

# CompassSport Cup & Trophy 24<sup>th</sup> January in the New Forest

## Officials Comments

### Controller's Comments

I have to say I had some reservations about the length of the courses which were towards the maximum of the guidelines. Although David had based them on the results from previous events, Ashley Walk is an exposed area and the event was on a January Sunday during a particularly cold winter. However I have to say he was right, with the Brown winning time equating to under 5 min/km and Blue Men 5 min/km.

The weather conditions certainly made for some interesting days during the planning process. What a contrast also between the Friday when the whole area was awash and the event day on Sunday. David had deliberately planned long legs because of the visibility in such an open area and the comments on the courses that I heard at the finish were certainly favourable.

Philip's organisation ran smoothly and the results were not only available for the clubs during the day but were also on the emit website in the evening. Thank you SOC for a successful Compass Sport Cup and Trophy Round 1 competition.

John Shucksmith

### Planner's Comments

When I started the planning of this event in mid November I was aware of two particular points; firstly that a large majority of the competitors would have run on this area 11 months ago in BOC and secondly that the fastest competitors can better 5 minute kilometres in this terrain

We tried to partially overcome the first by extending the map to the north and west so that some new areas would come into play and I tried as far as possible to use control sites which had not been used in BOC. I was slightly foiled in this by the FC doubling the size of the out of bounds area in the north and a late discovery of felling in the Pitts Wood Inclosure in the south. Couldn't do anything about the speed though as can be seen from the results; even the weather was kind on the day. I don't think they would have been as quick on some of the days we had prior to the event!

My decision to make the courses as long as possible within the guidelines and to provide quite a lot of long legs, this being to try to avoid too many of the inevitable processions on this fast open area, seems to have been vindicated. Yes; there was some bunching especially towards the end of the courses but I did receive some very appreciative comments from finishers.

I was helped by having an excellent map updated from the BOC map mainly by Ray Massey and I am most grateful to my team of control hangers, checkers and collectors. Thanks also to SARUM for the loan of 14 Emit controls which meant I was able to use a unique set for the non-competitive White and Yellow Courses which I was pleased to see were reasonably well supported.

Special thanks to the Controller, John Shucksmith who, like me, came quite late to the event, for his patient guidance and ready availability at all times to discuss all aspects of the courses.

David Bonser

### Organiser's Comments

With all the bad weather in the month leading up to the event I was anticipating the worst and looking for alternative dates in a crowded O calendar. Thankfully they weren't needed and the weather couldn't have been better on the day - it was great to see the sun and everyone enjoying themselves.

There were a few challenges along the way as I am sure is always the case. On this occasion SOC only took over the event in early September when SARUM's plans fell through, with their venue being taken from them. As a result unscheduled map revision was required and thanks go to Ray Massey (SOC) for his hard work thereby ruling himself out of scoring for the club. We also had the rather late announcement of the new competition scoring rules and only a couple of months to develop and test the necessary software to produce results on the day. Thanks to Terry Smith (SOC), Graham Tough (SWOC) and Jerry Newcombe (EMIT) for making that happen. And many thanks to Andy McGregor (BADO) for efficiently managing the more than usually complicated entries.

Unfortunately, Stephen Mallisom (WIM), suffered a broken knee half way round his Brown course. We are very grateful to Mathew Atkins (DEVON) who gave up his run to go to Stephen's aid, raise the alarm back at the start

and then return to the casualty. Being in a remote area the first aid team went in on foot first, but as it was too difficult to take him out on foot he was retrieved by Landover and taken to Salisbury hospital. Stephen was expected to have surgery today and we all wish him a speedy and successful recovery. Many thanks to Mathew, the SARUM First Aid Team and all SOC helpers involved in an efficient rescue.

I am very grateful to the management and staff at Sandy Balls Holiday Centre who have been extremely supportive and I am sure you will agree it was an excellent venue for an event centre with all its facilities. The 1.5km walk was the only major drawback, but parking this number of cars close to competitive orienteering terrain in the New Forest is always a challenge.

This is the first event staged under a new partnership and working relationship with Sandy Balls that is being developed jointly by the local clubs SOC, SARUM, WIM & WSX. The O map of Sandy Balls is currently being revised and will incorporate the forested slopes down to the river, the camping & touring fields, the lodges and the central pedestrianised area. This will then enable a wide range of O event formats and activities entirely within the site. A new Permanent O Course is also planned. A date to put in your diary now is 17th – 19th September when Sandy Balls is planning its first 'Sports Festival' weekend including running, cycling, orienteering and triathlon.

Local competitors should watch out for this week's Forest / Salisbury Journal which is publishing an item and photos about the event.

A very big thank you to all SOC Team Leaders and Helpers for your assistance in putting on another successful event. Lost Property found: One large silver Eurohike thermos flask

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PS: One last point, for the minority, is that instructions, guidance and signs are there for good reasons so please adhere to them at all times.