

Callow Hill - HOC Club Championships - 19/12/15

Planner's notes

Having not planned an event before it is difficult to compare this event with what might be termed as a "normal" event. Callow Hill is quite a small area, full of little parcels of wood varying from lovely open runnable forest to dense fight full of bramble and brashings. Alison's map identified many control sites in the parcels that could be accessed, so selection was not a problem. In fact having set 40 odd sites it was difficult to whittle them down to a reasonable number. The task being to have just enough controls to make it a challenge to the fabled runners to attempt all of them. Thanks to the stewardship of Brian and Kay I removed a dozen control sites leaving me with the best 29. It was then a choice of which went on to Map 1 and Map 2.

On one of the later visits it was noticed that the lumberjacks had moved in causing a bit of panic in case we lost controls. Having been told this would all be finished at the end of November, Alison went to re-map in early December. Fortunately this did not affect the control sites too much and maps were sent off for printing.

As you could all see from the event there had been a substantial amount of further forestry work, which I hope did not upset your navigation and enjoyment of the event. I certainly enjoyed the challenge of planning. On the positive side the thinning of the trees could actually improve the area for future events.

Thanks to all those who helped control picking after a tiring hour in the forest.

Alex Morgan.

Controller's comments

Alex planned a well designed layout (with runners starting in all 4 possible directions) and succeeded in his aim of preventing anyone clearing the lot, though Jason came very close.

Control tapes were always sited exactly where I expected to find them.

There was nothing we could do about the state of the forest on the day. Heather had assurances that felling would stop on Dec 1st and the updated map went to the printers soon after that.

But clear felling was taking place over a gully as we put out the controls on the preceding Friday. The new extraction lanes, felled patches and mud must have been off putting.

Heather organised with calm efficiency and everyone seemed to enjoy the day.

Thanks to Kay who, despite having a bad cold, was out at dawn on Saturday morning to check a few of the more out of the way sites so that I could do a final run around of the rest.

And of course to Alison without whose excellent map the event would not have been possible.

Brian Hughes

Organiser's comments

Thankfully a fairly straightforward one to organise particularly with the superb help I received from Lesley Brown throughout. By the sound of it an excellent course from Alex, with Brian's very able controlling and advice – thank you both for your hard work. That was followed by a wonderful social afterwards with a range of delicious treats – thank you to all those that contributed and also helped to clear up afterwards.

There will no doubt be many more that have contributed in the background, given the fantastic HOC team spirit, but a special thanks to those who assisted with the running of the event on the day, particularly registration (Lesley), SI and download (Ashley), first aid (Andy H), the raffle (Lesley and Eric) and all of the control collectors.

Have a lovely Christmas and a very happy 2016!

Heather Kieniewicz.