



## **Sandbach Christmas Lights Spunch - Wednesday 11 Dec - Final Details V1 - PLEASE READ**

- Everything is at or near The Swan & Chequers, 16 Hightown, Sandbach CW11 1AE. Registration from just after 1700 to 1930. Start window 1715ish to 1930. (Last start for 90min courses at 1915)
- **There is good parking in public car parks all within 6 minutes walk from the venue.** Car share or come by train, bike or on foot if you can. Sandbach Train Station is a 2.2k flat walk away.
- Bag drop available inside the venue (at your own risk)
- **Take great care when arriving, parking & leaving - there will be runners, walkers and other vehicles around and all in the dark.**
- **No need to panic or rush when parking - we will give you a late start within reason!**
- **Make sure you have the MapRun app installed and your Smartphone/Garmin well charged**
- On the MapRun app Select Event: **UK/Spunch/Autumn24/Sandbach 60 or 90** - Please do this at home or work where you have good wifi or data signal before you come to the event.
- Food & drinks are available at the venue after you have finished.
- **No muddy shoes inside the venue please (you will only encounter mud in a few places)**
- SpunchPix photo comp to win a pair of free entries to a future Spunch event
- If you are new to Spunch events, please read ALL the details - they will help you! If you are an experienced Spuncher then you can skip the last two pages.
- If you are a newcomer or a walker, we recommend the longer 90 min course as this provides more time for you to get into the swing of it, and see the best of the area.
- **Most of the course is on well surfaced paths, trails or streets. You should only get muddy shoes if you venture off the paths in the greener areas or where the map is marked up with "MUD". There are some dark alleys and unlit trails - you will need a torch!**
- **Festive themed outfits are positively encouraged (but not compulsory!). Spot prizes for any particularly good efforts!**

### **The Golden Rules**

- You take part entirely at your own risk. Parents / guardians are responsible for taking care of any accompanying children and / or dogs.
- Think Safe - Stay Safe - especially on roads, around traffic, road crossings, rail crossings, animals, other runners, walkers, cyclists and water hazards.
- Please also consider personal safety. Run in a pair or small group. Or if running alone maybe carry a whistle.
- **It will be dark! WE STRONGLY ADVISE WEARING HI VIS CLOTHING. WE STRONGLY ADVISE CARRYING A TORCH OR HEAD TORCH. YOU MUST CARRY A MOBILE PHONE**
- If you are running / walking with juniors under 18, please keep them safe too!
- Dress appropriate to weather
- **You must report to the finish after your run so that we know you are back safely**
- You must finish by 21:00 - before we call the rescue services!
- Stay only on permitted routes & respect private property - don't trespass, don't cross walls or fences other than at stiles/gates or other allowable or marked crossing points.
- Don't go out of bounds (cross-hatched areas) or cross any hard boundaries as indicated on the map
- **Anyone found to be deliberately and illegally short-cutting, or climbing fences or walls, will be docked at least the value of 2 checkpoints (minus 40) for each transgression and may face disqualification**
- **Don't go within 25m of the Finish until you are actually ready to finish! The finish at the Swan & Chequers Courtyard gates**
- Please read at least the section on **Safety & Reputation**

## **Event Centre**

Parking, toilets, bag drop, registration, start, finish, food and drink are all at or near the venue

📍 Swan & Chequers What3Words [heartburn.pastime.evenly](https://www.what3words.com/heartburn.pastime.evenly)

It is easy to find using GoogleMaps or similar, and will not be signed.

## **Travel & Car Parking**

**Car Parking for this event is self-select and unsupervised.** Car parking is available in one of several nearby Cheshire East public car parks all within 6 mins walk. They are FREE and unlimited after 6pm. There may be a small charge (maybe £1) if you arrive before 6pm - please check the signs!

The three biggest are Scotch Common, Brookhouse Road and Chapel Street.

Car parking in Waitrose car park is not recommended. **It is controlled by ANPR and if you overstay then you may get a demand for £100.**

**Please share transport if you can, arrive early and park legally, courteously and safely.**

If you are running late don't panic - we will give you a late start within reason!

Bikes: Bikes can be locked at the venue (but entirely at your own risk).

Public Transport: Train is an option. Sandbach Tain Station is a 2.2k flat walk from the venue and is well served by trains from Manchester, Wilmslow, Crewe and beyond.

## **The Map**

The event uses an A4 waterproof OpenOrienteering (OO) simplified street map at a scale of about 1:11,000. 1cm on the map = 110m IRL. The 99 Spunchpoints (checkpoints/controls) are pre-marked with circles; the start and finish are very close to the venue and marked by a double circle. **Please familiarise yourself with the positions of start and finish before you set off.** **The Spunchpoints can be visited in any order.**

## **SpunchPoint Specials**

We have placed some of the points very near some of the more audacious residential Christmas light displays. We hope you like them.

## **Safety & Reputation**

**Roads / traffic** – The course has been planned to avoid use of long sections of road where there is no pedestrian pavement or where traffic levels or speed present a more significant risk. Nevertheless some of your course will be on roads or streets with varying traffic levels. You will find yourself using or crossing some of the roads.

**PLEASE TAKE GREAT CARE USING OR CROSSING ANY ROADS - CHECK AND DOUBLE CHECK IN BOTH DIRECTIONS BEFORE CROSSING.**

**In particular at this event the VERY BUSY A534 bisects the area. There is a safe pedestrian path all the way along one side of this road. There are also safe parallel paths in the woodland on each side of the road. PLEASE ONLY CROSS THIS ROAD AT THE OBVIOUS SAFE CROSSING POINTS!**

**Be especially careful at junctions and in the surroundings of the event centre near the start and finish where there will be others both in vehicles and on foot. DO NOT TAKE RISKS AROUND TRAFFIC. WEAR HI VIS CLOTHING! YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR YOUR OWN SAFETY**

**Personal Safety / Stranger Danger** - At these night events it is dark. Some of the paths and trails are unlit and not well used. It is always safer to run as a pair or small group. We can usually pair you up if you wish. If you prefer to run alone, please consider your safety and maybe carry a whistle or similar. **YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR YOUR OWN SAFETY**

**Other visitors & locals** – Please give way to motorcyclists, cyclists, other runners and walkers and their dogs - all popular in this area. If you meet other competitors, members of the public or land owners (particularly around locals' homes) please behave with courtesy.

**Dogs** - If you bring a dog, then please keep your dog on a lead and under close control at all times and clean up any mess.

**Surface Conditions** - At this time of year paths and pavements can be damp, or icy, or covered in leaves - they can be slippery. You may also encounter pot holes, cobbles or steps. **TAKE CARE - PUT SAFETY FIRST.**

**Water Hazards** - Your route may take you alongside the brook and Dingle Lake. **Please take great care of yourself and take care of your children and / or dogs around water. STAY ON THE PATHS AND ONLY CROSS WATER VIA THE BRIDGES**

**Weather** – The current forecast is for a dry but chilly evening (6 degreesC). **Conditions can change quickly, so please plan to dress accordingly and carrying a warmer layer and a waterproof and windproof top is always recommended.**

**Stick to the rights of way & legal crossing points** - Please do not go off permitted paths, tracks, access land and lanes. **Under no circumstances should you go out of bounds, trespass or cross fences or walls other than at easily recognised crossing points. If it doesn't feel right then it probably isn't!**

**Under 16s must be accompanied by a parent/guardian**

**You must carry a mobile phone for safety** - The emergency phone number is Andy Thornton on 07751 932749. This is shown on the map. Please put this into your phone. It can be used if you are lost / injured / need to be recovered or to report any other situations requiring urgent attention.

**You must report to the finish at the end of your run so that we know you are back**

### **Food & Drink**

**After your run/walk food & drink will be available back at the Swan and Chequers. A variety of snacks and meals in the price range £6-£15 will be available, as well as a vast range of drinks from the bar. Please support our local hosts and stick around for a drink and maybe some food after your outing.**

### **SpunchPix Photo Comp - Win free entry to a future event**

We like to see pics of **smiley people with maps!** Selfies, posed pics, group pics, fun and humour especially well received! Perhaps with a Christmas Lights backdrop?

Any pics WhatsApp'd (07751932749) or emailed ([1andythornton@gmail.com](mailto:1andythornton@gmail.com)) to Andy within 48 hours of the event will be considered for the SpunchPic of the day photo comp.

The SpunchPic of the day photo taker will receive a pair of free entries to a future Spunch event of their choice. Get snapping!

### **Digital Review System (DRS) Appeal**

We are continuing to trial a new method of making an appeal in the event that your MapRun App didn't beep at a Spunchpoint when you think it should have (or for any other tech problems or appeals). To make an appeal at this event please use the NEW DRS appeal submission form which can be found via the **i** button adjacent to the event name on your MapRun phone app. Thanks again to Ian Watson for developing this facility.

### **Acknowledgements**

Big shout outs to:

- Chris Hatton, Jess Lawrence and Oakey for local knowledge, advice and field checking the SpunchPoint sites.
- The Swan & Chequers for hosting us - especially Matt, Jaki & their team
- All the other helpers involved in making these events possible both in advance and on the day (you know who you are)

That's all - see you tomorrow / Wednesday!  
Andy Thornton - Events Co-ordinator.

**You must report to the finish at the end of your run so that we know you are back.**

## **NEW TO SPUNCH EVENTS?**

If you are an experienced Spuncher then you can probably skip the rest. If you are a newbie or less experienced then please read and digest!

### **Event Format**

The event is a 60 or 90 minute score event. You can choose whether to go for 60 or 90 minutes when you "Select Event" on the MapRun app. There are usually around 50-99 checkpoints (Spunchpoints) – you visit as many as you can in any order within your chosen time limit. Each checkpoint visited scores you 20 points. There is a 10 point penalty for each minute or part minute that you are late back. It is rare that anyone will be able to "get the lot" - but sometimes it is possible.

There are no flags or markers at the checkpoints, and nor is there a description sheet as all checkpoints are at, on, or very near to a self-evident feature (e.g. junction, footbridge, path bend etc) on the map.

**You must stay on the rights of way and other permitted routes as shown on the map - you must not take "illegal" short-cuts or trespass across fields or other private land where there is no public right of access. You must not cross walls and fences other than at recognised stiles & gates etc. Nor must you use routes which are marked as prohibited. We follow these rules to ensure fair competition, to maintain good relationships with landowners and other members of the public, and to safeguard you and the reputation of the sport. If you are in any doubt about interpreting the map, please ask.**

### **Illegal short cutting will be penalised!**

**Anyone found to be deliberately and illegally short-cutting, or climbing fences or walls, will be docked at least the value of 2 checkpoints (minus 40) for each transgression. That is the value of the checkpoints at the start and end of the illegal route. Flagrant or repeated breaches will result in disqualification.**

The MapRun app will be used for start and finish timing, recording visits to checkpoints and results production. In order to feature in the results you will need to use the MapRun app on your smartphone or MapRunG on your Garmin. If you are using a Garmin, please also carry your mobile phone for safety reasons.

Your result should be automatically uploaded immediately after you have finished so that it appears in the on-line results (but this is subject to phone data / wifi signal - not always available at the venue). If your result doesn't automatically appear, you can do a manual upload when you have wifi or a data signal. Native MapRun results [HERE](#) Spunch all-in-one-place views [HERE](#)

**If you don't get a beep at a Spunchpoint AND you know you are in the right place, then just continue on your run and make an appeal to the Digital Review System (DRS) official after you have finished!** If it is clear from your GPS track that you should be credited with the points for the missing beep control(s) then you will be! Please make your appeal on the day of the event at the event centre before you go home (so that the results can be finalised for everyone's benefit at the event). Late appeals will only be considered in exceptional circumstances!

You will be issued with a waterproof map. A compass can be helpful but not mandatory. Also carry a timing device to ensure you stay within the time limit.

### **MapRun App**

You will need the MapRun app on your smartphone:

Whilst you are at home, before you come to the event:

- Ensure you have the app loaded on your device and **your User Profile details entered**
- Ensure your device battery is well charged
- "Select Event" from the MapRun home screen on the app and download the event as shown on Page 1
- Also we recommend going to "Options and Settings" from the MapRun home screen and checking 2 settings: 1. Check that the "Hide pts accuracy worse than (m)" is set to 20, then
- 2. Browse down to the "Check Notification Settings" in order to ensure you are going to get an audible SpunchBeep!

If you have any queries in advance about MapRun you can message Andy on 07751 932749. If you are a new MapRun user, please make it known at Registration - there will be help available on the day to get you going!

### **Registration / Start & Finish Process**

Registration will be in or just outside the venue. Enquiries and advice will also be available at Registration. **You must go to Registration to sign in and collect your waterproof map before going to the Pre-Start.** You will be able to look at your map and plan your route / strategy before you start.

There will be a rolling start, at your convenience within the start window. We may open the start a little earlier if we are ready. (This is to help spread the impact on the start / finish officials - It is likely to be busy, please be patient).

On arrival go to registration to have your name checked off on the start / safety list and to get your waterproof map. For those entering on the day pay for your entry online via SiEntries or by CASH only. There will be no card machine!

- You can then proceed to the Pre-Start very close by. The pre-start official will be there to meet you and ensure you have a successful start. When your GPS has settled and you have got a “green” GPS fix you will be able to proceed from the pre-start to the actual start.
- **If you do not get a ‘beep’ at the start, return to the pre-start and we will try to fix any problem. DO NOT continue unless you have got the start ‘beep’.**
- The finish will also be nearby - usually very near the pre-start. You must get a ‘beep’ at the finish to complete your run correctly. **You MUST report your name to the finish official so we know you have returned safely and can tick you back-in on the safety list.** Please do not go near the finish until you are actually ready to finish - if you go within about 25m of the finish mid-run there is a risk your device will record the finish before you wanted it to!

### **MapRun Live Tracking**

MapRun Live Tracking provides the MapRun administrator a real time view of where the runners are located during the event. Periodically during your run (eg. every 60 seconds) the MapRun App sends your location to the MapRun system. The size of the data transmitted is trivial, and there is an insignificant impact on the phone’s battery. The runners’ location appears on the administrator’s console, and for data protection reasons, nowhere else.

Is every runner to be tracked? No. Live tracking is dependent on phone data signal and so doesn’t work with Garmin, and anyone can use “Options and Settings” on their smartphone App to turn Live tracking on or off.

Why do we use live tracking? Because it is an additional safety feature. In the event that a participant fails to return to the finish, this feature might just help us come and find you!

**You must report to the finish at the end of your run so that we know you are back**