Update from the New SOA Chair Jonathon Molloy

I took over as Chair of the Scottish Orienteering Association at the AGM in September. Since then, I've enjoyed getting to know the other board members and finding out all the ways in which the SOA is leading our sport's development. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Richard Oxlade, my predecessor, who gives so much to orienteering, and continues to do so as the Chair of the Scottish 6 Days Company.

It's been another busy year for Scottish Orienteering and I hope you have been able to enjoy the amazing variety of events that make up the orienteering calendar. Forest, urban, long, middle, sprint, score, night, indoor training events – what other sport offers this range of opportunities? And in December, our clubs go into overdrive with festive special events - have you been chasing a roving elf or Santa control at a local event this month? Looking back at our major Scottish events in 2025, we enjoyed the dunes of the rarely available Barry Buddon for the Scottish Championships in May and then had a wonderful week on Royal Deeside for the latest instalment of the Scottish Six Days.

Looking ahead, our SOA team retain their focus on growing the sport across Scotland and delivering training programmes that support you as participants and volunteers. In September 2026, the World Masters Mountain Bike Orienteering Championships will take place in Moray. Before that, in April, Scotland will host the JK 2026, the largest annual orienteering event in the UK – I hope you have already entered what should be a fantastic event. Of course, the delivery of this event will require the whole Scottish orienteering community to volunteer on one or more of the days – your club should already have been in touch with you regarding the support we are looking for. The event only comes to Scotland once every decade or so, and for the other years, we benefit from the voluntary efforts of the other British regions. I'm sure we will put on a great event in great Perthshire terrain.

SOA Chair Jonathan Molloy