

SMOC volunteering at the British Sprint Relay Championships.

by Rosie Shaw

This year as part of the British Sprint Championship weekend the Sprint relays were held at RAF Honnington, near Bury St Edmunds, on August 30th.

As the event was held in the East Anglia region, several SMOC members stepped forward to help.

There are two important things an event organiser prays for: good weather (preferably no rain when setting up and taking down) and a good team of volunteers to help.

Volunteering at an event is very rewarding: it's great fun and you get to know orienteers from other clubs and put names and faces together.

Sometimes there are added bonuses, such as reduced entry fee or meal vouchers, and often car parking close to the event centre.

Eleven members were helping on the day and Helen was the Events Secretary for both events, dealing with the many entries queries in the lead up to the event.



Freya and Milly were responsible for sounding the klaxon at the mass start of each relay team race, to the point where the klaxon ran out of 'steam'!

Ros played her part manning a separate start for any helpers who had been given the opportunity to run round the RAF base.

Rachel was deployed to the enquiries tent where they dealt with team declarations.

Ann's job was handing out the sealed maps prior to each leg runner going to the start.

Ian, Martin, John and I were responsible for runners putting their maps in their club bags after their runs.





Dorien was positioned at the finish line with a camera to provide evidence in case there was a photo finish.

This shows just some of the range of jobs that are needed to put on an event that runs smoothly and all of them require volunteers.

Other jobs that require volunteers are: putting out and collecting controls, car park marshalling and working on the computers for inputting information and downloading competitors' race results.

So, if you are a new or a more experienced orienteer, offer your services at the next event the club puts on. You'll get to know other members better and have a really good time.

HINT our next event is at Rushmere on 23rd November.

All photos by Wendy Carlyle