Planner’s comments

Firstly, apologies to Green course competitors for the error whereby the control descriptions on the map were correct but the loose description sheet had a control omitted. I had added a control at a very late stage to make control 11 into control 12 to avoid potential confusion as control 1 was nearby and “11” and “1” are too similar. All the maps & courses were fine, but I was still awaiting the BUOC Relay controls to create the All Controls. These came at a very late stage & I then imported courses & controls onto a wider map of the area to encompass the BUOC ones & sent them separately to Mick Lucking. Unfortunately, I had used the Condes file previous to the Green Course change & Mick had no way of knowing it was incorrect & no reason not to use it for the full All Controls.

Paul Addison, the Controller had checked the proofs which didn’t include loose descriptions but which were fine. Due to the various internal SYO arrangements, Louise collected the maps & control descriptions at a late stage leaving Paul & 1 no time to check them but not really thinking there was any need to. **So, mea culpa**. I don’t know if it was the sunshine but the affected competitors were very understanding.

The Black course had the correct winning time & so did most courses. However, despite being suitably proportional & 4.4km, Green was too long perhaps by 10-15%. Black did go nearly to Deepcar on the difficult, stony western slope which I thought would slow competitors but perhaps the plateau area was slower than I allowed for. Wharncliffe is always a challenge.

This event has been on the go a long time. It provided the basis of many of my daily exercise walks during the first lock down, exploring for suitable car parking & then whether courses could be created from that location. Eventually we settled for the Refractory factory which I planned from last time.

This location does allow for shorter courses to avoid the more rocky, tougher parts & reach more varied terrain. It also permits more downhill towards the end.

As is often the case, White & Yellow were difficult to plan due to the path configuration & the dangerously steep sections of some paths which otherwise would be fine. The East start was originally on a small path just off the forest road but felling cleared not only the trees but the path as well. The Forestry Commission were worried about orienteers injuring themselves walking to the East start & hence I had an interesting couple of hours clearing a “safe” if meandering route through prior to meeting them & getting their permission.

We tried to keep climb to a minimum but in Wharncliffe, the minimum is bound to be quite a lot. It will be interesting to look at Routegadget & see which of our thoughts about route choice proved to be correct. Whichever course you did or however you performed, please put your courses on Routegadget as it helps us hone our planning skills.

It has been a delight working as a team with Controller Paul Addison, Joint Planner Kris Groom & Organiser Louise Reynolds with assistance from Saturday’s Organiser Lucy.

Paul is a meticulous, fit & hard-working Controller who is also cheerful & willing. I am better at course design & less good at attention to detail, so I really appreciated his qualities. He & I spent a few hours one day hacking down & clearing brambles blocking paths & rides. Kris has done most of the planning work associated with the steep, rugged hillside to the north together with quite a lot of time exploring parking options & negotiating with locals (particularly one local) especially prior to Louise “volunteering” to be Organiser. I’m very grateful to Kris for the legwork & course ideas & would certainly not have been able to do all the physical work alone as I totter towards my 75th birthday next week.

It was only Louse’s second event as Organiser, the first being the Sheffield City Urban so quite a baptism of fire. Louise is also a delight to work with being cheerful, resourceful & resilient.

A lot of others were involved in putting the event on including Ian Cooper, mapping & course base maps, Pete Tryner setting up SI units, Peter Gorvett as SI Manager & on Routegadget, John Franklin ensuring equipment was available & Lucy Wiegand on permissions & general support & weekend management.

As always, I am extremely grateful to those from SYO & BUOC who collected the controls in.

Colin Drury