



LEI NEWS

Editors
Chris
&
Ursula

The Newsletter of the Leicestershire Orienteering Club



Schools Orienteering
Family Fun Day

Going to Gdansk
Winter League 25/26



Autumn 2025

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Copy date for next issue:
18th January 2026

Front Cover

LOROS Elephant outside St Mary de Castro
Photo Chris Phillips

Points from the Editors

We are writing this in the middle of three weeks of frenetic orienteering.

In six days it will be the Final of the CompassSport Cup and Trophy and we will all be basking in the sun on the sand dunes of South Gare. *(Have you seen the long-range forecast? – other ed).* Last weekend was the Midlands Championships with weather that perhaps didn't encourage sun bathing, *(maybe snorkelling - other ed; I was there, you weren't!)* and some very challenging courses.

The last weekend in August, Norfolk was the venue for the British Mixed Sprint Relays and the British Sprint Championships. The Sprint Relays are an exciting format and very spectator friendly with the LEI Support Team shouting themselves hoarse as our two relay teams raced through the spectator control and the handover. Great fun!

The Sprint Championships at UEA took the art of mapping to a new level (pun intended) with multi levels and controls in places that you did not expect. Zig zagging through corridors in buildings and coming out on different levels produced a new dimension to relocating. Perhaps a training session for this winter. Congratulations to our two medallists, Sue and Peter.

The winter league will be starting in a couple of months. At the time of writing this piece Jane is still looking for an organiser/planner for one event. Not planned an event yet? Your turn to give it a try!

Chris and Ursula

Ramblings from the Chair



Welcome to the Autumn 2025 edition of LEI News. I hope that everyone has had a great summer and you have enjoyed your orienteering wherever you have been. No

international travelling or multiday UK events for me this year. Returning to work has definitely put pay to that (for the time being at least). Also, no emergency trips to the hospital this summer which was much more welcome.

One major benefit of starting work as a postie at my time of life has been my overall fitness levels. I have not got any quicker but my stamina has improved significantly. Averaging over 15km per day (365) will do that. (I am now on my 3rd pair of walking boots this year). One major disadvantage for an orienteer in becoming a new postie, is that you have to work on weekends. Yes, Royal Mail does deliver on Sunday, (parcels only), it seems to come as a surprise to most people I deliver to. We even deliver on Easter Sunday!!

This lifestyle change has had a major impact on my ability to attend weekend events, but did allow me to attend almost all of the LEI Summer League events this year and resulted in my first ever podium position at any LEI competition, finishing 2nd in both the Men's Urban/Sprint and overall Leagues and 3rd in the Men's Score cup. Many congratulations to Andy Nicholls, Jane Dring-Morris, Cara Tolley and Aidan Chester for winning their

respective leagues and to Imogen Wilson (190pts) and Andy Ward (180pts) for winning the Women's and Men's Score Cup. Maybe the first time the women's winner has scored more points than the men's?

We have plenty of events and activities to look forward to over the next few months, the CompassSport Trophy final will have come and gone by the time you read this. We have EML events at Burbage, Beacon Hill and Martinshaw before the end of the year as well as the club Champs on Saturday 8th November and the start of the Winter League on the 15th November. Please check the website for all event and activity details over the coming months.

The club's annual general meeting will take place on Monday 3rd November at Glenfield Parish Council offices at 7.30pm. As most of you will know, I explained at last year's AGM that I will be stepping down as Chair this year and I can confirm it is still my intention to do so. I had hoped to be able to announce my successor, but unfortunately, I have not been successful in my search yet. So, if there is anyone who is interested in the role or other positions in the club, please don't be shy, let me know. It is still my intention to continue on the committee and in my role as Permissions Secretary. Hopefully work permitting I will see you at an event very soon.

Steve

Stop Press

Midland Championships 2025 at Chinley Churn

Congratulations go to our LEI champions:

Andy Simpson M50 and Don Moir M90

Captain's Corner



Despite women being in short supply, LEI managed to field two teams for the British Mixed Sprint Relay Champs at Bury St Edmunds on 30th August. The teams were: 'Speed of LEI-

ght' comprising Steve Edgar, Ursula Williamson and Iain Phillips in 55+ , and 'Leading LEI-ghts' comprising Matt White, Karen White and Andy Nicholls in 40+. No doubt they enjoyed their day.

The event I am thinking about most now is the CompassSport Trophy at South Gare, Redcar on the 14th September. As often seems to be the case, the timing of the Newsletter is such that a report on our performance will have to wait until the Spring 2026 issue. However, as of today I am pleased to see a turnout of 31 orienteers ready to do battle with the Northeast coastline for Trophy points. We have runners in all categories, which is essential as the scoring system, which I have given below, demonstrates.

CompassSport Trophy team score

- 13 scores to count
- a maximum of 2 counters from any one of the 'Large' classes 1 to 7.
- a maximum of 2 counters from each pair of the 'Small' CompassSport classes. e.g. two from 8A, none from 8B; one from 8A, one from 8B; none from 8A, two from 8B; etc.
- a maximum of 2 counters from the single 'Small' class 10.

We have been able to cover all categories because Ursula is running up to Women Open class (Blue 6.2 km; 70 m) instead of Veterans (Short Green 3.5 km; 40m). With some extremely good

orienteers in my own category, leaving me no chance of scoring, I too have decided to run up to Short Brown. Ursula and I both hope to 'do a Hague', a nod to Oliver's impressive 92 points in the Clumber Park qualifier which he walked round. We will both be starting early!

This summer I went on two orienteering trips. I did not travel as far as some LEI members who attended the Scottish 6 Days, or the World Masters Orienteering Championships in Girona, Spain. I went to Bradford for the weekend for a parkrun and two sprint races on the Saturday and then a race around Bradford City Centre on Sunday. I stayed in an Airbnb which was someone's converted garage! Sue Bicknell was the only other LEI member there. We had a few chats, of course, and I learned about her very interesting past career.

I also attended my first White Rose weekend in Dalby Forest which was excellent and extremely challenging. Since these events were more than two hours' drive away, I thought I had better get to grips with the gift aid scheme that the club operates. I was surprised to learn at a recent committee meeting that most of the gift aid is generated by only four people but that a lot of income can be gained for the club in this way. To cut a long story short, it was simple to fill the forms in and really did not take much time at all. I encourage you all to help the club out in this way if you travel to a qualifying event.

David

Are you a whizz with social media ?

LEI is looking for a social media liaison officer to promote the sport to the non-orienteering world. If you are interested please talk to the club chairman.

Retired Man Chronicles: The elephant in the room

The evening of Wednesday 14th. May was HOT and when RM returns to show me the Burrough Hill course, he points out the especially steep parts as they criss crossed the site of this ancient hill fort. Afterwards a pub with food was The Carington Arms where 'The food was a bit expensive but well worth it and beer was a reasonable price.'

Four days later RM returns from Bramcote after car-sharing with Chris B. and Alastair. 'Not a good run....', He had forgotten to take his O shoes and his normal trainers did not have much grip especially up and down the slopes. I hear less of the orienteering and much more about the recently revamped Red Lion pub at Kegworth.

The May Bank Holiday weekend is Springtime in Shropshire time but I can't get rid of him. He has no tent as the poles are broken. If his Mum and Dad were still alive, he could have stayed in nearby Church Stretton and also the weather forecast for Shropshire is not good. However, the weekend is spent usefully as my garden will feature in the Thurstaston and Cropston Open Gardens very soon and we are mending some garden fence panels for our elderly neighbours. Oh dear, RM cannot find the Garmin watch that he wears all the time and fears it may be lost in the garden while tackling that fence. It took me 18 months to find the key to the shed, lost amongst the fruit bushes, by which time we had broken into the shed and replaced the lock with one that opens with a number code. RM uses an app and the Garmin makes a sound. It's not very loud but there's also the 'out of range' notification, similar to 'You are getting warmer/colder' game. Hours later the watch is found in the bedroom.

Now for local orienteering and the two races in Abbey Park with 'scattered controls'. RM blames the heavy showers and 'not easy to see the circle' when he misses a control near the river. Luckily he did not get too wet (I get soaked weeding the strawberry patch) and enjoys food and drink in the Blackbird pub. However, he encounters a section of flooded road on the way home.

The group of orienteers on their 'boys night' that meet in the Jolly Farmers, I had christened the 'Jolly Orienteers'. But at the end of May they relocate to the Bulls Head, Abbots Oak as the Jolly Farmers has been politically 'Reformed'.

Carsington Tops has steep hills and 'bingo' controls hidden down pits. As usual he did not read the control descriptions and was looking for a crag instead of the nearby re-entrant. The event has knackered him (and Ernie) having to climb in and out of those pits.

Roger Edwards and RM are off to Irchester. I ask 'What are you having for lunch?' as there are no crumbs on the breadboard, no dirty knives, no cheese box left out of the fridge. 'I have made it already', he replies, 'And tidied away'... Blimey. Back home he reports 'I should have gone faster on the run in to the finish. I've been beaten by 4 seconds.'... 'Can I help?' asks RM. I hand him the pineapple and corer. He is impressed with the gadget that takes out the core and removes the 'peel' at the same time. He wants to eat the core and I say 'It's too tough' but he has to try anyway.

It had been rainy weather enroute to Telford (Randlay & Stirchley) but competing, he did not get wet. He had run as a 65 year old (not 75) and come next to last beating another LEI member who was

Continued on page 13

LEI Club Championships 2025

The Club Championships will take place on **Saturday 8th November 2025** (Note the date change) at Grange and Battram Woods. (*or near - eds?*)

Presentations and Buffet will take place after the event. Venue TBC (*we're working on it - eds*) check the website for exact details.

Entries via The Start Kite will open shortly.

Course	Age Class
White	Introductory
Yellow	Introductory
Orange	M12-, W12-
Very Short Green	W75+
Short Green	M75+, W14, W16, W60+
Green	M14, M16, M60+, Women Open
Blue	Open

The Cover Photograph

Why an Elephant with a Kite?

Well to cut a very long story short (at the request of my co-editor)

A herd of 40 giant Elephants and 82 Baby Elephants are stampeding around Leicester from 14th July to the 21st September!

LOROS Hospice and Wild in Art have joined together to create the BIGGEST art trail the city has ever seen to raise vital funds for the hospice as it celebrates its 40th anniversary in 2025.

So, our revered Development Officer, in order to make training more fun, decided that we would have a Score based Map Run round the city centre using the elephants as control points and at the same time raising funds for LOROS. On the evening of Tuesday 2nd September, 20 LEI members set off from the Wetherspoons Pub, on High Cross (no drink was taken until till later). Pity it might have helped on a ~~white~~ elephant chase around the city centre. It could have been worse - Roger could have stipulated fancy dress!

£100 was raised for LOROS

Chris

LEI AGM 2025



Monday 3rd November 2025 at 7.30pm
Glenfield Parish Rooms, Stamford Street,
Glenfield, LE3 8DL



- 1 Apologies for absence.
- 2 Declaration of membership numbers.
- 3 Approval of minutes of the AGM held on Monday 28th October 2024.
- 4 Matters arising from the minutes.
- 5 Chairman's Report on the past year.
- 6 Matters arising from the Chairman's report.
- 7 Treasurer's report and budget for coming year.
- 8 Matters arising from the Treasurer's report.
- 9 Independent Financial Examiner's report.
- 10 Approval of accounts.
- 11 Report of any amendments to the Club Standing Orders.
- 12 Club membership fees for 2027 and Correspondent membership fees for 2026.
- 13 President's remarks and election of Chairman.
- 14 Chairman's outline of the coming year.
- 15 Election of Principal Officers (Vice Chair, Secretary, Treasurer).
- 16 Election of Executive Committee.
- 17 Appointment of Independent Financial Examiner for the 2025/26 financial year.
- 18 Election of President and Honorary Members.

The meeting will be followed by an open forum.

The Quorum for the AGM shall be 10 members entitled to vote or 8% of the membership entitled to vote, whichever is the greater number.

Events Co-ordinator

Orienteering is a fantastic sport that relies heavily on the dedication and hard work of volunteer officials and helpers who are present on the day of the event. However, their efforts are just one part of the larger picture. There is another significant group of people who work tirelessly to prepare the way beforehand. This includes individuals who are responsible for identifying suitable areas, creating detailed maps, and obtaining the necessary permissions to use these locations. Additionally, there are those who meticulously manage our equipment, handle the results, and maintain our website, ensuring everything runs smoothly. Furthermore, there are people, like myself, who take on the role of persuading and recruiting others to volunteer their time and support. Each time you participate in a run, take a moment to spare a thought for all these individuals who contribute to making orienteering possible. Their efforts are invaluable and deserve our gratitude and appreciation.

Each month (when I remember) I send a newsletter email to all those club members who organise, plan or control our Level C (now known as regional, but I'm

stuck in the past) events. There are 35 of us on that list. Not all are as active as they would like to be and many don't have as much free time as others. However, I'm grateful to every one of them as without them our event programme cannot happen. I'm grateful to those that volunteer quickly *and* grateful to those who I have to ask to help out at the last minute *and* I'm grateful to those who I nag into helping.

However, the list could be longer. If you are interested in organising or planning a Level C and have already done one or two minor league events, then you have the experience you need. We'll provide support and mentoring to new people. Please talk to me when you see me or email me at iain@phillips4.co.uk.

Looking forward, we have a 5-forest-2-urban event programme for 2026. We have no major events, but we are preparing for the Midlands Champs in 2028 alongside the British Night Champs. We may also have the Midlands Champs in 2027 and other major events in 2030. CompassSport Cup heats and East Midlands Champs will come our way soon too...

Iain Phillips

Club Chat

2025 Summer League Winners.

100% attendance

John Marriott and Andy Ward

Highest score non LEI male

Ian Wells RAFO

Highest score non LEI female

Helen Chiswell DVO

Sprint and Urban. Male

1st Andy Nicholls, 2nd Steve Chafer,
3rd David Cladingboel

Sprint and Urban Female

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

Sprint & Urban Juniors Male & Female

1st Daniel Stothard 1st Cara Tolley

Best total score before handicapping

Andy Nicholls 1020 points

Junior Male League Winners

1st Aidan Chester, 2nd Hugh Chester

Junior Female League Winners

1st Cara Tolley, 2nd Suranne Tolley

Senior Female League Winners

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

Senior Male League Winners

1st Andy Nicholls, 2nd Steve Chafer,
3rd David Cladingboel

Best use of an area

Ursula Williamson (Market Bosworth) as voted by club members.

Scottish 6 Day Overall Results Congratulations to the club members who survived the technical and physical challenges of the Scottish 6 Days

Eoin Simpson M16A 13th
Andy Simpson M50L 5th
Matt White M55L 69th
Mike Dallaway M60S 27th
John Marriott M75L 30th
Chris Bosley M75L 44th
Alison Hardy W55L 37th
Karen White W55S 22nd

British Sprint Championships 25

Congratulations to:

Pete Leake M85 2nd
Sue Bicknell W80 3rd

And Iain P, Ursula, & Steve E for completing the British Mixed Sprint Relay

LEI Score Cup Winners

Highest score non LEI

Chris McCartney (210 points)

Senior Woman

Imogen Wilson (190 points)

Senior Man

Andrew Ward (180 points)

We would like to give a BIG LEI welcome to our new member

Dave Foord

And returning member

Esther Revill

Schools Orienteering

The North West schools championship was scheduled for March at Donisthorpe. However on the day, contractors were planning to resurface the finish straight. So the event was hastily called off and rescheduled for Monday, 9th June at a new location.

Whitwick and Coalville Leisure centre was used for the second time. Peter Hornsby was the planner with Chris Bosley controlling and supporting. The area is smaller than Donisthorpe and has a big car park at one end, so fitting in the 30 minute score course is a bit of a challenge. On top of this we need a map walk exercise so more of the area needs to be removed.

With the Melton, Belvoir & South Charnwood Schools event being on the previous Friday, equipment had to be delivered early in the morning and fitted ready for a 10 o'clock start.

However we had an experienced team to do the job successfully. Kevin and Andy were again on duty at the back of the centre processing results.

Holy Cross School with their four counting pairs in the first 18 were run away winners, sixty points ahead of the second place team.

The North West Schools partnership commissioned a set of young leaders to manage the map walk and start, and once again they picked some very competent students, so that the club had to give very little support.

With the event being a rerun, numbers (408 pupils) were a lot down on the 28 primary schools which were expected at Donisthorpe. Next year's event will be in late March when we expect numbers to return to close on 800 primary school children; making it probably the biggest schools race in Britain.

Roger Edwards
Organiser

Family Fun Day Orienteering & Schools Championships June 2025

In June, Karen and I had the pleasure of putting on, or supporting, four events focused on novices and primary school-age juniors. These included three events in four days over one weekend, and a further event the following weekend.

The first event was the Melton and Belvoir, and Charnwood Schools Championships, organised by the School Sports Physical Activity Network (SSPAN). For the last two years this has been held at Melton Country Park. This year, we moved to the Belvoir Castle Estate, and were supported by the Belvoir Education and Sports Trust. I made a new map of the east ridge of the Belvoir Castle Estate for the event. The event was a thirty-minute score course with 30 controls. The course required navigation by orienting the map and planning the most efficient route. We had over 200 primary school children come to the event, with most of the children having very successful runs.

Two days later, Karen and I put on an event in our local village as part of the Friends of Stathern School summer fete. In Stathern, we have a hilly meadow that is owned by the Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust, and was perfect for novice orienteering. The map I made for this event also included the adjacent parts of the village, which are virtually car free. The event was again hugely successful and approximately 80 villagers took on the orienteering challenge, mainly as pairs. Several of the teachers who had helped two days before came along and were eager to “have-a-go”. Six pairs found all 30 controls and a further five found all but one. There were lots of splits comparisons and eager anticipation of the results announcement afterwards at the BBQ and bar.

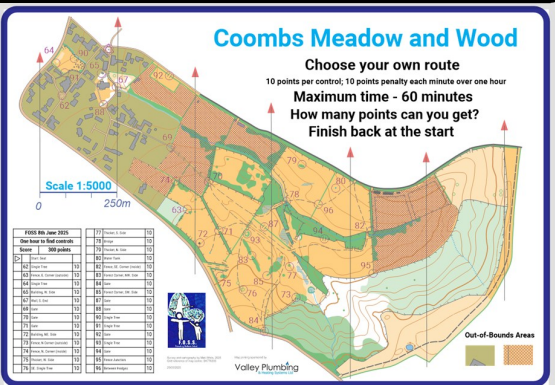
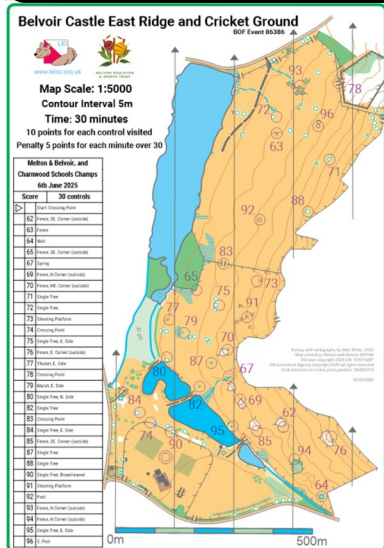
The next day was an early start to get the orienteering kit to the Whitwick and Coalville Leisure Centre for the NW Leicestershire Schools Championships. This event was co-ordinated by Peter Hornsby (planner) and Roger Edwards (organiser), in collaboration with the NW Leicestershire SSPAN. The event has been held for many years, and runs very smoothly. Over 400 children took on the challenge of the 25-control score course, but there was a free-period when some of the “adults” also had a go. Some tried to get the fastest time by using a bike, but didn’t manage!

After a much-needed rest, the following week saw the second running of what is hoped will be an annual sports and family fun day run by the Belvoir Education and Sports Trust. Orienteering was the main sports activity of the day, with an A3 map of the Belvoir Castle Estate at 1:10000 scale, and a 30-control score course suitable for all – there were many simple controls in the ornamental gardens close to the start and a few more challenging controls across the estate for the more eager participants. This was another successful event with 70 participants. In particular, there were many people who had taken part in the earlier events and were now bitten by the orienteering bug.

None of this could have been achieved without support from others in LEI and additional support from DVO. In particular, Kevin Bradley helped lots by teaching me the use of the SI Timing software and hardware. Other helpers not mentioned above were Andy Portsmouth, Chris Bosley, Ian Buxton, John Marriott, Andy Nicholls, and Steve Martin. All-in-all this was a busy but hugely rewarding time. There were so many smiling faces, and endless numbers of people enjoying the orienteering.

Matt White

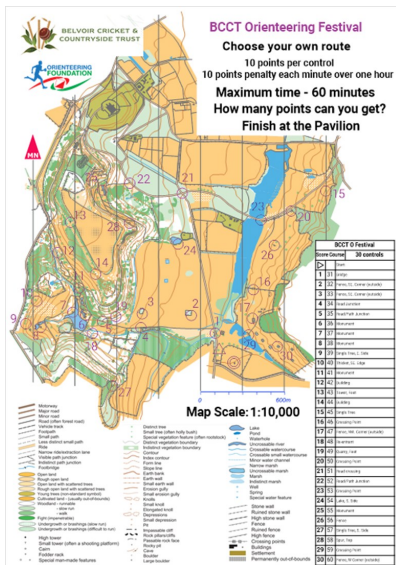
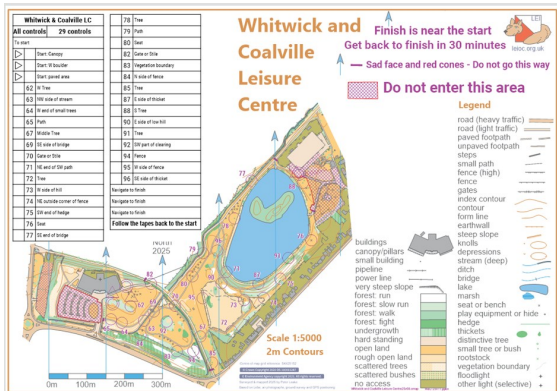
Family Fun Day Orienteering & Schools Championships June 2025 cont...



The map for the Melton and Belvoir, Stathern Map and Charnwood Schools Championships.

Belvoir Education and Sports Trust Family Fun Day map.

LEI helpers at the NW Leicestershire Schools Championships.



NW Leicestershire Schools Championships map.

disqualified missing several controls. He has lost some time after missing control 14 then going back to punch it. But sitting in the sunshine outside Ashby Spoons has cheered him up and he reports back about the impressive alterations at Peter Hornsby's house.

The next day is Aylestone Meadows and reports of a stolen control and a fire engine ???.

Running round Warwick Uni, RM blames a very hot brain that's not working well as he rushes off to the first control without first planning the route. He had also taken the opportunity to visit Cubbington and see the devastation to the countryside by works for HS2 railway.

It's off to Scotland for the Six Days, travelling with Chris B in his electric car and planning recharging points on the long drive. I don't hear much gossip about the event. He has several photos of the luxurious accommodation and a cake for Judith's granddaughter visiting on her birthday. The cake has a 'Discworld theme', with 4 elephants made from grey colour icing holding up the sponge cake world. The message to accompany the cake photo reads 'Your blackcurrant jam is in the middle.'

The warm Spring had seen hundreds of bees on the blackcurrant bushes. RM had looked worried and asked 'What are all those bees doing there?' Not a gardener or biologist my husband, I reply, 'Probably pollinating the blackcurrant flowers to become blackcurrant fruits'. Very hot weather followed and most of the red and blackcurrants survived but I lost the raspberry crop shrivelled to 'felt' by the scorching rays of sunlight.

I don't know why RM returns from Scotland with the 4 icing sugar elephants, but it starts my curiosity for all things elephant connected to orienteering.

After the evening event at East Goscote his first action is to find a beer. They have been to The Hobby Horse, definitely not his favourite pub as there may be no beer or it's too expensive.

Sunday August 9th is a warm day and a heat wave warning is issued for Monday lunchtime until Wednesday evening but it feels like it's already here. This will be the 4th heatwave this year. RM has been in Martinshaw Woods for Radio O. and returns hot and bothered. 'It was tricky'. He had only found 4 of the 5 transmitters and thought searching for the 5th would take him over the time limit and lead to disqualification; also he had already run 10.5km in the heat.

He had enjoyed the urban O at Lutterworth but forgot to punch a control and obviously lost time in going back.

Did you know that 12th August, is World Elephant Day? RM has spent all that day messing about trying to patch his O trousers again and constantly needing help. Where is the machine, the instruction book, the best scissors and pinking shears? I help checking the threading, catching the thread loop from underneath the needle etc etc. It would be quicker if I mended these O trousers but he insists on glueing or sellotaping instead of pinning and tacking. Actually, he makes a good job and the trousers look respectable enough for him to be part of the British Team to Radio O at Birštonas, Lithuania, for the 22nd World champs. He will stay at the 'Sanatorium' and meet the rest of the team who are there already as the practice sessions were optional. Not all the team are regular orienteers, some concentrate on their amateur radio interests. The tiny four-man team are David Williams, Robin Bishop, Steve Chalk and RM. The definitive text book on radio O was written by a certain R. Titterington; Bob however did not go to Lithuania. The competition is dominated by Eastern European countries, but David and Robin return home with silver medals for the team event for their age group. Hooray. RM does OK, 10th overall?, but has loved Lithuania, renewed acquaintances with old friends, (been told to stop interrupting before others have finished explaining) and eaten too much.

Going to Gdansk

Gdansk Orienteering weekend June 2025

Having been orienteering abroad a couple of times we were keen to go to Gdansk with Jeff and Tanya.

We didn't get off to the best of starts when Jeff left his phone in the car at the airport; luckily we had arrived early so he had plenty of time to retrieve it.

Once we arrived at Gdansk airport we got through without too much of a wait but when we got out of the building we were told to move away quickly as there had been a couple of incidents and they needed to clear the airport. Unfortunately that meant that there were no trains, trams, buses or taxis into the town. Luckily for us a taxi driver had become aware of the situation, parked his cab as near to the airport as he could and then walked to the airport asking if anyone wanted his services. As we had no idea how long we would have to wait we took him up on his offer, dragging our cases down the road, at speed, trying to keep up with him.

We arrived at our apartment without too many more problems. It was only a short walk away from the main street. We spent the evening and next morning getting our bearings, checking the main area for places that we might want to visit when time permitted us to do so.

DAY 1 event 1 (Friday evening)

When we arrived to collect our bibs we were informed that we hadn't paid so we had to search our phones for our confirmation (the mistake was theirs). It didn't just happen to us, as our friends from EPOC also had the same problem. I was starting to think that they were either not very efficient or didn't like the British.

The area was a pleasant housing estate which turned out to be very intricate,

needing good concentration skills, which I enjoyed enormously.

DAY 2 event 2 (Saturday morning)

It was a sprint event, again, in a different intricate housing estate including a running track and grassy areas. It was so easy to make mistakes and I didn't help things by falling over and needing first aid treatment (they were a very efficient team). The finish was through an underpass so I had Jeff and Kev waiting for me, to take photos and warn me about the e-bikes whizzing past the exit from the underpass.

E-bikes are one of the main modes of transport in Gdansk, alongside the buses and trams, and go really fast everywhere in the City even in the main streets in the town centre.

DAY 2 event 3 (Saturday afternoon)

Another sprint event in a park from the same centre as the morning event. Jeff and I had both decided not to do this one when we entered, and when we saw where the start was we knew we had made the right decision. It was a mass start with 3 different groups (based on age classes) starting 5 minutes apart. As it was a mass start there were different courses for each age class (all going to the same controls but in a different order) so had to be given their own map.

The start was chaos with everyone having to negotiate a deep ditch immediately. Lots of mistakes were made by many competitors. There was a spectator control next to the finish before sending all competitors back out into the park. I almost forgot to mention all the nettles to go through to get to some controls; no prior warning about full leg cover being preferable, although the locals obviously knew about it as they were the only sensibly attired ones.

DAY 3 event 4 (Sunday morning Euro City Race)

We were staying within walking distance of this event but had to allow extra time to cross a bridge that was only open for 30 minutes in every hour (we had to cross it again to get back to the Start so we had to judge how our start times coincided with the opening times of the bridge). As it was a really hot day and no shade at the start, the timing for crossing the bridge was crucial. They were good courses with plenty of opportunities to make route choice errors, which I did, along with a second fall in a very narrow uneven area between buildings. Most courses went through it, making it very congested.

The club were very hospitable providing a great supply of fruit and drinks to keep us going whilst waiting for the presentations and it also gave us time to chat to other competitors from other countries as well as our own.

Tanya was 3rd in the Euro City Race, her prize being some 'O' earrings



The
intrepid
travellers!

Kev was 1st In the Euro City Race, his prize was a certificate and 'O' keyring, and he was 1st over the whole weekend, his prize being a plaque and pink bracelet (child size).

We followed the orienteering with a further 1 and a half days sightseeing. A trip on a 'tall ship' to Westerplatte was a highlight, as on the return journey there was entertainment with the singing of sea shanties! (I knew the tunes, but failed to do much singing as my Polish is non-existent)

A thoroughly enjoyable trip and LEI have received a substantial amount of money from our travel claim (over £1000).

Maureen Webb and Kevin Gallagher

Eds - you don't have to travel so far to contribute via the CASC scheme, two and a half hours or more will do!

Email the treasurer for more details.



I had heard that the LOROS elephants around Leicester city centre were to form an orienteering event and thought it might be a thread running through the Retired Man Chronicles. What about elephant jokes. 'Why are elephants wrinkled?' says Alexa when asked for an elephant joke. 'Have you ever tried to iron one'.

The phrase "An Elephant Never Forgets" is based on them having the largest brain of any land animal but the phrase isn't strictly true. They remember places for food and water, recognise friends and enemies, and even hold grudges! This phrase is often used to describe people who remember things that we wish they'd forget. e.g 'RM wouldn't remember lending me £20, but an elephant never forgets.'

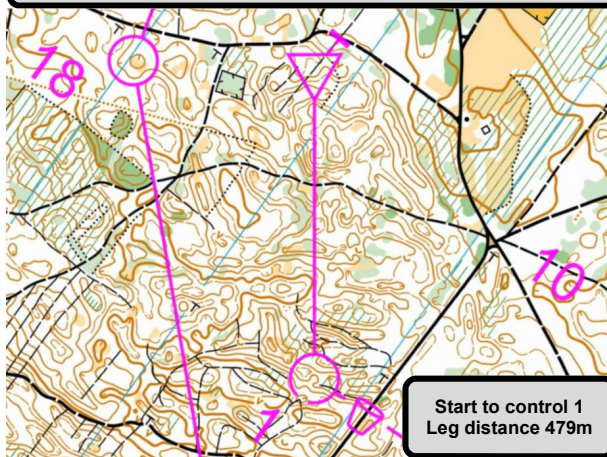
Elephant tracks in Orienteering mean *when several orienteers run the same 'leg', and paths may form through the area along the fastest routes.* Does this help the fastest runners if setting off on 'chasing start times'? On the internet I find research by Leif Blake in an article entitled 'Effect of Elephant Paths on Orienteering Performance'... Data from the O-ringen Sweden is used because

chasing starts are not employed. RM went to the O-ringen a few years ago after winning a competition in CompassSport magazine, (I think) where the prize was free entry to the races. After reading several pages of this research, looking at charts and graphs, weighing up 'Confounding factors', I discover the author presents his results but no conclusions!! The space for 'Comments' from readers is blank, no comments.

'There is an elephant in the room', means that there is an obvious problem or difficult situation that people do not want to talk about. So, after all my research about elephants and hoping to use it for The Chronicles, the highlight being the LOROS Elephant trail in Leicester, I was not at all pleased to hear that RM was not able to compete there as he had a very important zoom meeting. The excuse 'My wife wants to write about elephants' would not have been acceptable. I think we have an obvious problem. I think we have an elephant in the room.

Happy orienteering.
Irene Marriott

Polish Orienteering Challenge



The illustration is of quite a nice leg from an event in Poland earlier this year. Contours are 2.5m intervals.

What route choice would you make from the Start to Control 1? There are quite a few alternatives if you bothered to take time out to evaluate them before just setting off around the tracks.

Peter Chick

Sorry if I mangled the map, Peter, I had to fit the extract in a small space! Ed

Summer League 2025 (top 60)

Pos	Full name	Class	Club	Best 10	Handicap	Attendance	Total
1	Andy Nicholls	M50	LEI	1020	1184	150	1334
2	Steve Chafer	M55	LEI	906	1087	150	1237
3	David Cladingboel	M55	LEI	887	1065	140	1205
4	Alastair Paterson	M55	LEI	860	1031	140	1171
5	Andrew Ward	M35	LEI	934	971	160	1131
6	Roger Phillips	M45	LEI	857	960	140	1100
7	Stephen Martin	M65	LEI	756	967	120	1087
8	Helen Chiswell	W45	DVO	832	965	120	1085
9	David Seaman	M50	LEI	832	966	100	1066
10	Roger Edwards	M75	LEI	658	895	150	1045
11	Liz Phillips	W60	OD	735	941	100	1041
12	Kevin Gallagher	M75	LEI	640	870	120	990
13	John Marriott	M75	LEI	608	827	160	987
14	Edward de Salis Young	M55	LEI	721	865	90	955
15	Ian Wells	M70	RAFO	638	842	110	952
16	Jane Dring-Morris	W55	LEI	646	802	150	952
17	Carol Stynes-Martin	W55	LEI	678	841	100	941
18	George Normand	M80	LEI	603	821	120	941
19	Keith Willdig	M75	OD	603	820	120	940
20	David Jenkinson	M60	LEI	637	790	140	930
21	Dai Bedwell	M55	DVO	699	839	70	909
22	Jo White	W50	LEI	628	754	150	904
23	Alison Foord	W50	LEI	642	771	120	891
24	Imogen Wilson	W21	LEI	765	795	80	875
25	Dave Foord	M50	LEI	672	779	90	869
26	Ursula Williamson	W60	LEI	569	728	140	868
27	Andy Portsmouth	M70	LEI	573	757	110	867
28	Kevin Bradley	M70	LEI	556	734	130	864
29	Chris Tolley	M40	LEI	703	759	90	849
30	Tanya Taylor	W55	LOG	624	774	70	844

Summer League 2025 cont...

Pos	Full name	Class	Club	Best 10	Handicap	Attendance	Total
31	Jonathan Lee	M60	LEI	600	744	100	844
32	Rebecca Sindall	W35	LEI	629	680	140	820
33	Chris Bosley	M75	LEI	512	696	120	816
34	Peter Hornsby	M70	LEI	521	687	110	797
35	Ian Buxton	M60	LEI	572	709	80	789
36	Robert Titterington	M80	LEI	494	672	110	782
37	Rew Francis	M60	HOC	533	661	120	781
38	Bruce Bryant	M65	OD	535	685	90	775
39	Tom Hartland	M50	DVO	569	660	70	730
40	Gerry Spalton	M75	OD	459	625	100	725
41	Iain Phillips	M55	LEI	470	564	100	664
42	Alan West	M65	LEI	453	580	70	650
43	Sue Bicknell	W80	LEI	357	500	130	630
44	Chris Phillips	M75	LEI	365	497	130	627
45	Robert Bood	M60	LEI	440	546	70	616
46	Robert Wright	M21	LEI	517	517	90	607
47	Hebe Parr	W21	NOC	511	531	70	601
48	Cara Tolley	W14	LEI	441	529	70	599
49	Peter Chick	M80	LEI	366	498	90	588
50	Sally Calland	W50	DVO	437	525	50	575
51	Matthew Birkett	M50	LEI	427	495	70	565
52	Peter Dargue	M70	LEI	358	473	90	563
53	Paul Stothard	M60	LEI	384	477	70	547
54	Matt White	M55	LEI	390	469	40	509
55	Maureen Webb	W70	LEI	315	428	70	498
56	Thelma Spalton	W75	OD	270	378	100	478
57	Ed Cochrane	M35	NOC	398	414	40	454
58	Tracey Brookes	W60	LEI	299	383	60	443
59	Ed Chester	M50	LEI	330	383	60	443
60	Jane Stew	W65	OD	279	368	70	438

Winter League 2025/26

The 2025/2026 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.uk for any last-minute changes.

Events will use Si electronic timing. Dibber hire is available.

Entry is via The 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 Evening in late February/early March.

WL1	Saturday 15 th November (Night) (87127)	East Carlton Park (Forest)
WL2	Thursday 20 th November (Night) (87128)	Market Bosworth (Forest)
WL3	Saturday 6 th December (Day) (87129)	Donisthorpe (Forest)
WL4	Saturday 13 th December (Day) (87130)	Evington Park & Arboretum (Forest)
WL5	Wednesday 14 th January (Night) (87131)	Ibstock (Urban)
WL6	Saturday 24 th January (Day) (87132)	Loughborough University TBC (Day)
WL7	Thursday 5 th February (Night) (87133)	Hugglescote (Urban)
WL8	Saturday 21 st February (Day) (87134)	Burbage Common (Forest)

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, the relevant local website, 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 2025

Sat/Sun 4/5 th	SUFFOC WAOC EAOA Regional	Autumn in Anglia West Harling EA Sch Champs , Thetford Dogs allowed. Organiser: Rod Mansel Ely Urban- CB6 2SH Organiser: Helen Hague
Sat/Sun 4/5 th	DEE NWOA Regional	DEE weekend - Double Sprint event - Reaseheath College, Nantwich. Nantwich Urban (UKUL), www.deeside-orienteering-club.org.uk
Sun 5 th	OD WMOA Regional	West Midlands Relay Championships Pooley Country Park , Pooley, B78 1JA Octavian-droobers.org
Sat 11 th	DVO EMOA Local	Whitworth Park and Darley Dale , Matlock, DE4 2GW Dogs: In car park only. Organiser: Anne Kayley-Burgess, annecunningham15@googlegmail.com
Sat 11 th	SBOC WOA National	British School Score Championships & SBOC Winter League 1 , Gnoll Country Park, Neath, SA11 3EF Organiser: Niall Reynolds

October 2025 Continued

Sat/Sun 11/12 th	SWOC WOA National	Junior Home Internationals Individual and Relays , Wales
Sat/Sun 11/12 th	MDOC NWOA Regional National	MDOC Urban weekend , Upton Priory, Macclesfield Organiser: Marie Roberts , marie-bo@roberts.gb.net MDOC Urban weekend , Stockport Town Centre, Stockport Organiser: Chris Rostron , chris.rostron@ntlworld.com
Sat/Sun 11/12 th	SO/SOC SEOA/ SCOA Regional National	Chichester Urban (UKOL) , PO19 3HB Start-times 1030-1230. Dogs in car park on a lead at only. Clean up after your dog. https://www.southdowns-orienteers.org.uk/events/chichester-2025-10-11 November Classic (UKOL) , New Forest, Burley, BH24 4AA
Sun 12 th	LOG EMOA Regional	East Midlands Urban League 2025 , Newark Town, Newark Organiser: Sean Harrington
Sat/Sun 18/19 th	NATO NEOA National	October Odyssey Day 1 & 2 , Cramlington & Beanley, Alnwick
Sat/Sun 18/19 th	DEVON SWOA National	Caddihoe Day 1 & 2 Holne Moor (UKOL) , Ashburton, TQ13 7SS Organiser: Bryan Smith
Sat 19 th	LEI EMOA Regional	EMOA League Burbage Common , Hinckley Organiser: Jane Dring-Morris
Sat/Sun 25/26 th	WAOC EAOA Regional	WAOC/HH weekend, Hertford Urban , Hertford, SG13 8AJ St Albans City Race , St Albans School , Aquis Court, 51 Fishpool St, AL3 4RF Organiser: Stuart Hatfield
Sat 25 th	OD WMOA Local	Daventry NE & Daventry Country Park (mixed SI/Map Run) TBC , Daventry Country Park, Daventry, NN11 2JB www.octavian-droobers.org
Sun 26 th	POTOC WMOA Regional	Parkhall - POTOC 50th Anniversary Event & WML , Parkhall Country Park, Longton, ST3 5BH www.potoc.org.uk
Sun 26 th	NOC EMOA Local	Local Event , Newstead & Annesley Country Park, Kirkby in Ashfield, NG15 0BU

November 2025

Sat 1 st	CUOC EAOA Regional	Cambridge City Race , TBC, Cambridge Organiser: Adam Harris , cityrace2025@cuoc.org.uk
Sat 1 st	DVO EMOA Local	Spooky Orienteering in Derby , Museum of Making at Derby Silk Mill, Silk Mill Lane, Derby, DE1 3AF Organiser: Sal Chaffey, sal.chaffey@gmail.com

November 2025 cont.

Sun 2 nd	DVO EMOA Regional	EMOA League 2025 Shipley Country Park, Derby, DE75 7GX Organiser: Val Johnson
Sat 8 th	LEI EMOA Local	LEI Club Champs , TBD, Ashby de la Zouch leioc.org.uk
Sun 9 th	NOC EMOA Regional	EMOA League 2025 , Wellow Park, Ollerton, NG22 0EJ Organiser: Pat Squire , org20251109@noc-uk.org
Sat 15 th	LEI EMOA Local	LEI Winter League 1 East Carlton Park Night Event , Market Harborough, LE16 8YD Start times: 6pm - 7pm. Organiser Chris Phillips
Sun 16 th	HOC WMOA Regional	WM League Event - British Camp , Malvern, WR13 6DW
Thu 20 th	LEI EMOA Local	LEI Winter League 2 Market Bosworth Country Park Night Event , Market Bosworth, CV13 0LP Start times: 6pm - 7pm. Organiser: Jane Dring-Morris
Sat 22 nd	OD WMOA Local	Hillfield Park Solihull (Mixed SI/Map Run Event) TBC Hillfield Park, Solihull, B91 3LU www.octavian-droobers.org
Sun 23 rd	DVO EMOA Regional	EMOA League 2025 Cromford Moor , Wirksworth, DE4 4GT Organiser: Sal Chaffey , sal.chaffey@gmail.com
Sun 30 th	LEI EMOA Regional	EMOA League 2025 Beacon Hill , Leicester

December 2025

Sat 6 th	LEI EMOA Local	LEI Winter League 3 Donisthorpe , Ashby, DE12 7PY Entry times: 11am - 12pm. Organiser: Jane Dring-Morris
Sun 7 th	WCH WMOA Regional	WCH WMOA League Event , Brindley Valley, Cannock, WS12 0QW Organiser: Dave Smith , WaltonChasersEvents@gmail.com
Sat 13 th	LEI EMOA Local	LEI Winter League 4 Evington Park & Arboretum , Leicester, LE2 6EA Entry times: 11am - 12pm.
Sun 14 th	OD WMOA Regional	Brandon Wood WML Middle Event (tbc) , Coventry www.octavian-droobers.org

December 2025 cont.

Sun 21 st	NOC EMOA Regional	East Midlands League 2025 Strawberry Hill Mansfield NG21 0DG Organiser: Robert Parkinson , org20251221@noc-uk.org
Sun 28 th	LEI EMOA Regional	EMOA League 2025 Martinshaw Leicester

January 2026

Thu 1 st	DVO EMOA Regional	EM Urban League 2026 and Presentations for 2025, Matlock Organiser: Kim Buxton
Wed 14 th	LEI EMOA Local	LEI Winter League 5 Ibstock Night Urban , Coalville, LE67 6NE Start times: 6pm - 7pm. Organiser: Jane Dring-Morris
Sun 18 th	NOC EMOA Regional	East Midlands League 2026 , Thieves Wood, Mansfield, NG18 5BB
Sat 24 th	LEI EMOA Local	LEI Winter League 6 Loughborough Uni , Loughborough, LE11 3QF Start times: 11am - 12pm. Organiser: Jane Dring-Morris
Sun 25 th	LEI EMOA Regional	EMOA League 2026 Cademan , TBC, Whitwick

February 2026

Sun 1 st	SYO YHOA National	SYO National Event , Burbage Moor, Sheffield
Thu 5 th	LEI EMOA Local	LEI Winter League 7 Hugglescote Start times: 6pm - 7pm. Organiser: Jane Dring-Morris
Sat/Sun 7/8 th	HH SEOA Major/ National	British Night Championships, & HH Ace of Herts , Egypt and Hangings Woods, Slough, SL1 8PL Organiser: Mike Bennett, & Neil Gostick
Sun 8 th	LOG EMOA Regional	EMOA League 2026 TBC , Lincolnshire
Sun 15 th	DVO EMOA National	East Midlands Championships 2026 , Longshaw, Bakewell Organiser: Stuart Swalwell

February 2026 continued

Sat 21 st	LEI EMOA Local	LEI Winter League 8 Burbage Common , Burbage, LE10 3DD Start times: 11am - 12pm. Organiser: Jane Dring-Morris
Sun 22 nd	TBC National	CompassSport Cup Heat
Sat 28 th	SBOC WOA Major	British Orienteering Championships inc Welsh Championships , Carreg Goch, Ystradgynlais, SA9 1GJ Organiser: Niall Reynolds

March 2026

Sun 1 st	SWOC WOA Major	British Relay Championships , Margam Country Park, Neath, Port Talbot, SA13 2TL Organiser: Laurence Snowden. laurencesnowden@icloud.com , 07376062551
Sun 8 th	LEI EMOA Regional	EMOA League 2026 Aylestone Meadows
Sun 15 th	NOC EMOA Regional	EMOA League 2026 Watchwood & Calverton, Arnold, NG14 6NU
Sun 22 nd	DVO EMOA	EMOA League 2026 Bow Woods and Lea Woods, Cromford, DE4 5AG

April 2026

Fri 3 rd	SOA Major	JK Orienteering Festival - Sprint (UKOL) , Perth City Centre, Perth
Sat 4 th	SOA Major	JK Orienteering Festival - Middle (UKOL) , Rannoch, Kinloch Rannoch
Sun 5 th	SOA Major	JK Orienteering Festival - Long (UKOL) , Rannoch, Kinloch Rannoch
Mon 6 th	SOA Major	JK Orienteering Festival - Relay , Tullochroisk, Kinloch Rannoch
Sat 18 th	HOC WMOA Major	British Middle Championships , Brown Clee, Bridgnorth
Sun 19 th	OD WMOA National	Midlands Championships , Brown Clee, Bridgnorth

British Sprints 2025, University of East Anglia



Pete Leake M85 Sprint Silver Medallist



Sue Bicknell W80 Sprint Bronze Medallist



Steve E, Ursula, and Iain P

Not quite the M/W 55+ British sprint relay medallists - ok nowhere near the medals, but we had great fun trying and we weren't last!

LEI Score Cup Winners 2025

Trophies to be presented at the Club Dinner and Awards evening in the Spring.



JOIN THE LEI MTB GROUP!

**EVERY MONDAY MORNING AT
HICKS LODGE COUNTRY PARK**



**Meet at 10:00 a.m.
in Grounds Café**

**Enjoy a scenic ride
on the MTB trail**

**Finish with a cuppa
back at the café**



**ALL LEI ORIENTEERS WELCOME — JUST BRING YOUR
MOUNTAIN OR HYBRID BIKE**

No need to book – just turn up and ride!