

Tim Watkins Trophy 14 Nov 2021

I have competed in a fair number of TWT events and been planner and controller. I also knew Tim Watkins quite well. He was the originator of this "British Bloodslit" and I experienced at first hand his enthusiasm for orienteering in general and this event in particular. How could I have refused when I was asked if I would be the organiser in 2021?

Many thanks to everyone who helped to make the 2021 Tim Watkins Trophy event a success, including that thing called beautiful sunny weather. Particularly –

- All of the competitors. We had 151 entries, the highest for a number of years. 130 running on the day.
- The landowners and Natural England for the SSSI consents.
- Jean Dixon the owner of the car park field.
- The Village Hall Committee for not only allowing us to use the hall but for laying on splendid refreshments after the race and helping us make it a very sociable event after a long period with little orienteering and few chances to meet up with fellow orienteers. Big thanks to Alison Newton and her team.
- The church, whose representative, Ann Huntington, I liaised with to make sure that the event did not interfere with the 11am Remembrance Day service at the war memorial.
- The SROC club members and others who helped put on the event, many of whom ran as well as helped on the day. That can involve quite a rush, and some were helping at the start immediately before setting out on their run.
- Frances Watkins who not only presented the prizes but came out of retirement to help at the start.
- Kendal Mountain Rescue Team who were called out to attend to an injured competitor and stretchered him out and kept him safe until he was collected by an NHS ambulance. Also to various competitors who gave initial help and alerted me by phone and SROC members who went out to the casualty in the initial response. The injured competitor was diagnosed with a torn quad muscle and put in a splint. With physio treatment he should be recovered in 4-6 weeks.
- MDOC Print and Eddie Speak for printing the maps and advising on their preparation.
- Roy McGregor who planned the courses and Alex Finch who was the controller. They were great courses for an organiser, with start, finish, car park and event centre all close together. Furthermore, courses were on a similar pattern and that helped us monitor the progress of the event through the road crossings and early collection of controls, particularly on the exposed high fell of Farleton Knot.

The unique selling point of the TWT is that it is a real test of endurance and navigation skills and Roy's planning and Alex's controlling, combined with the highly technical terrain of the Hutton Woods and Farleton Knott with their amazingly complicated and picturesque limestone mixed with high bracken and thorns, certainly gave competitors that.

Next TWT – March 2023? Watch this space.

Brian Jackson
Organiser