

Delamere Linnere Summer Evening Event 1 May 2019

Organisers comments (John Padget)

I would like to thank all the helpers, and especially those who stayed behind until a junior competitor who had not returned by the course closing time of 8.30 was found in the forest. This was the first evening event of the year and presented daylight problems because by the time the courses closed at 8.30 there was very little daylight left. As a result by the time that the control collectors were able to start their work it was almost dark and they did most of their collection in total darkness, so I would like to particularly thank Liz Jackson, Norman Hall, Nick Stafford, Chris Calow and Steve Ingleby for this. We will have to consider the implications of the timing issue for the future, and certainly consider having a number of club head torches available for evening events. One problem facing us is that if we use Delamere later in the summer the vegetation growth is now so bad that orienteering becomes a most unattractive experience. As it was there is no doubt that Chris planned excellent courses which made best use of the forest, and a big thanks is due to Steve Ingleby who controlled the event and importantly had spent many days earlier in the year updating the map which is an essential activity because of the many changes taking place in the forest, not least because of the deliberate creation of many new wetland/marsh areas.

Controller's Comments (Steve Ingleby)

The heavy rain passing over Delamere around 4.00pm seems to have put people off attending the Linnere event. Certainly the 94 competitors who took part is well down on similar events in previous years – maybe the Linnere area is gaining a reputation? Despite this being the first DEE summer evening event of the year, the bracken has already started its growth and brambles seem to be an all year encumbrance. Courses were reduced in length from preliminary proposals in order to ensure competitors were not out too long, but even so the times were still excessive. My apologies go to all those who felt that they had seen more than enough of Delamere by the end of their course.

Unfortunately we had two missing competitors at the end of the evening:-

- One person had omitted to download but was later contacted by phone (thanks, Jane!). This demonstrates the importance of always going to download, and also the benefit of leaving your contact details on the entry slip.
- The other missing person was a school boy who became lost but sensibly stayed at a known point (the Start) on a major path awaiting assistance. My thanks to Liz Jackson for rounding him up and escorting him to Assembly, on the way back from collecting controls. A learning point from this experience is the importance of having people with head torches available at the end of the event to potentially mount a search.

My role in the event was largely superfluous as Planner (Chris Calow) and Organiser (John Padget) are very experienced and both did a great job – so I'd like to thank them on your behalf for all the hard work they put into the event.