

Controllers Report

Staple Common & Castle Neroche is an area of mixed woodland and open areas with varied feasibility due to the steady encroachment of the dreaded Somerset bramble. In addition, the recent weather had turned ditches into transient streams, generated a fresh batch of fallen trees and turned parts of the area into a quagmire. Some minor changes had to be made to the courses when parking had to be moved to the forest roads within the competition area – hopefully this did not spoil your enjoyment of the event.

Robert Green tackled his first role as a Planner of this type of event in a very focussed and conscientious manner. The comments from the competitors underlined his success – the majority liked the technically challenging nature of the courses and this is what Orienteering is all about, not a cross country run punching controls on the way.

There were some less positive comments about the length of the courses, the times taken by some competitors and the number of retirements. Without doubt the rain and the terrain/feasibility made the courses quite physical but the winning times, with the possible exception of the Brown, were all within an acceptable range.

I must thank Bill Vigar for his sterling work on updating the map and incorporating the additional changes from the Planner and Controller and for the support that he gave Robert.

The QO organising team system provided plenty of helpers on the day and everything ran smoothly.

A well organised and planned event with very fortunate weather on the day – well done QO.

Steve Robertson