

Hosts of 2028 British Night Championships



LEI NEWS

Editors
Chris
&
Ursula

The Newsletter of the Leicestershire Orienteering Club



Photo Gallery On the podium Vienna waits for you
Curse of the 69ers Dinner & Awards Evening Invitation



Spring 2026

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Front Cover.

A new area for our club champs. Thanks to Peter Hornsby for the Nailstone map.

Photo: Roger Phillips

Points from the Editors

Judging by the amount of shiny new kit on display at post Christmas O events, Santa has been busy delivering orienteering Christmas presents. We hope that you all had a very happy Christmas and that 2026 will bring you lots of orienteering joy.

If you had some new kit this Christmas, your editors would welcome, for the Newsletter, a review of how that kit is performing. In particular, reports on compasses and head torches would be very handy. It is very difficult to make a judgement on the quality of these items before you buy.

Talking of kit, the club has some Club branded O tops on order. Please speak to Maureen if you want one.

Two highlights for your diary in the coming weeks. Firstly, the CompassSport Cup and Trophy Heat at Sutton Park on 22nd February. A win would take us to the final at Pippingford Park in October (*we will leave you to discover where that is!* Eds).

Secondly, the Social Highlight of the Orienteering Calendar, The Club Dinner and Awards evening on 7th March.

Chris and Ursula

He said, she said - "There's no photos of me 'On the podium'...No I managed to crop you out of the presentations, sorry love!" ('He' presented the Club certificates, 'she' helped present the EMOA certificates with Ann-Marie Duckworth, EMOA Chair.)

Ramblings from the Chair

When Ursula and I produced the Autumn 2025 edition of Newsletter I wasn't expecting to be penning the Chair's Ramble in the next Newsletter. However with Steve wanting a well earned rest and nobody else coming forward to take the hot seat, I find myself arm twisted back into the role.



Many thanks to Steve for 6 years hard work. Much of the work of the Club Chair is behind the scenes. The bits that members see, the AGM, the presentation etc. are a very small part of the role. It is not my intention to stay as Chair for a long period of time and part of my work of the next couple of years is to find a successor. To be affiliated to the British Orienteering Federation we need to have a full set of club officers. No Chair, No affiliation, No Club, No

Orienteering, it's that simple.

One of the strengths of LEI is its great band of event volunteers. That is what makes us one of the most active clubs in the country. 35 events plus activities puts us in the top 10 out of the 90 clubs affiliated to BOF. As other clubs in the region are struggling to find enough helpers to run a regional event we can turn out 36 volunteers on a cold winter morning to run a top class event at Cademan. If you are new to the club, I think I should point out that Orienteering is a volunteer run sport, it's in our DNA.

There is one area where we are a little short of volunteers. Our group of event officials has, because of retirement and illness, shrunk over the last two or three years. We need some more planners and organisers. I promise we will start you off gently with a level D (that is a summer or winter league event) and there are training courses and you will be mentored. Planning and organising improves your orienteering skills and develops your understanding of the sport. A good starting point would be to volunteer to act as an assistant to a planner or organiser at one of our Sunday morning Regional Events.

In the newsletter you will find the 2026 Summer League programme. (hint) We are still short of some planners/organisers.

Your club needs you.

Chris

Captain's Corner



From 1990 to 1992 I lived in Philadelphia, USA. Whilst there I really got into baseball. I had never experienced it before, the closest thing being rounders which we sometimes played in PE during my school days. Going to a baseball game was a great afternoon out. I followed the Phillies of course, a major league team, and back then it only cost \$4 to get a seat up high in the bleachers where you could easily see the whole field. I went to a Phillies game at Olympic Park in London last year and the tickets were 100 times that – I'm making that a one-off. But I digress.

I was so into baseball that I decided to learn all the rules, and for a simple bat and ball game I was surprised at how many there were. What is interesting is that for a game where there can only be between 10 and 13 players on the field at any one time, there are four umpires. This applies to major and minor leagues, but little league games (children 4-16 years old) only

have one umpire. The point I'm making is that all baseball games have someone in control who applies the rules.

Moving to golf, a game I have played on and off a lot since a teenager, sometimes for quite long stretches of time and sometimes with multi-year long hiatus. Again, there was a time when I decided to learn all the rules of the game. I discussed nuances of the rules online with like-minded people and attended a rules training course run by the PGA at The Belfrey. I looked forward to the biannual 'Decisions on the Rules of Golf,' a publication that dissects unusual situations that have come up in the past and how the rules should be applied. In professional golf, a referee walks round the course with the players to make any rulings that might be needed. Although the players know the rules well, they invariably check with the referee if something crops up. To get a rule wrong can be costly to the player in terms of their score but more importantly to their final prize money. In contrast, in my experience, most club golfers have scant knowledge of the rules of the game and if they did know the rules they would be accruing many penalty strokes per round assuming that they were honest enough to apply them. Of course, if you are playing with friends then do as you please, but in any club competition you should play to the rules. To do that you need to know what the rules are. There is no referee there to apply the rules; you are your own referee. The following sentences

are inside the golf rules book: "Play the ball as it lies, play the course as you find it, and if you cannot do either, do what is fair. But to do what is fair, you need to know the Rules of Golf."

If you are still reading, then thanks. The rules of orienteering are something I am gradually familiarising myself with. A new version was released on the 1st of January this year and amounts to nearly 100 pages. That said, the orienteer in the start box has few rules to follow and they can be summarised by doing what is fair. **Rule 4:** The spirit of fairness and good fellowship is to be the guiding principle in all aspects of the sport, including the interpretation of these Rules. **Rule 3.3:** 'A competitor who has been found to have broken any Rule must be disqualified unless there is a significant reason why they should not be. Ignorance of the Rules is not a significant reason.'

Many of you will know where I am going with this now. Having planned Grey Lodge at Christmas I was very disappointed to hear that some runners had been spotted crossing purple lines on the map that were on top of a stone wall near the garden area to the East. I have no idea who they were; we had 180 competitors. As in amateur golf, the runner is their own referee, and it is quite sad that anyone would do this. Of greater concern is the potential for loss of use of an area due to inconsiderate behaviour such as this. Subsequently,

as those that were there will have seen, the start lane notices at Cademan addressed this issue.

And now to something completely different; the CompassSport Trophy final. What a great turnout we had from the club. Even though the entry fee was covered by LEI, competitors still had to pay for fuel and in many cases overnight accommodation, so it was fabulous to have 31 runners at South Gare. (Did you make an expenses claim in so that Simon Ford can get gift aid for the club?). My plan to run up to Short Brown did not pay off as I came last of the group taking 153:49. As you might gather, I found it very tricky navigationally and physically but enjoyed completing the course. Ian Wells deserves a mention for taking 61:42 to get to Control 1 on Green Men but then finishing in 125:10 – that's determination.

Well done to all the LEI scorers though who collectively delivered 13th place out of 22. The 13 team scorers were Andy Ward, Roger Phillips, Andy Simpson, Matt White, Ian Buxton, Dave Denness, Toni O'Donovan, Alison Hardy, Roger Edwards, Eion Simpson, Cara Tolley, Aidan Chester and Peter Chick.

The qualifying heat for CompassSport Trophy 2026 is on the 22nd February. Let's hope for a big entry from LEI and that we get through again! See you at a Winter/ Summer/ Other event soon.

David Cladingboel

The **British Relays** are at Margam Country Park on Sunday 01 March 2026

The **JK Relays** are at Tullochroisk on Monday 6th April 2026

If you are interested, get in touch asap.

David Cladingboel

Club Chat

EMOA Urban League 2025

LEI Winners.

Veteran Men Andy Nicholls

Super Veteran Men Matt White

EMOA League 2025

LEI Winners.

White Female Suranne Tolley

Light Green Male Jacob Miles

Very Short Green Male David Bray

Very Short Green Female Sue Bicknell

Short Green Male Roger Edwards

Green Male John Marriott

LEI Colour Coded Awards

(for reaching the appropriate standard for the colour)

Blue: David Foord.
Light Green: Aidan Chester
Alison Foord
Cara Tolley
Jacob Miles
Orange: Donna Tolley
Congratulations!

Have you renewed your membership for 2026?

If you haven't please do so ASAP!

Otherwise this will be your last LEI newsletter!!

The following BOF Incentive Awards have recently been achieved by members.

Navigation Challenge

5 stars: David Foord

4 stars Alison Foord.
Emma Miles.

3 stars Donna Tolley

Racing Challenge

Gold 5 stars

Chris Tolley

Silver 5 Stars

David Foord

Silver 4 Stars

Cara Tolley

Bronze 4 Stars

Aidan Chester
Alison Foord
Susan Grant

Why not come to Tuesday Club Night?

(Re) Learn some orienteering techniques, keep moving, discuss your routes and maybe enjoy some club chat over a drink and a meal afterwards.



Most Tuesdays till Easter. See website for details. leioc.org.uk

Photo Gallery - On the podium



Events Co-ordinator



A new year, a new age class for some, a new exercise regime, a new running speed, a new set of results? Is it time for a new challenge in

orienteeing? Would you be interested in joining our team of event organisers and event planners? We have training courses, but these are not essential as we have an experienced team of people willing to help and mentor. Please get in touch (iain@phillips4.co.uk) or grab me at an event).

This year we have 7 events to prepare for. As I write we've just finished the first of these at Cademan. This will be followed by Aylestone Meadows, Castle Hill, Hinckley, Wellingborough, Queen Elizabeth Diamond Jubilee Woods and The Outwoods. It will be the first time we've used Wellingborough at all and a first time for Queen Elizabeth Woods for a regional (Level C) EMOA League event. In our quest for new areas, I hope you all enjoyed our use of the Grey Lodge, Estate, North of Martinshaw, in December.

Officials for most of 2026 are appointed and we've begun to think about the 2027 season. This will be another gentle year for LEI with around 2 regional urban and 5 or 6 regional forest events, as well as our Summer and Winter Leagues and the Club Championships. Our big efforts will be to prepare for hosting the British Night Championships and Midlands Championships in February 2028 and already terrain assessments and new maps are in prospect. We also look to 2029 and beyond to see how LEI can contribute to British Orienteering's Major and National events in the future.

We're considering running a training get together for our prospective and current Local (level D) event organisers. Watch this space, in reality the weekly mailchimp, for details!

Iain Phillips

**Your Club Needs You !
Volunteer Today
If not you, who?
We were all beginners
once... help available.**



Gather from 7.00pm, seating at 7.45pm.

**Lingdale Golf Club, Joe Moores Lane,
Woodhouse Eaves, Loughborough LE12 8TF**

Presentation of trophies and awards that have been gained over the last 12 months.

A dress code is in operation: No denim, t-shirts, trainers, etc. Gentlemen in jacket and tie, and ladies in suitable attire. Guests are welcome.

Closing date for orders Friday 20th February 2026

Cost £27.50 per person

Dishes may include nuts, gluten and dairy products. If you have any special dietary requirements, we will accommodate them, within reason, or if you wish to be seated with somebody in particular, please note this on the online entry form.

Payment ideally should be made directly into the Club's bank account, account number 74893286, sort code 09-01-54, giving your name as the reference. Alternatively, a cheque may be sent to the Treasurer (Simon Ford), made payable to Leicestershire Orienteering Club

Link to the booking form: <https://forms.gle/JiJwz8SNq5BorHL96>

Starters

Homemade Seasonal Soup – Rustic Bread

Feta & Tomato Salad – Marinated Olives – Black Tapenade Dressing

Warm Leek & Salmon Fishcake – Butter Sauce

Mains

Blade of Beef – Fondant Potato – Bourguignon Garnish

Roasted Scottish Hake – Tartare Mash – Lemon Butter Sauce

Roasted Squash – Barley & Roast Nut – Leek & Colston Bassett Stilton Sauce

Desserts

Toffee Apple & Shortbread Crumble – Vanilla Creme Anglaise

Vanilla Cheesecake – Mixed Berries – Raspberry Sorbet

Lemon Tart – Vanilla Ice Cream

Tea and Coffee

The curse of the 69ers

An occasional article for the NUMPTY CLUB and particularly for those in the 69ers SECTION.

You will recall to qualify for the Numpty Club you must have made one of many stupid and idiotic mistakes. The 69ers section is exclusive for those who have been caught out by not knowing a 6 from a 9. Although I sometimes believe its BOF's and many planners' little joke deliberately planted to catch us out.

Orienteers know that the forest can be a trickster, but nothing plays with our minds quite like the numbers 6 and 9. You're running hard, the map is spinning like a pizza in mid-air, the compass is doing its best, and suddenly there it is: a control. You glance at the number—quickly, confidently, heroically. And then later at a download you discover, to no one's surprise but your own, that you've punched control 9 instead of control 6.

Because, when you're rotating your map every few steps like a confused windmill, those two numbers love to swap places. Put them both in the same area of the course and they become the mischievous twins of orienteering, gleefully tricking runners of every age class. Many an orienteer has claimed "It was a six when I was looking at my map".

Of course, there *is* the classic solution: a small underline beneath the number. The faithful little swoop that whispers, "This one's a six, trust me." Or "I'm a nine, you can trust me". Just don't interpret the little purple line as meaning; do not cross.

Which makes me wonder: what else could we do? Some have suggested giving 6 and 9 different fonts entirely, as if a fancy serif could keep us out of trouble. Others propose dots, dashes, underline-the-underline-again, or even printing all sixes in one colour and all nines in another. There's the ambitious idea of writing out whole

words—SIX/NINE—although by the time you've read it, you're probably jogging in circles and questioning your life choices.

And it's not just 6 and 9. The whole number family can be a bit suspicious. Ones and sevens trade identities unless someone gives the seven a jaunty little hat. Fives and twos become best friends when tired and exhausted eyes blur the details. Zeros impersonate eights whenever the ink bleeds. Even 3 and 8 occasionally merge into one indecipherable woodland blob. The forest is full of deceit.

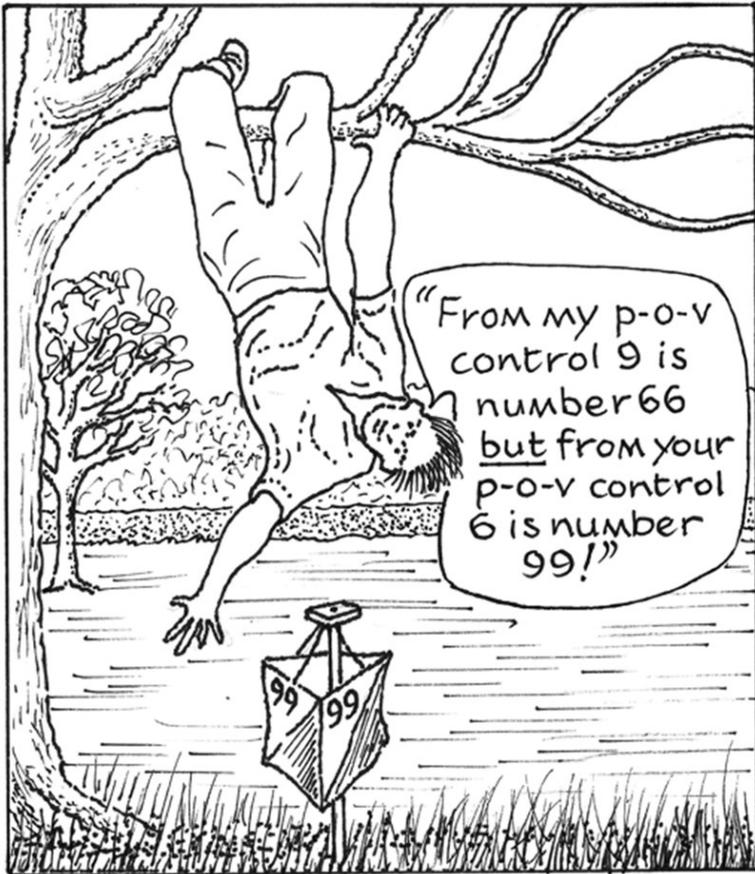
The results volunteers know what's coming the moment you approach the tent with that uniquely sheepish expression. They sigh—kindly, but with great internal amusement—and say, "Hmm... you've mis punched." And then comes the traditional litany of excuses: the sun angle, the vegetation, the cruel course planner, the ambiguous boulder, the unfairness of gravity. Everyone nods supportively. Everyone has absolutely done it themselves.

So as a group, it's worth chatting about how we can make numbers clearer—for beginners, for veterans, and for anyone whose brain melts after an uphill slog. What mark might help? What printing styles work? What trickery have people tried that actually makes things worse? Should we standardise something? Or simply embrace our collective inability to tell which way is up while running at full speed?

Whatever solutions we come up with, one truth remains: if you're running fast, reading the map upside-down, and convinced that the control you see *must* be yours... take a second look. Maybe even a third. Because if it looks like a six and feels like a nine, experience suggests it's probably neither.

Peter Chick

Thanks to Ernie W for illustrating my point of view!



Retired Man Chronicles: Puzzling matters

A puzzle is defined as a game, toy, problem, or conundrum intended to challenge a person's ingenuity, knowledge, or patience. It involves finding a solution to a difficult question or arranging elements logically to achieve a correct outcome.

It's a puzzle to me, but some people like to be mentioned in the Chronicles. It's early September and I had already seen Sue B when she delivered some jam jars to Cropston and stopped for a cup of coffee. There she is again at Anstey Gala with David Anderson at the WI Country Market Stall. Other nearby residents to visit our craft, cake and preserve stall were Toby and Felicity. We did have to put the display back together after the table cloth puzzlingly became tangled up with Toby.

September's South Gare event involved running round sand dunes. RM had travelled with Roger E and Alastair. They did not get wet running round but heavy rain and poor visibility on the motorway made the drive home unpleasant. RM took 105 minutes for 3.5km, although getting lost meant he ran twice as far. Bumping into Steve Edgar helped him relocate. The standard comment after taking so much time is 'getting value for money' but he had not paid. To encourage orienteers to run for the club at this CompassSport competition, the club paid entry fees; the more orienteers you have, the better. Even if you don't earn points for top positions you could push runners from other clubs down the results list. RM had not scored points or effectively altered the clubs winning chances. My comment that 'You ought to give LEI its money back' was met with a wry smile.

RM studies a street map of Earl Shilton and plans a route before the map run Is this cheating?.

He returns to raid the cake drawer. The pub in Earl Shilton only had rolls but the beer was ok (Timothy Taylor). However he had missed out a control and blames it on the olive green colour not contrasting enough with purple control-connecting line.

It's a sunny September Saturday but RM is struggling to leave a fiendish Sudoku puzzle to put up the radio O transmitters in Bagworth. So Sunday morning he is up early to do the job. Unfortunately the weather has changed to dreadful, mist and rain. Should have left that puzzle and gone in yesterday's sunshine mate!

Suzi and Edd and the grandchildren now live near Chichester so RM visits them and pulls in two O events as well. There's the urban O around the historic streets of Chichester and the following day, 12th October, is the puzzling named 'November' Classic in the New Forest at Burley.

After West Wittering he drives home and a few minutes later is changing clothes for more orienteering and afterwards a meal at The Blackbird 'Food OK. Beer not so good'. There's a lot of O washing to be done the next day and the drier isn't working properly. I find him testing the exit fumes with my jam thermometer. More DIY needed. The drier makes a useful extra coffee table as it lies on its side, innards displayed. It takes several days before RM has puzzled with the fault and mended it.

19th October and Burbage Common is the next competition. RM reports back

that he made a mess of one control, but blamed it on others for distracting him of course.

Flu and Covid bugs are on the rise and RM succumbs to some illness. Covid tests are negative but he wants to sleep a lot and is cross because of his lack of energy. When he is feeling almost better he decides to O at Bridgnorth (Severn Valley Country Park) but will travel in his own car meeting the others there and walk around the course. Afterwards, he phones to say he will have a snooze before setting off home. Unfortunately he fell backwards whilst looking for somewhere isolated for a 'dump' and a branch broke. He struggled to get up and wished he wasn't in such an out of the way place. Eventually he's up and walking again. At home I see he has a bruise and scratch on his forehead and soon falls asleep. The 'get back to normal O' walk did not help as RM is ill for almost 3 weeks. After cold/flu powders at home it's Amoxicillin from the doctors that works. If you normally find him annoying, imagine what it's like when he's ill !!!

It's November 23rd when he returns to Oing and travels with Alastair, Chris B and Roger E to Cromford Moor. Cold and wet, but pleased to be back orienteering after his energy-sapping illness. However he is disappointed that 'We're sorry that Routegadget isn't posted yet, because volunteers with the right skills aren't available, unfortunately'. He ran green and came 45th out of 56 starters.

November 25th and RM has gone EARLY to do the maprun at Great Meadow Rd, Beaumont Leys. While concentrating looking at the O map he walks into and knocks over a bin spilling the contents. He cannot stay for fish n chips as we are going to the Italian restaurant in Loughborough for my birthday. Thanks to the orienteers for my birthday wishes.

After the Beacon Hill event he has a bloody hand where he fell over in the

bracken and a stubborn splinter that does not come out with poking with a scalpel but magnesium sulphate may help. His main report is of the dreadful parking machine and the half hour queue to pay before exiting. Oh dear he lost 4 minutes finding his dropped dibber. Steve Edgar beat him by one second.

At the beginning of December our old dishwasher has broken. The start button has been pressed and disappeared inside the layers of the door panel So I have been holding things in place with molegrips, finding screwdrivers, small ones and big ones, angling dental mirrors and head torches for a better view and searching for lost screws under the cupboards. However the most important tip I said was 'shouldn't you unplug the dishwasher as you are messing about with the electrics?' 'Mmm... OK yes'. Four hours later the door is in 3 separate layers: inner metal, a foam filling sheet and the white metal outer layer. There is also the control panel with tangled web of coloured wires and connectors and a big tub of screws. But its time for RM to go to Burbage for Tuesday night orienteering. He returns at 10pm moaning as usual about the price of beer.

The next day we struggle for another four hours needing cushions under our knees from kneeling too long by the dishwasher. RM had taken a photo of the control panel and its many coloured wires but unfortunately only one end of the panel. So we have some clues to the puzzle of where to reconnect some of the wires but have to use the length and angle of the other wires and fingertip search for their partner connecting place. We still have a couple of homeless wires that eventually fit into hidden sockets. It might be back together but we have guessed where half the wires went. Fingers crossed for the test wash. I didn't know whether to laugh or be very cross when RM said, 'I've discovered that we need not have taken the door off and

Continued on page 16

Continued from page 13

separated the layers. We could just have removed the control panel'. But we have given our dishwasher its forty years service.

18th December and RM is busy signing Xmas cards to swap with Orienteers and we have a Xmas card to post in Anstey. For a change we are on time at The Crown pub for Plaid Coalville's annual Xmas meeting with lots of orienteers, many looking a year older, some look just the same. 'Boot' is there and is showing people old maps he has been collecting. Peter Hornsby has been to Sheffield Students Union to O up and down several floors of the building It makes an interesting mapping challenge. The landlord has provided an excellent buffet for free and Roy Denney has organised a raffle for LOROS.

Time to go home and remember to post those urgent Xmas Cards. RM does not fasten his seat belt as he will be getting out soon at the old post office (now the dentist). The familiar ping ping of Passenger Seat Belt not Fastened begins, I expect not many people know what happens if you still leave it unfastened. By the time we reach the old post office the warning has changed from two pings to three pings and then repeated quicker. Bah, the post box at the old post office is now blocked off. RM sits back in the car, still no seat belt, as there's a post box at the Model Railway shop. The pings are now faster, louder and at a higher pitch By the time he can post the card we are trying to ignore a continuous high pitch whistle.

We are going to Edd and Suzi's tomorrow and my headband with white springy snowmen is ready to add to the elf costume. How come it now looks grubby? Answer, RM had decided to be 'Christmassy' as he ran round Strawberry Hill on 22nd December and the snowmen had been caught up in

some branches.

In West Wittering Suzi and family are at a farm/playground/Santa meeting with Edd's brothers and cousins. So we are left to amuse ourselves and find cucumbers which are in short supply. Puzzled? Sixteen containers were lost from the cargo ship Baltic Klipper. Most containers had been recovered but bananas, cucumbers etc have been washing up onto West Sussex shores. West Wittering beach is littered with hand grenades? (No), avocados.

Chichester is a fascinating place especially at Christmas time with the twinkling lights, Xmas trees and shop displays. The 4 main streets: North, South, East and West spreading out from the butter market cross. Old buildings of historical interest with their blue plaques; fascinating skylines as tall buildings butt up to single storey ones. But I have a grand tour of car parks for shops, alleyways and snickets with their associated bins. We go down various little side streets and behind the shops to reprise his October urban O 'There was a Control here' or 'I ran too fast and missed this alleyway'.

Bringing two cucumbers and reuniting with the family we learn that grandson Charlie asked Santa for a dog for Xmas and Santa replied that he would need a permission letter from Mum and Dad and, more importantly, queried whether Charlie had ever picked up dog poo? Hattie asked for Haribo sweets and 15 year old cousin Hannah asked for a boyfriend. Santa wasn't sure if he could manage this but would search amongst his elves to see if anyone was appropriate.

January 1st 2026, RM went in Roger E's car with Alastair to Matlock. The New Year starts like the old one finishes: with mistakes. RM picks up the wrong map and control descriptions and runs a slightly longer course than he intended. It's a surprise that on an urban O he can

still trip over and return with bloody scratches on his hand. I have to pay Roger for RM's petrol money £3 as RM can't find his wallet.

A few days later and a surprise. RM receives an email from Ursula that he has won the green man course. He looks for the results and starts to laugh; there are courses for 'Green male' 'Short green male' and 'very short green male'. Orienteering is being inclusive: aliens, goblins and elves may apply.

There is no more orienteering for several days, time to start on the jigsaw map of The Three Peaks (Whenside, Ingleborough and Pen y ghent). It's called a Muzzle and is made by the Harvey's the mapping people. The writing is tiny and we need extra light and magnifying glasses. RM has taken a photo so he can enlarge the image but we still spend a lot of time tackling the difficult jigsaw.

For the Cademan Woods event the car park is at the former Gracedieu School, now a football academy. The organisers have asked only helpers to come early and competitors wait while the 'Snow plough' team clear the approaches to the school. Puzzled ?? Many thanks to Derek Herd with his 'snow plough'. The weather is cold, the sort of day RM wished he could stay at home but he has volunteered to help and wears an extra layer of clothes to keep warm. He is very pleased with his run although it did not start well as on his way to Number 1 he has an encounter with a low branch with scratches on his head as evidence. Many people missed later controls, eleven on the green course. He returns home with the EMOA Green Man trophy, certificate and a promise to swap Muzzle puzzles with Peter Hornsby. Oh no, not another five days of blazing lights, magnifying lenses and squinting eyes. His visit to The Rock brings stories of treacherous icy conditions and of complaining to the landlord that 'the Blue Boar beer wasn't blue'. He did not expect to be given some

beer that was blue, but it did not taste good. I wondered what would have happened if the complaint had been that Blue Boar beer did not contain any boar? RM returns home for two hot coffees, two mince pies and a soak in the bath. But his brain has not thawed out as he mistakes a black pair of knickers for his missing black balaclava!!

RM is packing the Muzzle puzzle of the Three Peaks back in a bag and then the box. In his haste, pieces fall to the floor. He needs my assistance as he is in a hurry to go to Ibstock. He insists Peter Hornsby won't get any help so any pieces still fixed together are pulled apart. When RM returns from Ibstock, I hear less about the O and more about drunken women in the Spoons in Coalville. Oh dear, he has a Muzzle from Peter; 'Pikes and Tarns'. It looks very difficult. just brown contours and blue water features and absolutely no names of farms, hills or villages to help.



Photo 'Just one more piece before I go to O' (the fairy lights on the chair back never did get put up)

Irene Marriott

Summer League 2026

The events are informal with usually a social element. Come and enjoy a drink and maybe a meal after the event and get to know your LEI colleagues, discuss your run and where it all went wrong. Put the Orienteering world to rights!

Starts are staggered from 6.30 to 7.30pm and courses close at 8.30pm (these times may be advanced by 30mins at either end of the season). For details of the event type i.e. classic, score or sprint, check the LEI website. Events will use SI electronic punching (dibber hire £1, SIAC £2, limited availability)

Entry fees: Seniors £5, non BOF Seniors £6. Full time students, working age unwaged £2.50, Juniors (or a Family Group shadowing their Juniors) £1.50.

League Scores are based on a standard handicap, giving everyone a chance of success in the league if they perform as their age class suggests they should. Overall, it is the best 10 events to count with a subset of urban/sprint events with the best 4 counting.

LEI members are asked to help with collecting in controls at the end of events.

For results, league tables, routegadget, please see www.leioc.org.uk

SL1	Tuesday 14/04/2026	QEDJ Woods	S,M,L
SL2	Wednesday 22/04/2026	Whitwick	Urban
SL3	Thursday 30/04/2026	Melton Country Park	S,M,L
SL4	Tuesday 05/05/2026	Boothorpe	S,M,L
SL5	Tuesday 12/05/2026 WOW	Beacon Hill	S,M,L
SL6	Thursday 21/05/2026	Outwoods	S,M,L
SL7	Tuesday 26/05/2026	Sence Valley	S,M,L
SL8	Wednesday 03/06/2026	Leicester City Centre	Urban
SL9	Thursday 11/06/2026	Markfield	Urban
SL10	Tuesday 16/06/2026	Leicester Forest East	Urban
SL11	Wednesday 24/06/2026	Glenfield	Urban
SL12	Thursday 02/07/2026	Shepshed	Urban
SL13	Tuesday 07/07/2026	Loughborough Fairmeadow	Urban
SL14	Wednesday 15/07/2026	Birstall North	Urban
SL15	Thursday 23/07/2026	Grobby	Urban
SL16	Tuesday 28/07/2026	Castle Hill	S,M,L
LEI Score Cup and Presentations	Wednesday 12/08/2026	Tunnel Woods	Score

Winter League 2025-26 after 5 events

Pos	Name	Class	Club	Best 6	H'cap	Total
1	Andy Nicholls	M50	LEI	538	624	624
2	Roger Phillips	M45	LEI	463	518	518
3	Roger Edwards	M75	LEI	350	475	475
4	Ian Buxton	M60	LEI	324	402	402
5	Steve Edgar	M55	LEI	331	397	397
6	Ursula Williamson	W60	LEI	304	390	390
7	David Cladingboel	M55	LEI	316	380	380
8	Alison Hardy	W55	LEI	300	372	372
9	Matthew Birkett	M50	LEI	316	367	367
10	Tanya Taylor	W55	LOG	274	340	340
11	Stephen Martin	M65	LEI	253	324	324
12	Kevin Bradley	M70	LEI	234	309	309
13	Alastair Paterson	M55	LEI	256	307	307
14	Alison Foord	W50	LEI	255	305	305
15	Andrew Ward	M35	LEI	280	291	291
16	Chris Tolley	M40	LEI	262	283	283
17	George Normand	M80	LEI	198	269	269
18	Mike Dallaway	M60	LEI	209	259	259
19	Jo White	W50	LEI	202	243	243
20	Dave Foord	M50	LEI	202	234	234
21	Kevin Gallagher	M75	LEI	162	220	220
22	Peter Chick	M80	LEI	160	217	217
23	David Seaman	M50	LEI	184	213	213
24	Helen Chiswell	W45	DVO	174	201	201
25	Tracey Brookes	W60	LEI	153	196	196

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.

February 2026

Sun 1st	SYO YHOA National	Burbage YHOA SuperLeague , Burbage, Sheffield Organiser: Amanda Crawshaw https://www.southyorkshireorienteers.org.uk/events/event/1018:national-event-
Wed 4th	LOG EMOA Local	Fight the Night #1 , Hykeham South, Lincoln, LN6 8NH Mass Start 7pm. Registration 6-6.45pm. Course closes 8pm Organiser: Paul Murgatroyd
Thu 5th	LEI EMOA Local	LEI Winter League 7 Hugglescote Start times 6pm - 7pm. Organiser: Jane Dring-Morris

February Cont.

Sun 22nd	OD WMOA National	CompassSport Cup Heat , Sutton Park, Sutton Coldfield, B74 3EW Organiser: Keith Willdig www.octavian-droobers.org
Wed 25th	LOG EMOA Local	Fight The Night #4 , Lincoln Central, Lincoln, LN2 1NT Mass Start 7pm. Registration 6-6.45pm. Course closes 8pm Organiser: Paul Murgatroyd
Wed 25th	SYO YHOA Local	Night Event , Greno Woods, Sheffield Organiser: Paul Bradbury https://www.southyorkshireorienteers.org.uk/events/event/1020:night-event
Sat 28th	SBOC WOA Major	British Orienteering Championships including Welsh Championships (UKOL) , Carreg Goch, Ystradgynlais, SA9 1GJ Organiser: Niall Reynolds
Sat 28th	SBOC WOA Local	Trail O @ BOC 2026 , Craig y Nos Country park, Ystradgynlais, SA9 1GL Organiser: David Jukes

March 2026

Sun 1st	SWOC WOA Major	British Relay Championships , Margam Country Park, Neath, Port Talbot, SA13 2TL Organiser: Laurence Snowden laurencesnowden@icloud.com , 07376062551
Sat 7th	OD WMOA Local	Hartshill Hayes Country Park , Nuneaton, CV10 0TE Organiser: David Lawson https://www.octavian-droobers.org/
Sun 8th	LEI EMOA Regional	EMOA League 2026 Aylestone Meadows , TBC, Leicester
Sat 14th	SYO YHOA Local	Saturday Series 6 , Shire Brook, Sheffield, S13 7BR Organiser: Pauline Tryner https://www.southyorkshireorienteers.org.uk/events/event/1021:saturday-series-6
Sun 15th	International	Interland , Quercamps, Calais, France. By invitation only.

March Cont.

Sun 15th	NOC EMOA Regional	East Midlands League 2026 , Watchwood & Calverton, Arnold, NG14 6NU
Sun 22nd	DVO EMOA Regional	EMOA League 2026 Bow Woods and Lea Woods , Cromford, DE4 5AG
Tue 31st	MDOC NWOA Local	Manchester Urban Sprint1 , Central Manchester (Heineken), Manchester Dogs: As for the general public. Organiser: Trevor Hindle , trevor.l.hindle@gmail.com

April 2026

Fri 3rd	SOA Major	JK Orienteering Festival - Sprint (UKOL) , Perth City Centre, Perth Organiser: Trevor Hoey
Sat 4th	SOA Major	JK Orienteering Festival - Middle (UKOL) , Rannoch, Kinloch Rannoch Organiser: Jonathan Molloy
Sun 5th	SOA Major	JK Orienteering Festival - Long (UKOL) , Rannoch, Kinloch Rannoch Organiser: Rona Molloy
Mon 6th	SOA Major	JK Orienteering Festival - Relays , Tullochroisk, Kinloch Rannoch Organiser: Angela Dixon
Sun 12th	SYO YHOA Regional	SYO Regional Event and Yvette Baker Trophy Heat , Canklow, Rotherham
Sun 12th	WAOC EAOA Regional	Cambridge Urban , Cambridge CB3 0DS Organiser: Peter Haynes
Sun 12th	ERYRI WOA Local	Bryn Euryrn , Rhos on Sea, LL28 4AB https://www.eryri-orienteering.org/events

Vienna waits for you

This trip was inspired by Steve and Sindy Chafer who have previously “O”d in Vienna.

Vienna holds an annual O weekend which we wanted to try along with cycling the Danube. So the warm up for the “O” was 5 days of cycling along the banks of the river – lovely! And no, we didn’t use ebikes, unlike the majority of others, it seemed.

After 5 days our bums needed a rest and our clothes a good wash. Travelling with just 2 panniers each meant some hard choices beforehand to cater for biking, orienteering and sightseeing. Each night Steve had to leave his one pair of trainers outside to de-fumigate.

After just one day off, we did the annual Vienna Orienteering Challenge which was 3 days of sprint O for 300 orienteers covering all ages, sexes and ability levels. Amongst these were fellow Brits Andrew and Linda Kelly (CLARO); Louise Dunn and Andrew Capper (SROC). The events were technical urbans but only short distances so we still had plenty of time for more sightseeing as Vienna is a fabulous city with tonnes of amazing buildings and history. The sprints took us to different parts of the city – not necessarily the tourist areas, which was good for getting to see all aspects of the city. It was very easy to get around as a travel pass got us on trains, trams or buses and they all coordinated very well.

On the last day there was also a relay with a mass start which was excellent fun using some multi level urban terrain. Overall it was very well organized, friendly and loads of fun and we would definitely recommend it. It’s a great event in a great city.

Carol Stynes-Martin and Steve Martin

