

Thanks to all club members for helping out to make the event a success.

In particular, Janet for controlling the courses as well as 'polishing' the maps for printing and Colin for independently checking and confirming the agreed control sites as well as doing a little 'gardening' along a path on the Brown course.

Colin also went above and beyond by travelling to Surrey the night before the event to collect a replacement set of maps, after the courier service had failed to deliver them - and still hasn't by today (Monday). Thanks to BML for their support and for printing replacement maps at such short notice.

On the whole there were very few retirees and Keith Ryder, who at M90 is our oldest club member, completed the White course with assistance from his children.

Amongst the positive comments for the event there were a few issues raised at discussions with competitors at the end of their run.

I would like to address these as follows:

133 Wet pit - the competition area was mapped this summer by David Sparshott (NOR) and I believe this part of the area to have been mapped accurately.

It is far easier to navigate at a slow pace and without time pressure in this tricky area as it was for me in my position as planner.

The pit was definitely a wet pit (although not as wet as it would have been with some rain over summer) and in the correct place, raised a contour above the shallow valley. The pit was elongated but had relatively steep sides to it as opposed to a small depression.

This pit was on a direct route to control 103 which was the first control on the Brown course and obviously distracted some runners.

Control 103 - shallow depression was indeed a depression rather than a pit. It was small and did have debris in it. There was a path near to the control and I believe the control was very visible in that area and not hidden or a 'bingo' control. Two runners on this course took well over 10 minutes on this control but all other runners got to the control in under 10 minutes with the average time being 4.31 minutes.

This control site was different to control 133 and in my estimation about 46 to 50 metres distant from it.

Both 103 and 133 on collection at course closure were reported to me as being in the correct place and on the correct feature.

Control 141 - this unit had an intermittent failure issue and some competitors mentioned lack of response from the unit. All competitors were found to have visited this control by interrogating the SI unit itself and all runs have been validated. This unit has now been set aside for a health check.

Control 142 - in my view this was correctly placed on the fence to the SW of where the ditch becomes an earthwall.

Control 113 - the statue (or Gruffalo) control was placed slightly to the south of the statue (as on the control description) to avoid the public crowds taking photos at this point. The control was clearly visible on reaching the statue and as far as I know remained in place throughout.

On reflection I would probably not use a similar site in the future - lesson learned.

Taping from the last control on Brown to the Finish - this was an oversight and I apologise for any difficulty this may have caused.

Finally, a few runners on the Brown course attempted to cut through the forest fight (as mapped) on leg 3 to 4 as quote '**runners on the Brown course will risk going through anything**'. Some succeeded (and discovered an unmapped fence within the fight area) others decided to go round. This leg involved an individual choice about risks taken.

One runner on the Green course sustained a cut arm and was treated by Janet, our first aider. The person subsequently attended their local A & E to have the wound cleaned and stitched, as well as the 'pleasure' of a tetanus vaccine.

There was some vandalism on the day which is unusual for the area.

Control 118 had its number removed and this had to be replaced with masking tape and the number written on top. I don't believe this caused any undue problems to runners on the Yellow course.

Control 145 had disappeared after the event, when the collectors went out. It may turn up somewhere at some time.

Thank you all for coming to the event and I hope you enjoyed an autumnal day out in the sun.

Graham Batty