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ULTRA LIGHT OUTDOOR GEAR



TGO CHALLENGE 2026 – FINAL DETAILS

Please read this document carefully as it contains vital information for TGO26 participants and TGO East participants including details of Challenge Control, the phone numbers you will need and (in the Participants List at the back) your Challenge number. We are welcoming TGO East participants for the first time and they are an integral part of the Challenge. Much of the following information, particularly regarding special offers, arrangements at campsites like Braemar, special places like Tarfside, and Challenge Control are there for them too. This is an interesting read for everyone, but those on TGO East must read the sections highlighted for them specifically.

CHALLENGE CONTROL:

MAIN CHALLENGE: VOICE CALLS – 07562 083 996 TEXTS AND WHATSAPP MESSAGES – 07593 185 124
TGO EAST: 07721 155 747

If the voice call number is busy you may also use the text number for a short call but please do not text the voice call number. We no longer use a landline number at Challenge Control. If you have this in your phone from previous crossings, please delete it.

BEFORE YOU START

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY (ICE) FORM

Please complete this [online form](#) by 20th April. If you need to make any changes before the start of TGO26 contact the Coordinators. Please DO NOT submit a second form.

The Coordinators will not pass any comment or judgement on your fitness. You need to ensure you have a suitable level of fitness to participate. We encourage you to get out and test your capabilities. If you have any long-term health problems or concerns about your health, we strongly advise you seek advice from your health professional, making them aware of the nature of the Event.

Information given will be held securely, treated confidentially and deleted after the Event. Only the Coordinators, Challenge Control staff and, if relevant, the emergency services will have access to it.

The TGO East – in case of emergency form differs from the main TGO Challenge version. It has a question on it asking about any accommodation you have pre-booked. Please complete this [here](#) if you have not done so already. Should a phone-in be overdue, this is useful information for Challenge Control

In Case of Emergency (ICE) Form



Andrew Walker

GPS Trackers

GPS TRACKERS

- ❑ If you will be using a GPS tracker, a personal locator beacon (PLB) or a satellite messenger, please give details on the ICE form including a link to your tracker map if available.
- ❑ Challenge Control will not check your tracker unless you have missed a phone-in or we have concerns about your welfare. If you want your tracker monitored regularly you need to designate a friend or relative to do so.
- ❑ If you include Challenge Control as a contact for your device, only use the Challenge Control’s Text number and, unless you have a problem, send a maximum of one message a day.





- ❑ We will not initiate a search just because your tracker is not moving as they can malfunction, not be switched on or be left behind. We need some other indicator, such as a missed phone-in, that you may be in trouble. You should discuss with your emergency contact what they will do if your tracker stops transmitting. Challenge Control is always happy to talk to them if they are concerned.



Accommodation

Facebook

Facebook Group

Instagram

Challenger Blogs, Vlogs and Photos

TGO Merchandise

Scruffy Rat



Start Points

ACCOMMODATION DETAILS

If you haven't already done so, please add the name of any pre-booked accommodation to your route sheet in the Overnight Halt column and resubmit it. This is useful when trying to locate overdue Challengers and may prevent a distressing call to your emergency contact.

SOCIAL MEDIA #TGOC26

We love to see your photos and posts on Facebook and Instagram, especially during the TGO Challenge. They inspire new Challengers to join us in future years and that is important in securing the Event's future. Share with us, your family, friends – and the rest of the world!

- ❑ how you are preparing
- ❑ your highlights (as well as the low points) during your crossing
- ❑ photo collections, blogs and YouTubes once you get home.

If anyone quotes you as an inspiration for applying, you will be guaranteed a place on TGOC27.

TGOC26 MERCHANDISE

We have teamed up with Scruffy Rat, run by Challenger Ian Ford, to produce a variety of personalized items – both practical (e.g. lightweight ID/ICE tags and titanium mugs) as well as mementos of your crossing (e.g. coasters and photo frames) Click [here](#) to see the full range.

TGOC26 mugs and Pin Badges can be ordered [here](#). The deadline for ordering Pin Badges has passed but there are some spares available, so please go ahead and order if you would like one.

SETTING OFF

SIGN-OUT REGISTERS

You can sign out at any time from your start point on your allocated start day. Contact details for start points can be found at www.tgochallenge.com. The registers are generally held at reception, the exception being Glenelg where it hangs in the porch of Mrs Davidson's house, Taobh na Mara, which is close to the War Memorial.

Remember we must fit in with the normal hours and business of the sign-out establishments – please be patient at busy times. If they are not open when you wish to leave, you can text Challenge Control instead, but **you must wait for your text to be acknowledged before setting out**. Someone at Challenge Control will be available to acknowledge messages that arrive before 9am on start days.

If for any reason you are unable to start, you must inform the Coordinators as soon as possible and cancel any accommodation you have booked.



Emma Warbrick



ALONG THE WAY

CHALLENGE CONTROL

This is your point of contact during the Event for regular phone-ins, weather forecasts, to notify us of a change to your route or if you need to retire from the Event.

VOICE CALLS – 07562 083 996 TEXTS or WHATSAPP – 07593 185 124

TGOC East – 07721 155 747 for text/WhatsApp and voice calls.

- ❑ Please add relevant numbers to your phone before you set off.
- ❑ Open 9am-9pm daily from Thursday 7th May, closing at 5pm on Friday 22nd May. If you have enough signal and charge, please ring rather than text as we prefer to talk to you when possible.
- ❑ Overnight please send a WhatsApp or text. If your problem needs the Coordinators urgent attention please ring the voice calls number.
- ❑ If the voice call number is busy you may use the text number for a short call, but please **do not text the voice call number**. If both lines are busy, please send a text.
- ❑ In WhatsApps/texts, give name(s), Challenge number(s) (see page 14), location, and date/time.
- ❑ A friendly and confidential ear if you need help, advice or encouragement, feel unsafe or uncomfortable or need to report any concerns.
- ❑ Staffed by experienced Challengers – Di Gerrard, Pauline Marshall (for the first week) and Ava & Kenny Crosbie. The team will be joined by Sue Oxley in the second week.

We will be based at The Park Hotel, Montrose throughout the Challenge.

PHONE-INS

These are the core of our safety system.

- ❑ You must contact Challenge Control from every phone-in point (PIP) on your route sheet. Failure to do so may result in the emergency services being contacted unnecessarily. **Why not put reminders in your phone now?**
- ❑ If you have enough signal and charge, please ring rather than WhatsApp/text as we prefer to talk to you when possible.
- ❑ Please phone **as soon as you arrive at your phone-in point** even if you are ahead of schedule– send a WhatsApp/text if after 9pm. Do not wait until the morning – it is all too easy to forget!
- ❑ Texts can go astray or be delayed, occasionally arriving after a subsequent one. To avoid confusion, **include the time and date in the body of the message. Do not assume a text has been received until you have had a reply.**
- ❑ **Do not** send important or time sensitive messages on Facebook, Messenger, “X” or Instagram, by email or to the Coordinators usual contact phone numbers (07769 952 085/ 07764 535 447) after 7th May as these may not be monitored regularly during the Event.
- ❑ If you are behind schedule, **please phone on the designated day**, or as soon as you have a mobile signal. Do not wait until you reach your official phone-in point.
- ❑ We’re happy to hear from you, especially solo participants and those on higher routes, in between planned phone-ins. If you have the opportunity, make the most of it and let Challenge Control know where you are.

Challenge Control

Phone-in Points





- ❑ If you decide to change your route, or are delayed, let us know personally, **not through a third party**, at the first opportunity.
- ❑ **TGOC East** If you wish to alter your schedule, prior to the start of the Challenge, please contact Mick Blackburn or Ali Ogden, if after the start, contact Challenge Control with details as this might affect your phone-in-points and times. The PiPs are a vital part of the Event's safety procedures.
- ❑ If you retire from the Event, let Challenge Control know as soon as possible and definitely within 24 hours.
 - ❑ Overseas participants – if you plan to buy a SIM card on arrival in the UK, please let Challenge Control know your new number as soon as possible, and definitely before you set off from the West Coast.
 - ❑ Please ensure that you cancel any booked accommodation if you retire, re-route, or are in any way unable to keep your booking.
- ❑ **TGOC East** - Unlike those on the main Event, as well as 2 phone-ins during your walk, you need to phone in when you start and when you reach the East Coast. You will find the places and dates of your Phone-in-Points (PiPs) on your route sheet. You are welcome to linger on the coast or stay overnight but you must sign out at the Park Hotel in Montrose by 5pm on Friday 22nd May.



Al Mellors



[Access News](#)

[Information for Veters Form](#)

[Scottish Outdoor Access Code](#)

ACCESS

Please see the [Event Details](#) for general information and check the [Access News](#) on the Challenge website for specific information that may affect your route, including missing bridges. We ask you to respect the reasonable estate requests in areas such as Glen Muick, Glen Mazeran and Glen Lyon.

Capercaillie Awareness – the routes pinpointed by Cairngorms National Park Authority are in the Abernethy Forest area, specifically around Forest Lodge. These birds can be vicious so best avoided if possible. Another known location is in Glen Tanar where diversions are expected to be in place. See the website for further information.

Wildfires – there have been a number of these in recent years, so the Cairngorms National Park have introduced a new bylaw banning all campfires and barbecues between April and September. Lawbreakers can expect a £500 fine. The use of camping stoves is fine, so this shouldn't affect us. It is something to be aware of and is just common sense which should be applied across the entire Challenge area.

STORM DAMAGE

We have had some severe winter storms again this year and the extent of some damage may not be revealed until the Challenge. If you come across damaged or missing bridges, landslips or paths obstructed by windblown trees please let Challenge Control know.

- ❑ Glen Doll has a long-term diversion in place for the lower part of Jock's Road via the Dounalt Way on the south side of the White Water, accessed by a footbridge at NO 247 767.
- ❑ The path through Glen Feshie has been affected by landslips and erosion in recent years but we believe it remains passable with care.
- ❑ The bridge across the River North Esk in Edzell is closed and unlikely to re-open by May.
- ❑ The bridge across the River Spey at Garmouth is closed and will not be open by May.
- ❑ The bridge at the bottom of Shank of Inchgrundle is out of action so you will need an alternative route into the Loch Lee area. (FWA via Falls of Damff/Unich).



Andy Cooke



Glenbranter Rangers





LOCH NESS FERRY

We have sourced another boat company following the recent sad death of Gordon Menzies. The company is Beastie Boats, telephone 07377 423 051 and they will operate from Urquhart Bay Pier, the other side of the Lifeboat Station from Temple Pier, our original departure pier and will land people at Foyers Pier, thus a slightly longer journey. Unfortunately, nobody else will use Inverfarigaig pier due to its increasingly dilapidated condition. There will be morning crossings from Sunday 10th May until and including Thursday 14th May at 8.30am. There will be afternoon crossings from Saturday 9th May to Thursday 14th May at 5.15pm. The cost is rather higher than Gordon charged, but having done some research rather less than the usual going rate. The cost will be £35 per person. Fuel prices have recently increased due to issues globally so Malcolm Stewart of Beastie Boats informs us this is as low as he can go and we can appreciate that and how he has stepped in to help us out. Booking and fare paying arrangements will be sent to those using the ferry. **If you have not received an email about this from us, please contact us as soon as possible.**

Loch Ness Ferry



Mountain Bothies Association

Bothy Code

ACCOMMODATION AND REFRESHMENTS

You are strongly advised to pre-book if you want to guarantee a bed. Highland communities have had bad experiences with “fly-camping” by roads and at beauty spots, so let us set a good example to less experienced visitors. We ask you camp at least 1km outside of villages/towns, are not visible from any road or occupied property, and of course leave no trace when you depart.

Newtonmore – Spey Bridge Campsite is closed. The Braeriach Hotel is now open – requires pre-booking. Newtonmore Hostel is under new ownership and is taking bookings for the Challenge.

Laggan – accommodation is available in the village hall– contact Cathy Slimon cathyslimon@hotmail.co.uk

Braemar Campsite – please **phone** to make an advance booking as spaces are reserved for Challengers. There is limited capacity to recharge devices here. We are providing the campsite with a charging bank but please ensure you remove your device as soon as it is charged so others can use it.

Alternative camping site in Braemar – last year, some participants without advance bookings or who were earlier or later than anticipated found the main campsite full on a couple of nights, so we have been given details of an alternative. The location is Castleton Hall in the centre of Braemar, behind the car park, to the south. There is a small football pitch beside it that can accommodate up to 20 tents. [See this map](#)

Facilities in the hall include male and female showers, power for charging devices and basic cooking facilities. The cost is £10 per person cash only. Someone will call round to keep an eye on the situation and collect fees.

Ballater campsite – please **phone** or **email** for their Challenger’s discount.

A few notes on those places that make a special effort for the Challenge:

Ault na Goire, Errogie – Janet and Alex Sutherland offer camping and meals and will also hold parcels. Please contact them in advance (janet.sutherland@talk21.com or 01456 486 711) if you want to stay or have one of Janet’s excellent meals. They have also offered to provide a lift from (and back the next morning to) Foyers pier, for a small charge, in case the increased distance from the new pier is a bit daunting at the end of a long day. If you want to take advantage of this, please arrange this with them in advance.



Ali Ogden



Special Places to Stay



Cyril Huart





Cougie Lodge – is open again for food, accommodation and camping (melaniejpstrang@hotmail.com or 07773 491 262).

Callater Lodge – Bill Duncan will once again welcome Challengers, but please note that numbers inside the Lodge, at any one time, will have to be limited for fire safety.

Bill and his two helpers will be able to provide an evening meal on Saturday and Sunday nights 16th/17th if required. Please **ensure you have sufficient food of your own outwith these nights**. Bacon rolls will be available in the mornings.

Camping will be available as usual beside the lodge and the MBA bothy will be open.

You will receive a warm welcome in a spectacular setting, but please note the Lodge is off grid and facilities are basic. We advise that you use the composting toilet by the bothy.

Mar Lodge will be offering hot drinks and biscuits in the Stables, 9am to 5pm, from Wednesday 13th May to Sunday 17th May. They will hold re-supply parcels but cannot take responsibility for them.

Please label clearly with your name, Challenge number, "TGO collection" and the date you will be arriving. Send to: Rangers Office, Mar Lodge Estate, Braemar, Aberdeenshire, AB35 5YJ. Please ensure you arrive before 5pm to collect your parcel.

Dalwhinnie – Lee at the Old School Hostel will stock up with some basic supplies, including camping gas, for Challengers. Reservations can be made at dalwhinniehostel@gmail.com.

The **Apiary Café** will extend their opening hours until 7pm on 12-14th May to accommodate Challengers. Please pre-book, if possible – phone 01528 522 261 or WhatsApp 07515 078 566. There is informal camping on the roadside and picnic area nearby.

Laggan – The Coffee Bothy is open (except Mondays) but please note it no longer has a shop.

St Drostan's, Tarfside will be open once again and run by Challenge volunteers Ann & Alvar Thorn, Gus & Rita McKinnon, Pauline Marshall and Keith & Janet Leonard.

- ❑ Volunteers will be at **St Drostan's Hostel** from late afternoon on Friday 15th to mid-morning on Thursday 21st May.
- ❑ The hostel will be open from 9am to 9pm. Outside of these hours it will be closed to everyone except residents.
- ❑ There will be drinks and light snacks available but no main meals or alcohol. **Please ensure you have sufficient food with you.**
- ❑ Hostel beds will be available on a first-come-first-served basis at a cost of £35 per night. Please note these cannot be prebooked and the hostel cannot hold resupply parcels.
- ❑ Camping will be available as usual on the playing field and has fresh water and toilet facilities available.
- ❑ You will be able to leave your name and Challenge number on a phone-in list at the hostel which will be passed to Control every evening.
- ❑ **Please note: cash payments only for both food and accommodation.**

Please note: the Coordinators do not have any control over the organization of any formal or informal accommodation (other than St Drostan's), bothies or other gatherings, so you use them at your own risk.



Ian Cotterill



Mar Lodge



Ian Cotterill



Danielle Drew-Martin





SAFETY AND THE TGO CHALLENGE

Whilst we do our best to monitor your progress, identify those who may be in difficulty and offer advice and support from Challenge Control, your safety during the Event is your responsibility. Walking in remote country involves risks which you need to be prepared for.

Before you set off

- ❑ **Register your phone with the emergency services** so you can make contact by text if you have a limited mobile signal: Text “Register” to 999.
- ❑ **Ensure you can give a Grid Reference to emergency services.** If you use a mapping app, know how to see the grid reference for your location. Note: the OS locate app is being withdrawn from app stores but remains available to OS map app users and those who have previously downloaded it.
- ❑ **Add Challenge Control contact numbers to your phone** and give them to your emergency contacts
- ❑ **Ensure you have access to Ordnance Survey maps**, either physical or digital, during your crossing with a minimum of 10km either side of your route downloaded to your device or printed. All team members should have their own maps and be able to use them.
- ❑ **Consider carrying a GPS tracker** and share the tracker map with Challenge Control via the ICE form or (if already submitted) by email.
- ❑ **Check both you and your equipment** (including your first aid kit) are tried, tested and fit for the Challenge.

During your crossing

- ❑ **Emergencies – dial 999 or 112.** 911 does not work in the UK. If in difficulty, but not requiring emergency services, contact Challenge Control.
- ❑ **Phone-in as soon as you are at your PiP location.** If behind schedule, phone on the designated day or as soon as possible, if you have no mobile signal.
- ❑ **Inform Challenge Control of any significant route changes**, including use of multiday FWAs, as soon as possible.
- ❑ **Injury, illness or fitness issues** – talk to Challenge Control if you are struggling as they may be able to help simplify your route.
- ❑ **Personal safety** – most people feel less at risk from strangers when in the hills and the camaraderie of the Challenge hopefully reduces this risk further. If you witness, or are a victim of, inappropriate behaviour please speak, in confidence, to Challenge Control.
- ❑ **Bothies and other non-commercial accommodation** – you need to make your own assessment of risks including the behaviour of others present.

Safety

How to call Mountain Rescue

UK Grid References

Maps and Navigation



Outdoor Map Navigator

GPS Trackers

First Aid Skills for Backpackers

Challenge Control

Phone-in Points



Extreme weather

Be prepared for Scotland's unpredictable climate!

- ❑ **Rain and river crossings** – ensure you have the skills, experience and carry out your own risk assessment prior to crossing any watercourse. If in doubt, and certainly if the water comes above your knees, be prepared to divert substantial distances upstream or wait for water levels to drop.
- ❑ **Snow** – accumulations on hills in May is common and fresh snow to lower levels can happen. At the time of writing, this appears to be particularly relevant this year, and it is quite likely that snow will still be clinging to the tops, and particularly in north (and perhaps east) facing slopes and corries.
- ❑ **Wind** can make walking conditions difficult at times even in the glens. The Lairig Ghru is a notorious wind funnel which is why it requires an FWA.
- ❑ **Sub-zero temperatures** are common, and wind chill also adds to the risk of hypothermia. Know the symptoms and how to treat it.
- ❑ **Prolonged hot weather** brings the risk of dehydration and heat exhaustion. Know the symptoms and how to treat them.
- ❑ **Lightning**, if forecast, is a reason to take your FWA but can also be a risk in the glens. You should know how to stay safe in such conditions.
- ❑ **Wildfires** are a significant risk after a dry spell of weather. Please do not light campfires and take care with your stove, particularly in dry and/or windy conditions. Never leave it unattended. It is worth noting that it has recently been made illegal to light campfires in the Cairngorms National Park. Follow [Scottish Fire and Rescue](#) on Facebook to receive alerts.

Mountain Weather Information Service (MWIS) provides detailed 3-day forecasts, and the Met Office gives specific forecasts for some summits.

Whilst Challenge Control will circulate extreme weather warnings by text, you should check the relevant forecasts regularly either on-line or by phoning Challenge Control.

Other hazards

- ❑ **Road walking** – main roads in the Highlands are blighted by fast traffic and large lorries. Try to avoid roads and take care when there is no other option and wear high visibility clothing or a band so traffic can see you. Don't forget vehicles drive on the left in the UK!
- ❑ **Ticks & Lyme Disease** – ticks can infect you with Lyme Disease. Have a tick remover in your First Aid Kit and ensure you know how to avoid them, remove them and the signs of Lyme's disease.
- ❑ **Animal hazards** – male capercaillies can be very aggressive and should be avoided. Most other wild animals will not harm you but cattle may. Avoid entering an enclosure with them if you can or give them as wide a berth as possible.
- ❑ **Human waste** – needs to be buried at least 15cm deep and at least 30m from watercourses. Carry out soiled toilet paper and sanitary products and dispose of them appropriately.
- ❑ **Water-borne infections** – take care where you source your water and consider using a filter, sterilizing tablets or boiling water before use. Good hand hygiene significantly reduces the risk of becoming ill with gut infections.

River Crossings

High Winds

Hypothermia

Heat Exhaustion

Lightning

Wildfires

Scottish Fire and Rescue Alerts

Met Office

Mountain Weather

Road Walking

Ticks & Lyme disease



Mike Barras

Capercaillie

Livestock

Human Waste

Drinking Water

Fires





SUPPLIES

Where possible please use local shops – they will appreciate your custom. However, in many areas supply options are limited so you may need to post yourself resupply parcels. Most accommodation providers will be happy to hold a parcel for you but please ask permission in advance. Gas or other fuel for stoves cannot be posted so you need to think carefully about how you will access them.

A FEW RULES

Companions – dogs are not allowed on the Challenge. Anyone breaking this rule will be disqualified. The limit on numbers taking part in the Event have been set for sound reasons and with regard to visitor pressures. Friends or relatives, who do not have a TGO26 place, may join you for a few days but should not accompany you for all your crossing.

Walk Every Step – you may take transport away from your route for accommodation or supplies, but you MUST return to the exact same spot before you continue. If you have a gap in your crossing due to injury, illness or fatigue, please let us know on Control. We appreciate this is your holiday so you may, of course, continue if you wish, but it will not count as a completed crossing.

Behaviour – we know the vast majority of Challengers do not need reminding of their responsibilities to others or that they are representing the Event as well as themselves. However, when the drinks flow in some of the towns and villages that welcome the Challenge every year, spirits can sometimes get a little high. Please be aware of how this may affect others.

The Event cannot be policed as such and neither do we want it to be. Its good name relies on the good behaviour, camaraderie, patience, helpfulness and tolerance of its participants. If you see, or are subject to, any behaviour you feel is inappropriate please contact Challenge Control at the earliest opportunity.

Large groups – we restrict the size of Challenge groups to four people for a reason. However larger groups will often form in more popular places. Bigger groups can be overwhelming to others, and it becomes harder to see when other, maybe quieter individuals, are being excluded or disturbed by noisy behaviour. No one wants to stop anyone enjoying themselves but please be mindful of others, ensure no one is excluded or prevented from resting or sleeping.

For full Terms and Conditions click [here](#).

TGOC East TGOC East Terms & Conditions are slightly different from the main Event, largely because your routes are pre-written. [Click here to see them.](#)

FINISHING YOUR CROSSING

FINISH CONTROL

Wherever you finish on the East Coast you must make your way **in person** to Challenge Control at **The Park Hotel, John Street, Montrose, DD10 8RJ** to sign out by 5pm on Friday 22nd May. You do not need to phone or text Challenge Control on your arrival at the East Coast, unless you are staying overnight at your finish point.

At Finish Control you will receive your T-shirt, provided by Ultralight Outdoor Gear, and your certificate as well as a chance to meet the Challenge Control crew and share your experiences over a cup of tea. Your feet will also enjoy a brand-new pair of socks, courtesy of Darn Tough.

Re-supplies inc.
Gas/Fuel

Postal Restrictions



Darn Tough Socks

Challenge Dos and Don'ts



2026 Terms and Conditions



Stefan Leyland





A WALK TO THE PARK

Reaching The Park Hotel from Montrose Station sometimes proves more difficult than navigating your way across Scotland!

From the train station, walk up to the roundabout with its swan sculpture. Keep right, crossing the road where the railing ends and go straight ahead up a small alley (Railway Close) to the High Street. Cross the High Street, turn left, then right down John Street. The Park Hotel is on the second corner.



CHALLENGE DINNERS

- ❑ Celebratory dinners are held each evening from Tuesday 19th to Friday 22nd May.
- ❑ 3 course meal, will cost £27.50 paid directly to The Park Hotel when arriving in Montrose.
- ❑ Maximum 132 people per evening.
- ❑ Plaques will be presented to those who have crossed 10, 20 or 30 times.
- ❑ There remains availability for Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday. Thursday – we may have the odd place, and priority will be given to those who completed their Challenge on the day or are on their 10th or 20th crossings. This includes all Challengers – those on the main Event and those on TGOCEast.
- ❑ If you wish to change the dinner request made via your route sheet, please email the Coordinators.
- ❑ Confirmation will be requested during the second week of your crossing with flexibility to change the day if you get behind or ahead of schedule.
- ❑ Space is available for Challengers to bring a guest on most evenings, other than Thursday. Please request this via the Coordinators.
- ❑ We look forward to meeting all Challengers in Montrose and hearing about your experiences.

TGO Challenge Dinners



Ali Ogden



THE PARK HOTEL

We would like to say a very big thank-you to the Park Hotel. Throughout the forty-six year history of the TGO Challenge they have made its finish a wonderful event. They are a family-run business (as well as being part of the TGO family!) and we very much want to support them as much as we can. So please consider attending one of the meals, having a drink at the bar or staying the night. Discounted rates (not available on-line) are available to Challengers. Please ring 01674 663 400 or email reservations@parkmontrose.co.uk. They also allow a number of Challengers to camp in the garden, with breakfast and access to a shower, at a reasonable rate. This must be pre-booked by phone or email.

The Park Hotel



The Park Hotel

PARCELS

You can post clean clothing to Challenge Control to pick up on your arrival in Montrose.

- ❑ Label clearly with your name and Challenge number.
- ❑ Post to: TGO Challenge, The Park Hotel, John Street, Montrose, Angus, DD10 8RJ.
- ❑ Do not send parcels until shortly before the Event as the hotel cannot store them for long periods.



Danielle Drew-Martin





KEEPING IN TOUCH

Reunions – the Scottish Reunion will be held on October 9th -11th at the Balavil Hotel, Newtonmore, organised by Kirsten Paterson (kirsten.perth@outlook.com or 07734 959 594). Click [here](#) for details.

The Spring Gathering is usually held in the Peak District in March or April. **Hill and Mountain Walking Club** – founded by Challengers, this meets regularly throughout the year both in the UK and abroad. You are welcome to come to a meet before joining. Details can be found [here](#).

2027 TGO CHALLENGE

The dates for TGO2027 will be 13th – 28th May 2027.

Inspiring TGO27 Challengers. As usual TGO magazine will be featuring TGO26 Challengers articles and photos in the Autumn with the aim of inspiring the class of 2027. So why not pull your thoughts together (in around 400 words) and/or photos and send them to us at tgochallenge@gmail.com. We will pass them on to TGO magazine’s editorial team. Anyone whose article is published will receive a £50 gift voucher from our sponsors, Ultralight Outdoor Gear, and a guaranteed place on TGO27.



Graeme Dunsire



Anna-Maria Wedlich

TGO East – Every year TGO magazine publishes articles from Challengers in an autumn issue. We would like to read about your experience too – details given above.
As this is the inaugural TGO East we are keen to hear your thoughts on the Event either at Montrose, by email or via a survey which will be sent out to everyone in June.

We wish you a safe and successful crossing.

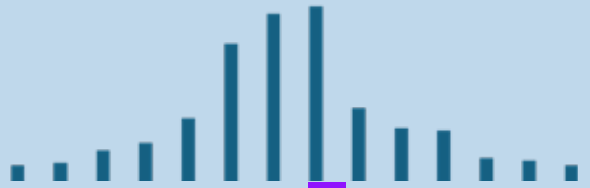


Ian Cotterill



2026 FACTS AND FIGURES

Taking a look at participants' facts and figures – Together with information on chosen start and end points.



1

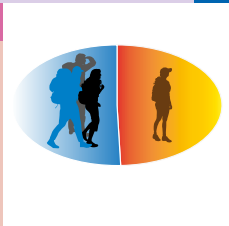


New Challengers

A warm welcome to the 33% of Challengers who will be aiming to complete their first crossing. Amongst them are our youngest Challenger Silas Lockwood, aged 20, walking with his father Tony.

Jo Faire at 23 is our youngest solo Challenger.

2



Veteran Challengers

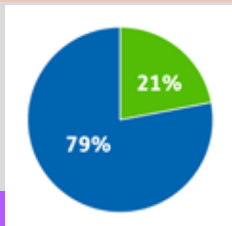
This year's octogenarian club consists of senior Challenger 87 years young John Burt along with Jean Turner, John Arlington, Anne Satow, Graham Brookes and senior couple Gordon & Jenny Selley (Jenny is on her tenth crossing).

We have 7 Challengers hoping to complete their 10th crossing, and Mark Storey and Jean Turner their 20th crossings. Good luck also to Graham Brookes who will be attempting crossing number 33 – which will equal the current record set by Bill Robertson.

3

Overseas Challengers

Challengers from 18 countries outside of the UK will make up 21% of 2026 Challengers. We're delighted to welcome our first ever Challenger from Estonia. As usual the USA, Germany and Netherlands are the top three overseas countries but Canada, France and Belgium now make up the top 6.



4



Start Points

The top 3 start points have changed places this time with Shiel Bridge regaining the title as most popular, Oban second and Mallaig falling to third. In single figures are, as usual at the bottom of the league are Plockton, Morar, and Ardrishaig. No risk of them being dropped, as they all offer excellent routes. Why not give one a go for TGOC27?

5

Finish Points

We have a lower level of variety in the finish points being used this year, with more than 70% of Challengers planning to finish in Montrose, Stonehaven, Dunnottar Castle, St Cyrus or Kinnaber Links. 18 people are finishing north of Aberdeen – mostly in or around Fraserburgh. Only 7 Challengers have found a unique place to finish their crossing. Among the most original finishing points are Horse Crook Bay, planned again this year by James Impey, and New Slains Castle planned by Mike Crawford.





TGO CHALLENGE SUPPORTERS

Ultralight Outdoor Gear

Ultralight Outdoor Gear was founded to provide backpackers with real choice when it comes to their gear and to present more information than is available elsewhere about each piece of kit. We use as much of the gear as we can and tell our online visitors honestly what we think. The stuff we don't have time to use gets examined at our offices and we give our verdict on it all, product by product.

You'll also find articles about backpacking routes around the world, the latest gear technology, how to choose products from the wide ranges available and other useful articles on subjects like food, winter backpacking, essential kit etc.

We are passionate about backpacking, especially in wild places.

Outdoor Map Navigator

Established as Anquet Maps in 2001, Outdoor Map Navigator has provided a digital mapping platform to outdoor enthusiasts for over twenty years.

The desktop and mobile apps provide access to the latest OS 1:25,000 and 1:50,000 maps. Routes can be created and edited on desktop or mobile devices, exported as GPX files, stored in Anquet's cloud and synced to other devices. Users can download maps for use without an internet connection. The mobile apps also show your current position, including a grid reference, and allow tracklogs to be recorded

The Great Outdoors Magazine

The Great Outdoors is the UK's longest-established hiking magazine. We have been inspiring people to explore wild places for more than 40 years.

Through compelling writing, beautifully illustrated stories and eye-catching content, across a range of platforms, we seek to convey the joy of adventure, the thrill of mountainous and wild environments, and the wonder of the natural world. We're here to help you make the most of your time in the hills and mountains.

As well as stunning photography and top-class writing, we are famous for the rigour of our gear reviews. Our reviewers are the country's most experienced team of testers – including world-renowned backpacking experts and long-distance walker, Chris Townsend – and we always ensure gear is put through its paces in challenging mountainous environments. Our essential skills advice is written by top outdoor instructors, guides and experts.

Our roster of contributors, ranges from established outdoor writers and authors to younger, up and coming voices who reflect a new generation of outdoor enthusiasts.

Darn Tough

Surveys show that Darn Tough are the number one brand worn by 'Thru hikers' in the USA tackling some of the toughest trails in the world. Exceptional durability, comfort, top performance in a huge variety of conditions and of course the Legendary Lifetime Warranty make Darn Tough socks the top choice when planning an epic.

Made with a blend of Merino wool, nylon, and Lycra for excellent moisture-wicking and temperature regulation, durability and fit, the socks are constructed with tightly packed terry loops to offer blister preventing cushioning where it's needed.

When planning your kit for the TGO Challenge, put a pair or two of Darn Tough socks on your essentials list ... and if you make it to the East Coast there will be a fresh new pair for you free of charge in the finishers pack as a thank you from us for completing the UK's own epic 'Thru Hike'.



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