

Aire Affairs



**AIRE - BRITISH ORIENTEERING
CLUB OF THE YEAR FOR 2024!**

**April
2025**



Airienteers

Orienteering in Airedale and
Wharfedale - www.aire.org.uk



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AIRE AFFAIRS is the Club's official magazine and is available on our website www.aire.org.uk and via e-mail/paper format on request.

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(All email address have @ replaced by AT)

Cover: Aire – Club of the Year! - at JK Relays



Sophie Brown at CLARO's Plumpton Rocks event – picture by Wendy Carlyle



EditO – Peter Jones

My thanks to Lindsey, Cathy, Steve and Rob for their contributions. I'm intending to produce the next issue at the end of June – it would be good to have a few more event reports.

A warm welcome to new member Brian Hanley.

We've just hosted the JK here in Yorkshire, which many of us have run or helped at in one way or another. From my undemanding role as Assistant Controller of JK Relay I was reminded how much effort and attention to detail goes into putting these events on, such as ensuring everyone gets the right map (they did), organising equipment, details of the arena layout, and even arranging for an enlarged map for a visually-impaired W10.

As a club, we had many highlights at the JK – numerous 2nd places for individuals and for 2 Relay teams, and many Airienteers taking part, some for the first time at a major event.

There was also a bit of a lowlight when we struggled to take down the AIRE tent after the Middle Distance event, and got help from the club at the next tent. By a spooky coincidence, Rob has sent a handy cut-out-and-keep guide to dismantling and folding our pop-up tents, so now all of us should be able to do this speedily and efficiently.



Inaccurate references to orienteering in popular culture, another instalment

In Bridget Jones..Mad About the Boy, the school outdoor trip, with Bridget as an assistant, are told they are going orienteering. I was not in the least surprised that what follows bears no relation to actual orienteering. For example, I have never heard of orienteers camping overnight in a barn (though at one of my early events I ended up so far away from where I should have been that it could have been on the cards).



Chair Affairs – Cathy Dawson

I hope those who made it to the JK events enjoyed some successful orienteering. A holiday and the impending start of GCSEs inhibited the Dawsons. We did manage to make it to Plumpton Rocks (Claro), a couple of Wednesday night events, the Boddington training event with David and Lindsey and the Roundhay Intro event which coincided with the launch of the Roundhay Park permanent orienteering course.

Later this year Aire will have 2 vacancies -

The first will be 'Club Development Lead'. Lois Parker, our current Club Development Officer, is off to start a new career based in Worcester and Simon Martland, our current Junior Development Officer, is retiring. We are planning to combine these roles into one, with a focus on promoting the club and our events. We hope to attract young adult members and families and aim to continue to run the Saturday introductory series.



In September, Leon Foster is stepping down from his role as Fixtures secretary. This is a really important role for the club and would benefit from someone who is familiar with the type of events Aire runs and the terrains we have access to. The role is aided by our wonderful volunteer co-ordinator Peter Haines. Peter will find event organisers, planners and controllers, so the fixture secretary can concentrate on fixtures.

Both these roles have full job descriptions which are available from me at chairATaire.org.uk. Please do get in touch even if it is only for an informal discussion.

In other news, Aire are British Orienteering Club of the Year! *[Thanks to Cathy and David Alcock, who submitted the application -Ed]*. This trophy, which the club gets to keep, was presented to Steve and Liz at JK Relay. We were recognised for (amongst other things) hosting a range of events, including the British Middle champs on Danefield, volunteer activity and future planning. More information at



[https://www.britishorienteering.org.uk/news/6594/bof annual awards 2024 club of the year aienteers](https://www.britishorienteering.org.uk/news/6594/bof_annual_awards_2024_club_of_the_year_aienteers)



Where to find information about AIRE and what's on – Lindsey King

Website: www.airienteers.co.uk – bookmark it or keep as a favourite and look out for news about events etc on our home page

Email: all members will receive messages about key information or events or calls outs for volunteers

AIRE Facebook page: we post details of upcoming events and activities which you can react to but not post messages. Connect to

<https://www.facebook.com/airienteers/>

AIRE Facebook Group: where members can post messages and receive responses. Join here:

<https://www.facebook.com/airienteers/w.facebook.com/groups/2478110773>

Whatsapp Group- for AIRE juniors -members are mainly parents- exchange of messages about events & what's on with some Q&A and photos shared.

AIRE AFFAIRS – online magazine every couple of months with articles about events, adventures, reports or information from of AIRE members- any member can submit articles to the editor for publication.

We are also

considering other ways of keeping in contact with members:

- a regular newsletter sent via email and
- a Whatsapp group for members so that more immediate messages can be shared when needed.

Would you like any other ways to communicate? E.g.

- Whatsapp groups for members attending events such as Scottish 6 Days or JK to share information/arrange meet ups?
- A Whatsapp group for those who may need lifts to events and those who are happy to give lifts?

Let us know your views.



Junior report – Lindsey King (Junior team co-ordinator)

Yvette Baker Trophy heat

12 AIRE juniors competed in the YBT heat at Bishop Wood Selby on 9th March. I was not able to go and I understand the parking was a bit of a nightmare. Thank you to all parents and David for managing logistics on the day.

We had some good results ending up with 882 points, only 14 behind SYO with 896. 3 juniors Katie, Samuel & Alethea won their class and we had 6 other scores that counted. Well done team!

As SYO won the competition last year they get a bye to the final. I am therefore expecting that we will also qualify for the final **on Sunday 6th July in ... SUSSEX!** Any juniors and parents who fancy the trip let me know – it will involve leaving on Saturday for an overnight stay.

JK Relay

At last after a few 4th positions in mini relays we achieved a medal - Charlie, George and Penny sped into 2nd place and won SILVER! Not to be out done our W48-relay team of Bethan, Alethea and Katie also stormed in for another SILVER medal on the podium!

We had 2 other mini relay teams who successfully completed the race: Sebastian, Alfie and Joby- 5th and Oscar Isobel and Kate -non comp.

Congratulations to Ben & Ronan running their first ever relay for AIRE. With Sam they came 13th on M48- and no mis-punches – which helped them overtake a number of the teams in that race.

[Pictures by Wendy Carlyle]





AIRE juniors at YHOA squad training at Danefield at the end of April

[picture by Lindsey King]



Club Captain's Report – Steve Webb

JK Relay

Thanks and well done to everyone who answered my call to represent AIRE in the JK relay races on Easter Monday at Middleton Park. As well as laying on an excellent event for all our fellow competitors from the UK and beyond we had 12 teams out racing hard. Results are as follows:

| | | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------|--|-------|
| Women's Trophy | Sun bAIREs | Alice Leake Mary Fleming Jo Buckley | 8/16 |
| Men's Short | Brown bAIREs | John Blatherwick Richard Cartwright Matthew Gray | mp |
| Senior Men (120+) | Kodiak bAIREs | Ewen Wilkinson Ian Marshall Rolf Crook | 12/26 |
| Senior Women (120+) | Koala bAIREs | Rebecca Gray Julia Crook Caroline Young | 10/13 |
| Veteran Men (165+) | Spectacled bAIREs | David Alcock David Williams Steve Webb | 6/40 |
| Veteran Men (165+) | Grizzly bAIREs | Simon Richardson Jez Wilkinson Rob Gatenby | 15/40 |
| Veteran Women (165+) | The hAIRE bAIRE bunch | Joyce Marshall Sue Stevens Pippa Richardson | 8/16 |



| | | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|--|-------|
| Intermediate Men (48-) | The bAIRE necessities | Samuel Crook Ronan Hanley Ben Richardson | 13/22 |
| Intermediate Women (48-) | Polar bAIREs | Bethan Buckley Alethea Carr Katie Buckley | 2/10 |
| Mini Relay | Paddington bAIREs | Charlie Alcock George Ricketts Penny Pinker-Hull | 2/9 |
| Mini Relay | Pudsey bAIRE | Sebastian Carr Alfie Alcock Joby Pinker-Hull | 5/9 |
| Mini Relay | Rupert bAIRE | Oscar Branney Isobel Ricketts Kate Parkinson | 7/9 |

A big well done to the Paddington bAIRE team of Charlie, George and Penny who stormed to a brilliant silver medal in the Mini Relay. It was great to see three AIRE teams in that race and they all did us proud: the way they all came charging down the long run in to the final control and the finish put some of us seniors to shame!

Alethea has now graduated from the Mini relay and teamed up with Bethan and Katie to also get a fantastic silver medal in the Intermediate Women's class. I think all of them are in the first year of their age groups so they can still compete in the same class relay next year.

It was great that we also had an Intermediate Men's team with Samuel teaming up with new club members Ronan and Ben.

That team also promises well for the future as they are all M14s (total age classes 42 against a limit of 48) and were probably running against M16s and some M18s.

I also spotted some excellent individual results amid the team races: Bethan and Joyce were both first back from the mass start in their races. Also on first leg David returned in an excellent 3rd place while Alice showed she is back up to speed with a 4th place finish in the lead pack on Women's Premier. Meanwhile on the anchor legs Penny ran the fastest leg 3 in the Mini Relay and Katie was 2nd fastest on W48-.

Next up: British Relays at Bigland on 11th May! (teams are on the Google Docs spreadsheet)

If anyone needs to be reunited with their maps from the JK then please let me know: I have the AIRE map bags from each day.



Airienteers Coaching Programme – Lindsey King (Club Coach)

David Alcock and I, your AIRE coaches, have provided several coaching sessions so far this year:

- **2nd Feb** – Bodington Sports Centre University of Leeds - David Alcock prepared exercises for 15 juniors to practice sprint and relay skills. Participants had to concentrate on ensuring that they found the correct control and checked the code and description each time while also trying to run fast. Oliver took some unexpected routes through the brambles in his attempt to beat Sam back to base! They enjoyed the team exercise where each of 2 team members had to complete 6 mini loops each in relay fashion in the fastest time. The race became more exciting when 2 deer joined in, running to & fro across the area!
- **21st March** I planned and David and Tony Carlyle presented a session in Calverley Woods for another 11 juniors. For the younger juniors the aim was to practice finding new types of features just off the path as a step to orange courses. For the older ones there was practice at making route choices and a control-picking exercise for accurate fine navigation. Thanks to David and Tony for covering for me and for including some newcomers in the training and collecting controls in the rain.
- **1st April** - As AIRE summer sprint series and JK sprint were imminent we repeated the Bodington session for 14 adults. As it was a Tuesday evening we attracted more CLARO participants than AIRE members. They were all enthusiastic and competitive and we had some great feedback "It was great fun and well organised!"
- **16th April** – online session "Discover Orienteering" – with support from Lois Parker our club development officer, I led a session to explain the basics about orienteering. We covered some of the jargon, the kit, how to enter events, map symbols and control descriptions as well as an introduction to route planning on 2 different maps. The small group allowed for plenty of questions & discussion.



Coming up:

- **30th April** – We are trialling an online session for members to prepare British long distance & relay champs. If it works we will offer this again for other major events. We will look at the maps together, consider the terrain; consider the key techniques that will be useful for a successful run and look at route planning. We have 10 signed up already. Other clubs and squads run these sessions and orienteers find them useful.



29th April or 14th May or 20th May a repeat of the 'Discover Orienteering' session – **book a place** using my email address below – with preferred date.

- **Date to be decided** – another online session about catching features, aiming off and relocation. **Register interest** using my email below
- **Wed 25th June Esholt Woods** - we are planning another coaching session for older juniors and adults to practice compass use and using techniques such as catching features, aiming off and relocation to improve navigation. **Book a place** using my email address below



Thanks to Lois Parker our CDO for advertising sessions for us. If there is any aspect of orienteering you would like to learn or practice then do let me know. However, I need to learn not to spend all my new retirement time preparing orienteering activities!

Lindsey King - Coach lindseyking49AHotmail.co.uk

[Pictures by Wendy Carlyle]

AIRE club kit

We now have a small stock of adult club tops if you would like one. Please contact lindseyking49AHotmail.co.uk to see if we have your size.

If you would like a club jacket we can add your name to a list. We would need a few on the list for a minimum order.

AIRE operates a junior loan scheme. A junior member who is orienteering regularly may use an AIRE top until you change clubs or stop orienteering. Then the top should be returned to the club. Tops can be swapped for a larger size as you grow. The scheme is subject to availability of tops at any time.



How to dismantle and stow an AIRE pop-up tent – Rob King

The Club uses several Quechua 'Base Seconds' pop-up tents but too few club members have the knack and therefore the confidence to pack them away. It is slightly tricky but perhaps this might help.

QUECHUA BASE SECONDS – REFOLDING

1. Leaving 3 corners still pegged, un-peg the corner between the doors and push it inside the opposite corner.

2. Un-peg another corner and fold the sides over to flatten the tent and lay it on the ground.

3. Lift the top of the tent. Take hold of each side, about 1/3 down from the top, and squeeze together while pushing forward and down...

4. ...laying the tent flat again in a clover shape.






5. Keeping one knee on the middle loop, lift one side loop up and fold it over to lay on top of the middle loop.



6. Swap knees and lift up the other side loop to fold it over the first two loops.



7. Adjust the loops to form a rough but flat circle. Tuck in the black straps and flappy bits.



8. Lift the tent on to its edge and place it between your knees. Open out the yellow strap and loop it around the tent so that it sits across the middle. Pull the strap to tighten it.



9. Keeping the tent between your legs, pull the cover over the tent. Roll the tent forward into the cover until you can close zip.





JK Middle Distance – Tankersley

The only day I ran at the JK was the Middle Distance event at Tankersley, and this is my course (M65 & W50).



A lot of controls in a small area, but not as confusing as it looks as there was a part 2 map on the back from control 12. I did run past a brick wall (from an old railway bridge?) 3 times, but overall it didn't feel like covering the same ground over again.

I lost track of what I was doing twice, including the short distance from 9-10 which somehow took me 3 minutes.

Also, there were a lot of orienteers out there - over 2,300 on the day. Sometimes at big events this helps in control-finding, but at Tankersley it really wasn't much help as they were milling around in all directions, and a bit disheartening as lots of them came speeding past as I toiled up the slope near the end.





Free to a good home - preferably an orienteering one!

A barely-worn WOC 2024 hoodie

Turquoise, size M

Extremely warm and cosy

Great for:

Post-run recovery

Unheated homes

TV binges

Contact Rob and Lindsey King -
thekingzATblueyonder.co.uk





AIRE Achievements

Congratulations to :-

All AIRE juniors and relay runners mentioned in Lindsey's and Steve's reports

British Middle Distance Champs (March)

Top 10:

3rd – Emily Gibbins (W20)

4th – Joyce Marshall (W65), Susan Stevens (W70)

6th – Jo Buckley (W45)

All AIRE helpers and officials at the JK, in particular –

- Tony Thornley : JK Mapping Advisor, and IOF Event Advisor for the Middle Distance event
- Ken Patterson : JK Safety Officer
- Richard Foster : Organiser, Relay event
- Liz Carter : Assistant Organiser, Relay event
- Chris Burden : Mapper, Relay event

JK Sprint

Top 10

| | | |
|------------------|---|------------------------------|
| 2 nd | Emily Gibbins Joyce Marshall Eamon Hanley | W20E W65 Novice Junior |
| 4 th | Ewen Wilkinson Penny Pinker-Hull Alethea Carr | M18E W12 W14 |
| 5 th | Alice Leake Alfie Alcock David Alcock | W21E M10 M45 |
| 6 th | Caroline Young | W35 |
| 7 th | Helen Alcock | Novice Adult |
| 8 th | Rebecca Gray Jo Buckley | W35 W45 |
| 10 th | Sebastian Carr Bethan Buckley Liz Carter Tony Thornley | M10 W16 W70 M75 |



JK Overall (Middle and Long Combined)

Top 10

| | | |
|------------------|---|--------------------------------------|
| 2 nd | Jo Buckley Joby Pinker-Hull Peter Haines (1 st on Day 2 – Middle) Jo Thornley Alfie Alcock | W45L M10A M70L W75S M10B |
| 4 th | David Alcock Chris Burden | M45L M75S |
| 5 th | Bethan Buckley Ewen Wilkinson | W16A M18E |
| 6 th | Katie Buckley Sebastian Carr | W18E M10A |
| 7 th | Samuel Crook | M14A |
| 8 th | Joyce Marshall | W65L |
| 9 th | Charlie Alcock | M12A |
| 10 th | Penny Pinker-Hull | W12A |

Also:

Dave Murgatroyd : M35S - 1st on Day 3 – Long

Emily Gibbins : W20E – 6th on Day 2 – Middle

Alice Leake : W21E – 10th on Day 2 – Middle

Judith Powell : W85 – 4th on Day 2 – Middle

Steve Webb 14th overall, and David Williams 17th overall on M60L (of around 90)

YHOA Night League

1st – Peter Haines (Supervet Men – M55/60)

2nd – Ian Marshall (Supervet Men – M55/60)

3rd – Jack Smith (Senior Men), Howard Sawyer (Ultravet Men – M65+)

YBT heat (EBOR – March)

Points scorers for AIRE:

100 – Alethea Carr, Samuel Crook, Katie Buckley

98 – Sebastian Carr

97 – Charlie Alcock, Kate Parkinson, Henry Stitson, Bethan Buckley

96 – Ross Carson



YHOA Middle Distance Champs (CLARO – March)

1st - Sebastian Carr (M10), Samuel Crook (M14), Joyce Marshall (W65), Tony Carlyle (M70), Tony Thornley (M75), Judith Powell (W85)

2nd - Alethea Carr (W14), Alice Leake (W21), Andrew Stemp-Walsh (M21), Dave Murgatroyd (M35), David Alcock (M45), Roger Lott (M75)

3rd - Alfie Alcock (M10), Charlie Alcock (M12), Oliver James (M16), Emily Gibbins (W21), Rob Gatenby (M45), Tom Woodham (M50), David Williams (M60), Susan Stevens (W70), Richard Wilson (M70)

AIRE Winter Night Score League

Class winners :

Rebecca Gray

Nicola Parkinson

Adam Lomas

Steve Webb

Jack Bloor Race

An invitation! Be you young or old. Elite or not-quite-at-your-best. To the 38th Jack Bloor Races. To be held on Ilkley Moor on the evening of Tuesday 13 May 2025. Come and enjoy this classic fell race be it to jostle for the podium, undertake your annual MOT or simply to enjoy the community participation. All details below and on the website www.jackbloor.co.uk

Over the last year the Jack Bloor Memorial Fund has awarded a record number of grants to young Yorkshire athletes engaging in outdoor adventure sports. Twenty-seven awards in all! Activities have included technical courses, training camps, qualifications and international competitions. Applicants have ranged from Redcar to Conisbrough and Hull to Lothersdale and sports from mountaineering to triathlon and orienteering to ice-swimming!

All monies raised from the races go to support Jack's Memorial Fund. The Fund trustees are very appreciative of donations received plus some very generous legacies enabling them to support so many deserving applications.

This is my last year as Organiser of the Jack Bloor Races and I wish to thank all the Airienteers who have supported the Fund, be it as runners, officials, applicants, donors or helpers. Thank you.

We are hopeful that the Jack Bloor Races and Fund will continue into its 5th decade.

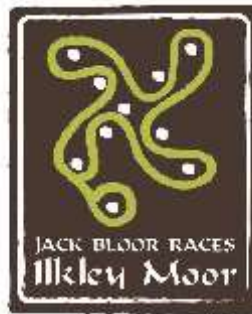
Rob King (Jack Bloor Race Organiser)



An invitation to the
38th JACK BLOOR RACES

on Ilkley Moor near Darwin Gardens, Ilkley

Tuesday 13th May 2025



Swastika Stone

Junior Races • Min 6yrs • U9 to U19 • Registration 1700 • **Starts from 1800**

Senior Race • 8.4 km • 16yrs+ • Registration 1800 • **Start 1915**

Entry on-the-day only • **Fees** • Seniors £8 • Juniors £1

FRA Rules & Safety Requirements Apply – Bring Safety Kit

FRA Licence Number 2025-9322

See www.jackbloor.co.uk for FRA and race details, results, etc

*All the entry fees go to the **Jack Bloor Memorial Fund** which awards grants to young people who want to improve their skills in the outdoors*

Sponsors & Supporters





Airienteers in Action

YHOA Middle Distance Championships – CLARO, Plumpton Rocks

There were over 350 orienteers competing at this event - which just goes to show that orienteers are basically a bunch of big kids who enjoy things like scrambling up rocks, crawling through a cave and squeezing through narrow passageways.

Pictures by Wendy Carlyle









JK Sprint – Sheffield City Centre

Pictures by Wendy Carlyle







JK Middle - Tankersley

Pictures by Wendy Carlyle









JK Relay – Middleton Park

Picture of Jo Buckley speeding along the run-through by Sam Crook, others by Rob Lines

