

EPOC DEWSBURY MAPRUN

Planners Comments

This was a new experience for me, not only was it the first urban event I have ever planned, it was also the first time I have planned on an area that I had absolutely no prior knowledge of.

Urban events are never technically difficult so I felt the trick was to throw in route choices wherever I could with changes of direction and a mix of longer and shorter legs to keep the brain in gear. I also threw in a 'turning' control (no 21) on the long which can be useful to give a route choice on a subsequent leg. Hopefully there were sufficient route choice options on both the medium and long courses and it will be interesting to look at Routegadget later. Having run the long myself, I found that sometimes the route choice I took was influenced by the direction of travel as I approached the control. In the same way as using SIAC, MapRun enables smoother 'control flow' and without the need to stop and 'punch' a control, sometimes it seems easier to keep running in the same direction than to abruptly turn 180 degrees.

I could do some detailed route choice analysis like Connor and Alasdair did for their events in the first series, but you can look at all the course maps, consider possible route choices and view peoples Routegadget to see what they did and what you think was the optimum route!

Apologies for the last leg to the finish uphill across the field. I agreed with Richard to put the start and finish at the north end of the park due to the safest parking option being on Boothroyd Lane, but that meant an uphill finish no matter what I did. Also as we were using MapRun I had to be absolutely sure that no-one would pick a route choice at any point, however random (orienteers can make some odd route choices at times!), that went within about 30m of the finish so there was no risk of any runs stopping too soon and this limited my options of where to place the finish. I did consider for the long and medium to have the same last control as the short on the path end coming into the field to the SE of the finish. However that was a route choice option for the previous leg on medium and also for an earlier leg on the long. If the last control had been there I felt it could have influenced route choices to avoid it which I didn't want to happen. Besides it seemed unnecessary on the long due to the fit people who run that course!

It's a good feeling to have planned the first event because now I can enjoy discovering what the other planners have prepared for us during this series.

Emma Harrison