

## **Setters report – Woodford House SS1 - 24<sup>th</sup> January 2018**

Woodford House is a particularly tricky map due to the various levels and proximity that the buildings share, and I was very pleased to have the opportunity of setting a course there, however it did present itself with a few problems along the way . . .

Around a week and a bit before the course I had cycled down to Woodford to check the control sites, and found that the school had redecorated entire buildings, while also leaving their open land area to the South to become overgrown! So I got Geoff down to Woodford, walked him through the changes, and he looked at me, looked at the school, looked back at me, before kindly offering to remap the changes and then send them through to David. I got the new map from David who had promptly made the changes and on the following Saturday walked around to check the control sites again with Pamela. Unfortunately, a few more changes needed to be made, which would introduce route choice and clarity, so back it went to David who sorted it out within the day. It then came back to me to adjust the courses before sending it through to Pamela and David to send through to be printed off. So all in all there was a lot of back and forth during the last week. However, I would very much like to thank David and Geoff for the last minute readjustments and remapping.

Now, I had estimated the winning time to be sub 15 minutes for the Loop courses. Obviously, I was way off. The course length (not as the crow flies) was 2.7km approximately, with a bit under 100m climb. I heard from someone that the climb was ridiculous, having to run up and down, up and down in the heat. Which mind you was still 23C when you were all out there running.

Unfortunately, perhaps because of this, quite a few people stopped reading their maps or thought olive green and a thick black line was passable to control 123. However even with people running through gardens they *still* couldn't break 15 minutes! Control 123 I now realise unfortunately posed as a dogleg for most as there was a route choice that I hadn't considered for people to take. So that is a bit of a learning curve for me.

I heard the white course was challenging for some, and was also rather short in time, with the winning time under 8 minutes. I hope all of you guys enjoyed it!

It was a privilege to set the Woodford House map, and many thanks must go to the HBOC who made the event possible. Specifically, David Fisher and Geoff Morrison for all the remapping, Pamela Morrison for her guidance throughout the setting of the course, Murray Franks for getting the caravan there, Phillip Herries for setting up all the screens and returning the caravan, Tessa and Ronan for helping collect controls, and Ted Jones for allowing the HBOC to run on the Woodford grounds. Thank you Everyone!

*Will Tidswell*