



**DEESIDE ORIENTEERING
CLUB**
Summer Evening Event
Marbury Country Park
24 April 2014
Officials' Comments



Organiser's Comments (Barry Chambers)

The event was originally scheduled for Petty Pool but the wood initially fell victim to a tree disease and then to storm damage and so we moved to Marbury – not a bad substitute.

The medium-term forecast for the day had been poor and so I was delighted to find that it was actually to be a dry, almost sunny, day. It made for a pleasant time setting things up. Once 4pm arrived it was a case of the volunteers gradually taking up their tasks and away we went. There were to be 109 “starts” and all seemed to have a good time. By 9 pm all was safely gathered in, sorted and passed on for the next Deeside event – Delamere North (GR SJ 548729 signed from B5152 N of Hatchmere at GR SJ 546729) on Tuesday 6th May.

My job was made relatively easy by the readiness of Deeside members to take up the invitation to volunteer their services for the evening – many thanks to all of them. Particular thanks are due to Norman Hall for heading up the SI; to Chris Calow for his courses which got the best out of Marbury; to Peter Hills for his meticulous attention to detail; to Cheshire West and Chester Council for permission to hold the event and to Chris Moseley, Marbury Country Park Ranger, for his support prior to and on the day.

Planner's Comments (Chris Calow)

We were fortunate to use Marbury earlier in the year than we usually do, as it was a short notice replacement for the non-permissioned Pettypool. We were blessed with only ankle high nettles and brambles which otherwise are a bit man-eating by July. The carpets of bluebells at this time of year also added to the pleasure.

I tried to plan the courses to stick as much as possible within the technically more interesting ‘doughnut’ shape of woods that completely surround open fields in the middle. This did result in courses essentially going either clockwise or anti-clockwise and there were inevitably some less interesting excursions across the fields and central path to get from south to north. I hope the blue and green runners didn't mind too much visiting twice the technically most interesting, but quite brambly, marshy area in the north, this was done to meet the required course lengths.

The times on the yellow were a little quick, in retrospect I think I could have made more use of the fields in the middle rather than the faster paths around it. I apologise if anyone thought they didn't get their money's worth.

I would like to thank Peter Hills for his helpful controlling and to Reg Simpson, Andrew Williams, Rick and Liz Hughes for assisting in control collection.

Controller's Comments (Peter Hills)

Marbury is never an easy area on which to plan technical courses, as you are basically limited to a narrow strip round the edge of the fields. However, I think that Chris did an excellent job producing good courses within the constraints of the terrain. This was particularly noteworthy in that it was Chris' first proper attempt at planning, having only planned a night event before. I heard many complimentary comments from competitors, and no complaints.

Barry is to be complimented on his excellent organisation. I was surprised to find when I arrived at 2.00 pm to check the controls that not only was the event signed, but the tunnel tent was already erected, club banners were flying and the location of start and finish had already been marked. That everything went well on the night is in no small part due to his efforts.