

# Chair's report



I think it's fair to say that 2021 was a far more successful year for BASOC than 2020. I've been looking back at our plans that we laid out at the end of last year and we have successfully achieved everything, plus more!

The start of the year was not promising, but we were quickly able to get back to regular Tuesday training in March. In fact, training was so popular that we even had to split into two separate groups for a few weeks before restrictions allowed larger groups again. We have put something on every Tuesday since, even during the 6Days; many thanks to everyone who has made this happen.

This year has brought along many new members to BASOC; we welcome you all warmly to the club. Ben, Kristin, Oran, Malin, Laura, Aoife, Anne and Phil are now all familiar faces at Tuesday training, and are hopefully gaining confidence. I know for certain you are all gaining skills, and hope you will keep with us as we go into winter.

This year we focussed on smaller events, keeping things simple for members and allowing us to adapt as regulations changed. We have put on two daytime events: Windy Ridge and Loch Vaa, two evening events: Craigellachie and Glen Gynack, and now the Club Champs. All events were well attended by our members and brought people in from other clubs too. Many thanks to everyone who planned, organised and helped at any of our events.

The calendar for larger events has been a little sparse this year. Of course, we had the long wait to see if the 6Days would be able to take place. In the end, the split format meant the week could definitely go ahead, even if it meant that competitors could only run at half the events. Given the feedback I've heard about the areas and courses, I think everyone who took part will agree that it was worth the wait.

Other larger events that our members have been to this year include the Scottish Long and Sprint Championships, and British Long and Middle Championships. BASOC did particularly well at the Scottish Championships, with 10 members taking part, 6 finishing with podium places! Particular congratulations to Finley and Alice for their wins in M10 and W16.

Our juniors are once again doing us proud. Alice and Faith were selected for the Deeside training camp, which ended up being much closer to home. Izzy was one of only 10 people selected for the Gothenburg tour, aimed at helping older juniors to develop, plan and undertake their own training. Alice and Faith have, once again, been selected for ScotJOS and are both taking part in the Junior Inter-Regional competition, and Alice was selected to take part in the JHI.

Congratulations to all our juniors, particularly to Oran and Malin; despite being new to the sport they have been out in the woods, often alone, throughout the summer, finding controls that many juniors and beginners would never imagine looking for. Well done to both of you.

Leaving actual orienteering aside, this year the committee has been working on reshaping the structure of BASOC as a club. I'm sure you're all aware that we have been moving towards applying for charity status in the form of a SCIO. At our SGM in September the proposals were passed, so we are in the process of getting that moving forward. SCIO (Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation) status will give BASOC a legal entity, removing personal liability from individual members and allowing us to take on employees. Most members should see very little, if any, impact on the day-to-day running of the club.

This year I will be moving on from the position of Chair. I hope you feel I have done a reasonable job; I have certainly tried to keep BASOC moving in a positive direction. At the time of writing no one has come forward to take over the role so it looks like we won't have a Chair at the start of 2022. Although this might have a small impact on the club, I'm sure the committee will be able to see things through until we find someone to take over.

Once again, I would like to thank all our volunteers who have helped make 2022 a successful year. We've had unique challenges to face but we are still a very active club that puts on far more for its members than should be expected, given our size. It's great to see so many new members this year; let's look forward to another fantastic year together in 2022.

## Plans for 2022

Over the winter, we will be holding another Northern Night Cup in conjunction with Moravian and INVOC. Unlike in previous years, the BASOC events will be held on a Tuesday in place of our normal training. Even if you don't want to take part in the other cup events, everyone is welcome to come along for some fantastic night orienteering. Moravian and INVOC are putting their events on Wednesdays; we'll have something as usual on the Tuesdays before these events, with a not-too-physical option for those who want to save themselves for the night cup.

After the success of our small events this year, we're planning something a little bigger next year. A few years ago we decided to bid for a SOL event every other year, in non-6Day years. We missed the last opportunity in 2020, but we're planning to be back in 2022. We have not yet received final confirmation, but it's likely that we will put on a SOL in October, in conjunction with the JHIs. BASOC will be planning the SOL/Individual event and another club, yet to be decided, will be taking on the relays.

For the newcomers to the club, and anyone else who wants an explanation, the SOL (Scottish Orienteering League) series runs every year. Although the series has been a bit short for 2020 and 2021 due to Covid restrictions, it usually has between 5 and 7 events that take place around Scotland. The orienteering is very high quality and challenging, and it's a great opportunity to orienteer in other parts of the country. For those that are interested in competing, it is a league and results get published online, but anyone of any ability is welcome to take part; just choose a course that is appropriate to your ability.

The JHI (Junior Home International) is a competition for juniors (under 21s). A team is selected from each home nation (Scotland, England, Wales, Northern Ireland/Ireland), who all compete in two events - a relay and an individual event. There are similar events every year for seniors (SHI, over 21s) and veterans (VHI, over 35s).

Back to 2022. We will of course be continuing to run training every Tuesday, most likely turning some evenings into events as we did this year. We also intend to put on at least one other daytime event, plus the Club Champs.

BASOC is here for its members. If you have an idea of something you'd really like us to do, why not mention it to one of the committee? It could be some training you'd like to do, an event format we haven't thought of, or an idea for a social. While I can't promise we'll be able to take on any challenge, we are here for our members, so let us know if there's something you would like to try.