

### **Statistics**

- 34 teams submitted an entry, at least one team did a lot of work but declined to put in an entry.
- 2 teams found the treasure, the first on December 30<sup>th</sup> and the second on January 9<sup>th</sup>.
- After the issue of extra clues, one team found the treasure on January 13<sup>th</sup> and another on the 14<sup>th</sup>. There was a near miss on the morning of the 14<sup>th</sup> when, possibly, one team did not fully appreciate the consequences of the movements described in question 3204. Especially in relation to a dated orienteering map.

### **Commentary**

Well not quite my easiest hunt ... Although initially it was looking as if the treasure would be found well before Christmas. 15 teams granted the setters access to their workings. At midnight when the hunt was released many of the teams were active and solving puzzles through the early hours. In the first few days progress was staggering. Were years of work to be written off in a few days?

As well as having access to teams' workings the setters also got a message each time a hidden file was accessed. We were able to see several teams racing neck and neck towards the treasure as Christmas approached.

Progress stalled around Christmas and an unplanned Christmas message was issued to encourage progress. Only one team grasped the significance and found the treasure. So 12 days later another clue was issued, resulting in a second find on the Friday morning of the final weekend.

On day 2 of the hunt Whippendell Wood had the first of many team visits. Most teams made at least two visits and the objective of getting the Wood better known was achieved. The permanent orienteering course was particularly popular. Note that the adjacent Merlin's Wood is particularly impressive in the bluebell season.

Whilst most teams were glad to visit Whippendell Wood, my other objective of greater appreciation of Modesty Blaise was less well received. Too much snobbery about comics and less appreciation of Graphic Novels perhaps?

Many teams have an international presence. Trackers on the web site allow the setters to see where users of the website are located. This [map](#) shows the global distribution of ATHers this year. You will notice that Wuhan is represented, but they have not released their entry, or anything else, as far as we can see.

We enjoyed setting this hunt, possibly in inverse proportion to your frustration with its complications. We thank all teams for persevering with a genuine 24/7 commitment.

### **Dave Kee & friends**