

News from SCOA

Chair of SCOA, Jon Wheatcroft, is a member of TVOC. Jon reports on SCOA's recent and forthcoming activities.

Senior Home Internationals

SCOA hosted a successful Senior Home International in early November. Several big names were present, including Graham Gristwood, Megan Carter-Davies, Duncan Birtwistle, Alice Leake amongst others.

SCOA is indebted to a number of individuals and clubs who volunteered to make this event a success:

- SOC who put on an additional course at the November Classic and started the day's proceedings extra early,
- Ian Moran (SOC) who coordinated the whole weekend,
- Allan Farrington (BAOC) who not only provided touch free equipment and results (aided by Di & Terry Smith) but also sorted relay land access and liaised with other BAOB members to provide weekend accommodation, and
- Seamus Cunnane (TVOC) who stepped forward to plan the relay.

I hope the region can pull together again to put on an equally successful British Championships weekend – a very much bigger undertaking. See below.

SCOA Championships 2022

SOC also hosted the SCOA Championships at the November Classic. Liz Yeadon has, once again, organised medals, and I hope that Club Reps will be able to distribute them shortly.

Southern Championships 2023

The 2023 Southern Championships (SEOA, SCOA & SWOA) will be held in conjunction with the 2023 November Classic. Thank you SOC.

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SCOA Junior Squad



SCJS
South Central Junior Squad

Open to any enthusiastic juniors who are moving on to light green courses and above

Aims:
Maximise potential
Motivate juniors
Nurture talent
Have fun!

Contact Simon Kippin and Laurence Townley at juniorsquad@scoa-orienteeing.org.uk

The graphic features a large group photo of the SCOA Junior Squad members in their green and black uniforms, holding a banner that reads 'SCOA JUNIOR SQUAD'. Several smaller inset photos show individual team members in various settings, including one running on a course and others in group photos.

The SCOA Junior Squad (SCJS) is responsible for the training of junior orienteers within the region to achieve a high standard both personally and when running for the region.

The Junior Squad is always on the lookout for new members. **At the moment the squad is particularly short of W14s. Are you a junior who could benefit? Or do you have one in your family?** You don't have to be that experienced to join the squad and the squad will help you to become a better orienteer. *(To join the Junior Squad, you need to be able to complete an Orange course unaided, and looking to attempt Light Green. Is that you?)*

To find out more about the Junior Squad, please contact the Junior Squad Manager at juniorsquad@scoa-orienteeing.org.uk

'Our' British Championships

SCOA is hosting this year's BOC weekend at the end of March. This consists of

1. British Long Distance Championships, being held at Cold Ash (just north of Newbury) on Saturday 25th March
2. British Relay Championships, being held at Hambleden (between Henley and Marlow) on Sunday 26th March

You can see full details on the www.theboc.org.uk website.

It is great to have a major Championships on our doorsteps. I hope that many, many of our members will take the opportunity to compete. Entries are open now, with the first closing date at the beginning of February. Note that you must be a paid-up BOF member to enter so, if you have not yet renewed your membership, please do so NOW. It takes a couple days for membership renewals to filter through to Fabian4, our entries provider, and leaving renewal to the last minute may mean missing out on early entry discounts.

The whole weekend is being organised by SCOA. And that means by our clubs and our members. It is a **massive undertaking**, and the lead officials from BKO, SN and TVOC have been engaged with this for many months already. For instance, the Starts alone might well require fifty or more volunteers. If you are planning to run in the Individual Champs then **you will be expected to help as well**. We hope that **even if you are not planning to run, you will volunteer to help**. It should be only for a couple of hours or so - maybe on car parking duty, or helping at the Start, or on Download . So please, **volunteer now**, even if you haven't yet entered (or don't intend to enter!). As a thank-you, volunteers will receive a voucher to spend with event traders.

Please let your club's volunteer co-ordinator Ian Moran have your name, contact details and any job preferences for the Saturday as soon as possible, so that team leaders can begin to plan job allocations.

For the Relays, we are going to need a shedload of helpers too and, ideally because of the nature of relays, **people who are not competing in the Relays**. As a 'thank you' to Relay helpers, we will be offering the opportunity to run either a Green or a Short Green course, start times around lunchtime, at no charge.

Again, please let Ian Moran have your name and contact details if you are able to help on the Sunday, as soon as possible.

We are hoping that every orienteer in the the SCOA region will wish to do their bit on both days. So do, please, seize the opportunity - the BOC weekend will not be on our patch again for some years.