









Congratulations to
Sarah, Rachel, Sally & Liz

– DVO class winners at
the British Sprint
Champs, 22/8/21 at
Skelmersdale



The magazine of Derwent Valley Orienteers

Editor: sal.chaffey@gmail.com

	DVO		
Chair	10.00	Sal Chaffey	
Vice chair	Contacts	Jane Kayleigh Burgess	
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Treasurer		Brian Denness	
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EMOA Rep.		John Hurley	
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Event Officials Coordinator		vacant	
Controllers Coordinator		Ranald Macdonald	
Access Coordinators		Viv & Ranald Macdonald	
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Informal Events Coordinator		Sal Chaffey	
Event Safety Officer		Ranald Macdonald	
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Social Rep		Anne Kayleigh Burgess	
Welfare Offi	cer	Anne Kayleigh Burgess	



### **Editorial**

Thank you all for your concern at my having Covid. I'm on the mend now but was gutted to miss the event at St Elphin's.

I hope to bring out the next Newstrack in December and will set a copy date for the 5th. Have a healthy Autumn and stay safe.

Sal:)

## Oct 2021 What's inside?

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# **Meeting dates**

13 Oct (Wed), 7:30 - AGM, at the Family Tree, Whatstandwell.

After the business element of the meeting, GB Sprint international Charlotte Ward will speak about race preparation and her PhD research on 'effects of climate change on infectious diseases in Arctic wildlife populations'. Bar available, free tea and coffee

7 Dec (Tues), 7pm – **Fixtures Committ**ee at the Macdonalds and on Zoom 14 Dec (Tues), 7:30pm – **Main Committee** at the Chaffeys and on Zoom

# **World Masters 2022**

# Mike Godfree

A date for you diary – World Masters Orienteering Championship in Puglia, Italy, 8–16 July 2022 [Chaffeys will be there – Ed.]. Bulletin 1 now available at <a href="https://eventor.orienteering.org/Documents/Event/4392/1/Bulletin-1">https://eventor.orienteering.org/Documents/Event/4392/1/Bulletin-1</a>. Sun, sea, sand and orienteering. Usual format of Sprint model, Sprint qualifier, Sprint final, rest day, Forest model, Forest qualifier, rest day, Long final. Possible by train with either a night in Milan or a night on sleeper, if they are running again, Paris to Milan.

# Ceilidh - save the date!

DVO will be holding a ceilidh at Wirksworth Town Hall on Sat 12 Feb. Great music and dancing and not bad food. Club championships and Club Awards will also be presented. Save the date - more details to follow.

# White Rose miracle

A competitor returned to the download on Saturday at Skipwith, having lost their SIAC dibber. Although they were fairly sure of the area where they had lost it, they hadn't found it when looking. However, when the courses had closed and control collectors had ventured out, they borrowed one of the SI boxes. Using the SI box like a metal detector, they searched around the area and it worked. The SI box beeped as a sign that a SIAC dibber was close, and they were able to narrow down the search area. One missing dibber found!"

(with permission from the Ebor Newsletter, sent in by Graham Johnson)

# New Club Gazebo available to borrow for parties etc



DVO has acquired a smart new gazebo for use at club and public events. It measures 2.5m x 2.5m and is totally waterproof. It is very robust. It has four walls, two with windows, one with a door. It has guys and pegs to make it secure in bad weather. The frame comes in a canvas bag with carry handles and wheels and full instructions. The roof, sides, guys and pegs are in a blue plastic box. Both are stored in the shed near the club banners, on the shelf on the left.

Here it is in action at the very wet Whitworth Party in the Park, with three of the four sides attached. We are happy for members to use it, as long as any losses are made good. Please let Kim know if you'd like to borrow it.

# Courses for those wishing to become Planners and Controllers, Autumn 2021

Over the last 18 months we have been unable to provide much support for organisers, planners and controllers, though a number of people have thankfully come forward to volunteer their time and energy to take on these roles. A number of the local events we have put on have introduced new officials, with the support of an experienced mentor.

It is now time to formalise some of this experience through the appropriate courses to ensure that everyone is working to the Rules and Appendices that set out the standards to which we should be putting on our events.

As a start, Mike Gardner is going to run a Planners' Course and I will run one for potential Grade C Controllers. The Planners' Course will accommodate those just starting out at Level D or C and those wishing to refresh their knowledge and experience before progressing to planning Level B or even Level A events.

The courses will be run with a mixture of pre-reading, online and face-to-face activities and a final practical session. About 5 hours work across 2 or 3 sessions before the practical, which will hopefully going to take place following DVO's event at Hardwick Park on Sunday 28th November from about 1.30pm and will involve Planners and Controllers working together, as they would in a normal event. The course is funded by EMOA, so there is no fee.

To find out if you are eligible to become a Planner or Controller, you should read Appendix C: Event Officials in the British Orienteering Rules: Rules of Orienteering (sharepoint.com).

However, anyone can take the courses, though you may need to gain additional experience to carry out the role at certain levels of event, particularly to be licensed as a Controller. We are also happy for those who have already taken the courses to take them again as a refresher as the Rules and Appendices do change so it's always worth getting yourself up to date.

If you are interested in taking one of the courses, either let your Club Chair or EMOA rep know or contact me by Friday 1 October.

Ranald Macdonald, EMOA Development Co-ordinator and Grade A Controller r.f.macdonald@btinternet.com

# **East Midlands Sprint Champions 2021**



Photo: Murray White

Congratulations to Doug, Liz, Rachel and Richard who won their respective classes and the East Midlands Sprint Championships, organised by NOC at Clifton Campus on September  $12^{\rm th}$ . Prizes on the aggregate of 2 races in the campus and residential areas!





# **DVO Dinosaurs Roam in Jurassic World**

O'France, Jura, aka The French 5-Days

**Graham Johnson** 

In retrospect it was an act of extreme optimism to enter the French 5-Days back in January, but those were the days when Amber-plus countries and PCR tests were concepts unheard-of. The subsequent seven



months were a roller-coaster ride of will-we? or won't we?, but as July approached, it seemed all the planets were aligned and it was safe to stray outside the UK. France was prepared to have us, subject to a clear PCR test, and, just as we left, the UK announced all quarantine restrictions for double-jabbees were to be lifted – only to re-impose them for France a few days later.

As we pulled up at the ferry port in Dover, there were just five vehicles trundling on to the ferry, a total of seven passengers for a ship with a crew of 80 and a capacity of 2,200. This lack of British interest was very much repeated at the 5-Days where we represented two-thirds of the UK's non-resident competitors. Newstrack can say it has virtually an exclusive here – read all about it.

This was our third trip to the French 5-Days after previous visits in 2009 (Aveyron, South France), and 2019 (Haut-Alpes). Both were unforgettable adventures offering quality orienteering in unfamiliar territory quite unlike anything in the UK. The 2021 competition in the Jura, just over the border from Geneva and Switzerland, in an area far from any sizeable centre of population, offered similar opportunities and did not disappoint.

It was instructive to compare the French approach to this event with the Scottish 6-Days. For months the Scottish organisers agonised over whether they would have a viable event, but there was never any question or doubt that the French event would go ahead as planned with a full complement of 2,000 competitors. The fees were cheaper too and included a stylish competition O-shirt (as modelled by Val in the photo below).

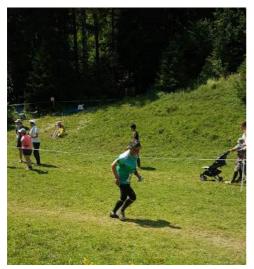
The levels of new Covid cases were supposedly so high in France that the UK government had to invent a whole new category of Amber-Plus for it, so it



was remarkable how little evidence of the rampant disease was on offer at the event. You might even describe the approach as laissezfaire. There was only one mention of Covid in the event details, no sanitisers apart from at the toilets, no encouragement to leave as soon as the runs were over. Lunch being

a sacred ritual for the French, clubs lingered long into the afternoon indulging in this ceremony. Club tents and banners were set up as usual around what was an expansive assembly field, start times were on display on the usual boards and Finish times similarly available on screens before which competitors were free to loiter at will. Pandemic, what pandemic? It was as if 2020 had never happened.

Traders and 'buvettes' – food and drink stalls – were available offering all manner of culinary delights. I discovered that the French for dibber is either 'doigt' – finger – or mystifyingly 'puce', a flea. Start and Finish are dubbed 'Départ' and 'Arrivée', which I quite liked, implying as it did a long journey on which many of us were about to embark.

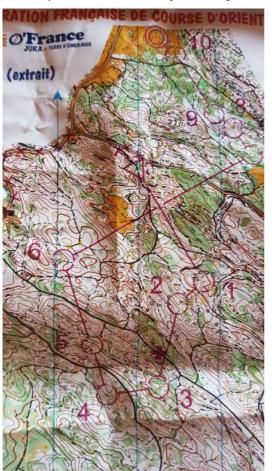


The only physical concession to Covid was a (non-PVC) orange drinking cup presented to each competitor with their welcome pack, designed to overcome the need to hand out thousands of plastic cups for drinking. A very laudable aim but completely impractical. No-one was going to carry the cup round with them and ours remained unused.

When details of our courses were made available, our initial reaction was one of disappointment. The formula for these 5-Days was Middle, Long, Middle, Middle, Long. My three Middle courses were 2.3, 2.2 and 2.6km long, the Long 3.2 and 3.1km. (Compare the Scottish where the Middle was, for me, 3.3km, and shortest Long 4.8km.)

In fact, my fastest time on my best day in France was just under 50 mins, and few M65s managed under 40mins on any course (there's always one or two who let the side down by winning by ten minutes) so any apprehensions on my part were unwarranted. Normally by the end of a 5- or 6-day competition, I'm so knackered I can barely make it past the finishing post; if I were a race-horse I'd be put down. My best run was on Day 5 so, if the courses were short, this was a blessing.

Val's initial reaction was similarly one of dismay, and I still think she has cause to feel short-changed. The spread in her case was 1.8/1.5/1.9 (Middle) and 2.3/2.1. You can't really dress up a 2.1km course as 'Long', and if the



walk to the start of your 1.5km course is 2.5km, it doesn't leave much scope for route choice on the straight journey home (most competitors were still out for 45+ minutes though).

There were no Long or Short age classes so courses had to accommodate all abilities. It's a problem for the multi-day planner. He/she has to provide challenging courses for older age classes but reducing the distances dilutes the experience, especially when Val had only 8 controls on one day. Another problem was that, despite being a larger class than M65, W60s were paired with W65s and M75s, whereas I shared with noone. (I have nothing against M75s - I hope to hang around long enough to be one eventually.)

The area where the competition took place had never before been used for

orienteering. I don't know how the organisers stumbled upon it because it was miles from anywhere. One parking field and one assembly field served all five days, which was brilliant. It meant that club tents could be pitched and left for the week. All five areas were separate, being placed in different directions relative to Assembly, and both first and last days engineered assembly field finishes. If only the Scottish could make a similar discovery to save  $1\frac{1}{2}$  hour treks to Creag Dhub.

The terrain was a joy to orienteer on. There were no open areas, it was wall-to-wall forest, mostly deciduous, laid upon *karst*, i.e. (having looked it up) limestone subject to water erosion over centuries. The details mentioned 'zones de lapiaz' which translates as limestone pavement. It would be wrong to picture Malham Tarn here though; Malham is entirely open, the area round Les Crozets was entirely-forested limestone overlain with a layer of thick green moss and decades of forest debris. Planners were spoiled for choice, every orienteering feature was crammed between the contours. Here are a few photos to try to illustrate what my words are attempting to describe:



The climb, which never exceeded 140m on any day, was deceptive because navigation between controls invariably involved negotiation of slopes hemmed in with crags and boulders. When one day was described as being the most runnable of the week, you felt the planner had his tongue firmly in his cheek, yet the whole area was virtually bramble-free and, whilst actual running was possible only on the paths which the courses were designed to

avoid, areas of fight were sparse. Determination was the order of the day; armed with this, you would get there in the end.

The Scottish recognises human frailty and allows you to jettison at least one bad day even when the competition is whittled down to three, but the French are unforgiving – every day counts. It was inevitable therefore that I was disqualified on Day 1, mispunching the penultimate control. By that stage of the course I was just glad to see a control, even if not the correct one.

The first few controls of my course had gone swimmingly, but then things started to fall apart and my Winsplits took on a distinctly pinkish hue. I had managed to turn a four-minute control into ten when I arrived at the same time as a French M65 who then shouted 'Suivez-moi!' and launched himself into the vegetation beyond. I felt obliged to follow out of curtesy if nothing else – besides which he might actually know what he was talking about. He didn't and after ten minutes admitted he was lost; so therefore was I. If that were not bad enough, he then doubled over with back pain and hobbled off to the nearest Red Cross point, leaving me completely stranded. My Control 4 time was the slowest of any competitor.

By the time my course and I meandered to a close, I was well over the hour for 2.3km (but not as slow as poor old 3 hour 27 minutes Jacques Loisy), and had nothing to show for my efforts. I was looking down the barrel of a very long, meaningless week.

Things didn't improve much on Day 2. The key to Control 3 lay in finding the footpath that ran alongside it radiating from a hairpin bend. I selected a path off the wrong hairpin bend and spent the best part of an hour searching in the wrong part of the forest. I eventually stumbled across a control on my course, which turned out to be my No. 7. It seemed I was not alone because I was immediately surrounded by a pack of M14s also looking for a different control. 'Qu'est-ce qu'on fait ici?', they exclaimed. My thoughts exactly.

This does illustrate a marked difference between the continental approach and the British. Whereas we see the sport as largely individual and, having found a control, tend to scurry off in the direction of the next one lest our good fortune be spotted by someone else, your continental orienteer tends to treat the competition as a communal experience. No sooner is a control found than a shout will go up to broadcast its availability to anyone in earshot. You can't go from one control to the next without some competitor enquiring 'quatre-vingt douze?' or whatever (sometimes it was me).

Well, I did eventually find No. 3 but it took me 75 minutes, and at the end of Day 2, my combined time for the week was already over  $2\frac{1}{2}$  hours.

But something happened over the Rest Day. Something clicked because when we returned, my runs and results suddenly improved and became

something I might want to mention in polite conversation afterwards. I decided the key was to stick to a straight line bearing, which was perfectly possible despite the slowness of the pace, and to use the network of often barely distinguishable but nevertheless accurately mapped footpaths as catching features. With one or two glaring exceptions, this tactic paid off and by the end of the week, I was able to put an  $11^{th}$  and  $10^{th}$  place alongside my disqualification and Day Two  $44^{th}$  place. My last day Top Ten finish enabled me to exit the event with some self-respect, looking back on the week with a smile and looking forward to the next French expedition.

I can't leave without mentioning two further aspects of the French 5-Days: Toilets. Not a topic often featuring in event reports but these were of the home-made, self-composting variety quite at odds with the serried ranks of Portaloos back home. Here's an illustration in the form of a photo which earned me a few strange looks from users as I took it. Note that males have a whole barrel to aim at! In passing, I have noted the recent introduction of the French-style pissoir at British events. I think this incursion is to be deprecated. The natural English style of relief involves a turning of the back, preferably deep in the forest; the French alternative may result in you facing up to three pairs of eyes from three different directions, which just isn't natural.



Finally a new development in après-O entertainment: LEG'O, a form of orienteering so genius it's amazing that it hasn't been thought of before. Admittedly it does involve someone in an awful lot of hours spent building an

orienteering terrain out of Lego bricks, but the result is similar to Trail O where competitors, armed with a map, have to decide which miniscule Lego orienteering control is the one marked. As you can see, the possibilities are limited only by the imagination of the Lego-builder and involved in this case the exploration of multi-level controls in a castle, encounters with pirates and kites sited on moving trains and in dinosaur paws. There was a long queue of kids – and me – for this attraction and I can see the possibilities eventually for international competition. At the current rate of introduction of novelty events, Olympic recognition can't be far off.





(Except when it's Saturday or Wednesday)

RDO – Real Derbyshire Orienteers. Fanzine No 40
Life begins at Issue 40.

# Name Change for Orienteering?

Sport is under fire for appearing "too eastern" (page 9)

We need to stay angry and stay woke (page 19)

New name under consideration is orienteering & occidenteering (page 99)

BOO would have to transition to BOOO (it's in there somewhere) Just in: Objection raised that new name discriminates against the north and the south (page 4)

#### Super Emma

New British Orienteering champion Emma Raducanu has said that taking up the sport only a week before the event didn't deter her belief that she would be able to win the title. "I learned all about how to use a compass on the Monday" she said, "By Wednesday I'd sorted out the map-reading and by Friday I had all the other techniques nailed. During the race I didn't get ahead of myself and just took it control by control. Even when I cut my leg I managed to stay focussed".

When asked about her future plans in the sport the 18 year old replied that it was unlikely that she would be able to defend her title next year as she was planning to be opening the batting for the England Test team on that day.

#### Follow the White Rabbit

The resumption of orienteering has led to a spate of sightings of a mysterious figure dressed as a white rabbit with the words "Follow Me" on its back running through the woods during events. BOO is urging runners to exercise caution and not to pursue the rabbit as unsubstantiated claims have been made that a young junior called Alice Liddell was seen following the creature down a hole and has not been seen since. Enquiries continue.

#### It's that Time of Year Again...

...when we will be keeping a close eye on the Old Derwentians as they get up to all that Rumpass Sport Cup malarky again. Perhaps with the lack of practice over the last year and a half we might for once see some good old fashioned Real Orienteering. Hope springs eternal.

#### For those of you on Long Wave we now go to...

...the Bracken Forecast, issued by the Ferns Office on behalf of the Commission for Lots of Trees (CLOT) at 1155 today.

The general synopsis. Bracken, loads of the flipping stuff.

Cromford Rocks: High. 5'6" to 6'3", expected another 2" by next week. Penetrability – Moderate, occasionally poor. Brown later.

Symmetric Shrubs: etc etc..... And now we return you back to Lords where England have lost five wickets while you were away.

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



The sport of orienteering requires a lot of equipment in order to stage events. Many clubs store that equipment in a designated shed belonging to a club member.

Peter is wondering just what is to blame for the disappearence of all the kit during lockdown.

Mice? The family dog? Alien-beamed microwaves? Them pesky kids?

This could be a three pipe problem.

#### **Letters Page**

Dear WSC,

Having been an avid reader of your wonderful organ for many years I would like to congratulate you on the wide range of interesting, entertaining, and informative articles that you have consistently published. The sense of anticipation as I rip open the envelope and see a gleaming fresh copy is second to none.

I do however have a slight niggle which I'm not sure your other readers will have spotted (I'm pretty sharp on these sort of things). A lot of your articles make reference to the minor and somewhat inconsequential sport of orienteering. Quite what your rather odd obsession is with this subject matter is hard to fathom and (this is just a tip) I think you would be better served to cut most of it out in favour of some other subjects. For example, many people would be interested to hear more about ferret breeding, giving a ferret a bath or feeding a ferret.

Other than that, all good. Keep up the good work. W.J. Vole-Strangler (Mrs)

Dear WSC,

I went to my doctor the other day to tell him that I had experienced an extremely bad reaction indeed when I applied the haemorrhoid cream that he had prescribed. He asked me when and where I had used it and I replied that I had used it on the bus that morning.

I feel I had to share this with you.

Regards,

Arthur Crown

(Don't publish this - Ed)

Dear WSC.

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

Regards

Jason Twinge - Belper

WSC and all your enslaved readers,

Don't believe everything you read. Don't trust the missives from the shady upper echelons of BOO. Don't think that contactless punching isn't beaming microwaves into your brain and turning you into an acquiescent zombie. And above all, don't drink the orange squash.

By the way, we know what WSC "really" stands for. Just saying.

Follow the White Rabbit,

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(Well that letter trumps the lot – Ed)

#### WSC - what indeed?

Take your pick from the following:

When Saturday Comes (football fanzine - with a boring title).

West Suffolk College

World Shipping Council

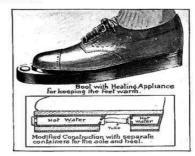
World Spider Catalogue (what's in your basket?)

Water and Sewage Corporation (probably right judging by the amount of c\*\*p in here...). Etc etc.

#### And now for something completely different

Apropos of nothing much in particular, WSC was mulling over the announcement that the Royal Mint is to resume making 1p coins. To WSC's mind this is a nonsense. No coin is worth having in circulation if you wouldn't ever bother bending over to pick one up in the street. WSC has done a little research and has discovered that the current 1p coin is the least valuable coin THERE HAS EVER BEEN! Now get this. When Britain went decimal in 1971 the lowest denomination was 1/2p. The equivalent today, allowing for inflation, would be having a 6p coin as the lowest in circulation. So we say, ditch the 1p coin and its big brother, the 2p coin. No change for something priced 99p? Simple. WSC proposes a new 99p coin. The Royal Mint has been contacted and we await their reply\*

Great Orienteering Inventions from History with Bob McNut



Now here's a really odd one. This invention raised no interest whatsoever until Ible orienteer Ebenezer Fripp purchased a pair for his 87 year old mother thinking they would make good slippers. When he accidentally set the temperature to maximum and she set off down the street faster than anyone in the village could run, he realised he might be onto something. When worn in competition, they inferred the wearer with incredible speed, but only for the ten minutes or so that could be tolerated. And so sprint orienteering was born in a backwater of Derbyshire, many decades before it caught on around the rest of the world. Missing you already!

\*this is in fact, the truth

# **Sports Personality of the Month**

Graham Johnson, needing a change from harvesting garden produce, arranged to meet two friends for a walk in the Peak District starting from Hathersage. Travel to Hathersage was to be by bus, the first stage of which was by TransPeak from Belper, and heading for Matlock and beyond.

On a fine day DVO's master navigator arrived at Belper bus station, and then the TransPeak arrived so Graham boarded and seated himself. After a while he looked out of the window but the scenery did not look right, and he realised that he was heading South to Derby ... oh dear!

Most members of the orienteering fraternity will have made a 180 degree error usually involving a loss of a few hundred yards and a few minutes, but Graham excelled himself with a 180 costing him miles and much time ... rural buses are few and far between, so that Graham's walk never took place.

Turn again Johnson!!!

**Tony Berwick** 

# **Event Officials Needed**

Officials will be needed for Foremark Reservoir (please contact Rex Rexbleakman321@btinternet.com if interested) and local events in the Spring. Support will be given by someone experienced in the role. [see **Future Event Officials** under the **DVO Events** tab]

Event	Date	Level	Organiser	Planner	Controller
Holmebrook Valley Park	23/10/21	Local	Viv M	Ranald M	_
Foremark Reservoir	20/11/21	Local	V	V	_
Hardwick Park	28/11/21	Regional	Brian Denness	Andy Middleton	Doug D
Melbourne Urban	2/1/22	Regional	Malc Spencer	Doug D	Mike G
Chatsworth	29/1/22	Regional	Ann-Marie D	Chris Millard	_

**Planners please note** – the Club SI kit, stakes and kites are now stored in the Chaffeys' garage.

# **Fixtures List**

Because there's a lot of uncertainty, please always check Fixtures info from the DVO website – <a href="http://derwentvalleyorienteers.org.uk/events/future-events/">http://derwentvalleyorienteers.org.uk/events/future-events/</a> and websites of other clubs: NOC, LEI, SYO, LOG. = part of East Midlands League.

## October

Sat 2 <sup>nd</sup>	UKOL	British Long Championships: Braunton Burrows, Devon
Sun 3 <sup>rd</sup>	U	Shepshed, near Loughborough
Sun 10 <sup>th</sup>	U	Boston Town, details <a href="http://www.logonline.org.uk/wp/">http://www.logonline.org.uk/wp/</a>
Sun 17 <sup>th</sup>	L	CompassSport Cup Final, Tankersley, contact Christine Middleton
		**The Final is doubling as the <b>2021 DVO Club champs</b> **
Sat 23 <sup>rd</sup>	L	Holmebrook Valley Park, Chesterfield. Entry on the day only
Sat 30 <sup>th</sup>	U	Macclesfield West Urban (NW Sprint Champs, aggregate of 2 races)
Sun 31st	U	Knutsford Urban (new area). Enter both via mdoc.org.uk

## November

Sun 14 <sup>th</sup>	R	Boothorpe & Hanging Hill, nr Swadlincote
Sun 20 <sup>th</sup>	L	Foremark Reservoir Entry on the day only
Sun 28th	R	Hardwick Park Entries via the DVO website, £1 surcharge for EOD

## **December**

Sun 12 <sup>th</sup>	R	Cademan & Thringstone Woods, nr Shepshed
Sun 19 <sup>th</sup>	L	Walesby, details <a href="https://www.noc-uk.org/">https://www.noc-uk.org/</a> nearer the time

# **January**

Thurs 2nd	U	Melbourne Urban Entries via Fabian4
Sun 23 <sup>rd</sup>	R 💹	LEI Regional event near Quorn. Details to follow
Sat 29 <sup>th</sup>	R 🌌	Chatsworth Middle Distance (see right)

Sun 30 <sup>th</sup>	R	Sherwood Forest (Midlands C	hampionships).
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# **February**

Sun 13 <sup>th</sup>	R	CompassSport Cup Heat, venue TBA
Sun 20 <sup>th</sup>	R	Martinshaw & Ratby Woods, near Leicester

# March

Sat 5"	UKOL	Salcey Forest, near Northampton
Sun 6 <sup>th</sup>	UKOL	Rushmere (British Middle Distance Championships 2022)
Sun 20 <sup>th</sup>	R	<b>Stanton Moor</b> (East Midlands Championships 2022)
Sat 26 <sup>th</sup>	UKOL	Golden Valley & Cognor Wood (British Championships 2022)
Sun 27 <sup>th</sup>	Relay	Iron Hill & Parkgate Rough (British Relay Champs)

## Ridiculous route choice

Frank was sent to collect in a set of 10 signs marking the route from the car park to the Start and chose to take a ridiculously long route. I asked you to find the longest route he could have taken. I didn't have a huge response to this one. The answer was 4.9km and there were several possibilities, for example 5-7-1-8-2-9-3-10-4-6.

John Hurley evaluated the exact definition of "several" and identified 576 different possibilities. I'm just going to agree with John, it sounds like he knows what he is talking about. Darren Cook also submitted a correct answer and intimated that we may have missed a Personality of the Month nomination concerning getting lost between the car park and the start. He also tried to drag me back into the previous issue's probability question but I have learned my lesson – you are of course correct, Darren! Er...that seems to be it this time round. Was it too hard, too easy, too boring? Well let's carry on for now and see if we can get a few more takers.

# The Broken Stick

Whilst running to the Start, Fred accidentally stood on a straight stick which had fallen onto the path. Deciding that leaving it there might constitute a trip hazard for other runners, he bent down to move it. On doing so he noticed that by a fluke the stick had broken into three pieces and those three pieces had fallen to form a rough triangle. "Hmm" mused Fred, "I wonder what the probability is of a straight stick which has been randomly broken into 3 pieces being able to form a triangle".

What is that probability?

Answers to dnevell3@gmail.com by the editor's copy date.