



**DEESIDE ORIENTEERING
CLUB**
Training Event
Halkyn
8 July 2009
Officials' Comments



Organiser's Comments (Jenny Palmer)

Firstly thanks are due to Clare and Bob. Clare for planning what I think was a very enjoyable course and Bob for offering to help which turned out to be a considerable blessing as I think I was perhaps a bit over optimistic in thinking Tim and I could manage the start, entries and download on our own!

Tim is also due thanks for dealing with some fairly trying problems with the download, due it transpired to a dying master station, but as he suggested we organise and do SI for the event in the first place this cancels out!

With my Treasurer hat on I think that next year we are going to have to increase the price of the Halkyn event to £1 but given the considerable number of people who expressed surprise at the very modest 50p I don't think that too many would resent that small increase.

The combination of such an interesting area plus the good weather resulted in the best turnout for Halkyn for several years – just under 70 competitors!

Planner's Comments (Clare Crocker)

Plan a training event? Yes I could attempt that - I thought.

I hope you all got some practice for the Scottish by beating around in bracken, gorse and some training in reading your control descriptions.

Into the bargain, I got to train on OCAD 9 and to plan on quite a difficult area. It's nice to have the opportunity to try something new in an informal situation and think it important for the sustainability of any club to provide opportunities for helpers to gain confidence in something new without the pressure of intense competition.

It's a lovely area but a very difficult map to work with. Apologies for not using the correct symbol for a crater - not quite sure what went wrong there. I can't blame the software as I had clearly picked the wrong symbol.

Thanks to Andrew for all the teaching and patience whilst I juggled work at the same time and to Tim and Jenny for organisation and SI and keeping the work load to a minimum (another important feature of getting people to volunteer). Thanks also to Simon and Callum for putting out the controls and finally to my cleaner who ended up cleaning up the sheep poo I accidentally trampled into the carpet unloading the controls late on Wednesday!

Controller's Comments (Andrew Tarr)

Every July Halkyn planners (and controllers) are caught out by the midsummer spurt of bracken growth. Most of Clare's control sites were easily found in early June, but this year's bracken seems especially fierce, and was 5 feet high (deep?) in the northern part of the map. Despite my sickle-work some controls (249, 244, 226) were less visible than they should have been. And then there is the gorse - but at least there ain't much bramble ... Your times suggest that you lost several minutes searching here and there; but if you were lucky someone else found a control for you.

I hope you enjoyed, or were irritated by, Clare's game of placing close controls to test whether you used your description list. Strictly by BOF rules some were illegal, as no controls should be closer than 30 metres, and on similar features (e.g.229 and 242) no closer than 60. She intended to use the special circle symbol to indicate a crater, but it seems her OCAD symbol set did not generate it.

My thanks to Clare and the Crockers (a 60s rock group?) for their thorough preparation, and the on-the-day team for running a tight ship. Weren't we lucky with the weather?