



Mole Valley Orienteering Club
Balcombe Estate SE League & YBTS Heats
FINAL DETAILS
Sunday 19th March 2023

Mole Valley Orienteering Club welcomes you to the Balcombe Estate for a SEOA League event and the regional heats of the Yvette Baker Trophy and Shield competitions. We are also holding this event in memory of Simon Greenwood chair of the SEOA for some 20 years or more before his untimely passing in December 2022.

The Estate is privately owned and we would like to particularly thank Simon's mother, Mrs Greenwood for allowing us to use the woods today, Samantha Collins (the administrator for the estate), Jamie Kirkman (Head Forester) and Jonny Light (Gamekeeper) for their advice and assistance in all matters related to our organisation, access to the Event Centre etc.

Key points:

COVID – although the government has relaxed the rules, you must not attend if you or someone you have been in close contact with has recently had symptoms or tested positive for COVID 19

Map 1:10,000 except White, Yellow & Orange 1:7,500 All 1:10,000 maps are double sided

Non-standard symbol – a black line over a fence denotes a Stile – affects some long courses

Please try to keep to your start time esp. YBTS Start & Clothing dump <200m from Assembly

Finish 200m from Assembly SIAC will be enabled (punching Start & Finish) Courses close 14.30

Please read all the safety information Longer courses have a 2min timed out road crossing (x2)

Whistles/Cagoules may be compulsory if the weather justifies them

Safety bearing, east to pick up the B Road if already crossed then SE along it to regain the road crossing. If east of the B road, head east/uphill to find the fields then NE/SE to find assembly.

Event Centre Location, Car Parking & Travel options:

Assembly is at Balcombe Estate Forestry & Sawmill, Haywards Heath Road, Balcombe, West Sussex GR TQ316296, Postcode RH17 6NJ, what3words ///prosper.regret.geek

We would like to reserve parking at the Sawmill for the less mobile and families, notably the YBTS entrants. **The main parking is at Bowder's Farm 400m to the south at TQ318292, Postcode RH17 6QH, what3words ///obtain.flattery.neckline** – follow signage/marshals' directions.

By Car: From the North exit the M23 at junction 10A and then follow the B2036 to Balcombe. From the West take the B2110 from Handcross to its junction with the B2036 and then turn South for Balcombe. In both cases, at the mini-roundabout on the village green, take the left fork signed Lindfield and Ardingly. Follow the road through to the centre of the village and go 'straight over' at the dogleg crossroads signed Haywards Heath, Lindfield and Ardingly. Continue straight on at the next mini roundabout signed Haywards Heath.

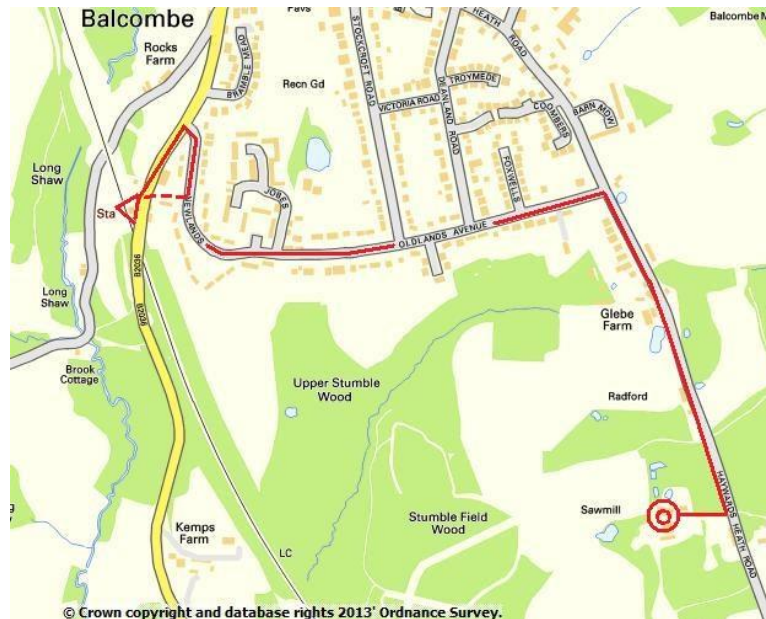
From the South and East, aim for the centre of Haywards Heath and follow brown signs for 'Borde Hill Garden' (and Balcombe). Heading North out of Haywards Heath pass Borde Hill Garden on your left, and approximately 2.5 kilometres further on you will see O-signs into the parking areas.

Either way, parking is limited so please share cars wherever possible.

Public Transport: Balcombe Railway Station is on the mainline between London and Brighton.

NB There is a strike planned for 18th March. The railway companies state that this will have a knock on effect on early trains on Sunday 19th. Please check [Southern Rail](#) for train times and tickets.

It is approximately 1.5 km from the station to the sawmill – see map below. Take care walking or cycling on narrow roads with fast moving traffic.



Entries:

Entries remain available on [racesignup](#) whilst map stocks last until 11.59 Friday March 17th.

SIAC electronic punching will be enabled with a punching start and finish.

SI and SIAC dibbers are available for hire on [racesignup](#) and can be collected from Enquiries at the Sawmill. Charge for lost SI cards £30 and £70 for SIACs.

Black and Brown courses have over 30 controls. Users of version 5 and 8 SI cards will need to either opt to swap them (via [racesignup](#)) for a different version at Enquiries or hire a SIAC.

Map and Control Descriptions:

The map has been updated by Mike Elliot, February 2023. 1:10,000 scale with 5m contours – overprinted and waterproof. It was last used 13/3/2022. See [route gadget](#) for the old map. White, Yellow and Orange courses will have maps at 1:7,500 scale to assist with readability. All courses other than White, Yellow & Orange will have double-sided maps. The maps have no legend – copies are available from Enquiries.

Rootstocks are not mapped. **Non-standard symbol** – a black line over a fence denotes a stile.

The cultivated land symbol (black dots on full-open yellow) is used for the remains of maize planted last year to shelter and feed the pheasants. Running through this is permitted but hard work. You'll probably find it quicker to go around the outside.

In the rockier areas, only the largest crags and boulders are mapped.

Multiple crags on the map can be mistaken for paths or tracks.

Some crags are too close together to be mapped separately, that is they form a line and the gaps in the line would be too small to see at 1:10,000. Consequently some features which are mapped as a single long crag are in reality multiple crags with small (and steep) gaps in between. If you have a control on something that appears on the map as a long crag running north/south, and the control description is "crag, S foot", it may be that the control will be found on the southernmost of several short crags.



Control Descriptions will be on the map. White and Yellow will have text descriptions as well as symbols, all others will have symbols only. Loose control descriptions will be available at the start.

White and Yellow competitors (and their parents) will be allowed to look at their map before starting.

Courses:

The SE League and YBTS will use the same courses but separation of entries on racesignup allows for ease of results calculation. Note M18, M16 & W18 should all run Green on this occasion – they will still qualify for full League points.

Course	Length	Climb	Controls	Map scale	2-sided map	*2 mins timeout
Black (M21)	11.7km	340m	37	1:10000	✓	✓
Brown (M35, M40)	9.9km	305m	31	1:10000	✓	✓
Short Brown (M20, M45, M50, W21)	8.1km	230m	25	1:10000	✓	✓
Blue (M55, M60, W35, W40)	6.4km	190m	23	1:10000	✓	✓
Short Blue (M65, W20, W45, W50)	5.1km	180m	17	1:10000	✓	✓
Green (M70, M18, M16, W18, W16, W55, W60)	4.7km	140m	24	1:10000	✓	✓
Short Green (M75, W65, W70)	3.8km	125m	18	1:10000	✓	✓
V Short Green (M80, M85+, W75, W80, W85+)	3.3km	90m	14	1:10000	✓	-
Light Green (M14, W14)	3.5km	105m	19	1:10000	✓	✓
Long Orange	4.9km	125m	23	1:10000	✓	✓
Orange (M12, W12)	2.8km	65m	13	1:7500	-	-
Yellow (M10, W10)	2.4km	65m	12	1:7500	-	-
White	1.3km	50m	11	1:7500	-	-

Unfortunately we are not able to offer a String Course. ***2 mins timeout** road crossing on these courses

Terrain:

Balcombe is perhaps the most varied area in the south-east. The longer technical courses will challenge with frequent and sudden changes of terrain, as fast running across a field can be immediately followed by control picking on a steep hillside with many crags, some as high as 6m. There are areas of gorgeous runnable woodland, and to be fair, some pretty grotty bits, but the planner will give you path options through those. The shorter technical courses will be entirely in woodland, with no field crossings.



As per standards, the Yellow course is entirely along line features, but sometimes the line feature is a fence rather than a path/track/ride.

Some courses, including Yellow & Orange, pass through gates. Some of these gates will be tied open. Some will be closed, but openable, please shut such gates after you. Some are currently padlocked and may be climbed, but none on the Very Short Green, Yellow or White. The Very Short Green has been planned with those of limited mobility in mind, but it is still physically tougher than the planner would have liked. All courses have a lot of climb by south-east standards - this is inevitable at Balcombe.

Balcombe has many barbed wire fences around fields, mapped with the standard fence symbol. Courses have been planned so that competitors have no **need** to tangle with barbed-wire; there should always be a mapped stile, gate, horse-jump or avoiding path close to the optimum route. Nevertheless climbing over or through barbed wire fences is permitted if you really want to. On the Orange & Long Orange courses, one crossing point will be a temporary one through a barbed wire fence with protection over the barbs.

Balcombe also has pheasant pens mapped with the high fence symbol. These fences are physically unclimbable, but some pens have mapped open crossing points and can be used as a through route (there are no pheasant chicks in them at this time of year). Tip: the outside edge of a pheasant pen is usually fast run but beware protruding support wires which can be hard to spot. Also, there is normally a single strand of wire around the fence that crosses some of the gates at ankle level – take care as it is easy to get it entangled around your ankles.

All courses except White cross the railway by means of bridges (over and under). The railway itself is out of bounds. This includes the land within the railway-boundary fences, some of which would be easily crossable - never mind orienteering rules, trespass on railway land is a criminal offence.

Courses other than White, Yellow, Orange & Very Short Green cross a fast main road twice with a marshalled and timed-out (2 minutes maximum) crossing in each direction. All shades of Blue, Brown & Black cross a further very quiet minor road with no timeout.

Start, Finish and Clothing Dump:

The Start & Finish are close to each other and only 200m from the event centre (see map). Starts are 10:30–12:30. If you do not need to collect a hire dibber, you can go straight to the start. You will have selected a Start time via racesignup when entering – please try to stick to it. On the more popular courses you may have a long wait for a slot to appear if you arrive early or late.

A clothing dump will be provided by the Start. Please bring your own bag.

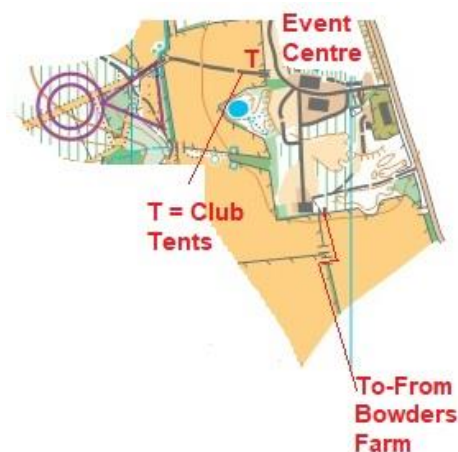
Safety:

Courses close at 14:30 and you must finish by this time even if you have not completed your course. Don't forget to download on your return to the Event Centre.

The Event Centre is a working sawmill site. **Children must be supervised at all times and must not be allowed to climb on any log piles or machinery.**

The B2036 road (the road that bisects the map) and the railway are strictly out-of-bounds.

Fences – All courses except White and Yellow cross fences. Optional crossing places will be marked on the map – these could be stiles, gates, hurdles or just a point on a barbed wire fence protected by lagging.



We will try to ensure that as many as possible of the useful gates are tied open, but if you do have to open a gate, please close it after you. Some gates may be locked and so need to be climbed.

Cattle – The only field that we are aware has any cattle in is on Short Brown, Brown and Black. There is a possibility of cattle in any field, including the ones Yellow & Orange go along the edge of.

Pheasants – There are a lot of pheasants over the area and you are very likely to experience unexpected noisy takeoffs near you.

Crags – Balcombe has some very large crags. Some of the most dangerous will be taped (yellow/black tape along the top edge), but there are far too many to tape them all. All crag controls are at the foot.

White, Yellow & Very Short Green courses do not feature any crags. Orange has 2.5m crag, approached from below. Other courses up to and including Green have big (up to 6m) crags, but the planners intention is that competitors should only approach from below, or possibly contouring in from the side. Short Blue and longer courses will have controls on large crags, and the option to approach them from above. **If your control description is “crag, 6m”, please do not try to jump or climb down it!** Descend besides the crag and contour in, or choose a different route that approaches from below.

Water – There are some streams which have been deep in the past, but shallow in recent weeks. White course competitors do not go near to any streams. Yellow & Orange courses do not cross anything mapped as a stream rather than a ditch, although they do follow a track alongside a stream.

Courses crossing the “B” road will find some ponds. Up to Green, they look pretty shallow; Light Blue and above will see ponds that might be quite deep - mapper & planner decline to wade in and find out.

Existing Medical Conditions – If you have an existing medical condition, please download and complete the standard British Orienteering form and leave it at Enquiries in a sealed envelope with your name on the outside. It will be opened only if required for a medical emergency and destroyed immediately after the event. You can download the form [here](#)

In emergency please phone 07434 640229 – this phone is held by the Enquiries/Download team.

Phoenix Medical Services will be in attendance. The nearest A&E is Princess Royal Hospital, Lewes Rd, Haywards Heath RH16 4EX – details will be available from Enquiries.

It is recommended that whistles are carried. In the event of severe weather we may require that cagoules are worn or carried and, if so, a notice will be posted at the event entrance from the Car Park.

Facilities:

Portable Toilets are located by the sawmill office. Post-race refreshments will be available from NBN Catering – tea, coffee, soft drinks, cakes and pastries. The planner can also recommend the Balcombe Tea Rooms and the Half Moon Inn, for your subsequent Mother’s Day celebration.

Courtesy to others:

The Balcombe Estate have asked that you arrive with clean footwear to reduce any potential for Ash Dieback contamination.

Dogs are allowed on a lead in the car parks but not in surrounding woods, fields or the competition area. Please ensure that you clean up after your dog.

If you cause any damage to fences, gates etc on your run please make sure that you report it to the Download team

Results:

Will be available on the day via SI Live Results using the QR code on your splits printout and subsequently at the MV website www.mvoc.org

Memorial Service for Simon Greenwood:



If you would like to pay your respects to Simon and his family there will be a memorial service on **Thursday 23rd March, 2.30pm at St Mary's Church, London Road, Balcombe**. We are advised that parking is limited but there are plans to use a field as overflow. Best to share cars if possible.

There will be a get together afterwards for tea at Balcombe Place, everyone is welcome.

His family write:

How lovely it will be for the family to meet Simon's orienteering "family", he really did enjoy that part of his life enormously.

Event Officials:

Organiser: Mike Bolton (MV) – mvocevent@gmail.com or 0791 555 3282 (before 9pm)

Planner: Ian Ditchfield (MV)

Controller: Gordon Parker (SLOW)

Last minute changes:

Please visit the racesignup site before travelling to check for last minute changes or new information about this event.

****You are responsible for your own safety and you take part in this event at your own risk****