



Hertfordshire Orienteering Club

informally known as Happy Herts

Committee Meeting Minutes Thursday 18 September 2025 at 2000hrs

1	Present & Apologies Ben Bardsley, Hedley Calderbank, Tom Cochrane, Hugh Wiltshire, Neil Gostick, Kevin Parkes, Mike Bennett, David Dixon, Emese Svab, Simon Errington, Brad Smith. Apologies from: Alex & Jennie Soulsby	
2	Matters arising and updates from previous meetings (not picked up under main agenda items)	
	The minutes of the 7 August committee meeting were approved.	
	Newcomers area of HH website to be revised. Alice Soulsby has loaded improvements onto the development website. MB has made further suggestions. HC to bring to a conclusion by October committee meeting and allow committee members to review before release.	HC/JS
	Newsletter articles to demystify events beyond the Saturday Series. Tom's rota was agreed and is appended. COMPLETE	
	Mike to maintain a list of potential organisers and planners, updated maybe annually. Initial action complete – now ongoing. COMPLETE	
	Training of officials. (Organisers, Planners [19 July], First Aid [20 Sept]). Both COMPLETE. Idea of a club day or similar which would include exposing event helpers to organisational and planning issues still outstanding.	AS
	Agreed that club should trial another approved printer as an alternative to BML now that Hassall & Lucking are to cease trading. The aim is to trial another printer for the February (or late Jan.) Saturday Series event.	SE
	HC will trial publishing committee and AGM minutes on the website (with any appropriate redactions of sensitive text). Note in newsletter required once done.	HC
3	E-business – pending or completed	
	Ben has set up 100GB of One Drive storage for club records and believes there is no impact on personal storage allocation. HC will draft a simplified document structure for comment and then proceed to migrate documents from Dropbox. BNOC will remain on Dropbox.	HC
	Friends of Verulamium (HC email 19 March). MB will track activity of the organisation and take any suitable action. COMPLETE	
	Request from Skyswood Primary School for assistance in starting orienteering. Alex & Jennie have agreed to discuss with the Headteacher. The objective should be to draw the school into orienteering rather than simply providing a free service. Brad said this could serve as an entry point into other schools. Support materials are available from BOF website and experience from Emese and Jenny Gostick.	AS/JS



Hertfordshire Orienteering Club

informally known as Happy Herts

4	Specific Focus - Area development and mapping. The following areas were discussed: - Croxley Moor (especially for GLOSS) - Chipperfield (remap) - Burnham Beeches (remap if a September event is viable) - Hockeridge (check possibility of access with Kevin Fielding) - Tring Park (very unlikely) - Bramfield (needs further work on access and parking) - Millwards Park (might the view of the landowner/ manager have changed after so many years? – Roger Moulding was previous contact) - Abbot's Hill School - N of Ashridge - Capel Manor (urban/sprint) - Waterford Heath We have enough areas to stage our normal programme of events, but with considerable repetition. Fixtures sub-committee to progress any realistic possibilities. Simon said that he had updated most of the SS areas fairly recently. Simon was thanked for his work. Alex Fielding's interest in mapping noted.	NG/SE
5	Finance - Discussion on club reserves, including spending opportunities (e.g. event prices, publicity, development, equipment, member benefits) - Offering free entries to adult members at some relays and/or CompassSport Cup, possibly only in some financially profitable years. As well as a member benefit, it would avoid some tedious work for the Treasurer and Captain in chasing payments after the event. - In view of the above (and previous experience of 'no shows') there was discussion on introducing a system for collecting fees in advance. This would also enable discounted (rather than free) entries. HW to liaise with KP. - HW will use whatever historical data he has to analyse the cost of these proposals. - The current club tent is not large or robust enough for large events with bad weather. TC to discuss with David Hodson. - Better tables are needed for organising larger events. KP to discuss with David Hodson - Brad said that his publicity plans would require some funding (e.g. social media, flyers, banners to attract 'passing trade' before and/or during events) - Mike Bennett considered that the cost of the 'free kit for volunteers scheme' would continue at a similar level for another one or two years before gradually reducing. We could then consider a different or additional incentive.	TC/HW/ KP/DH/ BS
6	Captain - Club Championships agreed to be at Black Park event on 14 December. - TC to consider recognising the best HH runners at the Hertford/St.Albans Urban weekend.	TC



Hertfordshire Orienteering Club

informally known as Happy Herts

7	Chair	
	• Actions from AGM (including Juniors). Junior development, including reasons for declining numbers, is the Special Focus item at the October committee meeting.	JS
	• New BOF Events Officer – Josh Wright. Focus on attracting and engaging more people aged 16–40. HC will approach Josh to learn of progress and ideas.	HC
	• Presentation of club trophies 2024. The final presentation will be at an SS event (e.g. Panshanger).	BB
	• Conclusion of 2024-25 Saturday Series – awards. 14 winners. Issues have been resolved in correspondence.	
8	Events	
	• Policy on short model course for beginners at SS events. For resolution at Events Sub-committee.	NG
	• Volunteer to assist Events Co-ordinator. Necessary to approach individuals. Neil/Ben/Mike/ Events Sub-committee to progress.	NG/BB/MB
	• Buddy/mentor role specification to support novice organisers. Neil/Ben/Mike/ Events Sub-committee to progress.	NG/BB/MB
	• BNOC & AoH 7/8 Feb 2026. A further progress meeting was held. Explicit permission required for the preferred parking field.	MB
	• SEOA events, 2027 & 2028. No change from the last meeting.	NG
	• St.Albans City Race. Courses drafted. Final permissions can be sought now that control positions are known.	SE/NG
	• Neil to arrange a Fixtures Sub-committee meeting.	NG
	• No issues needing main committee discussion.	
9	Rotas for ‘Specific Focus’, ‘Meet the Committee’ & ‘Demystifying O Events’ Appended	All
10	AOB & Dates of future meetings:	
	Next dates are 30 October, 11 December, 22 January 2026.	All

Schedule for ‘Specific Focus’ slot

<u>Date</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Committee member(s)</u>
Previous meetings		
	Publicity	Brad Smith
	Find Your Way /Street-O	David Dixon
	Planner/Organiser/Helper Training	Alex Soulsby
	POC etc.	Emese Svab
	Volunteers	Mike Bennett
	Spending opportunities	Ben Bardsley / Hugh Wiltshire
	Area development & Mapping	Simon Errington / Neil Gostick
30 October	Juniors	Jennie Soulsby
11 December	Membership turnover, retention & expansion	Ben Bardsley / Hedley Calderbank / Susan Marsden
22 January	Publicity	Brad Smith

‘Meet the Committee’ articles for HH Newsletter

Rota (v2)

<u>Newsletter month</u>	<u>Approx. deadline</u>	<u>Name</u>
Sep-25	24-Aug	Hedley Calderbank
Oct-25	24-Sep	Ben Bardsley
Nov-25	24-Oct	David Dixon
Dec-25	24-Nov	Tom Cochrane
Jan-26	24-Dec	Hugh Wiltshire
Feb-26	24-Jan	David Hodson
Mar-26	24-Feb	Neil Gostick
Apr-26	24-Mar	Emese Svab
May-26	24-Apr	Kevin Parkes
Jun-26	24-May	Brad Smith
Jul-26	24-Jun	Jennie Soulsby
Aug-26	24-Jul	Simon Errington
Sep-26	24-Aug	Mike Bennett
Oct-26	24-Sep	(vacant)
Nov-26	24-Oct	Jacob Sharpe
Dec-26	24-Nov	Alex Soulsby

‘Demystifying O Events’ articles for HH Newsletter

Rota

October 25 - Yvette Baker Trophy - Soulsbys

November 25 - JK (incl. relays) - Simon Errington

December 25 - BOC (incl. relays) - Ben Bardsley

January 26 - Compass Sport Cup - Mike Bennett

February 26 - SEOUL(or urban leagues in general) - David Dixon

March 26 - Jukola - Tom Cochrane

April 26 - Peter Palmer relays - Emese Svab