



Issue 179

# SAXALERT

Late Spring 2018

## SAX NOTICES

### Junior Orienteering Festival

Bethany School Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> May

Starts from 11am – 12noon

All Saxons Juniors, local schools and youth groups, other O club juniors are welcome to come to the Festival .All details on Saxons website

Entries to Junior Co-ordinator Tony Connellan

[tonyconnellan@gmail.com](mailto:tonyconnellan@gmail.com) by 23<sup>rd</sup> May

### Summer Cycle Orienteering Series

Sun 1 Jul	Bike O around Yalding Organiser : Richard Field
Sun 8 Jul	Bike O around Hildenborough Organiser: Sarah Howes
Sun 22 Jul	Bike O Organiser :Jean Fitzgerald
Sat 18 Aug	Bike O around Doddington Organisers: Heather & Tony

Three of these events will be photo cycle events where orienteers will have to visit locations and identify a photo to match the location. Seniors £8 with £1 deduction for Saxons members. Juniors £1. These events are all on roads and an adult aged over 16 is needed to accompany any under 16 Junior.

Front page photo Rob Lines. Other photos Sean Cronin, Rowan Purkis, Tony Connellan, Heather Brown, Neil Bricknell, Sarah Howes, Mark Glaisher.

## Editorial



It was as I was cycling in Puglia in early April that I thought about the hard work Rowan has put into developing Saxalert and what a shame it would be if there was a long gap before another edition appeared. So as the interim editor I should like to express deep thanks to Rowan and other members of the Purkis family who have cared for and developed Saxalert over the past ten years. The club

magazine was developed from a ten page booklet to the plump 40 page interesting edition of recent years.

Graham Denney will be taking over the editorship in the autumn so till then this Spring edition and hopefully a summer edition will keep you up to date with lots of the events and happenings in the club.

I hope you will enjoy this humble edition.

Heather Brown

Letters to the Editor

13<sup>th</sup> March 2018

Dear Rowan

This is by way of a "Farewell to Saxons" letter, although I do retain membership of Saxons from afar.

During the last few years I have been fortunate in that my younger son, Nick has been able to take me to some SE events. Now he has returned to live in Scotland, in Banchory Aberdeenshire. My other son Jolyon, the vicar who some of you have met has moved from Crawley down to a living in Cheshire, south of Manchester amongst the Manchester United footballers and their wives!

Consequently my home is near my daughter Louise and her family in Saffron Waldon Essex. I have settled in well, am still very active, but unfortunately no "O".

I want to record how much pleasure Ken and I had as members of Saxons for so many years and to wish the club well in the future. I read Saxalert avidly and do hope someone will volunteer soon to take over from the talented Purkis family who have done such an excellent job as editors over the past ten years or so.

May you all run in sunlit forests.

Yours sincerely

Dorothy Hale



## Chairman's Chat

Many of you will have noticed the 'farewell' note on the website to Rowan and Jerry Purkis but I couldn't let a chat go by without extending the thanks of all members to the pair who made an extraordinary impact on Saxons OC. Jerry and Rowan joined the club in the 2005. They soon got involved and both ended up on the managing committee.

Rowan was our Treasurer for many years, only resigning from the role a couple of years ago. She was also initially 'sub editor' for SaxAlert when sons Richard and Mark took over from Clare and Katy Howes as editors. She was elevated to 'editor' when the boys went off to university (or possibly a bit before??). The newsletter has consistently been in the top ten club magazines as judged by Nick Barrable of CompassSport magazine. In the last year of her editorship the magazine won two awards – one of the top magazines and also the best cover of the year (see details on the website). She will be a hard person to follow!

Jerry became Development Officer, and in this role, collected together all the necessary paperwork and expertise to produce our successful ClubMark accreditation bid (Clubmark is the Sport England cross sport quality accreditation for clubs with junior sections). Since the initial accreditation success, the club has been re-accredited twice, all under Jerry's guidance. Jerry has also been a club coach, has planned and organised many events for the club, and is a qualified event controller.

More in the foreground, Rowan is often seen 'meeting and greeting' new members at events and also recently instigated the club's refreshment tent, while Jerry is often seen sitting in the Download tent attending to the SI requirements of our events. They will both be missed! I'm sure we will still see them at events in the future, especially if we venture as far as the Lakes, where they are relocating to.

So, SaxAlert needs a new editor. Heather Brown has taken on the role for this edition. What happens with future editions is still not clear so if you have an interest please contact Heather.

## Jean

Thank you to everybody who has sent articles and given me help in putting this Saxalert together, especially Rowan for her advice. Send articles and news to [saxalert@saxons-oc.org](mailto:saxalert@saxons-oc.org) for a summer edition.

## **Welcome to new members**

**Mark and Helen Gilmartin and their children Sophie and Noah from Faversham.**

**Charlie, Lara Pickin. Harry M11, Jasper M11 from Groombridge**

Welcome to the club. We hope to see you at local events this summer and in the Autumn.

New members please make yourselves known to the organisers and the "Can I help you" volunteers at events. Also our Junior co-ordinators will look forward to meeting new Juniors.

## **Data Protection: The rules are changing on the 25 May 2018!**

As you are already probably aware the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) comes into effect on 25 May 2018.

**ALL British Orienteering members need to 'Opt-in' to continue to receive British Orienteering E-newsletters from 1 June 2018.**

**It's easy! Here's how?**

You can do this simply by logging into the 'Member's section' of the British Orienteering website and clicking the tab 'My Account' and selecting 'Newsletter Settings' on the left hand-side of the screen. Select your e-newsletter preferences and click the 'Save' button. Thank you.

## **Kent Night Cup 2017-18:**

### **A winter series of 1 hour Mass Start Score events**

The raw statistics for this 11<sup>th</sup> season of KNCs show an average of 36 competitors per round, and 155 people scoring points in the League. Two stalwarts made it to 24 of the 25 events! This good level of support makes it worthwhile for the Event Officials, and there's a nice cross-section of people running at each event.

As well as the regular venues, there were some new ones, and others not visited for several years. These included Orpington (school & street) and Whitstable; Gravesend W, Plumstead & N Woolwich and Westerham High Chart (DFOK); and Oaken Wood. Opportunity was taken to come

up with hybrid events (Mote Park & Maidstone E; SO Tilgate & Maidenbower) as a way of putting a different slant on an area.

I think many people take part in KNCs as a bit of an adventure - that's great. For some, the placing in the results is an important element. As in recent years, the League winners came from the Veteran categories, with Brendon & Alison Howe establishing an early lead, and maintaining it. The Veteran (45+) categories were won by Neil Crickmore & Sarah Howes, and Super Veteran (60+) by Ian Ditchfield and Beryl Pring.

For the future – if you spot any new areas or can suggest combination/hybrid ones, I'd be very happy to hear about them. There are a number of scoring formats and it's possible to use some quite small areas.

A KNC event is a good opportunity to hone your orienteering skills; there is help and advice available for newcomers. Hope to see you at the first round for 2018-19, on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> September!

Mark Glaisher

KNC coordinator

## Our new Team Captain gives his report on Team Events

Despite having a little practice at last year's JK, I wasn't quite prepared for the onslaught of Team related administration in 2018. Following a bit of learning curve (and a lot of apologetic emails to the organisers of the Compass Sort Cup) I'm now better acquainted with the role. I must thank Mark Glaisher for the sterling work he has done in nurturing the Saxons Team through many previous events, and for the help and support he has offered me in getting 'up to speed'.



## Compass Sport Cup and Trophy

First up was the Compass Sport Cup qualifier, this year held at Balcombe, organised by DFOK. As you'll know, the CST is an inter-club competition where club members compete on nine age appropriate courses against each other. There are two competitions, one for small clubs and one for the larger clubs. To do well in the CST, we need strong performances across the age spectrum. Clubs who field a good number of competing juniors do best.

Despite some badgering of the junior squad, we only managed to field four juniors. Well done to Matthew Derrick, Joseph Derrick, Ffion Bricknell and Austin Howe who battled it out with the competition.

As you can see from the table of our top scorers below, we did pretty well, with a win in two categories, a 2<sup>nd</sup> in two categories and three thirds.

Mark Galaisher	Class 6	Score 100	Sarah Howes	Class 5	Score 100
Alison Howe	3	99	Jeremy Oldershaw	7	99
Ffion Bricknell	8B	98	Brendon Howe	2	98
Alan Hickling	4	98	Simon Greenwood	6	97
Lisa Blair	3	96	Austin Howe	9A	96
Doug Deeks	7	95	Jean Fitzgerald	5	95
Dave Pickup	2	95			

Brendon Howe : Team Captain

## Junior Matters



Since the last edition of Saxalert we have seen some good events with a pleasing entry of Saxon juniors. On 10<sup>th</sup> Feb I had the chance to go walking in Southern Spain and needing to be reminded what the sun looked like I decided to take the opportunity. Not being able to be in two places at once I grabbed the chance, but missed running in King's Wood at Challock which can be quite tricky in places with its many little bending and twisting tracks and paths which make it a good challenge to try and get a quick time.

Twelve Saxon juniors took part and appeared to have had a valuable morning. James Ford ran the Blue course and came 10<sup>th</sup> out of 13 runners. On the Light Green course there were 33 runners with Michael coming 4<sup>th</sup>, Elsa 5<sup>th</sup> and Toby 21<sup>st</sup>.

Here are the yellow results for our team. There were 8 Saxons out of 21 runners

1 <sup>st</sup> Luke Evans	3 <sup>rd</sup> William Prior	11 <sup>th</sup> Ben Cronin	14 <sup>th</sup> Callum Cook
2 <sup>nd</sup> Kasie Chapman	6 <sup>th</sup> James Gaylor	12 <sup>th</sup> Christina Pogson	15 <sup>th</sup> Eric Pogson

Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> March was a bitterly cold day for our event at Knole Park. Everyone had cold fingers and toes, but it was good to see that Ffion Bricknell was not put off by the weather. She ran the Green course contending with some very experienced competitors and must have been pleased with her result coming 8 out of a field of 32.

Next came a very busy KOL at Hosey Common on 7<sup>th</sup> April and fortunately it was nowhere near as cold, but rather muddy as one particular young Saxon found to his delight when I spotted him jumping up and down in a big patch with a broad smile on his face.

James Ford again the only junior to run Blue and came 22<sup>nd</sup> of 33. On the Lt Green Michael Cameron must have been pleased with his 5<sup>th</sup> place out of 30 and was followed in by Ffion Bricknell in 13<sup>th</sup>.

Austin Howe was our only Orange runner but came 1<sup>st</sup> out of 3 no doubt hoping for more competition to show a clean pair of heels.

Again a few more yellow course runners, nearly all Saxons and stars of the future!

1 <sup>st</sup> Holly Howe	3 <sup>rd</sup> Kasie Chapman	6 <sup>th</sup> Caylan Uddin
2 <sup>nd</sup> Isabel Hobbs	5 <sup>th</sup> Ben Cronin	7 <sup>th</sup> Amber Hobbs

On Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> of April the club held a large event at Eridge. Lots of adults took part, but not so many juniors as is usual. However it was a super day and the seven who took part did well for themselves.

Joseph bravely entered the short green category and should be pleased that against so many more experienced runners he came 15<sup>th</sup> out of the 22 competitors. Matthew came 4<sup>th</sup>/10 with Toby a short way behind at 7<sup>th</sup> on the Light Green course

Austin and Ben claimed the first and second place on the Orange course with two superior runs and both were well ahead of the other runners. Two new junior club members joined us, Harry and Jasper Pickin who ran around with each other and did very well to manage 5<sup>th</sup> place. We look forward to seeing them more often and enjoying themselves with our other juniors

William and Holly both did very well in the yellow course claiming 1<sup>st</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> places in a field of 13 which must have pleased them a lot.

The most recent KOL event was at Ightham and a very busy event it turned out to be as well. As usual James Ford was our only junior to run the blue course and this time there was the grand total of 30 competitors, but he still did very well and ran in 13<sup>th</sup> out of this very large field.

Michael and Elsa came equal 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Light Green course with Toby not far behind obviously very determined to gain lots of experience on the more tricky courses and get up among the leaders, which will happen quickly at the rate he is going.

Austin was the only of our juniors to run the orange course and again did very well, coming 10<sup>th</sup> out of 23 runners.

Many more ran the yellow course and as always our younger Saxons showed strength in numbers..

1/33 Ben Cronin	4/33 Kasie Chapman	10/33 Amber Hobbs	14/33 Eric Pogson
3/33 Isabel Hobbs	9/33 Holly Howe	13/33 Christina Pogson	

Ruby Waters was the only Saxon junior to enter the score course and in 47 minutes managed to find 8 controls. I hope you enjoyed the score course Ruby and continue to keep improving your orienteering skills.

We have four very important events coming up soon where I hope to see you all enjoying yourselves

12<sup>th</sup> May – KOL at Leybourne Lakes

20<sup>th</sup> May – a Sunday competition at Blean Woods

26<sup>th</sup> May - the very special Junior Orienteering Festival just for you at Bethany School near Cranbrook

2<sup>nd</sup> June – Last KOL for this year at Heysden Country Park near Tonbridge.

Tip;- Don't forget to always be sure that you know where you are when out running by keeping a thumb on the map at your position and fold the map if it's a bit big, not flapping in the wind.

Warning;- There is a rumour that some new orienteering shoes are made from banana skins, but I think they are just slippers.

Run and have fun!

Tony Connellan

Saxalert Quiz.: Where are these airports?  
Have you sat around in any of them?

	Nearest Town	Country
Franz Liszt		
Napoleon Bonaparte		
Kickapoo		
Lieutenant Colonel Rafael Pabon Tarija		
Paro		
Connellan		
King Shaka		
George Best		
John Lennon		
Haneda		
Lappeenranta		
Federico Fellini		
Marco Polo		

Coaches Corner.



The club has three coaches, Jean Fitzgerald, Heather Brown and newly qualified Brendon Howe. Recently Heather and Jean have been visiting schools and attempting to inspire classes of KS2 pupils to take part in orienteering activities, to have fun doing so and then hopefully to come along to events. It is not easy as within classes of pupils there are those who dislike the outdoors especially if it is raining, those who turn off when one uses the word run and those that will not listen however exciting, stimulating and dynamic the presentation and activity.

However we have had some success and hopefully some new enthusiasts will come along to the Junior Orienteering Festival later this month. With large numbers of participants in school grounds and at events it is difficult to encourage new orienteers to review their run and work out what went well and which legs could have gone better.

You do not need fancy wristband technology to assess the effectiveness of your route but that does make it easier. Simply draw your route on your map in red pen as soon as you have finished and talk to others around you about your route. Oh and ask them about their route as well and listen (it might help you both) When you get home draw your route on route gadget. However the programme will not show the wiggly lines of your route when you got lost unless you wear your

GPS watch. Maybe some people think it's a blessing not to see the contorted spaghetti lines but if and when you can bear to look at it you will learn something.

Above Jean is doing the post race review with two eager youngsters.

## South East League Results

### SAXONS SE League Event - Eridge Old Park - 22nd April 2018

This good event was held at Eridge Old Park on a hot Sunday where the combined efforts of lots of Saxons members ensured Saxons were second in Division . However after six events Saxons sit in 4<sup>th</sup> position with 22points behind SO with 37 points, HH with 36 and SLOW with 33 points.

#### This event:-

Position	Club	League Score	Match Points
<b>DIVISION 1</b>			
1	SO	1821	7
2	SAX	1659	6
3	SLOW	1427	5
4	HH	741	4
5	MV	363	3
6	LOK	179	2
7	CHIG	71	1
<b>DIVISION 2</b>			
1	GO	466	6
2	SN	402	5
3	DFOK	377	4
4	HAVOC	288	3
5	BAOC	204	2
6	RAFO	29	1



#### Best Saxons Results

Brown	10th	Stuart Williams		
Sh Brown	5 <sup>th</sup>	Brendon Howe		
Blue	7 <sup>th</sup>	Simon Greenwood	15th	Lisa Blair
Sh Blue	8th	Peter Martin	6 <sup>th</sup>	Alison Howe
Green	10th	Mike Solomon	18th	Jean Fitzgerald
Sh Green	11th	Jeremy Oldershaw	8th	Heather Brown
Lt Green	4th	Matthew Derrick		
Orange	1st	Austin Howe		
Yellow	1st	William Prior		

## Incentive Awards Up to April 2018

Holly Howe	166579	SAX	Navigation Challenge ★★ 23/4/2018
Kasie Chapman	803441	SAX	Racing Challenge: Bronze Award ★★ Navigation Challenge ★★ 9/4/2018
Stuart Williams	205655	SAX	Racing Challenge: Silver Award ★★★★★★ Racing Challenge: Bronze Award ★★★★★★ Navigation Challenge ★★★★★★ 23/4/2018
Tim Lund	176109	SAX	Racing Challenge: Gold Award ★★★★★★ 26/3/2018 Racing Challenge: Silver Award ★★★★★★ 19/3/2018
Toby Prior	357262	SAX	Navigation Challenge ★★★★★★ 23/4/2018

## SAXONS OUT AND ABOUT

### 1<sup>st</sup> February 2018 KNC

James Davis, a teacher at St Olave's School, suggested that the school grounds could be incorporated in a KNC event – a map was already in existence. The school kindly offered use of their facilities, too, so it was then a matter of devising a format that would work for a 1 hour Score event. With the aid of Open Orienteering Map, a street map was soon produced.

The result was a line sequence for the 8 (10 point) controls in the School grounds, and normal Score event for the 14 (20 point) Street controls. No one managed to get all the controls within the hour; Dan Lewington came close though, with 340 points.

The use of the Sports Pavilion for Registration etc. was much-appreciated!

**Mark Glaisher** Organiser/Planner

## Saxons best results

Course	Name	Age Class	Position, out of how many?
Score	Andrew Derrick	M45	6/44
	Alan Hickling	M50	7/44
	Beryl Pring	W70	24/44

## 10<sup>th</sup> February KOL 6 Kings Wood Challock

This year's sixth Kent Orienteering League event took place at King's Wood, Challock, near Ashford, on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> 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 mudbath 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!

Sarah Howes

## Saxons best results

Course	Name	Age Class	Position, out of how many?
Short Blue	Dave Pickup	M45	1 / 13
Short Blue	Matthew Peters	M21	3 / 13
Short Blue	Bohdan Rainczuk	M55	5 / 13
Light Green	Nick Betts	M50	1 / 33
Light Green	Michael Cameron	M16	4 / 33
Light Green	Elsa Burdett	W18	5 / 33
Orange	Danielle Peters	W21	2 / 13
Yellow	Luke Evans	M10	1 / 21
Yellow	Kasie Chapman	W10	2 / 21
Yellow	William Prior	M10	3 / 21

Score	Andrew Derrick	M45	1 / 5
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### **KNC Millbank 22<sup>nd</sup> event 2018**

Planned and organised by Mike Solomon and Fiona Wilson. We were a bit concerned we might have set a course that would be too challenging for a night event, but placed the flags to make them easily visible; and although no one got all the controls we were pleased that the highest score was 18 out of a possible 20 with more than half of the 39 the runners getting 10 or more controls. There was one M35 newcomer who hadn't orienteered since he was a scout; impressive therefore, that at night in a technically challenging area he got a commendable 7 controls (and was only slightly late back). He seemed to have enjoyed it so hopefully he'll attend more events. It was very enjoyable to plan in this lovely area, and a highlight was catching sight of a white hind. We didn't get close enough to see its eyes, but as you may know (I didn't), most white deer are not albino but just lack skin pigment. The Cock Inn at Ide Hill was a good venue for après-O (unspoilt pub with good food, and the landlady and staff were friendly and helpful). We were grateful for all the assistance received - Jerry Purkis for posting the flyer on the website, the stalwarts who collected controls, Mark Glaisher for formatting and printing the maps and more, and Simon Blanchflower for the map, corrections and very welcome assistance with processing the results in the pub and posting them on the website.

Fiona Wilson

### **Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> March Knole Park**

This event had been postponed from earlier in the year due to a car parking issue. However Sevenoaks prep School provided us with a good car park and an entrance to the footpath leading to the east side of Knole. Bohdan was the planner and David Kingdon was the organiser and despite lots of snow it was a really good and successful event. Thank you everybody who helped and got very cold waiting to run.

### **Best Saxons results**

Brown	5 <sup>th</sup> Brendan Howe	
Blue	6 <sup>th</sup> Mark Glaisher	
Green	5 <sup>th</sup> Rob Kingman	8 <sup>th</sup> Ffion Bricknell
Lt Green	2 <sup>nd</sup> Phil Norris	3 <sup>rd</sup> Joanne Hickling
Orange	1 <sup>st</sup> Danni Peters	
Yellow	1 <sup>st</sup> Noah Gilmartin	

## Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> April KOL7 Hosey Common



DFOK had to postpone KOL 7 which was originally scheduled to take place on 3<sup>rd</sup> March due to the snow and inherent travel conditions. The sun shone on 7<sup>th</sup> April and a few Saxons went to run in the muddy woods where they looked in the old mine tunnel now a home for bats.

### Best Saxons Results

Blue Course	Mel Taylor	2nd
Green Course	Rob Kingman	2nd
	Michael Cameron	5th
Orange	Austin Howe	1st
	Holly Howe	1st

## Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> April Ightham Woods



KOL 8 was organised and planned by Alison & Brendon Howe and took place at Oldbury Hill, Ightham. We had 115 entries on the day plus another 40 family members on the Orange, Yellow and Score courses, so registration and assembly was a busy affair. Thanks to all the official and unofficial volunteers who helped all the new comers, giving guidance on what course to do, top tips on orienteering, and how to use a compass!

As usual we ran 5 courses, Yellow, Orange, Light Green, Blue and Score, with the Blue course extending over to the little used by excellent area the other side of Pillar Box Lane. Conditions were good for the event with the early rain drying up, although there was still plenty of mud to be navigated!

‘Reasonably tricky but a fun course’ – Orange competitor

‘It was a lot of fun, I nearly lost my wellingtons in the mud!’ – Yellow competitor

‘The end of the Blue course was lovely, a nice technical little area without paths. Although it was a long trek back to download!’ – Blue Competitor

Finally, was great to see Jerry and Rowan at their last event before their move to the Lakes. As usual, they both helped from start to finish – we will miss them tremendously. I’m sure we will still see a lot of them – Lake 5 days, here we come!!!



Alison and Brendon Howe

### Best Saxons Results

Blue	9 <sup>th</sup> Sarah Howes	5 <sup>th</sup> Dave Pick-up
Light Green	3 <sup>rd</sup> = Elsa Burdett	3 <sup>rd</sup> = Michael Cameron
Orange	8 <sup>th</sup> Claire Smith	10 <sup>th</sup> Austin Howe
Yellow	1 <sup>st</sup> Ben Cronin	3 <sup>rd</sup> Isabel Hobbs

## **SAXONS FURTHER AFIELD**

### **24<sup>th</sup> February 2018 - BRITISH NIGHT CHAMPIONSHIPS**

"(Just less than) 24 hours in South Wales"

Looking out at the snow on the first day of meteorological spring it’s hard to think that less than a week ago I was bathed in Welsh sunshine on Day 2 of the British Nights weekend.

Having picked David (M21) up off the train from Leeds at Bristol Parkway, we proceeded to Port Talbot Premier Inn without drama. With time for quick meal we changed and proceeded to the event in time for our 7pm or so start times at Merthyr Mawr.

Merthyr Mawr! In the dark!

When I started at University in Cardiff in 1980 I joined UWIST Orienteering Club (later graduating into the SPLOT ex Cardiff student club) with little idea of what the sport involved. My first taste of orienteering was at Merthyr Mawr, an area of almost impossibly indistinct and treeless sand dunes on the coast close to Porthcawl.

Hard enough by day...what were we doing? Luckily David only had 11km in the dark here!! My M55 course was more like 6km, but across this area I knew I would not complete the course. I would get hopelessly lost and not be able to re-locate. Why was I here?

A very steep sandy climb to the start got us nicely warmed up and we waited with trepidation to see how complicated the course might be. With spare torches and whistles checked I set off. Very carefully. Very slowly.

First control close to a sandy path in a deep depression came up fairly easily. Then back to the path and through gate - easy so far. Then off the path trying to interpret pure contours in the dark within the range of the headtorch. Helped by another competitor I found it. Then south across sheer contours - no handrails.

No joy! Wasn't fitting the map! Should I carry on? Or turn back?

I turned back to try to find number 2 again. Fat chance! No way...where was I? Not even a chance of working out where I was. So I turned back towards the path and gate before number 2. Found the path and headed south to a point from where number 3 was closer. And I found it - but if you look at Routegadget you will see I did three sides of square to get there!

Then, with all my worst fears confirmed I stuck to the few indistinct paths that could get to me to 4 and then 5. Easy. No way. Made a wrong turn on way to 5 and ended up utterly confused. Lost in the heart of the dunes with no clear idea of where I was. Then, it dawned on me I had turned too soon. So back to the path and turn later. It all made sense now. Found 5. Straight path run to 6 through a gate and into a depression passing man scratching his head. Joy!

Cross country to 7 over distinct ridge and towards thicket. No problems. Oh dear...next leg almost 1km with no paths for last third. Crossing the river I headed almost blind across open featureless contours. Very carefully. Heading for the highest point to try to maintain contact with the map it made some sense and I made it straight to the control!!

Next was a short leg to 9. But with no markers. Straight past it and lost again. Back towards 8 with no guarantee of finding it. Good job I spotted 9 then - not where I had thought it should be. But I'll take it.

10 was another long leg which I dropped the ball on. Eventually realising I was not where I thought I was I turned round to retrace my steps. Then something seemed to make sense. Fragments of information pieced together tentatively organised into a belief that I might be near the control. Heading over to the possible control location it was there! Wow! Relief!

Next leg was long but paths were possible. Then back towards the car park - right past the car and into a wooded area. I had made it. Got round the dunes in the dark. Not pretty but I had not given up. 5 more controls in the woods but this was easy. Like normal orienteering and, as seems to have

become the norm at National events now, a load on silly short legs at the end with very little distance involved.

But I had made it back to the woods. Couldn't believe it. Even if I was last on M55 (only 25th in the country though) and I beat some M60s who had the same course. 107 minutes - just over twice as long as the winner. Happy with that

Back to download and David was not yet back. Got changed. Went back to assembly/download and waited. David came in at 2.5 hours and second last. No disasters.

Just time for a quick pint back at hotel. Then up again and off to Pembrey for another UKOL event. More dunes, some woods, some country park area. Getting to the area with plenty of time we found ourselves in an achingly slow 50 car queue to pay £2.00 at an automatic barrier to enter the venue. We had to get our shoes on and run the 1km to the start. Just made it.

This was lovely. Blue sky. Stiff wind. Technical but you could see where you were going. Too easy...maybe? Well, it would have helped if David had picked up the correct Black course map. Instead he picked up Brown. Checked it was the right one, and ran Brown. It was only a bit shorter and the organisers allowed him to record that as his course.

I got my best ranking score for ages.

Then back to Bristol to drop David off and return to Kent by 7pm (after the M26 had re-opened!).

Graham Thomas



### Saxons alternate rankings to 30<sup>th</sup> April 2018

**Alan has again used his special formula to give Saxons their own ranking table. Thank you Alan for doing this time consuming task.**

Pos	Pos	Name	Age class	Top-12	Runs
1	(3)	Sarah Howes	W55	1200	23
2	(1)	Peter Martin	M65	1197	24
3	(1)	Mark Glaisher	M65	1181	22
4	(4)	Alison Howe	W45	1178	27
5	(5)	Brendon Howe	M45	1128	28
6	(7)	Beryl Pring	W70	1107	28
7	(6)	Alan Hickling	M50	1088	29
8	(9)	John Van Rooyen	M65	1041	12
9	(8)	Simon Blanchflower	M60	1035	16
10	(16)	Simon Greenwood	M60	1027	25
11	(14)	Jeremy Oldershaw	M80	1008	23

12	(13)	Jean Fitzgerald	W65	996	16
13	(12)	Dave Pickup	M45	988	17
14	(24)	Robin Kingman	M65	956	13
15	(14)	Jerry Purkis	M60	937	19
16	(19)	Bohdan Rainczuk	M55	926	14
17	(20)	Simon Deeks	M45	923	17
18	(21)	Doug Deeks	M80	916	15
19	(28)	Ffion Bricknell	W14	857	15
20	(25)	Graham Thomas	M55	852	13

**Summary:**

All change at the top of the table. The JK in the Midlands had a big impact. Sarah Howes gained top score on all 4 days and moves to the top of the ranking list. Peter and Mark drop to 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Simon Greenwood climbs into the top 10 and Rob Kingman, Doug Deeks, Ffion and Graham Thomas all move into the top 20.

**JK 2018. A very cold weekend**

This year's 4 day JK orienteering festival was in Cannock Chase over Easter. More than 20 Saxons made the trip.

Congratulations to Jeremy Oldershaw on 3rd place in M80 at the Sprint race at MOD Stafford.

As well as the 4 contrasting disciplines, there was also a range of weather, from merely chilly at the Day 1 Sprints to distinctly snowy at the Day 4 Relays!



Graham Denny has done some research about the locations of the 4 day event. Here are his findings about the first two days.

**Where We Ran This Year: The 4 Days of JK2018**

2018's JK took us far from home into the Midlands and across an interesting range of locations. Even though they were much closer together than at last year's JK, they were all quite different in nature – a variety which provides an interesting insight into local history.

**Friday: Beacon Barracks, Stafford**

Good Friday's sprint event was held on the MoD base at Beacon Barracks, on the northern edge of Stafford. Until 2006 this was RAF Stafford, a non-flying station opened in the late 1930s as initially the home of No. 16 Maintenance Unit (until 1999), then accompanied from 1958 by No. 2 Mechanical Transport Squadron.

Full closure of the base loomed in the early 2000s, due to defence reviews which moved most of the RAF personnel to RAF Wittering, and the storage and distribution operations to Donnington and Bicester. The latter in particular threatened the loss of 1000 civilian jobs – which was somewhat bizarre, given that the MoD's own figures showed that they were amongst the most efficient in the whole of the Defence Storage and Distribution Agency.

Then-local MP David Kidney campaigned hard and successfully in Parliament to avert closure and explore alternative options to keep the base open. For one thing, the base's location in the Midlands is so eminently central in the UK that it scarcely made sense to close it. As David Kidney pithily put it in a speech to the House of Commons: 'For once the Ministry of Defence was in the right place...'

On 31<sup>st</sup> March 2006, the RAF handed over to the Army and the base was renamed Beacon Barracks. It took its name – very appropriately and at Kidney's suggestion – from the local area, Beaconside. In centuries gone by this was the site of a warning beacon, part of the countrywide network which would be lit when invasion threatened.

Since taking over, the Army has moved in a number of Royal Signals regiments. Amongst them, 16 Signals Regiment and 1 Armoured Division Signal Regiment moved here from Germany under the Borona Programme to close British Army bases there and relocate their units back to the UK.

The moves into Beacon Barracks as part of Borona have required a huge £150mn investment by the MoD to redevelop the base. In particular, contractors had to deliver 346 new homes for incoming soldiers in just over a year – a feat regarded as unprecedented in the housing sector. Nevertheless, they achieved it (as well as constructing and refurbishing many other buildings such as workshops and offices), and Beacon Barracks was formally opened by Princess Anne, in her role as Colonel-in-Chief of the Royal Corps of Signals, in October 2015.

### **Saturday: Brereton Spurs, Rugeley**

Saturday's middle-distance event took place at Brereton Spurs just outside the town of Rugeley – a location that contrived to be small yet considerably technical at the same time. It certainly seemed to pack a lot of geography into a compact area.

The bedrock geology here is sedimentary, laid down at various times between roughly 201 and 252 million years ago in mostly river or estuary environments. As a result soils here are sandy, with outcrops of rock from the Triassic period (dates as above). This affects us as orienteers in two main ways: the shapes of the rock outcrops have left a steep, undulating landscape – full of crinkles and contours, in other words. And the sandy soils are unsuitable for farming, so the land has never been worked to any great extent. This has left heathland and tree cover as the main forms of land use here until recent decades. Although there has been considerable planting of conifers, there is still a reasonable amount of ancient woodland left, and there are plans afoot to improve on that.

The woods where the event start was located are called Chetwynd's Coppice. This is ancient woodland (that is, having existed continuously since at least 1600) under the control of the Forestry Commission. Under the current management plan, the FC intend to gradually remove the conifers from the Coppice and leave it as an unmanaged Natural Reserve.

Behind Brereton Spurs to the north lies the market town of Rugeley, which has a long and interesting history. Mentioned as far back as the Domesday Book, Rugeley has quite an industrial past, having thrived on iron workings and glass manufacture in the Middle Ages, then moving into coal mining with the coming of the Industrial Revolution.

In the 1950s Rugeley was the centre of industrial-scale deep-shaft coal mining in Britain. Extensive coal seams run under Cannock Chase and the National Coal Board dug deep to exploit them. Lea Hall Colliery on the edge of Rugeley opened in 1960 – the NCB's first fully modern mine – followed shortly by the first of two nearby power stations, Rugeley A, then in 1972 station B, both of which produced electricity with coal sourced directly from Lea Hall.

Nowadays it's all gone or in the process of going. Lea Hall Colliery closed in 1991; Rugeley A closed in 1994 and has been demolished; Rugeley B closed in 2016 and is due to be flattened, coincidentally, around the time that you read this article. Towers Business Park was built a few years ago on the reclaimed colliery site.

But even in the early years of the Industrial Revolution Rugeley was prosperous – thanks initially to the canal, and later the railway. The Trent & Mersey Canal was driven through in the 1760s and 70s to link those two major rivers. The early interest and driving force came from Josiah Wedgwood right back in 1761, who wanted a faster, easier, cheaper and above all safer way to get his fragile porcelain wares to market than wagons rattling for days over deeply rutted roads. It took 5 years for work to start, however, and a fair amount of manoeuvring by Wedgwood to get the route to come near the potteries and accepted by Parliament. Work finally started in July 1766 and although the canal didn't open fully until 1777, Wedgwood went as far as building his utopian factory village of Etruria close to the canal in Stoke on Trent in 1771, to take advantage of it.

Despite the onslaught of the railways from the mid-1800s onwards, the Trent & Mersey somehow managed to survive. Today, its 93.5 miles are still open and navigable. During its heyday however, the Canal at Rugeley suffered a notorious murder which still attracts attention today.

In June 1839, Christina Collins, a dressmaker, set off from Liverpool to join her husband in London, where he had gone to seek work. Not having much money for the fare, she was forced to travel by canal boat the whole way, instead of the stage coach. When she reached the Trent & Mersey, this took her on board the *Staffordshire Knot*, crewed by its master James Owen (aged 39), George Thomas (27), William Ellis, and a 12-year old cabin boy called Isaac Musson. It was to prove fatal for her.

Amongst the bargee community, Owen had a vicious reputation as a drunken, violent bully. Thomas and Ellis were little better. Christina endured their unwelcome attentions as far as Stoke on Trent, when she went ashore to complain at the offices of Pickford's, the boat's owners. Little was done either there or at Stone, where she complained again. Nor could she get a space on the London stage from Stone, as it was full, so she had to return to the *Staffordshire Knot*.

Exactly what happened on June 16<sup>th</sup> 1839 is uncertain, as the only possible uninvolved witness, cabin boy Musson, was sent ashore by Owen. Ostensibly Owen sent him to take the tow horses down beyond a series of locks, but clearly it was to get him out of the way while Owen and his cronies attacked Christina.

When Musson met the *Knot* further along the canal, he was told that Christina had 'gone missing'. Terrified, as he now fully expected to 'go missing' himself, Isaac jumped ship at Hoo Mill Lock, informed the lock keeper (who himself well knew of Owen's infamy), and legged it. The lock keeper went to the police.

Guessing at the reason for Musson's disappearance, Owen, Thomas and Ellis abandoned the boat and did a runner themselves. It would be some months before the law caught up with them.

Subsequently the police discovered some of Christina's garments on board the boat. Then, on dredging the canal, they found her body. She had been raped and beaten to death – and then her body wrapped in a chain to weigh it down in the water.

Christina was brought ashore at Brindley Bank, on what is now the north edge of Rugeley where the canal turns a right angle. It is said that her blood dripped onto the stones of the steps leading up from the canal – and that from time to time since then, it has been seen trickling down the steps again. Even though the original steps were replaced a long time ago, they are still known today as The Bloody Steps.

It took some time for Owen, Thomas and Ellis to be apprehended and justice applied to them. Eventually, on April 11<sup>th</sup> the following year, Owen and Thomas went to the gallows at Stafford Prison. Ellis was sentenced to transportation – effectively a life sentence which itself carried low chances of survival. Intriguingly, Musson also went on trial, despite not having been directly involved in Christina's rape and murder. He was, though, cleared of the charges against him and set free.

When the day came for Owen and Thomas to swing, a crowd of almost 10,000 people turned up to watch – this was still very much the era of public executions. In fact, the prison authorities had to use a portable gallows in order to hang Owen and Thomas outside the prison: they couldn't accommodate so many people inside the walls. When dead, the criminals were cut down and buried in the prison grounds.

Christina was buried at St Augustine's churchyard in Rugeley, where her gravestone can still be seen. The inscription reads:

'To the memory of Christina Collins, Wife of Robert Collins, London, who, having Been Barbarously treated was found dead in the Canal in this parish on June 17th 1839, age 37yrs. This stone is erected by some individuals of the parish of Rugeley in communication of the end of the unhappy woman.'

Christina Collins lives on though, and not just in the memories of the good folk of Rugeley. Colin Dexter based his 1989 Inspector Morse novel, 'The Wench is Dead', on her sad story – a story which we can all relate to, as it is ultimately about the search for a better life elsewhere, but which in Christina's case went fatally wrong.

Editor Thank you Graham your next three pages could appear next time.

## **Northern Championships Wass Forest 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2018**

The trip to the Northern Championships was my first event at Wass forest. The area was really nice with a variety of features I don't often see down in south east, two of my controls being at the bottom of cliff faces. It was a bit hilly and wet under foot and tons of small rocks that were easy to miss place under foot. The course was well made with the controls on different features and a

mix of long and shorts legs, however there was only really one way to go to each control.

I had an earlier start time at 10:51 but had to arrive early due to the long 2km walk from the assembly to the start. However, it was worth the early start as I just managed to return before the rain began. Annoyingly I messed up on one control that added 10 mins to my overall time; this was due to a bad route choice that made me over run the control which could have been easily avoided. After this I tried to increase my pace for the other half of the course to regain some time.

During the course I got attacked by some bushes leaving some small scratches on my arm. I also stumbled upon some unexpected marsh land making my shoes stink all the way home (sorry parents).

The map they were using had the new symbols where as distinctive vegetation boundary is shown by green dotted line instead of black dots.

Overall I had a really good time and really enjoyed the experience, especially the KFC on the 4 hour journey home.

**Ffion Bricknell W16**

Editor Ffion came 8<sup>th</sup> out of 18 and gained a silver award time for her very good run in this difficult terrain.

## **SAXONS EVEN FURTHER AFIELD**

### **JK TASMANIA STYLE**

While most Saxons were enjoying the delights of the West Midlands Jerry & Rowan were visiting former Saxon Mark Purkis who has been coaching orienteering in Tasmania for the last 6 months as part of a scheme sponsored by Orienteering Australia.

What stands out as the most different from orienteering in the UK? The forests are predominantly eucalyptus trees which shed their bark all the time. You can see why there is a forest fire problem in Australia. The bark makes excellent kindling it but also means there are brashings everywhere. Wallabies jumping through the forest makes a change from deer and lots of endearing wombats digging holes. We did not see any Tasmanian devils, they are nocturnal. It was also hot. Tasmania is at S40° compared with our N51°. I bought an Aussie straw hat and noted that lots of orienteers went out in hats.



**Wildlife in the forest. A wombat and a wallaby in the brashings**

After the day 1 urban around Hobart the remaining Easter events started out in open farm land but you soon found yourself in impressive sandstone steep gullies and the usual eucalyptus forest.



**Jerry at the Finish at Little Childs Creek**



**Mark climbing the hill back to Download at Lovely Banks West. (note v deep gully in background)**

The following weekend there were 3 days of events in the Bay of Fires area in the NE of the island. Called Bay of Fires because bright orange lichen grows on the rocks on the beach making it look like fire from boats offshore. Throughout the eucalyptus forests were granite boulders, button grass marshes and intricate contour networks making for really excellent technical orienteering. . As a result of the days of tin mining the terrain looked almost lunar in places - barren areas riddled with eroded ditches, gullies, pits and water courses.

Results over the 2 weekends:-	Mark M21 E	Jerry M60	Rowan W55AS
Overall 3 days Easter weekend	9/30	25/31	4/8
Overall Bay of Fires weekend	9/21	16/21	1/4



**The sightseeing was awesome. This is the painted cliffs on Maria Island. (Best viewed in colour)**



**Rowan won the W55AS at the Bay of Fires weekend**



**The orange lichen in the Bay of Fires ( best viewed in colour)**



**Steep erosion gullies in the tin mining area at Curryjong Rivulet. As deep as a person**

Would we go to Tasmania again- yes, it's far nicer than mainland Australia, people are friendly, distances between sites are no more than a couple of hours, beaches are sandy, few cars on the roads, the scenery was awesome. Lots of wild unspoilt mountains. It's a shame its three plane journeys away- but well worth it. And you also get a dose of the history they never taught us at school; the dark side of convict transportation and appalling treatment of the aborigines. But all very interesting.

**Rowan Purkis**

FOR SALE

### LITTLE WORN WATERPROOF SAXONS JACKET FOR SALE



One of the heavier duty jackets. Worn perhaps 3 times max.  
Breathable, waterproof and windproof (according to the label)  
Men's size L  
£30- a bargain – new they are £55.  
Text Rowan on 07814 521211.  
Alison has the jacket if you want to try it on.



### What's happening in the future?

**World Orienteering Day is actually seven days this year. Wednesday 23 May 2018 is the actual day but events can take place at any time up till 30<sup>th</sup> May. British Orienteering suggest you run something at your place of work or school.**

World Orienteering Day **Let us know what you get up to.**

Going underground..... **Thursday evening, 7<sup>th</sup> June**

Limpsfield Common nr. Oxted is a National Trust property – some may have orienteered on this (DFOK) area. There is an air raid shelter on the site, with a NT Guided Tour taking place in the evening of Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> June 7 – 8:30pm. A couple of Saxons have already booked a place. Details are here:-

<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/events/4d59edb9-203f-42c0-9d56-1453f63122dc/pages/details>

## **Saxons Novelty Event and BBQ Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> August**

The annual club BBQ orienteering event is being planned by last year's winner, Mark Glaisher, at a venue in the Lamberhurst-Cranbrook area (venue TBC). If you haven't been to a BBQ event before it is a fun event for all the family, with a handicap/novelty element to allow everyone to take part on a level playing field.

Meet up at 10.30 for an 11.00 mass start.

After the event, by Sarah Howes' kind invitation, we will be lighting the fires in the afternoon from 12.30-13.00 in her garden, near Paddock Wood. There will be shelter just in case the sun doesn't shine on us, so the BBQ will go ahead whatever the weather. The event winner's Trophy presentation will be made at the BBQ.

Bring your own meat/veg/fish for the BBQ and anything alcoholic you would like to drink. Salads/bread and soft drinks will be provided.

If you can only spare half a day - no problem - come to the event or to the BBQ. Non-orienteering partners welcome.

Please contact Mark Glaisher if you plan to come to either, or both, so we can gauge how many maps to print and make appropriate provision at the BBQ. Mark will also be happy to hear of offers to bring a salad dish (cous cous, potato....).

The event venue will be shown on the website once permission has been confirmed, and this & further details of how to get to the BBQ will be sent to those planning to come.

Mark Glaisher

[mark.glaisher@ic24.net](mailto:mark.glaisher@ic24.net)

## Forthcoming Events

When	Where	Type of event
Saturday 2 <sup>nd</sup> June	Haysden Country Park	KOL
Sunday 10 <sup>th</sup> June	Canterbury Urban	National
Saturday 23 <sup>rd</sup> June	Danson Park	DFOK Local
Sunday 24 <sup>th</sup> June	Tilgate Crawley	National Harvester Relays
29 <sup>th</sup> July – 3 <sup>rd</sup> August	Lakes 5 day	National
Saturday 15 <sup>th</sup> September	City of London Race	SLOW National

Details of even more events are on the club website, other local orienteering websites and if you want to plan a trip abroad then Mole Valley have a list of exciting places that you can plan a visit to.

### **Extracts from Minutes of Saxons Committee Meeting of 16 March 2018**

Remapping of Betteshanger will be done by Simon Blanchflower once building works and redesign of the Permanent Orienteering Course to be installed there have been finished.

Registration Forms will be redesigned to comply with new Data Protection laws that come into force on 25 May 2018.

Treasurer reported balance in bank £12,927.

Date for Saxons calendar next season – Compass Sport Cup/Trophy elimination round event on 17 March 2019 at Eridge or Ashdown. (tbc)

Current mapping projects – East Ashdown, Hargate and Tunbridge Wells Common together with TW street.

Maps will be offered to all participants in Groups at KOL's on Yellow and Orange; Map legends to be printed on back of maps for KOL and Summer Series events if not present on the map.

Tony Connellan and Heather Brown have put together a Junior plan for approval/ideas following the visit of Phil Conway (BO Development South) to the last committee meeting; two new schools interested in coaching; Helpers needed for the Junior Orienteering Festival; let Tony know if you are free.

SIAC (contactless dibbing) trial to be run at Saxons Canterbury Urban event, borrowing SLOW dibbers.

Beryl Pring Secretary

Answers  
“Where are these airports?”  
Have you sat around in any of them?

	Town/City	Country
Franz Liszt	Budapest	Hungary
Napoleon Bonaparte	Ajaccio	France
Kickapoo	Texas	USA
Leiutenant Colonel Rafael Pabon Tarija	Villamontes	Bolivia
Paro		Bhutan
Connellan	Ayers Rock	Australia
King Shaka	Durban	South Africa
George Best	Belfast	Northern Ireland
John Lennon	Liverpool	England
Haneda	Tokyo	Japan
Lappeenranta		Finland
Federico Fellini	Rimini	Italy
Marco Polo	Venice	Italy



And which international airport do you think this plane has just landed at?

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

		e-mail «@saxon-oc.org»
Simon Greenwood	President	
Jean Fitzgerald	Chairman Fixtures	fixtures or chairman
Sarah Howes	Treasurer	treasurer
Beryl Pring	Secretary and Permanent O Courses	secretary
Fiona Wilson	Membership	membership
David Kingdon	Land Access	landaccess
Simon Blanchflower	Mapping	mapping
Vacant	Development	development
Heather Brown	Coaching	
Brendon Howe	Team Captain	brendon.howe46@gmail.com
Mark Glaisher	Club Printing KNC coordinator	
Sean Cronin	Publicity	publicity
Alan Hickling	Statistics KOL coordinator Equipment	
Graham Denney/ Heather Brown)	SaxAlert	saxalert
Cate Slade	Social Secretary	Cate[AT]telegraphroad.com
Mike Solomon	Minutes	
Alison Howe	Saxons Clothing	alison.howe12[at]gmail.com

	Junior Kit		
Tony Connellan	Junior Coordinator		
Sam Prior	Welfare Officer		
Andrew Derrick	Committee Member		
Doug Deeks	Auditor		

## Have you recently upgraded your dibber or thinking of doing so?

Saxons need to increase our stock of dibbers for hire but before buying new ones we are offering to buy second-hand ones from members who have upgraded to faster or contactless dibbers.

At the moment SI offer a £3 trade-in for old dibbers but Saxons will pay £10! If you are interested in this offer please contact Simon Blanchflower to arrange pick-up and payment.

[simonblanchflower@gmail.com](mailto:simonblanchflower@gmail.com)



Ffion finishing, in her new SEJS shirt, the short green at Hadleigh Park courtesy of HAVOC on 28/04/18



Potential new members at Ightham on 22<sup>nd</sup> April.



Two of our Junior members enjoying our events. Volunteer to help put on events so our new members can learn the orienteering skills.



**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 the Saxons**