

Twenty seven orienteers braved the cold, wet and windy weather to run the 9th event of the SOS/HAVOC Winter series 25/26, at the Fox and Raven in Chelmer Village.

There were 7 runners on the short course (40 minutes) and 20 on the long course (60 minutes). I set the course to have more high scoring controls nearer to the start and finish, with the lower scores further out. I thought it would be interesting to see that in order to differentiate your score you would need to go further and achieve some 10's. Also, less quick runners would be able to get a higher score. There was just one high scoring control, to see if the runners felt it was worth a run to the West of the course, just to achieve 40 points.

Unfortunately 2 runners passed by the start/finish before they were ready to stop and prematurely triggered the finish control, perhaps I should have considered this whilst planning.

The short course result was interesting, as four runners (running in pairs), achieved the same score, in a time just 2 seconds apart, even though one group went to 10 controls and the other to 13. However, when it came to the handicap results Colin Jackson came out on top.

On the long course, Keith Bennett had the highest score, followed by Kevin Gard, and once the handicap was taken into account, Keith and Kevin were still on top.

Looking at the leagues, with one event to go, it's very close on the short course between Colin Jackson and Rachel Read. On the long, Keith is leading the way, followed by Jackie who picked up 100 points for organising the Chelmer Village event, but may be just too far behind to catch Keith up!

The full results have been uploaded to the SOS website at <https://www.stragglers.info/events/chelmer-village-2026-02-18>.

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