



LEI NEWS

Editors
Chris
&
Ursula

The Newsletter of the Leicestershire Orienteering Club



Orienteering in the Azores
World Masters

Mapping Advances
Winter League 24/25



Autumn 2024

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Front Cover. JK Team Leaders with their volunteer medals presented by Iain Phillips. Photo Alan West.

Points from the Editors

LEI members have been on tour this summer. WOC in Edinburgh, World Masters in Finland, Eurocity in the Azores, Vienna and of course Wales for Croeso. More articles about LEI travels in the next edition.

Just three sentences about Croeso. Super organisation. Very wet! We got lost.

As we have had the Summer League presentations, summer must be over. Next up is the Winter League. There are two areas in this year's programme that we have not used for at least 7 years, and one has a control on a dragon. Two key dates for your diary are the Club AGM in October and the Club Championships in November.

If you enjoyed JK this year, you will not have to travel far next Easter as JK25 is in South Yorkshire.

Don't forget LEI's training evening on Tuesdays. Map Run till the end of the year, then indoor technical and fitness training—you know you need it!

Chris and Ursula

Ramblings from the Chair



Well, the summer didn't exactly go as I had planned. I had it all set out, British Sprints, a few days at WOC in Edinburgh, back for a few days at Croeso, a few more Summer League events and then a nice weekend at the Vienna Orienteering Challenge to finish it off. It all started well, I got to the start line at the British Sprint relays on time and it all went downhill from there. Straight after the 1st control, I clipped a plastic patio chair and went head first into another set of plastic furniture, dragging my knees along the paving slabs and taking two large patches of skin off my knees. The individual sprints the next day were a little uncomfortable to say the least. I still have the scars on my knees if anyone wants to see.

Deciding to have a few weeks off running before Scotland and the WOC Tour events to allow my knees to recover seemed the sensible approach. I had a lovely week on Mull (FYI not the best place to go on holiday if you have an electric car)

before travelling over to Edinburgh. The public sprint races at WOC were excellent and also gave you a fantastic opportunity to see the world's best orienteers close up. The sprint went reasonably well for me with only a few minor mistakes. Things started to go downhill again after watching the WOC sprint relay. It started with a bit of discomfort in my lower right side. Putting it down to a muscle pull or indigestion and feeling a little better the next morning I decided to run the long urban event. A bit slow but I had a reasonable run, managing to avoid the tourists on the Royal Mile and with no real pain when running. To cut a long story short after an uncomfortable journey back to Leicestershire and with some over the counter pain killers having no effect, I decided to call 111, 18 hours later I had been operated on and a perforated appendix removed. Many thanks to the wonderful staff at LRI.

Unfortunately, this did put paid to my planned runs at Croeso, although I am now the proud owner of some new Croeso merch, including the bucket hat! (thank you, Ursula, for bringing it all back for me). Sindy and I did manage to make it to Vienna. I can whole heartily recommend the Vienna Orienteering Challenge, even if it is just to experience the wonderful public transport network of the city.

However, 4 races in 3 days on the back of very little running this summer was tough. Many thanks to Karen French of Wimborne Orienteers for inviting me to join the

2 person, 4 leg Masters Relay team. WIMBLIES came a respectable 10th out of 25. The last leg of the relay was definitely one race too far for me.

I hope that everyone had a more successful and injury free summer than me. With the Summer League now a distant memory, we have a busy autumn and winter schedule to look forward to. The next event is the EM League event at Cademan on 27th October with yours truly as planner. We then have the club Championships at Donisthorpe on

Saturday 9th November, including buffet and presentations afterwards and then 4 days later on the 13th November we have the start of the Winter League at Narborough. Also don't forget the club AGM on Monday 28th October at Glenfield Parish Rooms.

I have now fully recovered from my summer activities and I am hoping for an injury/hospital free autumn and winter. I hope to see everyone out at events in the coming weeks.

Steve

Captain's Corner



I hope you have all had a great summer and enjoyed the various venues of the Summer League.

Putting on 17 events is impressive and well done to all who played a part in that endeavour. Looking at the final table shows 95 orienteers took part in two or more events which demonstrates the popularity of these local level D events.

In the last LEI News, I mentioned the British (mixed) Sprint Relays that were held at Birmingham University. LEI were able to field three teams at this event and although podiums were not climbed, it was a thoroughly

enjoyable day out. This was my first relay competition of any type, so I was a little concerned about letting the side down, but need not have worried, not because I ran particularly well, but due to the support of all LEI participants.

It was impressive to see the elite runners in action before the LEI teams were scheduled to get underway. There are so many people starting at different times in following categories that it was quite a sight to see and very exciting. The courses were challenging (I thought so anyway) with the first control on my leg being tricky to find as it was tucked away in quite a tight corner under a small bridge. But it was a 'typical' Uni campus which made for lots of twists, turns and

route choice. (Look under British Champs tab on routegadget to see the map.) I recommend trying out Sprint Relay if you can. Next year the competition is on 30th August near Bury St. Edmunds, a little further afield, but with the Individual races the following day at the University of East Anglia, it makes the journey worthwhile.

A highlight of the summer for me was Croeso, a fantastic opportunity to orienteer on terrain far different to what is found in Leicestershire. There were sand dunes to moorland, many metres above sea level, and actually in the cloud on one day. Eleven club members journeyed to South Wales to take part. Kudos must be given though to Suranne and Cara Tolley, as well as Don Moir. These three orienteers competed in all six main events plus the rest day urban sprint around the lovely town of Brecon.

Looking ahead a few months now, and to try to get you to save the date, it looks like on 23rd February 2025, the CompassSport Trophy heat will be held at Clumber Park. I've only orienteered there once, at the EMOA Champs in January 2023, but I remember it being a very nice National Trust area to run around. There's a map on the NOC routegadget section if you want to see what could be in store.

David

Your Presence is Requested

Leicestershire Orienteering
Club

AGM

Monday 28th October 2024

At 7.30pm

Glenfield Parish Rooms

Stamford Street

Glenfield

LE3 8DL

EMOA News

The EMOA AGM on 12th September saw changes to the committee personnel.

Chris Phillips (LEI), having completed his period of office as Chair, stepped down and Ann-Marie Duckworth (DVO) took over the Chairmanship.

Likewise, Paul Young (DVO) stepped down as the Association's Financial Secretary. Andy Nicholls (LEI) has taken over this role.

John Hurley, who has been acting Development Officer for the last few months has now taken on the role on a permanent basis.

Trudy Crosby (LOG) has become the Association's Trophy Officer.

LEI Members Ursula Williamson (Regional Fixtures Secretary) and Iain Phillips (Club Rep) continue in their roles.

Orienteering in the Azores

Having read articles of others having orienteered abroad, we decided to try a Euro City event. We could have chosen Glasgow, Salford or London but, in a close decision, decided to go to The Azores at the end of May.

We lost a day flying via London and Lisbon but the lovely tropical climate made up for this. Throughout our week we managed to avoid the really heavy downpours which also kept the temperatures down to a more Blighty level.

Entering the O events was as easy as using StartKite (once we figured out Google translate) and only 6 euros per event. We ended up doing 4 events in 4 days (i.e. a normal month's worth inside of a week); starting with a park/urban in a very farmers' fields with real cows race which went through paid 18 euros each to visit on a smelly sulphur spring capital, Ponta Delgada. job of including local time to stop running to admire on the first three days it was the last event.



There were 31 Brits competing including from OD, LOC SYO, BOK and SLOW. Just as well the O maps and symbols are identical. It was all very friendly and well organised, although they did seem to get everything ready just before the events started and had the support of a small army unit.

After 4 events (5 for some) everyone was knackered with smelly shoes and kit. It was too much but 'hey' we were on holiday!!

Carole and Steve



WMOC 2024 Finland

The World Masters Orienteering Championships, or WMOC, is an annual orienteering competition for those of us aged 35 or older. Men and Women World Champions are crowned in Sprint, Middle Distance and Long Distance disciplines for each five year age category. This year the event was based in Turku, Finland. A parallel FIN-5 event was held for those younger than 35. It was one of the most popular WMOCs in recent years with about 5,000 participants (including the FIN-5).

A feature of each WMOC I have been to is the fitness and athleticism of some of the oldest competitors. Each year, the biggest cheer is always saved for the oldest competitors, and this year the accolade went to 97-year-old Sole Nieminen of Finland, who won Gold in all three W95 competitions.

The sprint races were held in Turku city centre, and, with accommodation for many close by, we could travel to the event on foot, by hiring bikes or by hiring the many e-scooters available across the city. The qualifying race on the Saturday was based at the athletics stadium with an impressive stand filled with thousands of competitors. The last few controls were on the banks of the stadium and the run-in was a 100-m sprint along the track; it was quite imposing.

The sprint final assembly was in front of the 13th Century Lutheran cathedral, the only medieval basilica in Finland.

Competitors were able to sit on the steps of the cathedral to watch the run-in. The orienteering in the final was mainly based in the university, with small granite hills presenting lots of good route choice.

The forest events were held in fantastically difficult Finnish forests with few paths and complex contours, but were mainly lovely and runnable, and many competitors ran in shorts and singlets. Legs in excess of 1 km were common in both the qualifier and the long distance race, with only the occasional felled area simplifying the navigation. Relocation was a challenge, as I found out to my peril!

WMOC was great fun, with many of the British contingent of ~150 participants gathering together in the assembly fields. The facilities in the fields were first class, with warm food, multiple clothing stores and even showers for the forest events. The city events had the benefit of numerous cafes and bars along the beautiful river that dominates the centre of the town.

There are two rest days during the week, with official training events part of the programme. As well as training, we took the opportunity to drive across the Finnish Archipelago; the largest in the world, undertook a Busman's Holiday by visiting the Olkiluoto Nuclear Power Station (I have been involved in work projects there for the last twenty years), and had an evening cruise to a small island for a BBQ dinner with 20 of the UK participants.

And, of course, as we were in Finland, we had many saunas and swam in the lakes and in the Baltic! *Matt and Karen*

(Maps on the back page, Ed)



Events Co-ordinator

Since the JK, LEI has run a whole Summer League, a score cup and 2 regional urban events.

I only managed to attend 3 of these (there's been a lot going on in my non-orienteeing life). However, many of you attended lots of them. Special mention to Kevin Gallagher for his exemplary Summer League attendance record and thanks to Jane for her organising of the Summer League and to all the planner-organisers.

We're always on the lookout for new helpers and we will arrange some training for our minor league officials in the new year. This will also be of interest to the vastly experienced.

For our regional events we all remember the planner as we enjoy and critique the courses. We often remember the controller who has looked after us and solved disputes. But the organiser often goes unnoticed; this is even more the case if the event has run smoothly. So, after an event, if there's been no problems and you've forgotten who the organiser was then have a think, check the website and remember to thank them next time you see them. We're in the process of putting our teams together for 2025 and I'll be on the lookout for organisers, planners and controllers. Keep your heads up ...

Iain Phillips

LEI Mountain Biking

The weekly LEI "Mountain Biking Group" continues to meet, every Monday morning, 10 am, at the Hicks Lodge Cafe, near Ashby de la Zouch.

It's free to join in, you just need a suitable bike (mountain, hybrid, etc.)

Friendly banter in the cafe, both before and after our approximate 40 minute ride on the Hicks Lodge trails.

There are two groups, slow and even slower! We use the blue and green trails, depending on ability and fitness. Note that none of us have great skill!

Please come along. We're at Hicks Lodge every Monday, come sun, or rain. If you're uncertain about any aspect, just speak to Bob H, Chris B, Andy P, or Laurie F.



Club Chat

2024 Summer League Winners

100% attendance

Liz Phillips, Peter Chick, Kevin Gallagher

Highest score non LEI male

Bruce Bryant

Highest score non LEI female

Liz Phillips

Best use of an area

Keith Willdig (Atherstone)

Sprint and Urban Male

1st Ed de Salis Young, 2nd Andy Nicholls, 3rd David Cladingboel

Sprint and Urban Female

1st Jo White, 2nd Carol Stynes-Martin, 3rd Jane Dring-Morris

Sprint and Urban Junior

1st Daniel Stothard

Best total score before handicapping

Andy Nicholls

Junior Male League Winner

1st Daniel Stothard, 2nd Aidan Chester, 3rd Hugh Chester

Junior Female League Winner

1st Cara Tolley

Senior Female League Winners

1st Jane Dring-Morris, 2nd Ursula Williamson, 3rd Jo White

Senior Male League Winners

1st Ed de Salis Young, 2nd Andy Nicholls, 3rd David Cladingboel

British Sprint Championships 2024

M14A 2nd Eoin Simpson
M80 3rd Peter Chick

Croeso

M85 2nd Don Moir
W10B 2nd Suranne Tolley

Junior Selection

Two of our LEI Juniors were selected for Summer 2024 Tours and Camps

Congratulations to Eoin Simpson on selection for Lagganlia

and

Ellie Simpson on selection for the Czechia Tour

Their reports will appear in the next LEI newsletter

Welcome to the Numpty Club

NUMPTY

Oxford Dictionary Definition. **N.** A stupid or foolish person; an idiot.

I've been thinking, maybe LEIOC should have a "NUMPTY" section, exclusively for those who qualify and can meet the criteria of membership. An exclusive LEIOC group, one that demands qualification and on an on-going basis. I could be the most qualified and having a proven record of constantly committing the membership requirements, I suggest I should be Prime Numpty!!!

So, to be a Numpty you need to have committed the stupid mistakes we do whilst competing. How many of these can you say "Oh I have done that". Here is the list that I think could be counted as qualifiers. Are there any others you feel ought to be added?

- Forgetting or heading to the start without the required kit. Whistle (if compulsory for the event), Compass, Dibber, clothes that don't meet the events requirements, control description holder etc.
- Forgetting and not dibbing the START box. (Done, Hicks Lodge. Although I blame PH. He was handling the Start and we were chatting, then he said "You need to go." So, I did.)
- Picking up the wrong map.
- Managing to hold and orientate the map 180 degrees out i.e. the wrong way round so you head off in entirely the wrong direction.
- Reading the number 6 and 9 the wrong way so you head off for or even go to the wrong control. (Mind you I think this must be a deliberate ploy by the powers that be because they could very easily eliminate this.)
- Managing to miss a control out. Somehow or other instead of heading for the next control you switch off, mis-read the map and go straight to the one after it.
- Running straight past the last control without dibbing it because you have just seen the FINISH banner. How stupid can you be? I felt a proper Numpty!! On reflection I'm pretty good at committing this one. Last year at Martinshaw, I navigated to the last control then saw the finish banner half way across a field so sprinted straight to it without dibbing the last control at which I had stopped and stood only a couple of feet away from.

Welcome to the Numpty Club cont...

- Forgetting which way is left or right. Your brain signals and says right so you turn left. Or vice versa. If you are dyslexic, you are forgiven and we, the afflicted, or I, understand.
- Now for the big one. Deciding to follow another competitor because you tell yourself they know where they are going, and they are on the same course as you. How wrong can you be at times? There is a lesser version of this. Just letting yourself be distracted by others who are quietly getting on with their course but you feel are worth using to point you in a direction to go. If only I could stop doing this!!! I do it week after week. Perhaps I'm getting too old for this sport.

Well, this is my list. I have done pretty much all of them, some more than once and, some quite recently, so I feel I should be instantly admitted to the LEIOC Numpty Club. And, finally, as a postscript, if you have read this far (and thanks for bearing with it to the end) and feel you have managed any of the qualifying actions and are taking this seriously, then "welcome to the Numpty Club".

Peter



New Course for 2025

As many of you will be aware the East Midlands have been trialling, during 2024, Very Short Green Courses at Regional Events. As from January next year all events that are part of the EMOA Forest League will feature a Very Short Green Course and will score League Points. The Technical Difficulty of the Very Short Green is 5. Whilst the course is open to everyone, it is principally aimed at M/W75+, and to that end the physical difficulty will reflect Appendix B Rule 2.4.1.

LEI Club Championships

Saturday 9th November
2024

Donisthorpe Woodlands

Starts 10.30am

Event Presentations

and Buffet at

Moirs Village Hall

Retired Man Chronicles:

The Summer of 24

We begin in mid-May with the event at Atherstone. Oh, dear a control on bridge top was not accessible from the canal towpath below, which fooled several orienteers. RM comments 'Uncrossable black lines on maps 'are the fun in urban orienteering.'

Dog walking on Beacon Hill on a Saturday morning and I think I recognise one of the Park Run marshals and then I hear a Welsh accent. 'Is it Steve?' I ask. 'Yes' replies Steve Chafer but looks puzzled, so I introduce myself as Mrs Retired Man.

The orienteering at Hardwick Hall had been tough. Early on RM met a man who had realised he had picked up the wrong map. When John checks he had the wrong map too. There had been some confusion with Green. Light Green. Short Green and Very Short Green. RM also had to borrow a compass as his has gone missing. He also moans about the grassy field being made lumpy by cattle hooves?

My Brownies are orienteering in The Outwoods on the permanent white course. To make it easier RM is working on a large scale version of the Outwoods map as

the white course only occupies a small part of the area. He breaks off from mapping and watching the Horizon Post Office Inquiry (Well done Sir Alan Bates) to phone Chris B to ask about lifts tonight only to discover the event is not until tomorrow.

It rained a lot and then drizzled when RM was running round Bagworth to create very wet surfaces. In the morning when I went to brush my teeth, I saw two O socks dangling from the handles on the bath. John had soaked himself clean then used the bath water to wash his O socks.

Someone else getting very wet was Rishi Sunak as he stood in pouring rain outside Drowning Street. No one helped with an umbrella as he declared a General Election on July 4th. Six weeks of campaigning ahead, something to look forward to, or not.

There has been more and more rain when RM and Chris B headed for Tunnel Woods or should that be re-named Tunnel Marshes. He did not have a good run and struggled with one control in particular. To make matters worse he failed at Wordle and lost his high scoring streak and will

have to start from the beginning again.

June does not start well when he rips a small tear in his favourite O top from Bulgaria. I find some lilac ribbon that he glues to the underside and will sew it another day.

At Ibstock he wasn't disqualified for the wrong control or for missing a control as happened to others. He finished but took 4 minutes longer than he should have if he had not run past a control and gone back to find it.

RM has a meeting at The Wheatsheaf in Thurstaston to discuss the Local Plan. The organisers change the start time until later. I'm sure you are thinking he went for the wrong time but no he is on time but someone else forgot to check that the pub would still be open.

The next day is not much better. It's the Fosse Meadows event and The Heavens opened as he was at the Start, some controls were difficult to find, vegetation on the map needs updating, food pricey etc.

It is a Saturday at the beginning of June and I enquire on his early return from Tunnel Woods 'So how was the radio O?' Sheepish look and "It's not today, it's tomorrow".

Happier days follow as at last after he many hours of trying he gets HIS results system on his phone to work. Hooray.

Orienteering at Barrow causes grumbles about no food, not even a pizza and the beer was £4.40 a pint. Not a happy bunny 'no route choice' and he had had no energy.

21st June is a significant date the Summer Solstice, but the campaigners for Just Stop Oil have sprayed water soluble orange paint on the Stonehenge stones. A few days ago, they did the same to the pop star Taylor Swift's private jet.

Next day is the radio O event at Horton Wood, High Wycombe. He had a good time and 3 newcomers from the RAF appeared. I ask if they had landed a jump jet in the car park and was disappointed that the answer was no. John has been to the area before but 'Was this useful?' 'No, not really, it was 26 years ago.'

When I came home from a week end away, the kitchen work top was covered in sets of batteries from Vapes (some from the tip at Mountsorrel) Little meters and scraps of paper with hourly details of discharge were everywhere. Even worse, no watering, especially my greenhouse, had been done. The 'rescue' of vape batteries to be used in his radio O kit had taken precedence.

The 3rd July was the date for the Sence Valley event. RM is happy, to pay Spoons prices for beer and eat curry. He had trouble finding

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controls 'hidden' in the undergrowth and everywhere is overgrown.

12th July I note in my diary 'RM has been to the tip again for even more vape items.

RM discovers that Radio O is more difficult if you don't check the receiver and then find that the aerial that helps to determine if the control is behind or in front of you is missing! He now has to take more care with triangulation.

RM is happy mending things but has to concede that the oil pump change in his car is a job for the garage. He decides to walk home from the garage in Mountsorrel. One and half hours later, quote 'I'd be really fit if I did this everyday'. However he uses the bike to return to the garage, it only takes 17 minutes and brings home the mended car AND the old oil pump 'to 'investigate'.

In the USA, 81 year old Joe Biden decides not to run for president after weeks of speculation about his age and health and embarrassing mistakes.

RM has a radio O event to plan and organise at Feanedock and the day before, it is 8 pm before he returns, moaning of course. This time it's about the roach pole used to put the transmitters high up in the trees. Next day after the event I ask "How did you get on?" 'Everyone says they enjoyed it.

Everyone, all 5 of them. Probably not a good idea to hold an event in July fortnight, or when most orienteers have gone to Wales for the main summer event.

We go on holiday to West Wittering (Chichester area) where our daughter now lives. RM and son in law are busy sorting out the anchor chain, radio and GPS system on the boat named Blessing for local children to learn how to sail. RM has a day off at Tangmere Air Museum and returns excited about a simulated flight in a Lightning where he flew over the Isle of Wight, the Needles and a loop the loop. When upside down all the controls are the opposite way round.

Back home and the bountiful blackberries in our garden prompt RM to invent a blackberry picking container from a long piece of string and the 'bucket' that held bird fat balls. It hangs around the neck leaving both hands free for picking blackberries.

In early August The Olympics have begun in Paris.

Bob T phones "Is John there?" 'No, he's in a plane flying around Leicester piloted by his twin brother' '(Yes folks there are two of them). Bob wants to remind John to bring the radio O roach pole to Outwoods tonight so he can have it back. After The Outwoods event I enquire 'How were the new running shoes?'

'Fine but I fell over again' and displays his knee with a new large graze on top of an almost healed graze.' He had enjoyed recounting his flight in the 4 seater plane and showing the photos; Leicester airport, Mountsorrel quarry, Cropston village (our house) and the reservoir. He's not sure if it's allowed to fly a small plane over Gartree prison? He had left the roach pole with Download but Bob T did not pick it up so it's back in my kitchen!! Next day we hear that Bob T fell and may have fractured a rib.

The last event of the Summer League is a score event at QEDJ Wood. RM gains 110 points but is late back and loses 80 points. He has not understood why there are 2 blank background holes in the map with 30 point controls. I think the triangular shape map with eyehole blanks looks like a fox face. Food followed in the village hall and then beer at Spoons so he is happier

RM travels to near Solihull with Iain Phillips and Peter Hornsby. He has not entered and hopes there will be a spare map for him. However, RM has to draw the circles on the spare map. Oh dear, later he discovers he missed copying 2 of the control sites.

After the Evington event it's beer and fish and chips at

Spoons. RM has a voucher for money off beer but as it is already on offer at £1.99 per pint the voucher cannot be used. Later I see the map which for some reason has pretty pink colours.

September begins and Roy Denney has been celebrating his 80th birthday over several days. We can only arrive at The Nags Head later in the evening but Roy isn't there. The barmaid remembers that someone had left a birthday card for him and we offer to deliver it. Through the Glenfield maze to Roy's house. Doreen answers the door. 'Roy came home drunk not too long ago and is fast asleep in the chair' she laughs. We hand over our card and the one from someone else Who,??? I am intrigued.

RM is not in good books as I caught him trimming his nose hairs and wondering why I am cross. I use those scissors for snipping ginger and apricots in my cakes!!!

RM's latest obsession is creating a MapRun at Lubbesthorpe. He has been several times to explore and check by bicycle. I did some research and discovered that the remains of medieval

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Winter League 2024/25

The 2024/2025 Winter League fixtures are listed below. Events are informal. League scores are based on standard handicaps and the best six events count, giving everyone a chance of success in the league if they perform as well as their age suggest they should. The usual format of the event is a short course for novices and young children, a medium course for experienced orienteers who are older and perhaps slower and a longer course for fast experienced orienteers. On other occasions the event will be a score course or a sprint.

Check the LEI website www.leioc.org.ok for any last-minute changes. Events will use Si electronic timing. Dibber hire is available.

Entry is via Start Kite. The link is via the event details on the club website. Enter at least 48hrs before the event to guarantee a map.

Entry Fees:

Seniors £5. Non BOF member Seniors £6.

Full time students and working age unwaged £2.50.

Juniors (or family group shadowing their juniors) £1.50

For results, please see www.leioc.org.uk

Club members attending league events are asked to help collecting controls after the event has finished.

Winter League Trophies and Certificates for Senior members are presented at the LEI Dinner and Awards in late February/early March.

WL1	Wednesday 13 th November (Night)	Narborough (Urban)
WL2	Tuesday 19 th November (Night)	Oakham Tops (Forest)
WL3	Saturday 30 th November (Day)	East Carlton Park (Sprint)
WL4	Saturday 28 th December (Day)	Sence Valley (Forest)
WL5	Wednesday 15 th January (Night)	Cademan (Forest)
WL6	Thursday 23 rd January (Night)	Bagworth (Forest)
WL7	Saturday 1 st February (Day)	Donisthorpe (Forest)
WL8	Wednesday 19 th February (Day)	Ibstock (Urban)

Summer League 2024 (abbreviated) Top 30

Pos	Name	Class	Club	Best 10 Events	Handicap	Attendance	Total
1	Edward de Salis Young	M55	LEI	1020	1224	130	1354
2	Andy Nicholls	M45	LEI	1039	1164	140	1304
3	David Cladingboel	M55	LEI	900	1080	140	1220
4	Ben Shannon	M35	LEI	1001	1041	150	1191
5	Stephen Martin	M65	LEI	781	1000	140	1140
6	Andrew Ward	M35	LEI	980	1020	120	1140
7	David Seaman	M50	LEI	853	990	140	1130
8	Roger Phillips	M45	LEI	883	989	140	1129
9	Alastair Paterson	M55	LEI	792	950	140	1090
10	Stephen Chafer	M55	LEI	816	979	100	1079
11	Bruce Bryant	M65	OD	732	937	130	1067
12	Liz Phillips	W60	OD	700	896	160	1056
13	Kevin Gallagher	M75	LEI	629	855	160	1015
14	Tom Hartland	M45	DVO	814	912	100	1012
15	Keith Willdig	M75	OD	645	877	110	987
16	Roger Edwards	M70	LEI	657	867	110	977
17	John Marriott	M75	LEI	568	773	150	923
18	Jane Dring-Morris	W55	LEI	620	768	140	908
19	Ursula Williamson	W60	LEI	571	731	120	851
20	Paul Stothard	M55	LEI	603	723	110	833
21	Peter Chick	M80	LEI	487	662	160	822
22	George Normand	M75	LEI	518	705	110	815
23	Jo White	W50	LEI	585	702	110	812
24	Kevin Bradley	M65	LEI	511	654	130	784
25	Patricia Wong	W50	NOC	538	645	130	775
26	Chris Bosley	M75	LEI	470	639	130	769
27	Gerry Spalton	M75	OD	477	648	100	748
28	Carol Stynes-Martin	W55	LEI	517	641	100	741
29	David Jenkinson	M60	LEI	518	642	90	732
30	Andy Portsmouth	M65	LEI	475	609	110	719

Fixtures

This fixture list is intended to list events in and around the Midlands and neighbouring areas, plus other items likely to be of interest. Local (D) events will only have a limited range of courses. Regional (C) events offer a range of colour-coded courses, with start times generally from 10.30am to 12.30pm. National (B) and Major (A) events provide a range of age-related courses. Post-Covid, most orienteering events are normally entered in advance online. EOD will usually be limited and more expensive. The OS map reference is either the car park or point from which the event will be signposted. The list is based on BOF registration data, but events are sometimes cancelled. If you are uncertain as to whether an event will take place, check with the organiser, check on www.leioc.org.uk or check on www.britishorienteering.org.uk. The editors take no responsibility for wasted journeys!

EVENT STRUCTURE IN FIXTURE LISTS

- Local (level D) = relatively low-cost events providing local competition and aimed at increasing participation.
- Regional (level C) = events providing a wider variety of venues and competitors.
- National (level B) = events providing opportunities for more experienced competitors, giving a wider variety of terrain and competition for those who are prepared to travel longer distances.
- Major (level A) = major UK events, the best that orienteering can offer.

October 2024

Sat 12 th	DEE NWOA Regional	DEE Weekend Middle Race (UKOL) Thurstaston Common , Royden Park and Thurstaston Common, West Kirby, CH48 1NP Organiser: Mike Smithard www.deeside-orienteering-club.org.uk
Sat 12 th	POTOC WMOA Local	Ladderedge Country Park , Leek, ST13 7AB www.potoc.org.uk
Sat 12 th	BKO SCOA National	British TrailO Championships (PreO) , Burnham Beeches, Slough, SL2 3 TF Organiser: David Jukes
Sun 13 th	DEE NWOA National	DEE Weekend Chester City Urban (UKOL) , CH2 2HQ Entry times: tba. Organiser: Andrew Payne www.deeside-orienteering-club.org.uk
Sun 13 th	OD WMOA Regional	Stratford Urban - WMUL , Stratford www.octavian-droobers.org

October 2024 Continued

Sun 13 th	BKO SCOA National	British TrailO Championships (TempO) , Whiteknights Campus, Reading, RG6 6UD Organiser: David Jukes
Sun 20 th	LOG EMOA Regional	EMUL 2024 LOG Urban , Bourne, PE10 9DB Entry times: start 10.30am - 12.30pm. Courses close 2pm. Dogs: On lead, in car park. Organiser: Sean Harrington www.logonline.org.uk
Sat 26 th	OD WMOA Local	Cracks Hill Local Event , Cracks Hill, Crick, NN6 7TF www.octavian-droobers.org
Sun 27 th	LEI EMOA Regional	EMOA League 2024 Cademan and Thringstone Woods , Loughborough Entry times: 10.30 - 12.00. Dogs: On lead, in car park.

November 2024

Sat 2 nd	SARUM SWOA National	Salisbury City Race 2024 (UKOL) , Salisbury, SP1 3JR Organiser: Mark White www.sarumo.org.uk
Sun 3 rd	SOC SCOA National	November Classic (UKOL) Kings Garn Gutter, Lyndhurst, SO43 7HH Organiser: Julian Hartwell
Sat 9 th	LEI EMOA Local	LEI OC Championships , Donisthorpe, TBD Entry times: Organised by current rankings. Dogs: on leads at all times. Organiser: Peter Hornsby www.leioc.org.uk
Sun 10 th	SYO YHOA Regional	YHOA Super League Blacka , Blacka Moor, Sheffield, S17 3BJ Organiser: Lucy Wiegand https://www.southyorkshireorienteers.org.uk/events/event/957:regional-event
Sun 10 th	HOC WMOA Regional	WML Event – Eymore Wood , Kidderminster, DY12 1PJ Entry times: 10:30-12:30. Dogs under close control at all times. Organiser: Ian Gamlen, ian.gamlen@gmail.com https://harlequins.org.uk/wp/
Wed 13 th	LEI EMOA Local	LEI Winter League 1 Narborough Night Urban , LE19 3WY Entry times: 6pm - 7pm. Dogs on leads only. Clean up any mess. Organiser: Jane Dring-Morris. Pre enter on The Start Kite
Sun 17 th	NOC EMOA Regional	East Midlands League 2024 , Shirebrook Wood, Mansfield Entry times: 10.30 - 12.00. Organiser: Pat Squire , org20241117@noc-uk.org
Tue 19 th	LEI EMOA Local	LEI Winter League 2 Oakham Tops Night event, Oakham, LE15 6JP Entry times: 6pm - 7pm. Dogs allowed. Organiser: Jane Dring-Morris. Pre enter on The Start Kite.
Sat 30 th	LEI EMOA Local	LEI Winter League 3 East Carlton Park , Market Harborough, LE16 8YD Entry times: 11am - 12pm. Dogs on leads only. Clean up any mess. Organiser: Chris Phillips

December 2024

Sat 7 th	POTOC WMOA Local	Downs Banks , Barlas ton Downs, STONE, ST15 8UU www.potoc.org.uk
Sat 14 th	DVO EMOA Local	Shipley Park , Shipley Park, Heanor, DE24 1AS Organiser: Chris Millard , cdo@derwentvalleyorienteers.org.uk https://derwentvalleyorienteers.org.uk
Sun 15 th	LEI EMOA Regional	EMOA League 2024 , Outwoods, Leicester Entry times: 10.30 - 12.00. Dogs: On lead, in car park. Pre-enter on The Start Kite
Tue 17 th	WCH WMOA Local	WCH Event 7 Maprun Night Street Rugeley , Entry times: 18:45 - 19:15. Organiser: Kelvin Dawson
Sun 22 nd	NOC EMOA Regional	East Midlands League 2024 , Walesby Forest & Boughton Brake, Ollerton, NG22 9NG Entry times: 10.30 - 12.00. Organiser: Robert Parkinson , org20241222@noc-uk.org
Sat 28 th	LEI EMOA Local	LEI Winter League 4 Sence Valley Country Park , Ibstock, LE67 6NW Entry times: 12pm - 1pm. Dogs on leads only. Clean up any mess. Organiser: Jane Dring-Morris. Pre-enter on The Start Kite.

January 2025

Wed 1 st	DVO EMOA Regional	EMUL League 2025 Derby City , DE1 1NN Organiser: Val Johnson
Sun 12 th	SYO YHOA Regional	SYO Regional Event , Greno Woods TBC, Sheffield
Wed 15 th	LEI EMOA Local	LEI Winter League 5 Cademan Night Event , Whitwick, LE67 5AQ Entry times: 6pm - 7pm. Organiser: Jane Dring-Morris. Pre enter on The Start Kite.
Sun 19 th	LEI EMOA Regional	EMOA League 2025 , Hanging Hill & Boothorpe, Ashby Pre enter on The Start Kite.
Thu 23 rd	LEI EMOA Local	LEI Winter League 6 Bagworth Woodlands Night Event , Coalville, LE67 1DL Entry times: 6pm - 7pm. Organiser: Jane Dring-Morris Pre-enter on The Start Kite.

February 2025

Sat 1st	LEI EMOA Local	LEI Winter League 7 Donisthorpe Woodlands , Ashby, DE12 7PY Entry times: 11am - 12pm. Dogs on leads only. Clean up any mess. Organiser: Jane Dring-Morris. Pre-enter on The Start Kite.
Sat 8th	FVO SOA Major	British Night Championships (UKOL) , Touch Muir & Forest, Stirling Organiser: John Heaton fvo.org.uk/events

February 2025 Continued

Sun 16th	LEI EMOA National	EM Championships 2025 , Martinshaw and Ratby Woodlands, Leicester
Wed 19th	LEI EMOA Local	LEI Winter League 8 Ibstock Urban , LE67 6NE Entry times: 11am - 12pm. Dogs on leads only. Clean up any mess. Organiser: Jane Dring-Morris. Pre-enter on The Start Kite.
Sun 23rd	NOC EMOA National	CompassSport Cup Heat , Clumber Park, Worksop, S80 3AZ Organiser: John Hurley

March 2025

Sat 1 st	DVO EMOA Regional	EMOA League 2025 Birchen Edge & BUCS individual , Birchen, Baslow, DE45 1PU Organiser: Sal Chaffey
Sat 1 st	ERYRI WOA Regional	2025 Welsh League inc Cwpan y Ddraig & YBT Heat , Moel Smytho, Rhosgadfan, Caernarfon, LL54 7AJ Organiser: Jenny Williamson https://www.eryri-orienteering.org/
Sun 2 nd	ERYRI WOA National	Welsh Championships , Llechweddgain, Bronaber, Trawsfynydd, LL41 4YB Organiser: Ian Jones https://www.eryri-orienteering.org/

Getting Lost? At most events? Need to relocate? Not sure what to do?

Download the Relocation strategy document from the club website in the orienteering skills section.

https://www.leioc.org.uk/wordpress/lei_members/Relocation%20strategy.pdf

SIAC Dibbers.

Have you checked your battery level recently?

Low battery, no contactless.

There have been several occasions lately when members have found their dibber is not working in contactless mode.

If you have low battery problems, you can return your dibber to Si for a replacement battery. Currently the cost is £16.

RMC Continued

settlement called Lubba's Thorpe are a Scheduled Ancient Monument and so is the Rabbit Warren near The Lawns. He has chatted with many of you about his Lubbesthorpe map and I think he needs the OK from Simon Starkey before it can be uploaded for orienteers to use. I have had at least a week expressing opinions in slight colour changes (often to be ignored) and listening to grumbles of a frustrated RM trying to get the map to print at the desired scale. Our recycling bin is full of printed Lubbesthorpe maps.

I have been trying to think of a catchy and truthful title for this article. Perhaps the RM (Retired Man) Chronicles should be renamed Relentlessly Moaning Chronicles?

Irene Marriott

CompassSport Trophy

Your Club needs YOU

Clumber Park

Sunday 23rd February 2025

Croeso 2024

Despite Orienteering for 30+ years, this was the first time I had been to an "Orienteering Holiday" event. My excuse is that most of my holidays in the summer have been spent on the family Narrowboat and parts of Wales, The Lakes and Scotland are not noted for their canals.

Having driven up from North Cornwall we arrived at our campsite on the edge of the Brecon Beacons on the Saturday evening as the rest of our extended orienteering family arrived. The site nestling in a valley between two of the event areas proved to be an ideal choice.

For days two, three and four most competitors had a bus ride to the event area. Our choice of camp site enabled us to miss out on most of the bussing as we were only 1km from two event areas.

Sunday started with a 40 minute drive down to the South Wales coast and the challenge of the sand dunes of Merthyr Mawr.

A 2km walk to the start in a baking hot sun saw me ready to go. All did not go well!

Drawing a veil over my many mistakes,

Continued on page 26

Mapping Advances

The club is making some changes to the way we create our maps. This is driven by a need to change our software platform. With the advent of virtual orienteering and the use of GPS tracking it has become more important that our maps are geographically accurate.

For many years the club has been using the 'Open Orienteering Mapper' program. This was a reaction by a number of enthusiastic and talented orienteers to the slow progress of the standard package *Ocad*. We benefitted from a superior drawing environment and better file handling. Over the last few years, we have developed our skills bringing in modern accurate LiDAR data and geo-referenced aerial photography. The advances were not supported within the program leading to the development of additional processes to handle the data.

Over the last year we have noticed that the enthusiasm has gone out of the Mapper team. Promised features did not materialise. The regular updates stopped. One of our team had a conversation with the lead developer and he confirmed that their attention had moved on.

At this point it became obvious that the *Ocad* team had been beaver away diligently. They had incorporated some, but not all, of Mapper's best features. More importantly they handle online maps, LiDAR data and aerial photos directly within the software. This has reduced the skill level required to

access this data. We have now purchased some team licenses for the software which will allow us to share access to *Ocad* within the team (it is expensive).

One feature we are keen to utilise is the *Ocad Sketch* app. This is appropriate for mappers, planners and controllers. *Sketch* is a free app that can be used on Apple and Android based phones and tablets. The mapper makes his project available to app users who can then draw on top of the map to highlight issues or problems. The app user has a view of the map on their device centred on their location, thus removing location errors. I recommend that you take a look at the introductory video <https://www.ocad.com/en/ocad-sketch-app/>. The club is trialling the app during the planning of the forthcoming Cademan event. The planner has been impressed by the ease by which he can pass information and comments back to the mapper. If you want to try this feature, please download the app to your device and get in touch so I can provide you with a link to a map to try.

We will still use the Mapper program for training, schools and small events for the moment. If you fancy having a go at mapping, please let me or one of the events team know.

Simon Starkey

(Pictures on page 27, Ed)

let's just say after taking 70 minutes to get to the 5th control with 10 more to go and a long walk back to the event centre, the prospect of ice creams (plural) prevailed and I retired. The only saving grace, I was not the only one to fare badly.

Day Two on Cribarth was my Après Orienteering Day. Whilst everybody else in the party enjoyed the 2km uphill walk to the start on a very pleasant moorland area, I sauntered down to the event arena and enjoyed the chat, the coffee and a bowl of Rom's delicious chilli. Eventually the rest of the party arrived with various reports of success, fast legs, good route choices and top placings in the event - or something like that.

Day Three on Carreg Goch back to the serious stuff, escorting my 5 year old Granddaughter around the white course. She is a veteran orienteer. White Rose, Scottish 6 Days, Welsh Championships - done them all. Lovely walk round a country park. Only one problem, she runs faster than me "Grandpa please keep up" ...I try!

Thankfully the rest day looms. It's wet, very wet. We head off to the Show Caves of Wales for a tour (it's wet underground!). The evening is a barbeque for the Eryri Club. A bit of ingenuity with tarpaulins ensures even the cooks are dry.

Day Four Pen Rhiw Wen, was our day on the bus. Car Parking was at Amman Valley Trotting Club near Tairgwaith. A

lengthy drive from our campsite. Probably the most unusual car park I've ever been to for an event. Worth looking up on the internet. By the time we had been bussed up into the moorlands the cloud base was below us. This made what was a very technical area even more difficult. A significant number of people retired early. To quote my joint editor, "it was pit bingo" The planner was not amused!

Back on Grandparent duty on a white course, with very limited visibility and no clear paths, I found myself taking bearings just to check the direction of travel! There is a first for everything.

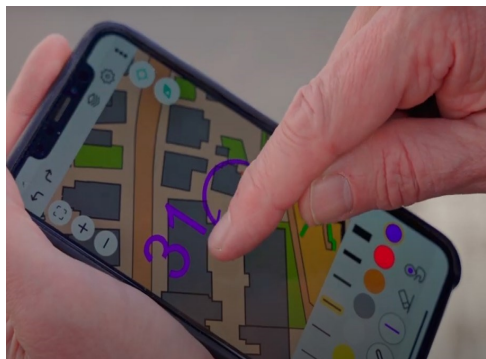
Unfortunately, that was the end of Croeso for Ursula and myself as we had to head home – a canal narrowboat awaited us. (plus two weeks washing to be done)

We don't get these sorts of areas in LEI country and the technical difficulty is way above what we are used to. It's a very different orienteering experience. It's well worth trying and will give you a whole different view of orienteering on home turf.

I do have to compliment the Croeso team on their organisation. Absolutely first class. They are only a small group of people but everything runs like clockwork. I think a few bus companies should take note of the quality of their bus services over the week.

There was even a bus timetable!

Chris



Mapping Advances OCAD Sketch App from page 25



Photo Gallery: LEI Winners

Summer League
Presentations at
Measham Village Hall



WMOC 2024 Finland

