Thank you all for entering the first of the summer series races for 2024, last night in Basildon, based mainly in Gloucester Park. We tried a new format last night to encourage some route choice in Gloucester Park, a line course to and from the park, with a score course in the park itself. This had the desired effect of mixing up the routes and there were a number of different routes taken. Careful planning was needed on the run to ensure you were at the right place to exit the park after collecting all the controls. We only had a couple of wrong control orders. On the long course there were also a couple of other missed controls where the line between controls was perfectly straight, so you needed to be careful to spot the intervening control circle!

All in all a good use of the area, and we weren't plagued with the setting on fire of controls like we were last time we had an event on the park!

Colin Jackson was fastest round the short course, and maintained that win once handicaps were accounted for. On the long course Dean Pepper was the only person to get round in under an hour, but had a penalty for wrong order on the score section. Tim Hull won on handicap.

Full details of the scoring can be found [linkstart]https://www.orienteering-havoc.co.uk/results-archive/Gloucester_Park_Results.pdf[linktitle]here.[linkend]

The series website is [linkstart]https://www.orienteering-havoc.co.uk/havoc-sos-midweek-summer-street-o-league-2024[linktitle]here.[linkend] This includes maps and instructions for the Anytime catchup. If you don't manage to get to the event on the night, you can still run the courses, for points in the league (subject to an Anytime penalty) in the two weeks following the event.

A slightly reduced entry field for this event as we kick off the series. With all the SOS events a bit further north, and all the HAVOC events a bit further west this year, will be interesting to see who gets to al the events and bags all the on-the-night bonuses!

The next event is in a fortnight, at Coggeshall. Details [linkstart]https://www.stragglers.info/events/s-series-no-2-coggeshall-2024-05-01[linktitle]here.[linkend]