

## North-East Junior Squad Report Oct 2021 – Sep 2022

Francis Shillitoe, 26/9/22

NEJS currently comprises two co-ordinators (Francis Shillitoe/Kim Sanderson), one coach (Duncan Archer) and until recently 14 active juniors. Three juniors left the squad in September (for university), reducing the number of active juniors to 11. It is unlikely that we will be able to increase the squad numbers significantly due to there being few juniors 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.

In November we had a very successful weekend away in the Lakes. We had a day's training on Saturday at Summerhouse Knott based around the Orienteering Foundation's coaching day, and attended the LOC event at Great Tower on the Sunday. We stayed in the village hall at Faw Sawrey, self-catering and sleeping on the floor. This was the second time the juniors had met since the Covid lockdowns (the first being at the JIRCs in September), and they all seemed to enjoy the social aspect. We did not charge a fee for the weekend. NEJS had built a decent cash surplus over the Covid lockdown whilst there had been little opportunities for the juniors who were still paying their club fees (along with their parents).

In February we held another training weekend in the Lakes. Saturday was at Great Tower, and Sunday at High Dam. This included a night training exercise which was well received. We stayed in the Scouts bunkhouse accommodation at Great Tower.

In terms of annual training camps, we had one junior attend Hawkshead (Liam Green) and one junior attend Lagganlia (Rebecca Mayes).

NEJS had 9 juniors (accompanied by Frank and Kim) attend the JIRCs in Northern Ireland on the weekend 23/24/25 September. We flew to Belfast from Newcastle-upon-Tyne, stayed in Shimna Integrated College in Newcastle (County Down), and orienteered on both days on the MOD training area at Tyrella (complex sand dunes).

Travel and accommodation within Northern Ireland was organised by NI orienteering / Lagan Valley Orienteers, and all went smoothly. The juniors all seemed to cope with the mainly TD5 terrain, and most importantly enjoyed themselves – including the socialising. There was a very well attended Ceilidh on Saturday evening. Overall we achieved 8<sup>th</sup> place out of 12 (ahead of EAJOS, EMJOS, NIJS and WMJS), which was an improvement on previous years.

Overall results

[https://www.niorienteering.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/Overall\\_Team\\_Results.pdf](https://www.niorienteering.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/Overall_Team_Results.pdf)

Other results

<https://lvo.org.uk/jircs-2022/>

