# Brighton City Race 2025

## Saturday evening, 20 December 2025

## Final details – but please check back on Friday 19 Dec for any late updates.

Welcome to Brighton and the 14th City Race!

This year we have a new and larger venue which is closer to Brighton Station. This year's schedule:

| | |
|---|---|
| 16.00 | Brighthelm Centre opens. Access via rear garden only due to construction works. |
| 17.30 | Call up (inside hall) for Mass Start on Course 7. |
| | First Starts Courses 1-6 with call up inside the hall at -4 minutes |
| 18.30 | Last Start |
| 19.45 | Prize giving – Medals and mementoes for top 3 finishers in each class |
| 20.30 | Assembly closes |

Safety has always been our number one priority, especially for junior competitors. The city centre is officially a 20mph zone, however the roads can be busy. Please do take care at all crossings and wherever the surfaces may be slippery. Juniors will receive a separate safety email during the coming week.

On behalf of Southdowns Orienteers, Neil and I wish you an enjoyable and challenging evening.

Robert Lines, Organiser
Neil Crickmore, Planner

## Important things to note

- All juniors (U21) are required to wear a hi-viz top or jacket (free hire if needed). Hi-viz clothing is recommended for all participants
- Competitors will need a torch or head torch
- The cobbles in the Lanes can be slippery when wet
- Depending on the weather, Brighton can be very busy. Please treat the public with respect.
- Electric scooters and mopeds are popular in Brighton. Extra care is needed as the delivery vehicles are quiet and can sometimes be seen in pedestrian zones.
- It's a punching Start and a punching Finish
- Courses 1-3 have a 2-minute timed out crossing across the A23. The same crossing is used twice.
- Course 7 has a 1 minute timed out crossing across West Street. The same crossing is used twice.
- All courses must use the underpass (controls are at either end) to cross Kings Road.

## Prizes

The prizes this year for winning the Men's and Women's Open Courses are beautiful hand-crafted special edition 'Brighton City Race' orienteering zip bags produced by SO's very own Sewing Bea – Bea Waters. There are also medals for the top 3 finishers in each class and prizes for all juniors.

We will aim to run the Junior prize giving as soon as the results are in, and the target for the other classes is 19.45.

## Travel Directions

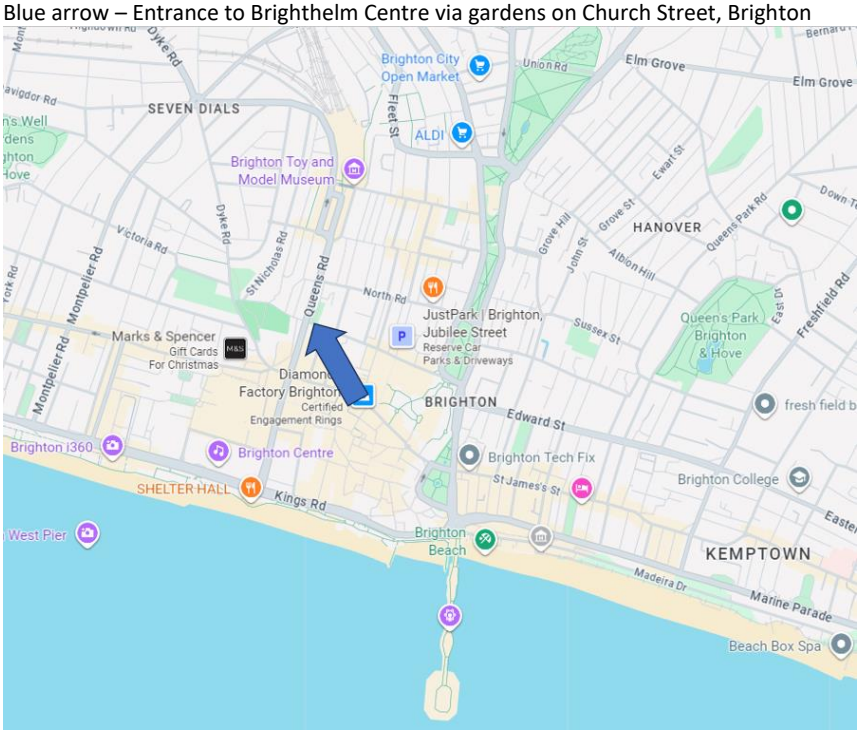
This year's event centre is the Brighthelm Centre. However, there are delayed construction works at the front of the centre meaning that access is only possible via the gardens to the south. The garden entrance is at the following link: https://maps.app.goo.gl/tqsWp1k8Zu51sWVa9

Brighton Station is 300m from the venue.

Public transport is the best option and there are links from all over the city. There is a good bus service in Brighton and fares are capped at £3. Further information here. The nearest free parking is north of Preston Park which is a 30-minute walk away. Parking adjacent to the venue is possible from 5pm for a fixed price of £6 for the evening. However, it is significantly more expensive if you arrive earlier than that. (Eg £19 for 2-4 hours).

The on-street parking map indicates how far out you need to be to get to the free parking areas. Parking is free outside of the marked zones and in Zone 10 on Saturdays.

Blue arrow – Entrance to Brighthelm Centre via gardens on Church Street, Brighton




## Pre-race shopping/sightseeing

Brighton city centre is not embargoed and so you are free to wander round the shops and attractions before the race. However please respect the spirit of the competition and do not walk round with an old orienteering map, or go actively searching for controls.

## Help and advice on the night

There will be plenty of helpers on the night that are able to give advice etc from 16.30 onwards. So, if anything below is unclear then please don't hesitate to ask. Alternatively, you are welcome to email the organiser Robert Lines beforehand.

## Refreshments

Please bring your own cup or mug if you can. During the event we will be serving drinks and mince pies.

## The Competition

There will be a mass start for those on Course 7 with call up at 17:30. Participants will make their way to the Lanes and start and finish there. There is a single road crossing which is signal controlled between the Brighthelm Centre and the Start/Finish. For accompanied juniors, there is the option of starting when you want so that parents can run their own courses first.

For Courses 1-6 there are timed call-ups inside the hall with a punching start at the front of the building.

The aim of the competition is to visit the electronic controls in the order shown on the map and finish within a 100-minute time limit. The winning times for courses 1-6 are expected to be 35-40 minutes. The junior course will be run more quickly.

All participants must 'punch' the Finish and report back to Download at the event centre. This is a safety requirement so that we know that there are no lost or injured competitors remaining out on the course. Please report back even if you don't complete the course.

**Warm-up area:** North of the Brighthelm Centre, towards the station which also has free toilets.

**Orienteering Fair Play:** If you finish your course before the last starter leaves at 18.30, please take care not to have your map open in the hall.

## SportIdent (SI) Electronic Punching System (EPS)

NB. SportIdent recommends that GPS watches are worn on the opposite had to your SIAC hire card.

The control boxes will be enabled for contactless punching. This means that if you have the appropriate card (known as a SIAC) then you don't have to "dib" it into the hole in the control box but just need to swipe it within 50cm of the box. If you don't have a SIAC card (codes 8000000-8999999) and want to try contactless punching then we will lend you one free of charge. Hired SI cards must be returned at the end of the event. Lost cards will be charged at their replacement cost of £60 for a contactless SIAC card.

If you are not familiar with the use of contactless punching equipment then please note the following:

1) Cards should be cleared as with older SI Cards.
2) Cards are enabled for contactless punching when they are dibbed in a Check unit.
3) When the cards are activated, you will see a faint green flash in the tip every 10 seconds or so.
4) A successful 'punch' is indicated by your card flashing and beeping.
5) When you 'punch' at the finish your card is turned off. You should therefore avoid running too close to the finish during the course.
6) If for whatever reason your card does not work in contactless mode you can still use it in traditional dibbing mode.

## Courses

There are 7 courses and participants may enter any one of these. However, to be eligible for a medal (top 3 finishers in each class) you must run a class appropriate to your age/gender.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Course 1 MO (M18-M35) | 8.5km 180m | 1:4000 A3 map 33 controls |
| Course 2 MV (M40+) WO (W18-W35) | 6.9km 150m | 1:4000 A3 map 31 controls |
| Course 3 MSV (M55+) WV (W40+) | 6.3km 145m | 1:4000 A3 map 29 controls |
| Course 4 MUV (M65+) WSV (W55+) | 5.4km 90m | 1:3000 A3 map 25 controls |
| Course 5 MHV (M75+) WUV (W65+) | 4.2km 60m | 1:3000 A3 map 21 controls |
| Course 6 WHV (W75+) | 3.4km 50m | 1:3000 A3 map 18 controls |
| Course 7 MJ (M16-) WJ (W16-) | 3.0km 40m | 1:3000 A3 map 20 controls |

All distances are optimal route ones.

The terrain is primarily urban streets. Courses 1-3 have some legs in parkland which could be slippery if wet.

Electric scooters and mopeds are popular in Brighton. Extra care is needed as the delivery vehicles are quiet and can sometimes be seen in pedestrian zones.

If you have a version 8 SI card (numbers 2,000,000 - 2,999,999) your card can only hold 30 punches. So, if you are on courses 1 or 2, we can lend you a SIAC. If you are on course 3 it is important that you do not punch controls other than the ones on your course.

Those under 16 (actual age) are only permitted to run Course 7. Unfortunately, the nature of the event means that it has not been possible to plan a course for young juniors (M/W12-). Juniors over the age of 12 may run course 7 unaccompanied. There is also a special class for accompanied juniors (of any age).

IOF pictorial descriptions are printed on the front of each map. Loose descriptions will be available in the Start Lanes.

## Pre-entry and entry on the day

Competitors that have pre-entered the event simply need to collect their bib (and SI card if hiring). No further registration process is required on the night.

It is possible to enter the event on the day if maps are available.

## Facilities

The hall will have refreshments and a live results service as competitors download. The best toilets are in the Churchill Square shopping centre. Toilets at the Brighthelm Centre comprise: Ground floor 1 disabled, 1 unisex; Basement Women 4 cubicles, Men 1 cubicle and 3 urinals.

## What to wear

Please wear appropriate clothing for the weather conditions. It is highly recommended to wear a hi-viz jacket on top (compulsory for juniors U21). Courses are mainly on hard surfaces with some sections on grass in a park (courses 1-3).




## Bibs

All participants will need to wear a race bib for safety reasons. The information fields at the bottom of the sheet include runner identification, the relevant course number and emergency telephone contact. Please bring your own safety pins if you can.

## Torches and headtorches

In previous years most people wore or carried some kind of torch. This year they will be needed. As well as lighting up the map, there are other benefits including security and the reduction of potential collisions in less well-lit areas. You will not need ultrabright head torches though and beware of shining them directly at members of the public or their houses.

## Safety

People run in Brighton every day without incident. However, the risks that all competitors should be aware of are those of road traffic accidents and collisions with members of the public and other runners. Competitors can mitigate the risks to a great extent by following the guidance:

- Hi-viz jackets/waistcoats highly recommended
- Cross roads only after having checked that it is safe to do so
- Take care when running around corners
- Take extra care when emerging from alleyways
- Adjust speed to take in to account the various urban conditions

## Maps

The maps are printed at a scale of 1:4000 or 1:3000 using the ISSPROM symbol set.

| Symbol | Colour | Meaning |
|---|---|---|
| | Black | Passable fence |
| | Black | Impassable fence – not to be crossed |
| | Black | Impassable wall |
| | Medium grey | Building – not to be entered |
| | Light grey | Canopy – may be passed under |
| | Black | Steps of a stairway |
| | Green/yellow | Forbidden access (as for “forest maps”) |
| | Green | Large tree (more than 0.5 m diameter) |
| | Green | Small tree (less than 0.5 m diameter) or bush |

In general, a thick black line represents a feature which is **impassable**, i.e. **must not** be crossed, whether or not it looks crossable.

## Start arrangements

For the junior mass start on Course 7, gather at 17.30 to leave the venue for the Brighton Lanes. For late starters, see the Start Co-ordinator in the hall for your map.

For courses 1-6:

| Time | Activity | Location |
|---|---|---|
| -4 | Call-up | Hall |
| -3 | Control Descriptions and rolled-up map | Hall |
| -2 | Leave Hall via fire exit | Hall |
| 0 | Punch Start, unroll map | At Start Kite |

**Novices / Non-Club Runners:** If you have opted to run as a pair or group, please come together ready to start 4 minutes before one of your start times. If you miss your start time, we will squeeze you in as soon as there is a gap.

## Finish

For safety reasons, you must dib the Finish box. The Finish is at the front of the Brighthelm Centre, close to the Start. You will then need to head back to the garden entrance to access the event centre.

## Download

Download will be in the hall. Please make sure that you download even if you didn't complete the course – that way we know that you have returned safely.

## Controls




The control boxes will be positioned so that they are visible as soon as you have navigated to the correct side of the feature. They will be attached to the feature using metal cable ties. The control site will be highlighted with an orienteering kite 30cm by 30cm.

Missing controls: at a previous event, a control site was vandalised and the SI boxes removed. The locations of each of the controls in this year's race should be obvious so if you are convinced that i) you are in the right place and ii) that the control is missing, then you should continue with the race. No adjustment of times will be made for vandalised controls, but no one will be disqualified for not punching at a missing control.

## Control descriptions

Pictorial control descriptions will be printed on the maps. No loose descriptions will be available. A list of the more common pictorial descriptions is shown below, together with their text equivalents:

 Building

 Thicket

 Linear thicket or hedge

 Stone wall

 Distinctive tree

 Track or path

 North east side

 East corner (inside); e.g. inside the angle where a wall bends through a right angle

 South corner (outside); similar to above, but on the outside of the angle

 North west end; e.g. NW end of a hedge

 Junction; e.g. where one path meets another

## Results

Full results will be published online at the event (see QR code on splits) and then later on the SO website. [www.southdowns-orienteers.org.uk.](http://www.southdowns-orienteers.org.uk)

This event is part of the Orienteering Urban League.

## Photographs and video

It is likely that photographs/video will be taken at the event to help promote the sport. Please let the organiser know if this causes any difficulties.