

Bringsty Jottings

There seems to be some debate as to whether this is the 2nd or 3rd event to be held at Bringsty, however I do remember running in a previous event held in bright sunshine, and recall that there was some bracken on the map.

But on reviewing the area back in April it quickly became clear from the density of the bracken, plus the near 20% of the map closed due to habitations, that this was going to be largely a path run, so the challenge to be set was to aim to provide sufficient options for route choice, and to find accessible, but interesting control sites close to the path network. Fortunately the map has sufficient size to avoid the need to criss cross the area, allowing a figure of eight course to be set.

Analysis of the courses run shows that most chose to start with controls 1, 2 & 3, but then sensibly cut to 7, 8, 9, and then on to 11, 12, 13, 14, avoiding the long run via 4, 5 & 6 which was only chosen by runners visiting more than 13 sites.

I have to admit, though, to being disappointed that no-one was brave enough to head initially for 3 and then on to 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, (13), 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, (19), 20, 21, 22, which could have harvested a creditable total of between 13 & 15 points without undue risk of exceeding the one hour time limit.

As an aside, control 19 was sited specifically to steer runners into 20 from the east, which was probably the only veg free option. However, this plan failed badly as only eight actually went to 20, and only four of these journeyed via 19 (which needed to be approached from the north to be readily found - when the course was planned the bracken to the south was shoulder high and not a route choice).

Congrats to Richard on his usual impeccable run, and apologies over the siting of 7 which was a little too far north of its marked position.

My thanks to The Bringsty Common Baronial Court for permission to use this lovely area, and also to John and Robert for insisting to assist with control collection, which was quickly completed the following morning.

Hopefully you all enjoyed Brian's excellent map, and equally hopefully we won't delay another 10 years before we visit it again.

Colin Palmer