



# DEESIDE ORIENTEERING CLUB DELAMERE FOREST REGIONAL EVENT 4 November 2007



## Officials' Comments and Lost Property

### Organiser's Comments - Chris and Sian Calow

We were glad that so many of you carried forward your entries from the cancelled February event and enjoyed your courses in an autumnal Delamere Forest. There were a high number of EODs and hopefully those caught in the queue at Registration were not kept waiting for too long. Fortunately, the number of over-printed maps was sufficient on all courses so everyone should have been able to run the course of their choice.

This event was the first regional event that we have organised (having previously only organised a few schools and summer evening events) so a very big thank you to our team of helpers who just got on with things on the day. We had a few, minor on the day hitches and I do hope that these were resolved efficiently without causing you, the competitor, too much inconvenience.

We do hope that the delay in posting the results and splits on the club website did not mar your enjoyment of the event. We do apologise for this, but hopefully the majority of you received preliminary results via e-mail. We would like to thank Bob Elmes for heroically sending out so many e-mails and for being such a competent entries secretary. A big thank you to Tim Palmer for giving the club temporary use of his website for posting the results and splits.

Thank you to the Forestry Commission for giving the club permission to orienteer in the forest. Due to significant storm damage sustained during the February gales it was uncertain a couple of months ago whether this re-scheduled event could go ahead.

Finally I would especially like to thank the planners (Sara and Andy Campbell) and the controller (Simon Thompson). We hope to see you all at the next Delamere Trophy event in two years time.

### Lost Property

1 x Compass with whistle attached.

### Planners' Comments - Andy and Sara Campbell

This event has been a long time coming and there have been many changes to the forest and the map since the planned date of 4<sup>th</sup> February. We hope that you enjoyed the courses and that those of you who arrived from sunnier parts were not hampered by the mist.

The course times were longer than expected and this most probably results from the higher autumnal vegetation and also the brashings from the extensive forestry work that has taken place. Forestry operations continued up until 3 weeks before the event and some late restrictions imposed on us required changes to some of the longer courses.

On courses 1, 2 and 3 the purple line between controls 182 and 178 obscured a small path. The courses were checked for lines linking controls obscuring features, however on this occasion it was missed as the line matched the path so perfectly. This oversight was not noticed until the day of the event and after competitors had started. A similar error occurred on course 13, but this was noticed before the event and notices were displayed in the start lane.

There were comments on the day regarding the positioning of control number 179 in a pit. Since the original planning and controlling there have been a number of changes in the area surrounding the control site. Public use and forestry operations have led to additional unmapped tracks which on the ground look more distinct than those shown, and an unmarked pit. The control was sited in the pit on the small spur as agreed at the planning stage but the recent changes provided some competitors with an incorrect (unmapped) attack point which was not noticed before the event.

It was also disappointing to have six SI boxes fail during the competition; we can only assure you that all of the SI stations were put out in the forest on the morning of the event.

Thanks are due to Jane, Nick and Andrew for putting out SI boxes on the morning, Simon for his helpful comments and advice on the courses, fielding comments on the day and then helping to collect in controls.