

## Holmbury Hill, 28 Sept 2014 – Organisers' comments

Well, we were hoping for good weather and we got it. The high temperatures in the woods seemed to affect some of the running times, but putting dry tents and control flags into the Klubb shed on Sunday evening was a joy!

Our decision not to provide water at the finish (made on the issues like transportation, disposal or/and recycling) seemed a miscalculation when the thermometer hit 23oC in the assembly, but it was flagged prominently in the Final Details. So thanks to Tom and Julie who took orders on drinks without payment from some competitors until they got paid on the way out.

Despite having the entries open until midnight on Thursday 25th, we got about 45 "entry on the day" runners. This put a strain on map numbers, because so many people entered after Paul sent the map order to the printer on Monday. We think about 2 or 3 competitors didn't get their 1st choice course so apologies for that.

The logistics of organising on Holmbury this time were a bit difficult, (parking along the track, Start 1km and Naughty Numbers 0.5km remote from Assembly) and our small band of helpers did an excellent job. Thanks to all who volunteered or were volunteered by family!

One of the requirements for a Level B is pre-allocated punching start times. On Sunday, 15% of pre-entries (mostly experienced orienteers) changed their start times, through being both early and late, putting an undue amount of pressure on the start officials.

So why do we have to pre-allocate times? Changing times makes a mockery of trying to separate club members and seeding, and frustrates start officials who are trying to prioritise EOD competitors – which have to be offered at a Level B event too. Why can't we go to Start Blocks for ease of everyone? Just an idea, but could someone take this to the "powers that be" please? \*\*

We will be returning to our favourite volunteering roles – being out in the woods either controlling or planning, not organising - taking the controlling reins at the HH Ace of Herts Level B in February 2015 in Egypt and Burtley Woods.

Lastly, thanks to:

- Mike Elliot, our Controller, who helped us enormously, even collecting the gate key
- the jury members who we thankfully didn't need
- Mark Beaumont, Ranger, and Friends of the Hurtwood who are so supportive of orienteering.

Julie & Ronan Cleary, Co-organisers

PS: Anybody who pre-entered and didn't get to run, please email Julie on [membership@londonorienteering.co.uk](mailto:membership@londonorienteering.co.uk) for your course map.

\*\*StopPress: Just seen that this is raised in the current edition of CompassSport too – haven't read the article yet.