

This weeks Summer Series event took place at the Bakers Arms in Danbury. It wasn't very summery with frequent rain showers and even thunder earlier in the day – but the evening stayed fine and we even saw a bit of sunshine, even if it was a bit chilly!

There were two line courses set, Long (5.7km) and Short (3.4km), and they both had a mix of woodland and urban. There isn't a lot of route choice in Danbury, so I kept the controls a fair way apart, so that you had to make some route choice and concentrate on where you were for the duration of the leg.

On the Long course several participants had some problems around Control 3, which didn't seem to register straight away for some people – perhaps the woodland was interfering? However most people overcame this, and managed to get around the rest of the course. It was also possible that the courses were a little shorter than usual, but again, I felt that this was made up for by the hilly terrain – which most competitors seemed to agree with.

We had a good turn out – 25 runners on the Long & 7 on the Short, including 3 competitors who hadn't done orienteering before – who seemed to enjoy the event – so let's hope we see them back again soon!

On to the results – and once again we had Luke Bennett taking the honours on the Long, followed by Ben Leeds & Dean Pepper. On the Short we had Colin Jackson as the fastest, followed by Chris Childs & Alan Sibthorp. Overall, after 3 events, we now have Jackie Sibthorp leading the long, helped by the 100 points organiser bonus, followed by Keith Bennett and then Dean Pepper. On the Short we have Chris Childs, leading Colin Jackson & Dale Bennett (who has only run 2 events – so could get a bit higher with the catch up maybe!).

Overall a good evenings orienteering, where we were warmly welcomed by the landlady of the Bakers Arms, who set up a great system for getting everyone's food ordered and delivered ready for when they returned.

Anyone who did not attend now has 2 weeks to do a catch up event, to be included in the results.

The full results can be found on the SOS website at <https://www.stragglers.info/anytime/danbury-may-26>

The next event in our series is in South Ockendon on 27th May and the details of this event can be found at <https://www.orienteering-havoc.co.uk/events/essex-summer-midweek-series-2026-no.4-south-ockendon-27-may-2026>