

RON BARTON CHALLENGE 2015

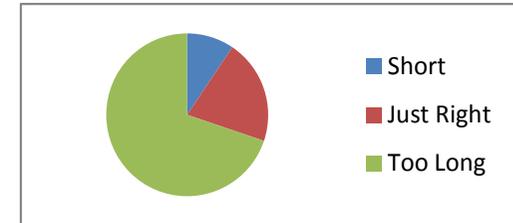
YOUTH INPUT

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	5	11	37
% of respondents	9.4	20.8	69.8

Average route length in 2013 & 2014 was 15.3k Average route length in 2015 was 13k. Scouts should be able to stroll that in 4 hours.

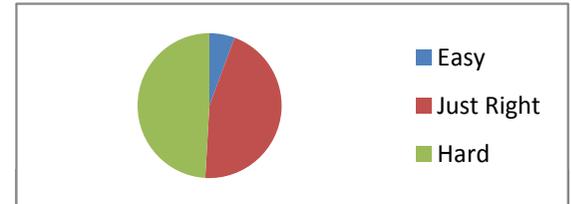


NOTES:

OS Get-a-map thinks an average adult should walk it in less than three hours. Last year only 56.5% of participants thought the longer route was too long. Either this year's scouts were a bit lazier than normal or they found it harder to stay on route. Probably the latter.

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

	Too easy	Just right	Too hard
No. of respondents	3	24	26
% of respondents	9.4	20.8	69.8

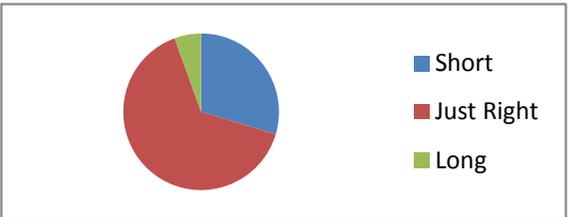


NOTES:

Last year only 26% thought it was too hard. This year's routes were designed to have shorter open ground navigation in country parks to make them easier. What made them harder was we didn't provide a textual description of the route so teams actually had to use the grid references and read the maps!

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

	Too Short	Just the Right Length	Too long
No. of respondents	16	35	3
% of respondents	29.6	64.8	5.6

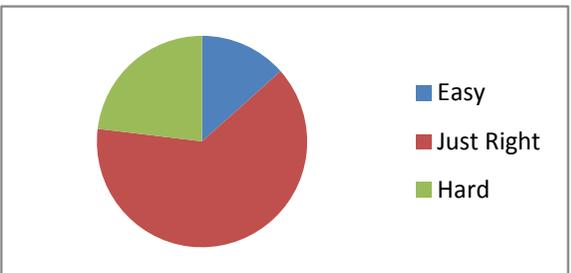


NOTES:

Last year, 15% thought Sunday was too long and 71% thought it was about right. This year's Sunday route was 2/3 the length of last year's and less than 6% thought it too long.

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

	Too easy	Just Right	Too hard
No. of respondents	7	33	12
% of respondents	15.6	73.3	26.7

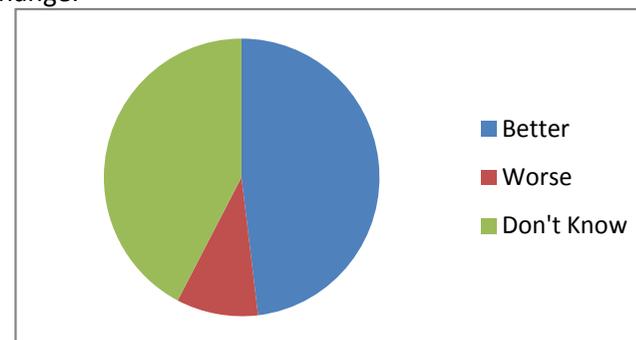


NOTES:

None of the people who voted that the navigation was too easy found all checkpoints so we can probably discount their opinion.

Q5 - For this year's event we replaced the log book with assessed tasks at checkpoints. What did you think of this change.

	It made the event better	It made it worse	Don't know.
No. of respondents	25	5	22
% of respondents	48.1	9.6	42.3



The majority of participants hadn't taken part before so had to respond Don't know. But the clear majority who had taken part before thought it was a good idea which matches the feedback last year. They don't come to the Barton to write essays.

PROBLEMS WITH REPLACING THE LOG BOOK WITH ASSESSMENTS AT CHECK POINTS

1) Teams not getting to the check points and so missing the assesment.

Some teams didn't navigate to the checkpoints and so would have been penalised twice, once for not getting to the check point and then again for not being able to take part in the base. In the end we dropped from the score sheet the bases where leaders drove late running teams past the checkpoint so missing it wasn't the team's fault/choice. We kept on the score sheet the bases where teams only missed them due to their own navigational incompetence.

2) Teams spending too long at checkpoints

At the expedition cooking checkpoint, the briefing took a while but this was compounded by teams spending far too long hanging around after they had finished or too long eating noodles. In the end some teams were excused washing up as they were taking too long. So whilst a good experience with good feedback from the participants, it didn't work as part of the hike. One thing is for sure, it looks like teams have been spending next to no time writing the log book during the hike in previous years.

Impact on Scores

Had we not dropped the country code checkpoint from the overall results, the top two positions would not have changed. The 3rd place team were bussed past the country code checkpoint and the lack of score would have dropped them to 4th place. That was the only impact in the top half of the results table.

PROPOSED SOLUTION

In discussions between leaders at the event it was proposed to make the Barton a two night event with the assessed tasks taking place Friday night, thus allowing teams to start hiking earlier on Saturday. The flip side to this is that some leaders find it difficult to get to camp at a reasonable time on Friday night or aren't able to give up a whole weekend.

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OTHER FEEDBACK FROM SCOUTS

OTHER FEEDBACK COMMENTS FROM SCOUTS	ORGANISERS' RESPONSE
<i>Make future years so you can get a phone signal</i>	Not really possible. Reality of current mobile network limitations
<i>I think it was done better because we had something to aim for.</i>	
<i>I really liked the log book before</i>	
<i>The penalty for the bus is too small. When we are tired it takes at least 20 minutes for 1km</i>	This is a good point. Looking at the impact of getting the bus on the scores (see below) it wasn't nearly enough. Had the bus penalties been introduced as proposed, the only team that didn't use the bus would only have overtaken two teams both of which were bussed for HALF the route!
<i>I think there should be a challenge on every checkpoint.</i>	We can only do that if teams can navigate quickly to the checkpoints.
<i>The leaders to walk and check the route</i>	The leaders had walked and checked the routes!
<i>It was better because it's fair.</i>	
<i>The noodles were so good!</i>	
<i>It helped us learn more.</i>	
<i>The buses shouldn't cost points.</i>	Which is an opposite opinion to the prevailing mood last year and some comments this year.
<i>Make it easier.</i>	(It would be a lot easier if they hadn't lost their route card and didn't have a "team" member who was only there to get the badge and didn't really have an intention of walking the whole route.)
<i>No writing maps at end of walks. Premade route cards, more specific check point descriptions</i>	Apparently a six figure grid reference isn't specific enough? One of the problems we have is that teams were ignoring the grid references and the maps and attempting to navigate the route based purely on the route description and check point descriptions. That's not what this event is about.
<i>The route description should have more details</i>	
<i>Some of the activities were boring.</i>	

RON BARTON CHALLENGE

COMMENTS ON NAVIGATIONAL PROBLEMS

Over the course of the weekend I spoke to a lot of teams out on the route and tried to coach in some navigation skills. Below is some analysis of the issues I spotted.

1) NOT UNDERSTANDING WHAT THE BARTON CHALLENGE IS ABOUT

From reading feedback comments and speaking to teams out on the hikes it was clear that a lot of them didn't realise that the point of the Barton challenge is to test their ability to plan a route between checkpoints and navigate that route. Not to follow written instructions of what turnings to take where.

Up until 2012, teams were just given a list of grid references and the question to answer at each grid reference.

For 2013 and 2014 teams were given route cards including a description of each checkpoint, for example "Path Junction near Hatch Farm" and a description of the route to be taken.

It became clear last year that a number of teams were making navigational errors because they were attempting to navigate just using the description of the route rather than by reading the map. So for this year, the description of the route was not provided.

The trouble was, teams still attempted to complete the route without paying much attention to the grid references or the map!

BARTON CHALLENGE 2012

TEAM No ROUTE - **RED**

START TIME FINISH TIME

START 573037 Junction of A414 & The Street

CHECKPOINTS

1 594030 What is the name of the pub

2 585009 What is the telephone number?

3 585997 Manned Checkpoint

4 576986 What is the number of the postbox?

5 563973 Manned Checkpoint

6 551968 What is the unusual item at the road junction?

FINISH 549949 Crow Camp

You will need to visit all Checkpoints, record the answers on this sheet and hand it in when you return to Crow Camp

Emergency Contact: Mark Hulston T: 07542 439717
Corm Hatters T: 07554 150059
Michael Clark T: 07834 317056

romfordscouts.org.uk

BARTON 2012 INSTRUCTIONS

ROUTE CARD - BARTON CHALLENGE 2014				Team Number:
Day of Week	Date	Route	Team Name:	
Saturday	05/07/2013	Green	Start Time:	Finish Time:
Your Checkpoints to be followed in order		Initial direction or bearing	Description Of Route to be taken	
632899	Octagen Plantation			
1	626898 Path exits wood by SW tip of lake	W	Follow path through plantation and then open ground to woodland. Past Old Hall Pond and back out into open ground.	A sn side SW
2	617905 Path Junction near Hatch Farm	NW	Follow path in NW direction following edge of woodland until path junction near the Rookery. Take path following stream in Westerly direction when main track is reached turn north heading to Hatch Farm	Wha
3	608915 Visitors Centre	N	Follow path in northerly direction past Hatch farm, Horse Pond and Hatch House, until major junction of paths and tracks in Thorndon Park. Follow paths in NW direction past first car park to visitors centre.	Leat 914
4	52914 Church	W	Follow Bridleway in westerly direction. Stay on bridleway in woods all the way to junction of roads at spot height 96m. Follow road W past Barrack Wood.	Sign
			From church follow road to W past entrance to ski slope. At end of road	On!

EXTRACT FROM 2014 INSTRUCTIONS

ROUTE CARD - BARTON CHALLENGE 2015			Team Number:
Date	Route	Team Name:	
04/07/2015	Green	Start Time:	Expected Finish Time:
Your Checkpoints to be followed in order		Route Notes	Question at
START	512 931 Corner of open ground by church		
1	502 927 Building in woods	Toilets available at checkpoint 2	In front of the offices (Green cr and green Havering London Bc board. What is its title?
2	497 924		Checkpoint 2 - Mæ

EXTRACT FROM 2015 INSTRUCTIONS