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HAVOC NEWSLETTER March 2021



Chairman's Chat

Club mates! This is the second scaled-down monthly HAVOC newsletter which is continuing in this format while orienteering is constrained by the covid pandemic. However, there is potentially some good news on the horizon provided that the Government's roadmap out of lockdown progresses as we all hope.

The latest position is that organised outdoor sport can commence from 29th March provided that such activity takes places in a covid-secure way which minimises the health risks. However, the presumption will remain that those taking part will continue only to exercise locally and therefore travelling a longer distance to orienteer would not be appropriate. The next step is intended to be 12th April at the earliest, when travelling beyond the local area and overnight stays might be possible. Therefore, orienteering at non-local events and activities may be allowable from mid-April onwards. Further guidance details will be published on the British Orienteering website as the picture clears, taking account of further Government guidance as that becomes available.

The HAVOC committee has not been idle during the lockdown and several members are using their local exercise to survey, plan and create free street-O style courses for local exercise and navigational challenges within the HAVOC catchment area. David Float has pioneered this initiative and has created one-hour score courses at Shenfield/Hutton and at Westcliff. I have done courses for Brentwood North and Brentwood South. Further courses are in prospect for Shenfield South and for Rochford. Please check out the HAVOC website for further details on these courses. You can simply download a free PDF paper course map if you prefer or otherwise take advantage of the MapRunF software to use a smart phone to record your run and upload it to a results page. We hope to make these score activities part of a local league challenge once such things are allowed. Visiting any or all of these courses for individual exercise should be allowable after 12th April if the Government's roadmap keeps on track, so why not give it a go!

The HAVOC committee has also been liaising with neighbouring club Essex Stragglers (SOS) over the staging of a joint mid-week street-O series of 8 orienteering events. Originally intended as a winter-time night orienteering series, the delayed start due to covid means it will now be a spring/summer series instead with many entrants able to complete their course in the light evenings. This will make it an ideal opportunity for you to give street-O a go without having to navigate in the dark. The precise format is still to be finalised but there will probably be a short (2-3km) and a longer (4km?) course, old-style cardboard control cards and a PDF paper map so there will be no need to have a smart phone for these events. Pre-entries will be used to manage entry numbers and ensure social distancing. The latest provisional schedule is for SOS to stage the first event on Wednesday 7th April at Chelmsford, for subsequent events to be mid-week fortnightly, and for HAVOC to stage the last event on Tuesday 13th July at Stanford le Hope. Other HAVOC events in the series are likely to be at Brentwood North, Brentwood South and Billericay. Check out the HAVOC website soon for further info on the Mid-Week Street-O series. Thanks to the volunteers David, Guy, Dale, Graham and Chris for their work in preparing for these events and the

MapRun score activities. Thanks also to Gillian for updating our website/Facebook/event registrations to take account of changing circumstances.

Traditional forest orienteering may be a little slower in getting going again as it is dependent on landowner permissions that might be harder to obtain for a while, and on careful organisation to ensure they are covid-secure. Our current thinking is for HAVOC to stage a low-key forest orienteering event at Hadleigh Park on 23rd May so we can all practise both staging such an event and taking part. We then hope to stage the East Anglian Orienteering Championships at Epping SW on 26th September, and an event at Weald Park on 28th November.

On another positive note, I point out that arrangements are under way to stage the Scottish Six Days Orienteering Festival based around Fort William in August 2021. HAVOC normally send a strong contingent to this event and 2021 will hopefully be no exception. 13 HAVOC club members have entered so far. 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/>

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/>