

Informal Formats

No.63

What we told competitors...

With many clubs staging a series of small informal events during summer & winter months, the problem with finding something new to do on the same area becomes acute as the number of available areas is limited. Planners can be very imaginative and produce some exciting and challenging formats. It is important, however, to assess how the competitor will respond to the format, what routes (s) he will take etc. If possible, all elements of luck should be removed; trying to make the event as fair as possible for everyone. If your club has tried a format that has worked well, then please send the details in to CompassSport for publication in a future edition.

A Score with a twist at Kent Night Cup #17

by Rachel & Mark Collins DFOK

Dad and I based the idea of this format on a Harris relay - whereby there is a spine and score controls. However, as this was not a team event, we did not make the spine compulsory.

The first reason we thought this format would work was because Shorne Woods Country Park is a small area - by adding the spine we were adding distance. Secondly, it would work for the range of experience that we encounter at Kent Night Cups - from complete novices to experienced orienteers. It gave everyone the opportunity to score bonus points as the spine controls were relatively easy and total distance was just over 2km.

The last reason was to introduce something a little different into the league which required quite a lot of thinking time as well as being able to run.

Prior to the event we had the rules online for people to read over and digest the format. On the night, we were at the start ensuring everyone understood the format - this was necessary to clear up any confusion! Generally speaking, most had understood it well. Overall, the feedback was positive, with people appreciating the format and the challenge of working out the best route.

Interestingly, 20 out of the 37 competitors took on the spine including some less experienced orienteers.

FORMAT and RULES:

- ▶ 8 x 60s (60-67) - score
- ▶ 8 x 70s (70-77) - score
- ▶ 4 x 80s (80-83) - score or line

60s and 70s must be treated as individual sets, so once you start on a set you cannot change back. There is to be no mixing between 60s and 70s.

So this a standard 60's and 70's format except with a slight twist, there are an additional 4 (80s) controls which if done individually are worth 10 points each (these can be taken at any time) but if all 4 are taken as a group on the line course (starting with any number in either direction) then a bonus of 30 points will be awarded.

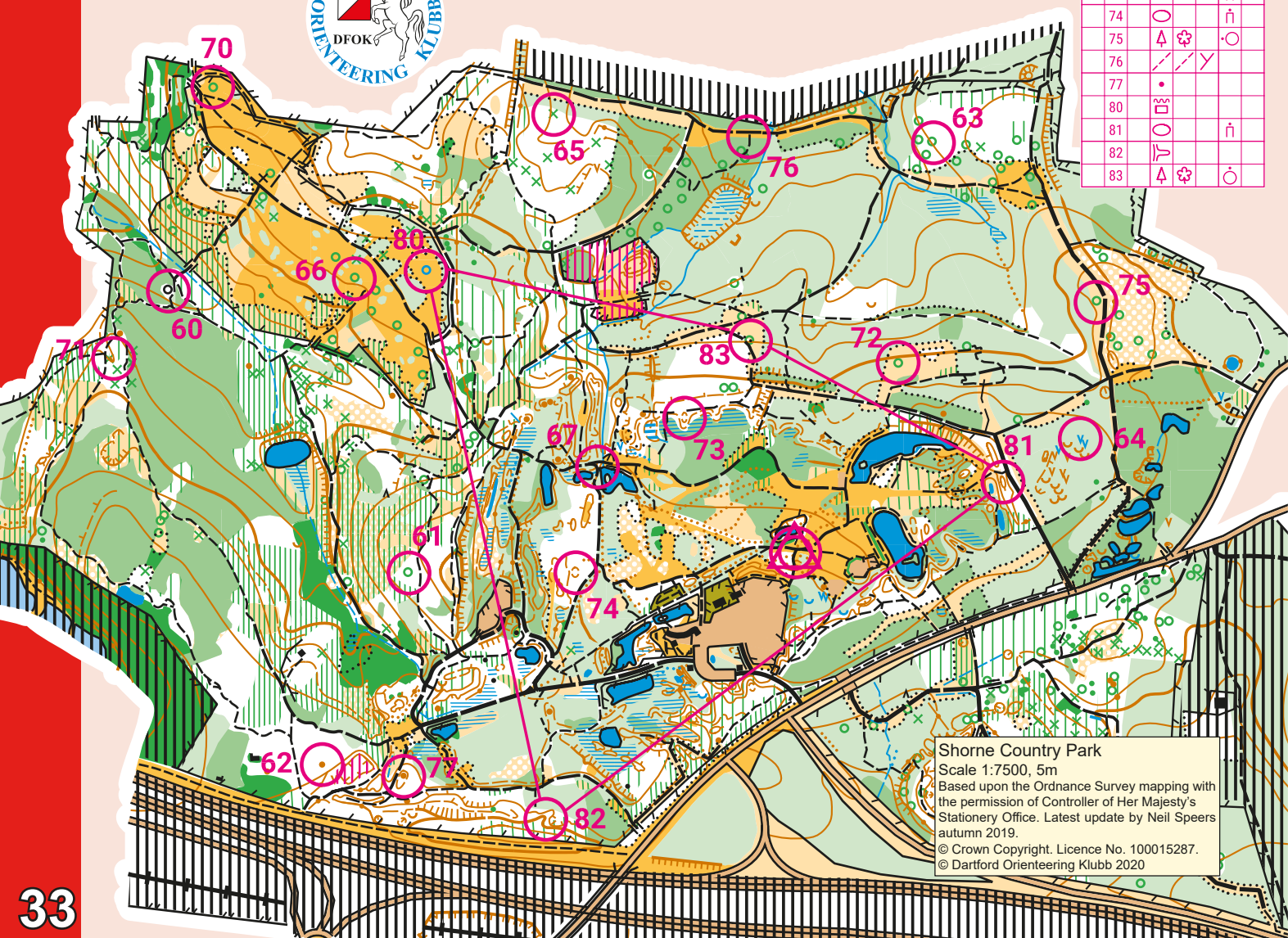
There is NO changeover control.

Note:

80s can be taken as interim controls within either set of 60s and 70s.

To be awarded the 30 bonus points, all four 80s must be collected

Shorne KNC 18			
27/01	20 controls		
▶			
60	○		
61	▲ ▲	○	
62	•		
63	▲ ▲	○	
64	↑ ▼		
65	⊗		○
66	▲ ⊗		○
67	▲ /	Y	
70	▲ ⊗	○	
71	∩	∪	
72	▲ ⊗	○	
73	○	ñ	
74	○	ñ	
75	▲ ⊗	○	
76	▲ /	Y	
77	•		
80	⊗		
81	○	ñ	
82	∩		
83	▲ ⊗	○	



Shorne Country Park
 Scale 1:7500, 5m
 Based upon the Ordnance Survey mapping with the permission of Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. Latest update by Neil Speers autumn 2019.
 © Crown Copyright. Licence No. 100015287.
 © Dartford Orienteering Klubb 2020

on the line in either direction starting with any control.

The winner of the event on 27th January was Alan Hickling SAX - 190 points in 57:09.

His route: 72, 75, 81, 83, 80, 82, 74, 73, 76, 70, 71, 60, 66, 61, 62 & 67 = 16 controls plus 30 bonus points = 190 points.

2nd place Sean Cronin SAX - 180 points in 56:35.

3rd place Neil Crickmore SO - 180 points in 57:56 (Neil did not complete the spine but instead tried to sweep all the controls in a score format, which reflects the variety of routes available).

We believe our aim to give all competitors

a chance to score bonus points was achieved and that we were able to provide something a little different.

We would definitely recommend this format but just ensure you have someone there that can spend time with the competitors making sure the format has been understood.