



DEESIDE ORIENTEERING
CLUB
Summer Evening Event
Big Covert
24th June 2008
Officials' Comments



Organiser's Comments (Andrew Williams)

It's quite a while since I last organised an event (although I've helped at plenty) and the use of electronic punching has certainly changed the organiser's tasks. After a couple of interesting 'challenges' (like eventually finding the Start box in the bottom of a carrier bag and me leaving a bin sack of cups behind, thanks Barry Barnes for the quick trip to Tesco at Mold!) the event seemed to go OK. It was disappointing that we only had 80 runners, we could have coped with many more, but everyone seemed to enjoy Dennis's courses on what is one of the Summer Evening events best areas.

As always many thanks to all my helpers and apologies to those who had little to do. Thanks also to the residents (and dogs) of Rock Cottage for putting up with the disturbance and Andrew Kent at Tarmac Limited for use of the area.

Planner's Comments (Dennis Murphy)

Big Covert is a lovely wood to plan in. The runability has got better over the years; there is little undergrowth in most areas; the map is much improved; and it is always very peaceful and unfrequented. There were a few negatives though. The gales of last Sunday had brought down a lot of the leaves and the paths were somewhat camouflaged when I put some of the controls out on Monday. I thought that this might make things difficult for the younger competitors on the yellow and orange courses but in the event there were not too many takers for these courses. The other negative was the inconsiderate effect of the broad leaves in shading out a lot of the light: this left a good few competitors wishing they had very large magnifying glasses with them. The map would be better at the 1:7500 scale.

Many thanks to Terry for his meticulous controlling, to Robin for his time, effort and patience with preparing the maps and to Andrew for organising.

Controller's Comments (Terry Harper)

Big Covert is a testing area, both technically and physically but is ideal for a summer evening event as there is little undergrowth on the limestone base. A large amount of arboreal debris had found its way to the forest floor in the strong winds of last Sunday but with it being mainly dry this probably caused little problem, apart from making some paths indistinct.

Dennis provided really good courses which seemed to have been appreciated by everybody. I thought that the Green course was particularly good, Dennis using SI to full benefit by providing cross country routes rather than path runs, although this did mean increased climbing, about which I heard no complaints.

The event was well organised by Andrew and went off without a hitch apart from waiting for a person who did not download. Luckily the registration form showed the car registration no. and we could check that the orienteer had left.

Also thanks to Don Smith and 'Dave', the owners of the houses adjacent to registration who each year put up with the invasion but have expressed their satisfaction with the behavior of the orienteers and may this long continue.

Consideration will be given in future to enlarging the map scale to 1:7500 as, particularly later on, as it starts to go darker or it rains, the 1:10000 map is difficult to read by the older orienteers.