

12 Nov 2011 Lickey Hills Level C and YBT Qualifier

Organisers' Report

Given the intention to rely solely on Entry on the Day (apart from Yvette Baker teams), initially we were worried by potentially lower numbers at a Saturday event so we tried to cut down on expenses. In the end a combination of three Junior teams plus associated adults and the prospect of fair weather produced a good turnout of 189 (plus parents who were shadowing).

Thanks to Barry's courses and to the help of experienced Harlequins, the Yvette Baker Round 1 went very smoothly, with OD winners as expected.

The Lickey Hills Visitor Centre gave us a highly visible location, and at least three groups of non-orienteers took up the challenge of a course. If Harlequins ever wished to put on a series of 'Café-O' events then this would surely be the ideal location.

Penny and Andy Hemsted

Planner's Report

The Lickeys is, I think, an excellent area for a junior competitions. It is well bounded, entirely wooded with a complex network of paths, reasonable but not excessive contours, a good supply of features and good parking nearby allowing a tight assembly area.

I always feel happier planning for adults but I hope all you juniors found the courses of appropriate difficulty. I made a point of re-reading Barry Elkington's excellent planning series!

The mean times were
Yellow 22m
Orange 45m
Light green 49m
Green 55m
Blue 60m

The appropriate persons and teams won. Will Gardner M18 will now join the elite top 100 Orienteers in the country and Harrison McCartney demolished the field on light green, even though he was effectively running up!

I had anticipated some controls going AWOL so I used our old set of SI. I don't believe however anything was touched. I was putting some of the controls out the night before in the dark and fog and was surprised how many people there were about.

Barry McGowan

Controller's report

After months of dry terrain, we were able to provide you with some mud - in case you had forgotten what it looked like! I hope you enjoyed Barry's courses and Alison's new map. Although there are few distinct vegetation boundaries, the resurveying of vegetation density should have enabled you to make sensible choices about whether to go through or round. Thanks to all Penny's helpers for making the event run smoothly. This was the second event I've controlled with Team Hemsted in charge - I look forward to the next!

John Bennison