



DEESIDE ORIENTEERING
CLUB
Level B Event
Delamere Forest
5 January 2014
Officials' Comments



Organiser's Comments (Iain Bell)

Thank you all for coming. I hope you enjoyed your runs in the woods and were thankful that the worst of the weather avoided us.

I am indebted to my happy army of DEE helpers that made the event go as smoothly as it did. I would also like to thank the Forestry Commission; Geoff Newsome from Churches View Farm; and the good wise men of the St John's Ambulance, they missed the catering van, as we all did. Unfortunately on the day the lady who runs it was ill and unable to make it. Sorry that we were not able to put on an alternative.

There were 3 minor injuries. The most serious appearing to be a W16 with a sprained ankle (hope it's on the mend). Well done to Caroline Gregson DEE, who gave up her run to help, along with the two puzzled mountain bikers.

The process for EOD turned out to be a little more complex than envisaged and had to be refined mid-flow. Sorry to anyone who had a bit of a wait in the cold.

There were two items of lost property: a car key - returned their (non-orienteeing) owners and an unsigned debit card - which has been handed into the Forestry Commission Rangers at Linmere Visitor Centre.

Finally thanks to Nick and Jane Campbell for all their hard work in planning excellent courses and for Ian Watson for controlling the event.

Hope you all had fun...
Iain

Planner's Comments (Nick and Jane Campbell)

The warm, wet conditions and lack of any frost caused us great concern in planning as the undergrowth, especially north of the road, was still chest-high (literally) in many places 4 weeks ago. The last bout of thinning in the forest had let light into the forest which also accelerated bramble growth.

Added to that, we discovered that the whole area of the forest around Blakemere Moss was scheduled for thinning starting at any time after Christmas which forced us to bring the date of the event forward to avoid cancellation.

On that basis, we planned the longer courses as "forest urban" attempting to provide route choice challenges rather than forcing you to cross brambles, brashings and undergrowth. Fortunately the bracken finally died back in recent weeks making progress a bit easier. The shorter courses remained south of the road in the "better" (and "to be felled") areas.

Despite all this, we hope that you enjoyed your courses and we appreciated all your comments afterwards.

Many thanks to Ian Watson (MDOC) for his guidance as controller, to Andy and Sara Campbell for test running courses and helping us to put out SI boxes on Sunday morning, to Matthew and Philip Vokes (after cycling to the event, running the black course and cycling home!) and Anna and Graham Nilsen for collecting controls, Steve Lang at MDOC for map printing and Barry Barnes for his liaison with the Forestry Commission.

Controller's Comments (Ian Watson, MDOC)

It is over 10 years since I last controlled at Delamere and the forest has changed a lot, unfortunately not for the better. Nick and Jane have explained why the courses involved rather more path running than we would have wished. Maybe, in the long term, the forthcoming forestry work will improve things although it will clearly have a major impact on the near future. I hope you enjoyed the final use of much of the existing forest.

There were a number of competitors who had trouble with control 230 and suggested that it was in the wrong place. I confess that I only approached it from the SE whereas those who had problems were coming from the N along the vegetation boundary. From the SE it appears correct relative to the open, the track and the vegetation boundary below. In addition, there is a permanent post marker there and I have visited that site a number of times over the years so I didn't feel the need to give it a lot of attention. Having discussed it with Nick & Jane, we believe that there may be a second vegetation boundary to the W of the one marked which has become visible as the forest has grown and unfortunately some people followed that. Apologies for not picking this up.

Thanks to Nick & Jane for making the controlling job relatively easy, Iain for efficient organization and all the helpers for their efforts in cold and damp conditions.