

Hilltop & Manwood, 2 August 2012

Another typical SEE (Sodden Evening Event) for me, putting out controls in the pouring rain, but you got the sunshine and double rainbow. Apologies for the 40% climb from the car park to the start - worse than Croeso!?

My aim was to give you a run that kept you out of the nasty stuff as much as possible. I tried to anticipate the vegetation growth when planning but the months of rain followed by the previous week's sun and heat meant that the bracken was well over 2m high, making my original carefully planned route choice legs impossible and the courses you got were version 7. Navigationally challenging courses would have meant that you came back lacerated!

It was interesting to watch those at the start who took a compass bearing and went straight to the path through the rough open ... and those who didn't! I taped control sites that I thought might be vandalised but didn't expect control 7 on the Blue to be pinched in an area where I'd never ever seen anyone else. I blame a golfer. You shouldn't have lost much time as the site was obvious. Unlike Mike Baggott who was called upon to do his civic duty by a policeman looking for some youths. Mike showed him on the map where he was and where he'd seen the youths but the officer didn't understand the map and Mike had to retrace his steps and show the officer where, losing seconds/minutes/hours. Handsworth police station has been offered the surplus maps for 'training' purposes.

This was my first major mapping since I did the first maps of Warley Woods and Haden Hill in the 1970s. I gave up mapping and then coaching as I thought my time was better spent organising, planning and controlling. I will return to update the vegetation in November when the bracken is down and we can use many more features in the rough open and light green areas.

Thanks to Thomas Honniball and Alan Segar of OD and Peter Langmaid who stayed to collect in controls and to all of you for coming.

John Bennison

Yellow course (2.1km, 40m, 9 controls):

1. Catherine Bailey + Gamlen gaggle W/M10 HOC/COBOC 28.16

Green course (3.9km, 65m, 17 controls)

1. Andy White	M55	HOC	43.49
2. Adrian Bailey	M45	HOC	45.08
3. John Pearson	M60	HOC	47.09
4. Nigel Cousins	M60	HOC	63.18
5. Colin Palmer	M65	HOC	65.40
6. Alison Sloman	W75	HOC	69.28
7. Robert Vickers	M70	HOC	80.48
Jenny Uff	W60	HOC	controls 2 - 13
Steve Nightingale	M60	HOC	controls 1 - 7,11,12
Lesley Norton	W70	WRE	controls 1 - 6,8,9

Blue course (5.9km, 105m, 22 controls)

1. Thomas Honniball	M21	OD	49.48
2. Andrew Sadler	M21	SHUOC	55.31
3. Alan Segar	M35	OD	55.56
4. Mike Baggott	M60	HOC	64.06
5. Peter Langmaid	M40	HOC	67.19
6. Rod Postlethwaite	M55	WRE	70.45
7. Barry McGowan	M65	HOC	79.57
8. John Middler	M60	OD	82.05
9. Dave Arnot	M65	HOC	82.44
10. Mick Sadler	M60	COBOC	90.07
John Leeson	M50	HOC	controls 1 - 9