

Organiser's Comments – Gill Sharp

Thanks to all who came for a run, we hope you enjoyed yourselves ☺. Weather was a bit drizzly for early competitors, but rain stopped for later runners and our control collectors did their job in the sun, which also dried our tents and equipment. I felt for the competitor who'd cycled all the way from Kingston and arrived soaked from a heavy shower on the way!

Our 'usually-trusty' generator started up, then threw a hissy fit and spluttered to a halt mid-morning – Starbucks came to our rescue, allowing us to plug in our computer within the cafe near the door for download. Our second back-up plan was going to be running the computer off a car battery using a borrowed inverter. Lesson to be learned here – have a contingency plan (at least one!) in place for generator breakdown – an inverter as part of the club kit would certainly be a wise purchase. There were a few SIAC issues which are discussed in the Planners comments.

Thanks to Planner-Paul, Controller-Pete and Computer-Guru-Steve and all the SN helpers who did a fantastic job on the day, as always a totally reliable and dependable crew, especially helpful when things happen that weren't in the game plan!

Planner's Comments – Paul Fox

I hope the long walk to the Far Start was felt to be worthwhile, and enabled all senior competitors to experience more of the interesting parts of the map. Some legs were puzzle-solving, and some were designed to give genuine choices. According to RouteGadget many of the alternatives were used by at least one of you, and some of you made choices (errors?) that I had never anticipated. This always makes a planner happy!

We had to take a judgement on the safety of the junior courses, as we were unable to guarantee a completely traffic-free course, but finishing through the deserted office park on a Sunday morning provided a get-out.

Apologies for any confusion caused by touch-free punching. We had intended start and finish to be in standard mode, requiring everyone to punch (safety check), but set them up incorrectly. One disadvantage of SIAC is that the competitor's SI card is NOT registered on the control box when you punch. The majority of disqualifications due to mis-punching were at controls 220/236, with people spotting 220 before they'd arrived at 236.

We decided to leave the 3 minute limit on the timed-out leg. A few people took longer but it did not significantly affect the overall results. It would have been much more complex to try and establish different limits for different courses (age bands). Use of "optional" controls for the railway crossing on courses 1 and 2 also tested our event set-up skills, but Splitsbrowser still struggles with the concept.

And finally: a plea to all competitors to respect "not to be crossed" features on the map. This includes all areas mapped in olive green, even if they appear to be penetrable or jumpable. The future of urban orienteering and the goodwill of private landowners relies on our ability to respect our own rules and understand our own maps. Check out Steve Rush's photos for one obvious transgression caught on camera ...