

We are mid-way through the 2011 squad year so now is a good time to look back at what has been achieved and what the next six-months hold for us.

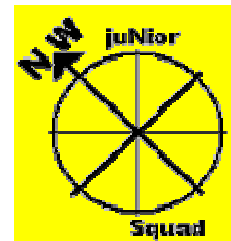
Firstly, a big thanks to everyone in the region involved with this year's JIRCs. As you all know by now the region won the overall title again, for a 10th time. Below is a picture of the team with the various trophies (we won 4 out of the 5 available) somewhere in it.



One of the purposes of the Squad is to help athletes make it to the next level in the sport, and this year it has been quite successful. Zoe Harding and Charlotte Watson represented GB at JWOC in Poland, while Carl Edmonds, Natalie Beadle, & Sarah Jones were selected for EYOC in Germany.

In March Olly Williams, Helen Ockenden, Lois Jefferson, Sarah & Natalie all ran for England at Interland in NW Germany. While in May at the World Schools in Italy the NW were represented by James Allison, Adam Bartlett, Angus Dobson, & William Rigg, along with Natalie, Sarah & Katrina Hemingway.

This year many squad members are on training camps in July & August, Charlotte, Carl, Zoe, Alex McCann, Olly, Natalie, Sarah and Katie Wright are on BOF camps both at home and abroad; while Helen, Lois, Hannah Cleary-Hughes,



Adam, Alistair Thornton, & Will are on the Junior Regional Orienteering Squad camp at Lagganlia.

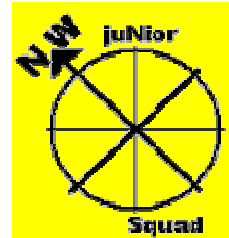
There are other training camps being run; in Sweden, Nick Barrable is running one in and around Stockholm, while some members are doing a great job planning the NTT - Not the Tour Tour in the Lakes. A busy summer for everyone and that is without the Scottish 6-Day, Swiss 6-day and the World Champs in France to squeeze in.

Below is a picture of the 1-2-3 in the girl's relay race ... all from the NW.



As you know the Squad is in transition this year. In December, for the first time, the 2011 Squad will be disbanded and members for the 2012 Squad will be selected based upon their performance, physical fitness, attendance, and good conduct during 2011. More details can be found on the squad website - <http://www.nwoa.org.uk/nwjs/documents/201102-SquadStandards.pdf>

Over the summer months we will be writing to members who we think need advice or guidance to ensure that they can be part of the 2012 squad. Please reply to any letter you receive promptly.



The calendar for September to December is now available so please make a note of the dates. We are busy identifying areas with the help of local clubs and booking accommodation.

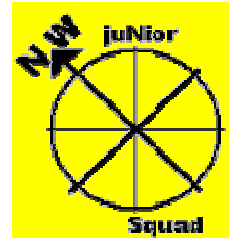
The training in May identified 12 potential new members, some of whom will start in September while others will wait until January, when they have a bit more experience. I am sure everyone connected with the Squad will make them feel welcome.

Clubs should continue to recommend any possible new members to us, the membership criteria is on the website.

Most Squad members should have received a letter asking if they are interested in the bi-annual summer tour to Norway in 2012; those that won't are either too young or too old - if you haven't had a letter please let us know immediately. Please reply quickly, even if you are not able to go, so we can start planning. There is a lot of work to be done, and during the next few months we will hold meetings with you at Squad weekend to discuss the program. We will be contacting coaches and helpers (first aiders, cooks, and drivers) shortly to get an indication of everyone's availability, and to match staffing to athlete ratios.

Just so the boys don't feel left-out, these were the winners podiums at this year's BOC relays; a clean sweep from NW clubs in the 18s (SROC, MDOC and LOC) and 1st in the 14s (LOC).





Finally, from everyone in the Squad, a big thanks to Kate Bryant who is standing down as Squad treasurer in September (a vacancy). Kate has been treasurer for the last 4 years, and has done a great job handling the accounts. Her help as well as chocolate cakes will be missed.

If any parents or club coach would like to help out at squad weekend, please get in touch, we are always on the look-out for new members of the team. Sue Roome recently sent round a rota, asking for parents to put their name down for certain weekends, if everyone could fill it in and return it to her as soon as possible, it would be a great help.

Good luck to all the 18's off to university in September / October, we wish you well & hope to see you in December for you last ever Squad weekend !

From everyone on the coaching team, have a great summer break and see most of you in September ...

STOP PRESS:

JHI team has just been announced with 9 of the 24 athletes in the England team from the NW; congratulations to Hannah C-H, Helen, Natalie, Sarah, Zoe & Charlotte from the girls, and Adam, Olly and Carl from the boys.

July 2011.