British Relay Championships 2017 – Summer House Knott - Relay Controller's comments

I would first like to thank some of the key weekend officials who put a huge amount of effort in to the events which I am sure is appreciated by the competitors. First to highlight Richard Tiley who put in many hours to secure access across the weekend, such that the Relay officials were presented with an excellent assembly area with near adjacent parking and of course great terrain.

Martin Bagness for updating the map to a high standard.

Alan Irving did a tremendous job for us planning out the assembly area to make best use of the space we had. Bob Barnby and Rob Holder planned some great courses needing little input from me and correctly handled all of the OCAD programming, maps and gaffle labelling. Eddie Speak was a great help with the label production and much advice to the team on the required procedures.

Competitors will be aware of a number of issues that we encountered during the day, which require some explanation:

Initial non-registering of leg1 and 2 finish control:

This was because the boxes had different programming from leg 3, it was a point missed but quickly rectified

Misalignment of gaffles between maps and computers:

First of all to thank the competitors concerned for their patience. We were quickly able to identify the issue as a computer/map mismatch. This was possible as we had woken up and checked by download all controls and knew that the control boxes were correctly programmed and positioned. We identified the cause as the downloaded version on computer was the penultimate one prior to a few minor gaffle revisions, nonetheless enough to cause a significant number of competitors to initially appear to be 'disqualified'. The courses were reprogrammed with all affected competitors re-instated. The knock on was the delay in results being posted, for which we apologise.

Disqualification of competitors

It is always regrettable when teams are disqualified, in particular when it is a number of leading teams on the premier class. In decision terms, if there was no e-punch recorded every competitor with a discernable needle punch was re-instated whilst other teams remained disqualified.

We are currently in the middle of a new step change in technology with SIAIR. It is therefore likely that there will be some teething problems as competitors and organisers get used to the new system, but at the same time we could wrongly assume that this new system is to blame. In terms of equipment all efforts were taken in advance to check the boxes and where required replace batteries with minimum levels exceeding those set by SI. They were all woken up and checked on the morning of the event, nonetheless one site (193) failed just after 13:00. Every control site had a manual back up punch as indicated in the event programme with an instruction to use it in the event of SI box failure.

Best regards
Simon Thompson
Relay Controller