Thanks to everyone who came to Wickford last night.

A tricky area, with lots of small streets, footpaths and twists and turns! Made all the more difficult by the darkness and lack of working street lights in some areas.

I left the short course on the West of the railway, with the long course making a brief trip into the more industrial areas to the east.

Sorry for the lack of clarity on the map – made the northern railway crossing a bit indistinct, and potentially made seeing whether paths met up a little more difficult.

I also mapped one control (11) on the Long course on the wrong street. Luckily, the normal approach was to the south and the software normally recorded a visit as you passed. Apologies if this didn’t happen for you and you wasted any time here. I have marked everyone as visiting that control as can see from the tracks that you were in the right location on the map.

The average times were slightly longer than normal – I could have maybe trimmed a little distance from the courses, but then I would have lost some of the tricky navigational challenges which are sometimes difficult to get into an urban event, and I like to avoid the procession of running an obvious route if I can.

The weather wasn’t great, and that potentially meant that some runners didn’t make it to the start, but luckily I didn’t see any fully disintegrated maps at the end, so well done for bringing map bags, or keeping things dry!

Congratulations to Chris Prince on the Long and Gary Chandler on the Short for the fastest times on the night. Melanie Sirett and Veronica Jeffries won on handicap on the short, and Chris just held on to the handicap win on the long course.

Overall, after two events in the series, it is Melanie Sirett (Short) and Colin West (Long) who hold top spots. Top 6 scores to count over the 10 race series of course.

For those who didn’t make last night, or if you want to try the courses again, I will be putting them on MapRun in the next day or so – I just need to adjust the Long map first to put 112 in the right place! They will be available for points in the league (with a 10 minute anytime penalty) for the next two weeks.

The next event is at Rayleigh, hosted by SOS, planned by Jackie Sibthorp, on Wednesday 16th November. Details here: <https://www.stragglers.info/events/raleigh-2022-11-16>

Full details of the series, including results of races so far, and details of upcoming races, can be found here: <https://www.orienteering-havoc.co.uk/havoc-sos-midweek-winter-street-o-league-2022-23>