

Training in Lucy's Homeland, Scotland

From a report by Pauline and Martina on the OL Kufstein website translated by Dave using school and holiday German, guesswork (and a little help from Google)

Sunday, 7/8.

Team Leitner and Team Unterberger departed from Munich in sunshine and landed in the rain. This must be Scotland. Thanks to Mathias' navigation we arrived successfully at 3:30 in Kippford where, tired and excited, we fell into our beds.

Monday, 8/8. Dalbeattie Town Wood

Before the first event we met Lucy, Euan, Angus, Duncan, Sylvia and Peter, Regula, Ramona, Lara and Peter, Zuzana, Aneta and Martina in a small cafe to strengthen us for the first training session. Our colleagues from the Solway Orienteering Club had kindly delayed the start till about 14:00. The training took place in a rough and confusing area and was a challenge to our still weak bones and brains. The long courses were also swampy, which were greeted joyfully by our Champions Zuzana, Silvia and the two Peters: o)). Martina was reminded, not for the first or last time: "Your orienteering will probably never be perfect." Aneta also arrived laughing at the finish after an intense run. Pauline stayed in bed. Pauline's message: Migraine is not beneficial to the orienteering course.

In the evening we were welcomed by our Scottish hosts to a wonderful buffet with children's games included. This buffet was simply delicious and we cannot understand that the British cuisine has a "special" reputation.

Tuesday, 9/8. Woods of Drumlanrig Castle

This was another tough orienteering training session. We were met by a line orienteering run in the morning. That was a real challenge. A gorge, as described by our Scottish organisers turned out to be a "ditch", Perhaps due to a translation error? Pauline in particular enjoyed the views of Drumlanrig Castle. A Score competition was run in the afternoon and we could find controls along with sheep, lakes, whin and blackberries. Angus, Duncan, Lara and Ramona expended their surplus energies in the adventure playground.

In the evening we rewarded ourselves with Guinness and cider at the Anchor Inn. Unfortunately no dogs were allowed in the pub, so Mathias took his friend Koda for a walk and home. The children spent the time eating and beach and harbour walks.

Wednesday, 10/8. Rest from training but not an activity-free day.

We set off on the coastal path to Castle Point under Lucy's guidance. In what felt like minus 10 degrees we threw ourselves into the Irish Sea. We held out long enough for a photo-shoot and then had a picnic. It was fresh and grey and beautiful. Lucy told us a lot about the sea and its beach dwellers and Euan gave us an introduction to how to play cricket with Duncan and Angus. It warmed us up and was very entertaining.

In the afternoon, Peter Keuschnigg, Silvia, Mathais, Martina and Koda set out to explore the ruins. They found Orchardton Tower, Threave Castle and Carluith Castle and found them worth visiting. In the evening there was a fire alarm, a card game and much laughter. We are not telling any more ;-).

Thursday, 11/8. Mark Hill. From 1300 hours onwards you could choose between three short training units – Corridor-O, Compass-O or the special children's Caterpillar-O. After that we did technically challenging courses, which we all mastered more or less confidently. It was apparently too short for Ramona on this day, so she lengthened her course by one or two kilometres. Our Tyrolean Scotswoman Lucy and Mathias were

interviewed by the local TV and Lucy was followed by the camera.

This evening we had a nice dinner with our Scottish orienteering friends.

Friday, 12/8. Corncockle Plantation & Spedlin's Flow.

To finish we had a funny team competition called Sudok-O. The task of each team of 3 was to divide 27 controls so that each runner had to get 9 of them. Each runner needed codes with the number 1-9, e.g. 51, 62, 73, 64, 55, etc. We had 10 minutes to divide them. The start signal was – a Tyrolean cowbell !!! One last criss-crossing of the Scottish forest or swamp. This Sudok-O really was a successful and funny conclusion to our training stay in Scotland. Solway Orienteers had even organised a prize-giving of a successful final gift. Then, unfortunately, we finally said farewell. Some of us returned home but most went north to collect even more impressions of Scotland.

Also refer to the home page www.solwayorienteers.co.uk. There you can find a report, many photos under flickr and on facebook and also the maps.

We are already thinking about a counter-visit for our Scottish orienteering friends.
