

# Orienteers from across globe flock to university for major event

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Lancaster University hosted the UK's most prestigious orienteering event on Good Friday.

The annual Jan Kjellstrom had been two years in the planning by Lancaster club Red Rose Orienteers.

More than 2,000 competitors from all over the country and overseas came to test themselves in the sprint discipline which translated into a winning time of about 15 minutes and flat out running all the way.

There were national teams competing from the likes of Switzerland, Denmark, the Czech Republic and Poland with around 20 age-appropriate courses fully utilising the campus, challenging runners to navigate their way at speed

through twisting passageways and the intricate building layout.

Despite so many international stars attending there was plenty of success for local club members.

Quentin Harding from Catton, a former World Masters Champion, won the Men 50 category from an exceptionally strong field on a good day for the whole family as wife Sue was fifth in Women 50.

Elsewhere, Helen Ockenden, a pupil at Lancaster Girls' Grammar School, won bronze in the very competitive Women 18 Elite.

Friday's event was the first of three more over the weekend, all which took place in the forests of the southern Lake District.

Assistant organiser Martyn Roome said: "The whole day was a great success and really showcased what the club can do.

"We are very lucky to have

such strong support from the university and our club members in and around Lancaster, and indeed to have other wonderful venues for people to enjoy the activity, like Williamson Park, which has a new set of permanent courses."

Kim Montgomery, head of sport at the university, said: "It is staggering to think that it has been two years since we were first approached about hosting this event.

"We have many examples of local engagement but to add events with national and international significance is fitting for a university of Lancaster's global standing."

Orienteering is an activity that is suitable for all ages.

For more information about taking part, including details of the short course evening events being staged in the summer around Lancaster, visit [www.sroc.org](http://www.sroc.org).



Competitors race for the line at Lancaster University.