



August 2026 Newsletter Opinion

Hopefully all of our members have all had a wonderful, rejuvenating summer so far—whether your summer was filled with navigating dense forests, competing in urban sprints, or simply relaxing with family and friends away from a map and compass! It is great to see club socials detailing the exploits of their members as they attend events both here and abroad.

World Masters Mountain Bike Orienteering

As this newsletter is being prepared those involved with the World Masters Mountain Bike Orienteering Championships event, taking place in Moray from 8th September, are gearing up to deliver a great event with 4 days of competition and a large overseas entry. It may be too late to enter (more information can be found [here](#)) but watch out for other events happening near you. We hope the event goes well and best of luck to all involved.

2026 Summer of Sport

The SOA team have been working to ensure we take advantage of the additional funds available from SportScotland with Summer of Sport activities being delivered across the country - [more details here](#) - recruitment beginning for the three clubs successful in their Club Development Officer applications and a submission made for the Growth and Innovation fund. These Summer of Sport sessions offer opportunities for families and young people to experience the sport through taster sessions linked to follow on local club events - the sessions are filling up fast but if you know someone who you think would enjoy the sport why not encourage them to sign up.

For those interested in getting involved with coaching or helping get others involved or learning new volunteering skills there is a Club Coach course and a Grade C Controller course being run in the next few weeks - find out [more details here](#) or contact our Coaching and Volunteer Officer, Judy Bell who will provide you with all the information you need - judy@scottish-orienteeing.org

Dates for Your Calendar

We know that the sharing of experiences and learnings helps our clubs and sport thrive so we wanted to highlight several opportunities for you to engage with not only SOA but other members of your community over the next few weeks. We would love to hear your views, opinions, engagement with others within the community so would strongly encourage as many of you as possible to get involved:

- **Community Conversation | 9th September 7.30pm online**

- **Permanent Orienteering Courses:**

- Come along and join us, share your views in this informal setting and hopefully we can learn from each other to ensure that Permanent

Orienteering Courses make an impact in reaching out to potential orienteers and are useful for existing members. Sign up via [September Club Conversation sign up](#)

- **Annual General Meeting (AGM) | 14th September**

Our AGM takes place online on Monday, 14th September at 7pm. The AGM Booklet will be published next week with a link for attendance. There will be a proxy vote option for those unable to attend. The SOA Accounts have been published and can be read [here](#)

- **Club Networking Sessions - North and South**

Following great feedback on past events, we are hosting two regional, in-person Club Networking days—one in the North and one in the South.

- Saturday 12th September – Dunblane (Braeport Centre)
- Saturday 19th September – Boat of Garten (Community Hall)

These sessions are open to **everyone** (not just committee members!) and will provide the opportunity to talk to other club members, SOA Directors and SOA Staff. They are a fantastic opportunity to swap ideas on recruitment, volunteer development, mapping, and event logistics with neighboring clubs. Sign-ups are now open, so please register early to secure your spot [via this link](#)

Shaping Our Future: Stepping Up as a Board Director

A sport as diverse and inclusive as ours relies entirely on the passion and dedication of its members. As we approach the AGM on 14th September, **we are actively seeking volunteers to step forward as new Directors on the SOA Board.**

Serving on the board is an immensely rewarding way to give back to the sport you love. You don't need decades of governance experience—what matters most is a fresh perspective, enthusiasm, and a commitment to helping orienteering in Scotland grow and flourish. Whether your background is in finance, communications, event organization, or simply being a passionate grassroots participant, your unique insights are valuable.

Interested in becoming a Director?

If you are curious about what's involved or want an informal chat about joining the board before the AGM, please reach out directly to any current board member or contact the SOA staff team. We'd be delighted to discuss how your skills can help guide our strategy.

Thank you all for your continued enthusiasm and hard work across your local clubs. See you online at the Community Conversation and AGM, and in person at the networking sessions!