



Event Information  
V0.1 at 10 Aug 2016

**Harlequins Orienteering Club**  
Invite you to a Saturday Summer Series (SSS)  
**Mini Pairs Harris Relay Event**  
At

**CLENT & WALTON HILLS**

Near Halesowen

On

Saturday 03 September 2016



Orienteering in  
Worcester, Hereford,  
South Shropshire,  
Black Country and  
Birmingham.

- Venue & Travel:** Event centred on Walton Hill Car Park SO 943802 Nearest postcode B62 0NQ  
Main Entrance to the area is from the A456 Hagley Causeway, following the signs to the NT Nimmings Car Park site but then travelling beyond that.
- Parking:** Small free car parking area. Some nearby off road parking in the optimistic event that we fill the space.
- Terrain:** Varied mix of woodland, scrub and open areas. Complex path network. Some steep sections, which can be slippery if wet, with the compensation of beautiful views.
- Map:** 1:10,000 by Alison Sloman revised 2014  
Maps will not be waterproof - please bring your own bag.
- Courses:** Just the one. See overleaf for the format of this event. No loose controls. Bring a red felt tip to draw your route.
- Entries:** On the day only but please indicate on the HOC forum (if a member) which course map you require, or email the organiser, address below. This will assist in reserving a pre-printed map. A limited number of non pre-ordered maps will be available on the day.
- Starts:** 1100-1200
- Courses Close:** 1345
- Punching:** SportIdent.  
Please bring your SI-Card. SI-Cards may be hired for £1 (£30 if lost).
- Fees:** £8 per pair. You can do this alone but singletons unwilling to pair up will pay the full fee.
- Dogs:** Dogs under control welcome.
- Facilities:** None. Toilets and café at the nearby Nimmings Car Park (£2.75 parking fee or free to NT members showing card)
- Officials:** Organiser/Planner Andy Johnson 07830 123843 Email: amjohnson<AT>freeola.net
- Safety:** Competitors take part at their own risk. Whistles must be carried. Please bring sufficient drinks to hydrate appropriately.  
There are 2 rural roads to cross. Juniors may only participate if paired with an adult and who must cross both roads under the supervision of that adult.
- Website:** For the latest information check: <http://www.harlequins.org.uk>

After the event, take time to enjoy the views and visit the nearby café for refreshments

## What's a Harris Relay?

A Harris course is similar to a Spanish Score event in that controls can be visited in any order and runners select their own route. It is a military format, devised by a former Chairman of British Army Orienteering.

The distinctive feature of a Harris is that it is a team effort with controls designated as either 'primary' (i.e. a control which must be visited by **every** member of the team) or 'secondary' (i.e. a control which only needs to be visited by just **one** member of the team).

The team must take this into account when formulating its plan, allowing for the individual strengths and weaknesses of each member. Once a runner punches at the finish line they are not allowed back out and it is the time of the last runner in each team which counts.

The primary controls will be laid out in the fashion of a cross-country event, normally set at a TD of 3+, producing the 'spine route'. This is normally in the shape of a semi-circle, ideally with a totally separate start and finish, which then allows for sending competitors off in all directions from the start. The technical difficulty of the secondary controls will range from TD 3 to 5.

Any missed controls occur a 15 min penalty, and this also requires good judgement by the team leader as to whether it is worth visiting a missing control.

Normally the event commences with a massed start,

For this HOC SSS event, teams of 2 will run individually with each member visiting all the spine controls and then sharing the remainder as they see fit, all of which can be done in any order. There will be no mass start – go when you are both ready – in any direction..

Runners punch at the start, get their map and then divvy up controls with the clock ticking.

No loose controls are issued and runners will need a red pen to define their own route, comprising compulsory spine controls and nominated team controls

