

Planner's Comments

Shame about the alarmist weather warnings, which must have contributed in some measure to the poor turnout and real thanks to those that did turn out and make it worthwhile. The weather was not exactly kind, but the running conditions were good. The snows in December really annihilated the courses. Before then I was concerned that times would have been a bit on the long side, but in the event I have never seen the western side of Kinver so runnable. You could see some of the controls from at least 100m and run direct. Mostly impossible before the snow. Many areas I avoided would have been perfectly useable on the day.

The 'Edge' divides the area North/South into two narrow strips, so it is difficult to plan courses without unreasonable climbs, hence the slightly shorter courses. Times on the Blue and Green course were a lot quicker than I expected. I never envisaged people getting below or around 50 mins and 40 mins respectively. Well done to you all, Respect!

The snows brought down a lot of trees in the plantation area near the start, The Kinver ranger and his team did a splendid job of clearing them. Many thanks to Adrian for taking on the organisers role at the last minute, without his input the event could not have taken place. The controller Ian Hopkins did an excellent job with the occasional comment to nudge me in the right direction. He spent a lot of time out checking control sites, even with the snow on the ground. Obviously thanks to the many other helpers standing or sitting around in the cold and wet, not tasks to relish in the conditions. Special thanks to the control collectors who having been out getting cold and wet once then took on the extra task of collecting everything in and getting cold and wet again. Thanks also to Tim who helped put out controls on Saturday in the rain and snow, and Sunday morning in the rain and snow and he still went out to collect controls, by which time he had run out of anything dry!

Barry Houghton.

Controller's Comments

Snow seems to be a recurring theme of this event. I allocated two days early December to check control sites and there was 2-4 inches of snow. Snow was again forecast for the weekend and I was checking the weather with the planner till 9:30 on Sat night.

I was concerned about having icy conditions on narrow and hilly access lanes, but Sun morning was clear and dry.

As I was checking controls it was OK till 8am then the temperature dropped and the forecast snow arrived. It provided a nice dusting underfoot.

Many thanks to the planner, organiser and helpers in putting the event on, and the competitors who braved the elements and cold. Attendance was about 50% down, probably due to localised snow elsewhere making journeys difficult.

Those that braved the elements were rewarded with Kinver at its best and most runnable for years. Barry's courses were a challenge and made use of the southern area now that it is all under one ownership.

I thought about making cagoules compulsory, but judging from competitors at the finish most were all wrapped up and dressed for the conditions.

It was good to have parking near the farm shop which did a roaring trade in hot drinks and after-run food.

Ian Hopkins.