

## NGOC Galoppen 2014 Controller's Comments

My job was made easy, both by the experienced and efficient organisational team of Chris and Gill, and the less experienced but equally efficient planning team of Joe and Richard. I feared that such young fit planners might route the courses through too much of the difficult terrain, but I was pleased to see that in general they used the more friendly areas of the map, reserving the stoniest terrain for the Brown course runners. My main contribution to the courses was a slight reduction in the physicality of the Short Green.

The weather held and, thanks to the army of NGOC helpers, things seemed to go very smoothly on the day, despite the additional complications created by the loss of parking. I had one report of a misplaced control: a runner on the White reported that control 34 was hung almost 10m from the tagged "Boulder" that was the control description. Sorry!! A review of the few mispunches in the results did not reveal any consistent problem areas, which is pleasing.

My main disappointment was the very low turnout. Records show that at 17 NGOC Galoppens between 1996 and 2013 we had a maximum number of runners of 490, an average of 369 and a minimum of 271 in 2003. Last year we were disappointed to have only 278, again close to the minimum, but this year it was very much less than ever before, only 208! That can't be blamed just on it not being an ASOA event, because we had the lowest ever number of runners on Blue (65) and Green (61). We did lose a few of our "regulars" to the British Night Championships but I don't think that clash was a major problem either. Any ideas what we can do to restore numbers next year?

My apologies if you come to next year's Galoppen and there's a long queue outside a single toilet (instead of the usual 3 or 4). You must blame all the people who didn't come this year, not the Organiser.

Paul Taunton, assisted by Ros.