

January 2026 Club News

December 30, 2025



A happy and injury-free 2026 to you all!

The prize giving for 2025 East Midlands Urban League took place before the Matlock Urban Race, which opened the 2026 League. Your best 4 races out of 8 count, so get those [2026 fixtures](#) in your diaries now! Congratulations to the DVO class winners Nerijus Rozkovas (Men's Open), Imogen Satherly (Womens Junior), Val Johnson (Women Ultravets) and Doug Dickinson (Male Hypervets). Jake Warwick, Sally Calland, Jane Kayley-Burgess and Graham Johnson were all 2nd in their respective classes. [Full 2025 results here](#).

There were 213 runners at Matlock Urban, and the gusts of New Year's Eve had died down by the time we arrived at County Hall. A nomination for

Sports Personality goes to Dai Bedwell, who found Assembly from the sound of John Hurley's laugh (or should the nomination be for John ...?) Nomination 2 is for Steve Kimberley who dropped his compass down the portable toilet (yuk)! Here are some memories of the day.



Control collecting was finished by about 3pm and Val got some photos of the WWII anti-aircraft installations at Bailey's Tump on her round.



The next EMUL race isn't until June 7th with NOC's event at Nottingham University, which us also a UK Urban League fixture. Right now, attention turns to the terrain league, plain ol' [East Midlands League](#), beginning with LEI's Cademan this Sunday (Jan 11th). Certificates will be presented to the top 3 men and

women in each class at 10:15am. Ursula Williamson (LEI) the League Coordinator says “please come early, applaud your fellow competitors”. [2025 results here](#), photo and details to follow.



Diary Dates

15 January **MapRun** is back for fun, free Thursday night training and social. The first of the four events is at [Heanor's William Gregg Leisure Centre](#) and afterwards at the Conservative Club.

15 February **East Midlands Championships** at Longshaw North. [Entries already open!](#)

18 February, 7:30pm **Open Meeting**, Church in the Peak, Lime Tree Business Park, Matlock DE4 3EJ
Brainstorm: ‘how to do more with less’ i.e. quality events with fewer volunteer hours, as well as some geeking for Sutton Park CSCup Heat (vide infra)

22 February [CompassSport Cup Heat at Sutton Park, Birmingham](#) entries through our Captain, [Sally Calland](#). She will need your age class, preferred course (see PDF at link above), dibber and BOF numbers.

Cromford Moor event 23 November

Forestry England asked to know volunteer hours for the event at Cromford Moor. These were 127 between the 4 event officials who do the bulk of the work, and 103 from club helpers on the day – thank you everyone! Total 230, the equivalent of 7 working weeks for one person.



For those wondering why there were 4 event officials, there were 2 controllers, as John D broke his ankle at the November Classic not having a landing plan when leaping across a ditch. Keith Wildig checked the control locations, John having done the screen-work checking the courses with Sally. I broke my wrist on *Hampstead Heath* in full view of the Start, when my foot went down a dry-weather fissure and my arm went out to break my fall. As John said however, “between us we have 6 good limbs”!

When I dictated my tale into a WhatsApp message to a friend, it read “I broke my wrist orienteering on *hamster teeth*.” The mind boggles!

Did any of you notice something odd about the contours on the Cromford Moor map? David Vincent did. That's right, no index contours. Mapper Richard Parkin assures us they will reappear on the Lea Woods and Bow Woods map for the event on 22 March. There are 5 different options for index contours, some more useful than others, for a quick gleaning of the shape of the land or for long route choices.

Entering Events on the Startkite (taken from EMEWS)

Just a quick note for those entering events on Startkite. It is much more cost effective for the organising club if you enter using bank transfer, rather than online card payment (at least 20p per entry). This means

more money goes to the organising club.

Some orienteers have a concern about bank payments and the security of their account details. First, Lloyds Bank (who process Startkite) do not include the account number in the payment details that Startkite itself receives. Added to this, the bank payment matching is done offline. Details of the payment (account name, sort code, reference) are never stored online on The Start Kite website.

When entering the individual gets a code that is assigned for all future events. So, next time it should simply be a matter of going into your bank account and finding Startkite and the code should already be assigned. You can use one payment to cover multiple events.



Holiday events this year!

Helen has enjoyed the Gran Canaria races over New Year, and you can follow the Euro Cities tour here. The tour comes to Canterbury 22–24 May, with the 23rd being the City Race (also UKUL) and the 24th a double sprint on the university campus. Club members are taking part in the [Portugal O Meet](#) near Porto in February, and [ASOM](#) (Antwerp Sprint Orienteering Meeting) April 10–12.



... closer to home, the [Lakes 5 days](#) comes around every 4 years, so put the 2nd–7th August in your diaries and have a look at campsites and cottages. A good many DVO families take part, and it's always great orienteering!



DVO Trophies and Awards 2025

December 27, 2025



Presentations at Strawberry Hill by our Chair, Jane Kayley-Burgess

Club Championships trophies

First of all some thank yous.

Thank you to NOC, especially Kevin, Robert, Ant and Hilary, for allowing us to use this traditional Christmas event for our club championships this year. For being so accommodating and helpful in all respects, allowing us to run our event in our own way, but on their courses. For designing a special start so that we can use Andrew's 'accurate to the second' start times to ensure the fairest results. To Andrew Ridgway for adapting The Start Kite for our entries. Thank you to Ursula from LEI, our EML results powerhouse, for offering to merge our times in with the EML course times to ensure that those running a Club Champs course did not lose out on EML points. To LOG for allowing us to share the event which is traditionally their Club Champs. Huge thanks to Andrew Middleton who has not only slaved over the handicap for hours, if not days, but also sorted out arrangements with NOC to allow us to run our Championships with least impact upon their event. To John Hurley for making sure we had all bases covered and agreed and for bringing his super brain along to calculate our winners. And of course thank you to all of you for coming.

So this is what you want to know.







Richard Parkin – fastest man in terms of minutes per kilometre wins the Peter Bourne trophy



Sophie Vincent – Fastest woman: the woman who ran the kilometers in the fastest time per kilometer Karen Jackson trophy

Now we move on to the Annual Awards for 2025

Orienteer of the Year: Judith Holt



The orienteer of the year doesn't have to be the best or the fastest or the most podium places. The orienteer of the year can be someone who is just astounding. Many of you will remember Judith Holt coming back from hip surgery with a careful recovery plan which all went pear shaped when she trotted downhill at the New Year's Day event in 2024. But because she is Judith, she didn't give up and, because she takes training more seriously than most mortals, she is back in contention. Not content with her improvements on the Short Green course, Judith has, this autumn and winter, switched back to Green courses and is a force to be reckoned with. Judith, your recovery is an inspiration to us all and a message to never give up.

Congratulations.

Most enthusiastic newcomer: Lester and Judith Evans

This couple joined DVO from a West Midlands club a couple of years ago. They carefully selected us from a choice of three clubs which are local to them. They sat quietly in the background as they recovered their energies from their previous WM roles then burst onto the DVO volunteering scene last year with ideas for a welcome team, before joining the development group. Not only did they have the ideas, they have put them into action, recruiting their son to design the new welcome banner in perfect DVO colours and really pushing us to make orienteering an event that isn't scary for newcomers to try. Their piece de resistance was Hardwick's Navigation Festival but they haven't stopped there. I get at least one call a week from Lester that starts 'Have you got a minute. I have an idea...' Oh, I have given the game away as we only have one Lester. But actually, we could do with a whole club full of Lester and Judith Evans, the proud winners of Most Enthusiastic Newcomer award 2025



Junior Orienteer of the Year: Ben



I remember this young man coming with his granny and trotting around a white course. Soon granny had to step aside whilst granddad or mummy ran with him, because he was getting a bit speedy. This season he has gone off on his own. He has competed in various forest, urban, sand dune and parkland events, been training with the juniors, including a weekend in Wales with Ann-Marie and Dai, where he clearly learnt a lot. He seems to have taken to orienteering like a duck to water and is now the nominated map reader on all family journeys. He always says it makes him happy, even when it's a difficult course and he comes to the finish with a beaming smile whatever the weather or course. Surely these are the key attributes of a potentially great orienteer. He has learnt that, if he has a bad control but he perseveres, he can still get a good result. His family are all super proud of him.

Our junior orienteer of the year is Ben.

Most improved orienteer of the year: Jake Warwick

Jake came to orienteering through MapRun and what a talent he is proving to be. We are usually gentle with our newcomers and at least try to encourage them to go through the ranks of technical difficulties. Not so Jake. He was straight on to the Blue and course 2 events and bold and unintimidated as he thrashed around in the undergrowth and thundered round towns and cities. Keep it going Jake. You have some great role models and mentors in the club and we all hope you will make use of them in your journey to greatness.

Newstrack Contributor of the Year: Stuart Swalwell

The Club still travels well ... with Sally having done a great article about the Antalya O Festival while at Portugal O Meet. Sustainable travel continues to be a theme, with John, Ann-Marie and Stuart cycling to the Irish Champs in May. The winner of this year's Newstrack Contributor award is Stuart Swalwell for his idea of anonymous contributions to the article on Royal Deeside. Editor Sal thought this is a great way to write up multi-day events!





David Parkin trophy for Outstanding Services to the Club: Richard Parkin

The winner of this trophy is someone

who pops up everywhere. Richard Parkin just gets on with whatever needs doing. This year he planned two huge events. The Midlands Championship, on a difficult area, was more work than anyone could have guessed but again, he just got on with it. At Fixtures Committee over the past few years we have talked endlessly about the issues with the paucity of areas to run in. Richard has not only found new ones, he has resurrected areas we haven't used for years and he has got on and mapped them to his usual high standard. Richard is the true planner's friend. His advice on use of the map is hugely valuable, but he will also be forthright when he thinks you're talking nonsense, and tell you why from a large knowledge base. He will offer to run courses to test them and help with putting out controls if his map-making has eliminated him from competition. He is generous and kind spirited and an extremely valuable club member, making useful contributions both in Fixtures committee and in the Start team. He manages the club's map archive and liaises with the printers (old and new) turning planners' Purplepen files into maps of beauty that we, as a club, can be proud of. I think you'll all agree he is a very worthy recipient of the trophy. Thank you, Richard, for everything you do for the club.



Sports Personality of the Year (SPOTY)

Sal will try and revive this as a feature in the Club News posts 5x a year, even though this year they have been somewhat overlooked!

Competition to name the O map that our new banner contours were taken from: John Duckworth

Our Welcome Team Leaders comissioned a new banner, using a contour background from a DVO map, and Lester launched a [competition to name the area](#). John Duckworth correctly identified the area as Allestree Park, with the snippet being near the centre of the map. The prize was collected by Ann-Marie, as John is only just back to running following his ankle break at the November Classic.



Our 2026 DVO Championships will be on a new area for orienteering – Solomon's Temple, near Buxton!

Rachel Storms the Castle at Quid Games

December 4, 2025



This November I ran Quid Games II: Storm the Castle in Kendal, an event in partnership between British Orienteering and SportsShoes ([British Orienteering members get 15% off](#)). It was part race, part festival showpiece in the format of a 60-minute night score event with tactical controls, big-brand prizes, and a buzzing crowd atmosphere. I was racing for the GBR team and had been sponsored to attend. The concept was to open the sport to a new audience, get big brands involved and spotlight the sport in an exciting way.

I arrived as dusk settled over Kendal, and the start area already hummed with energy. The event was billed as *Storm the Castle*, a follow-up to the original Quid Games last winter, and the green lights striking across the castle hinted we were in for a treat.

Organisers leaned into partnerships to give the event scale and polish. The collaboration between SportsShoes and British Orienteering, supported by brands like ASICS, Silva, Garmin, Maurten and Red Bull, meant there were real prizes and brand activations at play, which added an extra layer of competitiveness and fun. Prizes ranged from new watches, headtorches, sunglasses, and sport nutrition.

With big prizes on the line every decision felt amplified – do I sprint to a high-value control across town and go all-in, or go for consistency across the whole course and aim for the bigger overall prizes?



On the ground, the course was an urban event with ~25% on grass. It explored hidden corners of Kendal, opening locations I'd never seen used for orienteering before (like passages through a brewery and up artificial ski-slopes). The event attracted a large field – around 175 competitors – so the start was lively, and the controls felt contested. What surprised me most was the atmosphere. This wasn't the quiet, solitary navigation we expect at an event; there was a live DJ at 'basecamp' and out on the course. This proved to be a slight give away to control location but, on the whole, navigation was rather easy – maybe light green standard.

I chose a tactical route aiming for specific controls that paid off with a handful of high-value prizes (50 Maurten energy gels, a pair of Sungod sunglasses). I also benefitted from my many years of final control sprint finishes (and CSC golden boots!) to bag myself a free pair of ASICS trail shoes. Overall, the event was a great success and so much fun! It's lovely to hear how excited newcomers and first-timers were at the finish line. There are plans for further events in this series and I would recommend them for an evening of orienteering with a real difference!

Well done Rachel! [British Orienteering's write-up is here](#), with a link to the Results, well worth looking at just for the lightshow of Kendal (see below)! Paul Addison of PeakRaid (and ex of DVO) came in 64th, with Rachel 38th. Interesting that the top athlete (Euan Tryner of EUOC, ex-SYO) got all 16 controls in 34 minutes!



Kendal Castle and town/race arena. Image credit: SportsShoes

Winter MapRuns 2026

December 1, 2025



Smartphone orienteering in and around Derby

What: Keen to improve your navigation and meet new people? We have planned a new series of evening events which we hope will be as successful and as popular as the last two years. See the poster below and put the dates in your diary!

These fun and friendly hour-long sessions are accessible for all fitness and navigation abilities. **And these events are free thanks to [funding from Sport England](#).** Take part as an individual, walk or run in pairs or a larger group, and do as much as you feel able. We especially look forward to the hard-earned drink and post-run chat at each nominated **social venue**.

When: Nearly all events take place on Thursday evenings – our upcoming [events page](#) and the poster below contain more details.

How it all works: We use a score format, so competitors receive points for each control site visited, and you can collect up to 35 controls. The order is up to you as long as you are back within the hour (penalty points are applied for a late return). [Check out our blog of events](#) that have already taken place.

Newcomers welcome: Why not take on a new challenge? Or invite your friends and relatives to get involved with the series. Help will be on hand as the club has plenty of experienced maprunners to get you started!



What do I need: A fully charged smartphone with downloaded MapRun app (clickable links below) and suitable high-vis clothing for navigating the roads and parks. Download the app, add your profile details, and pre-load the course in advance if you can, from the Derby Night Series folder in Derbyshire / Derwent Valley.

Print your map at home option: You can navigate using the MapRun map on your smartphone, but if you prefer to print out the map and plan your route, download your map here (clickable links become live when the map is ready):

- 15 Jan – [Week 1 Heanor](#)
- 22 Jan – [Week 2 Chaddesden](#)
- 29 Jan – [Week 3 Whitemoor](#)
- 09 Feb – [Week 4 Spondon](#)
- 26 Feb – Week 5 Allestree
- 05 Mar – Week 6 Ilkeston
- 12 Mar – Week 7 Duffield
- 19 Mar – Week 8 Mickleover North

Unable to get to an event? The benefit of these smartphone-based events is that all courses will remain open 24/7 and can be used as part of your own training schedule. You can also rerun courses that you have enjoyed. Do **drop us a line** if you complete one of our courses!

- Learn more from our **preview pages** (members blog):
 - [YEAR 1\) Autumn 23](#) and [Spring 24](#) and

- YEAR 2) [Autumn 24](#) and [Spring 25](#) and
- YEAR 3) [Autumn 25](#) and [Spring 26](#).
- Learn more from our **highlights pages** with photos and maps (results):
 - YEAR 1) [Autumn 23](#) and [Spring 24](#) and
 - YEAR 2) [Autumn 24](#) and [Spring 25](#) and
 - YEAR 3) [Autumn 25](#) and [Spring 26](#).



How does MapRun orienteering work? With MapRun there are no markers in place, but as you go around your course, your phone GPS will confirm each site you visit with a beep. We will explain how to use the MapRun app at the events, but to learn more, here is a [quick start guide](#).

It's best if you download the MapRun app (Version 7 recommended) before you go to the event and fill in your profile:

- [Google Play](#)
- [iOS app store](#)



Please email Chris Millard (cjmillard@gmail.com) if you have any questions.

Terry Peach – DVO member from the early 1980s

September 27, 2025

From Rex Bleakman:

Carol Peach (Terrys wife) rang to ask me to let you all know that Terry had passed away on Sunday 21st September.

Terry joined DVO about 1980 and during his years with the club did some Organising and Planning of Events.

Obituary

I can recall some enjoyable times when Terry, Tony Berwick and myself would travel together to East Midlands events.

He was a regular with the Wednesday Night Runners and, of course, the pub to put back all those calories we might have burnt off!

All in all Terry was a thoroughly nice bloke with a ready smile and welcoming, easy manner.

Carol will let me know the funeral arrangements for me to share with you all.

If anyone would like to send her a sympathy card the address is:

Mrs C Peach,
2, Hamilton Close,
Mickleover,
Derby,
DE3 9LZ