

THE 30th ANNIVERSARY CLENT HILLS JUNE JAUNTER - Thursday June 20th 2013

So the June Jaunter is now 30 years old (albeit we missed one year due to Foot & Mouth). I do not think I would have believed, back in 1983 when Dick inaugurated the event, that I would still be able to run the course 30 years later. Enough about me, I'll turn to the event.

We were exceptionally lucky with the weather: despite the threatened thunderstorms it remained dry throughout the event, though the first drops fell as I started my drive homewards down the hill. It was an unusually calm, but distinctly muggy, evening. We began using SI timing 3 years ago, but for the first time I felt able to put out SI controls and proper kites at all three checkpoints, without the need for any marshals. The innovation which made this possible was our adoption of gripples (locking steel wires) to secure the controls against interference.

There seemed to be a mix of fortunes this year: some slower, others faster. Noteworthy were PBs recorded by John Embrey, Andy White, Paul Hammond and Simon Goodwin. This was also the first appearance in the records (surprisingly!) for Andy Hemsted. It was good to have a visit from Barry Parkinson, who was a little concerned that his long-standing all-time record of 18.59 might be threatened, but was able to go home reassured (for this year, anyway). I tried to persuade him to run, but think he is resting on his laurels.

My thanks go to Marian White for running the Organisation while I went out for my own run, and to John Embrey, Andy and Marian White, for collecting the controls and saving me a third ascent of the summits in one evening...

Robert Vickers