



**DEESIDE ORIENTEERING
CLUB**
Merseyside and Cheshire
Schools League
Birkenhead Park, Wirral
6th October 2012



Organiser's Comments (Joy Irvine)

A good start to the new season for Schools League. A big “thank you” to a wonderful team of helpers – it would be unfair to pick out any individuals as you all did wonderfully well. Anne Litherland, Head Warden at the park, was also very helpful.

The big concern here was health and safety with a busy road bisecting the park and dogs around “off-lead”. However, it was a patch of slippery pavement that caused a problem, thanks to Jane for alerting me to this danger so that all competitors could be warned about it at the start.

Organisers of School League events now get all their forms and instructions from Malcolm and these were very helpful, the only thing missing was a kit check list. After forgetting the water containers and juice, (thanks to Pauline for bringing them along) this list has now been added to the resources.

The “Naughty Numbers” run by Pauline and 1 Kinnerton Scouts proved a great success too. Everyone made the day one to remember for all the right reasons.

Planner's Comments (Gwyn Thomas)

When Malcolm asked me to plan Birkenhead Park, I did not hesitate to accept. Just down the road, easy area to plan, so I thought, until I tried to plan yellow/white courses. After much head scratching and some controls than normal input from Malcolm/Jane, we managed to come up with suitable courses, but having to use more.

With the limitations of the park, producing technical courses is very difficult. Hope you enjoyed your runs and thank you for coming.

Many thanks also to Jane who far exceeded her role as Controller prior and during the event.

Controller's Comments (Jane Campbell)

What a glorious day for the first Schools League event of the new season. I hope that you all enjoyed Birkenhead Park and the fast, but wet, running conditions.

Those of you not familiar with the park may be interested to know that it was designed by Joseph Paxton and opened on 5 April 1847. It is generally acknowledged as the first publicly funded civic park in Britain. It is also widely accepted that, after visiting the park in 1850, American landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted incorporated many of the features he observed into his design for New York's Central Park.

The Swiss Bridge, crossed by the yellow course and on one of the possible routes to the first control on the green course, was built in 1847 and is unique as being the only "covered bridge" of traditional wooden construction in the UK. It was modeled after similar wooden bridges in Switzerland.

Gwyn's courses made the best use of the area and Joy's efficient and careful organization, aided by the willing band of Deeside helpers, attended to all the necessary details.