



DEESIDE ORIENTEERING
CLUB
Summer Evening Event
Big Covert
16 June 2010
Officials' Comments



Organiser's Comments (Chris Wilcox)

A big thank you to all those who volunteered to help at the event. All appeared to go smoothly – or rather no one made any complaints on the night. The only organisational issue to contend with was to re-route the way to the start to avoid crossing the field with the ponies in – more for the benefit of the ponies I suspect than any potential risk to the competitors. The stile to the field had also collapsed since the previous event so the best option seemed to be the slightly longer walk to the start. The only anxious moment (or rather 15 mins) of the whole evening was waiting for 7-8 competitors to finish after the courses had closed, but all were safely back by 9:00 pm.

Planner's Comments (Denis Murphy)

A glorious evening, wonderful scenery and a really good (albeit small) orienteering area - what more could anyone want? Well some would have liked more of the sunlight to have got through the leaf cover for a start!

Quite a few small paths, mostly running just underneath the lines of the limestone crags, were not shown on the map - if one includes them they can make the map too cluttered (and look like even more small crags). The main paths shown are all clear and wide on the ground. It would be very interesting to follow Andrew's suggestion and see what a professional mapper made of the area.

Many thanks to Chris for his calm and clear organisation and to Andrew for all his hard work in meticulously controlling the courses.

Controller's Comments (Andrew Tarr)

Despite the climbing and the knobbly bits underfoot, Big Covert remains a pleasantly runnable wood on a fine sunny evening, and many finishers had smiles on their faces. Only three on the Blue and Green courses bettered 11min/km. which shows either the speed of the terrain, or (more likely) the randomness of finding controls. Rather faded kites do not stand out against last year's beech leaves.

Several people found difficulty with control 182 (Hill, NW side), oddly enough mostly when approached from the east. The map is sketchy, but there are enough definite attack points (taped mineshfts!) to find it.

Many thanks to Chris for his organisation, and to Denis for well thought-out courses which I could suggest little to improve. We really do need a professional survey to make better use of the complex terrain.