



# Aire Affairs



**June 2026**



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**AIRE AFFAIRS** is the Club's official magazine and is available on our website [www.aire.org.uk](http://www.aire.org.uk) and via e-mail/paper format on request.

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Cover: David Williams and Joyce Marshall at the British Sprint Championships

[pictures by Edward Lines]



Sam Crook sprinting to bring our junior (16-) team to 3<sup>rd</sup> place at the British Mixed Sprint Relay Championships.

[picture by Rob Lines]



## EditO – Peter Jones

My thanks to Cathy, Lindsey, Bethan, Steve and Liz for their contributions.

A warm welcome to new member Chris Needham

I won't be orienteering much for a while so I will be even more reliant on other club members for event reports. I'm planning to produce the next issue at the end of August, after the main holiday events – please let us know about your summer tours and summer adventures.

Or, if someone who can write more first-hand event reports or maybe produce a newsletter more frequently would like to take over, please contact me or a committee member.

We'll soon be hosting our urban weekend out in our far east – a double sprint at Allerton Bywater, which is being used for the first time, and an urban event at Kippax, which we've only used once before. Thanks to everyone who has volunteered to help, in particular the main officials. At one time, I think there was some serious thought about cancelling one of the events, so it's great that they're going ahead.

Let's hope for a good turnout.





## Chair Affairs – Cathy Dawson

Thank you for the WhatsApp feedback around our mid-week events. I've made a note of all the suggestions & we will take these into account at the fixtures (in September). It's never possible to please everyone, but certainly there was a consistent theme of having terrain/park events on the lighter evenings & not having too far to drive. Although Aire covers a large geographical area, our members aren't spread out terribly evenly. Please do get in touch with suggestions about anything either directly via [chairATaire.org.uk](http://chairATaire.org.uk) or the WhatsApp group. Speaking of which, do please join the WhatsApp group at the link below if you haven't already done so. It isn't a noisy group!

As of September, we do not have a firm plan for delivering the Saturday introductory events. We have a few ideas, but if there is anyone who hasn't planned or organised events who would like to have a go, this is a good place to start. We maybe need to have a look at the format or timings, but I think it's important we run some introductory sessions throughout the year.



Heads up of the AGM at Otley Labour Rooms on Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> September with a pre-AGM event to run beforehand. As usual, there will be pizza provided & we would love to see plenty of members at the AGM.

Cathy



## AIRE juniors & AIRE Coaching - Lindsey King

We are not participating in the annual junior competitions this year as the dates clash with other commitments of juniors, their families and the club. They are also far away. Hopefully we will be able to join in again in 2027.

### Summer Camps & International Competition

Several AIRE juniors applied for and were successful in selection for summer camps run by JROS (Junior Regional Orienteering Squads): -

- Alethea Carr W14 has a place at Lagganlia near Aviemore
- Sam Crook M16 has a place at the Deeside Camp
- Czechia - Bethan Buckley W16
- Gothenburg -Katie Buckley W18



2 AIRE juniors applied for selection for international competition and were successful: -

- Bethan Buckley W16 - European Youth Orienteering Championships in Slovenia in June
- Ewen Wilkinson M18 – Junior World Orienteering Championships in Sweden 29 June – 4 July and Junior European Championships in Switzerland in October

AIRE was able to provide some limited financial support to these athletes this year to assist with the costs of the camps and competitions. It





enhances a club's profile to have club members participating in national camps and international competitions.

## Junior activity at club level

A small group of junior AIRE members now attend regional training with Yorkshire & Humberside Orienteering Association (YHOA). They run a monthly training programme, trips abroad and attend inter regional competitions with a small group of volunteers and are looking for more assistance – see further article.

A good number of AIRE juniors enjoy orienteering without serious competition or they are still too young for regional coaching. We aim to support them with occasional coaching sessions and social activities.

There are a group of AIRE families going to camp at the **White Rose Orienteering festival over August Bank holiday weekend**. You are welcome to join them for a fun, sociable weekend.

<https://www.eborienteers.org.uk/white-rose>

Young children can practice their orienteering at our monthly Introductory activities on Saturday afternoons in local parks. There are several short courses and members are usually on hand to provide guidance especially if children are not wanting to listen to parents! The next one is at the beautiful **Cliffe Castle Park** in Keighley for their Festival of Sport on **Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> July 2026**. The activity is supported by the Town Council and so it is **free entry!** Further details here

<https://www.aire.org.uk/events/cliffe-castle-fos-2026-07-25>

Make a day of it and visit Cliffe Castle Museum, the Pavilion Café and the playpark as well!





## Other activities

I also provide occasional orienteering activities for cubs/scouts/guides. This month I am assisting AIRE member Richard Cartwright run courses and games in Beckett Park Leeds for his cub pack.

## Coaching Opportunity

On **Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> November 2026** there is an Orienteering Foundation **coaching day** in the south **Lake District**. AIRE are planning a **junior trip** in a minibus with **food** on the way back. This will be for orange/light green standard upwards. Put your name on the list by contacting me at [lindseyking49ATicloud.com](mailto:lindseyking49ATicloud.com)

Any senior club member can also sign up individually for the top-quality coaching organised by the Orienteering Foundation in Lake District terrain. Details and booking at <https://www.orienteeringfoundation.org.uk/lakes-coaching-day-28th-november-2026>

**NB** it is the day before our AIRE event at Shipley Glen on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> November.

## AIRE Instructors Course – BOOK NOW!

**STOP PRESS: We now have**

- **Tutor – Tony Carlyle**
- **3 AIRE participants**
- **Date Sat 31<sup>st</sup> Oct and Sun 1<sup>st</sup> Nov 2026**
- **Venue – Nell Bank Ilkley**

Come and join us, we know you would love to:

- learn together with others
- be useful while your children are competing/training
- share your orienteering skills with others



Train as an orienteering instructor, which means you can:

- teach orienteering skills to orange standard through games and exercises
- create a safe training environment and follow key requirements



The training will involve:

- Online modules - 3 or 4 hours
- 10 -12 hours practical sessions over 1 weekend with a tutor
- Continuous assessment during the course - certificate

To be licenced as an instructor you will need, if you don't have already:

- First aid training
- Safeguarding training

**We need 4-12 participants – Contact me now!**

[lindseyking49ATicloud.com](mailto:lindseyking49ATicloud.com) 07908 747528

## Yorkshire & Humberside Junior Squad

**The YHOA junior squad provides valuable monthly coaching sessions, trips and friendships to teenage orienteers across the region.**

Mike Pedley EPOC who currently runs the squad with assistance from Pauline Tryner SYO and a few others is looking for assistance to ensure that the Squad can provide what junior orienteers need to thrive in their chosen sport.

He is currently looking for assistance in a number of areas many of which do not necessarily require much orienteering skill: -

- **Communication:** corresponding with parents and athletes and coaches about our plans, attendance, enquiries, collecting and collating responses. Simple to say and takes ages to do :)
- **Admin:** keeping our records up to date e.g. annual forms, emergency details, dietary needs, allergies, attendances, logistics (booking minibuses, arranging drivers etc). A big subset of this is arranging weekends and tours including accommodation and transport
- **Coordination with YHOA, JROS and other squads:** a subset of the admin including fixture/training date planning, coordinating joint weekends trainings, contributing to JROS tour nominations and selections
- **Clothing:** arranging, ordering and distributing squad shirts and jackets.
- **Kit:** storing the squad kit (e.g. tent, controls, clipboards, mapbags, pegs, teddies(!) etc etc) getting it to each training and cleaning it afterwards (sometimes)
- **Safeguarding:** part of everyone's responsibilities but, like all organisations with a duty of care for juniors, it needs a nominated representative.



- **Permissions:** arranging access to the areas we want to use and arranging to get the map from the host club. We aim for each YHOA club hosting a one-day session per year but it is difficult when there are so few juniors from four of the six clubs.
- **Planning:** arranging the coaching exercises
- **Fundraising coordination:** (currently done by AIRE's Jo B); coordinating cake and refreshment stalls at some events (and it doesn't have to be just fund raising from cake).
- **Publicity:** our web pages and other media (sadly this has become neglected due to lack of time)
- **Coaching:** this is the bit the juniors see; qualified coaches helping them learn and refine their technique and helping them become better orienteers.

Mike says: All of these activities are being done currently to a greater or lesser extent, but we'd like to share them out a bit more and understand who is willing and able to help the squad on a more regular basis by taking on a few of the duties above.

If you think you may be able to help in any way contact Mike Pedley at yhoajuniorsquad AT gmail.com

## Do you need some more O kit?

**Need an extra AIRE top for multi day events?**

**Need a club running vest for sprint races?**

I have stock of AIRE tops in various sizes If you would like one please contact me at [lindseyking49@icloud.com](mailto:lindseyking49@icloud.com) or message me on 07908 747528. You can try before you buy.

The cost of the adult size tops is £42.32 and the junior size top is £33.85. The club has a loan scheme for junior members who participate regularly.



I also have some men's size AIRE running vests

We also have club jackets available to buy in this design and our older style.

Chairperson Cathy modelling the AIRE top and John Blatherwick the AIRE vest- photos by Wendy Carlyle.

**PS: I will have the AIRE pop up shop at Kippax Urban on 12<sup>th</sup> July including pre-loved O gear raising funds for junior orienteering**



## AIRE Members get mapping – Liz Carter

On Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> June the Club gave members a chance to have a hands-on look at the work that goes into making clear, fair and enjoyable orienteering maps.



The course gave participants the chance to look at orienteering from a different angle: not just reading the map but helping to create it. The session introduced the skills involved in turning green spaces into maps that runners can trust when they are moving at speed.

Good mapping sits at the heart of what we do as a club. Whether it is a local

MapRun, a permanent course, a training activity or a full event, the quality of the map shapes the experience for everyone taking part. Clear detail, sensible generalisation and up-to-date information all help make courses fairer and more enjoyable. The club is very fortunate to have a core of experienced mappers – we hope that this course will result in our new mappers working alongside them to update our maps and benefit from their knowledge and experience to develop their skills.

### What We Worked On

During the course, we looked at the judgement calls that every mapper must make. Which features are useful to show? Which details might clutter the map? How should paths, boundaries, buildings and vegetation be represented so that the map is accurate but still easy to read? And we were very fortunate to be in a lovely location and have good weather.

These are not always simple decisions, and that was part of the value of the session. We had the





opportunity to think like mappers, considering the needs of planners and competitors as well as the reality of what can be seen on the ground.

We were introduced to how to create a base map and mapping principles. Then we used traditional methods (pen and paper) to survey the area we were based in then used that information to draw the map on OCAD mapping software and we had the opportunity to experience using an OCAD Sketch app on our phones to mark the features on the map when we were out in the area. It would have been a bit tricky if the weather wasn't good!

### **Why It Matters for AIRE**

AIRE is fortunate to have a wide variety of local areas, from urban streets and canal-side routes to parks, woodland, school sites and the Dales area. Many of these places are compact but detailed, so small mapping choices can make a big difference to route choice, safety and enjoyment.

Building mapping knowledge within the club helps us keep our maps fresh and reliable. Paths change, vegetation grows, access arrangements alter and new developments appear, so having more members who understand the basics of mapping is a real strength for future events and activities.

### **Thanks to Everyone Involved**

Many thanks to everyone who took part in the course, in particular Anne & Richard Wilson for designing and leading it. It was encouraging to see us developing skills that will support the club well beyond a single event.

If you are interested in finding out more about mapping, planning or helping with future AIRE activities, do get in touch. The more people who understand how our maps are made, the stronger our events will be.

Liz Carter (Organiser)



## British Mixed Sprint Relays – Steve Webb (Club Captain)

After running around an airfield last year, the British Mixed Sprint Relay Champs reverted to academic surroundings in 2026. The venue was the North student village of Bristol University adjoining Clifton Downs (very reminiscent of the Stray in Harrogate). The assembly area was centred on a meadow where "no mow May" had clearly been practised as the grass was extremely long, certainly taller than the smallest junior orienteers!

We managed to get two teams on the podium this year. Our junior team Aire Brush comprising Alethea, Charlie and Sam moved steadily through the field into 5th and then 4th place before Sam ran the fastest leg 3 time and produced an incredible sprint finish to achieve a photo finish dead heat for bronze medal just a second behind silver. A great performance from Aire Brush.

The Young Junior relay went off in the same mass start as the Juniors and it made for an interesting watch. The whole field set off past the start kite and all but one runner headed up one side of a big building. The exception was Sebastian who looked at his map and set off alone at 90 degrees to everyone else. It was a slightly worrying moment but then one by one all the other Young Junior leg 1 runners gradually reappeared and headed off the way Sebastian had gone. Well done Sebby! We didn't have an Aire W12- to make up a full team with Sebastian and Alfie and hoped to make up an alliance team with another local club but sadly that didn't work out. So, in the end Sebastian ran both first and last legs and the Aire Cut team was fastest overall but obviously couldn't count for medals. It was great running from Sebastian and Alfie and clearly good practice for Sunday as they both won individual medals.

Our other medallists were the Aire Conditioning team in Supervets where the same combination of Chris, Joyce and Steve upgraded their bronze medal of 2025 to silver. This was a very keenly contested race and Chris ran an amazing first leg to return in the lead and Joyce kept up the momentum, returning in a close pack in 5th place. I had a really enjoyable but very hectic run on last leg against all my main M60 rivals. Positions were changing constantly as we zig zagged through the various accommodation blocks and surrounding parkland. I seemed to be yo-yoing between 2nd and 6th place all the way round, but in the end got a slight gap and just held on for the silver medal.

It was good to field an Elite Aire Force team this year as M50s David and Rolf accepted the challenge of running against the youngsters with Alice and Emily. Charlie said that AI had questioned my team selection; but I had to play the cards available to me whereas AI apparently felt able to select orienteers from completely different clubs! Also flying the Aire flag were the Guiseley-based Aire Compressor team in the Veteran class and Air Supply, our second team in Supervets.

Thanks and congratulations to everybody who signed up to represent Aire at this event – full results here :



SuperVet (55+)	AIRE Conditioning	Chris Gibbins Joyce Marshall Steve Webb	2/29 Silver
Junior (16-)	AIRE Brush	Alethea Carr Charlie Alcock Sam Crook	3/13 Bronze
SuperVet (55+)	AIRE Supply	David Williams Julia Crook Ian Marshall	17/29
Veteran (40+)	AIRE Compressor	Helen Alcock Kotomi Carr Scott Carr	20/23
Elite	AIRE Force	Alice Leake David Alcock Rolf Crook Emily Gibbins	mispunched
Young Juniors (12-)	AIRE Cut	Seb Carr Alfie Alcock Seb Carr	Non-competitive team, but crossed the finish line 1st



Don't forget the final opportunity to represent the club in team competition this year at the CompassSport Cup final in October.



## EYOC – Bethan Buckley

From the 22nd to the 28th of June, I had the opportunity to represent Great Britain at the European Youth Orienteering Championships (EYOC) in Nova Gorica, Slovenia. We were staying in a beautiful hostel on top of a hill by a monastery with great views of the mountains.

On Monday, we flew to Trieste in Italy and then had our tea (pizza of course) before arriving at the accommodation. On Tuesday we did training in a forest adjacent to the competition area, then went to a nearby town for some sprint training (during a huge thunderstorm!). Wednesday was the model events (training set up by the competition to become used to the mapping style and area), the forest was in the morning and sprint in the afternoon.

Thursday was the first competition day - the Sprint. I chose the last start block so I had a lot of time in quarantine before setting off to the start. It was a shock to turn the corner and start the race in the arena itself which made it much more stressful and sadly I didn't get the result I wanted but it was still really fun, despite running in 35 degrees! We then had the opening ceremony and prize giving in the evening (Lucy Ward from GB finished 6th so we watched her get her diploma), then we went back to the hostel.

Friday was the Long in Lokve forest. Again, I chose the last start block so I had 4.5 very long hours sitting in quarantine. My run was horrific and I didn't finish the course because I got too confused and ended up running my whole course distance at only number 4 (out of 12 controls), but luckily I wasn't the only one as someone managed to run 2km off the map into the previous day's training area and had to get picked up! We then had lots of time to relax and recover at the accommodation before leaving for the friendship party dressed in army costumes which was really fun and a great opportunity to make friends with other teams.





The final day was the relay in a forest similar to the Long so I was a bit nervous about repeating the previous day's shenanigans. I set off on the first leg and had an amazing run. I was in second place at the second to last control but after a 1 minute mistake I finished my leg in a big group in 7th. Hannah Chapman (SYO) then went out and came back in 9th, then Lucy Ward (INT) brought us home in 4th! We then went up on the podium and received our diplomas and flower crowns, before the most important thing - top swapping where I managed to get a New Zealand and Italy top! Then it was sadly time for us to leave so we drove back to the airport and went home.

Overall, it was an amazing experience ending with a massive high on the relay race and hopefully I will be able to go to EYOC again.





## Manchester in May

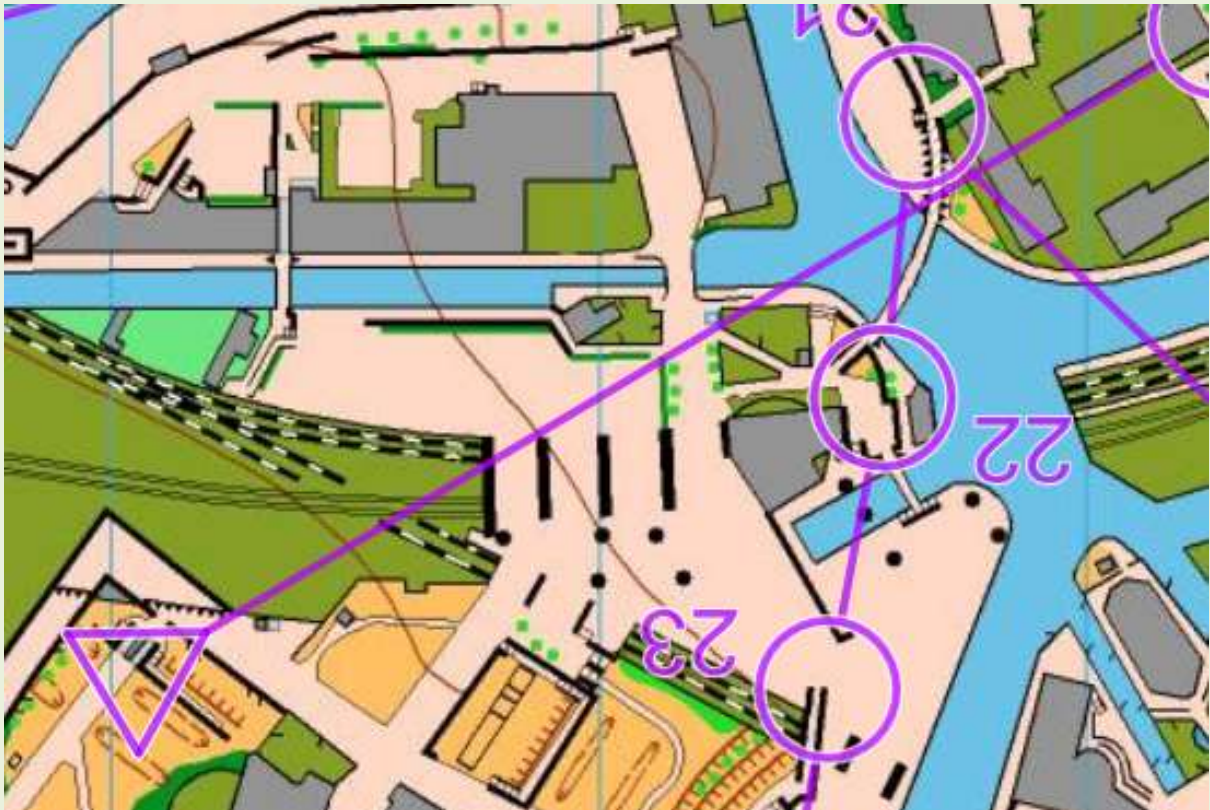
Manchester in May was a series of 3 events around the centre of Manchester over the May Bank Holiday weekend – middle and long-distance urban races on Days 1 and 2, then a head-to-head knock-out sprint on Day 3.

Day 2 was an urban event around the canals and viaducts of Castlefield, and the Deansgate and Spinningfields areas of the centre. This is my course - course 4, also run by Julia Crook. There were some tricky legs and route-choices around the canals, but also some straightforward running in the city centre. At least the high buildings gave some shade from the heat, and I was grateful that it wasn't really busy (unlike York a few weeks earlier – grr, trying to get past the Harry Potter shop on The Shambles!).





One section which some found confusing was Castlefield viaduct, which most courses went under straight from the start -



- and which actually looks like this (picture by Annapurna Mellor/National Trust images)





As well as the standard age-class courses, the urban races included a Score event - 60 mins on Day 2.

I had a front-row view of this course as my daughter (who lives in Manchester but hadn't been to an orienteering event since she was about 10) ran it.

This is the score course map as shown on RouteGadget, which has lots of confusing lines between controls. The actual map just had circles and control codes.





I think this is a good idea and there isn't much extra effort to put on a score course, but not an unqualified success and did feel like a bit of an after-thought.

Some good points –

- The control codes were on the map (not 1, 2, 3 etc)
- They had time to look at the map before going into the start boxes
- It was a score course – early on my daughter misread some unfamiliar map symbols, so just binned a control and went on somewhere else
- Only a low penalty score for being late

Not so good –

- Actually, a very low penalty score (1pt per minute) so would have been easy to 'game' and do a lot of extra controls if you realised
- I don't know how much they'd promoted the score courses, but there were only 11 people on Day 2 and half of those were already in orienteering clubs
- I needed to act as interpreter for some of the info from helpers

**Day 2 start – picture by Peter Cull**



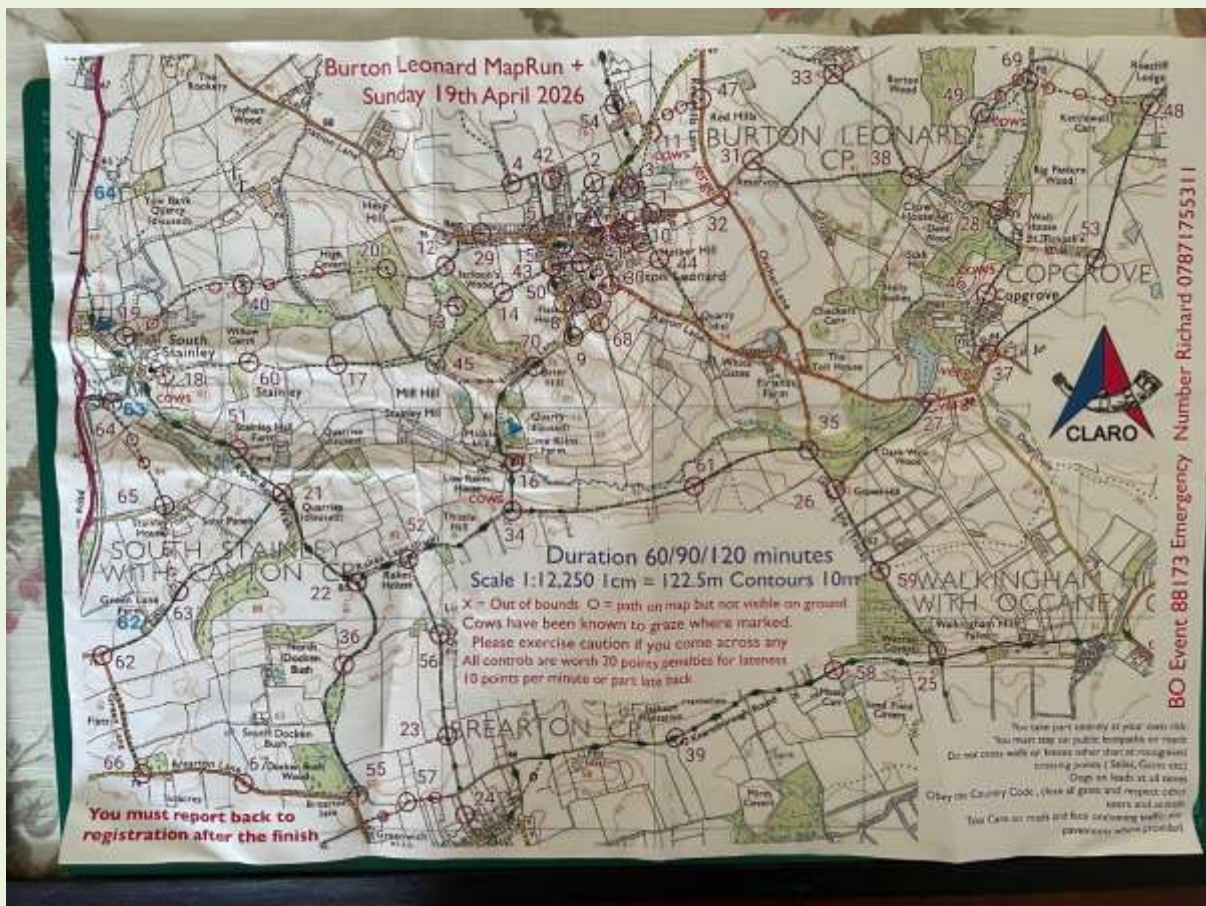


## CLARO MapRun+ - Burton Leonard

A few years ago, we put on some Countryside Score events on Wednesday evenings, long footpath-type runs using MapRun and similar to the SPunch events in the north-west, but the take-up wasn't great. This year CLARO have started MapRun+, a similar idea but on a Saturday and with more controls to choose from.

I ran the first of these, based at Burton Leonard between Harrogate & Ripon in April, along with Cathy Dawson and Jez Wilkinson (who both also ran the 90 minute version) and Gerry Symes (60 minutes). There were about 40 people there, of very varied speeds and ages.

The map was a 1:12,500 annotated OS map, with 70 controls so a lot of options, and 20 controls in or near to Burton Leonard village. Generally, the map was very clear but could be a bit confusing in the village, which affected people on the 60 minute option most.

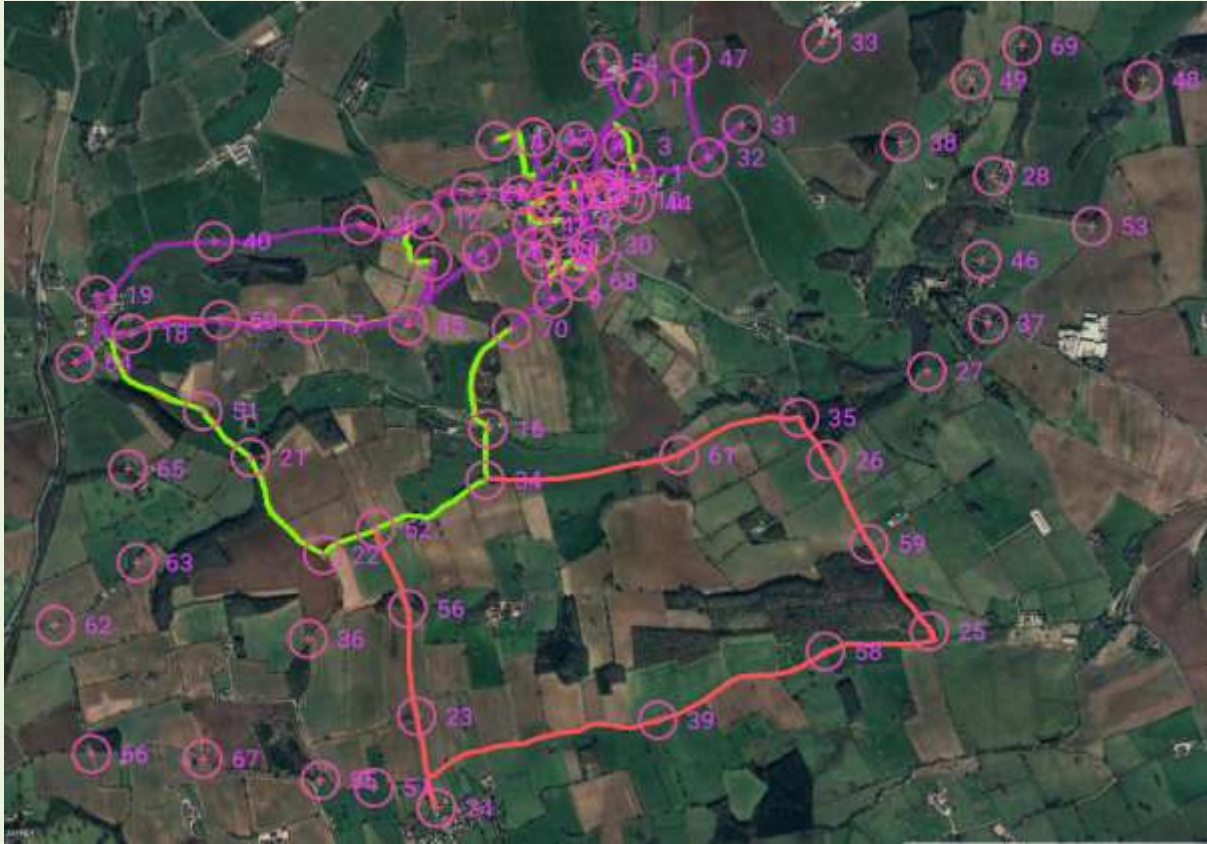


It was surprisingly dry underfoot and all-in-all a very enjoyable place for a long run, hearing and seeing wildlife on the way round while trying to calculate how far I could go.

I'll run another of these if I can.



These are our routes on the 90-minute option - Cathy (Red – 1<sup>st</sup>, 37 controls), me (Lime-green, 32 controls), Jez (Purple, 31 controls).

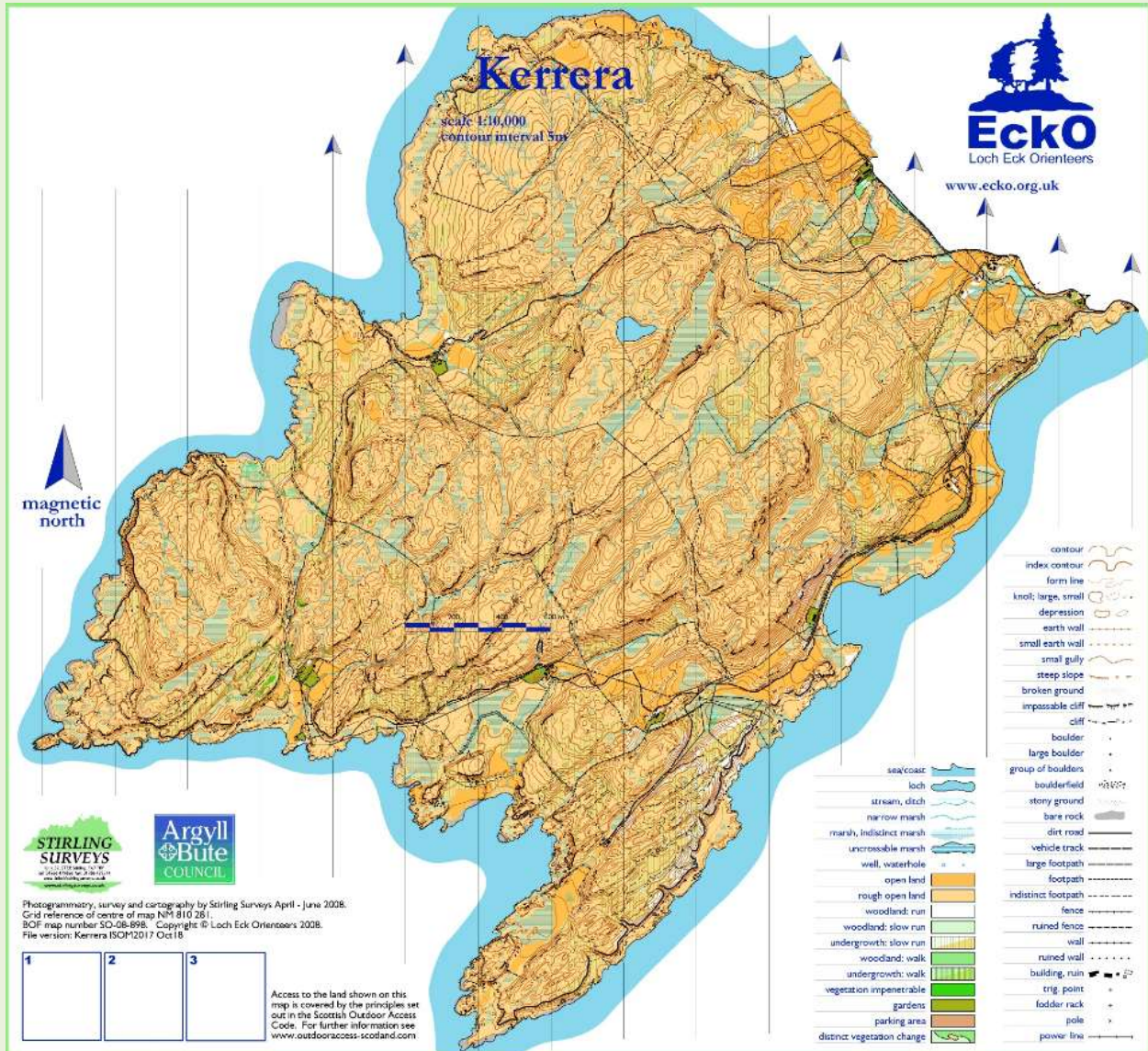




## You know you're an orienteer when ...

You're on holiday, you go for a walk, look around and think 'this would be a pretty good orienteering area', look it up, and ... yes, it's been mapped and used.

Isle of Kerrera, near Oban – last event in June 2024.



Detailed and extensive research\* reveals that it was first used for the Purple Thistle event in 2008, which was run by Peter, Sarah, Chloe and Lucy Haines.

It must have been quite an organisational challenge as there were about 300 competitors and the ferry only takes 12 people at a time and no visitors' cars.

(\* a few online searches)



## AIRE Achievements

Congratulations to :-

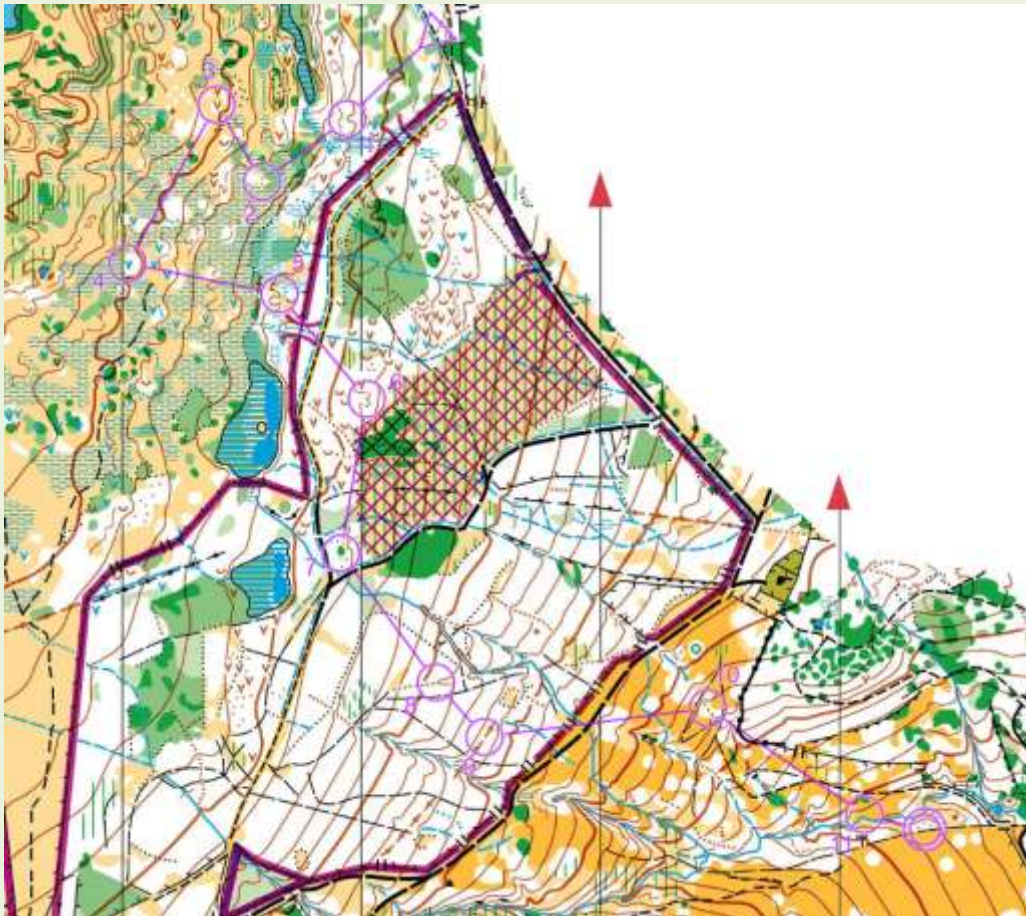
British Middle-Distance Championships – Brown Clee (Shropshire) – April 18th

Top 10

1 <sup>st</sup>	Bethan Buckley Sebastian Carr	W16 M10
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Judith Powell	W85
5 <sup>th</sup>	David Murgatroyd	M35
7 <sup>th</sup>	Tony Thornley	M75
8 <sup>th</sup>	David Alcock	M50
9 <sup>th</sup>	Jo Buckley Richard Wilson	W50 M70
10 <sup>th</sup>	Alethea Carr	W14

Also, in a large class –

Fay Stemp-Walsh 11<sup>th</sup> on W21, Anne Murgatroyd 11<sup>th</sup> on W45, Rolf Crook 11<sup>th</sup> on M50, Rob King 15<sup>th</sup> on M65



This is  
Course 14,  
Judith's  
course –  
W80, W85,  
W90, M85  
& M90



**All juniors who have been selected for summer camps and tours.**

**Bethan Buckley** on selection to run for the UK at the European Youth Orienteering Championships (EYOC) in Slovenia at the end of June - and running in the W16 relay team which finished in a very impressive **4<sup>th</sup>** place

**Ewen Wilkinson** on selection to run for the UK at the Junior World Orienteering Championships (JWOC) in Sweden

**British Sprint Championships – Bristol (UWE campus) – June 28<sup>th</sup>**

Top 10

<b>1<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>Sebastian Carr</b>	<b>M10</b>
<b>2<sup>nd</sup></b>	Alethea Carr Joyce Marshall Sam Crook	W14 W65 M16
<b>3<sup>rd</sup></b>	<b>Alfie Alcock</b>	<b>M12</b>
<b>4<sup>th</sup></b>	Steve Webb	M60
<b>5<sup>th</sup></b>	Helen Alcock Charlie Alcock Chris Gibbins	W40 M14 M55
<b>7<sup>th</sup></b>	Alice Leake	Women's Open



Alice at the British Sprint Championships – picture by Rob Lines



## AIRE Spring Sprint League

Class winners -

- Catherine Dawson
- Rebecca Gray
- Sam Crook
- Steve Webb

**All AIRE members who ran for their schools at the YHOA Schools Championships at Temple Newsam.**

This is the Yellow course, planned by Chris Gibbins, which was run by Year 7s & Year 8s.

