

Organiser's Comments BOC09 Relays

What a day! The conditions couldn't have been much better for a relay event with sun shining, dry conditions and negligible wind. For this to occur on the first day of March was more than we could have hoped for.

We would like to publicly acknowledge the considerable efforts put into this event by Jerry Newcombe, the BOC09 coordinator and, on your behalf, thank all the team leaders and their helpers whose efforts made this event possible.

Our involvement with the event began some years ago, initially involving land access negotiations then surveying and mapping and finally the organisation of the Relay event itself. This was truly a regional effort, drawing on personnel and equipment from all clubs in the region. We are also grateful for the help provided by a number of individuals from outside our region who provided specific skills and facilities.

BAOC did a fantastic job over the weekend in setting up and taking down the site facilities. Nothing was too much trouble. We would like to thank you for respecting the line limiting club tents. Your fellow competitors appear to have appreciated the access way that this provided to cheer on their teams and to get to other areas of assembly.

BADO have to be congratulated on a very slick prize-giving that resulted from hours of detailed planning. We provided a marquee in case of inclement weather but it was a relief that we were able to move the ceremony outside to accommodate the large numbers who stayed to congratulate the prize-winners of both days.

BKO provided a proficient team to man the download which seemed to work very efficiently.

SARUM had one of the more challenging logistics activities covering relay entries, registration, both map issue activities and enquiries. They made sure we got the right details for the right team and that you got the right map.

SOC provided car park marshals, planners and forest team. The Forster family staged a very popular String course.

SOFA, a very small club, took on the task of compiling over four hundred team bags of bibs, cards and pins. This is one of those behind the scenes activities that is required to put on an event of this nature and has to be done perfectly.

SN managed the map reclaim area, squash and relay results display.

TVOC masterminded the layout and operation of the starts, change-over area and finish. We tried to use the contoured section of the assembly field to provide waiting runners with a good view of their incoming team members. This inevitably resulted in an uphill finish (sorry!) but meant that the megaphone only had to be used about seven times to summon missing team members.

We must extend a huge thank you to the staff of the Beaulieu Estate who couldn't have been more helpful. They provided the catering contractor, signs for car-parking, most of the stakes used to set out assembly, the prize-giving podium, water supply, over-night storage, prizes for the string course and even built a new stile on the estate boundary. We

hope that many of you took up the discount on 2008 prices to visit the National Motor Museum during the week before and the week after the event.

We can't close without thanking you, the competitors on a number of counts:

Grateful thanks to all of you who declared teams early and did not change team details over the week-end. This reduced the work-load for the organisation considerably and reduced the risks of error. I could only find enough litter to one third fill a plastic shopping bag; much of that did not appear to be Orienteering specific. It was really gratifying to see so many of you stay to support all of the prize-giving. This added to the atmosphere that we hope made the day for our new British Champions.

Lost Property:

One shoe-horn
One wrist-band

Contact us on 023 8084 5787 by 31st March if you would like to retrieve them.

Terry & Di Smith