DVO's Experiences with MapRun

DERWENT VALLEY ORIENTEERS

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Socially distanced orienteering challenges to complete in your own time ... and discuss online!

DVO members get busy in lockdown

- Club members have set up MapRun courses on 17 different areas using a mix of OpenOrienteering maps and conventional ISOM orienteering maps. Most areas have more than one course with a mixture of **linear** and **score courses**. These have been made permanently available (and not PIN-protected), with users able to print their own maps from the web site and load the course in MapRun to complete at any time.

- About 12 planners (3 first-timers), mentored by our Mapping Officer. BO webinars were a great help and inspiration!

- A Generic Risk Assessment was produced by our Safety Officer, e.g. avoid market day, OOB areas, give way in narrow alley ways.

Background

In December 2019 we ran an event where 25 competitors ran on the same evening, with a further 30 having completed that course to date.

More 'complete-same-day' MapRuns are planned – restrictions permitting. By leaving courses open for longer than 6 months, we can register them as Activities and avoid the levy.

MapRun League

When restrictions eased a little, in July, we introduced a League.

By running a league (handicapped by gender and age group) with particular areas qualifying for points each fortnight, additional interest was added. About 100 runners ran at least one league event with a handful running at least 10 courses over a 2-month period.

Summer MapRun Series

MapRun is a free Smartphone app that is perfect for socially distanced exercise! During lockdown, club members have been creating fun challenges throughout Derbyshire. Every fortnight through the summer, we will focus on a new MapRun course:

5 Aug   Alvaston Park Short (2.5km) or Medium (5.2km)*
           Long Eaton Score – 1 hr to find as many controls as you can
19 Aug   Matlock Long (6.2km + 170m) & Medium (3.3km + 85m)* /Sun 23rd
           Darley Park Score – 1 hr 40 controls + linear junior course/Sun 30th

Subsequent courses revealed every alternate Wednesday and League Scores published on DVO website.
** Distances for 'linear' courses are straight line; expect to run a bit further!*

Maps

- Maps from OpenOrienteeringMap are just satisfactory. Some paths are not marked so we've had comments that some runners with local knowledge have apparently trespassed in OOB areas. And it's virtually impossible to make alterations though sometimes we've added paths for the printed map (but not the phone map) in PurplePen or a PDF editor.

- However, features such as the Crossing point)(and x symbols on OOMap can be used to clarify if a dead-end or not.

Constraints & ideas
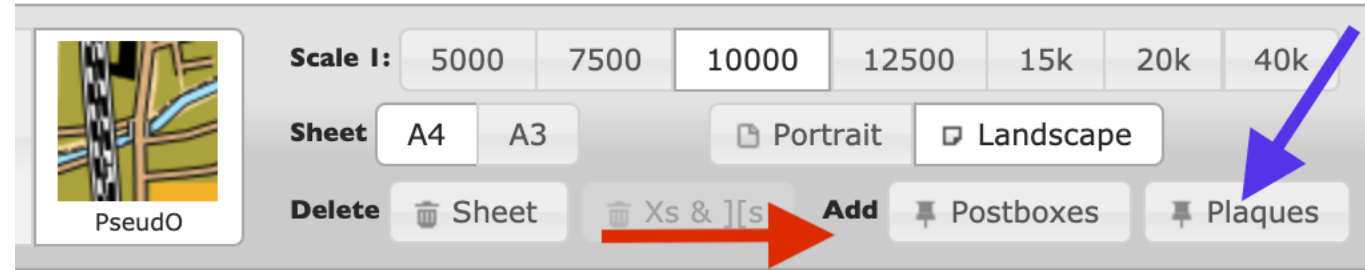
- Most of the courses have been in urban areas, with some in city parks. Partly this has arisen to avoid access issues, but also because of the problem of GPS and map accuracy where there is tree cover. One important factor has also been the need for easy-to-find and accessible parking.

- Some of the club's **permanent orienteering courses** have also been set up in MapRun. This will provide a much better experience for users when markers go missing.

- **Blue plaques** and **post boxes** are very easy to import on OOMap, and can make great courses, but need checking on the ground!

The Future …

- Running clubs – potential to engage them?

- Beginners – some family members of orienteers tried the MapRuns, completing several courses!

- Art trails – in the summer, urban art trails are becoming popular. One of our members created a MapRun around the 25 decorated swans in Burton-on-Trent, and 20 people completed this!

Which one is the mirror swan?