

Planner's Comments - Ruth Ker

Three people commented, after the Brimham night event in November, that they would have liked their course to be longer and harder. While I understand their thinking, to hold a night event on Brimham at all was highly experimental, let alone when we had army competitors out there too.

This time I planned to avoid risk of receiving that comment again. Most people got their Brimham fill with just one observation of "I could do that all day it was so marvellous!". Thank you for your numerous kind comments for my planning, Quentin's mapping and meticulous controlling, the slick Claro organisational teams and the kindly weather. I am glad you appreciated your day out and for your understanding that excellent events do not happen by chance or after slapdash preparation.

As ever, additional challenges arose. The National Trust built their fence after mapping and planning were well underway. They added the vital stile used by many of you after the maps had gone to print. We were relieved not to have to build it for you and that the cows hadn't moved in. The numbers we had permission for went from looking super generous to suddenly filling up as Brimham fame spread and then as CCC heats moved and were postponed. I am glad we were able to accommodate most of you as I hate turning anyone away. Thank you to all who shared cars and the fabulous few who came on foot or bicycle. Claro applauds you.

Before the event I was asked "Would it be worth coming from Sheffield? Is Hare Heads any good?". "Yes" I confidently replied. I am relieved to say you seemed to agree with me. It really was a planners feast with wonderful variety on all courses: The first half being (almost) brand new and quite different in flavour with open pristine rocks, then stunning ancient woodland (did you see the deer?), extraordinary crags and the famous well-walked rocks of Brimham itself. With the benefit of hindsight I would have moved M/W16 down one course. Otherwise I am pleased with my somewhat creative course allocations which produced a more even spread of competitor numbers than the usual ones. I went with the premise that the younger seniors would like More Brimham and shunted classes up a course while the oldest orienteers' course called for careful planning. The area is very physical and (without taking you round the paths which would have been boring) the Very Short Green was inevitably going to be tough. Most competitors were successful. My congratulations to you all. May I be as fabulous when I'm over 80.

Thank you to Will and Liz Drewe for providing the first string course Claro has put on in several years. It attracted a good number of members of the public as well as our young orienteers so will have pleased the National Trust which is gratifying. Claro also provide the NT with regular Orienteering Taster Days in exchange for your fun at Brimham.

We were sorry to be unable to provide results at the event due to lack of connectivity. This did mean that prize-giving was not as well attended as it might have been. If you missed it and find you are a winner do get in touch. Congratulations to the new YHOA Middle Distance Champions for 2023. If you can conquer Brimham Rocks you are surely ready for the imminent competitive season.

Claro's next major events are the weekend of 15/16 July with EuroCity coming to Harrogate and Knaresborough. Provisional details are up and entries will open soon.