

## Highgate Common March 8<sup>th</sup>. 2015.

### Organisers Comments

Phew, that was close! We reckoned on about 120 to max 150 competitors. The number of people that took part was actually 195, a very good turnout these days. We ended up recycling Green course maps, many thanks to those who offered their maps and we have emailed maps to all those that did. Please let me know, [bjh@uwclub.net](mailto:bjh@uwclub.net) if you have not received anything, as I may not have used your correct email address.

Parking at Highgate Common is a problem these days as the public car parks are nearly always full especially on nice weekends. The new parking and assembly areas seemed to work well, although somewhat stretched at times. The shed also proved its worth when it rained towards the end, much better than working from wet tents. Hope you enjoyed the compactness of everything.

Thanks to Heather for planning excellent courses, Mike Callow for his quiet but efficient controlling and I must thank all the members of the HOC event machine that swung into action and made my life much easier. Results were on the website in double quick time as well, thanks.

Barry Houghton HOC

### Planners Comments

A wonderfully compact area to plan on, made all the better with the addition of the forestry commission block . thanks to Barry for getting us access to it and to Alison for updating the map so we could use it. The area in the Northern part that was clear felled happened too late to update maps, but the courses were planned to avoid it as far as possible. I hope that this did not detract from your enjoyment of the event.

As expected the vast array of paths made the junior courses the trickiest to plan . it was therefore pleasing to see a fair number of children and families having a go, particularly on the yellow and orange courses. Given the lack of really technical areas I hope there was enough interest for the TD5 courses and that they weren't too long . the times seemed to indicate that they were ok!

Great controlling from Mike Callow . thanks for the handy hints (I didn't know smiley faces were an option for white and yellow) and your swift replies made my job all the easier. Despite him being a first time organiser (only admitted to me on the day of the event) Barry's efforts gave us a great base camp, lovely contained run-in/finish area and the publicity no doubt aided the uptake.

A huge thank you to the HOC teams that ensured everything ran smoothly and to all the volunteers that collected the armfuls of controls in the, by then, pouring rain!

Heather Kieniewicz - HOC

### Controllers Notes

I thought Heather's courses made really good use of the area. The many changes of direction plus long and short legs were designed to keep everyone actively checking their maps. Plus there were enough technically difficult controls to test navigation skills.

Most of you finished in the dry, though we did have a few worries at the end after a sudden downpour and one competitor a little overdue.

I asked lots of people how they got on with their courses and had a lot of complimentary comments.

The forestry felling work was too late to put on the maps, but we judged that courses wouldn't be adversely affected.

Mike Callow, Wrekin Orienteers