

Controllers Comments – Bradenham 6th June

I thought Brian's courses got the most out of the area and given your feedback, the majority of you agreed. Bradenham demands respect. It's no good relying on relocating after a long cross country leg. You needed to pick an obvious attack point. It's clearly more challenging at this time of the year and to be fair the veg needs a refresh.

Organiser Paul did a great job well supported as usual by the excellent TVOC team structure. No problems noted. Thanks to Yvonne and her team for manning registration and download when many of the usual team were absent.

A number of you (4 on my count) mispunched mixing 138 for 139. 138 was on a wet depression and 139 was located on a small depression. The surrounding thickets were very different. I have considered reinstating the runners affected. I consulted a former grade 1 controller and several people who had visited both having gone to the wrong control first, and then relocated. However, the 2 features were different, and well over 30m apart (event guidelines). Therefore I'm afraid the DSQ still applies. Mean of the planner to put 'em close but in my view it was fair. Lesson learned - check the control code next time. The vast majority did not have a problem here, as all except white and yellow visited these controls.

Another dsq was challenged by a lady on blue who claimed she found the tag for 105, assumed the control had been stolen and so went to the next control. This was checked and indeed she was proven correct as Brian had tagged the thicket to the NW and I had managed to visit the same (wrong) thicket when I checked control sites. Fortunately (!) the flag was placed on the correct thicket on the day. However the offending tag was located and removed, and the runner's objection was upheld and she was reinstated.

Lastly at least one runner was tripped by the string course, whilst going to control 10 (115) a hide, on blue. I can only apologise for this. Once informed I did tape the hazardous sections. This was a process breakdown within the club, as the string-o planner consulted the planner not the controller. My fault as I should have checked the location of the string course.

Here are the colour standards:

White all competitors
Yellow 26mins (half)
Orange 66mins (half)
Light Green 68mins (half)
Green 67mins 30s (half)
Blue 77mins 30s (half)
Brown 87mins (half).

I hope you all enjoyed your run.

Mark Thompson
TVOC