

SN Goldsworth Park – Saturday 16th July 2016

Organiser's Comments

I hope you all enjoyed your run in Surrey suburbia, and coped with the unexpected heat wave on the day. Steve planned some great courses, making full use of the new map extension and keeping you thinking as you moved through blocks of varying character. I grew up within walking distance of the area when it used be a garden nursery and farmland in the early 1970's – equally challenging navigation for an inquisitive 9-year-old exploring without a map, but times were different then!

I am sorry if any gents were inconvenienced (pun fully intended!) by the out of order public toilet. The hockey club across the field did later allow use of their facilities as a fallback, and some of you politely and carefully shared the ladies' facilities. Thank you for your cooperation.

Some of you enquired as to why the start times were so late. I know of at least two reasons on this occasion:

1. The Organiser lived nearly 50 miles away, and most of the officials and helpers have had a hard week at work and appreciate a slightly more leisurely start to their weekend
2. There were other Saturday morning sport activities in the park (junior football etc.) and we would probably not have had enough parking spaces available before 1130.

The “uncrossable” wall by control 235 (courses 1-3) was the scene of at least two witnessed incidents of a rule violation. I remind you of the sentence in the final details regarding features mapped as “impassable” (meaning “forbidden to cross”): “you **must not** cross such features even if this appears to be physically possible”. People who navigated correctly to the high side of this wall, at the end of one of the best legs on the course, should not have their skill and advantage undermined by an act of cheating to save a few seconds. “Uncrossable” or “impassable” features on urban maps are usually determined by either privacy, safety, or landowner restrictions. You don't know which of these applies, so please just respect the mapping of the feature and stick to the rules. To do otherwise is not only cheating – it may be risking either your safety or our future use of the area. **You are invited to disqualify yourself by notifying the Organiser if you now realise that you broke the rules.** We will amend the results and any league points accordingly.

Finally, a big thank you to my team of cheerful helpers on the day and to my fellow officials – Steve for the planning, and Ian & Helen for controlling. At one point during the event Steve, Ian and I were sat together like the Three Wise Monkeys on one of the benches overlooking the finish. We had little to contemplate, other than musing over which one of us would choose not to see, speak or hear if an unlikely protest were to come our way!

I hope you all enjoyed yourselves and had a nice cool drink somewhere later. I'm sure we'll be running on Goldsworth again in the future, and I hope you've seen enough to want to return.