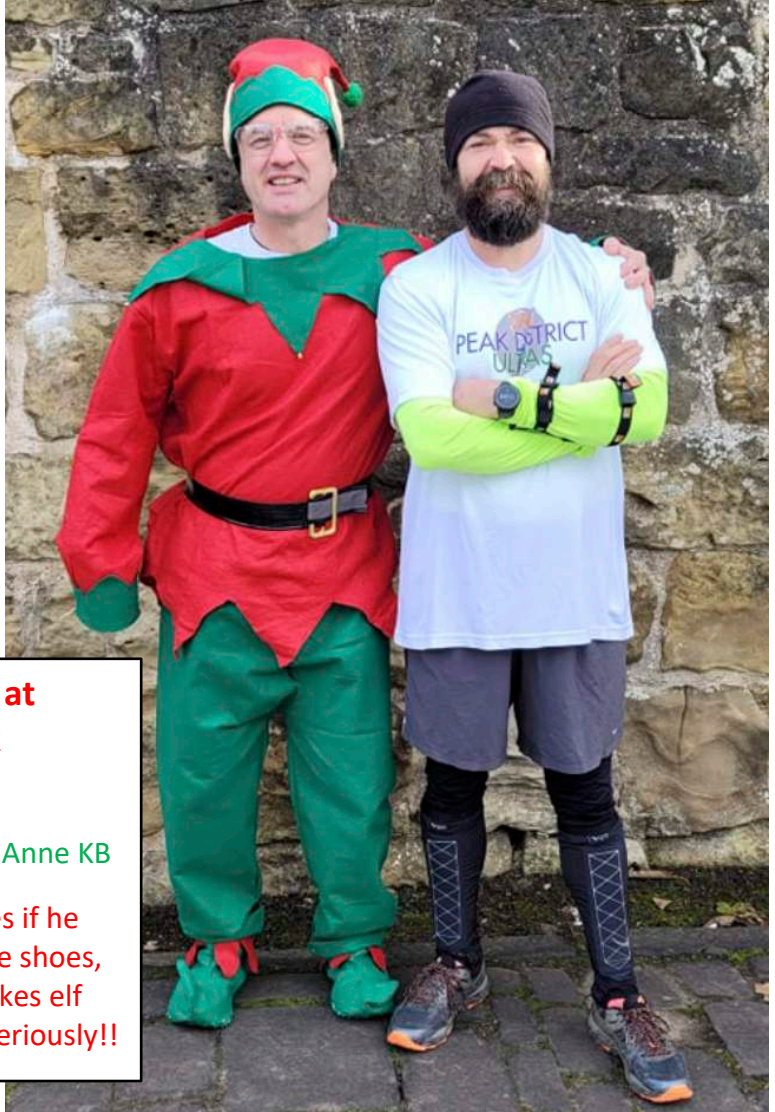




# December 2021 Newstrack



**James & Andy at  
Hardwick Park  
28/11/21**

**Photo:** thanks to Anne KB

Anne asked James if he could run in those shoes, and he said he takes elf and safety very seriously!!

*The magazine of Derwent Valley Orienteers*

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## New Members

Welcome to our new members: Stephen Bennet M65, Richard Spencer M50, Ruth George W50 plus Matty and Danny. Plus Marcus Scotney M45, and another Richard Parkin M55 – always in the age class one up from our mapper/planner Richard Parkin! See you at an event soon!

## Editorial

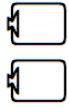
Thanks for all the varied contributions in this issue. Enjoy your Christmas break and see you to play out again in 2022!

I hope to have the next Newstrack for collection at Chatsworth 29 Jan, so will set a copy date for the 22nd. I wonder what storm letter we'll be on by then ...

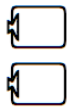
Sal : )

## Dec 2021 What's inside?

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## Club Captain's Corner



### CompassSport Cup Final 2021

There were Covid related difficulties in finding a venue for this year's CompassSport Cup final and SYO stepped in to host the event at Tankersley Woods on Sunday October 17<sup>th</sup>. We were fortunate that it was so close and the club was well represented with 55 people competing. A really big thank you to everyone who ran for the club. Well done to all the scoring runners. Everyone contributed to the overall result and helped to lower the scores of other clubs. I know that there were lots of people fitting it into busy weekends, so thank you all.

We managed to scare away the rain by putting up 3 club tents and I thought that there was a great atmosphere after the long months of restricted social contact.

The team results were:

1. SYO 2397
2. FVO 2365
3. WCOC 2245
4. OD 2183
5. Aire 2179
6. SLOW 2100
7. DVO 2049
8. LEI 1549
9. BOK 1460
10. ESOC 825



Everyone played their part and the counting runners for our team were as follows:

**Short Brown:** Dave Bennett 74, Darren Cook 73, Andy Parry 72, Tom Hartland 69.

**Blue Men:** Richard Parkin 94, Dave Chaffey 69

**Blue Women:** Emily Gay 80, Emma Vincent 73 and Nicky Hart 72

**Green Women:** Rachel Duckworth 100, Sally Calland 92, Anne Marie Duckworth 77, Amanda Price 60

**Green Men:** Dave Vincent 92, Paul Addison 89 Steve Kimberley 87, Graham Johnson 84

**Veteran Short Green:** Mike Godfree 92, Andrew Middleton 91, Doug Dickinson 83, John Hopper 80

**Super Veteran Short Green:** Liz Godfree 98, Christine Middleton 88, Anne Armistead 86, Jen Gale 82

The results show that we had many excellent runs. Well done to Rachel Duckworth for scoring 100 points and winning the Golden Boot trophy (photo, page 3)!

Welcome to our new club members who counted for the team: Emily Gay and Darren Cook.

## **CompassSport Cup Heat 2022 – save the date!**

The draw for next year's CSCup Heat will take place on 31 December, so we won't know for certain until after that date where we will be competing. However it's likely that it will either be at Mildenhall North, Mildenhall or Postenplain, Bewdley on **Sunday 13 February. Please put in the date in your diaries!** It will be further to travel but I hope that we will nevertheless be able to field a good team. Once the venue is confirmed I will assess how much interest there would be in a coach.

Looking really far ahead, it's also worth noting that **the Final will take place 16 October in Devilla and Tullianan near Edinburgh.**

[At the 13 Feb CSC Heat, an updated group photo is in order, as the Canklow team photo will, by then, be 4 years old – get your kit ready!! Ed.]

## **Other Events**

**British Middle Champs** 6 March, Rushmere Country Park, Leighton Buzzard  
**East Midlands Champs** 20 March, Stanton Moor

**British Long Champs** 26 March, Golden Valley & Cognor Woods

**British Relay Champs** 27 March Iron Hill & Parkgate Rough,  
both nr Guildford (postponed from 2019)

**JK South Wales** 15–18 April

**World Masters**, Puglia, Italy 8–16 July

*At least 7 DVO members attending, see Mike Godfree for details*

**Lakeland 5 days** 7–12 August



I will be in touch with details of the CompassSport Cup in early January. In the meantime enjoy orienteering in December and throughout the Festive Season!

**Christine Middleton, DVO Club Captain**

## Meeting dates

**Tues 18 January 7:30pm Open Meeting**, at the Family Tree, Whatstandwell. Come and meet clubmates! Bar available, free tea and coffee, free parking opposite.

## Ceilidh – save the (new) date!

Ceilidh and Annual Awards evening: This was originally arranged for Saturday 12 February but we have heard that our CompassSport Cup heat will be on Sunday 13 February – at some distance away. We have therefore decided to change the date of the ceilidh to **Saturday 5 February, still at the Town Hall, Wirksworth from 6pm to 9.30pm**, with the Rum Ram Ruff ceilidh band. Please save the date and more details will follow in the New Year.

**Viv Macdonald** ([viv.macdonald@btinternet.com](mailto:viv.macdonald@btinternet.com))

## Sports Personality of the Month

Francesco was so keen to run at the LEI Conkers event (why?) that he paid to enter twice, same course, very similar start times. A lesson to all of us that Fabian doesn't warn you if you try to enter an event that you have already entered.

At Foremark, Chris Millard won the Sprint Score by some 3 minutes, even though he was in his jeans and smart coat, having arrived en famille to do the Short course with Jess, Ben and Baby Edward.

## Ear for gossip? Eye for a story? ...

### Could you be the next Newstrack Editor?

Fun role to suit someone who would enjoy contacting club members for articles and announcements. Our intrepid travellers are usually happy to send in accounts of their O 'holidays' overseas, and there are other regular contributors.

- Currently comes out 5x a year (3 in spring, 2 in autumn)
- Flexibility in scheduling issues
- Each issue takes about 25 hours to put together
- Printing currently done by Morleys at Ilkeston
- PDF version distributed by the DVO Secretary and available on the DVO website

Contact Sal if interested or for further information.

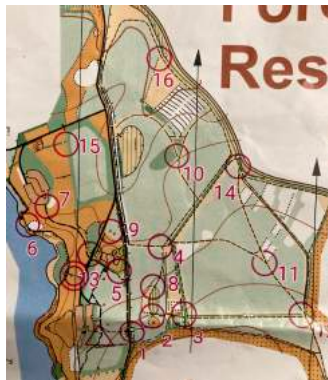
**Sal Chaffey** 07740 181590

## Sally Calland's first try at Planning

Volunteers are always hard to come by and after last helping 'properly' (organised JK 2018 Day 1) a while ago, I thought it was my turn to have a go at planning.

I remember doing a little planning training years ago on an Army course, so I knew it was going to be a challenge. Foremark was available and so I agreed to have a go.

First lesson learnt; never volunteer to plan an event until you have looked at the map! When I did see the map I thought 'how on earth can I plan courses on that!'. Anyway, I headed to Foremark to have a look and see what was possible. Thankfully the area is not as bad as I first thought!



*The Editor adds:* the long thorny hedges on the map made for interesting route choices on the Fun Sprint Score. Sally's Score format was in fact Spanish Score, when there's no time limit.

### Super Sprint for fun (16 controls, all controls in any order and no time limit)

1	Chris Millard		16	18:04	101, 103, 105, 111, 107, 127, 130, 132, 126, 136, 135, 110, 109, 113, 108, 131
2	James Prince	DVO M50	16	21:07	101, 103, 111, 105, 130, 127, 107, 126, 132, 136, 135, 110, 109, 113, 108, 131
3	Gary Kelsall	DVO M50	16	21:14	101, 103, 105, 111, 107, 130, 127, 132, 126, 136, 135, 110, 109, 113, 108, 131
4	Sal Chaffey	DVO W55	16	26:56	108, 101, 103, 105, 130, 127, 132, 126, 136, 135, 110, 109, 113, 107, 111, 131
5	Rob Williams	M40	16	27:50	101, 103, 105, 111, 107, 127, 130, 132, 126, 136, 135, 110, 109, 113, 108, 131
6	Emily Williams	W40	16	32:35	101, 103, 105, 130, 127, 132, 126, 136, 135, 110, 109, 113, 107, 111, 108, 131
7	Jessica Williams	W14	15	45:16	101, 103, 105, 107, 127, 132, 126, 136, 110, 109, 108, 113, 111, 135, 131
8	Benjamin Williams	M16	14	54:00	131, 110, 109, 135, 113, 107, 103, 111, 105, 132, 126, 136, 127, 130

## Updated Event Officials Help

I've just updated this page on our site to tidy it up and add new resources based on recommendations from our Committee. So **if you're volunteering as a planner or organiser** for an event, do take a look, or recommend to others:

<https://derwentvalleyorienteers.org.uk/members/officials-help-page/>

It's also got some links to the latest on mapping and control descriptions that are useful as a competitor if you're not familiar with them."

For extra security and better usability from a smartphone, Dave Chaffey and John Cooke are redesigning the Club website over the winter. We'll be asking for feedback in due course.

**Dave Chaffey**

## A year at St Elphin's Park

After last year's AGM In October 2020, I congratulated Rachel on her presentation and remarked that we'd love to get back to orienteering.

Ann-Marie came up with the idea of us practicing using our "orienteering eyes" when walking round the grounds at St. Elphin's and perhaps producing an O-map of the area. She sent us a base map, we then used a combination of site maps we had acquired when we moved here, some drone footage which Martin had taken, and observations on our walks.

Audley announced that they would be building 4 new properties in January, so the south-west corner of the site became a no-go area.

We had a fair amount of surveying experience from our days in Mole Valley and have also helped to update some DVO maps.

Our map drawing experience, though, belongs in the last century! When Brian retired in 1990, he bought himself a set of map drawing pens of different widths, a sighting compass, and used 5 sheets of tracing paper to draw up the different colour base maps, which were then combined and sent to "Smallprint" in Staines, I believe. Ocad and Purple pen are complete mysteries to us!

Ann-Marie was keen to try her hand at Ocad, and after much correspondence between us, we believed we had a viable map. The next move was to see if the management here would allow us to hold an event. Fiona, our general manager was enthusiastic about the idea. The rest is now history!

It was very satisfying for us to see the area being used on such a lovely day and we've had positive comments from staff and owners here.



**Brian & Pauline Ward**

## Hawkshead M/W16 Weekend: 19–21 November

Every year JROS (Junior O Squads) put on a training weekend dedicated to the M/W 16 age group. The 2020 edition was cancelled due to Covid so the 65 juniors that attended this year were excited to experience the weekend for the first time. The aims of the weekend are twofold: firstly to train on technically difficult terrain and secondly, to provide an opportunity for the juniors to socialise. A number of Covid restrictions were in place to make the environment safe and so some of the usual events needed tweaking somewhat. After a late arrival in Hawkshead on Friday evening there was an opportunity to socialise a little before bedtime.

The terrain on Saturday was Summerhouse Knott in the morning and Tarn Hows in the afternoon. The weather was typical for the Lakes in November so everyone wrapped up well. I did two exercises on Summerhouse Knott and this was a real challenge to navigate well. The area is very difficult normally, but to makes things harder, tracks, paths and walls were all taken off the map. See the extract below. This was hard and I took my time aiming to navigate it without errors. I nearly succeeded. In the afternoon we headed to Tarn Hows and did a couple of short exercises on the mainly open moorland of Tom Heights. It was physically tough going and the majority of the juniors were tired or taking it easy for the night event later.





The highlight of the weekend for all the juniors was the night event around Hawkshead YHA. This started at 5pm and was done in a similar way to a cycling time trial. A course of 1.5km with 29 controls was planned. With about 85 competitors running all over the place on heavily gaffed courses in the dark it was like organised chaos. It was great fun, but like about two-thirds of the juniors, in the confusion and darkness I managed to MP a control. The event was filmed by my dad and can be seen on the YouTube video link below:

<https://youtu.be/fRyXc28y6gg>

Much of the evening was spent socialising before turning in late. On Sunday many of the athletes headed to the Lakeland OC event at Great Tower. It was a beautiful winter's day and the terrain was much more runnable than on Saturday. I ran the Blue course but made many mistakes in the technical terrain. It was a fun weekend and I want to thank all the coaches and in particular Jon Marsden and his team that organised all the training, races and accommodation.

Jake O'Donnell

## British Champs weekend

## Rachel Duckworth

I'd had a busy previous month running on sand dunes, including Balmedie, Aberdeen (Senior Home Internationals); Redcar, Middlesbrough (Junior Inter Regionals) and finally Braunton Burrows (British Championships). I had lots of practise coming into this race weekend and was feeling confident in my sand dune stomping ability.

After a long drive the evening before and subsequently a good lie-in, Saturday afternoon had rolled around quickly, and it was race time.

We set off to Braunton with plenty of time as our campsite was along the coast and as we got about 1km from the parking field it all started to go wrong...

12.58 - A last minute flick through the final details before arriving is always a good idea and a quick check of the start time to write on your hand. Course 4, Green start... it was all matching up with the details in my head. Start time 13.18. Just as I remembered. NEWSFLASH - Rachel Duckworth can't read the time! I had previously read 13.18 as 3.18pm and therefore assumed I had hours till I ran - I didn't.

13.03 - I had now started to panic as the minutes before my British Championship ticked down. I frantically started to get ready in the back of the car as Dad was still pulling into the car park.

13.05 - I was out of the car, still pulling up my socks and getting my cagoule on as I was now legging it towards the start. I think they would call it a brisk warm up!

13.11 - I had made it to the start with 2 minutes to spare. Adrenaline was high and I

had just enough time for some dynamic stretches.

13.18 - Out into the area. Relax, concentrate and breathe.

I had a clean run with just 90 seconds lost on control 11/12, most of my error just stood on top of the wrong knoll or the wrong side of a hill. Also, with some smaller mistakes towards the end of the course as I became increasingly exhausted. My manic pre-start didn't affect my race and overall, it was a good afternoon out on the dunes.

After refuelling, I was back in my sleeping bag, trying to sleep off the sore legs.

The next morning was a middle race on the same map, without the crazy pre-start luckily, and I spent the morning darting around the humongous pits and gullies created by the MoD in the area. The horrendous weather made it a real battle against the terrain and the elements and therefore I found Sunday's race much trickier than Saturday's. The initial part of the course used a much vaguer end of the dunes that didn't have much to locate (or relocate!) off – snippet included.

Overall, I had a fabulous weekend on the Devon coast; 2 great races; super competition; one big silver cup and brilliant fish and chips from Ilfracombe!





**Rachel Duckworth  
W18 British Champion 2021**

\*\*\*

Very well done, Rachel! For those who – like the Chaffey's – were left flummoxed and disheartened by the spaghetti that was Braunton Burrows, the consolatory words of our daughter Zoë sounded wise beyond her years:

'But if it was easy, you wouldn't enjoy it so much.'

**Trophy handover at Hardwick**

Alice P with W10 East Midlands Champs Trophy from Chinley Churn in June. Alice shared the trophy with Grace Robinson from NOC. Photos thanks to Andrew P.



# MUTTERINGS FROM THE UNDERGROWTH

## FIELD NOTES OF AN O MAPPER

If you go down to the woods to today, you're in for a big surprise. I've seen a few things while out mapping, mostly bushy-tailed foxes, startled hares, badgers, muntjac deer, but also some less delightful surprises: looming gamekeepers, surly farmers, and questionable assignments (don't ask). Yet I suppose the most curious sight will have been the one I presented to others. Me. A man striding around in the undergrowth, muttering to himself.

I'm not really muttering though, not all the time. (It just looks that way.) I am making voice notes, recording what I see in terms of mapping symbols. Routine stuff, obvious stuff. And then I discover the old map was wrong and I denounce the old mapper. This could be seen as muttering, but secretly I enjoy it because it means the value of my contribution is increased, though I have to remind myself the old mapper didn't have the benefit of GPS or a LIDAR-derived base map.

What really makes me mutter, however, apart from a bramble that won't let go, is the decision-making. The borderline cases, the pits that are too close together, the extra thickets, the paths that come and go: you have to make decisions on all of them and I do it out loud.

An orienteering map describes the land for the purposes of orienteering. (Duh!) It articulates this description by means of a set of symbols (the 'specifications') at a given scale. The map must be intelligible to the orienteer *while on the run* and the specifications are intended, partly, to ensure this intelligibility. As a consequence, you cannot represent everything that presents itself to you on the ground. You have to generalize, exaggerate, offset, and ... omit. You have to make decisions and I make a meal of some of those. I really chew on them.

So I thought I'd share some of these mutterings with my clubmates, while at the same time introducing some of the new (and old) specifications, because if I have to wrestle with them, why shouldn't you?!

### **#1 — WHAT A RIDE!**

Roads, paths, forest tracks: we all know what these are—they are self-explanatory—but what on God's muddy green earth is a 'ride'?

Having been brought up in orienteering, I simply associated the word with the

symbol on the map and what I found out in the forest. I had no concept of them beyond orienteering. There were narrow rides and wide rides. I saw that the narrow ones could simply be extraction lanes, lines of trees felled and removed; the wide rides could be grassy breaks between plantations, often overgrown, sometimes grassy and runnable.





Rides, I came to realise, are elements of forest management. They are created to aid access for forestry vehicles, principally for purposes of extraction. Wider rides often serve as fire breaks. (This includes on moorland and heath.) Both can promote wildlife and plant diversity, I believe.

As an orienteer, I quickly learned that narrow rides might not provide faster passage through the terrain than the surrounding woodland. Indeed, sometimes they could be slower. This was counter-intuitive: a ride appears alongside paths and tracks in the legend of an orienteering map, it ought to denote something that would aid your progress to the control.

Changes in the new mapping specifications, ISOM2017, address this issue. First, the 'wide ride' symbol has been discontinued. A break in the forest of similar or greater length will be constructed using rough open or open (grassland) and a distinct vegetation boundary, if required. Secondly, there are now options available to indicate the relative runnability of a narrow ride. These are as follows:

## 508 Narrow ride or linear trace through the terrain

A forest ride or a prominent trace (forestry extraction track, sandy track, ski track) through the terrain which does not have a distinct runnable path along it. Runnability is shown using a slightly thicker line of yellow, green or white as background. Without outline: the same runnability as the surroundings.

	Yellow 100%: easy running.
	White in green: normal runnability.
	Green 30%: slow running.
	Green 60%: walk.

The difference in runnability will likely have to be significant. Where the ride

offers only marginally improved runnability, not enough to justify a detour, it will be the same as the surrounding terrain.

It's worth bearing in mind that these distinctions may not have been widely adopted or applied yet. All maps for level C events and above should have been transposed to the new specifications, but the runnability of a ride is extra information that would require a site visit to be determined.

**RICHARD PARKIN**

## Club Networking!

### Derwent Valley Orienteers Strava group

<https://www.strava.com/clubs/688507>

See how much your clubmates are training (or not)! Currently there are just 15 members, but I bet that many more of you are on Strava!

Richard Gale is group Admin.

- Weekly Leaderboard
- Members can create 'Club posts'



### DVO Facebook Group

Current, past & potential members.

Joining of the Group needs to be approved by an Admin.

Any members of the Group can create a post or comment.

Event discussion, gear, lift sharing etc <https://www.facebook.com/groups/2489600731>

### Derwent Valley Orienteers Facebook page

The club's 'shop window' <https://www.facebook.com/DerwentValleyOrienteers>

Event pages are found here.

Only an Admin can post or set up an Event page.

Followers (people who have Liked the page) can comment, or create 'Visitor posts' e.g. publicity for a neighbouring club's race, that an Admin can choose to Share.



### Email discussion group (for joining details, see eNewstrack, last page)

A Google Group Email list has replaced our Yahoo group for updates and discussing club activities. Subscribe here: <https://groups.google.com/g/dvo-members/about>.

## Planners' and Controllers' Courses

It was good to see DVO well-represented on these recent EMOA courses: Kim Buxton and Dave Turner on the Planners' Course run by Mike Gardner; and Sal and Dave Chaffey, Jane Kayley-Burgess and Chris Millard on the Grade C Controllers' Course run by me. Hopefully, they will soon be able to widen their experiences by taking on responsibility at future events. Both courses had nine participants from across the East Midlands.

Everyone agreed it was useful meeting people from other clubs and EMOA will be running an Event Officials Development Conference, probably to include experienced mappers, in the New Year.

We always have a need for new event officials and Jane Kayley-Burgess (Organisers and Planners) and I (Controllers) are always pleased to talk through the roles and perhaps give people opportunity to dip their toes in the water without having full responsibility. Rotating around team roles also gives you the opportunity to see more fully how an event works. **Do ask if you would like to change your team and/or role.**

### Hanging Control Kites

It has recently been pointed out that many Planners are hanging the kites incorrectly. If the string is placed on the base plate, underneath the SI unit, it can place undue pressure on the plate and cause it to fracture or break.

Picture 1 shows the wrong way to hang the kite and Picture 2 the correct way. The kite should be hung from the hook, which we no longer use for the control code as these are now at the correct size on the SI units themselves.



Wrong!



Correct!

## **British Orienteering Rules and Appendices**

There has been some discussion recently about the status of the Appendices and whether they are merely guidelines. This was changed with the new version of the Rules in (I think) 2014, since when the Appendices became part of the Rules and NOT Guidelines. When I queried it recently with Chris Phillips, Chair of Events and Competitions Committee, he said “The Appendices to the Rules have exactly the same status as the Rules themselves and should be applied with the same rigour as the main body of the Rules.” This means that they ‘should’ be followed unless there is a good reason not to and not on the whim of a Planner, Controller or Organiser.

A good example of where the Appendices are being interpreted incorrectly is in relation to the route from the last control to the Finish. PurplePen defaults to ‘navigate to Finish’, whereas the Rules say:

### **5 The finish**

*5.1.1 The precise location of the finishing line must be clear to all competitors approaching it.*

*5.1.2 It is important to ensure that the finish is easily located. **A common last control with taped route to the finish will ensure this.** (my emphasis). This will also ensure that competitors all approach the finish from the same direction and improve the flow of competitors through the finish system.*

*5.1.3 As a minimum the finish should consist of a punch unit and control flag, preferably with a prominent finish banner. There should be no possibility of a competitor being unable to find the finish. Sufficient punching units should be used to cope with the likely frequency at which competitors will finish.*

*5.1.4 The finish should be manned as it may often be the first place where a competitor can report that an injured competitor needs urgent assistance or a problem with the course.*

(Rules of Orienteering, Appendix B: Course Planning)

This means that when setting up an event in PurplePen the instruction should be changed to ‘follow tapes to Finish’ and, of course, the tapes need to be put out!

A further common error is not to put the ‘course closing time’ as the final line on the control description – at least in other clubs, as Mike Godfree will pick



it up in DVO before sending the maps for printing if you forget it! Similarly, Appendix E on Event Safety says that the control description sheet must remind people of their obligation to report back to the finish once they have started a course.

**Ranald Macdonald**  
EMOA Development Co-ordinator and Grade A Controller

## Planners' & Controllers' course practical at Hardwick

You may have been wondering why groups of orienteers in duvet jackets were wandering around Hardwick after the main event, scratching their heads and scribbling. In early November, four club members including Dave and myself attended the EMOA Controllers course, with a view to eventually becoming licensed Level C Controllers. Ranald had given us some light pre-course reading (Rules of Orienteering, IOF Mapping Specifications) and questions, so the on-the-night component was more of a discussion and only lasted a couple of hours.

A parallel course for Planners had been delivered by Mike Gardner, so at Hardwick the would-be controllers were paired with the would-be planners to do the practical. This took the form of a scenario ...

“A planner had been called away for an emergency on event weekend, and the controls were put out by a non-planner.”

... list the errors with the set-up at the Start, 12 controls, and the Finish. So groups of us ambled round the pretend course, noting down the errors.

Controlling sounds quite onerous, and I was anxious about whether I would have the time or the attention to detail that is required. My fears were dismissed, because:

- (a) experience is built up very gradually
- (b) I can't memorise everything, but I know where to look it up
- (c) there are always other controllers happy to discuss things if you're stuck!

The camaraderie of orienteering became immediately apparent at the practical, when my Biro froze, and a NOC member gave me a freebie hotel pencil instead.



**Left:** Playing Orienteering Cluedo with learners from NOC:

“It's the correct site, the wrong code, and the wrong side of the feature.”

**Sal Chaffey**

# WSC

When Sunday Comes

(Except when it's Saturday or Wednesday)

RDO – Real Derbyshire Orienteers. Fanzine No 41

Magazine of the Year\*

## Shock as orienteer wins BBC Sports Personality of the Year

41 billion to 1 outsider Derek Stumbles says "I guess it was just my lucky day" (page 9)

Second place in club handicap championships probably clinched it (p99)

Dominion Voting Systems machines used for first time at SPOTY (p19)

Other news: Emma Radacanu sues Dominion Voting Systems

\*as determined by Dominion Voting Systems

### Uncork the champagne

Celebrations at the Big Orienteering Organisation (BOO) this week with the heartening news that another M21 has been successfully tracked down by a crack team of expert experts hired by RumpassSport as part of its "Where have all the M21s gone?" series. "We are definitely on a roll now" quoth a jubilant anonymous BOO spokesperson, Eric Slowly. "That makes it three this year alone. Young days are coming back to the sport." When challenged over the fact that the M21 in question was almost an M35, was not actually doing any orienteering at the moment and was at best entertaining a possible resumption at some unspecified time in the future, Mr Slowly (for it is he) dismissed this as "details, details, details" and said that "you lot are always trying to find the worst angle on what is great news for the sport. We'll prove you all wrong, just you see. Word on the street is we might find a fourth by the end of the year. Then you can eat your words." Mr Slowly is 93.

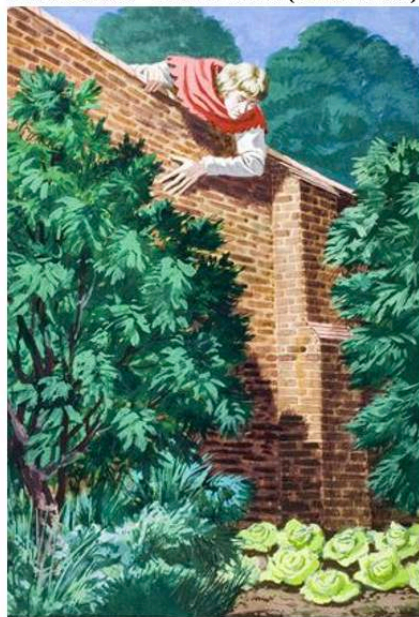
WSC as always, has the perfect solution to this problem of missing M21s in the sport. It proposes that getting a load more W21s taking part will do the trick. That'll have the M21s rushing in like dogs to a juicy bone. Plans to do this are in progress and are understood to involve chocolate, shopping and daytime soaps. But mainly chocolate. *(This piece may require some metaphor reassessment and the author's participation in a gender awareness re-education programme – WSC lawyers)*

### And segue into this

News that the latest variant of the pesky Covid virus has been named Omicron has sent ripples of almost uncontrollable excitement through the orienteering 'Oware' fringe community, those ardent followers of the comments and conspiracy theories posted online over recent months by the mysterious Professor Omicron. Nobody knows who Professor Omicron is but there have been many theories as to his identity ranging from BOO's very own Van Drawback, Mr Stupendous of NoshO and the late Dale Winton (who apparently communicates to a chosen few via the medium of messages hidden in pizza

toppings). At the heart of the crazy ramblings is the theory that BOO are operating a clandestine operation based at the 4 seasons Pizza Restaurant

### The Orienteer – How It works (continued....)



Urban orienteering has strict rules about what can and cannot be crossed, as indicated by special map symbols.

However, some runners sometimes try to take cheeky short cuts.

Tom thinks he'll get away with this illicit wall hop but he is wrong. His every move is being captured by lettuce cam.

Oh and Tom, don't put your O tops in on the hot wash again.

In Matlock. Apart from the odd spot of cannibalism (pretty much par for the course for conspiracy theories) the real juicy stuff is that the premises has a large secret basement, and it is in there that hundreds of missing M21s are being held against their will. Apparently (and this stuff has to be crazy or no-one would believe it) they are reprogrammed and released when they reach M35. This has been going on since the early 1990s. The fact that nobody has ever communicated with one of the releasees to corroborate this stuff is just “details, details, details”. And the naming of the latest Covid variant is seen a sign that this is all true. We asked an expert expert from a top-secret research establishment on a hillside near Belper (Gateway to the North) for his opinion.

“I’m jolly glad you asked me. Where have you guys been? Nobody has asked me anything for months. Anyway, all this stuff is just nuts. Anyone who believes it would have to be bonkers. Round the bend. Barmy. Dippy. Psycho. Mad as a March hare. A fruitcake. Unhinged. Out to lunch. Cuckoo. Potty. Wacky. Bananas. Mental. Crazier than a dog in a hubcap factory. Half a bubble off plumb. One fry short of a Happy Meal. Kook. A soup sandwich. Kangaroos loose in the top paddock. The wheels are still turning but the hamsters died. On the other hand, if you really look at it. I mean really, really look at it, it all makes perfect sense. It’s all perfectly credible. Words of reason and wisdom.

Do I make myself perfectly clear?”  
*(gradually disappears like one of those weird PowerPoint slide transitions one should never use in a serious presentation).*

Well that’s all cleared up then. Investigative journalism at its best.

*(I’ll be the judge of that. See me – Ed)*

### Letters Page

Dear WSC,  
I am very, very disappointed that your inexplicable obsession with orienteering has continued for yet another issue despite the whole raft of alternative topics that I suggested in my recent letter. Anyone would think that this was an orienteering magazine. Someone please, please have a word with the editor. Why not publish an article on famous people who have had ferrets as pets. Or some animal photographs, for example, ferrets. It’s unhealthy to be obsessed with one topic so you need to spread the net wider. Ferret fancying is on the up and up and it’s certainly what all

the M21s are turning to these days. Yours in anticipation of some good sense.  
W.J. Vole-Strangler (Mrs)

Dear WSC,  
I had muesli today for my breakfast. Never again. I almost drowned when I got pulled in by a strong currant. I thought your readers ought to be warned.

Regards,  
Arthur Crown  
*(Really, really don’t publish this – Ed)*

Dear WSC,  
I feel I must complain about the previous letter which is in extremely bad taste.

Regards  
Jason Twinge - Belper  
*(Someone get a grip – Ed)*

### Gripple corner with Bob McNut



Now here’s a great idea for that difficult-to-find Christmas present. How can you go wrong with a jar of 25 PM 601-MJs? These are the smokin’ muthus of the gripple world. Satisfaction guaranteed every time and ferret proof to boot. Cowabunga!

*(I said get a grip, not get a gripple – Ed)*

### RumpassSport Cup Final

Spot on. But don’t think travelling all the way to Scotland next year will impress us.

### Coastal erosion update

Derbyshire will be swept away into the sea in

**5 4 7 4 9 9 0 6** days. Give or take a fortnight. Anyone who has been distressed by this or any other issues raised in this this WSC, just get a grip for goodness sake. Or gripple.

## Event Officials Needed

If you would like to volunteer (yellow slot), please contact [janeburgess50@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:janeburgess50@yahoo.co.uk) Support can be given by someone experienced in the role. For updates to the table, see **Future Event Officials** under the **DVO Events** tab. Date for a Derby Parks Local event in spring to follow.

<i>Event</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Level</i>	<i>Organiser</i>	<i>Planner</i>	<i>Controller</i>
Melbourne Urban	2 Jan	Regional	Malc Spencer	Doug D	Mike Godfree
Chatsworth	29 Jan	Regional	Ann-Marie D	Chris Millard	Brian Shaw SYO
Stanton Moor	20 Mar	EMCs	Sal Chaffey	Richard P	Pete Gorvett SYO
Swadlincote Woods	7 May	Local	v	v	–
Black Rocks	15 May	Regional	Sue Allard	Jane KB	–
Belper Urban	31 July	Regional	Sal Chaffey	Dave Chaffey	John Hurley
Calke Park	25 Sept	Regional	v	Dave Vincent	Doug Dickinson
Linacre	11 Nov	Regional	Nicola Hart	Dave Turner	–

**British Schools Score Championships** – \*\*pls save date\*\*

**Closed schools event** followed by **Open Score with Starts 1:45–2pm**



Shipley Park 8 Oct National Kim Buxton Ann-Marie D Jeff Baker LOG

DVO last staged this in 2013 and it was a fantastic day! Help WILL be needed! Thanks!

**Planners please note** – the Club SI kit, stakes and kites are now stored in the Chaffeys' garage: [sal.chaffey@gmail.com](mailto:sal.chaffey@gmail.com) for details.

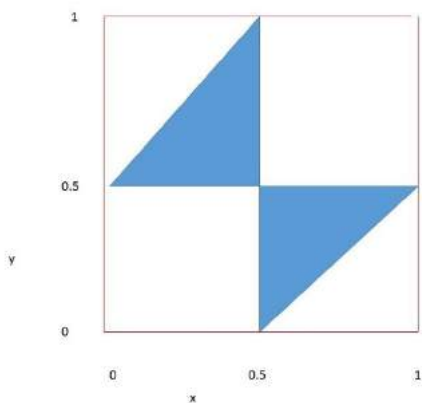
## Puzzle Page

Dave Nevell

Straight Sticks in the Forest asked how likely it was that a triangle can be formed from a straight stick broken randomly into three pieces. The correct answer is 25%, as long as the stick is broken in a genuinely random way, i.e., two points are simultaneously chosen along the length of the stick to define the three pieces. Some people pursued a biased way of breaking the stick in two stages which involved breaking it once and then randomly breaking one of the two resulting pieces. This generates a disproportionate number of shorter length sticks and leads into more complicated calculations with a final answer of somewhere near 19.5%.

The answer of 25% can be ascertained by brute force (i.e., simulating the breaking of thousands of sticks in a computer programme), rigorous mathematics (integration or something similar) or via a graphical method. For a wide variety of approaches I also received a wide variety of answers. Jen Gale initially pitched in with 75%, quickly withdrew and then threw in the towel.

Francesco Lari then offered 50% but with limited confidence. Jane Burgess hazarded 100% but with even less confidence, especially when presented with a simple counter-example. David Vincent went down the Monte Carlo route and was able to guess 25% fairly firmly. And Darren Cook, after a 50% multi-tasking guess (the other task was peeling potatoes) also reverted to Monte Carlo (he even sent me the code) and was able to confirm both the 25% and 19.5% answers using the two different definitions of random. John Hawkins produced a lot of maths and got the right answer. There was a slightly vague jump at one point when integration could have been stated but it all worked out well in the end. And finally John Hurley did the maths and pleasingly came up with a graphical solution. X and Y indicate where the stick was broken (on a 0 to 1 scale). The blue areas show where a triangle can be formed.



There is another elegant graphical solution utilising that fact that for any point chosen at random inside an equilateral triangle, the sum of its 3 perpendicular distances to each side is a constant. Setting that constant to the length of the stick, the feasible area for forming a triangle can be represented by the middle 25% of the triangle. All good stuff and varying number of points all round.



A couple of puzzles for Christmas and the last of the year.

### Gamblers Anonymous

Fred, Frank and Professor Omicron had some low value wagers on the outcome of the RumpassSport Cup Final. One of the three told me. "Firstly Fred won from Frank as much as Fred had originally. Next Frank won from the Prof as much as Frank then had left. Finally, the Prof won from Fred as much as the Prof then had left. We ended up having equal amounts of money. I began with 50p". Which of the three was speaking to me?

If that scrambles your brain too much, then try this (easier?) seasonal one.

### Christmas Candles

On Christmas Eve two candles, one of which was one inch shorter than the other, were lit. The longer one was lit at 1630 and the shorter one at 1800. At 2030 they were the same length. The longer one burned out at 2230 and the shorter one at 2200. How long was each candle originally?

Good luck with those and have a great Christmas. Solutions to [dnevell3@gmail.com](mailto:dnevell3@gmail.com) by the editor's copy date.

# Events List

Dates and entry platforms are subject to change, so please always check Events info from the DVO website – <http://derwentvalleyorienteers.org.uk/events/future-events/> and other clubs' websites: **NOC**, **LEI**, **SYO**, **LOG**. 🗳 = part of East Midlands League, EMUL = East Mids Urban League, **UKOL** = UK O League, L = Local, R = Regional, N = National.

**Dec** Sun 19 R 🗳 **Walesby**, near Edwinstowe, details <https://www.noc-uk.org/>

**January** \*\*\*STOP PRESS **MDOC** Lyme Park Charity event Jan 8<sup>th</sup>, see p 25\*\*\*

Thurs 2 EMUL **Melbourne Urban** Entries via DVO website

Sun 23 EMUL **Coalville Urban**. Enter via [leioc.org.uk](http://leioc.org.uk)

Sat 29 R 🗳 **Chatsworth Middle Distance** (entry platform TBA; >)

Sun 30 N **Sherwood Forest** (Midlands Championships).

## February

Sun 13 R **CompassSport Cup Heat**, venue TBA, see p. 4

Sun 20 R 🗳 **Martinshaw & Ratby Woodlands**, near Leicester

## March

Sat 5 UKOL **Salcey Forest**, near Northampton

Sun 6 UKOL **Rushmere** (British Middle Distance Championships)

Sun 20 N **Stanton Moor** (East Midlands Championships)

Sat 26 UKOL **Golden Valley & Cognor Wood** (British Championships)

Sun 27 Relay **Iron Hill & Parkgate Rough** (British Relay Champs)

## April

Sun 3 R **Burbage Common & Woods**

Fri 15 UKOL **JK Sprint, Swansea University**

Sat 16 UKOL **JK Middle, Clydach Terrace**

Sun 17 R **JK Long, Pwll Du** – PTO for all JK cut-off dates

Mon 18 UKOL **JK Relays, Caerwent**. Enter via DVO Club Captain

Sun 24 R **Belton & Loundthorpe Woods**, nr Grantham, LOG

## May

Sun 1 R 🗳 **Aylestone Meadows, Leicester**

Sun 8 R 🗳 **Bramcote Hills, Nottingham**

Sat 7 L **Swadlincote Woods**, speak to Rex Bleakman for details

Sun 15 R 🗳 **Black Rocks, near Cromford**

## June

Sat 11 R **British Sprint Relay Champs**, Leeds Beckett University

Sun 12 UKOL **British Sprint Championships**, Leeds University

Sat 18 N **Coventry Urban** Middle Distance, details OD

Sun 19 N **Birmingham Urban** Euro City Race Tour, details HOC



## Threshold dates for cheaper major event entries

JK 2022 entries, via Si Entries



Entries by	Day 1 Sprint	Days 2 & 3 (per day)
Sunday 16th January	18 (9)	23 (9)
Sunday 13th February	20 (10)	25 (10)
Sunday 13th March	22 (11)	27 (11)

British Champs entries, via Fabian4

Don't forget to enter using your 2022 age class.

	COMPETITION CLASSES			COLOUR CODED CLASSES	
	By 16 <sup>th</sup> January 2022	By 13 <sup>th</sup> February 2022	By 6 <sup>th</sup> March 2022	Pre-entry	EOD
Long Race	£24 / £10	£27 / £11	£30 / £12	£10 / £5	tbc

## Masterplan Adventure :: <http://www.masterplanadventure.uk/>

Masterplan Adventure is an orienteering club and event provider run by FVO and international Chris Smithard. Dave and I attended one of their **Lakeland Warrior** events earlier this month – a Middle race for elites but also open to club runners, on a composite/new area near Newby Bridge called Bessy Bank.

It was ingeniously simple, with a 5.2 and a 3.6km course on the same map – for the 3.6k option, you just ran from the Start straight to #8!



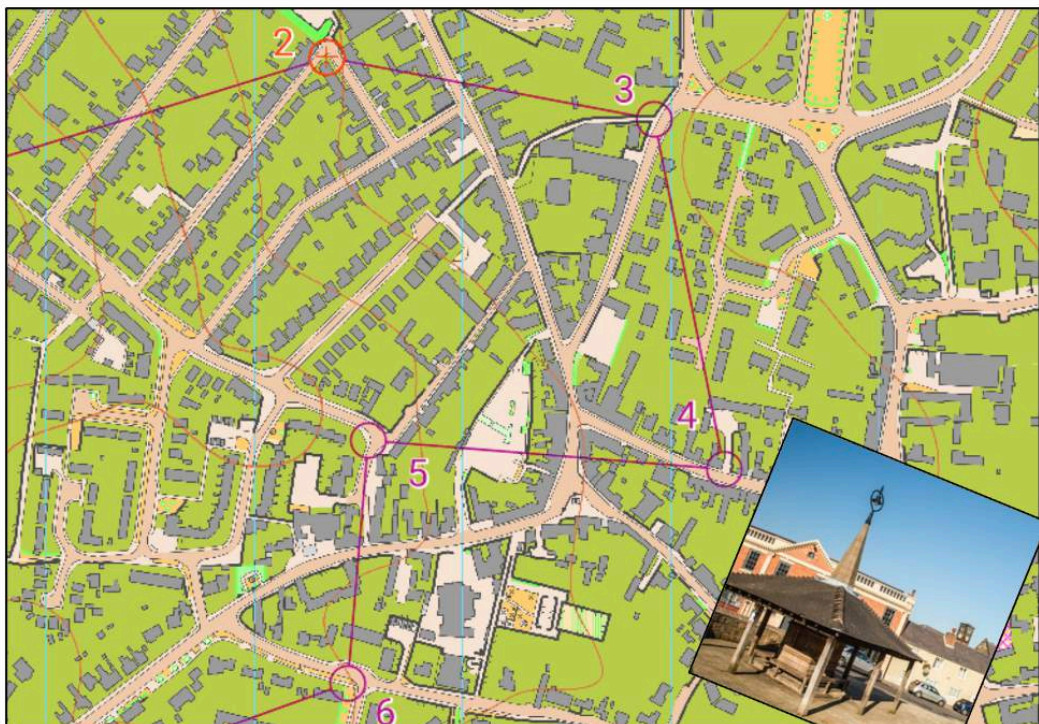
The Club run the Sprint Scotland weekend, other BO events and (in its 2<sup>nd</sup> year) the ...

## Coasts and Islands Orienteering Week – Kintyre & Arran

Monday 25 to Sunday 31 July, entry limit of 200

Adults £140, students/juniors £60 for the 6 events

“the perfect opportunity to experience orienteering in an area untouched by the sport – amazing to think it’s taken 50 years of orienteering in Scotland to make it here!”



# ***Navigate Melbourne!***

***New Year Urban :: enter via [dvo.org.uk](http://dvo.org.uk)***

**Jan 2<sup>nd</sup> 2022 starts from 10:30 until 12 noon**  
**Registration at Melbourne Sports Park**

- ▣ New map! ▣ Historic town ▣ East Midlands Urban League courses
- ▣ Course 6 (for 12s–16s) uses a low-traffic area ▣ British Orienteering members £8
- ▣ Under 20s £4 and under 16s may only enter Course 6
- ▣ Some entry on the day, £1 surcharge ▣ Café and bar open at Sports Park



Further details are available at <http://derwentvalleyorienteers.org.uk/>  
 or email [malcspencer25@gmail.com](mailto:malcspencer25@gmail.com) Parking £2 at Melbourne Sports Park.



# Saturday January 8th 2021

## John o' Goats charity event at Lyme

### Provisional Details

[www.mdoc.org.uk](http://www.mdoc.org.uk)

<b>Venue</b>	Lyme main car park, Disley, near Stockport SK12 2NX Entrance on A6 just west of Disley Village GR SJ 964 823
<b>Lyme park</b>	Entrance fee free to National Trust members, otherwise adults £8, children £4 for all individuals entering the park in a car.
<b>Entries</b>	Everyone should Pre-register using the MDOC Registration System <a href="https://mdocentry.org.uk">https://mdocentry.org.uk</a> . This will guarantee a map is available, EOD will be limited
<b>Registration</b>	10.00 – 10.45 in the car park. Please do not arrive before 10.00 as there is a Park Run.
<b>Entry Fee</b>	Free
<b>Mass Start Courses</b>	11.00 Less than 10 minutes' walk from the car park. John o' Goats' is the MDOC version of the annual American head-to-head Billy goat race. The original race had just one course where everyone missed out one control. Long, medium, short, and very short competitive courses available with age group handicapping. There will be an easy (yellow) course for families and novices.  SI punching. Dibbers may be borrowed. Courses close at 13.00
<b>Finish</b>	near the car park
<b>Prizegiving and raffle draw</b>	at 12.30. in the car park
<b>Charity</b>	<b>10 local scouts from Macclesfield and Poynton, including one MDOC member, have been chosen to represent the UK at the World Scout Jamboree in Korea in 2023. Donations will be going to Macclesfield District Scouts to support their participation.</b> Donations can be Gift Aided. Apart from paying the BOF levy, all donations will go to the charity as MDOC donates all costs of running the event.
<b>Raffle</b>	There will be a raffle with prizes donated by club members. Takings will be donated to the charity.
<b>Facilities</b>	Toilets and Cafe in the Timber Yard. 5 minutes from car park.
<b>Dogs</b>	Under close control in the park and on leads near livestock and vehicles.
<b>Officials</b>	Planner – Ben Kyd    Organisers – Rhys Beynon / Catriona Beynon (W14)
<b>Enquiries</b>	<a href="mailto:rbeynon@nhs.net">rbeynon@nhs.net</a>