



## Arrow Valley Saturday Morning Introductory Level Event, 18th May 2013

Harlequins Orienteering Club's (HOC's) first SMILE event of 2013 saw a good turn out of HOC members, some of whom warmed up at the parkrun event which takes place at Arrow Valley every Saturday. We welcomed a steady stream of individuals and families that, as the Redditch Advertiser put it, wanted to “*test their sense of direction*”.

In the field where the registration tent was situated we had laid on a fiendish little matrix involving 25 control stakes only 5 of which had SI control boxes on them. This linked to a couple of nearby controls from the White course and used the same Start and Finish as the other courses. It all looked so easy standing at the registration tent but got everyone map reading and navigating straight away.



**Now which way?- The park matrix in use.**

Club captain John Embrey was narrowly pipped to the finish on the park matrix by Club equipment officer Peter Langmaid but they were run close by HOC junior Alex Mitchell, especially on his second attempt. With the exception of these experienced orienteers, our beginners, and some up and coming HOC juniors, all acquitted themselves well as the times on the next page show. To pick up a map and get round a complex little course with no mistakes whetted the appetite of many of the entrants for a spot of more conventional orienteering.



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### **Park Matrix Course Results**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Time min:sec</b>
Peter Langmaid	01:47
John Embrey	01:55
Alex Mitchell- 2nd go	02:00
Alex Mitchell- 1st go	02:23
Sebastian Mitchell	05:19
Jack McCall	05:44
Dylan McCall	05:46
Kieran Rose	06:03
Arthur Mitchell	06:06
Bodie Cronch	06:26
Evani Cronch	06:28
Hannah Kingsman	06:37
Elijah Dutton	08:12
Jacob Dutton	08:17
Gabriel Dutton	08:43
James & Craig Thompson	09:05
Miles	09:24

### **Terrain Orienteering Courses**

The White Course of 1.6km involved navigating through a nice wooded area, across a field and through the Millennium Wood, a complex area with many footpaths with lots of places at which mistakes could be made (known to orienteers as “decision points”). Having mastered map reading on the park matrix, everyone completed the White Course with no mistakes. To put everyone’s results in perspective, club captain John Embrey is one of our top orienteers, so everyone should give themselves a pat on the back.



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**White Course Results 1.6 km**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Time min:sec</b>
John Embrey	15:01
Kieran Rose	21:43
Jack McCall	22:05
Dylan McCall	22:15
Hannah Kingsman	26:10
James Thompson	26:13
Elijah Dutton	26:37
Jacob Dutton	26:45
Gabriel Dutton	26:54
Craig Thompson	27:03
Evani Cronch	27:25
Bodie Cronch	27:31
Peter, Hille, Lex & Miles	34:22
Jon Richards	34:52
Arthur Mitchell	35:00
Sebastian Mitchell	35:20

**Orange Course Results 2.5 km**

**Green Course Results 3.7km**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Time min:sec</b>		<b>Name</b>	<b>Time min:sec</b>
James Thompson	37:49		Karl Kingsman	35:41
Kieran Rose	44:47		Ruth Lockley	45:06
Harry Croft	45:40		Jackie Embrey	48:13
Sarah Cousins	47:10		Nigel Cousins	58:36
Richards Family	92:16		Barbara Ford	73:45
			Little family	83:34
			Farrell family	102:33



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On the Orange course, Kieran Rose and Harry Croft, at opposite ends of the age spectrum, coped really well with some complex paths in the woods that circle the lake at Arrow Valley. Harry, our senior beginner, wanted to brush up his map reading skills and coped really well after a rather shaky start which saw him heading off in the wrong direction! We all do it- it's known as a 180 degree error in orienteering talk!

Five of the HOC helpers had a go at the Green course, which was really designed for experienced orienteers with some difficult route choices and a few controls to the south of the lake which were not straightforward. Nevertheless, two families turned up, attempted and completed the Green course, finding all of the controls into the bargain.

We hope that everyone enjoyed their taste of orienteering at Arrow Valley and hope that you will be able to come to our next SMILE events, which are at:

Leasowes Park, Halesowen on Saturday 15th June; and at

Sanders Park, Bromsgrove on Saturday 13th July

Full details of these and other events on the website at [www.harlequins.org.uk](http://www.harlequins.org.uk)

