

From the Newborough Weekend Event Team

We hope that the trip over to NW Wales and the stunning Island of Anglesey (Ynys Môn) was worth the effort. The results have been a challenge and we will resolve that soonest. A second set of preliminary results for Day 1 will be published whilst we resolve issues with two runners. Day 2 results are more of a challenge.

We are a very small club, with the preparation by two of us, the tidy up by one of us and essential on-the-day help from Eryri, MDOC, SBOC and SWOC. In addition, we've just consolidated our club equipment, (re)learned SI-management in the club, used OE result software for the first time (and tried to understand web updating as the webmaster is away). There have been comments about how we could have done things better and we appreciate the sincerity of your helpful suggestions: we will take them on.

These two events were our commitment to the Welsh Orienteering Associations' league. In addition, we wanted to make best use of this fantastic location (and of the effort needed to get access authorised). We appreciate that the terrain is technical but this is one of the draws for coming here. We wanted to plan courses that would offer the very best orienteering, to mirror other high profile events in the area in recent years (notably the SHI's in 2016, and the Welsh Championships in 2018) and the courses were at the upper length range for the classes.

Unfortunately, the vegetation is beginning to make a significant impact on running times, with brambles encroaching the area, and thick 'green' taking over in many parts. Although the area is quite big, the 'green' already directs us away from a large part of the area. To put on two days of orienteering, we decided to put on two overlapping sets of courses but, with one exception (and that would be entered from different directions by different courses on either day), each day had an exclusive set of controls. This added considerably to our setting workload (of 100 controls) but we thought it the best strategy.

This setting workload also led us to put out controls (without SI-stations) for Day 2 in advance of the event. We understand that with the technicality of the area, this has caused concern (with the thought that it was the intended control but that the SI-station had been stolen/removed). We have discussed the matter with other experienced orienteers (and controllers), and the control features were well outside the 'overlapping control circle' principle, and the features themselves were different. We could, however, have dropped the flag to make it even more clear.

There were also calls for 1:7,500 maps, especially for shorter courses. We take this on board, and we have done this previously. The printers (BML Print), however, did an excellent job of printing, in particular making the contours easier to read although even at the larger scale, Newborough presents a challenge in complexity.

Even with the expert support from Fabian's Adrian Moir, learning about the results software was made significantly harder with the generator failure on Day 2. The system should have allowed us to download, off-line, the results from our printer set, but this has been a challenge. We will resolve it.

If there are still concerns and genuine protests, we will consider them in accordance with BritO rules and guidelines, but as it stands, the courses will stand as set.