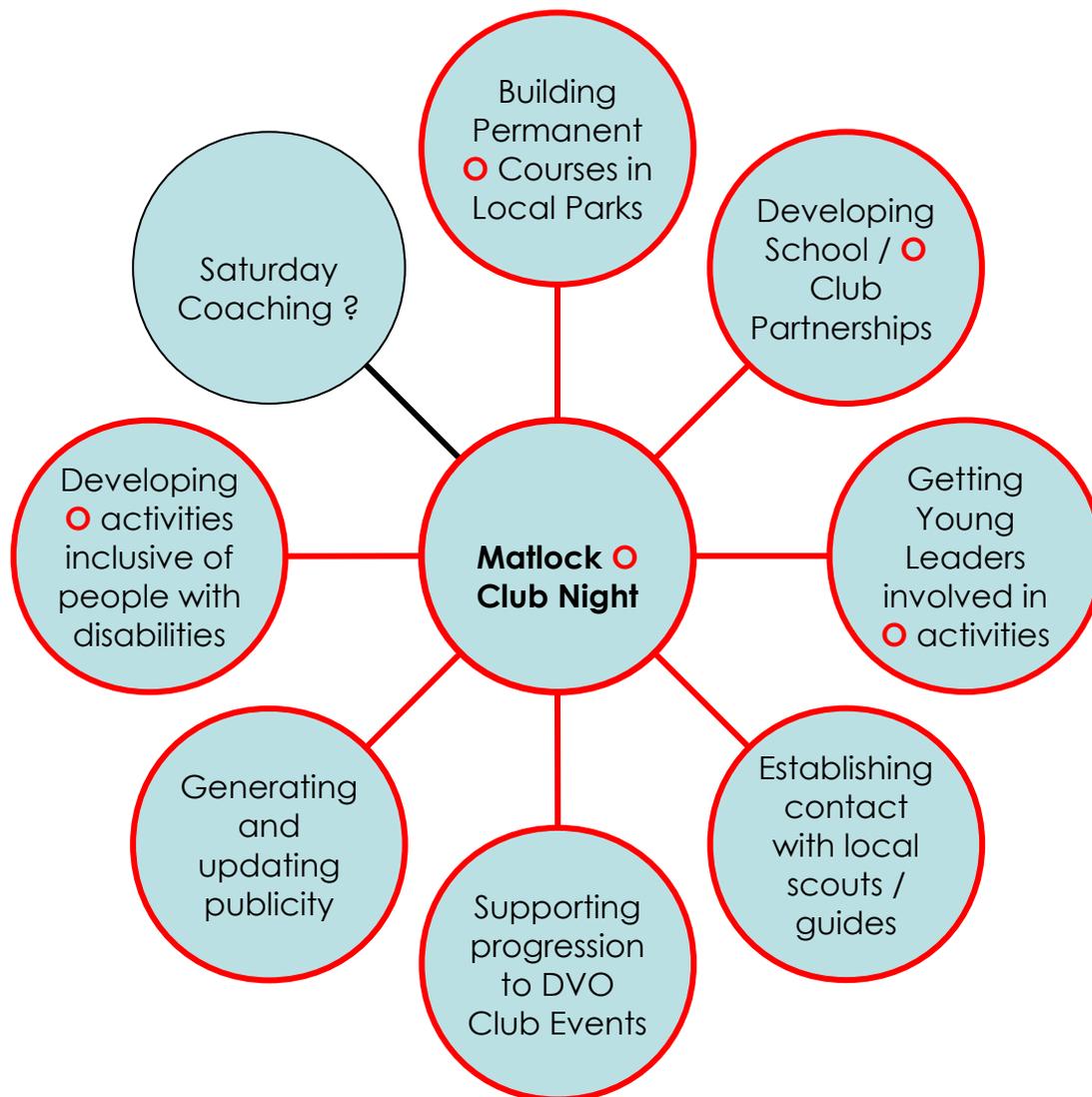


Matlock Orienteering Club Night



Introduction

The Matlock Club Night is the connecting hub for a number of activities which together promote orienteering in the local area. This report focuses on our current plans which take account of changes in British Orienteering development strategy and funding.

1. Matlock Orienteering Club Night

The club currently attracts between 10 and 20 participants each week. In addition we have between 4 and 7 coaches / helpers on any one evening. In the course of this year 50 people have attended at least one club night as participant, helper or coach. Of these 26 were completely new to the sport. Some families with older

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children are no longer coming to club nights, although they have been to recent local events, while new families with younger children are attending regularly.

The current participants want a club that involves fun outdoor activity throughout the year and are willing to brave the cold and/or wet accepting that there will be weeks when we have to cancel at short notice.

To get the club night started EMOA provided funds for a lead coach for the first year and British Orienteering funded an Apprentice Coach who gained her Level 1 Coaching award. This funding has come to an end but both coaches continue as volunteers. We have strong support from four experienced DVO orienteers and a local student who is a level 1 coach. Other club members have helped out as a one-off at particular events. That is very much appreciated and we hope it will continue.

We recognise that there will always be people 'moving through' the club and have therefore maintained our efforts to provide taster sessions to recruit new Club Night participants.

Meeting at the ARC and running the sessions out of doors means we have no venue hire costs. The weekly subscription meets the cost of resources such as map printing so financially the club is sustainable while run by volunteers.

The highlight of the Autumn was being joint winners of the Derbyshire Dales District Council Community Sports Club of the Year award – no money just nice publicity.

2. Generating and updating publicity

The Club night is advertised on the British Orienteering and DVO Web Sites, by distributing cards at taster events, through posters at the ARC and through regular newspaper stories. Each of these has attracted one or two people to come to the club night but none result in more than a trickle of interest. We conclude that there is no one good way of attracting people to try orienteering and we have to use what methods are reasonably available to us.

3. Building Permanent ○ Courses in Local Parks

The installation of the Permanent Orienteering Courses was held up by a problem in getting the plaques put up. Derbyshire Dales have now resolved this so the POC in Hall Leys Park should be complete in the near future and others at Bakewell and Ashbourne Parks will follow.

4. Developing ○ activities inclusive of people with disabilities

The local disability sports group arranged training for support workers and this was followed up by two ○ sessions at Callow College. One support worker attended a

club night with two adults she is working with. It is intended that the POC can be a used by groups from the local resource centre.

5. Developing School / ○ Club Partnerships

The programme of Schools Taster sessions last year brought a few participants to the club. This year Becky is taking over the coordination and running of these and will be encouraging schools to organise teams for the Derbyshire Schools Championships and the British Schools Championships.

6. Getting Young Leaders involved in ○ activities

Young Leaders were involved in helping at an Orienteering festival / competition held at Highfields Starkholmes Site in October and it is planned that they will support orienteering activities at the Primary Cross Country Championships this year instead of using club volunteers as we did last year.

7. Establishing contact with local groups / organisations

We have developed a good relationship with Derbyshire Dales DC Sports Development staff. We have put in a joint bid with them for Sportivate funding to enable us to provide an activity (short score course) targeted at 16 – 25 year olds in the Helicopter Park below Hurst Farm estate.

We continue to provide taster sessions for various local groups when we have the capacity to do so. This is on the basis that it is good publicity even though it does not usually lead directly to recruitment of members for either club night or DVO.

8. Supporting progression to DVO Club Events

Some club night participants are now attending DVO events. Of this year's 26 'new to orienteering' Club Night participants 10 (two individuals and two families) are on the October DVO membership list. Club night participants were invited to the club champs and the family who came along were very appreciative of the opportunity.

9. Saturday Coaching ?

While experienced orienteers are often surprised at the level of technical training that can be achieved on very simple areas there is no doubt that people who come to the club with the main aim of learning orienteering skills grow out of the club after two or three terms. In the early part of next year when the nights are still dark we would like to see some Saturday day time training on more technical areas. We would open this up to DVO members as well as club night participants who want to develop more technical skills. It would have a specific coaching focus, BUT we would need some more help to organize this e.g. confirming dates and venues and names and details of people who want to attend.