

Gheluvelt Park SEE 7 June 2005

A beautiful balmy summer evening saw an excellent crowd of 26 runners turn out for a rare event in a HOC calendar, a Sprint 'O' in Worcester. Gheluvelt Park is very small, but recently it has been extended into an area until 3 years ago occupied by Worcester Water works. By also including the North part of Pitchcroft, Worcester's racecourse and some inter-linking streets it was just possible to plan courses long enough for a summer evening event.

As the results show there were some very fast times, with Chris McSweeny running at 6 minutes per kilometre. Despite the lack of technical difficulty, I tried to make it as hard and interesting as possible by rapid changes in direction and some very short legs, which gave very little thinking time. I enjoyed mapping the area, which was originally intended for use in the SMILE series. Judging from the very complimentary comments, helped no doubt by the glorious sunshine, it sounds as if most of the competitors did too.

There were a couple of controls vandalised in the most popular part of the park, where a control tree was in the middle of an energetic football match of some 20 youths. I envisaged all the controls in this area disappearing, but a quick sprint to the area put an end to the misbehaviour.

Personally I believe that park racing is good way forward for many SEE's. Frankly, many of HOC's areas are just no fun to run in after June, when the bracken and bramble can make things very unpleasant. Developing a bit of speed in the Summer for when the vegetation dies back next December seems no bad thing.

Orienteering without proper controls or punches is always slightly less than satisfactory, as there is no independent check that you are at the right place. I have therefore disqualified no-one, but added on small time penalties when a control was not found which definitely was in the right place throughout the event. I have also made a few minor adjustments for other reasons.

Many thanks to all of you for supporting this event, which cannot have sounded the most exciting in the calendar. Also to Kay, without whom I really would have been swamped at registration, start and finish. As it was, I regret that I was not able to chat to as many of you as I would have liked.

Brian Hughes.

Coordinator's Note: This race was brilliant - we must do it again next year - and believe it or not - the navigation *was* a challenge and certainly more fun than some "proper" areas I could name

Long Course 5.2km

1 C. McSweeney	HOC	32-41
2 A. Munro	?	33-39
3 I. Embrey	COBOC/HOC	33-45
4 D. Neveille	HOC	36-03
5 D. Williams	HOC	36-07
6 R. Deardon	HOC	37-48
7 J. Embrey	COBOC/HOC	38-05
8 M. Baggott	HOC	41-09
9 M. Hampton	OD	41-38
10 E. Tebbutt	IND?	44-14
11 P. Ford	HOC	47-10
12 R. Vickers	HOC	51-22

Medium Course 4.0km

1 C. Spears	HOC	35-05
2 R. Fauset	HOC	35-19
3 D. Turnbull	HOC	35-38
4 Lyn. Hartmann	HOC	40-05
5 A. Ford	HOC	42-28
6 C. Lendon	IND?	45-58
7 S. Ford	HOC	47-01
8 C. Farrington	HOC	49-18
9 A. Sloman	HOC	50-05
10 B. Ford	HOC	52-31

Short course 2.4km

1 P. Hemsted	HOC	30-52
2 A. Hemsted	HOC	31-32
3 V. and M. Bell	HOC	36-36

Course X

1 K. Tyson	IND	67-45
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