



Chair's Report to the 2026 AGM

Introduction / Overview

Since the 2025 AGM, CLOK has once again provided a busy and varied programme of orienteering, with 13 local events, 8 Regional events and 4 National events. Five of these were dusk or night events, giving local and visiting orienteers plenty of opportunities to enjoy orienteering in different settings and at different times of year.

Among the highlights were the Northern Night Championships in Wilton Woods, a CompassSport Cup heat on Lazenby Bank and Eston Moor, and the White Rose Weekend in Scarborough, which we organised jointly with EBOR.

Putting on such a varied programme requires a great deal of work from our planners, organisers, controllers, SI managers and other volunteers. It has been particularly encouraging to see some new people taking on these roles, alongside the very experienced officials who continue to give so much to the club. A big thank you to everyone who has contributed during the year.

Event Programme

Our event programme has again been one of the main strengths of the club.

The Northern Night Championships provided an excellent opportunity to stage a championship event on home territory, while the CompassSport Cup heat brought a large number of competitors to the area. The heat was particularly successful, with just under 300 competitors from nine clubs taking part and around 30 CLOK members helping to run the event.

A major highlight of the year was the White Rose Weekend, which we organised in partnership with EBOR. CLOK members made a substantial contribution to the weekend, taking on the Mapper, Planner and Controller roles for the main days, as well as organising the Middle Distance event on the Saturday. It was great to see the NE Junior Squad contributing to the weekend too, providing fantastic cakes, teas, coffees and other goodies. This was a good example of the wider contribution that our junior programme makes to the club and to the region.

The White Rose Weekend also made a significant financial contribution to CLOK. Our share of the profits was approximately £3,900, which was higher than usual because the events used public/council-owned land and therefore did not incur the usual access fees.

Thank you to everyone from CLOK who helped make the White Rose Weekend such a success, and to EBOR for working with us on the event.

Club Development

The Couch2Green programme did not attract as many applicants as in previous years, with only four people initially signing up. Rather than abandon the opportunity, we adapted the programme and ran it as "C2G Lite". The experience is useful in helping us think about how best to structure these activities in future.

More generally, the club continues to face the challenge of encouraging newcomers to move from an initial introduction to orienteering into regular participation. We need to continue looking for ways of making that transition as straightforward and welcoming as possible.

Permanent Orienteering Courses

During the year, Durham Council asked CLOK to update the permanent orienteering course at Hardwick Park. The work has now been completed by Malcolm Hewitson, using Ann Cranke's map. We are also continuing to update the orienteering courses provided for schoolchildren by Durham Council. This work is an important way in which the club can support the wider community and provide opportunities for people to experience orienteering outside our formal event programme.

Junior Development

It has been great to see the continued contribution of the North East Junior Squad. The squad contains some very talented young orienteers, and CLOK will continue to support its activities.

Competitive Achievements

CLOK members have continued to achieve excellent results at events around the country.

At the Northern Night Championships, Jules Simpson, Rebecca Simpson and Pippa Rowan won their respective classes.

Jules Simpson went on to become M50 British Champion and British Middle Distance Champion and to take third place in his age class in the Veteran Home Internationals. (He must be running out of space in his trophy cabinet.)

At the British Relay Championships, CLOK's W14 team came second and several other teams got top-five finishes.

Ann Cranke came first in the D70 class in Stage 3 of the O-Ringen, overcoming some very tough international competition. She also came first in her age class in the British Sprint Championships.

Eight CLOK members are NE Orienteering Champions – Kit Downing in M10, Jules Simpson in M50, Dave Riches in M60, Paul Taylor in M70, Fern Downing in W14, Nell Downing in W16, Isla Simpson in W18 and Rebecca Simpson in W45.

Event Officials and Volunteers

None of our programme would be possible without the members who volunteer to run events.

One of the encouraging features of the year has been seeing new planners, SI managers and organisers coming forward and helping to share the workload. At the same time, we continue to benefit enormously from a group of trusted officials who have been supporting CLOK events for many years.

Both groups are important. Experienced officials provide a wealth of knowledge and ensure that events run smoothly, while new volunteers bring fresh ideas and help make the club's event programme sustainable in the longer term.

Looking ahead, we have another very full programme and will need plenty of volunteers to take on officials' roles. **Offers of help will be very gratefully received!**

Looking Forward

There is plenty to look forward to over the coming year.

We have another packed programme of events, and I hope that members will continue to come forward to help with the many official and volunteer roles needed to run them.

We will be competing in the CompassSport Cup Heat hosted by CLARO on 7th February 2027. We are back in the small clubs competition, giving us a real chance of qualifying for the Final provided we can get enough CLOK members to turn up and compete!

We will continue to support the NE Junior Squad, which has some very talented juniors in its ranks.

We will also be hosting the Northern Championships on Lazenby Bank and Eston Moor on 14th March 2027. This will be another major event for the club and one which will require a strong team effort from CLOK members.

Then, in October 2027, it will be our turn to organise NEOA's October Odyssey Weekend — a pair of National events on 9th and 10th October at Jugger Howe Moor and Aislaby Moor. These events will be held in conjunction with the 2027 Junior Home International.

The Junior Home International will bring around 100 talented junior orienteers from the four home nations to the area. We will be taking over Whitby YHA to house and entertain them, so this promises to be another particularly busy and exciting weekend for CLOK.

In Conclusion

It has been another busy year for Cleveland Orienteering Klub, with a wide-ranging programme of local, Regional and National events and some particularly successful major events.

I am especially pleased to see new people becoming involved in running our events, alongside the many experienced officials whose continued support is so valuable. The willingness of members to contribute is one of CLOK's greatest strengths, and it is what enables us to maintain such a full and varied programme.

Thank you to everyone who has planned, organised, controlled, managed SI, helped at an event, supported the junior squad, contributed to the White Rose Weekend, or helped the club in any of the many other ways that are not always visible.

There is plenty more to look forward to in 2027. I hope that we can continue to support our juniors, welcome new volunteers, put on some excellent events and, most importantly, enjoy some great orienteering together.

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

Caroline Mackenzie
CLOK Chair