

Planner's Comments

The planning of this event has been on-going for some 18 months with a considerable amount of time and effort being put into ensuring that it would be 'all right on the night'. Therefore it is mortifying to find myself falling at the final hurdle, marring the enjoyment for a number of people who competed at the event today. Unfortunately Control #53 (Short Blue, Green & Light Green courses) was misplaced when it was put out yesterday evening, and this error was not picked up on the check. The control was placed in a parallel reentrant slightly SE of the correct location and virtually identical in appearance. Many people highlighted at the finish that they had lost time on this control.

It goes without saying that I would like to give my profound apologies to those competitors on the courses affected. I particularly regret that when a 'lady in black' reported to me that "the control was in the wrong place", that I did not react positively because the site (the correct one!) had been checked thoroughly in the past. I am very sorry, you were totally correct.

I have discussed what we should do about this issue with the Event Controller and Organiser. We are all of the view that we should remove the time taken by competitors on the leg leading to control 53 from the overall results on these 3 courses. In looking at the legs that lead away from #53, it appears that having a slightly incorrect 'starting point' is unlikely to have led to a significant increase in time – so these following legs have been allowed to stand. **We believe this is the best means of ensuring a fair competition.**

On a more pleasant note, Formby is an excellent area on which to plan courses that are appropriate for each colour standard. There are a number of linear features near to the Car Park to provide interesting courses for the younger juniors, whilst the grassed dunes, in particular, provide a high degree of technical challenge for the longer courses. The superb new map from Graham Nilsen was a delight on which to plan courses, and I really appreciate Graham's help in his surveying, cartography and overall assistance with the event, whilst having his own Sprint Event to plan at Liverpool.

I would like to thank Allan Williams for his calm controlling of the event, offering comments where they were needed but allowing me to plan my own courses. Norman Hall is becoming somewhat of a legend at organising events on the Sefton Coast. Not content with this event, he is also planning a Schools' event next Saturday and is organiser/planner for a further event the following week – you can sometimes have too much of a good thing, Norman!

My thanks go to my stalwart control collectors – Ruth & Duncan Harris, Darren Baker & Elaine Sutton, Reg Simpson, Rob Normanton and Chris Calow. At least I provided some sunshine to bring in controls this time!

On the subject of weather my final thanks go to the Met Office who kindly removed from their radar (24 hrs before the event) the band of heavy rain that was due to deluge Formby whilst everyone was out on their course.

Steve Ingleby