

Countdown underway to world orienteering

As well as elite athletes this summer's Sprint World Orienteering Championships in Edinburgh (July 12-16) will provide opportunities for locals to run part of the course.

Races are being organised for under-10s upwards allowing those new to the sport and others more experienced to enjoy running in some of the areas mapped for the world championships.

The aim, as well as celebrating elite sport, is to attract new recruits.

Although often thought of as a countryside sport, WOC 2024 races will all be staged in the intricate urban terrain Edinburgh has to offer, with the capital's iconic landmarks, including Edinburgh Castle and Arthur's Seat, providing the perfect backdrop for the elite courses.

The the world's best orienteering athletes will tackle challenging routes which weave through the city's historical and cultural attractions. Narrow vennels, steep slopes and narrow stairways will challenge even the world's best orienteers, as they try and seek out the fastest routes in pursuit of victory.

With Great Britain second in the medal table at the last Sprint World Orienteering Championships in Denmark in 2022 the host nation will be looking to go one better. One of the host

nation's best hopes will be Megan Carter-Davies who is the reigning Sprint World Champion and is expected to defend her title.

Andy Michelmore, event director, said: "The prospect of a World Championships on the streets of one of the world's most recognisable cities is truly exciting.

"We are confident that we will provide high quality and challenging orienteering in a variety of terrains with finish locations that have been chosen to maximise the exposure of the sport and provide an incredible atmosphere."



It is hoped Megan Carter-Davies will defend her world title in Edinburgh during July. Megan Carter-Davies PHOTO William Hollowell