



DEESIDE ORIENTEERING  
CLUB  
Cheshire & Merseyside  
Schools League  
Eastham Country Park  
13 November 2010  
Officials' Comments



### **Organiser's Comments (Gwyn Thomas)**

Hope you enjoyed Eastham on a pleasant autumn day. Many thanks to all the hard-working helpers who made the event go very smoothly on the day: Barbara Jones, Noel and Catriona Schorah, Anne Hurrell, Malc, Joy and Hannah Irvine, Norman Hall, Alan Mullock, Pauline Smithard, Barbara Majumdar, Martin Pickering, Caroline Gregson.

Thanks also to the park rangers Vicky and Alan for being most helpful, and to Wirral Borough Council for the use of the park.

### **Planner's Comments (Mike Smithard)**

Three years from the last event here, with probably a 5 year old map, first thing was to check that the area was still OK for use as it has been shrinking over the years – but, apart from the square area with the pylon in the north becoming totally overgrown, it was OK. A 2 day survey gleaned 160 alterations to the map (it's amazing how they add up) after which the planning was a doddle. Still not happy with some bits in the south and I'm sure the holly bushes aren't consistently shown but you have to stop mapping sometime. My controller was very happy (or acquiescent) so no changes. A gold star for me, I must have re-read the course planning guidelines. Autumn leaves – an excuse for many things including obliterating small paths especially the one from 3 to 4 on the white course – so I scraped them off the first 10 metres on the morning but no doubt a few green runners crossed it without seeing it from 1 to 2. Was out for a short while watching runners around no 2 on the yellow/3 on the white (possibly confusing set of path junctions) and was pleasantly impressed with the controlled nature of everyone's progress – checking junctions, looking at the map and then setting off confidently in the right direction. Because of the night event, didn't collect controls so didn't see how you'd changed the landscape, uncovering paths and creating new ones. No news of control kites going missing so that's re-assuring as well. Was tempted to go to the night event but decided to watch others exercising on TV instead (SCDancing).

## **Controller's Comments (Peter Edwards)**

Mike – who I know spent a lot of time in preparation – made my job extremely easy, producing some excellent courses considering the limitations. Indeed I regretted not being able to compete on the green course myself. The wide variation of abilities at school events makes course lengths difficult to estimate. The path system was not ideal: for white/yellow courses this was compounded by a heavy leaf fall the previous week, and vegetation at Eastham is always very subjective. The few odd complaints were lone voices; however in retrospect, where boxes had to be secured away from the kite a strip of high vis tape may have helped, and the odd kite placement (227) could have been a little friendlier for the night event. Finally thanks to Robin, who I believe achieved the optimum clarity with his shades of colouring on the map.