**Planners Comments**

What a recipe for a major orienteering weekend! A barage of severe winter storms, travel restrictions, 5” wet snow on the moor, total overnight melt, flooding as the River Wharfe burst its banks, road closures followed by heavy rain with 45mph winds. And you could have been watching the curling! Thank you to all the runners who faced the elements and tackled the courses. Holding the event was certainly a trial but your sense of exhilaration, relief and all round positivity at the Finish made it all worthwhile.

The total overnight melt filled the myriad of watercourses. The regular crossing of Backstone Beck was inspected and declared unsafe. Longer courses could cross the beck further upstream. However, for Short Green and Very Short Green, it was decided to omit the first two controls and proceed direct to Control 3 via the footbridge lower down the beck. This necessarily late decision and conditions at the High Start were not ideal. Thank you to the start team for doing their best to communicate the change and affected runners for complying. We cannot be certain every runner used the footbridge, consequently for results purposes, SG and VSG times will be taken from Control 3.

A huge thanks to the control collectors who gallantly went out for even more weather. Particular thanks to Dil Wetheril of WAOC who, having missed the starts due to travel disruption, made the Planner’s day by volunteering to collect controls from Burley Moor. Welcome to Yorkshire, Dil!

**Controllers Comments**

Controls 1 and 2 on SG and VSG were removed for competitor safety reasons due to the high water level of Backstone beck.
The message to miss out controls 1 and 2 was consistent but not the additional part to cross at the bridge below. This led to some competitors trying to find a crossing between the start and the bridge so losing time on their way to their number 3.
I apologise for that and have decided, with the planner and organisers agreement, that the fairest decision is to have the course times calculated from control 3 to the end.
I hope that those of you who are disappointed with this decision will understand that the key here was the safety of competitors and no one was injured or drowned!!