

World Schools report 2019 – Issy Sunley

Earlier this year I was selected to represent England in the World Schools Orienteering Championships in Estonia. I was selected along with 4 other girls my age as part of the Select team. It was an amazing experience and I loved every part of it.

During the week there was an opening ceremony, 3 events, a cultural day, a closing ceremony and a party to finish everything off. The first event was the long distance. It's fair to say that it wasn't the best run I've ever had as I messed up and took 15 minutes to control 3. I ended up 50th out of 72 which I wasn't too proud of but otherwise the run was enjoyable.

The next day was the cultural day. We spent the morning in a science museum where there were a lot of very interesting interactive exhibitions. Then in teams of 10 we collected an iPad and navigated our way to a number of checkpoints where we had to answer questions about Estonia, ending up at the Estonian University of Life Sciences. This was followed by each team introducing their country through dance, song or a presentation. We performed the Morris dance 'Lads a Bunchum'.



On Friday was the middle race which I was much happier with. I had a slight advantage as one of the last starts because I found there were quite a lot of tracks in the forest. In the end the main difference between me and the top positions was just speed and I came 17th out of 72.

On Saturday the Friendship Relay took place. Everyone was put into mixed teams of three, each person was given a map and then between us we had to decide who was going to visit which controls. As a team we had to have punched them all and met at three specified controls during the race. Once we had them all we had to meet up and run into the finish together. Unfortunately, my team wasn't the best and we finished last but we managed to get all the controls unlike some teams.

Thank you to everyone who helped fund this trip as I enjoyed it a lot and it was a great experience to orienteer in a foreign country.

Issy Sunley