

Thank you all for running in the final event of the winter street O series for 2023/24.

The weather was dry and not too cold, and planner, Colin, made good use of the parks and streets in the area, giving a fair amount of route choice and some tricky navigation requiring close contact with the map. A fitting end to another successful series.

The courses will be available for MapRun catchups for two weeks, and then after for normal MapRun runs.

The courses were mostly on paths, although there were a couple of route choices on the long which involved some muddy fields! Colin cut the course lengths down a bit in the last few days, and this worked in that the winning times were within guidelines. We had a few issues with GPS coverage, especially at the start, but mostly seemed to sort itself out on the way round the courses. I did find my watch was registering visits a little off the controls, so I think it thought I was 10-15m away from where I was.

The results are shown on the website. Any queries, then let me know and I will get them corrected. Melanie Sirrett (Short) and Seb Parris (Long) were quickest on the courses, and both held on for the win once handicaps were applied. Tim had a fall about two thirds of the way round, but he seems to be ok now. Just one missing control logged for all the runners.

The series champions can now be crowned, as although the catchup is open for another two weeks, the top three on each course cannot be caught.

On the short course, David Game got full scores on six events, so took the title with an event to spare. Melanie Sirrett took two wins in the last three events to jump into second. Colin Jackson took third place, just Colin and Melanie attending all events (although so did David, although his event 7 bonus went onto the Long course).

Turning to the Long course, and we had Tim Hull and Dean Pepper attending all events. Lyn West took the early lead in the series, but she was pegged back, and Gary Chandler takes the title this season, with three wins from the last five events. Tim Hull narrowly takes third place, just 1 point clear of Seb Parris in fourth.

In total we had 39 entrants on the short, 48 on the long, for 328 runs in total. This includes MapRun catchups which were approximately 2 or 3 per race.

As always, thanks to the 10 planners/organisers for the events, without whom there would be no series. Thanks also Chris Childs for assisting in the series co-ordination for SOS.

Details of the event scoring are here:

https://www.orienteering-havoc.co.uk/results-archive/Laindon_West_Results.pdf

The series webpage is here:

<https://www.orienteering-havoc.co.uk/havoc-sos-midweek-winter-street-o-league-2023-24>

We are currently planning the next summer series, which will be run along the same lines as for previous series, and hopefully will provide MapRun catch-ups for all events again, meaning if you can't make it on the night there is a chance to score points in the league anyway. We will continue with the on-the-night bonus though to reward people for supporting the events on the night. This proved crucial in the podium places for the Long course this winter series.

Draft date for the first event in the summer series is April 18th. Full details will be found on the HAVOC website and will be emailed nearer the time.