

SN Trophy Planner's Comments

My task as Planner was to give you all the opportunity to test yourself against the best bits of the forest at the appropriate level. This task was made a wee bit harder by the restriction imposed on me by Natural England who required me to avoid all areas of wetland habitat, particularly that really complex hillside in the middle of the map and the flat area above it – Caesar's Camp.

I wanted to have the Start and Finish close to Assembly to avoid long walks and hanging around in potentially bad weather. As it turned out this wouldn't have been a huge issue. I also wanted to give as many of you as possible to experience the great variety of terrain types that make up LVS, from the Open Moorland, through the complex and sometimes steep sided woodland slopes, to the country park-like area, trying to make changes of pace a key aspect of the challenge.

In some areas the bracken was a concern. I gambled that this would be dying down sufficiently by the end of November, and I think I just about won that bet. However, my Controller was worried about this and urged me to change one control – I wish I had because this was the one control that did have a problem – but not because of the bracken (which I beat down around it a fortnight ago). I hadn't spotted the slight inaccuracy in the map in that area, so I apologise to those who were affected.

Admittedly Planning is a time consuming job, but its highly rewarding too. There's the opportunity to get out and spend time exploring the area, including learning an appreciation of the Mapper's craft. Then there's the challenge of setting courses which will test competitors, reviewing options for legs to maximise the quality. Finally, there is the experience on the day of seeing how other's handle the tests you've set. Watching discreetly as competitors approach one of the more complex controls is fascinating. If you are relatively new to Orienteering why not volunteer to be a co-planner, thereby obtaining the benefits whilst learning about course setting from a more experienced orienteer. Your own navigation will benefit from it, and you'll thoroughly enjoy it.

As a relative newcomer to SN (having moved south from Airienteers just over a year ago) I was grateful for SN approach to helping the Planner with people volunteering to assist with putting out and bringing in the controls. My thanks to them for making my job so much easier.

Finally, I would like to thank Tim Pugh for his advice and support. His diligence in checking all aspects probably saved these notes being much longer as I might have had to do a fair bit of apologising. Thanks Tim.

Regards

Dave

SN Trophy Controller's Comments

Once again, SN has staged a successful high class event. On behalf of all of the competitors, I wish to thank them for their time and efforts.

From comments at the finish from young and old, everyone seemed to enjoy themselves on some challenging courses, so special thanks to Dave Chapman for all his hard work in the last weeks.

Several competitors did take time to mention 236 to us and it was interesting to hear the contrasting and inconsistent views of both this site and the map in the immediate vicinity. With hindsight, I wish that we had not used this site and I am sorry if it reduced your enjoyment of your course and your day.

Ross had everything well organised and kept smiling throughout the last few weeks and at the event. Nothing seemed too much for him. Our thanks are due to him, his team leaders and all helpers. I must add my own thanks to Paul Wallace Stock and Steve Keyes for helping to ensure controls were in the right place, literally, I could not have done it without you.

Thank you SN, it was pleasure to be involved with you all again.

Tim Pugh (GO)

SN Trophy Organiser's Comments:

Firstly and most importantly, thank you for attending The SN Trophy at Long Valley South.

On reflection I believe the event was a great success, although a crisp and fresh day, the threat of snow or poor weather held off allowing the competitors to compete in blue skies and sunshine on one of the better areas in the South East for fast and furious orienteering, with the odd bit of technical navigation in the more complicated parts of the map.

A lot of planning needs to take place to ensure a successful event and as a first time organiser of a regional event, I would like to thank Tim Pugh as controller for his excellent advice and guidance and the support of numerous SN members, these include Paul Wallace-Stock, Jane Archer, Steve McKinley, Pete Jones, Phil Beale, John Brown, Dave Chapman and many more (you know who you are)!

I would also like to extend my gratitude to the myriad of helpers from SN who turned up bright and early, take control of the tasks at hand and get us ready to provide a high quality orienteering event. This is high-lighted by the fact that we were able to get competitors out on the course way before the planned start of 10am. The willingness and helpfulness of club members to come and support these events makes the Organiser's job so much easier, so I thank you all for your great efforts and the cheerful disposition in which you deliver it.

Linda Cairns organised two variations of Naughty Numbers (Symbols or Numbers), with 48 competitors, it is great to see the kids and some adults tearing around the course and enjoying the competitive side of the sport in a controlled environment.

I heard no negative comments about the event and I am sure you all enjoyed your courses as much as I did, which were excellently planned by Dave Chapman. If you have any feedback, please do not hesitate to pass it on, so we can ensure we make our next event even better.

Thanks once again.

Ross Maclagan.