

Planners Report – British Championships - High Dam 2017

Planning this event has been a real team effort, blessed with gentle but very pertinent controlling from Mike. We discovered straight away that the expected hill-top conifer area was unexpectedly felled and unusable, and it took a while to add on and check out the extra three chunks of mapping we ended up with. Then the question was how best to use the wonderful bits constrained by all the major walls and fences.

Martin Bagness offered lots of good ideas including the general shape of M21E, and the Great Long Leg, for which Dan and Karen Parker immediately test-ran all three main options (the path route, bumble through the middle, and swing wide to the left) with very satisfactory results.

Ian Gilliver came on board in the summer, and is now very familiar with Skype shared screens. From then on, we did pretty much everything together. Sadly we were limited to 400 runners through Rusland, so we couldn't get everyone into the new stuff, and even fewer across into the NW bluebells. We tried to give every course at least one leg that would be a talking point afterwards. The courses which proved most difficult to agree were W18/20E (course 4) and Orange (course 29).

More thanks to AIRE, CLARO, DEE and SELOC for loans of kit; Grahame Crawshaw and Sally Gilliver for help with a week's worth of control hanging; Chris Poole for help waking-up controls at 6am Saturday; all the control collectors ... and a special shout for Graham Walkden's superb fence crossings.