

City Race Euro Tour 2022

Always the optimist, I am hoping that 2022 will be a better year for getting away, and what is better than a holiday that incorporates some orienteering? I have had my eye on the City Race Euro Tour (CRET) for 2-3 years, with the intention of doing enough races to count for the league. There was that thing in 2020 and 2021 which caused a lot of races to be cancelled or postponed so my dreams of Europe have been on hold. With a full schedule now announced for 2022, with 2 races in the UK, I am putting my plans into place for an assault this year. I also suspect that explaining a weekend away in Belgium to colleagues will be easier than explaining a weekend in Wigan. Seeing as I have already done some of the Google leg work, here is Sandra's quick guide to CRET 2022:

CRET basics:

- Urban races in Europe, using the same age classifications as urban races in the UK. There are 9 planned this year.
- Most have 2 or 3 races over a weekend, with the City Race as the main event. The other races could be sprints, relays, or even forest events.
- Minimum 2 races to score in the league, with the 5 best scores to count.
- Prizes for the first 3 in each category.

The 2022 races are:

Races 1 & 2: Lisbon & Leiria 26 & 27 March

Sadly, this is the same weekend as the British Long Distance champs so I will give this one a miss. Leiria is about 1.5 hours drive north of Lisbon but not terrifically accessible by public transport. Still, Lisbon is easy to reach from the UK and would make a nice spring break.

Race 3: ASOM Antwerp 1-3 April

ASOM stands for Awesome Sprint Orienteering Meeting, nuff said. This is a 3 race weekend, provided you can find a team mate for the first event on Friday: the night mixed sprint relay. More sprints on Saturday, then the City Race on Sunday. There are elite races with a knockout sprint and another WRE so there should also be some good spectating on offer. This weekend is easily reachable by train, the Airbnb is booked and 4 SMOCies are already planning to make the trip.

Race 4: Basel 10-12 June

I'm starting to see a cunning plan emerging to discourage Brits from winning any categories: this race is over the same weekend as the British Sprint champs. Another no, then. Which is a pity as it is another that would be accessible by train. The weekend has 4 urban and sprint events, and the City Race itself takes in 3 countries, and I'll bet there are not many races that can say that!

Races 5 & 6: Coventry & Birmingham 18 & 19 June

The Heart of England Urban Races (really, there's a website saying so). Two City Races on consecutive days. There are no supporting races but both events are part of the UK Urban League for 2022 so I will definitely be going to both. No details on these yet other than the dates.

Race 7: Graz 8 – 10 July

It's really very kind of them to organise the Graz City Race for my birthday and I think they have to let me win if I enter. The 3 days of urban orienteering are followed by 3 days in the forest to form the Styrian Orienteering Days, with everything wrapping up on 18 July. If this wasn't so close to the



O Ringen then it would be a definite. Lots of info on the website about all 6 days and there is a photo of some runnable forest that even I would call runnable: pine forest with grass and only the occasional twig to mar the perfection.

Race 8: Stockholm 21 – 23 July

Seems rude not to, seeing as I am already going to the O Ringen which starts a day after these urban races end. One sprint race and two urbans. The sprint is to the west of Stockholm, the long distance urban to the north and the middle distance just south of the city centre. I see the long distance elite race will have a distance of around 20km. Starting to feel

less enthusiastic about this now and wondering how long my race will be. Bugger, it's the long distance race that counts for the league. Hopefully that day off between the urbans and the start of the O Ringen will be enough! Another definite.

Race 9: Gdansk 16 – 18 September

There was a Gdansk City Race in 2021, which was part of CRET and has been included again for 2022. The website isn't fully up to date for 2022 yet but looks like 3 events. Last year, one was a forest race. These organisers are Very Enthusiastic and look like they go all out to put on a great race. They also had a very nice shirt last year. There are direct flights to Gdansk from Luton with Wizz Air which is handy as this looks like being my 5th race and I may feel inspired to look for an Airbnb if there is any interest from anyone else in the club?

For more information and links to the individual races see cityracetour.org. Probably a good idea as the above may be wildly inaccurate!