



**DEESIDE ORIENTEERING
CLUB**
Summer Evening Event
Big Covert
4th July 2012
Officials' Comments



Organiser's Comments (Sheila Hills)

Thankyou enormously to all the helpers who turned out to help on an evening of atrocious weather, especially to those who turned up early and helped put up the red tunnel tent and those who later took it down. It is not the easiest job at the best of times but when it is throwing it down, even worse! Jane Campbell commented " I thought the final downpour as we took the tent down wasn't quite cricket". Taking down the direction signs on the way home, in monsoon rain, was not exactly pleasant either. We did have a few spells during the evening when the rain wasn't pelting down but it became misty and the humidity was high so we got wet inside our clothes as well as outside! A pity the event wasn't the following day when we had glorious sunshine! We had an anxious time waiting for the last 8 to come in and a husband of a helper/runner, who had gone off for just a walk, so I was very relieved when he appeared and we saw the last person returning through the mist.

My thanks also go to:-

- Bob Elmes for all his hard work managing the SI system with results and keeping track of who was still out in the murkiness;
- Mike Richardson for his advice;
- Andrew Kent of Tarmac Ltd. for allowing parking beyond the outer gate and Don Smith of Rock Cottage for unlocking and locking the gate again;
- The new owner of the wood itself.

Finally, my apologies to those who had difficulty, initially, finding the way from the roundabout on the Mold By-pass. I couldn't see how to sign it any other way. I have now been told of a way and will include this in the instructions in future – sorry.

Planner's Comments (Peter Hills)

Five hours putting out controls in the pouring rain, an hour collecting in pouring rain and failing light, and the pub where we had intended having lunch wasn't open. What a way to spend my birthday!

Big Covert is probably the most technical of the areas we use for the summer evening events, capable of supporting courses at TD5 level, so I thought this was a good opportunity to offer both a Light Green and a Short Green course. Because of the nature of the area, which is both technically and physically challenging, I aimed to plan the courses on the short side, and the winning times on Blue and Green suggested I got things about right. However, I had reckoned without the weather conditions. This resulted in a lower turnout than I had hoped, and a higher level of retirals than I would have liked, and, to be honest, I cannot blame those who gave up. The conditions were far from pleasant and the ground was very slippery. However, the comments I received on the courses, if not the conditions, were positive. Of those who did finish, I would like particularly to commend Daniel Weaver (M12). Running only his second Green, he came third in the respectable time of 53:37, taking several impressive scalps. Well done Daniel!

Thanks to my Sheila for organising, Mike Richardson for his helpful advice as my controller, and a special thanks to the three control collectors, Jane Campbell, Bob Elmes and Barry Barnes. I can't tell you how glad we were to see Barry emerge from the gloom with the last controls.

Controller's Comments (Mike Richardson)

It poured with rain on my first visit to Big Covert so I knew only too well how slippery it could be when wet and it seems that competitors heeded the warning about the conditions underfoot so that we didn't have to deal with any injuries. The conditions deteriorated during the evening and visibility was very poor at times. This must have been a contributory factor in the very high rate of retirements and mis-punching (34% overall compared with less than 5% typically). Despite the weather, winning times were only slightly longer than normal and most finishers seem to have enjoyed their courses.

My thanks to Peter and Sheila and all the other hard-working DEE helpers, particularly those brave souls who went out again to collect controls and those who were still taking down the tent in the rain at 22.30.