



2017, 2018, 2019

HAVOC NEWSLETTER February 2021



Chairman's Chat

Club mates! This is the first scaled-down monthly HAVOC newsletter which will continue in this format while orienteering is constrained. As I write this it is snowing outside, and the trees and back garden are turning white. In normal times we might still be orienteering in such conditions under several thermal layers and hats, but not this year. Lockdown 3 means there is no prospect of orienteering events being staged for a while and I suspect that the revised tier system that might follow it will also constrain orienteering to some extent.

In these unusual circumstances the HAVOC committee have been investigating the use of MapRunF software to offer opportunities for local exercise and navigational challenges. David Float pioneered its use with a 60-minute score course in Shenfield/Hutton using a street-O style base map derived from Open Orienteering Map open-source software. I have since set up two similar 60-minute score courses in Brentwood North and Brentwood South. Guy is helping David with another course in Southend/Westcliff. Dale, Chris and Graham are also investigating the possibilities of similar activities in Billericay and Stanford le Hope.

We hope that you will give these MapRun activities a try if they are local to you, and that you will travel to them for some exercise and a navigational challenge once current restrictions are eased. Check out the website links below to MapRun and Open Orienteering Map to see what the maps look like and how the MapRun software works. You can do the course relying solely on a smartphone for the map and digital 'punching' or you can download a PDF of the A4 paper map. PDFs of the maps and further details will also be available on the HAVOC website.

The pandemic has meant that the East Anglian Orienteering Championships which HAVOC was due to host at Epping SW in April has been postponed to September. Before then, we hope to stage some conventional forest events if the situation improves. We are also hoping to stage a street-O series of events jointly with SOS once circumstances allow.

I have some sad news to convey concerning long-time HAVOC member John Float who died in January. John came to orienteering late in life but enjoyed the challenge and often attended events in the 1990s and 2000s with his son David. John was a quietly spoken gentleman with a steely determination to complete the challenge. He would normally walk speedily around Light Green courses while David ran around the longer courses. I can remember one occasion when his age handicap meant he was a key scorer for HAVOC when the club won the summer FROLICS series in the 1990s. In recent years John was living in a care home in Brentwood and I saw him walking around my neighbourhood in early January, so he was active to the end. We send our condolences to David and his family.

On a forward-looking note, I point out that arrangements are under way to stage the Scottish Six Days Orienteering Festival based around Fort William in August 2021, pandemic permitting. HAVOC normally send a strong contingent to this event and 2021 will hopefully be no exception.

13 HAVOC club members have entered so far. Refunds will be available if the event does not happen.

Accommodation in Scotland may be difficult to come by if 'staycations' are popular this summer so book early for cheaper event entry fees and more accommodation choice. I have already booked two chalets at the Inchree Chalets near Corran Ferry for some club mates and friends. Barbara and I are intending to stay on for a further week of walking and wildlife watching in our usual cottage in Tarbert Loch Fyne, where we have seen otters, basking sharks and black grouse in the past. Our orienteering skills may be a wee bit rusty this year, but hopefully, if we are all jabbed up and circumstances improve, we will at least be able to have some fun and enjoy the scenery and wildlife.

Regards

Paul Beckett
HAVOC Chairman

Links:

HAVOC website

www.orienteering-havoc.co.uk

HAVOC facebook page

www.facebook.com/pages/Havering-South-Essex-Orienteering-Club/277659605610134

EAOA website

[http://eaoa.org.uk/](http://eaoa.org.uk)

SEOA website

<https://www.seoa.org.uk/>

British Orienteering

www.britishorienteering.org.uk

Fabian4 (entries)

www.fabian4.co.uk

The Orienteering Foundation

www.orienteeringfoundation.org.uk

Street-O style basemaps

www.openstreetmap.org

Street-O style orienteering maps

www.oopmap.co.uk

MapRun website

www.MapRun.uk

Scottish Six Days Orienteering

<https://www.scottish6days.com/>

Essex Stragglers OC

<http://www.stragglers.info/home/>

Chigwell & Epping Forest OC

<http://chig.org.uk/>