

Solid Results for Team GB at JW0C 2011

Report by Jason Imman (Lead Coach), Photos by David Rollins (IIM/Coach)

The 2011 Junior World Orienteering Championships (JWOC) were held in Weiherowo, Northern Poland. Preparations began in August 2010 when most of the team spent a week in Poland getting used to the terrain, maps, planning styles, culture, standard of accommodation and food. This camp proved an invaluable preparation tool for the 2011 team, one which has unfortunately had to be cut from the JWOC 2012 programme.

A pre-JWOC camp was held in Macclesfield in June, working on discipline-specific training ably planned by Tom Fellbaum of MDOC and lain Stamp of WCH. On the Friday lain staged a Middle race qualifier and final on Cannock Chase and on the Saturday, Tom planned several short Relay sessions (mass start and chasing start) before the team took part in MDOC's Middle distance event. On the Sunday Tom's new map of Macclesfield Town was used for a prologue and chasing Sprint event where the JWOC team were able to really open up and show the locals how it's done

Sprint Distance Race

As always the Junior World Champs began with the Sprint race which was held in Lebork. This was on a brand new map and the races were 20% forest and 80% urban. Kris Jones, JWOC Silver Medallist from 2010 was Team GB's main medal hope in this race. Unfortunately, Kris couldn't replicate last year's performance, being caught out twice by dead-end alleyways in the latter part of the course. Kris finished in 17th place, 57 seconds off Gold, with Peter Hodkinson 16 seconds behind him in 26th.

> Team GB's highest result came from Julia Blomquist who finished 16th, and this was backed up by good performances from Mairead Rocke in 20th and Rebecca Harding in 21st. It was great to see W18s Charlotte Watson and Zoe

Harding both in the top 40 and Jamie Stevenson, despite a whole season banned from sprinting due to shin splints, managing 42nd after a recent all-clear from the physio.

Long Distance Race

The Long distance race took place in the runnable beech forest that is characteristic of northern Poland. Team GB were "well-chuffed" to bring home some very solid results on what proved to be tough and hilly courses with some interesting route choice legs. Three excellent top 20 results came from Mairead Rocke (14th), Julia Blomquist (15th) and Kris Jones (17th): all major improvements on their 2010 performances. Peter Hodkinson finished at the back of a tight pack in 26th but only 47 seconds down on Kris and Alan Cherry running in his first JWOC achieved his best individual run of the week in 42nd. Matt Halliday suffered a real misfortune due to inconsistencies in the start officials' understanding of the rules after he lost his dibber in the pre-start area. Matt would have achieved a top 30 result if. his actual time had been allowed to stand.

In the Middle qualification races Team GB achieved 4 men and 4 women through to the A final, a solid representation. Peter Hodkinson learnt a valuable

.Blomquist, 8 seconds behind in 20th and Mairead Rocke in 21st. All four men failed to run cleanly enough to break into the top spots with Matt

with a relatively flat forest around the assembly arena producing sub 4 minute kilometres. On the women's first leg, 2nd team Charlotte Watson had a fantastic run to send Lucy Butt out with some very classy athletes. Rebecca Harding didn't have such a great start, and despite Julia Blomquist and Mairead Rocke both racing well the women could only manage 11th. In the men, Kris Jones proved again that he's a reliable first leg runner to come back only 52 seconds down, but the highlight of the day was Alan Cherry for the 2nd team, coming back only 28 seconds down! Matt Halliday ran a solid 2nd leg to keep Team GB in the fight for a podium but unfortunately Peter Hodkinson couldn't maintain the position and the lads had to settle for 9th, two

This was another successful JWOC for Team GB, finishing 8th Nation. Although we didn't quite accomplish the individual results of 2010 (Ralph Street 7th in the Middle and Kris Jones Silver in the Sprint), we saw more athletes attain a higher spread of results; 4 athletes achieved top 20s and 7 athletes achieved top 40s.

Most notable athlete of the week was Julia Blomquist who achieved a top 20 in all three individual disciplines. Despite this, Julia still wasn't pleased with the technical cleanliness of any race and like many members of the team she's very keen to improve on her results next year and beyond.



ck row: Rebecca Harding, Lucy Butt, Mairead Rocke, Julie Blomgvist, Charlotte Watson, Zoe Harding Front row: Alan Cherry, Jonathan Crickmore, Peter Hodkinson, Matt Halliday, Jamie Stevenson, Kris Jones

Halliday recording the best result in 40th. In the Relays things proved very fast and furious minutes off the podium.







This year's Junior Inter Regional Championships (JIRCs) were hosted by the North West Orienteering Association, with events being held in the South Lakes. Twelve regional teams and a total of 195

> Adam Bartlett (LOC) reports, "Saturday's Individual race was organised by LOC, and was held on the sand dunes of Haverigg in hot and sunny weather. The area is a long narrow strip of sand dunes, which resulted in fast winning times. Courses were visible from the assembly, giving a great view for spectators as competitors disappeared and reappeared, as they zigzagged their way through the dunes."

> > Carl Edmonds (LOC) continues, "The event was on complex terrain which was both technically and physically challenging but as usual there was a friendly competitive atmosphere between all the competing regions and coaches.

The North West came out on top scoring 243 points, with Scotland just 19 points behind on 224 points and the West Midlands on 200 points. There were 14 top ten placing's for the North West with some of

the best results for the boys being; Ollie Williams (2nd. M16), Will Rigg (3rd, M16) and Carl Edmonds (4th, M18). The girls did even better with Hannah Cleary-Hughes (2nd, W14), Lois Jefferson (3rd, W14) and Helen Ockenden (5th, W14). Sarah Jones secured a class win on the W16 race with Katie Wright 4th. Rosie Watson was 3rd in the W18 and Katrin Harding was 5th.

These results really helped to set the team up for the following day.

As this was my last appearance at the JIRCs it was fantastic to be on the winning side again and to have contributed towards the win. The only downside was the huge blisters which I gained after my run on the

Adam continues, "Sunday's Relay races were organized by SROC

dunes!"

and were held in the pine forest of Simpson Ground which was a complete contrast to the previous day. The races began with a mass start of the 16's, followed by the 14's and then the 18's. All courses this year were gaffled. Much of the race was hidden from spectators, as competitors battled through the thick forest, with positions only apparent when the competitors burst out of

was a tough course. Oddly for Relays, at the end of the second leg, there were very few runners in groups, sending the 18s who were on last leg out into the forest generally alone.

In the boys, Yorkshire and Humberside came out on top with the team of Zac Field. Ruaridh Mon-Williams and Aidan Smith. The podium was completed by the South Central team of Dane Blomquist.

Tim Morgan and Peter Bray in second place and the West Midlands team of Matthew Elkington, Harrison McCartney and William Gardner in

In the girls Relay, the first three North West W18s set out on last leg with over a 5 minute lead to any other teams. Fairly clean runs meant that the girls' podium was awash with yellow, red and green with a NW 1 (Natalie Beadle, Hannah Cleary-Hughes, Katrin Harding,) 2 (Sarah Jone, Lois Jefferson, Rosie Watson) and 3 (Katie Wright, Helen Ockenden, Carrie Beadle).

So after an especially strong performance by the North West girls, the NWOA walked away with 4 of the 5 available trophies, with Scotland taking the boys' trophy. As my last

JIRCs, and on home soil, with a great competitive yet friendly atmosphere throughout the weekend, it seemed like the perfect result to me!"

The North West won the individual

team trophy.



Carl, Katrin and Adam would like to say on behalf of the North West Junior Squad a huge 'well done' to all the athletes and coaches from all the regions who took part and a special thank you to all the people who gave their time freely to organise and plan such a marvellous weekend for us all



first leg, 3 minutes clear of a group containing about nine The W16s came out of the forest far more together, with the first 7 teams within a minute. Many coming back were rather muddy and all considered it

the trees to punch the

Katrin Harding (SROC) tells Ozone about the

races, "The boys

Relay started and

they went charging

out into the forest.

The marshes, hills

and fairly intricate

becoming very spread

out with Matthew Elkington

coming into the lead on the

contours led to everyone

spectator control, before

disappearing again."

Full results on the NWJS website at www.nwoa.org.uk

European Youth Orienteering Championships

Jindřichův Hradec, Czech Republic, 23-26 July 2011 Report & Photos by Elizabeth Furness (Team Manager)

At a time when many other teenagers were totally focused on exams, twelve of our young athletes had also been preparing for the **European Youth Orienteering Championships** (EYOC) taking place in the Czech Republic. On the day of departure, one had been in school at 07:30 to sit an exam and another had to come out on the evening flight after two A level exams. We are not the only country thus affected but talking to other nation's coaches and to athletes, the view is that the calendar is so full that if we want EYOC then this is when it is. Our athletes consider it an excellent opportunity to test themselves at this level and all agreed they had learnt a lot and gained motivation to aim higher.

Long Race

We had mixed fortunes over the weekend but the undoubted highlight was in the Long race when Florence Haines came into the spectator control announced in 5th place, then at pre-warning as the new leader and finally giving her all through the run-in to finish 9 seconds ahead of the Estonian. Her eventual 4th place was the best performance by a W18 in the Long at EYOC for a very long time.

Florence says: "I really enjoyed my race. I was quite sloppy with my navigation early on as we got thrown straight into some low visibility green but as I got into the course I found myself running with a few other people. This pushed my running, especially when I took a different route choice and beat them to the control! As I went through the spectator control I felt strong going into the last couple of kilometres. From here on my navigation was near perfect and on a longer leg towards the end I was racing head to head with a German girl. As I punched the 2nd to last control I accelerated and left the German behind and used my remaining energy on the sprint finish. It's a good job I did because I was leading by only 9 seconds!

As the morning passed I watched 3 girls come in to beat me; congratulations to them. Coming 4th was amazing and going up onto the podium with the whole Great

Chris Galloway's

route on the M16 Sprint

Britain team cheering me on made all that hard training worth

Well done to the rest of the GR team and a big thank you to all the coaches for a fantastic weekend of racing.

Sprint Race

We had a relatively young and inexperienced team who all rose to the occasion and approached the races with appropriate focus, some nerves and a great deal of determination. Chris Galloway, who only started orienteering two years ago, tells us about his Sprint race which was held in the bustling tourist town of Trebon with ancient walls, narrow streets and open parkland.

"The courses were largely park based with some urban legs which made for fast orienteering. My start was late so I was hanging around in guarantine for a while as the rest of the team went off one by one. I had a reasonable run, but made some stupid mistakes on the way including not being sure of the location of the start kite, which led to me standing lost at the first corner for about 5 seconds and then taking the wrong route to the first control, overall losing about 20 seconds; a bad start! I made another mistake at number nine going the wrong way when I hit a path which lost me about half a minute so I was frustrated going through the spectator control (no12). The rest of the course was fine and I ended up coming 20th which was good, but I was frustrated about the mistakes which cost me a top 6 finish. Overall it was a great experience and I would like to thank the coaches and the rest of the team for making it so amazing."

Map Note:

Athletes came from quarantine through the narrow alleyway south of the Finish, into the bustling town square with the Finish ramp on their right. They were then funnelled across the run-in to a start gate with the narrow alleyway ahead of them. Chris was not the only one to be confused about where the start kite was.



Relay order and Katherine Hall describes her experience as our first athlete off on the first mass start of the day.

in the way that means your shoes get soaked through in about a minute! It was also another 6:30am breakfast as the first mass start was off

map, my hopes weren't high as the area didn't look too brilliant and having had a bad run on the Long day, I really wanted to have at least one clean run over the weekend. At about 8:15am the GBR team did a group warm up with coach Paul Murgatroyd, which was great to keep warm in the



The three first year W16s were clear about their

"The third and last day of the EYOC was the Relay day, which didn't really start well as it was raining at 9am - the W16 girls - which I was running 1st leg on. With this being my first competition at this level, I wasn't expecting to do as well as some of the other girls, but I was still very excited and didn't want to let down my team members so early on in

Arriving at the arena and receiving the warm-up drizzle and take my mind off the race ahead.



I had set my mind on just having a clean run and enjoying it, and not looking at what the others were doing. The first few controls went smoothly, however at #3 I was with a pack of about 7 and found it before them. When they saw me exit the control they literally ran straight into me to get it, and I got put off my bearing, taking about 2 minutes of messing around and being followed by a Spaniard to relocate.

L-R Florence Haines, Rhona McMillan, Natalie

Beadle, Rona Lindsay, Megan Carter-Davies,

However I found the same pack again at #4 as they'd all followed each other and got lost too. Then it was clean running, albeit a 10 second wobble at #9, to the spectator control at #10. I had a nice bit of a GBR chant from the team and felt good entering the forest for the final loop, catching a few people on the way. I lost 30 seconds at #13, coming

in the Long

race were

down into the forest too quickly but relocated fine. Unfortunately my running let me down coming up the hill to the changeover and I dropped 2 positions, bringing the team

Overall our team of Meg Carter-Davies. Natalie Beadle and I came 12th and we all really enjoyed it. It was a great experience running first leg with some of the best in Europe, and the whole weekend was amazing!"

Elizabeth Furness concludes, **"We headed home with** real team spirit, a sense of achievement and a clearer understanding of what each athlete needs to do over the coming months to build up to greater fitness, develop more speed or master technical aspects of our sport. We're already looking forward to Bugeat, France in 2012!"



Orienteering

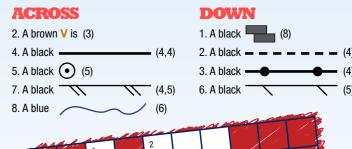
www.britishorienteering.org.uk/page/community_o

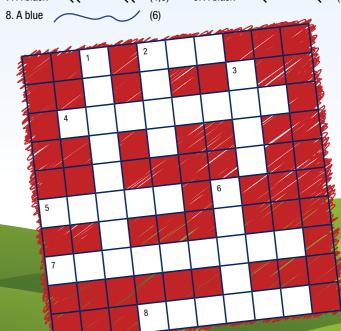
meet up with people you already

orienteer with. To find a community O

Club near to your home visit

By identifying the map symbols, complete the answers in the See back page for Crossword answers crossword below.





ZONE



Yvette Baker Trophy

Planner

Association	Date	Venue	Club
EA0A	23/10/11	Rowney Warren, Shefford	WAOC
EMOA	13/11/11	Byrons Walk, Kirkby in Ashfield	NOC
NEOA	13/11/11	Wallington, Morpeth	NATO
NWOA	09/10/11	Caldbeck Fells, Penrith	BL
SCOA	20/11/11	Pamber Forest, Tadley	BAD0
SE0A	02/10/11	Charlton Forest, Chichester	S0
SWOA	13/11/11	Hone Moor, Ashburton	DEVON
WMOA	12/11/11	Lickey Hills, Rednal, Birmingham	HOC
WOA	20/11/11	Ffridd Mathrafal, Welshpool	POW
YHOA	13/11/11	Ashdale, Helmsley	EBOR
YBT Final 2011			
YHOA	04/12/11	Mausoleum Woods, Caistor	HAL0

British School Score Orienteering Championships (BSSC)

Saturday 8th October: Beaulieu Estate, New Forest, Hampshire.

General Enquiries to Colin Hicks. Email:colinhicks@chartwork.org.uk

Email.commicks@chartwork.org.uk

Entries to David and Christine Currie.

 ${\bf Email: bsscentries@southampton-orienteers.org.uk}$

Sunday 9th October:

WSX Orienteering Club will have a level B event at Bisterne Close in the New Forest.

British Schools Orienteering Championships (BSOC)

Saturday 19th November:

Training Day - Lanark Moor Country Park, Lanark

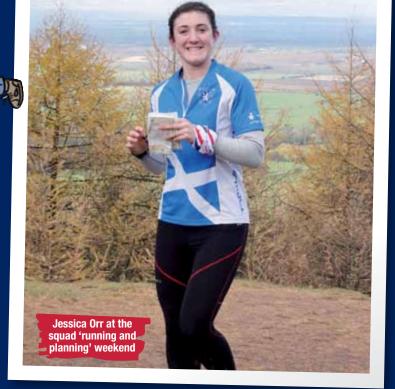
Sunday 20th November:

Championships - Beecraigs Country Park, Linlithgow Email: BSOC2011@biggar.s-lanark.sch.uk

Further information for both events can be found at www.bsoa.org

www.britishorienteering.org.uk/page/ozone

Crossword Answers 2a.Pit 4a.Dirt Road 5a.Cairn 7a.High Fence 8a. Stream 1b.Building 2b.Path 3b.Wall 6b.Fence



Age: 20

Club: EUOC/CLYDE

Age started orienteering? 5

Do your parents orienteer? Yes

Why/where did you start orienteering?

JUNIOR PROFILE:

During a holiday in France with friends. We used to take ages doing an orange course as we would have a picnic on the way round.

What do you enjoy about orienteering?

The people, the satisfaction of a good race and going to amazing parts of the world.

Do you have a coach?

I have a lot of people I talk to about my orienteering, such as my sister Hollie, my dad and Nev Myers.

If so, how has this helped you?

It's good to know that other people care about your racing and training; they give you a different perspective on things, good or bad.

Where is your favourite place to orienteer?

I like a good challenge, so somewhere technical. The French terrain during the World Champs is definitely up there, but maybe somewhere similar in Norway or Sweden

What kind of training do you do?

A mixture of lots of things but mainly running, orienteering, some cycling, pilates and strength and conditioning work.

What is your best result? 3rd at the British Long Champs this year.

What advice would you give to people wanting to get into the GB Squad?

Don't give up! Orienteering is a long game and you only get better with experience. If you miss out on something one year, there are plenty more opportunities to come. Self belief is everything!

What do you enjoy doing outside of orienteering?

I like skiing and the odd bit of painting.