

Lagganlia report 2025 – Ethan Radcliffe (SUFFOC)

Day One

I arrived at Peterborough train station to find Erik already waiting and soon after we were joined by Marcus. We said our goodbyes and hopped onto the train for the 6-hour journey. After a long train ride, we arrived in Edinburgh where we noticed some other kids that looked to be orienteers, we said hello then got on our second train to Aviemore. Once we arrived at Aviemore we were greeted by some of the adults and taken to the place where we would be staying for the next 6 nights. After a short while we had our dinner and did a social activity to learn everyone's names.

Day Two

The next day we had breakfast and packed our lunches then swiftly headed off to our first training area. We started off with some simple training activities to practice contours, spurs and re-entrants. After that we did a mini relay where each person would do one leg of a course then swap with a teammate then repeat.



Day Three

We went to a very open training area where we would be practicing our accuracy at navigating, we completed various activities such as corridors where you can only see a sliver of the map to navigate with. To finish we had a mini competition with an odds and evens relay. Once we returned to the centre, we did a game of manhunt which seemed to be a recurring theme over the week and played some football before going to our coaching sessions where we talked about the day and how we could improve.

Day Four

This was our longest drive heading all the way up to Roseisle. Following some training exercises we then did a distractions race where we completed a course with various distractions along the way. Annoyingly one control purposefully didn't work and you were supposed to use the manual punch whatever that is... however I did not and ended up miss punching, a valuable lesson was learnt!

Day Five

We did an urban race around the town of Aviemore with multiple out of bounds areas. The race in Aviemore was to put us into heats for the 2 later races at high lodge, luckily I didn't get disqualified and secured a place in later rounds. At High lodge the remainder of the competition continued. I was placed in heat B which was arguably the easier one where I managed to finished 2nd qualifying for the final where I just snuck into 3rd. After the races we went for a swim in the freezing Loch Morlich where I lasted a grand total of 5 minutes but that was enough time for me to do an awesome backflip.

Later that day we traversed to Spey Valley golf club where we did the night courses me and Alex went round together completing all 3 of the courses whilst enjoying ourselves.



Day Six

Today we travelled to Loch Vaa an extremely bracken filled area where there were multiple courses set out to test our simplification and direction change. And after our training activities we moved to a different start where we would be doing a peg race. After our day at Loch Vaa, we returned to Lagganlia and did some more manhunt, coaching sessions and dinner.

Day 7

On the final day we travelled up to Culbin for the tour of championships race which was going smoothly until control 4 where a long line formed of everyone following each other. After the race we returned and had the feast of champions where we got to choose our favourite meal from the past week and have it again.

That evening we did the Lagganlia tradition 'blackout' where we broke out of our rooms and hid until midnight where if we were not caught, we would get a surprise. I managed to hide in a tree stump and accidentally fell asleep; however, I was woken up by torches pointing near though they didn't find me, and I managed to get the special surprise which was a chocolate bar.



Final thoughts

Lagganlia was a great experience where I made lots of great friends and learnt lots of new orienteering skills which will hopefully help me as I continue with my orienteering journey. Thank you to the coaches, organisers and everyone that made the week so enjoyable. I doubt I would have got to go if it weren't for the support of the EAJS coaches, mum and dad and EAOA for their financial support; for that a massive thank you.