

Know your sport Top Orienteering Websites

All BKO members are presumably aware of the club's website at: <http://www.bko.org.uk/> and the regional site at: <http://www.scoa-orienteeing.org.uk/> But where else will you find useful information to help you participate more effectively? Here we look at some of our top recommendations.

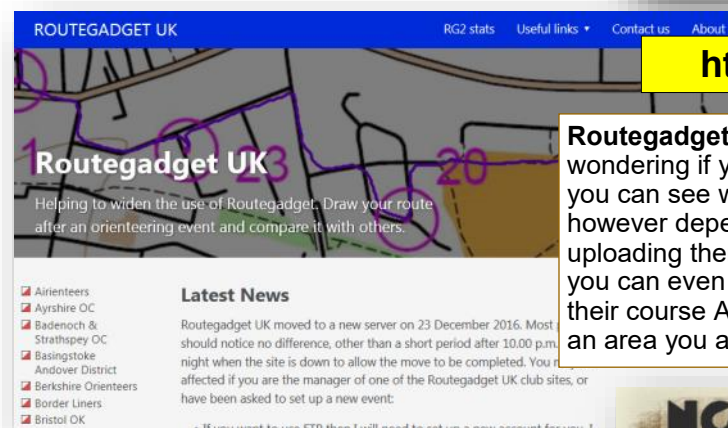
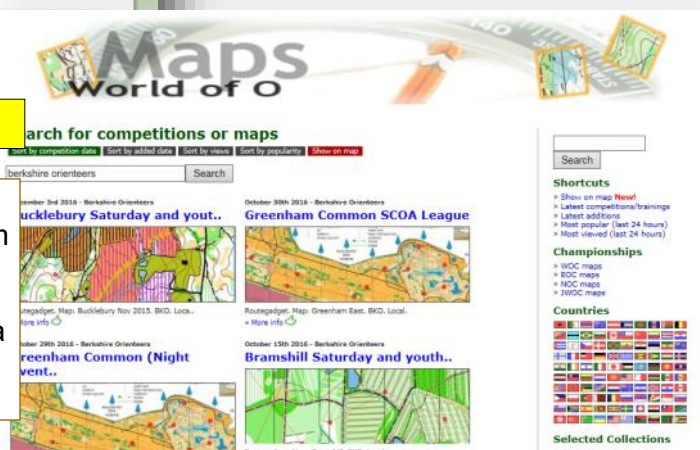


<http://orienteering.org/>

International Orienteering Federation (IOF): As the international body controlling world orienteering, this is the site where you can find the various standards for things like maps and control descriptions. There is also information about international competitions and the rules for IOF events.

<http://omaps.worldofo.com/>

World of O Maps: This is a huge site with new maps added automatically - often extracted from those uploaded to Routegadget. The coverage though is international so you can browse maps from all over the globe. You can search by area or, as in the example shown here, by club. This one shows some BKO maps!



<http://www.routegadget.co.uk/>

Routegadget UK: So you have been to an event and are wondering if you took a good route. Routegadget is where you can see what other people did on your course. It does however depend upon competitors plotting their routes or uploading them from a GPS device. Using the 'replay' facility, you can even get it to show selected people moving through their course. Also useful if you want to see a previous map of an area you about to visit for an event.

<http://forum.nopesport.com/>

Nopesport: This site describes itself as 'the UK Online Orienteering Community'. This is a chat room where, once signed up, you have the chance of joining in a discussion of a topical issue in orienteering. It can be interesting to see what other people are thinking and you have the opportunity to post messages. As with any discussion forum, be prepared for some negative opinions but there is praise as well. Most postings generate some discussion - the biggest had 572 replies!



<https://www.britishorienteering.org.uk/>



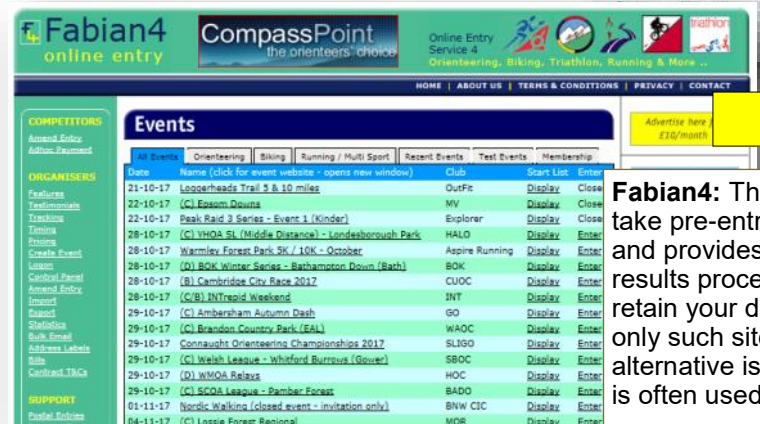
British Orienteering: This is the site of the National Governing Body (the NGB) of the sport. When you first enter the site you see all the material written for new people. Once you are a member you can get to log in and access additional material including the official rules of UK orienteering. Sometimes it is best to go direct to a page so, when you have found something useful, it may be best to bookmark the link. For example, for an event map, try https://www.britishorienteering.org.uk/page/event_map. The site also hosts the national ranking list.

<http://www.oobrien.com/map/>

Map of Forthcoming Orienteering Races: Produced by Ollie O'Brian, this extracts the data from the British Orienteering database of events. They are then displayed in a different format with additional search options and functionality in comparison to the official site on the British Orienteering pages. The map can be centred based on your postcode and will then give approximate distances to each event.



<http://www.fabian4.co.uk/>



Fabian4: This is the main online entry system used by clubs to take pre-entries for their events. It simplifies the entry process and provides all the required data in electronic format ready for results processing. Once you have set it up the first time, it will retain your data making subsequent entries easier. It is not the only such site but it has become the dominant one - one alternative is **Sientries** at <https://www.sientries.co.uk/> which is often used for the larger events.

Other sites of interest....

- If you want to create your own personalised events' list and receive e-mail notifications then take a look at **oevents.info** at <http://oevents.info/>. This also uses the database operated by British Orienteering but, based on your choice of pre-set criteria, will generate custom lists and can be set to send you weekly e-mails with all the region's events plus the larger ones from other nearby clubs. This is the system used to generate the BKOfix e-mail that members get sent at regular intervals but you may want to use your own personal selection.
- It's also fun to search for videos on **YouTube** (<https://www.youtube.com/>). Entering search terms such as 'orienteering' and '2017' will bring up a good selection of interesting (and not so interesting) material. A few orienteers regularly upload their headcam videos linked to a display of their event map - it is easy to waste time watching lots of these! You can also find some more professional material from some of the major events - the Jukola mass start for example or reports from each day of the Scottish 6 Day event.
- Thinking of going to an international event? Our first recommendation is to check **World of O Calendar** as a good guide to major events coming up well in advance, from 1 month to 2 years away. See: <http://cal.worldofo.com/> For those with an interest in urban events, visit <http://cityracetour.org/> to find out which great cities are holding urban weekends during the season. Ideal for taking your non-O partner, as the racing time is usually quite short, and you're in the city centre anyway.
- Thinking of trying Mountain Bike Orienteering, then you will definitely need to have the **British Mountain Bike Orienteering** site as a favourite. See: <http://www.bmbo.org.uk/> Useful for anyone interested in MTBO with information, events diary, entries etc.