

## Summer Series Event.

Ightham 27<sup>th</sup> July 2013

Once again the weather forecast was misleading, as by the middle of the day violent thunderstorms were due over Ightham. But the umbrellas, the waterproof coats the expectation of a good soaking were all in vain. It wasn't until I drove down Bluebell Hill at 3 o'clock the heavens opened and the brown dry land greeted the well-prayed for downpour with open leaves. By this time all the runners were back past the finish, the controls collected and helpers home or having lunch in a comfortable pub somewhere. One advantage of the woods at Ightham is that no matter how hot it is the shade given by the dense canopy overhead guarantees to keep you cool as you run and search for the elusive control kites.

23 competitors, all with high expectations, came to accept the challenge of either a yellow, light green or score course and judging by their smiles at the finish enjoyed the area in which they searched and ran.

Running the Yellow course it was heartening to see entrants aged 6, 7, 8, and 9 years old. They all enjoyed the experience which they had out in the woods and I'm sure this thrill will endure for more events to come when we can all welcome them back for more.

Sam Fuller [M15] had a good run over the Light Green course, no doubt satisfyingly beating his dad into second place by over two minutes. Sam hasn't been able to take part in as many events recently as he would have liked, but now he's back in action we hope to see him gaining more successes in the future.

12 runners decided to attack the 'score' course with Neil Speers and Andy Pitcher finding all the controls in exceptionally quick times. Three competitors either misunderstood the elements of the event or had a pleasant stroll around the woods and I have, as a matter of pure humanity listed them as 'non-competitive'. It's the taking part that matters; as one used to hear so often in the past when sport was dominated by spirited amateurs. A mantra which I believe should still hold today! The event was intended for enjoyment and every one appeared to do so.

My thanks go to Liam Ives [Who carried a hefty batch of controls round with me as we placed them on the course so that only one journey was necessary]. To Heather Brown who sat behind the table doing her much loved admin and Nick Hope and his family who entertained us with stories of their holidays and rolled up their sleeves when control collecting time arrived. Additionally I am grateful to Mark Glaisher for his invaluable assistance when the Condes "help" pages only hindered and frustrated me as I planned the courses.

As a bonus for us we spotted some beautiful Black Admiral butterflies, which we had not seen before, and have colouring much more striking than in most butterfly spotters books. It only frequents southern England in small localities and apparently loves honeysuckle. I wonder what the attraction of Ightham was with its profusion of brambles and shoulder high bracken!

Tony Connellan

## Results for Summer event at Ightham 27<sup>th</sup> July 2013.

### Yellow course

Carys Lee	33:22
Daniel Bennett	43:44
Liam Bennett	44:09
Sally Smoker	45:44
Katie Smoker	45:44

### Light Green

Sam Fuller	66:04
Keith Fuller	68:25
Chris Baker	74:17
Michael Turner	101:37
Marian Bond	106:42
Jamie Ives	d.n.f.

### Score course

Neil Speers	210	less 0	=210	49:41
Andrew Pitcher	210	less 0	=210	50:10
Richard Whittaker	200	less 0	=200	57:02
Sean Cronin	190	less 0	=190	59:18
Marcus Bateman	170	less 0	=170	57:50
Dave Collier	160	less 0	=160	59:16
Nick Hope	150	less 0	=150	59:28
Andy Ward	140	less 0	=140	59:10
Abigail Bateman	160	less 110=	50	70:18

### Non-competitive

Rob Crane

Andrew Turner

Chris Simpson

