

MetrO background

We suddenly have a richness of orienteering resources. Firstly, Steve Lang has collaborated with Oliver O'Brien of www.oomap.co.uk to provide 3,600 square kilometres of NSE style map centred on Manchester. Secondly, although this map represents an unmanageable number of sheets of A4 there are cheap, easily available apps that can display maps of this sort on smartphones and tablets, and finally, Manchester has a Metrolink system that covers the very area of Steve's map. All we have tried to do is knit the three together.

This is the first attempt. Some compromises have been made. The competition area will only take up a fraction of Steve's map, only 5 Metro stations will be used, and traditional paper maps will be available.

The inaugural MetrO

The inaugural MetrO will be a night street type event but run during the day. There will be travel to a choice of four starts by Metro, plus the option of a digital georeferenced map.

The idea is that the competitors, having assembled in the car park at the Trafford Water Sports Centre by Sale Water Park around 6.30pm on Monday 24th August, will then take the short walk to Dane Road Metro station before taking a southbound tram to alight at one of four stations: Brooklands, Timperley, Navigation Road or Altrincham. They then run back to the finish in the assembly car park arriving before sundown to enjoy the Boathouse bar and pub grub.

There will one A4 night street event style map for each of the four legs of the Altrincham to Sale Water Park course. Those getting off before Altrincham will require fewer maps on which to return to the Water Park. (See table below). Alternatively Peter Ross (peter.ross@which.net) will supply a single georeferenced digital map, complete with controls, covering the competition area. This can be read using the MapTiler app (£1.99) available for both Android and Apple smartphones or tablets.

The app is very simple but effective. It shows the user's position on a digital version of the paper map as a blue dot. One tap centres the dot on the screen, two taps points the North on the map to the top of the device, and three taps sets the map using the device's inbuilt compass. It allows zooming out and zooming in (ish). It does not do route choice nor running.

The map is sourced from openorienteeringmap data courtesy of Steve Lang's wizardry but updated a wee bit by Sue Birkinshaw and Peter Ross. The controls will be typical night street event controls. I.e Street furniture. The control card will be similar to the one used in NSE events.

The cost of the event will be £3.00 or £1.50 for juniors. The cost of the Metro will be an additional £1.60 or £2.20. Under 16's must be accompanied by an adult. Because of the number of paper maps required for the longer linear courses it would be very helpful if Peter Ross knew in advance how many to print. Please send your requests to peter.ross@which.net or text 07768 431478 quoting number(s) of competitors and Starting Point(s).

Metro station	Action	Distance of run back to Sale Water Park	Paper maps required	Digital maps required	Cost of Metro ticket from Dane Road
Dane Road	Get on tram				
Sale	Skip				
Brooklands	Start 1	2.9km	1	1	£1.60
Timperley	Start 2	6.1km	2	1	£2.20
Navigation Road	Start 3	8.9km	3	1	£2.20
Altrincham	Start 4	11.6km	4	1	£2.20

Useful stuff

<http://www.theboathousesale.co.uk> and the telephone number is 0161 962 0118

Water Sports grid reference SJ 801927 and post code M33 2LX

http://www.metrolink.co.uk/stationinfo/Documents/Route_Map.pdf

<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.klokantech.maptiler.app>

<http://www.maptiler.com>