



Newstrack May 2022



DVO at the
CompassSport
Cup Heat at
Postensplain
13/2/22



The magazine of Derwent Valley Orienteers

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Facebook page



Derwent Valley
Orienteers

>> announcements & events

Facebook Group



DVO Group

>> discussion & chat

New Members

A big welcome to our new members Farah Ojaghi W55 and Annabel Tungate W45. See you at an event soon!

Editorial

It's been a while since the last Newstrack, although summer may have happened at the British and the JK! Graham is opening the CompassSport Cup debate with his article on page 12. He makes a lot of valid points, but I want to thank Christine for organising our DVO Team, as well as everyone who turned up to run.

Thank you to all contributors, especially the globetrotting Godfrees!

The next issue will report on the World Masters in Italy, and the copy date will be July 20th for distribution at Belper Urban on the 31st.

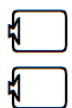
A happy summer season to you all!

Sal 8)

May 2022 What's inside?

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Club Captain's Corner



Spring has arrived and after the Covid years it's great that orienteering is back to normal and we have all the major festivals again. I gather that people enjoyed the **British Championships**, but unfortunately we missed it as we both had Covid! We had 18 competitors down in Hampshire with some very good performances. Particularly notable were Sal Chaffey who was first W55L and Rachel Duckworth who was first W20E.

Other Top 10 placings were: M40 Andrew Powell 5th, M55 John Duckworth 4th, M65 Paul Addison 6th, M70S Ranald Macdonald 4th, M75S Dave Skidmore 7th, W45 Sally Calland 8th, Helen Chiswell 9th, W70 Judith Holt 4th, Liz Godfree 7th. Very well done all!

We had a low entry in the British Relays, fielding only two teams but I guess it was a long way to travel!

I really enjoyed the **JK in South Wales**: wonderful weather in a lovely part of the country. The festival was kicked off with the Sprints at Swansea University. We had some good results which included: Richard Parkin 6th M50, John Duckworth 6th M55, Derek Gale 4th M75, Rachel Duckworth 4th W20E and Liz Godfree 6th W70.

Days 2 and 3 were the middle and long formats respectively. The organisers clearly faced some challenges with the parking arrangements, which necessitated the use of buses on Day 2 and walks of up to 2.3km to the arena on Day 3. We had to bend the rules a bit to drop off

the club tent!

The terrain was demanding both physically and technically on both days, though particularly on Day 3 with some horribly steep former slag heaps, rough boggy ground and heather to traverse along with a dearth of tracks. Although both the events were on open ground, I heard someone remark "it wasn't actually a walk in the park".

Nevertheless I really enjoyed the event. It was lovely sunny weather, great to be able socialise round the club tent and beautiful countryside



surrounding us. Our 2 prize winners were myself 3rd in W75 (see photo; first podium ever!!) and Rachel Duckworth 3rd in W20E.

The final day relays were at Caerwent, an MOD training area. Although the longer courses went into some woods, it did to some extent feel like an urban event. We had 4 relay teams (having lost a team to injury and Covid). Our best result was the Senior Women's team 120+ Sal Chaffey, Val Johnson and Katy Swalwell who were 9th.

Looking forward to future events, the British Sprint championships are taking place in Leeds on June 11th and 12th. It is still possible to enter the relays, so please get in touch with me asap if you would like a relay leg.

Christine Middleton, DVO Club Captain dvoclubcaptain@gmail.com

Meeting dates

Main Committee – Tues 24 May 7:30pm at the Chaffey's

Fixtures Committee – Tues 21 June 4pm at the Macdonalds' house

Open Meeting – Tues 28 June 7:30pm. Likely venue: Arkwrights Bar (upstairs room) Campbell Street, Belper DE56 1UP

Permanent Course Corner

The new course at Calke Park is now live, and starts from Calke Explore rather than the main car park (see extract). Maps for sale on site there and Maprun available as well. Remember your NT card!

There are new Maprun courses at Oakwood from Springwood Leisure Centre. And 2 of the courses used at the Melbourne Urban event are also available as Maprun courses.



Committee Vacancy – Membership Secretary

Paul Goodhead has now been in post as Membership Secretary for 4 years, and in October we will need a replacement. I would like to thank Paul on behalf of us all for his hard work. See opposite for an outline of what's involved, or contact Paul on dvo_sec2021@outlook.com for more details. Please let Paul or Sal know if you are interested in what is normally a 3-year role!

DVO Membership Secretary: role description

The role of Membership Secretary is largely one of administration. There are four main strands to the job:

- maintenance of the club Access database
- e-mail communication with the membership
- Membership reports for the club meetings
- Attend committee, open and AGM meetings

1. Database Administration

Maintain the club Access database which typically takes a few minutes per week.

This is to ensure it is accurate in:

- a. Membership details – names, addresses, contact details etc
- b. DVO: Teams to ensure these are as accurate as possible.

Produce the club address book periodically for publication to the website.

Import results from DVO events so that attendance trends can be analysed.

2. Club Communication - email

Sending e-mails to the membership typically takes 5 mins per e-mail assuming the text has either been supplied or written. The Access database will produce e-mail lists automatically, e-mails include:

- a. Issue the AGM Agenda and papers to members.
- b. Compile membership reports for AGM and for open and committee meetings.
- c. Distribute publications including e-mews and Newstrack to the membership.
- d. Send out flyers for social events.
- e. Publicise Compass Sport Cup communications working with the Club Captain.
- f. Send out BOF membership renewal reminders to club members.

3. Membership Reports

These are required for all meeting which could include Committee, Open or AGM meetings. The reports have no specific structure and can be produced to a template convenient to the Secretary. They should include the current membership numbers but anything else is optional. Typically I might include a breakdown of the age distribution of the membership and also some statistics regarding membership attendance at DVO events. Typically these take around 1h to produce, though the club database can automatically produce the stats needed.

4. Attending Meetings

Attendance at the regular club meetings is an expectation and these last typically 2 – 2 ½ hours. You will be expected to present your Membership report to the meeting.

Cautionary Tales

It all began at the Scottish 6(3) day when I ran more than an hour before Mike and at the finish, mindful of the rough terrain and his 10 week old hip, I rushed up to the start with his walking pole. There I met Viv “retiring” before she had really started because her compass needle was not swinging. Little did she or I know that also at the start was Mike with a spare compass in his bum bag! I now carry a little starter compass in my bum bag.

Those of you who ran at SYO’s 50th Anniversary event at Wharncliffe know that it was a bramble infested jungle! When I measured my length for the ‘n’th time, I banged my head on a tree stump – and said something unrepeatable. It was only when I stood up that I realized my glasses only had a single arm which would not stay on my nose unless held – map, compass, dibber, I needed a third hand. The magnifier on my compass was useless – everything was a blur on the map. How could I even retire?! Fortunately, I had done my homework, geeked the old maps and knew I was a hill just below the taped-off pit mentioned in the Final Details. My long sight is fine so I followed a nearby stream to the felled area, found what I thought could be a footpath down to the gully, along which lots of orienteers were running to my hill, thank goodness!

My next control was very difficult as I could make out no detail. But I headed along the gully in the hope that other orienteers might lead me in the right direction. It might even be someone I knew on my course. Thank you, Doug, for saving me and guiding me round the rest of the course even if I did make you run faster.

After download I went straight to CompassPoint where I had to ask what strength their ‘O’ specs were – only 2.0 and I need 4.0. An order to Latvia for Vapro 4.0 arrived in 10 days. And a trip to Poundland found a pair of 3.5 reading glasses which now live with my spare compass in my bum bag. I should have remembered my Girl Guide motto.

Liz Godfree

Proverbs according to Mike

- 1. Always, always check the control code** No matter how confident you are about being in the right place check the code. It saved me at the first control at Postensplain when in fact I had picked up the wrong map, so was able to go back and start again. Have the code in mind from your loose descriptions (in a control description holder of course) as you approach.

2. **Check that you have registered a punch** If contactless hold the dibber up to your ear to make sure it is yours that you have heard beep not someone else's. If not contactless make sure the box has flashed and beeped.
3. **View the finish before going for your run** If possible, go and see the finish layout before you go to run. Why is it that at World Championship events competitors are held in quarantine until their start time? One reason is because seeing the finish would give an unfair advantage.
4. **Check out an old map** Most clubs have previous events on Routegadget (look for the club's name at Routegadget.co.uk or on the club web site like DVO) or of course you keep your own old maps in an organized filing system! Often the final details will give some clues as to where the start and finish will be. Often these will have been determined by potential white/yellow courses so look for a potential path loop of the right sort of length.
5. **Read the final details** As well as finding out how to get there, check things like how far it is to the start, the map scale. Learn as much as you can. There is always the OS map and Google Earth to explore. The more you learn the more confident you will be.

The Editor adds: 'Don't become despondent if you have a bad run. Sometimes it's poor prep, sometimes just bad luck, or failure to apply techniques and use a disciplined race strategy.' In the words of my favourite soap character, Roy Cropper of Roy's Rolls on Coronation Street:



Antwerp Sprint Orienteering Meeting, 1-3 April

Our first trip abroad since POM (Portugal O Meet) in February 2020, due to lockdown and Covid. Suitably masked, we travelled to St Pancras by rail before catching the Eurostar to Brussels and onwards to Antwerp.

The first event was the Friday evening night Mixed Relay – 1 man and 1 woman, running alternate legs.

Although entered as Masters 55+ everyone was running the same 4 gaffled legs in various orders. As this was the Elite Sprint training event, we had the elites of Europe to compete against like Kris Jones and Megan Carter-Davies. The men, all 160



of them, were the first off in the dusk at 8pm, handing over map and dibber to female partner after less than 10 minutes. Needless to say by the time Mike was handing over to me some of the elite lads were already on their 2nd run! I don't enjoy night 'O', perhaps because I don't carry a Trinity House light on my head! I found the map (round school buildings and across a fairly quiet road) difficult to read. Anne K-B and I found we were on the same gaffle but couldn't see a way of getting from 6 to 7. In daylight the 'hedge' proved to just be the blue North line! 2nd runs were better as ways through fences were remembered. The Johnsons were 1st DVO finishers. The Godfrees and Kimberleys completed before the Finish arch was deflated!

Saturday morning was a lie-in followed by a Belgian breakfast of cheese and cold meats plus delicious croissants and pastries (note plurals). After a walk through the old town to find a supermarket we headed back under the river, down the wooden escalators (think Kings Cross pre-fire) and along a tiled Victorian passageway (always alert for cyclists), before ascending more wooden escalators to Linkerover on the west bank. Once again assembly was in a school with facilities and seating areas where we could watch the Elite Knock-out Sprints and cheer on the Brits. The Elites had up to 4 runs, 2 were enough for normal mortals. In the daylight this was just a run round the housing estate, but you still had to keep your wits about you – parallel errors. On my 2nd race I even visited one for my controls from the mixed relay – and recognised it. There was considerable discussion over other competitors who reached across uncrossable hedges with their SIACs rather than running round. Controls should have been positioned to prevent this. On the way back to our hotel we found ourselves walking down one of those streets – ladies in shop windows!

Sunday was the Euro City Race, a good urban distance but not in the city centre. We walked to the event – yet another school where the elites had their run through. DVO & HALO seated themselves on the children's play equipment by the run-in and away from the speakers. Once again, we ran through urban areas, across city parks and through a cemetery. I made silly mistakes – physically and mentally exhausted.

Then a walk back to the station taking us through a thriving ethnic area – greengrocers' shops piled high with oranges, butchers overflowing with meat, fish laid out on ice with beady eyes watching you – a completely different side to Antwerp. Then the long trek home – all trains on time and an easy drive from East Midlands Parkway station.

Perhaps next year's ASOM will be back to the June date, sunny and warm with the relay in daylight and much pleasanter for hanging around.

[Must look out for this event in 2023 – Ed.]

Liz

ASOM Sprint Meeting

Stages: 8, 7, 3, 2, 1

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100
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ASOM Sprint Meeting

Stages: 8, 7, 3, 2, 1

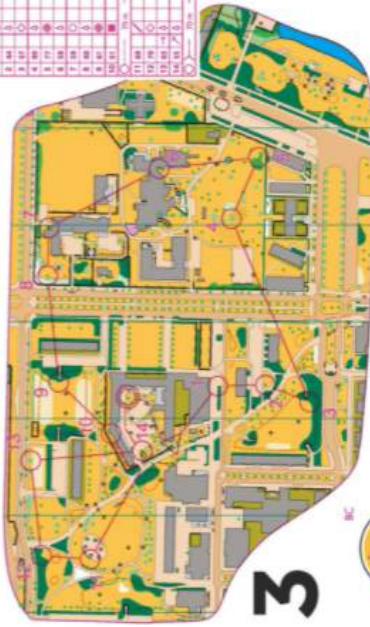
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ASOM Sprint Meeting

Stages: 8, 7, 3, 2, 1

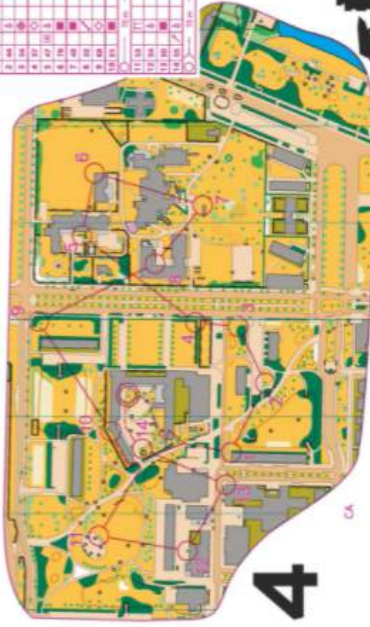
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ANTWERP SPRINT ORIENTEERING MEETING - 01.04.2022
 MAP: LINKEROEVER | MAPPER: JORIS KINT | SCALE: 1/4.000 | COURSES: 2R | ASSO BVOS n° 101



101 - open



WSC

When Sunday Comes

(Except when it's Saturday or Wednesday)

RDO – Real Derbyshire Orienteers. Fanzine No 43

Extremism at its least extreme

Chutney magnate Sir Branston Smalls released from jail

Scourge of Derbyshire orienteering given shock pardon (page 9)

Lock up your daughters forests (page 99)

On second thoughts, lock up your daughters as well (page 999)

Other news just in: Elephant track analysis discredited. Relax – it is elephants after all (page 9999).

Celebration Day

The Big Orienteering Organisation (BOO) is reportedly planning a May Day celebration in order to mark the fact that BOO membership has now passed the 100,000 milestone. May 9th is pencilled in for what is being described as a spectacular parade through the streets of Tansley. No expense is to be spared. WSC has been speaking to anonymous BOO spokesperson Eric Slowly (93).

WSC: “Mr Slowly, can you please let our readers know what is going on here?”

Mr Slowly (for it is he): “This is a significant moment in our history. Never before have so many been signed up for our noble and glorious sport. Never before will the streets of Tansley have echoed with such celebrations. Never before will such high esteem be poured on our great leaders. Never before etc etc...”

WSC: “Quite. Our readers may be shocked and surprised to discover that BOO membership is now so high. At the last count it was surely only about eight or nine thousand”.

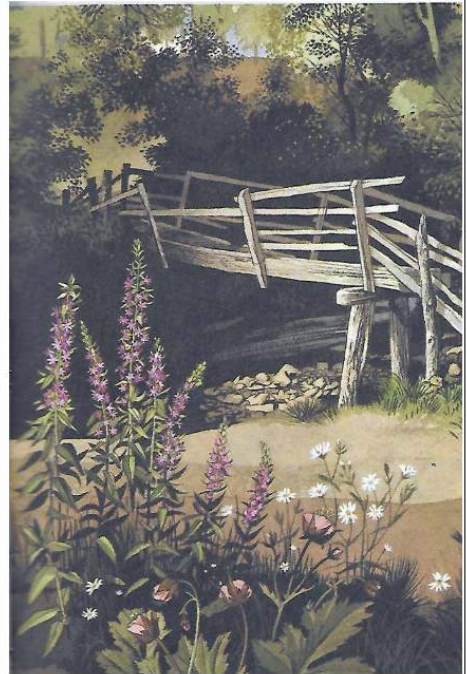
Mr Slowly: “Fake news, all fake news. You are clearly taking your information from the wrong sources. Why, the entries for this year’s British Championships exceeding 30,000 are definite proof that we are on a huge up surge. And I would be careful young man about what you print. You could have your press credentials removed for spreading false information about the Organisation”.

WSC: “If I was being cynical, I would say that this is a blatant and none too subtle ploy to obtain more money from central funding. What do you say to that Mr Slowly?”

Mr Slowly: “I would say that you are skating on very thin ice indeed. Mr Van Drawback will be very interested indeed to hear your views. This interview is now terminated. Guards, show this gentleman to the door please”.

(I think you might need to find yourselves some more expensive lawyers – WSC lawyers)

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



Sometimes there are natural obstacles in the terrain that runners will need assistance to cross.

Like this high tech solution specially designed and constructed to traverse a fast flowing river during a British Champs.

Thirty years later litigation over the accident still continues.

There was a miscalculation about how many pies some orienteers may have consumed before crossing the bridge.

Specialist research is ongoing.

In a pickle

Consternation amongst the Old Derwentians at the shock news that a mystery buyer has put forward a proposal to purchase a significant portion of one of the club's prime orienteering areas, Symmetric Shrubs. WSC contacted a club spokesbeing for reaction.

"Absolutely outrageous" spluttered a pale and tremulous Selina Chaffinch (for it was she). "Symmetric Shrubs has been part of our area portfolio for over fifty years and all who visit it cannot fail to be impressed and, may I even say so, overwhelmed by its beautiful symmetric layout. Every path, every clearing, every contour, every tree. True music to the eye. Take away a part of that and all will be destroyed."

"But what about the loss of excellent orienteering terrain? Surely that is a big issue too?"

"Oh that. Can't say it crossed my mind. This is all about aesthetics. Can you imagine the shame, the indignity, the humiliation of having to rename the area Asymmetric Shrubs? Or Almost Symmetric Shrubs? Or Symmetric If You Just Ignore The Missing Bit Shrubs? This is truly the darkest day in the history of Derbyshire orienteering".

"Thank you, Ms Chaffinch,"

Well, what more do we know about this mystery potential buyer? Rumours are going into overdrive that it may be none other than disgraced chutney magnate Sir Branston Smalls, recently released from his jail sentence, once again seeking to wreak havoc by building a new pickle plant on orienteering terrain. If this is true then we should be very worried indeed. If he succeeds then it will only be a matter of time before he tries to extend his empire even further abroad, possibly even establishing a chain of chutney enterprises stretching from the Dove to the Erewash whilst adopting a scorched earth policy as far as woodlands and forests go.

We asked an expert expert from a top-secret research establishment on a hillside near Belper (Gateway to the North) about Sir Branston Smalls.

"We've done a lot of research on this subject" outh a man with wild hair and a wild stare. "Having sifted through all of the available data and plotted a huge number of pie charts, we have come to a firm conclusion. It is scientifically incontrovertibly true that Sir Branston Smalls is a very bad man. And that's an actual fact. We told you as much a few years ago. So go and stuff that in Wonkipedia!" (*departs pushing a pineapple*).

"Thank you."

Talking of pies, now turn to page 777 where you can read a story about a woman who discovered the face of Reginald Bosanquet in a chicken and mushroom pie (*nice segue – Ed*).

Early Orienteering Inventions (No 7) – Bob McNutt



Before NipGuards and BodyGlide, these were all the rage for early orienteers. At least they were until someone discovered that it meant running round in circles with the compass needle permanently pointing at your t**s. Or someone else's.

(*Toes? – Ed*)

Letters Page

Dear WSC,

I refer to your photograph of a ferret in WSC 42. *Mustela putorius furo!* Are you out of your minds? It's quite clearly *martes zibellina* as anyone can see. Get your facts right before you start spreading fake news about these lovable animals.

Yours

W.J. Vole-Strangler (Mrs)

Orienteering Ban

In a major blow to urban orienteering, all university campuses are to be declared out of bounds for the foreseeable future. The problem is down to the very low numbers of M21s and W21s in the sport. Student orienteers have become so rare that they have themselves become declared an endangered species. Consequently all campuses have been declared SSSIs, and permissions for events there have been withdrawn. The many nesting pairs of years gone by are but a distant memory and extinction is feared in many regions. Will it work? "No chance!" said some bloke at a bus top we asked in order to fill up this page. "All students want to do is work hard and get degrees these days. Sex and dugs and rock 'n' roll is just so passe". Well, who knew?

Wither the CompassSport Cup?

In this piece, I will be referring to Big Clubs, by which I mean those clubs like DVO with more than 125 members who qualify for the CompassSport *Cup* competition (CSC), and Small Clubs, those clubs with fewer than 126 members who qualify for the *Trophy* competition that runs alongside it.

Over the years I have become increasingly resentful of the demands and outdated format of the CSC, despite still turning out. This year was the final straw.

The IOF boasts that, “We are respectful of the natural environment and promote environmental good practice” whilst British Orienteering urges that, “opportunities should be taken to describe (orienteering) as a ‘Green’ sport or ‘the Woodland Sport’”. Despite these fine words, this year, DVO was given a choice for qualifying events between Postensplain (140 miles and 3 hours round trip from Derby) and Mildenhall (260 miles/4hours from Derby). This latter venue was the ‘local option’ – despite Brighton being just as close to Mildenhall as Derby is. Even NOC and LEI chose Postensplain, the West Midlands option, over the nominal ‘East Midlands’ choice.

The reason for Mildenhall being the EM nomination was that the CSC, for entirely arbitrary reasons for which there is no specific provision in the rules, chooses to lump the EMOA and the EAOA – East Anglian OA – together when it comes to Buggins’ turn to organise a qualifying round. EAOA’s sphere of influence encompasses the activities of HAVOC, i.e. Havering and South Essex, so in theory a DVO member from Buxton could be expected to travel to Canvey Island, a round distance of some 400 miles.

This makes no sense except in the weird and not-so-wonderful world of the CSC. If the aim of the CSC is, as I assume, to find Britain’s Top Orienteering Club, then it is hardly likely to achieve this aim if it offers a venue so far away that the measure of success is determined not by the prowess of the competing clubs but the willingness and financial ability of their members to travel inordinate distances to attend.

What makes the ‘option’ of Mildenhall even more laughable was that, in the event, no East Midlands or East Anglian Big Clubs actually took part there at all – because the only Big Club in either EMOA or EAOA is in fact DVO! (Yes, both NOC and LEI now apparently have fewer than 126 members). To put it another way, the only clubs taking part at Mildenhall were Small Clubs.

As it turned out, all DVO had to do to qualify for the Final was to select Mildenhall as their choice and send me down as their sole representative. Provided I punched every control on my course (no guarantee, I acknowledge), then, even if I’d taken three hours to do this, DVO would’ve qualified for the Final because there was no other Big Club taking part.

This is the level of farce to which this competition has now descended.

In fact, this sort of absurdity was not confined to DVO's situation. If you look elsewhere, the only round where the competition exceeded three Big Clubs was the North-West; in four of the eight rounds only two Big Clubs faced off against each other. Such has been the general decline in orienteering numbers generally over the past few years, only 17 of the 75 clubs taking part were Big Clubs.

The round with the greatest degree of fatuousness was surely that held at Windy Pits where the Big Club competition saw the mighty SYO take on Airienteers. The rules provide that, where one of the competing clubs was in the top three in the previous Final, the second club automatically qualifies. Thus Airienteers only had, once again, to send a single competitor and, provided they completed their course, they qualified for the Final, unlike SYO who as previous winners were obliged to put out a decent team because, had they rested on their laurels and allowed Airienteers to come first, they would have been out of the competition. (A similar situation applied in Scotland too.)

How daft is that?

The further irony of the Postensplain event was that not only did DVO not want to go there in the first place, as borne out by the all-but-37 members who chose to find something better to do with their time, nobody who actually went wanted to win it either – an object DVO achieved with some distinction – the reason being of course that the Final this year is in Scotland. Who wants a weekend trip to Scotland in October with petrol heading towards £2 a litre?

Last year, understandably, just four out of the 24 clubs represented at the final were from Scotland. This is numerically probably more like 10%. This year, in the interests of 'fairness', 20 English clubs representing maybe 80% of the total competitors will be required to travel to Edinburgh, distances of up to 500 miles away if you are unfortunate to qualify from DEVON, for a run of less than an hour. What's the sense or point in this?

Yes, FVO would doubtless say, we have to travel every year to some random place in England so it's only reasonable we should get our turn at organisation. And they do travel – usually by piling in droves into aeroplanes, one of the most environmentally damaging forms of transport available. Yet orienteering still claims to be an environmentally conscious and caring sport. Ha!

No doubt when the CSC was conceived, there were a lot more Big Clubs and the division between Big and Small made sense. With the passage of time two things have happened: as noted, the number of 125+ member clubs has decreased but also the gap between smaller Big Clubs and bigger Big Clubs has widened. In reality, any club other than SYO, FVO and maybe WCOC are in the Final only to make up the numbers.

I could go on and discuss the unfairness of the age categories which make the CSC the only competition in the world to force women between 60 and 70 to compete against men older than 80 without distinguishing between them, despite making no similar distinction in any other age category, but I suspect I've already gone on long enough.

Like an old faithful retainer, the CompassSport Cup has given us good service in the past but it's getting too long in the tooth now, it's proved itself too arthritic to adapt to the demands made of it and should now be put down in the kindest and most painless way possible.

Graham Johnson

The Editor adds ...

1. The Club competition in the UK O League really serves the same purpose as the CSCup, and is perhaps fairer because it records good performances across the year. True, the more UK O League fixtures attended, the more potential points (best 8 scores count for each competitor), but the League was set up to increase participation on prestige terrain, such as Chatsworth.



- DVO are currently 8th in the League, with 16 out of 25 events for 2022 completed, the next events being the Scottish Champs, the British Sprint Champs & 2 of the Lakes 5 days: <https://www.ukorienteeringleague.org.uk/page/Home>
2. Graham's point about unnecessary travel needs some amplification. We've known about climate change for some decades, but we now refer to climate emergency. According to a 2021 study in *The Lancet*, 59% of the 10000 16–25 year olds surveyed were extremely worried about the future of the planet, experiencing the following reactions: sadness, anxiety, anger, powerlessness, helplessness, and guilt.

All of a sudden, we come to reassess our treasured foreign holidays as being polluting and wasteful, and we look to stay closer to home, or to use surface travel, if we are lucky enough to afford it.

Many Club members already have electric cars, witnessed by the charging discussions on the Scottish 6-day WhatsApp group. Certainly, we now think twice before driving.

3. For me, the CSCup was an enjoyable day, with the camaraderie of struggling with the tunnel tent in the wind (see front cover)! We finally managed to get together to present the 2021 awards: <https://derwentvalleyorienteers.org.uk/2021-dvo-awards-and-trophies-presentation-at-postensplain/>

Sports Personality of the Month

Unanimously to Murray for his 34 min split at #6 on the Green course at Chatsworth. His Strava feed explains ...

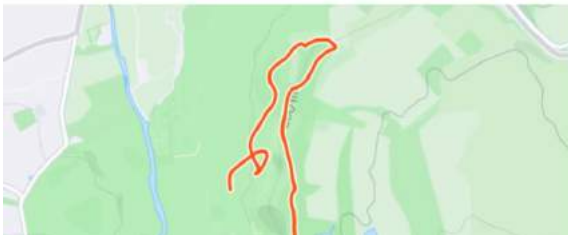


Murray White

📍 January 29, 2022 at 10:53 AM · Derbyshire Dales, England

EML orienteering - Chatsworth calamity

Well, that didn't go as planned! Dropped my dibber down a steep craggy embankment quarter way round, took 30+ mins to find it buried in leaves, then climbed out only to tread on and break my compass. Amazingly still managed to complete course, albeit last! 🤦🏻 Some days you win, some days you lose!



To anyone who walks or runs in Crich Chase!

Many will know that a crowdfunder is running to purchase Crich Chase for the Derbyshire Wildlife Trust (£49000 of £720000 raised so far).

Friends of Crich Chase are applying for PROW (protected right of way) status for 2 paths, and are encouraging runners and walkers to register their use **over the last 20 years** via their link:

<http://www.friendsofcrichchase.co.uk/paths>

The Committee are monitoring the situation with an eye on continued orienteering.

Looking forward to next week's Regional event ...

From Wirksworth Community Fayre magazine via Ranald: Wikipedia says it's **Black Rocks, not Rock...** and also that there's an alternative name, Stonnis Rocks. The brown tourist sign saying Black Rock is a mistake!

That name apparently dates back to [surely predates? – Ed] a book called *Some Gritstone Climbs*, written by a lawyer named John Laycock and published in 1913. The title of the book seems to have been a matter for some indecision at the publishers, because it appeared as *Some Gritstone Climbs* on the cover, but as *Some Shorter Climbs (in Derbyshire and Elsewhere)* on the title page.

MUTTERINGS FROM THE UNDERGROWTH

FIELD NOTES OF AN O MAPPER

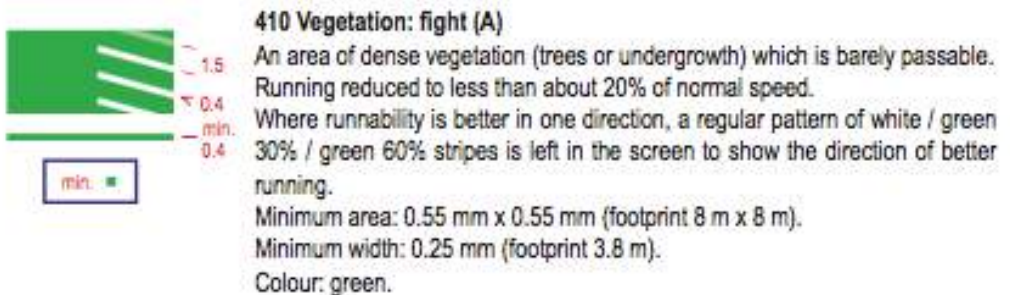
In which I share some of my mutterings about decisions I have to make out there in the wild, because if I have to grapple with these decisions, why shouldn't you?!

#3 — HOW THICK DO YOU HAVE TO BE?

What is a thicket? We can answer that easily enough: a thicket is a dense growth of shrubs or small trees. But what does a thicket look like on the ground, in the woods, or out on the moors? What do we expect to see?

Well, it varies around the world, of course. In Tasmania, the gullies get clogged with thickets of tea tree (*Melaleuca*); in Japan, I'm told you might come across close-packed bamboo. Around here, you could encounter aggressive formations of hawthorn, or a sprawling sinuous mesh of holly, and the dark, mysterious and dreaded rhododendron—dreaded not only because of its invasive persistence, but because the space between those fibrous branches has been known to lure the opportunist orienteer to their doom.

On the map, these antagonists are represented by an area symbol (appropriately enough a very leafy shade of green) which we commonly refer to as 'fight'.

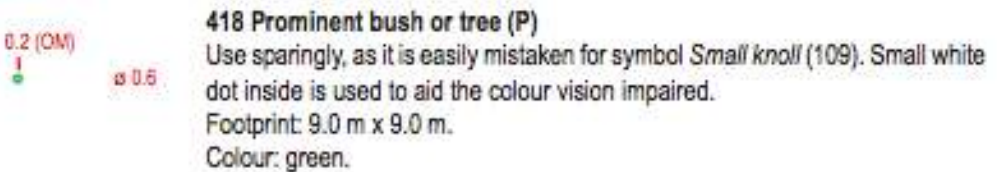


In the olden days, some mappers introduced an extra, darker shade (50% black) which they called 'impenetrable,' though they might have better dubbed 'invincible' because you can't fight it. I suppose this was to distinguish it from those occasions where you might find you can pass

through the vegetation and reach the other side faster than 20% of normal running speed. After all, if a mapper had to test the runnability of every block of fight, you would be treated to expletive-laden mutterings when (if) they returned. 'Impenetrable' was unequivocal: 'don't even try'. The darker green was not adopted in the first formal mapping specifications, but it reappeared in a recent edition (2017) only to be withdrawn on consultation because, among other things, it interfered with legibility of adjacent paths. (The last up-dated version of the Eyam Moor map still has dark green for rhododendrons.)

Not everything that is 'fight' is a thicket. The dense blocks of young conifers you find in commercial plantations are not thickets. So how big, or rather how small can a thicket be? And how thick is thick?

Some rhododendrons and laurel bushes are so small you feel you can wrap your arms around them. (Don't.) Are these thickets? Definitely, maybe, probably not. If they are prominent, there is a fair chance they will be mapped but, as you may have noticed above, there is a minimum size for [410] 'Vegetation: fight' which corresponds to 8m x 8m (at 1:15000) on the ground (known as the 'footprint'). We're used to finding thickets smaller than that appearing on orienteering maps. In the East Midlands, where we are often starved for good control features, they can prove useful. And you have to bear in mind the footprint of an ordinary boulder is a minimum of 6m in diameter. Like thickets, many distinct boulders are significantly smaller than that. My practice is to use the prominent bush or small tree symbol [418]. I call them 'dot thickets' and I won't go any smaller than that on the map.



'What about brambles? You can have bramble thickets, can't you? Why haven't you mentioned them.'* *Why? Isn't it enough that I have to wade through brambles, let alone write about the damned things!*

The problem with brambles, in addition to their thorns, is they get so dense that they can sometimes meet the definition of a thicket without at the same time growing above your eye-line. In other words, they can be both undergrowth and thicket. How do you map that? Mappers often prefer the

undergrowth screen [409] even where brambles make progress impossible, but the specifications say you should use [410] 'vegetation (fight) where it is very difficult to run (for an elite athlete) and who can run through waist high bramble? The trouble is, when you see fight on the map you'd expect something more, well, shrubby, something more prominent than a pile of bramble. I went awry in Wass forest when I failed to see a large low-lying thicket just before the control.

So, beware, if it isn't in your face, the thicket on the map may be around your waist.

*after I wrote this article I was scratched in the shoulder by gorse bush wanting to know why I had ignored it, I gulped, and promised to include it in the article: gorse can be nasty too.

RICHARD PARKIN

Graham/Kevin's archive

An array of early 80's photos unearthed by Kevin Cunniffe in a recent move. Bottom left is Zoe Wilkinson, the rest are still current members.

When the Editor (who has been in DVO a mere 26 years) asked who Kevin Cunniffe was, Graham replied: "Kevin Cunniffe was a regular DVO orienteer till 25 years ago. He was as much part of DVO in the eighties as the Whiteheads, us, John Hurley, Mike Gardner and Rob Shooter who's the one with his arm down the drain. Kevin's a cyclist now and we ride with him most Thursdays."



Events List

Please always check Events info from the DVO website before travel–
<http://derwentvalleyorienteers.org.uk/events/future-events/> and other clubs' websites: **NOC, LEI, SYO, LOG**. ☒ = part of East Midlands League, EMUL = East Mids Urban League, **UKOL** = UK O League, L = Local, R = Regional, N = National.

May

Sun 15 R ☒ **Black Rocks**, near Cromford, enter via DVO website, CD Fri 13 May 6pm

Sat 21 R **MDOC Urban Weekend**, Tytherington, enter both via Fabian4

Sun 22 N **MDOC Urban Weekend** Ancoats, UK Urban League

Sat 28 L **Darley Park**, Derby, Reg 1–3pm near the Tea Rooms
 Part of Derby Walking Festival:

<https://www.movemorederby.co.uk/derby-walking-festival>



June

Wed 8 **Whitworth Park Relays** Teams of 3 declare on the night (1 park-only leg/2 urban & park legs). Starts 6:30–8pm. Picnic afterwards (Brunel Room available)!

Sat 11 R **British Sprint Relay Champs**, Leeds Beckett University

Sun 12 **UKOL British Sprint Championships**, Leeds University

Sat 18 N **Coventry Urban** Middle Distance (UKUL), OD

Sun 19 N **Birmingham Urban** Euro City Race Tour (UKUL), HOC



July

Sun 31 R **Belper Urban**, entries open on the DVO website shortly after Black Rocks, some EOD, Registration at No 28, Belper Market Place

Event Officials Needed

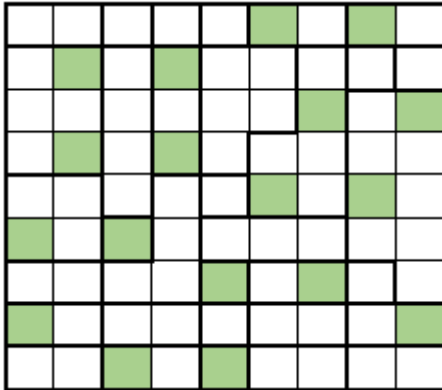
If you would like to volunteer (yellow highlight), please contact janeburgess50@yahoo.co.uk Support can be given by someone experienced in the role. For updates to the table as new officials come forward, see **Future Event Officials** under the **DVO Events** tab. We can't run events without officials!

Event	Date	Level	Organiser	Planner	Controller
Belper Urban	31 July	Regional	Sal Chaffey	Dave Chaffey	John Hurley
Calke Park	25 Sept	Regional	Paul Goodhead	Dave Vincent	Doug Dickinson
Shiple Park	8 Oct	National	Kim Buxton	Ann-Marie D	Jeff Baker LOG
Brierley Park	15 Oct	DVO Champs	v.....	Sally Calland	
Linacre	11 Nov	Regional	Nicola Hart	Dave Turner	Jane KB
Chesterfield Urban	1 Jan '23	Regional	v.....	Graham Johnson	

British Schools Score Champs **entries live** Help needed: pls save the date**
Closed schools event (afternoon Score now cancelled)



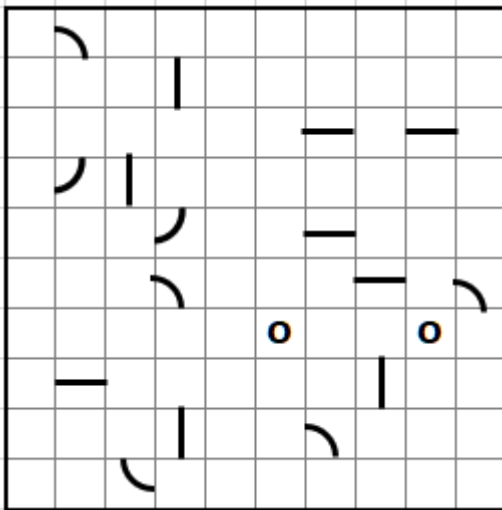
Return to Symmetric Shrubs proved a very popular puzzle and for once, there was only one correct answer which all entrants managed to find. The answer



(as submitted neatly by Sue Russell) is shown here with each row, column and region of the area containing two controls. The rest of you mainly appear to have marked up your nice pristine copy of Newstrack with the answer and taken a photo. Correct solutions other than Sue were sent in by John Hawkins, John Duckworth, John Hurley (OK, that's enough Johns), Mike Gardner, Alan Le Moigne, Francesco Lari (a very comprehensive solution), Chris Millard,

Helen Chiswell and David Vincent. Well done to all. Good to see some different names there. Let's have another one.

Going Loopy



Still at Symmetric Shrubs, this time you have to find the entire route of an orienteering course. Part of the route is shown on the map. The route visits every single square apart from the two that contain circles and starts and finishes in the same square (you don't have to say which square it is). The route can proceed directly through a square or turn to the left or the right. Each square can only be visited once.

Solutions to dnevell3@gmail.com by 20 July. Good luck.