



Mole Valley Orienteering Club presents the **BRITISH NIGHT CHAMPIONSHIPS**

Level A Event, incorporating Round 1 of the UK Orienteering League

Saturday 22nd February 2014

FINAL DETAILS

Key points:

SI electronic punching £2 for parking, please have correct change ready Map 1:10 000

Whistles are compulsory Starts <100m from Assembly Finish <200m from Assembly

Cagoules may be compulsory if the weather justifies them Courses close 21.30 sharp

It is a timed start – late starters will not have their start time adjusted

Course 1 Competitors with an SI card unable to hold more than 30 split times may wish to swap their SI card at Enquiries. No charge, but please allow extra time, as your start time cannot be changed.

Location and Parking

Unless you have local knowledge of the roads in the area, it is best to approach the event via Coleman's Hatch. This hamlet is located on the B2110 between Forest Row and Hartfield. The event will be signed from junction of the B2110 with Shepherds Gate (if approaching from the West) and the junction of the B2110 with Coach Road (if approaching from the East). Both these meet after approx. 400m at a triangular green by the Hatch Inn. Head downhill, leaving the pub on your right and you come onto Kidd's Hill. ***If it is icy, please take extreme care on this hill as the road is not gritted and in present conditions has water running across it permanently.***

The entrance to the competition area is off Kidd's Hill. Turn right, approximately 400m past a narrow bridge at the foot of the hill, at GR TQ456323, onto a narrow road which leads into the army training ground (for satnav users, TN7 4EU is the Postcode for buildings a little further up the hill). Please have your £2 parking fee ready as you pass through the gate (some 800m on along this lane). The bulk of the parking will be next to assembly, overflow parking will utilise nearby forest roads.

Please do not arrive before 16.30 as the parking team will not be in place until then. The route to assembly will be marked with tapes and green glow sticks (once it is dark enough to see them!).

If you finish early and leave before 19.30 please beware the possibility of meeting late arrivals along this narrow entrance/exit route. There is soft ground besides the road in places, so be very cautious about leaving the tarmac to pass. Please also take care at all times on the forest roads in case people are walking to/from assembly along the same tracks.

Terrain

A mixture of semi-natural woodland and heather heathland, with more contours than are usual in the south-east. The area has a network of tracks but is otherwise nearly pathless. Earth banks provide line features in some places. Heavy grazing by wild deer reduces the woodland ground vegetation and creates transient (unmapped) pathways. The thicker heather which used to make for hard going in the eastern part of the area has now been thinned by Exmoor ponies.

The area includes a string of large lakes running N-S and another in the Northern area of the map orientated E-W. Sizeable streams exit these lakes running North off the map. These water features offer handrails but also significant obstructions – most streams are uncrossable and marked as such. After months of rain many of the ‘dry’ ditches are wet, wet ditches are streams, streams are torrents and marshes are more extensive and/or very wet indeed. You have no chance of keeping your feet dry! However, there is little deep gunge, even in the marshes, so you have a surprisingly good chance of keeping your ankles dry. Some of the worst conditions are on muddy paths. Footwear with some sort of stud is essential.

Two areas have been marked with purple hatching to indicate “dangerous ground”. One is the only lake dam which does not have a bridge, the water instead flowing over the top. Normally this can be paddled through at the price of wet ankles; the water is now somewhat higher and recently a tree trunk was seen to pass over without touching the bottom. The second is a path which used to be alongside a stream but has recently been part of it.

Pippingford is used for military training and civilian adventure races. Both these activities seem to require festooning the area with tapes of all lengths and colours. The only tape relevant for this event is (1) new-looking red/white tape in the immediate vicinity of the Start, Finish & Assembly area, and (2) new-looking yellow/black tape marking a hazard anywhere in the forest.

There is a cross-country race in the morning before our event, which may create extra paths. These will not be mapped.

There is ongoing clearance of (mostly) birch trees in an area fairly soon after the start, between controls 1 and 2 on most courses. The map is correct to roughly 10 days before the event, showing unfelled timber as “white” and the felled area as “rough open”. At the time of writing, the felled area contains a jumble of tree trunks. The small branches have been removed, and the trunks can be scrambled over with a little care. They may, or may not, still be present at the time of the event.

The Ochre course passes through this area, and has been re-routed to follow a fence as a safe handrail. Unfortunately this means that the early part of this course is (1) boring, and (2) particularly muddy. Sorry!

All courses will encounter the fenced enclosure containing the Exmoor ponies, who have done a marvellous job of improving runnability in the largest rough-open area. This is a plain (not barbed) wire fence, which may be crossed at any point. Every 20m or so, there is a strengthened section with a wooden top, which is intended to facilitate crossing. There are also occasional gates, which must be left shut, even if you find them open (most will shut of their own accord anyway).

If you find yourself confronting a barbed-wire fence, you will be trying either to enter a mapped out-of-bounds area, or to leave the map altogether. Please desist!

There is no hostile vegetation in Pippingford. No brambles, no gorse, no thorn trees. Enjoy!

Map and symbols

The map is printed on waterproof paper at a scale of 1:10,000. It was updated during winter 2013/14. All courses will be on <A3 sheets.

Vegetation on the area drifts vaguely from runnable woodland through semi-wooded to rough-open. Generally, vegetation changes are difficult to map or detect (even in daylight).

You will find small clearings in runnable forest, and being able to see the stars (or moon) when looking up is no guarantee that you are in a mapped clearing. Unless there is a distinct vegetation boundary marked on the map you should think twice about using vegetation changes for micro-navigation. There are a large number of rhododendron thickets throughout the area and where possible they have been shown using solid green (light). In a number of places there are a large number of small(er) thickets through which it is possible to progress at either a slow-run or walk. In these areas the appropriate vegetation screen (vertical green lines) has been used. At night these sections can look like solid banks of rhododendron until you start to go through.

There are three items, at least, of agricultural machinery on the area, none of which are mapped

The north-western edge of the area is not bounded by any substantial fence, though there is a low earthwall with military signs indicating that you are at the edge of the training area (Pippingford Park). The woodland outside the area to the North-west (and North) is pretty much identical to that adjacent to it in the area.

Pippingford has three sorts of earthwall, all mapped with the normal earthwall symbol:

Conventional linear earthwalls, mostly old field boundaries, are at least as tall as they are wide, and will as usual have only the height given in the control description.

Pillow banks, also linear, are old rabbit warrens. These are much wider than they are high, and the control description will give height x width.

Bell pits are small circular earthwalls, and originate from earth being piled up around the edge of canvas (bell) tents. Where these are used as a control feature, the kite will be placed in the centre of the earthwall circle, and the control description will just be 'earthwall'.

The following non-standard symbols have been used:

Brown filled triangle to indicate a platform

Blue cross to indicate a water trough (some of which are larger than others)

Black cross to indicate a branch hide

Course Details (subject to final controlling)

	Length (km)	Climb (m)	Controls	
1	11	420	34	M21L
2	9.1	350	28	M20L, M35L, M40L
3	7.6	235	24	M18L, M45L, M50L, M21S, W21L
4	5.9	185	17	M16, M55L, M60L, M20S, M35S, M40S, W20L, W35L, W40L
5	4.9	145	16	M65L, M18S, M45S, M50S, W45L, W50L, W21S, W18L
6	4.2	130	21	M70L, M55S, M60S, W16, W55L, W60L, W20S, W35S, W40S
7	3.2	100	17	M75L, M65S, W65L, W70L, W18S, W45S, W50S
8	2.8	95	15	M80, M85, M70S, M75S, W75, W80, W85, W55S, W60S, W65S, W70S
9	4.9	145	16	Navy
10	2.5	80	13	Olive
11	2.2	65	17	Ochre

All Championship courses, Navy and Olive have pictorial control descriptions. The Ochre course has written ones

There are a lot of controls in the forest, some of them fairly close together. The planner is keen that you should navigate all the way to your control, not just get into the right area and then run to the first kite that someone else is shining a torch on. If you know what feature you are looking for you shouldn't be tempted to punch a wrong control, but please check the code just in case.

Assembly Area

This is situated in a small clearing in the woods which includes a Troop Shelter. This has two sections – a smaller one which will house Enquiries, SI hire/swap collection and Download; and a larger one which will display old maps of the area, a rolling results screen and will be used for prize giving.

There is limited room for club tents if you wish to erect them by the Finish, however the larger section of the Troop Shelter will serve as a general meeting place/shelter and car parking is close by.

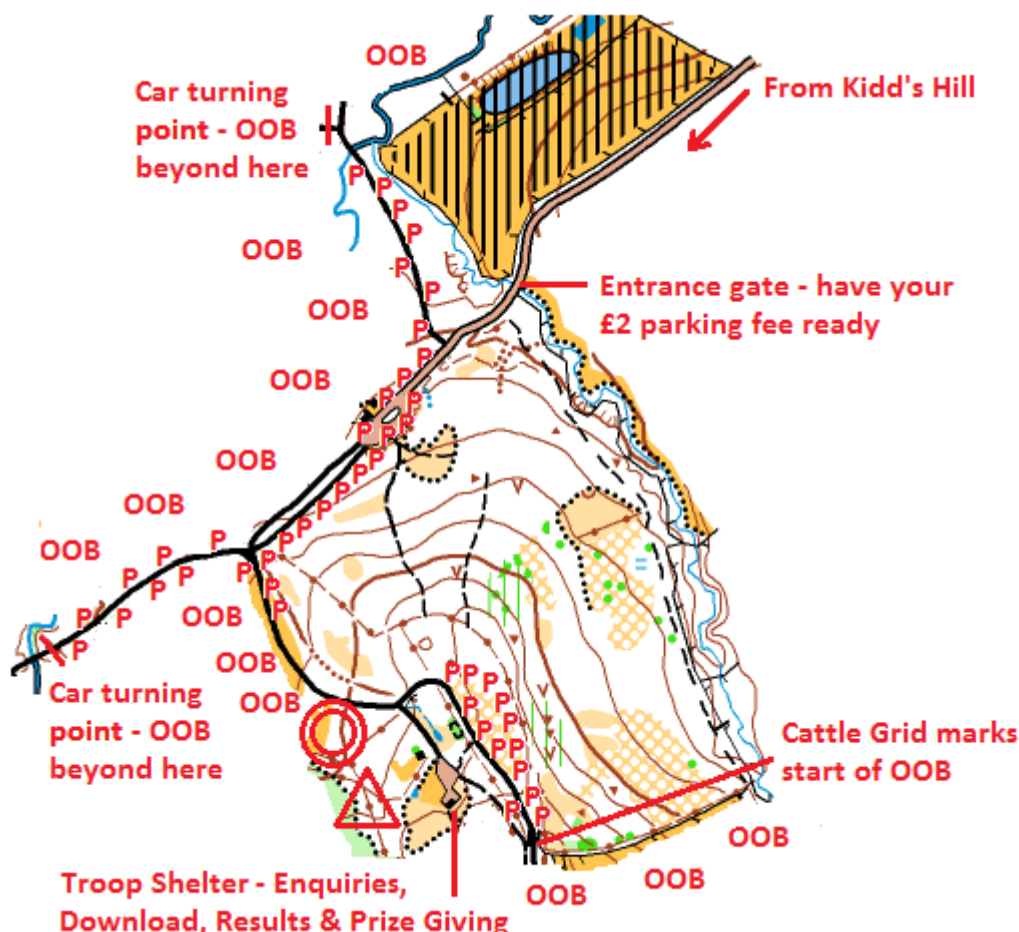
Registration for the colour-coded courses on the night will be situated at Enquiries and opens at 17:30. Navy, Olive & Ochre (equivalent to Blue, Light Green and Orange daylight standard) are

available at £14 for Seniors (+£2 for non-BO members) and £7 for Juniors. There is no EOD for the Championship Courses.

Please note: If any youngsters under the age of 16 would like to experience the event, they will be allowed to do the Ochre course but only if continually accompanied by an experienced adult, both parties being suitably attired and equipped with spare lights/batteries etc.

Facilities

Toilets, Ultrasport, Tom & Julie's burger wagon and Red Cross First Aid (a Treatment Centre trailer and a 4x4 Response Unit) will be on hard-standing next to the Troop Shelter.



Start Times

These will be pre-allocated on the Championship Course so please check the Start List on Fabian. We anticipate allowing a minimum two minute interval between competitors of the same age group on each course, beginning at 18:00. Last starts will be 19:30, or earlier for the longer courses. Colour coded starts will be offered at two minute intervals between 18:00 and 19:00.

Start

This is situated approximately 100m West of the Troop Shelter. There will be no toilet or clothing transfer as it is so close to Assembly. You may warm up on the open area adjacent to the Troop Shelter and/or the forest to the East of the car parking – all other areas are OOB.

The route to the Start will be marked with 'orange' glow sticks. Please 'Clear' your SI card as you arrive. Call up will be at -4 minutes. Your name will be checked off a list and your whistle will be checked. Your SI card will be read as a safety check and to ensure that you have cleared. Loose control descriptions will be available in the Start lanes at -3 minutes. They are also printed on the competition maps. Blank competition maps will be on display at -2 minutes. **It is a timed start**, the

start officials are not allowed to change your start time. Maps for championship courses will be in boxes labelled by course and class. It is your responsibility to pick up the correct map.

The Ochre course has a separate Start. A member of the Enquiries team will escort entrants to this Start equipped with a 'Clear' and a 'Start' box, and set you off.

Late Starts

If you are late for your Start you will be slotted in as soon as possible, but your Start time will not be changed. If you feel your lateness is due to a fault with the organisation then discuss it with the Download team AFTER you have completed your course.

Finish

There is only one finish, less than 200m from Assembly. The finish line will be lit and the route back to Assembly 'fenced' with tape to lead you back to Download – the route will be marked with red glow sticks.

Maps will not be collected. **You must not show your map to anybody who has yet to run.**

There are no drinks available. Please provide your own if required, or patronise Tom and Julie's Burger van - they sell hot and cold drinks as well as tasty food.

SAFETY

Competitors must carry a whistle and wear full body cover.

They must have a working headlight, and preferably a backup light.

Cagoules may be compulsory – you will be advised by the car parking team.

If travelling alone, please leave your keys at Enquiries.

There are 2 small(ish) ponds close to the assembly area, take care if you wander off the main tracks.

If you become disorientated or wish to retire, head downhill towards the lakes and recover the main tracks through the area. If you are on the Eastern heathland area of the map, head uphill to pick up the track along the boundary of the park. In both cases, then head North to Assembly.

***COURSES CLOSE AT 21.30, after this we may instigate a search for you.* Competitors MUST report to the Finish and Download by this time whether they complete their course or not.**

The nearest A & E Hospital is in Haywards Heath. Details can be obtained from Enquiries.

Hazards

Please be careful in the vicinity of all water features as their banks can be both steep and slippery. Lakes and rivers outlined in black on the map cannot be crossed other than by a bridge or dam – if there is no path marked, do not try to cross at that point. Courses have been planned to make these safe crossings the best route choice – take care to use them.

One marsh is mapped as uncrossable (black outline), do not try to test the accuracy of the mapping of its boundary nor attempt to cross it.

Anglers could be using the lakes – look out for them and their equipment.

The Army may be organising a training exercise – if you meet them, they should ignore you. If not you may ignore them. There is a possibility that you might come across unexploded items such as flares – take appropriate care.

Pippingford Park has many deer which may be spooked and run through the area. Also Exmoor ponies, which are harder to spook.

Prize Giving

This will take place as soon as possible after 21.15 in the Troop Shelter (it'll be a tight fit but should make for a warm space!). There are trophies for some of the Class winners, prizes from Petzl for the winners of M and W21, Buffs for all winners and medals for the first 3 places on all Long courses.

Eligibility

To be eligible to be a British Champion, an individual competitor must on the day immediately preceding the day of competition be a member of British Orienteering and

- either be a British citizen;
- or have been a member of British Orienteering in each of the three membership years preceding the year of the competition.

Trophies

If you are the proud holder of a trophy from last year's event, please ensure that you return it to Enquiries to be awarded to this year's winner.

Dogs

Well behaved dogs are allowed in the Car Park and Assembly area **only** and **must be on a lead at all times**. Please clean up after your dog.

Protests

If you have any reason to complain about your course then please talk informally with the Organiser in the first instance, who will talk to other officials if necessary. If you feel the need to make an official protest then the Jury will be convened as soon as practicable.

Conditions:

The personal data you give will be used by the event organisers only for the purpose of processing/publishing entries and results and as required by our insurers. In the event of cancellation, all or part of the entry fee may be retained to cover costs already incurred.

All Competitors take part at their own risk and are responsible for their own safety.

Officials

Planner	Ian Ditchfield, MV
Controller	Katy Stubbs, BKO, assisted by Ian Hudson, BKO
Mapper	Mike Elliot. MV
Safety Officer	Philip Gristwood, MV
Organiser	Mike Bolton, MV bnc2014weekend@gmail.com 0791 555 3282 (before 21:00 please)

Thanks

We are grateful to the Morriss family, owners of Pippingford Park, for making the land available. Our thanks also to members of GO and Saxons for their help in the running of the event.