October 2026 - Scottish Successes

Autumn has seen some outstanding achievements across our sport, starting with brilliant results from both our Senior Home International and Junior Home International teams as well as some amazing performances from our juniors at the Junior European Championships (JEC) in Switzerland. Alongside these competitive successes, we are seeing a changing of the guard in team leadership. We extend a very warm welcome to Jason Inman , Kirsten Strain and Vicky Thornton as they step into their new management roles with Scottish Junior Orienteering Squad (ScotJOS) and the Veteran Home International team(VHI). At the same time, we owe a huge debt of gratitude to Judy Bell and Janice Nesbit for their tireless dedication and efforts over the years—thank you both.

New SOA Staff Team Member

The SOA has also welcomed a new member to our development team with Holly Stodgell of Forth Valley Orienteers joining us as a Development Officer. She will be out attending local events to meet club committees and hopefully you will make her all feel welcome as she looks to build on her connections within the sport.

Relaunch of SEDS

We are also excited to announce the relaunch of the Scottish Elite and Development Squad (SEDS). SEDS aims to deliver top-tier training for elite-level athlete development alongside broader young adult newcomer progression in a supportive social environment for those between 18 and 40. In an innovative partnership, Edinburgh University Orienteering Club (EUOC) has taken on the squad's administration, with the support of a performance athlete committee and the SOA. In exchange for SOA support, their performance programme will be extended to student orienteers outside their own club. Read more and look at the calendar here.

Competitions on the Horizon

Looking ahead, the calendar is packed with action. This weekend sees the CompassSport Cup/ Trophy Final, and we wish the very best of luck to Forth Valley Orienteers (FVO) and Interlopers (INT) as they make the long journey south to England to compete.

The next weekend will see Moravian Orienteers delivering the Scottish Score Championship in the glorious pine forest delights of Culbin followed by a Scottish Orienteering Urban League event in the newly mapped town of Keith. If you have never tried Score orienteering what better place to plan your own route to collect the most controls?

Right after that, Halloween brings the Junior Interarea Weekend taking place in East Lothian. Beyond being a fantastic opportunity for our young athletes to catch up with old friends and make new ones, this year's event marks the introduction of the new SOA Junior Awards

which are being introduced to specifically celebrate our incredible junior volunteers. Awards will be presented for Junior Coaching, Organisers, Planners, IT support and Mapping.

Volunteers

Volunteers are the absolute lifeblood of orienteering, which is why we are currently looking for our members to complete our Volunteer Survey. We want to ensure we are providing the training needs of our volunteers in a manner which can be accessed easily. Please take a few minutes to complete the survey and share your voice - Volunteer Survey .

To underscore just how vital our volunteers are, we are planning a dedicated SOA Gathering focused on volunteering during the upcoming Big Weekend. Timed conveniently between the sprint race and the evening ceilidh (23rd January 2027), the session will give members a chance to learn more about the training courses on offer, as well as an open floor to discuss what the Scottish Orienteering Community (SOA, clubs and members) can do to better support our volunteer network, provide the correct support required to recruit, develop, and retain the people who make our events happen.

More details will follow soon, but for now, make sure to save the date in your diary!