



British Orienteering



British Orienteering

Annual Report & Review 2025

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Chair's Report

Being endorsed as Chair of British Orienteering at last year's AGM was both a privilege and a moment of reflection. I am deeply grateful to our members for the confidence they have placed in me, and to my predecessor, Drew, for six years of committed leadership and careful stewardship of the sport.

I step into this role fully conscious of the responsibility it carries, and with a strong determination to serve both the organisation and you, its members, well.

The past year has once again demonstrated the strength, diversity and resilience of orienteering across the UK. Our national and regional calendars delivered a rich and varied programme, from welcoming grassroots events to high quality national championships and international competitions. These events showcase what makes our sport distinctive: technically demanding challenges, delivered by passionate and skilled volunteers, in inspiring terrain across the country. My thanks go to everyone involved in planning, organising, officiating and participating. British Orienteering thrives because of your commitment.

At the elite level, our athletes and performance teams have continued to perform with distinction on the international stage. This year included several standout performances, including Grace Molloy coming 2nd in the Knock-Out Sprint of World Cup Round 3, and James Hammond coming in 4th place in the Sprint Race at JWOC 2025. This underlines the depth of talent within our system and the potential for even greater success ahead. Elite performance remains a cornerstone of British Orienteering's strategy. It matters not only for medals, but for inspiration, visibility, credibility and ambition across the whole sport. It shows what is possible when talent, commitment and well-targeted support align. We therefore remain committed to supporting the International Orienteering Federation's Olympic ambition,



Rob Woods, Chair

recognising both the challenges involved and the truly transformative potential of such a goal.

Participation across the UK has also shown encouraging momentum. Over the past year, recorded runs increased by 7,000 - from 149,294 in 2024 to 156,299 in 2025 - as more people engaged with orienteering, including first time participants through schools, universities and local clubs. These figures demonstrate growing reach and visibility. However, participation alone is not enough. Membership numbers remained broadly static at around 8,900, and this is an issue the Board is addressing directly.

As set out to both the Board and the membership in October, our ambition is to grow to 10,000 members within five years and to reach 160,000 runs within three years. Some may argue that these targets lack ambition; in reality, achieving them would represent the most sustained period of growth British Orienteering has seen in over a decade. Importantly, growth must never come at the expense of safety. Safeguarding, risk management and participant welfare sit at the heart of everything we do. Every orienteer, whether new or highly experienced, must feel welcome, supported and safe, and I remain resolutely committed to maintaining high standards in this regard.

To realise these growth ambitions, we must also be prepared to innovate. If we wish to attract

new audiences, we cannot rely solely on those who already understand orienteering. Novel approaches such as Quid Games and the increasing number of MapRun series, may feel uncomfortable to some and will undoubtedly be viewed by parts of our community as “too different” or as lacking authenticity when measured against traditional formats. I acknowledge that scepticism openly. However, standing still carries its own risk. These formats have proven value because they engage people who might otherwise never give orienteering a second glance. Used intelligently, they are gateways, not replacements. I do not accept that thoughtful innovation dilutes the sport we cherish. On the contrary, it strengthens orienteering by widening its reach while preserving the technical challenge, navigation skill and ethos that define it. Growth will require us to be both custodians of our traditions and confident enough to evolve.

The Board itself has been strengthened this year with the election of several new Directors, bringing fresh skills, perspectives and energy. As with all Directors, they volunteer their time generously. I thank them, and all members of the Board, for the insight, challenge and dedication they bring. I encourage members to engage with Directors wherever possible, whether at events or through the subject matter expert groups they will increasingly support.

My vision is clear: British Orienteering must be exciting, safe, growing and genuinely accessible to all. Supporting elite performance and increasing participation are not competing priorities. They are mutually reinforcing. Growth builds the pipeline, diversity and resilience our elite pathway depends upon, while elite success raises aspiration, profile and engagement across the sport. This is not compromise - it is deliberate, evidence based strategy.

Strong governance underpins everything we aim to achieve. Transparency, accountability and clarity of purpose are essential if we are to maintain trust and deliver results. Over the coming year, we will introduce clearer performance metrics across key areas including participation and membership growth, volunteer engagement, elite performance outcomes and

safety compliance. These will give members a visible and meaningful line of sight between our strategy, our actions and our results.

We must also be realistic about capacity. British Orienteering’s Head Office is a small team and cannot deliver growth and change alone. Success depends on Peter Brooke and his team having strong partnerships with clubs, associations, volunteers and members. Clear priorities, shared ownership and collective effort are essential. Clubs remain the heart of British Orienteering, and national leadership must enable and reinforce local delivery.

Over the next three years, we aim build on key initiatives such as a strengthened national universities programme, an expanded coaching network, and targeted club support. We will support coaching and workforce development by increasing both the number and quality of qualified coaches to better support our growing membership.

We will also drive cultural change by working in partnership with clubs and associations to promote and embed consistent standards of safety across all events and training. In addition, we will support growth in the university sector and review our major events offering to accelerate sustainable growth, while raising standards of inclusion, safety, and overall quality.

Finally, I would like to thank our staff, volunteers, clubs, partners and members for their continued commitment and belief in the sport. The future of orienteering is bright. The next three years present a real opportunity to build on our successes, deliver measurable impact and realise our full potential. I look forward to achieving this together.

CEO's Report

2025 has been a year of progress and achievement, with growth in participation, stable membership, and a programme of inspiring events that continue to showcase the excitement and diversity of orienteering.

One of the most encouraging developments has been the increase in participation. Total participation reached 156,300, an increase of 7,000 runs compared to 2024. This reflects the collective efforts of our clubs and volunteers in delivering accessible, engaging, and well-organised events across the country. It demonstrates that when we provide welcoming environments and clear entry points, people respond positively.

Volunteering

Our volunteers and clubs remain the bedrock of orienteering. Their energy and commitment continue to drive the sport forward. Thank you to everyone who contributes their time and expertise at all levels.

Strategy

In 2025, British Orienteering's strategy, *Thriving Clubs for a New Generation*, continued to provide a clear and shared direction for the sport.

As a whole-sport strategy, it extends beyond elite performance to include participation, club development, coaching, volunteer support, event delivery, and talent pathways. By aligning national leadership with regional and local activity, it ensures that everyone from newcomers to international athletes is supported within a connected framework.

Work will begin in 2026 to develop the next strategy, launching in 2027. This will be a pivotal opportunity to define our priorities and ambitions through to 2032.



Peter Brooke, CEO

Partnerships

Expanding our reach to new audiences remains essential. In 2025, we launched the Quid Games initiative in partnership with Sportshoes.com. This innovative format has proven effective in introducing the sport to new participants.

The initiative has helped position orienteering as a modern and accessible activity, particularly appealing to younger audiences and the 16–40 age group identified in our strategy. By simplifying entry points and embracing digital engagement, it is helping to reshape perceptions of the sport. We must continue to be bold and creative. Early success shows that when we adapt and evolve, the sport resonates strongly.

Access

We continued to strengthen relationships with key landowners, including the National Trust and the Woodland Trust, both of whom are vital partners in enabling access to terrain across the UK.

We recognise the increasing challenges clubs face in securing permissions. In response, we launched a new Information for Landowners webpage to clearly explain the sport, event delivery, and our environmental approach. This resource will support clubs in engaging with landowners and facilitating access.

Coaching

Following the 2023 Coaching Review, the Orienteering Instructor Qualification launched in late 2024 for teachers, leaders, and outdoor providers, supporting high-quality and modern coaching.

Building on this, a new club-based qualification, replacing the Level 1 award, is due to launch in spring 2026. These developments strengthen our coaching pathway and enhance the skills of our workforce.

Performance

In early 2025 Mark Nixon and Graham Gristwood joined the Performance team, bringing a wealth of experience which will be invaluable to the current and aspiring athletes as we move forward.

At senior level, Grace Molloy achieved a silver medal at World Cup Round 3 in the knockout sprint—her highest international result to date. At the European Championships, Great Britain achieved fifth place in the Sprint Relay.

At junior level, James Hammond secured an impressive fourth place in the Sprint at the Junior World Championships. This was followed by strong performances at the European Youth Championships, including three relay podium finishes.

Finance and Funding

We remain grateful for the continued support of Sport NI, sportscotland, and Sport England, whose investment underpins the sport across all the home nations.

The economic environment remains challenging, with rising costs and constrained income. We continue to prioritise strong financial governance while directing resources towards participation growth and member value.

In 2025, we operated a planned deficit to reduce reserves. We now need to return to a breakeven position over the coming years. Work will begin in 2026 on the next Sport England funding application for the 2027–2032 cycle.

Conclusion

2025 has been a positive and progressive year. Participation growth demonstrates real momentum, and initiatives such as the Quid Games and the increasing use of apps such as MapRun show that the sport can adapt and modernise.

However, there is no room for complacency. Competition for people's time and attention continues to grow. Sustained progress will depend on our ability to innovate, collaborate, and promote the sport with clarity and purpose.

I would like to thank the Board, staff, and volunteers for their continued commitment and professionalism.

Together, we are shaping a sport that is inclusive, adventurous, and forward-looking, ready not only to grow, but to lead.

Governance

Introduction

As the national governing body, the British Orienteering Federation is responsible for overseeing the administration and development of the sport of orienteering in the United Kingdom.

Whilst the objects of the company are set out in detail in the Memorandum Articles of Association, these may be summarised to undertake all and any activities to increase participation in orienteering and secure international success.

Except for the Chief Executive, the directors of the company are either elected at the AGM or appointed by an Appointments Panel for terms of up to three years. No Non-Executive director may serve more than three terms consecutively.

Report

Our strategic intent remains unchanged. Our vision is for Thriving Clubs for a New Generation underpinned by our four core themes:

1. Changing perceptions
2. Creating Engaging Experiences
3. Creating and supporting Lifelong Pathways
4. Foundations for Success.

The Board regularly discusses culture within our sport in terms of its importance in encouraging diversity, considering the environment, promoting well-being, and ensuring a safe and safeguarded environment.

As a National Governing Body (NGB) in receipt of funding from Sports Councils (Sport England & Sport NI) there are additional statutory requirements that the Board are responsible for. These include: safeguarding and welfare, anti-doping, diversity and inclusion, and safety. The Board receives regular briefing/updates from the executive team including the Lead Safeguarding officer at each Board meeting.

At the AGM on 17th May 2025 Drew Vanbeck stepped down as the Chair and Rob Woods took on the role.

Increased costs across all areas continues to have an impact on all areas such as staffing, support and travel costs against an environment of having a static income. Concerns have been raised in this area alongside other sports, to Sport England who are major funding providers. The Board notes the current Sport England award is due to end in March 2027 and this will need to be a consideration in key decisions during 2026.

During the year, the Board continued to monitor financial management and risk, reviewing financials quarterly to ensure we kept on top of the situation. We remain extremely grateful for the flexibility and additional support from our funding partners – Sport England, Sport NI and in Scotland, Sport Scotland – which has played a vital role in achieving operational and financial stability.

Reflecting our current reserve levels and the need to increase the support of the Strategic Plan, the Board set a budget for a deficit of £24K for the year (2025). Due to the support of our funding partners, careful cost management and some staffing roles remaining vacant, the year ended with a loss of £18K.

Overall, the Board recognises that the sporting environment remains a challenging one, but that very positive progress has been made to rebuild the membership base and to build the offerings of British Orienteering, from commercial opportunities, supporting training and development to community initiatives.

The Board thanks the volunteers and staff for their commitment to support and develop our sport. We gratefully acknowledge the support of our funding partners. The Board recognises the exceptionally hard work of our small but dedicated staff team who have continued to serve and support the orienteering family.

Directors

The directors shown below have held office during the whole of the period from 1 January 2025 to the date of this report.

Duncan Birtwistle	Elected Director
Peter Brooke	Company Secretary & CEO
Alison Howe	Elected Director, Vice Chair
Zac Randell	Independent Director
Andy Robinson	Elected Director, Treasurer
David Rosen	Elected Director
Pauline Tryner	Elected Director
Keith Wildig	Elected Director

Other changes in directors holding office during 2025 are as follows:

- Justine Albert – appointed 25 September 2025 – Independent Director
- Darren Bernstein – resigned 31 March 2025
- Lauren Pagé – resigned 1 January 2025
- Gregg Peers – appointed 8 December 2025 – Independent Director
- Laura Kaye Tomlinson – resigned 5 August 2025
- Drew Vanbeck – resigned 25 September 2025
- Rob Woods – appointed 31 March 2025 – Independent Director then Chair

Diversity Progress Statement as at December 2025

As of 1 December 2025, 27% of the Director positions were women (3 of 11) and 0% of the occupied Director positions were ethnically diverse (0 of 11).

The Board continues to work towards maintaining gender diversity and increasing representation of young people, diverse ethnicities and people with disabilities.

As of 1 December 2025, three of the five members of the British Orienteering Executive Team with senior management responsibilities were women.

Governance Progress Statement as of December 2025

In November 2016 a Code for Sports Governance was published which sets out a range of requirements that British Orienteering and other organisations in sport must meet to be eligible for public funding.

The Board regularly reviews this status. Much of the work to remain compliant is now embedded into the work programme of the Board and policies and activities were reviewed and performed in accordance with the annual Board work programme.

Following the review commissioned in 2020, improvements to the Code are being implemented across the sector. BOF is working with our funding partners to ensure that these recent additions to the Code are being appropriately implemented in accordance with best practice.

In early 2024, Governance United conducted an independent assessment of the Board and how it operates. Overall British Orienteering received a positive assessment of a well run Board with some areas to consider in order to improve efficiencies and process.

Director attendance at Board Meetings

Name	Attendance	Name	Attendance
Justine Albert	2/2	Andy Robinson	5/5
Darren Bernstein	0/1	David Rosen	5/5
Duncan Birtwistle	5/5	Laura Kaye Tomlinson	0/3
Peter Brooke	5/5	Pauline Tryner	5/5
Alison Howe	5/5	Drew Vanbeck	2/3
Gregg Peers	1/1	Keith Willdig	5/5
Zac Randell	5/5	Rob Woods (Chair)	4/4

Facts & Figures

2025
Membership
8,920

2024
Membership
8,953



16-40 (2025)
Age Range

1,983

16-40 (2024)
Age Range

1,948

Participation
(Competitions) 2025

156,299

Participation
(Competitions) 2024

149,294



Gender
Breakdown (2025)



38%
Female

62%
Male

Special Acknowledgements

The Orienteering Foundation is a registered charity (number 1118793) that promotes and supports orienteering, helping to ensure that our amazing sport is here for the enjoyment of generations to come.

The Orienteering Foundation is independent of British Orienteering, but the two organisations cooperate closely.

The Foundation uses the donations it receives to give grants to deserving projects and individuals, recent examples being:



- JROS Coaching provision at all the tours run including Lagganlia and Stockholm
- Supporting West Cumberland Orienteering Club and Moravian Orienteers to recruit new Club Development Officers
- Heeley Trust to introduce orienteering to the community in an area of deprivation
- Freddie Carcas towards attending the World Games in China
- MAROC for a development project linked to the Scottish 6 Days targeting local communities

If you want to find out more about making grant applications, donating or leaving a legacy, visit the Orienteering Foundation website: www.orienteeringfoundation.org.uk or email admin@orienteeringfoundation.org.uk.



Images L-R: Freddie Carcas at the World Games, and the JROS team in Stockholm.

In Memory

Sarah Brown, South London Orienteers

Sarah only began orienteering in her mid-thirties. Before then she had qualified as a dance and drama teacher, danced professionally, and then switched to running a shop, a cafe and then a restaurant in Scarborough. In fact some orienteers recall meeting her before she started orienteering: they went with her mother to the restaurant during the White Rose summer competition.

Living in Camden she joined London OK (LOK), and started going to weekly training on Hampstead Heath led by David and Miriam Rosen. She often went to weekend races where she might meet her mother. She ran three Karrimor Mountain Marathons with Miriam, met and married another orienteer Paul Street, and gave birth to sons Ralph and Greg.

After moving from central London to Richmond Surrey to be near Richmond Park, the family switched clubs to South London Orienteers (SLOW) where Michael May, the Haynes's, the Jones family and others were good company for Ralph and Greg, and Chris Robinson, Diane Leakey and Monika Bonafini good company for Sarah in age group relays.

Family holidays were planned round orienteering multi-days and most years would see a holiday with John and Sue Birtwistle and their lads, Duncan and Fraser, friends from LOK days.

Sarah was manager for the England Veteran Home International Team for twenty years, very much enjoying the gathering each year of top orienteers from the home nations.

After finishing working, she became more involved in organising for SLOW. She also led initiatives to promote interest in the athletes



of the national team, which could be good for both the sport and the team. After all the team were friendly, relateable people like most orienteers. basically young people who had grown up through the regional junior squads and just got the orienteering bug in a really big way.

A fan website "On The Red Line" was setup, produced with help from Simon and Helen Errington (also friends from LOK days.) Sarah obtained a Sport England grant for a series of short coaching videos "Think Fast, Run Hard, Go Orienteering" presented by team athletes, which Katherine Bett directed. And there was amateur media work following the international orienteering calendar to provide material for On the Red Line.

In the last two years Sarah had to reduce her orienteering and orienteering spectating. But she was able to be a volunteer helper at WOC 24 in Edinburgh, and a reporter at the European Sprint Champs in Belgium last year. And she continued to complete short courses at Military League South events until last Christmas.

Sarah is survived by Paul, Ralph, Greg, Greg's wife Sophie and young granddaughter Aurora.

In Memory

Dave Gittus MBE, Wrekin Orienteers

Dave Gittus lived an extraordinary 85 years, full of energy, adventure and service. Born in Halifax in 1941, he developed a love of the outdoors early on – a passion that shaped both his career and his sport. He joined the Ordnance Survey in 1958 as a field surveyor, beginning a lifelong connection with mapping.

In 1963 Dave met Sandra Wylie in Greenock, and despite all advice they married just months later. Their partnership lasted more than 63 years, raising two sons, Philip and Colin.

Dave discovered orienteering in 1968 at Dukes Wood, Hexham – the perfect blend of maps, navigation and the outdoors. He helped form Border Liners in Carlisle, and after a return to Southampton and a move to Banbury, his orienteering career flourished. He won the November Classic, beating the entire GB squad, and was selected for the Swiss 5 Days, though illness cut that trip short after he rescued a girl from drowning.

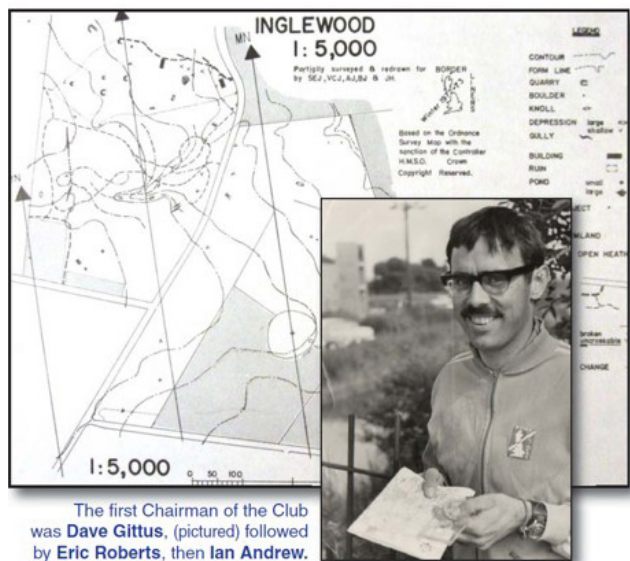


Image: 1969, with Border Liners

In 1972 Dave moved to Shropshire, joining Harlequins (HOC) and later co-founding Wrekin Orienteers in 1975 with Tim Goffe. As a professional mapper, he produced many high-quality maps for the new club, earning

the Chichester Trophy in 1977 for his Cannock Chase map used at the British Championships. He went on to become an IOF Controller, overseeing major events including Day 1 of the 1984 JK on Moel y Dyniewyd. He also coached national and regional junior squads, taking teams abroad and inspiring many young athletes. His contribution was recognised with the first-ever Silva Trophy in 1984.

Never one to sit still, he worked overseas with OS International in Yemen in 1986 – an experience that produced countless stories – and later in St Vincent. In 1994 he took early retirement from the OS and was awarded the MBE for services to mapping.



*Images: 1975 in the original WRE kit
Back: Sandra and Dave Front: Colin and Philip,
and World TrailO Champion. Credit: Dick
Keighley and CompassSport*

An ankle injury ended his foot-orienteering career, but Dave simply adapted, turning to TrailO. He represented Great Britain and reached the pinnacle of the sport, becoming Paralympic World Champion in Finland in 2006.

In later years Dave faced declining health, including Parkinson's Disease, which gradually limited his mobility. Yet he remained engaged with orienteering and was able to attend the 50th anniversary of Wrekin Orienteers in 2025, the club he helped to found. After a fall and a short hospital stay, he passed away peacefully.

Dave was a friend, mentor, adventurer and storyteller. His impact on mapping, orienteering and his community will be felt for many years. He will be deeply missed.



Club of the Year Award 2025

ERYRI Orienteering Club

Since 2023, Eryri has increased its membership numbers from less than twenty to seventy at the end of 2025. This increase has been the result of a sustained effort, initially from a small group of volunteers and now a volunteer base that is a substantial proportion of the club's membership.

Eryri have increased participation and membership through the provision of a range of activities and events that encourage participation and progression for both athletes and volunteers. Eryri holds weekly training sessions on a Thursday evening, which aim to develop key orienteering skills and align with the Welsh Orienteering Association's skills development booklet. The sessions aim to help develop the skills and confidence of new participants and challenge more experienced orienteers. At many of the sessions, more experienced orienteers help newcomers, increasing the friendly feel of the sessions and helping to provide an environment that people are comfortable returning to.

Beyond increasing participation at introductory level, many of Eryri's new junior orienteers have become members of the Welsh Junior Squad, competing at national level.

Eryri have also developed their program of events, from putting on fewer than 4 events in 2022, to this year, where they have an established winter street O series, a park series in spring and additional events through summer and autumn, and were able to host the Welsh Orienteering Championships weekend in 2025. Their Winter street O Series provides an opportunity where they encourage the progression of new organisers and planners, with the help of an experienced mentor.

This winter, all their street O planners and organisers have been new to the club since 2023, representing a key upskilling of volunteers within the club. One of their Street O events was run in collaboration with Denbigh Striders, developing partnerships with a club in the local area and bringing orienteering to a wider group of athletes. The series as a whole has brought in new participants from local running and triathlon clubs (around 50% are non-members) and has showcased grassroots orienteering using MapRun and simplified town maps as an entry route to the sport. The Club encourages team participation to remove a barrier to running at night, and their gender balance at the events is now approximately 50:50.



ERYRI has been working in partnership with Conwy County Council's outdoor development team and are in their second year of running a series of park events across Conwy County. These events are aimed at newcomers, with a particular emphasis on encouraging families and young people to enjoy the outdoors. The outdoor development team have been visiting local schools demonstrating orienteering, and have planned and organised a series of events that are advertised through the county council. At each event, they have prioritised having members on hand to help out and explain what to do, allowing people to run multiple courses to encourage progression and enjoyment, and having an activity such as a string course aimed at younger juniors.

ERYRI have been developing a club development strategy that aligns with Welsh Orienteering's five-year development strategy, with the aim of increasing participation, membership and volunteer numbers through the provision of regular training and events.

Though an ongoing challenge is the comparative geographical isolation of North Wales, which can limit entry numbers from the wider orienteering population. A key part of the strategy is upskilling volunteers. Through a grant from the Orienteering Foundation, we have trained 9 additional first aiders for our events. We pay for all new event officials to undergo the British Orienteering event safety course. Our event officials are thanked at the time and at the AGM are given a small token of appreciation as public thanks for their time, enthusiasm and effort. None of this would be possible without our enthusiastic committee, so thank you to them.



Volunteer of the Year Award 2025



Terry O'Brien

St Andrew's Orienteering Club Glasgow

Terry has dedicated over 40 years to Scottish orienteering. He founded STAG, reshaped event structures, coordinated major championships, and installed more than 70 permanent courses. Even now, he continues planning, controlling, and supporting clubs across Scotland. His contribution is extraordinary and enduring.

In 1980 Terry was invited to take on the role of West Area Secretary/Coordinator and remained in this until May 2023 when he stood down. When no volunteers came forward, he resumed this position and coordinated the 2026 Scottish Championships Weekend at Grandtully, working with Michael Atkinson on the South of Scotland O League.

He formed STAG in 1982 and began serving on Scottish Orienteering Committee for the best part of 30 years until the rules were changed. During his time he held responsibility for Publicity, Coaching, Competitions and as Operations Director reshaped the Events structure in early 2000. He also served as Vice President for a short period pre WOC 1999.

In 1994, Terry was offered the position of STAG Honorary President with overall responsibility for Club Development and still fulfils this role and is involved in ALL aspects of STAG business daily which included the job of project Manager for the Lottery Funded Project – ORIENTEERINGGLASGOW – launched in 2002.



Terry has been responsible for planning and installing over 70 permanent courses in schools mainly in the West of Scotland. He has attended 66 events this year and this is all in between competing, planning, organising, controlling and other voluntary roles!



Silva Award 2025

Mark Thompson Thames Valley Orienteering Club

Mark has been a cornerstone of TVOC for nearly 30 years. He led the club, created the Saturday Series, and continues to shape mapping and events across the region. His mapping work has saved the sport thousands of pounds, and his planning and controlling span everything from British Championships to Military League events. Mark is the volunteer who always steps in, mentors others, and keeps the club thriving.

An active member of the club since 1996, he has been extremely active in the Mapping and Planning fields, as well as serving in various roles for the club.

He was the Chair of Thames Valley Orienteering Club for four years in the early 2000's, and has been their Equipment Officer for the past ten years.

In 2006, Mark was responsible for commencing Thames Valley Orienteering Club's successful Saturday Series and continued in that role for some 12 years. This has been a major source of new members in the club. He is responsible for coordinating all the events, finding officials and armchair controlling every event. He returned to the role in 2025.

Mapping

Mark has formulated and sits on TVOC's Mapping and Events group, allowing them to plan into the future.

Mark has been an active mapper for some 25 years and has been responsible for bringing Hambleden back into use and upgrading the map to the highest possible standard (British Champs Relays 2023). This has saved fees for literally thousands of Orienteers.

He is currently in the process of remapping Christmas Common and Nettlebed from scratch using Lidar.

Over the past few years he has produced various other maps and updates for over 10 areas. He will be mentoring a new mapper across 2 areas going forward.

Planning

Mark has been Lead Planner for the British Middles 2017, British Championships Relay 2023, 4 Chiltern Challenges at Level B, Numerous Level C and D events, and is a regular planner for Military League South - at least 2 events a year in the last 5 years.

Controlling

Mark is a regular Level B Controller for TVOC's neighbouring clubs. For instance, at the 2025 Ace of Herts event, plus another Level C event for Bristol Orienteering Klub. He has been a regular controller for 15 years plus.

Mark is a constant volunteer and always willing to help out at any club event, and often can be seen working two jobs at TVOC's Saturday Series. He is a great example of our sport.

Treasurer's Report

Yet again we are reporting a smallish deficit for the year in our accounts. The only reason it looks smaller than 2024 is the one-off "special project" that year – the Sprint World Championships in Edinburgh. Reserves remain comfortably above those required by our reserves policy.

The deficit is analysed in the below three tables. One for income; the second for expenditure and the third is for expenditure excluding spending the grant money from Sport England and Sport Northern Ireland. Besides the special project the main difference you will note is the reduction in income from Sports Councils grant. This is due to some projects finishing in 2024 and is balanced by a reduction in expenditure – notably the development line.

The budget for 2026 is again for a small deficit. However we must look beyond that as at the AGM we are asking for increases in both subscriptions and levies for 2027. We are nearing the next review of our grant from Sport England (starts April 2027) and want to have all possibilities covered.

It remains for me to thank the efforts of the office staff in the preparation of these figures and for their hard work over the year. Peter Brooke and Kelly Perryman handle all the day-to-day finances, do all the detailed work on budgeting and deal with the auditors.



Andy Robinson, Treasurer

Income	2024	2025	Expenditure	2024	2025
Membership	120.5	122.9	Membership	39.4	39.1
Levy	194.3	214.5	Major Events	165.4	171.0
Major Events	202.3	201.3	Governance	21.8	17.6
Athletes Contribution	69.0	61.5	Development	132.6	54.7
Commercial	18.5	25.4	Performance	158.0	138.5
Sport England	348.8	245.8	Marketing & Commercial	20.3	32.7
Sport Northern Ireland	68.1	43.6	Payroll & Expenses	451.8	438.6
Interest	15.2	13.4	Special Projects	40.9	0.0
	1036.7	928.4	National Office & Finance Costs	68.2	57.3
Surplus/deficit	-61.7	-21.1		1098.4	949.5

Expenditure (excluding Grant Money from Sport England/Sport NI)	2024	2025
Membership	39.4	39.1
Major Events	165.4	171.0
Governance	21.8	17.6
Development	3.2	1.4
Performance	158.0	138.5
Marketing & Commercial	20.3	32.7
Payroll & Expenses	168.0	202.4
Special Projects	40.9	0.0
National Office Costs	52.3	39.9
Finance Costs	15.9	17.4
	685.2	660.0

Membership and Participation

Total number of competitions registered

1,590

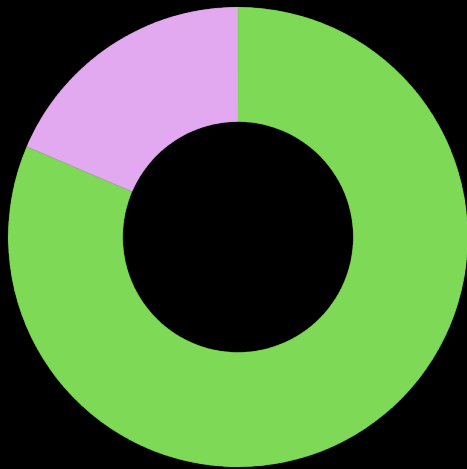


2025 total runs



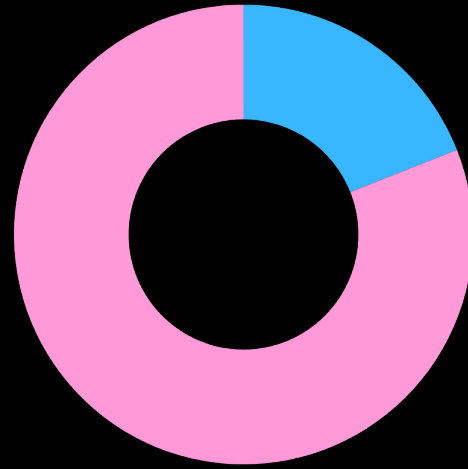
156,299

Participation by membership category



- Senior members 81.4%
- Junior members 18.6%

Member vs Non-member runs



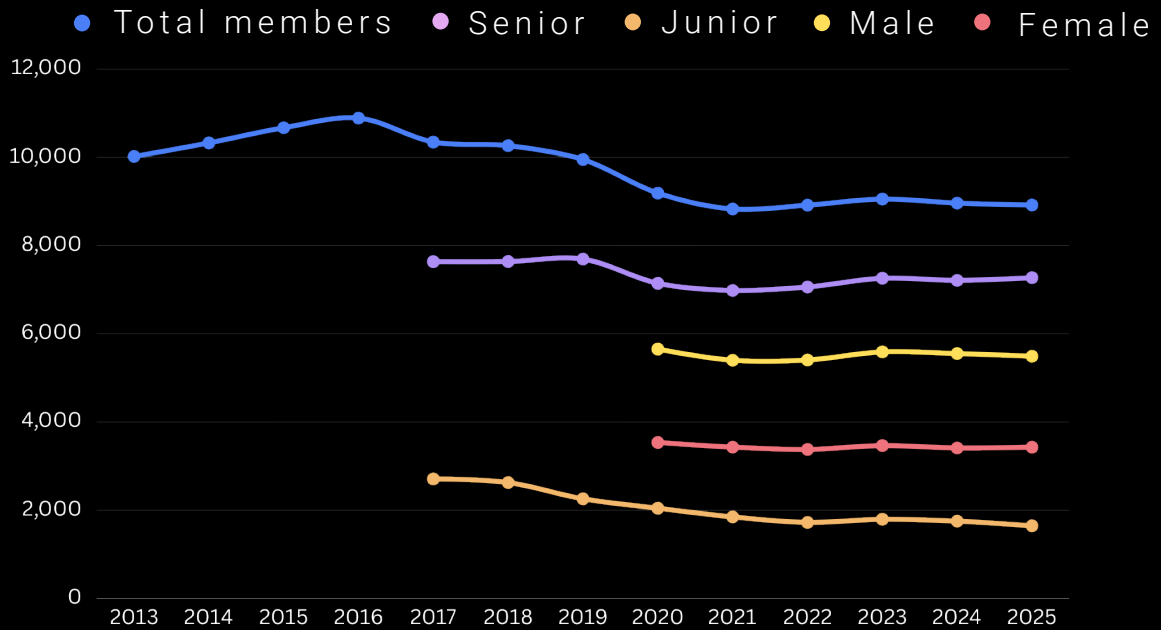
- Members 81%
- Non member runs 19%

Competitions and participation breakdown (versus 2024)

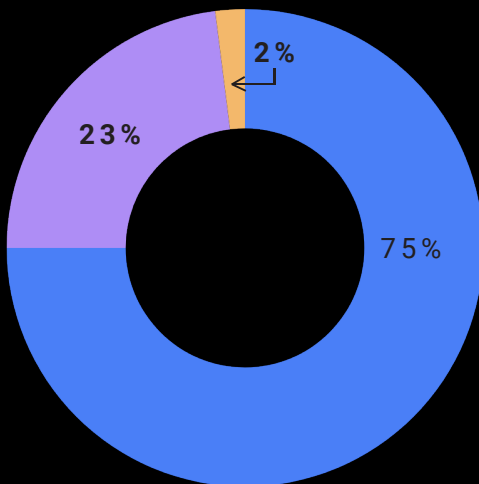
Level	Number	Participants
Level D	1,242 (-31)	71,301 (+1,159)
Level C	262 (+14)	39,934 (-236)
Level B	73 (+4)	32,117 (+6,702)
Level A	13 (0)	12,947 (-593)
Total	1,590 (-13)	156,299 (+7,005)

Membership statistics overview

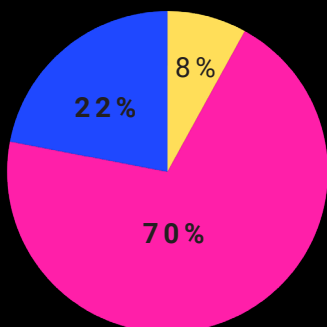
Yearly Membership Trends (taken 31 December 2025)



Membership Ethnicity



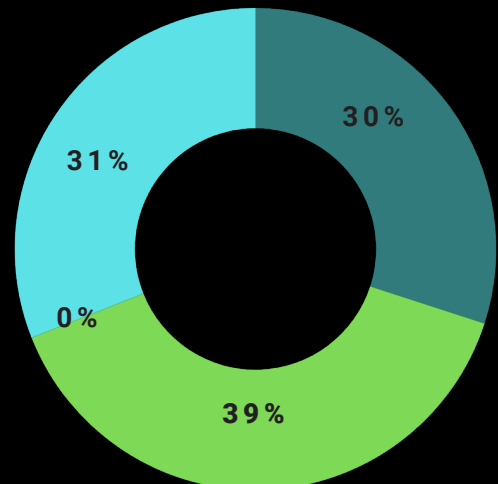
- White
- Other
- Prefer not to say



Health Conditions

- Yes
- No
- Prefer not to say

Religion



- Christian
- No religion or belief
- Prefer not to say
- Other

**The ethnicity, religion and health data fields are optional for members to complete and, as such, may not provide a complete representation of our membership.*

Coach of the Year Award 2025



Paul Murgatroyd Lincoln Orienteering Group

Paul has been coaching the club for over 10 years. He has helped many Lincoln Orienteering Group (LOG) competitors start from scratch and go on to achieve their full potential.

Paul delivers training in a comprehensive way that improves both technical and physical skills. His leadership and mentoring skills have led to LOG having multiple podium places in the past year.

He helps train on a weekly basis, come rain or shine, spending time with both individuals and teams, taking them through both forest and urban environments and sets challenges that sometimes prove more difficult than you can manage. He will explain afterwards why you went wrong and what you should have done. His manner always has everyone coming back for more!

He's a brilliant coach, and the club feels they are so lucky to have him.

Performance

2025 finished on a high with a fantastic 2nd place for Grace Molloy in the Knock-Out Sprint at the World Cup Final. However, this wasn't the only outstanding performance in 2025 – three different athletes made the podium at junior internationals, as did six of our relay teams (five junior, one senior). Well done to all 60 athletes who competed for Great Britain last year in one of the eight international races where we fielded a team!

The GB team's international results are testament to the hard work of athletes, coaches, staff, volunteers, and probably a lot of parents! The Performance Programme is run by four part-time staff (1.4 FTE), but the vast majority of support that the athletes receive – at training camps and competitions – is delivered by volunteers. Thank you to all the coaches, team managers, cooks, drivers, and errand-runners who supported the Performance Programme in 2025.

The overall task of the Performance Programme is to support athletes throughout their elite careers as they work towards the ultimate goal of winning a medal at the World Championships. This starts with support for junior athletes (15-18 year olds) in one of our three regional 'Talent' squads. At senior level, athletes progress through the Development and Performance squads, often specialising in either sprint or forest orienteering as they reach the senior ranks.

We are a small sport, jostling for attention amongst other running disciplines, and to become the best in the world, our athletes need to be pushed! With this in mind, a new initiative to coordinate elite training opportunities was launched in January 2026. This independent initiative is run by volunteers, with the support of the British Orienteering Performance Programme (more information [here](#)). It is aimed at senior elite athletes (competing in M/W20/21E) who are not currently members of the GB Squad, but who want to improve their orienteering. Every year, several athletes from outside the squad are selected to represent Great Britain – maybe you could be next, or maybe you are one of those athletes who are now preparing to pull on a GB top for the first time!

Good luck to all GB athletes who will be competing at international races in Summer 2026, in Switzerland, Sweden, Slovenia, Italy, Portugal, Czechia and Lithuania.



Performance Key Highlights



Solid Performances for Team GB at the 2025 World Orienteering Championships

With the 2025 World Championships held in central Finland, securing top results against strong Scandinavian teams in their home forests was always going to be tough. However, GB athletes stepped up with the highlights being Grace Molloy's top 20 positions in both the Middle and the Long Distance, and Simon Harden's fantastic 25th position in the Middle Distance in his debut World Championships.

Over the next few years, senior forest championships move away from Scandinavia, with the 2026 / 28 European Championships destined for Lithuania / Portugal and the 2027 World Championships heading to Hungary. GB athletes are already preparing for the unusual terrain of these countries and will be training and racing in all three this summer.



Switch to Sprint in China, Belgium and Switzerland

For senior athletes, sprint orienteering was the focus in the second half of 2025. In addition to Grace's outstanding 2nd place at the World Cup Final, GB athletes also performed strongly at the European Championships in Belgium. Grace Molloy and Nathan Lawson finished a solid 14th and 15th, respectively, in the Individual Sprint, and the Mixed Sprint Relay team of Grace Molloy, Cecilie Andersen, Eddie Narbett and Ralph Street fought hard all the way to the finish line for a well-deserved 5th place.

Earlier in the summer, Rachel Brown, Mairi Eades, Freddie Carcas and Jim Bailey travelled to China for the 12th edition of The World Games. As many of you will be aware, this competition was hit by tragedy as a member of the Italian team – Mattia Debertolis – tragically passed away after being found unconscious during the first race. This was an incredibly difficult situation for the GB team to deal with and all of us at British Orienteering are proud of the way the athletes conducted themselves that week.

Performance Key Highlights



International success for Junior athletes

Our junior athletes posted some outstanding performances in 2025! First up was the Junior World Orienteering Championships (JWOC), where the highlight of the week was James Hammond's 4th place in the Sprint. Other stand-out results came from Finn Selmer Duguid and Emily Atkinson who both secured top-20 positions in their JWOC debut.

A few weeks later, at the European Youth Orienteering Championships, not one, not two, but three GB relay teams finishing on the podium! Well done to the M18, W18 and W16 teams who fought hard to the line to finish 5th, 6th and 6th, respectively.

Finally, early October saw the international orienteering community head to Scotland for the Junior European Cup where athletes and race organisers produced a fantastic end to the season. Two more GB relay teams made the podium (men 4th, women 6th), and Finn Selmer Duguid and James Hammond both secured individual 4th places (M18 Sprint, M20 Long). However, top honours went to Emily Atkinson who ran a near-perfect race to secure Gold in W18 Sprint. Well done all, the future of GB orienteering is looking bright.

Safeguarding

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility and extends beyond child protection. Within our sport, adult safeguarding is as important as safeguarding for juniors and we endeavour to educate and put preventative measures in place to ensure our training and events support the participants welfare and wellbeing.

Throughout 2025, we have continued to align our work with /meet the increasingly high standards set by NSPCC Sport (formerly CPSU), Ann Craft Trust and Children First, reflecting the safeguarding expectations across Great Britain. (or, recognising the differing approaches across the Country).

We have also continued to strengthen our approach, embedding improvements that support a positive and inclusive culture across the sport.

During the year, two cases were considered by Case Management Group. To further strengthen this process, we have recruited external volunteers to the Group. In addition, we have introduced centralised logging of lower-level concerns. While reporting levels remain steady, this reflects growing confidence among members to raise concerns, enabling earlier intervention and resolution.

We plan to formally roll out our Lower-Level concerns in early 2026, supported by a webinar in partnership with NSPCC Sport. Alongside this, we have updated our Codes of Conduct and begun implementing our Minimum Training Standards. These initiatives will support members in recognising welfare concerns and feeling confident to report them, further reinforcing a safe, inclusive environment.

To improve communication and engagement, we established the Safeguarding and Advisory Welfare Group and introduced quarterly Welfare

Officer e-newsletters, alongside regular safeguarding updates in the Member Newsletter.

Throughout 2026 we will continue to provide training opportunities for coaches and welfare officers and provide guidance for event officials, coaches and members. We will look to strengthen our support to both children and adults, starting by issuing guidance for members with dementia and updating our Trips Away Guidance.

We have listened to member feedback and will deliver more Orienteering targeted safeguarding training during 2026, while also working to reduce associated costs. We recognise that volunteer burnout remains a challenge and will continue to explore ways to maintain high safeguarding standards while reducing the burden on our volunteers.



Safety

2025-2026 has seen a period of significant and continued improvement for safety within British Orienteering, seeing the implementation of the new digital Incident Reporting Form, and the formation of the Safety Advisory Group.

Since the establishment of the Safety Advisory Group, two highly productive meetings have been held. During these sessions, members have addressed a broad range of safety-related matters, including extreme weather considerations, risk assessment processes, and a comprehensive review and planned restructure of the Safety section on the British Orienteering website.

The introduction of the digital Incident Reporting Form has resulted in a steady increase in submitted reports over the past 12 months, which is a positive development. The form was designed not only to streamline the reporting process for members of the public but also to support a cultural shift within the sport, encouraging more consistent and transparent reporting of incidents at orienteering events.

Data collected through the form has enabled the Safety Advisory Group to identify trends and engage with clubs where patterns emerge. This may relate to recurring injury types, specific locations presenting elevated risk, or broader learning points from particular events. Improved data processing and analysis have also allowed the creation of targeted, sensitively communicated safety content for members.

A dedicated agenda item for each meeting focuses on detailed discussion and review of notable incident reports. Outcomes from these discussions are shared with the membership through safety alerts, blogs, and guidance in the British Orienteering Newsletter. They also inform the development of webinars, YouTube content, and new or updated safety policies and protocols.

The positive impact of the Safety Advisory Group is already evident across British Orienteering, with multiple safety webinars delivered and further planned to take place, and plans to overhaul the website's safety page with new guidance, policies and protocols. This success is a credit to the volunteers that make up the group, and this will be further built upon with additional members having been recruited to bring specialist expertise and the experience of Safety Officers from major events.

Despite this progress, cultural challenges around safety and incident reporting remain within the sport, and a key message from the group is that reporting all incidents can provide valuable learnings to make our sport safer. The Safety Advisory Group will continue to promote awareness, encourage engagement with safety processes, and reinforce the principle that no participant should be exposed to avoidable risk at an orienteering event.



Coaching

Following the recommendations from the 2023 Coaching Review, our focus in 2025 has been on developing and strengthening the coaching pathway.

Orienteering Instructor Qualification

The Orienteering Instructor Qualification was successfully launched in September, following pilot courses delivered in 2024. These pilots provided valuable insights that informed both the structure and content of the qualification. Our Coach Educators have been supported and prepared to deliver and underpin this new qualification effectively.

The Orienteering Instructor Qualification is aimed at teachers, leaders within uniformed youth organisations, and outdoor industry providers. Its purpose is to support the development of orienteers through the delivery of high-quality introductory sessions, operating within the safety management systems, insurance, and policies of the deploying organisation.

This new qualification replaces the previous Level 1 award and has been developed during the year by Pat Mee (MDOC) and Hilary Palmer (NOC).

Club Instructor Qualification

Following the Instructor Qualification launch we began to design & develop the content for Club Instructor Qualification which is due to be launched in 2026

Towards the end of the year, work commenced on the development of the Performance Coaching Qualification. This has been informed by research conducted by Dr Tom Leeder, Stakeholder Perspectives Towards Performance Coaching and Coach Education, which gathered input from 36 coaches and athletes within the performance pathway. This consultation has helped identify key areas of focus for the new qualification.

The research makes several important recommendations for the future of coaching within British Orienteering:

- Reposition coaching as a mentorship role, emphasising interpersonal skills and the importance of guiding athletes
- Adopt a modular qualification structure, balancing professional, interpersonal, and intrapersonal knowledge
- Implement ongoing assessment methods, including observations and portfolios, to demonstrate coaching competency
- Strengthen the Coach Developer work force by recruiting subject matter experts to deliver specialist modules

Overall, we remain on track to deliver the current coaching plan and are grateful for the commitment, expertise, and leadership of the Coaching Advisory Group, chaired by Judith Holt (DVO).



eLearning

Our aim is to ensure that eLearning resources are available and accessible to learners at a time and place of their choosing.

While accessibility is a key driver, we believe that eLearning should also enhance the overall learning experience and deliver clear benefits to learners.

Refreshed content

During 2025, we undertook a programme to refresh 15 existing eLearning courses. This included six bite-sized courses from the Coach qualification, all of which were updated with new content and a refreshed look and feel.

Our objective was to ensure that course content remained current, fit for purpose, and engaging for both members and the wider orienteering community. This was a collaborative effort involving subject-matter experts from our membership, who played a vital role in maintaining the accuracy and relevance of the materials.

Young Leader Award

The Young Leader Award, originally developed in 2010, was fully redeveloped and transitioned into an eLearning format to improve accessibility for those delivering the award.

The course is aimed at school staff, School Games Organisers, and leaders within uniformed youth organisations. It is designed to equip tutors with fundamental orienteering skills, enabling them to effectively pass these on to young people aged 8–18.

The course focuses on:

- Delivering safe and enjoyable activities on enclosed sites
- Supporting local and school events, including School Games, Scouts/Guides, and Cadet activities

This course has been developed with expert guidance from Pauline Olivant (NOC) and has been extensively tested by subject matter experts from our membership. We are sincerely grateful for their valuable contributions.



392

total number of enrolments



3.6 mins

average time to complete a course



92

number of enrolments on the most popular course (Event Safety)

Club Development

This year has seen strong progress in shaping a more structured and sustainable approach to club and participant development across three key areas: the Club Health Checker, the Thriving Clubs Program, and a new skills-based award pathway.

Club Health Checker

The Club Health Checker was launched in early 2025 as a core self-assessment tool, with 8 clubs completing submissions to date, providing valuable insight into club operations and development priorities.

Building on this insight and ongoing club feedback, we are now working on the second phase which prioritises offering more focused support and development tools. We are currently working with a few pilot clubs before we re-launch the toolkit in Autumn 2026. The Club Health Checker will also allow British Orienteering to make more data-driven planning and decisions going forward.

Thriving Clubs Program

We are also working on a Thriving Clubs Program which introduces a new tiered framework (from Accreditation to Thriving club status) which will replace the previous ClubMark scheme. This program offers clubs a clear progression route, recognition for good practice, and access to targeted support. Together, these initiatives create a more joined-up development pathway for both clubs and participants.

Alongside this, a new skills-based awards pathway is being designed to support beginners and developing orienteers of all ages, providing a clear progression pathway that builds confidence, skills, and long-term participation. The skills-based awards scheme enhances the participant journey, helping newcomers build confidence, improving retention, and supporting the long-term growth of the sport.

Looking ahead

The next key phase will focus on deepening club engagement and progressing towards full implementation. We are working closely with clubs to shape and refine these programs. The valuable insight that clubs are providing into what works in practice, will ensure that each initiative is practical, flexible, and aligned to the needs of volunteer-led clubs. This collaborative approach is helping to build ownership, ensuring clubs feel part of the development process while also benefitting from tools, resources, and support designed to make delivery easier and more effective.

Together, this work provides a strong foundation to raise club standards, enhance participant experience and support sustainable growth across the sport.



Partnerships

Quid Games

Participation, Profile and Strategic Development 2025

British Orienteering delivered two Quid Games activations in partnership with SportsShoes: Quid Games I – *The Dark Edition* and Quid Games II – *Storm the Castle*. These initiatives formed part of a wider strategic approach to widening the visibility and accessibility of orienteering, particularly among adults aged 16–40, and those already engaged in running and outdoor activity but not currently participating in the sport. This focus aligns with Sport England priorities around supporting adults who are already active to sustain and diversify their activity through flexible, informal and social opportunities.

Quid Games was developed to complement existing club and competition structures and its intention is to explore how orienteering could be presented in ways that better align with contemporary participation behaviours, while retaining the core characteristics of the sport: navigation, route choice and decision making.

Strategic Context and Rationale

Participation insight continues to show that many people, particularly younger adults, are choosing activities that are social, flexible and experience driven. For these audiences, enjoyment, atmosphere and ease of access are often more influential than formal competition structures. Quid Games is designed in response to this context, offering a simplified but authentic introduction to orienteering that prioritised exploration, choice and shared experience. This reflects Sport England's emphasis on creating positive experiences that encourage people to remain active through enjoyment rather than performance.

This approach aligns closely with the wider strategic ambition to increase participation and adapt delivery where appropriate in order to reach new audiences, particularly those less likely to engage through traditional club-based sport models.

Quid Games I - *The Dark Edition*

Quid Games I acted as an initial proof of concept. Delivered as a night-time urban score event, it demonstrated that orienteering could be re framed in a way that felt contemporary and engaging without altering the fundamental skills required to take part. The event generated interest both from participants new to the sport and from the wider outdoor and running sector. This validation provided confidence to further develop the concept and explore opportunities to embed the sport in new environments and communities.



Quid Games II - *Storm the Castle*

Building on this foundation, Quid Games II was delivered as part of the Kendal Mountain Festival, one of the UK's most established outdoor festivals which attracts a large audience of runners, trail runners and outdoor enthusiasts.

Hosting Quid Games II within this setting allowed us to place orienteering directly in front of an audience aligned with the sport's growth ambitions. The event was again delivered as a 60-minute score format using a visually clear, beginner friendly map, encouraging autonomy and route choice decision making at a level accessible to first time participants.

The event centre was located at the heart of the festival base camp, supported by music, social spaces and visible brand activations. This ensured that orienteering was presented not as a niche activity but as a natural part of the wider outdoor culture represented at the festival.

Once again at the heart of the event was the use of unusual, 'content worthy', conversation starting control locations,

such as the Ski-Slope, and inside Kirkbie Kendal School and the intra-race prize controls. This spread the possibility of winning prizes across a wider bank of participants, but also allowed brands and partners to feel included in this part of the race, giving them the chance to 'have their branding visible at their own control locations.

Partnerships and External Validation

Quid Games has been supported by several established brands including SportsShoes, ASICS, GORE-TEX Brand, Garmin, Silva and Red Bull. These continued partnerships provide both practical support and wider validation, reinforcing trust and credibility for participants unfamiliar with orienteering.

The association with recognised brands has helped position orienteering alongside other mainstream outdoor activities, supporting our aim of improving external perceptions of the sport and making it feel relevant and current to new audiences. This credibility plays an important role in reducing hesitation among those new to organised sport, a recognised barrier within Sport England insight.



Digital Engagement and Participation Alignment

Quid Games I generated strong early digital engagement through partner and athlete channels, with atmospheric imagery and short form video performing particularly well. The digital response demonstrated that orienteering based experiences could achieve heightened visibility and engagement when framed around enjoyment, challenge and visual storytelling.

During the key campaign period for Quid Games II, content associated with the event generated 83,400 views with reach extending to wide-ranging accounts, and engagement supported by amplification through partner, brand and athlete channels.

Interaction levels rose by 9.1% compared to the previous month, with over 1,200 content interactions, indicating active engagement rather than passive viewing, suggesting genuine curiosity and interest in orienteering as a result of the event. From a participation perspective, this level of interaction aligns with Sport England indicators of early-stage engagement and intent rather than simple awareness.

These indicators align with wider participation objectives that experience led, relatable content can reach and engage individuals who may not otherwise interact with the sport.

Wider Benefits for Clubs and Members

The events produced a substantial bank of high-quality imagery and video content that can be used by clubs to support their own promotional activity, particularly for informal, urban and introductory events. This refreshed visual language supports clubs in reaching new audiences and helps make orienteering feel more visible and accessible at local level, supporting place-based participation work and local engagement priorities.

At a national scale, increased exposure through commercial partners and mainstream outdoor platforms has contributed to raising general awareness of orienteering. This in turn supports local participation by reducing the unfamiliarity that can act as a barrier when individuals first encounter the sport through a club or local event.



Marketing & Communications Analytics

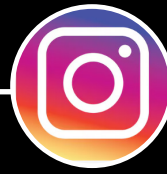
Social media growth

Stats highlighted in green and red represent the percentage increase/decrease from 2024 figures



6,530 followers ↑10.6%

- 1.7 million views
- 43.2K visits ↑33.9%
- 28.9K content interactions ↑45.8%
- 9.6K link clicks ↑88.4%
- 611 new followers ↓4.2%



3,358 followers ↑31.9%

- 586.9K views
- 46.9K reach ↓55.6%
- 11.1K visits ↑12.1%
- 8.4K content interactions ↑100%
- 1.2K link clicks ↑61.6%
- 716 new followers ↑31.9%



325 followers

- 449.4K reach
- 3,998 views
- 1,246 page views
- 325 new followers



600 subscribers ↑20.7%

- 11.4K views ↓26%
- 83.4K impressions ↓15%
- 824.9 hours of watch time ↓29%
- 76 new subscribers ↓33%

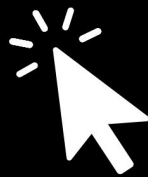
Email campaigns



25
emails
sent



63.2%
open
rate



12.2%
click
rate



21,254
total
clicks



10,058
unique
clicks

Website analytics

483k
Visitors
314k
increase
from 2024

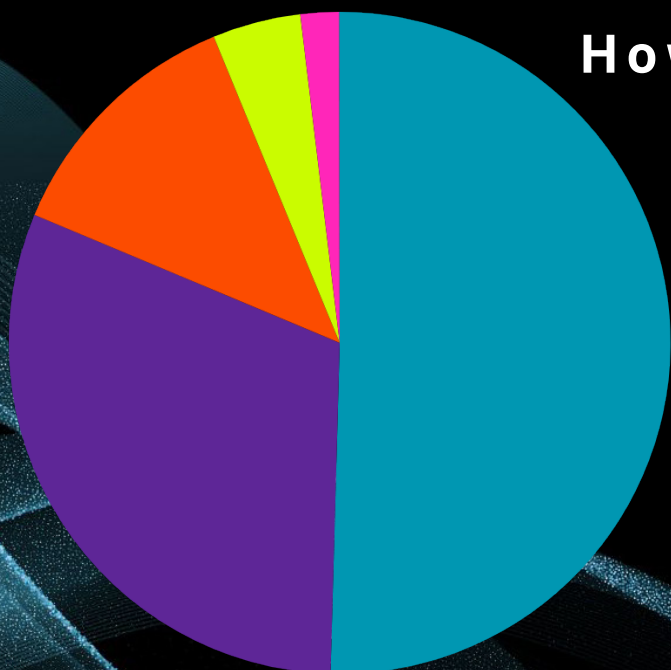
446k
New
Users
280K up
from 2024

78.8K
increase
on news
story views

18.1K
views
(Club &
Membership
Toolkit)

14.4K
blog views
(up 8,698
views
from 2024)

How are people finding us?



- Direct (50.4%)
- Organic search (30.9%)
- Referral (12.5%)
- Unassigned (4.3%)
- Organic social (1.9%)
- Email
- Organic video

Access

In 2025, we continued to strengthen our relationships with existing landowners which included renewed conversations with the National Trust and the Woodland Trust, both significant landowners for clubs when seeking permissions across the United Kingdom.

We have launched a new Information for Landowners webpage, designed to give landowners a clearer understanding of orienteering as a sport, what to expect from events, and orienteering's approach to minimise impact on the environment. Tailored leaflets for Forestry England, National Trust and Woodland Trust have also been produced, which have been shared with their ranger teams to improve their knowledge and understanding of orienteering. These materials are available for clubs and members to access on the Information for Members page under Access & Environment resources.

We recognise the increasing challenges clubs face in securing permissions and accessing suitable areas due to increasing governmental restrictions. In 2026, we will build on previous work by developing a set of case studies showcasing Access Best Practice. These will support clubs in their negotiations and provide evidence to landowners of the steps orienteers take to minimise impact and work collaboratively to address concerns. Strengthening our relationships with key landowners remains a highly significant priority, and we continue to strive to help support clubs in securing permissions for events and activities.



XPLORER

Xplorer is a fun, inclusive navigation challenge designed to engage families in outdoor activity. As part of British Orienteering, it introduces basic orienteering skills in an accessible way, helping participants build confidence, teamwork, and navigation abilities. Suitable for all ages, Xplorer continues to support healthier, more active communities.



Key achievements

We have successfully re-established Xplorer's social media presence, particularly on Facebook. This has led to engaging 210 families during the February half-term through Xplorer activities.

Events visibility has been increased through improved promotion on social media and the website homepage. As such, we have received positive partner feedback, with improved event discoverability and engagement.

Xplorer has generated partner sales and new partnership enquiries through targeted promotion.

We have been working on the renewal process for 2026/27, and at how we can include new offers and improve partner communications.

What has worked well

- Centralising promotions via social media and the website homepage.
- Sharing partner content and success stories to boost engagement.
- Highlighting partner offers to drive participation and generate interest.

Challenges

- Loss of one partner due to local council budget constraints.
- Ongoing challenges in maintaining communication with council partners due to staff turnover.
- Difficulty identifying new contacts within local authorities, impacting partnership continuity.

Priorities for 2026/2027

- Expand social media reach and strengthen its role as a central communication hub.
- Focus promotion around key peak periods, particularly school holidays.
- Reconnect with previous partners and develop new partnership opportunities.
- Introduce new products and offers while maintaining affordability.
- Create opportunities for partners to share best practices and success stories.
- Launch a newsletter to improve communication and engagement.
- Ensure long-term sustainability through a strong and balanced pricing model.
- New products introduced to meet partners' evolving needs and keep Xplorer products fresh.



Young Volunteer of the Year Award



Joel Taylor

Bath University Mountaineering Club/ Thames Valley Orienteering Club

Joel transformed orienteering at Bath, running training, organising competitions, and inspiring record student participation. He delivered the club's first English University Orienteering Championships event, led the team to its best results, and brought countless newcomers into the sport. His energy and commitment have left a lasting impact.

Joel was the orienteering secretary for BUMC for the 24/25 academic year. BUMC is a mountaineering club at the University of Bath which offers orienteering alongside climbing and hiking. As the orienteering secretary he was responsible for all orienteering training and competitions, doing the work that most university clubs have an entire committee to do. During this time, he helped develop orienteering at Bath at a level higher than we have ever seen.

He was responsible for organising the English University Orienteering Championships (EUOC) which was the first event BUMC have ever hosted, which saw 54 athletes from 6 different unis attend. His organisation responsibilities included liaising with local clubs to offer us areas to compete on, securing accommodation for travelling uni clubs and finding a planner for the relay event. The event went flawlessly and was considered a resounding success. BUMC had 13 athletes compete in the individual day and 16 athletes compete in the relay team – an amazing turn out for us at the time (the previous year only 4 people competed). As the BUMC captain he guided us to 2nd place in this competition.

He also facilitated BUMC attending BUCS, where we came 5th (matching what we believe is our highest ever placing). A strong team of 12 were selected for BUCS, marking the first year BUMC had trials to secure a BUCS place! (Year before there were approximately 5 who went to BUCS).

Joel's training through the year and ability to draw newcomers to the sport were essential for our success. He ran fortnightly training sessions where he single-handedly planned courses, set controls and helped newcomers learn how to orienteer. Often in rainy weather he showed up to each session with an infectious love of orienteering which drew in many orienteers who now frequently compete for the club.

The amount of effort that he put into ensuring that our trips went ahead should not be overlooked as dealing with our SU is not a small feat! Organising transport, meals, accommodation, filling in trip lists and chasing orienteers for payments are just some of the things that Joel accomplished during his time.

University Club of the Year Award 2025



Bath University Mountaineering Orienteering Club

In the last year, BUMC has significantly grown its orienteering offering for its members. They have doubled the number of free and accessible regular sessions by introducing weekly trail runs and increasing the regularity of navigation and skills training. They have also attended significantly more local competitions, particularly BOK events, which have been facilitated and subsidised by the BUMC.

This has been reflected in improvements in performance, with excellent results at BUCS (5th) and EUOC (2nd) in 2025. They hope to replicate or improve on these this year!

BUMC's training sessions have also changed this year, with a greater focus on the development of specific skills and orienteering techniques whilst still being accessible to both new and experienced orienteers. These are all accessible to any student at the University of Bath. This is reflected in the breadth of experience levels represented by their members, from new starters to ranking athletes. They have also attended (and provided subsidy for) events such as an SBOC training weekend in November 2025.

BUMC hosted EUOC in March 2025 and a BOK local event (Warmley and Siston Common) in October 2025. These events provided a great opportunity for the Orienteering Secretaries and Captains to gain experience coordinating, organising and planning significant events. They were supported in these events by BOK and QO. Both events were very successful.

In addition to BOK and QO, BUMC has developed much closer ties with UBOC. As well as regularly sharing accommodation and food they have developed a friendly competitive relationship at the many shared events they attend, culminating in the Avon Universities Orienteering Champs hosted by BOK just before Christmas 2025!





This year, they have also worked more closely with the Orienteering Foundation to allow some of their members to attend the British Orienteering Championships in South Wales in March 2026.

Any student at the University of Bath can attend their on-campus events and training. The Club provides course options and training aimed at any experience or ability level. BUMC has a history of catering to people with disabilities, and the committee team is always happy to provide reasonable adjustments to make their activities as accessible as possible.

BUMC hosted the English University Orienteering Championships in March 2025 and a BOK local event (Warmley and Siston Common) in October 2025. Orienteering Secretaries and allow for better integration of non-official Captains. This will allow them to further increase their Orienteering offering over the coming years, as well as providing planning and organising experience for more people. They also hope to develop their relationships with BOK, UBOC and other local clubs to provide more experiences for our members. This year, the British Sprints are being held on their campus, which we hope will further increase awareness of the rapidly



Continued Contribution to Orienteering Award 2025



Niall Reynolds Swansea Bay Orienteering Club

Niall has guided SBOC for over a decade, strengthening the club through COVID and driving major development and schools initiatives. He organised key events like Croeso 2024 and the British Championships, and he's always supporting others—whether mentoring new officials or organising trips across the UK and abroad. His leadership has shaped Welsh orienteering for years.

Niall has been involved in the running of SBOC and WOA for more years than I can count and has taken on numerous roles.

Currently, he is the Chair of the club, a position he has held for 11 years and has steered the club through the troubled COVID times and been the driving force behind the recent Club Development and Schools initiatives.

Niall is passionate about the sport and providing quality events where the focus is on having a top-quality Orienteering experience and making the club friendly and welcoming to newcomers, as well as having a strong social fabric for existing members.

Away from committee roles, Niall plans and volunteers at a number of events each year, and in recent years was the organiser for 2 days of the hugely successful 2024 Croeso event and this year's British Orienteering Championships.

Always up for an Orienteering adventure and happy to help and support others to travel to events in the UK and overseas, this year alone includes organising the All Wales Orienteering Legends (AWOL) trip to the OOCup in later this year and the World Masters in Poland.

Niall is generous with his time and happy to pass on his knowledge to newcomers and mentor new planners and organisers, and step into the breach as and when needed.





Mapping Awards 2025

Chichester Trophy

Rudi Paul St Andrews Glasgow Orienteering Club

Rudi's map of Palacerigg Country Park is his most ambitious yet, produced with remarkable dedication—often travelling by bike or foot. His technical skill and willingness to support other mappers make him a standout contributor, worthy of winning the Chichester trophy for 2025.

Over the past few years Rudi has made a phenomenal contribution to the STAG Mapping portfolio and his map of Palacerigg Country Park and Glenhead Wood was his biggest undertaking in 2025 and helped the Club deliver yet another quality experience.

Having graduated from Glasgow University in 2022 where he was intrinsic to the creation and work of GOAT - sadly now defunct - he turned his attention to assisting STAG.

Rudi doesn't drive so all his projects to date have involved reaching the areas either on foot, by bike or by train. Palacerigg being located south of Cumbernauld isn't an easy destination to reach but Rudi's diligence and determination was there.

Asked by the Club to undertake this work in January 2025, the first proof was available by



Image credit: Colin Matheson.

the Summer. Then, not being content, Rudi went exploring to the NE and found a beautiful piece of unexplored deciduous woodland and when permission was forthcoming in September 2025 it was mapped within a fortnight.

Our understanding is that Rudi maps using 'his phone' which blows your mind! He is also very generous when it comes to advising anyone who has dabbled in the world of OCAD mapping for too many years we care to remember!

This map is a step up from all the other maps Rudi has produced to date: much larger, a technical area and remote from his Glasgow home. A talented individual who may decide to become a Professional Mapper in time.

Mapping Award Winners 2025

Silva Trophy

**Graham
Gristwood**



**Forth Valley
Orienteers**

Graham's Stirling Cornton and Causewayhead map impressed judges with its clarity, precision, and excellent cartography, setting a high standard for urban mapping. Worthy of winning the Silva trophy for 2025.



Image credits: Colin Matheson.

The judges felt that the overall cartography was excellent, with lines/areas drawn precisely and spacing rules followed to create a very readable map.

The symbol set was fully standard, with the prominent man-made / vegetation features being comprehensively described in the legend.

Walsh Trophy

**Alasdair
Pedley**



**Auld Reekie
Orienteering Society**

Alasdair's map of Lerwick captured the complexity of the old town with exceptional readability and thoughtful detail, earning high praise from the judges, making it a worthy winner the Walsh trophy for 2025.

The map mostly covers the old town with its many narrow alleys leading uphill from the harbour.

The judges felt that the overall cartography was excellent with good spacing between objects, exaggerated where necessary, making valid routes clear and unambiguous. Wall dots and fence tags, when used, were placed to avoid obscuring important detail and contours / north lines were cut appropriately. The overall map layout was simple and not distracting in any way.



TrailO



For the orienteering discipline of TrailO, the highlight of the year was the World TrailO Championships (WTOC) staged jointly by Hungary and Slovakia in late August.

For the first time, national teams were allowed to include up to 2 juniors as additional members of the national team and James Curtis (SO) was selected and joined the GBR team under this criterion. WTOC includes 3 separate Championships – one for each of the main event formats (PreO and TempO) and a 3-leg Relay for national teams. The best GBR performance this year was by Ben Kyd (MDOC) in the TempO. Ben came 4th in his heat and was the sole GBR member to qualify for the subsequent final in which he finished in 11th place. This was the highest ever WTOC performance for a GBR competitor in the TempO Championships surpassing his 16th place in the previous WTOC in 2023.

Here in the UK, 2025 highlights included two TrailO events at the JK coordinated by John Kewley (MDOC). One was alongside the Sheffield JK Sprint race on Good Friday and the second close to the JK Middle race on Easter Saturday. In August, with the British Sprint Championships taking place on the University of East Anglia

campus, David Coton (WAOC) provided a demonstration PreO Sprint event in the interval between the morning heats and the afternoon finals – an opportunity taken by many orienteers to try TrailO for the first time.

The Autumn highlight was a weekend of 3 events coordinated by Peter Roberts (EBOR) which included use of parkland to the south side of the Humber Bridge on Saturday and a country park on the north side on Sunday.

The International Orienteering Federation announced towards the end of the year that the new PreO Sprint format will be included in World Ranking Events from 2026 and that, as well as the Open class, starting with the next WTOC 2027 in the USA, there will be separate Championship classes for the Physically Challenged (P class) and for Juniors. These developments are likely to broaden the appeal of TrailO and provide more opportunities for GBR Trail orienteers.



James Curtis at WTOC



Ben Kyd at WTOC

Roll of Honour 2025



British Championships

Age Group	Long	Middle	Sprint	Night
Senior Women	Megan Mitchell	Megan Mitchell	Alice Leake	Fiona Bunn
Junior Women	Daisy Rennie	Isobel Howard	Daisy Rennie	
Senior Men	Ben Mitchell	Jonathan Crickmore	James Ackland	Luke Fisher
Junior Men	Finn Selmer-Duguid	James Hammond	Oliver Bardsley	

British Relay Championships

Women	South Yorkshire Orienteers
Men	Forth Valley Orienteers



Club Competitions

CompassSport Cup	South Yorkshire Orienteers
CompassSport Trophy	Interlopers Orienteering Club
Yvette Baker Trophy	West Anglian Orienteering Club
Yvette Baker Shield	North Gloucestershire Orienteering Club