

BKO NEWSLETTER



'TIS THE SEASON

It's been a busy Autumn and end to the year with the Urban and UKOL season's coming to a close (see final standings later in this issue) and we're now well and truly in to the "forest season" with local activities, national events and championships coming thick and fast!

What defines a season though? The urban "season" runs by the year - January to December (our very own Concorde Chase Weekend event in Bracknell one of the first events in 2024!) as does the British Orienteering UK Orienteering League, and follows along with the age classes which change at the turn of the year as well.

The forest season is dependent on the terrain, specifically the undergrowth and light, which thins out over the Autumn and Winter giving us better runability – no one really wants to run through stinging nettles do they?! (I can attest to this due to a particularly poor route choice at an April event!)



And then we're in to the Festive Season, where there tends to be a small break in the schedule for Christmas, followed by a few post-Christmas events and activities to keep us active and help burn off any excess we may have indulged in!

Then it's Happy New Year, and the Concorde Chase and Compass Sport Cup heat to plan for, British Champs and the JK, and the World Orienteering Championships in Edinburgh!

2024 is shaping up to be another busy, and hopefully successful year, so please do let us know of any events and successes, or ideas and suggestions you may have, and as always if you have any articles you'd like to contribute, photos, stories of getting hopelessly lost or achieving your best results, or any hints, tips, advice, or product reviews, let me know or send them in to

newsletter@bko.org.uk

So Merry Christmas, Happy New Year, and here's to a successful (and not too wet) 2024!

Rob Mullens

BKO LOCAL EVENT – BUCKLEBURY COMMON

SATURDAY 21ST OCTOBER 2023



Parking on the village green in Chapel Row.

It had been quite rainy in the days before the event but we were fortunate in that it was mostly clear and sunny on the day, if a little damp underfoot in places! 78 runners made their way through Bucklebury Common along the Yellow, Orange, Light Green and Short Blue courses planned by Glyn Thomas – if you haven't already take a look at the Routegadget tracks (and upload your own) to see the different route choices made, especially on the short blue course between 17 and 18!

Results and Split times available on the BKO website. Routegadget – don't be shy about adding your routes! <https://www.bko.routegadget.co.uk/rg2/#171>

Which route would you have taken?



BKO REGIONAL EVENT

BLACK PARK – SCOL 2

19TH NOVEMBER 2023

Postponed from last year, we finally got to host our Regional Event at Black Park. Organised by Simon Moore, Planned by Jim Munday and Controlled by HH's Helen Marsden, (Happy Herts also having their club championship at the event!), we had lots of runners from all over join us for a great days running. It was quite mild considering some of the recent storms, and most courses were surprisingly dry, except for a few boggy areas that caught some unlucky runners out, and no rain on the day made it a very enjoyable event.

There was plenty of route choices available with the main paths clear and runnable, but significant leaf fall had left some of the minor paths obscured and presented an interesting challenge if you were tempted to go direct to some controls rather than stick to the tracks!

Simon's message following the event –

"A regional event with 8 courses and nearly 300 entrants takes a lot of manpower to make things happen. From putting out some controls on Saturday afternoon to collecting them in again before it got too dark on Sunday, many people were involved.



Things seemed to run fairly smoothly once the initial rush of competitors all wanting to start before 10:30 had passed. Fortunately, the weather remained dry and the person with the least to do was our first aider from Face2face medical.

Special thanks to Jim, for all his efforts on planning the courses and having to work around the whims (or total silence) from the Black Park office. There was a glowing endorsement from one parent on the standard of the white course which has re-enthused her son after some over-challenging previous events.

Steve Waite for managing the results process in Brian's absence. Doug and Annika Greenwood for coming back to help on the start. Everyone else who had even the smallest part in making the event successful."

Full results are on the Berkshire Orienteers website, see <http://www.bko.org.uk/node/1307/results> -

More photos from the event in the gallery later on.

BKO "STARRY NIGHT-O"

STAR POSTS - BRACKNELL

16TH DECEMBER 2023

BKO Ventured in to new territory as the shortest day of the year approached, holding a very well attended Night Orienteering event at The Lookout in Bracknell.






Three Christmas themed courses planned by Alan Phillips – The Golden Glow, The Blue Bauble and the Green Holly and Mistletoe – provided a new challenge on familiar ground. The established path network coupled with the varied, and quite boggy in places, terrain made for a great arena for night orienteering, with plenty of choices to either stick to the paths or cut through the forest. And the chocolate treat at the finish line was very appreciated!

With a big thank you to Eoin Sharkey for organising, Peter Jones (SN) for controlling and the fantastic volunteers who make these events possible helping direct parking, set up and break down, and man the finish and results – which are as always on the BKO website



<http://www.bko.org.uk/node/1365/results>

UPCOMING EVENTS

BKO Events

Sat 26/01/24		Concorde Chase Weekend – Urban	Birch Hill	Bracknell
Sun 27/01/24		Concorde Chase Weekend – Forest	Barossa	Camberley
Sun 24/02/24		Local Event	Swinley Forest	Bracknell

SCOA / Local Events

Fri 29/12/23		SN Regional Event SCOL – 4		Hogmoor	Bordon
Sat 13/01/24		TVOC Saturday Series		Brill Common	Brill
Sun 14/01/24		SWOA League 8-colour Regional Event		West Woods	Marlborough
Sat 20/01/24		SN Saturday Series		Horsell	Woking

Sun 04/02/24

Southern Championships

		Guildford Orienteers		Redlands Wood	Dorking
Sun 11/02/24		SOC Regional Event SCOL – 5		Micheldever Woods	Winchester
Sun 18/02/24		*COMPASS SPORT CUP *		ESHER COMMONS	
Sun 24/03/24		TVOC Chiltern Challenge		Princes Risborough	

All fixtures correct at time of publication. Check BOF Website for any changes.

MEMBERS NEWS

NEW MEMBERS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Achievements

Well done to Sophia, Eliot, James, Kelvin, Eddie and Paul on their achievements, and a big congratulations to Gaia Ferrante on smashing the racing challenge awards, getting all three Gold, Silver and Bronze 5 Star awards as well as the 5 star Navigation challenge!

Racing Challenge: Bronze	**	Sophia Oqvist
Racing Challenge: Silver	**	Sophia Oqvist
Racing Challenge: Bronze	***	James Prescott
Navigation Challenge	****	Eliot Vaughan, Kelvin Prescott,
Racing Challenge: Bronze	****	Eliot Vaughan, Kelvin Prescott,
Navigation Challenge	*****	Gaia Ferrante, Paul Machinicki, Eddie Walsh
Racing Challenge: Gold	*****	Gaia Ferrante
Racing Challenge: Silver	*****	Gaia Ferrante
Racing Challenge Bronze	*****	Gaia Ferrante, Paul Machinicki, Eddie Walsh

New Members

Kristina Abbott – Thatcham

UKOL END OF YEAR STANDINGS

2023 was probably the first year post covid that had a properly full schedule, with very few events cancelled or postponed for various reasons – Storm Eunice, unexpected forestry work, planning and permission issues to name a few hinderances to various clubs throughout 2022.

In the UKOL (UK Orienteering League) Club League, Berkshire have slipped down the rankings somewhat, from 24th in 2022 to 34th in 2023. Our points haul was a bit lower than last years after a couple of changes in members age classes and a few less members running scoring races, but even if we had matched last years total we would still have dropped a few places as others clubs upped their numbers, so we need to look at getting a few more points scorers in the club!

34 BKO 3111 Amelia Wing (W18), Martin Wilson (M75), Jon Vaughan (M45), David Thomas (M21), Rob Mullens (M45), Simon Moore (M60), Trish Monks (W45), Lisa Methven (W50), John Methven (M50), Adam Methven (M18), Derick Mercer (M55), David Jukes (M70), Nigel Hoult (M70), Denise Harper (W70), Fiona Clough (W60)

Pos.	Name	Age class	Club	Total score
1	Adam Methven	M18	BKO	394
2	Fiona Clough	W60	BKO	330
3	Martin Wilson	M75	BKO	308
4	Amelia Wing	W18	BKO	301
5	John Methven	M50	BKO	290
6	Derick Mercer	M55	BKO	243
7	Lisa Methven	W50	BKO	192
8	Simon Moore	M60	BKO	185
9	Nigel Hoult	M70	BKO	172
10	Denise Harper	W70	BKO	171
11	Trish Monks	W45	BKO	159
12	David Jukes	M70	BKO	155
13	Lynne Moore	W55	BKO	145
14	Richard Rae	M75	BKO	129
15	Sally Collins	W70	BKO	124
16	Rob Mullens	M45	BKO	100
17	Jim Munday	M80	BKO	90
18	Phil Stradling	M65	BKO	89
19	Toni Whittle	W50	BKO	84
20	Liz Stradling	W65	BKO	74

22	Stefan Stasiuk	M70	BKO	63
23	John Briggs	M65	BKO	55
24	Zac Vaughan	M16	BKO	48
25	Bo Oqvist	M50	BKO	45
25	Eddie Whittle	M50	BKO	45
27	Alain Wilkes	M75	BKO	42
28	Katy Stubbs	W65	BKO	40
28	Jon Vaughan	M45	BKO	40
30	Susan Wilkes	W65	BKO	39
31	Mel Golding	W50	BKO	37
31	Neil Frankum	M50	BKO	37
33	Ian Hudson	M70	BKO	34
34	Dimitar Gospodinov	M21	BKO	33
35	Jacqui Briggs	W60	BKO	27
36	Alan Phillips	M60	BKO	22
37	Simon Turton	M55	BKO	20
38	GEORGI GOSPODINOV	M55	BKO	10
39	Isabella Wing	W55	BKO	6

After three wins, three 2nd place finishes and a 3rd place, Adam Methven was BKO's top placer in the Individual UKOL standings, 1st in the M18's and 28th overall, with his 7 best races out of 10 giving him 394 points. 2nd in BKO's list was Fiona Clough with a fantastic 330 points, as she finished 8th in the W60 class.

2023 BOF RANKINGS

There's still one more scoring race in 2023 to come, Southern Navigators Regional event at the Hogmoor Enclosure in Bordon after Christmas, but these are the BKO current rankings over the last 12 months.

Best 6 scores over the past 12 months count.

BKO Pos.	BOF Rank	Name	Points	Average	BKO Pos.	BOF Rank	Name	Points	Average
1	54	Adam Methven	8190	1343	35	2847	Sally Collins	4938	752
2	496	David Thomas	7375	1201	36	2859	Brian Sewell	4909	794
3	593	John Methven	7283	1177	37	2887	Dimitar Gospodinov	4864	1216
4	827	Simon Moore	7039	1128	38	2956	Jim Munday	4704	746
5	934	Amelia Wing	6940	1123	39	3060	Jacqui Briggs	4497	705
6	1206	Derick Mercer	6702	1079	40	3139	Glyn Thomas	4277	855
7	1264	Eddie Whittle	6645	1047	41	3150	Andrew Southwood	4239	1060
8	1289	Bo Oqvist	6625	1080	42	3174	Patrick Laloyaux	4180	1045
9	1409	Jon Vaughan	6521	1042	43	3238	Pete Inness	4001	1000
10	1418	Nigel Hoult	6515	1049	44	3430	Jane Courtier	3493	873
11	1436	David Jukes	6501	1075	45	3530	Catherine Springett	3218	805
12	1441	Trish Monks	6489	1058	46	3554	Alain Wilkes	3141	785
13	1484	Lisa Methven	6460	1027	47	3586	Mel Golding	3039	608
14	1515	Martin Wilson	6426	1008	48	3595	Susan Wilkes	3006	752
15	1616	Alan Phillips	6344	1033	49	3625	Terence Hosking	2924	975
16	1684	Neil Frankum	6297	1017	50	3646	Paul Machnicki	2881	960
17	1688	GEORGI GOSPODINOV	6295	1040	51	3681	Stephen Waite	2764	921
18	1703	alan jones	6283	1026	52	3691	Mark Foxwell	2734	911
19	1706	John Briggs	6280	1010	53	3750	Antje Inness	2597	866
20	1731	Rich Golding	6254	1032	54	4152	Sophia Oqvist	1793	897

21	1770	Phil Stradling	6225	1008	55	4202	Katy Stubbs	1656	828
22	1852	Lynne Moore	6148	988	56	4212	Ian Hudson	1626	813
23	1892	Toni Whittle	6117	944	57	4229	Cliff Thorne	1570	785
24	2023	Fiona Clough	6013	938	58	4247	Kirsty Adams	1475	738
25	2289	Richard Rae	5721	903	59	4274	Eoin Sharkey	1362	681
26	2400	Rob Smart	5597	1119	60	4458	Gaia Ferrante	1104	1104
27	2427	Simon Turton	5568	1114	61	4501	Eddie Walsh	1064	1064
28	2535	Rob Mullens	5424	844	62	4595	Nigel Jefferies	1011	1011
29	2610	Tom Inness	5306	1061	63	4719	Isabella Wing	916	916
30	2619	Denise Harper	5289	832	64	4732	Eleanor Prescott	906	906
31	2747	Graeme Williams	5119	1024	65	4742	Anna Methven	900	900
32	2771	Liz Stradling	5081	777	66	4891	Peter Entwistle	745	745
33	2772	Sue Parker	5078	813	67	4904	Jillian Ullersperger	728	728
34	2792	Stefan Stasiuk	5031	1006	68	4975	Kelvin Prescott	552	552

NEWS OF BKO WINS!

Southern Championships

Congratulations to BKO winners at the Southern Championships on 5th November at Southampton Orienteering Club's November Classic. Martin Wilson (M75L) and Adam Methven (M18E) winning the trophies, as well as Eddie Whittle finishing 1st on the M50S. Well done everyone!



Southern Night Orienteering Championships

Pirbright Camp and Ranges - BAOC

This was a great night event right on our doorstep! A VERY challenging mix of urban around the barracks and buildings of the camp before heading out across firing ranges and the forest areas in between, with some army terrain of trenches, pits and walls making it doubly difficult in the dark!

So a massive well done to Denise Harper for winning the W70! In her own words –



"I found it really tough, mainly because of the bracken which seemed impenetrable in places, as with 2 knee replacements, I don't have much flexibility in the joints to get over it. Then the embankment of Dutch dyke proportions running down the middle of one of the ranges just about finished me off.

So I was astonished to win, but the other far more competitive entrant in my class didn't show up...and you have to be in it to win it, as they say. So despite being VERY slow, perseverance (madness?) was rewarded."



South Central Championships

TVOC Chiltern Challenge 2023 – Bradenham

A very inclement day for this years Chiltern Challenge in Bradenham didn't stop a good turn out by BKO, even if we all did get quite drenched!

And it was the ladies of Berkshire who led the way, winning FOUR classes!

Trish Monks – W45 Lisa Methven – W50 Fiona Clough – W60 Denise Harper – W70

Also, Liz Stradling was 2nd in W65 just 2 SECONDS ahead of 3rd place – every second REALLY does count – as Amelia Wing took 3rd place in W18.

The closest the men came to gold was Richard Rae in the M75 class, finishing 2nd an agonising 7 seconds behind the winner! There were also 2nd places for Jim Munday and John and Eliot Vaughan on M80, M45 and M14 respectively, whilst 3rd places went to John Methven and Derick Mercer in M50 and M55

Well done everyone! But the titles aren't held for long this time – the next Chiltern Challenge and SCOA Championships is in 3 months time, lets hope we retain and add to the champions list soon!

BERKSHIRE ORIENTEERS AND BEAT THE STREETS

By John Methven via the British Orienteering website

Berkshire Orienteers had the opportunity to collaborate with Beat the Street in the West Reading area for 6 weeks during September and October this year. More than 6,500 players took part covering nearly 80,000 miles between them.

Berkshire Orienteers worked with Beat The Street to provide a free MapRun activity in Prospect Park Reading towards the end of the six weeks. In addition, Berkshire Orienteers have provided a legacy MapRun score style event using the former Beat Box locations to encourage participants to continue their active journey.

Link to the full article and photos from the event are on the British Orienteering Website here -

<https://www.britishorienteering.org.uk/news/6298>

ORIENTEERING FOUNDATION UPDATE

The Orienteering Foundation is a charity that promotes and supports orienteering. The Foundation does the following:

- funds junior programmes
- invests in elites
- supports adult coaching opportunities
- supports the development of tools and techniques to alleviate volunteer workloads, and
- sponsors projects which look to exploit new technologies in our sport.

It is funded primarily by donations, and from bequests in people's wills. More details about the Orienteering Foundation can be found at <https://www.orienteeringfoundation.org.uk/>

Recent news

- Pete Davis (SOC), who created the Racesignup entry platform, has kindly offered to make regular donations to the Orienteering Foundation. [Racesignup wil donate 1p for every entry](#) to an orienteering event. The 1p comes out of the processing fee Racesignup already charges to event organisers, so it does not affect their event income or increase fees. A number of clubs who use Racesignup have also agreed to make donations matching those from Racesignup.
- The Foundation has made a grant to [support JROS taking Katherine Bett](#) - a long standing coach and supporter of JROS - through her D1 lessons and test, so she can drive a minibus at the Lagganlia camp in 2024 and future years. (Older drivers have D1 included in their licence; those who passed their test after 1997 must take a separate test. This will become an increasing issue for junior squads in future.)
- The Orienteering Foundation recently sponsored a [Coaching Day in the Lake District](#) in November, where over 90 orienteers enjoyed a great day's coaching.
- The Orienteering Foundation has made a grant to [Stirling University Orienteering Club](#) for using an external coach as the club grows, and organising a planning workshop to help individuals develop and spreads the load of planning training sessions. The Foundation is keen to support University Clubs to develop.

A working group for a Volunteering project which the Foundation are initiating, looking at good practice, would still welcome more people to take part. If you are interested, you can find out more their website <http://www.orienteeringfoundation.org.uk/>

GALLERY

Black Park 2023



Berkshire Orienteers
The Orienteering Club for Berkshire and Surrounding Areas



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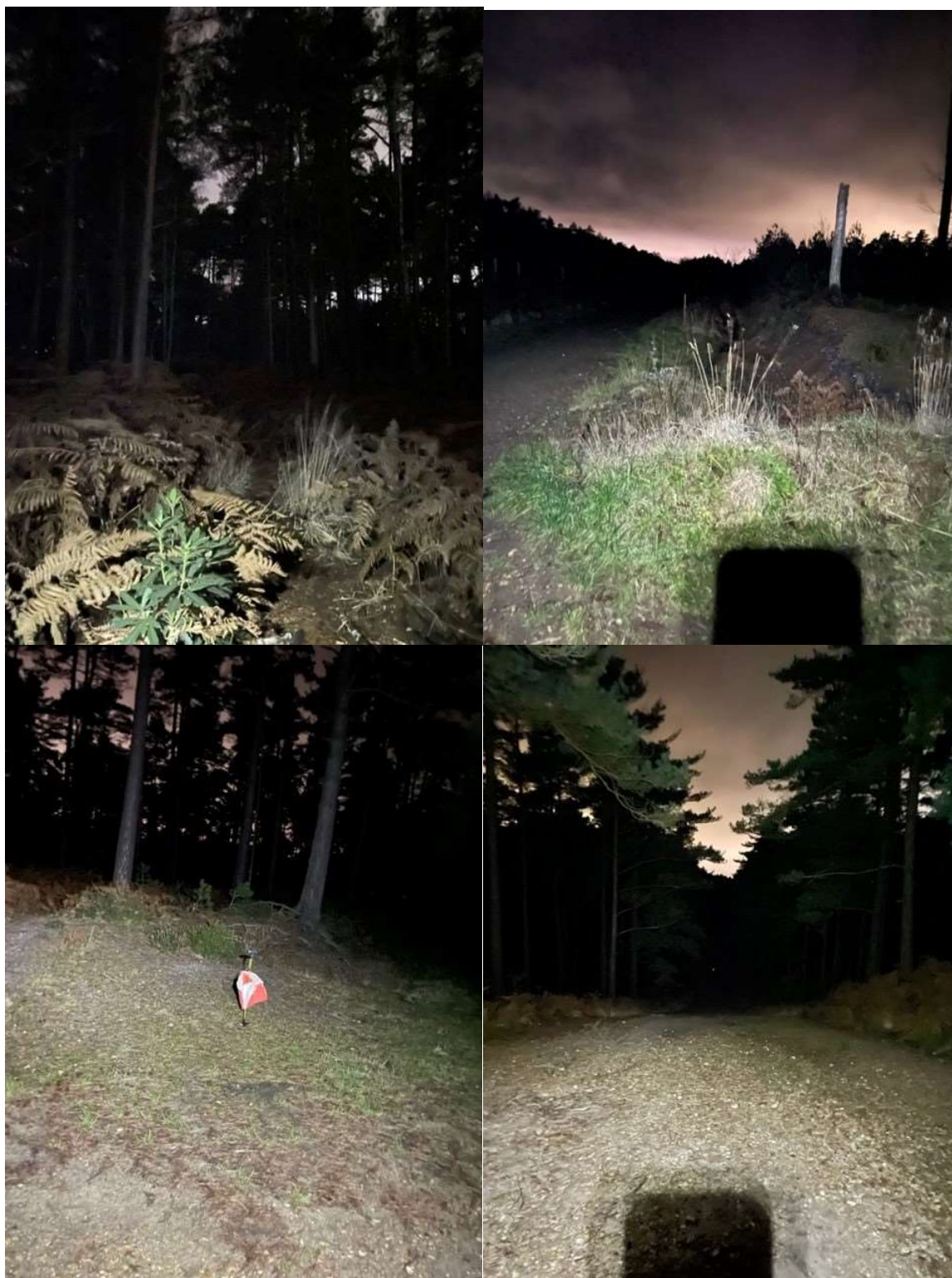


Berkshire Orienteers
The Orienteering Club for Berkshire and Surrounding Areas



Berkshire Orienteers
The Orienteering Club for Berkshire and Surrounding Areas

Starry Night-O



Berkshire Orienteers
The Orienteering Club for Berkshire and Surrounding Areas



Feel free to email any news items, announcements, pictures, events, maps, tips or anything O-related to newsletter@bko.org.uk



Berkshire Orienteers
The Orienteering Club for Berkshire and Surrounding Areas