

Club Captain's Report

SARUM Orienteering Club – 2026 season and looking ahead to 2027

This has been another positive year for SARUM, with members representing the club at major national championships and team competitions, and our juniors delivering a particularly encouraging set of performances. Thank you to everyone who ran, volunteered, organised teams, provided transport and supported clubmates. The aim for the coming season is to build on that participation, strengthen our team entries and make major events welcoming to runners of every age and level of experience.

CompassSport Trophy

The CompassSport Trophy remains one of the best opportunities for the whole club to compete together. Every scoring runner matters, and the range of courses means that juniors, seniors and veterans can all contribute. SARUM's priority is to field the strongest possible team while keeping the occasion inclusive and enjoyable. SARUM qualified at the Heat in February 2026 with 27 runners across 11 of the 12 courses available. The Final will be held at Pippingford Park (<https://mvoc.org/event/compasssport-final-2026/>) on Sunday 18 Oct. As at 22 Sep we have 22 SARUM members across 9 of the 12 courses available. Final team declarations have to be submitted by 7 Oct.

British Sprint Relay Championships

The 2026 British Sprint Relay Championships were held on Saturday 27 June at the University of Bristol North Village Campus. The fast, technical format rewarded close map contact, rapid decision-making and confident route choice. SARUM members who competed gained valuable experience at national level. Whilst we did not field a SARUM team, three members of SARUM competed for British Army teams. 2027 British Sprint Champs weekend will be 26-27 Jun 27 at the University of Sussex, Brighton (1h40 drive from Salisbury).

Yvette Baker Trophy

Our juniors produced one of the highlights of the year by winning their Yvette Baker qualifier at Farley Heath in May. Seven SARUM juniors made the trip and earned the club a place in the 2026 final at Penllergaer Valley Woods. This was a fine team achievement and a credit to the runners, families, coaches and volunteers who support junior development. The next step is to sustain that momentum by bringing more young members into team competitions and helping them progress confidently through the colour-coded courses. The Yvette Baker Final was just too far away for juniors and their parents, so we did not field a team. 2027 heat locations and dates not yet published.

Peter Palmer Relays

The Peter Palmer Junior Team Relay, held this year 12-13 Sep 26, is a distinctive challenge, combining overnight travel, an early start and the responsibility of racing for a team. It is also an excellent development opportunity: juniors learn about preparation, teamwork and supporting one another across different legs. We could not field either a Daybreak Bowl (4-person team) or Peter Palmer (6-person team) but two SARUM juniors teamed up with Happy Herts to create a Peter Palmer team. We were non-competitive due to not having enough females, but HH were fun team-mates and everyone said they would do it again. Where a full SARUM team is not possible, we should explore appropriate opportunities that still allow our juniors to gain relay experience. The next event will be near Sheffield on 11-12 Sep 27.

JK 2027

The 2027 Jan Kjellström Festival will be staged in the Southeast from 26 to 29 Mar. The programme comprises a sprint at Royal Holloway, a middle-distance race at Ambersham Common, a long-distance race at Linchmere and relays at Old Windmill Hill, Deepcut. Its relative proximity makes this an excellent target for a large SARUM turnout. Entries are due to open on 1 December 2026.

Looking Ahead

Our priorities are straightforward: encourage early commitment to team events, support juniors as they develop, improve coordination of travel and entries, and maintain the friendly club spirit that makes these weekends worthwhile. I am grateful to every member who has represented SARUM this year and to all those who have made participation possible behind the scenes.

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