



**DEESIDE ORIENTEERING  
CLUB**  
2<sup>nd</sup> Daresbury Chasing Sprint  
14 December 2008  
Officials' Comments



### **Organiser's Comments (Norman Hall)**

Not a great deal of effort needed for this event, the indoor facilities arranged by Pete and John helped enormously. Because I took this task over quite late on, the main task was organizing helpers, but as usual Deeside members rallied round without too much cajoling. My appreciation and thanks for those who volunteered – Barbara Jones, Jill Barnes registration, Alan Mullock car park, Barry Chambers, Barry Barnes start, Bob Elmes si, Margaret, Dennis Murphy filling in when needed. Meg and Eleanor Owens did sterling work on the computer and registration side, while Malcom Irvine, Pauline Smithard, Barbara Jones, Ed Calow and Hannah Hateley allowed the chasing start to run smoothly. I hope I have not missed anyone out and apologise if this is the case

Well done to John Kewley and Pete Owens for a great event. Although I must say the butterfly controls on the chase at one point became waspish because I was stung by one of them!

The Colomendy Schools League event is on 31/02/09 and I will be looking for helpers. So if you are going to the Turkey Trot, BEWARE.

### **Planner's Comments (John Kewley, MDOC)**

Thanks for all positive comments Pete and I received on Sunday. There are however three apologies I'd like to make:

1. The contrast of the overprint colour to the grey of the buildings was less than ideal. We now know several tricks to get this to be more visible.
2. There was a lot of waiting around; this was so we could ensure that start-times for the Chase were available in time and the call-ups and start procedures went smoothly.
3. I forgot to mention on Final Details that the scale for Micr-O was 1:2,000 although it was on the earlier pre-event info.

I am not alone however in needing to apologise: Control 12 on Blue/Green in the Chase was meant to TAUNT you by being visible from the previous control, not TEMPT you to go for it directly (buildings are out of bounds no matter how low!); there were three runners who took that route. Likewise in the Firs, Routegadget shows runners crossing private land and crossing uncrossable fences. I am very disappointed in this since pre-event info, final details and on-the-day sample maps all highlighted forbidden-to-cross features.

So how about the courses? The area is very small and therefore sprint events are about the best we can do with it. Since the areas are segregated, each of a totally different character, having a woodland technical sprint followed by an urban less-technical chasing sprint seems an obvious combination. Pete and I also try to include newer O formats into the programme to keep you on your toes. We also like the idea of spectator interest and the patio area proved ideal for this. Note that we may not always be as fortunate with the weather as we have been for the last 2 years

I hope you found the Micr-O a reasonable challenge, I think having it a bit easier (compared to last year) turned out about right (with ALL dummy controls being punched by at least 1 person). I also believe that the 1 minute penalty harsh enough that competent orienteers would read their map while entering the clusters, but not too harsh that everyone was slowed to a walk - it was supposed to be a sprint after all.

Enough of you gave positive feedback that it is worth considering what we should do for next year, what we should keep and what we should change. For instance to keep the waiting times down, maybe the following could be considered:

- Green and Blue chases running concurrently, but maybe only for the first 10 mins of chasers - with mini-mass starts OR B finals before/after. Your thoughts are welcomed.

Does anyone else have any ideas for which parts of the event were most fun, novel and worth repeating, or other types of format for inclusion into a chasing sprint? In particular we'd like your opinions on the following components of our event:

- Two different flavours of Sprint-O on the one day
- The chase format and head-to-head racing
- Micr-O (especially in a sprint event)
- The Labyrinth (or Nan-O as we called it)
- Spectator interest

Finally, we'd like to say a big thank you to the landowners for access to the areas, STFC Daresbury Laboratory for the facilities and all the DEE helpers on the day. In particular Meg and Norman who ensured the whole event ran very smoothly and Bob who spent many hours ensuring that the results including Routegadget went online very quickly.

## **Controller's Comments (Pete Owens)**

### **Lost and Found**

LOST - 1 MDOC control used as a CHECK STATION for the chase. It is one of the new style rounded ones in red. It was in the reception area so someone has probably picked it up with their belongings.

FOUND - 1 pair new balance trainers (white with red N)

- 1 pair of orienteering glasses (broken)