitation of number of competitors. I give a 2 for the overall quality due to the good races in sprint and middle.

Place of ceremony was good. I was only at the sprint ceremony. It was every evening quite difficult to find seats in the restaurants in town. Otherwise we would have gone every evening to the ceremonies. Ceremonies should always be as soon as possible, between 5 and 6 in the evening.

Too many left the Prize givings before the Masters ceremony.

Start times for masters very early and flower ceremony after the elit races meant a long waiting and so many podium riders did not wait! Sprint medal ceremony was a mess, the others were excellent.

Make masters ceremonies less formal - and faster!

Didn't take part in the banquet.

LTU It could have been awesome but... The water slides closed without warning too early. You had to wait too long for food. The DJ music was way too loud.

Pool party ended too early. Peronas was strange place with full of hipsters.

Banquet was really fun and different!

The organisation and atmosphere of the banquet was the best so far. We will never forget this atmosphere in the aquatic centre. BUT it should be also a possibility to sit together and have some good food and discuss about the last week. It was a funny and great evening unfortunately without food.

The food was great but not the delivery of it, me and my friends stood in a queue for 45 minutes to order the food and then waited 15 minutes for the food.

Banquet was fun as a party. Food was poor.

Banquet should start earlier and the access to food was terrible, but it was fun with something new so not everybody was totally drunk.

Great opening ceremony, short and fun! Really good with the prize-giving ceremony at the arena instead of in the evening, saves a lot of time for the athletes.

Serving food and drinks at the banquet was very slow. The staff could not handle the numbers of party ready MTBO'ers.

Best location for the banquet ever!!! Big downside: It took ages till you got food and drinks. Queuing for 1 1/2 hours to get dinner is simply too much!!!

On the world championship should be flower ceremony and then official prize-giving ceremony. Banquet was different than years ago but we are happy for it. Really nice party. I didn't eat... It was impossible to get to a bar.

Venue of the banquet was great. "Banquet" was a misleading term as food was limited and took an hour or so to attain and some riders got nothing. Not a good situation with so much alcohol. Organisers should have either ensured that a) there were more food outlets / servers at the venue or b) suggested riders eat beforehand either at the hotel / elsewhere. Having main rides at the venue close down at 10pm, when we didn't get into the venue until 8.30pm (due to others leaving/lack of staff at entrance) meant the cost was not so good value.
