

Planners' Report

Weston Heath is POTO's most challenging area both technically and physically. We wanted to give you the navigational challenge and in doing so could not avoid the physicality. We restricted the length to compensate for the inevitable height climb. For the longest courses, we had hoped to use one or two controls in the flat southern area as a contrast and relief from muscle-aching ascents, but the map inaccuracies and unpleasant vegetation deterred us. Start and finish positions were chosen so that we could accommodate White and Yellow courses (ultimately, only 7 competitors in total!) and meant we were unable to make effective use of the lovely beech wood at the far western end of the map.

We were careful to plan Orange and Light Green within BO(F) guidelines, but they did require proficiency at those standards. Congratulations to all who completed their course successfully. If you found it difficult, please don't be down-hearted - you were not alone.

For all the Green, Blue and Brown courses our aim was to keep you thinking throughout, requiring careful route choices and, above all, close navigation. Judging from your comments we think we achieved this. We are sorry so many found the mental challenge combined with the physical demands too much. There were far more retirals than we would have liked, especially among POTO helpers who abandoned their runs because they had jobs to do. Inevitably, there were wide ranges of finish times on all courses and we were amazed at the speeds some winners achieved. We offer sincere apologies to Green Men who had difficulty reading the number *12* and mistakenly went there instead of to 2. We did move the *12* out of the OOB area to make it clearer but didn't spot that the control's proximity to control 1 might confuse. Maybe you were caught out by the sudden change of direction from 1 to 2? We hope you enjoyed being in such an attractive area on a wonderful sunny day, irrespective of success.

Thank you to our Controller, Bob, our Organiser, Geoff, and WRE SI guru, Jill, who were all brilliant to work with.

Austin & Barbara Farr