

## 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. The format of the event was familiar with our KNC regulars but unfortunately was not effectively communicated to two competitors, who were unaware of the switch from 40/50 (or 50/40) with control 60 as the changeover. This led to some disappointment when it was realised that the fast recorded times were not valid as the changeover had not been made. The results are published in strict adherence to the format but in order to recognise the effort that was made the number of controls visited is also included. We offer our apologies for the misunderstanding.

The two other lengthy times were as a result of an exceptionally long time to travel between the last control and the Finish. In one case this is believed to have been due to the search for a lost mobile phone, which was fortunately recovered.

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], Heather Brown and Nick Hope and his family. 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 White 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	SAX	W9	33:22
Daniel Bennett	SAX	M8	43:44
Liam Bennett	SAX	M6	44:09
Sally Smoker	SAX	W9	45:44
Katie Smoker	SAX	W7	45:44

### Light Green

Sam Fuller	SAX	M15	66:04
Keith Fuller	SAX	M45	68:25
Chris Baker	DFOK	M75	74:17
Michael Turner	SO	M80	101:37
Marian Bond	SAX	W45	106:42
Ives family	SAX		d.n.f.

### Score course

### No. of controls visited

Neil Speers	DFOK	M45	210	less 0	=210	49:41	21
Andrew Pitcher	DFOK	M45	210	less 0	=210	50:10	21
Richard Whittaker	SAX	M60	200	less 0	=200	57:02	20
Sean Cronin	DFOK	M45	190	less 0	=190	59:18	19
Marcus Bateman	SN	M45	170	less 0	=170	57:50	17
Dave Collier	DFOK	M60	160	less 0	=160	59:16	16
Nick Hope	SAX	M55	150	less 0	=150	59:28	15
Andy Ward	SO	M50	140	less 0	=140	59:10	14
Chris Simpson	SO	M65	90	less 0	=90	57:56	19
Andrew Turner	MDDXO	M50	80	less 0	=80	33:07	18
Abigail Bateman	SN	W16	160	less 110	= 50	70:18	16
Rob Crane	DFOK	M21	150	less 280	=-130	87:12	15