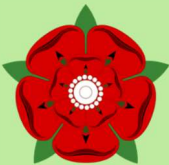


SROC Newsletter

January 2023

Red Rose Orienteers



Editorial

Hello and welcome to a new edition of the SROC newsletter, compiled by Julia Preston.

All contributions to the next newsletter are welcomed. If you come across something that you think would be useful for members, or just an interesting read, please forward to Julia at sulikosoulart@gmail.com. I'll put out a newsletter before the summer- look out for the reminder in the Red Rose bulletin.

The front cover photo is of John, Sarah and Brian all enjoying the SROC pub dinner in Stirling, pre-CSC final.

CompassSport Trophy Final - Devilla, Sunday 16 Oct 2022

John Embrey

Twenty-seven SROC members made the journey to Scotland for this year's Final, with some running in the FRA Relays the day before and others in the urban event at Bridge of Allan. We were missing some of our top runners in their class so we were always unlikely to defend the title won last year under Miriam's captaincy.

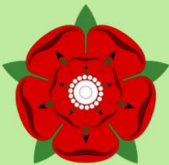
The area was flattish, with low undulations and some controls difficult to spot on features such as small low boulders. The most significant climb was a short, steep bank on the run-in which seemed somewhat gratuitous to me, unfair on old less agile competitors with sticks, and perhaps only included to try to reduce the possibility of ties for the Golden Boot run-in.

All SROC members successfully completed their course and there were no mis-punches. I would like to thank all those who made the trip, and particularly Jo for organising the team meal on Saturday evening attended by 17 of us.

The overall team results were :

Compass Sport Trophy

Pos	Club	Scorers	Score	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8A	8B	9A	9B	10
1st	INT	13	1256	196 (2)	0 (0)	194 (2)	195 (2)	197 (2)	190 (2)	0 (0)	88 (1)	100 (1)	0 (0)	96 (1)	0 (0)
2nd	MAROC	13	1251	195 (2)	96 (1)	192 (2)	91 (1)	197 (2)	190 (2)	0 (0)	198 (2)	0 (0)	0 (0)	92 (1)	0 (0)
3rd	MOR	13	1222	0 (0)	0 (0)	187 (2)	96 (1)	181 (2)	88 (1)	196 (2)	94 (1)	98 (1)	100 (1)	100 (1)	82 (1)
4th	SBOC	13	1190	181 (2)	87 (1)	195 (2)	90 (1)	91 (1)	92 (1)	98 (1)	90 (1)	92 (1)	84 (1)	0 (0)	90 (1)
5th	INVOC	13	1179	95 (1)	194 (2)	75 (1)	187 (2)	168 (2)	0 (0)	84 (1)	92 (1)	88 (1)	98 (1)	98 (1)	0 (0)
6th	EPOC	13	1177	169 (2)	186 (2)	174 (2)	199 (2)	95 (1)	194 (2)	160 (2)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
7th	BL	13	1155	0 (0)	175 (2)	83 (1)	80 (1)	183 (2)	188 (2)	164 (2)	96 (1)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	186 (2)
8th	WAOC	13	1150	0 (0)	100 (1)	168 (2)	87 (1)	85 (1)	83 (1)	177 (2)	0 (0)	174 (2)	182 (2)	0 (0)	94 (1)
9th	CLOK	13	1134	86 (1)	190 (2)	85 (1)	165 (2)	0 (0)	81 (1)	189 (2)	84 (1)	0 (0)	0 (0)	174 (2)	80 (1)
10th	SROC	13	1128	81 (1)	165 (2)	81 (1)	89 (1)	167 (2)	176 (2)	185 (2)	0 (0)	96 (1)	0 (0)	0 (0)	88 (1)
11th	EBOR	13	1068	78 (1)	0 (0)	79 (1)	81 (1)	157 (2)	176 (2)	155 (2)	0 (0)	86 (1)	74 (1)	0 (0)	182 (2)
12th	HOC	13	1061	88 (1)	0 (0)	152 (2)	174 (2)	151 (2)	86 (1)	176 (2)	74 (1)	0 (0)	86 (1)	0 (0)	74 (1)
13th	NOR	13	1040	158 (2)	173 (2)	73 (1)	154 (2)	0 (0)	154 (2)	0 (0)	76 (1)	78 (1)	174 (2)	0 (0)	0 (0)
14th	BKO	12	943	89 (1)	157 (2)	0 (0)	77 (1)	143 (2)	153 (2)	150 (2)	0 (0)	82 (1)	0 (0)	0 (0)	92 (1)
15th	SAX	7	549	141 (2)	0 (0)	70 (1)	0 (0)	81 (1)	161 (2)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	96 (1)



In the Trophy, it is each club's best 13 scores which count (with maximum 2 from each class), but everyone else still contributes by reducing the points gained by other club's runners who finish behind them, so numbers do count and everyone's run is important.

To maximise our scoring options, as we had numbers in some categories and few or none in others, Gavin Smith, Mary Ockenden, Alex Matthew and Alex Finch all asked or were asked to run up, and all counted in our top 13 scorers – well done and thanks.

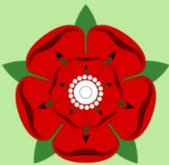
SROC participants and individual scores were as follows, with the top 14 highlighted in green. (14 highlighted as 2 runners both scored 78)

Class

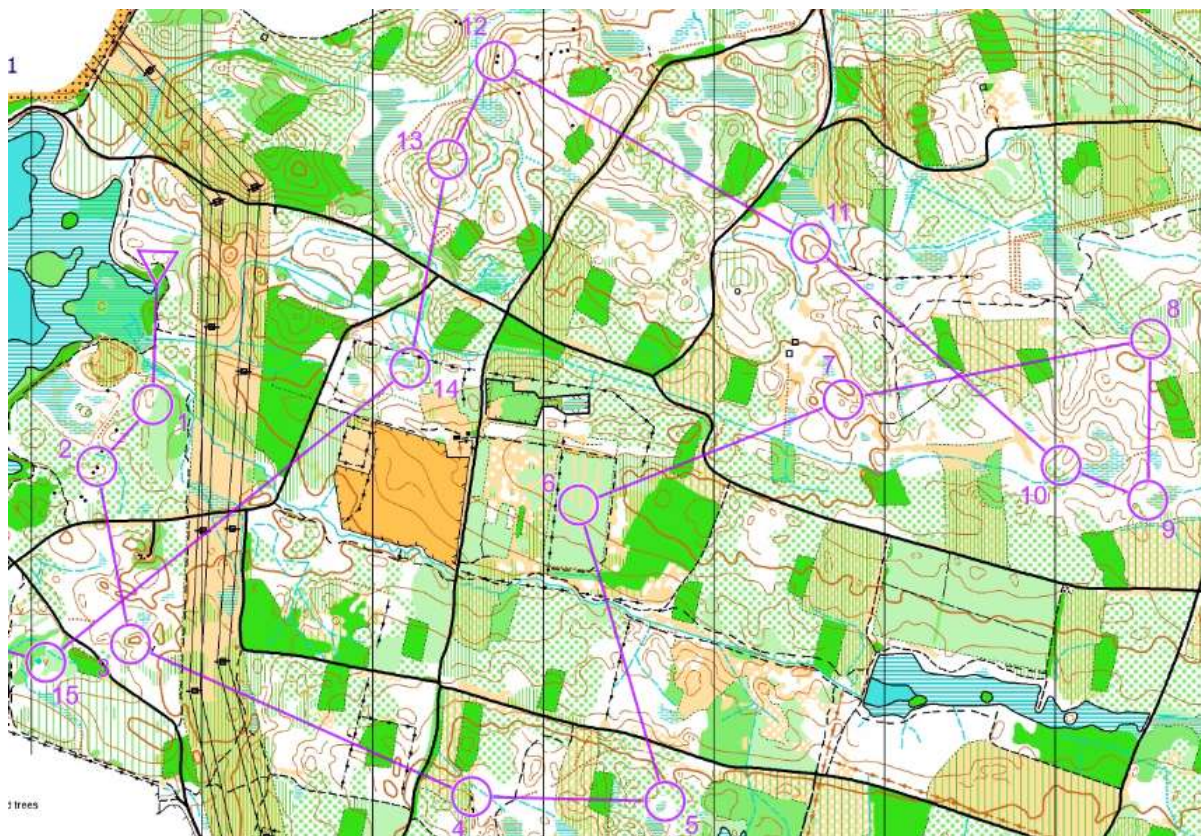
Name	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8A	8B	10
Alex Matthew	81									
Simonas Sakalauskas	72									
Alex Finch		84								
Gavin Smith		81								
Julia Preston			81							
Rebecca Rowe			78							
Tom Matthew				89						
Roy McGregor				73						
Mark Edwards				72						
Karen Quickfall					84					
Mary Ockenden					83					
Jo Matthew					77					
Sarah Watkins					64					
Juliet Bentley					60					
John Embrey						98				
Andy Quickfall						78				
David Rosen						66				
Chris Roberts						63				
John Carberry						60				
Paul Ferguson							93			
Julian Lailey							92			
Brian Jackson							87			
Sian Calow							82			
Rowena Browne							77			
Michael Finch								70		
Cate Matthew									96	
Miriam Rosen										88

Note our strength in class 7, where 2 more runners would have counted were it not for the limit of 2 per class.

In addition to the team scores, congratulations to Michael Finch, who was 2nd in the men's Golden Boot, awarded to the fastest split on the run in. He missed out by just 1 second.



Below: First part of Brown course. Green Men had very slightly different 1 & 3, went direct from 6 to 14, then a control between 2 and 15.



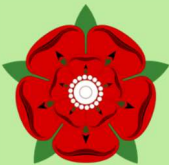
CompassSport Cup 2023

John Embrey

SROC have been allocated to the NWOA round, hosted by DEE at Bickerton Hill on Sunday 12 February. SROC membership has been growing and we have now crossed the divide and become a "big" club. This means we are in the Cup, not the Trophy, for 2023.

We now need 25 qualifying runners for a full team (as opposed to 13 in 2022) - subject to a maximum of 4 in each of the CSC agebands. We will need a MAXIMUM turnout to boost our scoring chances.

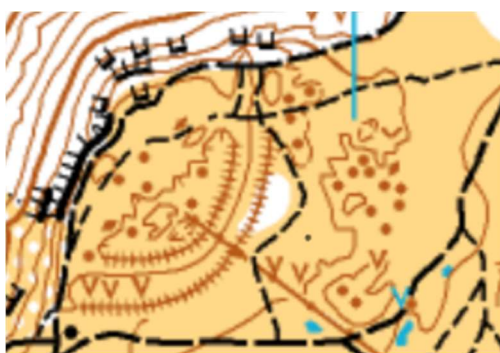
We will be up against LOC and DEE. However as LOC were 3rd in last year's final, we can be beaten by them and still qualify. We just need to beat DEE - my former club so I am sure I will come in for a lot of stick from them!



Can you please put this date in your diary now and let me know a.s.a.p. if you can run, by email to john.x.embrey@gmail.com.

I appreciate it will be quite a journey for some. Unless anyone requests to the contrary I will assign the latest start times to those who live farthest north. **SROC will cover the entry fees.** The shortest / easiest course which counts is Orange. There is likely to be a Yellow course which does not count towards CSC points, and possibly a White. Routegadget from the most recent event can be found at <https://www.dee.routegadget.co.uk/rg2/#293>

(Ed: it is a regional ranking event as well, and a pleasant area to run on. Bickerton Hill is an National Trust site on red sandstone, with an iron-age fort and is an SSSI for lowland heath flora and fauna.)



Get to know your club members

In this section we provide a little insight into the club's members – if you haven't been 'interviewed' yet please let Julia know so you can be included on a future issue! This time round we have Simonas, our planner and organiser for the New Year Cracker.

Name: Simonas Sakalauskas

Age Class: M35

Town/area where you were brought up:

Vilnius, Lithuania. My parents used to live on the very edge of the city – I literally just had to cross the road to get to the woods.

Town/Village where you currently live:

In process of moving from Lancaster to Preston.

What do you do for a day job?

I'm a chemist.



**Previous O clubs:**

Perkūnas of Vilnius - named after the pagan Lithuanian god of thunder. Like SROC, it is the oldest orienteering club in Lithuania, but as there were no clubs before 1990, it isn't very old.

What other leisure/hobby activities do you have?

Compulsive reading – normally there are 5-6 books I'm going through at a time. Strategy gaming. (*Ed: sounds suspiciously like orienteering!*) Niche music.

When, where and how did you start orienteering?

That was in Vilnius, back in 1995. One of my mates at school invited me to a training session he was attending. Since then, for about ten years, I did as much orienteering as I could.

In Lithuania, when registering for an orienteering event, there is little choice what course you can take. The really large events may have short and novice courses, but generally if you're in M21, you'll be running an equivalent of a Black (there's no colour coding either). So at the end of my second year of the university I was facing a dilemma: do I continue to train hard or just go to the events as a tourist. Somehow I went for the latter and soon dropped out of running courses altogether. I would still be involved with organising the events, but with other people from my previous club in similar position, we would meet to play football rather than on the orienteering course.

And then this very long break came to an end last year. It felt like I'm missing something, so I've signed up with British Orienteering and SROC, ran in a few events and I don't think I'll drop out again.

What is it that makes you carry on? Why do you enjoy it?

There still is an element of novelty for me in England as the terrain (mountains, open fell, parks) isn't something I'm used to. Then there's visiting all the nice local nooks and crannies where the events take place and which you wouldn't find out about other way.

And I see a course as a battle of wits between myself and the planner, which the planner always wins. Maybe if I ever run a course where I can say that I haven't put a foot wrong I'll stop orienteering, but I doubt it.

Do you have any family members who orienteer?

My sister and my niece did a few events last year. Hope they'll add another few this year, too.

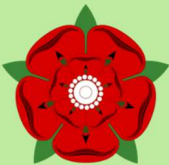
What are your greatest orienteering strengths and weaknesses?

Main weakness would be the actual running bit – I'm not much of a runner. Over the last year I've realised I'm terrible at keeping direction, especially on an open terrain. And I tend to get into a kind of rhinoceros mode, barging straight through objects that are better rounded - bramble, nettles, wet places, people standing around controls...

Strengths are probably best described through terrain I like – a forest with few or no footpaths and on the flat side by British standards. I used to be good at running off-track.

What is your favourite O discipline?

I'm yet to try a Night-O event, but generally anything that's not urban orienteering.

**What is your most memorable event (and why)?**

Ski-O event in Estonia back in 2002 or so. It was meant to be cancelled because the temperature on the day dropped to below -30°C. But as a few dozen Lithuanians and a similar number of Latvians travelled north specifically for this, and the day was nice and sunny, with no wind, the organisers relented and the event went ahead. Afterwards, you could tell who was wearing a face mask while skiing - they had icicles on their eyelashes. Those of us who didn't were experiencing this overwhelming taste of blood in our lungs. I can't remember how did I do in that event, but the overall feeling after the finish is unforgettable.

What are your greatest orienteering achievements?

Lithuanian ski-O champion in the M20 age class. I was also 2nd and 3rd in younger age groups. In (foot) orienteering my achievements are a bit more humble, but a few times I won the Lithuanian junior championships as a part of a relay team (I'm a second leg expert) and made it into the national junior squad for the Baltic Cup.

What are your orienteering ambitions?

To run a long course without having to walk or stop for a rest :)

What would you change about the sport, if you could e.g. pet hates?

The only thing that comes to mind is control numbers over 99 – that's because I like to memorise a few control numbers in advance and not to look at the descriptors too often.

Do you have any funny moments relating to orienteering you would like to share?

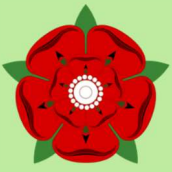
It was day-three of a 3-day event my previous club are organising every year in and around Vilnius. I had a duty of putting out controls, but on that day we were late to go out - later than usual on day-three, that is.

The start was about to begin in 10 minutes or so and I still had a few controls remaining. Then I'm coming to my next control, which was a large (~1*1 m, but that's large by Lithuanian standards) boulder, and... the boulder is gone. There is a depression where the boulder used to sit, drag marks towards the path, but no boulder.

I had a moment of puzzled panic, then remembered that the start is in a few minutes. So I've found a largish rock I could move - about the size of a loaf of bread, - rolled it into the depression, marvelled for a second at how pathetic it looked, and ran away. To this day I have no clue why did I push a rock into that pit.

Luckily, that control was only for the age group 12, so no one said anything.

Some time later a friend pointed out that the location of the event was just a few kilometres away from a large cemetery complex, and that the local stonecutters are known to raid surrounding fields and woods for tombstone material.



An ultra runner returns for some Orienteering

Karen Nash

I had considered a come-back in 2021 to celebrate being 60 and a new age category but for various reasons that didn't happen really. I am not sure what prompted my return to O this winter but spotting events on Beacon Fell probably helped. As a family we looked after the permanent course here for years plus I have planned on the area and organised GCSE PE courses there. In recent years I have barely visited but did know that storm damage was widespread, with huge 'open' areas where runnable forest used to be. Sadly much of this is thick undergrowth and horrid brashings and fallen logs. The other thing that may have prompted my decision to practice nav again was a daft mistake Rowena and I made at the OMM. For the first time in close to 20 years of MMs we failed to check a control code. It was understandable given how cold we had got and how keen we were to keep running down and out of the worst weather, but it cost us dearly. The small hill was not ours- we should have gone to the large knoll about 500m further on. Possibly the only time in the whole weekend when such a mistake could have been made but we made it.

My favourite orienteering is relatively open woodland or moors with some patches of intricate contours and patches of woodland. I am a runner not a fantastic orienteer. One ex-club member advised me several times to slow down and not run faster than my brain could nav. Another made a stinging comment about my preference for and ability to do well on moorland areas compared to say Great Tower. Age has not changed this ability and my pleasure at racing over brambles, slippery wood and hidden rocks has further reduced.

November became packed with various sorts of orienteering. Two street O events run plus one planned and organised, day time O and night O. First up was Dean Clough which I don't think I have ever been to before. I had a lovely run and the open terrain eased me back in to navigation fairly gently. I opted for the Blue course as I wanted to run for a good hour but not to compete with the elite, young and fast men on Brown. It was perfect and I had a lovely time in a kind weather window. I made a few mistakes but nothing awful and so finished 3rd overall and 1st over 45yr old. This was encouraging, perhaps I could still do it.

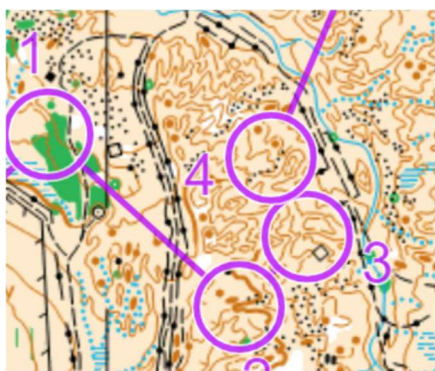
Next up was the Night event on Beacon Fell. I entered Blue again as Green and Orange seemed too short. I certainly got value for money! The hillside had changed more than I realised and some of the terrain was difficult for me to run through in the dark. I really struggled with control 7 despite it being close to paths. Eventually I changed my attack point and found the way in. There were other smaller errors but they added less time. With about 5 controls to go my head torch started flashing and then dimming. Just when I needed to slow down and concentrate I felt the need to speed up in case it failed altogether. Yes- a couple more errors followed. It wasn't a disaster and I did enjoy the challenge. 12th overall and 2nd F (as many others did Green). The following day Blue again but in daylight was SO



much easier. I could see and avoid the worst vegetation and of course had the benefit of being on the area the night before. 1st F and 7th overall.

The next area was totally unknown to me but sounded promising as it was an old golf course left to re-wild. I expected some nice running on old fairways with some bits of woodland dotted around the edges. Again it was not a bad night for running but boy did I make errors. I started safely but then got over confident and ran too fast. I raced off without thinking about a sensible attack point. I tried to go direct when it made more sense not to and I did not trust my compass enough. I found it tricky to estimate the distance I had travelled across some open areas and let myself be distracted by other runners. Lots to learn from that evening! Some fast running meant I finished 14th overall and 4th F but way off the pace. I reckon about 15 mins down with my time of nearly 74mins.

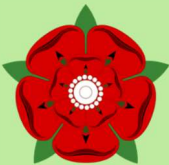
I studied the map and splits carefully in preparation for my next event and tried to remember what I had learned. I only know Hurstwood to the extent that several races I do use the main paths. Checking an old map on Route Gadget let me see the multiple areas of old mine workings that I had never explored. I started cautiously and it paid off. Then of course I got cocky or complacent. I left No7 and hit a path before making a 180 error. It looks so easy on the map. I was back to being cautious again which was easy as the tussocks meant I was struggling to run over the terrain in the dark anyway. Early on I had kept a vague eye on other runners but in the dark had no idea who they were, which course they were on and certainly could not keep up with the young men. I was better when nobody else was about. Then I bumped into a friend and very competent orienteer. I trusted him more than my own decisions and we overshot a control by miles. I was careful again after that but did use his torch ahead of me to confirm my decisions. The winner on Blue took 64 mins and I took 97 but despite this was 2nd F. I really needed a more detailed map and struggled with the scale in the dark- still, no excuses and others did manage. The next day I arrived in torrential rain and sat in the car on the verge of Long Causeway contemplating my life choices. Within 20 mins it had stopped and after a quick toilet visit I dropped off my keys and jogged to the start. At least I would be able to see the worst of the tussocks and navigate round them in daylight. I was pleased to see that my course today (Blue yet again) would be over very different ground and so being there last night would afford only minimal advantage. Only one big mistake today and another lesson learned. Check the key on the map in the start lane! If I had known the black cross was a pylon base and not just the man



made feature I guessed at the mistake would not have happened at all. I ended up on a parallel path and had to relocate and sort it out. Still, proud to have done this on my own. Racing over the moors in the daylight was much more fun and in the light I could read the map better too. 5th overall and 1st F.... many of the faster men had run Brown.

So I guess things are moving in the right direction... fewer errors and closer to that elusive perfect run.

Part of the blue course at Hurstwood day event.



UK Orienteering League 2022

John Embrey

The UK Orienteering League is a competition series which is not particularly well promoted. There is not even a direct link to the details or scores from the “Go Orienteering” page on the British Orienteering website. To access it you have to navigate via “Junior National Competitions” – obvious really for an all-age competition! Most people probably score points more by accident than design.

The 2022 League comprised 24 events across all disciplines, with each runner’s 8 best scores counting. To score points you have to run the designated course for your age class, or run up. Scoring is simple – 50 for a win, 49 for second etc, giving a maximum possible score of 400.

Pos.	Name	Age class	Club	Total score
1	Cate Matthew	W16	SROC	389
2	Alex Matthew	M18	SROC	387
3	Finlay Johnson	M20	SROC	384
4	John Embrey	M60	SROC	381
5	Jo Matthew	W45	SROC	379
6	Miriam Rosen	W70	SROC	375
7	Martyn Roome	M70	SROC	360
7	Deb Murrell	W55	SROC	360
9	Susan Roome	W70	SROC	349
10	Karen Quickfall	W55	SROC	332

The top 10 individual SROC scorers in 2022 were as below. 12 runners across the UK scored maximum points; Cate was 47th overall.:

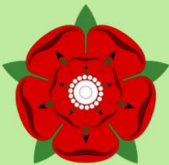
There is also an inter-club ranking. For this, the individual scores of 15 members from each club are totalled, the top 3 from each of 4 age bandings from 16 upwards, plus the next highest 3 scorers (so maximum 6 from any one of the age bandings).

The 5 top-scoring clubs (and counting runners) in 2022 are in the table below:

Rank	Club	Points	Contributing members
1	SYO	5821	Chris Williamson (M35), Martin Ward (M55), Peter Tryner (M45), Freya Tryner (W16), Euan Tryner (M18), Tim Tett (M60), Imogen Pieters (W18), Jenny Peel (W50), Jenny Johnson (W40), Peter Gorvett (M75), Amanda Crawshaw (W50), James Bryant (M16), Paul Bradbury (M65), Nick Barrable (M45), Charlie Adams (M55)
2	SROC	5147	Lucie Todhunter (W40), James Todhunter (M40), Miriam Rosen (W70), Susan Roome (W70), Martyn Roome (M70), Karen Quickfall (W55), Andrew Quickfall (M65), Deb Murrell (W55), Tom Matthew (M50), Jo Matthew (W45), Cate Matthew (W16), Alex Matthew (M18), Mike Johnson (M60), Finlay Johnson (M20), John Embrey (M60)
3	OD	5105	Philip Vokes (M21), Anne Straube (W45), Juliette Soulard (W50), Hilary Simpson (W80), Alistair Powell (M40), Nathan Lawson (M21), David Lawson (M55), Alistair Landels (M50), Mike Hampton (M75), Sue Hallett (W75), Paul Gregson (M40), William Gardner (M21), Barry Elkington (M65), Sheila Carey (W75), Peter Carey (M75)
4	SYO (B)	5079	Hannah Woods (W45), Lucy Wiegand (W50), Pauline Tryner (W50), Robyn Stanyon (W55), Louise Reynolds (W45), Conrad Reuber (M16), Andrew Preston (M45), Matthew Morris (M18), Nicholas Lightfoot (M60), Jamie Lightfoot (M18), Ciara Keen (W16), Bronwen Doyle (W55), Judith Cudden (W45), Ian Cooper (M75), Marcia Bradbury (W65)
5	FVO	4938	Vicky Thornton (W60), Ben Stansfield (M50), Beccy Osborn (W50), Rona Molloy (W50), Peter Molloy (M20), Donald MacLeod (M80), Sam Hunt (M16), Will Hensman (M40), Geoffrey Hensman (M70), Paul Hammond (M45), James Hammond (M16), Roger Goddard (M45), Jamie Goddard (M18), Heather Fellbaum (W55), Jon Cross (M55)

Well done to all SROC participants – OD and FVO take some beating!

The 2023 series of events will be published at <https://www.ukorienteeringleague.org.uk/page/Home> They are currently available [here](#)



UK Urban Orienteering League 2022

In 2022, a runner’s best 7 scores from 20 urban / sprint events count. The winner in each age category scores 100 points, with a graduated reduction per position such that 1st + 3rd is better than 2 x 2nd.

Top-10 placed SROC members in 2022 were as below. Many SROC members (myself included) did not have a full set of 7 results this year. I intend to “give it a go” in 2023 as it will be my first year in a new age category.

Class	Runner	Position
Women Young Junior 12-	Maisie Todhunter	7 th =
Women Junior 16-	Cate Matthew	3 rd

Well done both.

The list of 2023 events is available at :

<https://www.oxfordfusion.com/ukul/index.cfm?Year=2023&Org=2&Test=0>

Note : the list of events returned by filtering the search criteria on the BOF website events listing page is not correct.

Upcoming fixtures- Save the Date!

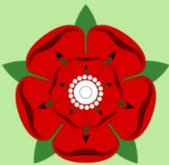
As the newsletter will only be published a few times a year, for upcoming fixtures it is best to check those which are regularly sent out via the club bulletin; also see the BOF website. However, we do have some **major events coming up** such as SROC’s **National Event** 05/03/23 on Whitbarrow, and also SROC is putting on the **JK Sprints** at Lancaster University (Fri 07/04/23). We will be putting out calls for club members to help make these events run smoothly.

Why not try...getting lost abroad?

World Masters Orienteering Champs, 11-18 Aug 2023, Slovakia

There are lots of O events both home and away over the summer period. If you would like to experience orienteering abroad, why not enter the WMOC? I can see some other SROC members are already entered. This year the events will be held in eastern Slovakia. Basic accommodation and bus transport from the event centre to all the forest events can be easily arranged via the Eventor site too, if you wish. Details are all available here: <https://www.wmoc2020.sk/> - or associated public races on the same areas -Slovak Karst Cup if you are not M/W35+..details at <https://karst.obkosice.sk/2023-en/>Some sample Slovak terrain, typical of the area





Report from Cate - Talent North Squad

Cate Matthew

Ed: as you may remember, Cate was selected last year for the Talent North Squad and has been busy training with them, as well as attending North West Junior Squad training. SROC have provided a small grant to help cover some of the costs. The Talent Squads are Level 3 of the GB Programme- read more on the BOF webpage [here](#):

"The talent squads aim to develop 15-18-year-olds beyond the Regional Squad level by providing a programme of training, education and coaching which takes a holistic view of their development as athletes, orienteers and individuals. It encourages the athletes to take responsibility for their own plans to improve their orienteering and hopefully acts as a source of motivation and enjoyment for them."

Sheffield training

This training weekend involved staying at a Scout hut in Sheffield and attending sessions at Sheffield Hallam University with sport science professionals. On Saturday we explored a range of different physiological tests in the morning, including lung capacity tests, body composition tests and various others. In the afternoon, we took to the streets to practise sprint race techniques with short courses through an area of the city with lots of small and complex passages, some of which had been blocked off as an extra route choice challenge. The Sunday was similar, with a talk about how to structure training over a season in the morning and a mini sprint race in the afternoon before we all went home.



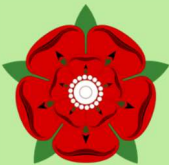
Sheffield urban terrain

Great Tower training

We started the weekend with a frosty

run in the woods on Friday night, but the following morning we woke up to a thick blanket of snow! After a brief snowball fight, we did a course using a course with no map, only the red lines, and we had to use distance and direction skills in order to dib the correct controls. It was mostly successful, and certainly showed where there was room for improvement. We then completed a few short courses around the area (appreciating the snow) such as corridor exercises and line courses. In the evening we talked over routes from the day and discussed the plan for Sunday. On Sunday we ran over to Blakeholme for some more snowy orienteering, including a mass start gaffled course and a few control picks. Afterwards we returned to Great Tower before packing up and saying goodbye.





SROC Street League event – Buckshaw Village 4th Jan

Julia Preston

A bit of a disclaimer here; I hate running on roads, am not massively keen on night-O, and am usually busy on Wednesday evenings. However, I do live right in the middle of the Buckshaw map, and didn't have classes on, so there was no excuse really!

The weather wasn't very dry, and Buckshaw suffers from a certain permanent soggy underfoot, so by my first control (60) I had wet feet. Anyway, I managed to jog round a few controls- whilst you might think I have insider knowledge, funnily enough I don't keep a logbook of local lamppost and sub-station numbers... Also, there are many small cul-de-sacs on the village that I have never been to. I will admit to being slightly more confident to use some of the pathways or cut throughs for faster running, however this was likely offset by the fact I spent several minutes looking for a 'Something' Close sign, whereas I actually should have been looking for a sign that said 'Max Headroom...! And it was only a 20-pointer so I should have moved on..but I'm a stubborn Taurean.

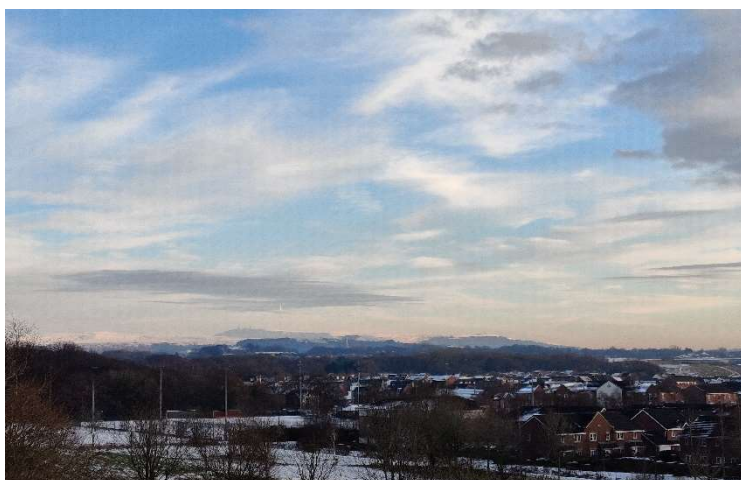
Some interesting info about Buckshaw if you are unfamiliar with the area: it is one of Europe's largest brownfield development sites, and was built on the previous Royal Ordnance Factory, where the 'bouncing bombs' were filled. You can find some of the street names are connected to this heritage.

A section of the event map below.



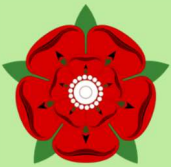
There are some small 'mound' areas in the village, such as the hill below with controls 60 and 48, which were man-made from topsoil from the site. One is designated as a small nature reserve. On a clear day you get great views over to Winter Hill and out the other way towards Southport.

There are a couple of grade II listed buildings- one of which dates from the mid 1600's and has been fairly recently developed into a family home. Another quirk of the area is that the majority of houses on Buckshaw are leasehold rather than freehold, and all residents pay an annual village service charge.



Thanks to the Hendries for putting on the event. I'd also never been in the Bobbin Mill- despite living here for 6 years! Check the website for further street league events.

Daytime view to Winter Hill from near Control 60



Club kit

SROC club kit can be ordered from Martyn Roome at Development@sroc.org. Tops are from £28 and come with a multitude of pocket, gender and arm length variations; Jackets are £33. Model Mark not included.



Links



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