



Happy Herts Newsletter 265

December 2019

Note from the Editor

All members should find this edition useful with information about events and training. Let's also hear about your tips, stories or successes in orienteering – I look forward to your email.

Sascha, newsletter@herts-orienteering.club

Christmas training and social

This will take place on Monday 30 December from 10:30, while most people are still off work or school. We're using the far north of Ashridge near Ringshall, then moving on about a mile to Dagnall village hall. Full details are on the website.

Hope to see lots of you there - we adults need training as much as the juniors!

Future HH Programme

Full support and mentoring is available to anyone who wants to try their hand at Planning or Organising any of these events.

Stu, events@herts-orienteering.club

Date	Where / Type	Organiser	Planner / Controller
26th Dec	Boxing Day score, Trent Park	LOK	LOK
2020			
4th Jan	Northaw (SL)	Mike B	?
1st Feb	Sherrards PW, WGC (SL,YL)	Ben Bardsley	Dave Tookey / TBC
1st March	Ace of Herts, Burnham	Frances Goldingay & Gill Hanson	David Frampton Asst Dawn Figg / Tim Pribul
7th March	Mardley, Welwyn (SL,YL)	TBC	Kevin Parkes / TBC
4th April	Panshanger East, Hertford (SL)	Barbara Wiltshire	Hugh Wiltshire / Susan Marsden
2nd May	Stanborough, WGC (SL)	TBC	
14th June	Welwyn Garden City centenary Urban race	Roger Moulding	David Dixon & David Hodson / Hedley Calderbank
4th July	Highfield Park or Moneyhole Park (SL,GLOSS)	TBC	

Happy Herts Newsletter 265

Training tip – SIAC is great, but....

I [your HH Training officer] have a SIAC dibber which is approximately 3 years old.

At Hankley Common on Sunday it failed after 5 controls – and unfortunately I did not notice.

This meant that when I got to download I was disqualified for missing some controls.

My advice is;

- Do seek out the Battery Check before your run. This is something I failed to do and doing so may have meant that I could have used the SIAC as an 'ordinary' dibber.
- Try to check that at every control your SIAC dibber flashes (red) and beeps ie it is working. It took me a few controls to realise that this was not happening by which time it was too late.

The general advice is that a battery will fail after about 5 years.

However my experience whilst dealing with SI Controls is that batteries can fail without warning so don't make the same mistakes that I made.

Now some more information about the SIAC Battery Check, from SportIdent:

A station programmed in this new operating mode can be used to check the SIAC battery. When a SIAC is dibbed in the station there are three possibilities:

- *The Station beeps and 'OK' is displayed on the LCD screen – SIAC has sufficient voltage*
- *The Station gives several beeps at a higher frequency and the LCD displays 'LOW' – the battery has limited life but should last for the current event unless a lot of data is being collected from the chip for live timing*
- *The Station doesn't beep and LCD displays 'FAIL' – SIAC has insufficient voltage to be used contactlessly but can be used as a traditional SI-Card 10 until the owner is able to send it back to SPORTident UK for the battery to be replaced*

There is no problem if a SIAC is left in the SIAC Test station for longer than 1 beep.

Hope that helps. As usual if you have any questions please ask.

Keith (training@herts-orienteering.club)

BOF Development conference

The BOF national development conference is coming up 11-12 January. Find out great new ideas and play your part to help support your club now and in the future. There are one day or two day booking options and it would be great to see you there.

For more information visit https://www.sientries.co.uk/event.php?event_id=5899

Tweaks to Saturday series

You may have noticed we've made some small changes to the way Saturday Series is run this winter. This is to make them more consistent and keep them as simple events principally aimed at newcomers with just enough to keep the helpers etc interested:

- All Saturday Series now start at 10:30. There were some issues where Parkrun took place in the same area, especially using the same car parking. We'll now use the 10:30 timing whether there is a Parkrun or not.
- As far as possible, we operate on a single shift of volunteers. This means that the last thing the start team do is start themselves etc. There will need to be a few people around at last start time (11:30) to clear down start, cover SI and any enquiries.
- There are 2 queues on arrival, one for EOD to fill in forms, one for pre-registered people who only have to pay. Greeters make sure people join the right queue.
- The longest course is more a Short Blue than Blue, 4.5 to 6 km, so that it's not too big a jump from Light Green.
- There should be a little more 'colour' e.g. organisers adding comments on the event to the results pages.

We hope you see these as improvements - Stu Levene and Gary Flynn (Events) and Mike Bennett (Chair) are happy to discuss. We've updated the [HH wiki](#) to reflect the changes.

Future South East events

If HH Saturday Series isn't frequent enough for you, or you want to try a slightly bigger event, try these. You can find full details in this link: [British Orienteering Events](#) (filter by postcode with a 50-mile radius). Please check the event is on before travelling.

<https://www.britishorienteering.org.uk/event>

	Club	Event	Type
Sat 14 Dec	SN	Merrist Wood, Worplesdon	SEOA, Local
Thur 26 Dec	LOK	Boxing Day Score, Trent park	Local
Sun 29 Dec	TVOC	Chesham Bois	Local
Sun 5 Jan	HAVOC	Hadleigh Park, Essex	Regional
Sun 16 Jan	DFOK	Kent night cup, Gravesend	Local
Sun 22 Feb	WAOB	Wimpole Estate (nr Royston, Cambs)	Local
Sun 8 Mar	WAOB	Rowney Warren (nr Bedford)	Local

Help your club with IT upgrades

1. The club has purchased a new laptop to better manage events in 2020 and beyond. However we use three laptops even for a standard Saturday event, and more for larger ones, so need to upgrade more than just one machine.

You can help HH - please consider donating an old laptop, ideally Windows 7 or better – we could give a 6 year old machine with an intact storage drive could gain another decade of active use! Please talk to Kevin Parkes (our results guru) if you have questions, or, hopefully, have a laptop to donate.

2. Also, we are looking for your spare old android phone that you could donate to HH.

We use one for our card payment system and would like to get a handset to use specifically for event registration payments. With Christmas coming, do contact Ian Jones if you are able to give your old phone to a good home.

Puzzle corner

Thanks to John Duffield for compiling this month's puzzle.

Five members of Old Codgers OC had a bad month. They each attended one event, all different types, and all made foolish errors. From the information below, fill in the table (next page) to work out who ran what type of event, what time did they start, and what foolish error did they make?

- 1) Jeff, who ran the Classic, at least picked up the right map and started after 02:00.
- 2) Alice lost a shoe in a bog.
- 3) The Relay runner started at 03:00.
- 4) The runner who (should have) started at 01:00 left his kit on his front doorstep. This was not in the Sprint event.
- 5) One of the ladies started at 12:30.
- 6) The person who ran in the Score event forgot to take a compass; this event was not the last to start.
- 7) Lynne had the latest start.

The puzzle master has managed to make all of these errors! Answers will be available in the next edition.



Happy Herts Newsletter 265

December 2019

	12:30	01:00	02:30	03:00	03:30	Lynne	Sue	Alice	Brian	Jeff	picked wrong map	lost shoe in bog	forgot compass	left kit at home	failed to punch Start
Classic															
Relay															
Score															
Sprint															
Urban															
picked up wrong map															
lost shoe in bog															
forgot compass															
left kit at home															
failed to punch start															
Lynne															
Sue															
Alice															
Brian															
Jeff															

[ends]