

Epping Forest POR 15.10.16

The East Anglia TREC Group ran this competition jointly with Epping Forest Riders Association. Many thanks to them for their help and support.

The day started early, with myself, Jill Perry, getting to Chingford Plane golf course over-flow carpark, to find cones marking off a small section for our designated parking area. Then I noticed that in the next area, adjacent to the forest, people were putting in stakes and these tall horizontal flags. Then a lady came over and asked what we were doing, and informed us that they were going to have 500 children running a mile in the forest! She did not know that we were going to do orienteering at the same time. It was a surprise for us too. Ok, start panicking: as car after car started to arrive and park in our slot! The queue was building up and also some of my stewards were stuck in it too, trying to get in.

This, funnily enough, was not on my risk assessment either. There were lots of happy children ready for a long run, and parents eager to see their little cherub's efforts, all trying to park in our area, some a little close to horseboxes: another panic! So, trying to redirect cars and horse boxes and sort out check points and the map room ready for our POR start became all in a day's work.

Anyway in the end we managed to get all riders going out into the forest while the runners stayed around the open plain. And the parking was sorted out.

As for the POR, I managed to stay one step ahead at every checkpoint for the riders, and they all made it back to base, some possibly via the scenic route taking in the beautiful Epping scenery, to go by the scores. But they all enjoyed it, and as a bonus we also had good weather.

On return to home to keep me on my toes I had to complete the cake for my daughter Sam's birthday party that evening. She wanted a Battenberg and I made it in the shape of her age, 30 (already!) And they had got me a Kermit the frog outfit to wear for the fancy dress celebration. (Look for the photos on Facebook.) There were some wonderful costumes and little Jack at only 8 months old, took it all in his stride.

The next day, up early on Sunday ready for the Arena TREC at Beechwood EC. To start the day, the tractor broke down at the venue whilst they were levelling the surface, but we managed to get the event started pretty much on time. Another good and entertaining day was had by all, and the many newcomers enjoyed themselves. An eventful TREC weekend to start the winter season. For more information on future events look on the EATG website: www.eastangliatrec.co.uk

Jill Perry EATG

We thank the helpers at the Epping Forest POR:

Map Room, Charlotte Perry, Checkpoint 2 Jan Arthur Checkpoint 3 level 1 Lance and Chris Checkpoint 3 level 2 Stephanie Brown and Liz Hollingsworth Checkpoint 4 Charlotte Maru and her mother.

And for EFRA Val Vidler, secretary and providing food and Liz Hollingsworth, organiser and helpers.