

WHITE ROSE NIGHT EVENT - Pickering Forest

The White Rose took place over the usual Bank Holiday weekend at the end of August. Special effort had been made this year to try and increase numbers, with co-ordinator Bill Griffiths and his team working hard to attract the crowd. The pre-event fliers were excellent and the addition of a Night Score on Saturday night made things even more fun. On Saturday 25th, at 2100, a mass start of 150 odd lamp clad runners, charged off into the warm, somewhat midge infested night. Many were to return about 30 minutes later, but for some, the task of being in time was too tough, and many points were lost for lateness. The planning meant there was no way you could get all of them, and the foolish amongst the crowd failed to focus their efforts in the higher density of controls in the centre and lower centre of the map.

Looking at the adjacent map, what would you have done? Think about how far you could run in 30 minutes, plan a route and then measure it. Which controls would you have dropped?

Previously, the White Rose had a Night Score in the mid to late 90's which was longer. Numbers dropped off and it was axed from the programme.

Organiser/Planner Steve Corrigan of EBOR tells us about some of the thoughts and rationale behind what was for some, the highlight of the very sunny weekend.

As the regional events are serious stuff [sic], my first thought was to make the night event a bit of fun.

I wanted to encourage people to have a go and enjoy it; they could come for a good run round in the dark and not have to struggle with anything too physical. I also wanted families to come out and experience the forest at night together.

I had enjoyed night 'O' mass starts in the past, with Claro in the YHOA Night League, and they were always the most exciting and sociable event of the night calendar year. Mass starts make for much more of a head to head race; people can have a bit of banter before they start and swap war stories after they have finished. Starting and finishing together is what makes it more sociable. We got 115 pre-entries which made the event even more of an occasion and quite exciting. To make life simple I had the car park, start and finish all in the same place; this added to the atmosphere. At the last minute I moved the start/finish to a beautiful viewpoint so everyone could take in the panoramic view from the escarpment across to Levisham Moor.

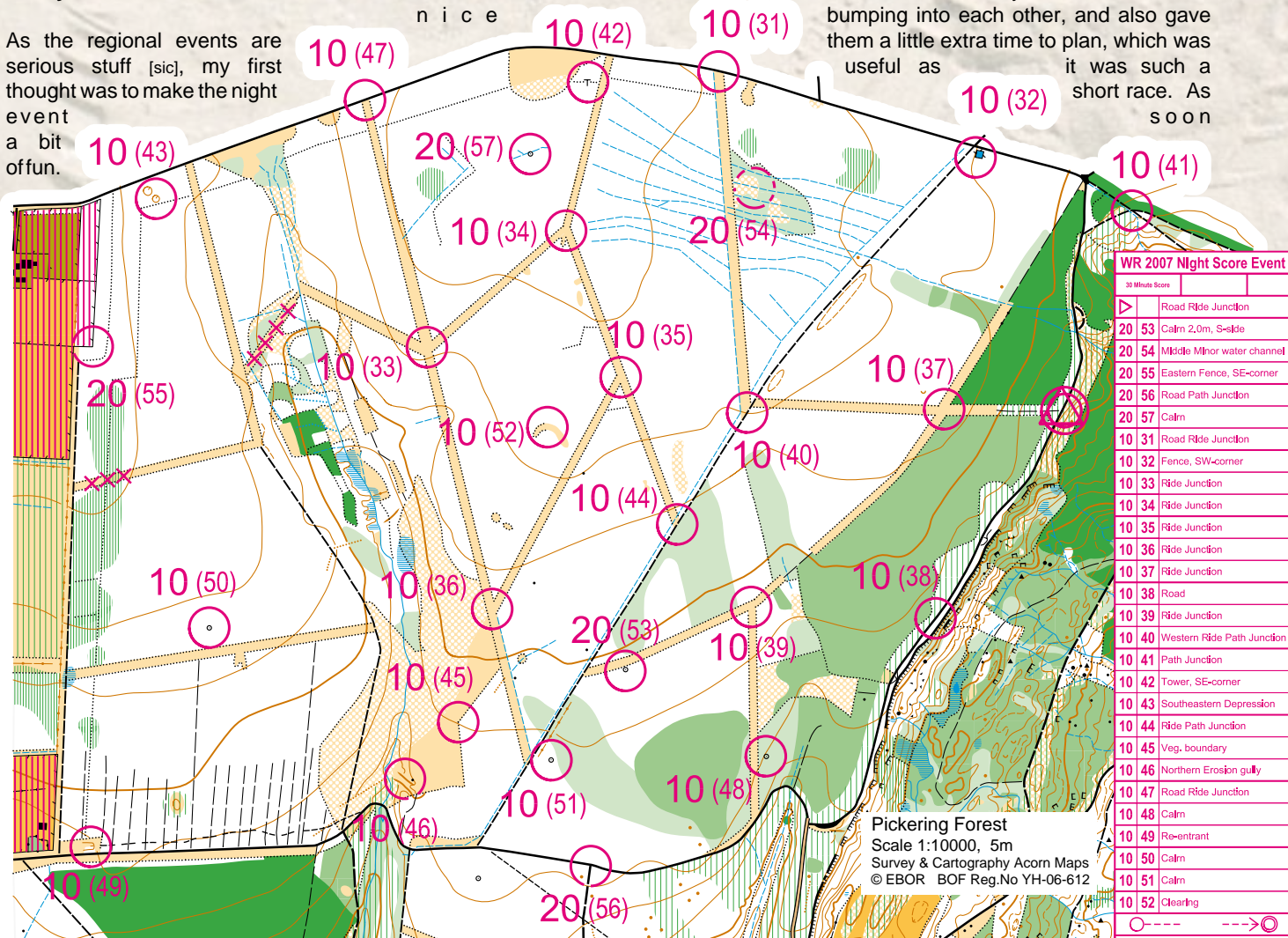
The numbers were not a problem because I had planned for competitors to head off in any one of 3 directions from the start and the nearest controls were a good 200 to 400 metres away to spread people out. I heard they got spread out even more when the leader of the group going north ran off the map and they all followed him.

The forest was lacking in features, but had some nice

runnable areas. These areas would be easily negotiated in daylight but not so easily at night, so the plan was to put controls on the numerous ride and path junctions, with a few just in the forest on cairns and in gullies. I planned a Bike O a few years ago and thought people would prefer to ride nice routes through the woods, not to be struggling and having to push their bikes, so I used the same philosophy here, that people would prefer to have a run around the woods not to be struggling through forest or undergrowth. I also had to cater for the inexperienced and juniors so quite a lot of easy control sites were important, with plenty of route choice. I picked a 30 minute time limit because I thought that people would probably be tired from the earlier day event. As it happened they were and they had also had to contend with the heat, so 30 minutes was just about right.

I used a lot of controls to give greater choice but also to make it hard for anyone to get them all. The week before the event I had a run round to see how many I could collect and only bagged 220, so I thought it was unlikely that anyone would get the 320 max. This meant even the fast runners wouldn't be able to sweep round, but had to choose controls like the rest of us mere mortals.

Everyone had 30 seconds before the start hooter to look at their map, this meant that they could then move to the right direction before they ran off and weren't bumping into each other, and also gave them a little extra time to plan, which was useful as it was such a short race. As soon



Pickering Forest
Scale 1:10000, 5m
Survey & Cartography Acorn Maps
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Steve Corrigan race planner & organiser gives the pre-start brief

prize giving the next day, with a mug for the winner and a 200g Toblerone for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place. The Toblerones seemed to be more sought after than the mugs!

As I had opted for simplicity there were no problems and organisation was minimal, a Controller checked the sites and had the map printed, controls were put out on Saturday afternoon and collected in on Sunday morning, three people helped on the night with competitors, maps, start, hooter blowing, finish

and packing up. We were in the pub for 10.30pm, thanks to Dennis, Danny, Peter, David, Bill and Luke.

I wanted it to be fast and furious with a party atmosphere, plenty of route choice, and most of all I wanted people to have fun. From the many positive comments, we seemed to go some way to achieving our aims.

Steve Corrigan EBOR

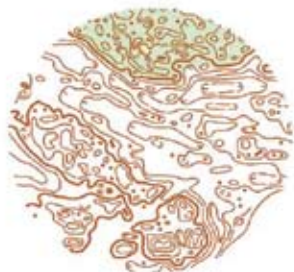
Next year, there has been a lot of talk of having the White Rose at another time, but I am told now by EBOR Club Chairman Neville Myers that it will now be business as usual with the August Bank

Holiday weekend playing host to The White Rose 2008.

RESULTS – winners

- Young Junior Women/Men**
Rachel Collins DFOK 105pts
Graham Hemingway WCOC 180pts
- Junior Women/Men**
Harriet Batten OD 140pts
Matthew Halliday OD 210pts
- Senior Women/Men**
Helen Gardner WAOC 170pts
Andrew Llewellyn NOC 220pts
- Veteran Women/Men**
Susan Skinner WCOC 150pts
Alastair Mackenzie CLOK 200pts
- Senior Veteran Women/Men**
Mary Carrick HALO 100pts
Leslie Hooper SO 165pts

Why not organise a Mass Start Night event of your own this winter? They are easy to put on, everyone is out at the same time – make half the controls easy for newcomers and juniors – a great training event! When was the last time your club had one? It is easily done and could be arranged on a weekday night even?! At the moment in the South East, the Kent Night Cup is a series of weekly score events, midweek, that is proving to be quite popular. Mainly in the forest but with a monthly Street-O event. More on that next year...



British Orienteering Championships 2008

19 - 20 April
Culbin Forest, Moray



Welcome to the 2008 British Orienteering Championships in Culbin Forest, Moray. It is now 31 years since the first use of Culbin - for the 1976 World Championships Relay (see comments from Liisa Veijalainen, World Champion from 1976). It is a wonderful sand-dune forest with highly detailed blocks of terrain mixed with flatter "slacks" and with very little undergrowth to slow running down. The individual race will use the newly mapped eastern end of the forest almost exclusively (7km2 of runnable forest) and the relay will use part of the old 1976 map - remapped for last summer's 6-Day event. Planners comments are "fantastically runnable and relentlessly technical, the best new all-round orienteering area since Docharn & Deishar"



Liisa Veijalainen from Finland

With many nice memories from previous years - it is difficult to believe it was more than 30 years ago - I wish you challenging orienteering in Culbin Forest. My race was hard fight all the time, that's why it is still deep in my soul and part of my heart is up there in Scotland. I wish memorable orienteering weekend to all of you!

Liisa Veijalainen from Finland

The event website contains more details and information: www.boc2008.co.uk
For specific requests and contacting the BOC 2008 team please e-mail: boc2008@hotmail.co.uk
Entries will open in January using Oentries - www.oentries.com
Classes M/W 10,12,14,16 A & B
M/W 18,20,21,35,40,45,50,55,60,65,70,75 Long & Short, M/W 20,21 E, M/W 80+
Only National British Orienteering members are allowed to compete in the championship classes. White, yellow, orange, red & light green courses will be available on the individual day only.
Individual -
up to 20-1-08 S/J £14/£6.50
up to 24-2-08 S/J £16/£7
up to 30-3-08 S/J £18/£7.5
Colour coded - S/J £4/£2
Relay -
Senior team £36
Junior team £18

