September's Autumn Sprint: Reflecting, Looking Ahead, and Supporting Our Sport

If your calendar feels a little fuller than usual this month, you are certainly not alone. September has become a busy month in the orienteering calendar.

We have already enjoyed two very different but both excellent Scottish Orienteering League (SOL) events: INVOC's superb staging in the iconic terrain of Glen Affric, followed closely by ESOC's brilliant delivery at Cademuir. Over in Moray, the World Masters Mountain Bike Orienteering Championships brought international spectacle to home soil, welcoming over 360 competitors from 29 countries to orienteering delights which are well known to those not on a bike including Darnaway and Roseisle. Meanwhile, those enjoying off-peak flexibility are currently tackling the stunning landscapes of Coll for Coast and Islands.

Looking ahead, the next few weeks are busy with UK inter-nation events:

- **19/20th September:** The Veteran Home Internationals are held in the Peak District.
- **26th/27th September:** Our juniors compete at the Junior Inter-Regional Championships near Stansted.
- **3rd/4th October:** The Senior Home Internationals takes place in Ireland.
- **10th/11th October:** The Junior Home Internationals (JHIs) arrive on home turf at Edinchip, running alongside the final Scottish Orienteering League event of the year.

It is also a busy time for our international athletes at junior and senior level with:

- **3rd/4th October** : Junior European Championships taking place in Switzerland
- **23rd- 27th September:** World Cup 4 and European Orienteering Championships taking place in Lithuania

And of course there is plenty in the calendar with plenty of local event in the calendar before the last SOL of the season takes place alongside the JHIs at Edinchip.

The concentration of events in late summer and early autumn appears to be partly a response to increasing environmental and wildlife restrictions earlier in the year. The SOA continues to voice concerns and represent orienteers' interests through regular engagement with the National Access Forum, Forestry and Land Scotland, the Cairngorms National Park Authority, and other key land managers. Nikki Howard leads on this and can be contacted on nikki@scottish-orienteering.org for more information or to raise issues.

Volunteers

None of this incredible activity happens without the tireless dedication of our planners, organizers, controllers and club volunteers. A huge thank you to every volunteer who has given their time, expertise, and energy during this busy period.

We want to ensure all your training and development needs are met to assist you and your club with this volunteering. Please take a few minutes to fill out the volunteers questionnaire so we can better support you in your roles.

Link to the Volunteer Survey

Don’t forget

1. **Enter the Final SOL at Edinchip:** Make sure to get your entries in for Edinchip on 10th October—let's bring the 2026 SOL season to a rousing conclusion while supporting our JHI team! Link to entries here - FVO SOL 5 - Edinchip