

# Club News July 2026

July 21, 2026



Welcome to this long-overdue roundup! Spring was DVO's busy season, with 2026's two major events happening in Scotland (JK) and Wales (British Champs). April brought us the Middle Distance Champs, paired a tad confusingly with the Midlands Champs at Brown Clee, Shropshire. And in humid June, some of us travelled to the Bristol campuses for the Mixed Sprint Relays and the Sprint Champs, where we had three podium finishers:

- John Duckworth was 3rd in M60, less than a minute behind CLARO's Quentin Harding.
- Sal Calland took 3rd in W50.
- Imogen took 3rd in W14.

Very well done to you all!

Ten DVO members are at the O-ringen in Göthenburg this very week. Some are continuing to the [World Masters, this year in Poland](#), where other Club mates will join them.

Others are going to the Lakes 5 days in early August. If you've missed these trips but want a late summer orienteering cum seaside weekend, why not enter the [White Rose 28–31 August in Scarborough](#)? It's always a great weekend, at which many mugs are won!

Our featured image above is the Navigation Festival earlier this month at Hardwick Park. Huge thanks to the National Trust for hosting us again, and to organisers Judith and Lester Evans and Jane who planned.

- [See Reel of the day made by British Orienteering \(Facebook\)](#)

## Staying in touch

To follow your Clubmates' forest antics, have a look at Derwent Valley Orienteers on Strava. Thirty members and ex-members are part of this Club.

Another way to stay in touch is our WhatsApp Community with 54 members and sub-groups for various trips. The invitation link to the Group is [here](#).

On Facebook, our page is Derwent Valley Orienteers, on which only Admins can pos, but anyone can like and comment. DVO group is more of a community, in which anyone who is a member of the group on Facebook can post.

## New DVO Members



Welcome to new members Mick and Kate Brett MW60, from SYO but previously LOK, and Matt and Karen White MW55 from LEI (pictured left, at Hardwick). Also Matty Brennan M45 who is also a fellrunner – as shown by his performance in the Allestree Hill Climb! Matty was up and down the hill in 3 mins 33 seconds. At that point, some of us hadn't yet got to the top!

## Twelve-month Coaching Programme

Coach Matt (pictured above) has put together a series of skills sessions, to take place on the last Saturday of each month, starting 26th September in Belper Parks. Venues and session leaders change across the year!

## DVO Coaching Programme

### Develop Your Orienteering Skills

**12 Progressive Sessions led by DVO's Coaches:**  
*Suitable for all skill levels from newcomer to experienced orienteers.*

**Sep:** The Orienteering Process  
**Oct:** Planning  
**Nov:** Picture  
**Jan:** Direction  
**Feb:** Distance  
**Mar:** Forest Racing  
**Apr:** Contours  
**May:** Urban Racing  
**Jun:** Focusing (and Fun)  
**Jul:** Fit for Orienteering  
**Aug:** Confidence

**Training followed by Pub Social!**  
 Last Saturday of the month: 2-4pm

**More Information & Sign-up:**  
[coaching@derwentvalleyorienteers.org.uk](mailto:coaching@derwentvalleyorienteers.org.uk)



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graph TD
    PLAN([PLAN  
Where? What? How?]) --> PICTURE([PICTURE  
Simplify, Visualise, Read])
    PICTURE --> DIRECTION([DIRECTION  
Orientate, Compass, Handrails])
    DIRECTION --> DISTANCE([DISTANCE  
Map Scale, Pacing, Judgement])
    DISTANCE --> PLAN
  
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## Swadlincote Woods Permanent Orienteering Course

Rex has been working hard to update the POC, and all are invited to the inaugural event on August 21st. Please email [Rex](#) if you're able to help.





## British Schools Score Orienteering Championships: 8th October

DVO are are hosting the Score Champs for a third time at Shipley Country Park. Entries are live now on the DVO website, and youngsters need to be entered via their school or youth group before September 21st (no entry-on-the-day). [Nicky Hart](#) is the Organiser, and will need a lot of helpers on the day.

## CompassSport Cup Final: 18th Oct

At the Heat in Sutton Park in February, DVO narrowly beat 5 rival clubs winning a place in the Final at Pippingford Park in Essex. Details and photos of the area on the Mole Valley website [here](#). Sal Calland our Club Captain will be taking entries in the next few weeks. We don't know yet if there are any club arrangements for travel/accommodation.

## MapRun morphs into Urban Fox

A huge thank you to Chris Millard for all his hard work launching and sustaining three years of MapRuns in Derby and the surrounding towns. [The series will continue this autumn](#), the first one on Thursday 24 September from the Furnace Inn. The Duckworths and the Chaffeys (helped by Chris) will be delivering the series, and it will stay free, but we'll rattle a donations box out at every fourth event!

## O Foundation Coaching Weekend at the Forest of Dean: 21-22 November

Ann-Marie has details of the coaching offered on the Saturday ([link here](#)). That evening there'll be a night event at Symond's Yat and on the Sunday a Regional at Soudley. Some of the East Midlands Junior Squad will be attending, but the day is open to adults and non-squad members too.

# Winter MapRuns 2026

July 11, 2026



**Smartphone orienteering in and around Derby**

*Do you have the Urban Fox mindset and skills?*

*Join us for a new look for our series popular with runners since we launched it three years ago.*

**What:** Keen to improve your navigation and meet new people? We have planned a new series of evening events which we hope will be as successful and as popular as the last two years. See the poster below and put the dates in your diary!

These fun and friendly hour-long sessions are accessible for all fitness and navigation abilities. **And these events are free since they're a taster for [DVO's urban and terrain events](#).** Take part as an individual, walk or run in pairs or a larger group, and do as much as you feel able. We especially look forward to the hard-earned drink and post-run chat at each nominated **social venue**.

**When:** Nearly all events take place on Thursday evenings – our upcoming [events page](#) and the poster below contain more details.

**How it all works:** We use a score format, so competitors receive points for each control site visited, and you can collect up to 35 controls. The order is up to you as long as you are back within the hour (penalty points are applied for a late return). [Check out our blog of events](#) that have already taken place.

**Newcomers welcome:** Why not take on a new challenge? Or invite your friends and relatives to get involved with the series. Help will be on hand as the club has plenty of experienced maprunners to get you started!







**What do I need:** A fully charged smartphone with downloaded MapRun app (clickable links below) and suitable high-vis clothing for navigating the roads and parks. Download the app, add your profile details, and pre-load the course in advance if you can, from the Derby Night Series folder in Derbyshire / Derwent Valley.

**Print your map at home option:** You can navigate using the MapRun map on your smartphone, but if you prefer to print out the map and plan your route, download your map here (clickable links become live when the map is ready):

- 24 Sept – Derby North
- 1 Oct – Heatherton
- 8 Oct – Wirksworth
- 15 Oct – Chaddesden
- 9 Nov – Spondon
- 19 Nov – Allestree
- 26 Nov – Belper
- 3 Dec – Mackworth

**Unable to get to an event?** The benefit of these smartphone-based events is that all courses will remain open 24/7 and can be used as part of your own training schedule. You can also rerun courses that you have enjoyed. Do **drop us a line** if you complete one of our courses!

- Learn more from our **preview pages** (members blog):
  - YEAR 1) [Autumn 23](#) and [Spring 24](#) and
  - YEAR 2) [Autumn 24](#) and [Spring 25](#) and
  - YEAR 3) [Autumn 25](#) and [Spring 26](#).
- Learn more from our **highlights pages** with photos and maps (results):
  - YEAR 1) [Autumn 23](#) and [Spring 24](#) and
  - YEAR 2) [Autumn 24](#) and [Spring 25](#) and
  - YEAR 3) [Autumn 25](#) and [Spring 26](#).





**How does MapRun orienteering work?** With MapRun there are no markers in place, but as you go around your course, your phone GPS will confirm each site you visit with a beep. We will explain how to use the MapRun app at the events, but to learn more, here is a [quick start guide](#).

It's best if you download the MapRun app (Version 7 recommended) before you go to the event and fill in your profile:

- [Google Play](#)
- [iOS app store](#)

Please email Chris Millard ([cjmillard@gmail.com](mailto:cjmillard@gmail.com)) if you have any questions.





# DVO Medals at the British Sprint Championships

July 1, 2026



Thirteen of us attended the Sprints Weekend on two of Bristol's university campuses last weekend. Fortunately the record June temperatures dropped just a little bit, making running bearable!

The Club put forward 2 teams for the Mixed Sprint Relays on Saturday at Bristol University North Village:

- DVO Diamonds (Ad hoc): Murray, Judith H and Steve K



- DVO Dashers (SuperVeteran): Matt White, Karen White, Sal Chaffey

Our Captain, Sal Calland, was also running, but in an Army team, and was commended in the commentary for her “intense warm-up” in the start pen, for which she gave us all a nice wave! Their team came 4th, just 29 seconds behind BOK who got bronze.



Veterans Mass Start with Sal in black at the front. Dame Monica Wills Chapel (1930) behind.

As for DVO's performance, the Dashers came 12th out of 25 plus a further 5 mis-punches, and the Diamonds 18th out of 25 plus 9 mis-punches/DNFs. Middle runner for Dashers, Karen said “I was a bit nervous at the start but really enjoyed myself once I got out.”





Judith Holt handing over to Murray White. Photo: Rob Lines

Rain on Sunday morning cleared the air, and we assembled for the Individual race on the University of Western England. As usual, there's a Qualifier in the morning to determine who in each age class gets into the A or B Final. Then finalists are set off at one-minute intervals, the fastest starting last. This makes for an exciting finish; I was announced first over the line, but of course it didn't last as there were five faster W6Os chasing me!! Congratulations to winner Amanda Roberts of LOG!



Some DVO runners did, however, make the podium ... John Duckworth was 3rd in M60, less that a minute behind CLARO's Quentin Harding. Sal Calland also took 3rd in W50 as did Imogen in W14. Very well done to you all!



We'd been warned in the Final Details that there would be some indoor running, and that automatic doors would be 'locked open'. Always good to be forewarned about this, as it's disconcerting if you don't know about it. The passageways made for a nice escape from the afternoon sun, as well as surprising a few students!





A great weekend of racing and socialising was had by all!

Sal Chaffey





# Coaching in the Forest of Dean

June 25, 2026



**Want to improve your technique and meet new people? This weekend could be what you're looking for!**

Swansea Bay Orienteering Club, who ran a hugely successful training weekend at Merthyr Mawr last year, have just had an area of the Forest of Dean confirmed for this year – weekend of 21st/22nd November.



The format will be very similar to the Coaching Day held at Merthyr Mawr last year, except no run up the Big Dipper to finish off the day (thank goodness!). Instead SBOC will be holding a Cwid Games where participants get the opportunity to pick up prizes in a mini peg relay style activity.

NGOC will be holding a Night event on the Saturday at Symonds Yat, and a SWOA Regional event at Soudley on the Sunday. Once again a great opportunity for forest training, introducing night orienteering and putting it all into practice at an event.

Ann-Marie has details for taking the juniors but individuals can participate. Follow [this link](#) to sign up, or wait for more details, which I will send out when I get them.

[Ann-Marie Duckworth](#)

# Derby Hill Climb Challenge

June 19, 2026



## Maprun replaces marbles to score this gruelling event!

This year was the first time DVO has taken part in the Hill Climb Challenge at Allestree Park, and our team of Helen, Malc, Darren, Jess, Matty, Chris and myself (Sal) had a lot of fun. An hour of hill reps is something I'd absolutely never do alone – and my calves are still tight 2 days later. I expect our cheer-leaders Hilary, Jane, Annie and Rowan enjoyed the Schadenfreude!





The event is organised by the Derby Runner Run Club and has taken place roughly annually since 2020. There's a team comp and an individual comp, and the counting mechanism was to pick up a marble every time you get to the top of the hill. This year, Chris put the course into Maprun, meaning smartphone timing, and pings as you passed each of the 3 controls on the loop.

So the challenge was to complete as many climbs as possible in an hour. Part climbs when the hour was up didn't count, and Chris would sound a 10-minute warning horn so we could decide whether to start a final

lap.

It was a sunny evening, so we all loaded up with fluids, and some left water bottles to access between the loops. We started just after 7pm, and it took me a full 4 minutes to get to the top of the hill, which was about 400m away, but 38m climb. I didn't know this in advance – just divided my Strava total by 9 laps! There was a great atmosphere, with encouragement by competitors, marshalls and spectators. It was a big relief when the uphill section of the course became shaded at about 7:40, and an even bigger relief when the horn sounded at 7:50, meaning I could stop!

In total, we completed 1269 ascents of the hill, the maximum being 15 ascents by Jack Astil of Team Derby Runner. Chris ran the fastest lap in 2 mins 41, and Darren the 5th fastest in 2:46. DVO scored 57 laps total, of which Darren did 14. As Chris said, "Fewer runners ... but we certainly pushed as hard as the others" with our average of 9.43 laps per runner. Quality training and a real fun evening for runners and supporters!



Nearing the top of the hill, Helen on the left



DVO hill climbers!

The event was free to take part in, and donations to [Derbyshire Mountain Rescue](#) were encouraged!





Great views on the way down, and I was glad I wore my VJ dob-spikes! Emily (running for Sinfin) plus Helen and Malc in the shot

# Allestree Hall and Park – A History

May 20, 2026



**This history by Mike Gardner first appeared in EMEWS 301, leading up to our next East Midlands League event**

DVO's next regional event will take place at Allestree Park on 21 June (entries open on [The Start Kite](#)), so a brief history of the hall and park might be of interest.



The Mundy family owned the Manor of Allestree from 1516 until Francis Noel Clarke Mundy sold it. [Bache Thornhill](#) bought the land in 1795 and demolished the house that stood there. He commissioned James Wyatt, the notable architect, to build the present Hall and the plans that were drawn up still exist. One stone in the building bears the date 1802 with the initials J.W. inscribed on it. The house begun by Bache Thornhill was completed by John Giradot (High Sheriff of Derbyshire) with three storeys and five bays, the central three bowed with an ionic columned porch. Around 1818, the surrounding parkland was enclosed.

John Charles Girardot was born in 1771 into a French Huguenot family. His father was Andrew Girardot and his grandfather was Paul Girardot de Charcourt. He became his grandmother's heir in 1784 and was also an heir of his uncle. He lived at Allestree Hall for about 20 years and sold it to [William Evans](#) in 1824.

William Evans was one of the longest residents of Allestree Hall. He lived there for about thirty years between 1824 until his death in 1856. He was born in 1788 in Derbyshire, and was a grandson of Jedediah Strutt via his daughter Elizabeth.

His father, also called William Evans, was a very wealthy man. When he died William inherited a share in the Derby Bank, Darley cotton and paper mills, Derby waterworks and Bonsall lead smelting business. He was also lord of the manors of Brailsford, Alkmonton, Parwich and Newton Grange. In 1820 he married Mary Gisborne who was the daughter of the notable clergyman Rev. Thomas Gisborne. The couple had only one child, William.

William became a politician and was a known associate of William Wilberforce. He joined him in his fight against slavery. He and Wilberforce were both prominent members of the Anti-Slavery Society (1823–1838). A letter exists from William Evans to his sister which mentions that he has recently received correspondence from Wilberforce. William died at Allestree Hall in 1856 at the age of 68 and his only child Thomas William Evans inherited the property.

[Thomas William Evans](#) was born in 1821 at Allestree Hall. He was educated at Trinity College, Cambridge. After he graduated with a Master of Arts in 1846 he married his first cousin Mary Gisborne, the daughter of Thomas John Gisborne of Holme Hall near Bakewell.

The couple had no children. He inherited his father's fortune in 1856. He became a parliamentarian in 1857 and held this position for many years. He was also very prominent in local politics being the first Chairman of the Derbyshire County Council which was a position he held until his death. He was the Mayor of Derby in 1869 and was made a baronet in 1887. He died at Allestree Hall in 1892 and, as he had no children, he left the Hall to his brother-in-law William Gisborne.



Colonel Herbert Johnson of Allestree Hall,  
10th July 1886 – 7th July 1923

The house was passed through the Gisborne family, though sometimes they rented it out to others, then in 1913 Lionel Gisborne sold the property to Colonel Herbert Johnson. He became owner of a major wire company on the death of his father, and consequently very wealthy, marrying in New York City, a wealthy American lady Ethyl Barnard.

Herbert fought in World War I, was wounded in the Battle of the Somme, and eventually returned to Allestree to recover. However, on the evening of Saturday 7 July 1923 when he was out in Allestree Park he was struck by lightning during a severe thunderstorm and died. His wife Ethyl continued to live at the Hall until her death in 1928.

The Hall was sold to Commercial Constructions Ltd around 1928. They subdivided part of the land and released it in 1936. During the war the Hall was used by the National Fire Service as the County

Headquarters. Derby Council purchased Allestree Hall in about 1946 and two years later constructed the golf course which surrounded the Hall until the early 2020s.

In the 1970s it was proposed that the Hall be demolished, but in the mid-1980s an outline scheme by the city's museums service to turn the building into a natural history museum was put forward. However, by 1988 the scheme to create a 'Derby Nature Museum' had been abandoned, and no further use was found for the building, which continued to deteriorate.





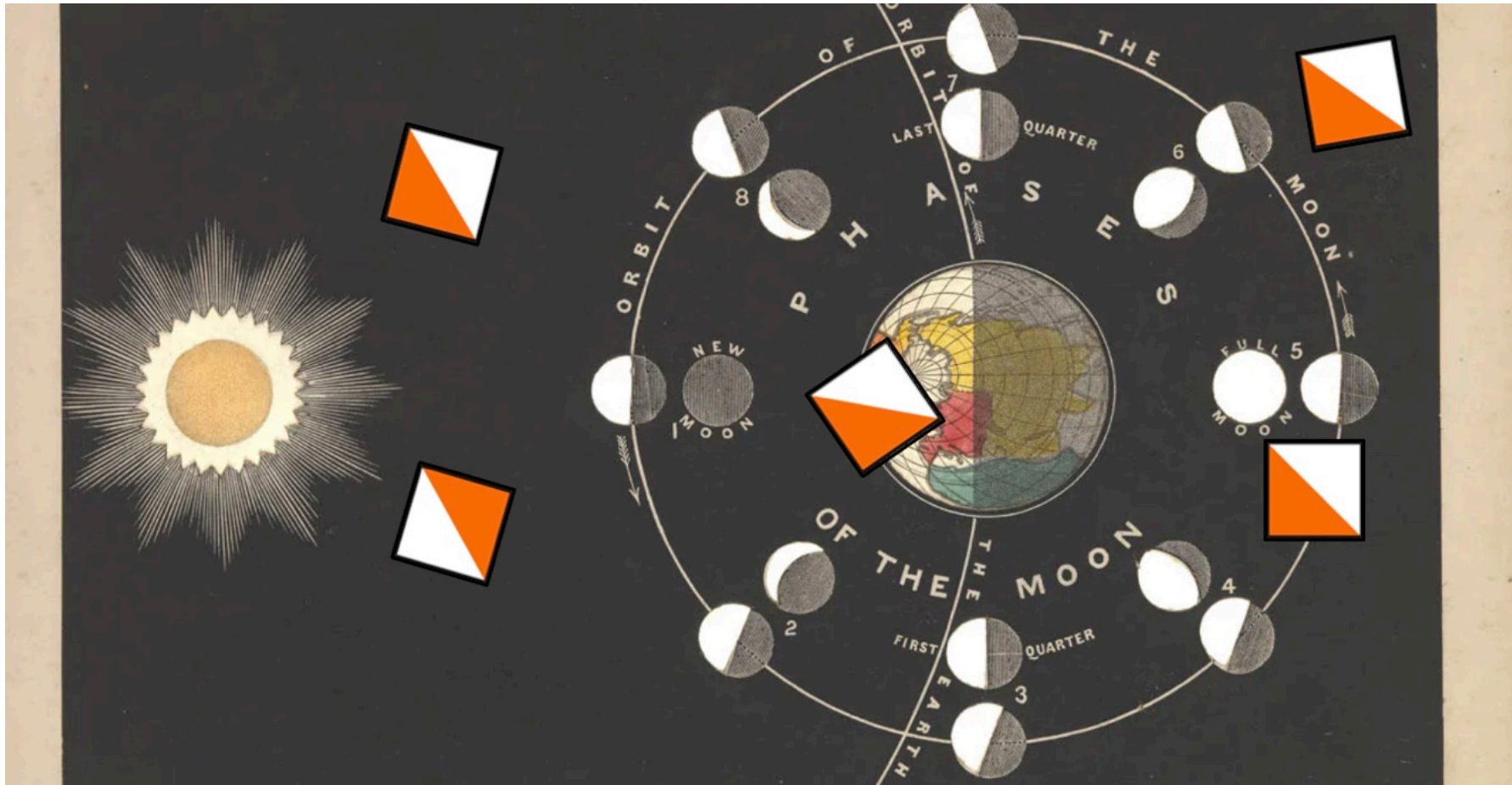
The park has currently been “rewilded” after closure of the golf course in 2020, and the current plan is to sell the Hall to a wedding venue operator.

We hope to see you on June 21st, details [here](#). There will be the usual nine colour-coded courses, from White right up to Brown. The event is part of the [East Midlands League](#), so many will enter their usual League course. Beginners however may enter any course they choose, but please come early if that choice is Brown!



# Once in a Blue Moon (Coming Soon)

May 11, 2026



## Resident Astronomer David Vincent looks again at Celestial Bodies

How did we measure time before mechanical devices?

The day and night cycle is obvious, and fine for “*let's have a run the day after tomorrow*”, but what about longer stretches of time?



Our Moon is the next most obvious marker of time. Stone Age orienteering clubs might have debated:

*“so, shall we settle for a Mammoth Fell event the day after the next full Moon?”, or:*

*“right then – we’ll have the next night event on the evening of the first quarter Moon of the next Moonth. We’ll be needing marshals with torches because of the sabre-teeth in that area”.*

Of course, the Moon is such an obvious marker of the passage of time that it was used by all early civilisations, and many cultures still cling to it.

But how annoying of the Moon to not make a whole number of orbits of the Earth in the time it takes the Earth and Moon to orbit the Sun! The Earth round the Sun orbit takes 365.25 days, while the Moon round the Earth orbit takes about 29 days (see below on that *about*<sup>\*</sup>). Well, dividing 365.25 by 29 gives a really inconvenient 12.6. This means that, if you want to measure longer spans of time, *and you also care about the seasons* – eg. when to plant your crops – you have a problem. Imagine – you plant your seeds one spring at the time of a waxing crescent Moon, and start counting the moonths ... Whether you count to 12 or to 13, you are going to be at *roughly* the same time of the year, but crucially, not exactly the same time. Over a few years, your planting time is going to drift away from the optimum.

The Egyptians of around 3000 BC had this problem. They relied upon the annual flooding of the Nile to make their arable land fertile enough for their seeds. If they got it wrong, there could be a famine and hundreds would die. They needed a better way of measuring time – one that ignored the Moon. Measuring the height of the Sun at midday would work fine, but is technically difficult to do with sufficient accuracy. The Egyptians chose the rising of the Dog Star, Sirius (the brightest star visible from northern latitudes like ours). This star-based (essentially Sun-based) calendar worked much better. 3000 years later, Julius Caesar would learn this idea from Cleopatra and bring it to the Roman Empire. Caesar immediately saw how the Empire’s orienteering events calendar would benefit from such a system!



But those moonths – it's so useful to talk about these as chunks of time! So they persisted, but were modified by stuffing days in to all of them (except February, of course), so that we could have exactly 12 in a year.

By definition, a month would have exactly one first quarter, one full Moon, etc. But with the stuffing of the months with extra days, there is now

the possibility, if the full Moon happens very early in the month – eg. on the 1<sup>st</sup> – that there could be a *second* full Moon in that same month. This second full Moon in a month is one of the definitions of a *Blue Moon*.

This May, we will have a Blue Moon, on May 31<sup>st</sup>. Enjoy it, and since it's a Sunday, celebrate by going orienteering.

Interestingly, pre-agricultural hunter-gatherers would have had no problems using the Moon: “*Shall we have a party at the Big Stone Ring the moonth after next? Sprint event in the morning?*”

\* The Moon takes 27.3 days to orbit the Earth. However, the *phase* of the Moon depends on the Sun-Earth-Moon angle. During the moonth, the Earth and Moon move about a twelfth of their way around the Sun, so the Moon needs to do a little more than one complete orbit of Earth to make the angle the same again. So the time between successive full Moons is about 29.5 days (though it depends on how fast the Earth is moving in its orbit – a little slower in summer, a little quicker in winter – see my notes in [an earlier edition](#))!



Our Night Sky Map shows Sirius rising shortly before sunrise on August 30, from the perspective of New York.

©timeanddate.com

# The Middles/Midlands Weekend in Shropshire

April 21, 2026



On Sunday 19th April, 42 Club members competed in the Midlands Orienteering Championships on Brown Clee Hill in Shropshire. The event followed the British Middle Distance Champs on the Saturday, attended by 36 DVO. Our podium finisher in the fiendishly difficult Middle Distance race was W75 Judith Holt, who came 3rd 🏆🏆🏆 [Full Results here.](#)

Brown Clee is a varied area, with a complex north-eastern part with contours, marshes and copses chucked in and stirred about at random. The south-west slope is grazed by sheep, with nice parallel marshes and much faster running. On the east side near the



parking field and Finish is mixed woodland on a fast downhill slope.

Many of us were dreading the longer race after our Saturday performance, but actually it was easier as the planner made use of the faster areas. DVO produced five Midlands Champions, but first here are all the Midlands Clubs!



Without further ado, the DVO winners were:

M55 Richard Parkin

M60 John Duckworth

M70 Graham Johnson

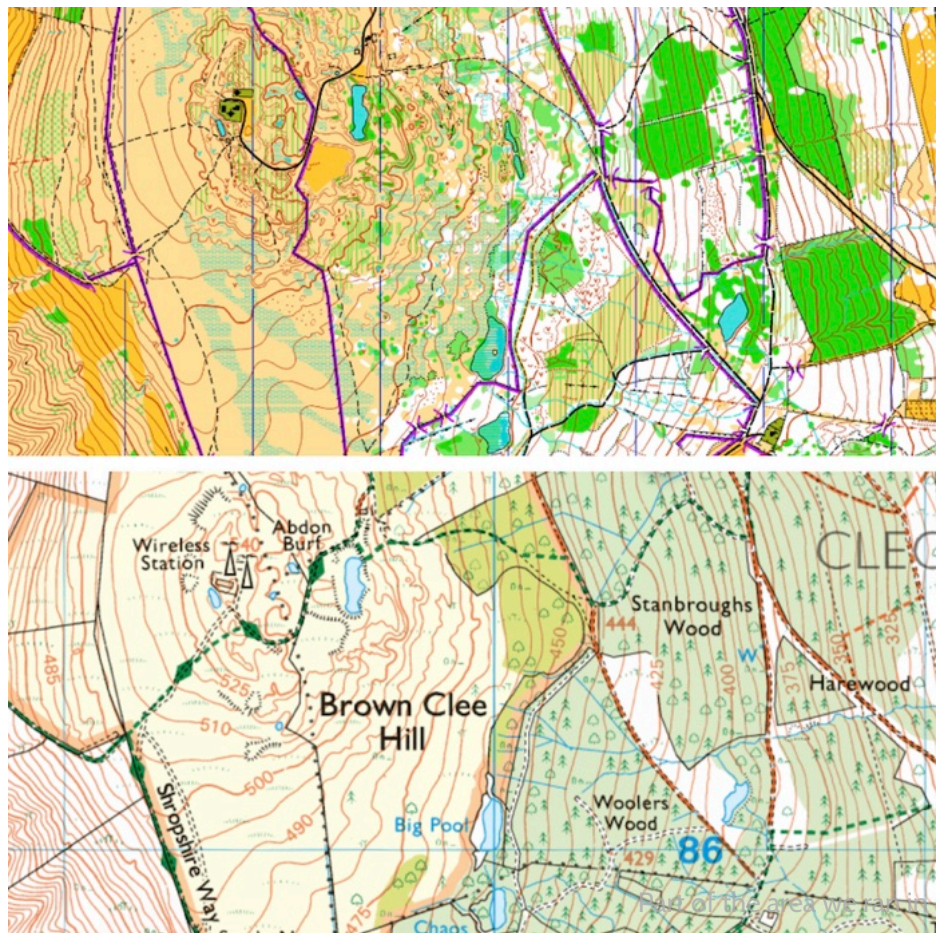
W60 Ann-Marie Duckworth

W65 Val Johnson

[Full Results here.](#)

The map extract gives a flavour of the challenge. The summit (highest in Shropshire) is Abdon Burf at 540m (177ft). Fortunately the weather was good, but an extra challenge was the underlying dolerite seams that deflected the compass needle (that's my excuse, anyway!).





at the weekend (top). OS map below for the text.

The 2027 Midlands Championships take place on March 14th at Hazelborough Woods, near Silverstone.



# Age-class East Midlands Champions from DVO

April 6, 2026



The prize-giving from the EMCs at Longshaw on 15 February took place at our Bow Wood and Lea Wood event on March 22. Chair Ann-Marie Duckworth presented the trophies, assisted by her predecessor Amanda Roberts of Lincoln Orienteering Group. Our winners had to outrun rivals from the three other East Midlands clubs: LOG, NOC and LEI on sunny by freezing terrain. The full list of DVO winners is here:

- 🌳 M12 Darwin Buxton 🏆
- 🌳 W14 Imogen Satherley 🏆
- 🌳 W21 Emily Gay 🏆
- 🌳 M35 Nerijus Rozkovas 🏆
- 🌳 M45 David Newton 🏆
- 🌳 W45 Becky Royall 🏆
- 🌳 M55 Dai Bedwell 🏆
- 🌳 W55 Michelle Mackervoy 🏆
- 🌳 M60 John Duckworth 🏆
- 🌳 W65 Val Johnson 🏆
- 🌳 M70 Graham Johnson 🏆
- 🌳 W70 Judith Evans 🏆
- 🌳 W75 Judith Holt 🏆





Derek, Christine, Graham and Val

Christine and Derek won the MW80 class, full results [here](#). Val and Graham Johnson won W65 and M70, but were away in the Lakes at the time of the presentation. Congratulations to you all!

[The Midlands Championships](#) – in which West Midlands and East Anglian runners join the fun – takes place at Brown Clee Hill in Shropshire on 19 April. Hopefully it will be warmer than the EMCs!





The Finish Team have a new helper. Photo: Anna Marie Buckworth (Planner)



# British Relay Championships 2026 at Margam Country Park

March 9, 2026



Margam Country Park is an area of heathland with pockets of forest on the coast very near Swansea, and the Relays took place the day after the [Individual Championships in the Brecon Beacons](#). At the Relay Champs, our 7 Teams (including EMJOS) fought the mud on a day that remained mostly dry! We didn't make the podiums this year, but it was a fantastic team get together and worth the journey to Wales.



The new Club Tent got a prime spot in the mud bath by the run-in, but many people opted to settle at a DVO-adopted tree further back on dryer ground!



The Duckworths waiting for Rachel, 1st leg on Women's Premier, while others avoid the mud at the DVO tree!

On most courses, the 3rd control from the end was in a Scots pine forest with great visibility. This was followed by a swampy traverse to the penultimate control in a reentrant, and a climb through further swamp onto the track.

At the last control, runners had to make a U-turn into the Finish funnel. Here are Phil and Ann-Maire, doing just that.





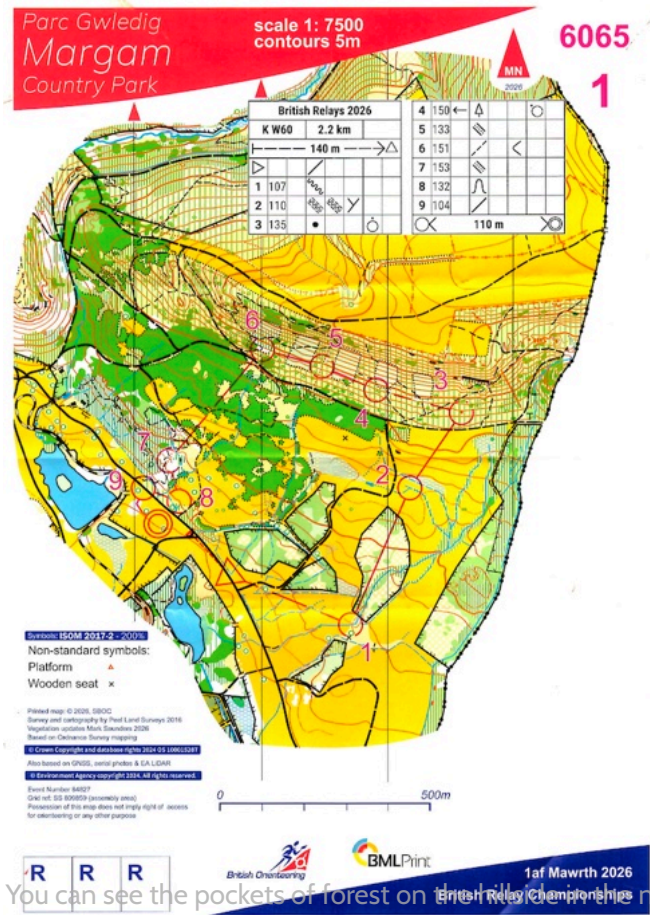


Phil Cooper at the last control





Ana-Maria Gackworth syding home for the Derwent Damsels



Leg 1 of W60. You can see the pockets of forest on the hills to the north and the approach to the Finish through the Scotts pines





Moving the Club Tent for strike down on a tarpaulin on the track (genius idea of Lester Evans)

After your run, maps go into a Club bag so you can't discuss routes with other runners until all classes have finished. Here's Andrew sorting them into class order. A fun day was had by all, less arduous than the Individual race high up in the hills in the hail, but still tricky. A huge thank you to South Wales Orienteering Club for a super day. Many legs and shoes were washed in the river on the way back to the car park!

[Full Results and photo gallery.](#)

In 2027, Airienteers are hosting the British, with the Individuals on Kilnsey North on 17 April, and the Relays on Danefield (Ilkley) the day after.





# Obituary: Francesco Lari

March 5, 2026



Francesco's funeral took place at cemetery in the mountains above Lago Maggiore on March 3rd. He passed away while on holiday in his native Italy. Originally from the Bologna region, he had lived in the UK for some time and was a member of NOC, and then joined DVO around 15 years ago.

He was very involved with Bestwood Park parkrun and was a local Parish Councillor. A zealous anti-socialist who believed the welfare state had made people lazy and parasitical.

Francesco ran on the Blue course at LEI's Cademan Wood and NOC's Thieves Wood in January 2026.

Our thoughts are with Francesco's family at this sad time.



# British Individual Championships at Carreg Goch

March 2, 2026



## Jane Kayley-Burgess looks back at her run

I love orienteering in Wales. Wherever you are, you know it's going to be tough and no preparation seems enough. Saturday was just like that. I'd printed the map (Carreg Goch being the only day of Croeso that we missed last time) and outlined the index contours in red pen so I knew what the area looked like. I had a plan (keep in touch with the map, take it steady) and had the final details off pat.



Then the hailstorm came. I'd taken off my cag because I was warm after the climb to the start and the sun was shining. As I stood in the start lane someone said 'That cloud is ominous'. Someone else said 'It'll blow over quickly'. A third person said 'Forecast says 1% chance of rain' so I left my cag off. HUGE mistake. It hailed for about half of my course. My entire run for the first five controls consisted of thinking 'I should put my cag on. This is irresponsible. It will stop in a minute. I should put me cag on.... repeat for 35 minutes'. The part of my brain that should have been orienteering was so focussed on how unpleasant and faffy it would be to have to stop and put my cag on that I had very little capacity to map read. Actually hitting each control spot on (well, apart from number 1) was just down to so much luck and the odd moment of clarity.



Defrosting in extra layers at the Club tent



And who cares? I ran down the final hill in the sunshine and the loveliness of a really tough, well planned course on a great map on a beautiful area more than made up for a very average performance and a pile of wet clothes. Give me a hailstorm over a mud bath any day .



**Sal adds:** for those who weren't there, we parked at [The National Showcaves Centre for Wales](#), which looked like a fun family day out. I was excited to see the huge dinosaur replicas where we parked, and the String Course around the standing stones looked pretty unique!

[Results on SportIdent here.](#) DVO top 10s as follows, very well done all!

[Results and photos on the BOC page here.](#)

- Imogen Satherley 2nd W14A 🏆
- Sarah Duckworth 3rd W21L 🏆
- Rachel Duckworth 7th W21E
- Judith Holt 4th W75L
- Christine Middleton 4th W80L
- Richard Parkin 4th M55L
- John Duckworth 7th M60L



Immie receives her silver medal on W14A!





John Duckworth almost home to take 7th place on M60L

# We're through to the Final!

February 25, 2026



## The 2026 CompassSport Cup Heat in Sutton Park

The CompassSport Cup is the only inter-club competition in UK orienteering, and takes place annually. The regional heats are in early spring, with the Final normally in October. Birmingham's Sutton Park was most definitely showing signs of spring on Sunday!



DVO entered a team of 48 runners, and purchased a new Club tent for the occasion. Hugh Grant's agent said he was unavailable, so Jane our Chairman stepped up for the opening ceremony ! Seven clubs were competing in the Cup competition, and we had to finish in the top three to qualify for the Final.



Jane cuts the ribbon to open our new Club shelter with John and the Blueys looking on

CompassSport Cup age classes are complicated, and evolving to include the ageing orienteering population, with a new class being added some years ago for **M80+ and W70+**. This is **Course 8**, and our scorers were Doug Dickinson (100 points) just 15 seconds ahead of OD's Pete Carey, Judith Evans (92 points), Dave Skidmore, Ruth Ellis, Jen Gale and Christine Middleton.

At the other end of the age spectrum, on **Course 10 for MW14–**, our runners Jonah and Alice scored 186 points between them, with Alice finishing 37 seconds ahead of NOC's Grace Robinson to win her class. A great run from Ben too, scoring 82 points. And here's their tricky course!



On **Course 9 for W14–18**, Imogen and Jessica scored a whopping 198 points, here's Jess on the run-in.





We had two runners in **Course 1 – Men's Open, 8.5km** – Andrew Powell (93 points) and Austin Rolland (81 points). Well done to both of them, the winner in this class was GB international OD's Nathan Lawson, who cut his teeth in DVO!





Austin safely into the Finish

On **Course 2 for M45–55**, we had five runners, returnee from Lithuania Andis Ozols scoring 86 points, closely followed by unicyclist Tom from the Download Team (84 points). Other contributors were David Newton, Dave Chaffey and Rob Williams.





Andis and Tom, 2 mins apart on Course 2

**On Course 3 – Women's Open, 6.6km** – Helen Chiswell contributed 96 points, followed by Sal Chaffey (91) and Nicola Hart (88).

**Course 4 – M55–65, 5.4km** – was another strong class, with Richard Parkin and John Duckworth in 2nd and 3rd place behind OD's Alistair Landels, scoring 99 and 98 points. Darren Cook was not far behind, contributing 86 points. Dai Bedwell, James Prince, David Clough and Gary Kelsall helped by nudging other clubs' runners down the points ladder.



**Course 5 – W45–60, 4.5km** – had a team of five athletes, with Michelle Mackervoy scoring 95 points, followed home by Kim Buxton, Katie Swalwell, Karen Bedwell and Emily Williams. The run-in camera (aka Dave Chaffey) didn't manage to snap any of them, but the lady who did our group shot captured Karen and Kim (left) and Michelle and Katie (right).





L to R: Karen, Stuart, Austin, Dai, Kim, Darren, David Clough, Judith (head turned), Jane, Daisy the dog, Lester, Michell and Katie

**Course 6 – M65–80** – had top scorers David Vincent (95) and Graham Johnson (94) helped by Paul Goodhead, Russ Buxton and John Hurley. Graham and Russ discuss routes with Sue below.



Post-race analysis with Graham, Sue and Russ

**Course 7 – M75–80 and W60–70** – is the class that was split a few years ago, and had nine runners. Ann-Marie Duckworth scored 97 points, with Stuart Swalwell and John Hopper not far behind (92 and 90). They were followed home by Sue Russell, Jane Kayley-Burgess, Rex Bleakman, Anne Kayley-Burgess, Derek Gale and Cathy Goodhead – Rex and Derek both M80s and running up a class.

The “geeking session” at our Open Meeting the previous Wednesday obviously paid off, with ten people having runs scoring 90+ points, of whom Doug, Immie and Alice scored the full 100! Well done all, thanks to Sally for doing the entries ... and we look forward to the Final in Pippingford Park in Sussex on October 18th!





## Scoring analysis

Twenty-five scorers from each Club count, and the counters' points are shown in bold in the [Results](#). The points stack up as below, but remember, even if your score doesn't count, your run still nudges potential counting scorers from other clubs down a point or two! With just 3 points separating the top 3 clubs, every runner is important!

|                                                         |      |
|---------------------------------------------------------|------|
| Participating Clubs: DEE, DVO, HOC, NGOC, NDC, OD, TVOC |      |
| DVO                                                     | 2314 |
| OD                                                      | 2312 |
| HOC                                                     | 2311 |
| NGOC                                                    | 2307 |
| DEE                                                     | 2216 |
| TVOC                                                    | 2182 |

Course 1 – Open, 8.5km

| Pos | Name                 | Points    |
|-----|----------------------|-----------|
| 1   | Nathan Lawson (OD)   | 100       |
| 8   | <b>Andrew Powell</b> | <b>93</b> |
| 20  | Austin Rolland       | 81        |

Total DVO points 93

Course 2 – M45–55, 6.7km

|    |                      |           |
|----|----------------------|-----------|
| 1  | Alistair Powell (OD) | 100       |
| 15 | <b>Andis Ozols</b>   | <b>86</b> |
| 16 | <b>Tom Harland</b>   | <b>85</b> |
| 21 | David Newton         | 80        |
| 23 | Dave Chaffey         | 78        |
| 30 | Rob Williams         | 71        |

Total DVO points 171

Course 3 – Women's Open, 6.6km

|    |                       |           |
|----|-----------------------|-----------|
| 1  | Isla Foofa (HOC)      | 100       |
| 5  | <b>Helen Chiswell</b> | <b>96</b> |
| 10 | <b>Sal Chaffey</b>    | <b>91</b> |
| 14 | <b>Nicola Hart</b>    | <b>87</b> |

Total DVO points 274

Course 4 – M55–65, 5.5km

|    |                       |           |
|----|-----------------------|-----------|
| 1  | Alistair Landels (OD) | 100       |
| 2  | <b>Richard Parkin</b> | <b>99</b> |
| 3  | <b>John Duckworth</b> | <b>98</b> |
| 12 | <b>Darren Cook</b>    | <b>89</b> |
| 25 | Dai Bedwell           | 76        |
| 26 | James Prince          | 75        |
| 28 | David Clough          | 73        |

Total DVO points 286

Course 5 – M45–55, 6.7km

|    |                           |           |
|----|---------------------------|-----------|
| 1  | Juliette Soulard (OD)     | 100       |
| 6  | <b>Michelle Mackervoy</b> | <b>95</b> |
| 10 | <b>Kim Buxon</b>          | <b>91</b> |
| 11 | <b>Katie Swalwell</b>     | <b>90</b> |
| 17 | <b>Karen Bedwell</b>      | <b>84</b> |
| 21 | Emily Williams            | 80        |

Total DVO points 360

Course 6 – M65–75, 4.4km

| Pos | Name                  | Points    |
|-----|-----------------------|-----------|
| 1   | Andy Creber (NGOC)    | 100       |
| 6   | <b>David Vincent</b>  | <b>95</b> |
| 7   | <b>Graham Johnson</b> | <b>94</b> |
| 21  | Paul Goodhead         | 80        |
| 25  | Russ Buxton           | 76        |
| 29  | John Hurley           | 72        |

Total DVO points 189

Course 7 – M45–55, 6.7km

|     |                            |           |
|-----|----------------------------|-----------|
| 1   | Andy Hemsted (HOC)         | 100       |
| 4   | <b>Ann-Marie Duckworth</b> | <b>97</b> |
| 9   | <b>Stuart Swalwell</b>     | <b>92</b> |
| 11  | <b>John Hopper</b>         | <b>90</b> |
| 15= | <b>Sue Russell</b>         | <b>86</b> |
| 19  | Jane Kayley-Burgess        | 82        |
| 23  | Rex Bleakman               | 78        |
| 29  | Anne Kayley-Burgess        | 72        |
| 33  | Derek Gale                 | 68        |
| 34  | Cathy Goodhead             | 67        |

Total DVO points 365

Course 8 – M80+ & W70+, 2.9km

|    |                       |            |
|----|-----------------------|------------|
| 1  | <b>Doug Dickinson</b> | <b>100</b> |
| 5  | <b>Judith Evans</b>   | <b>92</b>  |
| 9  | Dave Skidmore         | 84         |
| 11 | Ruth Ellis            | 76         |
| 28 | Jen Gale              | 46         |
| 29 | Christine Middleton   | 44         |

Total DVO points 192

Course 9W – W14–18, 4.5km

|   |                         |            |
|---|-------------------------|------------|
| 1 | <b>Imogen Satherley</b> | <b>100</b> |
| 2 | <b>Jessica Williams</b> | <b>98</b>  |

Total DVO points 198

Course 10M – M14–, 2.9km

|    |                     |           |
|----|---------------------|-----------|
| 1  | Samuel Hudson (HOC) | 100       |
| 8  | <b>Johah Newton</b> | <b>86</b> |
| 10 | Ben Shambrook       | 82        |

Total DVO points 86

Course 10W – W14–, 2.9km

|   |                     |            |
|---|---------------------|------------|
| 1 | <b>Alice Powell</b> | <b>100</b> |
|---|---------------------|------------|

Total DVO points 100

DVO results, with the 25 scorers shown in bold

Thanks to Octavian Droobers for a great day out in Sutton Park!





# Captain's capers!

February 24, 2026



## Our Club Captain Sally Calland tells of her winter orienteering adventures

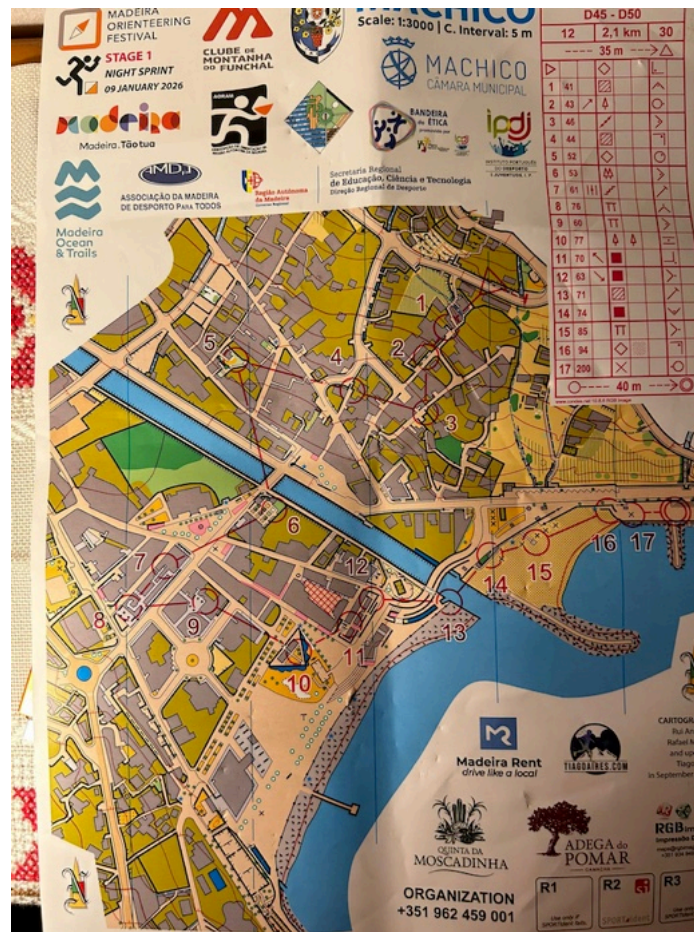
I have been lucky enough to venture to Madeira, Portugal and Spain over the cold UK winter months and managed to squeeze in some orienteering. [Sal has already covered POM](#), so I won't include it in my report. That said, I had the best POM ever and on some very technical sand dunes.



## Madeira Orienteering Festival

My first trip was to Madeira to compete in the Madeira Orienteering Festival (MOF), which included the second Euro City race of the year. First up was a night event in Machico. It was a soggy night, but I was lucky to start in a brief dry spell! Those that know me know I dislike starting in the rain!

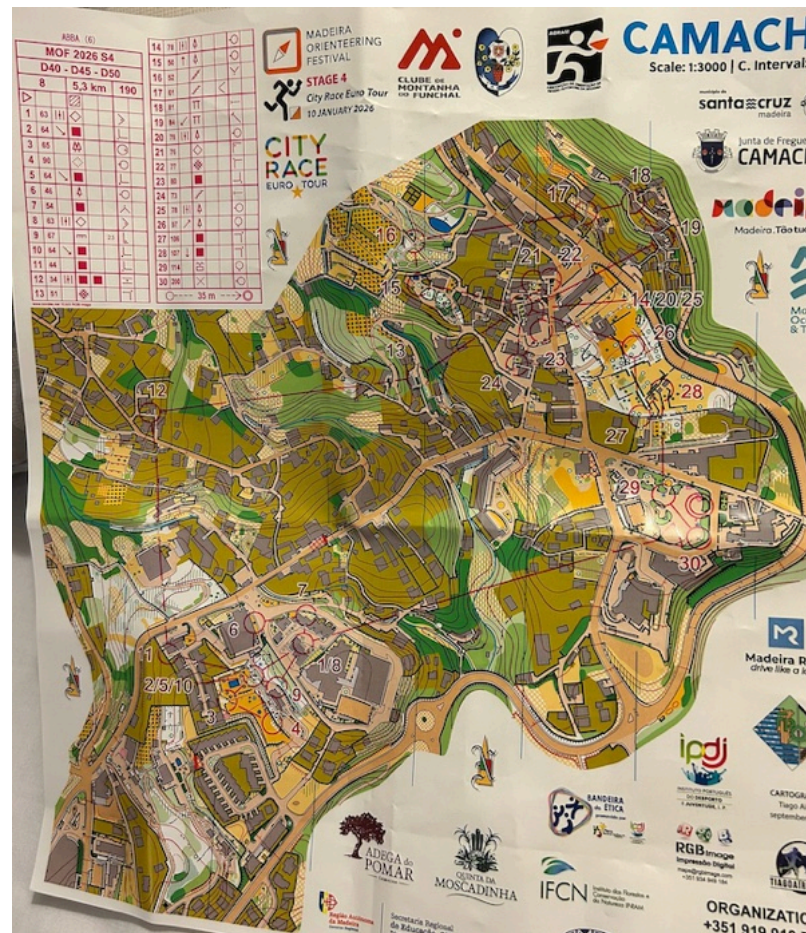
The course was fast and furious and I slipped on my way to 2 as it was wet and slippery so was extra careful for the rest of the downhill. My only blunder was 4–5. I went south, which cost me around 15 secs, but did avoid any more falls!



Machico Urban, Madeira

Day 2 was into the famous Fanal forest. The *Star Wars* series ***The Acolyte*** (2024) was filmed there and it did not disappoint. The fog was manageable, the technical O challenge not so much!! Controls 3–8 were particularly tricky and, like most, I found myself circling somewhat! You also needed to keep your head and compass bearing in the open and the climb kept me slow!





Euro Cities race in Camachio, Madeira

Day 3 was the Euro City Race event and what a race. It was a mass start, starting on a small park platform. Ordinarily, I don't fair too well on mass starts, but just look at where control 1 was! What would you do?

It certainly opened up the pack and allowed me to focus with what felt like millions of others running around frantically!

Controls 2–10 were close and formed two butterfly loops. I almost missed 10, but just stopped myself before MPing.

The best was yet to come with controls 14–25 being incredibly tricky, hilly and required complete focus. It was an absolutely fantastic course, in my top 5 ever (my most favourite was the tunnels in Poland!).

I came in just 5 seconds behind the leader after a stupid mistake going to 27.

You will notice that some of the control numbers were out 'on a limb' or red line. They did this to avoid too much congestion on the map. I liked it, but others thought it was more tricky.

The final day was out on the NE peninsula of Madeira, an area called Prainha. Many of the Brits I had spoken to didn't particularly like the area. I loved it! Very different and the scenery was sensational, when I had the chance to look up! The finish was below almost on the beach and so an obligatory run into the sea was completed!! I was lucky enough to win the event with a consistent 2nd place across all the urban races.





PRAINHA on the eastern tip of Madeira

The MOF event takes place every year and is well worth a visit. Aside from the orienteering, the scenery around the island was truly amazing.

## Malaga Orienteering Sprint Camp

Malaga Orienteering Sprint Camp (MOSC) – 7 sprints, 3 forest trainings, 1 mixed relay and a WRE event!

After POM I travelled directly to Malaga to join day 3 of MOSC (POM, MOSC, Maximus, Antalya O Festival and many other events overlap this time of year, something I think the European clubs could try to avoid a little better).

I had seen day 1 and 2 maps and was extremely jealous to have missed the first two days. One event saw competitors orienteering through an old, historical graveyard. The map was enlarged for the graveyard:



Malaga Sprints, the top right is a cemetery



All events were urban sprint events, but forest training sessions were also available in the afternoons. With my plantar fasciitis still playing up, I had decided just to do the sprints.

The stand out event was Almogia Village. Below is the map and a photo of the village!



Almogia map



What would you do to 9 and then 14? I think I went the wrong way to both!

The final day was the WRE Event in the Old Town of Marbella. A great race which saw me second by 2 seconds and only 1 second ahead of third.





MOSC is one of the best urban competitions I have competed in (nothing will beat the Polish tunnels!!). It will take place again in 2028 and below is the promotional poster with all the race locations.



If you like 20°C temperatures, top quality urban maps and whitewashed Spanish villages (with a LOT of climb!), then MOSC is for you!



# Portugal O Meeting 2026

February 21, 2026



## Sal Chaffey in praise of Portugal!

POM, as it is known, is a 5-day event that finishes on Shrove Tuesday – a day of national celebration in Portugal. Dave and I have been three times now: the first by train in 2020, when there was one reported case of Covid in the whole of Portugal; the second was last year when we flew to Faro for POM on the Algarve, and this year when we flew to Porto in the rainy north.



Last year was memorable for its mud – some of the days being on a former orchard that's now used by the Loulé trials bike club. This year was memorable for the sand – lightly vegetated dune ridges with acacia in blossom. Sand got in our eyes on the first couple of legs of the Sprint in the quaint resort town of Mira.



Some of the alleyways near Control 14 in Part 2 of the map were just 60 or 70 cm wide, and it felt like running through someone's back yard! The main road was taped across just north of there, to send us through the alleys, but I hope they warned the residents!



When driving to and from the events, we saw cockle-pickers on sandbars in the lagoon, and sardine fishing is another local tradition.



Dave and Sarah (LOK) sheltering from a pre-race squall

Friday was the first of the forest stages, kicking off with a middle distance race. The Arena was the same for all 4 days, but each race had its own part of the forest. There were no major contour features, and the dunes were intricate, with 2.5 metre contours. All green apart from the very darkest was passable, being mainly acacia saplings.

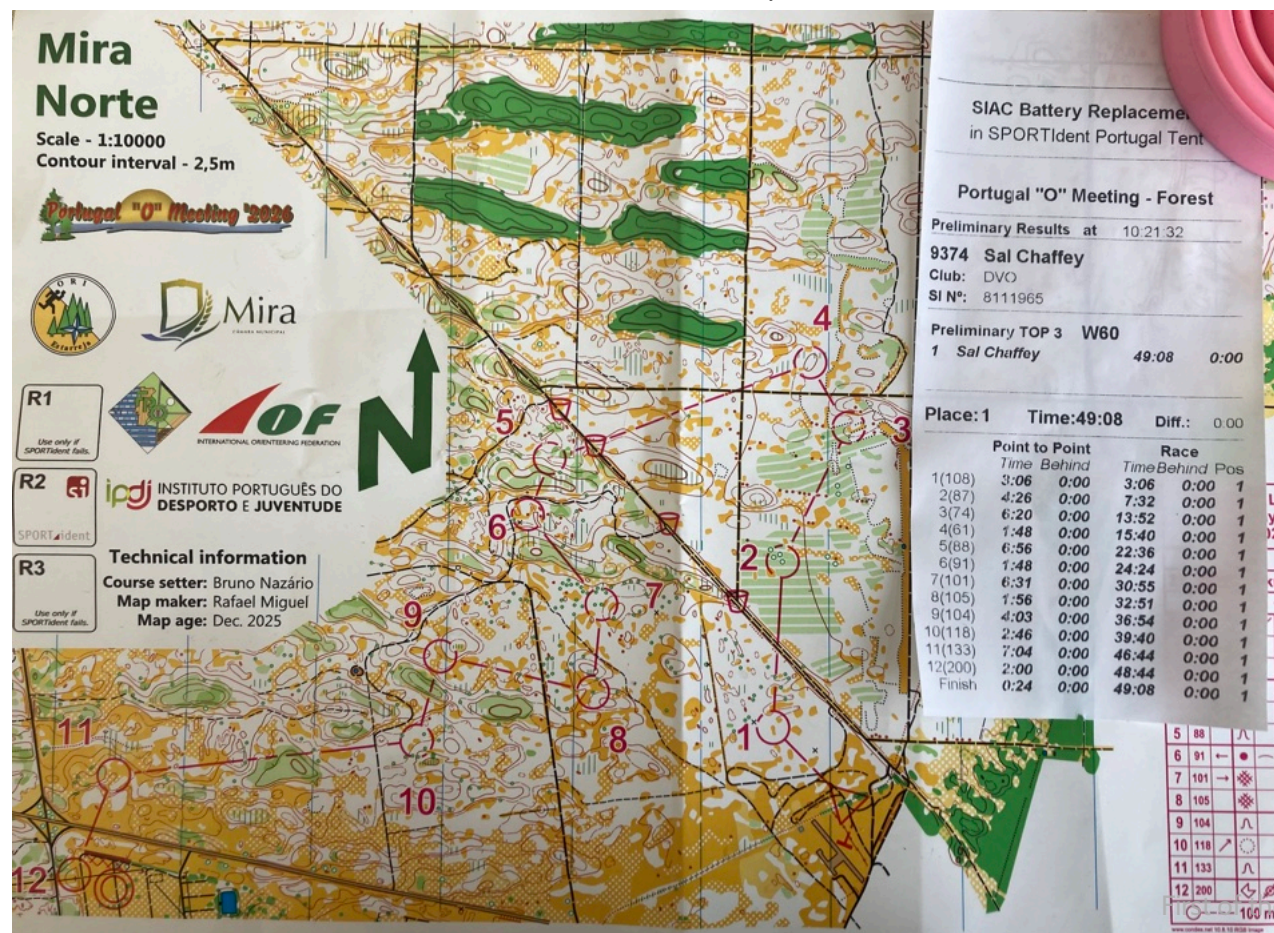




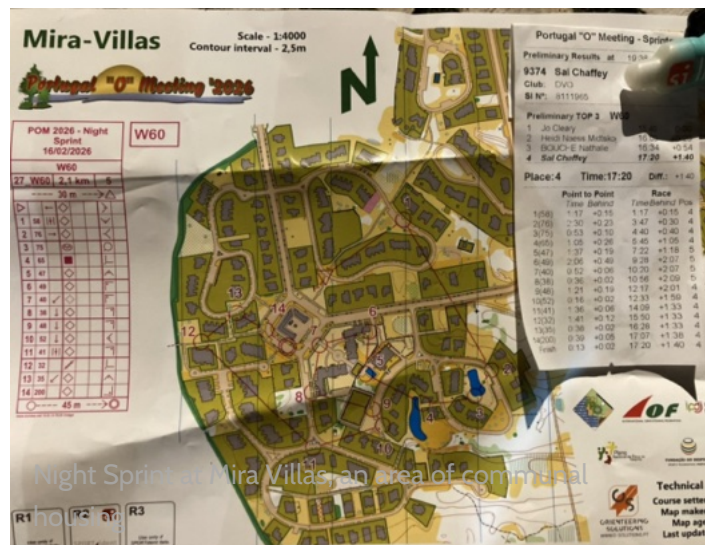
Run-in and Arena at Mira Norté

For the first Long race, we rotated to the north-east in an area with extensive puddles from the recent storms. Dave and I were knee-deep at times, Sarah and Sally Calland were waist deep!





The next day was a second middle distance race, followed by a fun Night Sprint. Chasing Start positions were calculated from the results of the two middles and the long (i.e. all the terrain events), and I was starting in 19th position in W60 with a gaggle of Brits. It was good to say hello before the Start, as we often know rivals' names from the results, but not faces! I had a great run and pulled myself up to 13th over-all.



After POM, we took Sarah back to the airport and had two days of sight-seeing in Porto, including a port tour and tasting at the Calem distillery. I'd really recommend the friendly atmosphere of Portuguese orienteering as well as the delicious and cheap food!





in blossom – as eaten by giraffes!

# British Night Orienteering Championships 2026

February 12, 2026



## Judith Holt takes us through her medal-winning run

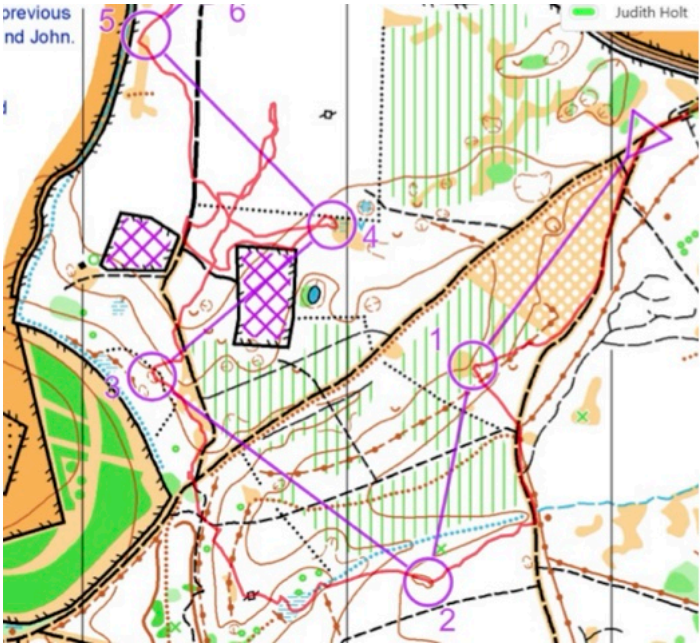
The 2026 BNOC took place at Egypt Woods in Hertfordshire last Saturday. Five DVO members trained and made the trip, Judith coming in 3rd in W75 and John 1st in M6OL. (John's account is coming soon.) Congratulations John and Judith!



It is said that '*It takes a village to bring up a child*', in my case it took an orienteering club to bring home a bronze medal. I was not at all sure that I could still manage night orienteering, but after encouragement from our Club Chair and a generous offer from my husband to drive me there, I dared to enter the British Night Orienteering Championships. (Fortunately Leicester City were playing away that weekend.) John Duckworth offered me his super-bright head torch (thinking that he would not be able to run himself). Richard Parkin planned some MapRun loops on a corner of the Longshaw map including two at 1:7,500 especially for me. He accompanied me for my first night orienteering rehearsal just a fortnight before the event. I realised I need to do some adjustment to my map-reading torch arrangements and went back a few days later with Jane and Nicky Hart for another go.

A rather feeble head torch worn round my chest worked well for map reading but was inclined to slither down as I ran, so I created a harness to stop the slide. On the morning of the event, I was very nervous. I did calm down before I started and for the first two legs, I was disappointed that the headtorches of other competitors seemed to give away the control sites. I soon realised that only worked if you were headed to the correct place anyway. I drifted off course to control 3 but was caught by a small, fenced enclosure. I was so pleased with myself for averting a big error on that leg that I lost focus running (stumbling) towards the next. Realising I was lost I headed west to hit a path. See the extent of my error marked by the red route on the map below.

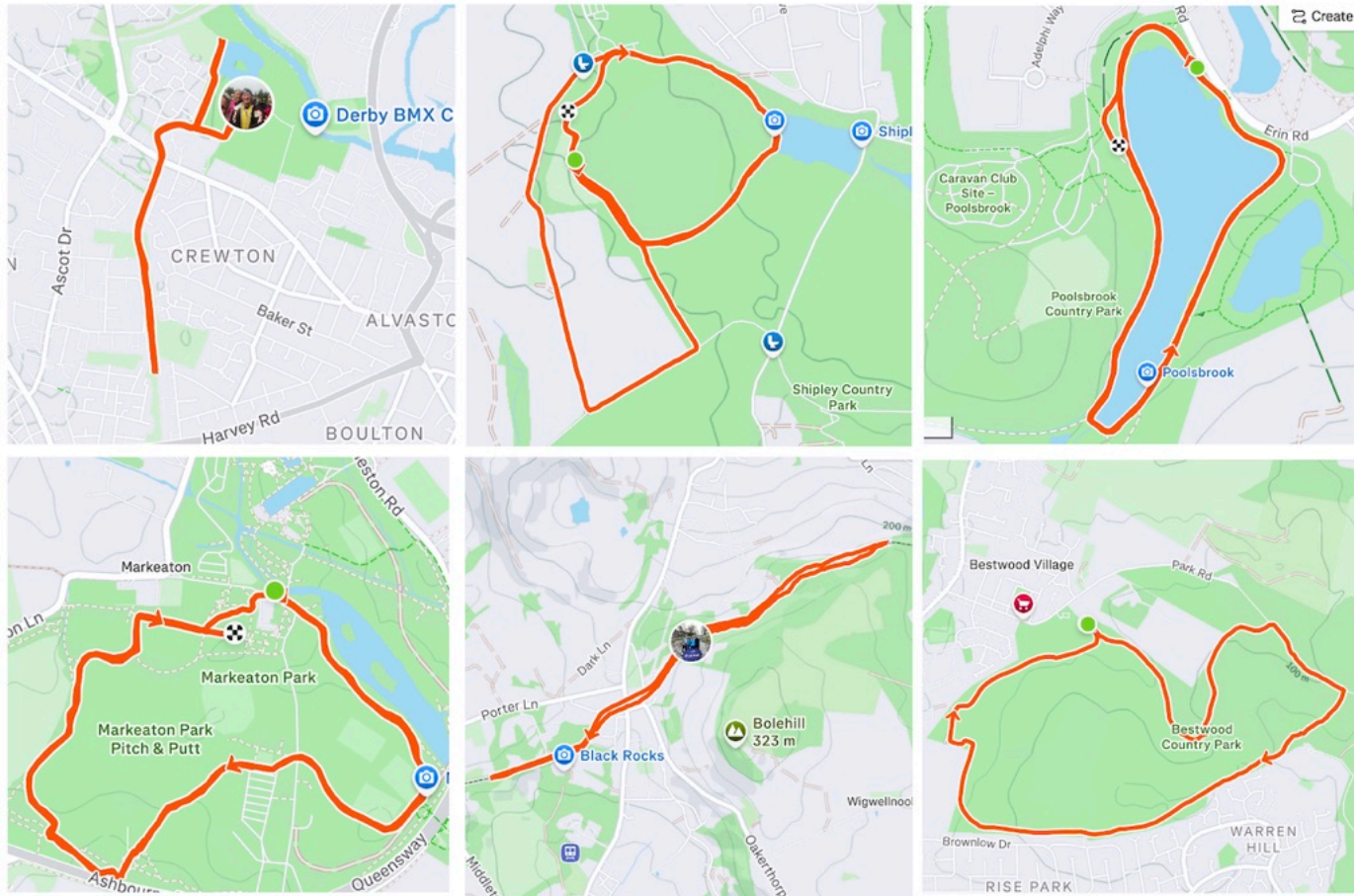
Once there I managed to calm myself and take the very obvious, safe route that I had considered using at my first attempt – 8 minute error? Controls 5 to 8 presented no serious challenges so I was travelling as fast as I could and feeling good. That led to me rushing out of control 9 thinking I would nail it with a long bearing. More time lost! With such a small field (5 of us) my errors didn't cost me the Bronze medal. Sadly, it is more about who has retained endurance, agility, focus and the nerve to orienteer in the dark. The age-related decline in endurance athletes, including orienteers, has been described as “curvilinear from age 35 years until approximately age 60–70 years and exponential thereafter”. Will I be at Broughton Burrows on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> February 2027? I don't know. I hope I can have a go in Leicestershire in 2028, it just depends on that exponential curve.





# What shape is your parkrun?

February 9, 2026



Parkrun has been a phenomenon for some 20 years now, and every Saturday morning when I scroll Strava, I see where fellow DVO members have been running. Will it be Australia (Markeaton) or the girl with the long hair (Shipley)?

It's always nice to bump into other Club members. Ex-member Andis Ozols is a parkrun tourist who has run in many countries, as has our Treasurer, Helen, who says "I've done 51 runs, over 14 years, at 22 different park run locations in 5 different countries 🇬🇧 🇮🇪 🇮🇹 🇯🇵 🇳🇴



Oh and I have 17 letters towards my alphabet challenge! 😊” Parkrun Tourists are basically anyone non-local who is running, either because they are collecting parkruns, or just on holiday in the area (and pretending they *aren't* collecting Parkruns).



It's 8:45 on a Saturday morning and look at us!!  
(or even on Christmas Day for Annie, Marg, Nicky and Jane : O)



Our top current-member parkrunners are David Vincent on 261 parkruns (over 100 at Shipley Park), followed by David Pettit with 221 parkruns, in 86 different locations. Imogen is on an impressive 212 parkruns, but she gets to run junior and adults races!



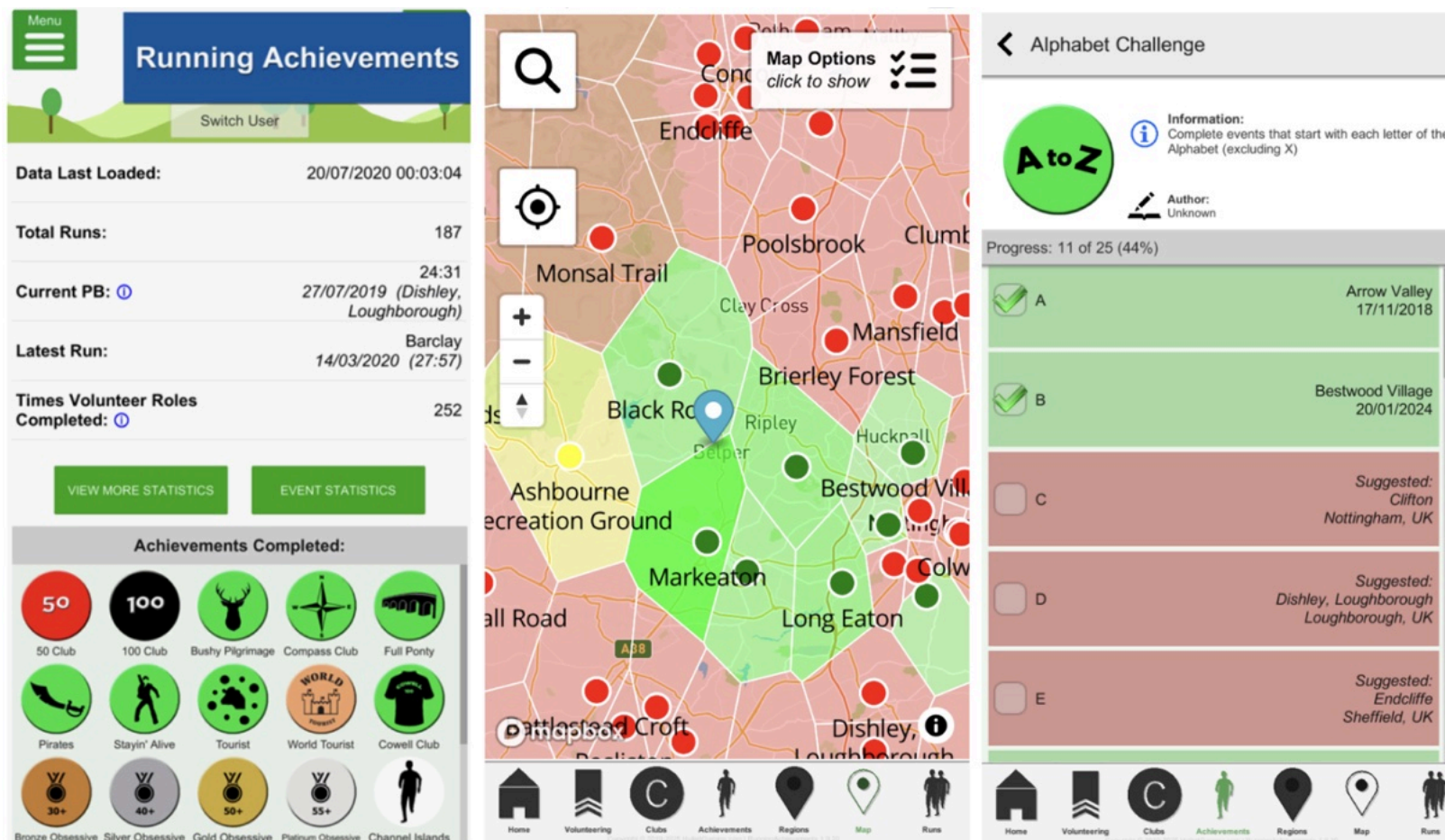
Like orienteering, Parkrun lends itself to all sorts of metrics, such as percentage performance in age group, best times, average times etc. DVO's Murray White has done 115 parkruns at 25 different locations. 30x volunteering at Poolsbrook, including being Race Director twice. Nice that volunteering is also measured and recognised!



It's always fun picking up a parkrun overseas. Jane did one in Adelaide and saw a sign that said 'look up for the koala' 🐨!

You can keep track of your ever growing list of parkruns with a free app called **Running Achievements** ([Apple](#) or [Android](#); thanks to Helen for the recommendation), or if you're a luddite like me, you can design your own parkrun alphabet Christmas or birthday card. I noticed I can tick off "D" because the original parkrun in Derby was at Darley Park, but moved to Markeaton in 2014. Apparently [there is no X](#), so only 25 letters to collect!

I have just downloaded the Running Achievements app, which has come up with suggestions for completing my alphabet – so see you at Zulderpark, The Hague, for Z!



We have a Friday evening dilemma, living on the cusp of Markeaton and Black Rocks. Markeaton is 2 clockwise laps, punctuated by “Cardiac Hill” half way round, so not a course for a PB. If you want a quick time, try a flattish course such as Black Rocks, West Park (Long Eaton), Alvaston Park (Derby).

There are even parkruns in prisons, but the inmates must maintain good behaviour to be allowed to compete. Hermen Dange, founder of [Made Running](#) described his first parkrun, which was while he was in prison for drug dealing. It was 11 laps of a football pitch, and he was sure he would win, being the youngest runner. After lap 6 he was starting to struggle, but was encouraged by an older participant to



keep going. Made Running's message "No One Gets Left Behind" was born that day (source: BBC Radio 4's Café Hope, 9/2/26 [listen here](#)).

See you at 8:45 on a Saturday morning soon!

## Postscript: RoastMyStrava

While talking parkrun, apps and Strava, have you ever tried [RoastMyStrava](#)? It generates a caustic AI commentary from your Strava photos and metrics that is quite entertaining. For instance, here's part of my Harlaxton Blue course 'roast': "Looking at that map photo, it's clear the only thing more crumpled than the paper was your sense of direction at the start. You spent 49 minutes playing hide-and-seek with checkpoints while your heart rate sat at a chill 133 bpm—were you orienteering or taking a scenic Sunday stroll through South Kesteven?"

# Review of DVO's 2025 events

February 8, 2026



## Dave Nevell – our statistician, now based in north Wales – looks back on last year's events

2025 saw the DVO fixture list settling into what is perhaps a new paradigm for orienteering, namely a small number of conventional urban and forest events, considerably boosted by a lot of urban MapRuns, mainly but not exclusively at night. This has been such a



large shift that it could well be argued that it is “the third great revolution in orienteering development” following the emergence of custom drawn maps in the early 1970s and the advent of electronic timing at the turn of the century. The ability to plan events quickly, almost anywhere and with little manpower may turn out to be the saviour of the sport. We shall see.

|                    |    |      |                                                                     |
|--------------------|----|------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Level A (Major)    | 0  | (1)  | Here is a summary of 2025’s activity. 2024 figures are in brackets. |
| Level B (National) | 1  | (1)  |                                                                     |
| Level C (Regional) | 6  | (5)  |                                                                     |
| Level D (Local)    | 28 | (27) |                                                                     |

The total number of events over the year (35) was one more than in 2024. It should be noted that there was even more MapRun activity than indicated here because Chris put on another 6 introductory events aimed at specific running groups. However these have not been included in this list because they were not registered as events, were not widely advertised and didn’t have any results. So, along with 4 other Mapactive events, these have all been treated as just training. The last time DVO had this many events in one year was in 2017 when summer evening events boosted the numbers.



learners in Alder Tree Park at one of the four MapActive coaching sessions lead by Chris Millard, DVO's Club Development Officer

As far as I can tell, 28 different areas were used throughout the year. I think counting Ockbrook as a different (or new) area is a little tenuous as it used the same map as a Spondon map but just with a start/finish in Ockbrook. Other than that, Breadsall Hilltop, Belper Parks, Alvaston, Eyes Meadow and Chellaston all appear to be new areas, by map title if nothing else. My estimate is that DVO has now used 142 differently named areas for orienteering. Somebody awakening from a 30 year coma would be very confused by this indeed.





The total number of events has now risen to an estimated 1090 over a period of just exceeding 57 years. I speculated a year ago about which DVO member may have attended the most. John Hurley (caught on camera at the end of this post) offered a figure of 114 Level C (and above) events up to March 2025 at which point I estimate 374 had been staged. That's the standard if anyone wants to try to beat it.

There were 2892 attendees over the year which was down by 834 on 2024 but of course that year was boosted considerably by having over 1000 at the JK Relays on Stanton Moor. This has brought the running total up to an estimated 165266. The average

attendance was 83, almost identical to 2024 if the JK is excluded. As usual it is more informative to look at the average attendances by event level. Level D is a catchall for anything below Level C. These were (2024 in brackets):

|         |      |        |
|---------|------|--------|
| Level A | 1022 | (1022) |
| Level B | 441  | (n/a)  |
| Level C | 204  | (244)  |
| Level D | 44   | (53)   |

The highest turnout of the year was not surprisingly the Midland Champs on Chinley Churn which drew 441 competitors. This is almost exactly half the number that attended the 2019 British Middle Champs on the same area but is otherwise the next highest Chinley turnout. The highest Level C turnout was 271 at Carsington Pastures in June. The Maprun event with the highest turnout was the final one of the Spring Series at Spondon in April which had 64 entries, thus making Spondon the most attractive orienteering MapRun venue for two years in a row (I can hardly believe I am typing this!). The minimum was 21 at Derby North in September. There were a lot of Thursday events, 18 in all. There were no Friday or Tuesday events in 2025 and only 5 on a Sunday. The Carsington event in June was the first Sunday event in 8 months, making it the biggest gap between Sundays (traditionally when almost all events were once held) in the history of DVO apart from the 14 month gap in 2020/21 imposed by COVID.





What else? We ought to mention Sal's Dracula in Derby event of 12<sup>th</sup> April as probably DVO's most unusual reason ever to hold an orienteering event. It was one of those rare years when Allestree Park did not stage an event but at 72 events it is still well clear of Cromford Moor (55 events) as the most used DVO area. In fact, the November event at Cromford was the first there for three and a half years. Belper is the most frequently used urban area at 14 times going all the way back to 1977. I said last time that up to the end of 2024 DVO had held events on 331 different days of the year, including 29<sup>th</sup> February. Three new dates were added in 2025, namely 13<sup>th</sup> March, 9<sup>th</sup> August and 27<sup>th</sup> August. That was the year that was.



Tony Uddis finishing at Derby's Museum of Making at the Dracula Centenary event in April (on the left is John Hurley, DVO's most frequent eventer)