SWJOS Review of 2017

By Pete Maliphant and Dave Hanstock

The South West Junior Squad provides a focus and a series of training activities for developing junior talent within the South West. Athletes from BOK, Devon, NGOC and Wimborne make up the current squad. Over the past year, the achievements of current and recent SWJOS members have been very impressive, so we thought it worth sharing these with all the SWOA clubs.

Squad Training

Most training takes place during September-March aimed at achieving peak performances in the main Championships and selection races in March, April and May.

2017 began with a one-day session at Ashton Court, followed by a weekend comprising a track session in Exeter, training on Dartmoor and a race at Polly Joke. For our Christmas Weekend, technical training at Ham Hill was followed by a trip to the QO Galoppen. In January we had a training day on Cannop Ponds, followed by a residential weekend at Penhale in mid-February.

The squad then headed into the big races last Spring, with the following notable results:

Northern Orienteering Championships at Bigland - February

Oliver Tonge, Jim Bailey and Joe Hudd set the tone for the rest of the season with a clean sweep - 1st, 2nd & 3rd in M14. Guy Owen 2nd M12, Eddie Narbett 3rd M18, Cecilie Andersen 2nd in W20E.

Midland Championship weekend - March

A special junior sprint selection event was held at Warwick University. Cecilie Andersen and Chloe Potter finished 1st and 4th and Eddie Narbett came 10th on the men's course. Next day at the Midland Championships at Bentley Wood, Jim Bailey, Joe Hudd and Oliver Tonge finished 1-2-3 again in M14, Eddie Narbett and Zac Hudd were 5th and 6th on M18E, Chloe and Cecilie were 2nd and 3rd in W20E.

England Team for Interland in the Ardennes - April

Interland is held annually against teams from France, Belgium and the Netherlands. Jim Bailey and Oliver Tonge made their international debut in 2017 and helped the England team to victory, coming 3rd and 5th in M14.

JK Weekend - April

In the JK Sprint at Brunel University, Oliver Tonge and Jim Bailey continued their fine form with 1st and 2nd in M14. Cecilie Andersen was 3rd British competitor on W20E. JK Days 2 and 3 were held in the Guildford area. Chloe Potter took the victory in W20E, which helped her selection for the Junior World Orienteering Championships. Oliver Tonge was 2nd on M14.

World Schools Orienteering Champs in Sicily - April

The World Schools Orienteering Champs, with competitors from 27 countries, consists of Long Distance and Middle Distance races, plus a Friendship relay with mixed international teams.

SWJOS members Jim Bailey and Flurry Grierson were selected, with Flurry finishing a superb 2nd in the Middle Distance race.

British Long Champs at High Dam - May

Eddie Narbett came 2nd on M18E, Cecilie Andersen and Chloe Potter 3rd and 6th on W20E, Jim Bailey and Oliver Tonge 2nd and 5th in M14. There were also top 12 results for Michael Hallett M20E, Lucy Tonge W18E and Edith Stagg W14.

Junior World Orienteering Champs in Finland - July

Cecilie Andersen, targeting the sprint race, came a superb 20th out of 150, less than 90 seconds down on the winner. Chloe Potter finished a creditable 52nd. Cecilie and Chloe were 34th and 71st in the Long final and they also ran together in the relay with their GB team coming in 23rd place. Overall the GB team achieved a respectable 6th place.

Chloe, Eddie and Zac were also selected for the GB team at the Junior European Cup In Austria, where Eddie finished an outstanding 6th in the Sprint only 45 seconds down on the winner.

Junior Regional Orienteering Squads (JROS) Summer Camps

Based on selection races in Spring 2017, JROS selected athletes for four summer camps:

Oliver Tonge, Jim Bailey, Rebecca Ward, Lizzie Horsler and ex-SWJOS Joe Hudd were selected for the Lagganlia training camp held near Aviemore, for the top 24 M/W14s.

Sarah Horsler was selected for the Deeside camp near Aberdeen for top M/W16 athletes.

Lucy Tonge, Harry McMurtrie and ex-SWJOS Zac Hudd were selected for the Stockholm training camp, which uses the OK Ravine' club hut and is aimed at the top 15-20 M/W17's.

There is also the Gothenburg training camp for M/W18s and M/W20s

Summer International Events

Eddie Narbett achieved a top 20 result at the Swedish O-Ringen in the highly competitive M18 course, whilst Cecilie Andersen and Chloe Potter were 4th and 6th in the Womens Elite Middle Distance race at the Canadian Championships.

Scottish 6 Days in Deeside - August

Notable performances included Joe Hudd, Jim and Oliver, 1st, 3rd and 5th on M14, Eddie Narbett a very respectable 7th on M18 and top 15 results from Michael Hallett M20, Lucy Tonge W18 and Ruby Owen W14.

Junior Inter Regional Championships - September

The pinnacle of the Regional Squads' competitive season is the Junior Inter Regional Championships, this year held near Guildford, with teams of 24 (4 each of M/W14, M/W16 & M/W18) from each region. Scotland has the strongest squad by far (well, they are a country …!) but the South West team achieved an excellent 4th, very close behind the North West and Yorkshire squads.

The South West won the Boys Relay, with Jim Bailey, Flurry Grierson and Eddie Narbett delivering a convincing victory. A fitting climax to Eddie's time with the squad.

British Sprint and Middle Distance Championships - September

As the new season started, there were some further excellent results at the British Sprint and Middle Championships. Jim Bailey won the M14 Sprint, with Joe and Oliver 2nd and 3rd again. Cecilie Andersen, running up as W21E, came a brilliant 6th.

The Middle Championships were held at a rather damp Wendover Woods. There were victories for Cecilie Andersen (W20) and Jim Bailey. Other podium positions went to Oliver Tonge (2nd M14) and Lucy Tonge (2nd W18), with Michael Hallett 4th M20 and Millie Stagg 5th W18.

England Team at Junior Home Internationals (JHI) - October

Jim, Oliver, Joe, Lucy and Eddie were all selected for the England JHI team. For the relay, SWJOS filled all the boys' first team with our JIRCs winning team of Jim, Flurry Grierson and Eddie delivering an excellent 4th place to help England achieve a slim victory over Scotland.

Southern Championships - November

Jim Bailey won M14 once again, with podium positions going to Tom Perry (2nd M14), Rebecca Ward (3rd W14), Jack Forrest (2nd M16), Sarah Horsler (1st W16), Harry Fox, Harry McMurtrie and Dominic Walker (1st, 2nd and 3rd M18).

Meanwhile, SWJOS got back into training for the 2018 season peak: We held a two-day training camp on Dartmoor after the Compass Sport Cup Final, followed by a day at Cannop Ponds and the Christmas weekend in the Forest of Dean. This ended with a run at the BOK Galoppen, where SWJOS Juniors filled 5 of the top 7 places on Light Green and 7 of the Green top 10.

The South-West is fortunate to have a very talented set of juniors, who much appreciate all the support they receive from parents, friends and coaches. We expect 2018 will bring further successes SWOA Juniors.

The South West Junior Orienteering Squad comprises juniors and coaches/adult helpers from all over the SWOA region. The squad is led by Jeff Butt (Sarum) and Pete Maliphant (BOK), with the help of many parents and other coaches.

SWJOS provides development opportunities for junior athletes who are usually bottom year M/W14 or older, willing to and able to travel widely for their orienteering and keen to progress beyond Light Green courses, club and local races, to compete in major races nationally and progress towards the British Orienteering Talent Development Programme.

If you have anyone in your club who would like to find out more, or come along to a SWJOS 'taster session' please do contact any of the SWJOS families, Jeff Butt (Sarum) or me.