

Organiser's Comment – Tunbridge Wells Urban Orienteering Event

As some of you will know control 95 was vandalised early in the day and although it was replaced very quickly by the planner, several people would have been affected by the missing control on courses 1, 2, 3 and 4.

A decision had to be made as to whether to void the legs that led into and out of that control. In other words I would need to void two legs of each course affected. In making this decision, according to BOF rule 8.11.3, one has to look at whether not voiding the legs would adversely affect the position of the top 3 competitors on each course, and in addition affect their league points.

I looked at times, both before voiding the legs and after, of the top 3 runners in each course to determine if voiding the legs would have changed those positions. It did not. It is impossible to estimate if the time lost between two legs, comparing one competitor to another, is due to searching for a lost control or on errors or slower running to the next control.

The missing control was in a very distinct area, a small enclosed court yard and some competitors may have checked each corner of the courtyard to ascertain that the control was missing. Even this would probably not have taken more than a minute or so.

A very small number of competitors, who were further down the results table on these courses, may have gone up one place if we were to void the legs. Conversely those who punched control 95 when it was in place, and did well compared to competitors below them on what would be the voided legs, would be penalised. Unfortunately voiding legs does not turn an unfair situation into a fair one.

For the above reasons I have decided, after consultation with the controller, not to void the legs into and out of control 95.

I do hope everyone enjoyed the race despite the problem with control 95. We had beautiful weather – although perhaps a bit too hot for the runners and the event arena proved to be an excellent choice on a sunny day.

No race is possible without a willing band of helpers. I was especially grateful for all the help by my experienced volunteers, planners and controller. There were many positive comments on the clarity and accuracy of the map. Great thanks to David Kingdon for producing this. Thanks also to the planners who produced challenging courses and enabled runners to see the many attractions of our lovely Spa town.

I would also like to acknowledge the support of Dawn Gabriel and Tunbridge Wells Borough Council who supported and facilitated the event.

The event has raised much needed funds for the local hospice and I would like to thank everyone who donated money towards that.