

Surely one of the most important and participated events of the season, the Norte Alentejano O' Meeting is back. Dividing its attentions by the municipalities of Castelo de Vide and Marvão, the NAOM 2015 repeats the successful model of the previous edition, starting a series of four consecutive weekends in which Portugal will be again the Mecca for orienteers from all over the world.

For the third time in nine editions, Castelo de Vide becomes the Orienteering worldwide's epicentre, welcoming the Norte Alentejano O' Meeting 2015. This time, however, has not caught the exclusive, as the program provides an incursion into the neighbouring municipality of Marvão. Organized by Grupo Desportivo dos Quatro Caminhos, in partnership with the municipalities of Castelo de Vide and Marvão, the Portuguese Orienteering Federation and the International Orienteering Federation, the event will take place on the weekend of January the 31st and February the 1st 2015, attracting once again the attention of many Portuguese and foreign athletes.

The kick-off will be at Vale da Silvana - some still remember the venue of the final stage of the second edition of NAOM in 2008 -, with a new map signed by Tiago Aires and Raquel Costa. The courses are set by Victor Delgado and João Alves for a Middle Distance stage that guesses challenges of high technical and physical demands. In the afternoon of the first day, the attention will be centred in the charming village of Marvão for a stage of Sprint WRE, scoring for the International Orienteering Federation's ranking of Sprint. It is the return to one of the best and most challenging Sprint maps in Portugal, after having attended here in early June 2012, the decisive stage of the National Championships in Sprint. Distinguished in the World of O's poll "Course of the Year" with the 15th place worldwide for his course set of NAOM Sprint WRE 2014, Hugo Borda d'Água is once again responsible for setting the courses on a Armando Rodrigues' map, revised by Tiago Aires. The NAOM 2015 ends on February the 1st with another Middle Distance stage in the new map of Vale D'Ornas, in terrains with both beauty and technical challenge. Raquel Costa also signs the map, with the course setting by Tiago Gingão Leal. It should be noted that Luís Sergio is the National Controller and the Middle Distance stages score for the Portuguese Foot Orienteering Cup Level 1 and the Sprint race is part of the National Urban Circuit CiNU 2015.

Starting in 2007, the Norte Alentejano O' Meeting had in the Romanian Ionut Zinca and Finnish Riina Kuuselo its first winners. The French Thierry Gueorgiou and Amélie Chataing are the most recent presences in a list that includes names like the Swiss Simone Niggli, the Ukrainian Oleksandr Kratov, the Czech Eva Jurenikova, the current leader of the world ranking, the Norwegian Olav Lundanes, the Swedish Helena Jansson and the Portuguese Tiago Romão, Maria Sá and Joana Costa, among others. When the number of entries is still small, from five countries (Portugal, Spain, Britain, Norway and Russia), it is premature to predict something else. That many good athletes - some of them occupying the highest places in the world ranking - will be in Castelo de Vide and Marvão, at the turn of January, that's for sure. And with them all, the best national values of Orienteering.

Program

- *January 30th – Model Event at Póvoa e Meadas*
- *January 31st - Middle Distance at Vale da Silvana, Castelo de Vide*
- *January 31st - Sprint at Marvão (WRE and CiNU)*
- *February 1st - Middle Distance at Vale D'Ornas, Castelo de Vide*

Find more about the NAOM 2015 at <http://www.gd4caminhos.com/en/naom2015-news>

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