

# South Central Orienteering Association

## Bulletin – May 2025



The aim of this SCOA Bulletin is to keep you up to date with what is going on in our orienteering region and to encourage the development of our sport which is so important if we want to thrive.

SCOA is the regional body that represents the orienteering clubs in the south of England covering Hampshire, The Isle of Wight, Oxfordshire, South Buckinghamshire and Berkshire. SCOA pools the resources of the region's clubs in order to provide coaching for juniors, training for officials, co-ordinate fixtures, organise our largest events, and generally support orienteering within the region.

### SCOA Committee

Thank you to all who sit on the committee who support the work of SCOA. The committee members are:-

Chair	Ian Moran (SOC)
Vice Chair	Jon Wheatcroft (TVOC)
Secretary	Fiona Clough (BKO)
Treasurer	Trish Monks (BKO)
Coaching Officer	Chris Poole (TVOC)
Development	Liz Yeadon (SARUM)
Fixtures	Richard Sharp (TVOC)
Junior Squad Co-Manager	Laurence Townley (SN)
Junior Squad Co-Manager	Simon Kippin (TVOC)
Technical Representative	Katy Stubbs (BKO)
BADO Representative	Alan Kersley
BAOC Representative	Charles Bromley Gardner
SARUM Representative	Liz Yeadon
SN Representative	Debbie Robinson
SOC Representative	David Currie
TVOC Representative	Peter Riches
WIGHTO Representation	Peter Bartlett

### Priorities

The key issues for our sport are as follows:

- Lack of juniors and the general age(ing) profile of the sport
- Permissions and land access
- Volunteers to take on key roles
- Parking constraints

### Lack of juniors and the general ageing profile of the sport

One of my recent orienteering highlights was talking to two M85s and one M90 soon after they had all finished at an event when they were comparing performances. There are not many physical sports which can boast this level of competitiveness for this age group which is a great attribute for our sport and without doubt there are more over M/W 60s than ever. The scene at the younger end of the spectrum is not so good. So at the top of the list I would put young people recruitment as we do need to do something to reduce the age profile.

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We have an active junior squad, but it does need more members. We are looking at a number of initiatives such as encouraging schools to attend the Wednesday Military League events. Please consider holding events close to colleges and universities, not forgetting to publicise these events within the Students' Unions and Physical Education Departments. You may find that MapRun and sprint events might be more appealing, but don't just hold a one off event, consider a short series to encourage momentum.

The Army is keen to encourage schools to attend the Wednesday MLS events, so if you have any connection to a local school do suggest these events as a good introduction to our sport. Between the local club and SCOA, I am sure on the day qualified support can be provided along with appropriate courses if required.

### **Permissions and land access**

Permissions and land access generally relates to environmental concerns although some landowners want to charge very high fees for land access. Clearly, we need to work closely with the likes of Natural England to demonstrate that we can work together respecting each other's needs and showing by our behaviour that we are considerate to the environment. Clubs are encouraged to use case studies that are available from the British Orienteering website which can help to demonstrate the minimal impact orienteering has on the environment. When faced with potentially high land access fees, do remind land owners that we put on volunteer led not for profit events, unlike many other organisations, with entry fees being quite modest noting what goes into hosting the events.



### **Volunteering**

Recruiting volunteers is a struggle for many organisations which is a great shame as there are great benefits to be had such as meeting new people, new experiences and putting something back to the community. There is an old adage, if you want something done, find someone busy. Well this might be true, but it should not be the case. Do ask yourself how many times each year you volunteer to help at an orienteering event, or indeed, with anything else. We are in particular need of organisers, planners and controllers. If you are not confident to undertake such a role, do offer your services to assist in such a role to get an idea of what is required. The main official is likely to be pleased to share the load. It is good to see some clubs in our region appointing assistants to key positions.

### **Parking**

Parking is something which will be a challenge to address as there is not an awful amount one can do other than making a greater effort to share car transport and where possible, publicise public transport, where this is a viable way of getting to an event.

### **Website**

Jerry Newcombe now has control of the SCOA website and we have plans for improvement and bringing it more up to date. Any thoughts as to the content which should be included would be appreciated. We are also looking for a webmaster to manage the site, so if you are interested, do let me know.

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## SCOA Championships

Congratulations to the winners of the SCOA Championships which were held at Cold Ash hosted by BKO in January. The results can be found by following this [link](#).

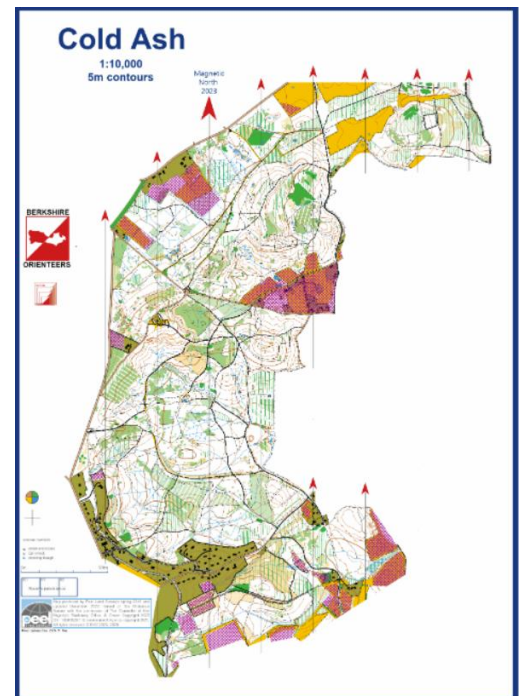
## SCOA League

Many thanks to Paul Thwaites (SOC) who has agreed to take on the role of co-ordinator.

## Success Stories

Although we may be struggling with the numbers of younger competitors, we are doing well on quality.

- GB Development Squad members - Adam Methven (BKO); Jocie Hilton (SN)
- Talent South Squad members - Duncan Currie (SOC); Tommy Rollins (SN)
- Junior Inter Regional Championships - Jocie Hilton 1st W18



Well done to those SCOA members who contributed to England's win at the international completion recently held in the Netherlands. The SCOA members included Nigel Bunn (TVOC), Duncan Currie (SOC), Anne Edwards (TVOC) and Woo Allen (SN).

We should not forget past SCOA athletes such as Fiona Bunn and Peter Taylor-Bray who were key members of the junior squad and now members of our national team.

## JK2029

It will be SCOA's turn to host the JK in 2029, so we will shortly need to consider potential areas and key officials.

Ian Moran  
SCOA Chair  
April 2025

