

Organiser's report

Thank you to everyone who turned up to run at The Nower for the first of this year's Mole Valley Summer Evening Series. From the comments I received, most of you enjoyed the Odds and Evens format with the extra route choice challenge it introduced. Of the three possible sequence choices, 2 of you chose sequence A (odds then evens), 11 chose sequence B (evens then odds) and 14 chose sequence C (alternate odds and evens). The results suggest that sequence C was in fact the most efficient option, with the top 5 scorers all having chosen it. No one quite managed to collect all 30 controls, although some of you came close, and no two competitors visited the controls in exactly the same order. Every control was visited by at least 8 people, but none by more than 23. Two people lost points for punching the same control twice and one for breaking the sequence (repeatedly!).

I apologise for the incorrect placing of control 14, which affected four runners before it was correctly repositioned, all of whom have been credited with punching it. I also apologise to anyone who, as a result of my incomplete spreadsheet formula copying, thought they had received fewer penalty points for lateness than they should have. I identified my mistake and in the final results the penalties and the final scores are correct. Thank you very much to all the Mole Valley volunteers who helped to make the whole event run smoothly and cover up the deficiencies of an inexperienced organiser and planner, especially all those who stayed on and collected controls to the sound of owls hooting in the gathering gloom. Well done to those of you for whom this was a first experience of either evening or non-street orienteering, and to everyone for coping uncomplainingly with the nettles and brambles which had grown at least three feet between planning and running the event. I hope you will be inspired to attend more of the MV Summer Series events in the months to come.

George Engelhardt