

Postensplain - CompassSport Cup / trophy heat
13th February 2022

Acknowledgements

We would like to acknowledge the invaluable help from John Fallows of NGOC in providing the CSC/CST results software that allowed us to post results 'as they happened' to the website today – many thanks John!

Planner's Comments:

"At last it's happened! I planned the courses over two years ago - the original event date was scuppered at the last minute by Storm Dennis, then thoughts of holding it the following year were nixed by Covid. Fortunately the forest hadn't changed much and I only had to move two control sites.

The location of the parking field dictated a start and finish in the south-eastern part of the map. However, the vegetation in the far south-eastern bit is apparently too sensitive for orienteers to run through so we had to move up to the old outer enclosure. Luckily most of this bit is really nice so I could bounce the courses around in here a bit before sending most of them up the south-western side of the inner enclosure. We were also told to keep off the mown area around the inner enclosure so the courses had to be planned around that as well.

In general I tried to keep the courses in the nicer parts, of which there were plenty. Unfortunately I couldn't avoid the muddy paths for juniors on White and Yellow. Luckily the fallen tree near #77, which every course encountered, had a decent clearance underneath. I hope no-one forgot to duck!

Thanks to Barry for constructive and calm controlling, and to HOC's team of control collectors, particularly Richard who went out a second time to fetch the one I missed allocating Peter Langmaid.

Organiser's Comments:

Thank you to everyone who helped ensure that we successfully hosted the CSC/CST Qualifying round at Postensplain.

We had over 50 helpers fulfilling all sorts of roles including Charlie Nelson seeking permissions from FE beforehand and identifying a suitable car park and assembly, Mike Napier from NOC who sorted out entries, Kerstin Mitchell and family who brought most of the equipment, Ashley and Mike F and team who sorted out download and results, Jenny Uff and her team who sorted out Registration and Enquiries, Andy H and his team providing First Aid Cover, David Williams and the rest of the start team, Robert Vickers and Brian Huges who manned the finish, Jenny Hunter (from COBOC) and Karen who manned the Maze O, Robert Rose and his team who managed the car parking, Peter Langmaid who planned excellent courses and organised his team of control collectors and who doubled up as search and rescue. I am glad to report that on this occasion that they could concentrate on just collecting controls. We were very fortunate to have Barry Elkington from OD who was a very supportive and wise controller to both Peter and myself.

Over the last few weeks I have received increasing numbers of emails about this event from helpers, team captains and many others. It has been a real challenge to keep on top of all of these and I did my best to do so. There were a few hiccups, including a misunderstanding between Charlie and myself about whether permission from the owners of Button Oak Holiday Park had been obtained which meant we had to change the route to the start finish just the day before the event. With the benefit of hindsight matting would have been helpful in parts of the car-park field today. We seriously considered using it but reckoned we would get away without it. Although it was a struggle for some to get in, everyone managed to get out OK.

As Lesley put it to me - " You didn't organise the weather very well, did you Ian ! " Sadly not.

Postensplain - CompassSport Cup / trophy heat
13th February 2022

I have really enjoyed working with all of you and with all your help, despite the rain and mud, we put on a good show.

I am now looking forward to a warm shower and a good night's rest. Back to the day job tomorrow!

Ian Gamlen.

Controller's Comments:

This event was originally scheduled for February 2020 but was called off when the Forestry Commission closed the entire Wyre Forest for the weekend of Storm Ciara, with the Met Office forecasting winds of 50 to 60 mph.

In the two years since then forestry work and mountain bikers made any thoughts of using the printed maps from 2020 a non-starter.

Fortunately, Alison Sloman was happy to update the map, even making a visit in January to check out some last-minute updates that we had asked for. The result was excellent, so many thanks to her.

Peter only used the best parts of the forest for his courses, and hopefully any memories you may have had of Postensplain being full of brambles have been erased. There were many appreciative comments from competitors after they had run, which were well deserved.

Ian managed all the organisation so that on the day there were no problems, so thanks to him and to all the helpers who turned out in not ideal conditions to enable the smooth running of the event.

I hope that you all enjoyed your day at Postensplain, and good luck to North Gloucester, Harlequins and Wrekin in the final.

Barry Elkington. Octavian Droobers.

And finally, why uncrossable fences should be just that:

