



SAXALERT

SAX NOTICES

KNOLE PARK EVENT RESCHEDULED FOR 18 MARCH

David Kingdon finds new car parking
(Leisure Centre car park is a building site)
Offers to help to David please.

REDESIGNED EVENT RETURN FORM

ORGANISERS PLEASE USE NEW 2018 VERSION
Find it in Club Info/ Resources on the website

Banff Mountain Film Festival 2018

Tunbridge Wells -Red showing only Thursday 19 April
Canterbury- Red & Blue showings Saturday 28 April

Tickets on sale now. Perhaps someone can organise a Club visit

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Cover photo - Simon Blanchflower at Ightham taken by Editor

EDITORIAL



I hoped in December that I would now be living in the Lake District but the nature of the house selling process in England means that buyers are not bound to buy your house even when they say they will. We are not the only South East orienteers taking the plunge and moving North. We know orienteers from Southdowns Orienteers who moved last year and friends from Guilford Orienteers and SLOW are in the process of doing what we are doing. The attraction, to me, of living in the SE Lakes, near the M6 is the ability to explore the north of our island; Yorkshire, Northumberland and Scotland will be on our doorstep. Even Northern Ireland will be closer. Think of all those new orienteering areas we will be able to explore! And with offspring who are keen orienteers/ hill runners, we know they will want to visit us if we live somewhere with such wonderful countryside on our doorstep. I will not repeat what they say about Kent.

Sean is doing a great job using Facebook to raise the profile of orienteering. Read his update later in the newsletter. We can all do our bit to raise the profile of orienteering depending on what our expertise or interests are. As a family, we got into the sport by reading a poster in the local woods. If you live near woods that we use regularly could you take on the job of putting up posters before events? If you have another interest that involves running, walking, maps or woods, can you think of some way of helping raising the profile of the club.

Last time I wrote about the orienteering geocache I created in Trosley Country Park. It is up and running. The first to find it were Rosie and Colin Merry from DFOK. Inspired by my cache they have promised to place geocaches at more permanent orienteering courses in Kent and Dave Cave-Ayland (DFOK) has also volunteered to help. Mote Park is another good location but it needs someone who lives closer to Maidstone. Are there any closet Saxons geocachers or members who are prepared to become geocachers, who could take on the challenge? There are 1000+ members of the Geocaching in Kent Facebook page compared with the 100+ members of the Saxons page. This very roughly indicates there are 10 times more geocachers than orienteers and shows what a target audience we can access by placing geocaches on the permanent courses and introducing them to orienteering. On the description of the geocache at Trosley I have written: "Orienteering is an activity not dissimilar to geocaching. Both involve looking for hidden objects in the outdoors. Orienteers use a map, geocachers use a GPS". For the uninitiated I will also explain that for orienteers the skill is in reading the map. Geocachers use a GPS to get them in the general area, usually within 10m, but then use a cryptic clue to find a hidden box containing a log book that must be signed. One of the comments on the Trosley cache written by a geocacher who used the coordinates to find the POC posts rather than the map was "*I have to say even with coords, the posts are not always easy to spot, so I wouldn't fancy it with a map only and no coords! No idea how these orienteers cope!*" That made me laugh.

SaxAlert has won the CompassSport newsletter award for the 9th year running and we should thank everyone who responded to my requests for articles that made the newsletter so interesting. When I leave the area, I have no intention of doing the newsletter from the Lakes as has been cheekily suggested by some. I found it really helpful to attend committee meetings to find out what going on in the club and going to events in the South East is essential so that you can write a sentence or two about an event if no one else sends a report. . Do not be put off by the newsletter award. We do not need to win the award to have a newsletter that is useful to the members. Just a few pages of results, future events and a couple of articles is all that's needed. There are regular contributions by people who know who they are. Surely there is a budding journalist out there somewhere.

Rowan Purkis

CONGRATULATIONS

- Ffion Bricknell 1st on Light Green at SE League event at Limpsfield Chart on 14 Jan
- Mark Glaisher 2nd on Short Blue, SE league at Limpsfield Chart on 14 Jan
- Henry Taylor M14 2nd on Light Green , SE league event at South Ashdown

BRITISH ORIENTEERING PERFORMANCE AWARDS

Well done to the following:-

Ffion Bricknell	Racing Challenge: Gold Award ★★★★★	17/01/2018
Joseph Derrick	Racing Challenge: Bronze Award ★★★★★	17/01/2018
	Navigation Challenge ★★★★★	17/01/2018
Matthew Derrick	Racing Challenge: Bronze Award ★★★★★	17/01/2018
	Navigation Challenge ★★★★★	17/01/2018
Matthew Peters	Racing Challenge: Gold Award ★★★★★★	24/01/2018
	Racing Challenge: Silver Award ★★★★★★	10/01/2018
	Racing Challenge: Bronze Award ★★★★★★	10/01/2018
	Navigation Challenge ★★★★★★	10/01/2018
Matthew Taylor	Racing Challenge: Gold Award ★★★★★	31/01/2018
	Racing Challenge: Silver Award ★★★★★	31/01/2018
Roger Pring	Racing Challenge: Bronze Award ★★★★★★	10/01/2018
Rowan Purkis	Racing Challenge: Bronze Award ★★★★★	10/12/2017
Tom Devine	Racing Challenge: Gold Award ★★★★★★	29/01/2018
William Prior	Racing Challenge: Gold Award ★★	24/01/2018

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

The number of stars indicate the technical difficulty- 2*=Yellow, 3* = Orange, 4* = Light Green, 5* = Short Green – Black

You get a Gold racing award if your time is less than the course length x 12.5 mins. Silver x 15mins and Bronze x 20 mins

No Chairman's chat- she has been on a long holiday

A SELECTION OF FUTURE EVENTS

If you want to receive a weekly e-mail of orienteering events coming up you can subscribe [here](#) or visit the website for "oevents.info"

I have downloaded the following information from the British Orienteering events diary. It was correct at the time of download, please check the club website for details.

Date	Event	Level*	Club	Location
Sun 18/02/18	Sunday Regional event	Regional	SLOW	Holmwood Common, Dorking
Thu 22/02/18	SAX Kent Night Cup	Local	SAX	Millbank West, Sevenoaks
Sat 24/02/18	SOG S3 -	Local	SO	North Chailey, between Scaynes Hill & Newick, East Sussex
Sun 25/02/18	HH SE League event	National	HH	Egypt Woods & Burnham Beeches, Slough
Thu 01/03/18	SO SONIC5 / KNC - Uckfield (night street score event)	Local	SO	TBC, Uckfield, East Sussex
Sat 03/03/18	DFOK KOL 7	Local	DFOK	Hosey Common, Westerham
Sun 04/03/18	CHIG Level C /	Regional	CHIG	Epping South, Woodford Green
Thu 08/03/18	SAX Kent Night Cup	Local	SAX	Whitstable (Street event)
Sun 11/03/18	Compass Sport Cup Heat	National	DFOK	Balcombe, Crawley
Thu 15/03/18	DFOK Kent Night Cup	Local	DFOK	High Chart, Westerham
Sat 17/03/18	SO - SOG S5 -	Local	SO	Parham Woods, Storrington
Sun 18/03/18	SAX Sunday League	Regional	SAX	Knole Park, Sevenoaks
Thu 22/03/18	SAX Kent Night Cup	Local	SAX	Knole Park, Sevenoaks
Sun 25/03/18	SO - level C -)	Regional	SO	Angmering Park (East), Arundel
Fri 30/03/18	JK - Sprint (UKOL)	Major		MOD Stafford,
Sat 31/03/18	JK Individual 1 (UKOL)	Major		Brereton Spurs, Rugeley
Sun 01/04/18	JK Individual 2 (UKOL)	Major		Beaudesert/Brereton Hayes, Stafford
Mon 02/04/18	JK Relays	Major		Beaudesert, Stafford
Sat 07/04/18	SOG S6 -	Local	SO	Abbots Wood, Polegate, Eastbourne
Sun 15/04/18	TVOC Chiltern Challenge Level B Event	National	TVOC	Great Hampden and Whiteleaf
Sat 21/04/18	SOG S7 - St	Local	SO	St Leonards Forest Colgate, nr Horsham
Sat 21/04/18	DFOK NW Kent League	Regional	DFOK	Darenth Park, tbc
Sun 22/04/18	SAX SE League	Regional	SAX	Eridge Park, Tunbridge Wells
Sat 28/04/18	SAX Kent Orienteering League	Local	SAX	Ightham, Borough Green
Sat 05/05/18	SOG S8	Local	SO	Southwick Hill, Mile Oak, Portslade, Brighton & Hove

Sat 12/05/18	DFOK KOL 9	Local	DFOK	TBC
Sat 12/05/18	"Sunny Sussex Weekend" 1 (of 3) Middle Distance,	Regional	SO	Rivers Wood and part of Balcombe Estate, Between Balcombe and Haywards Heath, West Sussex
Sat 12/05/18	"Sunny Sussex Weekend" 2 (of 3). Evening Sprint	Regional	SO	Goffs Park, Crawley
Sun 13/05/18	"Sunny Sussex" Weekend (3 of 3). Level B / SE League	National	SO	Worthlodge Forest, Crawley
Sat 19/05/18	NW Kent League	Regional	DFOK	Jubilee Park, Petts Wood
Sun 20/05/18	SAX Sunday Event	Regional	SAX	Blean Woods, Faversham
Tue 22/05/18	DFOK Park Race Series	Local	DFOK	Greenwich Park,
Sat 26/05/18	SOG S9 / Chasing start event -	Local	SO	Rewell Woods (SE), Arundel, West Sussex
Sat 26/05/18	Kent Junior Orienteering Festival	Local	SAX	Bethany School, Goudhurst

Check out the MV Orienteering Club website "O"Calendar for overseas events

Key to table

Local Low key local events put on by clubs primarily for their own members and newcomers. Generally a limited number of courses are available.

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:- 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 but there are colour coded courses suitable for newcomers and the less competitive, so you can enter with your less keen family members and still have a fun day out. The Club often takes a tent so we can all meet up.

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.

JK- The annual multi day Easter competition that moves round the country every year.

SAXONS RUNNING KIT

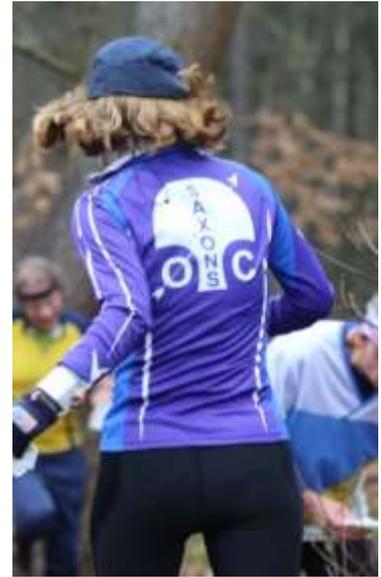
Alison Howe is the keeper of running kit including the Saxons Junior tops that we lend to our keener juniors, replacing them as they grow.



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

Tops, ¾ running tights, buffs and 2 types of jacket

Alison Howe - 07976841078 or alison.howe12@gmail.com



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.

Seniors and Juniors can send off for these badges!

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

NEW SAX

- **Claire Smith W21 and Adam Austen M21 from Gillingham.** Claire says: - We have both been running for years, so when we heard about orienteering at Trosley Park, which we knew reasonably well, we thought we would give it a go. We got a little lost that first time (and had to climb a massive hill to make up for it!), but now are hooked! We started with events in places we knew, but then got up the courage to visit new locations. We like that orienteering is a workout for the mind as well as the legs, and adds an extra element to just going for a run. We also like the competitive element too - even at orange course level, which is where we usually join in. But 2018 might see us step up to light green!



- **Kasie Chapman W10 from Lordswood.** Kasie is a regular at KOL events.
- **The Peters Family from Maidstone. Dad Matt joined last year but now the rest of the family are members:- Danni W35, Jessica W14 and Benjamin M10**
- **Jon Bond M35 from Snodland.** Jon is a regular at the KNC events
- **Nicola Ellingham W50 from Rhodes Minnis in East Kent.**
- **Anthony Hicks M75 and Marion Floyd W65 from Forest Row. (right)** We were delighted to meet Anthony and Marion at Ightham and pleased they were able to make the training day at Limpsfield Chart. Here they are by one of the controls. They explained that they need to improve their navigation ready to participate in a 100km, 5 day race in Croatia in September during which they will carry all their camping equipment.



Newcomer FAQs.

DO I NEED A COMPASS?

If you are going to do the Yellow course you might be able to get round without a compass but it is useful to take one to make sure you have the map the right way up at junctions and help you choose the correct path. This is called “setting the map” (or orientating the map).



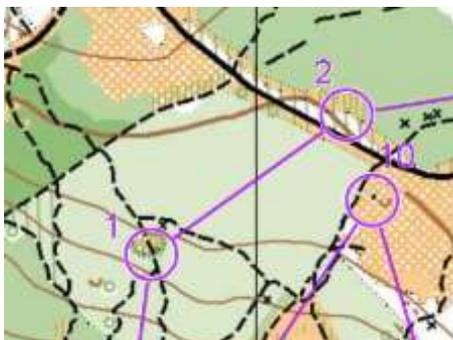
with lots of paths.

TO SET THE MAP TO NORTH

Compasses work best flat so keep your compass attached to your wrist, not round your neck. Turn the map so that the red swinging arrow on your compass is pointing the same way as the North lines on the map, ie to the top of the map. . Then you will have “set the map” to North. Don’t worry about the N on the bezel, just look at the moving red arrow and make sure your compass is flat. You should now be able to work out which way you are facing and which path you want. This is very useful at junctions

If you are doing the Orange course and want to take a short cut through the woods or are doing Light Green or harder courses you will need to be able to travel on a bearing. This is as easy as 1 2 3.

THE ONE- TWO –THREE- METHOD OF TAKING A BEARING



If you did the Orange course on Saturday 10 Feb at Kings Wood Challock. You may have been tempted to run through the trees for your point 1 to 2. If you are not confident with taking a bearing, you will have run round the path which is further. The instructions below use a Light Green map from Kings Wood but the leg 1 to 2 was very similar.

1- LINE UP THE SIDE OF THE COMPASS



We want to travel directly from control 1 to 2 on a bearing. Line the long side of the compass up with the line between 1 & 2. Make sure the little red arrow on the short side is pointing in the direction you want to travel. This arrow is the direction of travel arrow.

2- TWIST THE BEZEL

Look for the North lines on the map. Keeping your compass lined up with where you want to go and tightly on the map, twist the bezel so that the N on the bezel is pointing to North on the map. Look at the parallel lines inside the bezel and make sure they are all parallel to the North lines on the map. Ignore the swinging red arrow for the moment



3- TURN YOUR BODY



Keeping your compass in position on the map and flat in your hand, turn your body, holding the map in front of you until the red arrow is pointing to North. Now the direction of travel arrow is pointing in the direction you want to go and you can take the compass off the map



Keeping the compass flat in your hand run in the direction shown above. Make sure you keep the red arrow pointing to North as you go. The advantage of a thumb compass is that you can keep the compass and the map together in one hand.

You don't need to keep your eyes on the compass all the time. Once you are facing the right direction, take a look into the distance as find a fixed object on your bearing, like a distinctive tree and head for that. Then you can dodge left and right round obstacles without going off your bearing.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Correction:-Sarah Howes contacted me following the coaching piece on the last newsletter. I credited Sarah with designing the Event Analysis Form but she explains that it was adapted from the book 'Orienteering: The Skills of the Game' by former British Champion Carol McNeil and Carol should get the credit.

CompassSport Cup plea for runners

Saxons will have seen an email invitation to compete in this year's Compass Sport Cup recently. For the uninitiated, the CSC is a UK wide competition where clubs compete against each other. Individual entrants score points by competing in age categorised courses, with the best thirteen scores counting (but, importantly, only two scores per age category). As a smaller club, we are competing against BADO, DFOK, GO, HAVOC, LOK and Mole Valley in the southern qualifier.

The event takes place on 11th March in Balcombe near Crawley. Despite being a MV area, its being borrowed by DFOK, who are running the event; apparently all their areas are too shiggy!

Currently, we have just eleven competitors and are desperately in need of quite a few more. Last year we managed to get to the finals in Devon where we were crowned The Sixth Best Small Club in the Country (by me). The trick to doing well in the CSC is to have good representation throughout the age categories, importantly from our older juniors running Orange or Green courses.

So, if you've not got anything better to do on the Sunday 11th March please contact me (team.captain@saxons-oc.org) and put your name down to race. Deadline for entries (via the Team Captain) is 23rd February!

Brendon Howe

Virtuous Lady

Dear Editor

I just wanted to heap some praise on you and Graham Denney for the really fantastic item on the club's visit to A Virtuous Lady. As orienteers we run all over places with a maps that tell us all about runnability, but nothing else about what is under foot. The article made my connection with the area so much more interesting. Graham's insights into the complex history of the place from geology to archaeology were thoroughly intriguing. I'd recommend anyone who didn't read it to have another go. Do let us know where Graham is going to next.

No wonder Saxalert won the CompassSport award again. Well done to you both!

With best regards

John van Rooyen

Thanks John- all credit goes to Graham for taking the trouble to do the research, Editor.

JUNIOR PAGES

Since the last Saxalert there seem to have been so many events in which you have taken part and done so well. So I have drawn up a couple charts which show all the results which I can find to illustrate how much you have participated.

On 9th December when many of your thoughts were on the pending excitement of Christmas, 15 juniors joined the other competitors at Perry Wood which is one of our favourite venues



James Ford was our only junior to run the blue course and against some very experienced and seasoned orienteers came in at 18th out of a total of 27. On the light Green course Ffion finished in 4th place ahead of Michael and Elsa who managed to tie in 10th out of 26.

Austin Howe and Toby Prior probably didn't realise how close they were to each other until the results were up; 7th and 8th out of 10 competitors on the orange course

Then we had a really good number running the yellow course. Out of 17 this is where you all came

2 nd Amber Hobbs	6 th Kasie Chapman	9 th Caylan Uddin
3 rd Luke Evans	7 th William Prior	10 th Holly Howe
4 th James Gaylor	8 th Isabell Hobbs	13 th Eric Pogson

In December Ffion Bricknell tried her hand twice at orienteering in the dark. She did have a very bright head torch of course, but orienteering at night is more challenging than doing it in the daytime. This event was a "score" course where you can find controls in any order you like, but you only have an hour and you will lose points if you are late back to the finish.

On 14th she ran in the event at Mote Park she found 9 controls in 55 minutes and enjoyed herself so much that on 22nd she prepared for Christmas by joining in a really great fun event in Seal Chart. One of the controls was a Christmas tree with sweets to be had if you found it. She found 10 controls in just 52 minutes. In score events as you can plan your own course I expect she was determined to find the tree with the sweets nearby.

The next big turnout was on New Year's Day at Mote Park. Again it was a score event and Austin managed to find 19 controls in the accurate time of 59 minutes and 52 seconds so used up nearly all of his hour and did not have to have any points deducted. Following Austin we had Ben, Matthew Joseph, Ffion, Toby and William. Here's how many each runner found in the time. Score events are great fun, but you have to keep your eye on the time.

19 in 59:52	Austin	11 in 57.50	Ffion
15 in 58.23	Ben	9 in 44.02	Toby
12 in 51.58	Matthew	5 in 51.28	William
12 in 52.03	Joseph		

Then on 7th January we had a big event at Ightham and lots of people came from other clubs. It was a dry, but cool day which was just right for orienteers who don't mind getting a bit muddy, which is what happens when you are tough like you are.

Ffion ran the green course and did well to come 30th out of a huge field of 50 and competed against some very experienced runners. On Light Green Matthew and Joseph came 5th and 12th out of 18 on that course Austin came 1st on the orange course, well done Austin, with Toby 5th and Alice 7th. William and Holly both ran the yellow course and I'm sure had a lot of fun and did so well in a group of 18 in all.

Then a couple of weeks ago there was another of the popular Kent Orienteering League events. This one was at Shooters Hill which is well on the way to London and a long drive for many of you. It can be very muddy and slippery there and along the bottom path it certainly was. But it was good to see you all finishing with a smile of satisfaction on your faces.

Michael, Elsa and Ffion ran the Light Green course and came in 6th, 7th and 9th. Austin found that he was only one of 5 runners who took on the Orange challenge, but was not able to get to one of his controls without passing some over friendly dogs, a bit scary when you are on your own. I understand he tried to go round the back but the brambles were too thick. Such bad luck Austin. This does happen sometimes. I remember another junior missing a control once because it was surrounded by cows. A larger number of you ran the yellow course with Caylen, Amber, Isabell, Brooke, William, Kasie and Holly all having an enjoyable time.



Holly shows her Dad one of the points on the Blue course at Shooters Hill.

We have some more special events this coming year, especially May 26 when it's our own Junior Festival, so make sure that that date is on the family calendar. It's a day not to be missed! My big tip for this edition of Saxalert is to concentrate on the event when you're running and don't be distracted by anything else going on around you.

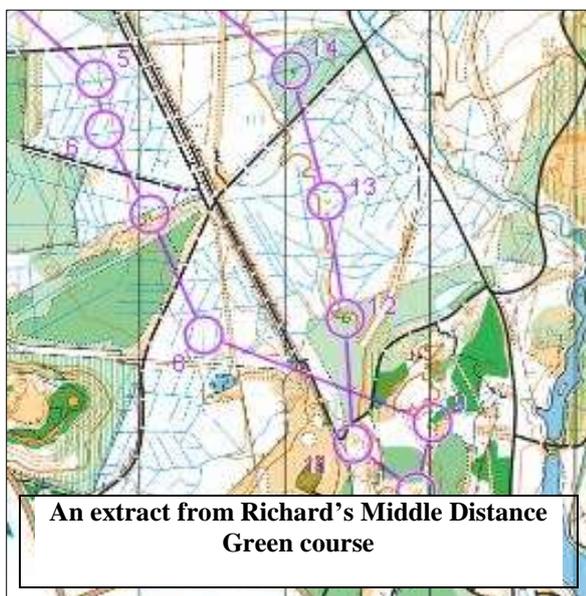
See you soon I hope, as I have lots of loyalty rewards to be given out.

Tony Connellan

Check out the New Saxons pages for a reminder on how to use a compass.

COACHES CORNER –

10 TIPS I WOULD GIVE TO PLANNERS AFTER PLANNING MY FIRST LEVEL C EVENT by RICHARD PURKIS M21



The Triple Gloucester Middle Race was the first Level C race I have planned. Although thankfully it ran smoothly on the day, the lead up to it was far more stressful so, looking back on it now, here are 10 tips I would give to anyone planning a Level C or above. These are especially relevant if, like me, you have only planned level Ds or are new to planning altogether. I've tried to arrange these in a chronological order so if you stick to these in plenty of time, you should be set for a trouble free event.

1. If it is your first time planning a level C, have an experienced controller

This is arguably the most important tip if you are an inexperienced planner. A controller shouldn't just confirm control locations are correct and safe for competitors but should also have an input towards the

shape of the courses, be local and know your area and patches to be wary of, and have constructive ideas. Some planners are very fussy and won't agree to plan until they know who the controller is. I was fortunate to have been allocated the very experienced Mark Saunders (SWOC) who, as I will reveal later, was very helpful in making sure my planning was up to scratch.

2. If it's a multi-day event and you are sharing an area, sort this out early.

If you are sharing an area, it is likely that you and your fellow multi-day planner will have already thought in your head about where your courses are going to go, but it is probable that you are both using the same 'nice bits' of the area. To avoid this, make sure you agree a way to split an area to avoid running through the same patches, as the second day controller will not be happy about this.

Did I do this? Yes although not straight away which would have saved some time

3. If you have not run on your area, visit it and explore as much as possible.

You can look at the map as much as you want but it doesn't compare to seeing it for real. It is useful to do this first to find out if the map needs updating. Also, if you have to edit the courses late on, you will know what a block of forest is like without having to go out and check.

Did I do this? Yes and I found the map needing updating in many places.

4. If map updates need to happen, get these done early

Pretty obvious this one. Having an updated map will let you plan with confidence and additionally, may provide you features that weren't there previously or prevent you from using features that no longer exist.

Did I do this? My map updating was not done in one go but rather a continuous project which was not ideal. This was firstly due to the Forestry Commission felling trees but also because I kept exploring new areas.

5. Be aware of all hazards specific to your area.

Most hazards won't directly affect your planning and instead are just things to be wary of. Others though could cause you planning headaches. A busy cycle path on a summer's day could be one to avoid for your junior courses. Make sure you ask previous organisers/planners or look at previous risk assessments to learn about your area.

Did I do this? I had to deal with the Forest of Dean Family Cycle path and concluded I could not avoid this but, given it was early February, it was agreed that it would not be a high risk hazard but also mitigated by putting up "Beware Runners" signs.

6. Look at the BOF guidelines

How often have you finished designing some draft courses without even reading up how long your courses are supposed to be? What you should do is consult the BOF guidelines available from the BOF website which provide you a range for each course. Depending on whether your area is a flat and runnable or hilly and tough-going, you can decide on your ideal length.

Did I do this? No and my controller pointed me in the direction of these guidelines. For my first draft I had planned my Brown and then roughly scaled down but the majority of my courses were way too long.

So, that is six tips and you could have got this far without even opening Purple Pen / Condes. Like many would do, opening purple pen and designing interesting legs was one of the first things I did but in hindsight was not the most useful thing to be doing.

7. Try to have start and finish as close as possible to assembly.

A simple one again but this is one to check you have been communicating with your organiser (who ideally is in place when the planner/controller was chosen) and know where your assembly is.

Did I do this? Yes at first, but the first time I changed my start I actually decided to move it further away. Again my controller was very helpful and stepped in and picked out a better location not only for my start but also my finish, both closer to assembly.

8. Keep communicating with your organiser

Your organiser will want to be kept in the loop with most things you do. I was good at first but when I briefly moved my start further away without telling my organiser he was, to say the least, a bit alarmed when he found out as this meant he would have to check the new start location and think about how to safely direct people up to 2km away. Luckily this wasn't required.

9. Use the planning software to assist you

As much as you think your courses look good individually, there may be things you haven't thought about such as controls too close together, and legs run in both directions. Your planning software can tell you instances where these occurs (Event Audit in Purple Pen) and if possible you should try to mitigate them.

My controller also pointed out the first draft of courses included a lot of occasions where competitors were arriving at controls in different directions on different courses. This is something that planning software can't pick out but should also be mitigated if possible.

10. Try to get stuff done the day before as you likely will be busy on the day

As this is a level C, your controller will need to have confirmed all your controls are out correctly before anyone can set off. Therefore, to save you time on the day, if you can, put the majority of controls out the day before. This will save you time on the day for other jobs that will need to get done.

I was luckily staying at a hotel on the map the night before and went out with a head torch after work to put out most of the controls and did not finish until 9:00pm. Also I could drive round the hard standing forest tracks which enabled me to put out almost all the controls prior to event day.

Richard Purkis M21
NGOC (formerly SAX)

TRAINING DAY REPORT - LIMPSFIELD CHART

Dartford Orienteering Klubb (DFOK) organised a training day at Limpsfield Chart on Sunday 28th January. Coach Allison Page from DFOK was in charge and had organised 3 really good training exercises, all with 6 controls.

- 1 We paired up for Route Choice. One experienced Orienteer (Heather Brown) and one not so experienced (me). One had to choose a route from the start to the 1st control and then the other had to choose a different route and so on until the finish. It was good to have a go through rough terrain without having to worry about time. Heather had a few good tips to offer which were useful.
- 2 We paired up with a different person for the next exercise which was Map Memory. You had to look at the route and then your partner ran behind with the map to make sure you didn't go astray. This was good fun except I had Tim Lund who is a lot faster than I am and it was a struggle just to keep him in sight on the legs he was in front he did of course have to slow down when he was following me.

A break for lunch (much longer than we had hoped, as the pub was rather busy and they got the order muddled up) and my legs felt like lead for the afternoon after sitting for nearly 2 hours.

- 3 Another different partner, I had Geoff Goodwin and this time it was a Relay of Control Siting. I took the kite to site 3 and placed it where I thought it should go and then back to the start. Geoff then went to see if he could find it then move it to the next control site, then he came back and I had to do the same only I didn't put the kite in the correct place. Luckily Geoff is a good orienteer and managed to find it to move it on to the next control. This was a hard exercise but well worth the effort. (If we hadn't had so long over lunch I would have liked to go and see where I should have put the control on that leg, but it was getting late and would probably have been dark by the time I got back to the car)

There were about 18 of us, of which Saxons were the majority I think and I have to thank Allison and Andrew Evans for a great day and for letting us infiltrate their training day.

Beryl Pring

Tree of the Year Competition



Back in October I wrote about the Tree of the Year competition run by the Woodland Trust. The winner of the England section was The Gilwell Oak in Essex.

“This marvellous oak tree is located in the heart of Gilwell Park in Essex, the home of the scouting movement conceived by Robert Baden-Powell. He adopted the towering oak as a neat analogy in 1929 for not only the growth of the scouting movement worldwide, which began with a small trial camp some 21 years earlier, but

as a message to young scouts that big things are possible from modest starts.”

Quote from Woodland Trust website.

My guess is that the whole of the scouting movement voted for this tree, no wonder it won. It has now been put forward to the European Tree of the Year competition. Voting in this competition takes place throughout February. The Gilwell Oak is up against a lime in Belgium, a sequoias in Bulgaria, a plane tree in Croatia, a walnut tree in the Czech Republic, a spruce in Lithuania, a sweet chestnut in Hungary, a poplar in Poland, a cork oak in Portugal, an oak in Romania, an oak in Russia, an apple from Slovakia, and an elm in Spain. More info at <https://www.treeoftheyear.org/ETY-2018/Home.aspx>

SAX QUIZ

This quiz checks your knowledge of tree species in winter when they have no leaves. Acknowledgements and thanks to the Woodland Trust for the pictures and the questions

Look at the pictures on the back cover and answer the following questions.

- A. Which tree has seeds like this? Common Lime, Sycamore or Ash
- B. Which tree has twigs like this? English oak, Field Elm or Horse Chestnut
- C. What tree has leaf buds like this? Common Beech, Hornbeam or Wild Cherry.
- D. Which tree has bark like this? London Plane, Turkey Oak or Sweet Chestnut.
- E. Which tree do these fruits belong to? Hawthorn, Spindle or Dogwood
- F. Which tree silhouette is this? Large leafed Lime, Common Beech or English Oak
- G. Which shrub has stems like this? Hazel, Goat Willow or Dogwood.
- H. Which tree has bark like this? Quaking Aspen, Downy Birch or Silver Birch.
- I. What tree has twigs like this – Ash, Sycamore or Elder

Answers inside back cover

PUBLICITY NEWS

I have been concentrating almost entirely on Facebook, using small amounts of paid advertising promoting to individuals with interests similar to orienteering, and posting details of our events on local village chat groups (with names like 'Ashford Today' and 'Challock Chatter') (thanks to Nick Betts for his suggestion to use local groups). Things have been going quite well recently.

Facebook provides some useful statistics. In the table below I've blended Facebook statistics with a count of non-club runners at the Saxons events I've been promoting, and for comparison, the KOL's from the 2016/17 season.

Venue	Date	Going	Interested	Promotion	Reach	Viewed	Responded	Total IND
Kings Wood KOL	10/02/18	34	95	Yes	11000	408	136	31
Ightham – Sunday Series	07/01/18	17	28	Yes	4300	161	48	23
Mote Park Score	01/01/18	43	64	Yes	10000	430	123	56
Perry Wood KOL	09/12/18	37	95	Yes	12000	424	145	24
Trosley KOL	14/10/18	25	34	Yes	6100	264	65	32
Trosley Summer Series	02/09/18	7	31	Yes	3000	136	19	14
Mote Park Summer Series	16/07/18	12	56	Yes	7100		68	8
Whinless Down Summer Series	18/06/18	13	43	Yes	4900		55	11
Millbank KOL	23/04/17	8	3	No			11	17
Angley KOL	25/03/17	6	1	No			8	8
Perry Wood KOL	21/01/17	3	0	No			3	13
Hargate KOL	19/11/16	5	0	No			5	14
Kings Wood KOL	17/09/16	6	1	No			7	15

Total IND is the number of non-Club members who actually went to the event. This figure is actually a big underestimate on the actual number of participants because family groups are recorded as one runner.

Just to explain the other table headings, when we create an event on the public Saxons fan' page, Facebook users (if they see it) can choose to respond by selecting either *going* or *interested*. Facebook also reports on *reach* (how many different people it displayed the event details to), how many clicked on and *viewed* the details and how many *responded* (said they were going, interested, 'liked' the event, or made a comment).

The actual Facebook promotion took very little time and involved pasting the event link to about 6 local groups, setting up a paid promotion and pressing go. I've also tried nurturing the interest of those that have responded to our page by posting pictures and articles every few days. The aim was to convert as many of the "interesteds" to "going", since "interested" is quite a non-committal state. Still being interested shows promise, perhaps to go to another event?

The increase in newcomers gives us some nice problems to have. Saxons members have been great at 'meeting and greeting' newcomers and making them feel welcome. The DIY coffee and cakes also adds to the welcoming atmosphere. We're also getting close to running out of hired dibbers at some events so the committee has decided to buy some more.

Since there are so many groups, we're going to investigate the possibility of experimental KOL leagues for groups for next season. Maps are also an issue for groups. I've watched the larger groups, and if the group size is more than 2 or 3 (ie typical family), then one person tends to do most of the map reading and the others follow. Perhaps we should give everyone in groups a map so they can all do the orienteering for maximum enjoyment. What do you think?

I'm also hoping that some of these new orienteers will get good enough to start challenging experienced orienteers like myself. This might be sooner than you think. Looking at the fastest 10 SAX members at the Mote Park score event, 6 have taken up the sport in the past 5 years.

Although I'm concentrating on Facebook, there are still many other publicity methods I'd like to try but don't quite have the time. If you want to help with any of these, or with the Facebook publicity, I'd be very happy to hear from you. If you've got any good pictures from our events, these are useful too, so please do let me have copies if you are able to. publicity@saxons-oc.org

Sean Cronin



Acknowledgements and thank you to everyone who contributed to this edition

Alan Hickling, Beryl Pring, Brendon Howe, Clair Smith, Graham Denney, Heather Brown, John van Rooyen, Marion Floyd, Mark Glaisher, Mike Solomon, Richard Purkis (NGOC), Richard Whitaker Sarah Howes, Sean Cronin and Tony Connellan.

Photo credits to Heather Brown and Editor

There are 10 winners of the CompassSport newsletter awards. The others were:- DFOK, SN, WAOC, LEI, DVO, BKO, NGOC, Deeside and Scottish Orienteering

Leagues, Leagues and more Leagues

There is a theory that putting an event in a league will make more people want to do all the events. In some years we have done this with our Sunday events although my personal opinion is that there are so many leagues out there we do not need a league to persuade us to go orienteering on a Sunday in our local area.

The most relevant league for Saxons members is the **South East League**. All the SE clubs put on one event per year in this league. You get points for your Club and for yourself. The Club league covers the orienteering season from September through July. The individual league is based on a calendar year. The events are on the best areas in the SE. If you want to attend a few events outside the Saxon area these are very good ones go to.

At the other end of the spectrum is the **UK Orienteering League**- a nationwide league of events held on supposedly THE very best areas.

For urban orienteering are two leagues in the SE worth following. **The UK Urban League** and the **Southern England Orienteering Urban League**

Because it is the beginning of the year you may want to know what the various league events are in order to plan your weekends away. There now follows details of all these leagues, what's happened so far and what events you can do in 2018.

1. South East League Report.

The 1st SE League event of the season 2017/18 season was held on 19 Nov held by **CHIG** at **Wormley Woods**. SAX were 6/7 with 650 points and a good showing in the M60-85 category where we were 3rd overall. Mark Glaisher was one of 16 runners to beat their target speed. 10 Saxons represented the club.



The 2nd league event was held by **SN** at **Ash Ranges** on 17 December 2017, SAX did better here coming 5/7 but with less points - 550. 10 Saxons represented the club.

The 3rd event was hosted by **DFOK** at **Limpsfield Chart** on 14 Jan 2018. . We are getting better, this time we were 4/7 with 1280 points. Mark Glaisher gets a mention again for beating his target time. And we were 2nd to SO in the M60-85 category. Pictured are four of the scorers

The 4th event was hosted by **MVOC** on **South Ashdown**. SAX came 5th with 502 points

Remaining South East League events for 2017/18

25-Feb-18	HH	Egypt/Burnham		13-May-18	SO	Worthlodge Forest
22-Apr-18	SAX	Eridge Park				

2. The UK Orienteering League

2017 RESULTS

The individual and Club result after the 20 events can be seen on the UK Orienteering League website. 4 people got the maximum 500 points including KNC regular Christine Kiddier W65 from GO

This table shows the top scoring Saxons in the individual league. Their position is in the first column - out of 2584.

269	Alison Howe	W45	SAX
276	Jeremy Oldershaw	M75	SAX
450	Brendon Howe	M45	SAX
494	Jean Fitzgerald	W60	SAX
590	Sarah Howes	W55	SAX
612	Mark Glaisher	M65	SAX
829	Dorothy Hale	W85	SAX

As a Club, Saxons came 55/121 the Club scorers were :- John Van Rooyen (M65), Mel Taylor (M50), Samantha Prior (W35), Jeremy Oldershaw (M75), David Kingdon (M65), Sarah Howes (W55), Brendon Howe (M45), Alison Howe (W45), Alan Hickling (M50), Dorothy Hale (W85), Mark Glaisher (M65), Jean

Fitzgerald (W60).

UKOL events are held on the very best areas in the country. Attend these events to get points for Saxons in 2018 and send the newsletter editor a report!

Date	Title and Format	Host	Venue	Location
24 Feb	British Night Championships - Night	SBOC	Merthyr Mawr	Bridgend, Wales
25 Feb	BNC Weekend National Event - Long	SWOC	Pembrey Forest	Llanelli, Wales
17 Mar	Midlands Champs Middle Distance	LEI	Irchester Country Park	Wellingborough
18 Mar	Midlands Championships - Long	LEI	Belvoir Castle and Estate	Grantham, East Midlands
30 Mar	JK Orienteering Festival - Sprint	WMOA	MOD Stafford	West Midlands
31 Mar	JK Orienteering Festival Middle	WMOA	Brereton Spurs	West Midlands
01 Apr	JK Orienteering Festival Long	WMOA	Beaudesert/Brereton Hayes	West Midlands
21 Apr	Northern Champs weekend Urban	HALO	Thirsk	Thirsk, Yorkshire
22 Apr	Northern Championships - Long	EBOR	Wass	Thirsk, Yorkshire
19 May	British Orienteering Long Champs	MAROC	Balmoral	Braemar, Scotland
26 May	Scottish Championships Individual Long	INVOC	Achagour & Dulsie	Inverness-Nairn, Scotland
27 May	Tamar Triple Long	DEVON	Braunton Burrows	Barnstaple, Devon
28 May	Tamar Triple - Long	DEVON	Braunton Burrows	Barnstaple, Devon
10-Jun	Morpeth Fair Day Urban	NATO	Morpeth	Northumberland
29-Jul	Lakes 5 Day 1 Long	NWOA	Silver Howe	Ambleside, Cumbria
03-Aug	Lakes 5 Day Middle Distance Event	LOC	Graythwaite	Hawkshead, Cumbria
01-Sep	British Sprint Championships	SWOA	Bath University	Bath, South West
02-Sep	British Middle Championships	SWOA	Stock Hill	Wells, South West
06-Oct	Liverpool Big Weekend Day 1 Long	DEE	Formby Dunes	Formby, North West
07-Oct	Liverpool Big Weekend Urban Event	SELOC	Liverpool University	Liverpool, North West
24-Nov	Southern Night Championships	GO	Verdley Wood	Midhurst, Sussex
25-Nov	Southern Championships Long	SN	Devil's Punchbowl	Hindhead, Sussex

3. The URBAN LEAGUE SECTION

Have you ever done an urban or street event? Perhaps you are someone who believes that the most technical orienteering is in the forest and it must be too easy round the streets. Or you think that urban events are only for runners. Your editor is not a runner but enjoys the thrill of urban events planned round alleyways, tightly knit streets or multi levels where it is very easy to get disorientated and lost. You have to make decisions must faster at an urban event because once you have chosen your route you are committed. In the forest you can change your mind and head off a different way through the trees. In an urban event you can't do this because there are buildings in the way. Make a decision too quickly and you will be trotting along realising that your way is suboptimum but there is nothing you can do about it because to go back would be even slower.

The other advantage of the urban events that you can get there by train. And it's a good excuse for a weekend away in city you have not previous explored. The 2018 races are listed below. **UK Urban League** - best 7 out of 20 to score. **Southern England Orienteering Urban League** best 8 out of 21 to score. Events in both leagues are shaded and in italics.

			UKUL	SEOUL
20-Jan	EUOC	Edinburgh	1	
	TVOC	Halton		1
25-Feb	RR	Tweedbank + Melrose	2	
25-Mar	MDOC	Macclesfield	3	
14 Apr	NOR	University of EA		2
<i>15-Apr</i>	<i>NOR</i>	<i>Norwich</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>3</i>
21-Apr	HALO	Thirsk	5	
<i>05-May</i>	<i>NGOC</i>	<i>Ross-on-Wye</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>4</i>
12 May	SO	Crawley		5
	WAOC	St Neots		6
13 May	SARUM	Warminster		7
<i>26-May</i>	<i>KERNO</i>	<i>Exeter Univ</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>8</i>
<i>03-Jun</i>	<i>WSX</i>	<i>Poole</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>9</i>
10-Jun	NATO	Morpeth	9	
	<i>SAX</i>	<i>Canterbury or Rochester</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>10</i>
16 June	WIM	Bridport		11
17-Jun	HOC	Birmingham Univ	11	
	BKO	Bracknell		12
23 June	SN	Frimley		13
24-Jun	LOG	Skegness	12	
30 June	BOK	Portishead		14
01-Jul	EPOC	Halifax	13	
08-Jul	SYO	Sheffield	14	
22-Jul	CLOK	Barnard Castle	15	
26 August	MV	Leatherhead		15
09-Sep	POTOC	Hanley	16	
	TVOC	Thame		16
16 Sept	NWO	Cirencester		17
07-Oct	SELOC	Liverpool	17	
<i>20-Oct</i>	<i>GO</i>	<i>Godalming</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>18</i>
<i>27-Oct</i>	<i>OUOC</i>	<i>Oxford</i>	<i>19</i>	<i>19</i>
<i>3 Nov</i>	<i>SARUM</i>	<i>Salisbury</i>		<i>20</i>
10 or 11 Nov	BADO	Kempshott		21
09-Dec	DVO	Derby	20	
<i>22 Dec</i>	<i>SO</i>	<i>Brighton(night)</i>		<i>22</i>

SAXONS RANKING TABLE to 31 January 2018

Pos	Prev Pos	Name	Age class	Top-12	Runs
1	(1)	Mark Glaisher	M65	1200	32
1	(2)	Peter Martin	M65	1200	35
3	(3)	Sarah Howes	W55	1196	28
4	(4)	Alison Howe	W45	1194	37
5	(5)	Brendon Howe	M45	1124	33
6	(6)	Alan Hickling	M50	1099	35
7	(7)	Beryl Pring	W70	1096	29
8	(10)	Simon Blanchflower	M60	1059	20
9	(8)	John Van Rooyen	M65	1058	17
10	(9)	Heather Brown	W65	1032	18
11	(12)	Mel Taylor	M50	1025	16
12	(11)	Dave Pickup	M45	1020	28
13	(13)	Jean Fitzgerald	W65	1005	23
14	(14)	Jeremy Oldershaw	M80	985	31
14	(16)	Jerry Purkis	M60	985	28
16	(15)	Simon Greenwood	M60	983	31
17	(17)	Mike Perry	M70	933	19
18	(18)	David Kingdon	M65	913	22
19	(20)	Bohdan Rainczuk	M55	907	19
20	(19)	Simon Deeks	M45	899	23



Summary:

Peter Martin catches Mark Glaisher to share top spot. Sarah Howes remains as leading lady, 2 points ahead of Alison Howe.

Thank you Alan Hickling for keeping the statistics

SAXONS OUT AND ABOUT

30 Nov 2017- Crowborough KNC organised by Mark Glaisher

One stand-out feature of Crowborough is its altitude – at 240m it's only just short of the highest point in Kent (Betsom's Hill on the N Downs, 251m). In addition there's quite a descent on all sides, with a drop of 100m plus shown on the Street-O map.

A Start & Finish near the centre of the map gave plenty of route choice options. The nearest controls had 10 or 20 points value, but the four 30 pointers were not too distant and could be reached on a 3.8km (measured direct) route. No one managed to get them all (350 points); Brendon did best with 330 points (missing two 10 pointers). Sarah Howes was the leading lady with 220 points comprising 4 x 30, 3 x 20 and 4 x 10. The map used had been drawn by Nick Barrable in OCAD 9 (2007) with revisions by me this year. At the post-pub get-together it was a useful exercise to pass the map round and ask people to mark areas that they thought should be checked before next time. **MG**

3 December 2017 - South East Score Championships – Joydens Wood DFOK

A little bit drizzly and a long walk to the start but the use of the Birchwood Golf Club as a base made up for it. You can't beat a dry room and real toilets on a cold wet day.

20 Saxons hoping to win given our weekly practice at score events with the Kent Night Cup but we were pipped into 2nd place by SLOW. Our top 12 scorers got slightly less points than the top 12 scorers in SLOW. They got 247 points to our 207. Well done to Alan Hickling our top scorer with 21 points. Peter Martin and Bohdan Rainczuk were joint 2nd with 19 points.



Cate Slade, Lisa Blair and Andrew Derrick discuss which controls they found or maybe they didn't find?

Kent Night Cup – 7 Dec Footh Cray Meadows DFOK.

I only mention this because Mark Collins (DFOK) set the most ridiculously hard challenge giving 5 extra points for controls visited in series order but proceeded to place them at opposite ends of the park. Brendon Howe (2nd) and Adam Corrie (3rd) did the 90s series which was shorter than the 70s

selected by Jon Bond who came in 6th after Alison Howe who also did the 90s. Jerry did not leave himself enough time to finish the 90s series but he was determined to finish them, perhaps thinking the 5 bonus points would counteract the penalty points for being late. Bad luck Jerry- 16 points less 16 penalty points meant a zero score.

Sat 9 Dec KOL Perry Wood. Organised and Planned by Heather Brown and Tony Connellan

The weather was perfect for KOL 4 at Perry Wood and there was an eclectic mix of people all keen to run around the beautiful winter woods. Thanks to Facebook publicity several new family groups of locals took part, some even threatening to return to another of our events. The string course, laid out dismantled and manned by Elsa, Michael, Fiona, Steven, William and Aaron, was a popular addition with children running through rhododendrons, over a bridge into the wood and back to packets of sweets.

More serious orienteers enjoyed the climbs up the hills to the tower and around the tricky north-east section of brambles and bushes. Lots of helpers were keen to help with the event and we welcomed Martin Chapman and Neil Bricknell who with their respective daughters manned the start for the keen competitors. Thank you to all our volunteers. An enjoyable morning for competitors and organisers.

Heather and Tony



Well done those control collectors- James Ford- Neil Bricknell and Ffion Bricknell
Photos- Heather Brown

Notable results:-

Blue	Brendon Howe	M45	1/27	Lt Green	Ken Fox	M45	2/26
	James Ford	M18	18/27		Ffion Bricknell	W14	4/26
	Alison Howe	W45	5/27		Gill Sinclair	W45	8/26
					Luke Evans	M12	3/17
Orange	Claire Smith	W21	1/10	Yellow	Amber Hobbs	W6	2/17
	Austen Howe	M12	7/10		Eric Pogson- new member	M10	13/17

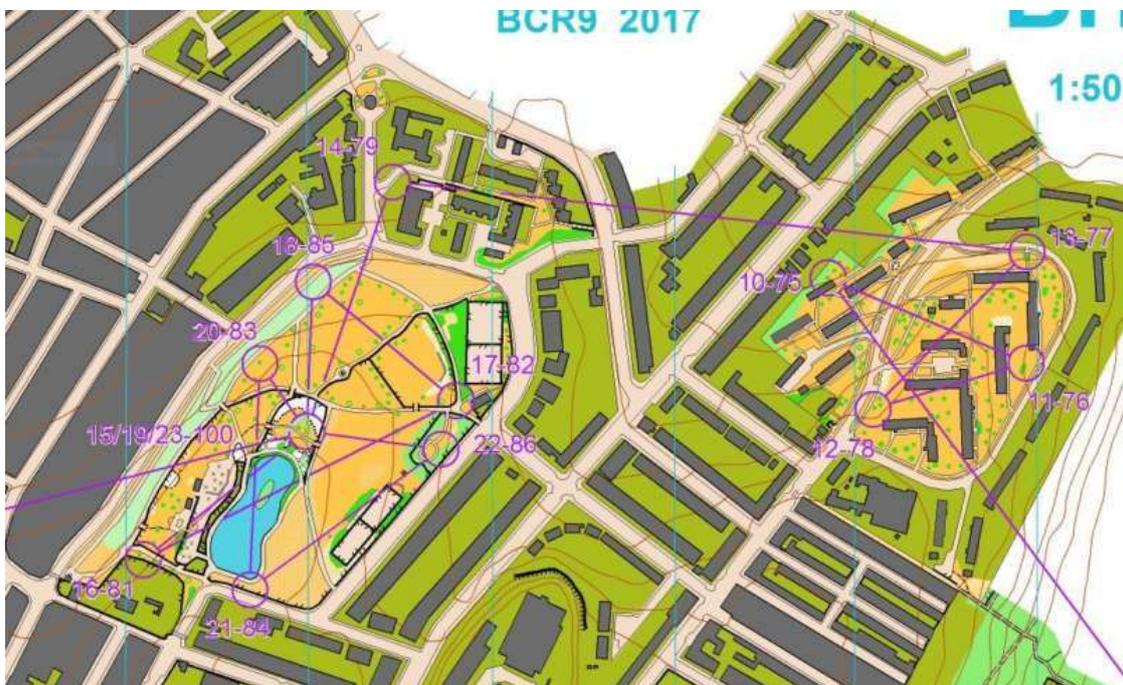
Brighton City Race 16 Dec 2017- Southdowns

Surprisingly only 3 Saxons turned up for this annual fun night street race- plus former Saxons Richard Purkis who managed 3rd place after missing a control, remembering and going back Spot the Saxons getting ready in a sea of yellow.

It was the final race in the Southern England Orienteering Urban League for 2017. Richard Purkis won Men's Open.



Extract from the map.



Christmas KNC Seal Chart, Ightham, 21 December organised and planned by Graham Denney.



Saxons' last event before Christmas and held on the shortest day of the year – the Winter Solstice – attracted 56 runners. This is believed to be the record so far for this year's Kent Night Cup series. It was also the first event organised by Saxons member Graham Denney. It was held in the mixed woods of Seal Chart near Sevenoaks, which has a variety of terrain and plenty of suitable features for orienteering plus an extensive (if muddy!) path network. Fortunately, despite the time of year and heavy snow only a couple of weeks before, the weather was kind to us.

Lots of young people home for Xmas meant that Richard Purkis M21 and David Thomas M21 had a good race both getting 220 points but Richard in a slightly faster time. Both were beaten by KNC veteran Neil Crickmore M55 from SO. Best Sax lady Alison Howe W45 was just beaten by another young person; Bryony Crickmore W21 from SO. Good to see Sax junior Ffion Bricknell W14 out in the woods in the dark

Photo of Graham about to organise the Secret Santa prize giving. Everyone gets a prize at the Xmas KNC.

Mote Park- New Year's Day SAX

Some thoughts and comments from organiser / planner Sean Cronin after the event:-

- Turnout was 138.
- Only 50 of those 138 were members of an orienteering club.
- Of the 88 non club members, 29 were my friends from Burnt Ash, of the others roughly 2/3rd families.
- All but 7 of the 88 non-club members chose to run in groups.

Given a turnout of 88 non-members in pouring rain, we did rather well, and I'm really grateful for so many people stepping in to help. It looks like the publicity is making a difference, and newcomers are inviting their friends, so this number of newcomers may become normal.

What I would do differently if I was doing this event again:

- Get up earlier.
- Investigate an indoor venue for registration (leisure centre, Mote Park scout hut?)
- Order more maps (I only had 120, so many of the groups had to share a map).
- Figure out a way of registering non club members before the event (I did this for my friends from Burnt Ash).

Sean Cronin

Well done Sean for a great event in adverse weather

Ightham Common 7 Jan 2018- SAX.

Planned by Jean Fitzgerald and Mike Solomon, Organised by Richard Whitaker. Controller was Jerry Purkis.

The weather was quite pleasant - overcast but fairly mild but the ground was very wet in places after much recent rain. 36 Saxons turned up and ran.

There was a very good attendance with 191 finishers plus a further 24 shadowing/sharing maps etc. It was hectic on registration and we ran out of maps on nearly all courses, otherwise everything ran smoothly. The car parking at Crown Point exceeded capacity and Syants Bottom was used as an overflow. We also used the St Lawrence School car park to a limited extent. Unfortunately 2 runners managed to go off course and ran into someone's garden.

There was an encouraging number of potential members trying O and seeking help and guidance etc. Maybe Sean Cronin's Facebook advertising is having some effect.

Richard Whittaker- Organiser

Best Saxons results

Brown	Simon Evans	M35	9/32			Paul Bowen	M55	8/50
Blue	Peter Martin	M65	7/56		Green	Ffion Bricknell	W14 (1 st teenager)	30/50
	Alison Howe	W45	13/56			Doug Deeks	1 st M80	34/50
	Lisa Blair	W40	14/56		Orange	Austin Howe	M12	1/13
	Nicola Ellingham	W50 new member	48/56			Claire Smith & Adam Austen	M/W21 New members	3/14
Light Green	Matthew Derrick	M14	5/19		Yellow	William Prior	M10	3/16
	Brian Dinsley	M80 back from ill health	15/19			Marion Floyd & Anthony Hicks	W65 & M75 New members	14/16
Score	Ken Fox	M50	2/6					

14 January S E League Event Limpsfield Chart DFOK

31 Saxons attended this prime area on the Greensand Ridge just above Westerham. Best results- **Ffion Bricknell** W14 won the Light Green way ahead of Dad Neil. **Mark Glaisher** M65 2nd on the Short Blue. Strong performances by Peter Martin M65- 5th on the Blue, Alison Howe W45 6th / first woman on Short Blue and Jeremy Oldershaw now running as M80 5th on Short Green. It was also good to see Brian Dinsley M80 back in action again after major health issues in 2017. DFOK had found an excellent parking area on an old industrial complex next to the Grasshopper Inn with some vintage buses parked in Download



L-R- Mike Murray SLOW (Controller) Roger Pring, Tony Connellan, Jeremy Oldershaw, Jerry Purkis, Mark Collins DFOK (Planner) and Rob Sibley



Vintage bus in Download

18 Jan KNC 17 Kings Wood, Challock. Organised/ planned by Brendon Howe.

“The thunder roared, the lightning flashed and all the world was shaken, the KNC’ers donned their kit and ran for scores a makin’.”

Yes, the weather before the event was a little tumultuous, but this did not deter 26 hardy souls who made it to Kings Wood for KNC17. Pleasingly, the weather improved and a dry race ensued, though a little muddy in places. A tricky mix of easy and harder controls along with a 90s and 100s split kept most people thinking. Some people enjoyed the event so much, they didn’t want to finish, coming in 12 minutes late!

Top score was Chris Hooker finding 15 of the 20CPs. Well done to Mark Glaisher who came 2nd and Sarah Howes who came 4th.

20 Jan 2018- KOL Shooters Hill – Oxleas Woodlands. DFOK



30 Saxons travelled to Shooters Hill for this Saturday league event hosted by DFOK. It is fantastic to find ancient woodland so close to London. According to the information sign the woods are 8000 years old and Oxleas means “pastures for oxen” in Saxon.

This control by an attractive willow, was on the Orange course and tricked a couple on the Light Green into dibbing it by mistake.

Notable Saxons results

Blue of 20	1st	Brendon Howe	M45	Light Green of 36	5th	Rob Kingman	M65
	3rd	Alison Howe	W45		6th	Michael Cameron	M16
Yellow of 18	4th	Uddin Caylan	M6		7th	Elsa Burdett	W18
	6th	Amber Hobbs	W6		8th	Beryl Pring	W70

Also Austin Howe who tried and tried to get to control 9 but some scary dogs were in the way.

Blood Races and OK Nuts Trophy Richmond Park- SLOW. 21 Jan 2018

These titles deserve some explanation. **The Blood Races** are extra-long O events. The title comes from an annual Norwegian event called Blodslitet (Blood spiller); extra-long, mass start events which the Purkis family actually participated in in Norway in 2016 in when Mark was doing a research project out there as part of his degree. The Full Blood was 21km, Half Blood- 16.5km and Nearly Half an Armful - 10.8km.

Saxon members Alan Hickling (M50) and Tom Devine (M35) deserve a mention for taking part in the Nearly Half an Armful. Alan was 8th and Tom was 28th out of a field of 57.

The Blood Races events were taking place at the same time as another event the **OK Nuts Trophy**. OK Nuts was one of the first English orienteering clubs, founded by Olympic athlete Gordon Pirie when living at Nutfield in what is now Mole Valley territory. The club became part of SLOW, who now run the “OK Nuts Trophy” annually in memory of the club and in particular their leading member, Mike Wells-Cole, who died in 1976 after training with flu.

Saxon Peter Martin won the M65 award on the Green course in this competition.

Triple Gloucester 3 & 4 Feb. Forest of Dean. NGOC.

With South East Middle Distance championships being cancelled by GO because of land permission problems and Saxons Knole Park event being cancelled because the carpark was a building site, it seemed a good idea to go and support Richard Purkis’s current club NGOC especially as Richard was planning his first big event the Saturday Middle Distance event. (Read his report elsewhere in the newsletter). This was followed by a night sprint round the old town of Chepstow on the Wales / England borders. On the Sunday there was a Long Distance event. 3 Saxons plus quite a few other SE orienteers from SO, SLOW and MV took advantage of the opportunity to run somewhere completely different. I had not been to the Forest of Dean since JK 2007. It was my first JK and looking back at the results I can see I took 2 ¼ hours to do the W50 course. Richard ran M14A, equivalent to Light Green. Little did he think that he would find himself back here 10 years later as planner? The Forest was delightful, mossy, lots of ditches and apparently lots of wild boar. Richard saw 4 when he was putting out controls by head torch on the Friday night. And 3 wandered through the

string course on the Sunday- what fun for the tinies! The Forest of Dean has the largest population of wild boar in the UK and I am very disappointed I did not see any.
Rowan Purkis

Saturday 10 February KOL Kings Wood, Challock



This year’s sixth Kent Orienteering League event took place at King’s Wood, Challock, near Ashford, on Saturday 10th February. Lovely crisp, clear weather to start with unfortunately didn’t last long, as near-freezing rain rolled in rather earlier than forecast. However this and the resulting mud bath underfoot failed to deter the 134 participants, many of whom were experiencing orienteering for the first time. Ages ranged from the over-70s down to more than 50 juniors, some aged well under 10, with a number of family groups running, which was very encouraging. We also had some very complimentary

comments on Facebook afterwards from first-timers. As Planner/Organiser I was very pleased at the turnout and the dedication of our volunteers in coping with both the large numbers and the adverse conditions. Well done Saxons – this was a really successful event for this time of year!

Graham Denney

Thank you Heather Brown for the photo above of some happy newcomers running through the mud
 Notable Saxons results:-

Blue	Dave Pickup	M45	1/13	Light Green	Nick Betts	M50	1/33
	Matt Peters (new member)	M21	3/13		Michael Cameron	M16	4/33
	Sam Prior	W40	9/13		Elsa Burdett	W18	5/33
	James Ford	M18	10/13		Ffion Bricknell	W14	9/33
Yellow	Luke Evans	M10	1/21	Orange	Nicola Ellingham (new member)	W50	12/33
	Kasie Chapman (new member)	W10	2/21		Danni Peters (new member)	W21	2/13
	William Prior	M10	2/21	Score	Andrew Derrick	M45	1st
	James Gaylor	M8	6/21				
	Christina Pogson (new member)	W7	12/21				

Sunday 11 Feb South East League Event – South Ashdown MVOC



15 Saxons came to represent Saxons at this SE league event on an area of the Ashdown Forest that I have not visited before. Best result went to Henry Taylor M14 who was 2nd on Light Green. Alan Hickling managed 2/25 on the Blue course and complained that his point 8 was not in the right place which cost him 10 mins and maybe first place

Here is splits browser showing Alans error and a reminder to any of you not familiar with Splits Browser, what information can be seen.



It was a glorious day with runners to be seen all over the Forest



Extracts from Minutes of Saxons Committee Meeting of 24 November 2017, and Draft Minutes of 5 February 2018 Meeting

- Following the AGM, Sean Cronin was welcomed as the new Publicity Officer. All other committee post holders agreed to continue with their existing roles. The impending departure of Rowan and Jerry Purkis to a new home in The Lakes means the Club needs new incumbents for the roles of Development, Child Welfare, and SaxAlert Editor. Sam Prior has volunteered to take on the Child Welfare role. Brendan Howe has taken over the position of Team Captain, the role ably performed by Mark Glaisher for many years.
- 30 Saxons took part in the finals of the Compass Sport Trophy competition in Devon; the Club subsidised their accommodation and entry costs. The first round of the 2018 Compass Sport trophy will take place at Balcombe in E Sussex.
- The 2018 Junior O festival will take place at Bethany School, Goudhurst, on 26 May.
- SI etc recent (or impending) purchases by the Club: five new SI units (and supporting stakes); repair of the KNC printer; a second copy of OCAD 12 mapping software; new "compatible" ink cartridges for the map printer; new dibbers (NB: the Club is offering to pay £10 for any old dibber you may still have following purchase of a newer model). A new license for the planning software CONDES will probably need to be bought this year. Following (most of) these purchases, balance in bank is £13,700.
- Simon Blanchflower highlighted an Environment Agency announcement of a plan to complete a LIDAR survey of the whole of England by 2020. The Agency has hitherto concentrated on low-lying areas susceptible to flooding. Importantly, the policy of making the data available at no charge will continue. This is important for the club; LIDAR data form a valuable starting point for mapping new areas or updating existing maps, but the areas of interest to us tend to be the higher and hillier parts of the region - precisely the areas until now neglected by the Agency.
- The 5 January committee meeting was a short one, to allow time for an introductory presentation by Phil Conway, recently appointed British Orienteering Regional Development Officer. A note on Phil's presentation follows.

- Phil Conway started in post in October 2017, as one of five Development Officers working for BOF, reporting to Craig Anthony at BOF HQ (Craig in turn reports to the BOF Chief Exec - Peter Hart, about to take over that position). The post has four year funding from Sport England; it is a four-year appointment.
- It is a full time job: half the job involves supporting the 24 Clubs in the South (SW, SC, SE); half the job is to do with juniors and youth, setting up junior programmes within clubs (he is starting with DFOK on this).
- Phil outlined the challenge with juniors: overall junior numbers look OK, but they don't come to Sunday Level Cs; they mainly come to schools events and don't make it into the mainstream O world. Tony Connellan summarised the Saxons junior experience: the problem is not with initial attendance but with retention; from Yr 7 they want to be with their mates - and they want a sport with a team. The strategy that works is to get parents involved - but we achieve this in only a few cases.

- Phil gave an account of a junior programme run by GO (Guildford), with regular Tuesday 5pm junior training events, all within 15miles of Guildford. The general view was that this was a strategy suitable for GO, with a geographically compact territory, but was not one that would work for Saxons, with our very large area.
- There was some discussion about courses for training coaches; some Sax coaches or would-be coaches had experienced problems in finding suitable courses - in some cases the only available courses were in the north of England. Phil agreed to investigate this, and do what he could to ensure that geographically plausible courses were made available.
- We will be seeing more of Phil in future. He is keen to engage with the club, and initially will be conversing with Tony, Heather and Sam on junior matters.

Thanks to Mike Solomon for writing this.

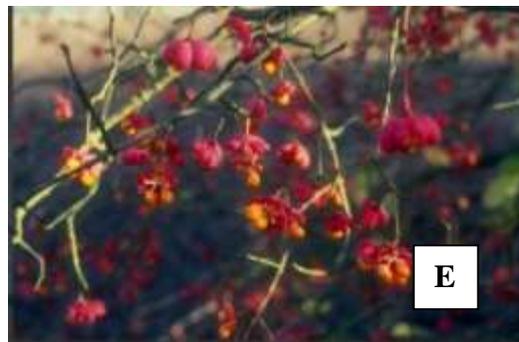
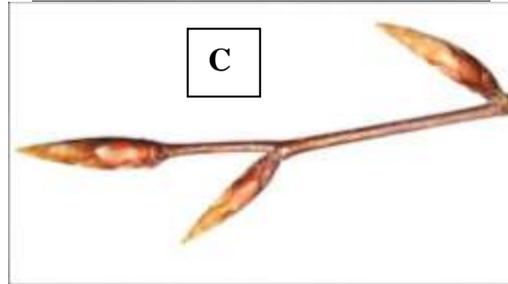
SAX QUIZ ANSWERS

- A. Which tree has seeds like this? Ash
- B. Which tree has twigs like this? Horse Chestnut
- C. What tree has leaf buds like this? Common Beech,
- D. Which tree has bark like this? Sweet Chestnut.
- E. Which tree do these fruits belong to? Spindle
- F. Which tree silhouette is this? English Oak
- G. Which shrub has stems like this? Dogwood.
- H. Which tree has bark like this? Silver Birch.
- I. What tree has twigs like this – Ash.

**Club Committee & Officers
WHO DOES WHAT contact list**

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Andrew Derrick	Committee Member		
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TREE QUIZ



**SAXALERT is the official journal of Saxons Orienteering Club.
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