

Commentary

Thank you for taking part in the Cloverleaf Rallies, but especially a big THANK YOU for your generous donations to our sponsored charity the Multiple Sclerosis Society. Christine has just finished bagging your coins and we are pleased to announce that a total of **£1126.86** (and still growing) has been raised.

As you probably noticed we were using some Air cadets as marshals at Bassingbourn Airfield. We offered this as a training exercise as part of our marshalling arrangements.

Although the cadets did a great job, this did expose a few set-up and training problems: inconsistent advice about delay allowance and, on trying to resolve some queries, a difficulty in corroborating the many reports of wrong route and out-of-bounds penalties.

As the fairest way of resolving these matters we extended the lateness at Bassingbourn to 30 minutes and deleted all observation penalties on Tests 1 to 8. Resolving these issues to my satisfaction impacted heavily on our results crew, so sincere apologies to those who waited patiently at Heydon Grange.

There was universal acclaim for the public road regularities with three sections around 30 miles long. We can't take credit for the quiet roads, but do for the length thanks to our PR crews who took time to encourage the residents on route, some of whom also organised their own fund-raising garden parties to watch the rally pass.

Many thanks for your frank and detailed questionnaire responses. In summary this what you said:

- ❖ Yes to the marked maps and navigation
- ❖ A qualified Yes to Bassingbourn – some thought the usage was too intense and complex
- ❖ A qualified Yes to Debden – better signage required on the regularity
- ❖ You hated cone code boards, a tricky one for us since we had to have some way of checking your route on the long tests
- ❖ Much praise for the quality of paperwork
- ❖ You liked the start/finish venue – especially the curry
- ❖ Despair at the slow catering at the lunch halt, abetted by the break being too short
- ❖ Regularity/Insularity: last year was a big plus; this year a slight minus mostly because it was integrated with the Bassingbourn regularity
- ❖ Like you, we praise the dedication and friendliness of the marshals. They were hard to recruit this year, but when one competitor arrived too late at the start and marshalled instead, we finally plugged the gap of a couple of unmanned controls.

Overall you gave the event an 8/10 rating ☺, but we will not be complacent and shall have your comments above firmly in mind when we start planning the 2009 Cloverleaf.

Congratulations to the winners – **Geoffrey Twigg/Mick Briggs** – who led from the start in their Mini Cooper S.

We have many awards to distribute and we'd like to avoid the unreliability and cost of sending them by post. I'll be out on the Regis Rally, so if you are an award winner, and you or a friend of a friend are taking part, let me know and I'll deliver them to the Regis start for you.

Many thanks again for your support and generosity.



Ray Crowther
Clerk of the Course

for the Cloverleaf Core:

Christine Crowther, Malcolm Heymer, George Hendry, Robin Hernaman, Paul Hernaman, Rob Russell, Paul Carlier and Andrea Weston.