



Winter sun for Francesco Lari & Team Cooper O at the Gran Canaria O Meeting

Above: Helen 2nd in W35+ was presented with a plaque and a bottle of olive oil

Right: Andy at the final control on last day, a forest Middle race





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Facebook page



Derwent Valley
Orienteers

Facebook Group



DVO Group



@DVOrienteers



Editorial

As well disease precautions, we're at last getting used to the fact that we may at the drop of a hat be taken out of circulation for 5 or 10 days, and planning accordingly. Orienteers enjoy stepping in and learning new skills. This is fortunate, as we'll need to be flexible and persistent to keep our sport flourishing.

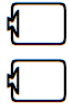
I hope to have the next Newstrack for collection at Swadlincote Woods on 7 May, so will set a copy date for the 27 April. Thanks in advance!

Wishing you all a great spring and success to those travelling to the big competitions!

Feb 2022

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Club Captain's Corner

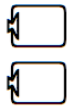
CompassSport Cup Heat 2022

I am looking forward to this year's heat of the CompassSport Cup which will be held on Sunday February 13th at Postensplain, Bewdley. At the time of writing we have 42 entries. Thank you for completing the Google forms which has made my job easier. It's great that so many of you are willing to make the 70 mile (approx) journey to support the club. It will be a competitive heat against Octavian Droobers and North Gloucester Orienteering Club, particularly as Octavian Droobers finished ahead of us at the final in October. We looked at the possibility of arranging a coach but only a small number of people were interested in this so it's not practical. However I hope that people will share transport as much as possible.

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

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

Other Events



It's great that the orienteering calendar looks like it always used to and I have been very busy entering events over the last few weeks. Some of the notable ones in the next few months are:

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
 (next cut-off for cheaper entries: 13 Feb)

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, cut-off for cheaper entries 31 January

We will be entering relay teams for both the JK and the British Championships, so please let me know if you are interested in being in a relay team.

Christine Middleton, DVO Club Captain

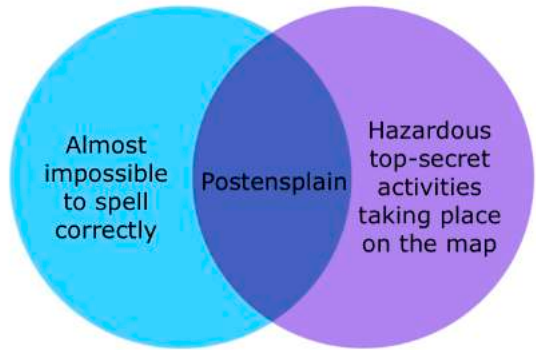


Meeting dates

Tues 8 February 7:30pm

Open Meeting, now on Zoom
(link emailed to all members
15/1/22 by dvo_sec).

After the business part, we'll
look at some legs on the
Postensplain map, and discuss
in breakout rooms.



Intrigued about the exotic-sounding name, Sal asked a HOC contact who consulted the HOC forum and found the following ...

We got the name from the OS Maps. On the older maps it appears to refer to the spur on the north side of the brook passing through, what is now, the Rocket Motor testing compound - or possibly the level area around the northern corner of the compound. Earthworks suggest this might have formerly been farmland or an enclosed parcel of woodland.*

[https://www.archiuk.com/cgi-bin/build_n ...
&postcode=](https://www.archiuk.com/cgi-bin/build_n...&postcode=) and <https://maps.nls.uk/view/121153559>

I am guessing is based on a family name - the Posten family having property in Hampshire before the Norman conquest. According to Ancestry.com there were/are concentrations in Warwickshire and Shropshire.

I've checked out [Ancestry.co.uk](https://www.ancestry.co.uk), <https://www.ancestry.co.uk/name-origin?surname=posten> and if you check the map on this page, you'll see that there was a concentration of Postens in Shropshire. So, Posten's Plain seems the likely origin ... and the Posten surname comes from Postern, or dweller by/keeper of the postern gate.

**[Rectangular OOB area on the map.] Strangely, while the main Birmingham library had copies of all the adjoining sheets the 6" sheet showing the compound was missing.*

Ceilidh – save the (new) date!

Save the date – a new date for the ceilidh – it will now be Saturday 1 October, still at the **Town Hall, Wirksworth from 6pm to 9.30pm**, with the Rum Ram Ruff ceilidh band.

Viv Macdonald (viv.macdonald@btinternet.com)

East Midlands Urban League 2021 prize-giving

The Urban League prize presentation took place at Melbourne Urban on 2 Jan, with Doug in the Men's HyperVets category the only DVO winner >>
Congratulations to Doug and runners-up:



Vets (40–54)	Andrew Selby (2)	Sally Calland (2), Claire Selby (4)
Super Vets (55–64)	Mike Gardner (5)	
Ultra Vets (65–74)		Ruth Ellis & Margaret Keeling (=3)
Hyper Vets (75+)		Jen Gale (3)

Full results here (4 counting events: Lincoln, Burbage, Shepshed, Boston):
<https://emoa.org.uk/league/EMUL%20League%20Table.php>



As an aside, Doug and Mike have made Melbourne Urban courses 3 & 6 available as a MapRun – see poster p. 29

EM Forest League 2020/21 prize-giving

Due to fewer events being run, it was decided to merge 2020 events with 2021 events and aggregate the points. **The Forest League presentation will take place at LEI's event at Martinshaw on Feb 20th at 10am.**

Congratulations to the following Club members who will receive a prize and/or runner-up certificate:

	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>
White	George Selby (1) George Powell (2)	
Yellow		Alice Powell (2) India Turner (3)
Orange	John Cooke (3)	Alice Woodward (1)
Short Green		Ruth Ellis (1 – Ruth's 'glory year!') Viv Macdonald (2) Jen Gale (3)
Green	Doug Dickinson (2) Derek Gale (3)	Liz Godfree (1) Jane Kayley-Burgess (3)
Blue	John Hurley (2) Francesco Lari (3)	Nicola Hart (2) Sal Chaffey (3)



Mention should be made of Judith Wicks, who placed 6th in Orange and 4th in Light Green, with 2 races in each class – think tactically in 2022!

Sports Personality of the Month

At the Walesby event, Jane was telling Sue and I [Viv] that she had been disqualified because she hadn't punched the start. Sue was nodding sympathetically and, as if to emphasise you should punch the start, she waved her right arm over her shoulder to show where it was. Unfortunately she had a cup of coffee in that hand and it landed all over her top!

Could you be DVO Permanent Course Coordinator?

Currently the club has 25 courses varying from the technical like Black Rocks to very simple. Many of them also have a Maprun course. They provide a good shop window for the club and enable people to try out our unique sport without waiting for an event to go to. They also provide a small income to the club.

We are looking for a new Permanent Course Coordinator (or even 2 or more) so that Mike can stand down after many years. Here are some details of what the role involves.

- Checking and maintaining the markers and posts on site (although Maprun has reduced some of the requirement for markers).
- Liaising with landowners and supplying printed maps for those (only a handful) that sell maps.
- Keeping the Go Orienteering web site up to date (part of the British Orienteering site)
- Keeping the DVO web site up to date including updating the printable maps when newer versions become available.
- Liaising with landowners like the National Trust and local councils to create new courses.

The role could be split geographically, say north/south, or the on-site maintenance could be divorced from the map and web updates.

mike.godfree@btinternet.com 07789 937171

A message from longtime DVO member Ray Stuart

"I started Orienteering 30 years ago in my early 40s and have been bitten by the "O" bug ever since. I am very much aware that DVO (and Orienteering generally) is only successful because of the huge voluntary efforts of stalwart club members – planners, organisers, committee members, controllers, treasurers, secretaries supported by a very small National office. I think what impressed me the most was the very professional way that events were organised and the way the modern

technology was rapidly introduced into event and club organisation and implemented really well. I remember attending a meeting at a house in Derby when we were trained by Mike Napier in the computer systems to be used at the forthcoming EMOA JK in Clumber Park. I also remember being given a box of 5000 staples on the finish line. " That should be enough, let me know if you need anymore!" I had to staple raffle ticket numbers to control cards at the end of the finish funnel so that timer inputs could be synchronised with competitor IDs and control cards.

So, thank you all at DVO for past and future events."

Gran Canaria O Meeting

Words/maps: **Francesco Lari**
Photos: **Helen Chiswell**

We had reserved our first holiday abroad since Covid well in advance, and when Omicron came along my wife (the professor of genetic epidemiology at Notts Uni) thought nothing of it as data from South Africa proved that it wasn't a public health concern. By that time we should have learnt that there is very little science in what European governments decide on the pandemic...

But luckily we were able to flight out (and come back in), with the added expense of pre-departure and arrival tests and a lot of paperwork that went unchecked at the UK border. All to avoid bringing mild Omicron in the country with most Omicron in the world. The most upsetting thing was that as panicked tourists had cancelled in droves we would have been able to book last minute for half the price. But at least we enjoyed a very uncrowded Gran Canaria, and could rent a car as cancellations made it affordable and available. Pretty useful especially as the 4th day was at the top of the isle with no public transport.

We landed in Gran Canaria just before Christmas and learned from the Spanish TV that face masks were to be made mandatory outside from Boxing Day. Not that a non-Spanish speaker would have known, because the hotel didn't think wise to break the news, and on the streets



Phil Cooper (WIM) in the Agüimes urban race



Andy Leedham (LOC) running into the Finish on the final day

and beaches of the resort town only a few bewildered locals went around masked in the sunshine. But of course the orienteering organisers couldn't ignore the new protocol, so it was masks mandatory anywhere in sight of the Start/Finish/Assembly, and you could take off the magic cloth only at the Start triangle. But you had to put it back on from last point to Finish or be disqualified on the spot. Luckily, Covid apparently disappeared from the Start triangle to the last control, and like most of the runners I decided that the best technique was to lower the mask after the Start triangle and run with it as a sort of neck warmer

to the last control, just before pulling it up again to sprint breathless.

Apart from the Covid protocols that were imposed on the organisers, the races were superb and organised to a high standard. It had the feel of what would be a major event here in the UK, even if total number of participants were on a par with an EML event. GCOM (Gran Canaria Orienteering Meeting) is run every year between Boxing day and December 30 rotating between different areas of the sizable island. It seems the format has stabilized in the last few years, with an "urban night sprint", a day urban sprint, a long and a middle. The 2 urban sprints were in classic Canarias historical towns with lot of narrow streets and a sizable climb that had to be considered in routes choices. The Long was in a desert area close to the sea, and was technically challenging requiring both contour reading and compass skills. The final day middle was at the top of the islands, in a pine forest at more than 1600m of altitude that provided a challenge in itself for running.



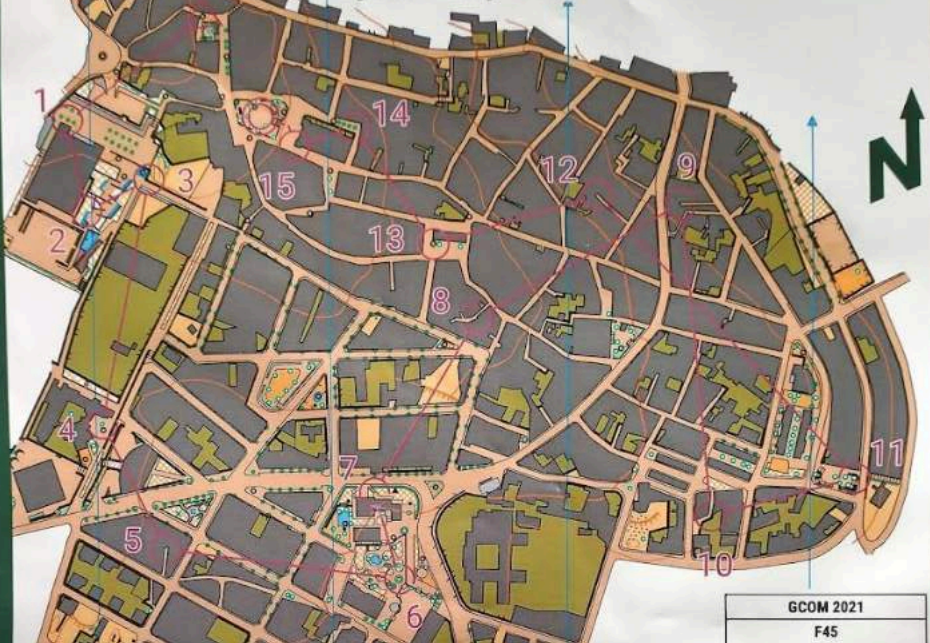
Helen with olive oil and plaque!

Agüimes

R4: F45 | M55

M/F16

Sprint City Race



Ingenio

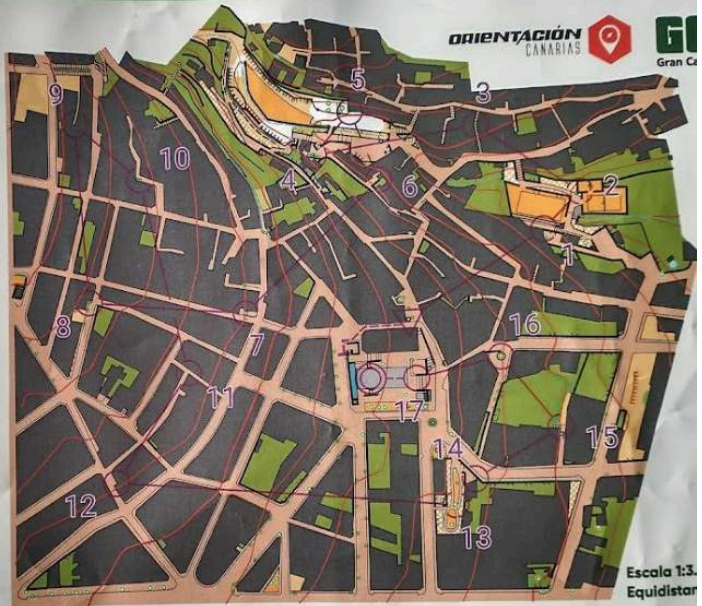
Sprint Night Race

ORIENTACIÓN CANARIAS Gran Ca

GCOM 2021
F45/M55/M/F16

R4	1,9 km	80 m
1 32		
2 31		
3 38		
4 35		
5 34		
6 36		
7 43		
8 40		
9 53		
10 51		
11 52		
12 41		
13 48		
14 47		
15 49		
16 50		
17 100		

40 m



R4: F45 | M55

Apart from the final race all events were in the late afternoon/evening and less than 30 minutes away from the main seaside touristic areas where people were likely to stay. The final race required a 1hr drive on mountain roads, but it was a good chance to make a day of it hiking in the popular mountain area in the afternoon. And of course sun and temperatures in the low 20s are all but guaranteed.

Overall an enjoyable experience even in Covid times. The organisation is superb with free tourist tours of the towns and free massage at the Finish throw in. Highly recommended if you want to combine a winter beach holiday with a bit of orienteering.



WSC

When Sunday Comes

(Except when it's Saturday or Wednesday)

RDO – Real Derbyshire Orienteers. Fanzine No 42

Unabridged, unexpurgated, unfathomable

Elephant tracks proven to be not caused by elephants

Findings heralded as a major scientific breakthrough (page 9)

Years of research “worthy of a Nobel prize” (page 99)

Suspicion now switches to hordes of hamsters (page 999)

Other news: Downing Street parties all legal – small print shows they can be classified as orienteering events (page 9999).

Small print (page 99999)

Trouble with earworm

There are troubling reports coming from over all over the county of a serious outbreak of earworm or, to get really technical (*go for it – Ed*), Involuntary Musical Imagery (INMI). This is where a catchy and/or memorable piece of music continuously occupies a person's mind even after it is no longer being played. Runners often are subject to this as the repetitive pattern of footfall invokes the rhythm of the music. However in this case the disturbing feature of the earworm is that the same tune is inflicting orienteers across swathes of country to the west of the Erewash and beyond. That tune? The Birdie Song, destined to drive anyone mad within hours. The situation is reaching crisis point, putting added pressure to a health service already on its knees. WSC spoke to an expert expert from a top secret laboratory on a hillside near Belper (Gateway to the North).

“This is indeed a very serious medical condition that needs medical attention immediately” opined a wild haired man in a white coat clutching not one, but two clipboards. “There would appear to be two possibilities, both of grave concern. One possibility is that this is the new Covid Agadoo variant, inexplicably highly contagious. The other candidate is Birdie Flu. We are already working on new vaccines for both scenarios. In the meantime, the Boney M Clinic in Birmingham has the best facilities for dealing with conditions like these and their isolation wards are second to none. Anyone with these symptoms should grind some coffee, shake a tree and best of all, push pineapples. And that’s all I have to say on the matter”.

Exits to the to the left, to the right, jumps up and down and to the knees (repeats ad nauseum).

So there you have it. It sounds like we are in safe hands, so that’s s relief.

Panic buying of pineapples continues

Police are urging the public to remain calm after reports of fighting in the fruit and veg aisles of several supermarkets in Clay Cross, Bolsover and South Normanton. There have also been minor scuffles in the

coffee aisle. “It is important that everybody buys in a responsible manner” quoth a police spokesman. “Now please move on to the left, to the right, jump up and down.....etc etc.”

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



Orienteering sometimes has to play second fiddle to environmental issues.

All manner of rare and delicate flora and fauna need to have protection from runners charging through the undergrowth.

That may be a very little beetle but the plucky fellow has already put paid to two British Championships and a JK.

And it’s just musing on whether it can also stop HS2 in its tracks.

Pineapples are not the only fruit

The WSC guide to pushing fruit.

Oranges (10/10) A wise choice. The one that all the pros use.

Tomatoes (8/10) Didn't know they were a fruit huh? Well push on these, loser! But go beefsteak not plum.

Lemons (5/10) OK if you want a bit of unpredictability in your life.

Pineapples (2/10) Hazardous to any nearby small children or pets. What were Black Lace on?

Bananas (0/10) Are you kidding? Only a raving loony with a bubble off plumb would consider pushing a banana. This is the way to madness.

Anyone affected by these issues contact our helpline on 07879 545918 (*hey that's my number, you're fired* – Ed)

Letters Page

Dear WSC,

How many active orienteers are there in the UK? Five, six thousand? How many people own ferrets as a pet? At least twenty to thirty thousand. You're barking up the wrong tree. Or as we say in the ferret community, you're running up the wrong trouser leg.

Why oh why oh why does this magazine keep flogging away at an activity that virtually nobody does? I'm afraid the time has come for me to seriously consider cancelling my subscription. But I'm a reasonable person and I will give the editor one last chance to see the errors of his ways in publishing such obsessive material issue after issue. I have a broad range of interests spanning from ferret breeding to the dietary habits of ferrets so I should be easy to satisfy.

Yours

W.J. Vole-Strangler (Mrs)



Well luckily we do have a picture of a ferret on our files, pictured in this rarely seen view of Cromford Rocks.

Film Review – Billy's Boots

Donald MacRanald's new big screen offering is the heart-warming story of a young lad called Billy and his orienteering boots. These are not any old pair of boots though but ones with the remarkable capability of imparting to their wearer the most incredible turn of pace over the few short yards between the final control and the finish line of any orienteering event. A pace that none can live with. But without the power of these boots, Billy is reduced to a pathetic and flapping scramble once that last checkpoint has been passed.

The film begins with Billy stumbling upon them a few years ago whilst clearing out his gran's attic. There is something about them that makes him want to put



them on. They are comfortable enough to try out at an event but nothing special happens until they burst spectacularly into action at the end of the race. Unfortunately they are in a state of some disintegration and Billy takes them to an aged shoe repairer who recognises them as once belonging to the pioneering and brilliant 1960's orienteer "Bee Line" Beesley who had retired from competition and disappeared under puzzling circumstances after a disastrous run in an early East Midlands Championships. The old man is able to salvage the boots and their power lives on.

Unfortunately the boots have an alarming habit of becoming unavailable when most required. Over the years they have been left on a bus, left on a train, stolen by oiks from the estate, buried in the back garden, run off with by a fox, collected by charity workers, and used on a Guy, only to be miraculously reunited with Billy at the last moment.

Now he needs them more than ever for the upcoming RumpassSport Cup Final where his goal is the Golden Boot. But inevitably, on the morning of the event, disaster strikes once again. Will Billy find his boots and win the Boot? You will have to watch the film to find out. Excellent family fun. Recommended.

FOR SALE

One nearly new vacuum cleaner. We hardly use it and it's just gathering dust. Offers considered.

I was fortunate to spend two months in Cyprus over the autumn. I was asked to do some work for the UN in Cyprus, and we decided to take the opportunity to go and spend some time out there as a family and properly explore the island. I was also lucky that my time coincided with a weekend of two orienteering events in Cyprus: the main event being the Nicosia City Race (part of the 'Euro Tour') and preceded by a race in a Forest Park on the edge of Nicosia the previous day.

It was my first time orienteering outside the UK. I was also the very first to head off into the forest on the Saturday morning, having requested an early start in an attempt to get back in time to accompany the kids round. I had a reasonable run. I was out of fitness, having developed an achilles injury in July, which had meant I had barely run for a few months, and this was my first O session since. The terrain was fairly runnable, with very dry soil after months with virtually no rain.

I took it steady to 1, getting accustomed to the map and terrain. After that, things flowed pretty easily through to a very steep climb up to 8. Whether I just lost my concentration after the climb, or was feeling too confident after a smooth start, I'm not sure, but I managed to head too far east out of 8, distracted by a runnable track and ended up scouting around a ditch about 100m north of 9. Also lost time on 11 after spotting and heading for a very similar but smaller stream junction about 50m away (and which I still can't see on the map!).

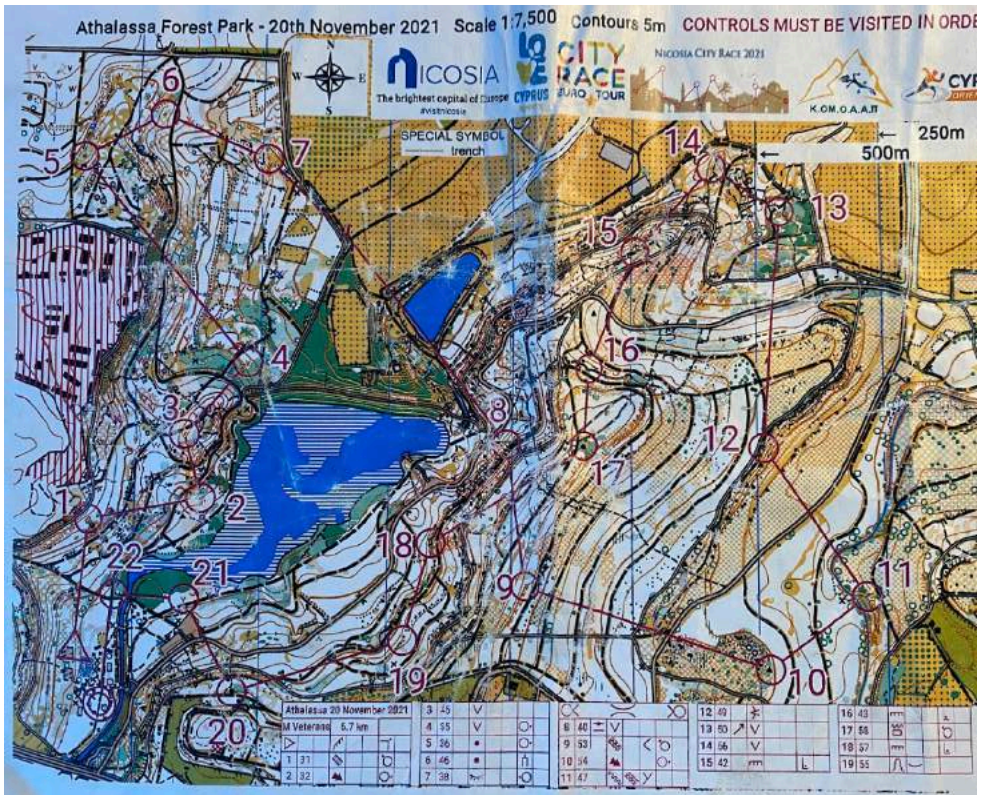
I regained my flow after that with a smooth run to the finish, although coming out of 19 got viciously attacked by a thorn bush (it put British brambles to shame!), and ended up with an impressive amount of blood on my arms and face, which caused some consternation at the finish.

Sunday was the City Race, an urban event. I've only recently started doing urbans, having previously been a bit dismissive, but I now enjoy the flow and fast running. Overall, had a good run, with just one initial mistake when I overshot 2 – going a bit too fast I missed the covered entrance to the courtyard.

It was an attractive urban for the most part, with picturesque old streets and colourful buildings, although also taking us into some of the less salubrious parts of the old town, and twice crossing the main shopping street – much to the bemusement of locals and tourists alike. One they understood what was going on, local shopkeepers were keen to be 'helpful'. I went round with my 8 year old son on a short course after my race. His map reading is really coming on and at one point I

was encouraging him to pause and figure out exactly where the control should be when a shopkeeper came bounding out of his doorway to excitedly point out just where we should go! I finished my race tired, having not run two consecutive days since July, but was gutted to find that I DNFed as one control had not registered on my SIAC. No idea what happened – I know I was there, and I was confident I had punched, but... I didn't stick around to quibble as I was due out again with my son before the start closed.

Overall, it was good to be orienteering again, especially somewhere sunny and warm. Nicosia remains a divided city. I'd love to see an O race that crosses the Green Line – with a very generous timed-out crossing to get through the border controls – but having done that most days on foot for work, I can see it would be significant endeavour of both logistics and negotiations – perhaps one day?



Nicosia - City Race Euro Tour - 21 November 2021

CON TOURS SHOULD BE VISITED IN ORDER

Nicosia old city - 21 Nov 2021	
Veteran Men	5.4 km
▽	⌊
1 44	Y ○
2 69	○
3 61	○
4 51	△
5 50	○
6 41	○
7 48	○

8 55 →	△
9 68	⌊
10 64	⌊
11 60	△
12 59	△
13 66	⌊
14 71	△
15 65	TT
16 47	○
17 67	⌊

18 39	■
19 40	TT
20 63	⌊
21 52	TT
22 56	TT
23 35	○
24 37	△
25 34	△
26 36	■
27 45	⌊

28 33	■
29 37	TT
30 38	⌊
31 52	△
32 49	○
33 42	⌊
34 54	△
35 62	⌊
OK	○
	⊗

240 m

CITY RACE EURO TOUR

SCALE 1:5,000



CYPRUS sports
NICOSIA
 The brightest capital of Europe
 #VISITNICOSIA

CYPRUS
 REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS
 DEPT. OF TOURISM

BIENEFITICION
 Nicosia City Race
 KOMO A.A.T.

NIOSIA
 VISIT NICOSIA
 VISIT NICOSIA

2021 – Review of DVO events

Dave Nevell

2021 was, like 2020 before it, heavily affected by Covid restrictions and once again the number of conventional events was way down on the historical average. The 11 events that did take place do ignore though, other activities such as MapRun. They were as follows (2020 figures in brackets).

Level A (Major)	0	(0)
Level B (National)	0	(0)
Level C (Regional)	3	(4)
Level D (Local)	8	(3)

10 different venues, with Hardwick being used twice. Two new names on the roster though, Wirksworth Stone Centre and St Elphins.

There were 1267 attendees over the year at 115 per event on average, down by 16 on 2020 but with a lot more Local events. The average attendances by event level were (2020 in brackets).

Level C	234	(197)
Level D	71	(43)

By the wonders of mathematics, the average attendance at both Level C and Level D events was well up on 2020, even though the combined average was down.

The largest turnout was the 368 seen at the East Midland Champs at Chinley Churn in June, the largest entry since the 2019 British Middle Champs also on Chinley Churn, and a number only otherwise exceeded in the last 8 years by the Midlands Championships of 2014 on Longshaw. The smallest event (37 at the Hardwick Try-O) was the largest smallest event (do keep up) in at least the last 35 years.

6 of the 11 events were on a Sunday, over 50%. Again, you have to go back at least 35 years to find such a large proportion on what was originally the normal day for orienteering.

Now to the most exciting part. As of the end of 2021 the register of DVO events contained 988 events from 153892 entries. The Melbourne urban event in January 2022 has taken the total to 989 so the big question is, where will the 1000th event take place? And will it take place this year? The current fixture list suggests we will only get to 997 in 2022 but there's every chance the odd small event will be added so watch this space.

MUTTERINGS FROM THE UNDERGROWTH

FIELD NOTES OF AN O MAPPER

In which I share some of the mutterings provoked by the decisions I have to make out there in the brambles and the heather—because if I have to wrestle with them, why shouldn't you?!

#2 — “ORIENTEERS HAVE A FEEL FOR CONTOURS”

In the early eighties my father bought a sticker that set this phrase alongside a cartoon drawing of woman's torso. If the sticker ever made it onto the car window, it didn't stay there long. My mother objected and, despite my father's protests, his mischievous impulse purchase was consigned to the waste bin.

I have to say I was disappointed. I was on the cusp of puberty and the sticker represented two of my favourite things ... orienteering and contours. I especially liked contours when they were the complex, twisting, quivering mass of wholemeal noodles you found in sand dunes, Lakeland plateaus, Scottish moraines, and of course in the forests of Scandinavia. I couldn't get enough of them. I think a better sticker would have been 'ORIENTEERS HAVE A TASTE FOR CONTOURS' accompanied by a picture of me stuffing my face with spaghetti.

Hardly surprising then that my favourite part of mapping is drawing brown lines.

MUMMY, WHERE DO CONTOURS COME FROM?

Originally, we got the contours from Ordnance Survey—in fact, in the early days, orienteering did not have its own bespoke mapping and relied on black and white reproductions of the OS.

Later, when I started, the most prestigious areas were being remapped with photogrammetric plots. Photogrammetry (don't ask me how it works) produces excellent rock and contour detail especially on terrain with tree coverage.

These days base maps will be derived from LIDAR data. LIDAR is a method of determining ranges by measuring the time it takes reflected light (a laser beam) to return to its source. Software transforms this data into contours—it

can even smooth them for you—but the mapper’s job does not stop there because while LIDAR analyses the terrain it does not interpret it, not for the eyes of an orienteer.

LIDAR-derived contours may be correct objectively; they may connect points of equal elevation with a high degree of accuracy, but the primary function of contours on an orienteering map is to describe the shape of the land for an orienteer and this calls for a subjective standard: in orienteering, (hu)man is the measure of all things.

What this means in practice is picking out, emphasizing, and exaggerating the salient landforms. When you draw contours you are interpreting a landscape. That’s the fun of it. At the desk, it almost feels as if you are creating it. You hope that others will see it the way you’ve described it. But they might not. In this respect, a map is an act of communication and communication can fail.

Now you may be wondering when exactly you are going to hear me muttering. So far it sounds more like murmuring, I admit. But there are challenges, there are decisions to make, and that’s when I start to mutter.

The challenges arise when you don’t have enough contours or when the details falls between them.

FUN WITH FORM-LINES: CONTOURS THAT ARE NOT CONTOURS

Contours on standard orienteering maps are at either 5m intervals or 2.5m intervals (where there is an abundance of low-lying detail). Where these fall is arbitrary, in the first instance. The significant detail found on the ground may appear between them. When this happens, you have several options.

You can move all the contours. With LIDAR you can generate intermediate levels, it could be that shifting everything by 1m will capture the detail, but it may create a problem elsewhere on the map.

But the easiest method is to use form-lines. The orienteering gods gave us form-lines and, as their name suggests, these are intended to help us mortals describe the shape of the land when contours will not suffice. But there are rules governing their use.

“They shall not be used as intermediate contours.”

A form-line is not a contour. It does not represent a level of elevation. The new specifications (ISOM2017) have made them thinner, but they can still be mistaken for contours and give a false impression of the ascent in that area which may mislead route selection. This isn't helpful. (I've seen this on some continental maps, but rarely in the UK.)

“Only one form line should be used between neighbouring contours.”

This is good discipline which, in the interests of legibility, challenges the mapper to represent only the most significant detail—and if like me you're someone who loves detail this can feel like an act of puritanical abstention. But what is 'significant'? In the woods on Stanton Moor I have come across elongated spurs that are barely 1m high. They are both prominent and distinct, but there is more than one between the same contour. A headache. The challenge can be most severe on gentle inclines where contours are further apart. On Raven Tor, shallow excavations have created a lot of detail on the gentle side of the escarpment. There's so much tempting space to be filled with form-lines.

I'm still muttering about this one and I may have to cheat, which brings me to my final point.

“Instead of using form lines, contours should be shifted slightly up or down to better represent the important landforms.”

With this rare example in the specifications of a helpful suggestion, we arrive at today's lesson: contours are not strictly a line joining points of equal elevation. They represent the shape of the land and may be “shifted up or down” to do so. This operation is known as 'gliding' (or 'cheating') and it has implications for anyone trying to navigate across a slope by maintaining height. It is hard to contour with any precision, but if you do succeed you may find you have diverged from the faithless brown line. I would allow for a divergence of two metres in either direction.

And remember: a contour is not a feature, it is a feeling.

RICHARD PARKIN

Planning the White/TD1 Course – Part 1

I've recently been running a Grade B and Grade C Controllers' Course for the East Midlands Orienteering Association as well as controlling the Midlands Championships for NOC at Sherwood Forest.

Whenever I am planning or controlling, I go back to the specifications of the various Technical Difficulty (TD) levels to check I am still getting it right. In generally technical areas, the hardest courses to get right are often those at TD1 (White), TD2 (Yellow) and TD3 (Orange).

The British Orienteering Rules of Orienteering has a table specifying the various technical difficulties by routes and route choice; number of controls; control sites; relocation and cost of errors; and skills required. For TD1, the White course, it says that routes should be all along tracks and paths; there should be no route choice, including at the start banner; there should be a control at every decision point; controls should be on path and track junctions, crossings and bends, or on features on paths such as bridges and gates to give variety to the control descriptions.

This specification has sometimes meant that, in an area with few paths or tracks, planners have decided not to provide a White course, much to the disappointment of families with youngsters wanting a course within their capabilities. Even where there is a good path network, it has often meant that the course goes from one path junction/crossing to the next with little variety and perhaps even little development of orienteering skills as the youngsters run along the path and find the controls rather than navigating to them.

The BOF Rules do say in Appendix B: Course Planning:

*2.5.3 White standard courses: In some areas (particularly open areas) because of the absence of paths it may still be possible to plan a white course of suitable standard by substituting prominent line features. If competitors are required to cross open ground a taped route must be used. This must start and finish at controls. See also **Advice on planning white courses** on the British Orienteering website for further guidance.*

In his article on planning White courses available on the BOF website, Barry Elkington writes:

What happens when the paths run out?

It is inevitable that on some areas at some point the paths just won't join up to make a nice course. So what options are there ?

- *A taped route across a piece of forest – either continuous tape, which is easy to follow; or streamers hanging from branches, which are not always as easy to see (don't forget the competitors may only be small). Details of taped routes (and how they are marked) should always be included in the final details and on the control descriptions.*
- *In open areas walls and fences on the map will often have paths down the side of them, even if they aren't on the map. These may connect path networks together. With care these can be used. However, if you are going to use these, do provide information in the final details and on the control descriptions.*

A few years ago I planned a junior course at Longshaw Estate where a couple of the legs were along streams, using red and white streamers on stakes to indicate the route. The kids loved it as they were off the normal path. An alternative would have been to use 'smiley' faces to confirm they were on the correct route.

What prompted this article?

I was reading a report on Lochaber 2021, the 23rd Scottish 6 Days in the December 2021 issue of CompassSport. The report on Day 1 at Ardchattan contained the map for the White course (also M10B and W10B). Looking at the control descriptions it struck me that there were virtually no paths. Most of the controls were located on fences or streams, with quite a number of taped routes. I contacted Nick Barrable, the editor, asking if I could get a copy of the map as I would like to write an article for Newstrack (this is it!). He put me in touch with Donald Grassie, the 6 days mapping co-ordinator, who agreed to let me have the maps (with a suitable acknowledgement as the copyright is held by the Scottish Orienteering Association).

Donald commented that: "The S6D (Like other large competitor number events) often throws up issues where we want good areas for the adult runners. This often constrains options for low TD courses, and so planners have to resort to a variety of well-defined linear features, if not a taped leg."

The Ardchattan map for the White course below clearly illustrates the point Donald makes.

In Part 2 of this article in the next edition of Newstrack, I will use the reflections of a competitor on this course (and her father) as well as showing the other TD1 courses she ran at Lochaber 2021.


I'd welcome any comments from planners and controllers, and anyone else who ran this course. Do you think it is appropriate? Is it testing all the skills at TD1? If a parent, what would your child have thought of this course?

Ranald Macdonald

Grade A Controller and EMOA Development Co-ordinator


r.f.macdonald@btinternet.com

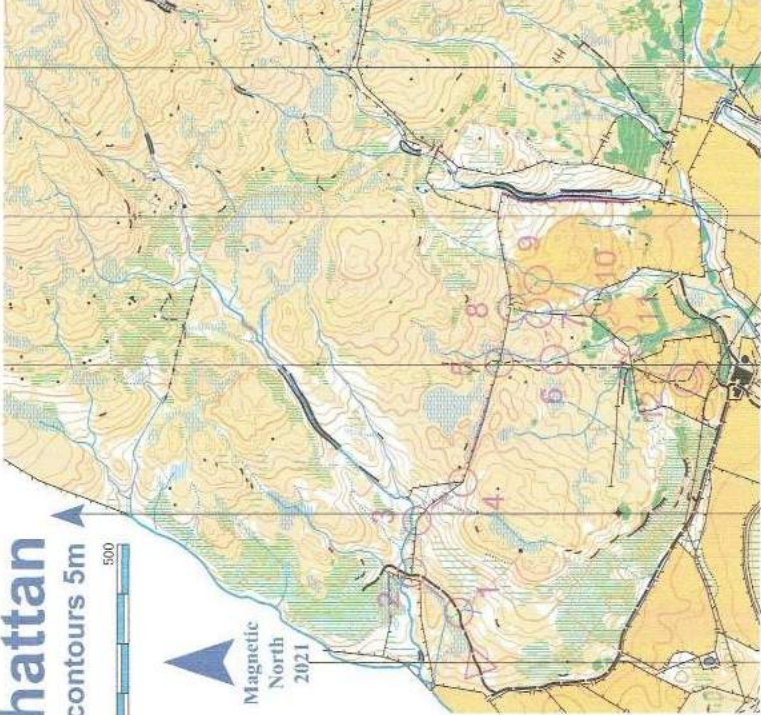
Fàilte gu Loch Abar agus don Ghearasdan, dà mhìle fichead's a h-aon






Ardchattan

scale 1:7,500 contours 5m





Magnetic North 2021

Lochaber 2021 Day 1	
CC White, M10B, W10B	
C22	1.5 km 65 m
1 179	✓
2 150	✓
3 113	✓
4 106	✓
5 181	✓
6 172	✓
7 186	✓
8 110	✓
9 123	✓
10 180	✓
11 167	✓
12 100	✓
Courses close at 16:30	

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Base map: PG plot by Stirling Surveys.
 Survey & Cartography: Peel Land Surveys, September 2020
 Printing: A4 Print, Inverness
 Copyright: Scottish Orienteering Association.

Access to the land shown on this map is covered by the principles set out in the Scottish Outdoor Access Code. For further information see www.outdooraccess-scotland.com.

R1	R2	R3
Reserve Punch boxes if SI unit fails		

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.

February

- Sun 13 R **CompassSport Cup Heat**, Postensplain, near Bewdley
- Sun 20 R ☒ **Martinshaw & Ratby Woodlands, near Leicester** **10am prizegiving**
- Sat 26 N **Big Moor** (SYO 50th Anniversary Double & YHOA SuperLeague)
- Sun 27 N **Wharnccliffe Woods**, entries for both events open on Fabian4

March

- Sat 5 **UKOL** **Salcey Forest**, near Northampton
- Sun 6 **UKOL** **Rushmere** (British Middle Distance Championships)
- Sun 20 N **Stanton Moor** (East Midlands Championships), enter via Fabian soon
- 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**, next cutoff 13 Feb, CD 13 March
- Sat 16 **UKOL** **JK Middle, Clydach Terrace**
- Sun 17 **UKOL** **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 & Londonthorpe Woods**, nr Grantham, LOG



May

- Sun 1 R ☒ **Aylestone Meadows, Leicester**
- Sun 8 R ☒ **Bramcote Hills, Nottingham**
- Sat 7 L **Swadlincote Woods, Registration 1–3pm**
- Sun 15 R ☒ **Black Rocks, near Cromford, enter via DVO website**
- Sat 21 R **MDOC Urban Weekend**, exact venue TBA
- Sun 22 N **MDOC Urban Weekend** (Sunday UKUL event)
- Sat 28 L **Darley Park, Derby, Registration 1–3pm**



June

- Sun 5 R **Newcastle Urban, NATO** (UKUL, details TBA)
- 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 (UKUL), OD
- Sun 19 N **Birmingham Urban** Euro City Race Tour (UKUL), HOC





Derwent Valley Orienteers presents the



British Schools Score Orienteering Championships

ShIPLEY Park, Heanor, DE75 7DZ

Saturday 8 October 2022

- Children in Years 5–13 may take part, Years 5–8 in pairs
- 45-minute Score event, in which children score points for each correct control visited
- Individual and School prizes for 4 year groups



Prepare your pupils with our **free 3-session introductory activity pack** The area you intend to use for training (school site or nearby park) must already be mapped for Orienteering. Please contact Jim jjmdjenkinson@gmail.com or Rex rexbleakman321@btinternet.com

DVO are hosting this event and offer **training opportunities** for Score Orienteering below:

- Sat 7 May **Swadlincote Woods** 1–3pm
[public event with Score included]
- Wed 25 May **Whitworth Park**, WOD (Rural Derbyshire Schools Sports Partnership schools only)
- Sat 28 May **Darley Park**, Derby, 1–3pm
[public event with Score included]
- Wed 22 June **Granville Academy**, Swadlincote
[feeder-schools-only Orienteering Festival]
- Thurs 7 July **Highfields School**, Matlock
[feeder-schools-only Orienteering Festival]
- Sept, date TBA **Alfretton Park** [schools-only Score event]
- Sun 25 Sept **Calke Park**, Ticknall, 10–12 noon
[public event with Score included]

Further details for the **training events:**
<https://derwentvalleyorienteers.org.uk/>



Entry forms and initial details for the **Score Championships** will be available to download from both Derwent Valley Orienteers & BSOA website <https://www.bsoa.org/> nearer the time.

DVO email group

A Google Group email list has replaced our Yahoo (& Freeserve) groups for updates and discussion of club activities. Subscribe here: <https://groups.google.com/g/dvo-members/about>.

Event Officials Needed

If you would like to volunteer (yellow highlight), please contact janeburgess50@yahoo.co.uk Support can be given by someone experienced in the role. For updates to the table as new officials come forward, see **Future Event Officials** under the **DVO Events** tab.

<i>Event</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Level</i>	<i>Organiser</i>	<i>Planner</i>	<i>Controller</i>
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	Steve Kimberley
Darley Park, Derby	28 May	Local	v	v	–
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	Jane KB
CSCup Heat, TBA	2 Feb '23	National	v	v	–
Birchen Edge	5 Mar '23	Regional	Brian Denness	v	–
Shining Cliff	30 Ap '23	Regional	v	v	–

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

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



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

(See draft poster on previous page; further details and an entry form to follow from the British Schools Orienteering Association.)

O Fixtures Demystified

Sal Chaffey

Trying to look at fixture types from the eyes of someone who has just joined their first O club, I looked for a way of classifying them. One way is to use a matrix of **international/home** and **open/invitation only**, and I've set this out on pages 26 and 27.

I hope it explains some jargon and sheds light on UK multi-day events in even/odd years, but most importantly piques curiosity! I got side-tracked looking at the Tiomila and Jukola Relays started in the 1940s in Sweden and Finland (and UK semi-equivalents the Harvester Trophy and Peter Palmer Relays), but these will have to wait for another issue.

Many DVO members have run for England and even GB over the years!

Open events

International multiday events – see CompassSport Holiday O Guide 2022

Many many examples including:

The Eurocities races (see banner below)

World Masters – Puglia, Italy, 8–16 July

O-Ringen – Uppsala, July 24–30 (biggest of them all, started in Denmark in 1965)

Bavarian Forest 5 days – Viechtach & Bodenmais, Germany, 30 July–3 Aug



ASOM is an annual 3 day festival of urban races in Antwerp, and this year part of the Eurocities Tour

LISBON 26 MARCH 2022	LEIRIA 27 MARCH 2022	ANTWERP 01-03 APRIL 2022	BASEL 10-12 JUNE 2022	COVENTRY 18 JUNE 2022	BIRMINGHAM 19 JUNE 2022	GRAZ 08-10 JULY 2022	STOCKHOLM 21-23 JULY 2022	GDANSK 16-18 SEPTEMBER 2022
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JK always at Easter; 2022 in South Wales

British Champs races ...

Night (19 Feb) Ilkley

Middle (6 March) Rushmere

Classic (26 March) Golden Valley

Relay (27 Mar) Iron Hill & Parkgate Rough

Sprint Relay (11 June) Leeds Beckett Uni

Sprint (12 June) Leeds Uni

Scottish 6 Days every 'odd' year (30 July–4 Aug 2023)

Alternating on even years:

Lakes 5 days 7–12 Aug 2022 (eastern Lakes)

Welsh 5 days (Croeso) in 2024

White Rose every August Bank Holiday

(details from eborienteers.org.uk nearer the time)



O-Ringen info for Uppsala 2022: <https://oringen.se/en/occasions/uppsala-2022.html>

O-Ringen history: <https://oringen.se/en/menu/about-us/previous-o-ringen.html>

Selection-only events

Elite international competitions

World Championships 'WOC'

Even years – Denmark, 26–30 June 2022

(Sprint) Edinburgh, July 2024

Odd years – Switzerland, 11–16 July 2023

(Classic) Finland, 23–29 July 2025



World Cup

3 rounds: this year in Sweden, Estonia & Switzerland. Mix of disciplines: classic, sprint, knockout sprint & relay

More info: <https://orienteering.sport/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/world-cup-2022-bulletin-0.pdf>

>> did you know that you can watch WOC/World Cup live for a small fee on IOF livestream: <https://orienteering.sport/live/>

European Champs, Asian Champs, Universities Champs & also ...



Interland

Every spring; this year 24 April in Habay la Neuve, Aredennes, Belgium

A five-cornered match between England, two Belgian teams (Flemish and French speaking), the Netherlands, and the French Ligue des Hauts de France de Course d'Orientation (LHFCO). Rotates around the 5 participating regions.

More info about Interland <https://orienteeringengland.org.uk/>

Home Internationals

(competitions between the 4 UK home nations)

Senior HIs – 10/11 Sept 2022 (Normally in spring, but integrated into the elite competition structure). Classes M/W20s and 21s

Veteran HIs – 1/2 Oct. Classes M/W35–65

Junior HIs – held in autumn. Classes M/W14, 16 and 18

(see <https://orienteeringengland.org.uk/> for more info about the Home Internationals)

Junior Inter-Regional Championships (JIRCs)

<https://www.jros.org.uk/>

Competition between 9 regional squads of England, plus those of Wales, Scotland & Northern Ireland.

DVO hosted JIRCs at Chatsworth and Carsington Pastures in 2018.



There were two puzzles to finish off the year. **Gamblers Anonymous** was, as many things in the strange world of Newstrack Puzzle Pages are, not quite as obvious as it may have seemed at first. The straightforward answer (in an algebraic manner of speaking) was that Frank was the one speaking, as he was the only one who could have started with 50p, since any other person starting with 50p would imply non-integer amounts of money. John Hurley was correct but very concerned that Professor Omicron may well have been contravening the British Orienteering Sports Betting Policy. David Vincent (with help from Emma) also came up with Frank. Other correct entries came from Alan Le Moigne, Francesco Lari and Jen Gale. The sneaky thing is that I didn't specify when the bets were made, and it was possible that the conversation took place in the early 1980s when the 1/2p was still in circulation and there were several Cup finals. In that case it was possible that Professor Omicron may have been speaking. A couple of you alluded to the possibility but only David Vincent fully articulated the alternative answer, so a bonus point to him. **Christmas Candles** was a bit easier perhaps and all of the Gamblers Anonymous entrants got that one correct as well. For once, no incorrect answers.

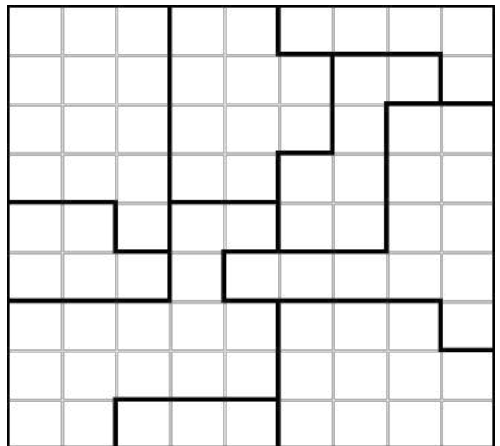
So, I make the final tally for 2021 as follows.

John Hurley	10 points	Alan Le Moigne	4 points
David Vincent	7 points	Jane Burgess	2.5 points
Francesco Lari	6.5 points	John Hawkins	2 points
Jen Gale	5 points	Mike Gardner	1 point
Darren Cook	4 points		

Well done John. Off we go again.

Return to Symmetric Shrubs

At the recent local event, it turned out that each row, column and region of the area contained two controls. But no two controls were adjacent, not even diagonally. So where were they? Solutions to dnevell3@gmail.com by the editor's copy date. Good luck.



Doug & Mike have created MapRuns from Courses 3 & 6 from January 2nd event!



Melbourne MapRun!

Try Smartphone Orienteering

Starts and finishes at Melbourne Sports Park

- 📏 Courses 7.1km (Senior/Adult) and 3.5km (Junior/Family) 📏 Run, jog or walk!
- 📱 Download the free MapRun6 app, enter your details. Load your chosen course from the folder in the app, as follows:

Select Event > UK > Derbyshire > Derwent Valley > Melbourne
[course name: Senior/Junior ex Sports Ground]

- 📱 Use the map on your phone screen, or print your own map
- 📱 Your phone will beep at the Start, at each checkpoint, and at the Finish
- 📱 If you just want to try the course, you can print the map from the DVO website:

<https://derwentvalleyorienteers.org.uk/maprun-courses/> Enjoy!



 Derwent Valley Orienteers

