

# Final Details for Scottish Night Championships - Balmoral - 25<sup>th</sup> February 2023

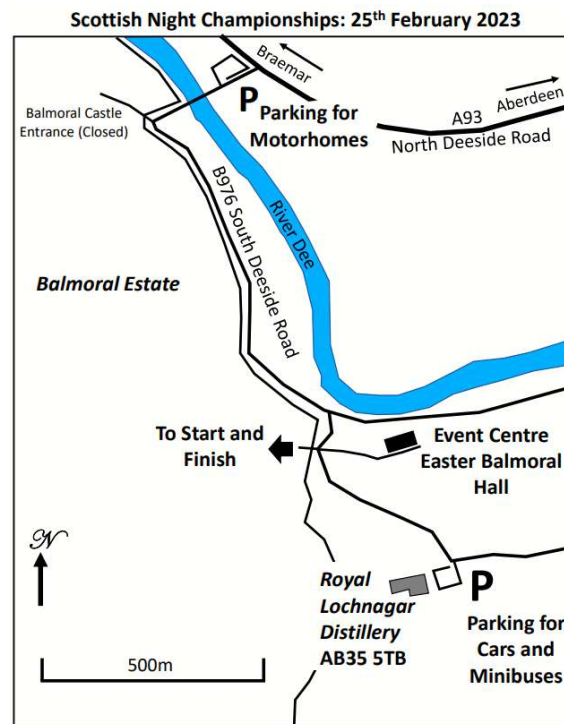
## Directions

We are delighted to have the prestigious Balmoral Estate, Crathie, Ballater as a venue for the 2023 Scottish Night Orienteering Championships, with the Event Centre based at Easter Balmoral Hall, AB35 5TB.

Car & Minibus parking will be at the Royal Lochnagar Distillery, AB35 5TB, by kind permission of the distillery. The car park is an 600m walk to the Hall and will be taped and signed.

Motorhomes are to be parked at the Crathie Visitor Car Park at the junction with the A93 (w3w: [///intrigued.bookshop.zoned](https://www.intrigued.bookshop.zoned)), approx. 1km walk to Hall. There is a charge of £5/day or £10 overnight for motorhomes.

The 201 bus route travels along the A93 from Aberdeen to Braemar, passing through Crathie which is 1km walk to the Event Centre.



Due to the weather conditions expected at this time of year, we strongly recommend competitors to check the Maroc web site prior to setting off in case of any last-minute changes. There is also the snow gate website which might be useful: <https://www.snowgatecameras.co.uk/>

## Safety

Competitors take part at their own risk. Full arm and leg cover must be worn and **competitors must carry a whistle and spare torch**. If the weather is bad cagoules may be made compulsory and a notice will go up in the car park near the exit towards the start. Mobile phone coverage is excellent and we strongly advise competitors to carry a mobile phone. **There will be a kit check tent on the way to the start.**

There are timber stacks opposite the Event Centre which are taped off – these are strictly out of bounds. Please do not go near them under any circumstances.

## Event Centre

The Event Centre is Easter Balmoral Hall. Please remove muddy/spiked shoes outside the hall. Hire SI cards can be collected from the Information Desk and there will be a key drop. There is space within the hall to leave any kit, however items are left at your own risk. Download is located in the Event Centre.

## Toilets

Portaloos are available outside the Event Centre. The nearest public toilets are in Church Square, Ballater (8am – 6pm) or the Distillery until 4pm.

## Refreshments

Delicious hot food and drink from Skoff catering van is available from 6pm outside the Event Centre and complimentary hot drinks will be served in the Hall kitchen after your run - please bring your own mugs if possible.

## Map

The map is ISOM17, 5m contours, updated in January 2023 for vegetation from the original 2015 map by Jon Musgrave of Deeside Orienteering and Leisure Maps (DOLM). Scales are 1:10,000 for courses 01 & 02 and 1:7,500 for courses 03 to 06. Control descriptions will be printed on the front of the map and loose descriptions will be provided at the start. Blank maps in start lane. There will be event official contact numbers printed on the map, should assistance be required.

Maps are printed on waterproof paper. Previous versions of the Balmoral map can be viewed on SOA Routegadget at: <https://www.soa.routegadget.co.uk/rg2/#71> (19th May 2018).

Blank copies of the competition map will be displayed at the Event Centre.

## Courses

Classes conform to 2023 SOA Night Champs Rules.

Course	km	m	controls	classes	classes	scale
01	7.5	350	22	M20	MO	1:10,000
02	5.1	245	15	MV(40+)	W20 WO	1:10,000
03	4.5	180	14	M18 MSV(55+)	WV(40+)	1:7,500
04	3.2	165	10	M16 MUV(65+)	W18 WSV(55+)	1:7,500
05	2.3	120	9	MHV(75+)	W16 WUV(65+) WHV(75+)	1:7,500
06	2.0	120	7	Novice	Novice	1:7,500

Courses 01 to 05 are Technical Difficulty 5 (TD5). Course 06 is TD2, equivalent to a Yellow Course and is all on paths. All competitors must be capable of navigating at night to the technical standards of their course.

SIAC Timing will be used. Start and Finish units must be punched.

Reflectors on stakes with an SI Unit will be used (see right) to mark control locations. Standard red/white kites will only be present (in addition to a reflector) at the start triangle and finish. An example control will be on display outside the Event Centre.

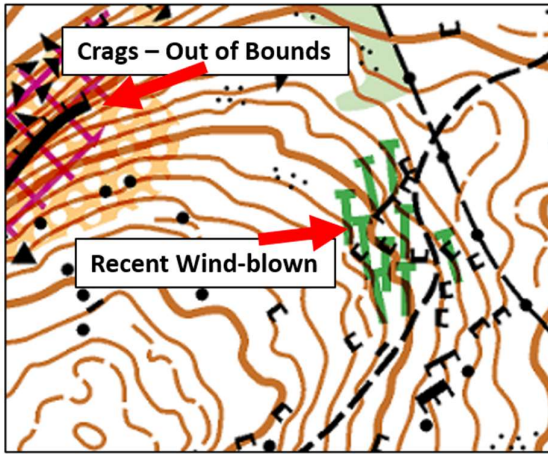


There will be pin punches at each control. If your SIAC unit fails to register in contactless mode, you should revert to 'dibbing'. Only switch to using the backup pin punch, in the reserve boxes printed on your map, if you think the control unit has failed

## Terrain

Conditions underfoot vary but are generally runnable. You will encounter some light brushings, some rocky areas and some heather. Please take particular care when crossing any areas of moss-covered boulders as these can be slippery.

### Balmoral map extract



There is an abundance of rock and contour detail. A red crossed-hatch 'out of bounds' symbol has been used to highlight significant craggy areas that must be avoided.

Several areas of recent wind-blown trees are mapped with a green elongated 'T' symbol. The density and direction of these is a good indicator of time and effort required to cross the ground. The windblown symbol should be used to gauge runnability and not for detailed navigation.

At this time of year marshes in large depressions have standing water and appear to be lochans.

The safety bearing is Northeast.

## Timing

SI Electronic timing will be used. SIAC timing will be enabled. Start and Finish units must both be punched.

## Registration

All entrants must have pre-registered beforehand and there will be no entry on the night. Hire SI cards can be collected from the Event Centre.

## Starts

Start times are now available at [https://www.sientries.co.uk/list.php?event\\_id=11109](https://www.sientries.co.uk/list.php?event_id=11109). The start window is from 6.50 – 7.40 pm.

Call-up will be at -4 minutes.

## Start and Finish

The start will be signed following reflective canes from the Event Centre and is 800m along a track and should take approx. 10 minutes. There will be a kit check half way for whistles, spare torches and if required, cagoules.

The start area is close to some residential properties so please respect their privacy and keep noise to a minimum. There is a small area available for warm-up but please observe the out-of-bounds signs.

After punching at the Finish, follow the reflective canes for 500m from Finish to Download which is in the Event Centre. Please leave muddy/spiked shoes outside the Hall.

IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT ALL COMPETITORS DOWNLOAD, WHETHER THEY COMPLETED THEIR COURSE OR NOT.

### **Results**

We hope to have Live results available on the night. The web link for results is: <https://www.marocscotland.org.uk/latest-results>. Courses will close at 9.30pm, from when controls will be brought in. We aim to present trophies as soon as possible after 9.00pm. This will also be in the Event Centre.

### **First Aid**

Active First Aid Scotland will be located at the Finish, otherwise contact the information desk in Event Centre or call either mobile number printed on map.

### **Precautions**

You should not attend if you are showing any symptoms of Covid 19. The event will be managed to take account of Scottish Government & SOA guidelines.

### **Officials**

Planner:	Nick Hale (MAROC)
Controller:	Ian Hamilton (GRAMP)
Organisers:	Caz Dudley/Pat Graham (MAROC)
Entries/Results:	Keith Roberts (MAROC)

### **Acknowledgements**

Many thanks to the Balmoral Estate and estate staff for allowing us to hold this event and being so helpful in the run up to the event. The Castle and grounds will be reopening to the public in April for the 2023 season.

We are also very grateful to Royal Lochnagar Distillery for generously allowing us to use their car park. The Distillery is open from 10 am to 4pm and is well worth a visit. They have a lovely warm coffee shop (last orders 3.30pm).

Why not combine a whisky tour with your visit to Royal Deeside? Online bookings can be made via: [Royal Lochnagar Distillery | Distillery Tours | Malts.com](#)

Kenny Michie of Savills has been extremely helpful co-ordinating timber movements over the weekend and we very much appreciate his assistance. We would remind everyone that the timber stacks are very dangerous and are out of bounds.