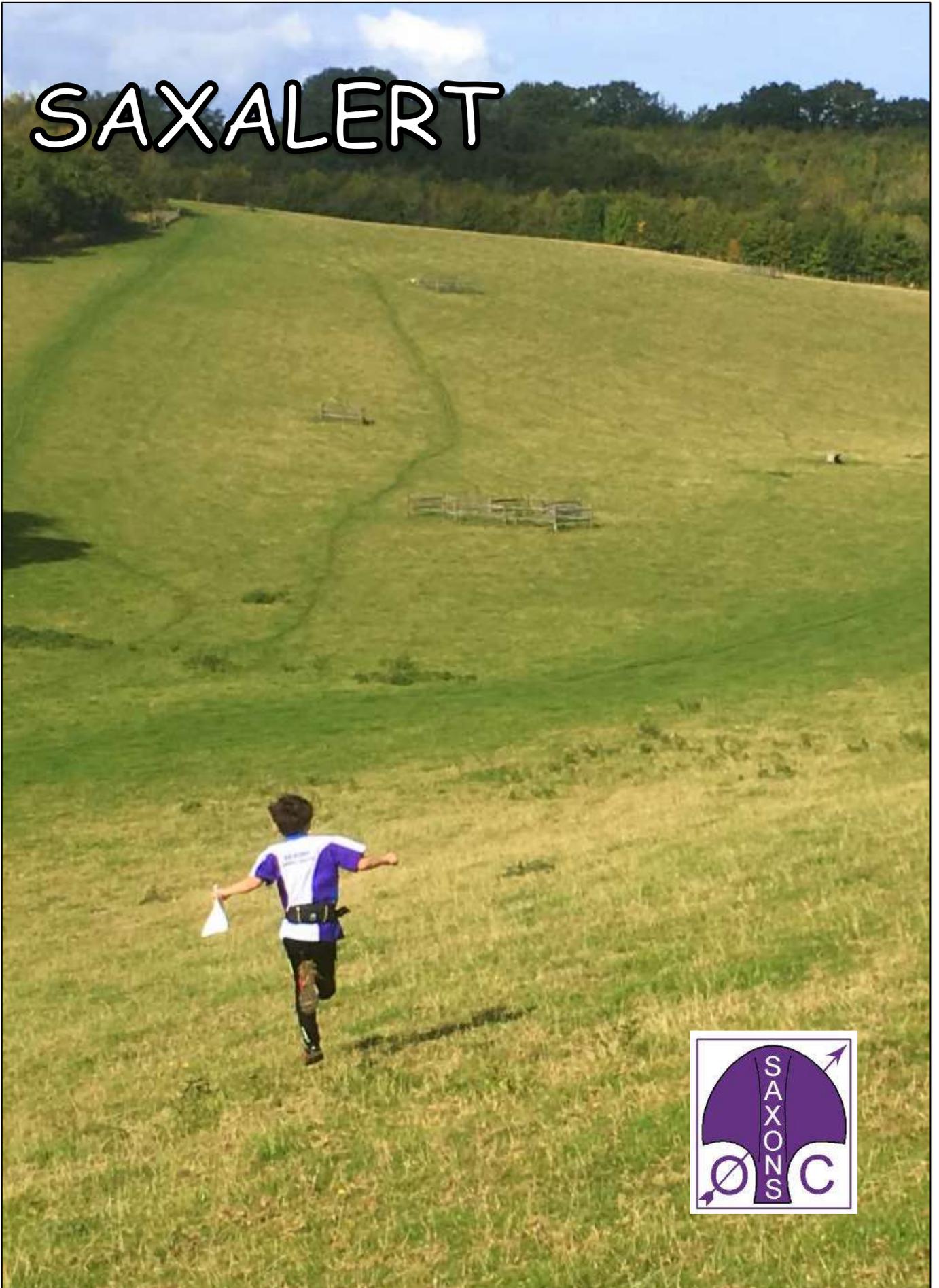


SAXALERT



SAX NOTICES

AGM AND CLUB SOCIAL

Saturday November 18th 10:00am
Refreshments, Fun Event and Buffet Lunch

Please send items for the agenda and nominations for the Committee

And RSVP to Beryl Pring

COACHING DAY IN THE LAKE DISTRICT

Saturday 10 Feb 2018.

There is also Sunday event run by LOC you can enter.
This is being run by The Orienteering Foundation
For more details

<https://www.orienteeringfoundation.org.uk/orienteering-foundation-coaching-day>

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EDITORIAL

I chose Sean's photo of Ben running through Hucking Estate for the front cover because it captures what orienteering is all about. Last time, my son Mark wrote about



Elite orienteers, how they inspires him and why we should support them. Most Saxons however do not aspire to become elite orienteers and evidence of this can be seen in the table on page ... of the results from the Scottish 6 days. 14 Saxons travelled all the way to Deeside, west of Aberdeen; that's an awfully long way, and most of us are languishing way down the results. At this point though, I need to applaud Austin Howe who won the M12B and Beryl Pring 2nd on W70S; our elite orienteers for the week. But the rest of ussay no more. Why do we continue to put in the road miles and travel all over the country when most of us know we stand no chance of getting on that podium? Saxons is very pleased to have a small handful of regular

names in the top 25% of the results but there is a much larger population of members who know they will never get a medal. So why do we do it? Why do we carry on driving 100s of miles, dressing up in colourful skin-tight running gear and paying money to enter orienteering races that we will never win? It would be a lot cheaper to go for a walk / jog in the woods with an OS map.

This brings me back to Ben running through Hucking. A youngster on his own running into the countryside. That's what we get; the freedom to roam where we like. When we get permission to use an area for an orienteering event we get the right to go off the public footpaths. Doesn't that make you feel like an intrepid explorer, taking a bearing and heading off the path in search of that elusive control? I can still remember being a newcomer, trotting up a path and watching the orienteers emerge from the woods cross the path and disappear again. It looked so exciting. Have you seen members of the public looking surprised when you appear through the trees out onto a path and then head off again following your compass? I am sure they are jealous. Any newcomers or juniors reading this who have not yet ventured onto a Light Green course- oh what fun you have to look forward to. We are the lucky ones, we get to go onto private land, we get to visit the most beautiful forests and wander where we like. It is an enormous privilege.

Other reasons to go orienteering:-

- You find an excuse to visit friends and relatives because there is an event on near them,
- You use it as an excuse for a family get together in this age of families living all over the place.
- There is an urban event in city you have always wanted to visit and you know you will get a splendid city map if you enter the event and go down alleys the tourists don't find.
- It's much more fun than taking an OS map, planning a circular walk and heading off into the countryside for a walk. More fun because of the camaraderie of other orienteers, the excitement of finding controls and you get to go off the paths!
- You love maps.
- It is an activity all the family can join in.
- You live in hope that, just once in your life, everyone else will make an error, you will have a perfect run and end up on the podium.
- You meet really friendly like-minded people

I am sure there are plenty other reasons why those of us who know we will never get a medal, keep driving hundreds of miles to go orienteering. Please send me your reasons. Don't just say – to keep fit, because you can go for a walk to keep fit. What is it about orienteering that keeps you turning up? We could use the ideas for publicity because most newcomers will not become elite orienteers but we want them to keep coming back for more

Rowan Purkis
saxalert@saxon-oc.org

Front cover photo credit – Sean Cronin
 Next newsletter – December

CONGRATULATIONS

Austin Howe- 1st overall M12B Scottish 6 Days
Beryl Pring- 2nd overall W70S Scottish 6 days

BRITISH ORIENTEERING PERFORMANCE AWARDS

Well done to the following:-

Austin Howe	Racing Challenge Gold	TD3	25 September 2017
Beryl Pring	Racing Challenge Silver	TD5	
Roger Pring	Racing Challenge Silver		
Tony Connellan	Racing Challenge Bronze		

If you are missing these awards make sure you put your BOF number on your registration form, especially if you are hiring a dibber.

NAVIGATION AWARDS: - Members are eligible for a Navigation Challenge certificate after successfully completing 3 colour coded courses at the same Technical Difficulty (TD) standard.

RACING CHALLENGE AWARDS are also based on Technical Difficulty but you receive an added award based on speed:-

- 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

Chairman's Chat



The club AGM is nearly with us. The business meeting will be from 10.30 on 18 November at the Swattenden Centre near Cranbrook. We will then hold a novelty orienteering event-so bring your kit- followed by a free cold buffet and a chance to socialise with other members. As I mentioned in my previous chat we need some new people on the committee, so if you are interested please get in touch with me in the first instance. Also, please send any items you would like raised at the AGM to the Secretary, Beryl Pring, for inclusion in the Agenda for the meeting and come along and support your club.

In June British Orienteering secured funding for the next four years to support their strategic plan by providing support and advice in relation to challenges clubs face in keeping people orienteering regularly. Clubs were asked to fill in a questionnaire to identify where they would like support and help, and explain why they would like to be part of this initiative.

The committee discussed this and we produced a response that highlighted the following as high priority:

1. The need to attract and retain new members, in particular juniors and young adults
2. The requirement for more club coaches and regular coaching sessions
3. An understanding of the most cost and time effective forms of publicity to attract participants to our events

At the end of July we heard that we had been successful in our application to be part of this initiative and that BO would like to do some focused work with us over the coming months. BO have now appointed two new England Development Officers, and one of these, Phil Conway of Guildford Orienteers, will be working with us on development issues. We hope Phil will be able to come to our next committee meeting to explain his role in BO and how he can help us. I will report back on this initiative in the next SaxAlert.

Talking of club development, Sean Cronin recently asked you for your suggestions for developing the club. Some good ideas came in, but a few suggested that some members are not aware of how things such as entry fees and event scheduling are arranged. The committee discussed this and have tasked several members to write articles for SaxAlert clarifying mechanisms that are in place to ensure that we have what we consider a good range of fixtures at a competitive price. The first of these, on event scheduling, is in this edition.

And finally, BO decided earlier this year to change the way events are described, presumably to make them more comprehensible to newcomers. Those of you who have been orienteering for years will see something circular about this rebranding.

For newer members, who might not understand the event structure, here is an overview.

Within the BO events structure there are four 'levels' of events. Recently they have been classified as level A, B, C or D. These events are now to be called 'Major', 'National', 'Regional' and 'Local' and this is what you will see if you look on BO or Saxons websites. Saxons were involved in a

'Major' event last season with our organisation of the JK relays. However, we would not expect to be involved at this level very frequently. Major events include the JK, British Championships and Regional (e.g. SEOA, SGOA) Championships. Saxons normally organises one 'National' forest event and recently also one 'National' urban event each year; these are high status events using our best and most technical areas. Our Sunday league events are now called 'Regional' events; at regional events and above you can get BO 'Ranking Points'. Our KOL and KNC events are now classed as 'local'.

Jean Fitzgerald

A SELECTION OF FUTURE EVENTS

Date	Event Name	Level*	Club	Venue
Sat 14/10/17	SAX Kent Orienteering League	Local	SAX	Trosley Country Park,
Sun 15/10/17	SO - level C	Regional	SO	Devils Dyke, Brighton
Thu 19/10/17	SAX KNC	Local	SAX	Scotney Castle, Lamberhurst
Sun 22/10/17	Mole Valley Event	Regional	MV	Epsom Downs,
Sun 22/10/17	CompassSport Cup Final	Major	DEVON	Virtuous Lady, Yelverton, Devon
Thu 26/10/17	SAX KNC	Local	SAX	Hindleap Warren. Forest Row
Sat 28/10/17	Cambridge City Race 2017	National	CUOC	Cambridge
Sun 29/10/17	GO Autumn Dash	Regional	GO	Ambersham Common, Midhurst
Thur 2/11/17	KNC SO	Local	SO	Kidbrooke Park, Forest Row
Sat 04/11/17	Southampton City Race (UKOL)	National	SOC	Southampton City Centre
Sun 05/11/17	November Classic and Southern Championships (UKOL)	Major	SOC	Highland Water, Lyndhurst
Thu 09/11/17	SAX KNC	Local	SAX	Canterbury Street O
Sat 11/11/17	DFOK KOL 3	Local	DFOK	Shorne Woods CP, Gravesend
Sat 11/11/17	SE Night Champs	Regional	SN	Alice Holt, Farnborough
Thu 16/11/17	DFOK KNC	Local	DFOK	Shorne Country Park, Gravesend
Sat 18/11/17	Mole Valley Night Event	Regional	MV	Holmbush, Crawley
Sun 19/11/17	British Schools Orienteering Championships	National	BOK	New Beechenhurst West, Forest of Dean, Coleford
Sun 19/11/17	CHIG Mitre SE League event	National	CHIG	Wormley Woods, Cuffley
Thu 23/11/17	SAX KNC	Local	SAX	Oaken Wood, Maidstone

Sat 25/11/17	SO - SOG A5 - Friston Forest	Local	SO	East Dean, Eastbourne
Thu 30/11/17	SAX KNC (Street)	Local	SAX	Crowborough street O
Sat 02/12/17	Southern Night Championships	National	TVOC	Penn and Common Wood, High Wycombe
Sun 03/12/17	SE Score Champs	Regional	DFOK	Joydens Wood, Bexley
Thu 07/12/17	DFOK KNC	Local	DFOK	Foots Cray Meadows, Bexley
Sat 09/12/17	SAX Kent Orienteering League	Local	SAX	Perry Wood, Selling Nr Faversham,
Sun 10/12/17	South East Families & Veterans	Local	MV	St Leonards, Horsham
Thu 14/12/17	SAX KNC	Local	SAX	Mote Park & Maidstone E,
Sat 16/12/17	SO - Brighton City Race (night mass-start event)	Regional	SO	Brighton,
Sun 17/12/17	Regional Event	National	SN	Ash Ranges, South East
Thu 21/12/17	SAX KNC	Local	SAX	Seal Chart, Nr Sevenoaks
Tue 26/12/17	Boxing Day Score	Local	LOK	Trent Park, tbc
Wed 27/12/17	Xmas Score	Local	SO	Rewell Wood, Arundel,
Sun 31/12/17	Guildford City Race	Regional	GO	Guildford,

Level *-

Local Low key local events put on by clubs primarily for their own members and newcomers. Generally a limited number of courses are available. Areas used tend to be small and may be less technical than those used at other events. Saxons KOL and KNC events are level D events. Advantages are that they are generally cheaper to enter than the other events and are generally friendly events where members and newcomers can get to know each other.

Regional These generally have six courses available of different lengths and technical difficulty. They are aimed at club members plus participants from other local clubs and generally attract larger numbers of entries.

National:- These are more 'high status' events that aim to attract orienteers from around the country. Generally they use the best terrain that can be found within a particular club's mapped areas. There may be 10 or more colour courses available. Serious orienteers enter a course specified for their age class, so they compete directly with their peers, but you can decide to enter a different course if you wish.

Major: - for elite and club orienteers. Best terrain possible is used. Age based courses plus colour courses suitable for beginners, not so competitive and/or the less confident even at these events, so you can enter with your less keen family members and still have a fun day out.

SE League: - - shaded in the table above. These events are held on the best areas in the South East. You collect points for your Club and for yourself.

KNC - Saxons weekly night orienteering – 1 hour score event then meet in a pub. Suitable for all abilities but you will need a torch.

KOL – Series of Saturday morning events held jointly SAX and DFOK, suitable for all. Lots of Juniors compete and collect points for their school.

SOG- Southdowns Orienteers Saturday series.

THE INS AND OUTS OF FIXTURES SCHEDULING

A question that arose recently as a result of Sean Cronin's request for topics to improve the development of Saxons was: *Why don't we have KOL events at regular intervals (e.g. every third Saturday) rather than on random dates?* I thought this would be a good opportunity to explain how fixtures dates for all Saxons different series are arranged, and what compromises are needed to ensure that we have good orienteering events on most weekends in the south east for those who want them and also good participation in the events Saxons organise. Any surplus income from our events is used to fund the production of new or updated maps. A resurvey for a reasonable sized area is likely to cost the club around £2K so we can't afford to hold too many loss-making events if we want to keep our map stock up to date.

Orienteering regions, such as covered by our own South East Orienteering Association (SEOA), have a fixtures committee that has representatives from each of the clubs in that region. Within SEOA this committee (which I attend on behalf of Saxons and Simon Greenwood as SEOA Chairman) meets twice a year to discuss and plan the allocation of dates for club events. Most of you will know that there are four 'levels' of orienteering events; level A (now called Major), level B (now called National), level C (now called Regional) and level D (now called Local)-see my Chairman's Chat in this SaxAlert for more details. In the BO Event Scheduling Group, first priority for dates is given to clubs proposing Major events, followed by National events. All other events have to fit around this initial scheduling. Within SEOA there are 11 open clubs all wanting 'the perfect date' for their National forest-based event and some also wanting a date for a National Urban league event. The most popular dates for forest events are from the end of October to April as summer vegetation such as bracken is at its lowest then, making the forests more runnable. Many landowners will specify what time of year an event can be held on their land taking into account the needs of their shooting tenants, protected birdlife etc., so cooperation on dates among clubs is required, and we need to plan ahead to make sure we get advantageous dates in the calendar. For the 2018-19 season, of the possible 24 Sundays in the October to April time frame, 10 are booked for Major or National events in the SEOA region (1 per club), 2 are booked in neighbouring regions and there are 3 Major events elsewhere in the country. Saxons are currently planning dates for the 2019-20 season down to Regional level. In scheduling our events we also need to consider Major events UK-wide of which there are around 10 each year (e.g. JK, British Championships, Regional Championships among other). Major event fixtures are co-ordinated by BO; currently dates for 2020 are on the BO website. If there is a Major event on a particular day no National events are permitted on that date; this is to try to ensure that the Major events capture the majority of our elite orienteers to increase participation and competition for these athletes (and us of course!) on our most technical areas. We also need to ensure we have no clashes of National event dates with regions bordering SEOA (South Central-SCOA and East Anglia-EAOA). Considering all of this it's not surprising it's difficult to fit Saxons Regional events into the overall fixtures schedule in any sort of regular pattern and that our Sunday events may appear to be haphazardly scheduled.

For our Saturday local events there is not the same pressure on possible dates; these Local events are generally perceived to be focussed towards the organising club's own members (although Saxons and DFOK members reciprocate on attendance at our KOLs). However, if there is a big event on the next day that members of our 'away squad' are likely to attend, it may reduce the entry to our event, which is dispiriting to the volunteers who have put the event on, and also makes it more difficult to get experienced orienteers to actually plan or organise the Saturday event. Because of this we try to arrange Local events on a weekend where there are no other Regional events scheduled in our region.

Currently there is little competition for evening time slots so we can schedule KNCs for once a week and draw in night orienteers from a wide catchment area.

So I hope you can see that the reason behind the apparent random intervals between events in the KOL series and Sunday series is the need to fit our fixtures into the SE and national fixtures list to ensure there are minimal 'clashes' with other clubs. This maximises participation at events, and also the number of events available to orienteers throughout the season.

We have a great website giving details of upcoming events, and our Mailchimp messaging service to remind members when events are on, which should offset any possible irritation caused by not having more regular dates for our events. In fact, if you visit the website often to check on future fixtures you might also find other snippets of interest!

Jean Fitzgerald

Fixtures Secretary

NEW SAX

A big welcome to

- **Ellie Baker-Brown W16 from Seaford**

- **Matt Peters M21 from Winchester but relocating to Kent**

Matt says I am originally from Ashford but due to military service I am currently living near Winchester. I am posted to a new Regiment at Maidstone in September and plan to attend my first event with Saxons on Sat 23 Sep at Hollingbourne. I have orienteered weekly for the last year with the British Army Orienteering Club, progressing up to a brown course, but as the majority of BAOC South events are at the other end of the A3, M3 or A303 I decided that a local civilian club was needed.

Newcomer FAQs.

Why do a lot of you use GPS watches even if you do not run fast?

This is a continuation to the May 17 query. To read past newsletters online click [here](#).

You can use the GPX file from your GPS tracking watch to upload onto the orienteering map on RouteGadget. Click [here](#) for the maps available. This will show you where you went, allow you to compare your route with others who have uploaded their routes and will also let you “race” across the screen against others on the same course as if you had started at the same time Neil Bricknell’s article in the May 17 edition gives more information.

I omitted to mention the Saxons Strava group. Here you can check out what training other Saxons have been up to and where they have run. At the time of writing Jerry Purkis is leading the distance Leaderboard because he has been doing the North Downs way in 25 mile chunks. You can set up your watch so that it uploads to Strava automatically.

This Week's Leaderboard

Last Week This Week



3rd

Your Rank

15.0 km

Total Distance

Rank	Athlete	Distance ▼	Runs	Longest ▼	Avg. Pace ▼	Elev. Gain ▼
1	Jerry Purkis	40.4 km	1	40.4 km	10:29 /km	753 m
2	Richard Purkis	24.6 km	4	11.2 km	5:07 /km	187 m
3	Mark Purkis	15.0 km	2	9.0 km	7:35 /km	677 m
4	Alan Hickling	9.9 km	1	9.9 km	5:41 /km	46 m
5	Beryl Pring	3.4 km	1	3.4 km	7:28 /km	22 m

In the May edition I featured my clunky old GPS watch that is finally dying and I need a new one. Which one to buy???

I found this review in Which Magazine. If anyone has a favourite that's not listed

FITNESS WATCHES		BEST ON TEST vs BEST VALUE You would have to be intensely focused on your workout to not consider the Garmin Forerunner 35 (£130) alongside the Garmin Forerunner 630 (£292).														
Fitness watches provide you with accurate, comprehensive and easy-to-understand data about your exercise or performance in a particular sport.		18 fitness watches have gone through our testing or been given a first look by our reviewers. Find out which is best at which.co.uk/fitnesswatches														
BEST BUY / DON'T BUY		Price	Screen size (mm)	Compatible OS	Heart rate monitor	Water resistant (metres)	GPS	Swimming	Running	Cycling	Ease of use	Comfort	Fitness functions	Everyday life	TEST SCORE	
OUR PICK OF THE BEST																
Garmin Forerunner 630	●	£292	31.1	iOS, And	✓	✓	50	✓	✓	✓	Best on test	One for keen runners	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	75%
Garmin Fenix 3 HR	●	£305	30.4	iOS, And	✓	✓	100	✓	✓	✓	Undeniably great, but rugged design not for everyone	★★★★	★	★★★★★	★★	73%
Garmin Fenix 5	●	£499	30.5	iOS, And	✓	✓	100	✓	✓	✓	Big and rugged with tons of features	★★★★	★★	★★★★★	★★★★	73%
Garmin Forerunner 35	●	£130	33.2	iOS, And	✓	✓	50	✓	✓	✓	Best value	Looks basic, but performs well	★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★	73%
Garmin Forerunner 735XT	●	£314	31.1	iOS, And	✓	✓	50	✓	✓	✓	Good for training and everyday use. Lots of features	★★★★	★★	★★★★★	★★	72%
Garmin Vivoactive HR	●	£169	35.2	iOS, And	✓	✓	50	✓	✓	✓	Accurate and versatile so sure to suit all kinds of user	★★★★	★★	★★★★★	★★	72%
Garmin Forerunner 25	●	£120	32	iOS, And	✓	✓	50	✓	✓	✓	A good entry-level option for runners	★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★	71%
Garmin Forerunner 235	●	£210	31.1	iOS, And	✓	✓	50	✓	✓	✓	Scope of data given makes this great for runners	★★★★	★★	★★★★★	★★	70%
TomTom Runner 3 Cardio+Music	●	£184	33.3	iOS, And	✓	✓	50	✓	✓	✓	Basic display but great app, long battery life	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★★	★★	69%
TomTom Spark 3 Cardio+Music	●	£170	33.3	iOS, And	✓	✓	50	✓	✓	✓	Not the prettiest, but has great in-depth analysis	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★★	★★	69%
Polar M200	●	£94	26	iOS, And	✓	✓	30	✓	✓	✓	Lacks specialised insight, but does the basics well	★★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★	68%

TABLE NOTES Compatible OS: iOS = Apple, And = Android. Ease of use: Set-up and syncing. Comfort: Obtrusiveness during exercise. Fitness functions: The accuracy and reproducibility of activity data. Everyday life: Includes using the controls. Test score: Ignores price, based on: ease of use 50%, fitness functions 40%, features 10%.

let me know. I need a new one

If you are reading a paper copy of the newsletter and would like access the old newsletters on line – send me an e-mail and I will send you the link. Editor

SAXONS RUNNING KIT

I hope you have all been enjoying the new kit. It is great to see so many people wearing the new jackets - even Southdowns have commented on how flash we are all looking! I have also been impressed with the O-top performance - whilst many will find they need to upsize, i have found them very comfortable to run in. Wicking capability is very good, as well as breathability, keeping you at an optimum temperature.

Following a flurry of sales around the JK, I have arranged a small top up order to ensure a full range of sizes. I will also be trialling a new technical headband alongside the popular buff, so something to look out for in the coming weeks!

The kit box comes with me to most events. Please send an e-mail if you want to get hold of some kit so we can arrange the when and how more easily!

Alison Howe - 07976841078 or [alison.howe12\[at\]gmail.com](mailto:alison.howe12[at]gmail.com)



JUNIOR PAGES

My First Experience of the Scottish Six days by Austin Howe

In the summer holidays I did an orienteering race called the Scottish Six Days. It took place in Royal Deeside, near to where The Queen lives. The event is popular with over 3500 competitors from many countries. There is a different race each day, with a rest day on the Wednesday, where a sprint race is offered. I took part in all six races at M12B category and the sprint. I had three 1st, a 3rd, a 4th and a 5th place. This was enough for me to beat the competition and take the Gold medal.

EDITORS NOTE- for a boy from Kent to beat off the tough Scottish competition tells how well Austin did in this multi day event

CONGRATULATIONS



WHAT HAVE THE JUNIORS BEEN UP TO?

I hope that you all had a good Summer holiday, but haven't forgotten all that you know about orienteering and the fun that you can have during the event and with the others of your age after the runs are over. You all go to different schools so this is a chance to meet up and chat and play with them.

There were some events over the Summer and I managed to get to one near Dover with a lovely flat park for the start and finish, but a mighty hill in the middle which I found hard work to get up and then difficult to get down under control as I slid dangerously on the crumbling chalk. I saw some of you doing very well [especially climbing up the hill]. I hope you did well and you certainly seemed to be having fun which is very important. Ben and Austin certainly ran up the hill quicker than me

Also over the Summer Austin went to Scotland to take part in a huge event which lasted a week and entered a race on six of the days. Not only did he take part, but on the first three days came first and must have been rightly pleased with himself. Then 4th, 2nd and then 3rd. What a week you must have had Austin. Well done!

Back home in Kent we had a lovely bright day for the first of the KOL series at Hucking on Saturday. There weren't quite as many Saxon juniors as usual, but it was good to see the effort those who came put into their runs.

Ffion and Elsa came 7th and 10th on the light green course against some very experienced adult competitors. On the orange course Austin's practice in Scotland must have helped improve his technical skills as he came second out of 12 competitors with Kasie 6th and Toby 12th

There were 13 runners on the yellow course with Ben coming 2nd leading the Saxon group with William 5th Just ahead of Luke and a new junior Saxon, James Galor, guided round by Heather, and then Holly making up the rest of the team.

The next KOL is on 14th October at Trosley Country Park which you Juniors always find attractive as there is a café which sells lovely ice cream. So I hope to see lots of you there and look out for me or Heather as we have prizes to give out for your loyalty over the season. We don't always catch you and have to take them home again after the events. It's always worth your asking!

Then another date for your diary – or i-phone- is Shorne Woods. Again this has lots to offer, not just orienteering. So these are two very important dates for you to put on the family calendar.

Don't forget;-

1. Fold the map, don't have it flapping about as you run.
2. Keep a finger or thumb on the map at the place where you are at the moment and
3. Tie laces tightly and
4. Don't set off with a jacket. Leave it with Mum or Dad as you'll be far too hot after even a couple of minutes



Happy orienteering

Tony Connellan

DON'T FORGET TO SEND OFF FOR YOUR FREE COLOUR COURSE BADGE

You can get a fabric colour coded badge to sew on your track suit or O top, sponsored by the South East Orienteering Association, if you beat the par time three times, on any colour-coded course. Three qualifications at the same colour get you a badge - there is no time limit on when you can get them.

Par time is set at the winner's time plus 50%, or to include half the runners, whichever is greater, except for the White course, where you only have to complete the course three times to qualify.

To obtain your badge, please send a print out of the three sets of results to Anne Power, 6 Mallard Close, New Barnet, Herts EN5 1DH. Tel: 0208 449 5984, email: powerbarnet@btinternet.com.



There is no charge, but you must enclose a stamped addressed envelope.

The picture is David Thomas's brown badge, I think he has them all! **If you do send off for any badges, please send me a photo of you and your badge when it arrives.**

Here is a report of the KOL at Huckling on 23 September

The Woodland Trust land at Huckling was the venue for the first KOL of the season and 38 Saxons enjoyed the warm weather and relatively dry paths. DFOK planned the courses and they ensured runners on the Blue and Light Green courses visited the depressions in the bluebell /bramble areas. Regulars were joined by Mark Wilkins and his family at his first event for about ten years. As he came in 5th place on the Blue course he hasn't lost his touch and we hope he joins Saxons in the near future. Daughter Eve enjoyed the yellow course with Mum and little brother so a family to watch.

Ffion Bricknell W14 did well coming 7th on the Light Green Course, but somehow she let her Dad Neil beat her! Austin Howe M12 did well coming second on the Orange course and his father Brendan came in first on the Blue Course.

And to finish, the welcoming Hook and Hatchet pub ensured a pleasant setting for the post run chat
Heather Brown



Photo Heather Brown

The photo shows two juniors talking over their routes afterwards. Always make sure to do this, especially if you had trouble finding some of the controls.

SAX QUIZ- OS MAP READING SKILLS

We know that the big difference between orienteering maps and ordnance survey maps is the fact that there are no grid references on an orienteering map. This quiz tests your ability to use grid references.

1. What are the map-reading basics that will help you read a map successfully?
 - a) Compass directions, grid references and key
 - b) Compass directions, grid references, key and scale
 - c) Compass directions, grid references, key, scale and reading the title
2. What are the points of the compass starting at 12 o'clock and heading clockwise?
 - a) East, North, South, West
 - b) South, West, North, East
 - c) North, East, South, West
 - d) West, North, East, South
 - e) North, South, East, West

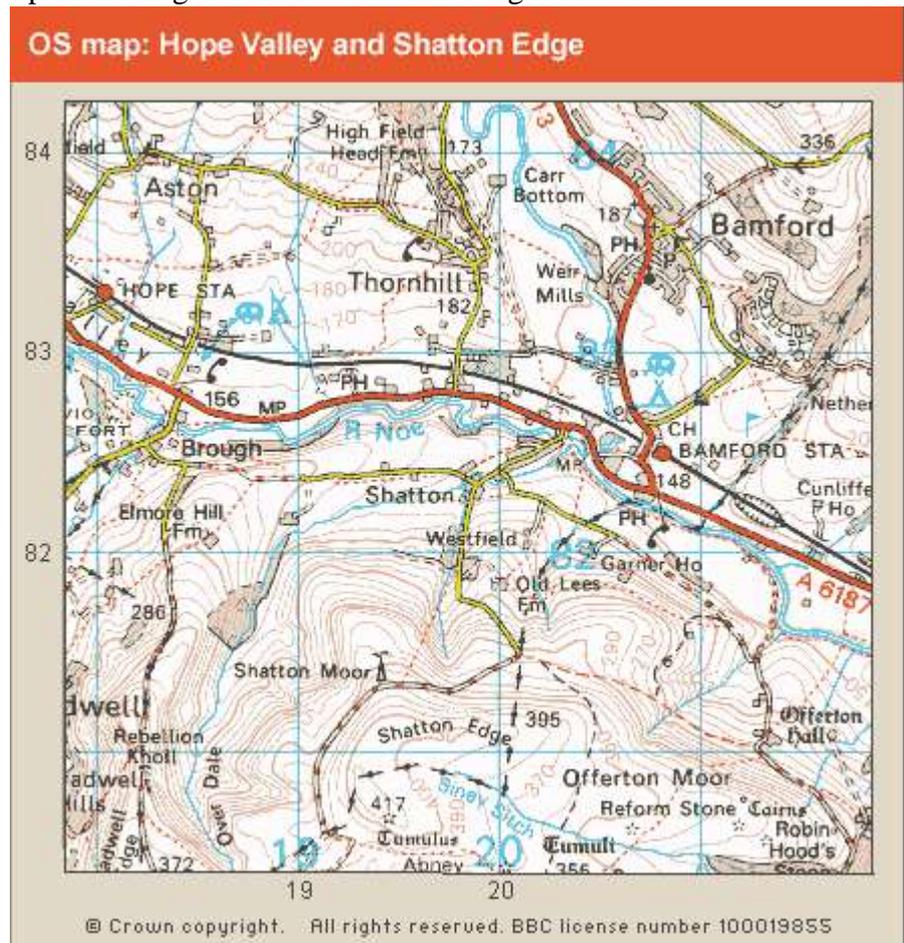
3. With grid references, which numbers come first?
 - a) Eastings (numbers along the bottom)
 - b) Northings (numbers up the side)

4. A four-figure grid reference represents what?
 - a) The co-ordinates or point where the two lines meet
 - b) All four grid squares around the point
 - c) The grid square to the north west of the point
 - d) The grid square to the north and east of the point
 - e) The grid square to the south and west of the point

5. What does the six-figure grid reference 198823 tell you?
 - a) It gives you an exact point in grid square 1988 that is 2/10s up and 3/10s along.
 - b) It gives you an exact point in grid square 1988 that is 2/10s across and 3/10s up.
 - c) It gives you an exact point in grid square 1982 that is 8/10s across and 3/10s up.
 - d) It gives you an exact point in grid square 1982 that is 8/10s up and 3/10s along.

6. Outdoor pursuit maps from the Ordnance Survey typically have a scale of 1:25,000. So what does 1 cm on the map represent?
 - a) 25 m, b) 100 m, c) 250 m, d) 1000 m or e) 2500 m

7. Study the map of Hope Valley and Shatton Edge. What is at grid reference 208825?



- a) Campsite, b) Golf course, c) Bamford station, d) Stream or e) Wheat Hay Farm

8 Study the map. What is the relief of the land like at 198815?

- a) Flat, b) Slight incline or c) Steep incline

9. Study the map. How high is the highest point of Shatton Edge (grid reference 1980)?

- a) 395 m , b) 417 m or c) 400 m above sea level

10. Study the map. What do the grid references 2080 and 2180 suggest about past activities in this area?

- a) The land was ancient royal hunting grounds and was the hideout of Robin Hood (shown by Robin Hood's Stone).
b) The land was used for ancient burials - indicated by the tumuli.
c) The land was used for political meetings - shown by the Reform Stone

With acknowledgments to BBC bite size- Geography <http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/quiz/q51189076>

Answers on page

Permanent Orienteering Courses (POCs)

Now is the time to start training for this season. Try one of the POCs listed below to get your navigational skills up and running or go out with your children to help them improve. Please let me know you find any problems, such as posts missing or vandalised. I rely on club members to report problems because members of the public will not. If you could go and check out a course and send me a report. I would be very grateful even if it's just to say that everything is in order. Enjoy.

- Bedgebury
- Betteshanger/Fowlmead
- Mote Park
- Trosley Country park
- University of Canterbury campus
- Whinless Down

Full details are on our website. Maps for Mote Park and Trosley can be purchased on the British Orienteering website as well as their cafes.

Beryl Pring.

The Ancient Tree Register

Simon Greenwood sent me a note to let everyone know about the Tree of the Year competition run annually by the Woodland Trust. You had to vote by 8 October which was too late for this edition of SaxAlert and I posted details on the Facebook group page instead. If you saw it – did you vote and which tree did you vote for. I will keep an eye on the results and let you know.

Two of the ten shortlisted trees for England were in East Sussex. A hornbeam at Scotney Castle and a yew in Crowhurst near Hastings

I discovered that if you go onto the Ancient Tree Hunt website you can search the interactive map. If you select the OS map option you can find out exactly where the trees that have been recorded are and if they are on public land. <http://www.ancient-tree-hunt.org.uk/discoveries/interactivemap>. There are 407 ancient trees so far recorded in Kent and 100 in East Sussex.

I was about to vote for the Scotney hornbeam but Jerry said we should not vote without looking at them and offered to drive me to Crowhurst and stop at Scotney on the way back.

The Crowhurst yew is easy to find because it is in the village church yard. It has a very interesting history. It is thought it started to grow in about 700. Old records tell that in 1066 King Harold's manor at Crowhurst was burnt by the Normans and the Reeve (a local official) hanged from the great yew tree in the churchyard because he refused to tell where the treasure was hidden. Local legend also tells that the invading Normans made bows from the wood from the tree after burning down the manor.

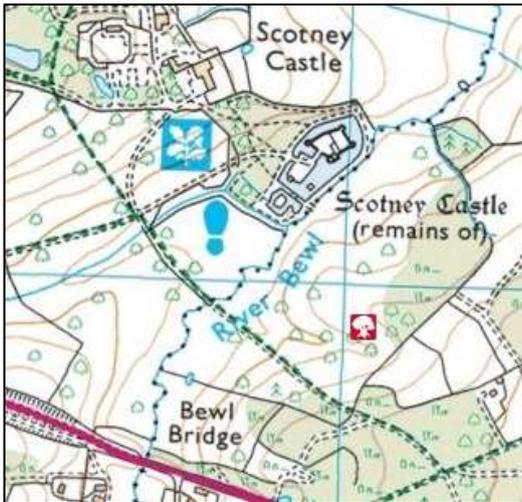


A close up of the trunk of the Crowhurst yew that measure over 9m in diameter



The shot shows the tree is in a fairly poor state. The vegetation on a yew is much thicker in a healthy specimen. Hardly surprising though given that it is about 1300 years old.

To find the hornbeam at Scotney I used the OS map option from the ancient tree register website which shows it not far from a public footpath on the north side of a re-entrant. Once we got there it was pretty obvious which the oldest tree was.



The description in the short list for Tree of the Year is: -
“The hornbeam at the National Trust’s Scotney Castle was planted as part of a wood pasture around the 1400s and it forms a major part in the historical, ecological, and cultural part of the Scotney Estate

As the land around it was historically grazed by animals, and still is today, the tree has been managed as a pollard rather than a coppice. The hornbeam would have been harvested on an annual basis with the stems being removed at around 8ft, bundled up as faggots, and then used by the local community as household fuel. Once the stems had been removed the tree would be left to allow any new growth to develop and then it would be re-

pollarded the following year for more firewood. Legend has it a tonic made from hornbeam was said to relieve tiredness and exhaustion, and its leaves were used to stop bleeding and heal wounds.”

Having view both trees, I voted – for the yew- sorry Scotney.

I noticed that there were no ancient trees marked on the map for Kings Wood Challock and find that surprising. Maybe this is because a survey has not yet been done. In one of the areas I do conservation work (Southborough Common) we had an ancient tree expert come to talk to us and part of our work is to locate the ancient trees and mark them on the register.



The Woodland Trust knows there are ancient trees yet to be recorded and urges the public to find them, mark them on the map and upload a photo. I am pretty sure some of you are friends of Kings Wood. Has a survey been done?

Have fun searching the interactive map and let us know if there are ancient trees near you worth visiting.

Rowan Purkis

SUMMER SERIES REPORT

I and Brendon were very pleased to co-ordinate the 2017 Summer Series again this year. Just like last year, there were plenty of volunteers to organise events, help on the day, safety control and of course Dave, Jean and Sarah were there to organising land use, event registration and money. Thank you everybody.

There were quite a few organisational challenges. Rowan and Jerry wanted to organise another trail challenge with Sarah's Runners of Tunbridge Wells, but no suitable date could be found (and quite frankly they needed a break from organising events!). Brendon had a really innovative and exciting event planned at Bedgebury, but unfortunately final land use permissions could not be arranged, and Simon Blanchflower had a new (for most of you) area mapped near Folkestone, but again land use permissions could not be obtained for all of that area.

With 5 events compared with last year's 7, it's not surprising that there were fewer IND runs this year (49 compared with 91 last year). On the plus side, average turnout for all competitors was higher though, with the weekend Mote Park and Trosley events particularly well attended. We also got to visit a new (for most of us) area in Dover, had a lovely evening in the pub at Perry Wood, and enjoyed the best of Mote Park and Trosley.

The figure below don't include the summer bike events (new this year) as these are not part of the summer series. Add these events and I suspect the figures for 2017 and 2016 summer events look very similar.

2017

			Trosley Evening	Whinliss Down (Sunday)	Perry Wood (Evening)	Mote Park (Sunday)	Trosley (Sat)	Total	Ave
IND			5	9	4	12	19	49	9.8
Club			25	16	32	36	30	139	27.8
Total			30	25	36	48	49	188	37.6

2016

	Haysden Trail (Thur)	Mote Park (Sunday)	Maids tone Street (Wed)	Dunorlan (Sat)	Scotney (Thurs)	Betteshan ger (Sunday)	Betteshan ger (Sunday)	Total	Ave
IND	13	30	22	8	1	10	7	91	13
Club	13	25	11	30	29	21	10	139	19.9
Total	26	55	33	38	30	31	17	230	32.9

The series was promoted again this year. The three main methods used were giving fliers out at Parkrun (thank you to all club members who helped with these – greatly appreciated), emailing local running clubs and groups, and advertising on Facebook.

I always think measuring the effectiveness of marketing and promotion are tricky for sports like orienteering, marketing people say someone has to be convinced by an advert at least 3 times before they act on it, possibly this is more for a niche sport like orienteering where there are other potential barriers (location, weather etc.). It's quite possible the promotions will boost attendance at events later in the year.

We paid Facebook to put our event details on people's newsfeed (targeted at people with similar interests to orienteering living within a 30 minute drive of the events). They provide some statistics of the effectiveness:

	Views	Responses
Whinless Down	2689	38
Bedgebury	3263	63
Mote Park	2604	44
Trosley (day)	1642	11

Views shows the number of people who were presented with our event details on their newsfeed. That doesn't mean they read it or even noticed it. Responses are the number of people who said they were "interested" or "going". Most were "interested" which is quite a non-committal word. "One day hopefully" is perhaps another way of describing it. There was also "organic" growth with people sharing the event details with their friends, particularly the cancelled Bedgebury event. The advertising also resulted in more "likes" of the Saxons public (fan) page. These people will see future event details without the need for advertising.

Assuming myself and Brendon are co-ordinating the series next year, we'll have to think about ways of increasing the number of non-club member runs further as this was a key aim of the series. If you've got any ideas, or want to volunteer as an organiser (early birds likely to get more choice of venues/dates), please let one of us know.

Sean Cronin

Women's Institute Ladies turn out in force to Orienteer - Photo O Street Event in Gravesend

124 WI ladies, family and friends took part in the Photo Orienteering walk in Gravesend on Sunday 13th August.

It was a great turn out consisting of walkers, strollers, joggers, and marchers but no true orienteers to show them how to really dash around the streets. The idea of photo O is to navigate to the control circle shown on the map and then decide which of a range of images given out at the start corresponds to what is visible from the circle.

The optimum route to visit all 20 locations was just over 5 miles so a real challenge for some to achieve in the 2 hours but everybody tried hard even though some used creative methods. Fortunately we had a team of



Photo Heather Brown

two young things and a team of two strong marchers who admitted to breaking into a sweat and/or a jog to stay together as a team and reach every location.

It seemed that everybody in the 45 teams representing 26 WIs enjoyed the walk, reaching many if not all of the locations and correctly identifying many of the photos. By 3.15pm all the walkers had safely returned and were eating the ploughman's meal and delicious cakes supplied by Istead Rise WI.

Will any of them join us at one of our events? Who knows, but it has brought the orienteering concept to a wider audience.

Heather Brown

(Note from Chairman. There are 'photo O' maps of Salisbury, Bristol and Aberystwyth and maybe more produced by the local orienteering clubs. The Salisbury one is available all the time See <https://sarumo.org.uk/salisbury-photo-trail/>)

Southdowns Summer events - The Hawth and Horsham Park By Graham Denney

Earlier this summer, in July, I managed to catch a couple of SO's Summer League events in West Sussex. The Hawth in Crawley was a short sprint mainly around woodland with some parkland; Horsham Park was all open parkland. Both event areas have a certain amount of historic interest.

The Hawth, Crawley: Saturday 8th July

Today The Hawth is best known as Crawley's main (indeed, only) theatre. In fact, for a long time Crawley didn't have a theatre at all. The new town of Crawley was created in 1947 but somehow all thought of providing arts and entertainment facilities managed to escape the planners for nearly 40 years. Finally, in 1986 the Borough Council got around to commissioning a theatre and The Hawth opened 2 years later. It has hosted a large number of celebrities since then, such as Nigel Havers, Eddie Izzard and Nigel Kennedy – which gives you an idea of the range of repertoire performed here. Probably the most famous guest however has been in the audience, not on the stage: Princess Diana, who attended *Romeo and Juliet* performed by London City Ballet in 1992.

But, as orienteers, our involvement with The Hawth on 8th July was – understandably – just to use the car park and the loos. (As far as I know, nobody has yet run – at least successfully – an orienteering event inside a theatre). It was the woods immediately behind it that really held our attention.

Hawth Wood is nearly 25 acres of ancient, mixed deciduous woodland and a Site of Nature Conservation Interest. What this means is that the woodland dates back to before 1650 (in fact its history is documented back to the 1500s), and its biodiversity is such that it is locally important for nature conservation. Whilst this does not have the statutory protection of a SSSI (Site of Special Scientific Interest), national government does expect local authorities to integrate protection of these areas into local planning.

The woodland here is traditional coppice, consisting of tree species such as hazel (the most common, because this is what is coppiced), oak, ash, birch and beech in the canopy layer and hawthorn and holly lower down in the shrub layer – accompanied of course by “Orienteers' Favourite”, bramble (as well as apparently wild honeysuckle. Perhaps I was going too fast to spot that one). As may be expected of coppiced woodland, bluebells and primroses are much in evidence in springtime at ground level. However ground flora here are far more diverse than that: early purple orchid, wood anemone, goldilocks buttercup, wood spurge, primrose, wood sorrel, wood melick, wood sedge and

early dog-violet can all be found here too (though you might need to move more slowly than an orienteer to spot them all!)

It is the coppicing that gives us the first clue to the prior use of Hawth Wood. The second clue – the clincher, as it were – comes from the large number of pits scattered all through the wood. Nowadays a staple favourite of orienteering planners ☺ these pits once provided raw iron ore to local furnaces during the heyday of the Wealden iron industry. The coppiced hazel supplied the charcoal which was the fuel for smelting the ore.

The pits were created by digging a hole about 6-6 ½ feet in diameter then sinking it down until the seam of iron ore was exposed. Once a pit had been worked out, it was filled in with the spoil from the next pit dug, and so on. Over time of course this resulted in the pockmarked landscape we see today at Hawth Wood.



Ironmaking in the Weald dates back to Prehistoric times, most notably at another Crawley site, Broadfield. The Romans took over the industry and expanded it, with some sites possibly even supplying the Roman fleet, the *Classis Britannica*. Curiously, there is no evidence of Saxon ironworking in the Weald until the 9th Century AD (and that only a single site) and very little right through the Medieval period until the late 1400s. This was when the new invention of the blast furnace made its way from Belgium to England, and by

the mid-1500s the industry here had greatly expanded. Between the 1400s and 1700s, well over 150 sites were active at one time or another throughout the Weald, which became the centre of ironmaking in Tudor England. The industry survived in Kent and Sussex well into the 1700s, but when Midlands ironmakers started using coke instead of charcoal, Wealden furnaces couldn't compete as there was no local source of coal (from which coke is derived). Unable to gain the economies of scale of coke-fired furnaces, this was the death knell for the entire Wealden iron industry.

So where was the furnace that Hawth Wood was supplying? It was essential for ironmaking plants to be as close as possible to the source of wood as well as the iron. This was partly because transportation costs were an important economic factor even then. However it was also due to the fragile nature of charcoal: ideally this needed to be produced on-site at the furnace, since it disintegrated easily while being carried by cart. Keeping everything close together reduced wastage and made a lot of financial sense. This means that Hawth Wood's furnace must have been close by. In fact, it was just under a mile away, where Laurel Close in the Furnace Green district now sits. Indeed, quantities of slag – waste products from the ironmaking process – have been found there by a number of local residents. According to the BBC History website, remains of the charcoal burners can still be found in Long Wood, which backs on to Laurel Close from the south, as well as the diverted river which powered the bellows for the furnace. The open area to the immediate east of Long Wood is also called Furnace Plain – a reminder that place names often remember landscape features that have long since been lost.

The Tilgate Furnace is known to have operated from 1617 to 1685, although it may date back even earlier. Certainly there was a furnace working in nearby Worth Forest in 1560, which may date back

to the 1540s and was owned by the Duke of Norfolk to cast cannon. But rescue archaeology a number of years ago at Broadfield and Southgate in Crawley revealed an extensive Roman ironworks, including remains of sizeable buildings – and those areas are likewise close to Hawth Wood and Furnace Green. Unfortunately as far as I know those Roman remains are now buried beneath housing estates, so only the pits of Hawth Wood still survive as a visible reminder of how extensive and important the Wealden iron industry once was.

Horsham Park: Saturday 15th July

To the northwest of the pretty Sussex market town of Horsham lies a veritable haven of green space: Horsham Park. This large public park covers an area similar in size to the town centre itself, and is well stocked with a range of useful facilities – not least football pitches, tennis courts, bowling green, skate park, leisure centre, café and – the icing on the cake – a permanent Orienteering Course. For the more sedate visitor there are some distinct, themed gardens within the park: notably the Human Nature Garden, added in 2011 to raise awareness of the everyday connections between people and plants, and Park House Garden, a sensory garden specifically aimed at disabled visitors, particularly those who are visually impaired.

Behind the park stands the eponymous Park House, a Grade II listed building now used mainly for weddings but which is the key to understanding the present-day park behind it.

Although its origins date back to 1689, Park House as it remains today is essentially Georgian. Perhaps unusually, Horsham grew little in Georgian times, so buildings from that era like Park House are important for their rarity as much as for the quality of their craftsmanship.

The house was built on what is called *burgage land*, a medieval term referring to a rented property in an urban area which was ultimately owned by a member of the nobility or even the Crown. They were often used to enclose fields in order to extend town boundaries. Given the location of Park House in relation to Horsham town centre, that may well have been the case here. Of particular interest though – as we shall see in a moment – is that, until the House of Commons was reformed in 1832, being an occupant of a burgage carried the right to vote for the local Member of Parliament (yes, it hardly seems credible but today's Commons *is* reformed! By the standards of pre-1832 anyway...)

The little-known diarist John Baker lived in the house in the late 1700s, probably around 1769-1779, as he retired to Horsham for the last ten years of his life. Originally from Chichester, Baker had practised law at Middle Temple in London, then moved to the Leeward Islands in the Caribbean, where he spent most of his career, rising to the level of Solicitor-General there and becoming a Member of the local governing Assembly. Other than the weather, his diary is most notable for his observations of cricket matches, at a time when the sport was developing fast, and is regarded as a valuable record of an important period in its history.

Today's park however is but a relic of the former Hurst Park Estate, first created in the 1700s and enlarged throughout the following century, by the family of the same name. Horsham Urban District Council purchased both the house and the park in 1928, and began making good use of both. A swimming pool was opened in the park in 1934 – open air, of course, as they often were in those days. The house became mostly council offices, although the town's Museum Society was granted space there in 1930. Located in the former kitchen, this was the first time that the Society had had a permanent home for its displays. Unfortunately these halcyon days lasted just nine years. With war threatening in 1939, the Council was placed in the unenviable position of having to evict their unassuming tenants to make way for administrators and secretaries.

Other than Baker, however, the house's most celebrated owner was Robert Hurst (1750-1843), who managed to combine the occupations of landed gentry, renowned lawyer and recurrent local MP.

The History of Parliament refers to him as “a ‘Horsham gentleman and ... barrister of great reputation’”, who “was returned again for his native town in 1820 by the 12th duke of Norfolk, for whose family he had acted as an election agent”.

Throughout his parliamentary career Hurst appears to have been very liberal by the standards of the day. This is clearly indicated by his position as a Whig on many issues. For example he spoke out in favour of the ‘claims of the poorer classes’ in 1821, and for restricting excessive use of force by the ‘preventive service’ (Customs officers tasked with tackling smuggling). The following year he called for revision of the vagrant laws, and in 1823 spoke for the Insolvent Debtors Act where he stated his view that creditors were as much to blame for recklessly granting credit as debtors were for seeking it.

Above all else though his humanity was perhaps most evident on 10th June 1828, when he presented an anti-slavery petition to the House of Commons. The following year he left parliament for good, ostensibly citing old age as his reason for stepping down, but regarded by most as being under pressure from his patron, the Duke of Norfolk, to resign in order for the Duke’s son, the Earl of Surrey, to take over the Horsham seat.

However his advancing years didn’t stop Hurst from being involved in a spot of bother within months of retiring. In summer 1830 the Swing Riots erupted in East Kent (the Elham Valley, to be precise) and quickly spread. The south and East Anglia were most affected, but recent research has shown that almost every English county saw at least some violence. The anger of long-oppressed and dispossessed farm workers finally boiled over, to be taken out primarily on the increasingly common agricultural machinery (largely threshing machines) which they saw as destroying their livelihoods through automation. Their ultimate targets, however, were threefold: the guardians of the Poor Law and the tithe system, both of which they saw as keeping them in poverty, and tenant farmers, usually wealthy, who impoverished them even further by using the introduction of machinery as an excuse to reduce farm labourers’ wages.

Hurst’s involvement took place in the November of 1830. He was a natural person for the local malcontents to vent their grievances upon, as he was still in a position of important local responsibility: he held the great tithes of the parish. A large number of farmworkers advanced on his house to demand that they be allowed to air their grievances to the major Horsham landowners in the parish church. A contemporary record indicates that they stole a cart or carriage from a nearby pub (which suggests that a certain amount of drink had been consumed first) and took it with them, probably to seize Hurst and drag him to the church.

Fortunately Hurst, with his two sons, was one step ahead of them – just – and reached the relative safety of the church altar before the mob did. It appears that he managed to avoid giving in to their demands for a long time, until it really did look like they would murder him. Hurst’s friends may also have been instrumental in preventing bloodshed that day. In the end though, mob rule prevailed, and Hurst conceded to their petition. Whether this was just to allow them to put their complaints to the landowners, or whether anything came of this to alleviate their situation, is unclear. Perhaps it was the latter: certainly the Home Secretary, Robert Peel, was deeply unhappy with Hurst’s handling of the situation.

Despite his close brush with death, Hurst lived another 13 years, finally dying in 1843 at the grand old age of 93. He left behind a total estate of over 2100 acres, a respectable accumulation over a long life.

The centre of modern-day Horsham is worth a visit, and I wandered in after the orienteering event to take a look around. It reminded me immediately of Chichester, another Sussex market town nearby where I lived for 12 years. Like Chichester, Horsham is a bit of an architectural and heritage gem, with plenty of attractive old buildings lending it a somewhat genteel air, greatly assisted by a decent amount of pedestrianisation in the centre. That said, it suffers from more than its fair share of unappealing and jarring modern edifices – again, not dissimilar to Chichester – but they’re not in danger of overwhelming Horsham’s historic heart.



Records show that Horsham’s name dates back to at least AD947, and unusually has not changed at all since then. The derivation is uncertain: it could refer to land given to a Saxon leader called Horsa, or it could simply mean ‘horse home.’ Perhaps the latter is more likely: by the start of the medieval period Horsham was a popular horse trading centre. Later centuries saw iron-making take root (as across most of the Weald), then brick-making and brewing. But Horsham – or at least its area – has clearly been an important spot for millennia. Since the late 19th century thousands of prehistoric flint implements have been recovered from the farms, heaths and woods around Horsham. Radiocarbon dating has shown them to be in the order of 5000 to 10,000 years old, which places them firmly in the Mesolithic period – a time when Britain was inhabited by nomadic hunter-gatherer tribes before settled agriculture began in the Neolithic. A common style amongst these flint artefacts has resulted in them being called ‘Horsham Points’ – that is, they often have a hollow-based point (or as one archaeological authority rather drily describes it, an ‘inverse retouch to form a concavity at base’!) The suggestion is of course that there may have been a distinctive local culture here way back in the Middle Stone Age. Modest and often overlooked or passed by today – clearly Horsham has its own important place in history.



Graham Denney

SAXONS RANKING TABLE to 30 September 2107

Pos	Prev Pos	Name	Age class	Top-12	Runs
1	(1)	Mark Glaisher	M65	1200	22
2	(1)	Peter Martin	M65	1194	27
3	(3)	<i>Alison Howe</i>	<i>W45</i>	<i>1175</i>	<i>25</i>
4	(4)	<i>Sarah Howes</i>	<i>W55</i>	<i>1167</i>	<i>21</i>
5	(5)	Alan Hickling	M50	1100	27
6	(6)	Brendon Howe	M45	1085	22
7	(8)	John Van Rooyen	M65	1076	16
8	(9)	<i>Heather Brown</i>	<i>W65</i>	<i>1053</i>	<i>14</i>
9	(7)	<i>Beryl Pring</i>	<i>W70</i>	<i>1048</i>	<i>19</i>
10	(10)	Dave Pickup	M45	1035	23
11	(12)	Simon Blanchflower	M60	1008	14
12	(23)	Mel Taylor	M50	996	12
13	(11)	<i>Jean Fitzgerald</i>	<i>W60</i>	<i>987</i>	<i>17</i>
14	(15)	Jeremy Oldershaw	M75	951	21
15	(13)	David Kingdon	M65	946	17
16	(16)	Simon Greenwood	M60	935	21
17	(17)	Jerry Purkis	M60	919	18
18	(19)	Bohdan Rainczuk	M55	915	14
19	(20)	Mike Perry	M70	900	17
20	(18)	Doug Deeks	M75	889	14

Not many changes. The top 6 are the same. Mel Taylor leaps in at 12th.



Alan Hickling and Peter Martin are joint leaders in terms of the number of runs

Thank you Alan Hickling for keeping the statistics. Alan uses a special formula that adjusts for age.

South East League results

The new seasons South East League for Clubs is about to start. The first event is a CHIG event in November at Wormley Woods. Points for individuals are amassed over the calendar year because our age classes change in January.

Planned events for 2017/18

19-Nov-17	CHIG	Wormley Woods	11-Feb-18	MV	South Ashdown
17-Dec-17	SN	Ash Ranges- tbc?	25-Feb-18	HH	Egypt Woods /Burnham
14-Jan-18	DFOK	Westerham	22 Apr 18	SAX	Eridge
			13-May-18	SO	Worth Lodge Forest

SAXONS OUT AND ABOUT

Perry Wood - Summer Series– 13 July

Perry Wood was in fine fettle for this Thursday Summer Series event. Graham Thomas had done a great job creating a fast, shiggy-free course for all skill levels.

Turnout was great for a midweek event with 41 competitors. These included a number of internationals who, having heard about Saxon's fantastic Summer Series, had flown over specially to take part. We had four competitors from California, one from New Zealand and one from Scandinavia.

The apparent theft of one of the controls caused consternation for some and a bit of a headache for Simon Blanchflower who'd offered to sort out the scoring using his special beta spreadsheet. You'll be pleased to know that the control turned up a few days later after I'd posted Wanted Posters around the woods and filed a Police report. Seems a conscientious neighbour had thought it junk and tossed it in his bin at home! He was kind enough to call so I could arrange repatriation.

Thanks to Landlord, Tim Robinson, for letting us use his car park (well done for coming 10th), to Sean Cronin for photography skills, Graham Thomas for planning, Mark Glaisher for registration, Simon Blanchflower for scoring, and to those who collected controls.

Best results- Dave Pickup and Sarah Howes

Sarah Howes

Mote Park Summer Series 16 July



Photo Dinah Blanchflower

This Summer Series event featured two score courses – 45 minutes to find as many controls as you can, aimed at newcomers and improvers; and 60 minutes with bonus points available. 23 took part on the shorter course, with everyone finding at least 8 of the 20 controls, and both Joseph & Matthew Derrick did very well. The 60 minute course offered bonus points when two consecutive controls had units that added up to 10, e.g. 94-106. This meant that many controls could be considered as groups of 4. Nick Barrable just managed to unravel this conundrum and score the maximum 330 points within the time allowed, with Lucy Butt (SARUM) being the leading woman with 270. It was nice that many stayed on for a picnic in the fine, if rather humid weather.

Mark Glaisher Planner/Organiser

Best Saxons results

45 min	Bohdan Rainczuk	M55	1/14	60 min	Brendon Howe	M45	2/26
	Joseph Derrick	M14	2/14		Joanne Hickling	W50	9/26
	Matthew Derrick	M14	3/14				

Scottish 6 Days Sun 30 Jul – Sat 9 Aug Deeside - Aboyne (days 1-3) and Braemar (days 4-6)

- Day 1 Glen Tanar- Very physical, ankle wrenching mossy boulders, open deep heather, steep slopes, very few paths. Very slow going
- Day 2 Balfour Forest. A bit more runnable than Glen Tanar otherwise the same
- Day 3 Birsemore Hill. As Glen Tanar but one slope was very very rocky
- Day 4 Creag Choinnich. One half rough open deep heather, the rest is open runnable forest with rocks and contour detail.
- Days 5 & 6. Glen Feardar Patchy open deep heather and sloping forest. Mixed runnability.

Saxons results

Members in top half of their class in yellow

M12B	1 of 11	Austin Howe		M70S	19 of 33	Roger Pring
M45L	46 of 83	Brendon Howe		M75L	26 of 44	Jeremy Oldershaw
M60L	83 of 98	Jerry Purkis		W40L	23 of 29	Catherine Slade
M60S	20 of 59	Simon Greenwood		W45L	15 of 45	Alison Howe
M65L	84 of 93	David Kingdon		W60L	42 of 60	Jean Fitzgerald
M65S	49 of 49	Ian Wilson		W60S	20 of 36	Rowan Purkis
M70L	67 of 83	Mike Solomon		W70L	2 of 23	Beryl Pring
Second Club Members						
M21E	15/42	Mark Purkis		M21E	31/42	Richard Purkis
M40L	1/40	Nick Barrable				

19 August Romney Marsh Bike Photo O

Thirty three people took part in this, the second, Photo O bike event

For the second year we had good weather though those cycling told us it was quite windy. There was an eclectic mix of bikes including a Dawes Galaxy, a very heavy mountain bike, an electric bike, a road bike, two small children's bikes and a bike with a trailer. Some took the event very seriously whilst others opted for a more laid back approach with skimpy sandals or bulging rucksacks. Again this year one team managed to fit in a visit to a pub for refreshing lemonade!

Heather Brown



Photo Heather Brown

22 August Grand Prix Pomorza Poland

While planning a travelling holiday in Eastern Europe my non-orienteeing wife kindly found the 13th annual Grand Prix Pomorza. This was to be held near the Baltic coast north west of Gdansk, Poland. An email secured pay-on-the-day pre-entry for the Day 2 'Classic' race of this 3-day event. Online translation revealed details including terrain – diversified, fast-changing with a lot of wetlands and partly swampy: and schedule – runs 10.00 – 14.00; “beer relief” – 18.00 – 20.00. On a grey drizzly morning we arrived early at the Event Centre, a large clearing reached by a bumpy forest track – so much like home!



Photo Peter Martin

A host of tents soon appeared, sausages sizzled and a water tank appeared on a farm trailer for post-run showers. I struggled to make any sense of Polish but with sign language and a smattering of English I was helped to pick up a race bib, check my dibber and head off through rough woods to the Start by the edge of a lake. Here a bunch of youngsters in O-kit had a good fire going – maybe just for fun or perhaps to keep midges at bay – with thick smoke billowing through the Start tent.

My Start Time was “10.00” which meant 10 minutes after the first start which was 10 am. Course descriptions

were at -3 and in racks under cover. Maps were also in racks, in a dry through-tent, to be taken on the Start beep and suddenly I was off. The Start kite was out of sight 150m into the woods. From there a track led to within 50m of the first control at a rootstock – a confidence-building start. After a steep climb, I approached cautiously towards #2 – which the description indicated was within the south-east part of a large wet depression. I failed to notice on the map that there was also a smaller wet depression and, wet to the brim and covered in brashings. I failed to notice it on the

ground too until in two steps I was up to my calves in the swamp. After a minute or so of wading I found the control.

Thereafter I was more careful in the wet areas and mostly found dry lines through mixed conifers and leafy deciduous 'white' wood. Enjoyable running and I saw very few other competitors until I was close to the Finish.

On the day, almost half (240 out of the 505) competitors were Juniors. There were lots of tents, music, food and drinks for the youngsters - who all seemed to be having a great time. I was happy with my finish time of 61 minutes for 6.1k which put me in 4th place out of just 13 competitors on M65.

Peter Martin

White Rose Weekend- Yorkshire- EBOR, North Yorkshire August bank holiday

As I mentioned in my Chairman's Chat last time, I planned a 2 week holiday taking in the White Rose event in Yorkshire (25-28 August) and the Caddihoe event in deepest Cornwall (2-3 September). Don't bother looking at my results! The White Rose has a night score event (which I didn't enter), middle distance and classic distance forest events, a Trail O course, a Sprint event and a team score event (which I didn't enter) all based around a campsite (which I didn't use). The forests were typical Yorkshire-tough and steep. The planner reckoned they were runnable but did qualify that in saying if you were a top ranked orienteer it shouldn't affect your speed much. Well I'm not and it did. Rowan and Jerry Purkis took part on their way back from Scotland. Cate Slade and Ian Wilson were there too. The Trail O was fun, as was the Sprint event around a Bank Holiday busy Helmsley. I followed this with a mountain bike O event which is tagged onto the White Rose and starts from the campsite. Again, good fun but steep in places.

Followed by the Caddihoe - an annual 2 day event organised by a SWOA club. This year it was Cornwall Orienteering, also known as Kerno.

Then I moved down to Cornwall for a great contrast; middle and classic events on sand dunes near Hayle, which were runnable (if you're fit), with little vegetation and with good views of the sea. There was also a sprint event around Cambourne College Campus. If you haven't orienteered on sand dunes do look out for the Tamar Triple next year (27-28 May) on Braunton Burrows near Barnstable in Devon.

Jean Fitzgerald

2 Sept Summer Series at Trosley Country Park



Sean Cronin organised a successful summer event which attracted lots of newcomers



Sat 9 Sept 2017- London City Urban Orienteering Race SLOW

The results below show who attended. No photos available but both Simon Blanchflower and Bohdan Rainczuk loaded their GPS tracks. This makes interesting viewing. Although Simon beat Bohdan as can be seen from the results, the extract from Route gadget of their routes from control 5 to 6 shows Bohdan made the better route choice and beat Simon on that leg. You get so much more information about your run if you load your GPS track- we should all do it.



Saxons results

M Open	David Thomas		11/98	W Open	Cate Slade	38/67
M Vets	Alan Hickling		38/119	W Vets	Joanne Hickling	18/63
	Graham Denney		119/119		Judith Armitt	54/60
M Super Vets	Simon	Blanchflower	30/102	W Super Vets	Peter Martin	3/91
	Graham	Thomas	57/102			
	Bohdan	Rainczuk	60/102	M Ultra Vets	Steve Waite	19/91
	Jerry	Purkis	61/102			
Barry	Woodfine	71/102				

16 Sept Pluckley Bike O

Won by Alan Hickling-. Good showing by the girls. Organised by Jean

Beryl Pring racing to the Finish	Marion Bond 2 nd overall. We wondered how she managed to beat Bohdan- she had an electric bike!!	Sarah Howes- leading woman on a non-electric bike

21 Sept Kent Night Cup 1 Hargate Forest

Planned by Jerry Purkis 1st event of new KNC series. 2 laps of Hargate forest with Brendon finding them all except one, on a warm September evening.

23 September - Kent Orienteering League 1 Huckling Estate- DFOK

For a write up see Heather Brown's piece in the Junior section

28 Sept - Kent Night Cup 2 Bewl Water

The 2 previous KNCs at Bewl Water Country Park, both in February, have been a bit wet and/or windy. It was much more pleasant this time. A scoring system that involved 'triplet' bonuses was devised so as to get an hour's run out of this relatively small area. Almost everyone managed at least one triplet out of the 6.

This part of Kent has a history of mineral extraction from early times. The rumours circulating before the event, about the effect of subterranean iron on a compass needle, were not proven one way or the other!

We are grateful to Richard Retallick and Adventure Kent for use of the Outdoor Centre and Park.



Mark Glaisher

Best Saxons' results: - Brendon Howe M45 - 1/35, Alison Howe W45 - 5/35 and 1/12 Women, Jerry Purkis M60 - 7/35

OMM Alps 2017

This September I took part in the inaugural OMM Alps event in Austria. The OMM, or Original Mountain Marathon, is a two day, two person self-sufficient team orienteering event in the mountains. The British event has been running since 1968 and attracts a few thousand competitors each year.

OMM Alps offered four courses, two line courses (A - 90km+ with 4.3km vertical climb, B - 60km+, 3km vert) and a short and long score. As I was taking a team mate who'd never undertaken an OMM before, we opted for the Short Score race; this gave us 5.5hrs on day one and 4.5 hours on day two to collect as many Check Points as possible.

The event was based in Steinberg am Rofan, a small ski area in the Austrian Alps near Achensee Lake. The availability of flights meant our best option was to arrive in Munich and hire a car to travel the two hours to the start. It also meant that we could sample the delights of the Oktoberfest on our return to Munich on Sunday evening!

We opted to camp on the Friday night in order to keep costs down. This proved perhaps not to be the best option as it was raining when we arrived at the campsite on the shore of the lake. Registration seemed to take an age, so, after quickly popping up the tent, we hot-footed it in the dark up the mountain to the event centre. The centre was very pleasant, with beer on tap, which we sampled. After registering, we headed back down the mountain for a well-earned rest.

The wet weather did not ease off, so we were greeted to a wet morning with low visibility. After stowing the soggy tent we headed up the mountain for breakfast at the event centre and to get kitted up for the race - our start time was to be 09:36.

After some faffing about and a couple of trips to the loo we had to jog the 2km to the start. We spent a couple of minutes cogitating our maps before heading off up the first climb. It took us a few minutes to get our 'eye in' with the map detail and scale, but we were soon knocking off CPs with alacrity. We did find a few inconsistencies in the map, which caused



a couple of delays including one CP where the organisers had put it on the top of the wrong hill! This particular cock up caused some consternation at the overnight camp and required some manual shenanigans to the scoring.

Our day one strategy was to take as many CPs as possible going direct (straight up and down) rather than taking longer routes on paths that tended to contour the mountains. We travelled about 28km and climbed about 1800m. This left us in 2nd place behind a team that had contoured more, but covered an extra 8km and took an extra two CPs.

By the time we reached the overnight camp the rain had eased a little and it was possible to make out more of the fantastic scenery, including the snowy peaks we had flirted with all day. The camp was in a rocky area of boggy forest. Luckily as one of the earlier arrivals, we had a reasonable choice of pitch. Despite the meagre surroundings there was a great atmosphere in the camp, with many of the teams chatting. A couple of rounds of Schnapps laid on by the organisers definitely helped!

During the night the cloud level dropped and our 1400m campsite was swathed in cloud by the morning. This ensured that the inside of the tent was dripping wet and sleeping bags cold. Wake up call at 6am was by two local horn players - very atmospheric.

With all the teams eager to get on with day two (and to warm up), we set off in two minute intervals commencing 08:00. After some deliberation with my tired team-mate, we opted for a different strategy for day two with less climbing and a more path based approach. The weather improved throughout the day and offered some fantastic panoramas and alpine vistas.

Our strategy seemed to pay dividends and we finished day two just 10 points behind the winners having run and climbed significantly less than them. We struggled across the line with just 4 minutes to spare. My team-mate was exhausted but delighted to have finished his first OMM. He was even more excited to stand on the podium to receive his prize. Celebrations continued apace back in Munich at the Oktoberfest; sore heads the order of the day on the flight back on Monday morning.

In conclusion, OMM Alps is a fun, friendly event. The terrain is tough and scenery fantastic. The predominance of well-marked paths ensures the navigation is relatively straightforward, but the option of direct routes in this open access event gives scope for the brave also. For anyone interested in sports tourism, this race is definitely one for your bucket list.

Brendon Howe
and thanks to Brendan for the photo

A CARNIVAL OF ORIENTEERING IN AUS . ARE THERE SNAKES AND SPIDERS????

Weekend 23/24th September Aus Champs Sprint and Middle,
Tues-Thurs 26-28 September Schools 3-day competition, Long, Sprint, Relay
Weekend 30/1st Oct - Aus Champs Long, Relay



**Me running for the
Tasmanian State Team**

854 competitors in total
138 schools' competitors

This years' carnival was in the city of Bathurst, Australia's oldest inland settlement (est. 1814) and took place between Sat 23rd Sept and Sunday 1st October. What first struck me when I found Bathurst on Google Maps was how close it looks to Sydney when you're looking at the whole of Australia... it's still like driving from Tunbridge Wells to Birmingham!

Unlike in Britain where the Championship events are split on separate weekends, often at opposite sides of the calendar, the Aus champs all takes place over consecutive weekends – this has obvious benefits when the country is roughly the size of Europe (excluding Russia). Midweek, there is a 3 day schools competition – with races for adults as well – to keep everyone occupied between the weekends.

Having arrived in Sydney on the Tuesday evening, I was more or less over the jet lag by the time we got to Charles Sturt University in Bathurst for the first event of the Australian Orienteering Championships Carnival 2017. It was quite a small campus, but the courses were well planned so never boring and lots of changes of direction. What impressed me most about the sprint - and this was common to every race of the carnival – was the exceptional use of technology during the races.

As I entered the arena I heard the increasingly familiar buzz of a drone, this providing a live video stream to a screen in the arena. This video was interspersed with 2 other ground based “runner” cameras, following people along at different points in the course. The top 10 runners in M/W elite classes were running with gps units, thus the commentators gave live, point by point analysis and updates on the race as it unfolded. All this made it easy to follow the race develop there and then. In addition to this, live results for all classes were provided on 8 rolling monitors, with splitsbrowser style analysis on display for the top 15 in every class. All this made it very exciting and easy to follow how the races were developing there and then. For such a small event and “minor” orienteering nation, I was very impressed and believe the UK has a lot to learn!



THE SCHOOLS' RACES during the week are similar to the Junior Inter Regional Competition in the UK. Each state selects a team of up

to 16 and 4 reserves. There were teams from all states except the Northern Territory. The same technical set-up was used as at the Aus Champs events, the kids really enjoyed the technology – especially SIAC. The competition was decided over three races: long, sprint, and relay. Local news companies came and recorded a segment at the relay.

The Aus champs Middle, Long, and Relay all took place up at Hill End, the site of the first Australian gold rush. The terrain was full of very steep sided, intricate gullies, a feature left over from the mining work. Workers would have used water to blast away the earth, and then they would pan in the river hoping to find some nuggets. Nothing like it exists in the UK, the gullies can be up to 10m deep with sheer sides, and cut erratically into the ground away from the main river. The surrounding terrain was more typical of Australia, hard fast, reasonably runnable woodland with large, and often quite vague spurs and gullies.

But Australia is full of creepy crawlies and biting things!! Nobody has ever died from a snake bite whilst orienteering in Australia. The snakes are scared of you and when they feel the vibrations caused by hundreds of runners in the forest, they soon slither to somewhere safer. Similarly, with spiders, nobody has ever died whilst orienteering from a spider bite, and all will scurry away from you given enough notice. This is except for the Sydney funnel web spider, which is aggressive and ill-tempered, and lethal. However, unless you plan on sticking your hand in dark places near Sydney, you won't encounter it. Fortunately, there is anti-venom, and since it has been available since 1981, no deaths have occurred.

To summarise, if you have been considering visiting your distant relatives down-under, but haven't found the time to go, be sure to tie it in with the Australian O-Champs. It's a cracking event in very different terrain to anything in Europe, friendly people and good food. If this isn't enough, it's always in September/October, which is the off-season and thus flights are cheaper.

	
A map extract from Hill End	A picture taken from the terrain in Hill End

Mark Purkis

And thanks Mark for the photos in this article

Extracts from Draft Minutes of Saxons Committee Meeting, 15 September 2017

- 90% of fee for resurvey of Kings Wood, Challock, has been paid. Currently we have £14,438 in bank.
- KNC access permission refused by University of Kent. This event to be changed to Canterbury Street O.
- IOF have agreed a new mapping standard for orienteering maps, ISOM2017. BO have stated that ISOM2017 must be used for level A & B events from Jan 2018. It must be used for all level C from Sept 2018 and level D from Jan 2019 (but can be sooner). We should use ISSOM2017 for all events from next season (2018/9). From now on all maps must state the version (ISOM2000 or 2017) and this should also be stated in the event details. *(Simon Blanchflower will be writing an article for SaxAlert on this soon.*
- There are training opportunities before the 22 Oct CompassSport Cup match in Devon: Burrator (Devon) or QO event at St Audries on Saturday 23 Oct.
- Sean Cronin is now doing Facebook publicity for Saxons.
- Permission is being sought to use Benenden grounds for Junior Festival.
- Alan Hickling has agreed to take over from Jerry Purkis the organising of the KOL Schools league.
- Simon Greenwood reported that SEOA have received £13.5 K from the 2017 JK. They will be spending £10 k on development and donating £3.5 k to the Orienteering Foundation.
- Saxons have been successful in their bid to BO for Sport England funding for club development. This will enable Saxons to work with one of the new BO development officers in the coming year. We have filled in a questionnaire from the 'Club Matters' website to highlight our strengths and weaknesses. The aim of the document is to identify where we most need support.
- Development ideas from Saxons (gathered by Sean Cronin and circulated prior to the meeting). Some good ideas but several of those suggested are already in place, suggesting that some members are unaware of how the club is managed. It was suggested a series of short articles, on matters such as fixture scheduling and budgeting for events, should be produced for SaxAlert to inform members. Sean is attending SEOA Development meeting on 1 Oct.
- With our recent purchase of an extra new lap-top we can use two networked PCs at our larger events to allow e.g. separate registration and enquiries points or separate download and late registrations or simultaneous download and results. To do this best we need another USB-download box. Committee agreed to Simon Blanchflower's proposal to buy one at cost of £121.

Date of next committee meeting 24 November 2017.

All members are welcome to attend Committee meetings. Non committee members regularly turn up. Contact Beryl Pring to confirm location and date if you want to attend.

Thanks to Mike Solomon for writing this.

SAX QUIZ ANSWERS

1. - c) Compass directions, grid references, key, scale and reading the title. Reading the title makes sure you have the right map. Important when Saxons reuse maps too.
2. - c) North, East, South, West
3. - a) Eastings (numbers along the bottom)
4. - d) The grid square to the north and east of the point
5. - c) -It gives you an exact point in grid square 1982 that is 8/10s across and 3/10s up.
6. - c) 250m
7. - c) Bamford station,
- 8- c) Steep incline
9. b) 417 m
10. b) -The land was used for ancient burials - indicated by the tumuli.

I hope you all got 10/10



Acknowledgements and thank you to the following members who have contributed to this month's edition:-

Alan Hickling, Austin Howe, Beryl Pring, Brendon Howe, Graham Denney, Heather Brown, Jerry Purkis, Mark Glaisher, Mark Purkis, Mike Solomon, Peter Martin,, Sarah Howes, Sean Cronin, Tony Connellan

And photo credits to

Dinah Blanchflower, Heather Brown, Sean Cronin and where not otherwise noted- Editor other a credit to Andy Johnson from Deeside Camera Club for photo of Editor in the collage on the back cover .

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See website for faces

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SAXONS AT THE SCOTTISH 6 DAYS



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.