

Controllers Comments

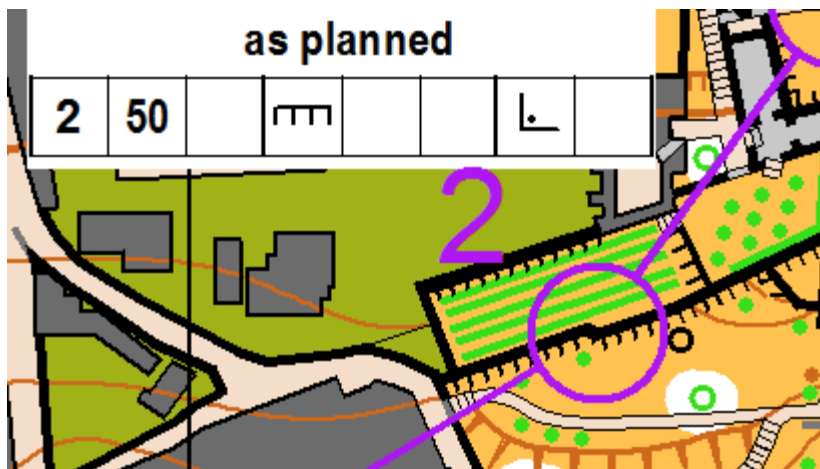
I really enjoyed working with the LOG team. Paul was a well crafted (maybe crafty?) and diligent planner and Sean and his LOG organisational team made the event run very smoothly.

Pauls courses were great from the outset with some challenging legs, both short and extremely long. Many of you went out of your way to pass on your thanks, I echo those thanks for a job well done.

Despite checking control sites and descriptions many times it almost seems inevitable that something will cause so controversy. The particular leg that caused big debate is that leading to control 50 (Crag SW inside corner). Every course had a leg up to this control (apart from the traffic free course E). It was crucial to the event that this leg was testing, but fair.

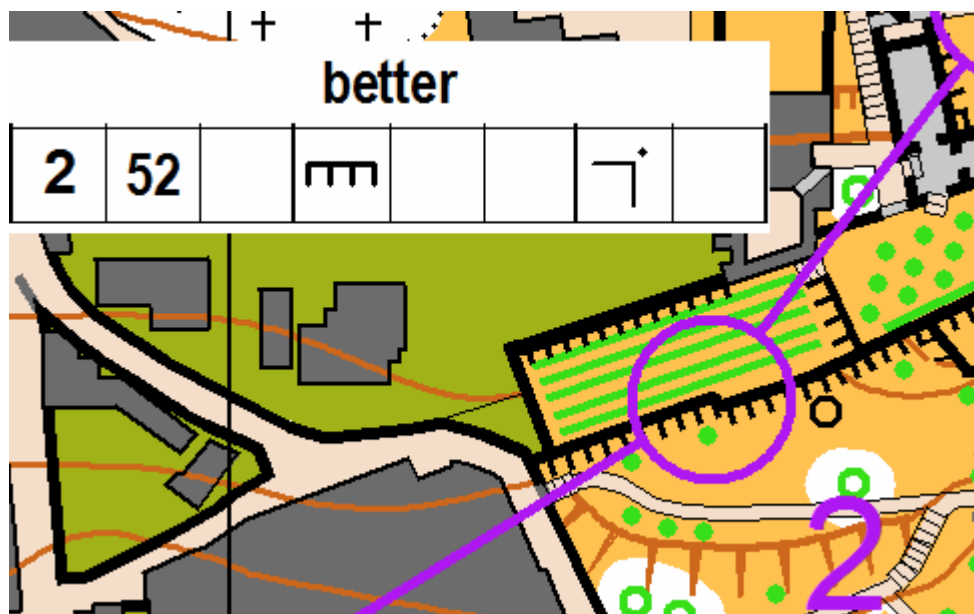
The leg to control 50 was just as Paul planned and, I thought, would be an excellent test of urban orienteering skills. My main concern was that the route may have been similar to legs used on some previous Lincoln races and might give an advantage to those who had done orienteered here before and who had good memories. I did moot the idea of placing the control at the cliff foot, the south side, to vary the challenge and to wrong-side those who have got into the 'planner always puts controls on the far-side of uncrossable features' mind-set. We decided to keep the challenge of the run to to north side and the complex navigation within the Bishops Palace.

This was the leg in discussion (control 10 on course D): -



If the crag had been mapped with the impassable wall symbol (ISSOM 521.1) then there is no further reasonable debate as the description would have been unambiguous. I accept what some competitors have said about this. Although it is common, though not strictly to ISSOM, to map such very high stone walls as crags.

The 'SW inside corner' qualifier in column 7 is too similar in design to the qualifier for foot of (see the last map). This was unintentional and was certainly not done to trick competitors as some suggested in our post race discussions. What we were trying to do was make the description unambiguous and we certainly failed in that! My sincere apologies to those who thought that we were trying to be devious. With the benefit of hindsight we could have easily avoided this by moving the control 2m to the next bend: -

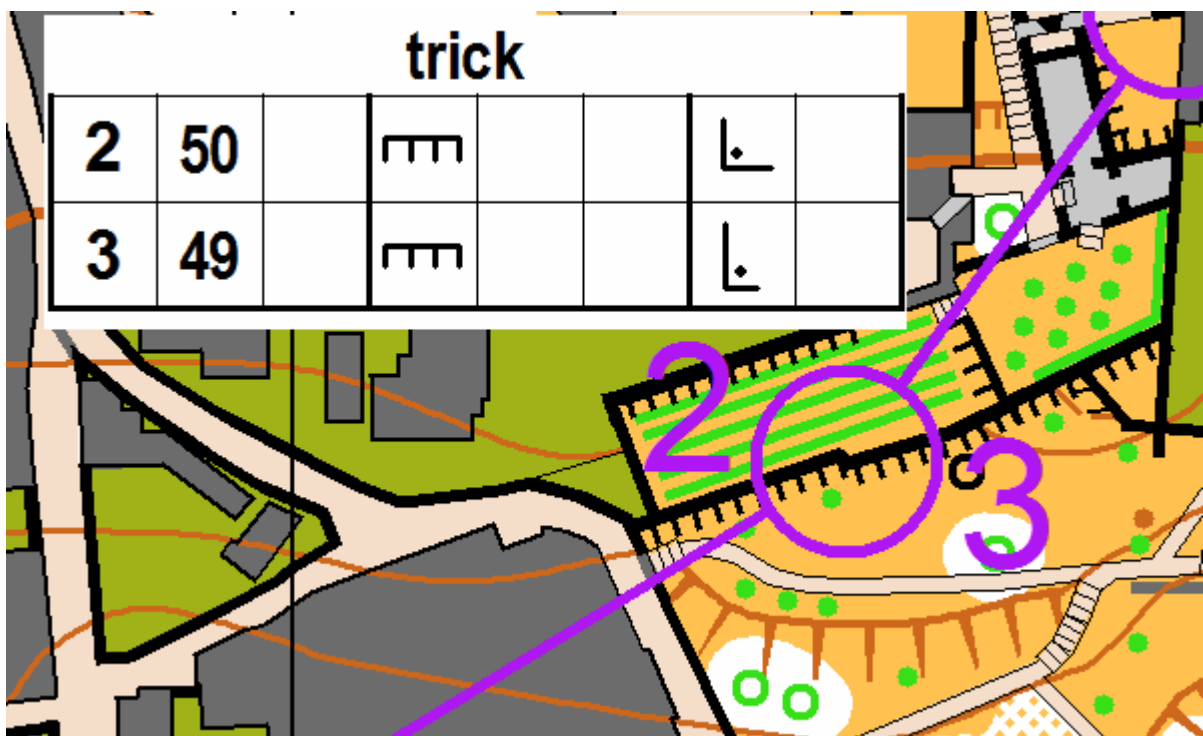


This is a better solution that just using a generic description of 'crag top' and making the decision to go to the top literally flagged up.

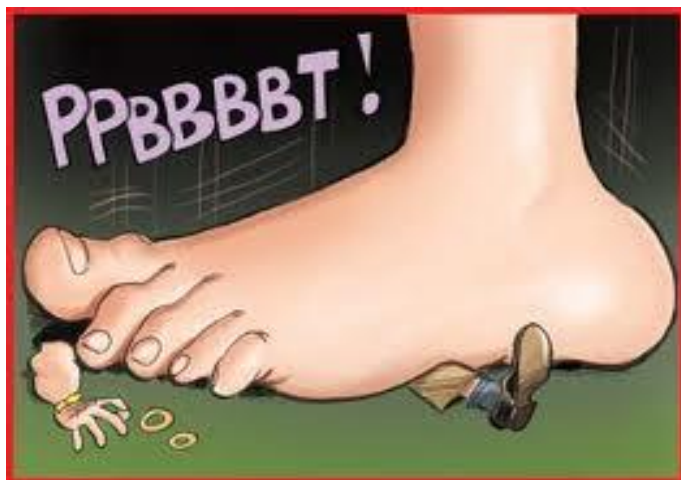
There are also better placements for the site such as: -



I consider that the competitor should be tested to work out the correct side of the feature to run to, being one of the key tests of urban orienteering, but should not be tested to distinguish between two very similar control qualifiers. This kind of trick has no place in races at this level, but could be 'entertaining' at Level D fun events: -



Now that I have discovered how similar the control qualifiers are, I shall seek a change in the 'at the foot of' to make it more evident: -



(with thanks to Mr M Python)

Thanks to all of you for coming to the delightful City of Lincoln and making a great competition and (thanks also to SYO) a fantastic weekend of urban orienteering.

Well done LOG.

Peter Hornsby LEI