

Stourbridge NSL - 13th February 2025 – Comments

Having planned numerous Night Street events around Stourbridge over the years, I still like to try and find something “different” to do. On this occasion, I extended the map area further east into the “new” territory of Wollescote. Although I had kept the relevant features of the base Open Street Map up-to-date locally since we started using it, this meant I encountered some housing estates and even a delightful wooded dingle where I had never previously set foot, and so gave myself the extra job of surveying these from scratch. It was a revelation to discover such “terra incognita” within a few km of home, and I hope their inclusion increased your experience of the area too.

Thanks to all who attended, and helped to give a good attendance. It was nice to welcome some newer faces, and I was pleased that a number took advantage of the convenient train service to get to Stourbridge. I was pleased with the welcome extended by The Crabmill in hosting our event (especially as it meant I could stay in the warm on a cold, but dry, evening). The food and the beer seemed to be appreciated, too.

I had planned the course to be challenging, and to provide plenty of route selection options, and I believe I succeeded as everyone had to make decisions about what to leave out. I think some were surprised how hilly the east part of this area was, and I had made sure the contours were retained on the map so that people could get an idea of the climb they were considering. I had located several controls at the ends of cul-de-sacs to extend the course length, but apologise if I overdid this as there were comments about having to run up and down a lot of dead ends.

Congratulations to Ben Crone with an impressive 20 out of 30 possible controls, brilliantly timed with just 11 seconds to spare, and to Eloise Lee with 19, heading the W table, albeit nearly a couple of minutes over time. This was her last event before she moves north (with Simon to follow soon after). We are going to miss them both, as they have made such a mark on the NSL scene.

My thanks to Kerstin for her valuable help on registration, thereby giving me a better chance to draw attention to some safety aspects of the area, and to John for his support and encouragement as Coordinator of the League.

Robert Vickers