



DEESIDE ORIENTEERING
CLUB
Summer Evening Event
Pettypool
10 May 2012
Officials' Comments



Organiser's Comments (John Padget)

The day started badly with a phone call from the owners of the parking field saying that it was unusable due to torrential overnight rain. However by the time Andrew Williams and I arrived to check it out and find alternative parking the field had dried sufficiently on the sandy soil to allow us to get the owners to reconsider the original decision and go ahead with the use of the field. In the meantime Jane Campbell and the Hills had been working to use the fall back plan of using the roadside verges, which involved getting more parking helpers and notifying the police. However it was a great relief that we did not have to do this as I consider the use of roadside parking at Pettypool to be unsafe. In fact we established a much better fall back option which entails the use of a long nearside farm lane owned by a very friendly farmer and this should be considered for future events. Whilst this panic was being played out I was mercifully unaware of another potential panic caused by the illness of Controller Mike Smithard's father, but son Chris was able to step in to do the controller's job. In fact I reckon he visited all the controls faster than the winner of any of the courses! To complete a morning of panic I returned home to find a mains water leak in my house.

After all the above the evening competition turned out to be totally uneventful, with the team of Deeside helpers ensuring things ran very smoothly.

Thanks to Mr and Mrs Creed for the use of the field, Peter Evans of the Pettypool Centre for use of their bit of the wood, and Mr Starkey of Pettypool Farm for permission to use his lane for parking if necessary.

Planner's Comments (Norman Hall)

The area available for orienteering at Pettypool has become progressively smaller over the years. I took the decision this year as planner to increase the scale of the map to 1:5000 and make it fit properly on A4, the main reason being my eyesight getting worse. Controller Mike Smithard then tidied up the clutter of duplicated symbols and produced a symbol set at the correct ratio for the scale of the map. I hope you all enjoyed the new map, although further vegetation updates are still needed.

You probably didn't enjoy the brashings, which I think were responsible for some slowish times. Times on Blue and Green were comparable with last year but Lt Green and below were slower. I may have gone too far after Sheila Hills' email to planners not to make Lt Green courses easier if area not up to TD5!

Feedback I received on the courses were positive and I thank those runners for these. I did learn one thing from the whole exercise – not to have the start kite at a path junction requiring a route decision for White and Yellow courses. One young girl ran straight on after the punching start instead of turning right. Luckily, watchful start team member Alan Mullock saw it happen and contacted me by phone and I was able to round up the errant youngster. The start team then informed all White and Yellow runners to turn right at the start kite!

My thanks to controller Mike for his time and considerable input, also to his replacement on the night, son Chris. I must also thank Chris for collecting controls at the end of the night and Alan Mullock for a similar job.

Controller's Comments (Mike and Chris Smithard)