

Walton Hill Winter Evening Event 09 Dec 2010

Organiser/Planner's Comments

Once again the winter weather had lent an extra bit of atmosphere to Walton Hill. There wasn't as much lying snow as two years ago, but there was just as much if not more ice on the paths and in the car park. This made conditions tricky for those without studded footwear, but nobody came back with a serious injury. The frozen state of the ground around the tent made things a bit awkward, resulting in some bent tent pegs and the finish control being sited in the nearest place I could get the stake in. Apologies to those who we had to send back to punch the finish.

I was perhaps a little bit over-ambitious in the planning. Comparing my map with the one from two years ago, when a couple of runners got the full set within time, I used the same number of controls but spread them out a little more. As it turned out the most collected was 23 out of 27, so in theory I could have got away with 3 or 4 fewer. However, every control was visited at least 3 times.

The men's competition was won by Richard Dearden over Jason Howell, with David Williams coming a close third thanks to his good timekeeping. Chris McSweeney was struggling with fitness and a heavy time penalty dropped him to fourth. Newcomer Matt Giles put in a very creditable performance on his first night-O, coming in sixth with minutes to spare. In the women's competition, Kath McMillan was a clear winner.

Thanks to Barry Houghton for his assistance with the paperwork and setting-up, and also to those who helped pack up and collect controls.

Peter Langmaid