

WMUL Malvern Event on 10/9/23

Organisers comments

When I organised the Compass Sport Cup and Trophy Qualifiers in 2022 at Postenplain, it rained making it a bit tricky to park and Lesley Brown teased me saying, " You didn't organise the weather very well did you, Ian ! " Today when it rained I am happy to take the credit for organising it as I think most people didn't mind getting wet today !

Thank you to everyone who came along today either as a participant or a helper or both. I am very grateful to everyone who helped ensure that the event went well.

Particular thanks to James Thomas the planner who spent a great deal of time planning interesting courses with as much route choice as possible and Richard who controlled the event very efficiently.

Unfortunately due to a footpath being closed it was necessary to cut out control no 53 for courses 1 and 7 but fortunately Richard spotted this when checking controls and we were able to amend those courses accordingly.

Congratulations to all participants in particular Jonathan Brough from NGOC who attempted the Mens Open whilst being in a wheelchair . That's what I call determined !

Ian Gamlen

Planners comments

So as a first time planner as this level, it was interesting that both myself and Ian picked Malvern as we both live at the opposite side of "HOClan". However having completed quite a few urban's and Ian originally being from Malvern (which was quite handy that his mom house was just around the corner) I felt this was an event we could make work.

Malvern Link Common a chosen as an event venue as I wanted the give juniors a good course but also experience a bit of urban orienteering. Safe to say that I think that was a good call .

A few course revisions were made as I wanted to give significant route choices and utilise more technical areas around Malvern to try and create a bit of course variety. I was pleased with lots of positive comments regarding the courses.

Thanks to everyone who attended including everyone who helped put the event on. In particular Richard Cronin who was very helpful (especially in control descriptions) and his efforts on the day were impeccable.

Finally thanks to Ian as he had to keep everyone on their toes even with other events on his radar as organiser.

On to the planning next one!!

James Thomas

Controllers Comments

I've been very busy through the summer and especially in the days and nights immediately before the event and have not been able to dedicate as much time to this as I would have liked.

Fortunately, James planned courses with variety of terrain and legs offering good route choices: there was very little need to feedback other than fairness and safety points. I'm pleased people enjoyed his courses.

There were last minute difficulties relating to a footpath which had been temporarily closed last week. This required two courses to be amended, and take away route options for others. I hope this was well communicated to everyone and did not cause confusion.

Some competitors commented on their difficulty in finding control 52, which was a vegetation boundary 5m away from a distinct path. I agree that the position of the flag itself was not where it would have been expected, roughly 1m into the vegetation, so I did some gardening to make the flag clearly visible from the path at its closest point. I later revisited the site and observed three consecutive runners all find the control cleanly. For the avoidance of doubt, the control was not moved during the competition!

Whilst it may not be the answer the affected competitors would like to hear: in urban orienteering we cannot always secure the control in the exact perfect place, so we should be expecting it to be in the closest visible securable location from the centre of the circle! In hindsight, I should have done more gardening to improve sight lines from outside of the circle, but for this level of competition I do not feel this control placing was inappropriate.

The event was advertised as first start 10.30am, courses close 2.30pm. As seems to be very common, competitors were queuing up and asking to start 20 minutes early. The last competitor came into the finish at 3.10pm. Please be aware that arriving very early, or returning after course-close, extends the day for the volunteers, and they may have commitments outside of orienteering.

Lastly, thanks to Ian for organising and giving me confidence there was nothing to worry about, and thanks to Paul for making a large number of map updates in a very short period.

Richard Cronin

NGOC