

# Club News February 2024



Welcome to our February Newstrack magazine. It was nice to hear that Newstrack won a CompassSport Newsletter of the Year Award in 2023, despite the transition to online only – so a HUGE thank you for all your contributions!

Thanks too to everyone who has helped at an event this year. Our Registration Team Leader, Amanda Price, has written an **article celebrating volunteering in the club** – a great way to make friends and find out how events work! (Do follow the link in the article if you'd like to offer your services on a help team.)

Nicky Hart sent in this link to a 1974 Guardian article about a first try at orienteering in Kent!

Hope you enjoy reading about DVO members have been getting up to over the winter, and wishing you orienteering success in the spring! Newstrack will do another round-up in May.

Sal Chaffey, Newstrack Editor

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## DVO comes 3rd in CompassSport Cup Heat at Cannock Chase

### Compass Sport Cup

Pos	Club	Scorers	Score	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8A	8B	9A	9B	10
1st	<a href="#">OD</a>	25	2385	385 (4)	292 (3)	197 (2)	366 (4)	97 (1)	293 (3)	195 (2)	282 (3)	0 (0)	92 (1)	0 (0)	186 (2)
2nd	<a href="#">NGOC</a>	25	2353	282 (3)	283 (3)	0 (0)	91 (1)	283 (3)	371 (4)	285 (3)	98 (1)	100 (1)	282 (3)	98 (1)	180 (2)
3rd	<a href="#">DVO</a>	25	2348	373 (4)	0 (0)	377 (4)	367 (4)	385 (4)	90 (1)	276 (3)	100 (1)	0 (0)	0 (0)	100 (1)	280 (3)
4th	<a href="#">HOC</a>	25	2342	181 (2)	370 (4)	182 (2)	390 (4)	185 (2)	380 (4)	280 (3)	90 (1)	0 (0)	284 (3)	0 (0)	0 (0)
5th	<a href="#">MDOC</a>	23	1969	85 (1)	189 (2)	378 (4)	248 (3)	181 (2)	323 (4)	323 (4)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	242 (3)

Christine our Club Captain recruited some 50 runners to compete at Breton Spurs and Chetwynd Coppice on Feb 18th, a sunny day but very muddy in field and forest.

“There was a great atmosphere in the club tent reflecting DVO’s very special mix of friendship, fun and competitive spirit. Many thanks to Mike for again putting up the tent and to Sal and Ann-Marie for the delicious cakes.

“After all the recent rain the mostly dry day was a blessing for the runners and the organisers. One of the significant challenges of the day was parking but everyone got in and out again. Andy and I only needed a little push to get out of the field!!!

“OD were the clear winners but only 11 points separated the next 3 clubs, so I feel our 3rd place was a very creditable performance. The results were:

### 1. OD 2385

2. NGOC 2353
3. DVO 2348
4. HOC 2342
5. MDOC 1969

“Well done to our 25 scoring runners and particular congratulations to our three 100 point scorers: Jake, Imogen and Sal. It’s great to see Imogen, one of our newest club members, doing so well. The 25 scoring runners were:

Name	Class	Score
Jake O'Donnell	8A	100
Imogen Satherley	9B	100
Sal Chaffey	5	100
Ann-Marie Duckworth	5	99
Michelle Mackervoy	3	98
John Duckworth	1	97
Liz Godfree	10	96
Dai Bedwell	4	96
Emma Vincent	3	96
Marcus Scotney	1	96
Mike Godfree	7	95
Judith Holt	10	94
Kim Buxton	5	94

Nerijus Rozkovas	1	93
Helen Chiswell	3	92
Val Johnson	5	92
Andy Sykes	4	92
Paul Armstrong	7	91
Nicola Hart	3	91
David Vincent	6	90
Rex Bleakman	10	90
Dave Chaffey	4	90
John Hopper	7	90
Darren Cook	4	89
David Newton	1	87

“And looking forwards, the British Championships closing dates are fast approaching. Please let me know if you would like to run in a relay team. Please send any replies to [dvoclubcaptain@gmail.com](mailto:dvoclubcaptain@gmail.com)”

## Event Officials Needed

If you'd like to have a go at planning or organising, please get in touch with Jane Burgess. Briefly the roles are:

**PLANNING** – setting the courses using PurplePen software to display the map, measure the courses and add 'control descriptions'. You will have the support of a more experienced Controller; putting controls out on event day (thankfully, people are always on hand to collect afterwards as you certainly clock up the kms in this role).

**ORGANISING** – recruiting helpers for small events, or for larger events keeping the Help Team Leaders informed (they recruit helpers at Level C/Regional events and above). Producing a risk assessment with the help of the planner, bringing equipment from the DVO Shed on event day and setting up the assembly area/registration. Putting everything away afterwards and ensuring the takings are banked (our Registration Team Leader provides a cash float). We can provide an experienced mentor to show you the ropes.

There are vacancies for these roles in the summer and beyond, shown in yellow on below and on the full **Event Officials Table**. Do contact Jane if you'd like to plan or organise!

						Organiser	Planner
22/06/2024	Local Event	Allestree Park		D			
06/07/2024	Relay & Picnic	Allestree Park		D			
14/07/2024	EMUL event	Chesterfield	Y	C			Murray White
29/09/2024	East Midlands League Event	Calke Park	Y	C			
20/10/2024	Club Championships (closed event)	Allestree Park		D	P		
24/11/2024	EM League Event	Longstone Moor	Y	C			Richard Parkin
01/01/2025	Urban Event	Derby City	Y	C			
02/03/2025	EM League Event	Shining Cliff	Y	C			
11/05/2025	EM League Event	Cromford Moor	Y	C			
22/06/2025	EMUL event	Wirksworth Street	Y	C			Andy Sykes

## Event Officials Training Day

EMOA is running an event officials' course for planners, controllers, organisers and mappers on Saturday 12th October. However, some potential Controllers or those who want to take a refresher course may not be available on that date.

I'm running a Grade B and C Controllers' Course on behalf of SYO on Sunday 24th March. The course will be highly participative, involve some pre-course reading and exercise and a practical exercise on the day. It will take place at St John's Church Hall, Abbeydale Road, Sheffield, with the practical exercises virtually across the road in Eccleshall Woods. SYO would like to invite members of EMOA clubs to take part in the course.

The day is open to:

1. Planners who think they might like to be Controllers in the future, even though they may not necessarily meet all the criteria yet. It would also be of use to planners who want to get to grips with the Rules and good practice in planning.

2. Grade C Controllers who would like to upgrade to become a Grade B Controller.

3. Grade B Controllers who would like a refreshers' course, possibly with the thought of becoming a Grade A Controller in the future.

The pre-requisites around organising and planning are clearly set out in the Rules – British Orienteering – as well as the Event Safety Workshop, which can be done online – British Orienteering

The course will cost £10 and it is normal for the Club to pay this.

Please contact me by Sunday 3rd March if you would like to come on the course or have questions about its appropriateness for you.


Ranald Macdonald

## New members

Great to welcome new members to the Club – Simon & Jane Philpott, Adam & Nicola Buxton, Ashley & Kirsty Buxton, Jake Warwick, Susan Oates, Hywel Satherley and Joe Bass. See you soon in forest, park or streets!

# MapRuns and MapActive Navigation Course

## MAPRUN BY NUMBERS





<p><b>7PM</b> time of the mass start</p>	<p>We started our first series of smartphone-based virtual orienteering in 2023. This was such a success we started a second series. We have been blown away by the number of people who have enjoyed running with us in the dark!</p>	<p><b>12</b> events (+ socials!)</p>
	<p><b>435</b> finishers - thankfully also the number who started</p>	<p><b>150</b> first timers – non-DVO who attended a MapRun for the first time</p>
<p><b>3748 KM</b> total distance covered by all competitors</p>	<p><b>6</b> further MapRuns planned – feel free to join us!</p>	<p><b>32</b> average runners per event</p>
<p><b>Four</b> runners who ran off the map</p>	<p><b>ONE</b> runner who finished by running through a hedge</p>	<p><b>100%</b> enjoyment by all!</p> 

The stats above show that Night MapRuns have been extremely popular this winter! They resume on Leap Day at Littleover. Remember you can do them afterwards at any time; the folder is UK/Derbyshire/Derwent Valley/Derby Night Series 24.


Our **MapActive** programme has been designed for MapRunners who want to learn more – amongst others – and will run in May and June. Here are the forthcoming MapRuns:

# DERBY+ MAPRUNS

Bored of the same running routes? Want to improve your navigation? Keen to meet new people?


**Download the FREE app**



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

	Venue	Meet at	Post code	Social
<b>SPRING SERIES</b>				
<b>29 FEB</b>	Littleover	King George V Playing Fields	DE23 3ES	Half Moon
<b>7 MAR</b>	Duffield	Duffield Library	DE56 4GH	White Hart
<b>14 MAR</b>	Heatherton	Coop car park	DE23 3TZ	Hollybrook
<b>21 MAR</b>	Mackworth	Whippendell Park	DE22 4NZ	Mundy Arms
<b>APRIL PARKS</b>				
<b>18 APR</b>	Markeaton Park	University of Derby	DE22 2GQ	The Markeaton
<b>25 APR</b>	Darley Park	Rugby Club Haslam's Lane	DE22 1EB	Derby Rugby Club

**Look out for our MapActive Navigation Course in May and June!**



[cjmillard@googlemail.com](mailto:cjmillard@googlemail.com)    [dvo.org.uk/future-dvo-events/](http://dvo.org.uk/future-dvo-events/)

## Tony Seaston – 1938-2024

Sad to report that Tony died on 2nd February this year. Marion and Tony were our neighbours in Rangemore Close. Their children, Paul and John, were introduced to orienteering at St Benedict's School by Roger Wilkinson their geography teacher. When the boys started going to events Tony got bored sitting in the car reading the Sunday paper waiting for them so started going out himself. Like so many of us he was soon hooked. He then introduced us to the sport and – encouraged by his boys who explained everything

to us like the need for each person to have his own tub to keep compass etc (no dibber in those days!) – our boys became hooked and so did we.



Tony became Fixtures Secretary in the days when that role included finding officials for each event. Even after John & Paul left home Tony continued to orienteer, sharing transport with us, with Terry Peach, Rex Bleakman and Tony Berwick. His interest waned when he became hooked on golf!

But the interest has gone on to another generation with John's son Ben taking 2nd place in M12 (although only just 10) at the Southern Champs just two days after Tony died. We expect to see John and family at the JK. And Paul is expecting to compete again at the OMM this year.

### Mike Godfree

**John Hurley adds:** Tony started as an occasional orienteer and the earliest appearance I can trace is on the Green course at the NOC Thieves Wood event in November 1984. Later he competed more regularly with respectable results in M50B including a win at the LEI Lawn Wood event in May 1988 and 12th in the British Champs in March 1990.

Tony was the organiser of level C events at Kedleston in 1990, 1991 and 1993, some summer league events and a Night Event at Drum Hill in 2000.

**His letter in October 1986 Newstrack** warning everybody that son Paul had passed his driving test is interesting.

### Marcus moves to Lochearnhead

*We were lucky Marcus was able to take part in our CompassSport Cup Heat. His new club will be Forth Valley Orienteers, many-times winners of the said Cup! We all wish him well ...*



As many of you may know, I'll be leaving the Peak District at the end of February moving to Lochearnhead, Scotland. Our decision to move stems from a desire to explore new mountains and lochs and to be closer to my now teenage children at university in Scotland. Fortunately, Jen and I have jobs as online coaches that allow us to work remotely, so we seized the opportunity when a house became available in Lochearnhead.

While excited about this new chapter, I'll miss being part of DVO. Despite being a member for just under three years, I've cherished every moment and deeply appreciated the support and camaraderie of the club at the many events I have done.

Reflecting on my time with DVO, I particularly enjoyed the opportunity to plan two events at Birchen Edge and Linacre Reservoir. Not only did this process enhance my orienteering skills, but the guidance and assistance from Richard Parkin and Randal Macdonald proved indispensable. Moreover, collaborating with other club members during the organisation of these events was a pleasure, and I appreciated getting to know some of you better.

I extend my heartfelt gratitude to all of you who have made me feel welcome. Though I may be leaving, I eagerly anticipate crossing paths with you again at future events, especially those in Scotland. Many thanks,  
Marcus

## Recycling Trip

Ten of us went on the Veolia tour earlier this month. The Mansfield plant (or 'Materials Recovery Facility') opened in 2008, runs 18 hours each day and employs 80 staff, 25 on shift at a time. Lesley (the Education Officer) gave an inspiring talk, saying that National Recycling will be introduced by March 2026, meaning consistency across the country at last!



It's worth sharing some points:

- You do need to wash tins and jars, to prevent other waste becoming contaminated.
- If you remove the paper from tins, that can then be recycled separately.
- Don't recycle lids as they're usually a combo of metal and plastic.
- There is MUCH less landfill these days; waste is burnt at Energy Recovery Facilities of which there are over 50 in the UK.

After the talk we donned our hard hats and went to the viewing platform inside the facility. Rubbish in. Various separation machines, including staff at a conveyor belt. Raw materials out, such as tonne bales of paper and card. One of these saves the equivalent of 17 trees.

Thanks to Lester Evans for this link, where you can find out what happens to recycling in your area of Derbyshire: <https://apps.derbyshire.gov.uk/applications/do-it-now/whatHappensToMyRecycling.asp>

## Meet Your New Chair: Jane Burgess

If you missed the Open Meeting, you may not know that Jane and Vice-chair Nicky have consulted members and produced an inspiring three-year plan for DVO (link below).

### When and where did you first start orienteering?



I'm a very latecomer to orienteering. I met Helen Finlayson in 2011 and she mentioned she orienteered. I said 'I'd like to orienteer but I don't run'. I was an asthmatic child and hospitalised when I was 11. The doctor told me I must NEVER RUN so I hadn't. Until Helen told me to. She said she ran with a 'bunch of old ladies' and I should go with her. The first person I met was the very glamorous Marg Keeling, in short shorts and a pink t-shirt with matching lips and nails. Old ladies, my foot, I thought, but I coped and felt very pleased with myself. The first time I competed, about a week later, I mis-drew my map, got lost and went almost up to my knees in mud. I was hooked.

### **Do you have any rituals before and/or after your run?**

*Before:* a bit of geeking (get the old map out and leave it on the kitchen table for a week) before I leave home and lots of chatting when I get to the event. It's so great to see everyone from all the other clubs.

*Afterwards:* cake.

### **What's your most memorable orienteering experience?**

Several are memorable. I loved the Sprint at WMOC in Copenhagen a few years ago. It was over 30 degrees when I ran. I was top of the leader board for about half an hour and so excited. But then I started to tumble and once I'd started, I didn't stop. Indoors at the York Indoor Cup in October last year. I've never seen so many people stopped, hunched over maps and laughing hysterically. No one had a clue. And my first British at Wharnccliffe. Helen took me. I did a Long Orange and thought I would be back in an hour and a half. Wrong. It was two and a half hours. Value for money!

### **Do you have a SIAC dibber?**

Oh yes. Viv used one at an event at Ilam. When the rest of us were getting filthy in a pit and by a stream, Viv just wafted past. It's not about the seconds you save, its about keeping out of the grot and deep holes, especially in SYO territory.

### **What do you enjoy doing when you're not orienteering?**

Walking with Rowen, weekends in the campervan with Annie (usually with some orienteering on the Sunday), writing and running three U3A groups. But mostly I enjoy everything about orienteering.

### **Most memorable O holiday?**

Our first overseas trip to Bilbao with a small contingent of DVO members. It would have been perfect if only they had emptied the portaloos between Day 1 and Day 2.

## Favourite TV or radio show/podcast?

I haven't had a TV until recently so it's all still quite fresh but I am a bit of a Strictly addict. I love the variety on BBC Radio 4 and BBC Sounds makes it all so easy not to miss anything. I love Desert Island Disks and Kirsty Young's new series Young Again. Oh, and Melvyn Bragg In Our Time. So good to learn so much, and then forget it ten minutes later.

## Puzzle Page by David Vincent

### Answers to December's Cryptic Crossword

Fantastic work to all who managed to solve any of the control description crossword clues! I know that several of you attempted them, but only John Hurley was brave enough to submit his entries.

The answers are below. My favourite was 5 across, which of course decoded as "between spurs, under saddle" – horse.

## Crossword solution

### Across

- 1 speed trap
- 5 horse
- 8 Bishop Rock
- 10 ante
- 12 reefers
- 14 undress
- 15 tor
- 17 still waters
- 19 pen
- 22 neb
- 24 line feature
- 28 are
- 29 masters
- 30 thanked
- 33 Nile
- 34 lighthouse
- 35 curry

### Down

- 2 ensue
- 3 drove
- 4 picture
- 6 run deep
- 7 evens
- 8 burns
- 9 rasta
- 11 ides
- 13 fold
- 16 other
- 18 toe
- 20 err
- 21 stun
- 23 bustler
- 24 lies
- 25 nasties
- 26 fetch
- 27 eddie
- 29 manic
- 31 ached
- 32 knurl

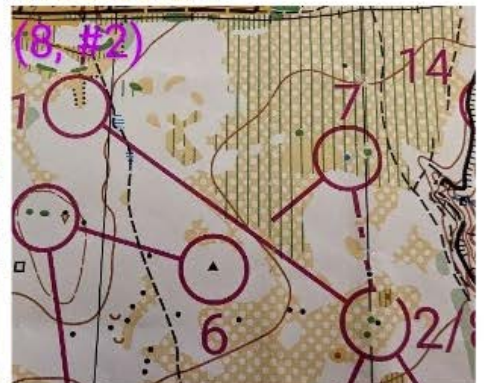
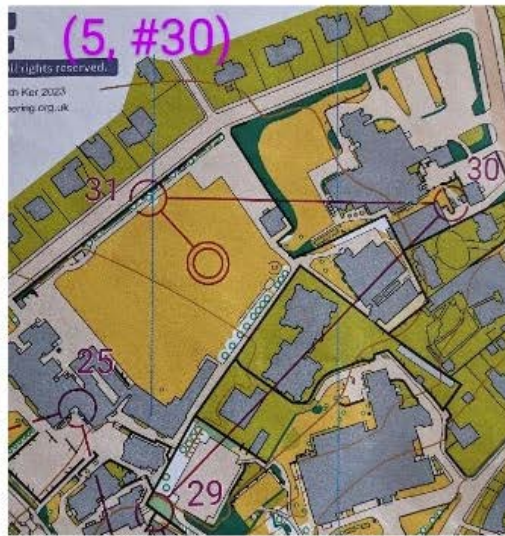
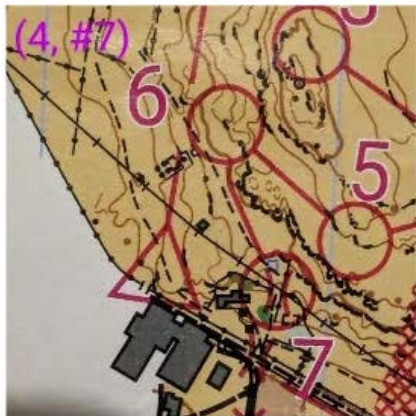
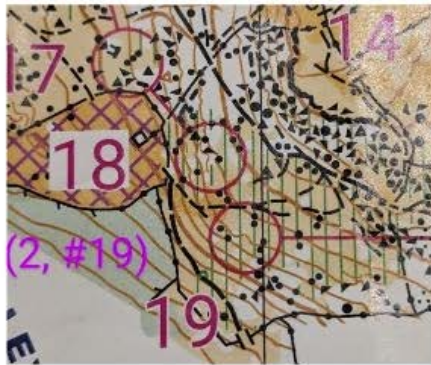
## March Puzzle: Litany of Errors

Another choice of puzzles. The snippets below each show a leg that I ran in 2023 and which caused me a problem. Puzzle choice:

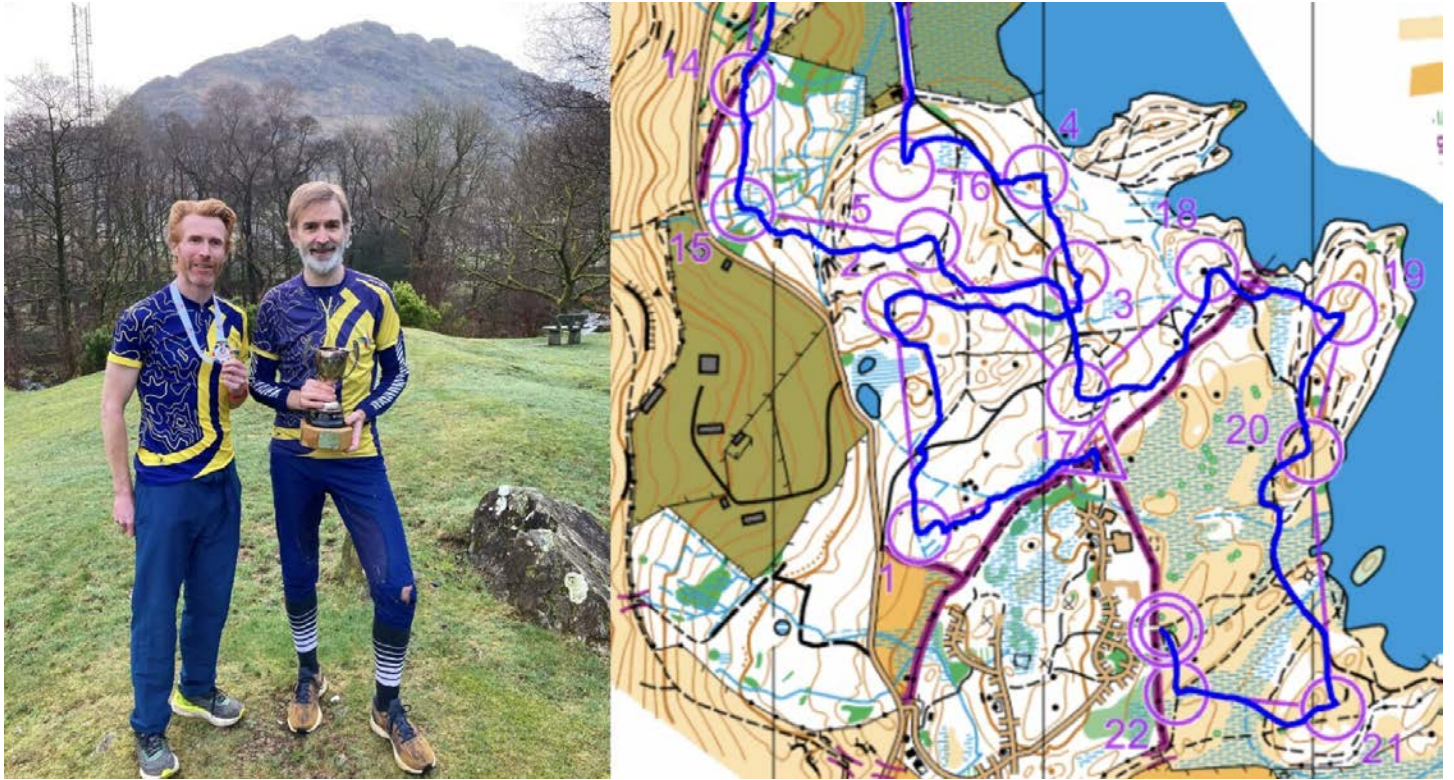
1: identify the locations. However, I know that not everyone retains an encyclopaedic knowledge of all the orienteering areas of the UK, so... puzzle choice.

2: can you divine the error that I made on that leg? The latter will indeed take some divination, since how can you be expected to peer into the confused mess that is often my brain? Still, reasonable answers will score well.

Answers to me by the end of April please: anorienteer@gmail.com



# An Unexpected Victory



**Richard Parkin placed 1st in M55 at the British Night Championships in the Lake District, just 3 seconds ahead of Alistair Landels. Marcus Scotney was 2nd in M50. Both reflect on their experience ...**

**Richard:** I've written before about night orienteering being my favourite form of the sport. Only at night does the discovery of those orange and white flags feel like an achievement; in the light of day I expect to find them, in the darkness, where everything seems so much less substantial, I merely hope. Especially pleasing then to win the title of British champion earlier this month.

It was an unexpected victory. I'd been in contention the year before at Moors Valley Country Park near Wimborne, and climbed the podium several time before that, though never close to winning gold, but the field attracted to his year's championships in the Lake District was strong and I wasn't as fit as I might have been, but night orienteering is a great leveller, as someone once said, and it seems that my rivals all fell down.

How did that happen? To put it simply, I had a decent run and no one else did. My race was full of hesitations, deviations, micro-regrets, but it always under control and I didn't miss.

The plan was to treat it like a daylight event. Often at night it pays to take a more secure route along a path or line feature, but here the forest was runnable and the course was designed to keep you in terrain. So I went as straight as I would have done in the daytime, relying on compass and aiming a little above most controls—the only time I chose caution was an error (of 10-15secs).

I had some good technical preparation and I think this made a huge difference. There aren't many opportunities to practice proper night orienteering in the East Midlands so set up a few loops on Longshaw's main estate about the only place nearby that you can run fast and straight on a bearing. Marcus Scotney, John Duckworth, Nicky Hart, and I braved the cold one night in January. This was so much fun I went out again a few weeks later to complete the courses. The sense of enjoyment carried over to the main event.

Have fun out there, kids. You never know what might happen.

**Marcus:** I was overjoyed to secure the second position in the M50 age category at the British Night Champs, which surprised me! This achievement felt particularly rewarding given the invaluable night training sessions I had been doing with Richard and John in Longshaw.

Reflecting on my past experiences, I couldn't help but recall the disappointment of missing out on the Night Champs last year due to its location in the southern part of the country. Additionally, a particularly challenging run at Ilkley Moor in 2022, where I made a significant error right at the start, further fuelled my determination to perform well at this year's Night Champs.

Approaching this year's event, I was determined to avoid repeating past mistakes, especially concerning the first control. Previous competitions had seen me lose precious time early on, such as at Sherwood Pines and Strawberry Hill, and I was keen to break that pattern.

Travelling to the event alongside Richard, John, and Richard Robinson provided an opportunity for valuable discussions and tips, with Richard's humorous reminder not to mess up the first control resonating throughout the journey.

Fortunately, my navigation to the first control went smoothly. I approached it cautiously, mindful of potential pitfalls, and quickly adapted to the terrain discrepancies, noting more holly bushes on the ground than depicted on the map. Successfully punching the first control felt like a significant accomplishment, setting a positive tone for the rest of the course.

As the race progressed, I found myself gaining confidence and picking up speed, navigating each control with precision. The open woodland terrain around Hawes End offered enjoyable and fast-paced running, with my focus on identifying attack points for each control.

Despite my overall success, I encountered a brief distraction near the end of the course, where I mistakenly followed another competitor to the wrong control! Thankfully, I recognised my error promptly, regained my bearings, and only incurred a minor time loss of around 90 seconds.

I was surprised to see my finish position when I downloaded, and it was fantastic to see Richard win his age class.

Overall, the event proved to be a fulfilling and memorable experience, highlighting the importance of preparation, focus, and adaptability in competitions.





# Review of DVO's 2023 events



## Dave Nevell looks back on the club's events

We left things at the end of 2022 on a cliff-hanger. The running total of DVO events, according to the deeply researched but possibly fallible event database, stood at 999. As pointed out last time, the up and coming 1000th event on 2nd January 2023 at Dronfield was not going to be at a traditional DVO venue at all. Not only was it right on the edge of the normal geographical event envelope for the club and a cool (as in cold, not fashionable) spot for DVO membership, it was also going to be used for the first time. But as it turned out, it delivered the goods. The turnout of 263 was the second highest of all the urban events of the modern era held since 2012 (25 in all), only bettered by Belper in 2017. And so what had been delayed by over a year by Covid, finally came to pass 54 years and 47 days since the very first event at Shining Cliff which was attended by 96 people.

There was a bit more going on in 2023 compared to 2022. In all, 22 events. If you are wondering where all those events suddenly came from, I made the decision that the recent MapRun events staged at a specific time should count as proper events, just like any other night score event in the past would have been counted. The 29 other MapRun challenges that have been set up over the last three years do not count as events as they are more akin to inviting people to race around a permanent course at any time they wish, for example.

I have summarised the year's activity as follows (2022 figures in brackets):

Level A (Major)	0	(0)
Level B (National)	0	(3)
Level C (Regional)	7	(5)
Level D (Local)	15	(3)

18 different areas were used. One MapRun event advertised as Chester Green was in fact Darley Park masquerading under another name and so counted as such. Another advertised as Chaddesden Park (which had been used earlier in the year as a venue in its own right) was to all intents a Chaddesden urban event. Even so, 4 areas I think can rightfully count as new areas, including the somewhat unusual Arboretum and Normanton Parks map.

There were 2645 attendees over the year, 534 more than in 2022 and this brought the running total up to an estimated 158648. The average attendance was 120, 72 down on 2022 due to the 12 extra level D events.

The average attendances by event level were (2022 in brackets):

Level B	n/a	(312)
Level C	274	(198)
Level D	49	(62)

The turnout of 474 at Birchen Edge in February (the year's highest) was one of the highest DVO attendances in the last 15 years, only exceeded by a couple of British Middle Championships, a CompassSport Cup Final, a National Schools Championships and a couple of other events at Shining Cliff and Longshaw. The lowest turnout was just 14 at the final MapRun event (which had peaked at 48 earlier), putting it in the all-time bottom 15 .

More events were held on a Thursday than any other day due to MapRun. The average rate before 2023 had been about one every 3 years so they were occurring about 25 times quicker in 2023.

On a final note, a statistic that I don't think I have thrown up before – which areas have seen the most runners over the last 50 years. Here is the top 20. Some artistic licence has been involved in estimating missing numbers and also carving up the Shining Cliff/Crich Chase Championship events but this will give a general idea. There is no doubt that Shining Cliff is in the lead, however you cut it. Allestree and Cromford are up there on sheer weight of events. Watch out for Stanton Moor getting a boost from the JK this year.



One of the Starts at Birchen Edge, February 2023

1	Shining Cliff	17633
2	Longshaw	12399
3	Crich Chase	11911
4	Cromford Moor	9054
5	Allestree Park	6793
6	Eyam Moor	6718
7	Stanton Moor	6540
8	Calke Park	6460
9	Chatsworth	6447
10	Linacre	4653
11	Whitesprings	4634
12	Bottom Moor	4550
13	Farley Moor	4328
14	Carsington Pastures	4300
15	Drum Hill	4002
16	ShIPLEY Country Park	3724
17	Hardwick Park	3676
18	Kedleston Park	3562
19	Matlock Moor	3150
20	Lindop	2634

# Recollections and surprises about being a helper at DVO events



## Amanda Price reflects on our DVO community

At some point, once you've enrolled as a DVO member you'll be asked if you want to join and help in one of the teams: Parking, Registration, Enquiries, Start, Finish, Download, or Control Collecting. At this point, if you do have a preference, then it's a good idea to say so – so do ask. It's also a good idea to move around – maybe do a season or two on one team and then swap. This is particularly helpful if you want to organise events one day as you will understand how all the 'bits of the machine' work. However, loyalty is also valued highly by all the team leaders, so it really is your choice.



An unusually quiet start at Eyam Moor in January

I think I was happy, when I began, simply to be placed wherever, and so I was asked to join the Start Team. If you haven't quite grasped the basics of orienteering, for example that the red triangle on the map indicates the location of the start kite (not the starting grid), and there's no control on it, then you're already learning! And, of course, you get to know the team – a friendly face at the start of your race is always an advantage. Each team will have its own insights and bonuses regarding the sport, and it really does help, when you start to go to bigger events to be able to spot a familiar face – someone who is probably as keen as you to discuss how the race went.



A happy customer and Download Team Leader at Elvaston Castle in February

As you volunteer more, you realise more, just how much help is needed to put on each event. Events don't happen without planners, organisers, and controllers, but they also don't happen without a whole bunch of helpers, and this realisation, that you've played your part, lightens the burden of any 'could have done better runs' – trust me! Not only that, but when you 'play away' at another club's event, you're free as a bird, and that can bring results too!

The surprises don't stop there – for those of us still in, or beginning the business of applying for universities, apprenticeships, and permanent or summer jobs (that was me 2 years ago), you are always likely to be asked about pastimes and commitment to any club or organisation. When I said I was a team leader at my latest interview, the years rolled off me, the interviewees nodded and I'm sure it helped.

As for this next memory, I'm hoping it is almost behind me now ... but life and orienteering sometimes leave you ill or injured, and out of the game. If you're on a team you can still show up and help, and this can be useful in all kinds of ways. There are a couple of DVO members who are in or have been in the world of medicine, and there's a wealth of folk who've experienced a break, a strain, a rupture etc and can, not only offer sympathy, but often give sound advice. And by just continuing to come to events, you can be hopeful, and even motivated to get back out into the woods soon!

I'll be completely honest, now, and say that there are times and events when we struggle to get helpers. At Ashbourne we had to rope in Stuart Swalwell's wife and my sister and brother-in-law, on Registration and

Parking. Suffice to say they all enjoyed the experience, and another DVO event happened, without magic!

So, please do keep volunteering to help, offer to help again and give it a go, whatever your age! And do feel free to change your team – Derwent Valley Orienteers is one big club. There'll always be someone to cover your helper role while you have a half-price run, too! Just 'Contact Us' via the website: [derwentvalleyorienteers.org.uk](https://derwentvalleyorienteers.org.uk) and select Membership Secretary or ask any helper at an event.

Indeed, a big 'thank you' to all our helpers!



# MapActive Navigation Skills course



## Learn orienteering techniques for hill walking, fell running or mountain marathons

Join our two-part MapActive course in May and June to become a more confident map reader and explore new trails, woods or urban areas. This course will show you how to:

- Select the best routes and minimize mistakes
- Stay in contact with the map
- Relocate when you get lost
- When and how to use a compass
- Be more confident and have more fun

Your coaches will include Chris Millard, Darren Cooke and Ann-Marie Duckworth. All are successful orienteers and Ann-Marie has coached the East Midlands Junior Orienteering Squad for many years.

### Who is the course for?

The programme is suitable for adults and children aged 9 years and older who are either complete beginners or already have some map reading experience, but want to learn more advanced skills.

The practical exercises have different levels of difficulty suitable for adults and children based on their experience. Adults can complete these activities individually or in groups and can be taught how to support/shadow younger children.

### How is the course structured?

The course is in two parts, each designed to progressively build competence and confidence in map reading and fundamental navigation.

The May and June Saturday sessions will be held in two parks in Derby and involve face-to-face coaching explaining techniques and practical exercises on an orienteering map.

There are also mid-week follow-up Zoom sessions to answer any questions and reinforce learning.

Learn more about dates and times

2 Globe icon Markeaton 2021-05-15

Events
Courses
Results
Draw

Course		Runners	Routes		
Short	<input type="checkbox"/>	10	0		
Medium	<input type="checkbox"/>	45	2	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Long	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	38	7	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>All</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>93</b>	<b>9</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Short

Medium

Long

## Markeaton Park

Scale 1:5,000, Contours 5m.

Possession of this map gives no right of access for any purpose.

0 50 100 150 200 metres

DERWENT VALLEY  
ORIENTEERS  
www.dvo.org.uk

**more fun**

**DERBY PARKS**

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 10px; height: 10px; background-color: #f4a460; border: 1px solid #000; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Open</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 10px; height: 10px; background-color: #f4a460; border: 1px solid #000; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Rough Open</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 10px; height: 10px; background-color: #f4a460; border: 1px solid #000; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Open - scattered trees</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 10px; height: 10px; background-color: #f4a460; border: 1px solid #000; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Woodland - run</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 10px; height: 10px; background-color: #f4a460; border: 1px solid #000; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Woodland - slow run</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 10px; height: 10px; background-color: #f4a460; border: 1px solid #000; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Woodland - walk</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 10px; height: 10px; background-color: #f4a460; border: 1px solid #000; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Fights</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 10px; height: 10px; background-color: #f4a460; border: 1px solid #000; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Undergrowth</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 10px; height: 10px; background-color: #f4a460; border: 1px solid #000; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Tarmac</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 10px; height: 10px; background-color: #f4a460; border: 1px solid #000; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Wall</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 10px; height: 10px; background-color: #f4a460; border: 1px solid #000; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Seat or picnic table</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 10px; height: 10px; background-color: #f4a460; border: 1px solid #000; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Tents, logistical</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 10px; height: 10px; background-color: #f4a460; border: 1px solid #000; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Dead tree</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 10px; height: 10px; background-color: #ccc; border: 1px solid #000; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Building</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 10px; height: 10px; background-color: #ccc; border: 1px solid #000; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Canopy</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 10px; height: 10px; background-color: #ccc; border: 1px solid #000; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Gravel path</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 10px; height: 10px; background-color: #ccc; border: 1px solid #000; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Path</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 10px; height: 10px; background-color: #ccc; border: 1px solid #000; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Small path</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 10px; height: 10px; background-color: #ccc; border: 1px solid #000; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Knolls</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 10px; height: 10px; background-color: #ccc; border: 1px solid #000; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Boulder, cairn</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 10px; height: 10px; background-color: #ccc; border: 1px solid #000; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Contour</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 10px; height: 10px; background-color: #ccc; border: 1px solid #000; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Form line</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 10px; height: 10px; background-color: #ccc; border: 1px solid #000; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Earth bank</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 10px; height: 10px; background-color: #ccc; border: 1px solid #000; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Earth wall</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 10px; height: 10px; background-color: #ccc; border: 1px solid #000; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Bridge</li> </ul>	<p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: 8px; margin: 0;">YOU MAY NOT ENTER/CROSS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 10px; height: 10px; background-color: #000; border: 1px solid #000; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Private Land</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 10px; height: 10px; background-color: #000; border: 1px solid #000; margin-right: 5px;"></span> High Walls</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 10px; height: 10px; background-color: #000; border: 1px solid #000; margin-right: 5px;"></span> High Fences</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 10px; height: 10px; background-color: #000; border: 1px solid #000; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Out of bounds</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 10px; height: 10px; background-color: #000; border: 1px solid #000; margin-right: 5px;"></span> River &amp; lakes</li> </ul>
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 Event Registration No.  
 Grid Reference at Markeaton Craft Village SK 333376  
 Survey and cartography 2018 by Derek Gale and Mike Godfree  
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 File version 2020

An example of route choices taken by competitors on a DVO event with tracks recorded by watch GPS.

# Contour interpretation at Allestree Park



There will be a coaching for adults and juniors on contour interpretation at Allestree Park on Saturday March 2nd, 10:30–3pm. East Midlands Junior Squad coaches Ann-Marie Duckworth (DVO) and Andy Simpson (LEI) will provide exercises from Orange to Green standard (improver to technical). You don't need to be a squad member to come along, but please do reserve a space as places are limited.

We have chosen Allestree Park because some of the features (big re-entrants, contour details and mixed woodland with parkland) are similar to the competition areas for the big competitions at the JK2024 on Beaudesert and the Midland Championships at Sandringham. But the skills you will learn will be useful for running in hilly terrain anywhere! (And practice at our Shipley Park event the following day.)

We provide the maps and compasses. Bring a packed lunch. Small fee, for further details or to reserve a place please email Jane Burgess.

# 20th Feb Open Meeting – DVO Three-year strategy

## Derwent Valley Orienteers – Open Meeting



All club members are invited to our first Open Meeting of the year. We will discuss the new DVO Three Year Strategy and hear the inimitable Richard Parkin introducing us of the features of Routegadget we haven't found before. If all that is not exciting enough, we will provide food and drink

**Date:** Tuesday, 20<sup>th</sup> February

**Place:** Church in the Peak, Lime Tree Business Park, Lime Tree Rd, DE4 3EJ

**Time:** 7pm – 9pm

Sandwiches, crisps and hot drinks will be provided

## Building a vibrant, sustainable club for everyone, and having some fun too!

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# Gran Canaria O Meet



## Helen, Nicky and Simon take in some winter sun and training in the Canaries

A growing contingent of DVOers (plus a few hangers on) have become converts to the Gran Canaria O Meet – a week of warm weather orienteering between Christmas and New Year in The Canary Islands. Now what's not to like?!?

I first went to the event back in 2021 and was instantly sold on the idea of making the most of a Christmas break and getting some high-quality orienteering in the sunshine! This year Nicky Hart & Simon Brister, joined myself, Andy Leedham (my partner – LOC) and Philip Cooper (my dad – WIM) in attending – it was great to have a small DVO camp at each event!

The opening event of the competition is always a night sprint race. In the past this has always been held in a town, but this year permission had been obtained for a race on the oldest golf course in Spain! After a day spent in the Gran Canarian mountains and a refreshing dip in the pool, we headed up to the event just as the moon was coming up. There was the usual level of razzmatazz – promo videos for the event, music playing and a great assembly area within a couple of minutes' walk of the start. The golf course provided a

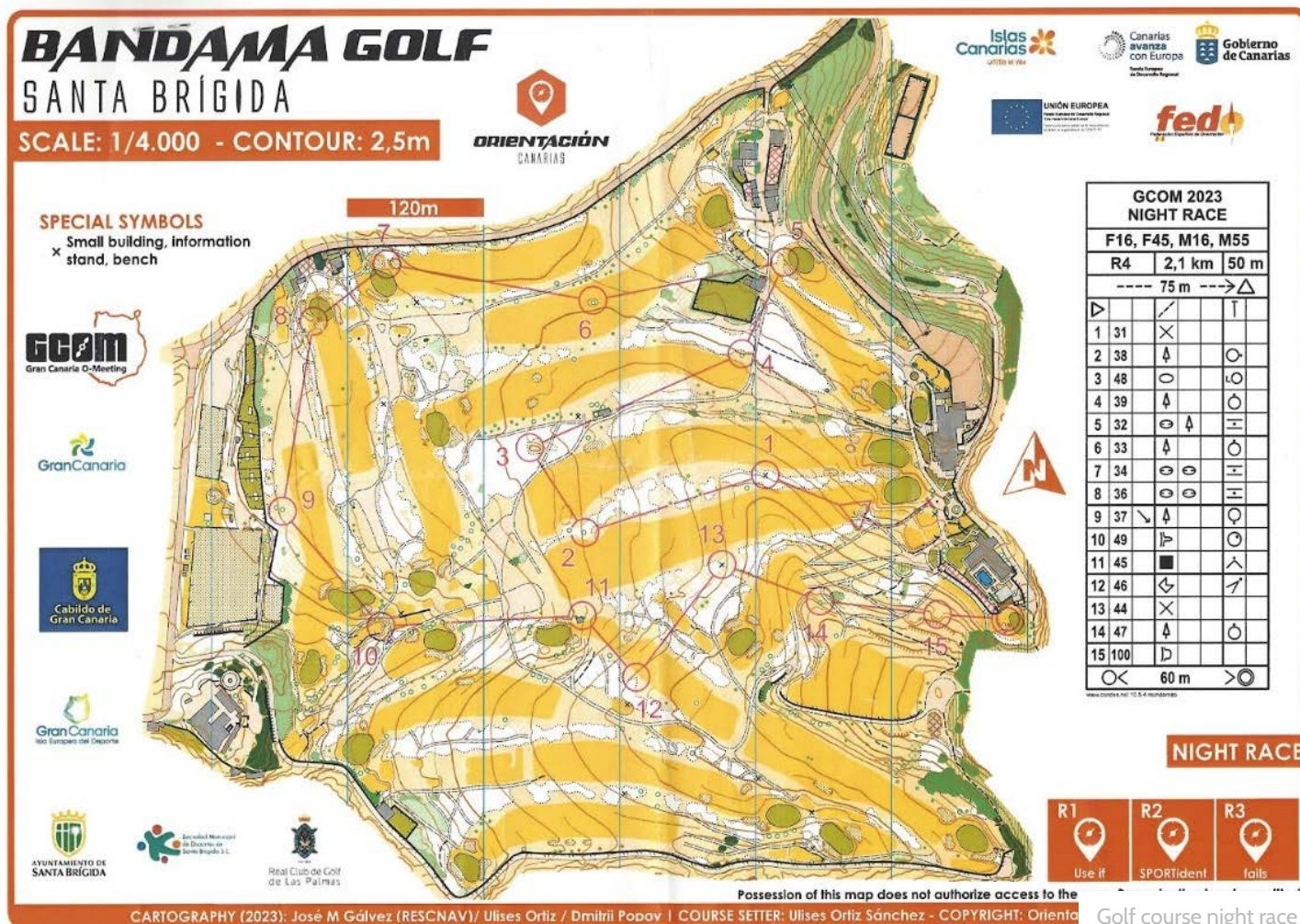


Gran Canaria O Meet DVO gang!

great area for the event – not too tricky (no one wants to be out for hours on the first day!) but still confusing enough to keep you on your toes! There was some very, very quick times and some more modest efforts, especially from the DVO group, but at least no disasters!

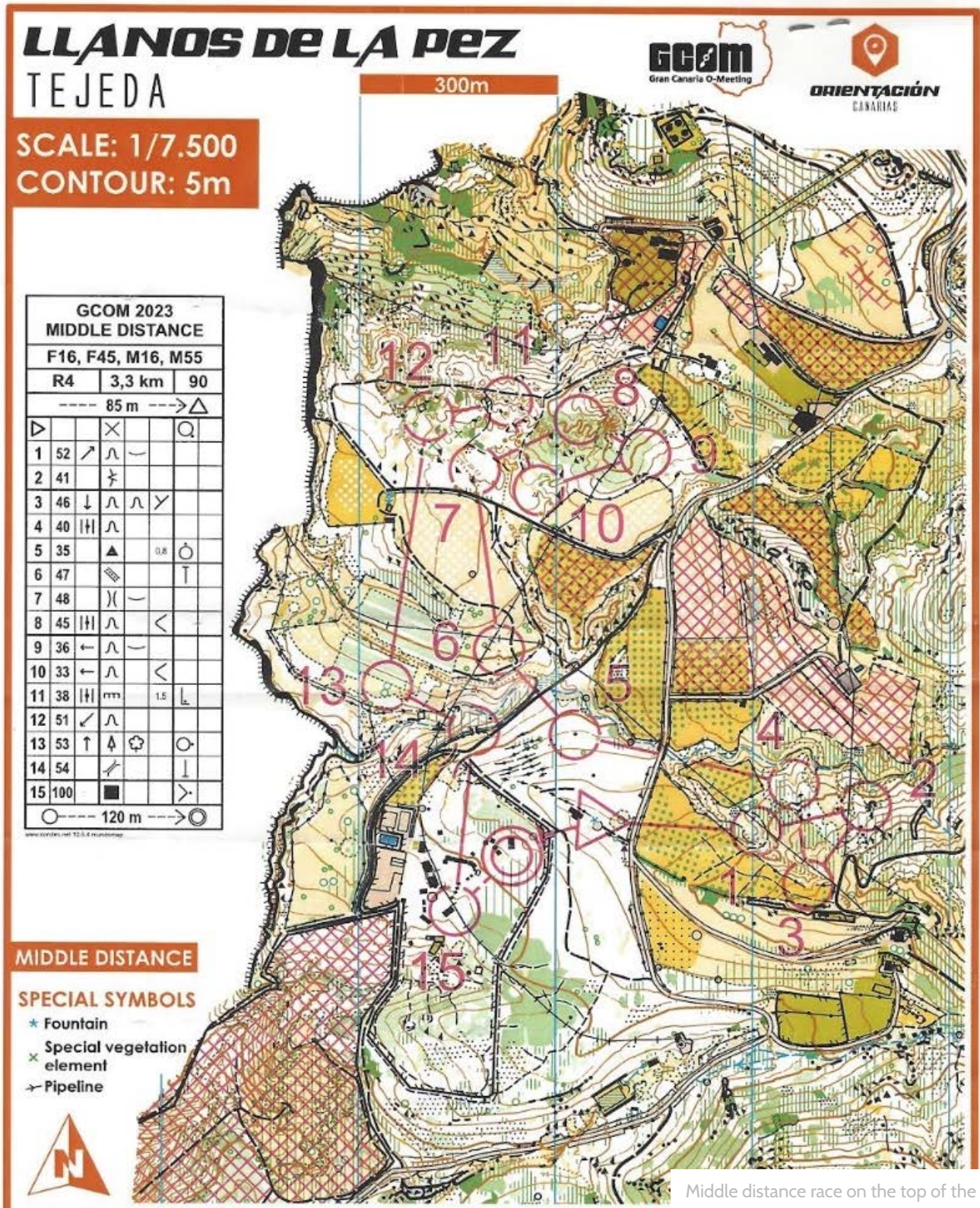
Day 2 was the Trail O day, for those who wanted to enter (not part of the main competition). Dad, Andy and I had a go, and, despite a bit of organisational chaos, it was one of the best Trail Os I have done for a while. Sometimes Trail Os can be a bit pedantic (in my view!) and rely on the minutia of rules, distances and angles. You felt with this one however, you really could work out the answers to the problems – even if you did get them wrong in the end!

Next came the two days right on the top of the island in Llanos de la Pez, a rocky recreation area all covered in Canarian pine. It was a long and twisty, but picturesque drive from the coast to 2,000m above sea level. The area was stunning orienteering terrain – beautifully runnable but hugely complex!! And all made even better by the sunshine filtering through the trees and the balmy 15C, even up at this altitude!



I went off with high hopes, as I love a bit of technical terrain! A slight error at number 1, but not more than a minute followed by clean running thereafter, left me anticipating a great run, until disaster struck at number 12. Glancing at my control descriptions as I left 11, I thought I was looking for 53. I quickly found 51, exactly where I was expecting number 12 to be. Confused, I then ran around for 10 minutes trying to figure out where I could be and where 53 might be. Just as I was about to give up completely, I looked again at my descriptions and saw the number 12 was indeed 51 and it was number 13 that was 53! I was very annoyed to say the least! 10 minutes wasted on something that wasn't even navigation related!!

The long race was on another part of the Llanos de la Pez map and was more technical than the middle. The rock detail around number 6 and 7 was particularly challenging, but with a bit of concentration I got through it. The real problem was numbers 3 and 9 – the same control that we visited twice. Despite a careful compass bearing, it took me 10 minutes to find it the first time. I thought it might be easier the second time, but that wasn't so, and another 5 minutes were wasted finding it again! It didn't seem like the best choice of control site – a tiny semi-distinctive tree in the middle of lots of thick bush! But nevertheless, I enjoyed the course and the views from the higher parts of the map made up for any gripes about nasty control sites!



Middle distance race on the top of the island



# SANTA BRIGIDA

**SCALE: 1/5.000 - CONTOUR: 2,5m**

**SPRINT DISTANCE**

GCOM 2023 SPRINT			
F16, F45, M16, M55			
R4	3,2 km	40m	
--- 150 m --->			
▶	■	◀	
1 33	▲		
2 36	■	▼	
3 37	▲		
4 39	TT	○	
5 49	■	▲	
6 50	×	○	
7 41	▲	○	
8 40	▲	○	
9 32	⊠	○	
10 51	TT		
11 34	→	↗	
○ < > ○			
12 42	▲		▲
13 45	▲		
14 52	■		L
15 46	▲		
16 44	▶		○
17 31	▲		
18 35	⊠		○
19 53	×		
20 100	▲		⊠
○ --- 180 m ---> ○			

**SPECIAL SYMBOLS**

- ▲ Fountain
- × Palm tree
- × Structure

**Logos:** ORIENTACIÓN CANARIAS, GCOM Gran Canaria O-Meeting, GranCanaria, Cabildo de Gran Canaria, Ayuntamiento de Santa Brigida, Islas Canarias, Gobierno de Canarias, UNIÓN EUROPEA, fed.

**Map Tools:** R1 Use If, R2 SPORtident, R3 falls

**Disclaimer:** Possession of this map does not authorize access to the area. Reproduction is not permitted

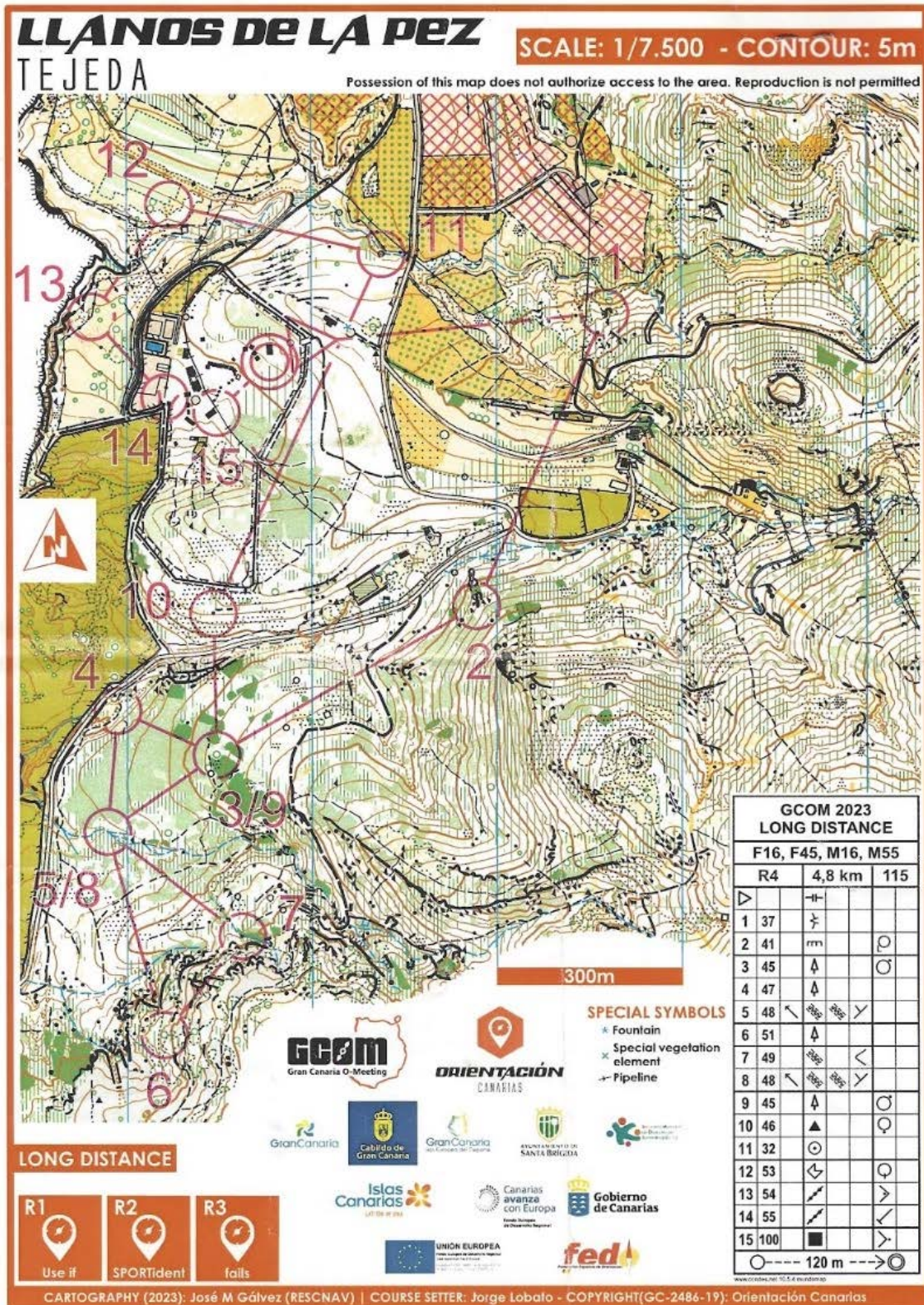
**Cartography:** (2019, actualizado 2023): Ulises Ortiz Sánchez | **Course Setter:** Óscar Bordón Pastor - **Copyright:** Orientación Canarias

Urban race

The final race was an urban event in the town of Santa Brigida. The navigation was relatively straightforward, but this was made up for by the variety in the course – the first section urban and then the second section on rough open land. This was my best run of the week, but not enough to make any contest for the podium positions overall!

The assembly area and finish were in the local sports hall, and this made for a great run-in and atmosphere. It's a shame we can't/don't have more arrangements like this in the UK.

After the race, the prizes for the overall competition were presented – these looked amazing, worth making an effort for! Each of 1st, 2nd and 3rd received a basket of local goods and a memento which was made from a thumb compass baseplate!



Long race



View from near number 6!

GCOM was over for another year. Most DVOers soon headed home, but Andy and I took advantage of the great sunny mountain walking on offer in The Canaries and headed over to La Gomera for an extra week. Along with the great orienteering, the walking in The Canaries (particularly Gran Canaria, La Gomera and La Palma) come highly recommended. And staying a while extra, or coming slightly earlier, to take in the Canarian mountains, is a great way to avoid the more expensive Christmas and New Year flight prices!



It is looking like the DVO contingent may build further for GCOM 2024 – lots of people have said they are looking at coming along. With pretty much guaranteed sunshine, great orienteering terrain, stunning scenery, modestly priced accommodation, and great food & drink who wouldn't want to join!

The 2024 edition is to be centred around the south of Gran Canaria and if previous years are anything to go by, will be excellent fun! Why not come along and let's see if we can make DVO the largest club attending!