

British Trail O Championships Saturday-Hednesford old RAF Camp and former Coal Mine.

Unfortunately the time change to the afternoon did not appear in the Main Programmes final details as it was printed before our decision to change. For this I apologise. In retrospect we should have had the two events the other way around but it is easy to be wise after the event.

Getting enough helpers with all Chasers involved in the Foot O event was difficult. Fortunately Dave managed to assemble a fine team from Wrekin O Club and Toby and Joan Norris from OD were able to join in. As some controls were tampered with my officials changed jobs but others appeared out of the blue and we managed in the end. Anne Braggins was every where and Don solidly worked on the computer all day. Having the Pine Café as our base worked really well and the kind donation of food and drinks for helpers from a friend made tasks a little easier.

Mobile Phones are not supposed to be taken around competitions by competitors but their use as a safety backup is invaluable. Alan had my number as we had picked him up from the station and was able to phone and let us know controls had been moved. It could have ruined the day for you all if I had been unable to contact Dave at once.

Maybe all competitors should have the organiser's number to call especially if the courses are so long. I felt the course was too far for some of the competitors and also for the wheelchair pushers. My thanks and admiration go to them and all the helpers who worked so hard to give the competitors a great day. Dave is a great guy to work with and his and Rod's mapping skills are superb. Making two maps from scratch and then planning and putting out all the flags has to be a labour of love.

Sunday Demonstration Event.- Wolseley Wild-Life Centre

Putting out controls in a canoe has to be a first and what is the IOF symbol for an island? As an attempt to introduce more orienteers to the sport of Trail O this was a success. 35 groups gave it a go and all found it a positive experience. Everyone enjoyed the area, although the sharp wind did its best to mar the day. It should have been possible for more to get all the answers right and two of the controls were probably too difficult, although if they had I would have run out of prizes. Chocolate bunnies and lollipops were much appreciated.

Some of the comments afterwards were

Interesting when can I try it again? Not really for me but I enjoyed the walk. Lovely gardens but too many distractions! Great to be able to go around as a group. Can we go round and check again? I could do this with some of my patients. It is harder than Foot O.

Some comments before were

How far, how long will it take and what standard is it set at? My comment was take as long or as little time as you like and enjoy the walk!

The centre staff could not have been friendlier or more helpful. A pity if you missed this day!