

Thank you to those of you who ran at Norsey Woods, Billericay last night. The weather was lovely - sunny and warm, and I hope you got to see some of the beautiful Bluebells in the woods. Some of you may have also seen the Highland Cattle grazing in the field as you entered the woods – they were introduced a couple of months ago. I decided early that I wanted to make as much of the woods as possible – just using some urban streets to get you from the pub to the woods and back. I hope that the GPS signal held up in the woods – it certainly did for me when checking the controls, but I was walking then, so I guess it gives a bit longer for the signal to stabilise. There were loads of new paths in the woods since I last mapped on OpenStreetMap a few years ago. Sorry if I missed any in my remapping efforts – I spent a good five or six hours on three separate visits, but there seemed to be new paths all the time! Unfortunately, one of the ones I missed proved crucial. It was the end of a Bluebell trail, with a noticeboard at the end, which if you were counting paths meant that you then took one ahead of the one you were aiming for. I can only apologise for this. It certainly seems to have got some people rather lost. With the lack of clarity of the basemap for running in the woods, that probably made it almost impossible to follow, so well done for getting back to the pub! Lesson learned that running these races in woods using MapRun on an OOM basemap is probably not ideal! There was also a new area of coppicing that changed the long course a little, and threw one of the controls slightly off – again apologies. I then extended the long course into another open area – Mill Meadows, which entailed a bit of urban street transition, so I decided to have very few controls between the two areas, so it would potentially tax your skills in keeping contact with the map over an extended run. And then a few hills to finish – just to make sure you had earned your refreshment in the pub afterwards!

Marc Owen was fastest round the Short course, and Stephen Borril recorded the shortest time on the Long. They both held on once handicaps were applied to take the wins. It is early days in the overall table, as this was just the second race in the series, but current leaders are Timothy Hull on the Short, and Roy Read on the long.

Details of the scoring can be found at this [link](#).

Details of the all the results in the series, links to details for upcoming races, and to anytime maps and instructions can be found on the series [homepage](#).

The next event of the series is at Danbury Common, on May 14th. Details on the SOS [website](#).

HAVOC's next event will be at the picturesque ancient village of Stock on Wednesday May 28th. Details, [here](#).

