

## Halesowen Night Street Event 07 Feb 2019

### Organiser/Planner's Comments

I'd quite fancied putting on an event in this area for a while, as Halesowen town centre and the Hasbury estate to the west nicely fill an A4 map at 1:10 000 without many major roads to cross.

Planning was delayed and a little rushed; I'd carved out some time in late January to get it all ready, but then went down with a heavy cold which knocked things back by a week. So yes, #24 wasn't quite in the right position, there were two monuments at #18 and clues for a couple of the others could have been a bit more explicit. But I've awarded points if it looks like there was a reasonable stab at an answer.

Things to maybe avoid next time:

1. Clues where the answer is 1 – it could be hard to tell a genuine answer from an accidental pen mark
2. Counting more than 5 trees – for #27 I've allowed a margin of 3 either way (I think there are 8)

There was a good turnout of 19 entries (I'd printed 20 maps!) including newcomers Matt and daughter Emma, who scored a very creditable 130 points in just over three-quarters of an hour. It was tight at the top, with Richard making very good use of his hour to bag all the 20 and 30 point controls to beat Dave, who bagged more controls in less time but not all the higher-value ones.

The hill in the centre of the map made it tricky to work out an optimum route. Andy W spent some time with the map at home afterwards and came up with something like 19-25-34-23-28-33-24-30-20-31-10-21-22-32-27-17-18 to give 360 points with one climb of the hill.

No quiz at the pub this time, but the food was good and manager Leon was very accommodating. There was some entertainment as it was open mic night, but none of us orienteers were brave enough to get up and perform! How about a rendition of *I Need Direction* by Teenage Fanclub or *Can't Get There From Here* by REM?

Peter Langmaid