

## Bowden Housteads 02/01/2011

### Organiser's Comments

We had a much bigger turn-out than we expected on the original date when there were the bigger draws of Shining Cliff & the Yvette Baker final. I hope those of you who had to park on the street weren't too inconvenienced. The total attendance was 247 & we printed 279 which was sufficient for all but one course but the skew towards Blue (109) caught us on the hop; grateful thanks to those who allowed their maps to be re-used. I'm away from early Monday morning so it will be the end of the week before I can organise replacement maps. (If you didn't leave your details & would like a replacement, email me on [colintd@gmail.com](mailto:colintd@gmail.com)). There were runners from 28 different clubs, very unusual for a run-of-the-mill event.

The comments made by some of you about the size of detail at 7500 have been taken on board & will be remedied at future events.

Lost property – small sweater (To whoever found the walkie talkie, the school janitor James is pleased as he lost it during snow clearing duties around the time of the original event date)

As usual, thanks to all the volunteers; it's 15-20 years since I last organised & I was highly dependent upon the competence & initiative as well as on the willingness of you all.

Thanks for coming, *Colin Drury*.

### Controllers Comments

My job as controller was made very easy because the planner, Clive Wilson, is an experienced planner and controller himself and his courses needed little "controlling". The winning times on the Blue and Green were, as expected, on the short side, made even shorter by a number of elite orienteers romping round in 5 mins per k. But we thought the area was nice and varied and good enough for you to come and have a run round even if you were out for less time than normal. If you needed to run off the Christmas and New Year celebration excesses you probably needed to feel good about a fast run anyway!.

Marcus Pinker's map was excellent – to navigate using his veg boundaries and vegetation interpretation was a joy.

Maybe I should have spotted the problems in map reading caused by reducing his 1:5000 map to 1:7500 (and hence reducing the size of the symbols and lines) but the map was such an accurate representation of the ground that I felt every-one would cope, even those like me with challenged eyesight.

What made the day a real success for me was to see the number of volunteers who gave up their time to do the start, the car park, the computing and also to those who helped collect in controls at the end and take down the marquee. If everybody volunteers like that it makes the day very satisfying. Thanks to my son, David, who helped his ol' dad put out controls!

Oh and well done Colin Drury for the organisation. After the stresses and strains of today Colin has to get up on at 4am on Monday morning to fly to Ireland and go to work - it isn't a Bank Holiday there!

*Colin Best M60 SYO*

## **Planners Comments**

Despite an (orienteering) lifetime of controlling smallish SYO events this was the first event that I had planned for some considerable time. It was a useful exercise as it was my first real exposure to planning using the excellent CONDES software. It certainly makes planning easier than it used to be!

Bowden Housteads is a bit of a Curate's Egg - some of it is really nice whilst other bits leave a bit to be desired. But there aren't many venues where you can have controls on a 4m concrete crag painted with palm trees and also of a giant sculpture of a blacksmith ( if you missed this then look to your left [carefully!] whilst driving into Sheffield on the Parkway. It's on the edge of the wood just before the turn off to the Mosborough Parkway).

Thanks to all the volunteers who collected controls after their runs - that really made my day. Thanks to both the Colins for their help and advice.

Finally thanks to all of you who turned up and ran. I hope you enjoyed your day.

*Clive Wilson SYO*