

Night Street League Season Overview and Final Results

Timed perfectly, the winter Night Street League came to an end as spring arrived and I'm typing this overview of the season with sun shining through the window and birdsong in the garden.

Firstly, I want to thank all of the club members who took the time to plan one of the series of eight events. Without their input the season would not happen. As well as some members who have planned events before, and who took us to some new areas that they'd found, Richard Stanley and Steve & Corrie Blackmore planned their first MapRun events and in both cases laid on interesting evenings of navigation in King's Norton and in Warndon, in Worcester, respectively.

The series included events in all reaches of the HOC territory, from the centre of Birmingham, to the banks of the River Severn as it flows through Stourport, to the the outskirts of Wolverhampton and down to the outskirts of Worcester.

The OpenO Map/ MapRun format seems to be working well and, I hope it's fair to say, proved to be reasonably straightforward for our planners to use. As was the case last year, we have made donations to both Open O Map and MapRun to reflect the value that they have brought to our events.

I'd also like to thank all of the runners who attended the NSL events and very often the convivial pub meals afterwards. In all, 57 runners attended at least one of the series' events which generated a total of 150 runs. While most runners were HOC members, we also attracted visitors from clubs like NGOC, BOK, DEE, SUFFOC and SWOC as well as a number of independent runners, including James Burn who attended four events after having ago at the King's Norton event. We hope to see him at other events in the summer.

Awards for the most enthusiastic NSL runners go to Ben Crone, Peter Langmaid, Andy Howman and Richard Stanley, who all attended each event.

Congratulations are due to the series champions;

Ladies Open	Eloise Lee
Ladies Veteran	Mandy Mackereth
Ladies Super Vet	Jenny Uff
Men's Open	Ben Crone
Men's Veteran	Steve Blackmore
Men's Super Vet	Robert Vickers

Eloise, Mandy and Jenny get to keep their trophies, as does Ben, but I'll make sure that Steve and Robert get theirs ASAP.

As many of you will know, Eloise and Simon are moving to Sheffield, so the ladies' crown will pass on to someone else next year.

From a personal standpoint, I really enjoyed visiting some new areas, like Stourport and parts of Longbridge that are just opening up as the old car factory site is redeveloped. An unexpected surprise for me at Longbridge was coming across one of Anatomix' foxes on the

bridge at Control 25 of a very wet run back in January. In January it was very gloomy and not all of the runners who visited the control noticed the foxes!



Anatomix is a Halesowen based artist, whose foxes are seen all over the West Midlands, including on the side of a house that many runners passed during the Worcester urban last year.

Looking ahead to the next NSL series, it would be great to visit Malvern again, and hopefully Bromsgrove, where I understand that Karen Thompson already has a course planned. If you have any ideas for an event or would like to have a go at planning one for the first time, don't hesitate to contact me.

John Leeson, NSL Coordinator

