

British TrailO Newsletter

June 2026



extremadura
sport.com

extremadura
sport.com

Consejo
Superior
de Depo

Consejo
Superior
de Deportes

1



JUNTA DE EXTREMADURA
Consejería de Cultura, Turismo y Deportes
Dirección General de Deportes



Federación
Extremeña
de Orientación

#ExtremaduraesDeporte

Introduction from the Editor

It has been a busy spring for those able to travel and attend the various different European World Ranking Events (WREs) held in the last 4 months. The 8 different weekends have included 22 WREs including 8 using the new PreO Sprint format. There have been so many events that not all are covered by reports in this Newsletter!

Of course, the focus now is on the European TrailO Championships 2026 (ETOC) which start at the end of July. The GBR team has been selected (see *next page*) and it was particularly good to have 3 Juniors, enough for a relay team, selected to compete in the new Junior Championship class. Good luck to them all.

One related issue that led to a chat on a TrailO WhatsApp group is the absence of women in the team. It is beyond the scope of this Editorial to try and give reasons for this and, as a man, it is probably not something I am qualified to assess. However, as there are no male/female classes in TrailO, it would require a look at some fundamentals to see whether something can be done to increase participation by women.

A similar discussion could consider why there is only one GBR team member selected for the P Class. In a sport designed to enable participation by physically challenged competitors, this also seems disappointing particularly now there is a P Class TempO Championship.

The event calendar is given below and, once ETOC is over, there will be a few additional European WREs to attend in October and November. Unfortunately there is nothing yet in the schedule for here in the UK. Please watch out for announcements of any late additions.

David Jukes (davidjukes@sky.com)



Cover Picture:

Taken at the Spanish TrailO weekend in April, the photo shows **Ben Kyd** on the podium as the overall weekend winner. Ben won both the PreO Sprint and the PreO events. See the report: pages 20-22.

(Photo: Eloisa Tapia)

Event Calendar

The table below lists some of the main TrailO events currently scheduled to be taking place in the future. Included in the table are all currently announced UK TrailO events and all designated World Ranking Events (**WRE**).

- P = PreO; T = TempO; PSp = PreO Sprint; ECTO = European Cup in TrailO



Date	Event	Status	Country
2026			
20-24 July	O-Ringen, PreO (5P)	4 WRE	Sweden
28-29 July	PreETOC 2026 events (P + T)	2 WRE (<i>tbc</i>)	Poland
29 July - 4 August	European TrailO Championships (ETOC)		Poland
19-20 September	Lahti TrailO Nordic Match (P + T+ PSp)	3 WRE / 2 ECTO	Finland
17-18 October	Dragon Cup - Polish TrailO Championships 2026 (P + T+ PSp)	3 WRE / 2 ECTO	Poland
24-25 October	Trail-O Adriatic Meeting	2 WRE	Italy
5-6 December	Hong Kong Annual Trail Orienteering Championships 2026 (P + T)	2 WRE	Hong Kong
2027			
9-14 November	World TrailO Championships (WTOC)		USA

GBR TrailO Teams Selection 2026



British Orienteering have announced the British team to compete at this summer's European TrailO Championships in Poland. The event is taking place from the 29th July to the 3 August with the event centre in the Polish city of Szczecin.

This year, for the first time, there will be separate Championship events for the 3 TrailO classes: Open, P class and Junior. For each class, there will be 3 Championships - for PreO, for TempO and a Relay.

The British Orienteering team selectors have announced that the following will be attending and competing for GBR. Led by Charles Bromley Gardner, the role of Team Manager is to be shared with Iain Phillips and Ben Kyd.

Open Class team members

In the Open Class, Peter Dobra has been selected to compete in the TempO event and River Edis-Smith will compete in the PreO event. The other 5 members will compete in both. The Relay teams (2 x 3 people) will be selected at ETOC based on performance and to provide potential development experience.



Charles Bromley Gardner (BAOC)



Tom Dobra (TVOC)



Peter Dobra (SAX)



River Edis-Smith (SYO)



David Jukes (BKO)



Ben Kyd (MDOC)



Iain Phillips (LEI)

P Class team member



Colin Duckworth (HALO)

Junior Class team members



James Curtis (SO)



Jack Knight (KERNO)



Tom Knight (KERNO)

For the P Class, Colin will compete in both PreO and TempO events

The selectors were delighted to be able to select 3 Juniors to enable them to compete in all three events: PreO, TempO and Relay

John David (Dave) Gittus (1941 -2026)

As Dave was an early enthusiast for TrailO, we were saddened to hear of his death, aged 85, on the 27th May. In TrailO, he was a gold medallist at the World TrailO Championships in 2006 and this remains GBR's best ever individual result.

Dave was very active in FootO before taking up TrailO. Originally a member of Harlequins, he was one of the founders of Wrekin Orienteers in 1975. He was a very active mapper, organiser and planner for the club as well as serving in various positions on the club committee. In 1984, he was the first winner of the national Silva Trophy for contributions to orienteering.

With the development of TrailO as a separate discipline in the 1990s, when Dave developed an ankle injury which prevented further FootO events, he gave his full support and became a skilled TrailO competitor. Some of his achievements are shown in the table.

Following a 4th place in the P class in 2004, in 2006 he got Gold in the P class and 8th in Open. At that time, P class competitors could also compete in Open at same time.

He was in the GBR WTOC team in 2008 and 2009 with his final WTOC selection in 2010 in Norway.

In addition to orienteering, Dave was a keen rugby player and supporter and his charity work included collecting second-hand boots and sending them to eastern Europe.



Dave Gittus at WTOC 2009

Some of Dave's top achievements		
1998	Germany	European Championship: Bronze medallist
2002	UK (N. Ireland) Ireland	British Championships: Winner (Open/P Class) Irish Championship: Winner - Top visitor
2003	Switzerland	World Cup: Bronze medallist in Paralympic class
2004	Italy Sweden	European Championships: Silver medallist Open PreO World Championships: GBR team member, P Class Gold medallist (with Karen Darke and Sue Boyt)
2005	Ireland	Irish Championship: Winner - Top visitor
2006	Finland	European Championships: Silver medallist (and 4th in Open) World Championships: Champion in Paralympic class
2007	UK (Cumbria) Ireland	British Championships: Winner (Open/P Class) Irish Championship: Winner - Top visitor
2008	Czech Republic	World Championships: Bronze medallist in Paralympic class



Above: Dave competing in a TrailO event in the UK

Right: Photo of the GBR team at WTOC 2009 -
Front: Karen Darke + John Kewley. Back:
Anne Braggins, Brian Parker, Peter Roberts,
Dave Gittus, John Crosby, Don Braggins.



New IOF Athlete Representatives elected

On the 8th April, the IOF announced that the Athlete Representatives to the IOF Athletes' Advisory Groups for the new two-year term 2026-2028 had been elected by the athletes for all four disciplines.

The elected IOF Athlete Representatives represent the voice and interests of athletes and are part of consultation- and decision-making processes within the IOF organisation.

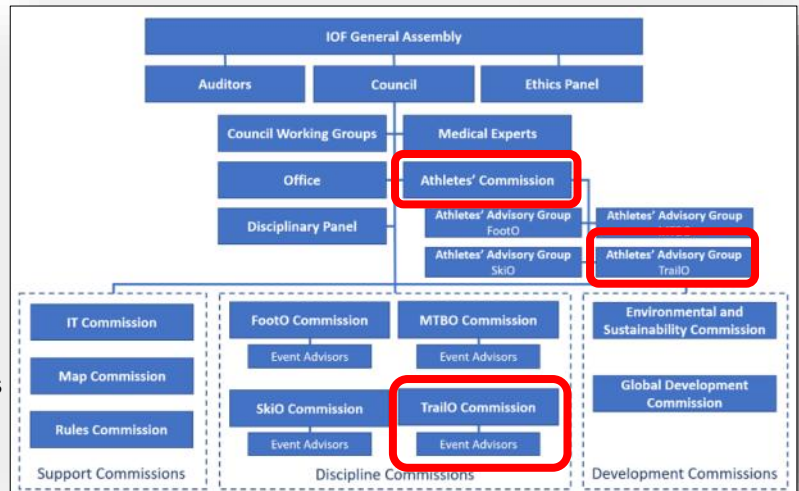
There is one Athlete Advisory Group (AAG) for each discipline with a minimum of 4 members and a maximum of 6 members. The groups must have one or more members from outside Europe and at least two of each gender.

Following the elections, the TrailO AAG for 2026-2028 consists of:

Pinja Mäkinen (FIN), Aaron Gaio (ITA), John Kewley (GBR) and Claudio de Moura Castro Jacques (BRA)

Since the 1 May 2026, the elected IOF Athletes' Advisory Groups (AAGs) are continuing the work of the previous AAGs, and will elect their representatives to the IOF Athletes Commission. The Athletes Commission consists of two representatives from each AAG, of different gender.

The Athletes Commission will then appoint two representatives to be full members of the IOF Council, one of each gender. This will finally be ratified by the IOF General Assembly in July 2026.



Future World and European TrailO Championships

The following appears in the minutes of the Council meeting of the 20 March:

Applications were still missing for the World Trail Orienteering Championships 2028. Council decided to extend the application deadline for these events until 1 July 2026.

Linked to this, the IOF has had a 'Sustainable Event Program Working Group' to identify ways to increase the number of Federations offering to stage the Championships. The report is one item for discussion at a 'Pre-General Assembly Seminar' on the 24th June. The following is an extract from the TrailO section of the report:

TrailO Commission has chosen to prioritise the organisation of an annual World TrailO Championships (WTOC). The European TrailO Championships (ETOC), previously organised every second year, has now been cancelled or paused and will only be reconsidered once there is sufficient confidence in securing future WTOC organisers, which is currently not the case. There has also been no progress in establishing regional championships outside Europe.

TrailO has seen an increase in World Ranking Event (WRE) event weekends. Part of this can be attributed to the new PreO sprint format: weekends with three WREs are now common, and sprint-focused weekends with Tempo and PreO sprint are attracting younger competitors while allowing the use of smaller areas. A higher number of WREs is likely to increase the pool of potential WTOC organisers in the future.

Within TrailO, there are concerns regarding the level of participation fees proposed by organisers. Work is ongoing with the aim of introducing entry fee caps in the future to ensure that events remain accessible to a broad range of IOF Member Federations and athletes.



Ranking lists based on the new TrailO World Ranking scheme are now available for all 3 formats: PreO, TempO and PreO Sprint. Given below are the current listings (4 June 2026) showing the leading GBR competitors (plus Michael Tsang (SLOW) who is based in London but listed as Hong Kong).

The listings are unofficial as they are taken from the Trail Open Project (TOP) website which is updated daily. The official IOF Rankings on the IOF website are subject to a delay as results are uploaded more slowly. At the time of writing, there are no PreO Sprint results showing on the IOF listing despite there now having been 8 PreO Sprint WREs this year.

PreO

PreO - Top 8 GBR Competitors

All	P Class	Jun. Class		Score	Events counted
1			Anders Hoije (SWE)	5964	6
10		1	Jonatan Furucz (SVK)	5852	6
29			Tom Dobra	5731	6
31			Ben Kyd	5713	6
38			John Kewley	5635	6
50			Charles Bromley Gardner	5563	6
64	1		Michael Johansson (SWE)	5447	6
93			David Jukes	5152	6
96			Iain Phillips	5080	6
108			Michael Chun Chi Tsang (HKG)	4808	6
118			Graham Urquhart	4579	6
178			Elizabeth Urquhart	3687	6
255	37		Colin Duckworth (P)	2037	3

TempO

TempO - Top 8 GBR Competitors

All	P Class	Jun. Class		Score	Events counted
1			Krystian Petersburski (POL)	5978	6
5		1	Albert Forst (CZE)	5866	6
7			Ben Kyd	5832	6
34			John Kewley	5419	6
40			Tom Dobra	5343	6
42			Charles Bromley Gardner	5315	6
55			Iain Phillips	5067	6
66			David Jukes	4864	6
67	1		Jana Kost'ová (CZE)	4856	6
73			Graham Urquhart	4760	6
79			Michael Chun Chi Tsang (HKG)	4647	6
111			Elizabeth Urquhart	3886	6

Given below are the current positions in the PreO Sprint ranking list. At first sight, this looks very good for GBR competitors - 6 from GBR in the top 20! The ranking scores are however based on a competitor's total for 6 events and, so far, there have only been 8 PreO WREs..

For the WR scheme rules, see: [Competition Rules for Trail Orienteering](#)
 For the IOF listing, see: [IOF World Ranking - TrailO](#)
 For the TOP listings, see: [Trail Open Project - Series](#)

As can be seen in the table, many GBR competitors have now got scores based on 5 or 6 events. The table in TOP also includes competitors' average scores for the events they have attended. There are quite a number with average scores over 900 based on results from just 2 or 3 events. If they continue with that standard of performance then their totals will be significantly over 5000. Based on average scores, Krystian Petersburski (POL) who has scores from only 3 events would be leading the table.

There are only a further 3 PreO Sprint WREs scheduled for 2026 so it will probably be sometime into 2027 before the ranking list really reflects a realistic representation of PreO Sprint performance. Perhaps it will only become useful once there are 24 months of events after which competitors will see some early events becoming too old to be included. For now though, marvel at the apparent success of the GBR competitors!

PreO Sprint

PreO Sprint - Top 8 GBR Competitors					
All	P Class	Jun. Class		Score	Events counted
1			<i>Anders Haugskott (NOR)</i>	5839	6
3			Ben Kyd	5699	6
4		1	<i>Albert Forst (CZE)</i>	5696	6
5			John Kewley	5610	6
9			<i>Michael Chun Chi Tsang (HKG)</i>	4921	6
10			Iain Phillips	4887	6
11			Charles Bromley Gardner	4402	5
12	1		<i>Zbigniew Bąk</i>	4234	5
13			Graham Urquhart	4150	5
14			David Jukes	4674	5
21			Elizabeth Urquhart	4584	5
36			Tom Dobra	2805	3

British TrailO League 2026 (BriTOL)

The 2026 BriTOL scores are now based on the following 3 events (*see right*). As described in the last Newsletter, the League is now using a new scoring system in which the winner gets 1000 points and, based on relative performance, subsequent finishers get a lower score. To determine the overall League winner, a competitor's top scores are added and the winner is the one with the largest number. The number of events used is half the total number of events plus 1 rounded down to the nearest whole number. With there currently being just 3 events, this gives the number of events to score as 2. If there is another event this year, a competitor's best 3 events will be used to determine their total.

E1	28-Feb	TrailO @ the BOC	PreO
E2	03-Apr	JK Day 1	PreO Sprint
E3	04-Apr	JK Day 2	PreO Sprint

The table on the next page shows the current overall BriTOL positions of the top 20 competitors. **Tom Dobra** (TVOC) is currently leading. His two second place positions gave him two excellent scores placing him above **Nicholas Morgan** who won the Day 1 JK PreO Sprint. The leading Junior is **Erik Biernacki-Jablonski** who, despite being beaten by **Jack Knight** (KERNO) on JK Day 1, gained a good score on JK Day 2 giving him the better overall score.

For more details, see: [British TrailO League](#)
 For the League scores on TOP, see: [BriTOL Current Standings:](#)

	Name	Class	E1	E2	E3	Total (Best 2)
1	Tom Dobra	O	-	99.52	99.67	199.19
2	Nicholas Alexander Morgan	O	89.18	100	89.2	189.2
3	Ian Ditchfield	O	96.86	85.07	82.7	181.93
4	Matthias Mahr	O	96.87	84.93	-	181.8
5	River Edis-Smith	O	-	89.84	88.24	178.08
6	Iain Phillips	O	100	75.44	77.21	177.21
7	Erik Biernacki-Jablonski	J	-	84.92	88.68	173.6
8	Michael Chun Chi Tsang	O	72.69	89.8	83.02	172.82
9	Wang Ki Yuen	O	-	89.85	82.65	172.5
10	Alison Smithard	O	-	80.18	89.22	169.4
11	Diane Jacks	O	77.33	70	88.27	165.6
12	Iain Bell	O	-	75.25	88.82	164.07
13	Scott Collier	O	93.13	65.48	-	158.61
14	Ian Jones	O	72.2	55.61	83.38	155.58
15	Jack Knight	J	68.76	85.28	-	154.04
16	Graham Urquhart	O	72.61	80.19	48.15	152.8
17	Hanna Biernacka	O	-	80.25	71.52	151.77
18	Helena Crutchley	O	69.71	80.15	-	149.86
19	Zhenlong Li	O		70.21	76.78	146.99
20	Tom Knight	J	72.61	70.38	-	142.99

European Cup in TrailO 2026 (ECTO)

The table on the right shows the events which have been designated 'ECTO' events for 2026.

Points are allocated to each competitor based on their place in an event. At the end of the year, a competitor's best 5 scores from all 12 are used to give their overall score and to determine the final positions

Based on the results from the first 8 designated events for 2026, the current standings are shown in the table on the right. Leading currently is Anders Haugskott (NOR) but Krystian Petersburski (POL) has only 4 scores compared to 5 for Anders. Congratulations to Ben Kyd (MDOC) who is the current GBR leader. His scores include one win (60pts) and one 5th place (40pts).

21-22 March	Slovakia	PreO Sprint + TempO
18-19 April	Spain	TempO + PreO
25-26 April	Italy	TempO + PreO
30-31 May	Norway	PreO + PreO Sprint
19-20 September	Finland	TempO + PreO
17-18 October	Poland	TempO + PreO

1	O	Anders Haugskott (NOR)	266
2	O	Krystian Petersburski (POL)	197
3	O	Pinja Mäkinen (FIN)	197
5	O	Ben Kyd	188
12	O	John Kewley	102
56	O	Charles Bromley Gardner	50
67	O	Tom Dobra	42
73	O	Iain Phillips	38
124	O	David Jukes	11
134	O	Graham Urquhart	8
142	O	Elizabeth Urquhart	4
155	P	Colin Duckworth	2

For more details, see the IOF page:

[European Cup in TrailO \(ECTO\)](#)

For current scores on TOP, see:

[ECTO Current Standings](#)

Hungarian TORUS TempO Trophy 2026

This 'Trophy' has 12 monthly events throughout 2026 with the final result coming from a competitor's best 9 events. At the time of writing, there have been 5 events (January - May). Current standings are shown in the table on the right.

Ben Kyd's lead over Pavel and Albert is quite small but there is a bigger gap down to the 4th place (on 382.8). It is still early though with less than half of the events having taken place. **Samuel Drinkwater** is the second placed GBR competitor and this despite his having missed one event. If he continues to compete then his position could rise.

Over the five events so far, there have been over 900 competitors from a wide range of countries.

In the club rankings, MDOC is currently in 4th place with Polisportiva Masi (ITA) leading. In the country rankings, GBR is also in 4th place behind CZE, ITA and NOR.

Hungarian Trophy 2026 - Top 10 GBR

(based on best 4 scores from 5 events)

1	Ben Kyd	MDOC	395.1
2	Pavel Ptáček	CZE	389.82
3	Albert Forst	CZE	387.5
35	Samuel Drinkwater	MDOC	364.74
53	James Curtis	SO	356.66
58	Tom Dobra	TVOC	354.89
69	Owain Jones	BOK	350.5
87	John Kewley	MDOC	344.59
95	Nicola Morris	BOK	341.26
104	Colin Palmer	TVOC	337.61
166	David Pilling	BOK	317.84
190	Iain Phillips	LEI	312.99

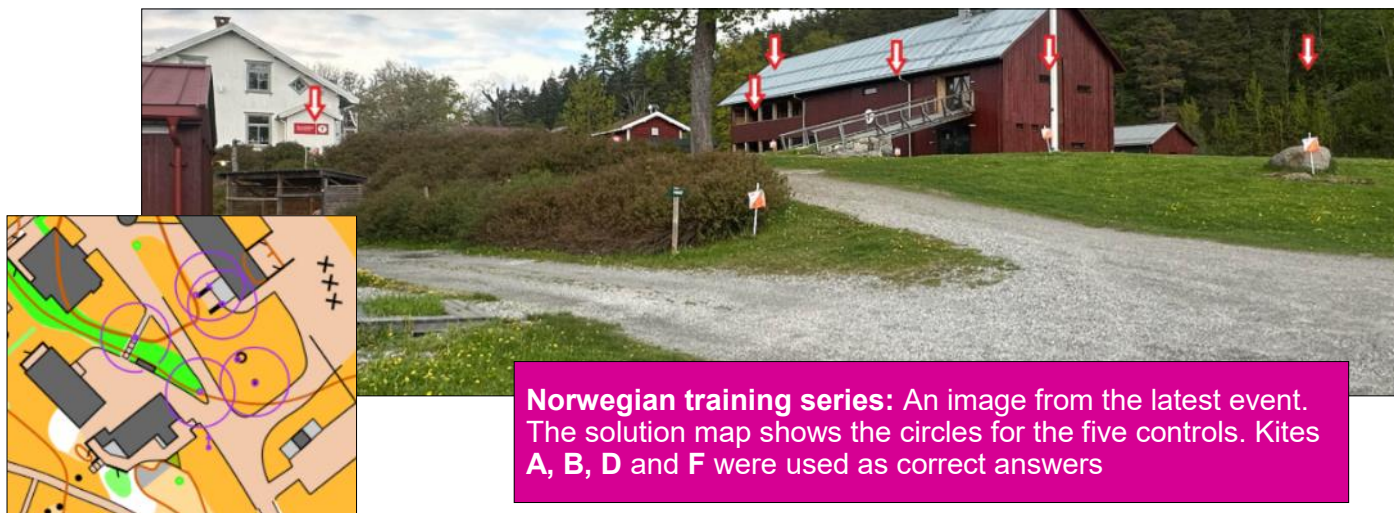
Norwegian Training Series

This is a recent new series. The information provided by the organisers states:

The Norwegian training series is a series of races organized by Norwegian course setters, with 3 races planned in May/June and at least 7 races in August/November, held every other Thursday. The races will take place in varied Norwegian terrain and with different levels of difficulty. The purpose of the series is to create more activity in TORUS and to give us practice in course setting.

With only 2 events so far, it is too early in the Series to give any results - but guess who is leading!

If you haven't yet found the **TORUS** website, take a look at: <http://torus.yq.cz/>
Entry is free but you do need to register first.



Norwegian training series: An image from the latest event. The solution map shows the circles for the five controls. Kites A, B, D and F were used as correct answers

Next Newsletter

It is currently expected that the next issue will appear in late October or early November. There is a possibility though that a special 'ETOC Report' Newsletter might be prepared in late August.

Offers of reports would be welcomed!

TrailO Development Steering Group Update

There has been no meeting of the Steering Group since the last Newsletter

A brief history of ETOC

There is an ETOC competition this July/August in Poland. Changes to the range of classes mean that there will be Junior Championships for the first time as well as a new P class Tempo Championship. Here **John Kewley** looks back on the various competitions which have previously taken place and identifies the significant GBR performances.



The **European Trail Orienteering Championships (ETOC)** have been going for many years, although it has only been an official IOF Championships since 2004. Before that there were unofficial European Championships going back to 1995 with many excellent performances from GBR competitors - details can be seen on the TrailO website at: <https://www.britishorienteering.org.uk/site/trailo/success>]

In 2008 there were 2 PreO classes (Open and P class) but as P class competitors could simultaneously count in both, GBR only sent P class competitors that year. From 2010 (or 2009 in the case of WTOC), you could compete in one class only and hence GBR started to send Open competitors in addition. Tempo was added to the programme from 2014.

In the days before the Relay competitions there were Team competitions, for performances on Day 2 only. Like the Relay competitions we've had in recent years, 2 teams could be named for each class, but only the higher one counted officially in the results.

For 2008 and 2010, there was a separate Team competition for each class with the best 2 from 3 scores to count.

For 2012 and 2014 there was a single team competition for 2x Open and 1x P class (technically it was "at least one from each class")

The TrailO Relay started in 2016 and the format has stayed largely unchanged with teams of 3 (2 teams per nation at ETOC) for each class competing one at a time, each competitor tackling a short PreO course and a few Tempo stations.

Top10 P class Results

Note: a few top P class competitors have subsequently been removed from results due to ineligibility. Not all the results for affected events have been correspondingly recalculated/re-published.

P class PreO (2008-)

- 6th 2008: Dave Gittus
- 10th 2009: John Crosby

P class Tempo (*not yet contested*)

P class Team (2008-2010)

- 4th 2008: John Crosby, Karen Darke, Dave Gittus
- 8th 2010: John Crosby, Peter Roberts, Dick Keighley

P class Relay (2016)

- 7th 2024: Peter Roberts, Colin Duckworth, Graham Urquhart

Best [Mixed] Team Results

(2012-14 only, no longer competed for)

- 7th 2012: John Kewley (O), Ian Ditchfield (O), John Crosby (P)
- 7th 2014: Ian Ditchfield (O), John Crosby (P), Nick Barrable (O)

Listed here are all top 10 GBR performances for each class and discipline (or the highest result if no top 10).

Host Countries

2004	Italy
2006	Lithuania
2007	France
2008	Latvia
2010	Sweden
2012	Sweden
2014	Portugal
2016	Czech Republic
2018	Slovakia
2022	Finland
2024	Finland

Top 10 or best Open Results

Open PreO (2008-)

- 3rd 2010: Clive Allen
- 9th 2010: John Kewley
- 9th 2016: Charles Bromley Gardner

Open Tempo (since 2014)

- 18th 2018: John Kewley

Open Team (2008-2010)

- 2nd 2010: Clive Allen, John Kewley, Dennis Mews
- 6th 2008: John Crosby, Karen Darke, Dave Gittus

Open Relay (2016-)

- 3rd 2018: Charles Bromley Gardner, Tom Dobra, John Kewley

Results extracted from:

- <https://old.orienteering.sport/calendarresults/trail-orienteering/>
- <https://www.trailo.it/Gare2.asp>
- <https://eventor.orienteering.sport/>
- <https://top.yq.cz/events>
- <https://trailomaps.com/old/arkiv2/alle.html>
- <https://www.preoresultat.se/>



Slovak TrailO Sprint Weekend

21 - 22 March 2026

Thanks to **Ben Kyd** who offered to provide his account of this, the first WRE weekend of 2026.

The 2026 TrailO World Ranking Event season kicked off in March with the Slovak Sprint Weekend, ending a 5 month break in ranking events attended by British competitors. The weekend included the first instances of PreO Sprint WREs, newly approved for this year, as well as a TempO event and a couple of "Forest Sprints" FootO trainings to fill out the weekend.

The first day saw a return to the area used for the WTOC25 relay (and also the September edition of the Hungarian TORUS TempO Trophy 2025, for those into their online TempO). Memories of steep contours and crags littered with vegetation haunted the minds of those who'd competed before, with Sprint 1 using terrain from the PreO part of the relay, and Sprint 2 using the TempO part.

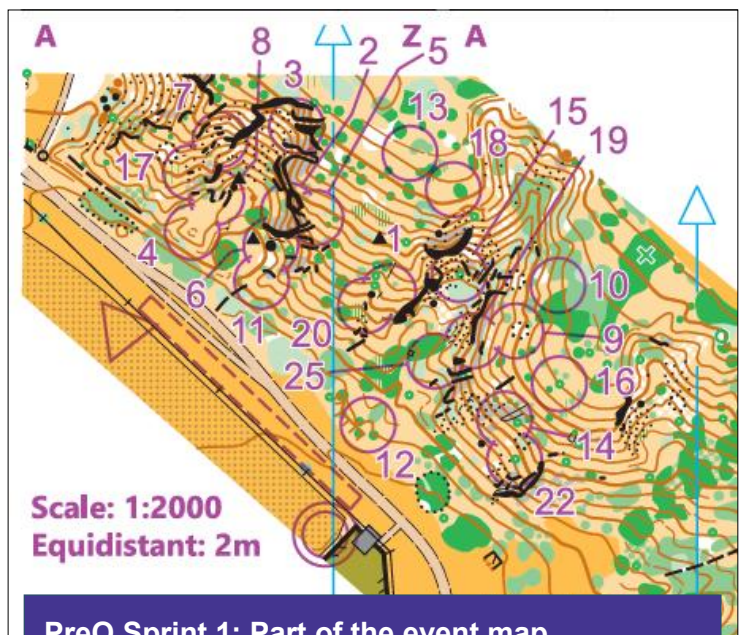
I personally used Sprint 1 to shake off the dust from a lack of real life TrailO practice. Given the PreO Sprint tiebreaker is time on the course, I'd opted not to take a watch to time my race, but started to regret that as I puzzled over the first few controls. I found myself spending more time than usual locating control circles and their problem numbers on the map, which in turn created less time to solve them - a thought that was shared by other competitors during post-race discussions.

Despite my struggles on the course, most of the first PreO Sprint went better than I thought, with only two mistakes near the end of the course made due to rushing under the time pressure. The best British result came from Tom Dobra, who successfully completed the course without any mistakes, but finished 7th overall as 6 others cleared the course in a quicker time.

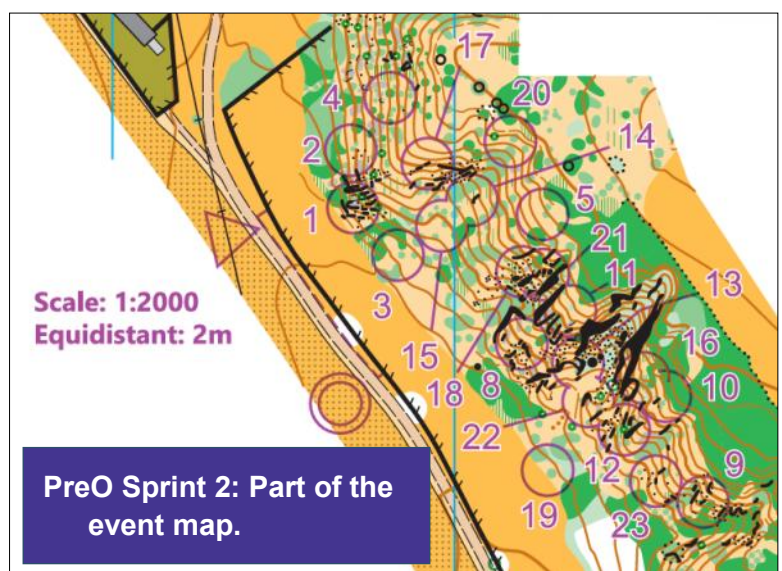
The second sprint terrain was more of the same, though on approach I was reminded of the horrors of the TempO stations I'd been put through previously on my leg of the relay. However, having warmed up by this point, I went through the course with more confidence and speed, with only control 11 slipping past me due to missing some near-invisible vegetation. This one mistake unfortunately cost me the win but still left me in 5th place, an improvement on the first sprint and the best British result for this race. Special mention goes to John Kewley here, who was going well on the course before misreading the very close control circles and skipping straight from task 11 to 19, missing out 7 problems in the process (though completing the sprint in one of his fastest times!).

The day's orienteering was rounded off with a FootO race across the hillside we'd been looking at all morning, and the small amount of forest attached to the north, which was largely enjoyed by all who took part. Afterwards, we travelled back to Trnava to return to our favourite "Italian" restaurant we'd frequented during WTOC25 and share the evening with some of our Nordic friends.

Day 2 took us north of Trnava for a TempO competition in a place I'm reliably informed was also home to the TempO from ETOC 2018. Here, 9 stations had been scattered



PreO Sprint 1: Part of the event map.
Note that competitors had two versions of this map - 1 at 1:3000 (as required by the rules) and one at 1:2000 (to be easier for competitors to read)



PreO Sprint 2: Part of the event map.

amongst the beech forest on the edge of the town, the majority of which took place in a series of large depressions with lots of contour details within them. With such a small area, the planners had to be creative and find ways to hide some kites from view in certain positions, which made it impressive to fit in 7 stations without too much overlap.

The shock then came after the long stroll to the final two stations, where first thoughts were the maps were incomplete before we realised there really were very few features to go off! Once this had been realised though, these final 2 became a lot quicker, as the area could be generalised nicely and the correct kites identified with relative ease.

I was generally happy with my performance, finishing in 8th place at the back of the leading pack with an almost 100 second gap back to 9th. John redeemed himself from his punching blunder to come 12th with the same amount of mistakes as me, just with a slower time.

The weekend then finished off with another FootO race, in a large expanse of beech forest close to the TempO area. With only small contour features to navigate off, the area lent itself to some fast running but meant you had to stay in contact with the map otherwise it was very difficult to relocate! It was thoroughly enjoyed by all who had a go, making a good side event to go along the TrailO.

Once the dust (or sand in this case!) had settled on the events, the overall results left me in 7th place overall and top Brit on the weekend. It was top 30s for all who travelled from the UK, with Tom in 11th, John in 16th, Michael in 26th and Iain in 30th. The weekend was a great showcase of the new World Ranking Event format, and left us with an appetite for more as the events started getting underway across Europe in the following months.



Ben Kyd at the TempO
(Photo: Dusan Furucz)

TempO: Two contrasting stations

5.1 A-F	#		↖	A
5.2 A-F	∇		⊙	Z
5.3 A-F	∩			B
5.4 A-F	∩			C
5.5 A-F	∩			D

9.1 A-F	∩			B
9.2 A-F	○			Z
9.3 A-F	●			Z
9.4 A-F	○			Z
9.5 A-F	○			E

PreO Sprint 1 (WRE)		Pts	Time (mm:ss)
1	Ondřej Macek (CZE)	25	14:55
7	Tom Dobra	25	27:44
11	John Kewley	24	26:43
13	Ben Kyd	23	22:54
48	Iain Phillips	15	26:01

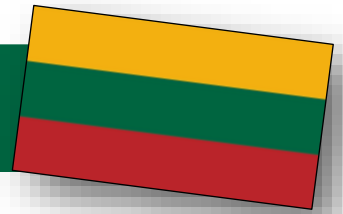
PreO Sprint 1: 25 controls, 90m; Open and Junior 28 mins, P class 35 mins (wheelchairs) / 29 mins (others)
PreO Sprint 2: 23 controls, 60m; Open and Junior 25 mins, P class 40 mins (wheelchairs) / 33 mins (others)
TempO: 9 stations x 5 tasks

PreO Sprint 2 (WRE/ECTO)		Pts	Time (mm:ss)
1	Anders Haugskott (NOR)	23	17:37
5	Ben Kyd	22	17:09
15	Tom Dobra	21	24:52
43	John Kewley	15	19:53
45	Iain Phillips	15	23:19

TempO (WRE)		Time (s)
1	Anders Haugskott (NOR)	353
8	Ben Kyd	434
12	John Kewley	557
25	Tom Dobra	868
35	Iain Phillips	1055

Falco Cup : Druskininkai, Lithuania

27 - 29 March 2026



David Jukes reports on this regular fixture in the TrailO calendar:

Rather than attend the Slovak Sprint Weekend, my choice for my first trip of 2026 was to attend the Falco Cup weekend in Lithuania. With 4 WREs including two PreO (my preferred format), I felt it was more suited to my temperament and, with the PreO events taking up to 2 hours, better value for money!

This year's events were all based in the forest on the south side of the inland holiday resort of Druskininkai, close to the Belarus border. With the first event starting late afternoon, it was possible to catch an early morning flight to Vilnius on Friday, returning Sunday evening.

Friday - PreO 1

As the map on the rights shows, the forest was on undulating terrain with low hills - described in the details as 'pine forest terrain with middle and small sized landforms and good visibility'. There were only a few areas of thicker vegetation marked on the map and, with few other features available for navigation, it was a test of contour interpretation.

With 30 controls based on contour features, interpretation can be difficult and it was perhaps not surprising that each of the 4 top competitors only got 24 correct. Two controls has less than 20% correct (control 2 had 14% and control 10 had 16%) - I got control 2 'correct'! There was clearly some difficulty with control 2 as all the top 8 competitors had answered 'B'. Luckily for me, with no complaints, the answer 'Z' stood.

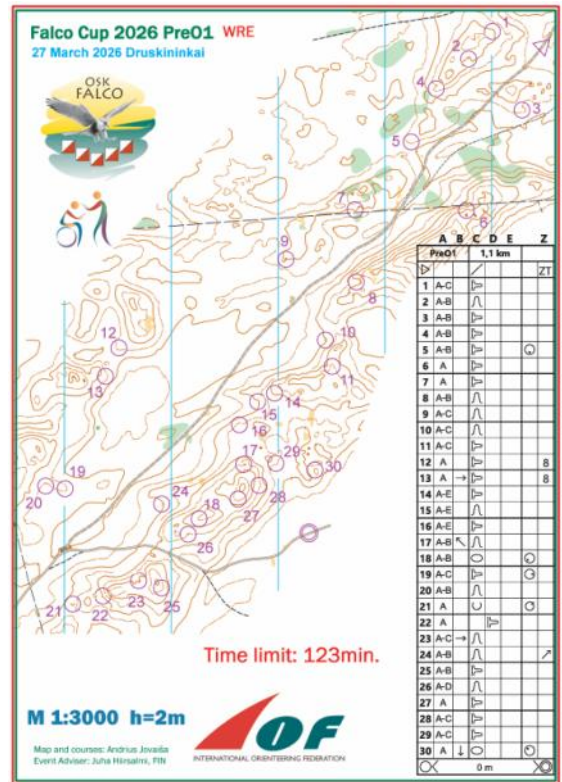
Saturday - TempO

On a bright spring morning, the TempO course used a popular area of parkland and well-maintained woodland. Many locals and tourists were out enjoying the sun and the various paths in the woods and around some lakes were busy.

Varied problems were provided and one technique employed by planners is illustrated in the map extract below. At Station 4, #3 and #5 used the same kite (B) but had different descriptions. The map shows a distinctive tree, a wall and some stairs. I believe that for #3 the description was 'tree, E side' and for #5 it was 'stairs, S side'. For competitors, this can lead to

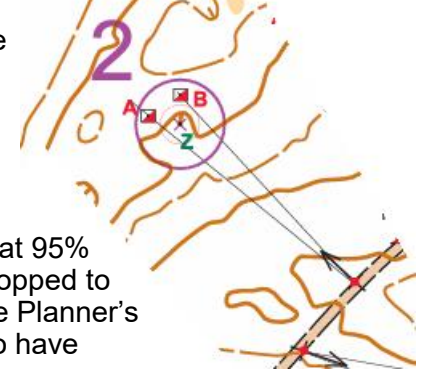
some doubts when faced with a second control apparently using the same kite, with a temptation to assume that the second answer must be Z. It certainly confused me as I took 8 seconds to answer #3 but 21 seconds to give my answer for #5 - however, in both cases I answered B correctly.

It is interesting to note that 95% got #3 correct but this dropped to 64% for #5. The Planner's tactic appears to have worked!



PreO 1 - Competition map (above) and Control 2 solution (below)

2	A-B	∩				
---	-----	---	--	--	--	--



4 station
Z E B C B A



TempO - An extract from the solutions' map for Station 4. The enlargement of the B kite location shows, for the 'tree' (#3), the circle is centred on the tree; for #5 it was positioned on the kite.

Saturday - PreO Sprint

Straight after the TempO we walked back into the forest close to the PreO 1 event. The terrain was similar although perhaps a bit more undulating making it more suitable for a PreO Sprint. On the negative side, the track was fairly narrow and rather sandy and bumpy - not the best for wheelchairs.

I have not yet mastered my technique for these Sprint events. The top priority is to get as many right as possible, the time taken is then used as the tie-break. With only 14 correct out of the 29 controls, I was certainly too quick in my decisions. I had nearly 6 minutes left when I finished and, if I had taken more time at some controls, I am certain I would have got a higher score.

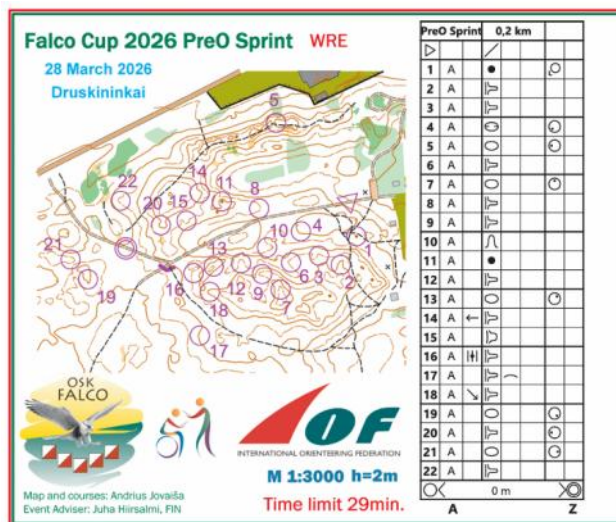
An event I would prefer to forget but, perhaps, a lesson learnt.

Sunday - PreO 2

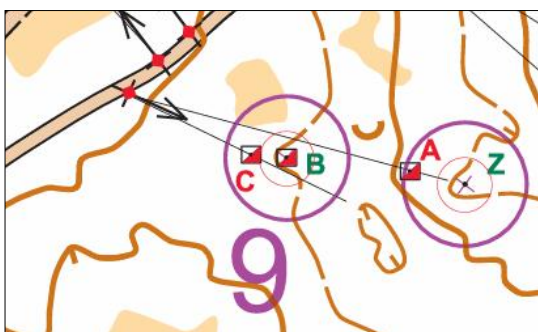
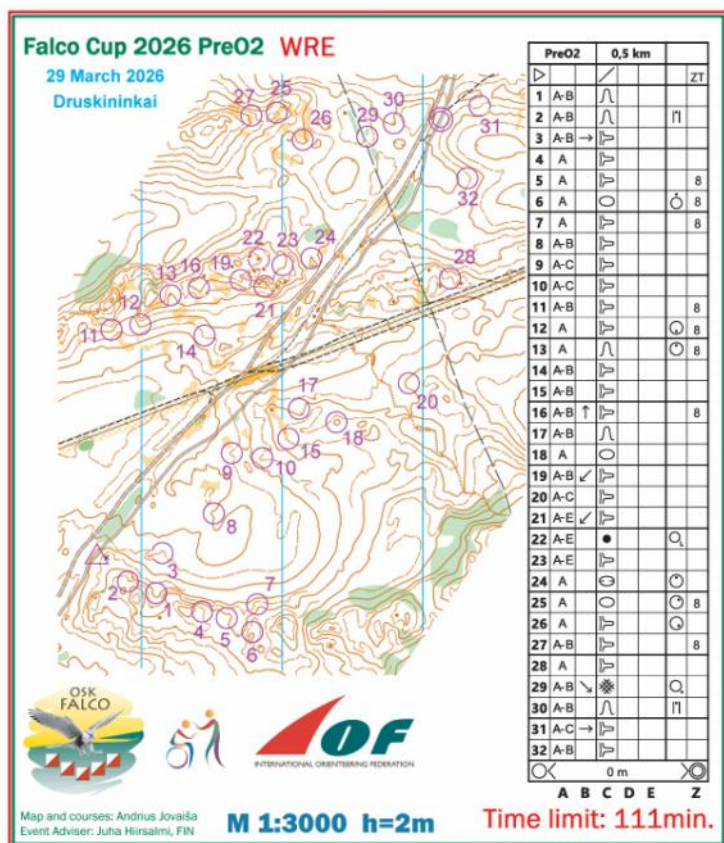
Back out into the same forest but this time we had to drive around the forest and approach it from the south with the parking on a forest side. The terrain was again very similar to the other forest days. And, as with PreO 1, interpreting the terrain was tricky with no competitor getting all controls correct - the best score was 30 out of the 32 controls.

The % correct for each control was better than PreO 1 with the lowest value being 26%. I was pleased with my result of 25 correct which was the same as John Kewley. However my total time, with 2 penalties, at the two time controls was 14 seconds better than his time (he had 3 penalties). Annoying for him, he missed a control on the course.

Often on the final day of a weekend trip, we require a quick departure to rush back to the airport in time for our flight. On this occasion our

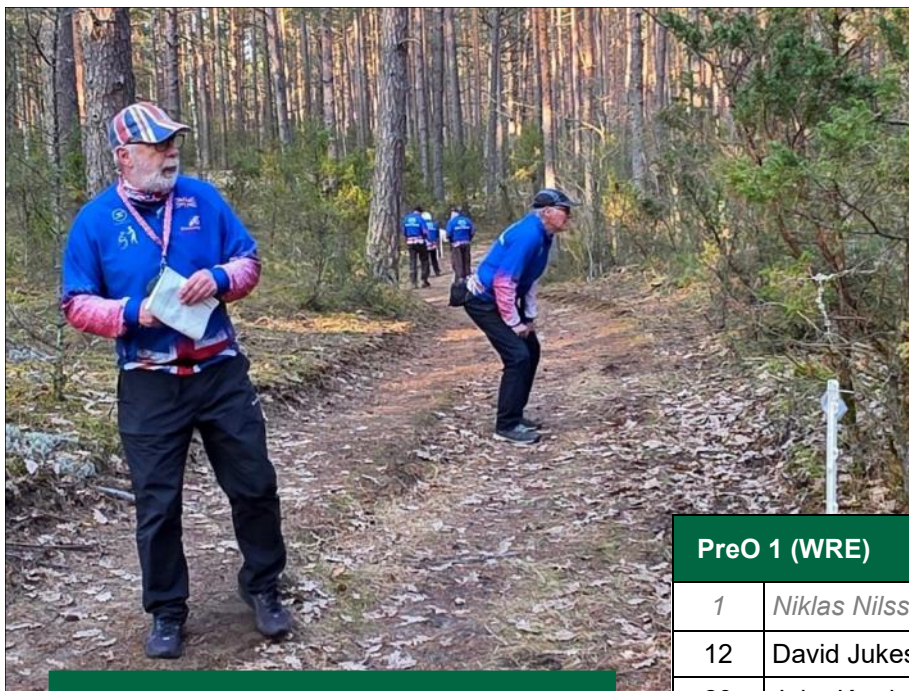


Above: PreO Sprint - Competition map
Below: PreO 2 - Competition map



PreO 2 - After the results had been declared, GBR competitors walked back along the course. Here Charles Bromley Gardner can be seen checking the position of the B kite at #9 (the C kite is not visible in the photo). This was one all 5 from GBR got wrong.





Above: PreO 2 - Towards the end of the course, this photo sees **John Kewley** and **David Jukes** still competing with, in the background, the other 3 GBR members heading back to the event centre

flight was later and, before leaving, we were able to go back out and discuss each control. A useful exercise allowing different methods of solving the controls to be debated.

For the weekend, John Kewley had our 'best' Falco Cup position finishing 6th overall. His position in the PreO Sprint Open class (3rd) resulted in the award of a medal.

PreO 1 (WRE)		Pts	Time (s)
1	Niklas Nilsson (SWE)	24	48
12	David Jukes	21	161
20	John Kewley	20	200
40	Charles Bromley Gardner	17	281
48	Graham Urquhart	16	237
65	Liz Urquhart	13	406

PreO 1: 30 controls, 1.1 km; 123 mins; 2 TCs x 3 tasks
PreO 2: 32 controls, 500 m; 111 mins; 2 TCs x 3 tasks
PreO Sprint: 22 controls, 220m; 29 mins
TempO: 6 stations x 6 tasks
Result positions based on combined classes

PreO 2 (WRE)		Pts	Time (s)
1	William Rex (SWE)	30	178
6	David Jukes	25	212
8	John Kewley	25	226
14	Charles Bromley Gardner	24	174
35	Graham Urquhart	19	108
56	Liz Urquhart	13	337

TempO (WRE)		Time (s)
1	Sami Torstila (FIN)	396
9	John Kewley	517
23	Charles Bromley Gardner	673
32	David Jukes	732
55	Graham Urquhart	954
70	Liz Urquhart	1279

PreO Sprint 1 (WRE)		Pts	Time (mm:ss)
1	Albert Forst (CZE)	22	26:08
4	John Kewley	21	24:44
35	Charles Bromley Gardner	17	21:26
39	Graham Urquhart	16	23:33
41	Liz Urquhart	16	27:20
59	David Jukes	14	23:04



PreO 2 - Charles Bromley Gardner out in the forest.



Jan Kellstrom Festival Weekend 2026 - Scotland
3 - 4 April 2026



*For a long time last year, it seemed as though there would be no TrailO at this year's JK weekend in Scotland. The main JK organising team were supportive but it was not obvious who would be able to take on the detailed arrangements. There are few active TrailO enthusiasts in Scotland and travelling up from England involved significant distances. However, thanks to the efforts of **Kieran Marsh**, now based in Edinburgh, and **John Kewley**, based near Manchester, there were two events held, each with a single 'Elite' course:*

- Day 1, a PreO Sprint at Scone Palace Gardens near Perth
- Day 2, a second PreO Sprint at Faskally Woods near Pitlochry

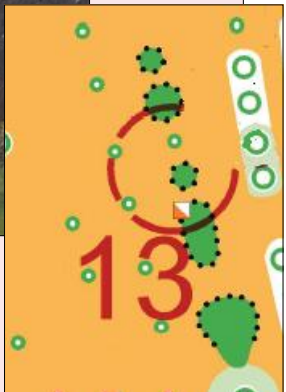
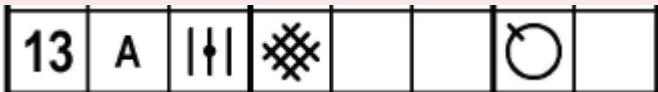
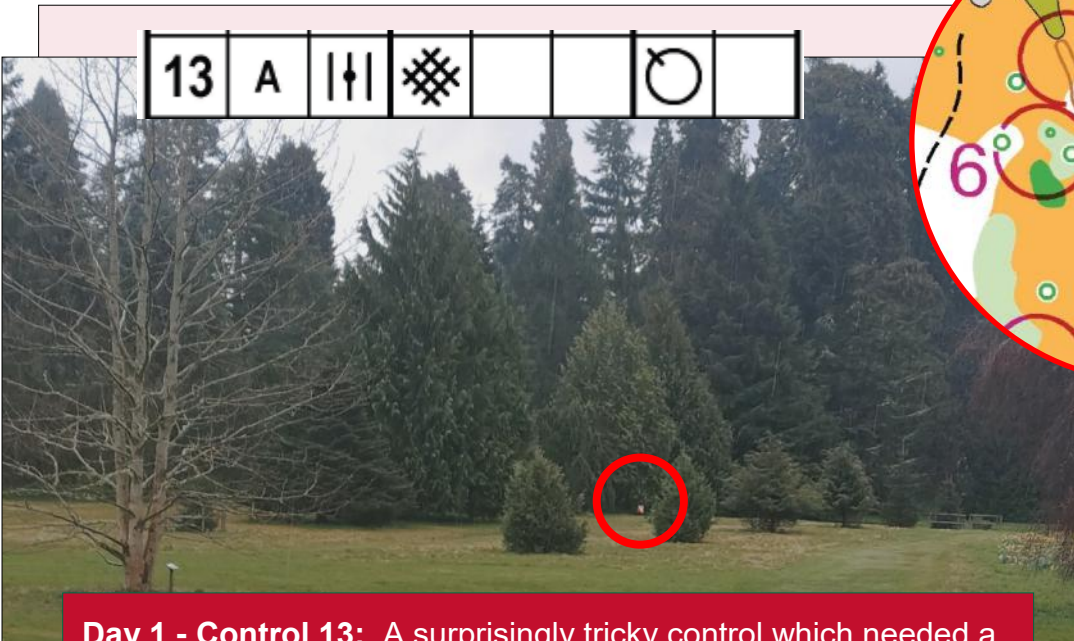
Good Friday - Day 1

The event took place in the grounds of the historic 'palace' which contains mixed areas of grass with individual trees to some more dense woodland and the course finished with in an area of formal beds and views into the kitchen garden.

Unfortunately the day was damp/wet and quite chilly which reduced the social atmosphere. Most competitors arrived at the event having completed their FootO Sprint event around Perth city centre.

The majority of the controls made use of various vegetation features - single trees or thickets. Visibility through some of the woodland was limited making accurate decision making tricky in some cases.

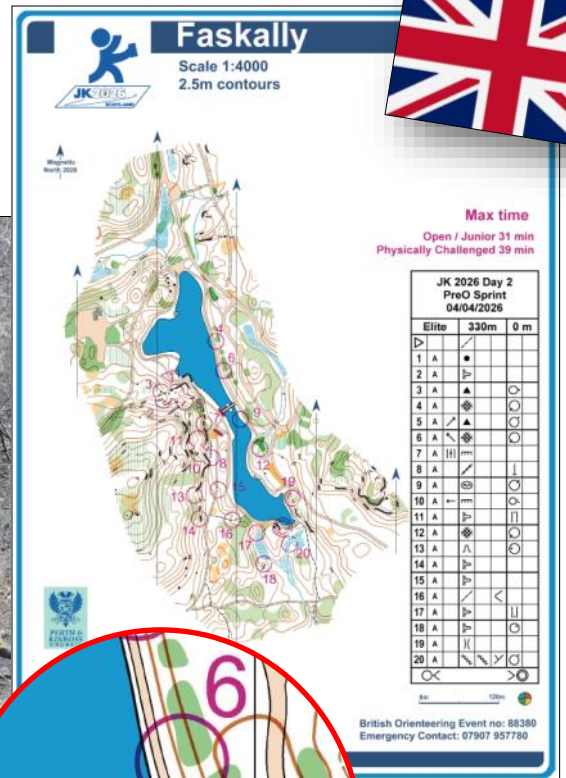
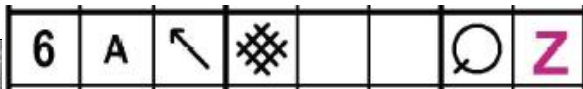
Day 1 - Matthias Mahr (SLOW)



Day 1 - Control 13: A surprisingly tricky control which needed a careful study of the various trees and consideration as to whether the larger gap in the line of trees to the north of the kite concealed an additional tree. 50% answered **A** and 50% answered **Z**. The correct solution, shown in the extract, was **Z**.

Saturday - PreO Sprint 2

The second PreO Sprint provided a very different challenge for competitors. The 330m track followed the edge of a small loch past an area of steep pine forest with numerous crags and contour features. It was unfortunately another generally cold and wet day.



Max time
Open / Junior 31 min
Physically Challenged 39 min

JK 2026 Day 2 PreO Sprint 04/04/2026			
	Elite	330m	0 m
1 A			
2 A			
3 A			
4 A			
5 A			
6 A			
7 A			
8 A			
9 A			
10 A			
11 A			
12 A			
13 A			
14 A			
15 A			
16 A			
17 A			
18 A			
19 A			
20 A			

British Orienteering Event no: 88380
Emergency Contact: 07907 957790



Day 2 - Control 6: One of the controls where competitors needed to look across the loch and try and identify the thickets with those marked on the map. The kite was on an adjacent thicket making the Z answer correct. 75% of competitors successfully solved this control.



Here Planner **Kieran Marsh** gives some background thoughts on the 2 events:

Organising:

As we only agreed to run the event at the very last minute it was a challenge to find areas close enough to the FootO but still with enough detail to provide interesting courses. I think we succeeded on the latter but not so much on the former, as there were pretty low entries. Turnout was hampered by the conditions, especially on the Saturday with a blizzard at the FootO putting off people from making the longer drive to the TrailO. We are very grateful to Jon Cross for organising all of the permissions, as well as sourcing all of the equipment, without which we wouldn't have been able to put on the event. And also to everyone who helped on the day including Graham, Liz, Tom, Iain, the various people who were roped into putting up tents, and River, and my brothers Liam and Euan for taking in the courses. And, of course, John Kewley without whom the courses would have been much less refined!

Planning:

The challenge for both of the areas was trying to keep the courses as short as possible whilst using interesting controls, and working around the less accurate parts of the maps. As the maps were drawn for the event at short notice - we only had them less than a week (approx 24 hours in the case of Scone) before controlling which meant there wasn't time to go through detailed fixes, which added to the challenge! In the end I think the courses were perhaps a touch long but did include all of the best/most interesting bits of the areas visible from the usable paths.

Feedback on the courses was generally very positive with most people having enjoyed the challenge!

Scone: I like having Sprint events at this sort of area as there can be a lot of very accurate detail on the map, and my aim is to line up everything in a section as quickly as possible, before answering any of the problems. With the benefit of more time it would be too easy an area. I think in fact a TempO course here would have been a lot of fun but we didn't have time to plan or the volunteers to stage it.

Faskally: The challenge here was to keep the course easy enough to solve in the time limit whilst still challenging. I think we probably had a couple too many long-distance controls which ate up peoples' time, but the scores suggest that for most controls the majority were able to work them out.

Results:

I was pleased to see a full range of scores for both events which suggested that, whilst everyone found some controls a challenge (or the time a challenge), on the whole they were manageable for the more experienced people. I think it would have been good to have had an Open course for the newcomers as it could have been a bit demoralising having so many challenging controls to solve without yet having built up the required techniques. If we had more time, that would have been a good thing to have done.



The courses:

Score: One of the surprisingly hard controls with only 27% correct was #6 where the circle had the control between the front tree and the thicket. The control was placed well back between the second tree and the thicket. From the viewing angle it was hard to work it out as it was the right angle but about 8m too far back, but as you proceeded along the path it became more clearly a Z. I suspect that people were feeling the time pressure as it was early on and you don't want to waste too much time, and many probably just went for their gut feel from the viewing point. I really enjoyed #19 as the kite was in a completely different section of the gardens, but as it was the first one you solved (if going in order) it required a bit of thought to work it all out before going for Z, which 80% of people did.

Faskally: The course felt completely different from the previous day as there were a lot of rock and earth features and fewer vegetation ones. With 42% correct, #5 was a challenging control early on as there were a lot of likely boulders that didn't make it onto the map. Competitors had to think about contouring from other features to the boulders to work out which were mapped and find the one with the kite on - it was not in fact on the map at all.

I liked #18 as a control as well as, at a glance, you could convince yourself that you could see a spur and the kite was towards the end of it. With more time, it would have become apparent that the spur that it should have been on was hidden behind some trees, and the kite was really right next to the slope at the start of the spur. I think for this course the controls were either very easy or very hard, as the results tend to have either 30-40% or around 80% getting it correct for any given control.

My learnings as a first-time planner:

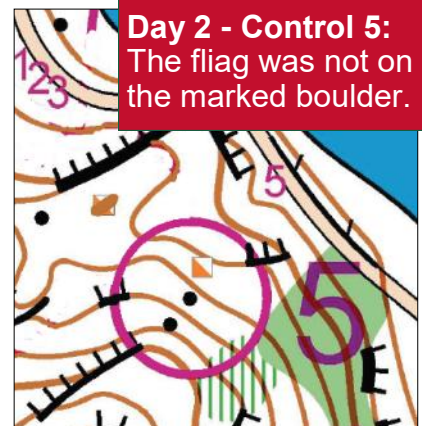
One thing I have learnt for next time is to try and do more from the paths before I go into the terrain. I did a visit to each site only on the paths, but then on my next visit when I had gone into the terrain it was hard to remember what I knew because I had walked over it and what I would clearly see without having been there.

Make sure to try and solve each control with all available methods - we had to void a control at Faskally because there were multiple ways of solving it, only some of which agreed with our solution, which would have been avoidable with a bit more care in checking the control beforehand!

Don't do it so last-minute! It made everything from permissions to maps to planning to controlling all more stressful than it would have been if we had had a few more months to do it. Although I think that there probably were no better areas closer than those that we ended up using, so the end result may well have ended up relatively similarly.



Day 1 - Control 6:
A tricky control best viewed from further along the track



Day 2 - Control 5:
The fliag was not on the marked boulder.

Day 2 - Control 18: 42% got this control right by saying Z





JK 2026 TrailO Results

Day 1 - PreO Sprint: 22 controls, 300m; 32 mins (O-J), 40 mins (P)
Day 2 - PreO Sprint: 20 controls, 330m; 31 mins (O-J), 39 mins (P)

Day 1: PreO Sprint - P class			Pts	Time (mm:ss)
1	Emma Mcmanamon	TAY	14	30:05

Day 1: PreO Sprint - Junior			Pts	Time (mm:ss)
1	Jack Knight	KERNO	17	27:25
2	Erik Biernacki-Jablonski	WAOC	17	31:27
3	Ceci Knight	KERNO	15	21:17
4	Tom Knight	KERNO	14	30:28

Day 1: PreO Sprint - Open (Top 10)			Pts	Time (mm:ss)
1	Nicholas Alexander Morgan	LOC	20	26:23
2	Tom Dobra	TVOC	20	31:45
3	Gilbert Lee	HKG	18	23:00
4	Wang Ki Yuen	MDOC	18	30:50
5	River Edis-Smith	SYO	18	30:58
6	Michael Chun Chi Tsang	SLOW	18	31:24
7	Ian Ditchfield	MV	17	29:43
8	Matthias Mahr	SLOW	17	31:17
9	Barbara Griessner	SLOW	16	28:57
10	Hanna Biernacka	WAOC	16	29:11

Overall - Open (Top 3)			Total Points	Total time (secs)
1	Tom Dobra	TVOC	37	3739
2	Nicholas Alexander Morgan	LOC	35	2892
3	River Edis-Smith	SYO	33	3678

Overall - Junior (Top 3)			Total Points	Total time (secs)
1	Erik Biernacki-Jablonski	WAOC	32	3473
2	Jack Knight	KERNO	17	1645
3	Ceci Knight	KERNO	15	1828

Overall - P class			Total Points	Total time (secs)
1	Emma Mcmanamon	TAY	14	1805

Day 2: PreO Sprint - Junior			Pts	Time (mm:ss)
1	Erik Biernacki-Jablonski	WAOC	15	26:26

Day 2: PreO Sprint - Open (Top 10)			Pts	Time (mm:ss)
1	Chris Smithard	FVO	17	27:38
2	Tom Dobra	TVOC	17	30:34
3	Alison Smithard	FVO	15	21:36
4	Nicholas Alexander Morgan	LOC	15	21:49
5	Iain Bell	DEE	15	25:09
6	Diane Jacks	WRE	15	30:02
7	River Edis-Smith	SYO	15	30:20
8	Mike Greenwood	GRAMP	14	13:59
9	Phil Smithard	FYFE	14	20:44
10	Ian Jones	ERYRI	14	22:35



Above: Competitors at Faskally (Day 2)
 Below: 1st Control on Day 1



Trofeo Internacional Extremadura Trail-O, Spain 18 - 19 April 2026



After the cold and damp event in Scotland at Easter, this event in the south-west of Spain provided a complete contrast. 6 GBR competitors made the trip and were rewarded with warm sunshine. David Jukes reports.

Although travelling to European World Ranking Events (WREs) provides an opportunity to take part in challenging TrailO events of high standards, it can be disappointing when these are deep in some secluded wooded valley. Staring through the trees at crags and boulders may be excellent TrailO but I sometimes wonder if I am missing some of the more interesting local highlights. On this trip to Spain, there was no such problem. The weekend had three WREs: a TempO and PreO Sprint on the Saturday and a PreO on the Sunday. All three events used terrain in the 'Natural Monument of Los Barruecos', a small national park, featuring granitic formations together with some lakes and archaeological remains. The area is colonised by numerous birds including white storks and black-winged stilts. So plenty to see and enjoy when not competing in TrailO

Saturday - TempO

This used a small part of the terrain with stations set on either side of a short section of road. As a less scenic part of the park, this was an area provided with various permanent BBQs used by people from the town. At one station, as the kites were being shown to me, a minibus drove across my view and stopped to park on the grass to one side. I stopped looking as the officials persuaded them to use another spot.

The organisers had provided a 'model' station next to the event centre tent which gave an early opportunity to identify the main mapped features. The first station (illustrated here) was possibly the easiest and by the last two, with bigger overlapping rock features, identifying the correct locations of the flags was quite a challenge. The two lowest % correct (20% and 45%) were at the final station.

After the TempO and before the PreO Sprint, the organisers had allowed time for competitors to informally tackle a FootO course in a separate part of the national park. I used the time to explore, using the FootO map to visit several controls but also simply looking at the rocks, the flora and the fauna. Seeing white storks nesting on the top of some very large and inaccessible rock formations was quite a sight.

TempO: Station 1 - Here Colin Duckworth is being shown the kites at the station. The two (just) visible kites are probably **B** and **C**, as shown on the solutions' map.

(Photos: Eloisa Tapia)



1.1 A-F	▲	•	≡	C
1.2 A-F	←	▲	○	E
1.3 A-F	↗	•	○	A
1.4 A-F	∩			Z
1.5 A-F	←	▲	≡	D



White storks on their nests

Saturday - PreO Sprint

Later on the same day, we again gathered at the event centre to tackle the PreO Sprint course.

This format does take a bit of getting used to, especially for those (such as me) who need time to consider the map and terrain. My first Sprint WRE in Lithuania was very poor - I had been too fast taking about 24 minutes of the 29 allowed. Here I was slower and finished with less than a minute to spare.

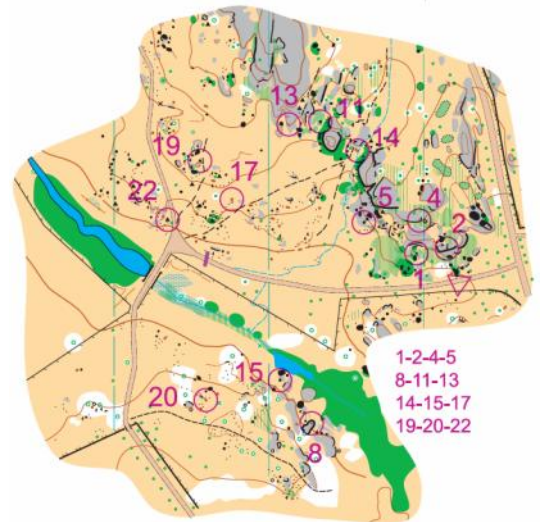
However, there is another issue with the Sprint format. With between 20 and 30 controls and only a short track, the controls can be quite close on the map. It is now quite common to have the map repeated with the control circles on the two (or even three maps). For the competitor, this complicates matters as, when looking at the various kites in the terrain, it may not be obvious which kite is for which control. Also, in this case, the controls were on both sides of the track meaning you were switching your viewing from one side to the other. Finally, another complication can arise if the viewing points and/or the ToePunch units are not in numerical sequence.

There is a lot to consider and punching mistakes can arise. In my case, at this event, I failed to record a punch for #17. I can not be absolutely sure, but I believe that the punching units for 17 and 18 (and possibly the viewing points) were in the reverse order and, with time running out, I thought I had already punched for 17.

Anyway, Ben Kyd had no such problem. As the expert at quick (and usually accurate) decision making, he sped along the track in just over 20 minutes and solved all 23 controls accurately. A very impressive performance particularly as he was the only competitor to get them 100% correct. The next 10 competitors were all on 22 correct with errors spread over 6 different controls. Even more impressive, if Ben had also had one error, he would still have won as his time was faster than any of those on 22. This meant he gained over 1000 World Ranking Points as well as recording the first British win in a WRE PreO Sprint.

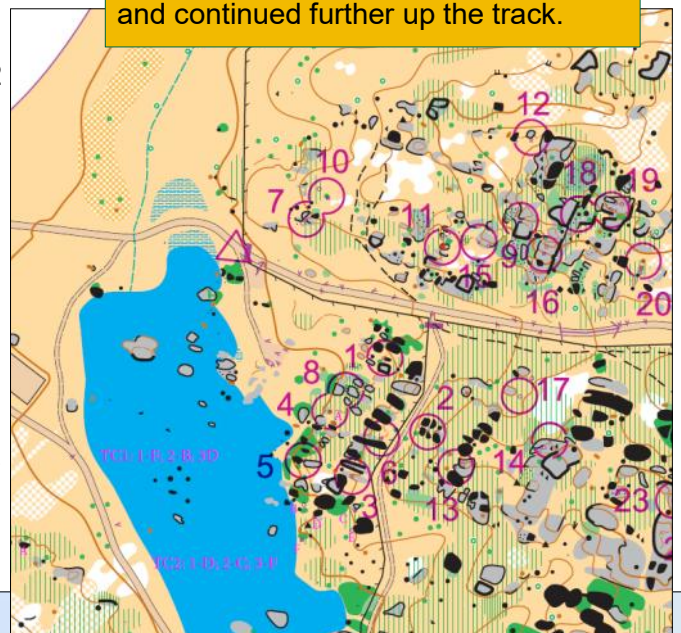
Sunday - PreO

The PreO event took us into the heart of the national park and in amongst the larger boulders and rocky outcrops. Care was needed to match the terrain to the map and, in most cases, it was possible to do this for the massive boulders and rock outcrops. Less easy were the areas of bare rock but it was usually possible to identify them.



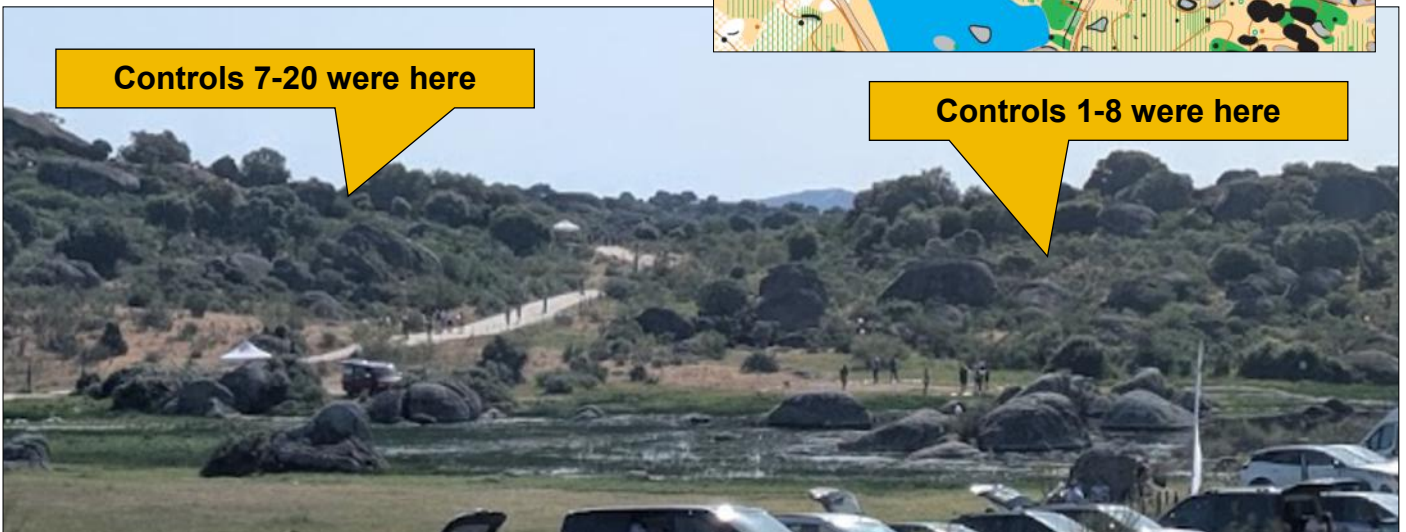
PreO Sprint: -This is one half of the Sprint map. The controls were spread over two maps of the same area.

PreO: Part of the map. The Time Controls were to the west of the lake but the main course was to the east and continued further up the track.



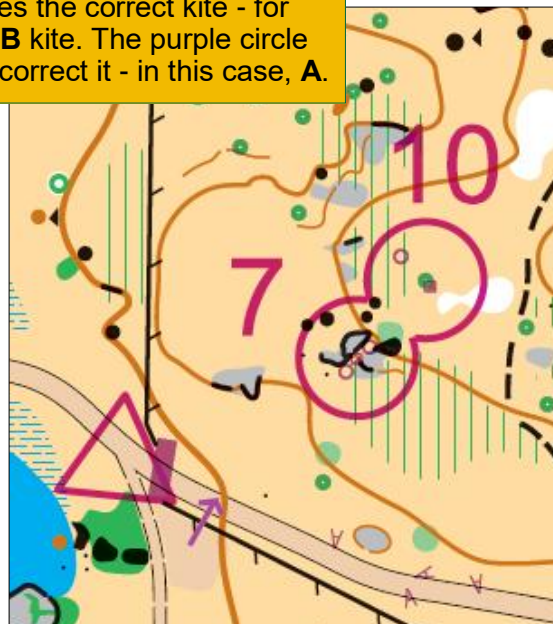
Controls 7-20 were here

Controls 1-8 were here



One control which caused some discussion amongst the 6 GBR team at the event was #10. This was the only control on the course which used the vegetation rather than the rocks or contour features. The map extract (right) shows that it was close to #7 which used a narrow reentrant between some rocky outcrops. The decision point for #10 was a bit further up the track. Notice on the map that there is an area of white representing a group of trees. The control circle though is on a single tree separate from these. There were two kites, both on what appeared to be individual trees, but only one was marked. Was one of these unmarked on the map, or was the one closer to the group of trees actually considered to be within the group? I could see from the map that the #7 reentrant pointed directly towards the marked tree with the control circle. Looking up the reentrant, a kite could be seen on a tree and, as the two trees had different shapes, it was possible to identify that the **B** kite was correct. But the debate was whether the other tree should also have been marked on the map.

PreO: Extract from the solutions' map showing #7 and #10. The mini-kite symbol indicates the correct kite - for #10 it was the **B** kite. The purple circle indicates an incorrect it - in this case, **A**.



7	A-C	↖	∩	—			B
10	A-B		⬆			⊙	B

With 26 controls correct out of the 30 on the course, I was much happier with my performance at this event. However, once again **Ben Kyd** achieved a full house with all correct. This time though he shared first place as his time at the 2 Time Controls was the same as **Marcello Lambertini** (ITA) - both totalled 35 seconds.

Perhaps not surprising, with two wins out of the three events, Ben was also the overall winner beating Aaron Gaio (ITA), 2nd, and Davide Martignago (ITA), 3rd.

TempO (WRE)		Time (s)
1	Dinis Santo (POR)	237
12	Ben Kyd	346
37	Charles Bromley Gardner	467
50	John Kewley	537
51	Iain Phillips	550
66	David Jukes	655
79	Colin Duckworth (P)	717

TempO: 6 stations x 5 tasks
PreO Sprint: 23 controls, 200m; 30 mins (O-J)
PreO: 30 controls, 500 m; 105 mins (O-J); 2 TCs x 3 tasks

PreO (WRE)		Pts	Time (s)
1=	Ben Kyd <i>Marcello Lambertini (ITA)</i>	30	35
28	John Kewley	27	108
42	David Jukes	26	120
48	Charles Bromley Gardner	26	248
70	Iain Phillips	21	89
82	Colin Duckworth (P)	18	248

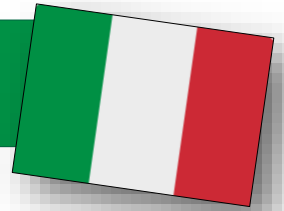
PreO Sprint (WRE)		Pts	Time (mm:ss)
1	Ben Kyd	23	20:36
9	John Kewley	22	29:02
56	Iain Phillips	18	29:57
60	Charles Bromley Gardner	17	23:59
73	David Jukes	16	29:15
102	Colin Duckworth (P)	12	28:51



PreO: Iain Phillips on the first part of the course which considered #1 - #6.
 (Photos: Eloisa Tapia)

Aeterna Roma Trail Orienteering Weekend, Rome

25 and 26 April 2026



Graham Urquhart reports on this weekend:

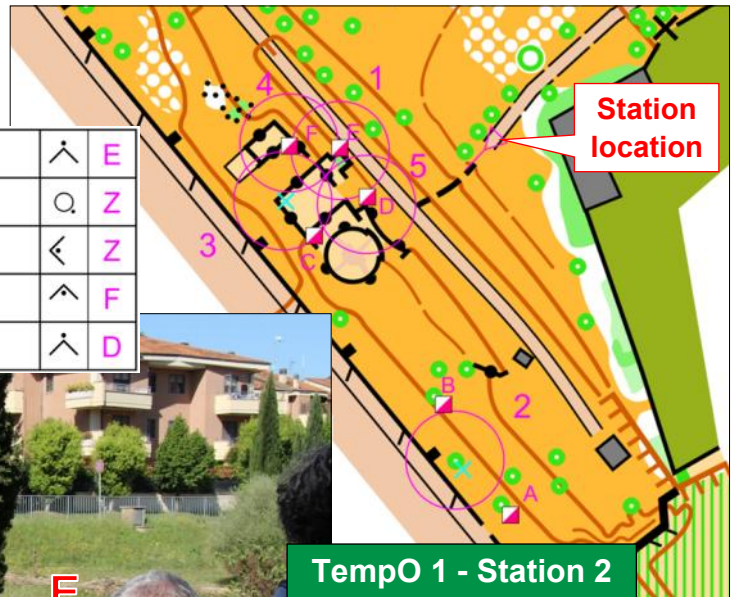
This event took place in archaeological parks in Rome itself, so was predominantly man-made terrain. It consisted of 2 WRE Tempo events and 1 WRE PreO Sprint over 2 days. There were only 3 competitors from the UK: myself, **Liz Urquhart**, and **Michael Tsang (HKG)**. All the events were easily reachable by public transport, and the conditions were warm and sunny throughout.

Saturday - Tempo 1

The first Tempo was had 8 stations, each with 5 problems. There were only 4 all correct competitors and 3 of these took the first 3 places, so the terrain was complicated enough to challenge even the best. The route took competitors past a long series of former Roman buildings, and Station 2 (shown here) was typical. The approach revealed a shallow valley and, with some trees close to the viewpoint, views of some of the ruined buildings and their walls were restricted from the seat.

Typical of my errors was Day 1 Station 8, where the 5th task looked into a tapering block of trees with a hedge. This can be seen

2.1	A-F			E
2.2	A-F			Z
2.3	A-F			Z
2.4	A-F			F
2.5	A-F			D



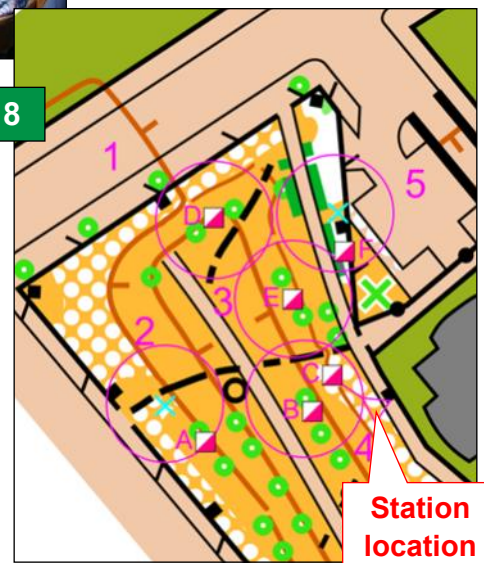
Tempo 1 - Station 2



in the photo below and involved the F kite. By not understanding the gaps in the hedge, the control looked 'flag' to me, though from the solution (and when I walked

Photos: Fausto Conti

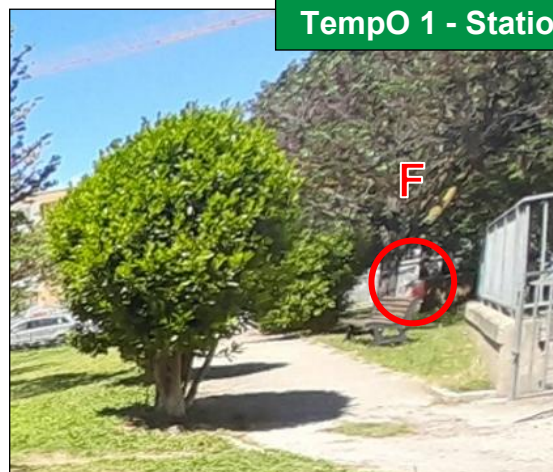
Tempo 1 - Station 8



Station location



Tempo 1 - Michael Tsang



past it!) it was obviously zero.

Sunday - PreO Sprint

Day 2 started with a PreO Sprint around a much busier park. This meant that other public users obscured or underlined features in both the Sprint and the TrailO. On the upside though, the event centre was the main café, and we were all supplied with a brunch, and this made a great atmosphere and meant that almost everyone remained for the prizegiving. The problems were largely set using vegetation, with 24 controls and a time limit of 30 minutes. The course was divided in two sections: 70 m (8 controls) + 130 m (16 controls) and each had one way sections within these. For me, the time was not an issue, but the visibility and counting of trees at distance (control 15 for example) proved a real challenge.

Sunday - Tempo 2

The example below was typical of the Day 2 TempoO showing the complex park, and the challenging depth estimation required to get this right. This was one of the few stations I managed to get completely right, but in double the winner's time at 49 seconds.

All in all, 3 well organised and challenging days in a warm spring Rome.

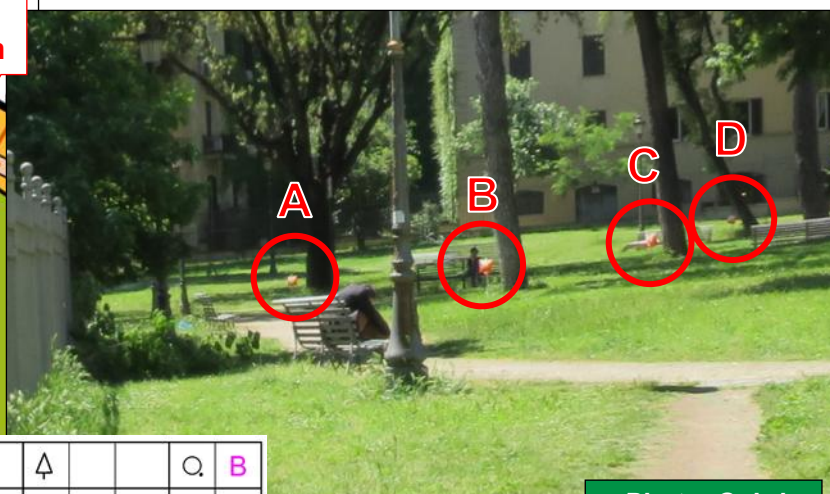
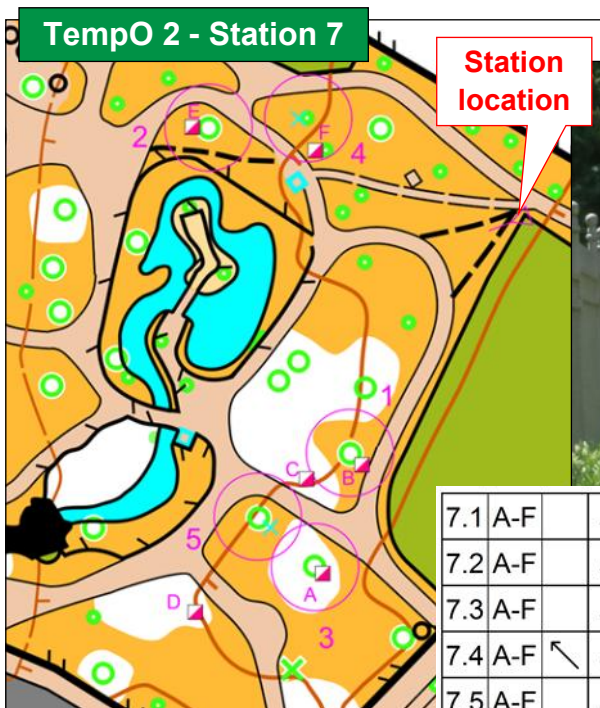
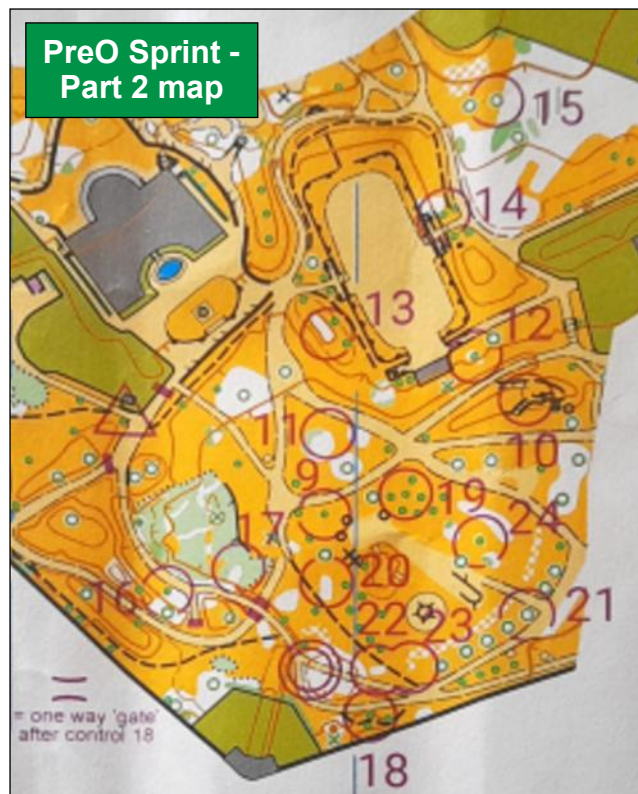


Photo: Gabri

7.1 A-F	△		Q	B
7.2 A-F	△		○	E
7.3 A-F	△		Q	A
7.4 A-F	↖	△	○	Z
7.5 A-F	△		Q	Z

TempO 1 : 8 stations x 5 tasks
 PreO Sprint : 24 controls, 70m + 130m; 30 mins
 Tempo 2 : 7 stations x 5 tasks

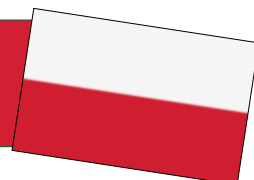
TempO 1 (WRE)		Time (s)
1	Marcello Lambertini (ITA)	163
28	Michael Tsang	491
38	Graham Urquhart	601
53	Liz Urquhart	1223

PreO Sprint (WRE)		Pts	Time (mm:ss)
1	Krystian Petersburski (POL)	24	11:07
32	Michael Tsang	20	28:09
38	Graham Urquhart	18	26:18
51	Liz Urquhart	8 (13-5)	34:15

TempO 2 (WRE)		Time (s)
1	Krystian Petersburski (POL)	278
31	Graham Urquhart	742
38	Michael Tsang	907
51	Liz Urquhart	1124

Bukowa Cup, Szczecin, Poland

1 - 3 May 2026



No full report for this event, just a summary and results.

The 13th Bukowa Cup consisted of three WREs:

- A **PreO Sprint** using an overgrown wooded embankment adjacent to a railway line
- A **TempO** set in a gentle valley comprising open scrubland with scattered trees and thickets
- A **PreO** with two sections. A first part with 10 controls in a small well-maintained public garden followed by a second part in the more usual mature beech forest following a track in a valley. Two of the controls in the public garden were not used due to changes in features prior to the event and one in the valley section where there was confusion as to the location of various boulders in the river.

TempO: 6 stations x 5 tasks

PreO Sprint: 20 controls marked on 3 sections of map

PreO: 34 controls (3 voided), 580 m; 120 mins (O-J); 3 TCs x 3 tasks

PreO Sprint (WRE) - Top 5 GBR		Pts	Time (mm:ss)
1	<i>Konstantīns Semjonovs (LAT)</i>	19	19:14
5	Ben Kyd	18	18:02
9	<i>Michael Tsang (HKG)</i>	17	21:01
12	Tom Dobra	16	15:40
36	John Kewley	15	22:34
40	Iain Phillips	14	19:25
47	Charles Bromley Gardner	14	22:57



PreO Sprint: Michael Tsang

TempO (WRE) - Top 5 GBR		Time (s)
1	<i>Albert Forst (CZE)</i>	196
5	Ben Kyd	230
9	Tom Dobra	279
15	John Kewley	337
22	Charles Bromley Gardner	383
23	Iain Phillips	411

PreO (WRE) - Top 5 GBR		Pts	Time (s)
1	<i>Daniele Guardini (ITA)</i>	31	95
10	Tom Dobra	28	128
17	Ben Kyd	27	113
22	Charles Bromley Gardner	27	202
33	John Kewley	25	136
48	David Jukes	24	269



PreO (Part 1): Tom Dobra

Photos: Tomasz Krysiak

FinTrailO 2026, Finland

16 - 17 May 2026

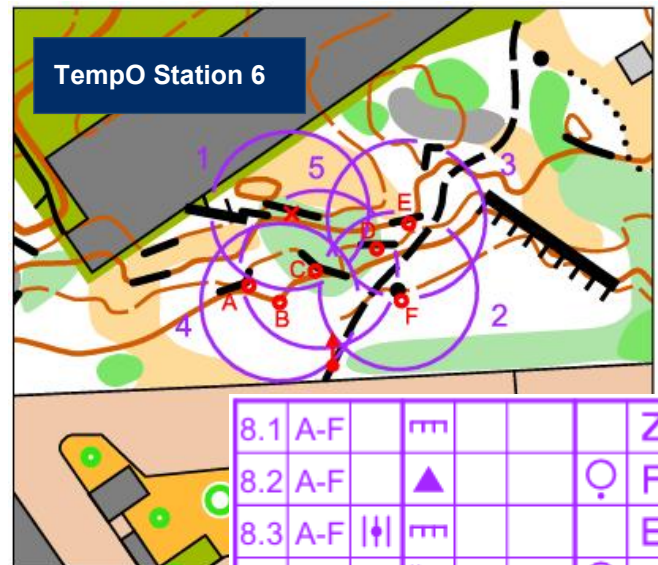


With thanks to **Charles Bromley Gardner** for this contribution:

For their first WRE events of the year, Finland welcomed just over 70 Trail orienteers to the suburbs of Helsinki. The excellent public transport system meant that no hire cars were required, indeed the small party from UK found a cheap (£25 pppn) and comfortable apartment within walking distance of the Event Centre, which was based in the entrance hallway of a school. Two excellent home-cooked vegetarian curries were consumed in the evenings. Midday flights from Stansted were a bonus, only offset by returning past midnight on Monday morning.

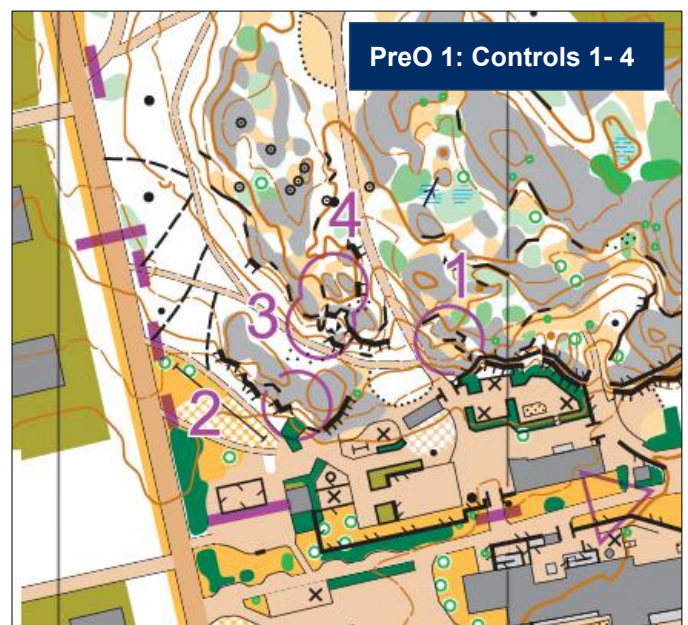
Additionally, Ben and Charles managed to fit in an overseas parkrun beside two lakes on Saturday morning.

An 8-station TempO was the first event, anti-clockwise around the rocky hill immediately behind the school. The first 6 stations looked onto the hill; the last two were based in school grounds, using the simpler, clearer terrain on the edge. None of them used 'urban' terrain. The event just about stayed to time with a 2-minute start separation. With little queuing, we were finished after about half an hour. Most people were generally happy with their performances, given the normal occasional brain- f**t. The usual suspects headed the leaders' table, notably the local Antti Rusanen getting all correct in the second quickest time of the day (214 seconds: 40 seconds his longest at a station, 16 his fastest at the last). For GBR, Ben Kyd MDOC was best placed in 10th (6 errors, 223 seconds), getting to grips with the mapping after the first 2 stations (when he was 30th). Michael Tsang SLOW (43rd) proved that speed did count, the 92 seconds he was quicker than Charles Bromley Gardner (44th) BAO offsetting the 3 extra errors. Iain Phillips LEI (48th) produced a perfect pair of 390 seconds and a 390 penalty.



8.1	A-F	⌘			Z
8.2	A-F	▲		♀	F
8.3	A-F	⌘	E		E
8.4	A-F	⌘		♀	B
8.5	A-F	E			C

Two hours after our TempO starts, it was back out for PreO 1, on a larger loop outside the TempO area. Not all used the time profitably, forgetting equipment (glasses) until too late. It was a course for lessons to be learnt how to treat 'old style' PreO, distinguishing between similarly-shaped adjacent contours/form-lines. Quite a lot of discontent across the 26-control course led to complaints being made about 5 controls by various competitors. After detailed review, none were upheld, with explanations provided, and so none led to formal Protests. No-one got 100% correct, indeed there were two controls, each of which under 25% of the competitors got right. Michael (41st) headed the UK orienteers with 21 correct answers, closely followed by Iain (45th) and Charles (48th) both one control back, whilst Ben was in an unaccustomed end of results with 17 correct, so that his second fastest Timed Control was of little relevance.



Sunday's PreO was a 1500m walk from the school, on a different outcrop. After Saturday's lessons, most competitors found it easier; most controls could be clearly navigated into, and many at a longer distance were marked by double flags. No-one initially got all the controls right, but then I, one of the last few starters, came back and immediately complained about a control [Control 19 - see maps on next page].

The flag positions were not as shown on the Solutions (which in itself is not a just cause); there were 2 adjacent form lines drawn on the map (so something strange was going on); and the 'correct' flag

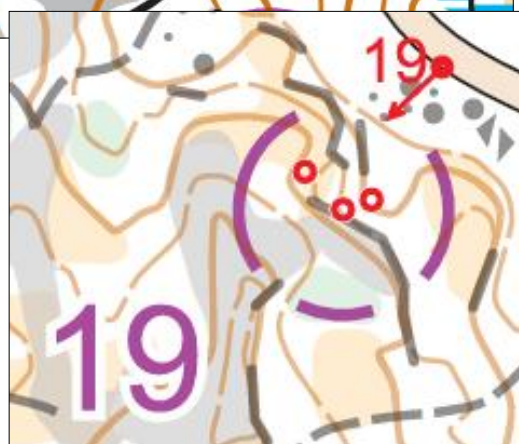
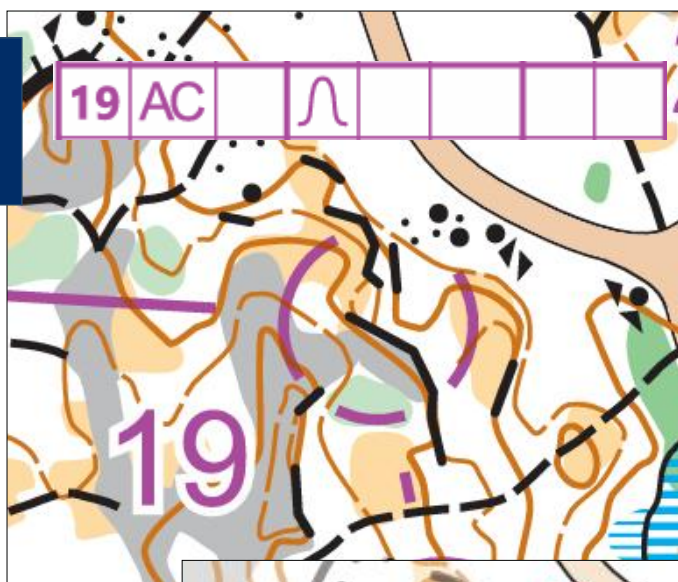
PreO 2: Control 19

Extracts of both the competition map and the solution map are shown here.

appeared to be clearly above the form line forming the re-entrant control site. Thus it was not possible to clearly distinguish between Flags A and B. Submitting the written comment just in time, the course setter did accept this one after looking at the area again with a different perspective. 5 of the top 10 had also chosen the wrong flag. So Antti won again, now with all correct answers thus improving his WRE points score for the event.

With two resulting errors, Charles ended in 21st=, upsetting Ben (27th) and Iain (40th) who thus lost an answer having been on the same score. Ben and Iain (jokingly?) considered that Charles' protest went against the ethos of teamwork and posed some scenarios to see how his loyalties might have Iain. However, in the end it is the competitor's decision whether to complain and they respected this. Michael (63rd) was behind today with 6 controls wrong.

Overall, of the 69 Open competitors competing all 3 events, Ben finished 32nd, Charles 36th, Iain 42nd and Michael 45th.



PreO 1 (WRE)		Pts	Time (s)
1	Owe Andersson (SWE)	25	92
46	Michael Chun Chi Tsang	21	131
50	Iain Phillips	20	83
55	Charles Bromley Gardner	20	244
72	Ben Kyd	17	27

TempO : 8 stations x 5 tasks
PreO 1 : 26 controls, 1.4 km; 120 mins
PreO 2 : 32 controls (1 control voided), 700m;
117 mins

PreO 2 (WRE)		Pts	Time (s)
1	Antti Rusanen (FIN)	31	13
21=	Charles Bromley Gardner	29	20
27	Ben Kyd	29	11
40	Iain Phillips	28	93
63	Michael Chun Chi Tsang	25	113

TempO (WRE)		Time (s)
1	Antti Rusanen (FIN)	214
11	Ben Kyd	403
49	Michael Chun Chi Tsang	723
50	Charles Bromley Gardner	725
55	Iain Phillips	780

The Editor is always on the look out for material to spice up these event reports so was delighted to receive this from Iain Phillips:

Helsinki — the curry story

Sometimes travelling TrailO orienteers forgo the luxury of a hotel for apartment life. Usually cheaper, but with more space and self-cooked food. Most recently, this happened on the trip to Helsinki. So, hints and tips for apartment cooking.

Firstly, the knife is never sharp, so avoid too much chopping. In Helsinki, the chopping board had melted in the past, so it wasn't flat. There is never a big enough saucepan. If you're lucky, there is a microwave. If you're really lucky, the hob is electric halogen or induction, but it could be the traditional slow-to-heat and cool old-style electric hobs I remember from the 80s. Ingredients are easily bought at a

supermarket, but you don't want too much left over because that's food waste as you're not bringing it home.

In Helsinki, we decided on cooking curry, so off to K-Mart. Three onions, a pepper, root ginger, two bulbs of garlic, two tins of tomatoes, two tins of cartons of chickpeas, and, luckily, a jar of garam masala which contains most of the spices needed for a good curry. With Ben on stirring duty and me chopping, we fried up the onions, plenty of ginger and garlic (we didn't want leftovers), bunged in a good chunk of garam masala, and cooked it down, eventually adding half a tin of tomatoes. In another pot, we cooked up the remaining tomatoes and the chickpeas. After 20 minutes or so, we carefully added the onion mix, completely filling the other pot, stuck a lid on, and cracked open the drinks. We had microwave rice, so that was only a minute's cooking. The food went down well with Charles, so he happily washed up.

The following day, we decided to go down the same route with a variation, so off to a S-Mart and an onion to go with the one left from the previous day, another pepper, three sweet potatoes, and a cauliflower, and we repeated the recipe, adding the sweet potato to the onion mix. Another successful curry as measured by the willingness of the washer-upper.

The recipe

Feeds 3-4 hungry Trail Orienteers after competition

- Fry up:
 - * Use whatever fat you can find
 - * 2 onions chopped
 - * Chunk of ginger root, chopped as much as the knife allows
 - * Several cloves of garlic, crushed with a blunt knife at least
 - * Good shake of garam masala, don't skimp
- Mix in:
 - * 2 cans tomatoes
 - * 2 cans chickpeas or 3 sweet potatoes and a cauliflower (or a combination)
- Cook for a long time
- Eat with rice.

British Trail Orienteering Facebook Page

Remember to 'like' or 'follow' the **British Trail Orienteering Facebook page**. It is the best place to be kept informed of news and updates relating to British TrailO activities.



Newsletter Distribution

This Newsletter can be downloaded from the British TrailO website and an announcement is made on the Facebook page and to the international 'Bearing towards the C-Flag' Facebook group.

However, if you sign up to a dedicated distribution list, you can also have a pdf copy delivered direct to your email inbox on publication. To have your name added to the list, you can complete and submit a simple Google Form. The list is only used for distributing pdf copies of the Newsletter on publication. Please use the form so that you are ready for the next issue:

[Newsletter Google Form](#)

TrailO Development Steering Group

As an orienteering discipline, TrailO in the United Kingdom comes under the jurisdiction of British Orienteering. Many aspects of the organisation of TrailO are delegated to the TrailO Development Steering Group. Included within its responsibilities are:

- Monitoring and reviewing all Trail Orienteering activities and programmes
- Production of a programme to deliver sustainable international success and capable of supporting athletes to achieve the annual targets; reviewing the programme on an annual basis
- Supporting, volunteers and staff in the delivery of the programmes and the international team by ensuring it is given the opportunity to achieve the agreed goals and medal performances
- Advising the Board on disability awareness and other matters concerned with the involvement of disabled people in orienteering activities

Current membership of the Steering Group:

Graham Urquhart (Chair), Iain Phillips, John Kewley, Colin Duckworth, Ian Ditchfield, Richard Keighley, Christine Roberts, Keith Willdig (*British Orienteering Rep.*), Elizabeth Urquhart (*Team Manager*), Charles Bromley Gardner, Nick Barrable, Tom Dobra (*IT/Software*), David Jukes (*Publicity*), Wilbert Hollinger, Anne Hickling, Clive Allen (*IOF liaison*)

The **Steering Group** Chair can be contacted at:
[**trailocommitteechair@britishorienteering.org.uk**](mailto:trailocommitteechair@britishorienteering.org.uk)