

Habberley Valley SEE 25th July 2013

Results

Short Green 2.6k 80m (green Pt 1 only)

1	Ruth Lockley	COBOC	W60	47.47
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Green 3.4k 105m

1	Russ Fauset	HOC	M65	45.36
2	Barry McGowan	HOC	M65	49.31
3	Robert Vickers	HOC	M70	53.47
4	Paul Hammond	HOC	M50	61.19
5	Alison Sloman	HOC	W75	68.32
6	Barbara Ford	HOC	W55	81.22
7	Ashley Ford	HOC	M60	89.08

Blue 4.6k 145m

		HOC		
1	Peter Langmaid	HOC	M45	48.15
2	Steve Parker	WRE	M40	49.09
3	Allan McKinley	HOC	M35	51.09
4	Colin Palmer	HOC	M65	69.48
5	Robert Rose	HOC	M21	73.57

First, thank you to everybody who turned up on the night as at one stage I was thinking of postponing it because it was so close to the Scottish which is distant and a lot who are going there will take 2 days to get there, some more. So thanks especially to those who surprised me who turned up tonight who are going there. I even got one WRE and one COBOC as well.

My special thanks are reserved to the control collectors, Alan McK, Robert and Peter, who ably and quickly got them all back for me whilst I was packing up. I have to say I was so limp after putting them out in the humid heat of the afternoon (I shudder to think what Peter went through the previous Thursday), I doubt I could have got more than a third in on my own before dark necessitating a further visit tomorrow after some of the local vandals had been at work. As it was, I didn't lose a single control, even the vulnerable southern re-entrant which was very visible and close to a rope swing. I even went back before the start to check that all the early controls I put out in the Southern third were still there.

I was constrained by the size of the area, the two new Out of Bounds areas due to Adders, avoiding extreme climb by not going above the lethal crags in the far North, and the new stock fence that I had been asked that we should not climb. My first visit to the area 4 weeks before the event was surprisingly productive as the undergrowth (particularly brambles and nettles) was low compared to other SEE areas I had competed at in previous weeks. However my second visit 2 weeks later at the beginning of the heatwave was a different matter. I had already avoided the worst of the grot on the map, but I lost several controls in the Southern area because of the brambles that had gone mad, and every new feature I picked in the vicinity on the map was equally unpleasant when I got there, so I had to use some less than ideal sites in that part. I didn't actually get any negative feedback on the undergrowth on the night, and no first aid was required, so I think I achieved one of my design aims there. Unfortunately the undergrowth also meant I lost the extreme NW of the

area meaning that the courses were now on the short side, so my apologies for even the Green having a short part 2. I had also kept the courses on the smaller side in the last 2 weeks of planning because of the extreme heat in that period.

Anyway you all seemed to enjoy it. The Blue was especially hotly contested with the first 3 all being within 3 minutes of each other. Special praise should go to Colin Palmer who entered the Green but bravely soldiered on, unaware he had picked up Blue Part 2. I hope he got home alright as he had travelled from Malvern by train and bike! It was also great to see relative newcomer Robert Rose return, on the Blue no less. Sadly I had to close the courses on Ruth as she had arrived late and took longer than expected on Green Part 1, and I couldn't delay the control collectors any longer if we were to vacate before dark with all the controls. So I've invented the Short Green for her which I was always going to offer if the heat had been as bad as the week before. Thankfully it had cooled down a bit by the time we started.

I'm already prepared to admit post event that control KS, number 10 on Green/Blue Part 1 was on the wrong type of tree as depicted by the small Green circle on the map, which according to this map legend specifically states that this is a Pine tree. Unfortunately I planned this event from start to finish with Condes and I had placed the control descriptions over the legend early on while planning the southern third of the map and I had interpreted this symbol as a "distinctive tree", which the oak certainly was, standing on its own just within the mapped white area. This is one site I intend to revisit on my post event visit and feedback any veg changes to Alison if required, as I will with a couple of other ones and feedback via the forum on my findings.

Steve Nightingale