

## North-East Junior Squad Report Oct 2022 – Oct 2023

### People

NEJS currently has two co-ordinators (Francis Shillitoe/Kim Sanderson). While our coach Duncan Archer continues to work with the squad, this is 'at one remove' as he has relocated to the Lake District. Parents willing to coach include Nigel Wright and Charles Mayes. Looking to the future, the parents of our newest squad member Isla Simpson are interested in helping out and gaining coaching qualifications. Former squad member Maya Hampshire-Wright is also keen to help with coaching when she's available.

In terms of membership, over the past year 15 squad members have trained and/or competed with us. Of those, 4 juniors have recently left the squad to go to university. It is unlikely that we will be able to increase the squad numbers significantly next year: there are few juniors at M/W14 or M/W12 in the NEOA clubs (NATO, NN, CLOK). This may affect our ability to enter any competitive relay teams next year in the JIRCs due to a lack of M/W14s; our one W14 this year will be moving up to W16.

### Training and events

4 juniors attended Hawkshead training for M/W16s in November 2022 (Yokub Hampshire-Wright, Matt and Chloe Green and Ben Sanderson).

In late January, Duncan Archer and CLOK invited the junior squad to train alongside other orienteers at Wilton Woods for the day. Some parents also took up the offer!

In early April we held a training weekend for 8 juniors in the Lakes. On Saturday we trained with Duncan – supported by Maya – at Simpson's Ground. We stayed in Far Sawrey and entered Border Liners' event at Burnbanks, Haweswater on the Sunday.

In terms of annual training camps this summer, we had one junior attend Deeside (Rebecca Mayes) and one junior attend Czechia (Yokub Hampshire-Wright).

In mid-September, the NEOA clubs joined forces to encourage young juniors in particular to attend CLOK's event at South Gare. This was planned by Rebecca Mayes and organised by Rebecca Simpson, who was on hand to welcome juniors. Hopefully the clubs will continue to see opportunities for junior orienteers and their families to get together locally and continue to enjoy orienteering.

NEJS had 6 juniors (accompanied by Kim and Charles Mayes) attend the JIRCs in South Wales on the weekend 22/23/24 September. Overall (individual and relay days) NEJS women came in 6<sup>th</sup> out of 12 regional squads. Our two M16s and one M18 formed competitive ad hoc teams with members of other junior squads, so they could join in the action.

Four M/W16s from NEJS will be attending Hawkshead in late November. Parents Nigel Wright (who has a Level 1 coaching qualification) and Charles Mayes will be running the training exercises for our squad, jointly with Carol Lovegrove from the South East Junior Squad.

There have been no takers for training in early November to tie in with the Orienteering Foundation coaching day. This may be partly because a large proportion of the squad will be in Hawkshead later in the month. Other squad members are away with their families for half term (which for many schools is late this year, so this day falls at the end of it). Kim Sanderson, 30/09/23

<https://www.s boc.org.uk/results/JIRCOverallScores2023.pdf>

