



# BKO Newsletter

Spring 2024



**Berkshire Orienteers**  
*The Orienteering Club for Berkshire and Surrounding Areas*

# BKO NEWSLETTER

## 2024 Mass Start!

2024 has certainly got going quickly!

For BKO we had a very successful Concorde Chase Weekend in Bracknell and Camberley, a great turnout at the Compass Sport heat in Epsom, a slightly soggy but enjoyable BKO local event in Swinley Forest, our AGM and Club Dinner at Sand Martins Golf Club and another soggy SCOL event at Rushall Wood, the Southern Champs in Redhill and another SCOL at Micheldever, the SCOA champs at Penn Woods and rounding it all off The JK 2024 in the midlands!

I haven't covered all of it in this newsletter, so expect the AGM, SCOA's and JK report in the next issue (having just returned from Beaudesert and washing all the mud out still!)

The momentum of Orienteering has really returned now after the difficulties of the last few years with a fantastic number of events and activities mapped out for the next year.

We've got training evenings planned now the clocks have gone forward, and our Summer Parks and BBQ events to look forward to, the British Champs, the WOC in Edinburgh and the Welsh 6 days too if you're off to them.

If you do go to another event around the country or abroad – The Stockholm indoor cup or the World Masters for example – do drop me a line or two (or more) as it's always interesting to read about these events and other BKOers escapades!

See you out there!

Rob Mullens

## EVENTS

### BKO CONCORDE CHASE – URBAN EVENT - UKUL AND SEOUL

SATURDAY 27TH JANUARY 2024 – Birch Hill, Bracknell

Some unseasonably warm but welcome weather led up to the Saturday morning of the Urban event which began a bit chilly for those on the early starts, but thankfully there was no rain and it was mostly clear and sunny all day. We had nearly 300 runners across 7 courses planned by Katy Stubbs, and there were some very quick times on some of them! Katy said in the post race comments –

“It's been a while since I planned anything bigger than a club training evening but 7 courses on an area that I thought I knew well should have been relatively easily.

Birch Hill is a great urban area, technical and not repetitive, but it is a bit small. Previous events have travelled over into the adjoining Great Hollands map, but that adds some long

boring runs. I added the new strip southeast of the park, which gave some tricky return loops, but the longest courses still had back to back maps and even a butterfly loop on the longest one. All the feedback I heard was positive.

The recent change in the Rules about urban event course lengths has effectively shortened

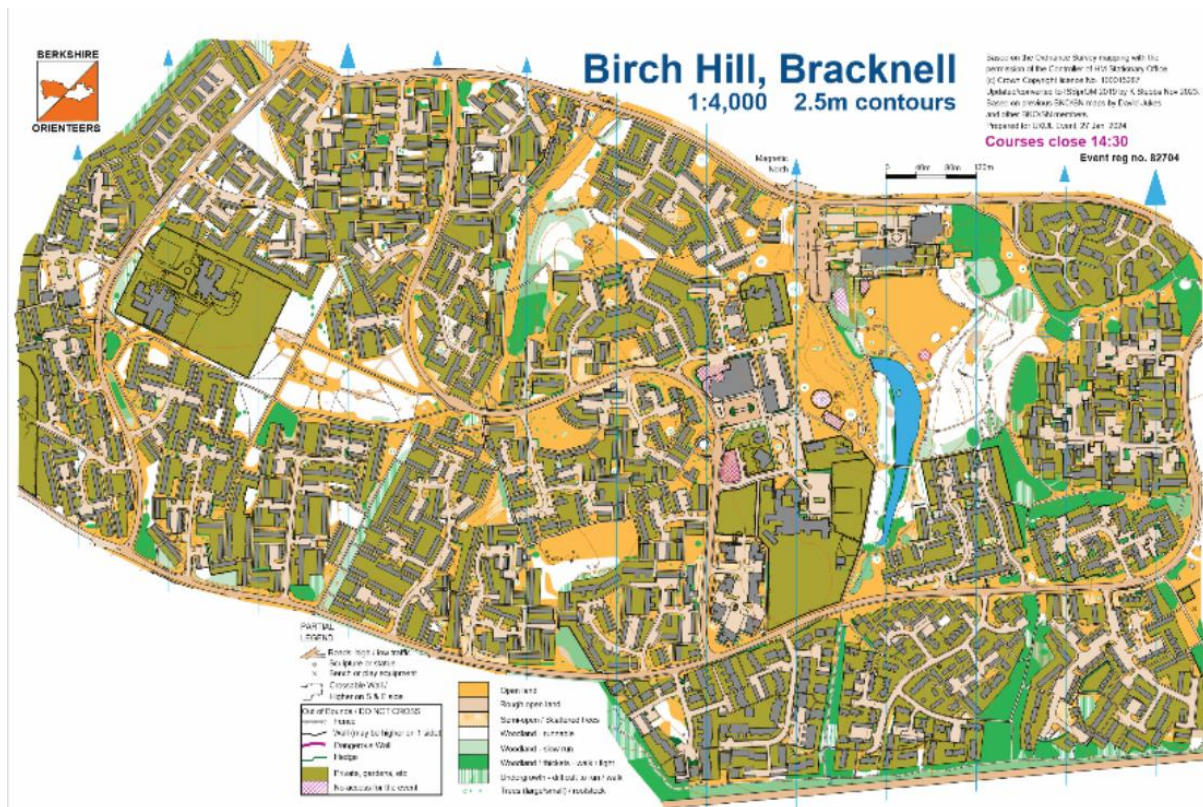


courses. The distance is now quoted as along the optimum route as opposed to the straight line, but the recommended distances remain the same.

I realise that urban races are not an IOF discipline at Elite level and are therefore not considered as significant as other events but I

still think the recommended distances need looking at.

I know the decision has been made not to change the table in Appendix B at this point but perhaps it should be.”



The event went really smoothly, with a great area and layout for the start and the finish located perfectly by download and the terrace for clubmates to cheer on their cohorts on the run in and have a place to gather and chat about the courses. Having results screens available with live updates was very popular too. So many thanks to Fiona Clough and the team of volunteers who helped ensure a successful event! – See selection of photos in the Gallery below.

## BKO CONCORDE CHASE – FOREST EVENT

SUNDAY 28<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2024 – Barossa, Camberley

Barossa is a fantastic area being the southern part of Swinley Forest, with some wonderful valleys and views across them (to see your next control if you were lucky!) and the event was suitably well attended with 576 Runners enjoying the winter sun and challenging courses. Massive thanks to all the volunteers, Eddie Walsh for organising, (and directing traffic!) Peter Jones SN for Controlling and Planner Martin Wilson, who had these comments -

*“Barossa is well known to local orienteers, we wanted to also use the Range Danger Area to the west as a newer challenge, but permission was not given. We managed to get the rare use of Poors Allotments (PA) thanks to our date being outside the nesting season. Collingwood College for Assembly enabled short walks to a single sheltered Start and nearby Finish, important considerations for our winter event.*

*Starting at the SE corner of the map enabled clockwise courses for everyone, but limited how far west courses could go. The top four courses reached the lovely west quarter, mid courses braved the stream crossing, shorter courses used the flatter terrain in the east.*

*Barossa terrain changes completely between September and January, minor paths appear and open areas become very runnable. Map accuracy sometimes suffers as a result. Blue/Sh Blue C1 was perhaps a case in point.*

*Most courses used the long SE-NW leg over the ridge towards the stream and controls 152*

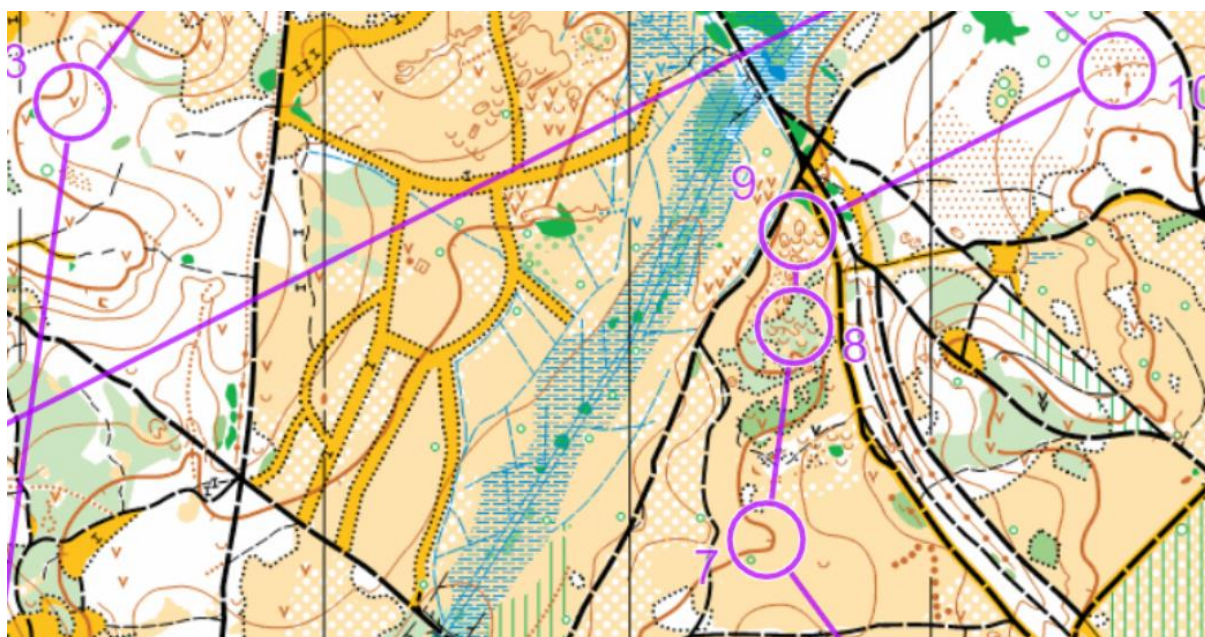
*and 150. This open area has had young trees on it for the past 10 years, giving some good route choices.*

*We were gobsmacked to discover just a week before the event that work had begun on clearing the entire area of all trees, reducing the leg to a cavalry charge to a highly visible control in open space. I was heartbroken.*

*We had a huge entry of 600+, fantastic to see. The high numbers did cause a lot of following, tricky sites like 145 and 162 were overrun at times. Blue/S Blue/Green averaged 100 runners, very hard to separate them without adding more and more controls.*

*Despite the foibles, I hope you all enjoyed a great day out in the winter sun. Thanks to the many people who put their routes on RG, very interesting. (Well done Sh Brown, 56% of runners did it). Comments noted, some valid points of concern, and thanks for the many positive comments on the courses.”*

The BKO routegadget is definitely worth a look for this one whichever course you ran (or not!) to see all the courses and think how you might have tackled them, or compare how others on your course did! [2024-01-28 Concorde Chase Barossa \(routegadget.co.uk\)](https://routegadget.co.uk)



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## CSC Esher Commons

Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> February 2024

We had a great turnout and presence for the Compass Sport Cup heat in Esher. The feather flag by the run in, lots of BKO colours and a great feeling to be cheered in by team mates! We were so close to qualifying for the Trophy final, just 3 points away in 3<sup>rd</sup> place.

### Compass Sport Trophy

Pos	Club	Scorers	Score	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8A	8B	9A	9B	10
1st	<a href="#">SAX</a>	13	1262	92 (1)	195 (2)	97 (1)	196 (2)	92 (1)	0 (0)	198 (2)	194 (2)	0 (0)	0 (0)	198 (2)	0 (0)
2nd	<a href="#">SOC</a>	13	1241	191 (2)	187 (2)	188 (2)	191 (2)	199 (2)	96 (1)	89 (1)	100 (1)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
3rd	<a href="#">BKO</a>	13	1238	91 (1)	184 (2)	0 (0)	94 (1)	194 (2)	100 (1)	187 (2)	0 (0)	100 (1)	94 (1)	0 (0)	194 (2)
4th	<a href="#">MV</a>	13	1236	191 (2)	100 (1)	195 (2)	93 (1)	89 (1)	194 (2)	88 (1)	0 (0)	0 (0)	198 (2)	0 (0)	88 (1)
5th	<a href="#">GO</a>	13	1220	100 (1)	0 (0)	189 (2)	179 (2)	183 (2)	181 (2)	194 (2)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	194 (2)
6th	<a href="#">DFOK</a>	13	1196	98 (1)	185 (2)	185 (2)	184 (2)	179 (2)	183 (2)	182 (2)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
7th	<a href="#">LOK</a>	11	990	192 (2)	189 (2)	0 (0)	92 (1)	87 (1)	173 (2)	163 (2)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	94 (1)	0 (0)
8th	<a href="#">BADO</a>	9	805	0 (0)	92 (1)	187 (2)	0 (0)	90 (1)	174 (2)	170 (2)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	92 (1)

Well done to our top scorers including 2 class winners, Gen and Simon!



### BKO

Name	Class	Score
Gen Mullens	8B	100
Simon Moore	6	100
Trish Monks	5	98
Jane Courtier	10	98
David Jukes	7	96
Lisa Methven	5	96
Jim Munday	10	96
Elliot Vaughan	9A	94
Simon Turton	4	94
Rob Smart	2	93
Richard Rae	7	91
Bo Oqvist	1	91
John Methven	2	91



## Local Event - Swinley West

Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2024

To the Western part of Swinley Forest for this one, and after wading through some very swampy areas at the previous weeks Compass Sport Cup heat more this week! Nothing more our organisers and planners could have done about that having arranged a clear bright day for the event already, fair trade I suppose!

Some really good courses were put on and despite the splashiness of the ground (and one particularly deep water channel) it was a well-attended local event with a good number of first time orienteers.



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From our events team – “Thanks to all of you who braved the mud and flooding at Swinley! It was good that the rain held off and I hope you enjoyed your runs.

Even if you made a big mistake or mispunched, do have a look at routegadget to try and work out where you went wrong or add your route.

Also have a look at winsplits and the bonus material to see which legs worked better for you.” -

<http://obasen.orientering.se/winsplits/online/en/default.asp?page=classes&databaseld=95360>



## SCOL 6 – Rushall Woods

Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2024

A regional event to finish off our winter programme, and what an eventful one it was too! We had more than our fair share of problems to deal with here, but everyone rose to the occasion, pulled together and helped out to make it another successful event - including a “fairy godmother” at assembly!

### Officials Comments –

Thank you to everyone for coming to our Rushall event. After our control setters went around in the rain the weather cleared up and was even sunny at times. This did not allow for the ground to dry out so thank you for bearing with the road parking which gave some of you a longer walk to the start but let everyone get away again with no problem. Underfoot on the courses was also somewhat challenging and a couple of extra temporary water features may have appeared but the vast majority did well and we have had several comments about enjoyable courses so thanks to our planner Steve and controller Alan.

Apologies for some waiting around at the beginning for those needing hired dibbers, there is always something. Thank you for your patience on that and hope your rune eventually went well.

Jane Courtier, Organiser

*And from Steve Waite, Planner 18/03/24 -*

Hopefully everyone enjoyed Rushall Woods in some way despite the weather. 400mm of rain has fallen in the area since I started planning and it was the first event where I have worn wellies on every planning visit! After the courses were finalised in early February, that month received 218% average rainfall and 89% of March’s rainfall average rainfall fell in the first 17 days of the month.

The main start was planned to make you think from the very beginning. The boxes were deliberately set back before you punched the start and had the whole area laid before you with all four courses fanning out across the area.



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Rushall woods is nicely varied but suffers from some inhospitable areas of undergrowth which I tried to avoid as far as possible although they are expanding every year and impossible to totally avoid. Wherever possible I tried to give you route choice with at least two viable options. I had anticipated the going to be tough and the course lengths were kept down to compensate for this and the climbs – although there were clearly some very tired runners at the finish.

I was very cautious planning the Short Green to get our older competitors safely across the area avoiding the worst terrain and vegetation whilst still providing a navigational challenge. The junior courses were planned to be of the correct technical challenge within the BO guidance with two decision points on most of the yellow legs and options to stay off the paths on the Orange and Light Green to gain an advantage but with catching features.

Control 73 on the Green, Blue and Brown courses was the most talked about control. The location was added to the map using GPS so it was definitely in the correct position but I accept there were some similar unmapped patches of vegetation in the area that caused confusion. It's a nice area to use but lacks TD4/5 control sites.

46 and 48 (23 on the Brown) were close to each other but on different mapped features, but as the depression had filled with water they looked similar but distinguishable and visible from each other. Next time I will use distinctly different numbers.

A couple of people commented on some of the features being difficult or dangerous to access due to the wet conditions. From a planners perspective it's a compromise when positioning the control to place them where they can be accessed safely but are not too obvious and visible from a great distance. This applied to 66, 70 & 62 although the controller thought the latter too visible and moved it slightly further into the ditch on the Sunday morning. Had it not rained heavily early on the Sunday morning things would have been different as these areas were much drier Saturday afternoon when I put the stakes out and Sunday's heavy rain had not yet been forecast.

Thanks for the feedback from everyone I spoke to at the finish – it's great to hear what people thought – good or bad. Hopefully the courses were demanding enough but not too challenging.

Finally thanks to Alan from BADO for controlling – again I learnt a lot from very constructive feedback, and the dedicated team of BKO members who put the controls out early on Sunday morning in the rain and collected them all back in again.

Steve Waite. Planner 18/03/24

*And from a very grateful entrant –*

“I'd completely forgotten my trainers and was prepared to run in my everyday boots, rather than miss the event. However thanks to my fairy godmother, who saved several other competitors too, one of which was lending her dibber, I was able to borrow her running shoes. I felt like Cinderella and I could go to the 'ball', wearing very comfortable trainers.

Thank you again and yes I thoroughly enjoyed my very wet jog around Rushall Woods.”

The fairy godmother was our temporarily out of action Toni Whittle, who despite having a broken ankle has still been fantastic helping at events whilst she recovers – THANK YOU!



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### BKO Events

Date	Level	Event	Location	Town	Postcode	Gridref	What3Words
Sat, 27/04/2024	Level D	Saturday Event	Burghfield	Mortimer	RG7 3XG	SU645651	
Sat, 08/06/2024	Level D	Summer Parks Event	Windsor	Windsor	SL4 1RS	SU964769	
Sat, 06/07/2024	Level D	Summer Parks Event	Jennetts Park	Bracknell	RG12 8EB	SU847680	
Sat, 17/08/2024	Level D	Summer Parks Event	Wildridings	Bracknell	RG12 7DX	SU862683	
Sat, 28/09/2024	Level D	Saturday Event	Benyons Inclosure	Mortimer	RG7 3UA	SU630641	
Sun, 27/10/2024	Level C	Regional Event	Minley	Blackwater	GU17 9LE	SU818573	
Sat, 07/12/2024	Level C	Night Event	Star Posts	Bracknell			

### Midweek Training

Mark Foxwell has pencilled in some summer training evenings starting in April, it's a good opportunity to get some practice in and catch up with fellow members in a less formal environment.

Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> April - Hermitage	Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> - Bloom Wood
Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> April - Rushall Woods	Wednesday 29 <sup>th</sup> - Lower Earley
Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup> April - Wildridings	Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> June - Whiteknights
Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> - May SN	Wednesday 12 <sup>th</sup> June - Great Hollands - SN
Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup> May - Simons Wood	Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup> June - Lily Hill
Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> May - Swinley West with SN	

### SCOA / Local Events



Saturday 6th April HH at Chipperfield Common

Sunday 14th April NWO urban at Defence Academy, Shrivenham 



Saturday 20th April SN at Frimley Fuel Allotments

Sunday 21st April TVOC at Hodgemoor Wood (YBT Heat) 

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





## MEMBERS NEWS

### NEW MEMBERS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

#### Achievements

Well done to –

Navigation Challenge \*\*\*\* Anna Methven; Gen Mullens; Mark Foxwell; Jillian Ullersperger

Racing Challenge: Bronze \*\*\*\* Anna Methven; Mark Foxwell; Jillian Ullersperger

Racing Challenge: Silver \*\*\*\* Anna Methven

Navigation Challenge \*\*\*\*\* Aidan Williams

Racing Challenge: Gold \*\*\*\*\* Patrick Laloyaux

Racing Challenge: Silver \*\*\*\*\* Paul Machinicki

Racing Challenge: Bronze \*\*\*\*\* Kirsty Adams

A few New Members to welcome too - Nicky Crowther (Uxbridge); Nicola Mort (Windsor) rejoined; David and Ryan Speight (Sunningdale); Richard Bennet (Reading)!

## NEWS OF BKO WINS!

### Southern Championships – Redlands 4<sup>th</sup> February 2024

We had another couple of winners at the 2024 Southern Championships!

Congratulations to Adam Methven, now running in and winning the M20 class! Congratulations as well to Sally Collins winning the W70S!

Some BKO podium finishers too with 2<sup>nd</sup> Places going to Catherine Springett on the W65S, Martin Wilson on the M75L and Neil Frankum on the M55S.



Photo credit: Sarah Darley



## Knole Park

A SE League and National Event hosted by SAXONS at Knole Park in Sevenoaks provided more success – Adam came 1<sup>st</sup> on the Black course, Lisa Methven was 2<sup>nd</sup> on Short Blue just 31 seconds behind 1<sup>st</sup>, and Jim Munday was 3<sup>rd</sup> on Very Short Green.

## SCOA Update

Here's an end of year report from Jon Wheatcroft - chair of SCOA

### SCOA End of Year Report

#### What's SCOA doing?

We've just reached the end of the SCOA awards season. In recent weeks, it has been my pleasure to present awards to SCOA members; For Southern Championships, SCOA League and SCOA Championships. These events don't just 'happen'. They are planned, often months ahead by volunteer orienteers on your committee and elsewhere. The 2024 Southern Championships were held by GO of SEOA at Redlands near Dorking on 4th February. (SARUM of SWOA will host in 2025 and it's SCOA's turn again in 2026.)

This was Ken Ricketts last season at the helm of the SCOA league. We all owe him a debt of gratitude for his quiet, efficient work over the years. We need a successor! It involves taking the results file from BOF results, extracting the SCOA runners and updating the results on the SCOA website. Anybody fancy an armchair role in our sport? (*I have taken on this role myself now, hopefully you will have seen the results on the SCOA website – Rob*)

#### Colour Badge Scheme

Your Committee is also arranging to resurrect the SCOA colour badge scheme. Glyn Thomas (BKO) has provisionally taken this on. Club Captains should notify him when juniors & novices have achieved three badge times. More details later.

#### SCOA Junior Squad

Behind the scenes to many is SCOA's very successful Junior Squad, co-led by Simon Kippin (TVOC) and Laurence Townley (SN). As well as funding domestic training and competition, SCOA funds overseas training and competition for the more successful squad members. If your son /daughter can confidently complete an Orange course unaided and is considering moving up to Light Green please consider the opportunities offered by the squad. New recruits are always being sought. Contact details on the SCOA website.

#### Treasurer?

We have a very efficient Secretary in Fiona Clough (BKO) and acting Treasurer, also Fiona Clough! It is not sustainable for one person to occupy both roles. We have an agm in June. Is there any SCOA member who feels able to step up to take on one of these roles? Job descriptions are on the SCOA website.

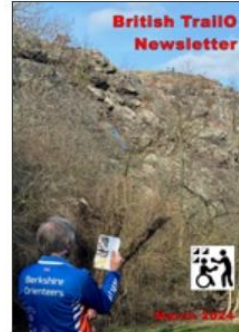


## Trail-O

Exciting news - well done to David Jukes, he has been selected to be a member of the GBR team at the forthcoming European TrailO Championships (ETOC) in Finland in May!

Also, the March issue of the British TrailO Newsletter has just been published and the front cover is David competing in Prague, Czechia, earlier this year in BKO colours! David is also the Newsletter Editor and it is available on the British Trail Orienteering web page:

[British TrailO Newsletters](https://britishorienteering.org.uk)  
([britishorienteering.org.uk](https://britishorienteering.org.uk))



## Gallery

*Jim Munday BKO M80 Silver Medalist at SCOA Championships after event at Bradenham with running companion and partner in crime Ellie, and David Jukes competing in the TrailO in Prague, Czechia.*



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The picturesque start area at South Hill Park for the Concorde Chase Urban





Barossa – Concorde Chase 2024



Compass Sport Cup and Trophy Heat – Esher Commons

