

Summer of Navigation: From Swedish Forests to Local Parks

The schools may be out and the sun has, for at least the last week, been gracing us with its presence. Summer sees plenty of our members packing their bags for international terrain but there are still plenty of local activities to ensure your compass enjoys the summer weather.

On behalf of the Scottish Orienteering Association, we want to wish the absolute best of luck to everyone heading off to O-Ringen, the other major multi-day festivals across Europe this summer and those who have chosen to travel to the Lakes 5 Day event. Want to know more? You can read more about the orienteering opportunities in the article [here](#) on our website.

Juniors exploring the delights of Swedish forests

Our juniors have already shown us how it's done. The Scottish Junior Orienteering Squad (ScotJOS) have just returned from training in Sweden, getting a taste of different terrain, gaining invaluable experience and also exploring various swimming locations along the way. Read more about their exploits [here](#).

Opportunities closer to home

But you don't need a passport to find world-class orienteering this summer. For those staying closer to home:-

We see the Lake District hosting The Lakes 5 at the beginning of August and we wish everyone attending lots of fun in the forest. It is a classic week of high-quality technical competition in the Lake District with a holiday atmosphere not dissimilar to the Scottish 6 Days event.

And within Scotland there are plenty of evening activities taking advantage of these long summer evenings. In the central belt the Sprintelope series continues on Wednesday evenings and in the North, Grampian Orienteers have a series of map run activities before August see the return of the Northern Urban Orienteering League alongside the Moray Coast and Speyside. Find your local opportunities via our events calendar [here](#).

Cultivating the Grassroots: Summer of Sport

Behind the scenes, efforts are underway to introduce our sport to new audiences as part of the Scottish Government's Summer of Sport. The SOA staff team is working alongside local clubs to deliver the Summer of Sport activities. These initiatives are bringing orienteering to communities whilst providing opportunities for our young coaches to gain experience and build resources. You will see opportunities to join taster sessions with free entry to a follow on club event/ SOA membership advertised across:

- Aberdeen
- Aberdeenshire
- Dundee
- East Lothian
- Helensburgh
- Inverness

A special shout-out must also go to SOLWAY, who have been doing incredible work collaborating with Active Schools already this summer, engaging the next generation of navigators directly through school sport networks.

Supporting Clubs: Sourcing additional funding and Next Steps

We are thrilled to share some fantastic news on the funding front.

The SOA team has been actively supporting three clubs with their applications to the sportscotland Club Support Programme, and we have just heard that all three of our clubs have been successful! This is a massive boost that will inject vital resources directly into local club development allowing them to employ club development officers to support these clubs and provide an opportunity for individuals to be involved in developing the sport. If you may be interested in a club development officer post please get in touch with our team and don't forget the Senior Development Officer opportunity with Scottish Orienteering which has a closing date for applications of 31st July - see more [here](#)

But we aren't stopping there. The team is currently hard at work drafting a bid focused on mapping for the Growth and Innovation Fund. This fund represents the final opportunity to secure a slice of the additional investment announced in the January 2026 budget.

Beyond the summer we are also holding the 2026 Club Networking Days in September - this year in two locations to ensure they are accessible to everyone (12th September Dunblane and 19th September Boat of Garten). All welcome and find more information [here](#).

A Final Word

Whether you are exploring terrain in Scandinavia, hunting controls in the Lakes, or volunteering through the summer, thank you. You are what makes the Scottish orienteering community so incredibly vibrant.

Have a wonderful summer and we look forward to seeing you running through the forest or exploring the streets!