

Planners/organisers comments.

I have been involved at Rough Wood for about 6 months.

As a member of the Walsall Countryside volunteers I was surprised to find the programme for the next few weeks included installing Orienteering posts at Rough Wood, on my patch.

Although Chris McCartney got the whole 6 map project rolling with funding (partly through Peter Christopher) and had designed the positioning of all controls, and painted the numbers on all the fence posts, I did much of the rest of the work.

I felt it was worthy of a C4 event, particularly for the very detailed areas just North of the canal. As the area cannot be used between February and May, I tried to squeeze it into the calendar. The option chosen was to replace the original area for the New Years day score with Rough Wood. You saw the area probably at its best. The vegetation gets thick in the summer, and when I went to paint on controls 9 and 21 that I had planted a few months earlier I couldn't find them in the 5 foot undergrowth.

The area however is fairly small and I realised I would have to have two circuits. I was constrained to 35 controls as most competitors still have the earlier SI models. This worked well as only two competitors got the lot, and the rest of you had more to pick and choose what you went for.

We had been a bit concerned about vandalism, as the area is surrounded by houses and there are a few youth dens in the tricky area. Amazingly not a single post has been damaged since installation in the summer, and the SI units, which we did rather hide, were untouched.

In another project, I have been re-instating way-markers on the 17 mile Beacon Way, and nearly 100 were smashed within days, most disheartening.

I would particularly like to thank Chris for getting the area mapped and for use of the school he teaches at as the event centre, when I was starting to despair of getting anywhere.

Secondly to thank Peter Langmaid who stepped forward to run the SI as the normal operators were not available. Apart from taking full control for the first time, he had to learn how to programme them and write a programme to calculate the club results, and also he got them up on the website within a few hours.

Thirdly to thank Rollo Rumford as controller, who stepped forward when I was having difficulty filling the role. We put the controls out on New Years Eve. His help was invaluable on the day when he checked all controls, and placed the SI units on 12 stakes we had considered vulnerable whilst I concentrated on the Organising side.

I'm sorry the start was rather a rush, the walk taking a bit longer than I thought when doing the first flyer, and I would have liked to close registration at 11am. I hope you all understood that you could start part 2 without completing part 1.

Barry McGowan

LAURIE BRADLEY SCORE EVENT – CONTROLLERS COMMENTS

How lucky we were with the sunny but cold weather. Had it been wet, I suspect the enjoyment of walking 25 minutes to the Start might have been lost. Rough Wood has a good mix of terrain and, despite the numerous footpaths, provides a challenge.

Barry's choice of Control sites gave everyone lots of options and, north of the canal, some challenging locations to find.

His two map option made best use of the area and indeed two of the faster runners visited all 35 sites within the 60 minutes.

As many of you may have noticed, the quality of mapping of the multitude of depressions and larger pits just north of the canal varied, making it difficult to identify exactly where you were.

Rollo Rumford
HOC