

## Report from Matlock Community O Club Night

Judith and Viv attended the meeting of DVO Club Night representatives at the British Orienteering offices on Thursday 8th December. We felt the meeting was useful in making links between the three clubs in the north. Also Natalie Shaw offered to work on promoting the clubs.

We continue to work with the Derbyshire Dales Sports Development Officer on projects to promote orienteering in the Matlock area. While this has not yet led to getting new club night members we hope that we will benefit by raising the profile of orienteering in the area. Two activities we are involved in are;

- Developing permanent orienteering courses for Parks in Matlock, Bakewell and Buxton
- Supporting a teaching orienteering Part 1 course for members of the Matlock Disability Sports group

Through this contact we have also been invited to go to the Primary Schools Regional Cross Country heats at Hope Valley and Cromford and the final in Ashbourne to advertise our club nights and events. We hope to be able to set up a maze activity as a more positive way of advertising orienteering than just handing out leaflets.

The club moved to the ARC leisure centre after the October half term. This has some benefits in being a sporting venue. We have had six new people attend the club since moving there – we need to check with them whether advertising the sessions before Christmas as ‘Night orienteering’ encouraged them to come along. The three who came along to the Allestree event appreciated looking at old Allestree maps at the club night on the previous Wednesday. Numbers continue to vary from night to night. John Cooke is in the process of drawing a sprint specification map of the ARC grounds, Dimple and Megdale estate.

The ARC have invited us put on a half day orienteering session during February half term which we consider could be a good recruiting activity.

We are in the process of planning other recruiting activities to try to attract new families to come along to the club after Easter when nights are light again.

Judith Holt