

Organisers Comments

Birmingham City Urban was three years in the making. Most of you know that we had planned to hold a 'practice' Event in 2020. This was cancelled due to Covid. We had hoped that once Birmingham City Council (BCC) and the other landowners had seen that holding an Orienteering Event was not going to pose any threat to the City then, come 2022, obtaining final permissions were going to be relatively easy. BCC was by now completely embroiled in the preparations for the Commonwealth Games which are due to be held at the end of July. Bob Scott (HOC) had to work tirelessly to make sure everything was in place by June 19th. Tim Milne, City Centre Operations Team, BCC was very supportive of our Event and helped as much as he could in spite of his huge workload. It was extremely stressful at times but he got there in the end! We couldn't have done it without you, Bob. Thank you.

Holding the Event in the year that the Commonwealth Games came to Birmingham was a deliberate decision. We wanted to showcase a City that was undergoing incredible transformations. This created problems for Dave Aldridge (HOC), our planner who went through several drafts of the Courses as new buildings went up, old ones demolished, roads closed etc. Alison Sloman (HOC) was updating the map right up until the last minute. Many, many thanks to both of them.

Bob also found our Event Centre at Moss House. We would have liked to have been closer to the City Centre but the building itself turned out to be ideal. It was on the small side but having a bag drop meant that we could keep areas clear for competitors to move about. Thank you for using it and thank you to the bag drop team who were kept extremely busy!!

Three Clubs were involved in putting on this Event – COBOC, WCH and HOC. COBOC took charge of the smooth running of Moss House, WCH ran the Start and HOC were responsible for the Finish, SI and Registration. Members of all three Clubs (and two from SARUM) worked together to man each of the areas where necessary. We had a fair number of marshals dotted around mostly to take care of the Junior runners – with four on standby waiting for the answer to the question “will the trams be running to Centenary Square or not?” Well the trams weren't but with a week to go, buses suddenly appeared along Broad Street and the marshals were back on duty. A HUGE thank you to all 53 people who helped on the day.

Finally thank you to Richard Lewis, our Controller, who supported Dave well and asked all the right questions. Thankfully our Jury, comprising Adrian Pickles (WRE), Barry Elkington (OD) and Doug Dickinson (DVO) were not called upon. Interestingly Barry and Doug both won their Classes and Adrian came second (to Barry). A class act.

We were very lucky with the weather – the previous Friday having been super-hot. The rain which we had at Coventry had passed so conditions were near perfect. As for Birmingham itself - the Clubbers were on their way home while the controls were being put out at 06:00; a Dance Festival entertained us all throughout; and we have the Commonwealth Games to look forward to. Now, I hear, the Eurovision Song Contest may come to the City!

I think it was worth waiting for! Thank you for coming.

Lesley Brown, Organiser