

Leasowes WEE event 6th Dec 2007.

Thank you (all sixteen of you) for turning up on such a wet evening. As I returned to the Start at 5.30 after putting out controls, soaked to the skin and no competitors in sight, I wondered if I'd been wasting my time. Half an hour later with a tent full of orienteers clamouring for start times I knew I hadn't.

I visited the area for the first time just over a week before the event. I was pleasantly surprised to find that much of the area was runnable with little bramble. It is a pity that so much is taken up by the golf course, all out of bounds, which results in the area available for orienteering being a series of interconnected strips. At first sight I thought it would be difficult to place controls so that there would be plenty of route choice rather than one or two obvious routes, although points allocated to controls can influence decisions. Following the event I looked with interest at the hits for each control. I had 26 controls out. Controls 1 to 10 scored 10 points; 11 to 20 scored 20 points; 21 to 25 scored 25 points; and 26 & 27 scored 30 points. (Control 15 had to be withdrawn on the day because of closure of part of the canal towpath) With 16 competitors, control 6 was hit 13 times, and controls 4, 7, & 26 were hit 7 times each, with the hits at all the other controls ranging between 7 & 13 hits each. Only Chris McSweeney cleared all controls, although some others came close. It is obvious that the configuration of the area did not result in one or two obvious routes, and that although only 1 km square in extent can pose enough orienteering challenges for a 1 hour night score event.

My thanks to Barry Houghton for giving me this opportunity and his assistance, Alison for equipment and assistance with the tent, and control collectors for bringing them all in.

Mike Dugmore.