



The Mens A Class Podium.



(L-R) Hazel Tant, Jenny Johnson and Clare Leventon, with planner Dave Sowden.

in Army speak). Additionally there are other controls distributed across the map. Each runner in the team must visit all the compulsory controls, and unlike the German version of the event, runners may visit these in any order and at any time. The distributed score controls should be visited by one runner in the team. Thus, the team has to organise how best to distribute the team controls in the most optimal way according to their expected individual performances. The goal is to finish as close together as possible within the allotted time. The time of the last runner counts for the team result.

This style of event got its name from a recently deceased high ranking army officer called Harris. The British Army use this format, even as a part of their annual O Championships.

Why change the format?

Like any multiday event, it takes a toll on the helpers involved. The adoption of the Team score relay was seen as a way to bring a new and different challenge for the competitors to the final day of the event, as well as to reduce the workload on all those helpers involved. It also meant that people could get away early on Bank Holiday Monday. Interestingly, in the very early days of the White Rose the final event of the weekend was a Score Event, using many of the controls used for the event during the previous days.

So what were the challenges in planning an event like this?

- Liaising with the badge event planner, I started to get a feel for the flow of the terrain and a visit allowed me to consider how controls could flow together. However, given that this was a score event, I could not presume how teams would tackle the controls. My initial aims were:

- To have the assembly area close to the

parking field and this area should be close to a suitable path network, away from any roads, to allow successful planning of the junior courses.

- To allow access to a range of possible terrain.
- Produce 'courses' that would be achievable for the stronger teams within the timeframes (45 or 60 minutes)
- All this should be on a reasonably sized map.

Therefore, the chosen controls were visited (60 in total for all the courses) and the decision concerning the compulsory controls was made. These had to be so positioned to make best use of the area and to make sure that timescales were achieved.

With the distributed controls within 1125m of the compulsory controls 'course', the deciding factor would be the strength of runner who took on the escapement controls and how the other team members 'lighten' the load by taking on the remaining controls. As the teams were in control, I could only imagine how teams would create their own personal courses around my compulsory controls. Of the 64 teams that took part in the event on the three score 'courses' 10.9% visited all controls with 6.25% achieving this within the allotted timeframe. As a result, the event fulfilled my initial aims, objectives and expectations.

As the 'courses' were for 11 different classes, it would be difficult for all classes to achieve 100%, with some teams picking up a few time penalties. However the results and comments in all classes were very favourable. I did not witness any disagreement between team members; perhaps this took place elsewhere. After all, the intension was

that it should be a 'fun' end to the White Rose Weekend bringing club teams and families together.

(Those still wanting more could take part in the 2 hour Bike O if they wished in the afternoon.)

So what would you do? The map shows the A course controls and the winning team took the controls in the following order, with Matt Crane being sent off to scale the escarpment.

Matt Crane's Route - 157, 124, 127, 113, 112, 134, 103, 138, 172, 195, 177

Rob Baker's Route - 193, 167, 202, 181, 178, 163, 216, 172, 156, 150, 108, 104, 154, 177

Nick Barrable's Route - 177, 196, 160, 161, 194, 165, 197, 172, 217, 219, 216, 157, 129



Can you guess which top elite orienteer these legs belong to? Answer on page 42.