

ISSUE 167

Jan 2016



# SAXALERT

[www.saxons-oc.org](http://www.saxons-oc.org)



**The Christmas KOL at Ightham**

# SAX NOTICES

**CLUB OUTING TO  
BANFF MOUNTAIN FILM FESTIVAL;  
GULBEKIAN CANTERBURY on Wed Mar 2nd  
ASSEMBLY HALLS, TUNBRIDGE WELLS on Thurs April 7**

**We get discount if we buy in bulk. Please e-mail Cate Slade ASAP to book a ticket in Tunbridge Wells. See contacts page**

## OTHER SOCIAL SUGGESTIONS

**- Cycle Canterbury to Whitstable/ photo O in Whitstable- Mid summer?  
Meal Out- Ashford? -Spring or Autumn?  
General day out trip to Margate(Dreamland) and/or Deal/Dover (castles)  
FEEDBACK PLEASE TO CATE OR THE EDITOR. WOULD YOU LIKE TO  
PARTICIPATE OR HELP ORGANISE?**

## JUNIOR NOTICE

**Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> March there is the regional heat of the Juniors Yvette Baker  
Trophy.  
Chelwood Vachery on the Ashdown Forest  
. See junior pages for more details**

## CONTENTS

Editorial	1
Newcomers page	2
Sax sales	3
Chairman's Chat	5
BOF performance awards	6
Events coming up	7
Letters to the editor	9
Junior Pages	11
COACHES CORNER	
a Search & Rescue	13
b) Using the Saxons Facebook Page	15
c) Making Street orienteering maps	17

ORIENTEERING FORMATS	
a) Urban	18
b) Horse	21
c) Poker	22
d) Hockey Club	23
SAX PUZZLES	24
SAXONS RANKINGS	26
Orienteering History- CROC	27
SAXONS OUT AND ABOUT	28
AGM & Committee meeting précis	35
Club contacts list	36
SAX Puzzles answers	37

# Editorial

Orienteers can be an odd bunch. There are folks who just want to do some exercise, get a new challenge, turn up and go home. It is very possible to attend an orienteering event every weekend and not actually speak to anyone. It is an ideal activity for people who find dealing with other people quite difficult because they just don't have to if they don't want to.



Does this matter? Put yourself in the place of a Newcomer to our Club. If everyone turns up and goes home without talking to anyone how are newcomers ever going to get to meet anyone in the Club. As a Club, I like to think we are quite good at chatting to people who before they go off on their course - - as long as it's not too busy on Registration or we have a designated "Ask me for Help" person wearing a yellow bib. And even this only works if you need to go to Registration. In these days of pre-entry using Fabian 4 we tell people who have pre-entered they can go straight to the Start. We have one new member who did just that, went to the Start without a dibber, did his course and went home. Was that a good club experience?

We have had newcomers join the club who have stayed for a year or two, perhaps turned up to the occasional training event (yes we do hold them sometimes and maybe they thought that would be a good way to meet other members) but in the end they let their membership lapse having not got to know anyone in the club. Feedback was that we are too competitive. This is shame, obviously the newcomer never got to meet those members like me who like to amble round with a map and know they are never going to win any prizes.

I would like to float a new idea. As well as the "Ask me for Help" person who lingers at Registration to chat to newcomers and offer advice before they go off on their course; my suggestion is that we should also have a person or two in yellow bibs floating around Download so that everyone, especially newcomers and juniors get a chance to discuss their route with someone AFTER their course and BEFORE they go home. Talking about your route with someone is one of the best ways to learn. Download is a much better place to get to know people than Registration because there is no time pressure. My message to Organisers is that we need a minimum of 2 people on Registration one to take money and one to talk to people with queries and welcome newcomers - and we need 2 people on Download one to do the IT and one to chat to people about their route - especially newcomers and juniors. Newcomers and Juniors - make sure you grab someone and talk through your route before you go home.

The Kent Night Cup (our weekly evening event) is a model for what I am talking about. We all finish at about the same time (one hour after the start) and stand around discussing our routes and then lots of us go to the pub and carry on discussing our maps and socialising. So if you are new to the Club, the Kent

Night Cup really is the best way to get to know to know people in the Club and to improve your navigation. You will need a head torch and there are club members who will not mind you accompanying them on your first foray or two. And if you are a Kent Night Cup regular and you see a new person - ask them how many they found and where they got lost. Offer constructive suggestions and invite them to the pub.

Then perhaps we can dispel the belief that orienteers are an odd bunch.

**Rowan Purkis**

## **NEWCOMERS PAGE**

*We are delighted to welcome Debby Darby (W50) and Jon Aldridge (M21) from Whitstable as new members*

We know you have loads of questions when you first start orienteering. Do ask the people on Registration. If they are busy they will always find someone to help you. Make sure you also talk over your map after you have downloaded with someone in the club. All members will be delighted to help you talk through your route. This is a good way get tips from more experienced members.

Below are some questions that newcomers tend to ask? If you have a question, please send it to the Editor [saxalert@saxons-oc.org](mailto:saxalert@saxons-oc.org) . We will publish a reply on, an anonymous basis if you wish.

### **Frequently Asked Questions**

#### **1. You all talk in jargon – the JK, KOL, KNC, what do they all mean?**

Yes, everything has short hand codes just like where you work. There is a "jargon buster" on the Mole Valley OC website [http://www.mvoc.org/Jargon\\_Buster.htm](http://www.mvoc.org/Jargon_Buster.htm). It is written by Ian Ditchfield from MVOC who attends a lot of our night events. If you hear any jargon not on his list do let him know or e-mail the Editor

#### **2. A lot of the events sound very competitive because they are described as Championships. This is very off-putting and I am worried I am not good enough to turn up.**

Do not let the title put you off. Virtually all orienteering events have courses for newcomers with a range of courses at varying technical

difficulties. A lot of experienced orienteers are not particularly competitive anyway and enter to enjoy the challenge of the course and the scenery, knowing they will never win any prizes.

**3. I recently progressed to a Light Green course and found the control descriptions were all in code. How can I learn them and why are they like this?**

- a. They are in code for 2 reasons i) to save space in your control description holder and ii) so that you can orienteer all over the world and not have to read descriptions in a foreign language
- b. You can learn them online here <http://www.maprunner.co.uk/iof-control-descriptions/>
- c. And you can test yourself with 2 online games
  - i. <http://www.richtig-orientieren.de/icd/>.
  - ii. <http://www.maprunner.co.uk/cd/>

## **SAXONS RUNNING TOPS**

Purchase a Club top so that other Saxons easily spot you, especially when you attend other Clubs' events. New tops are purple. Some white tops still in stock. Ring or e-mail Nigel for details.

Regular juniors will be lent a Saxons Junior Squad top.



**SAX KIT ORDERING DETAILS**  
Contact Nigel Hills, on 01233  
630779 or [blackvally@yahoo.com](mailto:blackvally@yahoo.com),  
to purchase any item



## Quidditch 1 Orienteering 0

As all readers of Sax Alert know, I look after the Saxons Kit and just recently I was asked to research for some possible additions to our kit.

To that end I surfed the Web looking at sports clothing manufacturers and suppliers websites, after some time I noticed a common theme and that was, not a single reference to our sport.

Worse followed, I recall one particular website, that had a proud boast that it was the supplier to the National Barbadian Rugby Team, the drop down menu offered a selection of sports, the usual choices were there; Athletics, Cricket, Football, Rugby, followed by the less common such as Curling, Dodge Ball, Roller Ball and finally Quidditch.

For those of you who don't know, Quidditch is the game from the Harry Potter books and films, played on flying broomsticks.

Our Orienteering needs are well catered for by specialist sports retailers such as Ultrasport and you can argue that it is no problem if other retailers don't want our custom, but I believe most simply don't know Orienteering exists.

I can also recall a certain walking magazine reviewing a selection of five different compasses, one of which was a small button type looking like something that falls out of a Christmas cracker, the reviewer came to the conclusion that it was unsuitable for navigation and therefore could only be used for Orienteering! (Yes, I sent them an Email).

These are two examples of how our sport has failed to get its message across, as has been previously noted by other club members in this magazine.

Compare this to Triathlon, a sport that in a relative short time has managed to go from inception to a televised Professional World Series and Olympic Sport. Perhaps this should be our model, and may be people will one day speak proudly of completing an Orienteering(athon) as they do of Triathlon.

**Nigel Hills**

## CHAIRMAN'S CHAT



It's a new year and time for sloughing off those resolutions that you made but are unlikely to keep. However, why not make a belated resolution this year to keep, and if you haven't already, orienteer in areas other than the south east?

The JK, the orienteering festival held every Easter weekend, is in Yorkshire in 2016. If you haven't been before why not have a go? Saxons normally have a good presence at these UK events and the club tents are erected so you can come and meet other club members and socialise after your run. As part of the JK there's a relay event which gives you a chance to run for the club. Don't worry-whatever your ability we will put you in a friendly team so you can soak up the atmosphere of these big events.

The CompassSport Cup is another opportunity to run for the club. This inter club competition requires entries in a range of age categories so the more of you that take part the better our chances of success. This event is likely to be in March. Our team Captain, Mark Glaisher will contact everyone when the date is finalised. Saxons are organising the SE relays this year in Knole Park. We hope as many as possible of you will be taking part in this-again we can organise relay teams for any level of ability and there will be courses for juniors and near beginners. Don't be put off by relay events-they are great fun!

We also aim to run a summer series of events for members and to encourage people who haven't orienteered before to 'have a go'. Further details will be available later in the year-make sure your interested friends and relatives get the details. There are lots of events out there-you can take part every weekend if you don't mind a little travel. Do check the events page on the British Orienteering website for events organised by different clubs across the country.

Talking of websites, you will (I hope) have noticed we now have a new website. Do please let us have your feedback. Send comments to me and I will pass them on to the relevant people. We do not have a 'members only' area on this site so we will be producing a hard copy members' contact list which will be sent to all members. If you haven't renewed your membership you will not be included in this list so this is a reminder to renew ASAP.

Finally, on behalf of the committee I would like to wish you all a happy orienteering New Year.

Jean

**Jean Fitzgerald**

## BOF PERFORMANCE AWARDS

**Congratulations to all those listed below who have gained BOF performance awards since the last edition**

Member	Certificates	Star	Awarded
Beryl Pring	Racing Challenge: Bronze Award	4*	30/10/2015
	Navigation Challenge	4*	11/10/2015
Bohdan Rainczuk	Navigation Challenge	4*	11/10/2015
Brian Dinsley	Navigation Challenge	4*	30/10/2015
Henry Taylor	Racing Challenge: Gold Award	3*	30/10/2015
	Racing Challenge: Silver Award	3*	29/09/2015
	Racing Challenge: Bronze Award	3*	29/09/2015
	Navigation Challenge	3*	29/09/2015
Joanne Hickling	Racing Challenge: Silver Award	4*	30/10/2015
	Racing Challenge: Bronze Award	4*	30/10/2015
	Navigation Challenge	4*	30/10/2015
John Capeling	Navigation Challenge	4*	11/10/2015
Katie Taylor	Racing Challenge: Silver Award	5*	23/11/2015
Matthew Taylor	Racing Challenge: Gold Award	3*	23/11/2015
	Racing Challenge: Silver Award	3*	29/09/2015
Philip Norris	Racing Challenge: Silver Award	5*	21/12/2015
Roger Pring	Navigation Challenge	4*	11/10/2015
Sean Cronin	Racing Challenge: Gold Award	2*	15/11/2015
Simon Chapman	Navigation Challenge	5*	30/10/2015
Tony Connellan	Racing Challenge: Bronze Award	4*	30/10/2015

### ARE YOU MISSING AN AWARD?

1. If you are lending your personal dibber to another member make sure their BOF number goes on the form otherwise BOF will assume the person who owns the dibber ran the course irrespective of what is in the results file. If you put your BOF number instead of your child's because you cannot remember theirs, you will get the award not them.
2. If you are a BOF member and hiring a Saxons dibber it is very important to put your BOF number on the registration form otherwise BOF will not attribute your results to your membership account. **JUNIORS PLEASE NOTE**

### NAVIGATION AWARDS

Members are eligible for a Navigation Challenge certificate after successfully completing 3 colour coded courses at the same Technical Difficulty (TD) standard. The certificates are 'star' based e.g. 1 star for TD 1 up to 5 Star for TD 5. . You will receive an e-mail from BOF when you receive an award.



## RACING AWARDS

Members are eligible for a Racing Challenge certificate after successfully completing 3 colour coded courses (of the same TD) within the following times:

- Gold Award. Participants time < Course Length (KM) x 12.5mins
- Silver Award. Participants time < Course Length (KM) x 15mins
- Bronze Award. Participants time < Course Length (KM) x 20mins

These certificates are also 'star' based e.g. 1 star for TD 1 up to 5 Star for TD 5 as above.

### Tips on how to win your age group

The Editor explained the detail of UKOL in the last edition though she didn't say that it all based on your BOF age class. Look back to last edition to get the rest of the detail. Now you've got all the background I'll tell you ways to attain that lofty summit— very much tongue in cheek.

The best way to have a chance of winning is to be the best in the country! In 2015 there were two people who managed to get 500 points –a junior male and a senior female (who attended 15 events) and there were another 11 who got 490 points or more. In total there are 30 classes. I managed to win my class with only 461 points so obviously I'm not the best in the country. Another way to win is to be in a class with a limited number of competitors and these tend to be amongst the older age groups so I certainly qualify on that score. But you still have to attend and score points in your ten events. Obviously the more you can attend the possibility to discard bad scores is greater. I attended 12, mispunched at one so I had 11 from which to choose my best 10. So far so good but those ten events were as far apart as Dorking and Inverness with the Forest of Dean, Lake District and Yorkshire Dales thrown in. So the next point is you have to have time (I'm retired) and sufficient income to travel around the country and stay in B&BS etc. And this of course is where most people come unstuck as their incomes have to go further and they have commitments (schools, parents, non-orienteeing family etc) to restrict them. And most of my fellow Saxons are of a younger age group where the numbers are much larger and there is far more competition.

But I still had to keep an eye on my opposition in M75. There are three who should have beaten me and I acknowledge their superiority but one did 9 events and the other two only did 6. Only one other did 12, the same as me and my points were better. So I managed to win in 2015 after trying all the other years UKOL has been in existence. Four I think!

**Jeremy Oldershaw**

### A SELECTION OF ORIENTEERING EVENTS COMING UP

Sun 17/01/16	CHIG The Michael Brandon Mitre B Event	B	CHIG	Epping North
Thu 21/01/16	SAX Kent Night Cup	D	SAX	Sittingbourne
Sat 23/01/16	SO SOG A9. Abbots Wood (north),	D	SO	Abbots Wood, Polegate, Eastbourne
Thu 28/01/16	SAX Kent Night Cup	D	SAX	Haysden, Tonbridge
Thu 04/02/16	SAX Kent Night Cup	D	SAX	Hindleap, Wych Cross

Sat 06/02/16	SAX KOL	D	SAX	Tudeley, Pembury
Sun 07/02/16	Mole Valley Ranking & SEL Event	B	MV	White Downs & Netley Heath, Dorking
Thu 11/02/16	DFOK Kent Night Cup	D	DFOK	Joydens Wood, Bexley
Sun 14/02/16	SAX District Event	C	SAX	Blean Wood, Faversham
Thu 18/02/16	SAX Kent Night Cup	D	SAX	Walderslade, Chatham
Sat 20/02/16	SO SOG S2. 100 Acre Wood, Turners Hill	D	SO	100 Acre Wood, Sussex
Sun 21/02/16	HH SE League event & SE Long Championships	B	HH	Ashridge North, Berkhamstead
Thu 25/02/16	SAX Kent Night Cup	D	SAX	Blean, Canterbury
Sat 27/02/16	SO SOG S3, West Friston Forest, Eastbourne	D	SO	West Friston Forest, Eastbourne
Sat 27/02/16	British Night Championships (UKOL)	A	LEI	Cademan & Thringstone Woods, Loughborough
Sun 28/02/16	SAX District Event	C	SAX	Ightham, Sevenoaks
Thu 03/03/16	SONiC 5 / KNC- Rivers Wood, Haywards Heath	D	SO	Rivers Wood, Haywards heath
Sun 06/03/16	DFOK SE League event and Yvette Baker Trophy SE heat	B	DFOK	Chelwood, Forest Row
Thu 10/03/16	SAX Kent Night Cup	D	SAX	Scotney Castle Estate, Lamberhurst
Sat 12/03/16	DFOK North West Kent Series 1	D	DFOK	Danson Park
Thu 17/03/16	DFOK Kent Night Cup	D	DFOK	Brasted Chart, Sevenoaks
Sat 19/03/16	DFOK Kent Orienteering League	D	DFOK	Whitehorse Woods, Vigo
Sat 19/03/16	SO SOG S6, Broadstone Warren, Forest Row	D	SO	Broadstone Warren, Wych Cross
Sun 20/03/16	Sarum Saunter	B	SARUM	Grovely East, Salisbury
Tue 22/03/16	SAX Kent Night Cup	D	SAX	Millbank, Sevenoaks
Fri 25/03/16 – Monday 28/3/16	Jan Kjellstrom Orienteering Festival - Temp O	B	YHOA	Leeds and surrounding area
Sat 30/04/16	British Long Distance Orienteering Championships (UKOL)	A	WMOA	Brown Clee Hill
Sun 01/05/16	British Relay Championships	A	WMOA	Brown Clee Hill, Bridgnorth
Sat 11/06/16	British Sprint Championships (UKOL)	A	SEOA	Olympic Park
Sun 12/06/16	British Middle Championships (UKOL)	A	SEOA	Leith Hill

Explanation of the different levels of event:-

**Level D:** - Minor events put on by clubs primarily for their own members (and newcomers) with little or no co-ordination with other clubs. Used to be called "Local" events. Level D events have some advantages: they tend to be cheap to enter, easy to put on, and not too crowded. Many orienteers go to more level D events than any other sort.

**Level C:** - Run of the mill "Ranking" events, i.e. events that give you ranking points under BOF's national ranking system. Fixtures are co-ordinated between clubs at regional level. They used to be called "District" events. Sometimes referred to as "Colour-coded" events by orienteers who have been around for a long time even though this name officially disappeared two re-organisations ago.

**Level B:** - High quality events aimed at people who are prepared to travel a fair distance, as well as those living locally. Normally organised by individual clubs, but fixtures are co-ordinated nationally to avoid clashes. Many lengths and levels of course will be on offer. . Used to be called "Regional" Events. Also sometimes referred to as "Badge" events by orienteers who have been around for very long time even though this name officially disappeared two re-organisations ago.

**Level A:** - The most important events, such as the major championships. Often organised by Regional Associations rather than individual clubs. Even though these are called major "championships" there will nearly always be newcomer and less technical courses on offer so that you can turn up with your less keen family members and all have a good time.

## **Letters to the Editor-**

In the November SaxAlert, under the guise of a review of the Terra Nova Laser tent, Sean Cronin gave us a hair-raising account of a cooking near-disaster on the OMM (Original Mountain Marathon), in which a tidal wave of boiling pasta swept across his groundsheet and flames licked up the wall of the tent. This is a response to the issue that he highlighted - a sort of open letter to Sean.

### **Mountain Marathon Cooking; a Note on Safety**

Anyone who has done a mountain marathon, or who has otherwise camped in a lightweight tent and prepared food on a gas stove in anything other than calm fine weather, will have experienced a frisson of concern about the potential consequences of cooking in the doorway of the tent. The lightweight stoves used by most people simply screw onto the top of a 100 or 150 g butane/propane gas cylinder. The radius of the base of the cylinder is 45mm, and the total height of the assembled stove is typically 150mm. On top of this we place a container of water with contents weighing perhaps 1kg; this is not an inherently stable system!




We always scrape away the grass to create as firm a substrate as possible. Fiona, with whom I have taken part in several mountain marathons in recent years, specialises in

finding a flat stone to press into the ground to make a somewhat firmer base; still not perfect however, and stones are not always available.

I have previously done quite a number of OMMs with Anne Jago, former Saxon now living in the Lake District. If the weather was atrocious (it often was) we would pull the stove closer into the shelter of the doorway of the tent. We were aware of the hazard, but it was only a couple of years ago that Anne discovered that the answer was commercially available, and presented me with a Primus tripod stove base. This is brilliantly simple, clipping firmly onto the base rim of the gas cylinder and increasing the effective radius of the base to 112mm, thus greatly improving stability; it is made of a hard plastic, weighs only 24g, and folds into a negligible size for packing. A quick internet search reveals that several other makers produce similar designs (but see below).

I strongly recommend a simple modification to increase stability still further: drill a hole in each of the three feet of the tripod base, and insert a tent peg through each foot (of the other versions of tripod base I have seen on the internet, it looks to me that the only other design with a sufficiently wide foot flange to enable this modification is the rather pricey metal one made by MSR). When I bought my Terra Nova Laser tent it came with extremely lightweight titanium pegs. These are a great success on the weight front, being 2mm in diameter and weighing a mere 2g each; as tent pegs however they are completely useless, since they pull out of the ground at the slightest provocation. I have replaced them with 4mm diameter pegs; these weigh 7g each but they actually work. Sean, I suspect you have done the same thing, since the tent peg in your photograph (being used as a spoon!) is thicker than 2mm. So, I reckon you have some spare 2mm pegs, three of which will be just the thing for stove-base-tripod stabilisation-enhancement.

### Mike Solomon

		
<p>1. Stove with tripod base, and tent pegs inserted.</p>	<p>Close-up of foot with peg inserted.</p>	<p>Tripod base folded for packing, and pegs. Total weight 30g.</p>

## JUNIOR PAGES

So Christmas is over and all the gifts have been opened. I have heard that two of our team of juniors received a computer game and I expect that they weren't the only ones. I amassed a total of five books; all were very funny except one which was about a long distance walk which I hope that I have time to complete this year. Apart from a very long walk I hope to do some big cycle rides as well. And then we have some special orienteering events to take part in. I'll tell you about those events after sharing the successes which you've had since the last Saxalert came out.

On 15<sup>th</sup> November there was a big event at Hindleap Forest, so big that lots of helpers were needed and some of you lent a hand to make sure that everything went smoothly. As a just reward cake and a drink were given and lots of thanks for all that you did for our club. Getting involved as a helper is really great fun and there are lots of opportunities to get the satisfaction of volunteering to do a job. Ask the organisers when you are next at an event and see if there is anything useful you can do to help. Assisting at our events is very important and helps the day run smoothly.

So back to Hindleap. Henry Taylor was the winner on the orange course and Austin Howe was first on the yellow. Well done to the following who took part – here are the full results of our team members

Orange				Yellow		
Henry Taylor	1/13	35:56		Austin Howe	1/7	25:11
Matthew Derrick	3/13	45:38		Toby Prior	2/7	31:34
Matthew Taylor	6/13	51:47		William Prior	6/7	44:32
Joseph Derrick	7/13	52:16				



Ellie, Brooke with two new possible recruits from Lordswood School



Jenny Bricknell hiding behind a most creative tree on the orange course at Ightham Common

Two weeks before Christmas there was a KOL at Ightham Common, where we had so many of you taking part. There we had junior team members running the Light Green, the Orange and a stream of competitors came over to run the string course. James Ford and Liam Ives competed on the Blue course and did very well in a huge field of 43 competitors coming 17<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> respectively.

There were 35 runners on the Light Green course and more of our team entering; Michael Cameron and Elsa Burdett both tied for eleventh place, Emily Ford came 15<sup>th</sup>. Ishani and Rishi Milward-Bose were 20<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> with Ffion Bricknell only just a little way behind at 25<sup>th</sup>.

Almost a half of the competitors on the orange course were Sax juniors with Jennifer Bricknell, Henry Taylor, Matt Lee and Lewis Bricknell taking four of the top five places. That's Matt Lee on the cover showing the youngsters how to do the String course

On the Yellow course of the 14 runners 11 were Sax juniors who were led in by Jake Wilson, Ben Cronin and Ellie Taylor. William Prior, our youngest junior at just 5, romped home in 8<sup>th</sup> place.

On New Year's Day there was a score event at Trosley Country Park which was very well attended. If you were a junior you could try to find lots of controls in 45 minutes. Sam Fuller found 15 and was first with Lewis Bricknell and Ffion Bricknell just behind, both having found 12. Score courses are great fun where, unlike the normal line courses, you have a map with all the controls on and you have a time limit and you plan your own route to as many controls with a time limit. You gain points for all the controls that you find in time, but don't be late back or you lose points. It's great fun. Of the 22 competitors 18 were Sax juniors. I also saw Austin and Holly Howe coaching their Granddad around the park and he looked as though he was enjoying himself. That was good of you.

#### **PHOTOS ON THE BACK COVER OF Saxons receiving their loyalty awards.**

**Make sure you always put your BOF number on your registration form to make sure you receive your BOF performance awards. I can see at last one Saxons Junior in the results of the Ightham event on the BOF website who has not been credited with being a member and therefore his run will not count towards his performance award. Editor**

Well done to all you juniors' successes it's good to see so many of you at the events. Thanks again to those who helped at Hindleap and another thank you to Michael Cameron and Elsa Burdett who did so much helping to set up and dismantle the string course at Ightham Common in which so many took part.

#### **NOW A VERY SPECIAL MESSAGE TO ALL JUNIORS.**

**We have two very special events for you coming up which you really won't want to miss Firstly on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> March there is the regional heat of the Yvette Baker Trophy. This is the competition just for juniors which we have taken part in for a number of years. It's at Chelwood Vachery. Detail is on the DFOK website, but entry has to be via "Fabian4" which is a registration site, but your entry has to be made in advance. So have a look at the DFOK and Fabian4 sites with your parents, as they will be paying, and get all the detail. When we've entered before we've had great fun, met lots of other juniors from other clubs and Heather has made a big chocolate cake to eat afterwards. So set your sights on this event**

**Secondly on May 28 there is the Junior Orienteering Festival at Lorenden School near Faversham. Our club is arranging the event and again it's going to be a lot of fun so that's a date that must go on the family calendar.**

**Always remember; - Focus during your run and have lots of fun!**

**Tony Connellan**

## COACHES CORNER

We have 3 coaching articles this month

1. Search & rescue
2. Using the Saxons Facebook Group
3. How anyone can create a street orienteering map using Open Orienteering map.

### 1. SEARCH AND RESCUE

What would happen if a competitor is missing? When do you need to send out a search party? As an extra activity after the AGM, a search and rescue exercise was set up. As the grounds of Swattenden are small, the activity would be to look for a white piece of plastic of mobile phone size. How did it work, and what went well.

Two teams of 8 were created.

The courses were set up with SI.

Each team had 4 walkie talkies.

There would be a team manager, who does not leave the control centre. (SI Download).

Anyone leaving the control centre must be logged in and out (to keep tabs on everyone otherwise you will end up with more lost).

Is someone missing? How do you know? If you are going by pre entries on Fabian4 how do you know that everyone started? SI team have interrogated the start box, which lists all who entered through on the day, and a competitor is still to return. He set off over 2 hours previously on a medium length course. What happens now? The organising team do not know this competitor and are concerned. The control collecting team are immediately switched to search and rescue mode. Send out your fastest 2 runners to collect all the controls on the course that the competitor was on, and doing a quick shout and scan of their section of the course as they collect.

Interrogation of each control at download will check which controls were dibbed by the competitor, and which were not. Each of the teams was then able to find out how far into the course their lost competitor went.

The teams then planned how to do a more detailed sweep of the section of the course immediately after the last control that was dibbed ok.

Team 1 set off all members in a wide line, sweeping the area to the next control. On not finding it by the next control, they then started to sweep back from the control, wider out, and found the "white plastic" body.

Team 2 set off team members in 3 separate sub teams, one going forwards, one backwards, and one on the side near another control. After 30 minutes of searching they had not found the plastic body. A hint was given as to its location, and the search continued with eventual success.

Learning points:

- a) When is someone lost? Late runners could be expected if they are started late and doing long courses, or are slow. Concern would be for those who started early, are elderly or inexperienced.
- b) When collecting the controls of the course if someone is lost, leave the kite on the course, visible high up, to allow the search party returning later to know the location of the control.
- c) Always log everyone in and out to keep tabs on everyone.
- d) Walkie talkies, if available, with every party, and backup with mobiles.
- e) Practice is needed to maintain a straight line and keep on same bearing.
- f) Ensure the whole area is searched when sweeping through. Team 2 had too few people on their individual sweeps. They also started 5 m from the edge of the search area, rather than at the edge, so missed the plastic on their first search.

This exercise makes the assumption that the competitor is in the next section of the course. In reality this may not be the case, and the competitor may have tripped, and moved on. It gives the search party information on where to search first. If the competitor is not found in the next section of the course, then the remaining sections of the map further on the course, and the main routes back to download should be searched.

At what point do you inform the police? This would be a judgement call. Has the person travelled alone to the event? If there are fellow travellers, ask for their guide on fitness and experience. If they have travelled on their own, have they left details of their car registration. Is it still there? Is there a mobile contact number? Have they left and forgotten to download?

All the above points to the competitor being still lost. Call 999 and ask for the local search and rescue team to be informed. Better still, for a big regional event, contact the Kent Search and Rescue prior to the event to say we are holding an event and they can be on standby. The Kent service has teams of search and rescue dogs who would be able to search an area of woodland much quicker and efficiently than a human team. Be ready with a map of the area showing the course, to explain to the police search team on their arrival, and all the known details of the competitor. If you have informed them of the event, send a text ASAP when everyone is safe.

What next for practice? After the mini exercise in Swattenden looking for white plastic card, we will hold a real exercise, probably at the finish time of the KOL in Hargate Forest. This time we will use a real person, who will be hiding somewhere on the Light Green course. If you want to see how it is done and practice in the search, we will be advertising the activity for that day.

**Jerry Purkis**



## 2.1 HOW TO USE SAXONS FACEBOOK GROUP

a) Sign up to Facebook.

If you are hesitant about signing up to Facebook because you are worried you will be giving your life secrets away read this first

<http://computer.howstuffworks.com/internet/tips/how-to-sign-up-for-facebook.htm>.

If all you want to do is use the Saxons Facebook group page, ignore requests to let Facebook search your e-mail contact list for friends and do not create any “Friends” on Facebook.

b) Search for and visit both the Saxons Facebook **GROUP** and the **PAGE**.

“Like” the Page and apply to “join” the Group. Once you are a member of the Facebook group you can communicate very easily with all other members of the Facebook group without them having to be your “Friend”. That is why you do not need any Facebook “Friends” to use the functionality of the Facebook Group.

This is the “Page” that you “Like” by clicking the Like button





**This is the Saxons group where you can see Cate Slade asking if anyone wants to go and see the Banff Mountain Film Festival. You can see the “Join” button and pictures of all the members and the fact that it is a “Closed Group”**

## 2.2 WHY DOES SAXONS HAVE A PAGE AND A GROUP?

Pages allow real organisations, businesses, clubs, celebrities and brands to communicate broadly with people who like them. Pages may only be created and managed by official representatives. (Alan Hickling is our Facebook Page administrator)

Groups provide a space for people to communicate about shared interests. The Saxons Group is “closed” which means posts are only visible to members. This encourages members to share chat and photos.

The Page is Public and is Saxons face to the world. Anyone anywhere can see what is posted on the Page if they visit it. However if you post something on the Page, it does appear fully until the administrator “shares” it. That way we can control what is put on our Page and what people can see. People who “Like” the page will receive News feeds.

I hope this has given those of you who are not on Facebook, the courage to join. It is by far the easiest way to communicate with other members because you do not need their e-mail address. You can send also private messages using Facebook. Editor.

### 3. How to Plan a Street O using Open Orienteering Map

The act of setting up a score event in your neighbouring town is now super-easy thanks to Open Orienteering Map (OOM). Earlier this year I was volunteered to organise one of this year's KNC events; having heard of OOM, I thought it would be fun to plan an event in Faversham. Here's how I did it...

Firstly, I had a play with OOM. [www.oomap.co.uk](http://www.oomap.co.uk) is a simple web based mapping tool created by Olliver O'Brien and sponsored by BOF.

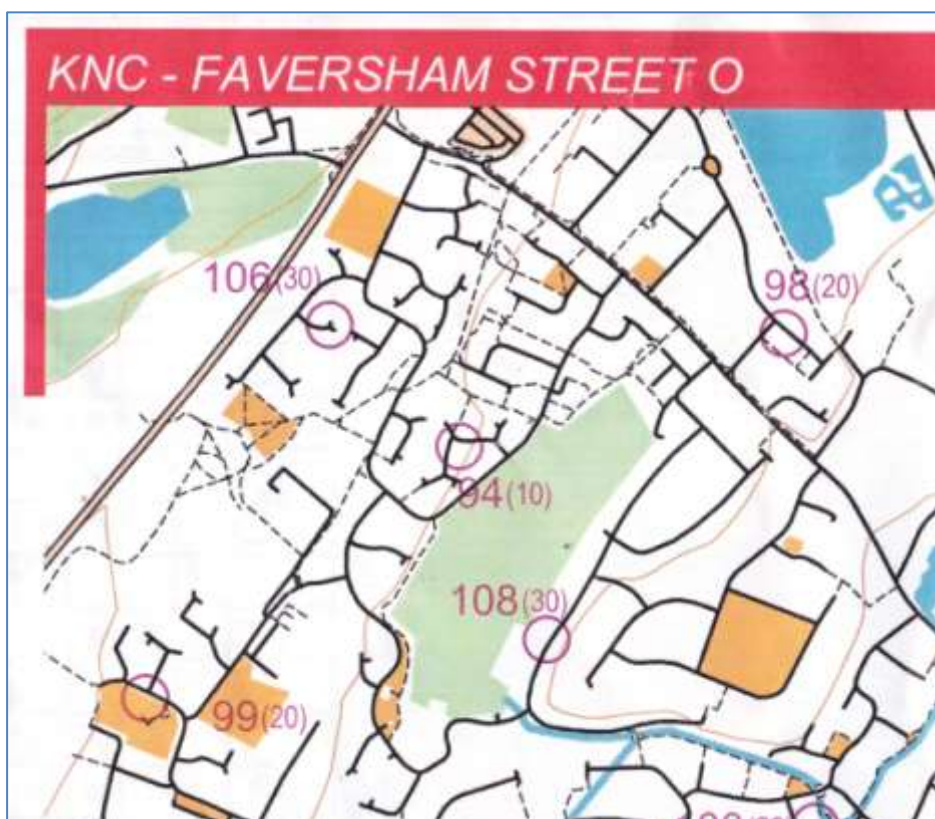
On accessing the website, zoom in from country level to your chosen town using postcode info. Clicking in the centre of your race area will highlight a map border based on the scale you have chosen. Change the scale and drag the 'centre spot' until you're happy with your terrain. Next click where you want the start and then add each Check Point. You can allocate values to each CP and descriptions. To the right of the screen you can edit the race name and any instructions for competitors. Then it's just a question of saving the map and printing.

Interestingly, there are Post box and Plaque data uploaded onto the map. Toggling these options shows up their whereabouts and details. This enables informal 'treasure-hunt' style events without the need for SI kit. I've previously used this for a Christmas family event (don't tell BOF!) and it was great fun.

The tool is very simple so there are a few limitations.

- Start and finish need to be in the same place
- You cannot skew the map away from North to get more run-able terrain into the frame (no good for DFOK then ☺)
- Control descriptions print on a separate page rather than on the map

Having played around with OOM a bit, I realised that the base map was not 100% accurate. For the Faversham area, I found that a number of paths and track ways were missing. OOM takes its data feed from Open Street Map. [www.openstreetmap.org](http://www.openstreetmap.org). In order to update OOM base map one needs to update OSM. Luckily this is pretty easy. To edit any OSM maps you need to set up a log in and complete a practice tutorial.



Once let loose to edit maps, find the area you want to edit and click the Edit button (simple!). This brings up the street map with a Google Earth style visual overlay that you can zoom in on to quite a close degree. You can then add Points, Lines or Areas to the map and specify each accordingly. Generally, I added Lines in the form of Footpaths, and Areas in the form of Grass, Lakes or Playgrounds. The bulk of my edits were making slight changes to existing paths and roads to improve map accuracy. Once saved on OSM, the updates appear on OOM in a couple days, usually overnight.

I found the best way to identify missing paths was to run the area. This was time consuming, but good training and allowed me to get a good sense of where to place CPs. For Faversham, I ran over 50km checking routes and made over 500 minor edits to OSM. Hopefully, the outcome will be a challenging night race with an accurate map and smiling competitors!

**Brendon Howe**

## **FOUR DIFFERENT ORIENTEERING FORMATS THAT YOU MAY NOT HAVE TRIED**

1. Urban orienteering
2. Horse orienteering
3. Poker orienteering
4. Jeskyns Farm Hockey Club Orienteering

### **1- URBAN ORIENTEERING**

The Editor asked me to write a piece on urban orienteering for those who haven't sampled this yet or maybe have only had a go because Saxons were running the event. With no Saxons' urban event planned for this year, anyone looking for an urban run will need to look further afield. There are two urban leagues that may be of interest – the National Urban League (NUL) and the Southern England Urban Orienteering League (SEOUL). I've listed the fixtures for both below. Note, some events count in both leagues and often they are combined with another event to make a weekend visit worthwhile. I've scanned the fixtures list to try and list these accompanying events as well. A bit of tourism combined with a race (or two) can make a good weekend break. Travel can also be easier with the possibility of using trains to get to the locations and a plentiful choice of accommodation to use.

The principle of urban orienteering is the same as the normal forest or park events that you may have taken part in: find your way around a course as fast as possible. The main differences are the absence (normally) of woods and spending most of the time running on roads and paths. Navigation is generally easier than in a forest – features are more distinct but you do need to keep track of where you are on the map. A loss of concentration can mean time lost whilst you work out which junction

of two roads you are currently at when there are an abundance of them. The terrain and degree of difficulty also varies greatly between areas. For example, the RAF Halton event back at the beginning of this month was very easy to navigate around, the only difficulty being an area of woodland linking two parts of the base that wasn't brilliantly mapped (oh, and the appalling weather!). An ideal urban area would have lots of intricate detail with plenty of route choice and the need to pay attention to the description of the feature you are navigating to. Taking Lincoln as an example, the difference between wall, south side and wall, north side can mean a run of a kilometre and a lot of contours to cross, especially if the wall is over 10 foot high and surrounds the Bishop's Palace. Yes, I did make that mistake, so I speak from experience. Similarly, alleys or streets that come to a dead end are also a good feature to have on the map. Planning the whole route between controls early is important to spot these and avoid them. Leaving it too late often means retracing your steps to find an alternative route to the control.

Areas such as Edinburgh, Oxford and Cambridge as well as Lincoln are good fun and a good navigational challenge. Plus, there are always new areas being included in the fixture list. Liverpool and Newcastle could be good new challenges this season. And the season ends with our neighbours Southdowns hosting the Brighton City race in December. This is the only mass-start event (that I know of) in the season and has a good record of attendance and performance by Saxons. If you go to the Southdowns website, you should be able to find a link to one of the many videos shot by Alex Lines over the years showing the mayhem that ensues when you let 100+ orienteers out in The Lanes.

The two leagues detailed both use the same scoring system: 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> scoring 100, 96, 93 and 91 points respectively and then decreasing by a further point for each place further down the results. Age categories for men and women are young junior (12-), junior (16-), senior, veteran (40+), supervet (55+) and ultravet (65+). The best 7 scores from the season count towards the overall league table. With the events being spread out over a wide area, very few people manage to compete in more than this (except for those addicted to urban O), so a high placing in the leagues is readily attainable with a bit of effort.

Of course, the one event not mentioned below and probably the best urban race of the year in the UK is the London City Race. This is set for mid-September this year, exact location to be revealed closer to the date. This event has grown so big that they have to have a different age-class structure to the other urban league events. Hence, it doesn't get included in the leagues. Anyone who hasn't experienced the multiple levels, overpasses, underpasses, and high level walkways of the Barbican estate at

full race pace is in for a treat if it is used this year. The event does move around the city, so we don't always have this element of fun/confusion. However, the winding lanes, alleyways, etc . of the City of London are a significant challenge even without the Barbican.

Hopefully, I'll see a few more Saxons at urban events around the country this coming year.

## Alan

Date	Day	Club	Venue	NUL	SEOUL	Accompanying event
3/Jan	Sun	TVOC	RAF Halton		X	
23/Jan	Sat	EUOC	Edinburgh	X		Arthurs Seat/Holyrood Park
19/Mar	Sat	QO	Bridgwater		X	
9/Apr	Sat	INT	Livingston	X		Culteuchar & Don
10/Apr	Sun	SLOW	Kingston		X	
16/Apr	Sat	CLOK	Whitby	X		Northern Champs
17/Apr	Sun	SARUM	Warminster		X	
7/May	Sat	WAOC	Cambridge	X	X	
22/May	Sun	HALO	Grimsby	X		
28/May	Sat	DEVON	Plymouth	X	X	Tamar Triple days 2 & 3
4/June	Sat	WSX	Poole		X	
25/June	Sat	SMOC	Milton Keynes		X	
2/July	Sat	WIM	Fordingbridge		X	
10/July	Sun	MDOC	Manchester	X		Stockport sprint
16/July	Sat	SN	Woking	X	X	
16/July	Sat	FVO	Sprint Scotland	X		
14/Aug	Sun	LOG	Lincoln	X		
21/Aug	Sun	NATO	Newcastle	X		
28/Aug	Sun	MV	Leatherhead		X	
29/Aug	Mon	TVOC	Wantage & Grove	X	X	
4/Sep	Sun	SELOC	Liverpool	X		Liverpool Big Weekend
4/Sep	Sun	BOK	Wells	X	X	Wells sprint event
18/Sep	Sun	GO	Guildford	X	X	
25/Sep	Sun	NOW	Royal Wootton Bassett		X	
22/Oct	Sat	HOC	Great Malvern	X		Castlemorton Common
5/Nov	Sat	SARUM	Salisbury		X	November Classic
19/Nov	Sat	OUOC	Oxford	X	X	TVOC–Shotover Country Pk
20/Nov	Sun	NOR	Norwich	X	X	
17/Dec	Sat	SO	Brighton		X	

Last time we introduced new member Sarah Reith who joined Saxons in October.. Sarah is trying out foot orienteering having previously tried:-

## 2- ORIENTEERING ON HORSEBACK

After reading an article about TREC (Orienteering on horseback) ten years ago, I thought I would give it a go, as my horse is not 100% in traffic proof and we often loaded up and travelled to new locations, with less traffic, to explore.

TREC is a competition, originating in France, to test the skills of Trail ride guides. There are three phases, POR (orienteering), PTV (Completing a series of obstacles, such as crossing bridges, jumping ditches etc.) and MA (Showing your ability to control your horse's speeds).

There are four recognised levels, though there are many, simpler variations run as unaffiliated events and are great at encouraging new riders to the sport.



Level 1, route set over 10 to 15 Kms. Riders need to understand basic map reading, recognising symbols, tracks and that North is at the top of the map. You would expect to be out for around 2 hrs, including holds at check points.

Level 2 is quite a big step up. The route is set over 15 to 20 Kms. Riders need a good understanding of map reading, including a knowledge of contours. Knowing how to take compass readings and distances travelled is an advantage in forestry and on heathland, as there are often unmapped paths. You would expect to be out for 3 to 4 hrs, including holds at check points.

Levels 3 and 4 are very difficult, with more complicated routes, over distances of 25 to 35 Kms, for Level 3 and 35 to 45 Kms, for level 4. They would also have grid reference and / or compass bearing sections. Some have night time sections.

All Competitors have a set time to copy the route onto their own allocated map, prior to setting off at 5 minute intervals. There are checkpoints placed at unknown locations, en route, to check they are on the right track and restart riders at five minute intervals. Tickets are also placed, which riders must note, which can earn them points, or penalties, depending on whether they should have passed them and are on the correct route.

TREC is one of those sports where the camaraderie amongst Competitors, Organisers and Helpers is strong and as Level 2 and above events are often run over a weekend, we would generally get together for a meal and drink and a catch up, on the Saturday evening.

I have mainly been competing at Level 2 but due to an old injury and my aging horse, I have now stepped down to Level 1, Open, and competitions. Though I still plan to travel up for the weekend, to lend a hand on Saturdays and compete on the Sundays.

For further information on TREC, check out [www.trecgb.com](http://www.trecgb.com) and [www.setrec.org.uk](http://www.setrec.org.uk)

**Sarah Reith.**

### 3. Poker-O: A fun format for a small area

In the never ending search for a format that creates an equal likelihood for the slowest to win compared to the fastest, I came across a format at the ESOC New Year's Day Event that tried to just that. In conjunction with a standard 45 minute score, each competitor was also handed 5 random cards at the start. Three cards were also located at each control. When a competitor visited each control, they have the opportunity to swap one card from their hand with one at the control with the aim of finishing with the best poker hand.

Poker Hand	Example	Bonus Points
Royal Flush		200
Straight Flush		150
4-of-a-kind		100
Full House		80
Flush		60
Straight		50
3-of-a-kind		40
Two Pair		30
One Pair		20
High Card		10

You may only swap one card when you visit a control, if you want to swap two cards you need to visit another control and hope the card you want is still there when you get back. (You only get points for the control when you visit it for the first time). Obviously the faster runners have more chance of getting finishing with a good hand as they will visit more controls but it is still possible for the slower runners to get a royal flush.

At the event I was at, held on Blackford Hill in Edinburgh, it was a 45 minute score. Since everyone knew this area off by heart it was also map memory. You didn't have a map but instead there was an all controls map at each control for you to plan your next leg. I was only walking/jogging round but still visited 18/20 controls. I got four Kings early on so I didn't try and improve my hand. I haven't seen the results but I can imagine that some people who didn't visit as many controls finished with more points due to their poker hand.

To sum things up, everyone enjoyed the format and the added challenge of doing it by memory as it was much more fun than a standard 45 minute score. Obviously this isn't one for doing one a wet night at a KNC but maybe a post AGM social.

**Richard Purkis**



#### 4. Jeskyns Farm Hockey Club Orienteering

The orienteering event with the greatest proportion of newcomers in Kent? It depends what you define as event, but if it's defined as any group of people who do orienteering at roughly the same time, then it is Jeskyns Farm, Sunday January 10<sup>th</sup> this year.

What event is this you may ask? Well not strictly an event but an invite to friends and family of ours to the permanent orienteering course at Jeskyns (mostly members or former members of Burnt Ash/Bexley Hockey Club). This gives me an opportunity to review both the course, and review what happens when hockey people go orienteering.

Both have their challenges.

Maps are really easy to get hold of. An electronic copy of the map can be downloaded from the DFOK website. I used BMLPrint to make 15 waterproof maps. I always check posts on permanent courses as it's rare to find one with no posts missing, however Jeskyns was that rare one. Checking was a breeze as Jeskyns can be cycled round on a mountain bike. The area is perfect for the less experienced, mostly open with controls near paths or fences, but not so simple it's boring. It's a bit exposed, but if the weather is good it has great sky.

The Forestry Commission have built a lovely big car park and a café at Jeskyns. Opening times were checked online and it was the quiet time of year. What could go wrong? The friendly Forestry Commission warden greeted us on the gate as we drove in with "Errr, we're very busy, half the car park is underwater and there's no parking except for 4X4's. Would you mind coming back another day?". "Errr we have 20 friends coming to try the orienteering course in the next half an hour" I said. Fortunately no one was put off and either drove round and round until they found a space, or convinced the warden that their family hatchback was a capable 4X4 and skidded into the overflow car park/mud bath.

The "event" format I've used successfully with this crowd in the past. Basically the Kent Night Cup format. 1 hour score, mass start, prize giving afterwards. Organiser sits in the café eating cake whilst everyone runs around. The only significant difference is that this crowd like to compete in teams. The first control for most was a "simple" control 20 metres from the car park. All the teams ran straight past it and headed off towards the high speed train line. Every time I forget how hard the first control is for newcomers, even when it's easy.. Orienteering map scales are weird, symbols are weird. Also I'm sure when people start something unfamiliar I'm sure their heads must be filled with random distracting questions "Naughty Elephants Squirt ... whatisitnow?" "I think I left the hair tongs on", "If I meet Bear Grylls doing this what will I say?". I would like to propose that all permanent controls near the start of permanent courses are painted in ultra bright red and white on the side as well as the top. At least they would be as visible as a standard O flag at a real event. The Jeskyns course is one of those where there isn't a way of proving the competitor has found the post. The only letter on the post is also on the map. Unfortunately I couldn't rely on the honesty of all teams because several were... dishonest. It's not a hockey thing. Part of the challenge for some is outfoxing me the organiser, i.e. me. I could have pretended to be annoyed with some not taking it seriously, but this might have proved hard to justify when prizes included a packet of Whether's originals, a wooden spoon and a tin of WD40. So the brilliant solution was to get them to take a picture of a team member at the post. This didn't work. "Team Stinker" improvised by placing a small child part way across "Post F" (which looked suspiciously similar to Post "E"). Other teams took the opportunity to be extremely creative with the person positioning.... I can't really describe in more detail in a family magazine.

Anyway, just like Saxons mass start events, the bunch returned with happy faces looking quite puffed out. Although most set of walking, most finished running, they are a competitive bunch. Typically they found between 7 and 12 of the areas 13 control (maximum distance running 4.5 miles), so the course length was perfect. At the start of the event there were one or two grumpy

looking teenagers in the family groups, but at the end they were beaming, having spent the last hour hurrying and harrying the parents. Orienteering = family bliss.

So orienteering works for Hockey people and I can recommend the Jeskyns course, but keep an eye for the parking problems.

If you've got a group of friends and or relatives who might like a bit of orienteering and you want to try something similar, there are quite a few permanent courses in Kent. Other good places to go include Danson Park, Lullingstone Park, Shorne Country Park, Kent University, Trosley Country Park and Bedgebury. A new course is opening at Mote Park soon I am told.

**Sean Cronin**

## **SAX PUZZLES - Starting too quickly –by Michael Fletcher**

In my last orienteering race the total distance I ran was 5 km.

The first kilometre I ran at an average speed of 15 km/hr – far too fast I know!

The next kilometre I ran more slowly and again the average speed for that kilometre had an integer value. Interestingly my average speed in km/hr for the first two kilometres also had an integer value.

I was tiring and ran the next kilometre more slowly. Again my speed, in km/hr, had an integer value and my average speed over the first three kilometres was also a whole number.

I continued to tire running the third and fourth kilometres more slowly and again my average speeds for each of the kilometres was a whole number. Most interestingly my average speeds for the first four kilometres and for the whole five kilometres had whole number values.

How long did it take me to run the race?

Thanks to Michael Fletcher for sending this in. Answer inside the back page,.

## **Logic Puzzle: Lost at a KNC- by Richard Purkis**

Rowan Purkis was the organiser of a KNC in a new challenging area. A long time after everyone was meant to be back, with some already at the pub, she realised five orienteers were still out in the forest and needed to be searched for. Luckily she found all five in the end. Can you determine which orienteers were looking for which feature, who had lost what equipment, and in what order they were found?

Clues are printed below whilst a helpful grid for working is available on the next page

**Missing orienteers:** Alan Hickling, Sean Cronin, Alison Howe, Jean Fitzgerald, Graham Thomas

**Features they were looking for:** Pit, Distinctive tree, Vegetation boundary, Ruin, Stream

**Equipment they had lost:** Dibber, Compass, Car keys, Map, Head-torch

**Order found:** 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th

Clues:

1. The one who had lost their head-torch and the one that was looking for a distinctive tree were the last two to be found.
2. Sean Cronin and Graham Thomas had not lost their dibbers, nor were they found last.
3. Alison Howe had not lost her car keys; she was not found fourth.
4. The one who was looking for a distinctive tree was found before the one who had lost their head-torch.
5. Jean Fitzgerald was found before the one who had lost their head-torch, but after the ones that had lost their map and their compass.
6. The one who had lost their map was found after the one that had lost their car keys, but before the one looking for a stream.
7. The first found was the one who had lost their car keys, followed by Alison Howe, then the one was looking for a stream, then the one who had lost their dibber. Alan Hickling was last to be found.
8. The cause of the problems for Graham Thomas was that he could not find a vegetation boundary.
9. Alison Howe was not looking for a pit, in which was a lost head-torch.

	Pit	Distinctive tree	Vegetation boundary	Ruin	Stream	Dibber	Compass	Car keys	Map	Headtorch	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th
Alan Hickling															
Sean Cronin															
Alison Howe															
Jean Fitzgerald															
Graham Thomas															
1st															
2nd															
3rd															
4th															
5th															
Dibber															
Compass															
Car keys															
Map															
Headtorch															

## Saxons Alternative Rankings for 2015

Pos	Prv-Pos	Name	Age class	Top-12	Runs
1	(1)	Peter Martin	M65	1200	27
2	(3)	Sarah Howes	W55	1164	23
3	(5)	Mark Glaisher	M60	1154	33
4	(2)	Alan Hickling	M50	1147	43
5	(24)	Joanne Hickling	W50	1082	20
6	(4)	Jeremy Oldershaw	M75	1079	38
7	(10)	Alison Howe	W40	1052	24
8	(14)	Mel Taylor	M50	1044	18
9	(7)	Brendon Howe	M45	1028	21
10	(9)	Jean Fitzgerald	W60	1014	31
11	(8)	Rowan Purkis	W60	1001	43
12	(13)	Simon Greenwood	M60	998	35
13	(15)	Doug Deeks	M75	993	25
14	(33)	Simon Deeks	M45	916	15
15	(19)	Philip Norris	M65	885	18
16	(18)	David Kingdon	M60	881	27
17	(20)	Dave Pickup	M40	880	25
18	(16)	Jerry Purkis	M55	875	35
19	(11)	Mike Perry	M70	867	15
20	(22)	Beryl Pring	W65	860	19

A total of 60 events counted, beginning with Kings Wood, Challock in January and finishing with Ash Ranges in December.

*Times as top ranked Saxon at an event:*

16 – Peter Martin

7 – Mark Purkis

5 – Alan Hickling

4 – Sarah Howes, Joanne Hickling

3 – Mark Glaisher, Jeremy Oldershaw

2 – Brendon Howe, Jean Fitzgerald, Heather Brown, Doug Deeks

1 –Chris Sparkman, Richard Whitaker, Rowan Purkis, Simon Blanchflower

Most Saxons: 38 at Scotney in April

Least Saxons: 0 at 6 events and only 1 at five events during the year. A guaranteed 100 points if you can pick one of these and complete the course. Happy Herts events or the more distant parts of Southdowns look the best bet for this.

**Statistics maintained and compiled by Alan Hickling**

## MORE SAXONS HISTORY

### CROC (Croydon Orienteering Club) 1983 to 2007 by Steve Waite



I was a member of CROC from soon after its creation in 1983 until its demise in 2007. A couple of other Saxons, Brian Dinsley & Simon Blanchflower were also members for a while. CROC was created at the instigation of the SEOA in 1983 in response to a number of enquiries from the Croydon area from individuals interested in taking up Orienteering. There was also at the time interest from BOF to promote more 'local' Orienteering using urban parkland etc, & the creation of a small club in the Croydon area seemed a good idea and for sometime this was true.

Keith Jarratt, ex SLOW, became the first Chairman & set up a well organised club, staffed it must be said by people mostly new to orienteering, or at least with little experience. This, I think, had something of a desirable effect of throwing inexperienced people in at the deep end, organising & planning our monthly 'local' events with a bit of help from the couple of more experienced members, & expertise grew quite quickly so that CROC had a group of close, friendly & self reliant members, active in all aspects of Orienteering on a weekly basis. Throughout the 80s & 90s we always had teams at the JK & British champs, also at the Harvester trophy where we once won a minor trophy & we were also regulars in the North Downs Way relay, winning it on one occasion. We also ran a yearly & quite competitive street league on Tuesday evenings in the winter.

Many, although not all, of the membership were single people in their 20's or couples of a similar age without kids. I was married with two children & we all orienteered for some years, but juniors were always a bit sparse in the club. However, for a number of years CROC operated a local league for schools & youth groups & introduced lot of new people to the sport, some of whom are still active with other clubs.

Actual club numbers grew quite quickly & peaked I think at about 120 in the later 1980's, however it was also clear that not all of these members were active on a weekly basis & with few large areas it seemed to some CROC was struggling to fully contribute to the SEOA. We were given use of Chelwood & also sometimes borrowed areas from other clubs, although this didn't go down well with everyone in SEOA. Some people saw clubs as always in competition with each other & didn't see the loan of areas as appropriate. Others, myself included, were more interested just in good orienteering in the SEOA & hence the best use of land access & club members.

We found we were organising our monthly local events & probably one larger event a year & had a think about what else we could do. There were quite a few CROC's who liked night O, so we prompted the setting up of the old South East Night League (Senile) on Saturday nights. Derek Case & I organised the league for the first 5 years & it ran on successfully for another 10 years or so before winding down a bit before the KNC & Sonic series started.

Things don't stay the same however & the original group members from the 80's dispersed somewhat as they married, moved around with jobs & were distracted with other aspects of life. Members came & went as you would expect, but some promising individuals found they needed better support & training from elsewhere & left for bigger clubs. This, and what I think was a

countrywide slump in Orienteering numbers, meant that by 2006 the club had dwindled to about 15 to 20 active or semi-active members, as always very few youngsters and we were no longer putting on many/any events, although occasionally helping other clubs with theirs.

The mood from most of the active members was to wind the club up so that we could join & participate more fully with other clubs. We had always had a bit of a feisty relationship with DFOK as local rivals, so it was perhaps a nice solution to transfer the remaining assets to them in order to help promote local orienteering. Many of the CROC membership transferred likewise, although some who were no longer local moved to their now local clubs such as TVOC or SLOW. I was a bit reluctant to let go of CROC & so dawdled a bit before choosing a new club and by then the Saxons KNC series had started and this quickly became the bulk of my events, so I joined Saxons.

Although CROC never hit any great heights on Orienteering terms, it was a great club that gave a lot of people a lot of fun & I'm sure is remembered fondly by many.

**Steve Waite**

## **SAXONS OUT AND ABOUT**

### **Bucklebury Common 8 November 2015**

BKO provided an opportunity to break my journey back from South Wales with an event on Bucklebury Common just a few miles off the M4. A patchwork of very varied patches of woodlands and rough open areas interlaced with meandering paths prompted the planner to provide lots of controls (25 in 7.8k on Blue). This encouraged competitors – well me anyway, although I usually don't need much encourage before launching headlong into any jungle - to choose direct lines. I had a decent run apart from one leg where I was confused by unmarked mountain bike tracks and had to relocate three times before correctly reading the map, losing a whopping nine minutes. Anyone used to the kinds of areas we have in Kent would feel quite at home on Bucklebury Common and the area is in the midst of very picturesque villages and hamlets. On this occasion, I was the only Saxon.

**Peter Martin**

### **My Venice O Experience – 14-15 November 2015**

You will not be surprised to learn that I was encouraged to Venice by my son Nick.

Venice O takes place every 2 years and the event in 2013 had to be cancelled because of flooding. This year it was very foggy and drizzle on a few occasions but managed to remain at bay for the events with sunny intervals for the last event.

1200 competitors from 20+countries together with 400 schoolchildren took part in the 3 events. These were Urban Events in Ca'Savio, Venice, East and NE of St Mark's Square and Burano. (Not to be confused with Murano)

The Final Details were a bit short on facts. I chose to stay in the Carlton Hotel, on the Grand Canal, a superb spot and fabulous traditional Italian Hotel, using Vaporettos to get to the events.

The Event Centre was in Lido di Jessolo, which couldn't have been further away, taking 3 hours for the return journey from my Hotel. The Event Centre was 30 minutes by bus to the first event at Ca'Savio which was rich in camping sites but short of hotels.

All assembly areas were in sports halls with good toilet and shower facilities. Hot aromatic tea and biscuits were provided at the finish of every race.

Ca'Savio was through a housing estate with small amounts of parkland. Running times were extremely close, as they were for all 3 events with sometimes only seconds separating 5 or 6 runners. Here the local Police were very helpful with road crossings.

One Control went missing half way through, and 2 officials were despatched to investigate only to find a policeman having recovered to control from a vandal wandering around with it in his hands. Needless to say the gripple had been overcome, and that control had to be voided.

The middle event was a Night one East and NE of St Mark's Square, starting out in some parkland but very soon negotiating many narrow passages to the amusement of some locals standing outside many of the bars and restaurants, some no bigger than my kitchen, giving encouragement and misleading advice.

It was essential to stay in contact with the map and compass, with many route choices, and you needed to be careful not to go down an alley which looked ideal but ended up on a jetty by a canal.

It was a late finish and an early start for the hour trip to Burano, so only 5 hours sleep, not ideal for the last race in Burano. This was a small but extremely picturesque area, with brightly coloured houses lining the canals in vivid colours, in contrast to the grey and brown stone of traditional Venice.

Again route choice and staying in contact with the map were essential with some entrances to the correct alleyways no more than a doorway, without a door.

The results were even tighter with only seconds, in the same minute separating runners.

All three events times were added together to get the results. I amazed myself at being 12<sup>th</sup> overall (first Brit) which against the stiff Scandinavian and Swiss competition, was not bad.

Nick managed 6<sup>th</sup>, which again was very credible, given the competition, but annoying when he was pushed down by only 1 second.

Staying in contact with the map did not give much opportunity to appreciate the views, but we did have some time for sightseeing and appreciating some traditional Italian cooking. Prices varying dramatically from front line establishments to those tucked away in the alleyways.

Overall it was a very enjoyable, and well organised event. I just wish that more information had been made available in the Final Details; but that may be the "Italian Way".

I will certainly consider going again.



**Anthony Barrable M65**

## Hindleap Warren, 15 November 2015- S E league SAX event

This was a South East League event which attracts lots of runners from other clubs. 204 ran in total which is a lot less than 2 years ago when 279 runners turned up. Perhaps the SE Night Champs being the night before kept away some usual runners. It was a bit disappointing because I had booked Toms Burger van on the basis of us having 250 runners. Top 3 clubs attending were by 1<sup>st</sup> Southdown (57 runners), 2<sup>nd</sup> Saxons (43 runners) and 3<sup>rd</sup> HH (21).

There was driving rain on the Saturday while Jerry put out controls, Rowan put out signs/ red and white tape and Andrew Evans started controlling. Thank goodness it had stopped by Sunday although the grounds was wet and the dry ditch that the finishers on the Yellow, Orange and Light Green courses had to cross had become a very wet stream and waterfall. We put up a rope to help them; I expect it was more fun wet.



The following is an analysis of the results  
 Firstly congratulations to these runners coming in the Top 3 on their course

Yellow	1 <sup>st</sup>	Austin Howe	M10
	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Toby Prior	M10
Orange	1 <sup>st</sup>	Henry Taylor	M12
	3 <sup>rd</sup>	Matthew Derrick	M12
Short Green	1 <sup>st</sup>	Jeremy Oldershaw	M75
	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Doug Deeks	M75
	3 <sup>rd</sup>	Tony Connellan	M75
Green	1 <sup>st</sup>	Peter Martin	M65

Next Saxons with noteworthy positions

Short Green	Beryl Pring	W65	1 <sup>st</sup> Saxons lady
	Dorothy Hale	W85	1 <sup>st</sup> W85 and most elderly competitor
Green	Anne Poole	W50	1 <sup>st</sup> Saxons lady



Short Blue	Fiona Wilson	W50	1 <sup>st</sup> Saxons lady
	Phil Norris	M65	1 <sup>st</sup> Saxons man
Blue	Alison Howe	W40	1 <sup>st</sup> Saxons lady and 2 <sup>nd</sup> lady overall
	Mark Glaisher	M60	1 <sup>st</sup> Saxons man and 3 <sup>rd</sup> M60
Short Brown	Mel Taylor	M50	1 <sup>st</sup> Saxons man and 3 <sup>rd</sup> M50
Brown	Brendon Howe	M45	1 <sup>st</sup> Saxons man and 2 <sup>nd</sup> M45

Thank you again to all the helpers. If you managed to help first then run, very well done if you are mentioned above. I am sorry if your helping stint was so long that your brain got addled, which was one comment I got from one Saxon who commented it took about 20 mins instead of 5 to find their first control.



**Rowan Purkis Organiser & Jerry Purkis Planner**

**Broadstone Warren- Southdowns Event 29 Nov 2015**

Another event on the Ashdown Forest. 15 Saxons turned up Best result were Peter Martin 5<sup>th</sup> on the Blue and Simon Greenwood 6<sup>th</sup> on the Blue.

**HINDLEAP WARREN- BROADSTONE WARREN – WHY WARREN?**

With thanks to the Conservators for this :-

<p><b>Digging in</b></p> <p>Look carefully and you will see the remains of rabbit warrens on this walk. They are shown on Ordnance Survey maps by the words 'pillow mound'. The Normans introduced rabbits to England during the 12th century. People prized their meat and fur. Originally, rabbits were delicate animals, not suited to the English weather. People had to dig warrens to give them shelter from the elements and protection from predators. A warren was a mound of soil about 200 metres long and 7 metres wide with a fence around it.</p>  <p><i>Rabbits were caught by surrounding the warren with nets and introducing a ferret.</i></p>	
---	---

**KNC 12 BEDGEBURY 03/12/2015**

37 people turned up to run at Bedgebury KNC organised and planned by Sarah Howes with assistance (due to injury) from Clare Howes (control checking & taping), Dave Kingdon (map updates) and Mark Glaisher (putting out controls on the day). Thanks go to all of them and to the control collectors afterwards.

Only a small part of this huge forest was used, being the area covered by the Forestry Commission's POC map at a scale of 1:5,000. The scale, together with the fact that the area hadn't been used for some 7 years or so, presented a bit of a challenge to planning a long enough course but on the night only 1 runner (Brendon Howe in 55:51) achieved 19/20 controls so everyone had a bit of strategic planning to do.

**Sarah Howes**  
**MVOC SE Vets and Families Event. 13 December 2015, Sheepleas and Effingham Woods**

A surprisingly tricky network of paths. I say this because I made a couple of errors-. My advice – always take a compass bearing when you come to a complex path junction. This fairly elementary technique would have allowed me to go west from point to 2 instead of finding I had gone NW to the Finish.

15 Saxons - best results: - Peter Martin- 7<sup>th</sup> on the Green, Rowan Purkis 3<sup>rd</sup> on the Short Green and Henry and Matthew Taylor 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> on the Orange



**Editor.**



**Brighton City Race Saturday 19 December**

Just 5 Saxons dodged shoppers, clambered over beach pebbles and staggered up hills on a busy pre Christmas shopping evening. Well planned courses avoided long dead runs, included complicated butterfly loops in the Lanes and lots of opportunity to make errors; especially punching the wrong control. Have not seen so many mis-punches at an event for a long time No prizes for Saxons just a good time had by all followed by fish and chips on the sea front.

### **Southern Navigators Ash Ranges 20 December 2015**

15 Saxons travelled to Ash Ranges, near Camberley in Surrey. Best results – Peter Martin 4<sup>th</sup> and Joanne Hickling was 5<sup>th</sup> on the Short Blue and Jeremy Oldershaw on the Short Green

### **Southdowns Christmas Score Event 27 December 2015, Stanmer Park.**

Southdowns always put on a score event between Christmas and New Year to help you run off the excess Christmas pudding, if you happen to be in the Sussex area which Dave Pickup and the Purkises were. Dave won the M45 class, Mark Purkis won the M20 class. Mark realised he had forgotten a change of clothes and went to visit his great-aunt wearing a blanket as a skirt.



**David Kingdon at Ash Ranges**

### **New Years Day 1 Jan 2016 Trosley Country Park**



**Graham Thomas with John Capeling**

A bright New Year's Day attracted a good crowd with many visitors from other parts of the country to a very muddy Trosley. Competitors seemed to enjoy the mental challenge of the 60 minutes split scoring system, and were very complimentary about the planning. A very popular spot meant that the car park was bursting with dog walkers and families who seemed to enjoy the added activity taking place. It remains to be seen whether those from other parts of the country ever return to Trosley.

A good turnout of 44 Saxons. Mr & Mrs Howe being the 1<sup>st</sup> man & 1<sup>st</sup> lady on the 60 min score. Sam Fuller and Ffion Bricknell with the

1st junior man and Ffion lady on the 45 min score. Thanks Sam for bringing the Wrotham cadets

**. David Thomas – Planner & Graham Thomas - organiser**

### **Black heath & Farley Woods 10 Jan 2016**

17 Saxons attended this event that was nearly cancelled because of heavy rain the day before. 432 people in total. The organisers managed to find last minute parking in some woods with hard tracks when the Registration field became too wet. A mixture of woods and open heath. It was

good to see Brian Dinsley running his first race as an M80 and to see Dorothy Hale W85 both out on the Short Green. The sun was out, no better way to spend a Sunday.  
Best result Joanne Hickling 4th on the Sh Blue.



**Jeremy Oldershaw and Peter Martin**



**Mark Glaisher and Brian Dinsley**

Map extract below



## **Extracts from Minutes of Saxons AGM 28 November, and Committee Meeting 11 December 2015**

- Committee: Jean Fitzgerald was re-elected as Chairman. The following were re-elected as committee members: Chris Rogers, Anita Kingdon, Alan Hickling, Jerry Purkis, Alison Howe, Nick Betts, Fiona Wilson, Beryl Pring, Simon Blanchflower, and Sarah Howes.
- Sarah flagged up her wish to step down from the Land Access role, with a gradual and orderly handover to a successor. There is thus an opportunity for a volunteer to act as understudy for a transition period.
- Chairman highlighted the growth of the Saxons Junior Squad, which now has squad kit and their own tent and banners, so Juniors can meet up after their runs. She congratulated Tony Connellan and Heather Brown on their success at recruiting new Juniors.
- Fiona Wilson, who had taken over the Membership Secretary role from Anita Kingdon in January 2015, reported a net gain of 13 members. She presented pie charts highlighting the lack of young adult club members, with only 3% in 21-29 year age range and 6% in 30-39 age range; we are strongest in the 50-69 age group (40% of membership).
- Saxons new website is now up and running. At the AGM Chairman Jean thanked Dave Moore for setting up our previous website, and for maintaining it for many years.
- Saxons will be organising the 2016 Kent Junior Orienteering Festival on 28 May at Lorenden School, near Faversham.
- Treasurer Chris Rogers reported a balance of a little over £16k, up from £11.5 the year before. Total net income from events was £9k, with the SE Long Distance Champs event yielding £2k.
- Mapping Secretary Simon Blanchflower reported that the major mapping expense had been the remapping of Ightham for the March 2015 level B event. He highlighted the new map of Scotney prepared by David Kingdon; David is working on a map of Whitstable for our 2017 urban event. Simon reported the effective work of Beryl Pring in bringing our Permanent Orienteering Courses up to date.
- The Club has purchased various new items of kit: 8 walkie-talkie radios; 10 new control kites; 2 digital start clocks; a second printer.
- Publicity Officer Nick Betts gave a demonstration of "Mailchimp" software, which will be used for sending out group e-mails to members.

### **Mike Solomon**

Committee meetings are usually held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday every other month. The next is Friday 12 Feb. All are welcome. Contact the Secretary to confirm location

## Club Committee & Officers

### WHO DOES WHAT contact list

See website for faces

		e-mail «@saxon-oc.org»	
Simon Greenwood	President		020 7370 6830
Jean Fitzgerald	Chairman Fixtures	fixtures or chairman	01622 686779
Chris Rogers	Treasurer	treasurer	01795 841247
Anita Kingdon	Secretary	secretary	01892 724986
Fiona Wilson	Membership	membership	01732 874946
Sarah Howes	Land Access	landaccess	01892 723327
Simon Blanchflower	Mapping	mapping	01304 373176
Jerry Purkis	Development SI kit	development	01892 536332
Heather Brown	Coaching Junior Kit		07985 558016
Mark Glaisher	Team Captain Printer KNC coordinator		01634 366933
Nick Betts	Publicity	publicity	01795 890360
Alan Hickling	Statistics KOL coordinator Equipment		01634 244006
Rowan Purkis	SaxAlert	saxalert	01892 536332
Cate Slade	Social Secretary	<a href="mailto:cate@telegraphroad.com">cate@telegraphroad.com</a>	07984 785969
Mike Solomon	Minutes		01622 726954
Beryl Pring	Permanent O Courses		01233 820705
Nigel Hills	Club O tops		01233 630779
Alison Howe	Committee member		01233 712586
Tony Connellan	Junior Coordinator		01622 661992
Doug Deeks	Auditor		

## **SAX PUZZLES ANSWERS**

### **I started too quickly**

The answer is 1 hour 40 minutes and the speeds for the five kilometres are

15 10 6 3 1 km/hr

### **Logic Puzzle answers**

1. Graham Thomas was looking for a vegetation boundary, he had lost his car keys but was found first.
2. Alison Howe was looking for a ruin; had lost her map but was found second.
3. Sean Cronin was looking for a stream, had lost his compass, and was found 3rd.
4. Jean Fitzgerald was looking for a distinctive tree; she had lost her dibber and was fourth to be found.
5. Alan Hickling was looking for a pit, where he had left his head torch and was found 5th.

**Acknowledgments this month to the following contributors including two new members. Thank you all very much:-**

**Anthony Barrable, Tony Connellan, Sean Cronin, Jean Fitzgerald, Michael Fletcher, Alan Hickling, Nigel Hills, Brendon Howe, Anita Kingdon, Peter Martin, Jeremy Oldershaw, Jerry Purkis, Richard Purkis, Sarah Reith, Mike Solomon, Graham Thomas and Steve Waite,**

**Photographs- Heather Brown (Junior Page photos), Compass Sport (Nick Barrable - Ash Ranges), Mike Solomon (letters to Editor) All others- Rowan Purkis**

**NEW YEAR SCORE EVENT  
TROSLEY COUNTRY PARK  
Saxons Juniors with the loyalty awards**



**Joseph and Matthew Derrick**



**William & Toby Prior**



**Austin Howe with Tony Connellan**



**Holly Howe getting map instruction from Alison**

**SAXALERT is the official journal of Saxons Orienteering Club.  
Views and opinions expressed in SAXALERT are those of the individual contributors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the editors, the club committee or Saxons Orienteering Club.**