

Weoley Castle NSL Thursday 19 February 2009

Despite a dry start, slight drizzle followed which meant some runners, especially the later starters, were not allowed to overheat on what was a remarkably mild evening when compared to the last two weeks or so. I did a final test-run of the Long a week before in the snow and ice, and for a while I thought it was going to get no further use, but then Tom turned up to save the day.

The street and path network is not as intricate as in some other places, so I was unable to make the navigation particularly complex. I tried to include some degree of route choice on as many legs as I could, and where this included off-road or off-surfaced path to ensure there was also a viable road option, even if it was slightly farther. I don't think anyone took what I thought was the optimum route across the park I had mapped in greatest detail (Medium and Long only), but quite a number of people did cut the corner.

My control placement left a little to be desired, in particular at Medium #4 where all runners agreed with one another on the correct lamppost – and none of them with me! In retrospect the final control on all courses was a little ambiguous, and the one two before that had a rather faint number. I have not applied any penalties for any of these, but for other discrepancies I have added 1 minute each, though this makes no difference to any of the final positions.

There were 13 runners on the night (3 in a group) and the club was almost embarrassed by members (8) being outnumbered by non-members (5) – but not quite. I hope we will see at least some of the newcomers at other events in the near future. I would like to pay particular thanks to Jacky for enabling us to use one of her churches as the venue, which allowed me to take the Long in particular into an area which would not have been reachable from home.

John Embrey