

## **BOC 2014 Planner's comments (long courses)**

### **Frank Shillitoe (NATO)**

Planning the M/W 18 to 45 courses was challenging and rewarding. A big thank you to the mappers (probably the unsung heroes) for the many hours they spent on the forest and fell. Apologies to Fred Miller for just using his mapped area (south-central) as a run-through for the long legs. He had some miserable days in atrocious weather diving into dark green forest looking for hidden potential control site gems - there weren't any! Test running the M21E course I managed 2 hours (with rests at each control site). Comparing my fell racing times (rather than orienteering as my navigation isn't spectacular) with some of the elite orienteers who also race in the fells / hills, the course seemed a sensible length. I think the bilberry growth spurt and lack of snow to push down the previous year's growth was the reason for the M21E top times being just outside the recommended winning time range. Many of the discussions on Nopesport about the mapping were had between the planners / mapper and controller and I think the right compromises were met. It's a difficult call when a 1m boulder is very significant in one area of the map but should be left out entirely in another.

The shapes of the courses were chosen to try and get everyone into the most interesting and runnable (not many unless you are super-fit) parts of the map as possible. If we hadn't included the remote Blue start many competitors wouldn't have been able to get to one of the best parts of the area and enjoyed seeing the interesting geology of Callaly (an area which is privately owned and not open access). Apologies to all those who got more than they bargained for with the terrain - it is a tough area to run in and very physical. The orienteering community is small in the north-east and putting on a Level A / national event is very challenging for us but I think we got there.