

Planners Comments:

The 18 competitors who arrived at Beacon Hill on the Lickeys on Thursday 4 December were rewarded with a clear dry night and glorious views over the lights of Bromsgrove in one direction and Birmingham in the other. Unfortunately the recent rain meant it was rather damp underfoot with the difference between some small streams and paths being hard to recognise. The area seemed to work well for a one-hour score, as no-one quite managed to clear all the controls. Chris McSweeney came closest with just one missing, and had he chosen differently on Rednall Hill the extra climb he could have saved might have made it possible. Matt Evans took an unusual approach and did the event on his bike. I suspect this was a disadvantage rather than an advantage, given the hilly nature of the area and the muddy conditions underfoot (underwheel?) in places. Thank you for all the positive comments I have received, and my apologies to those who lost time at 27. I checked as I collected it in, and I do agree I had placed it farther north-east than the end of the clearing is marked on the map. I would like to thank those who helped to set up (Alison and Barry), and those who helped at the end and with control collecting (Alison, Barry, Rachel, Richard, Jacky). See you at the next one.

John Embrey