



Chair's Report to the 2025 AGM



Introduction / Overview

Since the 2024 AGM we have put on 24 orienteering events — including successfully hosting the CompassSport Cup Final at South Gare, Redcar, and making a major contribution to the 50th White Rose Weekend in Dalby Forest in August.

Organising and planning such an extensive and varied range of events has required a great deal of flexibility and hard work from our key officials and other volunteers. The results have been well worth the effort, giving us all the opportunity to enjoy some fun and challenging courses in beautiful locations.

Effort has also gone into keeping our Permanent Orienteering Courses (POCs) and Virtual Orienteering Courses (VOCs) up to date. These continue to play a vital role in encouraging local community involvement and introducing families to our sport. Most of this mapping and course development work is now complete – our task now is to ensure these courses are well used and properly maintained. As before, around 90% of the grant funding for this work has gone to club members as expenses for mapping and course design, with the remaining 10% helping to cover club overheads such as OCAD licences and insurance.

Club Development Project

At last year's AGM, I wasn't sure how we would sustain Rachel Baker's excellent work as Club Development Officer (CDO) and continue our successful Couch2Green (C2G) and Track2Green (T2G) programmes. Fortunately, Becca Mayes, ably mentored by Sarah Hagues, has taken on the role and continued Rachel's great work.

Becca delivered a brilliant C2G Spring course and has since run a series of activity days aimed at encouraging families and newcomers to try orienteering.

Support from the Orienteering Foundation for the CDO activity concluded last year and, as agreed at the 2024 AGM, CLOCK has fully funded the fourth year of the CDO contract. I'd like us to be able to offer a two-year contract when we next advertise the role, once Becca completes her sixth-form studies in summer 2026. We'll be voting on this proposal tonight.

Event Programme

Our 2024–25 event calendar was both busy and successful, including:

- October Odyssey weekend, with two National events – including the NE Orienteering Championships – at Sneaton Forest and Graystone Moor.
- Chris Wright's Autumn Series of short races in lovely locations, plus an extra dusk event at Kiplin Hall.
- Our New Year Team Score event at Summerhill –on Ann Cranke's new map – provided easy access for NN and NATO teams.
- A winter mini-series of dusk/night events, including Bedale, Cleveland Links and Romanby golf courses.
- The Acorn National Event on Ayton Moor in March.
- Joe Trigg's Summer Series of Saturday events.
- A UK Urban League weekend, featuring new maps of Bedale and Aiskew (Saturday) and Richmond Town (Sunday), attracting around 170 entries.

We also played a major role in helping EBOR run the 50th White Rose Weekend, which many described as one of the best ever. In addition to CLOCK leading on the Saturday Middle Distance event,

our members also planned Sunday's courses, managed the entry and results systems and provided medical cover across the whole weekend.

The year culminated in our hosting of the CompassSport Cup Final, which was successful on every measure — fun, technically fair, competitive, well attended, with fine weather and strong finances. Around 70 CLOK members helped on the day — a remarkable turnout that shows the spirit and teamwork that defines our club. Many thanks to everyone who contributed, and to EBOR, NATO, CLARO and NN for lending us equipment for the event.

Looking ahead, we've volunteered to organise the 2026 Northern Night Championships at Wilton Woods (based at Wilton Golf Club) and a National event on Lazenby Banks and Eston Moor in February 2026.

Achievements

CLOK members have continued to shine individually and collectively. A few highlights:

- Rebecca Mayes was selected for the W16 Talent North squad last autumn – a fantastic achievement.
- CLOK finished third in the CompassSport Trophy competition, with Jules Simpson and Rachel Baker both winning their classes.
- The Green family's long winning streak in the New Year Team Score event was finally ended by "DiNNeR Time"!
- Julian Simpson was the M50 Champion at the JK, and Ann Cranke was overall 3rd in W65.
- Our Juniors W14 team came second in the British Relays and also qualified for the Yvette Baker Trophy Finals.
- In the Northern Championships, Jules Simpson won M50L, Lauren Simpson won W12, Rae Simpson was 2nd in W14A, and Alice Rigby was 3rd in W21E.

Club Awards

- The Acorn Award winners will be announced at the AGM.
- Paul Thornton Awards – recognising the male and female juniors who have contributed most to the club during 2024 – will be presented this evening.
- The 2024 Joe Wright Trophy will also be presented this evening.

Training

Phill Batts ran more mapping courses this year, including sessions for several juniors, and it's great to see their new maps appearing in our events.

Rebecca and Jules Simpson have led the NEJS (North East Junior Squad), supported by Charles Mayes and other orienteering parents.

Unfortunately, our planned training weekend at Lowick Bunkhouse in November had to be cancelled due to snow.

The club sponsored juniors to attend national and regional training camps.

Permanent Orienteering Courses and MapRun

We continue to maintain and update our 30+ Permanent Orienteering Courses (POCs). Many thanks to everyone who has adopted their local POCs and keeps them in good order.

We've now completed the grant-funded work that created or upgraded POCs and VOCs in 16 areas. We haven't sought further funding yet, but there are opportunities to apply for new grants if volunteers are available to take on the work.

Our MapRun courses continue to feature in weekly Klub challenges and C2G training, and are available to the public via British Orienteering's Go Orienteering portal.

First Aid

In March, Richard Rigby ran an excellent First Aid course at the Cleveland Mountain Rescue Centre in Great Ayton. A mid-week course may follow later this year.

Safeguarding

Many thanks to Carolyn Rigby for continuing to oversee our safeguarding policies and practices. Please remember to complete the British Orienteering safeguarding e-course – it's recommended for all Committee members and key officials.

Congratulations also to Jeanett Downing, who has just taken on British Orienteering's national safeguarding role.

Club Image

It's been great to continue seeing our distinctive club jackets and O-tops at events.

Our new set of three banners using Livi Wright's design have been well received and give us flexibility at multi-day events.

We continue to use our "landscape of silhouettes" design on our maps, web site and publicity, ensuring a consistent and professional image.

Committee Business

We've continued to hold our monthly Committee meetings via Zoom – efficient, environmentally friendly, and cost-effective. We remain committed to reducing our carbon footprint, with car-sharing, public transport and even rail or bike options promoted for major events such as the CSC Final.

We also now recycle used SI cards and operate the CLOK Top Shop, where members can pass on or purchase second-hand club kit.

Unfortunately, John Green will be stepping down as Club Secretary next year due to other commitments. My sincere thanks to John for his tireless support during my time as Chair.

We always welcome new Committee members and are especially looking for someone to manage our social media presence more actively.

Social Activities & Communications

With such a busy schedule of events and training activities, we've had fewer dedicated social events this year, though Rachel Baker continues to produce editions of Tchimes, keeping everyone connected and informed.

If anyone would like to take a more active role in coordinating social activities, that would be greatly appreciated!

Volunteers

As always, a huge 'thank you' to the many volunteers who make our club thrive. We've continued to operate our volunteer entry discount system (free entry for four main officials, half-price for helpers). These credits, managed through Racesignup, are a small token of our gratitude.

It's also been great to see new members stepping forward to train as Organisers and Planners. This helps spread the load and keeps our events fresh and varied.

As ever, we encourage healthy turnover and welcome fresh ideas. We always have space for a few more volunteers, whether on the Committee, in planning teams or helping manage communications.

Looking Forward

The club's biggest challenge remains attracting new members, especially families and younger adults. We'll continue to explore creative ways to inspire the next generation to take up orienteering.

An important task for the coming year will be securing and supporting the next Club Development Officer, so that we can maintain our outreach and family engagement work.

In Conclusion

Please stay safe, keep active, and enjoy the orienteering events that we and our neighbouring clubs put on. I look forward to seeing you all out in the forests, moors, and parks in the year ahead.

Caroline Mackenzie
CLOK Chair