

## AIRE juniors at British Championships – South Wales 2026

This major event was held down near Swansea at the end of February. Not surprisingly, only the very keen orienteering families travelled that far and back for the weekend during term time.

I arranged an online session beforehand to look at the maps and share hints and tips before the races which I hope members found helpful.

The individual event on Saturday was held on high exposed limestone moorland. We were lulled into a false sense of spring in the arena only for many of us to be caught in a violent hail shower during our races. Putting coats on during the race slowed us down. It also contributed to a few runners retiring as they became cold quite quickly. Despite this we had 3 British junior champions!



M10 Sebastian -1<sup>st</sup>  
M12A Alfie– retired M12B Joby – 1<sup>st</sup>  
W14A Alethea - 9<sup>th</sup> Penny – retired  
M14A Charlie – 13<sup>th</sup>  
W16A Bethan -1<sup>st</sup> M16A Sam -9<sup>th</sup>  
W18E Katie -1<sup>st</sup>

On Sunday the relay area Margam Park near Port Talbot was a landscaped park with a variety of terrain. The main challenge there was the mud in the finish arena. The club tent took a bit of cleaning afterwards! Our 2 junior teams both had fantastic races:

W18 – Katie, Alethea & Bethan – silver medals -2<sup>nd</sup>  
Junior ad Hoc – Charlie, Sebastian & Sam – gold medals - 1<sup>st</sup>



Lindsey King  
AIRE Junior Coordinator