

Kinver Village NSL – organiser's comments

A big thanks to everyone who turned up on Thursday evening for what was my first attempt at putting on an orienteering event of any description. The build-up had stretched to over 12 months because of you-know-what, so I had plenty of time to work on the map! This was needed, as the open street map of the area had numerous omissions and inaccuracies such that I did wonder if it would be wiser to pull out. On the night however, the only inaccuracy that caused problems was a last-minute error by me dropping the circle for control 7 on the wrong path junction when transferring OMap to purple pen. Apologies to the runners for whom it obviously did not ping, and anyone who ran past where it was marked on the map has been able to claim it.

In planning, I wanted to take you to some of the more interesting corners of Kinver, including visits to the best Christmas lights. I also wanted to give the fastest runners an open-ended challenge in which it would not be possible to clear the course within the hour. I succeeded in this, but only just! A heroic run by Richard Price in which he completed 14.74km at a pace of 4:11 almost cracked it, but he ended up 1:33 over and one control short. And this was a course with lots of contours! Eloise Lee was equally impressive running 11.5km, only 50 seconds over. Three newcomers turned out on the night through Andy's work on Facebook, including two Kinver locals. All three had great runs. Jenny Uff also had her first go at a NSL event and seemed to thoroughly enjoy it – it's always good to try new things.

Eleven of us followed the run with a meal in The Vine Inn who had been very accommodating of us and couldn't have been more helpful.

Mandy Mackereth