

Tania Wimberley

Born 1971
Currently Living Johannesburg
Occupation Head Financial Reporting in regulation department at the securities exchange
First started orienteering: 1998
SA Representation: WOC 2006 (Denmark) World Games 2009 (Taiwan)
3000m TT PB 13.07



What is your best Local Performance to date and tell us about that race:

Been too many races and too many wins too remember *'the'* best one, and not sure I've ever had that *'perfect'* race. But the 2010 season was memorable. Stephanie Courtnage and I traded wins in the short course series log right up til the end, so every race was a pressure one. At the TUT event I managed to sneak through in the last two controls to claim a tie win (with Salome), despite only taking 3 splits. Its the great thing about orienteering - a steady performance (and sprint finish) can win the day.

What is your best International Performance to date and tell us about that race:

Has to be the sprint in Taiwan as part of team SA at the World Games. I was sooo prepared for the race, felt calm and enjoyed every moment on the big stage. When Hanny Allston (Australia) glided past me effortlessly I did try hang on. It lasted for all of 10 seconds, but she did go on to take gold ...

What is your favourite orienteering experience?

A night O sprint race in Annecy in the South of France in 2010. Cobble stone streets, canals, narrow alleyways, people having dinner on the sidewalk, and us orienteering's dashing around.

What race is your most memorable?

2009, day 3 of the Scottish 6 day. It was our only rainy day, but boy was the rain a problem. In the forests the good route choices (paths/ edges of clearings) were trampled and muddied with 2000 people having gone before, so you would slip and slide on the 'elephant' tracks. Then in the open the heather is not a pretty thing to try run through, especially when everything is wet and heavy. But the view from the start (after the 2km walk-always an experience for South Africans) was breath taking.

What is your funniest orienteering experience?

It was a Harrismith event in the early 2000's. There a very young Bradley Lund set off to be immediately lost and out of sight and swamped by long grass which was taller than him. I think I was more concerned than his dad was, and hopped he'd come back cause I reckoned we'd never find him in that grass!

Who is your orienteering idol and why?

I have to go Simoni Niggli (*Switzerland*). 23 WOC gold medals, covering every discipline, and on two occasions she won 4 golds (long, middle, sprint and relay). These medals were won over a 12 year period 2001 to 2013 and included breaks in 2008 and 2011 for the birth of her two children. Her last golds were won when she was 35 years old, proving what an amazing sport orienteering . I remember that for one of her medals she even stopped to change a contact lens. What an amazing athlete.

What do you love most about orienteering?

That it takes us to some amazing places, where you really get to experience nature. And then chatting at the dinner table afterwards about how we conquered the course, comparing routes and finding as the years go on that any mistakes mean your kids will whip your butt!

What is your favourite pre-race breakfast?

Bacon and eggs