



Happy Herts Newsletter 266

January 2020

Note from the Editor

Happy New Year and welcome to the new decade. Hopefully your New Year's resolutions include getting fitter, or perhaps older and wiser (that's mine!) when it comes to orienteering!

Do remember the next event is on Saturday 4 January at Northaw.

Sascha (newsletter@herts-orienteering.club)

Membership renewals

Happy New Year - which means those of you who have not renewed their membership are no longer members! You will no longer be eligible for the discount offered to British Orienteering members at our events.

You just need to go to www.britishorienteering.org.uk then log in to find the Renew option.

Happy Herts has an event on January 4th, so I suggest you join before then in order to avoid a non-member surcharge.

Susan (membership@herts-orienteering.club)

2020 HH Programme

We currently have a few spots for anyone wishing to try their hand at Planning or Organising an event - full support and mentoring is available to support you.

Stu (events@herts-orienteering.club)

Date	Where / Type	Organiser	Planner / Controller
4th Jan	Northaw (SL)	Mike B	Tim Bywater-Lees
1st Feb	Sherrards PW, WGC (SL, YL and WGC100)	Ben Bardsley	Dave Tookey / TBC
1st March	Ace of Herts, Burnham (National)	Frances G' & 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	Moneyhole Park (SL, GLOSS)	TBC	?

Welwyn Garden City Centenary

In 2020, Welwyn Garden City celebrates 100 years since its foundation and many activities are planned throughout the year to mark the centenary. One of the intended benefits of garden city living was the opportunity to enjoy healthy activities in the open air and sports events are a major feature of the centenary celebrations.

HH will be staging no fewer than 13 events. If you look at website <https://www.wgc100.org/> you will see that orienteering accounts for 7 of the 48 “signature events” in the first half of the year. There is now a dedicated webpage <https://www.herts-orienteering.club/wgc100/> on the HH website with a list of the events.

- The highlight of the orienteering programme is the urban event in central WGC on Sunday 14 June which is featured in both the UK and SE Urban Leagues.
- The most unusual event is an Ultrasprint on the evening of Tuesday 30 June, staged entirely on The Campus - a traffic roundabout!

The remainder of the programme incorporates most of our 2020 Saturday League events and some of our summer evening Street O events held in or near WGC.

A “Photo Trail” map is being created as a permanent urban orienteering course, featuring landmarks in the town’s history.

Apart from helping to celebrate the centenary, we are aiming to:

- Raise the profile of orienteering as a sport – (too many people still associate it with hiking, if they are aware of it at all!).
- Attract more participants to the sport and to HH.

HH will be running an extensive publicity campaign, in addition to the WGC centenary publicity, which we hope will attract many more newcomers to come along to the events. Novices will be directed to the informal coaching sessions, where Keith and Susan Marsden plus other coaches already provide introductory guidance. As it is impossible to predict how many new people will turn up, the WGC members of the club will be asked to stand ready to enhance the “meet and greet” activity.

The Centenary organization has arranged over £2,000 sponsorship for HH from local businesses to cover such things as the new urban map, the urban photo trail map, T-shirts, medals and trophies. Initially, we were encouraged to use the name “Garden City Orienteers” in place of HH in event publicity to encourage local sponsorship, and the current edition of the WGC100 “Souvenir Guide” uses that branding. However, we have now been allowed to drop the name and future editions of the Guide will publicise events under the brand name of “WGC100 Orienteering” (with credit given to Hertfordshire Orienteering Club).

Please put the dates in your diary and help us to attract new members to the club at the same time as celebrating the centenary of the Garden City.

Hedley Calderbank



Christmas training - One glorious Winter's morning

A glorious winter morning with a generous number of HH members combined to provide yet another club training morning. The Ashridge venue looked fine with the early morning sun coming through the trees onto the frosted bracken.

Four main exercises had been planned by Frances and Kevin:

- Two CARs and Lights, together with a Control Pick and a Map Memory, supported by various versions of Naughty Numbers.

A total of 33 - possibly a record turnout? - members and friends, young and not so young were invited to do as many or as few of the above in the time available.

Most people managed 2 or 3 exercises and some then went on to test their speed and reaction on the Alex-supervised Naughty Numbers.

Others spent longer discussing what had worked and what had not. As usual, there were a number of experienced coaches on hand to make suggestions and offer advice on how participants might improve their skills.

All too soon lunch time approached and so came to an end what had been a fruitful morning. Thanks to all who got involved by coaching, hanging and collecting controls or by coming along with the aim of improving their orienteering.

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A little explanation of the terms

- CARs and Lights - refers to the acronym CAR, designed to remind competitors that the way to plan a leg is backwards i.e. from Control to Attack point, then Route to the attack point
- Lights refers to the guidance given to orienteers that they should moderate their speed according to the section of the leg i.e. Green from start to attack point, Amber from attack point to control circle and Red within the control circle - just like traffic lights!

Both CARs and Traffic Lights help to emphasise the value of planning and finding a good Attack Point.

Do also remember last month's advice to seek out the Battery Check to check your dibber before your run!

Keith (training@herts-orienteering.club)

Enjoyable Boxing Day Score event

PLANNER'S COMMENTS

Boxing Day saw an excellent turnout for the joint HH / TVOC Score event at Trent Park (Cockfosters, North London).

Firstly, thank you all for coming along and making my efforts worthwhile, and very special thanks to Jim Prowting, Dawn and Danny Figg for helping me to collect in all the controls during the heavy downpour that followed the event. Thanks also go to Simon and James for getting up early to hang controls in the north and east area.

As the Organiser pointed out in her comments (on the TVOC website), there were more high scoring controls within easy reach of the Start and Finish, and it was part of my strategy to enable the 'slower' runners, particularly those who would have no chance of visiting more than about 20 controls, to score proportionately higher than in previous years. I believe the results have reflected this. I also wanted to try to give those who might expect to score the maximum of 600, one or two places where they would need to decide whether there would be time to detour to visit a 10 point control within the hour. Once again, the results show that a few runners who chose to do that must have regretted their decision on arriving back a minute or two late. The most significant detour was to 119 – the gate on the western edge of the map. One victim of this was Bethany, who, despite being the highest placed lady, in 6th place, would have come a comfortable 3rd with 570 points and no time penalties had she not visited 119.

One of my observations from studying the results was that Ian Buxton (TVOC) chose an optimal route for his given speed, visiting nine at 30 points and seven at 20 points with only three at 10 points, totalling 440 points from only 19 controls. Having finished nearly 5 minutes early, he should have had enough time to visit 137 and 114, giving him a total score of 480, taking him 8 places higher.

I received one comment expressing amusement at the siting of the control 'underneath a tree', which was actually inside the hollow trunk, and I was encouraged by the thanks I received from several competitors who enjoyed the 'course' despite the mud in the southern part and the brambles in the north (which I tried to avoid when choosing control sites).

Mick Smith.

Christmas presents for us

At the last AGM people commented on the large reserves the club holds. The committee has approved expenditure on 3 items, which will reduce the reserves somewhat but we expect will improve the 'event experience'.

1. A new laptop to act as server for events up to Ace of Herts size. We're still on the lookout for a cast-off if anyone has a laptop they are considering scrapping that will run Windows 10. We'll even pay you up to £50 for it, please contact Kevin Parkes or Mike Bennett. Our oldest laptop in current use runs Windows Vista, which hasn't been supported since 2017, although the SI software still runs on it.
2. To replace the yellow mini-marquee that didn't survive the gales at Ellenbrook, we now have 3 smaller quick-erect tents - but with plenty of pegs and storm guys. The idea is that tent 1 will be used for form-filling, tent 2 for payment and tent 3 for dibber issue and download. If you pre-register you can skip tent 1.
3. We're updating the club licence for the Condes planning software to version 10, which is compatible with the latest OCAD mapping software. If they wish, planners can still use PurplePen (which is freeware) for Saturday Series, but larger events and training sessions are likely to benefit from the extended functionality of Condes.

With judicious use of Black Friday and other deals, we've managed to keep the costs down for these purchases. We hope that you'll find them an improvement and that we get good use out of them.

Mike (Chairman@herts-orienteeing.club)

BOF conferences

The BOF national development conference is coming up 11-12 January. There are one day or two day booking options. Visit https://www.sientries.co.uk/event.php?event_id=5899

Separately, the British Orienteering Clubs and Members Conference took place on 16th November. Andrew Evans attended for SEOA and offers the following comments.

“The primary purpose of the event was to consult over the future priorities and direction for British Orienteering. There is a clear recognition that future engagement with members is important to British Orienteering in the development of the strategy and future of the sport.

There was a comparatively low attendance but a healthy and constructive discussion on a number of items. Detailed notes of the proceedings have since been provided by British Orienteering with these links to the [notes](#) of the meeting and the [meeting](#) slide show.

A few comments reflecting my observations from the meetings are:

There was a strong presence from British Orienteering with Drew as Chair taking a very active role in leading sessions and coming with a business perspective. The sessions were well focused, with plenty of meaningful member engagement. The strategic review is necessitated by a possibility of decreasing Sport England funding and against a slowly declining but ageing membership.

One specific initiative by British Orienteering is to develop a database of participants at events, including those who are non-members. This will give British Orienteering a better understanding of who the 17% of non-member participants are and should be beneficial to clubs in terms of less volunteer time needed to register non-members. This will enable non-members to register in advance without payment. Some SEOA clubs already adopt a similar approach and can see the benefits in terms of reduced volunteer time/less stress on the day but a standardised basis seems preferable.

One of the main areas for clubs to think about is the membership system. British Orienteering sought input on two areas:

- the October conundrum, where it is unattractive to join between 1 August to 31 October as a full year's membership is payable. British Orienteering seems to prefer a switch to an annual rolling membership model based on date of joining. Clubs will need to consider the pros and cons of chasing of non-members, which would need to be throughout the year. Delegates thought the task for clubs would be easier if more encouragement was given to members joining by direct debit as happens with other sports and charities.
- wider reform to recognise that “pay to play” is becoming more prevalent with “time poor” orienteers. Two main options being considered are to increase the levy per run but reduce the membership rates, or to have a differential levy for members and non-members. Clubs will need to consider whether the former unduly penalises regular orienteers or is a 75p extra cost small when travel costs are considered? With the latter, clubs can decide whether or not to pass on all or part of any additional levy cost for non-members to those participating. Its attraction is that it may encourage more to join as members and increase the pool of potential volunteers. A third option of a capitation fee was thought too complicated by delegates and was not strongly supported by British Orienteering either.

The intention is for further work to be done by British Orienteering with a view to proposals being presented at the 2020 AGM. Scott Collier is leading this review and would welcome views from clubs or individual members.”

Andrew Evans, December 2019

Future SE Regional+ level events

If HH Saturday Series isn't frequent enough for you, or you want to try a slightly bigger event, try these local-ish Regional & National level events.

You can find full details in this link: [British Orienteering Events](#) (filter by postcode or dates). Please check the event is on before travelling. <https://www.britishorienteering.org.uk/event>

	Club	Event	Type
Sun 5 Jan	HAVOC	Hadleigh Park, Essex	SEOA Regional
Thur 16 Jan	DFOK	Kent Night cup, Gravesend	SEOA Local
Sun 19 Jan	DFOK	Cobham & West Kent Downs, Gravesend	SEOA National
Sun 26 Jan	BKO	Star Posts, Bracknell Forest	SCOA Regional
Sun 26 Jan	GO	Farley Heath, Guildford, Middle distance	SEOA National
Sun 02 Feb	SO	Tilgate Forest, Crawley	SEOA Regional
Sun 16 Feb	MV	Netley Heath/Effingham Woods, Dorking	SEOA National
Sun 22 Feb	WAOC	Wimpole Estate (nr Royston, Cambs)	EAOA Local
Sun 01 Mar	HH	Ace of Herts/Interland, Egypt Woods. Slough	SEOA National
Sun 8 Mar	WAOC	Rowney Warren (nr Bedford)	EAOA Local
Sun 8 Mar	CHIG	Epping Warlies Park - SWELL/YBT heat	SEOA Regional

Puzzle corner

The answer to last month's challenge (in newsletter 265) was:

- Jeff ran the Classic event, starting at 02:30. He failed to punch the Start.
- Alice ran the Relay, starting at 03:00. She lost a shoe in a bog.
- Sue ran the Score event, starting at 12:30. She forgot her compass.
- Lynn ran the Sprint, starting at 03:30. She picked up the wrong map.
- Brian ran the Urban event, starting at 01:00. He left his kit on his front doorstep.

[ends]