



Cheshire and Merseyside Schools  
League and Local Event  
*Sutton Manor, St Helens*  
*November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2009*  
Officials' Comments



### **Organiser's Comments (Paul Bolton, MEROC).**

The event was a 'first' for MEROC on two counts, not only was it our first Schools' League event using SI punching but it was also the first time that Sutton Manor has been used for competitive orienteering.

I believe that David's courses gave everyone an opportunity to see 'Dream', St Helens famous (or infamous) 'big art' project at close quarters. Indeed, I believe that those on the green course saw it several times from different angles! Although the weather saved its worst efforts for the time before the event when we were putting out controls and setting up, and for immediately afterwards when we were collecting them in and dismantling the start and download tent, the threat of a very wet windy morning did play into our hands. We had been worried about control vandalism and the loss of SI boxes, but a combination of Norman Hall's home made security devices and the inclement conditions thwarted the local 'yobbery'.

In addition to the members of MEROC and DEE who helped with the event, I would like to thank the Forestry Commission for allowing us access to the area and the landlady of The Smithy Manor public house for allowing us to use the site for car parking.

### **Planner's Comments (David Bolton, MEROC)**

With no previous events on the Sutton Manor area, planning the courses was literally starting with a blank canvas. I wanted to utilize the SW corner of the map and as it is a bit of a dead end, felt best to put the start or finish in this area. The White planned itself, with the use of benches (for security) instead of the usual string of path junctions, similarly the Yellow. I always find planning the Orange hard, making it either technically too hard or too easy. This time I think it leant towards the latter but early in the season this possibly wasn't a bad thing. I tried to add as much route choice into the Light Green as I could however this generally resorted to a choice between two path routes because of the dense vegetation. Expecting Teachers, Parents and Helpers to do the Green course I tried to make it 'fun' with a three way butterfly loop centered about the 'Dream'. It isn't an area where a serious TD5 course can be planned, In fact I'd be dubious if there were any TD5 legs on the Green, but I hoped you enjoyed it all the same. Hopefully in a few years the trees will grow and thin out, at which point the

straight line might become more of an option. Thanks to Deeside for the supply of the SI equipment and particularly to Bob and Martin for their help with the IT.

### **Controller's Comments (Matthew Cochrane, MEROC)**

"Thank you to everyone for the effort which went into Meroc's first electronic event in the Schools League. Dave managed to squeeze some interesting courses into a small space, and runners seemed appreciative. "