

## Planner's Notes

Well, thank goodness that went ok.

The most obvious hazard was everyone getting safely back and we did plan and control the courses carefully to make this more likely. Some of the most lethal parts of Brimham and trickiest control sites are therefore nicely reserved for the YHOA Middle Distance Champs (12 February 2023) when you will find yourself in quite different areas.

There were many hazards during preparations that you were probably unaware of. Combining with the Army Inter-Corps Champs meant the numbers we'd got permission for (via the National Trust but ultimately from Natural England) were insufficient. Quentin came up with the highly ingenious yet workload-heavy plan of using adjacent land. I researched a huge area and we settled on Mr Wiseman and Mr Burton's land. We mapped and explored and planned. Bonuses were that Adam's Ale is a stunning place, we chose sunny days to be there and I gained confidence that I could actually produce lovelier Short and Novice courses than are possible on Brimham. Quentin was amused to hear that several of you had been asking the Brimham Rangers "Where's Adam's Ale...?!" to which they did not know the answer....

Given no-one wanted to cope with two starts I re-planned my Brimham courses and managed to contrive both areas to start and finish in the same place; this created unique shapes for the Long and Medium courses which I feel worked well.

All the time we 'probably' had permission from the farmers but nothing in writing (we suspect they prefer cows to admin) which was pretty stressful. We also panicked as your enthusiastic entries piled in and are sorry that we had to close entries at the first closing date leaving some disappointed.

Putting out controls was wet and horrid. The placid cows had been replaced by bullocks who ran at us, bellowing. Thank goodness they were within a field before the event as they could have been more than un-nerving at night.

The weather just held off. You turned up in your droves. And thank you all for being so positive and helpful and cheerful and not falling off a crag. Many people commented that they'd loved it and appreciated it being achievable and fun. The winning time on Long was stunning and exceeded mine and Quentin's expectations. However the majority of times on all courses was exactly as we hoped for.

Despite this event having attracted around five times the competitor numbers of any previous Claro night event, our amazing teams of helpers ran everything smoothly, even down to having all the controls collected, sorted and packed into the back of John's car by 8.30pm (ready to go out again on Ellington Banks).

If you enjoyed it or if you didn't, if you orienteered elegantly or if you really didn't, I would love to see your RouteGadget.

Ruth

Our thanks to the National Trust, Mr Wiseman and Mr Burton for letting us enjoy their exceptional land.