



DEESIDE ORIENTEERING CLUB



Big Covert Summer Evening Event 28 June 2007

Officials' Comments

Organiser's Comments

It was my first attempt at organising, so I was lucky that most of the helpers seemed to know what they were doing and just got on with it. Many thanks to everybody who turned out to help, particularly the juniors I had to rope in to do Registration, who did a good job in less than perfect conditions and with minimal supervision. Our plan had been to locate Registration, etc, at one end of the tent, but the wind and threat of rain forced us to use the more sheltered but smaller side entrance. This meant we had a single queue for all courses, e-card hire and enquiries - I hope nobody had too long a wait.

My special thanks must also go to local residents, Don and Ann Smith and Dave Wynne, who were very supportive of our event. This helped in a variety of ways, not least by guiding in the lost Portaloo delivery man while I was over at the start/finish area. My afternoon had started badly when, after leaving answerphone messages over previous days, I eventually made phone contact with the Portaloo man himself. He told me he had no record of our booking and no loos available – despite having provided them to a number of our evening events already, as part of the same order! Fortunately I was able to get through to somebody helpful at the head office who managed to resolve the matter before I started to ring round alternative suppliers.

Finally, thanks are also due once again to Andrew Kent of landowners Tarmac, for allowing us to stage an event on this nice little area.

Planner's Comments

Although a band of rain had been forecast for the afternoon/evening, luckily it stayed dry until the SI units beeped that their work was done. The SI units worked well. It was the first time that I had programmed SI units and whilst programming the finish unit I only just realised in time that the job of each unit becomes the job for the next unit programmed until changed on the drop down menu and the one before that I had programmed was a clear station. It would have erased all the competitor's times when they dibbed the finish!

Big Covert is a technical area with, in the main, good runnability for this time of the year compared with other areas, but it is physical and there are the odd patches of brambles. I tried to make the courses interesting with alternatives where there were path runs. The Yellow course was quite short but did involve minor paths, the more major tracks having been used for the Yellow the last two years. Orange seemed to go down well but Light Green may have been a little physical (particularly at the northern end), hence the easier run into the finishing controls. The area suits a Green course well and I hope that the runners on this course enjoyed the challenge. Perhaps I was a bit sadistic with control 242 but I wanted a tricky control near the end (and had to give a taste of the brambles!). The controller, Pam Chamberlain, whose advice I much appreciated, vetoed a short leg from 242 through the brambles which were growing daily and the Green and Blue competitors should be grateful to her. Around 239 in the NE part of the map there should perhaps be mapped a 3rd crag to the south of 239 although it is really a windblown tree with a mass of stone attached to the roots.

Many thanks go to Paul Chamberlain who checked the controls on the morning of the event and to Mike & Chris Smithard, Peter Edwards and John Evans for collecting the controls after the event.