

# My Lagganlia 2025

By Marcus Richardson

As a 14 year old I haven't been on a trip as large as this alone before so this was a new experience for me. I was coming straight from a trip in France so packing was difficult but worked out fine. We stayed the night in Peterborough and in the morning I got the train with Ethan and Eric (pictures on the



right) also from East Anglia. The train journey was fine. We changed at Edinburgh and got to talk to a few others who were going to Lagganlia. When we arrived at Aviemore we were picked up by some of the coaches and taken to the camp. The bus there was very quiet because nobody really knew each other yet. Once we got there we were showed our rooms and got time to unpack before we sat down for a full debrief about camp and the week ahead. I came into that first meeting in swim shorts (no explanation needed). After the meeting we got time to get to know each other. At first nobody was really talking so me and Ethan stepped in to liven the place up a bit and by dinner we were all chatting.

On day one of training I didn't get off to a great start. I stood on a wasp's nest, didn't get stung somehow, and then later on got stung trying to put my lunch away. From then on all the training sessions were great. From the start I knew it would be harder for me because I had a problem with my knees which was a difficulty I had to work with but even with that, training was fun and great for improving my overall orienteering. Over

the week we did multiple fun relays, a knockout sprint, and of course, the tour champs (planned by Hebe).

Aside from orienteering, there were so many great fun moments throughout the week. We had the Kailee, the awards ceremony, the party dinner, and hiding in a bush at midnight trying to make sure the coaches couldn't find us. Everything about Lagganlia was amazing. Making life long friends to getting lost somewhere on Scotland 500 miles from home. My aim for next year now is to qualify for Deeside so that I can take part in another unforgettable week up in Scotland.

Some photos of the week:

