

Planner's Comments

Thanks to everyone who came to the Norland Moor event, which was the first orienteering on the moor for eight years. The clouds were down on Saturday, Sunday and Monday, which made navigation a bit harder, although I don't think visibility was ever below 40-50m, so thankfully nobody came a cropper in the old quarries. The mist can be disorientating, however, as I found out to my shame on the medium course. Having planned the course and thinking that I know the moor backwards, I didn't take a compass and then managed to leave number 9 in the wrong direction. A short 60 second leg then took about 9 minutes as I ended up circling round on paths that all looked alike in the mist.

Some people had problems with getting a bleep at the pond, and probably got wet feet in the process as the pond is fuller at the moment compared to what is shown on the map. However, there was definitely a clear signal on the northern edge of the water next to a small boulder. Control number 10 on the long course was probably the most problematic (the small depression on the edge of the scattered trees). This area needs re-mapping for a future event and the small depression is actually a wet pit. When I did the check run I found the bleep about 5m south of this pit, but when I came to do the event it didn't register until about 20m away.

In the planning I was trying to tempt people into taking direct routes in a few places, but from experience most people know that on Norland Moor the fastest route is invariably via a path and then in and out of a control. The north western strip of moor below the edge is certainly slow going as there are tussocks in addition to the heather and bilberry. I tried it twice on both the long and medium courses and regretted it.

We had to field a complaint from a member of the public who was very concerned amongst other things that the aged amongst us were going to break their "brittle bones". It was phrased almost in a way as to suggest that we had rounded up some unsuspecting old folk in the neighbourhood and made them risk everything on the foggy moor – or perhaps that's exactly the impression some of you made!

Many thanks to Richard, James, Jonathan and David for all the work that they do behind the scenes to put these events on and to the committee for their support in dealing with the complaint.

Dick Spendlove