

## **Planner's Comments**

When this year's Welsh Champs had to be moved at relatively short notice, and Roger informed me that Swansea Bay were having problems finding somebody to plan, I was very happy to volunteer. I live closer to Merthyr Mawr than most SBOC members, and it is not every day that you get the chance to plan on what is one of the best areas in Wales. What I hadn't bargained for, was the volume of rain in Jan and Feb and the amount of updating required to the map - new fence, vegetation changes, and bulldozers messing around with the contours.

Given the amount of flooding, I quickly decided to constrain the courses to the top plateau and the south eastern part. Whilst it is possible to pick your way through what are currently significant lakes, I didn't think I had the mapping skill necessary to make it fair in that part. A shame in some ways, as it is actually very beautiful there at the moment with much wild life.

The effect of the cattle grazing on the top plateau was a bonus, and hopefully in the fullness of time, we will also see similar effects lower down - albeit at the expense of the new fence.

Many thanks for the complementary comments I received on the courses. Many apologies to those of you impacted by the faintness of the yellow compared with the white and light green. This was entirely my fault, if I have to work on a predominantly open area map, I invariably tone down the yellow - I find it helps me see the contours more clearly. And printing for myself using white paper, I find the white and light green still distinct enough. Clearly that was not the case with the less than brilliant white Pretex waterproof paper. I should of course have returned the "rough open" back to spec, and allowed enough time to get a proof. Particularly galling for me, as I spent quite a lot of effort creating two versions of the 1:7,500 map - to enable the different courses all to fit on A4 - and on circle and line cutting. And Charles was careful to check these aspects. All to try to make things as clear as possible for everyone. I know how much more fun it is to orienteer if you can read the map, especially on a fantastic complicated area like Merthyr Mawr. Sorry again to those whose run it spoiled, especially if you travelled a long way.

Thanks as ever to Charles for his meticulous controlling.

Mark Saunders - BOK/SWOC