



DEESIDE ORIENTEERING  
CLUB  
Summer Evening  
Delmere North  
6th May 2014  
Officials' Comments



### **Organiser's Comments (Sheila Hills)**

The day started badly with my car playing up just after I had put up the signs on the B road. Fortunately the loud noises were my wiper blades packing up not the engine! It made me remember I had not remembered to pick up my mobile phone so I had to 'hot foot it' back home before getting any more signs up. This meant Barbara Jones ended up in the farmers yard instead of the field. After that I don't think that there were any more mishaps on the organising side, apart from some signs blowing down. I hope you saw the warning about potholes in the road.

The weather was very mixed but the showers very brief, I'm glad to say, so everybody had a relatively dry run.

Sorry about the cows and cow pats in the parking field but the farmer did not want to put his Heifers in with the Bullocks! He said that the cows would probably disappear around the back of the house ( which they did for a while) and we just had to keep someone on the gate. We're just very grateful that Mr Lewis allows us to park there. The money for the parking, at Mr Lewis' request, is going to be split between the NW squad and a charity helping drug addicts.

I am also very grateful to all the sterling help of the appointed helpers (25) and for extra offers of help on the day, especially those who helped to put up and take down the tunnel tent. Without your willing help we could not have put on the event. A special mention must be made of the sterling help of Barbara Jones, on enquiries, despite her disabilities. She announced that, unfortunately, she will have to give up doing it soon.

Any offers to take on this job should contact our Chairman, Pete Owens.

Sheila

### **Planner's Comments (Peter Hills)**

Steve got in first with many of the comments that I had planned to make on last night's event, although I would add copious brushings and the results of forestry vehicles churning up the ground in places to the list of things that make running impossible in much of the area. Many of the areas marked as white – runnable wood – should perhaps have a green stripe overlay. However, overhearing discussions among competitors

afterwards on route choice and the difficulty in locating some controls seemed to show that I had at least in part succeeded in my objective of giving them technical as well as physical challenges.

My one disappointment was the relatively low turnout on the night. Delamere used to be one of the most popular areas; perhaps people are getting wise to the conditions!

My particular thanks must go to Steve Ingleby for his controlling. He made several helpful suggestions, provided some updates to the map and as ever was meticulous in his attention to detail. To crown it all, he undertook to bring in some of the more difficult controls in falling light. I would also like to thank my other control pickers: Norman Hall, Malcolm Irvine and especially Barry Barnes, who gamefully returned to the fray after going home to clean up from the results of a bloody encounter with the forest.

Peter

### **Controller's Comments (Steve Ingleby)**

I hope you “enjoyed” your run at Delamere? Unfortunately the brambles have now taken over much of the forest floor, reducing the pleasure in running direct that used to be possible in ‘olden days’. The bracken is starting to shoot up like bamboo and another week would have made the courses much tougher - so the date for the event was well chosen.

Despite the issue with undergrowth, Peter planned courses that made best use of the area and I heard many complimentary comments from bloodied and muddy competitors, whilst I hovered at the Finish. We agreed at an early stage, after we had both visited the forest, that the technical courses should be slightly shorter than Peter’s original ones in view of the brambles. This decision appears vindicated on looking at the results. Peter has had considerable experience in planning and so my involvement was fairly minimal, just a bit of tweaking here and there. As always, it was a pleasure to work with him.

I did not notice anything of significance on the day relating to the organisation of the event – it just went ahead as normal. This is testament to Sheila’s hard work in preparing for the event – I knew from experience that I would not need to take too much interest in the organisation.

My thanks to those competitors who reported spotting two cows in the forest near to the Finish - this information was passed on to the farmer. The control collectors reported further sightings later on allowing us to track the cows’ progress south towards the Ashton Road – they obviously wanted to take advantage of their brief freedom to fully explore life ‘outside the field’!

Steve Ingleby