**HAVOC NEWSLETTER September 2025**

2017, 2018, 2019, 2021

2022, 2023, 2024, 2025

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**Chairman’s Chat**

Hi everyone,

Well here we go again, about to start another season of Orienteering.

The last season ended in real style with our brilliant victory in the GLOSS series of 6 events through June and July. It seems a long time ago now, and David has sent out all his excellent writeups, but just as a reminder we managed 3 wins and 3 second places over the 6 events, beaten only by HH and SLOW at their home events, and DFOK at the final event, once we had already secured the series victory. As a small club we couldn’t really have dreamt of any better results, particularly given that horrible fixture clash of the first GLOSS event with the Writtle EA Champs, and that DFOK and HH were both pushing to stop us winning again. We had a strong core of 7 people who ran at 5 or more events, but in total had an amazing 22 members who competed, with 15 different scorers. Well done to everyone who took part, or helped stage our own Hornchurch event. It was great to see so many people involved, which enabled us to keep competing despite injuries to Seb and Andrew who scored well at the early events.

July also saw the final event in our Summer mid-week Street O series, which I organised at Thorndon Park, in Brentwood. People seemed to enjoy the chance to run off-road in nice woodland, which we have not been able to use in recent years, due to week-end parking concerns. Chris Prince was the fastest runner on the night, but was pipped by Paul Beckett on handicap. That victory for Paul also secured his victory in the overall 8 event series, just holding off Seb and Chris, with HAVOC taking 5 of the top 7 places.

The Street Os have also continued to attract new HAVOC members, and in the last couple of months we have welcomed John & Lorna Pettifer, Joanne Reeves and Andy Debnam. Welcome to HAVOC and hopefully we’ll see you at Street and Forest events in the new season.

The final major event of last season was the Scottish 6 days event held at the end of July in Deeside. 15 HAVOCs made the long trip and enjoyed a good sociable week, with daily events on challenging forest areas. Some of the areas of rocky heather were tough going, and many of us made navigational errors, but we had a good time – for those on our WhatsApp group, the piglets on the farm where many of us were staying, appeared to be a key highlight!

As I write this, I’ve just got back from the British Sprint Relays at RAF Honnington, near Thetford, where 6 HAVOCs had volunteered to help out at, as the event was being staged by the East Anglian region. HAVOC had been allocated to run the car parking at the event, which seemed to run smoothly. It was a long but enjoyable day, with the chance to try-out one of the relay legs on the RAF base.

As we look forward, the new season gets off to a fast start with HAVOC staging 3 events in September. Firstly, we have 2 Street O events being planned by Seb Parris at South Ockendon on Wednesday, September 10, and by David Float at South Woodham Ferrers on Wednesday, September 24. These events are part of a twilight series we’re running by popular demand, ahead of our main winter series with SOS which starts in late October, so why not give them a try before the dark nights close in. Each event starts and finishes at a local pub and are always sociable.

On Sunday September 28, we have our biggest forest event of the year with our EAL & SWELL event at Epping SW. Graham Batty is planning this event, and we’ll need all your help to stage what should be a great event, in our largest forest area. I’ll be sending out an invite note tomorrow, offering free runs to any HAVOC members willing to help out, so please keep your diaries free!

All 3 HAVOC events are now open on Racesign-up, so please get your entries in. Other significant events this month include the London City Race weekend, which includes 2 urban events, plus a full forest event at Hampstead Heath.

Finally, don’t forget that the HAVOC annual AGM will be held in October. We are always keen to get new Committee Members, and for the last year have been running 1 below target. Meetings are all held on-line, and we only hold around 5 per year, so the time commitment isn’t onerous. Please contact Paul Beckett (Secretary), myself, or any of the Committee members if you would be interested in joining the Committee, and helping guide the club.

That’s all for now, stay healthy, and enjoy your Orienteering in the new season.

Colin Jackson

**Our Next Events**

Our next forest event will be in one of our best areas – Epping South West, on September 28th. This will be in the SWELL and EAL leagues. It will also incorporate the club championships for CHIG and DFOK. The terrain description from our last event here was:

*Mature forest with mainly deciduous trees and some holly bushes. To the south west there is the open area of Chingford Plain with its grass land and thickets, as well as a model aircraft flying area. Further to the east lies Connaught Water, a haven for wildfowl. Over the years, with successive thinning of parts, the area has become more runnable.  There are a number of horse rides in the area and a network of smaller paths, some are minor while others are well used by walkers and mountain bikers.  Longer courses will visit the more contoured area to the north of the map*.

Graham Batty will be planning the courses. Colin is the organiser. We will obviously be looking for volunteers to help on the day, and as usual, you can have a free run if you can help. Colin will circulate the helper code to remove entry fees in Racesignup.

Away from the forests, we have our Twilight series, before the clocks change and we are able to start the winter series again. We have three events planned for this series, encouraging route planning which will be a key skill for the score based winter series, starting late October. For this series though, we are doing a few different types of event – so we will have a traditional score, a snooker O score, and then a spiral line. These will be based in South Ockendon, South Woodham Ferrers and Brentwood, as we attempt to continue the success of the summer series in encouraging entries from runners in neighbouring clubs like CHIG and DFOK, along with SOS of course. Look out for the series flyer on Facebook, or check out all the details for the series on the website. First event is September 10th, South Ockendon, a traditional Score event, planned by Seb Parris.

Volunteer planners and organisers, or people to assist with course planning or organising, are always welcome for the street orienteering and forest orienteering events. Please contact the club secretary, Paul Beckett (secretary@orienteering-havoc.co.uk ) for more information or to volunteer.

**GLOSS**

Champions again! You will have seen the series summary on email, and on the website (with scoring tables) and on Facebook. Without repeating all that here, we won with a race to spare, securing first or second place in all six races. We had full scoring teams in all races, secured two individual event top scores, and had six different HAVOC winners for the six races. 22 members ran in at least one event, and 15 scored in the series, including our top scorer for the year – Colin Jackson. We had 67 club runs overall, and Andrew Welsh, Chris Prince and Seb Parris scored in every race they ran in.

So, the title is ours for another year. Well done to all who ran in at least one event – a real club team effort, and one which we can be rightly proud of.

**Local Series**

I don’t think it is any surprise to hear I like running in series! I might not be good enough to do very well in an individual event, but if you combine multiple events together, then by turning up at most I can normally get a much better position on the leaderboard! It is not just that of course, a series of events normally means you see the same orienteers and often there is a social element to the events (especially the midweek event series, which tend to be based in a pub). Amazingly, as a small club, we are one of the most prolific local organisers of orienteering series, based on our SWELL series that we organize and takes in events from SOS, and CHIG, and our Winter, Summer and Twilight series that we jointly run with SOS.

There is one exclusively team based series – the GLOSS series for London and SE clubs, and I think I have covered that one!

There are four regional based series – the EAL, SEL, EAUOL and SEOUL. I cover the team results in the forest leagues in the newsletter separately. In the individual leagues, our best results in the most recent runnings were: Hugo Maule-Lidbury (1st, M12, EAOA, where HAVOC had 27 entrants), Chloe Fowler (1st, W21, SEOA, where HAVOC had 6 entries), Hugo Maule-Lidbury (2nd, Young Junior Men, EAUOL, where HAVOC had 7 entrants) and Hugo Maule-Lidbury (10th, Young Junior Men, SEOUL, where HAVOC had 17 entrants).

So, then we come to the club based series. These are often run by a combination of clubs. I have summarized those I know about in the following table. Would be interested to hear if I have missed any.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Club** | **Title** | **Dates** | **Races** | **Description** | **Last series - No. HAVOC** | **Last series - Best HAVOC** |
| HAVOC (with CHIG, SOS) | SWELL | Sep-Apr | 7 to 10 | Weekend, Colour coded, local, forest | 31 | Sienna Muggeridge (1st W10), Amelie Maule-Lidbury (1st W12), David Float (1St, M55) |
| HAVOC (with SOS) | Winter Series | Nov-Mar | 10 | Midweek, Mostly street, night, score, pub based | 13 | Seb Parris (1st, Long) |
| HAVOC (with SOS) | Summer Series | Apr-Jul | 8 | Midweek, Hybrid, Line, evening, pub based | 18 | Paul Beckett (1st, Long) |
| HAVOC | Twilight Series | Sep-Oct | 3 or 4 | Midweek, Mixed format, evening/night, pub based | 13 | Seb Parris (1st) |
| DFOK (with SAX) | Kent Orienteering League | Oct-May | 10 | Weekend, Colour Coded, Forest,  | 12 | David Float (15th, Blue) |
| HH | Saturday Series | All Year | 12 | Weekend, Ltd Colour Coded, Forest | 11 | Sienna Muggeridge (9th, White) |
| MV | Winter Street O | Sep-Apr | 8 | Midweek, Night, Score, Urban, pub based | 1 | David Float (37th) |
| MV | Summer series | Jul-Aug | 4 | Midweek, mixed format, Evening, mixed terrain, pub based | 1 | David Float (22nd) |
| SAX (with DFOK, SO, MV) | Kent Night Cup | Oct to Mar | 22 | Midweek, Score, Night, mixed terrain, pub based | 1 | David Float (16th) |
| SAX | TTTS | May-Jun | 5 | Midweek, Score, Evening, Forest, pub based | 1 | David Float (23rd) |
| SLOW (with DFOK, LOK, MV) | Park O | May-Jul | 10 | Midweek, Line, evening, Parks, pub based | 2 | David Float (58th) |
| SLOW (with DFOK, LOK, MV, CHIG) | Street O | Sep-May | 9 | Midweek, Score, Night, Urban, pub based | 2 | David Float (102nd) |
| SLOW | Night O | Nov-Mar | 4 | Midweek, Line, Night, Forest, pub based | 1 | David Float (91st) |

WAOC run summer and winter MapRun leagues, but I haven’t seen any consolidated results. HH run Tuesday evening MapRuns for most of the year, but I can’t find consolidated results, although they do have trophies and prize categories.

**Last Month’s Review**

After the abundance of races in June/July, the local scene often slows down a bit for August and a bit of September. There is the big orienteering festival (this year the Scottish 6 days) which we had an amazing turnout (15) to, but for local runners things are hard to find. I will start back in July though, as this newsletter covers two months.

We had secured victory in the second GLOSS event at Hornchurch, and went into July leading that series. I was off on holiday to Crete though, so it was a week off for me. And with no MapRuns in Greece (!), relaxing by the pool took over from battling through nettles! I kept up with the scores from England though, and was pleased to see we were able to maintain (and even improve) our lead in the GLOSS series.

Once I was back, the first event I got to was the Park O at Dulwich Park. Like most of the Park Os in this series, the navigation is fairly easy, and there are just a few places where route choice can make a significant impact. With speedy runners and close finishing times, a mistake can really affect your finishing position though, and I had my fair share of those! Nothing too lengthy, but enough to leave me well down the leaderboard.

Colchester West next for the penultimate race in our joint summer series with SOS. Long way for me to drive to get to this one – and with a slow Dartford crossing, it took me the best part of two hours! Nice bit of wood to start, although the majority of the course was on streets. Didn’t make too many errors, just one control right near the end where the map showed a road junction, but they didn’t meet, so when I got to the next junction I thought I was at the previous one! Nice sunny evening though, and always good to catch up with our SOS friends in the pub after.

Nonsuch park for the GLOSS at the weekend. A long way to go for the majority of HAVOC runners, but we still had a healthy sized team. The course had a few tricky sections, and the map seemed a little confusing by the lake in the North West, but as you will have read, we were to prevail with a victory on the day, defeating Happy Herts and guaranteeing us series victory. Disappointing that the host club failed to follow the mapping guidelines with regard to the finish set up, which delayed a few of our runners. I had my usual false start going to the 1st control which put me behind the curve and meant that once again I finished outside our top 6.

I was busy for the next Park O in Clissold Park – probably one of the closer venues for HAVOC, so it was Harmondsworth Moor next up for me. Over by Heathrow, this was not the most convenient for any of us, but we still managed to get an incredible turnout for the last in the GLOSS series. We had already wrapped up the series, so this was more of a victory lap for us. A new area for orienteering, it was a nice mix between rough open with pockets of woodland and a couple of more open areas. Relatively hilly and with three rivers, plenty to keep you concentrating. I saved my best GLOSS run for last and finally top scored for HAVOC, and we ran out second again, this time to a rampant DFOK who took 6 of the top 9 places on handicap!

That week saw two more series end as well. First was the last Park O of the year, at Clapham Common. The heavens opened just as I got to the start, so I took shelter for a few mins under the trees, but then got wet anyway as the rain continued during my run. Very open common, so the route choice was more about avoiding fences and the bits of water, as well as having to navigate around various sports matches taking place. There was one enclosed area with double tagged fences (sprint map, so uncrossable! Not everyone followed those rules!) requiring a run in and then back out through the only gate in the fence. Mostly though just a speedy run round the park. Think there were nearly 150 competitors for that one – glad I got there early, as the queue to the start was about 20 people strong when I finished! Fast, open running, with easy access to central London via public transport really seems to help bring in the competitors, for the midweek series in any case.

Then it was on to our final summer series event the following night. This one was to be run almost completely in Thorndon Park, from a pub across Childerditch Common. Lovely evening, and some good courses. We tried to get as much detail as possible onto the OOM, but obviously it is no substitute for a proper orienteering map. Most notably, you don’t really know how much of a risk it is to cut across a woodland block, when it is the same green coloured, whether open forest, or dense vegetation! The forest was looking nice though – just a shame we haven’t been able to run a full orienteering event in the area for such a long time. We only had 27 runners on the night for this one, but even though that was by far our lowest number of the series, it would have still equalled the record for attendance over all our previous summer series! The summer holidays starting, the proximity of the Scottish 6 days and the location not tempting many from SOS/MEC probably didn’t help this one, but the series as a whole averaged over 39 on the night runs per event.

It was the Scottish 6 days the following week. I didn’t travel up for that one but HAVOC had an amazing contingent, enjoying the variety of courses and terrains, some good weather, and an excellent social event.

Shooters Hill was next for me, for a DFOK CATI on the Saturday. It might have been badged as a CATI, but with Harold Wyber and Michael Crone amongst the starters on the score I was never going to do too well! Even the Green course had the new CHIG W21 ex national champ running on it! I had plumped for the score though – my longest run for a few weeks, so no surprise that the hills were beginning to wear me down by the end! Amazing that although I have run at Shooters Hill countless times, I still find a bit of the woodland tricky, and spent a while looking for one of the controls, which ended up being about 100m north of where I was looking – think there must have been an unmapped path! It was a first time planner I think, and he put together some good courses and control locations. One seemed a little off – it was about 50m from where mapped, and took me about 7 mins to find it!

Another final series event on the Tuesday. This time the Mole Valley summer O in Ashtead. This had been a series of four events, all with different scoring formats – but this one was just a regular score with different point values per control. Interesting that the planner seemed overly keen to tell everyone the minimum distance to get all of the controls ahead of the start – I think I prefer to leave this for the competitor to work out if they think they can get all the controls or not! If I thought I had missed a few paths in mapping areas for our summer O, then this event showed I wasn’t too bad! There were missing paths everywhere, and some mapped ones didn’t exist, or went in different directions! So, it was a bit of a lottery in the wooded section. A dangerous road corner in the middle of the map, marked out of bounds, took away a lot of the route choice, making it more of a clockwise or anti clockwise circular route, and a couple of roads that were marked ended up being “no public access” so it made things all the more frustrating! Bit of an Achilles issue for me meant I was rather slow, and bailed out half way round for a lower score than I may have got otherwise. There were some long, hot, legs on the street sections of the course, which sapped my energy reserves!

A quick trip down to the hilly Hargate Forest for my first run in August. An interesting tweak to the scoring rules for this one – it was a score event, but each control number had to be higher than the last to score, so it was also a sort of line as well! With only one run in the previous couple of weeks, I took quite a conservative approach, and missed out quite a few controls. A couple of errors: one where I mistook a diagonal path for a horizontal one and searched the wrong forest block, and then one where I pulled up about 40m short, tracked back for a while, and then eventually found what I was looking for a bit further on (not sure of the mapping on this one!). The route down from the finish to download was particularly steep and tricky underfoot – I ended up sliding down in a sitting position at one point!

I was pretty ill in the week leading up to my next event at Leybourne Lakes, but after I woke up on the morning and didn’t feel quite so bad I thought I would give it a go, as entries were still open. Just did the Green course, and only managed about half the course before I had to walk as my illness and cough came back. Pretty easy hybrid event, although I still made an error taking one path too early in the urban part.

Off to the SEOUL at Epsom the following weekend. Another big entry of over 150. It’s pretty hilly in Epsom, although the course didn’t seem quite as bad this year. It’s been six years since the last SEOUL event at Epsom, where I struggled in the heat and finished near last on my course. Nothing much changed then, as this year I struggled in the heat and finished near last on my course! An early low score for handicap purposes for next year’s GLOSS? The course itself was fairly standard urban, but with some nice route choices and a couple of multi levelled areas.

I toyed with the idea of entering the British sprints up in Norwich the following weekend. But, in the end decided that a 2.5 hour each way drive and a £30 entry fee for about 40 mins of orienteering wasn’t the best value! Mike was the only HAVOC in attendance, and he finished 6th in his final, less than 3 minutes behind the winner.

**Team HAVOC and Club League**

Might be my last time to mention it for a few months – but, in case you missed it, as a club, Team HAVOC are GLOSS champions!

There is not a lot else going on for the team over the summer. The SE League doesn’t start until later in the year, the next EA League event is our own at Epping, as detailed earlier.

The BOF rankings are shaken up by the Scottish 6 days – so lots of movement there. Ted took over at the top of the HAVOC standings for a couple of weeks, but with 5 opportunities to regain his lead, Guy had secured enough points to slot back in at the top after day 4 of the Scottish 6 days.

In the Participation League, GLOSS and the Scottish 6 days were the main events that got members points. There were a couple of other events as well, meaning there were 9 points up for grabs in the last couple of months. It was the last day of the month though, the British Sprint Champs at University of East Anglia, where Mike took a lead in this comp. He is one event clear of Colin, with the chasing pack a further two events behind, led by Guy, Jenny and Zbig.

Two scheduled events and five more added due to strength of entry has got the HAVOC league off to a fast start. I am aware that this league causes difficulties in understanding and people don’t really follow it – it seems to just be my pet project! For this reason, I tried to think how it could be made easier to understand, but everything I came up with just diluted the reasons for having the league in the first place, so I am loathe to amend it. If you do have any suggestions then let me know. I did change the maximum points down from 110 to 100, which makes it a bit easier to see how you are doing, I think.

Realistically, all you need to know is:

* It takes 18 events per year covering all different types of orienteering, all different competitions, and all local clubs
* in addition, ANY other EAOA or SEOA event attracting 6 or more HAVOCs is added
* At each event your time is amended by an age/sex handicap (based on recent national course result stats, and the SEL scoring algorithm) and considering a target course for your age class (to match the EAL/SEL criteria)
* Best HAVOC runner gets 100 points, and everyone else a percentage based on their handicapped time/km, compared to that best runner’s handicapped time/km
* Your best 14 scores across the three types of event (team, other forest and non-standard) are totaled up to give a leaderboard.

So, basically, if you run well at an event with lots of HAVOCs in attendance you will score well for the league!

I do an interim leaderboard each month based on number of events scheduled so far in the league (to avoid the situation where one person has run away with the league by Christmas!). At the moment, we count 3 scores, and the current positions are:

Paul B 300

Guy L 300

Jenny G 298

Mike M 297

Colin J 295

We have already had 10 different runners top scoring in at least one event, and after just three months we have already included 12 events in the scoring. Just one event scheduled for September – the SLOW City of London urban.

**This Month’s Highlights**

Orienteering events are always a bit thin on the ground in September, so the main things to be aware of on the fixture list are all HAVOC or HAVOC League events! We have our Twilight league, and the EAL and SWELL event at Thorndon SW, our biggest event of the year. The City of London weekend Saturday event is included in the HAVOC league. There are three events this year – Greenwich Park on the Friday evening, Rotherhithe on the Saturday and Hampstead Heath on the Sunday. HH continue their popular Saturday Series events at Jersey Farm on the first weekend of September, Other than those events we just have a smattering of local events, mostly on weekends. The SLOW street O series gets underway with a DFOK event at Woolwich the day before our first Twilight event, and the MV street O series starts a week later in Epsom.

**Local Fixtures**

These are the fixtures in our two regional associations for this month. This is taken from the BOF website, but please check before travelling to any, in case of last-minute changes. And, please remember that most events are pre-entry only at the moment, and entries may close early if restricted entry levels are reached.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Sat 06/09/25 | HH Saturday Series | HH | Jersey Farm |   |
| Sat 06/09/25 | SO Park-O 7 - Oaklands Park | SO | Oaklands Park |   |
| Sat 06/09/25 | Summer series | SAX | Victoria Park |   |
| Tue 09/09/25 | Street O Series | DFOK | Woolwich |  |
| **Wed 10/09/25** | **HAVOC Twilight Series No.1** | **HAVOC** | **Royal Oak pub, Hall Lane, South Ockendon** | **HAVOC event** |
| Sat 13/09/25 | Park-O Coe Fen and Lammas Land | WAOC | Lammas Land |   |
| Sat 13/09/25 | SO Park-O 8 - Goffs Park | SO | Goffs Park |   |
| Tue 16/09/25 | Street O series | MV | Epsom |  |
| Fri 19/09/25 | CoL W/E event | DFOK | Greenwich Park |   |
| **Sat 20/09/25** | **SLOW City of London Race** | **SLOW** | **Rotherhithe, London** | **HAVOC league** |
| Sun 21/09/25 | Bacton Woods | NOR | Bacton Wood |   |
| Sun 21/09/25 | CoL W/E event | LOK | Hampstead Heath |   |
| **Wed 24/09/25** | **HAVOC Twilight Series No.2** | **HAVOC** | **The Railway pub, 50 Hullbridge Road, South Woodham Ferrers** | **HAVOC event** |
| Sat 27/09/25 | SN Local event | SN | Southwood |   |
| **Sun 28/09/25** | **HAVOC East Anglian League and SWELL** | **HAVOC** | **Epping Forest South West** | **HAVOC event, EAL** |
| Sat 04/10/25 | Autumn in Anglia West Harling EA Sch Champs | SUFFOC | Thetford |   |
| Sat 04/10/25 | HH Saturday Series - Panshanger | HH | Panshanger Park |   |
| Sat 04/10/25 | SO SOG A1 - Southwick Hill, Mile Oak, Portslade | SO | Southwick Hill |   |
| Sun 05/10/25 | Ely Urban- Autumn in Anglia | WAOC | Ely |   |
| Sun 05/10/25 | SAX Regional | SAX | Knole Park |   |
| **Wed 08/10/25** | **HAVOC Twilight Series No.3** | **HAVOC** | **Gardeners Arms pub, 27 Hart Street, Brentwood** | **HAVOC event** |
| Thu 09/10/25 | KNC 1 | SAX | Kings Wood, Challock |  |
| Sat 11/10/25 | SO Urban - Chichester (part of the November Classic weekend) (UKOL) | SO | Chichester |   |
| Sun 12/10/25 | SOS Colour Coded | SOS | Colchester |  |
| Tue 14/10/25 | Street O series | SLOW | Richmond |   |

**Links:**

**HAVOC website** [**www.orienteering-havoc.co.uk**](http://www.orienteering-havoc.co.uk)

**HAVOC facebook page** [**www.facebook.com/pages/Havering-South-Essex-Orienteering-Club/277659605610134**](http://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/**](https://www.seoa.org.uk/)

**British Orienteering** [**www.britishorienteering.org.uk**](http://www.britishorienteering.org.uk/#_blank)

**Fabian4 (entries)** [**www.fabian4.co.uk**](http://www.fabian4.co.uk/#_blank)

**Racesignup (entries)** [**www.racesignup.co.uk**](http://www.racesignup.co.uk)

**SI Entries (entries) www.sientries.co.uk**

**The Orienteering Foundation** [**www.orienteeringfoundation.org.uk**](http://www.orienteeringfoundation.org.uk)

**Street-O style basemaps** [**www.openstreetmap.org**](http://www.openstreetmap.org)

**MapRun UK** [**www.maprun.uk**](http://www.maprun.uk)