



## **UFO#1 – Islington - 6<sup>th</sup> March 2019**

### **SETTERS REPORT – Geoff Peel**

For almost a week the weather forecasters had been predicting rain to commence somewhere between 3 and 6 pm during our UFO#1 event. Surely they couldn't be that accurate this far out. As the days progressed this prediction failed to significantly change with the percentages just slightly altering. As the actual afternoon approached the winds increased and the skies became cloudier and while it was now more bearably cooler the prospect of getting wet was upon us. Bugger! It looked like BOM were going to nail it, much to our displeasure. No organiser/course setter is pleased when the prospect of rain decreases the number of competitors, but there was little we could do about it. Ten minutes into the official start window the rain appeared - quite heavy and accompanied by some gusty wind. Not ideal at all and we knew that our efforts to attract first-time juniors to our new free "MINI" course would mostly be in vain. Our various Facebook posts on different pages had seemed to gain a reasonable degree of interest. At least three families from our local Primary school had told us they were going to attend but understandably only one of these families plus another from elsewhere braved the conditions. Hopefully many others will come to UFO#2 at Stockton to try our sport.

Whilst first timers were few and far between many regulars did turn up with quite a lot of those running later after the worst of the rain had passed. Seventy people was a pretty decent turn-out considering the prevailing conditions, so it's hard to be too disappointed.

Earlier in the day whilst placing the controls Margaret and I were horrified to see that the dual purpose bike/walk path had been closed by the council due to repairs being undertaken. This work totally blocked the intended route between controls 7 and 8 on the Long course. One thought was to remove controls 6 & 7 completely but this would have made the control sequence confusing and we didn't have the capacity or time to reprint maps & control descriptions. We settled on leaving it how it was with competitors just having to backtrack almost the same way they came, not ideal and a tad longer but at least manageable from a planners perspective.

On course it was clear Alvin Craig had been paying attention at his Dad's Sunday training sessions putting into practice the art of "control flow" our most recently practised skill. He took out the Long course with over a 3 minute gap to second placed and recently crowned "Street Series Champ", Andrew Morris. It was an ominous display suggesting he is definitely the one to beat in this series. Similarly the Enderby girls are going to be tough to beat as well with Jenny the top woman on the Long course while Mikayla and Erika placed first and second outright on the Short course.

Many thanks to Margaret and Baxter for helping me in many ways to put this event together. Other to thank include Geoff Todkill (map preparation) Jeff Guy (map printing/SI) Viola O Conner (SI), Joy Guy (desk), Malcom Roberts (control collection) Jenny Marsden (Control Collection), Russell Blatchford (Control Collection) Adrian Plaskitt (Control Collection).