

14th April 2024 British Relay Champs - Tony Burton (an old Mole)

There is something appealing about the British Relays - the best of the relay formats I believe with teams grouped by class and gender.

This year's event followed a horror forest for the individual just across the valley and some feared the worst - gratuitous grot and tedious track runs.

The reality was very different. A stunning arena with long views across Whitby, its prominent Abbey and the coast of the North York Moors National Park; and well located for the parking (a potential mudfest saved only by two days of drying wind).

Attention was focused in the other direction and the view of a rollercoaster run in around three sides of a steeply sloping field - expect some great photos of fast moving stumbles and falls as finishers over stretched on the downhill.

The forest also lived up to what's needed for a relay. Middle distance style planning with map detail and much low visibility. Some paths were near invisible and the thickets bore relation to the map only some of the time but the planning was fair and the competition good. A rare route choice (6-7) through nearly 100m of near fight proved the right one.

Moles gathered along the run in. Moles chatted. Moles reminisced. Early Moles shared tips (those invisible paths) with late Moles. Moles ran well. Moles ran less well. Moles identified distant Moles on the run in (and some confused Moles for other Moles - I am saying nothing Nicky!). Moles enjoyed themselves.

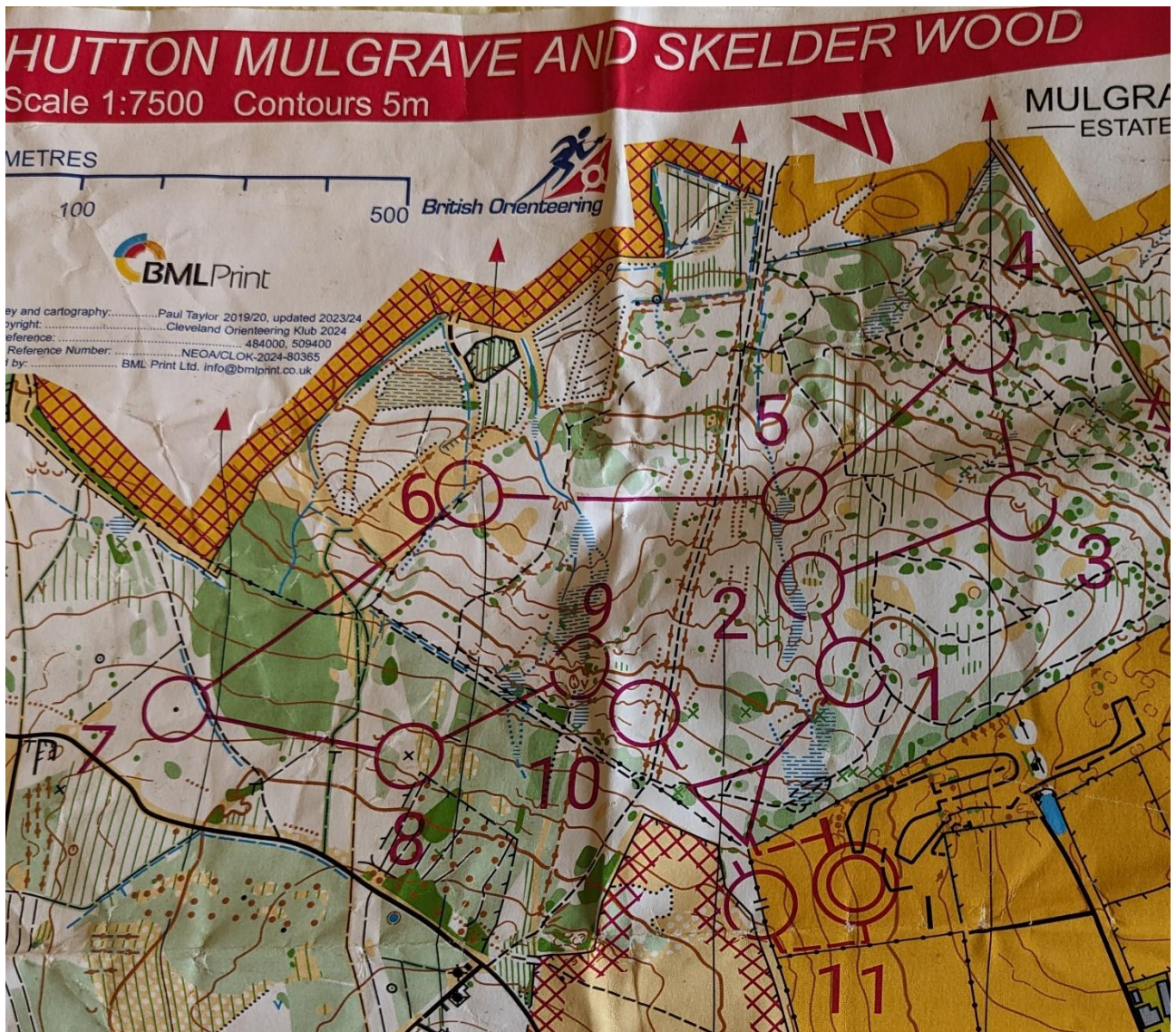
Some old Moles (M60 Velvet Flyers) came 4th. Some young Moles (M14 Molecules) came 5th. Some in-between Moles (M40 Black Velvet) came 8th and some mixed-up Moles (Ad hoc Holy Moly) came 24th.

Results can be found [here](#)



Keith, Tony and Ian discuss their experience of the M60 event with Tim (photo credit Nicky Masson)

Tony's 3rd leg course



Molecules on the run in – Ralph Scarbrough, Hugh Scarbrough & Ben Seaston (photo credit Nicky Masson)

