I hope you all enjoyed the first event of this year's Essex Midweek Winter Series.
Last night we had a few people join us who were new to the midweek series, which is great to have and we hope to see you at later events in the series.

Following the clocks being turned back an hour the previous weekend, it created full darkness to start the series. Luckily the wind and rain from the previous days stopped and it was a nice evening for running with 10 people on the short course and 17 people on the long course.

Initially I was going to plan an odds and evenings score event for a change, but during planning I found the twisty paths and alleys of the estate and realised that would make a good line event instead. I wanted routes with lots of choice, hence the use of some telegraph poles and a few shorter legs to force people to approach the next control from certain points.

The MapRun tracks show several different routes were taken so this worked well.
I re-used several of the controls from the long course on the short course to have both courses going through the most interesting points and to have the potential social side of seeing other orienteers as you're following your course. I was unsure whether the short course was slightly too long but with times ranging from 50 minutes to 1 hour 5 minutes it seemed about right.

Chris Childs was the fastest around the short course by 11 minutes, with Veronica Machin finishing second and Elspeth Missen finishing third. Chris held onto his lead after handicaps were applied to score the 100 points, with Veronica and Espeth scoring 89 and 87 points, respectively.

On the long course, Allen Smalls was the quickest by around 4 minutes, followed by Chris Prince then Jake Law. Once handicaps have been applied, Allen again holds onto that lead to also score 100 points, with Guy Lidbury taking second place and Kevin Guard taking third place - both scoring 90 points.

The full results have been published to our website

The next event in the series will be at Laindon West. Full details of the event will be published on the HAVOC website

As always, we have a series webpage on the HAVOC website which contains details of all events and will have the maps to allow anytime runs in the two weeks after each event.