

Organiser's comments

I was asked to organise the event well over a year ago, and at the time thought I wasn't going to be able to do the on the day stuff. Things changed, and I was! However, as a result I asked if Jo could do the on the day if I did the beforehand preparation. This was the best decision ever, as she quickly became a great help, asking questions and thinking of other ways around things. In fact it is thanks to Jo we had the classroom, which I think you will all agree, was a fantastic resource. For the sake of having a super area for our first string course in years, we got a brilliant base. Were we to do it again would we change things? Of course we would, we could probably have accommodated the clothing dump inside had we put things in different places, but we know for next time. One thing I did learn is that organising event has changed A LOT in 10 years (the last time I organised, and at Ogden too). There is a lot of paperwork and safety work to cover, and having someone to help made it so much more reassuring. I know it is hard to get ONE organiser, but maybe the way forward is to work as a pair as planners and controllers do, to bring in someone new, I know I really appreciated it.

On the day we were so lucky with the weather. The day before had been appalling, fog and rain all day. The car park held up remarkably well, and I am sorry that some of you had a bit of a walk to the start, at least we had a contingency. We did say in the Final details that car parking would be very tight and to please share where possible. As with most events, car parking is the biggest headache. The previous venue was no longer available and the other alternative would have meant bussing or VERY long walks as well as potentially being a quagmire. On balance it was the best we could do, especially as the entry outstripped our expectation by between 50 and 100. We were anticipating 150, hoping for 200, but had 251 entries! All week, watching the entry climb, my biggest worry was car parking! So thank you to you all for entering, without competitors there would be no event. Thank you to Emma for being at the end of an email for me to ask questions, after 10 years I needed some reassurance it would all be right.

It was the first time we (Jo and I) had done prize giving, and thank you Emma for the brilliant suggestion of the canes, much safer (and lighter) than slippery steps. Thank you for bearing with us while we ironed out some wrinkles. I hope all the winners enjoyed their parkin or chocolate, I know even some adults were pleased to get a certificate, thank you Jo for designing that.

Thank you to Terry at The Causeway Foot Inn and his manager Daz, they couldn't have been anymore helpful, I know some of you went along for sustenance afterwards and I know they were pleased by that support.

Finally, thank you to all of the helpers, without you there would be no possibility of running an event. I hope most of you got your run and that you enjoyed it.