

## Review

### **Pekka Laine: Rastimenninkäiset**

**Rastimenninkäiset** ("orienteering gnomes") were a group of youngsters who started orienteering in the club Koovee in the early 1980's. They were a close-knit group of orienteering enthusiasts. In the spring, one of the gnomes put all the memories together and had a **self-published book** printed. The book, titled **Rastimenninkäiset**, was advertised on our website in the spring.

I joined the club in the mid-nineties, so I wasn't involved in the activities of the gnomes. However, I have got to know most of the people in the book later on. This made the book very interesting to read! The book does not tell the history of the club's orienteering division, which is a good thing, making the book unofficial and leaving room for the author's personal opinions and, more specifically, the author's feelings and speculation. In that sense the personal touch is what makes the book interesting.

If you want to read about Tarke's car trouble when away in a competition in 1989, or about Esa Kujansuu and Timo Koski representing Finland in the youth games. The book also reports on the difficulties that led to the talented Jukka Reunamäki giving up the sport. And you will find out what you could buy for 44 kroner in Norway in 1992!

For someone working with young people today, the book gives plenty of food for thought. The focus is on the operating environment created for young people by coaches and parents. What good could be copied from the time with the gnomes and what could be done better.

The last copies of the book are on sale at the Christmas party so make sure you take some extra money with you for "Christmas shopping". This book would make a nice Christmas present for an orienteering enthusiast! Or if you are curious about taking a look behind the scenes during 1980 and 1996, this book would provide an excellent opportunity.

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