

Saltwells Nature Reserve Summer Series Event 04 Jul 2019

Planner/Organiser's Comments

I was pleasantly surprised by the number of people prepared to brave the traffic and venture into the heart of the Black Country on a Thursday evening. Brownie points for the ones who came by train.

It was a bit of a rush at times dealing with 36 entries, starts and downloads. My laptop and portable printer had to be pressed into service to produce some additional maps and paperwork – thanks to those who offered to recycle maps whilst I got the new colour cartridge working. I was relieved after I got home to find I had a full set of splits.

The good weather also brought out some of the local intelligentsia, who had a go at taking apart a few of the controls. They were all well-gripped so none ended up in the canal, but a couple of SI boxes will be sent off for repair next week. Those who visited #60 but reported it not working have been credited with the points.

Harrison blitzed the course in a very impressive time, followed by Amicia, who omitted the tricky-looking #24 to get home with six seconds to spare. There was close competition amongst HOC's leading men with 21 points separating the top four. Further down the results, newcomer Stuart impressed with a decent haul.

I was impressed by some reports of masochistic direct routes. My tip - at this venue, particularly at this time of year, it's best to make use of the path network as much as possible and look for an easy way in to the control. The planner doesn't want to get stung or scratched either!

Thanks to control and sign collectors Jenny, Roberts V and R, Richard, Mandy, James, Kerstin and Alex.