

Controller's comments

Bridgwater provided an excellent venue for the really successful QO urban event this weekend. The narrow streets and alleyways of the old town contrast with the newer estates and wider roads. Through the middle runs the old Taunton to Bridgwater canal and finding access to the towpath can be a challenge. The old water meadows called The Meads and the tidal river Parrott complete the varied tapestry of landscapes.

Planning the courses for the event started back last Autumn and all was well until the persistent winter rains led to flooding of the Meads and potential loss of the junior courses and the Finish. Jim Mallinson, our excellent planner, had to find an alternative set of courses in case of very wet weather and drew new sections of the map for these. A further complication is the big spring tides which result in closure of the tidal gates across some of the streets. Fortunately, the highest tide of the year is not until next weekend.

Safety is always in the mind of event officials and even more so in an urban event. Both Jim and the organiser, Chris Philip, have worked very hard to ensure that safety measures were in place for competitors. May I remind those very few participants who choose to ignore any safety measure, eg they cross roads marked out of bounds, not only do they put themselves and potentially others in danger but also may gain unfair advantage over fellow competitors.

On behalf of all the competitors, I would like to thank Jim, Chris, the QO committee and all the volunteers for their hard work and time spent putting this event together. It was a delight to work with them. Thank you.

Katy Dyer BOK