

Controller's Musings

Plumpton Rocks provides us with such fun terrain to traverse through, the rock formations and the passages between are a joy to behold and pass between. This is special orienteering terrain that we and the land owner are glad to share with you.

Trying to represent all this on a map has been challenging and the 1:3000 scale, while unconventional, provides a good compromise. The main drawback with Plumpton is its size, measuring only about 200m EW and 1000m NS meant that this event was always going to be more of a long sprint than a middle event, with many controls and most areas were going to be traversed twice. This also led to two sets of controls effectively being on top of each other vertically. While this would not be allowed in a championship event, I agreed that this added to the fun nature of the overall event and we tried to allude to this in the event details as due warning.

Two other consequences of so many controls was the length of the control descriptions and the length of the splits print at download. For the descriptions it was a compromise between box size and the length of your arms. We settled on setting the maximum length as the width of an A4 page, this meant for the four longer courses they were smaller than I would have liked to have used. We found as the first elites downloaded that their splits were being cut short, none of the download team knew that a maximum 320mm limit had been pre-defined and took a while to correct.

Ruth took her planning role very seriously, and took it to include tasks that most planners would forego. In order that you saw Plumpton at its best, she collected multiple bags of rubbish and cleared swathes of undergrowth near the start. In addition to this she took on the difficult task of prizes and the prize giving. Other commendable aspects to her planning were:

The provision of less technical courses that provided the right degree of challenge without a wide spread of times because she wanted all to finish in good times. If you look at these results you will see how successful she has been.

For the older competitors on the shorter technical course, she designed courses to ensure that you saw the nicest parts of Plumpton without necessarily needing you to be too agile on any crags. Some of you were still witnessed rock climbing.

Mike Cope did an admirable job organising the day. Most worthy of mention was getting permission to use the unadopted road for parking. What we thought should be an easy task ended with negotiations with two owners, the boundary running down the middle of the road, and N Yorks CC Highways dept. as it is a public bridleway. Without that car park we could not have been able to host you all.

Congratulations to all of you who arrived on bike or by bus. I am very conscious as to how reliant orienteering is on travel. Claro will soon be holding their AGM where an item on the agenda for discussion is ' Making a Lower Carbon Claro', while this is an ambitious end game, we hope we will develop a policy to encourage people to move in that direction. I would urge you all to do the same.

Thank you Claro, for yet another super orienteering event.

Quentin Harding - Controller