

Planner's Comments

After the annual EPOC Christmas Event at Newmillerdam was cancelled I had a go at planning a novelty MapRun event to include a Christmas theme. After looking at another area first, I settled for Thornes Park as it gives the most chance to run on a straight line whilst still giving some challenging orienteering. I then had a go at planning courses shaped as various Christmas objects, including a Stocking, Santa Hat, Snowflake and Gift, but realised the Star and Tree worked the best. The Medium and Long courses were added to continue with the courses in previous events in EPOC's MapRun series. When checking the control sites I also realised how muddy and sloppy it already was and it only got worse over the last couple of weeks so studs were definitely needed!

In the final details I challenged you to run as close to the line as possible on the Star and Tree courses, allowing for the old school buildings and the green at the top of the hill. On the Christmas Star course everyone had good routes, but Emily Thompson and Simon Martland were the closest to the original line when allowing for the school and green areas so well done. On the Christmas Tree course Jane Slater and Fred Ross were the closest to the line, well done. A mention has to go to Aly Brook and Ben Carter who were the closest on both the Christmas Tree and Christmas Star courses showing how well they can follow the line accurately and both finished in the top 10 of both courses.

Well done to everyone on all the courses, Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!