

NEOA AGM 2026 – Chair and Secretary's Report

The three clubs in NEOA have continued to host numerous events in the region. I particularly enjoyed the recent October Odyssey Weekend hosted by NN. It was good to see Chopwell and Edges Green being used again after a number of years. We do lack good forests for orienteering in the north-east and Chopwell is one of the better ones. It was a bonus that Chopwell was chosen as an Interland Junior Team selection race as it attracted families from across the country and pushed the number of entries up at both events. Holding events across both a Saturday and Sunday does seem to improve participant numbers particularly if they can be included in the UKUL or UKOL leagues.

NATO partnered with Roxburgh Reivers to host the Berwick-upon-Tweed and Eyemouth urban weekend. When the idea of hosting an event so far north in our region was first propositioned within NATO there was concern that people wouldn't want to travel to such a "remote" location. Much to NATO's surprise the Berwick event attracted nearly 200 competitors.

CLOK has been very active in holding some large events this year including the CompassSport Cup Heat, Northern Nights and it made a significant contribution to organising and providing volunteers to the White Rose.

Finally, the work Rebecca and Julian Simpson are doing with the NEJS requires a special mention and a big thank you. The squad is going from strength to strength. They have organised various local, national and foreign excursions. I am hoping that NEOA via contributions from the three clubs can provide sufficient budget for them to continue their good work for the following year.

Francis Shillitoe

NEOA Chair and Secretary

October 2026