

Thank you all for coming along to the series finale at Upminster tonight. We were a bit concerned earlier in the week when all the Brewdog bars shut, but luckily everything was back up and running for the race! And a nice dry evening for a change to the rain that has plagued much of the series! It was still a bit chilly though, and foggy!

We continued our tour of local windmills, with the Upminster windmill at control 56! What with that, and some other historical buildings to be found, Graham had planned a good course. Interesting spread of controls for this one, with most of the higher points being further away, but some of the lower points being really close together. Difficult decision which to head for - I knew I wasn't going to get them all! Unsurprisingly, no-one managed that feat tonight – those just north of the railway line near the start/finish not tempting anyone!

Highest score of the night on the Short course went to the MEC pair of Justin Ruggles and Lewis Barwell, a full 100 points ahead of Rachel Read in second. Those positions were reversed once handicaps are applied though, so Rachel takes the 100 points, and with it the overall series victory. Second place is currently held by Colin Jackson, but he could be overhauled by Chris Childs on catch-up, so we have to wait for the Anytime period to end to get the full podium positions.

Chris Prince got the highest score on the Long course, 110 points ahead of Roy Read in second. But it was Roy who took the 100 points for a handicap win, just ahead of Jackie Sibthorp in second. Overall, it is a win for Keith Bennett, 15 points ahead of Jackie Sibthorp in second. That missed on-the-night bonus for Jackie proving crucial! Third place is still up for grabs, as Kevin Machin could grab the last podium position with a good Anytime run. Currently Dean Pepper holds the place.

Details of the scoring can be found at this [link](#).

Details of the all the results and future fixtures in the series can be found on the series [homepage](#).

If you missed the event tonight, but want to run it on Anytime catchup, details are on the series [homepage](#), 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).

This event concludes the Winter series of course. I will write a summary of the series, with full series results once the Anytime period for this race has concluded.

We now turn our attention to the summer series, when the clocks have jumped forward an hour and we can all run in the lighter evenings. We are looking at an eight race series, spread across Essex, and concluding with a mass start, line course on a hybrid urban/forest map, with gaffled legs!

You can find details of the series on this [webpage](#).

Ahead of that, HAVOC's next forest event is at Weald Park on the 8th March. Details [here](#).

If you are not yet a member of an orienteering club, and want to give forest orienteering a try, then there are courses suitable for all ages and abilities, and if you decide to join HAVOC after, we will refund your entry fee, and give you free forest orienteering for the rest of the year! Details of the offer are [here](#).

If forest orienteering isn't for you, then you can plump for getting free entry to the HAVOC events in the summer, Twilight and the 2026 winter series instead! Contact me for further details.