

WAOC Captain Report -- AGM 2025 (22 March 2025)

2024 has been a very successful year for the club, with a number of excellent individual, team and club results. This has again been reflected in the dynamism of our Juniors, who have been recognized by a growing number of call ups and selections, but also by greater participation and achievement across the club.

This means there are a number of results to go through, I am afraid:

1.Regional

East Anglian League 2024

James Scott M10
Esther Eaton W10
Elysia Cowe W12
Erik Biernacki-Jablonski M14
Kate Jarrett W16
Rowan Lee M21
Matt Eaton M35
Helen Bickle W40
Brian Cowe M45
Emma Jarrett W45
Stephen Borrill M50
Helen Hague W55
Dil Wetherill M60
Sue Hartley W65
Bruce Marshall M70
Noreen Ives W70
Mike Bickle M75

East Anglian Champions 2024 (incorporated with Midland at Sandringham)

W10 Esther Eaton
W16 Kate Jarrett
M16 Chun Yan Alistair Fu
W18 Hebe Darwin
W20 Hannah Wicks
M35 Jonathan Pye
W40 Helen Bickle
W45 Emma Jarrett
M50 Stephen Borrill
W55 Camilla Darwin
W65 Sue Hartley

2. Area

Midland Championships 2024 (Sandringham)

W10 Esther Eaton
W16 Kate Jarrett
W18 Hebe Darwin
W20 Hannah Wicks

M35 Jonathan Pye
W40 Helen Bickle
W45 Emma Jarrett
W65 Sue Hartley

Welsh Championships (Pwll Du) March 2024

Alys Powell W12

3. Urban (it's own category, given WAOC's performance)

East Anglian Urban League 2024

Alys Powell (WYJ)
Erik Biernacki-Jablonski (MJ)
Hebe Darwin (WO)
Joint 1st -- Johanna Powell and Helen Bickle (WV)
Joint 1st – Chris Rampton and Dil Wetherill (MSV)
Camilla Darwin (WSV)
Sue Hartley (WUV)
Mike Bickle (MHV)

SEOUL - Southern England Orienteering Urban League 2024

Results were published without listing the clubs, because WAOC did so well!

WYJ: Alys Powell

MJ: Erik Biernacki-Jablonski

WJ: Kate Jarrett

WO: Hebe Darwin

WV: Camilla Darwin

WSV: Sue Hartley

Runners up:

WYJ: Hana Powell (and Esther Eaton was 3rd)

MJ: Chun Ho Andre Fu

Other Results: WV: Johanna Powell 3rd, Hanna Biernacka 4th and Helen Bickle 6th

WUV: Janet Cronk 3rd Alex Darwin 5th in MJ, Stepehn Borrill 5th in MV, Maciej Jablonski 6th in MV. I could go on...

UK Urban League 2024

WAOC did get a big fanfair – “Special congratulations to WAOC, who continued their recent form with two winners and four runners-up.”

Winners:

Alys Powell (Womens Young Junior)

Hebe Darwin (Womens Open)

Runners up:

Hana Powell (WYJ)

Erik Biernacki-Jablonski (MJ)

Kate Jarrett (WJ)

Camilla Darwin (WV).

4.MAJOR

JK 2024

JK Sprint (Loughborough University)

39 WAOC runners.

W10 Silver -- Esther Eaton

W12 Bronze – Alys Powell

W55 Bronze – Camilla Darwin

W90 Gold – Ursula Oxburgh

JK Overall (Beaudesert)

42 WAOC Runners.

W10A Gold -- Esther Eaton

W12A Bronze – Alys Powell

JK Relays (Stanton Moor)

9 Teams.

Best was Junior Relay (M/W40-) Silver for WAOC -- Alex Darwin, Alys Powell and Erik Biernacki-Jablonski – 41 seconds off Gold.

British Night Championships

3 WAOC runners. Best was Hebe Darwin 7th in W18L.

British Middles (AIRE Otley Chevin)

17 WAOC runners

Silver W10 Hana Powell

Silver W10 Elysia Cowe

BOC (Long)

20 WAOC. Less successful, best result was 8th for Alys Powell in W12A and 9th For Erik B-J in M14A and Hana Powell in W10A.

British Relays

6 Teams, with 5 in the top 11. M14 missed Bronze by 72 seconds

British Sprint Relays

WAOC entered 8 teams. Best result was 6th for the WAOC Legends (Peter Woods, Janet Cronk and Bob Hill) in the Ultra Vets.

British Sprints

26 WAOC Runners

Silver W10 Hana Powell

Gold W90 Ursula Oxburgh

Also Hania Biernacka won the W45B Final, and broke into the top 2000 Orienteers?

Croeso 2024

Elysia Cowe Bronze in W12A. And 1st to Noreen Ives in W70S, Libby Hinshelwood in W16B. Also Katy Hinshelwood was 3rd in W18S.

5. CLUB COMPETITIONS

Yvette Baker Trophy Final

15 WAOC Juniors contributed to us winning the Qualifier at SOS Ickworth Park earlier in 2024. Many congratulations to the 18 WAOC Juniors for their fantastic Third Place at the Yvette Baker Trophy Final on 7th July by HH Northaw Great Wood. There were many brilliant performances and ALL contributed in multiple thunderstorms. This is the best ever result the club has achieved since the Trophy was founded in 1999, and it is great to have some national silverware. WAOC were 4 points behind TVOC, and only 12 behind SYO.

Special mention must be made of Andre winning the entire Light Green course, and to Samuel C-D for winning the entire Yellow course. It was really heart-warming to see the great support for each other and WAOC at Assembly and out on the courses. It is wonderful how much fun Juniors can have orienteering in multiple thunderstorms!

Thank you to Hebe for her leadership as Junior Captain. Thank you to all the parents for their support, and particularly those who stepped in as coaches, recruited team members, and helped ferry Juniors to the remote start. And thanks to Adam and Elizabeth for bringing the extra gazebo!

More widely, a huge number of people have contributed to the recent successes of our Juniors. We can't name them all here, but it is worth collectively celebrating what has been achieved from the development efforts of lots of people in different ways over the past six or seven years.

With a number of older Juniors away at Selection races, and some NOR shenanigans, WAOC again qualified for the 2025 Final at a NOR event this February,

The 2025 YBT Final is near Ashington, West Sussex, Sunday 6 July 2025. So please put in your diaries now.

Peter Palmer Relays

Congratulations to our team of seven WAOC Juniors who travelled to the northern Lake District last weekend to participate in the prestigious Peter Palmer Relays.

WAOC were placed 10th out of 14 teams, finishing as the best team from outside Scotland, Yorkshire or the Lakes.

The Relays were organised by West Cumberland Orienteering Club (WCOC) on a new map combining their areas near Kirkland (Cockermouth). WAOC participated in the full 6-leg Trophy competition. Having camped out in tents overnight in stunning shadow of Knock Murton, the first runners woke before 4.00am, with the relays setting off in complete darkness. The terrain was brutal, with lots of climb and tricky courses, but thankfully mild weather. There was huge enjoyment from the challenge for each member of the team. It was "the most fun orienteering, ever," according to one WAOC

Junior! A great innovation this year was the use of GPS vests so that all runners on each leg could be live tracked on screens in the arena, and by anxious parents, back at home (if awake!).

CompassSport Cup

On 20th October 34 WAOC members travelled to Holcombe Moors in Lancashire to take part in the 2024 final of the Compass Sport competition. WAOC came 6th ranked team of 22 in the Cup (for larger clubs). And like I say, it makes WAOC the 6th best team of 88 Open Clubs in 2024. Because if a club doesn't aspire to be a large club, what is the point?

Congratulations to everyone for getting round successfully, surviving both the weather and unexploded ordnance on the hill. Everyone contributed and it was gratifying to see scorers from W12 to W70, with some great performances. WAOC were only one of two teams whose 25 scorers came from all 12 possible scoring classes, which really speaks to the depth of participation and quality in the team.

CSC Qualifier on 23 February at Clumber Park. Team of 37 against team of 63 from DVO, lost by 7 points. So we miss out on the CSC Final 2025 on the sand dunes of Redcar, but committee are happy because you still get to run at Ampthill.

6. Selections

JIRCs

East Anglia came 6th at the JIRCs in the Forest of Dean in September. The EA team was heavily dependent on 7 WAOC Juniors – Hebe Darwin, Alistair Fu, Kate Jarrett, Andre Fu, Alex Darwin, Erik Biernacki-Jablonski and Alys Powell. This is the best JIRC result for East Anglia for 20 years since their 3rd places in 2000 and 2002, when the team was also heavily dependent on WAOC – the Louths, apparently?

International Call ups

JHIs

Alys Powell was selected for Wales as a W14

Erik B-J was selected as M14 Reserve

Interland 2025

Called up based on results during 2024:

Hebe Darwin selected as W18

Kate Jarrett selected as W16 Travelling Reserve

JROS Tours Selections 2024

Alex Darwin-- Lagganlia

Hebe Darwin --Stockholm

GB Selections

Alex Wetherill re-selected for GB Development Squad (Level 4) 2025

Hebe Darwin re-selected for Talent Squad South

Thank you. Thank you to everyone who has run for the club, or helped coach, or provide lifts. You all count!

Richard Powell