



DEESIDE ORIENTEERING
CLUB
Urban Plus
Helsby
18 March 2012
Officials' Comments



Organiser's Comments (Chris Calow)

This was our first event in Helsby and Bob's courses made good use of the two types of contrasting terrain the village offers. The weather turned out glorious after the unfortunate overnight rain which created some muddy sections on the hill. I hope this didn't spoil people's run.

I would like to thank the National Trust for permission to use the hill and to Cheshire West and Chester Council for the quarry. The quarry added some industrial archaeological interest as the rock from here was used in building the Liverpool docks. I would especially like to thank 1st Helsby Scouts and Owen Campbell for the use of their excellent hut, I hope some of the scouts will come along to the forthcoming summer evening events.

Thank you to the wonderful team of helpers – who very competently just got on with it. Finally, a big thank you to the girl who handed in an iPhone which she found on the course. It had been dropped by another competitor who was very grateful to her and would have liked to thank her personally.

Planner's Comments (Bob Elmes)

Helsby was my first attempt at planning an event. I was greatly helped by Chris Smithard's excellent new map, and John Padget's patient and thorough controlling – my grateful thanks to them both.

My first thought was that it would be difficult to find enough distance and complexity to make the event worth entering. My next thoughts were that we had to have a control on top of the footbridge over Old Chester Road, and we had to take people through the tunnel in the quarry; both of which we did. We expected the footbridge to catch one or two competitors: our expectations were exceeded.

We compensated for the rather short distance by having quite a lot of climb, at least on the Long course. Possibly as a result of that, quite a lot of people ran down from their NWUL class; only one brave MDOC M65 chose to run up.

I'm sorry that we couldn't find a way of putting on a course for under-16s – clearly this meant that some families didn't enter the event. This seems to be a live issue for urban events – let's hope a way of including under-16s can be found for our next one.

The mix of streets and steep hillside (with two goes at the hillside for the Long course) kept people on their toes. Thanks again to Chris and John; to Nick and Jane Campbell for test running the courses; and to the many competitors who said they had enjoyed their run. I hope I get to do some more planning.

Controller's Comments (John Padget)

This was Bob's first venture into planning and he made a very good job of it. No doubt he will be asked to plan again. This was our first use of Helsby Hill, made possible by kind permission of the National Trust and by Chris Smithard's excellent new map. The mapping of the steep craggy areas of woodland is particularly impressive. My first concern was to ensure that the event was safe as much of Helsby hill has dangerous crags and the main road is quite busy, and I think that the courses achieved this objective because although they were (unavoidably) rather steep they kept well away from danger. Bob's tricky but fair control on the top of the bridge caused quite a bit of confusion, and the several transitions from street to woodland and vice versa made the orienteering interesting. Thanks should go to Chris Calow who organised the event and got permission to use the quarry and scout hut, and to Jane Cambell for negotiations with the local authority regarding the street aspects of the event.