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Editor's Spur

Alan Rosen newsletter@herts-orienteeing.club

The clocks changing could mean that it's time to get out your headtorch and charge it up.

GO's [South East Night Champs](#) are on Saturday 15 November (the day before the SE Middle Champs); both events are between Aldershot and Godalming, so easy enough to get to.

The following weekend sees SO's [Southern Night Champs](#) which are at Worth Lodge, just south of Gatwick (and there's an event at [Hindleap Warren](#) not far away on Sunday.

For a bit of variety there's also SO's [Brighton City Race](#) on 20 December – running round the city amongst the Xmas shoppers and revellers is, believe it or not, fun!

Night orienteering (in forests) tends to make the technical half of orienteering one level harder as you have fewer visual clues to help you – you can't see so much as during the day, whether or not you have a powerful headtorch – so it can be a different experience from day orienteering and makes you concentrate on your technique - the careful tortoise can sometimes beat the over-confident hare at night.

If you've never tried night-o before, don't be put off by the 'championships' label – it's just the same people running (and walking) as at any other o-event. And don't be put off by the night label either- it might be a bit colder at night but “there's no such thing as bad weather...only bad clothing”.

Of course, next February you also have the British Night Champs taking place as a 'home' fixture! On p5 there's a link to a Google form to volunteer to help with BNOC and/or the Ace of Herts the day after. Thanks in anticipation...





Forthcoming HH events

Date	Event	More Info
Sat 1 Nov 10:00 - 12:45	Fairlands Valley: Beginners and experienced orienteers welcome	Event Details Location
Sat 15 Nov 10:00 - 12:00	Club Training – Mardley Heath, 15th November 2025: Suitable for all	Event Details Location
Sat 6 Dec 10:30 - 13:15	Panshanger: Beginners and experienced orienteers welcome	Event Details Location
Sat 13 Dec 10:00 - 12:00	Club Training – Whippendell, 13th December 2025: Suitable for all	Event Details Location
Sat 17 Jan 26 10:00 - 12:00	Club Training – Sherrardspark Wood, 17th January 2026: Suitable for all	Event Details Location
Sat 7 Feb 26 18:15 - 22:00	BNOC 2026 Egypt Woods: British Night Championships	Event Details Location
Sun 8 Feb 26 10:30 - 12:30	Ace of Herts 2026 Egypt Woods: National event with courses for all including beginners	Event Details Location

For the most up-to-date fixtures, go to <https://www.herts-orienteering.club/fixtures/>

Newsletter Articles Wanted

We are always on the look-out for contributions to this newsletter. Please consider submitting anything orienteering-related, for example reports from events you've attended, orienteering tips & tricks, photos, equipment reviews...

Please send material to Alan newsletter@herts-orienteering.club. Copy dates are typically a few days before the end of the month; for the **December** edition it is by the end of **Thursday 27 November**.

Does this Newsletter reach everyone in your group/family?

Do you forward this Newsletter and other HH communications to other HH members in your group/family when it appears in your inbox?

If so, suggest they click on this link and they can get their very own copy!

<https://www.herts-orienteering.club/members-section/keep-up-to-date/sign-up-to-the-hh-email-group/>



Chair's Niche

Tom Cochrane

Two things from me this month: unofficial urban club champs results and a notice for our forest club champs in December...

Urban club championships results

With the great urban double header at Hertford and St Albans this past weekend, the committee has decided to crown some unofficial HH urban club champions.

We've used the same categories as for our forest club champs, and worked out the champions based on the combined British Orienteering ranking points across the two events, regardless of which course you ran.

Junior courses do not have ranking points, so intermediate/junior champions are based on combined times on course 6/7.

No HH juniors ran both days on course 7, so the champion is based on the fastest runner on the best-attended day (St Albans). The handicap category is based on your points relative to your last 12 months average, so it rewards those who ran particularly well relative to their normal level.

Congratulations to our 2025 HH urban club champions!



Men's Open

Daniel Hodson

Women's Open

Hannah Nesbit

Men's Vets

David Hodson

Women's Vets

Sian Mitchell*

Intermediate Boys

Csongor Farago

Intermediate Girls

Niamh Mitchell

Juniors

Daniel Elder



Congratulations also to our Handicap trophy winners



Open Handicap

Daniel Hitch

Veterans Handicap

John Duffield



** The leading Women's Open and Women's Vets performance was by Hannah Nesbit so the Women's Vets champion awarded to the next placed runner.*



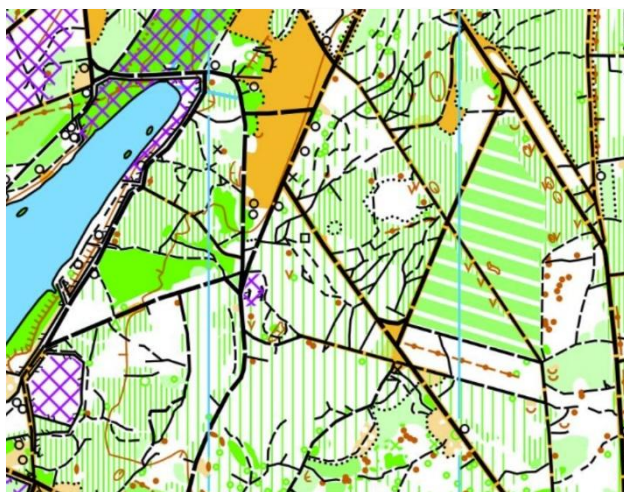
2025 club championships

This year we will hold the HH Club Championships at BKO's event at **Black Park on Sunday 14 December**. As always, the more the merrier!

Entries are not yet open, but the event details page is here:

<https://www.bko.org.uk/event/black-park-14-dec-25>

For now, please save the date - and I will send a reminder once entries open.



As a reminder, to be competitive in a class of the Club Champs, all you need to do is complete the appropriate course for your age group:

Open (M, W)	Blue
Veteran (M60+, W45+)	Green
Intermediate Boys (M14 & M16) / Intermediate Girls (W14 & W16)	Light Green
Junior (M/W12 and below)	Orange

In addition, there are two handicap competitions across the Open and Veteran categories (M&W amalgamated). Results for these are calculated based on your performance relative to your own [BOF ranking points](#).

Looking forward to seeing you there!

Incentive Awards

Congratulations to the following club members who have gained new British Orienteering Incentive Awards recently.

Member	Certificates	Awarded
Darrio Tam	Racing Challenge: Bronze Award ★★★★★	20/10/2025
	Navigation Challenge ★★★★★	20/10/2025



It's going to be a busy winter!

Mike Bennett

Usually, we have 1 event - perhaps 2, occasionally 3 - open on SI Entries. That's the next Saturday event, the following one (if we're within a couple of days of this one) and perhaps a larger event e.g. urban or Ace of Herts. This is what it looked like last week:

Events List

Date	Event	Status
Sat 25 Oct 25	WAOC Hertford Urban	Entries Open
Sun 26 Oct 25	HH St Albans City Race	Entries Open
Sat 1 Nov 25	HH Fairlands S	Entries Open
Sat 6 Dec 25	HH Panshanger (take 2)	Entries Open
Sat 7 Feb 26	HH British Night Championships	Entries Open
Sun 8 Feb 26	HH Ace of Herts, Egypt Woods	Entries Open

OK, there are some special circumstances: we're doing entries for WAOC as well so that people can get the discount for entering both urban events; and because Panshanger had been there for October there was no point in not opening entries.

The elephant in the room, or maybe the deer in the forest, is the [British Night Championships](#) and the [Ace of Herts](#), on consecutive days, both in Egypt Woods.

The Ace of Herts normally needs a good proportion of our volunteers to be available, and BNOC needs even more!

So we're asking well ahead of time who's

available. [Here](#) is a link to our Google Form - please fill in one for each potential helper, by **30 November** if possible.

We've tried to phrase it so that you can express your own preferences eg 'happy to help at one but if you need I can do both'. If you need to be creative with the use of free form text, please do so. This is an expression of intent rather than a full commitment - if you need to change your response you can edit your form at any time. We'll come back to you with a proposal.

With my Volunteer Coordinator hat on, I always say that the best way to feel part of the club, meet people, help others do the sport you love etc, etc... is to volunteer to help





at events. Even if you're not sure you have the skills, we can find something to suit you.

Finally, as you saw above, [BNOC](#) and [AoH](#) are open for entries. The British Orienteering website for BNOC is at <https://www.britishnightchamps.org.uk/>. So enter now! If you enter either event, then on the last page before payment, where it offers the option to add other people, there's also the option to 'Enter linked event'. You get £5 off the second one you enter.

Volunteers Needed 2026

We are getting close to a full schedule for all of the events up to the summer next year now, and have provisional if not firm planners in place for the scheduled events.

We now need organisers and controllers, so if you would like to volunteer, please contact Neil either at an event or via email at jngostick@ntlworld.com.

Date	Level	Type	Where	Organiser	Planner	Controller
01/11/2025	D	Saturday	Fairlands	Penny Parkes	Beatrix Li	Laura Parkes
06/12/2025	D	Saturday	Panshanger	Stu Leven	Alex Lines	Mike Bennett
26/12/2025	D	Score	Trent Park with LOK	Catherine Galvin	Tom Cochrane	LOK (Ronan/Julie)
03/01/2026	D	Saturday	Sherrards		Dan Hodson	
31/01/2026	D	Saturday	Nomansland	Ben Bardsley	Ian Byford	
07/02/2026	A	Night	British Night Champs 26 - Egypt plus	Mike Bennett	Alan Rosen	Neil Crickmore
08/02/2026	B	Middle	Ace of Herts - Egypt plus	Alan Rosen	Helen Marsden	Neil Crickmore
07/03/2026	D	Saturday	Whippendell	Mark Adams	Mark Adams	
04/04/2026	D	Saturday	Moneyhole	Tim BL TBC	Daniel Hitch	Laura TBC

Do put your names forward regardless of experience or age; if you haven't been a key official before we will match you with experienced partners.

Major Events 2027

For 2027, both as our contribution to orienteering society and to also deliver high quality grade A events for ourselves, we have been signed up to / have signed up for running **the SE Compass Sport Cup** round in **February 2027** and the **Senior Home International Relays** in **September 2027**. The latter is partnered with CHIG who are organising the Individual in Epping on the same weekend.

Ideally we want to get event officials in place now.

So if you are interested in any role please contact Neil.





Chair's Chat

Ben Bardsley

I'm afraid I missed it as I was away for the weekend, but I'd like to say a huge 'Thank you' to **Adam, Simon, David** and everyone else in the club who helped out to make the St Albans Urban event such a great success.



As part of a Hertfordshire Orienteering weekend alongside WAOC's Hertford event on the Saturday, with both events being a part of the UKOL, it appears to have been a great way to attract a good turnout with over 300 competitors at the St Albans event.

Looking through the club designations of the competitors, there are some who have travelled from all corners of the UK to take part and feedback from other clubs, competitors for the organisation, planning, mapping and atmosphere has been excellent. The club will have another opportunity to showcase itself nationally in February at the British Night Championships which will be our next major event.

November is here and from the BOF calendar, the forest events season is finally looking like it is kicking off in the South-East with more weekend events due. This includes the first South-East league (SEL) events of the season at the end of the month. I'm not sure whether SO will be catchable in this new season for the SEL, but it would be great to see if HH can challenge after finishing in second place in 2024-25.

JK2027 Update

It's still 18 months away, but the SEOA preparations for JK2027 are well underway. Joint overall organisers for the event have been appointed, who are Richard Field (SAX) and Andrew Evans (DFOK).

Locations have provisionally been selected pending permissions, all of which are South and South-West of the M25. Organisers and Planners have also been appointed with a couple of HH names included in that list. As is traditional, each SEOA club will provide helpers for one of the days, and with the appointments as they are, it is looking like HH will be helping at the relays on Monday 29 March 2027 so pencil that one into your diary...

The organisers are still looking for a few specific roles to be filled and have put out a call to all SEOA clubs to see if any members would like to take on one of those roles. Those four roles are as follows:

[Safety Officer](#)

[Entries Secretary](#)

[Equipment Officer](#)

[Website Designer](#) (There is a template for the JK website, so the person who takes on this role will ensure that it is completed and updated. This role is needed in 2026, as the site will only become live once JK2026 is over. A full role spec is being prepared)

If you have any interest in taking on any of the roles for JK2027, please feel free to get in touch either with me, or directly with **[Andrew Evans](#)** or **[Richard Field](#)**.



Introduction to the Committee – David Dixon (Street-O Coordinator)

I have been an HH member for a bit over 10 years but my introduction to orienteering was much earlier. My first event was as a Scout, on the Gower peninsula in South Wales on a very foggy day. I got totally lost, and did not finish - not a great start! I continued with occasional events as a teen, and joined the university club at Durham but my interest fizzled out and that was that for a long time.

We moved to Hertfordshire in 2012 and my new colleague Máire suggested I try one of the Tuesday evening events she organised. This was a bit of a baptism by fire - a gloomy May evening looking for small O-signs in Sherrardspark Wood - mainly without much success. However, due to the Organiser's (Roger Moulding's) complex scoring system I didn't do too badly - check out 28-May-2013 at: <https://www.herts-orienteering.club/results/results-archive/herts-arc-results-summer-series-2013/>



David competing at the Scottish 6 days, 2025.

We (me, Sarah and our two sons) soon became regulars at the Street-O and Saturday Series events and slowly branched out into some of the bigger and less local events. We've been to some of the more local JK Easter festivals, we tried to go to Croeso 2020 but that fell victim to Covid and we made our first pilgrimage to the Scottish 6 days event this year.

We've yet to get to an international event but a European sprint/urban might tempt us... Although I've always tried to stay reasonably active, I really do not enjoy running (or cycling) just for the sake of it. Orienteering helps provide that purpose, and the mental challenge of trying to map-read and navigate on the go absolutely adds to the enjoyment.

My ability to run has definitely improved faster than my ability to navigate and I've found myself gravitating more towards the urban and sprint formats, where I tend to do better. My biggest triumph was coming second at the British Sprint Championships this summer, where everybody made mistakes and for once I made fewer mistakes than a lot of my competitors.

Within the club, I was persuaded to take on the Street-O coordinator role in 2017 and have continued in this role since, apart from a pause when I became club chair (2021 – 2024). The role is an interesting mix of jobs – early each year I need to find around 20 volunteers to each organise a single event for the season, starting after Easter and ending early in September. I then have to agree dates and locations for each, and provide a guide of what to do. Then for each event, I work with the organiser to take their planned event and turn it into a MapRun-enabled course, and this typically involves a fair bit of computer work to produce the final annotated map and other pieces. I'll suggest changes where I think they help to enhance the event or meet our standard guidelines, and I'll make sure the event is suitably assessed for safety. I also handle the pre-event publicity and registration, map printing and the post-event



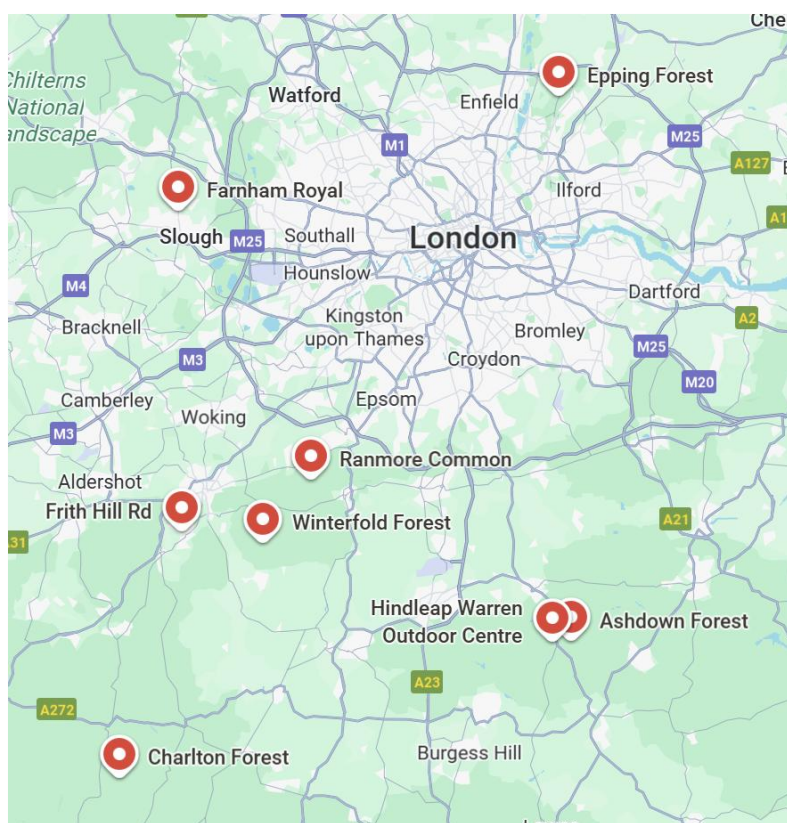
results. For the last couple of years we've had a Street-O league which adds an additional job in keeping track of the various scoring schemes. This all keeps me pretty busy during the Street-O season!

Outside the club, I spent some time playing around with the code behind Ollie O'Brien's excellent OpenOrienteeringMap site (that we use for almost all of our Street-Os) and then added some of my own enhancements. Ollie has now handed the OpenOrienteeringMap baton to me and I run and maintain the web server running this, serving around 100 maps a day to orienteers and other map users worldwide.

2025-6 South East League

The SEL is really two competitions, a club league and an individual league. In the club league, HH managed to win 7 consecutive years (1983/84 – 1989/90) but Southdowns have won every year since 1997/98 even if we did tie with them in 2011/12. How will we do as a club this year and how will you do individually?

23-Nov-25	SAX	Hindleap
30-Nov-25	SN	Frith and Windmill Hill
04-Jan-26	CHIG	Epping N
18-Jan-26	DFOK	South Ashdown
08-Feb-26	HH	Egypt Wood
15-Feb-26	MV	White Downs and West Ranmore
04-May-26	SLOW	Winterfold
10-May-26	SO	Charlton





St Alban's City Race: the planner's view

Simon Errington

A long time ago (2013) I planned the first St Albans City Race. Somehow I ended up planning this year as well after the initial idea of James doing it fell apart when he decided to go to Australia for three weeks instead. So how do you go about something like this?

The first critical issue was getting access to St Albans School. We had used this in 2013 and knew it was a good option. Neil Gostick went to school there (as did Ben Gostick, Quentin Harding and probably several other orienteers) and used his contacts to get us in again. A site meeting with the school was really positive and so we had our Event Centre. I even got to map a new area of garden that they had recently purchased, just north west of the finish. My initial courses all went in there, but eventually it turned out we couldn't use it.



The school is quite small but just complicated enough to provide a challenge, especially at the start and end of the race. I am always keen to keep the start and finish as close as possible so that suggested a start in the school. After that it was a case of using the technical bits as much as possible and fitting in some distance around the less interesting areas. Luckily the narrow alleyways around Market St, and the Civic Centre area with the Alban Arena, Magistrates' Court and Council Offices were all close enough to take the five senior courses there.

The junior courses need to avoid the roads. Course 7 was therefore as long as I could make it whilst staying within the school, Abbey Orchard and the Cathedral grounds. I tried to make it straightforward whilst not going overboard on controls. It ended up somewhere around TD 2 to 3 on most legs. Course 6 is always a problem since it is aimed at M/W16 who are technically competent and run very fast, but it is still subject to restrictions on traffic. I decided that the market and area of shops to the west of St Peters Street, most of which is pedestrianised, would be OK so with the help of a timed out road crossing this course got into some of the better bits as well.

The general planning approach was therefore:

- Start and finish with some short legs in the school.
- Use the alleyways around the market and Civic Centre areas as much as possible, going through them twice or more for the longer courses.
- Get the distance in with a clockwise loop out to Clarence Park in the north east and then long legs back to the bottom of Holywell Hill across what are frankly fairly large and dull blocks from an orienteering perspective.
- Try to offer route choice as much as possible, even if this is just two obvious and fairly balanced choices. Where there is no route choice option then at least try to have several decision points along the way so that people have to concentrate and keep changing direction.



- Everybody should see as much as possible of the Cathedral so they can fully appreciate the architecture as well as the length of the nave. When did you last have a route choice around a building that has been there since the 11th century?

All controls outside of the school needed to be gripped to something secure. This immediately limits the choice of control sites and explains one or two that are probably not exactly where I wanted them and not where they would be from a pure course planning perspective. I also had to avoid private areas which explains why there were no controls in what look like really nice bits of map.

The SRA3 map for courses 1 to 4 had to be very carefully laid out to make sure that the last control in the school grounds to the west, the northern route choices to 132 and then on to 130 to the north, the eastern exit from Clarence Park to the east and the critical hole in the wall south of 161 to the south were all usable. This layout took away any option of using the southern railway crossing on the Alban Way at London Road since it was inconveniently just off the map.

I went through several iterations of courses trying to get sensible course lengths whilst not going overboard on controls. I did a lot of map updates with significant changes in the school, around the Cathedral and Vintry Gardens, the south east of the Civic Centre and the critical northern path that control 132 was on. James and I test ran Course 1 (or at least the bits outside of the school) in September to try some of the route choices and to get a feel for how busy it was going to be.

David Saunders agreed to control the event and provided useful feedback at various stages. This led to some tidying up of control descriptions, as well as a more serious rework of the courses in Clarence Park. Originally I had just one control there (101) and then a leg to a control by the station before the long legs to the south west. David suggested adding the loops in Clarence Park to break up the road running and also split runners from the three courses. After some playing about I found three sites in the park and a site just outside which could be combined in three different ways and also had somewhere to attach the controls.

The last major hurdle was to get final agreement from St Albans District Council and the Cathedral. The main concern in the Cathedral grounds was that we could not use stakes for any controls since there is still potentially archaeology quite close to the surface. Adam and I gave a presentation to the Council's Safety Advisory Group to explain exactly what the event involved and what measures we had in place to manage road crossings and the interaction of runners with the expected large numbers of pedestrians in the city centre. We got the agreement we needed and so final courses (version 8 of the Purple Pen file) went off to BML for printing.

Getting 66 controls out on the morning is not a trivial task when they are spread over quite a wide area, none of the sites are taped since it isn't really feasible, and the majority need to be secured with a gripple which is a slow process.

I split things into five separate areas: School, Abbey, City West, City East and Outer. I left home on my bike at 7.00 and hung the outer loop, starting at Clarence Park and doing six northern controls and then five southern controls. I hung the last of these at the bottom of Holywell Hill at 7.55 and then cycled as quickly as possible up Holywell



Hill and through the Cathedral grounds to get to the school at 8.02 having already done nearly 8km. All the hangers were there and ready to go. I handed out the prepacked kits containing controls, control labels (explaining what was going on and with a contact phone number), gripples, map, photographs of all control sites, cable ties (just in case) and the critical gripple key to allow them to adjust things and unlock the control if there was any problem. There was time for a 10-minute explanation of what was needed before they all set off at 8.15 exactly as planned. I then put up the out of bounds tapes in the school and made sure the start and finish were laid out as required. Possibly the biggest problem I had on the day was that we didn't have quite enough red and white tape which is why you may have run past some "virtual" OOB taping with yellow stakes and nothing else.

Control	Order	Location	Hang on	Gripple	Stake	Photo
150	7	West	Road sign	Y	N	
162	8	West	Lamppost	Y	N	

David had an equally complicated plan for checking everything on the day and had recruited Alison as well as Angela and Jon Darley from GO (in exchange for putting them up for the night). Between them they checked all the outer controls whilst walking to the school, and then everything else following round behind the control hangers. Jon told me what I already knew so I fitted in a quick cycle out to control 123 to add a cable tie to stop it sliding off the railing and onto the ground.

Everything was in place and had been checked by 10.00 which was exactly what we had been aiming for. All that was left was to wait until the critical gate into and out of the school was unlocked at 10.15. I then went back to the start and we set the first runners off at 10.20.

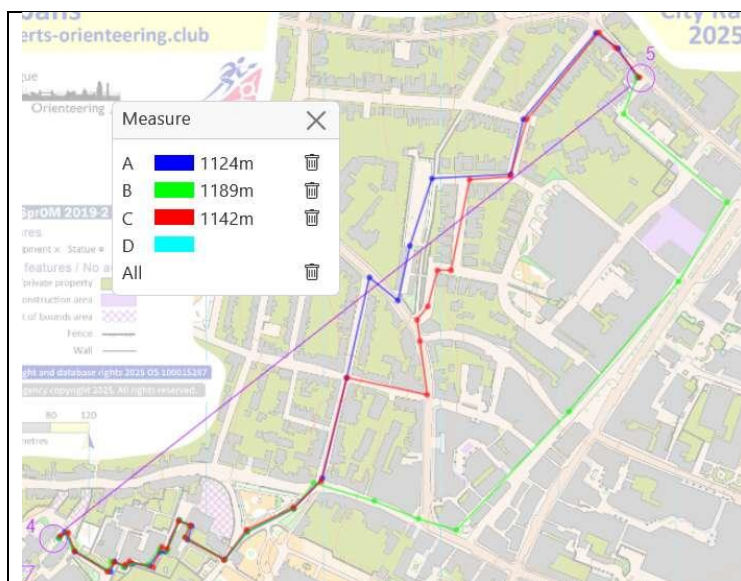
After that it is always just a case of waiting for finishers and hoping everything is going to be OK. People in the Event Centre were treated to the novelty of a spectator control with indoor viewing. I hadn't realised this when checking sites since the glass appeared dark from the outside, but five of the courses went to control 110 at the foot of the stairs at the rear of the Event Centre, either on the way out of the school or on the way to the finish. Runners started appearing and we soon had confirmation that all courses were OK. I chatted to a lot of finishers and they all seemed to have had a



good time, even though admitting they hadn't always taken the best routes. One HH runner decided that the hardest part of the course was finding a way out of the school.

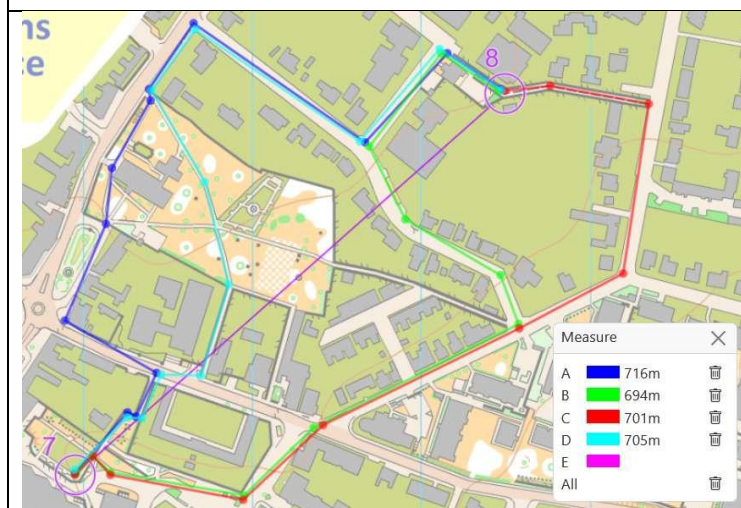
Special thanks to my control hangers (Beatrix Li, Richard Watkinns, Daniel Hodson and Alex Fielding) and collectors (Eliza Herman, Mike Trotman, Mick Smith, Jim Prowting and Beatrix again), and David and his controlling team for what turned out to be a very smooth operation on the day.

Route choices



Courses 1, 2 and 3 all had a long leg out of the school. The intention was that the short controls in the school didn't give you a chance to plan ahead. Most people took minor variations of the straight routes A and C. Route B is a slightly longer but very straightforward.

I would have liked to move the control at the end of the leg a bit further south but there was nowhere to hang it.



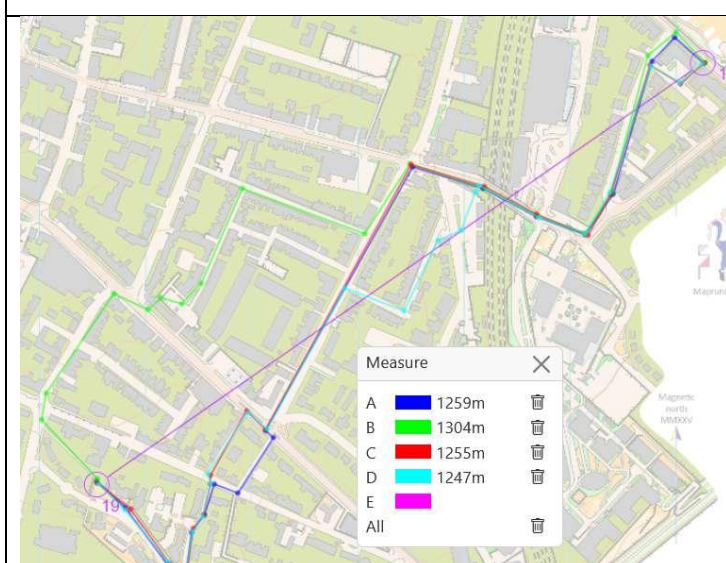
This was on Courses 2 and 3. Control 8 has to be exactly where it is to balance the options, which are all within 20m. Course 1 had a similar leg starting a little further south which biased the choice towards B and C.

I had never mapped this far north before but this path became critical to get the course shape I wanted.



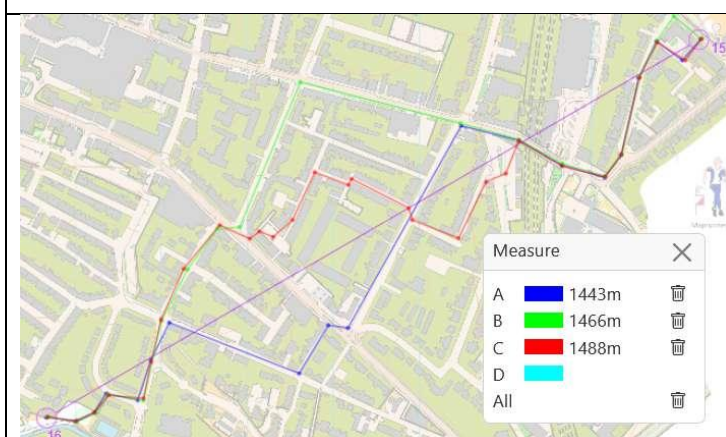
Courses 1, 2 and 3 all had this. Pretty much 50/50 for A and B. C is a mistake when you have failed to spot the gate into the estate.

The main cause of trouble was the dead end east-west road which at first glance looks like a short-cut option for B. Several people set off down this road.

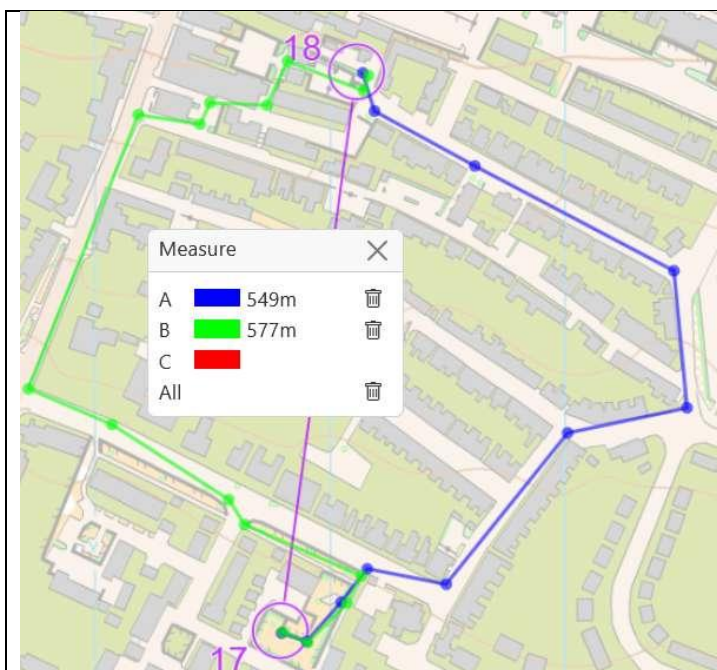


The long leg back from Clarence Park on Courses 1 and 2. The critical thing is to spot the hole in the wall SE of control 19. There are a number of minor variations but A, keeping it as simple as possible, is probably best.

B is slightly longer and could be made more attractive by moving the control NW up the path. But it needed to be where it is to keep the balance on the next leg.



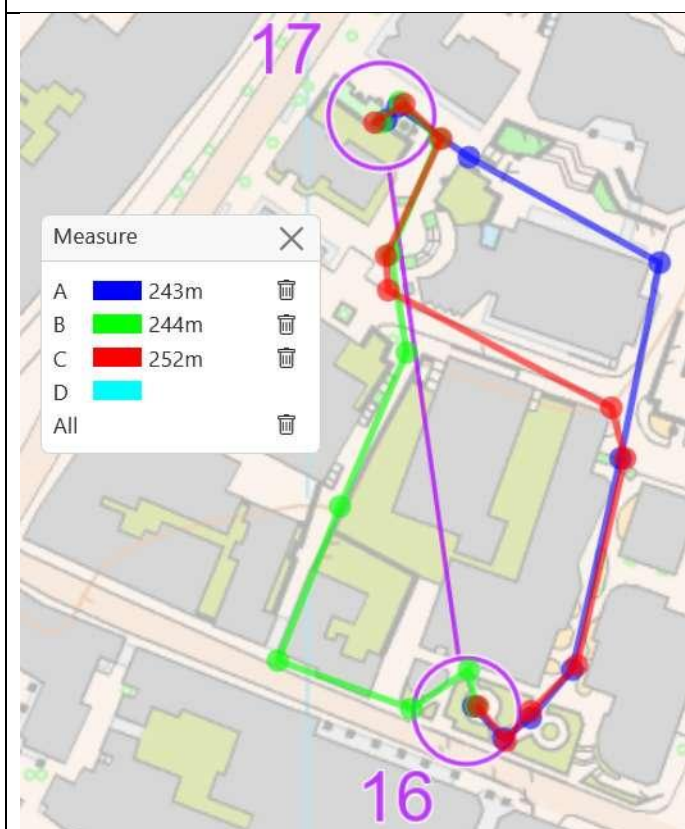
The other long leg back on Course 3. Not very complicated, but you do have to make a decision and get on with it, and there are several decision points where you need to be paying attention.



The hilly leg on Courses 1 to 4. A is shorter and navigationally simpler on the approach to the control, but a surprising number of people chose B.

I wanted the control to be slightly further east on the wall on the SE edge of the circle but there was nowhere to hang it and this was a car park so the control might be difficult to access.

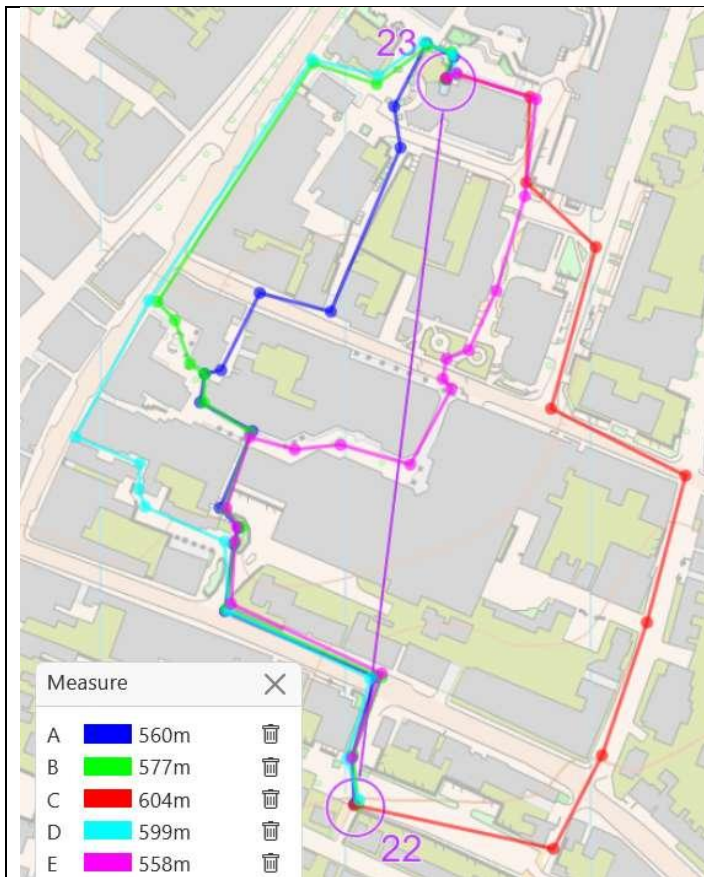
I originally had an extra control half way up the hill but it mainly added dead running and didn't seem necessary.



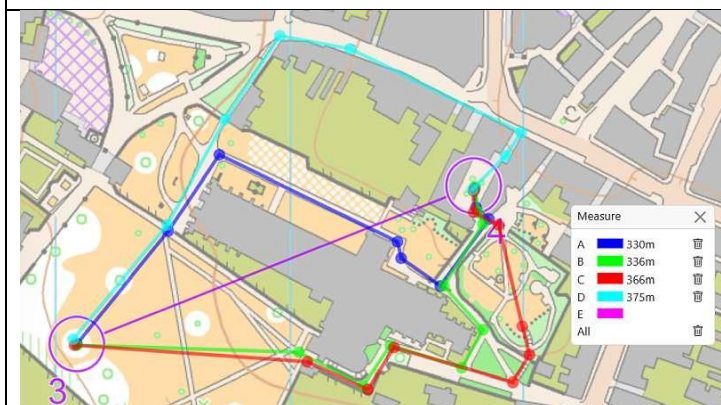
Courses 3 and 4 had this. Lots of people ran the red route which is marginally longer.

As a first approximation I work on the basis that an S-shaped route (or anything that ends up crossing the straight line more than once) is probably not the best option. Good planners know this and deliberately plan legs where the S-shaped route is the best option.

This isn't one of those legs.



Lots to think about on Course 1 just after you have run up the hill. C is longer but simple. All the other options need some careful navigation.



The route choice around the Cathedral on Course 5. Not a great deal in it but A is the shortest.



The leg back into the school on Course 1. The gap in the hedge by the wall was perfectly placed to allow control 30 to be hung there. I particularly like route B where you run in the wrong direction entirely for the first 50m.

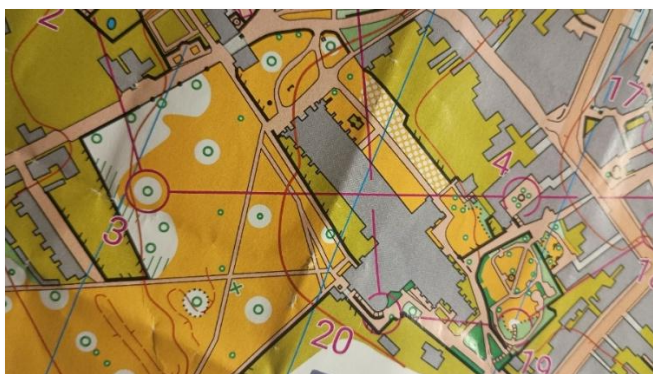


St Alban's City Race: the competitor's view

Neil & Ben Gostick

Classic 50:50 Route Choice at St Albans

Good Urban and Sprint courses are greatly enhanced by providing good 50:50 Route choice both along a leg and within one.



Whilst Simon's excellent planning provided plenty throughout the courses, this one on my course 5, struck me as worthy of mention.

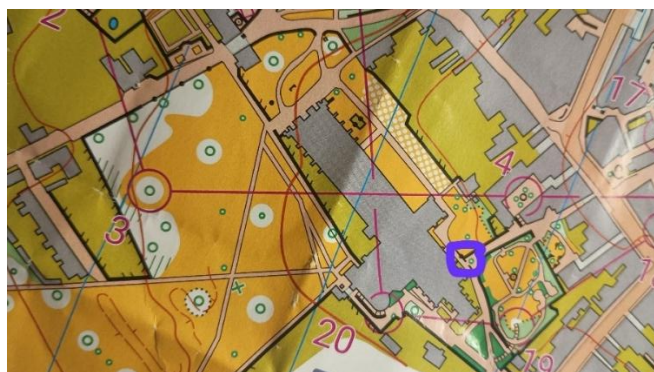
It's not often you get a 50:50 either side of a cathedral!

On the day I chose left as I judged it was mentally easier, which gives the advantage of making the decision faster and maybe going faster. It also looks a bit shorter (and more scenic when walking...)

But really the decision isn't whether it's quicker to the control, it's whether it's quicker to the point circled below in purple. That is crucial in route choice, identifying where is the decision to. Simon had many of those along legs and within legs.

Then it looks better to go right...

Ironically though in the end: Ben measured it and it's 6m shorter to the left.



I enjoyed it either way and it was memorable.

UK Orienteering League 2025

The events for 2025 have now been concluded and HH finished in a creditable 6th place, just three points away from 5th.

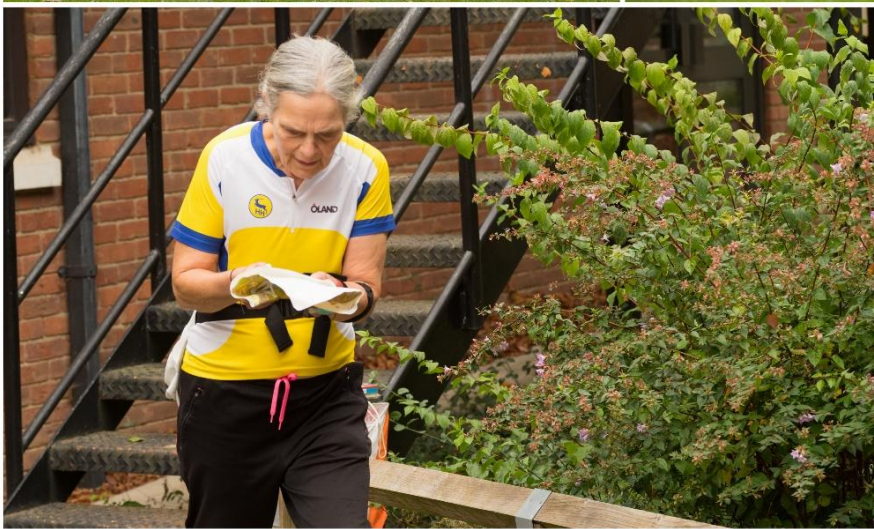


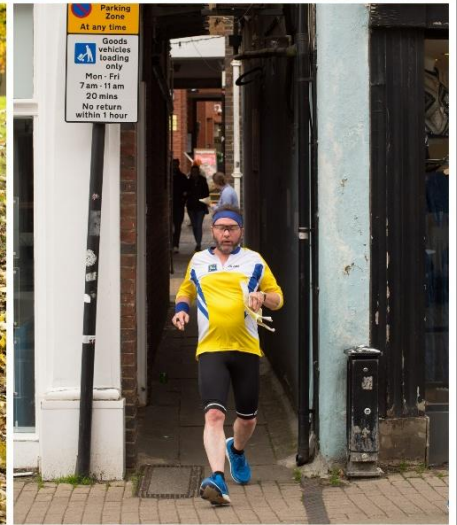
Rank	Club	Points	Contributing members
1	SYO	5527	Martin Ward (M55), Lucy Walwyn (W16), Alex Rothman (M45), Will Preston (M16), Andrew Preston (M45), Oscar Peel (M18), Lawrence Hodgson (M16), Peter Gorvett (M75), Bronwen Doyle (W55), Amy Brown (W35), Mike Brett (M60), Kate Brett (W60), Paul Bradbury (M65), Nick Barrable (M50), Charlie Adams (M60)
2	FVO	5290	Vicky Thornton (W60), Andrew Llewellyn (M35), Rachel Kirkland (W50), Scarlett Kelly (W18), Esme Kelly (W16), Will Hensman (M45), Lindsey Hensman (W75), Rebecca Hammond (W18), Paul Hammond (M45), Liz Godfree (W75), Roger Goddard (M50), Alison Cunningham (W60), Jon Cross (M55), David Coustick (M80), Laura Brown (W20)
3	SN	5088	Melanie Slade (W55), Charlotte Slade (W18), Gill Sharp (W65), Thomas Rollins (M18), Sarah Rollins (W45), Lucy Paton (W60), Emma Mansfield (W40), Peter Jones (M65), Jocie Hilton (W20), Jake Hilton (M16), Sarah Darley (W20), Katie Clarke (W50), Sue Bett (W55), Tim Beale (M40), Woo Allen (W60)
4	BOK	5021	Louise Tonge (W55), Isabelle Tonge (W16), Alison Simmons (W70), Marcus Perry (M16), Matthew Owen (M55), Iain Large (M35), Hannah Large (W35), Jackie Hallett (W65), Clive Hallett (M60), Leni Hagen (W18), Tommi Grover (M45), Paul Gebbett (M55), Clare Fletcher (W80), Carolyn Dent (W60), Alice Bedwell (W65)
5	SROC	4984	Lucie Todhunter (W45), Ellie Todhunter (W16), Ben Todhunter (M18), Miriam Rosen (W75), David Rosen (M70), Martyn Roome (M70), Heather Roome (W40), David Roome (M40), Andy Quickfall (M65), Deb Murrell (W55), Tom Matthew (M50), Jo Matthew (W50), Ciel Matthew (W20), John Embrey (M65), Jacqueline Embrey (W65)
6	HH	4982	Alison Saunders (W65), Janet Rosen (W70), Alan Rosen (M70), Rory Nesbit (M18), Hannah Nesbit (W50), Douglas Nesbit (M50), Sian Mitchell (W45), Ian Marsden (M45), Helen Marsden (W45), Viv Hodson (W60), David Hodson (M60), Isabel Hawks (W16), Benjamin Gostick (M20), Simon Errington (M60), David Dixon (M50)



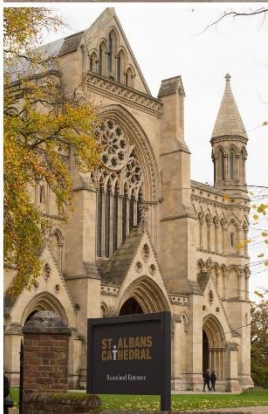
St Albans photos

Thanks to David Dixon for the photos











Future Events

Here is a provisional list of events from HH and nearby clubs, plus some regional and national competitions that may be of interest.

[fixture lists]

[British Orienteering](#) you can filter by region and club
[WorldofO](#) international fixtures
[Mole Valley](#) user-friendly and includes local & international events
[British Army OC](#) for Wednesday Military League South events
[Ofixtures](#) filter in several ways

[UK Urban League](#)
[Southern England Orienteering Urban League](#)
[UK Orienteering League](#)

[entry systems]

www.fabian4.co.uk
<https://www.sientries.co.uk/>
<https://racesignup.co.uk/>

Here is a provisional list of events from HH and nearby clubs, plus some regional and national competitions that may be of interest.

Date	Event	Area	Club	Level
Sat 01 November	HH Saturday Series	Fairlands	HH	Local
Sun 02 November	HAVOC SWELL	Dagnam Park	HAVOC	Regional
Tue 11 November	London Street-O Series	Highbury	SLOW	Local
Sat 15 November	TVOC Saturday Series	RAF Halton (TBC)	TVOC	Local
Sun 16 November	GO Regional	Puttenham Common	GO	Regional
Sat 22 November	Southern Night Champs	Worthlodge Forest, Crawley	SO	Regional
Sun 23 November	SAX SE League event	Hindleap	SAX	National
Sun 23 November	EAL Rushmere	Rushmere Country Park	SMOC	Regional
Tue 25 November	SLOW Night-O Series	Barnes Common	SLOW	Local
Sat 29 November	TVOC Saturday Series	Keephill and Deangarden Woods	TVOC	Local
Sun 30 November	SN SE League event	Frith & Windmill Hill	SN	National
Sun 30 November	Mildenhall South	Mildenhall South	WAOC	Regional
Sat 06 December	HH Saturday Series	Panshanger Park	HH	Local
Sun 07 December	SOS Colour Coded	Highwoods Country Park	SOS	Regional
Sat 13 December	TVOC Saturday Series (TBC)	Brill Common	TVOC	Local
Sun 14 December	MV Festive Event	Buchan Country Park	MV	Regional
Sun 14 December	SCOL01 and BKO Winter Regional	Black Park	BKO	Regional
Sat 20 December	SO Brighton City Weekend Morning Sprint	Preston Park	SO	Regional



Date	Event	Area	Club	Level
Sat 20 December	SO Brighton City Weekend Night Urban	Brighton city centre	SO	National
Sun 21 December	SO Brighton City Weekend	Stanmer Park	SO	Regional
Fri 26 December	LOK Boxing Day Score	Trent Park	LOK	Local
Tue 30 December	SCOL02 and SN level C event	TBA	SN	Regional
Sun 04 January	CHIG Mitre (SE League and SWELL)	Epping N	CHIG	Regional
Sun 04 January	SCOL03 and TVOC Regional Event	Penn Street	TVOC	Regional
Sat 10 January	Park-O	Wandlebury Country Park Stables	WAOC	Local
Sun 11 January	HAVOC Regional & SWELL event	Langdon Hills Country Park	HAVOC	Regional
Tue 13 January	London Street-O Series	Waterloo	SLOW	Local
Sat 17 January	TVOC Saturday Series	Kings Wood	TVOC	Local
Sun 18 January	DFOK SE League event	South Ashdown	DFOK	National
Sat 24 January	Concorde Chase Urban (UKOL)	Woosehill?	BKO	Regional
Sun 25 January	Concorde Chase & Southern Championships (UKOL)	Star Posts	BKO	National
Tue 27 January	SLOW Night-O Series	Barnes Common	SLOW	Local
Sat 31 January	DFOK KOL	Joydens Wood	DFOK	Regional

Confused by all the orienteering acronyms: SEOUL, UKOL, GLOSS etc? Go to Mole Valley's jargon buster at www.mvoc.org.