

2024-25 WNL Crickley Hill – Planner Comments

I hope everyone enjoyed their run around Crickley Hill Country Park and the finale of the Western Night League. Personally, I really enjoy having everyone start at the same time due to the social atmosphere and good chat before and after the event. Sometimes at normal events you can miss your friends or people you want to see! It was great seeing everyone gathering as we awaited enough darkness to start.

Well done to Dan and Rhys for visiting all the controls in the hour. Richard was third a few points behind. The top three women on International Women's Day all scored the same 440 points separated by a couple of minutes of finishing time (could they have got another one?!) Rose, Alice and Sara were just ahead of Hannah by 20 points.

I thought it would be doable to clear all the controls but wasn't sure how many people would do it. I hadn't exactly checked the distance but tried to make the best use of the area. My planners route would've been to head down the slope first before doing a clockwise loop and switching at the impressive rock pillar in the west. I heard a couple of people who had accidentally switched odds/evens so I apologise if my poor planning may have contributed to that.

It was great to have about 50 entries with half going on to the Pub of the Night. There were a number of younger juniors supported round a night adventure. I will admit to not really wanting yellow standard controls when I started planning, but I take that back now! Thanks to my local pub the Wheatsheaf for hosting, despite having another big function last night. Everyone seemed to be happy and fed when I arrived after control collecting.

These small events are never really "one man and his dog". Thanks go to Greg for sorting permissions and giving the map a thorough update, Pat for extensive help before hand setting things up and on the night hanging and collecting, John for sorting all the on the night computing and results, Tom for collecting the 3 heavy base controls (due to archeological reasons on the old hill fort), Rhys from Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust who came out twice on his Saturday evening to open and close gates for us and my friend Nick from SO who gave my course a check over. Thanks also to Ifor for all he does coordinating the Western Night League. It is a great series for those of us who love the added challenge and added adventure of the darkness! Night orienteering will return in autumn...