

Midland Championships 26/05/2019, Brown Clee
Planners Comments

Some one said would you like to plan an event for SINS? Well of course I said yes, not noticing it was also going to be the Midland Area Championships! Bit of an oversight on my part, but a dozen visits later after being variously sunburnt, soaked and frozen, we had an event.

I first looked at the area 12 months ago to get an idea of what it could be like at this time of year and was pleasantly surprised to see that vegetation would not be an issue. It is though a very complicated and in parts very tough area and the “uncross-able” fences and loss of access to certain parts made for even more difficulties. I did however think it was important to give as many courses as possible a taste of the area South East of the Northern summit. The mix of contour features, pits, marshes, small patches of woods etc. really make this an interesting challenge. I do hope that you enjoyed it.

Looking at the results, virtually all courses had winning times that met the “Area Championship” guidelines, which are a bit more onerous than for level B events. For the M21E's the target is a winning time of 90 to 100 minutes. Duncan Birtwhistle had a good go at it, just missing the target achieving 101 minutes. Well done, I wish I could do that!

Lots of people to thank, so much goes on behind the scenes, so sorry if I miss anyone out, it is not deliberate. Firstly Rod Postlethwaite mapping, for his patience dealing with my requests when updating the map, sections of which had not been done for many years. Andy Hemsted for his advice and for test running one of the courses. Controller Jeff Baker, especially for his help the day before the event, when I was struggling to find a couple of the controls sites. (Sheep liked the tags I used and the bamboo canes..Baaaa!). His assistant Simon Thompson, who managed to check controls, help switch them on before the event, help run the string course and go control collecting! Not forgetting the great help from my assistant Tim Kieniewicz, who reduced my burden considerably by putting a large number of the controls out and helping to switch them on before the event. Lastly tremendous thanks to all who volunteered to collect the controls in afterwards, I really did not want to go out again. Well done and thanks to all.

Phew, that's a relief now it's completed!
Barry Houghton
HOC