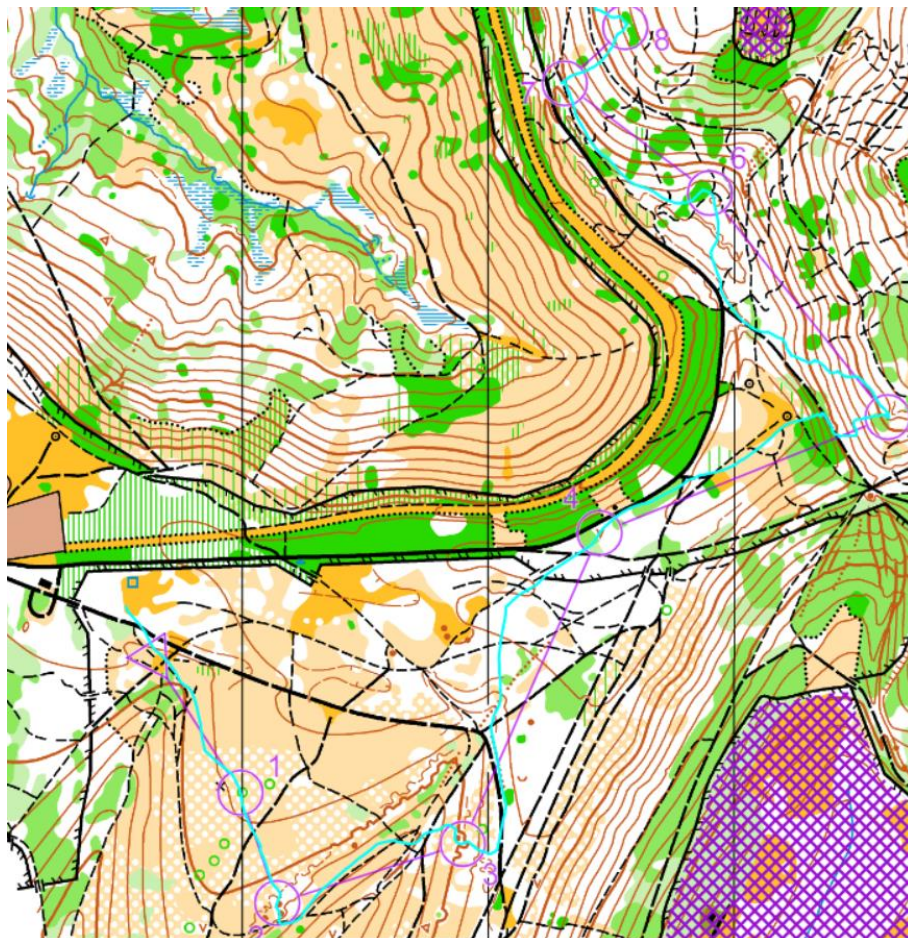
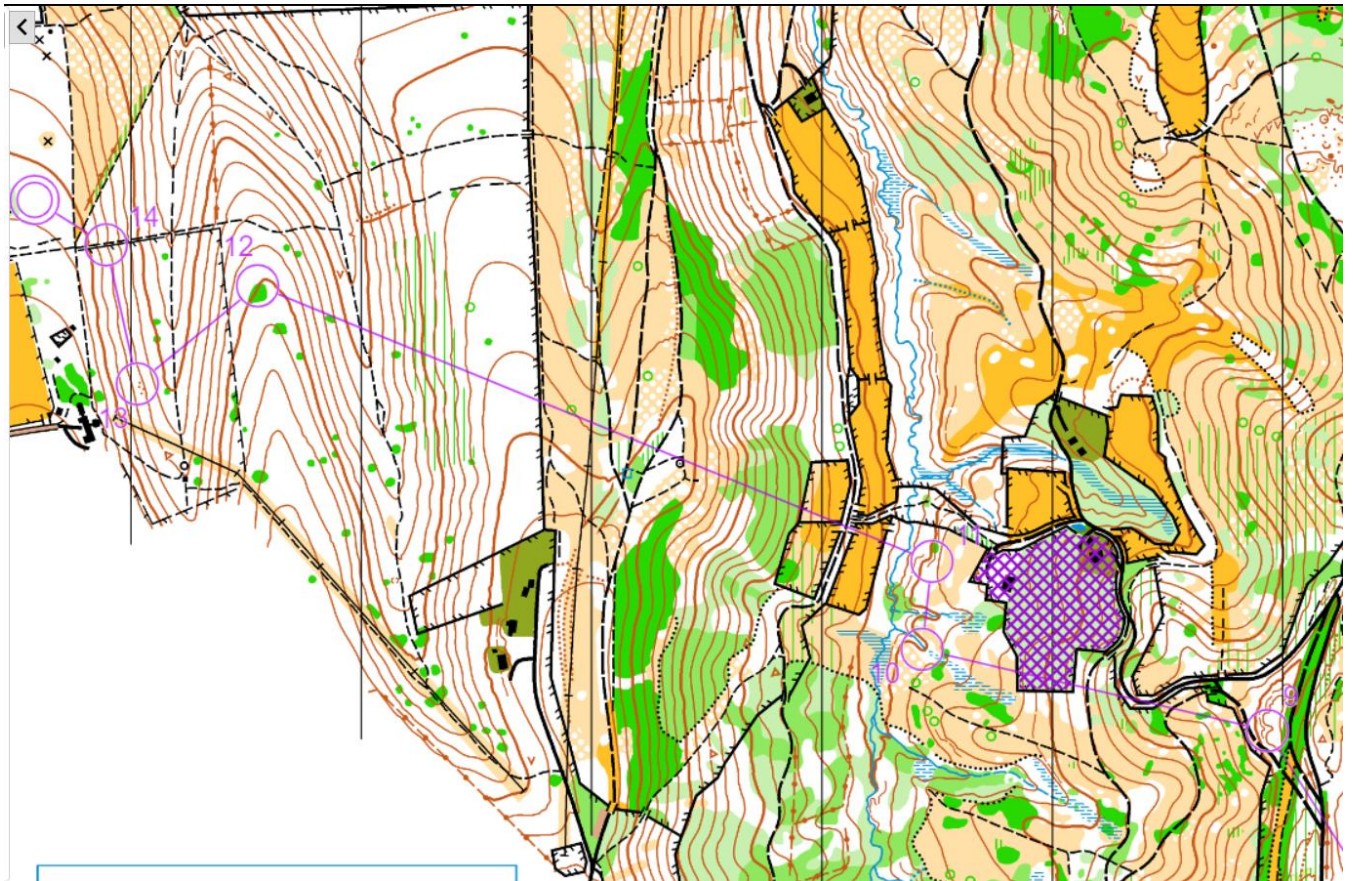


JHIs 2021

The 2021 JHIs were held in South East England on Hindhead and Bramshott Common, and I was lucky enough after my recent good performances at the BOC Long and Middle to get selected to represent England. After arriving at the venue on Friday evening it was an early start on the Saturday for the Individual race on Hindhead Common and the Devil's Punchbowl, last used for the Southern Champs back in 2018. After a long walk to the start, I warmed up and then began my race. Having run on the terrain in 2018, I knew what the terrain would be like: quite low visibility and VERY STEEP.



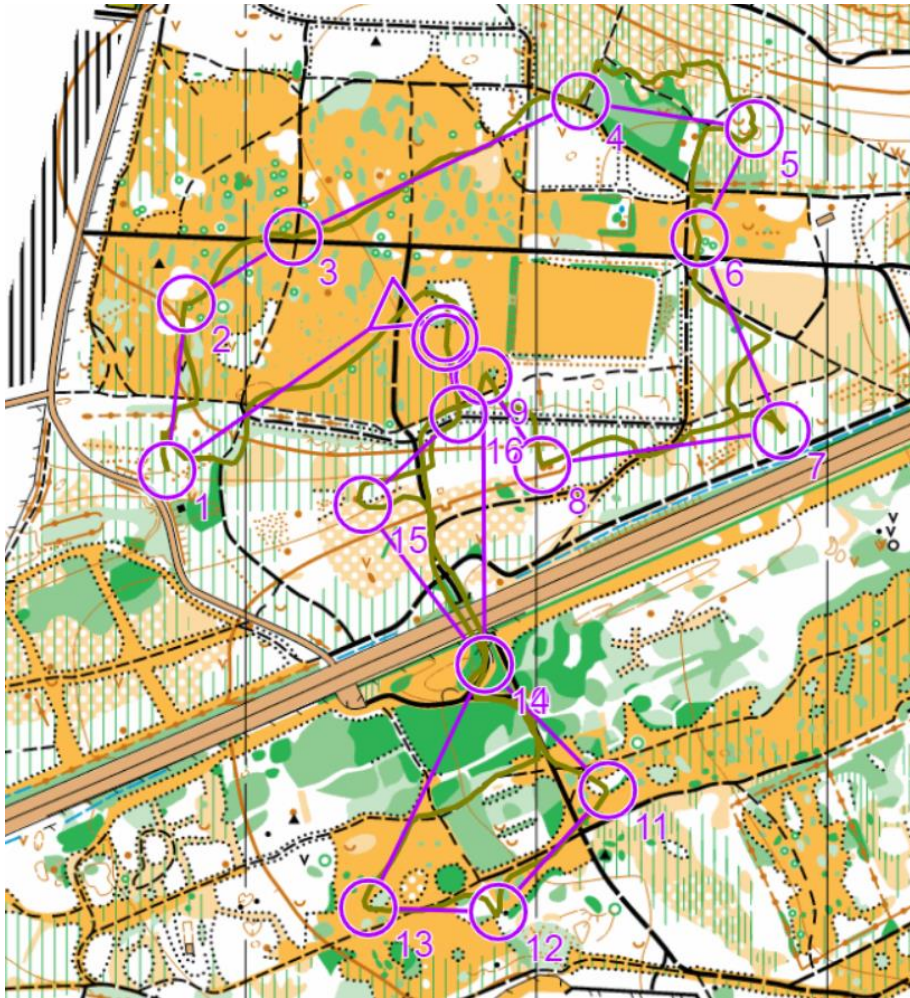
The first few controls were quite easy navigationally and physically and gave me a chance to get into the map. The first route choice was to No.4, and I executed this one well, by going through the left-hand gate. Five was one of the legs that I got wrong: having not spotted the obvious route to the south, I ran over the hill and slowly got through the dark green. Going into the control I tripped and fell down the hill- thankfully, I did not hurt myself, but I did get a bit muddy. Then it was back up the hill to 6 and 7, and then a drop again to eight, and then up again to nine, leaving my legs tired. Thankfully, it was down again to ten, where I opted to take the route to the south of the line. Eleven was a “radio control,” where our team managers waiting at the finish could view everyone’s times at this point (only later would I discover that I was in third place here). But that was by no means the end of the course, or anywhere near in fact. The next leg, 11-12 was one of the longest legs that I have attempted yet:



I opted to run to the south of the line, through the gates, down the path and down the spur because it would give me the easiest attack into the control. Two other routes were spotted: north of the control and up the first re-entrant or keep going and go up the earth wall. After much discussion, no route was clearly the best, instead the split times depending on personal strengths. The last two controls were very easy and then into the finish, where I finished in fifth place (52:45, 4.4km on map, 5.9km on watch, 215m of climb), a pleasing result. Overnight England had eighty points, six ahead of Scotland on seventy-four, with Ireland on thirty-five and Wales on twenty-six.

The relay day followed, with me placed in team England 3 with Tommy Heap SO and Adam Conway GO. At the start my team were a long way behind leaving me in ninth place, away from the pack, so unlike the JIRCs relays I would have to run my own race.





The race started cleanly, with the first and only really significant mistake 4-5, where the indistinct track was very overgrown, and I ended up veering off into the undergrowth. Other than that, the race progressed very quickly at a fast pace-though I do think that I went straighter on #7 than the track shows! Overall, I was 25:32 for my 3.4km leg, first on my gaffle and sixth overall on the leg, bringing the team up to sixth where we remained.

England's top teams came 2nd and 3rd in both men's and women's and Scotland came 1st and 4th, so the relay day was drawn, and England won back the JHIs by six points overall.

The whole weekend was a great experience, and I am looking forward to trying to represent England again in the future.

Harry Bratcher-Howard M14.

