

Organisers' Comments

Thank you for coming to the Culden Faw Estate for this year's Chiltern Challenge. We hope that you feel it was worth paying the higher entry fee to have access to this premium area when at its best.

Four years ago, when we last organised at this venue, snow & flooding had the potential for cancelling the event (JK13D2) and we had prepared 'Event Cancelled' notices for the gate. What a difference today!

We hope that even the most focussed of you found time to spot & appreciate primroses, bluebells, tadpoles, butterflies, birds of prey, the wallaby and Midsomer Murders locations.

The TVOC (volunteer) team set-up made our job much easier, Alun Jones, in particular, spent much time before & after perfecting entries & results. Terry Smith (SOC, Controller) kept us on our toes with constructive advice delivered in a measured manner. You all owe a big debt of thanks to the mappers (John Farren + Mark Thompson) & planners (Mark Thompson, Peter Riches & Ben Green, String-O). The Estate employees, too, were all very helpful and efficient in supporting us. As always, it was good to have Ian Kevan & Tom & Julie Wilkinson enhancing our event with their presence.

We know we let down our younger male competitors with the high urinals. We'll try to remember a step in future. If we could have made your day more enjoyable in any other way do, please, let us know so we can try to improve next time.

Glynis & Jon Wheatcroft

Planners Comments

Mark, having updated and managed the Hambleden Estate map since 2010 more than ably assisted by John Farren, and seen it used for the 2011 Southern Champs and the JK in 2013 (2 days), we were both keen to plan on it as it's such a wonderful runnable forest.

Steve Long (planner for 2011) had set some very long legs in 2011 from one corner of the map to the opposite corner. We felt competitors would expect these so we relied on 1km long legs for the longer courses instead. We tried to avoid long path runs for the technical courses offering route choice by keeping contact with the map.

The actual course lengths were based on Southern Champs on 13th March 2011 adjusted for an expected winning time of 67mins. We tried to keep the climb down on the shorter technical courses and restrict overall climb to ca 4%. Not easy for such a hilly area.

It was really good to see so many friends from other clubs, enjoying both their run and the sun on such a superb day. We hope you enjoyed your run, and thank you all the positive comments.

An event is always better when you have good support and our thanks go to Terry our Controller, a pleasure to work with and Jon and Glynis your Organisers for all their excellent help and support. We are saying nice things twice to you in one week Jon so watch out.....

Mark Thompson
Peter Riches
Planners

Controller's Comments Terry Smith, SOC

The sun justifiably shone on this year's TVOC's Chiltern Challenge. It has been a pleasure for me to work with the TVOC team and, as the competitor's representative, I would like to express thanks on your behalf to all the TVOC officials and helpers for their efforts.

From my first meeting on site nearly a year ago with the Planners (Mark and Peter) and the Organisers (Glynis and Jon), it was obvious that this was going to be a well-coordinated and professionally planned and organised event. Nothing happened along the way to change my view.

Peter and Mark went through several iterations during course planning as they aimed to get the best out of the area for you. I hope you agree that they succeeded. The area could be described as "feature rich" but I believe they did well to make use of the major knolls and depressions and avoid areas where small features proliferate.

I believe that Mark and Peter did well to provide quality courses while working within the constraints of the terrain and the out-of- bounds areas. On an area previously used for the JK, you would expect the terrain to support a high level of orienteering challenge. As ever, the lower technical difficulty courses provided their own challenge for the planners and this was particularly so for the Yellow TD2 course where they had to tape part of the course.

We also need to thank Mark Thompson for his work updating the map with John Farren.

On behalf of our youngest competitors, I'd like to thank Ben Green's team for providing a string course enjoyed by many.

Glynis and Jon demonstrated their experience with very thorough organisation, attention to detail and anticipation of my questions that left me feeling a little redundant (and that's a good thing!). They were fortunate to be able to call on Alun Jones to mastermind the computing support that was made more interesting with the desire to hold a timely prize-giving for the SCOA Championships. The fact that the team were ready and waiting to start the prize-giving at the publicised time reflects the quality of preplanning that went into the event in general. Thanks to all of you who stayed at the event to show your appreciation of the SCOA Championship prize-winners for 2017; congratulations to all of them.