

## Schools League Event 3 Chances Park

Chances Park was at its best for event 3 of this years' Schools league. The weather was ideal for the event; sunny, not too windy and cool enough not to get too hot and sticky after a run. We had the best turnout of the series so far; 187 dibbers used which amounted to over 200 competitors when you take into account the number of children who ran as a pair.

A big thank you to the students from Richard Rose Central Academy (RRCA). This was the second time that many of this group had helped run an event. The students were brilliant, great ambassadors for their school. We couldn't have run the event without their help.

Chances Park is the most complex area we use for the Schools league. Because of the undulating nature of the Park, visibility from one control to another, is not good. There are large numbers of trees and other point features that make it important to keep in contact with the map while Orienteering. When we have used Chances Park in the past, it has caught out a number of the competitors who have found it difficult to relocate when they are lost.

That said there were fewer mis punches than anticipated (25 out of 187) and more clean runs, which is most encouraging. There was evidence that you taken on board advice given to fold your maps, to thumb them when Orienteering and to use the control descriptions more carefully. Control 116 which should have been sited on a fences tree, was wrongly sited on a single large tree! Unfortunately when I went to check control sites I missed the fact that the fenced tree had been dug up! 18 of the 25 who mispunched did so on only one control! The courses had 15 or 16 controls so one lapse of concentration as to what control you were on, could lead to your run not being counted! More on this later in the report.

There were some excellent runs; well done to all of you who completed your course in fast times. Fastest time of the day was by Sophie Milburn (Trinity) in 8:38 for Course E. Laura Hazelhurst and (QEGS) won course D in 9:15 and Alexa Weymouth Curse A in 9:32; For both Girls this was their second Course win of the year. Finn Mayhew (Hayton) won Course B in 9:17 and Lucy Hall (Lanercost) in 10:42 (her first win of the series).

## Helpful Hints for next week (Talkin Tarn West)

- **Folding and Thumbing;** Continue to use these skills, they help to locate where you are and to allow you to run more naturally. When you stop immediately it is possible to see where you are on your course, saving time. Remember to move your thumb along the route as you get nearer to the control site.
- **Using Control Descriptions and Control Codes;** Don't leave it until you reach the Control site to look at the control descriptions. Immediately you have punched at one control site, look for the control code (eg number 123) and control description (fenced Tree) and memorise them. If it helps say both over and over again when running to the next control (eg fenced tree 123)
- **Keep in Contact with the map and set the map in the correct way for the next control;** Immediately after punching at the last control, plan the next leg. How far is it? Are there any features on the way that would help you locate where you are (eg fences, trees, posts etc) on complex areas this will help to stop you over running a control site.
- **Remember there are more controls on the area,** so if a control is sited on a feature that isn't your next control description you haven't got there yet.
- **Contours, Hills, Small Valleys (reentrants) and large holes (depressions) This area of the Tarn has all of these features.** Contours are shown as brown lines on the map and from one

to the next the ground rises 5m (height of a double decker bus). Reentrants are shown as a large 'U' with a tag to show it is a hollow shape. Hills are complete round or oblong in shape with no tags on them. A shape like this with two tags on is a depression. I will attach a jpeg format blank map of the area we are using to allow you to see these features.

**Travel Directions;** I am assuming that most people know where Talkin Tarn Country Park is. The entrance to the Tarn is opposite Brampton Golf club on the Castle Carrock road out of Brampton. The post code for Satnav is CA3 8QW

**Car parking: Please remember to bring change for the Car Park. Charges are £2.20 for more than 1 hour or £1 for up to an hour**

**John and Pam**