

Development Team Report August 2020

Covering: Permanent & VOC courses, advice from NW Sports meeting, Newcomers at events and Club Night

A: Permanent Courses (& VOC)

The British Orienteering promotion in June was to push POC and VOC to engage members and new members. In May we responded to this by starting a programme of repairing POCs, and to some extent this is still on going. It will also be an issue forever.

We adopted VOC MaprunF to be used at our top 10 POC courses, roughly one in each Local Authority district. After sorting out some of the technical issues Simon Starkey was registered at the Leicestershire Administrator taking this role over from RAF Stafford. The course publication process is the planner sends course to Simon who creates the test course. Once successful the course is published and the pdf is downloadable from BOF. This process is usable at any location.

BOF terminology is an all embracing VOC as it wants to include more than one single product Maprun. How its branded by the club is at their discretion. LEI are behind the adoption curve compared with DVO, NOC and our local rivals.

We aim to create Beginner and Experienced courses: Yellow, Green and Score Permanent course at each location.

VOC Planning

The planning issues at each site were fairly similar: Start and Finish need to be distanced, to avoid passing the finish too early. Choosing sites with no satellite shadow and with a high chance of being usable all year round. For urbans there is a need to avoid dog legs as better gps phones pick up the control before arriving at the site, so you can turn around faster. Generally everywhere the gps signal has worked!

Even with our geo-referenced maps the drawings are distorted to fit on map symbols, so one can be 2mm out and therefore not pick up when the gps signal is using 15m proximity. Simon's work to create the courses using Google Earth has shown up quite a lot of map inaccuracies even from our best mappers and maps have had to be tweaked /improved before being used.

Although VOC permits use of 100% virtual controls ie with no distinguishing control marking we have made use of POC plaques at most sites esp for the Yellow course. Willesley and Urban map will be virtual only.

We have no on-site promotion material.

In the middle of June BOF issued press releases for clubs to promote the use of POC and VOC and for representatives to appear on local radio, etc. DVO ran with this promotion. Steve arranged for Zara to be our local contact.

Use of volunteers

The POC and VOC exercise has enabled us to engage a set of volunteers who do less for the club than the very heavily active officials. We ought to making sure we work with our volunteer base to help maintain participation as the lockdown has reduced engagement with the active membership.

Location	Volunteer tester	Published	Comment
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Beacon	Cerys & Andy Glover James Rogers (planning)	Y	Green to be done
Bosworth	Peter Chick	Y	New map needed
Dishley Grange	Esther Revell		Tested
Fermyn	Mick Smith		To repair
Fosse Meadows	Alison Hardy Keith Willdig David Cladingboel	Y	
Irchester	Brian Mead Hugh Lachlan	Y	
Melton	Matt White Clive Kent		Permission needed
Oakham Brooke Hill	Dave Denness Gina Colton		Permission needed
Outwoods	David Cladingboel		Abandoned
Western Park	Andy Ward		VOC only

MapRunG

Recently MaprunG has come on the scene and this is much more akin to a super SIAC dibber. It uses the Garmin watch as the dibber but you need a paper map as for traditional events.

B: Restarting Orienteering Events and training

I attended the NW Leicestershire District Sports conference. There were 10 participants for a daytime meeting. The Council were interested in grass roots issues connected with bringing back sport and well being.

The issues which I noted will/might affect us:

- 1) School lettings could be completely shut down as meeting usage requires room cleaning, etc. They might not want outsiders in at all! Letting costs could be higher as there is need to clean between room hires.
- 2) Loss of facilities. For clubs using Gyms/ Sports Hall, these have often be taken out to spread out the school.
- 3) The same is applying at Leisure Centres where gym equipment has taken over the dance studios.
- 4) Coaching on-line keeping fit with juniors there are issues with safeguarding and lack of engagement of juniors.
- 5) Safeguarding on one to one Zoom meetings, avoidance of junior grooming.
- 6) Those with out zoom access are missing out.
- 7) Massive increase in coaching volunteers if we need 1 coach for 5 rather than 10. A Football team now needs three coaches not one! (How is this going to happen?)
- 8) Badminton & Karate cannot start indoors or have body contact!
- 9) Finances badly affected by loss of subs, cafe income and playing fees for upkeep of pitches & courts.

The positives

Looking to use the NHS volunteers to do more for health, in sport.

We are well placed as we have not lost all our terrain, we can still go in most of it!
We can offer some Orienteering experience.

Recommendation

We need to consider the safeguarding arrangements.

C: Events and newcomers

Orienteering has taken the easy option and just ignored them. It's not something we can afford to do in the longer term. If we can do Zoom coaching then it seems realistic to offer Zoom introductions to newcomers so that the former on-site support can be done pre-entry. It obviously makes it more formal in terms of booking help but we expect pre-entry only so newcomers could be permitted after being inducted.

The pre-start ritual will be a bit strange but it's manageable/ predictable; the actual orienteering is probably harder!

Recommendation

We should offer newcomer preparation and enable newcomers to come to Events.

D: Training & Coaching

1. Programme

Last November we did the Lakes Training weekend. Nothing on this line is going to get off the ground in 2020.

2019/20 we operated the South Charnwood High School Club Night on Tuesdays. Attendance was about 12 each week. We should expect the worst; that the facility will not be usable/ bookable in 2020.

We can operate training exercises in terrain. Normally we do this in September and March, so lack of facilities is not of a big concern. However the coaching ratio 1:5 probably is. We need two coaches for a normal group session.

This year we would need to extend the period in terrain, the most obvious way is to set up a session that can be done 'on demand' during the day and evening. The Maprun system enables this to work. So controls (virtual or POC ones) can be assigned and used and downloadable maps created.

However club interest in Maprun is fairly low so one would have doubts about getting enough take up to justify the volunteer effort. However we have only had usable Mapruns for two months, and a slow take up is something that other clubs are experiencing too.

Recommendation

Do September club night training in terrain as usual.

Suspend Club night until 2021 and look at the position in January.

2. Coaches

The qualifications of coaches needs validation as we may have more time expired.

We did start to sort the DBS out for everyone but we did not finish. First aid certificates is a perennial issue and we have probably lost 6 months for sorting this out.

We do not know how individual coaches feel about volunteering. Older ones especially may be concerned about risk and not prepared to volunteer until later.

3. Activity safety arrangements, if we do have any.

We have no hygiene procedures for coach equipment but obviously will be similar to the event rules. So we will need sanitiser and gloves.

Do we sort out some sort of fitness programme for those still at home?

Do we need a booking system to make sure not too many turn up?

We need to publish safety rules to match those for events. Eg don't turn up if have covid symptoms, ... social distance at the training.

First aider, and PPE aspects. Ensure the designated first aider has access to safety equipment.

Signage on the night will be needed to remind everyone of procedures.

If in school, we need to know their arrangements and follow them. Eg Key pad usage.

Roger Edwards
30th July