



MDOC NEWS



Newsletter of Manchester and District Orienteering Club

April 2020



Dominic Wathey finishing the M16E long course at the MOM in Spain

Cyprus
Night Street League
Spain
North West Night League
Plus... puzzles & challenges to keep you
entertained while isolated!

Cyprus Orienteering Festival, 11th – 15th March 2020

Alison Doyle

Once upon a time when the world was still nearly normal, 8 MDOC members travelled to Cyprus for their first international orienteering festival - McCanns, Brittons, Rostrons, myself and Sue Birkinshaw.



MDOC tourists in happier times (Photo: John Britton)

The event was organised by Diane Bridger, planned by Peter Smith, with Dick Carmichael as Advisor. The Covid crisis was just beginning, we were glad to know there were no cases reported in Cyprus as we arrived, but that quickly changed.

Some inkling of things to come started the week before we went as I sorted the risk assessment for the Wythenshawe event to include the BO Covid advice re events at that time.



Competition area (Photo: John Britton)

We were staying at a lovely holiday village in Pissouri near Limassol, Sue and I had a one bedroom apartment, but were able to rearrange the furniture to sleep in separate rooms.

It was planned to have 5 main events, 4 middle distance plus 1 urban and a fun night event around the hotel grounds (careful not to fall in the swimming pool). There were competitors from Scandinavia, Holland, Australia, UK, Russia, and Cyprus.

Everything was low key; the event centre was the hotel lounge. There was no registration, and the start list was the same for every day. Sue had the honour of being one of the first starters; I think Diane was intrigued by the thought of a W80 competitor.

The first 2 days were 10 minutes drive from the hotel, at Melandra North and South. There was a minibus up the hill but those without a hire car had to walk back down.



Sue lines up at the start (Photo: Alison Doyle)

When we arrived, the low key continued, with a few loos, one army tent and the start a few minutes away. The start procedure was very relaxed, late starts being accommodated with no problem for instance. There were only 5 courses with competitors from under 12 to 80, and controls common to several courses.

The terrain was different to anything seen at home, a cross between limestone pavement and New Forest heath land, with some deep, steep valleys. Vegetation included some very nasty thorn bushes, described either as open or difficult to run 'bondu'. What appeared to be the impassable cliff symbol was actually 1-2 metre rock shelves - much to my relief, as it appeared initially I had to cross several impassable cliffs.



Aphrodite's Rocks (Photo: John Britton)

As the first starts were at 9-30 am, we were all finished well before lunch. Many people spent the afternoons sightseeing, but as I had visited Cyprus several times previously I chose to stay at the hotel to sunbathe and read. I dipped a toe in the pool but wimped out of getting further in. A few were braver than me; Jane McCann was the bravest I observed, managing to stay in more than a few minutes.



Jane braves the cold (Photo: Alison Doyle)

Disaster nearly struck on the second day when we were told that the Cyprus Government wanted to cancel the event. Apparently a doctor had attended a conference in London and returned with the virus to Nicosia, which he then spread to others. Luckily Diane managed to persuade them to let us continue, but we were advised not to post on social media about it. The event dinner was cancelled and we had to take our evening meal in 2 shifts to avoid too many people being in the dining room at one time.

The urban event in the mountain village of Lophou unfortunately, but understandably, had to be cancelled. We did have the 'fun' night event that evening round the hotel grounds, some people of course took it very seriously, but Sue and I went round with small hand held torches and both visited all controls together (you were supposed to both visit 6 spine controls, with one of you going to each of the rest). At least that prevented an embarrassing disqualification, and we were by no way the slowest!! We were all given a small bottle of dessert wine as a prize.

After dinner it was good to relax in the lounge with a beer, and the Britton's invited people to their room to play games. Day 4 and 5 were further away, and Sue and I caught the provided bus, mainly occupied by a group of Finns.

Day 4 was at Kouris Dam. The vegetation was different with more dark green, plenty of large tracks, and some lovely grass areas with plentiful wild flowers, far more than I have ever seen in Cyprus, due to the unusually wet winter.



Kouris Dam (Photo: John Britton)

By now some people were getting messages from their airlines saying flights were cancelled and there was worrying news from home about impending lock down for the over 70s. It turned out that people booked on different airlines for outbound and return journeys were those getting messages and all seemed to get sorted.

Day 5 was at Kourion, there was some lovely open grass land with wild flowers, but it was mostly 'difficult to run' bondu - like running through heather and thick scrub, although it was possible to navigate via grass clearings in many places. A unique feature of the map was the ruin of a Roman athletic track, which I ran along between controls 1 and 2.

The prize giving followed, Sue winning the W80 class. The prizes were pots shaped like a pomegranate - different!



Sue collecting the W80 prize (Photo: Alison Doyle)

As we had a late flight back on the Monday, Sue and I joined forces with the Verity's to visit Lophou where we intended to have lunch. It was a lovely mountain village, which would have been great for an urban event with lots of small alleys - a bit steep in places though. It transpired the lock down was in full swing, we saw no one and all the shops and cafes were closed. We found a small hotel serving food - hotels were allowed to be open another couple of days, and the owner let us buy lunch.



Church in the woods (Photo: John Britton)

The Veritys kindly drove us to the airport, and luckily we had packed sandwiches as all the shops and cafes in the airport were closed - except the Duty Free's - so chocolate and gin were the alternative to sandwiches!

There were only 2 flights due to depart, Luton and Manchester. Our flight was called late and we all filed out to the tarmac - and waited and waited. We had not seen anyone get off the plane, and then an ambulance pulled up - we could only guess what was happening. Eventually we were ordered to return to the terminal and continued to wait.

At last we boarded - 90minutes late.

The pilot explained we very nearly did not leave Cyprus. The plane had been ordered to return to London with the in-bound passengers still on board. There were very few as only homecoming Cypriots were being allowed in. Apparently there had been a near riot and one passenger attempted to open the door to jump out! Luckily common sense prevailed and the pilot negotiated for us to be allowed to leave. Otherwise we would have been stranded with all hotels closed.

So we eventually arrived back in the early hours of Tuesday morning - tired but relieved.

All in all it was a great event, low key but generally well organised. I would certainly go again - I do love Cyprus and it was a good combination of a holiday in lovely company, good food and drink, with a little orienteering thrown in.



Alison's Tree (Photo: John Britton)

A warm welcome to the two newest members of the MDOC committee, our two Junior Representatives: Catriona Beynon and Dominic Wathey.

They will not only be helping other juniors in the club to stay in touch and get involved, but will also be helping the committee to look after the needs of the junior members.

Social Media

Manchester and District Orienteering Club is now a Strava Club

Strava is the social network for athletes; you can use it with a gps device to record the routes of your runs, including how far, how long and how much elevation. You can then look back over your routes and achievements, as well as keeping track of your total mileage.

Now MDOC is part of the fun and you can join the club to see what everyone else is up to. It's a nice way to see how the team's collective training is going, and an extra tool to stay virtually in touch with others and to discuss running and keeping fit. The club is invite only so all you need to do is find it on the Strava app; click 'request to join' and admin David will let you in.

Make sure to congratulate others on big efforts and improvements, and keep supporting the whole team on the activity feed.

<http://www.strava.com/clubs/619529>

Wanted: Facebook Admins

If you have a Facebook profile and would like to help MDOC by maintaining our own Facebook page, please get in touch with the newsletter editor.

Admins can help to publicise MDOC events through Facebook by creating event pages and sharing them to other clubs, local groups and friends. There is also the chance to share good news and results to our 442 (and counting) followers, as well as helping new members and prospective orienteers to get involved.

Twitter

We are also active on Twitter @MDOCORienteers so give us a follow and keep in touch!

Night Street League 2019/2020

Event 5 of the MDOC NSL was held in Handforth, organised by first time NSL planner Kath Speak. As normal with the first race back after Christmas, the attendance was slightly down on average, but those who made it out had a great time navigating the intricate estate and subtle short cuts. The top planning meant runners had to stay focused at all times, with an optimum route hard to execute. In short – classic street league.

MDOC took a clean sweep of the women's podium, with Michele Dawson in first place on 1260 points per hour. Second place was Catherine Osborn with 1139.2 pph, and third place went to Siobhan Henn with 1090 pph. First man was Sam Drinkwater (MDOC) with 1650 pph, ahead of John Embrey (DEE) with 1584 pph and Warren Mason (IND) with 1576 pph. First pair was Steve Fairclough & Andrew Mainwaring (Stockport) with 1160 pph. The handicap points system adjusts the scores based on age and gender, and after this was applied John Embrey came out on top, ahead of Warren Mason and Peter Gorvett (SYO).

Event 6 was held in Didsbury, with a map extending north to Withington as well as south to Fletcher Moss Park. This had been organised by Doug Edwards and checked by Ian Watson. In addition to the normal planning responsibilities, they had gone the extra mile to make this event virtual, using the MapRun smartphone app to record controls and track routes. It proved to be a very popular event with lots of fun had by all, despite some minor tech troubles. Some more fiendish planning left a lot of people overestimating their capabilities and lots of penalty points were racked up as a result.

This time the top two men were making their first run of the season: Tom Fellbaum (MDOC) took the win with 1709.6 pph, Matt Driver (SELOC) was second with 1658.4 pph, and Mark Burley (MDOC) was third with 1568 pph. Familiar names were on the top two spots of the women's podium though: Michele Dawson scored 1260 pph, Catherine Osborn was not far behind with 1188 pph and third place went to Yvonne Hung (MDOC) with 980 pph. The Stockport men were the first pair once again, however the first mixed pair was MDOC's new recruits Hayley Care & Sam Tammias-Williams, who scored 1140 pph despite a panic as their result temporarily deleted itself! The top three handicap scores went to Warren Mason, John Embrey and Tom Fellbaum.

The penultimate event of the season took place in Haughton Green, on a newly produced map from Trevor and Hazel Hindle. It had a varied mix of urban areas, including lots of complex streets and alleyways. This event was arguably the toughest of the whole season; competitors struggled not only with navigation but also with route choice and an efficient loop of the big value controls eluded almost everybody. Another great challenge, which was made even greater for Mike G, who completed the whole event with no clue sheet but still managed to identify all but one control feature from map location only – good effort!

The winning lady was Cecilia Fenerty who scored 1185 pph. Second place was Ruth Beresford with 1056 pph, just ahead of Kath Speak who finished off an all MDOC podium with 1050 pph. The top two men were the same as the previous event, this time Tom Fellbaum was even further ahead with 1758 pph while Matt Driver scored 1688 pph. Third place was Richard Hunt (Dark Peak) on 1560 pph. First pair was Rebecca McCreddie & Darren Baker (DEE). John Embrey was back to the top of the handicap scores, ahead of Tom Fellbaum and Matt Driver.

The final event of the season was held at the Hinds Head in South Reddish, planned and checked by Chris Rostron and Julie Brook. With spring approaching, the assembled crowd actually had to wait a little while for it to get dark enough for the event to begin. During this time, discussions involved the pinch points on the map (road and railway crossings) as well as the steep hill down towards Stockport centre. Sure enough the planning tempted people down into this more complex area, where routes tended to converge before heading northeast. Competitors continued this way as far as they dared, before they cut back south and west as their time ran out.

First place was Sam Drinkwater with 1730 pph; ahead of John Embrey on 1660 pph. Third place again went to Richard Hunt who edged out Trevor Hindle (MDOC) by 1528 to 1524 pph. First lady was Siobhan Henn with 1310 pph, after a close battle with Fiona Blagg (IND) who scored 1305 pph. There was another excellent podium place for Clare Griffin (MDOC) in third (1073.6 pph). Once again Stockport's Steve & Andrew were the first pair (1330 pph) with the mixed pair of Julian Brown & Jo Miles (Macclesfield Harriers) not far behind (1300 pph). John Embrey was the clear winner of the handicap competition, ahead of Trevor Hindle, with Paul Turner (SELOC) in third.

So the competitive league was over for another season and all that was left was to add up the scores and complete the league tables, ready for the Cup Final and prize-giving event in Tytherington. A few late runs shuffled the positions a little, but here are the final standings:

Position	Name	Club	Points
1	Sam Drinkwater	MDOC	698
2	Warren Mason	Ind	690
3	John Embrey	DEE	653
4	Chris Embrey	MDOC	627
5	Trevor Hindle	MDOC	595
6	Nathanael Booker	MDOC	576
7	Jim Edwards	MDOC	563
8	Edward Corden	Stockport	562
9	Tom Fellbaum	MDOC	552
10	Peter Brooke	SELOC	525

Position	Name	Club	Points
1	Siobhan Henn	MDOC	489
2	Ruth Beresford	MDOC	450
3	Clare Griffin	MDOC	450
4	Cecilia Fenerty	MDOC	443
5	Michele Dawson	MDOC	406
6	Julie Laverock	MDOC	387
7	Hazel Hindle	MDOC	382
8	Pat Moody	DEE	378
9	Jacky Embrey	DEE	373
10	Kath Speak	MDOC	369

First place male pair was of course Steve Fairclough & Andrew Mainwaring of Stockport Harriers, with 546 points. First mixed pair was Julian Brown & Jo Miles of Macclesfield Harriers, with 493 points. First female pair was Lynn Hall & Catherine Machin of Wilmslow with 378 points. The top 5 handicap scorers over the full season were: John Embrey, Warren Mason, Peter Gorvett, Sam Drinkwater and Trevor Hindle. Unfortunately no women made the top 10 on handicap scores, which does adjust for gender as well as age, but I'm sure there will be a few orienteers setting out to change that next season!

The Cup Final was held in Tytherington and was organised and planned by Ian Gilliver, with help from Grahame Crawshaw. This is a fun event that stands alone from the normal league, and there was a relaxed and celebratory atmosphere in the Brocklehurst Arms as the usual suspects, plus some new faces, assembled. To speed up the on-the-night results calculation, all controls were worth 10 points and penalties were lenient. So the event had a very different style to previous NSL, with new strategies coming to the fore. The Tytherington estate is a fantastic orienteering challenge and combined with the relatively small area, head to head racing and overtaking was abundant – a lovely way to close the season.

There were a large number of wrong answers, mostly lampposts on the western side of the map, and this meant a statistical approach to marking had to be taken. In the end everyone seemed happy and we all really appreciate the checkers time and effort to process all of the results, while most of us were still enjoying our food and drink. First place on the night was John Embrey, who took a runaway victory ahead of Nathanael Booker and Sam Drinkwater. First lady was Michele Dawson, ahead of Ruth Beresford and Fiona Blagg. Cecilia Fenerty & Dominic Wathey were the first pair and managed an excellent second place on the age adjusted results, behind John Embrey and ahead of Iain Bell (DEE). Cecilia is certainly in good form right now as apparently she hardly slowed Dominic down at all!

The Hydrant Trophy was won by Paul Hunt, who managed to exceed his season's average score by the largest margin, to take home the prestigious prize – well done! Second and third place were Dave Mawdsley and Julie Brook, both of whom are peaking just at the right time for some top spring performances (Ed: sadly spring races now all cancelled!) and showing that you don't have to be at the top of the league to be at the top of this competition. As well as the Hydrant Trophy, the prizes for the overall winners and the top three handicap scorers, there were four more trophies awarded at the cup final. They were: the "Level Best" trophy, awarded to Andy Smith (MDOC) who was the most consistent performer over the full season; the "Non-Orienteers Prize" given to Julian Brown & Jo Miles of Macclesfield Harriers; the "Junior Prize" presented to Edward Corden (Stockport Harriers); and the "Most Improved" trophy which was awarded to a thoroughly deserving Mike Wharton (MDOC).



Prizewinners at the NSL Cup Final (Photo: Ian Gilliver)

"A very big thank you to Grahame and all those who assisted in organising, planning and managing the NSL - it's a good series, gets one out on a winter's night, good for sharpening up navigation and timing skills, and has a good social side."

- A Happy Participant looking forward to the dark winter nights!

NSL Series 9 2019-20 - The Last Word?

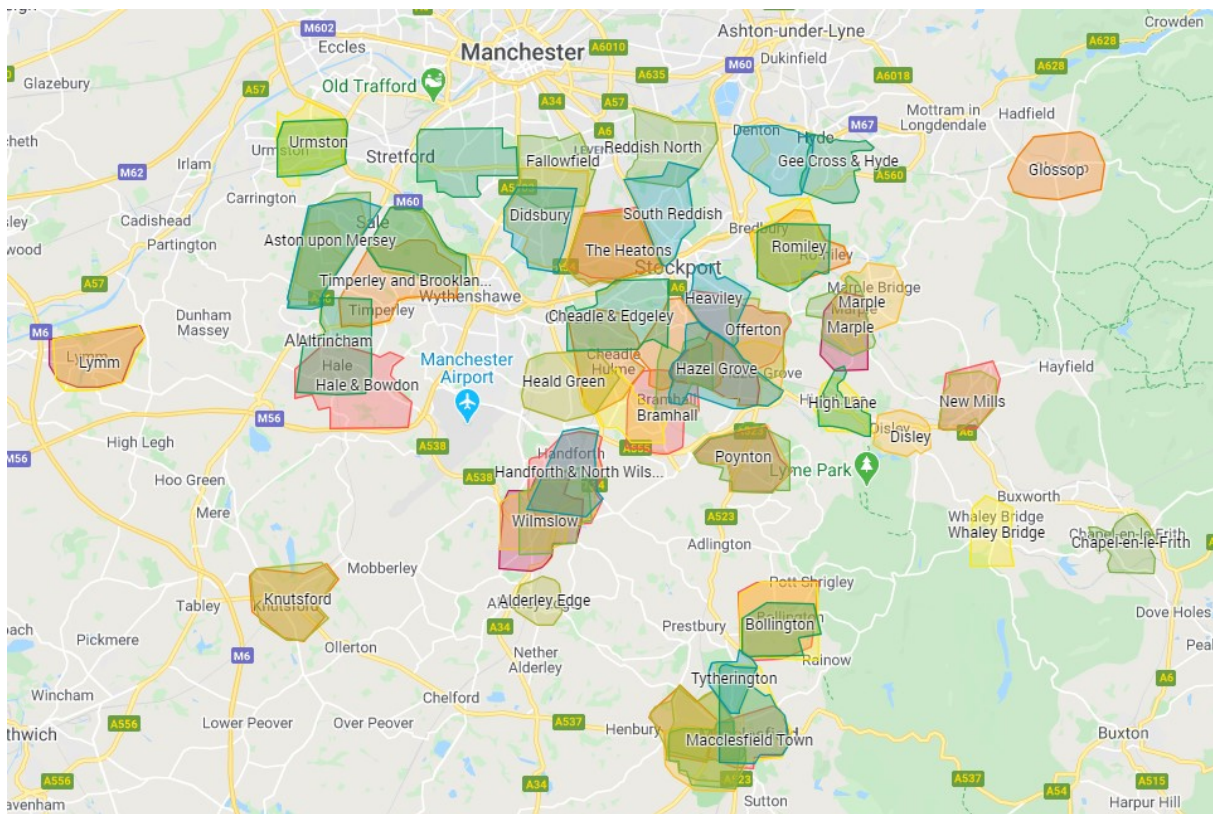
Grahame Crawshaw

A couple of days before the Cup final event in Tytherington, Ian and I decided that we had better include something about Coronavirus in the risk assessment. At that time, it wasn't dominating our thoughts as much as it is now. I guess we should consider ourselves fortunate that we were able to proceed with the event at all – given the lockdown occurring shortly afterwards. The event brought another excellent season of NSL events to a satisfactory conclusion. A worthy winner of the Hydrant Trophy emerged on the night, and the prizes in various categories were presented to those who had earned (or deserved) them for their performances throughout the league season. Well done all.

We have now run a total of 76 NSL events on some 40 different areas over 9 series. During this season, we averaged over 85 runners per event (slightly down on last year), recruited one new planning team, produced (at least) 2 completely new maps, used parts of other maps not extensively visited before and broadened our MapRun portfolio with the events in Heaviley and Didsbury.

Over the years, we have relied on a small team of committed and enthusiastic individuals who have made unstinting efforts to ensure the continued success of the NSL. The event teams - mappers, planners and checkers - are supported by a host of others (registration teams, marking teams, results processing teams, the map printer, statisticians, our website guru, and a Health and Safety officer / trophy minder). Many of these people are involved every year, and I should like to take this opportunity to thank them, and everyone who has contributed in any way to this hugely enjoyable aspect of the club's Orienteering calendar. So ... THANK YOU!

PS. I haven't mentioned any names – because I'll inevitably upset someone by leaving them out, and there isn't enough room in the newsletter!



A map of all of the areas we have used for NSL events (Credit: Trevor Hindle)

Ed: If you think there's a hidden gem of an area that we've missed, why not consider making a map of it for next season. Although it's a fairly time consuming process, it can be very rewarding and the MDOC base map means you're never starting from scratch. If a new map seems like a bit much but you have a favourite of these areas and would like to plan an event, do get in touch with any of the NSL team to discuss your ideas – we're always looking for new planners and checkers.

North West Night League 2019/20

Chris Rostron

This winter season's North West Night League looked very promising starting with an SROC event at Arnside Knot and with the knowledge of a classic Lake District area, Dale Park to come in January. I was hopeful for a classic night season.

I have been coordinating the series for about 20 years ever since John Kewley absconded off to Switzerland with his family on some pretext of working there for a few years. I inherited his spreadsheet to calculate the results and the scoring system, which Sue informs me, she was instrumental in devising many years previously.

There are normally 6 events with the best 3 results counting towards the league. The winner of Blue gets 40 points second 39, etc. The winner of Green gets 30 points, second 29 etc. and finally the winner of Orange gets 20 points second 19 etc. For the lesser mortals like myself it is always a choice of which course to do to get the most points versus how long you want to be out.

The winter weather this year was to play a significant role for both organisers and competitors.

Back to Arnside Knott, thankfully there was a break in the gales forecast and the event was fine. A mixture of open and woodlands kept everyone occupied. We were warned that the scree slope was OOB but looking down from the top at night I had no intention of going anywhere near it or any of the valid paths close by and wimped out for a longer route round the back which proved to be an easier attack point for the control. 13th on the Blue not quite last but would I have been better than 3rd on the Green, so Blue was probably the best choice.

One more event before Christmas, the PFO event on Darwen Moor. Again, a rather wild night but trying to find pits in a featureless tussock moor proved difficult, extremely tiring and time consuming and several people just gave up. 20th on Blue so would probably have been better to have done the Green course.

Into the New Year and the prospect of Dale Park in the dark was beckoning, hoping it wouldn't be cancelled like last year by snow, although another storm was approaching it turned out fine. A long journey with no company for this event so arrived early and was a little apprehensive. Decided to behave myself and entered Green. There had been a BOF squad training session during the day so there were a lot of non-competitive runs which just showed how quickly the top orienteers can perform in the dark, dare I say awesome.

Interpreting the terrain at Dale Park in the daylight is hard but at night it was fantastically challenging, and I enjoyed all 75 minutes of it on my 2.7km course. 12th out of 26 on the Green, so would I have been better doing Orange as there was only one finisher. After checking RouteGadget I decided Green was the correct choice.

Next event was the DEE event in Delamere. Everyone in the car was hoping the rain predicted with Storm Ciara would hold off. We were lucky as that night there was severe flooding in North Manchester. Delamere at night (and probably in the day) normally means stick to the paths as much as possible. I decided to go back to Blue course. It didn't bode well as I made a mess of the first control. A strange start location that had most people turn back through the start for their first control although some just ran straight up the path in front of them before realising. So better take extreme care when leaving the paths for controls. Tom Fellbaum turned up to show everyone how to do the Blue course and won by nearly 8 mins in a time few would do in daylight. 19th out of 25 for me, but my time (mins/k) would have given me a much better position if I had done Green.

The following weekend was the MDOC event in Philips Park, which I was planning, so couldn't compete. Because of the flooding in North Manchester I went out to check to see if there was any damage in the Lower part of Philips Park by the river. Thankfully all was ok but obviously the ground was extremely wet and boggy. During the week we were being told the next storm Dennis was on its way for the weekend of my event, with threats of travel disruption and more flooding. Lots of clubs were cancelling events but after careful studying of the weather pattern I decided we should go ahead. We also had a warm barn as Assembly to protect us from the bad weather.

Placing the controls in the afternoon was done with very little rain but with an increasing wind. In the evening the wind was howling but there was no significant rain and we had packed up and were away by just after 9pm. We were lucky as during the night the only exit road from the car park was blocked by a fallen tree.

The numbers of competitors were down because of the predicted bad weather and driving conditions but a hardy group travelled down from the Lake District to compete, as it was the last opportunity to practice for the British Night Championships the following weekend. It was highly productive for one competitor who became British Night Champion in her class.

I was looking forward to the final SELOC event at Tandle Hill on the last weekend of February, as it was the venue of one of my first night events. Then Storm Jorge was announced for that weekend and SELOC decided that they would not take the risk and it was cancelled, as there was no suitable weekend before the clocks changed.

So ended another NWNL season where we ended up being almost blown away but survived.

The top positions in the North West Night League after the 5 events were:

Top three men:

Steve Wilson SELOC M45

Mark Seddon SELOC M55

John Embrey DEE M60

Top three women:

Karen Parker BL W55

Charlotte Somers-Cocks LOC W55

Joanne Larty LOC W45

Congratulations to all of them.

Virtually Useless

John Britton

I bravely summoned up my tenner and entered the Online "Lockdown Orienteering" JK event. What could possibly go wrong?

Well, for a start, my laptop hasn't got a graphics card that will run Catching Features, despite several attempts, so probably the most fun parts of the impending contest were unavailable (and this is a chap who was one of the first registered users of the early versions – around 1995). Never mind, off we go. Day 1 ... Good Lord ... got to get everything done by 8pm, and I've been out gardening all day.

Event 1 – Route Choice

Demo looks easy enough. You just get shown a leg with a left and a right choice and pick the shortest. Trouble is, you need to know Finnish to make progress, or use Chrome and get a Google translation (except I didn't suss that bit till some time later). After guessing my way through registration and logging in and starting the game ... seems like I'm very slow and very rarely right. 392th out of 430, but at least some DEE worthies were even worse.

Event 2 – Running Wild

A truly brilliant piece of software on the world of O web site. You get shown a sprint/urban leg, and click as fast as you can along what you think is the shortest route (just like filling in Routegadget). After 30-odd intense and mostly quite tricky legs you feel just as completely knackered as if you'd actually run it properly. Managed to earn a penalty by not spotting an artificial barrier till too late, but this was great fun and 136th was much more like it.

(Event 3 was a catching features sprint race)

And so optimistically on to Day 2. Time pressured again due to a nice day outside. No time or inclination to do any revision or practice ...

Event 4 – Control Descriptions

3 separate felt-like-endless quizzes: one to pick the words for a pictorial description; one to pick the pictorial for the words; and one to match pairs on a huge grid. Embarrassingly got quite a few wrong in parts one and two, and took ages trying to match pairs. Another near-the-back performance (329th).

Event 5 – Photos

Very tricky, this one. You get a map with a control on it to stare at for as long as you like. Then you move on to a display of 4 photos and you have to pick the right one, from memory. Mostly I could cross a couple of photos out straight away, but obviously the stuff I'd tried very hard to remember wasn't visible in the remaining candidates. Didn't do too badly, apparently (149th).

Event 6 - O Quiz

Not as many questions as expected, a few things I knew and several things I had to totally guess at. Not very exciting really, and another non-stellar score (301st).

(Event 7 was another catching features race)

Event 8 - Spot the Difference

Given two map squares, one of which has been fiddled with, answer questions like (are there more new boulders, knolls or cliffs?). Felt I was decently brisk and confident in correctness until the very last one, which wanted to know if green bits, wet bits, cliffs or contours had been fiddled with. Must have spent half an hour staring repeatedly and failing to find anything, so eventually just guessed, and amazingly placed 160th. Looking at the answers afterwards, I'd not spotted that a spur had been significantly reshaped - more than a bit surprised I missed it.

Event 9 - Chester StreetView Orienteering

15 control sites around Chester, asking for names or numbers on stuff you can see on Google StreetView. Wasted oodles of time looking for the Start clue at the site for #1, but then did a reasonable job, being comfortable with StreetView from mapping and street league. Quite good fun this, with a bit of active map reading required to move from one control to the next. A bit miffed to be as low as 332nd - must have been even longer than I thought messing round at the start (or I'm just a slow-thinking old man).

(Event 10 was a catching features version of JK2016 Kilnsey Moor)

Event 11 - Trail-O

5 "stations" with 4 problems at each one. For each station, first, your screen shows a photo of a number of kites scattered around (some of them quite a long way away) with letters along the bottom of the photo. After a few seconds, a map fragment appears underneath with a control circle on it. You can wave a magnifier around the screen to get a clearer view of the map or the photo. It takes a while to decide whereabouts on the map you might be looking from, but once you've got the major things sorted, stuff makes sense and you can concentrate on where in the photo you'd expect a kite to be for that circle. If there's a kite about right, click its letter, or Z if there isn't. After you've answered, another set of kites appears on the same background photo, and after a few seconds, a map with a circle, etc. Looking at the result sheet, I got 2/4 on the first 3 stations, 4/4 on the 4th and 3/4 on the last, so maybe I was slowly getting the hang of it. However, your score seems to be the sum of seconds taken (767) and 30secs per wrong answer (210), so spending 154 and 100 secs getting a couple of them right wasn't a good strategy - and might explain the 369th position!

From the Facebook page and some web site comments, coming in late in the afternoons avoided various bits of setup difficulties, which was very helpful. But overall, a huge hats-off to Chris Smithard and his team whose phenomenal efforts delivered some properly competitive orienteering experiences.

It looks like there'll be some more Lockdown Orienteering to enjoy - another event in a fortnight is already entered. Someone has to make everybody else look good.

John

Ed: It seems that MDOC did achieve some success in the virtual JK event, thanks to River Edis-Smith who placed 20th overall after all 12 events, out of 500 entrants. The British Junior TrailO champ took some notable scalps; in Event 1 he beat Thierry Gueogiu, Simona Aebersold and many more international orienteers to place 6th. Well done!

MOM's the Word

David Wathey

Maximus O Meeting – Valle de Alberche, Avila, Spain, Feb 2020

Searching for things to do in Dominic's half term I stumbled across the Maximus Orienteering Meeting (MOM) held in Spain to the West of Madrid in the Valle de Alberche. Having visited Spain on many occasions in the past, the prospect of being able to visit friends in Madrid and then head out into the countryside for some Iberian orienteering was too good to resist. I must admit my knowledge of the Iberian orienteering scene was pretty limited, having not encountered many orienteers from that part of the world at British events, and therefore I was unsure what to expect. Indeed, my stereotypical view of the Spanish and a lack of desire to venture far from the road when it comes to exploring the great outdoors, and experiences of trekking in Andalucía along paths that suddenly become barred with barbed wire or that lead you into a field of Torros Bravos, did little to prepare me for how well organised and the thriving the sport of orienteering is in Spain.

This year's MOM was a World Ranking Event and centred around a Middle Distance and Urban Sprint on the Saturday, followed by a Long on the Sunday. In advance of this there was also a Night event on the Thursday evening and an excellent 'model' training course available on the Friday. The event centre was located in the picturesque town of Burgohondo located towards the South West end of the Guadarrama Mountains, within 2 hours drive of Madrid. Having spent a couple of days in a cloudy and cool Madrid we headed West visiting Franco's austere underground Basilica at Valle de los Caidos, the monastery favoured by Phillip II of Spain at El Escorial de San Lorenzo, and the impressive walled city of Avila. We were fortunate that with our drive West the clouds gave way to clear blue skies and the warmth of the early spring Spanish sunshine.



Valle de Iruelas

For accommodation, we stayed in a small hotel in Burgohondo, but there were also options to rent Casas Rurales, or for those on a budget the slightly less grand, but practical, Suelo Duro (Hard Floor) at 2 Euros a night in the sports centre. We decided not to partake in the night event on Thursday, feeling this may not be the best introduction to orienteering in Spain. From discussions with others over the weekend this appeared to have been a good decision, missing out on the steep sloping boulder strewn pine forest with 'lashings of brashings'.

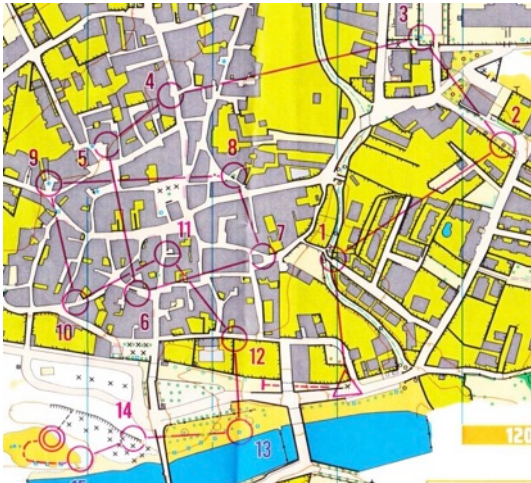
Friday gave us an opportunity to experience the local terrain and to get an insight into the mapping, which would be particularly relevant for Sunday's long race. An extensive area of detailed granite outcrops and boulders set in rugged arid hill farming country, provided a great opportunity to gain some experience of the terrain, vegetation and mapper's interpretation. The warm sunshine and virtual lack of any mud or marshes was a joy, and a far cry from Ramsley Moor and the rain swept North West Squad session of the previous weekends.



David & Dom at the model event

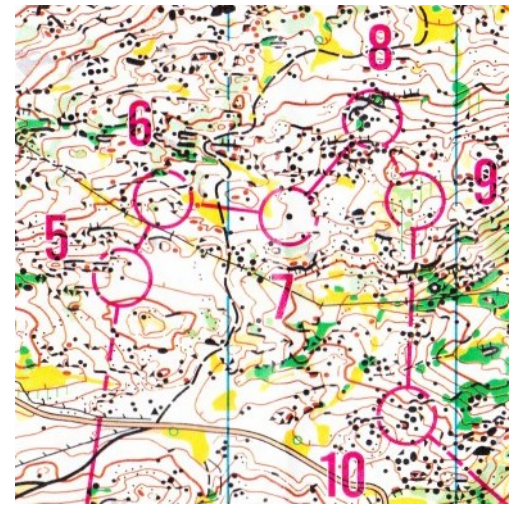
Saturday started cold and clear and took us 35km East to the Valle de Iruelas alongside the Burguillo reservoir. The Southern shore area was lined with exquisite Mediterranean pine forest offering good open running interspersed with plenty of large boulder features. It was here that we got our first true sense of how significant the event was, rivalling the BOC and JK.

On the heels of the middle distance we headed back up the valley to the small town of Navaluenga, for the urban sprint. The town and layout was typical of many Spanish towns, presenting a labyrinth of narrow streets interspersed with small squares, each sprouting multiple side streets and ginnels.



M16E sprint course

The Start and Finish was located down by the gently rambling river Alberche and picturesque arched bridge, creating a great communal arena. With the races starting late in the afternoon, the streets were generally quiet, albeit many of the local inhabitants were out to look on at the spectacle. Staying in touch with the map was key, but straight from the start the planner introduced a route via the dried up stream come dumping ground, which looked on the map like a street. This threw many competitors off their stride straight away. The course and planning made good use of the town creating lots of changes in direction and route choice decision points and provided a real test of navigation and speed.



Map segment from M16E middle distance

Sunday and the long event was only a few minutes outside Burgohondo on the undulating open hill farming type of terrain experienced on the model course. Bright sunshine graced the day, and with long distances planned, it was clear this would be a fabulous experience. The terrain was punctuated with numerous low drystone walls, in varying states of disrepair, large granite outcrops and boulder fields, and the course presented a huge technical challenge, with few solid points to attack or relocate from. It's fair to say that both myself and Dominic got our money's worth but thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to orienteer in such fantastic terrain, on excellent maps in the warm Spanish February sun.

Overall, Dom and myself would highly recommend this event to anyone seeking to escape the UK winter and get some early sun and top quality orienteering. The organisation of the event was excellent with detailed pre event information, top quality areas and first class mapping. I was particularly impressed with the event parking arrangements, all managed by the local authority.



Map segment from M55 long distance

MDOC competitors:

Michele Dawson	F-E	19 th Overall
Dominic Wathey	M16E	36 th Overall
David Wathey	M55	23 rd Overall

How we got started in mapping

Dave & Kate Bryant

We joined West Anglian OC (WAOC) when we went to an event in Maulden Woods in 1974. It was our first date and we were hooked on orienteering. To be fair, Dave should have started in 1967 when he was at college with John Rix who was a co-founder of CUOC in 1970. They did cross-country together on Saturdays and then John would disappear on Sundays to go orienteering. And Kate went to an event on Wimbledon Common in 1973 with a group from London University and she knew what she wanted to do when she left college.

Things were primitive in orienteering in those days and in many ways simpler. Who remembers punching control cards and walking down the strings of stubs hanging on 'washing lines' at the end of the event to see where you'd finished? No dibbers or splits available at download. Who remembers having to copy the control circles from a master map onto their own map in the pouring rain and wind? No overprinted maps and control descriptions. And the loos were definitely primitive!

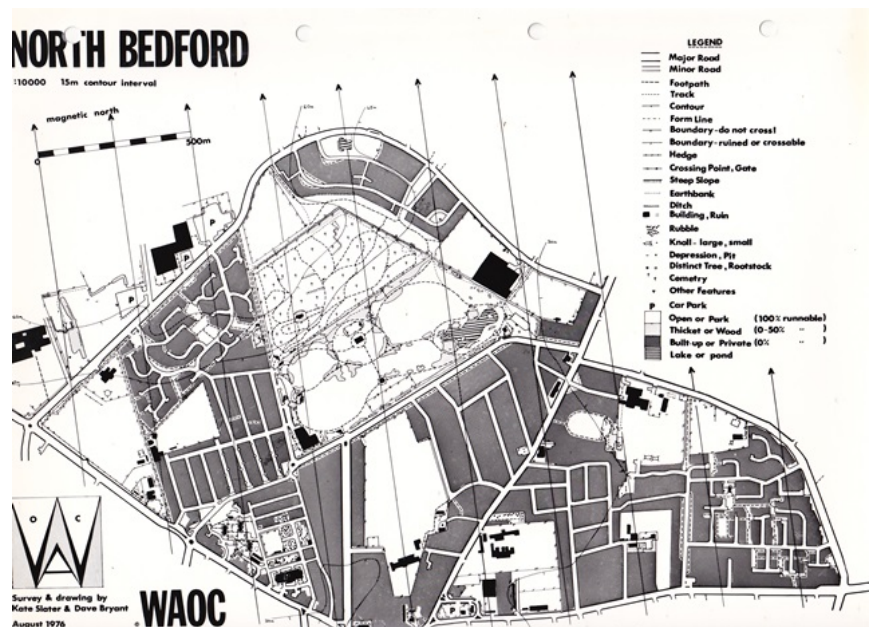
But at least WAOC had moved on from black and white photocopies of OS maps. We had black and brown maps – printed by SmallPrint – a small company run by Paul and Jean Kanssen of SN. But as we tried out events around the country we realised things had moved on in other clubs. They were using 5-colour maps. And we wanted something better for WAOC. The trouble was there were only a few members and they were all too busy doing their day jobs. That was true of all the clubs in East Anglia so EAOA organised a mapping course and we went along to find out what it involved.

First of all, you need a base map. Most mappers would use OS maps and previous versions of O-maps for this. For some, with a larger budget, this might be enhanced with a 'photogrammetric plot' made from overlapping aerial photographs - a manual process. No LIDAR in those days. And then you had to go out and survey everything else which would be useful for orienteering.

Surveying was also very primitive. It mostly consisted of pacing and taking bearings with a 'sighting compass' and writing it down in a notebook. Then every evening you would go home and try to draw it up on your survey map. And if it didn't fit then you had to go out and repeat the exercise.

Technology was very limited in those days. OCAD wasn't invented until 1989 and there were no colour photocopiers or inkjet/laser printers. Printing used a process called

'offset litho printing'. This simply means printing the maps one colour at a time. The survey map and the final drawings for each colour are done at twice the final scale and photo-reduced at the printing stage. For an A4 map all your drawings are on A2 or larger sheets. So you need quite a big space to work in. But any handshake is minimised at the final scale.



The first map drawn - North Bedford in black and white

You have to trace the detail from the survey map, one colour at a time, on to 5 sheets of transparent polyester film. All lines are drawn in black ink. All lettering, symbols and screens are done using dry transfers, which are also black - the colour is only applied in the final printing process. We invested in a set of Rotring drawing pens (other makes also available), one for each thickness of line as specified in the IOF mapping standards. The lettering, symbols and screens were produced with Letraset and Letratone (other makes also available) as specified in the IOF standards.



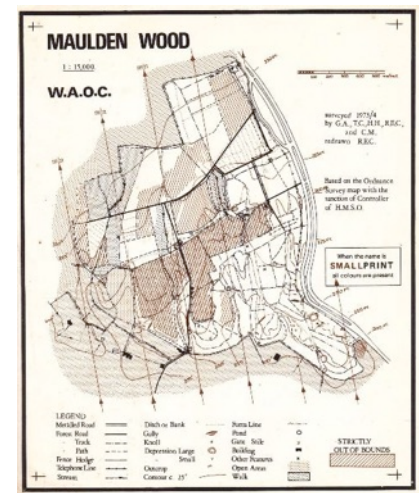
Maulden Wood 1965 OS Map

It didn't matter that we had no experience of drawing with pen and ink. Mistakes could be erased very gently using a curved scalpel. It's very important to keep all the drawings aligned with each other and the survey map. This was done by means of small 'registration crosses' drawn in the corners of the survey map and each sheet of film. You also needed to keep your pens clean and to stop them from drying out. And you needed to keep the sheets grease and dust free or the ink wouldn't flow on evenly.



Maulden Wood 2 colour map 1973

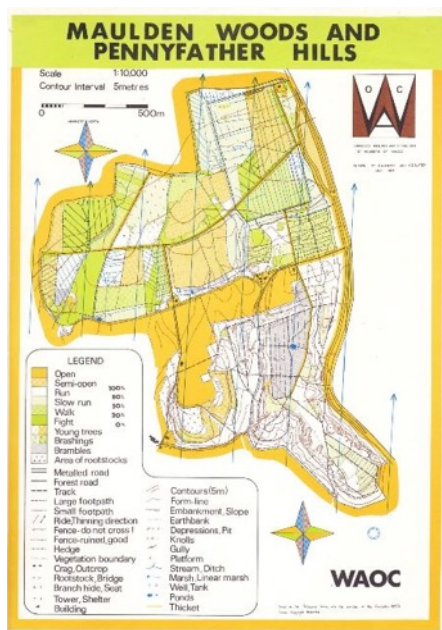
We needed to have a project to start on - not too complex - while we got used to handling the tools. We chose to survey an urban area of housing estates and parks in North Bedford to produce a map just in black and white on an A4 sheet, which could be photocopied and used for a small come-and-try-it event. This was in 1976.



Maulden Wood 2 colour map 1974

Then in 1977 we decided to go back to Maulden Woods and update the existing map to 5 colours. If you've ever done any planning it will come as no surprise how much the terrain changes over time. So although we could use the previous version of the map as the base for survey we quickly found that we had to resurvey the entire area. Bits had been felled. New trees had been planted. New paths had appeared from

nowhere. And of course the contours, previously in feet, had to be reestimated in metres. Weeks of plodding followed by weeks of drawing. Then the drawings were rolled up and sent off to our friends at SmallPrint.



Dave & Kate's very own Maulden Wood 5 colour map 1977

Using OCAD you know exactly what the map is going to look like, give or take any last minute tweaks by Eddie. But nothing compares with the excitement of seeing your hand-drawn maps when they arrive from the printer's and what you'd been working on just in black and white is suddenly transformed into Technicolor.

And then we went on to bigger projects.....

1995 Greater Manchester Schools Score Championships

Rae Lomas

RESULTS - 9th ANNUAL GREATER M.C.S. SCHOOLS SCORE ORIENTEERING CHAMPIONSHIPS SILVER SPRINGS, ASHTON-U-LYNE SAT. NOV. 25th 1995.

FINISH NO.	NAME	SCHOOL	PTS	TIME PENALTY	SCORE
76	Louise Reihan	St. Richards	140	-10	130
10	Maria Papadaras	"	120		120
11	Emily McPhicks	"	120		120
65	Mylea Whitaker	"	120		120
78	Laura Jones	"	90	-15	105
40	Amy Wilkinson	Middleton	80		90
12	Stacey Egerton	"	80		80
32	Joanna Hierzbich	St. Richards	80		80
33	Laura Greenwood	"	80		80
15	Danielle Hewitt	Middleton	70		70
34	Nikita Turner	St. Richards	70		70
61	Alex Brady	Middleton	70		70
83	Amy Mellor	St. Richards	60		60
45	Nikki Tertill	Middleton	50		50
103	Donna Maughan	St. Richards	45		45
10	Sarah McConaugh	"	30	-105	25

FINISH NO.	NAME	SCHOOL	PTS	TIME PENALTY	SCORE
30	Emily Thomas	St. James	170		170
85	Jenny Jones	St. Annes	200	-30	170
31	Jenny Croft	Bolshaws	140		140
18	Rebecca Bowling	"	130		130
75	Victoria Stringer	St. Albans	140	-10	130
16	Samantha Boston	Bolshaws	120		120

FINISH NO.	NAME	SCHOOL	PTS	TIME PENALTY	SCORE
27	Adam Chapman	Tortum High	200		180
28	Adam Chapman	Tortum High	190		180
29	Adam Chapman	Tortum High	180		170
30	Adam Chapman	Tortum High	170		160
31	Adam Chapman	Tortum High	160		150
32	Adam Chapman	Tortum High	150		140
33	Adam Chapman	Tortum High	140		130
34	Adam Chapman	Tortum High	130		120
35	Adam Chapman	Tortum High	120		110
36	Adam Chapman	Tortum High	110		100
37	Adam Chapman	Tortum High	100		90
38	Adam Chapman	Tortum High	90		80
39	Adam Chapman	Tortum High	80		70
40	Adam Chapman	Tortum High	70		60
41	Adam Chapman	Tortum High	60		50
42	Adam Chapman	Tortum High	50		40
43	Adam Chapman	Tortum High	40		30
44	Adam Chapman	Tortum High	30		20
45	Adam Chapman	Tortum High	20		10
46	Adam Chapman	Tortum High	10		0

FINISH NO.	NAME	SCHOOL	PTS	TIME PENALTY	SCORE
12	Adam Chapman	St. Richards	180		170
13	Adam Chapman	St. Richards	170		160
14	Adam Chapman	St. Richards	160		150
15	Adam Chapman	St. Richards	150		140
16	Adam Chapman	St. Richards	140		130
17	Adam Chapman	St. Richards	130		120
18	Adam Chapman	St. Richards	120		110
19	Adam Chapman	St. Richards	110		100
20	Adam Chapman	St. Richards	100		90
21	Adam Chapman	St. Richards	90		80
22	Adam Chapman	St. Richards	80		70
23	Adam Chapman	St. Richards	70		60
24	Adam Chapman	St. Richards	60		50
25	Adam Chapman	St. Richards	50		40
26	Adam Chapman	St. Richards	40		30
27	Adam Chapman	St. Richards	30		20
28	Adam Chapman	St. Richards	20		10
29	Adam Chapman	St. Richards	10		0

FINISH NO.	NAME	SCHOOL	PTS	TIME PENALTY	SCORE
30	Adam Chapman	Tortum High	200		200
31	Adam Chapman	Tortum High	190		190
32	Adam Chapman	Tortum High	180		180
33	Adam Chapman	Tortum High	170		170
34	Adam Chapman	Tortum High	160		160
35	Adam Chapman	Tortum High	150		150
36	Adam Chapman	Tortum High	140		140
37	Adam Chapman	Tortum High	130		130
38	Adam Chapman	Tortum High	120		120
39	Adam Chapman	Tortum High	110		110
40	Adam Chapman	Tortum High	100		100
41	Adam Chapman	Tortum High	90		90
42	Adam Chapman	Tortum High	80		80
43	Adam Chapman	Tortum High	70		70
44	Adam Chapman	Tortum High	60		60
45	Adam Chapman	Tortum High	50		50
46	Adam Chapman	Tortum High	40		40
47	Adam Chapman	Tortum High	30		30
48	Adam Chapman	Tortum High	20		20
49	Adam Chapman	Tortum High	10		10
50	Adam Chapman	Tortum High	0		0

FINISH NO.	NAME	SCHOOL	PTS	TIME PENALTY	SCORE
12	Adam Chapman	St. Richards	180		170
13	Adam Chapman	St. Richards	170		160
14	Adam Chapman	St. Richards	160		150
15	Adam Chapman	St. Richards	150		140
16	Adam Chapman	St. Richards	140		130
17	Adam Chapman	St. Richards	130		120
18	Adam Chapman	St. Richards	120		110
19	Adam Chapman	St. Richards	110		100
20	Adam Chapman	St. Richards	100		90
21	Adam Chapman	St. Richards	90		80
22	Adam Chapman	St. Richards	80		70
23	Adam Chapman	St. Richards	70		60
24	Adam Chapman	St. Richards	60		50
25	Adam Chapman	St. Richards	50		40
26	Adam Chapman	St. Richards	40		30
27	Adam Chapman	St. Richards	30		20
28	Adam Chapman	St. Richards	20		10
29	Adam Chapman	St. Richards	10		0

The long planned sorting out of our study has started hence the published results. Results from 25 years ago and doesn't it show how things have moved on! There was a thriving school's league in Greater Manchester & although the persons named may not be known today it brings to my mind how technology has changed our lives.

It also has made me realize how much time & effort Pete put in to school's orienteering, how stylish his writing (any calligraphers in the club?) & how great his filing system was & still is.

There's an A4 box file full of school's stuff like this & also: Lyme park charity events, POC's, AGM's, New Year socials, stores kit, High Dam, MDOC newsletters, NW newsletters, risk assessments, NSL, events, Compass sport magazines, first aid, organizers & planner's notes, coaching, training, awards & Friday night circuit training, oh & 7 box files of maps in alphabetical order!!

We are open for viewing & perusal any time ... after social isolation has ended of course.

Memorabilia



Edwin Paul Van-Calster sent in these photos of old Orienteering books that he found, as well as this certificate from his first ever Orienteering event as a youngster in 1976. Does anyone else remember the GMC Orienteering Festival at Lyme Park?



O-Ringen 1981

Photos from Kate & Dave Bryant's trip to Sweden, on the hottest week of the year.



The opening parade



Dave warming up in the campsite



The five different finish funnels for different classes



Kate searching for the correct finish funnel



Dave thundering along the run in

Mike Greenwood's Picture Quiz

All these photographs come from a checkpoint manned by Mike and Mark Greenwood.

Q1: Name the (annual) Event?

Q2: Name the Year?

Q3: Were these photos taken on Day 1 or Day 2?

Q4: The Lochan outlet is 300m NE (and 100m lower) from a Munro. Name that Munro?

Q5: Was this the second control or the second to last control?

Q6: Name the two Orienteers posing in this photo?



Posing for the camera



Setting up camp at the control

Q7: Name these two Macclesfield Harriers in the photo at the bottom of the page?

Clue: One was also of MDOC at the time.

Q8: Name the elite Mountain Endurance Runner alone in this photo?

Clue: At one time he was a joint Charlie Ramsey record holder.

Q9: This course was won by 2 Macclesfield Harriers (and occasional Orienteers). Name the pair?

Clues: One used to live on same street as Dave Mawdsley; the other has climbed Mt Everest.

Q10: What proportion of entrants reached this control? 20%, 50% or 80%



Elite concentration



Any excuse for a rest

Pictorial Description Puzzle

Thank you to Karen Parker of Border Liners for creating and sharing this Pictorial description puzzle – answers in the next edition!

Identify these towns and cities in Britain from the pictorial descriptions.
A and B are examples to get you the idea.

A								(4) DISS = depression west end (D) + pit middle (I) + S + S
B								(10) BRIDGNORTH = bridge west part (BRIDGE) + NORTH

1								(6)
2								(9)
3								(7)
4								(6)
5								(6,6)
6				200 x 150				(9)
7								(5)
8								(13)
9								(9)
10				100			346000	(8,4,6)
11		50450						(10)
12								(9)
13				40000 x 50000				(5-4-3-3)
14								(8)
15			4					(9)
16								(8)
17								(6)
18								(5)
19								(8)
20			99					(8)

Rugby Virtual Score Event 2020

Below are details of a 'just for fun' virtual score event created by Richard Gardner of OD. The idea is to use Google Maps Street View to 'navigate' to control sites where you identify a number on a feature. The map and control descriptions are given on the next pages. Thanks to Chris Embrey for sharing this – if you want to have a go you can send your results and time to Chris (chris.s.embrey@gmail.com) who will pass them on to the originator.

Instructions:

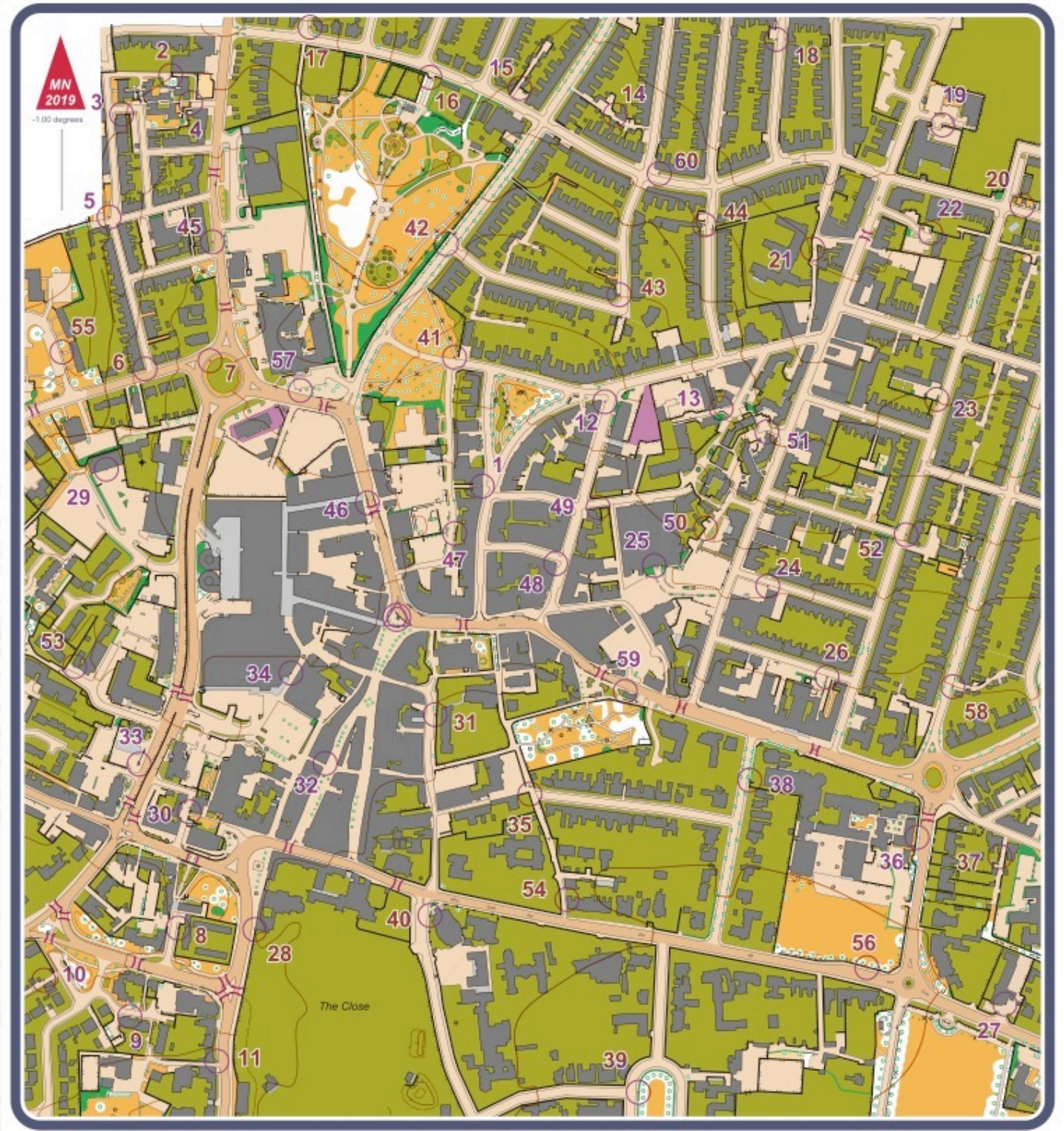
“Hi all Droobers,

Just for fun, we have produced a virtual score orienteering event in Rugby. The attached pdf file comprises a map of Rugby centre along with descriptions... You will need to access Google Maps (<https://www.google.co.uk/maps/>) and then go into Street View (drag the little yellow man in bottom RH corner onto a blue line on the map). Note that although Google Maps should work in all internet browsers for best performance it is recommended - if you have it - that you use the Google Chrome browser. To travel around use the arrows visible as you move the mouse cursor around the view. To zoom in /out you can use the +/- buttons in the bottom RH corner or if you have a suitable mouse you should be able to use the scroll wheel to zoom in / out.

There are 60 controls with the start and finish in the same place on the clock tower. Each control has a control description and at the virtual control site there will be visible a number corresponding to the code given in the descriptions (second column). This number may be on a lamp post (the most used item), but sometimes on other features such as a door, a street sign, telegraph pole, bin, water hydrant marker, the date on a gate or house and other random numbers such as an estate agent's phone number. Where the number is longer than 1 digit, the code is just the last digit of the number. Often it is only a single digit. You will need to search around at each control location and often zoom in to find the code number. Sometimes the code number is only visible from one view, and sometimes there are other numbers in the circle. Your purpose is to find the controls where the codes are deliberately incorrect - where the code in the descriptions does not match any number visible in Street View. The incorrect codes will only occur at non-ambiguous sites and there will not be that many! As ever, the beauty of orienteering is that you may choose to just potter around on Street View and find a few of the sites - or all of them - in your own time.

The proposal for a fun competition is that you do not study the map in advance. Find the start on the map and that location in Street View, get a watch and start timing yourself. Only plan your route once the watch has started, as per a normal event. Get around all 60 controls in Street View - noting any codes that are incorrect - navigating with the maps and moving with the arrows in the view (Not identifying the control location and jumping ahead using the street view map!) After visiting all 60 controls navigate back to the finish and record your total time. Send your times to my email below together with details of which controls have the wrong codes, (just those). For any that you get wrong (incorrect or missing) there is a heavy penalty of 5 minutes for each mistake. I have no idea how long it should take. If you get bored no problem pausing the clock, but play fair...”

Map:



Control Descriptions:

Rugby Virtual-O					
S-View Score					
1	1				
2	1				
3	9				
4	9				
5	1				
6	9				
7	9				
8	1				
9	4				
10	7				
11	9				
12	8				
13	4				
14	4				
15	3				
16	4				
17	1				
18	5				
19	5				
20	0				
21	5				
22	1				
23	9				
24	3				
25	2				
26	5				
27	6				
28	7				
29	9				
30	3				

31	6				
32	9				
33	6				
34	3				
35	2				
36	2				
37	7				
38	2				
39	2				
40	0				
41	2				
42	9				
43	5				
44	9				
45	5				
46	5				
47	3				
48	5				
49	1				
50	2				
51	5				
52	8				
53	8				
54	7				
55	2				
56	6				
57	3				
58	9				
59	3				
60	4				

www.condes.net 10.0.13 Octavian Droobers
Rugby Virtual O.wcd

More Isolation Fun

From Dave Walker, some more ideas to keep entertained while stuck inside:

Going round courses from World Champs, Stockholm Indoor Cup etc. with a webcam wearer – many videos of this type are on YouTube.

Printing event maps and courses from prime areas and planning a good route – then comparing it with routegadget.

But best of all Virtual Urban Orienteering which can even be done competitively – see DVO website where there are 3 courses now available.

Some MDOC planners may be interested in creating something similar using urban or night street maps? Maybe a virtual league...

One final challenge from the editor; can you name the MDOC Orienteer in this vintage photo:



Caption Competition



Last editions winner...



“Who would’ve thought it? I’ve found three dibbers and I’ve only been looking for 10 mins”
– Peter Ross

MDOC Competitors in Cyprus



Sue Birkinshaw



Alison Doyle



John Britton



Dave McCann



Jane McCann



Chris Rostron

Please send your suggestions, news, photos and other articles to the editor at editor@mdoc.org.uk for inclusion in future editions.