

HOC Club Championships and Other Awards - Rules and Guidelines

Preamble.

This document sets out the Rules and Guidelines for the HOC Championships together with the award of the various trophies contested at the event. Any situation not covered by these guidelines will need to be resolved by the Committee.

- Author Robert Vickers, with suggestions from Brian Hughes and others.
- Adopted by HOC Committee on **7th September 2006**.
- Amended by HOC Committee on **7th February 2008**.
- Revised by Eric Brown 2010, adopted by HOC Committee in **2010**.
- Revision adopted by HOC Committee on **21st January 2016**.
- Consolidated by Marian White **August 2020** and **February 2024**.
- Amended and adopted by HOC Committee on **9th April 2024**.

1. Introduction.

1.1 General Rules are in Section 2.

1.2 Guidelines for awarding the specific trophies are in Section 3.

1.3 Guidelines for the Planner are in Section 4.

1.4 Guidelines for the Organiser are in Section 5.

1.5 Rules governing other awards not contested at the Club Championships are recorded in Section 6.

2. General Rules.

2.0 All Competitors taking part shall be paid up members of the Club on the day of the event. Guests may exceptionally be permitted by prior agreement with the Organiser, but any such participants shall not be treated as Competitors for the purpose of the Rules.

2.1 The Championships will be a mass start Score event of one hour duration. Should there be an option for juniors to run for a shorter period, the score of any Junior running for a shorter time limit will be increased pro-rata as appropriate.

3. Specific Trophies.

*There are two parallel but inter-related competitions taking place within the Club Championships; one based on **speed** over the course and the other based on the best performance when judged against an agreed **handicap** system.*

The organiser and controller together shall decide to whom the trophies are awarded, with reference to the Chairman or another committee member if necessary.

Speed related trophies

3.1 The age classes are:

- **Men's Open (Philip Thompson Trophy)**. The highest scoring M class Competitor.
- **Ladies Open**. The highest scoring W class Competitor.
- **Men's Veteran**. The highest scoring M40 or M45.
- **Ladies Veteran**. The highest scoring W40 or W45.

- **Men's Supervet (The President's Trophy).** The highest scoring M50 or M60.
- **Ladies Supervet.** The highest scoring W50 or W60.
- **Men's Master.** The highest scoring M65 or M70.
- **Vintage Ladies Champion.** The highest scoring W65+.
- **Ultra Vet Men's Shield** The highest scoring M75+.
- **Boys Junior Champion (Chris Schaanning Jubilee Cup).** The highest scoring M16 or M18.
- **Girls Junior Champion.** The highest scoring W16 or W18.
- **Harley O'Quinn Trophy.** The highest scoring M12 or M14.
- **Columbine Trophy.** The highest scoring W12 or W14.
- **M10 Champion.** The highest scoring M10-.
- **W10 Champion.** The highest scoring W10-.
- **The Alex Wing Trophy,** awarded to the highest scoring new member; defined as one (new to orienteering, not just HOC) who joined in the year since the previous Club Championships. Unlike the Bert Pardoe Trophy there is no possibility of this being won in successive years, as the winning member will no longer be a newcomer 12 months later.
- **The MADO Family Trophy.** The HOC Family achieving the highest score. At least one Senior and at least one Junior from the same Family Membership Unit must go round together to qualify. Families will compete by running either the "Full Time" or the "Shorter Time" Course, as determined by the age of the youngest Junior (i.e. a Family with a M/W14 or younger would run for the Shorter Time, and in this case their points score would be increased pro-rata).

3.2 Raw scores will be used in determining the winner of all the above trophies.

3.3 No Club member may win more than one speed related trophy at the Club Championships. The winners of the Open trophies will therefore be ineligible to win their age related trophy, even though they have had the best performance in their age related class. Under these circumstances the age related trophy will therefore be awarded to the second best score in that age class.

3.4 As the speed competitions are based on age classes no Competitor may win more than one speed trophy.

Handicap related trophies

3.5 In addition to the speed trophies there is also a handicap trophy that may be won: **The Bert Pardoe trophy**, where any Club member may have an outstanding run on the day in defiance of the personal handicap. Handicaps will be applied only to the scores used to determine the winner of the Bert Pardoe Trophy. **NB** The handicapping system may evolve from year to year and any particular points or changes that need highlighting should be advertised clearly via the Club newsletter (see also 5.2).

3.6 Any member may therefore win one speed trophy and the Bert Pardoe handicap trophy for the same run.

3.7 The holders of the Men's and Ladies' Open Trophies will be expected to co-ordinate the team of officials for the next Club Championships event and oversee the delivery of that event.

3.8 The team of officials will comprise the holders of the other six Senior age class trophies. (This rule will not apply to winners of Junior Age Classes.) The Planner and Organiser will be selected by the team of officials from their number. Should there be insufficient personnel available the holders of the Open Trophies will cast their net wider. An external controller is desirable if available.

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3.9 The holders of the Men's and Ladies' Open Trophies will be allowed to defend their titles by running competitively in the current Championships event. It is a HOC tradition that the holders of all other Senior age class trophies may run in the current Championships but shall be non-competitive so that the trophies are spread around.

3.10 Every Competitor will be ranked in their appropriate age class, unless rule 3.11 applies. It should be noted that every Competitor will automatically be eligible to win the appropriate Men's or Ladies' "Open" Trophy, regardless of any Age Class declaration.

3.11 If there is a reduced time limit for Junior classes, then any Junior who wishes to run to the longer time limit may do so providing they declare beforehand that they are running up (towards M/W 21) to one of the classes for which the longer time is appropriate, and their eligibility for the various trophies will be determined by the class they declare beforehand.

3.12 If there are no contenders for any particular trophy, it shall not be awarded for that year but may remain in the custody of the previous winner. That previous winner is not obliged to be part of the planning team for the next Club Championships.

3.13 Any Competitors who wish to declare themselves "non-competitive" for any reason may do so, and their results will be disregarded when making awards.

4. Planner's Guidelines.

4.1 All Competitors will seek the same set of controls. Please consider the physical and technical difficulty of the controls and course in general; it needs to offer a fair challenge to all ages and abilities.

4.2 The time allowed will be announced in advance of the event. A shorter time limit may be specified for Juniors (M/W 14 and younger). Consider offering up a sequence of controls which would make up a yellow/orange standard route for younger juniors.

4.3 The penalties for exceeding the time limit(s) will be decided by the Planner and announced at Registration.

4.4 Different points values may attach to different controls at the discretion of the Planner, reflecting the marginal time required to visit them. These will be publicised in the final details and indicated on the map and/or control description sheets.

4.5 The Planner has the option to provide a two-part map. If a two-part map is provided, every Competitor shall have the option of changing from Part 1 to Part 2 at any point. However, any controls from Part 1 which are visited after changeover shall be disregarded but the Competitor will not be disqualified.

4.6 The order and times in which Competitors finish will be recorded and will be used to rank any Competitors who have equal scores, the Competitor taking the least time to achieve the equal score being awarded the higher rank.

4.7 Competitors should be given loose control descriptions sheets at registration.

5. Organiser's Guide.

5.1 During the registration process Competitors must be given the opportunity to indicate:

- If they are non-competitive (for whatever reason).
- If a Junior is running the longer time period in order to become eligible for a trophy towards M/W 21

5.2. Competitors will appreciate as much pre-event information as possible in the Club newsletter and on the website. For example, if there are variable points, what trophies are to be competed for, etc. Before the event details of the handicapping system should be available on request to Competitors and any changes to the handicapping mechanism published in the Club newsletter. Liaison with the Planner is essential.

6. Other Awards not based on the Club Championships.

(The following is not part of the Club Champs document but recorded here for reference)

6.1 Harlequin of the Year. Not part of the Championships event, this is awarded at the discretion of the Chairman (in a year when the Chairman changes, the award shall be made by the outgoing Chairman). It should be awarded on the basis of out-of-the-ordinary service to the Club, and it is not intended that orienteering performance should normally be a criterion for making the award. The Harlequin of the Year shall be a paid up member of the Club during the year.

6.2 The Summer Series Trophies will be awarded in accordance with specific rules published elsewhere.

6.3 The Night Street League Trophies will be awarded in accordance with specific rules published elsewhere.

6.4 The Winter Evening Event Trophies will be awarded in accordance with specific rules published elsewhere.

6.5 The HOC League Trophies will be awarded in accordance with specific rules published elsewhere

6.6 The HOC Galoppen Trophy will be presented to the highest scorer in the West Midlands League. In the event of a draw, it shall be presented to the one who first attains that score. If there is still a draw, it shall be presented to the one with the highest total of points scored over all events in the year.

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