Planner’s comments

The forest certainly looked splendid in the lovely warm and generally sunny weather. This was my first attempt at planning a forest event, and I hope you enjoyed your runs. In what is a large area with an extensive path network, I had to put the start a little further away from the car park in order to get a decent run for the White, and I tried to make that course a little more varied with a route that took in a little of the lake front and some woodland paths. My thanks to Janet, Graham and Colin who all put in tremendous amounts of effort to ensure that the controls were in decent locations, the courses flowed and were of the correct technical difficulty, and the cartography was of a good standard to make the courses clear and understandable. As I did most of the planning for this event from afar, and only visited the forest a couple of times, I can safely say that I wouldn’t have been able to do this without their help. Thanks also to Tony Maycroft (CHIG) who provided some significant comments and improvements to the courses, as controller.

When I was out in the forest early on Sunday morning, I did notice that a number of the controls were visible from a fair distance away, so hopefully that didn’t make the technical courses too easy. I will need to improve this aspect of my control site selection if I plan another forest event. Generally, I tried to reward precise navigation on a straight line to controls, but provide a longer, easier route round paths to an attack point for those that wanted to take that approach. A number of controls were fairly exposed in open forest near paths or similar, so I was pleased that there were no reports of missing controls. Hopefully the cattle grazing near and around control 104 weren’t too concerned with the passing runners, and hadn’t eaten the control. One cow started ambling over to the control after I turned it on for SIAC and seemed very interested in what it was!

I didn’t have enough controls to time out the road crossings on Brown, but hopefully the traffic wasn’t as bad as the day before and you were able to cross fairly easily and didn’t waste too much time. It was encouraging to see not too many retirements on any of the courses, so hopefully the courses were fair. We had a lengthy discussion over a few of the controls I initially selected, so it looks like the final decision on placement was the correct one.

Thanks again for running, and making the pre event work worthwhile.

David