



## NORTHERN NAVIGATORS

Great North Forest event at

### Tunstall Hills

Wednesday, 15<sup>th</sup> May 2002

#### Short - 2.2km, 60m, 8 controls

1. G Rose	M21	NN	14.20
2. D.Warren	W35	NN	21.15
3. C.Firth	W55	NATO	24.06
4. J.Smith	W21	NN	24.10
5. J.Bentham	M12	NATO	48.42

#### Medium - 4.4km, 200m, 14 controls

1. N.Crosby	W21	NATO	55.45	
2. B.Pinkney	M65	NATO	80.15	
<i>disqualified - retired</i>				
J.Warren	M35	NN	44.12	w14
F.Major	M55	NN	44.17	w14
C.Heppenstall	W21	KNOB	55.53	w14
K.Stephenson	W21	ind	69.42	w14
S.Edwards	M40	ind	69.42	w14

#### Long - 6.6km, 260m, 22 controls

1. E.Nash	M21	UNOC	42.18
2. R.Matheson	M18	NATO	49.31
3. P.Vincent	M35	KNOB	50.10
4. R.McKenna	M50	NN	59.05
5. D.Cowley	M21	UNOC	63.10
6. C.Matheson	M45	NATO	65.31
7. B.Spence	M45	NN	67.35
8. G.Scott	M55	NATO	85.05
9. F.Miller	M50	NATO	86.28

#### Organiser / planner's comments - Gary Russell

Thanks for all coming and supporting this event - we were lucky with the weather again. The views from Tunstall, out over the city of Sunderland and the North sea are certainly worth the visit. The area is generally very runnable, although steep in places. However, the rain and warm temperatures over the week leading up to the event had caused the undergrowth to shoot up in some places, making the going a bit slower.

Permission for the event was almost refused, when it was discovered that the whole of the area excluding the playing fields has been designated an SSSI (site of special scientific interest). The area was apparently all under water at some time and the rocks hold a wealth of fossilised creatures - not sure if the local inhabitants are aware of this. Frantic last minute negotiations by Dave Caudwell has allowed us to use the area under licence for the next five years.

A lot of the competitors on the medium course did not check their control descriptions, particularly the last control. There were two features used around their control 14 - a depression and the south most knoll. Unfortunately the depression was the first control they came across, when their last control was in fact the knoll. In hindsight, these two controls should probably not have been used, being so close together - this was not a deliberate attempt to try and catch you out. If all the competitors on the medium had made this mistake, then I suppose we might have to review the result. But as two competitors got it right, the result will have to stand unless all concerned feel otherwise. Please feel free to send me your comments on this matter.

There were two other problems which caused delays on the medium leg - control 10 (veg change, w.tip) and control 11 (crag foot). The veg change was on a veg change, but about 10m to the west of that mapped. The crag foot was on a crag foot, but this turned out to be on a smaller unmapped crag about 20m north of the mapped one - if you came along the right small path then it was quite easy to find, but otherwise quite difficult. Apologies to anybody who felt inconvenienced by this.

Planning on Tunstall is a bit difficult, firstly to try and avoid the nasty bits and not have too much direct climb and secondly to avoid the local youths, as I am sure that one or two of you met on route. This is only my second attempt at planning and I am learning all the time.

email any comments to Rob McKenna at - [robmckenn@aol.com](mailto:robmckenn@aol.com)  
or catch me at the next event.