

Top Quality Winter Orienteering

The frosty mornings are working their magic and last year's vegetation is now more runnable!

Take advantage of these ideal orienteering conditions by signing up for the following events:

- Robin Hood Trophy (Sherwood Forest)
- CompassSport Trophy (Cannock Chase)
- East Midlands Championships (Wragby, near Lincoln)
- JK Festival (this year held across The Midlands)

See below for details of these plus various East Midlands League and local events in the coming months. There will be courses for all ages and abilities at each of these events, even those marked 'National'.

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New Members & Member Achievements:



A very warm welcome to the following new club members:

- Tim, Victoria, Elodie and Emily Booker,
- Paul and Christine Jackson,
- Lucy Sherratt,
- Natasha Claus,
- Tina Brindley who has recently rejoined NOC.

We look forward to getting to know you all at an event in the near future.

The following members have also been successful in the [British Orienteering Incentive Scheme](#) awards:

- Ben Wallis: 5* Navigation Challenge award.
- Rob Henderson: Racing Challenge Silver.
- Hebe Parr: Racing Challenge Gold 2*
- Evan Llewellyn: Racing Bronze and Navigation 2*

Many congratulations on achieving these standards.

Recent Results:

Strawberry Hill (NOC):

The final event of 2023 was held at Strawberry Hill and Ransom Woods near Mansfield in mid December where 249 participants took part in colour coded courses and returned to Download to enjoy a festive treat or two.

Richard Robinson came first on the Brown course with Ant Squire 3rd. Top ten finishes also for Paul Morris and Andrew Ridgway on Blue, plus Hilary Palmer, Jane and David Booker on Short Green.

This was also the concluding event for the recent MapActive participants who put in good performances on the Orange course. Many have subsequently signed-up as NOC members!

Thanks to Dave Cooke for obtaining permissions, Keith Streb and David Olivant for mapping input, Kevin Lomas for Planning, Ray Barnes for Controlling and Helen & Robert Parkinson for organising the event and all the catering.

Thanks also to all the helpers on the day - they play an essential role to ensure the event is successfully delivered. This is an event which attracts many from across the Midlands, and also plays host to the annual LOG Championships, so it was good for NOC to be able to continue its tradition.

Recent Results:

Ashbourne Urban (DVO):

Close on twenty NOC members started the first day of 2024 navigating the streets of Ashbourne. Helen Parkinson was first woman home in the WSV category and 6th overall on that course. There were also top ten finishes for Neil Rosewell, Andrew Ridgway, Paul Morris, Isaac Rosewell and Elodie Booker.

Bagworth (LEI):

The first EMOA forest event of 2024 saw some good performances from NOC Members. Richard Robinson came first on the Brown course. Hilary Palmer was the fastest woman on the Short Green coming third overall, closely followed by Richard Llewellyn. There were top ten finishes for Paul Morris and Kevin Lomas on the Blue course. Emma Rosewell was 2nd on Orange whilst Grace Robinson was first on the Yellow course, closely followed by Lily Robinson and Evan Llewellyn.

Upcoming Events:

Robin Hood Trophy - 28 Jan:

This year's event will be held in Sherwood Forest on some of NOC's best terrain. It's always well attended and Ant Squire has no doubt planned some excellent courses. Be sure to book your place by midnight 21st January to guarantee your map.

As this will be NOC's biggest event of 2024, we still need volunteers to help out on the day and share the load so everyone can get in a run. As a Helper, you will receive a code for a FREE entry. If you can volunteer on the 28th please contact Hilary (Coaching@noc-uk.org).

Compass Sport Trophy - 18th February 2024:

The qualifying heat will be held at Cannock Chase where NOC will compete against seven other clubs for a chance of qualifying in the Final, later in the year. All members can play a role in this team event. Details on how to enter will be sent to NOC members in a separate email shortly, so please keep a close eye on your Inbox (and Spam box just in case!).



The club is planning to put people with spaces in their cars in touch with someone who might like a lift to the event at Cannock Chase. If you would like to offer a seat(s) or if you would like to travel with someone to the event, please email Hilary (Coaching@noc-uk.org) no later than 4th February.

In addition, Hilary will be hosting a **map geeking Zoom session at 7.30 pm on the 7th February**. Those with experience of the Cannock Chase area will highlight some of the features to be aware of as preparation for the CS Trophy heat on the 18th.

Paid-up NOC members will have received the link to this Zoom session. If you've missed yours, send an email to Development@noc-uk.org.

The Start Kite – Entry Fee Payments:

The beginning of a new year often sees a review of costs. Thankfully, from an EMOA perspective, the fees for events in 2024 are not expected to change. Pressure on costs is increasing and card payment charges are an area of concern.

NOC members who use The Start Kite to enter NOC and LEI events can opt to pay by bank transfer rather than debit or credit card. This means that more of your entry fee can be passed to the club to help keep event fees low.

Simply set up The Start Kite as a payee in online banking and all future payments can be made securely and quickly. Your sort code and account name are passed to The Start Kite with the payment but your account number is not. All bank payments are acknowledged by email.

Approximately 40 percent of Start Kite payments were made by bank transfer in 2023. The extra income paid to the clubs was several hundred pounds.

The Start Kite bank details are displayed in your web browser when you opt to pay by bank transfer. If you need to access the details later there is also a link in the entry confirmation email.



New Year Member Opportunities:

Every orienteering event requires a few volunteers to fulfill the roles of Organiser, Planner and Controller. And of course, every event needs an up-to-date map! So it's at this time of year that NOC asks for members to consider learning how to perform one or more of these roles.

Training typically consists of online and face-to-face courses, some background reading, plus time shadowing/working with a mentor on a 'live' event. Mapping and Planning also help to enhance individual map reading skills, so it's really useful for those looking to refine their orienteering performance too!

These are great opportunities to meet new people in the club, learn new skills and help NOC continue to put on regular events in the future. If you would like to consider joining our Event Official Volunteer Pool please contact Pauline Olivant (membership@noc-uk.org) in the first instance to discuss the area you are most interested in.

If you've been orienteering for a while, why not consider becoming a coach? Have a chat with Hilary (Coaching@noc-uk.org) to understand the new British Orienteering coaching programme.

Upcoming Events:

21 Jan - [Eyam Moor \(DVO\)](#) EM League
28 Jan - [Sherwood Forest \(Robin Hood Trophy\) NOC](#) - Courses for ALL
11 Feb - [Beacon Hill, Loughborough \(LEI\)](#) EM League
18 Feb - CompassSport Trophy (Cannock Chase)
25 Feb - [East Midlands Championships \(LOG\) Chambers Farm Woods](#)
3 Mar - [Shipley Park, Heanor \(DVO\)](#) EM League
17 Mar - [Byron's Walk \(NOC\)](#) EM League

Easter - [JK Festival](#) **Volunteers required!** If you can help on one of the JK days please contact Hilary (Coaching@noc-uk.org).

LEI continue to run their [Winter League events](#) throughout February which are also open to paid-up British Orienteering members. Similarly, LOG are running some mid-week "[Fight the Nite](#)" events in the near future.

There are numerous other events taking place in neighbouring regions. Take a look at the [British Orienteering website](#) for details.

Enjoy your visits to the forest!