

Controllers Comments

Planning events at this time of year is always something of a gamble when weather of any type can be encountered. On the day it was fine and warm, but the heavy rain of the previous weeks had left its mark on the main tracks, although the puddles were much reduced. This was in marked contrast to my first visit when the paths were firm and dry. TD1 courses along such major tracks left little scope for alternatives, unlike the longer legs on the senior courses which hopefully presented enough choices, even if you didn't see them all at the time.

Which brings me to the problem which did affect those with diminishing eyesight. With hindsight, the use of a 1:15,000 map would have been better avoided for some age groups on course 3. There seems to be no standard convention on this, sometimes all age groups on course 3 have 1:10,000 or 1:15,000 whilst occasionally the younger classes have 1:15,000 and others 1:10,000. Given the detail on the map, such differentiation would have been better for this area.

The other problem which crept in was the different start symbol on the loose control sheets and the printed map. Everything I had seen up until the final map had included the 'crossing' symbol, but it had vanished from the printed map which I did not see until just before the first start times. Apologies to anybody who was confused.

Notwithstanding these two points, I hope everybody enjoyed Neville's courses and benefited from Fred's organisation which seemed to cope with all eventualities.

Keith Downing (SMOC)
Controller