

RON BARTON CHALLENGE 2014

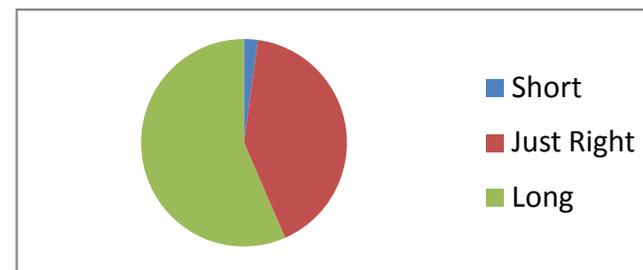
YOUTH INPUT

We wanted to get some input from the Scouts (*always a risk!*) on how this event works for them so the teams were asked to give some feedback.

Q1 - Thinking about the length of the hike on Saturday, was it....

	Too Short	Just the Right Length	too long
No. of respondents	1	19	26
% of respondents	2.2	41.3	56.5

Total
46



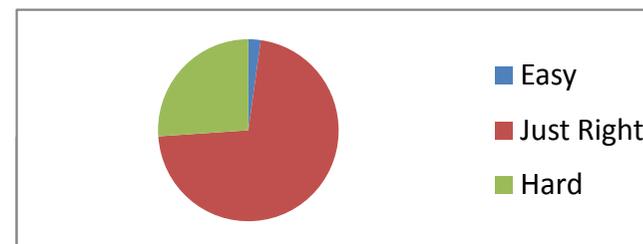
NOTES:

Routes were measured using the ordnance survey's Get-a-map software. Total distance was about 23k although most teams walked less because they ended up in the bus at some point. Overnight hikes for the hiker's badge need to be at least 20k and for the expedition challenge they need to be out for about 4 hours each day. Do we need to make routes shorter on the grounds that few teams go by the shortest route?

Q2 - Thinking about the map reading and navigation on Saturday, was it....

	Too easy	Just right	too hard
No. of respondents	1	33	12
% of respondents	2.2	71.7	26.1

Total
46



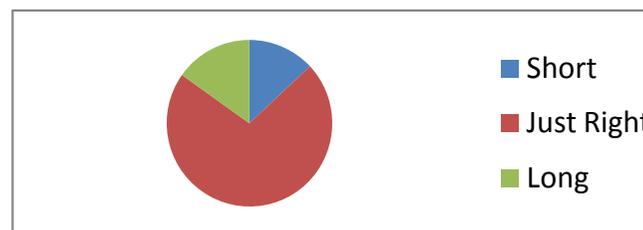
NOTES:

I would speculate that a lot of Scouts had nothing to do with the navigation or map reading and so gave a neutral answer. Having said that it would seem that despite teams getting lost they feel the navigation is a fair test

Q3 - Thinking about the length of the hike on Sunday, was it....

	Too Short	Just the Right Length	too long
No. of respondents	6	33	7
% of respondents	13.0	71.7	15.2

Total
46



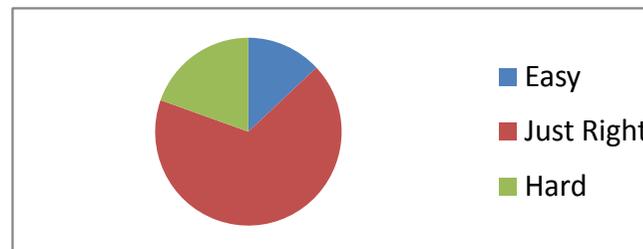
NOTES:

Only one team walked the full distance on Sunday, all others were stopped at least 4k short. Nobody who walked the full distance thought it was too long so is it only too long if you aren't reading the map properly?

Q4 - Thinking about the map reading and navigation on Sunday, was it....

	Too easy	Just right	too hard
No. of respondents	6	31	9
% of respondents	13.0	67.4	19.6

Total
46



NOTES:

3 People on team 4 thought Sunday's navigation was too easy despite only finding 3 checkpoints out of 7. Are the Scouts admitting here that it was a challenge but the level was right and they need to improve?

Q5. Thinking about the log book tick all that apply:	No.	%
The log book is <u>a good way</u> to sort out the best teams	26	57
The log book is <u>the best way</u> to sort out the best teams	10	22
You don't mind writing in the log book	26	57
You find writing in the log book difficult	15	33
The log book is hard work and boring, you hate it and it puts you off ever coming again!	6	13

NOTES: On balance they seem to be mostly favourable about the log book experience. The six respondents who indicated it would put them off were all from different teams.

Q6. Do you have any suggestions for changing the way the log books are written and scored?

This was a free text answer but the responses could be grouped as follows:

5 People said that log books are worth too many marks.

1 Person said log books aren't worth enough marks.

2 People wanted to be able to use pictures taken on mobile phones.

2 from team 6 thought they should be bigger which was odd as they had 12 blank pages in theirs!

Other comments were:

A separate prize for best log book (*Most years it would have gone to the Barton winner anyway*)

Put a clipboard on the kit list for teams. (*Fair comment!*)

We should only have to write about our route. (*Someone didn't enjoy the personal profile experience?*)

We should provide more guidance on what to put in what format (*fair point*)

Q7. Can you think of another goal we could set instead of the log book that could also be used to work out which teams are best

This was a free text answer but the responses could be grouped as follows:

7 People suggested using cameras and getting teams to put a presentation of sorts together (*More like modern D of E in a way*)

5 People suggested more emphasis should be put on speed. (*We very deliberately don't do that to distinguish this from the orienteering, and national events like the Chiltern Challenge etc*)

2 People felt it should be more about the drawings.

3 People felt it should be just about who was assisted the least (*The scoring does take this into account. Perhaps we should make that clearer*)

Other suggestions included - Inspecting bag and clothes hygiene, hiking in fancy dress!, assessing teamwork, getting stamps at checkpoints. Someone from team six would like to be put in a better team next year!

RON BARTON CHALLENGE

Any More Comments?

Two people suggested wide games (*We could do that if they washed up before 10:30pm!*)

One person suggested we should re-arrange the event to a time when it's not as hot, or as wet (*fair enough?*) and when we can put clean people in the patrol with them (?)

The instructions should be easier (*This was from team 1 who wanted the route spoon fed to them like it was on the walk for Paul. I had to explain to them again that the whole point was that it's a navigation competition!*)

The teams should be given the whole weekend to complete the log book (*Given that it takes so long to mark them I don't think that's possible*)

It should be a one day event with no camp (*You can please some of the people some of the time etc....*)

Make it shorter.

Use routes with more roads instead of hard to find paths (*We moved away from roads A. for safety B. because it was too easy and C. Because walking on roads is boring.*)

Don't use the same route as last year. (*We actually tried hard to ensure that teams were on a different route to last year. Only two teams contained any people who had a 1 in 4 chance of doing the same route. All other teams were on different routes to last year. We will try and feckle a different approach to Crow next year to mix things up a bit.*)

Not a suggestion but thank you for organising such a big event for all of us :)