



DEESIDE ORIENTEERING
CLUB
Summer Evening Event
Delamere North
15 May 2012
Officials' Comments



Organiser's Comments (Siân Calow)

When available

Planner's Comments (Robin Tilston)

Yet another win for my weather gods! I think I planned my first event in about 1990 when the Planner also was the Organiser (my Controller was Martin Cranny) and since then weather has never disrupted any of my events!

Cold wind and sunshine made a valiant attack on the wet ground in the parking field and approach road. Why do some people not realise that spinning their car wheels does not provide traction and only makes the situation worse for following vehicles? Gently, Bentley is not a bad way of putting it. Maximum traction occurs just before the tyres lose grip and begin to spin. Use a higher gear and gentle clutch to reduce the likelihood of spinning.

I planned the routes in my normal fashion, let's see how to make life difficult for the fast runners and give an advantage to the steady navigators. The problem with Delamere is that it is too easy. TD5 is unheard of and TD4 would be a novelty if one could find it. This means that hard legs do not exist as in most instances you can get very near to most control sites by track and path running, followed by a brief gravel in the undergrowth to find the control.

The most difficulty lies in the large number of water filled gullies and marshy areas which can normally present problems, except for long jump specialists. However, at this time the water level was extremely high requiring lengthy detours at some locations. When I was checking some tags, last week, a log bridge I had used last month was under water, so I removed the bridge sign from the map.

Unfortunately, on the day I was going down with a throat infection and went home to treat it with the application of a mixture of lemon juice and zest, honey, hot water and, most importantly, whisky, so I was not around to face the wrath of any competitors or get any feedback.

Looking at the results I note that, although, the winning times tallied reasonably well with expected times a lot of runners were outside those time blocks. I am not sure why, but, in

general course lengths seem to have reduced over the years. Is this leading to a bunch of wimps? I can remember running a, so called, Blue in Delamere of 9.2km. If you are having to pay good money to run, I say you should, at least, get a decent distance out of it. This is why my courses tend to be longer than the average so you can take the time to appreciate them.

Thanks to my Controller/putter out Jon and to Terry and Martin for putting out controls. As I left before the end I am not sure who collected but Chris and Ed Calow seem to have been front runners. Mike Smithard's name had been mentioned. My thanks to whoever anyway. Siân did a good job chasing everything up and apart from the glitch with the control boxes all was well. NB Tunnel tents should not be aligned with the wind. Barbara and Budha were suffering with the cold through draft and having to chase errant bits of paper.

Controller's Comments (Jon Hateley)

I think it was Jean Payne who burst into the download tent shouting, "What have they done to my forest?!" Well, most of it seems to have been chopped up into lots of pieces and thrown into big piles all over the floor. The rest of it had turned into swampland.

A few minutes earlier the cry from the SI coordinator had been "What have they done to our control boxes?!" The first 20 or so finishers all appeared to have mispunched ... a controller's nightmare as every course but the White was affected. After a bit of investigation we discovered that somebody outside the club had borrowed our SI boxes for BOC, reprogrammed many of the numbers and they had not been reset. To avoid seeing more puzzled or disappointed Brownie and Beaver faces at download, the modified numbers were hurriedly dialled into the computer.

Once both the finish boxes apparently stopped working (!), it was almost a pleasure escaping the IT hassles and being berated by competitors for getting them wet, lost and exhausted.

I'll have to 'fess up to two significant mistakes: Firstly, for letting the Greens and Blues enter the area of forest which has become a canal network and international wetland. Two weeks earlier, the tide was out and the ditches were easy to hurdle, but as a precaution I created a couple of log bridges and made sure all the controls were accessible without having to cross a major watercourse. Unfortunately the water levels shot up, carrying my bridges with them and I failed to communicate to starters that 'hard to cross' was now 'virtually impossible to cross'. My second boo boo was underestimating how physical the terrain had become, especially the brashed rides. I should have insisted on making the Green and Blue shorter, perhaps by up to 1 km each. Sorry folks.

Many thanks to Ed & Chris Calow and Pete Owens for collecting in controls, and a special thank you to Barbara for resolutely manning the download under difficult circumstances.