

MV Chair report for AGM 2022, for year Sept 2021-Aug2022

The last 12 months has been our first “normal” year following the lifting of restrictions on orienteering from the covid-19 pandemic that had affected orienteering during the last two years. It has been great to be back to “normal”, though of course our participation in events still abides by the British Orienteering code of conduct.

So, what has happened over the last year? I think we have a lot to be proud of:

- **A successful winter street-o series** which has capitalised on the shift to using the MapRun app that we adopted during covid restrictions to actually use this as the main way to run the events. This makes for a more straightforward event on the night, as the results are worked out automatically. It’s also been a success due to the large number of participants engaged in the series, the new orienteers getting involved in planning the events, as well as getting back to socialising on the night in/at the pub. Particular thanks to Justin for coordinating and for all those who have helped.
- **A successful summer series**, which David Fisher has coordinated again – many thanks indeed – with much variety in location and styles of events. It saw us hare round the vines of Denbies following line courses, make use of the local parks with courses comprising two or three loops, as well as a campus-based event at Claremont Fan Court school. The series saw very good levels of participation, particularly at the vineyard. Interspersed with the summer series was our contribution to the Greater London Orienteering Summer Series (GLOSS) – with excellent planning by Ken Bridger and organising by John Pickup at Horton Country Park.
- **The club has upgraded its kit and gone electric:** we have invested in a large capacity battery pack and new smaller printers. These replace the use of a large, heavy and smelly petrol generator to run our laptops and former large laser printer; the new printers – and new SI results subscription - mean at our events we now produce more modern printouts with QR codes linking to immediate online results. My thanks to Mike Elliot for implementing this upgrade, and for Tim Keogh for helping work through the new kit and systems at our recent events.
- **MV has hosted and contributed to some significant events this year:**
 - MV hosted the **Southern Championships** (also acting as the final event in the UK Orienteering League, as well as incorporating the Families & Vets competition, and the SouthEast Long Champs!) on South Ashdown in December 2021. Thanks to Mike Elliot and Mike Bolton (organising) and Tony Burton (planner).
 - MV hosted the **Compass Sport Cup regional heats** at Balcombe in March 2022. Thanks to Mike Bolton (organiser), Keith Masson (planner) and Mike Elliot (mapper).
 - For the **British Orienteering Championships** in March 2022, Mike Elliot planned the courses for the individual event, and Tony Burton planned the relays. Several of us helped with volunteer efforts at the event.
 - Our urban event in Horsell (Woking) over the August 2022 bank holiday weekend formed part of the UK Urban League and the Southern England Urban Orienteering League (SEUOL).
- **Great team performances:** our juniors won a place at the final of the premier Junior Inter-Club competition - the Yvette Baker shield – at the SEOA regional heat in Worthlodge Forest in May. The team comprised Elodie Claus, Milly Farhall, Tiernan McQuaid, Alex Pickup, Hugh Scarbrough & Ralph Scarbrough.
- **Great individual performances:**
 - Southern Champions (and SouthEast long champions): Sarah Scarbrough (W35), Ralph Scarbrough (M10)

- Ian Ditchfield is our top placed finisher in the 2021 UKOL (22nd) and came 2nd in the SE urban league in M65 (and also currently running 2nd in 2022 season).
- South East Individual League 2021 winners Ralph Scarbrough (M10), Sarah Scarbrough (W35), Tim Scarbrough (M35)
- We have all been entertained and kept up to date through a newly arranged weekly update on recent orienteering events by our Mike Bolton through his **Midweek Mole Missives**, which also together form our Journal. Mike, we really enjoy these – we look forward to everyone’s contributions.

In the **South East League**, Mole Valley has previously oscillated between divisions 1 and 2. Unfortunately despite some great individual performances – top five average points scorers in the club were Ian Ditchfield, Keith Masson, Simon Ling, Tony Burton, and Mark Feltham – we have dropped back to division 2 at the end of this season. As ever we do well in these leagues just by having more of us show up, so looking forward to seeing more faces try out forest orienteering from having got to grips with park orienteering this summer.

On our contribution to the **London Park Race Series** : we cancelled it due to the forecast 35 degree heatwave and with hindsight it was the right decision, as there was unfortunately a fire that evening in Morden Hall Park. But instead, the event is nevertheless happening by forming part of the weekend of the London City Race together with SLOW and LOK. Thanks to Tony Burton for finding a way to still hold the event.

As we move into the autumn, I’m looking forward to joining our members running out in the forests as well as in our street orienteering events. I hope we can encourage more juniors and families, as Sarah Scarbrough is planning to work jointly with GO’s junior development officer to put on a joint MV and GO season for juniors, building on the coaching qualification course that Sarah recently attended. Given our healthy finances, the commitment of the committee and wider pool of volunteers, we can continue successfully into the new season.

Tim Scarbrough