

Organisers' Comments

Having agreed to organise a 'small local event' this spring I somehow found myself responsible for the first round of the CSC scheduled for Tankersley on a newly mapped area.

Two things happened simultaneously in the New Year – I unexpectedly started a new full time job and our permission for Tankersley was withdrawn because of possible early ground nesting birds.

In the frenzy of the last ten weeks I have been forced to rely on Jim to co-organise and in truth he has done the bulk of the work and deserves most of the credit for what turned out to be a very well attended and satisfying event.

On our first visit to Greno the carparking field was deep in snow but the farmer assured us it is almost always dry and ideal for parking 250 cars. We arrived yesterday in sunshine and put up a small marquee for the YHOA Junior Squad to cater from. We earmarked a spot for the large marquee for registration and download and battened everything down for the night as the wind was getting up.

On arriving this morning we found the small marquee folded in two with several steel poles buckled, and after two failed attempts to erect the main marquee the idea of tents was abandoned. The early helpers sprang into action and braved the horizontal sleet to take the cow sheds by storm, clearing a jungle of elder and nettles, moving what felt like several hundred weight of rusty farm debris and making space for a makeshift coffee bar and registration/download area. By the time the first competitors arrived all stations had gone live and thanks to the unflappable team leaders and the huge band of SYO helpers, Plan B happened with barely a hitch.

Jim and I would like to thank **all the helpers** who worked exceptionally hard in challenging conditions as well as running for the club when many of them admitted to feeling more like heading for home. The families who set up and ran the string course in perhaps the wildest and most exposed area of the event deserve a special mention, as do those who dismantled the course at the end. I have never known a string course where 30% of the competitors have been forced to retire. We are really sorry about the horizontal sleet but we congratulate every single child who got out of the car and went down to have a go on the string course – you little guys have the makings of fine future orienteers! Thanks also to Chris Littler for his splendid photos and for getting them on the website so quickly.

Our admiration and thanks go to Neil Northrop and his team for their excellent work. Although some of you felt the courses were long, there were universal compliments for the quality of the planning, and with many competitors having travelled long distances to take part the woods did not disappoint.

Many thanks to the YHOA Junior Squad for providing such a tasty assortment of cakes and those very welcome steaming hot drinks. Well done to those who won spot prizes courtesy of Planet Fear. The roller-coaster portaloos provided entertainment, and you will be relieved to know that when cubicle three toppled over, contrary to mischievous gossip there was actually no-one inside!

Finally we thank you, the competitors, for such warmth and good humour in the face of adversity. The many smiling faces and empathic comments were much appreciated and reinforced what we all know to be true, that orienteers are a hardy breed of quite exceptional human beings!

Ruth Sutherland (SYO)

Controller's Comments

It is some 20 years since I first visited Greno on a wet and snowy YK. Then it was miserable and green. On Sunday it was windy and snowy but most of the wood was much more runnable than I remembered from the past. Unfortunately in the weeks running up to the event gales uprooted a considerable number of trees and affected the ability to run on a bearing and see clearly.

Neil set out to plan challenging courses and used a lot of controls to give mostly short legs to keep you off the paths. Mostly it worked though some people complained about one clearing (#70) where the map was a bit out. There were also some comments about the course lengths though most of the winning times were about right. Perhaps we should have reduced them a bit and accepted short winning times as some people are pushed into running longer courses than normal to fit with club needs in the competition.

Ruth and Jim were coolness personified despite the dreadful conditions and despite some computer problems during the day the results were on the web by the time I had got home and had a shower – well done all!

Finally thanks to my wife Juliet for visiting all the control sites with me and checking the northern half of the area after the kites were hung.

David Morgan EPOC

Lost Property: INOV shoes

Please contact Ruth and Jim Sutherland if they are yours. 01909 770347