

## Controller's comments

There were quite a number of aspects to staging this excellent YHOA Champs at Ogden that I got involved with as well as the formal controlling. We commissioned an extended and excellent new LIDAR based map from Paul Taylor and I spent a lot of time discussing the progress and refinements to it with him. Then there was the RaceSignUp entry system to set up and manage - everyday's a school day!

Planner Connor Smith, his shadow Ben Carter and I spent time working out how to safely negotiate the slopes, seasonal undergrowth, fences, marshes and heather of the ever evolving, wilder Ogden. Five years since our last races here and seven since a regional event the minutes per km have slowed and some parts, even if looking inviting on the map are much harder to run through, some, more dangerous. However, the great thing about orienteering in Ogden is the great variety of terrain and challenges in a relatively small area. I think the planning highlighted this diversity, passed through the best bits and avoided most of its physical excesses. After some helpful test run feedback from Alasdair Pedley the course distances and the times they produced were where we hoped they'd be for all the adult courses but probably a bit long for Light Green, Orange and Yellow. A number of parents have told us about the lack of progression up the technique ladder the Covid hiatus might have caused for youngsters. We probably over-estimated junior confidence off the path network, and frankly, Ogden can look a bit intimidating when you step off the tracks (Light Green and Orange) and when multiple decision points were involved (Yellow). These courses might have had a bit too much climb as well.

I put my hands up for the mistake with marking and explaining the golf course fairway out of bounds on the first heathland section of many courses. Courses should have avoided this better and the boundary, unless you understood the white marker posts golfers use for their out of bounds, made much clearer on the overprint. Apologies if you had to put up with being yelled at by men in plus fours who should have known better or saw orienteers gaining an unfair advantage by running on the smooth fairway turf.

EPOC members put in a great shift to stage the event. Thanks to you all. Particular thanks to Jackie Page's IT management, can-do attitude to keeping RaceSignUp open to late entrants and reprogramming SI boxes for a longer awake time. And what a gem of a String Course area.

Finally, a thought for control hangers and controller for the 10m visibility and ghostly turbine blade soundscape on Saturday afternoon as previously familiar control sites provided the biggest fine navigation challenge of the whole season.

Jonathan Emberton