

Controller's Comments: Charlie Turner

Well done SN for putting together today's event which from general feedback was challenging and enjoyable. The day was only possible thanks to Debbie, Colin and Pete, who organised, planned and did the map extension/updates respectively. They worked well as team, keeping to an agreed timeline and leaving a slot for last minute changes. This made controlling fairly straight forward and was much appreciated.

Planner's Comments: Colin Swallow

Although I have planned a couple of level C events and numerous level D events I have never planned a level B and so I was quite apprehensive when I agreed to plan the SN Trophy. Old Windmill Hill is a great orienteering area with plenty of contour detail but initially we did not have permission for use of the area eventually used for parking. As the only alternative parking was North of the map this meant all courses would have started at the far north of the map and been funnelled out and back through the narrow neck of land linking Colony gate and Old Windmill Hill. This would have been very restricting but fortunately the parking area actually used became available, greatly improving things. It just meant re-planning all the courses!

Old Windmill Hill is quite small even with the Colony Gate extension hence no Black course, a double sided map for the Brown and the other courses being convoluted. I tried to plan challenging courses and knew they were towards the upper end of the BOF guidelines for length and climb (though a lot of the climb as measured by BOF guidelines was avoidable). From the feedback I received, other than the Very Short Green which definitely had too much climb and for which I apologise, I hopefully got it about right, although this might have been helped by the fantastic weather.

The gate in the fence separating Colony Gate from Old Windmill Hill caused some competitors from the North Start confusion as, although marked on the map and control descriptions as a compulsory crossing point, it was shut when they approached it and they assumed it could not be opened. On future events either manning the gate or a note in the final details might avoid this.

Although I have orienteered for many years I found I learnt a lot from planning this event, especially the amount of attention to detail that is needed (I still missed the fact that control numbers 168 and 158 were close together, although within guidelines on different features) and very much appreciated the help and advice I was given by Charlie Turner, as controller and people within SN, in particular Pete Jones who also mapped Colony Gate and also did some other map updates for the event.

Organisers Comments: Debbie Robinson

I hope you all enjoyed running on such a lovely area as much as I did today. Thank you to all the SN helpers who ran the show so efficiently and gave me the confidence to leave my post for a short run (I was going to say "quick" but that would give the wrong impression...) At the end of the event, there was the inevitable lost property - a hat (found in Assembly) and a compass (found near control 159) - so please contact me if they are or may be yours. Last but not least, thank you to Colin for taking on the challenging task of planning the courses and to Charlie for all his wise inputs and help.