

## **FLASBY FELL – 19 MARCH 2023 – OFFICIALS’ COMMENTS**

### **Organiser’s Comments – David Bowman**

Thank you for choosing to come in such good numbers to Flasby over other clashing O-events in the north of England. Our first race here in 7 years very nearly didn’t happen, as just one week before the event the whole area was thick with snow. Fortunately, the snow melted as quickly as it had come, but this did leave the vehicle track rougher than before, so thank you for your care when driving in and out.

I hope that before or after your run you found a few moments to listen to the skylarks singing, watch the lapwings swooping over the fields, or feel a little spring sunshine on your face. It was great to see families lingering to socialise by string course and enjoy the views from the assembly field. We orienteers are fortunate to do our sport in such beautiful and interesting locations.

Thanks to the owners and tenant farmers of the parcels of land that make up Flasby Fell – James Chapman of Eshton Group, John Airey, Barbara Lee & John Shuttleworth. They’ll be relieved that none of their sheep ended up in the wrong fields! Thanks to planners Richard & Anne and controller Ian for their calm, no-nonsense approach. And special thanks to the loyal team of helpers from Airienteers, who ensured the whole day went so smoothly.

### **Planners’ Comments – Richard & Anne Wilson**

We hope we’re not wrong in inferring from the mostly positive feedback on the day that most competitors enjoyed their run. Having experienced little in the way of pleasant weather during our planning visits, our choice of exposed but convenient start and finish locations was perhaps a little optimistic, but for once we were lucky with the weather.

An error on the Blue course map led to the voiding of the first leg after the map turnover. The start lane descriptions showed the “wrong” control code and description for #11 – in fact the right one, only it had been omitted from the map, which had neither control circle nor description. Richard made the mistake when splitting the course into two for back-to-back printing, and apologises to runners, all of whom lost time in varying degrees – we hope it didn’t spoil your run too much. The error was entirely his responsibility and would have escaped the most forensic of controllers.

Our huge thanks to David and Ian for their hard work and support throughout the run-up to the event, to Liz for her advice and efficient work on SI and IT, to Chris for his many map updates (and patience) and to him and the many kind members who helped with temporary stiles and with control collection.

### **Controller’s Comments – Ian Marshall**

Compliments to David, Richard and Anne, who as Organiser and Planners respectively, worked diligently and efficiently to deliver the event at Flasby.

Could I add my apologies to Blue course competitors for the error. A closer inspection of the map files by me would have revealed it. I do not want to dwell on that point, as I felt Richard and Anne’s thoroughness in the whole planning process was excellent.

Blue and Brown course competitors were faced with varied terrain in the woodland section, some of which was extra physically challenging. We took the decision to leave the tracks created by forestry machines off the map for clarity. I tested the legs in there and was satisfied that the mapping was accurate and sufficient to navigate by. Running times suggest that most of you rose to the challenge.

Well done to all the Junior competitors, including the brave ones on the String Course.