

Pale Heights Orienteering Event, May 15<sup>th</sup> 2018  
Planner's Comments

Having Planned Pale Heights last year, this year I decided I wanted something less physically demanding, so opted for Marbury. Four weeks before the event, with all my courses planned, the Marbury Ranger dropped his bombshell; the technically interesting areas were all out of bounds to protect the bluebells, so it was either have what would be no more than a Park Run or look for alternative venues. After some frantic searching, we decided to go back to Pale Heights. So much for my gentler option!

On the positive side, because I had planned here only a year before, I was pretty familiar with the area, and knew the suitability of many of the control sites, so the initial planning process was relatively easy. Steve Ingleby's updating of the map gave some additional possibilities, and Jon Hateley, my controller offered some helpful suggestions for improvements – the log leg on the Blue course was his suggestion.

The feed-back during and after the event suggested that you all enjoyed the courses, helped by the lovely weather we had on the day. I am sorry that the nettles and brambles had grown up considerably in the last three weeks, but the same would probably have applied in any of our areas. It was encouraging to me that even those who returned dripping blood still seemed to have enjoyed themselves.

I must apologise that we ran out of Orange maps on the day. It is always something of a lottery to decide how many to print. I used my usual approach of looking at numbers at last year's and this year's comparable events, taking the highest value and adding a few more for good luck. As far as Orange was concerned, I was told at Eaton Park that fewer scouts were expected than I had been informed of earlier, and they were unlikely to run Orange. As it happened, on the day eight scouts decided to run Orange. In contrast, I had been asked to allow an extra 15 Yellow maps above the 25 I had estimated, for a party of children who were expected, but only a few turned up, and we only used 15 of the 40 Yellow maps I had printed.

I would like to thank Jon Hateley for his high standard of controlling, Barry Barnes for arranging the permissions at short notice, my three control pickers, Chris Calow, Paul Chavasse and John Embrey, and Jenny Beasant for her excellent organisation which ensured the evening ran smoothly.

Peter Hills