



MOLE VALLEY ORIENTEERING CLUB

(affiliated to the British Orienteering Federation)

PICNIC EVENT

Sunday 19th August 2007

FLYER

- Plea** Please let me (Ian) know as soon as possible if you intend coming. Due to the handicapping system, each competitor will have a different map, and it will take some time to prepare them. As an extra incentive, early maps will be printed on Philip Gristwood's laser printer, which means the ink won't run in the wet, although the paper won't be waterproof. Later maps will be printed on my ink-jet, which means they'll smudge if your hands are sweaty when you put them in a plastic bag. To further complicate matters, I shall be in Scotland until five days before the event. Please text 07928 663082, email ian.ditchfield@bigfoot.com, or only as a last resort phone 01306 880794. I'll print some extra maps, so you can turn up on the day without notice, but you'll probably get an inappropriately severe handicap.
- Area** The nicest part of White Downs, as used for our National Event in February 2007. Still mostly runnable in August, with only a few areas of bracken!
- Caution** We have not yet formally received land permission for this event. No problem is expected, but check before turning up.
- Parking** The small public car park on White Downs Road at TQ114494. From the A246 Leatherhead/Guildford road, turn south at the Effingham traffic lights. Double-park if necessary, but make sure the person blocked in is another orienteer.
- Event** Score event, with a mass start. A score event means that there is no set route, many controls are marked on your map, and you choose which to visit and in what order. Controls score points, but there is a time limit and points are deducted for being late back. Wear a watch! This event has extra rules to make it more fun.
- Difficulty** There will be some easy controls, but children who are not comfortable doing an Orange course on their own would probably prefer to be accompanied. Please tell me if your child will be accompanied, also if you want a course which doesn't cross the road.
- Fee** None, apart from a hefty charge if you lose a borrowed club 'dibber'.
- Timings** Registration from when I get back from hanging controls, hopefully 10am. Mass start at 11am.
- Map** Small section of Mike Elliot's masterpiece produced for the National, and not updated for summer vegetation, path or fence changes, or anything else. 1:10,000, 5m contours, A4 size. There's no room for a legend, but all orienteering maps are pretty much the same bring the legend from an old map if need it. You do need to know that a black circle "special object" is a wrecked car on this map. Bring your own map-bag.
- Toilets** No. But there are some bushes.
- Picnic** Of course! Bring your own food, drink, chair, etc. White Downs is a great orienteering area, the snag is that there is no nice grassy meadow next to the car park. We can picnic in the woods by the car park, or walk several hundred metres to an open area with a view; choice by popular vote on the day.
- Officials** Planner: Ian Ditchfield, Dis-organiser: Ian Ditchfield, Controller: none

PICNIC EVENT RULES

- 1 Take care if crossing White Downs Road (the one you drove along to get to this car park). Watch out in particular for cyclists travelling fast and silently. Crossing this road on the scarp slope to the south of the map is difficult in places due to precipitous

banks; best to plan your route to avoid doing so. (If requested in advance, younger juniors will have a course which doesn't cross the road).

- 2 You may look at your map before you start, and discuss it with others. (Incentive to arrive early – gives you longer to plan your course).
- 3 This is a **60 minute score** event, which means that there is no set route and you don't have to visit all the controls. You get points for the controls you visit (subject to other rules) within an hour of starting. You can come back early if you like.
- 4 There will be a **mass start at 11am**. However, it will be a punching start so your time limit begins from the moment you punch the start, rather than 11am precisely.
- 5 Scoring is loosely based on the rules of snooker. The winner will be the person with the **highest 'break'**, not necessarily the highest total score. Your objective should be to have only one 'break'; the option of starting a fresh 'break' is only to give you a second chance if you make a mistake.
- 6 Controls are **either 'reds' or 'colours'**. You must punch a 'red' control **to start** a break. The **next** control in the break must be a 'colour', then a 'red', then a 'colour', and so on **in alternation**. Each punch in a break must be a different control. A 'break' ends if you punch two consecutive 'red's, two consecutive 'colour's, or repunch a control which you have already punched in the current break. Exception: multiple consecutive punches of the same control will be ignored, so it's OK to repunch immediately if you're not sure the first one registered.
- 7 '**Reds**' are marked with a conventional **purple circle** on the map. '**Colours**' are marked with a **blue circle**.
- 8 Your time runs out after **one hour**. Any punches after this time will be ignored.
- 9 You must punch the **finish** control, which will be in the **same place as the start** was earlier, **within 70 minutes** of your start. This event has no time penalty for taking more than 60 minutes, but does have the draconian penalty of **disqualification** for taking more than 70 minutes. Some controls are more than 10 minutes run from the finish, so be careful!
- 9 '**Red**' controls all score 1 point. '**Colours**' score between 2 and 7 points. The **points are indicated on your map**, after the control code.
- 10 Which controls are 'red' and which 'colour', the points value of the 'colour's, and even which controls are on the map at all, varies from person to person according to the arbitrary and capricious whim of the organiser, masquerading as a handicap system.
- 11 There are **no control descriptions on the map**. Loose control descriptions are available. They are all the same. Consequently they do not indicate whether controls are 'red' or 'colour' or the points values. You may copy this information from your map if you wish. They may even include some controls which are not on your map. The planner has mislaid his copy of BOF guidelines, and the descriptions may not conform to normal standards; he hopes that you won't get too confused.
- 12 **Summary**: 'red's and 'colour's alternating, beginning with 'red', don't go back to the same control twice, stop punching controls after 60 minutes, punch finish before 70.
- 13 **Enjoy yourself** and don't take this event too seriously!

YOU PARTICIPATE AT YOUR OWN RISK AND ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR YOUR OWN SAFETY