



GLOSS Champions
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2017, 2018, 2019

HAVOC NEWSLETTER - November 2020

Chairman's Chat

HAVOC club members, welcome to our November newsletter update. Those of you who have been club members for a while might remember that our old bi-monthly club magazine Snail Tales included a 'Chairman's Chat' item to provide a context and commentary on the world of orienteering. Given all that is now happening in the world, I thought I would reintroduce this feature to provide a regular update on the fast-changing orienteering context. An example of this is that the newsletter content, provided to me by Newsletter author David Float, has had to be adapted since he sent it to take account of the second national lockdown effective from Thursday 5th November 2020. The most obvious effect is that all the fixtures listed for November are likely to be cancelled. British Orienteering is seeking clarification from the Govt but it seems likely that we will be reverting to socially-distanced individual training activities for a while.

Last minute cancellations of forest orienteering events have been a possibility for a while now and we have so far cancelled both the Weald Park and Belus Woods autumn events. We are still hoping to stage a forest event at Bedfords Park on 31st Jan subject to land permission and the Govt rules in force at the time. Given the uncertainty we will probably re-use courses from a previous event held there to reduce the scope for wasted preparatory effort.

The new HAVOC committee elected at the AGM in October has been considering other ways of offering some navigational challenge while forest orienteering is not available. We have been consulting with other clubs and are hoping to offer a mix of street-based navigation challenges through the winter, copying or adapting formats that others have found successful. We are investigating using MapRunner software to provide street-based courses that can be done individually using smart phones over an extended time window of a week or two instead of as an event at a set time. We are also looking at Orienteering Street Map software to offer street-O courses on a PDF map that could be done as an event or once again as a training exercise at a time that suits you. Such formats do not need control kites as we would simply use street furniture such as fire hydrants, bus stops and lamp posts. SOS have run successful evening street-O series in recent years, and we are considering joining them to offer a joint series in the New Year. Don't worry if you have not done such things before; keep an open mind and you might find they are an interesting change from the forest orienteering you are used to. Many details still need to be worked out but keep a look out for the new navigation challenge opportunities which HAVOC will be offering. David's item on the next page gives more details.

One final point I wish to make is that exercise is still allowed during lockdown 2, so do get out there in the open air, and walk or run for your physical and mental wellbeing. If you volunteered to plan a street orienteering event you could exercise while checking your draft courses.

Regards
Paul Beckett
HAVOC Chairman

Our Next Events – street orienteering?

With the ongoing covid situation and land use restrictions, our next forest orienteering event is scheduled for 31st January 2021 at Bedfords Park. That is a long way off, so we have been thinking about street-based alternatives.

The first option is to join with SOS in their Winter street O series, which is likely to begin in the New Year, and follow a similar format to their Back to Orienteering series that has just completed – manual writing of fire hydrant numbers, or similar, on a physical control card with manual timing. The courses would use Open Orienteering Map software to create street map PDFs with courses on them. We would like to do this as a series of events, if possible, but will also consider offering the maps and courses to be done in your own time as an individual training exercise if events are considered too risky.

The second option is to investigate the use of MapRun software for staging informal events. We are considering a series of monthly events in HAVOC territory (think Shenfield, Brentwood, Billericay, Laindon, Ingatestone, Stanford). To this end I have been liaising with the MapRun admin team here in the UK to get local admin rights to publish events. Hopefully we will have our first event in November, based on a course around Shenfield and Hutton, open for a couple of weeks for points into a league table, but remaining open on the app for future training or informal running..

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, Colin Jackson (secretary@orienteering-havoc.co.uk) for more information or to volunteer.

Details for future HAVOC events and those of neighbouring clubs are on the HAVOC website. However, they are at present liable to change at short notice so always check before you travel.

Last Month's Review

So, following on from the enforced cancellation of our Weald Park event in September, the Belhus Woods event that was due to take place in the first week of November has suffered the same fate.

There have been a few events in our local areas that have survived the lockdown rules. These have been both traditional and virtual, app based. I counted 15 traditional events this month, 10 of which had at least one HAVOC entry.

We saw the conclusion of the SOS summer/autumn evening street series with events at Bocking and Halstead. Dale, Guy and myself were the HAVOC representatives at those. Unfortunately, at the Bocking event I started late and then fainted when I stopped to check my map in the park area. Luckily, I was only "out" for a couple of seconds and then came to and carried on for a bit before retiring when it started to rain. Halstead was the longest event of the series, about 9km actual distance, and that included climbing through a couple of fences!

The Kent Night Cup started at the beginning of the month, and has now had the first five events, individual starts now we are in covid times, and a mix between actual controls, writing down lamppost numbers, control boxes but no kites on street furniture, and last night utilizing Map Run to record control visits, with a redacted map to prevent pre-planning. They have been more popular than in recent years – averaging about 40 runners per event, compared to the 25 or so in years past.

In weekend events, best attended by HAVOC were the HH event at Ellenbrook Fields and the SAX Kent Orienteering League event at Blean. Janet was our sole competitor at the WAOC event in Stowe to close out the month.

There are also a few “virtual” series that are taking place. DFOK’s winter series continued with their line event at Plumstead Common, just over the river from HAVOC. They had a short and a long event open for most of the month.

A little further afield was the MV event in Ewell. A score event this time, and interesting that with the MapRun format you can get the map ahead of time and thus work out your route before running. You can’t control the weather unfortunately though, and it was chucking it down with rain when I finished this one.

SLOW’s street O series this month took place in Fitzrovia in an event hosted by LOK, starting at Baker Street tube. This took in some of the parks and well known streets of central London. I ran it on a Sunday morning, so I wouldn’t have to wait too long at some of the road crossings! Reminded me of lockdown, running across Hyde Park with no-one else around!

Team HAVOC and Club League

Obviously there have been no opportunities for Team HAVOC over the last few months, and looking at the draft schedule, I haven’t seen any fixtures in the EA or SE league re-established yet. I understand that the EA League has been suspended until 2021.

Similarly, the HAVOC Club league hasn’t had any fixtures this season yet, and will probably be established again in 2021 when we have a fuller, more stable fixture list.

Relay Entries

All of the Premier Relay races this year fell foul of the COVID lockdown, so it will be next year now before we can represent the club in these. As always, contact [Guy](#) well ahead of the events if you are interested in running in a relay for HAVOC so he has time to sort out teams.

This Month’s Highlights

There were a few events scheduled this month but the national lockdown means they are unlikely to take place. If you have pre-entered an event, please check before travelling to ensure it is still on. And, obviously, take note of government, BOF, and event specific guidance before travelling and competing. Remember also that all events are pre-entry only, so no entry on day.

The SE League is currently scheduled with an event in November, hosted by SLOW in Winterfold. SOS are hoping to host a Colour Coded at Danbury Park towards the end of the month. The regular midweek series continue, as well as the next fixtures in several weekend series. Full details in the table below.

If the forest event do not take place there are still the virtual events that I mentioned earlier: SUFFOC, DFOK, SLOW and MV all continue their series with events in November.

Local Fixtures

Forthcoming fixtures in the SEOA and EAOA regions over the next six weeks as registered at 31st October are listed below. **However, the second national lockdown means far fewer events are likely to take place. Please check before travelling to an event.**

Thu 05/11/20	DFOK Kent Night Cup	DFOK	Whitehorse Woods
Sat 07/11/20	HH Saturday Series Stanborough	HH	Stanborough

Sat 07/11/20	SO SOG A3 - Rivers Wood, Balcombe (near Haywards Heath) **CANCELLED**	SO	Rivers Wood	
Tue 10/11/20	SLOW Street O series	SLOW	Richmond	
Thu 12/11/20	SAX Kent Night Cup	SAX	Perry Wood	
Sun 15/11/20	LOK Alexandra Palace **CANCELLED**	LOK	Alexandra Palace	
Tue 17/11/20	Winter Series	MV	Leatherhead	
Thu 19/11/20	SAX Kent Night Cup	SAX	Oldbury Hill	
Sat 21/11/20	Therfield Heath event (including Park-O) **CANCELLED**	WAOC	Therfield Heath	
Sun 22/11/20	SLOW South East League event **CANCELLED**	SLOW	Winterfold	SE League event
Thu 26/11/20	SAX Kent Night Cup	SAX	Sittingbourne & Milton Creek	
Sat 28/11/20	SAX Kent Orienteering League	SAX	Angley	
Sun 29/11/20	SOS Danbury Park Colour Coded	SOS	Danbury	
Tue 01/12/20	Gt Cornard Maprun	SUFFOC	Gt Cornard	
Tue 01/12/20	Wimbledon Common Night O	SLOW	Wimbledon Common	
Thu 03/12/20	DFOK Kent Night Cup	DFOK	Foots Cray & Bexley	
Sat 05/12/20	HH Saturday Series Verulamium	HH	Verulamium	
Sat 05/12/20	DFOK KOL 4	DFOK	Shooters Hill	
Sun 06/12/20	NOR East Anglian League event **HIGHLY DOUBTFUL**	NOR	Lynford	EA League Event
Sun 06/12/20	Middle Distance event, postponed from 18 Oct (fingers crossed)	GO	Chobham North	
Tue 08/12/20	SLOW Street O series	SLOW	tbc	
Thu 10/12/20	SAX Kent Night Cup	SAX	Scotney Castle Estate	
Sun 13/12/20	South East Families and Veterans	MV	Netley & Effingham	
Tue 15/12/20	Winter Series	MV	Ashtead	

Links:

HAVOC website

www.orienteering-havoc.co.uk

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

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