



Orienteering

Newcastle and Tyneside



British Orienteering

Issue 2026/3

September 2026



NEJS Silva O'Camp Experience

Earlier this summer 12 North East Junior Squad (NEJS) juniors and three coaches travelled to Czechia for the week-long Silva O'Camp - and it was amazing! As you can see from the photos, this was a fantastic opportunity for our juniors to make new international friends and improve their orienteering skills, and most importantly, strengthen their commitment to the sport. Everyone came back thoroughly exhausted having spent hours in the forest improving their orienteering and having fun. Highlights were - 'super puncher', micro-orienteering, tiomila format relays, the olympic ceremony and the international parade! If you see any of the juniors please ask them about it. They will enjoy telling you all about it. If you are a junior yourself (aged 11-18) and are interested in joining the squad please get in touch via your club chair - we are always looking for new members.

We have been invited back next year, and would love to be in a position to offer the juniors either this, or an alternative, annually.

We really do believe we have gained some momentum with the squad and aim to expand on this by gaining new juniors from all three contributing clubs.

Looking forward - one junior has been selected for JHIs (Junior Home Internationals) in October (Scotland). We plan training weekends in October and March 2027, plus a Christmas fun day.

by The NEJS coaches (Rebecca, Julian (Simpson) & Jen (Downing))

Training in Czechia by William Balfour

In the first week of the summer holidays I went to Czechia to do the “Silva O’Camp” with the North East Junior Squad. Me, 10 other kids and 3 adults took a Ryanair plane from Edinburgh direct to Prague -the capital- we then dropped our bags off at the hotel and headed to the river for a river cruise with the other people on the camp. Some of the countries that the other people were from was; America (you might have seen some of them at the lakes 5 if you were there) Spain, this was during the world cup final and when they won it they celebrated a lot; and Israel, who were party animals generally.

After the river cruise the camp organisers gave us an urban map of Prague and the controls were landmarks in the city. One of them was a one way street with a traffic light in it and another was the astronomical clock which is a 600 yr old mechanical clock.



On the second day we packed our bags and took a coach to the camp which was in the far northeastern part of Czechia very close to the Polish border. We then found our cabins and fell right asleep! There were four of us in my cabin, all from NEJS.



We were put into training groups based on our age. I was with 2 other people from NEJS and 6 others from various countries including Czechia and Ukraine. We did a variety of training including long distance, hill climbs and sprints. I also did my first ever night-o which was a lot of fun! They had a DJ at the event who had created some music for the event called ‘SILVA O CAMP The Anthem - Single’ which was playing as we set out for the night-o.

The terrain was nice, no nettles or brambles! In some places there were large rock fields but it was all in forests. On one of the days we took our swim gear to an abandoned quarry to go swimming which was great fun.

The food was very good and to make sure we had not got lost in the forest and had collected our dinner we had to use our dibbers to dib for dinner! There was a tuck shop and a bar, the local coca cola called Koffola was delicious! We then discovered another drink called Melina which was strawberry flavoured!



William Balfour

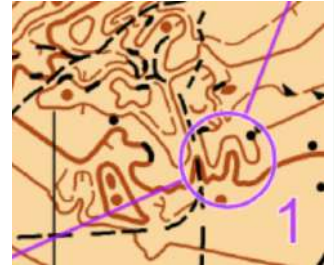
White Rose Weekend August 28th - 31st with the Balfours



An Orienteering Weekend at Mankinholes

This year EPOC held two events at Mankinholes: the Northern Championships on Saturday 5th September and a Middle Distance event on Sunday 6th. We stayed the night in Hebden Bridge and drove up the steep narrow roads, which seem so prevalent in that area, to the village. Having read the terrain notes we were slightly anxious. This part of Yorkshire has had a hot summer like everywhere else but, instead of drought, they have had been plenty of rain. The tussocks and marsh grasses, we were warned, had grown out of all proportion.

The first day was on the moor west of Mankinholes. As a W65 I was spared the worst of the tussocks which only the longer courses visited, but it was still pretty rough. Also this area was once extensively worked (the word mankinhole means old shallow mine shaft, possibly inhabited by other wordly creatures known as 'wildmen'.) There were plenty of complex land forms and erosion gulleys. On this day, that was not what confused me.



I found the first control fine then climbed up onto the top where the Pennine Way provided excellent views and good running.



All I had to do was find a cairn and take a bearing. Unfortunately I had omitted to check just how many cairns there were along that path and chose the wrong one as an attack point. Descent was followed by reascent to the path to work out where on earth I had gone wrong. After that things went a bit better and I made my way from boulder to gully and from marsh to marsh as the route wove across a steep hillside and finally down to the finish.

The next day started off wet and in the car park I met one of our younger club members who had just finished his run. He looked completely soaked. He told me he had dropped his compass in the tussocks and had to spend a lot of time looking for it. Despite this, he had had a very creditable run.

The courses on this day were to the east of the village and by the time we got to the start the sun was shining. I'd decided to run Green instead of the Short Green suggested for my age class on the basis that I needed the practice. It was a Middle Distance event so courses were shorter but with more controls. I spent the time crisscrossing the hillside and plunging into deep bracken (though in fairness previous orienteers had left some good paths there).



One section caught me out, when the terrain changed from fairly natural hillside to complex old workings, but I enjoyed my run nonetheless.

All in all it was a good weekend. The courses were challenging and varied and it was good to go to a different kind of area.

Mary Rack

Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of Newcastle & Tyneside Orienteers
will be held on 7th October 2026 at 7:00 p.m.

Proceedings will be conducted virtually by Microsoft Teams.

Please request the link from [Frank Shillitoe](#).



Orienteering

Newcastle and Tyneside

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of last meeting
3. Matters arising
4. Chairman's report
5. Treasurer's report

6. Election of Officers and Committee

1. Chairman
2. Vice Chairman
3. Hon. Secretary
4. Hon. Treasurer
5. Club Captain
6. Elected Committee members (x6)
7. Appointment of Auditor
8. Any Other Business

All positions are open to nomination.

Current incumbents are willing to continue in their positions with one exception: the Chair, which will become vacant.

Nominations (with permission of nominee) to [Frank Shillitoe](#)



Newcastle & Tyneside Orienteers Christmas Party

Tuesday 8th December 2026



at Concordia Leisure Centre, Forum Way, Cramlington, NE23 6YB

From 6:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. Meet in the first floor bar.

Quiz, Presentations, Clip n' Climb

Clip n' Climb booked 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Participants for Clip n' Climb are advised to be present in good time

(Priority to juniors and young adults)

A Buffet (provided) and Bar from 7:00 p.m.

Cost (payable on the night) Seniors: £5.00 Juniors: free

(costs part funded from the Club Membership Fund).

If at all possible, please inform Paul Boyles

<paulboyles75@yahoo.com>

by 1st December of your intention to come to help catering and climb plans, otherwise just come along.

Looking forward to seeing you all!

North East Night Championships 2027



20th February
Broomley, Stocksfield



**BRITISH
LONG DISTANCE
& RELAY
CHAMPIONSHIPS 2027**
SATURDAY 17th and
SUNDAY 18th APRIL 2027

Saturday: Arncliffe and Kilnsey in the Yorkshire Dales
Long Distance Championships

Sunday: Danefield, Otley Chevin - British Relay
Championships

Unlike in many sports, these events are open to all
members and this is a splendid opportunity to
experience a major event easily accessible from home.
Something for Everyone.
Highly recommended!



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Club News

Wallington: The club is hopeful of obtaining access
permission again to hold an occasional event on this
National Trust Estate as a result of an enquiry to the
club from a project manager hoping to develop for
activities land adjacent to the current visitor area
which has become available as a farm tenancy has
expired. Discussions are ongoing.



Highly Recommended

The Orienteering Foundation is a charity whose purpose is to promote and support Orienteering. As part of that mission, a Coaching Day will be held again in November in the Lake District led by Duncan Archer, whose elite orienteering career began in the North East.



Lakes Coaching Day 28th November 2026

Simpson Ground, Newby Bridge

Expert coaching is offered to individuals from Light Green (TD4) to full TD5 standards from 10:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Cost is £13 for individual registration (No EoD).

Comprehensive details available at:

<https://www.orienteeringfoundation.org.uk/lakes-coaching-day-28th-november-2026>

The following day there is to be a LOC event (Cumbrian Galoppen) at Roanhead, nr Barrow.

Rothbury Estate

The final push to raise the purchase money for the Rothbury Estate is being made this month of September.

Thanks to the generosity of an anonymous donor, The Dixon Foundation, Ringtons and The Walker Foundation, every donation made before 30th September will be doubled up to £700,000

<https://www.wildlifetrusts.org/appeals/rothbury-estate-nature-and-nation>



Events Past and Future

Summer Local Series 2026

A series of Wednesday evening events took place over the Summer Break with a league table to give a competitive edge. Class leaders are shown below.

NEWCASTLE & TYNESIDE ORIENTEERS SUMMER 2026 LOCAL SERIES - Scores

This update by Peter Firth to whom queries should be referred. (direct or via website contact page)

Name	Class	Club	22/7/26 Caroline Pit		29/7/26 Nunsmoor		12/8/26 Tynemouth		19/8/26 Ponteland		26/8/26 Whitley Bay		TOTAL	BEST THREE
			Pos	Pts	Pos	Pts	Pos	Pts	Pos	Pts	Pos	Pts		
Patrick Smyth	M65	NATO	1	105	3	103	1	100	3	103	4	102	513	311
Alistair Balfour	M10	NATO	1	100	1	100					5	101	301	301
Graeme Beavers	M65	NATO			1	100			1	100		100*	300	300
George Hare	M60	NATO			1	100	2	99	2	99	1	100	398	299
Mary Rack	W65	NATO			5	101	2	99			3	98	298	298
Jim Gardner	M50	NATO	2	99	2	99			6	95	3	98	391	296
Fred Miller	M75	NATO		100 *	4	97	3	98			4	97	392	295
Bob Cooper	M80	NN			7	99	5	101	11	95	12	94	389	295
Andy Rice	M45	NATO	5	96	4	97			12	89			282	282
Graham Scott	M80	NATO					4	97	18	88	6	95	280	280
Liz Gardner	W50	NATO	4	97					10	91	10	91	279	279

Altogether 43 individuals took part at one or more events and 78 runs were recorded.



Autumn Local Series 2026/27

The first events of the new series will be held at

Stocksfield on 17th October

East Cramlington Reserve on 14th November

Ashington Community Woods on 5th December

The series will continue into the New Year at venues and on dates to be announced

Festive Frolics at Plessey December 20th



Washington Urban Event November 22nd



October Odyssey Weekend

Chopwell (October 3rd) and Edges Green, Haltwhistle (October 4th)

Organised by Northern Navigators for NEOA