

SinS 2021 Stapeley and Rorrington

Controller's comments

We were fortunate to get this event to happen at all and the time scale was tight. Fortunately, I had very little controlling to do. The first draft courses needed only a raised eyebrow from me, and the final courses came together quickly. With a capable planner controlling often comes down to aesthetics. Thanks to John Leeson for coping with my eyebrow raising and safety concerns so nicely.

The route choice challenges on the western side of the woodland were driven by the surprisingly dangerous crags in the valley. We made the Orange course a little harder to provide more of a challenge for older competitors.

A few competitors asked about control 46 so I went to check that it was in the right place. It was; the piece of red tape that some people found nearby was not on the control site.

Given the challenges imposed by cramming a Midland Championship into 8 colour coded courses the overall balance of finish times was what would be expected. Courses were not affected by significant undergrowth but the high rainfall total in May made running in the marshy valleys more challenging.

Overall winning times were closer to recommendations than times for the average finisher. Faster competitors do seem to have been less affected by the terrain than everyone else. If I had been less involved with the whole event and time had been less pressing, I might have recommended that we use more courses, but using hindsight is always the best way to plan something. I hope everyone feels that it was better to have a Midland Championship than not and that you enjoyed the day.

Adrian Pickles