Control Simplification

Following on from the discussion of attack points in the previous newsletter, the following technique particularly in complex maps with many point features, will assist your orienteering. The basic principal is once you have determined your attack point, then use other features around the control or the relationship of the control to other features to help locate it.

For example, a point feature which is the control site, may be in a gully or on a spur, so use these contour features to find the control by following them to the feature. Often the control may be to one side of a gully or watercourse, again follow the watercourse but slightly away from it at about the distance you expect the control feature to be away from the watercourse. A point feature may be on a hill side, but a change in slope may identify the level at which the control feature is located.

This technique concentrates on using the detail in the control circle to assist in control location. Attack points are usually bigger features outside of the circle.

The simple example from Pewsey Vale illustrates this point. The approach is from the south, an attack point may be the bend in the track just after the creek crossing. However with some distance to the control from this location, the important detail to note is that the control is at the top of a gully. So aim for the gully, definitely below the control as the gully ends slightly above the target boulder – so use another important orienteering technique of aiming off, in this case to the left. Use the gully to find the control and ignore the other detail of the boulders on route.