

Organiser's comments

Thank you all for coming today. As recently as last week, the event was on shaky ground. Luckily it worked out. Apologies to those of you who were affected by the closure of the central multi-storey car park; I hope you made it to the event in a fairly relaxed frame of mind. I also hope those who came up the river bank enjoyed the approach to the event. The keepers at Abingdon Lock keeper apparently won 'Keeper of the Year' a couple of weeks ago. Please see:

<http://www.abingdonblog.co.uk/?p=19067>

The orienteering that I saw gave me the impression that Fiona's courses combined with Martin's new map of Abingdon and John's light-touch controlling gave a high quality competition. Those of you who thought otherwise were kind enough to maintain your own counsel on the day. Any comments or suggestions will be gratefully accepted however.

On the negative side, I managed to contact the majority of residents that complained about competitors encroaching on private spaces. All warnings in final details about running on unfenced lawns were there for a reason; this was one of the major themes of the residents concerns.

Hopefully we will have some good news for South Central Junior Squad in a couple of weeks regarding the donation from this event. It sounds like the cake stall was a roaring success as well.

With thanks to all.

Luke.

Planner's comments

Many thanks for all the comments and feedback I received on the day. I was pleased that most people claimed to have enjoyed the courses (I hope that wasn't just politeness!) and I look forward to seeing what routes people took, so please do upload them to Routegadget.

Abingdon was a great area to plan on, with a nice variety of urban terrain. The shape of the area presented some slight challenges from a planning perspective. Bringing all the courses through the area near the start twice may have resulted in a reduction in the technical difficulty for some courses, and some confusing crossing lines. Nevertheless I hope there was enough to keep your mind occupied around the course.

All courses finished with a more technical section after the road crossing and then some route choices into the Abbey Gardens area. I think this provided a good challenge, especially as people started to fatigue, although on reflection 2 minutes was too long for the road crossing as this allowed some of you to plan the entire rest of the course! I have shown a few measured routes for some legs below for interest.

Some of you were a little confused by the start process which didn't flow too well at times. There were several things that we were considering here. We obviously didn't want to upset the "neighbours" too much and so tried to run a quiet start. The split nature of the start boxes was to try to prevent you seeing which way runners were leaving (on several of the courses there was a choice that many of you missed) but also to keep the event safe. In the end we decided that safety was more important than fairness but I think we managed to achieve both at the expense of your early confusion!

I'd also like to thank those of you who gave feedback to us (both positive and negative) they were all given in the right spirit and are genuinely appreciated.

So, once again, thanks to all who competed, all who helped, and especially to Fiona and Luke.

John Orton
NWO