

## Arrow Valley WEE- 16 November 2023 Planner's Report

A total of 28 members and guests turned up on a cold autumnal evening to start off the new WEE season. After the 'mudfest' of Brockenhurst on the preceding weekend, the weather gods were kind to us and the forecast of heavy rain for the whole day didn't materialise but the footpaths were muddy and slippery in places.

I planned a linear score with 22 controls including a couple almost on either side of Arrow Valley lake to test the legs of the most fleet of the gazelles.

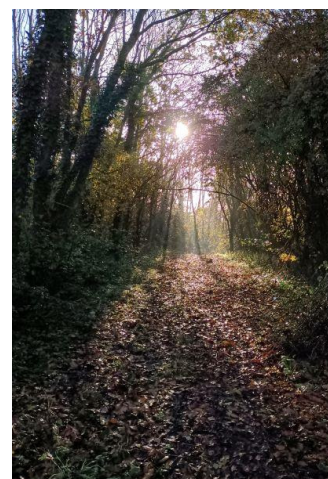
The leading woman, Eloise Lee, cleared an impressive 19 controls, a feat matched by Chris McCartney and James Thomas, although James shipped a few penalty points by coming in 42 seconds over time. Eloise and Chris chose the same set of controls, whereas James chose a different combination on his run back to the finish.

Mandy Mackereth and Kerstin Mitchell came in second and third in the women's race, separated by a few seconds. Mandy opted not to go as far south as control 4 but Kerstin did- and then 'ran' directly through some accurately mapped fight to control 5!

Dave Williams came in in third, having visited 18 controls, as did Dave Aldridge who lost a few points due to going overtime.

Other notable runs included visitor Brigitte Barratt, attempting her first orienteering event and acquitting herself well (she's coming back for the NSL in Redditch on 23 November!) and all five members of the Fox family who cleared the first 10 controls, returning with big smiles from a real night time adventure and having loaned Julie Evans a headtorch after hers died mid-run.

Many thanks to Andy Hemsted, Kerstin Mitchell, Mandy Mackereth and Robert Rose for collecting in controls in the southern half of the area. The imminent closure of the carvery at the Golden Goose pub, from where I'd run the event, meant that I decided to curtail collecting controls to make sure that we all had some warm food.



I returned the following morning in glorious sunshine to collect the remaining controls, and was rewarded with some lovely autumn colours.