The final race in our 2025 Twilight series, and another new format – this time a Spiral score. An easy concept – run along a line course until you have had enough, then head back to the finish for refreshment! Of course, it wasn’t quite that simple, as the controls were worth more the further along you went, but they were also further from the finish, meaning it would take longer to get back, and with penalties for lateness being quite steep, you didn’t really want to be late back!

I have only run in one spiral event before, and was keen to design the course so that at least a couple of routes were shared in part at different points of the course, so if you happened to be chasing another runner, it could be confusing when they turned one way and you were expecting to go the other! I designed the course deliberately too long, so it was extremely unlikely that anyone could get round the whole spiral, and not have to make that end point decision.

There were a few route choices through parks and other off street areas, but there was normally an alternative if you wanted to stick to the lit roads. Just one control late on that required off road running, and as this was our last event before the winter series, I wanted to give the faster runners a bit of variety before we head to the streets for the winter.

We struggled again a little for competitors, but got enough in the end to make the event worthwhile staging. Thanks for coming and taking advantage of your last local chance for training before the winter series starts in a couple of weeks.

With sunset being right at the beginning of the start window it meant that everyone would have at least some dark running. So, head torches or other lighting were a critical piece of kit for this event.

The roadworks on the High Street posed an additional crossing point decision for everyone, but also meant there was far less traffic on the High Street, making it easier to cross where you could. There was a fair bit of traffic at either end though, so hope you didn’t get held up too badly in that.

As always, let’s look at some “stats”:

In total we had 31 runners (7 pairs). We clocked up over 150 km.

The furthest anyone got round the spiral, was control 51 in the South West. For the short, the furthest round was control 42 in the East. An impressive 87% of runners returned in time, taking the small bonus points for returning early instead of losing the big points as a penalty for returning late.

Route choice is obviously much more difficult to introduce into urban line courses, but there were a few legs with a decision to be made, including a couple where the climb maybe was a factor in decision making.

As for the rest of the series, I am combining the two courses into one table, with the short course scores multiplied by 150% to ensure competitiveness. Coming out on top this week, was Keith Bennett, with Marc Owen in second, and Paul Beckett third. Interesting that the winner was on Long, but the rest of the podium was on Short.

Details of the scoring can be found at this [link](https://www.orienteering-havoc.co.uk/results-archive/Brentwood_Spiral_Twilight_2025_results.pdf).

Details of the all the results from the series can be found on the series [homepage.](https://www.orienteering-havoc.co.uk/essex-midweek-twilight-series-2025)

If you missed the event tonight, but want to run it on Anytime catchup, details are on the series webpage, including maps and instructions. You will still score points for the league (if you run in the next 2 weeks), subject to an Anytime penalty of 6 mins (long) or 4 mins (short).

Because of that Anytime period, we can’t yet confirm the series results. Leader after two events, Jackie Sibthorp, for one, was intending to run on catch up, so we will see if she can score highly enough to retain her place at the top of the leaderboard.

So, that’s it for this year. I hope you enjoyed the series. Would be interesting to hear your thoughts on the formats – whether you enjoyed the challenge, or thought the additional rules got in the way? Whether you prefer score or line for urban events? If you have any ideas for different scoring rules, or any other comments on scoring, league tables or the series in general!

We now turn to the joint SOS/HAVOC winter series. This will kick off in just two weeks, with an event in Bocking, Braintree, planned and organised by Lyn and Colin West. Entries for that event are open on Racesignup. In addition, you can purchase a [Golden ticket](https://racesignup.co.uk/essex-winter-mid-week-series-2025-26), which will give entry to all the events in the series, at a reduced rate. Details for that first event can be found on the SOS website, [here](https://www.stragglers.info/events/bocking-2025-10-22). And the series webpage, detailing all events, dates, and will show results, reports and links to Anytime, is [here](https://www.orienteering-havoc.co.uk/essex-winter-midweek-series-2025-26).

Once again, thanks for running in the event this week.