

YHOA Junior Squad

I interviewed Penny W14 about her first overnight trip with Yorkshire & Humberside Orienteering Association's junior Squad.

Any junior orienteer aged 12 upwards who is proficient at orange courses can ask for an invitation to regional squad training sessions. These usually take place monthly for either 1 day or a full weekend. Squad members can be selected for inter-regional competitions and there occasional trips abroad to multi-day events. In the autumn AIRE member Alethea W14 went on a trip to France with the squad.

Last weekend, YHOA junior squad had a training session on Saturday in Derbyshire and stayed in Hathersage overnight before competing at SYO's national event on Sunday on Burbage Moor.

Penny had already attended a few day sessions with the YHOA squad but had not stayed away overnight. She and Bethan Buckley W16 were racing elsewhere on Saturday and so missed the training but they travelled down by train on Saturday afternoon. Penny was a bit apprehensive but soon joined other squad members over dinner. Afterwards everyone played games until bedtime. Penny said she slept in a dorm with 5 other girls where the bunks were very uncomfortable!

On Sunday Penny got a lift to the event at Burbage and the indoor assembly enabled her to get ready for the event with her new girlfriends from SYO. It was only the 2nd time that Penny had run a light green course. The first one had taken her 74 minutes as it is a big jump up from orange technical level 3 to light green level 4.

This time Penny reported she had a much better run, completing the course in 38 mins with only one leg that caused her a problem which she managed to resolve without much loss of time.

Penny confirmed that she would love to go to another YHOA junior squad weekend which is great news. Well done Penny!

Lindsey King

Junior Coordinator and Coach