

Breakneck Bank

Planner Comments

Hope you all enjoyed it. Makes it all worthwhile if you did. I enjoyed the planning, walking round the area, one man and his dog, great times. Lots of deer, hares galore including one very pale one and of course a polecat, my first ever. Disappointed I did not see an otter, but you can't have everything.

I did have worries when I first went there and found they had cut down half the forest, bit of a shock that but enough left to make it interesting. Alison Sloman did an excellent job and quickly brought the maps up to date including a late update of the brambles, we didn't manage to catch it all but I hope you avoided the worst of it. Another worry was the Bavenny Brook which was totally impassible the first couple of times I visited. I also had to get clearance each time from the deer stalkers to avoid getting shot.

I did try to give some route choices, which I will be interested to see if hopefully we get routegadget running again. I was going to make more use of the pitted area but once I saw the undergrowth thereabouts, I only used the more obvious parts. The start and finish area opened up by the felling gave the opportunity to get the junior courses through some grassy rides, which I thought they might enjoy better than the normal paths.

Overall the going turned out to be mostly quite fast, as borne out by some of the times on the Blue and Brown courses. The majority of the times seemed to be about right, but there are some very fast youngsters out there particularly on the Brown course. How did anyone manage 66minutes? On the Blue course 40 minutes again was faster than I expected, but the rest were of the right order.

Many thanks to lots of people, especially Controller Derek Turner who was a pleasure to work with, Nigel and his team who managed to improve the track leading to the event with people driving over it, Mike F who despite the problems with the latest Anti Virus software managed to get the results out the same evening, Allan McKinley and the rest of the organising teams and of course the control collectors to whom I am indebted. Thanks all.
Barry Houghton HOC