

Scottish Sprint Championships

Controller's comments.

Another excellent FVO event, with 136 starters the Sprint is rapidly justifying its Championship status. Especially pleasing to see folk of all ages and speeds enjoying the orienteering challenge, even while claiming "we don't sprint". Jon's course was excellent, a combination of route choice and detailed navigation with plenty of dead-end traps to ensnare the unwary. The long leg in particular had people all around the town, but looking at the splits many legs proved challenging and brought mistakes. And shenanigans of the Open competitors on the finishing loop will remain the stuff of O-legend.

There is one adjustment to the results: Control 19 was removed temporarily, but quickly replaced by Eddie Harwood. Only Andrew Dalgleish lost significant time there, and there is no evidence that he visited the correct site, but he was 12th fastest over the other 23 legs, so we have placed him there. A similar adjustment to Eddie's time would not affect his position.

We had quite lengthy discussions about the over-length courses, eventually deciding that cutting 3-4mins off the winning time would seriously compromise the planning. The guidelines for this event are quite flexible, and as sprint races are becoming more formalised I asked opinions of many people of all ages after the event. Nobody seemed to mind that it was slightly over-distance, and there seems to be strong support for everyone running the same course.

Normally I'm out of the country when I'm an event official, but this time I could watch the controls going out from a holding pattern over Edinburgh Airport. I'm sorry this meant I couldn't check the units, and a few early starters found some non-functioning ones.

Graeme Ackland