



# Blood, Sweat and Gears

Newsletter of the National Governing Body for Mountain Bike Orienteering.

[bmbo.org.uk](http://bmbo.org.uk)

**April 2025**

## **MBO Spring Newsletter**

As we approach the half way mark of the season the weather is improving and the number of opportunities to get out and enjoy events has increased. There are a multitude of events to choose from across the country. Everything from informal evening events to two-day festivals of cycling and if you want to try something different there are opportunities to try MTBO as well.

## **British MTBO Championship 2025**

Great News, an MTBO league is up and running for 2025! Coordinator Mike Hayward has worked hard with Keith Dawson, Steve Smurthwaite, Jane Chisholme, Kevin Pickering and Paul McGreal to get a substantial calendar together.

These MTBO events lead towards the World MTBO Master in 2026, so get some practice in and with the Peebles events in July just before the British Championship MBO Score weekend, perfect skills preparation.

At the end of August there is a three-day festival of MTBO in the Moray region of Scotland. This area hosted a round of the World Masters series in 2024 and is also hosting the World Master MTBO Championships in 2026. Moray always provides first class events and Steve Smurthwaite has been furiously mapping three brand new areas for you to try.

In September activity moves to the South Coast for the British MTBO Championship organised by Kevin Pickering. This event also count as a round of the World Masters Series 2025. First-class competition in the UK against some of the top riders in Europe.

Details are on the flier below or click these links to see the calendar and rules:

[MTBO Calendar](https://www.bmbo.org.uk/mtbo/mtboleagues.php)

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## **British Championship MBO Score weekend**

This highlight of the BMBO calendar moves North this year. NYMBO are putting on two events in the Kirkby Malzeard area near Ripon on the weekend of 19/20 July. A dedicated area in the well-appointed campsite Ivy Bank has been reserved for us. The site can accommodate tents, caravans and motorhomes. There is Glamping available & even a double decker bus to sleep in. On site facilities include toilets, showers, cafe, bar, wifi, hot tub, fire pit. The village is walking distance & has a butcher, fish & chip shop, general store & pub:

[www.ivybankstaycation.com](http://www.ivybankstaycation.com)

## **Maprun at British Championship MBO Score weekend**

You will need to use Maprun at the British MBO Score champs. There is plenty of information here:

<https://nymbo.org/maprun-faq/>

Please take the time to practice an upload, it is not difficult, but does need attention and a little effort the first time. After that it is just familiarity with the process, practice to feel confident to avoid disappointment and frustration if you have not competed with it before.

### **BMBO National MBO Score League.**

Forty-two events make up the league this year and with only fifteen taken place so far, there are plenty of opportunities left to make a mark on the league table. Remember that it is your best ten events to count in the league with no more than six from one region so a good excuse to explore further afield.

As well as a few familiar names at the top it is really nice to see some new faces getting some early points on the table and hopefully giving the old hands a run for their money. Well done to Ifor Powell, Beth Perrou and Michael Rackham who are leading their respective classes. You can look at the latest league table on the BMBO website in the RESULTS LEAGUES section or by clicking [HERE](#).

The **Shield event** has now had three rounds and once again the Black Mountains MBO team are well out front. With a few more Northerly events coming up maybe some of the other clubs can mount a serious challenge for the title this year.

### **Website OS Upgrade**

The website is currently being upgraded on its operating system. This will make the site more secure and speedier. The new call back payments system has worked well and has lots of unseen changes to functionality for organisers only. The website manages lots of the admin for events such as incomplete risk assessment reminders and reduces the labour involved but ensures critical admin has been done before an event.

Lots of member opportunities to explore far and wide. So, with this spell of lovely weather, it is time to dust off your bikes and get out there.

I look forward to seeing you out on the trail somewhere.

Tony Brand-Barker, BMBO Chairman.

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| MTBO calendar 2025    |               |                  |                   |                        |
|-----------------------|---------------|------------------|-------------------|------------------------|
| Sat 12th July         | Middle        | Bowhill, Selkirk | Paul McGreal      | South Scotland weekend |
| Sun 13th July         | Middle TBC    | Peebles area TBC | Keith Dawson      | South Scotland weekend |
| Fri 29th August       | Sprint        | Lochardil        | Jane Chisholm     | Moray weekend          |
| Sat 30th August       | Long          | Culloden Woods   | Steve Smirthwaite | Moray weekend          |
| Sun 31st August       | Middle        | Carse Woods      | Steve Smirthwaite | Moray weekend          |
| Sat 27th September    | Middle (a.m.) | Ringwood         | Kevin Pickering   | British champs event   |
| Sat 27th September    | Sprint (p.m.) | Ringwood         | Kevin Pickering   | British champs event   |
| Sunday 28th September | Long          | Ringwood         | Kevin Pickering   | British champs event   |

Full details of each event can be found at <https://www.bmbo.org.uk/calendar/>

Caption