

INDIVIDUAL RACE: CONTROLLER'S COMMENTS

When I volunteered to control this event I knew that it had been through troubled times. Happily the planners and organising team put those behind them and came up with a Championships which in my opinion, and I reckon the opinion of the majority who ran, deserved its title. I think of the New Forest as one of the classic orienteering terrains; those who thought the area would provide easy courses were perhaps surprised by the navigational problems that the planners provided; and certainly both speed and spot-on navigation were needed to win. (I got totally confused in two areas back in the autumn and my mistaken view of the landscape had to be corrected.)

As the representative of both the competitors and British Orienteering, I thank SCOA for its combined effort in making the event a success. SOC's local knowledge and considerable manpower – helped by other SCOA clubs – combined with most competent planning, mapping and organising made the day. Thanks also to my assistant controller Pat Barclay of SARUM; without his younger legs, checking the 142 controls would have involved using a head torch.

I learned a lot; not having controlled an event of this size before, I soon realised that there was a quantum leap between it and even a National event at the old Level 2. And lastly, I had a very enjoyable time and met some great people.

Arthur Vince, KERNO