

Club News September 2025

September 18, 2025



DVO hosted the **Midlands Championships** took place on 7th September at Chinley Churn. Well done to Organiser and Planner Nicky Hart and Richard Parkin, and to all the DVO helpers, from stile putters-out to Results. [Peter Cull's photos are here](#), and the DVO 2025 Midlands Champions are as follows:

M21E Jake O'Donnell

M55L John Duckworth

M70L Graham Johnson

W21L Sarah Duckworth

W55L Michelle Mackervoy

Congratulations to Sally Calland who came a close 2nd in W50A at the **British Sprint Championships** at the University of East Anglia on August 31st. Depending on performance in the Heats, finishers were allocated to an A or B Final in the afternoon, and Francesco won M60B with Imogen winning W14B. Wendy Carlyle's [Sprints and finals photos](#) are available here.



Congratulations to Sally & other podium finishers at the British Sprint Championships in East Anglia!

Well, all of a sudden it feels like winter, with more time for indoor pursuits. Why not snuggle up with a cuppa and read about the travels of our intrepid Treasurer – Helen Chiswell, for it is she – on her [Two feet & two wheels blog](#)? Or hillwalker [David Pettit's photo blog](#)? Both are great for vicarious travel, from Thailand to the Tatras!



We have early notice of the **2026 CompassSport Cup Heats and Finals**, the former on 22 February (venue TBA) and the latter once again at Pippingford Park, Ashdown Forest (Sussex) on 18 October. Have a look at the photos from the [2019 Final here](#).

While on diaries and indoor pursuits, I thought it worth repeating **how to create a hi-res map PDF on RouteGadget (not including courses)**, as the interface changed a year or so ago. Thanks to Christine for these step-by-step instructions:

Instructions for the Chrome browser (PC or Mac)

- When you're in RG, select the three vertical dots from the top right of the screen for Chrome.
- From the menu that appears, scroll to the bottom and select **More Tools**
- Select **Developer Tools**
- At the top of the Developer Tools choose, **Sources**, then **Page**
- Then you need to select the gif file in the gadget/kartat folder under the web address of the club, e.g. www.clok.route gadget.co.uk. Right click on the the name of the .gif file,
- Choose **Open image in new tab**, then Print it, Save to PDF or copy and paste that image into a new Word (or similar) document, turn it horizontally, fiddle with the image and borders until it fills the screen or page.

Our 3rd series of free [Autumn MapRuns](#) start this evening (as I write), continuing until 4th December. And our [AGM](#) is coming up on Wednesday 15 October in Matlock, with food and talks on this year's Interland competition and the East Midlands Junior Squad.

Recently joined the Club are Jen Wilson W35 and Cathy Lewis-Clugston W60. Good to have you in the Club – do say 'Hi' to anyone in a blue and yellow top at the next event!

[Whitworth Park, Local event, Sat 11th Oct](#) – entry on the day only

[Derby Spook-O, Local event, Sat 1st Nov](#) – entry on the day only

[Shipley Park, East Midlands League event, Sun 2nd Nov](#) – (online entry via the Start Kite opens soon)

2025 DVO Club Championships

The [DVO Club Championships](#) this year will be held at [NOC's Strawberry Hill event on Dec 21st](#). The Peter Bourne and Karen Jackson trophies will be respectively awarded to the fastest man and woman, and the Lithuanian amber trophy to the fastest junior. The Chris Yardley and Judy Buckley trophies are also up for grabs, criteria TBA. (They are normally awarded to the first man and woman over the line, when running our usual handicap format.) Last year's event took place in Allestree Park, with the presentation afterwards at the Evergreen Hall – here's a reminder of who won the various trophies & awards. Will Rob, Helen, Chris,

Emily and Imogen please check you have your trophies engraved, and hand them to a Committee Member before mid December please.



Weekly Training Runs

The following weekly runs have been going for decades, but new members may not know about them. Each run has an associated WhatsApp group!

The Monday Run

This starts at 6:30 from a different pub each week. It's normally off-road and there are 2 groups, 8–12km. Contact [Sal Chaffey](#) for details.

The Wednesday Run

Runs on a Wednesday evening start at 7pm and alternate between the Johnsons in Belper (1st & 3rd Wednesday in the month) and the Mackervoys in Allestree (2nd & 4th Wednesday). If there is a 5th Wednesday in the month, the run is a day-time one, with lunch afterwards. Contact [Make Gardner](#) for more details.

Puzzle Page by David Vincent

Solutions to June's Puzzle: The Connections Wall

Very well done to Helen, Lester, and Graham, who had completely correct solutions, or ones that convinced me that they were acceptable alternatives, and to Nicky, who had a basically correct solution apart from one word.

Here is the solution:

Group 1: house, belt, light, peace (all can be preceded by Green)

Group 2: tip, wrote, dire, master (all are anagrams of control features)

Group 3: sunset, Mae, gold rush, wild (all associated with West)

Group 4: start, opening, go, sunrise (synonyms or metaphors for commencements)

DVO Welcomes O-bot

I was very excited last week to be the first planner in the club to practise using our new member – O-bot. For those of you who were not at the committee meeting when the purchase was approved, the idea of O-bot is to aid the planner in course design. O-bot runs the proposed course, and reports back on map accuracy (such as undergrowth and shade of green) and determines the shortest legal route.

It was this latter function that I set about testing last week in Shipley Park. I created a simple 5-control irregular pentagon course with the Start and Finish at the same point, and downloaded the map to O-bot. Ze – O-bot's first words on powering up were to inform me that "ze", "zis", and "zim" were zis preferred pronouns – asked me to select a constant speed for zis run, and I chose 10 metres per second. Ze walked with me to the Start, where I uttered the obligatory "Beep, beep, beep beeeeeep!", and ze was off!

It seemed a very short time before ze was back. I realised that I was expecting some... what? Panting? Some sign of fatigue? But ze simply gave a trill of rising notes universally accepted in this age as indicating a successfully completed task. I eagerly peered at the screen on zis back and saw...

Control	Bearing to control (degrees from north)	Split (mm:ss)
Start		
1	115	1:20
2	190	1:16
3	235	
4	315	1:20
5	15	1:00
Finish	80	1:57

Super! All I had to do was multiply the split time in seconds by ze's speed, to get the distance between each control, and for the whole course. Presumably, ze could be configured to provide this data directly, but before I could ask – and just as I was peering at the screen to read the sun-glint obscured third split – ze gave another – this time downbeat – trill, walked to the wireless charging station that I'd left on the grass, and powered off. I'm somewhat sentimental (some say



foolish) when it comes to daughters, pets, and, it seems, robots, but it didn't feel right to wake zim.

Can you supply the total course distance? Email [David Vincent](mailto:David.Vincent@derwentvalleyorienteers.org.uk) by the end of November.

Notice of our 2025 AGM

September 17, 2025



Our Annual General Meeting will take place at Lime Tree Business Park, Lime Tree Road, Matlock on Wednesday October 15th at 7:30pm. In addition to the business part of the meeting (including discussions about entry fees and spending the club's money), Ann-Marie will give a talk about the East Midlands Junior Squad. This feeds nicely into John's talk about his recent Interland competition. John not only ran for England, but organised the tour!

All are very welcome, and it's a good opportunity to meet club-mates when not sweaty, breathless or lost!

Agenda

Welcome and drinks, sandwiches and chips

Club business

1. Apologies for absence
2. Approval of the Minutes of the AGM 2024
3. Chairman's Report – Jane Kayley-Burgess
4. Membership Secretary's Report – Simon Brister
5. Treasurer's Report and discussion of DVO club finances – Helen Chiswell
6. Development Report – John Duckworth
7. Captain's report – Christine Middleton
8. Annual election of existing and new Elected Officers and a new Committee Member*
9. Proposal: to increase the senior member entry fee at Regional events (Level C) from £8 to £10

10. Any other business

11. Date of next AGM – Wednesday 14th October 2026

Followed by

Ann-Marie Duckworth will talk about her work with the East Midlands Junior Squad and John Duckworth about his experience competing at Interland 2025.

***Committee Member** – have your say on the future of the Club and how funds are spent. Sally Calland held this position last year, but is now taking over Christine's role as Club Captain. So the role of Committee Member is vacant.

Chips and sandwiches will be provided, please email [Simon](#) so we have an idea of numbers. Simon will email the Treasurer's Report to all members shortly, to facilitate a vote on Proposal 9 above.

A Super Club Day at the Seaside

September 15, 2025



Christine Middleton and Sal Chaffey report on the CompassSport Cup Final

The CompassSport Cup is an annual inter-club competition, with heats in early spring and a Final in the autumn. DVO qualified for the Final at [our heat in Clumber Park](#) back in February.

Cleveland Orienteering Klub hosted the Final on a sand-dune area in Redcar, called South Gare. They also staged an urban event on the Saturday at Stockton on Tees, to make it worth the travel for runners from all over the UK.

The dunes were very complex, and mapped with 2.5 metre contours. Navigation had to be accurate, and many of us were caught out on our first control! Most courses finished with a chain of controls overlooking – or actually on – the beach, and some opted to emerge onto the beach for sections. But at least the dunes were grassed, stabilising the sand, so progress on the beach was *nowhere* near as fast as expected!



Very many thanks to the 38 runners who travelled to Redcar to support the Club at the CompassSport Cup. It was a lovely setting, a great club atmosphere with challenging terrain both physically and technically. A final sting in the tail was a long run-in slightly uphill in the sand. We were competing against top quality teams and our result of 9th was a creditable performance.



Really nice and cheering supporters!

There was great team spirit at the Club tent, and everyone was cheered home. Splits analysis, cake and apples were on offer at the tent!



Christine says "It's been a real pleasure to be DVO's Club Captain over the last 5 years and yesterday's event was a great way to finish."



Compass Sport Cup

Pos	Club	Scorers	Score	1	2	4	3	6	5	7	8A	8B	9A	9B	10
1st	SYO	25	2396	97 (1)	96 (1)	287 (3)	294 (3)	387 (4)	378 (4)	95 (1)	196 (2)	190 (2)	284 (3)	92 (1)	0 (0)
2nd	FVO	25	2391	384 (4)	384 (4)	382 (4)	184 (2)	279 (3)	191 (2)	99 (1)	0 (0)	0 (0)	100 (1)	194 (2)	194 (2)
3rd	WCOC	25	2363	282 (3)	288 (3)	365 (4)	285 (3)	195 (2)	380 (4)	100 (1)	192 (2)	192 (2)	0 (0)	0 (0)	84 (1)
4th	SROC	25	2011	156 (2)	163 (2)	74 (1)	335 (4)	309 (4)	227 (3)	335 (4)	144 (2)	0 (0)	0 (0)	96 (1)	172 (2)
5th	SLOW	25	1950	308 (4)	331 (4)	94 (1)	162 (2)	213 (3)	281 (4)	337 (4)	90 (1)	0 (0)	0 (0)	72 (1)	62 (1)
6th	HOC	25	1948	298 (4)	325 (4)	141 (2)	162 (2)	281 (4)	79 (1)	98 (1)	236 (3)	0 (0)	230 (3)	98 (1)	0 (0)
7th	CLOK	25	1919	254 (3)	147 (2)	225 (3)	242 (3)	63 (1)	64 (1)	154 (2)	126 (2)	180 (2)	68 (1)	240 (3)	156 (2)
8th	DEE	25	1906	146 (2)	311 (4)	202 (3)	243 (3)	331 (4)	244 (4)	361 (4)	68 (1)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
9th	DVO	25	1884	0 (0)	200 (3)	305 (4)	157 (2)	252 (4)	137 (2)	329 (4)	0 (0)	78 (1)	0 (0)	76 (1)	350 (4)
10th	NGOC	16	1116	81 (1)	153 (2)	218 (3)	0 (0)	180 (3)	150 (2)	254 (4)	0 (0)	0 (0)	80 (1)	0 (0)	0 (0)
11th	SN	13	943	0 (0)	156 (2)	61 (1)	174 (2)	212 (3)	214 (3)	46 (1)	0 (0)	80 (1)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)

DVO came 9th, and the brackets show the number of scorers in each class. A maximum of 25 people in any one club can score, so – with 25 scorers – we had that optimised!

Name	Class	Score		
Val Johnson	7	94	Dave Skidmore	7 67
Judith Holt	10	94	Russell Buxton	6 65
Rex Bleakman	10	92	Malcolm Spencer	6 64
John Ashley Hurley	7	90	Hywel Satherley	2 63
Dai Bedwell	4	88	David Clough	4 62
Michelle Mackervoy	5	88	Rob Williams	2 61
Judith Evans	10	88	Andrew Middleton	6 54
Sal Chaffey	3	83	Kim Buxton	5 49
Jessica Williams	8B	78		
Graham Johnson	7	78	Anne Kayley-Burgess	5 48
Andy Sykes	4	78	Jane Kayley-Burgess	5 47
Darren Cook	4	77		
Dave Chaffey	2	76	Ranald Macdonald	7 59
Imogen Satherley	9B	76	Ruth Ellis	10 58
Nicola Hart	3	74	Lester Evans	7 55
Christine Middleton	10	74	Stuart Swalwell	7 52
David Vincent	6	69	John Hopper	7 49
			Karen Bedwell	5 45
			Emily Williams	5 42

The 25 scorers are shown above, but all finishers helped, because they reduced the number of points available to rival clubs!

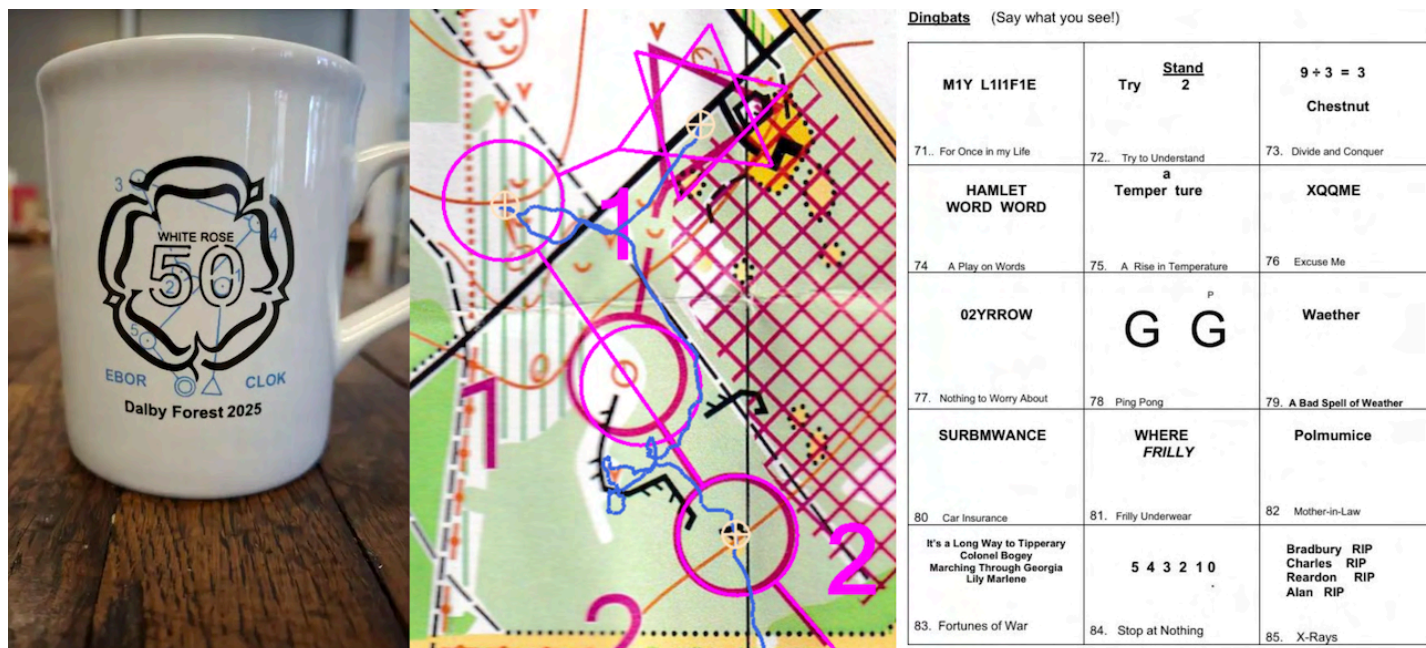


We left before the prize-giving, but I got a sneak preview of some of the trophies, including the Golden Boots for fastest run-in, claimed by DVO's Rachel Duckworth in 2019 and '21.

If you want to see more photos from the day, [David and Rebecca Aspin's album is here.](#)

What you see is what you get!

September 11, 2025



Derek Gale reflects on the White Rose (& a summary of DVO results)

I believe there is an old adage that the South Sea islanders could not see Captain Cook's ship as it was so large, compared to their experience, that it could not exist. I start this tale this way as when I go out into the forest with my trusty orienteering map I expect to see what my map tells me.

So there I was at the White Rose running my Middle Distance Short Green. Control 1 having been punched, I decide to run along the track towards Control 2 which is very straight but runs into an out-of-bounds area. What I did not expect to find was 4 metre high netting hung on trees and poles across the path. At this point someone says 'that must be the paint ball area' so thinking I must have run into the out-of-bounds I veer south only to find yet more of the netting, and a crowd of fellow orienteers looking for the control. This netting in several places was down on the ground and looked quite old. So what was the problem? Well, we were all looking for a crag as that is what you get in a forested area. What you do not expect is an uncrossable wall, particularly a ruined uncrossable wall if such a thing exists, which does not enclose anything. Only when we were standing by the pit in the horseshoe did the light dawn that the netting was in the same shape as the crag on the map and that it was mapped as an uncrossable wall did we see Captain Cook's ship. Finding the control was easy after that but the damage was done.

An explanation about the map. It is a combination of my Short Green and Jen's Very Short Green which had different first control but the same second control. The wavy blue line is my GPS track to find the control.

So what should have happened. The map correctly placed the netting and it was uncrossable where it was still standing and I cannot see any sensible way of indicating its presence other than what was done. I am of the belief that the final details should have carried an alert to what might be found in the forest. Whether I



would have remembered it is another matter. The path drifting into the out-of-bounds area also looks a bit odd, though as you can see from the track I never got close enough to see if there was a specific boundary.

In spite of this, Derek managed a creditable 2nd place in M80L in the combined results. Other DVO performances as follows:

Night Score

David Newton M45, 9th Male Vets

David Vincent M60, 9th Male Super Vets

Graham Johnson M70, 2nd Male Ultra Vets

Combined Middle and Classic races

M55L Andy Sykes 2nd

M65L Russell Buxton 7th

W60L Kim Buxton 5th

W65L Val Johnson 4th

W75L Jen Gale 2nd

The Forest Sprint on Bank Holiday Monday was well received, DVO's highest placed runner being Judith Holt who was 8th, some 5 minutes down on her grand-daughter SYO's Lucy Holt in first place. Josh Cooper, the Weekend Coordinator, said "The forest was runnable and had good visibility, with a 1:5000 map forcing quick decisions." You can read his blog about the weekend [here](#).

DVO Navigation Festival at Hardwick July 5th 2025

August 21, 2025



Co-organisers Judith and Lester Evans reflect on the day

First of all a HUGE thank you to all the DVO volunteers who gave up a large part of their Saturday (and in some cases much more) to help make this venture a success, especially Jane Kayley-Burgess who planned the courses and instigated the National Trust collaboration. We've now had our debrief meeting with NT so can give you some feedback from the day.



Summary

The festival's aim was to introduce NT Hardwick visitors, as opposed to established orienteers, to the sport of orienteering via a series of bespoke mapped courses (thank you Richard) within the grounds of the main hall and out into the park estate. The event name, conversation and maps were free of jargon in an attempt to demystify the sport for newcomers. Some 120 entries were registered involving over 100 individuals, most of whom were children. In total more than 250 individuals were exposed to orienteering for the first time. The event ran from 11am to 3:30pm. Some 20 DVO volunteers assisted in the running of the event with most able to run the longest course.

We wanted the NT to see this very much as a collaboration, with us providing something for their customers, and we achieved this.

What went well?

The conversations and maps were deliberately free of jargon and every effort was made by DVO volunteers to be super welcoming and make the sport fun and accessible.

The NT pink star tent was literally the star of the show. It's location in the Stableyard meant it was a perfect assembly point, making us very visible and accessible. The Start and Finish being adjacent to the star tent made it easy to get immediate involvement.

There were lots of enthusiastic DVO volunteers (dressed in DVO tops) up on their feet and helping visitors get started meant that no-one was kept waiting. The same volunteers could see them again at Download and ask how they got on. They would then encourage them to do the next level course.



The use of dibbers, electronic controls and printed downloads for all courses was a great attraction especially for youngsters and their parents. Many repeated the courses and compared times with others.



The circular maps used in the hall grounds were very well received and got them navigating appropriately.

The NT staff and volunteers were enthusiastic and helpful. Everyone felt involved and invested in what we were doing and the high number of DVO members, in DVO tops, made it feel like a real club effort.

Alex Welch from BOF attending, getting involved and producing a [video report](#) which then appeared immediately on the BOF FB page was a bonus and great PR for the club.

Positive feedback has been received from the NT resulting in them wanting us to repeat the event at least once a year, but certainly next summer and redeveloping the permanent orienteering course for a launch at that event.

What could be improved?

NT staff were reluctant to get involved handing out the specially prepared postcard with an explanation of the event. Better briefing of the NT staff and volunteers on the day so that they could help in promoting the event. It has been suggested that we attend their morning briefing at 9.00am.

All visitors who took part were given a flier with more details of future events and contacts. It would be good to take more contact details and get express permission to mail with more details of DVO, permanent courses and clubs etc. near to their homes.

The location of the Start and Finish for longer courses nearer to the others would make it easier for the transition from one to the other. The Start and Finish teams, understandably, felt they were a little divorced from the action.

Learning points

For events designed to attract newcomers the location of assembly, starts and finish, and download needs to be very visible and close to the venue's main amenities. We tend to tuck ourselves away a bit, and try not to be a nuisance but to attract people's attention, we should be more 'public'.

Dibbers, electronic controls and printouts attract youngsters so that they will do a course more than once and move up a course.

A welcome team dedicated to getting people understanding and taking part is key to success. Being present at the end of their run is also essential. Engaging with people at both ends of their run means they are much more likely to remember what they did and hopefully want to do it again.



A really short simple course with all the usual features of map, dibber, controls and printouts is likely to attract more young newcomers and their parents than the traditional string course. The Markeaton event in August proved that to be the case.

The host organisation should be encouraged to view the event as a partnership with positive benefits for them as much as for DVO.

The small gifts given to the volunteers were appreciated: a different approach for a different type of event.

The event structure worked and largely achieved its objectives. We can make improvements but shouldn't be encouraged to add more elements. We now have an event template that can be used in other locations across Derbyshire and will visit other NT properties over the next few months to see if we can make the same model work there.

Royal Deeside 2025

August 11, 2025



About 40 DVO members attended this year's Scottish 6-days. Stuart Swalwell collected these anonymous accounts!

Our 10th S6D, and our family voted it the best yet. Certainly, it wasn't my best orienteering performance – the best I could manage was 3/4 of the way down the field, my fitness and skills failing me badly. But the courses, the terrain, the scenery, superb and friendly organisation combined to make it a lovely week. Probably our biggest win was our lovely house – carefully selected a full year before the event – with red squirrels in the garden and easy access to miles of walks for our dog.

The terrain wasn't varied – no open fell or reclaimed sand dunes – but the undulating forests were lovely. Bramble-free and runnable (if you were fit enough to prance through heather, bilberry, and juniper, which I wasn't).

After 6 months of injuries and poor fitness, a week in Scotland has rekindled my enthusiasm! Time to book accommodation for the Lakes 5 next year.



Picnic lunch after Day 3



Day 1, Glen Feardar East

First S6D as DVO members was a great opportunity to get to know a very supportive group. We particularly appreciated the Vincents' picnic and the air show.

The weather was perfect and the midges were on holiday elsewhere.

Orienteering terrain was consistently tough and we were delighted to find a runnable path on the last day! Making mistakes became the norm but really pleased to find (eventually) all our controls. Looking forward

to going faster in Perthshire, 2027.

We had a great 6-day this time – Deeside was bathed in late summer splendour with its fields of ripe corn and Victorian towns and villages. And it only rained at night. I normally approach with trepidation as the orienteering is tough, but I didn't make any mistakes longer than 3 or 4 minutes. I wasn't super fast though!

After Day 3, the Vincents invited DVO back to their holiday accommodation in Braemar for a picnic lunch, and afterwards we climbed Morrone, my 104th Corbett. The Sprint at Ballater was fun and I spoke some German with people from the club in the next town to our daughter in Thüringen, Germany.



Another highlight was paddleboarding by the Cambus O'May suspension bridge with Dave, though to be fair we used it in kayak mode as the water was too shallow to risk falling off! We could see eels, the water was so clear!

We've survived our first S6D! O-Child and O-Dad made the long drive up to join the rest of the DVO family, but not fully appreciating what was coming. The WhatsApp chat at the time of entering was for O-Dad to enter M45S and so I did. Beginner's luck on Day 1 meant I got around quick enough – this Scottish stuff isn't so hard after all. BUT then Day 2 arrived... and the 'S' wasn't short enough! I can now confirm that the 'S' does not stand for 'Short', but for 'Stupid' and the 'L' is not 'Long', but Lunatic! I have no idea what the



'E' is for. Day 2 was tough for O-Child as well, but she fared much better the other days, much to the pride of O-Dad. She was motivated by dollops of Ballater ice-cream (a good run equalling two scoops). We had an awesome week and the weather was splendid. We'll be back in two years, if only to see the pet tick that O-Child had to leave behind. Anyone for tick salad?

I volunteered as a helper on Day 5 and was given the role of bog attendant. I reported in to the Day Organiser at the start of my shift and she told me I was "amazing". (At this point I hadn't done anything). Following my 2 hour stint, she came across to me and told me again I was "amazing". (I think she might have taken an e-learning programme on ways to motivate volunteers). As I was putting on my O kit back in the car park, I pondered whether I could keep up this accolade out in the forest. Well, as it turned out, I could! The forest was runnable – unlike some of the previous days – I made no mistakes and finished with my highest ranking points this year! Amazing! I wonder if the DVO Coaches should build motivation talks into their training sessions. Tales from my bog duty will have to wait another day as you may be eating your breakfast/lunch/tea/supper when reading this.



With our accommodation being so far away from the event centre we took the decision to only enter Days 1, 3 and 4 though some of us did the Sprint in Ballater. The comments need to be taken in that context and recognising that the event is essentially an amateur event with volunteers.

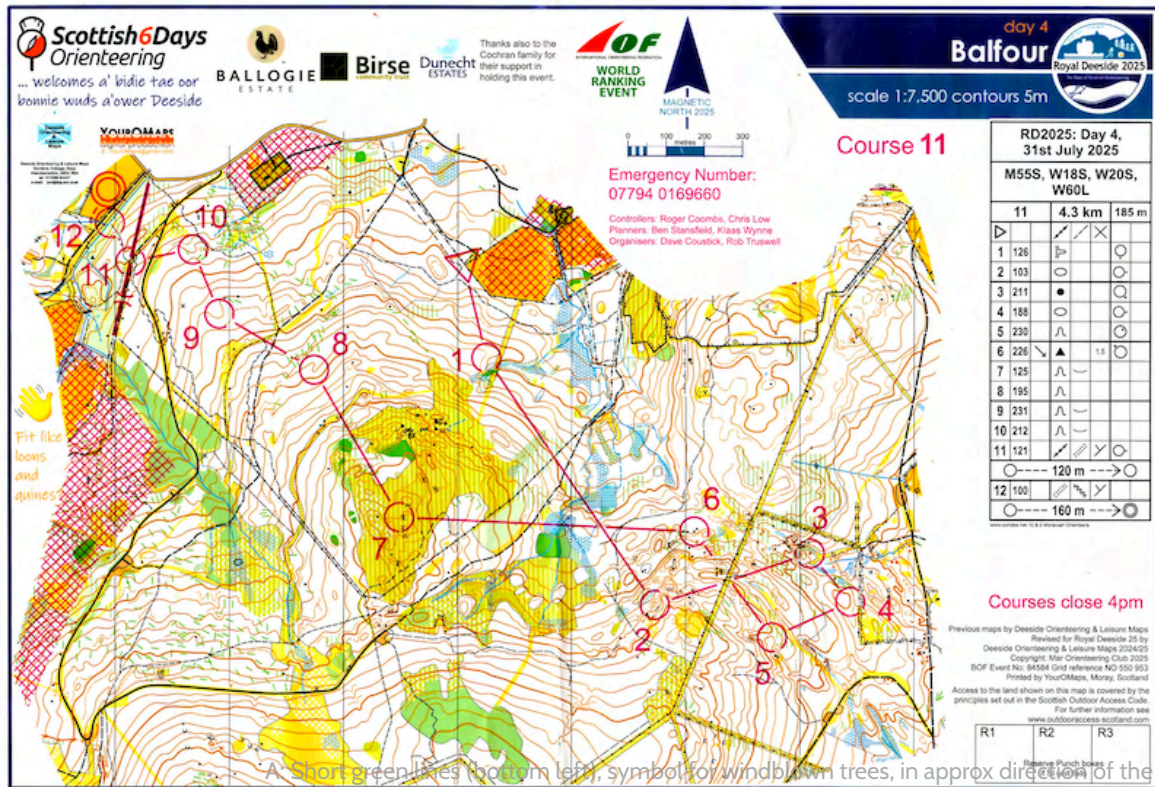
Overall, we enjoyed the experience, even though we did not cover ourselves in glory. However, we had a three-year-old with us whose parents wanted him to go round the White Course with an adult. This was Course 23, also run by the M10B and W10B competitors, and whilst the winning times of 14:31 to 21:04 are largely okay, the tail end varied from 69:49 to 123:12, excluding the Middle Distance event. This course should be encouraging youngsters into the sport, not putting them off with such lengthy times, notwithstanding other issues such as controls being passed that were not on the course, or decision points not having a control.

One other major concern was that there seemed to be quite a discrepancy between the lengths of the M80 course compared with other members of the party. The British Orienteering Guidelines give a ratio of 0.41 for an M80 to an M21 so on checking the length of the M80 courses against the M21L lengths, excluding the Middle Distance event, we found that the ratio was between 0.24 and 0.29. We used 100m of climb to be equivalent of 1km on the flat.

It seems that the Planners might not be reading the rules and guidelines. Indeed, the thought crossed our minds that British Orienteering should introduce a new set of rules whereby courses of White to Light Green standard can only be planned by a parent who has young children and the TD5 courses of Green and shorter should only be planned by someone over 50.

As older competitors with less flexible joints, the going underfoot became hard to impossible at times, with no obvious route to avoid it as the map did not show the terrain as it sometimes was.

Q: What were all those short green lines on the Balfour map?



With barely a hint of rain or excessive heat, the only challenges faced were those of the Scottish forests and moors, the technical orienteering and the terrain, from sublime, grass-carpeted birch woods, to deep heather, lush bracken, and forest workings. Each encounter followed by the opportunity to compare courses and routes, bruises and tick counts in a club sprawl between the run-in and the catering vans.



Meet Your New Registration Team Leaders!

August 4, 2025



Judith & Lester Evans joined DVO in 2022 when they moved from Harlequins OC territory. They've been very active in the Club, running the Map Reclaim at the JK 2024 Relays and recently negotiating and organising the Hardwick Navigation Festival! They are now taking on the leadership of the Welcome, Registration and Enquiries Team.

Judith

When and where did you first start orienteering? In the early 70s, my maths teacher at QEGS, Ashbourne (Mr Steve Buckley), took us orienteering. I think it was at Hawksmoor, when orienteering maps were photocopies of OS maps! Then we re-found orienteering as a family in 1989, at the Lickey Hills Trailblazer event, and joined Harlequins Orienteering Club.

Do you have any rituals before/after your run? In the past, checking you had all the kit was important: compass, whistle, red pen, map bag, control card with code/descriptions copied into boxes. A cat's cradle of strings holding all in place! A lot easier now.

I don't like to jump boxes at the start even if free, I will go through the timed stages.

What's your most memorable orienteering/experience? Personally, orienteering on Penhale Sands: JK1997 overall 9th W40L; British 2005: W50L 4th.

Most memorable otherwise: was at the World Champs in Scotland 1999 (S6D) when Yvette Baker won gold in the short race – I got splashed by her champagne!!

Do you have a SIAC dibber? Yes.

What do you enjoy doing when you're not orienteering? I enjoy cycling – we've had several cycling tour holidays recently, also other running events. Sewing is one of my other past-times, having been taught by my mother when I was young.

Most memorable O holiday (or weekend)? I always enjoy the Scottish 6 days events. We started going to Scotland in 1997 as a family and had great fun. Since then we've only missed one in 2021.

Favourite TV or radio show/podcast? Quiz nights on a Monday : Mastermind, Only Connect and University Challenge.

Lester

When and where did you first start orienteering? 1982, Judith took me round a permanent course while camping in the Beddgelert Forest.

Do you have any rituals before and/or after your run? Before the run I go through my mental check list of all the things I need to take with me. I then run without a compass, whistle or my glasses!

After my run I need to get back to the car and eat! I avoid post-run analysis with anyone who talks about the "seconds" they have lost. I sit alone contemplating the "minutes" I have lost.

What's your most memorable orienteering experience? Judith and I had the honour of organising the individual day of the British Championships on Brown Clee in 2016. My favourite area and one that we used to be able to see from our bedroom window.

Do you have a SIAC dibber? Yes, but I still dib the control if other runners are at the control.

What do you enjoy doing when you're not orienteering? Cycling: We have loads of local trails nearby and we've also done some gravel Sportives. We also enjoy cycle touring in Europe and UK.

Love spending time with family and watching our granddaughters growing up into very special human beings.

Most memorable O holiday (or weekend)? We went to the Dutch 3-days many years ago and discovered that an international event can be run by just one individual!

Favourite TV or radio show/podcast? Most British crime drama, any of the televised grand cycling tours and Desert Island discs on Radio 4.



Lester and Judith ready with the JK 2024 Map Reclaim!

Autumn MapRuns 2025

July 13, 2025

DERBY MAPRUNS

Want to improve your navigation? Keen to meet new people?
Improve your mental and physical fitness with us!
FREE event - download the app

Register 6:45 for 7pm mass start, 1 hour to find the controls

	Venue	Meet at	Post code	Social
TWILIGHT SERIES				
18 SEPT	Wirksworth	Red Lion Hotel	DE4 4ET	Feather Star
25 SEPT	Derby North	Duke Street	DE1 3BX	Furnace Inn
2 OCT	Mickleover	Masons Arms (Etwell Road)	DE3 0DD	Masons Arms
9 OCT	Oakwood	Springwood Leisure	DE21 2RQ	Kings Corner
HEADTORCH SERIES				
13 NOV	Ripley	Cedar Avenue Park	DE5 3PA	Pear Tree Hotel
20 NOV	Belper	Coppice Car Park	DE56 1FZ	Angels Micropub
27 NOV	Chellaston	Sinfin Avenue	DE24 9EF	New Bridge Inn
4 DEC	Mackworth	Rykneild Sports Centre	DE22 4FB	The Farmhouse

cjmillard@gmail.com
dvo.org.uk/future-dvo-events/

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).

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):

- 18 Sept – [Week 1 Wirksworth](#)
- 25 Sept – [Week 2 Derby North](#)
- 02 Oct – [Week 3 Mickleover](#)
- 09 Oct – [Week 4 Oakwood](#)
- 13 Nov – Week5 Ripley
- 20 Nov – Week 6 Belper
- 27 Nov – Week 7 Chellaston
- 04 Dec – Week 8 Mackworth

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:
 - 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.

A history of the quarries on Chinley Churn

July 12, 2025





Chinley Churn is a prominent gritstone hill between the villages of Chinley and Hayfield in the Peak District. The summit is 457 metres (1,499 ft) above sea level. The hilltop ridge area is designated as open access land, following the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000. The trig pillar on the hill was removed sometime after April 2024 – thought to be by the farmer. The trig pillar at the lower secondary summit further south is on private land.

Cracken Edge Quarry (worked from at least 1640 until the 1900s) is designated a Regionally Important Geological Site. This is a large disused stone slate quarry. The quarry forms the dramatic crest of the hill. Through centuries of workings, the scarp edge of Chinley Churn has been dramatically shaped into steps. The main quarry face stretches for 1km and rises to at least 10m at its highest.

Below these sheer quarried rock faces are steps consisting of flat, stone-working areas with large spoil heaps and routeways, with slopes of spoil scree between. This rock is special because it splits beautifully into thin pieces perfect for flags and roof slates.

The History of Cracken Edge Quarry

The background...

Since the 14th century, the land around Chinley, or Mainstonefield as it was known, was used as farmland by the Abbey of Merivale.

In 1569, after the Dissolution, this land was divided into 40 portions, each known as a 'neighbourship'. Each of the 'neighbours' then paid 5s 4d in rent. These neighbourships are interesting because they appear to be a system unique to Chinley and formed the template for land use and sale for the next 300 years – they are still referred to in recent land leases!

The quarry...

In 1628, a commission was written laying down the allocation of the neighbourships. Here, we have our first mention of the quarry. The commission includes the 'slate breaks' at Cracken Edge which were attached to the neighbourships. A 'slate break' was an apportionment of the hill crest, giving the owner the right to quarry the stone. Therefore, whilst 1628 is our first known date of the quarry, we can assume it was active before then, making it at least 400 years old!

Cracken's hey day

By the 1700s the region had industrialised and the village of Chinley had grown. The Peak Forest Canal and the Tramway at Buxworth and Chinley were built between 1799 and 1806. In 1867 the railway came to the village. These developments greatly increased the potential for industrial output and export. The quarry yielded building stone but specialised in the production of paving and roofing slabs. Besides surface extraction, better stone at a greater depth was extracted by underground mining.

In its hey day, Cracken was sending 16,000 tonnes of Cracken stone by train every year! Cracken is a significant part of local history. It was an important resource and employer. Many local men and boys worked there and many of the houses in Chinley have been built, the floors paved and the roofs slated with Cracken Stone.

As concrete became cheap and accessible, the market for quarried slate reduced dramatically. The quarry eventually closed in the 1920s. Whilst no stone has been extracted here for 100 years, the quarry lies virtually unchanged and provides an educational and beautiful place to visit. The evidence of past activity is all around you at Cracken Edge. It is interesting to imagine all the activity and hubbub that must have been here when workers still came to break stone. A significant feature of Cracken Edge is the enormous piles of spoil and massive slabs of tumbled rock face.



Pieces like this show how the stone has been worked by an expert technique of wedging and hammering at the top of the face to prise whole sections of rock away. Quite well preserved on the site are the remains of a winding wheel. It was built in 1901 to make it easier to transport the stone from the hill side to the road. The accompanying railtracks ran right down the slope.

You can see the straight channel in the ground leading all the way to the road where the tracks used to be. The wheel was built by Frank and Alfred Kirkham. Unfortunately the wheel proved unsatisfactory because the wagons jumped the tracks and it wasn't used for long.

Lying at the northern end of the quarry are the remains of a crane. This probably dates from the 19th and early 20th century and would have been used for lifting stones to be swung into new positions.

Across the whole quarry are at least 11 small drystone structures. These are quarrymen's huts fashioned from spoil to provide storage and shelter from the often harsh High Peak weather.

There are noticeable 'access routes' leading from the main footpath to the sheer rock face.

This is where gaps were intentionally maintained or created in order to provide the quarrymen access to the quarry face. One of the main footpaths between Cracken Edge and Chinley is known as Sandy Lane. It used to be called Lea Lane and for a long time was the only route by which the quarrymen could transport stone. It was a hazardous journey with just a wagon and pony carrying huge amounts of stone down this steep and rocky lane.

A burial barrow (near the site of the now removed modern trig pillar) was reported in 1901 as the resting place of an ancient Celtic chieftain called Taro Trin (the Bull of Conflict), according to tradition.

*This article first appeared in **EMEWS** The magazine of the [East Midlands Orienteering Association](#) No 297, Summer 2025.*