

## **Barr Beacon SEE 8<sup>th</sup> July 2010**

This was the 3<sup>rd</sup> Permanent Orienteering course set up in Walsall, the first that was largely my baby in that I planned the control siting, helped install an extra 12, updated the map, promoted and ran the event.

I was pleased I got a good turnout of 48 to make it worthwhile.

The event/opening was promoted in the councils quarterly 'whatsonwalsall' booklet which came out, and posted, a few days before the event.

I also did a press release. Twice to the Express and Star, but they didn't mention the opening. The Walsall Advertising, which had given half a page for the Rough Wood event printed the story largely verbatim, but it only came out on the day.

I had only printed 12 beginners maps, and was a bit shocked when a teacher turned up with 9 M15s from Queen Mary Grammar, one of Britain's top schools. It would be good to get their pupils competing, and running for HOC. Many at the school do DoE. Competitors were arriving from 4.30pm and last went off at 7.20. My printing quantities only just coped.

Although the Peel map is 2008 there were a number of corrections required mainly due to bio-diversity work which has altered the vegetation, particularly in the South end. This was interesting and enjoyable work in May-June. One large patch of gorse had been grubbed out so it had been shown as rough open. It was re-growing fast and I decided I needed a vegetation screen. I went round today and its back to 18" high and re-approaching fight. The adjacent gorse area was not grubbed out and had a path running through it, a route choice for most competitors. I had pulled the fight screen to the path but it had become almost impassable in the last few weeks although the path remains very visible at ground (rabbit) level. I received a few grumbles about this.

The area is surprisingly runnable, but the vegetation had rather taken off in the far South in the last few weeks.

Richard Dearden competed after most had finished but stormed round in 37.30 for 6.8k, which I thought was pretty impressive.

I still have a further 10 posts available which I will probably put in at Shire Oak, an interesting old quarry area, currently very green. Watch out for an event, but I might do a night event, possibly at Rough Wood, first.

Barry McGowan