

## Peter Palmer Junior Relays-Cockermouth -7-8<sup>th</sup> September 2024

10 members of AIRE's junior team travelled to Kelton Fell south of Cockermouth to compete in Peter Palmer Junior Relays this weekend. We hired a minibus expertly driven by club coach/club secretary David Alcock.

There were around 200 junior orienteers from as far afield as Stirling in Scotland and South Downs. We were all camping one field away from the arena and after a fish & chip supper and games all was quiet by 10.30. (Once Jackie SYO team manager had given her tented village a ticking off!)



At 4am alarms sounded and the first leg runners rose ready to run in the dark. Starts were delayed due to 2 controls going missing but this was the only apparent issue with an excellent event which include all competitors running with GPS trackers so that their progress could be monitored for the commentary crew and spectators. The arena at sunrise was superb with the background of the Ennerdale Fells.

Our main Peter Palmer team came 6th overall out of 13 teams. Ewen had a storming run in the dark coming back 1st in a field of 13 teams! Henry ran 2nd leg at dawn with a clean run though he found the climb tough. Sam completed light green with his usual reliable racing handing over to Alethea with an admirable orange and Charlie charging up and down the hill on Yellow. Bethan brought the team home with strong race on Green with the brightest face paint of the lot!



The Daybreak team ended up 3rd out of 6, as 2 teams mis-punched. They won a tub of chocolates that were demolished by all on the way home. James ran the first leg at dawn with a clean complement of controls, Keir ran an outstanding Orange and Kate completed her fastest yellow ever! Last leg was Oliver, standing in at short notice and awake since 4 am, he raced around Red. He had huge encouragement from the team as he pushed towards the finish in 3rd place just ahead of a competitor.



AIRE supported the trip by paying for entries. Thank you, Committee. We used funds from selling cakes at events for the minibus – please come and buy some more cakes at Malham next weekend!

I hope the teams agree it was a great trip and certainly one to be repeated another year as our young AIRE junior squad gains more experience.

Lindsey King - Club Coach