

Codsall Soft Play Area 'Event'

29 February 2024

The use of the Jungle Boogie centre provided Richard Price with the opportunity to provide some indoor orienteering as an add-on to the Codsall NSL MapRun event.

Richard had trailed this in the event flyer and I expected us to be running round a large building with a complex set of rooms and maybe stairs but instead all of the action took place in a small soft play area. Looking at the area which probably measured 10m x 10m I couldn't see how it would take more than a couple of minutes to find one's way round but over 12 minutes later I was eating my words (see results below).

Everyone that tried it emerged with a big, and rather rueful, smile, having been up and down slides, wallowing in a ball pit and squeezing through some soft horizontal rollers.

| POSITION | NAME | TIME |
|----------|-------------------|-------|
| 1 | Tim Critchlow | 06:39 |
| 2 | Matt Price | 06:43 |
| 3 | James Thomas | 06:55 |
| 4 | Molly Browne | 07:44 |
| 5 | Eloise Lee | 08:49 |
| 6 | Annmarie Sheward | 10:20 |
| 7 | Emma Yeardley | 10:36 |
| 8 | Rebecca Critchlow | 10:52 |
| 9 | Claire Cotton | 12:42 |
| 10 | John Leeson | 12:47 |
| 11 | Mandy Mackereth | 13:28 |
| 12 | Peter Langmaid | 14:09 |
| 13 | Ray Collins | 14:31 |
| 14 | Ian Hopkins | 15:08 |
| 15 | Lee Cotton | 18:22 |
| 16 | William Gibson | 06:00 |

Eloise' Strava track gives an idea of the tortuous nature of the course that Richard had devised, and the photos of Mandy and Peter in action give some idea of the terrain. There was enthusiastic talk of having an event at a larger soft play area, so if someone would like to pick up such an idea there will be at least 16 takers!

Many thanks to Richard for devising this course and opening our eyes to a new, and different, style of orienteering.

