

Barr Beacon SEE 17.5.2012

The event was run mainly to give those on the Walsall Community project a local opportunity of a 'proper' Orienteering event. Sadly Adrian had his first 2 punters on week 3, and they were unable to attend.

The usual big 3 were competing to win. Unfortunately Richard got stuck in traffic and arrived at 7.30, after the entrance gates had been locked and Dave and John had already collected in half the controls. Richard was however able to visit the controlless controls and collect in the remainder.

2 years ago I had used the permanent controls, but this time I used the normal SEE flags in trickier positions. As the centre of the mile long ridge is fairly bland, there was quite a bit of pinball bouncing.

I was pleased to see as I was putting out controls 6 pairs of juniors from Aldridge School St Francis doing a permanent course as training for a DoE expedition to the Dovedale area. I spoke to many of them, and their teachers, and hopefully we will see them again. I was able to give them Adrian's flyers and give them more details of the Shire Oak and The Arboretum which are both convenient for their school.

Peter Sunley also turned up. He teaches at the fairly local Queen Mary Grammar and brought some kids last time, but his group were on study revision this time. He was there with his wife who I was surprised to find was Angela Manancourt, previous Ad Hoc editor. He hopes to join HOC rather than COBOC.

Richard Wiltshire, a contact of Adrian's, had done his first yellow course at The Arboretum and enjoyed his first testing green and intends coming back for more, if only to find out how people can do courses in 25 minutes that took him 81 minutes.

The Express and Star didn't promote the event, but it did feature in Whatsonwalsall picked up from Walsall Countryside and Sports websites. The ranger had included a big picture of a group of elderly all poring over an OS map. Although this wasn't quite the image I would have gone for, such as Tessa or Harrison competing, but perhaps it's nearer the truth!

Barry McGowan