

North Area News - Sep 2020

Sarah Dunn - RDO North

SOA EGM

A reminder to all members that the SOA EGM will take place by Zoom this Fri, 25th Sep at 7:30pm. More information and a link to register are available from the [SOA website](#)

SOA Club Development Fund

There's still time to submit applications to the [SOA club development fund](#) but the deadline is coming up on 30th Sep. Information is available on the website about the fund, the type of projects that are likely to be supported and previous successful awards. This pot of money is available exclusively for helping to develop orienteering in Scotland, so please consider whether your club could make use of some funds in an appropriate way!

Club Toolkit

The SOA Club Toolkit was recently launched and is available [here](#). The Toolkit has been compiled in response to a demand from clubs for accessible advice and resources. We hope that it already contains a lot of information which clubs will find useful, but it is the intention to keep it as a dynamic resource which can be updated with additional resources on an ongoing basis. We would love to get feedback from clubs about the content of the Toolkit and, in particular, any information gaps that we can helpfully plug. In addition, we would love to see clubs sharing some more "good examples" of different activities and practices to sit alongside the examples already used. Please review the existing content and if there is anything that you would like to see added, or feel that you can usefully contribute, then please get in touch.

Performance Director Vacancy

The SOA Board currently has a few vacancies including the role of Performance Director. There is currently a heavy bias in Board members towards the Central belt and especially Edinburgh, so if you can think of anyone in the north who might be interested and suitable to take on this role, then please contact [Fiona Keir](#) or [Richard Oxlade](#)

ScotJOS Selection for 2021

ScotJOS selections for the 2021 squad (from 1st year M/W 14s upwards) are currently under consideration by the lead coach (Jon Musgrave) and management team. The main aim is to select new 14s (first and second year). However older juniors are encouraged to run especially if they have improved significantly over the past 12 months.

Given the lack of events this year and so few of opportunities for aspiring juniors to demonstrate their potential, Maroc has offered a chance to run at their event at Cambus O'May on Sunday 27th September. Courses available will include Light Green (14s) and Blue (16/18s). Details for entry are on the MAROC website, this event is [pre-entry only](#).

New resources for teachers / home-schooling

Another resource that may be of interest to some is a new set of videos compiled by Judy Bell, RDO East, which could be used to help support anyone wishing to deliver some orienteering activities either at home or at key worker childcare hubs. The [Let's Get Started](#) resources can be downloaded from the SOA website .

The first 3 videos are already available with a further two to follow shortly. Please circulate to anyone that you think may be interested. They are suitable for anyone to work with and introduce the basic skills that we would start with in the classroom - typically for P4 and upwards.

Junior competition questionnaire

We are looking into some possible alternative options to run an online junior competition to replace this year's Jamie Stevenson trophy - either in some inter-club or inter-region format. We would like to get some feedback from our juniors to explore interest and see what format they might like for this. Please can you ask them to complete this [questionnaire](#) to give us their opinions.

Volunteers week reminder

A reminder to everyone to help us celebrate some of our volunteers during the SOAs volunteer month in June. There is information [here](#) about several initiatives for which we are seeking nominations.

Planners course interest

Coaching and Volunteer Officer Denise Martin is seeking feedback on interest in attending an [online planners course](#). Please get in touch with her if this is something that you would like to participate in.