

Droitwich Night Street League 17th February 2022

Although I had competed in a couple of NGOC night store events a few years back, I have to admit to being pretty daunted by the concept of getting to grips with the technology as a planner. Fortunately John L has patience in bucketloads, so with his guidance it did eventually all come together - much to my relief.

I accept that the holy grail for a planner in a score event is to design the event so that one runner cleans the course.

Instead, on this event, my main aim was to find interesting places to go to, while maximising the use of traffic free paths to add to the interest. This did lead to the discovery that many of the pathways were unmapped in the housing estates, but I attempted to locate controls in these locations reasonably close to a unique feature wherever possible to enable re-location if required.

The intention was to provide two clusters of controls, with options to either join them with roughly direct routes of choice, but providing plenty of outliers to tempt the faster runners to the extremities of the maps. This did mean that it was highly unlikely that all would be visited, and indeed it took me a full hour to pass them all on the bike! Apologies to the purists who may rightly feel that this perhaps detracts from the ideal, but having once badly underestimated the speed of some of our members I now prefer to err on the side of too long rather than too short.

The pub, once again looked, after us well, with the bonus of a large car park - and we were fortunate that it was relatively quiet that evening.

Congrats to Richard & Eloise in their impressive runs, and hope to see you soon in Bewdley.

Colin Palmer.