**Controller’s Comments**

Newmillerdam was originally planned for Christmas 2020 with the intention of using the same base as previously at the Scout Hut and main public car park, however it became apparent during lockdown that we would need to find a new base as Newmillerdam has become the ‘go-to’ place for Wakefield and the public car park is now completely full by mid-morning nearly every weekend. David explored a couple of options with success at the Pledwick Cricket Club. Huge thanks must go to the Cricket Club for being so welcoming and helpful and also to the Pledwick Well Inn for allowing us to park in their car park.

This change of base, combined with an uncertainty if the lakeside track along the entire west side of the lake would be open due to ongoing forestry works (but no-one could tell us exact dates of when it can or can’t be used), meant we would need to start and finish on the east side of the lake. Many of you will have run at Newmillerdam before so I hope that having the start and finish on this side gave you a different experience to previous events.

This did however pose difficult planning challenges for Gill, particularly for the middle distance event. Firstly, for the easier courses it was a case of ensuring the correct length and difficulty could be achieved which wasn’t helped by the lack of line features to get from the higher path to the lakeside track to keep a short enough distance for the white course. For the technical courses it was hard to find suitable features along the east side on what is effectively a very narrow and fairly featureless section of wood and also considering that courses would travel in both directions along this section. Additionally due to both events using the same controls she also had to avoid as much as possible having the same legs on the night middle and long as any of the TD5 courses the next day so that anyone running both events did not end up running the same legs.

Given these limitations Gill planned some interesting courses for both events and a lot of positive comments were given about the courses as well as the different start and finish location to previous events so it sounds that most people enjoyed their courses!

Merry Christmas to you all 😊

Emma Harrison