

## 2024 Laurie Bradley New Year Score

### Pooley Country Park – Jan 1<sup>st</sup> 2024

Mass start: 12.00

**Location:** Pooley Lane, Polesworth, Warwickshire. B78 1JA. W3W – deeds.enjoyable.project

**Travel:** Located approx. 2km off the A5 and close to its junction with M42. All traffic will make its final approach along the B5000 to the Pooley Lane junction on the western edge of the village. Follow the brown tourist signs along Pooley Lane from the B5000 to the car park.

**Parking:** Level hardstanding, accessible for high vehicles. £3.00 all day, card payment only.

**Entries:** [www.fabian4.co.uk/default.aspx?EventID=3586](http://www.fabian4.co.uk/default.aspx?EventID=3586)

**Event details:** The Laurie Bradley New Year Score is an open event comprising a mass start 60-minute score, 10 points per control with 10 points deducted per part minute late. Whilst the event is open to everyone, The Laurie Bradley Trophy is awarded to the WMOA club with the highest total score from their 25 best competitors. There are two junior trophies for the highest point scoring WMOA M18 & W18 or younger with time not taken into account.

**Pooley Park details:** Pooley Country Park is the site of an old colliery that opened in 1841 although the area is now transformed and includes a large SSSI. The colliery was the first in the country to generate its own electricity and also the first to open pit head baths in 1928. Crossed by the Coventry Canal and the M42, bordered by the River Anker and the West Coast Mainline, it has just had a reprieve since HS2 is no longer going to obliterate the car park and Visitor Centre.

**Map:** 1:7500 by Bruce Bryant and updated in November 2023

**Terrain:** Underfoot conditions are surprisingly good at this time of year due to the underlying clay and colliery waste which means that there is very little mud as water quickly drains away into the surrounding water courses. It can be slippery on the hill after recent heavy rain.

The area offers a mix of orienteering terrain with some fast open stretches, intricate areas of woodlands and paths plus the inevitable hill. Most of you will probably go up it a couple of times to make doubly sure that it is still there! The mix of terrain will challenge the orienteer but a full house of controls should be possible for the fastest competitors. All controls have been placed to avoid the Warwickshire brambles. **The fences along the northern and western edges of the meadows can only be crossed by using the gate at the eastern end or the towpath access point at the southern end. The fences are mapped as uncrossable and the gate is shown as a compulsory crossing point.** Please note that the farmer is especially obliging in allowing use of his land and freely moves stock for our events which we do not want to place in jeopardy. **The canal can only be crossed by the main bridge which you will walk over on route to the start. The canal bridge and footpath at the south of the map are OOB when competing.**

**Assembly, download:** Assembly and download will be in the Scout Activity Centre which is about 50m along a taped route from the park visitor centre. There is a small room available in the Activity Centre to shelter from the elements and the Visitor Centre café is due to open at 10.00. However, please leave your bags in your car when competing as you will leave for the start direct from parking which is also close to the finish.

**Entries:** Entries now open. The festive holidays mean that we have to go to press early for map printing. Consequently, discounted per-entry is available on Fabian4 until close on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> December. Pre-entry will remain open after that date until 29<sup>th</sup> December at £2.00 extra per senior and junior entrant as long as maps remain available. EOD if maps still available.

Senior £8.00 (non-BOF member £10.00)

Juniors £2.00 (including students in full-time education)

SI hire £1.00

**Course:** Single mass start course with maximum of 27 controls.

**Start:** 200m level paved walk from car park. Competitors to congregate at the northern edge of the car park at 11.45 for the walk to the start. Clear and check will be on the canal bridge then proceed immediately through the gate to the open area for map distribution. The start will be signalled by a whistle. There will be no clothing dump since the car park is close to both finish and download. The mass start is scheduled for 12.00.

**Finish:** Adjacent to Outdoor Activity Centre

**Toilets:** Adjacent to the visitor centre.

**Timing:** Timed start, punching finish. SI timing in contact and touch free modes.

**Refreshments:** Please make sure to use the café in the Visitor Centre which will be open on New Year's Day from 10.00. It is under threat of closure by the County Council so your custom would be much appreciated.

**Extreme weather:** The event is taking place in mid-Winter so there is a real possibility of extreme weather with little pre-warning. All competitors should bring cagoules to the event and may be required to wear them.

**Event safety:** Deep water is present on several parts of the mapped area as below:

- The Coventry Canal traverses the area.
- The River Anker forms the SE edge of the map.
- There are several deep pools at the NW of the map.

**There is no requirement to enter or cross any of the deep water and it should not be entered in any circumstances.** The deep water is all mapped as uncrossable. Competitors attacking the distant controls in the NW may choose to use the canal towpath and also a path between the large pools in the area. Both are hard-cored, very obvious and wide along

their whole length. As a safety precaution, U14s should be accompanied by an adult at all times.

There is also a network of lightly used bike tracks that are all mapped in detail and shown in purple overprint for clarity. Competitors should not run along any of the tracks and must cross them carefully at right-angles. These are not likely to be an obstacle on the day. There is a separate fenced area on the map, marked OOB, which should not be entered.

Orienteering is, of course, an adventure sport and all competitors take part at their own risk and have full responsibility for their own safety.

**Dogs:** Permitted in the Country Park but only on leads during the event.

**Refunds:** Refunds after costs will be made if the event is cancelled due to inclement weather.

**General safety and Risk:** A risk assessment will have been carried out by the organiser, but participants take part at their own risk and are responsible for their own safety during the event. If you want organisers to be aware of a high-risk medical condition that you have then please leave details at enquiries in a sealed envelope with your name on it. You can use [this](#) medical form. Envelopes will only be opened if required for a medical emergency. Unopened envelopes should be collected after the event. Any unclaimed envelopes will be destroyed after the event.

An emergency number for the day is printed on the map. First aid and details of the nearest A&E hospital will be available in the assembly area.

**Photography:** British Orienteering has an agreed national guidance policy regarding the taking of photographs at events. If you are unsure about the agreed acceptable practice, please speak to the event organiser.

**Privacy & personal data:** When entering events your personal details (name, age, gender, club) will appear in the results section on this website. It may also be used to trace missing runners and hired SI cards.

**First Aid and nearest A & E:** Club first aiders will be present in Assembly throughout the event. The nearest A&E is George Eliot Hospital, College St, Nuneaton, CV10 7DJ. Tel: 02476 351351.

**Acknowledgements:** Our thanks to Warwickshire County Council who are always very helpful in allowing use of their country parks for orienteering. Thanks also to Richard White of Swan Farm, Grendon who is equally helpful in allowing us to use the meadows area and who is happily prepared to move stock to enable our use whenever required.

Consequently, we especially ask you to be considerate in using the area and inform us of any damage.

Finally, thanks also to Polesworth Abbey Scouts for use of their excellent Activity Centre.

**Organiser:** Keith Willdig  
**Planner:** Keith Willdig  
**Controller:** Adrian Bailey